Linden community angered and frightened by school shooting plot

Argentine Police Department, State Police and the FBI worked quickly to secure the safety of students, staff and the public to prevent the shooting that occurred at Linden High School.

When the Times broke the story Friday of an alleged plot to carry out a shooting at Linden schools, word quickly spread. Anger and disbelief that it could happen in this small town was evident as community members and parents began posting comments on the Times Facebook page. With more than 37,000 views and 1,347 shares on Facebook, news outlets across the country quickly picked up the story.

The plot came to light on Wednesday, Oct. 28, when the Argentine Township Police Department intercepted information that revealed a plan to carry out a shooting at Linden High School and Linden Middle School.

The next day, on Oct. 29, after reviewing the information and reports from the FBI, Argentine Police Department, State Police and the Michigan State Police, Linden schools were closed.

The Argonne Township Police Department worked quickly to secure the safety of students, staff and the public.

Four-legged friends approve of new dog park

Soccer and baseball fields part of 36-acre project

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

Fenton Twp. — The dogs may have been more excited than their humans to attend the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Fenton Township dog park last Thursday.

The 2-acre dog park, part of a 36-acre park is located on Thompson Road, just east of Wiggins Road. The park will include baseball diamonds and soccer fields.

Labs, German Shepherds, Goldendoodles, and other mixes of dogs ran around the soon-to-be park, sniffing the area and greeting everyone.

Poor readers could be held back under proposed law

Jerry Rice recalls all the details of his war service and preserves them in family history

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

It was Sunday afternoon, Dec. 7, 1941 when 16-year-old Gerald “Jerry” Rice was listening to the Detroit Lions game on the radio with his two older brothers and parents at their family home in Dearborn.

The national news cut in to announce the Japanese had just bombed Pearl Harbor.

“That memory is still very strong,” Rice said. “The bombs going off over the water was absolutely frightening.”

That question came when the local World War II veteran keeps memories alive with journal.

New Trinity Lutheran Church on schedule for Spring 2016

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

Unseasonably warm, sunny fall weather has been a godsend for the Trinity Lutheran Church $8 million building project on Main Street, now winding down the exterior work of the $5 million Phase One portion of the project.

“We hope to have it all ‘buttoned up’ for the winter by the first of December,” said Phil Price, building chairman. “If all goes as planned, we hope to be in the new building by the end of April.” That target date is a month behind Phase One portion of the project.

That target date is a month behind the exterior work of the $5 million Phase One portion of the project.

Text your hot line

810-771-TEXT

"To the three council people who worked so hard to try and engineer the election, shame on you. It all backfired and now we don’t have Les Bland."

"Hey school moms, quit running stop signs and red lights just because you’re running late to drop Trevor or Hannah off at school. Better late than an accident. And who are you talking to on your cell at 7:05 a.m.?"

Comment of the week

"To all veterans, thank you for protecting me and my family with your life. You are undereappreciated and underpaid, but are loved and respected by all citizens for what you have done. God bless America, and the veterans who protect it."
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Legislators consider controversial reading bill

Third-graders will be held back if they are not proficient readers

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

More Michigan third-grade students could be held back if they aren’t proficient readers if House Bill 4822 passes.

The bill would require schools to hold back third-grade students who don’t meet proficient reading standards. It passed in the Michigan House last month.

One local third-grade teacher said the bill is a bad idea.

Pam Nicoll, who has taught third grade at Central Elementary for 20 years, said, “Here in Linden, we do not have a problem here in Linden. We’re very lucky, we have great parents here. We have a great school. We have a lot of students who are very gifted. We have a lot of kids, they’re doing things at home, they’re doing things in school and out of school,” she said. “I don’t believe we have a problem here in Linden. We’re very lucky.”

Under the bill, students must take three state standardized assessments throughout the year to measure reading ability. If students do not meet proficient reading standards, the bill requires that the school provide extra help.

Linden third-grade students already take three tests a year to measure reading ability and the school measures the results on Light’s Scale, which is an aid to decide if a student should be held back.

Nicoll said if students score low, there are programs in place to help those students so they don’t have to be retained.

“My major concern is psychological with retaining these students. What’s that going to do to them in the future and to their self esteem.”

Pam Nicoll
Central Elementary third grade teacher

The school also operates reading recovery programs, she said. “It really takes a village, in school and out of school,” she said. “I don’t believe we have a problem here in Linden.”

About 39 percent of Michigan third-graders did not meet the proficiency standards for reading in the 2013-2014 school year, according to the M-STEP results in a report by Michigan Department Of Education.

According to the M-STEP results for spring 2015, 50.1 percent of third-graders were proficient in language arts.

Here in Linden, we do not have that kind of percentage. There are some districts where it could be even 70 percent, ” teacher Pam Nicoll said. “It all depends on your demographics. There’s so much that goes into it.”
I refuse to believe that with all the technological developments in the world today, someone can’t come up with a better toilet seat. I can give you 10 design suggestions. Oh, and here’s another observation: one size definitely does not fit all.

Are there any regulations and rules for what they determine as executive action? President Obama can do anything he wants. Maybe Judge McCabe can answer that. 

I want to say thank you to the people who returned my lost wallet. I live with wonderful, honest people. Thank you.

I just saw a picture of the Supreme Court and if I had not looked at the writing, I thought I was looking at a picture of the oldest residents in the nursing home.

Too bad Carly Hammond won’t run again for city council. He was a voice of reason and a man of integrity.

Dear neighbor, according to Tri-County Times, you’re not supposed to be blowing your leaves into the street and I don’t think you should be blowing your leaves into your neighbor’s yard or my yard either.

I was trying to see some information on that busted waterline on North LeRoy at Granger. I’ve been told the city about it and I’ve told everyone about it. I can’t find out why nobody would do anything about it. The water’s just running down the street. Nobody’s done anything about it and I would like to know why.

I am trying to figure out why, in these critical times of growth and expansion, that only 13.47 percent of the registered voters even bothered to vote. It shows an appalling level of apathy towards Fenton’s future.

If I were voting today, I would have to cast my vote for Trump for the simple reason that he is the only candidate who is not a part of the established lies, cheats and thieves who currently run our country — into the ground mostly.

People need to quit bashing Hillary Clinton. She is a proven leader as well as a mother. That is proof positive that she would have the interests of America, and her family, in mind in all her decisions. Quit listening to the fools on the news programs and look at the cold, hard facts.

My favorite headline in the Times this week: “Streetcape wrapping up.” Not a whiner and they really have done a wonderful job, but it has been a very long and summer for those of us who are forced to drive downtown on a regular basis. I want my downtown back. Thank you.

Let me try again. Whoever is running the Times, please, please, please put in a TV guide. I know it’s old fashioned, but it’s a lot easier to read it in the paper than to go online and fight my way through the dozens of pop-up advertisements. I am under 40 by the way.

See Hot line throughout Times

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FROM THE LEFT

NATIONALLY SYNDICATED

Bill Press

GOP candidates drown in crocodile tears

Ever since the last Republican debate, on October 28, that’s all we’ve heard from GOP candidates: nonstop weeping and gnashing of teeth about the tough questions they faced in all three debates, but especially by moderators from CNBC.

Such hostile questions, they prove, that debate moderators — representatives of the most liberal media of all — only one goal: to make Republicans look bad, and Democrats look good.

Oh, stop whining! Let’s remember, first of all, that Republican primary debates are following a playbook written by the Republican National Committee. After suffering through 22 primary debates in 2011 and 2012, it was Chairman Reince Priebus himself who dictated how many debates would be held in 2016 (11), where they would be held, what month they would begin and which networks would host them. In other words, they created their own mess — and now they’re complaining about it.

On Sunday evening, November 1, candidate representatives met in Alexandria, Virginia, to hammer out a list of demands, which included: candidates be given a minimum 30 seconds for opening and closing statements; each candidate would be asked the same number of questions; and candidates would have veto power over on-screen graphics shown by the network to describe their biographical information. But that deal soon fell apart when Donald Trump, Chris Christie, Carly Fiorina, John Kasich and Ted Cruz refused to sign it.

But, seriously, did you ever see such a big bunch of crybabies? What gets lost in all the fuss over the debates is what their purpose is in the first place.

Debates are a chance for the voter to learn where the candidates stand on the issues, where they differ from each other and, perhaps most importantly, how good they are on their feet.

So, in the end, unable to explain or defend their policies, they did what Spiro Agnew, Pat Buchanan, Sarah Palin and dozens of pop-up advertisements. I am not a whiner and they really have done a wonderful job, but it has been a very long summer for those of us who are forced to drive downtown on a regular basis. I want my downtown back. Thank you.

Let me try again. Whoever is running the Times, please, please, please put in a TV guide. I know it’s old fashioned, but it’s a lot easier to read it in the paper than to go online and fight my way through the dozens of pop-up advertisements. I am under 40 by the way.

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FROM THE RIGHT

NATIONALLY SYNDICATED

Cal Thomas

Bob Beckel should be dead

In Washington, most stories that make the newspapers and evening newscasts are about scandals and political infighting. Rarely is there one about redemption.

In his new book, ‘I Should Be Dead: My Life Surviving Politics, TV and Addiction,’ Bob Beckel, the longtime Democratic Party political operative, tells a deeply personal story about seeing the world through a different lens: high political power, drugs, physical abuse as a child, womanizing, hardball politics and finally a change of heart and direction.

I asked about my friendship with Bob more than I am asked about myself. People are curious how two men who come from different backgrounds and hold different political views on most, but not all issues, could be close friends without compromising their beliefs. Partially it has to do with refusing to be defined by labels.

What does labeling people tell us about them? It is a shorthand way of defining someone that may have little or nothing to do with the true nature of the individual.

Bob Beckel has been branded with many labels. Most have nothing to do with the character of the man. I have known Bob for 20 years. The real Bob is the one who rescues drunks and gets them into treatment programs; who cares deeply for the poor and underprivileged and who is able to see flaws in his own party, as well as in the other party.

In his remarkable book, Bob reveals some of his failings, challenges and temptations, not to glorify them, but to give the reader a sense of the magnitude of the grace of God, Who rescued him in his darkest hour.

Not only will you come away from his story knowing and appreciating Bob in ways you never thought possible, but this book may also open you up to the possibility of seeing others in a new light.

People constantly ask me why I love Bob so much. You’ll see some of the reasons in this revealing and brutally honest book. Maybe you won’t come to love him as much as I do, but you might.

What was your favorite childhood book?

“Curious George.” He’s always getting into trouble.

My grandson loves the books. They made it into a TV show, so we watch it when he comes over.”

— Dan O’Connell

Linden

“Piper the Sailboat that Came Back.” I liked the illustrations. It was longer than usual children’s books. I bought a copy online because none of the libraries in the state had it.”

— John Ekleberry

Fenton

“Fevers 1793” by Laurie Halse Anderson. It really got me interested in biomedicine. It’s a really good book.”

— Brooke Mayner

Linden

“Artemis Fowl.” There are fairies. Plus, I like science and there’s a lot of ‘science’ things.”

— Trenten Peterson

Holly

“My favorite was the ‘Boxcar Children.’ It was a story about young children. They didn’t have the easiest life. I looked forward to when the teacher would read it in school.”

— Gwen Walters

Rose Township

“We’re in the middle of a really good book, ‘Artemis Fowl.’ There are fairies. Plus, I like science and there’s a lot of ‘science’ things.”

— Dan O’Connell

Linden

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Fenton

“Fevers 1793” by Laurie Halse Anderson. It really got me interested in biomedicine. It’s a really good book.”

— Brooke Mayner

Linden
Holly hopes to create Veterans’ Service Center

Monthly outreach program begins Tuesday, Dec. 1 in Holly for veterans

By Sally Rummel
news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8823

Tri-county area veterans are one step closer to getting the assistance they need, thanks to the efforts of a local group of Holly veterans and individuals.

“There are lots of vets in this region in a 25-mile radius,” said Joe Mishler of Holly, a Vietnam veteran and chairman of the Board of Directors of the Karl Richter Community Center. “Right now, they have to go a long way for help, in Detroit or Saginaw. We want to bring certified service officers here to help vets who need to file claims for disability.”

Mishler and the planning committee hope to create a Karl Richter Veterans’ Service Center, using the resources of the Karl Richter Campus, which currently houses many school, municipal and community programs. They’ve been working with the Oakland County Veterans’ Services in Pontiac to set up an outreach program locally. They’ll also be meeting with people from the Veterans Administration in Detroit.

“The first thing we needed to do was determine veterans’ needs, so we sent out a survey,” said Mishler. “So far, we’ve gotten 211 replies, mostly from Vietnam vets, but also from the Korean War and Persian Gulf.”

The survey determined that the most critical needs are health care and disability, learning about disability benefits and how to claim them.

“The majority of vets who responded to the survey aren’t receiving benefits,” said Mishler. “They didn’t know about them or didn’t know how to file or didn’t know they were eligible.”

“We want to bring certified service officers here to help vets who need to file claims for disability.” Joe Mishler

Vietnam veteran

Summary

Joe Mishler and a committee of local veterans and individuals are working to create a Veterans’ Service Center at the Karl Richter Campus in Holly.

“We’ll have VA-accredited representatives here,” said Chamberlin. “We hope to reach out where services aren’t available locally.”

She says that her office will assist veterans in benefits and filing for: health care, compensation for service-related disability, burial benefits, records/discharges and education.

“Our plan is to keep up this outreach program monthly, assessing it as we continue. We’d like to build up a clientele of veterans out here, as long as it’s needed.”

Mishler looks at this outreach as a very important first step in setting up more veteran-related services. “We’d like to provide education and classes for veterans and their families and serve as a gathering center,” he said. “We’d also like to create a veterans’ library, not to compete with local libraries, but for materials about military history, things you wouldn’t normally find at your local library.”

Also serving on the committee with Mishler are Ina Golden, Ray Phenning, Nick Klempp, Art Ingram, Dick Rossell, Andy Potter and Tony Engleberg.

Village takes care of water works business

Holly tower inspection; new $22,360 pump approved by council

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

The Holly Village Council recently voted to spend $5,500 to have the three elevated water storage towers inspected.

According to Village Manager Jerry Walker, the towers hold about 875,000 gallons of water.

“It is a state requirement that we have them inspected,” said Walker at the council’s meeting in October. “Dixon Engineering, a company in Michigan that performs those inspections, this is a specialized field. They are the single source in the area.”

Council members also approved the purchase of a submersible pump in the Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP).

This, according to Walker was a budgeted item, approved by the council during this year’s budget cycle.

“The WWTP currently has three submersible pumps used in the trickling filter process,” Walker told the council. “During the past nine years, the village has spent approximately $19,787 for repairs, so while they have an age span, it is costly the longer you keep them.”

The pump recommended by WWTP Director Tim Stallcup is a Flygt Pump from Kennedy Industries in Wixom for $22,360.

Due to increased efficiency, the new pump is expected to produce up to 25 percent in energy savings. The existing pump is in the process of being repaired because having a back-up is required.

The council approved both expenditures.

Summary

The Holly Village Council voted in October to approve spending $5,500 to have water storage towers inspected, and $22,360 for a new submersible pump for the Waste Water Treatment Plant.
At Linden Community Schools, students who may need additional help with reading are identified in kindergarten. They are given more time to learn to read to make sure they are up to speed.

READING
Continued from Page 3
fortunate because we do have parents who will make sure their kids are here. Parents are very involved and do what’s best for their child.”

With this new bill, parents would no longer have the final say on retaining their child. However, students could receive a “smart promotion” and take fourth-grade classes, like math and science, if they prove to be proficient in those subjects.

“I have no idea how that would work. Reading is such a huge component and with them not reading at the third-grade level, how could they possibly read fourth-grade level,” Nicoll said. She questioned if students would sit in a third-grade classroom during reading time, in which case third-grade teachers would handle.

“A lot of the pressure will rely on second- and third-grade teachers,” she said. “Second-grade teachers will have to tell parents. Third-grade teachers will have to deliver the final blow.

“My major concern is psychological with retaining these students. What’s that going to do to them in the future and to their self esteem,” Nicoll said.

The bill has been referred to the Michigan Committee on Education and will go to the Senate.

TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO
Carpenter Mike Hermanson cuts wood for a hidden gutter system they are assembling. This work is being done at the new Trinity Lutheran Church site on Main Street in Fenton.

TRINITY
Continued from Front Page
what church members had originally hoped, as builders faced the foreclosure of the business that was to supply the 18 to 20 laminated beams that support the entire structure.

“There’s always trials and tribulations when you’re building a project of this size,” said Price. “That could have put a real crimp in our time frame, but a competitor bought their customer list. We ended up only a month behind schedule, compared to months behind that we could’ve been.”

Right now, the roof is being put on and the gable facing Main Street is going up. “We couldn’t do that part of the project until the beams were up,” said Price.

People driving by the church will see the exterior of the north section almost complete, including the church offices, narthex and social hall. “Next, they’ll be completing work on the sanctuary, get the roof on and work on the interior,” said Price.

Inside finished carpentry work will continue during the winter. The construction manager for the project is Frank Rewold & Son Construction Management Inc. of Rochester.

Phase Two of the project will include a wing for Sunday School classrooms and Phase Three will include the Trinity Center, an activities building with soccer and softball field potential. The entire scope of the project will be complete within five to seven years.

The current church location at 806 Main Street is for sale and has been in negotiation with a potential buyer over the weekend. “The sale has reached an impasse,” said Price. “There’s nothing new to report at this point.”

TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

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![Image of World War II veteran Jerry Rice](https://example.com/image)

**TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SALLY RUMMEL**

World War II veteran Jerry Rice stands outside of his Fenton Township home.

**VETERAN**

Continued from Front Page clear,” said Rice, 90, from his Fenton Township living room. “Kids were dropping out of school to enlist. My dad wouldn’t sign for my enlistment because he wanted me to graduate (from high school) first. My papers arrived just after my 18th birthday.”

That decision may have kept Rice out of the front lines of combat in the Army infantry.

Finishing high school, he had taken an elective class in radio technology, so his Army orders sent him to radio school, then radar school, where he was trained to operate and repair systems.

When he got his orders while stationed in Salt Lake City, Rice had to turn in his winter clothes for a summer uniform. “That sure lets you know what part of the world you’re going to,” said Rice. He spent two years in the Army during World War II, most of it in the Pacific Theater on the islands of New Guinea and the Philippines.

“After 31 days on a ship headed out to sea from San Francisco, we finally saw approaching land,” recalled Rice, in a journal of family history he is writing. “I would’ve welcomed a new executive director this fall.”

Andrea Silvis, 33, joined the Chamber team in September and has hit the ground running trying to build relationships with local businesses.

Prior to accepting the executive director position, Silvis worked for Holly Vision Source, a job she continues to do one day a week on Fridays. She has been a chamber member for over a year and is a member of the chamber’s Board of Directors.

“I served as chamber president for just over six months before taking the position of executive director,” Silvis said. “I am excited for the upcoming events and changes that will be happening within the chamber.”

Silvis said because Holly is a smaller community, establishing relationships with local business is important to help the chamber grow. By growing the chamber, the community grows as well, she said.

“I am very excited about this new chamber director”

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

The Holly Area Chamber of Commerce welcomed a new executive director this fall.

Andrea Silvis joined the Chamber team in September and has hit the ground running trying to build relationships with local businesses.

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“Holly welcomes new chamber director”

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**TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SALLY RUMMEL**

World War II veteran Jerry Rice stands outside of his Fenton Township home.

**Army Corporal Jerry Rice is pictured here in 1943 at age 18.**

**The New Guinea jungle is awful, with bugs and snakes flourishing.**

Jerry Rice
World War II veteran

Half of New Guinea with many scattered in the jungle, which meant constant guard and surveillance.

“Army Corporal Jerry Rice is pictured here in 1943 at age 18. Half of New Guinea with many scattered in the jungle, which meant constant guard and surveillance. The worst fear was at night,” said Rice. “The Japs that were left liked to come out and shoot you. The New Guinea jungle is awful, with bugs and snakes flourishing. Taking new radios to the front is always a bad situation, but it didn’t happen very often.”

With a Japanese defeat on the island and New Guinea in the hands of the Allied forces, Rice and his comrades flew to the Philippines, where the war was still raging.

“This was the only place I came close to being killed,” said Rice. “A group of our radio men were sitting on the ground near our tents. I had my Army knife out pecking at the ground. I hit something metallic and dug deep enough to pull it out. It was a bad Japanese mortar round. If it had gone off I would be gone, with several other fellows.”

Rice’s brothers were also fighting in the war. Ted was fighting Germans in Europe and Rob was somewhere in the Pacific aboard a Navy LST (Landing Ship Tanks). Jerry Rice always checked landing areas for LST 570, his brother’s ship.

While serving at Subic Bay in the Philippines, he did notice the third LST coming into shore on the horizon and it was 570. He paddled out into the ocean to get closer to his brother, not realizing the immensity of an ocean-going vessel. “I yelled, ‘Get Rob Rice!’ and in minutes, there was my brother. I had to be careful not to fall into the sea, I was so excited.” Rice paddled an officer if he could go on the 570 to his new location in Okinawa, Japan, so for the next three weeks, he lived with his brother, donned Navy clothing and was a guest of honor while in their company.

“The trip was not fun,” said Rice. “Halfway, the ship hit a typhoon in the China Sea. I was so sick I would’ve welcomed death.”

Instead of Okinawa, the ship went to a small island west, called Ie Shima. “Most of my work there was with airplane radios and bomber radar,” said Rice. “It wasn’t long and the war ended. Just like that, it was over.”

Rice was grateful his brothers also made it back home to Michigan safely, “although many of my buddies didn’t,” said Rice.

After taking engineering classes at Lawrence Technological University, Rice ended up with a career at Ford Motor Company that lasted 31 years. Meanwhile, he had met his future wife, Edith, and in April, they will celebrate their 68th wedding anniversary. The couple has two daughters and six grandchildren.

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<th>Tri County Times</th>
<th>Sally Rummel</th>
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<td>World War II veteran Jerry Rice stands outside of his Fenton Township home.</td>
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Stephanie Sharp Foster, Manager
(810) 735-7833

**TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SALLY RUMMEL**

(East) Rice has written his family history, including every detail of his World War II memories, into a journal. (Right) Rice points out the islands of New Guinea and the Philippines, where he spent his two years fighting in the Pacific Theater.
MICHIGAN VOTES
WHAT YOUR LEGISLATORS VOTED ON RECENTLY

MichiganVotes.org is a free, non-partisan website created by the Mackinac Center for Public Policy to provide concise, non-partisan, plain-English descriptions of every bill and vote in the Michigan House and Senate. With one click, you can approve or disapprove of key votes by your legislators using the VoteSaver smart phone app. This report was released Friday, Nov. 6.

Senate Bill 510: Restrict commercial use of student data
To prohibit a website, online service or app designed for K–12 school purposes to sell, share or use for targeted advertising any information in a student’s educational record, including details that would allow contact, discipline records, test results, special education data, grades, results, special education data, juvenile dependency records, grades, results, special education data, juvenile dependency records, grades, results, special education data.

Passed 38 to 0 in the Senate
Sen. Dan Robertson (R-Dist. 14) • YES
Sen. Mike Kowall (R-Dist. 15) • YES
Sen. Joe Hune (R-Dist. 22) • YES
Sen. Jim Ananich (D-Dist. 27) • YES
Sen. Ken Horn (R-Dist. 32) • YES

House Bill 4390: Allow financial literacy as high school economics credit
To allow a financial literacy or “personal economics” course to be substituted for the one-half credit economics course required under state high school graduation standards.

Passed 38 to 0 in the Senate
Sen. Dan Robertson (R-Dist. 14) • YES
Sen. Mike Kowall (R-Dist. 15) • YES
Sen. Joe Hune (R-Dist. 22) • YES
Sen. Jim Ananich (D-Dist. 27) • YES
Sen. Ken Horn (R-Dist. 32) • YES

House Bill 4736: Increase vehicle registration tax
To concur with the Senate-passed version of this bill, which increases the annual vehicle registration (license plate) tax by 20 percent per vehicle, and imposes a surtax on electric and alternative fuel vehicles.

Passed 54 to 53 in the House
Rep. Hank Vaupel (R-Dist. 47) • NO
Rep. Joe Graves (R-Argendale Twp.) • YES

House Bill 4738: Increase gas and diesel tax
To concur with the Senate-passed version of this bill, which increases the current 19 cents per gallon state gasoline tax and 15-cent diesel tax to 26.3 cents per gallon starting in 2017.

Note: The House previously approved a $200 million fuel tax hike and a $400 million vehicle registration tax hike. The Senate “flipped” those numbers, a change the House accepted with the concurrent vote. These votes also send the final road-funding package to the Governor, who has indicated he will sign the bill.

Passed 52 to 52 in the House
Rep. Hank Vaupel (R-Dist. 47) • NO
Rep. Joe Graves (R-Argendale Twp.) • YES

DOG PARK
Continued from Front Page
Kris Johns and his wife, Vanessa Ferguson, who helped plan the Grand Blanc Dog Park, have been helping Fenton Township Clerk Bob Krug and the Township Board plan the park.

“Bob (Krug) has a vision for this park. I’m more than willing to offer my assistance with things that we learned doing the Grand Blanc Park,” Johns said. “We love our dog, we love dogs in general. We want to see more amenities for dogs in the area. This is a community effort. We live in this community, we’d like to see more things here.”

The dog park portion of the park is a privately funded project. Johns is estimating the dog park will cost around $25,000, and he doesn’t see any problem raising the money. ‘They’re planning fundraisers in the coming months, and people can donate at youcaring.com.”

They’re aiming to have the park completed sometime next summer.

The Fenton Township Board of Trustees unanimously voted to approve the park at its Oct. 5 meeting. The area will be handicap accessible, with hardtop surfaces for parking and a path.

“We thought joggers and cross country skiers could use it,” Krug said. The dog park was just an idea three years ago, but Krug ran into problems and the plans were postponed. “This is step one of the dream I’ve always had. In almost every community, they need places to play soccer, baseball. It’ll be great to be able to come and turn your kids loose,” Krug said.

When asked how excited he is over the park coming to fruition after three years, he said “On a scale of one to 10, 14. I’m very excited. It’s a dream that is starting to develop.”

FLAGS
Continued from Front Page
A member of the cemetery board said the township board refuses to place flags at veterans’ graves.

Linda Dagenhardt, a Rose Township resident and member of the Rose Township Cemetery Board, said, “The Rose Township Board refuses to place flags at veterans’ graves in their three township cemeteries.”

Dagenhardt said four of the township’s five board members, including Supervisor Paul Gambka, Treasurer Trish Trevethan, and trustees Dianne Schieb-Snider and Tom Kemp, pressured their patriotism at the Sept. 9 meeting, “but do not think it is necessary to honor our veterans by placing the flags in the flag holders because ‘we don’t have to,’ and ‘the law does not state when they have to be placed.’

‘Board member, Debbie Miller, the township clerk supports placing the flags on veterans’ graves,” said Dagenhardt. ‘The flags are at the township office, the flag holders were all previously installed. Money is not the issue. All other Oakland County cemeteries honor their veterans.”

Dagenhardt said at the July, August and September Rose Township Board meetings, requests were made to place the flags.

“People volunteered at each meeting to place flags,” she said. “Each time, the same board members refused the request.”

On the Fourth of July, six small flags were stuck in the chain link fence at Rose Center Cemetery, Dagenhardt said. “This does not honor, distinguish or memorialize our veterans,” she added.

Dagenhardt asks why an elected official would refuse to honor deceased veterans. She calls it “a total lack of respect toward veterans, their families, the township and its citizens.”

Gambka said the township has always placed flags at veterans’ graves on Memorial Day and Veterans’ Day. He said the issue is people who want flags placed at other times during the year.

According to the minutes of the Sept. 9, Rose Township Board meeting, Scheib-Snider said she researched this issue and “appreciates those who serve and have served our country.”

Scheib-Snider said she also spoke with the MTA (Michigan Townships Association) and was informed there are no required flag display times, that municipalities need to clarify guidelines. She requested this matter be placed on a future agenda.

The Sept. 9 minutes also say the Cemetery Committee met and this issue has been sent to the township attorney for ordinance decicion. Gambka said Rose Township’s state senator (Mike Kowall) on veteran protocol.

Clerk Debbie Miller said any time the board considers an ordinance amendment, the attorney needs to give his blessing.

“There is no financial implication for putting flags out,” she said.

Gambka said Monday that the reason an ordinance amendment is being considered is because of the other days of the year residents request flags to be placed on veterans’ graves.

The next Rose Township Board of Trustees meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 11, starting at 7:30 p.m. in the township hall, 9080 Mason Street (Rose Center), Holly.

Three cemeteries
There are three cemeteries owned by Rose Township. They are:
• Beebe Cemetery (at southwest corner of Fish Lake and Rose Center roads)
• Brookins Cemetery (south Fenton Road, one quarter mile west of Fish Lake Road)
• Rose Center Cemetery (Milford Road. One-half mile south of Rose Center)
SHOOTING
Continued from Front Page

Argentine Township School Resource Officer Paul Brooks regarding the planned threat, Chief Daniel Allen forwarded the information to the FBI.

Officers from the Argentine Township Police Department, Michigan State Police and the FBI agents worked quickly and took immediate steps to secure the safety of students, staff and the public, and began an investigation into the matter.

As a result of the investigation, three suspects were identified and information was obtained concerning a related purchase of firearms and evidence of certain targets of the alleged plan. Allen said he could not comment on the type and quantity of firearms or whether any were recovered.

The reports were presented to Genesee County Prosecutor David Leyton and he authorized felony charges against three males that included an 18-year-old and two 15-year-olds, each of whom are charged as adults.

The suspects are Ryan William Stevens, 18, of Linden, Llama Michael Dukes, 15, of West Bloomfield and Cody Anthony Brewer, 15, of Wolverine Lake. Each of the teens have been charged with conspiracy to commit first-degree premeditated murder, a felony punishable by up to life in prison and false report or threat of terrorism, a felony punishable by up to 20 years in prison.

The connection between the three suspects has not yet been revealed. Allen said they were in contact with the local police near Wolverine Lake who located and apprehended Dukes at his school. The local police located and apprehended Brewer. Argentine Township De. Doug Fulton and Brooks located and apprehended Stevens in Linden.

Stevens remains lodged at the Genesee County Jail. Because of their ages, Dukes and Brewer are lodged at the Genesee Regional Detention Center in Flint.

Interim Superintendent Russ Ciesielski said, “After becoming aware of the information, we worked with law enforcement and within our district’s emergency procedures to secure the safety of our students and staff.”

When asked why the parents are so concerned and he acknowledged that he should have sent out a letter earlier to let parents know that police had the situation under control and that students and staff were safe.

The school district has emergency procedures in place and Ciesielski said parents are thankful for those procedures. Based on the protocol that they have been trained to follow, “I stand behind that,” he said.

Ciesielski said things are settling down and the school resource officers continue to have a presence at the buildings, just as they have been doing, which he said “have a very good relationship with the police department.”

Allen said there are additional aspects to this case which are still being investigated. They are still gathering reports and contacting other law enforcement agencies. Additional charges are pending.

VETERANS DAY

Today is Veterans Day and all of us should recognize and remember those who served our country, both in times of peace and war.

The origin of Veterans Day as a day of remembrance is traced back to the end of World War I when the fighting between the Allies and Germany stopped in 1918 and an armistice was declared on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month.

Initially we called today ‘Armistice Day,’ but in view of subsequent wars and history the name was changed to Veterans Day in 1954.

There are many stories about what this day means and how it is observed, and today I would like to exercise writer’s privilege and share with you a personal story about my father.

My Dad was a 2nd Lieutenant in the United States Army Air Corps and was a B-17 co-pilot stationed at Bassingbourn Air Base in England with the 91st Bomb Group. He flew 20 combat missions from February 1945 through the end of the war.

As it turned out, he actually flew two additional missions after the war in May 1945 as a volunteer pilot to pick up prisoners of war from Stalag Luft I in Barth Germany. This was a P.O.W. camp that had almost 9,000 allied airmen (American and Royal Air Force) imprisoned by Germany.

His mission was to transport two airplane loads of British P.O.W.s back to Bassingbourn. He accomplished his mission and I will never forget when he recounted the story that all of the RAF Airmen literally kissed the ground when they left the plane.

A further footnote is that after the war, my Dad learned that his brother’s best friend was also a P.O.W. at that same camp.

Today is the day to say thank you to our veterans. If you see one, I’d say “I stand behind that,” and you could add more, but I won’t.

Ciesielski said things are settling down and the school resource officers continue to have a presence at the buildings, just as they have been doing, which he said “have a very good relationship with the police department.”

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Six tri-county runners earn All-State honors

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

There were six all-state runners, with one finishing third in her race. There also were two top 10 teams, including one squad finishing fourth place overall.

That would qualify as a pretty good day for the tri-county area at the state cross country championships held at Michigan International Speedway on Saturday.

Three tri-county teams competed at the event, with Linden’s girls placing fourth in the Division 2 event and with three All-State runners. Meanwhile, the Fenton boys were another top performing squad, placing ninth in the Division 1 race and recording three All-State runners themselves. The Linden varsity boys made their 10th straight appearance at the state meet, placing 16th. Lake Fenton and Holly schools also had individual runners competing in events.

The area’s top performers were the Linden Lady Eagles, and specifically Linden runner Alia Frederick. Frederick placed third overall in the D2 race, helping lead Linden to the fourth-place team finish with 205 points.

The Lady Eagles finished just six points out of third place. The Lady Eagles had two other runners place in the top 30, therefore all three earning All-State honors. They were freshman Audrey Steeiert in 20th (18:59.6) and senior Tay.

On 12

Blue Devils, Eagles fall in district title contests

By David Troppens
droppens@tctimes.com

The Linden and Lake Fenton varsity football teams ran into two strong state power private school teams in the playoffs, and saw their seasons end on Friday night.

Linden lost to D3 power Orchard Lake St. Mary’s by a 55-14 score, while Lake Fenton fell to D4 power Flint Powers Catholic by a 55-14 score, with Lake Fenton’s Brandon Muma (left) tries to break a tackle during the Tigers’ 41-14 loss to Midland Dow on Friday.

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See TOP 10 on 12

Tigers struggle vs. Dow

Mann leads Chargers to 41-14 playoff victory

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

Fenton — Midland Dow was always going to be a tough test for the Fenton varsity football team in its Division 2 District championship contest at Fenton High School Friday.

The Chargers ended up being a test nearly impossible to pass, as Midland Dow left Fenton High School with a 41-14 victory.

The biggest key was Dow quarterback Bruce Mann. Mann completed 17-of-30 passes for 233 yards and five TDs. Those five touchdown passes went to four different receivers, and four came in the first half, leading the Chargers to a 28-7 halftime lead. The Tigers (9-2) valiantly tried to compete with the Chargers in the second half, but the first-half damage was too great, resulting in the loss. The squad also emphasized some of their issues for the reason of the loss. There were some missed tackles that resulted in big Dow pass plays, some turnovers and a blocked punt. Those things also helped lead Dow to the win.

“Like I tell the kids there is going to be one team in Division 2 that ends their year that didn’t lose,” Fenton coach Jeff Setzke said. “It’s unfortunate. You hope you play your best game and if it’s not good enough, that’s fine. But we left some things on the field tonight. But on the same token, it’s been a great year. We lost two games this year, finished 9-2. We did a lot of great things with a really young offense. We won a lot of big games down the stretch. We just didn’t win the one we wanted and that one was tonight. But that happens, unfortunately.”

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See TIGERS on 12

Linden girls, Fenton boys finish in top 10

Six tri-county runners earn All-State honors

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By David Troppens
dtroppens@cttimes.com

Complete domination may be the way to describe the Fenton varsity girls swim team’s 12th straight Metro League crown.

The Tigers capped their Metro season by taking first in all but one event at the Metro League Meet, allowing them to record 730.5 points en route to the outright title in 2015. Holly finished third at the meet, and also had an individual league champion.

“This team was a perfect mix,” Fenton varsity swim coach Brad Jones said. “We had tremendous leadership from our seniors, the best freshman class I have had in my 16 years at Fenton and tremendous depth and talent from our middle. I couldn’t have asked for more.”

Cameron Mathews and Elise Cassidy finished the meet as four-event champions, taking part in two relays and two individual events each. Individually, Mathews won the 200 individual medley (2:28.08) and the 500 freestyle (5:44.06). She also teamed with Brianna Costigan, Maddie Hall and Sabrina Hall to win the 200 freestyle relay (1:45.89) and with Grace Siefker, Costigan and Cassidy to win the 400 freestyle relay (3:38.62). Cassidy broke a Brandon pool record, winning the 100 backstroke (1:02.11), while also winning the 100 freestyle (55.91). She also teamed with Lauren Gruver, Caitlyn Dailey and Siefker to win the 200 medley relay (1:57.96).

Four other Tigers won one title. Diver Taylor Shemos broke a meet, pool and school record by winning diving with a score of 460.55. Dailey won the 100 butterfly (1:05.69), while Costigan took the top spot in the 50 freestyle (25.80). Finally, Emma Cagle won the day’s first individual final, taking the top spot in the 200 freestyle (2:08.39).

Holly’s Kelly Sky won the final event title, taking the top spot in the 100 breaststroke (1:21.29).

Fenton had five individual runner-up performances. They were earned by Danielle Rushton in the 200 individual medley (2:31.78), Siefker in the 50 freestyle (26.01), McKenzie Mead in the 100 butterfly (1:07.51), Costigan in the 100 freestyle (56.17) and Cagle in the 500 freestyle (5:46.17).

The deeper into the placings one goes, the more one understands how deep the ‘Tigers were. Fenton also had three third-place performers in individual events. Two of them completed 1-2-3 Fenton sweeps in the event. The first one came in the 200 individual medley where Rylie Becker placed third (2:36.55) behind Mathews and Rushton. The other happened in the 100 freestyle, where Siefker (58.09) finished third behind Cassidy and Costigan. The other Fenton third was recorded by Dailey in the 100 backstroke (1:06.20). The Bronchos also had a performer finish in third place. It came in the Bronchos’ best event. Allie Spiercy took third in the 100 breaststroke (1:24.06).

Jones is proud of his squad and its performance.

“This team stands out because of the chemistry they have,” Jones said. “It is a very special group.”

Fenton competed at a last chance meet to make state-qualifying times at Ann Arbor Hurons on Tuesday. The state meet begins on Nov. 20 at Oakland University.

Fenton’s varsity girls swimming and diving team celebrate the squad’s 12 straight Flint Metro League crown just moments after winning the Metro League’s final meet on Saturday at Brandon High School.
TOP 10
Continued from Page 10
lor Ganger in 30th (19:08.9).
“We had a record-setting day at MIS,” Linden girls cross country coach Teresa Wright said. “This was the first time in the history of the Linden girls cross country program there were three All-State performances at the state finals.
“It was a valiant team effort by all seven girls, finishing only six points out of third place. We also closed the gap on the second-place team as well. I could see the complete exhaustion by all seven as they crossed the finish line. I knew right then and there they had left nothing behind as they passed the final clock.
“Our team finished fourth out of 27 teams so that was pretty good,” Frederick said. “We had three girls get all-state which is the most our coach has ever gotten. Overall, I think we did very good. Most of us placed in front of where we were projected to place.”
Frederick, a junior, ran around third or fourth most of the race, finishing third with a time of 18:30.6. It was the highest placing by a Linden girls runner in state meet history.
“The guys ran great,” Fenton coach Jesse Anderson said. “I like to think of a good race as relatively unspectacular in that you just execute your fitness smartly in an even effort – but these guys made it spectacular. … I’m happy with the whole team’s day.”
The rest of team’s runners were Luke Chabot in 149th (16:50.2), Nolan Day in 215th (17:27.5) and Sam Strickhouser in 231st (17:47.4).
The Linden boys’ team’s 10 years of consecutive state trips saw them finish in 16th. The Eagles’ runners were: Jack Eck in 88th (16:54.5), Nick McDonalld in 102nd (16:58.4), Chase Morse in 144th (17:23.5), Katrina Griffith in 152nd (17:26.8), Ryan Crutchfield in 155th (17:28.0), Tanner Blaney in 157th (17:28.9) and Skyler Zieske in 198th (17:57.2).
The top area runner in the D2 boys race was Lake Fenton’s Thomas Mueller. The senior finished 50th (16:38.6). Lake Fenton’s Alexcis Cash and Lydia Horski also competed in the girls D2 race, with Cash finishing 143rd (20:29.6) and Horski finishing 234th (23:09.7).
Holly’s cross country programs also had individuals at the state meet, competing in the D1 event. Dilon Lemond finished 40th (16:05.0) in the boys race, while Lauren Hackett (19:35.0) finished 105th in the girls race.

TIGERS
Continued from Page 10
TD pass from Mann to Mike Robb. Then, after Fenton was forced to punt after just three offensive plays, Dow put together its second TD drive on its second possession. The Chargers converted two fourth-down plays before eventually scoring on a 14-yard TD pass to Justin Cook. Fenton’s Matt Myers actually deflected the pass, but the ball still found a way to Cook’s arms. Fenton trailed 14-0.

The Tigers’ offense responded on their next possession. Dow tried an onside kick, but Fenton recovered at its own 48. It took Fenton nine plays to drive the 48 yards for its first TD, a tough three-yard run by Dylan Crankshaw on the right side of the Fenton line. A big play during the drive was a 19-yard completion from punter Troy Smigieliski to Myers, converting a fourth-and-11 scenario. Chris York made the extra-point and Fenton trailed 14-7 with 1:03 left in the half.

An interception by Robb on the Fenton 13 during the Tigers first possession of the second half set up Dow’s next score. Two plays later, Johnny Wilson scored on a two-yard plunge. Fenton trailed 35-7 with 10:57 left in the third quarter.

Fenton’s next possession stalled at the Dow 1 when Crankshaw was held to a loss of one yard on a rush on fourth down, but the Tigers got another chance to score after the Fenton defense forced a Dow punt. This time, Fenton scored on a four-yard TD run by Shane Kolinski. Fenton trailed 35-14 with 1:50 left in the third quarter. However, that’s as close as Fenton got. Dow scored the only TD of the fourth quarter on a screen pass to Wilson, who rambled 22 yards for the score, setting up the final 41-14 score.

The Tigers were proud of what they accomplished. The senior class finished with four Metro League crowns and never lost a Metro contest when they were at the freshman, JV or varsity level.

“We’ve accomplished so many things,” senior Chase Lynch said. “We started 0-1, finally got the connection right, got the right people on the field. Then we came together into one family and became the team to dominate. Unfortunately, (the season) ended too early.”

“It didn’t end the way we wanted it to, but we still had a lot of good things happen,” senior Kobe Lookbill said. “We beat Linden. We beat Holly, twice. We still own the Metro. Our class was 32-0 against Metro teams.”

Dow finished with 318 yards total offense on 54 plays, while Fenton had just 254 on 64 plays. Crankshaw had 86 rushing yards on 22 carries, while Czar- nota completed 8-of-21 passes for 89 yards.

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Friday, November 13th

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**Help Wanted**

**DENTAL ASSISTANT NEEDED**

Is your priority helping patients achieve a healthy smile? Then Dr. Rachor & Associates needs you! We are seeking an energetic, experienced, caring assistant to join our growing patient-centered practice. Email resume to jamesrachor@dentalwhiterights.org.

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openings for full time and part-time in several locations. Will train, up to $9.25 once trained. Benefits! Call 248-887-9863.

**ROUGH FRAMING CARPENTER**

wanted full-time. Hand working, motivated, must have own small tools and transportation. Must be able to do roof work, all year round work with plenty in the future, fair pay. Call Tim 810-348-4904.

**TRAVEL CONSULTANT**

Immediate positions available in Fenton. Agency experience required. Sabre and Client-base needed. Excellent opportunity for agents wanting to succeed in the travel industry. Email resume and cover letter with destinations traveled to: john@superiortrvl.com.

**SIGN UP**

for Text blasts to receive local help wanted listings. Text JOBS to 810-475-2030.

**ALL ADVERTISEMENTS PUBLISHED IN THE TRI-COUNTY TIMES** are subject to approval before publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time.

**Help Wanted**

**LIGHT HOUSEKEEPING or cleaning.**

Call Judy 810-221-9445.

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Times

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Times
**HOROSCOPE**

**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19)
This year, instead of jumping into the whole holiday prep scene, move in a little at a time. You’ll appreciate the sense of control you’re more likely to enjoy.

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20)
The separation between the Bo-vine’s head and heart is never as far apart as it seems. Both senses work best when they come out of logic and honesty.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20)
The best way to keep those pre-holiday pressures under control is to just say no to taking on new tasks while you’re still trying to work with a heap of others.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22)
News means a change might be on its way, but what does it hold? Don’t just ask questions; make sure you get answers you can trust.

**LEO** (July 23 to August 22)
Old friends and new have one thing in common: Both your longtime and newly minted pals have much wisdom to impart.

**VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22)
With time running out, this is a good time for you to show ‘em all what those Virgo super-organizational skills can do.

**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22)
Librans and holidays are made for each other, especially if children and animals are going to be part of your joyous season.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21)
Time is getting too short to allow a spat to taint the holiday season. Restart your relationship and reschedule holiday fun times.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21)
Seeking advice is laudable. You might learn far more than you thought you could. Stay with it.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19)
Continuing to assess changes works toward your getting your new project up and ready. Trusted colleagues remain ready to help.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18)
That new situation needs a lot of attention, but it’s worth it. This is a very good time for you to involve the arts in what you do.

**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20)
It might be a good idea to slow your hectic holiday pace so that you don’t rush past what -- or who -- you’re hoping to rush toward.

**CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

**ACROSS**
1. Colorado ski mecca
6. Aries
9. Bookkeeper (Abbr.)
12. Camel’s cousin
14. Chance
15. Hammerstein’s contribution
16. Decorative floor
18. Knapsack parts
20. Kazakhstan river
21. Buddhist sect
23. Lamb’s dam
24. Minimal change
25. Writer Kingsley
27. Rice, on a Mexican menu
29. Minnesotan
31. Fleed to wed
35. Heat
37. Appellation
38. Miss USA adornment
41. Neighbor of Ukr.
43. Abridge
44. Con
45. Off-repeated word
47. Layered dessert
49. Carnival

**DOWN**
1. Every iota
2. Crafty
3. Carrot’s cousin
4. Send forth
5. Mother-of-pearl
6. 50 Cent, e.g.
7. “Sad to say…”
8. Bygone space
9. station
10. Make butter
11. Song of joy
12. As deemed fit
13. — City (former Philippine capital)
14. Trophy, for one
15. Sharp turn
16. Comedian Philips
17. D.C. type
18. “Doctor Zhivago” star
19. Same old story?
20. Detergent brand
21. Baffling
22. Contradiction
23. Flightless bird
24. Society newcomer
25. Demos-thenes, for one
26. Spanish appetizers
27. Foolish
28. Places in the heart
29. Malt shop item
30. Actress Sorvino
31. Latvia’s capital
32. Gorilla
33. Prior to
34. Blue

**DVD RELEASES**

**TRAINWRECK**
A raunchy yet heartfelt comedy from director Judd Apatow about Amy (Amy Schumer), a commitment-phobic binge drinker living in New York City, who must reevaluate her feelings about intimate relationships when a sports doctor pursues a romance with her. R, 2 hr. 2 min.

**TERMINATOR GENISYS**
When John Connor, leader of the human resistance against Skynet, sends Kyle Reese back to 1984 to protect his mother, Sarah, from a Terminator assassin, an unexpected turn of events creates an altered timeline. Instead of a scared waitress, Sarah is a skilled fighter and has a Terminator guardian by her side. PG-13, 1 hr. 59 min.

(Audience score on rottentomatoes.com) 73% liked it
(Audience score on rottentomatoes.com) 57% liked it
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