Sheriff’s dive team locates body of missing boater

Drowns in Lobdell Lake after tubing mishap

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

Argentine Twp. — At about 3:15 p.m. Monday, the Genesee County Sheriff’s Department dive team located the body of Thomas Kelley, 47, of Argentine Township in roughly 17½ feet of water in the east side of Lobdell Lake.

Kelley had gone missing at approximately 7 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 2 after he dove in to help two small children who had been thrown from a tube that he was pulling behind his boat.

Argentine Township Police Chief Daniel Allen said the police department’s preliminary investigation

See BOATER on 6

Accused killer not new to justice system

Erich Wilfinger a convicted felon since 2007

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

Erich Wilfinger, 66, the man accused of killing his wife, Marsha (Sargent) Wilfinger, 54, formerly of Argentine Township, has a second preliminary examination date scheduled for Aug. 26.

The original preliminary exam, scheduled for July 17, was postponed because evidence was still being collected and investigators were still waiting for reports, including lab reports.

“At the preliminary examination, it will be determined if there is enough evidence to bind him over to Circuit Court for trial,” said a clerk in the Montmorency County District Court.

See WILFINGER on 5

Annual event showcases historical village

Sights, Sounds & Tastes

Hot night in downtown Holly!

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

The 13th annual Sights, Sounds and Tastes of Holly was held Saturday, Aug. 2 in downtown Holly. About 500 people took advantage of great food, fun and entertainment. (Right) a server at Blackhorn Pub in Holly dishes out samples to visitors.

Annual event showcases historical village

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

It wasn’t just the weather that was hot in downtown Holly Saturday night.

Hot food, fun and entertainment were enjoyed by hundreds of visitors during the 13th annual Sights, Sounds and Taste of Holly.

Vendors offering their fare were Andy’s Place, Avia, Bittersweet Café, Blackhorn Pub, Cupcakes & Kisses, Diehl’s Orchard & Cider Mill, Fenton Winery & Brewery, Holly Foods, Moose Lodge #1168 and the Red Devil.

Holly’s own Jon Fett Quartet entertained with a variety of classic rock, rock and metal sounds. Attendees also had a chance to win raffle prizes, which included 50/50 raffles, four special baskets, a tailgate package sponsored by RHL & Wilkinson’s Automotive, and a wheel barrel filled with adult beverages.

See HOLLY on 9

“Voting is like driving a vehicle. Choose ‘D’ to move forward, or choose ‘R’ to go backward.”

tctimes.com

“Trump is a loud-mouthed jackass who has been lucky in a few real estate deals. Just watch his silly reality show and you would never cast a vote for him for dogcatcher, much less president.”

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

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

Sheriff’s Department dive team

PLANNING AHEAD FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR

PAGE 8

PHOTOS BY MARK BOLEN

TRI-COUNTY TIMES

Sights, Sounds & Tastes

Midweek Times

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2015

VOL. 22 NO. 300

2012 - 2013 - 2014 NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

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A SIMPLE ACT OF KINDNESS...

Fenton Township teen shampoos and cuts hair of homeless people in Detroit

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

Nothing gives a person the feeling of humanity more than a touch of someone else’s hand.

Last Friday, cosmetology student Autumn Beltinck of Fenton Township shared that touch with dozens of homeless clients in midtown Detroit, in a volunteer effort through Paul Mitchell The School Michigan, Cass Community Social Services and the You First project.

Beltinck and 200 volunteers spent the day shampooing and cutting the hair of about 250 homeless adults and kids outside the Cass Community Social Services Center. While this might seem like a small act of kindness, it’s huge when you’re out on the street and have few opportunities for bathing, as well as the touch of another human being.

“I did mostly the shampooing,” said Beltinck, 19, a cosmetology student at Paul Mitchell The School in Sterling Heights. “Some of the other ‘future professionals’ didn’t want to do it; they helped pass out clothes and stuff. To me, it was about humanity. How would you feel if this was you and no one would help you?”

She said that all the homeless clients sat in chairs in the middle then visited a shampoo station, where they got their hair washed with jars of warm water, before being cut and styled. A food station provided free donated hot dogs, chips and bottled water.

“They could come and hang out for the day,” said Beltinck. “By 11 a.m., we had already shampooed about 65 people. We also trimmed up beards for men.”

Beltinck admitted that kids were her favorite part of the day, “So many parents live on the street with their kids. There was live music and the kids had a dance party. It was a huge bonding moment for the school and the kids.”

While most of the clients were quiet and found it difficult to open up, one lady in particular told Beltinck her own story.

See HOMELESS on 9

Think varicose veins are just a cosmetic issue?
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Debates vs. debates

WARWICK, England — When it comes to debates the Oxford Union, which bills itself as the ‘world’s most prestigious debating society,’ remains the gold standard. The Oxford Union debates produce useful information. The same cannot be said for U.S. presidential debates.

Next week, 10 Republican presidential candidates will gather on a stage in Cleveland, Ohio, behind podiums like ‘Jeopardy!’ contestants. With so many candidates having so little time, little useful information will be dispensed. More likely, the all-male cast will be looking for ways to squeeze in their rehearsed sound bites.

Britain, after several failed attempts, aired its first leaders debate in 2010. In 1964, Labour Party leader Harold Wilson had challenged Prime Minister Alec Douglas-Home to debate, but Douglas-Home declined, saying, ‘You’ll get a sort of ‘Top of the Pops’ contest. You’ll then get the best actor as leader of the country and the actor will be prompted by a scriptwriter.’

Given today’s political system, Douglas-Home was prophetic. There needs to be more changes in the way we elect our presidents beyond these political fashion shows. This will help us avoid buyer’s remorse, like the 2014 EconomistYouGov.com poll that found only 79 percent of Obama voters would vote for him again, if given the chance.

A good first step to improving debates has been the addition of conservative questioners to debate panels. The primary criticism from conservatives has been reporters they believe to be liberal ask questions that reflect their own worldview and are designed to produce answers Democratic candidates can use to their advantage.

For the 2016 GOP debates, NBC/NBC News will partner one; CNN will partner with Salem Media Group, a Christian network, for another, and ABC and the Independent Journal Review will partner for a third.

This is progress. One hopes the Democrats will follow the Republican example, or better still, the example of the Oxford Union. If you’ve never seen what a real debate looks like, go to oxford-union.org and find the link to YouTube for some of the most exciting political and social issue exchanges you will ever see.

Next week’s debate is unlikely to come anywhere close.

FROM THE RIGHT
NATIONALLY SYNDICATED

Cal Thomas
POLICE & FIRE

REPORT

MOTORCYCLIST IS SUSPECT IN ROAD RAGE INCIDENT

At about 1:45 p.m. on Aug. 1, deputies with the Oakland County Sheriff’s Department responded to the 8000 block of Tindall Road in Springford Township on a report of an assault with a handgun. The victim, a 41-year-old Davison resident, reported that he was involved in a road rage incident on Tindall Road involving a motorcyclist. When they stopped, a verbal argument began between the two men. During the altercation, the motorcyclist produced a small caliber handgun and pointed the gun at the other man’s head before shooting him. The motorcyclist then fled the scene on a blue Harley-Davidson motorcycle bearing a Michigan registration plate. Deputies were unable to locate the suspect. A be-on-the-lookout was broadcast to neighboring law enforcement agencies with the suspect description. Detectives were notified and continued the investigation. The suspect was described as a white male in his 50s, with a long gray goatee. He was wearing a black leather “Iron Order” motorcycle jacket and helmet.

WILFINGER

Continued from Front Page

Criminal Division. “When it gets to Circuit Court it starts all over again.”

Wilfinger has been charged with one count of homicide-open murder in the death of his wife, Marsha Wilfinger, who was found in the back seat of a burning car on June 20. Shortly before midnight, Michigan State Police Troopers responded to calls of a vehicle fire at the intersection of Sheridan Valley Road and Scenic Rte. 3 in Montmorency County’s Briley Township, east of Gaylord.

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

Troopers learned the vehicle was registered to a leasing company. They found several car parts scattered along the road that led to the fire scene. They also believe the vehicle had been towed to the location.

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

Erich Wilfinger, who remains in jail without bond, is not a newcomer to the criminal justice system. According to the Michigan Department of Corrections website, he was sentenced on Aug. 2, 2007 in Livingston County with operating under the influence of a controlled substance, second degree; third degree fleeing from a police officer; and possession of marijuana. The date of these offenses was April 6, 2007. He took a plea deal and received a sentence of 1 year, 6 months, and was discharged on Aug. 22, 2008.

On Aug. 18, 2011, he was arrested in Oakland County for being a felon in possession of weapons-firearms. Through another plea deal, he received a sentence of one year on Nov. 29, 2011, which he was discharged on Sept. 18, 2012.

CORRECTION:
The property at 130 Alloy Drive in Fenton, which has special land use and site plan approval for a medical marijuana growing facility, is owned by ALJ Corp., LLC of Davison. Due to incorrect information provided by city of Fenton personnel, it was initially reported on Wednesday, July 29 that Jedoshar LLC was the owner and site plan review applicant. Michael Hagan, owner of Jedoshar LLC has nothing to do with the intended new use of the property at 130 Alloy Drive, which he has owned for about 10 years.

VICTIM REMEMBERED WITH GREAT FONDNESS

Marsha (Sargent) Wilfinger

Known for kindness, humor

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

While husband Erich Louis Wilfinger, 66, sits in jail, charged with killing his wife, Marsha Wilfinger on June 20, her friends remember her with great fondness.

For many years, Marsha Wilfinger lived on Lobdell Lake in Argentine Township with her first husband and their children.

Flashing resident Sally York graduated from Flushing High School with Marsha in 1978.

“I remember in high school, Marsha was the kind of cute and sexy girl all the boys were in love with,” said York. “But the girls never held it against her because she was so nice and fun to be with. She had a smile that could take your breath away, and I can still hear her joyful laugh, which she did so easily and often.”

“Marsha was a wonderful mother, always putting her kids first,” York added.

“She was their biggest supporter and champion. If any of them got into trouble in school, she would defend them fiercely.

“I have no doubt that she defended herself fiercely on the last day of her life,” she said. “That gives me a little consolation.”

Another friend, Jill Finch, also of Argentine Township, said Marsha and Erich Wilfinger were married for about seven or eight years.

“He (Erich) was her brother’s best friend and Marsha admired him a lot when they first met.”

“He wasn’t always a nice man, but she did love him.”

Finch said Marsha lit up a room, she was that much fun.

“I loved her dearly,” Finch added. “Marsha said people need to laugh more. She would tell funny story after funny story until everyone was laughing.”

Finch said Wilfinger was comfortable with whomever she was with. “She could hang out with bikers as easily as she could with business people,” said Finch. “She was a beautiful person. The world has really lost someone special.”

Pictured above are Jill Finch (left), and Marsha (Sargent) Wilfinger. Finch remembers her friend as a nice and fun person, one who everyone wanted to be with.

NEW PET BRIEFS

PETFEST AIMED AT FINDING HOMES FOR DOGS AND CATS

Hundreds of adoptable dogs and cats will be on-site at the Petfest adoption extravaganza Saturday, Aug. 8, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The event takes place outside Genesys Health Park, Pollock Road entrance. Eleven organizations from throughout mid-Michigan will bring adoptable dogs and cats in hopes of finding them their “forever” home. Anything from the tiniest breed to the biggest, adult cats to kittens, and anything in between will be available to adopt and take home. All animals are spayed/neutered and up-to-date on their vaccines.


Sponsors of the event are T&R Canopies, Hospital Consultants, Loeb Charitable Trust, Spud Software, Forever Young Med Spa and Jack & Donna Hedges.

For more information on Petfest, visit www.PetFestGrandBlanc.com or call Adopt-A-Pet at (810) 629-0723.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

THIS IS ABOUT thank you notes. When you give a gift, you don’t get a thank you anymore. I think that’s kind of rude and disrespectful.

WATCHING YESTERDAY’S GOLF match, I didn’t see a pro act the way Woods did. He shot three over. He wouldn’t shake hands with the caddy, he wouldn’t review afterward. He acts like a 6-year-old.

GOD IS SMARTER than we are and a student of the Bible is smarter than any college professor. If you don’t believe me, read first Corinthians chapter three, verses 18 through 20.

FORD’S TOWNHALL MEETING

Hagan, owner of Jedoshar LLC was the owner and site plan review applicant. Michael Hagan, owner of Jedoshar LLC has nothing to do with the intended new use of the property at 130 Alloy Drive, which he has owned for about 10 years.

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BOATER
Continued from Front Page

reveals that Kelley was driving an older open bow ski boat and pulling a tube carry-
ing a 6- and 7-year-old.

Accompanying Kelley in the boat was the female who was acting as a spotter for the kids tubing. Allen said the woman is an aunt to one of the children.

While pulling the tube, the woman saw that the kids had been thrown off. She dove into the water to help the children. Seeing that the woman had dove in to help the kids, Kelley also dove into the water. Allen said a witness reported that the kids were not wearing life jackets, however, the police chief said that statement has not been confirmed and still under investigation.

Witnesses noticed the situation and got close enough to help pull the woman and two children from the water. At this time, they noticed that the man, Kelley, had gone underwater and had not resurfaced. Allen said Kelley reportedly had reached and touched one of the children before he went under.

Witnesses called 911 and the search began. In addition to Argentine fire and police, the Genesee County Sheriff’s Department dive team and the Fenton Township Fire Department dive team responded to assist with the search. Due to the thunderstorm that made its way through the tri-county area Sunday evening, the search was suspended.

Monday morning, divers were back out in the northeast area of the lake near Lobdell Road searching for Kelley. The Michigan State Police dive team arrived with their boat and sonar equipment around noon Monday to assist.

The police chief said, “They all did a great job. We had a lot of help out there and I’m really appreciative of that.”

The DNR public access site off Seymour Road was closed while the search was underway and residents were asked to stay off the lake or avoid the area of the lake being searched.

Reporter Hannah Ball contributed to this story.

The final decision on Michigan’s sentencing guidelines

Some months ago, I wrote a column about Michigan’s mandatory sentencing guidelines in felony cases and how they had been called into question as a result of a 2013 United States Supreme Court ruling in the case of Alleyne v United States.

The issue in Alleyne was whether a sentencing judge is constitutionally allowed under the 6th Amendment to consider facts not submitted to a jury in imposing a minimum sentence of incarceration. In Alleyne, the jury found that the defendant had ‘carried’ a firearm and the judge found that it had also been ‘brandished,’ thus increasing the mandatory minimal sentence upwards from 5 to 7 years.

The Supreme Court found that such sentencing fact finding was a violation of the defendant’s 6th Amendment rights and have only a jury determine such facts.

The Michigan Supreme Court was faced with a similar judge vs jury fact finding issue in the case of People v Lockridge, which involves a defendant who had been convicted of involuntary manslaughter in Oakland County. The mandatory sentencing guidelines scoring called for a minimal sentence of 43 to 86 months. However, the sentencing judge found that the minimum sentence should be increased because there were factors not accounted for in the scoring of the guidelines. These included a probation violation, the defendant killing his wife in front of their three children, leaving the children at home with their mother dead on the floor, and prior domestic violence.

The judge found these facts as substantial and compelling reasons to increase the minimum sentence to 96 months.

In an opinion released July 29, 2015, the Michigan Supreme Court held that in view of existing United States Supreme Court precedents, Michigan’s sentencing guidelines were unconstitutional to the extent that they require judicial fact finding beyond facts admitted by the defendant or found by the jury beyond a reasonable doubt to score offense variables that increase the minimum sentence range.

As a result of this decision, Michigan’s sentencing guidelines will now be advisory rather than mandatory which is consistent with federal case law and sentences will now be reviewed as to reasonableness. The sentence in Lockridge was upheld using this standard.

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The House and Senate are out for several weeks. Therefore, this report contains several recently introduced bills of interest.

Senate Bill 291: Authorize wrongful imprisonment compensation

Introduce by Rep. Kurt Heise (R), to authorize payment by the state of civil damages to a person wrongfully imprisoned for a crime he or she did not commit. The damages would be $50,000 for each year of wrongful imprisonment, plus “economic damages” including lost wages, plus reasonable attorney fees. Versions of this bill have been introduced in every legislature since at least 2005. Referred to committee, no further action at this time.

Senate Bill 292: Disclose unfunded liabilities in state budget

Introduced by Sen. Coleman Young, II (D), to authorize a specialty license plate honoring several African American fraternities and sororities specified in the bill, with the premium revenue going to the United Negro College Fund. Referred to committee, no further action at this time.

Senate Bill 308: Authorize black “Greek letter organizations” specialty plate

Introduced by Sen. John Anthony (R) to require the constitutionally required executive budget the governor must submit each year to be reviewed by department by the unfunded liabilities incurred to pay future pension and post-retirement health benefits promised to retired employees. Referred to committee, no further action at this time.

Senate Bill 311: Ban new charter schools without “certificate of need”

Introduced by Sen. Hoon-Yung Hoggood (D), to prohibit any new charter schools from opening unless the state Board of Education grants a “certificate of need” as defined in the bill. Among other things, this would apply to new charters whose “impact on existing public schools” nearby, and impose more rigorous performance and oversight regulations on charter schools and their authors (usually state universities). Referred to committee, no further action at this time.

Senate Bill 319: Repeal school “adequacy study” mandate

Introduced by Sen. Mike Shirkey (R), to repeal a law passed as part of the “log-rolling” to get Democratic votes on the since-defeated Proposal 1 tax increase initiative, that requires the state to pay a contractor to study and report on how much money per student is needed to teach public school students sufficiently well to meet state graduation requirements. Referred to committee, no further action at this time.

House Bill 4419: Repeal mandatory minimum sentence for firearms felonies

Introduced by Rep. Kurt Heise (R), to repeal a law that mandates a minimum sentence of two years in prison for a felony firearms conviction. Referred to committee, no further action at this time.

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Prices effective through Saturday, August 8, 2015
From carefree summer to back-to-school

Use this month to get ready by making appointments, reading books and supply shopping.

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

With a month remaining before school begins, now’s the time for parents of students aged kindergarten through high school to initiate a new mindset in their household — from carefree to conscientious.

Sure, you still need to squeeze every bit of summer fun that remains, but keep in mind the appointments that must be made for physicals, vision and dental check-ups, school orientations, etc. You’ll also want to keep in mind the different needs of back-to-school for kindergarten through college-bound students.

**Kindergarten**

Harness the excitement of back-to-school and treasure this milestone with a new backpack, haircut and new outfit, plus a keepsake photo.

*Help your new kindergartener feel comfortable in new surroundings by having her check out her new classroom, cubby and playground in advance of the first day of school.*

*Make sure your kindergarten student knows the rules and boundaries expected at school, and go over a variety of “what if?” scenarios to make sure she knows what to do in a variety of situations.*

*Get the school routine started at least one week in advance of the first day, by going to bed earlier, getting up earlier, even packing a lunch. “I personally do this myself,” said Terry Tibbits, first-grade teacher at Hyatt Elementary School in Linden. “I start waking up at the normal school time the last week before I go back. Otherwise, the kids are tired the first week.”*

**Elementary school**

Maintain your own best attitude about back-to-school time, so your child picks up on that and follows it, too.

*“Nothing gets the kids more excited than shopping for school supplies,” said Tibbits. “Buy them something that will excite them, something they can’t wait to take to school. Even teachers get excited about new school supplies,” she added with a smile. “I purchased some over the summer for my classroom and I can’t wait for my new class to use them.”*

**Middle school**

*Between braces, body odor, bras and bullies, middle school can be a minefield of anxiety for many kids. Encourage your child to reach young adult books that touch on and find humor in many of these middle school themes so your child knows he’s not alone.*

*Remember that locker anxiety is also a real fear, with students afraid they’ll forget the combination. Try to help them with it, and keep the number written down at home so your student feels more confident.*

**High school**

*Between academics, advanced placement, extra-curricular activities, college tests, etc. the plate of a high school student is very full. This is when it’s time to step back a bit, while still offering support.*

*“Consider them adults with training wheels,” said one wise school expert.*

*As a parent, you can attend any back to school functions, including orientations and conferences, and make suggestions regarding the handling of the next phase of your child’s life... college.*

**HOLLY HEAD START**


**Planning Ahead**

For the
School Year!

Every year, I tell parents to make sure their child reads over the summer so they maintain their current reading level.

_Even reading a couple weeks before school helps._

_Terry Tibbits_  
First grade teacher at Hyatt Elementary in Linden

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By Yvonne Stegall
news@tctimes.com; 810-433-6786
Part eight of an eight-part series

In what could be your final vacation destination this summer in Michigan, you might not take another trip across state to the shores of Lake Michigan. By now, you shouldn’t be surprised that there is much to do in this mitten state.

There are still a few weeks left to enjoy what Michigan has to offer during the summer, so make sure you get out there and explore.

**Pentwater**

A three-hour drive 205 miles across state to Pentwater will bring you back to the beauty of beach life. One thing you are missing with all of the little lakes in the tri-county area are the historical and beautiful lighthouses.

In fact, this destination to your next, below, you can view five different lighthouses. They make for great photo opportunities. Two of them are the Pentwater Pierhead Lights, both installed at different times, but just as neat to check out.

This Saturday is the perfect time to visit Pentwater with your pooch, as they have their Shake Wag N’ Roll event going on, which is open to any well-behaved dogs. It’s a great vacation spot for families or even for romance.

You’ll definitely want to stay the night, since your trip will be taking you a little farther north before you head home. There are plenty of rooms to camp, picturesque bed and breakfast destinations, and many hotels and motels.

**Manistee**

On your way north, be sure to stop in Ludington, which is on your way up to Manistee. While there, enjoy the Ludington North Breakwater Light and the Big Sable Point Lighthouse.

Manistee is just a 45-minute drive north of Pentwater, and offers one more stunning view of the Lake Michigan shoreline, including the Manistee North Pierhead Lighthouse.

Manistee itself is a sleepy fishing village. The town offers many great shopping opportunities.

We hope you used the Destination Michigan series to explore new places this summer and learn about some of the wonderful things Michigan has to offer. There’s no need to head out of state when you can enjoy so much right here.

**SUMMARY**

- Go spend some more time on the beach before the summer is over.
- Both of this week’s final getaway destinations offer some fun in the sun and much sand and lighthouses for your summer enjoyment!

**WHAT ARE YOU talking about?**

The Supreme Court did interpret the constitution. They said all men are created equal. They have the right to pursue their happiness. There is no discrimination. They interpreted the constitution completely correct. They did not endorse any new law.

**PLANNED PARENTHOOD isn’t just about abortion.** If you’ve got six kids, maybe you ought to go see them and find out what causes that problem.

**IF ALL YOU have to do is complain about a pretty young girl enjoying her youth, then you’re pretty sad.**

**I WISH THE** anti-abortion people would stop trumping up reasons to defend the very useful Planned Parenthood organization. It makes good sense to use dead fetal tissue for scientific research. To do otherwise would be wasteful.

**THEY GOT NEW** recycling bins for Holly. Linden and Fenton. Don’t they realize Argentines exists, too? What about us?

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**HOLLY**

Continued from Front Page

“The event was very well attended again this year with approximately 500,” said Nicole Arnold, Holly Area Chamber of Commerce director. “This event wouldn’t be possible without support from our sponsors and attendees from the community.”

“The chamber hosts this event to showcase the community of Holly, and isn’t an event that we financially benefit from,” she added. “The chamber does this for the people that live and work in Holly as a reminder of all the wonderful things about the community, more so than for any financial benefit.”

Sights, Sounds and Tastes of Holly is held on the first Saturday of every August. It is a family friendly event to share what local eateries and food providers have to offer, and give attendees the opportunity to enjoy the historical ambience of the village.

**HOMELESS**

Continued from Page 3

“She told me she lived a great life until three years ago when her husband passed away. She basically lost everything. She said she was glad to be a part of this day because it gave her some of her dignity back.”

Bel tinck, the daughter of Chip and Mary Ann Bel tinck of Fenton Township, plans to be a color corrections specialist when she graduates from The Paul Mitchell School this December. “Charity work will definitely be part of my future,” she said. “I’m in it 100 percent. I’m just waiting for the next opportunity to do this.”

**TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO**

Autumn Bel tinck befriended a woman whose hair she shampooed and cut, then sat with her to listen to live music that was part of the day’s events.

**TRI-COUNTY TIMES | CHRISTOPHER FISCHER**

Sweet treats by Cupcakes & Kisses were a big hit among visitors.

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TRIVIA GREAT QUOTES

Who said this of one of his players — “He has shooting range. What he doesn’t have is the making range?”

It was Princeton men’s basketball coach Pete Carril about one of his 1995 players.

**SCOUTING THE METRO LEAGUE**

**Kearsley Hornets**

Since joining the Metro League in 2008, the Hornets have yet to enjoy a .500 or better season in the conference. It doesn’t look like that’s going to happen in 2015 either.

The Hornets return no all-league players from last season, a season they finished 3-6 with all three victories being one-point wins. About the only thing Kearsley has going for them is a reasonably catchy 2015 motto based on their Hornets’ nickname — “Together we swim.”

Head coach Jeff Putnam is back for his second season, and he holds an impressive overall career record of 174-98, so that may be a reason to think maybe this year will be better.

**Assistant coach**

**Scott Lynch** says: “We don’t return a whole lot of experience on both sides of the ball, but I think our talent has improved over what we had last year, so I’m excited to see what this talent can do.”

**Outlook:** A perennial second-division team, until Kearsley improves otherwise, it’s routine to peg them for two to three wins.

**Eagles’ camp is a family affair**

**Sixth-graders through seniors work together in preparation for football season**

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

Linden — Anyone wandering around the Linden football practice facility between Linden Middle School and Linden High School would’ve seen a bustle of activity last Thursday and Friday.

The Linden varsity football program was hosting its annual Linden Spread Camp, and the age range of the kids was pretty interesting as well.

Sure, many of this upcoming season’s expected varsity players were in attendance. The fields also included players who are entering as young as the sixth-grade.

While hopeful varsity starting quarterbacks like Kevin Bates and Aaron Sarkon were doing drills, the youngest players were doing the same drills by their side. And the case was true at some of the other positions on the field. The Linden Spread Camp, indeed, is a family affair.

“We have a couple of sixth-graders, a few seventh-graders, quite a few eighth-graders and something else.”

“Something else” has worked for Connors. Playing with his True Lacrosse Michigan 2018 travel team, Connors and his teammates have had an outstanding summer, earning an 18-1 record overall at four tournaments. The squad has captured tournament titles three times, primarily out East where lacrosse is booming. The team’s best tournament, however, may have been the one that True Lacrosse 2018 didn’t win — one in Boston. While playing elite teams in Boston, the squad finished in second place.

“For a team in the Midwest, that’s amazing,” Connors said. “We are sending a message to teams out East that we can hang with them. Out in the Midwest we are known for baseball and other sports. See CONNORS on 11

**Local players propel Blast to USSSA World Series crown**

By David Troppens
dtroppens@tctimes.com

Todd VanGilder knew his 14U baseball squad was a strong team entering the summer.

After all, the travel baseball team comprised of many athletes from Holly and Fenton has had success in the past.

“I knew we had a good team because we had the exact same team as last year,” said Michigan Blast coach VanGilder. “We didn’t even have tryouts this year. We went with 10 kids. Other than having one kid quit we had the exact same team, and for the last three years nine core kids have been with me.”

How good the team was became very evident recently when the squad captured the championship at the United States Specialty Sports Association (USSSA) AA World Series held at Canton. See BLAST on 11

**KELSON CONNORS**

His travel lacrosse team captured three firsts in four summer tournaments.
BLAST
Continued from Page 10
“Last year we were knocked out of pool play,” VanGilder said. “This year we had a very good season and ended on a high note.”

A high note, indeed. The Davisburg-based squad won all six of its tournament games during the AA World Series. The squad opened with a 12-1 victory against the Harris Hitmen and followed it up with two victories against the Oakland Crush. In double-elimination tourney play, the Blast defeated the Elite Hitmen 7-6 and followed it up with a 10-2 victory against the Tri-County Red Devils. The Blast capped the title by defeating the Hitmen once again, this time by a 14-6 score.

“Our goal was to win states and to win the World Series, and we thought both were obtainable goals,” VanGilder said. “We took second at states, losing to a tough Midland Dogs team. But we played well at the World Series.”

The team consisted of four Holly-based players and two Fenton performers. The Holly players were Garrett VanGilder, Wyatt Syjuid, Wyatt Scribner and Davisburg’s Trevor Maiorana. Fenton residents included Brock Henson and Logan Welch. Others on the team included Hayden Baker, Doug Tropson, Riley Mitchell, Aaron Ball and Noah Kotre.

The first game against the Hitmen may have been the championship game, as it decided which of the two teams would have to go into the loser’s bracket, play more games and deplete their pitching staff. The Blast were winning just 7-6 in the bottom of the seventh with game-tying run on first with one out. However, the Blast got out of the jam and won the game. That meant the Hitmen were forced to play more games, setting up the Blast’s convincing title win.

“It was not as close the second time because we had plenty of arms to throw against them and they didn’t, so we ended up mercy them in the championship game,” VanGilder said. “It was certainly part of our strategy to stay in the winner’s bracket. In the semifinals if we won (the game) we’d be one game away from winning it. If we lost, we would’ve had three more games to play to win it. It made sense to throw our best pitcher (in the semifinals).”

Henson was named the tournament’s MVP. He’s the team’s primary centerfielder and also the team’s leadoff hitter.

“He battled close to .600 and hit three balls out of the park,” VanGilder said. “He hit another two off the fence as well if my memory serves me well. Offensively, he did a lot and was our No. 1 pitcher.”

Syjuid pitched and played in many positions based on who was pitching that particular game. He tossed the first four innings of the championship game.

Scribner played right and pitched right-handed, and played right. Baker played at first and had the highest batting average on the team during the tournament, while Welch played at third and pitched. He batted over .500 during the World Series.

The Michigan Blast celebrate their United States Specialty Sports Association 14U AA World Series title. The travel team is made up of many tri-county athletes from the Holly and Fenton areas.

EAGLES’
Continued from Page 10
of a family atmosphere where our seniors are working together with our seventh-graders. They get to be in a leadership role, not just amongst their peers, but amongst the youth.

During the spread camp the Eagles feature eight practice sessions with individual drills. There are specific drills for quarterbacks, wide receivers, running backs and offensive linemen. During the session right before dinner on Thursday, the quarterbacks were working on a drill called typewriter. During it, the quarterbacks hold the ball and look downhill while trying to dodge pylons. It’s assumed the players will hit some of the pylons, but as the drill continues, each hits less.

“Our goal is to iron out all the wrinkles,” Douglass said. “We want to do more teaching.”

The Eagles’ camp sessions are important because there will be some severe changes on the field this fall. Among the losses were the Eagles’ top two quarterbacks from a year ago — college-bound Ethan Quesnelle (St. Joseph’s University) and Jake Zorn (Mt. Union) — and several other strong players. However, last year’s season also included several injuries to key players. That means the younger players did get a chance to play critical snaps during critical games a year ago. And when the season begins — at De-Witt on Aug. 28 — the expectations that have been surrounding Linden football for over a decade will remain. Last year’s team (6-4) qualified for the playoffs for the 13th straight season.

“We lost a lot of leaders, but I think we should be fine,” Linden senior Bailey Davis said. “We still have good players.”

CONNORS
Continued from Page 10
It is surprising to them we played that good out there.”

Lacrosse’s interest in the United States started on the East Coast and has gradually grown. Still, the East Coast is considered the place people expect to see most of the talent. However, Connors’ team is proving that isn’t always the case.

“They look at the kids out East, but two of the kids on my team have committed to Marquette and one to John Hopkins,” Connors said. “It really depends on how good you are and how well you play when the coaches are watching.”

Connors, who plays as a long stick midfielder, is getting more chances to play when the coaches are watching. At two of the tournaments there were all-star games, and Connors was selected for both. He also recently worked out in front of the University of Michigan’s lacrosse coaches at a prospect event.

Connors said he’d love to play lacrosse for a D1 school.

“We’ll see where it takes me,” Connors said. “I just want to keep working my butt off and just try to get a spot on a college roster, somewhere.”
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**Tri-County Times**

- Tigers earn playoff spot, beat Swartz Creek 38-13

**Obituaries, Funeral Services and Memorials**

**John Rene’ Huige**

- **Hamilton**
  - 1926-2015
  - John Rene’ Huige - age 89, of Fenton, died Friday, July 31, 2015 at Genesys Health Park. Private family services will be held. Arrangements entrusted to Sharp Funeral Homes, Fenton Chapel, 1000 W. Silver Lake Rd., Fenton. Those desiring may make memorial contributions to the Disabled American Veterans. Mr. Huige was born May 23, 1926 in Detroit, the son of Cornelius and Demeetie (Yorkeiere) Huige. He married Henriette M. VanSteelandt on January 28, 1948 and she preceded him in death on March 24, 2012. Mr. Huige was a veteran of the U.S. Army. He retired from Fenton Machine Tool in 1987 as an Electrician. He was a member of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church. Mr. Huige enjoyed bird hunting and his hunting dogs. Surviving are, three children, John D. Huige and wife, Susan of The Villages, FL, Kathleen Huige and Steven Schmidt of Holly, Kevin Huige and wife, Andrea of Fenton; four grandchildren, Jennifer Huige, Andrew Huige, Kelli Donigan, Shaun Donigan and wife, Amanda, two great-grandchildren, Anish and Devin; three sisters, Mary Ann made their home in Thompsonville and then Traverse City, where he remained until his death. He was preceded in death by his parents Baxter “Jack”, and Emilene Hamilton; brother Lynn Hamilton (wife Mary). He leaves behind his loving wife and playmate Mary Ann; daughter Laurie (David) Jensen, sons Kerry (Waveline) Hamilton and Dr. Gregory (Patricia) Hamilton; four grandchildren, Blenda Jensen, Rebecca (Barry) Dues, Jack and Kelly Hamilton, sister Dr. Gwen Wyatt; as well as nieces and nephews. Visitation will be at Dryer Funeral Home in Holly at 10 AM on Thursday August 6, with funeral services to follow at 11 AM. Memorial contributions can be made to Hospice of Michigan in his name. www.dryerfuneralhome-holly.com.

**Loran “Ike” Hamilton**

- 1935-2015
  - Loran “Ike” Hamilton – age 79, peacefully passed away on Monday, August 3, 2015 at Orchard Creek Assisted Living in Traverse City, MI. Ike was born on October 19, 1935 at St. Joe’s Hospital in Pontiac, MI and graduated from Brandon High School in Ortonville in 1953 and Michigan State University in Lansing in 1957. Ike worked on the family farm to put himself through college. He was married in 1955 to Myrtle Jesse and together they raised 3 children in Holly. Ike owned and ran Hamilton’s of Holly Feed Store. He was a contributing member of many organizations such as the Holly Kiwanis, the school board, and served on the chamber board. On September 30, 1978 he married Mary Ann Holmquist, and they had 37 very happy years. Ike and Mary Ann opened Hamilton’s RV Consignment in 1979 and helped to pioneer the industries regulations for the consignment dealer rules in Michigan. In 1990 they opened Hamilton’s RV of Saginaw and moved the consignment business to Saginaw where he worked until his retirement. After retiring, Ike and Mary Ann made their home in Thompsonville and then Traverse City, where he reigned until his death. He was preceded in death by his parents Baxter ‘Jack’ and Emilene Hamilton; brother Lynn Hamilton (wife Mary). He leaves behind his loving wife and playmate Mary Ann; daughter Laurie (David) Jensen; sons Kerry (Waveline) Hamilton and Dr. Gregory (Patricia) Hamilton; four grandchildren, Blenda Jensen, Rebecca (Barry) Dues, Jack and Kelly Hamilton, sister Dr. Gwen Wyatt; as well as nieces and nephews. Visit will be at Dryer Funeral Home in Holly at 10 AM on Thursday August 6, with funeral services to follow at 11 AM. Memorial contributions can be made to Hospice of Michigan in his name. www.dryerfuneralhome-holly.com.

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INSURGENT

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PG-13, 1 hr. 59 min.

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LEO

(July 23 to August 22) The Big Cat’s energy levels should be rather high these days, and you might do well to tackle any tasks that still need doing. This will clear the way for those upcoming projects.

LIBRA

(September 23 to October 22) A business matter could cause some friction among your colleagues. But once again, that logical mind of yours comes to the rescue. And the sooner it does, the better!

SAGITTARIUS

(November 22 to December 21) Changing your mind could be the right thing to do if you can’t resolve your doubts. You might want to discuss the matter with someone whose advice you trust.

ARIES

(March 21 to April 19) A previous misunderstanding continues to taint the atmosphere to some extent in the early part of the week. But cooler heads prevail, and the situation eases by week’s end.

TAURUS

(April 20 to May 20) While the artistic aspect of the Divine Bovine is well-served this week, that practical side is also getting the sort of recognition that could lead to a new and well-deserved opportunity.

GEMINI

(May 21 to June 20) With home-related matters taking on more importance this week, now could be the time to make some long-deferred purchases. But shop carefully for the best quality at the best price.

CANCER

(June 21 to July 22) Congratulations. While that family problem might still rankle, it should be easing thanks to your efforts to calm the waters. Also, a workplace situation seems to be moving in your favor.

LEO

(July 23 to August 22) The Big Cat’s energy levels should be rather high these days, and you might do well to tackle any tasks that still need doing. This will clear the way for those upcoming projects.

VIRGO

(August 23 to September 22) Someone’s criticism might not be as negative as you perceive. Actually, it could be helpful. Discuss the matter with your critic, and you both could learn something valuable.

LIBRA

(September 23 to October 22) A business matter could cause some friction among your colleagues. But once again, that logical mind of yours comes to the rescue. And the sooner it does, the better!

SCORPIO

(October 23 to November 21) There might still be some heated temper flare-ups out there. But your sensible self should advise you to stay out of these situations until things cool down and calm is restored.

SAGITTARIUS

(November 22 to December 21) Changing your mind could be the right thing to do if you can’t resolve your doubts. You might want to discuss the matter with someone whose advice you trust.

CAPRICORN

(December 22 to January 19) The Sea Goat’s merrier side dominates this week, and this means that, despite your busy schedule, you’ll be able to squeeze in parties and all sorts of fabulous fun times.

AQUARIUS

(January 20 to February 18) An educational opportunity could lead to something other than what you had planned. But keep an open mind, and before you decide to turn it down, check it out.

PISCES

(February 19 to March 20) The Piscean wit and wisdom helps you work through a situation that might have been accidentally or even deliberately obscured. What you unravel could prove to be very revealing.
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