Michigan Board of Ed proposes ‘gender identity guidelines’

Students could change gender identity at school without parental permission

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

The Michigan Board of Education will be entertaining a vote at its May 10 meet-

ing on a controversial issue that has spread like wildfire on Facebook last week.
The issue at hand is students’ gender identity and whether Lesbian, Gay, Bi-

sexual, Transgender and Questioning (LGBTQ) students should accordingly be able to change their name and pronoun, use whichever bathroom and locker room they feel comfortable with, and wear the clothes of the gender they identify with, and more — with or without parental or doctoral consent.

Fenton Board of Education President Drew Shapiro has weighed in on the matter.
See GENDER on 8A

Toughing it out while the bridge is out

Businesses are accessible but some see reduction in customers

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

Businesses in the vicinity of the Silver Lake Road bridge reconstruction project are counting the days until July 1.

That’s the date Fenton officials say the majority of construction will be completed and the street open to traffic.

Don Andrews, owner of Tim Hortons on Silver Lake Road said, “Oh yeah, it’s affected our business. We’re down 25 percent. We have a lot of loyal customers coming to see us though and we appreciate that.”

Don Andrews
Tim Hortons owner

Michigan receives an ‘F’ for how it conducts background checks on prospective teachers

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

Michigan is one of 12 states to receive a grade of “F” from USA Today for how school districts conduct background checks on potential teachers.

Compared to other states that received an “A” in background checks on prospective teachers, Michigan is doing poorly.
See TEACHERS on 11A

Local agent charged with real estate fraud

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

A local agent has been charged with real estate fraud.

Thomas Tubbs, 45, of Grand Blanc, a former Fenton real estate agent, has been arrested for real estate fraud.

Tubbs, who worked for Century 21 Woodland (formerly Century 21 ParkPlace) in Fenton, has been charged with taking money under false pretenses, according to court records.

Investigators with the Genesee County Sheriff’s Office claim Tubbs recently collected $150,000 from an Atlas Township couple for a real estate transaction, but kept the money for himself.

See REAL ESTATE FRAUD on 9A

I’m a senior citizen who has trouble getting around. A big thank you to those who hold the door for me, reach stuff in the supermarket, help me up curbs, and help in so many other ways. May you know you’re an angel in disguise. God bless you.”

Mr. St RD is 100 percent correct in his statement that the city of Troy received $93,300 last year from texting tickets.*

In a perfect world every day’s news coverage of Congress would begin with the words “As expected, lawmakers took no action.” And every day we could consider that to be good news. Every problem in America stems from politicians.”

This is a message to my neighbor. Quit telling me you lost a homing pigeon. If it doesn’t come back you’ve only lost a pigeon. Think about it. 
During this wonderful time of celebration with family and friends, let us remember the reason we celebrate Easter Sunday. It is all about the message of the cross. About His death and resurrection. May your Easter Sunday be filled with joy and the truth of the Easter message…

HE is RISEN!
Pros and cons of a mild winter

- Fewer crashes and less plowing, but many businesses lose sales

By Hannah Ball
hbball@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Most people enjoy mild winters—the occasional snowstorm with tolerable cold air and slight winds. However, many businesses, like auto repair shops and retailers that sell snow equipment, rely on the challenges that winter brings.

This winter, the tri-county area experienced just a few snowstorms that covered houses and cars in snow and brought cold temperatures.

Dan Czarnecki, director of Fenton’s Department of Public Works, said even though the winter seemed mild, the area actually had a slightly above average winter in regards to snow accumulation.

“The roads are no more easy to maintain when there is a light snowfall or if we receive six inches of snow,” he said. “Both types of snowfall will require the DPW to travel the streets to plow and salt the streets. The only difference is if the snowfall lasts a long time like a few of the major snowfalls we had this year.”

In this situation, the DPW plows more frequently and uses more salt at intersections and dangerous locations.

See WINTER on 23A

Vietnamese Bible Church in Fenton uses universal language of God’s love

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

It’s Easter at the Fenton area’s newest church, and you won’t find an Easter egg hunt or brunch on this holiday.

In fact, you might not understand a single word of the service, but the faith and joy found at the newly formed Vietnamese Bible Church will certainly lift your spirits.

The Vietnamese Bible Church held its first service on Jan. 10, led by Pastor Tim (Tien) Tran, a native Vietnamese who has lived in the U.S. since 1991.

Housed at the student center on The Rock church property in Tyrone Township, their presence there every Sunday has been a blessing, according to Ken Trudell, building maintenance director for The Rock.

“We do a lot of mission trips to Vietnam to share the gospel of the Lord,” he said. "It’s a blessing that we have the Vietnamese church right here on this property."

“I see the Vietnamese Bible Church will serve the Vietnamese community in Michigan," he said. "I pray that they will experience the faith and joy found at the Vietnamese Bible Church in Fenton."
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Call Fenton Township and ask. If you live on Grove Court, you may have a park there. If you live on Golfview Circle, Torrey Road or Torrey Grove Court, you may have a park dedicated for your use to Lake Fenton. Call Fenton Township and ask.

Albert D. DiNatale, EA
810.714.4302

Dear editor,

As a parent in this state, I am concerned. Nearly 33 percent of Michigan’s youth ages 10-17 are considered overweight or obese. We know that children who are obese are more likely to continue this negative health trend and develop further illnesses as adults. Many children and families simply do not have access to anything other than packaged, processed food. House Bill 5180 is being considered in Lansing that would help increase access to healthy food in underserved communities in Michigan, both rural and urban. The great thing about this bill is that it also provides opportunities for business owners in the food industry to expand their operation, in turn growing their profits. It’s a win-win for our state and its residents. We all know that healthy food is not easily accessible to all, and that children are our most vulnerable. Let’s help make the healthy choice the easy choice.

— Cindy DeWolf, Linden

"He brings eggs and hides them. If I leave my slippers out he’ll leave them in my slippers. Usually he hides them under a chair or on a window sill.

Lila White, 7"
LaJoice’s embezzlement case heads to trial

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

Independence Twp. — Michael LaJoice of Tyrone Township waived his right to a preliminary exam in Oakland County’s 52-2 District Court on Tuesday. He is facing 14 felonies related to allegedly embezzling $20 million from his former credit union, Clarkston Brandon Community Credit Union, where he was chief financial officer.

The defense and the prosecuting attorneys signed the waiver.

LaJoice’s attorney Michael Manley said he has received more than 1,000 pages of discovery since the last hearing. Manley has gone over the pages, and his rights with LaJoice, and he signed the waiver.

Judge Joseph Fabrizio asked LaJoice if he understood what a preliminary examination is, and if he has received any threats or promises encouraging him to waive it. LaJoice said “no.”

Fabrizio accepted the waiver.

After the hearing, Manley said they have to show probable cause that he committed a crime.

“When somebody walks in and gives a statement you really don’t need that probable cause hearing. We waived it today to go to Circuit Court where it’s ultimately going to be resolved,” he said.

LaJoice’s next day in court will take place in Oakland County Circuit Court on April 4.

Manley said he has been working with Oakland County investigators, federal investigators, the National Credit Union Administration, and the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission on this case.

“Fabrizio accepted the waiver. LaJoice said “no.”

“I don’t know exactly the strategy at this point in time. I know that at some point in time we’ll be talking to the judge to see if there can be some sentence resolution,” he said.

He does not anticipate a jury trial and he does not think anyone else in LaJoice’s family will be charged.

Ashleigh LaJoice sat in the courtroom, crying, while her husband took the stand.

Manley said Ashleigh is “very stressed and very sad,” especially where she is taking care of three little children.

LaJoice has not posted $1 million bond to be released from Oakland County Jail where he has been lodged since Jan. 6.

“For each day that’s in is a day closer that comes out,” Manley said. “The biggest thing that Michael LaJoice wanted to do is set an example for his children. He did wrong. He owned up to it and he’s the one that turned himself in. It was very important to him to lead by that example for his children,” he said.

Manley said LaJoice wants to get this issue resolved to the benefit of the victims and the community. “If everyone sits down, we can resolve this in an amicable manner,” he said.

Manley said there could be more than 14 charges of embezzlement, as well as federal charges. He said restitution could include uncharged cases and he’s been working with township and city officials where LaJoice’s properties are located.

“He wants to do it right. That’s what I want to do and I think the authorities want to do it the right way,” he said.

Manley said his main goal is to get restitution to the victims as quickly as possible. They have cash offers for all of LaJoice’s properties, including his home and the land of the once proposed “Riverview” project in Fenton.

If he gets approval from the federal government, state government and the National Credit Union Administration, he can accept the offers. Manley said the offers are in the seven figures.

“It’s my hope to be part of the solution. Those are my marching orders from Mr. LaJoice,” he said.

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Q: Hi my 2002 Chevy Impala 3400 V6 is making a squeal- ing noise near the front of the engine when I start the car. When I shut the car off, it continues to squeal for about 10-15 seconds before running down and shutting off. I think the sound is coming from the fan, but I’m not sure. - Ridge

A: Ridge, this sounds like you have something caught in the electric fan motor. To check this, you should disconnect the battery negative cable and see if the fan moves freely by hand. Keep in mind there may be more than one cooling fan. The second one could be in front of the radiator and different than one cooling fan. The second one could be in front of the radiator and difficult to access. Also, if there is nothing in the fan, it could be a motor going bad or a stripped out fan blade.

Do you have a question that you would like to have answered?

E-mail me at: askthemechanic@wilkinsonautorepair.com

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For car and home insurance... ask Jerry about the best coverage at the best price.

By: Dr. Steven Sulfaro

FOOD AND HEALTH

Dr. Michael Greger is a world-renowned and nutritional health states, “Most deaths in the United States are preventable, and we know exactly what we eat. Our diet is the number-one cause of premature death and the number-one cause of disability.” Dr. Joel Fuhriman states that “death in America is a food born disease.” The Standard American Diet is meal based with an over abundance of sugar and high processed. Most Americans are lacking in the recommended daily allowance of nutrients and fiber because most of their dietary habits are lacking in fruits, vegetables and whole grains. As a result, the numbers for heart disease, cancer, diabetes, and obesity are on the rise every year in this country. For the most part early death and disability in our country is avoidable. And the more plants you eat the healthier you are going to be. Following is information from an app I have downloaded onto my smartphone that helps me track the food I eat so that I know I am on the right road toward ideal nutrition and health.

Q: Could you tell me what something could be in front of the radiator? I have a 2002 Chevy Impala 3400 V6. The sound is coming from the fan, but I’m not sure what it is.

A: Ridge, this sounds like you have something caught in the electric fan motor. To check this, you should disconnect the battery negative cable and see if the fan moves freely by hand. Keep in mind there may be more than one cooling fan. The second one could be in front of the radiator and different than one cooling fan. The second one could be in front of the radiator and difficult to access. Also, if there is nothing in the fan, it could be a motor going bad or a stripped out fan blade.

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Community input sought in Fenton superintendent search

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

The process of creating a candidate profile for the next Fenton Area Schools superintendent has begun.

On Monday, March 28, a community forum with Rich Ramsey, a consultant with the MASB (Michigan Association of School Boards) will be held at 6 p.m. in the Fenton High School cafeteria.

The MASB was selected earlier this month to assist the Fenton Board of Education with the superintendent search. “They are seeking community input on the leadership style and characteristics the next superintendent should have,” said Doug Busch.

Busch has served as the interim superintendent, while at the same time handling his own job as executive director of finance and personnel, since last summer, after former Superintendent Tim Jalkanen resigned.

Community members interested in providing feedback as part of the superintendent search process may visit the district website to complete a survey which will be used as part of building the candidate profile and during the interview process.

The survey can be found at fentonschools.org, where it will remain until April 8.

Vera Hogan

HOT LINE CONTINUED

TO THE PERSON complaining about the duck and goose poop at the millpond. It doesn’t matter if they eat old bread or grain. You’re right, they don’t know how to flush a toilet. But they’ll also do their business where they want.

I FIND IT ironic that people are against immigrants coming to the U.S. Not like we’re dependents of immigrants or anything (unless you’re Native American).

HEY, WANT A good fish dinner, visit V.F.W. It’s great and for a great price. Plus all the fixing on the inside. Thanks for all the volunteers, you’re great.

WHY DID THEY take all the mailboxes out of the north end of town? Locke’s and VG’s are gone.

TO THE WOMAN who likes to burn plastic on McCallin Lake Road. Summer is coming, we smelled it all winter. I, and others, don’t want to smell it or breathe it. That’s what garbage is for.

IS IT MY imagination or is that an increase in available jobs? A whole page of help wanted ads?

PRESIDENT OBAMA did us a favor by not approving the Keystone pipeline and the coal mine. They’re going out of business because of low demand.

TO THE HOT line caller saying we need a total income tax overhaul. I agree, but nobody in this country pays 56 percent of their income in taxes, nobody.

I’D LIKE TO give some recognition to some local talent at the collegiate wrestling tournament and Shawn Scott for making it to the round of 12 at 197 pounds. Good job, both guys.

ROAD DIET? WHAT a funny name for a village project.

CONSERVATIVES, OR AS you like to call them, right-wingers, don’t want to eliminate legitimate welfare benefits. We’d like to eliminate the help that able-bodied cheats are collecting. I’ve never talked to a single conservative who isn’t in favor of eliminating foreign aid and corporate welfare.

SOMETHING VERY SERIOUS and very important just came to my attention on this windy day. You parents take your little kids to the wooden park in Linden are putting your kid’s life in danger with those trees that fall down. It wasn’t long ago that large tree fell down; crossed the fence of the playscape and landed on the playscape and did some serious damage. Think about it.

IF ONLY OUR area had a local newspaper that allowed the expression of contrary views: left, right, conservative liberal, religious, nonreligious, in a fair and open forum where people could read, understand and express their personal views. What would we call such a newspaper?

I’M CALLING in reference to the person who thinks that everyone must be 21 before they vote. I am a Korean War vet and by the time I was 19 years old I was serving in Korea, serving the country and helping the people of Korea. They can draft us, but we can’t vote.

ANOTHER TERRORIST BOMBING occurred this morning in Europe but don’t worry, our president is responding the same way he always respond to situations like this. He’s heading to the golf course.

Looking back at this week in national history

MARCH 27
1939: The University of Oregon defeats Ohio State University 46–33 to win the first-ever NCAA men’s basketball tournament. The Final Four, as the tournament became known, has grown exponentially in size and popularity since 1939.

MARCH 28
1979: The worst accident in the history of the U.S. nuclear power industry begins when a pressure valve in a reactor at Three Mile Island (Pennsylvania) fails to close. After the cooling water began to drain out of the broken pressure valve, emergency cooling pumps automatically went into operation. Left alone, these safety devices would have prevented a larger crisis. However, human operator error nearly resulted in a meltdown scenario, and deadly radiation could have drifted across the countryside, causing a great number of fatalities.

MARCH 29
1973: Two months after the signing of the Vietnam peace agreement, the last U.S. combat troops leave Vietnam as Hanoi frees the remaining American prisoners of war held in North Vietnam. The Vietnam War was the longest and most unpopular foreign war in U.S. history and cost 58,000 American lives.

MARCH 30
1981: President Ronald Reagan is shot outside a Washington, D.C., hotel by a de- ranged sniper named John Hinckley Jr. The president was walking with his entourage to his limousine when Hinckley fired six shots at him. Hinckley was found not guilty by reason of insanity. In accordance to being ill with narcissistic personality disorder, his attorneys argued he had a pathological obsession with the 1976 film Taxi Driver, and the lead actress, Jodie Foster.

MARCH 31
1899: The Eiffel Tower is dedicated in Paris in a ceremony presided over by Gustave Eiffel, the tower’s designer. Eiffel, a noted bridge engineer and a master of metal construction and designed the framework of the Statue of Liberty that had recently been erected in New York Harbor.

APRIL 1
1700: English pranksters begin popularizing the annual tradition of April Fools’ Day by playing practical jokes on each other. Some historians speculate that April Fools’ Day dates back to 1582, when France switched from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar. People who were slow to get the news or failed to recognize that the start of the new year had moved to Jan. 1 and continued to celebrate it during the last week of March through April 1 became the butt of jokes and hoaxes.

APRIL 2
2005: John Paul II, history’s most well-traveled pope and the first non-Italian to hold the position since the 16th century, dies at his home in the Vatican. Six days later, two million people packed Vatican City for his funeral, said to be the biggest funeral in history.

Compiled by Vera Hogan

Source: history.com
Easter activities have changed over the years

Many family activities carry on from generation to generation

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

The Easter season is a very special time for area Christians as they celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Whether people are believers or not, that long ago event is the reason for the season.

The way in which families celebrate varies from generation to generation, but some activities and traditions have not changed. For many, the season begins with Ash Wednesday, the start of the Lenten season, a time for personal reflection and sacrifice.

During the 46 days of Lent, many Christians give up something that is important to them in sacrifice. That something can be avoiding a favorite food, candy or chocolate, smoking cigarettes, a personal choice.

Catholics avoid consuming meat on Fridays during Lent, while Protestants and other Christians avoid meat on Good Friday.

In the days leading up to Easter, the fun begins as families take their children to visit and have their photos taken with the Easter bunny, and participate in public and private Easter egg hunts.

Movies like “King of Kings,” “The Silver Chalice,” and “Barabbas” dominated the TV screens. One, “The Ten Commandments” with Charlton Heston continues to be aired during Holy Week. In addition to newer versions of stories depicting the life, death, and resurrection of Christ.

On the days preceding Easter, families prepared for the big day by coloring and decorating Easter eggs, and shopping for the big dinner which usually included a big, juicy ham and all the fixings.

Baby Boomers, in particular, remember when they were boys and girls. The girls were delighted when mom and dad bought them a brand new white or pastel-colored dress, a bonnet, white gloves and socks and patent leather shoes to wear to Easter Sunday services. Little boys likewise, were decked out in a brand new little suit, shirt and tie, and shoes as well.

Many families still enjoy this “dressing up” tradition today.

After Sunday church services, the family returned home to learn that the Easter bunny had arrived and hidden baskets filled with colored eggs, candy and chocolate, small gifts and a big chocolate Easter bunny around the house and yard for the children.

Tracy Bundy of Fenton Township recalls when she was a child.

“The Easter bunny tied a string on kids’ baskets and wove it throughout the house and around outside so the kids would have to follow it to get their baskets,” Bundy said.

“That Easter bunny is pretty sneaky I tell ya.”

Like many families, grandparents played an integral part in all holiday celebrations.

Veronica Pheasant of Argentine Township recalls with fondness Easter Sundays with her grandparents.

“Ever since I can remember, we all went to Grandma and Grandpa’s in Frankenmuth on Easter,” said Pheasant. “After our big Easter dinner we would have an egg hunt outside. Everyone who had kids would be looking for Easter eggs per child.”

Pheasant said the adults would mark all the eggs with denominations ranging from 5 cents to 25 cents, and then pitch in the money for the payout.

“They would hide them all over outside Grandma’s farm, then us little kids would run outside and find as many as we could,” said Pheasant.

“Grandma had five generations at one time for many years coming to her farm,” Pheasant added. “Since the farm had 10 acres and it was spring time, we would always fly kites, remote-controlled airplanes, blow bubbles, shoot BB guns and play with whatever new Easter present was in our baskets. After dark we would play board games and have egg wars to see whose egg was the hardest while the adults played cards.”

Since Pheasant’s great-grandmother passed away in 2008 and grandma in 2009, family members rotate whose house Easter will be held each year. The family traditions have gone on as long as she can remember.

“I am now 51 and can’t wait to watch all the little kids this year, and see all the new babies,” Pheasant said.

LACERENY SUSPECT CAUGHT ON CAMERA

On March 24, this man allegedly committed a larceny at a store in Linden City. Anyone with information in reference to this suspect is asked to call the Linden Police Department at (810) 551-5454 or by email at police@lindenni.us.

DEERFIELD TOWNSHIP
NOTICE OF PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST

The Public Accuracy Test is conducted to demonstrate that the program and computer that will be used to tabulate the results of the election, counts the votes in the manner prescribed by law.

Garry Johnston
Deerfield Township Clerk

Police&Fire

report

DRUG RAID IN HOLLY VILLAGE

On March 15, Oakland County Sheriff’s Narcotics Enforcement Team (NET) executed a search warrant at a home on Seminole, in the village of Holly, in reference to a marijuana trafficking investigation. NET Detectives discovered and seized approximately 5 grams of cocaine, 50 grams of marijuana, drug ledger, digital scales, and drug packaging. A suspect, Matthew Cornell, 20, was arrested for delivery of marijuana from two previous undercover drug sales to NET detectives. NET was assisted at the scene by uniform officers from Holly Police Department. Cornell was charged and arraigned on March 17 at 50-2 District Court in Independence Township on two counts of delivery of marijuana, one count of possession with intent to deliver marijuana and one count of possession of cocaine. He posted bond and was released. No new court dates have been scheduled.

DRUG RAID IN ROSE TOWNSHIP

The Oakland County Sheriff’s Narcotics Enforcement Team (NET) executed a search warrant on March 15 at a home in the 4000 block of Cogshall in Rose Township in reference to a cocaine trafficking investigation. NET Detectives discovered and seized approximately 15 grams of cocaine, digital scales, and drug packaging. The 18-year-old suspect was released pending warrants and due to some medical issues.

The Public Accuracy Test has been scheduled for March 30, 2016 at 10:30 a.m. in the Township Hall located at 4492 Center Rd. Linden, MI

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Notes of thanks

ERIN DAGENAIS BENEFIT DINNER

Thank you so much to all our friends, family and the Fenton community who came to the Erin Dagenais Benefit Dinner on Saturday March 19. Thank you to everyone who generously donated gift baskets and desserts and contributed to the raffle and silent auction. Thank you to the Fenton Moose Lodge for allowing us to hold Erin’s event at the Moose and all the staff for serving the delicious dinner. Thanks especially to Rachel Fleming for organizing Erin’s Benefit Dinner, truly an amazing little sister. Also, thank you to all active and alumnus sisters of Phi Sigma Sigma who came out to show their support, including the ladies of the Windsor chapter. Phi Sigma Sigma is a sisterhood near and dear to Erin’s heart. Through the generosity of many, we are able to build a scholarship fund in memory of our daughter Erin.

With much appreciation,
The family of Erin Dagenais

GENDER
Continued from Front Page

“I ultimately, think first and foremost, the most important thing is that all students, regardless of how they identify, have a safe and comfortable learning environment,” he said. “I don’t condone bullying or bigotry in any way.” Shapiro said what school districts see oftentimes with regard to the state of Michigan, is that laws are passed, unfunded mandates, which legislate that the schools have to do things but not put any money behind it.

“If you were forced to create new bathrooms, new locker rooms, etc., they tell us we have to do that but don’t provide any financial support,” Shapiro said.

At its Feb. 23 meeting, the “Statement and Guidance on Safe and Supportive Learning Environments for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning (LGBTQ) Students” was presented to the state board.

The document can be viewed in its entirety at Michigan.gov/mde, under “Requests for Public Comment” in the upper right corner.

In the presentation’s accompanying materials, Chairman Brian Whiston says the state Board of Education recognizes the need for all students to have a safe and supportive school environment to progress academically and developmentally, and believes school administrators, teachers, staff, families, and students all play an important role in creating and sustaining that environment.

The Statement and Guidance document lists several items should be done to make LGBTQ students treated according to their wishes and the gender they identify with.

“Nowhere does the state Board of Education mention age,” said Shapiro.

“I think it’s inappropriate to put it out there — kind of reckless when you have kindergarten and elementary school students who don’t understand these types of things,” Drew Shapiro

Fenton Board of Education president

“I think it’s inappropriate to put it out there — kind of reckless when you have kindergarten and elementary school students who don’t understand these types of things,” Shapiro said.

Without having age limits, without funding, and no parent or doctor input with a minor child, it’s very difficult,” said Shapiro.

Retired Holly Area Schools Superintendent Kent Barnes, who volunteers his time in elementary school classrooms several times a week offered an old southern saying: “When a presentation is made, God and the presenter know what the meaning of the presentation is. After the presentation is accepted, only God knows what it truly means.”

“I do not doubt the good intention of Michigan State School Superintendent Brian Whiston,” said Barnes. “He is a fine gentleman who only wants the best for all students.

“State Board of Ed issues press release in response to questions and concerns

In a press release issued March 23, Michigan Board of Education President John Austin wrote, “In response to questions and concerns, the State Board of Education wants to provide clarification regarding a Draft Guidance document on “Safe and Supportive Learning Environments for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning (LGBTQ) Students” that currently is out for public comment.

According to the release, a number of school districts asked the state Board of Education for guidance on how to address circumstances where transgender students and their parents express how the students were being marginalized, excluded, and discriminated against.

As a result, a work group was formed to develop a guidance document for local school districts.

This work group consisted of parents, teachers, students, administrators, social workers, psychologists, local school board members, attorneys, and other stakeholders.

Draft guidance was developed by this work group for the state board to consider adopting, to provide assistance to local school districts that may be faced with these circumstances. This guidance would not be required to be adopted by any local school district, it merely offers options for districts to consider, if they so choose. As with all state Board of Education guidance, this would not be mandatory for local school districts to adopt. Local school districts each would decide to do what they believe is appropriate and helpful for all of their students,” according to the press release.

The draft guidance document referred to, states that the action items are encouraged; it does not say the action items are not mandatory.

REAL ESTATE FRAUD
Continued from Front Page

During a press conference Thursday, Genesee County Sheriff Robert Pickell said, “He does not have drug problem. It doesn’t appear that he has an alcohol problem. He just uses it to live on. He drives nice cars, lives with his parents.”

“The purchase was never completed and they never closed on the residence,” he added. “The residence was eventually purchased by another investment firm.”

Tubbs has been charged previously with similar crimes. In 2014, he was charged for allegedly taking $114,000 in Fenton Township.

In February of 2015, Tubbs was charged with larceny by conversion. He posted bond and a jury trial is set to begin this August.

Tubbs is again free on bond on the latest charge. He faces up to 20 years in prison if convicted.

Pickell added, “Here we have a case at least a year old, and it’s not even out of the district yet, and he’s out there doing the same thing.”

“Call it false pretenses, call it whatever you want, they’re scams,” he said.

Dan Borgerding is the new broker for the Century 21 office on Torrey Road and said the incidents took place before he took over.

Since real estate agents typically don’t accept money from buyers, Borgerding was asked how Tubbs could have pulled this off.

“I really have no idea,” he said. “It’s making me sick. I only met the guy one time. All this happened before I bought the firm”

Borgerding has removed Tubbs’ license from the Century 21 Woodland wall and sent it back to the state of Michigan.

“The best I could find is that he didn’t do anything through the real estate company,” said Borgerding. “This was done completely outside the real estate company.”

Borgerding said he hates to speculate, but said it is his understanding that Tubbs may have been talking people into giving him money to flip a house.

“All I know is that none of that money went through the real estate company,” he said.

Borgerding said he looked up one of the addresses he became aware on the MLS (Multiple Listing Service). “That house sold in 2013, 2014 and 2015, but not through Century 21.

“I am about as dumbfounded as you about this,” he said. “I’m about as sick about it as everyone else.”

HOT LINE CONTINUED

REMEMBER PLAYING IN the school yard when the kid who was best at the game eventually won everyone’s marbles ending the action? The same thing would happen in a capitalist economy if the government didn’t keep wealth moving around via taxation and redistribution.

I’M SURE GLAD winter is over but I would like to thank the man who lives on Main Road in Fenton Township, the retired man, for plowing my driveway on his little lawn tractor all winter long. I’d like to say thank you very much.

A NEW POLL found that over 60 percent of Americans find Hillary Clinton as dishonest, a liar, untrustworthy, and of poor character. How do you like that? She was one of the worst secretaries of state and she has nothing good on her resume.

Eagle Scout builds new sign

Gage Cemetery in Fenton Township has a new sign, thanks to volunteers led by Troop 219 Eagle Scout John Galvin of Fenton. Galvin earned his Eagle Scout rank on Feb. 25. First Prebyterian Church of Fenton has sponsored the troop as the chartering organization since 1982. The new sign cost $467 and more than 100 hours were spent in planning, construction and installation. The project was on behalf of Fenton Township under the direction of Deputy Clerk Thomas Broecker.

Military milestones

MICHAEL M. SCHULTZ
Air Force
Airmen 1st Class Michael M. Schultz graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas. The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills. Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force. Schultz is the son of Larry and Shawn Schultz of Fenton. He is a 2013 graduate of Fenton High School.

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This report was released Friday, March 18.

Senate Bill 314: Authorize truck weight limit exceptions for maple sap haulers
To include maple syrup sap under an agricultural products exception to the truck weight limits that are applied during March, April and May. Passed 26 to 12 in the Senate. Sen. David Robertson (R-Dist. 14) YES Sen. Mike Kowall (R-Dist. 15) YES Sen. Joe Hune (R-Dist. 29) YES Sen. Jim Ananich (D-Dist. 27) YES Sen. Ken Horn (R-Dist. 32) YES

House Bill 5034: Give fiduciary, trustee or executor control of digital assets
To create a new law giving access and authority over the “digital assets” and accounts of a vulnerable individual or an estate to the fiduciary, trustee, conservator or executor responsible for the person’s property. Digital assets would include online usernames, passwords, terms-of-service rights and more. Passed 106 to 0 in the House. Sen. David Robertson (R-Dist. 14) YES Sen. Mike Kowall (R-Dist. 15) YES

Senate Bill 507: Impose registration and reporting mandates on larger recyclers
To impose registration and government reporting mandates on recycling facilities that recycle more than 100 tons of material annually. Passed 99 to 10 in the House. Sen. David Robertson (R-Dist. 14) YES Sen. Mike Kowall (R-Dist. 15) YES

House Bill 4895: Let larger liquor retail operators sell beer at secondary gas station outlet
To allow the owner of a retail store that has a liquor license to sell beer and wine under the same license at a subsidiary location that is a gas station. The bill would limit this to retailers who maintain $250,000 worth of inventory, which is opposed by smaller retailers and supported by large ones and by the state-authorized beer and wine wholesaler companies. Passed 68 to 41 in the House. Sen. David Robertson (R-Dist. 14) NO Sen. Mike Kowall (R-Dist. 15) NO

House Bill 5296: Make down payment on Detroit schools bailout
To appropriate $48.7 million to keep the insolvent Detroit school district afloat until the end of the current school year. This is essentially a “down payment” on a larger bailout package whose details have yet to find a consensus (the House majority wants more education reform), but the bill also places the Detroit school district under the same state oversight commission created to oversee the city after its 2014 bailout. Passed 104 to 5 in the House. Sen. David Robertson (R-Dist. 14) YES Sen. Mike Kowall (R-Dist. 15) YES

TEACHERS

Continued from Front Page

An A, the information available to the public on teachers’ background checks is lacking in Michigan.

USA Today found that “bad apples” slip through the cracks when school districts fail to include certain information on background checks.

What’s the process for local schools on hiring teachers?

The following information is from Linden Interim Superintendent Russ Ciesielski, Lake Fenton Superintendent Wayne Wright, Fenton Interim Superintendent Doug Busch, and Holly Superintendent Dave Nuss.

Linden, Lake Fenton, and Fenton schools all require that candidates disclose any information on previous felony or misdemeanor convictions in compliance with Public Act 68 of 1993, Michigan law.

The Internet Criminal History Access Tool checks the Michigan State Police database to see if the candidate has a criminal history. The search is free with a school administrator’s login and password information.

If the information the candidate disclosed isn’t the same as the information from the criminal history search, the district can void their application.

The Holly school district searches the candidates through AppliTrack, where candidates must disclose if they have ever been convicted of a misdemeanor or a felony. Their name is then sent to the Michigan Department of Education teacher database to verify their valid teaching credential.

Candidates must have a valid Michigan teaching license to teach in Michigan. All candidates are fingerprinted by the Genesee Intermediate School District and the prints are sent to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) under Public Act of 129 of 2005 and Public Act 138 of 2005.

The potential new employees pay the fee for the FBI and state police searches.

The school contacts the candidate’s previous employer and is required to complete a form disclosing any unprofessional misconduct under Section 1200b of the Revised School Code.

The candidate’s previous or current employer is required to provide any information on misconduct within 20 days. Throughout the process, candidates go through interviews and their references are checked.

The process for hiring teachers in local school districts seems extensive, but USA Today noted that in Ohio, which received an “A” for its background checks, the information available to the public on teacher’s background checks is minimal in Michigan.

Ohio background checks reveals a piece of information on teachers, including disciplinary action, but Michigan background checks do not include the verification of the teacher’s license, according to the Detroit Free Press.

Misconduct information or disciplinary action is not available to the public in these checks, even when the teacher’s license was challenged or revoked due to criminal convictions.

Social News

BIRTH

Oliver Benjamin Reckhemmer
Rachel and Ben Reckhemmer are proud to announce the birth of their baby boy, Oliver Benjamin Reckhemmer. Oliver was born September 12, 2015 at Evergreen Hospital Medical Center in Kirkland, Washington. Oliver weighed 7 lbs and was 20 inches long. His grandparents are Jon and Liz Reckhemmer, and John and Cheryl Sharpe of Linden.
BUSINESSES
Continued from Front Page

appreciate that.”

Andrews said the road is open just past Tim Hortons, just to the bridge.

“So we’re accessible,” Andrews said.

“We’re mostly delivery so it really hasn’t hurt our business that much,” said Jason Fair, owner of Cottage Inn Pizza. “It definitely is an inconvenience though.”

Fair said they tell pick-up and walk-in customers to take Adelaide to Roberts Street to access Cottage Inn, located on the point between Silver Lake Road and Roberts.

“Most of our recent callers are coming from the east side, from Grange Hall Road,” Fair said.

Dr. Cynthia Cupal of Fenton Vision Center on Silver Lake Road said, “I think we’re doing OK with the construction. We’re not really having any problems with patients getting in and out of our parking lot.

“For a period of time, they were trying to find the water main,” she added.

“I came to work and there was a big hole in front of our building, but that was just temporary.

“I’m kind of excited to see what happens when they reroute the water,” Cupal said. “Overall we’re doing pretty good over here. I kind of enjoy watching the progress because I have front row seats.”

Joe Yousif, owner/manager of the Marathon Service Station on Silver Lake Road at Adelaide, said his business has been affected negatively.

“About half of my business is gone,” Yousif said. “There is a 40 to 50 percent reduction in gas and inside store sales. But not the (mechanic’s) shop. That’s OK.

“The problem is the people coming from Linden going to Holly to get on the highway (I-75) don’t stop by my station anymore,” he said. “They have found another way to get there.”

According to Dan Czarnecki, director of the Department of Public Works (DPW), the Silver Lake Road bridge project involves the removal and replacement of the entire bridge over the Shiawassee River.

Ninety-five percent of the $1,013,063 project is being funded via a bridge replacement grant from the state of Michigan. The city will be responsible for paying about $50,653, plus engineering fees. OHM, the city engineers, will perform the construction engineering work for $251,350.

Davis Construction, Inc. of Lansing was awarded the project by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT). The major portion of the construction project is to be completed with the street open to traffic by July 1.

The entire project, including restoration and final cleanup is to be completed by the first of September.

The work consists of replacement of the bridge, replacement of the water main that travels beneath the bridge and beneath the Shiawassee River, new curbs, sidewalks and street surface.

In mid-March, Czarnecki said via email that the contractor will continue to work hard to complete the work as quickly as possible, and have the roadway open by July.

Ultimately, motorists will use North Road, Owen Road and Caroline Street to bypass the closed bridge site.

HOT LINE CONTINUED
WALL STREET GREED and lack of regulatory control did not produce the 2008 economic crisis. Democrat politicians Rahm Emanuel and Barney Frank conspired to use a government corporation (Freddie Mac) to write subprime mortgages. They wanted America to provide universal home ownership. They caused the crash, not Wall Street.

I FEEL SORRY for the garbage pick-up guys. I just went down Torrey Road — many cans facing the wrong way, boxes on top of lids, stuff thrown in cans with no bag. Come on people, if you want it taken away, do it right.

HILLARY CLINTON IS bragging that foreign leaders are calling her supporting her election. Since these leaders have paid off the Clintons through the Clinton Foundation, they expect to get something for their money.

SOCIALISTS ALWAYS CALL for ‘fair play’ without realizing they actually want ‘fair outcomes.’ Fair play results in winners and losers, something socialists hate. Socialists want a rigged game to get their ‘social justice.’ There is no fairness, no justice in the rigged game they want to play.

LET ME HELP you get this straight. The rich lobbying congress isn’t capitalism, it’s democracy. You, just like the rich, can lobby your representative, too. Redistributing wealth from the rich to the poor is socialism. If you want ‘fair play,’ socialism isn’t the answer.

WHEN YOU LISTEN to all these politicians and they are going to fine companies that take jobs out of the U.S., and everything else they say they will do if only you would elect them, remember they do not have the power to do any of that.

OUR NATION WAS built and thrives on conservative and liberals’ ideas, not one or the other. When the parties gain such power as they have now our nation is being denied the contributions of one party or the other. Vote for Trump. Shake up party control. The USA is far more important than either party.

REPUBLICANS ARE UNDER no obligation to support the confirmation of the Supreme Court Justice nominee. It is a matter of principle because of the most unconstitutional and lawless president we’ve ever had. It is his fault that he has diminished and ignored our Congress.

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But not the (mechanic’s) shop. That’s OK.

reduction in gas and inside store sales.

Road at Adelaide, said his business has

been affected negatively.

The Marathon Service Station has seen a reduction of 40 percent or more in gas and inside store sales during bridge construction.

But not the (mechanic’s) shop. That’s OK.

reduction in gas and inside store sales.

Road at Adelaide, said his business has

been affected negatively.

The Marathon Service Station has seen a reduction of 40 percent or more in gas and inside store sales during bridge construction.
Elite eight named for strong winter season

Linden wrestling starts our list of the top eight athletic squads

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com

The 2015-16 winter sports season had its highs and lows. There were times it looked like it was going to be a weaker season than most as many teams were not competing for league championships. But when the postseason came, some of the squads that didn’t win league crowns suddenly earned some of the biggest headlines of the school year. And now that the 2015-16 winter season is over, I guess it’s fair to say the winter had a pretty reasonable performance.

Now it’s time to list our Tri-County Elite Eight Winter Sports Teams. With this edition, we’ll discuss our first three teams and a couple of honorable mention squads. And remember, the Tri-County sports staff does this poll, so don’t complain to your area coaches about their rankings. Blame us. That said, we don’t think there is anyone as qualified as the sports staff to do this list.

Honorable mention teams: Last year’s No. 1 winter squad had a strong start to the season, but the Holly varsity boys basketball team faltered down the stretch this winter. Still, the Bronchos finished in a tie for second in the Metro league at 11-3 and with a 14-7 record for second in the Metro league. The Metro League Griffins, the Fenton/Linden hockey co-op team, finished in second place in the Metro League this season. They had their positive moments outside the league as well, but the team still finished just above .500 at 14-11, and they also lost early in state tourney action. The Holly/Oxford boys ski team captured Divisional and SEMSL championship, but fell to seventh at regionals. Couple that fact that the Fenton/Tiffin University Men’s and Women’s basketball teams finished in fourth and fifth in the Metro League. The Fenton/Tiffin University Men’s and Women’s basketball teams finished in fourth and fifth in the Metro League.

Last year’s top five winter sports teams:

1. Holly boys basketball
2. Lake Fenton boys basketball
3. Fenton boys swimming and diving
4. Lake Fenton wrestling
5. Holly boys basketball

Linden’s Skyler Stites and the rest of the Eagles are in the Tri-County Elite Eight again this winter. Last year, the team was at No. 3. This year the Eagles are at No. 8. For the second time this season, they finished in second place in the Metro League. The Fenton/Linden hockey co-op team had a successful season, finishing in the Metro League. They also lost early in state tourney action. The Holly/Oxford boys ski team captured Divisional and SEMSL championship, but fell to seventh at regionals. Couple that fact that the Fenton/Tiffin University Men’s and Women’s basketball teams finished in fourth and fifth in the Metro League.
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TRI-COUNTY SPORTS

Fenton’s Sarah Cummings will continue her basketball career at Tiffin University next fall. Cummings helped lead the Tigers to a Class A regional final contest this season.

Fenton’s Cummings headed to Tiffin University

By David Troppens
droppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789
Sarah Cummings always knew she wanted to play a sport at the collegiate level.

“It’s been a dream of mine since I was in elementary school,” the Fenton senior said. “I’ve wanted to go pro or play in college in some type of sport.”

Cummings’ dream is coming true. The Fenton varsity girls basketball forward is headed to Tiffin University to play college basketball at the Division 2 Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Association (GLIAC) school.

“Going to the college level and getting a scholarship is huge,” Cummings said. “People are paying me to go to school because they think I have talent.”

Cummings said she knew she wanted to go to Tiffin almost immediately.

“I knew it as soon as I went out there,” Cummings said. “(Tiffin University) coach (Jason Mischler) made my decision for me. He is such a great guy. He had a four-year plan laid out for me. Other schools talk to you and you feel you may be easily replaced. He had a plan of how I can reach my potential and that is a really big thing for me.”

Cummings showed her potential while at Fenton. During her senior season, Cummings netted 254 points, 190 rebounds and 42 assists on the Tigers’ Class A District Championship squad which finished the season with an 18-7 record. She earned First-Team All-Metro honors and also earned First-Team All-Metro honors a year ago, scoring a team-high 290 points. She also had 148 rebounds, 26 steals and 16 assists. She was a four-year varsity performer on the Tigers’ squad. In her four seasons at Fenton, the Tigers won district titles in three of the four seasons.

“Me and Mrs. Moore have gotten pretty close,” Cummings said. “Her along with the rest of the coaches being alongside me have been like having extra parents. They’ve helped me so much. The program is so close. Going through four years of basketball with the program, it’s going to be hard to leave.”

But it is made easier knowing her career will continue at Tiffin. Mischler entered his first year as the Dragons’ head coach last season, and the squad posted a rebuilding-like record of 5-19, including a 6-16 GLIAC mark. In 2014-15, the school posted a 7-21 overall record.

“They have a lot of potential and I think we will be getting better as the years go along,” Cummings said. “Hope to make an impact.”

Cummings is a three-sport athlete. She was the back-up keeper for the Tigers’ Division 2 state-runner-up girls soccer team in the spring of 2015 and she’s also a member of the Fenton’s strong varsity girls golf team. However, basketball is her love. She also plays with the AAU Michigan Storm. Holly’s Kaitlyn Smith and ex-Linden player Taylor Smith were two of her teammates on the squad.

“It’s always something I could do and watch with my family — my brother, dad and mom. We are a big basketball family,” Cummings said. “I enjoy the team competitiveness. Golf is more about an individual sport, and it’s boring. You can’t talk to anyone. I love basketball. There’s something about basketball.”

Cummings has proven herself to be a pretty versatile athlete, which could help earn her playing time earlier than some.

“I think my versatility is my strength,” Cummings said. “Last year I was primarily a scorer but this year I’ve done more with my passing game and other aspects on the stat sheet other than scoring. My shooting has definitely gotten better.”
EIGHT
Continued from Page 15A

BOYS HOOPS IS GETTING BETTER

When I first took over as sports editor at the Tri-County Times on August 6, 2002, there were a few things I learned rather quickly about my new job. I learned quickly what sports the area was pretty strong at, and quickly figured out which sports the area was, well, not so impressive.

On the negative side, one stuck out easily over the others. That was boys basketball.

It didn’t matter what Fenton, Lake Fenton, Linden and Holly did during their conference seasons, I knew one thing was certain — when the postseason began they’d be done within a week. That first year, it wasn’t that long since the area’s last success in boys basketball. After all, it was in 1998 when the Linden Eagles captured a Class B regional crown to Fint Powers Catholic. However, since that point, no one had even whiffed success in the district tourney.

And as the seasons went by, it seemed no one would ever cross the district title again. It got so bad, I’ll have to admit that I scheduled my annual spring vacation on the Wednesday of regional week. After all, even if by some small fluke one of our area squads actually won a district, there was no way in the world they were ever going to win a regional semifinal game. And for years I used that method when figuring out my spring vacation. That’s how bad the teams were.

I don’t know if anyone has noticed, but things are changing in the tri-county area. Basketball certainly isn’t a hotbed sport in the tri-county area. Heck, the sport probably doesn’t even qualify as a sport in the area. Basketball certainly isn’t a hotbed sport in the area. Basketball certainly isn’t a sport probably doesn’t even qualify as a sport anywhere. Basketball certainly isn’t a sport probably doesn’t even qualify as a sport anywhere. Basketball certainly isn’t a sport probably doesn’t even qualify as a sport anywhere.

The thing is Lake Fenton’s run isn’t all that strange any more. Just last year, the Holly Bronchos won their first Class A district title in school history, and their first of any kind since 1982. The Bronchos also advanced to the regional final, falling by two points to Walled Lake Central when a game-winning three-pointer wasn’t sunk.

And who was the team to start all of this recent success? Why it was the Fenton Tigers in 2012 when the Tigers won their first Class A crown and first of any class since 1990 when they defeated Clarkston 68-66 in their district title game. To this day, that probably ranks the area’s biggest signature win of any of the teams in the 2000s considering Clarkston had won 18 straight district championships entering that season.

Indeed, boys basketball is getting more entertaining and, more importantly, much better. Consequently, I’m taking my spring vacations after the state tournament these days, just in case someone gets hot. My how times have changed — for the better.

Linden’s Bryce Davis (top) works on getting a pin. The varsity wrestling team is No. 8 on our Tri-County Elite Eight Poll for the winter of 2015-16.

Chargers as well. The squad only took sixth at regionals, but Zoe Weinberg still moved on and performed outstanding at the state meet. However, despite the fact her combined times in the slalom and giant slalom would’ve earned her an overall title if there was such thing, she left the meet without a state event championship.

With one more year left in her career, it’ll be fun to see what she does next season.

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
VARSITY BASEBALL
Wed. March 30 4 p.m. at Brandon
Thu. April 7 3 p.m. at Bad Axe
Mon. April 11 4 p.m. at Bay City
Thu. April 14 4 p.m. at Saginaw
Mon. April 18 4 p.m. at Bad Axe
Wed. April 20 7:15 p.m. at Greater Flint (Bronte Park)
Sat. April 23 7 p.m. at Flushing
Mon. April 25 4 p.m. at Kearsley
Thu. April 28 4 p.m. at Grand Blanc
Mon. May 2 4 p.m. at Clio
Wed. May 4 4 p.m. at Lake Fenton
Mon. May 9 6 p.m. at Davison
Sat. May 14 4:30 p.m. at Flint
Mon. May 22 4 p.m. at Flushing
Fri. May 26 4 p.m. at Goodrich
Tue. May 31 4 p.m. at Linden

VARSITY SOFTBALL
Wed. March 30 4 p.m. at Goodrich
Thur. April 14 4 p.m. at Swartz Creek
Mon. April 18 4 p.m. at Ortonville-Brandon
Sat. April 23 9 a.m. at Lake Orion
Mon. April 25 4 p.m. at Kearsley
Wed. May 1 4 p.m. at Bay City
Thu. May 5 4:30 p.m. at Novi
Mon. May 9 9 a.m. at Holly
Wed. May 11 11 a.m. at Lake Fenton
Mon. May 16 4 p.m. at Powers Catholic
Wed. May 23 4 p.m. at Linden
Sun. May 29 4 p.m. at Grand Blanc

FRESHMEN BASEBALL
Wed. March 30 4 p.m. at Grand Blanc
Tue. April 12 4 p.m. at Huron
Fri. April 15 4 p.m. at Hartland
Sat. April 16 3:17 p.m. at Hartland
Thu. April 21 6 p.m. at Kearsley
Fri. April 22 11 a.m. at Wixom
Mon. April 24 4 p.m. at Milan
Sat. April 29 11 a.m. at Clio
Mon. May 2 4 p.m. at Bay City
Wed. May 4 4 p.m. at Lake Fenton
Mon. May 9 6 p.m. at Davison
Fri. May 13 4 p.m. at Flint
Fri. May 20 4 p.m. at Goodrich
Tue. May 24 4 p.m. at Linden

VARSITY GIRLS SOCCER
Mon. March 28 5 p.m. at Swartz Creek
Wed. March 30 5 p.m. at Linden
Fri. April 1 6 p.m. at Owosso
Mon. April 4 4 p.m. at Davison
Fri. April 8 4 p.m. at Grand Blanc
Mon. April 11 4 p.m. at Holly
Wed. April 13 4 p.m. at Genesee Valley
Fri. April 15 4 p.m. at Davison
Mon. April 18 4 p.m. at Swartz Creek
Wed. April 20 4 p.m. at Ortonville-Brandon
Fri. April 22 4 p.m. at Flint Powers
Mon. May 2 4 p.m. at Flint Kearsley
Wed. May 4 4 p.m. at Clio
Fri. May 6 4 p.m. at Huron Catholic
Mon. May 9 4 p.m. at Saginaw Heritage
Wed. May 11 11 a.m. at Lake Fenton
Mon. May 16 4 p.m. at Flushing
Wed. May 18 4 p.m. at Clio
Fri. May 20 4 p.m. at Goodrich
Mon. May 23 4 p.m. at Linden
Mon. May 30 10 a.m. at Grand Blanc

JV SOFTBALL
Wed. March 30 4 p.m. at Goodrich
Wed. April 14 4 p.m. at Swartz Creek
Mon. April 18 4 p.m. at Ortonville-Brandon
Mon. April 25 4 p.m. at Swartz Creek
Mon. May 2 4 p.m. at Holly
Wed. May 11 11 a.m. at Lake Fenton
Mon. May 23 4 p.m. at Linden
Sat. May 28 4 p.m. at Grand Blanc

VARSITY TRACK
Mon. March 31 4 p.m. at Grand Valley State
Fri. April 8 3 p.m. at Blue Devil Relays
Fri. April 15 3:30 p.m. at Midland Country Club
Wed. April 20 4 p.m. at Holly
Thu. April 21 5 p.m. at Brandon
Wed. April 27 4 p.m. at Ortonville-Brandon
Thur. April 28 4 p.m. at Flint Powers
Fri. May 2 4 p.m. at Flint Kearsley
Mon. May 9 9 a.m. at Holly
Fri. May 13 4 p.m. at Novi Catholic
Mon. May 16 4 p.m. at Mt. Pleasant
Wed. May 18 4 p.m. at Clio
Fri. May 20 4 p.m. at Goodrich
Mon. May 23 4 p.m. at Linden
Mon. May 30 10 a.m. at Grand Blanc

VARSITY GIRLS LACROSSE
Mon. March 28 6:30 p.m. at Owosso
Fri. April 1 6:30 p.m. at Durand
Fri. April 8 6:30 p.m. at Davison
Mon. April 11 6:30 p.m. at Brandon
Mon. April 18 6:30 p.m. at Swartz Creek
Fri. April 22 7:30 p.m. at Goodrich
Mon. April 25 7 p.m. at Clio
Wed. April 27 6:30 p.m. at Flint
Fri. April 29 4:30 p.m. at Lake Fenton
Mon. May 2 6:30 p.m. at Swartz Creek
Fri. May 6 6:30 p.m. at Saginaw Heritage
Mon. May 9 6:30 p.m. at Kettering
Wed. May 11 6:30 p.m. at Flushing
Fri. May 13 6:30 p.m. at Brandon
Mon. May 16 6:30 p.m. at Flushing
Wed. May 18 6:30 p.m. at Clio
Fri. May 20 6:30 p.m. at Goodrich
Mon. May 23 6:30 p.m. at Lake Fenton
Mon. May 30 10 a.m. at Swartz Creek

SCHEDULES BROUGHT TO YOU BY THESE FINE AREA MERCHANTS
Invisible Fence marks 20 years

Local dealership in Fenton has grown by ‘leaps and bounds’

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

Earl and Rachel Carter of Tyrone Township not only love their five dogs, but also the dogs and cats they keep safe for thousands of customers through their Invisible Fence dealership.

Invisible Fence is an electronic pet containment system founded in 1973, but it’s more than just a “fence,” it’s a system of training and education for pets and their families.

The Carters have owned their local dealership since March 1996. Mark Hopson is the technician/installer and Laura Griglak is a master certified pet trainer in charge of training and in-home obedience.

“Our technology has really changed over the years,” said Earl, who handles sales for their family business, while Rachel handles the office. “Now, there are new systems in place to make pet ownership much easier for pets and families.”

Using GPS technology, Invisible Fence can now customize boundaries for each pet on large properties. Homeowners can also protect their yards and flowers from pet damage and safety issues.

Inside the home, a new system allows homeowners to “pet proof” their home, by curbing mischievous behavior. A new electronic pet door allows pets to go in and out automatically, as needed.

Invisible Fence can be reached at (810) 750-4600.

Correction: In the article “Weekly, summertime dances featured superstar entertainers — before they were household names,” published Sunday, March 20, the late John Hanks was incorrectly referred to as John “Glenn” Hanks, and should have been John “Grant” Hanks.

VIETNAMESE

Continued from Page 3A

other countries, and this is an outreach right here at home.” Trudell is the liaison between The Rock and the Vietnamese Bible Church, also helping each Sunday with the technological aspects of the service.

Their largest church service to date was last Sunday, March 20, when 26 people were in attendance for a lively service consisting of praise band music and a sermon given by Tran. “Our mission is to reach out to the Vietnamese community in Michigan,” said Tran. “Many of their lives are troubled. They need to know about God.”

His goal is to have 50 Vietnamese attending church here within the next two years. Currently, there are two Vietnamese churches in Detroit and three in Lansing.

Most of the worshippers are members of Tran’s extended family, plus people who work for him at Fenton Nails, a business he started when he and Amy moved to Fenton Township in 2009.

Amy is half American and half Vietnamese, growing up in Vietnam, where her marriage to Tran was arranged by both families. Tran’s family has a history of Christianity in a non-Christian communist country for more than 100 years. “We were the very first Christian family in Vietnam,” said Tran. “We are very proud of that legacy from my grandfather, in a country that’s only 5 percent Christian and 95 percent Buddhist.”

Tim, Amy and their oldest daughter moved to the U.S. in 1991 so that he could attend New Orleans Theological Seminary. Afterward, Tran started churches in southern California and Atlanta, Georgia, two of the largest centers of Vietnamese populations.

Tim and Amy go back to Vietnam every summer for a mission trip. “We use 15 percent of our income from Fenton Nails — 10 percent to build a church and 5 percent for food,” he said. “It’s difficult for them to understand the Gospel. They have 4,000 years under China’s rule. We have to show them God’s love through ourselves. That’s how we can turn people’s hearts around.”

Vietnam by the numbers:

Geography: Vietnam occupies the eastern and southern part of the Indochinese peninsula in southeast Asia, with the South China Sea along its entire coast. China is to the north and Laos and Cambodia are to the west.

Land area: 125,622 square miles, about twice the size of Arizona.

Population: 93,421,835

Life expectancy: 72.91

Capital: Hanoi

Largest cities: Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) 8,190,775; Haiphong 925,000, Da Nang, 834,000

Government: Communist

Source: infoplease.com

Why are there so many Vietnamese nail techs?

You won’t find a Buddha statue at Fenton Nails, typically commonplace in most Vietnamese-run nail salons. Instead, you’ll hear Christian music playing in the background, while busy nail techs attend to clients.

“Many Vietnamese refugees become nail techs or shop owners because they know how to work hard, are very patient and detail-oriented,” said Tran. “Out of two million Vietnamese living in the U.S., 500,000 (25 percent) are nail techs.”

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WINTER
Continued from Page 3A
So far this winter, the DPW has used 1,325 tons of road salt. The 2014-2015 winter they used 1,300 tons of road salt, according to Dan Czarnecki.

CONS
Dan Shannon, owner of Shannon’s Auto Collision, said business has been slower this winter compared to previous years. “It was a slow year, we didn’t get a lot of accidents,” he said. “We didn’t get much of a winter so business was a little slow.”

A few retailers who sell winter equipment like shovels, snow blowers, and generators, had a harder time selling these items due to the mild winter.
Jeff Stone, owner of Sears Hometown Store in Fenton, said, “We were down a little bit. It wasn’t too off from last year.”

Michigan experienced a few one- to two-day snowstorms, which prompted customers to buy snow blowers, shovels, and generators. But Stone said having steady snow is better for business. He sold almost three dozen shovels.

When it snows in February, people will often decide to hold off buying and wait until next winter to purchase winter equipment.
Stone said they start selling more lawn and garden supplies, however, when the weather gets nicer.

“It was comparable to last year overall,” he said. “We generally will make up for it in the spring.”

PROS
There were fewer vehicle crashes this winter compared to last winter in Fenton, according to Fenton Police Chief Rick Aro.

From Nov. 1, 2015 to March 17, Fenton police responded to 179 crashes. Last winter they responded to 206 crashes within that timeframe, and in the winter of 2013/2014, there were 220 crashes.

Aro said there is no way to tell if these accidents were caused by the weather, however.

Also, many times slippery roads cause cars to lose control and leave the roadway causing them to get stuck,” he added. “Unless there is injury, damage to the vehicle or the guardrail, delineator posts etc., no report is taken.”

Area schools had many snow days this past winter, giving students, teachers, and administrators a few days off. Only Fenton and Lake Fenton went over the allotted amount of snow days and have to make up for lost time.

WHY WAS IT MILD?
Michigan’s winter this year was tame compared to previous years. The tri-county area experienced a few harsh snowstorms though, prompting schools to have snow days, but the snow quickly turned to slush in the warmer temperatures that soon followed. Weather experts credit El Nino as the source of the warmer winter.

According to Climate Central, an El Nino occurs when there is a shift of a large pool of warm ocean waters from the western to the central and eastern tropical Pacific. Heat is pumped into the atmosphere, disrupting normal weather patterns for the entire U.S.

Notice
ROSE TOWNSHIP
2016 ANNUAL SPRING ROADSIDE CLEAN-UP DAY

Rose Township will hold its annual Roadside Clean-Up for residents and property owners on the following date:

Saturday May 14, 2016
8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Residents and township organizations are encouraged to participate in the clean-up of the roadsides.

Dumpsters will be located in the Rose Township Park located on the northwest corner of Milford Road and West Rose Center Road. Refuse to be disposed of must be transported to the dumpsters. THERE IS NO ROADSIDE PICK UP

No commercial dumping will be allowed.

Constable Emile Bair will be on duty to verify residence and/or property ownership. Fire department personnel will be there to assist with loading materials into the dumpsters. Propane tanks will be accepted. No barrels, gas or fuel oil tanks, stumps, brush or concrete will be accepted. Paint cans must be empty or filled with sand or cat litter. Each household will be permitted four (4) car tires; additional tires will be accepted at a price of $4.00 per tire and $25.00 per tire for tractor or large truck tires.

Burning permits are available by obtaining a burning permit through www.nocta.org.

Bags for cleaning roadsides will be available at the Rose Township Offices, 9080 Mason Street, Holly, Michigan beginning April 18, 2016 until May 12, 2016 and also at the clean-up day location on clean-up day.

Rose Township’s regular daily recycling is located in the rear of the Township Office’s parking lot at 9080 Mason Street, Holly, MI.

Residents may call 248-634-7551 with any questions.

Debbie Miller, CMC, CMMC
Rose Township Clerk
Emile Bair
Rose Township Constable

You’re a Neighbor,
Not a Number.

Brown and Brown’s professional advisors are your neighbors, friends and community members with the resources of the industry’s premier regional and national carriers behind them. Whether for personal, commercial or life insurance, we strive to provide the highest level of service and seek the most effective insurance solutions at a competitive price.

Each client’s risk is unique, so we provide an individual, customized plan designed to fit their needs.”

Doug Shepson, CIC
Executive Vice President

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