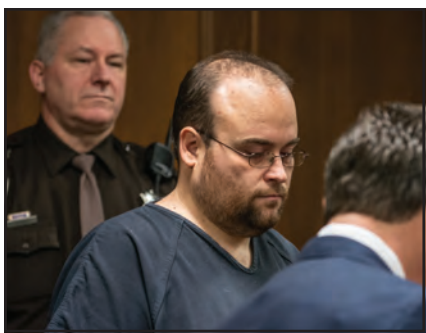


TRI-COUNTY TIMES
FILE PHOTO

Michael LaJoice is charged with embezzling \$20 million. Many are wondering how that money will be recouped.



Someone is going to pay

■ Local insurance expert says LaJoice's embezzled funds will be recouped

By Vera Hogan
vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823
Many people are still shaking

their heads over the Michael LaJoice embezzlement case.

The list of questions people are asking is endless. How did he do it ... How did he get away with it for so long ... Did his wife know ... Why didn't the bank auditors catch this ...?

David Walker, owner of Hartland Insurance Agency, Inc. and IIABA (Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America) chairman, said he finds the insurance ramifications of this very interesting.

See **EMBEZZLED FUNDS** on 21A

\$1.00

Weekend Times

SUNDAY EDITION

VOL. 23 NO. XII

SUNDAY, MARCH 20, 2016

PAGE 7B

Tri-county area
boasts hundreds of
golf leagues for fun
and competition



Fenton's last day of school is June 16

Michigan schools are allowed six "snow" days per school year. If a district goes over that amount, they must make up for lost teaching time by adding minutes to the days or adding another school day in June.

Page 6A



It's official — home values increasing!

Low inventory creating a seller's market

March is the beginning of the year's busiest real estate season, with a strong selling season in the forecast.

Page 8A

2,000 Fenton students are dropped off within 20 minutes



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

At approximately 2:15 p.m. each day, a concentration of vehicles and student foot traffic flood the walkways near and along Donaldson Drive at Andrew G. Schmidt Middle School in Fenton. Dozens of vehicles wait in the drop-off lanes while crossing guards keep things moving. More students are driven to school by their parents than ever before, leading to a congested and chaotic 20 minutes each morning. See story on Page 3A.

Teen suspects sought guns

■ FBI: Cell phones reveal threatening messages linked to Linden school shooting plot

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

It was revealed in court on Wednesday that the alleged perpetrators of the Linden school shooting plot had been communicating about acquiring guns before they were apprehended.

Ryan Stevens, 18, of Linden, Kody Brewer, 15, of Wolverine Lake (formerly of Linden), and Lamarr Dukes, 15, of West Bloomfield, appeared with their attorneys in Genesee County District Court on March 16.

Judge David Goggins presided. See **GUNS** on 22A

New cell phone data was presented to the court on Wednesday, revealing that Stevens, Dukes, and Brewer were communicating via text message about trying to acquire weapons.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

Ryan Stevens and two other teen suspects in the alleged Linden school shooting plot were communicating via text messaging about acquiring guns.

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“Moved to Fenton two years ago from Grand Rapids. Love the town, but the drivers in Fenton are the worst I have ever seen. They blow through stop signs, text while driving, run red lights and inexplicably pull out in front of you when waiting at a stop sign. Nearly all of them are young women.”



“You will never meet a more amiable and laid back man than Fuzzy Walden. He has been a fixture in Fenton for more years than I can remember. Thanks Times for the great front page photo of one of our signature icons.”



COMMENT
OF THE WEEK

“Opinions vary as to whether or not dogs will be in heaven. I can tell you this, every dog I've ever known will be there long before any human I've ever known.”

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Principal's job on the line

■ Lake Fenton parent creates Facebook page to show support; school board to vote Monday

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

A special Lake Fenton Board of Education meeting has been scheduled for Monday, March 21 at 7 p.m. Meetings take place in the Alberta B. Martin Board Room, located within Lake Fenton Middle School.

Board members are expected to vote on a recommendation from Superintendent Wayne Wright that the school district's one-year contract with Lake Fenton High School Principal Todd Reynolds not be renewed. Reynolds began his role as principal on June 30, 2011.

The topic was discussed at the school board's meeting on Monday, March 14, however, discussion was tabled to give school board members more time to think about the superintendent's recommendation.

Wright said Tuesday that there were

a couple of issues involving Reynolds, which were quickly resolved. Despite being resolved he still is recommending that the school board not renew the principal's contract. Because it was a personnel issue, Wright declined to elaborate on the details.

Lake Fenton parent Tim Draeger and four others spoke in favor of Reynolds during Monday's board meeting.

Draeger said, "As a parent that had options on where to send my children, I appreciate the leadership he brings and the respect most students have for him."

"As a coach, I saw him deal effectively with critical issues. I spoke in support of his continued leadership at the meeting last night. I would love to see the hallway filled with others who feel the same next Monday night."

Following the meeting on Monday, Draeger created a "Support Principal Todd Reynolds" Facebook page, hoping to garner support for the principal.

Reynolds declined to comment on his contract and board discussion, however, he did say, "I think our district is a fantastic district with great kids, families, staff and administration." He added that he appreciates the support from Draeger and others.

“As a parent that had options on where to send my children, I appreciate the leadership he brings and the respect most students have for him.”

Tim Draeger
Lake Fenton parent



Todd Reynolds

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Patience is a must when dropping-off, picking-up at AGS

■ More students being driven to school than ever before

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

There is no doubt about it, dropping kids off at Fenton's AGS Middle School — or any school for that matter — in the morning, can make even the most reasonable person want to tear their hair out.

According to Eric Rettenmund, assistant principal at AGS, there is more congestion in the drop-off and pick-up lines this year than in years past. The simple reason is that more parents are choosing to drive their kids to school, he said.

There are other reasons, however. A couple of years ago, some bus routes were

changed and students who used to enjoy bus pick up within their subdivisions now have to walk or have their parents drive them to the main road at the end of the subdivision.

"So if in the Hills of Tyrone, for example, parents have to drive their kids down to Shiawassee

Avenue (across the street from the middle school/high school campus), they might as well go the rest of the way right to the school," Rettenmund said.

"We also have more schools of choice students this year," said Rettenmund.

According to Principal Heidie Ciesielski, 123 of the 813 students in grades six through eight at AGS are schools of choice kids. Schools of choice students do not have Fenton school bus privileges and parents or other guardians must drive them to school.

See AGS on 11A



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

(Top photo) The morning drop-off at AGS is far busier than in the afternoon because more students ride the bus after school. (Bottom photo) Vehicles waiting to pick up children line the entire drop-off and turning lanes into the AGS lot.

Parents and students can help by being prepared

There are a few things parents and students can do to lessen the time it takes for drop off and pick up at AGS Middle School. AGS Middle School principals and parents agree:

- **During inclement weather**, plan to leave the house earlier than normal to ensure on-time arrival at school, and work.
- **Make sure students** have their backpacks, band instruments, lunch money, and anything else they need for the day on their person before the vehicle stops — not after it stops, making parents behind you wait longer than necessary.
- **Drop students off** at the curbside only. There could be oncoming traffic in the left lane.

See PREPARED on 11A



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Come *Heller* high water

Thank you Donald Trump!

Donald Trump seems to be ushering in a new era of anger in America.

It's always been my policy to zig when people are zagging, so this is a good time to go the other direction from Trump and his Trumpettes and start making peace with some of the people and things in this world that drive me crazy.

Therefore, in true Trump fashion, I am raising my right hand and solemnly swearing to try and stop cussing and fussing as much as I do about the following irritants, so help me Oprah:



Andrew Heller
FEATURED COLUMNIST

People who drive slow in the fast lane — I've probably bored you to tears over the years with all my moaning and groaning about the brain-dead twits ... er, I mean, motorists who poke along in the left lane,

oblivious to the rising blood pressures in their wake.

I used to curse these people, and wish bad things upon them — like, say, forcing them to eat kale or watch a Kardashian marathon.

But no more. Instead, when I encounter these people I am going to take a deep breath and go to my inner happy place, where public executions of nitwits who drive slowly in the fast lane are legal and well attended. Problem solved.

Commercials for personal issues — I have a thing about all commercials for prescription medicines. I have never once, nor will I ever take medical advice from a TV commercial and 'ask my doctor' about what medicines to take. Mostly, because I suspect she'd hit me. She's the doctor, after all, not me. If she thinks I need a pill, I'm sure she'll tell me.

Doctors don't want to be told what medicines to prescribe any more than mechanics want to be told how to fix a car.

TV banter — For some reason, the cutesy banter TV anchors employ between segments has always bothered me beyond all reason. This is not healthy for me.

They're not going to stop saying dumb things like, 'Ha, ha, I guess that contest is really going to the dogs' after a segment on the Westminster dog show just because I want them to, even if it makes me want to wing my remote at the set. So I'm just not going to let it bother me anymore. It'll be better for my health and I won't have to replace so many TVs. (Flat screens are so flimsy these days.)

Leaf blowers — We're entering leaf blower season. I contend the world was a better, quieter and healthier place before the invention of the leaf blower. As soon as the grass is long enough to cut, I'll awake most Sunday mornings to the sound of one of the dad-blamed devices.

I wouldn't hate them half as much if the people who operate them didn't blow their lawn waste into the street where — I can only presume — they expect the 'lawn waste cleaning fairies' to whisk it away for them.

I am not going to let things like that bug me anymore, though.

Thank you, Donald Trump.

I suspect that's the last time I'll ever write those words.

“I have never once, nor will I ever take medical advice from a TV commercial and ‘ask my doctor’ about what medicines to take.”

Hotlines

Submit at: tctimes.com, call 810-629-9221 or text to 810-771-8398

All submissions, if approved for publication, must be 50 words or less and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Tri-County Times. We reserve the right to edit for clarity, length and liability.

WHY ARE SO many people complaining about wanting the King back? He hasn't missed a beat, I just get to read him in the Wednesday paper instead of over the weekend. What's the big deal?

DOWN WITH THE King. Andy Heller's columns are entertaining and easy to read. He doesn't try to save the world each week. My vote, and my subscription check, goes to Heller.

WE'D LIKE TO thank the owner of Holly Lanes. The Holly schools' Leap Program recently bowled there and the kids had a great time. He was so helpful, not only did he open early, he made sure everyone's money was returned to them, so there was no charge. What a very nice thing to do. Thanks again.

HELP ME GET this straight. When the rich and powerful lobby Congress for subsidizing tax preferences that is capitalism, but if we redistribute wealth to keep poor people from starving that is socialism. This is a very strange world. What happened to fair play and compassion?

IF GUNS MAKE a country safe, then the U.S. should be the safest nation in the world. So why do we have the greatest crime rate and the highest prison population despite having the most guns of any nation in the world?

AFTER THE CALLER comment on Lakeside Cemetery in Holly I looked into the maintenance, which has been inadequate the last few years. But whoever did the snow removal this winter was either a vandal at heart or totally incompetent. They should be removed for incompetence.

TODAY WE LIVE in a time when the gap between the rich and the rest of us is at its widest in our history. Is this the equality that our founders had in mind? Can you name one piece of legislation that Republicans have originated to help workers?

WE MAY HAVE democracy or we may have wealth in the hands of few, but we cannot have both.

CONTRARY TO WHAT I read in your Hot lines, I feel very strongly about Heller. I think that he's going to add another touch to your colorful paper. I certainly will be eager to read what he has to say and he will be turning over every stone.

THE GREED OF Wall Street combined with the lack of regulatory control produced the 2008 economic crisis. Why would anyone want to support the party that produced that?

IT'S SAD AND tragic that readers don't know history. Tax cuts for the rich and deregulation have never worked. They are total failure and have destroyed the middle class, helping only the rich.

OUR COUNTRY CAN afford a large defense budget and still have our modest welfare state, too. The only thing we cannot afford is to continue pretending we do not have to finance it out of taxation.

THE REASON THE city of Fenton can't get and keep volunteers is that they never say 'thank you.' Every time a volunteer walked into city hall or talks to a city council person, it wouldn't hurt to thank them instead of taking them for granted. It is such a simple thing.

WHEN OBAMA WAS running for president, both he and Biden said that under no circumstances would they allow George W. Bush to appoint a Supreme Court nominee. These people sure don't like it now that the shoe is on the other foot.

A NEW REPORT came out this week regarding the facts about Obama's early release program for illegal immigrants. Of course, this program has led to 124 murders of American citizens. President Obama should be in jail for aiding and abetting these murders.

See **HOT LINE** throughout Times

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Compiled by Hannah Ball, staff reporter

What's the best concert you've ever been to?



"Toby Mac two years ago, summer of 2014. It was just fun listening to him. I liked the beach balls coming out and how exciting it was."

**Piper Snodgrass
Bryon**



"J. Geils. A long time ago, probably around 1980. I've been to hundreds of concerts and I knew that was one of the best. Great music, great show, really great band."

**Nikki Orlando
Tyrone Township**



"When I was really young they were rock concerts but when I got older the best concert was Luciano Pavarotti. We sat in the nose-bleed section of Joe Louis Arena."

**Iman Simberg
Fenton Township**



"I have two best. The Eagles and James Taylor. They were both more than awesome. James Taylor was a year and a half ago, and the Eagles was a year ago. Taylor had his full band. He's got the best guitar player."

John Canever, Fenton



"Paul McCartney at Comerica five or six years ago. It was great. It's Paul McCartney, the Beatles, it was amazing. He did great."

**John Ingamells
Tyrone Township**

streettalk

Dog park may be coming to Fenton City

■ Anonymous donor gives \$10,000 for pooch park

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

Thanks to a \$10,000 donation from an anonymous donor, man's best friend may get another place to play in the city of Fenton.

According to Fenton City Councilwoman Nancy Draves, the donation was made through the Community Foundation of Greater Flint and is to be used as seed money for the start of a dog park.

Draves said she and Fenton City Councilwoman Pat Lockwood, and Sue Yeotis of Berkshire Hathaway Home Services have met once on the matter.

"The project is in the works, but in the very very very beginning stages," said Draves. "The first thing we have to do is find property."

Draves said about 12 acres of land are needed. If not already owned by the city of Fenton, the land would have to be donated.

"We can't afford to be buying property," Draves. "Some of these dog parks are big, and it is interesting to see how they are set up."

There are quite a few requirements that people may not think of for a dog park.

There has to be a water source for the dogs, such as a fountain. "There has to be fencing, parking and bathrooms," she said.

Another expense would be liability insurance to protect visitors in the event of dog attacks.

"We're talking a lot of money here."

One way to raise money is to allow people to buy sections of chainlink fencing, for example, and have their name applied to it as the donor.

"People can afford that," said Draves. "Other communities have done it."

Although in the beginning stages, Draves said committee members have already decided on two sections in the park, one for small dogs and one for large.

Draves, Yeotis and Lockwood are on the committee because the donor is a good friend to Draves and Yeotis. "We wanted

See **DOG PARK** on 23A

Fenton Township dog park to open this summer

Last November, a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held for a new Fenton Township dog park. 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. The dog park portion of the park is a privately funded project, estimated to cost around \$25,000, which organizers believe they can secure through fundraising. The goal is to have the park completed sometime this summer.



“The first thing we have to do is find property.”

Nancy Draves
Fenton City councilwoman

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Fenton's last day of school is June 16

■ Lake Fenton and Fenton to make up for lost days

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Fenton students, teachers, and administrators will be in school a week longer than other districts this year, but not because of snow days.

The later date for Labor Day caused all schools to push their start dates, and end dates, back.

Local students and teachers enjoyed just enough snow days this year, with only two districts having to make up for lost time.

While Lake Fenton and Fenton need to make up for lost time, Linden and Holly did not exceed the allotted amount of snow days so students do not need to spend extra time in school.

At **Linden**, seniors take final exams on May 19 and 20, with May 20 being their last day. Grades nine through 11 get out June 10.

At **Holly**, the seniors' last day is May 24 and graduation is June 10. The last day for all other grades is June 14.

Lake Fenton's last day of school is June 10 but seniors get out May 20. Since the district had seven snow days, there are 33 minutes to make up in class time,

according to High School Principal Todd Reynolds. The school will decide how to make up that time after spring break.

Fenton students, however, will be in school longer. All students except seniors are in class until June 16, later than other districts, but the district has to make up for lost time. Seniors' last day is May 27.

"This may come in the form of additional minutes per day in the existing calendar or adding one day to the calendar itself," said Interim Superintendent Doug Busch. "We are in the process of reviewing possible options regarding making up time and will have a decision prior to spring break."

One option is applying for a waiver where the state would dismiss the requirement to make up

for lost time because the county declared a snow emergency.

“We are in the process of reviewing possible options regarding making up time and will have a decision prior to spring break.”

Doug Busch
Fenton Area Public Schools
interim superintendent

Background

If Michigan schools have more than six snow days in one school year, state law requires them to make up for lost time.

Michigan school districts must provide at least 175 days of teaching instruction and at least 1,098 hours of instruction for students in kindergarten through 12th grade for the 2015-2016 school year, according to Michigan.gov.

Fenton

Last day of classes – **June 16**
Seniors are done May 27

Holly

Last day of classes – **June 14**
Seniors are done May 24

Lake Fenton

Last day of classes – **June 10**
Seniors are done May 20

Linden

Last day of classes – **June 10**
Seniors are done May 20

That number increases to 180 for the 2016-2017 school year.

District superintendents are responsible to call snow days when there's too much snow, the roads are too dangerous, or it's too cold.

Students, teachers, and administrators enjoy days off when the snow piles are too high, but enjoying winter can mean enjoying less summer.

Schools can either add days at the end of the year or add minutes to the days, making sure they reach the full 1,098 hours of instruction to receive the full amount of State School Aid funds.

SUMMARY

■ Michigan schools are allowed six 'snow' days per school year. If a district goes over that amount, they must make up for lost teaching time by adding minutes to the days or adding another school day in June.

“I am hopelessly hooked on the printed newspaper. I love turning the pages and the serendipity of stumbling across a piece of irresistible information or a photograph that I wasn't intending to view or read.”

Jill Abramson

Times

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12783 (11-12)

Fenton City officials tighten medical marijuana ordinance

■ Not locking up your cannibals could get driver locked up

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

At the recommendation of Police Chief Rick Aro, the Fenton City Council voted unanimously Monday to sink more teeth into the medical marijuana ordinance, specifically as it relates to transporting the drug.

The newly approved ordinance amendment calls for anyone legally permitted to possess and transport medical marijuana to lock the substance in a case in the vehicle of the trunk.

If the vehicle has no trunk, Aro said a secure, locked container within the vehicle would satisfy the law.

"I can say, without reservation, that in a baggie or glass jar under the seat won't (satisfy the law)," Aro said.

Any person who violates this ordinance would be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than \$500 and imprisonment for not more than 93 days, or both.

Aro said this ordinance parallels Michigan state law, and said similar ordinances have been adopted by several municipalities throughout the state.

"I can say, without reservation, that in a baggie or glass jar under the seat won't (satisfy the law)."

Rick Aro
Fenton police chief

HOT LINE CONTINUED

IT BOTHERS ME that the water problem in Flint is broadcast worldwide. Not that there aren't problems there, but I regularly receive pleas from missionaries for money to help provide sanitary water systems for people in the back country in Africa. They're also in desperate need.

I SAY LET'S give in to the hamburger flippers' request for a wage of \$15. But make it for two hours work.

REPORTEDLY, MOVEON.ORG, THE leftist group that organized the anti-Trump rally in Chicago, is financed by billionaire, leftist, George Soros. Soros is a close ally of the Clintons.

JUST WONDERING, IN regards to Wednesday's Hot lines, I would also like a story on AGS Middle School, about what

time and why school opens doors later than other area schools.

JUST AS TCTIMES printed an article on taxes last year, when we pay nearly twice as much in Sin Taxes (beer, wine, cigarettes etc.) alone, then all of corporate businesses in Michigan, there is a problem with our unfair tax structure.

THE REPUBLICAN PARTY needs to do its part on confirming or not confirming a Supreme Court judge. I think its political suicide not to and the party will lose several seats in the Senate and lose to the Democrats in the presidential election. Let's start thinking for our country, not ourselves.

WHAT WE NEED is a total income tax reform. Why should I have to pay 56 percent of my income in taxes while the wealthy pay much less? Income should be taxed equally, regardless of how much you make.

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- Alecia

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It's official — home values increasing

■ Low inventory is creating seller's market

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Henry Beckmeyer put his family home on the market last August for \$219,900, and with no offers, dropped the price in October 2015 to \$209,000. As the holidays approached, he took his house off the market, waiting for more activity in the busy spring real estate market.

Beckmeyer's home went back on the market in March at \$199,999, priced with the help of his Realtor, John Wentworth of ReMAX Platinum in Fenton.

"In just a few days, this listing produced five offers and sold at \$205,000," said Wentworth. "The key is strategy. At the right price, with the proper preparation and marketing, your home can sell in a matter of days, usually within 30 days. If you own a high-end property with a smaller pool of potential buyers, it may take a little longer."

Now in the swing of the year's busiest real estate season of March, April and May, Wentworth sees consumer confidence as one of the biggest strengths of today's market. "People aren't going in scared, saying 'what if?' It's a very strong selling season. Values continue to uptick, but not like they were a year or two ago. The market has stabilized, we're headed in the right direction. We've created our 'new normal.'"

With keen competition among buyers in this seller's market, tri-county area



March is the beginning of the year's busiest real estate season, with a strong selling season expected in the upcoming months.

buyers and sellers need to be well prepared on both sides of the transaction.

"Gone are the days when you'd make an offer of less than full price," said Realtor Wade Pyles of Berkshire Hathaway Michigan Home Services.

In fact, multiple offers are a fact of life in a market with a small inventory. "During the housing bust, we had so many foreclosures that kept values down," said Pyles. "There are still a few, but not in bulk like they were, so that's keeping prices on an incline. Probably in another year or so, prices will be stagnant, but they're still at a good price for our market. These prices allow people to move up, and use the equity in their home to buy or build something newer or bigger."

Average time on the market for homes across all price ranges in the Fenton school district is 27 days, 30 days in the Lake Fenton school district, 41 days in the Linden district, and 44 days in the Holly school district, according to statistics provided by Pyles.

In this volatile election year, many sellers are asking Wentworth how this year's presidential race is affecting the market. "It has a lesser impact than people think," he said. "Buyers are buying out of a need or want. That's not going to change."

See HOMES on 14A

ADVICE FOR BUYERS & SELLERS

Buyers:

• **Find a Realtor** you trust who is proactive in the marketplace.

"Your Realtor should be calling you with listings, so you can get inside the homes quickly," said John Wentworth of ReMAX Platinum.

• **Be ready to buy** by being pre-qualified.

"Be prepared to offer full price, as multiple offers are common," said Wade Pyles of Berkshire Hathaway Home Services.

• **Be educated about the market.** "Work with your Realtor so you know how to make the best offer to get you the property you want," said Wentworth.

Sellers:

• **Work closely with a Realtor** on setting a price, marketing and strategy.

"If a Realtor and seller are working toward the same goal, a mid-priced

home (\$150,000 to \$300,000) should sell within 30 days," said Wentworth.

• **Upgrade your home** before the sale, to get the best price.

"You'll have the best chance for a successful sale if you do a bit of upgrading, especially in the kitchen and bath, plus fresh paint," said Pyles. "It's very important to have your home staged for the sale."

“The market has stabilized, we’re heading in the right direction. We’ve created our ‘new normal.’”

John Wentworth
ReMAX Platinum

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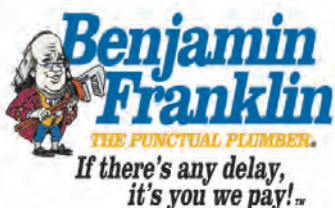
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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | BILLMEIER CAMERA

Pictured (from left) are Joan Horcha, Jocelyn Hagerman, Becky Foerster and Linda Dyball.

Arts Council gets \$10,000 gift from The Hagerman Foundation

■ Fenton Lakes Area Arts Council to use money to fund summer event

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

The arts community in the city of Fenton received a boost with a \$10,000 grant from The Hagerman Foundation, presented Wednesday to the Fenton Lakes Area Arts Council.

Presenting the award were Jocelyn Hagerman, CEO of The Hagerman Foundation and Becky Foerster, executive director. Representing the arts council were Joan Horcha, president and Linda Dyball, vice president.

This grant will fund a new summer event in Fenton, "Arts Are The Heart," taking place on the first Fridays of the month, June 3, July 1 and Aug. 5 from 3 to 7 p.m. at the Fenton Community and Cultural Center.

The series will include family art projects, art exhibits, music, literary and performing arts, as well as a reception for families to attend and view art.

The event is free and open to the public, celebrating the arts and showcasing the newly-renovated center.

"The Hagerman Foundation is excited to see the recent revitalization taking place in downtown Fenton," said Foerster. "This summer series is a wonderful addition in bringing the community together, embracing family, arts and culture. We look forward to enjoying it with friends and family."

The Fenton Lakes Area Arts Council is excited about the enhancement of art programs this grant now makes possible within the city of Fenton.

"We thank The Hagerman Foundation for their generous contribution," said Horcha. "We invite the community to this spectacular celebration of the arts, a family friendly event with art opportunities for all ages."

In addition to the "Arts Are The Heart" summer series, upcoming art events include ArtWalk on July 9, weekly open art studio, DDA downtown sculptures, summer youth arts camp, artist workshops, Fenton Community Orchestra concerts and more. For more information, visit lakesareaartscouncil.org.

“This summer series is a wonderful addition in bringing the community together, embracing family, arts and culture.”

Becky Foerster
The Hagerman Foundation

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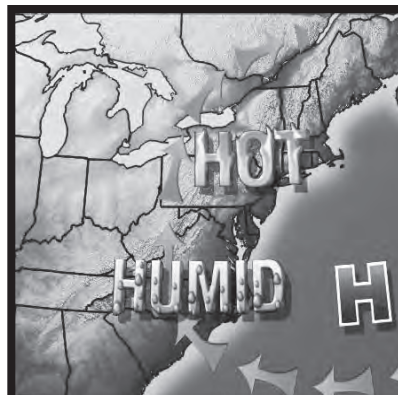
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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Guided by overhead street lights, AGS students cross Donaldson Drive and the student drop-off lane early Thursday morning.

AGS
Continued from Page 3A

Rettenmund agrees that walking to AGS is not the safest way to get to school, with busy Owen Road at the north end of Donaldson Drive, and Shiawassee Avenue, with no sidewalks on the south end.

“Some kids ride their bikes but I don’t really like that either,” said Rettenmund.

Students who have access to bus transportation by walking to the nearest elementary school and boarding there, must leave their home much earlier and spend far more time on the bus than those whose parents drive them to school.

And, times have changed, said Ciesielski. “Parents don’t feel comfortable having their kids wait at the bus stop,” she said.

There is always going to be congestion, said Ciesielski. “We have 2,000 students that need to be on campus in two schools within 20 minutes.”

Both principals agreed that in order to change the configuration of the school drives, pick-up and drop-off areas, and parking lots would be a very expensive venture.

The bottom line is that patience, following a few simple drop-off procedures, and preparedness is required on the part of parents and students (see sidebar).

“It is not our job to make sure parents

get to work on time,” said Ciesielski. “It’s our job to make sure all of the students make it into the building safely.”

Rettenmund added, “Our worst fear is that a student gets hurt out there.”

The vast majority of parents do follow the proper procedures, said Ciesielski and Rettenmund.

PREPARED
Continued from Page 3A

• **Do not drop** your students off at AGS Middle School before 7 a.m., when the school doors open. Although there are a few staff members in the building earlier than 7 a.m., they are there early to do a job, not serve as day care providers.

• **As soon as** parents make it into the school drop-off line, off Donaldson Drive, their student(s), if able, should get out and walk the rest of the way to the school. There is a sidewalk all the way to the door. The parents should then get out of the drop-off line and be on their way.

• **Parents should avoid** staying in the drop-off line all the way to the school door, then waiting and watching their student walk all the way into the building. It is a safe campus.

• **Parents who drop** their kids off at the high school parking lot across the street from AGS should pull all the way into the parking lot — not pull in, stop and then back out onto Donaldson Drive again once their student is out of the vehicle.

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St. Paddy's Day special guests



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO

Jim and Violet Potts (far left) of Linden, and CK105 radio personalities Mike and Stephanie, were special guests in the first-grade classroom of Terry Tibbitts at Hyatt Elementary on St. Patrick's Day. The Potts were born and raised in Ireland. They brought slides, told the story of St. Patrick's Day and Jim played the harmonica.

HOMES

Continued from Page 8A

That kind of need has led to more new construction starts this year. "Our proximity to U.S. 23 and I-75, plus great schools, makes us a high demand area," said Pyles. "There's a lot more residential development coming. Watch for more single-family ranch homes, over-50 housing developments and condos being built."

Low interest rates add to the excitement of this year's real estate market. "Interest rates

are still stable," said Wentworth. "We've been hearing for three years that they're going to go up. If they do, they do. Don't base your entire buying decision on that."

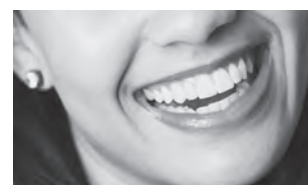
John Otney of Star Mortgage in Fenton said of interest rates, "In a nutshell, everyone's waiting for the move to the upside, but it never seems to happen. The Feds tried to raise it this fall, but it just failed. The rates keep bouncing back to the bottom at the high 3s to the low 4s for an average 30-year fixed mortgage."

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LOOKING BACK

at this week in

NATIONAL HISTORY

COMPILED BY VERA HOGAN • SOURCE: HISTORY.COM

MARCH 20

1982: With her smoldering looks and guitar hooks, Joan Jett had rock-star charisma to rival any man's. Jett burst onto the scene as a solo artist with "I Love Rock 'n' Roll," the three-chord anthem that topped the Billboard pop chart, making her a household name.

MARCH 21

1871: Journalist Henry Morton Stanley begins his famous search through Africa for the missing British explorer Dr. David Livingstone. In the late 19th century, Europeans and Americans were deeply fascinated by the continent of Africa and its many mysteries. Few did more to increase Africa's fame than Livingstone. In August 1865, he set out on a planned two-year expedition in Africa. Almost six years after his expedition began, little had been heard from him. Stanley was sent to lead an expedition into the African wilderness to find Livingstone or bring back proof of his death. Nearly eight months passed before Stanley's expedition approached the village of Ujiji. Spotting a white man with a gray beard in the crowd, Stanley stepped toward him, stretched out his hand and said, "Dr. Livingstone, I presume."

MARCH 22

1983: The Pentagon awards a production contract worth more than \$1 billion to AM General Corporation to develop 55,000 High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles (HMMWV). Nicknamed the Humvee and designed to transport troops and cargo. The wide, rugged vehicles entered the spotlight when they were used by the American military. In 1992, a civilian version of the Humvee, known as the Hummer, went on sale to the public.

MARCH 23

1839: The initials "O.K." were first published in The Boston Morning Post. Meant as an abbreviation for "oll correct," a popular slang misspelling of "all correct" at the time, OK steadily made its way into the everyday speech of Americans. Much like young people do today, during the late 1830s, it was a favorite practice to misspell words intentionally, then abbreviate them and use them as slang when talking to one another.

MARCH 24

1989: The worst oil spill on U.S. territory begins when the supertanker Exxon Valdez, owned and operated by the Exxon Corporation, runs aground on a reef in Prince William Sound in southern Alaska. An estimated 11 million gallons of oil eventually spilled into the water.

MARCH 25

1911: In one of the darkest moments of America's industrial history, the Triangle Shirtwaist Company factory in New York City burns down, killing 145 workers. The tragedy led to the development of a series of laws and regulations that better protected the safety of factory workers. The factory was a sweatshop in every sense of the word, packed with poor immigrant workers, mostly young women who did not speak English.

MARCH 26

1979: In a ceremony at the White House, Egyptian President Anwar el-Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin sign a historic peace agreement, ending three decades of hostilities between Egypt and Israel and establishing diplomatic and commercial ties.



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ONLINE EXCLUSIVES

► Missed any big winter sports moments? Find the story at tctimes.com.

Devils' dream run ends in regional final

■ LF's fourth-quarter charge falls just short vs. New Haven, 53-50

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

Imlay City — It's been a team that has never shied away from a challenge.

Seemingly an uncountable amount of times the Lake Fenton varsity boys basketball team has trailed by decent second-half deficits this season, only having themselves to count on while making comeback attempts. And each time they seemingly were rewarded with an entertaining victory. Those victories eventually grew to a number that made the 2015-16 season among the most memorable in Lake Fenton school history.

However, that memorable season came to an end on Wednesday night at Imlay City High School. The Blue Devils trailed by 11 in the fourth quarter against New Haven, but once again fought to the point of having

Regional final summary

Score: New Haven 53, Lake Fenton 50

Keys to game: The Blue Devils hit on just 1-of-17 shots in the opening quarter and also allowed a 12-0 run to start the second half. The droughts, frequently due to the Rockets' superior size, forced the Blue Devils to have to continue to play from behind. Also, New Haven's Eric Williams Jr. was strong offensively, leading all scorers with 25 points.

LF's stat leaders

- **Jalen Miller:** 20 points, 9 rebounds. Only LF player to score in every quarter.
- **Isaac Golson:** 13 points, 6 rebounds.
- **Chris Bell:** 12 points, 8 rebounds.

a chance to win in the final minute. However, the Blue Devils' fell a little short in the schools first-ever Class B regional championship game, falling to the Rockets 53-50.

Facing a team with a starting lineup which included three starters of at least 6-foot-6, the Blue Devils trailed the entire second half except at one point when senior Chris Bell hit a three-pointer giving Lake Fenton a 48-47 lead with about 1:30 left in the contest. However, New Haven

responded with a Romeo Weems' driving layup about 13 seconds later, taking a 49-48 lead. The Blue Devils never led again.

On their next possession, junior Jalen Miller, who led the Blue Devils with 20 points, missed a driving shot. Weems followed by hitting 1-of-2 free throws increasing the Rockets' lead to 50-48. Isaac Golson tied it up for the final time when he hit two free throws at 50-all with 20.3 sec-

See DEVILS' on 19A



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | MARK BOLEN

Lake Fenton's Chris Bell drives among three New Haven players in the Blue Devils' 53-50 Class B regional championship game loss at Imlay City High School on Wednesday.

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Brothers continue to record boxing tourney wins

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

The tri-county area's most recognized youth boxers are at it again.

Linden brothers Mickel Clements, 11, and Joey Spencer, 15, have spent most of this winter collecting more hardware.

Clements recently captured the Silver Glove Regional Championships and the Silver Glove National Championships in the Boys Bantam Open 10-11, 81-85-pound class. He's also won the Ringside National Championship in the past.

"It feels good and I hope I can keep racking up the belts so I can catch Joey," Clements said.

His journey began by winning the state competition. In all, among the three competitions, Mickel had to box six different fighters.

Mickel's boxing approach has changed. He's become more aggressive in his approach, and it paid off at the nationals where he won all three of his bouts.

"I feel like I have improved by being more tenacious when I fight," Clements said. "I've been throwing more punches which makes it harder for my opponent because they have to punch with me and they usually end up tiring out trying to keep my pace. Also, I've always been able to box both right- and left-handed, but I just recently started switching frequently during fights which is giving my opponents a lot of trouble."

Hard work has been Clements' other key.

"I was successful because I stayed



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Linden boxers and brothers Mickel Clements (left) and Joey Spencer (right) continued their impressive amateur careers with some more current tournament championships.

focused and trained hard five times a week," Clements said. "When you put in the work, it always pays off."

Meanwhile, Joey Spencer, continues to turn heads as well. He competed at the Junior Open and Youth National Championships held in Reno, Nevada and earned the gold medal by defeating three fighters, all by decision. He defeated Israel Alvarez in the title match. Spencer is ranked No. 1 in the junior male 154 pound class.

"Winning the gold medal was one of the sweetest victories I've ever experi-

enced," Spencer said. "It might have had something to do with the fact that this was my second year in a row qualifying for Team USA, which resealed my No. 1 ranking and proved that I was there to stay. And I also had some tougher opposition this year which made winning even more rewarding."

Spencer also represented the United States in September at the AIBA Junior World Championships in St. Petersburg, Russia. While there, he won his first bout but lost to the eventual Junior Light Middle champion, Russia's Artum

Oganesian.

"That was a great honor for me and a great experience," Spencer said. Also it was something I've been dreaming of since I was a little kid. I took a lot of pride in being a part of Team USA and representing my country at the worlds."

Spencer remains excited about pursuing his boxing career well beyond his youth days. His plans include possibly turning pro at the end of 2017.

"I'm ready to get started with my professional career and start working toward newer and bigger goals," Spencer said.



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LFLF gymnastics caps season at state meet

■ Hutchings, Stephens place within the top 15 in all-around competition

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

The Linden/Fenton/Lake Fenton co-op varsity gymnastics team sent four gymnasts to the state finals, and continue to show signs of progress within its two years of existence.

The squad had one of its four gymnasts, Blake Hutchings, come close to earning All-State honors.

Hutchings was one of two LFLF gymnasts who competed in the all-around and ended up placing 11th with an all-around score of 34.825. The top 10 qualify for all-state honors.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO

Miranda Stephens competes on the bars in a recent meet. She placed 17th at the state meet on the bars and placed 14th in the all-around competition for the co-op gymnastics team including athletes from Linden, Fenton and Lake Fenton high schools.

Hutchings placed 15th on the bars (8.475) and the beam (8.650), 19th on the vault (9.050), and 23rd on the floor (8.650).

Teammate Miranda Stephens followed Hutchings by placing 14th in the all-around. Stephens tied Hutchings for 15th on the beam (8.650) and also tied her in 23rd place (8.650) on the floor. Stephens also posted a 17th-place finish on the bars (8.400) and 33rd on the vault (8.700). The pair competed in Division II action.

One other LFLF competitor competed in DII action, Jessica Richert. Richert placed 31st in the bars (8.000).

The squad had just one DI competitor, Carly Kozlowski. Kozlowski had scores of 7.675 on the bars, 7.775 on the beam and 8.225 on the floor.

"It was an exciting day with some big competition," LFLF coach Nancy Holden said. "Although Blake fell shy of placing all-state, she and the other girls had a pretty good day."



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO

Jaime Cardenas captured his third straight state powerlifting championship recently at the state powerlifting meet. He was named the Most Outstanding Lifter, breaking the state record in the deadlift in his weight class.

Holly's Cardenas caps career with third straight powerlifting state championship

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

Jaime Cardenas had one goal when he competed at the state powerlifting championships recently.

He wanted to complete his prep career with a third straight state title.

Cardenas earned his wish and collected a few more honors in the process.

The Holly senior not only collected his third consecutive individual state championship, but he also broke two records and was awarded the Most Outstanding Lifter at the meet. Cardenas helped lead the Holly Bronchos to a 10th-place team finish at the meet.

"Honestly, it was the way I wanted it to end," Cardenas said. "It ended up being perfect."

"My first goal was to win the meet and the second goal was to break the record. I wanted to win first and then break the record."

Cardenas, who competed in the 145-pound weight class, won with a combined weight lift of 1,195 pounds, recording a new state record. The combined weight lift is the total amount of weight he lifted during the squad, bench and deadlift. He also became the new state record holder in the deadlift with a total of 545 pounds lifted.

"All of my emotions came busting out at once," Cardenas said about his reaction after the team.

"I was really happy. But I think (Holly powerlifting coach Mike Millhouse) was happier than I was. I was more in shock it was my third year in a row. What a way to finish a career out."

He owns an American Powerlifting Federation record after lifting 501 pounds in the deadlift in a previous competition.

"That's my lift," Cardenas said about the powerlift. "It's my favorite one, too."

Others also competed for Holly
See CARDENAS on 19A

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CONTINUING



****MIRACLES FROM HEAVEN (PG)**
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DEVILS'**Continued from Page 16A**

onds left, but Alante Stevens gave New Haven the lead for good with a converted free throw with 10.2 seconds left. Lake Fenton's next possession ended in a steal, forcing the Blue Devils to foul Eric Williams Jr. who converted two free throws with 1.1 seconds left. On their final possession, Lake Fenton's inbound pass near midcourt was stolen, ending the Blue Devils' magical season and potential comeback victory.

"It's our motto, our motto is to never die easy," senior Chris Bell said. "Every time we go out of a huddle that's what we live by. We always feel confident in our abilities."

"We were physically drained, but we kept ourselves competing," senior Jake Zielinski said. "We played smart. We made the smart passes. We made smart shots. We did everything that we could possibly do. We felt comfortable."

At the start the Blue Devils looked like a frazzled squad against the much taller Rockets. Lake Fenton hit on just 1-of-17 shots and missed all six free throws the Blue Devils attempted in the first eight minutes. The Blue Devils had to feel fortunate being down just 12-2 entering the second quarter.

"The first quarter was just a blur," Zielinski said. "I think we

were all stunned by the crowd size and how loud it was getting in there. Their height was a definite factor at first. We just had to get our legs under us, get a shot in, see a few shots go in and get the ball rolling."

"We didn't give up," Miller said. "We kept pushing forward. We just keep pushing until the final buzzer."

Lake Fenton kept pushing and were impressive in the second quarter, hitting on 9-of-19 shots during the period. An inbounds layup by Miller on a pass from Bell cut the gap to 16-15 with 4:33 left in the first half, and from there, the Blue Devils hung close. Bell hit a 12-foot jumper at the buzzer, keeping Lake Fenton down just 26-24 at the half.

"At the start of the second quarter I thought we did a good job attacking their bigs, but also finishing our layups, going up a little stronger," Lake Fenton varsity coach Jake Erway said.

New Haven started the third quarter with a quick 12-0 run. It was capped by a putback slam by 6-foot-9 Jerry

Ben with 5:06 left in the period, putting the Rockets up 38-24. However, that's as large as New Haven's lead ever got. Lake Fenton had the gap down to 43-33 by the end of the third quarter and kept chipping away at the lead the rest of the fourth quarter, setting up the dramatic ending.

Miller had eight rebounds to go with his 20 points, while Golson had 13 points and seven rebounds. Bell finished with 12 points and eight rebounds. Williams led New Haven with 25 points while Weems finished with 10 points.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | MARK BOLEN

Because of New Haven's height, whenever the Lake Fenton Blue Devils attacked the basket during their Class B regional title game, the Rockets usually had one or two players waiting to make life hard on offense as these photos suggest. (Left) Lake Fenton's Jake Zielinski is met by a Rocket player. (Above) Lake Fenton's Andrew Foerster (center) found himself among the Rockets' tallest players all game long.

CARDENAS**Continued from Page 18A**

at the meet. Mitchell Walls finished fourth at 123 pounds, while Lorenzo Rodriguez placed fifth (181). Sarah Charles finished eighth in the girls 132-pound class. Katie Dewey also competed but did not place.

Other boys who competed but didn't place were Dylan Vandell, Ty-

ler Albright and Keenan Steele.

The Holly powerlifting team had 32 athletes on it with those athletes representing seven different sports.

Holly won the state championship title in 2011 and finished as the state runner-up three times (2010, 12, 13). In 2014 and 2015 the Holly Bronchos placed third as a team at the state meet.

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Times

Lansing man dies in rollover crash

■ Argentine Township police believe alcohol was involved, driver remains in critical condition

By Sharon Stone

sstone@tctimes.com; 810-433-6786

The Argentine Township Police Department is investigating a fatal rollover crash, which occurred Tuesday, March 15, at approximately 10:20 p.m.

Police Chief Dan Allen said police responded to the 11000 block of Silver Lake Road, about one-quarter mile east of Duffield Road, to investigate the reported crash.

Allen said the preliminary investigation revealed that a 2001 Chevrolet Blazer, driven by a 26-year-old Okemos man, was westbound on Silver Lake Road. For unknown reasons, the vehicle veered off the roadway, flipping multiple times.

The passenger, 26-year-old Cody Benton of Lansing, was ejected. He was pronounced dead at the scene. Allen said his body was found approximately 60 feet from the vehicle.

The driver was also ejected. He was transported to Genesys Health Park in Grand Blanc Township where he, as of Friday morning, was listed in critical condition.

The police chief said investigators believe alcohol was a factor. Neither the driver nor passenger were wearing seat belts. The crash remains under investigation.

Business brief

Holly dentist earns prestigious appointment

Steven Sulfaro, D.D.S., a general practice dentist in Holly, has been appointed Vice Regent of District IX of the International College of Dentists. His appointment took place during the national meeting of the USA section of the ICD in Washington D.C. in November 2015. Fellowship in the ICD is by invitation only through nomination by one's peers, an honor achieved by only about 3 percent of dentists. The ICD honors and promotes fellow dental professionals, who display leadership, ethics and humanitarian service.

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Jim Bishop

Times

EMBEZZLED FUNDS

Continued from Front Page

LaJoice, 36, of Tyrone Township, the owner of the now-closed Chassé Ballroom and Latin Dance Studio in Fenton, is facing 14 felony counts of embezzlement after he turned himself in to the Oakland County Sheriff's Office on Jan. 6.

He admitted embezzling \$20 million over a 12-year period from the Clarkston Brandon Community Credit Union, where he worked as the chief financial officer.

"The 'how' involves dummy entities, false loans, false invoicing," Walker said. "The how, when you have a chief financial officer with strong control over the transactions, that part's relatively easy."

Ultimately, the NCUA (National Credit Union Association), which is the credit union equivalent to the FDIC (Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation), is going to be looking at this.

The length of time is what is important, Walker said. "We now have reason to believe the act took 10 to 12 years."

The NCUA insures deposits up to at least \$250,000 per individual depositor.

"When the NCUA gets done recapitalizing the organization (credit union), it is going to look for recovery from some negligent party," said Walker.

"Typically, what's going to happen is that they are going to look at two negligent parties," said Walker. "Because this was perpetrated over such a long period time, one question is why didn't auditors pick up on this earlier?"

Walker said according to the Marquet International Study on Embezzlement, these types of schemes typically have a life span of two to three years.

"Something happens to trigger them getting caught," he said. "In this case, it took 10 to 12 years, and even with auditors looking at the books every year, he was able to abscond with one-third the asset base of this organization. And no auditors picked up on this."

The asset base for the Clarkston Brandon Credit Union is between \$60 and \$65 million, Walker said.

As soon as the ink is dry on the reimbursement checks, the NCUA is going after someone for that money, he added.

"They're first going to go knocking on the doors of the auditing firm's professional liability insurers," he said.

Then the NCUA will go after the professional liability coverage of the directors and officers of the credit union's board of directors.

Top five embezzlement cases

1. Bernard Lawrence "Bernie" Madoff

Madoff was arrested in 2008 and the word "Ponzi" became widespread throughout America.

Madoff was an investment advisor who was found guilty of 11 federal counts of fraud, including securities fraud, investment advisor fraud, false filings and money laundering.

Madoff's Ponzi scheme bilked thousands of investors of an estimated amount of **\$65 billion**.

In June 2009, Madoff was sentenced to 150 years in prison. As of March 2014, approximately \$5.87 billion has been distributed among the victims of Madoff's Ponzi scheme.



2. Darryl and Erika McCauley

McCauley's name might not be familiar, but he is the half-brother of famous comedian Dane Cook.

McCauley was also the comedian's business manager and used his position as both a family member and businessman to steal millions of dollars from the star.

Cook's half-brother and sister-in-law must repay the comedian **\$12 million** they admitted to stealing while managing Cook's business.

Darryl pleaded guilty to larceny, embezzlement and forgery charges. His wife, Erika, pleaded guilty to larceny charges. Darryl was sentenced to six years in prison and 16 years probation, while his wife got three years in prison and 13 years probation.

McCauley, who kept Cook's financial books and managed his financial affairs, was accused of transferring millions of dollars from Cook's business accounts into his own personal accounts through checks and wire transfers. One such forged check was for \$3 million.



3. Ausaf Umar "Omar" Siddiqui

In 2008, Siddiqui was the vice president of operations and merchandising for the electronic retailer Fry's Electronics.

Siddiqui set up a dummy company that received illegal kickbacks totaling over **\$80 million**.

Siddiqui continued embezzling money to pay off heavy gambling debts to several casinos.

He was sentenced to six years in federal prison and was ordered to pay \$65 million in restitution.



4. Kenneth Lay

Kenneth Lay was the founder, CEO and chairman of Enron and is infamously known for his role in corporate abuse and accounting fraud with the company which cost shareholders nearly **\$11 billion**.

Enron became one of the largest sellers of natural gas, however years of unethical accounting practices resulted in the company filing for bankruptcy.

Lay was facing up to 45 years in prison plus monetary fines, however, he died before sentencing.



5. Allen Stanford

Once a prominent financier and professional sports sponsor, Stanford was the owner and CEO of the Stanford Financial Group of Companies.

The SEC launched an investigation in early 2009 to find that a massive ongoing fraud involving over a **\$8 billion** Ponzi scheme.

Allen Stanford was charged by the SEC and ultimately convicted of fraud and numerous violations of U.S. securities law.

He is currently serving a 110-year prison sentence.

Source: marquetinternational.com



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

Last October, Michael LaJoice lays out his plan for a multi-million dollar project called "Riverview" during a press conference.

negligence," he said. "We'll be learning a lot about this in next year or so."

Walker believes the process will take at least a couple of years.

"The wheels of justice in the civil arena grind very slowly," he said.

Although NCUA will act quickly, one of the factors may be the number of different auditing firms the credit union employed over the past dozen years.

"If it's the same one, that simplifies it," Walker said.

If there are three, four or five different auditors, it could take a few years, he added.

Walker did not wish to speculate on how much prison time LaJoice could be looking at, if convicted.

"I'm not an attorney nor do I play one on TV," he joked. "Although wrong is wrong, I don't think the length of time it took or the dollar amount is going to be a major fact in his sentencing. Right now it's all alleged."

Walker referenced the Enron embezzlement case and said the reason Ken Lay received so much prison time was because it had so much impact on employees, the retirees and the organization.

"Back then, retirees had 100 percent Enron stock and ended up with nothing," said Walker. "I don't know that you have that here."

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MEET

Mia

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GUNS

Continued from Front Page

FBI Agent Henrik Impola was the only witness for the day.

New cell phone data was presented to the court, revealing that Stevens, Dukes, and Brewer were communicating via text messages about trying to acquire weapons.

Impola testified that the boys talked about finding MAC-10s, which are compact sub-machine guns, and Glock handguns.

These text messages were sent in the timeframe of when the threats began and when the three were apprehended.

It was also revealed that pictures of Dukes and Brewer holding guns were sent by phone between the three, which is what prompted

police to take the threat seriously.

Det. Doug Fulton expects more data to be revealed once it's extracted from the teens' cell phones and processed.

"It takes time to extract all the information," he said. "It takes time to go through all of it."

The alleged incident occurred on Oct. 27, 2015, when the teens communicated over a series of Instagram posts, direct messages and text messages, suggesting there might be a shooting at the school by the three teens.

They 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.

Argentine Township police have been

handling the case and the FBI has been assisting.

Judge Goggins denied the attorneys' request for a bond again.

Stevens remains lodged at the Genesee County Jail, and Brewer and Dukes remain lodged at the Regional Detention Center.

The next court date has been scheduled for April 13.

Background

When all three teens were in Genesee County District Court for the first time on Feb. 10, it was revealed that the incident started when Stevens made an insulting Instagram post about the 17-year-old witness, prompting an online feud between

the three suspects and the victim.

The 17-year-old told one of the Linden liaison officers, who works for the Argentine Police Department, about the threats when she started feeling unsafe.

She testified that Dukes threatened her and allegedly said, "Please say some silly s--- so I can explain to the police why your decapitated head is sitting on my dresser," the Times previously reported.

Steven sent the message "school shooting in 5, 4, 3, 2, 1," and Brewer posted a stock image of children around a fire with the caption, "summoning the demon of a school shooter," prompting the 17-year-old to tell the school liaison officer.

At that time, she testified that she didn't think the school shooting threat was real.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

INSTEAD OF RAISING the voting age to 21, how about a simple test to get registered, such as naming the three branches of government. There are so many uninformed voters. You need to pass a test to drive, why not to vote also?

■■■■

I'M A TRUE blue conservative, but am thoroughly disgusted with what the 'es-

tablishment' is doing to Trump. I'll never donate to the Republican Party...ever.

■■■■

JUST ABOUT EVERY poor person pays taxes whether it is sales or gas taxes. That is more than corporations like GE, which makes billions and pays nothing. Yet for some people that is capitalism. That is cronyism for the donor class.

■■■■

JUST SO EVERYONE understands how

our government works, congress makes the laws and spends the money. The President has little ability to spend money. So, if your candidate is promising to do more than what the constitution allows than you should reevaluate you expectations.

■■■■

I LOVE HOW everyone is ragging on the Heller column, but think it's OK just to have King's column. Typical right-wingers.

I WOULD LIKE to remind people who walk their dogs on Crane Road to bring a dog bag for dog waste. I'm literally picking up 12 or more piles every few days. It's not fair for my grandkids who slide in it or me who doesn't own a dog. I like dogs, don't get me wrong, but it's not my dog.

■■■■

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DOG PARK

Continued from Page 5A

Pat to be involved because she is a doer in the community," said Draves.

Building dog parks is something people are doing all over place, Draves said. "It's another achievement to make for a more desirable community," she said. "There are a lot of dog lovers out there."

What the committee needs are more volunteers with ideas on fundraising and other activities. They also need to determine a donation mechanism. People who donate large sums of money are going to want it to be tax deductible and for that nonprofit status has to be achieved, Draves said.

For more information and to volunteer time and talent, residents may contact Draves via email at draves.nancy@yahoo.com.

SUMMARY

■ A committee made up of Fenton City Councilwomen Nancy Draves and Pat Lockwood, and Sue Yeotis of Berkshire Hathaway Home Services, has begun the planning stages for a dog park in the city of Fenton. They have \$10,000 in seed money donated anonymously through the Community Foundation of Greater Flint.

Business briefs

The State Bank contributes money and volunteers to Food Bank of Eastern Michigan

The State Bank has donated a total of \$189,237 to the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan, following 13 years of fundraising efforts organized by the bank and its staff. The 2015 campaign totaled \$23,262, plus a number of volunteer staff work days at the food bank. In 2015, The State Bank volunteered the services of 90 employees to work in the new Hunger Solution Center in Flint for three days. The volunteers sorted food, packed boxes and experienced all the behind-the-scenes work accomplished by the food bank. The bank's contributions have also gained them membership in the food bank's distinguished "Million Pound Club." The State Bank is headquartered in Fenton with offices serving Fenton, Linden, Holly, Grand Blanc and Brighton.

Camel races



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SALLY RUMMEL

Twenty-two well-dressed camels, sponsored by area businesses, raced to the finish at the 13th annual Camel Races on Saturday, March 12, at St. John's Activity Center in Fenton. More than 225 people attended, placing bets with "Camel Dollars" for their favorite camels while raising funds for the Fenton Area Optimist Club, a local service organization dedicated to youth programs.



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