

# Murders in a small town

■ Tragic endings for two area families when their daughters went missing

By Vera Hogan

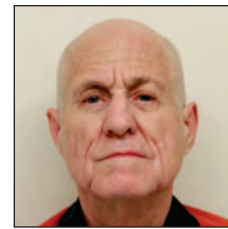
vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

It's every parent's worst nightmare — a child has gone missing, and even worse, is later found murdered. The sad truth is that no one is safe, whether they live in a big city

or a small community like Fenton.

Two Fenton area families have had to face this type of tragic event. The O'Briens, when their daughter Christine, 24, went missing 20 years ago this weekend, on July 18, 1995.

See **MURDERS** on 10A



Timothy Watkins



Leslie Allen Williams

**CONVICTED MURDERERS**



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**Weekend Times** SUNDAY EDITION

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## Tuesday deadline looms for council candidates

■ Cheryl King decides not to run after serving 24 years

By Vera Hogan

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Time is running out for city of Fenton residents hoping to run for city council. The deadline to submit petitions is 4 p.m. on Tuesday, July 21. In past years, before Michigan election laws changed, the petitions weren't due until September.

The general election will be held Tuesday, Nov. 3. This year, the city council seats held by Pat Lockwood, Les Bland and Cheryl King are up for grabs.

King, who has served on the council for 24 years, said she is not running for re-election. "I'm tired and I'm getting

See **COUNCIL** on 16A

**“I love this city, I love the people and have enjoyed serving them, and thank them for their support.”**

**Cheryl King**  
Fenton City councilwoman

## Road less traveled being paved



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

At 7:10 a.m. on Thursday, paving on LeRoy Street and Shiawassee Avenue in Fenton began as part of the Streetscape project. Approximately 1,400 tons of asphalt were applied by Cadillac Asphalt in two different layers — a 4-inch base layer, and a 2-inch level layer. The final layer will be applied at the end of the project this fall.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

The seminary building on High Street in Fenton continues to deteriorate.

## City receives five bids to demolish seminary

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

A second attempt to solicit bids for the demolition of the old seminary building in Fenton was more successful, with five contractors submitting bids by the July 14 deadline. The first deadline of June 30 came and went with no takers.

According to Building and Zoning Administrator Mike Reilly, the bids were opened on Tuesday.

See **SEMINARY** on 11A

### SUMMARY

■ Five bids have been received at Fenton City Hall for the demolition and cleanup of the seminary building and property at the corner of High Street and State Road.

### CITY OF LINDEN

## Gasoline leak contained, final report due in November

■ Linden mayor wants contaminated area fixed

By Hannah Ball

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The underground gasoline leak at Beacon & Bridge gas station in downtown Linden has been stopped, according to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

The initial assessment report (IRA), which the gas station owners had to complete within

See **GASOLINE** on 8A

810-771-TEXT  
(8398)  
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YOUR  
HOT LINE**



### “Fenton Township residents



complaining about their big blue trash containers are showing their arrogance and are embarrassing the rest of us. Get a grip.”

### “Driving through Dib-



bleville and downtown Fenton recently I could not help but notice that there doesn't seem to be enough space for any bike lanes on the new road? Please tell me that I am wrong, I ride my bicycle everywhere.”

“A liberal asked why conservatives hate them. In the question is the answer. If you don't agree with their views you are hateful, racist and homophobic. They welcome free speech, but only if you agree with their viewpoint.”

“America has progressed more in the last six years than in the previous 239 years. Less hate, less war and more love and tolerance. Everyone should remember in November 2016 that it was liberals who made all these changes happen, not conservatives.”



tctimes.com  
**COMMENT  
OF THE WEEK**

“Four Marines slaughtered like sheep thanks to the policies of our Commander-In-Chief. Why were they unarmed? How about we use this same logic and disarm all the Secret Service agents that protect the president and our senators and congressmen?”





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## Restaurant leftovers find new purpose at soup kitchens and homes for the elderly

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

About 40 percent of all edible food in the U.S. goes down the drain or in a landfill — from the pasta that didn't get eaten after a big party to the huge quantity of food that is leftover after a day's business at a restaurant.

Huge portion sizes, large menus that require lots of food on hand and chain restaurants with their own rules all result in full dumpsters and a lot of waste.

With hunger and poverty still an issue in every community, using these potentially wasted foods can make the difference between someone having a meal on the table for their family, or not.

See **LEFTOVERS** on 15A

**“I'm amazed how much food is leftover.”**

**Christine McDunnough**  
Founder of Food Runners



**TRI-COUNTY TIMES** | TIM JAGIELO

Christine McDunnough, founder of Food Runners, makes a quick drop off at the North End Soup Kitchen in Flint on Thursday. The goods are from Panera Bread, which is one of the corporate contracts she has.



**“We are really just repeating history. Family restaurants used to always have gardens to supplement their produce during the summer months.”**

**Mark Hamel**  
Co-owner of The Laundry

## Restaurant gardens a growing popular trend

Q & A with  
Mark Hamel  
of The Laundry

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

Local gardeners can't help but do a double take when they see the huge, lush tomato plants growing next to The Laundry, at Adelaide and Shiawassee.

How did co-owner Mark Hamel and company get those tomatoes to grow so big? We asked him about that (see sidebar) and several other questions about growing and using fresh produce, and the popular, growing trend of restaurant gardens. Here's what he had to say:

### Why did you decide to grow your own produce?

Well, it is definitely a trend in the restaurant business, but our garden area also was kind of a dead space for us. It helps us with our food costs for sure, but above all, it is the freshness and flavor factor. There is nothing like getting herbs right from the garden or a newly ripened tomato just picked from the plant. The flavors are amazing, and amazingly different from what you get from the supermarket.

See **GARDENS** on 14A

**TRI-COUNTY TIMES** | TIM JAGIELO

Mark Hamel, co-owner of The Laundry prunes thyme in the restaurant's garden Thursday morning, removing flowers that will affect the flavor. He guesses that the 170-square-foot garden containing tomatoes, peppers and others reaches 90 percent of the menu.



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# Random royal observations

• **A large ship** carrying climate change scientists that set sail on a mission to document the melting ice in Antarctica ended up surrounded by so much ice that two ice-breaker rescue vessels couldn't break through to rescue them.

• **A government** that continually robs Peter to pay Paul, can always count on the support of Paul.

• **Shouldn't we all be embarrassed** to live in a country where Hollywood gives Bruce Jenner the ESPY Courage Award but gives a less prominent award to a disfigured and wounded soldier who fought in the Middle East?

• **My wife has** a memory so good, she can remember things that never actually happened.

• **The average human** now has a

shorter attention span than a goldfish.

According to a study from Microsoft, average people lose concentration after 8 seconds, whereas the average goldfish doesn't lose interest until after 9 seconds. This is due to the effects of 'an increasingly digitalized lifestyle on the brain.'

• **Overpopulation?** The entire 330 million population of the U.S. would fit in the city limits of Tallahassee, Florida. If all 7-plus billion people existing on this earth stood shoulder-to-shoulder they would fit inside the city limits of Los Angeles, California. Think about that.

• **Definition of 'political correctness':** Any commentary that is contrary to the imaginary speech parameters created by liberals.



• **For God's sake**, don't anyone tell President Obama what comes after a trillion.

• **And shouldn't we** be embarrassed to live in a country where the President makes a personal call to a professional athlete to congratulate him for his courage on 'coming out,' but ignores the families of soldiers who died fighting for our freedom?

• **Vegetarian:** The Indian word for lousy hunter.

• **This is all you need to know about Hillary:** There is nothing in her history that would qualify her for the presidency, and much that should disqualify her.

• **No man's life**, liberty, pursuit of happiness or possessions are safe while Congress is in session.

• **What would be the response** from the left and the media, which are one and the same, if the church murderer had been

photographed with a rainbow flag? I'll answer my own question: dead silence.

• **Most don't know** that a 'jiffy' is an actual unit of time, representing 1/100th of a second.

• **Most Americans** never consider the fact that there are more humans enslaved around the world today than there ever was in the U.S. at any time.

Why are we obsessed with what happened 150 years ago?

• **There are multiple theories** regarding how to argue with a woman. Neither works.

• **The worldwide birth rate** has gone from an average of five children per woman in 1950 to 2.5 children per woman today. The world is in a minus-growth

population stage. In a few years, we will be screaming for more babies, not less.

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.

**I APPRECIATE THE** Hot lines and I am a staunch, lifelong Democrat. Submit your opinion instead of complaining that too many hotlines are from the right. The Times has printed any and all commentary I have ever submitted.

**I WONDER WHAT** our founding fathers would think of the recent decisions of our Supreme Court justices.

**WHEN I WENT** to school in Fenton and graduated, I knew every custodian in my school from elementary to high school. They were people we knew and trusted. I understand they intend to let all these people go and outsource our school custodians. What else will we sell out for a buck?

**WANT THE BUSINESSES** directly affected by Streetscape to know that we are still eating, shopping and patronizing your local stores. Fenton area residents know that the project is hard on your business but we will continue to support a hometown presence. Thanks for being patient.

**I RETIRED TO** Dover Hills, Florida over 20 years ago and they have an ordinance that's different from Fenton. Roosters and chickens are protected and they walk all over town.

**I DON'T THINK** our country has ever seen a president who has divided us by gender, race, economics, and geography like President Obama has. Hopefully, a positive change is coming in the future.

**TRI-COUNTY AREA** should forget about worrying about the trash and wonder where the cash is going from the people who are run out of business by the city screwing up the downtown area of Fenton.

**DOES OUR TOWNSHIP** or Republic Services have any idea what we're supposed to do with the recyclables Republic won't accept?

**YOU SAY THE** mute swans deserve to have their nests destroyed and to die because

they are not originally from Michigan and are competing for local resources? A great many people view immigration the same way.

**JULY 4TH PARADE** was very disappointing. No bands. Not a family-friendly parade this year.

**I WOULD LIKE** to make a comment on the illegal aliens. After being a deputy for 20 years, I disagree. Once they cross that line into America illegally, they should be sent back. If they ever come in again, they should be put in jail.

**RIP KATE STEINLE.** If you don't know who this young woman is, please Google her name and contact your state legislator to

make sure nothing like this happens in Michigan.

**REPUBLICANS DIDN'T TAKE** your pensions and there is nothing indicating that the already-shrinking middle class was negatively impacted by Right-To-Work. The middle class was declining long before Snyder.

**PEOPLE, THE MOSQUITO** spray article is a joke. Fenton City contradicts itself, so does the APM company. It kills aquatic life, bees and is safe? Why close windows and keep kids away? Their own people say it's toxic and bad.

**POTUS SAYS NOTHING** about a white woman killed by an illegal that was deported five times. He has much to say about Trayvon Martin, Gray, Garner, etc., but says nothing about the white woman killed by an illegal. Who or what is President Obama? Do we really know him?

**TO THE HOT** liner saying you agree with Trump that only legal immigrants should have the right to vote. I hope you learn some civics. Only 'citizens' have the right to vote.

**SINCE BUSH WAS** accused of 'gas for oil,' will the new term be 'nukes for oil' for Obama? Just wondering how safe our allies in Israel feel. Maybe Cuba will provide the guidance to our new Iranian buddies.

**GREAT FIREWORKS DISPLAY** by the city of Fenton on the 4th. Takes a lot of time, effort and money. Excellent job by all involved.

See **HOT LINE** throughout Times

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Compiled by Alexei Rose, intern

## How do you keep from wasting food?

## streettalk



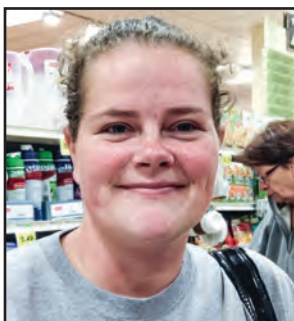
"Not buying anything until I know that people are going to eat it."

— Mary MacFarlane  
Fenton Township



"I try to make meals that use up the food in the fridge."

— Nancy Davis  
Fenton Township



"I make a meal plan then a list for things that I do not already have."

— Misty Martin  
Holly



"I put leftovers in the freezer and try to make another meal out of it."

— Kathleen Callard  
Tyrone Township



"We keep from wasting food by freezing it and eating leftovers."

— Johnny Smith  
Fenton



"We eat a lot of leftovers and I give my son-in-law leftovers for his lunch."

— Alma Moreno  
Fenton



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## Accused killer's preliminary exam delayed

■ More evidence and lab reports related to woman's death being prepared

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

Erich Wilfinger's preliminary examination scheduled for July 17 has been postponed. Instead, a status conference has been set for July 31.

According to a Montmorency County Criminal Court clerk, "A lot of evidence is still being collected and (investigators) are still waiting on reports, and lab reports," she said.

Wilfinger has been charged with one count of homicide-open murder in the death of his wife, Marsha (Sargent) Wilfinger.

Marsha Wilfinger, 54, formerly of Linden, was found in the back seat of a burning car on June 20. Shortly before midnight, 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.



Erich Wilfinger

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.

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.

That trail led detectives several miles to a house in Briley Township. Police made contact with Erich Wilfinger, who was sleeping inside the home and determined the body from the vehicle was his wife. Troopers observed signs that a domestic assault had recently taken place in the home.

Erich Wilfinger remains in jail without bond. A celebration of life ceremony was held for Marsha Wilfinger on June 27 in Fenton.

Montmorency County District Court Judge Benjamin Bolser will be presiding over the case. Wilfinger is being represented by attorney Ronald Bayot, who has not responded to requests for comment.

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FRI-SAT 4:45 8:25 9:55 11:00

SUN-WED 04:45 8:25 9:55

THUR 4:45 8:25 9:55 11:00

**\*@3D ANT-MAN: REALD 3D (PG13)**

FRI-SAT 11:35 2:10 7:20 11:55

SUN-WED 11:35 2:10 7:20

THUR 11:35 2:10 7:20 11:55

**\*@ANT-MAN: AN IMAX**

**3D EXPERIENCE (PG13)**

FRI-SAT 11:00 1:35 4:10 6:45 9:20 11:55

SUN-WED 11:00 1:35 4:10 6:45 9:20

THUR 11:00 1:35 4:10 6:45 9:20 11:55

**\*TRAINWRECK (R)**

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

8:00 9:00 10:50

SUN-WED 10:00 12:45 3:30 6:15 8:00 9:00

THUR 10:00 12:45 3:30 6:15 9:00 10:50

**STARTING THUR JULY 23**

**\*\*2D PIXELS (PG13)**

THUR 9:30

**\*@3D PIXELS: REALD 3D (PG13)**

THUR NIGHT/FRI MORNING 7:00 12:05

**CONTINUING**

**\*THE GALLOWES (R)**

**\*SELF/LESS (PG13)**

**\*ME AND EARL AND**

**THE DYING GIRL (PG13)**

**\*@3D MINIONS: REALD 3D (PG)**

**\*2D MINIONS (PG)**

**MAGIC MIKE XXL (R)**

**2D TERMINATOR: GENISYS (PG13)**

**TED 2 (R)**

**MAX (PG)**

**2D INSIDE OUT (PG)**

**\*@3D JURASSIC WORLD:**

**REALD 3D (PG13)**

**2D JURASSIC WORLD (PG13)**

**SPY (R)**

\*Due to movie company policies no passes are accepted.

@ No \$5 rate available. • \*No \$5 TUES evening rate.

## HOT LINE CONTINUED

THE CROSBY, STILLS and Nash song was about the constellation known as the Southern Cross.

I CANNOT BELIEVE the city zoning board allowed this new house that's going up on South Long Lake Road to build a garage within a few feet of the road. I can't believe how many accidents are going to happen right there, people texting and so forth.

I DON'T SO much mind the new trash containers. What I do mind is when people leave them outside of their house for a whole week. They're really a big eyesore.

WITH TREE BRANCHES and brush so close to the roads, it's time to bring back the chain gangs to make our roads safer to travel on. We taxpayers need services in return for providing housing, food and health services to those in prison.

IF YOU DON'T have a Bible in your home right now, you should buy one. If you don't have a Bible, get one. Treasure it.

FOURTH OF JULY parade, no historical evidence, no factual or educational value to proving its purpose. It was a sad and pitiful display of how far from the truth this country has drifted. It is not a forum to display who we are sleeping with.

I CONSIDER THE Tri-County one of the best newspapers in Michigan.

WHAT A WONDERFUL thing to hear somebody running for president who says what he feels and what he thinks. It's time for another Reagan and I think Trump is it.

IF YOU THINK that the Civil War was about states' rights, you better go back and take your history lessons over again. Slavery was the major part of the Civil War. You just got an F.

I LEARNED SOMETHING about some of the people in Fenton in the Times. Courtesy is not a word they understand. They don't use their turn signals. They believe in fairy tales and they don't believe in science.

OAKLAND COUNTY ROAD commission, what's the speed limit on Hickory Ridge? Is it 40 or is it 50? Can you cover up one of those signs? You're sending mixed signals.

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## WHAT YOU MISSED in the MIDWEEK TIMES

Wednesday, July 15, 2015 edition



■ Family fun at Concert in the Park

■ Several building projects on hold in Fenton

■ Keeping your personal, financial information safe

■ Linden struggling with equal class sizes, fewer kids

■ How to avoid telemarketers and spam

■ ArtWalk keeps downtown busy despite Streetscape; costs DDA \$24,000

■ Locals gettin' 'Artzy'

■ Destination Michigan

■ Michigan Votes

■ Garrison leads 5K walkers at event

■ History repeats at Bastille Day

■ McCarty Jr., Larsen lead field in 5K run

■ Wednesday Night Cross Country Races

View stories at  
tctimes.com



# Times' reporter auditions for The Bachelor

■ Hundreds looking for love — or fame — attend reality show event in Royal Oak

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

**Royal Oak** — Have you wondered how ABC finds those tall, beautiful, drama-crazed women to compete for one man's love and a rose?

Auditioning for ABC's popular reality show "The Bachelor" at a bar in Royal Oak Thursday, July 9, was everything I expected, from women in short dresses and full makeup, rushed-looking ABC workers, free Fireball, a dark bar with cocktails, filling out numerous forms, and the hour-and-a-half wait for a two-minute interview.

Everyone stood outside in line for about 40 minutes and filled out paperwork about our siblings, pets, career, life goals, descriptions about us no one usually thinks of, and why we would want to find a husband on TV. Hundreds of people were there.

One ABC worker said they'll interview 250-275 people for that one event.

I went with my friend, Nichelle Curtis, 22, a Gaines resident, and we asked people in line why they wanted to audition.

Connor Luyckx, 22, from Troy was auditioning for the role of the bachelor, and said "I had some friends point me in this direction. I'm out of my comfort zone, but it just felt like a good time."

Whitney Gebhart from Holland said, "I'm supporting my friend. I'm just doing it for fun and going to see what happens."

Her friend, Tiffany Kousakoun from Royal Oak, said, "I just think it's a good opportunity to meet someone. Whether it ends up being the love of your life, it seems like a great experience."

Once we finished filling out the forms in the line outside, we were given a number. I was 138. They took our mugshot with us holding a whiteboard with our name and number on it. Afterward, we were ushered upstairs through a dark stairway and into the dimly lit bar, where most of the waiting took place.

People had drinks and conversations about their favorite season of the show. I haven't seen any of them and it was interesting to hear how emotionally invested some



Hannah Ball



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | HANNAH BALL

Nichelle Curtis, 22, of Gaines and I (Hannah Ball) waited outside with about 50 other people, filling out forms and waiting to get our picture taken to audition for "The Bachelor." One ABC worker said they were expecting about 250 people to audition.

women and men were in a reality show where almost none of the winning contestants actually stayed with the bachelor or bachelorette.

Once I finally sat down with the interviewer, I clipped a microphone onto my dress, wrote my name and number on another whiteboard, and held it up to the camera while I smiled with too much teeth.

She was extremely nice and asked about my job, what I want in life, why I want to be on the show, and who was my

favorite on the current season of "The Bachelorette." I faked being excited about it, claiming that I didn't like to pick sides.

I'm not expecting to get on the show.

Even though I'm almost 22, I look way too young, I'm not 5 foot 9 inches, look like a Victoria's Secret model, nor did I gush about finding love in the form of someone self-centered enough to think that a bunch of women should compete for his rose.

Still, auditioning was an incredibly fun experience and I can always buy myself a rose.

**"I can always buy myself a rose."**

Hannah Ball  
The Bachelor applicant

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

Systems are upgraded by R.W. Mercer Company at the Beacon and Bridge gas station in Linden in early May.

## GASOLINE

Continued from Front Page

180 days of the confirmation of the leak in November 2014, reports the site is classified as a “class one,” leaking underground storage tank (LUST) site. This means it was considered a threat to human safety, health, environment, or sensitive environmental receptors until evaluated, said DEQ Analyst Marjorie Frisch.

She said owners Quick-Sav Food Stores LTD in Flushing stopped the leak. It’s regulated by the Storage Tank Division of the

**“They’ve since apparently fixed that, but it’s in the soil and groundwater and it’s their (gas station owner) responsibility to clean it up.”**

**David Lossing**  
Linden mayor

Bureau of Fire Services in the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA).

On April 27, 2015, the submersible riser, submersible pump, and manhole were removed from the tank that failed the tightness test, the Times reported on May 1. The gas station upgraded its systems with refurbished pumps and a siphon line for two of the submersed gas tanks.

The report, which the Times acquired through a Freedom of Information Act request, states the contaminants were removed from the ground and there

are no more threats to public health, safety, or environment. An underground tank leaked “due to corrosion present on the riser at the top of the tank,” according to the report.

The leak spread along a two-block section north in the underground storm sewer system, south of the Shiawassee River and north of Hickory Street, according to the IRA. The benzene contamination was too high for residential and non-residential standards, but no drinking water supplies were contaminated. Soil and groundwater results found petroleum volatile organic compound concentrations.

“We know it’s too high on site,” said Frisch. “The law permits contamination to remain on site with the condition that it is not causing a drinking water, surface water, indoor air, or direct contact risk. Sites with environmental contamination often are required to have a restrictive

covenant on their deed that restricts land or resource use.”

Linden Mayor David Lossing is concerned about the IRA not addressing remediation efforts.

“I’ve expressed that to DEQ officials,” he said. “There’s a leak in the groundwater and they’re not addressing that.”

Lossing said he couldn’t say how it’ll affect development in the future, or possible lawsuits from third parties that have been hurt. He predicts the DEQ will force a cleanup.

“They’ve since apparently fixed that, but it’s in the soil and groundwater and it’s their responsibility to clean it up. I expect the DEQ will make that happen,” he said. Lossing said he hasn’t spoken to the owners of Beacon & Bridge.

“We’ll be working through the DEQ to have those conversations of the gas station,” Lossing said. He expects they’ll meet and have some sort of public forum to share this with everyone who has concerns.

The report proposed installing permanent monitoring wells at East/West Broad Street and South/North Bridge Street right of ways. Monthly inspections and testings were also proposed.

Frisch said, “There are many methods of remediation and each has different associated costs, depending on the level of complexity and the extent of contamination that needs to be addressed. It is not unusual to spend \$200,000 or more remediating a site of environmental contamination.”

Quick-Sav has not proposed remediation efforts yet. They are required to propose those plans to the DEQ by this November. There is no penalty or fine for the leak because the owners completed the report by the DEQ’s rules.

The Times is waiting to hear back from the owners.

## AFFECTED BUSINESS

Contaminated properties were not notified of the leak at the time the report was made, but the IRA proposed in the final report, due November 14, 2015, notices will be given out to affected easement holders, utility owners, highway authorities, and tenants.

The leak affected Bridge Street Exchange at 109 North Bridge St., owned by Kevin Begola in November 2014. He said he noticed alarming smells at his business. Gas components were detected in the air, the Times previously reported, and the DEQ enlisted Environmental Consulting & Technology (ECT), which put a vapor mitigation system in the business, which fixed the smell.

## CONTAMINATION HISTORY

According to a November 2012 Times article, Linden City was going to buy the parcel where the Union Block once stood, at the northeast corner of Bridge and Broad streets, but decided against it after discovering a petroleum-related ground contamination at the site. Mayor David Lossing said when the city tested for a leak, the test did not determine the source. Linden didn’t have the financial capacity to clean it up in 2012.

DEQ Analyst Marjorie Frisch said the property is buildable. “MDEQ has reviewed many contaminated sites that have been redeveloped into usable or buildable spaces. Restrictions on the use of the property...may come into play with the redevelopment. However, it’s rare when those restrictions completely prohibit the reuse of the property,” she explained.

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## MURDERS

**Continued from Front Page**

And the Urbins, when their daughters, Michelle, 16, and Melissa, 14, went missing in September 1991.

Both incidents resulted in abductions and tragic endings.

The bodies of Michelle and Melissa, who were originally thought to be run-aways, were found several months later in shallow graves at the back of Fenton's Oakwood Cemetery. They were hidden there by confessed serial killer Leslie Allen Williams, who sexually assaulted and killed a total of four young girls. Williams, 62, is currently serving multiple life sentences in the Carson City Correctional Facility in Carson City, MI.

The badly decomposed remains of Christine O'Brien were found in 1996, eight months after her disappearance, under the roof of a collapsed duck blind at the south end of Bennett Lake, just north of Cohoctah Road in Deerfield Township.

Her killer, Timothy Watkins, is imprisoned at the Chippewa Correctional Facility in Kincheloe, MI. His earliest possible release date, according to the Michigan Department of Corrections, is March 25, 2059. Watkins is currently 69 years old.

In the case of Williams, there was significant criticism over the fact that he was even free to walk the streets. According to a May 1992 New York Times article, "Leslie Allen Williams represents a failure of this entire criminal justice system, particularly the parole system," said John Nichols, the sheriff of Oakland County. "Leslie Allen Williams never should have been on the street. Four young ladies are dead because of that."

Over the years, Williams reportedly received numerous breaks from the justice system, getting relatively light sentences or early paroles after guilty pleas on various charges of breaking and entering, rape and assault since 1971.

His last sentencing was in 1983, when he threatened and abducted a woman, releasing her unharmed. He was sentenced to concurrent terms of five to 10 years in prison for the assault and seven to 30 years under the state's habitual offender law. He served seven years and was paroled in 1990.

Watkins took advantage of O'Brien's love for horses. Just over 5 feet tall and 100 pounds, she was last seen the evening of July 18, 1995. She was an enthusiastic equestrian and told an employee at a spa in Flint that she was in a hurry because she planned to meet someone who was building horse stables.

O'Brien never returned home and never phoned her parents, something she would always do to let them know she would be late. Her sister, Laura, found her car, a 1987 Chevy Nova, parked at the Tyrone Hills Golf Club, a short walk from the horse auction she often visited. The car was locked and her purse and keys were inside.

In July 2000, a local woman decided to share a painful memory from 1976. She referred to herself as "the one that got away," and hoped her story would enlighten everyone to trust their instincts.

This woman told of a time when she was followed by a man, stalked before stalking laws were in place. After several frightening twists, she managed to get away and with her mother, alerted police. They said there was nothing they could do because he had not committed any crime.

In the end, the woman wrote, "It's human nature to assume that things like this happen to someone else, somewhere else. I'm here to say that it can happen to you and it can happen here. I grew up in a small town called Fenton, Mich., and the man that chased me was Leslie Allen Williams. Are you willing to go on assuming that this can't happen to you?"

## SAFETY STRATEGIES FOR PROTECTING YOUNG CHILDREN

- Make sure any custody documents are in order.
- Have ID-like photos taken of your kids every six months and have them fingerprinted.
- Keep your kids' medical and dental records up to date.
- Make online safety a priority. The Internet is a great tool, but it's also a place for predators to stalk kids.
- Set boundaries about the places your kids go. Supervise them in places like malls, movie theaters, parks, public bathrooms, or while fundraising door to door.
- Never leave kids alone in a car or stroller, even for a minute.
- Choose caregivers carefully and check their references. If you've arranged for someone to pick up your kids from school or day care, discuss the arrangements beforehand with your kids and with the school or child-care center.
- Avoid dressing your kids in clothing with their names on it — children tend to trust adults who know their names.
- Make sure younger kids know their names, address, phone number including area code, and who to call in case of an emergency. Review how to use 911. Discuss what to do if they get lost in a public place or store. Remind them that they should never go to the parking lot to look for you. Instruct kids to ask a cashier for help or stand near the registers.
- Be sure your kids know whose cars they may ride in and whose they may not. Teach them to move away from any car that pulls up beside them and is driven by a stranger, even if that person looks lost or confused. Develop code words for caregivers other than mom or dad, and remind your kids never to tell anyone the code word. Teach them not to ride with anyone they don't know or with anyone who doesn't know the code word.
- If your kids are old enough to stay home alone, make sure they keep the door locked and never tell anyone who knocks or calls they are home alone.

## TALKING TO KIDS ABOUT STRANGERS

Talk to your kids often about safety.

Give them the basics on how to avoid and escape potentially dangerous situations. Teach them to:

- Never accept candy or gifts from a stranger.
- Never go anywhere with a stranger, even if it sounds like fun. Predators can lure kids with questions like "Can you help me find my lost puppy?" or "Do you want to see some cute kittens in my car?" Remind your kids that adults they don't know should never ask them to help or to do things for them.
- Run away and scream if someone follows them or tries to force them into a car.
- Always ask permission from a parent to leave the house, yard, or play area, or to go into someone's home.

(Source: kidshealth.org)





TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

The city is currently unable to cut the grass surrounding the dilapidated structure, due to possible hidden bricks and stones.

## SEMINARY

Continued from Front Page

"We received five bids from contractors," Reilly said. "City staff is reviewing the bids and will forward a recommendation to the city manager requesting that city council award a contract to one of the bidders."

"The scope of the work is to completely remove the structure and re-grade the site," he added.

A decision to tear down the 147-year-old structure was made earlier this spring. Because the 10,000-square-foot building, built in 1868, has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1983, city officials decided earlier this year to ask the experts to determine whether the building could be restored, or if it should be demolished.

In November 2013, the seminary sustained significant damage during a rainstorm with high winds. The subsequent harsh winters of 2013-2015 resulted in further destruction of the deteriorating building, which is now in near ruins. The structure has collapsed completely on the east side, with rooms and debris on all three floors exposed.

The engineering study resulted in

## GRASS CUTTING UNSAFE

Residents whose homes are located in the immediate vicinity of the seminary building will need to be patient a bit longer. Although tall grass and weeds are obvious and there are fears that critters are making themselves at home in the building and on the property, clean up is going to have to wait. According to Building and Zoning Administrator Mike Reilly, the area inside the fence has brick, stone and debris lying around, making grass cutting unsafe.

a recommendation to demolish the building, salvaging as much of the ornate items and materials that can be repurposed as possible.

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## HOT LINE CONTINUED

**THANKS SO MUCH** to the teachers at Patterson Elementary in Holly. Every Wednesday you welcome many kids to your Summer Blast event. What fun the kids have participating in all of the activities.

**I AGREE FENTON** schools could use a fresh set of eyes in the central office and a leader that lives in the community, not 45 miles away. Mr. Suchowski is the best candidate to help the school during this difficult time. I believe and trust in his ability to lead.

**LINDEN IS THE** size of a postage stamp. Why aren't the police doing anything about the fireworks still being set off every night? We try to call but only get an answering machine. We refuse to dial 911 for this non-emergency. Do something.

**WE WANT TO** thank the wonderful couple from Margaret Drive for towing our boat from the north end of Lake Fenton to the public access. Our boat wouldn't start and it was almost dark. We will always remember your kindness by passing on good deeds to others in need.

**WHAT'S WITH THE** extremely narrow downtown LeRoy Street? Several people have said that maybe it's going to be one way. I certainly hope not.

**I SEE IN** the British open that Tiger Woods is still using his foul language on TV. He doesn't know the camera is on him but what a pity for a man that owes everything to golf.

**OBAMA WROTE LETTERS** to 46 convicted felons that he recently sent free. But no mention of reaching out to the family of Kate Steinle, the young woman murdered in San Francisco by an illegal immigrant. The reasoning is apparently she does not look like him or one of his children.

**THE IRAN NUCLEAR** deal has been praised by Syria. It has been called victory by Iran and the Iranian people. These are the same people who were shouting death to America five days ago.

**THANK YOU, TIMES** for the story about the blue trash containers in Fenton Township. Because of that story, I finally looked at the neighborhood map that came with the container to know which week I'm supposed to put out my cart for recyclables. Maybe that is why others needlessly put their bin out every week.

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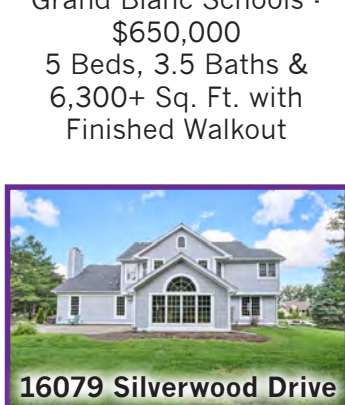
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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Mark Hamel stakes the tomato plants Thursday morning, as the weight becomes too much for the vines to hold.

## GARDENS

Continued from Page 3A

### What are you growing besides tomatoes?

Most of the herbs we use for cooking come from our garden, including basil, oregano, thyme, rosemary, and bay leaves. We use the mint for cocktails at the bar, and peppers — jalapeno, cayenne, habanera and bell — for sandwiches and sauces.

We also grow most of the flowers for our tables. We have a beehive for honey, too. Last year, the bees produced 15 gallons of honey that we use in everything from salad dressings to bread at the bakery. We are also growing four different varieties of hops for the brewery. Scott Hayes, the head brewer, will use them in a wet hopped beer this fall.

### Do you use all the produce you grow in your restaurants?

Yes, and unbelievably there is quite a bit for such a small area. We get about 1,000 pounds of tomatoes each year, for example.

### Do you can or preserve any of the extras at the end of the season?

Since we use so much produce at The Laundry, we use everything that is grown

fresh from the garden.

### Why do you think consumers are more conscious about the fresh foods they eat?

Because we know what is in them. We don't use any chemicals at all in our garden. So everything we grow is very fresh, chemical-free and pesticide-free.

### What difference does it make if we buy lettuce from the grocery store or grow our own?

There is a big difference. The produce we get from a produce company wasn't picked this morning. In some cases, it could have been days or weeks since the produce was picked. Sometimes they ripen on the road trip and not on the vine, which really impacts the flavor.

### Do you think restaurant gardens, whether on the ground or rooftops, will be a continuing popular trend?

I think so. It's the way it used to be. We are really just repeating history. Family restaurants used to always have gardens to supplement their produce during the summer months. We are really just getting back to our roots, so to speak.

### What are your challenges obtaining other fresh food items?

You would think it would be easy to get fresh eggs, produce or meat locally, but not in Fenton. The health department regulates where we can obtain food.

#### SUMMARY

■ The Laundry, located at the corner of Shiawassee Avenue and Adelaide Street, is growing its own vegetable garden adjacent to the building. So far, it's the only restaurant in Fenton taking advantage of this popular trend.

For instance, eggs from a local farm is hard for us unless the farm is certified by the health department or Department of Agriculture, which most small family farms are not.

The same is true for meat. Currently Chef Jody Brunori is working with a local farmer for fresh meat and it seems to be going well. We are very happy with the product and the health department is allowing it.

New York City or Paris would be a dream for us because of the huge fresh markets that exist in those cities. Genesee County is evolving but at a very slow pace. Some of the fresh cheeses that we use are very foreign to them. They are used to seeing cheese cryovaced and pre-sliced and when we get an 80-pound wheel of raw milk aged Comte for our French onion soup each week, it takes some educating on our part.

#### IT'S ALL ABOUT THE COMPOST

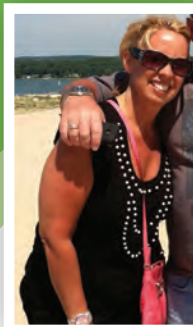
To The Laundry, how do your tomatoes grow? Mark Hamel, who owns the popular Fenton eatery with Chad Brennan, shares the secret. "It's the compost and the heat," said Hamel. "In the fall, we spread 3 inches of vegetable scraps, 2 inches of coffee grounds and 2 inches of spent grain from the brewing process on the garden. We use no artificial fertilizers. By the spring, it all turns into really great black dirt." Hamel said they also start their garden early. He said the sun shines in that corner all day and the bricks of the building soak it up so during the cool evenings, and the early spring frosts, the plants in the garden are not affected and we get a nice head start on everyone."

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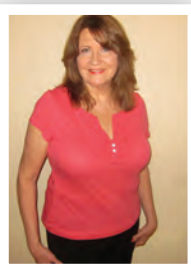
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## LEFTOVERS

Continued from Page 3A

One local woman is on a crusade to take this food and get it into the hands of people who need it. Christine McDunnough of Fenton Township founded Food Runners last year with her daughter, Shannon, 18, a Fenton High School graduate and son, Darren, a sophomore. Her husband, Darren, also helps, along with other volunteers when needed.

They started picking up food from restaurants three days a week or when specifically called for a special event.

### SUMMARY

■ A Fenton Township woman helps connect restaurant leftovers with people who are hungry at Flint soup kitchens.

Food Runners currently has a corporate contract with Panera Bread, and works weekly with VG's Grocery to take leftover breads and baked goods to the three soup

kitchens in Flint operated by Catholic Charities of Genesee and Shiawassee counties. Food Runners also picks up leftovers from the CRUST booth at the Flint and Davison farmers markets for the same destination.

"I'm amazed at how much food is leftover," said McDunnough. "Some restaurants do a much better job of containing food waste than others."

Big parties and community events that serve lots of food are also potential pick-up points for Food Runners.

After last year's Applefest, Food Runners picked up three carloads of food, canned goods, dry goods and paper products. "They gave us everything," said McDunnough. "All you have to do is call us at (810) 348-9700 and let us know you have leftovers. We can be sure everything is properly sealed in containers for delivery."

Where does all this food go? The North End Soup Kitchen, South End Soup Kitchen and Center of Hope, all operated by Catholic Charities, are the main recipients.

"They bring us day-old Danishes and coffee cakes from Panera," said John Manse, director of community service for Catholic Charities. "It's nice to have that to serve for dessert."

Catholic Charities also have their own vans that pick up donations weekly from Great Harvest Bread Company, Bob Evans, Red Lobster, Outback Steakhouse, Olive Garden, Oliver T's and Koegel's.

"We can incorporate a lot of these foods into our menu," said Manse. "It helps the bottom line; we don't have to buy bread for the 300-400 sandwiches we make every day. We've been getting bologna 'ends' from Koegel's for two years. Now we don't have to buy bologna at \$15 a case."

Locally, leftover bread from CRUST in Fenton finds its way to a number of care homes for the elderly, coordinated by General Manager Jeremy Waddell through his ties at The Road Community Church on South Holly Road in Holly.

While leftover bread is a bakery reality, independent restaurants like The Laundry take food waste containment seriously. By growing their own produce, they're able to "harvest" it as needed, so there's virtually no waste.

Chef Jody Brunori plans menus so that ingredients are used in more than one

## SIX WAYS TO REDUCE FOOD WASTE AT HOME

Restaurants aren't the only culprits of large scale food waste. According to the American Chemistry Council, Americans overestimate how much they can eat and it costs each household about \$640 a year in wasted food. Here are six ways to stop waste at home, according to a recent story in USA Today:

**1. Use an app** designed to help you use up leftovers. One example is SideChef, which gives step-by-step instructions with photos and videos for using up food. You can even share leftovers with strangers, thanks to the app, Leftover Swap.

**2. Buy plastic-wrapped** produce, which keeps fruits and vegetables from ripening too quickly by slowing the intake of oxygen and the release of ethylene gas. Leave food in its packaging and rewrap it if you have leftovers after opening.

**3. Ignore sell-by** dates (to a degree). These dates aren't necessarily an indication of food safety, but are used to tell stores how long to display a product. The use-by date is an indication of the last day of peak food quality, but it's not necessarily unsafe to eat after that date. Use your eyes and nose: if the food smells bad or has mold, toss it.

**4. Plan your meals.** That will help you buy what you need. Look for recipes that use several of the same ingredients. If a recipe calls for an ingredient you're not likely to use again, don't buy it; swap it out for something you already have on hand. Commit to eating leftovers. When you get your groceries home, rotate the food in your pantry and fridge to eat your older items first.

**5. Freeze it.** When in doubt, throw it in the freezer. That goes for meat, veggies and fruit nearing their expiration date. Wrap tightly in plastic wrap and label what it is. Wrap chicken breasts individually so it's easy to pull out just what you need.

**6. Just add water.** Herbs can be frustrating because they're usually sold in large bunches and used sparingly. Infuse water with herbs such as mint or basil or cut up herbs and freeze them into ice cubes to give a kick to water or cocktails. You can also add them into store-bought dips like hummus or pesto for extra flavor. Store herbs properly in the first place to extend their life. Wash, wrap in paper towels, cover with a plastic bag and place upright in a glass of water in your fridge, like a bouquet of flowers.

dish, providing multiple opportunities to deplete ingredients. Rinds, peels, leaves, spent grain from The Laundry's in-house brewery, Lynchpin Beer Company, are all raked into garden beds outside the

restaurant for a rich compost. Food ordering is a critical component, too.

So even if you don't "clean your plate" when you're dining out, you know that leftover foods that have never been served and are properly stored or frozen can go where they are truly needed.

"We're so blessed here in Fenton," said McDunnough. "I believe I'm here to do something more to give back."

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**COUNCIL****Continued from Front Page**

out while the gettin's good," she said.

Having recently lost her sister to cancer, King said she wants to spend more time with her family. "My children, my grandchildren, my sister's three daughters and my husband, we just need to be together," said King.

"I love this city, I love the people and have enjoyed serving them, and thank them for their support," she added. "But now it's time for someone else to take over."

Fenton resident Cherie Smith hopes to fill one of the council positions and has already submitted her petitions. She is the wife of the late Ben Smith, a former city councilman.

"I've served on various boards and commissions for the past 17 years, as well as fund-raised for Beautification Commission and Parks Board," said Smith, who has voluntarily participated in many city events and activities.

"I feel I have much more to give and would like to bring a more personal understanding to residents," she added. "I feel it's important to listen to residents' concerns and work toward resolutions of their questions. I want to help residents feel empowered by being informed."

In addition to the two-year term of mayor, a position held by Mayor Sue Osborn since 1997, three city council seats are up for election or re-election.

Mayor Sue Osborn said she will be seeking another term in office. She has

served on the Fenton City Council since 1985 and is completing her 18th year as mayor.

Osborn said, "I think the biggest project will be working on completing downtown. There are so many projects moving forward, including replacing the Silver Lake Road bridge."

Councilman Les Bland is seeking his second term in office because several people have asked him to do so.

"I wasn't going to run again, but I have a lot of people who want me to do it because of my knowledge of the city," said Bland, who served as the director of the Department of Public Works for 41 years before retiring.

"I thought briefly about running for mayor, but decided I will just run again for council and continue doing what I'm doing, if I win that is. I'll give 'em another four years and see what happens after that."

Councilwoman Pat Lockwood said she, too, is running for council again. "I am definitely running," Lockwood said. "I am looking forward to it and continuing to be part of the team, helping with the city and helping the residents," she said.

Although it has been rumored that others are lining up to run for office, as of Friday morning, none have turned in their signed petitions.

**SUMMARY**

■ The deadline for Fenton City Council candidates to turn in signed petitions is 4 p.m. Tuesday, July 21. Packets may be picked up and returned to the city clerk.

**Police&Fire****report****TWO ATVS STOLEN IN ARGENTINE**

On July 10, a homeowner on Whitehead Drive filed a larceny complaint with the Argentine Township Police Department. The man said that his two ATVs, which were stored on a trailer in his driveway had been stolen overnight. One ATV is a 2012 Yamaha, the other is a Suzuki four-wheel drive. Combined, they value \$2,500. The ATVs were entered into LEIN as stolen. There are no suspects. Anyone with information is asked to call (810) 735-5317.

**ARGENTINE MAN CRASHS VEHICLE**

At 11:20 p.m. on Sunday, July 12, Argentine Township police responded to a one-vehicle crash on Silver Lake Road, near Linden High School. A 54-year-old Argentine man was arrested for OWI after he lost control of his silver Ford Expedition and crashed. The vehicle rolled onto its side. There were no injuries.

**CALLER ATTEMPTS TO SCAM POLICE CHIEF**

Fenton Police Chief Rick Aro's cell phone number is just another number to scammers. On Tuesday, he said that he received a call from (509) 643-4477. In a voice-mail, the caller advised him that the IRS was suing him for back taxes – last chance. He was advised to call the number back. Aro investigated this issue online and found numerous complaints similar to this. The number originated from Sunnyside, Washington. The police chief warns residents that this is a scam and to report it to their local police department.

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**News briefs****Art in the Park**

Art in the Park has announced its event dates and times at various parks in Fenton. All of the events will take place from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays.

**July 25** – Freedom Park

**Aug. 15** – O'Donnell Park (millpond)

**Sept. 12** – Rackham Park

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## TRIVIA ALL-STAR GAME

**Q** Name the last player to start at each position for the Tigers at the All-Star Game. Name a lefty and righty starter on the mound.

**A** Go to page 19A to get your answers. There are some surprises.

## Ebert following family roots, playing at Polomar College

■ 2015 Fenton grad is already on campus

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

When Ross Ebert was looking for a school to continue his football career, he ended up digging into his family's past.

"My dad grew up in San Marcos (California) and when he was playing high school football out there, he played against one of the

coaches that is now the offensive coordinator (at Palomar College)," said the Fenton

2015 graduate who quarterbacked the Tigers to a perfect 9-0 regular season in 2014.

"Before my senior year started, (my dad) made a

connection with him. ... My dad wanted to get me out here and get a little Cali boy into me."

It worked. Ebert is already living in California and will be continuing his career at Palomar College, a junior college (JUCO) located close to San Diego.

"I flew out on June 13th. I've been out here a month now," Ebert said. "I have

some football classes I've signed up for and I'm out here lifting four days a week. Then I'm in the classroom, learning the playbook and stuff. After that we go on the field and do 7-on-7 and run the plays and stuff, basically getting ready for the season. We're not in pads though."

Ebert had other offers from Siena Heights, John Carroll, Hope and Hillsdale, but said **See EBERT on 18A**



### ROSS EBERT

Fenton's 2014 starting quarterback is playing college ball at Polomar College.

See Page 17A

Times

SUNDAY,  
JULY 19, 2015  
PAGE 17A

# Sports

ONLINE EXCLUSIVES

Check the Tri-County Times Facebook page for more junior golf photos.

## RUN FOR HOPE RACE SET FOR THURSDAY

Linden's Hope Lutheran Church, located near Linden High School, will be hosting its annual Run For Hope 5K Run on Thursday, starting at 6:30 p.m.

The event costs \$20 for those wanting to run the 5K race or walk. There is a kids 1/4-mile fun run as well at 7:30 p.m. and that race costs \$5.

The course is professionally timed with an electronic chip system and the results will be posted at [www.Hope-Linden.org](http://www.Hope-Linden.org). The course is a mixture of light-traffic paved roads and a wooded cross country trail.

The proceeds are used to fund a college scholarship for Linden High School students. Last year's scholarship recipient was 2015 graduate, Dominique Scripter.

Awards will be given to the top three in each five-year age group for the 5K and trophies will be presented to the overall and masters male and female winners. Walkers are encouraged to participate, but will be timed along with the runners.

For more information, contact Amy Watts at (810) 735-4807 or at [awatts0630@gmail.com](mailto:awatts0630@gmail.com).

## Jr. golfers invade Spring Meadows

■ Program attracts close to 100 youngsters annually

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

**Linden** — For most of the summer, adults dominate the landscape at Spring Meadows Country Club.

However that wasn't the case on Tuesdays and Thursdays from June 19 until July 24 before noon.

From that time, there's a good chance you'll see Golfzilla — an inflatable "Godzilla-like" monster standing about 15 feet tall. You might see youngsters hitting golf balls that look more like tennis balls with larger club faces. But what you'll certainly see is almost 100 children ages 5 to 18 taking ownership of the 18-hole layout and having a good time.

"I like the excitement," said Spring Meadows Country Club's First Assistant Golf Professional and Junior Golf Coordinator Jeremy Hibbard.

"They want to come out here. They like having the course until noon. It makes them feel like a big kid, feel like an adult. Any time you have the course to yourself



TRI-COUNTY TIMES  
DAVID TROPPENS

Scarlett Dunahoo takes a shot out of a sand trap during Thursday's Spring Meadows Junior Golf session. Dunahoo was one of about 90 children between the age of 5 and 18 participating in this summer's program.

they feel like, 'Yeah, we are big kids.'"

Hibbard has been running the five-week program for the last four seasons with the aid of teaching pro Rick Kent. The pair give about a half-hour lesson before each session, followed by the players

competing on the golf course. Thursday's lesson was how to hit a driver. One session ended with all the competitors swinging at golf balls at the same time on the driving range.

"Every week we go over **See GOLFERS on 18A**

## Foguth given a look by the Calgary Flames

■ Fenton native will captain his college team during 2015-16 season

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com

All Carter Foguth continues to do is play the sport he loves.

And while doing that, it seems doors keep opening up for the Fenton native.

Foguth, who will be starting his junior season **See FOGUTH on 19A**



TRI-COUNTY TIMES  
DAVID TROPPENS

Carter Foguth, who is a junior at Minnesota State, participated in a developmental camp for the Calgary Flames recently.



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## GOLFERS

Continued from Page 17A

another club," Hibbard said. "Today it was the driver. We work on our short range. We work on chipping, pitching and putting. Basically we hit every aspect of the game."

"It can be a challenge to work with the kids at the youngest ages. You probably have five to 10 minutes of good attention time with the youngest kids before it's gone."

But the highlight of every session has to be playing an actual round. The age groups are separated into one-hole, three-hole, five-hole, nine-hole and 18-hole groups. The tees are adjusted for the youngest groups so they can enjoy success at their own level. The youngest groups can be a challenge. The adults who follow the groups encourage the players to follow proper golf etiquette in terms of taking shots at the right time, but it never comes as a surprise when a seven-year-old gets on the green and wants to complete his putting until their hole is done.

During the rounds are the occasional missed shots with the youngest groups, but at the same time the same player who scuffed a shot three yards can be the same person who hits it 60 yards and smack dab on the middle of the green on their next shot.

The kids get excited. One young golfer who hit the green on a nice shot found his ball made a mark on the green and proudly announced that fact a handful of times over the next few minutes.

The junior golf program ends on Tuesday with the final rounds of the season.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPENS

Here are three of about 100 competitors involved with Spring Meadows Country Club's Junior Golf Program. (Above) Quinn Palmer rips a shot from one of the tees during three-hole competition. (Right) Carter Will has to negotiate a shot from under a tree. (Bottom right) One-hole participant Alex Iordanou follows his putt to the hole. There are many more junior golf photos located on the Tri-County Times Facebook page.

## EBERT

Continued from Page 17A

Palomar was his selection.

"The way it worked out, Palomar was always there," Ebert said. "Palomar was always in the back of my mind. I always preferred being close to home, but the way it worked out Palomar ended up being the place. ... It's funny the way things have worked out."

Another nice aspect concerning Ebert's choice has been getting in touch with family he rarely saw while living in Fenton. He's living with his grandparents and gets a chance to see other family living in the area.

"I may have seen them once every couple years and now I'm waking up in their house," Ebert said about his grandparents. "Plus, there's so much other family here. It's nice to see everybody."

Palomar College has a pretty solid tradition at the JUCO level. The Comets have captured three national championships (1991, 1993 and 1998) and have made postseason playoff appearances 19 times, including last season when the squad went 7-4 overall.

The squad played two quarterbacks regularly last year, but one of those signal-callers has graduated. Brett Hollingsworth returns for his sophomore season, as does Austin Early, another sophomore who saw limited time. Ebert said the summer started with eight quarterbacks, but those numbers have already dropped to six.

"One thing the coaches said is everyone has a fair shot — it doesn't matter who is returning or who is new," Ebert said.

"Everyone starts with equal reps and equal looks. They are giving me a fair shot, and that's all I can ask for. I'll probably not know where I am for sure until late July or early August when we get a depth chart. I'm progressing a little bit every day and that's all I can ask for right now."

Ebert had to wait until his senior year before he became the starting quarterback for Fenton. But once there, he earned 2014 Tri-County Football Player of the Year honors by throwing for 1,987 yards and tossing 25 touchdown passes. He also made good on a promise, stating he wanted the team to win the Metro League title outright. The Tigers did just that, posting an undefeated season. Ebert completed 140-of-224 passes and tossed only six interceptions. His numbers would've certainly been better if the Tigers had not blown out so many opponents, relegating Ebert to the bench for large portions of many second halves during the season.

"The Fenton program is great," Ebert said.

"I couldn't ask for a better support system. We have a brotherhood, a great group of guys and such a good coaching staff. They have helped me prepare beyond that Metro League. We have multiple guys playing college football and that speaks for itself."



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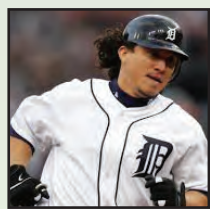
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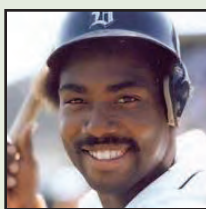
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**Magglio Ordonez**  
**2007 - LF**

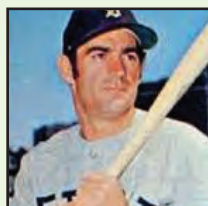
Ordonez is best remembered by fans for hitting the home run that put the Tigers into the 2006 World Series. He had an outstanding 2007 as well.


**Chet Lemon**  
**1984 - CF**

Fan favorite Steve Kemp was traded for Lemon, but Lemon won fans over with his great range. He also is remembered for sliding into first base.


**Rusty Staub**  
**1976 - RF**

The sports staff thinks if asked as a trivia question, Staub is the toughest to get. Why? He was primarily a designated hitter with the Tigers.


**Dick McAuliffe**  
**1966 - SS**

Believe it or not, Alan Trammell was never voted as starter in the All-Star Game. McAuliffe had a funky batting stance and was a solid lead-off hitter.


**Placido Polanco**  
**2007 - 2B**

He was great for the 2006 Tigers and a great player, but forgive me if the only thing I can think of when it comes to Polanco is his strangely shaped head.


**Miguel Cabrera**  
**2013 - 3B**

Cabrera is the only player to appear on this list at two positions. If we count Cabrera only at first, the answer at third base would be Ray Boone (1954).


**Miguel Cabrera**  
**2014 - 1B**

To show how good Cabrera has been, he batted .313 in 2014. It was his second-worst batting average during his eight seasons with the Tigers.


**Kenny Rogers**  
**2006 - Lefty pitcher**

Rogers had a strong regular season in 2006, but his post-season performances were magical. He loved fielding his position.


**Alex Avila**  
**2011 - C**

It's easy to forget how good Avila was in 2011. He batted .295 with 19 home runs and 82 RBI that season. He's had 34 home runs since 2011.


**Max Scherzer**  
**2013 Righty pitcher**

His best season with the Tigers, posting a 21-3 record and a 2.90 earned run average. He's currently having a great year with Washington.

**Recent  
Tiger  
All-Stars  
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each position**

## FOGUTH

Continued from Page 17A

on Minnesota State University's hockey team, recently was invited and participated in a developmental camp for the National Hockey League's Calgary Flames. The camp included all of Calgary's recent draft picks, some of their prospects at lower professional levels and some free agents. Foguth, now 23, was invited as a free agent. There were 42 prospects at the camp — four goalies, 18 defensemen and 20 forwards. Foguth was one of the 18 defensemen.

"It was a good time. I really didn't know what to expect," Foguth said. "I talked to guys before (who went to past developmental camps), but I learned a lot on the ice and off of it. They had the head coach talk to us a couple of times. He had a lot of interesting things to say. His main point was learning how to become a pro. That starts off the ice with being a good person and knowing how to take care of your body, eating and training the right way. He said you had to respect the game if you want to go to the next level."

Foguth's ultimate goal would be to play with an NHL team, and the camp as a good step toward making those dreams come true. The camp started on July 6 at Calgary's Canadian Olympic Park, the location of the 2010 Winter Olympic hockey games. It continued through July 10. Each day had different types of sessions. The opening day was a lot of testing of skills. The next two days were skills development days. There was a scrimmage on Thursday and another skills development day on Friday.

"I thought I did well and they'll be out to watch me during the season," Foguth said. "I tried to pick up the little things. They did a lot of stuff splitting up the forwards and

the defensemen.

"I'd say I was familiar with a lot of stuff, but it was more about the little details. When we did stuff position-wise, it wasn't so much how hard you can work. They'd slow it down and tell us we need to be doing this or that."

Foguth's hockey career keeps getting brighter. The 6-foot-3, 205-pound defenseman is making waves at Minnesota State (MSU), recently being named the captain for the 2015-16 season despite only being a junior.

"He's earned it," MSU coach Mike Hastings said in a school press release. "On the ice, in the weight room, in the classroom, in his peer group — there haven't been many times in my 20-plus years of coaching that one individual's name is on top of every single ballot."

"It is an honor for me," Foguth said. "The guys are willing to put confidence in me and that definitely means a lot. It will be a challenge. Every day is something new. But I'll have the support of the guys, and we have a good group. It's definitely an honor to be in this position."

As a sophomore, Foguth was an assistant captain. He played in all 40 games for the Mavericks, compiling nine points and three goals. Two of those markers were game-winning goals. He finished with a +13 plus/minus rating and also blocked 75 shots, ranking him first on the team and 18th in the country.

Last year was a big one for the Mavericks. The squad spent some of the season ranked No. 1 in the nation, and they also captured the Western Collegiate Hockey Association regular season championship and the tournament title. They finished the season with a 29-8-3 record overall.



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Sunday, July 19, 2015

# EVERYTHING ON **Wheels**

## Summer is cruisin' toward 'Back to the Bricks'

►Biggest car event of the year highlights the popularity of car cruises in tri-county area

**By Sally Rummel**

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Summertime is car cruise time, and whether you're a classic car aficionado or just enjoy the outdoor excitement, you'll find something to love about these special events.

There are still plenty of car cruises remaining this summer. In fact, the biggest will be coming up the week of Aug. 11-15 with "Back to the Bricks" in Flint, preceded by local Tune-up Party Week Aug. 3-9.

The party comes to Linden on Wednesday, Aug. 5 from 4 to 8 p.m., held in conjunction with the Farmers Market and Concert in the Park. A "Back to the Bricks" T-shirt give-away



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

Fenton's Back to The Bricks Tune up Car Cruise filled downtown last August — of course this year, the event will be relocated due to Streetscape..

takes place at 7:30 p.m. as the car show winds to a close.

Fenton's Tune-up Party is set for Thursday, Aug. 6 at Fenton High School from 4 to 8 p.m., a change in venue this year because of the downtown Streetscape project. A DJ will spin the hits from 4 to 7:30 p.m., followed by a Back to the Bricks T-shirt give-away.

Visitors will note that the Fenton Farmers Market will continue at its downtown location at the Fenton Community & Cultural Center parking lot that evening, and that Taste in Fenton will be a week earlier, on

**See BRICKS on 23A**

**"There wasn't room for 'Back to the Bricks' downtown this year because of the Streetscape project."**

**Shelly Day**  
Executive director of  
Fenton Regional Chamber



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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | METRO PHOTO

Convertibles are a fun vehicle for those who like to feel the wind in their hair and enjoy cruising on the open road.

## Convertibles make a comeback

► Open-air rides now more popular with updated iconic models like Mustang, Corvette

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Nothing says freedom and the thrill of the open road like driving a convertible. All the rage in the 1950s, convertibles are now making a comeback with automakers introducing convertible versions of vehicles already in production.

A convertible is a fun vehicle for anyone who enjoys feeling the wind in their hair and the sun on their face as they hit the open road. Even though Michigan's summer season is short, convertibles are still popular, thanks to new technology that makes the tops easier than ever to transition from open to close.

Buyers are interested in convertibles including the Ford Mustang, the Chevrolet Camaro and Chevrolet Corvette, plus the more rugged Jeep Wrangler Unlimited Sport, Sahara and Rubicon models. General Motors is building excitement for its new Buick Cascada, which will reach Buick showrooms early next year.

"Convertibles are pretty hot right now," said Matt Stevens, sales manager at Vic Canever Chevrolet in Fenton. "We have a hard time keeping them in stock. It's just a fun car to enjoy the sun. There's something to be said about 'dropping the top' on a sunny day."

Vic Canever Chevrolet offers both the Camaro and Corvette convertibles. "With the new technology, they are extremely easy to put the top down," said Stevens. "Compared to convertibles in the past, these tops are a lot better."

Stevens added that the Camaro is a great car because it will fit a family of four. "It's easy to

afford and lots of fun to have," he said.

Sales are strong for both the 2015 Ford Mustang coupe and convertible, according to Jay Lasco of Lasco Ford in Fenton.

See **CONVERTIBLE** on 23A

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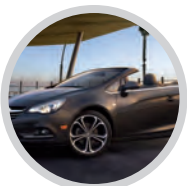
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# What to look for in your teen's first car

► Experts advise a car that is neither too big nor too small with just enough horsepower



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | METRO PHOTO

A teenager's first car is a big milestone for many. Consider size, horsepower and year before purchase.

Different drivers need different things out of their vehicles, so a car that might be perfect for adults will not necessarily be the best fit for teen drivers without much experience traversing the nation's roadways. The following are a few factors to consider when helping teens find their first car.

Many parents contribute money toward the purchase of their teenagers' first car. But even those who don't help kids finance the purchase of their first vehicle may still want to offer some advice as their teens start to look for the car they will no doubt remember for the rest of their lives.

## Size

Teenagers have little to no experience behind the wheel, so it's best that they not drive cars that are especially small or large right away. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, young drivers between the ages of 16 and 17 are significantly overrepresented in fatal crashes.

The NHTSA suggests such drivers' immaturity and inexperience plays a signifi-

cant role in that overrepresentation. So parents likely do not want their children in the smallest car possible, as such vehicles may not protect teens as adequately as slightly larger vehicles in the case of an accident. In addition, very large cars, such as pickup trucks or SUVs, can be difficult to control and are best suited to older drivers who already have years of driving experience under their belts.

A mid-size sedan is big enough to protect teens and their passengers in the case of an accident, and such vehicles are small enough to handle easily.

## Passenger Capacity

Another factor to consider when shopping for cars for teenagers is passenger capacity. The more seats there are in a car, the more friends teens can pack into their vehicles. Numerous teenagers in a car at once can prove distracting to the driver, and that distraction can pave the way for an auto accident. Steer clear of minivans, SUVs or other vehicles that feature a third row of seats, as teens may be unable to stay focused on the road with so many passengers onboard.

## Under the Hood

Few teens would not light up at the sight of a muscle car awaiting them in the driveway. But cars that accelerate quickly and those with substantial horsepower and high-performance engines may tempt teens to speed or spark the development of poor driving habits. Look for a vehicle with modest acceleration instead of an imported sports car that teens may be too immature and inexperienced to handle.

## Wear and Tear

Teens' first cars are often pre-owned vehicles, and such cars may have significant wear and tear on some important safety features. Wear and tear may not be a reason to avoid purchasing a pre-owned vehicle, but parents may want to replace the brake pads and tires on recently purchased pre-owned vehicles. Brake pads in strong condition may prove the difference between avoiding an accident or getting into one. In addition, poorly inflated or worn down tires pose a safety risk to teens and their passengers.

If such features seem to be worn down, replace them before letting teens hit the open road on their own.

Teens will remember their first car for the rest of their lives. Parents can ensure those memories are positive by finding a car that teens can handle comfortably and operate safely.



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Chris Wilkinson,  
Certified Mechanic

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**A:** This is something that you should have checked as soon as possible, since you hit a curb. You could have loosened up or cracked a steering or suspension component that could make your vehicle dangerous to drive. It may be something as simple as a air dam broken loose, but not worth the risk of putting yourself or others in danger by not knowing.

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**CONVERTIBLE**

Continued from Page 21A

"The performance guys looking for a sports car/muscle car tend to go for the coupe, while a person who likes to cruise enjoys the convertible. Both the Mustang coupe and convertible are sought-after cars."

The 2015 Ford Mustang convertible is top rated by Kelley Blue Book, earning a 9.6 out of 10 rating. After six generations, it's still the most iconic silhouette, but today's modern



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | METRO PHOTO

Convertibles have had a resurgence in popularity in recent years.

**SUMMARY**

Convertibles have actually been around since the automobile was first invented, but became very popular in the 1950s. They're enjoying a resurgence in popularity now with more features, smoother rides and high-tech gadgetry.

re-design makes for a much smoother ride. "It's hard to find anything not to like about it," said Lasco.

Randy Wise Buick GMC is gearing up for the debut of the 2016 Buick Cascada,

which Sales Manager Lisa Consiglio said will be available in the fall. The Cascada is a four-seater based on the compact

Opel Astra platform. "The Cascada will create a lot of buzz," said Consiglio. She added that many other convertible brands are available through Randy Wise's 10 different brands and six locations.

The Jeep Wrangler brands are popular with drivers who want the open air ride, but with a more rugged look and four-wheel drive. It's also a good value. "The Wrangler was named 2015's best resale value for crossovers," said Judy Sprader, a sales manager at Hall Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram in Fenton.

**BRICKS**

Continued from Page 20A

Thursday, July 30.

"There wasn't room for Back to the Bricks downtown this year because of the Streetscape project," said Shelly Day, executive director of the Fenton Regional Chamber. "We wanted to give people an opportunity to support both the Taste in Fenton and Back to the Bricks," so

we moved ours ahead a week."

Weekly car shows continue with "Linden on Wheels" every Friday night through Sept. 18 (with the exception of Sept. 4 during Labor Day weekend) from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. The show takes place behind downtown Broad Street businesses in the parking lot. All wheels are welcome, from motorcyclists to tractors, bikes, etc., according to organizer Scott Binkley.

Holly continues its Wednesday night weekly car show from 5 to 8:30 p.m. in Battle Alley downtown Holly, now through October.

Fenton hosts the following car shows at local businesses:

**■ Mega Coney Island**

The third Tuesday of every month (July 21, Aug. 18 and Sept. 15) from 5 to 8 p.m. Classic rock by D.J. Bob Steele.

**■ Boston's Gourmet Pizza**

The fourth Tuesday of every month (July 28 and Aug. 25) from 5 to 8 p.m. Classic rock by D.J. Bob Steele.

**■ Vic Canever Chevrolet**

Thursday, Aug. 6 a pit stop for Back to the Bricks Tune-up Party in Fenton, from 3 to 8 p.m. Final car show of the season will be Thursday, Sept. 10 from 3 to 8 p.m. Free hot dogs, chips and popcorn. Music by D.J. Dan McPhail.

**■ North LeRoy Business District**

Christian Car Cruise on Saturday, Aug. 8 and Sept. 12 from 5 to 8 p.m. at north end VG's Grocery on LeRoy Street.

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