## Drunk driving video sends powerful message

### Students' film project shows life-long effects of one bad decision

#### By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823 With prom and graduation cer emonies and parties coming up soon, families would be wise to take a few minutes and watch the YouTube video, "A Lifetime of Consequences."

The students in Rich Ashley's Fenton High School Advanced Vdeo Production class recently released the PSA (Public Service Announce-

ment) about the consequences of drunk driving and the impact the decision has on the lives of others.

In his email to media outlets, Samuel Metcalfe represented his class, saying, "We are hoping that this may deter some of the poor decisions made by teenagers, if only to not get behind the wheel of a car if they are intoxicated.

See DRUNK DRIVING on 18A

### SUMMARY

■ "A Lifetime of Consequences," a public service announcement video produced by the Fenton High School Advanced Video Production class, sends a very powerful and emotional message to those who may make the decision to drink and drive. It can be seen at tctimes.com with this story.



PAGE 1B BOATING FOR BEGINNERS... What you need to know before taking the plunge

SUNDAY, MAY 15, 2016

2012 - 2013 - 2014 NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

<sup>\$1.00</sup>

### Argentine man pleads guilty to criminal sexual conduct

### Plea avoids trial in case involving 13-year-old girl

#### By Sharon Stone

VOL. 23 NO. XX

sstone@tctimes.com; 810-433-6786

Christian Anthony Corbett, 24, of Ar gentine T ownship pleaded guilty on May 10 to four counts of second-degree criminal sexual conduct, (CSC) and one count of fourth-degree CSC in Genesee County Circuit Court.



See GUILTY on 15A

Anthony Corbett

# State funds will help clean blighted site

Developer gets \$323,663 from state

State Rep. Joseph Graves (R-Ar gentine Township) announced Thursday that state funds will be used to help clean up the former Action Auto site in downtown Fenton and develop it into a new building site for business and retail use. Graves said the Michigan Economic Devel

opment Corporation approved \$323,663 in tax See FUNDS on 9A





### **C** The DDA and the city act like master plans are

the law, like they can never be changed. In reality, they have

always been fluid and changed as the times changed. It is a lame argument."

### **CA huge thank** you to the city for bringing interesting and provocative



town. As an artist, I find it refreshing to see art that stimulates thought and commentary. That is, in fact, how you know it is art."

artwork to down-

### Texting and driving deaths on the rise

tance. You can't have it

my degree in four years

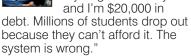
both ways. I obtained

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823 There is a message on billboards and other outdoor display devices around the country that reads — "Long is for you have been art if you

"Honk if you love Jesus. Ext if you

**the only way to succeed is to go** to college, and not provide any financial assis-



want to meet Him."

That may sound clever and cute, but the reality is texting and driving can be, and often is, fatal. While there have been no local

See TEXTING on 7A



**WThe new art** around town should provide ample opportunity for some interesting Hot line commentary by the populace over the next 12 months. I am definitely renewing my subscription.



Weekend \* SUNDAY EDITION



#### Times

### **Major family fun at Minor League parks**

Tri-County area has three Minor League teams located about an hour from here

#### **By David Troppens**

WWW.TCTIMES.COM

sstone@tctimes.com; 810-433-6786 Within many of our lifetimes, there once was only one option if you wanted to watch professional baseball.

For tri-county residents, that meant about an hour-long trip to Tiger Stadium or Comerica Park.

The Minor Leagues were an af terthought. How things have changed. In 1996, the Class

A Lansing Lugnuts be came reality. Then in 2002, the Mud Hens moved to their new state-of-the-art Fifth Third Field where they have a 10,300-capacity stadium in Toledo. Finally, in 2007 the Great Lakes Loons, located in Midland, became the third "major" Minor League squad

located about an hour from the tri-county area.

In short, there's nothing "minor" about



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO The Lansing Lugnuts, a Minor League Baseball team is affiliated with the Toronto Blue Jays, a Major League Baseball team.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

Minor League baseball parks are popular destinations for families wishing to watch a quality baseball game without breaking the bank. Three ballparks within a one-hour's drive of Fenton include the Mud Hens' Fifth Third Field in Toledo, Ohio, Great Lakes Loons in Midland and Lansing Lugnuts in Lansing.

Minor League baseball. While a game to Comerica Park can easily cost a family of four over \$200, a game at Toledo, Midland or Lansing will give any fan in the park a great seat located just feet from the field for a price under \$20 a ticket, and frequently under \$10.

There's no doubt that the Minor Leagues are there to entertain the family. There are fireworks after many weekend night games. Mascots are prevalent around the stadium. Between innings, there are enough funny events and competitions to keep even the nonbaseball fan entertained for three hours. Seemingly, every home game has some sort of promotion (like \$1 hotdogs) or a theme night (like Star Wars night) linked to it. Finally, the caliber of competition is good. All three teams have an affiliation to a Major League or ganization - the Detroit Tigers for the Mud Hens, the Los Angeles Dodgers for the Loons and the Toronto Blue Jays for the Lugnuts.

In short, while the Detroit T igers can rely on the team being its primary draw, Minor League teams have learned that



TRI-COUNTY TIMES I SUBMITTED PHOTO It's all about having fun at Minor League baseball games. Games provide fun things for kids to do and entertainment, such as mascots.

making the fan the priority is a way to a successful product.

"We look at every game always being somebody's first game, so we need to be on our 'A' game no matter what game or month it is," Matt DeVries, Great Lakes Loons communications manager said. "We like to think we're a pretty af fordable place. If a family comes to a Loons' game and sits on the lawn, you can come for about \$20. We are very afordable. We want the Loons to be something anyone can come to, and we want to create an environment that anyone can enjoy."

That's the theme of any of the three organizations. Here's a little more information about each team and stadium.

#### **Toledo Mud Hens**

Since Fifth Third Field opened in 2002, the stadium has earned many awards honoring it as among

one of the greatest Mi nor League parks in the country. The or ganization revitalized some old warehouse buildings as some of the bases to the new stadium creating a nifty downtown feel to the park. The Mud Hens, one of America's

SUMMAKY Area Minor League teams bring Major League entertainment to tri-county baseball fans and families.

most famous Minor League teams thanks to the character Klinger on the television show MASH, has one great draw for area fans — they are the Class AAAaffiliates for the Detroit Tigers.

Most tickets are \$12, but if you want to go to a weekend contest, you may want to purchase them in advance as many of the weekend night games sell out due to firework shows.

#### **Great Lakes Loons**

A Class Aaffiliate for the Dodgers, most of the Loons players will be in their young 20s, just beginning their dreams of making it to the show. It's a nice facility, as evidenced by Dow Stadium being named Baseball Digess' Best New Ballpark of 2007.

Seating capacity is 5,200 with games averaging between 3,500 to 4,200 fans See MINOR LEAGUES on 7A





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**

HOURS: Friday: .... Saturday & Sunday ..... Closed fB

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

General Office	810-629-8282	Hot Line	
Advertising	810-629-8281	Fax	
Classifieds	810-629-8194	Email	news@tctimes.com
Circulation	810-433-6797	Website	tctimes.com

WEEKEND TIMES

### Come Heller high water

### Mr. Fix-it ... or not!

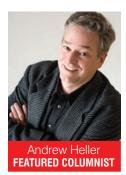
had a rare victory in my lifelong battle with thing s the other day. The belt for the self-propel on the mower broke and I decided to replace

'Oh God, here we go again,' the lovely yet formidable Marcia groaned. 'I'll get the first-aid kit.'

She's funny, that one.

It's true I don't have the greatest track record with fixing things.

There was the time I was trying to install a garbage disposal and it fell on my forehead. I also forgot to knock out some



plastic plug that the manual said was a 'crucial' step

that should never, ever be forgotten. The plumber and the emergency home water

damage response team thought that was funny. There was

the time I tried installing a floor in one of the bedrooms.

That went well. Personally, I think flooring that goes all the way to the other wall is overrated.

Then there was the time I tried to install a new door at my mom's house, or as it's known in family lore 'CussFest 2008.' Apparently, I set some kind of world record for the longest string of profanity ever produced by a single human in a single setting, although I didn't get a plaque or anything.

In my defense, no one told me that doors have to fit the space allotted for them, and if you get one that's a fraction too big, you should get a smaller one instead of taking a chisel to the door frame.

Apparently, that set some kind of 'bad precedent' with my mom. When I visit now and mention fixing something, she leaps from her chair and cries, 'Noooo!' She's pretty spry for 83.

But back to the mower. When the belt broke, Marcia said, 'Don't even think about it. I don't want to be a widow at my age. Besides, I'm too old to break in your replacement.'

Have I mentioned how funny she is? So, of course, I ignored her advice and went straight to the lawn equipment parts store. Parts stores and hardware stores love me for some reason. 'Gonna try it again?' said the owner.

andrewheller@tctimes.com

'Good for you, son. Get right back up on that horse.'

I assume he was referring to the 'Incident of 2015' when I started a small

brush fire in my **66** ... I backyard while fixing the gasstarted a powered weed whip. small brush The firefighters were good natured **fire in my** backyard I decided to be while fixing smarter this time and watch an online the gasvideo about how powered to replace a mower

about it.

belt. 'Easy-peasy,' I weed whip. 77 said after watching a guy change one in less than three minutes. Someone should really investigate those

videos. They lie. A lot. But in the end, I did it. I fixed the mower.

It took me the better part of two days and a half dozen or so trips (I lost count) to the parts store (for parts I didn't have and to replace parts I busted) and the hardware store (for tools I don't own to install and/or break things) but the stupid thing works. I even showed it off to Marcia.

'That's great, but what's that there,' she asked, pointing.

Um, that would be an extra part.

**FREE** SPRING CHECK UP ALIGNMENT CHECK





# Readers

Letters, 150 words or less, must be signed and include a phone number. We reserve the right to edit for clarity and liability Letters must be written exclusively for the Times.

tctimes.com

#### **106 West Shiawassee**

Dear Editor,

The house at 106 W. Shiawassee is over 100 years old and resides in what is left of our precious Historic Business District, which is listed in both state and national historic registries.

Look at their plan. The DDA would like to demolish more buildings on this block, on both sides of the road. And, in other areas of town. They plan to replace these with new buildings.

DDA's desire to bring new business, instead of supporting local has already cost Fenton. Hicks and our beloved Sweet Variations, both here for decades, both interested in this house, were denied the chance.

Please, Fenton, come together. Protect what is left of our historic district. Insist the DDA and city do the same.

Join us at the next DDA meeting in the City Hall, on Tuesday, May 17 at 6 p.m. Check our Facebook page. Please get the word out.

Sincerely. Kim Wheeler, Fenton Historical Society

#### **106 West Shiawassee**

Dear Editor,

Rumors have been circulated that 106 W. Shiawassee is in 'shoddy' condition. I have heard that it is filled with mold. Even that it does not have a bathroom. However, I have been inside and found none of these things to be true. It is also being said that it would take \$100,000 to \$150,000 or more to get the house up to code to run a business. Nothing I saw would indicate this. Indeed, only a few months ago a business was operating out of 106, with both the DDA's and the city's approval. By the DDA's own admission, several businesses have been willing to purchase this building as is. The DDA would not allow this, and has instead pushed for demolition. Shouldn't our DDA be protecting what's left of our historic town? There are plenty of other areas in Fenton to build new.

Teresa Doan, Fenton

### What's your least favorite commercial?



"There's too many. I try not to watch too much TV. That one with the 'awesome sauce', when they realize they're talking to their sister and they go 'awesome sauce.' It's for some insurance."

**Mary Clark** Tyrone Township



"I hate the cheesy commercials. I hate watching the ones about animal cruelty because they always make me cry."

**Dana Ceresia** Linden



"Anything to do with Charter, because they purposely put something on to annoy you. I will move and hit that remote as guickly as I can."



"Political commercials; the negative ones. They're all pretty awful."





"I don't like the mucus guy. They're like boogers. Those things are just gross. I think it's for Mucinex."

Morgan Schollhammer Fenton Township





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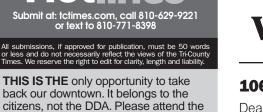


\*UP TO 5 QUARTS, DIESELS AND IMPORTS EXTRA

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MON-THURS 7AM-8PM | FRI 7AM-6PM | SAT 8AM-5PM | CLOSED SUNDAY

Compiled by Hannah Ball, staff reporter



the right to edit for clar

meeting at City Hall on Tuesday, May 17.

Appointed board members, some who

don't live in the city, should not override

the will of the residents. There are some

learn? The way to get better services for

to our government for them to hire more

off the government gravy train. It's called

private businesses. Stay out of our lives.

TO THE INCONSIDERATE guys spear

fishing on Squaw Lake at 11:45 p.m.

tween your extremely loud generator

and bright lights shining into our bed-

I HAVE TO use Medicaid now for insur-

ance instead of the private insurance I

used to have. I sure can tell the quality

It's sad that society puts people less

fortunate in a loser category.

of care I get now has really taken a dive.

WHY NOT EXTEND public school two

more years with the last two years in a

trade or vocational school? Some jobs

See **HOT LINE** throughout Times

require skills, not a degree. It would

help everyone earn a living wage.

room windows, you are not a welcome

Sunday with enough flood lights to

light up an entire football field. Be-

feature to summer.

roads, etc. is not to throw more money

incompetent crony employees to suck

ANDREW HELLER, WILL you ever

shenanigans going on.

### **Rolston Road might reopen within days**

Genesee County Road Commission to install temporary culvert

#### **By Hannah Ball**

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

The Michigan Department of Envi ronmental Quality (MDEQ) issued an emergency permit to the Genesee County Road Commission to build a temporary culvert at Rolston Road on Monday so the road could be reopened in a short time.

Fred Peivandi Gen esee County Road Commission County (GCRC) highway engineer said the proposed size is a 57- by 38-inch CSP arch pipe.

"Currently, we're working with the DEQ to establish the pro posed elevations for the pl acement of the pipe. The pipe has been ordered a nd awaiting delivery to the job site," Peivandi said.

The pipe will be installed after delivery and resolution on the elevations with the DEQ.

The culvert connecting Squaw and Loon lakes beneath Rolston Road failed in early April, and the culvert under Jennings Road, which connects Crane and Loon lakes, failed earlier this spring, according to James Watling, MDEQ Water Resources Division unit chief.

Since then, Rolston Road has been closed at the culvert between Jennings and Four Lakes Avenue.

After the temporary culvert is installed and the road reopened, the GCRC is going to perform hydraulic modeling at the site and for the surrounding lakes. A hydraulic model is acomputer simulation that is used to measure water levels and flow rates in a stream or lake system.

"Before issuing a permit for the per manent culvert, we have requested that the GCRC perform hydraulic modeling to verify that the appropriate size and dimensions of the culverts are installed on Jen nings Road at the Crane Lake outlet and Rolston Road at the Loon Lake outlet," Watling said.

Per a condition in themergency permit, the DEQ gave the GCRC 60 days to submit final plans for the permanent culvert.

Watling said he doesn't have a time frame for when the permanent culvert will be installed. He said the GCRC will likely need



**44**...if the hydraulic modeling indicates that lake levels cannot be maintained at pre-existing levels, then a different culvert would need to be installed. **77** 

James Watling MDEQ Water Resources Division unit chief

to seek bids for the hydraulic modeling, give bidders time toprepare estimates, and award the contract.

The engineers will then need to perform surveying and calculate the flow of storm water runof f, groundwater infiltration in the lakes, and other measurements to put into the hydraulic model to represent the conditions of the lakes.

"Once modeling is complete, detailed construction plans must be prepared and submitted with the permit application for the permanent structure," Watling said.

He s aid th e DE Q hopes the temporary culverts will be sufficient after all t he te sting is done. If it is sufficient, the permit would be is sued for those culverts and additional work would not be necessary. "However, if the hy-

draulic modeling indi cates that lake levels cannot be maintained at pre-existing levels,



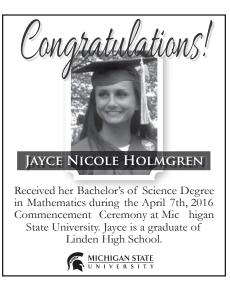
**TRI-COUNTY TIMES** I HANNAH BALL Rolston Road, between Jennings and Four Lakes Avenue, has been closed at the culvert location since the initial culvert collapsed, resulting in traffic being directed to surrounding roads.

then a dif ferent culvert would need to be installed," he said. "Additionally , our office has committed to meet with representatives of Crane and Loon Lake to discuss their concerns."

He added that it's possible they might incorporate their suggestions into the final design.



Buy Harris Bed Bug Killers/KIT Complete Treatment System at Hardware Stores, The Home Depot, homedepot.com



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WEEKEND TIMES

### Why some TV commercials work, some don't

Advertisers often use humor, repetition, and icons to help people remember them

#### **By Hannah Ball**

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792 Commercials are as frequent as plot twists and headlines involving Donald

Trump when you watch TV nowadays. Some are heartwarming, like Wigley's Extra gum commercial that shows a father making origami swans out of gum wrap per for his daughter and how she kept all of them throughout the years.

Everyone knows the Geico commer cials with the talking gecko, and Flo from Progressive Insurance commercials, who has a fan base on social media has become an advertising icon.

Some companies use catchy jingles like "the snack that smiles back" to sell products like Goldfish.

Some ask questions that become cul tural identifiers. "What is Jake from State Farm wearing?"

Other commercials use pop culture references, like Star Wars, to sell products like the popular commercial during last year's Super Bowl of a kid dressed like Darth Vader trying to use The Force to move objects. He's surprised when he starts his dads car, but doesn't see his dad using his key to turn the

SUMMARY

Advertising

is a \$70 billion

according to

The Atlantic,

makes these

commercials

industry,

but what

vehicle on from inside the house. What makes a com

mercial memorable? Shard Marketing & Branding President Tony Shard said there are a few things that make com mercials good.

effective? "First is if they're funny," he said. "If you

look at the Super Bowl commercials, the ones you typically remember are funny, they make you laugh."

Another factor is emotion.

"You watch those commercials with UNICEF and they make you cry There's an old say saying 'you cry you buy,'" he said, adding that they tug at your heart strings because they're usually about kids and animals.

Shard says he sees a lot of cheesy local commercials with catch phrases, which can also be effective.

"Look at Nike. The catch phrase they have is 'just do it,'" he said. "There' s got to be something about it that really resonates."

Shard said commercials that fill a need are effective, and even bad commercials can be effective because people remember them.

He said frequency is another important factor.



tctimes.com

WWW.NINTENDOAGE.COM Many companies have started using the same people in their ads, like Flo in Progressive commercials, to create a sense of familiarity with the viewers and potential customers.

"If you're only going to show it once, it's not going to be a very good TVcommercial," he said. This is often the dif ference between a cool commercial and a successful one.

Shard said with certain local channels, it only costs \$2 to show a commercial, but the price goes up if there are more viewers.

"You can get them quite easily but it's how many people are watching them," he said. "You've got to do something to stand out," he said.

Moreover, people often remember the commercial, but not the product that' s being advertised.

Calculating the revenue from commer cials is difficult because not every person who sees the ad will buy the product. Plus, companies would have to keep track of how customers heard about their prod ucts, and if it was through a commercial, to have accurate data on if they're fiscally effective.

A study done by MarketShare found that TV is still the most effective advertising medium, despite the popularity of Netflix and streaming services.

MarketShare found that "TV has the highest efficiency at achieving key performance indicators, or KPIs, like sales and new accounts. When comparing performance at similar spending levels, TV averaged four times the sales lift of digital," according to adweek.com.

Since TV is still the number one source of entertainment in U.S. homes, according to allbusiness.com, TV commercials reach more people compared to online and digital ads.

Companies also pay a lot of money for TV stations to show their ad during optimal times — like during morning news, right after work, and especially during the Super Bowl.



#### TEXTING

Continued from Front Page

fatalities attributed to distracted driving, so far, the statistics in Michigan and around the country speak for themselves.

The students in W inston Stoody's eighth-grade class at St. John School

in Fenton know it. They spent a great deal of time studying and gathering statis tics to present to the

ucs to present to the Fenton City Council earlier this year . They wanted local officials to adopt a distracted driving ordinance. The City Council ultimately deferred to st ate law, which already prohibits the practice.

One local man, who was driving with his

16-year-old granddaughter near Grand Traverse last Friday witnessed the aftermath of a fatal crash, which could have been caused by texting or distracted driving.

According to the Grand Taverse Sheriff's Office, on May 6, a semi-truck was stopped on U.S. 31, waiting to turn into a business. A 31-year-old woman drove straight into the back of the truck and died as a result of her injuries.

Because authorities are not 100 percent

### Facts about texting and driving

The United States Department of Transportation notes that cell phones are involved in 1.6 million auto crashes each year that cause a half million injuries and take 6,000 lives.

According to FocusDriven, up to 80 percent of all crashes involve some form of driver distraction.

During any point of the day, 11 percent of drivers are talking on their cell phones, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

A study from the University of Utah indicated that the reaction time of a teen driver using a cell phone is the same as that of a 70-year-old driver who is not using a cell phone.

According to the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute, texting while driving is six times more likely to cause an auto crash than driving when intoxicated.

The Virginia Tech Transportation Institute installed cameras on dashboards inside truck cabs. From the video footage, on average it took five seconds with their eyes off the road when drivers experienced distractions. The distance covered in five seconds of driving at 55 mph is equivalent to the length of a football field.

Source: donttextdrive.com



positive if she was on her cell phone, her identity will remain anonymous. "It is unknown what typof distraction

contributed to the crash last week," said Lt. Brian Giddis of the Grand T raverse Sheriff's Office. "Since there were no passengers and

the driver is deceased, we will never

have a definite answer," he said. "There was a phone present in the car but whether it was the sole source or contribut ing source of distraction is unknown for sure."

The fact that it may have contributed to her un-timely death is enough to scare anyone into putting the phone down and paying attention to the road.

According to her obituary , the de ceased driver was a jewelry designer who loved animals and was a devoted friend to many. She was a young mother who was about to marry the love of her life, and become a stepmother to a young lady she adored.

Their lives will never be the same.

### Message to share:

Visit **donttextdrive.com** to view two emotional videos from a mother and sister, who lost a loved one in a texting and driving accident.

According to the video introduction, "On Feb. 19, 2011 Ashley Jones-Davis was killed in a horrific car accident. She was texting and driving when she left the center lane and drove head on into a box truck. She died at the scene.

"Since that time her family has dedicated countless hours and emotional energy telling Ashley's story. They want other families to not have to go through the pain and loss they have experienced.

"Please take a moment and hear from Cheryce Davis Jones, Ashley's sister and best friend, and Diana Jones, Ashley's mother. Then help spread this important message by sharing these links with all your friends and families. You may just save a life."

#### MINOR LEAGUES Continued from Page 3A

said DeVries. The tickets are extremely affordable, ranging from \$6.50 for a lawn seat to \$10.50 for a regular seat if you purchase your tickets the day of a game.

Dow Stadium's unique feature may be their fire pits located in the outfield and two fireplaces near the home plate concourse.

#### Lansing Lugnuts

A Class Aaffiliate of the Toronto Blue Jays, the Lugnuts' Cooley Law School Stadium holds about 10,000 fans.

The stadium has undegone many reno vations with most being featured for the first time this season. The most obvious new feature is the tailgate terrace in leftand center-fields, giving the field a new state-of-the art concession stand where fans can sit and enjoy the Good Hops Craft Beer Bistro. Located directly above the bistro is a fourstory apartment building where renters can enjoy the festivities from their apartment windows.

There are plenty of promotions during the season, including weekend fireworks and \$2 beer Thursdays. T ickets range from \$9 to \$36 if purchased on game day

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**44** The distance covered in five seconds of driving at 55 mph is equivalent to the length of a football field. **77** 

Virginia Tech Transportation Institute Texting and Driving Study

#### **HOT LINE** CONTINUED

I DON'T HAVE to give an example of Foster Childs being cruel or insensitive or full of hate. He does it every time he writes his column.

YOU THINK THE Republican competition was fair and not rigged? What are you watching? If you think Sanders is having a hard time with not having his votes matter, how about Cruz? How many of Cruz's votes really mattered?

#### 

WOULD SOMEBODY PLEASE explain in the Hot lines what LGBT stands for? Thank you very much for your courtesy.

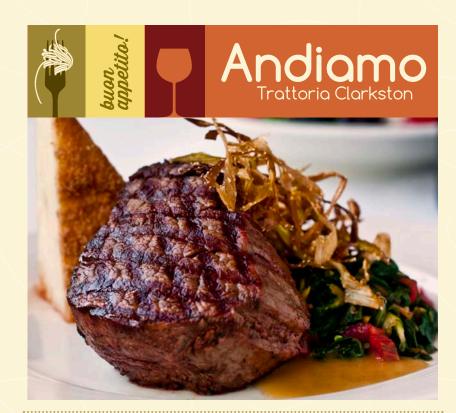
#### 

IF THERE ARE any DDA members who do not want to start tearing down Dibbleville, I hope they speak up and be a leader and not a follower.

#### THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION is fighting for the right to allow perverts to use the bathrooms and locker rooms of women and children. The Obama administration is against everything that is good, moral and logic.

MICHIGAN IS ONE of the only states with a surgeon general. Her name is Dr. Kimberlydawn Wisdom who makes \$150,000 a year. Contact your representative and ask why.







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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO

In the back, Colleen and Roger Curtis stand with their four children Noah (left), Shae, Corbin, and Nichelle in 2011.

### 'We didn't give it a second thought'

We didn't

give it a second

thought. We

knew we should

have them. 77

**Colleen Curtis** 

Linden High School secretary

couple took

in two young

children after

their parents

drunk driving crash in 2001.

were killed in a

Linden couple adopts niece and nephew after their parents are killed by drunk driver

#### By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

One Linden woman knew she wanted to be a mother from a young age, and had two children by 2000. But in 2001, Colleen Curtis, 44, and her husband, Roger, 44, took in two more children after Colleen's sister and brother-in-law were killed in a drunk driving crash.

Colleen's sister and brother -in-law attended a banquet that night in 2001, and on their way home a drunk driver ran a red light going 55 mph in a 35 mph zone.

He didn't have his car lights on and crashed into their van.

"He basically T-boned them," Colleen said. Her brother -in-law

died that day and her sister died two days later leaving behind their children Noah, who was 4, and Shae, who was only four months old.

They fought to get guardianship of the children and went through a legal battle for years with a family member and another non-related party.

"We didn't give it a second thought. We knew we should have them," she said.

It took about two years for Colleen and Roger to adopt them.

Colleen said she usually doesn't say anything to people about the situation.

"I'm not looking to be praised for it, I never have been. I dont like when people say 'oh they're your niece and nephew'" she said, adding that they are her kids and SUMMARY she loves them as if she gave birth to them. ■ A Linden

"Roger and I got married in '99 and had Corbin in 2000 and then had two additional kids in 2001," she said. In 2002 they moved from Mundy Township to a bigger house in Gaines to accommodate four kids. Their oldest, Nichelle was 6 at the time. Corbin had just been born. and they added Noah and Shae. "It was pretty busy."



She worked in Troy at the time when everything happened and then quit to be a stay-at-home mom.

Curtis said they were always honest with Noah, and didn' t push him to call them "Mom" and "Dad."

"We'd always say 'your first parents, your first mom and dad," she said. They waited until Shae was older to

tell her to avoid confusing her.

She said it was hard for her oldest, Nichelle, because she went from getting most of the attention to suddenly having two more siblings.

The kids are teenagers and young adults now.

Nichelle recently turned 23, and Noah, who's almost 20, just finished his second year of college. Shae, now 15, and Corbin, 16, attend Linden High School.

"They're all so different," she said. "They're good kids. I love them all for their own unique personalities."

She said she doesn' t know what she's going to do when all the kids leave the house,

"Just continue to work," she said. "But I can tell you this, there is a whole lot of

guilt raising kids," she said, adding that she hasdoubts on whethershe did enough for her kids.

"It can definitely be trying," she said. But looking back at when people would ask her what she wanted to do when she grew up, she said she just thought of being a mom.

> "They all make me proud in their own ways. Their happiness and well being is all I care about. I am not a very religious person but I always wonder if my sister and brotherin-law are watchingus, if they would be happy of how Noah and Shae

are being raised and how they are turning out," she said. "That is constant."

She said she feel likes expectations are always higher because of the situation. "I put a lot of pressure on myself.

Nichelle will tell you that. It's my job, it's what I do," she said. "I couldn't have gotten where we are now without Roger our family and friends."

### Superintendent candidates narrowed to two

Second round of interviews to take place Tuesday

#### By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

The Fenton Board of Education has se lected two candidates for a second round of interviews for the permanent superintendent position.

A pool of 27 appli cants was narrowed to five candidates, who were in terviewed Tuesday and Wednesday night.

From those five candidates, the Board of Education selected two individ uals, Adam Hartley and Jennifer Ham mond, for a second round of interviews on Tuesday, May 17.

Hartley is the execu tive director of Gear Up 2 Lead, and di rector of innovative projects for Swartz Creek Community Schools.

Hammond is the principal of Grand Blanc High School.

Fenton Board of Education President Drew Shapiro said both Hartley and Hammond were very professional in their presentations.

'We think they have an experience level that was dif ferent from the other candidates," he said.

FUNDS

**Continued from Front Page** 

increment financing (TIF) for the redevelopment of the blighted property at 102 W Silver Lake Road.

The developer, SkyPoint V entures, plans to construct a mixed-use building consistent with the character of downtown Fenton, which will create 25 full-time jobs and generate a total investment of \$5 million into the local economy.

area of downtown Fenton, it will result in support this project at its April 25 meeting. 25 jobs, a huge investment into the city and a new building," Graves said. "This is Hughes, representing the builder , said an example of the economic recovery we have nurtured in the Legislature for the past five years, creating an environment in which businesses can grow and jobs year and a half to complete.



Hammond

Adam Hartley

#### **Cour questions** were designed where you couldn't answer if you didn't have the right amount of experience. 77 Drew Shapiro

Fenton Board of Education president

board meeting. Busch, who also is the executive director of finance and personnel, has decided not to seek the permanent position. He has been doing both jobs since last summer, after former Superintendent T im Jalkanen resigned.

"Our questions were designed where you couldn't answer if you didn't have

the right amount of experience," Shapiro

said. "It was really evident with how they

Shapiro, along with Interim Superin tendent Doug Busch and school board

**Trustee Dana Jones** 

will be escorting the two candidates

around the Fenton

Monday.

Shapiro said.

district separately on

members have been tasked with contact-

ing their current

districts and vet -

ting their referenc -

es, things like that,"

The Board of Edu-

cation will be making

a decision on which

of the final two candi-

dates will be made an

offer to become Fen -

ton's next permanent

superintendent during

its Tuesday, May 17

"The other board

answered or not answered the questions

that they were the two to go with.'

The May 17 Board of Education meet ing is open to the public.

are created."

SkyPoint Ventures will construct the two- or three-story building once the property is rehabilitated. The Fenton Downtown Development Authority is restricting \$350,000 of its funds toward the project, and the developer is requesting the Michigan Department of Envi ronmental Quality contribute \$244,174 in TIF support for the project.

The Fenton City Council approved the Not only will this enhance a blighted restriction of \$350,000 in DDA funds to

At the April DDA meeting, Peter once all approvals are secured, there could be shovels in the ground in six months, but more likely it would take a year to a





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### Think twice before you leave pet in car

SUMMARY

prohibit leaving

animals in cars

outside during

Legislators considering bill that would punish owners for leaving pets in hot cars

#### **By Hannah Ball**

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792 Under two new Senate bills, it would be illegal to leave a dog in a car during dangerous weather conditions, such as hot temperatures.

Senators Rick Jones and Curtis Hertel Jr. introduced senate Bills 930 and 931 May 3.

Senate Bill 930 states that a person cannot "leave or confine an animal in an unattended motor vehicle under condi tions that endanger the health or wellbeing of the animal, including, but not limited to heat, cold, lack of adequate ventilation, lack of food or wateror other circumstances that could reasonably be expected to cause suf fering, disability, or death of an animal."

The first offense would be punishable by up to 45 days in jail and/or up to a \$350 fine, and a second violation would be punishable by up to 90 days and 931 would in jail and/or up to a \$500 fine.

The bill is currently in the Senate.

potentially dangerous These bills were introduced weather conditions. prior to when hot weather strikes Michigan and leaving animals in hot cars becomes an issue.

According to the American V eterinary Medical Association (AVMA), the temperature in your car rises almost 20 degrees in 10 minutes on a hot day In 20 minutes, it can rise 30 degrees.



Leaving your animal in a car could be illegal if Michigan legislation becomes law, punishable by up to 45 days in iail and/or up to a \$350 fine on the first offense, and punishable by up to 90 days in jail and/or up to a \$500 fine on a second offense.

One study conducted by the Louisiana Office of Public Health found that the

temperatures in a dark sedan and a light gray minivan exceeded 125 degrees Fahr-Senate Bills 930 enheit within 20 minutes parked on a hot and partly cloudy day.

Even i f t he temperature might not seem too hot for humans, it's dangero us for animals, according to the AVMA, and cracking a win dow doesn't make a difference.

The bills are currently in the Senate and was referred to the Judiciary Committee on May 3. In order to become lawthe bill needs to pass in the Senate, House, and be signed into law by Gov. Rick Snyder.

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES I TIM JAGIELO

"McDonald's Night" on Tiesday, May

Team Patterson will also host a Color

Fun Run on Saturday June 4, with check-

in at 9 a.m. for a two-mile course, to

raise money for the playscape and create

awareness for healthy living. The \$20 entry fee will include sunglasses, Tshirt,

race bib and color packet. A DJ and

PattersonColorRun.eventbrite.com.

refreshments will be available. Register at

the beginning of the next school year,"

said Janell Minnick, treasurer of T eam

About 400 students currently use

the playground equipment at Patterson

in the area could triple the number of

People interested in making

donations can make them to the

Go Fund Me account at:

www.gofundme.com/kd7j9rpc

or can send them to:

Patterson Elementary

ATTN: Team Patterson

3231 Grange Hall Rd.

Holly, MI 48442

on evenings and weekends.

"We want the playscape to be ready for

24, from 4 to 7 p.m., at the Holly Road

location will provide 15 percent of sales

Second-grade students play on the existing playscape at Patterson Elementary in Holly on Monday. The school will be receiving a \$50,000 replacement this year.

### Playscape plan brings Holly community together final stages as the school year winds

down to a close.

Patterson.

toward the playground.

■New \$50,000 playground coming this summer to Patterson Elementary School

#### **By Sally Rummel**

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282 They may call it "child' s play," but the new playscape planned at Patterson Elementary School in Holly Area Schools has been fun and work not only for the kids, but the entire community.

The "Partnership for Play" project to raise \$50,000 to replace the decades-old deteriorating wooden structure began last fall, and has involved the school, local municipalities, businesses and families.

So far, more than \$41,000 has been raised, getting a huge jumpstart from The State Bank with \$10,000 in seed money. The rest has been raised by Fam Patterson, the school' s parent-teacher organization, through bottle drives, a loose chan ge drive, Hallo ween pa rty, Valentine's Day dance, bowling party and Spirit Wear sales. A Go Fund Me page netted the project \$4,347.

"I used to play on that playground," has been the sentiment expressed by many people who opened their wallets during many local fundraisers. Some families gave \$250 in support of the project, and will have their names engraved on a bench plaque at the playground.

Fundraising efforts are now in their

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### SPRING BRINGS SCULPTURES

TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

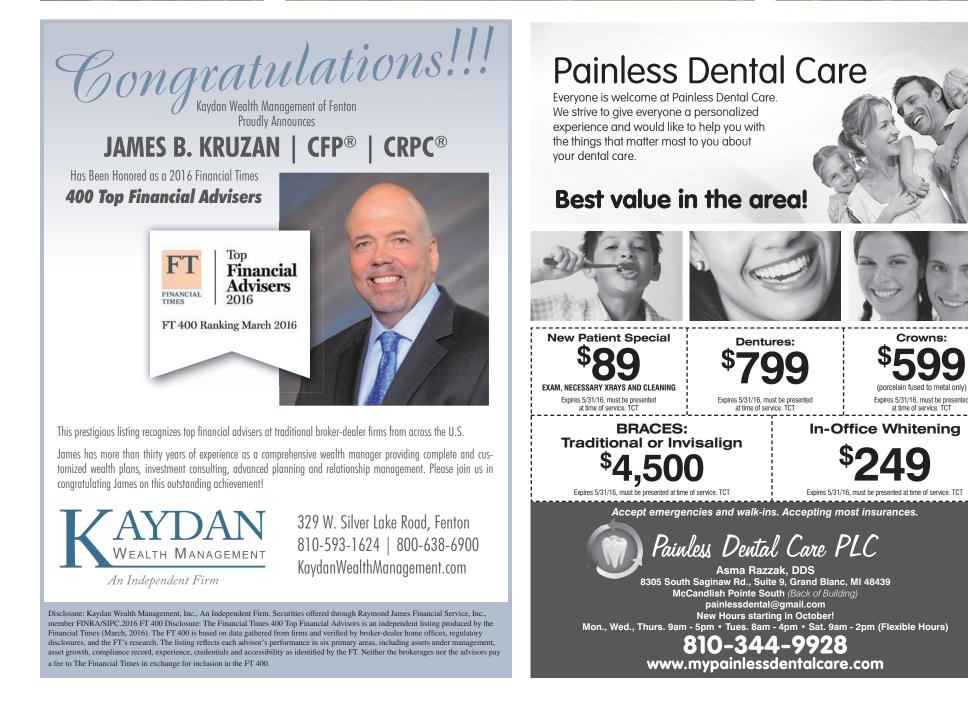
Fenton — On Tuesday, eight new sculptures were installed throughout downtown Fenton, as part of the Downtown Development Authority's annual art program, which started in 2013. The budget this year to rent the art is \$12,000, an increase from the original budget of \$9,054. There are now 10 sculptures, including "Stainless Steel Butterfly," and permanent piece, "Pescado II."











#### HOT LINE CONTINUED

TEA PARTY IS out. The Republican liberal 'Billionaire Party' is in.

OBAMA CONTINUES HIS legacy campaign. He went to Germany to apologize for Hitler committing suicide. He's in Hiroshima where we dropped the first atomic bomb and I hear he is heading to Little Big Horn to apologize to the Cheyenne for having killed George Custer in 1876. When will it end?

#### CINCO DE MAYO is not Mexico's independ-

ence day from Spain. Google 'Brian Greene, Cinco de Mayo' for a great article explaining the holiday's true origins. By the way, don't include me in your question 'why do we celebrate Cinco de Mayo?' I don't.

#### 

TO ALL GREAT Americans, as you finalize your Memorial Day plans, please be sure to reserve some time to recognize the reason for the holiday: 'for those who gave their lives that the nation might live. It is altogether proper and fitting that we should do this.' -Abraham Lincoln

#### 

OUTLAW KNIVES NOW. Stabbing spree in Massachusetts unacceptable. Oklahoma City beheading unacceptable. The 911 terrorists used knives. Where is the outrage over knife violence? FBI reports in 2014, more people killed by knife than assault rifle. Outlaw all knives now.

WHAT HAPPENED TO the Democratic Party? They seem to be for anyone who fills their pockets. Hillary claims to be for the little guy, yet receives campaign money from the KKK and underpays her female staff. Hillary has received \$222 million from Wall Street.

CLINTON IS CORRECT. Emails were not marked 'classified.' The government never

#### GUILTY

**Continued from Front Page** 

The charges are related to an incident that occurred on Sept. 5, 2015 in Ar gentine Township involving a juvenile female.

Argentine Township Police Chief Dan Allen said after the incident occurred, the victim and her parents filed a complaint with the police department. Det. Doug Fulton immediately began looking into the allegations.

Fulton was able to recover video sur veillance footage from a nearby business, which showed Corbett and the victim getting into his vehicle late at night. Within days, Corbett confessed. Allen said Corbett was cooperative during the investigation.

Corbett was originally charged with one count of fourth-degree CSC and four counts that she is extremely proud of her daughter of third-degree CSC, however, through a plea agreement, the third-degree CSC charges were amended to second-degree CSC for the May 10 court hearing, which

marks documents 'classified;' markings are either 'confidential,' 'secret' or 'top secret.' She is distorting an honest statement to cover her crimes. It is Hillary's equivalent to Bill's 'I never had sexual relations with that woman' statement.

WEEKEND TIMES

#### PRESIDENT TRUMP? OUR country is in

trouble. People know that he lies. Proven nontruths come out of his mouth and they believe him. Must be the same people who watched 'The Apprentice.'

TRUMP IS NOT the disease but rather the antidote for political discourse. The liberals have overplayed their hand on political correctness, racism, LGBT, global warming, and class warfare. Heller's column is also on Trump's antitoxin list.

#### 

THE VILLAGE OF Holly has new village offices. A brand new electronic sign. The DPW gets a brand new huge pole barn. Is this what they do with our water bond money? I'm still paying the highest water bills in the state. 

IF IT'S MORE important for Paul Ryan to represent the globalist agenda rather than that of the Republican Party nominee, he should step down as speaker. There are about 30 congressmen who supported Cruz who want to represent the people, let them take over.

#### DRIVING THROUGH DIBBLEVILLE in

downtown Fenton this evening I noticed new 'art.' First, who selects these pieces? Second, are the citizens actually paying for these 'works of art?

#### 

IF THE 'BLACK lives matter' movement really cared about black lives, they'd be in Detroit demanding teachers get back in the classroom.

was originally to be the beginning of his

criminal trial. Each count was based on the act Corbett committed against the victim. Corbett was arraigned on the char ges on Sept. 11, 2015. He posted bond and

was placed on a tether at his mother Argentine Township home pending his court case.

Upon pleading guilty T uesday to the charges, Corbett was transported to the Genesee County Jail where he will remain until his sentencing, which is scheduled for June 14. According to court records, Corbett will receive one year incarcera tion in the county jail and five years of probation. There is to be no contact with the victim.

Corbett will also be listed on the Michi gan Sex Offender Registry for 25 years.

The victim's mother said W ednesday for speaking up about the incident. She also thanked the Ar gentine Township Police Department and Det. Doug Fulton for all of their hard work on this case.



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TRI-COUNTY TIMES I SUBMITTED PHOTO

Doug Scoville of Davisburg Bread Company places his loaves on bread pans in preparation for baking.

### **Davisburg Bread Company opens in Holly**

Artisan bread bakery turns out nine different varieties of hand-shaped loaves

#### By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282 Patience is a virtue, not only in one's daily life, but also in building abusiness and baking bread.

Doug Scovill has learned the value of patience firsthand, as the owner of Davisburg Bread Company in downtown Holly

Open since late April, Scovill has turned his bread-baking hobby into a business, selling nine different varieties of artisan loaves from his new location at 204 S. Saginaw St. Scovill also sells loaves from the Davisburg Bake Shop at 650 Broadway in downtown Dav isburg, Tuesday through Friday, from 3:30 to 6 p.m.

Crusty tender artisan breads with names like Crackle Crust French, Golden Flaxseed and Honey, Dark Round Rye, San Francisco Sour Dough and more keep customers lined up from morning to afternoon. "Come in early so your favorite loaves are still available," said Scoville, who does all the nighttime bread baking himself. Hours are Tiesday through Friday, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

In addition, baker Cyndi Deniau turns out a number of sweet treats every day — from muffins and quick breads to cookies and scones.

Scoville prides himself on making bread the old-fashioned way, using the actual fermentation process where the starch and sugars are broken down, creating a tender loaf with a texture and density not found in mass-manu factured breads.

"We make it slow and don' hurry the process," said Scovill.

He has tentative plans to open the front part of business into a café serving sandwiches and soups, s ome time this summer. For more information, call (248) 382-5307.

### THIS WEEK'S INSERTS



- C&L Ward Brothers
- CVS Pharmacy
- Family Farm & Home
- R Great Outdoors Feature
- Holly Foods

  - Rite Aid
  - Sears Hometown Stores
  - Southern Lakes Parks & Rec
  - Target
- VG's
  - Walmart



#### HOT LINE CONTINUED

I LIVE ON Torrey Road and the law might says it's OK to walk, jog or bicycle on Torrey, but there are people pushing babies, walking dogs, bicyclers and joggers going the wrong way into traffic. It is very dangerous. Somebody is going to get killed.

THAT PROPERTY ON North Road is for sale. That's a joke, right? It doesn't look like it's big enough to build on. And if you did build, where would you park? Also you've got the expressway about 10 feet out your back door, so something's not right.

IT'S 10 O'CLOCK Wednesday morning. I see people are still stopping on LeRoy Street at the Fenton Hotel for a red light that's half way up the road. Funny.

**THE DDA IS** hoping the opposition to tearing down the Dibbleville building will die down. Please help us save our history and attend the DDA meeting this Tuesday, May 17 at 6 p.m. at city hall. **TO MY TYPICAL** 'I read Foster Childs column as tongue in cheek' and responded same. And his column is always a good read.

**GREAT ARTICLE ON** the traffic lights. I would like to see an article on the ridiculous stop signs that are 10 feet from each other on Main Street and Silver Lake Road in downtown Fenton.

#### 

WEEKEND TIMES

IT INFURIATES ME to see Detroit parents in Lansing protesting the millions of dollars that Michigan taxpayers will provide their Sunday, May 15, 2016

17A

MY WATER BILL is \$350 per month for a family of four. My street looks like a third-world country. There are dilapidated build-ings strewn throughout the city. But Holly DPW gets a brand new pole barn. Nice to

live in Fascist Michigan.

**LEAVE VEK'S ALONE**, they're good people. They do good, honest work for a fair price.





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#### DRUNK DRIVING Continued from Front Page

We think that this is powerful enough to convince students to not make a mis take that could ruin the rest of their lives," Metcalfe said on behalf of his class.

It took several local people and agencies to assist in the filming of this PSA. They include Judge Mark McCabe of the Genesee County 67th District Court, the Fenton police and fire departments, Sharp Funeral Homes, and Fenton High School teachers, students and families.

Fenton Fire Chief Bob Cairnduff said his department has worked with the Fen ton High School video production class for a few years now.

We helped them with the PSA they made last year and they have made a few PSA (fire prevention and education) videos for us as well," he said. "Their teach-

**66** A lot of our

firefighters

have kids in

the Fenton

schools and

some in the

high school

right now, so

all of us. 77

**Bob Cairnduff** 

Fenton fire chief

er Mr. (Rich) Ashley really cares about the kids an d the quality of the education in the class," Cairn duff said. "He and the k ids have been great to work with. He really puts it hits home to the pressure on the k ids to do well with the video projects and it shows.

"Both the video last year and the one this year are very emotional," he said:"A lot of our firefighters have kids in the Fenton schools and some in the high school right now, so it hits home to all of us.

"As firefighters we have witnessed firsthand the dangers of drinking and driving," he added. "Unfortunately, we have seen it too many times. It is something that sticks with you when you see someone injured or even killed by a drunk driver.

'The number of lives that are affected by the one person that makes a bad deci sion to drive when they shouldnt, is sad, Cairnduff said. "We hope that by helping with these important videos that even if one child makes the right decision, that we have helped.

"We are always excited to interact with the schools," he said. "I feel it is very important for us, the fire department, to be visible to the kids in the schools and for them to feel comfortable with us and know that we are always there to help them.

Fenton Police Chief Rick Aro said the police department is very proud and pleased to be a part of this important project.

"We make it a priority to participate in these PSAs when asked," said Aro. "I am always amazed at the quality of work our kids produce."

#### A word from the class:

On behalf of the FHS News (Advanced Video Production), Scott Cubr and Sam Metcalfe provided the following information:

The three main students in the video are Aaron Boulay, Nick Melero and Shayla Lucas.

Aaron is the one who dies, Nick is in the wheelchair, and Shayla is the girlfriend.

The producers of this were Erin Bedell, Scott Cubr, Sam Metcalfe, and Alex Wert.

The cameramen were Jake Gutzeit, Bryce Nakkula, Michael Pearce, Brendan Triola, Zenab Torabi and Sammie Buswell. However, a majority of the class, which is the Advanced Video Productions Class, assisted in miscellaneous ways, such as giving ideas and organizing some of the scenes.

Teacher, Rich Ashley came up with the idea for the Prom PSAs five years ago, feeling that it is very important to raise awareness about the dangers of drinking and driving, as well as underage drinking.

He also recognized that prom and graduation season is a time when, unfortunately, many students tend to make poor choices regarding alcohol. This PSA is meant to help educate people about not only the danger teens put themselves in if you get behind the wheel after drinking alcohol, but also the impact they can have on innocent lives as well.

The impact has been overwhelmingly positive with people expressing how powerful it is.

We had numerous people actually cry when we aired it,' said Cubr and Metcalfe. 'We have received over 80,000 views on YouTube as of May 13. We even had people from the set of the upcoming movie 'Wolverine 3' comment on it, saying that it is awesome. 'Really well done and the production value is through the roof.'

They also could not believe that this was produced by high school students.

We had a lot of help and support from the following parents, students, businesses and organizations: 67th District Court, Fenton, Becky Cubr Photography, Bret Miller and family, Fenton Police Department, Fenton Fire Department, Genesee Valley Vault, Institute for Medical Simulation, Mott Community College, Judge Mark McCabe, Puneet Gupta, MD, K.C. Baran, P.C, Attorney and Counselor, Sharp Funeral Homes, STAT EMS, St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, Temrowski Family Funeral Home, Nick Mansour, Tatum Foster, Max Herzog, Tim and Leslie Boulay, Jose and Jen Melero, Parker Toonder, Andrew Celini, Nick Farella, Ryan Parks and Vic Canever Chevrolet.



### Fenton Optimists honor 'kids in the middle'

**11** was 10 years old

and had never played

catch with any man

in my life. 77

Herman "Herm" Ferguson

Inspirational Speaker

Speaker is living proof of the positive impact teachers can have on their students

#### By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

**Linden** — Area teachers and school administrators say it's their favorite event of the year — when they can showcase the achievements of some kids "in the middle" at the annual Fenton Area Op timist Club "Turn Around Achievement Awards" luncheon.

This year's event was held on Wednesday, May 11, at Spring Meadows Country Club in Linden.

Principals and teachers in the Fenton, Lake Fenton and Linden school districts begin watching for potential award winners at the beginning of each school year

They are looking for students who start the school year with academic, behavioral or other problematic issues that have negatively affected their class work and lives — and by the end of the school year have turned it all around to become happy productive, successful students.

Four or five of these students are chosen from each of the three school districts to be honored with awards and gifts at the lunch eon.

Each year, local leaders and law en forcement of ficials,

join the students and their families for the ceremony, to present each middleschooler with certificates of achievement from their home communities, and hear from an inspirational speaker.

This year's inspirational speaker was Herman "Herm" Ferguson of Fenton.

Dan Ferguson, principal of Lake Fenton Middle School, who is no relation to the guest speaker, emceed the luncheon with Eric Rettenmund, assistant principal at AGS Middle School in Fenton.

Ferguson told those in attendance that families who live in southern Genesee County, and have the choice of sending their children to Fenton, Lake Fenton, Linden schools, or St. John's are very fortunate.

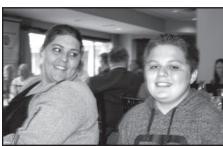
"Oh my goodness, spin the wheel and pick," he said.

Speaking of students in the local school districts, Rettenmund said he believes, "Everyone is gifted, some just haven' t been unwrapped yet."

Herm Ferguson provided a very emotional message, which left many in the audience, and himself, in tears.

A 1977 graduate of Fenton High School, Ferguson has owned a lawn and tree business for 32 years.

He said, 46 years ago, someone turned



TRI-COUNTY TIMES I VERA HOGAN Aaron Campbell is a seventh-grade student at Lake Fenton Middle School. His teacher said he has a great sense of humor, but that humor sometimes got him into big trouble. He turned his life around and is now an A-plus student.



**TRI-COUNTY TIMES** I VERA HOGAN Herman Ferguson (left) poses with fifthgrade teacher who changed his life, Tony Book. Ferguson joked that he should be in the Guinness Book of World Records as being the longest teacher's pet.

his life around — his fifth-grade teacher, Tony Book.

Ferguson said one day after class, his teacher came to him and said, "You're not going home today . Today you're going home with me."

Ferguson described how he came from an alcoholic, abusive family where his father beat him and his siblings regularly. "I went home with Mr. Book that day,

> we had dinner , and after dinner we went out back and played catch," said Ferguson. "I wa s 10 ye ars ol d and had never played catch with any man in my life."

Ferguson said he

went to bed that night

and slept very well. "I knew I wouldn't get awakened in the middle of the night to get beat up," he said.

Ferguson said he was with Book for a couple of months. His parents divorced and his father moved to Florida. His mother worked hard to support the family while at the same time getting an education for herself.

"I moved on with life," he said. "Are you still in touch with that fifth-

grade teacher, people ask," he said. An emotional Fer guson then pointed

to Book in the audience and said to him, "I can never repay you for what you've done for me."

Ferguson said, "He (Book) took an insecure 10-year-old kid and made me believe in myself."

To the students winning awards, Ferguson said of their school and teachers, "The task ahead of you is never as great as the power behind you."

He told them to be confident that their teachers will always be there to help and support them.

### <sup>2016</sup> Turn Around Achievement Award winners

#### Fenton (AGS Middle School)

Gary Marme, 7th grade Isaiah Crockett, 7th grade Mason Church, 7th grade Camryn Cross, 8th grade Quentin Ortega, 8th grade

Lake Fenton (Lake Fenton Middle School)

> Ella Dobbs, 6th grade Aaron Campbell, 7th grade Kiah King, 8th grade Mark Cabot, 8th grade

Linden (Linden Middle School) Alexis McLaughlin, 8th grade Courtney Teschker, 8th grade Ashton Fowler, 8th grade Preston Thomas, 8th grade

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### **Protesting on Shiawassee**



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Joe and Michelle Sennabaum protest along with others outside of 106 West Shiawassee Ave. Tuesday afternoon. The three buildings behind them could be razed to make way for a new development, which the couple said, will have "no history or roots" in Fenton.

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#### HOT LINE CONTINUED

AS FOR ME and the bathroom situation, if I ever see a man dressed as a women or a man going in the ladies room after my wife, daughter or granddaughter, I will throw that person out.

**TO ANDREW HELLER**, of course Obama didn't 'go through the full history of what happened to Flint.' It would have shown what 50 years of liberal Democrat policy and leadership will get you. Stop analyzing symptoms and focus on the root cause.

**TO THE HOT** line about staying in the left lane if not turning right onto Silver Parkway. Have tried that and oftentimes l've been unable to get back over to get on the expressway or had to make traffic behind me stop until I could get over. It's far safer just to stay in the right lane, even if that makes someone have to wait for a stop light.

BLAMING THE DETROIT schools graduation rate solely on Detroit teachers is very narrow minded. Until you spend a day in any inner city classroom or even the main office, you have no idea what the employees face each day.

**ANSWER TO HOT**-liner — Cinco de Mayo is not independence from Spain. It was success in defeating a French attack. We celebrate because it is fun, just like St. Patrick's Day. Would love it if all American ethnics had a fun day.

#### WITH ALL THE problems we have, we have the DOJ spending resources on where we can go to the bathroom? This is why people are turning to Trump. Hillary will follow in the footsteps of Obama and fight for your toilet rights, get free stuff for you and punish the responsible.

**TO THE CALLER** who does not want to look at weeds and plastic on Donaldson Drive. It's a simple solution — get off your couch and clean it up.

**OBAMACARE IS A** failure. The insurance companies we propped up with our money are going bankrupt. It's unbelievable the degradation Obama is putting us through.

I DIDN'T REALIZE that my husband was an artist until I drove by the 'art' at the post office. It looks eerily similar to the monkey bars he tried to build for our twin boys last year. We ended up tearing it down and throwing it away.

AS A CHRISTIAN and member of the American Family Association I am proud to say that a major retailer has now lost over \$2.5 billion and 1.2 million customers because of their bathroom policy involving transgenders going into the ladies bathrooms.

#### I DON'T GENERALLY criticize, but it must be stated that the new art that now graces our downtown is certainly different than any concept of art that I have ever seen.

**I HAVE ALWAYS** supported the concept of the DDA but they have outlived their usefulness if they spend taxpayer money on tearing down half a block of Dibbleville, moving a perfectly good post office and renting the ugliest sculptures I have ever seen.

### News briefs

#### ART IT UP UP AND AWAY

Art it Up Up and Away is an art show sponsored by the Linden Arts Council on Saturday, May 21. The event is held in conjunction with a Fly-In at Horizon Airpark at Price's Airport. The event runs from 8 a.m. until 12 p.m. The Airpark is sponsoring a pancake breakfast as part of the event. The Linden Arts Council will host approximately 10 artists ranging from painters, photographers to potters. Artist Shadia will be doing live paintings during the show. Corky Welsh, a member and resident of the Horizon Airpark, expects between 20 and 60 aircraft to participate in the Fly-In. The Arts Council will also serve refreshments and have music. Marco Keech will be on hand to teach children to make paper airplanes. The Linden Dance Academy will be presenting two dancing exhibitions at the event, one at 9 a.m. and another at 10 a.m.

#### RECEPTION FOR NEW FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF FENTON PASTORS

Following the retirement of longtime pastor Dale Swihart Jr two years ago, the community is invited to a welcoming reception for Pastors Robbie and Lindsey Carnes of the First Presbyterian Church of Fenton. The reception is at **3 p.m. on Sunday, May 22** and will be held in the Fellowship Hall. An installation service will be held immediately preceding at 2 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The Carnes and their three children come to Fenton from Los Angeles, California. For more information, contact the church at (810) 629-7801.



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, May 6.

#### Senate Bill 800: Appropriations: 2016-2017 Omnibus budget

The Senate version of the non-education portion of the state government budget for the fiscal year that begins on Oct. 1, 2016. This would appropriate \$38.673 billion, compared to \$38.616 billion authorized the year before. When combined with the education budget (SB 801), the Senate proposes to spend \$54.779 billion on all of state government next year, vs. \$54.530 billion originally approved for the current year. Of this, \$22.567 billion is federal money and \$32.212 billion comes from state tax and fee collections, a 2.4 percent increase in the state share.

#### Passed 26 to 11 in the Senate

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

#### Senate Bill 801: Appropriations: Omnibus education budget

The Senate version of the K-12 school aid, community college and university budgets for the fiscal year that begins Oct. 1, 2016. The bill would appropriate a total of \$16.106 billion, of which \$1.919 billion is federal money. Of this total \$14.107 billion would go to K-12 public education, compared to \$13.896 billion the prior year. It also appropriates \$1.6 billion for state universities, compared to \$1.535 billion the prior year. Community colleges would get \$399 million, vs. \$388 million the prior year.

#### Passed 23 to 13 in the Senate Sen David Robertson (R-Dist 14)

Sen. David Robertson (R-Dist. 14)	) 🛛 🔀 YES
Sen. Mike Kowall (R-Dist. 15)	🔀 YES
Sen. Joe Hune (R-Dist. 22)	🔀 NO
	Did not vote
Sen. Ken Horn (R-Dist. 32)	🔀 YES

#### House Bill 4990: Expand local government energy efficiency financing schemes

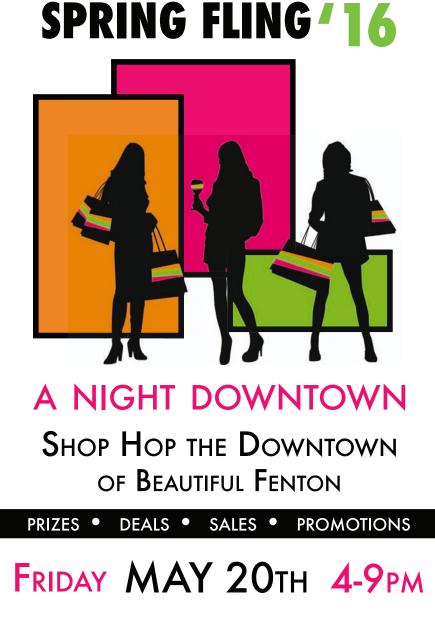
To expand the things cities can spend money on under a scheme that lets them contract with vendors for energyrelated facility improvements, and pay for these with money the projects are supposed to save (or from regular tax revenue if savings don't appear). The bill would allow vendor installment contract durations of up to 20 years, expand the improvements that can be financed under the scheme, and allow the deals to include lease-purchase agreements. Passed 34 to 0 in the Senate

Sen. David Robertson (R-Dist. 14)	🔀 YES
Sen. Mike Kowall (R-Dist. 15)	🔀 YES
Sen. Joe Hune (R-Dist. 22)	🔀 YES
Sen. Jim Ananich (D-Dist. 27)	🔀 YES
Sen. Ken Horn (R-Dist. 32)	🔀 YES

#### House Bill 5078: Authorize paroling medically frail prisoners to a health care facility

To allow medically frail prisoners whose condition makes them "a minimal threat to society" to be paroled to a hospital, hospice, nursing home or other suitable accommodation for the balance of their term

Passed 95 to 13 in the House X YES Sen. David Robertson (R-Dist. 14) Sen. Mike Kowall (R-Dist. 15) X YES



#### PRESENTED BY: THE FENTON DOWNTOWN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

#### House Bill 5387: Give force to illegal teacher strike sanctions

To include more rigorous sanctions and more certain procedures for Detroit school teachers who participate in an illegal strike. The bill is part of a House proposal to overhaul the Detroit school district and would essentially cancel the current collective bargaining between unions and the Detroit district as part of the governance changes in House Bill 5384.

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

#### House Bill 5384: Pay Detroit school debt, require reforms

To end the state's emergency management of the insolvent Detroit school district, and give an elected school board control of the district's schools. Among many other changes and reforms, the bill requires a meaningful merit pay system for Detroit teachers, and caps central office overhead costs. The bill does not contain a Senate-passed provision creating a new "Detroit Education Commission" appointed by the Detroit mayor and having the authority to block new charter schools from opening in the city, or an additional \$200 million the Senate added for "transition costs." This is part of \$500 million Detroit Public Schools bailout

#### and governance package. Passed 57 to 51 in the House Sen. David Robertson (R-Dist. 14) X YES Sen. Mike Kowall (R-Dist. 15) X YES



**BIGGBY**.

COFFEE

Chris Wilkinson Certified Mechani

When driving forward the right front wheel makes kind of a scraping, growling, grinding noise, but at higher speeds (40+) the noise stops. I also hear the noise when slowing down while I'm pressing the brakes. When I turn right I can still hear the noise, but when I turn left l can't.

- Rabi Rabi, This is most likely a wheel bearing going bad. If you jack up the front wheels and try to move the top and bottom of the tire in and out it should give you an indication as to which one it is. Sometimes we have to run them on a hoist and listen with a stethoscope to determine the exact one causing the noise. You should fix this as soon as possible so that it does not cause any further damage to other parts or become serious enough to be dangerous.

Do you have a question that you would like to have answered? E-mail it to me at: askthemechanic@wilkinsonautorepair.com



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YESTERDAY'S TREASURES

### Lady Blue Devils sweep Fenton in doubleheader action

#### By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789 Two area rivals faced of f on Wednesday, and the Lake Fenton varsity girls softball team left with bragging rights.

The Blue Devils swept Fenton in both ends of the doubleheader, winning the first game 8-7 and the second 8-3.

The 8-7 contest was a thriller from the start. Entering the sixth in ning, Fenton led 6-5, but Lake Fenton scored two runs in the bottom of the sixth. Sidney Conn walked and an out later Olivia T anner singled her in, tying the score at 6-all. An out later , Sydney Sheyachich responded with an RBI-single, giving the Blue Devils a 7-6 lead.

Fenton answered back in the top of the seventh when Logan Carter hit a solo home run with one out in the stanza. How ever, the Blue Devils were able to get the game-winning run in the bottom of the seventh

SUNDAY, MAY 15, 2016 | PAGE 22A | WWW.TCTIMES.COM/SPORTS

when Kaitlin Sparks hit a pinch-hit RBI-single with two out, scoring Alexis McMichael from third. McMichael singled earlier in the inning.

CONTINUED ONLINE AT **TCTIMES.COM** 

Lake Fenton's Hayli Byers

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Sports

### Lady Tigers take control of Metro track race

CONTINUED ONLINE AT

► TCTIMES.COM

Fenton boys also earn sweep vs. Clio, Swartz Creek

#### By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789 The Fenton varsity girls track and field team keeps pushing through the Metro League with victory after victory.

The Lady Tigers improved to 6-0 in Met ro action with a pair of wins against Swartz Creek and Clio on W ednesday, defeating Swartz Creek 93-43 and Clio 102.66-34.33. The Fenton boys also posted an impressive sweep at Swartz Creek High School, defeat ing Swartz Creek 106.33-30.66 and Clio 90-47.

The Lady Tigers earned overall firsts in 10 events, including all four relays. The 400-meter relay team of Madaline Hall, Emily Kin ser, Nina Lombardi and Hannah Sage earned one (52.83), while Sage, Cassie Campbell, Hall and Zeinab T orabi earned another in the 800 relay (1:48.95). Sage also ran on the 1,600 relay with Campbell, Jenna Keiser and Cambria Tiemann (4:18.27). The final Fenton relay win was in the 3,200 relay with the team of Keiser, Brenna Bleicher, Emma Lane and Tiemann (1 1:04.45). Six members won in -

dividual events. They were Hall in the 100 (12.83), Sage in

the 200 (27.31), Kinser in the 400 (1:03.96), Tiemann in the 1,600 (5:33.79), Torabi in the 300 hurdles (49.29) and Kinser in the long jump (14-11).

"We ran well yesterday and set new person al bests," Fenton girls track coach Todd Mills said. "It was a meet in which we could move a few things around to see how it would work."



Fenton's Drew Follett

# Linden track splits dual meets

#### By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789 Linden boys and girls track and field coach Clint Lawhorne knew beating Flushing would be tough. So when his teams split their results against Flushing and Ke arsley, he was pretty pleased with the effort. The Linden boys lost their first meet of the season while the Linden girls lost their second in a split against Flushing and Ke arsley. The Linden boys defeated Kearsley 95-44 but lost to Flushing 81-56. Mean while, the Linden girls defeated Kearsley 101-36 but lost to Flushing 73-64.

CONTINUED ONLINE AT

Holly's D'Anthony Austin only took third in the long jump against Brandon, but he did win the 200 meter dash and was on the winning 400 relay squad. **TRI-COUNTY TIMES** 

#### DAVID TROPPENS

### Holly track program splits versus Brandon

#### By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com The Holly varsity track program had some good and bad news against Brandon on Wednesday. The Holly boys won the dual meet against the Blackhawks 91-45 while the Holly girls lost a

92-45

verdict.

the shot put (38-

The Holly boys took home 10 firsts, and swept the top three spots in six in dividual events. There were eight dif ferent individual winners. They were D'Anthony Austin in the 200 meter dash (23.73), Francisco V aldovinos in the 800 (2:04.22), Michael Ponkey in the 1,600 (4:45.59), Cooper Frederick in the 3,200 (11:02.73), Riley Lewis in the 300 hurdles (47.88), Zac Stoll in 6), Quincy Curtis in the discus (105-1) and Jackson Monty in the pole vault (11-6).

The sprint relays also captured wins. Randy Douthitt, Jacob Honstetter , Jake Ortiz and Austin won the 400 relay (45.8) while Douthitt, Honstetter , R yan Beltz and Austin won the 800 relay (45.80). The Bronchos dominated the 200, the

1,600, the 3,200, the shot put, the discus and the pole vault with 1-2-3 sweeps.

CONTINUED ONLINE AT



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### sports briefs

#### **HOWELL'S LASWELL RECORDS** ACE AT TYRONE HILLS

Howell resident Grace Laswell, 61, aced the par-three 102-yard third hole at Tyrone Hills Golf Course using a six iron on Wednesday. She shot a 44 for nine holes. It was witnessed by Nancy Peters

#### FENTON TENNIS CRUSHES BRANDON

► The Tigers won all four doubles matches, leading to a 7-1 victory. The doubles winner were Kate Lewandowski and Leah Krantz (No. 1), Andreah Perdal and Ellery Brickles (No. 2), Ali Armbruster and Alyrse Brunnuff (No. 3) and Jessica Pierce and Emily Deming (No. 4). In singles action, Sydney Phipps (No. 1), Sylee Kiran and Delandy Hundzinski (No. 4) won matches.

#### FENTON SOCCER DEFEATS **SAGINAW HERITAGE, 5-1**

Chloee Foor added three more goals to her career-leading Fenton goal total, leading the Tigers to the victory. Emma Flannery and Margaret Berry also scored goals. Eryn Isaacson had two assists while Miranda Campbell, Flannery and Kirsten Foor had an assist each. Abbey Quesnelle made four saves in net, earning the win.

#### FENTON GOLFERS EDGE KEARSLEY

Nick Campbell shot a 39, leading the Tigers to a 169-173 victory against Kearsley at the Coyote Preserve Golf Club on Thursday. Brandon Diener shot a 42 while Chris Gilbert and Patrick Conroy each shot 44s.

FLUSHING GOLFERS DEFEAT FENTON ▶ Brandon Diener shot a 40, but it wasn't enough to keep Fenton from winning the meet against the Raiders. Dylan Conte shot a 41. Flushing's Joe Montpas shot a one-underpar 35 to earn medalist honors.

#### HOLLY GOLF DEFEATS BRANDON

The Bronchos shot their best round of the year, defeating the Blackhawks 158-183.

Kyle VanBoemel led the Bronchos with a 38 while Luke Harrington followed with a 39. David Mathew shot a 40 and Mitch Smith carded a 41 FENTON GOLFERS EDGE LINDEN AT SPRING MEADOWS, 166-172

Chris Gilbert shot a one-over-par 37, leading the Tigers to the victory. Nick Campbell shot a 40 followed by Brandon Diener's 43. Joey Perrera and Patrick Conroy each shot 46s. Linden's team medalist was Trevor Sundrla with a 39

#### FENTON/LINDEN LACROSSE TEAM FALLS TO SAGINAW HERITAGE

► The FLaX Heat took an early 3-0 lead but ended up losing a tough 11-6 verdict against Saginaw Heritage.

Heritage led just 6-4 at the half, but scored the first five goalf os the second half to establish a sizable lead.

#### HOLLY SOCCER LOSES TOUGH **1-0 VERDICT AGAINST LAPEER**

► The Bronchos (8-9) attempted nine shots against the Lightning, but were unable to score, resulting in a tough 1-0 loss to Lapeer.

Holly keeper Amanda Morgan made eight saves in the loss.

#### **By David Troppens**

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789 **Holly** — Journee Kerner and the rest of the Holly varsity girls tennis team is having a blast this spring.

It's easy to see why.

Not only are the Holly Bronchos dominating the Flint Metro League, but the squad has been making waves around the state as well. The girls are ranked seventh in the state, and in weekend tournaments are competing, and occasionally beating, the best teams in the state of Michigan regardless of division.

It's a team that returned almost all of its players

#### from a year CONTINUED ONLINE AT ago, a sea -► TCTIMES.COM

son when the Bron

chos finished 10th at the state meet. And this season's results are showing that.

"It feels great," Kerner said. "Last season was really good and this season has been really good so far as well. We've placed first or second in our tournaments against some of the best teams in the state. It feels good to be a part of the team, having a spot and being able to rely on anyone on the team to get a win."

The Bronchos competed against Brandon and were cruising to the vic tory before rains suspended the match with Holly winning 5-1 with two matches still incomplete.

Kerner won her match 6-1, 6-0 at No. 4 singles. Kate Beauregard lost at No. 1 singles while Lily Kossak (No. 2) and Michelle Major (No. 3) had their match-



TRI-COUNTY TIMES I DAVID TROPPENS Lake Fenton's Thomas Mueller and Jacob Fletcher compete in the 3,200 run on Tuesday.

### LF boys sweep Durand, Montrose

#### **By David Troppens**

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dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789 **Lake Fenton** — Life on the Lake Fenton varsity boys track and field team has been pretty good this season. Even when the weather turns out a bit on the negative side, that seems to be the case, as evidenced by the Blue Devils' performance on Tuesday. The drizzling rain and cold conditions couldn't keep the Blue Devils from cruis ing to two easy wins, defeating Durand 103-30 and Montrose 107-24.

CONTINUED ONLINE AT ► TCTIMES.COM



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPENS

Journee Kerner won her No. 4 singles match during the Holly Bronchos' contest against Brandon on Thursday. The Bronchos were winning 5-1 when rains suspended the rest of the match.

es suspended due to Thursday's rains.

Lady Bronchos enjoying great success

All four doubles teams finished their matches and won. Those doubles teams were Sydney Renehan and Megan

McReynolds (No. 1), Haley Crimmins and Paige Reid (No. 2), Nichole John son and Megan Lesperance (No. 3) and Jenna Pepper and Sami Hild (No. 4).

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