Fenton Streetscape to halt July 2-7

■MDOT requires contractor to cease working for Fourth of July holiday

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

The Fenton Streetscape construction project is continuing to move along, according to Assistant City Manager Michael Burns.

"The aesthetic enhancements are really start-

ing to take shape as the sidewalks and planter boxes are being poured with concrete," he said. "We have had some complications this week with the LeRoy Street Bridge and the slip lining of the sewer on Mill Street. The project is

See STREETSCAPE on 11



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO



MidweekTimes

■Alcohol and fireworks are a bad combination

Police to be on the lookout for drunks, dangerous situations

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com

In order to make sure everyone has a safe and enjoyable Fourth of July, area police are gearing up to keep the order in their communities.

Fenton Police Chief Rick Aro reminds everyone that fireworks are permitted the day before, day of and day after the Fourth of July until 1 a.m.

"Please be considerate of your neighbors," Aro said. "Most individuals injured by fireworks are intoxicated. Please use some common sense while enjoying either."

Fenton ordinance prohibits fireworks between 1 a.m. and 8 a.m. Any person, firm, corporation or entity that violates the provisions of the ordinance

See POLICE on 9

Downtown eyesore demolished — finally!



TRI-COUNTY TIMES I TIM JAGIELO

Dave Parks, owner of Parks Installation and Excavating, digs up 50 tons of dirt from the ground at the former Fenton Collision building Tuesday morning. Five gas tanks were also removed. By the end of Tuesday, the Fenton Collision building was reduced to a pile of rubble. See story on page 13

Fenton Freedom Festival will be biggest and best ever

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

Fenton will celebrate this Fourth of July with the challenge of ongoing construction in the downtown area, but that should not deter anyone from enjoying all the festivities.

"We are emphasizing that this is our 25th anniversary and really want people to come

See FESTIVAL on 6



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

'Framework' will it replace IB?

■ State Road teachers present alternatives to board

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

Can a teaching program be developed that's as good, if not better, than the International Baccalaureate (IB) program?

See FRAMEWORK on 13



ff I found the Hot line that Hillary is not qualified quite

comical. Eight years as First Lady, two terms as a U.S. senator and four years as secretary of state. Not

qualified?"

Can someone explain to me why the state changed



the law to allow fireworks to be sold in Michigan? Every night is the same, constant fireworks being

exploded illegally. Where are the police?"



LEAII marriages are 'same sex' marriages. Once you get married, it's the same sex every night.

SUMMARY

while respond-

■ A Fenton police

officer was injured

ing to a domestic

assault complaint

last Wednesday.

Fenton man has

been charged with

assaulting a police

A 21-year-old

officer.

Fenton cop injured during arrest

■21-year-old Fenton man could face four years for assaulting, resisting police officer

By Sharon Stone

sstone@tctimes.com; 810-433-6786

Cameron Kovacs, 21, of Fenton was arraigned last Friday with assaulting a police officer and resisting/ obstructing a police officer following an incident in the early morning hours of Wednesday, June 24. If he is found guilty as charged, he could face four years in prison.

According to Sgt. David Reinfelder, officer Bill Andringa responded to Kellogg Drive, near North LeRoy Street at 1:23 a.m. on Wednesday, June 24 to investigate a reported domestic assault. As Andringa approached the area, he observed two females walking in the road, as well as a male who matched the description of the suspect.

Andringa stopped in front of the male, later identified as Kovacs, to speak with him. Instead of talking with

the officer, Andringa reported that Kovacs fled on foot. Andringa identified himself as a police officer and ordered Kovacs to stop several times, however, Kovacs failed to comply.

Andringa pursued Kovacs and requested police back-up. Officer Jeff Cross, and a Linden police officer and deputies with the Genesee County Sheriff's Department responded.

Andringa reported that as he attempted to get Kovacs into custody, Kovacs allegedly attacked him, grabbing at his shoulders and ripping off the epaulettes of his police uniform. At this point, Cross tackled Kovacs to the ground. Still combative, Cross and Andringa eventually gained control

of Kovacs and handcuffed him. A dry stun taser to Kovacs' thigh was used, according to the police report.

Kovacs was transported to the Fenton police station and then later transported and lodged at the Genesee County Jail, where he awaited arraignment on the charges.

Andringa suffered abrasions to his knee and a sprained wrist, for which he sought medical care. His uniform pants and shirt were also ripped.

Police believe Kovacs was intoxicated. Reinfelder

said neither of the females who were walking in front of Kovacs were taken into custody or involved. He also said police later found no evidence of a domestic assault.

Kovacs was released from jail on Friday after posting the \$35,000 bond. No new court dates are yet scheduled.

Argentine police address fishing complaints

■ Carp fishermen have been disturbing area lake residents late at night

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Argentine Twp.—Many lakefront residents in the tri-county area love fishing. However, they do not love all fishermen, especially some who go out at night with bright lights and noisy generators, that disturb residents.

People on Lake Fenton, Lobdell, Squaw, and other lakes have complained about these carp fishermen.

At the Argentine Township meeting Monday, Argentine Police Chief Daniel Allen said, "It's a big-time nuisance for people who live on a lake. It's got to be extremely noisy."

Allen said he's been doing research on the Marine Safety Act to learn how carp fishermen fish and the rules associated with the sport. They use a loud generator and heavy lights to see

big-time nuisance for people who live on a lake. It's got to be extremely noisy. 77

Daniel AllenArgentine Township police chief

the carp, and use a spear to catch them.

"They use generators and they're noisy. That noise echoes off the water," Allen said.

Carp fishermen go out on the lake in late spring throughout the summer, when fish become more

active. It varies what days they're on the water and they could be out on the weekend or weekday.

"It's not illegal activity. However, it's illegal when they start moving. According to the Marine Safety Act, it's a navigational light violation if the boat is moving at all," Allen said. The bright spot lights cannot be on while the boat is moving. "I've contacted some marine deputies in Monroe and St. Claire and that's how they address the issue. It's a common issue."

Carp fishermen have been prompting complaints ever since Allen started working with the police department eight years ago, he said. The department receives many complaints every year and is working on a way to fix the issue.

Allen made contact with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) because they enforce and regulate the same fishing license. He said they discussed the possibility of nighttime enforcement for the public DNR boat launch for Lobdell Lake on Seymour Road south of Silver Lake Road.

The fishermen often put their boats in the water at the DNR public

See FISHING on 7



GUS MACKER TAKES OVER LINDEN

By David Troppens

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Linden — It was a beautiful sunny Sunday mid-afternoon at Linden's Hyatt Elementary School, and David Clifton had a smile on his face while he watched one of the championship games in one of the youth divisions of the first Gus Macker 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament held in the city of Linden.

"This has been a great game," Clifton said. "This is what it's all about."

Clifton definitely knows what Gus Macker tournaments are all about. After all, he was the event manager at the Linden event, and is an event manager at four to six events each summer. For 18 years he's been a part of the Gus Macker crew, and before that, he was a player. So if there is someone who understands the Macker, it's Clifton.

Clifton said the inaugural event, held inside Hyatt Elementary School and outside on the campus' parking lot, had a great start.

"This has been a fantastic first-year

event," Clifton said. "It's been great. The weather didn't cooperate with us (Saturday), but we played through.

"The community has responded. The fans and the players have been fantastic the entire weekend."

The biggest glitch during the weekend was one that the Gus Macker event couldn't do anything about. With Satur-

day's constant rain, the opening day of the tourney was a wet one. Yet, Mother Nature couldn't ruin the fun. For the most part games moved forward. Teams played through the rain, the wind and the cooler conditions. The event used



TRI-COUNTY TIMES I TIM JAGIELO

Gracie Nowak, 12, of Morrice battles against Chelsea Batinger of Linden during a match on Saturday afternoon. The Gus Macker tournament was held at Hyatt Elementary, with 128 teams and more than 500 players. Nationwide, 30 Gus Macker tournaments are scheduled annually. The tournament will return to Linden in 2016 and 2017.

many portable basketball standards, creating 14 halfcourt playing areas for 12 different divisions of tournament play. There were a few constructed sport courts, giving contests on those courts a little more prestige. Sport courts are

created with interlocking plastic pieces. When they are put together properly, they create the court. They can be quickly assembled and taken apart. Due to Saturday's rains the activities scheduled on those courts were moved to the indoor gymnasium. When the weather made a 180-degree turn for the better on Sunday, those contests returned to the outdoors.

The event hosted 128 four-player teams. Those teams had three players competing in a halfcourt game at any given time. Contests were played up to 15 points, or until a time limited expired.

Gus Macker

comes to Linden

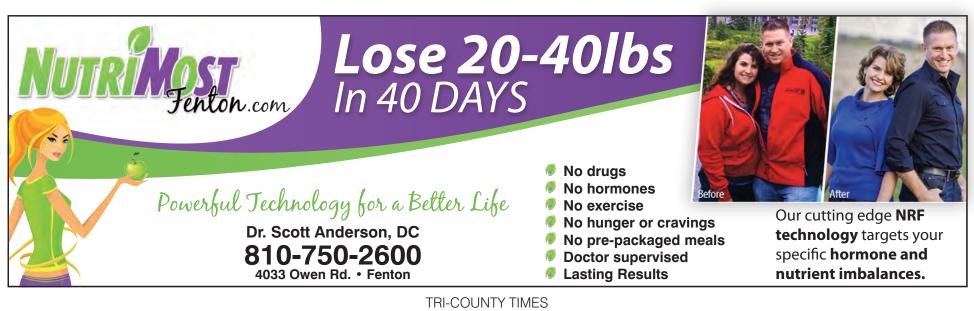
www.tctimes.com

See GUS MACKER on 18



TRI-COUNTY TIMES I TIM JAGIELO

The play was aggressive, enthusiastic and fast, despite the dreary weather on Saturday.



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First, the flag; then, the guns

Who says things can't change in politics? We just learned, again, that they can - and fast! Ten days ago, you couldn't find a politician in the South who had anything bad to say about the Confederate battle flag. Today, they're tripping all over themselves to get rid of it.

To their credit, Mitt Romney and Jeb Bush led the pack. Bush pointed out that as governor of Florida he'd given orders to take down the flag and consign it to a museum. Calling it a 'symbol of racial hatred.' Romney tweeted that South Carolina should remove the flag from the grounds of its state Capitol.

Overnight, Haley's initiative sparked an avalanche of efforts nationwide to eradicate almost all traces of the Confederacy. The South Carolina House voted 103-10 to open debate on taking down the flag. Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe announced that he was ending the sale of license plates bearing the Confederate flag, political leaders in Maryland, North Carolina and Tennessee made the same call.

It wasn't just the flag that fell. In Tennessee, politicians of both parties called for removing a statue of Confederate general and KKK leader Nathan Bedford Forrest from the state Capitol.

And politicians weren't the only ones to act. With one voice, major retailers — including Amazon, Walmart, eBay, Sears and Target — announced they would remove all Confederate paraphernalia from their shelves.

It's tragic that it took the murders of nine Charleston churchgoers to bring people to their senses. Nevertheless, it's still good to see that we are burying the Confederate flag once and for all.

And yet, with all the talk about the Confederate flag, there's zero talk about guns. What a contrast with the response to the massacre of 20 first-graders and six adults at Sandy Hook Elementary School.

So, yes, let's agree that the Confederate flag is no flag of honor. As the symbol of racial hatred and treason, it should be taken down and locked away. But that's not enough. There's one even more urgent priority. First, take care of the flag. Then, take care of the guns.

ONE MAN, ONE woman for life 'til death do you part. No one should ever attempt to try to redefine marriage.

I'M REALLY GLAD that I'm quite elderly because I feel sorry for my grandchildren. There won't be anything known as states' rights. They don't exist anymore. The Supreme Court has no legal means of enforcing the rules. I wonder how many of you know that?

I REALLY WISH I knew more about our laws. Why can't Congress change the law and make Supreme Court justices be elected or appointed every four years? Why is it a lifetime deal?

JUST LIKE THE horror of watching JFK get murdered and the horrors of 911, now we are faced with the worst of all, the destruction of Christianity, traditional marriage, and the family unit.

CAN WE RETURN those ugly, and massive blue recycle cans and garbage cans? We live in Fenton Township.

IF PRESIDENT OBAMA is against guns for self-protection, why don't we save a lot of money and take away the Secret Service guns? Makes you think.

WHAT'S HAPPENEING TO America? We used to be 'one nation under God' because we knew who He was and now we think we're smarter than God? Our country is in deep trouble and it's going to get deeper. Please come back to one nation under God.

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

I WISH I could be a case worker because I could just sit at my office and not answer my telephone and destroy peoples' lives.

FACE IT, VOTERS, for the first time in our history, we've got a pacifist for a president.

YOU MEAN TO tell me that prior to 1967 blacks and whites in this country couldn't marry? Are you kidding me? How

much hate has been in this country and for how long? There's no wonder I'm quite left and I'm very happy to be there.

TO THE LINDEN graduate who is hurt by the confederate, aka southern pride flag, why? There are black people who fly that flag. Please educate yourself people, and stop with the knee jerk reactions. God bless America.

GOD BLESS YOU to the person who turned in my daughter's diamond ring on Sunday that they found in the restaurant. I also want to thank Walmart personnel for their courtesy.

SOUNDS LIKE IT'S just one person complaining about the blue trash cans. Get a life.

THANK YOU FENTON Township for being sensible about trash pick-up. Hopefully, Fenton will follow your lead and get rid of the ridiculous sticker

See **HOT LINE** throughout Times



Amazing grace in Charleston

It is such a rare act that most do not know how to respond, except in stunned silence. Relatives of the nine people murdered while attending a Bible study and prayer meeting in Charleston, South Carolina, told the accused killer they forgive him.

In violent streets we have become used to calls for retribution, appeals for justice, rioting, looting, marches and self-appointed civil rights leaders hogging cameras and microphones. But this act of forgiveness by grandsons and sons, daughters, husbands and other relatives of the dead is so out of character, so distant from the 'norm' we have come to expect, so not Ferguson, Missouri, or Baltimore, so not the Middle East, that it makes the world stop and pause.

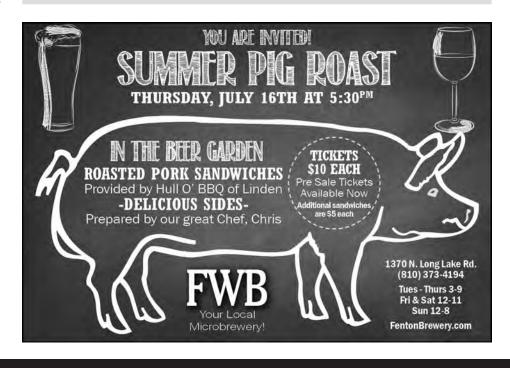
Preachers call it 'grace,' which they define as 'unmerited favor.' In a normal person, grace might bring repentance and, yes, salvation, which is what at least one of the relatives said she was praying would happen to Dylann Roof, a deeply troubled 21-year-old who is accused of the murders.

When the world sees such acts of kindness, it doesn't know what to say. For many it is unfamiliar territory. And yet it is precisely the outworking of what those in that prayer meeting found in the Bible they were studying and the God to whom they prayed. It is a part of the nonviolence taught and practiced by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. His refusal to respond to violence with violence helped turn the hearts of many and change the laws of a nation.

Pictures of church services following the killings showed a racial diversity and a coming together that might not just heal Charleston, but serve as a model for the rest of the nation about how to react to senseless violence.

Relatives of the dead who have extended grace to Root have also modeled it to the rest of the country. In doing so they are examples of the One they follow, who, though innocent of any wrongdoing, said to His Father while hanging on a cross, 'Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.'

streettalk



Compiled by Alexei Rose, intern

What are your thoughts on last week's Supreme Court decisions?

(Marriage Equality and Obamacare)



"I agree with it because I feel that it is only right."



"I agree with it because I believe that they should get the equal benefits that we do."



"Obamacare is being treated as Social Security was at first and people are saying it will be a bad idea, even though it hasn't been given its time. Marriage equality, I am also OK with."



"Having both of those decisions being made it made me proud to be an American because it's good for all people."



"I am for gay marriage but I am against Obamacare. Marriage is about love. Obamacare benefits a very select few and has been a mess since day one."



"I don't agree with it because God didn't make it that way."

— Maggie Wernet Tyrone Township

— Kathy Lawson Tyrone Township

— Neal Nelson, Fenton

— Ed Talley Tyrone Township — Cherise Everhard, Fenton — Dave Hertler Grand Blanc

Swim without strain

■Popular tri-county beaches free of E. coli contamination

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Your beach days can be stress-free without worrying about E. coli at public beaches in the tri-county area.

E. coli, which is short for Escherichia coli, is found in the feces of warmblooded organisms. Some strains, like E. coli 0157:H7 can cause severe abdominal cramps, bloody diarrhea and vomiting, according to mayoclinic.org, but most strains are harmless.

Public beachgoers in the tri-county area don't have to worry about E. coli poisoning from swimming.

The Genesee County Health Department (GCHD) measures the amount of E. coli in county lakes with public beaches regularly, and advises which lakes to avoid in accordance with state guidelines. Currently, Kelly Lake in Burton is the only lake the department recommends no swimming.

The rest of the local beaches, Clover Beach, Silver Lake Beach, Copneconic Camp and day beach, Hasler Lake Campground, Buttercup Beach, Bluebell Beach on Mott Lake, and Pinewood Beach Club, are all clear for swimming.

Each lake has been tested, starting the week of April 18 until the week of June 22.

Jim Henry, Environmental Health supervisor, said they test the surface water of three locations on the lake: the center, the right, and the left. They use a reagent on the samples and if there's E. coli flourese, they can see it in the blacklight. Then they count the number of E.coli colonies.

If lakes have more than 300 bacterial concentrations of e. coli per 100 milliliter at one testing, or more than a 30-day average of 130 bacterial concentrations of e. coli per 100 milliliter, the GCHD deems it unsafe for swimming.

Clover Beach on Byram Lake had a significant decrease with a 30-day average of 24 bacterial concentrations of per 100 milliliters, compared to 107 bacterial concentrations last year.

Silver Lake Beach in Fenton has had steadily low E. coli numbers, at one point last year only testing for two parts of E coli. per 100 milliliter. It had a 30-day average this year of 25 bacterial concentrations.

The week of June 1, Kelly Lake had a concentration of 360 bacterial concentrations of E. Coli per 100 milliliters, deeming it unsafe for swimming. Last year, Kelly Lake tested at 801 bacterial concentrations of e. coli per 100 milliliter the week of July 7, and had an average of 164 for 30 days.

Rain and runoff water can increase E. coli concentrations in bodies of water, and the GCHD advises caution when swimming after rainy weather. Lakes surrounded by forests and wildlife often have higher E. coli levels.

"Everything on the surface washes into the beach," Henry said. "Usually after rain we expect more."

E. coli facts

- There are many strains of E. coli, but the GCHD only tests for general E. coli levels.
- E. coli is located in the feces of warm blooded animals and humans.

Symptoms

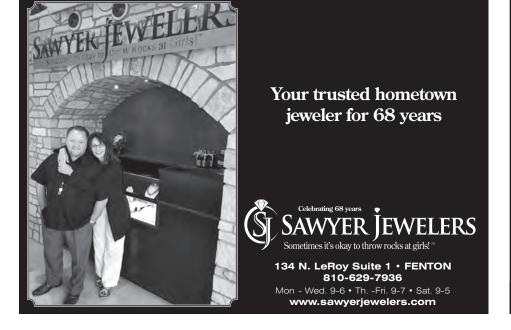
- Diarrhea, which can become bloody.
- Stomach cramps
- Slight fever
- Symptoms appear two to eight days after exposure.

Past closings

- In 2003, Silver Lake Beach was closed by the GCHD for elevated E. coli levels of 365 the week of August 4, exceeding the state guideline of 300 bacterial concentrations per 100 milliliters.
- Lake Fenton was closed in early August 2010 by the GCHD due to an E. coli level of 482. It was reopened early September of that year.
- Clover Beach was closed twice in 2000 for E. coli levels too high for safe swimming.

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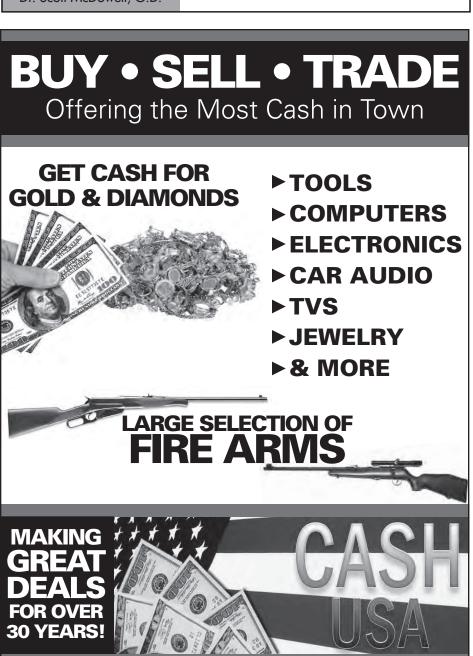
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TRI-COUNTY TIMES I SUBMITTED PHOTO

Macie Keller, a 2015-2016 Fenton High School senior, has been crowned the 2015 Fenton Freedom Festival queen. She is shown here with proud siblings, sister Katie and brother Maximus.

FESTIVAL

441

anticipate

this year's

festivities

to be the

biggest and

best, a real

family fun

day. 77

Fourth

of July

Continued from Front Page

downtown," said Patricia Lockwood, chair of the Fenton Freedom Festival Committee.

"We have always had such wonderful participation by civic groups and non-profit groups," she added. "It's alive and well and will be held in the downtown Community & Cultural Center. I anticipate this year's Fourth of July festivities

to be the biggest and best, a real family fun day."

This year's festivities kicked off Thursday, June 25, with the crowning of the 2015 Fenton Freedom Festival queen at the Community & Cultural Center, just prior to the Concert in the Park.

Patricia Lockwood Fenton Freedom Festival Committee chair Macie Keller, who will be a Fenton High School senior for the

■ The 2015 Fenton Freedom Festi-

val promises to

be the biggest

and best ever,

despite the ongo-

construction down-

town, which will be

holiday weekend

suspended over the

ing Streetscape

2015-2016 school year, has earned the honor of wearing the crown.

"She's a wonderful girl, involved in several extra-curricular activities, athletics and will serve as the co-sports editor for the Fenton High School

yearbook," Lockwood said.

The next event will take place on July 3 with the Silver Lake Ski Show at 7 p.m. There is no admission to get into the park for this show.

The grand marshal adult reception, honoring Nick Popa, will be held at 8 p.m. the same evening at the Fenton Community & Cultural Center. Popa is best known for developing Fenton's In-

dustrial Park. He also was the owner of Epic Machine in Fenton, and was one of the original owners of the property we now know as Silver Lake Village.

The festival will continue on Saturday, July 4 with the parade, arts and crafts, good fun and music, fireworks and more.

FFF Schedule of Events

July 3

- Silver Lake Ski Show at Silver Lake Park and Beach at **7 p.m.** Fees to the park will be waived for this event.
- Adult grand marshal reception for this year's honoree, Nick Popa. The reception will begin at **8 p.m.** at the Fenton Community & Cultural Center.

July 4

- 7 to 10 a.m. Pancake breakfast, sponsored by the American Legion at the Fenton Community & Cultural Center.
- 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Arts and crafts featuring the works of over 40 crafters on the front lawn of the Community & Cultural Center.
- 9:30 a.m. Firecracker 5K and 10K Fun Run at 9:30 a.m. This will start on West Street behind the World of Wonder Ellen Street Campus.
- 10 a.m. Parade will line up at Industrial Way at the Fenton Industrial Park. It will travel east on Owen Road to Adelaide. The parade will travel north on Adelaide and proceed to Caroline Street. From Caroline, it will go west to West Street, then travel south on West to dismiss at the school parking lot.
- 11 a.m. Fenton Lions Club will host their annual chicken BBQ. But that won't be the only food available. Brats,

burgers and other foods will be available to people to enjoy under a tent on the lawn of the Community & Cultural Center. There will be music all day long.

- 11 a.m. 3 p.m. The Keepers of the Shiawassee River will hold kayaking demonstrations on the back lawn. Adopt-A-Pet also will be present.
- 12:30 The Fenton Rotary's Rubber Duck race

will start at the Fenton Gazebo behind city hall.
• 1:30 n.m. — Fenton Fire Depart-

- 1:30 p.m. Fenton Fire Department's kids' water battle
- 10 p.m. Fireworks over Silver Lake Park. There is no parking inside Silver Lake Park.



Michigan's new boating under the influence statute

We live in a state where all of us have the opportunity to enjoy being around or on over 11,000 inland lakes plus four of the five Great Lakes. Almost half of Michigan is water and we are second only to Alaska in the amount of shoreline.

According to the Michigan Historical Society, wherever you are in Michigan, you're never more than six miles from an inland lake or more than 85 miles from one of the Great Lakes.

With this abundance of water it is not a surprise that Michigan has approximately 800,000 registered boats.

Boating is an important part of both Michigan's economy and recreational activities.

Boating safety is also important and Michigan has a number of laws and regulations which are in place to help ensure that all boaters, their passengers and others are kept safe.

For example alcohol consumption is legal in Michigan for adults. However, excessive alcohol consumption to the point of intoxication or impairment and subsequently operating a motor vehicle is not. The reasons for this are obvious and apply equally to the operation of a boat.

For many years, Michigan has had laws prohibiting the operation of a vessel while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or a controlled substance. These laws were recently amended and have similarities to the laws regarding drunk driving.

Effective March 31, 2015, the legal alcohol limit has been reduced to .08. Additionally the term operating a 'vessel' has been replaced by operating a 'motorboat.' There is also a prohibition on impaired boating. A motorboat is defined as a vessel propelled wholly or in part by machinery.

Other new provisions of the statute include prohibitions on any person operating a motorboat with the presence of a controlled substance, an owner or person in charge allowing a drunk or impaired boater to operate, operation by a person under 21 who has been drinking, and restrictions in operating and having under 16 year old passengers if the operator is drunk, impaired, on drugs or causes the serious impairment of a body function or death of another.

For those interested, the full set of statutes is available on the State of Michigan website.

Have a safe summer and please be aware of all of the boating safety laws.



MICHIGAN VØTES

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 26.

House Bill 4226: Expand technology business subsidies

To increase from three to nine the number of areas in which "certified technology parks" (previously dubbed "smart zones") are allowed to expand by creating a "satellite" zone. These entities use "tax increment financing" schemes to provide infrastructure or other subsidies to technology-based businesses.

Passed 33 to 4 in the Senate
Sen. Dave Robertson (R-Dist. 14):
Sen. Mike Kowall (R-Dist. 15):
Sen. Joe Hune (R-Dist. 22):
Sen. Jim Ananich (D-Dist. 27):
Sen. Ken Horn (R-Dist. 32):

X YES

X YES

Senate Bill 22: Increase some State Police pensions

To increase the annual pension benefits to at least \$16,000 for certain State Police employees who retired and were collecting pension payments as of 1986. Passed 38 to 0 in the Senate

Senate Bill 211: Authorize uncensored public school American heritage instruction

To require public school boards to "permit" instruction and reading of "America's founding documents" including those related to the country's "representative form of limited government, the Bill of Rights, our free-market economic system, and patriotism." School districts would be prohibited from censoring or restraining reading that includes "religious references in original source documents, writings, speeches, proclamations, or records."

Passed 30 to 8 in the Senate
Sen. Dave Robertson (R-Dist. 14):
Sen. Mike Kowall (R-Dist. 15):
Sen. Joe Hune (R-Dist. 22):
Sen. Jim Ananich (D-Dist. 27):
Sen. Ken Horn (R-Dist. 32):

X YES
X YES
X YES

FISHING

Continued from Page 2

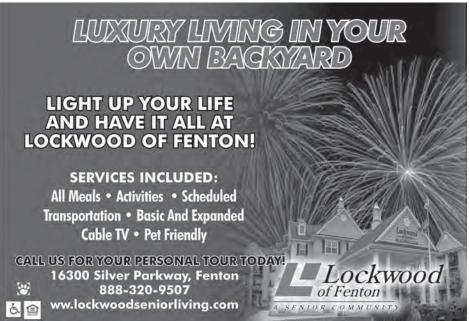
launch, which is closed between 11 p.m. and 4 a.m. At the meeting, he said nighttime enforcement would regulate the launch.

"There's no gate," Allen said. "I'm in some preliminary discussions. I'd like to see a gate there."

Parking violations are also an issue. If there's no attendant at the launch, people will often park on the grass, because of limited parking.

"When there's no DNR attendant, people are parking on the grass. We have been enforcing both improper parking and parking pass the hours," he said. "When's there's an attendant, they don't violate."







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Fireworks by land or by lake

44 People

watch

from the

lakes, Lake

Ponemah,

Silver Lake

Lake. 77

and Runyan

Scott Grossmeyer

Fenton Freedom Festival Committee member

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ing lots, decks and

great viewing for the Fenton Freedom

Festival Fireworks

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Show this Saturday,

porches provide

■More than 25,000 people will view Fenton Freedom Festival's spectacular display at dusk

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Whether you're watching Saturday's Freedom Festival Fireworks by land or by lake, you'll be viewing one of the most spectacular fireworks displays in mid-Michigan.

Zambelli Fireworks, the same company that launches the Ford Fireworks in Detroit every year, will present Fenton's 40-minute fireworks extravaganza

at dusk to conclude the festival. When the evening falls, the fireworks will light up the sky, along with patriotic music, at 10 p.m. at Silver

"There's always a couple of surprises at the grand finale," said Patricia Lockwood, chairman of the Fenton Freedom Festival.

The face behind the Fenton fireworks is none other than Fenton Councilman Les Bland, who has been supervising Fenton's fire-

works show for more than 40 years. "He makes sure the fireworks go off without a hitch," said Scott Grossmeyer, of the Fenton Freedom Festival Committee.

About 25,000 spectators are expected to watch the fireworks from different vantage points around Fenton.

"People watch from the lakes, Lake

Ponemah, Silver Lake and Runyan Lake," said Grossmeyer. "People who aren't on a boat will be at the parking lots in front of Kmart, VG's and Dunham's (in Silver Lake Village). Some people bring in motorhomes in the morning to stake out their spot. There are traveling food vendors and glow sticks for sale."

Lockwood adds that the D.J. music starts around 7 p.m. at the VG's Grocery parking lot. "People buy food and camp out," she said. "There are also a lot of people at the Target parking lot, who sit on the hills over there."

Another hidden viewing spot is the backside of the hill by the Fenton High

School football field. "You get on the hill and watch the fireworks over all the building tops," said Grossmeyer.

The fireworks show is also another opportunity for family and friends to get together for an evening of fun and socializing. Chuck and Sandy Berra, who live near Silver Lake Park, have been hosting family and friends at their home for as long as the fireworks have been launched at the park.

"We used to go up north for the July 4th weekend, but we'd be crazy to miss all the fun of the fireworks," said Berra. "We have the best seats in the house."

Traffic flow on Silver Parkway will be directed north on the east side of the

roadway and south on the west side. Drivers won't be allowed to turn left or cross the divider when entering Silver Parkway.

"The important thing to remember is to be patient," said Fenton Police Chief Rick Aro. "We have thousands of cars trying to exit a confined area all at once. If ease of travel when leaving is a priority, I would suggest parking a little further way from Silver Lake Park."

Silver Lake Park will be closing on Saturday, July 4 at 9 p.m., and both sides of Jennings Road will be "No Parking" for the event.

"All visitors must be out of the park by then," said Aro.

There are still several more days of fundraising for the fireworks. "Volunteers will be outside of VG's taking

donations," said Lockwood. The fireworks are funded partly by Fenton DDA funds, businesses and individual donations. "We get great support from our residents, our businesses and the DDA," said Lockwood.

People interested in helping defray the cost of the fireworks display can send donations to: Fenton Free-

dom Festival, 114 North LeRoy St., Fenton, MI 48430.

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POLICE

Continued from Front Page

is subject to a civil fine of up to \$500 for each violation.

Anyone who is found in violation is also required to reimburse the city for the

■ Area police will

be on the lookout

APlease be

neighbors. 77

Fenton Police Department

Chief Rick Aro

considerate

of your

for drunk drivers

and firework

violations.

costs of storing, disposing of or destroying the consumer fireworks confiscated as a result of the violation.

"During the holiday weekend our officers will be on patrol, focusing on drunk drivers and other activities that present a danger to the individual or the commu-

nity," Aro said. "We will be doing our best to insure everyone has a safe holiday weekend."

Chief Michael Story said police in Holly will be following their usual event activity procedures for the Fourth of July, and said following a few rules would be appreciated.

"As a reminder, fireworks, alcohol and pets are prohibited within the venue

of Lakeside Park," said Story. "Additionally, guests are strongly urged to use the free parking at the rear of Lakeside Cemetery, off East Street south of the boat landing."

Story said parking violators will be towed from the venue area within the

surrounding neighborhood and issued a citation.

Handicap parking is available at Lakeside Park in the main parking lot, he said.

Story added that participants with service dogs are exempt from the "no

pet" rule as long as the owner has certification proof.

As is the case in Fenton, fireworks in the village of Holly are allowed the day before, day of and day after the holiday.

"But we will still respond," said Story.

"If we get calls on fireworks that are overly annoying and bothering people, we will respond. Oftentimes, if they are that bad, they are violating something.

"We try to resolve situations so that everyone can enjoy themselves," Story added.

Chief Scott Sutter of the Linden Police Department will follow state law as far as allowable fireworks, which is like other communities the day before, day of and day after between 8 a.m. and 1 a.m.

"Citizens can call us if they have complaints about fireworks taking place outside of those times," Sutter said.

In addition to local police depart-

ments, law enforcement officers from sheriff's offices and the Michigan State Police will conduct stepped up drunk driving enforcement in all 83 Michigan counties during the Fourth of July drunk-driving crackdown through July 12.

During last year's Fourth of July drunk-driving crackdown, 236 motorists were arrested for drunk driving as a result of extra patrols. There were 12 traffic deaths over that holiday period, a quarter of those involving alcohol.



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Meet the longest running tri-county group

■Entre Nous, meaning between friends, has been meeting since 1895

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Entre Nous, or "Between Friends," is the oldest women's group in the tricounty area.

Started in 1895 as a reading group, this invite-only club began with discussing books but has veered toward educational programs and philanthropy.

44 I think it's

unusual for a group

to be together that

continuously for all

long. We've met

these years. 77

Helen Sutkowi

Entre Nous member

Helen Sutkowi, a Fenton Township resident since 1964, was president of Entre Nous from 1997 to 1998, but has been in the group around a decade before her presidency. "We do work for charities, different ones every year," she said. "It's educational for us."

The group was origi-

nally started for women in Fenton in the late 1800s to meet. "I think it's unusual for a group to be together that long. We've met continuously for all these years," she said.

They meet the first Monday of the month from September until June.

"We never had any more than 20-25 members," Sutkowi said. "It was a very close group. We try to keep the membership low because it was a group that started in their homes."

Many of the members are business women, teachers, and women from other

professions who all care about learning.

"I think there's always a need for more education," Sutkowi said. She joined in the 1980s when her business, Merle Norman Boutique and Cosmetics in Fenton, held a program for Entre Nous. She opened it in 1969 and sold it in 1995.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES I SUBMITTED PHOTO

Helen Sutkowi (left), Jean Weigant, Marjorie Conover, Rita Bretzke, and Noreen Smith of the area's longest running women's group, Entre Nous, look at scrapbooks of the group's endeavors.

"They invited me then to join. From that time on, women that I really knew, I asked them to join," she said. The group mainly has programs now. "It was always educational," Sutkowi said. They had a florist demonstrate flower arranging, and a speaker from one of the school systems.

"One time we went down to the police station that had one member go through the procedure when you're arrested," she said. "We had a red carpet affair. All the different ladies would come up dressed as different movie stars. We had tea with Mussolini. We showed the movie and had tea sandwiches and desserts," she said.

They also held a program inside the community center called City With a Heart, which put on a Christmas celebration with candles all around Fenton, from Owen Road, to Silver Lake Road, and to Shiawassee.

"I just remember people saying 'Gosh, Fenton is alive,'" Sutkowi said. "There isn't anything that isn't a good part. We donate money to charity at the end of every year. Everyone's just really nice to one another. As we go along we become closer and closer."

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WELCOME FENTON CLIENTS

News briefs

July concerts begin with something for the kids

Fenton's Concert in the Parks series kicks off this month on July 9 with a favorite among the kids, Chautauqua Express — Guy Louis Family Concert. There will be no concert on July 2. Since 1986, Guy Louis has been presenting his Chautauqua Express Family Concerts to rave reviews. His shows are designed for each unique audience and become all-ages celebrations, delighting grandparents to toddlers and everyone in between. Kids will stay engaged the entire show with dancing, singing and interaction. Founded in 2000, The Rhythm Gypsies will perform on July 16. They will be rocking the park with funk, rock and blues. It's great music to dance to, covering all current and classic genres. On July 23, Billy Mack & The Juke Joint Johnnies will perform a genre of Rockabilly and Americana. The Mike Epsy Group, a blues band, will finish out the month on July 30. Mike Espy and William Yak Smith met at blues jam in 1995 and have been together since.

Expect holiday spike on gas prices

■Gas prices are still 88 cents below 2014 prices

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

If you're planning to travel by car on this upcoming Fourth of July holiday, you'll have lots of company. According to AAA, 41.9 million people will travel 50 miles or more from home during the holiday weekend, up .7 percent from last year and the most travelers since 2007.

Lit's all a gamble. 77

Mike Yousif Marathon gas station on Silver Lake Road

The holiday period is defined by AAA as Wednesday, July 1 through Sunday, July 5.

Eighty-five percent of these travelers will be traveling

by car. Despite a seasonal spike, most motorists will probably see the lowest Fourth of July prices at the pump since at least 2010. Nationally, the average cost of a gallon of gas is \$2.78, down 88 cents from a year ago. The largest savings in

■ While gas prices are expected to remain stable this summer, don't be surprised if there's a spike in price before the busy Fourth of July holiday weekend.

gas during this time period is in the Midwest, due to refineries coming back online following production issues.

That means families driving on highways will be putting about \$7.30

back in their wallet after paying for their holiday gas this year.

When asked about gas prices for the upcoming holiday week in the tri-county

Top 10 gas saving tips:

- 1. Avoid high speeds. Driving 62 mph vs. 75 mph reduces fuel consumption by about 15 percent.
- 2. Don't accelerate or brake hard, saving as much as 20 percent.
- 3. Keep tires properly inflated.
- 4. Use air conditioning sparingly.
- 5. Keep windows closed. Open windows at highway speeds increase drag and decrease fuel efficiency up to 10 percent.
- 6. Service vehicle regularly.
- 7. Use cruise control to maintain a constant speed.
- 8. Avoid heavy loads. Remove winter's sand bags from the trunk and pack lightly for long trips.
- 9. Avoid long idles. If you expect to be stopped for more than a minute, shut off your car; restarting it uses less fuel than letting it idle. 10. Purchase a fuel-efficient

Source: Gasbuddy.com

Correction:

In the Wednesday, June 17 edition of the Times, it was incorrectly stated in the "Steel Manufacturer Expands to Fenton Township" article that Thomas Miller is the owner of TMI Climate Solutions. He is not the owner, he is the founder.

area, Mike Yousif of the Marathon gas station on Silver Lake Road in Fenton said gas usually goes up for the holiday, but he has no idea by how much. "If I knew, I'd buy 10,000 gallons right now," he said. "It's all a gamble."

Several strategies on saving at the pump include:

- Pay with cash. Some gas stations, including the Marathon on Silver Lake Road, will give you a better price for cash transactions, because they don't have a pay a merchant fee when customers use a credit card.
- Use a website or app for finding the least expensive gas prices in your area. Try gasbuddy.com, fuellog.com, aaa.com/ triptik, waze.com, to name a few.
- Changing your driving habits and errands to maximize your gas. Most vehicles maximize fuel efficiency at about 55 mph, so you'll want to keep that speed in mind.
- Find the right type of station. Grocery stores and wholesale clubs with gas stations often sell gas close to cost to get people into their stores where they may also buy higher margin items.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

TO THE WHITE-haired gentleman in the black Chrysler 300 who was going right across Silver Parkway from Walmart to the Kmart parking lot, you were in the left turn lane. Those lanes are clearly marked. I was going straight across also. Good thing I was paying attention.

I CAN TOLERATE looking at the big blue trash bins knowing it makes the jobs safer and healthier for the trash removal employees. They do a great job in Fenton Township and I appreciate them very much. It's not all about you.

THE PETTY DISSENT vote was uncalled for. The superintendent knew he had to drive to Fenton before he took the job. He has been looking to leave for over a year. I hope there are more resignations.

11

I FOUND ALL kinds of rules and regulations on owning dogs and chickens in the city of Fenton. Why are there are no laws about cats? Some of these people need to leash their cats! How many cats can a person own?

ANYONE WHO DOES not support gay marriage is a bigot? Tyranny of the left is just as repressive as tyranny of the right.

STREETSCAPE

Continued from Front Page

still on schedule and it is planned for LeRoy Street to have the base coat of asphalt poured late in the week of July 6."

Next week workers will continue to pour sidewalk in the construction zone and work on the LeRoy Street Bridge.

"Continue to expect lane closures during the construction hours," said Burns.

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) is requiring that Champagne-Marx cease work on the project beginning at 3 p.m. on Thursday, July 2 until Tuesday morning, July 7 for the Independence Day Holiday.

"As always, please be safe and mindful of your surroundings in the construction zone," said Burns.

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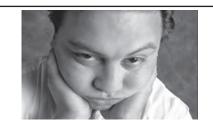


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TRI-COUNTY TIMES I TIM JAGIELO

The excavating contractor made quick work of the former Fenton Collision, and Action Auto building on Tuesday. Demolition started Monday morning. Milford Salvage handled the recycling of materials.

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Fenton — With the control and coordination of a surgeon, Dave Parks lifts dirt and and debris from the site of the former Fenton Collision building with his excavator bucket.

The front and the back of the building are being taken apart by excavators; the remnants hauled away by another contractor.

Crews with Parks Installation and Excavation were out early Monday and

Tuesday morning to begin the demolition of the building and to remove underground gasoline tanks.

Peter Hughes of SkyPoint Ventures, which recently purchased the property, said demolition crews were removing the tanks to eliminate any contamination of the area.

SkyPoint Ventures, owned by Phil and Jocelyn Hagerman of Fenton Township, will be releasing plans for this property in the near future, according to Hughes.

FRAMEWORK

Continued from Front Page

That was the challenge posed by Fenton Board of Education Vice President Rick Koester to Michelle Ostrowski, a secondgrade teacher at State Road Elementary School.

Ostrowski accepted that challenge and worked with a team of teachers at State Road to come up with a program. She, along with Megan Martin, Sonya Brooks, and Tonya Powers, presented their findings to the board at its June 22 meeting.

The presentation was made prior to the board voting 4-3 to discontinue the Primary Years Program and Middle Years Program in the elementary schools, saving the IB Diploma Program at the high school.

"We're not saying IB is bad, it's not," Ostrowski said. "But we believe we can develop a program that is as good if not better."

In the presentation, the teachers explained, "We are Fenton. Fenton is an outstanding community with outstanding schools and outstanding teachers and staff."

The teachers researched what parts of IB they could keep and make their own, and what a new Fenton Framework could consist of.

Via a slide presentation, they said they have already developed six transdisciplinary units of instruction per grade level that would need to be rewritten into a new unit planner design.

They explained they would implement an inquiry-based approach to learning, allowing students opportunities to investigate and construct their own understandings. Doing so develops critical thinking and independent learners by asking and researching questions.

Fenton Framework calls for exposure to a second language K-5 with measurable learning outcomes. It would continue to incorporate the Arts and physical Education within limits.

Fenton Framework would also allow the possibility of team teaching and/or grouping students to enhance differentiated instruction.

Ostrowski and her team offered ways this could be measured, saying common district and state level assessments would not change. She and her team highlighted several more concepts, but in summary, they said, "The core of the Fenton Framework is already here. We have six successful transdisciplinary units of instruction at all grade levels, K-5.

"We would need to transpose these existing units into new unit planners. We need to research and respect all copyrighted material from IB.

"Through a collaborative decisionmaking process, if there are things that we can keep from our units and trainings, we will. If there are things that we need to make changes to or provide alternative terminology, we will.

"We have knowledge from trainings, school visits, collaborative planning and research that cannot be taken away and will be used to help us move forward.

"We certainly have a lot of work to do and we know that this will take time, commitment, and resources to complete. We want to be a part and are interested in creating systems, which allow us to move forward.

"We are ready."

Koester, one of the board members who would have supported keeping PYP in the elementary schools, thanked Ostrowski publicly for the work performed by her team. He said there was a lot of discussion about keeping PYP in one building, Tomek-Eastern Elementary School.

"The consensus was that if it's good for one it should be good for all," Koester said. "It still seems like Tomek wants to keep IB. State Road was Fenton Framework. What does North Road want?

"We better bring ourselves together as a district," he said.

Koester was one of the three board members voting against eliminating the IB program. Board members Tamara Valley and Lynn Hopper cast the other two dissenting votes.



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Bay City and Traverse City

By Yvonne Stegall

news@tctimes.com; 810-433-6786

Part three of an eight part series

If you're looking for something fun to do this holiday weekend and you don't want to stay in Fenton for the big fireworks celebration, maybe it's time to take a cruise north.

There are so many great things to do and see in both Bay City and Traverse City.

Bay City

Bay City is just under an hour north of Fenton, about a 65-mile drive. It offers many of the things you'd expect from a city setting, like malls, food and plenty of shopping.

This weekend you definitely want to visit Bay City if you want to see some awesome multiple nights of fireworks. People come from all over the state

SUMMARY

Bay City is a great place for antiques and fireworks, but you may be more interested in the National Cherry Festival that starts in Traverse City this weekend!

for the Bay City Fireworks Festival, which is a three-day event. Festivities start on Thursday, July 2 and end on July 4.

You will enjoy bands, beer, a car and bike show, and fireworks all three

nights. The big show is on the Fourth of July though.

While you are in Bay City, make sure you check out the Bay Antique Center downtown at 1010 North Water St. It is a block wide showroom of antiques, and is Michigan's largest antique shop.



Traverse City

If you'd prefer to go farther north, and a little bit west, you can go check out the National Cherry Festival in Traverse City. This festival begins on July 4 and runs until July 11.

It's a 203-mile drive that will take you just a little over three hours. With so much to do, you'll probably want to get a hotel room. However, it may be hard to get one since this festival is huge. You could look into staying 30 minutes away in Kalkaska, just off U.S. 131.

You'll likely be eating many cherries at this festival, so if you don't like cherries you may want to skip it. The festival offers something fun for all ages.

You'll find a beer tent for the adults, an amusement park that is fun for all ages, movies and races and other fun things for the little ones. There are fireworks on the Fourth, an air show, cherry-spitting contests, and even "Weird Al" Yankovic.

Michigan is full of great events, towns, and places to visit. Why stay home when you can go take a drive and have an adventure in another area? You just may fall in love with the mitten state all over again.





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Sports

INSIDE SPORTS

GUS MACKER

Read more about Linden's first-ever Gus Macker Tournament See Pages 17-18



ONLINE EXCLUSIVES

More weekend Gus Macker photos can be found on our facebook page.

Rain or shine - Linden's Gus Macker thrives

■Sunny Sunday makes for great basketball, great times during championship runs

By David Troppens dtroppens@tctimes.com

Linden — Cole Sarkon had never played in a Gus Macker 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament until the organization held its first event at Linden's Hyatt Elementary School on Saturday and Sunday.

If his first attempt is any indication, Sarkon may want to play in more tournaments in the near-future.

The Linden High School student found himself on a championship Macker squad on his first attempt. He played on a team called the Linden Moles with brother Aaron Sarkon, Eli Beil and Gavin Lund. Another teammate, Joshua Beil, had to watch from the sidelines as the squad won its crown due to a broken arm.

"It's been a great tournament. It's a great set up here," Cole Sarkon said. "The teams were good and it was really good competition. It was a hard tournament to win, but we did it.

"It was my first one and it's like nothing else."

The squad ended up playing a team it defeated earlier in the tourney in the title match, and history repeated itself. The squad went 4-0, and Sarkon was carrying his Gus Macker trophy, a large basketball designed like a human mascot, while watching other contests.

"It's going right over my television," Sarkon said about the trophy. "I'm going to look at it every day. I'm going to polish it up really good."

Lund is a Macker veteran. However, he also won his first title on Sunday. He was excited to play one in his hometown.

"I really think it helped (being a home tournament)," Lund said. "We had our friends surrounding our games and cheering us on, so it boosts our confidence. It helps you in the

"I'm happy to see this (Linden hosting a Gus Macker)







TRI-COUNTY TIMES I DAVID TROPPENS

(Top photo) Darian Welch (middle) prepares to play defense against Deavan Vincent (back showing) in one of Saturday's rainy early games at Linden's inaugural Gus Macker 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament. (Above left photo) Eli Beil drives to the bucket for a layup during Bridge Street Exchange's championship game victory. (Above right photo) Moments after his 10-year-old son made the winning free throw in a semifinal game, Anthony "Ant" Brooks hugs his son Xzavier Brooks.

happen."

With Saturday's rains gone, Sunday's second day of the Gus Macker tourney was al-

most the direct opposite in terms of weather. Temperatures were comfortably warm for the players and the sun was out for

most of the afternoon. Instead of hiding under any tents people could find, fans and play-See SUNNY on 17

Soggy Saturday doesn't dampen players' spirit

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com

Linden — Twenty minutes before the first Gus Macker 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament was to start at Linden's Hyatt Elementary School, it was hard to tell an event involving at least 500 athletes was expected to happen.

The basketball courts were set up just fine, but a heavy rain kept people from being outdoors. About the only people that could be found outside was a team from Durand, practicing on one of the courts as the rain puddled on the pavement.

"We've played in a few," Zack Harris said while taking a break from practice. "In Chesaning we played in the rain a few times. It's not the best. It's not the best at all, but I'm excited to be here for sure."

But while the rains continued, as the official starting time for games to begin came closer, the basketball players began showing up. Many were in Hyatt Elementary School registering when the Mayor of the city of Linden David Lossing netted the ceremonial free-throw in between raindrops at 8 a.m. The story went if Lossing missed, the Gus Macker tourney organizers would end right there and pack up. With the pressure on him, and with an MC mentioning all the blind celebrities who supposedly made shots at past Gus Macker tourneys, Lossing calmly sank his free throws.

And about 10 minutes later, See SOGGY on 18





SUNNY

Continued from Page 16

ers were surrounding courts, enthusiastically watching the action as teams advanced to semifinal contests and championship games throughout the day.

Generally, the younger the tournament bracket, the earlier the title game happened. There were 12 championship teams in all. The championship names varied from the traditional hometown name (teams named Goodrich and Swartz Creek won titles) to the creative. Some of the more creative championship squad names included Yeagerz Hotshotz and the Wombo Combo Crew.

There were teams with obvious local ties that won titles. Sawyer's Jewlers captured one of the men's league titles (see Saturday story for more details on the Sawyers' squad), while Team Acker won its title with Linden graduate Chelsea Acker as the squad's captain.

Another squad with local ties advanced to a crown. That was Bridge Street Exchange. It seemed this bracket had the most drama happening during the final hours of the Gus Macker.

While Bridge Street waited to play in the finals, the squad watched with anticipation the semifinal battle between Goyette Mechanical and Ypsilanti's B-Ball Skills squad. The Goyette team included Dane Coleman, Shane Eberhard, Ben Baker and Reichen Lund. Lund is the brother of Bridge Street Exchange player Blake Lund, and it was obvious the Lund family would've loved to see a sibling final.

However, the Ypsilanti team proved tough. Playing with just three players, the squad forced a regulation tie with Goyette Mechanical. Once in the overtime, the shortest player on the court, and maybe the youngest in the division, Xzavier Brooks was fouled. He went to the line and made the gamewinning free throw, eventually running into the arms of his father, and the team's coach, Anthony "Ant" Brooks to celebrate.

Once in the finals, however, B-Ball Skills' three-player team of Xzavier Brooks, Bryan Murphy and Rashid Hence grew tired. Meanwhile, Bridge Street's squad of Brendan Sullivan, Eli Beil, Mike Cemazar and Blake Lund were strong, eventually capturing the

After the heated game, both teams showed great sportsmanship, congratulating each other on a strong tourney performance.

"It feels good to actually win one of these in our own hometown," Blake Lund said.

Anthony Brooks was pleased for his squad, which was named after his own personal business. It was the first time the team played at a Gus Macker, and based on the experience probably not

"It was a really great experience bringing the kids out, being able to play and having them become a brotherhood. They learned how to win and lose together," Brooks said. "We lost one and had to work our way up to (the championship game). It was a great experience.

"With Gus Macker you can teach the kids how to play tough, to keep playing and to keep their heads in the game. This is really great. They are really happy about what they've accomplished.'



TRI-COUNTY TIMES I DAVID TROPPENS (Top photo) Two of the competitors in one of the adult divisions compete in one of Sunday's contests. (Right photo) Alex Harris (right) tries to find a way to the hoop during one of his contests. The city of Linden, Linden Community Schools and the Fenton Regional Chamber of Commerce hosted its first Gus Macker 3-on-3 Tournament at Hyatt Elementary School on Saturday and Sunday.

Other known winning teams during Sunday's second day were The Bomb Squad, the Dream Team and Gails Limo Service.



17



TRI-COUNTY TIMES I TIM JAGIELO

TRI-COUNTY TIMES DAVID TROPPENS (Top photo) Ethan Ninojosa, 9, Mason Struck,9, and Nate Ferry, 10, all of Chesaning, practice before a match on Saturday. Rains created some puddles on the courts during the games. But on Sunday, it was a different story as it was dry and sunny. (Right photo) Reichen Lund dribbles with the ball into the defense presented by Bryan Murphy Jr. in a semifinal contest.





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GUS MACKER

Continued from Page 3

All buckets were worth a point, except those outside the three-point arc which were worth two points. There were over 500 players competing and hundreds in attendance that watched the action.

"One-hundred-twenty-eight teams — that's a good first year," Clifton said. "That's about 512 players, it worked well. That's a great start. I can see this expanding and being 150 to 175 teams next year."

The event was organized by the Fenton Regional Chamber of Commerce, the City of Linden and Linden Community Schools.

Fenton Regional Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Shelly Day was pleased with the event.

"The reason the chamber is involved and helped organize it is to help Linden and the downtown," Day said. "We want people to be aware of what Linden has to offer. It is a great town to come to. That is our ultimate goal — to put Linden on the map."

Linden Community School's Community Education and Food Service Director Debbie Brindle was pleased with the event

as well.

"I am so excited to see so many people out here coming to Linden. It's a joy to see," Brindle said. "You know what is fun. I've worked at the school for 25 years and I'm seeing kids I haven't seen in a long time from the high school. It's exciting and its fun. It's bringing them back to town."

The ages of the competitors ranged from under 10 to adults in their 40s. There were men's and women's divisions, although most of the divisions were male and the majority of divisions involved school-aged players.

"It's family oriented," Clifton said. "We do this for families. And it's community-based. ... That's what keeps it going — family and community."

Clifton said he's been at tournaments involving players like Michigan State's Denzel Valentine and his older brother Drew Valentine. He's also seen ex-Michigan star Lavell Blanchard. He watched them grow up through Gus Macker.

"I love to watch the under 10 and the 13to 15-year olds," Clifton said. "To see their potential and then see them get better from



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

lan Abraham, 13, of Port Huron Township runs the ball back during a Saturday match. lan missed his local Gus Macker tourney, so his dad promised he would get to play in one — even 80 miles away.

one year to next is fun."

The event will return for at least the next two years. Clifton had one more comment

before he departed.

"We will be back again next year," Clifton said. "We'll be back bigger and stronger."

SOGGY

Continued from Page 16

the first games began — but with a twist. The first unofficial contest to start at Linden's inaugural event didn't happen outdoors. Instead, due to the slippery nature of the plastic court used in the adult division, the game was moved into Hyatt Elementary School's gymnasium. It pitted the Lapeer-based Cantombrits against the Holly/Clarkston-based Mehmet Okur squad. The Okurs had at least one familiar face for tri-county prep fans — Holly varsity assistant boys basketball coach

Jason Lambart captained that team with his brother Eric and his cousin Greg.

The Cantombrits scored the game's first point. The bucket was provided by Scott Turonek on a shot inside the paint, but Lambart's team managed to take the lead due to his strong perimeter shooting. However, the first-year team was unable to keep up, eventually falling to the Cantombrits' dominating inside game.

The irony of the first completed game being played indoors for what is an outdoor event wasn't lost on anyone. However, due to the rains, the players were glad they were indoors.

"This is a different thing for us," Turonek said about playing indoors. "The weather is a little unfortunate, but we lucked out and got moved in the gym."

Turonek plays in about "five to six" Gus Mackers a year and is playing his second with this team.

"I have played in the rain (in past Mackers)," Turnoek said. "We are on the sport court out there and when it gets wet it gets slippery."

Lambart is having fun playing with family.

"We just came out to have some fun," Lambart said. "Regardless of the score we are having a good time and we got a sweat going. We are playing for fun. We knew it would be tough because (my brother and cousin) haven't ever played any organized basketball. We hung in there.

"I've played in three others and they've all been in a downpour. You play out there and you slide. You can't cut because it's so wet. I'm glad we are inside."

The other divisions weren't quite as lucky as they played outdoors. However, while the rain was a constant issue throughout the day, it didn't ever get much harder than the minutes right before the tourney began. Teams did have to deal with the wind and some puddles on their courts, but they dealt with it and moved forward. It gave another meaning to the expression "Getting your feet wet" during the first game. Players, indeed got their fact wet

"We were like 'Oh, no, the ball is going to be slipping around and it's going to be a hot mess," Linden player Mallory Ross, 12, said. "But it turned out not to be that bad."

Ross' team was one of many squads based either in the tri-county area or near it. Their first opponents were the Bomb Squad whose players were from Swartz Creek and Lake Fenton. They eventually went on to win their division.

Reese Giacomantonio, 10, was a member of another young Linden squad. His team defeated the appropriately named Splash Brothers in their first game.

"This was close to our home and we've always wanted to be in one," Giacomantonio said. "We love basketball. "It was fun (playing in the rain). It was just the ball was slippery."

Finding local battles wasn't hard. It seemed about 50 percent of the teams involved tri-county competition. One opening-round game felt like a prep basketball contest from the past when a team sponored by Bill Carr Signs faced a team sponsored by Sawyer Jewelers. Bill Carr Signs' squad was four Lake Fenton graduates against Sawyer Jewelers' four Linden graduates. The Linden team won the contest in overtime and also ended up winning their division title on Sunday.

"It was a good time. We know all of those guys," Adam Wendt said about the contest against the Lake Fenton group. "We wanted to come out and support the local event going on. The conditions were a little bit rough, but both teams were playing with it, so you can't complain a lot."

"We knew coming in we had them the first game and it was fun," Plasters said. "It was fun but it was still slippery too. We had to get our feet under us. It was rough (losing in overtime), but it's all good. We'll get them the next game."



TRI-COUNTY TIMES I DAVID TROPPENSSaturday's rains didn't stop the action at the Gus Macker 3-on-3 Tournament held at Linden's Hyatt Elementary School.







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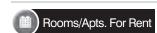
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Source: thefuneralsource.org



Claire Madeline Jacobs

1924-2015

Claire Madeline Jacobs
- age 91, of Linden, died
June 27, 2015. Funeral
services will be held 1 PM
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Rd., Fenton. Visitation was



day, July 1, 2015 at Sharp Funeral Homes, Fenton Chapel, 1000 Silver Lake

held 1-4 and 5:30-8 PM Tuesday. Those desiring may make contributions to the Alzheimer's Association. Claire was born April 7, 1924 in Detroit, the daughter of James and Edna (Williams) Smith. She married Johndean Jacobs March 2, 1946 and he preceded her in death in October of 1995. Claire was an owner and operator of Jacobs Pet Shoppe for many years. She had bowled on several leagues in Fenton and Flint and was a junior bowling coach for many years. Claire worked with Cub Scouts Pack 212 in Fenton. She was past President for the American Legion Post #38 Auxiliary and also held office of secretary for many years. Clair was a member of First Presbyterian Church of Fenton, 8 & 40 Salon #230, and the Fenton VFW Post #3240 Auxiliary. Surviving are: her children, James (Gail) Jacobs of Rural Retreat, VA, Douglas (Janet) Jacobs of Fenton, Robin (William) Courtright of Luther, MI, Julianne (John) Herronen of Linden, and Patricia (Jerry) George of Linden; 11 grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren and a great-great-grandson. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; 2 brothers, Kenneth and Thomas Smith; and 2 granddaughters, Jennifer Jacobs-Jackson and Lonna Herronen. Tributes may be shared on the obituaries page of www. sharpfuneralhomes.com.



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Donald C. Morgan 1945-2015

Donald C. Morgan - age 70, of Fenton, passed away peacefully at home June 28, 2015 surrounded by his family. Funeral Mass



list Catholic Church, 600

will be held 11:02 AM, Thursday, July 2, 2015 at St. John the Evange-

N. Adelaide, Fenton, MI 48430. Fr. David Harvey celebrant. Burial will follow in St. John Catholic Cemetery. Visitation will be held 2-8 PM Wednesday at Sharp Funeral Homes, Fenton Chapel, 1000 Silver Lake Road, Fenton and 10-11:02 AM Thursday at the church. A rosary will be held 7 PM Wednesday at the funeral home. Those desiring may make contributions to St. John School Educational Fund. Donald was born May 16, 1945 in Flint, the son of Robert and Edith (Montgomery) Morgan. He graduated from Davison High School in 1963. He graduated from Mott Community College (formerly, Flint J.C.) where he earned a Journeyman sheet metal degree. Donald married Shirley Collison March 30, 1968 at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, Fenton. He was a 7-11 franchisee, owning the Hill Road 7-11 store. Donald also owned Morgan's Market and Don's Party Store. He partnered in D & D Home Improvement, and for the last several years scrapped metal and was known as "The Metal Man". Donald loved spending time with family (especially his grandchildren), boating, and playing euchre. He was a member of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church and Fenton Moose Lodge #430. He is survived by his beloved wife of 47 years, Shirley; 3 daughters, Melanie (Scott) McPeake, Marla (Michael) Hagan, and Michelle Morgan; 1 son, Montgomery (Jennifer) Morgan; amazing "GG" to grandchildren, Method, Libby, Geordan, Mary, Morgan, Charlie, and Molly; 10 siblings, Gerald Morgan, Diann McCormick, Helen Mowery, Daniel Morgan, Charlene Lawrence, Ann Meyers, Joyce Walsh, Janettte Dempsey, Kathy Stevens, and Edward Morgan. He had several wonderful in-laws, nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. Donald was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Elaine; and brother. Matthew. Tributes may be shared on the obituaries page of www. sharpfuneralhomes.com.



WEDNESDAY SUDOKU

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

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

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) A perplexing situation needs to be dealt with in order to avoid problems later on. Rely on both your own sense of what's right and the advice of someone you trust to help work it out

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Let your sharp Taurean business insight guide you when considering a "dream deal." Without all the facts, it could turn into a nightmare. Remember: Investigate before investing

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Sharing so much of your time and your

gifts with others is what you do so well, and this week, don't be surprised if others want to share with you. Enjoy the experience. You've earned it.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) A difficult personal situation seems to defy efforts to resolve it. Perhaps you're too close to it. Take some time to reassess what went wrong, and then see where things can be set right.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Leonine pride could be piqued a bit when someone else appears to be standing in your light. Be patient and resist the urge to growl at the interloper. You'll soon be the "mane" attraction again.

VIRGO (August 23 to September

22) A professional situation benefits from your clear assessment of the circumstances involved. On the personal side, that new relationship looks as if it will continue to grow.

LIBRA (September 23 to October

22) More good news about a loved one helps reassure others who could not share your more-optimistic view before. Continue to help everyone in need of your comforting presence.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Creating new friendships could turn out to be the unexpected but welcome result of reconnecting with old friends. The weekend is a good time for fun and games. Enjoy!

SAGITTARIUS (November 22

23

to December 21) The more you learn about what you plan to do, the more likely you are to consider making some changes in your plans. This is good; don't resist it. Instead, go with it.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to

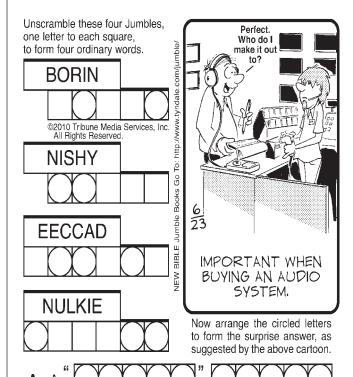
January 19) A career change is still in your aspect, but a potential workplace change could be what you've been looking for. See what develops before making any drastic moves.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Your energy levels are high this week, which should help you get all your workaday tasks done and still leave you with enough breath to handle some

domestic challenges. PISCES (February 19 to March

20) An unexpected fluke could cause problems with your travel plans. If so, use the time to troll for other available options, and you might be pleasantly surprised at what turns up.

WEDNESDAY JUMBLE



DVD RELEASES

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

GET HARD

Will Ferrell and Kevin Hart headline this Warner Bros. comedy about a wrongfully convicted

investment banker who prepares for prison life with the help of the man who washes his

R, 1 hr. 40min.

WHILE WE'RE YOUNG

Josh and Cornelia, a childless New York married couple in their mid-forties. As their other friends all start having children, the couple gravitates toward a young



hipster couple named Jamie and Darby.

R, 1 hr. 34 min.







CROSSWORD PUZZLE

10

ACROSS

- 1 Taj Mahal city
- 5 Brat's stocking stuffer
- 9 Hollywood trickery (Abbr.)
- 12 Upper palate
- 13 Formerly
- 14 Bygone
- 15 Caved in 17 See 41-
- Across
- 18 Sly
- 19 Big winds
- 21 Cellist Yo-Yo —
- 22 Michelangelo
- masterpiece 24 Wear a rut
- in the rug 27 Shack
- 28 TV's talking horse
- 31 Pair
- 32 Exist
- 33 Mess up
- 34 Partner
- 36 Doctrine
- 37 6/6/44
- 38 Tureen accessory
- 40 U.S. soldier

41 With 17-

Across, "Do the Right Thing" director

13 14 12 15 17 16 19 18 20 21 22 23 30 24 25 26 27 28 29 32 31 33 34 35 36 38 39 40 45 42 43 46 44 47 48 49 50 52 51 53 54 55 56

positions

Expert

Appre-

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10 Merriment

11 Mid-month

16 Alias abbr.

23 Couple, in

20 \$ dispenser

22 Prize money

a gossip

column

24 School org.

26 Crashed

29 Historic

27 Greet

25 Piercing tool

date

Sill

9

- 43 Spanish pre-euro 7 8 money
- 47 Scuttle 48 Cool and
- calm 51 Exploit
- 52 Met melody 53 Loosen
- 54 Actor Beatty
- 55 Tax
- 56 Lip

DOWN

- 1 Curved paths
- 2 Continue 3 Portrayal
- Blazing 4
- 5 Mimic
- 6 Switch
- period 30 Parched Answer in this Sunday's edition of the Tri-County Times

- 35 Tibetan bovine
- 37 Olympic Frisbee?
- 39 Transfer
- 40 "Gosh!"
- 41 Stay away from
- 42 Sit for a shot
- 43 Stage
- presentation 44 Italian
- volcano
- 45 "Bill & Excellent Adventure"
- 46 Fusses
- 49 Tramcar load
- 50 Tyler or
- Ullmann



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