Hagermans purchase two more downtown parcels

Fenton Collision property and LeRoy St. building slated for redevelopment

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

The sky’s the limit for future redevelopment in Fenton, but a recent property acquisition downtown has everyone speculating and few answers available about the property’s future use. SkyPoint Ventures, owned by Phil and Jocelyn Hagerman of Fenton Township, announced See HAGERMANS on 10

Area man shot while unloading vehicle

Stray bullet hits Springfield Township man in shoulder

A 39-year-old Springfield Township man sustained a gunshot wound to his right shoulder while he was unloading his car in the driveway at his home in Springfield Township Saturday evening.

Deputies with the Oakland County Sheriff’s Office responded to Corey Worthen’s home in the 11600 block of Shaffer Road at 5:20 p.m. The man’s wife had called 911 to report that her husband was bleeding from his shoulder because of an unknown injury. See SHOT on 6

 Streetscape pushes sculptures off LeRoy, Shiawassee

Sculptor Ray Katz (left) helps Ken Thompson’s crew with Michigan Sculpture Initiative to disassemble “Wintermoon,” from in front of the Fenton Post Office on Tuesday. Because of Streetscape, there will be no sculptures on LeRoy Street or Shiawassee Avenue this year. For the 2015 sculpture show, the DDA is spending the standard $12,000 for six pieces, which adorn city hall, the park behind the Community Center and the library. More photos on page 6

Pedestrians advised to be cautious when crossing LeRoy

Street work continues with new sidewalks, handicap accessible ramps, water main

By Vera Hogan
vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

There was a concern last week that pedestrians crossing at the intersection of LeRoy Street, north of Ellen Street may not be visible to oncoming traffic. In order to make this area safer, the DDA requests that pedestrians cross LeRoy Street south of Ellen Street by the bridge.

Signs are on order that will make pedestrians aware of this and are scheduled. See PEDESTRIANS on 9

No poison for rats

More than 50 snare traps placed in affected areas

By Vera Hogan
vhogan@tctimes.com

Fenton City officials have taken steps to control a growing rat infestation in the areas of Hickory Street, North Road and Worcester Drive.

According to Michael Reilly, building and zoning administrator, the city has contracted with an exterminator to address the rodent problem.

“Currently, the company has placed over 50 secure snap traps in the areas affected,” Reilly said. “The company is not using a poison, just a lure to bring the rodents into the traps.”

So far, the contractors, All American Pest Control of Alma, has trapped about a dozen rodents. See POISON on 6

New bill would require all police to wear bodycams

Privacy, costs and implementation all hot button issues

By Emily Stocker
estocker@tctimes.com

The recent confrontations between police and citizens around the country that have sparked national news are not what triggered State Rep. Rose Mary Robinson (D-Detroit) to co-sponsor new legislation (House Bill 4229) or promote it. She said that Fenton Police participate in an “active shooter” scenario at Fenton High School in 2013. See BODYCAMs on 10

Why doesn’t the Times take photographs of non-handicapped vehicles parking in handicap spots and run them in the paper, including the license plate and the driver? You could have a ‘page of shame’ feature.

California is experiencing water issues for the simple fact that the entire state is overpopulated with wealthy people with pools, grounds and lifestyles that suck up the amount of water in a week that a normal family would use in a year.”
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Firefighting has changed dramatically over the years

Average response time is 6½ minutes in Fenton

By Vera Hogan
vhogan@ctimes.com; 810-433-6823

Ask any little boy what he wants to be when he grows up and more often than not, he will say, “I want to be a firefighter.”

While the majority of those young boys choose different career paths as they move into adulthood, there are those who remain steadfast in their desire to serve their communities as firefighters. They become part of a tight-knit group that can only be described as family.

“It’s a whole different way of life when you join the fire department,” said Chief Bob Cairnduff of the Fenton Fire Department, which celebrated its 140-year anniversary in March.

In Fenton, the paid, on-call firefighters are encouraged to treat the fire hall as their home away from home.

“We have created a social environment where members of the department can come in any time they want to hang out,” Cairnduff said. “They can visit with each other, watch TV or even shoot some hoops.”

Cairnduff said the advantage to having the firefighters in the hall, a state-of-the-art facility that opened in the fall of 2002, is that when a call does come through, many of the crew members are already there, improving response times considerably.

The average response time today is 6-½ minutes, according to Cairnduff.

There is much more to area fire departments today as firefighting is no longer just for the boys. Most area fire departments have females onboard, women who are treated just like their male counterparts, having successfully completed all of the training, agility and medical requirements.

Lt. Theresa Hajec of the Fenton Township Fire Department is one example of a successful female firefighter and officer. Hajec, who joined the fire department in 1997, said women make great firefighters because of their capacity for great compassion.

“At least that’s what it is for me,” Hajec said. She said she also does it because of a house fire that took the life of her mother 43 years ago.

See FIREFIGHTING on 8
McDonald’s pay raise: Where’s the beef?

No doubt, you were as impressed as I was to learn that McDonald’s had voluntarily adopted a pay raise for employees in its fast-food restaurants.

Upon closer examination, it turns out that McDonald’s pay raise is about as real for its workers as a Big Mac is healthy for you.

For starters, McDonald’s pay raise is far short of what workers need and deserve. True, under the plan, employees will receive $1 more per hour than the local minimum wage. That means today’s average wage of $9.01 an hour will increase to $9.90 by July, and up to $10 per hour next year, $2.75 above the federal minimum wage. But that’s far short of the $15 per hour compensation that fast-food workers have been demanding.

In an interview with me last week, Mary Kay Henry, president of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), described McDonald’s move as little more than a ‘PR stunt.’

She announced that she will continue to lead demonstrations in support of fast-food workers’ demands for an increase to a minimum wage of $15 per hour and the right to form a union.

As shallow as it is, McDonald’s limited wage hike comes at a time when several corporations have voluntarily raised their own minimum wages. Even some American business leaders, starting with Henry Ford, used to believe in: not a minimum wage, but a ‘living’ wage, based on the principle that someone doing a full day’s work should be paid enough to live on.

In 1914, Ford started paying his workers the sum of $5 a day. Once Ford started paying better, job turnover and absenteeism plummeted, and productivity and profits rose.

McDonald’s CEO made $7.7 million in 2013; the CEO of Chipotle, $13.8 million. In the fast-food world, the ratio of CEO salary to average employee wage is 1,000 to 1, the most extreme disparity of any industry.

In other words, McDonald’s principal contribution to America may be forcing most of its employees to live below the poverty line. Think of that, next time you’re tempted to take your kids to the Golden Arches.

Two decades ago I supported raising our state sales tax from 4 to 6 percent in exchange for property tax relief. Two years ago, our homestead property tax was taken away, but we still pay the 6 percent sales tax. Fool me once, shame on you, fool me twice...

No parking in my front yard? What I do on my private property is none of your business—unless I’m causing a safety hazard. Not everyone has a huge parking area to handle guests and you’ve made most streets in town no parking. Bad idea.

A lowlife thoughtless person decided to clean the garbage from the back of their truck on Bird Road. If anyone in the Linden/Bryon area knows someone who owns a tractor, has newly coated garage floors, torn down wheelbarrows, torn down trellises, planted the Argonne police.

To all of our lovely Fenton residents, please use your blinkers, let people out when traffic is backed up and be kind and rewind your attitude. We are all between a rock and a hard place.

You really don’t know anything, do you? We helped the ozone layer by removing CFCs worldwide. We helped with acid rain by removing sulfur dioxide worldwide. Change to help the earth can be accomplished painlessly. You are so uneducated.

So, Einstein, my dictionaries are just fine. The post said climates are made of various weather conditions and that local areas of warmer and colder outside conditions, including rain, snow, wind is the weather. Those various weather conditions make up the climate. Definitions compliments of Merriam Webster dictionary.

Not every Fenton grad will attend U of M. If a student doesn’t choose IB courses, they are subject to a lower GPA because IB courses are weighted higher. Does Fenton have more than half of all grads attend U of M? Why cater to a particular university?

Fenton is desperate to become a yuppie community like Royal Oak or Ann Arbor. Just don’t let visitors drive into the side streets, they will disappear into forgotten pot holes.

If Proposal 1 passes, the sales tax increase will cost Michigan taxpayers $300 million for schools, $260 million for Earned Income Tax Credits, $130 million for public transportation and $95 million for local governments.

A ‘No’ vote gives legislators another chance to fund roads and bridges without raising taxes.

If council dumps the bag and tag trash system, we will go from a user tax to a flat tax. Those who only use one tag every two or three weeks will pay much more under the new system. I vote ‘no’.

A ‘No’ vote on Proposal 1 May 5 will give our legislators a second chance to fund roads and bridges without raising taxes. Let them find a way to work within the currently set budget.

See HOT LINE throughout Times
Old phones and big ticket electronics bring big cash

► Plentitude of choices for selling, donating your old devices

By Emily Stocker estocker@tctimes.com

Many cell phone companies offer free or heavily discounted upgrades every few years, so when someone is in the market for a new phone, what should they do with their old one? Chances are if they have taken good care of their phone, they will be able to recoup some of the cost by selling or trading it in. Even if their phone isn’t in the best shape, or they’re not in the market for a new device, owners of obsolete, cracked, and broken devices that won’t even turn on can still cash in on the recompense.

Irish just for old phones, big ticket electronics like tablets, laptops, and even digital cameras can bring in a bit of cash. Options are plentiful. Trade-ins through a retail store like Apple, Best Buy, Gamestop, Amazon or Target ask first if it’s in good or poor condition, if there’s water damage or damage to the screen, what is the storage capacity, and which carrier was used. Premium smartphones, in good working order can sell for up to $350. Sellers will obviously get more for newer models, unlocked phones not tied to a specific carrier, and in-demand colors. The dollars can add up.

EcoATM is a kiosk in malls where someone can sell their old phones and tablets. EcoATM scans the device and compares it with a database to make an offer based on the fair market value and current condition. If the seller accepts the machine dispenses the money immediately. The nearest EcoATM in the greater tri-county area is in Genesee Valley Mall in Flint Township. The machine does require a driver’s license and thumb print scan, to guard against theft and fraud. It takes a picture of the seller as well for legalities and security measures.

When it was time for one person to upgrade their phone, for example, they checked four trade-in programs for the best price. They had a Verizon iPhone 5S with 16GB of storage. It had a small crack, but on the back of the phone, and it was in perfect working order. 

See OLD PHONES on 8

Opting out …

► Small movement of parents refuse to allow kids to take tests mandated by state

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

Mindy Leichty of Fenton Township has two kids attending Fenton Area Public Schools, but if she has her way, they won’t be taking any of the standardized tests mandated by the state.

She’s one of a small but passionate group of parents statewide who are fighting against M-STEP and other standardized tests based on the Common Core Standards, debating this week in all public schools in Michigan. The M-STEP (Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress) began its eight-week testing time frame Monday, the first time state testing has ever been done in the spring. It’s also the first state test to be conducted online, with 80 percent of districts online compliant, including the local districts of Fenton, Lake Fenton, Linden and Holly.

M-STEP has replaced the 44-year-old MEAP test assessing English and math in grades 3-8, science in grades 4 and 7, social studies in grades 5 and 8 and the Michigan Merit Exam for high school juniors.

Even though Leichty’s daughters, one a kindergartener and the other a high school freshman, aren’t being tested this spring, she wants to lay the groundwork now to make sure her daughters won’t even be prepped for those tests. “I’m getting into the fight against it now so that hopefully all of us parents together can stop this,” she said.

“It’s dumbing the kids down,” said Leichty, who has watched a series of videos showing Common Core Standards in action. “It took a fifth-grader 30 minutes to show her mom how to do a simple addition problem. My daughter brought

See OPTING OUT on 6

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Summary

The opt-out movement of parents against standardized state testing is gaining steam in Michigan, with a few isolated events here in the tri-county area.
**OPTING OUT**

Continued from Page 5

homework home called ‘My Identity,’ which asked a bunch of personal questions. We’re not allowing her to do it again. It’s just noisy. It has nothing to do with education.”

One local first-grade teacher and parent, who asked to remain anonymous, said, “I think standards, in general, are important. We need to have them in place for guidance. However, our Constitution says schools have local control. With Common Core Standards, the parents really don’t have a say in what their kids are learning. They have to fit to this box, even though kids grow and learn at different rates. We’re so ‘married’ to the schedule of testing that there’s no time left for teachers to provide developmentally-appropriate activities. As teachers, we have to do what we have to do. But parents who don’t believe in the assessments should opt out. It’s a parent’s right to dictate their child’s education as they see fit.”

Wayne Wright, superintendent of Lake Fenton Community Schools, supports the Common Core State Standards, saying, “It makes sense. It shows what kids should have learned and comprehended at each grade level. If I have a transfer of a student from the U.P. down here, he (or she) should’ve been taught the same thing. We’ll see how the testing goes before I comment specifically on M-STEP.”

He’s had a couple of parents who have opted their children out of taking M-STEP. “I’m hoping it isn’t more than that. It does count against us as a school district.”

Dave Nass, superintendent of Holly Area Schools, has had two phone calls from parents who wanted to opt out. “but I was able to allay their fears and now they’re allowing their kids to take it,” he said. “I’ve had two other written requests, and I’m working with those parents now.”

Each district must achieve a 95 percent participation rate or there may be an “accountability issue” for that district, according to Bill Disessa, spokesperson for the Michigan Department of Education. “The bottom line is, if a parent wants to opt out their child for the test, they can do so,” said Disessa. “From our standpoint, there’s no state or federal law that allows them to opt out, but there’s also no law that says they can’t. We urge parents to by all means have your student attend school that day, take the exam so they can be measured. There are no punitive consequences for a student. Prepare well for it and have a good nutritional breakfast the day of the test.”

**Common Core State Standards – what are they?**

The Common Core State Standards have been in place in Michigan since 2010, adopted by the State Board of Education. They were developed to provide a consistent set of clear K-12 expectations that outline the knowledge and skills students need in English, language arts and math to lead to career and college readiness. Michigan is one of 45 states, the District of Columbia, four territories and many private and parochial schools to have adopted the Common Core State Standards.

**Source: Michigan Department of Education**

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**SHOT**

Continued from Front Page

When deputies arrived, they realized that Worthen was suffering from what appeared to be a small caliber bullet wound to his right shoulder.

According to the sheriff’s office, Worthen and his wife had just arrived home from the airport and were unloading their car in the driveway. While standing at the rear of his vehicle, Worthen felt an impact to his back and saw blood running down his arm. Neither he, nor his wife saw anyone in the area at the time of the incident.

Worthen was transported to St. Joseph’s Hospital in Pontiac via Star EMS. He was admitted with non-life threatening injuries.

Neighbors of the couple told deputies that several gunshots had been heard in the wooded area around the time of the incident. The neighbors and the couple said gunfire is a regular occurrence in the wooded area surrounding their homes.

Deputies walked the wooded area, but were unable to locate any witnesses or suspects. The shooting remains under investigation.

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**POISON**

Continued from Front Page

“This was expected as it will take a period of time for the rodents to become accustomed to the stations.” Reilly said.

City Manager Lynn Markland said previously that the cost for this service is $6,400, which the city is covering. According to Reilly, the contract is for a one-year period.

The company will continuously monitor the traps set and remove those that met their demise throughout the year.

Residents can help to deter rats and other rodents from making themselves at home in their yards by keeping trash in steel cans with secure lids. Pet food should only be out long enough for the pet to eat. Birdfeeders should be empty while the rodent problem exists.

While the gardening season is about to begin, composters should be aware that food scraps and other organic items in their piles may be an attractive food source for rodents and other small animals. Compost bins and piles should be secured in such a way that critters cannot get in.

Anyone with questions may call the city at (810) 629-2261.
The sinking of the Titanic and its impact on the law

Today marks the 103rd anniversary of the sinking of the RMS Titanic after it struck an iceberg and sunk off the coast of Newfoundland.

At the time, the Titanic was the largest passenger liner in the world and was widely considered to be unsinkable due to its eight below deck watertight compartments which would close in the event of a collision.

Before embarking on its Transatlantic journey from Southampton, England with a final destination of New York City, Philip Franklin the vice-president of the owners White Star Line said, ‘we believe the boat is unsinkable.’

Going even further than this statement was the remark made by an unknown crew member to an embarking passenger Mrs. Neely Caldwell of ‘God himself could not sink this ship.’

Such remarks and other similar statements turned out to be false confidence and the survivors of the Titanic remain with us today. It was the 15th September 11th of the day.

Although the exact numbers are not known it is now generally accepted that there were 2,227 people aboard the ship with only 705 survivors.

Immediately after the sinking both the United States and Great Britain began inquiries. On the American side Michigan Senator William Alden Smith was the organizer with the first official meeting at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York on April 19, 1912.

The inquiries revealed a number of significant problems not only with the Titanic but ocean travel generally. As a result, a number of laws and regulations were enacted by both countries to address these issues.

For example the Titanic only had 2 lifeboats although the number should have been far greater. The laws were changed to ensure that all passenger ships would have a sufficient number of lifeboats for all passengers and crew.

The relatively new technology of wireless telegraphy was also addressed as there were communications problems before and after the sinking. The Radio Act of 1912 sought to regulate wireless communications to ensure this would not happen again.

There were also new laws and regulations regarding ocean ice patrols, shipbuilding techniques and sea safety and training.

This was an early and regrettable example of tragedy begetting change. For more information, one can start with the Encyclopedia Britannica on the web.

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Construction at South Holly Road and Adelaide not connected to downtown project

By Vera Hogan

v Hogan@ctimes.com; 810-433-6823

Fears that excavation that recently took place at the corner of South Holly Road and Adelaide Street had something to do with the Streetscape construction project downtown are unfounded, according to Dan Czarnecki, director of Fenton’s Public Works Department.

“The Streetscape contractor, Champagne & Marx have been doing a good job on the water main installation and other street work, working hard to reduce the amount of inconveniences street construction brings,” Czarnecki said. “They are moving along quickly with their portion of the project.”

The work at South Holly Road and Adelaide was the result of a complaint the city received from a homeowner about a plugged sanitary sewer line. Although property owners are responsible for the maintenance of their sewer line from where it connects at the house to where it connects to the sanitary sewer line in the street, in this particular instance, the city does not have a sanitary sewer main in the South Holly Road right-of-way. The nearest city sanitary sewer line is on the Adelaide Street.

“The property owner had a plumber come out to clean out their line and determine where it goes within the street right-of-way,” Czarnecki said. “The plumber discovered the line went toward Adelaide Street and was completely plugged where it reaches Adelaide Street.”

As the DPW researched the drawings from the 2010 Adelaide Street water main project and compared it to the location of the plugged sewer, it appeared the problem could have been a result of the water main project that took place five years ago, Czarnecki added.

The DPW with the help of an outside contractor, identified the problems and made the necessary repairs. To help them find where sewer laterals were connected, they put a tracer dye into the sanitary sewer lateral.

“The dye is biodegradable, non-toxic and non-polluting,” said Czarnecki. “We discovered the sanitary sewer lateral from the (South Holly Road) house was connected to the storm sewer on Adelaide Street. This was not expected. The dye ended up in the millpond where the 48-inch storm sewer pipe discharges into the pond.”

Assessing records show that the South Holly Road house was built in 1950, but do not show when it was hooked into the sanitary sewer system.

“It is now fixed and operating correctly,” Czarnecki said. “The issue consisted of one house sanitary sewer lateral being improperly connected for an unknown length of time.”

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OLD PHONES
Continued from Page 5

condition. Several options were checked and they ended up choosing gazelle.com. They went online and put in the specifics of the phone. The company gave the seller an offer, and the seller accepted. A few days later they received a postage-paid box in the mail and they dropped their phone in the mailbox. They then received an email a few days later with the “offer” after the company reviewed the phone. The seller accepted the offer, and just a few days later the money was transferred into their PayPal account. It couldn’t have been easier.

Before anyone sells their device, consider how to be paid. Online vendors may offer a check, cash card or deposit to a PayPal account. Retailers like Best Buy and Apple will more commonly hand the seller an in-store gift card.

Feel good paycheck
Don’t throw away that old phone. Even if you think or you have been told it doesn’t have a cash value, there are numerous donation sites that repurpose old phones. Wireless Toyz of Fenton takes any phone on donation. Verizon Wireless in Fenton takes in old phones on donation, and works with a program with a battered women’s shelter, providing them with phones for emergency purposes.

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Fenton Township Firefighter Sawyer Hobson is lowered into the 24-inch opening during a training simulation last August, where two utility workers are “unconscious” underground.

FIREFIGHTING
Continued from Page 3

Hajec, who is also a certified Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), said being there for the people who need help motivates her.

“Being there for people during their worst times is why I do it,” she said. “Not only for the patient but also the families.”

Firefighting locally also is generational. In Fenton, family names like Sturgis, Hadfield, Hajec and Peterson to name a few, are automatically linked to the fire department as sons and daughters follow in their father’s footsteps.

Although they are always looking for qualified candidates and taking applications, this is one of the reasons not too many newcomers join the department each year.

“We don’t have to hire many people,” Cairnduff. “Our turnover is very low.”

New recruits have a unique opportunity in Fenton. According to Cairnduff, qualified applicants that the department considers hiring have a chance to spend two or three months with the department before they actually start their formal firefighter training.

“It gives them a better understanding of what we do and a chance to make sure they are still interested,” Cairnduff said.

Doing this prevents firefighters from receiving all of their city-paid training to become certified, and then move on to a fire department in another community.

“We’ve never had an issue with that,” Cairnduff said. “We do our homework and invest time in them before they are actually trained and hired.”

Once the department decides that a candidate should continue with training, they are sent to the county fire academy. There they spend 300 hours in firefighter training. Once that is successfully completed, they are required to take a state written and practical exam in order to obtain their firefighting certificates.

Because Fenton is also a medical response department, with the bulk of their calls involving Emergency Medical Services (EMS) mainly due to the close proximity of U.S. 23, Fenton firefighters also are required to take medical classes. That could take three to seven months depending on which classes are taken, Cairnduff said.

The city of Fenton pays all training costs for new firefighters. That cost, according to Cairnduff, is roughly $1,000 per student for the firefighter training, and another $500 to $1,200 for medical classes.

Candidates for fire service are required to be 18 years of age, be able to pass an agility and medical exam, have a clean driving record, and be able to pass a criminal background check and drug screen.

It’s not just firefighting
Services provided by the Fenton Fire Department and departments in other communities have changed and improved over the decades. It’s not just about firefighting anymore. Medical and Hazmat services are also available.

According to Fenton City Fire Chief Bob Cairnduff, the department responded to nearly 500 calls in 2014. While 72 of those calls were for actual fires, the bulk of them, 214, involved rescues at car accidents and medical calls. Eighty-two of the calls involved hazardous conditions such as power lines down, smoke investigations and fuel spills. Many of the calls were to assist other fire and police departments and good intent calls. A good intent call might be someone calling for help because they thought there was a problem. Local fire departments, including Fenton, Linden, Fenton Township and NOCPA (North Oakland County Fire Authority) automatically provide aid to each other during certain emergencies.
cases of polio have dropped by 99 percent, down from 350,000 cases to 483. Vaccinations have saved millions of lives and prevented even more from disability. ABORTION SHOULD BE legal but with restrictions. Those restrictions should definitely include a gestation limit. I agree with an abortion of an unwanted fetus, not an unwanted baby.

BETWEEN 1990 AND 2010, measles deaths declined by 71 percent. One million lives were saved every year by the measles vaccine.

MOST AMERICANS NOW believe that Obama tried to use the Bergdahl situation for political gain. But instead, he again, disgraced his position as president and reconfirming our knowledge that he is now the worst president of all time.

PEDESTRIANS
Continued from Front Page

to be installed this week.

Ongoing construction includes footings to a handicapped accessible ramp that will be constructed at 101 West Shiawassee Ave. (Sweet Variations).

Sidewalk construction in this area will also begin.

In addition, Champagne-Marx will be boring underneath the Shiawassee River in order to place a new water main. This will require the closing of the parking lot entrance to the Fenton United Methodist Church on LeRoy Street for most of this week. There will be access to the church parking lot on Ellen Street and access from Walnut Street to the municipal lot.

No water shutoffs are planned at this time.

For their own safety, people walking and traveling near the construction zone are asked to be aware of their surroundings at all times.

For more information or questions, call (81) 629-2261 or email streetscape2015@www.cityoffenton.org.
It's International Dark Sky Week

Stargazers can take in the nighttime sights at Seven Lakes State Park

From Monday, April 13 through Sunday, April 19, the International Dark Sky Association is celebrating seven days of learning and action through their International Dark Sky Week 2015. For details, go to www.darksky.org.

All school students created the annual event in 2003 and it has now become a worldwide event and a key component of Global Astronomy Month, according to the International Dark Sky Association. The idea of this event is to celebrate the beauty of the night sky and to raise awareness of light pollution. The closest state park participating in this International Dark Sky Week is Seven Lakes State Park in Holly Township. The park is located at 14390 Fish Lake Rd., Holly, midway between the city of Fenton and the village of Holly.

Although the state campground does not have any planned events for this event, it is leaving its gates open all night long for those who would like to take in some stargazing. Stargazers are being in their own telescopes and view the stars from anywhere in the park except for the campground, which will remain gated.

Day 3 (April 15) — “Ill Health.”
Day 6 (April 18) — “Stars are our Heritage.”
Day 7 (April 19) — “Take Action.”

HAGERMANS
Continued from Front Page

today the purchase of two parcels of land: • 102 West Silver Lake Road, the property formerly owned by Fenton Collision. Fenton Collision is planning an auction this weekend to liquidate vehicles and tools. • 132 North Le-Roy St., just east of the Cornerstone building.

Summary

Phil and Jocelyn Hagerman have purchased an additional two parcels of land in downtown Fenton, just five weeks after announcing their purchase of the Fenton Bean Company in March.

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Body Cams
Continued from Front Page

she co-sponsored legislation long before the riots last year in Ferguson, Missouri, that resulted in a shooting of an unarmed black man by a white police officer. Many police departments around the state already have body cameras or are planning to implement the use. A new bill in Lansing would require all Michigan police officers to wear them.

Robinson sponsored a bill that would make them universal. “There appears to be national breakdown and tension between police and citizens. And we just feel there has to be a check, a safety, some sort of a safeguard,” she said. “I want every little community to have it. I think it’s really important even in the smallest of villages that people feel free to not fear any kind of reprisal or any kind of abuse.”

Robinson added that the whole purpose is to prevent unnecessary abuse by the police, and to avoid any false accusations against the police by someone with a bad motive. “Every law enforcement officer should wear it on duty,” she said. “I am asking the state to mandate it.”

Robinson reports that the bill allows for the payment for the cameras to come from state funds, which she estimates would cost about $2.7 million. Police departments would have to pay for the implementation of the devices.

In a large city such as Grand Rapids, cameras will cost its department $1 million. Training officers and dispatchers on their use, and staying current with the technology are just a few of the costs the departments will face.

Many people have been skeptical about the bill because of the cost associated with making all police wear body cameras. “You cannot put a price on what a human life is worth,” Robinson said.

Privacy is always a concern with new technology when a recording is involved. She said there are provisions in the legislation that ensure people’s rights are not violated.

Robinson’s bill would only allow certain people to access the videos. The person on the video, or a parent if a minor is involved. Robinson indicated that if a person uninvolved wants a copy of the video, they must have consent from the individual who was recorded.

Republican Rep. Jim Runestad of White Lake regarding the determination of who could get access to the videos has already introduced another bill.

“There’s a lot of concerns,” he told an interviewer recently. “If these body cams are being worn by police all over the place, what is that going to look like if local media can get that through Freedom of Information (Act) and can put it on the nightly TV shows, blogger shows, [or] reality shows?”

Runestad’s bill says that in order to get that information, it has to be subject to a civil or criminal case, or the individual has to be on the film who’s requesting it.

Legislation also prohibits agencies from using facial recognition programs with the captured images without a warrant and specifies legal presumptions that would apply when images from a camera are not available, according to a March 23 press conference transcripts within House Bill 4229.

The bill has been referred to Committee on Criminal Justice for review.

ACLU’s response to bodycams

The ACLU recommends policies for body cameras such as prohibiting police officers from having the ability to edit the video on the fly. The camera would be controlled remotely, requiring them to notify people that are being recorded (except in emergencies). Deleting stored video would have to be done in a timely manner. “Our basic position is that they can be very useful, but you have to have safeguards in place to protect privacy,” said Miriam Aukerman, West Michigan regional staff attorney for the ACLU of Michigan.

“Body cameras can serve as an excellent oversight mechanism to prevent and address police abuses. Body cameras need to be part of a larger strategy to ensure police accountability, enhance profiling and restore trust between the police and public, particularly with communities of color.”

View stories at tctimes.com
LF’s Hillger leads our wrestling squad

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

Trent Hillger is our 2014-15 Tri-County Most Valuable Wrestler. The Lake Fenton sophomore posted a perfect 58-0 record during the winter, and captured the Division 3 state title at 215 pounds, Hillger is ranked nationally by many prep wrestling websites. He’s pictured here seconds after winning his state title.

Trent is only a sophomore and he wrestles like a college wrestler.” — Vance Corcoran, Lake Fenton wrestling coach

Sophomore’s hard work propels him to state title

Lake Fenton wrestling coach Vance Corcoran isn’t shocked when Hillger flourishes. He understands why the 215-pound wrestler has already accomplished what he has — it has to do with work ethic.

“He works harder than anybody I’ve ever had in the five or six years I’ve been a coach,” Corcoran said. “He’s a captain. He sets examples for the team. He will train six or seven days a week just for this day (the state meet) and it paid off (with a state championship).”

Hillger rarely takes a day off when it comes to conditioning. As soon as the prep wrestling season ended Hillger began preparations for wrestling outside his prep sports team.

“I am still training for nationals,” Hillger said. “I lift a few hours every day and practice a couple of hours every day. I probably practice between 20 to 25 hours a week.”

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See HILLGER on 12

2014-15 All Tri-County Wrestling Team

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<th>Rec</th>
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<td>Lake Fenton</td>
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<tr>
<td>160</td>
<td>Luke Zimmerman</td>
<td>Linden</td>
<td>46-6</td>
<td>State qualifier</td>
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<tr>
<td>165</td>
<td>Hunter Corcoran</td>
<td>Lake Fenton</td>
<td>48-8</td>
<td>Third at state</td>
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<tr>
<td>170</td>
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<tr>
<td>175</td>
<td>Devan Melick</td>
<td>Lake Fenton</td>
<td>44-13</td>
<td>State qualifier</td>
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<td>180</td>
<td>Jackson Nevadomski</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>Patrick Kerr</td>
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<tr>
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<td>230</td>
<td>Nick Miechis</td>
<td>Holly</td>
<td>5-20</td>
<td>Fourth at Metro</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The rest of the first team

110 | J. Greer | Lake Fenton | 23-16 | State qualifier |
115 | Luke Zimmerman | Linden    | 46-6 | State qualifier |
120 | Hunter Corcoran | Lake Fenton | 48-8 | Third at state |
125 | Saben Spangler | Lake Fenton | 11-14 | Eighth at state |
130 | Devan Melick | Lake Fenton | 44-13 | State qualifier |
135 | Jackson Nevadomski | Lake Fenton | 43-5 | State qualifier |
140 | Dawson Blank | Linden | 31-16 | Regional qualifier |
145 | Patrick Kerr | Linden | 43-6 | Regional qualifier |
150 | Bryce Davis | Linden | 13-7 | Regional qualifier |
155 | Will Greer | Holly | 9-19 | Fourth at Metro |
160 | Tristen Nevadomski | Lake Fenton | 47-7 | Seventh at state |
165 | Aaron Steedman | Linden | 35-15 | Regional qualifier |
170 | Scott Becker | Fenton | 32-14 | State qualifier |
175 | Trent Hillger | Lake Fenton | 58-0 | State champion |
180 | Austin McNeill | Linden | 50-5 | Fourth at state |
185 | Nick Miechis | Holly | 5-20 | Fourth at Metro |

Eight Tigers headed to college athletics programs

See Page 12

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Online exclusives

Who were our basketball players of the year? Check tctimes.com.

Inside sports

Eight is enough

Eight Tigers headed to college athletics programs
By David Troppens
dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

Most athletes are around a prep athletic program for about four seasons, Brennan Sullivan has been around the Fenton varsity girls soccer program ever since the age of 5. Of course, when your dad is the head coach, those things sometimes happen.

For Sullivan, being around the program for over a decade has paid off. The Fenton varsity soccer player will continue her career at the collegiate level next fall at Roosevelt University.

Sullivan was one of eight student-athletes honored at a recent signing party at Fenton High School. The others were football players Alec Thomas, Evan Gornick and Evan Welch; softball players Katie Caimduff and Paige Dean; track athlete Katherine Hiller; and volleyball player Kelsie Fischer.

“I cannot ever see myself not playing soccer as long as I can, so I am really glad to have the opportunity to keep on playing,” Sullivan said. “I think a big part of why I love soccer so much is my dad (Matt Sullivan) and being around the Fenton soccer program so much. I’ve been a ball girl and been on the bus rides as long as I can remember. It’s definitely had a significant impact.”

Sullivan is a defender for Fenton, but could end up filling many roles for Roosevelt University, an NAIA school.

Thomas finished his career an All-State performer for the Fenton football program and will now continue at Ashland University, a Division 2 GLIAC program.

Thomas is slated to play receiver. Ashland finished 8-2 overall a year ago.

“I’m really honored to have this opportunity,” Thomas said. “I just want to keep on getting better in the sport. I want to take it further and see what I can do.”

Another football player headed to a GLIAC school is Evan Welch. Welch was looking at Hope College, Northwood or John Carroll University.

“It came down to academics and the feel of the campus,” Welch said. “My parents sent me on a ton of visits, but in the end, Hillsdale was going to be a good fit for me. I just knew it.”

Welch could end up playing one of three positions — tight end, defensive end or fullback. Hillsdale finished last season at 4-7.

“Fenton’s program has been great,” Welch said. “The memories I made here will last a lifetime. I’ll always remember everything Fenton High School has done for me, and everything it’s done to get me to this point.”

Evan Gornick spent falls playing on Fenton’s boys soccer team and the football squad. He’s headed to Michigan Tech, another D2 GLIAC program, to become a placekicker for the Huskies. Gornick was 37-for-39 with his extra-point attempts last season. He displayed his leg strength by kicking many balls into the end zone for touchbacks. Michigan Tech graduated its starting placekicker last year.

Caimduff will stay close to home, playing softball at Mott Community College.

The Bears have a great local flavor within its roster. It includes ex-Lake Fenton standouts Taylor Sheyachich, Patricia Whittaker and Kayla Ward. All three are freshmen.

“I’ve been working hard my whole life and it’s an amazing feeling to get there,” Caimduff said. “I got a good offer from Mott. I love the coaching staff and I know a lot of the players on the team. I’ve played with some of them the past couple of years, so it will be fun to get back together with them.”

Paige Dean is headed to Siena Heights to play softball as well. Dean’s signing was detailed in a previous story earlier this school year.

Katherine Hiller is headed to Spring Arbor University to continue her track career. The four-year track performer is a strong hurdler and a sprinter who says her biggest athletic accomplishment so far is never crashing during a hurdle race. If the Tigers are going to defend their Metro League title this season, Hiller will have to play a big role in that process.

Finally, Fischer is headed west to Grand Rapids Community College to continue her setting career on the volleyball team.

“I was looking at a few different schools down south and one in Chicago, but when I went there and met with the coaches and the players, I just felt it was the place for me,” Fischer said.

The Raiders were 27-6 overall, finished undefeated in conference play and qualified for the national tournament.

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**HILLGER**

Continued from Page 11

His prep career so far

Hillger enjoyed an outstanding freshman season. He finished the year with a 57-8 record. However, once at the state meet, he lost his opening round match and was forced to battle back within the loser’s bracket. He did so, finishing in fourth place, Hillger quickly figured out where he needed to improve.

“My freshman year I wasn’t very good at neutral, so I tried to avoid the position,” Hillger said. “I didn’t like putting the effort in. I guess I was lazy wrestling on my feet.”

Hillger did get better at the neutral position, never being taken down during his sophomore season from the position.

Hillger grew to the 215-pound weight class entering his sophomore season and was quickly tabbed as one of the favorites to capture a state crown. His season-long performances did nothing to deter that thought process as he won a county title, a league championship, a district crown and a regional title. Entering the state meet he remained undefeated and was the clear-cut favorite to leave the Palace of Auburn Hills as the state champion. Hillger made sure that happened. He earned first-round pin-fall wins against each of his first three foes, setting himself up for a state title match against Grand Rapids Catholic Central’s senior Grant Tennihill.

Hillger had just a 1-0 lead deep into the second period, but got a takedown late, earning a 3-0 lead entering the final two minutes. Hillger dominated the third period, earning another three near-fall points.

“I felt I was more aggressive because I was throughout the season at the state meet,” Hillger said. “Something clicked at the state tournament. I thought I wrestled the best I had all season, especially in the finals. I thought the finals match was my best match of the season. I wrestled smart and didn’t take stupid shots. … The pace of the match depended upon me.”

Two more years left

Already a state champion, Hillger has two more years to go. Also an outstanding football player, Hillger realizes he can accomplish some great things before his prep wrestling career is over.

“It’s pretty cool to be a state champion, but I have to start working now because I want to get a couple of more in the next couple of years,” Hillger said. “I’d love to end my career as a three-time (state champion).”

We doubt anyone is betting against him doing just that.

---

The Fenton seniors who are headed to college athletic programs in the fall are (front, from left) Evan Welch, Alec Thomas, Brennan Sullivan, Katherine Hiller, (back, from left) Evan Gornick, Kelsie Fischer, Katie Caimduff and Paige Dean.

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPENS

Lake Fenton’s Trent Hillger works on defeating his state final foe at the individual state wrestling championships. The sophomore won his state crown at 215 pounds.
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**HOROSCOPES**

**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) You still might have to deal with some lingering confusion that marked a recent workplace situation. But for the most part, you should now be well on your way to your next project.

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) A new commitment might demand more time than you’d expected to have to give it. But rely on that special Bulline gift for patience, and stick with it. You’ll be glad you did.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) You’re earning the admiration of a lot of people who like the way you handle yourself when your views are on the line. Even one or two of your detractors are being won over.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) Taking your responsibilities seriously is what you do. But ease up on the pressure gauge, and make time for much needed R & R. Start by making this weekend a “just for fun” time zone.

**LEO** (July 23 to August 22) Some recently uncovered information might make a change of plans inevitable. If so, deal with it as quickly as possible, and then find out what went wrong and why. What you learn might surprise you.

**VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) Aspects favor moving carefully and deliberately when making any significant changes. Could be there are more facts you need to know, which you might overlook if you rush things.

**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) A problem neighbor might be looking to goad you into an action you don’t want to take. Ask someone you both respect if he or she would act as an impartial arbitrator for both of you.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) A recent workplace accomplishment hasn’t been overlooked by those who watch these things. Meanwhile, start making travel plans for that much-too-long-deferred trip with someone special.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) Those money matters continue to move in your favor. Now would be a good time to start putting some money back into the house, both for aesthetic as well as economic reasons.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) A changing workplace environment can create job pressures. But, once again, follow the example of your birth sign and take things a step at a time, like the sure-footed Goat you are.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) Cheer up. You could soon have the funds you need for your worthy project. Your generous gifts of time and effort are well known, and someone might decide it’s time to join you.

**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) Your inner scam-catcher is right on target, and you’re absolutely right to reject that “too good to be true” offer. Meanwhile, something positive should be making its way to you.

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**DVD RELEASES**

**ROMEO AND JULIET** (Audience score on rottentomatoes.com) 85%

Romeo and Juliet perhaps the greatest love story of all time in its first Broadway staging in 36 years stars Orlando Bloom and Condola Rashad. PG, 2 hr. 15 min.

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**THE BABADOOK**

Six years after the violent death of her husband, Amelia is at a loss. She struggles to discipline her “out of control” 6 year-old. Samuel, Samuel’s dreams are plagued by a monster he believes is coming tokill them both. UNRATED, 1 hr. 34 min.

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(Audience score on rottentomatoes.com) 75%

(Audience score on rottentomatoes.com) 85%
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Learn how you can save by insuring your life, home and auto with Auto-Owners Insurance.