## Here's what it's like to live a day with Flint water

## Two families share how their lives have been changed

By Vera Hogan vhogan@tctimes.com A 56-year-old Flint resident and his wife live off Miller Road in the city of

Flint. They have lived in

their house for 14 years. They also work in the city of Flint. He has asked to remain anonymous. The resident said, just like

See WATER on 10A



**PLAY BALL!** 

TIGER'S HOME OPENER

FRIDAY, APRIL 8

#### TRI-COUNTY TIMES

FILE PHOTO To help with the Flint water crisis, Alpine Marketplace in Linden donated 18 pallets of bottled water on Jan. 22 to the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan.

**1** really don't know how these people sleep at night. 77

Lee Knorr Flint resident, formerly of Linden and Holly

PAGE 1-3B **TIGER'S OPENING DAY IS ON THE** HORIZON

VOL. 23 NO. XIV

## \$**1.00** Weekend \* SUNDAY EDITION SUNDAY, APRIL 3, 2016 2012 - 2013 - 2014 NEWSPAPER OF TH

# High winds topple 80-foot tree in Fenton

■No one harmed; little property damage occurred

#### By Tim Jagielo

tjagielo@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795 Fenton — At approximately 7 p.m. Thursday night, high winds took down an 80-foot-tall spruce tree, which blocked Adelaide Street at North Road in Fenton. The tree also took down a few smaller trees with it.

The property is owned by John and Janet Stork. No one was harmed, and the tree didn't strike any phone or power lines.

See TREE on 20A

to be sentenced on

that charge on July

12 in Flint's U.S.

plea agreement, the

maximum penalty

See USEWICK

on 21A

According to the

District Court.

## **Usewick pleads guilty** to one count of bank fraud conspiracy

#### ■Sentencing in July, could get 30 years

#### By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823 Edward Frank Usewick III, 36, formerly of Fenton Township, pleaded guilty Tuesday, March 29, to one count of conspiracy to commit bank fraud. He is scheduled



Edward Usewick



**We, not politicians,** can make America great again. We need to return to our religious values. We

must stop aborting our young, honor traditional marriage and stop glorifying abnormal behavior. Our immoral behavior, like taking drugs, will destroy us if we don't stop.<sup>3</sup>

**L** Hey Times, would you please answer the question that is on every-

the newcomers Tiger fans are looking forward to cheering on.



one's mind: Which way is that giant corrugated aluminum bridge thing they're constructing going? Is the round part down

The Detroit Tigers will begin their 2016 baseball season at home on Friday, April

8 at Comerica Park in downtown Detroit. They will be facing long-time rivals, the

New York Yankees in this season opener. Accuweather predicts a cloudy day with

a high of 42 degrees. Ticket prices for available seats on opening day range from

\$92 to nearly \$500, depending on location. Left-fielder Justin Upton, 28, is among

and the flat side up or is it flat side down and round side up?"

**Why don't the** parents volunteer to get to the school

early and watch their kids in the morning? Why do they expect the teachers and ad-

ministrators to give up their prep time to get there early for the day and watch their kids."



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO Michael LaJoice, 37, of Tyrone Township is shown here with his attorney Michael Manley at a recent court hearing on his \$20 million embezzlement case in Oakland County.

## **Offers made** to buy LaJoice properties

Details confidential: attorney hopeful parties will work together

#### **By Sharon Stone**

sstone@tctimes.com; 810-433-6786 While Michael LaJoice spends his days in the Oakland County Jail, his defense attorney Michael Manley spends much of his time sorting through discovery related to his client's \$20 million embezzlement case, and paperwork regarding multiple properties owned by LaJoice.

LaJoice, 37, of Tyrone Township, the owner of the now-closed Chassé Ballroom and Latin Dance Studio in Fenton, is facing 14 felony counts of See LAJOICE on 18A

We also are working to maintain the properties in order that they don't become an eyesore or nuisance in the city of Fenton. 77

**Michael Manley** Michael LaJoice's defense attorney



**L**Guys, just in case you're not paying attention, the man bun is officially out! Take it from a woman, it is the worst fad ever. No girl wants to date her grandmother. Man buns belong in the 'bad haircut' grave, right next to the mullet. 77

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#### Times

SUNDAY, APRIL 3, 2016



— THIS IS PART OF A TRAVEL SERIES BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE TRI-COUNTY TIMES — **NEXT STOP: EAST COAST** 



## Enjoy the vast beauty of the American West

Plan your summer vacation now for memories you'll never forget

#### By Sally Rummel

WWW.TCTIMES.COM

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

If you never take another family vacation in your lifetime, you should pack your bags this summer to explore the riches of the American West. When traveling west of the Mississippi, the

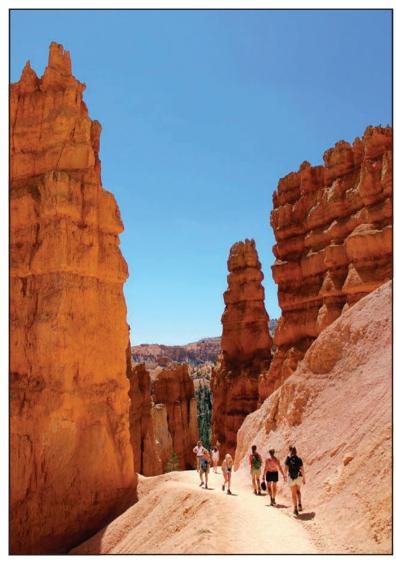


possibilities are as vast as the landscape in the Rocky Mountain states of Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, New Mexico, Arizona and Nevada.

> The majority of this country's national parks are located out west, with clusters of parks within a day's drive of other clusters, ideal conditions for a road trip.

When planning your trip, figure out how many days you will be on the road and how long you want to spend at each destination. Some parks, like the Grand Canyon, require at least a couple of days to fully experience them. Others can be "taken in" with just a short afternoon hike or two.

Ideally, a travel trip out west should be a two-to



Hiking through the canyons of Utah is a popular activity out west.

SUMMARY To experience the most out of your western vacation, you may want to plan your itinerary with

a travel agent.

three-week adventure, but if vacation time is an issue, you can pack a lot of punch in just seven to eight days.

PAGE 3A

To experience the most out of your western vacation, you may want to plan your itinerary with a travel agent, who can offer

day-by-day schedules that will allow you to see the most in one trip. Superior Travel in Fenton offers seven-day itineraries to the Grand Canyon area, up to 15- and 16-day trips that will take you throughout the main destinations in all of the western states.

The focal point of a one week flying vacation could be the Grand Canyon — the quintessential landmark of Arizona and the American West. Two itineraries that are very doable for this length of time could be:

• Fly into Las Vegas, Nevada. Visit the Hoover Dam on your way to the south rim of the Grand Canyon, where you can spend two days enjoying hikes, mule rides or biking on some of the See AMERICAN WEST on 17A

My parents took us west for a month in 1980. It was the best family trip ever. Loved seeing Bryce Canyon, Phantom Canyon and Grand Canyon. We even had the opportunity to feel a real earthquake in California. **77** Denise Penwell Fenton resident

## Always with you, by your side...WORKING HARD FOR YOU!





The Tri-County Times is published semi-weekly by Rockman Communications, 256 N. Fenway Drive, Fenton, Michigan 48430. We serve the communities of: Fenton, Linden, Lake Fenton, Holly, Hartland, Byron, Gaines, Davisburg, Swartz Creek and Grand Blanc and the townships of: Fenton, Holly, Rose, Tyrone and Argentine. We reserve the right to accept or refuse any content and/or advertising submissions. TRI-COUNTY TIMES

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Readers

Dear Editor,

Letters, 150 wor ds or less, must be signed and include

a phone number. We reserve the right to edit for clarity and liability. Letters must be writ-

ten exclusively for the Tmes.

**Holly Village 'Road Diet'** 

narrows the street to two lanes. It

must be stopped. Holly's 'Road

Diet' disguises the real intent to

close down two lanes of Holly's

main thoroughfare. This plan will

congest the main travel artery for

14,000 vehicles per day. There

are 70 cuts that enter the road.

presented by the village council

Five bicycle riders on a summer

year-round vehicle users. Those

percent of the people wanted a

makes drivers and bikers share

'sharrow,' which is a lane that

the road. Eighty-nine percent

of those surveyed opposed

the sharrow and a resulting

conversion will allow only two

traffic lanes. Speak up. Attend

the meeting on Tuesday, April

- John Lauve

Holly

12 at 7 p.m. at Karl Richter

Campus.

A mess is ahead. Information

is untruthful and misleading.

weekend will be favored over

surveyed stated that only 11

The Saginaw bike lane plan

## Come Heller high water

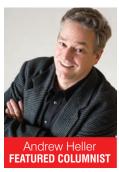
## Lessons from the mutt

aving owned a dog my whole life, I have decided they are not only as smart as many people ----including most of those running for president — I think we can learn a lot by observing how they live their lives.

One example from this week alone:

Tonka, our current dog, somehow managed to get up on my son's desk and devour an Easter candy bar his nose told him was up there.

I had to admire his plan of attack. First, he had to get up on a rolling desk chair that sits atop a slippery floor without killing



himself. Then he had to locate the someone candy bar from beneath the mound as if you of socks, papers haven't seen and trash covering the desk. Then he had to get down using the rolling chair of death. Finally, he had

to conjure up a convincing "Who me? Must have been robbers" look when we discovered the

mess. James Bond should do so well.

Now, chocolate, of course, is toxic to dogs, and it wasn't long before his innards were doing the cha-cha. After talking to the

vet's office, we decided to let him ride out the coming storm rather than take him in. After 24 hours of turmoil — details of which you most assuredly do not want to hear — he was back to his usual fool self, barking at squirrels through the picture

window and tearing around the house. I admire that. Me, if I'd been poisoned, I'd have laid around for days moaning and groaning that this was it, this is the end, oh woe is me. It might be a week before I got back to being my normal, fool self.

That's when I decided I would do well to emulate behaviors I have noticed in Tonka and other cherished dogs over the years, and thus I came up the following 'The Mutt's Guide to Life.'

Thou shalt begin each day with five full minutes of stretching and scratching your face on the carpet. Because it just feels good.

Thou shalt dance and yip every time

someone says, 'Let's go outside.' Thou shalt never pass up a chance for a

good, long walk.

Email:

andrewheller@tctimes.com

Thou shalt run with joy, play with joy and even sleep with joy.

And speaking of joy, thou shalt nap as often as humanly possible, for naps are good and holy.

Thou shalt never take a second of this life for granted

and thou shalt Me. if I'd always live in the moment. Thou shalt always forgive instantly and completely. Thou shalt always greet

moaning and groaning that coming home is the end, oh woe is me.77

Thou shalt love those who love you and dusk.

forever and always because they are the

c'mon, man, that's just gross.



or text to 810-77

I CALLED THE clerk's office at Argentine Township and asked them what we can do to get our roads graded. They told me that's not our job. So what is their job? To take our money? Finch Drive is horrible, they need to do something about it.

We reserve the right to edit for claritylength and li

**DEMOCRATS BELEIVE THAT** abortion should be allowed at anytime during a pregnancy. They also believe that with a militant LGBT section in our country, that grown men should be allowed to use little girl's bathrooms and locker rooms because they feel that they are more feminine. It seems to me that Democrats hate children all together.

IT IS TRUE that everyone has a right to lobby Congress but it is not a Democratic process. The scales are heavily weighted in favor of those who are already rich and powerful.

## PEOPLE AREN'T MERELY against im-

migration per se, it's all the illegal immigration that's flooding this country. In the past, immigrants came here to assimilate. They wanted to be American. Not so today. 

IT SURE WAS nice to see the relatives visiting here from Florida. We were reading Hot lines about the duck feeders and right-wingers. Uncle Donald and Aunt Daisy, that really 'quacked' them up.

WHY WOULD ANY American ever vote for Hillary Clinton, a woman who is personally responsible for letting Americans die in Benghazi for no other reason than political gain? I voted for Bill twice, but I would never, ever vote for someone who is an icon for immorality.

IF YOU HAVE small animals, it's not just eagles you have to worry about. It's large hawks, speeding drivers, and coyotes. They're all in this area.

#### TO THE PERSON who thinks that all major events are coming out of the United States, I suggest you stop watching the 'Real Housewives of Whatever' or any of those other trash programs. Get out of your house and go out and see the world and see what's going on around you.

#### YOU'RE WRONG. GOVERNMENT

responsibility does include water. With any municipality that has a water and sewer department, if you live within that municipality you are required to hook up to that by law. If you live in a city, see if you can get a well driller in your backyard. Good luck, buddy.

See **HOT LINE** throughout Times

Compiled by Hannah Ball, staff reporter

## How do you think the Tigers will do this year?

"I think they're going to do pretty well. I saw they have the second best home run stats for this year, so I hear they're going to do well."

> **Jacob Conly** sophomore



"I think they're going to do great. We picked up Justin Upton. We have Daniel Norris. I think we'll do great this year."

Jamon Link junior



"I think we'll do pretty good. I think Justin Verlander is going to have a great year and I think Cabby is going to hit around 50 home runs."

**Corbin Sines** sophomore



Linden High School baseball players

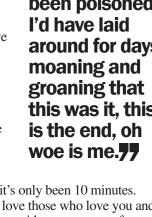
"Really good. The outfield is going to be really strong because they picked up Upton. I'm really missing Jim Leyland in the dugout, managing the team."

**Sawyer Benge** junior

## street talk



"Pretty good. Andrew Romine is going to have a breakout year. I think the pitching rotation is going to be pretty great."



been poisoned, around for days this was it, this

them for 10

## years even if it's only been 10 minutes. take care of you with every ounce of your being each and every day from dawn to

Thou shalt rage gleefully at squirrels mortal enemy.

I feel compelled to add one more bit of advice for dogs and people: Thou shalt never drink out of the toilet because,

## Grandmother suspected of murder will stand trial in Isabella County

Mary Lou

Bigford

■Judge denies change of venue request

#### By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823 Mary Lou Bigford, 52, will stand trial in Isabella County now that Chief Judge Paul Chamberlain denied her defense attorney's request for a change in venue.

According to themorningsun.com, defense attorney Sara Spencer-Noggle, made the motion because she doesn't believe it is possible to seat an impartial jury in Mt. Pleasant.

Bigford, 52 is accused of shooting to death Lawrence Howard, Jr. on April

Studies say white lies can get

you better seats, discounts, tax

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

do it quietly. Some do it online.

By Hannah Ball

extra bucks.

already graduated.

raises a big enough issue,

the manager will often

give them free dinner and

dessert.

deductions, free meals and more

Some do it without meaning to. Some

Everyone wants to save money, and

One of the most popular forms of

many are guilty of lying to save a few

18, 2015 in the parking lot at Chase Run apartments. She allegedly shot Howard, the father of her granddaughter, because she believed he was molesting

the then-3-year-old. Howard, a Fenton resident, was at the Mt. Pleasant apartment complex to exercise his parental visitation rights with his daughter.

Bigford was charged with one count of open murder, one count of first-degree murder, carrying a dangerous weapon with unlawful intent, felonious assault and a felony firearm

violation.

money.

Do you lie to save money, receive perks?

Two previous trials earlier this year ended in mistrials due to jury problems. In his ruling last week, Chamberlain

said Spencer-Noggle did not meet the burden needed to move the trial to another county. Chamberlain also said he must be vigilant and get sufficient information from potential jurors to decide whether they can be impartial.

He said the defense argued that pre-trial publicity in the Bigford case resulted in an

"atmosphere surrounding the trial creating a probability of prejudice" and noted that he decided to question members of the jury pool individually in the first and second trials, according to themorningsun.com.

During the first and second trial, Chamberlain said about half of the proposed jurors admitted they had heard, read or discussed something about the case prior to coming to court as potential jurors.

"Upon individual questioning, most of the jurors stated they could put aside any pre-existing knowledge and opinions about the case," Chamberlain wrote in his order. "While two mistrials have occurred in this case, neither mistrial was caused by pre-trial publicity,"

Bigford remains lodged in the Isabella County Jail.

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lying to save money happens among young adults, when they use their student identification to get discounts at restaurants, movie theaters, stores and other businesses even if they have According to a recent survey on Jetsetter.com People will often lie at a restaurant by complaining that their food tastes weird, it wasn't what they of hotel guests ordered, or something was wrong with it. If a customer

**TO GET AN UPGRADE** 

Marketplace.org recently asked their Twitter followers what they lie about to save money.

Among the answers were using student IDs to get discounts and asking for a free water cup at a restaurant and then getting lemonade or pop.

One person said he lied about where he lives to save money when buying things online because New Hampshire eShop purchases are tax-free.

Another person admitted to telling State Farm he lives with his parents, at age 29, in



planes.

com, 39 percent of hotel guests lie to get an upgrade on a room.

People also lie when filing taxes.

You'll receive more back in taxes if you list charitable donations you've made throughout the year, but some people overshoot.

See LIE on 9A



someone else has already logged into, to binge watch seasons of their favorite shows or old movies. Either way, it's technically lying to save

Netflix is a tame example compared to lying about being able-bodied.

order to save 20 percent on car insurance.

Some lie to save money for entertainment.

Using someone else's Netflix login

account and password saves \$8 a month.

Many people simply use a friend's infor-

mation, or never log out of an account that

Some go beyond that and lie about having a disability in order to get a free service.

According to USA Today, people will fake an injury or a disability and say they use a wheelchair when traveling by plane. Along with extra help, these people get priority seating and sometimes free upgrades.

After the plane lands and they're wheeled off, they can suddenly walk again.

People will also lie about a family member's death to avoid fees when changing flying

This deceit doesn't just apply to air-

According to a recent survey on Jetsetter.





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## Health department warns of rabid skunk

# First case this year in Genesee County

A rabid skunk has been identified in an urban area within Genesee County, the first case of rabies in an animal this year. Genesee County Health Department (GCHD) wants to remind residents that

wild animals become active this time of year, which means the possibility of exposure to rabies is increasing.

Rabies is a virus that affects the nervous system of mammals, including humans. A person may contract rabies through a bite, scratch, or saliva from an infected animal.

A potential rabies

exposure should never be taken lightly. Treatment is available and effective for rabies if medical attention is received shortly after contact. If untreated, rabies can be fatal.

Vaccinating all pets under your care with the rabies vaccine is essential to promoting animal and human health. Whether animals are kept indoors or outdoors it is important to make sure they are all protected against rabies. Exposures may occur even in the most unlikely situations so protection against rabies is essential for all animals for which a licensed vaccine exists. This includes dogs, cats,



Keep vaccinations up-to-date for all dogs, cats, ferrets and other animals you own. A licensed veterinarian should give the vaccines, and the appro-

ferrets, horses, cattle, and sheep. How to prevent the spread of rabies:

• If a bat is in your home, do not release the bat outside until after speaking

with Genesee County Animal Control (GCAC) or GCHD. It may be possible to

test the bat and avoid the need to receive

discussed based on the guidelines. • Seek immediate veterinary assistance for your pet if your pet is bitten by a wild animal or exposed to a bat.

priate boosters can be

• Call GCAC about

removing stray animals in your neighborhood, to report a bat in your home, or to remove a dead animal on your property. • Never adopt wild animals, bring them into your home, or try to nurse sick, wild animals.

• **Teach children never** to handle unfamiliar animals, wild or domestic, even if they appear friendly.

GCHD wants you, your family, and your pets to have a playful and safe spring. For more information about rabies please visit www.michigan.gov. For more information on human health, contact GCHD at (810) 257-1017.

#### HOT LINE CONTINUED

I GET IT, you don't like Obama, however are you going to trust your life to Ted or The Donald? Good luck with that.

**TODAY, OBAMA ACHIEVED** another milestone. He freed over 60 serious drug offenders from prison. Obama has now acquitted more dangerous criminals than any president before him. He will go down as the worst president in history.

WE SHOULD JUST stop paying the road commission on our taxes. We have to repair the road ourselves anyways. It's pretty pathetic. I don't think Genesee County even owns a road grader. Do they?

WHEN PEOPLE WONDER why Obama is so good to our enemies that's because he is their friend.

#### 

**IS THERE ANYONE** else out there who thinks Donald Trump should get either Kanye West or Sarah Palin to run with



him? Wouldn't that be a great team to represent our country and speak for us to the rest of the world?

AFTER WATCHING AND listening to Bill and Hillary and Obama and Boehner and the rest of all those liars, I've come to this conclusion: Nixon really wasn't too bad of a guy.

ONE YEAR AGO Hillary Clinton said she had no classified emails and she wiped her server clean. Now we know there is an intense FBI probe of Clinton and her associates because she had many classified emails. She and her lawyers have repeatedly lied to the American people about this. She's one of the most corrupt politicians ever and she should not be president because she should be in jail.

**IHAVE TO** agree with the Hot line about having to be 21 years old to vote. If you're old enough to be drafted in the war, you're old enough to die for your country, but you're not old enough to vote?



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Eastern Michigan's Top 10

utilizing strategies

Jim McManus (right), attended the Masters golf tournament in 2012 and was amazed at the respect for tradition, as in manually placing scores on the leaderboard.

# It's 'Masters' time

Masters Golf Tournament Schedule

April 4 ..... Practice Round

April 5..... Practice Round

April 6..... Par 3 Contest

April 7.....Round 1 (3 to 7 p.m. ESPN)

April 8......Round 2 (3 to 7 p.m. ESPN)

April 9..... Round 3 (3 to 7 p.m. CBS)

April 10..... Final Round (2 to 7 p.m. CBS)

Locals who have been to Augusta, Georgia share their stories and memories

#### **By Sally Rummel**

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Who hasn't dreamed about experiencing the lush fairways, sparkling white sand bunkers and blooming azaleas, not to mention world-class golf, at the annual tradition of the Masters golf tournament.

Inarguably the greatest golf tournament in the world, the 80th edition of the Masters will tee off April 7-10 at Augusta National Golf Club in Augusta,

Georgia, after two days of practice rounds April 4-5 and a Par 3 Contest on Wednesday, April 6.

Alleyes will be on Jordan Spieth, Adam Scott, Bubba Watson, Rory McIlroy and

possibly Tiger Woods, among dozens of players worldwide, as they compete for the Masters trophy and coveted green jacket for golf's most prestigious win.

Jim McManus, 68, brother of Doug McManus, general manager of Fenton Farms Golf Club, has been to the Masters three times, most recently in 2012. Originally from Swartz Creek, he and his wife, Gerry, now live in Atlanta, Georgia.

In 2012, he entered the lottery for tickets

and requested Monday of the practice rounds, hoping that would help him score a spot. On two other occasions, he has attended the Masters as

tctimes.com

a guest of a vendor. He has applied each year since 2012, and hasn't been able to get a ticket. "Maybe next year I'll get lucky again," he said.

What stands out most to him is the tournament's respect for tradition. "The leaderboard is all manually scored," said McManus. "On the course itself, you won't see any technology. We were allowed to bring cameras on the practice round, but not during the tournament. Security is pretty high."

Once you get on the grounds, McManus said there is an overall attitude of respect and courteous behavior. "You don't see any trash on the ground," he said. "The grounds crew is constantly picking it up. People are also dressed respectfully, not in grubby clothes. You'll see lots of hats." See MASTERS on 9A

If I could have the grass like they even have in the rough, I'd be in heaven. 77 **Jim McManus** 

Three-time Masters attendee



The "Eisenhower Tree" was officially removed in 2014 after it sustained major damage in an ice storm. The tree was named because the former president and Augusta National member often hit into it and at a club meeting in 1956, he proposed cutting it down. He was ruled out of order and the meeting adjourned, and the tree had been linked to Eisenhower ever since.

View stories at tctimes.com

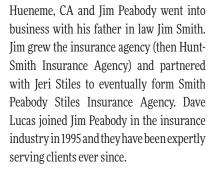


# Working For Our Community

Walk into a meeting with anyone and they will tell you how long they have been in the business and working together. Walk into a meeting with Dave Lucas and Jim Peabody and you will hear stories that go

back to when they were 15; planting apple trees together on the Peabody Farm south of town. Forty years later they are still working just as hard to provide commercial and personal insurance to the local community they grew up in.

After they both attended school at Michigan State University, Dave Lucas joined the Navy and moved to Port



"It is a thrill to partner with Jim in this company and to grow in this community. The history of local business excellence at Peabody Insurance Agency dates back to Jeri Stiles grandfather's company in 1919. Today





**Tiger Players** 

of the week

Newspaper clipping from 1979 featuring Jim Peabody & Dave Lucas as the Tigers Football Players of the Week

beyond an insurance policy to help their customers become more profitable. Additionally, both Dave and Jim have served on the Accident Fund Insurance Advisory Council while Dave served on the Michigan Construction Industry Mutual board of directors and Jim is currently the President of the Board at the Flint YMCA.

Peabody

Jeri, Jim and I all work together in our office in Fenton, continuing our commitment to customer service and legacy." - Dave Lucas The commitment to service is evident as Peabody Insurance Agency stacks up

clients, risk is involved in any decision and mitigating that risk is a concern for any individual, employee, or business owner. Both Dave and I look forward to continuing our partnership and working to serve the



"The best part of my job is helping our community we grew up in. "Jim explained.

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1951



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO

The 11th, 12th and 13th holes were dubbed "Amen Corner" by Sports Illustrated after the 1958 Masters. It's where Rae's Creek intersects the 13th fairway near the tee, then parallels the front edge of the green on the short 12th and finally swirls alongside the 11th green.

#### MASTERS

**Continued from Page 8A** He loved the beauty of the grounds, from the shrubs and trees to the colorful azaleas. "If I could have the grass like they even have in the rough, I'd be in heaven," joked McManus.

He said many people don't realize that the Augusta National Golf Club is only open seven months a year, closing down in late-May and reopening in mid-October. The club has about 300 members and membership is only by invitation.

Visitors to the Masters are always amazed at the bargain concession prices. Ham and cheese on rye — \$2.50. Coca-Cola — \$1.50. Domestic Beer — \$3. But the most traditional Augusta menu offering is the pimento cheese sandwich, setting you back just \$1.50.

"All the food is really reasonably priced, not expensive like at most sporting events," said McManus. "It's all wrapped in green wrappers, so it's not noticeable on the grounds." Fenton City Councilwoman Cherie Smith recalls attending the Masters back in 1999

Cherie Smith of Fenton says golf is second only to hockey as her favorite sport. "I'm not a good golfer, but I really enjoy watching golf and admire their talent."

She attended the Masters in 1999 with a long-time friend who was an avid golfer. "I sent my name into the lottery, and by God, I got two tickets!"

Smith said the experience was a lot of fun, "like the old Buick Open, magnified 1,000 times. It's exciting and the course is beautiful. The azaleas were all out, it was magnificent. The decorum is followed to the letter."

She recalls watching golfers Sergio Garcia, Nick Faldo, Phil Mickelson, Arnold Palmer and Tiger Woods. "All of those guys were still playing," she said. "They were in their prime. My favorite player at the time was Nick Faldo. We got to follow him one day."

You can bet that Smith will be watching the 2016 Masters on TV. "I always watch it. I follow all the golfers."

## Tri-county fundraisers

#### SPAGHETTI DINNER FUNDRAISER

The Linden Masonic Lodge #132 in partnership with Linden Community Schools is hosting a youth fundraiser. They are hosting a Spaghetti Dinner, Friday, April 15, from 4 to 8 p.m. at the Linden Masonic Lodge, 119 North Bridge St. Proceeds from a \$5 per person or \$20 per family donation will go to the Linden Student Community.

LIE Continue

#### Continued from Page 5A

Approximately 60 percent of tax filers, who claim large-dollar, non-cash charitable contributions mess them up, according to the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration.

However, it's unknown if the taxpayers are at fault for claiming too much.

Some employees will take advantage of their employer and claim they spent money on work-related expenses when they were actually personal matters, like buying gifts for family or friends, or going out to lunch and claiming it was with a client.



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is a need to modify the location for

storage due to a resident's hardship,

they can contact the city manager to determine a location to accommodate them. The ordinance also requires

that containers be placed at the curb

with handles facing the residence. On

recycling pickup days, bins should be

3 feet apart in order to be removed by

and recycling materials that do not fit

in the container may be placed next to

it. Yard waste must be placed in brown

waste may also be placed in containers

Those stickers are available at the Police

entire ordinance is available for review at

problems as large or larger than Flint's,

but I do not believe it is because of mis-

management," Knorr added. "Flint's is."

nephew who also lives on her street, and

the lead and copper levels came back as undetectable. "I later heard from a

longtime resident of our street that the

city replaced the pipes here several years

ago," she said.

Knorr believes the water

on her street is safe. "That

is a relief as I have two

other nieces living in two

homes farther down the

street from me," she said.

and nephew are probably

fine, also," said Knorr.

"My daughter and son-

in-law live on the street

behind me. They have had

my granddaughters' lead

levels tested, and they are

stopped drinking the wa-

Knorr said her family

"My four great nieces

Knorr had her water tested, as did a

Department and Fenton City Hall. The

www.cityoffenton.org.

yard waste bags and do not require

tags like the prior system. The yard

with a "Yard Waste" sticker on them.

the truck. Additional bags of solid waste

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## News briefs

#### Attention Fenton City residents: City of Fenton waste removal program revisions

The Fenton City Council has adopted changes to amend Ordinance number 697. Effective April 13, all trash, recycling and yard waste must be placed in the provided carts and cannot be placed at the curbside until 4 p.m. the day prior to the scheduled pickup, and must be removed no later than 8 p.m. on the day of pickup. In addition, trash and recycling containers must be stored behind your residence or at the side rear of your residence — preferably in a garage or storage shed. If there

#### WATER Continued from Front Page

everyone else, that he and his wife are frustrated with the whole situation.

They have used bottled water (5-gallon jugs) at home and at the office for more than 10 years, by choice. He said they have had their water tested at home and at the office, both of which tested negative for lead and copper.

"We wash clothes, shower, brush our teeth, wash our dishes all with Flint water," he said. "The only thing we use bottled water for is making coffee and cooking.

"Our neighborhood has spotty traces of lead but from the information I've seen, it is mostly all negative test reports.

"There are times I think it's blown out of proportion but, I keep my mouth shut as it looks like I would be in the minority."

When asked who he believes is to blame, he said, "As far as blame, no I don't have an opinion on where the blame lies, but we have never been a fan of the emergency manager law or the stateappointed emergency managers."

Lee Knorr is a former Linden and Holly resident, now living in the city of Flint.

"I do not think the water crisis has been blown out of proportion," Knorr said. "If one child has been poisoned by lead because the governor and everyone else involved have looked the other way, then I don't think it can be blown out of proportion.

"I know that other cities have lead

**We wash** clothes, shower, brush our teeth, wash our dishes all with Flint water. The only thing we use bottled water for is making coffee and cooking. **77** A 56-year-old

Flint resident

ter as soon as the source became the Flint River. "It was just intuition," she said.

fine, too."

"We have been using bottled water for cooking and drinking for most of this time, so the free water is a great relief," Knorr added. "I have stopped giving my animals filtered water since our tests came back.

"What really blows my mind is what they have been charging us for this tainted water," said Knorr. "We here in Flint pay the highest water rates in the state. I really don't know how these people sleep at night."

*Editor Shar on Stone contributed to this article.* 



# town Meet Rick Slaght

- Father
- New Spring Meadow's golf pro
- Hockey player

#### **By Hannah Ball**

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

While working at a golf course in college, Rick Slaght, 36, a Linden native, fell in love with the game and pursued it as a career. He's in the process of moving back to Linden with his wife, Meghan, and their 2-year-old son, Jack. After being an assistant golf professional at Warwick Hills from 2005 to 2015 and being head golf professional at a club in Indiana, he's taken the reigns as head golf professional at Spring Meadows Country Club after the departure of Jeff Zielinski.

How long have you been golfing? I've been golfing for quite awhile. I started when I was a little bit younger, my grandpa would take me out to play. When I graduated high school, I was going to community college and I needed to get a job to pay for college. I got a job at a golf course and really fell in love with golfing.

What's the difference between Warwick Hills and Spring Meadows?

Both are top-notch golf courses. I don't know if there's a huge difference. I made a lot of really good relationships with the members. That's the part that keeps me going in the private club industry. You get to know the people very well.

Everyone here has been very welcoming. All the emails I got, the people who come in the door even though we're not golfing too much yet to stop in and say hi really makes my decision valid.

#### How was Indiana?

I was very happy there. But the opportunity to come home, be close to family, and be close to people we knew was too good to pass up.

#### What's it like being head golf professional?

It's good. There's a little more pressure. You're the last line of defense, the last call. Everyone takes an even workload and helps each other out. We're here sun up to sundown starting in March and going to the end of October, depending on the weather. There are a few more board meetings and finance meetings but I feel like I'm getting more of the full value of the position. You feel more a part of everything.

It's a nice relationship that you build with the members when they say 'that's my pro.'

Are you ready for this hot summer? I don't necessarily love it hot, which is why I work in the northern states. It gets the golfers out here so I say bring it on. I'm excited about it. Tell me about your family.



part that keeps

me going in the

private club industry.

You get to know

the people

very well."

**Rick Slaght** 

Head Golf Professional

at Spring Meadows

County Club

WEEKEND TIMES

My wife and I met here in Linden, and lived in Linden. Our son was born here. We definitely feel this is home. The most fun he had this Easter was riding in the picker. He loves it. He was out hitting golf balls on the range for about an hour. Are you excited for the **Masters?** 

Very excited. As a PGA member, that is the gold division of golf. I've only been there once. It's the most beautiful, manicured place on earth. Once they (members) start watching that tournament, they get the bug to go out.

Jordan Spieth and Jason Day are a couple of the guys right now that are really playing well. It's fun to see the younger guys who don't usually get the limelight.

#### What do you do when you're not working?

Hanging out with my wife and son. We go to a lot of parks and that sort of thing. Being 2 years old, he's just getting into his groove and his way of doing things. Outside of that, I play hockey as well. I play in a league in Brighton on Tuesday nights. What's something people don't know

about you? When I was 14, I moved to Canada on my own. I went to a private Catholic boarding school. I went to hockey



TRI-COUNTY TIMES HANNAH BALL Rick Slaght, 36, started his golf professional duties at Spring Meadows Country Club last month. He's in the process of moving back to Linden with his wife and 2-yearold son.

camp up there for a few years. They told me there was a boarding school for the summer and I was fortunate enough that my family was able to send me there. It's something that really molded me into the person I am today.



I have a 2004 Chevy Silverado 2500 HD truck. It loses 70% of its power when the gas level drops below 1/4 tank and the gas pump will shut off repeatedly until fuel level exceeds 1/4 tank then it pumps fine. What could be the problem? - Larry

Larry, First off you will need to have a fuel pressure gauge hooked up to the vehicle while driving to make sure it is a fuel problem. You will see the fuel pressure drop when the vehicle acts up and you are under load. If this happens, you will also need a volt meter or lab scope. This is to make sure that you have a good 12 volts or higher on the positive side of the pump and 0 volts on the ground side of the pump. The reason for this is to confirm weather it is indeed a pump and not an electrical problem. It sounds like a bad fuel pump, but you should always test the electrical before replacing. Don't forget to replace the fuel filter and strainer filter with the pump as well.

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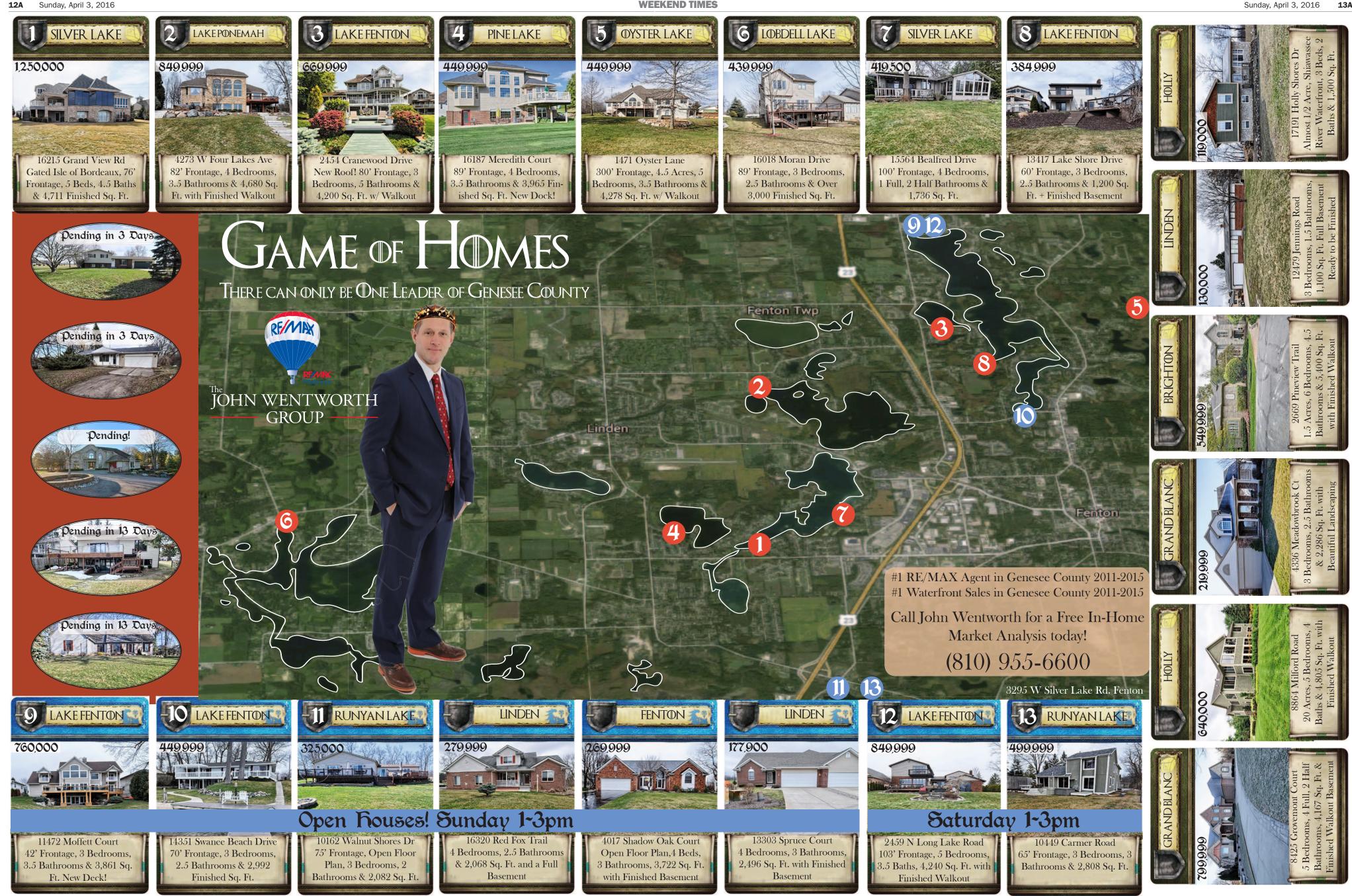




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**WEEKEND TIMES** 



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## Police&Fire report

#### **OWI ARREST**

At 5:25 p.m. on Thursday, March 31, Fenton police responded to Owen Road, near McDonald's on a report of a possible drunk driver who had parked his car in the middle of the road. When police arrived, they located the car and driver at a gas station. When contact was made with the driver, the officer detected an odor of intoxicants. According to Sqt. David Reinfelder, the 54-year-old Fenton man admitted to drinking a few beers after work and added that he was heading home when his car ran out of gas. With a push from another motorist, he got his car to the gas station. A breath test revealed he was over the legal limit and he was arrested for driving while intoxicated. The officer also recovered a small amount of marijuana from the car. A computer check revealed he had an outstanding warrant out of Oakland County and he was turned over to the sheriff's department Friday morning

## My golf-loving friend was the master of disaster

Played with Fuzzy Zoeller during his college years

#### By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823 The start of the golf season and competitions, like the Masters golf tournament, which starts with round one on April 7, always brings back memories of an old friend I knew during my early adult years, living in the suburbs of Chicago.

Although he became a great friend, Kevin was the most annoying person I have ever known.

An Indiana native, Kevin is a graduate of Purdue University. He wentto school there on a golf scholarship. During his college years, he often played with the infamous Fuzzy Zoeller (see sidebar).

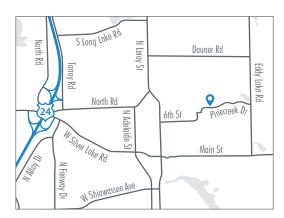
When I knew him, Kevin lived in apartment complex in Arlington Heights, Illinois.

On any given evening and weekend, anywhere from a dozen to 30 or so friends could be found lounging outside of his patio door — an area we affectionately called "the ashtray" for obvious reasons.

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There we would while away the hours, enjoying a few beers and good company. Kevin's personality and the condition of his apartment is clearly one of the reasons I have personally adopted the mantra "I don't care." It fits just about every situation that just doesn't matter — at least to me.

When entering Kevin's apartment through the balcony doors, guests would encounter two things—"dog," a very large

porcelain basset hound to the right of the door, and "the tree," located at the left. It was more than a Christmas tree because Kevin turned it into a multiholiday tree — hearts and cupids for Valentine's Day, shamrocks for St. Paddy's Day — you get the picture.

There were always two televi-

sions on at Kevin's — one that showed only cartoons, and the other sports —most often golf or football, and of course, Indiana University basketball during the Coach Bobby Knight days.

Kevin had a lot of used furniture, especially couches and chairs to accommodate his many friends and guests.

The entire apartment was a complete, tragic mess.

I once defrosted his refrigerator because I could not take what Kevin called "the tumor" in the middle of the top shelf. Once the ice was gone, I uncovered a turkey carcass from the previous Thanksgiving and three bottles of beer.

Kevin called his dining room the "sports corner." In it were boxes and boxes of golf balls. Multiple golf bags and clubs lined the back wall.

We once adopted a cat that kept lingering outside Kevin's apartment. We named him, of course, "Putter."

Kevin was (and may still be) best friends with my ex-husband, and was always getting him in trouble. Kevin didn't have a job, but my husband did, yet Kevin was able to convince him frequently that a trip to the golf course was much more productive than going to work.

Once, when Kevin took a weeklong trip out west, we thought we would surprise him and clean the apartment. It took the entire week.

It was during that cleaning activity that I found a file shoved under a bed that Kevin had started. It contained all the information he needed to put together a resume — someday.

I did it for him and sent it out to dozens of companies looking for savvy sales reps.

Almost immediately, one of those companies contacted Kevin, he interviewed well, apparently, and got the job. He is still with that large wire and cable company today, but he now owns it — and to this day he has no idea how he got there to begin with so many years ago.

#### Who is Fuzzy Zoeller?

Fuzzy Zoeller's real name is Frank Urban Zoeller, Jr. At 64, he is an American professional golfer from Indiana, who has won 10 PGA Tour events including two major championships. In 1979, he became one of three golfers to have won the Masters tournament in his first appearance in the event.



C

# Chicago-style hot dogs knock 'em out of the park

BUN

HOT DOG

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Tiger's home opener on the horizon

#### By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823 Baseball season is just around the corner, which means, of course, hot dogs will be on the ballpark and backyard menu for thousands of fans.

Although many will agree that any hot dog is a good dog, true hot dog lovers know that there is nothing quite as delicious as a Chicago-style hot dog.

The Chicago-style hot dog history began with street cart hot dog vendors during the hard times of the Great Depression.

According to viennabeef.com, money was scarce, but business was booming for these street vendors, who offered a delicious hot meal on a bun for only a nickel. Hence, the Chicago-style hot dog was born.

This unique hot dog creation with a "salad on top" and its memorable interplay of hot and cold, crisp and soft, sharp and smooth became a true Chicago institution.

Although putting ketchup on a Chicago-style hot dog is generally a big "no no," some people love theirs with ketchup.

Donna Zemen, who still lives in the Chicago suburbs said, "I do love a good Chicago-style hot dog, with onions, mustard, and ketchup. No relish though. I especially liked the hot dogs I would get at Wrigley Field at a Cubs game years ago when I went there with my grandmother."

Barb Bonomini is a former Chicago-area resident now living in Hubble, Texas. She said, "I loved Chicago-style hot dogs as a kid, but haven't had one in many years. We always ate them on a poppy seed bun with ketchup, mustard and relish and lots of raw onion, but I recently heard ketchup is not acceptable. I don't care, that's how my mom gave them to us.

"In our day, Tommy Tucker's on Milwaukee Avenue in Niles (Chicago suburb) was one of the best," Bonomini added. "Other very popular places were Superdawg, also in Niles, Flukey's

and Big Herm's. As I got older, we would go to Gene's and Jude's and we would have them on top of a pile of hand-cut fries. These always had mustard, fresh cucumber, lots of raw onion and sometimes some sauerkraut on top depending on the mood."

Building a Chicago-style hot dog is easy, if you have all the proper ingredients.

First comes the bun. A true Chicago-style hot dog is built using a steamed poppy seed bun. If poppy seed buns are not available at your favorite grocery store, Martha Stewart has an easy way to make them yourself. Just brush the outsides of plain buns with melted butter and sprinkle with the poppy seeds.

Then bake them, split sides down, at 350 degrees until they are warm, about five minutes.

Lespecially liked the hot dogs I would get at Wrigley Field at a Cubs game years ago when I went there with my grandmother. 77

Good friend and Chicago-area resident

Building a true Chicagostyle hot dog involves the same procedure to add toppings, every time.

Start with the poppy seed bun and drop in a boiled or steamed Vienna (Koegel, if you want to get Michigan about it) hot dog. A grilled dog is OK, but it's really not the same.

The toppings should be added in this order: yellow mustard zig-zagged across the length of the hot dog. Add bright green relish and freshly chopped onion. Place two juicy red tomato wedges along one side of the dog, and a kosher-style pickle spear on the other side. Top with a couple of spicy sport peppers, followed by the most important ingredient of all, celery salt.

Speaking of sport peppers, they are sometimes hard to find in Michigan. VG's in Fenton

had them for a while, but they don't seem to stock them anymore. Walmart may have them at certain locations.

Sport peppers can also be purchased from Amazon online, if you plan in advance.

If you really can't find sport peppers, an excellent replacement is peperoncini.

Michiganders love their Coney dogs, and really must have "that kind" of sauce on their hot dog. Chicagoans love a good hot dog with real chili (optional, beans or no beans), topped with fresh yellow mustard, chopped onions and cheddar cheese melted over the top.

Chicago-style hot dogs can be made ahead on a platter, but it is sometimes fun to lay out all the ingredients so your friends, family and the kids can build their own dog with the toppings they like.





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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SALLY RUMMEL

Two physical therapy assistants at WellBridge of Fenton demonstrate the state-of-

## WellBridge offers 'bridge' from hospital to home

specialized therapy for shortterm rehab, out-patient therapy

The name "WellBridge of Fenton" says it all. This new 100-bed skilled nursing facility in the city of Fenton focuses on bridging the gap between a person's hospital stay and their return to recovery

Open since November 2015, WellBridge of Fenton currently has 40 guests who are working at recovery from hip and knee replacements, broken hips, strokes and other conditions that require skilled nursing care and short-term rehabilitation.

They are already growing toward their 100-guest capacity, and are continuing to increase staff. "We'll be employing up to 130 in the near future," said Ryan Michelson, executive director.

Eighty private and 10 semi-private rooms in a comfortable, upscale setting contribute to WellBridge's goal for an "epic" experience for guests - from chefprepared meals and WB's Fresh Bistro (serving Starbucks), to excellence in innovation, technology and personal care.

"Our goal is to get our guests either home or back to assisted or independent living," said Michelson.

WellBridge accomplishes this by using state-of-the-art specialized therapy equipment, including the "Walking on Air" AlterG Antigravity Treadmill, using NASA technology.

"I'm excited to have WellBridge come to this area," said Kim Blackstock, director of business development. "We're on top of all the new nursing technology to help speed recovery from injuries and surgery.'

WellBridge of Fenton is located at 901 Pine Creek Dr., (west of Eddy Lake Road), telephone (810) 616-4100. The WellBridge Group also includes locations in Brighton, Pinckney, Rochester Hills and Romeo.

### THIS WEEK'S INSERTS

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#### **APRIL 3**

1860: On this day in 1860, the first Pony Express mail, traveling by horse and rider relay teams, simultaneously leaves St. Joseph, Missouri, and Sacramento, California. Ten days later, on April 13, the westbound rider and mail packet completed the approximately 1,800-mile journey and arrived in Sacramento, beating the eastbound packet's arrival in St. Joseph by two days and setting a new standard for speedy mail delivery.

#### **APRIL 4**

1968: Martin Luther King Jr. is fatally shot while standing on the balcony outside his second-story room at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee. He was 39 years old. The day before his death, on April 3, King gave his last sermon, saying, "We've got some difficult days ahead. But it really doesn't matter with me now, because I've been to the mountaintop ... And He's allowed me to go up to the mountain. And I've looked over, and I've seen the Promised Land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight that we, as a people, will get to the promised land.

#### **APRIL 5**

**1614:** Pocahontas, daughter of the chief of the Powhatan Indian confederacy, marries English tobacco planter John Rolfe in Jamestown, Virginia. The marriage ensured peace between the Jamestown settlers and the Powhatan Indians for several years.

#### **APRIL 6**

1896: The Olympic Games, a longlost tradition of ancient Greece, are reborn in Athens 1,500 years after being banned by Roman Emperor Theodosius I. At the opening of the Athens Games, King Georgios I of Greece and a crowd of 60,000 spectators welcomed athletes from 13 nations to the international competition.

#### **APRIL 7**

**1947:** Henry Ford, the founder of Ford Motor Company, which developed the first affordable, mass-produced car the Model T — and also helped pioneer assembly-line manufacturing, dies at his estate in Dearborn, Michigan, at the age of 83.

#### **APRIL 8**

**1974:** Hank Aaron of the Atlanta Braves hits his 715th career home run, breaking Babe Ruth's legendary record of 714 homers. A crowd of 53,775 people, the largest in the history of Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium, was with Aaron that night to cheer when he hit a 4th inning pitch off the Los Angeles Dodgers' Al Downing.

#### **APRIL 9**

1865: At Appomattox, Virginia, Confederate General Robert E. Lee surrenders his 28,000 troops to Union General Ulvsses S. Grant. effectively ending the American Civil War. Forced to abandon the Confederate capital of Richmond, blocked from joining the surviving Confederate force in North Carolina, and harassed constantly by Union cavalry, Lee had no other option.

810-732-7999



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO

Arriving in Utah from Arizona in a trip out west, promises a continuous vacation of fun and outdoor activities.

#### AMERICAN WEST Continued from Page 3A

most beautiful trails in the world. The transparent Grand Canyon Skywalk allows you to walk directly above the canyon. Next, spend two nights in the Lake Powell area, then enjoy day trips to Bryce Canyon and Zion National Park, before heading back to Las Vegas to return home.

Fenton Township residents Ron and Alison Romney flew to Las Vegas on a recent trip out west, rented a car and visited Grand Canyon, Bryce and Zion national parks in a loop in one week. "It was fabulous," said Alison.

• Fly into Phoeniz, Arizona. Spend two days enjoying the beauty and thrills of Sedona, then head toward the Grand Canyon for two days. Your next stops will be at Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park and Canyon De Chelly National Park. You'll return back to Phoenix for your plane trip back to Michigan. For a longer tour using Phoenix as the starting point, you can also add visits to Saquaro National Park, Carlsbad Caverns in southern New Mexico, Santa Fe, Mesa Verde National Park and Petrified Forest National Park.

Other national parks in the same region can be combined in a single trip, such as Yellowstone and Grand Teton, Yosemite and Sequoia and Zion and Bryce Canyon, according to Frommers.com. The most important part of your out west journey is to give yourself an opportunity to thoroughly enjoy your visit, by not overscheduling your time.

Colorado, with Denver as its starting point, offers enough natural beauty to be a vacation destination all its own. Pike's Peak, located in the Rocky Mountains,



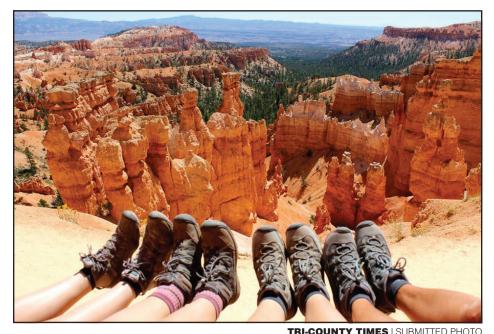
TRI-COUNTY TIMES I SUBMITTED PHOTO Climbing the red rock canyons is not for the faint of heart.

is one of the most famous summits in the U.S. and includes many popular mountain towns at its base, including Colorado Springs, Manitou Springs, Cripple Creek and Canon City.

"Pike's Peak is the most majestic place I've ever been," said Melody Marshall of Holly Township. "It's absolutely breathtaking."

Other Colorado destinations include Crested Butte, Estes Park, Telluride, Aspen and Vail.

The most important part of planning your western adventure is starting early. Lodging inside national parks tends to fill up first, so book at least six months in advance.



Taking a break from a long upward hike offers a breathtaking view of the Utah landscape.

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Hanczaryk Chiropractic Neurology Group 8185 Holly Rd. #14 Grand Blanc, MI www.hcng.net 810.584.7170

**Bristol Chiropractic** Centre, P.C.

5098 W. Bristol Rd. Flint, MI www.bristolchiropractic.com 810.733.1261



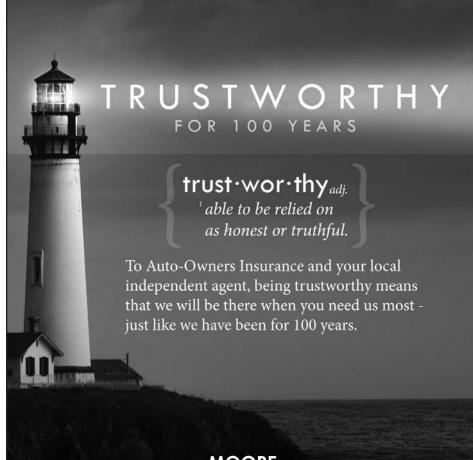
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**It could save** 

years of litigation

and thousands in

costs. The real issue

is, can all parties

work together for

the benefit of the

victim. 77

**Michael Manley** 

Michael LaJoice's

defense attorney

#### CATALYTIC CONVERTER THEFTS

Sometime after 8 a.m. on Thursday, March 31, thieves stole four catalytic converters from vehicles in Fenton. Sgt. Dave Reinfelder of the Fenton Police Department said two complaints were filed from residents at

#### LAJOICE

**Continued from Front Page** embezzlement. He turned himself in on Jan. 6 at the Oakland County Sheriff's Office and allegedly admitted to embezzling \$20 million from the credit union where he was chief financial officer at for the past 12 years.

This news came just 70 days after La-Joice held a press conference in Fenton to reveal his plans for his massive Riverview project. The project of retail and residential space was to go where the old Topps produce market was located at Caroline and Adelaide streets.

Since June 18, 2015, LaJoice Properties spent nearly \$2.5 million on seven properties in the city of Fenton, some near his Riverview project. LaJoice had paid cash, well over the fair market price, for these properties.

After he turned himself in to authorities, his assets were frozen and according to Fenton City records, as of Jan. 8, the

Oakland County Prosecutor's Office is listed as owner of those seven properties.

Cash offers have been made to purchase those properties, as well as the land for the once-proposed Riverview project and LaJoice's family's multimillion-dollar home in Tyrone Township. Manley said at this time, those offers are confidential and he is not at liberty to divulge the details. Georgetown apartments at 10 a.m. regarding two stolen catalytic converters. At 2 p.m., two more complaints came in from residents on Dauner Haus. Police have a description of a suspect vehicle and continue to investigate.

"They still have to go through due process in court," Manley said. "That could take years. Technically, he still holds the deeds although he could never sell and provide a clear title.

"Our objective was to be part of the solution. To bring offers, for the victim and government's approval. If they agree, we could expedite the process by providing the necessary signatures for the sale and they could withdraw the notice lis pendens and the affidavit of intent to forfeit." Lis pendens is a written notice that a lawsuit has been filed concerning real es-

tate, involving either the title to the property or a claimed ownership interest in it.

"It could save years of litigation and thousands in costs," said Manley. "The real issue is, can all parties work together for the benefit of the victim. So far, our conversations have been very businesslike. "We also are working to maintain the properties in order that

they don't become an eyesore or nuisance in the city of Fenton, which is experiencing exciting growth and change."

LaJoice's next day in court will take place in Oakland County Circuit Court on April 4. Bond has been set at \$1 million. Manley said previously that he does not anticipate a jury trial and he does

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



# TRI-COUNTY TIMES DIRECTOR

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#### **APOSTOLIC**

#### **THE CARPENTER'S HOUSE CHURCH** 2740 Grange Hall Rd. • Fenton Corner of Fish Lake Rd. 248-328-9844 Pastor James Disbrow 248-634-2195 Sunday Morning Service...... 11:00 am Wednesday Evening......7:00 pm

Wednesday Youth Service .....6:30 pm

#### ASSEMBLY OF GOD

#### THE FREEDOM CENTER 2473 W. Shiawassee • Fenton 810-629-5261

Pastor Jim Wiegand Sunday Worship ......9:00 & 11:30 am Small groups meet throughout the week. For more information call 629-5261

#### BAPTIST

#### FAITH BAPTIST **CHURCH OF LINDEN**

| 4518 Silver Lk. Rd. • Lir      | nden     |  |
|--------------------------------|----------|--|
| 810-735-9339                   |          |  |
| Daniel Patz, Senior Pa         | stor     |  |
| Jack C. McMaster,              |          |  |
| Pastor Emeritus/Mission        | Pastor   |  |
| Jason Coldwell, Worship Pastor |          |  |
| Wes Crawford, Youth Pastor     |          |  |
| www.faithlinden.org            | 5        |  |
| Children & Teen Sunday School  | 9:30 am  |  |
| Morning Worship                | 11:00 am |  |
| Christian Education Courses    | 9:30 am  |  |
| Children's Church              | 11:00 am |  |
|                                |          |  |

Sá

#### Wednesday Kids Club & Youth Group......6:30 pm Nursery (0-2 and 2-4 yrs.) available at all service times.

| <b>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH</b> | OF |
|-----------------------------|----|
| SWARTZ CREEK                |    |

| 5372 Seymour Rd. •           | Swartz Creek          |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 810-635-7                    | 016                   |
| Jim E. Nelson, S             | Sr. Pastor            |
| Shawn Cook, Associate        | and Youth Pastor      |
| Sunday School                | 9:45 am               |
| Morning Worship              | 11:00 am              |
| Evening Worship              | 6:00 pm               |
| Wednesday Night              | 7:00 pm               |
| Adult Bible Study, Youth Gr  | oup (6-12 Grades),    |
| Kids Club (K-5 Grad), Missio | n Friends (3-5 years) |
|                              |                       |

#### CATHOLIC

#### **ST. AUGUSTINE CHURCH**

| 6481 Faussett Rd. • 1         | Howell        |  |
|-------------------------------|---------------|--|
| 517-546-9807                  |               |  |
| Father Gregg Pleiness, Pastor |               |  |
| aturday Mass                  | 5:00 pm       |  |
| unday Mass 8:30               | am & 10:30 am |  |

| Sunday Mass          | 8:30 am & 10:30 am    |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Weekday Mass WedFri  | 8:30 am               |
| Confessions Saturday | 4 pm and upon request |
|                      |                       |

#### **ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH**

600 N. Adelaide • Fenton 810-629-2251 Father Dwight Ezop, Pastor Father Jim Rolph, Associate Pastor av Mass Sunday Mass .......8 am, 10 am, 12 noon & 6 pm Daily Mass In Chapel M-F .....9:00 am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament - Following

> Friday Mass until 4:45pm Benediction **ST. RITA CATHOLIC CHURCH**

309 E. Maple St. • Holly 248-634-4841 Fr. David Blazek, Pastor

Saturday Mass.....4:00 pm, Sunday Mass ......8 am, 10 am, & 12 noon Weekday Mass Tues.-Thur. ......9:00 am Reconciliation after Sat. 4 pm Mass or by appt.

#### CHRISTIAN SCIENCED

**FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST** 204 E. Rockwell • Fenton 810-629-3211 44.00 ---

| Church Service    | II:00 am |
|-------------------|----------|
| Sunday School     | 11:00 am |
| Wednesday Evening | 7:00 pm  |
|                   |          |

#### **EPISCOPAL**

ST. JUDE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH 106 E. Elizabeth St. • Fenton 810-629-5681 Holy Communion ...... 8:00 am, 10:30 am Messy Church..... .....5:00 pm

#### LUTHERAN

**HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH, LC-MS** 7355 W. Silver Lake Road (Behind Linden High School) Linden, MI 48451 810-735-4807 www.hopelinden.org Pastor Jim Rolf Sunday Worship ...... 8:15 am & 10:45 am Adult Bible Study ......9:30 am Sunday School.....9:30 am

#### TRANSFIGURATION LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

14176 Fenton Rd. • Fenton 810-629-7332 Dr. Mark Fisher, Minister www.FentonTLC.org Sunday Worship ..... 10:30 am Sunday School, 3 yrs -1st grade ...... ......(during Sunday Service) Sunday School, 2nd-5th grade......9:30 am Communion Celebrated every Sunday (Nursery available)

#### **TRINITY LUTHERAN**

| CHURCH, LC-MS                        |
|--------------------------------------|
| 806 Main Street • Fenton             |
| 810-629-7861                         |
| Fax 810-629-9877                     |
| www.trinitylcmsfenton.com            |
| Reverend Dean G. Dumbrille           |
| Worship Services                     |
| Wednesday in the Word6:30 pm         |
| Saturday Traditional Worship6:30 pm  |
| Sunday Traditional Worship8:30 am    |
| Sunday Education Hour                |
| Sunday Contemporary Worship 11:00 am |
| Saturday5:30 pm, Bible Study         |
|                                      |

#### **SHEPHERD OF THE LAKES**

| WELS LUTHERAN CH       | URCH                       |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| 8420 Runyan Lake Rd.   | <ul> <li>Fenton</li> </ul> |
| Pastor Nathan Loer     | sch                        |
| 810-224-1250           |                            |
| Sunday School          | 9:15 am                    |
| Adult Bible Study      | 9:15 am                    |
| Sunday Worship Service | 10:30 am                   |

#### METHODIST

**FENTON FREE METHODIST CHURCH** 800 North Rd. • Fenton 810-632-3417 www.fentonfmc.org & facebook Pastor Tony Chuck Sunday Worship ..... ..9:00 am

| Wednesday Bible Study 7 | 7:00 pm |
|-------------------------|---------|
| Nursery available.      |         |
|                         |         |

**FENTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH** 

119 S. LeRoy St. • Fenton 810-629-2132 fentonumc.com Pastor Jeff Jaggers Rev. Michelle Forsyth 

Contemporary Service ...... 11:05am Nursery Provided at all services.

#### METHODIST (CONTINUED)

#### **HOLLY CALVARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH** 15010 N. Holly Rd. • Holly

| 248-634-9711               |          |
|----------------------------|----------|
| www.hollycalvary.or        | rg       |
| Rev. Cliff Schroede        | er       |
| unday Worship              | 9:30 am  |
| olid Ground Worship        | 11:11 am |
| Nursery Provided at all se | rvices.  |
|                            |          |

#### **LAKE FENTON**

**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH** 2581 N. Long Lake Rd. • Fenton 810-629-5161 Pastor Char Shay Sunday Worship .....9:00 am Sunday School...... 10:00 am

#### LINDEN

**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH** 201 Bridge St. • Linden 810-735-5858 Pastor Crystal Thomas Worship & Jr. Service ..... 10:00 am Coffee Hour ..... 11:00 am Nursery Available

#### LINDEN FREE

**METHODIST CHURCH** 13274 S. Linden Rd. • Linden 810-735-4564 Pastor William Moull Assoc. Pastor Mike Anderson Sunday Worship ..... 10:00 am Sunday School..... 11:15 am Sunday Night Teen Programs ......5:00 pm www.LindenFreeMethodist.org

#### NAZARENE

#### **ARGENTINE CHURCH**

| OF THE NAZAREN   | IE       |
|--|----------|
| 16248 S. Seymour Rd. •   | Linden   |
| 810-735-7118   |          |
| Pastor Robert Linds  | ay       |
| Sunday School  | 9:45 am  |
| Sunday Morning Worship<br>(Junior Church and Nursery Provided) | 11:00 am |
| Sunday Evening Worship   | 6:00 pm  |
| Wed. Children & Teens  | 7:00 pm  |
| Wed. Prayer Meeting  | 7:00 pm  |
|  |          |

#### **FENTON CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE**

| 11075 Runyan Lake Rd. • Fenton        |
|---------------------------------------|
| 810-750-6544                          |
| Pastor Ron Sharpe                     |
| Sunday Worship Services 11:00 am      |
| Sunday School for all ages 10:00 am   |
| Nursery provided for Sunday services. |

#### NON-DENOMINATIONAL

#### THE ROAD COMMUNITY CHURCH

#### 810-922-2088 Lead Pastor Chris Vitarelli Youth Pastor Gordon Fry www.theroadcc.com

Howel Campus. .10AM 214 E. Brooks St. (NW corner of Brooks & Fleming) Fenton Campus .... ...6:30PM 301 E. South Holly Rd.

> Would you like to advertise in this church directory? Call Kathleen at 810-433-6787

#### NON-DENOMINATIONAL

#### **THE ROCK**

(CONTINUED)

at the church

| 11400 S. Linden Rd. • Fenton<br>810-629-2444   |   |
|--|---|
| 810-629-2444<br>www.hisrock.net<br>Pastor Wes Morris Welcome You<br>Saturday Evening Serivce | 30 am<br>30 am<br>30 am<br>7 pm<br>7 pm<br>7 pm |
|  |   |

#### ORTHODOX

#### ST. MARY MAGDALENE

#### PRESBYTERIAN

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF FENTON** 503 S. LeRoy St. • Fenton 810-629-7801 www.ffpc.org Larry McMellen, Parish Associate Sunday Worship ...... 9:00 am &11:00 am

#### LINDEN

| PRESBY IERIAN CHURCH               |
|------------------------------------|
| 119 W. Broad St. • Linden          |
| 810-735-5755                       |
| Pastor Seth Normington             |
| Traditional Worship9:00 am         |
| Contemporary Worship 10:30 am      |
| Sunday School 10:30 am             |
| (Nursery provided at each service) |

#### TYRONE COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

| FRESDITERIAN CHURCH               |
|-----------------------------------|
| 9141 Hartland Rd. • Fenton        |
| 810-750-0350                      |
| Pastor Linda Living-Hawley        |
| Sunday Worship Schedule           |
| Celebratory Worship 10:00 am      |
| Children's Sunday School 10:30 am |
| Fellowship 11:30 am               |

#### **TYRONE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

| (PCA)  |
|--|
| 10235 White Lake Rd. • Fenton                        |
| 810-629-1261   |
| Tyronepca.org  |
| Pastor, James Mascow                                 |
| Sunday Worship (includes Children's Church) 10:15 am |
| Sunday School9:00 am                                 |
| Sunday Evening Worship6:00 pm                        |
| outh Group & Family Night Wed Evenings               |

#### SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

FENTON SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST 408 Fifth St. • Fenton 810-629-9493 Pastor Chris Ames Church Worship ..... ..... 10:00 am Sabbath School ..... 11:00 am Prayer Meeting ...... 11:00 am Wednesday



#### House Bill 5407: Ban expelled legislator from running in special election

To prohibit a legislator who has been expelled or resigned from the House or Senate from running in a special election to fill the vacated seat. Some opponents thought applying this to expelled legislators might frustrate the will of the voters not satisfied that the expulsion was warranted.

Passed 72 to 36 in the House

Sen. David Robertson (R-Dist. 14) X YES Sen. Mike Kowall (R-Dist. 15) X YES

#### House Bill 4787: Authorize enhanced penalties for abortion coercion

To authorize enhanced penalties for threatening or committing a "stalking" or assaultive crime with the intent to coerce a pregnant female to have an abortion, or taking other coercive actions with that goal. The bill authorizes additional fines of \$5,000 to \$10,000 on top of penalties imposed for the underlying crimes. Passed 65 to 43 in the House Sen. David Robertson (R-Dist. 14) X YES Sen. Mike Kowall (R-Dist. 15) X YES

#### House Bill 4629: Repeal "bond" requirement to contest civil asset forfeiture

To repeal a requirement that a person whose property has been seized by police and is subject to "civil forfeiture" must provide a cash bond in order to contest the taking, and if the challenge is unsuccessful, must pay all the expenses of the proceedings. Under civil forfeiture laws, police can seize and keep any property that may be associated with a crime and keep the property (or the proceeds from its sale) even if the owner is never convicted or even charged with a crime.

Passed 100 to 7 in the House Sen. David Robertson (R-Dist. 14) 🔀 YES

Sen. Mike Kowall (R-Dist. 15)

Tri-county fundraisers

X YES

**GOLF SCRAMBLE TO SUPPORT FENTON FOOTBALL PROGRAM** A Golf Scramble fundraiser supporting the Fenton football program is set for Saturday, May

14, with a 1:30 p.m. shotgun start. A Foursome Team will enjoy 18 holes on the beautiful Coyote Preserve Golf Club for \$300. Lunch will be provided on-course along a buffet dinner to follow. On-course games with prizes, silent auction, and a 50/50 will be available throughout the event. Grand prize will be given for the first-place team. Many sponsorship opportunities are available with prices ranging from \$100-\$2,500. Anyone interested in sponsorship details can email casandrajansson@aol.com attn: GOLF. Anyone interested in registering for golf can send their contact information along with payment to: Fenton Football C/O Paul Stark 3347 Weather Wood Ct. Fenton, MI 48430.



**CAR BREAK-IN ON CHARLUENE** 

Sometime overnight between March 31 and April 1, an unknown suspect broke into a locked vehicle on Charluene Drive in Fenton. Miscellaneous items were reported stolen.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES I TIM JAGIELO

The Fenton Department of Public Works (DPW) reduces the tree that fell Thursday night at Adelaide Street and North Road into 22 cubic yards of wood chips.

### TREE

#### **Continued from Front Page**

The Fenton Fire Department handled traffic until the Fenton Department of Public Works (DPW) came to cut the tree apart and clear the scene.

According to Scott "Bull" Gordon of the DPW, seven workers turned the trees into 22-cubic yards of wood chips, and two dump trucks of logs, clearing Adelaide Street for traffic in two hours.

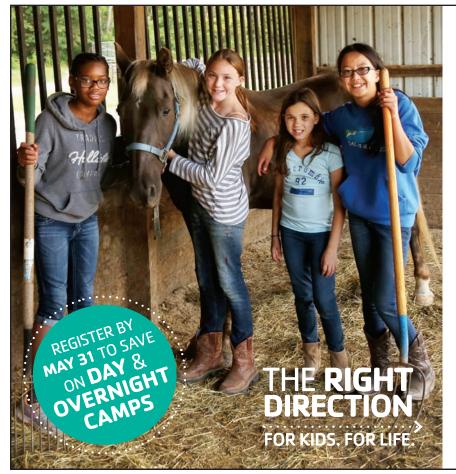
DPW Director Dan Czarnecki credits his crew, as well as Fenton police and fire de-

partments for working in concert to handle the situation quickly and smoothly.

Breathing a sigh of relief is Madison Gavulic, 17, of Fenton Township. She was stopped at the traffic light at North Road and Adelaide Street when the massive pine tree fell. She was driving to the gym and talking to her sister on her phone while she was stopped as she was frightened by the sudden storm and high winds. Out of nowhere, the tree toppled over and landed about 20 feet from her car.



James Bannister and Devon Ficarro check out the fallen spruce as the Fenton Fire Department arrives to handle traffic.





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 smart phone app. This report was released Friday, March 25.

#### House Bill 5247: Permit green

flashing lights on snow plow trucks To allow snow plow trucks to use flashing green lights, in addition to the current yellow lights prescribed by law. Having two colors, and the green color itself, is said to make the trucks easier to notice in snowstorms.

Passed 97 to 10 in the House Sen. David Robertson (R-Dist. 14) X YES Sen. Mike Kowall (R-Dist. 15) X YES

#### Senate Bill 490: Revise library and video rental confidentiality

To revise a law that restricts disclosing information about videos, books or recordings borrowed or rented by an individual without notifying the individual. The bill would reduce the level of specific disclosures required, and delete a provision allowing damages of up to \$5,000, instead limiting awards to any actual damages.

Passed 59 to 49 in the House Sen. David Robertson (R-Dist. 14) X YES Sen. Mike Kowall (R-Dist. 15) X YES

#### Senate Bill 352: Authorize "designated caregivers" for hospital patients

To require hospitals to give a patient the opportunity to designate a friend or family member as the individual's "designated caregiver." Hospitals would patient is transferred or released, consult instruct them about the patient's needs

Passed 70 to 38 in the House Sen. David Robertson (R-Dist. 14) X YES Sen. Mike Kowall (R-Dist. 15) X YES

## **FIND OUT AT OUR WALDO THEMED PREVIEW EVENT!**

Tour camp, meet the staff and sample some of camp's favorite activities and adventures. **Register online** to reserve your spot.



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have to notify this person when the with them about the discharge plan, after discharge, etc

# WHERE'S WALDO?

JOIN US FOR A FREE SUMMER CAMP PREVIEW SUNDAY, APRIL 10 • 2-5 PM

#### USEWICK

Continued from Front Page

he can receive is 30 years in prison, with up to five years mandatory supervision upon his release.

The maximum fine that could be imposed on him will not exceed \$1 million. Regarding sentencing, however, the federal prosecutor recommends that Usewick be sentenced to 41 to 51 months in federal prison, while Usewick's attorney recommends four to 10 months.

The court is not bound by either party's recommendation, according to the plea agreement.

Usewick was originally charged in Flint's U.S. District Court on Nov. 19, 2015 with 20 counts of federal bank fraud and conspiracy charges.

Count 1 was for attempt and conspiracy

to commit fraud, and counts 2-20 are for bank fraud.

One of the conditions of Usewick's bond release was that he was not to commit any criminal acts. He violated those conditions twice, in December of 2015, resulting in his being picked up by federal marshals and lodged at the Midland County Jail.

Usewick's federal troubles began a few years ago, when he and an unidentified co-conspirator entered into an agreement with the owners of Suski Chevrolet-Buick in Birch Run to operate several used car dealerships around the Flint area using the Suski name.

Two of the five Suski dealerships were located briefly in Fenton on Silver Parkway and Holly on North Holly Road. President Andy Suski announced in January 2014 that he was shutting down his five used car dealerships in the Flint area because of internal problems.

Federal prosecutors alleged Usewick used the Suski Used Car dealerships to secure a revolving line of credit from Ally Financial. That line of credit was supposed to be used to purchase vehicles for later re-sale.

Court records show the financing usually involved lenders releasing additional funds to the dealerships once it received a title showing the dealership had purchased a vehicle.

According to the federal indictment, Usewick allegedly began submitting vehicle titles to Ally Financial in September 2013 for cars he claimed to have purchased in exchange for money that was deposited into a bank account operated by Usewick. Prosecutors say Usewick never actually purchased the vehicles, however, and the titles contained fraudulent title numbers.

Usewick is accused of submitting 19 fraudulent titles for vehicles from September to December 2013.

To date, he is the only one to face charges on these activities.

The Secretary of State decided to take action after receiving some consumer complaints regarding title work. Complaints were filed against all of the Suski Used Car dealerships, except the one in Birch Run.

This is not the first time Usewick has been in trouble for auto-related fraud. In February 2011, he pleaded guilty to six misdemeanor counts of producing fraudulent titles.

He was sentenced to two years of probation and ordered to pay restitution. That case was closed in September 2013.



APRIL 3, 2016 PAGE 22A

## **INSIDE SPORTS**

**JALEN MILLER** One of eight players to make our All Tri-County Boys Basketball Team. See Page 23



ONLINE EXCLUSIVES

Sports

Follow spring sports at tctimes.com.

## **Hodges leads our boys team**

Senior is happy with his mother's moving decision By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

Ian Hodges was just getting back home from Las Vegas on July 29, 2014. He remembers it being about 7:30 p.m. That's when his mother, Cynthia Hodges, hit him with a bombshell.

> "I was coming home from an AAU (basketball tournament) in Las Vegas and when I was coming off the plane she told me, You are going to Holly," Hodges said. "I had no idea it was coming and I hated it at first. I was leaving all of my friends behind and I cried."

Eventually, Hodges found it to be one of the best things that's happened to him in the last couple of years. It also was one of the best decisions the Holly varsity boys basketball

program has experienced in recent seasons. About two years later,

#### Hodges' Resumé

Here is a quick look at lan Hodges' season at Holly. \* Hodges led the Bronchos with 462 points, averaging 22

points a contest. \* Shot 50.8 percent from the

field, including 42.7 percent from the three-point arc.

\* Had 81 rebounds, 68 assists and 58 steals.

Hodges is ending his Holly Bronchos' career as the 2015-16 Tri-County Boys Basketball Player of the Year.

"Ever since I came here, I love it here," Hodges said. "People have treated me great and the community is so great. My mom said she made the decision to bring me to Holly because my previous school's academics were getting worse. It was a bad crowd. ... My mom didn't want me in that environment."

Hodges quickly fit in with the Bronchos. With Kyle Woodruff out due to injury. Hodges became another scoring threat with Jake Daniels, helping propel the Bronchos to the greatest Class A postseason run in school history. The Bronchos won their first Class A district crown in

school history and followed it with a run to the regional finals before finally losing.

This season. Hodges came in with everyone knowing he'd be "the man." And, man, did he produce. Hodges scored 462 points, averaging 22 points a contest. He earned that average by taking good shots. Hodges shot 51 percent from the field and 43 percent from behind the three-point arc. And when he attacked the basket, he usually earned himself a good chance to score on a layup, got fouled and made his free throws at an efficient rate (79 percent) or did both. In his 37 games he played with Holly basketball, he netted 689 points, averaging 18.6 points a game.

"Just his aggressive scoring attitude is what I'll remember," Holly varsity coach Lance Baylis said. "He'll score any way he can. He'll drive to the basket finishing left or right or hit the three. He's an extremely coordinated guy. It's amazing. He was here only for about a year-and-a-half and he almost made our top 10 scoring list."

"I just felt comfortable with myself," Hodges said. "The system Lance runs is perfect for what I do. I run up and down the court and can shoot the three. He told me what he expected out of me and told See HODGES on 23A

## Mark Bolen

photo by

## LF wrestling leads the winter teams

#### ■ Fenton boys swim finishes second

#### **By David Troppens**

dtroppens@tctimes.com In a previous story we detailed some of the honorable mention and the first three squads of our 2015-16 Tri-County Elite Eight Poll. Today, we'll attack the top five.

No. 5 – Linden/Fenton/Lake Fenton gymnastics: The secondyear co-op gymnastics program continued to improve during its sophomore year. The program

grew in numbers and in results, recording quite a few first-place finishes during the regular season, including at the Huron Valley Invitational and the Jackson Lumen Christi Invitational. The squad's ultimate goal was to qualify for the state meet as a team but they fell just short, taking fourth at regionals. However, they did score a season-best score of 139.975, missing state qualification by a mere .025 in the process. Blake Hutchings was an all-around regional champion at the event and the LFLF squad had four gymnasts compete at the individual state meet. While there, Hutchings finished just one spot out of the all-around All-State spots, placing 11th. Most of the gymnasts return next year, so watch out for this squad in the future.

No. 4 - Fenton girls basketball: The Lady Tigers were dealt a blow before the season began when one of the team's top players, Emma Evo, suffered what was darn near a season-long injury. The Tigers took some lumps outside the league against some See WINTER on 23A



TRI-COUNTY TIMES I MARK BOLEN

Lake Fenton's varsity boys basketball team finished No. 3 on our winter edition of the Tri-County Elite Eight Poll.



#### HODGES

#### **Continued from Page 22A**

me I would make a big impact on the team after just two or three practices.

This year I took it upon myself to add something to my game. Last year my jump shot was not as good so I worked on it and everything fell into place."

But Hodges was more than just a shoot-

Player of the Year lan Hodges

It's too bad tri-county fans were only able

The First-Team All-State player capped his

senior year netting 462 points (22.0 point

average). He also had 81 rebounds, 68 as-

sists and 58 steals, leading Holly to a 14-7

to see Hodges play for  $1 \frac{1}{2}$  seasons.

Class Senior - Team Holly

er. He was second on the team with 68 assists and tied for third with 81 rebounds. His 31 offensive boards was second on the team. Finally, he was second on the squad with 58 steals.

"He's just a great kid," Baylis said. "He has a great personality. He's a great player but he's such a great person. I really enjoy who he is. We have such

**Rest of first team** 

Kyle Woodruff

Jalen Miller

Adam Tooley

Chris Gilbert

Isaac Golson

Andrew Foerster

Chris Bell

**ALL TRI-COUNTY BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM** 

a close relationship. The other day he came up to me and asked, 'Coach, when are we going to go out and grab a burger or a dinner together?' He's such a wellrounded guy, and people want to spend time with him."

And now there's no doubt that Hodges' mom made the right decision.

"The credit goes all to my mom. If it wasn't for her I would

not be out here," Hodges said. "I wouldn't have come here and now I'm glad I did. The team is like being a part of a family. Everyone looks out for you and makes sure you are OK.

"I'm going to miss being a part of this program, but I hope the legacy I left is going to last a long time."

Holly's lan Hodges is our 2016 Tri-County Boys Basketball Player of the Year. He averaged 22 points a game during his

senior season.

The memories Hodges supplied to fans certainly will.

earned All-State honors in the 100 and 200

freestyles. The Metro title was Fenton's

No. 1 - Lake Fenton wrestling: This

was an easy selection at No. 1. The Blue

Devils had a historical regular season,

capturing the Genesee Area Conference

crown for the first time in school history.

It's not an easy title to earn considering

state power New Lothrop and Goodrich

are included in that mix of teams. Lake

WINTER

overall record.

**Comment:** 

#### **Continued from Page 22A**

pretty large Class A schools, and started the season just 5-4 after nine games, but the squad kept progressing. And by the end of the regular season, the Tigers were a strong 14-6 squad with a second-place finish in the Metro League standings.

It was in the postseason when the Tigers were at their best. Led by freshman Chloe Idoni and senior Sarah Cummings, the squad beat Linden, Brandon and Holly capturing a Class A district crown. The Tigers followed those wins with a convincing 58-46 victory in the regional semis against Stoney Creek. The season ended with a competitive 40-38 loss to Port Huron Northern in the regional final. The end result was a pretty impressive 18-7 overall record.

No. 3 – Lake Fenton boys basketball: It was a pretty nice time to be a Lake Fenton varsity boys basketball fan this winter. In fact, there may have never been a better time in school history than this season. The Blue Devils posted a few school records. They recorded a school record number of wins (21) and also became the first-ever Class B district champion in school history. They also won a regional semifinal game, a first in school history at any level. The Blue Devils had an outstanding regular season, going 17-3. The record included many exciting comebacks, including two against area rival Goodrich. Two of the team's losses came against Class C state power Beecher, meaning the Blue Devils didn't win a conference crown. However, once the state tourney began the Blue Devils prospered. In district action, they beat Flint Southwestern, Goodrich and Powers en route to the district crown. In the regional semifinals the Blue Devils defeated Yale, but then lost a tough 53-50 verdict to New Haven in the regional final.

No. 2 – Fenton boys swimming and diving: The Fenton Tigers were one of just a few tri-county winter sports teams to capture their league crown, and the Tigers

TRI-COUNTY TIMES I DAVID TROPPENS

did that overwhelmingly. Fenton crushed its Metro foes in dual action and then blew out the league by almost 130 points at the league meet. The Tigers had two relays and several entries at the Division 2 state meet, placing 16th with a team point total of 36. Most of those points could be credited to senior swimmer Zac Miceli who

Fenton (39-4) took on all-comers during the regular season and usually finished on top. When February and March came around, the Blue Devils were headline material. They cruised to team district and regional championships and went to the Division 2 team state meet. While there, Lake Fenton crushed Birch Run in the quarterfinals before losing a tough state semifinal match against Remus Chippewa Hills. It marked the second-farthest a Lake Fenton team has gone in the team tournament. In the individual tourney, the Blue Devils had three wrestlers make it to state championship matches, and two of them -Jarrett Trombley and Trent Hillger - captured their second state championships of their career. The scary part about this team - they could be better next season.

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Lake Fenton's varsity wrestling team marches around the team state meet mats

minutes before the squad's state semifinal contest. The Blue Devils won a league championship, a district championship and a regional title. The squad also had

three wrestlers make it to the individual state championship match with two wrestlers winning titles. Those are just a few of the reasons why the Lake Fenton wrestling

team tops our winter edition of the Tri-County Elite Eight poll.



**Grade School** 

Junior Lake Fenton

Senior Lake Fenton

Junior Lake Fenton

Lake Fenton

fifth straight.

Senior Holly

Senior Holly

Senior Fenton

Junior

