Fenton police issue 10 tickets so far for texting while driving

On July 1, 2010, texting while driving became illegal in the state of Michigan. Since the law went into effect, the Fenton Police Department has issued 10 citations for texting while driving, according to Lt. Jason Slater. Of the offenders, two were men and eight were women. However, these numbers might not be low because people aren’t texting while driving. See TEXTING on 21A

“As this continues, I can foresee our state getting to that (hands-free) point as well.”

Lt. Jason Slater
Fenton Police Department

Thieves rack up $2,200 in gift card purchases in less than two hours

Linden woman’s debit card cloned by fraud ring

Over 550 cars wow crowd at car cruise

Fenton police are attempting to identify suspects who fraudulently used a 43-year-old Linden woman’s debit card, which was cloned by criminals.

Fenton Police Chief Rick Aro said in addition to the Linden woman, See FRAUD on 9A

Streetscape likely to bring more people, businesses and jobs to area

Fenton to see big changes over next 10 years

Smart meters finally coming to tri-county area

Residents will be able to review their energy usage online

Over 550 cars wow crowd at car cruise

This year, the Tune Up Car Cruise was located in the Fenton High School parking lot due to Streetscape taking over downtown Fenton. Vince Paris with Southern Lakes Parks and Recreation said there are usually 400 cars when the event is held downtown, however, with more room for parking, this show attracted 550.

See Fenton and Linden cruise photos on page 6B

Fenton police are attempting to identify this man. He is suspected of being involved with a debit card fraud ring that spans the U.S.
FENTON
16460 Hi Land Trail


$235,000
Call Sheila Phinade 810-348-7357

LAPEER,
If you have a large family and a budget this is the home for you! Home doubles as a potential income property with second dwelling, but combined is a spacious home for a large or growing family with 6 bedrooms and 3 full bathrooms (2 full plus a second kitchen and spacious family room) recreation area in back of home. Complex patio and decking system recently re-stained looks spectacular! Entertain guests or just enjoy the outdoors with the family. You just can’t find a home with this kind of space of under 100k.

$99,900
Call Kevin Usseth 810-965-6552

SWARTZ CREEK
14071 Oyster Lane

Imagine living on a serene lake and over 4000 feet of frontage with over 3 acres of land on a level lot. Enjoy beautiful sunsets off your large deck. Large open spaces and 3 bedrooms with walk-out lower level. The property has it all! Two story with walk-out lower level. Home is located within walking distance to the lake and minutes to I-69. It is also a perfect home for a lake front vacation or main home! It has been recently remodeled and is ready to move in!

$629,900
Call Patrik Welty 810-750-2300

FENTON
160 S. Elba

Beautiful 3 bedroom 2 bath house that adds another 600 square feet to chill out and enjoy amazing lake views! Home is equipped for full master bath. 3 more bedrooms up with shared full bath. New carpet and paint throughout. Main level boasts large eat in kitchen, sitting room and first floor family room. Walk-out basement is plumbed for a full bath and waiting for you to finish to taste. Home is centrally located to expressways, schools and quaint, historical downtown Holly.

$214,000
Call Patrik Welty 810-750-2300

FLUSHING
915 N. LeRoy • Fenton

Great location in Flushing School district. This home has a great location within walking distance to downtown Flushing with its lovely Mill Pond, quaint shops and restaurants. Home currently being used as rental property with one unit up and one down but it could very easily be made back into single family home. Home features very large living area, tall ceilings, and kitchen on the main floor.

$129,900
Call Donna Fradenburg 810-845-1971

LINDEN
303 Beaver Run

Spacious 4 bedroom colonial. Large master suite with private full master bath, 3 more bedrooms up with shared full bath. New carpet and paint throughout. Main level boasts large eat in kitchen, sitting room and first floor family room. Walk-out basement is plumbed for a full bath and waiting for you to finish to taste. Home is centrally located to expressways, schools and quaint, historical downtown Holly.

$224,000
Call Donna Fradenburg 810-845-1971

HOLLY
26478 S. Fenton Road

Sprawling ranch has plenty of room for a large family. Full floor plan has 2 bedrooms with master 1/2 bath & 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 & beautiful acre of land.

$169,000
Call Patrik Welty 810-750-2300

HOLLY
1471 Oyster Lane

Imagine living in a beautiful rolling property on a serene lake and over 4000 feet of frontage with over 3 acres of land on a level lot. Enjoy beautiful sunsets off your large deck. Large open spaces and 3 bedrooms with walk-out lower level. The property has it all! Two story with walk-out lower level. Home is located within walking distance to the lake and minutes to I-69. It is also a perfect home for a lake front vacation or main home! It has been recently remodeled and is ready to move in!

$499,500
Call Patrik Welty 810-750-2300

HOLLY
16460 Hi Land Trail


$235,000
Call Sheila Phinade 810-348-7357

FENTON
9160 Harnett Rd

All of the privacy and nature of up north living conveniently located in Fenton. Less than 2 miles from US 23. This fabulous, 4 bedroom/3 bath home offers 4+ acres of trees & raspberry bushes. Enjoy summer entertaining from your finished walk-out walk-up 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 of this very private, big dressing rm area, walk-in closet plus 2 additional large closets.

$275,000
Call Ann Hernandez-Gabler 248-340-2272

DAVISON,
Original owner! Everyone you have been looking for in Davison schools! Lots of space, property, privacy and potential! Large 2 story with 5 bedrooms, 3.5 baths and a large 32 x 24 pole barn! This quiet neighborhood is the perfect place to raise a family. This large quad-level home features an addition of living space added in 2000 on the main level, as well as a large and rustic feeling 3 season room on the lower level. With living, family room, dining room and basement this home offers plenty of room for a growing family.

$159,900
Call Kevin Usseth 810-965-6552

LINDEN
19152 Valseut

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 throughout. New water heater and new water softener.

$224,000
Call Danae Fradenburg 810-845-1971

HOLLY
253 Beaver Run

Gorgeous views as far as the eye can see on this 3.5 acre property. Great fenced area with a couple of small outbuildings for goats, chickens, dogs, etc. Large ranch home boasts almost 1800 sf, 3 large bedrooms all with walk-in closets. Huge master bath plus additional full bath. Lots of living space with family room complete with natural fireplace and beautiful wood ceiling. Dining room opens to spacious living room. Huge kitchen with tons of counter top and storage area. Center islands allows for a wonderful gathering place with plenty of room to cook and entertain. Main floor laundry, large 2 car garage. Home uses natural gas but also has LP capability. Country living at its finest.

$89,900
Call Lynn Rositano 810-625-7998

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WEEKEND TIMES
Relax...

We still have 44 more days of summer

Get the most out of these gorgeous, sunny days at the beach, park or at the movies

By Tim Jagielo
tjagielo@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795

Fenton Twp. — The heat was crushing, but the water was cooling.

Despite being a weekend day, Clover Beach was busy like a Saturday afternoon because of the 90-degree, cloudless heat. The beach and the parking lot were nearly full during the early afternoon of Monday, July 27.

Families relaxed in the sand while kids and adults alike crashed through the water to cool off. If the weather forecasts are accurate, there is plenty of perfect summer weather just ahead.

See SUMMER on 10A

TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

The overlook leading to the beach is one of the more scenic spots in the area.
THINGS I HAVE LEARNED

• You would be wise to stay as far away as possible from any woman who ever uses the word misogynist.

• It is really difficult to memorize the entire Military Alphabet (Alphabetic Code) in one week: Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, Delta, Echo, Foxtrot, Golf, Hotel…

• It never occurs to most adults to occasionally bend down and have an eye to eye conversation with a small child. Try it, I guarantee that you will be pleasantly surprised.

• Never, under any circumstances, trust any statistics, data or studies that are put out by the government.

• There is no single demographic in the universe as clueless to the realities of life as freshmen college students.

• People who march around and carry signs in public protests are always interested only in benefiting themselves.

• A sincere compliment will often be recalled by the recipient for the remainder of their life.

• Nearly every voter casts their vote based on how the outcome will affect them financially.

• I have never met an Australian that I didn’t like. Either it’s the accent, or they must pass an affability test before they let them out of the country.

• You will never have a friend that will be as loyal, trusting and appreciative as your dog.

• Grieving families may not remember if you did visit the funeral home, but they sure as hell will remember if you didn’t.

• If you want someone to like you, simply listen to them. You will have an admirer for life.

• Children learn the vast majority of lessons from their parents not by instruction from them, but by observation of them.

• There is no point finishing a book or a movie you aren’t enjoying — it will not get better.

• There is a correlation between the price of batteries and the life of batteries.

• Nine times out of 10, you will regret buying that vacation-themed T-shirt.

• One should, upon occasion, sit down and eat a meal in front of a mirror. You will be surprised.

• Few things in life are as satisfying as giving a well-prepared and well-presented speech on a topic you are knowledgeable and enthusiastic about.

• Across the world, in a nation riddled with grotesque human rights abuses, and the administration is on it.

• WHY DO WE have to listen to these drunks from Bush Park at night? Some of us are sleeping for third-shift jobs, some of us just want some peace and quiet. The weekend is one thing, but on a Monday night?

• I ALSO WORK AT a national recycling company. I often heard the bosses laugh at the fact that we pay them to pick up items they make a profit on. And that was eight years ago.

See HOT LINE throughout Times

Readers write

Letters, 150 words or less, must be signed and include a phone number. We reserve the right to edit for clarity and brevity. Letters must be written exclusively for the Times.

Robotics camp

Dear Editor,

I would like to thank you for the wonderful article on the recent robotics camp, at Linden Middle School. Introducing STEM to students is vitally important and creates a passion for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. However, it was failed to be mentioned that this camp was co-sponsored by the Fenton GRAYT Le- viathons Robotics team. Both the Linden RoboEagles and GRAYT Leviathons team members did a fantastic job mentoring these young students. Kudos to these high school students.

— Jenny Menyn, Flint

Compiled by Alexx Rose, intern

What project or activity do you still want to get done this summer?

“I need to trim my trees and cut some of them down.”

— Mike Larsen

“Now that school is out, I need to trim my trees and cut some of them down.”

— Mike Larsen, Owasso

“Need to trim trees.”

— Mike Larsen

“I still need to stain my deck and paint my porch.”

— Ruth Summer

“I have a number of toys that I need to finish crocheting.”

— Susan Smith

“Going through my things and getting rid of stuff I don’t need.”

— Faye Band

“I want to put new windows in my house.”

— Dale Wynn

“I need to gather my vegetables and can them.”

— Judy Ross

“Gather vegetables.”

— Judy Ross, Rose Township

“I need to trim my trees and cut some of them down.”

— Mike Larsen

“I need to trim my trees and cut some of them down.”

— Mike Larsen, Owasso

“I still need to stain my deck and paint my porch.”

— Ruth Summer

“I have a number of toys that I need to finish crocheting.”

— Susan Smith

“Going through my things and getting rid of stuff I don’t need.”

— Faye Band

“I want to put new windows in my house.”

— Dale Wynn

“I need to gather my vegetables and can them.”

— Judy Ross

“Gather vegetables.”

— Judy Ross, Rose Township
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#MOTT4ME
**The local face of homelessness**

Families with nowhere to go are a reality in Fenton and Holly

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

Henry, age 9, is like every other boy his age. He loves video games and has been a voracious reader since he was 3. His sister, Helen, 7, adores animals and tells everyone she meets that she was “student of the month” in her first-grade class. Both kids dote on their little brother, Holden, just 11 weeks old, who wins everyone over immediately with his auburn curls and bright blue eyes.

No one would ever guess that these kids had been living with their parents, Dan and Misty, in a motel, with friends and most recently in a tent at a campground, before their money totally ran out and they had no place to go.

Recently, they were able to sit down together as a family, enjoy a home-cooked meal at Fenton United Methodist Church, before heading to bed for the evening in makeshift “bedrooms” in the Family Life Center.

These are the faces of today’s homeless families, staying week to week in local churches as part of Family Promise of Genesee County, a 1½-year-old program that builds a network of local congregations and volunteers to provide shelter and service to homeless families, keeping them together in a time of crisis.

Families who are accepted into the program must be facing a housing crisis, pass a drug test and have children in their custody, according to Lindsay Moore, executive director of Family Promise of Genesee County.

“It’s a misnomer that homelessness happens only in Flint,” said Moore. “We are currently serving families who have reached out to us from Holly and Fenton.”

Moore adds that many families have jobs, but there’s been a life change that has created a housing crisis. “Maybe it’s a divorce, job loss, loss of transportation,” said Moore. “It becomes a Domino effect, enough to trigger a chain of events that leads to homelessness. Families are the fastest-growing segment of the homeless population. It’s surrounding you. People just aren’t aware.”

Dan, 32, is currently working two jobs, but it’s not enough to make ends meet with a long list of past evictions, garnishments, student loans, etc. following them.

“It all started with poor financial decisions,” admitted Dan, who has just accepted a third job to augment their income. “We moved here last year from Wisconsin because the cost of living is cheaper and I had a job lined up. We got behind in rent because we thought the first month was free. Misty worked ‘til January, but her training wasn’t paid for, so we got behind. Then we knew we wouldn’t have money for day care when Holden was born, so she had to quit her job.”

The couple also lost a baby two years ago, sending Misty, 34, into a spiral of depression and anxiety. “We try really, really hard,” said Misty. “Since we got married 10 years ago, it’s been one thing after another.”

Because of Family Promise housing at area churches, families are able to save all the money they normally would spend on rent, food, utilities, toiletries and paper products. “That allows them to save up for a down payment or security deposit on a more permanent living situation,” said Moore.

Typically, families stay with Family Promise for about 60 days, with extensions granted when necessary. They also follow up with “graduate” families for two years.

**How is Family Promise funded?**

This program is made possible through donations, grants and two annual fundraisers, a Gala event in February and a Give Me Shelter 5K run set for this Saturday, Aug. 8 in Davison.

Donations can be sent to: Family Promise of Genesee County PO. Box 4519 Flint, MI 48504

**PARTICIPATING CHURCHES**

**Fenton:** Host Church Fenton United Methodist, with support churches Transfiguration Lutheran Church; First Presbyterian Church; and St. Jude’s Episcopalian Church.

**Holly:** Host Church Calvary United Methodist.

**Grand Blanc:** Host Church Holy Spirit Lutheran Church with support church Holy Family Catholic Church.

---

**SOUTHERN LAKES FOOTBALL & CHEER IS COMING**

**FENTON YOUTH TACKLE & CHEER**

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: AUGUST 17**

**PRACTICE BEGINS AUGUST 17**

**SLPR FLAG FOOTBALL**

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 14**

**PRACTICE BEGINS SEPTEMBER 16**

**SLPR**

Southern Lakes Parks & Recreation

150 S. Leroy St. Fenton MI 48430  
810.714.2011 • www.slpnet
‘Creepy and kooky’ comes to Fenton

The Fenton Village Players presents ‘Addams Family: The Musical!’ for month of August

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

Fenton Twp. — The thespians of Fenton Village Players have been fine-tuning their singing, dancing, acting, and rigor mortis stances for “Addams Family: The Musical!”, this season’s musical comedy.

Rehearsals have been going on since the beginning of June, and shows started Aug. 6 and will run through Aug. 23.

In this play, the Addams family is thrown through a loop when Wednesday Addams invites a boy and his parents over for dinner.

“Little Wednesday Addams is all grown up and she has met a boy who she has fallen in love with and he’s normal,” said Jill Tomlin, who plays an ancestor. “He’s what society would consider normal. Wednesday would like her family to pretend to be normal when meeting him and it doesn’t go very well. It does not go the way she intended.”

Tickets can be bought online at fentonvillageplayhouse.wordpress.com, as well as Fenton’s Open Book at 105 West Sha-wassee Ave. in Fenton, The UPS Store at 17195 Silver Parkway, and one hour before each performance at the Fenton Village Playhouse at 14197 Torrey Rd.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

BEING A LIBERAL Democrat is like putting the car in D for drive, all right, and it’s like driving our country right off a cliff.

THE WEDNESDAY HOT line saying to go forward put car in D for Democrat and to go backward put car in R for Republican was very funny and definitely on the mark.

THE FOLLOWING THOUGHTS represent the thinking of liberal Democrats: massive debt, job killers, failing schools, my taxes being used to pay for abortions, open borders for criminals, weak foreign policy, deals with terrorists and weak on crime.

WHOSE IDEA was it to eliminate parking in Dibbleville in front of the businesses? Is someone trying to shut them down? Has anyone else noticed that the new streets are two lanes, one in each direction? It reminds me of a previous debacle when someone decided to close off traffic on South LeRoy a few years ago.

OUR GREAT COUNTRY is on the edge of a cliff right now. Go ahead, put your car in D, and see what happens. Thank you.

IF THE NUCLEAR deal with Iran was such a good deal, the President and Kerry wouldn’t have to work so hard to sell it.

YES, MANY ITEMS can be recycled. Unfortunately, Republic only wants to accept those recyclables that they can make money from. They should accept anything that contains the recycle symbols on them.

HOW TO TELL if ‘fill in the blank’ with a name is lying: their lips are moving. How imaginative, how original, how old.
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LOOKING BACK at this week IN LOCAL HISTORY

COMPiled by VERA HOGAN

5 years...
Sunday, Aug. 15, 2010
One dollar price tag for old fire hall questioned.
The city of Fenton’s Downtown Development Authority (DDA) is offering to sell the old fire hall to a restaurant developer for $1, and up to $400,000 in funding for the project.

10 years...
Sunday, Aug. 10, 2005
Police chief under the gun. An out-of-control budget, excessive overtime costs and a lawsuit could exceed $50,000 in one year, insubordination, disciplinary problems and low morale among officers has resulted in the Holly Village Council questioning police department policies, procedures and leadership.

15 years...
Sunday, Aug. 13, 2000
Local astronaut to pilot space shuttle. Fenton’s Astronaut Michael Bloomfield, who graduated from Lake Fenton High School in 1977, is scheduled to be the pilot of the STS-97, Endeavour on Nov. 30.

20 years...
Sunday, Aug. 13, 1995
Bye, bye Warbirds, protesters get their way. The days for the World War II fighter planes, known as the Warbirds, are numbered. This summer will mark the second and last season for the Warbirds at Price Airport, off Silver Lake Road. However, efforts to rid the Fenton Township and Linden area of the planes were not credited to local protesters. Actually, they are being praised for making the Warbirds such a successful business venture at Price Airport.

25 years...
Sunday, Aug. 12, 1990
Price faker. Don’t expect a break from high gas costs. American consumers are still feeling the effects of last week’s (Aug. 1, 1990) Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. AAA of Michigan reported that retail gasoline prices statewide have increased by an average of 17 cents per gallon in the wake of the invasion. Area gas prices ranged from $1.21 per gallon to $1.29 per gallon of regular unleaded. Before the invasion, prices ranged from 98 cents to $1.02 per gallon.

30 years...
Sunday, Aug. 11, 1985
Three Fenton drug busts. Local cops join feds in nationwide crackdown on drug dealers. A nationwide crackdown on marijuana growers and dealers spread into the area last week with three major drug busts. Two were in Fenton and one was in Fenton Township. The federal government funded program is targeted at stopping potential marijuana traffic by razing growers during the harvest season.

FRAUD
Continued from Front Page
three other local residents have been victimized through a new debit card scam that stretches across the U.S. The Secret Service has been in touch with the Fenton Police Department.

Aro said with the Linden woman’s case, she came to the police station on Aug. 1 to file the complaint. She reported that within 20 minutes, an unknown person used her debit card five times at The Home Depot in Fenton to buy $1,500 in gift cards on July 31.

Police viewed the store’s surveillance video and observed the suspect in possession of the debit card, although the woman confirmed with police that she was still in possession of her debit card.

Another suspect went to Walgreens on Silver Lake Road in Fenton and purchased $700 worth of gift cards in three separate transactions. Again, police viewed the store’s surveillance video and saw that the suspect was in possession of the debit card.

Aro said the Secret Service is aware of similar related crimes across the country. The motive appears to be the same.

According to federal investigators, a security breach occurred at a national chain beauty supply company. Personal information was obtained during this breach and put on the Internet where criminals were able to purchase the information. With real account numbers, criminals across the country have been able to make real-looking (cloned) debit cards, not necessarily with the correct name on it.

It appears that criminals live close to where the victims live. There are multiple suspects, said Aro.

Aro said the suspect at The Home Depot incident was described as a white male, in his 30s, with short dark hair. He was dressed in black workout type clothing. The suspect at Walgreens was described as a black male, nicely dressed.

Detectives are following up with the investigation. They have been in contact with the victims’ banks in an attempt to figure out how the suspect came to possess their debit card.

If anyone recognizes the men in these photos, they are urged to call Fenton police at (810) 629-5311.

Aro urges residents with debit cards to maintain a low balance on the account and to monitor it daily.

FENTON POLICE INVESTIGATE SUSPICIOUS INCIDENT
On Monday, Aug. 3, a female shopper at a retail store on Oxen Road reported a suspicious situation to Fenton police. Fenton Police Chief Rick Aro said that the woman reported that as she shopped, she was distracted by talking on her phone. She felt a tug on her clothing and saw a boy. She thought she saw a knife fall to the floor. She reported the situation to the store. Aro said police interviewed both parties involved, as well as viewed surveillance video and determined that no criminal act took place.

The police chief said it could have been mistaken identity on the boy’s part and the knife might have been a phone.

DAD’S WALLET STOLEN FROM UNLOCKED CAR
On Aug. 1, a 48-year-old Fenton man filed a larceny from auto complaint with Fenton police. The man said he parked his 72-year-old father’s 2005 Buick LeSabre in the driveway of their home in the 800 block of Whisperwood at midnight. Later, he went out to the car and noticed that someone had ransacked it. His father’s wallet, containing cash, ID, etc. had been stolen. The wallet was valued at $25.

INDECENT EXPOSURE AT FENTON HIGH SCHOOL
At 9:25 a.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 4, a Fenton police officer was sent to Fenton High School to investigate an indecent exposure complaint. Police Chief Rick Aro said two 15-year-old females told the responding officer that they were at the track for a camp. As they were walking south of the track entrance, they heard a girl scream. When they looked toward the scream, they saw a white male with the front of his shorts pulled down and he was exposing himself to another female. The teens described the suspect as a white male, in his 40s, about 6 feet tall. He had short dark hair and was of heavy build. They did not see the man’s face. The females ran toward the school where this happened and the suspect continued to walk eastbound toward the parking lot. No vehicle was observed.

The police officer met with the athletic director who will be turning over the school’s surveillance video to police.

POLICE&FIRE report

DANCE & ACADEMY
Cecchetti Council of America, Professional Dance Teachers Association
Continued from Front Page
Start them out right!

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Golf Time!

The Tri-County Times | TIM JAGIELLO

Clover Beach in Fenton Township is as busy as a Saturday afternoon, on Monday, July 29. The lot was almost full, as was the water and beach.

SUMMER
Continued from Page 3A

In the tri-county area, there is enough recreation nearby to ensure getting the most out of the second half of summer, whether it’s the water, the park, or a great summer flick. The following is a selection of what to do nearby.

Fenton

Silver Lake Park Beach is located in Silver Lake Park, which is off 16100 Jennings Road, off Silver Parkway, Swim in Silver Lake, and bring a little cash for the entrance fee.

Bush Park is on the Shiawassee River, located behind St. John Catholic School. The entrance is at the east end of Jeffrey Street, off Adelaide Street.

Holly

Groveland Oaks County Park is a camping resort with a variety of settings and activities, which include camping, hiking, kayaking a watershed and many others. It’s located at 14555 Dixie Highway. Call (248) 634-9811 for details.

Seven Lakes State Park is at 14300 Fish Lake Road between Fenton and Holly. This large park features a variety of outdoor activities.

Fenton Township/Linden

Clover Beach is just south of the city of Linden, off Linden Road, on Byram Lake. The park is free to use, and is across from Linden Park.

Fenton Township Park and Beach is open from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., Memorial Day to Labor Day. This small park and beach on Lake Fenton is tucked away behind the Fenton Township Civic Community Center on Mantawanka Drive.

Summer Movies

NGC Trillium is in Grand Blanc off Holly Road, north of the I-75 exit, at 8220 Trillium Circle Ave. This week moviegoers can catch Ant-Man, We're the Millers, Mission Impossible and Mr. Holmes, among others.

The US 23 Digital Drive-in Theater is now all digital, and is located at 5200 Fenton Road, between Grand Blanc and Flint. This weekend, moviegoers can see Fantastic Four, Ant-Man, Mission Impossible, Minions, Vacation and/or Trainwreck, depending on the screen.

FENTON
Continued from Front Page town, I think it’s pretty likely the project will fail," Douglas said.

The Fenton Streetscape fits this walking criteria.

Fenton City Manager Lynn Markland said when the Fenton Streetscape is complete, the sidewalks will be wider and people will be able to walk side by side. “The Streetscape will encourage more people to walk in the downtown area,” he said.

Another aspect of a streetscape is attracting customers.

A city is like a business, Douglas explained, and it aims to attract customers from surrounding areas to spend money in downtown and maybe relocate there some day. A city or town also needs to consider other pieces like utility services, fire protection, and other local services.

Markland said he expects more residents will work and live in the downtown area.

“People have told me they’ve moved to the city because of what they’ve seen going on downtown,” he said. Real estate agents have told him that buyers want a walkable downtown.

Markland said he expects more retail, office space, and maybe more restaurants in downtown Fenton. “People want to work in a vibrant downtown area. They want to walk downtown during lunch and participate in evening activities immediately after work,” he said.

Douglas said when one city undergoes a streetscape project and improves the area, there’s pressure on neighboring places to follow suit.

“If one city is sprucing itself up, neighboring cities need to do the same thing. The other ones are going to feel obligated,” he said.

Markland expects this, as well as more activity on North LeRoy, Owen Road, and the industrial district because of the Fenton Streetscape.

“There are some properties that are underutilized and those properties will start to develop and you’ll see more jobs as a result,” he said. “As the area continues to grow, I think we’ll all benefit from it.” Markland said. “As all communities are doing well, each community helps the other.”

In 10 years, Markland believes there will be an increased population and increased economic activities in downtown Fenton, Silver Parkway and Owen Road.

“We’ve got subdivisions that were left incomplete during the recession. You’ll see those finished and start to be built up,” he said.

SIMILAR PROJECTS

In 2012, Rochester underwent a $10 million streetscape project to redo Main Street, where popular businesses are located, and the city is seeing growth because of it, said Nik Banda, deputy city manager of Rochester.

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If you have any questions please call 810-591-4700. Additional information is posted on the district’s website www.fentonschools.org under the resources/enrollment tab.

FENTON AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
WEEKEND TIMES
WWW.WESTERNPEST.COM

Cicada’s mating call...
the sounds of a waning summer

Legend has it that after the first cicada concert, frost is just six weeks away

By Sally Rummel
news@tctimes.com; 810-629-5839

If you’re listening intently to nature’s songs outdoors, you’ll notice during the long, hot days of late July and early August, the love songs of the male cicadas, six-legged, grasshopper-like insects. The sound of the cicada, pronounced [si-key-duh], love song is the loudest song known in the insect world, according to insects.about.com. Some species of cicadas register more than 100 decibels. Imagine the noise produced when thousands of cicadas sing together, creating a cicada chorus.

While some species of cicada do most of their crooning at night, Michigan’s most common dog-day cicadas do most of their singing from dusk until sunset.

According to folk legend, when you hear the first song of the dog-day cicadas, it means there’s just six weeks until the first frost of the fall season.

That may not be good news for those of us who want to hang on to summer, but for the male cicadas calling for females from high in the trees, it’s a love song for mating. Their song, which is made by vibrating membranes on the abdomen, sounds more like a loud hum or whine than an actual song.

A female cicada that finds a male attractive will respond to his call with a brisk movement of the wings. The male can both see and hear this “wing flick,” and will reply with more clicking of his tymbals. As the duet continues, the male makes his way toward her and begins a new song called the “courtship call.”

Cicadas call are species-specific, helping individuals locate their own kind, when different kinds of cicadas share the same habitat.

Young cicadas are called nymphs. They have no wings and their front legs have thick claws for burrowing.

“Cicadas spend most of their time as nymphs down in the soil around the base of trees,” said Howard Russell, entomologist at Michigan State University. “They feed on xylem sap from roots. Their lifespan is typically from two to five years and their emergence from underground is staggered so some individuals emerge each year.

However, the periodical cicada, a cousin to the dog-day cicadas, live from 13 to 17 years and all emerge at once.

“That’s the most interesting thing about these 17-year cicadas,” said Russell. “In Michigan, this species is only in southern Ann Arbor. They’re all members of one brood and when they are mature, they all come out of the ground at one time, in one day throughout their range across the U.S.” There can be millions of adult cicadas flying around at that time.

Cicadas don’t have too much effect on humans one way or another, at least in Michigan. They don’t bite or sting, but can be a nuisance because of damage sometimes done on tree branches while the female is laying eggs.

In other countries, however, they are a delicacy for eating and Chinese medicine often uses their shells.

Here in Michigan, their love song does signal that summer days are flooding and that fall isn’t as far away as we’d like to think.
Costigan leads our female soccer team

**Determination helps put Tiger mid on top of our strong squad**

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

Brianna Costigan is a competitor.

And the Fenton incoming senior will do whatever is possible to earn a victory.

It doesn’t matter if it is a non-league soccer game, a scrimmage, or a jog to the corner flag before the start of the game.

“Right after the National Anthem the girls jog to the crowd and then sprint to the corner flag,” Fenton girls varsity soccer coach Matt Sullivan said. “For three years it’s been let’s see who can beat Bri to the corner flag. She has to be the first. The girls try to hold her back, but she almost always wins.”

“They team up on me and cheat a little,” Costigan said about the races. “But it’s just another team bonding moment.”

But if anyone is wondering why Costigan is the Tri-County’s 2015 Female Soccer Player of the Year, her desire and competitive nature is a good place to start.

“She’s extremely self-motivated,” Sullivan said. “She’s very driven. She’s a very hard worker.”

See COSTIGAN on 17A

**Putting in some hard work**

**Xceleration Sports camp getting Fenton athletes ready for fall**

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

Fenton — Chelsea Buja is only going into the seventh grade at St. John School.

Her friend, Jaden Williams, is only a year older, preparing to go into the eighth grade at Fenton’s AGS Middle School.

But, apparently they are old enough to do some tire flipping of some very large truck tires. In fact, the tire may have been taller than the athletes flipping them.

“It was very challenging,” said Buja, who plays basketball and cross country and plans on being a cheerleader this year as well. “It’s really fun though. Working as a team and having everybody keep pushing and encouraging you helps.”

“The last time I couldn’t flip it, but now I can do it,” said Williams, who plays basketball and track and field. “It’s pretty awesome.”

See WORK on 16A

**MSU great Nichol spreads some advice to area students**

By David Troppens
droppens@tctimes.com

Fenton — Keith Nichol was just entering the Fenton High School campus for the first time in his life.

Waiting upon the football field were about 100 middle school and high school athletes just finishing a work out, and eagerly awaiting the Michigan State football star.

“It reminds me a lot of where I came from and what I went through,” Nichol said about his first observations of Fenton’s campus and stadium. “I didn’t realize how big the stadium was or the high school was.”

Nichol came to Fenton High School on Thursday morning to talk to Fenton’s participants of their summer training programs run by Xceleration Sports. Thursday morning was the last session of the summer.

See NICHOL on 18A

**Tri-County Times**

DAVID TROPPENS

For the last seven weeks Xceleration Sports has been running a conditioning camp at Fenton High School for about 140 athletes ranging from seventh-grade to seniors. (Above) A team of students work on flipping a large tire across the football field. (Right) Cassie Campbell pushes a weight across the field during another drill.

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 9, 2015**

**PAGE 15A**

**ONLINE EXCLUSIVES**

> Did you miss Wednesday’s edition, visit tctimes.com to catch back up.
Nick Cairinduff was one of about 140 Fenton athletes ranging from the seventh-grade through seniors who took advantage of the conditioning camp held at Fenton High School during the summer. Cairinduff pushes a weight down the football field during Thursday’s final session of the summer.

**WORK Continued from Page 15A**

It was just one of many physical activities performed on Fenton High School’s football field on Thursday morning by about 140 seventh-grade to senior athletes. During other times, the athletes were pushing weights laying on the turf up and down the football field. Others were doing pushups and or 10-yard sprints. Eventually, all of the students were able to do each task.

The event was the final of 28 one-hour sessions held at Fenton High School throughout the summer. They were held Monday through Thursdays for seven weeks. The goals of the camp were two-fold. Hosted by Xceleration Sports L.L.C., the camp was used to help give quality speed and agility training as well as strength and conditioning training to Fenton athletes and doing it in a format that all of Fenton’s athletes, regardless of the sport, could benefit from the training. And it seems to be working out.

The camp started a year ago when Fenton High School athletic director Michael Bakker connected with Xceleration Director Ben Boudro about his company’s program.

“We hooked up with these guys and they were able to fill a need we had of providing core muscle training as well as speed and agility and flexibility — all those things that go across all the sports and can help our student-athletes,” Bakker said. “This was the best way to get our kids integrated together as well as mix sports. ... This is our second year and it’s great.”

Boudro’s program for strength and conditioning and speed and agility work was something he worked on while getting his masters degree at Michigan State.

“They wanted a program that every single sport could benefit from it,” Boudro said. “They can learn how to work. They get stuff they can’t get anywhere else. ... Last year was our first year and we were working the kinks out. This year everything was way smoother, so that allowed the kids to come in and get their work done and leave. The biggest difference I noticed from last year to this year is this year’s kids are more ‘ripe.’ They were able to progress more. At the beginning of the summer, we had kids who could do zero pull ups finishing the summer by doing seven or eight.”

The athletes are broken down into high school and middle school divisions as well as boys and girls divisions. Some days are spent emphasizing weights and conditioning and the others in agility and speed training.

They are done within groups so athletes can create new friends and so they can encourage and push each other. On Thursday, teams of about six kids worked on the tire flip together. Two would flip the tire while others would encourage the flippers. When they made the flip, two more would do another flip. The process continued for about seven minutes. By the end, the athletes were exhausted. Occasionally there are guest speakers. Thursday’s guest speaker was ex-Michigan State quarterback and wide receiver Keith Nichol (see related story).

The program appears to be a hit with the athletes.

“It was really cool to meet new people when I first came I didn’t know anybody and now I know people,” Williams said. “I didn’t expect it to be this challenging, but it was more fun because the coaches pushed us hard.”

The athletes also showed great progress. According to Boudro, 72 percent of the Fenton athletes experienced a decrease of their 40-yard dash time of at least a half-second. Fifty percent increased the number of pull-ups they were able to do and 92 percent improved their vertical jumps. He told the athletes of the about 20 schools they have programs for, Fenton’s improvement was the greatest.

“It’s been a huge benefit to our program and for those kids who have stuck with it,” Bakker said. “They have really excelled. They’ve all improved over the summer. I’m very happy with it. I wish more kids would do it, but at the same time I’m thrilled with the 140 kids who are here doing it.”
A few thoughts about the area’s soccer scene and some others not dealing with sports at all.

I AM AN EXTREME RUNNER

I don’t like running. Well, I’m fine if running means taking four steps to chase down a crazy volleyball bump or it involves racing my wife, Anna, to pick up that quarter we both see on the floor. Then I’ll run with gusto. But, for the most part, running any distances beyond a quarter of a mile is something I would rather avoid.

However, Anna is a runner. And over the last few years, Anna has adopted one of my favorite activities, curling, as her own. Generally, she hates the cold and ice. So when I joined one of my curling teams a couple of years ago, I knew she was doing it more to do something with me. And I have to give her good credit for doing so. I love that she is now curling with me. It’s made it even more rewarding. However, once she started curling, I felt a bit more pressure trying to get more involved in her running.

At first, I tried to pacify her by going to some of her races, cheering her on the course. Occasionally, I saw her at the event. It worked for awhile. But I could tell she wanted me to run with her.

This is where the Wednesday Night Races come into play. Every summer the five-week event is run at Linden County Park during late June and the entire month of July. Over the years I’ve covered one of the events and cheered Anna while she did her 3-mile run. However, a year ago I figured it was time for me to step up and share Anna’s running experiences together. I did three races last year.

However, this season my goal was to be an extreme runner. An extreme runner is someone who attends and competes in all five races. I’d occasionally see at all of Anna’s medals and I figured it was time for me to get one. And after Anna had to miss the first week due to work, I saw my opportunity to get a medal she wasn’t going to get. I had to get this extreme runner medal.

Thankfully, they use the term ‘runner’ loosely. There were many times I started walking during portions of the race. My 10-minute miles aren’t all that impressive. However, after five weeks, I received my extreme runner medal.

And for about a day (Anna took first place in her age group at the Run for Hope on the Fourth of July), I was the king of runners in the house. Even yelled out the front door- ‘I’m an extreme runner,’ probably scaring a few neighbors in the process.

But here’s the rotten part of this whole story. The season is over. I figured that would mean the end of the runs. However, after five weeks, I received my extreme runner medal. And for about a day (Anna took first place in her age group at the Run for Hope on the Fourth of July), I was the king of runners in the house. Even yelled out the front door- ‘I’m an extreme runner,’ probably scaring a few neighbors in the process.

COSTIGAN

Continued from Page 15A

worker, especially in the class room and on the soccer field. She’s a fierce competitor and wants to win everything she does.”

“A mother-daughter relationship is special, but it helps motivate others to work harder.”

Another great strength for Costigan is her ability to play just about anywhere on the pitch and be an impact player.

Her speed, athleticism and determination made her an outstanding safety net defender for the Tigers, and Sullivan thought she would be the anchor of the defense earlier in the year. However, when the offense was struggling, he moved Costigan to a center midfield position and almost immediately the Tigers’ offense became potent.

“She’s loaded with talent and there were too many times in the last few years we relied on her in athleticism and quickness to help us out on defense,” Sullivan said. “With those teams we needed that. This year we needed to get her away from defense to help her score more goals.”

One of her early games played at center-mid was a 4-0 Fenton victory against Karencle. In the contest, Costigan scored the Chloee Foor goal and one by an Eryn Isaacson goal. Two days later, Costigan scored three goals in the Tigers’ 4-0 victory against Clio.

“With her at center mid it made us a different team,” Sullivan said. “We knew where we put her she’d be effective. We were struggling to score so we took that chance.”

With Costigan at center mid, the Tigers now had a chance to take advantage of another combination. Foor and Costigan play on the same travel team, resulting in many outstanding passes from Costigan to Foor for Foor goals.

“I think it helped (teammate) Brennan (Sullivan) and I really work good together with Chloe,” Costigan said.

“We are on the same travel team so I always know where she is, and when I get to her, I know she’ll always put it in.”

Perhaps the combo’s most important goal came in the state semifinals when Costigan assisted Foor’s goal in a 1-0 victory against Adrian at West Bloomfield High School. The breakaway goal was set up when Costigan fought to keep possession of the ball in her own defensive end. She eventually earned possession, dribbled to midfield and sent a perfect pass to Foor, resulting in a breakaway goal.

“I knew I had to get the ball to her because I saw their defense was pretty spread out,” Costigan said after the game. “Chloe and I play together on club so if I knew if I was able to give her a ball, she would be able to put it in. I just ended up giving her a beautiful ball. She was wide open and I knew she was going to finish it.”

Costigan ended the season setting up 11 goals and scoring nine herself. She earned Division 2 Second-Team All-State honors.

“She showed me something different this year with her offensive skill and her ability to take players on,” Sullivan said. “She made some moves I haven’t seen in a long time. That comes back to her confidence in herself. “I just see her becoming even more confident and attacking even more (next season).”

Costigan has already committed to the University of Cincinnati to play collegiate soccer. After helping lead the Tigers to their first-ever D2 state championship game, could there possibly be an encore performance next year?

“I’m excited about next year,” Costigan said. “I don’t know all the freshmen coming up, but we have a couple of freshmen who are really good who will hopefully make the team strong again. If we keep everything together, we could end up in the same spot, and hopefully go for the win.”

TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TRAPPENS

The Tri-County Times Female Soccer Player of the Year Brianna Costigan (back) competes for a ball during the 2015 season.

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NICHOL

Continued from Page 15A

and the 2007 Lowell graduate was going to leave a lasting comment for the students. During his approximation of 10-minute discussion with the students the Michigan State quarterback/wide receiver talked a bit about his story and tried to relay to the kids some helpful tips.

“Every decision you make from here on out is going to lead you down one of two paths,” said Nichol, who may be best known for his Hail Mary touchdown reception on the final play in a victory against Wisconsin during his senior year. The victory helped earn the Spartans an invitation into the Big Ten championship game. “The way you work every day is going to directly correlate to how successful you are going to be on the next level, whether that may be high school for some of you or college. ... It’s directly stems from what you are doing today.” Nichol’s athletic history

Nichol was more than a great quarterback during his three-year varsity career at Lowell High School. He ranked among the best in the nation. During three seasons as the starting quarterback, he passed for over 6,500 yards and 76 touchdowns and also ran for over 3,000 yards and 58 TDs in his prep career. He led Lowell to a 33-3 record during his three seasons and was an all-state selection three times. Scout.com ranked him the 22nd best high school quarterback in the nation.

He originally committed to Michigan State, but went to Oklahoma. After a year as a Sooner, he transferred back to Michigan State.

After sitting out his transfer season, he was the back up for MSU starter Kirk Cousins. However, Nichol still spent plenty of time at quarterback, completing 49-of-91 passes for 769 yards and seven TDs. He also ran for 128 yards and a score. After suffering a dislocated elbow, Nichol was asked to move to wide receiver.

“For many they may get upset or go to another school. My philosophy was to train every single day to be the best athlete I could be,” Nichol said. “Fortunately, I was able to play another position. I enjoyed winning more than throwing the ball and throwing touchdowns so my philosophy was to do whatever I could do to make the team win.” The Hail Mary catch

Nichol became a solid receiver, catching 48 passes for 614 yards and four touchdowns during the final two seasons of his career. Also being open to the change allowed him to earn a spot in Spartan lore when he caught the Hail Mary pass from Cousins in the 37-31 victory against Wisconsin this senior season. Tied 31-all, the Spartans attempted a 46-yard Hail Mary pass on the final play of the game. Initially, the ball was thrown into the end zone, but the ball bounced off some players and back to the Wisconsin 1, where Nichol was standing. Nichol caught the ball and then fought to the end zone to get the game-winning score. Initially, it wasn’t called a TD, but replay reversed the call, creating a great celebration among the players and the Spartan Stadium crowd.

“When I saw the ball up in the air what I thought was we are going to win the football game,” Nichol said. “I was going to have to be strong to get it in. It was very slow motion when you are playing, so I felt it took forever for that moment to occur.” The thing I remember was the adrenaline rush when they announced the play as a touchdown. The stadium was going nuts with my team running out. It was an incredible moment. It is very cool to look back and have people talk about that moment. When you do it or accomplish it, you don’t think it’s going to be the big deal it is until people make it the big deal it is today.”

Nicol told the students what happens in their lives is up to them. Nichol is a wealth Management Representative affiliated with Northwest Mutual.

“You are going to ultimately be what you want to be,” Nichol said. “In the back of your mind you know what you are capable of accomplishing, and if you quietly go about that every day with that in the back of your mind, you are going to do something.”

TRI-COUNTY TIMES | 9A

(Nichol, above) Ex-Michigan State football player Keith Nichol talks to students at the final conditioning camp held by Xceleraton Sports at Fenton High School’s football field on Thursday. Nichol played quarterback and wide receiver during his MSU career. He is best known for his Oct. 22, 2011 Hail Mary catch (right) in a 37-31 victory against Wisconsin. The victory led them to Legends Division championship in the Big Ten and into the the Big Ten Championship game. The Spartans lost in the rematch 42-39.
BUILDING
Continued from Page 3A

Carports and patios to name a few, require a building permit from the city.
Wooden replacement other than maintenance requires a permit as well.
The only thing that does not require a building permit in Fenton are play structures that are pre-fabricated approved, but a zoning permit is required.

The cost of permits vary depending on the project and its estimated value.
According to the city of Fenton’s website, the value of a new deck would be $17 per square foot. The building permit for a deck with a value of $1,000, for example, would cost about $66.

The cost of a swimming pool permit is a flat rate of $70 for an above-ground pool and $135 for an in-ground pool.

All permits must be obtained prior to starting the actual work to avoid an additional administrative charge not to exceed $100. This additional fee would have to be paid before the required permit is issued.

According to Fenton Building and Zoning Administrator Mike Reilly, “Persons not obtaining a building permit are in violation of the state of Michigan Building or Residential Code. The penalties include a citation, fine or both.

“All concealed construction must be dug, torn down to allow the inspector to review and approve the work performed illegally,” Reilly added.

Personnel with the building and code enforcement department are reviewing sites during the course of each day, he said. Depending on the project, taxes will likely be added. Homeowners in the city of Fenton do pay additional taxes for decks and sheds, for example.

Reilly said the most building permit requests are for roof coverings and wood decks.

For more information on building permit requirements in Fenton, visit city hall at 301 South LeRoy St., or its website at www.cityoffenton.org (click on Department and again on Protective Inspection Department).

WHAT YOU MISSED in the MIDWEEK TIMES

Wednesday, June 3, 2015 edition

Erich Wilfinger Marsha Wilfinger

ACUSED KILLER NOT NEW TO JUSTICE SYSTEM

Erich Wilfinger, 66, remains jailed in Montmorency County on suspicion of murdering his wife, Marsha (Sargent) Wilfinger, formerly of Linden.

SIGHTS, SOUNDS & TASTES

The 13th annual Sights, Sounds and Tastes of Holly was held downtown last Saturday. About 500 visitors enjoyed food samples, fun and entertainment.

A SIMPLE ACT OF KINDNESS

Autumn Belltich, a Fenton Township teen shampooed and cut hair of homeless people in Detroit through a volunteer effort with Paul Mitchell The School Michigan, where she is a student.

VICTIM REMEMBERED WITH GREAT FONDNESS

Longtime friend Sally York of Flushing shares memories of Marsha (Sargent) Wilfinger, who was murdered in June.

From Carefree Summer to Back-to-School

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

Destination Michigan: Pentwater and Manistee

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.

HOLLY HEAD START


News briefs

ART IN THE PARK

Art in the Park has announced its event dates and times at various parks in Fenton. All of the events will take place from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays.
May 23 – Bush Park Gazebo
June 13 – Franklin D. Adams Park
July 25 – Freedom Park
Aug. 15 – O’Donnell Park (millpond)
Sept. 12 – Rackham Park

FENTON VFW IS ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR YOUR ‘SPECIAL VETERAN TO RECEIVE AN ALL-EXPENSE PAID TRIP FOR TWO’

This contest is sponsored by the Fenton VFW Post 3243 and Argentine Care Center. To enter, type a nomination letter of 400 to 500 words and tell the VFW why your “Special Veteran” should be awarded an all-expense paid trip for two. The nominations will be judged for first-, second-, and third-place prizes. Include the Veteran’s name, address, city, why, how, what they have done and why they deserve to be chosen for an all-expense paid trip to Las Vegas or Orlando with $500 gift card or lodging at Niagara Falls with $300 gift card, or $100 gift card. Mail the nomination to Fenton VFW Post 3243, 1148 North LeRoy St., 48430; attention: Bonnie. Include your name and address as well. The deadline is Oct. 1, 2015 and winners will be announced at the VFW Post 3243 on Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2015 at 6 p.m.

MBSD

AMAZING DANCERS... AMAZING YEAR!

Ms. Bridget’s School of Dance

Winning “Double Platinum”, “Platinum Plus”, “Diamond”, “Production Awards”, “Choreography Awards”, “Odyssey Award”, “MVP Awards” (most valuable performance), “Most Entertaining”, “Encore Extreme Scholarship Awards”, “Al Gilbert Award”, “Performance Awards”, “Costume Awards”, several highest scores of the day, and many invites for students to take classes from professional dance teachers are some of the accomplishments of this years competition season. Nationals were a blast! So many awards!!! Congratulations on bringing home the “Victory Cup”!!!

The teachers of MBSD are so proud of all our competition dancers at the extremely wonderful year we have had. You are the reason we all love teaching, thank you for being a part of our lives. Special thank you to all of our wonderful parents, you’re the best!!!

Fall Registration August 22nd & 23rd from 10am until 2pm

Shoes and dance attire are also available at this time.

For more information please call 810-714-4226

Or visit www.mbsdance.com

Ms. Bridget’s School of Dance
Located at 1381 N. Leroy St., Fenton

We offer classes in Tap, Ballet, Jazz, Pom, Hip Hop, Belly, African, Contemporary, lyrical, toe, acro, and Break Dancing (new this year).

ASK THE MECHANIC

Chris Wilkenson, Certified Mechanic

Q: What does it mean when my car makes a chugging noise when I put my foot on the gas? It almost feels like I’m not going to make it up a hill. I’ve heard it could mean that I need a tune up, but I’m not sure.

A: This does sound like a tune-up related problem, but could be caused by other things as well. First thing to consider is how many miles your car has on it. Most cars today last up to and over 100,000 miles before the first tune-up is needed. If over 100,000 miles then the first place to start is with a good tune-up, as it most likely needs this anyway for maintenance. If this is not the case then you may need to go to a repair shop. The diagnostic equipment we have to use for today’s vehicles is very expensive and takes much time to learn to use them properly.

Don’t forget to change your fuel filter with the tune-up as this is usually under the car and often overlooked as part of the complete tune-up.

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

248-634-5730

www.wilkinsonautorepair.com

Hours: Mon-Fri: 8am-5pm, Sat: 9am-3pm

Check our website and coupon ads for specials.
**METERS**

Continued from Front Page

The mixed success story of smart meters continues to make its way through Michigan's largest counties. These new electric meters, which are part of the modernization of the state's utility infrastructure, are designed to provide a more accurate reading of energy usage and to reduce the amount of estimated billing.

Residents have been receiving letters from Consumers Energy and DTE Energy regarding the upgrades to their smart meters. The letters inform them that their meters are scheduled to be upgraded and that they will be contacted by a technician to ensure the upgrade is successful.

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**SMART METERS**

**BY CONSUMERS ENERGY**

- The entire program will upgrade 1.8 million electric meters and 600,000 natural gas meters for customers who receive gas from Consumers as well.
- Communication modules will be installed on the natural gas meters.
- Residents don't have to be home for the upgrades, but they may call appointments if they wish.
- Businesses will be contacted by mailings, calls, or outreach meetings depending on size and amount of electrical service.

**SMART METERS BY DTE**

- DTE has also been upgrading their meters using Advanced Meter Infrastructure (AMI) for customers in southeast Michigan. These new meters are no charge for customers.
- All four million DTE electric and gas meters are expected to be replaced in a few years.
- These new electric meters will use secure, low-power radio transmissions to send homeowners' energy information to the company.
- The new electric meter will have a digital display. A radio-frequency transmitter will be installed in the back of the natural gas meter so it will not look any different.
- According to DTE, these meters will lower the amount of estimated bills, increase meter reading process efficiency, have automated power outage detection, and will give customers access to daily energy usage information.
- The FCC has deemed the amount of radio frequency emitted safe.
- Customers who choose to opt out will have a one-time fee of $67.20 and a recurring fee of $9.80.
- DTE customers in Livingston County and Genesee County should expect new meters in 2016 or 2017.

Source: DTE Energy

**THIS WEEK’S INSERTS**

- Alpine Marketplace
- C & L Ward Brothers
- CVS Pharmacy
- D&W Windows & Sunrooms
- Featured Section: There’s More To Life After 50
- Holly Foods
- Rite Aid
- Sears Hometown Stores
- Target
- VG’s

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

View stories at tctimes.com
TEXTING
Continued from Front Page

In a 2011 study by the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 31 percent of U.S. adults between the ages of 18-64 admitted to texting or emailing while driving within the last 30 days.

Slater said the problem for law enforcement is proving someone was texting and driving. Police have to prove they were texting to order the citation, which can be difficult. They may have consent to look through someone’s phone. Sometimes officers see them texting when they pull up next to them in a car.

“What are lured with other charges,” Slater said. One was associated with a drunk driving charge.

Texting while driving is one of the worst forms of distracted driving because it involves all three forms: visual, manual and cognitive, according to the CDC. Visual distracted driving involves taking your eyes off the road; manual distracted driving is taking your hands off the wheel, and cognitive distracted driving is not paying attention.

Combined, the three are deadly.

According to the Department of Transportation, cell phones play a part in 1.6 million crashes annually, causing about 500,000 injuries and 6,000 deaths in the United States yearly.

This affects young people and older people. A study done by the University of Utah found that the reaction time of a teenager using a cell phone is the same as a 70-year-old driver not using one.

Drivers are also 23 percent more likely to get into a crash while texting, according to the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration.

The texting while driving law hasn’t decreased the amount of crashes because of distracted driving causing deaths and injuries (see sidebar).

Slater said the statute also doesn’t prevent other forms of distracted driving, like writing in an address book or other activities that take a driver’s attention off the road.

Most states have hands-free laws to avoid distracted driving (see sidebar).

Depending on the state, texting while driving or talking on the phone while driving is illegal. It’s still legal to talk on the phone while driving in Michigan. Even Bluetooth, meant to allow drivers to speak on the phone hands free, might not help distracted driving. The University of Utah found that using a cell phone while driving, hand-held or hands-free, delays a driver’s reactions as if he or she had a blood alcohol concentration of .08.

“As this continues, I can foresee our state getting to that (hands-free) point as well,” Slater said. “That’s the only way you’re really going to get the cell phone out of their hands.”

HANSD-FREE LAWS

- In 14 states and the District of Columbia, drivers are prohibited from talking on the phone while driving.
- Novice drivers are prohibited from using cell phones in 37 states and the District of Columbia.
- Forty-six states and the District of Columbia prohibit texting while driving, along with Missouri and Texas, which prohibits novice drivers from texting while driving.

Source: Insurance Institute for Highway Safety

INJURIES AND DEATHS FROM DISTRACTED DRIVING ON THE RISE

- The number of injuries and deaths because of distracted driving has been rising over the past few years.
- In 2013, 3,154 were killed in motor vehicle crashes with a distracted driver. This is a 6.7 percent increase from 2012. About 424,000 were injured in a motor vehicle crash in 2013 with a distracted driver, which is up from 421,000 in 2012.
- People under 20 years old are the largest proportion of distracted drivers, and drivers in their 20s make up about 27 percent of distracted drivers in fatal crashes.
- Twenty percent of teens and 10 percent of parents have admitted to texting while driving.
- About 660,000 drivers are using their cell phones while driving at any given moment in the day. This number has been consistent since 2012.

Source: distraction.gov

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FENTON VILLAGE PLAYHOUSE PRESENTS

The Addams Family

A New Musical Comedy

August 6th - 9th, 14th – 16th & 21st – 23rd

Thursday, Friday & Saturday Performances at 7:00pm • Sunday Matinees at 2:00pm

Tickets

Adult $16.00 • Senior/Student $12.00 • Children $8.00

Box Offices

Fenton’s Open Book
106 W Shiawassee Ave
Fenton, MI 48430

The UPS Store
17196 Silver Parkway
Fenton, MI 48430

Tickets can be purchased at the playhouse beginning one hour before each performance.

e-tickets available at www.fentonvillageplayhouse.wordpress.com

The Fenton Village Playhouse
14197 Torrey Road, Fenton 810-750-7700

Direction by Steve Visher and is produced by Jay Cary and Jill Tomlin.
NEW local pub Corner Bar and Grill is NOW OPEN!

GRAND OPENING PARTY
SATURDAY, AUGUST 15TH

LIVE MUSIC AND DRINK SPECIALS ALL NIGHT LONG

CORNER BAR GRILL
We offer Craft Beer, Specialty Cocktails, Craft Burgers, Salads and Shareables - although you may not want to share!

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In the Corner of Silver Chase Plaza (next to Mancinos)
TUES - THURS 3PM - 12AM
FRI & SAT 2PM - 2AM
SUN 2PM - 12AM
Easy campfire cooking

Campfire recipes the entire family will love

By Hannah Ball
hbali@cttimes.com; 810-433-6792

Cooking over the fire adds a special flavor to the food, and makes camping even more enjoyable.

Here are a few recipes for camping food. Each are easily adjusted to fit small crowd of people or a large crowd. The amount of each ingredient depends on how many people you’re cooking for.

**BREAKFAST:**

**Orange Rolls in Orange Peels**

**INGREDIENTS:**
- Oranges
- Pillsbury Grands! Orange Flavor Rolls
- Icing

**DIRECTIONS**

Scoop out the orange, place the cinnamon roll dough in the peel. Fit as many as you want on a tray and cover it with aluminum foil. Depending on how hot the fire is, they may only need to bake for five to eight minutes. Check on the dough every minute and take them off the fire when it’s done baking. One orange makes two servings, but two is enough for one adult. Spread some icing on top for added sweetness. Serve with a fork or a spoon.

**Source:** www.trulysimple.com

**LUNCH:**

**Grilled sausage with potatoes and green beans**

**INGREDIENTS:**
- Greenbeans, trimmed and halved
- Red potatoes, quartered
- Vegetable oil
- Onion, sliced
- Sausage, cut into one-inch pieces
- Butter
- Cup of water

**DIRECTIONS**

Put the green beans, potatoes, sausage, and onions in a large sheet of foil, and season with the butter and vegetable oil. Tightly seal the foil around the food, but leave a small opening. Pour the water into the foil and seal it. When the fire is hot enough, put the foil over the grill. Cook it for 20 to 30 minutes, depending on how hot the fire is. Check the meat and vegetables every few minutes.

**Source:** m.allrecipes.com

**DINNER:**

**Cornbread on Chili**

**INGREDIENTS:**
- Chili
- Cornbread mix
- Butter
- Cheese

**DIRECTIONS**

Either prepare chili before the trip, or during. Heat it up in a pot or Dutch oven over the fire. Prepare the cornbread mix and pour it over the chili. Spread it as evenly as you can. Let it bake until the cornbread is done, then pull it off the fire. Serve with a big serving spoon in bowls.

**Source:** honestyum.com

**DESSERT:**

**Banana Boats**

**INGREDIENTS:**
- Bananas
- Chocolate chips
- Peanut Butter
- Marshmallows
- Butterscotch chips
- Coconut

**DIRECTIONS**

Slice a banana open horizontally with a knife, and scoop out half. You can put an array of ingredients from chocolate chips, peanut butter, marshmallows in the peel, and wrap the banana in aluminum foil. Place over the fire for about eight minutes, or until the chocolate is melted. Eat with a fork or spoon.

**Source:** cleverpinkpirate.com