

# So you're thinking about the military

■ Ten things you should consider before joining the military

**By Vera Hogan**  
vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823  
"Joining the Army is beneficial for young men and women who want to learn how to be leaders, how to be disciplined, and how to push themselves to their lim-

its on a daily basis," says Capt. Robert Holmes, former Fenton resident and public affairs officer for 69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, Fort Hood, Texas. "It's not a decision that should be taken lightly since a soldier's first few months in the Army are extremely difficult. It should never be a decision that anyone makes because they want the money or the other benefits seen on commercials, because then their heart  
**See MILITARY on 10A**

**For comprehensive, detailed information on each branch of the U.S. Military, visit one of the following sites:**

- [www.goarmy.com](http://www.goarmy.com)
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- [www.navy.com](http://www.navy.com)
- [www.marines.com](http://www.marines.com)
- [www.gocoastguard.com](http://www.gocoastguard.com)

Source: usmilitary.com



**PAGE 1B**  
**MARINE PATROLS**  
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## Weekend Times

SUNDAY EDITION

\$1.00

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SUNDAY, MAY 29, 2016

2012 - 2013 - 2014 NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

## Four new retail stores coming to Fenton

■ Ulta, Famous Footwear, Kay Jewelers and Maurice's expected to be open by fall

**By Sally Rummel**  
news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282  
Fenton is about to become the "best dressed" city in the tri-county area, with a new retail development featuring shoes, cosmetics, clothing and jewelry, located between Target and Tractor Supply Company on Owen Road.

Ulta (cosmetics and a hair salon), Maurice's (women's clothing), Famous Footwear, Kay Jewelers and one unfilled  
**See RETAIL on 18A**



**TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO**  
A new structure between Target and Tractor Supply Company on Owen Road will be home to four new national retailers.

## Downtown is blooming



**TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO**

Dan Wayne (on ladder) and Alex Wagner of the Fenton Department of Public Works, place one of the last few baskets of petunias into its holder on Wednesday morning. These 58 baskets throughout downtown are one of the last finishing touches for Streetscape. This is the first full summer after the project was completed last fall.

## Neighbors, officials at odds over trailer park

Neighbors of the Lake Ponemah Mobile Home Park have been urging officials to do something to improve the conditions of the park.

**Page 8A**



## Home on Spring Meadows Country Club destroyed by fire

Homeowner escapes without injury, likely cause of fire is electrical in nature.

**Page 15A**



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“Everyone hollers about city officials not doing their jobs and how congress needs term limits. Wake up people, we are the boss, we are the term limits. Vote them all out.”



“One can't help but wonder if the selection process for the 'art' in downtown Fenton is based primarily on the principle of 'what will annoy the residents the most.'”



“Liberals keep using the word 'hatred' when referring to anyone who does not agree with the transgender bathroom issue. In their minds, anyone who disagrees with any of their agendas is full of hatred. They will not accept any opposing viewpoints. How sad.”



**COMMENT OF THE WEEK**

“I WOULD LIKE to express my deepest appreciation to all veterans, past and present, and their families. To those who gave their life, you really are, and were, the Greatest Generation. Thank you to all patriots.”





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**MILFORD**

**13334 Buno Rd. | Milford**  
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\$550,000

**LINDEN**

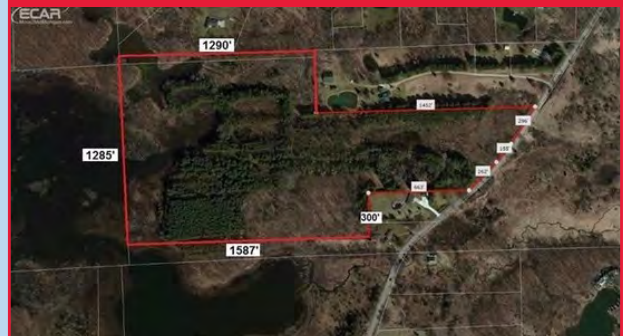
**15339 Silver Ridge | Linden**  
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**PENDING**

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As school year ends,  
principals reflect on

# SENIOR PRANKS

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Nason Haenlein, 18, leads the group of students out of the parking lot for their senior prank — riding lawn tractors to and from school. Those with zero-turn tractors popped wheelies while waiting for traffic to clear enough at the end of the day. In the tri-county area, pranks ranged from lawn tractors to “for sale” signs. Every Linden senior’s riding lawn tractor was adorned with an American flag.

**A**mong the privileges that come with being a high school senior, like taking fewer end-of-the-year exams, getting out of school early, and having seniority over the rest of the school, seniors also get to attempt a prank that will hopefully make them go down in their school’s history.

Local schools are no exception.

This year, Linden High School seniors organized a last-minute prank where they drove lawn tractors to and from school.

Approximately eight tractors of all shapes and sizes sat in the front row of the student parking lot on the south side of the high school throughout the

school day.

After school, students gawked as they started the engines, creating a lot of noise in the parking lot. Nason Haenlein, 18, led the pack of tractors out of the lot, halting traffic for a few minutes.

A few years ago at Fenton High School, seniors placed a sign in front of the school that read “For Sale” with a number to call, said Doug Busch, interim superintendent of Fenton schools.

“The sign included the building telephone number for anyone interested in ‘buying’ the high school to call the main office,” he said. “I believe they also put the high school up ‘For Sale’ as a clas-

sified ad on Craigslist.”

Busch said this prank is a good example of smart, witty, and humorous joke that did not cause any damage or cleanup work.

“One of the most important things about a senior prank is that it does not cause damage, vandalism or result in students getting into trouble over a poor choice. As adults, we have a sense of humor, but cannot tolerate anything that is destructive or damages property,” he said.

The senior pranks that stand out are ones that are humorous and don’t cause any damage, he said.

**See SENIOR PRANKS on 17A**

**“One of the most important things about a senior prank is that it does not cause damage, vandalism or result in students getting into trouble over a poor choice.”**

**Doug Busch**

Fenton Area Public Schools  
interim superintendent



## Think varicose veins are just a cosmetic issue?

**Varicose veins are a sign of vein (venous) disease.**

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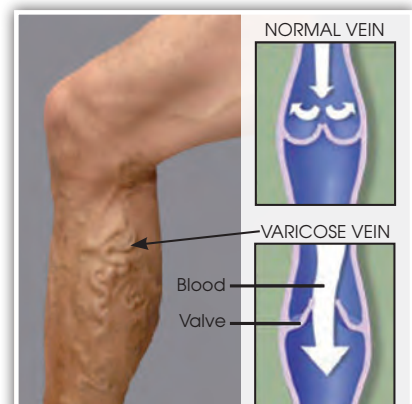


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## Come *Heller* high water

andrewheller@tctimes.com

### Say what you mean, mean what you say

I would respect politicians a lot more if they just said what they mean and owned it. A good example is the transgender bathroom debate.

State Sen. Tom Casperson (R-Escanaba) introduced a bill this week that would require students to use the bathroom corresponding to their body parts unless parents give written permission, in which case they could use a staff toilet or unisex bathroom.



Andrew Heller  
FEATURED COLUMNIST

It's pretty clear Casperson finds the whole idea of transgender students and their selfish need to go to the bathroom to be icky.

But of course he didn't say that. Certain politicians seldom come right out and say what's

on their minds because they're smart enough to realize that a lot of the time what's on their minds sounds thoughtless, mean and small.

Instead Casperson claimed his bill is — weirdly enough — primarily about parental rights: 'The fact that they would allow a child to say, 'I don't want my mom and dad to know' that they're taking such a big leap in life ... is unacceptable.'

'They' is the state Board of Education, which is in the process of developing a voluntary policy to guide districts on how to make schools safe and supportive for gay and transgender students. (What an awful goal, right?)

The policy as outlined in a February memo isn't specifically about the bathroom issue, nor does it talk about 'allowing' or encouraging students to say, 'I don't want my mom and dad to know.'

In fact it doesn't deal with parental notification or permission at all. What it says is 'The unique needs and concerns of each student should be addressed on a case-by-case basis with a student-centered approach that includes the ongoing engagement of the student, the parent/guardian, as appropriate, and school personnel ... per the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).'

It also says districts should 'provide appropriate and meaningful family engagement and support. Since parental acceptance and family support are key determinants of LGBTQ student health, student support teams, staff, and community partners should provide resources to help families and students locate information,

**“ Certain politicians seldom come right out and say what's on their minds because they're smart enough to realize that a lot of the time what's on their minds sounds thoughtless, mean and small. ”**

affirming counseling, and support services.'

And it also mentions this: 'Research indicates that LGBTQ students, nationally and in Michigan, are targeted with physical violence and experience a hostile school environment more frequently than their non-LGBTQ peers' and that the state board is 'committed to promoting a safe, supportive, and inclusive learning environment for all students.'

Casperson says his bill is about the well-being of all students, too, or as he put it, 'I'm concerned about all the kids.'

But that's obviously not true. By all students, he clearly means those who aren't transgender, since his bill — as I mentioned — says that even with parental permission transgender students could only use a unisex bathroom, single bathroom or staff bathroom.

And for off-campus activities students could only use facilities that correspond with their biological sex.

In other words, transgender kids won't be treated equally at all.

But of course he doesn't come right out and say that.

They seldom do.

## Hotlines

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

All submissions, if approved for publication, must be 50 words or less and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Tri-County Times. We reserve the right to edit for clarity, length and liability.

**TO THE A-HOLE** who dissed all service men and woman on Memorial Day weekend, it is obvious you are uninformed, and have never served. You are a disgrace to your country and your family.

**YOU ARE ELECTED** to represent your constituents. You've got the second worst voting record of any senator in the state. but I bet you're collecting a full pay check.

**IN TWO YEARS**, Hillary Clinton took in \$21 million from speeches. She calls them constituent services, but we know an attempt at bribery when we see one.

**I THINK IT** was courageous for the mayor to vote against the demolition in Dibbleville.

**HOW SAD FOR** America that we have a presidential candidate who is not trusted, not well liked, lies frequently, uses the 'F word' frequently, is under an FBI investigation for espionage, and failed miserably as secretary of state to help our people in Benghazi.

**YES, THE DDA** is out of control.

**WHEN ARE YOU** folks of Fenton going to realize that you're beating your heads on brick walls if you think you're going to change the DDA's mind on anything?

**THE CITIZENS FEEL** helpless when the DDA does not consider their views. We have no recourse because they are chosen by the mayor and are not voted in. They are very powerful and could wreck our town, so beware.

**LAST WEEK, THE** Republicans in Congress passed a military funding bill that will increase spending for more helicopters, jet fighters, ships and equipment, also to increase the number of troops and to increase pay for our soldiers. Of course, Obama was against a lot of it. Who's really keeping us safe? It's the Republicans.

**THE BOOK. THE** Bible, the basic instruction book before leaving earth, the word of God. The truth. I think if you take a look at current world events, you will absolutely have to agree that the Bible is accurate.

**WHEN HILLARY WAS** secretary of state, she made a deal with Russia for the U.S. to sell them a good portion of our uranium. For that, the Clinton Foundation received \$1.75 million from the company that closed the deal. If Liberals vote for her, they found somebody even worse than Barack and that is hard to do.

**I QUOTE FROM** the internet that 36 of our states have no legal requirements for gun registration, no permit needed to purchase, and no license necessary to purchase or own a firearm. Michigan is one of the smart ones. Sure is a shocking statistic.

**APPLES TO ORANGES.** First of all, 90 percent of fast-food workers are part time and don't even come close to \$31,000 per year. Secondly, an army private makes \$18,000 per year plus gets free housing, free food, free clothing, and free transportation.

**IF YOU DO** not get the Wednesday Tri-County, you are missing so much of your town's news. It's the best deal in town and everyone should get it to stay informed.

**CAN SOMEONE PLEASE** tell us where the headstone went that was down by the river? It was Fenton's World War II soldiers. Can we have it put back?

**WATCHING THE SO-**called protesters in New Mexico, I believe they should be dealt with as criminals. It has nothing to do with Donald Trump. Why should police officers have rocks thrown at them because a group of stupid idiots want to play stupid?

**BARACK OBAMA SAID** that Donald, the next president, is not qualified to pick the next Supreme Court justice. He picked Elana Kagen, who was his attorney, and was paid over a million dollars to hide just about everything in his past. She sure is qualified.

**IT'S A SHAME** with all the chemicals introduced into the environment, residents still allow spraying for mosquitos. Save the bees — no more spraying.

See **HOT LINE** throughout Times

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Compiled by Grant Cislo, intern

### Who would you want to give the commencement speech at your graduation? | streettalk



"Elon Musk because he is a genius, probably the smartest person I know."

— Donald Rositano  
Fenton



"Bill Gates. He developed Microsoft, that is really impressive."

— Griffin Carr  
Fenton



"Ed Helms, I appreciate how he can bring humor to success."

— Kendall Nash  
Fenton



"Steven Hawking, the struggles he has gone through in life can give inspiration and knowledge."

— Emily Battaglia  
Fenton



"Jimmy Fallon would add a sense of humor to the graduation ceremony. It would be entertaining."

— Erin Bedell  
Fenton





TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Silver Lake Ski Club has competed in national tournaments. They perform every Tuesday starting in June on Silver Lake.

## Fenton's 'best kept secret' seeks new members

■ The Silver Lake Ski Club performs every Tuesday during the summer

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

The Silver Lake Ski Club is looking for new members to join the well-known local ski club for this summer season.

The club is known for their ski show performances on Silver Lake where the public is invited to watch skiers perform tricks. The park is located at 16100 Jennings Road off Silver Parkway in Fenton.

Joe Durocher, vice president of operations, said the club currently has 32 members, not including their junior team.

The club puts on ski shows every Tuesday, starting in June and running until the second week of August.

"We do tricks as well as perform a full production style show on land and water," he said.

The team is currently looking for new men and women who know how to water

ski to join the team.

"If we could get five more guys to join we would be in good shape," he said.

Kids under the age of 15 are also welcome to join the junior team.

"Honestly, we are like Fenton's best kept secret," he said. "We actually have people that move to Fenton or Linden because of the ski team. Not every city has one."

The 2016 ski season will be dedicated to Gerry Durocher and Brady Morton, former members who passed away last year.

"Both were tragic losses," Durocher said. "After both of them died, we took a break from competing in last year's central, regional, and national tournaments. This year we will be competing again."

The club's Fourth of July show, will be held Friday, July 1 at 6:30 p.m.

It will be the start of the 2016 Fenton Freedom Festival.

"It is the biggest ski show we do in Fenton," Durocher said.

More information about the Silver Lake Ski Club can be found on its website at [silverlakeskiclub.com](http://silverlakeskiclub.com) or on its Facebook page "Silver Lake Ski Club."

**“We actually have people that move to Fenton or Linden because of the ski team. Not every city has one.”**

**Joe Durocher**

*Silver Lake Ski Club vice president of operations*



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### Lincoln's Gettysburg Address

November 19, 1863

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate — we can not consecrate — we can not hallow — this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here.

It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us — that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion — that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain — that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom — and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

### Gettysburg Address 1863 and Memorial Day 2016

■ What do they have in common?

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

What do the Gettysburg Address and Memorial Day have in common?

The roots of the Memorial Day holiday are in the words that Abraham Lincoln made so famous, not in May, but in November 1863. These words pay homage to the ultimate sacrifice made by those fighting for their cause in the deadliest conflict ever in American history — the Civil War.

The words of the Gettysburg Address should remind all Americans to remember those who gave “the last full measure” of devotion, just as President Lincoln did in those darkest days of the Civil War. . . . “that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain, that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.”

The Gettysburg Address, so powerful in its brevity with only 272 words, was delivered by President Lincoln on Nov.

19, 1863 on the battlefield near Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The war had been long, people were tired, and the previous speaker was Edward Everett, a congressman, educator and diplomat. He spoke for two hours, followed by Lincoln's speech, which was only about 1 percent of Everett's in length.

Lincoln's passionate words so represented the spirit and purposes of all such commemorations that it has been committed to the memory of almost every school child throughout the generations since 1863.

### Ten U.S. historical events every American should know

- Assassination of Abraham Lincoln
- The Louisiana Purchase
- The Manhattan Project
- The Vietnam War
- Death of Osama bin Laden
- Assassination of John F. Kennedy
- The American Revolutionary War
- The Civil War
- September 11, 2001
- Apollo 11

Source: ListVerse.com

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## 'First Fridays' to provide art fun in Fenton

■ Summer kickoff of special events is June 3

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

A new family friendly series of art events, "Arts Are The Heart" begins in Fenton this summer, with First Fridays kicking off on Friday, June 3.

The June 3 event will be held from 3 to 7 p.m. at the Fenton Community & Cultural Center, presented by the Lakes Area Arts Council. An Art Camp for kids ages 5 and up will be held to create "Artsy Masks" from 3 to 5:45 p.m. A \$10 fee is charged for supplies, and advanced registration is required at [www.lakesareaartscouncil.org](http://www.lakesareaartscouncil.org).

In addition to the camp, "Creation Stations" will be set up on the FCC front lawn for creative movement and dance, photo opps and selfie frames, touch an instrument, face painting, live statues, plein air painters, Lego station free-builds and interactive story telling.

"Heart Art" from area schools will be on display at the FCC, and performing local musicians, including the Fenton High School Orchestra Jazz Group, will also participate.

"We are thrilled to have so many volunteers working on this," said Joan Horcha, president of the Lakes Area Arts Council. "We're also very appreciative of the \$10,000 grant from The Hagerman Foundation that has made this summer art series possible."

The other First Fridays will include art projects, exhibits, music, literary and performing arts, and an opportunity for families to view and enjoy art. These events are free and open to the public, with the following themes:

- Friday, July 1, "Patriotic Art and Music Art."
- Friday, Aug. 5, "Exhibit of Charley Harper," gifted to the city of Fenton by Mrs. Charlotte Teachworth, a former Fenton educator.

Harper, 1922-2007, was a Cincinnati-based American Modernist artist, best known for his highly-stylized wildlife prints, posters and illustrations.

Another huge art event this summer will be ArtWalk on Saturday, July 9, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., with an Opening Reception on Friday, July 8, from 7 to 9 p.m.

For more information, visit [www.lakesareaartscouncil.org](http://www.lakesareaartscouncil.org) or email: [fentonart-walk@gmail.com](mailto:fentonart-walk@gmail.com).

**“We’re also very appreciative of the \$10,000 grant from The Hagerman Foundation that has made this summer art series program.”**

**Joan Horcha**  
President of the Lakes Area Arts Council

## HOT LINE CONTINUED

**YOU COMMEND HIM** for his service, then criticize him by suggesting he gets free room and board. Do you call it 'free' when you offer your life in turn? You've got to be kidding me.

**OH, THE IRONY** of claiming bigotry and prejudice just for having a Trump sign. Those hypocrites on the left need to learn about tolerance.

**'THEY PAVED PARADISE** (just an old house) and put up a parking lot.'

**IGNORANCE ABOUNDS. PEOPLE** in the service get free room and board? No they don't, you pay for it. Free clothing? You pay for it. Free medical? You pay for it, and it is cheap —as they may risk their lives for you.

**OUR THREE CHILDREN** worked and put themselves through college. One had \$50,000 debt that was paid off in two years. The last two just graduated with no debt. All of them now have good jobs. I don't feel taxpayers need to pay to further educate beyond high school.

**IF YOU THINK** service members get free room and board, clothing, and medical, you're uninformed. Nothing is free; everything is earned. If you want to include all benefits as your total military income, then also include all work performed — 14-hour days, 24-hour shifts, field exercises, deployments, etc.

**I BEG TO** differ with the post saying service men and women get free room, board, clothing, etc. My son serves and has to pay for meals he does not eat, and pay for his uniforms and some accessories. It is disgraceful that anyone in uniform should have to pay for any of these things. Initiate pay cuts for all politicians.

**IT'S SHAMEFUL THE** way some continue to utilize the handicap parking system when there is obviously nothing wrong with them. If the parking tag is for a family member, use it only when they are in the car. What happened to integrity? You know who you are. Be ashamed.

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# Neighbors, officials at odds over trailer park

■ Township says all properties are in compliance

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

**Fenton Twp.** — For more than two months, residents living on neighboring streets have attended Fenton Township meetings hoping to improve the living conditions at the Lake Ponemah Mobile Home Park.

They're complaining of blighted properties in the park, roofs caving in, trash and other factors they said harm living conditions.

"My concern is when we first talked to you about the situation with the trailer park, we really had high hopes that we would get at least the

## SUMMARY

■ Neighbors of the Lake Ponemah Mobile Home Park have been urging the Fenton Township Board to do something to improve the living conditions of the park.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

The Lake Ponemah Mobile Home Park on Eastview Drive in Fenton Township has been the subject of nuisance complaints from residents living on neighboring streets.

main street cleaned up; the debris, the blight between the trailers," said Terry Garfield, who lives on Eastview Drive, next to the mobile home park. He has attended multiple meetings with his wife, Sharon.

At previous meetings, residents said

there is crime, drugs, junk left on people's lots, and the dumpster continuously overflows.

Garfield said there was a frenzy for the first few weeks to get things cleaned up when they first went to the township, but now it's bad again. He said the ordinance enforcement officer, Tom Hosie, wasn't doing everything he could.

"Is it really not possible to at least get that cleaned up?" he said at the May 16 meeting.

Supervisor Bonnie Mathis said Hosie has been doing everything he can and "We are doing what we can do."

She said neighboring residents want the whole park cleaned up so it doesn't look like it does now. "That's going to be almost impossible," Mathis said.

Neighboring residents of the park organized a meeting with State Rep. Joe Graves, Genesee County Commissioner Tony Brown, and State Sen. Ken Horn.

Graves, Brown, and Horn saw the conditions and shared their thoughts. (see sidebar)

Hosie said the land is zoned for a mobile home park, and that some people who live near the park prefer it wouldn't be there.

"It's being appropriately used," he said. When they get complaints, he talks about it with the residents to resolve the issue. If the violation isn't handled in two weeks, he issues a warning.

Mathis said people exaggerate the conditions of the park, and think certain ordinances are being violated when they actually aren't. She said many residents who live in the park are proud of their homes.

"They have a right to live there," she said. "You'll walk in there and you'll see gardens."

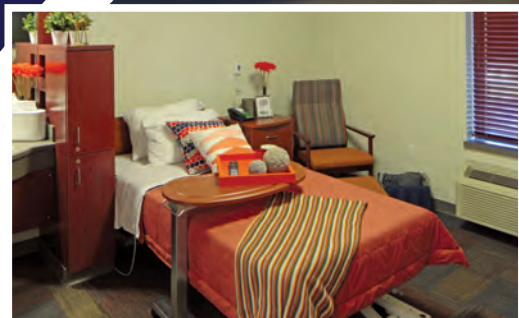
Mathis said that when there is a complaint about something in the trailer park, the problem is handled. The owner has been in contact and has complied with the township's requests.

See **TRAILER PARK** on 20A

“My concern is when we first talked to you about the situation with the trailer park, we really had high hopes that we would get that at least the main street cleaned up; the debris, the blight between the trailers.”

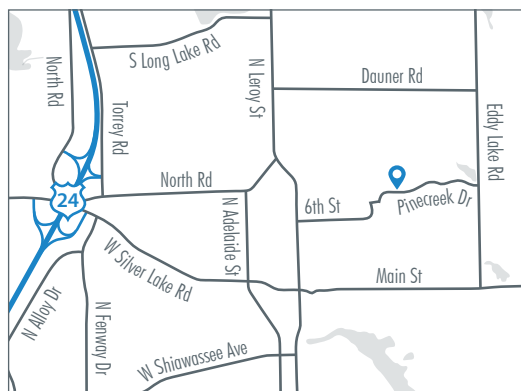
**Terry Garfield**  
Fenton Township resident

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO

Argentine Township Police Chief Dan Allen (left) presents Det. Doug Fulton and officers Paul Brooks and Tony Matthews with a certificate congratulating them on their work in stopping a possible Linden High School shooting plot.

## Cops recognized for detective work

■ Quick action led to arrest of school shooting plot suspects

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

**Argentine Twp.** — Two Argentine police officers and one detective were recognized Monday at the Argentine Township Board of Trustees meeting for their work in stopping the alleged school shooting plot at Linden High School last fall.

Police Chief Dan Allen read a press release congratulating and thanking Det. Doug Fulton and officers Paul Brooks and Tony Matthews for their work on the case.

School Resource Officer Paul Brooks came across the school shooting threat in October 2015. Argentine police coordinated with the FBI, and more undercover officers were put in place.

The officers obtained more information and apprehend the three suspects, Ryan Stevens, 18, Lamarr Dukes, 15, and

Kody Brewer, 15.

Brooks and Fulton located Stevens at an undisclosed location in the city of Linden, and he was placed into custody. They were able to obtain more information from there and connected the two other suspects to the case.

Officers also discovered how specific people were targeted.

### SUMMARY

■ Argentine Police Chief Dan Allen honored two officers and one detective for their efforts in stopping the alleged school shooting plot at Linden High School.

Allen said the actions taken on the first day, the coordination with the officers at the school, the apprehension of the three suspects, and the discovered information merits the awards for Fulton, Brooks, and Matthews.

They were each given a certificate and a round of applause from audience and board members.

Allen also honored Jeff Mulnix, a new officer, for putting himself through the police academy and graduating the top of his class, and receiving an award from the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards, the governing body for Michigan officers.

## HOT LINE CONTINUED

**SHOULDN'T ALL BUSINESSES** have to provide their own parking lots?

**THIS IS FOR** the people who keep stealing the flowers out of the urns by the front gate of the Oakwood Cemetery. I don't think it's nice to do that. If you're that hard up, give city hall a call and we'll arrange to get you some other flowers, but you don't need to steal them from our urns.

**HISTORIC FENTON DOES** not need the DDA. Send them packing to another town to destroy. Some of the council members we don't need either.

**ON MONDAY, MAY 23**, gas at the corner of Fenton and Grand Blanc roads was \$2.59. When I got to Dort Highway and Court Street, it was \$2.27. Does that mean that gas at Grand Blanc and Fenton roads was 30 cents a gallon better than the one on Court Street and Dort Highway?



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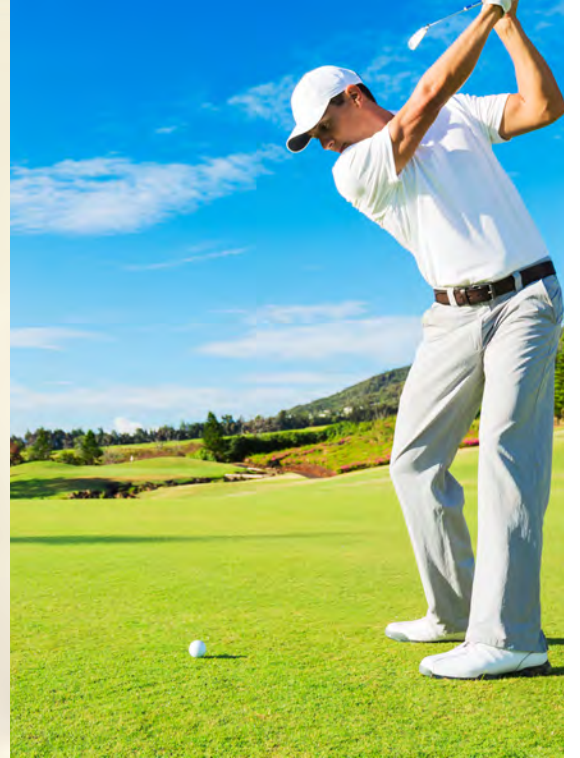
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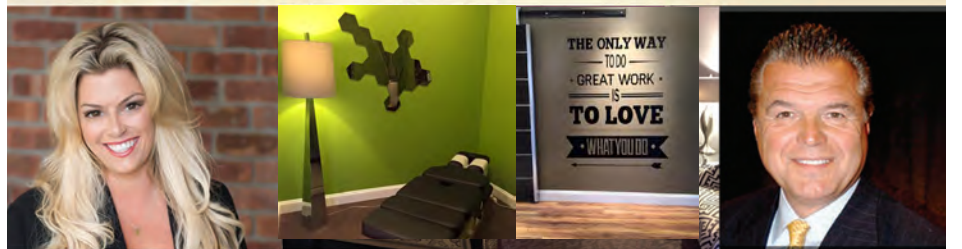
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## MILITARY

Continued from Front Page  
won't be in it."

According to military.com, the following are the top 10 things you need to understand and consider while you prepare to meet with a recruiter:

1. **MOTIVATION:** If you are considering the military, it is your responsibility to be motivated to serve your country. Your motivation to serve should be a calling to join a profession that offers invaluable experiences and skills. To join the military because you have nothing better to do could lead to a miserable experience.

2. **FITNESS:** Make sure you understand that going to boot camp with the mindset that it is the military's job to get you in shape is going to lead to failure, injury or being dropped from a program.

You need to be able to surpass the mini-

mum fitness standards before you sign with the recruiter. This means finding out what the fitness requirements are and practicing those events. Typical weight loss goals to meet military standards are in the 15 to 20-plus pound range these days. Get in shape now, not a few weeks before joining.

3. **INITIATIVE:** Taking the initiative is a skill you will be taught when in the military, but you can start practicing now. Research important things about your future profession. Where could you be living after basic training? Where could you be deployed? How long are the deployments? Learn the geography of the area you are likely to deploy to and its customs and culture.

Learn about current events around the world — they affect your potential travel. Sometimes you will be asked to do something, and you will have no idea how to accomplish that task. But you will have to figure it out. You may also have to do things without people telling you to do them. That is taking the initiative. Read a great book on many military reading lists, "Message to Garcia."

4. **RECRUITER:** Call your local recruiter and make an appointment to meet. Sometimes getting him or her on the phone may be difficult, but try to speak with someone to arrange an appointment. Walking in cold typically results in you leaving to track down your Social Security number and card, birth certificate, other IDs, transcripts from high school and college, and more. Know what you need to bring and what you want to do in the military before visiting. Going in and asking what you qualify for could place you in a bad position. Do your homework and do not leave it up to the recruiter to find a job for you.

5. **MEDICAL RECORDS:** The military will screen you medically, but if you have any prior surgeries, broken bones, or major illnesses, they need to know about it and file the proper paperwork as some of these may require medical waivers. Know the disqualifying ailments. Make copies of all your records when you submit them.

6. **ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery):** Learn how to take this test. Take a few practice tests at [www.official-asvab.com](http://www.official-asvab.com) and read a book on tips and strategies for taking the ASVAB. There are many ASVAB study guides in bookstores and online. Your score on this test can determine where you will live and what you will be doing in the military.

7. **TROUBLE:** Your criminal record will be checked in a background investigation, and it can be an issue in your attempt to join depending upon what you have been arrested for. Inform the recruiters of any arrests. They will find out one way or another and an omission on your part may be detrimental to progressing further.

8. **DISCIPLINE:** If you have issues with dealing with authority, you must know that you will be disciplined and forced to change your way of doing things, especially in basic training. Learn to suck it up, learn from the negative feedback and move on. Soon, your deeds will be what separate you from your peers, which can lead to speedy advancement within the ranks. But you have to do your time at the bottom.

9. **TRAVEL:** Expect to be gone from home and family while training and deploying throughout the year to just about anywhere in the world. There are hundreds of bases around the globe.

10. **EDUCATION AND SKILLS:** The experiences you have in the military will shape you for many years to come. You will learn how to react quickly during high stress and life and death situations, and rely on your training to help people through traumatic events.

There are many educational opportunities available in the military from occupational training courses to full college tuition paid in



## Choosing a branch

For some the decision is easy because they want to follow in the footsteps of parents and grandparents, siblings, uncles and friends. For those who have no idea where to start, there are measures they can take to help decide which branch would be the best fit.

One simple, fun thing to do is visit [www.quizrocket.com/military-branch-quiz](http://www.quizrocket.com/military-branch-quiz), and take the brief quiz.

You should start with your list of primary motivators and use the "yes/no" method to determine whether each branch can meet all or some of those motivators.

After making your comparisons, you may still find yourself with more than one choice. In that case, you may want to look at some of these factors:

- **Length of enlistment:** Some branches may require a longer term for offering the same benefits that you could receive from another branch.

- **Advanced pay grade:** You may be entitled to an advanced rank in some branches based on certain enlistment options.

- **Length and type of training:** How long will the training take? Usually the longer the training, the more in-depth and useful it is. You'll also want to consider how useful the training will be once you've left the military.

- **Enlistment bonuses:** Using an enlistment bonus as the only factor in deciding which branch to choose is not a good idea. If it comes down to a tie between two branches and only one offers a bonus, it's not a bad reason to choose that branch.

- **Additional pay and allowances:** There may be additional pay you'd be entitled to that can only be offered by a particular branch. For instance, if you join the Navy, you may be entitled to Sea Pay and Submarine Pay, something obviously not available if you join the Air Force.

- **Ability to pursue higher education:** Although all the military branches offer educational benefits, you must consider when you will be able to take advantage of these benefits. If you are in a job requiring 12-hour shifts and being out in the "field" a great deal, when will you attend classes? Even online classes may be difficult to accomplish in the field.

Once you have considered these factors, and perhaps some of your own, you should be able to decide which branch is right for you.

undergraduate and graduate programs.

Choosing the military as a 20-year career also has its benefits (retirement and medical) and challenges. Do your homework. This is your future profession and possibly even your career. Take the time to educate yourself on all the pro's and con's and opportunities available to you.

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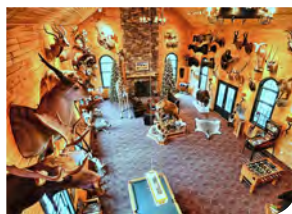
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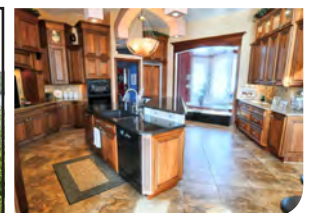
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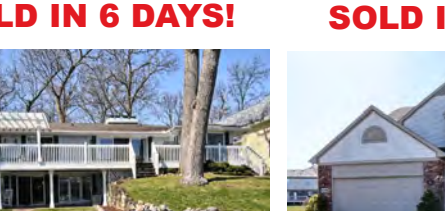
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# Home on Linden golf course destroyed by fire

■ Homeowner escapes without injury, cause of fire is likely electrical

By Sharon Stone

sstone@tctimes.com; 810-433-6786

A home on the 14<sup>th</sup> hole of Spring Meadows Country Club in Linden was destroyed by fire on Tuesday, May 24.

Numerous fire departments were dispatched to the scene after the 911 call came in shortly after 3 p.m. Linden Fire Chief Brian Will said with so many of the area fire departments using paid volunteer firefighters, several departments were requested to obtain enough manpower since many of the firefighters have other full-time jobs.

Will responded immediately to the home in the 1300 block of Meadow Green Lane and police were already on scene telling him that the roof was melting.

After talking to the homeowner, who escaped without injury, Will said she had been cleaning out the attic and bringing items down to the main floor of the ranch-style home. Because of the warm outside temperatures, the attic was warm already and she went downstairs where it was cooler.

While she was on the main floor, she told the fire chief that she heard popping sounds above. She went to investigate and realized the attic was on fire.

Due to the quickly spreading flames, Will believes the fire was electrical in nature and guesses that the homeowner might have bumped something when she was working in the attic. "But, we're still investigating though," he said. "There were no other items in the attic that would have caused a fire."



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

Multiple departments led by the Linden Fire Department battle the blaze in the 1300 block of Meadow Green Lane in Linden on Tuesday. The fire destroyed the ranch-style home, but no one was injured.

Assisting Linden City, were fire departments from Fenton City, North Oakland County Fire Authority, Grand Blanc City and the townships of Argentine, Fenton, Gaines and Mundy. Linden Fire Department was on scene until approximately 7 p.m.

The fire chief said a crew returned briefly at 8:30 p.m. when they learned some mulch near the home ignited.

The fire chief said the homeowner had insurance and that her insurance provider is taking care of her immediate needs.

## Former Linden family saddened by fire

A former Linden family was saddened when they heard the news of this house fire as it was once a place where many happy family memories took place.

They shared their sentiments when the

Times posted the photo of the house online. The home once belonged to the late Keith Oppertthausen, the father of Lee Knorr of Flint and Sherry Smith of Holly.

"Seeing the pictures makes me want to cry," said Knorr.

Oppertthausen's grandson, Jeremy Hogan, who is serving in the Navy in Hawaii, wrote, "I always loved that house."

His brother, Devon Hogan of Fenton, said, "The thing I liked the most about that house was the pine tree in the back left hand corner of the property. I used to climb up as far as I could between the branches, climb out on said branch, and slide down to the base of said tree. Great times."

Web Content Editor Vera Hogan contributed to this story.

## WHAT YOU MISSED in the MIDWEEK TIMES

Compiled by Vera Hogan

The following is what you missed in the **Wednesday, May 25, Midweek Edition** of the Tri-County Times. To subscribe and receive both the Sunday Weekend and Wednesday Midweek editions, please call (810) 629-8282

### Hidden 'speakeasy' coming to downtown Fenton

Mark Hamel, Chad Brennan and Jon Foley, owners of The Fenton Relief & Resource Company, are planning a take-out taco stand with a hidden speakeasy in the rear at 109 Mill St., across from the Fenton Post Office.



### Grandma convicted of first-degree murder

Mary Lou Bigford, the grandmother accused of gunning down the father of her granddaughter, Lawrence Howard, Jr. of Fenton, last April has been convicted of first-degree murder.

### It's just not right

"Lefties" have a difficult time with everyday products and activities.

## North Leroy SUMMER FUN-DAY! Event!

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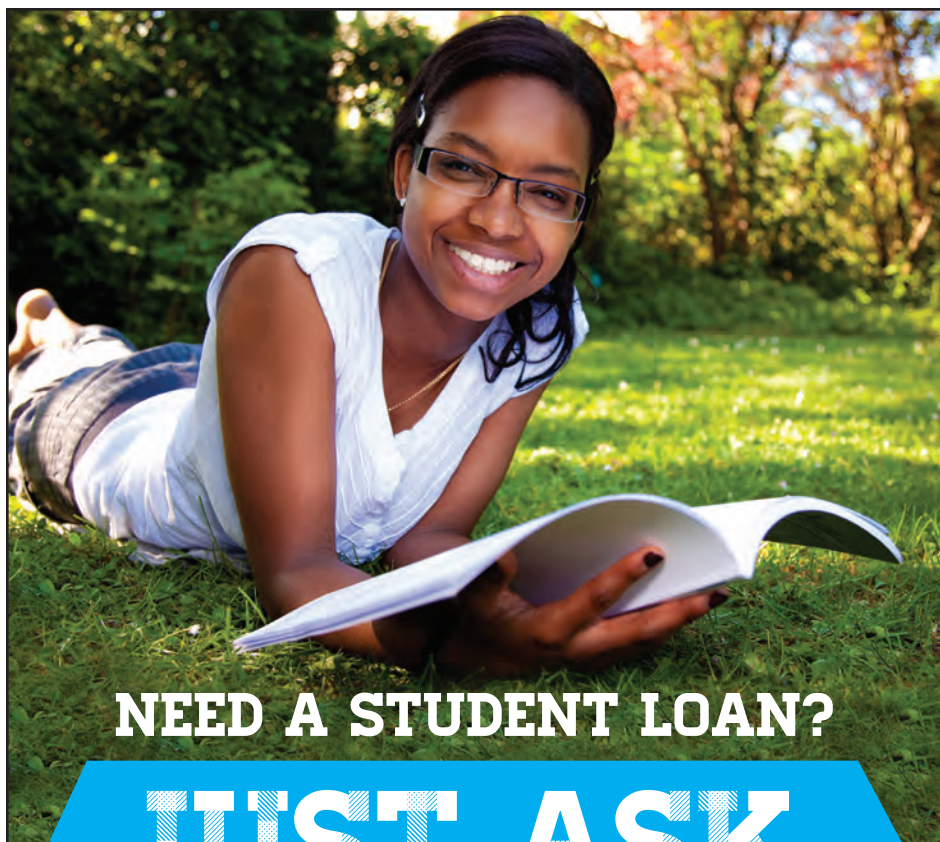
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## Police&Fire report

### DON'T BE SCAMMED — POLICE NEVER COLLECT FOR THE IRS

Holly Police Chief Michael Story is warning residents of a new scam. He said a Holly Township resident recently received a phone call, which turned out to be scam. The caller ID identified the caller as HPD (not Holly police) with their general number of 634-8221. The police chief said the resident was scammed out of several thousand dollars after sending money via Western Union and another outlet. The amount was exactly what the resident owed to the IRS, which was filed through Turbo Tax. The unknown caller, with a Hindi accent, identified himself as Officer Michael Sinclair and he said he was with the Holy (not Holly) PD. He said he was collecting for the IRS and directed the resident how to make payment. Since the payment was made, the resident has been getting more calls demanding more money or the police would come arrest them. The resident eventually hung up and called police. The police chief said, "Obviously no police department collects for the IRS and at no time does the IRS accept payments in that manner. My concern is that my PD's number and someone claiming to be an officer here are conducting these activities." The chief suggests that anyone receiving such a phone call to hang up.

## News briefs

### PATRIOT WALL TO SHOW SUPPORT FOR OUR TROOPS

The Linden Arts Council in conjunction with the Linden VFW will sponsor its second annual Patriot Wall on the Union Block on Memorial Day. The unveiling will be at 9:30 a.m., before the Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 30. The banner across the wall will invite all to write a message of support for our troops serving in the Middle East. All are invited to participate in this event. The banner will be later be removed and sent to Afghanistan.

## From the editor

Sharon Stone



### Senior Awards night

Each year as Senior Awards night approaches for Lake Fenton High School, anxiety rolls in for me. It's a very emotional and hectic time for my family. We're in the midst of planning our annual golf outing fundraiser and a week or so before each year's senior awards night, my husband, Jeff, and I meet with our committee of school officials who select the winner of the Brad Stone scholarship, which is in memory of our son. It's hard to believe Brad would be 28 if he were alive today. He died in 2000 when he was just 12 from complications of an asthma attack. Each year as I put together a speech about the latest scholarship, I try to keep it simple, as I know I will struggle when I'm standing at the podium. On Wednesday, as soon as I heard Principal Todd Reynolds announce my name to the audience filled with seniors and their families, that rush of emotion hit me again. I try to stay composed. I really do. Sometimes I do pretty well and sometimes I fail miserably. As soon as I said Brad's name, I felt my voice quivering and a huge lump in my throat. Brad's legacy and this scholarship mean so much to my family and me. I glanced at my husband, seated in the back row with my mom, and after taking a deep breath, I finished my speech and announced this year's winners. Twenty seniors applied for Brad's \$10,000 college scholarship. Our committee ultimately chose two seniors — Mason Rinks and Allison Muenzer. They each are receiving a \$5,000 college scholarship. I'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of the seniors who took the time to apply. Their essays, especially those who knew Brad's story, always tear at our heartstrings. I'd also like to thank Duanita Elford, the high school counselor, who works so hard with these scholarships and organizing a very special evening. The Stone family finds much comfort in providing these scholarships in Brad's memory to such incredible young men and women.



**TRI-COUNTY TIMES** | SUBMITTED PHOTO  
Allison Muenzer and Mason Rinks are this year's recipients of the Brad Stone college scholarship. They each will receive \$5,000.

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Linden High School senior Nick Melville, 18, waits for his classmates to take off on their lawn tractors at the end of the day on Wednesday, May 18. While the lawn tractors aren't street-legal, their parking permits were.

SENIOR PRANKS  
Continued from Page 3A

Lake Fenton seniors have done creative things on their last day, as well. Who could forget some students who live on farms driving their massive farm equipment to school or the time when several seniors, donning their caps and gowns, rode their bicycles to school and right through the front door of the building?

Michelle Shepherd, administrative assistant of Holly High School, said the senior pranks their students pull off are "honestly pretty good."

"They zip tie underclassmen lockers, they move furniture," she said. One year the seniors moved all of the weight room equipment into the wrestling room and set everything up.

Shepherd said students also have changed a classroom's furniture and once filled a teacher's classroom full of balloons.

Some senior pranks might go too far and make national news. (See page B3)

Some seniors pull off memorable pranks that the class remembers for years after.

One local resident, Linda Foreman, said, "One of my teachers when I lived in Connecticut was huge. He drove a VW Bug. We were always amazed at how Mr. Yaggi could get his immense bulk into that car."

On the seniors' last day, Foreman said when Mr. Yaggi left the building he couldn't find his car.

"When he turned back toward the school, there it was on the roof of the carport where the busses pulled into to load. I don't know how many students it took to lift that thing up there, but it was a wonder to behold," she said.

SUMMARY

■ Some seniors fill classrooms with balloons, some put a teacher's car on top of a building, and some drive their lawn tractors to school for their senior prank.

News **briefs**

WELCOME HOME  
VIETNAM VETERANS

At 3 p.m. (doors open at 2 p.m.), the first 150 Vietnam Veterans at the Linden VFW on **Saturday, June 4** will receive the Vietnam Veteran lapel pin as "a lasting memento of the nation's thanks," a couple of stickers, two buttons and a bumper sticker, plus a Presidential Proclamation in Commemoration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Vietnam War. It is time to honor our Vietnam Veterans and their families with the respect and support of a grateful nation. Friends and families are welcome, as are members of the public. The Linden VFW hall is located at 105 Mill St., Linden. For more information, call Kent Hall, Honor For All vice president at (810) 397-4663.

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**HOT LINE** CONTINUED

**FENTON IS HOPING** to get yet another drinking establishment recommended by Police Chief Aro, of all people. Just what we need.

■■■  
**THE PROBLEM WITH** the DDA is the members don't have any roots in Fenton. I read the membership and I don't think I see anyone who goes back more than one generation. Maybe two at the most. I think we need some people who know what Fenton was built on.

■■■  
**I AM SO** thankful that I have satellite instead of cable because I see a cable truck out here every day working on something.

■■■  
**A VERY BIG** 'thank you' to the person who found my flip phone, on May 25, at the VG's. It fell out of my purse and someone found it in a cart and turned it in. Happy Memorial Day to you.

■■■  
**IT SEEMS THE** only reason Hillary Clinton wanted not only a private server but her own private email to use was so that the government couldn't see how she was getting money off the foreign countries for herself and her Foundation. She is a criminal.

■■■  
**MY HUMBLE AND** utter gratitude to all righteous patriots who perished fighting to preserve our liberty. God Bless America.

**RETAIL**

Continued from Front Page

retail space are now being built as one 20,000-square-foot retail space, subdivided into five stores. All the stores are attached, but separated into five separate retail spaces.

"They're working on the roof now, then will be getting the interiors done," said Mike Reilly, Fenton's building and zoning administrator.

Ashmark Construction of West Bloomfield broke ground on the project on Nov. 30, 2015, after a year and a half of delays. "They had to wait for commitments from tenants, then there were construction delays over the winter in laying masonry," said Reilly.

The project is now moving forward quickly, with a construction completion date of September. "Everyone seems pretty excited," said Brent Bogle, construction superintendent for Ashmark.

When the building is

**“Everyone seems pretty excited.”**

**Brent Bogle**  
Ashmark construction superintendent



**TRI-COUNTY TIMES** | TIM JAGIELO  
Construction is underway on a 20,000-square-foot retail development, which is located between Target and Tractor Supply Company on Owen Road in Fenton.

completed, Ashmark will hand the space over to the tenants to build out the interior retail space. "We're doing all the interiors except for Kay Jewelers," said Bogle. "Kay's is using their own contractor."

**LOOKING BACK**

at this week

**IN LOCAL HISTORY**

COMPILED BY VERA HOGAN

**MAY 29**

**1953:** Edmund Hillary of New Zealand and Tenzing Norgay, a Sherpa of Nepal, become the first explorers to reach the summit of Mount Everest, which at 29,035 feet above sea level is the highest point on earth.

**MAY 30**

**1911:** Ray Harroun drives his single-seater Marmon Wasp to victory in the inaugural Indianapolis 500, now one of the world's most famous motor racing competitions. The purse for the grueling 500-mile race would become the richest in racing.

**MAY 31**

**2005:** W. Mark Felt's family ends 30 years of speculation, identifying Felt, the former FBI assistant director, as "Deep Throat," the secret source who helped unravel the Watergate scandal. The Felt family's admission, made in an article in "Vanity Fair" magazine, took legendary reporters Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein, who had promised to keep their source's identity a secret until his death, by surprise.

**JUNE 1**

**1967:** The Beatles' eighth studio album, Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band, would come to be regarded by many as the greatest in the history of rock and roll, and oceans of ink would be used in praising and analyzing its revolutionary qualities.

**JUNE 2**

**1997:** Timothy McVeigh, a former U.S. Army soldier, is convicted on 15 counts of murder and conspiracy for his role in the 1995 terrorist bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City on April 19, 1995. Just after 9 a.m., a massive truck bomb exploded outside collapsing the north face of the nine-story building, instantly killing more than 100 people and trapping dozens more in the rubble. The final death toll stood at 168 people, including 19 young children who were in the building's day-care center at the time of the blast.

**JUNE 3**

**1956:** During the early months of the rock and roll revolution, at a time when authorities nationwide were struggling to come to terms with a booming population of teenagers with vastly different musical tastes and attitudes, Santa Cruz, California captured national attention. On June 3, 1956, Santa Cruz city authorities announced a total ban on rock and roll at public gatherings, calling the music "Detrimental to both the health and morals of our youth and community."

**JUNE 4**

**1989:** Chinese troops storm through Tiananmen Square in the center of Beijing, killing and arresting thousands of pro-democracy protesters. The brutal Chinese government assault on the protesters shocked the West and brought denunciations and sanctions from the United States. Reporters and Western diplomats on the scene estimated that at least 300, and perhaps thousands, of the protesters had been killed and as many as 10,000 were arrested.

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## Fenton's Relay for Life set for Saturday, June 4

■ New venue, events and 12-hour format add more excitement to this year's event

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

Just about everyone has been touched by cancer at some point during their lives, either themselves or a family member.

Brenda Swallow, event leader for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life in Fenton, lost both of her parents to lung cancer at the young age of 66. She has been extremely passionate about Relay for Life and its ability to help cancer patients with resources and services, as well as fund research to find a cure.

This year's Relay is set for Saturday, June 4, from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. at the old Fenton Cinemas lot now owned by Creative Foam, at 291 North Alloy Dr.

Swallow's husband is David Swallow, president of Creative Foam, who didn't hesitate in donating the use of his company's lot for this year's Relay, in order to make the event more financially successful.

Also new this year is a 12-hour time frame, instead of a 24-hour marathon, which has been in place since Relay started in 1985 with the theme, "Cancer Never Sleeps."

"We're trying it this year," said Swallow.

This year's schedule of events includes a Silent Auction, from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., a Survivor Ceremony/Luncheon, Kids Zone, Relay Princess Competition for girls ages 4 to 18, Caregiver Ceremony/Dessert Reception and a Luminaria Ceremony.

The Kids Zone, from 12:30 to 6 p.m., is a new event this year, sponsored by local Realtor Wade Pyles of Berkshire Hathaway Home Services Michigan. "Cancer has affected my family," said Pyles, whose father died of the disease. The local office is also teaming together in support of Michael Doherty, regional manager, who passed away Oct. 26, 1914 from brain cancer.

A \$5 wristband allows kids entrance into the kids area, which will include a Frozen Bounce House, 18-foot slide, obstacle course and jousting ring. "Watch for free wristband giveaways on the Wade Pyles Real Estate Team Facebook Page," said Pyles.

In addition to the bounce house and games, there's a 1 p.m. Princess Lap,

Anna & Elsa of Frozen autographs and photos, from 1 to 3 p.m., and a Relay Princess Competition, from 2 to 3 p.m. (must be a registered Relay participant and raise \$50 to compete). Belle and Rapunzal will be on site, from 2 to 5 p.m. Winners will receive a tiara, sash and goodie bag after judging takes place by survivors.

A \$50 registration fee is due Tuesday, May 31 with a registration form, which can be completed online. Cash and checks are also accepted, payable to: American Cancer Society and sent to: Trina Balow, 2413 South Linden Rd., Suite A, Flint, MI 48532.

The pageant is open to all females age 4 to 18. They must be registered online with a Relay team, or can form a team at: [www.relayforlife.org/fentonmi](http://www.relayforlife.org/fentonmi).

Attire is "Sunday best" or formal wear, in purple or Animation theme, related to Relay. No make-up for girls under age 5, and it should be lightly applied for all others.

Music will also be a part of the day's excitement with A Joyful Noise Music Studio performances from 3 to 4 p.m. with F.I.R.E. bands and "Tie Dyed Giants" from 8 to 9 p.m.

Flintstones Build-a-Car Contest, Relay Olympics, scavenger hunt, DJ and more will all be part of the fun.

Traditional events including the Survivors Victory Lap at 12 noon and luncheon, as well as the Caregiver Celebration at 6 p.m. at Luminaria Ceremony at 9 p.m., are the cornerstone of Relay, but there's also a lot of fun.

"Relay is for everyone, not just for cancer survivors and families," said Swallow.

### SUMMARY

■ Mark Saturday, June 4 on your calendar for American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, helping people in Fenton, Lake Fenton and Linden raise funds and awareness about cancer.

"It's a family friendly event with lots going on. Everything you buy or participate in will help the cause." She's expecting about 400 participants at this year's Relay.

Seventeen teams have already signed up, and teams and individuals can sign up,

even on site at the event. "There's no limit on team size or amount of funds raised," said Swallow. "Every dollar counts."

This year's goal is to raise \$50,000 at the Fenton Relay event.

“There’s no limit on team size or amount of funds raised. Every dollar counts.”

**Brenda Swallow**  
Fenton's Relay for Life  
event leader

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Bridgett Adams

I'm just beaming proud of you! It's not the good grades, not the soccer scholarship or all the awards you won. It is the amazing young woman you've turned out to be. Your character shines like no other! You have taught me more about life than I could ever teach you. Cleveland State is very lucky to have you. You truly are my hero. Always remember to be *VERUM UT TIBI*.

Dad

## HOT LINE CONTINUED

**THE DDA DOES** not understand that what's good for businesses is not always good for the residents. They don't want a small town; they want a 'mall town.'

■■■

**WELL, HERE WE** go again. Anti-American protests outside another Trump rally. It's shaping up to be a long summer of America hating, Mexican flag waving riots.

■■■

**THIRTY RESIDENTS SPOKE** against the DDA tearing down that house. You claim to have a lot more in favor of keeping it, but they didn't show up to the meeting. Your precious house is coming down in favor of progress that the majority of this city supports. Get over it already.

■■■

**THE OAKWOOD CEMETERY** in Fenton is full of rich history. Well, let me guess, the DDA is going to want to tear that down next? Make a green space.

■■■

**I LIVE ON** East Holly Road and yes I see bikes come through in the summer, and yes there are kids who ride around in town. But to inconvenience hundreds of people every day to provide just a few bikers the convenience of a bike lane is foolish. Cars are going to be cutting through the subdivisions. How safe is that going to be?



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

This mobile home community has received attention from township officials, due to complaints from neighboring residents regarding the living conditions within the park.

## TRAILER PARK

Continued from Page 8A

"Everything that they've asked, we've done it," she said.

Residents are also worried the park will decrease their home values, which Mathis said isn't true.

"The assessor said absolutely not. They're lakefront property, desirable pieces of property, it hasn't pulled their value down," she said.

Hosie said they deal with these issues often. "We have people who buy a house near a horse farm and then they decide those horses smell terrible, the township should do something about that," he said. "Or they buy a house near the airport, and they decide 'wow,' those planes are loud."

He said people who moved next to the

**“We have people who buy a house near a horse farm and then they decide those horses smell terrible, the township should do something about that.”**

Tom Hosie

Fenton Township ordinance enforcement officer

factory on Thompson Road complain about the odor and noise.

"Those people are angry and they want the township to do something about the factory," he said. "As long as the work that's being done there is legal, and that's what the property is zoned for, there's not a whole lot we can do."

## State representatives visit

After seeing the conditions of the trailer park, the state officials shared some thoughts with neighboring residents.

State Rep. Joe Graves (R-Argentine Township) said, "Neighbors were all in agreement the park is now the cleanest it has been in years, but they are concerned it will be more blight as soon as attention is no longer on them. They also agreed the current compliance officer is doing a good job and spends a great deal of time in the park addressing issues."

Graves told the residents that the township is doing all it can without raising standards.

"But there is a process in statute that allows for local governments to apply to the mobile home commission for review," he said, adding that the condemnation process is a legal action that requires a judgment.

"This leaves a health and safety issue, which would have to come from individuals renting in the park and it is my understanding they are not willing to do so," Graves said. "It is a difficult situation with limited options."

Genesee County Commissioner Tony Brown (R-Fenton Township) said the park is in need of "major rehabilitation."

"From what I have been told, many prospective buyers just turn around once they see the condition of the trailer park and cross the homes for sale on Eastview off their list," he said.

Brown said the township only has authority for blight, but that doesn't do enough to improve living conditions. He said cleaning up the park would require intervention from the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA).

"Pressure needs to be applied on this regulatory agency to see to it that the residents of the park have suitable living conditions and that the residents within the area don't have to lose home values as a consequence of blighted conditions," he said. "I wish the county health department had authority, but that has been removed by the state. So unfortunately, the county has its hands tied."

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# Can 911 locate you?

■ Many dispatchers have difficulty locating 911 callers in rural areas

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

If you call 911 from a landline, the dispatcher can locate you easily.

If you call from a cell phone, your location might not transmit at all.

Chances of dispatching services getting a fix on your location if you call from a cell phone ranges from 10 to 95 percent, according to USA Today.

If you have an emergency in Livingston County or Fenton, your chances are promising.

The city of Fenton has its own dispatching unit, and rarely experiences this problem.

Dispatcher Supervisor Samantha Sturgis said, "We are fortunate and we aren't in a very rural area so most of the time it's just a matter of asking the caller what businesses or landmarks they are near."

She said the dispatchers are familiar with the area and they use GPS coordinates.

"We always receive some sort of information when the call is answered. How good that information is can vary," she said. Some calls come in with "phase 1" information, which means the address of the cell phone tower appears. With "phase 2" information, they receive latitude and longitude coordinates of the estimated location within 300 meters.

This all happens in a matter of seconds. Genesee County Central Dispatching regularly receives more than 20,000 911 cell phone calls a month, according to geneseecounty911.org.com.

Genesee County 911 Operations Manager Dave Plumb said about one in 10 emergency 911 cell phone calls have this problem. Of the approximate 20,000 cell phone calls they receive a month, about 2,000 calls don't automatically transmit location.

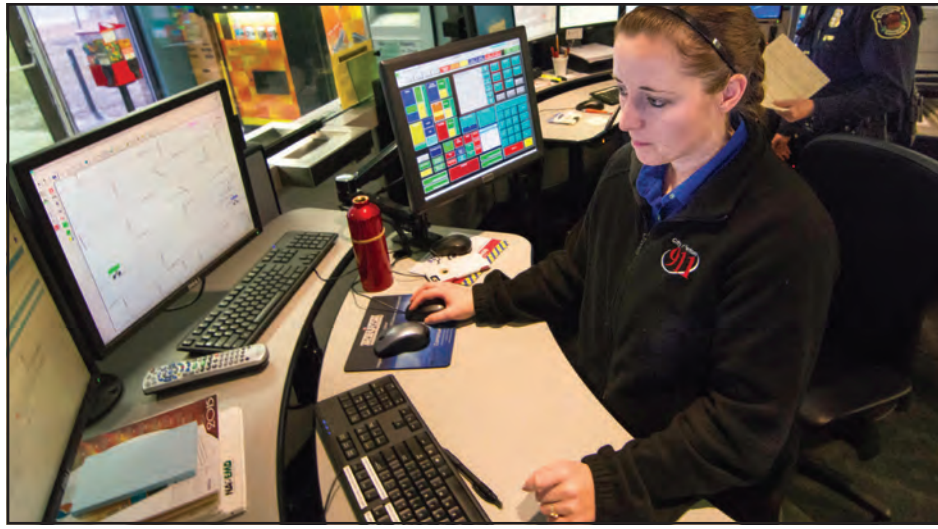
"It depends on how they have their phone set up," he said.

As long as the caller has their GPS set up, operators should be able to locate them.

"If they get in an accident, they go off the road, in any type of abduction situation..." he said. "It's very important."

Plumb said in most cases, callers have their GPS on, but it's a problem with older phones because they might not have GPS capability.

At Livingston County dispatching,



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

Landline calls in Fenton go directly to the dispatcher's desk at the Fenton Police Department. Cell phone calls are directed through the assigned cell tower, which may not be the closest dispatch center.

Deputy Director Chad Chewning said it is not a problem because their system is phase 2 compliant. This means when someone calls 911, it gives them the address of the tower, and then it sends the signal back to the phone and obtains the coordinates. The location is then mapped on the dispatcher's screen.

"If they're in a house, we get the general area, but not the address per se," he said.

He said cell phones manufactured after 2008 have to be compatible with GPS.

"Occasionally you might have an issue if the tower is programmed wrong," he said, adding that rarely happens.

Dead zones affecting cell phones can be an issue as well.

Another issue is accidental calls. Chewning said people often accidentally call 911 and then just hang up.

"At most dispatch centers we have to call back. It ties up our operators," he said.

Chewning said if someone accidentally calls 911, they should not hang up. Instead, let the operator know it was accidental.

Sturgis said some businesses often accidentally dial 911 because they press "9" to make an outside call.

She said the most important piece of information when calling 911 is your location. "If I have nothing but a location I can start with that, it gives me somewhere to send help to," she said.

Sturgis said those who make a 911 call need to remember that dispatchers ask certain questions for certain reasons.

"We have other concerns like who to send and the safety of our responders and

we need your help to fill in the blanks," she said. "Just because we're still on the phone with you does not mean help isn't coming. We're often sending the help while still talking to you or we have a partner who is doing it across the room."

The last thing people need to know when calling 911 is that your mailing address or school district doesn't necessarily coincide with what jurisdiction you are in for emergency services.

"People in three counties have 'Fenton' as a mailing address but our 911 center and our police department only service the city of Fenton," she said.

**"We always receive some sort of information when the call is answered. How good that information is can vary."**

**Samantha Sturgis**  
Fenton dispatching supervisor

## National tragedy

Dispatchers not being able to locate someone if they call from a cell phone has caused tragedies all over the U.S. Near Atlanta, Georgia, Shanell Anderson, 31, died in her SUV when she crashed into a pond and her doors were stuck. She called 911 but the call was routed to the wrong dispatching location in a neighboring county.

Anderson knew where she was, but the dispatcher couldn't find her location before the call ended and she died.

Dispatching units have been criticized for not being able to locate people in need of help, but Uber drivers can find customers anywhere, according to USA Today.

New rules were recently drafted by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and cell phone carriers requiring carriers to increase the number of cellphone calls to 911 that transmit location data. These new rules state that by 2017, 40 percent of cellphone calls to 911 must transmit location data. By 2021, that percentage increases to 80 percent, according to USA Today.

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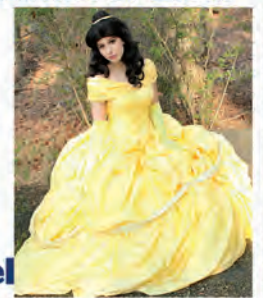
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# Fenton girls track captures Metro crown

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

**Linden** — The Fenton varsity girls track team has dominated action all season long in the Metro League.

So when it came to Wednesday's Metro League Meet, it was fair to say the Tigers were the favorites.

But the Tigers did more than win, they dominated.

Fenton recorded five league champion-

ship performances and had 12 top-three efforts, leading the Tigers to the Metro meet title and the outright Metro League championship for the season. It was Fenton's second in three years.

"It means a lot," said Fenton's Madeline Hall, who took part in four of the Tigers' five event titles.

STORY CONTINUED ONLINE AT

[TCTIMES.COM](http://TCTIMES.COM)



Fenton's Hannah Sage (right) hands the baton to teammate Zeinab Torabi during the 800 meter relay at the Flint Metro League Meet on Wednesday.

photo by David Troppens

## Sports Times

SUNDAY, MAY 29, 2016 | PAGE 22A | WWW.TCTIMES.COM/SPORTS



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO

Fenton's Patrick Conroy shot a 75, helping the Tigers qualify for the D2 regional at Wednesday's D2 district.

## Tigers qualify for regionals, place third at districts

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

The Fenton varsity boys golf team selected the perfect day to have its best event of the season.

The Tigers posted their best 18-hole round of the season, leading the squad to a third-place team finish and earning them a spot in the regional round of the state's Division 2 state tourney series.

Led by Patrick Conroy's third-place overall finish score of 75, the Fenton Tigers shot a 334, earning them third place. Holly took seventh with a 351 while Linden placed 10th with a 378.

CONTINUED ONLINE AT [TCTIMES.COM](http://TCTIMES.COM)

## Blue Devils collect a share of GAC title

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

**Lake Fenton** — Sidney Sheyachich has known nothing but Genesee Area Conference Red Division championships during her career with the Lake Fenton varsity softball team.

She experienced one more on Thursday.

Needing a split in order to earn at least a share of a GAC Red title against Durand, the Blue Devils won the first game of the doubleheader 8-6 in order to earn at least a co-championship. The Railroaders returned the favor, earning a share of the crown themselves, defeating the Blue Devils 10-6 in the second contest. The Blue Devils have won or shared five straight GAC Red titles.

"It's kind of like unreal that we've been carrying this along for such a long time," said Sheyachich, who was the winning pitcher and had two hits in the conference-clinching first-game victory. "It just means a lot. I've worked basically my whole life for this. I started when I was really young and it seems like an awesome thing. It's hard to explain."

The Blue Devils (20-10) started the opening game on fire, having each of their first six batters reach base safely with hits. CONTINUED ONLINE AT [TCTIMES.COM](http://TCTIMES.COM).

TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPENS

Lake Fenton's Kalani Lau slides safely into home plate during the Blue Devils' doubleheader split against Durand.



## Fenton boys track team wins Metro meet

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

**Linden** — Thoughts of contending for a first-place finish at the Metro League meet a year ago were just that for the Fenton varsity boys track team, thoughts.

The team ended up finishing in last place.

About a year later, the Tigers have made a complete 180-degree change. The Fenton Tigers dominated the Metro League meet held at Linden High School, scoring 172 points, or 57 more points than any other team,

earning the Metro League Meet championship. The win meant the Tigers finished the season in second place overall finishing behind Flushing, who finished second at the meet.

"This means a whole lot," Fenton senior Jacob Lee said. "Since my freshman year we were always the underdogs and low in the standings. Last year we were actually last in the meet, so to go from last to first in one year is huge not only for me but for the entire team."

CONTINUED ONLINE AT [TCTIMES.COM](http://TCTIMES.COM)



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPENS

(From left) Fenton's Mitchell Chabot, Dominic Dimambro and Luke Chabot compete in the 800 meter run.



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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Holly varsity girls tennis team celebrates its Flint Metro League title on Tuesday.

## Bronchos capture another Flint Metro League championship

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

**Ortonville** — Nobody understands how it feels to be a league champion better than the Holly varsity girls tennis team.

Since the 1982-83 school year, Holly has earned an outright or a co-Metro League championship all but two seasons. This season was one that ended up being the rule instead of the exception.

The Bronchos had every single one of their flights make it to the finals, and five won flight championships, earning Holly the Metro League title once again. Holly recorded 21 team points, which was four more than second-place Fenton, earning the Bronchos the league meet title and the overall league crown. Fenton finished second in the overall standings as well.

Holly's depth was key with the Bronchos winning all four doubles flights. The only singles flight the Bronchos won was at No. 1 singles

where freshman Taylor Barrett overcame a regional loss to Brandon's Maya Campbell to win the league title. Barrett won the final match 7-5, 6-3.

"She was down 5-3 in the first set and rallied back to win 7-5, 6-3 and upset the regional champion," Holly coach Will Sophiea said. "She had an outstanding day."

Holly's winning doubles flights were Sydney Renehan and Megan McReynolds at No. 1 doubles, Haley Crimmins and Paige Reid at No. 2 doubles, Nicole Johnson and Megan Lesperance at No. 3 doubles and Jenna Pepper and Sami Hild at No. 4 doubles. Pepper and Hild didn't lose a game all day while Johnson and Lesperance lost just one game.

The Fenton Tigers had three flight champions. They were Katy Kurnz at No. 2 singles, Sylee Kiran at No. 3 singles and Delaney Hundzinski at No. 4 singles.

There were four matches involving the two area teams in the final.

STORY  
CONTINUED  
ONLINE AT  
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### LF track teams compete at GAC championship meet

By David Troppens

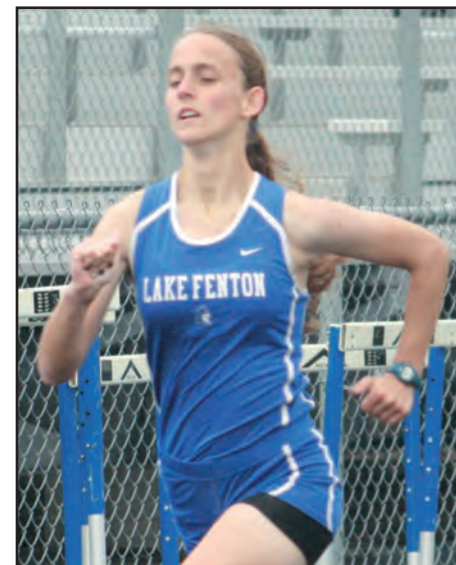
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The Lake Fenton varsity boys track team left the Genesee Area Conference track meet with a pretty impressive showing.

The Blue Devils' boys finished fourth place with 97 team points and with three conference championship efforts.

The Lake Fenton girls track squad placed eighth at the GAC meet and had three individuals and one relay finish with top-four efforts.

Elijah Bourdeau and Isaac Golson played a role in two of the boys' firsts.



### Linden track programs do well at Metro meet

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

**Linden** — The Linden varsity track program had a strong showing at the Metro League Meet on Wednesday with the girls placing second and the boys placing third.

The Holly boys (4-3) had one league champion and took seventh at the meet, finishing fifth in the overall standings. The Holly girls finished sixth at the meet and sixth in the overall standings.

Linden's girls had two individual event championships and three second-place efforts resulting in a second-place team total of 100 points.

## sports briefs

### LINDEN SOFTBALL SWEEPS ST. JOHNS

► The Eagles (21-10) defeated St. Johns 10-4 and 7-5 in a doubleheader. In the opener, Liz Rakowski had three hits while Ashley Bertschy had two hits and three RBI. Sterling DeGayner, Kim Freitas, Alexa Marsh and Megan Klavitter had two hits each. Marsh tossed the complete-game win, allowing just four hits and striking out four. In the nightcap Christina Clemons had three hits and two RBI while Molly Churches had two hits and three RBI. Cayla Wierenga and Freitas had two hits each.

### LINDEN BASEBALL SWEPT BY BRIGHTON

► The Eagles (22-8) lost to Brighton 2-0 and 6-5. In the opener, Aaron Sarkon tossed a four-hitter, striking out eight. Linden had just three hits. In the second game Cole Sakron had a hit and two RBI while Sarkon and Jamon Link had a hit and an RBI each.

### FENTON SWEEPS GRAND BLANC

► A Griffin Carr sacrifice fly in the bottom of the seventh gave the Tigers (18-12) a 3-2 victory in the second game of a twinbill. Jared Ryan had two hits. Troy

Smigielski tossed six innings, allowing one earned run and four hits. He struck out four. Ben Hajciar was the winning pitcher, tossing the seventh. The Tigers won the opener 11-1 as well. Blake Garrison had three hits while Taylor Lawrence and Nolan Lawrence had two hits and two RBI each. Chase Coselman had two hits as well. Coselman was the winning pitcher, allowing one run and five hits over six innings. Coselman had six strike outs.

### LF BASEBALL DEFEATS LAKE LAND

► The Blue Devils' Trevor Wright went 3-for-3 with a double, a triple, two runs scored and an RBI, leading the Blue Devils (9-15) to a 6-5 win against Lake Land. Bryson Nugent also had two hits for Lake Fenton.

### HOLLY SWEPT BY HARTLAND

► The Bronchos (12-18-1) lost to Hartland 13-1 and 6-0. In the 13-1 loss Adam Tooley hit a double and scored a run. D.J. Tennis had a hit and an RBI. In the 6-0 loss, Clay DeVries, Chet Wyant and Jared Halteman had a hit each.

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STK# 1191328A



**\$28,900**  
2013 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 1500  
STK# 174137



**\$25,300**  
2013 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 1500  
STK# 1266082A



**\$13,999**  
2006 DODGE RAM 2500  
STK# 125533

License No: R36233

PROUDLY PRESENTED BY

### 2016 Chevrolet Raffle - Your Choice

You choose which vehicle and you choose the color you want!  
(or \$30,000 Cash Option)

Tickets are \$100 each.  
Only 1,000 Tickets will be sold.



**Grand Prize:** 2016 Chevrolet Silverado Crew OR 2016 Chevrolet Camaro SS Convertible (MSRP \$49,295)

Drawing will be held at Taste in Fenton on Thursday, August 4th, 2016 • 8 PM Downtown Fenton.  
Only 1,000 Tickets will be sold. Purchase additional tickets and more information at:  
www.fentonchamber.com.

You need NOT be present to win. Winner is responsible for any additional fees, taxes and license plates.  
If less than 800 tickets are sold, the drawing may revert to a 50/50 raffle with a minimum prize of \$10,000 and a maximum prize of \$50,000 to winning ticket.

**SERVICE HOURS**  
Monday: 7:00am - 8pm  
Tues - Fri: 7:00am - 6pm  
Saturday: 8am - 2pm • Sunday: CLOSED

