Soccer season kicks off

Players for Linden and Lake Fenton varsity girls soccer teams shake hands after the first game of the 2016 season Monday night in Linden. The Linden Eagles defeated the Lake Fenton Blue Devils 4-1.

New industrial facility bringing 30 full-time jobs to area

Miller family constructing 103,000-square-foot building on Thompson Road

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

The largest industrial building in Fenton Township is in development on Thompson Road, and it’s nearly impossible to miss when driving by.

Located at 3175 Thompson Rd., this approximately 103,000-square-foot facility will bring 30 full-time jobs to the area.

See FACILITY on 13

Family and friends shocked and disgusted with murder plea deal

Erich Wilfinger, the man accused of killing his wife, Marsha (Sargent) Wilfinger, formerly of Argentine Township, pleaded no contest to second-degree murder. He is scheduled to be sentenced on April 25.

See Page 7

Hot days on the way

This spring and summer forecast calls for above-average temperatures.

See Page 8

Swindled credit union merger announced

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

Michael LaJoice’s former employer is getting a new name and backing from a much larger financial institution.

The Clarkston Brandon Community Credit Union (CBCCU) merged with the Michigan State University Federal Credit Union (MSUFCU), effective Friday, March 25.

April Clobes, president and chief executive officer for MSUFCU, announced the merger to CBCCU members in a letter dated March 25.

The letter does not address the former CBCCU chief financial officer, LaJoice, who admitted to embezzling more than $20 million from his employer over a period of 12 years, and is now facing 14 counts of embezzlement.

LaJoice’s admission came on Jan. 6, when he turned himself into the Oakland County Sheriff’s Office and admitted to the crime.

A week later, on Jan. 13, CBCCU was placed under the conservatorship of the Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Services.

See MERGER on 14
■ ‘March Madness’ kicks off museum theme displays

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

The Fenton Historical Society is looking for ways to inspire residents to visit the A.J. Phillips Museum in Fenton and learn more about local history.

To that end, this month and April mark the first of a series of special displays to highlight either a building, special organization or person, etc. Once the subject of the display is chosen, the artifacts, documents, newspaper clippings and more items will be collected from throughout the museum and showcased in the front and the Victorian Room.

Doug Tebo with the Fenton Historical Society, and an associate, created displays featuring artifacts from Fenton High School sports history, such as trophies and yearbooks from the late ‘60s and early ‘70s. These pieces are on display in two locations in the Fenton A.J. Phillips Museum after being given to Ken Seger, museum curator.
Checkout charity – It’s OK to say ‘no’

Maybe you first encountered it at the grocery store. Or at the department store. Then the drug store. That was the day you realized it was pretty much everywhere.

I’m speaking, of course, about ‘checkout charity,’ the predatory practice of retailers instructing their clerks and cashiers to solicit donations from you when you are paying for your purchase.

Think of the circumstances the store puts you in. You already have your wallet out, your credit card or cash is in your hand, and half a dozen other customers are lined up behind you and watching you carefully, ready to pass judgment on your humanitarian status based on a public, predatory situation carefully choreographed by the retailer.

And guess what? It works. You look in your cart and realize everyone can see the bubble bath, the couple of steaks and nice bottle of wine and you are shamed into donating your money to an organization you are not familiar with and know nothing about.

You, for all intents and purposes, have just been ambushed by the very corporation you are patronizing.

Many things about this bother me. First and foremost, it is not the cashier’s fault. They work hard enough without being forced to awkwardly panhandle to unsuspecting strangers. I highly doubt their job description or training prepares them for this task. It is ‘crue’ and unusual punishment’ to put them in this situation.

Secondly, there is no tax deduction for your donation, which means that you are donating already-taxed dollars so you are actually giving 30 percent more than you think you are.

Third, the corporation who is preying on you is getting your tax donation and your goodwill. If your donation is given at ABC store, ABC will receive a tax credit in the neighborhood of 30 percent for donating your dollars. That means you are actually donating 30 percent of your ‘gift’ to the same company that is using questionable methods to scam you out of it.

Fourth, given how much money retailers invest in optimizing the ‘customer experience’ — the music, the lighting, the staff professionalism, the display psychology, the packaging, the flow of the store — it is interesting how willing these same companies are to top off my customer experience with a big fat manufactured guilt trip that leaves me resenting the store, and my shopping experience.

I don’t get it. With so many negative emotions being ignited by the experience, why are so many store chains opting to do it?

Because we let them.

Just remember that it’s OK to say no. It doesn’t mean you’re a bad person. It simply means you have the common sense to refuse to be absurd. When we simply say ‘no thank you,’ it will go away.

Absolutely believe in charity. But not like that. It’s wrong and it’s time we put an end to this nonsense.

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

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HILLARY ACCEPTED $100 million from Russia for her ‘Foundation’ and had plutonium sent there. No mention of this by the mainstream media. What else does she owe them?

WHEN MY KIDS went to AGS, the doors were open by 6:30 a.m., so traffic was spread out more, and a principal would remain in the front area with the students, not teachers. Why couldn’t the doors open earlier, and a principal be present with the students?

FOR GOD SO loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. John 3:16.

DEAR PRESIDENT OBAMA, slavery ended 150 years ago. Get over it.

BIG SHOUT OUT to the Fenton police officer who stayed with my son while he was changing his flat tire on southbound U.S. 23 Thursday night. Thanks.

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IT WOULD BE great if Charter could sync its signal so sound matches lip movements.

SHAME ON YOU Linden community for not supporting the LHS theater production of ‘Murder Me Always.’ Great job thespians.

LET ME GET this straight. It’s stressful at AGS in the morning because parents have just 20 minutes to drop their kids off. Maybe if you open the doors 10 to 15 minutes earlier it might relieve some stress. It’s amazing what a little common sense can get you.

AND SUDDENLY 11 million Belgians learn the cost of unrestricted immigration.

SAY WHATEVER YOU want about Obama, but when was the last time we actually had a president who did what he said he was going to do? Nobody likes it, but that’s the way it is. I wish he could run for another three years.

THE TRUMP AND Clinton reality show. It’s a shame that something as serious as presidential elections have become a reality show of who is the craziest, who is the best, who will fight, who will not, who will steal, who will lie, who will belittle. It’s a doggone shame.

PLastic bottles in Fint. If you go up and down some of the local roads in Flint, it looks like a recycling bin beside the road. There are hundreds of plastic bottles being thrown out. It seems like there would be a greater appreciation for the gift that’s been given to Flint people.

HILLARY CLINTON IS going to create all those jobs for all those Americans. But who are the jobs going to be for? The people who are already great and wealthy or are they going to be for ‘every’ Joe, like you and me?

AS I LOOK back on President Obama’s presidency, it appears to me that he has one thing he can brag about. He has ruined the Democratic Party. He cost them the House of Representatives, the Senate and I’m pretty sure he’s going to cost them the presidency. What a mistake he was.

WHAT DOES IT take to get our roads graded? Ruiston and McCasein Lake roads are terrible, in spots, you have to drive less than 5 mph. I am tired of being bounced around and having my car abused.

DOES ANYONE KNOW why the installation of the new ‘smart meters’ that the Fenton water department is installing on random houses? An employee told me he was finishing up our block, but when I take my walks, only certain houses have one. What’s going on?

CLEAN WATER is not a government responsibility. If it is, then why are 27 percent (water.usgs.gov) of Michigan households on private water? It is provided for community health and sanitation. Municipal water is a service, not a right.

What made you laugh this week?

Irrigation • Much More!

Ellie Koester

Fenton

Mike Cox

Fenton Township

Dylan DuRocher

Hartland

Tiffany Robinson

Linden

Cara Learman, Linden

Compiled by Hannah Ball, staff reporter
AGS ball fields not for public use

Some question why residents can’t use Fenton Little League ball fields

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

A few angry Fenton parents have taken to social media to lodge complaints against Fenton Little League (FLL), and new signs posted at the AGS Middle School ball fields indicating no one can use them unless registered with the league.

They say the very people FLL is prohibiting from using the fields are families who coached FLL teams for multiple years, putting in countless volunteer hours and kids who spent years in FLL learning how to play the game.

According to Doug Busch, interim superintendent and director of finance and personnel, however, Fenton Little League has been leasing those ball fields from the Fenton school district since 1974.

“The Little League organization does all of the upkeep, improvements, lighting and scheduling for the fields,” said Busch.

According to Vince Paris, director of Southern Lakes Parks and Recreation (SLPR), their sole role is to schedule the fields per the existing rules and procedures laid out by the district.

It is the understanding of SLPR staff that use of the field is overseen by Fenton Little League and that any other use would need prior approval from the league.

“Hence our scheduling administrator communicates to the Little League when a request to use the fields is made,” said Paris.

“During the season there is very little time for any other use other than little league.”

Paris said the “new” sign is just a duplication of the sign that was previously posted near the baseball storage room.

“It is just larger than the old one to my understanding,” Paris said. “But the rules on the new sign have been posted for many years.”

Like Busch, Paris said the Fenton Little League incurs all the costs to operate and maintain the fields and handles all the pre-, during- and post-season maintenance.

“I would also mention that if there are groups or organizations in the community interested in developing and/or building other fields I would be happy to have a conversation with them,” Paris said.

Paris can be reached via email at vparis@slpr.net.
Local businessman doesn’t fall for $7,000 check scam

Be suspicious of anyone asking you to write a check for more than the amount owed.

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

If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

That’s especially true with scams, including several that have circulated around the Fenton area recently.

A Tyrone Township service company recently got a call from an out-of-state man, who asked the business owner to provide a quote for doing some outside work in a low-income Flint neighborhood. “I’ve got lung cancer,” said the scammer, who asked this local businessman to put the $2,800 quoted work on a credit card. This business owner told the caller he would only do it for cash, not a credit card or check, “because I don’t know you.”

The man was very persistent, calling back again two weeks later, asking this local businessman for an additional favor. “I still owe a guy $4,200, so if you could just deposit that total amount ($7,000) at Wells Fargo, you’ll get paid what I owe you, plus I’ll give you $150 more for your trouble,” said the scammer.

The local businessman attempted to deposit the check at The State Bank, and found out through the bank’s Security Department that there was no account at Wells Fargo to draw from. “The account had been closed,” the local business owner told the caller. I could’ve gotten paid what I owe at Wells Fargo, you’ll get paid what I owe you, plus I’ll give you $150 more for your trouble.

The police said that you should be suspicious of anyone sending you a check for more than the amount they owe you. “We can’t stress this enough. Bring the check into your bank and let us call the company and verify it.”

She said that asking someone to write a check for more than the amount owed is a “regular thing” on Craiglist. “They try to purchase something from you and then send you a check for more than the amount they owe,” said Lee.

Lottery scams are out there, too, according to Lee. “Someone contacts you via a phone call or email and tells you you’ve won the lottery. Here’s the check; now you need to pay taxes or processing fees on it. That’s not how a real lottery works.”

This time of year, there are scammers out there, preying particularly on the elderly and most vulnerable. “Sometimes, workers will come to your house, and offer to do a paving job or driveway,” said Lee. “They’ll get your money up front, use the cheapest materials on the job, and then they’re on to the next victim already, when the job falls apart. Always verify a company to make sure they’re reputable, before using their services.”

Anyone who believes they have been victimized by a scam should also contact the police. “We have reports of scams almost daily,” said Fenton Police Chief Rick Aro. “The most recent have been scammers posing as IRS or FBI, threatening to arrest you if you don’t pay fines and costs on the phone. Scammers are calling and saying your grandchild has been arrested in another country and needs bond money and scammers saying you’ve won foreign lottery, and must send money to receive.”

“We may not be able to find and prosecute the scammer, but it certainly helps us to share the information,” said Aro.

Police & Fire report

HOLLY MAN CHARGED AFTER FLEEING POLICE

Michael Damron, 23, of Holly was charged with contempt of court, fleeing police, resisting an officer, and driving with a suspended license following an incident on March 17 in Holly Village.

According to Holly police records, a Holly police officer attempted to initiate a traffic stop to a vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed on northbound North Holly Road at approximately 8:45 p.m. Dispatch was advised and other agencies were notified of the speeding vehicle. The vehicle entered southbound I-75 from Grange Hall Road, at which time Michigan State Police-Metro Post and deputies with the Oakland County Sheriff’s Office assisted. The vehicle exited the highway and then reentered northbound I-75. “Stop sticks” deployed by Grand Bland Township police successfully stopped the vehicle at the Dort Highway exit. Damron was arrested in Oakland County’s 52-2 District Court. He remains in the Oakland County Jail with $75,000 bond.
Family and friends shocked and disgusted with murder plea deal

Killer pleads ‘no contest’

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

Erich Wilfinger, the man accused of killing his wife, Marsha (Sargent) Wilfinger, formerly of Argentine Township, pleaded no contest to second-degree murder in a Montmorency County courtroom Monday.

He is scheduled to be sentenced on April 25. “Erich Wilfinger is a killer and a coward, hiding behind a plea deal so the truth about what he did won’t come out. He wasn’t even man enough to admit his guilt,” said Sally York, former sister-in-law of the victim. “He deserved life without parole, and Marsha deserved better justice.”

Wilfinger, 67, was charged with open murder-homicide, possession of weapons and firearms by a felon, and trying to escape. His wife, who was 54 at the time of her death, was found in the back seat of a burning car on June 20, 2015 at the intersection of Sheridan Valley Road and Scenic Rte. 3 in Montmorency County’s Briley Township, east of Gaylord.

When Michigan State Police troopers arrived, they found the car burning. When the fire was put out, investigators discovered the woman’s burned remains in a ditch. When the fire was put out, troopers determined the body in the vehicle was his spouse. Troopers reported there were signs that a domestic assault had recently taken place in the home.

Marsha’s daughter, Kelly (Sargent) Jackson told friends that she received a call a little over a week ago from the Montmorency County prosecutor. “Well, after talking it over, we all agreed that we didn’t agree to a second-degree, no contest plea,” said Jackson. “We wanted him to go to trial and be found guilty of his charges by the jury, and hopefully get the maximum sentence. The least we would agree to is a second-degree guilty plea.”

“I specifically really wanted to hear him admit his guilt and admit to the crimes he committed,” Jackson added.

Kundinger, however, decided to proceed with the second-degree, no contest plea deal, she said. “My mother never gave up on anyone she cared about,” she added. “She would be the first one screaming at someone to defend the people she loved and cared for. In the end, I just want justice for her.”

Veronica Pheasant of Argentine Township was a long-time friend to the victim. “Marcia had a lot of friends. She was such a beautiful and loving person. I think we all would love to see him tried in a court of law in front of a jury for first-degree murder,” she said. “I know that is what Marsha would want. “I really wanted to sit in court and watch his face as he was held accountable for what he did,” Pheasant added. “It’s so upsetting to many people that he was offered a plea deal. I feel there was so much evidence against him but the courts just wanted it done and over and off their docket because it was so obvious. “I just don’t agree with letting someone off a first-degree murder charge to a second-degree plea deal when it was such a horrific and devastating way to die,” Pheasant said. “If you ask me he killed her twice. Ultimately, in the end we all want justice served.”

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Above average temps forecasted for this spring and summer

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

You may want to crank up your air conditioner and spend more time on the beach this summer, as long-term projections for spring and summer are calling for above-average temperatures.

That’s the word from Chief Meteorologist JR Kirtek of ABC-TV12. Kirtek adds that this past winter featured above-average temperatures and above-average snowfall, but there is no strong correlation between what happened this past winter, to what will happen the following spring and summer.

“Following a relatively mild winter, we have experienced just about as many ‘coolish’ summers as warm ones,” he said.

So far, spring temperatures have been up and down, but are fairly typical patterns for this time of year, according to Ahmad Bajjey, meteorologist at NBC-TV25. “We see colder air, and sometimes snow, in the first weeks of April. But it won’t last, of course. Spring, as a whole, looks to be at normal or above normal on average, once it is all said and done.”

He sees summer shaping up with slightly longer than normal periods of dry air, compounded with more intense periods of rain to offset it.

“I would expect our share of heat in the 80s and 90s later this summer, staying on average above normal,” said Bajjey. “There are actually two possible forecasts, both with above normal heat, but one is with the potential for a little extra warmth at the end of the summer, as we shift to seeing effects from La Nina, which follows El Nino.” La Nina describes when there are cooler-than-normal sea surface temperatures in the central and eastern Pacific Ocean, while El Nino describes warmer-than-normal sea surface temperatures, according to accuweather.com.

“The second forecast is for a warmer than normal summer, but also more humid. The reason is for stronger than normal area of high pressure in the waters off Florida, called a ‘Bermuda High.’ This would help push warm moist air from the Gulf right into our own backyards. Humid air is actually more unlikely to see extreme heat. It’s usually one or the other, 100 degree days or humid days in the 80s or 90s. We won’t know that outlook for about another month.”
Fenton dentist builds innovative chicken house recognized in magazine

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

Which came first, the chicken or the egg? For Tyrone Township residents Glenn and Michelle Carter, the answer is clearly “the chicken.” They began their first attempt at hobby farming just seven months ago, bringing nine Isa Brown chicks home to roost after having lived on their 10-acre parcel of land since 1984.

“We had heard from someone that you get a tax deduction for having farm animals,” said Michelle. “Glenn started looking at chicken coops online and I was researching breeds. We were misinformed about the taxes, but the idea of raising chickens just snowballed.”

The Carters bought their first peep of chickens from a breeder in Highland, choosing Isa Browns, one of the top brown egg laying hybrids. Meanwhile, Glenn came up with a chicken coop design that made it very easy to raise chickens, taking just 10 minutes a day.

“It’s literally no work,” said Glenn, a Fenton dentist for more than 40 years and a self-described gentleman farmer with a huge garden full of corn and tomato plants. “The coop has a self-feeder, and a sand-based cleaning system that works like a litter box. To clean the coop, we just sift through it. We’re getting great compost for our garden.”

In fact, the design for the chicken coop, which includes an electronic door that opens and closes based on sunlight, won the couple an award from Living the Country Life magazine, in a story that featured seven favorite chicken coops, with submissions sent in from across the country.

The run is fenced in, with sides and a top, and protects the chicks with an electric fence.

**‘Creative coop’**

Michelle Carter gives the chickens a snack of grape tomatoes and lettuce in their coop designed and built by her husband, Glenn.
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SPRING SPECIAL 20% OFF
Choosing Snapchat, Twitter, Instagram instead

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

Once your parents do it, it becomes lame.

That’s the general attitude many teenagers have toward Facebook now that the older generations are joining the world of social media.

According to the Pew Research Center, 92 percent of teens report going online daily, yet not to sites most people think they would.

Linden student Shae Curtis, 15, said when she’s not doing chores or taking care of her responsibilities, she’s on social media.

“It takes over my life,” she joked.

Teens are leaving Facebook at a fast rate. Some experts estimate that millions of teens are leaving the site every year or may keep their Facebook profiles but they visit the site less, according to the Washington Post.

Curtis admitted that she and her friends aren’t on Facebook as much as other social media sites. “It’s not as interesting. It’s basically only family stuff on there,” she said.

Associate Professor and Chair of the Communication Studies Program at the University of Michigan-Flint Marcus Paroske, said, “It was inevitable that as Facebook became the dominant social media platform for everyone, it would lose its ‘cool factor’ with young people. Teenagers have been looking for ways to communicate without the watchful eye of their parents forever.”

In 2014, Mark Zuckerberg, creator of Facebook, admitted in a speech that they lost the coolness factor. However, this trend started back in November 2013 when Facebook admitted that they were seeing a decrease in teen users.

Pew Research Center found that 72 percent of adults online use Facebook, which is a substantial increase from 8 percent in 2005, and that while Facebook is still the most-used social media site, it has not seen much growth since 2012. Teens do not want to hang out with their parents, aunts, and uncles online.

In the past few years, picture and short video platforms Snapchat and Facebook-owned Instagram have been teen favorites. Snapchat allows users to take a picture or a short video that will disappear in a short time once it has been sent to friends. Instagram, which started in 2010, has been the number one online platform for pictures for years.

Pew found that the younger someone is, the more likely they are to use Twitter and Instagram.

True to the trend, Curtis said she usually spends the most time on Snapchat, Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, and Tumblr, in that order.

“I like Snapchat because I can just send really funny pictures and you don’t really have to keep a conversation going,” she said. “I like Twitter because I just see really funny things on there, or tweets that explain my life. I can keep up with people because most of the time they automatically tweet after something happens.”

Most of her friends are on Snapchat and Twitter, but only about six have a Facebook.

Parents could simply start using Twitter and Snapchat, but experts don’t think they will. They’re comfortable enough only being ‘friends’ with their real-life friends on Facebook, according to the Washington Post.

Paroske said the older generations are always going to be experimenting with new mediums of online communication. “It shows that new technologies like this overtime become an ingrained part of our everyday lives to that point where it is almost impossible not to adapt to them,” he said.
COOP
Continued from Page 9

that runs around the bottom. It took Glenn a couple of weeks to build the coop, and Michelle finished off the design with a hand-painted sign.

“Hobby farming, and getting closer to your food is becoming very trendy right now,” said Michelle. She loves cooking with the Isa Brown eggs, saying, “The whites are thicker and the yokes stand up high. They make fluffier cookies, too.”

The couple is having so much fun with their chickens that they recently added a pen for bunnies in part of their farm shed.

“We bought three, a male and two females, Olaf, Anna and Elsa,” said Michelle, a grandmother to two little girls who love the characters from the movie, “Frozen.” “The kids just love coming out here and seeing the chicks and the bunnies.”

While the Carters are having fun with their first foray into farming, they admit it’s not a money making proposition. “At $3 for a carton of eggs, we’ll “re-coop” our money in about 2060,” joked Glenn. “But it’s easier than going to the grocery to store to buy eggs.”
FACILITY
Continued from Front Page

103,000-square-foot building will be the new Miller Industries headquarters and will house two companies: a Miller Industries company, Performance Fabricating, which manufactures steel, and Flex Air LLC, an air handling manufacturer.

General contractors Rhoades and Johnson Construction are currently working on the building.

The building is adjacent to the Fenton Lanes Bowling Alley, just west of the intersection of Torrey and Thompson roads.

Jennifer Sage, CFO of Miller Industries and one of the Miller family members, said the current Performance Fabricating building at 2111 Thompson Road doesn’t accommodate the steel manufacturing business as well as the new building will.

“We wanted our own building that was more suitable to our needs,” she said, adding that the new building will have high bays and more cranes.

The project is expected to generate $9 million in private investment, according to the Michigan Economic Development Corp.

Construction started December in 2015, and it is expected to be done this July, according to Sage.

Trustees approved construction for this development, as well as a 12-year tax exemption, in June 2015.

“It’s a law that allows industries to get a break on their taxes for a certain amount of years. It cuts their tax rate in half for 12 years,” said Tom Broecker, the Fenton Township operations manager and deputy clerk, in a previous Times article. The number of years depends on the business, and 12 years is the maximum. The development was able to get the full 12 years.

The company’s tax exemption form estimates the new building will bring 30 full-time jobs and 55 to 60 for the expansion.

“We’re anxious,” Broecker said previously, adding that the board likes seeing construction on Thompson Road. “It’ll be a good first step in getting some development out there.”

The two companies will start production immediately once the building is finished.

Sage said the Miller family chose to build in Fenton Township because “It’s a community that we grew up in and our customer base is in Michigan.”
BOYFRIEND FACES DOMESTIC ASSAULT CHARGES
A 28-year-old Grand Blanc man is facing possible domestic assault charges following an incident in Fenton on Monday. Fenton Police Chief Rick Aro said two squad cars were sent to the area of Shiawassee Avenue and Adelaide Street at 5:40 p.m. to investigate unknown trouble involving an injured female. Witnesses said a woman was hanging out of a car and yelling for help. After the maroon, four-door car she was a passenger in crashed at the intersection, she got out, and the car left the scene, according to police. A woman was treated for facial injuries. Within minutes, the fire chief advised police that the suspect vehicle had run a red light at LeRoy and Silver Lake Road. A police officer initiated a traffic stop and made contact with the driver, reportedly the woman’s boyfriend. Police noticed fresh damage to the car as well as blood. The driver was arrested and questioned at the police station. Charges are pending.

LOCK YOUR CAR DOORS
Fenton police received multiple larcery reports from auto complaints from residents on Newport and Silver Lake Road. The thefts occurred overnight between March 25 and 26. All of the vehicles involved were unlocked. Fenton Police Chief Rick Aro reminds all vehicle owners to keep their vehicles locked at all times and to remove any valuables.

ASSAULT CHARGES
A 26-year-old Grand Blanc man is facing possible domestic assault charges following an incident in Fenton on Monday. Fenton Police Chief Rick Aro said two squad cars were sent to the area of Shiawassee Avenue and Adelaide Street at 5:40 p.m. to investigate unknown trouble involving an injured female. Witnesses said a woman was hanging out of a car and yelling for help. After the maroon, four-door car she was a passenger in crashed at the intersection, she got out, and the car left the scene, according to police. A woman was treated for facial injuries. Within minutes, the fire chief advised police that the suspect vehicle had run a red light at LeRoy and Silver Lake Road. A police officer initiated a traffic stop and made contact with the driver, reportedly the woman’s boyfriend. Police noticed fresh damage to the car as well as blood. The driver was arrested and questioned at the police station. Charges are pending.

Specifically, the now repealed statute made it a misdemeanor to play the “Star Spangled Banner” in a public place or theatre, motion picture hall, restaurant or café except as a complete composition. Additionally no embellishments are allowed.

Unquestionably, the National Anthem should only be played and performed with the utmost dignity and respect and the reason for the repeal may well have been because of some constitutional vagueness issues.

Being a lifelong baseball fan, this recent repeal brings to mind the controversy surrounding the singing of the National Anthem just before Game 5 of the 1968 World Series in Detroit by one Jose Feliciano—a blind singer from Puerto Rico. The following is a brief history.

The date was Oct. 7, 1968 and Mr. Feliciano had just released a national hit which was a cover of a hit by the 1960s group “The Doors” called, “Light My Fire.” The Detroit Tigers were at home playing the St. Louis Cardinals before a sold out Tiger Stadium and were behind three games to one in a seven game series.

Mr. Feliciano had been invited to sing by beloved Tigers broadcaster Ernie Harwell, who was a songwriter in his own right. Mr. Feliciano’s rendition of the anthem was very unique and bluesy. It was not well received.

The game then followed and the Tigers won! Indeed, they went on to win the World Series and the ensuing controversy eventually died down.

Afterwards, Mr. Feliciano said he was singing that day with great emotion and gratitude for what the United States has given him. Mr. Feliciano was not prosecuted and I know of no prosecutions that ever occurred under this law.

In any event, the baseball season is now upon us and hopefully for Detroit Tigers fans it will be a successful one.

Playing the National Anthem in Michigan
I have been following with interest the recent passage of a Michigan statute repealing a number of laws, which have been termed as being obsolete and/or outdated and which became effective March 14, 2016. (The list of repealed laws is somewhat lengthy and I won’t go into any detail about them except for one — a statute which made the playing of our National Anthem in the wrong way a crime.

MUSEUM
Continued from Page 3
The first display is called “March Madness.” According to Doug Tebo of the Fenton Historical Society, because March Madness and state wrestling tournaments are currently taking place, a lot of basketball and wrestling trophies were brought out and put on display, along with many yearbooks.

“There is one from 1964, one of the girls’ basketball trophies,” said Tebo. “The yearbook is next to it, open to a picture of the basketball team.”

He said people can come in and check out their parents and grandparents who participated in local sports over the years. In mid-April, Tebo said the display will be changed to reflect everything they have on the old Baptist Minister’s seminary, once located at High Street and State Road.

Because of its age and significant damage caused by rough winters, the building was declared a safety hazard and demolished in December 2015.

The display at the museum in April will be in preparation for upcoming activities involving the old seminary building, Tebo said. Details of those activities will be announced at a later date.

The A.J. Phillips Museum is open from 1 to 4 p.m. on Sundays.

MERGER
Continued from Front Page
Last week, LaJoice was bound over for trial in Oakland County Circuit Court. The merger gives former CBCCU members access to additional MSUFCU and OU (Oakland University) Credit Union banking locations. MSUFCU reported that CBCCU has 19 employees, approximately 8,500 members and assets of $41 million. Prior to the merger, the MSU Credit Union had close to 210,000 members and more than $3 billion in assets.

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For second straight year, Smith leads our girls’ team

■ Ends career as Holly’s all-time leading scorer

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

Kaitlyn Smith knows she accomplished a lot of great things during her career with the Holly varsity girls basketball team.

She knows the squad accomplished a lot of great moments on the basketball court as well during her four seasons with the program.

However, when she looks back at her career the points, the assists and the victories are kind of secondary in her mind. She has other memories that she remembers most fondly.

“I had an awesome four years at Holly, but the most important things I remember are not the wins or losses but the relationships we had with the coaches, the players and the fans,” Smith said. “I couldn’t have asked for a better support group. It was awesome just playing here.”

For four seasons, it was pretty awesome watching Smith play. And to cap her career, she has been named our Tri-County Girls Basketball Player of the Year for the second straight season.

Smith’s career

Here is a quick look at Kaitlyn Smith’s four-year stats at Holly.

* All-time scoring leader in Holly history with 1,243 points.
* Collected 345 rebounds, 225 assists and 224 steals.
* Finished her career with a 64-25 varsity record.

did it in so many ways, netting 84 two-point field goals and hitting 36 from outside the three-point arc. She was deadly on the free-throw line as well, netting 99-of-127 (78 percent). Smith not only earned unanimous first-team Metro League honors, but was given First-Team All-State honors as well.

She was such a proficient scorer, Smith finished her career as the all-time leading scorer in Holly history, netting 1,243 points in 86 games, good for a 14.5 point average. However, ask Holly coach David Hall what made her so good, and he’ll mention so much more than scoring.

“She did it all for us,” Hall said. “She averaged over 20 points a game, but it wasn’t like she shot the ball a lot this year. She only shot it about 17 times a game, but she made almost 45 percent of her shots from the field and those were under heavy duress. No one wanted to give her an open shot.”

“She was our leader in assists, steals, blocked shots and rebounding. Her first two years Allyssa (Copley) and Abby (Lewandowski) did the rebounding. This year and last year she took the primary in her mind. She has other

Smith’s four-year stats at Holly.

During the winter National Signing Day, Chase Lynch and Peyton Coffman are among 30 players a chance to play college football in recent seasons.

During the winter National Signing Day, two more added their name to the list. Chase Lynch and Peyton Coffman signed a National Letter of Intent to play college football next fall. Lynch signed his to play at Division 1A Eastern Michigan University, while Coffman is going to play National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) level football at Siena Heights University.

Both are excited to start their next chapters of their football career.

“Eastern’s program felt like a family and I thought it would be an easy transition,” Lynch said. “Also I’ve had dreams of playing Division I football. I had the opportunity so I took it. I liked the coaching staff and I want to be part of the rebuilding process at Eastern Michigan.”

“It means a lot because I’ve worked so hard for this opportunity,” Coffman said. “I’m glad I got this chance. I liked the school, the football team and everything they had to offer.”

Setzke is excited for both players as well.

“From an academic standpoint, he will do just fine,” Setzke said about Lynch. “His work ethic and the physical ability he brings to the table will help him prepare for the Division 1 level. I’m sure he’ll redshirt this year, so he’ll get a year of training and growth at the D1 level. He’s very intelligent and it comes down to his desire and work ethic. Both are awesome, so I think he’s ready.”

“Anytime you get offered a scholarship opportunity that’s a good thing,” Setzke said about Coffman’s status. “He liked the campus and the university and I believe they are giving him the most money. He also gets an opportunity to

See COLLEGE on 17
SMITH
Continued from Page 16
more of a rebounding role and did it. She did it very well. And every year her game grew.”

That wasn’t by accident. Smith said she was constantly trying to get better each season.

“I feel every year I got better,” Smith said. “I was always changing something better about my game. Of course I worked on what I was good at, but every year I felt I wanted to add something to my game from the previous year. I felt I did a good job with it.”

Smith’s senior season stats prove how well rounded she became. She averaged 4.4 rebounds, 3.2 assists, 3.1 steals and 1.5 blocks a game this season. For her career she had 345 rebounds, 225 assists, 224 steals and 91 blocks. During her career the Bronchos posted a 20-0 regular season, captured a Class A district title and recorded a 64-25 overall record.

“Her internal drive and her willingness to get better are strong,” Hall said. “Some kids practice when it is convenient, but some kids that’s really what they like doing. That’s what separates those kids that are extra special. They’ll do it when nobody is watching, and she did it when nobody was watching.”

Hall said Smith was a mentally strong player.

“She didn’t get rattled,” Hall said. “She was able to keep her composure. You could watch Kaitlyn and (fellow senior teammate) Jenna Pepper and you couldn’t tell if we were winning or losing by 10.”

“Basketball taught me about the good times and the bad times,” Smith said. “(Holly assistant varsity girls basketball) coach (Casey) Lombard says don’t let your highs be too high and your lows too low. Keep your confidence even and go into every game always posi-
Women need more sleep than men

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

Recent studies show that women need more sleep than men.

One of Britain’s top sleep experts said that because women tend to multitask more than men throughout the day, they need on average about 20 more minutes of sleep a night.

Dr. George Zureikat M.D. from the Mid-Michigan Sleep Center said, “Women do have inadequate sleep and need more than what they’re getting.”

He said women might use their brains more than men because their daily activities don’t just consist of working. Women are usually the ones taking care of the kids and the household chores.

“One argument is that they do more complex multitasking behavior. Obviously the brain needs to recover and repair itself,” he said.

Although, he doesn’t know if that multitasking behavior is gender-specific. A woman’s biology can keep her more active during the day and up at night. He said women are more likely to suffer from depression and anxiety, which can also negatively affect someone’s sleep cycle.

“There’s the breastfeeding, the menstrual cycles, the hormones, pregnancy,” he said.

During pregnancy, hormonal changes can lead to feeling more or less sleepy, which affects a woman’s sleep schedule. Pregnancy also increases a woman’s chances of developing restless leg syndrome, which is a disorder in the nervous system that causes an urge to move the legs.

Zureikat said that this syndrome is more common in women than it is in men.

He also explained that women are more likely to suffer from insomnia than men, often because of menopause.

Around 35 to 40 percent of menopausal women experience sleep problems, according to The Center for Sleep & Wake Disorders. According to the National Sleep Foundation, about 40 million women and men have a type of sleep disorder, and insomnia is the most common.

Zureikat said approximately 27 percent of women and 19 percent of men suffer from insomnia.

Because women experience more disturbances while sleeping, they usually need more sleep than men do.

The National Sleep Foundation also suggests that women get less sleep because of their partners.

Men have a tendency to snore more than women do, and the lighter person in bed, which is usually the woman, usually gets moved around and disturbed by the heavier one.

Moreover, once women wake up they find it harder to get back to sleep than men do.

“There’s also a higher risk for disease,” Zureikat said.

Sleep disorders and sleep deprivation can lead to an increased risk of stroke, cardiovascular disease, hypertension, obesity and many other problems, according to the National Sleep Foundation.

Zureikat said people usually need seven to eight hours of sleep a night, and most of the population does not obtain that amount. “Overall, we’re a sleep deprived society,” he said. “Our society suffers from chronic insomnia.”

Getting a better night’s sleep

• Stick to a sleep schedule. Wake up at the same time and go to bed at the same time every day, even on the weekends. This will regulate your sleep schedule.

• Have a relaxing bedtime ritual. A nightly routine without any stimulants, like technology, that cause stress and anxiety, will help you fall asleep faster.

• Avoid naps. If you have trouble sleeping, avoid naps in the afternoon so you are tired when it’s time to go to bed.

• Exercise daily. Exercise at any time of the day will help you fall asleep and obtain better rest.

• Evaluate your room. Your bedroom temperature should be anywhere from 60 to 67 degrees, and free of noise and light that can disturb you while sleeping. Use earplugs if necessary.

• Sleep on a comfortable mattress and pillow. Using quality pillows and a mattress is key to being comfortable at night. Make sure to replace your mattress every nine to 10 years and clean your bed sheets regularly.

Source: Sleep Foundation
Senate Bill 710: Ball out Detroit schools, let mayor’s commission stop new charters

To end the state’s emergency management of the insolvent Detroit school district, and give an elected school board control of the district’s schools, including the academically failed ones currently under a form of state receivership. The bill would give a new “education commission” appointed by the Detroit mayor the authority to block new charter schools from opening in the city, among other powers. See House Bill 5296 below.

Passed 21 to 16 in the Senate
Sen. David Robertson (R-Dist. 14) YES
Sen. Mike Kowall (R-Dist. 15) YES
Sen. Joe Hune (R-Dist. 22) YES
Sen. Jim Ananich (D-Dist. 27) YES
Sen. Ken Horn (R-Dist. 32) YES

House Bill 5296: Make “down payment” on Detroit school 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, which is expected to include $515 million in debt forgiveness and another $202 million for “transition costs.”

Passed 29 to 7 in the Senate
Sen. David Robertson (R-Dist. 14) YES
Sen. Mike Kowall (R-Dist. 15) YES
Sen. Joe Hune (R-Dist. 22) YES
Sen. Jim Ananich (D-Dist. 27) YES
Sen. Ken Horn (R-Dist. 32) YES

House Bill 4813: Revise electrician licensure mandate detail
To revise details of a law that requires a person to accumulate 8,000 hours as an apprentice before he or she can get a state license to independently earn a living as an electrician. The bill would change a current restriction that limits a licensed electrician to having just one apprentice, by increasing this to three apprentices.

Passed 22 to 15 in the Senate
Sen. David Robertson (R-Dist. 14) YES
Sen. Mike Kowall (R-Dist. 15) NO
Sen. Joe Hune (R-Dist. 22) YES
Sen. Jim Ananich (D-Dist. 27) YES
Sen. Ken Horn (R-Dist. 32) YES

Senate Bill 476: Cap cigar tax
To repeal the Oct. 1, 2016 sunset on a law that caps the tobacco tax imposed on cigars at 50 cents per cigar. In other words, if the bill becomes law the 50 cent cap would remain in effect for another five years.

Passed 90 to 18 in the House
Sen. David Robertson (R-Dist. 14) YES
Sen. Mike Kowall (R-Dist. 15) YES

House Bill 4822: Ban “social promotions” for third graders who can’t read
To prohibit “social promotions” of third graders who have not reached minimum reading benchmarks, subject to many conditions and exceptions, and with requirements that additional “intervention programs” be created (including summer school) and individual tutoring provided before a student is actually held back. This would not take effect until the 2019-2020 school year.

Passed 31 to 6 in the Senate
Sen. David Robertson (R-Dist. 14) YES
Sen. Mike Kowall (R-Dist. 15) YES
Sen. Joe Hune (R-Dist. 22) YES
Sen. Jim Ananich (D-Dist. 27) YES
Sen. Ken Horn (R-Dist. 32) YES

House Bill 4895: Revise gas station liquor license provision
To allow the owner of a retail store that has a liquor license and also has a separate gas station (as do many “big box” stores) to sell beer and wine under the same license at the gas station. The bill would limit this to retailers who maintain $250,000 worth of inventory, which is expected by smaller retailers and supported by large ones and by the state-authorized beer and wine wholesaler cartel.

Passed 28 to 8 in the Senate
Sen. David Robertson (R-Dist. 14) NO
Sen. Mike Kowall (R-Dist. 15) YES
Sen. Joe Hune (R-Dist. 22) YES
Sen. Jim Ananich (D-Dist. 27) YES
Sen. Ken Horn (R-Dist. 32) NO

Midweek Times Wednesday, March 30, 2016

WHAT YOUR LEGISLATORS VOTED ON RECENTLY

MichiganVotes.org is a free, non-partisan website created by the Mackinac Center for Public Policy to provide concise, non-partisan, plain-English descriptions of every bill and vote in the Michigan House and Senate. With one click, you can approve or disapprove of key votes by your legislators using the VoteSpotter smartphone app. This report was released Friday, March 25.
PUBLIC NOTICE

ACD Telecom is proposing to collocate wireless communications antennas at a top height of 37 feet on a 37-foot utility pole at the approx. vicinity of 604 South Leroy Street, Fenton, Genesee County, Michigan 48430. Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: Trileaf Corp, Jacqueline Hulina, 1821 Walden Office Square, Suite 510, Schaumburg, IL 60173, 630-227-0202, j.hulina@trileaf.com.

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Source: thefuneralsource.org

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ARIES (Mar. 21 to April 19)
It isn’t always easy for the rambunctious Aries to give a second thought to their often spur-of-the-moment choices. But favor rechecking a decision before declaring it final.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)
Information emerges for the business-driven Bovine who feels ready to restart a stalled project. Be prepared to make adjustments as needed at any time during the process.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20)
Part of you wants to complete plans for an upcoming event, while your other self wants to see how things develop first. Compromise by moving ahead with your plans while being open to change.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22)
An unexpected change in a relationship could open up a problem or could lead to a much-needed and too-long-delayed reassessment of a number of matters. The choice is yours to make.

LEO (July 23 to August 22)
Time for the Lion to total the plusses and minuses resulting from recent personal and/or professional decisions. See what worked, what didn’t and why, and base your next big move on the results.

VIRGO (August 23 to Sept. 22)
The clever Virgo can make persuasion work by presenting a case built on hard facts. Sentiment might touch the heart, but it’s good, solid information that invariably wins the day.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)
You usually can win over the most stubborn skeptics on your own. But this time you can benefit from supporters who have been there, done that and are willing to speak up on your behalf.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)
You win admiration for your determination to do the right thing. Don’t be distracted from that course, despite the offer of tempting alternatives that might suddenly turn up.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)
While you still need to maintain control of a dominant situation, a new development emerges, making the task easier and the outcome potentially more rewarding.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19)
New factors might have a positive effect on a still-pending matter, but only if the information proves to be credible. Trusted colleagues might be able to offer needed advice.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18)
The week favors moderation, especially if a health problem is involved. Resist the impulse to do more than might be good for you at this time. You can catch up later.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to Mar. 20)
You could feel more than a mite upset by someone or some people who might be creating problems for you. Find out why they won’t change their ways. Their reasons might surprise you.

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