

Fenton's Streetscape similar to Rochester's

■ Downtown Rochester — ‘perfect blend of history and hip’

By Hannah Ball
hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792
Fenton isn't the only city to undergo a huge, downtown transformation costing mil-

lions of dollars and redoing entire streets.
The Rochester Streetscape re-did one of their busiest roads, Main Street, in 2012. The

project took place from April 2 to Nov. 23, and cost \$7.6 million, said James Vettraino, Rochester city manager.
See STREETScape on 11A

TRI-COUNTY TIMES
TIM JAGIELO
It took four years to plan Rochester's \$7.6 million project, which happened in 2012.



FEATURED SECTION:
INCLUDED WITH THIS EDITION:
MAKING WAVES



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

School board weighs benefits versus costs of IB program

■ Fenton teachers say ‘we can do it ourselves’

By Vera Hogan
vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823
More than 60 teachers, parents and school leaders packed the Fenton Board of Education meeting room Monday night. Discussions, lasting more than three hours, surrounded the continuation of the International Baccalaureate (IB) program and the 2015-2016 budget.
Tensions were high and frustration apparent as educators, representing every school in the district, took issue with the idea of laying off 12.5 members of the teaching staff. They also voiced their opinions on the IB program, telling **See IB PROGRAM on 10A**

THINGS ARE HAPPENING AT THE BEANERY!



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO
On Wednesday, Rhoads and Johnson worker Dale Watkins carries the last roll of safety fencing to encircle the beanery building in Fenton. Plans for the renovations have not been announced, but a Rhoads and Johnson command trailer is on site and information should be available soon.

Linden grad shares Nepal quake experience



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO
Many search and rescue teams are on site in Nepal, including the Nepalese Army.

■ She climbed over rubble, over bodies, searching for people who were still breathing

By Hannah Ball
hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792
A second earthquake, magnitude 7.3, hit Nepal Tuesday morning killing 42 and injuring 1,117, according to the Nepali government. This quake came just 17 days after the magnitude 7.8 earthquake near Barpak, a mountain village between Pokhara and Kathmandu, on April 25.
Morgan Frost, 23, a Linden High School graduate and former resident, was in Nepal, directly **See NEPAL on 15A**

Who was Lawrence Howard, Jr.?

■ Several events led to the murder of this Fenton newcomer

By Vera Hogan
vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823
Lawrence Howard, Jr. chose to live in Fenton, having moved into a duplex on North LeRoy Street a few months ago from Akron, Ohio, in order to be closer to his young daughter.
His new Fenton neighbors didn't have much of a chance to get to know him.
On Saturday, April 18, Howard, 39, was shot to death **See MURDER on 20A**




Lawrence Howard, Jr.

810-771-TEXT (8398)

TEXT YOUR HOT LINE




“Brady’s fine and suspension is a joke. The payoff for hosting one extra playoff game is in the hundreds of millions of dollars. He should have been suspended for a full season, and the team fined \$10 million.”



“Saw a headline in USA Today that said ‘Boston bomber sorry for what he did.’ Is that supposed to make the parents of the dead 8-year-old feel better? I hope they fry him.”



“No surprise that George Stephanopoulos was a large contributor to the Bill and Hillary Clinton foundation. Not disclosing it shows the same bias and dishonesty that his ‘reporting’ on the Clintons demonstrated for ABC for the last several years”



tctimes.com COMMENT OF THE WEEK

“Too bad the Times doesn’t poll all the teachers in the district to see how they feel about the IB program. The small minority that showed up at the school board meeting shouldn’t represent all of us. Signed, a Fenton teacher.”

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TEXTING ACRONYMS WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW

■ Code words reveal secret world of texting, oftentimes overlooked by naïve parents

By Emily Stocker
810-629-8282

As a parent of a teen boy, and a pre-teen girl, this reporter is no stranger to the constant monitoring of cell phones. The rule at home is that everyone's phone is charging in mom's room at bedtime. The chirp of an awaiting text message or an Instagram "like" can be too tempting to ignore.

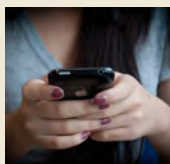
Multiple studies have shown what cell phones can do to one's eyes, and the horror stories of teen "vamping" (staying up all night) on social media and YouTube when they should be getting a good night's sleep.

One thing parents might not be aware of is the amount of acronyms teens are using to evade parental understanding. If parents catch a glimpse of a text conversation or see what they're typing on Skype, they may need a translator.

Parents cannot consider themselves tech savvy because they can translate "LOL" to "laugh out loud."

Noslang.com, netlingo.com and Cool Mom Tech are great resources for keeping up with the ever-changing world of teen communication. Listed here are common acronyms parents are probably not aware of if they glance at their child's phone or computer.

See **TEXTING** on 14A



See list of **COMMON ACRONYMS** that parents should be aware of. Some are graphic in nature. **Page 14A**

CORNERSTONE CONDOS...



Move-in time almost here

By Sally Rummel | news@tctimes.com

If you're waiting for the Cornerstone condos to be completed before making an inquiry about living in downtown Fenton, your wait is almost over.

Final inspections for mechanical, electrical, plumbing, elevator and alarm systems have taken place and are approved by the city, according to Rohn Smith, project superintendent for Sorensen Gross Construction Services. "It's taken twice as long as we had originally planned because design changes had to take place to fit the budget. But we're through it now," he said.

See **CONDOS** on 22A

“The best case scenario is final inspection next week, then technically, we can begin to schedule move-in dates.”

Ghassan Saab
Cornerstone project developer



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

(Top) A Sagano Japanese Bistro and Steakhouse sushi chef and hibachi chef relax on break on Wednesday. (Above) The view from the roof of the Cornerstone building is a glimpse of what condo owners will see overlooking downtown Fenton.



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Random royal thoughts

• **Definition of a spider web:** A thing you walk into that instantly turns you into a black belt karate master.

• **When you think** about it, everyone stops smoking eventually.

• **I refuse to believe** that there is one person in the world who gets in the shower and then turns the water on.

• **If I am driving** 50 mph on the highway into a 50 mph headwind, shouldn't I feel no wind if I stick my head out the window?

• **Don't you hate it** when you laugh so hard tears run down your leg?

• **If the federal government** can't provide adequate care for 7 million veterans, what fool would think they can do

it for 330 million people?

• **It has been my experience** in life that women drivers in general operate in just two modes: they are either accelerating or braking — there is no in-between.

• **Why has no one** ever marketed bullet-proof pants?

• **Why is no one** curious as to why Saudi Arabia would donate millions to the Bill, Hillary and Chelsea Clinton Foundation? The only logical conclusion is that the Saudis hope to be owed a debt from a family that may end up living at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue — again.

• **Why is it called** the World Series when it is the championship for only the U.S.A.?



• **Once a building** is finished, shouldn't it be called a 'built'?

• **I agree with Thomas Sowell** who said that Walmart has done more for poor people than any 10 liberals, at least nine of whom are almost guaranteed to hate Walmart.

• **Does anyone** actually know what 'OK' stands for?

• **Attorney General Eric Holder** and President Barack Obama want to end laws that prevent convicted felons from voting. The only possible reason to do that would be if you believed that felons and ex-felons would overwhelmingly vote democratic.

• **Isn't 'Guidance Counselor'** a redundant term?

• **Did you know that** although you can block unwanted phone calls from solicitors, automated phone calls from

“Does anyone actually know what ‘OK’ stands for?”

politicians are exempt? Could there possibly be a better example of the self-serving nature of the fools we elect to Congress?

• **Can someone** explain to me why my dog gets annoyed when I blow in his face, but is ecstatic when he sticks his head out the car window going 50 mph?

• **I can't help but wonder if** we may actually be as stupid, naïve and spineless as all the politicians think we are?

• **A just-released study** of the most annoying drivers in America by Expedia found that, for the 15th straight year, the most annoying drivers on the road are every driver but you.

• **How in the heck** did a fool and his money get together in the first place?

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.

HERE'S A RIDDLE. What's the difference between Brian Williams and George Stephanopoulos? Nothing. They are both dishonest. His credibility level is now at zero.

• **WHO KNOWS MORE** about the IB program than the teachers? You should listen to them and act accordingly. They have only the best interests of the students in mind.

• **AS A PET owner,** I would like to commend the employees at Vic Canever Chevrolet for their efforts in rescuing the poor St. Bernard that was roaming along U.S. 23. You are a credit to our community, thank you from all animal lovers.

• **WHY IS THERE** no uproar from the Native American community about the name of our military's most advanced helicopter, the Comanche? You'd think everyone would be freaking out about it, but they're not.

• **PARENTS, PLEASE PLAN** to attend the school board meeting on Wednesday, May 20 at 6 p.m. in the administration building on Donaldson Drive. Topics will include budget cuts, eliminating teacher positions, increasing class sizes, privatization of custodial staff and busing. Please plan to attend.

I SEE BY this morning's paper that Obama's library will be built in Chicago. My granddaughter's husband taught there and from what he told me 80 percent of them can't read anyway. So I assume that's why he picked Chicago.

• **DO ALL THESE** little government heads have spokespersons and assistant spokespersons and personal persons? They never seem to speak for themselves. They all have people to speak for them.

• **BIG DEAL, THEY** suspend Brady for four games next year and fine the team \$1 million. That is chicken-feed compared to the benefit of winning a playoff

game. And shouldn't the fine money go to the team that got cheated?

• **IT WON'T MATTER** if the Tigers make the playoffs again this year. All their highly paid superstars and award winners play like first-year rookies in the playoffs anyway.

• **A QUARTERBACK WOULD** know immediately if any football was even a half pound underinflated. Why does it take 243 pages of testimony to prove something that everyone else already knows is true?

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.

Lake Fenton softball program

Dear Editor,

I am writing in response to the Hot line comment (page 4A, 5/10/2015) where the anonymous commenter felt Lake Fenton Varsity Softball coach Amos Rinks had somehow 'forgotten' that the 'girls who work their butts off in the off-season, as well the regular season... are the program.' I have to ask this person, which coach do you think is there every day running those practices and conditioning sessions? Who is pushing our young women to meet their goals? And, who is teaching them the value of hard work and dedication to a craft? Are you? Those of us who are there know how committed Coach Rinks and that this program and its success is NEVER about him. It is this kind of vitriol spewed in anonymous Hot lines that do significant damage to a team. I hope the cowardly person finds the ability to learn what really goes on in the LFHS Varsity Softball program, and then finds the courage to apologize to both our coach and this team.

— Sincerely, Tim Draeger

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Compiled by Alexei Rose, intern

How has the Streetscape project affected you?

streettalk



"It makes getting to the post office more complicated."

— Kitty Stromberg
Fenton Township



"I really haven't had an issue with anything. The detour route is really well planned out."

— Jacqui Blackwood
Holly Township



"It hasn't really because I know downtown very well because I have lived here so long."

— Ellie Pasco
Argentine Township



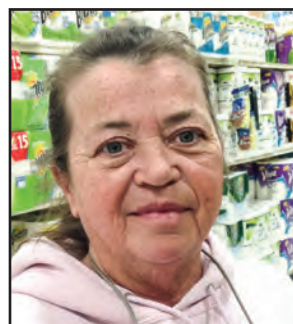
"Not at all because I just tend to ignore it."

— Tom Remillard
Livingston County



"I have to take a different route to work and try to avoid the area."

— Shevonna Nelson
Fenton Township



"It affects my daily walks with my dog, because of all the action and chaos."

— Jeri Koop
Fenton

Myths busted about no-fault auto insurance reform bill

■ Misinformation about Senate Bill 248 clarified

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

There has been a considerable amount of confusion over Senate Bill 248, proposed legislation aimed at reforming Michigan's No-Fault Insurance Act.

Sen. Joe Hune (22nd District) introduced Senate Bill 248. In a statement issued April 29, Hune said, "Unfortunately, there has been a lot of misinformation spread about what my bill, Senate Bill 248, does and does not do. SB 248 will not end or limit benefits for those injured in car accidents. In fact, Michigan drivers will continue to receive the highest benefits in the country — unlimited, lifetime medical benefits."

According to Hartland Insurance Agency representative Douglas Fairbanks, the language in the bill has gone through some changes while moving through the Senate and House Insurance Committee.

"It's important to keep in mind that the bill does not impact coverage for the insured, but is designed to cut costs out of premiums because of abuse and overpricing for services," Fairbanks said.

According to Fairbanks, if the bill were passed as is, it would create a Michigan Automobile Insurance Fraud Authority, which would provide resources to law enforcement to aggressively pursue

incidents of suspected insurance fraud.

"Suspicious claims amount to \$400 million annually," Fairbanks said.

It would limit attendant care provided by family members to \$15/hour, which amounts to over \$131,000 per year, adjusted for inflation. Family members who are licensed medical professionals are not subject to the limit. A medical review of the patient's needs and care may be requested if additional care or resources are needed.

If passed as is, the bill would transition from the existing Michigan Catastrophic

Claims Association (MCCA) and become the Michigan Legacy Claims Association (MLCA) reimbursement/reinsurance mechanism to a new Michigan Catastrophic Claims Corporation (MCCC) excess insurance mechanism.

An auto insurance carrier's liability would be capped at \$545,000, beyond which the claim and liability would transfer to the new MCCC.

Medical providers would be reimbursed at 150 percent of Medicare rates which, according to committee comments, is anywhere from 20 to 30 percent higher than most commercial reimbursement rates, Fairbanks said.

The new bill would also require a \$100 per vehicle rate reduction each year for two years.

"It's important to remember that costs cut from the system go back to the insured," Fairbanks said. He agrees there is some misinformation being presented

about Senate Bill 248.

"Common sense reforms have been proposed. However, there are misconceptions and misinformation about reform perpetrated by opponents that need to do a fact check," he said.

Fairbanks said it is not true that the legislation would put a \$545,000 cap on catastrophic injuries. "The fact is that Senate Bill 248 would protect the unlimited no-fault benefits as the first \$545,000 of bills will be paid by the driver's insurance company, while medical needs over \$545,000 will be paid directly by the new Michigan Catastrophic Claims Corporation (MCCC)," he said.

Another incorrect statement being made is that there will be a loss of health-care benefits for auto accident victims.

"Senate Bill 248 continues to provide all reasonable and necessary medical care for the lifetime of a person injured in an auto accident," Fairbanks said. "Prohibiting medical providers from charging auto insurance companies

200 or 300 percent more for the same medical treatment, would not lessen the amount or types of health care that will be provided to the catastrophically injured — it would only affect the cost being paid for the care."

Fairbanks also said Senate Bill 248 would not cap, cut, alter or reassign benefits for anyone injured in an auto accident

See **INSURANCE** on 9A

SUMMARY

■ Senate Bill 248, legislation proposed by Sen. Joe Hune (22nd District) has been the topic of confusion and misinformation.

“Suspicious claims amount to \$400 million annually.”

Douglas Fairbanks
Hartland Insurance Agency



ASK THE MECHANIC

Chris Wilkinson,
Certified Mechanic

Q: I have a 2011 Silverado LTZ with a rear sliding window. The wire is off on one side. It looks as if there is a small ball at the end of the wire, but it isn't long enough to reach to the slot of the window. Any ideas as to how I fix this?

- Randall

A: Randall, I would like to see the vehicle to try to help you with this. I have tried to locate service info on this system, but it does not show me where the wire connects. If you get a chance and you are in the Holly area stop in at our shop. Wilkinson Auto Repair 402 N. Saginaw right across from the Holly Doughnut Shop. I will see if I can help out.

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When your loved one has Alzheimer's

■ Know the early warning signs and symptoms

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

The words, "You're loved one is in the beginning stages of Alzheimer's" has been dreaded by many over the decades. It can be immediately life changing for the family members charged with caring for the newly diagnosed dementia patient.

According to John Strayer, owner of Tanglewood Assisted Living & Home Care in Fenton, if a senior lives on their own, their family may seek placement in a long-term care facility because of the dangers of isolation.

SUMMARY

■ Families caring for parents or other elderly relatives should be aware of the signs and symptoms of Alzheimer's Disease and other types of dementia.

Isolated seniors, Strayer said, delay reporting serious medical symptoms, are often lonely, which is linked to cognitive decline and risk of dementia, causes depression

and contributes to high blood pressure. Isolated seniors are vulnerable to elder abuse, and they often have difficulty taking medication as directed."

"Many families will obtain home care for an isolated senior. However, this type of one-to-one care can become prohibitively expensive for many families, especially if it is necessary 24 hours a day," Strayer said.

Seniors suffering from memory loss may also be living with a spouse or an adult child, and their family member will become their caregiver.

"In these situations, families will eventually seek placement to a long-term care facility because the stress of caregiving has become too great for an elderly spouse or for an adult child with work commitments and a family of their own," he said. "Caregiving for a dementia patient is extremely stressful work."

Quite often, a memory loss patient will say they need to "go home" even when that patient is living in a house where they've spent their entire adult life.

“The ‘home’ a memory loss patient seeks is probably the home where they grew up.”

John Strayer
Tanglewood Assisted
Living & Home Care owner

"The 'home' a memory loss patient seeks is probably the home where they grew up," Strayer said. "Even though short-term memory is deteriorating, long-term memories remain intact and are very real to the memory loss patient. Because of this, memory loss patients often behave as if the places of their youth are nearby."

"They also believe the people who were close to them in their childhood are still alive," Strayer added. "Frequently, memory loss patients will say they have to go because their mom or dad is waiting for them."

Such powerful impulses often drive patients to leave their own home and wander away outside, according to Strayer. Sometimes patients will wander outside even in the worst weather.

WATCH FOR THE SIGNS

According to John Strayer, owner of Tanglewood Assisted Living & Home Care in Fenton, the following are the most common signs of memory loss:

1. Asking questions repeatedly
2. Repetitive or purposeless activity
3. Difficulty with routine math computations
4. Becoming lost in familiar surroundings
5. Putting things away in unusual places
6. Withdrawing from social activities
7. Disregarding grooming or hygiene
8. Agitation and mood swings
9. Difficulty communicating
10. Trouble telling time

"Sadly, wandering is a common cause of injury and death for memory loss patients," said Strayer.

Any home with a memory loss resident should have alarms on all the exit doors, which can alert a caregiver that the patient is trying to leave, Strayer added.

"Such alarms are inexpensive, readily available and easy to install," he said.

FINDING A CURE

Universities and research groups around the globe have spent countless hours and millions of dollars trying to learn what causes Alzheimer's. Many recent reports claim some of them are coming close to finding a cure.

In a recent special report called, "We want you back! Have UCLA scientists cracked the code for Alzheimer's," UCLA scientists conducted what they refer to as a "groundbreaking new study," showing that memory loss caused by Alzheimer's cannot only be stopped, but reversed.

"The study is small, involving only 10 patients and needs to be repeated on a far larger scale to be confirmed," said Strayer. "Rather than focusing on a single 'magic bullet,' like a new drug, to help with memory loss, UCLA researchers tried a 'multi-component' approach."

That approach included improving diet, reducing stress, getting more sleep, taking daily vitamin supplements, improving oral hygiene, fasting between dinner and breakfast, exercise and hormone therapy.

(More details on the UCLA study can be viewed at ucla.edu/releases/memory-loss)

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Jeff Stone, owner of the Fenton Sears Hometown Store points out the features to look for in a quality grill. Heavier "flame tamers," which partially deflect the direct flames last longer, and upper-tier grills can have side burners for heating pots.

What's the best grill for your family?

■ From natural gas, charcoal, propane and electric — cooks have array of options

By Emily Stocker

estocker@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Here in Michigan, families want to spend as much time as possible outdoors, including mealtime. Whether you're considering gas, charcoal, or an electric grill, the options are overwhelming.

Jeff Stone, owner of Sears Hometown Store of Fenton, provides some advice on buying the right grill for your family's needs. He said, "one of the most important things to look for when shopping for your new grill is the material of the grates and burners."

The cooking surface can be stainless steel, porcelain coated or cast iron. The material should be strong, durable and resilient, provide good heat transfer and keep food from sticking.

According to bbq.about.com, those shopping for a grill are advised to stay away from the thin rod type grate of plain steel, which loses its temper and develops chips. Stainless steel will work well for a long time, but not as long as cast iron or porcelain-coated surfaces. Porcelain also has a habit of chipping away and exposing the metal underneath, causing rust. Cast iron holds heat far longer. It is a natural non-stick surface and will last a lifetime if cared for properly.

Electric grills are less popular because of their limited temperature ranges and without flame or smoke, cooks may not get the "grilled" taste, according to on-line reviews. Electric grills do have their advantages for some. They start with the press of a button, and heat up in less than five minutes. They are compact and are great on small porches and for apartment dwellers with little space or where gas or charcoal may be prohibited. Most are less than \$200, so a low price is also a benefit.

Charcoal grill users are diehard, and will argue that nothing tastes better. The portability of a charcoal grill allows for use in tailgating and camping

Natural gas conversion

Running out of propane mid barbecue, or running yet another errand to the store to switch out your propane tank can be a thing of the past. For less than \$100, many grills have an optional conversion kit. The kit will include gas jets, a flexible gas hose, quick-disconnect gas fittings and a gas valve limiter. Owners will have to run an additional gas line with a shut-off valve to the area of the grill, but after the fairly simple installation, running out of propane is a thing of the past.

“Covering your grill is critical. A lot of people don't want to spend the extra \$40 on a cover, but it will add so much life to your grill.”

Jeff Stone
Owner of Sears Hometown
Store of Fenton

A basic grill is great for cooking burgers and hot dogs, but if you're a more seasoned chef, you're going to want the extra accessories. Rotisseries and extra side burners allow for a greater menu, but also come at an extra cost.

SUMMARY

■ Whether you're shopping for charcoal, electric or gas, know what to look for, and what exactly you need when looking for a new grill this spring.

Stone said, "Don't pay for what you're not going to use. If you have a large family or entertain frequently, you're going to want a larger grill with more burners, but there's no need to spend the extra money on side burners that you're never going to use. A great feature to look for on a new grill is fold-down shelves, which can be stored in a more compact space. It's a great new feature."

with ease, but cooks will definitely sacrifice on time. Depending on the grill size and number of briquettes, grills should be ready 15 to 30 minutes after lighting. Charcoal grills are much less expensive. Most are metal with prices as low as \$35 but a newer option is ceramic, which can run you upwards of \$1,000, according to houselogic.com.

Gas grill prices can range from the most basic grill at around \$199, to the high-end with all the bells and whistles for over \$1,000.

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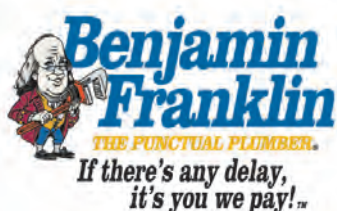
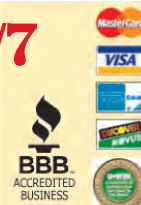
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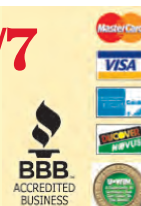
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From A-Z...Vitamins and Supplements



PART FIVE OF
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Do you get all the vitamins you need each day in your regular meals? If you eat a well-rounded diet, you probably do. However, if you like to avoid your vegetables then it may be important to add a multi-vitamin to your diet.

Certain ailments can also call for the need to take vitamins and supplements. Here are the vitamins and minerals that are most popular under G in the alphabet and what they can do for you.

By Yvonne Stegall • news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Whether you are getting all the vitamins and nutrients you need in your meals each day, it can help to have a guide to what some important nutrients are and how you can get them without taking them in pill form.

Sometimes there are reasons that make it important to take a vitamin or supplement in pill form, like illnesses or certain medications that can cause the body to have trouble absorbing certain nutrients.

Sometimes there are even supplements that can only be found in pill form and offer you different healing and healthy elements.

G is one of those letters that doesn't have any vitamins, but does have much to offer anyone who wants to add supplements to their diet that can help them live a healthier and more balanced life.

Here are some of the great things you'll find under G when you start shopping for supplements.

Ginkgo

Ginkgo biloba comes from a tree, and it is rich in antioxidant properties, so it is great for overall health. On top of that, Ginkgo can help with memory loss. If you are on any blood thinners, Ginkgo may be a bad choice for you because it can increase risk of bleeding.

Ginseng

There are two common types of ginseng you'll find at the pharmacy. Those are American ginseng and the Asian ginseng. Asian ginseng comes in other

names, including Panax ginseng and Korean ginseng. Ginseng can be taken to help reduce stress; it is a stimulant and can help give you more energy. It is also used to regulate metabolism, making it a popular additive in weight loss pills.

Green Tea

If you aren't getting all of the antioxidants you need through fruit, try some green tea. Green tea helps lower your risk of cancer and it can work as a hunger suppressant. You can take green tea in pill form or just drink a nice hot cup of it each day.

Glucosamine

Glucosamine is something naturally found in the human body, in the fluid around your joints. As you get older though, your joints begin to wear out and taking this supplement can help you with joint issues. It can also be found in shellfish and in the marrow of animal bones. It is most commonly taken for arthritis relief.

Grape Seed Extract

While it's not likely you are going to sit around chewing on grape seeds, taking grape seed extract can help with circulation and it can help reduce high cholesterol. Grape seed extract can be found easily in pill form.

Next week, you'll learn whether there are any vitamins or supplements in H that you should be taking!

Sources: evitamins.com and rxlist.com

INSURANCE

Continued from Page 5A

in Michigan. It would only bring the costs in line with what is being charged to other patients for the same care.

It has also been said that the only drivers who will save much money are drivers in Detroit because they are getting a special deal. "The legislation guarantees a \$100 rate savings per car per year for

two years no matter where you live," said Fairbanks. "Drivers in Traverse City are going to save the same amount as those drivers in Detroit."

Hune said, "We can continue to do nothing while the cost of auto insurance continues to rise, or we can enact these reasonable reforms and continue to provide Michigan drivers with the best medical benefits in the country at a lower cost."

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IB PROGRAM

Continued from Front Page

board members they can do a better job themselves.

“What does the IB program offer that we can’t do ourselves,” asked Brad Wright, a 16-year veteran teacher at Fenton High School.

If the IB program is continued, it would cost the district approximately \$528,000 in the coming school year, according to Superintendent Timothy Jalkanen. The proposed 2015-16 budget calls for the layoff of 12.5 teachers, among other reductions.

“There’s been a lot of discussion about the merits of the IB program,” Wright said. “Can we afford it at the cost of teacher layoffs, custodians and bus drivers ...”

Wright said the AP program used in previous years does the same thing for a fraction of the cost.

Wright said the teaching staff was surveyed on the merits of the IB program, but had not yet seen results. “How the staff feels will be very telling,” he said, adding that some staff members did not participate in the survey for fear there would be no anonymity and possible retribution.

“We have one of the lowest staff morales that we’ve ever had in my time here,” Wright said.

Other teachers echoed Wright’s sentiments, worried about staff layoffs and the resulting higher class sizes.

Joanne Purzycki, a teacher at Tomek-Eastern Elementary School, said teaching at the district will continue to be great without the IB program.

“When I was a student in the district, the first thing cut was busing — it was a frill — not the teaching staff,” she said.

Board President Drew Shapiro empathized with the teachers and said the board has some tough decisions to make. He reminded the audience, “It’s the job of the board to do what’s best for all in the district.”

During his budget presentation, Jalkanen said the IB program has been in place for six to seven years. There are currently four juniors enrolled in the high school’s IB Diploma

Program. He also reported that 29 percent of Fenton students are taking IB classes. Of the \$528,000 in IB costs, “roughly \$400,000 represents coordinator costs,” he said.

Jalkanen reported the results of parent surveys on the IB program. One of the things parents were asked is “Do you think IB is good for students?” District-wide, the results were 25 percent ‘yes,’ 32 percent neutral, and 43 percent ‘no.’

Michelle Ostrowski, a long-time teacher at State Road Elementary School, said they are working on Fenton Forward, an alternative to IB teachers and administrators can do on their own.

Board Treasurer Tamara Valley asked, “How do we ensure accountability down the road if IB is not in place?” Ostrowski said, “It’s great leadership that keeps us accountable.”

Board Vice President Rick Koester said, “We should not be making decisions today. We are still

waiting for information and still have time. We can’t just rip the roots out without a viable alternative. If it is determined that things aren’t working out — get a plan — don’t just pull the plug.”

Parent Lisa Ferguson said she has three children in the Fenton district and doesn’t see any real impact because of an IB education. “Nix the program, stop the bleeding and bring back AP,” she said.

Because the district’s budget has to be adopted by June 30, administrators were given additional time to present alternative options to the IB program. Another special meeting has been scheduled to take place at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, May 20.

Superintendent’s 2015-2016 Budget Summary

The following represents Superintendent Timothy Jalkanen’s 2015-2106 budget summary, which he recommended to the Board of Education:

- 12.5 FTE Instructional staff reductions totaling \$1,006,400
- Restructure IB program (TBD)/Elementary World Language, \$76,771
- Transportation route reduction/new buses added to fleet, \$15,000
- Athletic revenue enhancements (pass policy and increase pay to participate), \$15,000
- Other areas, \$121,000

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

The Rochester Streetscape cost more than Fenton, but both projects upgraded water main systems, sanitary systems as well as repaving streets and sidewalks.

STREETSCAPE
Continued from Front Page

The project, which installed a new water system, sanitary system, new street and curb, parking, sidewalks, as well as street enhancements, fencing, and bike racks, was a way for the city to connect with their businesses. The project resulted in six businesses closing, but nine businesses opening.

“By the time the project occurred, (businesses) were well aware and fully informed. They marketed it ‘Main Street Make-Over,’” Vettrano said. The city kept businesses informed about when sidewalks would be under construction and encouraged back-alley entrances.

“That was a huge piece of success, keeping pedestrian traffic in the alleys,” Vettrano said.

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), which owns Main Street, gave \$4.54 million to the \$7.6 million project. The city paid for the rest.

Unlike the Fenton Streetscape project, parking wasn’t a big issue in Rochester during construction.

“As far as parking, we lost about 80-100 spaces (on Main Street),” Vettrano said. “Parking was able to support traffic that we had.”

Similar to Rochester, the Streetscape project in Fenton will upgrade the water main and sanitary system. Michael Burns, Fenton assistant city manager, said the main reason for the project was to upgrade infrastructure and calm traffic.

“With a lot of the new projects and developments in downtown Fenton, we believe enhancements were needed to improve downtown Fenton,” Burns said.

A new water main will be installed in downtown Fenton, along with a sanitary and storm system. Downtown streets will be repaved and the sidewalks will be improved, according to cityoffenton.org.

The project started in September and the road work started the last week of March. The city had to cut trees to get federal grant money, Burns said. The road work will be completed sometime in November, and there will be some restoration and landscaping next spring, but it won’t have a big effect on traffic.

The Fenton Streetscape project isn’t as expensive as Rochester’s costing \$4.7 million, with 40 percent of the Fenton project funded by the Federal Highway Administration, MDOT, and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. A bond paid for by the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) and a loan from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality will pay for the rest.

Burns said the main concerns with the project have been doing what they can to assist the affected property and business owners. The city stays in communication with affected businesses. “When there’s something major, I go out and talk to business owners and we also provide the weekly update,” Burns said.

“The businesses affected have known this is coming,” Burns said. “There have been a few minor complaints, but nothing serious. Luckily, there haven’t been any major issues.”

“Every Wednesday at 8 a.m. people can come and speak,” Burns said, adding that the public can speak and it’s much easier to have everyone together.

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TEXTING

Continued from Page 3A

IWSN – I want sex now

GNOC – Get Naked on Camera

NIFOC – Naked in front of computer

PIR – Parent in Room

CU46 – See you for sex

53x – Sex

9 – Parent Watching

99 – Parent gone

1174' – Party meeting place

THOT – That ho over there

CID – Acid (the drug)

Broken – Hungover from alcohol

420 – Marijuana

POS – Parent over shoulder

Sugarpic – suggestive or erotic photo

KOTL – Kiss on the lips

(L)MIRL – Let's meet in real life

Pron – Porn

TDTM – Talk dirty to me

8 – Oral Sex

CD9 – Parents around, Code 9

IPN – I'm posting naked

LH6 – Let's have sex

WTTT – Want to trade pictures?

DOC – Drug of choice

TWD – Texting while driving

GYPO – Get your pants off

KPC – Keeping parents clueless

TEXTING APPS THAT CAUSE CONCERN FOR MANY PARENTS

Parents don't just have to keep their eyes on text messages. There are several apps popular with teens. There are even apps to hide apps on phones.



Kik is a mobile app used for texting. The app is rated 17+, but there is no age verification. Teens connect with a username rather than a phone number, and texting information will not appear on your phone bill or text log. Kik has landed on some parents "worst app" list after being connected to Rebecca Sedwick, the Florida cyber-bullying victim who killed herself after receiving messages via Kik without her parents' knowledge.



Yik Yak requires no registration or confirmation of user. Once online, a user can post any written message to anyone within a half-mile radius. In school settings, Yik Yak has been used for cyber bullying and tormenting classmates. Family Education magazine reports that it allows young people to be cruel without consequences. A threatening message triggered police to respond to a school recently after a threat of a bomb attack.



Omegle is an app/chat site that puts two strangers in their choice of text chat or video chat room. Being anonymous seems attractive to teens. No registration is required, and is often filled with people searching for sexual chat. This is not an app for teens.

SUMMARY

■ Keeping up with technology and text lingo is a full time job. Keeping your teen safe is worth the effort.

Mr. C's Barbershop celebrates 40 years with a new location

■ Barber Mike Conway moves his shop on June 1

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Mike Conway has been known as "Mr. C" for 40 years, especially to those who have followed his long barbering career in Fenton.

As of June 1, Conway will be moving his barbershop to its new location at 4401 Silver Lake Rd. in Fenton Township, just a half-mile outside the Fenton city limits. He will be working out of his current location at 859 West Silver Lake

“You come to realize after 40 years that your customers are your second family.”

Mike Conway
Mr. C's Barbershop

Rd. in Fenton (at Flagpoles Etc.) until he makes his move on June 1.

“We'll be right next to Price's Airport in Linden,” he said. “It's very easy to find, on

the south side of the road.”

The new Mr. C's Barbershop is a brand new shop built onto Conway's home, offering a fresh, cozy, professional and friendly atmosphere that has made “Mr. C's” a gathering spot for four decades.

“You come to realize after 40 years that your customers are your second family,” said Conway. “I've had customers come in and we've both shared personal experiences. A barbershop is like real life.”

Conway has cut, snipped and razored his way through 43 years of barbering, but he has no plans to retire anytime soon. His first customer back in 1975 was his dad,



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SALLY RUMMEL

Long-time Fenton barber Mike Conway shares a laugh with a customer of 40 years, Bryan Gould, in the seat of his new Mr. C's Barbershop. The new shop will be open for customers on June 1 at 4401 Silver Lake Rd., next to Price's Airport.

Bob Conway, from whom he still has that first dollar bill of doing business.

His second customer was Bryan Gould, now a retired teacher living in Fenton Township. “He's been coming to me ever since,” said Conway. “Every time I moved my shop, he followed me.”

Conway recalls that he has had 20 people work with him at his shop over the years, some for as long as 16

years. He's looking forward to this move as he marks his 40th year in business.

“I've made a commitment to my new shop and my customers,” he said. “To me, 40 years in business is quite a milestone.”

MR. C'S BARBERSHOP

4401 Silver Lake Rd. (as of June 1)

Phone: 810-629-8011

Hours: Monday-Friday Opens at 8 a.m. leaves at 4:30 p.m. (Wednesdays leaves at 6:30 p.m.), Saturday from 8 a.m. leaving at 12 p.m.

SUMMARY

■ Mike Conway, also known as “Mr. C,” has been a local barber for 43 years and is relocating his shop to 4401 Silver Lake Rd. in Fenton Township, as of June 1.

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MICHIGAN VOTES

WHAT YOUR LEGISLATORS VOTED ON RECENTLY

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. With one click, citizens can approve or disapprove of key votes by their legislators using the VoteSpotter smart phone app. Visit votespotter.com and download VoteSpotter. This report was released on Friday, May 8.

Senate Bill 133: Adopt “Omnibus”

House Bill 4069: Revise criminal defendant “youthful trainee status”

To make 21- to 23-year-old offenders eligible for criminal defendant “youthful trainee status,” which provides a mechanism for not including the offense on a youth's permanent record. The bill would also establish various conditions for this status, including a full-time school, work or community service requirement and more.

Passed 38 to 0 in the Senate

Sen. David Robertson (R-Dist. 14)

☒ YES ☐ NO

Sen. Mike Kowall (R-Dist. 15)

☒ YES ☐ NO

Sen. Joe Hune (R-Dist. 22)

☒ YES ☐ NO

Sen. Jim Ananich (D-Dist. 27)

☒ YES ☐ NO

Sen. Ken Horn (R-Dist. 32)

☒ YES ☐ NO

House Bill 4135: Revise criminal defendant “youthful trainee status”

To require (rather than just “allow”) that if a young criminal assigned to “youthful trainee status” (which provides a mechanism for not including an offense on the youth's permanent record) is convicted for a serious felony listed in the bill while in this program, the “trainee” status must be revoked.

Passed 38 to 0 in the Senate

Sen. David Robertson (R-Dist. 14)

☒ YES ☐ NO

Sen. Mike Kowall (R-Dist. 15)

☒ YES ☐ NO

Sen. Joe Hune (R-Dist. 22)

☒ YES ☐ NO

Sen. Jim Ananich (D-Dist. 27)

☒ YES ☐ NO

Sen. Ken Horn (R-Dist. 32)

☒ YES ☐ NO

House Bill 4432: Ban “two for one” or “all you can drink” sales at bars

To prohibit bars and restaurants from offering “all you can drink” for a fixed price or “two for the price of one” promotions and sales. This would not be prohibited at a private function.

Passed 106 to 4 in the House

Rep. Hank Vaupel (R-Dist. 47)

☒ YES ☐ NO

Rep. Joe Graves (R-Argentine Township)

☒ YES ☐ NO

House Bill 4333: Prohibit MEGA corporate subsidy deal modifications

To prohibit state economic development officials from amending or modifying a corporate tax break and subsidy deal granted to certain businesses and developers under a Michigan Economic Growth Authority law repealed in 2011. The bill was introduced after it was revealed that these agreements have generated an unfunded liability of nearly \$10 billion for the state, and that officials continue to amend the deals in ways that may increase this.

Passed 105 to 5 in the House

Rep. Hank Vaupel (R-Dist. 47)

☒ YES ☐ NO

Rep. Joe Graves (R-Argentine Township)

☐ YES ☒ NO

NEPAL

Continued from Front Page

next to the epicenter when the first quake hit. After graduating from Michigan State University in May 2014, she spent a year teaching in Thailand, and then traveled to Asia, India, and Nepal.

Frost was traveling from Pokhara to Kathmandu before the earthquake started.

"I was watching it happen on a cliff," Frost said. "Everyone was trying to not fall into the valley." The usual five- to six-hour bus ride from Pokhara to Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal, took 12-13 hours because of the quake.

"The scariest part for me was all the rockslides," Frost said. Houses and trucks full of people were sliding into the valley. She almost died on the bus ride because of the rockslides. Nepalis were hitting the side of the bus, wanting to get in, but the driver kept going, Frost said. The driver finally pulled over to let people in and rocks came sliding down the road, right in front of them.

"If he wouldn't have stopped, we would've died," Frost said. "That was the first time I saw a lot of people die. By the skin of my teeth I made it as well."

Kathmandu doesn't have good infrastructure, Frost said, and the quake "completely wiped out everything." The entire city became a refugee camp. Thousands of people were outside, Frost said.

SUMMARY

■ A Linden graduate was right next to the epicenter in Nepal when the first earthquake hit. She became a first responder and helped find bodies in the rubble.

She and her friends saw five- to six-story buildings completely toppled. She saw Kathmandu before the quake and "To see it the second time completely in ruin was a complete shell-shock," Frost said.

When they arrived in Thamel, the busy backpacking and commercial district in Kathmandu, the bus couldn't go into the city so Frost and her friends climbed over rubble.

"There was this lady in this white car and she was stuck in rubble," Frost said. "This five-story building was on top of this car and she realized she wasn't going to make it. I'm holding my friend, trying to cover her eyes."

They made it to the hospital, which was so overloaded that people were outside in hospital beds. "You can just see carts of children who didn't make it," Frost said. "It was really sad."

Frost and her friends stayed at the U.S. Embassy. She spent the next few days helping where she could. Even without medical experience, Frost helped doctors by going to the pharmacy and getting medical equipment.

She became a first responder, climbing over rubble, searching for people stuck in the debris.

"I'm trying to get them out, but to be standing on a body, just that fear was one of the most terrible experiences of my life," Frost said.

The U.S. Disaster Assistance Response Team, the Los Angeles Fire Department and United States Agency for International Development were stationed in the U.S. Embassy as well.

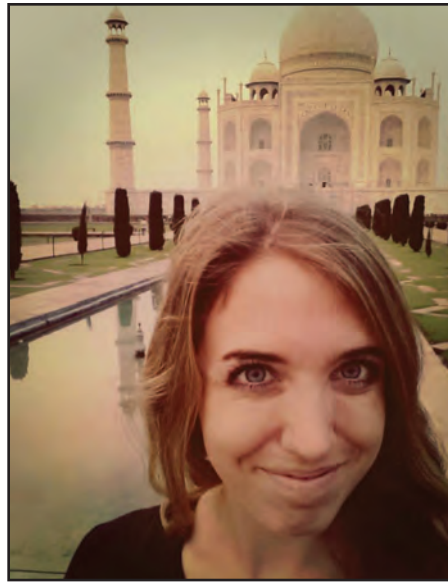
Frost worked with the French search

and rescue team by listening for heartbeats to find people. Their main goal was to find people who were breathing, so they used a device with headphones and a wire that fit between the cracks in the rubble. She helped dig out quite a few bodies. They weren't always alive.

People staying at the U.S. Embassy had a choice to be lifted out, but she opted to take her original flight to China, where she then flew to Los Angeles.

Frost said it was "weird" getting back to America. She's still shell-shocked. Loud noises and heavy movements would startle her, she said. Seeing a helicopter in Los Angeles brought back memories of Nepal, and she had nightmares.

Frost lost a few friends in the earthquake. Both parents of one of her friends died. They had been trekking, as Frost had been when the earthquake hit.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO
Morgan Frost travelled to India, where she saw the Taj Mahal. She ended her travels in Nepal, in south Asia.

Some of her friends are still in Nepal. Those who would like to help, can make donations at samaritanspurse.org.

NEPAL EARTHQUAKE FACTS

- The first earthquake, magnitude 7.8, hit Nepal April 25, killing more than 8,000 and destroying buildings, temples, and roads.

- The quake was followed by more than 200 aftershocks and another earthquake, magnitude 7.3, on May 12, so far killing 76 people.

- A few geophysicists think a "megaquake" could occur because the first quake reached deep into the Himalayas, past a "lock line" where rocks are more plastic in behavior. This could cause even worse earthquakes in the future.

Source: earthquake-nepal.com and sciencemag.org

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Blue Devils capture another GAC Red title

► LF split with Goodrich is enough to win fourth straight conference crown

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

Goodrich — Melody Draeger and Kim Roe entered the Lake Fenton varsity softball program as champions their freshman season three years ago.

The senior captains are leaving it with their first straight Genesee Area Conference Red Division title

this year.

The Blue Devils made it four straight GAC Red crowns with a split at Goodrich on Thursday night.

The Blue Devils clinched the title outright by defeating Goodrich 4-0 in the opening contest, making the 10-6 loss in the nightcap pretty meaningless in terms of the league race.

"It is amazing," said Draeger, who had three hits and scored two runs in the 4-0 victory. "It says a lot about the program as a whole, constantly

moving girls up and keeping the program strong. It means a lot to Kim and I to have this good a team for all four years."

"I'm really proud of it because I was able to go through high school each year and win the league, four in a row," said Roe, who was the winning pitcher in the opening contest. "We've done really well and we've clicked as a team. It's getting us past the errors. I think we are playing really well as a team."

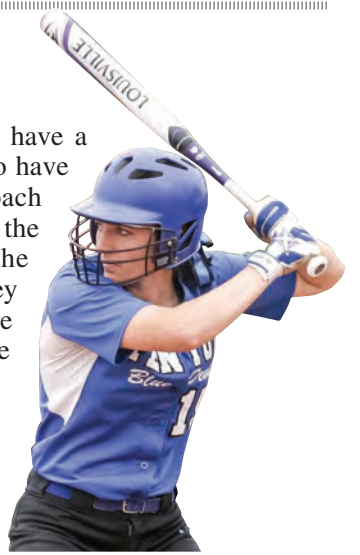
"It means the program as a whole

has been so solid and we have a lot of talented players who have come through," head coach Amos Rinks said about the four championships. "The learn how to win when they come in and they go in there with a little bit of confidence

See **TITLE** on 17A

KIM ROE

Photo by David Troppens



Times

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MAY 17, 2015
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Sports

INSIDE SPORTS

DIGGING THE DIRT

Fenton's baseball program helps clean Oakwood Cemetery
See Page 17A



ONLINE EXCLUSIVES

► Follow all the prep sports action this spring at tctimes.com

LF GIRLS TRACK EARNS SWEEP IN MEET

The Lake Fenton varsity girls track team captured first-place efforts in six individual events, earning a victory against the Railroaders 76-57. They also dominated Montrose 101-13.

Earning individual firsts for Lake Fenton were Reagan Goupil in the 100 hurdles (19.4), Hannah Garty in the 300 hurdles (57.5), Skyler Martin in the 1,600 (6:29.4), Renee Shaw in the 200 (31.00), Miranda Stephens in the pole vault (8-0) and Charlotte Irwin in the discus (82-9).

The 3,200 relay team of Abby Smith, Lyndsey Burrough, Skyler Martin and Kylie Bennett also posted a win. Also earning key Blue Devils' points against Durand were Ryana Thomas in the 300 hurdles, Burrough in the 800 and Abby Smith in the 1,600.

"Because of our unselfishness and willingness to do whatever for the sake of the team, we successfully achieved two of our three team goals," coach Eric Myers said. "And we are a better team today than yesterday because of this attitude. We continue to improve individually and as a team each week."

After 16 innings, LF wins

► Smith's single puts Devils one win away from league crown

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

Goodrich — If the Lake Fenton Blue Devils are going to win a Genesee Area Conference Red Division title, the squad is going to have to wait to play another game.

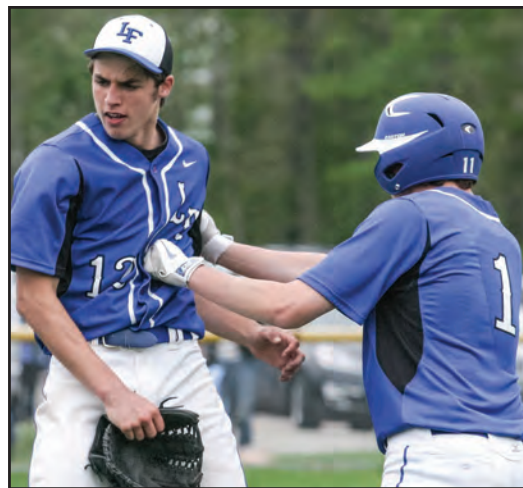
That's because the Blue Devils essentially played two games in one contest at Goodrich High School on Thursday.

Lake Fenton, who entered a twinbill with the Martains needing a DH sweep to win the conference crown, captured a 5-4 victory in a 16-inning thriller that won't soon be forgotten by anyone in attendance.

The Blue Devils scored two runs in the top of the ninth to tie the game at 4-all and didn't get the game-winning hit until Jared Smith hit a first-pitch single in the top of the 16th, plating Thomas Messenger from second base.

With one out, Messenger walked and went to second on a wild pitch. Brandon Bacon was intentionally walked, setting up

See **INNINGS** on 18A



TRI-COUNTY TIMES
DAVID TROPPENS

(Top) Lake Fenton's players walk off the field after beating Goodrich 5-4 in 16 innings on Thursday. (Left) Winning pitcher Trevor Wright (left) celebrates with teammate Tony Hathaway after a big out earlier in the game.

Tigers moving to title game vs. Linden

► Fenton remains in first after wins vs. Holly, Flushing

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com

Fenton — Abigail Quesnelle probably feels like the loneliest player on the soccer pitch at times.

The Fenton sophomore keeper isn't complaining, though.

The Tigers' defense posted its fifth and sixth

See **TITLE** on 19A



TRI-COUNTY TIMES
DAVID TROPPENS

Holly's Ann Fetzer (left) and Fenton's Alexis Brissette battle for the ball in Fenton's 3-0 victory Tuesday.



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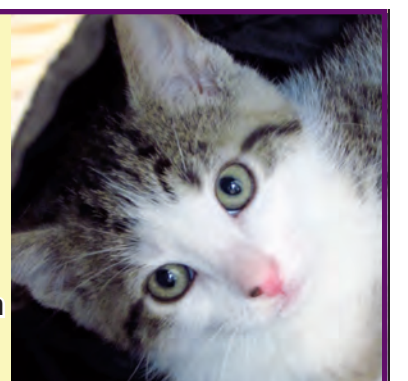
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Tigers earn, learn cleaning up Oakwood Cemetery

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

Fenton — In one area of Oakwood Cemetery there are players raking leaves into a pile.

In another, just about 20 yards away there are others filling a wheelbarrow with rocks.

But without a doubt, the most noticeable vision created by the Fenton High School baseball program while working on cleaning Fenton's historic Oakwood Cemetery, is one of about six players working on digging out the largest boulder found in the ground so far that day.

It's a large boulder, close to three feet wide in its largest area. It's also about a foot deep. This was a rock that wasn't coming out of the ground without a fight.

First, there was digging to do. Then there was a strap wrapped around it so the players could get leverage around it and get the rock out of the hole. When that was done, the next challenge was getting it down a hill to discard the boulder.

It didn't come easily, but eventually the task was done. And everyone who was a part of it, proudly wore their sense of accomplishment.

"Doing the bigger rocks is a pride thing," varsity baseball player Zack Kostka said. "It gives us a chance to show the younger guys what's up."

The Fenton baseball team was at Oakwood Cemetery as part of project started by varsity coach Shawn Lawrence. He wanted to raise money for the program, but at the same time give the players a great sense of Fenton's history in a way they could help with that history. The answer was simple — they asked for donations and in turn pledged to clean up Oakwood Cemetery one afternoon during the season to honor the pledges. On May 6, it was time to do the job. It was scheduled at least once before but cancelled due to poor weather. On this Wednesday, the players lucked out with reasonably nice temperatures and reasonably clear skies.

"I come out to the Memorial Day parade every year," said varsity player Drew Garrison, who was wearing one of his Fenton Wounded Warrior shirts for the occasion. "I look at the older tombstones for those who served in older wars and kind of thank them. I feel so humbled that all these people fought for me so long ago and now I can do this for them right now."

Lawrence said the project has been a success. It started with a pledge drive of about 450 letters. The drive raised more than the original goal. And it appeared the cleaning was going just as well. Next year Lawrence



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPENS

Fenton baseball players work on moving a large rock at Oakwood Cemetery during a recent clean up project.

rence expects to do another drive and possibly work at the cemetery again. He'd also like to have the players help some senior citizens with projects around their homes.

"I thought this was a great thing to learn, give the kids a little pride about the community and learn a little bit about their home community," Lawrence

said.

The players feel the activity helps the team as well.

"We've already done team bonding, but this is definitely good for the whole organization with all three teams being together," Kostka said. "We are all closer, having fun and doing something good for the community."

TITLE

Continued from Page 16A

knowing they should win. Having that little bit of confidence when you go in playing your opponents means a lot. It's good."

The Blue Devils took control immediately in the title-clinching first game, scoring in the first inning.

Draeger doubled, Kalani Lau singled and Roe drove in Draeger with a single. Lake Fenton led 1-0.

The lead grew to 3-0 with two runs in the fifth. With one out, Lau doubled and scored on a fielder's choice grounder off of Sydney Sheyachich's bat. Sheyachich eventually scored on a wild pitch.

In the sixth, Draeger ended up scoring the final run when she hit a two-run single and eventually scored on a batted ball by Roe, which was booted.

Roe tossed a two-hitter, walked none and struck out 11 in the title-clinching first game.

The Blue Devils trailed at one time 8-0 in the second game, cut the gap to 8-6 with a six-run sixth, but fell short 10-6. However, by then the Devils had their title.

Tigers' offense leads Fenton to DH sweep vs. Flushing

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com

It's been established this season that the Fenton varsity softball team has a pretty solid offense.

On Tuesday the squad showed just how good it can be.

Fenton crushed Flushing pitching for 28 hits in just eight innings of play en route to a 15-0, 18-2 doubleheader sweep of the Raiders.

The wins put Fenton (10-0, 18-6) in strong position to defend its Metro League title with just four games remaining. Fenton travels to Linden for a doubleheader on Monday, and then concludes Metro action Wednesday with a home twinbill against second-place Brandon (7-1).

The Tigers' offense really put their clout on display during the fourth inning of the first game and during the first inning of the second. During that span Fenton had at one time 18 straight batters reach on either a hit or a walk.

Leading just 2-0 going into the bottom of the fourth of the first game, Logan Carter reached base on an error and Taylor Mowery walked.

Winning pitcher Paige Dean followed with a sacrifice fly, making it a 3-0 lead. It also represented the last time the Ti-



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPENS

Emma Brant prepares to safely slide into second base in the Fenton Tigers' doubleheader sweep against Flushing on Tuesday.

gers would post an out during the contest. The next 14 Fenton batters reached on either a hit or a walk. Emma Brant and Mowery provided two-run doubles, while Dean had an RBI-double. Hali Byers had two RBI-singles and Macie Keller had an RBI-single. Seven other hitters walked. The game ended when Brenna Hatch walked with the bases loaded, creating a 15-0 run mercy victory.

Brant had a bit game, getting three

See **TIGERS'** on 19A

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Holly boys track remains perfect

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

The Holly boys track team has captured at least a share of five of the last seven Metro League crowns, including two straight.

The Bronchos took a step toward making that six of the last eight years on Wednesday.

Holly defeated Linden 76.5-60.5 and Swartz Creek 109-28 in what were the final dual meets of the Metro season for the three squads. The sweep means Holly will enter the Metro League meet with a perfect 7-0 conference record, meaning all Holly will need to do to assure at least a co-title is take second at the final event. If the Bronchos win the meet, they'll have their second straight outright Metro championship. Linden defeated Creek 109-28.

"It was a good day," Holly boys and girls track coach Rich Brinker said. "I knew Linden and Kearsley would be the challengers in the league. Based on what

everyone had coming back, I knew it would be us, Linden and Kearsley, without knowing what Flushing had coming into the league. ... (At the beginning of the season) when I saw what we had coming back and what we lost, I thought (going 7-0 in the duals) was doable."

The Bronchos are a squad that has some nice strengths through the entire lineup, and those strengths showed on Tuesday. On this date, it was the middle and distance runners that stole the show. Holly swept the top three spots in the 1,600 run, the 800 run and the 3,200 run. Kurtis Cooley took the top spot in the 800 (2:04.78) and the 1,600 (4:32.19), while Dilon Lemond was the top star in the 3,200 (10:11.80).

Javon Barr continues to impress in the dashes. He took the top spot in the 100 (10.98) and the 200 (22.62). Meanwhile, Blake Staffne took the top spot in the 400 (51.65).

Other individual winners for Holly were: Francisco Valvdonvinos in the 300 hurdles (43.90), Dakota Thorington in the discus (162-1), D'Anthony Austin in the long jump (19-10) and Keenan Steele in the pole vault (10-6).

Linden's (5-2) strength ended up being its relays, taking firsts in three of them. Jacob Cox, Mike Gold, Kade Dickson and Bailey Davis won the 800 relay (1:34.58),

See PERFECT on 19A



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPENS

Holly's D'Anthony Austin competes in a recent long jump event. He won the long jump in the Bronchos' victories against Linden and Swartz Creek on Wednesday.

INNINGS

Continued from Page 16A

Smith's single.

"I was sitting there and they intentionally walked (Bacon). All year I've been hitting with two guys on and I was ready," Smith said. "I felt that moment. He gave me the first pitch right down the middle."

The pitching hero was Trevor Wright. Wright entered the game with no out and two on in the seventh and got out of the jam with the help of a diving catch by left fielder Nick Mermuys. Wright completed the outing tossing 10 innings of three-hit, four-walk ball, striking out eight. He seemingly got stronger with his fastball the last two innings, getting the final seven Goodrich batters he faced out in order.

"We made a couple of plays in the field," Wright said. "All around, we did pretty good. And then the timely hit came in the end. The pitching was solid by everyone."

"Probably 12 innings was the longest game I played before. This game was way longer. It's fun, it's thrilling, especially when you get the game-winning hit like Jared did."

Lake Fenton (9-2 in the GAC) must re-schedule with Goodrich for the second game in a contest that if Lake Fenton wins will earn them at least a share of the GAC crown. At press time the make-up date was unknown.

"We will remember this one forever," Lake Fenton coach Brad LaRowe said. "This is the longest game I've ever coached. It was an incredible game."

Lake Fenton took a 1-0 lead in the second on a double by Dakota Holzwarth, a single by Mermuys and a passed ball, plating Holzwarth. The lead grew to 2-0 in the third after Zach Harper reached base on an error, stole second and scored on starting pitcher Brandon Bacon's RBI-single.

Goodrich responded with a single run in the fourth and then three more in the sixth. The key shot in the sixth was a two-run single, giving Goodrich a 4-2 lead.

However, Lake Fenton answered with two in the seventh, forcing extra innings. Wright reached on an error, and an out later Messenger hit an RBI-single. Messenger also scored on an error off a batted ball by Smith, setting up the 4-4 tie and the extra-inning thriller.

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PREP REPORT

BASEBALL

► **Linden 2-8, Clio 1-9:** The Eagles' Austin Buerkel tossed a four-hitter, striking out six in the 2-1 first-game victory. Offensively, Linden (9-3, 16-6) used singles by Marshael Ryan and Chris Kitch, an RBI-double by Travis Petts and a Ben Baker RBI-single to score two runs in the second inning to earn the victory.

In the nightcap, Clio scored a run in the bottom of the seventh to break an 8-8 tie and earn the victory. In the top of the seventh, Linden scored three runs to tie the game. Ryan finished the second game with two hits and three RBI, while Kitch also chipped in two hits.

► **Holly 6-1, Swartz Creek 2-4:** The Bronchos' Peyton Molzahn pitched six innings of one-run eight-strike out ball to lead Holly (2-10 in the Metro) to the first-game win. D.J. Tennis led the offense with three hits, including two doubles and two stolen bases. Masen Syjud had two hits, with one being a double. Molzahn also had two hits and an RBI. Jared Halteman pitched the seventh and got the save.

In the nightcap Adam Tooley and Frank Richmond each had a double, a single and a stolen base. Tennis took the loss as three of the four runs he allowed in 6 2/3 innings were un-earned. He struck out eight batters.

SOFTBALL

► **Linden 2-8, Clio 1-9:** The Eagles (9-18) collected 13 hits in the opener and earned the easy victory. Megan Klavitter led the offense with three hits and four RBI, while Rhiannon Morse added three hits and two RBI. Alexa Marsh and Liz Rakowski had two hits each. On the mound, Marsh tossed a seven-hitter, striking out six and earning the win. In the second game Razkowski had three hits and drove in both runs. Kim Freitas had two hits.

BOYS TRACK AND FIELD

► **Fenton vs. Flushing, Brandon:** The Tigers defeated Brandon 71-60, but lost to Flushing 101-36.

Jason Dietrich won two individual events, taking first in the 200 (24.07) and the 500 (52.9). Other individual firsts were earned by Greg Brennen in the long jump (20-0 3/4) and Jake Lee in the 3,200 (10:05). Ethan Follet, Mitch Chabot, Jake Lee and Luke Chabot took first in the 3,200 relay (8:48.31).

GIRLS TENNIS

► **Holly 6, Rochester 2:** Singles winners were Nicole Johnson (No. 2), Jenna Pepper (No. 3) and Journee Kerner (No. 4). Capturing doubles victories for Holly were Sydney Renehan and Paige Reid (No. 1), Abby Graff and Kate Beauregard (No. 3), and Michelle Lesperance and Michelle Major (No. 4). Holly also won at No. 5 doubles with the team of Jessica Zimmerman and Chantel Poquette.

GIRLS LACROSSE

► **Fenton/Linden 16, Waterford Kettering JV 10:** The FLax Heat, a co-op team made of Fenton and Linden students, avenged an 11-10 loss earlier in the season by beating the visiting squad at Fenton High School. Maddy Withers and Ellie Reuschlein led the Heat with five goals and an assist, while Kendall Carino had two goals. Scoring one goal each was Kelly Kemp, Lauren Klein, Hannah Kim and Ally Bilodeau. Earning assists were Morgan White, Natalie Miller and Emily Gettler. Miller made nine saves in the first half, while Cailey Brant made 13 saves in the second half.

GIRLS SOCCER

► **Fenton 1, Flushing 0 (shoot-out):** Bri Costigan, Chloe Foor and Brennan Sullivan made PK kicks while Flushing missed one of its attempts, earning the Tigers the victory in a shootout. Abbey Quesnelle collected three saves during regulation.



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FRI-THUR 10:55 1:40 4:25 7:10 9:55

***@3D MAD MAX: FURY ROAD:**

REALD 3D (R)

FRI-SAT 10:00 12:45 3:30 6:15

9:00 11:45 pm

SUN-WED 10:00 12:45 3:30 6:15 9:00

THUR 10:00 12:45 3:30 6:15 9:00 11:45

***PITCH PERFECT 2 (PG13)**

FRI-SAT 10:40 1:20 4:00 6:35 7:50

9:15 11:55

SUN-WED 10:40 1:20 4:00 6:35 7:50 9:15

THUR 10:40 1:20 4:00 6:35 7:50

9:15 11:55

***WHERE HOPE GROWS (PG13)**

FRI-SAT 10:20 12:30 2:45 5:00 7:15

9:25 11:30

SUN-WED 10:20 12:30 2:45 5:00 7:15 9:25

THUR 10:20 12:30 2:45 5:00 7:15

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STARTING THUR MAY 14

***2D POLTERGEIST (PG13)**

THUR 10:20

***@3D POLTERGEIST:**

REALD 3D (PG13)

THUR NIGHT/FRI MORNING 8:00 12:05

***TOMORROWLAND (PG)**

THUR NIGHT/FRI MORNING 12:05

***@TOMORROWLAND:**

AN IMAX EXPERIENCE (PG)

THUR 7:00 9:45

CONTINUING

***THE D TRAIN (R)**

***HOT PURSUIT (PG13)**

***@THE AVENGERS: AGE OF ULTRON: AN IMAX 3D EXPERIENCE (PG13)**

***@3D THE AVENGERS: AGE OF ULTRON: REALD 3D (PG13)**

2D THE AVENGERS:

AGE OF ULTRON (PG13)

THE AGE OF ADALINE (PG13)

UNFRIENDED (R)

***PAUL BLART: MALL COP 2 (PG)**

MONKEY KINGDOM (G)

THE LONGEST RIDE (PG13)

FURIOUS 7 (PG13)

2D HOME (PG)

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TITLE

Continued from Page 16A

shutouts in as many Metro League games, defeating the Holly Bronchos 3-0 in girls varsity soccer action on Tuesday. The Tigers also set up a Metro League championship match against the Linden Eagles on Tuesday after defeating Flushing 1-0 in a shootout on Wednesday.

Fenton travels to second-place Linden, who defeated Clio 6-1 on Wednesday, for a 6:45 p.m. contest on Tuesday. Linden earned its spot in the fight for the title by defeating Clio 6-2 on Wednesday.

The Tigers' defense has been strong all season long. The starting four players of Margaret Berry, Miranda Campbell, Hannah Beauchamp and Sophia Crews have kept shots to a minimum on the Fenton keepers. But when Quesnelle has been forced to make saves, she's made every single one in Metro competition. On Tuesday, she made four saves against the Bronchos.

"It feels pretty good," Quesnelle said about the defense. "Definitely our sweeper, Margaret Berry, has helped out a lot. They all work really well together. We communicate and that's what is really important."

"(Going into the season) I wasn't sure if we would be this good because we had two freshmen in the back, but it has worked out pretty well."

"No doubt, we are proud of (our defense)," Fenton coach Matt Sullivan said. "Obviously our main effort is on defense first and we are really proud of that."

The Tigers were able to enjoy more possessions against the Bronchos throughout most of the game, as Fenton's midfielders were able to create that

possession advantage. Eventually, that advantage resulted in two first-half Fenton goals.

One goal came pretty early in the game. It was provided by Brianna Costigan off an assist from Carly Granger with 33:27 left in the opening half. The score remained 1-0 until there was 3:42 left in the half. That's when Chloe Foor assisted Granger for a goal. The Tigers enjoyed a 2-0 halftime lead.

While Fenton enjoyed the bulk of the possession, the Holly defense played tough, keeping the game from ever being a blowout. Fenton did score one more time with 30:58 left in the game on a Granger shot that ended up in front of Emma Flannery. Flannery took the next shot and scored. However, minus that goal, the Bronchos remained strong.

"Our defense played well, especially with Maddie (Brack) and Alex Karakuc in the back," Holly coach Mark Diskin said. "Our defense has tightened up. I know a three-goal outcome doesn't make it seem it, but our marking is better. We didn't allow any cheap goals today like we have in the past."

"We are getting more athletic and are getting in shape. We are able to go and play our game a little better."

Linden 6, Clio 2

The Eagles earned their chance of defending their Metro title by collecting the victory at Clio on Wednesday.

Maddie Zayan had an out-



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | KLARI FREDERICK

TRI-COUNTY TIMES
DAVID TROPPE

(Top) Fenton's Emma Evo (right) has the ball tackled away from her by Holly's Alex Karakuc in Fenton's 3-0 win on Tuesday. (Left photo) Linden's Sam Hawkins (left) tries to battle a Clio player for the ball in the Eagles' 6-2 victory against the Lady Mustangs on Wednesday. Fenton travels to Linden for the Metro League championship on Tuesday at 6:45 p.m.

standing day, scoring four of Linden's six goals. Jessie Magalski and Erica Brietling had a goal each. Alia Frederick had

two assists, while Jessie Magalski, Elizabeth Walterhouse, Teresa Walterhouse and Gabby Freeman had an assist each.

TIGERS'

Continued from Page 17A

hits, including a triple. She also scored three runs.

In the nightcap, the Tigers continued their offensive onslaught in the second game, starting the bottom of the first with four more consecutive hits or walks, upping the total to 18 straight.

Flushing did score a run in the top of the first, taking its only lead of the two games. A walk, two wild pitches and an RBI-ground out plated the run. However, Fenton responded with six in the bottom of the first. Brant singled and Hatch walked. Both scored on Katey Cairnduff's two-run double, and Cairnduff scored on Carter's single. Later in the inning, RBI-doubles by Keller, Myla Wolosonovich and Byers made it a 6-1 lead for the Tigers.

Flushing never got back into the game as Fenton added a run in the second, three in the third and eight more in the fourth, collecting 17 hits and five walks in the contest. The Tigers had seven extra-base hits, including a home run by winning pitcher Meaghan McArdle. Hatch chipped in a triple among her three hits. Cairnduff finished with four RBI and two hits, while Brant, Carter, Mowery and McArdle had two hits each.

The Tigers' offense has been hot recently, scoring at least 12 runs in their last seven games, outscoring their foes 98-8 during that time. After a 6-6 start, Fenton has won 12 straight games with eight of those victories coming against Metro foes.

PERFECT

Continued from Page 18A

while Cox, Gold, Ryan Young and Dickson won the 400 relay (43.97). Dawson Blank, Jake Brown, Devin Daul and Davis took the top spot in the 1,600 relay (3:44.16).

Two other individuals took home overall firsts. Aaron Moull won the 110 hurdles (16.58), while Andy Roberts won the shot put (48-9). Mike Gold also earned a first in the high jump against Holly (5-6).

"It was a good meet," Linden coach Nick Douglass said. "We are performing pretty well right now. Things are clicking in many areas and we look forward to Saturday's big meet — regionals at Linden."

Girls Track

Linden 74, Holly 62

Linden 92, Swartz Creek 44

Holly 90, Swartz Creek 46

The Eagles (5-2) earned the sweep using its sprinters to spark the victory against Swartz Creek and Holly.

Against the Bronchos, Linden won 10 events, including three relays. Alexis Brandt, Amelia Simberg, Samantha Greene and Jordanah Martinsen combined to win the 800 relay (1:58.17) and the 400 re-

lay (54.83). Taylor Ganger, Madison Piet, Breyanna Turnipseed and Bella Blank combined to win the 1,600 relay (4:28.86).

Four individuals took outright firsts against both foes. They were Turnipseed in the 100 hurdles (16.80), Piet in the 300 hurdles (50.04), Courtney Davis in the 3,200 (12:32.61) and Brandt in the pole vault (8-0). Three other firsts were earned against Holly. Martinsen won the 100 (12.83) and the 200 (28.52), while Blank won the 400 (1:05.12).

"Coach (Hillary) Thorin and I were very proud of the girls' performances," co-coach Benjamin Cox said. "It was windy and rainy, but they got out there and did what they had to do to win a close meet."

Holly earned six outright firsts and another against Linden. Emily Alvarado won two firsts, earning them in the discus (118-5) and the shot (35-3 1/2). Other outright firsts were earned by Maggie Schneider in the 1,600 (5:30.51), Lauren Hackett in the 800 (2:33.02) and Cierra Smith in the long jump (14-1). Smith also beat Linden in the high jump (4-10). Samantha Tschirhart, Courtney Konopitski, Schneider and Hackett combined to take an overall first in the 3,200 relay (10:37.33).



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Police&Fire report

ATTEMPTED HOME INVASION

At 5 p.m. on May 5, Fenton police responded to a home in the 200 block of Trealout Drive to investigate an attempted home invasion complaint. The 53-year-old female resident said a 33-year-old female acquaintance attempted to break into her home on April 17. A witness told police they saw the 33-year-old woman attempting to get in. Fenton police will be presenting their case to the prosecutor's office.

LINDEN WOMAN GETS 90 DAYS FOR TORTURING/ KILLING OF ANIMAL

Melissa Marquez, 35, of Linden was sentenced Tuesday to 90 days in the Genesee County Jail. Marquez appeared in 67th District Court on Tuesday. Her case dates back to June 2014. The Argentine Township Police Department investigated the complaint. According to court records, Marquez was sentenced to 90 days in the county jail and then two years probation. A misdemeanor of this type carries a punishment of up to 93 days in jail. No contact with the victim was ordered, as well as the payment of \$3,452 in fines and restitution.

MURDER

Continued from Front Page

while sitting in his car at the Chase Run Apartments in Mt. Pleasant. He was there to exercise his parental right to visit his 3-year-old daughter, who lives in the apartment community with her mother.

Mary Bigford, 51, the child's maternal grandmother has been accused of murdering Howard, allegedly shooting him six times before fleeing the scene. She was arrested by Mt. Pleasant police later that same day.

Bigford is currently being held without bond in the Isabella County Jail after being charged with one open count of murder, one count of first-degree murder, one count of carrying a dangerous weapon with unlawful intent, felonious assault and a felony firearm violation. On the first-degree murder charge, she faces a mandatory sentence of life in prison without possibility of parole.

Prior to his death, Howard was accused by Bigford and his child's mother of sexually abusing his daughter. Those accusations were investigated and determined to be unfounded by several members of the medical community and child protective service agencies, both in Ohio and Michigan.

Bigford and the child's mother con-

UPDATE

■ On Wednesday, Howard's attorney Jodi Hemingway said she filed a motion to have her murdered client's 3-year-old daughter removed from her mother's care. A preliminary hearing has been started in the Isabella County courts. The hearing will continue on Thursday, May 21.

tinued to seek assistance from law enforcement, believing their claims of sexual abuse were not being properly investigated.

The Fenton Police Department became involved on March 13. According to the police report obtained via the Freedom of Information Act, a relative of Bigford's walked into the police station with a complaint that Howard sexually assaulted his daughter in his Fenton home.

According to the report, Lt. Jason Slater questioned why the child's mother was not the one making the complaint and was advised that the mother was at home ... with whom and why is unknown as the information was redacted from the police report.

Slater next interviewed Bigford, who reported that the child (name also redacted) made statements too graphic to print about acts involving her and her father's genitalia.

Slater also interviewed a Bigford family friend, who gave police similar statements adding that her adult son was the recipient of inappropriate, uncomfortable actions by the child.

According to the police report, Slater spoke with Isabella County Sheriff's Deputy Zach Ferrier on March 16 regarding the complaint Fenton received. Ferrier said during his investigation he learned the child was unable to be qualified as a witness after being interviewed at CAFÉ (Child and Family Enrichment) for approximately 10-15 minutes. He further explained that she could not provide simple information such as her name or how old she was. Ferrier said the girl also was examined at Devoss Children's Hospital, which yielded no evidence of sexual assault.

The police report also indicates that Child Protective Services (CPS) in Isabella County was going to be closing its investigation within a few weeks. The report states, "On the morning of March 17, 2015 Lt. Slater telephoned Isabella County CPS case worker Lori Turner relative to this complaint. Turner explained that she will be closing her case as soon as there is no evidence to substantiate a charge against Howard."

Turner further explained that (child) has attended seven therapy sessions at the Child & Family Enrichment Center in Mt. Pleasant, where she failed to disclose any type of sexual assault.

Det. Dale Rauch of the Fenton Police Department continued with the investigation and spoke with several individuals, including law enforcement, a therapist, nurse practitioner and family members.

Two days before Howard was gunned down, the child's mother told Rauch she believed the Isabella County authorities had failed her child. She asked to speak

“He was our brother and our friend. He will be missed and remembered by us all.”

Former coworkers of
In Lawrence Howard's obituary

with Rauch in person and they set up an appointment for the morning of Friday, April 17. According to the police report, when Rauch arrived to work at 8 a.m. that day, he received a message that "she" could not meet with him today, that something had come up.

On April 18, Rauch

spoke to Det. Don Systema of the Mt. Pleasant Police Department, who informed him that "Mr. Howard had been found shot to death today at approximately 12:30 p.m."

Source: Some information obtained from
The Morning Sun, Mt. Pleasant

OBITUARY CALLS HOWARD DEVOTED FATHER

According to Lawrence "Larry" Howard's obituary, published in The Trentonian, a Trenton, New Jersey newspaper on May 7, he was born and raised in Ewing, New Jersey and attended Ewing High School where he graduated with the Class of 1993. He graduated from the University of Toledo with a bachelor's degree in Human Resource Management. After college, he began his career with the Chrysler Corporation as a human resource specialist, working at the Mack Engine Plant in Detroit as the labor relations supervisor until the time of his death. According to the obituary, "Family and friends often referred to him as a man of great integrity and compassion. Lawrence always remained positive no matter what the circumstances. He would say his greatest accomplishment was being a father to his daughter, 'the light of his life.' He was always a loving, devoted, and dedicated father to her."

BIGFORD AWARDED FUNDS FOR INVESTIGATOR

An Isabella County judge agreed to allow funds in the amount of \$1,500 to hire a private investigator to assist in Mary Bigford's defense. According to The Morning Sun in Mt. Pleasant, "Bigford's court appointed attorney, Sara Spencer-Noggle, asked Isabella County Judge Eric Janes to authorize money to pay for the private investigator because of the 'voluminous' amount of information already gathered by police and prosecutors as part of the case against her client, and because Bigford cannot afford the cost herself." She is next scheduled to be in court on June 4 for a pre-trial conference. The Morning Sun reported previously that Lawrence Howard, who Bigford, the maternal grandmother of his 3-year-old daughter, is accused of gunning down on April 18, was worried about her mental state. Howard reported to Child Protective Services prior to his death that he believed both his child's mother and grandmother wanted him out of the girl's life.



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Meet Wes Morris

- Pastor
- Father of five
- Extreme sports enthusiast

By Sally Rummel

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Wes Morris, 37, has been pastor of The Rock in Tyrone Township for the past eight years. A graduate of Fenton High School in 1996, Morris is married to Erin and the father of five kids, ranging in age from 9 months to 8 years old.

Did you always know you wanted to be a pastor? I first said I was going to be a pastor when I was 7 years old. I walked a wayward life for the better part of 10 years before I submitted to God and His purpose for my life. I graduated from Liberty University and became a pastor after that.

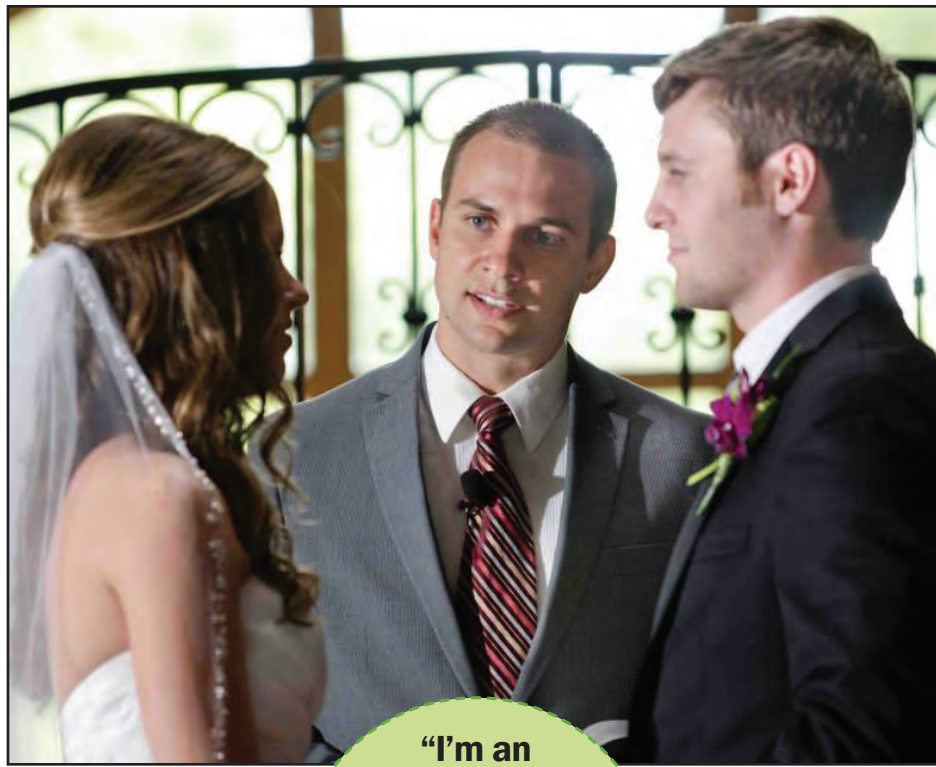
What's your biggest challenge in ministry? Personally, it's balance. Because I have a big family and God has blessed me with growth at The Rock, it can be difficult to balance what is required of me. The Scriptures tell me to be a Godly husband and father, yet our ministry is so large. I fight for balance to make sure I even qualify to be a pastor by first being a Godly husband and father.

What's a typical day like for you as pastor of The Rock? I have a lot of meetings with people in counseling situations — young people considering their future, others who just want to sit down and talk about things. I spend most of my counseling time with couples who are getting married.

I also interact with staff about the day-to-day operations of ministry and events that are coming up. I also do a lot of prep work for Wednesday night Bible studies or for other speaking engagements I have. We have five worship services every weekend and I always preach at four of them.

What are the happiest and saddest occasions for you as a pastor? My happiest moment is when people come to faith in Christ. Seeing lives changed by their faith in Jesus never gets routine. The saddest part of life for me is sharing the Gospel and watching people reject it. I preach Biblical truth to them, but they refuse to repent. There's nothing I can do but pray that God convicts them further.

If you could be something other than a pastor, what would you be? I can't imagine actually being something else, but being a farmer fits my love for the outdoors. I also like working with machines.



"I'm an adrenaline junkie. I fly planes, skydive, bungee jump. I like on-the-edge extreme experiences."

Wes Morris
Pastor of The Rock in
Tyrone Township

Can you ever "turn-off" your role as pastor? A pastor is who I am, not what I do. I can't turn that off, but it doesn't hinder me from engaging who I'm supposed to be when I'm at home. I protect my time when I leave The Rock church office. I try to leave the busyness of the ministry there.

I hear you are adventurous. Tell me about that. I'm an adrenaline junkie. I fly planes, skydive, bungee jump. I like on-the-edge extreme experiences.

Have you ever had a near-death experience? I was flying with a man in Alaska back in 2000 and we crash landed the Piper Super Cub in the wetlands. We both walked away unhurt.

Another time on Lake Ponemah in 1998, I tried to swim to a boat that had floated away from the dock. I had hypothermia and had ingested a bunch of water. Someone came in and saved me. I don't know who. I was in the hospital for several days. I often preach about

TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO
Pastor Wes Morris of The Rock church in Tyrone Township officiates the wedding of the former Laura Stone and Ed Constable in June 2014, in Frankenmuth.

angels here on earth, using this as an example. If it was a real person who saved me and you're reading this, I'd love to hear from you. It was a massive event and it changed my life. It solidified that God had a plan for me. The Lord was preserving my life for something.

What would you like to change about yourself? I'd like to be more patient. I'm high energy and intensively focused. That means I'm often prone to impatience.

What is something most people don't know about you? There's not much that people don't know, since I preach about my life every week. I love sitting on the porch and rocking with my wife and just sitting there talking.

DENTAL TIP — OF THE WEEK —

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TURKEY TROPHY



Hayden Cassner, 10, of Holly bagged his first turkey on his grandpa's farm in Holly. His grandpa said, "I think we got him hooked on hunting."

CONDOS

Continued from Page 3A

Ghassan Saab, developer for Sorensen Gross, added, "Technically, we can schedule move-in dates right after this final inspection, but closings have to take place first."

Fourteen out of the 23 one- and two-bedroom condo units have been reserved, according to Saab, with equal interest in the one and two bedrooms. There are eight on the first two floors and seven on the fourth floor.

The condos are one and two bedroom with varying floor plans. One-bedroom units start at 800 square feet and the two-bedroom units start at 1,200. The largest two-bedroom unit plan is 1,800 square feet.

At prices ranging from about \$100,000 to \$200,000, prospective buyers can expect many upscale details, including:

- Balconies on all two-bedroom units
- Open layout concept
- Master suites in all condos with an attached bathroom
- Each bedroom has a walk-in closet
- Granite countertops in kitchens and baths
- Engineered hardwood floors, ceramic tile, carpet in common hallways



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Rohn Smith, Cornerstone project superintendent, is deep into the building's "punch list," the list of final details to be completed prior to occupancy. He'll soon leave this temporary office to make way for a condo owner.

- Washer and dryer in every unit
 - Stainless steel kitchen appliances
- The Cornerstone project, including the condos, has brought a lot of new interest in business and residential living in the downtown area.

"It's downtown living, that's the excitement of it," said Ken Brant of Coldwell Banker Professionals in Fenton.

Inquiries about buying the one- and two-bedroom units should be directed to Saab, via email: gkssab@gmail.com.

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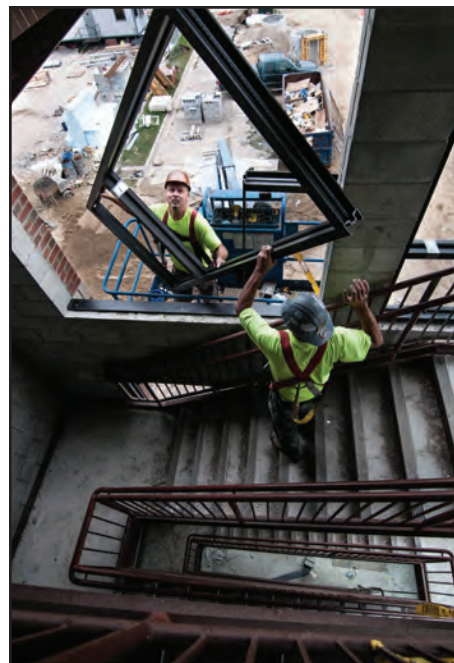


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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

Glaziers Pat King and Steve Whitehead install window frames in the Cornerstone building in September. The builders reported that an under supply of materials and staff slowed construction by a few months.

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THIS WEEK'S INSERTS

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- Alpine Marketplace
- CVS Pharmacy
- Holly Foods
- Kmart
- Making Waves Featured Section
- Rite Aid
- Sears Hometown Stores
- Southern Lakes Parks & Rec
- Target
- Taylor Hardware Store
- Tractor Supply Co.
- VG's
- Walmart

To have your insert/flyer viewable online,
call Gail Grove at 810-433-6822.

FHS teacher pleads guilty of gaming violation

■ State gaming control board investigates charitable events, closes poker rooms

A 43-year-old Fenton man and Fenton High School teacher pleaded guilty Thursday, May 7 in Genesee County's 67th District Court to violating Michigan's charitable gaming law. He was fined \$1,000 and \$425 in court costs and fees.

Charged following a Michigan Gaming Control Board (MGC) investigation, Chad Logan of Fenton pleaded guilty to a gambling crime related to charitable poker events in 2012 and 2013 at Pocket Aces Poker Room inside Foutch's Pub on South Linden Road in Flint Township. By agreeing to plead guilty to one count of gambling-charitable gaming-receiving commission, four other counts were dismissed.

Logan declined to comment on the case.

"We've seen a pattern of corruption that resulted in the permanent closure of three so-called poker rooms in the Flint area," said Richard Kalm, MGC executive director. "The MGC has pursued charges against several Flint area individuals who victimized charities or operated illegal gaming. Many individuals were profiting illegally from charitable fundraisers, and the MGC is pursuing several other investigations of possible criminal violations with the Michigan Attorney General's office."

The MGC and Michigan Attorney General's office investigated Logan for

illegally diverting and pocketing funds that belonged to charities while managing or operating millionaire parties at Pocket Aces Poker room in 2012 and 2013.

Cedarville High School in the southeastern Upper Peninsula reported paying non-member Logan for operating events without charity members present, which is a state gaming law violation, Kalm said. Logan also was charged with violating state law for illegally managing poker games on behalf of State Road Elementary School in Fenton. According to Michigan law, only the charity may manage the games.

The MGC suspended charitable gaming at Pocket Aces Poker Room in October 2013.

Late last year, Shamrock's Internet Café owner Thomas Jouban of Burton and three associates pleaded guilty to gaming crimes, and millionaire parties were suspended in 2013 at Lucky's Poker Room. Jouban was listed as Lucky's millionaire party booking contact.

Charitable gaming also was suspended at Gloria's Poker Room in Burton in 2013 for illegal pay-to-play and kickback schemes following an MGC investigation.

The three Flint area "poker rooms" — Pocket Aces, Lucky's and Gloria's — are among 23 Michigan locations where charitable gaming has been permanently suspended since 2010.

"State gaming laws protect charities and the public, and the MGC has worked hard to bring charitable gaming practices within the limits of the law," Kalm said.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

WITH A REPUBLICAN Governor, Senate and House in control, we won't be allowed to vote on the repeal of Prevailing Wage Laws, No Fault Reform or other issues that big business want. Just like 'Right To Work,' we weren't allowed to vote. It's like putting pigs loose in the cornfield.

■■■
THANK YOU TO the volunteer DDA members who contribute so much of their time to enhance the appearance and ambience of Fenton. You are much appreciated.

■■■
SINCE MICHIGAN IS one of only 10 states with a full-time legislature that provides the legislators with lifetime health benefits after serving only six years, the legislature should put full-time versus part-time on the ballot. Unlike the road bill, part-time is sure to pass.

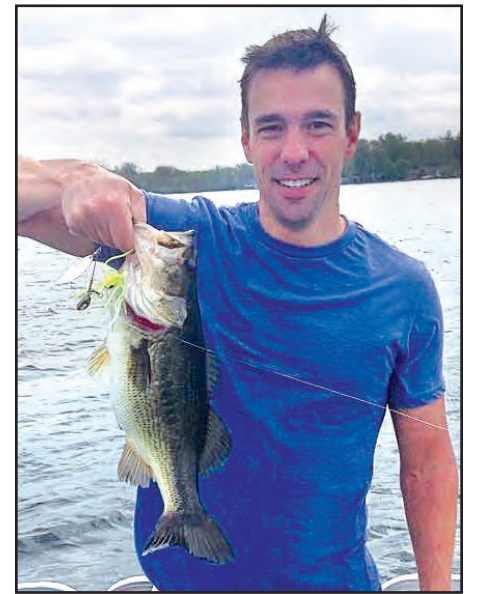
■■■
NO MATTER WHAT the city does with regard to garbage and recycling, half the people will be happy and the other half will be upset. Plain old human nature.

■■■
BUSH, CLINTON AND Obama represent the Establishment, not the middle class. Bill Clinton, with the approval of Bush 41, passed NAFTA putting millions out of work. Now, Obama wants fast-track approval of new treaties. Tell your congressman, no new treaties!

■■■
HEY, JOE GRAVES, glad you voted to allow more dangerous prisoners in a closer private jail. You may not know this but the state spends more money on prisoners than they do on higher education. Maybe a change in priorities would lead to more jobs and fewer inmates.

■■■

CATCH OF THE WEEK



Greg Mundie, 41, of Linden caught this largemouth bass while fishing on Lake Ponemah on Saturday, May 9. The fish measured 20.5 inches and was 6.5 pounds.

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**THE COUNTY
Times**

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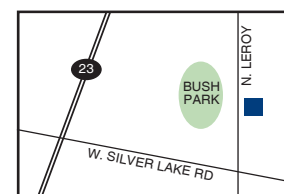
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Stk# 1225244A **\$8,400**



2010 JEEP WRANGLER UNLIMITED
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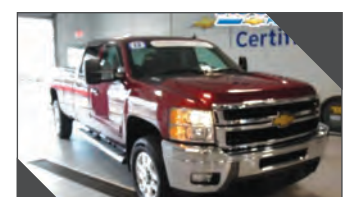
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