El Niño effects could last the entire winter

Warm winter means lower lake levels

By Vera Hogan
vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

At this time last year, lakes were frozen, ice fishermen were out, and snow covered everything.

This year is very different. El Niño, a complex weather pattern that describes the fluctuations in temperature between the ocean and atmosphere in the Eastern Pacific, has delayed the cold temperatures and snow this winter causing temperatures too warm for any Michigan lakes to freeze over.

Because of El Niño, the See LAKE LEVELS on 2

‘These are the droids you’re looking for’

Flushing man builds realistic Star Wars droids in rewarding, unique hobby

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

Flushing Twp. — Kurt Zimmerman, 60, was a fan of the beloved Star Wars droid R2-D2, before he was a fan of the Star Wars movie itself. He saw the movie when he was 22 and thought, “that’s really cool, and it’d be really neat to have one.”

Five years ago, he completed a fully functioning radio-controlled droid. On Monday, as his picture was taken in his workshop, R2-D2 chattered away in the other room. He also built “Chopper” the droid from the “Rebels” animated series, and BB-8, from the new movie. His R2-D2 doesn’t stay confined to the meticulously kept backyard garage — R2-D2 has been on the center court of a Pistons game, hockey games, and his robot has been used in much the same way as therapy pets have, at schools and children’s hospitals.

“There’s kids there that don’t have a lot to smile about — but just to bring a little bit of a happy event to a kid’s day, it just blows you away.”

See DROIDS on 5

Dollar General store coming to Linden

Planning Commission approves preliminary plans for a 9,000-square-foot store

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

A preliminary site plan for a freestanding Dollar General was approved by the Linden Planning Commission. Mike McPhersan, an engineer from Atwell

See DOLLAR GENERAL on 5

Powerball jackpot soars to $450 million

Don’t miss out — you’ll have until 9:30 p.m. tonight to buy your winning ticket

By Vera Hogan
vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Tonight’s Powerball jackpot is expected to climb or even exceed $450 million, one of the largest prizes in the game’s history.

This after no one’s ticket matched the winning numbers in the Saturday, Jan. 2 game. One person took home $2 million and three others took home $1 million each in that drawing.

Saturday’s winning numbers were 5-6-15-29-42 and the Powerball number was 10.

If the $450 million or higher prize holds true for tonight, a one-time cash prize will be worth $244 million or more, according to the Powerball website.

Players have a roughly one in 292 million chance of selecting the jackpot-winning numbers, according to Powerball.

But as the saying goes, “you gotta be in it to win it.”

The last time a Powerball jackpot reached this high was in February of last year, when three winning tickets split a grand prize of $564 million. The top prize in the game’s history — $590.5 million — was won in May 2013.

See POWERBALL on 6

Water/sewer tap payments trickling in slowly

Holly Village leaders work toward solution to developer’s default

By Vera Hogan
vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795

A little at a time” seems to be the pace at which the village of Holly is getting monies owed by Silverman Properties.

The money is due after the village won a consent judgment against developer Silverman for unused water tap-ins. This led to village residents paying a bond debt fee regardless of how much water they use. The bond debt was incurred by the newly constructed $18 million water plant and extending water service to a subdivision (Pulte homes) that was not completed.

See TAP on 7

TRI-COUNTY TIMES TIM JAGIELO

Kurt Zimmerman poses with his hand-built droids Monday in front of a backdrop he takes to comic conventions. His R2-D2 cost about $2,700 to build, the BB-8, $1,800 and “Chopper” $2,000.

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“This has been a heavy burden on the users of the water/sewer system but it is working its way toward resolution.”

Jerry Walker
Holly Village manager

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Mark your calendar for upcoming events

From bridal shows to boat shows, the winter months are full of special shows/expos

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

Whether you’re a bride, boater, home remodeler or fly fisherman, there’s an event coming up in the next few months to whet your appetite for the excitement to come.

Michigan is home to hundreds of events that cater to these special interests, and many of them are held during the cold winter months when it’s more enjoyable to be indoors.

Here are a few upcoming dates you may want to mark on your calendar:

COMMUNITY EXPO
- March 5-6: Fenton Community Expo, Fenton High School.

BRIDAL SHOWS
- Jan. 9: Zehnder’s Bridal Extravaganza in Frankenmuth.
- Jan. 10: The Bridal Show at Holiday Inn Gateway Center in Flint.
- Jan. 16-17: Novi Bridal Show at the Suburban Collection Showplace.
- Feb. 21: Bridal University at Ford Field in downtown Detroit.

For a complete list of bridal shows in Michigan, visit www.michiganweddingsavin.com.

BOAT SHOWS
- Jan. 15-17: Lansing Boat Show, Lansing Center.

FISHING/OUTDOOR SHOWS
- Jan. 7-10: Ultimate Fishing Show, Suburban Collection Showplace, Novi.
- March 11-13: Fishing & Outdoor Show, Birch Run Expo Center.
- March 12-13: Midwest Fish Fishing Expo, Macon Community College Sports & Expo Center, Warren.

CAMPER/RV SHOWS
- Feb. 10-14: Camper & RV Show, Suburban Collection Showplace, Novi.
- March 17-20: Camper & RV Show, Dort Federal Credit Union Event Center (formerly Perani Arena), Flint.

HOME SHOWS
- Jan. 29-31: Novi Home Improvement Show, Suburban Collection Showplace.
- Late March (date to be announced): Spring Home & Garden Show, Dort Federal Credit Union Event Center (formerly Perani Arena), Flint.
- April 1-3: Novi Home & Garden Show, Suburban Collection Showplace.

GOLF
- March 4-6: Michigan Golf Show, Suburban Collection Showplace, Novi.

Chip Treatout with White’s Landing assists Keith Skotzky in preparing a $70,000 Supreme towboat for a past boat show.

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LAKE LEVELS
Continued from Front Page

weather resembles autumn with no snow, above 40-degree temperatures and unfrozen lakes, which could have an adverse effect on water levels.

Jim Francis, the Lake Erie Basin coordinator for the Department of Natural Resources, said he hasn’t heard of any lakes in Michigan that have frozen over.

“You have to take it on a case by case basis,” he said.

There are pros and cons to the weather being too warm to freeze the lakes.

“Typically when we have a late winter, it usually reduces the amount of winter kill we get,” he said. “It typically happens in shallow lakes. ‘That would be in the plus column,’” he said.

Winter kill is the amount of fish that die during the usually-cold season.

“One you develop an ice cover, it separates the water and the air. Whatever oxygen is in the water has to last throughout the winter,” Francis said.

In more shallow lakes, the oxygen runs out faster resulting in more winter kill.

However, El Niño is affecting the ice fishing season.

“If you don’t have an ice cover, the lake continues to evaporate.”

Jim Francis
Department of Natural Resources Lake Erie Basin coordinator

It’s normally possible to ice fish in southeast Michigan during winter breaks, but this year it’s too warm.

According to the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), there is a 90-percent chance the effects of El Niño could last throughout the whole winter, not only the beginning.

The warm weather effects were steadily increasing last year and they could have adverse effects on Michigan lakes. Water levels are reduced when lakes don’t freeze over because more water evaporates.

“If you have ice it eliminates evaporation,” Francis said. “If you don’t have an ice cover, the lake continues to evaporate,” Francis said.

According to wbez.com, The Great Lakes ice cover has declined 71 percent since 1973 because of rising temperatures, and Lake Michigan experienced record low lake levels in the past few years.

“It can potentially reduce the lake level. It depends on how much snow we get. They can be replenished,” Francis said.

The warmer weather doesn’t affect fish behavior or where they choose to live during winter.

“Water temperatures are very similar whether you have ice or not. Water temperatures are probably only a degree more than last year with an ice cover,” Francis said.

He said the warmer weather isn’t a good or bad thing, just different.

“You know the weather in Michigan. Give it an hour, it’ll change. You have wait and see how the winter turns out,” he said.

Source: National Oceanic Service

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Source: National Oceanic Service
Hoverboards so hot this season, some even catch fire

Cheaply made batteries and chargers are being blamed

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

What companies and many consumers are calling “hoverboards” not only do not hover, they have been catching on fire, sometimes while someone is using it.

These scooter boards went on sale a few months ago, just in time for the busy shopping holiday season. People were excited about riding around on a little hands-free scooter, going about 10 miles an hour.

One AGS Middle School student Meg Wolosonowich received a Swagway Hoverboard for her 14th birthday on Nov. 12, 2015.

“She’s amazing on it,” said her mother, Kristen. “It was instantaneous. She hopped on it and it was pretty cool to see.”

Meg said, “It’s actually not that hard to ride once you get the hang of it.”

Fenton AGS Middle School Assistant Principal Eric Rettenmund let her bring the scooter into school. It was a hit. Fifteen students in her grade now have hoverboards.

This product has gained traction online. Video after video of people using these devices have been uploaded to YouTube, and thousands watched a pastor ride one down the aisle during mass, or people falling off the scooter board and getting hurt.

However, this hot new product not only landed many people in the hospital with broken bones or twisted ligaments, it became too hot in a few instances and caught on fire. One hoverboard in Louisiana is being blamed for burning down a house after it exploded, another combusted in the same state, and one caught on fire at a mall in Washington and shoppers were forced to evacuate.

These are only a few examples. See HOVERBOARDS on 6

Three steps to start your year right

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

With every New Year comes the resolutions to get in shape and save more money, yet only 12 percent of people actually accomplish their resolutions, according to the Huffington Post.

About 75 percent of these resolutions are maintained throughout the first week. What causes people to give up?

People usually get discouraged because the resolution isn’t realistic. Instead of declaring that you’ll lose 40 pounds each month, make obtainable resolutions that you can easily track.

Here are three obtainable goals to start your year right.

GET FIT IN SMALL WAYS

Don’t set yourself up to fail with unrealistic resolutions of working out every day for two hours and eating only greens and proteins. Jesse Anderson, co-owner of Red Fox Outfitters said people often set too high of goals too soon.

“Things that are technically doable but not technically advisable,” he said. “Aim for consistency as opposed to volume to start. Usually it’s a bad idea to do too much too soon.”

Anderson, who’s also a facilitator of a running/walking group with the See RESOLUTIONS on 6

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Jesse Anderson
Red Fox Outfitters co-owner

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Is Cruz more dangerous than Trump?
You know what they say: ‘Be careful what you wish for, because you just might get it.’ That’s certainly turned out to be true in the Republican primary for president.

For months, many Republicans and Democrats have been saying: ‘If only some other candidate could climb ahead of Donald Trump.’ Now it looks like somebody has climbed ahead of Donald Trump, at least in Iowa, and that person is Texas Senator Ted Cruz — who, in many respects, is worse than Trump.

A Harvard graduate, Cruz is both smarter than Trump, and much more dangerous. He not only looks like Sen. Joe McCarthy, he’s just as ruthless. Where Trump swings wildly with a club, Cruz attacks artfully with a switchblade. He’s mean, vindictive, and, by far, the most extreme right-wing candidate in the race.

Compared to Ted Cruz, Donald Trump’s a moderate. Trump bemoaned the fact that we’ve spent $4 to 5 trillion fighting wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, when we should have been spending that money here on roads at home, highways, bridges, schools and hospitals.

You’d never hear Cruz say anything like that. Trump sounds like a Democrat.

On marriage equality, there’s also a big difference between the two candidates. Cruz supports a constitutional amendment to reverse the Supreme Court’s decision recognizing same-sex marriage. But for Trump, who personally opposes same-sex marriage, he’s willing to live and let live.

Cruz brags that he’ll repeal Obamacare on day one, and in 2013 he led the fight against the “Obamacare.” Trump is a big supporter of the Care Act. Trump is a big supporter of the Care Act. Trump is a big supporter of the Care Act. Trump is a big supporter of the Care Act.

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DROIDS
Continued from Front Page

He has worked with the Boys and Girls Club, Big Brothers Big Sisters and Make a Wish Foundation, and even events in the tri-county area. When the new Star Wars movie was released last month, his creation was the star of the show at NCG Cinemas in Grand Blanc. While it takes a lot of time and energy to build, those kinds of rewards make it all worth it, he said.

Zimmerman is part of a hobbyist group called the R2-D2 Builders Club. The original builder of R2-D2 is part of the group, and a member built the R2-D2 used in the new movie “The Force Awakens,” which is about to set box office records. Within the group are retirees and aviation hobbyists. Zimmerman’s father, and an aviation enthusiast, has helped build his machines. The builders club also lends knowledge to assist members.

Zimmerman used to build cars in the same shop, but on Monday, he sent R2-D2 spinning and squawking around the small building. R2-D2 is powered by electric scooter motors, and piloted by a radio-controlled airplane hand set.

The droid sounds the same as it does in the movie, as Lucasfilm made all the sounds available to the builder’s club. He’s seen children carry on conversations with the robot, whose looped 20-minutes of sounds fit the pattern of a conversation. He can also control the robot’s sounds via Bluetooth speaker.

“Anytime I take R2-D2 out in public he draws a crowd,” said Zimmerman. “He’s just an unmistakable icon; he’s been out for 38 years now.” He said most are surprised by how big he is. Zimmerman’s weights 120 pounds, while the incomplete BB-8 weighs about 50.

While blueprints are available to build R2-D2, there are none for BB-8. A lot of engineering and trial and error have led to the current model, which is basically a large ball that rolls around, with a head that stays in place up top. He is waiting on more magnets to hold the head on as it rolls.

Once completed, his BB-8 will be one of approximately seven functioning radio-controlled droids in existence.

He said so far, no one has figured out how to do the arm-and-lighter “thumbs up” as the movie BB-8 gives new Star Wars heroes Rey and Finn, but he expects someone will.

DOLLAR GENERAL
Continued from Front Page

for Zaremba Group, presented the preliminary site plan for a 9,000-square-foot Dollar General at 601 West Broad St. and 521 West Broad St. to the Planning Commission on Nov. 2.

The preliminary site plan was approved by the Planning Commission on Nov.2, according to Linden City Planner Adam Young.

“Both the city planning consultant (Wade Trim) and engineering consultant (Hubbell, Roth, & Clark, Inc.) recommended approval of the preliminary site plan,” Young said.

The site, which is zoned General Commercial District, is 2.31 acres. This zoning allows for retail stores as a principal permitted use.

“There were several minor site plan changes that need to be made by the applicant as they prepare their final site plan,” Young said. Engineers will have to alter plans to the trash receptacle, clarify some details for the new landscaping, which would remove a portion of the parking lot. Once completed, his BB-8 will be one of approximately seven functioning radio-controlled droids in existence.

He said so far, no one has figured out how to do the arm-and-lighter “thumbs up” as the movie BB-8 gives new Star Wars heroes Rey and Finn, but he expects someone will.

Ice skating rink opens at The Barn

Bring your own skates and have some fun

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

Lakes may not be ice-skating ready, but The Barn is prepared for the winter activity.

A new ice rink, located adjacent to the restaurant, visible from northbound U.S. 23 and Torrey Road, gives the public an accessible ice skating option.

“With weather cooperating, it should be good to go by the weekend,” said owner of The Barn, Jason Warda.

What used to be the popular volleyball courts is now a 60- by 80-foot ice rink. Warda flooded the rink on New Year’s Eve and hopes it will be ready for skating by this weekend.

People will be allowed to skate during the hours when the restaurant is open. “We’ll probably do a couple nights where we’ll do some hockey and on the weekend, just do open skate and have fun,” he said.

His one rule is “just be safe.” Alcohol and slippery surfaces don’t mix, but Warda said he’s not worried. “We always keep a close eye on people and make sure we don’t over serve them. I definitely don’t want people out here on their shoes. If people look like they’ve had too much to drink, we wouldn’t sell them that.” The ice is about 6 to 8 inches thick. It took two full days to fill.

Warda will use a Zamboni to make the ice smooth, but said, “As long you scrape it well, you can just flood it with a hose and add a fresh layer to it. There’s a little bit of an art to it.”

People have to bring their own skates now, but Warda plans to collect skates for his patrons to use.

“That’s something I’ll do over the years, but for now people have to bring their own,” he said.

Warda obtained a special permit use and decided to build an ice skating rink because he’s been a hockey player his entire life, and always built his own rinks.

“But there are no outdoor rinks any more,” he said. “With the volleyball courts in the perfect spot, you might as well try to get year round use out of a space.”

Other ice skating options

• An outdoor ice skating rink at University of Michigan-Flint opened Jan. 2. The public can skate from 12-4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, and from 6-9 p.m. on Wednesday.
RESOLUTIONS
Continued from Page 3
Greater Flint Track Club, recommends planning things on a day-by-day basis and not increasing the amount of mileage you’re running or the amount of activities you’re doing at once.

Briskly walking for 20 minutes every day around your neighborhood or a mall could reduce someone’s risk of early death from 16 to 30 percent, according to express.co.uk.

Southern Lakes Park & Recreation offers a free walking program Monday through Thursday from 6-8 p.m. at Fenton High School. All walkers need to do is pick up a walking badge at the SLPR office.

Attempting to work out too much too soon could result in overusing your muscles and getting burnt out.

Anderson said be consistent and develop the habit is important. “It doesn’t take long. If you do something every day or a few times a week, it becomes easier to do. The bigger goals will take care of themselves,” he said.

GET FIT FINANCIALLY
Studies have proven that people who have healthy habits struggle less financially and are healthier.

Making sure your finances are in order will help you make payments on time and improve your credit score. There are a few ways to accomplish this.

Implement a budget to compartmentalize your money so you only spend a certain amount on certain items. Most Americans try to budget, but only 40 percent actually stick to them, according to wallethub.com.

Automating, or setting up an online automatic withdrawal system, will ensure that your bills are paid on time. You won’t have to deal with late fees and your credit score will not suffer.

CHANGE YOUR PASSWORDS
The year 2015 was possibly the worst year for cyber attacks in the United States with approximately 188 million personal records stolen and more than 300 million new forms of malware created, according to the Identity Theft Resource Center.

Many people don’t believe their online accounts are safe, but there’s an easy solution: change your password.

Everyone should change his or her online banking password every three months, according to wallethub.com.

Using a certain password because it’s easy to remember could result in a security breach, but using different passwords for login accounts makes it easier to forget them. Once you forget the password, you have to deal with the security questions, which are subjective and usually case-sensitive.

National Public Radio recommends making a list of all your passwords and login information to keep at home, carry with you, or keep online.

None of these methods are foolproof, however. The best way to stop someone from hacking your accounts is frequently changing your passwords.

BOARDS & SEAT VACANCY
FENTON AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
is seeking candidates to fill a vacant board of education seat. The open vacancy is to fill the remaining term of Mrs. Elizabeth Geib, whose term expires in December 2018.

LETTERS OF INTEREST MUST BE SUBMITTED BY 5:00 PM FRIDAY • JANUARY 15 • 2016 TO MR. DREW SHAPIRO, BOARD PRESIDENT C/O OF MICHELE WILSON FENTON AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS ADMINISTRATION BUILDING 3100 OWEN ROAD FENTON, MICHIGAN 48430

HOVERBOARDS
Continued from Page 3
According to Wired magazine, the lithium-ion battery, which can also be found in smartphones, tablets, and laptops, is causing fires. Companies are mass-producing these boards to sell as many as possible, so many of the parts are cheaply made.

The lithium-ion battery is no exception. A defective charger also may cause problems leading to a fire. In one incident, a board exploded while charging in Lacey Township, New Jersey. The family reports hearing a “loud bang and pieces flew like a bomb, and then it just went up in flames,” according to lubc.com.

“Unfortunately, all of the national press came out after we had purchased it,” Wolosonovich said. “I’m pretty cautious. I’m unsure that I would have made the initial purchase had been privy to all the information.”

She even called the corporation to discuss safety.

These fiery explosions prompted Amazon to stop selling boards made by certain companies, like Swagway, until they are safer. Swagway hands-free smart boards, the same product, is available on Amazon for $499.99. Wolosonovich said she is glad about this.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission is investigating at least 22 reports of fires caused by hoverboards across at least 17 states, according to usatoday.com.

Moreover, top airlines have banned these products from their planes citing safety issues with the lithium-ion batteries. New York City has banned them from the streets.

“I hope the federal government lays down safety laws,” Wolosonovich said. They only charge their hoverboard for 15 minutes at a time.

“We did our due diligence afterward. We err on the side of caution,” she said. “Safety comes first. We just monitor everything she does with it.”

The CPSC recommends not charging a hoverboard overnight, and making sure someone watches it the entire time it is plugged in.

Lithium-ion batteries When lithium-ion batteries are punctured, it causes a fiery explosion. Because these batteries contain highly flammable electrolytes that burn fast when exposed to oxygen, the fires can easily grow.

Source: wired.com
Knock and talk

One of the most frequently discussed legal issues in recent times has been the question of when is it constitutionally appropriate for the government to conduct search and seizures without a search warrant. A prominent example of this is the recent publicity surrounding the National Security Agency conducting surveillance on United States citizens and others. As a result, the USA Freedom Act was signed by President Obama on June 2, 2015, curtailing such surveillance.

This is but one of the literally thousands of times search and seizure issues have arisen in the legal system involving Fourth Amendment protections against unreasonable searches and seizures.

The recent Michigan Court of Appeals case of People v Frederick, decided Dec. 8, 2015, raises one of the many issues involving the Fourth Amendment.

The question in Frederick was whether the knock and talk procedures used by the police constituted a ‘search’ within the meaning of the Fourth Amendment.

The Court defined what a knock and talk is as follows: ‘Generally, the knock and talk procedure is a law enforcement tactic in which the police, who possess some information that they believe warrants further investigation, but that is insufficient to constitute probable cause for a search warrant, approach the person suspected of engaging in illegal activity at the person’s residence (even knock on the front door), identify themselves as police officers, and request consent to search for the suspected illegality or illicit items…’

The Court also discussed the 2013 United States Supreme Court decision in Jardines, which held that the knock and talk procedures used by the Florida police were unconstitutional as the police used a dog sniffing dog as a part of the process and found that it was more than a simple initial inquiry to eventually obtain consent.

The Court then summarized the Frederick facts, which involved the police conducting knock and talks early in the morning based solely on information that the defendant had drugs. In a 2 to 1 decision, the Court held this procedure was valid and distinguished it from Jardines.

This case is probably headed to the Michigan Supreme Court and perhaps beyond. It illustrates the complexities and nuances of Fourth Amendment law and will be closely watched by the legal community.

TAP
Continued from Front Page

leaving the village and residents in a lurch.

Fewer than 300 of the 900 homes in the subdivision were actually built. Obtaining a surety bond would have given the village recource should the development not eventually cover the cost of the expended water service. At the time, village attorneys recommended a surety bond, but Pulle, the home builder at the time, would not agree to one.

According to Village Manager Jerry Walker, the village filed a lawsuit against Silverman Properties in 2012.

“In May of 2013, we reached a settlement agreement with Silverman specifying they would make quarterly payments toward the mutually-agreed upon total of $497,000, which was equal to 71 water/sewer taps that were obligated to purchase from the village,” Walker said.

The consent agreement from Circuit Court Judge Denise Langford Morris ordered that Silverman pay $497,000, with $100,000 submitted before Aug 1, 2013.

“If Silverman defaulted on the agreement then the amount defaulted on would increase to $700,000,” said Walker. “A payment of $100,000 was received in August of 2013.”

No other payments were received and in February of 2014, the default judgment was ordered by the court, Walker added.

“A scheduling and adjourning several Debor Xams, $40,000 was received in June of 2015 to postpone the hearing, and the hope was regular payments would begin,” he said.

Another payment of $45,000 was received in July of 2015. To date, the total amount paid on the judgment is $185,000 with future debtors exams to be scheduled in 2016, Walker added.

“Recently, Silverman sold 81 building lots off Grange Hall Road, directly behind Patterson Elementary and the Mill Pointe subdivision,” Walker said. “Part of the original negotiations with the purchaser was that the purchaser would pay the tap fees for those lots directly to Silverman, who would then pay the village.

Walker said after investigation, the purchaser determined the correct course of action was for him to pay the village directly as the homes were built and taps were obtained.

In the end, each tap purchase will be credited toward the amount owed by Silverman, so as the homes are built, the village will be made whole.

This week Walker said, “This has been a heavy burden on the users of the water/sewer system but it is working its way toward resolution.”
Many older adults and retirees try to escape the cold and snow

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

No more shoveling snow, slipping on ice or shivering when you step outside. These are just a few of the joys of spending at least part of Michigan’s winter in a warmer climate.

If you’re lucky, you can break away from Michigan’s cold and snow for at least a short week or two, or you may decide to fly south for the winter, just like the birds. That’s how “snowbirds” originally got their name, now defined as retirees who spend from one to three months in a warmer climate, according to the University of Florida. Either way, you’re not alone.

Florida, the Sunshine State, boasts more than 810,000 “snowbirds” a year. In fact, Michigan is the second most popular native home for Florida snowbirds, second only to New York, followed third by Ohio.

One of the fastest growing retirement communities in Florida is The Villages, a luxury retirement community in Sumter County and spreading into portions of Lake and Marion counties. The Villages has more than doubled in size since 2010, now boasting more than 114,350 residents.

Many snowbirds start “slow,” by renting for a few years or staying with friends. Those who adjust well by staying active and making friends may then decide to purchase a home and spend many years with dual residences.

If you’re looking for a one- to three-month rental, you may want to contact a real estate agent in your target location.

While Florida tops the list for number of popular snowbird destinations, California, Texas, Arizona and Nevada also offer warmth and sun for winter-weary retirees. Other popular warm weather...
Winter workouts

Move your fitness routine indoors for safe workouts during cold weather months

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

Don’t let winter’s slippery walking and running conditions outdoors keep you from meeting your fitness goals in 2016. Now is the time to move your fitness routine indoors, so that you can maintain your regimen and keep yourself safe from injuries.

Walking

Many local schools offer free walking programs in their hallways, providing a safe place to enjoy fitness walking. Fenton High School offers its walking program from November through April through Southern Lakes Parks & Recreation (SLPR). Walk times are Monday through Thursday from 6 to 8 p.m. Interested walkers may stop at the SLPR office at the Fenton Community & Cultural Center 150 South LeRoy St., to pick up a walking badge prior to participation. They also will learn about the extra security put in place for this year’s program. “Walkers need to arrive at the doors being unlocked for two hours with anyone able to wander around. They’re free to leave at anytime.”

“Last year, we had a really good turnout, about 80 to 90 walkers,” said Vince Paris, SLPR executive director. “It’s not just seniors, it’s also young moms with strollers.”

Linden Community Schools opens its doors for walkers through the winter months, according to Community Education Director Debbie Brindle. Walk times are: Linden High School from 6:15 to 7:15 a.m.; Linden Middle School from 6 to 7:30 a.m. and from 5 to 7:30 p.m.

Holly community residents are welcome to walk the halls at the Karl Rich-ter Campus of Holly Area Schools from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Walkers should enter the building from the north entrance (school administration office), and sign in.

There will be no walking at area schools when schools are not in session due to scheduling, inclement weather or when they are closed for holidays.

Area malls also offer walking programs, if you want to browse and shop while exercising at the same time.

See WORKOUTS on 14
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Bridge the miles via Skype, Facetime, gaming, books, calls  

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

Grandparents of the 19th or 20th century often lived in the same house or next door to their children or grandchildren, and could visit with them every day. In today’s mobile 21st century, those younger generations often live in another state or perhaps even another country halfway around the world.

A recent AARP study shows that 45 percent of grandparents live more than 200 miles away from their children and grandchildren. Since many grandparents continue to work into their 60s and beyond, many only have time for semi-annual or annual visits, according to AARP Foundation spokeswoman Amy Goyer.

A new AARP Generations Study shows that Baby Boomer grandparents are more in touch with their children than their parents were with them. Today’s seniors help their young adult kids more, mostly by offering more advice and practical help, as well as occasional loans or other assistance.

While grandparents can’t always visit their families as much as they’d like, most want to remain important influences in the lives of their children and grandchildren. Today’s technology makes some of these choices easier — and much cheaper — to accomplish.

Here are six tips to help relatives stay close to their families:

• Technology, including Skype and Facetime, has profoundly changed how people keep in touch with family and friends. First released in 2003, Skype uses Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) to share live pictures and voices via two computers or smartphones on the Internet, instead of voice-only via old landline phones. Skype calls are free, and since computers, tablets and smartphones include a camera, you can speak and see family members at the same time.

Do some long-distance doodling with your grandkids. If you have an Internet connection, Google email account and a webcam on your computer, go to Scoot & Doodle on “Hangout” at https://plus.google.com/+ScootDoodle/videos. This lets you instantly start sketching.

See TECH on 13

Forty-five percent of grandparents live more than 200 miles away from their children and grandchildren.

AARP study

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207 S. SAGINAW • HOLLY
Family members should have ‘the talk’ with aging parents to make their wishes clear

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

Some family topics are just plain difficult to discuss. Talking about your final wishes to your children as a grown, mature adult is just about as difficult as talking to them about the “birds and the bees” when they were younger.

So many people never talk about this important subject, and it’s one that needs to be discussed in order to avoid added stress and emotion at a difficult time.

One Fenton man drove 100 miles at the invitation of his 91-year-old father to talk about his final wishes. “Oh, we can talk about that another day,” the father announced abruptly and changed the topic. After he died three years later, his surviving family had doubts about whether they were proceeding as he wished, because the subject was never discussed in depth.

People all agree that families should have “the talk” with grandparents or other aging family members, but it’s a difficult thing to do. Elder care attorney Michael Kirtland of Colorado says there are two ways to make sure your final wishes are followed:

Legal documents

Communicating your wishes to family members who...
What are your dreams for retirement?

“My first grandchild was born in April and I retired in May. I moved to Michigan from Wisconsin, leaving my home and husband for a year to help my son and daughter-in-law take care of their first child.”
— Sandy Dahm Holly/Sussex, Wisconsin

“I’m a self-employed therapist, so I hope I will be able to retire one day. It’s all on me.”
— Sara Griffin Fenton

“We’d like to buy a house on Houghton Lake. That’s our dream.”
— Kim Whisman Linden

“To not work, just relax and travel. There are a lot of places in the U.S. and abroad that I haven’t seen.”
— Alan Janssen Tyrone Township

“I want to travel and actively see all that we have in the U.S. We’d like to travel by car out west to the Grand Canyon, so we can see everything along the way.”
— Debby Dietch Linden

“To travel and see the world. I definitely wouldn’t mind having a cabin in northern Michigan. A lot will depend on Social Security when I get there.”
— Connor Morrison Davison

TECH
Continued from Page 11

Face-to-face, or you can even play tic-tac-toe games online. It’s a very high-tech way of doing a simple virtual activity together. You can play video, computer or card games online together, as another way to keep in touch. This creates shared experiences between generations, plus topics for conversation.

If you aren’t particularly tech-savvy, you can still stay in touch reading sections of favorite kids’ books on the phone. You can also make a tape recording that contains or grandparents to send voice messages to grandchildren from afar. When the message is ready, the teddy’s heart glows, letting kids know a message is waiting. Kids can also use the Toy-Fi Teddy to record a message of their own. This can be sent back to the parents or grandparents via Bluetooth, to be heard via a computer or smartphone app. The Toy-Fi Teddy costs about $40.

A Shutterfly-produced book like this about the special relationship between grandparents and their grandchildren is a precious gift that can span a long distance.

“What are your dreams for retirement?”

“Stay in touch with the Toy-Fi Teddy, a 12-inch-tall stuffed toy that allows parents or grandparents to send voice messages to grandchildren from afar. When the message is ready, the teddy’s heart glows, letting kids know a message is waiting. Kids can also use the Toy-Fi Teddy to record a message of their own. This can be sent back to the parents or grandparents via Bluetooth, to be heard via a computer or smartphone app. The Toy-Fi Teddy costs about $40.”

“Continued from Page 11”
SNOWBIRDS
Continued from Page 8

states include Georgia, Alabama and South Carolina.

If you’re looking for heat, these cities were the hottest in the U.S. in 2014, according to the National Climatic Data Center:

1. Key West, Florida — average temperature: 78.6
2. Miami, Florida — average temperature: 77.5
3. Phoenix, Arizona — average temperature: 77.2
4. Fort Myers, Florida — average temperature: 75.2
5. Brownsville, Texas — average temperature: 73.9
6. Orlando, Florida — average temperature: 73.2
7. Tampa, Florida — average temperature: 72.9
8. Corpus Christi, Texas — average temperature: 72.2
9. Tucson, Arizona — average temperature: 72.2
10. Las Vegas, Nevada — average temperature: 72.1
11. Hawaii and Puerto Rico — average temperature in Honolulu: 78.2 and in San Juan, 82.

Some of the most popular snowbird destinations, according to LuggageWatch, include:

1. Naples, Florida
2. Scottsdale, Arizona
3. Miami, Florida
4. Los Angeles, California
5. Boca Raton, Florida
6. Beverly Hills, California
7. Austin, Texas
8. La Quinta, California
9. Palm Beach, Florida
10. Sarasota, Florida
11. Vero Beach, Florida
12. Las Vegas, Nevada
13. Palm Beach Gardens, Florida
14. Palm Desert, California
15. Tucson, Arizona

Michigan is the second most popular native home for Florida snowbirds, second only to New York and followed third by Ohio.

University of Florida

WORKOUTS
Continued from Page 9

Walking takes place at Genesee Valley Center in Flint seven days a week. Use the main entrance doors from Monday through Saturday, beginning at 8 a.m. and Sunday at 10 a.m.

Walking the interior of the mall at the edge of all hallways should be considered one mile, according to Genesee Valley Center’s website.

Swimming

Fenton High School’s swimming pool is open for a number of aquatic programs and swimming lessons, with community programs offered through Southern Lakes Parks & Recreation.

Aqua Zumba, Senior Splash, water fitness and lap swimming are all scheduled. For a full schedule of classes, visit www.slp.net. To reach the pool office directly, call (810) 591-2622.

Holly High School has its own pool, which is operated by the Holly Township Parks & Recreation Department. Children 3 and under are admitted free and those from 14 and under must be accompanied by an adult. For more information about classes, open swims and lap swims, call (248) 634-1758.

Hartland Community Aquatic Center, with a lap pool and leisure pool, is open for 13 different water classes each week, from open swims and lap swims to Splash & Play and swimming lessons. For more information, visit www.hartlandschools.us or call (810) 626-2282.

Gyms/fitness/yoga studios/dance

Dozens of indoor dance and fitness classes are held at local studios and fitness centers — from yoga and Zumba to Jazzercise and fitness boxing. Be sure to check out the Loose Senior Center in Linden for fitness classes for residents age 50 and older. For more information about class schedules and times, contact your local studio or center.

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12781 (7-12)
Getting a late start? Here are a few tips

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

If you’re reading this article in a senior section of a newspaper, you’re likely older than your 20s. That means you’re already getting a later start in saving for your retirement.

Here are a few tips that can help you catch up, even in mid-life with retirement looming only a decade or two away.

#1 Understand how much you need

You need to find out how far behind you are, in order to play catch up to retire with a lifestyle you desire.

First, look at your current spending. What do you need to sustain your lifestyle — $50,000, $75,000, $100,000? Next, look at how much money you’ll receive from Social Security and any pensions or other income sources you have. Subtract this from your expenses. The amount leftover is how much your portfolio will need to generate.

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FINAL WISHES
Continued from Page 12
will likely be the ones carrying out those wishes. Kirtland told US News & World Report that just because someone is alert and healthy today doesn’t mean that situation can’t change quickly. Some memory-robbing conditions come slowly, but heart attacks and strokes can strike anytime — as can life-ending auto accidents.

“Everyone ought to have either a will or revocable living trust,” said Kirtland. “Everybody ought to have a medical power of attorney — and everybody should have a living will.”

Elder care attorneys tell their clients to write down the special things they want their loved ones to know. Some people record their final wishes on video, if that is comforting to them. Then, family members need to know where this information is kept, hopefully sealed in a joint safety deposit box, family Bible or other easily accessible place.

Family members should know a person’s preferences for end-of-life health care treatment, too, which medical offices and hospital workers can discuss. Online research and consulting with an attorney can help answer procedural questions, too.

After all, one expert said, everyone should explain their wishes, because no one is getting out alive.

#2 Make additional contributions
Increase your savings rate so your portfolio can grow. There are two ways to boost your savings: earn more and spend less. Find ways to do both by earning extra money while slashing your current expenses.

#3 Use tax-advantaged accounts
Concentrate your retirement contributions into tax-advantaged accounts, such as your 401(k) or 403 (b), IRA and HSA. This allows your money to grow tax-deferred or tax-exempt. Only contribute to taxable accounts when you’ve exhausted your eligibility to make tax-advantaged contributions.

#4 Work extra years
Plan to work longer and delay your target retirement date. This will give your retirement portfolio more time to grow, and you won’t need to access it for as long. Keep in mind, however, that health or family issues may force you to retire earlier than planned, so boost your current savings rate.

#5 Repay debt
Get rid of any current debts, especially high-interest obligations like credit card debt. Not only will you save hundreds or thousands of dollars on interest payments, it will also reduce your current expenses, enabling you to save more for retirement.

#6 Don’t accept added risk
Avoid the temptation of plunging into riskier investments to compensate for a late start.

Maintain a sensible allocation between stocks, bonds and other asset classes. Keep a diversified portfolio, contribute regularly and rebalance periodically.

#7 Prioritize retirement savings
Your children have the rest of their financial futures ahead of them, while you don’t have the luxury of time. Your kids also have more financial options than you for paying for college.

Finally, the best gift you can give your children is your own secure future. They may have to repay student loans, but at least they won’t have to worry about supporting Mom and Dad.

#8 Your retirement is in your hands
Despite your late start, you can create a secure retirement, but only if you make it a priority, starting today. Source: Huffington Post MONEY
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Lake Fenton’s Hillger leads our 2015 football team

By David Troppens
droppens@tctimes.com

Eric Doyle heard a few rumblings about this Trent Hillger kid.

Hillger was moving from the Holly area to the Lake Fenton school district prior to his freshman season, and during one of the summer camps, Doyle finally met him.

“I heard we got this kid that was going to be a good player, but we didn’t know,” Doyle said. “About a half-hour into the camp we realized this kid was something special and he was coming with us (to the varsity team). You could tell right away.”

Hillger may be the greatest athlete to ever attend Lake Fenton High School. The junior has already won an individual state wrestling championship during his career as a Blue Devil. And on the football field he’s proven he can play at a high level any position his coach asks him to play. That meant Hillger had to make the change from running back to quarterback last season. It also meant he would still be playing on defense. The all-league running back his sophomore year made the position change work almost flawlessly, leading the Blue Devils to a 6-5 overall record, which included a victory in the playoffs. He earned All-Genesee Area Conference honors and collecting Division 3 All-State Special Mention honors from the Associated Press. He has another honor as well. He’s the 2015 Tri-County Football Player of the Year.

“I enjoyed doing that,” Hillger said about the change from running back to quarterback. “I enjoyed running the offense and using my football smarts really helped. I played quarterback in middle school and that made the transition easier, but I never played it in high school, I enjoyed it.”

Hillger wasn’t the only one to enjoy the results, so did Doyle. All Hillger did was run for 1,382 yards in 11 games, averaging a whopping 9.5 yards a carry. He had 141 carries, with 19 of them going to touchdowns.

In true Lake Fenton style, Hillger wasn’t asked to be a dual threat anywhere on the field.

Versatile player remains a threat anywhere on the field

Note: The teams and Runner of the Year were selected by the sports staff.

INSIDE SPORTS

TRENT HILGER
Hillger leads our Tri-County Football Team
See Page 20

INSIDE HILLGER on 20

Friday basketball action returns this week, visit tctimes.com

Lee, Frederick lead the pack

By David Troppens • droppens@tctimes.com

When it comes to comparing cross country performers Jake Lee and Alia Frederick, it’s easy to see how their running careers can be viewed as polar opposites.

The minute Jake Lee entered Fenton High School, he quickly became known for his running talent on the Fenton varsity cross country squad. However, the same can’t be said for Linden junior, Alia Frederick. Frederick didn’t run cross country for her first two seasons at Linden High School. Instead, she competed in the sport she truly loves soccer. It wasn’t until this fall she gave cross country a whirl.

But the different paths the two runners took led them to the same destination. Lee is our 2015 Male Cross Country Runner of the Year, while Frederick is our Female Cross Country Runner of the Year. It marks the first time the sports staff has had a male and a female runner to honor each sport.

Lee has been a known entity for four seasons, but it wasn’t until this season that the Tigers combined his individual skill into one that coincided with great team success. Lee captured first place in all three Metro League jamborees, helping the Tigers finish in second place in the final Metro League standings.

The Tigers capped the final league meet with Lee leading teammates Dominic Dimambro and Junior Sebastian Mathews to second place in all three Metro League jamborees.

Lee is well known. He won all three league races, placed second at regionals and placed 19th at the D1 state meet. The All-State performer also is the school record-holder in cross country. Lee is the first male state champion in the school’s 38-year history.

Alia Frederick

Linden’s Alia Frederick

Lee is our 2015 Male Cross Country Runner of the Year. It marks the first time the sports staff has had a male and a female runner to honor each sport.
and Andrew Bond to a convincing 1-2-3 sweep, with Lee posting a 5K time of 15:48.6. Lee followed that success with a second-place finish at the D1 regional with a time of 15:49.93, helping the Tigers capture the squad’s Division 1 regional title, only the third in school history.

With the team heading to the D1 state meet, Lee continued his impressive season by taking 19th (15:46.6) at the event, helping lead the Tigers to a ninth-place finish. When the prep season ended, the senior continued running, competing as a member of Team Michigan at the Mideast Meet of Champions. A year ago, Lee looked poised to have a strong individual season, but injuries kept him from accomplishing most of his goals. That wasn’t the case this season.

“I think I had a very successful season especially compared to last year,” Lee said. “I won six races, went undefeated in the Metro and made All-State. Not only did I have success individually, but we won regionals as a team. That was the most ecstatic feeling I had. It was tied with being First-team All-State, because I was doing it with my teammates.”

Frederick joined the cross country team to help her conditioning for the sport she loves, soccer. Through the process, the junior found out she was a pretty good runner as well. At the first Metro League jamboree, she placed third. By the second one, she had cut over a minute off her time and placed second. Finally, at the end of the season, she recorded three straight first-place performances starting with the Kayla O’Mara Invitational. She also dominated the final Metro League meet (18:23.2) and then won a regional crown (19:30.4). Finally, she posted the highest finish ever by a Linden girl at the state meet, taking third in the D2 event (18:30.5). She also is the school record holder with a time of 18:10 at the Portage Invitational.

“Coming into the season I didn’t know what to expect because I had never run before,” Frederick said. “At the beginning I was getting a little frustrated because I really wasn’t improving. Then at the race at Holly (second jamboree race) I improved by a lot and I thought I could get some pretty good times.”

Linden girls cross country coach Teresa Wright has known about Frederick’s ability for a long time, but never pushed her into joining the team until Frederick wanted to.

“I really did not react until she showed up at a practice in August,” Wright said. “To be honest, I was more excited for her and the team because I knew her potential and what she could bring to the team’s success.

“Alia has barely scratched the surface of what she can do. She only trained for the try season. However, it was a challenge. She had an extremely successful season due to her dedication and eagerness to learn strategy. She never gave less than 100 percent at all practices and meets.”

Frederick enjoyed her first cross country season. However, it was a challenge. Many days she’d run races and then have to hurry to a soccer practice.

“It was hard, but I’m glad I did it,” Frederick said. “It was a good experience. I felt it with my body some days. I enjoyed the team a lot. Running is not fun. It gets boring. But the team is really nice and supportive. The atmosphere is nice.”

“It’s pretty cool to look back and say that I did that (broke some school records). I feel good about myself because I did the best I could and because it paid off.”

Fenton’s Jake Lee (left) is our Tri-County Male Cross Country Athlete of the Year. Another member of our first team is Holly’s Dillon Lemond (right).

Note: The teams, and Runner of the Year, were selected by the sports staff using two equations that are based on the three biggest meets of each season - the final league meet, regionals and the state meet for those who competed at the event.
HILLGER

Continued from Page 18

to throw the ball much, but when he did, he was effective. The junior completed 25 of 39 passes for 503 yards, an average of 20 yards a completion. Five of his completions went for TDs.

“When we looked at what we had at quarterback, we thought he was going to carry the ball anyway and he was a smart kid,” Doyle said. “We figured we may as well put the ball in his hands on every snap and run things off of him. He knows he’s not going to be a quarterback at the next level. He’s either going to play college football or wrestle, but we know he won’t be a quarterback. But this year we needed him there and he’ll do whatever needs to be done. And he did a very good job.”

“I thought it went well,” Hillger said about him playing quarterback. “I achieved most of my goals.”

Hillger remained his own dominant self on the defensive side of the ball as well, collecting 57 tackles, including 13 for a loss. He had five sacks, five forced fumbles and three fumble recoveries.

Hillger can play anywhere on the football field and prosper.

Rest of first team

Kobe Lookiebill
Offensive line
Linden

Sawyer Bengie
Offensive line
Linden

Jimmy Gray
Offensive line
Holly

Anderson Muenzer
Offensive line
Lake Fenton

Reid Thompson
Offensive line
Fenton

Josh Czarota
Quarterback
Fenton

Javon Barr
Running back
Holly

Dylan Crankshaw
Running back
Fenton

Ryan Young
Receiver
Linden

Kevin Lack
Receiver
Fenton

Zach West
Receiver
Fenton

Bailey Davis
Receiver/kicker
Linden

Peyton Coffman
Linebacker
Fenton

Cristian Diaz
Linebacker
Holly

Cade Dickson
Linebacker
Linden

Greg Lukas
Secondary
Fenton

Adam Tooley
Secondary
Holly

Ben Hajciar
Secondary
Fenton

Chris Bell
Secondary
Lake Fenton

Mason McCormick
Defensive line
Fenton

Skyler Stites
Defensive line
Linden

Chase Lynch
Defensive line
Fenton

Daniel Osminski
Defensive line
Lake Fenton

Hunter Michael
Defensive line
Linden

Note: The players on the team and the Player of the Year were selected by the sports staff, with the aid of the all-league teams.

HOLLY

continued from Page 17

Boys Bowling

Holly def. Linden

Eddie Sanner bowled a 207-159-366 series to lead the Bronchos past Linden. The Eagles were paced by Trevor Sundra’s 151-162-313 series.

Brandon def. Fenton

The Tigers won both baker games, but were unable to edge out the Blackhaws. Austin Mercord led the Tigers with a 156-191-347 series.

Girls Bowling

Holly def. Linden

Terrin Cooley rolled a 136-173-309 series to lead the Lady Bronchos past the Eagles. Kailee Gallagher also bowled a 162 game for Holly. Linden was led by Molly Churches who had a 150-168-318 series.

Brandon def. Linden

Molly Beck led the Tigers with a 135-127-262 series in the loss to Brandon.

Lake Fenton’s Trent Hillger prepares to get tackled by a Powers’ player earlier this year. Hillger is our 2015 Tri-County Football Player of the Year.

back or maybe a all-state linebacker on the defensive side,” Hillger said.

As talented as Hillger is, he’s probably more humble than talented. It’s that humble nature and his drive to work as hard as he possibly can that has driven Hillger to the elite of two of the most physically demanding sports there is.

“He’s been raised right,” Doyle said. “He’s humble and a hard worker. When your best player is the hardest worker on the team, you have a chance to be a good team, and he works his tail off in the weight room.

“He’s a great student as well. He’s near the top of his class. When you have Harvard, Yell, Princeton and Cornell calling you, that tells you what type of quality kid he is.”

The Blue Devils are happy they have him for one more season.

“Every year he’s taken another step and gotten even better,” Doyle said. “We are excited to see what he is going to do (next year). I’m glad we have him another year.”

2015 ALL TRI-COUNTY FOOTBALL TEAM

Player of the Year
Trent Hillger
Quarterback/Def. end
Lake Fenton

Comment: Lake Fenton didn’t have a quarterback this season, so the Blue Devils made a change. They took an all-league running back and moved him to quarterback. Meanwhile, the junior still played on defense. The change worked. Hillger ran for 1,342 yards and 19 TDs on just 141 carries at quarterback. He only threw 39 passes, but completed 25 of them for 503 yards (20 yard average). He had five sacks, five forced fumbles and three fumble recoveries.

Hillger can play anywhere on the football field and prosper.

The change worked. Hillger ran for 1,342 yards and 19 TDs on just 141 carries at quarterback. He only threw 39 passes, but completed 25 of them for 503 yards (20 yard average) and five scores. Meanwhile, on defense he remained a terror, recording 57 tackles, including 13 for a loss. He had five sacks, five forced fumbles and three fumble recoveries.

Hillger can play anywhere on the football field and prosper.

Rest of first team

Kobe Lookiebill
Offensive line
Linden

Sawyer Bengie
Offensive line
Linden

Jimmy Gray
Offensive line
Holly

Anderson Muenzer
Offensive line
Lake Fenton

Reid Thompson
Offensive line
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Josh Czarota
Quarterback
Fenton

Javon Barr
Running back
Holly

Dylan Crankshaw
Running back
Fenton

Ryan Young
Receiver
Linden

Kevin Lack
Receiver
Fenton

Zach West
Receiver
Fenton

Bailey Davis
Receiver/kicker
Linden

Peyton Coffman
Linebacker
Fenton

Cristian Diaz
Linebacker
Holly

Cade Dickson
Linebacker
Linden

Greg Lukas
Secondary
Fenton

Adam Tooley
Secondary
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Ben Hajciar
Secondary
Fenton

Chris Bell
Secondary
Lake Fenton

Mason McCormick
Defensive line
Fenton

Skyler Stites
Defensive line
Linden

Chase Lynch
Defensive line
Fenton

Daniel Osminski
Defensive line
Lake Fenton

Hunter Michael
Defensive line
Linden

Note: The players on the team and the Player of the Year were selected by the sports staff, with the aid of the all-league teams.
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CLASSIFIED DEPARTMENT: 810-629-8194
Homer Franklin Beers - 1934-2015
Homer Franklin Beers - age 81, of Gaines, died Wednesday, December 30, 2015. Funeral services will be held 11 AM Friday, January 8, 2016 at Sharp Funeral Homes, Linden Chapel, 209 East Broad Street, Linden. Burial will follow in Argentine Cemetery. Visitation will be held 6-8 PM Wednesday and 1-4 and 6-8 PM Thursday at the funeral home. Tributes may be posted on the obituaries page of www.sharpfuneralhomes.com.

Reed Spicer Jr. - 1939-2015
Reed Spicer Jr. of Fenton went to be with the Lord on December 29, 2015. He leaves behind wife, Stella of 54 years; daughter Tracie Spicer, Dorothea (Lori) Spicer, grandchildren, Amanda, Cara, James, Shannon, and Brittany. Reed was born in Oakdale, KY on December 5, 1939, the son of Reed Sr. and EttaBelle (Robert) Spicer. Celebration of life will be on Wednesday, January 6, 2016 at The Free Methodist Church in Linden.

Morris Charles Ayliffe - 1939-2015
Morris Charles Ayliffe - age 76, of Shepherd, MI, formerly of Fenton, died Thursday, December 31, 2015. Services were held 4 PM Monday, January 4, 2016 at Sharp Funeral Homes, Fenton Chapel, 1000 W Silver Lake Rd., Fenton. Pastor Seth Normington officiating. Burial services will be held at Lakes National Cemetery, Holly. Visitation was held 12 - 4 PM Monday at the funeral home. Mr. Ayliffe was born June 15, 1939 in Clio. He married Sharon Kay Luchenbill on August 27, 1960 in Mio. Mr. Ayliffe retired from General Motors as a second shift supervisor in 1994 after 30 years of service. He was an avid hunter and enjoyed traveling with his wife. He also loved fishing and going to casinos but his family always came first. Mr. Ayliffe had a great sense of humor and loved to tell stories and jokes. He leaves his loving family: wife, Sharon of Shepherd; four children, James (Michele) Ayliffe of Otter Lake, Laura Ayliffe of Mt. Pleasant, Julie Ayliffe of Eugene, OR and Morris (Jody) Ayliffe, Jr. of Byron; five grandchildren, Jason Ayliffe, Marissa Ayliffe, Landon Brewer, Avery Ayliffe and Morris Ayliffe III; two great-grandchildren, Jaylen Ayliffe and Arianna Miller; brother, Carl (Sharon) Ayliffe of Red Oak, MI. He was preceded in death by his parents, Harold and Doris Bacon; two brothers, Robert Ayliffe and Harold Bacon; sister, Betty Ballard. Friends may share an online tribute on the obituary page of www.sharpfuneralhomes.com.

Robert “Bob” Manes Stuart - 1926-2015
Robert “Bob” Manes Stuart - age 88, of Linden, died Saturday, December 26, 2015. Funeral services will be held 10 AM Monday, January 11, 2016 at Sharp Funeral Homes, Fenton Chapel, 1000 Silver Lake Road, Fenton. Pastor Seth Normington officiating. Burial services will be held at Lakes National Cemetery, Holly. Visitation will be held at the funeral home Sunday from 12-4 and 5-9 PM. In lieu of flowers, those desiring may make contributions to the Loose Senior Center, 707 N. Bridge St., Linden. Bob was born March 14, 1926 in Fadensdale, the son of Thomas M. and Myrtle (Hamill) Stuart. He was a 1944 graduate of Plymouth High School. He served in the Air Force from 1944 - 1946. Bob married Virginia Joanne Dorey August 19, 1950 in Angola, IN. They were married for 64 years and she preceded him in death January 19, 2015. He graduated from Lawrence Institute of Technology and received a degree in electrical engineering. Bob worked for Detroit Edison for over 42 years retiring in 1992. He resided in Linden in 1993 having moved from Dearborn. Bob was an avid sailor, racing over 35 Port Huron to Mackinac races. Surviving are 3 children, Thomas M. Stuart of Lake Orion, Joanne S. Boudro of Port Austin, and Martha (John) Bergquist of Lake Orion; grandchildren, Alexandra Virginia Bergquist attending Michigan Tech University, brother-in-law, Stan Carone; sister-in-law, Eleanor Gumkowski; and special friends, Gary and Lori Sparagowski; and their children, John and Becky. Online tributes may be posted on the obituaries page at www.sharpfuneralhomes.com.
**WEDNESDAY SUDOKU**

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

**Answer in this Sunday’s edition of the Tri-County Times**

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**WEDNESDAY JUMBLE**

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter each, to form four ordinary words.

- MYAIT
- NEMIR
- RAWHOR
- WAHIGE

**Answer in this Sunday’s edition of the Tri-County Times**

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**CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

**ACROSS**

1. Lose color
2. 5. Actress
8. Half a ticket
12. Not “fer”
13. Neither mate
14. Bean curd
15. Tin Man’s problem
16. Carriage
18. Cookbook entry
20. Underscore
21. Lacks the ability
24. One seeking political asylum

**DOWN**

1. Close up tight
2. Narcoic
3. Jackson or Johnson
4. Oppressive ruler
5. Skeleton component
6. Female deer
7. Weaponry
8. Gawks
9. Make less intense
10. Venusian network
11. Prickly seed cases
12. Reed instrument
13. Depend (on)
14. Blvd shade
15. Shirl bark
16. Jamie of “M*A*S*H”
17. Ike’s command in WWII
18.图表
19. Treaty
20. Morrison and Braxton
21. Doo follower
22. Id counte-part
23. Absurd
24. Use Wikipedia, maybe
25. “— the ramparts we watched . . .”
26. Address to a bloeke
27. Meerschaum, e.g.
28. Greek vowel
29. Smell
30. Sicilian computer
31. Post-bout attire
32. Carbon compound
33. Compared to
34. Without making a mess
35. 36. 37. 38.
39. 40. 41. 42.
43. 44. 45. 46.
47. 48. 49. 50.
51. 52. 53. 54.
55. 56. 57. 58.

**KING FEATURES**

**Answer in this Sunday’s edition of the Tri-County Times**

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**HOROSCOPES**

**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19)

Aspects call for care in preparing material for submission. Although you might find it bothersome to go over what you’ve done, the fact is, rechecking could be worth your time and effort.

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20)

Taurus is favorable for Bovines who welcome change. New career opportunities wait to be checked out. You also might want to get started on that home makeover you’ve been considering.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20)

You might have to be extra careful to protect that surprise you have planned, thanks to a certain snoopy someone who wants to know more about your plans than you’re willing to share.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22)

Family ties are strong this week, although an old and still-unresolved problem might create some unpleasant moments. If so, look to straighten the situation out once and for all.

**LEO** (July 23 to August 22)

Although the Lion might see it as an act of loyalty and courage to hold on to an increasingly shaky position, it might be wiser to make changes now to prevent a possible meltdown later.

**VIRGO** (August 23 to Sept. 22)

Your gift for adding new people to your circle of friends works overtime this week, thanks largely to contacts you made during the holidays. A surprise awaits you at the week’s end.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)

Don’t hide your talents. It’s a good time to show what you can do to impress people who can do a lot for you. A dispute with a family member might still need some smoothing over.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)

Be open with your colleagues about your plan to bring a workplace matter out into the open. You’ll want their support, and they’ll want to know how you’ll pull it off.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)

Trying to patch up an unraveling relationship is often easier said than done. But it helps to discuss and work out any problems that arise along the way.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19)

While your creative aspect remains high this week, you might want to call on your practical side to help work out the why and wherefore of an upcoming decision.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18)

Getting a job-related matter past some major obstacles should be easier this week. A personal situation might take a surprising but not necessarily unwelcome turn by the week’s end.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19 to March 20)

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**DVD RELEASES**

**THE WALK**

The Walk is the true story of a young dreamer, Philippe Petit, and a band of unlikely recruits who together achieved the impossible: an illegal wire walk in the immense void between the World Trade Center towers. With little more than nerve and blind ambition, Petit and his ragtag crew overcome daunting physical obstacles, betrayals, countless close calls and overwhelming odds to beat the system and execute their mad plan. PG, 2 hr. 3 min.

- **liked it** (Audience score on rottentomatoes.com)

83%

**SICARIO**

In the lawless border area stretching between the U.S. and Mexico, an idealistic FBI agent [Emily Blunt] is enlisted by an elite government task force official (Josh Brolin) to aid in the escalating war against drugs. Led by an enigmatic consultant with a questionable past (Benicio Del Toro), the team sets out on a clandestine journey forcing Kate to question everything that she believes in order to survive. R, 2 hr. 1 min.

- **liked it** (Audience score on rottentomatoes.com)

93%

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