Mickey's Dairy in downtown Fenton was an ice cream favorite

Boxer Joe Louis was one of its more famous customers

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

Evelyn “Ev” Koller is 89 years young, still hanging out with “the gang” from high school over dinner every couple of weeks.

Koller is one of many local teens working their first jobs at Mickey’s Dairy in downtown Fenton in the early 1940s.

A 1945 graduate of Fenton High School, Koller, whose maiden name is Swartz, was one of 10 children. She was born in Flint and moved to Fenton when she was 9 years old, in the third grade.

See MICKEY’S on 10A

A prized Applefest 2015 kickoff

With mother Collette Shouse of Fenton, Skylar, 3, reaches for her prize octopus while playing games on the midway of Applefest Thursday night. Behind Skylar is sister Alexandria, 9, and her friend Mary Haiss, 9. Applefest started Thursday with perfect weather and runs all weekend at St. John Catholic Church in Fenton. See more photos at tctimes.com

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Murder-suicide under investigation

Davisburg couple found shot to death, house rigged to explode

A Springfield Township couple was found shot to death in their home last Sunday and the Oakland County Sheriff’s Office is considering the possibility of a murder-suicide situation.

Deputies with the Oakland County Sheriff’s Office were dispatched last Sunday to a home in the 11000 block of Shaffer Road in Springfield Township for a welfare check on a female resident. Responding deputies advised that the anonymous caller said he hadn’t heard from the female since earlier in the morning, which he found to be very unusual.

When they arrived, deputies saw two vehicles parked in the driveway blocking access to the residence. As deputies checked the residence, they observed through a window what appeared to be two deceased individuals, later identified as a male and a female, both deceased.

See MURDER-SUICIDE on 11A

Seminary demolition starts Tuesday

Building will be just a memory after demolition, removal and cleanup next week.

Page 8A

Judge denies chiropractor’s request to set aside conviction

Dr. Robert Moore’s name will remain on sex offender registry.

Page 7A

Driver who tried to lure kids into car turns himself in

A 55-year-old man suspected of being involved with multiple ‘stranger danger’ complaints is in custody.

Page 11A

‘It seems like Kentucky clerk Kim Davis is very selective on what she gleaned from the Bible. Gay marriage is not acceptable but adultery is OK?’

‘I’ve seen many Hot lines saying that the county clerk in Kentucky has no right as an elected official to decide which laws to enforce and which not to enforce. I think you made a very good case for firing President Obama since he decides which immigration laws he’ll enforce and which he won’t.’

‘When will the police start ticketing illegally parked vehicles on Elizabeth Street, west of Adelaide? The parked cars are a danger to my children as well as making the street just one lane. They block my driveway also. Do your job.’

‘Has there been any progress in finding the owner of the poor dog that was so mistreated? I would be happy to chain him up in my yard and starve and beat him. Please publish his or her name if they are identified.’
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3180 W. Silver Lake Road • Fenton • (810) 750-1360
By Hannah Ball
hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

When Will Cartwright, market manager at Spicer Orchards Farm Market, climbs apple trees in the winter, braving the icy weather to trim branches to let in sunlight, he’s looking forward to what those trees will produce in the summer: delicious red, yellow, and green apples.

Apple season is upon us and local orchards are ready.

Spicer Orchards in Hartland Township has an “excellent” crop yield this year, Cartwright, 43, said. With each acre of their 60-acre field producing 500-800 apples, they usually yield around 40,000 bushels. Each bushel contains about 100 apples.

“This year, the weather was suitable for apple growing. “They don’t like it really hot. This summer was kind of on the cool side, had some rain, had a little dry spell, but that rain has been kind.” he said. “It’s plentiful picking. Apples have very good sides to them. The rainy weather was just about right for growing apples.”

Spicer Orchards sells many different kinds of apples like Honeycrisp, Macintosh, Gala, Fuji, Red and Golden Delicious, Jonagold, and Northern Spy apples.

Honeycrisp is the most popular and one of the hardest to grow. “They take quite a bit more work. During the harvest, you have to pick them four or five times. You can’t just pick every apple from the tree, you have to pick a few at a time,” Cartwright said.

Apples grow from May until mid-September, and they’re picked starting mid-August.

Most of the work happens during the winter months when they prune the trees.

When the winter weather’s not too bad, they “trim them, thin them out and get light down into the trees,” Cartwright said.

See APPLE on 16A
Hot lines — the voice of the people

If you want to start an interesting conversation just bring up the Tri-County Times Hot lines in mixed company. Opinions will be as diverse as... well, as diverse as the Hot lines. Much like life, the Hot lines are many things to many people. Some will dis- parege its format, citing the unwritten code (by unwrit- ten I mean nonexistent) that states 'any person stating any opinion at any time in any newspaper must attach their name, age, weight, Social Security number and most recent tax return in order to have their com- ment published.' Keep in mind that this unwritten code is nullified if the reader happens to agree with your opinion.

The Times believes that in these chal- lenging times we live in, it is critical to provide the average citizen with a venue to voice their frustrations. Because the people sharing their comments in the Hot lines are the same people who are voting for candidates in this Senate, Congress and presi- dent cavalierly waste billions of our tax dollars every day — while chronically demand- ing more from us.

For example: Michigan roads are a disaster, so in- stead of finding waste in the budget and eliminating it, the tools in Lansing simply raise taxation through higher fees for license plates and vehicle registrations. Why? Because in most communities the citizen have no voice.

These citizens are the same people who wait on the phone for an hour to speak to someone in India about their impossible-to-decipher cable and cell phone bills. They are the same people whose e-mails and letters to faceless corporations go unanswered and unacknowledged.

They are the same people who woke up one morning to find that their own government had stolen their GM stock literally overnight.

They are the same people who are raped and pil- laged financially through outrageous taxation on a daily basis. Example: how can savings accumulated over a lifetime — that have already been taxed — be subjected to taxation again when you die and leave it to your children? That is insanity.

Understandably, they feel impotent, an- gry and frustrated. It is this environment that requires — no, that demands — they have a vehicle for their voice to be heard. That vehicle is the Times Hot lines.

Human nature is such that it is the frustrated who holler the loudest, not the complacent. That’s why negative Hot lines far outnumber positive ones. And yes, the manifestation of that frustration varies from the ridiculous to the astute. But every readership study tells us the same thing — that the Hot lines are one of the most popular components of a very popular newspaper, the Tri-County Times.

To those of you who in- dignantly demand that the Times require a source for all Hot line comments... well, that is simply not practical. In today’s techno- logically advanced environment, there is no reliable method to verify authorship of any open public forum commentary. Besides, anonymity — more often than not — fosters the truth.

That leaves the Times with the simple decision to either publish Hot lines or eliminate them. And so the Times will continue to publish the Hot lines.

And the Times will continue to be the voice of the people in our communities.

Opinions offered in If I Were King are the author’s alone and do not neces- sarily reflect the opinion of the Tri-County Times or its staff. Email the King at king@tctimes.com. Same content source found here to the nearest.

THE IRAN DEAL, which is going to pass, was embraced by senators Peters and Sta- benow. This new deal will allow Iran to enrich their uranium and arms stockpile. The United States is a big loser with this deal.

LIBERAL COMMENTARY BILL Press must be living in a cave in the Himalayas. Here in the U.S., we know that Hillary Clinton’s approval rating is one half of what it was three months ago and that six out 10 Americans describe her as corrupt, dishon- est, unlikable and a liar.

THE IRAN NUCLEAR policy toward gar- bage is shifting brok, change it anyway even if the residents don’t want it. Fenton city officials insisting ‘the average resident will not have money over the tag system’ is not a good excuse.

I’VE BEEN COOKING all morning. I’m freezing cauliflower and I cooked cabbage. I’m reading your newspaper and one of the ads say ‘Is natural gas in your future?’ I couldn’t help but call you. I’m sitting here alone laughing my head off.

PRESIDENT WASHINGTON if it mat- tered. There’s only two clear choices for the president of the United States, and that’s Huckabee and Rand Paul, the only two who seek the truth and are in it to help the country, not hurt it.

THE IRAN NUCLEAR deal is a com- plex agreement. The average citizen only hears what the naysayers want us to hear. There are times when we need our elected officials to make the correct decisions. This is one of those times.

THE KENTUCKY CLERK did the right thing by standing up for what God says is right. See HOT LINE throughout Times.

What’s your favorite part of Applefest?

“Giving everyone an op- portunity to get together in one place. It’s a staple for Fenton.” — Lauren Oglesby, Linden

“It used to be Father Harvey’s chili, and it still is. The food and the tradition part.” — Kerry Dauber, Argentein Township

“Apple pie, running into everyone, seeing if we’ll ever win a car, and increasing the price the pie goes for.” — Andy Cool, Fenton City

“The fish fry. It’s real good food.” — Bob Maniez, Tyrone Township

“Spending time with family, creating memories with my daughter, the cake walk. I’ll pass the tradition onto my daughter.” — Kelly Wagner, Fenton Township

“Going Sunday when they’re closing. You can get a big tray of apple crisp for the price of a small.” — Amy Fisher, Fenton Township

compiled by Hannah Ball, staff reporter
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No leads in finding dog owner

Neglected, starving dog left for dead by dumpster at Fenton business

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

It’s been just over a week since employees at a Fenton business found a severely neglected dog lying next to a dumpster in their parking lot, wrapped in a badly soiled blanket and plastic sheet.

Steven Spencer and his secretary Andrea Lyllie found a starving pit bull, left for dead next to a dumpster in the parking lot of where they work on Alloy Drive in Fenton. They immediately called Fenton police and Spencer’s wife Barbara reached out to Dr. Chris Repke, a veterinarian at Pointe Animal Hospital, who drove right out to the scene to evaluate the dog.

Repke estimated that the dog was at least 8 years old by the condition of his teeth and was about 50 pounds. This type of dog should have weighed between 85 and 90 pounds. Because of the severe neglect, open wounds and a large tumor the veterinarian detected in the dog’s abdo-

Fenton police have not been able to identify the owner of this severely neglected pit bull that was left near a dumpster last week in Fenton. The dog was euthanized.

men area, the dog was euthanized.

Police Chief Rick Aro said they have little to go on to identify who the dog’s owner was.

After talking with the veterinarian, the police chief said it’s likely the owners of the dog could not afford to take care of the sick dog and it may have been more of a neglect situation rather than abuse.

Anyone with with any information regarding the dog, can call Fenton police at (810) 629-5311.
Judge denies chiropractor’s request to set aside conviction

Name will remain on sex offender registry

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

Kelly Wagner said she is very happy with Genesee County Circuit Court Judge Geoffrey Neithercut’s decision Monday — to deny Dr. Robert Moore’s request to set aside his criminal sexual conduct conviction.

In December of 2007, Moore, the former owner of TLC Chiropractic in Fenton, pleaded no contest to fourth-degree criminal sexual conduct for inappropriately massaging Wagner’s breasts when she worked for him and was a patient. Now 28, Wagner was 17 years old at the time. The contact occurred at his office and his home in 2004.

Moore spent 200 days in jail in 2008 and is listed on the Michigan Sex Offender Registry.

Wagner, now a mother and a cosmetology and esthetician instructor, continues to make Fenton her home.

She read a victim impact statement to the court on Monday. In it, she said, “It’s been 11 years since the first time I was victimized, and seven years since I’ve addressed Mr. Moore and the community. In the last seven years, I have had the pleasure of moving forward in my life and continuing my education as a licensed professional.

“As a licensed professional in the state of Michigan, I am aware of the ethical and moral standards that must be upheld,” Wagner added. “Mr. Moore, who I still refuse to address as a doctor, failed then and continues to fail to meet those high standards.”

Wagner continued by telling the court that for the past seven years, Moore has been serving the public, even though he is a registered sex offender, operating under a limited license with a recent 2015 infractions.

“These actions indicate to myself and the state that he continues to not follow the law while practicing chiropractic care,” she said.

Wagner said this public information has her concerned for her daughter and the wellbeing of other women and children who could potentially see Moore.

“Often times, the public is unaware of any criminal or sexual infractions on a licensed professional. In this instance, with Mr. Moore serving as a doctor, it’s alarming that the public is unaware of his unethical past,” she added.

Wagner told the court that over the past seven years, she has healed from this “horrible” time in her life.

“I now consider myself an advocate, not a victim,” she said.

Wagner asked Neithercut to remember what she fought for during the 11-year process of being a victim.

“All of that was simply to have this man stop what he was doing,” she said. “I was and I will continue to be the voice of the young women who were victimized by Mr. Moore in the last decade.”

It was reported that Moore told the court he wasn’t seeking to escape what happened or open old feelings. “I just want to move on with my life,” he told the judge.

Wagner said, Neithercut told Moore, who operates Awesome Chiropractic in Brighton, that she, the victim, doesn’t want the conviction set aside and doing so doesn’t make sense because his name will continue to remain on the Michigan Sex Offender Registry.

“You’re just going to have to live with it,” the judge told Moore.

Moore did not respond to requests for comment.

---

HOT LINE CONTINUED

A HUGE THANK you to the lovely lady who bought my groceries for me on Monday afternoon at Walmart. God bless, from an 88-year-old.

THIS MESSAGE IS for you liberals. You elected someone who, in eight years, took a nation that was respected and turned it into a sniveling, apologetic nation.

HERE’S A REAL time-saving tip for all you business people out there. If you ask for my cell phone number and i give it to you but don’t provide an area code, it is safe to assume that it is 810. Quit treating everyone like an idiot.

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Welcome to the Fenton Business and Technology Park

Fenton City Council gives industrial park new name

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

The Fenton City Council voted unanimously Monday to change the name of Fenton Industrial Park to Fenton Business and Technology Park.

City officials and administration say they believe the new name is more reflective of current times. Assistant City Manager Mike Burns said previously, “Not only do we have manufacturing businesses in the industrial park, we have many technology-based and other types of businesses in this location. It is no longer just an industrial park.”

In his recommendation to the council, City Manager Lynn Markland said in March, at the request of the Local Development Finance Authority (LDFA), 49 surveys were sent to CEO/business owners in the industrial park. He received 11 responses back; six from those supportive of the name change, two who didn’t want the name change, and three respondents would have favored a different name.

Prior to the meeting, Mayor Sue Osborn contacted Nicholas Popa for his opinion on the matter. Popa, a former member of the city’s planning commission, is the former owner of Epic Machine and the man credited with creating the industrial park.

Popa served as this year’s grand marshal in the Fourth of July parade. During an “Our Town” interview published in the Times in June, Popa said he would like to be remembered most for the industrial park.

This week, Popa said, “We have no problem with it. I don’t think it’s gonna make a lot of difference, but we don’t have a problem with it.”

The industrial park was built in 1970 and is operated under the stewardship of the LDFA, which is able to capture a percentage of tax dollars for the benefit of the LDFA district. The majority of the park is in the LDFA district.

Burns said the only cost associated with changing the name of the park is purchasing three new signs for a total of $33,617, which will be funded by the LDFA.

The new signs are expected to be ready in about eight weeks.

It is no longer just an industrial park.

Mike Burns
Fenton assistant city manager

We have no problem with it.

Nick Popa
Fenton Industrial Park creator

The 147-year-old Fenton seminary, known to many local historians as the Baptist ministers’ home, sustained serious damage during the fall of 2013 and winter of 2013-2014, resulting in the need to tear down the dangerous structure.

Seminary demolition to begin Tuesday

Building will be just a memory after demolition, and cleanup next week

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

One of Fenton’s historic buildings will become part of the past this week, when Burnash Wrecking, Inc. of Flint starts taking the seminary down Tuesday morning.

Martin Burnash, owner of the company, said previously that it will take one or two hours to bring the building down.

“It’s hauling away the debris that takes time,” Burnash said previously.

Fenton Building and Zoning Administrator Mike Reilly said equipment will be moved to the site Monday, and the demolition process will likely begin at 8 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 22.

It will not be necessary to close any streets for the duration of the demolition project, and the work will be contained within the fenced area, Burnash said.

An 8-foot section of the railing in front will be saved as the Oakwood Cemetery Board wishes to erect a monument in honor of the S1 Baptist ministers and their wives interred at the cemetery.

Once all of the debris and rubble is cleared away, the site will be (grass) seeded and covered with straw.

The decision to tear down the 147-year-old structure was made earlier this spring. The 10,000-square-foot building, built in 1868, has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1983.

In November 2013, the seminary sustained significant damage during a rainstorm with high winds. The subsequent harsh winters of 2013-2015 resulted in further destruction of the deteriorating building, which is now in ruins.

An engineering study earlier this year resulted in a recommendation to demolish the building, salvaging as much of the ornate items and materials that can be repurposed as possible.

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JOE LOUIS

Joseph Louis was an American professional boxer, who held the world heavyweight championship from 1937 to 1949. Nicknamed the "Brown Bomber," Louis was considered to be one of the greatest heavyweights of all time.

He worked at Mickey’s Dairy during all four years of high school. "They made their own ice cream, using milk and cream from nearby farms," she said. Mickey’s had a big counter at one end and where the ice cream "to go" was packaged. Koller said. There was a counter with stools, and a jukebox. "I earned 10 cents an hour," she said. With the job at Mickey’s, other ice cream parlors, and cleaning houses and babysitting, Koller said she was able to buy all of her school clothes and books.

Koller and five of her siblings all worked at Mickey’s Dairy at the same time. She said it was a few years after her time, but Ray Durant, the future owner of Uncle Ray’s Dairyland, worked at Mickey’s. She said it was his dream to make ice cream some day, which he did in 1976 when he started his business. Although Durant died in July of 2008, Uncle Ray’s Dairyland still thrives in Fenton, employing many of Fenton’s young people.

Mickey’s Dairy was owned by Mickey and Dottie McBrinn. It was located on the northeast corner of S. LeRoy Street and Ellen, where the parking lot of the United Methodist Church’s Family Life Center is now located.

Professional boxer Joe Louis favored the ice cream at Mickey’s Dairy. "The first time his chauffeur came in, I put two out ofjudge sundae on the counter," Koller said.

The chauffeur said "no," that the order must be carried out because he and Louis are black. "I didn’t know we didn’t serve blacks," she said. "That made me mad, so every time the chauffeur came in to buy a quart of ice cream, lapped it into the container so tight there had to be a quart and a half in there."

"One time, Mr. Louis invited me and my friends out to his farm for a weenie roast," Koller said. "We rode our bikes out there and had a lot of fun. We swam and his maid cooked hotdogs for us. "My dad was so mad," she said. "Not because we went there but because I didn’t get the boxer’s autograph for him."

Koller said large Fenton families like hers usually had a student in each grade at the school, something which made them all one big extended family.

"During the pre-war years, we didn’t get out of Fenton," she said. "But sometimes we would skip school and go to Flint or take the bus to Detroit."

There was no place to get a hambarger in Fenton, Koller added. "Sometimes Dottie would take us kids to a hamburger joint at the corner of North Long Lake and Fenton roads, outside of town in Fenton Township."

Keller’s, the other ice cream place in Fenton, was more of a teen hangout than Mickey’s, Koller said. "We used to go to Keller’s for French fries and Coke," she added.

After high school, Koller went to a business college in Ohio. It was there she met her husband and they moved to Chicago, where she lived for 52 years. She has five adult children, one who passed away two years ago. She also has five grandchildren.

After her children were grown, Koller divorced, and started to do quite a bit of traveling. An ancient history buff, Koller said she was able to backpack through Greece, Turkey, Israel and Egypt to name a few. She and her friends talked a guard into letting them climb to the top of the pyramids in Egypt. That, she said, was a highlight of her travels.

Although she loved Chicago and the ability to be surrounded by ethnic diversity, Koller returned to live in Fenton in 2003 and has resided in the same apartment she loves ever since. She cherishes the many childhood friends with whom she still keeps company.

While interviewing Koller, she spoke on the phone with her best friend since third grade. Lois (Searight) Putnam. During that conversation, she asked, “So where’s the gang going for dinner next week?”

TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO

Some of the girls who worked at Mickey’s Dairy posed here in front of the Fenton Fire Hall. They are (from left) Edna Pinkston (deceased), Jeanette Reed, Jeanette Buell (deceased), Annie Vincent and Evelyn “Ev” Koller.
Driver who tried to lure kids into car in custody

Flint Township man turns himself in to police

By Sharon Stone
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A 55-year-old Flint Township man has turned himself in to authorities as a suspect in multiple “stranger danger” situations in the tri-county area.

Genesee County Undersheriff Chris Swanson said the man is in custody as investigators await the Mental Health Court to take the lead on the case. The man has not yet been arraigned.

The Genesee County Sheriff’s Office received a complaint on the evening of Sept. 4 in Fenton Township. A resident reported that her children were playing outside at a friend’s home when a white male driver in his 60s, with gray curly hair, approached the children, ages 9 to 11, near Grove Park and Torrey Road.

The driver tried to lure the kids to his car to play cards and board games with him. When the children ran away, the driver sped off.

His car was described as a 1998-2002 gold, tan or pewter-colored four-door Buick LeSabre.

The sheriff’s office received a second similar complaint on Wednesday, Sept. 9. This time, the caller said a gold-colored car was seen in the morning near a bus stop.

In response to the complaints, area police departments increased their patrols around bus stops before and after school.

The Padre’s Chili

By Vera Hogan
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In September 2001, Jan Rynearson, the late Tri-County Times features editor, was able to score the recipe for Fr. David Harvey’s chili, served each year at the St. John Applefest since 1979.

Although the priest has retired, he still cooks his concoction, affectionately referred to as “the padre’s chili” for the Applefest and has done it again this year.

For those who don’t get their fill of Fr. Harvey’s chili at this year’s Applefest, we will reprint the recipe. This is a very large batch so families may wish to cut the ingredients in half, or freeze some, or be a big hit at your next tailgate party.

The key to the padre’s tasty chili could be that he uses all fresh vegetables. It could also be the Worcestershire sauce. Whatever it is, Fr. Harvey has the recipe down to a science and people love it.

Maybe everyone knows this, and since Rynearson isn’t around for us to ask her what she means by “scant,” we looked it up and it means just under whatever the measurement is. If the recipe calls for a scant 8 ounces of a cup, that means just shy of a cup.

She also refers to No. 10 cans of beans. A No. 10 can is the equivalent to about six, 15 ounce cans.

The Padre’s Chili
10 lbs. lean ground beef
10 cups diced onion
7 cups diced green pepper
1/3 cup sugar
1 bottle Worcestershire sauce
A scant 8 ounces of a cup of salt
1/3 to 1/4 cup black pepper
1, 8-ounce container tomato paste
5-7 quarts fresh stewed tomatoes
1 No. 10 can pinto beans
1/2 cans No. 10 chili beans
A scant 8 ounces of chili powder (mixture of hot and medium)
5-6 bay leaves (removed before serving)

Brown the meat first and drain the juices. Mix all other ingredients together and add to meat mixture. Cook for three hours.

MURDER-SUICIDE
Continued from Front Page

as Michael and Carolyn Wyatt, 66 and 64, respectively, lying on the floor in a pool of blood.

Deputies were able to gain access to the home and upon entry immediately noticed a strong smell of gas. While checking the interior of the home they observed ignition sources staged so that the home might catch fire or explode. There were several small open cans left in the home. The natural gas line had been purposely disconnected and left on, as several kerosene lanterns were left burning.

Deputies shut the natural gas off to the home and extinguished the burning lanterns. They also evacuated neighboring homes until the area was rendered safe. The OCSO Forensic Crime Lab and Investigators from the OCSO Special Investigations Unit (SIU) responded to the scene and an investigator from the Medical Examiner’s Office responded to assist with the investigation.

The Oakland County Medical Examiner’s Office reported that Carolyn Wyatt died of multiple gunshot wounds, and that the manner of death was homicide. Michael Wyatt died of one single gunshot wound to the head, and the death was determined to be suicide. A note was recovered from the scene, however the sheriff’s office is not revealing the contents of that note.

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’It’s the hardest thing I’ve ever done’

Wheelchair-bound athlete finishes IRONMAN competition against all able-bodied athletes

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

Don’t ever tell Travis Peruski of Fenton Township that there’s something he can’t do. He’ll set out to prove you wrong, and he’ll likely do it.

This 36-year-old wheelchair-bound paraplegic recently completed his first IRONMAN event in Mont-Tremblant, Quebec, Canada — an event designed to challenge the most elite triathletes.

Peruski competed against all able-bodied athletes in a 2.4-mile swim, 112-mile bike course and a 26.2-mile run course on Aug. 14, all while being paralyzed from the waist down following an auto accident in 2001.

“In 2011, my quad (quadruplegic) friend goaded me into training for the IRONMAN by saying, ‘I don’t think you can do it,’ knowing that’s what would motivate me,” said Peruski. Training with a passion and endurance that would sideline most able-bodied athletes, Peruski practiced all three triathlon events at Kensington Metro Park, and continued lifting weights at home, setting records that amazed even his doctors.

“I never even knew how to swim before I started training,” said Peruski. “I couldn’t swim a regular breast-stroke because the weight of my (paralyzed) legs would drag my whole body down. I learned to do the backstroke, focusing my peripheral vision on the shore so I wouldn’t unknowingly go around in circles.”

Finally, race day came and his wife, Grace, was on the sidelines, cheering him on. “It was the hardest thing I’ve ever done in my life,” said Peruski, remembering the frigid waters of Lac Tremblant, and the hills that offered the most challenging climbs he had ever been on. “It was just so tough,” he said. “The hills go straight up.”

But nothing prepared Peruski for the flat tire on his pushing wheelchair that caused him to finish the last 13 miles of the run course on a flat. In spite of all the pain, the exhaustion, the extreme heat and cold, Peruski persevered to complete the race in 15 hours, 50 minutes and 58 seconds.

“I’m always in the top one or two finishers at the Crim or other races,” said Peruski. “Just finishing the race was reward enough. I never in my life felt so good. So many people told me I inspired them.”

See IRONMAN on 16A

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For years, Power Vac, Inc. has been improving the community’s health one household at a time. “Did you know that half of all illnesses come directly from dirty indoor air? In fact, our indoor air is up to 900 times more polluted than the air outdoors?” explained Keith Meadows, Power Vac Owner and Operator. “More than 90% of the phone calls we receive are from distraught people complaining about dust in their homes. They tell me they will dust the house Friday, but by Sunday it’s all been done again, and they’re not sure where these dust piles are coming from. Let me help you, you’re not a bad housekeeper. All you need to do is have your ducts cleaned. This simple step will drastically reduce the dust in your household. The reason for the dust is your cold air returns. You see, cold air returns suck in dirty air. Over time it builds up in your ducts until the ducts resemble what you would find in your vacuum bag.”

See for yourself! For an actual photo of the debris left in just a typical home’s ducts, visit our website www.callpowervac.com.

“Cold air returns are also the reason new homeowners experience excessive dust. While work was being done in the home, your cold air returns sucked all the dust through the system. It settled on the bottom of the duct lines and little by little, that debris is being blown back into your home,” Keith continued. “Take a walk down into your basement, and look up at the ceiling for thin sheets of thin metal that your cold air return ducts are. Give them a good pounding. Do you see puffs of dust peeping out of the edges? That, my friends, is the reason you have uncontrollable dust problems, and this debris cannot be removed without the help of a professional.

“This brings me to my next point: choosing an air duct cleaning company. Most companies use portable units, which are essentially like a Shop-Vac that you would vacuum your car with. Then there are companies who claim they have an truck-mounted system. In reality, they have a low powered portable system attached inside a van. We have the equipment powerful enough to get the job done right, and that equipment is a Power Vac truck.”

Want to see the difference between our equipment and portable or truck-mounted equipment? Visit our website at www.calpowervac.com.

“The Power Vac truck is the most powerful equipment in the industry,” Keith explained. “Simply put, the entire truck is the vacuum, and the truck motor powers the equipment. You’ll know it’s a Power Vac truck because it’s the size of an ambulance and when engaged, 12 large air bags come out of the roof.

“What makes the difference in equipment? Power! To put things into perspective, your furnace moves 2,000 cubic feet of air per minute, which is what you feel coming out of your register. Truck-mounted equipment moves 4,000 CFM. Well, Power Vac moves over 16,000 cubic feet of air per minute, which is four times the power of most competitors.

“You need to beware of companies using cheap equipment and advertising cheap prices. Most of these companies are unlicensed, or they may advertise that they are licensed, but are not. Avoid scams by not falling for cheap, get-you-in-the-door prices. What sets us apart from our competitors is our honest service, and, of course, our equipment. I know the importance of being on time, working with a smile and respecting people’s homes and their belongings. There are a lot of duct cleaners around, but rest assured you’ll receive the same quality of service I expect in my home.

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO
April and Keith Meadows help keep indoor air clean with their local business, Power Vac.
Lake Fenton teacher uses multi-tiered seating

Math teacher takes initiative — buys and builds innovative tables

By Hannah Ball
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The view of a classroom isn’t very productive if your view is the back of someone’s head.

Lake Fenton Middle School teacher Ashley Speckmann had that view when she was growing up because she was always shorter than everyone else.

The sixth-grade mathematics teacher didn’t want that for her students.

“I am a short-statured person and I spent my days in school looking around the people sitting in front of me during class,” she said. “This was something that I could see happening with my students now and I started thinking of ways around that issue.

I thought about my collegiate level courses and how nice it was to have tiered seating in the lecture halls.”

Since her class couldn’t be taught in a college-sized lecture hall, she utilized multi-tiered seating on a smaller scale in her classroom. The rows in the front of the classroom are the shortest. Students kneel or sit on pillows. The tables and chairs get taller toward the back, where students sit on tall chairs.

Every student has a full view of Speckmann and the front of the room.

“So far students seem to be more engaged in discussions. The students have told me that they are finding it easier to pay attention in class,” she said. The students can still have their own discussions and collaborate with each other during work time. They also have a classmate to confer with.

Not only did Speckmann incorporate multi-tiered seating, but all the tabletops are white boards.

“Students are excited. They can’t wait to use their dry erase markers on the table tops,” she said. “I have had several former students coming back to visit my classroom to ask why I didn’t have this seating when they were in my class and tell me they are jealous of the sixth-graders. It is nice to see such a positive response to the idea.”

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IRONMAN
Continued from Page 14A
Peruski knows what it’s like to persevere and endure. He doesn’t re- member anything about the accident that left him paralyzed from the waist down, but knows that right after the accident, at age 22, he set his mind to be happy and grateful. “I really loved life after that point,” he said. “I knew that life could end at any moment.”
Peruski found that exercise was the driving force for his positive mental attitude, providing him with the push to complete his rehab program in only three weeks, rather than the typical 12 weeks for a paraplegic. “The more I exercised, the better I felt and more I could do,” he said.
He began bicycling in his hometown of Ubly, in the Thumb, where the acci- dent happened, working up to the 100 miles he now bicycles regularly.
Peruski took opportunities as he found them, going with a friend to her daughter’s preschool. “I started working with the kids and found that I loved it,” he said. “The teacher wrote me a letter saying that I should teach for a living.” He took her advice, graduating from Saginaw Valley State University with a teaching degree.
Meanwhile, still living in Ubly, he had a chance meeting with a young woman named Grace, who was visiting her college roommate from Ubly. “We got to talk- ing, fell in love and got married on June 20, 2008,” said Peruski.
Getting a teaching position was another challenge for this very deter- mined young man in a wheelchair. “I went on 32 interviews,” he said. “It was so frustrating.”
Swartz Creek hired him as a second-grade teacher back in 2009, and now he’s teaching sixth-grade math. “I use my life story to help my students,” he said. “My perseverance and attitude mean more to me than my medals. If I die at any moment, I know I’ve lived my life to the fullest.”

What’s a paraplegic?
Spinal cord injuries occur when there’s damage to the spinal cord, resulting in loss or function, usually in mobility or feeling. Paraplegics have an injury further down the spinal cord than quadriplegics, which have paralysis from about the shoulders down. More than 64 percent of spinal cord injuries are the result of vehicle collisions, and a quarter result from other medical conditions and sports injuries. Source: The SCI Zone

APPLE
Continued from Page 3A
“That’s probably what drew me to the business,” he said, who started his in 1987. “When you’re trimming, sometimes it’s not that pleasant but you have a good feeling that you’re helping. You’re working in the winter and trimming your tree, seeing it grow from a little blossom into an apple. I don’t want to say it’s a miracle, but it’s the beauty of how it all works together until that final harvest.”
Mueller’s Orchard at Lobdell and Linden roads in Fenton Township grows a variety of apples they sell or incorporate into pies and cider, said owner Charles Mueller. Cider became available about a week ago, and dough- nats have been available for a few weeks.
As an easy way for customers to pick what apples they want, Mueller’s puts the apples into boxes and sells them at one price. “People can mix or match any way they want,” he said. Mueller’s grows 10,000 to 12,000 bushels a year.
It’s been a good season for Mueller’s, but it’s been a bit too warm.
“It’s been staying warm, but you need cold nights to really get good flavor in the apples. It’s been raining almost too much which makes the apples bigger, but it doesn’t make them taste better,” he said. Since the weather will bring cold nights in about a week, the last of the crop will be really good.
“They like sunny days and they like cold nights, that’s when they basically change starch into sugar. That’s what gives the apples a better flavor,” Mueller said.

Apple everything
Apples are used for different reci- pes depending on the type, according to Will Cartwright, market manager at Spicer Orchards. He said certain apples are used for applesauce be- cause they can be “cooked down” or mashed easier.
Northern Spy apples are excellent for pies because they aren’t cooked down easily, so they maintain their shape.
For applesauce, the type of apple to use depends on if you like creamy or chunky applesauce, he explained. Most people like creamy applesauce, so Cartwright recommends Macin- tosh apples because they’re easily cooked down.
“Customers always tell me what they’re making. I try to tell them give them some variety,” he said.
Many customers are interested in making cider. “You always try to have a balance between a tart variety and sweet variety, and you usually have pretty good tasting cider,” he said. At Spicer Orchards, their cider press makes about 280-300 gallons of cider an hour. The cider sells fast. At Mueller’s Orchard, owner Charles Mueller said he prefers plain apple pie or apple crisp. “I don’t like much seasoning in them,” he said. For making pies, a good mix is Jona- thans and Golden Delicious, because you don’t need much seasoning.
“My favorite of the whole year is a Wealthy, one the earliest apples. I think it’s the best pie you can get,” he said.
Eagles open Metro impressively

Defeat young Holly squad in straight sets

By David Troppens
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Linden — Life on the Linden varsity volleyball team has been pretty fun so far this season. When the Eagles are on the court, they are enjoying success, already posting 14 victories this season.

The Eagles earned another win on Tuesday, opening the Flint Metro league season with a strong 25-18, 25-13, 25-9 victory against the Holly Bronchos.

“I think this team has really good chemistry,” senior Bridget Adams said. “Last year we had cliques, kind of. We didn’t hang as a family so much. This team is so together. We are all best friends and it is awesome. It helps out on the court. Our communication is better and it’s awesome all the way around.”

“I would say (this is a closer team),” Linden coach Cori Mason said. “That’s been one of our goals. Everyone is kind of new. The JV team had a great season last year, and all of those kids were coming up to the varsity, so it was a little different for us at the beginning. But they are starting to gel well and work well together. Like, I always say, we are taking it one game at a time.”

The Eagles (14-3-2) look like a better team right now. Linden’s aggressive serving created some service errors on Tuesday, but more often than not gave the Holly Bronchos serve receivers fits even when they weren’t aces. Players like Megan Klavitter had strong service nights. She had six aces.

“I would say that is one of our strong points for sure.” Mason said about the Eagles’ serving. “We are a very aggressive serving team, but on the flip side, we miss a lot. To-night was a better night for us.

“We are not a big team, so we have to take advantage of a few other skills that don’t rely on size.”

What the strong service did was keep Holly on its heels most of the night. The Eagles were able to control the game through what was an equally strong passing and attack game. Adams led the offense with nine strong kills, while Emma O’Keefe had four kills. Allison Conly followed with three kills, while Emma O’Keefe had four kills.

Forty-three points. New Lothrop was second (70), followed by Corunna in third (100) and Lake Fenton in fourth (104). Montrose was fifth (120) in the nine-team race.

Sobczak was pleased with his teams.

“With the weather the way it was, I hoped our runners would be within 30 seconds of their previous bests,” Sobczak said. “Most of those times were set last Saturday at the Bath Invitational under near-perfect conditions.”
Tigers open Metro season strong, defeat Swartz Creek

By David Troppens
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The Fenton varsity volleyball team has every expectation of being one of the major contenders for the Flint Metro League title in 2015.

The Tigers made sure Swartz Creek knew about their intentions on Tuesday. Fenton, who won six straight Metro League crowns before Flushing broke the string last season, dominated its first match of the Metro League season, defeating the Dragons 25-12, 25-20, 25-14 at Fenton High School.

“We played well. In all three games, the Swartz Creek girls stuck with us for a little while, but then we took off and got away from them,” Fenton varsity volleyball coach Jerry Eisinger said. “I think (Swartz Creek) played a little better (in the second game) and we had a little letdown after the second game) and we had a little letdown after the second game. But, all in all, the girls kept it at a good level and played consistent. And once we got into our rotation, it created some mismatches.”

Taylor Mowery was a strong defensive specialist had 14 strong passes and 12 digs. Meanwhile, Cassidy Curtis also had 11 digs. The strong defense enabled the Tigers to get their offensive attack going, and the attack was pretty potent. Jessica Warford had nine kills on 21 attempts, and the attack was pretty potent. Jessica Warford had nine kills on 21 attempts, while Jessie Eastman had seven kills on just 10 hitting attempts. Shealyn Mandle had four kills and four aces. Setter, Nina Lombardi finished with 14 assists.

The Tigers (1-0, 13-5-3) are playing their best volleyball of the season. Three days prior to defeating Swartz Creek, Fenton won the Flushing Invitational title.

“I’m very happy with how the team is coming together from a chemistry standpoint,” Eisinger said. “When we played the quad at home, we were quite bad. It was not a good night at all. But since then, we’ve been making steady improvements. Getting that tournament victory was huge for us because it helped pull us together. At this point things are going as well as I could’ve expected, and even better from a chemistry perspective.”

The Tigers are among the favorites to win this year’s crown. Flushing, Linden and Brandon also opened the Metro season with straight set victories against league foes.

“Tigers are among the favorites to win this year’s crown. Flushing, Linden and Brandon also opened the Metro season with straight set victories against league foes. I saw Linden at the Lake Orion tournament and they look very good,” Eisinger said. “They are definitely somebody to be worried about. We saw Flushing last weekend, and they looked good at times. I think they lost a couple of players from last year’s team and that’s hurting them, but they will always be good. I saw Brandon and they looked improved.”

Lake Fenton vs. Corunna, Goodrich

The Blue Devils (0-2, 8-11-4) lost a four-set match to Corunna 25-21, 25-13, 25-27, 25-21 and also lost to Goodrich 25-20, 25-16, 25-12. Lake Fenton coach Angie DelMorone was pleased with how her team played, particularly against Corunna.

“The team was able to contain their big hitter, forcing her to tip and roll by playing some great defense and putting up a solid block,” DelMorone said. “The match was played well. The team worked hard. They followed the game plan and showed a lot of poise.”

The Blue Devils improved to 3-0 in GAC action, by capturing a key road victory at Montrose, 2-1, on Tuesday.

Elijah Bourdeau. One of the PKs was set to be a big challenge ahead of us. We have to continue moving forward.”

Holly 8, Mt. Morris 0

Lucas Sammut scored three goals, leading the Bronchos (2-4-1) to the victory against Mt. Morris on Thursday. Sammut’s first goal came just 25 seconds into the game, and the Bronchos never looked back, leading 5-0 by halftime.

Other goals were scored by Jason Allmen, Randy Douthitt, Darius Reynolds, Autumn Beardsley led the Blue Devils with 15 kills, four blocks and two aces, while Reagan Goupil had 12 kills and five aces. Allison vonDuggenhausen had 14 kills. Megan Lynch led the defense with 26 digs, while Rhiley Cole was strong at the net with eight blocks and six kills. Reilly Conn had 41 assists.

Lake Fenton’s Jess Warford attempts to get a kill over Swartz Creek’s block attempt during the Tigers three-set win on Tuesday.

Lake Fenton, Fenton, Holly collect recent soccer victories

By David Troppens
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When it comes to Genesee Area Conference play, the Lake Fenton boys varsity soccer team is perfect.

The Blue Devils improved to 3-0 in GAC action, by capturing a key road victory at Montrose, 2-1, on Tuesday.

“I am very proud of the team. They are really coming together,” Lake Fenton coach Sam Jawhari said. “I put a lot of new kids in there and they performed very well. I am seeing the team come together, and for a young team they are starting to gel. I’m loving our future.”

The Blue Devils never trailed, but never led by more than one goal. Both of their goals came off penalty kicks. They were provided by Ameer Jawhari and Elijah Bourdeau. One of the PKs was set up when Nick Joslin was taken down in the box.

“We have come a long way since we played Powers,” Jawhari said. “We are coming together as a team. I’m very proud of these guys. But we still have a big challenge ahead of us. We have to continue moving forward.”

Lake Fenton’s Elijah Bourdeau heads a ball in a recent contest. Bourdeau scored a goal in a 2-1 win against Montrose.

Jared Halteman and Allen McCarthy. Lorenzo Rodriguez and Adam Hendman shared time in the net, combining for the shutout.

Fenton 4, Goodrich 0

Scott Cubr scored two goals while Bobby Temple and Jared Degroat had a goal each, leading the Tigers to their first victory of the season.

Nick Melero, Brady Young, Connor Horgan and James Kryza had assists.
hard work can lead to.”

Sophiea said. “It just so happened that we played really good tennis against the other teams from practice to games,” Timm said. “I am learning these girls are such hard workers, but they beat up on themselves enough that I don’t have to, I’m also learning we can improve on things so quickly. It’s just a matter of learning at this point.

“You can’t ask for a better group of girls than I have this year. We are just getting started for sure.”

Juliet Clark led the Bronchos’ offense with four kills, while Shannon Torpey had three kills. Courtney Acorsi followed with two kills.

Holly hosts Kearsley on Tuesday, while Linden returns to Metro action on that same date at Swartz Creek.

Lake Fenton def. Holly

The Blue Devils (9-11-4) defeated Holly 25-7, 25-21, 25-19 in non-league action on Thursday.

Reilly Conn had 19 assists, eight digs and five aces, leading the Blue Devils to the victory. Mega Lynch was strong defensively, with 18 digs. Offensively, Reagan Goupil and Autumn Beardsley had six kills each, while Hannah Garty had four kills.

Holly was paced by Katie LaClair’s 13 digs. Juliet Clark had seven kills, while Isabelle Brown had 19 assists.

“We have played some really good matches and some really bad matches, but you understand that going into a season with a bunch of 14- and 15-year-olds,” Sophiea said. “If just so happened we played really good tennis against Flushing and Fenton.”

Diamond gems

Holly Little League’s 13-under baseball team reached state competition for the first time in 23 years, qualifying for the 50/70 Intermediate state tournament. The squad earned the right by winning the district 4 tourney. The team finished 1-2 in the double-elimination tourney. The squad members are (in no particular order) Ben Gramer, Mason Jewell, Jake McHabine, Adam Jesse, Mitchell Tiell, Nick Reese, Wyatt Caldwell, Reise Brotherton, Taran Landweiran, Brendan Jackson, Kyle Snodsmith, Mitchell Hood, Dylan Hignite and Wade Fulghum. Craig Tell, John Hignite, Ryan Snodsmith and Ian Flemming were the coaches.
Continued from Page 17A

Most of my runners were within that range and a few even set new PRs. I was happy with the way they ran. You couldn’t have asked for more.

“With both teams it is going to be exciting to see how things progress.”

The boys proved they should be among the top three squads during the season. The Blue Devils had two very strong frontrunners. Junior Thomas Mueller placed third (17:31.0), while senior Jacob Fletcher finished not too far behind in 17:43.8.

After the top two, freshman Eric Nies-troy gave the Blue Devils a solid third runner, finishing in 13th (19:10.0). The last two Lake Fenton scorers included another freshman. Jackson Chenett placed 45th overall (21:04.6), while first-year runner Mason Rinks placed 50th (21:31.4).

A couple other runners weren’t too far behind the final two scorers. Robert Shoulitz (21:42.4) and Vincent Nagel (21:43.8) placed 54th and 55th, respectively.

Due to a late start, the JV runners competed with the varsity runners. The JV runners were eliminated from the varsity standings to get the official team scores, but within this story the overall placings among all the racers is being used.

“We have six or seven guys who are vying for the top four or five spots,” Sobczak said. “They are still learning. It is going to be exciting to watch them compete throughout the season for those coveted spots.”

The Lake Fenton girls were more of a wild card entering the meet, but performed admirably well by taking fourth. Senior Alexis Cash established herself among the GAC’s elite runners, placing fifth in 21:30.1. She was followed by freshman Lydia Horski, who placed 12th in 23:10.5. Rachel Learman took 19th in 23:54.2.

The rest of the first seven were: Aran-da Jabiro in 30th (25:28.5), Mackenzie Rumpy in 45th (26:38.0), Britney Kauer in 49th (26:59.4) and Meara Baxter in 50th (27:10.8).

“I was really happy with how the girls did,” Sobczak said. “I was not really sure of what to expect ahead of time. We have a few girls who are still figuring out what they are capable of, along with a couple of girls who have not been able to run because of injuries, so we have a positive outlook on how the rest of the season might shake out.”

Middle school

GAC results

Lake Fenton’s middle school boys cross country squad showed that the future looks bright for future varsity teams by taking second place at the GAC meet.

Goodrich won the race with 21 points, followed by Lake Fenton’s 42 points. New Lothrop was a distant third with 71 points.

The Blue Devils had five runners finish among the top 20 in the boys race. Kyle Kurtis led the team by taking second (7:54.3) during the two-mile race, finishing just three seconds behind the eventual winner, Goodrich’s Carter Lauinger.

Danny Morris placed sixth (8:10.7), followed by Joel Robinson who placed seventh (8:11.8). The Blue Devils’ final two runners to place in the top 20 were Cameron McCall in 15th (8:41.1) and Macgregor Hepburn in 17th (8:45.4).

Kara Foust ran in the girls middle school race for Lake Fenton and placed 23rd overall with a time of 10:31.0.
Fall color starts now in the Upper Peninsula, moving downstate through October

By Sally Rummel
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There’s no better time or place to plan a fall road trip than in Michigan, where dynamic colors set all the trees ablaze along the highways, country roads and coastlines.

Now is the time to pack your vehicle and choose either a “road less traveled” where you’ve never been before, or check out a favorite destination and watch it come alive in the beauty of autumn hues.

Here are a few “road trips” planned for you by Pure Michigan, starting with the earliest dates of color that are already setting the trees in the Upper Peninsula alive with brilliant color. The fall color season gets started in earnest in the western U.P. during the last week of September and colors peak in the U.P. as the calendar moves into October, according to Pure Michigan.

See ROAD TRIP on 23A
All-terrain vehicles handle many autumn chores

By Sally Rummel

Whether you use an ATV (All-Terrain Vehicle) to twist around a winding trail or to haul equipment to your hunting camp, you are riding on one of the most popular vehicles in the marketplace.

“There are four times as many ATVs sold in Michigan as there are motorcycles,” said Dan Loiselle, in the sales department at C&C Sports, Inc. in Brighton. “They’re popular year ’round, but sales really ramp up in the fall.”

ATVs are motor vehicles that can be ridden over land, snow and other terrain without the need of a road or trail. They come in all different sizes, from small electric quads for toddlers to large, fast ATVs for adults.

While ATVs are often used in the summer for recreation — climbing sand dunes and trail riding, for example — 80 percent of ATVs sold are used for utility purposes, according to Loiselle.

Fall is a busy season for ATVs, as people use them as utility vehicles on their property. They can easily haul small cargo loads and can transport people and equipment on large parcels of land. When winter arrives, they are work horses at plowing snow.

“There are so many uses,” said Loiselle. “If you’ve got lots of grass on your property, your ATV can be fitted with a pull-behind mower. People take them to their hunting camps up north. Ice fishermen love them. People who are handicapped can hunt from them.”

ATVs are one in a class of Off-Road Vehicles (ORVs). All ORVs/ATVs are required to have an annual permit, issued by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), unless the vehicle will be used exclusively on private property.

Proper training and experience are important before attempting to ride an ATV. Safety gear is an absolute must, no matter what size ATV you’ll be riding. Equipment includes a helmet, goggles, boots, gloves, long-sleeved shirt, long pants and a chest protector.

Why are the seats on sport ATVs so big? While the seat looks like it is designed for two people, it’s actually designed specifically for a single rider.

“The seat is large because the rider has to move around on the ATV to properly control it. Similar to riding a motorcycle, the rider leans into turns and scoots forward or backward in the seat, depending on conditions and the need for traction.”

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Fall is the most popular time of year for ATV utility use at home or up north.
**ROAD TRIP** Continued from Page 21A

So pack your car and hit the open road with several destinations in mind for the best color show.

**MID-SEPTEMBER TO EARLY OCTOBER**

Michigan’s fall colors come first to the trees of the Keweenaw Peninsula in the Upper Peninsula, the state’s northernmost point, including the towns of Houghton, Eagle River and Copper Harbor.

A Western U.P. tour, including the towns of Ironwood, Silver City and Wakefield, will provide plenty of color, with 90 percent of the area covered by forests.

The central U.P. towns of Marquette, Negaunee and Au Train provide a driving tour of winding country roads, waterfalls, historic sites and a stunning drive along the Lake Superior shoreline.

Menominee, Escanaba and Manistique offer beautiful shoreline views of Lake Michigan, with plenty of two-lane roads and color abbling.

A trip through Munising, Newberry and Grand Marais will show stunning displays of color.

**EARLY OCTOBER TO MID-OCTOBER**

Mackinaw City, Petoskey and Charlevoix will begin their color shows in early October, with early color Oct. 3-4, peak color Oct. 10-11 and peak to past peak color Oct. 17-18. The best of the remaining color will be near the lakeshore in northern Michigan.

A 185-mile loop between Manistee, Cadillac and Ludington will offer plenty of beauty in this western part of northern Michigan. A tour between Pentwater, White Cloud and Muskegon will also provide beautiful color on rolling wooded hillsides, orchards with ripe apples and beautiful views of Lake Michigan.

You’ll also enjoy a tour by car, on foot or in a canoe in the areas of Grayling, Torch Lake and Lake City. The winding Au Sable River is the perfect waterway to paddle while enjoying splashes of vibrant color against towering evergreens.

Michigan’s Sunrise Side, including a 200-mile route between Alpena, Gaylord and Mio, will greet fall color with autumn hues usually lingering until mid-October.

On the northeast corner of the Sunrise Side, you’ll find lots of woods and water in a 200-mile triangle between Rogers City, Cheboygan and Indian River. A highlight will be the only waterfalls in the Lower Peninsula.

Give the Thumb a “thumb’s up” for Pure Michigan color. Take a 130-mile trip skirting the Lake Huron city of Port Huron, motoring north to Sandusky and Imlay City where you’ll find lots of farmland and country roads, cider mills, pumpkin patches and more.

**THROUGHOUT OCTOBER**

Lower Michigan becomes ablaze with color as the calendar extends later into the month of October.

Take a 150-mile loop starting in Lansing and travel onto Grand Ledge, Hastings, Battle Creek and Eaton Rapids for scenic farm and woodlands, rivers and unique geological formations.

Head west toward Grand Rapids, Grand Haven, South Haven and Kalamazoo for a 195-mile color tour that includes city scenes, sand dunes, wineries, farm markets and Lake Michigan sunsets.

Take a 195-mile jaunt between Jackson, Ann Arbor and Monroe and follow old Indian trails and territorial roads, an early tavern, a battlefield, the hometown of an infamous general, and even a winery or two.

Catch the last act of Michigan’s fall color show in the central Lower Peninsula in the towns of Hillsdale, Homer and Sturgis, near the state’s border with Indiana and Ohio. This 155-mile loop travels through countryside known for agriculture, antiques and Amish communities.

• Travel & Leisure magazine’s pick for best scenic fall color tours in U.S., includes “Michigan’s Gold Coast,” a 100-mile route starting in Traverse City.

• What to expect: Lake Michigan’s northeastern shores have charming coves, towering sand dunes and tiny fishing towns. Drive along Grand Traverse Bay, where, in the fall, fiery-hued maple and oak leaves stand out against green pine, fir and spruce trees.
Richard Canever, president owner, received The State Bank Community Contribution to Education Award from the Fenton Education Foundation at the 11th Annual Black Tie Awards Dinner on September 10th. Through Canever’s leadership, generosity as a business owner and community activist, hundreds of students have benefited through the Southern Lakes Parks & Recreation’s driver training program. Vic Canever Chevrolet has donated the cars used for this program for more than 10 years, thus allowing the program to continue. Canever has also been supportive of numerous athletic programs through his corporate sponsorship of numerous teams and events. According to Patricia Lockwood, chair of the Fenton Education Foundation, “Richard was the unanimous choice of the Foundation board. Through his leadership and community commitment, students of all ages have had opportunities to learn and excel in their career paths.”