

# Linden couple planned area's most dramatic police sting

■ Fake wedding in 1990 led to arrest of 86 drug dealers

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

A few suspects didn't believe Debbie Wasylyshyn (formerly Debbie Williams) of Linden when she pointed a gun at them and said they were being arrested on drug charges at a police sting set up as a fake wedding in Owosso on Sept. 20, 1990. But in her wedding dress, heels,

and garter that doubled as a gun holster, she helped cuff and arrest 86 local drug dealers. This fake wedding is known as one of the most successful police stings ever. Debbie, who played the bride, was 37 years old at the time and a Flint

SUBMITTED PHOTO  
Debbie Williams, now Debbie Wasylyshyn, played the bride at the police sting wedding in 1990. The garter she wore doubled as a holster for her gun.



INSIDE B SECTION

**AREA**

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**Weekend Times**

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SUNDAY, JULY 26, 2015

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

## New \$8 million church underway on Main Street

■ Trinity Lutheran Church is largest construction project in city of Fenton

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

The property that once housed an auto baron's mansion in the 1920s is now the site of a building project designed for a "higher purpose."

That was the wish of the last owner of the 13½-acre parcel of land on Grange Hall Road, before it was sold to Trinity Lutheran Church in 2006 for approximately \$800,000. It's just a "stone's throw" from the current church at 806 Main St. in Fenton.

The church purchased the land from John Weaver, one of the developers of the residential subdivision, Andover Woods. "It's so peaceful and beautiful," said Linda Hathaway, who had chaired the land search committee for Trinity almost a decade

See **CHURCH** on 14A

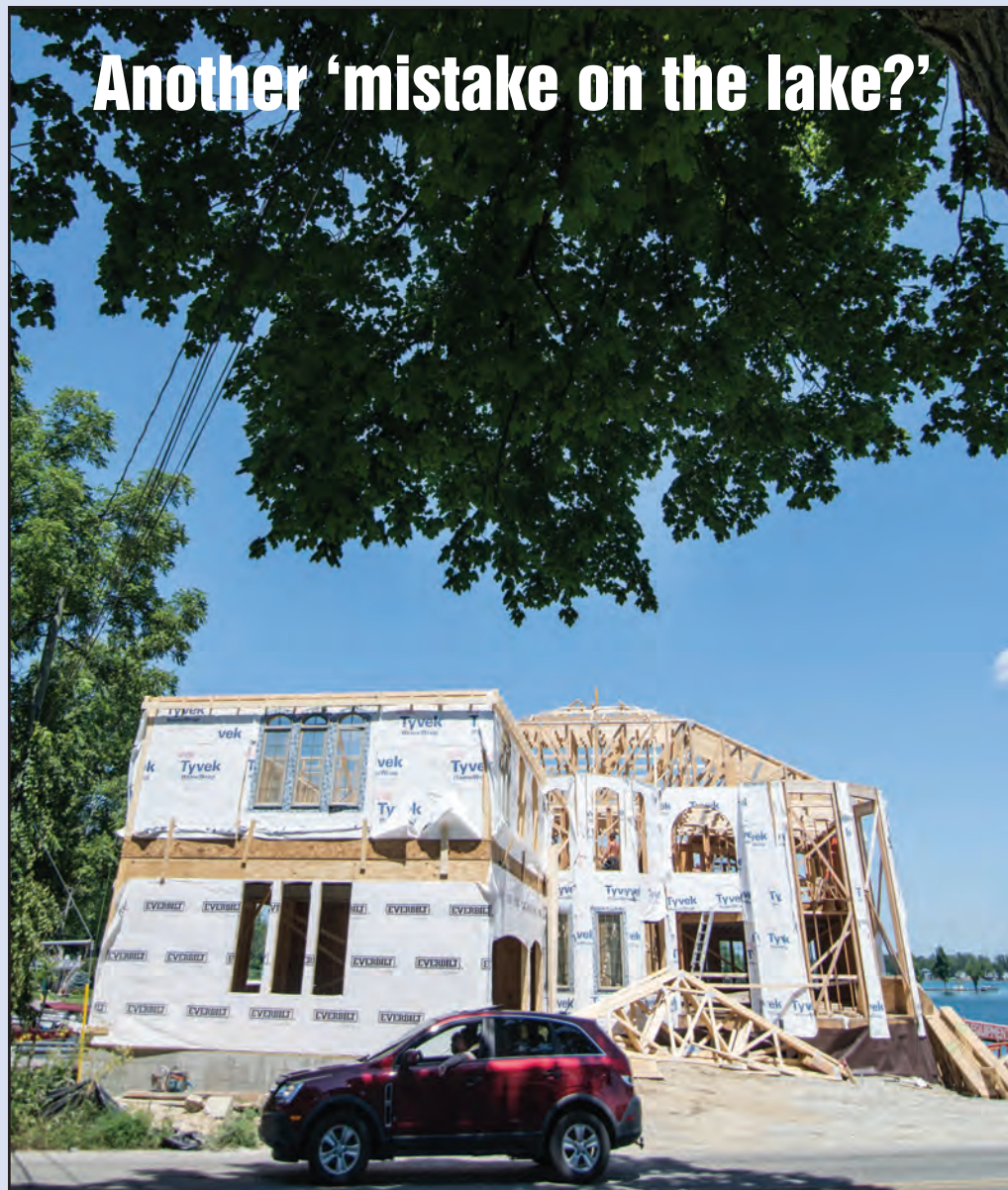
**“Our congregation has tripled in size since 1998.”**

**Pastor Dean Dumbrille**  
Trinity Lutheran Church in Fenton



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Work has begun on phase one of the construction of the new Trinity Lutheran Church in Fenton. Phase one is expected to cost \$5 million, with the entire project costing \$8 million.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

This is the view from across the street of the 8,000-square-foot home currently under construction on South Long Lake Road in Fenton City. The vehicle driving by is about 10 feet from the structure.

## Neighbors and public questioning size, setbacks of new home

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

There's another elephant in the room — or in this case, on the lake.

Members of the public are scratching their heads over what they are calling the third "mistake on the lake," refer-

ring to the large home currently under construction on the south end of Lake Fenton.

It is located at the curve, near Appletree Lane on South Long Lake Road in the city of Fenton. According to public records, the foreclosed property, now privately owned,

was purchased for \$120,000 on July 23, 2014.

Many people are asking how a house that big could be built so close to the road, with only a few feet from the end of the garage to the street pavement.

See **MISTAKE** on 16A

## Fenton trash issue still undecided

■ Meanwhile, many reject the idea of giant blue carts

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

Due to some unavoidable circumstances, Fenton's Solid Waste Committee has not yet been able to meet again to decide what recommendation they will make to Fenton City Manager Lynn Markland regarding a new trash and recycling collection system.

During its April work session, the Fenton City Council heard a proposal to eliminate the bag and tag system in favor of a carted service for trash and recycling.

If approved, each household will receive two, 95-gallon carts

See **TRASH** on 14A



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

As residents of Fenton Township, Linden and Holly are adapting to their new trash/recycling carts, city of Fenton officials have yet to decide on changes to its trash program.

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



**“Thank you to the individual or business that was responsible for the full-page Christian ad in the Times last week. It takes courage to profess your faith in the sad and crazy world we live in today.”**



**“Jared, the Subway spokesperson and (alleged) child-porn sicko, was well-known for his porn collection for years. A guy I know who went to college with him at Indiana University remembers him as the guy who would rent you a porn movie for one dollar. There is no way Subway could not have known this.”**



**“Republic is ruining our communities. A friend who works for a recycling company says these companies should be paying us for our recycled items, not charging us. That's why the new bins are so large, so they can capture more recyclables which generate billions of dollars. No one I know is in favor of the new bins.”**



**COMMENT OF THE WEEK**  
**“Planned Parenthood, funded by the government, is selling the organs they 'harvest' from the babies they kill. Google it and watch the video of the drunk woman who is the head of PP bragging about how carefully they kill late-term babies in order to not damage the sellable parts. Sickening.”**



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## THIS WEEK'S OPEN HOUSES!



## LINDEN

1539 W. Rolston

**Spacious Home** With Great Country Setting Bordering The Shiawassee River. Up north Feel But City Convenience! Enjoy Watching The Wildlife From The Upper Deck Or Kayak On The River. Open Floor Plan With 9 Ft Ceilings Throughout. Jack And Jill Bath, His And Her Walk-in Closets In Master Suite, Upgraded Kitchen Cabinets And So Much More Make This A Comfortable Family Home. Lower Level Could Be In-law Quarters If Needed As It Offers A Bedroom, Full Bath And Wet Bar. Extra 26x26 Garage For Additional Storage!

**\$254,900**

Call Shelia Rhoades 810-348-7357



## LINDEN

805 Byram Lake

**Beautiful lakefront home** on all sports Byram lake.

This home features a beautifully landscaped yard with sandy beach. Covered brick patio is great for entertaining or relaxing and enjoying the cool summer breezes. This brick home has 4 bedrooms and 2 full baths. Plenty of space for gathering with a firelit living room and a huge family. Dining room allows for beautiful views of the water while sharing meals.

All this on a park-like 1/2 acre lot.

**\$319,900**

Call Mark Goldsworthy 810-955-3736



## NOVI

22469 Ennishore

**Affordable Quad-level home.** 3 enormous bedrooms, hardwood floors in Living Room & Dining Room. Parquet Floors in spacious Family Rm with fireplace. 1st Floor laundry. Kitchen with lots of prep space and maple cabinetry. All appliances included. Lovely private yard with mature trees and patio. Unfinished basement offers lots of storage. Big 2 car garage. Popular Neighborhood with park, walking trails and lake. Updates: Windows, Furnace/AC 2000, Gutters 2014, Exterior Paint 2008, Interior Paint 2015, Hot Water Heater 2012.

**\$229,900**

Call Ann Hernandez-Gabler 248-240-2272



## SWARTZ CREEK

5449 Reid

**They don't get any cuter than this!** Adorable 3 bedroom/1.5 bath ranch located on a beautifully manicured corner lot. Outside you will find tasteful landscaping, gorgeous yard, large deck and a shed that looks like a little cottage. Inside is a completely updated kitchen with stainless appliances, lots of cabinets and prep space. Both bathrooms have been updated as well. Huge family room with natural fireplace plus living room. Completely finished basement adds extra room for entertaining, hanging out, playing games or exercising. The sky is the limit with this basement. Home shows pride of ownership and is move-in ready!

**\$150,000**

Call Leah Fafard 810-407-0084



## SRINGFIELD TWP.

292 Broadway

**Spacious Ranch** On Beautifully Treed Corner Lot Near Downtown Davisburg And Within Walking Distance To Park. Very Large Rooms Thru Out This Home With Hardwood Floors In The Living Room And Dining Room. Bedrooms Are All Nice Size And First Floor Laundry.

**\$159,000.**

Call Donna Fraidenburg 810-845-1971



## FENTON

11185 Whispering Ridge Trail

**Beautiful 3 bedroom 2 bath house** located on almost an acre on a private cul-de-sac. Main level boasts laundry room, study, full bath and fire-lit living room. Large kitchen with hardwood floors offers plenty of cooking area. 3 bedrooms up with another full bath. Daylight basement is plumbed for third bath.

3 car attached heated garage, shed with electricity and RV power outlet. Home also wired for generator.

**\$209,900.**

Call Patrik Welty 810-750-2300



## SWARTZ CREEK

9412 Morrish

**Attractive ranch home** located on over 2.5 acres of lush green lawn. Take in the view from your inviting deck or from the comfort of your covered front porch. The master suite has its own bath complete with garden tub and shower. 2 more large bedrooms and another full bath. Plenty of room for family and friends in either your family and/or living room. Large eat-in kitchen plus dining room. Tons of windows make this home bright and cheery from every direction.

**\$139,900**

Call Patrik Welty 810-750-2300



## LINDEN

16152 Valcrest

**Come and view this totally updated home** and you won't be disappointed. This home has vaulted ceilings in the living room with lots of windows for natural light, gas fireplace and beautiful hardwood floors. Granite counters in kitchen with plenty of counter space for cooking. Master bedroom and bath with bonus room that could be office or more storage. All new flooring and lighting fixtures thru out. New water heater and new water softener.

**\$224,000.**

Call Donna Fraidenburg 810-845-1971



## HOLLY

817 Partridge

**Like new colonial built in 2004.** This 3 bedroom 2 bath home is cute and clean! Neutral colors throughout the house, kitchen and living area boast ceramic tile while bedrooms are hardwood. No carpet. All appliances stay including washer and dryer. Beautifully landscaped and the backyard is completely fenced. Full basement has the potential to add extra living space. This one owner home has been well cared for. Nothing for you to do but to unpack and move right in.

**\$146,000**

Call Patrik Welty 810-750-2300



## LINDEN

1205 Ripley

**Wonderful Home** on #18 Green Spring Meadows Golf Course. 3 huge bedrooms, 2.5 baths. Enjoy your fire lit great room on those chilly fall nights. Custom designed with spacious rooms. Open loft area adds to the character of this home. Workshop off of garage, great for home business. Full basement. All this home need is your personal updates. Must See to appreciate.

**\$185,000**

Call Donna Mynatt 810-397-5779



## HOLLY

2476 S Fenton Road

**Sprawling ranch has plenty of room** for a large family. Split floor plan has 2 bedrooms with master 1/2 bath and full bath on one side and 2 bedrooms with full bath on the other side. Third full bath in partially finished basement. Large living room and family room gives you plenty of space for entertaining. Enjoy the beautiful weather sitting in your 3 season room. Over 2100 sf of home on a beautiful acre of land.

**\$169,900**

Call Patrik Welty 810-750-2300



## FENTON

9169 Mabley Hill

**All of the privacy and nature** of up north living conveniently located in Tyrone Twp. Less than 2 miles from US-23. This fabulous 4 bedrm/3 bath home offers 4+ acres of trees & raspberry bushes. Enjoy summer entertaining from your finished walk-out lower level opening to the in-ground pool & cabana. Beautiful views from every part of the home. 2 story Great Rm flows into Dining Area and kitchen. Master Bedrm Suite is on the 2nd floor offering privacy, big dressing rm area, walk-in closet plus 2 additional large closets.

**\$279,900**

Call Ann Hernandez-Gabler 248-240-2272



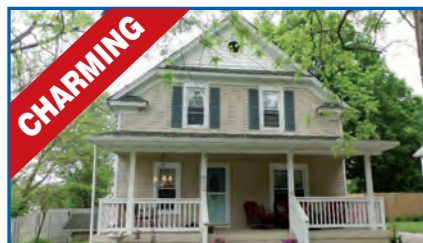
## FENTON

12528 Saint Andrews Way

**Beautiful first floor condo** has been meticulously maintained with care by original owner. Updates include central air (3 yrs), hot water heater (4 yrs) and reverse osmosis system with filters replaced this past April. Large master bedroom suite complete with his & hers closets & private master bath. Kitchen offers ample storage space with extra walk-in pantry. Large living room with nook and dining room are perfect for family get-togethers. Enjoy the weather in the enclosed screen porch. Over-sized garage with workbench! All appliances included.

**\$84,900**

Call Lynn Rositano 810-625-7399



## HOLLY

812 Baird

**All of the Charm of an historic home** completely modernized for today. Classic Colonial offering 3 spacious bedrooms, gorgeous full bathroom. Open kitchen floor plan has pantry & opens to coffered ceiling dining room with hardwood floors. Living room also features hardwood flooring. Newer windows, 1/2 Bath in LL, 1st floor laundry. Updates include: Electrical, Air Conditioning, Hardwood Flooring, Blinds, 16x16 Pole Bar. Enjoy walking downtown Holly for Dickens Festival, Car Shows and Dining.

**\$119,900.**

Call Ann Hernandez-Gabler 248-240-2272.



## MILLINGTON

3150 Huston

**Great home on all-sports Murphy Lake!** Around 1400 square feet of finished living space including upper level porch and lower level screen room that adds another 600 square feet to chill out and enjoy amazing lake views! Home is equipped for year round living or winterize and use for summer getaway! Just a short drive from the cities you can enjoy this up-north style getaway at a great price. Two kitchens for entertaining upstairs and down... two wood burning stoves... seller has put 30k into the boathouse which contains a sauna!

**\$190,000.**

Call Kevin Usealman 810-965-6552



## BYRON

16222 Murray

**Fabulous home** on secluded Cardinal Lake. Over 1 acre of property on this all sports lake just in time for your summer enjoyment. The house was taken down to the studs and completely remodeled in 2004. Awesome kitchen for entertaining and the chef in your family. 4 bedrooms means space for everyone plus living room and family room. Gather up your water toys, maybe a picnic basket and come enjoy the lake and your new home. Who needs to fight the traffic up north?

**\$210,000**

Call Patrik Welty 810-750-2300



# THE LURE OF A LIGHTHOUSE...

■ Fenton woman spends a week as a volunteer lighthouse keeper in Ludington

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

The lure of a lighthouse can be irresistible, especially in Michigan where 129 beacons combine history, the Great Lakes and a sense of solitude. With more lighthouses here than in any other state, it's easy to fall in love with their majesty and mystery.

For Karen Piacentini of Fenton, her love of lighthouses became much more personal after spending a week as a volunteer lighthouse keeper at the Ludington North Breakwater Light in early July.

The Ludington North Breakwater Light has lighted the way for boaters on the northern breakwater, where the Pere Marquette River meets Lake Michigan, since it was established in 1871. It was first opened to the public in 2006 for climbing tours up to its 57-foot tower.



Karen Piacentini

"I've always loved lighthouses," said Piacentini, 58. "They're near the water, and each is so different. I love what they stand for."

After being encouraged by her kids to fill out an application for lighthouse keeping in the Ludington area, Piacentini received word that she had been chosen for an interview by the Sable Points Lighthouse Keepers Association (SPLKA), and then did her training in Ludington in April.

The SPLKA is the volunteer group  
See **LIGHTHOUSE** on 11A



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO

Karen Piacentini stands in front of the Ludington North Breakwater Light, where she volunteered for a week.

## Do you want to own a lighthouse?

■ Three Michigan lighthouses are being sold through online auction

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

You can be your very own "lighthouse keeper" if you want to buy one of three Michigan lighthouses now being offered for sale through an online auction as part of the National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Act.

The lighthouses are still active, but are no longer needed by the U.S. Coast Guard because of advancements in navigation technology.

However, there is a catch. Interested bidders must be non-profit groups, obtain a private-use agreement from the state of Michigan and agree to maintain and operate the lights, according to reuters.com.

Up for sale are the Gravelly Shoal Light in Saginaw Bay on Lake Huron, the Spectacle Reef Light on Lake Huron and the Isle Aux Galets Light Station, commonly known as the Skilligalee, seven miles offshore from Cross Village on Lake Michigan.

So far, there have been bids of  
See **OWN** on 11A



Gravelly Shoal Light



Spectacle Reef Light



Isle Aux Galets Light Station



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# The name game

*This is a reprint of a letter from an unknown source that was sent to the Chicago Tribune in response to a Tribune article by columnist Clarence Page demanding a name change for the Washington Redskins. Pretty damn funny.*

Dear Mr. Page, I agree with our Native American population. I am highly insulted by the racially charged name of the Washington Redskins. One might argue that to name a professional football team after Native Americans would exalt them as fine warriors, but no-no, we must be careful not to offend. In the spirit of political correctness, let's move forward.

That means we'll have to ditch the Kansas City Chiefs, the Atlanta Braves and the Cleveland Indians also. If your panties are

in a wad because of the reference the name Redskins makes to skin color, then the Cleveland Browns will have to go too.

The Carolina Panthers obviously were named to keep the memory of militant Blacks from the 60's alive. Gone. It's offensive to us white folk.

The New York Yankees? I think not – it offends the Southern population. Do you see a team named for the Confederacy? Hell no! Yankees must go.

As a staunch Catholic, I am also offended by the disrespectful references to my religion among our sports team names. Valefaciens et fortuna (Latin for good bye and good luck) to the New Orleans Saints, the Los Angeles Angels and the San Diego Padres.



## Hot lines

Submit at: [tctimes.com](http://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.

**LET'S REMEMBER KATIE** Steinle, who was murdered by the illegal immigrant. Let's also remember, Kerry Melville, a woman from Hollywood, California, shot in the back of the head with a shotgun by a black assailant and he is still at large. Do we hear any of this in the press? May she rest in peace.

**I'M CALLING IN** response to a previous Hot line. No, what everyone needs to remember in November is that it is these liberal policies that have ruined this great country.

**PLEASE FENTON,** DO not implement the new trash and recycling system. The current system we have works fine for everyone. No one wants or needs those grossly oversized billboards disguised as trash bins. Listen to the people.

**SAY WHAT YOU** want about Trump, but he is the only candidate who actually speaks the truth without any regard for political correctness. Listen to him and his words, not the slant that the lefty media gives us, which is predisposed to make him look foolish. Listen to his words.

**WHEN IN MY** front yard recently, a man by the name of Greg stopped and gave me a lottery ticket. He said the drawing was that night and the ticket was mine. I

wanted to thank him. What a kind gesture. We need more people like him.

**WOULD SOMEONE PLEASE** tell the construction workers to stop parking on the grass on South Long Lake Road? The cops won't tell 'em. They block the view of traffic, and a fire hydrant. It's a safety issue.

**THE PRIDE PARADE** float was not a 'display of who you sleep with.' It was a celebration of the freedom to be who we are and of the rights we recently had validated, which now enable me to have a family and future.

**IF YOU FEEL** the need to say 'All Lives Matter' in response to 'Black Lives Matter' then you are sadly missing the point. The slogan brings attention to lives that we ignore every

Then there are the team names that dare to glorify the heathens who raped and pillaged across Europe just a couple of short centuries ago. We are talking about the Oakland Raiders, the Minnesota Vikings, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and the Pittsburgh Pirates! Off with their heads – and their names!

Next, let us address those team names that clearly send the wrong message to our children. The San Diego Chargers are promoting irresponsible spending habits and little eyes are watching. Wrong message to our children. It's gone!

The New York Giants and the San Francisco Giants are promoting obesity as well as potentially causing irreversible psychological damage to first and second graders who are possibly shorter than their classmates.

The Milwaukee Brewers? Do I really need to explain the dangers associated with glorifying alcohol consumption.

**“The San Diego Chargers are promoting irresponsible spending habits...”**

What the hell were they thinking? Henceforth they will be the Milwaukee Tea-bags.

And as long as we're on the subject, it might make some sense to change the name of the Oregon State women's athletic team to something other than 'the Beavers,' especially when they play Southern California. Do we really want our kids asking for clarification of a headline that reads, 'Trojans stick it to the Beavers?'

A final thought. As long as we are in the spirit of identifying organizations more accurately, I think our low-life, incompetent, tax-raising politicians should have an appropriate nickname also. Something that truly symbolizes their role in our lives.

Wait, I've got it. It's perfect. The Congressional A-holes.

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](mailto:king@tctimes.com). Some content adapted from the internet.

day. We don't need to justify white lives mattering — that's never been questioned.

**THE CONFEDERATE FLAG** is to America as the Nazi flag is to Germany. Germany banned Nazi paraphernalia immediately following the end of WWII. Those who display the Confederate flag are hateful and ignorant.

**REGARDING THE SEARCH** for a new superintendent for Fenton schools. A board member recently commented that we need someone with no emotional ties. I disagree. We need someone with emotional ties. Someone who truly cares about these kids and our community.

**PRESCRIPTION COSTS ARE** high and

one place in town is the highest. Went there to get a scrip filled and they said it would be \$100, another was \$58 and yet another was \$48. It pays to shop around.

**I AM NOT** arrogant nor have I complained about the big, blue trash cans. But I will now. These monstrosities are at least twice the size my wife and I need or want. I know it's a stretch of the imagination of me being paranoid.

**DONALD TRUMP IS** speaking at the Family Research Council Banquet. Really?

**IT'S NOT A** good idea to rent from relatives. Word of advice, not a good idea. Thank you.

**THIS IS A** message to everybody in Linden. The flag at 201 Oak St. will be flown at half staff today. Thank you.

**THE SEASON OF** the politician. For some reason, most of them seem to graduate from Harvard. They don't seem to graduate scholars. They seem to graduate politicians.

**DURING THE LAST** week, our president did the following: He freed 46 prisoners from prison, including a dangerous Florida drug dealer. He did not reach out to the family of murder victim Katie Steinle. And he did not lower the flag at the White House in honor of the five murdered servicemen.

**I SEE WHERE** Obama gave another speech. He said no group or foreign people will divide us. Why should they even try? He's doing a great job of that all by himself.

See **HOT LINE** throughout Times

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Compiled by Alexei Rose, intern

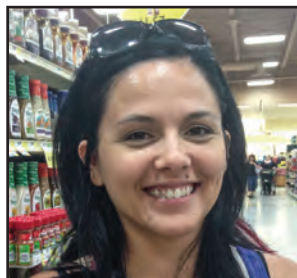
## What strange habit does your pet have?

## streettalk



"My old dog used to love to chase rabbits and when we put an electric fence in he couldn't chase the rabbits, so he would lay by the line with a very sad face."

Sandy Phillips, Linden



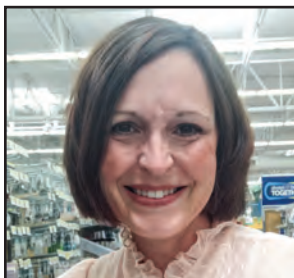
"My little poodle, Mimi, barks at every noise."

Jami Andrews  
Fenton



"My son's two dogs bark at everyone like they are robbing the house. They would climb up the playset and then go down the slide."

Shirley Book, Fenton



"My dog is super friendly, but she is scared of everything."

Dawn Augenstein  
Argentine Township



"She licks my couch all the time and my other dog likes to lick me all the time."

Debra Tacconi  
Fenton



"When my dog got excited he used to pee."

Dawn Shannon  
Argentine Township



## Newcomers join race for Fenton council

■ Community activists join two incumbents on the ballot this November

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

Now that the 4 p.m. July 21 deadline to submit signed petitions to run for a seat on the Fenton City Council has passed, four names will appear on the Nov. 3 ballot.

In addition to incumbent council members Pat Lockwood and Les Bland, who wish to serve another four-year term, newcomers Cherie Smith and Nancy Draves will seek election to the City Council.



Nancy Draves

Citing personal reasons and a desire to spend more time with family, Councilwoman Cheryl King has chosen not to run for re-election. She has served on the City Council for 24 years.

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

Nancy Draves, a member of the Fenton Library Board and the city's Brownfield Redevelopment Authority, has turned in her signed petitions to run for one of the seats.

"I have toyed with the idea for a long time," said Draves of running for council. "I have been asked over the years if I would do it and have always said 'no'," she said. "But I care

about Fenton. Fenton has been good to us and I want to give back."

Draves said she has recently moved from a very big house to a smaller home, giving her more time to commit to community service.

Smith said, "I've served on various boards and commissions for the past 17 years, as well as fund-raised for the 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."

Mayor Sue Osborn is running unopposed for another two-year term. She has served on the Fenton City Council since 1985 and is completing her 18<sup>th</sup> year as mayor.



Cherie Smith



## Tent Sale

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## Police & Fire report

### MAN CRITICAL AFTER EARLY MORNING CRASH

Michigan State Police troopers responded to northbound I-75 near Grange Hall Road in Groveland Township at 2 a.m. Friday, July 24 for an injury rollover crash. Initial investigation revealed that a car was traveling at a high rate of speed when the driver lost control. The car rolled across the grassy median and landed in the southbound lanes. The car burst into flames after being struck by a southbound vehicle. The southbound driver was not injured. The driver of the northbound vehicle, a 59-year-old man, was ejected during the rollover. Troopers believed that the man was under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs at the time of the crash. He was transported to the hospital and is listed in critical condition.



### HOLLY HEAD START

Currently enrolling preschoolers for the 2015/16 school year. Free preschool to those who qualify. Please call **248-328-3019** for information.



## Luxury Senior Living Redefined

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**TRI-COUNTY TIMES** | SUBMITTED PHOTO  
**Before** he lost 65 pounds, Dan Ferguson found his energy levels lagging in the evening when he came home from work as principal at Lake Fenton Middle School.



**TRI-COUNTY TIMES** | SALLY RUMMEL  
**After** his weight loss, Ferguson admits he's now a better husband to Jennifer and father to daughters Mari, 13, Wren 11, and Lynde, 6.

## Lake Fenton staff, students see 'less' of their principal

■ Dan Ferguson loses 65 pounds in the last five months

By Sally Rummel

[news@tctimes.com](mailto:news@tctimes.com); 810-629-8282

Eating a "row of Oreos" with a glass of milk used to be a nightly guilty pleasure for Dan Ferguson of Fenton Township. Now he prefers healthier snacks and hugs from his family who can easily wrap their arms around him.

Ferguson, 42, has lost 65 pounds in the last five months, after seeing two of his high school friends post pictures of their newly slim selves on Facebook.

"My friends Mike Collard, Alan Earls and I graduated from Linden High School in '91 and we were all athletes," said Ferguson, who is now principal at Lake Fenton Middle School. "Weight was never an issue. Somehow, things changed in 20 years and we all had more weight than we wanted. I saw they did something about it and thought I could do whatever it was they were doing, and I was right."

The tool they used for weight loss was Isagenix, a meal replacement shake with a higher protein-to-calorie ratio compared to other brands. He replaces two meals a day (of his choice) with these shakes, and then eats a remaining meal of about 600 calories.

**“Without question, I am a better dad and husband now.”**

**Dan Ferguson**  
*Principal who has lost 65 pounds*

"I try to make healthier choices," said Ferguson. "But what I like is that the program is flexible, because I can approach my nutrition based on meals for any particular day outside the system. I certainly have enjoyed open houses, weddings, Super Bowl gatherings. You still have to live."

Like Weight Watchers, Jenny Craig, Medical Weight Loss or other systems, Isagenix for Ferguson has been a means to an end, resulting in weight loss and even more importantly to him, more energy. He adds that he'll continue on the journey even when he reaches his goal weight, because he likes the energy it provides.

"I always gave my 'day job' at school 100 percent, but in the evenings when I was home with my wife and daughters, I didn't have much energy left to give them," admitted Ferguson. "I'd sit in the recliner and watch a lot of sports on TV. Without question, I am a better dad and husband now."

Ferguson didn't incorporate exercise into his weight loss plan until he had lost about 30 pounds. When he introduced a little cardio into his routine, he was able to power past the notorious "plateau" that plagues most dieters.

See **PRINCIPAL** on 15A

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## Busch selected as interim Fenton superintendent

■ Board of ed says 'both candidates were excellent'

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

Doug Busch, executive director of personnel and finance for Fenton Area Public Schools, has been selected to serve as the district's interim superintendent.

Although Board of Education members said they struggled for a week over which of the two candidates they would choose, in the end they voted 5-2 in favor of giving Busch the job. The other candidate was Mark Suchowski, principal of Fenton High School.

All agreed that both men, who interviewed for the job at the July 13 meeting, were both excellent candidates.

At issue, however, was whether the board wanted someone at the helm who could provide a "fresh set of eyes," with Suchowski, or go with a "proven track record" with Busch.

Busch will continue doing his existing job as well as the interim superintendent job for a year. The search for a permanent superintendent will begin in February 2016.

Trustee Lynn Hopper and Treasurer Tamara Valley cast the dissenting votes.

Hopper said, "I was extremely impressed last week. The presentations (Busch and Suchowski) made were phenomenal. He said he does have a concern, however, with an excessive workload and late hours.

"We have to factor in burnout, excess issues could lead to health issues," Hopper said.

Busch laughed and said, "Mrs. Busch shares those concerns."

"New eyes are in order," said Hopper. "New eyes can bring new ideas. If I was to vote right now, I would lean more toward Mark."

Rick Koester, board vice president,

said the board is very sensitive to the financial health of the district, and asked Busch what steps he would take to handle both his current job and the interim superintendent job.

Busch said he would bring in assistance from the (Genesee) Intermediate School District (GISD), which he said has a wide variety of services he can use to help him.

"I would look to partner with them," he said.

"My concern, as always, comes from the financial end," said Valley.

"We're making the decisions and will be required to make decisions relying on the accuracy of the information being brought to us."

Valley said if Busch gets the job, it will be essential that he work with the ISD.

After the vote, Suchowski said he is absolutely good with the board's choice and agrees that going forward the less change for the district the better.

"I look forward to working with Dr. Busch in the role he has to fill," said Suchowski.

"The position will be different from my current role because the superintendent is ultimately responsible for all aspects of the district," said Busch. "I have nine years experience as a central office administrator, so there would be similarities to my current position with regard to working in a district-wide role."

Busch said he would evaluate the permanent position of superintendent when the time comes. "Right now, I am focused on the interim position," he said.

## HOT LINE CONTINUED

■ ■ ■  
**I DO NOT** have a Bible in my home right now, but if I decide to get a Bible then that is my decision. Live and let live and worry about yourself.

■ ■ ■  
**THERE SHOULD BE** a yearly 'Buffoon Award' for the dumbest Hot line. My vote goes to the July 19 Hot line, 'America has progressed more in the last six years than in the previous 239 years.' Come on Times, set up the competition.

■ ■ ■  
**I AM NOT** sure what to think about Trump. I do know he has become the magnet for those who think of themselves as the Tea Party. Still angry and even angrier that all those past Tea Party winners haven't done anything they said.

■ ■ ■  
**SMARTPHONES AND VIDEO** games produce dopamine in the brain and are addictive. It has the same effect as heroin. It is no wonder so many young people are getting hooked on these addicting drugs. Their brains are trained to need more stimuli from an early age.

■ ■ ■  
**GREAT JOB ON** the Lake Fenton weeds. This is the first time in the 11 years I lived here that I can swim in front of my house, ride my Jet Ski without constantly clearing the weeds, and drive the boat without it being in reverse half the time.

■ ■ ■  
**IF AN AFRICAN** American kid partakes in a gun crime, it's gang violence. If a Middle

Eastern kid does it, it's terrorism. If a white kid does it, it's mental health funding has been cut. It's all the same but different spins. A life is a life, and all matter.

■ ■ ■  
**DOES ANYONE KNOW** where the motorcycle guy that has a little puppy with goggles and helmet lives? I sure would like a picture of the puppy.

■ ■ ■  
**THE PLAYGROUND NEAR** the restaurant and ice cream stand downtown is so outdated and dangerous. It would be wonderful if the restaurant owners sponsored a new playground for the children of their patrons to enjoy.

■ ■ ■  
**TRAP, NEUTER, RELEASE?** Are you stupid? What do you think the cute little kitties eat every day? Baby birds, birds, baby rabbits, pheasants and any other wildlife they can catch. The DNR has no policy on this subject — I've called. Every week I find the remains of the birds they eat.

■ ■ ■  
**CANNOT SLAUGHTER CHICKENS** in the city of Fenton? How PC, but absolutely ridiculous. These are feel-good laws for those detached from reality. Go ahead and get your GMO chicken from the grocery store, knowing they were packaged on an assembly line by a company that injected them with growth hormones.

■ ■ ■  
**THE TEST THAT** the conservatives failed must be the one liberals have been taking for the last 45 years and passing with flying colors.

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# Beacon flasher to be installed at Thompson and Jennings

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

**Fenton Twp.** — A solar-powered flashing light will be installed at the intersection of Thompson and Jennings roads in 2016. The Fenton Township Board of Trustees approved the \$20,000 installment on Monday.

A safety grant from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is covering 80 percent of the cost and the Genesee County Road Commission, along with the township, is paying for the rest. The township will pay \$2,000 for the light out of the 2016 road project budget.

“The Genesee County Road Commission has claimed it’s a dangerous intersection. That intersection is used a lot by children in high school. Right now it’s only a two-way stop,” said Fenton Township



SA-SO.COM  
A solar beacon flasher similar to this will be mounted atop the stop signs at the Thompson and Jennings roads intersection in 2016.

Supervisor Bonnie Mathis, adding that the light is being put in to slow people down.

“It is an intersection where it seems people might make some poor choices,” said Bonnie Wood, traffic engineering manager at the GCRC. “It’s not a really expensive fix but it might save someone the inconvenience of a car crash.”

This project was approved by the Michigan Department of Transportation.

Wood said they’ve seen a reduction in crashes with these sign-mounted solar beacon flashers.

“We’ve had better success with the signs mounted versus overhead flashers,” she said.

There were 19 crashes at the intersection of Thompson and Jennings roads in the past five years, according to the GCRC. None of those crashes resulted in serious injuries.

## WHAT YOU MISSED in the MIDWEEK TIMES

Wednesday, July 22, 2015 edition



### DON'T HAVE A COW

You can't walk a goat down Shiawassee Avenue, but a pot-bellied pig might be OK. Here's a look at local ordinances.

### NEW LEADERSHIP AT COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER ADOPTS 'NO KILL' POLICIES

Genesee County Animal Control Director Paul Wallace says the conditions at the animal shelter in Flint are much better, thanks in part to more volunteers and more funds from a millage increase.

### FENTON PLANE CRASH RESULTS IN ARREST

A Flint man was arrested on an outstanding felony arrest warrant after he crashed his small, single-engine plane into a wooded area off Golden Pond in Fenton Township last Saturday evening.

### MARIJUANA GROWING FACILITY COMING TO FENTON

On Thursday, the Fenton Planning Commission will, after a public hearing, entertain a special land use request, followed by site plan approval for a medical marijuana growing facility in Fenton's industrial park.

### DESTINATION MICHIGAN

If you want to spend some time on the beach, both of this week's destinations — Oscoda and Alpena — offer some fun in the sun and much sand.

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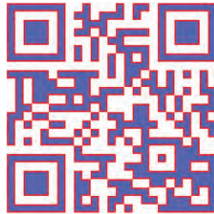


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-Duane Curto  
Director, Service Operations

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# Pathway from Argentine to Fenton moves closer to goal

## County planning group receives proposal outlining scope, routes, budget

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

The LAFF Pathway, moving toward its goal to connect all three local school districts in Fenton, Lake Fenton and Linden with a non-motorized trail, is one step closer after a meeting Wednesday night with the Genesee County Metro Planning Commission.

A proposal was received at the meeting from the Genesee

**“It may look like nothing is happening, but all the groundwork is being laid.”**

Victor Lukasavitz

Chairman of the LAFF Pathway steering committee

County Parks Commission for preliminary scoping, routing and budgeting for the project, which will begin with the Tier 1 Priority Trail of Fenton to Linden on Silver Lake Road.

The Parks Commission interest is in people using the parks system through the LAFF Pathway, including Linden County Park (Clover Beach on Byram Lake), enabling them to get there with more users and fewer cars.

The trail will be designed for runners, walkers, Rollerbladers, baby strollers, seniors and cyclists, according to LAFF Steering Committee Chairman Victor Lukasavitz of Linden. The newest

estimate of the cost of this project, before the formal engineering study is completed, is \$2.2 million.

“The LAFF Pathway is not a pipe dream,” said Lukasavitz. “It’s going to happen. We’re in year one of a three - to five-year process to see a trail on the ground. A lot of the work we’re doing now can’t be seen, it’s preparatory things that are required in a committed, mandated process. We’re going for the federal grant money. They want to see the commitment of our local communities and the funding.”

By the first week of August, Lukasavitz said that a tax-deductible fund will be set up through the Greater Flint Community Fund, collecting donations from individuals and businesses to help initially with some of the costs of preliminary scoping, then matching funds for grants.

“Fenton Rotary Club has already offered to help us on the funding side,” said Lukasavitz. “We’re working with Rotarian Noah Morgan, who’s also heading our fund-raising development committee.”

The LAFF Pathway has made its vision more inclusive by recently changing the name from “LAF” to “LAFF,” standing for Linden, Argentine, Fenton and Fenton Township.

The steering committee has elected officers, including chairman Lukasavitz, Vice Chairman Denny Duffield, Secretary Shannon Brant and Treasurer Lisa Wismer.

“Our next step this fall is to continue developing our funding for scoping the project, coordinating the project with local communities and keeping our residents informed,” said Lukasavitz.

He added that within the next six weeks, an artist’s rendering of the trail will be available for the public to see, as well as a detailed layout of the steps required in the

**See PATHWAY on 15A**

## Financial Q&A

### Should I start a 529 plan?

It’s safe to say many families have added the college savings goal to their financial planning. College savings is often one of the largest financial hurdles families face. Today, it can easily cost up to \$300,000 to send three kids through a 4 year university program. While traditionally it’s said the 529 plan is the best way to save for college, there are some unique alternative strategies that one doesn’t want to overlook when planning. For example, retirement assets such as the Roth IRA are not considered parental assets on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). This means your Roth IRA won’t hurt your child’s chances of financial aid eligibility whereas the 529 Plan is automatically considered a parental asset on the FAFSA. Families can then use Roth IRA funds to pay for education. This may be another way to consider planning. While this is just one advantage over the 529 plan its best to weigh all options and look at other benefits as well. The 529 plan may be more appropriate if you’re looking to reduce your gift tax exposure through gifting. You can elect to make a contribution between \$14,000 and \$70,000 as made over five years. For grandparents this is a common estate planning strategy to ensure their legacy is being put to good use. The important message is save now and save often, however you choose to cover the cost of education its best to speak with your Financial Planner or Accountant to determine what strategy is best for you when planning.

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO

A northern Michigan sunset creates a beautiful view with the Ludington North Breakwater Light as the focus.

## LIGHTHOUSE

Continued from Page 3A

which maintains, restores and operates the Ludington North Breakwater Light, the Big Sable Point Lighthouse, Little Sable Point Lighthouse and the White River Light Station.

Like many other lighthouse associations in Michigan, the SPLKA welcomes volunteers to handle tours, gift shop sales, routine maintenance chores like painting, etc., from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

Some lighthouses, including the Big Sable Point Lighthouse, provide guest quarters within their structures for volunteer guest accommodations — reliving the lifestyle from years past when lighthouse keepers actually lived on site with their families.

Others, like the Ludington North Breakwater Light, offer guest accommodations nearby. Piacentini stayed with three other lighthouse volunteers at the old manager's house at Ludington State Park, about six miles from the lighthouse. "It was like being home," she said. "We've been camping up here for 27 years."

All she had to pay was a \$50 membership in the (SPLKA) Association and \$25 to help cover some of the costs of her stay.

Her volunteer day started before 10 a.m., when the lighthouse was open for tours and browsing at the gift shop seven days a week. The volunteers packed their lunches, put up a flag at the end of the pier, packed the day's supplies on a buggy cart, put a step out and sign up for visitors.

As the owner of Fenton's Open Book, Piacentini was very comfortable with the administrative duties of the store and often stayed later than 5 p.m. to do accounting reports and paperwork from

the day's tours and sales.

Their busiest day was 100 adult visitors, contributing to the average annual tally of about 13,000 guests. "We met people from all over the world," said Piacentini. "It was a lot of fun to do."

The week wasn't without its trials, however. The lighthouse's non-working bathroom meant a half-mile trek to use a toilet during the work day. Also, volunteers missed the conveniences of electricity and refrigeration.

Piacentini had to call 911 once during the week when a visitor hit his knee on one of the steps leading him to the top of the lighthouse. "He blacked out and lost consciousness," said Piacentini. "They sent a Coast Guard boat out, but he refused treatment when he began to feel better. You have to be prepared for anything."

But by far, the fun outweighed any inconveniences. Piacentini is already looking into volunteering for another week in August because of several cancellations they've had. "I'd like to stay on site at the Big Sable," she said. "What's neat is that this is something anyone can do."

**“We met people from all over the world.”**

**Karen Piacentini**  
Volunteer lighthouse keeper

### SUMMARY

■ Three Michigan lighthouses are now listed for sale by the federal government.

## OWN

Continued from Page 3A

\$10,000 and \$5,000 for Spectacle Reef and Isle Aux Galets, respectively, on the General Service Administration's website, realestatesales.gov. Deadline for bids is listed as "to be determined."

According to the GSA, more than 100 lighthouses have been sold or transferred out of federal ownership since 2000.

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Lake Fenton

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Timber Creek

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**HOT LINE** CONTINUED

**DEAR AMUSED LIBERAL** definition reader. How do the conservative ideas of a balanced budget, limited government, lower taxes, morality and safe and secure borders for our country have anything in common with the words selfish and all about me, expressed in your comment?

■■■

**I AGREE WITH** other callers about the new build on South Long Lake Road. It seems way too big and way too close to the road and lake for the lot size.

■■■

**LOOSE SENIOR CENTER** in Linden doesn't receive any money from the recycle bins, but the Lions club has a trailer at Sloan's (old Linden Lumber) and they receive money and help support items in the community.

**TRASH****Continued from Front Page**

on wheels — one for garbage and the other for recycling. Markland said at a conference earlier this year that speakers from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality made a presentation on a new system.

"They informed us that this type of collection system results in doubling the collection of recyclables," he said in April.

The City Council was expected to vote on the matter at its April 13 meeting, but it didn't happen and the matter is yet to be placed on a future agenda.

In the meantime, the city of Linden, Fenton Township and the village of Holly have already implemented the new cart system, much to the dismay of some residents, who have chosen the Times'

Hot lines to vent their frustrations.

Others like the new system, having said the carts are easily wheeled to the curb, keep out critters and don't tip over during gusty winds.

Rudy Mora, a retired school principal from the Carman-Ainsworth district, who has lived and raised a family of 11 children in his Shiawassee Avenue home for more than 50 years, is against the proposed new system.

Among Mora's chief concerns is how senior citizens, especially those with mobility issues, are going to be able to maneuver the carts to the curb.

"They are not going to be able to push those big carts over the snow, the wheels won't move," Mora said. "It's inconvenient. If (seniors) can't shovel their snow they can't get through with the cart."

Another issue is aesthetics. "I came down Linden Road the other day," he said. "It happened to be trash day and there were hundreds of these monsters up and down the road. Some driveways had two of them. It was a horrible sight."

Debbie LaVanway of Tyrone Township, a friend of Mora's family, said her elderly mother lives along Owen Road in Fenton Township. Neither her mother nor her stepfather are in good health.

"She called the company (Republic) to come and get the carts because they are too heavy," LaVanway said. "They told her to try them for a week. She said 'no' so they said someone would be out to get them. So far, no one has picked them up."

LaVanway said her mother's trash pick-up day is Monday. "So every Monday I have to go over there and take out her trash because she can't."

She wonders why the cans have to be so large. "Who has 80 gallons of

recycling," she asked.

Mora, who refers to himself as the watchdog of Shiawassee Avenue said he lives in a beautiful area. Houses to the left of his home, once vacant, are now occupied with the new homeowners doing wonderful things. "People run by our house, they walk, the kids go by, it's beautiful," he said. "Now we're going to have those big blue dumpsters in the yard."

Mora has not yet heard a good reason for changing Fenton's trash collection program, and quoted an old friend, the late Mick Terry, who often said, "If it's not broke, don't fix it."

If eventually approved, the new system is set to begin on Oct. 1, allowing

enough time to provide education on the new program and give the public a chance to use the tags they have already purchased. Trash collection will continue to take place once a week, while recycling will be collected every other week.

If the new system is implemented, each customer will be charged the same rate and will be invoiced on their quarterly utility bill for the service.

According to Gary Hicks, municipal services manager for Republic Services, the exact charge to city residents has not yet been determined. Currently, city residents pay \$1.60 for each trash tag they use, and are charged \$16 for recycling on the quarterly water bills.

Republic Services plans to charge the city \$10.39 per household for the new system, for a total of \$31.17 per quarter. Hicks does expect some necessary administrative costs to be added by the city.

Hicks said, "I will say the average city resident will see a reduction in cost."



**“It happened to be trash day and there were hundreds of these monsters up and down the road. Some driveways had two of them. It was a horrible sight.”**

**Rudy Mora**  
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12793 (11-12)

**CHURCH****Continued from Front Page**

ago. "We're very blessed to have had the opportunity to purchase it."

Nine years later, the church has broken ground and started work on the infrastructure for its \$5 million Phase One building project. This 15,000-square-foot building will include the sanctuary with seating for more than 400, church offices, the narthex (gathering area), nursery and social room.

"Our congregation has tripled in size since 1998," said Trinity Lutheran Pastor Dean Dumbrille. "We've been talking about a building project as far back as 2000, when we began to see the need for more space and outreach into the community. We're unique in that our church is located within the city limits of Fenton. That opens up doors for us for a possible day care center, preschool and sports facilities."

The current church building will be

used for youth ministry and Sunday School, until the building is sold. "There has already been interest from two congregations in our area," said Building Committee Chairman Phil Price.

With the city of Fenton in the midst of a huge building boom, this church project is one of the city's largest to date, totaling \$8 million with the completion of Phase Two and Three. The project is being funded through a congregational capital campaign and resources from the Missouri Lutheran Synod.

Phase Two will include a wing for Sunday School classrooms. "That will start in year one or two, depending on the sale of the current building," said Price. "Phase Three will include the Trinity Center, an activities building with soccer and softball field potential. That will probably take us five to seven years," estimated Price.

Trinity Lutheran Church is tentatively planning to move into the new building in time for Easter Sunday 2016 on March 27.

**“The former mansion on the site always gave me a feeling of grace and dignity when I passed it. I feel that our new church will do the same.”**

**Phil Price**  
Chairman of Trinity Lutheran Church building committee



## Zonta: teaching safe crossing for 20 years



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Approximately 70 4- and 5-year-olds learned more safety practices than just looking both ways before crossing the road. Safety Town, which has been ran by Zonta for 20 years, teaches safe bike riding, street crossing, boarding the school bus and many other important activities. Fenton Kiwanis will run it in the future.

## MICHIGAN VOTES

WHAT YOUR LEGISLATORS ARE CONSIDERING

*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. This report was released Friday, July 17.*

The Senate did not meet this week, while the House convened, but took no votes. This week's Roll Call Report again examines some more recent constitutional amendment proposals of general interest.

### House Joint Resolution E: Establish part-time legislature

Introduced by Rep. Michael Webber (R), to place before voters in the next general election a constitutional amendment that would limit annual legislative sessions to 90 days. Legislative proposals to amend the constitution require a two-thirds vote in the House and Senate. Referred to committee, no further action at this time.

### House Joint Resolution I: Require property tax assessments to more quickly reflect market declines

Introduced by Rep. Lisa Lyons (R), to establish that if a property's assessed value has decreased, then the property taxes imposed on it must go down in proportion in the following year. Under current practice, assessors use a "moving average" of a property's value over several years, so if values go down an owner could still be assessed more the next year. Referred to committee, no further action at this time.

### House Joint Resolution M: Ban "lame duck" legislative sessions

Introduced by Rep. Joel Johnson (R), to establish the first Monday in November as the final day of the legislative session in even years (general election years). In other words, to prohibit "lame duck" legislative sessions held after the election. Referred to committee, no further action at this time.

### Senate Joint Resolution J: Increase maximum age of judges

Introduced by Sen. Steve Bieda (D), to place before voters in the next general election a Constitutional amendment to revise the current age limit on judges, from 70 to 75 years old. Referred to committee, no further action at this time.

### House Joint Resolution U: Revise effective date of new laws

Introduced by Rep. Edward McBroom (R), to establish that, unless it specifies otherwise, a bill passed by the legislature

goes into effect 90 days after the governor has approved it. Under current provisions, the "default" effective date of new bills is 90 days after the legislature adjourns for the year, which can be changed only with a supermajority two-thirds vote. This requirement sometimes is the cause of legislative gamesmanship and "log rolling." Referred to committee, no further action at this time.

### House Joint Resolution G: Repeal constitutional ban on private school tuition tax credits

Introduced by Rep. Gary Glenn (R), to repeal a provision in the state constitution that prohibits the state from offering tax credits based on tuition paid to a non-public school. Referred to committee, no further action at this time.

### House Joint Resolution Z: Ban Obamacare exchange

Introduced by Rep. Todd Courser (R), to prohibit creating a state-based version of the health insurance exchanges that are part of the federal health care law. Referred to committee, no further action at this time.

### Senate Joint Resolution E: Ban giving charter school management contracts to for-profit companies

Introduced by Sen. Rebekah Warren (D), to prohibit operation of a public school from being contracted out to a for-profit education management company, which is a common way of operating charter schools. Referred to committee, no further action at this time.

### Senate Joint Resolution C: Allow NRTC funds for logging and mining infrastructure

Introduced by Sen. Tom Casperson (R), to include road infrastructure for natural-resource based industries in the things for which Natural Resources Trust Fund money can be used. This money comes from oil, gas, and mineral royalties and leases on state-owned lands, and currently may be used for state land acquisitions, and conservation and recreation projects. Some legislators have expressed concern that, theoretically, nothing prohibits the current constitutional mandate from requiring the state eventually to buy all the land within its borders. Referred to committee, no further action at this time.

### Senate Joint Resolution H: Ban welfare for illegal aliens

Introduced by Sen. Joe Hune (R), to place before voters in the next general election a constitutional amendment to prohibit the state from giving any kind of "public assistance" to illegal aliens. Referred to committee, no further action at this time.

### House Joint Resolution T: Ban income tax on individuals or businesses

Introduced by Rep. Cindy Gamrat (R), to place in the constitution a prohibition on imposing a state income tax on individuals or businesses. Referred to committee, no further action at this time.

## PRINCIPAL

Continued from Page 6A

He's still hoping to lose another 20 pounds, but is very pleased with the 11 inches he has lost in his waist and the 2½ inches in his neck. "I wear my pants very differently today than I did at my heaviest," he said with a smile.

He admits that he likes the private aspect of his weight loss journey, being able to use social media through team-lifechanger2015@gmail.com, a group of about 225 people who support and encourage each other privately through this weight loss process.

## PATHWAY

Continued from Page 10A

process so people understand it. "It may look like nothing is happening, but all the groundwork is being laid," he said. "There's a lot of red tape and processes to understand. It's a jigsaw puzzle with many moving pieces."

The LAFF Pathway steering committee is continuing to collect 'YES, I support trail systems' sheets from residents, showing Genesee County has the level of interest from local communities when the group applies for grants. "YES" sheets are currently available at Cyclefit in Fenton, and will be available soon at the Fenton Regional Chamber office. "We're on Facebook, too," said Lukasavitz. "If you'd like to sign a 'YES' sheet, we'll be sure to get one to you."

Lukasavitz, a retired professional recreational parks planner and downtown developer, knows well the long process in getting a trail off the ground. "Our goal is to have the first footprint of a trail on the ground," he said. "The other trail extensions will be easier to accomplish."



## ASK THE MECHANIC

Chris Wilkinson,  
Certified Mechanic

**Q:** I have a Ford Windstar, when it goes up a hill, the AC stops working. It also won't start when it hasn't been driven for a couple of days. The battery is 6 months old and the alternator is brand new.

- Aquiles

**A:** Aquiles, I would need more information on your vehicle to be able to help with these problems, but here is some information. First, the A/C cutting out when going over hills could be that the engine temp and condenser gets too warm. This system has a switch that will prevent the A/C from running during these conditions. Keep an eye on the temp gauge when the A/C cuts out and see if this is possibly the cause.

As far as the engine not starting after sitting for a couple of days; if the battery is going dead and it is not turning over than you most likely have a battery draw. First things to look for are lights that may be on such as map lights, glove box light, trunk light or visor lights. Sometimes this can be a very hard problem to find and you may need to take it into a shop.

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**HOT LINE** CONTINUED

**HICKORY RIDGE — NOT** only do we have 40- and 50-mile-an-hour speed limits, and people going 60 and 70, we've got three miles of rumble strips I have to listen to every time somebody decides to cross the line. They say it's to keep people from falling asleep but I can hear them zigzagging down the road for the whole three miles.

**ATTENTION SHOPPERS, CHECK** your receipts before you leave any store. I've been double charged for items twice in the last month. They claim it's their scanner.

**TO THE PERSON** who wrote that Foster Childs and conservatives are 'idiots.' Typical response for liberals. No facts or ideas to debate with so personal attacks and mudslinging.

**DOG AND CAT** lovers, check where your pets' treats are made. Many are from China. If your cat is always indoors feed it

soft food once a day or their urine crystallizes and causes excruciating pain.

**LOBBYISTS HAVE ALWAYS** influenced our government officials, but is really bad now. These lobbyists are now writing our laws and bills. American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) is one of the worst.

**GOOGLE AND U of M** have entered into an agreement to test driver-less cars in Ann Arbor. Heck, we already have them here. Unbelievably, Fenton's virtual driver-less cars go through stop signs, tailgate, put on makeup, and use their cellphones. Unfortunately, a computer glitch prevents cars from using turn signals.

**SINCE THE LIBERALS** are trying to remove symbols of racism, why not remove the black power fist in Detroit? People were told that was to honor Joe Louis, but I see a clenched fist of Socialist movements, not a boxing glove.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Vehicles traveling 25 miles per hour navigate the curve approximately 10 feet from the new home being built on South Long Lake Road.

**MISTAKE**

**Continued from Front Page**

According to Fenton City Manager Lynn Markland and the city's planning consultant, Carmine Avantini, the road was built in the wrong place.

"This property is in the city and a building permit was issued," said Avantini. "As I recall, they met the setbacks using the averaging requirement in the zoning ordinance, and the road is constructed over the private property line."

"Please keep in mind that this road was constructed a long time ago and things like this happened," he added.

John Daly, director of the Genesee County Road Commission, said when this happens, it's usually more associated with a gravel road, not a hard surface road.

"It is not common and has not happened on a paved surface that I'm aware of," Daly said. "And I've been here for 15 years."

Fenton Police Chief Rick Aro on traffic safety said, "Fortunately, the location of the curve in the roadway isn't such that the momentum of cars traveling too fast would typically hit it and it's not at a dead end like some homes."

Matt Bacon owns the home directly across the street from the South Long Lake Road house under construction. "It's a monstrosity," Bacon said. "It's a mistake on the lake."

Bacon said the problem is that the speed limit is 25 miles per hour coming

around the curve. "No one goes 25 miles an hour, it's an accident waiting to happen. People fly by. You almost want to put a camera up and watch the accidents happen."

**THE OTHER TWO MANSIONS:**

The 10,000-square-foot house at the north end of Lake Fenton, first referred to as the "mistake on the lake," was never occupied, and torn down last October.

Prior to tearing it down, Fenton Township Supervisor Bonnie Mathis said the home was set for demolition due to mold and building deterioration.

As previously reported in the Times, the original building permit for that house was issued in June 2007 and the last inspection recorded was in October 2007. The construction never received final approval and a certificate of occupancy was never issued. According to the permit, the value of the construction

was \$400,000.

A second house, currently located on Enid Boulevard in Fenton Township, is approximately 8,000 square feet in size and very close to the seawall. It was purchased in October 2009 for \$632,000, according to public records.

What people may not realize is the first two large homes are located in Fenton Township, while the house presently under construction on South Long Lake Road is in the city of Fenton — two different jurisdictions.

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## STING

Continued from Front Page

police officer, helping the Shiawassee County Sheriff's Department by going undercover and buying drugs with Lacy "Moon" Brown to find local drug dealers. She became "Debbie Leno," daughter of an east coast gangster, and Moon played "Danny" a big-time drug dealer, according to a story in The Atlantic.

In order to catch all the drug dealers at once, they decided to get "married" and invited them to the wedding.

Maurice "Vic" Wasylyshyn, a sergeant of the Shiawassee County Sheriff's Department, was 45 years old at the time, orchestrated the entire sting.

Debbie and Vic married a year later on Oct. 20, 1991 and moved to Linden.

At the time of the sting, Flint saw an abundance of drug dealers after General Motors announced the closing of seven plants and thousands of workers were laid off, according to The Atlantic.

The idea was Vic and Moon's, and they

**“There was no bad feelings between the bad guys and us, everyone thought it was funny.”**

**Vic Wasylyshyn**  
Former Shiawassee County Sheriff's Department sergeant

asked Debbie to help. "I thought it was a really great idea. I thought it was kind of funny. You couldn't help but laugh about it," she said.

During the undercover work, while they built personas, Vic told them where to buy, whom to talk to, and collected the evidence.

On the wedding day, prior to the ceremony, Vic and other officers arrested

seven people with reverse buys and took in \$86,000. They had 200 pounds of marijuana and caught the bad guys when they asked to buy.

"There's a lot of tension. When you're going to have as much dope as we have, you worry someone's going to rip you off," he said. Because he was a narcotics officer

who testified in court, some drug dealers knew his face and knew he was an officer.

Flint police officers helped by lending the marijuana and working undercover. They held the dealers incognito at the jail, worried that word would spread in a small community and scare people off from the wedding.

### The Wedding

Vic ran surveillance of the wedding in a motorhome stationed outside.

The only thing that made Debbie nervous the day of the sting was putting the event together, but it wasn't hard for her to stay in character. "The atmosphere made it feel like a real wedding," she said. "It probably was one of the easiest roles I ever did." She stashed her

gun in the garter that came with the wedding dress.

The wedding started at 6 p.m. and they waited until after the ceremony to arrest people. About 47 people were arrested that day.

"It was a fun operation. There was no bad feelings between the bad guys and us, everyone thought it was funny," Vic said. "After we arrested the bad guys, we naturally partied at the hall."

"The day of the sting, after everything was over with, I was sitting in the motorhome and she comes in and she's still wearing the wedding dress. I realized I was in love with her," he said.

"It was probably the funnest thing I ever did in police work," Debbie said. "Everywhere I go, one of my friends always says 'tell them the story.'"

### SUMMARY

■ A fake wedding police sting set up by the Shiawassee County Sheriff's Department, with the help of Flint police officers, led to the arrest of 86 drug dealers in 1990.



**TRI-COUNTY TIMES** | SUBMITTED PHOTO

Twenty-five years after the sting, Debbie and Vic Wasylyshyn now live in Linden. In the months following the sting wedding, Debbie said she was bombarded with phone calls from news sources wanting interviews.

### ABOUT THE FAKE WEDDING

• **Invitations were** sent out, rings were prepared, a few officers formed a band, and food was donated. Part of the cake was cardboard to save money.

• **Officers from** Shiawassee, Flint, Port Huron, and Davison attended as "guests" and helped arrest people.

• **Debbie found** a dress with the help of Moon's wife, Beth, at the Salvation Army for \$17.

• **The cue** to arrest people was when the band started playing "I Fought the Law (And the Law Won)." One undercover officer asked the cops to stand up and announced that everyone was under arrest.

### ARRESTS & CONVICTIONS

During the days after the sting, they served the rest of the warrants, and arrested a total of 86 people.

"The biggest hassle was going to court because the circuit court judge wanted to try these cases jointly," Vic said, explaining that the judge questioned the officers about a few different cases at once and it was hard on their memories.

"I'm thinking we got about 49 people who were actually prosecuted and pled guilty," he said. According to The Atlantic, poor record keeping and a tornado that hit Flint the week of the sentencing made it impossible to know who was convicted.

# 15<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL



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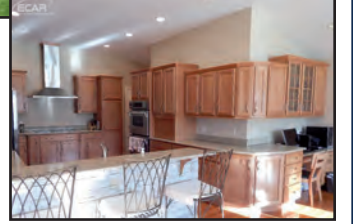


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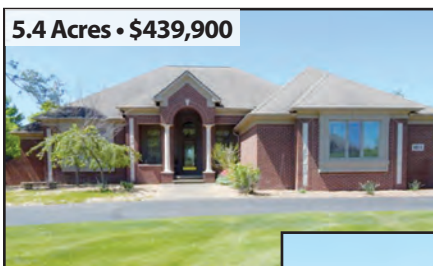
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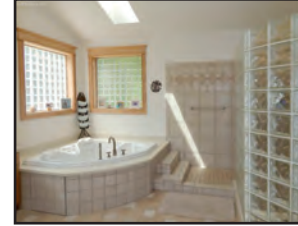
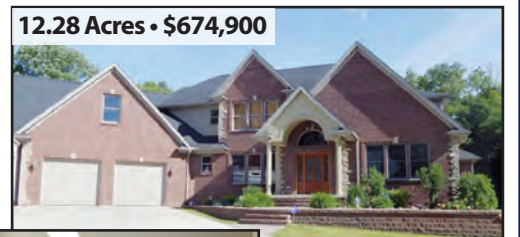
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met kitchen features  
large island & panoramic  
views, huge deck off  
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2 half bath home. Huge master suite.  
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## TRIVIA COLLEGE FOOTBALL

**Q** What school was Glen Kozlowski talking about when he said, "they let you chase girls, they just don't let you catch them?"

**A** Kozlowski said it while playing wide receiver for Brigham Young University in 1985.

## MESSNER WINS TYRONE HILLS' LIBBERS CUP TITLE

Bryce Messner understands what it feels like to come close to winning the Libbers Cup Men's Open at Tyrone Hills Golf Club.

Two years ago, the Hartland 2015 graduate placed third. Last year he finished runner-up.

But this year, he learned what it felt like to win the title.

Messner shot a 69-67-136 two-day, 36-hole total to beat Dustin Vogl, Beau Breault and last year's champion Darren Husse by two strokes in the championship flight of the tourney last weekend.

"I putted really well," Messner said. "You can be pretty aggressive on those greens and I gave myself a chance and rolled a couple of them in. It felt nice to do that."

"I've been close the past couple years. It felt good to win it."

Scores were low during the 2015 version of the tournament. Messner, who was one of two competitors who shot sub-70 rounds, needed a 67 on the final day to win it. The other golfer to shoot two sub-70s was Breault who shot 69-69. Last year's champion, Husse,

See **MESSNER** on 23A

## More than 100 Run for Hope

■ Prep XC runners Davitt, Hitt capture during 5K race

By David Troppens  
dtroppens@tctimes.com

**Linden** — As summer continues and it becomes late July, many prep cross country runners start thinking about the start of their fall season, and many runners look to the many 5K races scheduled to help with their training.

Occasionally while training in those races, the runners will earn some victories.

That was the case for Grand Blanc senior Nicholas Davitt and Linden sophomore Meghan Hitt at the Linden's Hope Lutheran Church's Run For Hope 5K held around Linden High School's and Linden Middle School's campus on Thursday night. The two runners captured first place in their divisions.

Davitt, 16, took the Men's Overall title, winning the part road, part cross country 5K event with a time of 18:39.68.

"Before the season you want to race on all terrains so you are prepared for anything when the



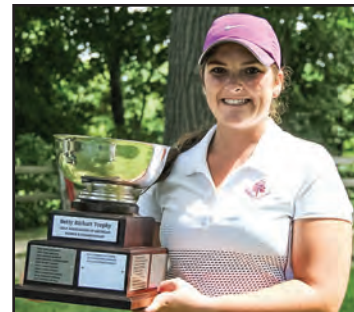
TRI-COUNTY TIMES  
DAVID TROPPENS

(Above) The Run For Hope 5K race held at Linden's Hope Lutheran Church begins. The eventual winner was Grand Blanc's Nicholas Davitt (1611). (Right) Kagen Griffith leads early in the race. Davitt follows directly behind him.

high school season starts," Davitt said. "You want to get in as many races as possible, as many different races as possible. This one is dirt and road; some high school courses are dirt and road. Some are trails."

Davitt won by about a minute. Linden High School cross country runner Kagen Griffith took second with a time of 19:33.04.

"I enjoy road courses and cross  
See **HOPE** on 23A



GREG JOHNSON/GAM

Linden resident and Grand Valley State student Julie Guckian won the 24th GAM Women's Championship at Owosso Country Club on Wednesday.

## Guckian wins GAM Women's Championship

By David Troppens  
dtroppens@tctimes.com

Julie Guckian was excited on Tuesday.

The Linden resident shot what she called her best tournament round during the opening 18 holes at the 24th Golf Association of Michigan (GAM) Women's Championship at Owosso Country Club, and was tied for the lead entering Wednesday's final round.

See **GUCKIAN** on 23A



## Stahl scores a rare bird at Coyote Preserve

■ Fenton resident records an albatross on par-5 16th hole

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

When Jason Stahl goes to his grandma's home, she always has bragging rights when it comes to

TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO

Jason Stahl takes his ball out of the par-5 575-yard 16th hole at the Coyote Preserve. He shot a 2 on the hole, giving him a double-eagle or what is also known as an albatross.

golf.

That's because she has recorded six aces in her lifetime.

"The hallway to the basement has her hole-in-one plaques," Fenton resident Stahl said. "She'd tell me, 'Maybe someday you'll have one.'"

Well, Stahl is still looking for

that first-ever elusive ace, but he recently accomplished something that is even more rare on a golf course. The 29-year old recorded a 2 on the Coyote Preserve Golf Club's 575-yard par 5 16th hole, earning what is called a double-eagle or an albatross in golf terms, on July 14 during league play.

"My partner (Chris Common) saw it hit on the green, but didn't see it go in the cup," Stahl said. "I was kind of surprised. The dif-

See **STAHL** on 23A

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# Team loves camaraderie, challenge Great Lakes Relay presents

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

When Chris Sobczak was asked if he'd like to do an event called the Great Lakes Relay, the Lake Fenton cross country coach thought it didn't sound too tough and decided to go for it.

"When Clint (Lawhorne) asked me to do it, I looked it up and saw every runner had to run 26 miles for the weekend," Sobczak said. "When I saw that, I thought, 'When we go to camp, I do more than that. That's a piece of cake.'"

He quickly found out how wrong he was.

But, that said, the experience hasn't soured Sobczak. In fact, Sobczak competed in the most unusual event through the Michigan's Upper Peninsula and northern

part of the Lower Peninsula again this season.

The Great Lakes Relay is a three-day outdoor running event which teams of 10 runners race about 300 miles in just about any terrain one can think imaginable in the state of Michigan. Each runner completes about two legs of the relay each day with each leg consisting of about five miles each. One leg may involve running through poorly marked paths through a woods. Another could be through some sand dunes, while another could be on a rocky beach. Another could take you through a river. The event starts at Tahquamenon Falls. One thing is certain — every team is going to have a runner get lost at least once during the three days and by the time the event is over all 10 runners will be exhausted.

Sobczak's team, which included Linden boys cross country coach Clint Lawhorne, Linden resident Dan Skinner and ex-Holly track coach Rob Basydlo, finished 14th during this year's event which was run from July 17 until July 19. Other area runners also compete in the race. A team made up of runners primarily from the tri-county area, won the race last season, but were unable to retain their title this year.

Lawhorne's team wasn't thinking about winning. Finishing the event was the primary goal.

"Our team goal was to finish in the top third, which we did," Sobczak said. "If we had a second goal it was to finish in the top 10 and that didn't happen."

"The greater goal is to have a good time with a good group of guys. We knew we were not going to win anything with the younger teams out there, so having a good time and finishing in the top third were our only real goals."

"I think it's about the camaraderie you get with the team," said Lawhorne, who has done "six or seven" events. "It's a lot of fun from that perspective. And the challenge of running all those miles over that crazy terrain without getting lost."

Skinner, 56, has run the race before, but didn't do it last year due to a knee surgery last July. But this season he helped out the squad

"He asked at the end of April and I told him I just got to running and am not running very fast. But when push came to shove, I reluctantly said, 'yeah.'"

"But it's always a great weekend. You get to see all these people you run with. You race with your friends through the years. We see all these people you haven't seen in years."

When the race starts, a runner does his leg while the team takes other vehicles to

See RELAY on 23A



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPENS

Rubie Ellis (left) finishes her hole while Scarlett Dunahoo waits to complete her final putt during a past day at the Spring Meadows Junior Golf Program this summer.

## Spring Meadows JUNIOR GOLF RESULTS

Here are the results from the annual Junior Golf Club Championship held at Spring Meadows Country Club.

### 1 HOLE BOYS

First place: Alex Iordanou

Second place: Anderson Schaal

### 1 HOLE GIRLS

First place: Megan Critchfield

Second place: Ashlyn Charder

Second place: Anderson Schaal

### 3 HOLE BOYS

#### Flight A

First place: Kaden Latreille

Second place: Carter Will

#### Flight B

First place: Cole Essmann

Second place: James Moose

### 3 HOLE GIRLS

First place: Rubie Ellis

Second place: Scarlett Dunahoo

### 5 HOLE BOYS

#### Flight A

First place: Kyle Dunfield

Second Place (tie): Jacob North

Second Place (tie): Luke Stein

#### Flight B

First place: Luke Brody

Second place: Austin Antia

### 5 HOLE GIRLS

#### Flight A

First place: Cali Rohr

Second place: Katelyn Iordanou

### 9 HOLE BOYS

#### Flight A

First place: Max Jones

Second place: Drew Krueger

#### Flight B

First place: Dru Brody

Second place: Payton Kraft

### 9 HOLE GIRLS

First place: Lilly Horning

Second place: Mae Moose

### 18 HOLE BOYS

First place: Bradley Harris

Second place: Dylan Huck

### 18 HOLE GIRLS

First place: Amelia Gavulic

Second place: Zoey Howieson



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO

Linden varsity boys cross country coach Clint Lawhorne helped put together this group of 10 runners for the recent Great Lakes Relay. They are (from left starting with the front row) Laud Ryan, Mark Good, B.J. Tomanek, Allen Murphy, Rick Cahoon, Chris Sobczak, Dan Skinner, Todd Quiring, Rob Basydlo and Lawhorne.

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**\*\*2D PIXELS (PG13)**  
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WED 11:25 4:30 9:35  
THUR 11:25 4:30 9:35 11:55  
**\*@3D PIXELS: REALD 3D (PG13)**  
FRI-THUR 2:00 7:00  
**\*MR. HOLMES (PG)**  
FRI-SAT 10:40 1:15 3:55 6:25 9:00 11:25  
SUN-MON 10:40 1:15 3:55 6:25 9:00  
TUES 10:40 1:15 3:55 6:25 9:00 11:25  
WED 10:40 1:15 3:55 6:25 9:00  
THUR 10:40 1:15 3:55 6:25 9:00 11:25  
**\*PAPER TOWNS (PG13)**  
FRI-SAT 10:20 1:05 3:45 6:35 9:15 11:50  
SUN-MON 10:20 1:05 3:45 6:35 9:15  
TUES 10:20 1:05 3:45 6:35 9:15 11:50  
WED 10:20 1:05 3:45 6:35 9:15  
THUR 10:20 1:05 3:45 6:35 9:15 11:50  
**\*SOUTHPAW (R)**  
FRI-SAT 10:35 1:25 4:15 7:10 9:55 11:45  
SUN-MON 10:35 1:25 4:15 7:10 9:55  
TUES 10:35 1:25 4:15 7:10 9:55 11:45  
WED 10:35 1:25 4:15 7:10 9:55  
THUR 10:35 1:25 4:15 7:10 9:55 11:45

**STARTING TUES JULY 28**

**\*VACATION (R)**  
TUES 07:00 9:25 12:05  
WED 10:00 am 12:20 2:40 5:00 7:20 9:45  
THUR 10:00 am 12:20 2:40 5:00 7:20 9:45 11:55

**STARTING FRI JULY 31**

**\*MISSION IMPOSSIBLE: ROGUE NATION (PG13)**  
THUR NIGHT/FRI MORNING 12:05  
**\*@MISSION IMPOSSIBLE: ROGUE NATION: AN IMAX EXPERIENCE (PG13)** THUR 7:00 9:50 12:30

**CONTINUING**

**\*TRAINWRECK (R)**  
**\*@ANT-MAN: AN IMAX 3D EXPERIENCE (PG13)**  
**\*@3D ANT-MAN: REALD 3D (PG13)**  
**\*2D ANT-MAN (PG13)**  
**THE GALLOWS (R)**  
**\*@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)**  
**2D JURASSIC WORLD (PG13)**  
**SPY (R)**

\*Due to movie company policies no passes are accepted.  
© No \$5 rate available. • No \$5 TUES evening rate.





GREG JOHNSON/GAM

Julie Guckian watches one of her shots during the 24th GAM Women's Championship. Guckian won the title with a 36-hole, two-day total of 139 at Owosso Country Club.

## GUCKIAN

Continued from Page 21A

But at the same time, having that lead created a new pressure — sleeping on the lead.

"I tried not thinking about it," said Guckian, who will be entering her junior season on Grand Valley State's women's golf team this fall. "Sleeping on the lead or tied for the lead is not always fun and the easiest thing in the world. ... Yet, it was my best tournament round. I was excited, but at the same time I tried to hold it together for the following day."

Guckian did an outstanding job holding it together. She shot a 1-under 70 and carded a final score of 69-70-139, earning the GAM Women's Championship title by two strokes over runner-up Jennifer Elshoz. It was Guckian's first-ever tournament victory in GAM play.

"Like any GAM tournament, there's good competition there," Guckian said. "To take home the title, you have to play well. I knew it wasn't going to be easy. I was not happy with my last couple of tournament finishes. To pull off a couple of nice rounds was nice."

A strong start helped put Guckian on the championship patch. She started with birdies on the first three holes and played steady golf the final 33 holes to earn the victory.

"I was pretty steady through-

out," Guckian said. "My goal going into (the tournament) was to not have any big misses, and if I have a bogey, try to recover. The first day I started birdie, birdie, birdie and I've never done that in a tournament in my life. ... The first three holes are two par fives and a short par three. ... The second day I was thinking if I can get out of the first three one-under or even that would be nice. I sunk a long putt on the second hole and played the first three one-under. ... I didn't have too many bogeys and I made a lot of putts."

Guckian was a second-team All-Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) selection at Grand Valley last season as a sophomore. She averaged 80.25 over 28 rounds, including finishing runner-up in one tournament. She helped lead GVSU to its eighth straight GLIAC title.

One of her teammates at Grand Valley is Fenton resident and GVSU freshman Samantha Moss. Moss was named the GLIAC Freshman of the Year and was in the lineup for three of GVSU's league wins. Moss competed at the GAM Championship, finishing in a tie for 30th with a 36-hole score of 158.

"It's going good," Guckian said about her time at GVSU. "I'm having a lot of fun with it. I get to play a lot of tournaments and meet a lot of people who share the same passion."

## HOPE

Continued from Page 21A

country courses alike," Griffith said. "Sometimes having a mix of both is good training. I love this race. It's good the community can host races like this and we can have some fun."

Hitt competed in the Wednesday Night Races at Linden County Park just 24 hours earlier, but still took time for the 5K event. It worked well for her as she finished with the Female Overall title with a time of 25:38.47. Second place went to Female Masters Winner Tracey Sahouri (25:55.93).

"At first I was running and I thought I would go easy, but then I realized I could be the first girl, so I tried to kick it," Hitt said. "I tried to keep going in my mind, keep going and going and I finished."

"I love the course. I love the mix of road and trail," Sahouri said. "They have everything on the trail marked

off. It is very safe and there is enough hills to make it challenging."

The Male Masters winner was Clio's Greg Thomas with a time of 20:07. The youngest runners to finish the race were 9-year-olds Luke Francis (22:55.96) and Ella Hunter (46:29.82). The oldest competitor to finish the race was Pinckney resident Harrison Hensley, who is 82 (46:55.96).

The third-annual event's date moved from a Saturday to a Thursday due to the rescheduling of other races in the Flint area. It resulted in a smaller field than the past two years, but by race time there were over 100 entrants. Race coordinator Amy Watts said the church plans on running another race in May. Proceeds are used to fund college scholarships for Linden High School students.

TRI-COUNTY TIMES  
DAVID TROPPENS

Argentine Township resident Meghan Hitt was the Female Overall Winner at the Run For Hope 5K on Thursday.

## RELAY

Continued from Page 22A

meet him at the end of the leg. Sometimes it's challenge to get the vehicles to the next destination point. In almost all cases, it's a challenge for the runner. After all, this is an event that alerts

its competitors what poison ivy looks like on its Facebook page.

"The trails and terrain are challenging," Sobczak said.

"Your legs are shot. But you know the other guys are counting on you, so you give it your all, or what you have left. ... It's gruel-

ling, yet at the same time it's fun."

"For a bunch of middle-aged guys like us, it's about camaraderie and finishing," Skinner said. "We are still competitive in nature and we like to say, 'I passed five people on my leg' but for the most part we are having fun together."

## STAHL

Continued from Page 21A

ficulty and odds of having a 2 on a par-5, obviously I'm happy."

Stahl is a big hitter. He says he can hit his drives about 310 to 320 yards, so when he positioned his drive down the right side of the fairway on the hole that is a dogleg to the right. It left him with about 235 yards to the green, but with a blind shot to the hole.

He used a 4-iron for his second shot, and what happened after that is history.

"I looked at (my league partner's shot) when he hit it, and it

was just short of the green," Stahl said.

"I figured I might as well give it a go. The second shot is completely blind. I dialed in the yardage and thought a 4-iron would be good. It happened to go into the hole."

It is the only known double-eagle to be recorded at the 16th hole at the Coyote Preserve, but that shouldn't shock anyone. While the hole-in-one is the most commonly talked about great golf shot, the Hole In One Association says an amateur golfer has about a 12,700-to-1 chance of making an

ace. Meanwhile, the odds of getting a double-eagle (a 2 on a par 5 or a hole-in-one on a par 4) have been ranked far greater than that. Dean Knutch, who was the senior director of the handicap department of the USGA from 1981 to 1997 said the odds are probably about 1 million-to-1.

"This is more satisfying (than a hole-in-one)," Stahl said. "I had two good shots in a row and that's the end result. I'm happy to do it on a legitimate course on a nice hole. I'm glad I didn't do it somewhere much easier."

## MESSNER

Continued from Page 21A

ended the tournament with a 67 on the second day as well, but opened up with a 71, putting him four strokes behind first-round tourney leader Dustin Vogl (67). Vogl shot a 71 during the tourney's second day. Nick Hartley placed fifth outright, beginning the second day just one stroke (68) out of first, but ended the tourney with

a 74, finishing six strokes behind Messner and four strokes behind the three-player logjam in second.

"It's quite a group," Messner said. "The field is getting stronger and stronger every year."

Messner knew he took the lead when he birdied the 380-yard par-4 17th hole on the second day. Before that, it remained tight.

Messner was on Hartland's varsity team which placed fourth at the state meet this spring. He's

headed to Grand Valley State University to play on the school's men's golf team.

Hartley finished with a 142, shooting two-under-par for the event. Zach Szczepanski placed sixth (144) in the championship flight. Kevin Schroeder shot a 73-70-143, capturing the first flight title. His first-day 73 kept him from competing in the championship, but he was the sixth person to finish under par.

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