

# Board cuts IB from elementary, middle schools

■ Board of Ed keeps IB Diploma program, passes budget

By Vera Hogan

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Fenton — More than 100 people packed

the Fenton High School cafeteria Monday night for the Board of Education meeting. At issue was the 2015-2016 budget, which calls for teacher cuts, and the future of the International Baccalaureate (IB) program. Several individuals spoke during

public comment, most in favor of the IB Committee's recommendation to elimination the Primary Years Program at the elementary school level, and the Middle Years Program at the middle school level. See IB on 7

“We’re the guy driving the Cadillac that can’t afford his mortgage and can’t afford gas for his car.”

Drew Shapiro

President Fenton school board



## Burned remains found in car

■ Body of former Linden woman believed murdered

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com

The burned remains of Marsha Wilfinger, 54, of Mundy Township (formerly Marsha Sargent of Linden) was found in the back seat of a car in Montmorency County Friday night.

Wilfinger's death is being investigated as a homicide. According to northern Michigan news station 9and10.com, a Montmorency man, believed to be Wilfinger's husband is in jail.

Michigan State Police Troopers responded to calls of a vehicle fire at the intersection of Sheridan Valley Road and Scenic Rte. 3 in Montmorency County the evening of June 20.

When troopers arrived, they found the car burning in a ditch. When the fire was put out investigators discovered Wilfinger's burned remains in the back seat.

See **BURNED** on 6

## Storms whip through area



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

A fireworks tent in a parking lot on Silver Parkway in Fenton was blown 20 feet during the late Monday afternoon storm. High winds broke the thick metal frame and snapped the straps holding the tent down. Thousands of dollars of fireworks were destroyed during the storm. Here, employees assess the damage.

■ Uprooted trees, heavy rain keep residents on edge

By Sharon Stone

sstone@tctimes.com

Wild weather, which included thunderstorms, high winds and tornadoes rolled across Michigan on Monday, leaving behind a path of sporadic damage.

While the tri-county area was not hit as badly as other parts of the state, some areas experienced downed power lines, uprooted trees and heavy rain.

At about 5 p.m., Argentine Township Police Department issued an announcement that Silver Lake Road between Bird and McCaslin Lake roads was closed for a large tree blocking the roadway. The debris was cleared and the road was reopened after two hours.

In Fenton, an independent fireworks retailer that was set up in a shopping center parking lot along Silver Parkway sustained heavy damage from the thunderstorm and strong winds

See **STORMS** on 10

## New police computers are 'lightning fast'

■ Communication between dispatch and officers much improved

By Hannah Ball

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The Argentine Police Department, along with most police, fire, and emergency departments in the county, received new computers on May 18.

The 9-1-1 Communications Center for Genesee County, located with the Michigan State Police Post on Corunna Road at Linden Road, upgraded most emergency services to 2015 Dell semi-rugged laptops.

See **COMPUTERS** on 12



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Argentine police use new Dell computers that they received in May. Speed is the biggest improvement, helping officers get information about people and license plates faster than the old computers.

## Fenton schools superintendent resigns

■ Tim Jalkanen asks board not to renew contract

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

Fenton — Fenton Area Public Schools Superintendent Tim Jalkanen went to his office Tuesday wearing a new hat — that of consultant.

Midway during the Monday night Board of Education meeting, just after the board voted to accept two staff retirements and one resignation, Board President Drew

See **RESIGNS** on 9



“I am glad to see more local businesses occupying prime properties such as the Cornerstone and the old Topps building. I am tired of seeing so many outsider businesses come in, suck up our money, and send it back to global headquarters outside of Michigan.”

“There is nothing in Hillary Clinton's history that would qualify her for the presidency, and much that should disqualify her. I have just given you the primary reason that she will be the Democratic candidate.”



“What is the goal of climate change? Does the government want to control the climate so it will be 72 degrees all the time? That's just like making a law eradicating evil from the planet forever. No common sense. So sad.”



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# A CENTURY OF CAMPING



■ **YMCA Camp Copneconic celebrates 100 years with special weekend July 24-25**

**By Sally Rummel**

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Campfires, stargazing, swimming and fishing are just a few of the memories associated with childhood summer camp.

For many campers young and old, summer camp was the first time they had left the comforts of home behind, forging new friendships and building self-confidence.

"To me, that's everything (YMCA) Camp Copneconic is all about," said Executive Director John Carlson.

## SUMMARY

■ YMCA Camp Copneconic celebrates 100 years this summer with a celebratory weekend planned for July 24-25.

YMCA Camp Copneconic in Fenton Township is making its own memories this summer, celebrating 100 years of mentoring kids and adults through camping programs, band camps, health partnerships and team-building corporations.

A weekend of "Celebrate a Century" is set for Friday and Saturday, July 24 and 25 (see sidebar on page 12).

## Looking back

More than 25,000 people find their way to YMCA Camp Copneconic every year, winding down the same roads that campers have followed since 1915. That's the year Charles Stewart Mott acquired the wooded parcel of land off Fenton Road between Baldwin and Thompson roads near a 250-acre lake known as Lake Copneconic, following the successful foundation of the YMCA of Greater Flint by the Mott family.

In those early years, back when Art Crampton, Jr., 85, was a camper beginning in 1935, a week's overnight camping cost only \$8, and all campers were boys. "The camp was not co-ed," said

**See CAMPING on 12**



**TRI-COUNTY TIMES** | TIM JAGIELO

Camp Copneconic counselors including Nick Welland (with crutch) lead residents through their Opening Campfire activities Sunday night. The event was designed to expand their comfort zones, with silly songs and games that encourage participation.

CAMP COPNECONIC

Readers may recognize faces in this 1935 photo taken during a fireplace chat at YMCA Camp Copneconic at Allen Lodge, built in 1929. This original lodge is still standing today. Camp Director Art Crampton, Sr. is telling the campers a story, including his son, Art Crampton, Jr., pictured in the second row, fourth from the left.



## Think varicose veins are just a cosmetic issue?

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FROM THE LEFT  
NATIONALLY SYNDICATED  
**Bill Press**

### The classic Republican Party candidate

Yes, there is a God. I admit, I was starting to have my doubts. Until this week, when real estate mogul and ultimate self-promoter Donald Trump announced that this time around — unlike in 1988, 2000, 2004, 2008, and 2012 — he's not just teasing. This time he's running for president for real.

Yes, there is a God. For political reporters and political junkies, the Trump campaign is like a gift from heaven, because it promises to be unlike any other presidential campaign in history. Indeed, it already is. Trump's the first candidate brazen enough to offer as his sole reason for running: 'I'm really rich.'

Trump could never win the nomination. But he could still do considerable damage, especially to the Republican Party. And he has unlimited personal money to spend in order to boost his standing in the polls even higher.

For Republicans, that's trouble. The first GOP primary debate is scheduled on Fox News in August, and Fox and CNN, host of the second debate, have both said they will limit participation in their debates to one criterion only: whoever are the top 10 candidates in the polls, which makes it 99 percent certain that Trump will be on stage — where he's bound to embarrass the party by making outrageous statements and attacking his fellow Republicans.

At times, you have to wonder whether Trump is running as a Republican or Democrat. The day after he announced, he told CNN in Manchester, New Hampshire: 'I think I'll help the party because we have a lot of Republicans who don't know what they're doing, unfortunately. That's why the country's in such bad shape.'

But Trump will hurt the Republican Party in a much more significant way, because the more exposure he gets, the more he'll be seen as the classic Republican candidate. After its disastrous defeat in 2012, the Republican National Committee asked young people to describe what they think when they hear the word 'Republicans.' Their response: 'stuffy old men;' 'scary;' 'narrow-minded;' and 'out-of-touch.' They could have been talking about Donald Trump.

THE TWO SWANS with their four babies on Crane Lake were there for weeks then three of the babies were gone suddenly the morning after the big red motorboat opened up going back and forth across the lake time and time again in total darkness.

MY DEAR POPE Francis is lecturing me on climate change. Wasn't it in 1633 that the same church put Galileo in jail for publishing his observations that the earth revolves around the sun? When he stops using the carbon spewing Papal jet, then maybe I'll become a climate change believer.

COULD SOMEBODY ENFORCE the leash law at Fenton City parks? I am tired of unleashed dogs running up on me while I am enjoying the parks.

I GOT BLOCKED in my own yard the other day by a loose dog. It also scared my neighbor's kids. Many are loose around downtown also. Please put a collar and a tag with information on your dog so we can get them back home safely. Thanks!

WHEN THE DEMOCRATS voted for Obamacare without knowing what was in it, that showed what mindless idiots they were. Now, however, the Republicans have voted to give Obama power to negotiate trade agreements without congress knowing what's in the agree-

## Hot lines

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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.

ment! Who represents the people? Certainly not our elected officials!

ANYBODY BEEN DOWN Wiggins Road just off North Long Lake Road? The road asphalt is awful. One part of it doesn't exist. Every car goes into the other lane — yes every car. It is dangerous and especially at night, if you don't know it is there.

I HEARD THAT Lake Shannon had a fish kill within the last couple weeks. What was the cause? Mismanagement? Too many chemicals to keep the lake and lawns looking nice?

JOE GRAVES, DAVE Robertson and the rest of the Republican legislators are not for the people — they are out to destroy the lower and middle class.

DON'T BOTHER WITH unsolicited emails. Just send them directly to 'spam' and you will never see them again. You won't even have to open them. In order to 'unsubscribe,' you have to open the email. Using spam, you don't have to.

I GRADUATED FROM Linden High School and returned as a senior citizen. It hurts me to drive through and see the Confederate flag waving. Please take it down. Love everyone.

See **HOT LINE** throughout Times



FROM THE RIGHT  
NATIONALLY SYNDICATED  
**Cal Thomas**

### China's big hack attack

Upon hearing of the massive data breach of employee information from the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) — allegedly by hackers working for the Chinese government — Kay Cole James, the former director of OPM under George W. Bush, told me she was 'aghast,' adding, 'I can't think about the national security implications of a foreign government knowing every single federal employee, where they work, where they live, all of their significant data. Think about what that information can do in the hands of people who want to do us harm.'

Joel Brenner, a former top counterintelligence official for the U.S. government, has thought about it. He called the hack attack 'potentially devastating.' Brenner told The Washington Post that personnel files 'contain decades of personal information about people with (security) clearances ... which makes them easier to recruit for foreign espionage on behalf of a foreign country.'

The Associated Press reported 'two people briefed on the investigation disclosed Friday that as many as 14 million current and former civilian U.S. government employees have had their information exposed to hackers, a far higher figure than the 4 million the Obama administration initially disclosed.'

Under a worst-case scenario outlined by Theweek.com, the information obtained by hackers could be used to derail trains (although they seem to be derailing just fine all by themselves without outside help), disrupt air traffic control systems, explode chemical plants and gas pipelines and compromise electric grids causing large-scale blackouts across the country. Who needs missiles when a laptop and the right software can be just as effective?

If any humor can come from a serious situation, it was in a statement by OPM spokesman, Samuel Schumach. When asked to provide more details on the damage caused by the hacking, Schumach said: 'For security reasons, we will not discuss specifics of the information that might have been compromised.'

What possible 'security' reasons could there be when clearly there was insufficient security at OPM? Perhaps reporters should ask this of the Chinese, since they now appear to be in possession of all the pertinent information.

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Compiled by Sally Rummel, features writer

## Why should kids go to summer camp?

Question asked to staff at Camp Copneconic

## streettalk



"Kids don't get outside a ton. On the first day of camp, they'll walk around a puddle. By the last day, they run through it."

— Ken Bazydlo,  
camp counselor



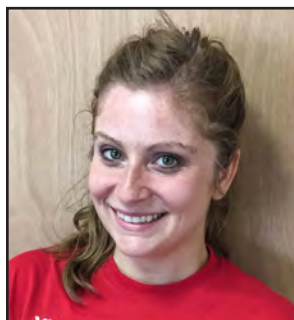
"Campers are surrounded by positive people in a positive environment, giving them opportunities to do things they might not be able to do at home."

— Emily Foord,  
camp counselor



"You become a part of something bigger than yourself. It feels like a family here, but you get to know people from not only Michigan, but from around the U.S. and even the world."

— Hannah Bommarito,  
camp counselor



"When I was little, I felt invisible. When I was here, people reached out to me to get me involved. You see kids come from less than ideal situations to a place where they get love and attention 24/7."

— Kimberly Hagler,  
media specialist



"Everyone comes from a different playing field. Here, they're all in the same field. Our goal is to make sure that every kid who comes wants to come back."

— Kasey Kotarak,  
health & safety coordinator



"Here we offer campers an opportunity to learn, grow and play together. We focus on core values of honesty, respect, responsibility and caring in fun, interactive activities."

— Brian Keyes,  
specialty camps coordinator



# Quiet Fourth of July options available for vets with PTSD

■For many veterans, a quiet celebration is the best way to honor country's freedom

By Hannah Ball  
hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

The loud and colorful fireworks set off every July 4 meant to celebrate our country's freedom are beautiful to everyone — except maybe those who fought for that freedom.

Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is real and typically occurs in someone who has experienced trauma. About 7-8 percent of the population has PTSD, and women are more likely than men to develop the disorder (10 percent vs. 4 percent). Unsurprisingly, veterans have a high number of PTSD rates, and about 50 percent of them never seek treatment, according to veteransandptsd.com. This disorder can lead to alcohol abuse and depression.

Loud noises and stressful situations, like fireworks, can stimulate flashbacks, which can cause an anxiety attack.

To help with this issue, multiple state parks in Michigan are offering a fireworks-free area for July 4 and the Brighton Recreation Area's Bishop Lake Campground is one of them.

Located at 6360 Chilson Rd. in Howell, the Brighton Recreation Area has 4,947 acres, with multiple lakes.

Mike Donnelly, park manager of the Brighton Recreation Area, said no state parks allow fireworks, but this is the first year they're raising awareness about it.

"When you need to be away from fireworks, this is the place you need to go," Donnelly said.

However, nearby private properties can still set off fireworks, and the sound can carry. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is encouraging neighboring parks to refrain from setting off fireworks.

"We can't regulate what people do on their own private property," he said. They don't have that issue at Brighton, though, because no one owns private lakes around them.

"I hope people will take advantage of the quiet lake," Donnelly said. Although, he's confident the entire campground will be sold out for the Fourth of July.

One local veteran, Michael Beahon, 29, thinks not allowing fireworks is a good idea if it's realistic.

"With the business side, it's OK, that's very altruistic of them," Beahon said. "As a business person, I tend to have the filter for 'OK that doesn't seem realistic. There might be some fiscal issues there.'"

He was honorably discharged from the Marines in 2011 and remains in Fenton. He is currently revamping his website that helps veterans connect globally, and works as a real estate agent at Remax Platinum. As a Marine, he suffers from PTSD.

From a veteran's standpoint, he thinks not allowing fireworks is a good idea.

"I went to a fireworks show a few Fourth of Julys ago and I got to a place where I'm not in a normal state of mind. I don't know how to describe it. It's like the shockwave that goes through your body. When you see the flash before

the boom, it used to put me in a state that I was not very functional."

"It's weird not being in control. Something as silly as fireworks puts you on a whole different plane of existence," he said.

“It’s weird not being in control. Something as silly as fireworks puts you on a whole different plane of existence.”

Michael Beahon  
Local veteran

## PTSD statistics

- At least 20 percent of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans have PTSD as of September 2014, and that number increases with the presence of traumatic brain injury (TBI).
- About 30 percent of Vietnam veterans have lifetime PTSD. About 12 percent of Gulf War (Dessert Storm) veterans have PTSD.

Source: RAND Corporation

## Fireworks-free campgrounds in Michigan

- Bewabic State Park in Iron County
- Cheboygan State Park in Cheboygan County
- Craig Lake State Park in Baraga County
- Hayes State Park in Lenawee County
- Lake Hudson State Park in Lenawee County
- Leelanau State Park in Leelanau County
- Menominee River State Recreation Area in Dickinson County
- Orchard Beach State Park in Manistee County
- Rifle River Recreation Area in Ogemaw County
- Sleepy Hollow State Park in Clinton County
- Wells State Park in Menominee County

# Know your town's fireworks ordinances

■Many only allow fireworks on day before, day of, and day after national holidays

By Hannah Ball  
hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Anticipation is building for July 4th celebrations, just like how anticipation builds when you see fireworks go off and expect the sound half a second after.

There are rules, however, to lighting off these beautifully loud mix of chemicals. Here are the local ordinances for setting off fireworks.

It's legal to light fireworks in Fenton City before 1 a.m. on the day before, of, and after a national holiday. They're prohibited before 8 a.m. and it's illegal to use fireworks under the influence of alcohol.

Violators will receive a civil fine up to \$500 and must pay for the city's costs of storing, disposing, or destroying the fireworks.

The city of Linden and the village of Holly also follow these rules.

Fenton Township and Tyrone Township follow state laws because of a smaller population size. State law basically allows fireworks at any time.



FILE PHOTO

## Holidays where fireworks are legal

- New Year's Day
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Presidents Day
- Independence Day
- Labor Day
- Columbus Day
- Veterans Day
- Thanksgiving
- Christmas

## If your pet doesn't like fireworks...

- Keep all pets inside and choose one room to contain them.
- Turn on some background noise, like the TV or radio at normal volume.
- Don't leave them in a parked car.
- Use a thundershirt, which makes pets feel safe.
- Make sure they're wearing identification in case they escape.
- Make sure to leave water for them.
- Calming medicine might help.
- Have them go to the bathroom before the fireworks start to avoid any accidents.

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## Police&Fire report

### LARCENIES FROM AUTOS

The Argentine Township Police Department received three larceny from auto complaints last weekend. Two complaints were taken on Peninsular Drive and the other complaint was taken on Cole Road. Police are asking everybody to please lock their vehicles at night and report any suspicious activity by calling 911.

### LEAF BLOWER STOLEN FROM TRUCK

At 7 a.m., on June 23, a 35-year-old Grand Blanc man filed a larceny from auto complaint with the Fenton Police Department. The man told police that he had parked his vehicle at a business on Silver Parkway the previous day at 3 p.m. When he returned from shopping, he discovered that his \$500 Stihl backpack leaf blower was missing from the bed of his pickup truck. There are no suspects.

### JEWELRY STOLEN FROM CAR

At 3:30 p.m. on June 19, Fenton police responded to a larceny from auto complaint in the 3800 block of Owen Road. A 20-year-old Linden man told police that sometime between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. someone stole a necklace and pendant from his vehicle. There were no signs of forced entry, however the man believed he locked his car. The jewelry was valued at \$80.

View stories at  
tctimes.com



COURTESY PHOTO

The burned body of Marsha (Sargent) Wilfinger was found in the back seat of a car in Montmorency County Friday night.

### BURNED

Continued from Front Page

Troopers learned the vehicle was registered to a leasing company. They found several car parts scattered along the road that led to the fire scene. They also believe the vehicle had been towed to the location.

According to the 9and10.com report, troopers followed the trail of parts and marks several miles to a house on McCormick Lake in Briley Township. They made contact with the man there and determined the burned body in the vehicle was his spouse. Troopers reported there were signs that a domestic assault had recently taken place in the home.

Troopers continue to investigate the scene. Formal charges were expected Monday. As of press time, Tuesday, the man's name had not yet been released and charges had not been filed in court.

## 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, you can approve or disapprove of key votes by your legislators using the VoteSpotter smart phone app. This report was released Friday, June 19.*

### Senate Bill 328: Authorize more State Police officer grades

To create two new grades of State Police officer, called "inspector" and "recruit." The current grades are colonel, lieutenant colonel, major, captain, lieutenant, sergeant and trooper.

#### Passed 35 to 0 in the Senate

Sen. Dave Robertson (R-Dist. 14)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES
Sen. Mike Kowall (R-Dist. 15)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES
Sen. Joe Hune (R-Dist. 22)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES
Sen. Jim Ananich (D-Dist. 27)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES
Sen. Ken Horn (R-Dist. 32)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES

### Senate Bill 165: Authorize pedal-powered beer bars

To establish in statute that a "commercial quadricycle," which is a pedal-powered mobile beer bar, is not considered a "motor vehicle" even if it has auxiliary power, and instead would be subject to much less onerous regulations. Under this and Senate Bill 166 passengers would be allowed to have open beer or wine containers, but the driver would be required to have a blood alcohol level of zero.

#### Passed 96 to 13 in the House

Rep. Hank Vaupel (R-Dist. 47)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES
Rep. Joe Graves (R-Argentine Twp.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES

### House Bill 4640: Regulate Uber, Lyft, etc. - insurance provision

To establish that passengers using services like Uber and Lyft would be covered by the same type of insurance as passengers in taxicabs. This means the unlimited personal injury protection (PIP) coverage required by the state no-fault insurance law would be provided by the passenger's own auto insurance, and by the driver's policy only if the passenger had none.

#### Passed 70 to 40 in the House

Rep. Hank Vaupel (R-Dist. 47)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES
Rep. Joe Graves (R-Argentine Twp.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES

### House Bill 4637: Regulate Uber, Lyft, etc.; preempt local bans

To establish a regulatory framework that would enable "transportation network companies" like Uber and Lyft to operate in this state, including a preemption on local government regulations or bans. The companies would have to get a state permit and carry liability insurance. The bill requires background checks on drivers and annual vehicle inspections.

#### Passed 71 to 39 in the House

Rep. Hank Vaupel (R-Dist. 47)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES
Rep. Joe Graves (R-Argentine Twp.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES

## TEXT YOUR HOT LINE

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THE MICHIGAN  
Times



Mark McCabe

67th District Court

Ask the  
judge

### The earned income tax credit

In last Sunday's Tri-County Times there was a question in the Hot lines as to just what the earned income tax credit is and why is it so important?

It seemed like a good question for this column and I will do my best to explain it.

Initially, it should be understood that there are two types of earned income tax credits (EITC) available — federal and State of Michigan.

The federal EITC was originated under the Internal Revenue Code in 1975 as a type of assistance for low- and moderate-income workers. It allows those who qualify to receive a direct payment from the federal government in the same way that income tax refunds are paid.

In order to qualify, certain income and eligibility tests must be met. These include a limit on earned income and adjusted gross income, that you meet certain basic rules and you either meet the rules without a qualifying child or you have a child that meets all the qualifying child rules for you, or your spouse if you file a joint return.

Earned income is when you receive income from working for someone or from running or owning a business or farm.

The basic rules include all having a Social Security number and filing a federal tax return as married filing jointly, head of household, qualifying widow(er) or single. You cannot claim an EITC with a filing status of married filing separately.

For a qualifying child to be included in the calculation there are relationship, age, residency and joint return tests that must be met.

For 2015, if all tests are met the EITC payment can be up to \$6,242 with three or more qualifying children and a joint married filing. The credit goes down from there depending on filing status and/or the number of children. The income limit for 2015 is \$53,267 for a joint married filing if there are three or more qualifying children and again is less for fewer claimants.

The Michigan EITC is 6 percent of the allowed federal EITC. So, in 2015 the maximum amount is \$375.

This is a very basic summary of the law. My advice is to talk to a tax specialist about this if you believe you qualify.

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**IB****Continued from Front Page**

The committee's recommendation also included retaining the IB Diploma Program (DP) at the high school.

Eliminating the PYP and MYP programs will save the district \$369,885. Board members cautioned, however, that these are not the only changes that will have to be made to keep the district in the black for the coming school year.

Lori Slaughter has been a teacher for 38 years and has lived in Fenton for 38 years. She has two grandchildren in Fenton schools and her daughter also teaches in Fenton schools. She reminded board members that they asked teachers several times for a committee to make a recommendation on the IB program.

"We met for hours and months," she said. "It is the committee's recommendation to keep the DP program and eliminate PYP and MYP. I asked that you honor that recommendation. Everyone agreed to that recommendation."

Several other teachers echoed Slaughter's statements, urging the board to accept the IB Committee's recommendation.

Mary Lou Wermuth, a 1961 graduate of Fenton High School, said, "If anyone in this room knows about IB, it's me," she said. She explained that she worked with IB in London and later in Bloomfield Hills.

"I am affectionately known as the mother of the first IB school in the United States," she said. She said the DP is obviously very important. She also said there is a need for far more support from the international (IB) office.

"This is my baby," Wermuth said. "I would like to keep it alive in grades K-12, but I know that's not likely."

Molly Plunkett, a 13-year student of Fenton schools and a 41-year resident of Fenton said eliminating the PYP and MYP is what's best for the district.

"The people who elected you have overwhelmingly told you to use their tax dollars more wisely," she said.

Board President Drew Shapiro said he has been asking the same question since the IB Committee was formed. "What exactly would we have to stop doing as a district (if IB eliminated)," he asked. "In your professional opinions, what

would we have to stop doing?"

State Road Elementary School teacher Callie Mullins answered, "We wouldn't have to do anything. We would still be the same teachers next year as we are now."

The only thing that would have to change is the terminology, Mullins added. There are some terms copyrighted by IB that they could not use. "We would still be the effective teachers that we are," she said. "We would just use different terminology."

Long-time school board member Lynn Hopper read a lengthy statement in support of IB, saying if it is eliminated \$3.5 million of the taxpayers' dollars would be wasted because "people don't like the program."

Shapiro said the money spent on education are not dollars down the drain. He asked Doug Busch, executive director of personnel and finance, if the district has sold any tangible assets that would result in \$3.5 million being washed down the drain.

Busch answered it has not.

Shapiro said tough financial decisions have to be made in the district. "We're the guy driving the Cadillac that can't afford his mortgage and can't afford gas for his car," Shapiro said.

Board member Tamara Valley said she wanted to make it very clear that accepting the IB Committee's recommendation is not a dismissal. "It's just a piece of the puzzle," she said.

Even if the board decides to accept the IB Committee's recommendation, Valley said cuts and reductions would still have to be made.

"Many teachers have diligently worked to implement IB programs and have made a difference in the lives of kids," said Robin Long, PYP coordinator and IB educator through the IB of Americas. "It is unfortunate that those who embraced the programs and successfully implemented them have not been recognized for their contributions."

Other board members shared their opinions, with some favoring the option of keeping the PYP and DP programs, and only eliminating the MYP program.

In the end, the board voted 4-3 in favor of the IB Committee's recommendation to eliminate the PYP and MYP and keep the DP at the high school. Koester, Valley and Hopper cast the dissenting votes.

**SUMMARY**

The Fenton Board of Education voted to eliminate the IB program in the elementary and middle schools, and passed its 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 budgets, the latter of which calls for the elimination of teaching jobs and possible outsourcing of custodial and transportation services.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | VERA HOGAN

Callie Mullins, a teacher at State Road Elementary School, answers Board of Education Drew Shapiro's question on what the district would have to change if the IB program was eliminated at elementary and middle school levels.

**Budget changes**

The board also adopted the 2014-2015 budget and 2015-2016 budget.

The 2014-2015 budget called for \$31,561,574 in revenues, \$31,734,395 in expenditures, leaving a fund balance of \$681,404. They also passed the 2015-2016 budget, which calls for \$30,564,736 in revenues, \$30,409,769 in expenditures, leaving a fund balance of \$836,871.

"We can't spend 10 cents more than our budget allows," said Valley. "That's what got us into this situation."

According to Busch, the elimination of IB in the elementary and middle schools will have no impact on the World of Wonder program in the district, and the changes will go into effect with the 2015-2016 school year.

**2015-2016 budget**

The newly passed 2015-2016 budget means 12.65 teaching positions will be eliminated. According to Doug Busch, executive director of personnel and finance, the 2.65 equates to teaching sections that will be cut. Other reductions may be made in the transportation and custodial areas. Bids are being sought for the outsourcing of these activities, jobs currently being handled by district employees. Though the district expected to lose 50 students in the next school year, resulting in a loss of \$369,550 in state revenue, he did give the board a glimmer of hope by saying some of students are coming into the district. He said he is hopeful that they will be able to recall all or some of the teachers.

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# Grand Haven and Holland

By Yvonne Stegall

news@tctimes.com; 810-433-6786

Part two of an eight part series

There are many amazing places to visit on the west side of Michigan. Many of the places are right along the lakeshore of Lake Michigan, and some of them are not too far away from there.

If you want to experience some fun and culture, as well as some important Michigan history, this weekend, take a trip across the state and enjoy the beach town of Grand Haven, and a little taste of the Netherlands in Holland.

## Grand Haven

Grand Haven is just 156 miles across the state, a simple drive along I-69 to I-96, and is just over a two-hour drive from Fenton.

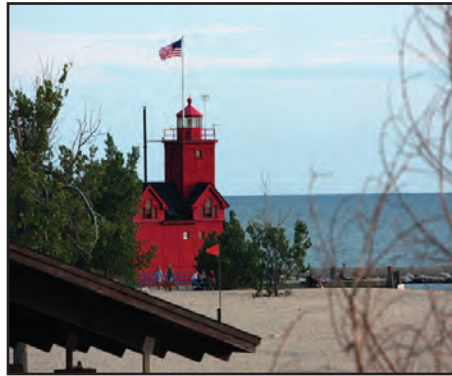
If you love art, this weekend is the Grand Haven Art Festival on Saturday and Sunday.

You'll find hundreds of artists sharing and selling their pieces. Grand Haven is known as Coast Guard City USA. They have a great museum and lots of

great food. And don't forget to check out the Grand Haven Musical Fountain while you're there.

Make sure to take your bathing suit so that you can enjoy the sun and sand while you are on the lake. This is a great place to take the kids, or visit alone.

If you decide to stick around for the night, a room is easy to find, either at a hotel or one of the many local Bed and Breakfasts.



MICHIGANDNR.COM

## Holland

You may have already missed the Tulip Festival, but that doesn't mean that you've missed everything there is to do in Holland.

Holland is only 30 minutes south of Grand Haven, off U.S. 31. While Holland proper doesn't touch Lake Michigan, it is connected via Lake Macatawa and is only a stone's throw from the big water.

Visiting Holland is like visiting the Netherlands, but you don't have to leave the country. There is plenty of shopping, great food, and even a lot of fishing to be done.

While Holland is probably best known for their Tulip Festival, you can visit Windmill Island all summer and maybe even take a tour of the windmill. Be sure to buy yourself a souvenir pair of wooden shoes while you are there.

This weekend in Holland, you can take a tour of the parts of Holland that were affected by the Great Fire of 1871, on Friday.

While a trip to Holland can easily be a day trip, if you do want to stay the night, you have choices from the Holiday Inn to Comfort Inn, and many campgrounds in between. Stop by next week to find out where we are going.

## HOT LINE CONTINUED

**I LIVE ON** Lobdell and appreciate the bow fisherman. They keep the carp population down so that other species can thrive and make a great fishery. If you don't want carp to overrun your lake, stop complaining and be thankful, even if a light shines at your house.

**REGARDLESS OF HOW** close you follow me, I will not speed just to please you. You'll thank me when you don't get a ticket. Slow down. Enjoy life.

**I DO NOT** bow fish, but feel the complainer should move off the lake. You live on an all sports 'public' lake. Go buy your own private lake and quit complaining about people enjoying themselves.

**WHEN IS HOLLY** going to do something about the blight all around Saginaw Street? There are buildings that have been abandoned for years and it looks terrible.

**TO ALL YOU** people with the Obama bashing, we can always go back to a Republican president and a collapsed housing market and depression/recession. It's up to you. It's not that bad.

**RATHER THAN POP** the politicians one on one, running the candidates down, tell me, what are they going to do for the middle class? I want to know what you're going to do for me and the rest of middle-class America.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | VERA HOGAN

Superintendent Tim Jalkanen is flanked by Fenton Board of Education President Drew Shapiro (left) and Board Vice President Rick Koester as he asks the board not to renew his contract.

## RESIGNS

### Continued from Front Page

Shapiro in a surprise move turned over the floor to Jalkanen.

"I have asked the board of education not to extend my contract," Jalkanen said. "Starting tomorrow I will be working as a consultant for the district until a new superintendent can be hired."

Jalkanen will work as a consultant to the district until mid-February of 2016. Shapiro said the board will be accepting applications for interim superintendent through July 6. On July 20, they expect to name the person to take over that interim position.

On behalf of the board, Shapiro thanked Jalkanen for his service to the

Fenton Area Public Schools district. The vote to accept the superintendent's resignation was approved, with Lynn Hopper casting the only dissenting vote.

After the meeting, when asked, Jalkanen denied having been asked to resign.

"No, I'm leaving voluntarily. My family and I will be pursuing other options," he said. "I live in Troy and still have two children in high school. I want to pursue other opportunities. I am, after all, still a young man."

Jalkanen's resignation was the only time he spoke during the meeting.

He was silent throughout the remainder of the meeting, while Doug Busch, executive director of personnel and finance, took the lead on budget discussions.

**"No, I'm leaving voluntarily..."**

**Tim Jalkanen**  
Outgoing Fenton schools superintendent

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

This fireworks stand probably represents the worst of the damage to a home or business in Fenton, following the storms on Monday.

## STORMS

Continued from Front Page

that went through Monday afternoon.

At 12:40 a.m. Tuesday, a homeowner on Chateaux Du Lac in Fenton Township called 911 to report that lightning had struck their home and smoke could be seen on the roof.

According to the National Weather Service (NWS), there were 12 reports of tornadoes in the High Plains and Midwest. Storm survey teams were out Tuesday to determine if those reported tornadoes were actually twisters, or if the damage was created by straight-line winds.

In Michigan, a reported tornado de-

stroyed a home in Tuscola County near Millington. Two tornadoes were reported in nearby Sanilac County around Deckerville.

Tornadoes were reported in northern Illinois during the evening hours. A suspected tornado overturned trailers near Sublette in northwest Illinois. Illinois reported the most tornadoes, according to the Storm Prediction Center with the NWS.

During the afternoon hours on Monday, an EF1 tornado, with estimated winds at 100 miles per hour hit Portland, ac-

cording to the survey crew from the NWS office in Grand Rapids. Five people had to be rescued from collapsed buildings.

### SUMMARY

The tri-county area welcomed the beginning of summer with episodes of strong winds and thunderstorms on Monday and into the early morning hours of Tuesday.



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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

The Linden Mural, created in 2014, is competing for the title of "Place for Talent," a contest facilitated by the Michigan Municipal League. Voting is underway until July 15.

## Linden Mural competing for art award

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Local art may win a statewide award.

The Linden Mural, on the side of Linden City Hall, is competing for the statewide Community Excellence Award in the Place for Talent category.

More than 20 Michigan communities are competing for this award. Sixteen projects have been nominated and divided into four categories: Funding for the Future, Michigan in Motion, Place for Talent, and Strength in Structure.

The Linden Mural is competing against the city of Allegan and the city of Jackson in the Place for Talent category. It was created in the summer of 2014 by Linden High School teacher Gemma Amendola and local students, businesses, and volunteers. It depicts life in Linden and Michigan with lakes, water activities, plants, and the auto industry. It has a central image of a teapot representing friendliness and hospitality, according to the Michigan Municipal League.

Linden Mayor David Lossing said he's excited about the competition. "My wife, Suzanne, and I even helped out. She painted the river scene and I painted the boat and sail. It was a great

community experience," Lossing said.

He said the mural sparked an "engaging" community conversation and the creation of the Linden Arts Council.

"I think we have a really good chance to make it past the first round of voting," he said. "If we are going to build wonderful communities to be places to live, work and raise families, we need to enhance those places through investments in the arts."

Online voting started June 15 and closes July 15. A panel of judges decides the top four projects from each category that will go on to compete at the League's 2015 Convention in Traverse City, Sept. 17-20. Convention attendees will decide the statewide winner on Sept. 20.

Also competing for a CEA is Byron. Their campaign "Bringing Byron Back!," which aims to rebuild their downtown after a fire in 2012, is competing in the Funding for the Future category.

The CEA has been the Michigan Municipal League's most prestigious community award since 2007, according to the league.

More information on these projects can be found at [www.cae.mml.org](http://www.cae.mml.org). Vote at [www.cae.mml.org/vote/](http://www.cae.mml.org/vote/).



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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Counselor Josh Linden (bottom left) spins, arms in the air at the direction of other counselors Sunday night. Kids can be kids at Camp Copneconic while attending the "Camp Midicha" week for campers with diabetes. These interactive activities break the ice on the first day of camp.

## CAMPING

Continued from Page 3

Crampton of Swartz Creek. "The only women were my mother and my sister, because Dad was camp director." Art Crampton, Sr., was a huge influence not only at camp, but also as the founder of the original Y-Indian Guides with programs throughout the U.S.

Back then, campers enjoyed lots of hiking, water sports and nature activities, as well as handicrafts like leather belt making and building things out of wood. Sunday nights were movie nights, "always a comedy," recalled Crampton.

One of Crampton's favorite memories was the Indian ceremony that took place every couple of weeks each summer. "We'd all wrap ourselves up in blankets and meet

at the lake," said Crampton. "A canoe with an Indian in full headdress with war paint, feathers and a loin cloth would meet us on shore. He'd pray that all the campers would have a fire and my dad, the camp director, would be behind the fireplace and with a black thread would tip acid into sugar and cause a huge fire. That's pretty impressive when you're 8."

### Camping today

Summer camps today include many different activities, but the underlying theme is still the same: to develop strong, powerful relationships, build character and leadership skills. "You become a part of something bigger than yourself here," said Hannah Bommarito, 19, a counselor

and former camper. "You learn so much and can step out of your comfort zone."

Today, those goals are accomplished through many traditional camp activities, plus adventure sports like high ropes and zip lines and special interest camps for horse lovers, thrill seekers, sports, art, fishing, nature and more.

Programs are available from half-day camps for "Snoopers" age 3 to 5, through Adventurers age 7 to 9, Trailblazers ages 10 to 12 and Voyagers ages 13 to 15. Older teens can be teen leaders or Counselors in Training.

Even though "summer" camp is held in the summer months exactly as its name states, the water, woods and walls that make up Camp Copneconic are busy 12 months a year. "There are school band camps and corporate team building workshops, leadership camps, weddings and special occasion events that take place all year," said Carlson.

### Partner camps

Setting YMCA Camp Copneconic uniquely apart from other camps is its commitment to more than a dozen "partner camps" that focus on children with chronic diseases and special needs.

Camp Midicha provides camping fun and medical support for kids and teens with diabetes, in partnership with the American Diabetes Association. Camp Quality USA provides support for children with cancer and their families, while Camp Tall Tree offices support for children with Autism. CCFA Camp Oasis is for youth with Crohn's disease and related illnesses and Camp Kesem is for children who have or had a parent with cancer, to name a few. Another specialty camp, Camp Yunasa, is designed to give a summer camp experience for highly gifted youth.

Whatever brings you to YMCA Camp Copneconic, the goal has remained exactly the same today as it was 100 years ago. As a former staff member said, "You're at a place that accepts you for who you are, bringing you closer to others, teaching you that you can do anything you set your mind to and allowing you to realize you are exactly who you are meant to be."

### Where did the name 'Camp Copneconic' come from?

The name "copneconic" is derived from an original Chippewa Indian tribe that had once set up an encampment along the lake. In reverence to the bountiful resources of the lake and woods, the Indians named the lake "opin" meaning bread and "neconic" meaning lake—creating the name Lake of Bread. The "C" was added to the name at some point, for reasons that remain unknown today.

### 'Celebrate a Century' weekend set for July 24-25

Friday, July 24: Alumni Staff & Volunteer Reunion at the Auker Day Camp Pavilion from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. and Afterglow from 9:30 to 11 p.m. Call Shannon Raab at (810) 629-9622 to register.

Saturday, July 25: 100th Anniversary Celebration for staff and camper alumni. "Every activity we offer at camp will be open for people to try," said Carlson. Check-in begins at 11 a.m. with an Opening Ceremony at 12 p.m. Camp-style food will be served for lunch and dinner. The day's events will conclude with a campfire at 9 p.m. Register online at [www.campcopneconic.org](http://www.campcopneconic.org).

**Lake Day 2015**

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## COMPUTERS

Continued from Front Page

The center dispatches for police, fire, and emergency medical services in Genesee County, except for the cities of Flint and Fenton.

The new Dell computers, which run on a Verizon service, are in Argentine police patrol cars and dispatch. They're "lightning fast," said Argentine Township Police Chief Dan Allen. Genesee County Executive Board approved the purchase of the laptops for the county for \$1,407,203, along with Verizon aircards at an additional cost in December 2014.

"When they run plates and people they utilize the computers," Allen said. "The officers get their information back on subjects and plates." The computers save more information, enable mapping services, and have access to the Michigan Law Enforcement Information Network (LEIN), which is a state-wide information

**"I had a motorcycle accident last week and having the speed of the system, I was able to know what was going on."**

**Tony Matthew**  
Argentine Township  
police officer

### SUMMARY

■ The 9-1-1 Communications Center upgraded most computers for Genesee County's police, fire, and emergency service departments.

system that contains criminal justice documents.

Scott Shook, IT Director for the Communications Center, said the departments used to have the ToughBook MW800 fully rugged computers from Motorola, but the

company discontinued them.

"The big change is that we went with air cards, 4G, broadband modems, compared to our previous network which is half the speed of dialup," Shook said. The computers

still have the computer animated dispatch software but are "lightning fast compared to what we had."

"Sending messages is almost instantaneous as opposed to waiting 15-30 seconds," he said. "So far all the responses I've gotten are extremely positive."

Argentine Police Officer Tony Matthew said, "The speed is amazing. That's the biggest thing. It just makes us that more efficient."

The computers send and receive information much more quickly.

"If we have to run a plate or something it would be 30 seconds to a minute," Matthew said. "If you're driving 60 mph, that's a mile. With the ones now it's within 10 seconds."

Because of the speed, communication between dispatch and the officers on the road has also improved. "If dispatch is updating anything, their computers are as fast as a radio," he said.

Receiving information from dispatch has improved significantly with the new Dell computers. "I had a motorcycle accident last week and having the speed of the system, I was able to know what was going on," Matthew said.

He said they're also a lot more user-friendly, and they make it "a little bit better trying to help people."





**DID YOU KNOW???**

► The last time the U.S. Women won the World Cup was in 1999.

**AREA POWERS  
LACROSSE PLAYERS  
EARN TOP HONORS**

Four lacrosse players from the Powers' squad with tri-county ties ended the season with strong postseason honors.

Four-year varsity lacrosse player Stefan Cramer capped his career by earning unanimous All-Saginaw Valley League (SVL) defenseman honors. He recorded 76 ground balls and forced a team-leading 95 turnovers during his senior year. In past seasons, he was a Third-Team All-State player his sophomore season and an Honorable Mention All-State selection his junior year. He was the team captain each of his final two years with the program.

Fenton Township resident and Powers lacrosse player Kelson Connors captured Third-Team All-State honors and first-team SVL as a long stick midfielder for the Chargers. Connors led the team with 111 ground balls and forced 81 turnovers. Kelson, who will be a sophomore in the fall, plays club lacrosse for the True Lacrosse State Team.

Linden resident and Powers graduate Parker Skarzynski earned All-State Honorable Mention honors. Skarzynski scored 13 goals and forced 45 turnovers during his senior year.

Fenton resident Reed Macksood completed his junior season at Powers by earning Honorable Mention All-State honors as well. He scored 40 goals and dished 32 assists.

Powers finished the season with a 12-8 record.

## FirstTry triathlon has many different stories

■ More than 200 rookies, veterans complete race at Linden County Park

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

**Fenton Twp.** — Two years ago Jon Wright competed at his first triathlon.

Wright, who is from Knoxville, Tennessee, attempted the FirstTry Triathlon at Linden County Park.

"I did it with my brother-in-law Jamie Francek," Wright, 42, said. "I did my first one here."

That's all Wright needed to get hooked. Since then he's done his first half-triathlon and has done an Olympic triathlon, preparing for his second.

So, in many ways the FirstTry Triathlon was created with people like Wright in mind — someone who would like to try the event, but at shorter, less demanding distances in order to give it a chance. What the competitors do beyond that is up to them. Wright finished the triathlon in eighth with a time of 48:26.

"I've taken it a lot farther," Wright said. "We both had a milestone at the first one. We both lost 50 pounds. It was fitness thing then, and it's grown from there."

"I like the competition and like that it is an individual sport, so you can push yourself. I grew up swimming and that's an individual event also."

The FirstTry Triathlon, now in its fifth year, is based at Linden County Park. Competitors swim 300 yards at Byram Lake, and then transition to a 9.1-mile bike ride around Linden. Once the competitors return to Linden County Park, they run two miles before reaching the end.

For four years there has been two different category of runners — the FirstTry athletes and the FastTry competitors. The FastTry race is for those who have attempted the event in the past. There were 124 FirstTry competitors who finished the race on Saturday morning, while 78 FastTry competitors finished that por-

See **TRIATHLON** on 14



TRI-COUNTY TIMES  
DAVID TROPPENS

(Above) Timothy Pendell (front) and Michelle Pendell start on the bike course during the FirstTry Triathlon held at Linden County Park on Saturday. (Left photo) Runners Victoria Newberry (right) and Brian Aubuchon are near the end of the two-mile run portion of the event. The race includes a 300-yard swim, a 9.1-mile bike ride and a two-mile run.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO

(From left) Eli Beil, Reichen Lund, Blake Lund and Mikey Cemezar pose with the Gus Macker at the Belding tournament in 2014.

## Gus Macker 3-on-3 tourney invades Linden this weekend

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

For the Lund family, two words describe a lot of their summer activities. Those words are "Gus Macker."

The Linden family's three sons — Gavin, Blake and Reichen — have had their share of highlights, fun times and probably a couple of lowlights when it comes to the well-known 3-on-3 basketball tournament. After all, they've

been competing in them for three years, and this year will compete in 11 different weekend tournaments.

However, this weekend's tourney will hold a special spot in the trio's heart. It will represent the first time they've ever been able to compete in a Gus Macker 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament in their own hometown, Linden.

See **MACKER** on 14

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## TRIATHLON

Continued from Page 13

tion of the race. They all run the same course, but they go against the separate fields. Not that the emphasis is on winning. There are other reasons why people compete. For instance, Fenton's Charlie Handley, 62, ran the event with his daughter Katie Handley, 20. They ran the event together and finished it together.

"My daughter talked me into it," Charlie said. "I've been thinking about doing it for a couple of years. She suggested it and it sounded like a good thing to do."

"It was really cool. I have always wanted to do a tri and it is fun to do it with my daughter."

"It's awesome doing this with my dad," Katie said. "He's always made a big impression on me to get out and being active. It's fun to be able to go out and do it together."

David Magnes did his first triathlon on Saturday and was the first person to finish the race. He ended up fifth overall due to the fact that competitors started in different heats. That meant a person could finish earlier than the actual winner. Magnes finished the three disciplines in 48:03. The actual overall winner was Derrick Fries (46:14), while Ed Nicholson (46:33) was the Male Masters winner, placing second overall.

"I've been an avid bike rider and runner for 30 years and I just never mixed it before," Magnes said. "The issue is I can't swim. I was paddling for quite a bit of time in the swim. I'm a bit stronger than most on the bike."

## Triathlon winners

Listed below are the top performers at the FirstTry Triathlon held at Linden County Park on Saturday.

### FirstTry Results

**Top Male**  
Nathan Shepherd 58:21

**Top Female**  
Diana Balbaugh 59:41

### FastTry Results

**Male Winner**  
Derrick Fries 46:14

**Female Winner**  
Lisa Veneziano 51:35

**Male Masters Winner**  
Ed Nicholson 46:33

**Female Masters Winner**  
Christina Bray 58:46

One can also learn about their ability to thrive despite adversity in a triathlon. A perfect example of this was Erin Ward. Ward wasn't used to using the clip-in shoes for her bike and fell. Yet, she was the female to complete the race and finished second overall among females with a time of 52:45.

"I got to the side of the road and there was a nice two-inch lip and it was all downhill from there," said Ward, who had visible scrapes on her shoulder and knee. "I fell twice trying to come back up."

"I knew I would get up. I knew I'd run my bike in or rip my shoes off. ... I was just thinking about losing my time. That's all I could think about."

The top female was Lisa Veneziano who finished with a time of 51:35. Veneziano finished 12th overall. The Female Masters winner was Christina



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPENS

Rachael Kolodica (left) finished the FirstTry Triathlon with a time of 1:08:15. There were slightly more than 200 athletes who finished the event, including Janet Simpson (right) who finished in 1:44:09.

Bray with a time of 58:46.

The race is open for all ages. There were competitors in the under 13 age class, and some in their 60s. Clarkston's Terry Rosengren, 62, was of them. She's done five triathlons during her career.

"It's fun doing all three different things," Rosengren said. "I used to run

a lot and then I found out it was fun to do all three disciplines. It keeps you cross trained."

The first finisher among the FirstTry competitors was Nathan Shepherd with a time of 58:21. The first female FirstTry finisher was Diana Balbaugh in 59:41.

## MACKER

Continued from Page 13

The first-ever Gus Macker tournament is coming to Linden's Hyatt Elementary School on Saturday and Sunday. Games pitting players of various ages, experience levels of each sex will begin Saturday at 8 a.m. and continue until about 5 p.m. The same schedule will be followed on Sunday.

"It's going to be really nice," Gavin, 15, said. "It's close to home and we don't have to travel an hour to go to it. Last weekend we stayed in a hotel because Ludington (the tournament location they played at last weekend) was so far away."

"Yeah, I'm excited," Blake, 12, said. "This one is going to be more fun than most of them because it's at home."

Each boy will be on his own four-player squad with three playing on the halfcourt at any given time. Linden Community Schools Superintendent Ed Koledo said the equipment for the event has started to arrive, and will be set up starting Thursday morning. By Friday, the baskets should be in place, with teams practicing by that night. Koledo said there are 127 teams registered.

"I'm excited, if you can call it that," Koledo joked. "I am definitely excited and nervous. ... By Friday afternoon the whole site will be ready."

"Gus Macker has done a really good job training the trainers. Everything has gone pretty much according to plan."

Competitors will come from all over Michigan, with some coming from out



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO

Gavin Lund dribbles the ball during a 2014 Gus Macker Tournament on the main court in Belding, Michigan.

of state as well. The Lunds have made some friends over the years, recognizing teams that traditionally go to the same tournaments annually.

"I enjoy when we talk to other teams and get to hang out," Riechen, 11, said. "But when we play them, we want to beat them a little bit."

"There are several teams we play over and over in every tournament we go to, so we kind of like know them," Gavin said. "You kind of have a bond between each other."

The Gus Macker tournament began in driveway in the City of Lowell in 1977. Now, just over 40 years later, the Gus Macker tournament has finally found a place in the tri-county area. The Fen-

ton Regional Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring the event.

The Lund family's passion helped spark the idea. Jason Lund, the son's father, brought up the idea to Koledo who then helped allow the idea become reality.

People certainly love the Gus Macker. Scott McNeal is the face behind the name Gus Macker. He was the creator and the owner. Since the first event, Gus Macker's 3-on-3 halfcourt basketball tournaments have been held in 75 cities all around the United States with over 2.2 million players of all ages and both sexes competing.

McNeal remembers the start.

"The first 13 years we played it in my parent's driveway," McNeal said. "My parent's driveway wasn't massive. Two cars could fit in it and that's about it. We went from 18 players that first year to 30 the second to 36 the third and then it got pretty heated because the money was getting higher."

Games are played up to 15 points with the winner having to earn the victory by at least two points. There is a 20-minute limit to any game if the teams don't reach 15 points. Teams are guaranteed at least three contests, but most play more games than that amount.

There will be parking at the Linden High School campus with a shuttle bus taking people to Hyatt Elementary School. All games are outdoors. Based on a look at the entry list, this tournament will have a distinct local flavor.

Koledo said more volunteers are needed to help with the event. Those who want to volunteer are encouraged to call the Fenton Regional Chamber of Commerce at (810) 629-5447.

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24, 2015

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Perfect for windsurfers, paddle boards and kayaks. Two big storage areas for sails, paddles, beach bags and picnic items. Storage area is lockable. Trailer tows really well, spare tire. \$350 or best offer. 810-629-7710.



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**FOR SALE: '04 HARLEY ULTRA CLASSIC 1550**

Serra red, lace wheels, heated grips, many upgrades. Cover included. Excellent condition.  
\$10,800.  
Call 810-869-1321.

**THINGS TO DO WHEN YOU HAVE LOST OR FOUND A PET...**

1. Place an ad in the Tri-County Times, 810-629-8194.
2. Call your local vets.
3. Register with Adopt-A-Pet, 810-629-0723.
4. Check out previous lost and found pets on the classified section of our website at www.tctimes.com
5. Make posters
6. Call all veterinary clinics
7. Visit all local dog pounds and animal shelters
8. Utilize Social Networking Sites

Don't Give Up! • [www.tctimes.com](http://www.tctimes.com)

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(Print Laminate)

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- Porches
- Patios
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- Powerwashing
- Restoration

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Replacement Work, Retaining Walls, & Bobcat Work  
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**Footings • Decorative**  
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Cell: **810-240-7078**  
Byron, MI

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- New Construction
- Roofing & Siding
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Dan McNeill  
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**735-7967**

**Service Directory**

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Give me a call, I do it all!  
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Wireless  
Internet Service

Tri-County  
**Wireless**  
Internet

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- Hedge Trimming
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- Weeding
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SAND  
**Byron**  
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**BIG OR SMALL**

We Grind Them All!  
SMALL YARD ACCESSIBLE

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**STUMP GRINDING**

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**Smitty's Lawn & Tree Service**

Tree Trimming & Removal  
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OWNER  
**MICHAEL W. SMITH**  
CELL (810) 962-6427  
HOME (810) 208-7589

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**DO YOUR SEARCHING**  
**ON THE GO**  
**tctimes.com**







# Garage Sales

THE TRI-COUNTY  
Times

TO ADVERTISE, CALL 810-629-8194

## Byron



**JUNE 25-27TH,  
8-5P.M.**  
11343 McCaughna Rd.  
Couponer's sale.

## Byron



**THURSDAY- FRIDAY,  
JUNE 25-26TH,  
"SECOND ROUND"  
10-5P.M.,  
PLEASE HONOR  
OUR HOURS**  
13888 Reed Road,  
48418  
(8/10th's of a mile  
south of Beard Road).  
Large indoor barn sale,  
78 year old pack rat.  
Liquidating nine  
booths from  
closed antique mall.  
Tons of collectibles,  
tools, and more.  
Additional items  
added daily.



## Fenton



**JUNE 25TH, 9-5P.M.**  
13455/13420  
Lakebrook.  
50% off most items,  
vintage collectibles,  
all must go!  
13420 estate sale.  
FINAL SALE!

## Fenton



**JUNE 27-28TH,  
9-5P.M.**  
1977 Grange Hall Rd.  
Antiques galore  
and more.  
Like Beyond the Tag LLC  
on Facebook  
to see sales photos.

## Fenton



**JUNE 25-27TH,  
9-3P.M.**  
16465 Jennings.  
No toys or tools!  
Bedding, curtains,  
\$1 items, household,  
barn items and  
miscellaneous.

## Holly



**JUNE 26-29TH**  
9035 Cole Road.  
Furniture, Sun Fish  
Sailboat, wedding  
floral arrangements,  
household items, lawn  
spreader, bicycles,  
antiques, lawn mower.

## Holly



**JUNE 26-28TH,  
FRIDAY, 1-5P.M.,  
SATURDAY/SUNDAY,  
9-5P.M.**  
3040 S. Fenton Rd,  
corner of Fenton and  
Milford Rd.  
Electric dryer, tons  
of Christmas items,  
furniture.  
ITEMS PRICED TO SELL!

## Linden



**JUNE 25-27TH,  
10-6P.M.**  
4301 Lake Farms Court,  
Silver Lake to Pinewood  
Trail. Household,  
antiques and treasures.

## Linden



**JUNE 25-28TH,  
9-5P.M.**  
9250 White Road.  
Sporting goods, guns,  
tools, household,  
antiques, coins,  
stamps, and knives.

## Linden



**JUNE 26-27TH,  
9-5P.M.**  
15391 Seymour Road.  
Huge multi-seller sale!  
Tons of great stuff!  
New and used items.

## Linden



**JUNE 25-27TH,  
9-5P.M.**  
3510 Loon Lake Court,  
off Rolston  
and Jennings.  
Couch, tires  
and much more.

## Swartz Creek



**JUNE 26-28TH,  
8-5P.M.**  
4158 Grand Blanc  
Road.  
Garage sale!  
Furniture, books,  
collectibles, clothes,  
household items  
and more.

## Garage Sales



**SIGN UP  
FOR TEXT BLASTS**  
to receive local  
Garage sale listings —  
Text **GARAGESALE** to  
810-475-2030.

## Obituaries, Funeral Services and Memoriams

### Joan Celeste Sutton

7/4/1938 - 11/5/14

Celebration of Life – Joan  
passed away in Spring-  
Hill, Florida last Novem-  
ber. Our family wishes to



honor  
her life  
here  
in her  
home-  
town of  
Fenton,  
where  
she lived,  
raised  
her five daughters and  
worked most of her life. A  
Celebration of Joan's life  
will be held at The Fenton  
Community Center, 150 S.  
Leroy St., Fenton, Michi-  
gan on Saturday, June 27,  
2015 at 10 AM. A time of  
remembrance will begin at  
11 AM. Please join Joan's  
daughters, Lisa, Patti, An-  
drea, Nicole, Kelli and her  
husband, John to share  
stories and celebrate the  
wonderful and beautiful  
person Joan was.

### Suzanne L. Popovich

1932-2015

Suzanne L. Popovich -  
age 82, of Fenton, died  
Saturday, June 20, 2015  
at Genesys Health Park.



A memo-  
rial ser-  
vice will  
be held  
12 PM  
Monday,  
June 29,  
2015 at  
Sharp  
Funeral  
Homes, Fenton Chapel,  
1000 W. Silver Lake Rd.,  
Fenton. Interment of cre-  
mated remains will follow  
at Great Lakes National  
Cemetery in Holly. The  
family will receive friends  
from 11 AM - 12 PM  
Monday. Suzanne was  
born October 19, 1932  
in Flint, the daughter of  
Walter and Violet Barnes.  
She was a dental assis-  
tant for 40 years and had  
lived on Lake Fenton the  
last 40 years. She was  
an active member of the  
Fenton Garden Club and  
the Vis a Vis Club. Surviv-  
ing are: husband of 52  
years, George Popovich  
of Fenton; two sisters,  
Brenda Abbott of Davison  
and Beverly Cornell of Os-  
coda; two sisters-in-law,  
Maryann Vaydik of Burton  
and Helen Dunham of  
Flushing. Her parents  
preceded her in death.  
Friends may share an on-  
line tribute on the obituary  
page of [www.sharpfuneralhomes.com](http://www.sharpfuneralhomes.com).

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## FUNERAL ETIQUETTE

### 7 THINGS NOT TO WRITE IN A SYMPATHY MESSAGE

#### Shorthand text messages

If you text someone a  
quick note on your cell  
phone you don't come  
across as someone  
who cares enough to  
use paper and pen.

#### Explanation of the death

Don't try to explain the  
person's death. It is  
not comforting.

#### Any mention of replacing the person

Parents who lost a  
child don't want the  
advice that they can  
try again.

#### Personal sad stories

This isn't about you.

#### Humor

Save the funny quotes  
and quips for later,  
after the person has  
enough time to grieve.

#### Negative comments about the deceased

Never write anything  
negative about the  
person who has  
passed, or you'll  
appear cold and  
unfeeling.

#### Inheritance

This is not the time  
to discuss what the  
deceased left to his or  
her heirs.

Source: [etiquette.about.com](http://etiquette.about.com)

## MAKE YOUR GARAGE SALE SUCCESSFUL

Place a classified ad in the Tri-County Times

**\$36**  
one issue  
\$54 for 2 issues

#### CLASSIFIED AD INCLUDES:

- 20 word line ad with color photo
- Times online Featured Top Ad
- Text blast to our subscribers
- 5 garage sale signs
- 250 stickers
- Tip sheet
- \$3.00 off coupon for your next line ad

**Times (810) 629-8194**

[www.tctimes.com](http://www.tctimes.com)



WEDNESDAY SUDOKU

	1	3	4				7	
	5				6	9		
4				8				1
	6				4	3		
7				2			9	5
		2	3	1			8	
		5			9			2
3			8			7		
	4		5	3			1	

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

Answer in this Sunday's edition of the Tri-County Times

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21 to April 19)

Although you don't like to change plans once they're set, once again, you might find that doing so can make a big difference in your favor. Family matters dominate the weekend.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)

You continue to get encouragement for your proposals, including some support from unlikely sources. Use this positive flow to move forward with your plans. Good luck.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20)

Family matters are dominant this week. It's a good time to be with those you love. It's also a good time to contact and reunite with loved ones with whom you've lost touch.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22)

Be careful not to allow differences of opinion to create unpleasant feelings, especially in the workplace. A neutral observer could check out the situation and suggest a resolution.

LEO (July 23 to August 22)

While the Lion's Den is the center of attention this week, with family matters dominating much of your time, workplace issues are also important. Try to find a balance between them.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22)

The future of a new relationship could depend on how much the usually impatient-to-get-things-done Virgo is willing to stop pushing and let things happen naturally.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22)

Worry over a loved one's well-being is eased with good news from a sympathetic source. Your continued show of love and support is important. Stay with it.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21)

This is a good time to consider mending fences with someone you wish was back in your life. Forget about blame, and focus on the good things you once shared.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21)

This is a good week to start researching information regarding whatever changes you're considering, whether it involves a new home, a new location or a new job.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19)

A long-anticipated job opportunity could turn out to be less than you expected. But appearances might be deceiving. Check it out before you decide it's not for you.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18)

Good news: Adapting to a new situation might come more easily than you expected. You can look for continued support from colleagues who appreciate your contributions.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20)

Someone you care for might need more reassurance from the typically "unemotional" Pisces. Go ahead. Open up, and you might be surprised at what you find when you do.

WEDNESDAY JUMBLE

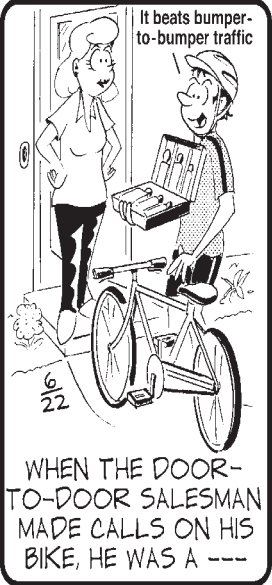
Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

DANGL

VASUE

CURPSE

GETRUD



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: "  -  "

Answer in this Sunday's edition of the Tri-County Times

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

KING FEATURES

ACROSS

- 1 Throws in  
5 Tatter  
8 Wound cover  
12 Tide type  
13 Compass dir.  
14 Corn concoction  
15 Severe decline  
17 Dermatologist's case  
18 As found  
19 Singer Sophie  
21 Youngster  
22 36-Across segment  
23 Blue  
26 "Charlotte's —"  
28 Make into law  
31 Old portico  
33 Homer's interjection  
35 Arizona river  
36 Variety show  
38 Talk on and on  
40 Back talk  
41 Advantage  
43 Sweet potato's kin  
45 Sunscreen, usually  
47 Complained bitterly  
51 Bedouin

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
18								19	20			
				21				22				
23	24	25		26		27		28			29	30
31			32		33		34		35			
36				37		38		39		40		
			41		42		43		44			
45	46						47			48	49	50
51					52	53						
54					55				56			
57					58				59			

- 52 Sports fans' party venue?  
54 Astronaut Armstrong  
55 Conclude  
56 Sharpen  
57 Mete (out)  
58 Deli loaf  
59 Despot

DOWN

- 1 Opposed  
2 Campus bigwig  
3 Raised platform  
4 Divided  
5 Considered  
6 Blackbird  
7 Fellows

- 8 What "this clue" needs  
9 Mixed drink  
10 Boleyn or Bancroft  
11 "Cheers" serving  
16 Pack away  
20 Guitar's cousin  
23 Georgia's ex-status (Abbr.)  
24 Chowd down  
25 Overlap  
27 Marsh  
29 Roman 151  
30 Spigot  
32 Within

- earshot  
34 Outing on a wagon  
37 Id counter-part  
39 False god  
42 Go in  
44 Possibly will  
45 Crow's-nest cry  
46 Sandwich treat  
48 Neighbor of Cambodia  
49 Sicilian spouter  
50 Antelope's playmate  
53 Whatever amount

Answer in this Sunday's edition of the Tri-County Times

DVD RELEASES

SURVIVOR

After being mysteriously framed for a terrorist bombing, a Foreign Service Officer must evade government capture and death by a ruthless assassin in order to stop the real perpetrators' master-and much deadlier-plan.

PG-13, 1 hr. 36min.



THE FORGER

A second-generation petty thief arranges to get out of prison to spend time with his ailing son by taking on a job with his father to pay back the syndicate that arranged his release.

R, 1 hr. 32 min.





**VG's**  
grocery

# SAVE 50¢

PER  
GALLON  
ON GAS

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Thursday, June 25 through Saturday, June 27



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\$75\* or more on  
Groceries in one  
transaction with



Limit 1 offer per transaction with yes  
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Throughout the Day

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Ground Beef**  
VALUE PACK



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lb.



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Pork Loin New York Chops**

buy 1 pkg., get 1 pkg.  
**free**  
OF EQUAL OR LESSER VALUE



Sweet  
Cherries

Northwest  
Rainier  
Cherries  
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lb.



**\$2.49**  
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or Ultra Thin  
Sliced Cheese  
(6.67 - 8 oz.) or  
Individually Wrapped  
Singles (12 oz.)

**3/\$6**



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or  
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Products**  
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or 8 pk., 12 oz. btls); or  
Pepsi-Cola  
(8 pk., 16.9 oz. btls.)  
(plus deposit)

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When you buy 2  
Lesser or Greater  
Quantities \$4.99



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Mini  
Watermelon  
or Tuscan  
Melon  
each**

**2/\$5**



Save Now Through June 27, 2015.