

Dibbleville businesses still suffering

■ Streetscape construction taking its toll on downtown merchants

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

Getting a new sidewalk might not be too thrilling, unless you own a business in downtown Fenton.

Several Dibbleville businesses have been waiting patiently for work on the Streetscape to be done so they can get back to normal, but it has been difficult and their businesses have suffered as a result.

Carol Schuler, owner of Sweet Variations at the corner of Shiawassee Avenue and South LeRoy Street, said her business has suffered. "They're getting started on putting the sidewalk in, so there is a light at the end of the tunnel," Schuler said.

See **DIBBLEVILLE** on 12A



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Laborers with Champagne & Marx Excavating work on the sidewalks adjacent to The Laundry as diners eat their lunch on Wednesday. Dibbleville businesses are still hurting during the Streetscape construction that cut off LeRoy Street at Mill Street this week.

Can't get to the Fenton post office?

■ There are 14 USPS mail drop boxes that you can use

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

The streetscape construction is affecting the U.S. Post Office on LeRoy Street two fold, said Rob Phillips, supervisor of customer service.

Customers are having trouble reaching the office, but the mail carriers also are having problems, and tampering with mail is a federal offense.

See **MAIL** on 14A



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

This USPS drop box is located at the Fenton Kmart.



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

Victim's husband charged with open murder

■ Remains of former Linden woman found in burning car

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com

Erich Wilfinger, the husband of Marsha (Sargent) Wilfinger, 54, who was found in the back seat of a burning car on June 20, has been charged with one count of homicide-open murder. He was arraigned Friday, June



Marsha Wilfinger

26 in Montmorency County District Court.

He has a probable cause hearing on July 10.

Shortly before midnight on Friday, June 20, 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's Briley Township, east of Gaylord.

See **MURDER** on 7A

Fenton school district looking for new leader

■ Tim Jalkanen resigns at Monday night school board meeting

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

The Fenton Board of Education will be taking applications through July 6 from candidates interested in becoming the district's interim superintendent. This is due to Tim Jalkanen's resignation last Monday night and his request that his contract not be renewed effective immediately.



Tim Jalkanen

SUMMARY

■ Tim Jalkanen resigned from his position as the superintendent for Fenton Area Public Schools, effective immediately. He will remain working for the district on a consulting basis.

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 Shapiro turned over the floor to Jalkanen.

See **LEADER** on 6A

Son's legacy helps college-bound students

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com

Brad Stone didn't have a chance to go to college.

However, thanks to the love, dedication and generosity of his parents, Jeff and Sharon Stone, many other students do have that chance.

Brad died from compli-

cations of an asthma attack at the age of 12 on July 1, 2000. He had just finished the sixth grade in the Lake Fenton school district.

To honor the memory of their son, Jeff and Sharon have been hosting the "Brad Stone Summer Classic"

See **LEGACY** on 18A



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Golfers, many sporting their new orange tourney hat, converge on Fenton Farms Golf Club last Saturday. Nearly \$12,000 was raised at the Brad Stone Summer Classic charity golf outing. Proceeds will be used for college scholarships for Lake Fenton High School graduates and Eastern Michigan Hockey Association hockey players.

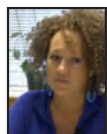
"We do it to carry on his legacy of helping other kids achieve their dreams."

Sharon Stone
Brad Stone's mother

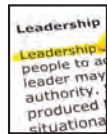
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"Nothing better demonstrates the level of deception and deceit that the rabid loonies on the left will go to in order to champion a cause than the white woman who faked being black in order to be the president of the NAACP. She is the norm, not the exception."



"Even in these highly PC-corrupted times, we should not be electing a president based on race or gender, but on their credibility and qualifications. It didn't work out with Obama and it won't with Hillary either. The world is in chaos. We need a true leader."



"Illegal immigrant kills two cops in cold blood, where is the outrage from liberals? Why are they not screaming for 'immigrant' control? Hypocrites."



tctimes.com
COMMENT OF THE WEEK

"Donald Trump is polling high right now, like all new candidates. But ultimately he will make some outrageous statement and the media will destroy him. Too bad, a fiscally intelligent president would be a nice change from 16 years of Bush and Obama."

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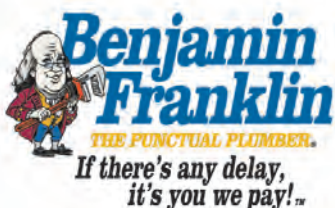
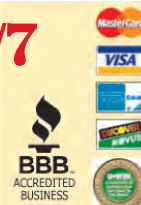
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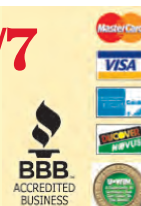
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Healthier food trends

■ Customers drive shift toward more natural grocery products

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Linden — If you're buying bottled water instead of pop, you're part of a national, healthier trend.

Out of 52 packaged food and beverage companies, 12 of the major companies announced lower revenue this past year than in 2013, according to a USA Today news article.

The biggest decrease in revenue was Mondelez, which split from Kraft, with a 5.5 decrease from 2013. Mondelez produces brands like Oreos, Kraft Philadelphia Cream Cheese, Nutter Butters, Gevalia coffee, Honey Maid graham crackers, Sour Patch Kids, Trident gum, Wheat Thins, and many other brands.

Kellogg's cereal, which makes Pop Tarts, Nutri-grain bars, and a wide variety of cereal, dropped 2.7 percent from 2013.

See **FOOD on 9A**



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | HANNAH BALL

Nancy Odett from Linden doesn't usually buy pop, but she's buying some for company. "If I'm drinking pop, I'm drinking Vernors," she said. "I like to buy locally grown produce. Usually I go to the farmers market. The one in Fenton is great." Here she is selecting some snacks.

“I definitely see more of a trend toward natural and organic.”

Marv Yono
Alpine Marketplace Owner

Decreases in grocery revenue since 2013

Coca-Cola	1.5%
Coca-Cola Enterprises	2.5%
Mondelez	5.5%
Kellogg	2.7%
Molson Coors	4.2%
Seaboard	3.4%
General Mills	2.6%
Seneca Foods	1.5%
J.M. Smucker	0.4%
Tootsie Roll	0.2%
Pepsico	0.2%
Kraft Foods	0.1%

Source: americasmarkets.usatoday.com

HOLLY LONGEST MARKET DAY



Ellie, 7, and Wyatt Anpach, 9, play with puppies for adoption at the Adopt-A-Pet tent on Saturday.

TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

This year, the Longest Market Day in downtown Holly expanded with 60 vendors, a beer tent and live entertainment, but according to organizer George Kullis, attendance suffered because it was held on Father's Day weekend. The market is a fundraiser for Holly Dickens Festival, which generates funds from booth rentals. Still, Kullis said the vendors want to come back — as long as it's not held the same weekend as Father's Day next year.



Visitors check out "Not Too Fine," a booth with handcrafted goods by Mike Wolf and Lea Morse.



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How to win any argument

I have a friend whom I will call Carl (Carl is not his real name, his real name is Bob). Carl likes to argue. Not debate, deliberate or discuss — but argue. If you don't believe me, just ask either of his remaining friends.

I recently interviewed Carl on the art of arguing and asked him for a few tips to share with my loyal readers. Here are Carl's 7 rules for winning any argument:

1: Make up complex statistics — For example, you're attending a party and some twit is expounding upon the merits of municipal bonds vs. junk bonds. Carl would say, 'Recent statistics that I just made up unquestionably prove that per annum pre-tax profit, when adjusted for infla-

tion and revised tax benefits, clearly favors junk bonds when your post-taxation mean level is a quasi-multiple of a prime number.' Mr. Twit will generally excuse himself to use the restroom.



2: Use confusing mixed metaphors — Carl simply waits patiently until Mr. Twit shows the slightest hesitation and then says, 'Benjamin Franklin once said, 'No man is an island who cannot live on bread alone.''

3: Quote famous people — Carl would say (in a condescending tone), 'Well, I happen to agree with Bill Gates, who said in a recent address at the 'Dial-Up Internet' convention...' If Mr. Twit attempts any sort of rebuttal, Carl simply responds, 'Don't change the subject.'

4: Use a lot of ambiguous phrases. To wit:

- I suppose anything is possible.
- i.e., that is, as it were on the QED
- Be that as it may
- Illi conchas eruptio-

ne vendit ad oram maris innumerabilis. (*Latin for: Sally sells seashells by the seashore.*)

5: Impugn Mr. Twit's character. Carl would say, 'Hmmm — I find it very interesting that Jesse Jackson, Janet Jackson, Tonya Harding, O.J. Simpson, Homer Simpson and Jessica Simpson all feel exactly the same as you do.'

6: Get personal. In the rare event that all is lost and Carl's opponent is clearly getting the best of him, Carl simply frowns slightly, leans over to the closest bystander and stage whispers, 'Man, can you believe how much this guy looks like Willie Nelson?'

7: Most importantly, always prepare for an argument by consuming liquor. If you're consuming some prissy mineral water drink you'll probably be bored by a bond debate and walk away.

But if you're on your fourth Pina Colada you'll likely have very strong feelings about bond investing. With the help of alcohol, you'll argue your point aggressively — possibly aggressively enough to break a lamp, a nose or an irreplaceable antique heirloom.

The upcoming holiday weekend should offer a plethora of opportunities to hone your newly acquired arguing skills. Have a happy and argumentative Fourth of July and keep in mind that old adage: *If you drink a fifth on the Fourth, you won't come forth on the fifth.*

Column originally published in 2010. Opinions offered in If I Were King are the author's alone and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Tri-County Times or its staff. Email the King at king@tctimes.com. Some content adapted from the internet.

Hot lines

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

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

USUAL OVERREACTION FROM the left. The confederate flag didn't murder anyone, a lunatic did. How much longer are we going to stand by and watch them use every tragedy to further erode our constitutional freedoms? Stand up and speak up people.

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.

HAVE YOU SEEN the new list of quotes from President Obama? There are 20 quotes over the last six years from him where he praises Islamic religions and Muslims. There are also 20 other quotes where he criticizes Christians.

AS A UNION member I am extremely disappointed with President Obama. The trade agreement he just signed is a kick in the teeth to all the workers who have supported him for six years. Good-bye to more American jobs. Typical back-stabbing politician. I will remember in November.

RATHER THAN POP the politicians one on one and running the candi-

dates down, tell me, what are they going to do for the middle class? What are they going to do for Social Security and Medicare. How about trade? Is trade going to take our jobs? Tell us about that. I don't give a rat's fanny about what some crummy politician has done in his personal life. I want to know what you're going to do for me and the rest of middle-class America.

IS IT MY imagination or is Fenton exploding commercially? The question now becomes, "is this really in the best interest of the residents, or just the giant tire companies, chain restaurants, big box stores and other corporate interests?"

WORDS CANNOT BEGIN to describe the disappointment and anger at the decision to terminate IB. How shortsighted a decision. How do you spell recall?

IF YOU DISLIKE the huge blue dumpsters left at your home — and have no place to store them — and don't want your property appearance to deteriorate, call your local township and tell them to pick them up. We did, and the dumpsters will be gone soon.

LET'S SEE, THE Jolly Rodgers pirate flag is OK to fly, even though it represents rapists, murderers and thieves. Slaves were brought here on ships under our own red, white and blue, not a rebel battle flag! My confederate

flag will never come down! Never.

RED LIGHT CAMERAS don't bother me at all. I don't run red lights because it's wrong. I think a good place to put them would be South East and South Holly. Have a good day.

IT IS EXCITING to see the Fenton Streetscape coming together. However, in order to attract people to shop in the area, there needs to be more places to shop. A city ordinance to enforce first floor storefronts to be retail only would encourage the revitalization of the downtown shopping.

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I FEEL THE U.S. population is not educated with the real meaning of the Confederate flag. Look it up and know your facts before you start bashing history. It's the uneducated people and news media that start situations like what is going on now with the Confederate flag. History, people.

YESTERDAY I WAS met in my driveway by two large, blue, hideous garbage cans. Fenton Township and Republic Trash Company should be ashamed of themselves for forcing this upon the public. It is ruining the landscape because for many people they aren't even stored in their garage. People need to rebel now.

See **HOT LINE** throughout Times

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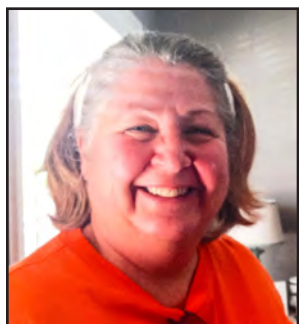
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Compiled by Alexei Rose, intern

What has caught your attention in the news lately?

streettalk



"The fires in Alaska, because I have relatives there."

— Gaye Horn
Clarkston



"All of the wrong things that shouldn't be in the news, like the Kardashians and violence."

— Betty Griswald
Fenton



"The revitalization of Detroit. When I moved to Florida, Detroit was on a decline and seeing it come back is heartwarming."

— Susan Vorobel
Holly Township



"School board and superintendent resigning, along with teacher layoffs in Fenton."

— Melanie Barker
Grand Blanc



"How much crime there is in the streets, because there are too many people shooting each other."

— Dennis Sims
White Lake Township



"All the killings that have been happening, because it's a stupid way to calm things down."

— Alice Granger
Flint




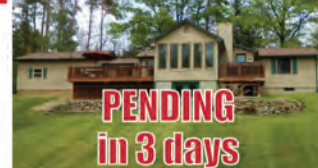












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<p> Lake Fenton Waterfront</p>  <p>12119 Margaret Drive, Fenton • \$320,000</p>	<p> Lake Fenton Waterfront</p>  <p>2265 Sonora Dr, Fenton • \$300,000</p>	<p> Lake Ponemah Waterfront</p>  <p>14264 Eastview, Fenton • \$270,000</p>	<p> Warwick Hills Golf Course</p>  <p>NEW LISTING 6072 Rolling Green, Grand Blanc • \$267,500</p>
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LEADER

Continued from Front Page

"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's contract was not set to expire until June 2016. He has been the superintendent in Fenton for five years. On Tuesday, he started working for the district as a consultant, which he will do through mid-February 2016, if necessary.

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 lone dissenting vote.

"Actually to me that whole vote was a vote just to be voting," Hopper said Wednesday morning. "If someone resigns or wants to leave, there's nothing anybody can really do whether you say 'yes' or 'no.'"

"I basically said 'no' because I like the gentleman and think he was doing a good job for us,"

"I basically said 'no' because I like the gentleman and think he was doing a good job for us."

Lynn Hopper
Fenton Board of
Education member

Hopper added.

Jalkanen denied having been asked to resign.

"No, I'm leaving voluntarily," Jalkanen said. "My family and I will be pursuing other options. 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 has been seeking other opportunities for the past few months. He has been among the top contenders, interviewing for superintendent positions in the Avondale, East Detroit, Hazel Park, Romeo and Waterford school districts.

Hopper said the Fenton board knew of Jalkanen's plans to leave.

"He has been keeping us posted that he has been interviewing," he said. "He loves Fenton and loves everything about Fenton. But he wants to be closer to his family and his twin boys, and not have to drive as far as he's driving."

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.

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.

House Bill 4122: Repeal state film producer subsidies

To repeal the program that gives Michigan tax dollars to film producers. Since 2008, some \$500 million has been distributed to producers. This week's votes send the bill to the Governor for approval or veto.

Passed 24 to 13 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):	DID NOT VOTE
Sen. Ken Horn (R-Dist. 32):	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES

House Bill 4325: Establish overspending public school "early warning system"

To require school districts to submit their annual budget projections and assumptions to the state each July, and establish a process of review and concurrence involving intermediate school districts. Non-concurrence would trigger reporting and oversight requirements. Related bills would require funding be withheld from districts that fail to reduce their overspending.

Passed 25 to 12 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):	DID NOT VOTE
Sen. Ken Horn (R-Dist. 32):	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES

House Bill 4328: Authorize withholding state money from overspending school districts

To give the Department of Treasury the authority to withhold state school aid payments from an overspending school district that fails to submit an acceptable "deficit elimination plan," or that then falls more deeply into financial trouble.

Passed 25 to 12 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):	DID NOT VOTE
Sen. Ken Horn (R-Dist. 32):	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES

House Bill 4329: Authorize emergency manager for chronically overspending school district

To authorize appointment of an Emergency Manager for an overspending public school district that fails to comply with the deficit reduction plans and procedures required by House Bill 4325 and related bills.

Passed 25 to 12 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):	DID NOT VOTE
Sen. Ken Horn (R-Dist. 32):	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES

House Bill 4273: Eliminate February election date

To eliminate the February election date authorized by a 2003 election consolidation law which required all regular elections in the state to be held on either the last Tuesday in February, or the Tuesday after the first Monday in either May, August, or November.

Passed 30 to 7 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):	DID NOT VOTE
Sen. Ken Horn (R-Dist. 32):	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES

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Area schools doing repairs, construction over summer

■ Security to be ramped up at Fenton schools

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

With tri-county schools on summer recess, school leaders are overseeing multiple improvement projects that will benefit students when they return in the fall.

Fenton Area Public Schools

Fenton schools are upgrading security over the summer, installing cameras and entry vestibules. The high school is getting new lockers and a new energy-efficient pool cover. Construction for the projects began on Monday June, 15.

For security, the renovated entry vestibules will have new locks, said Doug Busch, executive director of personnel and finance at Fenton Area Public Schools (FAPS).

"There's going to be a computerized entry system," Busch said. Staff members will have swipe-card access. The school will be able to electrically lock down all the doors or unlock certain doors, and put the locks on a timer. Visitors will need to be buzzed in during school hours.

"It just gives us a lot more flexibility in terms of security," Busch said. The district will install 200 total security cameras throughout the buildings.

"This will allow us to have cameras in every building," Busch said. The number of cameras per school varies based on the school size and layout of the building. "That's something that we have always wanted to do as a district is upgrade our safety and security," he said.

Money for the security systems came from an \$11 million bond initiative that was approved by voters in May 2014, which also is paying for new buses, computers, and other technology.

Construction on State Road Elementary is also going on over the summer. "This will allow us to have a safer and easier traffic flow and allows us to have more parking," Busch said. Construction will also fix the draining issue and install energy-efficient light posts. Construction started June 15.

Other construction includes new lockers in the varsity locker room in the high school, and a new energy-efficient pool cover.

Lake Fenton Community Schools

A few projects will be completed at Lake Fenton schools, and most are paid for by the district's sinking fund, which is a little over \$400,000, said Wayne Wright, superintendent of Lake Fenton schools.

West Shore Elementary will receive a new roof that should be completed by the Fourth of July. "It has a lot leaks," Wright said. The old roof was a ballasted rubber



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Workers with Beyer Roofing install Dura-Last on the roof of West Shore Elementary in the Lake Fenton school district on Wednesday. Summer vacation is when school districts catch up on improvements and repairs.

roof, and the new one will be made out of Duro-Last.

Construction will also be done to help correct traffic flow during pick-up and drop-off time. There's "major backup. It's backed up all the way to the hill on Torrey," Wright said.

A new driveway entrance to Torrey Hill Intermediate off Torrey Road is being paid for by the sinking fund. People will be able exit onto Torrey as opposed to exiting only on Lahring Road.

Ceiling tiles and lights will be replaced in a few classrooms at the middle school. "The ceiling tile is very old, very stained, lights are very dimmed. They've been there for many years," Wright said. The drain issue will be fixed.

Other funds will pay to fill in the cracks and seal the blacktop at West Shore Elementary and Torrey Hill Intermediate. New parking lot lines will be painted.

Linden Community Schools

The driveway at Linden Elementary will be expanded, said Ed Koledo, superintendent of Linden schools. It will include an individual right-turn lane and left-turn lane to fix the crowding issues during drop-off and pick-up times. Repairs will also be done on an underground storm drain. These projects cost around \$31,000.

Central Elementary is getting a new roof, costing around \$200,000. The current roof, made of asphalt, is past its life expectancy, Koledo explained, and has been patched multiple times with limited success. It will be replaced with newer materials, single-ply PVC, which is what most of the roofs in the district are made of.

The parking lot by the administration building will be repaved and expanded.

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.

Marsha Wilfinger owned and operated a cleaning business for many years. She is survived by three adult children, two sons and a daughter, and three grandchildren.

A celebration of life will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, June 27, at Snapper's on the Water, 6484 Bennett Lake Rd., Fenton.

DENTAL TIP — OF THE WEEK —

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MURDER

Continued from Front Page

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

Marsha Wilfinger's death has been investigated as a homicide. 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 a 9and10.com report,



ASK THE MECHANIC

Chris Wilkinson,
Certified Mechanic

Q: I have a 2000 Dodge Neon which recently started a humming noise. It didn't affect anything on the driving, just the noise. However, after pulling out of my house it started jumping and making a loud sound, almost like something was falling off the car. Nothing is hanging down, nothing is falling off. It doesn't matter if I'm hitting the gas or brake. It will only do it once in a while. Today, while driving around town, it only did it once. I noticed that if I'm pushing the brake when it happens, the pedal does jump a little. The whole car jumps but doesn't seem like its shutting off or anything. I can't get it into a mechanic until next week and wondered if there is something I can do myself. Please help. -Crystal

A: Crystal, This sounds like a wheel bearing to me, but could be other things like an axle shaft, steering, suspension or brake problem. The way it sounds I would not recommend driving the car until you are able to have someone look at it. To check for a bad wheel bearing, you will need to jack up the front end and support with jack stands. Then, grab the top and bottom of the wheel, trying to move it in at the top and out at the bottom. Go back and forth, you will need someone to look behind the wheel to see where the movement is and confirm that the lower ball joint or tie rods are not loose. Sometimes a wheel bearing will not show any movement and we need to run the vehicle in drive while it is jacked up, listening with a stethoscope for noise. Be very careful if trying this, as we need to get the wheels spinning up to 60 mph sometimes to hear the noise.

Do you have a question that you would like to have answered? E-mail it to me at: askthemic@wilkinsonautorepair.com



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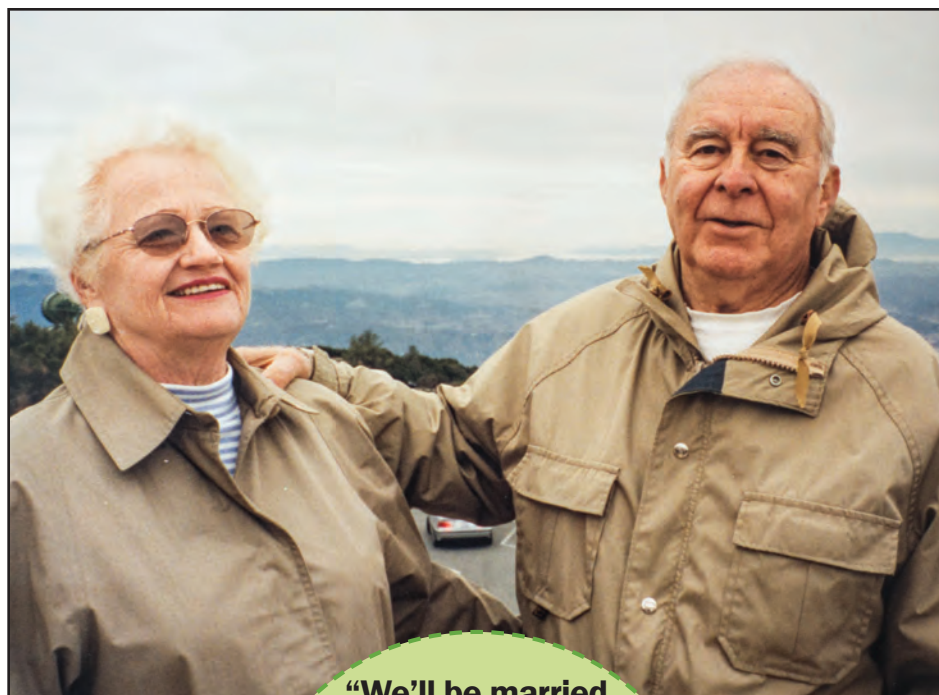
- Parade Grand Marshal
- Developer of Industrial Park
- Avid traveler

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Nick Popa, 86, will represent Fenton as Grand Marshal of the Fenton Freedom Festival Parade on Saturday, July 4 at 10 a.m. He and his wife, Donna, will be honored at the Grand Marshal Adult Reception this Friday, July 3 at the Fenton Community & Cultural Center at 8 p.m.

How did you get involved in the development of the city of Fenton? Donna and I moved to a house on Outer Drive in Fenton from Redford Township in 1956, when I took a new position in engineering and development at Sutter Products in Holly. Fenton was having problems with its water and I became a thorn in the side of Harry



"We'll be married 64 years in August. I married my best friend's sister. We lived across the street from each other in Detroit when I was 10 and she was a little bitty thing of 7."

Nick Popa
Grand Marshal of Fenton Freedom Festival Parade

TRI-COUNTY TIMES

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Nick and Donna Popa have done a lot of traveling since his retirement in 1995. Here, they are pictured on a trip to Bavaria.

Leman, who put me on the Planning Commission. I became chairman and helped plan Fenton's future land use.

What accomplishments are you most well known for? Tom Kunding had a business where Sweet Variations is today and he grew out of the building. I suggested he go out by U.S. 23, which had just been built. He bought the first 40 acres on the expressway, then wanted to buy another 40 acres next to his property and asked me to be his partner. In 1966, we bought the next 80 acres, then bought land on the other side of the expressway, adding another partner, Dr. Henry Phillips, a local optometrist. That was the beginning of the Fenton Industrial Park.

Thirteen guys got together to organize a new bank, First National Bank of Fenton, where First Merit is today. At 35 years old, I was elected chairman of the bank. We sold it to Bank One in the 1980s.

When did you start Epic Machine? I started it in '78, after deciding I wanted to work for myself. I sold it to one of my employees, Mike Parker, a talented machinist, in '94 and I retired in '95.

What about the Silver Parkway development? My two partners and I bought the land, then sold it to a group from Milford, and we ended up getting it back on a default loan. Eventually, we sold the land to Talon Development Group and they developed Silver Lake Village in '94. Kmart was the first big sale. Donna and I kid around that the house we live in now (on Plumtree Lane) is 'the Kmart House - the house that Kmart built!'

On a more personal note, how did you meet Donna? We'll be married 64 years in August. I married my best

friend's sister. We lived across the street from each other in Detroit when I was 10 and she was a little bitty thing of 7. When I got out of the Army after going to Korea, we got married in '51. Her brother had bought a '98 Olds in 1950, then got drafted into the Army. Donna ended up driving his car while he was gone. I told my best friend, 'Well, brother, I married your sister while you were gone and took your car on a honeymoon.'

What have been some of the highlights of your life? We're very close to our daughters and their families, Debbie Teachworth, a retired nurse, who lives in Midland with her husband, Gary. They have two grown children. Our other daughter, Janet Gardner, a retired CPA, lives south of Jackson with her husband, Chip. Both our daughters will be riding in the parade with us.

We've also traveled a lot, including our favorite trip, a month in New Zealand with three couples. We've hiked in Switzerland, Bavaria, Alaska and Hawaii. I also traveled a lot for business. I've got two plastic knees to prove it.

We love our church family at Fenton United Methodist and have lots of good friends there.

What would you like to be remembered for the most? The Industrial Park, because it helped the city tax-wise.

What is something about you that most people don't know? I never really had a dad growing up. I had a lot of breaks in my life that I was smart enough to take advantage of.

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NAKED DRIVER SURPRISES
SHOPPER IN PARKING LOT

A 53-year-old Fenton Township woman got an eyeful when she was placing items that she had just purchased at a store on Owen Road into her SUV on Thursday, June 18 at 7 p.m. The woman reported to Fenton police that an older black Toyota car pulled up closely to her parked vehicle. As she looked through the passenger window of the car she was surprised to see that the older man driving the car was completely naked. The man said nothing while he stared at the woman for several seconds. The man then drove away very slowly, providing time for the woman to write down the license plate number, which she provided to police. Police made contact with the man and the woman has taken part in a phone lineup. The case remains under investigation and charges are pending.

LOCAL MAN INJURED IN HIT AND RUN

A 53-year-old Fenton Township man was injured in a hit and run crash in Howell Tuesday, June 23 at 3:58 a.m. while on his way to work. According to the Livingston County Sheriff's Department, the Fenton Township man was driving an Oldsmobile eastbound on Grand River, near Latson Road, when his vehicle was struck by another vehicle. The other vehicle did not stop and fled the scene prior to the responding deputy's arrival. The injured man declined transport to the hospital. His heavily damaged vehicle was towed from the scene. If anyone has information about the other vehicle, which also sustained damage, they are to call the sheriff's department at (517) 546-2440.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

DID YOU NOTICE that the assassination of two on-duty police officers was hardly mentioned on the news? If the black man who murdered them had been killed instead, it would have been the lead story for days.

REGARDING THE CONFEDERATE flag situation, How about the Mexican flag being flown in Arizona and L.A.? How about rap music, which denigrates women and shows hatred toward whites?

LIBERALS SHOW THEIR hypocrisy at every turn. It's OK to desecrate the American flag but flying the Confederate flag is hateful.

THIS WEEK'S INSERTS

- Alpine Marketplace
- CVS Pharmacy
- Holly Foods
- Kmart
- Mainstreet USA
Featured Section
- Rite Aid
- Sears Hometown Stores
- Target
- VG's
- Walmart

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

ARGENTINE HAS RASH OF CAR
BREAK-INS

The Argentine Township Police Department is investigating a rash of car larcenies. Chief Dan Allen said between June 15 and 25, police have received 10 complaints. Two residents on Peninsular Drive reported that items were stolen from their unlocked vehicles on June 15 and 16. Another resident on Cole Road reported that items were stolen from their unlocked car on June 20. The majority of break-ins occurred on Rolston and McCaslin Lake roads. Items stolen included a 40-caliber pistol, laptops, phone chargers, GPS units, knives, CDs, books and loose change. All vehicles involved were unlocked. Police are urging residents always to lock their car doors. Police are finding that if a vehicle is locked, the thieves will just go to the next car, hoping it is unlocked. Rather than waiting for police station office hours to call in a suspicious circumstance, residents are urged to call 911 immediately if they see any suspicious individuals walking around or unknown cars parked in random locations. Argentine police will check out every 911 call at any time of day.

FOOD

Continued from Page 3A

Coca-Cola saw a decrease of 1.5 percent in revenue. The company produces Minute Maid, Vitaminwater, Sprite, Fanta, Fresca, Powerade, Fuse Tea, and many other products. Coca-Cola Enterprises in Europe saw a decrease of 2.5 percent.

The nation is buying healthier food and one local store is proving that.

Marv Yono, owner of Alpine Marketplace, said he sees a healthy trend. Alpine customers are buying more local and Michigan-made products as opposed to canned and processed foods.

"I definitely see more of a trend toward natural and organic," he said. "Customers are educating themselves more, reading labels more." He thinks the pressure from this trend pushed Kraft to announce that it's not putting any artificial ingredients or color in their macaroni and cheese.

"I think it's a very good thing," Yono said. "It puts pressure on manufacturing to offer the highest quality."

Alpine purchases produce mostly from Spartan and from other local places.

"There's been a big boon in locally made Michigan products like sausages, home-made snacks, that type of thing. Natural and

organic snacks are really taking off. Local and organic produce is a really big thing, too. I'm always looking for produce with the best quality," Yono said. Fewer people are buying canned meats and processed foods, he added.

Since purchasing Alpine in 2007, he said the store has changed a lot, including better food.

"For the most part, we offer such better quality now and our customers really respond to that. That's been the biggest change.

"We always make sure we get the newest products in that are available," Yono said.

Looking forward 10 years, he thinks people will buy less and less processed canned meats. However, Alpine doesn't align with the 1.5 percent decrease in Coca-Cola revenue.

"I haven't seen a decrease in pop sales. I don't know if fewer people are drinking it, but our numbers are up from last year but that doesn't mean as a whole the population has gone down. We just might be getting more customers," he said.

Customers are buying more craft beer that's locally produced, though. "The whole locally-made movement has really gotten big. They appreciate local products," Yono said.



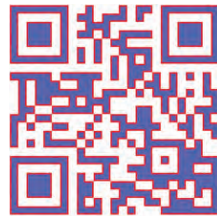
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5438 Ray Road
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12129 Carmela Drive
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6344 Robins Nest
Linden Schools - \$207,999
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10090 N Fenton Rd
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9348 Burning Tree Dr
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1215 Crystal Point Circle
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428 Otter Run
Holly Schools - \$185,900
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3066 Wynns Mill
Lake Lapeer - \$875,000
Private Peninsula, 3 Beds, 3.5 Baths, 4.8 Acres & 3,513 Sq. Ft.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

TWO ISSUES OF the Times newspaper have published since the hideous new trash cans were delivered and no negative Hot lines! I can't believe it. It is obvious the Times doesn't want negative comments about local government. Many people are storing them outside — looks like a back alley in a slum.

■■■■ **ONLY SHEEP WOULD** allow rulers to pass life-changing laws like Obamacare but exempt themselves from it. Why do we not declare that we will vote for no incumbent until he or she votes to abolish their aristocratic health care?

DRIVERS USING THE exit 80 expressway overpass, just to cross over the rail tracks and Silver Lake Road and then immediately exiting, please use your turn signals so that drivers on the expressway know what your intentions are. We can't tell if you are merging or exiting.

THANK YOU FENTON school board for voting to implement the IB Committee's recommendations. Thank you for being willing to make the tough choices necessary to work within the current budget. Please know that many parents and community members respect, support and agree with your decision.

■■■■ **HOT LINE POSTERS** have been giving good advice to delete or click to the 'spam' folder unsolicited emails. Additionally, do not click 'unsubscribe.' Many email addresses are randomly computer generated. By clicking unsubscribe, you will give them verification that you have a valid email address. The result: more spam emails.

■■■■ **PRESIDENT OBAMA IS** desperate for a nuclear arms deal with Iran. For a good deal, you need to be willing to walk away. If you are not willing to walk away, you will be walked on. Kowtowing to China for its support is another mistake.

NOTICE ARGENTINE TOWNSHIP

Please be notified that the Argentine Township Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Meeting on Monday, July 6, 2015 at 7:00 P.M. at the Argentine Township Hall, 9048 Silver Lake Rd, to consider the following Variances:

Tracy & Jeff Rimarcik, 16205 Whitehead are requesting a Variance for Rear Yard Setback to build a garage addition. Described as 01-35-526-291, Lot 263 and half of lot 264 Argentine Park, Lobdell Lake.

Chad and Natasha Jones, 7387 Haviland Bch Dr are requesting a Variance for Side Yard Setbacks to build onto the existing home. Described as 01-36-501-002, Lot 2 Haviland Beach.

A complete copy of these tax descriptions may be viewed at the Township office during regular office hours.

Denise Graves, Clerk
Argentine Township

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*WAC Offer expires July 31, 2015



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELLO

OHM Construction Technician Tony Barile walks the line of fresh sidewalk across Shiawassee Avenue on Wednesday. Many downtown businesses now have dirt, or temporary walks as the Streetscape project unfolds.

DIBBLEVILLE Continued from Front Page

Sweet Variations will not be open on the Fourth of July, a Saturday, but only because of previously made plans.

"The parade isn't coming down this way anyway, so there's no point (in being open)," she added.

Because of the ongoing Streetscape project, the parade has been rerouted to start farther west than in previous years, at Industrial Way, which leads to the industrial park and Owen Road. It will travel east and take a turn left on Adelaide, avoiding much of the downtown.

Tara Wakeman, co-owner of The Iron Grate, will also be closed on Saturday, July 4, but will be open on Sunday, July 5, from 12 to 4 p.m.

"We're anxious for it to get done," said Wakeman of the project. "They're actually pouring cement (Wednesday) right in front of our shops," she said. "They're getting closer. It's going to be nice when it's all done."

Most of the downtown businesses have back doors, which customers may use to enter their establishments. They also remind customers that parking is permitted on South LeRoy Street, south of their establishments. The municipal parking lot can be accessed easily by going in the back way.

“They’re getting started on putting the sidewalk in, so there is a light at the end of the tunnel.”

Carol Schuler
Sweet Variations owner

In his weekly Streetscape update, Assistant City Manager Mike Burns said, "We are starting to see the Streetscape Project take shape."

Burns was unsure of what day in the next week or so when work will occur at the bridge, but when it does, the bridge will be closed.

"The public will be notified prior to the work beginning," he said.

Burns said the contracting company has apologized for the recent road closures but believed it was necessary to expedite the curb installation and lining of the sewers.

There was signage indicating the road closures, however, barricades were kept open due to the large number of construction trucks entering and leaving the site for

the "tedious work required installing the curbs," Burns said.

"They understand this caused confusion, but they utilized their work force to keep construction moving rather than stationing them to keep the construction zone closed," he said.

Burns asks that the public be safe and mindful of their surroundings in the construction zone.

Despite the construction project, regular Fourth of July activities near the downtown and at the Fenton Community Center will continue as in previous years.

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

The State Bank President and CEO Ron Justice sits for an interview for the bank's first video produced by the Times, released this week.

The State Bank looks to the future

■ The State Bank builds relationships to promote each community's growth

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

The State Bank has a history of more than 100 years of community banking in the local area, but it's a vision of the future that is creating excitement for The State Bank today.

"We're excited about the scope of what's happening in our communities," said Ron Justice, president and CEO of The State Bank. "We can look across the street at the Cornerstone building and down the street at the Fenton Fire Hall and see very recent examples of our relationship banking."

The State Bank is owned by its shareholders and is the only remaining bank with its headquarters in Genesee County. "We make decisions locally," said Justice. "We're here in the community where we know you. We approach our clients from that relationship perspective."

Offering a full line of competitive financial products, The State Bank can be your financial partner during any stage of your life, whether you're a young saver in school or you're retired and ready to relax.

The State Bank's Wealth Management

Department recently celebrated its 25th anniversary. "We can create a package of products that will meet your individual needs," said Justice. "Many people don't know we offer a full line of Wealth Management client services to help you in your estate planning and retirement."

The State Bank is especially proud of its commitment to school districts in all five communities served by the bank in Fenton, Linden, Holly, Grand Blanc and Brighton.

Called "Change for Kids," this program raises money for each district to be used for children in need, thanks to the generosity of bank customers and employees.

"We have a great bunch of employees who like to raise money for good causes," said Justice. "We encourage our employees to be community involved and will even offer each of our 130

employees a paid eight-hour day off to be used in community service."

This fall will be the program's fourth year, raising more than \$40,000 last year. "One school system bought three pairs of glasses for students who couldn't afford them," said Justice. "This year, we hope to raise even more money."

To watch a visual story of The State Bank's community involvement, go to tctimes.com and click on Feature Video.

“We’re here in the community where we know you. We approach our clients from that relationship perspective.”

Ron Justice
President and CEO of The State Bank

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Financial Q&A

Retirement Savings

Am I contributing enough to my 401(k), 403(b), 457, or Retirement account?

For 2015, the maximum amount you can save into these accounts is \$18,000 per year for those under age 50, and \$24,000 for those 50 and older under the catch up provision. If you are self-employed or own your own business you can defer up to \$53,000 per year. We always recommend trying to max out your 401k as fast as you can. Once you get into a max habit you'll rack up some nice bucks in no time. Remember, the contribution to your 401k is pre-tax so an \$18,000 contribution is more like \$12,735 less from your paycheck a year if we use a 25% effective tax rate and 4.25% Michigan tax rate. Today most people do not have pensions so the need for increased elective deferrals is more important than ever.

Start with these four steps

1. Clarify you're your retirement savings goal. Start by calculating how much money you need to retire.
 2. Use our Retirement Savings Calculator to gauge where you are in relation to your retirement savings goal.
 3. Be sure your portfolio is set up properly. Understand your 401k, 403b, 457 choices and their tax benefits so that you can fund accordingly. Be sure your investment approach matches your risk tolerance, timing, and goals.
 4. Find strategies to consider now. Whether you're in your 20s or 30s, or in your 40s and beyond, find retirement savings strategies to consider now and in the future, as you continue making progress toward the retirement you want.
- if you have a question please feel free to contact us at noahmorgan@acornwa.com.**



Steven C Bliss, CEO, CFP® APMA®
Todd Tarantino, CFP®
Noah C. Morgan, MBA, CFP®

News briefs

RULES FOR FIREWORKS IN TYRONE TOWNSHIP

Residents in Tyrone Township must abide by state law and township ordinances when it comes to setting off fireworks. These rules come from the township's zoning ordinance. Consumer or personal use of fireworks, as defined and permitted by the Fireworks Safety Act, are allowed between the hours of 8 a.m. and 1 a.m. the day before, the day of and the day after a national holiday. Consumer fireworks are also allowed seven days before and days after the Fourth of July – between the hours of 8 a.m. and 1 a.m. to accommodate reasonable use associated with this holiday and permitted display fireworks events. Consumer fireworks outside of these times must comply with the noise limits specified in Zoning Ordinance Section 21.16. This means exploding fireworks outside of the times above are generally not permitted in residential areas.

LOCAL STATE REPRESENTATIVE INVITES RESIDENTS TO OFFICE HOURS IN FENTON

State Rep. Joseph Graves will host in-district office hours in Fenton from 9 to 10:30 a.m. on Monday, June 29. Graves (R-Argentine Township) invites people to join him at Biggby Coffee, 235 North LeRoy St. Joining Graves for the informal gathering will be state Sen. Dave Robertson (R-Grand Blanc). "I encourage anyone who has ideas on how to make state government better or who has concerns about state or local issues to join me at office hours," Graves said. "I always look forward to meeting people and listening to what they have to say during these informal gatherings." No appointment is necessary. Those unable to attend may contact Graves by calling toll free at 866-989-5151 or via email at JosephGraves@house.mi.gov.

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HOT LINE**

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Times

LOOKING BACK at this week IN LOCAL HISTORY

COMPILED BY VERA HOGAN

5 years ...

Sunday, July 4, 2010

City hires marketing firm. The city of Fenton now has a marketing firm. Council approved hiring New Moon Vision, of Milford, as an independent contractor for an amount not to exceed \$49,800 for the fiscal year.

10 years ...

Sunday, July 3, 2005

Rental inspections coming soon to Holly. Landlords in the village of Holly may be wise to get a jump on things and make necessary repairs to their residential properties now. On Tuesday, the Village Council agreed to move toward passing an ordinance that would require landlords to register their rental properties and submit to inspections every two years.

15 years ...

Sunday, July 2, 2000

Road work woes felt by merchants. Robert Mason, owner of Mason's Deli in Linden, is just one of the city's merchants upset by the Broad Street construction project blocking traffic through town.

20 years ...

Sunday, July 2, 1995

Arson cause of \$2 million Holly High School fire. Three Holly area teens were charged Friday afternoon with starting the fire which caused \$2 million worth of damage to Holly High School (now Karl Richter Campus).

25 years ...

Sunday, July 1, 1990

Cain staying in Fenton. Fenton's assistant city manager is apparently happy in Fenton. But Michael Cain admits that nearby Linden's vacant city manager position is worth looking into – especially since his name has been mentioned as a leading candidate to become the city's first city manager.

30 years ...

Wednesday, July 3, 1985

Fifty-cent badge costly to cop Berger. An attorney for fired Fenton police officer Robert Berger has confirmed reports that his client is facing a four-year felony rap for the alleged theft of a plastic sheriff's badge worth between 50 cents and \$3.

MAIL

Continued from Front Page

"Thirty-five carriers and they are trying to get in and out of this building. It's been a zoo," Phillips said. The 8-ton, 20-foot trucks have to get in and out, too, but they've been having problems. They make the best of what they can."

A few customers, on the other hand, are getting to the post office despite the construction, even if it means not following the rules. "We've got customers trying to cut through our back parking lot, which is just for our federal employees," he said. "It becomes a hazard to our carriers." He's concerned about people's safety and getting the mail out on time.

"A lot of people are driving the wrong way to get in here," he said, adding that he's been wondering if the police are going to intervene. "Tampering with federal mail is a federal offense so I'd rather take my state ticket than delay the mail."

He also said there are problems coming in the back at the intersection of Shiawassee and LeRoy. "Even when it says it's open, you've got trucks blocking the one lane," he said.

Although he doesn't want to deter business, Phillips recommended that if customers have a package they need delivered, they can go online to usps.com and request a carrier pick it up.

"If their whole purpose is just to drop off letters, by all means use the available drop boxes," he said. When people call and ask for directions, he recommends they park at the Fenton Community Center and walk to the post office.

Local UPS drop box locations

The State Bank

1 Fenton Square

Harris Financial

1115 N. LeRoy Street

Niles Industrial

201 S. Alloy Drive

The State Bank

3202 Owen Road

Office Complex

14165 N. Fenton Road

The UPS Store

17195 Silver Parkway

USPS Mail Collection/Drop Box

2590 Owen Road

Locke's Party Shoppe and Deli

1228 N. LeRoy Street

Public Collection Box

1370 N. LeRoy Street

Public Collection Box

4015 Owen Road

Citizens Bank

11293 Torrey Road

Office Complex

14165 N. Fenton Road

Fenton 67th District Court

17100 Silver Parkway

VG's

18005 Silver Parkway

Walmart

18055 Silver Parkway

First Merit Bank

226 W. Caroline Street

Georgetown Park Apartments

2100 Georgetown Parkway

USPS Drop Box

10050 Clyde Road

JD Michel

1549 N. Leroy Street

Raymo's

4015 Owen Road

Sources: usps.com and mystore411.com

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Fenton teams fill up early spots in top 16 poll

■ Tigers' strong fall is represented with three teams among first four in our final rankings

By David Troppens
dtroppens@tctimes.com

Oh boy, it's one of my favorite times of the year. It's that time when the sports staff must determine what is more important—a league title or advancing to the regional championship game. We must decide the relative strength of each

given sport in the tri-county area. We must decide who is No. 15 and No. 16 and who are the first two teams out. And, finally, we must make some key decisions that may make some athletes' dreams come true, while crushing the hopes of others. OK, so

maybe it's not that critical. For those who haven't figured it out, it's time for the sports staff to present our Tri-County Top 16

See TOP 16 on 17A

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If you have questions or need assistance with VA benefit claims. Michael Thompson, an Assistant State Field Officer for the VFW, will be available:
Tuesday 8am -12 noon Miller Road Chapel
Tuesday 1- 4pm Fenton Chapel
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Tri-County Times
 SUNDAY, JUNE 28, 2015
 PAGE 15A

Sports

JAKE MARSHALL
 Linden's baseball team earned a spot in our Tri-County Top 16 Poll.

TRIVIA
TOP 16 POLL

Q What team has been No. 1 on our Tri-County Top 16 Poll the most?

A Linden boys cross country has been No. 1 three times.

ONLINE EXCLUSIVES

Check our facebook page more Holly summer tennis photos.

FENTON & LINDEN LACROSSE CAMP SCHEDULED IN JULY

The Fenton/Linden lacrosse team will run a lacrosse camp at Fenton High School starting on every Monday and Thursday beginning on July 13th and ending on July 30th. It will be held from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. on each day. The camp is open to all students from the seventh-grade to high school players. The camp requires players to bring all necessary equipment. The camp will be run by Fenton/Linden High School coaches Stan Orzel and Aaron Kersten. The cost of the camp is \$30 for the pinnie. Contact Orzel at (810) 750-0772 or Kersten at (810) 845-5996 for more information or to register.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT RACES CONTINUE ON JULY 8

The Wednesday Night Cross Country Races in the Park will return on July 8 and continue through July 22 at Linden County Park, starting at 6:30 p.m. The races are for people of all ages and have races ranging from one-half mile to three miles. The cost is \$2 a person and \$5 for a family.

Holly summer tennis is a big hit

■ Pre-K to adults enjoy the month-long summer program

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

Holly — One minute, pre-kindergarten kids are running to a net, trying to avoid tennis balls while trying to place other balls on their rackets, which happen to be next to the net. Minutes later the children have to balance tennis balls on their racket and see how many they can drop in a bucket in a given amount of time. Later, they sandwich tennis balls between two campers' rackets, race them to the end and drop them in a bucket. At another time they are popping up tennis balls into a cone-like cylinder. The action is brisk when the tot tennis players invade the Holly Summer Tennis program on Mondays and Wednesdays for about 30 minutes, but everyone also is having fun.

"The three to five-year olds are adorable," assistant program coach

See TENNIS on 17A

TRI-COUNTY TIMES
DAVID TROPPENS

(Right) Grant Parsons (center) tries to balance a tennis ball on his racket while running to the net. Jed Parsons (left) is getting another tennis ball. (Bottom left) The Holly tennis participants empty their rackets of the tennis balls they collected during one of the games. (Bottom right) Elin Miller walks slowly balancing a ball. The summer program continues through July.



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Success breeds success for Holly hoops camp

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

Holly — Lance Baylis has learned something this summer.

He's learned, success breeds success. The Holly varsity boys basketball coach enjoyed his best season with the Bronchos last winter, capturing a perfect Metro League championship season, and finishing the season with a 22-3 overall record and the school's first-ever Class A district crown.

So maybe it shouldn't have been that shocking when he hosted his 10th-annual Holly Basketball Camp, to see it enjoy record numbers.

"It keeps going up," Baylis said. "I cap it at 80, but I can't say no to anybody. I get requests all the time. We sold out last year at 80 and this year we are somewhere between 90 and 100."

The Holly Basketball Camp, was a busy time. The event was three days from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. at the Holly High School. The camp included kids ranging from ages kindergarten to eighth-graders. And while most are boys, there were a handful of girls at the event as well.

There's always activities going on. There are several stations where players learn specific skills. Then, after lunch there are games.

"I tell them in the three days you spend here you are going to be better than what you were," Baylis said. "We have some kids that are playing basketball for the very first time and then we have some very experienced basketball players. We try to put those with the same skill levels together."



Holly varsity basketball player Paris Partee plays a game of one-on-one with one of the nearly 100 Holly Basketball Camp participants. Holly varsity boys basketball coach Lance Baylis has run the camp for 10 years.

One great benefit of the camp is who helps teach it. Baylis uses the players in his boys basketball program. They are the ones that help run and teach the ses-

sions. It's a huge plus since these are the players the kids know from Tuesday and Friday nights during the winter. Most volunteer one shift during the week, but some stay longer. One of those players who help for most of the three-day camp is Kyle Woodruff.

"It's a lot of fun," Woodruff said. "A lot of these kids you'll see at our basketball games and it's fun to come here during the summer and coach them, teach them what you can."

"I really enjoy it. I like teaching the little kids. They are from our community so that's even better."

Woodruff said he's learned about himself through coaching the camp.

"One thing I've learned is how much of a tolerance I have because sometimes they don't listen," Woodruff said. "But then you get the message through to them and it's rewarding."

The kids also get periods of time when they can have some fun by playing a little one-on-one with some of their heroes from the varsity team between sessions. For instance, on one day after lunch, varsity player Paris Partee played a game against one of the younger campers.

"They are learning from the older guys, there's some great mentorship going on," Baylis said. "The older guys are learning leadership and maturity. It's a win-win relationship for everyone. Everyone gets better."

Baylis said many kids come each year.

"It's fun to watch them grow from year to year. It's amazing how many names you get to know," Baylis said. "You really get to know the young ladies because there are only five to six of them. However, they come here and compete just like the boys. ... It's great to see the girls compete with the boys."

Wednesday Night CROSS COUNTRY RACES

Here are the results for the first week of the Wednesday Night Races held at Linden County Park. There will be a one-week break on July 1 due to the holiday, but The races continue again on July 8 for the next three weeks.

HALF-MILE RACE	
GIRLS UNDER 6	
1. Kaylee Briggs	9:03
GIRLS 7 TO 9	
1. Kendra Kuch.....	3:44
2. Jamie Jennings	4:09
3. Samantha Craine	5:29
4. Addison Craine	5:33
BOYS UNDER 6	
1. Brady Cook	4:08
2. Jaxon Kosofsky	5:23
3. Abram Larson.....	6:26
4. Jacob Orzol.....	6:28
BOYS 7 TO 9	
1. Carson Kuch	3:23
2. Anthony Kosofsky	5:16
3. Mike Johnson.....	5:20
4. Dominic Sepanak.....	5:21
ONE-MILE RUN	
GIRLS 6 & UNDER	
1. Courtney Lawhorne.....	9:47
2. Melody Meckstroth	11:39
GIRLS 7 TO 9	
1. Ava Farenkopf	7:25
2. Kendra Kuch.....	7:43
GIRLS 10 TO 12	
1. Lauren Dadola.....	7:21
BOYS 6 & UNDER	
1. Brady Cook	11:01
2. Jaxon Kosofsky	13:01
BOYS 7 TO 9	
1. Carson Kuch	7:12
2. Davin Meckstroth	11:46
3. Anthony Kosofsky	12:03
4. Mike Johnson.....	12:07
BOYS 10 TO 12	
1. River Meckstroth	6:50
2. Chris LaFave	7:10
3. Nolan Fahrenkopf	8:01
4. Elijah Schmandt.....	11:40
TWO-MILE RUN	
GIRLS 7 TO 9	
1. Shawna Schmandt.....	24:08
GIRLS 13-15	
1. Meghan Hitt.....	15:34
BOYS 10 TO 12	
1. Nolan Fahrenkopf	17:56
2. Joshua Helgeson	24:11
Boys 13 to 15	
1. Skyler Zieske.....	13:37
2. Justin Longworth	14:38
3. Sebastian Lubahn	16:00
4. Griffin Dankert	27:55
THREE-MILE RUN	
GIRLS 13-15	
1. Kearstin Dankert.....	27:58
WOMEN 40-49	
1. Jessica Debda	41:25
BOYS 10-12	
1. Elijah Schmandt.....	28:27
MEN 16-18	
1. Mike Varacalli	18:02
MEN 19-29	
1. Roger Phillips	20:46
MEN 40-49	
1. Eric Larsen	19:14
2. Scott Hebda	22:45



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TOP 16

Continued from Page 15A

Teams of the 2014-15 school year. This is the seventh year we've done the poll.

As is the case each year, we'll bring the rest of the top 16 in small doses to add some suspense. And if your favorite team isn't in the poll or is lower than you hoped, remember, it's just the wacky sports staff's opinions that are involved with this poll. Others can agree or disagree. Many teams had great seasons who are not on the list. Teams who won league titles and advanced to state meets aren't on our list. We just don't have room for every squad. But to the best of our ability, these are the 16 we felt stuck out.

Honorable Mentions: Two stick out. The Lake Fenton varsity softball team won another GAC Red title, but lost in a district-opening contest to the Linden Eagles. A district title probably would've jumped them comfortably into the top 16. Fenton softball looked poised to capture another league crown, but lost its last three league contests and then lost in the districts. Either winning a league title or a district crown would've given them a shot at getting in the top 16.

No. 16 - Fenton volleyball: A new era began when Linda Rusaw resigned the position and Jerry Eisinger took over, and the program didn't miss a beat. The Tigers did see their string of six straight Metro League championships end due to the addition of Flushing to the league, but the Tigers made up for it by winning their third straight Class A district title. Fenton ended the season with 38 victories.

The Tigers have found themselves somewhere in the top 16 in all seven polls. Now that's consistency.

No. 15 - Fenton football: The Tigers were absolutely dominating during the Metro League season, finishing with a 7-0 mark. They

outscored opponents in the Metro by a 279-74 mark. The scoring differential was only that close because the majority of games ended in continuous clock mercy-rule victories.

The Tigers entered the postseason with a perfect 9-0 mark, but lost to Farmington Hills Harrison 35-10 in the opening round of the playoffs. That's what kept the Tigers from finishing higher on this poll.

This is the first time since the 2011-12 school year the Tigers have finished within the top 16. Fenton was No. 6 that year, tied for the highest ranking of any football team during the seven years we've created this poll.

No. 14 - Fenton boys swimming and diving: The Tigers dominated the Metro League, capturing their fourth straight league crown. They did so by going undefeated in duals and winning the Metro Meet by 58 points.

The Tigers also had a nice group of competitors qualify for the state meet. However, once there, only the 400 freestyle relay team advanced to the second day, placing a respectable 12th place. Considering swimming isn't one of the strongest sports in the Flint area, the Tigers needed to do more at the state event to improve their credentials. Still, finishing at No. 14 is impressive. It is the fourth straight season the boys have finished the season somewhere in our top 16 poll.

No. 13 - Linden baseball: The Eagles posted an impressive 31-11 record, won a district crown for the third straight year and also won the Flint baseball tourney for a third straight season. It was an outstanding season for the Eagles. The only knock against the squad is not winning the Metro League crown. In fact, the Eagles finished tied for third with a 9-5 record.

Linden baseball finished No. 12 on this poll a year ago, so the Eagles have remained pretty consistent.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SCOTT SCHUPBACH

Ross Ebert (running) and the rest of the Fenton varsity boys football team finished as undefeated Metro League champions in the fall of 2014, earning the squad No. 15 on our Tri-County Top 16 Poll for the 2014-15 school year.

TENNIS

Continued from Page 15A

Katherine Skubik said. "They are a lot of fun to play with."

"We don't do too complex of things," Holly varsity girls and boys tennis coach Will Sophiea said. "A mistake done too often with little kids in tennis is they get frustrated too often. So we are using low compression balls so the kids can find success when they are doing certain activities. Hopefully, they enjoy tennis, stick with it and the next thing you know they are 15- or 16-year old and playing varsity tennis at their respective high schools."

Those prep careers are well in the future right now, but the fun the kids were having was apparent on Wednesday. All the activities involve tennis equipment, but they aren't used to practice backhands from the baseline. Instead, some agility is taught through the game with the bouncing balls. As the instructors bounce the tennis balls, the students navigate around them and try to place as many tennis balls as they can on their rackets. It's sort of a version of tennis dodge ball. Other activities get the kids to experience balance by keeping the tennis ball on their own racket while racing to a bucket. Once there, they drop the tennis ball into the bucket, run to the start and pick up another one. They also learned teamwork through the sandwich game. It took a teammate to help get as many tennis balls as a team of two could to a certain destination point as the pair of runners sandwiched the tennis balls between their rackets.

All of the activities taught some physical ability about tennis, while keeping the games simple, active and fun.

"I hope they have fun," Skubik said.

"I hope it just gets them outside in the sunshine doing a little bit of exercise and playing a sport that they love, hopefully, as much as I do."

"It's a nice break," Sophiea said. "You are just there to entertain, smile and give high fives. I really enjoy it"

But the program is much more than just the tot tennis players. The tennis program began in mid-June and continues through July 23 on weekdays from Mondays through Thursdays. There is a beginner class for all ages at different times of the week and there is competitive play as well. There are adult tennis classes as well. The only week the event isn't held is from June 30 to July 6 due to the Michigan High School Athletic Association's rule that there must be one week of a dead period for each school district.

Many players have started in the tennis program and have enjoyed the cap so much they progressed to Holly's varsity teams. However, not all of the students are from Holly. Sophiea said there are players from places like Clarkson, Lake Orion and Fenton as well. And many of the instructors are from the varsity program's history. For example, Skubik is a 2014 graduating currently enrolled at Lake Superior State University. Erik Kahn recently graduated from Michigan State University, but still found time to coach as well.

"I like to give back to the program, that's really all it is," Kahn said.

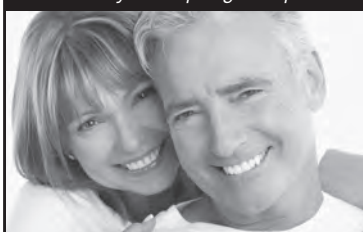
"It's fun to see the slightly older kids," Skubik said. "You know they will end up playing for Holly and the team and you get to watch them grow. You come back and a couple of years later they are not the little kid you were helping out any more, and they are doing really well."

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LEGACY

Continued from Front Page

charity golf outing, which is in its 15th year. Proceeds from the outing go toward college scholarships for graduating seniors at Lake Fenton High School and youth members of the Eastern Michigan Hockey Association.

This year's event took place Saturday at Fenton Farms Golf Club in Fenton Township. The 100 participants enjoyed not only a fun day of golf, but breakfast, lunch at the turn, a buffet dinner, and a chance to win tons of prizes.

As with each year, each golfer received a custom-designed golf hat to commemorate the event. Sharon and her friend, Robin Ham, embroider the hats.

Family and close friends know the story behind the orange hat, which dates back to Christmas 1999 when Brad's cousin, Kim, gave him an orange Abercrombie & Fitch distressed baseball cap. Brad loved wearing that hat and explained often that the distressed (worn out looking) bill was the way it was supposed to be.

To remember those happy times, the Stones have been giving out an orange tournament hat to each golfer. Each year, with a new design that depicts Brad's number "61" hockey jersey, Sharon and Robin work after hours at Image Projections in Fenton to embroider each hat.

Rick Waldchen, owner of Image Projections, offered his shop's services 14 years ago to help with the Stones' fundraising efforts. Waldchen's daughter, Savannah Waldchen, who now manages the shop continues with this unique arrangement. "We are forever grateful to Rick and the Waldchen family for what they have done for us," said Sharon.

Sharon has often said that each outing brings out mixed emotions as she and her husband do this in memory of their son.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Brad Stone's family, including his mother Sharon, father Jeff, sister Laura Constable, brother Jake Stone, brother-in-law Ed Constable and aunt Paula Stone, quietly listen as Brad's uncle Tim Stone welcomes golfers to the 15th annual Brad Stone Summer Classic held last Saturday at Fenton Farms. See more photos at tctimes.com.

"We do it to carry on his legacy of helping other kids achieve their dreams," she said. "Our entire family and closest of friends get involved. It really touches our hearts to see some of Brad's classmates out here every year to support us."

To make the day even more special for the Stones, Pamela Powell of Detroit, the double lung recipient of Brad's lungs and her husband David, help at the golf outing each year. "We are like family now and when I hug Pam I can feel Brad's breath," said Sharon.

To date, the Stones have given out college scholarships totaling \$87,300 to Lake Fenton graduates and \$57,500 to EMHA

youth hockey players. The Community Foundation of Greater Flint manages the two scholarship funds.

HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

The Brad Stone Summer Classic golf outing is one of two events sponsored by Jeff and Sharon Stone to honor the memory of their son. The Stones also hosted the Brad Stone Fall Classic at Flint Iceland Arenas; however, that annual tournament ended a couple of years ago. Interest earned on the established hockey scholarship fund as well as monies from the golf outing help sustain that scholarship.

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO
Lou Blessing, president of Blessing Heating and Cooling, stands in front of the new office. The company has had a presence in Fenton for seven years.

Blessing Plumbing & Heating invests in Fenton

■ New building includes state-of-the-art showroom

By Sally Rummel
news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282
Lou Blessing is literally a “household name” in the Fenton area, having worked with local families since 1946 through his company, Blessing Plumbing & Heating.

Now he’s a permanent fixture in the community with the opening of his new building and showroom at 507 North LeRoy St., across from Dewey’s Auto Center.

“We’ve done business in the Fenton area all along,” said Blessing. “We had been part of downtown Fenton for seven years and wanted to invest here with our own location. We’re excited about being in Fenton, working with the Chamber and growing right along with the community.”

Blessing Plumbing & Heating, head-

quartered in Grand Blanc, focuses on residential plumbing, heating and cooling services, as well as bath remodeling with their own in-house designer. Their new Fenton location boasts a showroom that showcases some of the newest trends and fixtures, including products by Carrier, Brizo and Kohler.

Their motto is “8 to 8 at the same rate,” offering these early evening hours at the same rate as day-time hours. After-hours service is available up to 11 p.m., seven days a week.

“Our business is built on service,” said Blessing. “What sets us apart from other businesses is our people, their knowledge, technical skills and customer service. We stand behind what we do.”

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