Historical Fenton building facing demolition

Controversial decision by DDA irks many residents

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

“We hope this is not the beginning of the end of Dibbleville,” said Ken and Donna Seger of the Fenton Historical Society.

They are referring to news released this week about 106 West Shiawassee Ave., the oldest building in Fenton, and the Downtown Development Authority’s (DDA) plans to tear it down.

The DDA has budgeted $20,000 for the demolition. Bids for the demolition are due by May 2.

“We are very disappointed that the old hotel is being demolished,” the Segers. “We never thought it would touch any of the old buildings,” said Donna Seger of the Fenton Historical Society.

On Friday, Teresa Doan of the Fenton Historical Society, protests the planned razing of 106 W. Shiawassee in Fenton.

Paper or plastic?

Senior baggers ask that question hundreds of times daily as vital part of VG’s workforce

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

Don’t be surprised if the person who helps you out to your car with your groceries is older than you are.

“At least 35 percent of our 200 employers are over 50,” said Chris Palmer, assistant store manager at VG’s Grocery in on Silver Parkway in Fenton. “We’ve got older workers across the board, from baggers to deli workers and produce.”

More and more seniors are extending their working lives, or going back to work after the thrill of retirement wears off.

See BAGGERS on 20A

“I got tired of TV, the couch and books. I’m a personable guy, so this job works for me.”

Bob Roberts
71-year-old bagger at VG’s Grocery

Michigan residents taxed to the max

We pay $1,500 more each year in taxes than the average U.S. household.

Page 11A

The plight of the honey bee

Local beekeepers are hoping their bees will survive next winter, after losing all of the pollinators this past winter due to harsh weather conditions.

Page 8A

Important information!

Two Social Security options phasing out on April 29

Difference could be up to $60,000 in your benefits if you do not act before April 30.

Page 6A

“The Couch and Books”

I got tired of TV, the couch and books. I’m a personable guy, so this job works for me.”

Bob Roberts 71-year-old bagger at VG’s Grocery
GRAND BLANC
1124 Grand Blanc Road
Cute 3 bedroom ranch in demand
Grand Blanc school district. Beautiful hardwood floors, family room and living room plus 2 full baths. Home is conveniently located to US 23, retail and restaurants as well as family friendly parks. Fenced yard and 2 car detached garage round out the lovely home.
$97,900
Call Patrik Welty 810-750-2300

HOLLY
1214 Claremore
Village Beauty within walking distance to downtown Holly! Victorian charm with an open floor plan, 2110 sq ft affords you spacious rooms. Living room opens to dining room. Kitchen opens to family room and Florida room. 3 Bedrooms & 2 Full Bathrooms. Convenient 1st floor laundry.
$148,950

LINDEN
305 E. Robison
This executive brick ranch sits on 1/4 of an acre with beautiful views of Spring Meadows golf course. Updates abound with new carpet and hardwood floors, newer roof, furnace, and water heater. 2400 sq ft plus finished basement makes this home ideal for large families and entertaining. Truly a “must see.”
$249,000
Call Lynn Rositano 810-625-7399.

FIDDLERVILLE
7017 Linden
Cute 2 story home in historic Dibbleville. Home features 1336 sq ft, 4 bedrooms and 2 baths. Hardwood floors, Central air, first floor laundry and 2 car garage. Walking distances to parks, restaurants, and shopping. New windows and hot water heater within the last year.
$129,900
Call Mark Goldsworthy 810-955-3736.

LINDEN
15042 Longfield
100 feet of sandy shoreline on peaceful McCasin Lake. Contemporary 5 bedroom home offers lots of living space. Functional kitchen with plenty of cabinets and counter space. Roomy living room with great views or sit outside on your large deck and soak in the tranquility of living on the water.
$271,000
Call Patrik Welty 810-750-2300

NEW LOTHROP
702 S. Leroy
Affordable 3 bedroom home in demand
Linden school district. Home sits on almost 3 acres where you have beautiful views of nature and wildlife. Feels like you are in the country yet you are just a hop, skip, and a jump from the quaint city of Linden with its antique shops, restaurants, parks and the Mill Pond.
$95,500
Call Patrik Welty 810-750-2300

FENTON
1196 EastOak
Great location, walking distance to downtown Fenton. Neat and clean 2 bedroom condo in downtown Fenton. First floor laundry, formal dining room, 2 full baths and a family room in the finished basement. All appliances included.
Don’t let this one slip thru your fingers.
$113,500
Call Sheila Rhoades 810-348-7357

MILLINGTON
3042 Lanning
Great home on all-sports Murphy Lake!
Around 1400 sf with amazing lake views!
Home can be used for year round living or winterize and use for summer getaway! Two kitchens for entertaining, two wood burning stoves. Seller has put 30k into the boathouse which contains a sauna!
$175,000
Call Kevin Usealman 810-965-6552

FENTON
9169 Mabely Hill
Fabulous 4 bed/3 bath home on 4+ acres. Great location less than 2 miles to US-23 for easy commuting. Finished walk-out that opens to the in-ground pool & pool house. 2 story Great Rm flows into Dining Area & kitchen. 2nd floor Master Suite offers privacy & space. Big dressing room, walk-in closet plus 2 additional large closets.
$271,000
Call Ann Hernandez-Gabler 248-240-2272

LINDEN
702 S. Leroy
Affordable 3 bedroom ranch in demand
Linden school district. Home sits on almost 3 acres where you have beautiful views of nature and wildlife. Feels like you are in the country yet you are just a hop, skip, and a jump from the quaint city of Linden with its antique shops, restaurants, parks and the Mill Pond.
$95,500
Call Patrik Welty 810-750-2300

LAPEER
803 S. Elba
Great home for a large family on a tight budget. Spacious with 4 bedrooms and 2.5 baths, plus second kitchen allowing for the home to be use as an income property. Large family room/recreation area, great patio and deck great for entertaining. All this for under 100k.
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Call Kevin Usealman 810-965-6552

FENTON
899 W. Silver Lake
2 acres of commercially zoned property
with excellent access to US 23. Structure currently has 2 residential rentals and one commercial rental. Lots of possibilities with some work.
$144,900
Call Patrik Welty 810-750-2300

CLIO
615 N. Mill
Fabulous opportunity to renovate this huge historic home! Enclosed porch, hardwood floors, huge kitchen, attached wooden garage and additional outbuilding plus a very large almost half acre city lot with an almost fully fenced back yard! House needs TLC but roof is new in the last 2 years!
$64,900
Call Kevin Usealman 810-965-6552

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Michigan history — anything but boring

State boasts some interesting facts and places

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

Michigan is one of the few states in the union where its citizens travel to stay home — home meaning within the state.

While there are the usual popular vacation and weekend getaway spots, there are some out-of-the-way places with some interesting stuff to brag about.

For example, one of the world’s largest registered Holstein (that’s a cow) herds can be found at Green Meadow Farms in the appropriately-named village of Elsie.

Colon, despite its unfortunate name, is nevertheless quite the magical place. Located close to the southwest corner of the state, it’s the former hometown and, unless he’s pulled a Houdini and managed a posthumous escape, the final resting place of Harry Blackstone, Sr.

The Michigan Dogman, a kind of werewolf-type beast, was first spotted in Wexford County in 1887 and several times thereafter. More recent sightings have mostly been linked to a 1987 radio station hoax, as well as to a related 2007 video which was later debunked on “MonsterQuest.”

The melon heads of Ottawa County are a whole other breed of Michigan cryptid. The yre said to have originated as children with hydrocephalus who lived at an insane asylum near Holland’s Felt Mansion, but they somehow mutated, went feral and escaped into the surrounding woods where they still lurk, waiting to leap out and attack.

Educational storyteller Genot Picor leads Hyatt Elementary students through a story about how the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore and Manitou Islands were formed. The students mirrored Picor as he told the story through native sign language. Picor taught the students about early jobs created by the trade route through the Great Lakes. He also injected his stories with some French because of the stories’ connection to Quebec. (Right) Picor shows a student how to sing like a beaver, for a song about Michigan’s waterways.
When you gotta go, you gotta go, wherever!

North Carolina has earned itself a lot of bad publicity by passing a law requiring transgender people to use restrooms corresponding to the sex on their birth certificates. Businesses are threatening to avoid or leave the state. New York has banned state employees from making nonessential work trips there. Even the NBA is thinking of moving an upcoming All-Star game out of the state.

Nobody, seemingly, likes the law except the people who passed it. So why’d they do it? We’re there swarms of transgender people invading the restrooms at the state Capitol or something and finally some prissy senator got annoyed?

Probably not. I’ll bet those senators and representatives have used a stall or urinal next to transgender people for decades and not realized it because — amazingly enough — they don’t wear nametags saying “I’m transgender, how about you?”

Maybe that’s North Carolina’s next step, though. I suspect what North Carolina has done is pass a law in search of a problem, which is always bad governance. I’ve used public restrooms my whole life and I’ve never noticed a transgender person, and if I did I wouldn’t care. I’d assume they were there for the same reasons I am, so let’s all just take care of business and get out of there, shall we?

That, in fact, is one of the implied arguments for the North Carolina law that bugs me the most — the assumption that transgender people are in the bathroom for some reason other than answering nature’s call.

Get over yourself, people. Transgender people are there for the same reason you are, and I presume follow standard sanitary protocols.

I don’t know what that is in the ladies’ room, but in the men’s room it’s customary to follow the same procedures one would follow while lining up a putt in golf, which is “Keep your head down, focus on what you’re doing and try to aim straight.”

Honestly, I think we could dispense with all of this bathroom nonsense if we got rid of gender-specific restrooms altogether and just had restrooms — come one, come all.

Why not? No one has separate bathrooms at home and we manage to survive. As a guy, I’d love it because — and I’m just guessing here — that women aren’t nearly the slobs that guys are. The only disadvantage is it’d be more crowded and I might have to wait for a stall since women take forever in the bathroom, for reasons I can’t fathom.

Gender-free restrooms would solve North Carolina’s potty problem, but I doubt they’ll happen. They make too much sense.

Maybe the next best solution would be, like I said earlier, for some folks to realize that transgender people are people, too, and they just wanna go to the bathroom. Just like you. Go figure, huh?

Come Heller high water

Andrew Heller
FEATURED COLUMNIST
andrew.heller@tctimes.com

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THE RECENT POST that the sidewalks were widened and paid for by the city, as a place for teenagers to hang out outside — is that a bad thing? It sure beats them staying inside.

HILLARY FINALLY TOLD the truth, thinking it was going to help her when she said that foreign leaders are calling her and saying they don’t want Trump president. Duh, they like just the way it is, the Obama way.

I’M FINALLY GETTING around to thanking the kind lady who paid for my maple candy at Family Farm & Home around the middle of March.

REGARDING DR. ROACH’S column, rarely do doctors’ offices hire nurses anymore. The person seeing the patient first is probably a medical assistant. No one wears any I.D. to display their qualifications. Even American Red Cross does not hire only nurses and in some instances hire people to do on-the-job training.

IT NEVER CEASES to amaze me how Fenton considers the destruction of the past as the only path forward. This town has been ruined by these narrow-minded ideas. We have only to look around us to the beautifully preserved towns of Holly, Howell, Milford, etc., to see where we could have, should have, been. Really sad.

IN CASE you people have not noticed, there has not been a draft for more than 40 years. And, yes, people should be 21 to vote. They have no concept of what is going on in an 18 years old. Proof is in the rising of Bernie Sanders among young people.

BOY OH BOY, you Democrats don’t have much to choose from. You have a liar and a commie. Better come back over to the right side.

DIDN’T THINK it was going to take the city of Fenton too long to get after people about their blue garbage cans at the end of their drives.

DIDN’T YOU FOLKS read the papers that came with your garbage contain- ers? Recycling is every other week, not leave it at the road until it is picked up.

WHY CAN’T SOME of you smart cardboard boxes for recycling? Flat- tened boxes will take up much less space.

HILLARY CLINTON has no accomplishments as Secretary of State. She defended Obamacare and the dangerous Iran nuclear deal. She also failed with Benghazi, with Syria, Russ- ia and ISIS is dishonest and is not qualified to be president.

I’M CALLING ABOUT the front page article about learning to play the music. A few people learn to play by ear. My family does. I can’t remember when I couldn’t play the piano. I learned to play the organ in the early ’30s.

IF YOU WANT to save America you need to vote for Trump. He’s a busi- nessman, not a politician. He’s made billions for himself. He can bring all the jobs home from China, Japan, and other places, and if he does that, we will have jobs for people in poverty who want to work.

DO YOU BERNIE Sanders supporters ever stop and ask yourselves what he really stands for? Sanders wants 90 percent of every dollar you make for government handouts.

OBAMA’S INNER CIRCLE of friends are terrorists, Cuban dictators, Black Lives Matter, bankrupt energy companies, and don’t forget the illegal aliens running from Mexico, who are running guns and drugs.

HERE WE GO again, tearing down the oldest building in Fenton. Bibbiville is a beautiful historic area and the DDA wants another new stinking Cornerstone building in the middle of it. Who thinks that is aesthetically pleasing?

See HOT LINE throughout Times

Compiled by Hannah Ball, staff reporter

What’s been the most memorable day of your life so far?

“Growing up, I played every sport I could get my hands on. I was the first girl to become a member of the YMCA and I became a physical director. I did raise foster kids and spent a lot of time with them.”

Sandra Davies
Argentine Township

“When my kids and grandkids were born, I have five grandkids, two boys and three girls. Proud to be a part of it.”

Barb Reynolds
Tyrone Township

“When my kids and grandkids were born, I have five grandkids, two boys and three girls. Proud to be a part of it.”

Barb Reynolds
Tyrone Township

“When I got married in 1968. I got married at St. Rose Church in Detroit. It was August but it was hot out. It was pretty nice. What wasn’t too good about it was I had to pay for everything.”

Barb Reynolds
Tyrone Township

“When my kids and grandkids were born, I have five grandkids, two boys and three girls. Proud to be a part of it.”

Barb Reynolds
Tyrone Township

“The most memorable day of my life was Dec. 31, 1980. I got married. That way you can start a new life on a new year.”

Barb Reynolds
Tyrone Township

“My grandfather lost his tooth yesterday and we played the Tooth Fairy at our apartment. You get another chance to play at our age. She was so excited.”

Barb Reynolds
Tyrone Township

“When my son was born. 1994. It was spring. My wife went into a regular labor and when she got there, the doctor said he was coming right then. He was a week early.”

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Andrew Heller
FEATURED COLUMNIST
Debris and yard waste pickup starts this month

Will be collected on regular trash day, not Mondays

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

Mother Nature hasn’t really cooperated yet, but the days are coming soon when yards and gardens get cleaned in time for planting.

Now that the majority of local communities in the Tri-County Times reader area are getting used to the new trash and recycling waste collection program through Republic Services, April is a good time to remind folks of the rules regarding yard waste pickup.

According to cityoffenton.org, yard waste is collected on a weekly basis, starting in April and going through November on the household’s regular trash collection day. It is no longer collected on Mondays only.

All yard waste must be placed in biodegradable Kraft paper bags, or placed in 30-gallon cans clearly marked as yard waste. Plastic bags of any kind will not be accepted.

Branches and twigs smaller than 2 inches in diameter must be placed in bundles no larger than 2-feet by 4-feet-long, or 50 pounds per bag or bundle.

Tree trunks, stumps, construction and construction or demolition debris will never be accepted.

Regardless of disposal needs, whether it’s trash, recycling or yard waste, there are items that are prohibited and will never be accepted.

Dirt, sod, rock and hot ashes are not yard waste and will not be accepted. Yard waste should never be placed in the blue bins used for trash and recycling.

For more information about your specific community, visit www.republicservices.com.

City of Linden: Trash and recycling pickup is on its regularly scheduled day and yard waste pickup began Friday, April 1.

On Tuesday, April 19, children ages 5-12 are encouraged to drop by the Holly Township Library any time between 4 and 6 p.m. for a Make It Take It Activity. They will be making bird feeders out of reusable/recyclable materials. Children will be able to take their creations home that night. Thanks to McKay’s Hardware for donating the bird seed for this project.

On Monday, April 25, the library will be hosting a Money Smart Kids Read Story Time for children between the ages of 4-7. This event will take place from 4:30-5:30 p.m. The first 15 families to register will receive a free book, Bunny Money. There will be money activities and crafts. Call the library at (248) 634-1754 to register. Thanks to the Michigan Credit Union League for sponsoring the book giveaway.

HOLLY TOWNSHIP LIBRARY CHILDREN’S EVENTS

Earn Rewards! Credit & Debit MasterCard®

Earn more Rewards!

• Rewards Credit MasterCard®
• Rewards Debit MasterCard®
• Combine points to earn rewards faster
• Redeem points for travel, gift cards or merchandise
Quick action required for those 66 years old

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

If you are 62 or older you’ve probably either started collecting your Social Security benefits or are very confused about the entire issue.

About 73 percent of workers begin to collect their Social Security benefits as soon as they are able to, at age 62, but that may or may not be the best financial decision.

The issue has gotten more complicated as two Social Security strategies that have been in place since 2000 are being phased out effective April 30 — so you’ll have to act fast (on or before April 29) in order to take advantage of them.

If you’re between the ages of 62 and 66, the phasing out of “file and suspend” and “restricted application” options by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 may affect your decision-making process.

“When to file is a major decision,” said Jim Kruzan, president of Kaydan Wealth Management in Fenton. “Some of the more flexible options just won’t be available anymore.”

Here are the two options being phased out:

1) File-and-suspend

The Senior Citizens’ Freedom to Work Act of 2000 gave Social Security beneficiaries the option to “suspend” their Social Security claims at full retirement age (66), allowing them to file for benefits and immediately suspend them.

Instead of receiving Social Security checks between the ages of 66 and 70, they would instead earn an 8 percent delayed retirement credit for each year of suspension. “In those four years, your benefits increase at a minimum of 32 percent, really more than that, accounting for cost-of-living adjustments,” said Kruzan.

Suspension is still possible after April 29, but spouses will not be able to receive spousal benefits based on their record. This may be appropriate for those who took early benefits and now post 66 would like to suspend and accrue delayed credits. These stricter rules do not affect divorced-spouse benefits, according to Kruzan.

2) Filing a restricted application

A restricted application allowed an individual who was at least of full retirement age to file for only the spousal benefit based on the spouse’s record — provided he or she had not previously filed for any benefits and whose spouse had established a filing date (and may have suspended).

The “restricted” terminology indicates that the filing is not for their own benefit but for spousal benefits, which allows their own account to continue to grow.

Restricted application isn’t disappearing all at once, according to Kruzan.

“So some clients will be able to do it, and others will not. Between now and the end of 2019, an individual of full retirement age (66) may file a restricted application to receive spousal benefits if that spouse is over 62 and receiving his/her benefits. If you’re 62 by Jan. 1, 2016, you can apply for the restricted application strategy on or before April 29.

Different views on when to file

If you’re even more confused now that you’ve read this, you’re not alone. Even financial professionals admit that the subject of when to begin taking your Social Security benefits is a complex issue.

“Today, I look at it as longevity protection,” said Kruzan. “Look at what you’ll get if you wait ‘til age 70. See what that looks like at age 85. The biggest risk most people face is running out of money. As people live longer, it makes sense to defer their benefits to let them grow.”

Fred Hensler of Sapphire Blue Investment Partners in Fenton T ownship said that Social Security is just like any insurance policy, it ends when you die.

See SOCIAL SECURITY on 22A

Learn more about Social Security options at:
Lunch & Learn “Social Security”  
Fenton Chamber of Commerce office  
Monday, April 11, from 12 to 1 p.m.  
RSVP required to Kaydan Wealth Management: 810-693-1624 or Chamber office: 810-629-5447

The experts speak out:

When should you take your Social Security benefits?

As people live longer, it makes sense to defer their benefits to let them grow.

Fred Hensler  
Sapphire Blue Investment Partners

What would happen if you took Social Security benefits at 62 and socked it into an investment account? Then you potentially would have something to pass on to your heirs.

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As people live longer, the risk most people face is how that Social Security is just like any insurance policy, it ends when you die.
Simple ways exist to end unwanted communications

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

At one time, all people had to worry about was unwanted telemarketing calls on their home phones. Today, cell phone users are being barraged with unwanted calls and texts from telemarketers.

According to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), there are ways to stop these calls from coming through once and for all. Under the Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA), the FCC provides clarity on the law, sets rules, takes enforcement actions, and provides resources for consumers.

Telemarketing calls can be stopped by consumers through the Do Not Call registry (www.donotcall.gov), which protects both landline and wireless phones.

According to the FCC, all non-emergency “robocalls,” both telemarketing and informational, require a consumer’s permission to be made to a wireless phone. These calls can include political polling, and other non-telemarketing robocalls.

Robocalls either use a technology with the capacity to autodial or utilize a pre-recorded or artificial voice. Calls and text messages have the same protection under FCC rules.

Phone companies face no legal barriers to offering consumers the use of technologies that block robocalls to any phone. Even if consumers had given permission to be called or texted at one time, they can take back their permission to be called or texted in any reasonable way.

A calling company cannot require someone to fill out a form and mail it in as the only way to revoke consent. Contrary to popular opinion, an existing commercial relationship does not constitute permission to be robocalled or texted.

Consent to be called or texted cannot be a condition of a sale or other commercial transaction.

Callers are allowed to call a wrong number only once before updating their list. This most commonly comes up when one person consented to be called or texted but then they gave up that number and it was reassigned to someone else.

A quick search of Google Play and the App Store shows dozens of free call-blocking apps from a wide variety of developers.

A quick search of Google Play and the App Store shows dozens of free call-blocking apps from a wide variety of developers. Verizon Wireless has long offered spam controls for free to customers that want to sign up, and has worked with others in the industry on spam reporting and other tools to stop unwanted calls.

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The plight of the honey bee

If bees become extinct, humans would be starving in four years

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

One Mundy Township company picked up their order of bees from Anthony Bee Farms in Swartz Creek Monday morning.

Richard and Carole Beauchamp ordered two packages of Italian bees. Each package holds approximately 10,000 to 12,000 bees.

They’re hoping they won’t need to buy anymore for the foreseeable future. For the past few years, all of their bees, as well as the bees of many beekeepers in Michigan, have died during winter because of the harsh conditions.

“I don’t think they’re going into the winter very strong. I just think there weren’t enough of them to keep warm,” said Richard.

There are three types of bees: Russian, Italian and Carniolan.

They bought Italian, the most docile type of bee, but they don’t produce as much honey.

Last fall their queen wasn’t reproducing very well. The Beauchamps lost all their bees by January.

“They don’t hibernate,” he said. Instead, bees form a protective wall in the hive that protects them from the cold weather. “They keep it just around 83 degrees. If there isn’t enough warmth, they end up freezing to death.”

Their bees didn’t start the winter very strong, he said, and there wasn’t enough to keep the hive warm.

“We had some cold days,” he said. He said even people with bigger hives are experiencing bee population loss. Most hives run at a 40-percent loss throughout the winter.

After winter around April, beekeepers take the remaining hives and split them up. They pick a new queen and create a different hive.

Beauchamp said the numbers should double in size and get back to the population size they had prior to winter.

“As soon as they have something to eat, they’ll start laying eggs and building up the population,” he said.

The Beauchamps were also hoping to catch swarms of bees and add to their hives, but they didn’t receive any calls about hives that worked out.

This has been a trend, though. The number of bee swarms has been declining in the past two years, he said, and the entire bug population has been decreasing.

“Bees aren’t the only pollinators,” he said. However, they are an important one.

Bees pollinate crops, making it possible for farmers to produce more yields.

However, with the rising use of pesticides, bees haven’t been able to do their job.

Beauchamp said when bees are pollinating a field of crops without pesticides, they fly around in a circle, harvest the crops, and fly back home.

When the plants contain pesticides, the bees lose their navigation system — and the ability to fly back home.

“They can’t find their way back because of the pesticides,” he said.

Beauchamp said farmers use seeds with pesticides already in them to ward off harmful bugs as opposed to applying pesticides topically because of the cost.

“It makes it a lot cheaper for farmers, but at the same time, what price are we paying for that? We end up shooting ourselves in the foot because we killed all of our pollinators,” he said.

Beauchamp also pointed out that if the bees are eating the pesticides, humans are too.

The Beauchamps use their bees for food, but he hasn’t been able to collect any in the past two years.

“If they don’t make enough for themselves it doesn’t leave anything for me,” he said.

David Anthony, who owns Anthony Bee Farms and provides bees to people in four different states, Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois, said April through mid-May is prime bee-buying season.

He brings in two to three semi-truck loads of bees a year, depending on the season.

“People are losing bees at a very alarming rate but we’re also replenishing bees at an alarming rate,” he said.

Anthony said El Niño has had a big effect on the bees because beekeepers can’t raise bees when the weather is too cold.

“With perfect weather, they bounce right back,” Anthony said.

Heat doesn’t adversely affect them as much as the cold does.

He said if the bees have moisture, they could stay cool as long as it doesn’t get above 135 or below 20 degrees.

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DEMOLITION
Continued from Front Page
Dibbleville. We thought we were safe.”
Rex Todd Rogers, owner of Rex Todd Rogers Design Studio, was the most recent occupant of the building.
“My heart is broken,” Rogers said this week.
Although completely deaf since birth, Rogers is able to communicate by other means.
Rogers said the building was in very bad shape when he leased it from the DDA for $1. Rogers also paid the biannual taxes on the building and remodeled it completely by himself, at his own expense. Those costs totaled more than $80,000, he said.
“I had a vision,” he said.
Rogers moved out of the building on Dec. 31, 2015 for two reasons. First, business was slow, due in part to the months of Streetscape construction downtown, he said.
Secondly, “Mike Burns (assistant city manager and DDA director) asked if I would be interested in re-lease it for approximately $1,600 per month,” Rogers said.
Since business was slow, he could not afford that lease rate.
Burns said previously that Rogers was aware of the DDA’s plans to demolish the building some day and said, “We had this clause in our agreement so that we could end the agreement at any time during the lease for that,” Burns said. “So, when he made the investment, he made it fully aware that the building was going to be demolished at some point.”
Rogers confirmed that it was in the lease agreement, but added, “I was hoping.”
He said he was hoping the DDA would see all the work that he did and agree to allow him to stay.
Rogers said he also offered to provide consultation services to the DDA for free. His offer, he said, was rejected.
“My cousin, Brad Hawks, owner of Hick’s (photography) of Ferndale, offered to buy the building since he loved what I had done,” Rogers said. “He wanted to save it, but Mike said no.”
Hawks said once he looked at the building he knew it would have been a perfect location for his studio.
“Two years ago, the DDA told me they would pay me for certain things if I moved my business downtown,” said Hawks.
The first thing Hawks said he did was talk with Burns. “He said it’s going to be torn down, they’re not renting or selling. It’s going to be torn down,” said Hawks.
“I just happened to cross paths with a friend on the DDA and told him how awesome it would be to have my studio there,” he added.
Hawks said he photographs hundreds of high school seniors each year, and people from out of town. Most people like getting some of their photographs taken by the gazebo or the millpond downtown, so the Shiawassee location would have been perfect, in walking distance.
“I always tell my out-of-town customers all the good places to shop and eat,” Hawks said.

Hawks said his DDA contact told him he needed to get on a DDA agenda and tell them exactly what he told them.
“I said OK, so I set up a time and before I got there asked if I had to tell them at the meeting what I have to do,” Hawks said.
His DDA contact said, no, just state your case.
Hawks was able to state his case before the DDA. “Afterwards three people on the DDA said they really thought they should look into Brad, having been in business in Fenton for 31 years,” he said.
After the meeting, his DDA contact said everything went well, that some papers would be sent out and Hawks could come back to make his offer.
Several months came and went, said Hawks. He called his friend again, who told him he would let him know as soon as the DDA could get something set up for him to make his presentation and offer.
“A month later, I got an email that said the building is slated for demolition,” Hawks said. “I never got to make my presentation like I was told. That was that. They weren’t going to take any offers.”
“I was disappointed that I couldn’t even do what they said I could do, which was to make a presentation before the DDA with my offer,” he added. “After that I decided to move my business out of town and I did. I wanted to be in downtown Fenton. I was praying but it wasn’t in the cards. Everything happens for a reason.”
Hawks moved his Hick’s Studio south to the Hartland area. “Where I am is working out nice, but I’m outside of Fenton for the first time in 50 years.”
Rogers has plans to move to the state of New York sometime this spring.
Michigan residents taxed to the max

We pay $1,500 more each year than average U.S. household

By Hannah Ball
html@times.com, 810-433-6792

A married couple making an average of $60,000 a year can expect to pay 15 percent of their income, or $9,000, in federal taxes if they submit their tax returns as married joint filers. That’s not the only tax they pay.

Walnut ranked Michigan at 45 out of 50 states and the District of Columbia for annual state and local taxes on median U.S. households. Michigan residents pay 22.28 percent, or approximately $1,500, more in state and local taxes than the average household across the country.

Michigan residents pay approximately $4,000 more in taxes than Alaska, the state ranked number one.

Michigan residents pay the following in taxes:

Individual income tax

In Michigan, residents pay a flat rate amount of 4.25 percent on individual income tax, which is the 12th lowest among states with an individual income tax, according to taxfoundation.org.

Sales tax

Residents pay 6 percent sales tax, which is just above the national median at 5.95 percent.

This is the 16th lowest sales and excise tax in the nation.

This tax applies to most items, such as consumer goods.

This is the 16th lowest sales and excise tax in the nation.

Pizza: a meal, patients report nausea, bloating, and a variety of gastrointestinal symptoms. During or immediately after eating, the symptoms are acute. Fatty sleeves and complex carbohydrates seem to make the problem worse.

This is the 16th lowest sales and excise tax in the nation.

“Diet” surgery only has a 65 percent success rate. It is fraught with problems. It is not a good option for most people. It is a quick, easy fix that doesn’t solve the underlying problem.

It is a quick, easy fix that doesn’t solve the underlying problem.

This is the 16th lowest sales and excise tax in the nation.

The great news is this: It has a 74 percent success rate.

Dr. T. Tomlinson, certified in the procedure, believes hypnosis allows clients to do more. With hypnosis, clients can experience a transformation in their body and而去 imagine their lives differently.

This is the 16th lowest sales and excise tax in the nation.

The average American household spends approximately $1,700 on clothes annually. With a 6 percent sales tax, the average American family pays $102 a year in taxes for clothes.

If you buy a $250 vehicle with an excise tax of 6 percent, you’ll pay $15 in taxes.

The average American household goes out to eat an average of 4.2 times a week, according to thesimpledollar.com. If each family spends approximately $45 when they go out to eat, in a year that family will pay $140.40 in taxes.

If you buy a $74.99 bottle of $15 liquor every week, like America’s most popular liquor Smirnoff vodka, you’ll pay approximately $124 in excise taxes in one year.

If you smoke a pack of cigarettes every day, you’ll pay $730 in excise taxes in one year.

The average American driver buys about 441 gallons of gasoline year, according to visualEconomics.com. That means the average driver pays $83.79 in gasoline tax, as well as $25.46 in sales tax, which adds up to $110.25 in taxes a year.

If the taxable value of your Fenton Township home is $40,000, you pay approximately $1,200 in property taxes.

If the taxable value of your Linden home is $40,000, you pay approximately $1,600 in property taxes.

I paid how much in taxes?

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Why virtual bariatric surgery is better

This is the best long term weight loss option

Bariatric surgery seems like the perfect solution. And it might be, if it weren’t for the failure rate. Impor-tantly, according to an NIH study, lap-band bariatric surgery only has a 65 percent success rate.

Side effects are the problem. According to Pharmacy Times, aproximately 40 percent of bariatric patients develop “Dumping Syndrome.” During or immediately after a meal, patients report nausea, bloating, cramping, diarrhea, dizziness and then vomiting.

Other problems include fecal incontinence. More than a third develop gallstones. Alarming, according to the New York Times, one study calculated suicide rates for patients at five times more than normal.

Virtual Bariatric Surgery is different. Clients go into hypnotic trance and have imaginary bariatric surgery. Once out of trance, they eat like they’ve had the surgery, but with zero side effects. And the cost is tiny by comparison to the real surgery. But insurance does not cover it.

The great news is this: It has a 74 percent success rate.

Dr. T. Tomlinson, certified in the procedure, believes hypnosis allows clients to do more. With hypnosis, clients can experience a transformation in their body and go on to imagine their lives differently.

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This is the 16th lowest sales and excise tax in the nation.

Tomlinson Medical Hypnotherapy, LLC

8382 Holly Road, Suite 2
Grand Blanc, MI 48439

810.771.7105

TomlinsonHypnotherapy.com
**TAX**

**Continued from Page 11A**

Non-profit organizations like churches, schools, and certain charities can also file for tax exemptions.

**Excise taxes**

Excise taxes, which are taxes that apply to certain goods determined by state and federal governments, apply to alcohol, gasoline, and cigarettes in Michigan. Michigan’s gasoline tax is 19 cents per gallon, the 19th highest in the nation.

**Sin tax**

Wine is taxed at 51 cents per gallon, lower than most states.

**Property tax**

The property tax in Michigan is determined by each municipality through the use of a mill levy and the assessed property value. According to smartasset.com, Michigan has one of the highest property tax rates in the country with an average rate of 1.83 percent, the seventh highest in the country.

**Excise taxes**

Michigan’s liquor tax comes in at $1.19 per gallon, the ninth highest in the country.

**Gasoline taxes**

Michigan motorists, however, usually pay more at the pump because the 6 percent sales tax also applies to fuel. ‘Sin tax’

Smokers pay more in taxes as the cigarette tax is $2 per pack, the 11th highest in the nation.

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**Alcohol tax**

According to tax-rates.org, Michigan’s tax on beer is 20 cents per gallon, which is ranked 28 out of the 50 states.

Wine is taxed at 51 cents per gallon, lower than most states.

Michigan’s liquor tax comes in at $1.90 per gallon, the ninth highest in the country.

**Property tax**

The property tax in Michigan is determined by each municipality through the use of a mill levy and the assessed property value. According to smartasset.com, Michigan has one of the highest property tax rates in the country with an average rate of 1.83 percent, the seventh highest in the country.

Genesee County has an average property tax rate of 2.103 percent, higher than both the state and national average.

Disabled veterans are exempt from paying property taxes, according to michigan.gov.

**Use tax**

Michigan’s 6-percent Use Tax is used when sales tax is not involved and applies to items purchased overseas and in the state, according to Michigan.gov.

Residents must pay a 6-percent use tax on vehicles, mobile homes, aircraft, snowmobiles, and watercraft purchased by an individual or business from anyone not a licensed dealer or a retailer.

Michigan does not collect inheritance or estate taxes.

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**Sinking Fund renewal**

The Linden Board of Education is seeking support for the sinking fund renewal in the upcoming May 3 election. The actual ballot language will ask district voters to renew the current sinking fund at a rate of 1.3107 mills for an additional 10 years. For all property owners in our district, this millage request will maintain current tax levels, not increase them.

In November of 2006, Linden Community Schools’ voters approved a renewal of the original sinking fund, which was 1.318 mills at that time. In order to preserve the ability to maintain our facilities, grounds, and athletic complexes, renewing the sinking fund is critical in keeping Linden’s schools on a solid financial footing.

Linden Community Schools Board of Education is asking voters to approve a 10-year millage for a renewal of the existing sinking fund. There are two planned events for evening informational sessions. One on Thursday, April 14, and one on Monday, April 18. Both sessions will take place at Linden High School at 6:30 p.m.

If you have questions and cannot attend one of these sessions, please visit the district website, www.lindenschools.org, or contact me by email, rciesiel@lindenschools.org, or telephone, (810) 591-0983. It is our hope to gain your support for the continuation of the sinking fund for an additional ten-year period.

Over the past few years, our Board has had to reduce district operational costs. Financially, the State of Michigan has put the district in a position where every penny counts, and every penny should be spent on the education of our students. Without the renewal of the sinking fund we would be forced to use general operating dollars to invest in our facilities, taking that money out of the classroom. As the interim superintendent for Linden Community Schools, I encourage you to learn more about the sinking fund at one of our two informational sessions and help support the education of our students.

Thank you for your consideration,

Russ Ciesielski
Could Ripley Road be completely paved?

Linden and Fenton Township officials are discussing the approximate $1 million project

By Hannah Ball
hbali@tctimes.com, 810-435-6972

Residents and frequent drivers of Ripley Road between Silver Lake and Rolston roads could have a much less bumpy drive.

The Linden City Council and Fenton Township Board of Trustees have been discussing paving Ripley Road, one of the few public dirt roads left in the area. Oftentimes it is like driving a cross a washboard, especially after heavy rains.

“We have had conversations with Fenton Township, because the road services the city of Linden and Fenton Township residents,” said Paul Zelenak, Linden city manager.

The city of Linden is responsible for Ripley Road from Silver Lake Road to Rolston Road, even though north of the railroad tracks, the east side of the road is in Fenton Township, according to Tom Broecker, operations manager and deputy clerk of Fenton Township.

Fenton Township is responsible for Ripley Road from Rolston to Lahrng Road, even though the west half is in the city of Linden.

The estimated cost to pave the road would be $1 million, according to Zelenak.

“If we were to receive funds to pay for that road through the county, residents would be responsible for approximately 20 percent of those costs,” he said.

The Linden City Council attempted to secure federal funding through Genesee County, but Ripley Road did not qualify for the money.

“We have also had conversations with the Genesee County Road Commission about the county potentially taking over the grading and maintenance of the road,” he said. “We were told that we would have to bring the road up to their standards before they would take over the road.”

They haven’t received any information yet on what the city needs to meet the country standards.

Not all of Ripley Road is dirt, portions of the road surface between Silver Lake Road and Rolston are paved.

In 2010, Fenton Township resurfaced Ripley Road between Rolston to Lahrng.

“The township is definitely not opposed to having Ripley Road from Silver Lake to Rolston Road paved, however that is completely up to the city of Linden,” Broecker said.

Broecker said they have had discussions with Linden city officials about the possibility of creating a special assessment district for Fenton Township residents to pay a portion of the costs.

“That would be dependent on those residents petitioning for a special assessment district,” he said.

**MICHIGAN**

Continued from Page 3A

If you straightened out Lake Superior’s shoreline alone, it would reach from Duluth to the Bahamas. The J.W. Westcott II, which operates out of Detroit, is the world’s only floating post of ice, as it delivers mail to ships as they pass under the Ambassador Bridge.

Detroit residents were the first in the nation to have phone numbers. It seems unlikely that by 1879, the city had grown so large that operators were no longer able to route the calls by name alone.

French-Canadian lumberjack Fabian Fournier, who worked for a lumber company in the Grayling area in the late 1800s, was said to be an inspiration for the legendary Paul Bunyan.

Oscola claims to be the official hometown of the literary Paul Bunyan, as the first published story about him appeared in the Oscoda Press in 1906.

The Detroit metro area sits atop a gigantic salt mine. According to some estimates, there’s enough salt down there to last for 70 million years at the world’s current rate of consumption.

The original name of the University of Michigan, which was founded in 1817, was Catholepistemiad. Try chanting that at a football game.

Grand Haven is famous for its “singing sand” beaches, which make a whistling sound when you walk on them.

Source: merovet.com
Hillger leads our wrestlers, again

Perfect season places LF junior atop our strong all-area team

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

Trent Hillger is one busy student-athlete.

During the fall he’s been the unquestioned top star of Lake Fenton’s football team for three seasons at a variety of positions. Once football ends, it’s all about wrestling season where he’s not only the top wrestler in the state in his weight class but is also ranked nationally.

When the prep wrestling season ends, he may take a week off, but quickly returns to activities preparing him for both sports.

“It’s worked for Hillger. He captured his second consecutive Division 3 state individual wrestling championship this March and also recorded his second straight undefeated season on the wrestling mat. In football, he helped lead the Blue Devils to the state playoffs and in wrestling he helped lead Lake Fenton to the Division 3 state semifinals. His interest in both sports has also earned the junior another honor. He’s become the first-ever two-time Tri-County player of the year for two different sports during the same academic season.

During the 2015 football season, the First-Team All-State performer was the Tri-County’s Football Player of the Year. Now, about four months later Hiller is our 2016 Wrestler of the Year. It’s the second straight season he’s earned the honor.

“I love it,” Hillger said about his busy schedule between the two sports. “I need them to keep me out of trouble.”

“It’s nice. I love both sports. It’s nice to have a break from each, and the other sport is my next break from the other sport. It’s nice to switch. Every six months I have something new. And I’m always in shape, which is nice.”

CONTINUED ONLINE AT TCTIMES.COM

Linden track posts strong efforts at Michigan State meet

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

The Linden varsity track program has yet to compete in its first outdoor meet this year, but that didn’t keep the squads from posting some solid performances at the Michigan State University True Team Invitational.

No one had a better day than Jacob Cox. Cox recorded the Eagles’ only first-place performance, taking the top spot in the 60 meter dash with a time of 7.28 seconds. He also teamed with Nolan McDonald, Zach Piet and Dante Minatel to place fourth in the 800 relay (1:38.66).

The Linden girls also competed at the meet and had a handful of top-10 performers. Maddie Nelson placed second in the high jump (4-6).

CONTINUED ONLINE AT TCTIMES.COM

All area baseball teams have reason to feel a bit optimistic

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

Predicting favorites in prep baseball circles is a tricky thing. Trying to figure out what the tri-county area baseball teams will do this spring will be just as tricky to figure out.

Lake Fenton returns three all-league players from a squad that competed for the Genesee Area Conference Red Division title a year ago — that’s the good news. However, the squad only returns four starters overall. So what that means is anyone’s guess.

To some, the Fenton Tigers may have been a tiny bit of a surprise squad a year ago. Fenton finished at 9-5 in Metro play and have eight returning players from that team. However, among those who did graduate were three of the team’s top four hitters from last season.

The Linden Eagles seem to always be in the conversation, and were last year as well. Linden finished 9-5 in Metro action last spring. However, the Eagles graduated a lot of the players that have made the last couple of seasons such a huge success and now need to rely on some new faces to maintain the recent strong baseball tradition.

Finally, the Holly Bronchos won just three league games in 2015. But Holly does return four starters and three more veteran players, so there’s reason to think the Bronchos should be better.

So who is the team to look out for in the tri-county area? “That is for you to decide,” Linden varsity baseball coach Steve Buerkel joked when asked about the Metro League race.

Our response — don’t ask the sports staff. We’ll just watch it play itself out. Until that happens, we have included some quick previews at tctimes.com.

TEAM PREVIEWS AT TCTIMES.COM
DID YOU KNOW?
Lacrosse has its origins in a tribal game played by eastern Woodlands Native Americans and by some Plains Indians tribes in what is now Canada.

STORY CORRECTION

In a weekend edition article about area prep baseball coach’s views about the Detroit Tigers’ home opener Holly varsity baseball coach Benny Jackson was quoted as saying “I am all about the game and then all of the partying. He was misquoted. What he said was “I am all about the game (rather) than all of the partying.” The sports staff regrets the error.

FENTON SOFTBALL OPENS WITH WIN

Fenton hurler Meaghan McArdle tossed a seven-inning complete game, leading the Tigers to the 5-4 victory against Goodrich. Logan Carter provided the game-winning hit with a solo home run in the seventh inning.

5K COLOR RUN SLATED

There will be a 5K color run/walk through the streets of Fenton on April 22.

The event begins at The Freedom Center at 9:15 p.m. and the cost is $45 from April 11 until April 21. Same-day registration is $50.

Linden/Fenton boys lacrosse team wins thriller

Open season with OT victory vs. Whitmore Lake

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

Just one contest into its season the Linden/Fenton co-op lacrosse team may have already played what may end up as their most exciting game of the season.

The second-year program edged out Whitmore Lake 9-8 in overtime. The Linden/Fenton Wolves trailed by as many as 8-5 late in the fourth quarter, but finished the period with three straight goals, creating an 8-8 tie as regulation ended.

In overtime, Jacob Newblatt pushed the face of f to midfielder Dan Padduck who picked up the ground ball, moved around several Whitmore Lake defenders and got the ball in the offensive zone. After calling a time out, the Wolves ran an overload offensive play where Tyler Bourassa passed the ball to midfielder Brian Hackney, resulting in the game-winning shot and goal for Linden/Fenton.

Bourassa, who led the team with five goals and two assists, scored the squad’s seventh goal off an assist by Jake Newblatt. Then, with about 40 seconds to go, Bourassa tied it up off an assist from Derek DeLong.

Hackney had two goals and an assist, while DeLong had one goal and three assists. Dylan Meisch had a goal and two assists.

The Wolves enjoyed a 38-28 shot edge and also enjoyed a 32-14 edge on ground balls won. Adam Glomb made 10 saves in net for the Wolves.

CONTINUED ONLINE AT TCTIMES.COM

2016 Wrestling Team

Most Valuable Wrestler     Team        Record     Postseason
285) Trent Hillger     Lake Fenton     65-0        State champion

Comment: Trent Hiliger not only became a two-time state champion during his career this winter, but he did so by pinning all of his state foes in the first period - that’s how dominating the Lake Fenton junior is. He hasn’t lost a match since losing the third-place match at 171 pounds during his freshman season. Since then He’s won 125 straight prep matches. And he still has another year to go, wow!

The rest of the first team

Wrestler     Team        Record     Postseason
103) A. J. Geyer     Lake Fenton     53-9        Second at state
112) Justin Cygnar    Linden     33-15        Regional qualifier
119) Jarrett Trombley     Lake Fenton     33-0        State champion
125) Hunter Corcoran     Lake Fenton     55-11        Fourth at state
125) Mitch Nelson     Holly     27-12        Eighth at state
130) Carse Cuthbert     Lake Fenton     23-14        Win at district
133) Devan Melick     Lake Fenton     57-3        Third at state
135) Sean Trombley     Lake Fenton     49-17        Fifth at state
140) Jackson Nevadomski     Lake Fenton     55-11        Fifth at state
145) Dawson Blank     Linden     50-3        Third at state
152) Colton Cleaver     Holly     41-9        Seventh at state
160) William Greer     Holly     17-22        Two wins at district
171) Cade Dallwitz     Holly     39-11        State qualifier
189) Aaron Steedman     Linden     26-10        State qualifier
219) Jerrin Gray     Holly     45-4        Fifth at state

Note: This team is selected based on the wrestler that had the best performance in the individual state series.

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- What to expect from your bridal party
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Re-Roof
Tear-Offs

a conviction if restitution is ordered.
be able to get his $3,400 back after
police. The Swartz Creek man might
about the seller was provided to
over to Eastpoint police. Information
by the Eastpoint Police Department.
vehicle had been reported stolen
Fenton police learned that the
title he was given. After checking,
the paperwork did not match the
bought for $3,400 in Dearborn
Chevrolet Trailblazer he had just
run a check on the VIN of a 2008
Creek resident asked Fenton police
On April 2, a 25-year-old Swartz
WAS REPORTED STOLEN
VEHICLE FOR SALE ON CRAIGSLIST

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Looking Back at this week in
NATIONAL HISTORY

APRIL 10
1866: The American Society for the
Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) is founded in New York City by philanthropist and diplomat Henry Bergh, 54.

BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION
EQUIMENT DAMAGED

APRIL 11
1868: On this day in 1888, 24-year-
old Henry Ford marries Clara Jane
Bryant on her 22nd birthday at her
parent’s home in Greenfield Township,
Michigan. Clara Ford would prove to
be a big supporter of her husband’s
business ideas. Fifty years later,
Ford was quoted in a 1938 New York
Times Magazine article as saying,
"The greatest day of my life is when I
married Mrs. Ford."

APRIL 12
1861: The bloodiest four years
in American history begin when
Confederate shore batteries under
General P.G.T. Beauregard open fire
on Union-held Fort Sumter in South
Carolina’s Charleston Bay. During the
next 34 hours, 50 Confederate guns
and mortars launched more than 4,000
rounds at the poorly supplied fort. On
April 13, U.S. Major Robert Anderson
surrendered the fort. Two days later,
U.S. President Abraham Lincoln issued
a proclamation calling for 75,000
volunteer soldiers to quell the Southern
"insurrection."

APRIL 13
2009: On this day in 2009, former
Major League Baseball all-star pitcher
Mark "The Bird" Fidrych is found dead
at his Massachusetts farm involving
a Mack truck he was working on.

Fidrych, the 1976 American League
Rookie of the Year, suffocated when
his clothes got tangled in the truck’s
power takeoff shaft.

APRIL 14
1865: On this day in 1865, John Wilkes
Booth, an actor and Confederate
sympathizer, fatally shoots President
Abraham Lincoln at a play at Ford’s
Theater in Washington, D.C.
1912: Just before midnight in the
North Atlantic, the RMS Titanic fails
to divert its course from an iceberg,
ruptures its hull, and begins to sink.

APRIL 15
1947: On this day in 1947, Jackie
Robinson, age 28, becomes the first
African-American player in Major
League Baseball when he steps onto
Ebbets Field in Brooklyn to compete
for the Brooklyn Dodgers. Robinson
broke the color barrier in a sport that
had been segregated for more than 50
years.

APRIL 16
1943: In Basel, Switzerland, Albert
Hoffman, a Swiss chemist working at the
Sandoz pharmaceutical research
laboratory, accidentally consumes
LSD-25, a synthetic drug he had
created in 1938 as part of his research
into the medicinal value of lysergic
acid compounds. After taking the drug,
Hoffman was disturbed by unusual
sensations and hallucinations. In his
notes, he related the experience:
"Last Friday, April 16, 1943, I
was forced to interrupt my work in
the laboratory in the middle of the
afternoon and proceed home, being
affected by a remarkable restlessness,
combined with a slight dizziness. At
home I lay down and sank into a not
unpleasant, intoxicated-like condition
characterized by an extremely
stimulated imagination. In a dreamlike
state, with eyes closed, I perceived
an uninterrupted stream of fantastic
pictures, extraordinary shapes with
intense, kaleidoscopic play of colors.
After some two hours this condition
faded away."

In Cooperation with Samuel French
Fenton Village Players
Present
Adapted by Christopher Sergel
From the novel by Harper Lee

TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD

SHOW DATES:
April 14,15,16 & 22, 23, 2016
at 7pm
April 17 & 24, 2016
at 2pm (Matinee)

Fenton Village Playhouse
14197 Torrey Rd. | Fenton | 810.750.7700

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT:
Fenton’s Open Book | 105 W. Shiawassee Ave. | Fenton
The UPS Store | 11795 Silver Parkway | Fenton
Tickets online at FentonTheatre.org

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Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) is founded in New York City by philanthropist and diplomat Henry Bergh, 54.

After checking, Fenton police learned that the vehicle had been reported stolen by the Eastpoint Police Department. The stolen vehicle was then turned over to Eastpoint police. Information about the seller was provided to police. The Swartz Creek man might be able to get his $3,400 back after a conviction if restitution is ordered.
More than 1,000 expected at 5K Color Rave Run

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

JD Wiegand, co-founder of Fenton Challenge, is excited about a new event coming to The Freedom Center in Fenton on April 22.

The “5K Color Rave Run” will be held April 22, from 9:15 to 11 p.m.

The race will be run through some Fenton streets in the neighborhood of The Freedom Center and the high school and middle school (see sidebar), and will have colored powder thrown at the runners on property owned by the church.

At the finish line, in The Freedom Center parking lot, there will be a dance-rave to celebrate the end of the race.

“The idea for a rave started two years ago when The Freedom Center staff decided that they wanted to hold a safe and fun event for people after home football games,” said Wiegand.

“The idea for the color run portion came about close to a year ago, when I was researching cool things that larger cities such as New York, Miami and Chicago were doing,” he added.

The whole idea came together last November when the youth group came up with the idea of “Fenton Challenge,” and finding out what people in the city of Fenton would want as far as involvement in activities. “The top result was health,” Wiegand said.

“Then little by little the pieces fell in place and now the city will get the 5K Color Rave Run,” he added.

The purpose of the run is to give Fenton people a safe, fun and healthy late night activity, and create a culture only found in larger cities and bringing it to a small town environment, Wiegand said.

“Eighteen local businesses have already signed on to participate.

The 5K Color Rave Run will begin and end at The Freedom Center, from 6 to 9 p.m. April 22, and from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. April 23.

“If you’re interested in anything from learning how to run a marathon, to hearing how someone lost about 100 pounds, from dietary habits, to the benefits of getting off the couch, this conference is the conference for you,” Wiegand said.

“Everything is free and participants and Fenton Challenge members can partner participants with businesses, regardless of their fitness goal.

The cost to participate in the run is $35 through Sunday, April 10. After that, it goes up to $45 per participant.

Wiegand’s request to allow the 5K Color Rave Run on some city streets at the March 28 regular meeting. Because some council members had questions regarding lighting and other safety issues, the matter was postponed until the April 4 work session.

Wiegand said their concerns included falling hazards, the people in the subdivision not being able to have a second exit, and access to and from the schools for athletic events.

Those concerns were addressed and the council approved the event at the work session.

To participate in the run and/or health conference, visit fentonchallenge.com/events or facebook.com/fentonchallenge.
VG’s Grocery at Silver Lake Plaza is one of the most well known businesses that hire many seniors over age 50.

BAGGERS
Continued from Front Page

“My wife and I retired at the same time and did a lot of traveling for five years,” said Bob Roberts, 71, who has worked at VG’s for more than 10 years. “I got tired of TV, the couch and books. I’m a personable guy, so this job works for me. It also helps me pay for my tee times.”

Roberts works about 20 hours per week, during the early morning shift from 7 a.m. to 12 p.m. He starts his day with the more mundane tasks of gathering the shopping carts, putting down fresh rugs and re-shelving returned items. His day really starts when he gets to interact with customers, bagging groceries and helping people out to their cars.

He brings a strong work ethic to the job, after a 38-year career at General Motors. “I'd rather be busy than standing around trying to look busy,” he said. “I've only missed one day in 10 years. I'm dependable.”

Laura Bishoff, VG’s store manager, says that their older workers are definitely a positive influence on their younger co-workers. “They show them how to do a job and get it done thoroughly,” she said.

One challenge older workers sometimes have initially is learning how to apply for the job on the computer. “We help them through that,” said Bishoff. “Once they get past the technology, it’s a really good fit. They’re usually pretty persistent, very reliable and dependable.”

After the economic downturn in 2008, local builder Al Zadony, now 74, found himself on the hired end, instead of the hiring end. “I used to be a builder for 30 years,” said Zadony, “After the downturn, I just wanted to get out of the house.”

After seven years on the job at VG’s, Zadony admits he’s a changed man. “I wasn’t as much a people person as I am now. They can count on me.”

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Now distinguishing himself as the most senior employee at VG’s, Harry Nelson, 77, has had a number of jobs since retiring from the Ford Wixom plant in 1991. “I worked at several Kmart’s, moved to North Carolina, came back and took a little time of f,” said Nelson, “Bob, the storage manager said to me, ‘You’re here 90 percent of the time anyway, so why don’t you just get a job here?’”

He’s been at VG’s nine years now, and has just recently cut his weekly work days to one or two, so he can spend more time with his grandson. “I just love to be around people,” he said.

Women don’t only grocery shop at VGs, many of them work there. Mina Ashley, 56, is a part-time cashier and part-time STAT EMS paramedic. She says her life experience helps her in her role at VG’s. “I know how to treat people,” she said.

Annette Corcoran, 51, is in her sixth year as a cashier. Educated in hotel and restaurant management, her flexible hours at VG’s allow her to take care of her 23-year-old disabled daughter at home. “I can leave here at 3 p.m. and get her off the bus,” she said. “I get along with the older and younger workers here, too. Most of the people who work here are very nice.”
More places are allowing people to travel, dine and shop with pets

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

Dog lovers are happier these days now that their best friends can accompany them to more places, and partake in fun family activities away from home.

Outdoor enthusiasts are getting more comfortable, too, making their pets part of their outdoor adventures.

Linden Mayor David Lossing and his wife, Suzanne, are among them. “We take our dogs kayaking on the Shiawassee River and other locations,” Lossing said. “We suit ’em up with their own vests and goggles.”

Sharon Paulin of Linden, who is very involved with the Fenton VFW, said, “While I understand that exceptions need to be made for service dogs, in most instances dogs do not belong in most stores or restaurants. I get aggravated with people who bring their pets to patriotic parades and cemeteries.”

Fenton City Councilwoman Cherie Smith often takes her Scottish Terrier out for an adventure. “Sometimes I take Maisy into Dairyland in Fenton has long been a favorite of pet owners and their furry friends. “Our dog loves Uncle Ray’s!” Uncle Ray’s Dairyland in Fenton has long been known to share their tasty delights with furry customers.

Even if you can, should you?

While pet owners adore their furry little friends, not everyone does — especially people with health concerns such as allergies.

Others still are afraid of dogs, especially large dogs that are known to be aggressive breeds.

Traveling, dining out and shopping is now more dangerous for people with dog allergies, for example.

Businesses who allow dogs into their establishments need to consider the health and safety of all their customers. Dog owners should use common sense as it relates to places they should not take their pet, even if they are allowed to do so.

The fee to allow a pet to accompany your pet, even if they are allowed to do so.

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**HOT LINE CONTINUED**

FENTON CITY WATER comes from clean pure wells. Also, you do not have to tie into city water. Many people in the city have wells.  

LIBERAL DEMOCRATS are like Christmas lights; they all hang together, half of them don’t work and most are not very bright.  

REGARDING HILLARY CLINTON’S untruthfulness, it’s very simple. If people would stop asking her questions, then she would stop lying.  

CITY OF FENTON tears down a viable building for use for redevelopment. No, it’s not 1975 again, it’s just urban renewal, part two.  

THE DETROIT WATER department created and operated the Flint water plant for decades as the backup to the primary pipeline for Flint water. For those many years, Detroit approved the water produced by the Flint water plant for emergency use. In all those decades, are we now saying the Detroit water department never fully approved that backup source because it was not potable for use?  

OBAMACARE IS a plan of a despot. George Washington warned us about such plans, plans of despotic leaders that wanted total control over everything. This plan is killing thousands across the nation and demoralizing doctors, punishing them. Taking control from doctors treating their own patients. Something needs to be done.

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**Meet Deborah Duncan**

- Air Force veteran, wife, mother, doctor  
- Owner of dogs, cats and a horse  
- Almost a veterinarian

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

Dr. Deborah Duncan originally wanted to be a veterinarian, but now she’s been helping people around the community as a family doctor at Fenton Medical Center. Along with being board certified in family practice and preventative medicine, Duncan also has her masters in aerospace medicine after she served as a flight surgeon in the Air Force for 10 years. Why did you get into the medical field?  

Probably because my dad was a doctor. I was originally going to be a vet but somehow I ended up in medical school instead. It was always in my mind. Did you like medical school?  

It was medical school. It wasn’t there to like. It was very busy. I graduated 39 years ago. I went to Ohio State University. Columbus is a great town. What’s the most memorable thing you’ve seen as a doctor?  

Birthings babies, that’s pretty memorable. Being with people when they die, that’s an amazing thing. It’s very moving, just to be there. It’s not about doing anything, generally. It’s hard to describe. It’s a very religious experience. But I haven’t been involved in any big disasters, just usual doctor stuff.

How long have you worked at Fenton Medical Center?  

Since 1990, 26 years. I love it here. It’s wonderful.

How do you like Fenton?  

I love it. I’ve lived here for 30 years. We moved up here because he (my husband) got a job as an aeronautical engineer. I got my residency here at Providence and I turned to family practice.

I got my job at Fenton Medical Center and we lived in Fenton the whole time. Why did you join the Air Force?  

I was dating my husband and he was a graduate of the Air Force Academy. He talked me into looking at being a flight surgeon. They paid my way through medical school and so I had a three-year commitment. I liked the job so I stayed in for a while, 10 years total.

I was a flight surgeon. Flight surgeons do whatever is necessary to keep the flight crew healthy. We do occupational medicine for the base. We keep the whole environment healthy for the pilots. We both got out of active duty in 1987.

What was the hardest part of being in the Air Force?  

Just the normal military stuff. Doctors aren’t generally made for military.

Tell me about your family.  

My husband is retired from the Air Force and from Williams. My son is 23 years old and is a apprentice to a gunsmith. We have four dogs, four cats, and I have a horse. I used to show and do some three-day events but it’s been a couple years. Having traveled a lot when we were younger, we kind of more just hang out when we’re home.

That’s a lot of animals.

Like I said, I was originally going to be a vet. It took us a while to have Christopher so our animals are like our surrogate children.

What do you like to do around the community?  

I work. I work about 70 to 75 hours a week. We love to go out to eat, go to movies, but we’ve been real home bodies. I love The Laundry and Eduardo’s in Grand Blanc.

Last year I was president of Genesee County Medical Society. I’m on the board of the accountable care organization, part of our physicians medical group.

What’s the hardest part of being a doctor?  

Getting people to change. Change is very hard for people. That’s most of what we do is try to assist them with that. It’s easy to use drugs, it’s harder to create change. Most of the health problems we see, heart disease, diabetes, acid reflux, those are all behavioral issues far more than they are medical issues. Those are things people wouldn’t have if they could make healthier choices.

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**SOCIAL SECURITY**

Continued from Page 6A  

“The money stops,” he said. “You may look at it and say ‘wait til age 70,’ but what happens if you don’t make it to age 70? What would happen if you took Social Security benefits at 62 and socked it into an investment account? Then you potentially would have something to pass on to your heirs. If your health or family’s longevity history isn’t good, maybe take it sooner rather than later.”

One thing is for sure, it’s important to make informed decisions based on your own family’s unique situation.

“Make sure all your systems are in place,” he said. “If you make changes working together, from your financial planner and ad CPA, to your insurance professional and estate planner,” said Hensler. “Meet with a Social Security representative and find out what your options are.”
The House and Senate are on a two-week spring break, so rather than votes this report contains some recently proposed constitutional amendments of interest. To become law these require a two-thirds vote in the House and Senate and approval by voters. This report was released Friday, April 1.

Senate Joint Resolution H: Ban welfare for illegal aliens
Introduced by Sen. Joe Hune (R), to place before voters in the next general election a constitutional amendment to prohibit the state from giving any kind of public assistance to illegal aliens. Referred to committee, no further action at this time.

Senate Joint Resolution I: Repeal same-sex marriage ban
Introduced by Sen. Rebekah Warren (D), to place before voters in the next general election an amendment to repeal Section 25 of the Michigan constitution, which currently states, “To secure and preserve the benefits of marriage for our society and for future generations of children, the union of one man and one woman in marriage shall be the only agreement recognized as a marriage or similar union for any purpose.” Referred to committee, no further action at this time.

Senate Joint Resolution M: Replace gas tax increase with 1 percent sales tax increase
Introduced by Sen. Kenneth Horn (R), to place before voters a constitutional amendment that would increase the state sales tax from 6 percent to 7 percent and use the revenue for roads, while repealing the gas tax and vehicle registration tax increases enacted by the Legislature in 2015. Referred to committee, no further action at this time.

Senate Joint Resolution O: Legalize marijuana
Introduced by Sen. Coleman Young II (D), to place before voters in the next general election a constitutional amendment to prohibit the Legislature from adopting a law that makes adult possession or use of marijuana a criminal or civil offense. Laws regulating production and sales could be enacted, as well as laws regulating the time, place and manner of use for public health and safety purposes. Referred to committee, no further action at this time.

House Joint Resolution BB: Call for “Article V” U.S. constitutional amendment convention
Introduced by Rep. Lee Chatfield (R), to submit an application to Congress calling for a “convention to propose amendments to the U.S. Constitution,” limited to the issues of fiscal restraints, federal powers and congressional term limits. Referred to committee, no further action at this time.

House Joint Resolution DD: Lower minimum age for lawmakers
Introduced by Rep. Jim Townsend (D), to place before voters in the next general election a constitutional amendment to lower the minimum age requirement for legislators from 21 to 18, and for governors from 30 to 21. Referred to committee, no further action at this time.

House Joint Resolution FF: Senate Joint Resolutions H and N: Limit referendum on appropriations ban
Introduced by Rep. Jim Townsend (D), plus many cosponsors, to place before voters in the next general election a constitutional amendment to revise the current prohibition on citizen referendums challenging bills that contain an appropriation. The measure would establish that the ban applies only to bills that substantially fund one or more state departments, or which are needed to close state budget shortfalls. A 2001 Supreme Court ruling interpreted the provision as prohibiting referendums on any bill containing an appropriation, even a small or incidental one. In several instances since then, the Legislature has deliberately added modest appropriations to controversial bills that would likely have been challenged by a referendum. Referred to committee, no further action at this time.

House Joint Resolution XX: Minimum age for lawmakers
Introduced by Rep. Aaron Miller (R), to place before voters in the next general election a constitutional amendment to lower the minimum age requirement for legislators from 21 to 18, and for governors from 30 to 21. Referred to committee, no further action at this time.

House Joint Resolution YY: Same-sex marriage ban
Introduced by Sen. Curtis Hertel (D), plus many cosponsors, to place before voters in the next general election a constitutional amendment to prohibit the state from giving any kind of public assistance to illegal aliens. Referred to committee, no further action at this time.

House Joint Resolution ZZ: Call for constitutional convention
Introduced by Rep. Lee Chatfield (R), to place before voters a constitutional convention to amend the U.S. Constitution, limited to the issues of fiscal restraints, federal powers and congressional term limits. Referred to committee, no further action at this time.
**Best Pre-Owned Vehicles. Period.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Make/Model</th>
<th>Stock#</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014 Chevrolet Cruze</td>
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**SUMMER FUN!**

- **2016 Camaro 1LT**
  - Stock# 5143829
  - Lease price: $278/mo. for 39 months

- **2016 Camaro 2SS**
  - Stock# 5143294
  - Lease price: $439/mo. for 39 months

- **2016 Corvette 3LT**
  - Stock# 11102584
  - MSRP: $69,910
  - Save: $7,952
  - Cost: $66,708

**Special Offers:**

- **2016 Chevrolet Silverado LTZ**
  - MSRP: $62,285
  - Only 1 left!
  - Lease price: $137/mo. for 24 months
  - $530/mo. for 36 months

- **2016 Chevrolet Traverse**
  - MSRP: $62,285
  - Lease price: $530/mo. for 36 months

- **2016 Chevrolet Equinox**
  - Lease price: $125/mo. for 24 months
  - $599/mo. for 36 months

- **2016 Chevrolet Volt**
  - Lease price: $244/mo. for 24 months

**Contact Jamie Smith for details!**

**Summer Savings!**

- **2016 Chevrolet Traverse LTZ**
  - Lease price: $165/mo. for 24 months
  - $530/mo. for 36 months

- **2016 Chevrolet Suburban LTZ**
  - Lease price: $165/mo. for 24 months
  - $530/mo. for 36 months

- **2016 Chevrolet Equinox**
  - Lease price: $125/mo. for 24 months
  - $599/mo. for 36 months

**One Pay Lease**

- **2016 Chevrolet Traverse LTZ**
  - Loaded with leather!
  - Lease price: $4598
  - See Jamie for details

**Hassle-Free, Worry-Free, Pressure-Free**

- Contact Jamie Smith at [www.canever.com](http://www.canever.com) with Jamie Smith.