PICNIC TIME

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

Summer is the perfect time for putting delicious food and beverages in a picnic basket, sitting outside on a blanket with your sunglasses, and enjoying the Michigan weather.

Although fewer people are going on picnics these days compared to years ago, one local volleyball group is defying the norm by having a few picnics every summer.

Misty Gerometta of Linden is part of the Dirty Tuesday Volleyball Group, which gathers every Tuesday and Friday in Fenton’s Bush Park to play volleyball.

About once a month, they bring their favorite foods and spend all day playing volleyball, throwing a football around, occasionally having water fights with squirt guns, and other activities. Memorial Day was the last picnic they had. They used to have picnics the first of every month, but everyone was too busy.

“Our is based on activities, keeping busy, having fun,” Gerometta said. “We have a common interest and spend all day doing it. We have so much fun we don’t ever look at the watch,” Gerometta said.

Food is an important part of these picnics. Everybody brings their favorite food as a potluck.

Gerometta said they can always count on Sue Wing to bring delicious food.

Wing, of Fowlerville, has done many potlucks and she said, “Always bake something that feeds a lot of people. I’m all about that quick and easy.”

Some of the dishes she makes includes corn cake casserole, cherry berry crunch, sloppy joes, cheesy potatoes, and no-bake cookies. Watermelons are also a big hit. “Those come from fresh produce markets,” she said.

Wing has been baking for 30 years, but doesn’t eat a lot of what she makes. She just likes to bake... “We just basically eat and then we play,” Wing said. “It’s fun.”

While growing up, her family would go on picnics with a basket and a blanket. Over the years, she’s realized people go on picnics less and less. Although, when she and a few family members were going through Wing’s late mother-in-law’s house, they found an old-fashioned picnic basket. Her 18-year-old relative wanted it. “It was just amazing to see that she wanted it,” she said.

PICNIC TIME

One local group still packs a picnic basket

DID YOU KNOW?

Actor Lee Majors, known for many performances, including “The Six Million Dollar Man” was born in Wyandotte.

The highest range of mountains in Michigan are The Porcupine Mountains.

Detroit native Robert Wagner starred as the suave crook, Alexander Mundy in the show “It Takes A Thief.”

Lapeer derives its name for the corruption of two French words, LaPiere (the stone).

Supermodel and actress Christie Brinkley, was born in Monroe on Feb. 2, 1953.

Harry Morgan, who played Col. Sherman Potter in the long-running TV series M*A*S*H was born in Detroit.

All Simplicity sewing patterns in the world are produced in Niles.

Michigan ranks 19th in the U.S. in food processing, with more than 300 different agricultural commodities grown and raised on 55,000 farms.

LOK FOR MORE MICHIGAN FACTS THROUGHOUT THIS SECTION

MICHIGAN-made products found locally

Welch’s Jams
Teta Foods
Jack Daniel’s sauce
Classico pasta sauce
Koegel Meats
Bill Knapps
Better Made potato chips
Lay’s Chips
Garden Fresh chips and snacks
Bay’s English Muffins
Dean Foods
Minute Maid
La Croix sparkling water
Spartan Brand
Yoplait Yogurt
Source: vgs.spartanstores.com

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Main Street USA

Sunday, June 28, 2015

3
Compiled by Vera Hogan
vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823
According to many of comedian Jeff Foxworthy’s rants, you might live in Michigan:

**IF YOU CONSIDER** it a sport to gather your food by drilling through 18 inches of ice and sitting there all day hoping that the food will swim by, you might live in Michigan.

**IF YOUR LOCAL** Dairy Queen is closed from November through April, you might live in Michigan.

**IF SOMEONE IN** a store offers you assistance, and they don’t work there, you might live in Michigan.

**IF YOUR DAD’S** suntan stops at a line curving around the middle of his forehead, you might live in Michigan.

**IF YOU HAVE** worn shorts and a coat at the same time, you might live in Michigan.

**IF YOUR TOWN** has an equal number of bars and churches, you might live in Michigan.

**IF YOU HAVE** had a lengthy telephone conversation with someone who dialed a wrong number, you might live in Michigan.

**IF “VACATION” MEANS** going up north on I-75, you might live in Michigan.

YOU KNOW YOU’RE A TRUE MICHIGANDER IF:

**YOU MEASURE DISTANCE** in hours.

**YOU KNOW SEVERAL** people who have hit a deer more than once.

**YOU OFTEN SWITCH** from “heat” to “A/C” in the same day.

**YOU CAN DRIVE** 65 mph through two feet of snow during a raging blizzard, without flinching.

**YOU SEE PEOPLE** wearing camouflage at social events, including weddings.

**YOU INSTALL SECURITY** lights on your house and garage and leave both unlocked.

**YOU DESIGN YOUR** kid’s Halloween costume to fit over a snowsuit.

**YOU THINK DRIVING** is better in the winter because the potholes are filled with snow.

**YOUR IDEA OF** creative landscaping is a statue of a deer next to your blue spruce.

**YOU WERE UNAWARE** that there is a legal drinking age.

**YOU THINK DOWN** south means Ohio.

**YOU KNOW YOU'RE** A TRUE MICHIGANDER IF:

**YOUR NEIGHBOR THROWS** a party to celebrate his new pole barn.

**YOU GO OUT** to a fish fry every Friday.

**YOUR FOURTH OF** July picnic was moved indoors due to frost.

**YOU HAVE MORE** miles on your snow blower than your car.

**YOU FIND 0** degrees “a little chilly.”

“**IF you have worn shorts and a coat at the same time, you might live in Michigan.**”

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**KEEP YOUR DOLLARS ON Main Street**

- Spend your dollars at local independent businesses for the best ‘bang for the buck’ in town

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

With an ever-increasing number of places to shop in the tri-county area, more and more people are choosing to keep their shopping dollars at home, where they will contribute to the health and vitality of the community.

Sharon Dorland of Fenton Township shops at many stores in the tri-county area, trying to keep her dollars at home in her own communities where she feels they’ll do the most good.

“If I can find it in town, I’ll buy it in town,” said Dorland, a busy retiree and local artist.

In Fenton, she enjoys shopping at VG’s Grocery and Billmeier Camera, where framer Kelly Smith does all of Dorland’s mat work. She loves to stop in for a treat at Sweet Variations downtown and loves Crust—a baking company, The Laundry and Mancino’s Pizza & Grinders. Another favorite stop is Ecllections.

When she’s in Linden, she enjoys grocery shopping at Alpine Marketplace where she says the smaller atmosphere creates a friendly, convenient place to shop.

See MAIN STREET on 13

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**1.** You build relationships and friendships between business owners and customers and there’s a psychological lift that makes it more enjoyable to shop at independent stores. There aren’t huge crowds and most sales people are satisfied with their jobs, passing along a pleasant, helpful attitude to customers.

**2.** There’s a community spirit that comes with strengthening your town with your own dollars. Local businesses are owned by people who live in your town, go to church with you, whose kids go to school with your kids, etc. When you spend your money in local stores and restaurants, you truly are supporting your neighbor, rather than an out-of-town corporation.

**3.** If you shop at a local independent bookstore like Fenton’s Open Book, Liz’s Used Book Store in Fenton or Past Tense Books in Holly rather than buying your books on the Internet, you can enjoy browsing through shelves of books and get author and book recommendations from the bookseller. You’ll also enjoy book signings and author “meet and greets,” as well as sharing a passion for reading, with people you know.

**4.** Because of the popularity of today’s Main Street shopping and strong city neighborhoods, your dollars will also keep your property values up. Lively, vibrant neighborhoods with local shopping areas are considered an advantage in the real estate market.

**5.** You’ll create jobs. Local businesses create local jobs.

**6.** You’ll find unique items. “Every time I wear something from Ecllections, I get compliments,” said local shopper Cindy Breeding of Linden.

**7.** When shopping in your community, the dollars you take out of your wallet will help support schools, police and fire departments.

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**MICHIGAN FACTS**

**DID YOU KNOW?**

The Mackinac Bridge is five miles long.

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Beyond cars, Michigan is also home to many top industries and manufacturers

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

Detroit is known nationwide as the Motor City and the Big Three automakers are still proud to have their headquarters in this state. While Michigan still produces more cars and trucks than any other state, there’s more to Michigan than vehicles.

Our state is also home to a number of other diverse industries, from advanced manufacturing to defense, freshwater technology, medical devices and agriculture.

Michigan’s agriculture is second only to California in diversity and dollars. Pumping $101 billion into the economy and more than a million employees, Michigan’s agriculture products are a huge segment of the economy.

Michigan’s dairy industry is ranked No. 2 in the U.S. Livestock, greenhouse and nursery products are also important industries. Michigan is also one of the leading producers of apples, blueberries and cherries in the U.S.

Interestingly, Michigan is the second largest grower of Christmas trees in the U.S. and provides more diverse varieties than any other state.

Some of our nation’s most well-known and respected companies are headquartered right here.

You may not know it, but every time you relax on a La-Z-Boy recliner, you’re supporting the Michigan company that bears its name, based in Monroe since it was founded in 1928.

When you cook dinner in your oven or wash your clothes in a washer, chances are you are supporting Michigan-based Whirlpool Corporation, located in Benton Harbor. Its diverse brands include Whirlpool, Maytag, Jenn-Air, KitchenAid and Amana, among others.

Office furniture and contemporary interior furnishings by the Herman Miller Company have been headquartered in Zeeland since 1923.

Stryker Corporation, based in Kalamazoo since its founding in 1947, is a Fortune 500 medical technologies firm. If you’ve had joint replacement or trauma surgery, it’s likely you’ve used some of their products.

Other huge Michigan-based companies include Amway, American Axle & Manufacturing, Auto-Owners Insurance, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Comerica Bank, Eaton Corporation, Kmart, Spartan Stores, to name just a few.
Michigan-made hat takes customers ‘by storm’

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

The iconic look of today’s Michigan-made Stormy Kromer caps started out as more function than fashion back in 1903. That was the year this Midwestern company was founded, when Ida Kromer stitched a baseball cap-style hat for her husband George “Stormy” Kromer to wear for his outdoor job on a windy locomotive.

Soon these hats were all the rage and three ladies in a run-down building in Kaukona, Wisconsin tried to keep up with the demand. The company re-located to a larger facility in Milwaukee, where they experienced the ups and downs of Depression years, health issues and finally, the passing of the founder and years of new leadership.

Almost a century later in 2001, Bob Jacquet, the owner of Jacquart Fabric Products in Ironwood in the U.P., heard that the Stormy Kromer factory was going to be shut down due to declining sales. One month later, he opened the Stormy Kromer Mercantile in its new Michigan home, and the rest is history.

Bringing the Stormy Kromer story even closer to home is Kevin Begola of Bridge Street Exchange — A Gentleman’s Emporium in downtown Linden. The Stormy Kromer brand has been one of his store’s most popular staples.

“These hats are iconic to Michigan,” said Begola. “It’s like driving a Jeep; you see each other wearing a Stormy Kromer hat and say, ‘nice hat’.”

Begola appreciates the quality of the Stormy Kromer brand, which has now extended into vests, coats, shirts including a line of for women. “We get a lot of women in here for the hats,” he said.

It’s also deeply personal for Begola. “I’ve got a lot of history with the brand and my father-in-law’s from Ironwood.”

That’s why you’ll find Stormy Kromer products proudly displayed at Bridge Street Exchange in a prominent position at the front of the store.

Another selling point for Stormy Kromer is that their caps come with a guarantee. According to their website, customers can register their Stormy Kromer cap with its unique serial number found on the white label inside the cap. If your cap is lost, stolen or destroyed within three years of the date of purchase, the company will replace it at 50 percent of the current price, plus applicable shipping and taxes, with no questions asked.

“The quality is there,” said Begola. “It’s an awesome brand.”
SAY ‘YUM’ TO THESE MICHIGAN-BASED FOODS

Our state is home to many popular everyday meals, beverages and snack brands.

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

You can eat Kellogg’s cereal from Battle Creek for breakfast, topped with Country Fresh milk from Grand Rapids for a snap-crackle-pop start to your day. Later on, you can enjoy Flint-made Koegel hot dogs and Better Made Potato Chips for lunch.

For a Michigan-based dinner, chow down on an Ann Arbor-based Domino’s Pizza, with Keebler cookies, headquartered in Battle Creek, for dessert.

Whatever the time of day, there’s a popular national brand that is headquartered in Michigan. Food processing in our state is a big business, pumping $25 billion into the economy and employing 130,000 residents each year, according to farmers-care.com.

Michigan ranks 19th in the U.S. in food processing, with more than 300 different agricultural commodities grown and raised on 55,000 farms.

Here are a number of very popular, well-recognized food products made by companies headquartered in Michigan:

Better Made Potato Chips — founded in 1930 in Detroit where they continue to be made today using Michigan potatoes 10 months of the year.

American Spoon Foods — this Petoskey-based business got ahead of the artisan food craze when they opened in 1982. The fruit used is grown by Michigan farmers and is still prepared in small-batch copper kettles.

Kellogg’s — this multi-national food manufacturer with 96 percent of its cereal and snack products sold and produced in the U.S.

Pioneer Sugar — labeled under Pioneer or Big Chief, this sugar is locally produced by sugar beet farmers. It’s the only remaining sugar company in Michigan and is the third largest in the U.S., with plants in Bay City, Caro, Croswell and Sebewaing.

Kool-Aid — a line of flavored drinks that has been around since 1927 and is still produced in Michigan.

Domino’s Pizza — second only to Pizza Hut in U.S. sales, Domino’s is headquartered in Ann Arbor.

Keebler — the world’s largest cookie and cracker manufacturer, founded in Philadelphia in 1853 and headquartered in Battle Creek.

Jiffy Mix — this market share leader in retail prepared muffin mixes was established in 1901 at the Chelsea Milling Company in Chelsea, and is still produced there today. Jiffy is one of the few food companies that still offers free tours.

Kar’s Nuts — this company was founded in 1933 by peddling nuts and snacks outside Tiger Stadium. Now manufactured in Madison Heights, Kar’s sells its nuts and snacks throughout North America in grocery stores, convenience stores and club stores.

Country Fresh — this Grand Rapids dairy has been producing milk and related products since 1946.

Gerber — founded in Fremont in 1927, where it’s still made today, capturing 83 percent of the U.S. baby food market.
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Sunday, June 28, 2015

THE TASTIER THINGS IN LIFE

Make it your mission to visit these wineries and breweries this summer

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

With 11 wine and beer trails, the people of Michigan know how to celebrate the tastier things in life.

Tri-county residents have many local options of wine and beer at The Laundry, the Fenton Winery & Brewery, the Fenton Fire Hall and supermarket options. However, the best way to experience wine and beer in Michigan is to go on an adventure to visit these wineries and breweries.

Fenton Winery & Brewery

If you want to support local businesses, visit the Fenton Winery & Brewery and sit in the brewery while trying different wines, beers and appetizers. They recently moved to their new location on Long Lake Road, just west of Fenton Road, and expanded the menu to include pizza. Home brewing equipment is available for purchase at the retail store, connected to the restaurant.

For more information, visit fenton-brewery.com.

Address: 1370 North Long Lake Rd, Fenton

The Laundry

This local favorite features the Lynchpin Beer Company, which handcrafts ales. With seasonal brews, and beer rotations, The Laundry regularly offers new and different beers, all with interesting names. The restaurant aims to complement the beer or wine with food to provide customers with a delicious meal, from food to drink.

For more information, visit lunchandbeyond.com.

Address: 125 West Shiawassee Ave, Fenton

Fenton Fire Hall

One of downtown Fenton’s most popular new restaurants has 48 beers on tap, a gluten-free menu, and food made in a wood fire grill. More than 50 beers are available in a can or bottle, ensuring guests can find what they want. It also features excellent views of downtown Fenton with rooftop access and eating outside.

For more information, visit fenton-firehall.com.

Address: 201 South LeRoy St, Fenton

Chateau Aeronautique Winery

This winery, rated with 4.9 stars on Google, with an airpark theme is modeled after the wineries in Bordeaux, France. They offer tasting room hours from noon to 6 p.m. seven days a week.

See TASTIER on 11

THE TASTIER THINGS IN LIFE

Chad Brennan, co-owner of The Laundry, pours a beer from one of three in-house Lynchpin taps.

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See TASTIER on 11
Fenton Winery and Brewery Owners Matt and Ginny Sherrrow have a seven-barrel brewing system in their North Long Lake Road location in Fenton Township.

**TASTIER**
Continued from Page 10
from May 1 through December 31. Special events are held throughout the season. Dry and sweet wines are available.

For more information visit, chateauearonautiquewinery.com.

Distance: 78.8 miles, 1 hour and 16 minutes
Address: 1849 Rives Eaton Rd., Jackson

**FOUNDERS BREWING CO.**
As one of the most popular breweries in Grand Rapids, Founder’s takes a unique approach to beer and caters to the few, rather than the many. They offer seasonal, specialty, year-round, and limited beer, as well as educational classes on their products. People can learn Beer 101 every third Tuesday of every month and take part in a sensory evaluation the second Tuesday of every month.

When visiting or shopping online, anyone can buy Founder’s accessories and apparel. Their beer has won numerous awards like the European Beer Star in 2013 and a Good Food Award in 2014.

For more information, visit foundersbrewing.com.

Distance: 125.4 miles, 1 hour and 50 minutes
Address: 235 Grandville Ave. SW, Grand Rapids

**BELLS BREWERY**
The famous Oberon beer is mainly located in Kalamaazoo at Bell’s Brewery, along with many other delicious options. The 30th annual Funvitational Beer Festival will feature more than 100 beers, local food, live entertainment, and games. Bell’s Eccentric Cafe, also located in Kalamazoo, offers 30-40 different craft beers on tap, along with delicious food.

For more information, visit bellbeer.com.

Distance: 135.3 miles, 2 hours and 3 minutes
Address: 355 East Kalamazoo Ave, Kalamazoo

**2 LADS WINERY**
This winery offers more than just delicious wine — it offers an experience with $5 tasting flights, tasting party accommodations, and tours. The private tours will take guests through the winemaking process, starting with the grapes and ending at the bottle of wine. The in-depth private tastings allow for a more personal experience. Wine Club members receive two shipments of wine a year, and get discounts, and complimentary tastings and tours.

For more information, visit 2lwinery.com.

**MICHIGAN FACTS**
**DIID YOU KNOW?**
The Indian words michi-guma, from which Michigan is derived means “big water” or “great lake.”

**MICHIGAN WINE AND BEER TRAILS**

- West Michigan Wine and Beer Trail
- Holland Area Hops, Grapes and Cider Trail
- Grand Rapids Wine Tour
- Grand Rapids Beer Trail
- Holland Area Hops, Grapes and Grains Tour
- Makers & Shakers Trail
- Give a Craft Beer Trail
- Lake Michigan Shore Wine Trail
- Southeast Michigan Pioneer Wine Trail
- Wineries of Michigan’s Old Mission Peninsula

**FOOTBALL FACTS**
- Earned a scholarship to Michigan State University to play football.
- Was a wide receiver for the Spartans.
- Played in the NFL for several years.
- Retired from professional football and returned to Michigan.
- Started a successful football camp for youth.

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1437 N. LEROY ST. (ACROSS FROM VG’S)
Our state’s huge recreational boating industry creates niche for boat manufacturing

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

With more than half of Michigan comprised of water, including more shoreline than any other state except Alaska, it’s no wonder that this state is also home to a huge recreational boating industry.

Michigan is also home to a number of successful boat companies, including: Avalon Pontoons — manufactured in Alma since 1974, Avalon still prides itself on Midwestern craftsmanship and attention to detail. Nearly all of their parts are manufactured in-house and are built to meet and exceed National Marine Manufacturers certification. They are for sale locally at Lake Ponemah Marina in Fenton.

Four Winns — manufactured in Cadillac, along with Glastron, Scarab and Wellcraft boats, these companies are part of Groupe Beneteau, one of the world’s largest boat manufacturers. Locally, Four Winns are sold at Skipper Bud’s Marina and at the Traverse City location of Action Water Sports, with a location here in Fenton. Glastron boats, Scarab jet boats and Wellcraft boats are sold at Wilson Marine in Brighton.

Mastercraft — boat engines for boats sold at Action Water Sports in Fenton are “marinized” by Ilm-ore, a master engine manufacturing plant in Plymouth, adding another Michigan dimension to a USA-made product.

Paddle King — made in Carson City, Paddle King’s boat inventory includes aluminum paddle boats, pontoons, swim rafts and floating docks, all hand built in Michigan. Locally, they are sold at Action Water Sports in Fenton.

Apex Pontoons — this St. Louis, Michigan company caters to the compact pontoon market. Locally, these pontoons are sold at Wilson Marine in Brighton.

These are just a few of the Michigan boating manufacturers who have successfully created a niche for themselves in Michigan’s competitive boat building industry. For a complete list of Michigan boat manufacturers, visit: www.usboat-builders/Michigan.

Local wooden kayak builder Lou Farhood of Linden was featured in the Tri-County Times on May 22. Search: wooden kayaks on tctimes.com to read full article.
What makes your business unique?

“The diversity of people we’re able to help with such a wide range of services. We offer everything from orthopedic massage to hair design. Also, we’re a business that was created and sustained by women.”
— Jamie Swett, manager/massage therapist, Serendipity Wellness Spa, Linden

“We’re a family-owned, family-run tavern, serving up really good burgers!”
— Rob Chapin, cook Andy’s Place, Holly

“We have such a broad range of products, from custom glass shower doors to commercial/residential glass, auto glass, insulated glass replacement, screens and more.”
— Brian Petty, owner Fenton Glass

“We concentrate on spa services rather than hair salon services, to create a serene setting for our customers.”
— Jenny Stithwell, owner Elements Day Spa, Holly

“We offer service, by taking the complexities of kitchen design and simplifying it for our customers.”
— Michelle Robins, owner Linden Kitchen & Bath

“We have something for everyone, from Brighton handbags and jewelry to Vera Bradley, plus trendy clothing and fun accessories — all at different price points. We get to know our customers and they become like family.”
— Nicole McCurdy, owner Eclections, Fenton

These women have found out through experience that shopping locally is not only beneficial for the community, it’s fun. Every experience is unique and different, rather than a cookie-cutter shopping and buying experience.

When you’re looking for a “gal pal” shopping day, look no further than our own tri-county communities and treat yourself to the best your town has to offer.
THE TIMES
GOING STRONG SINCE 1953

One of the few family owned newspapers left in the country

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

Richard Rockman, Sr., founder of the Tri-County Times, didn’t set out originally to become a newspaper publisher. He actually dreamed of one day becoming a professional football player, having played semi-pro football for Bob Beach, owner of the Fenton Independent and Ray Hunt of Hunt-Smith Insurance Agency.

Beach, whose Fenton Independents were Michigan champions, gave Rockman, a teen-aged fullback, a job sweeping the floors at his newspaper office. Soon, Rockman was setting type and two years later, was promoted to foreman. He would in years later become Beach’s competitor.

In 1953, Rockman purchased his first newspaper, the Linden Leader. About 950 copies were printed on a hand-fed newspaper, the Linden Leader. About 950 copies were printed on a hand-fed press. “I never was any good at working for anybody else,” he said during his 50th year celebration in 2007. “I wanted to be my own boss. So I made myself the owner, not the publisher.”

He was only 23 years old at the time. Rockman later purchased the Grand Blanc News and operated it for two years before selling it to start a shopping guide called the Tri-County Advertiser. It would later become the Tri-County News Advertiser, and ultimately the Tri-County News.

Once a broadsheet publication, the Tri-County News switched over to the current tabloid-style in 1969.

It was about this time that Rockman developed his no-nonsense, hard-hitting editorials that became his trademark. Though his columns started out being called “Rotten Apples” or a “Bouquet of Roses,” whatever the case was at the time, the name was later changed to “Straight from the Shoulder.”

The Tri-County News’ last downtown office site was in the last building to be torn down during Urban Renewal. In fact, Rockman remembers wrecking crews...
TIMES Continued from 14

knocking down an adjacent building while he and his staff were trying to put out an issue of the paper. The office had already been moved twice to stay ahead of the wrecking ball.

Later, the Tri-County News moved to the newly built Fenton Mini-Mall, which Rockman owned with long-time business partner Dean Moore.

Over the years, the Tri-County News enjoyed steady growth, becoming a newspaper readers came to rely upon for all their news and information.

Although physically located in Fenton, Rockman takes pride in the fact that the newspaper has always covered not only Fenton, but Holly, Linden and the surrounding communities. “We’re just a Fenton paper,” he once said.

Due to a variety of circumstances, Rockman decided to go into retirement and sold the Tri-County News to a Detroit media group in 1989.

In April 1994, after a year-long legal battle with the media group owners, Rockman came out of retirement and took back ownership of his newspaper through court action—renaming it the Tri-County Times.

In 1996, Rockman decided to make another move and constructed a new facility on Fenway Drive in Fenton’s multi-million dollar industrial park. The doors to the new facility opened for business in January of 1997.

Realizing that the newspaper must keep up with rapidly changing technology, Rockman authorized the launch of the newspaper’s popular website, Times Online, at www.tctimes.com.

In September of 1999, the Tri-County Times, which was distributed on Sundays only, added a second weekly edition. The Wednesday Midweek edition is mailed to subscribers only.

Rockman’s sons have all been an integral part of the business over the years, including active roles in the subsidiary companies — Rockman & Sons Publishing, Allied Media and Tri-County Wireless.

Due to the growth and success of Rockman’s companies, it was necessary to construct yet another facility on Fenway Drive, adjacent to the original building. The Tri-County Times and Tri-County Wireless moved into the new, state-of-the-art offices in December of 2006.

“As one of the very few privately owned family newspapers left in the United States, we face challenges every day from multi-billion dollar corporations,” Rockman said in 2007. “I may be just a little guy to them, but this is my home and I will stay here as long as the residents and businesses continue to support me. I’ve had to fight for everything my entire life, I’m sure as hell not going to stop now.”

Sadly, Rockman did stop, when he lost his battle with illness on March 2, 2011. His passing was a huge loss to his family, friends, employees and the community. But thanks to his family and a dedicated staff, the newspaper continues publishing successfully as he would have liked.

The Rockman family continues to own and operate the Tri-County Times.

“We’re very fortunate to have a talented and dedicated staff at the Times who operate the paper as if it were their own. They are the individuals responsible for the Times being awarded ‘Michigan Newspaper of the Year’ for past three years.

It’s basically the same staff that worked with dad for so many years,” said Craig Rockman. “Dad would be as proud and appreciative of them as we are.”
SUMMER FUN
CLOSE TO HOME

Summer is prime vacation season when travelers take trips to every corner of the world. While faraway destinations abound, those looking for fun can also find enjoyable activities much closer to home.

People looking for a day of entertainment or an evening of excitement may be able to find an event that’s just a short car ride away. Pick up a local newspaper or log on to your town’s official website to browse a listing of events in your community this summer. Here are a few events you’re bound to find.

CARNIVALS AND FUN FAIRS:
Open land or empty parking lots can be transformed into bustling carnivals in a matter of days. Carnivals or fairs may be sponsored by private businesses or local religious organizations looking to raise funds. Some fairs are established by the county and attract participants from near and far. Carnivals often boasts a wide array of entertainment, from amusement park-style rides to games of chance to music.

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES:
Summer concerts series typically begin when the weather warms up, and music may not stop playing until Labor Day.

FOOD FESTIVALS:
Various towns close down their main streets from time to time to accommodate food festivals that feature a variety of cuisines. Some food festivals may feature one ingredient, such as garlic or cheese, while others may delve deeper and offer broader menus. Food festivals allow visitors to sample many different treats and may serve to advertise for neighborhood eating establishments.

STREET FAIRS:
Street fairs also may close down thoroughfares in town. These events usually bring together a variety of vendors selling their wares in an open market setting. You can make a day of touring all of the vendor booths and buying handmade items from local artisans.

OUTDOOR MOVIES:
Local parks frequently host summer movie nights when participants can view a movie on the big screen while under the stars. This can be an informal way to get the entire family together for a fun flick.

A little construction won’t stop Fenton music lovers from heading downtown Thursday nights. The popular Fenton Concerts in the Park series is held at Millpond Park, next to City Hall, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. For information on July’s line-up of performers, see the July 1 Midweek edition of the Tri-County Times.

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Dr. Scott McDowell, O.D.
Today is our fourth year of operations. We have seven employees and make products that are now used all over the world.

Rory Scheving
Owner of Tri-Tec Polymers in Holly

SUMMARY
If you have an air compressor in your garage or use other products found at Sears, The Home Depot or Lowe’s, you may be using a manufactured part that was made right here in Holly.

Tri-Tec Polymers was founded in January 2010 by Rory Scheving, to meet the need from a long-time friend, Brad Sekulich at Tri-Tec Seal. During the recession, a major supplier of Tri-Tec Seal was going into bankruptcy, so Scheving stepped in with his own new company to provide the raw material needed to make its rotary lip seals.

This raw material is known by a lay person as Teflon, which is actually DuPont’s trade name for Polytetrafluoroethylene. PTFE comes in bulk power or pellets and has to be compression-molded and sintered in ovens overnight to create the PTFE billets that Tri-Tec Seal machines into PTFE elements for its rotary lip seals. Tri-Tec Polymers’ first sales were in 2011 after all the equipment was purchased and put into place. “Today is our fourth year of operations,” said Scheving. “We have seven employees and make products that are now used all over the world.”

Consumers may have Tri-Tec Polymers’ parts in items they have purchased, or in the transmission in their cars. “Not only do we make the PTFE material for Tri-Tec Seal, but we also make finished parts like compressor piston rings and automobile transmission rings,” said Scheving.

He’s proud that his company now makes the piston rings for the Bostitch compressor, which used to be made in China. “Stanley Black & Decker was having problems with the Chinese piston rings, so they asked me if I had the capacity to make the rings in my plant,” said Scheving.

The company then moved their assembly line to the U.S. and is using Tri-Tec Polymers’ piston wings, which solved their warranty issues.
Pressmen John Davenport and Mike Sweeney (right) assess folded copies of the Midweek Times as they leave the 12-machine press at Grand Blanc Printing. Defective copies early in the run are tossed into a bin on the right.

WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN MISSING?

If you haven’t been receiving the Midweek Times, local events, breaking news and so much more are passing you by

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

Have you ever gotten up early on a Saturday morning ready to hit all the local garage sales only to find that half of their items were sold to earlier customers? Chances are those early-bird shoppers knew about the garage sale ahead of time because they saw the listing in the Midweek Times, which is mailed and delivered to subscribers only on Wednesday of each week.

Garage sale listings are just one feature of the Midweek Times that are extremely popular with Times’ readers. These listings also appear in the Weekend Times, as well as tctimes.com.

While everyone either loves or hates the Hot lines in the Sunday paper, those who also receive the Midweek issue see a whole different batch of Hot lines.

For those looking for political opinions at the national level, readers need not go any further than Page 4 of the Midweek Times, where they will find nationally syndicated columnists Bill Press and Cal Thomas.

Another popular feature of the Midweek Times is the “Ask the Judge” column. Each week Genesee County District Court Judge Mark McCabe answers readers’ questions, explains how various laws work, or gives his opinion on cases that influence American citizens.

While the Michigan Votes feature is in

MICHIGAN FACTS

DID YOU KNOW?
The name of Henry Ford’s estate in Dearborn is called “Fair Lane.”

MICHIGAN FACTS

DID YOU KNOW?
Bob Eubanks, best known for hosting the successful TV game show “The Newlywed Game,” was born in Flint.

Times named top Michigan weekly for third consecutive year.

For many, browsing the obituaries is very important. Friends and family members appreciate reading about the lives of loved ones who have died, and to find out about funeral arrangements.

The local sports scene is also important, especially to the young athletes in the Times coverage area. Sports Editor David Troppens always features interesting stories about local teams and athletes.

Lastly, those who enjoy reading their horoscopes, finding out what DVDs have recently been released or testing their knowledge with crossword puzzles, will find these features in the Midweek Times.

To subscribe to the Midweek Times, call (810) 629-8282 or go to www.tctimes.com.
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