Motorcyclists need this driver’s license endorsement

Police will impound unendorsed motorcycles and ticket drivers
By Hannah Ball
hbail@cttimes.com; 810-433-6792

On June 15, the Michigan State Police stopped two motorcyclists for traffic violations and found that neither were endorsed riders.

A motorcycle endorsement is an addition of a note or credential to a driver’s license that states you are legally allowed to ride a motorcycle on public roads, according to motorbikelicense.com.

The drivers were cited and their bikes impounded. See ENFORCEMENT on 10

WHERE TO TAKE A MOTORCYCLE CLASS
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‘Fenton’ family celebrates its roots in Fenton

Descendants of Fenton Founders enjoy family reunion during Fourth of July Freedom Festival
By Vera Hogan
vhogan@cttimes.com; 810-433-6823

Fenton — Several members of the Fenton family came home for the Fourth of July weekend — home to the town made possible by their ancestors, Horace Fenton and Col. William Fenton. See FENTON on 9

Few incidents during Fourth of July festivities

Area police chiefs say residents and guests were, for the most part, on fairly good behavior

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

Despite the fact that a couple of communities declared a ban on fireworks for this Fourth of July holiday, and others did not, area police chiefs say the weekend passed with relatively few incidents.

The city of Fenton was one that decided the show must go on, banning only outdoor burning.

“We had to make a few arrests, but nothing got out of hand,” said Fenton Police Rick Aro.

Aro said there were some sporadic calls about camp fires in the city, which the fire department handled.

“Last night (Monday), one individual was arrested at the fireworks display for disorderly conduct,” Aro said. “There were a few drunk drivers, but that was about it. Nobody got hurt too bad.”

Argentine Township was one of the communities that banned both outdoor burning and fireworks. See INCIDENTS on 15

A man and his dog watch the Saturday, July 2 fireworks from the public launch off Cussewago Beach Drive in Fenton Township. The fireworks were ignited from Case’s Island on Lake Fenton. Hundreds of pontoons and spectators gathered for the hour-long show.

TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

According to Michigan State Police, approximately 25 percent of fatal motorcycle crashes involve an unendorsed operator.

Everywhere I go, 90 percent of the women I see driving are also texting. What I never see is one of them pulled over and ticketed for this lunacy. I would like to know how many texting tickets the Fenton cops have issued this year.”

Minds are like parachutes, they only function when they’re open.

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“The comment was made that in the ‘50s and ‘60s that there were no guns like the AR-15. The M-1 carbines were readily available, surplus price about $15, with a 15- and 30-round magazine and they were all over. It’s not the guns, it’s the people.”

TRI-COUNTY TIMES | VER A HOGAN

(Front left) James Fenton, Peter Fenton and Gus Fenton show off their family pride ball caps during a visit to the A.J. Phillips Museum Saturday morning. They are among the many direct descendants of Horace Fenton and Col. William Fenton in town over the holiday weekend for their 2016 reunion.
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Fenton Freedom Festival 2016

The Fenton Freedom Festival brought thousands to downtown Fenton on Monday, July 4. Following the Firecracker Run and parade, visitors gathered around the Fenton Community and Cultural Center for grilled chicken, a petting zoo, arts and crafts and many more activities. This was the first festival held since the Streetscape was completed.
The power of choice

This past weekend, while attending a Fourth of July gathering of friends and associates, I happened to overhear someone refer to a close friend of mine as “leading a charmed life.” I got to thinking about this statement on the drive home.

The conclusion I drew after considerable thought was that this person couldn’t have been more wrong. The individual referred to was no more “charmed” than anyone else in the world. This person had merely learned a long time ago that the secret to happiness — no matter what your personal definition is — is simply the power of choice.

How many times in your life have you heard homeless people referred to as “less fortunate.” If you accept the premise that one individual is a filthy, homeless, destitute, drunken bum because he is “less fortunate,” then you must also accept the premise that successful people who have a home, are clean and sober and have an income, are “more fortunate.”

That, royal readers, is simply ridiculous.

The unshaven, disgusting, filthy drunk sleeping in an alley is there by choice. He is lying there, passed out in his cardboard box, because of the sum total of every choice he has ever made in his life. He is lying there by choice — his choice.

It’s no coincidence that most losers in life don’t buy into the premise of accepting responsibility for their choices.

It is naive to think that my friend leads a “charmed life.” He is blessed with happiness and prosperity simply because of the choices he made — and, more importantly, accepting total responsibility for those choices and their resulting consequences.

Preach it, teach it, practice it — we each control our own life through the power of choice.

Destiny is choice, not chance — always has been, always will be.

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Destiny is choice, not chance — always has been, always will be.
The logic behind your credit score

Your score could decrease 100 points by missing just one mortgage payment

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

One of the most important numbers in your life is your credit score.

It determines if you’ll be approved to buy a house or car, and can affect major life decisions.

Lori Barton, vice president of The State Bank in Fenton said, “It’s very easy for a credit score to go down quickly, but they don’t rise quickly. One late payment on a mortgage could have a 100-point decrease in your credit score.”

A credit score is a three-digit number that lenders use to determine someone’s reliability for loans and credit cards.

Credit scores range from 300 to 830, according to Credit Karma.

Anything above 700 is considered good. Your credit score can decrease for a number of reasons.

“The payment history will affect your score, the types of credit you have,” she said. Consumers have Visa cards, or American Express cards, and more recently, credit cards from apartment stores, like Kohl’s.

Your payment history plays a big role. Being late on a mortgage bill greatly affects your score because they’re priced at a higher value.

“If you’re 15 days late, it’s not going to show. If you’re 30 days late, that will show,” she said.

Bankruptcies, judgments, or tax liens will show on a credit score, and cause a decrease.

How long you’ve established credit is also a factor.

“If I’ve only had credit for two years compared to someone who’s had credit for 30 years, that will make a difference,” she said.

Your balance-to-limit ratio, which is calculated by dividing the total amount of balances on your cards by the total of the limits on your cards, according to experian.com, is also an important factor.

A high balance-to-limit ratio can be a red flag and can adversely affect your score.

“Your limits play a key role in your credit score. If you owed more than 50 percent of outstanding limits, then it will have a downward effect on credit scores,” she said. Experian recommends not exceeding 30 percent of your credit limits.

A few components can cause your score to increase. Barton said paying your bills on time, keeping your balances low, and removing negative items on your credit report if possible can all cause your score to increase.

Barton explained that if you only have car loans, getting a mortgage could cause your credit score to increase.

One myth is that the more you check your credit score, the more it decreases.

“I have not heard of that,” Barton said. Consumers checking your own credit score online at free sites like creditkarma.com and freecreditscore.com won’t lower your score.

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A high balance-to-limit ratio can be a red flag and can adversely affect your score.
A second chance setting aside a conviction in Michigan

In this life everyone makes mistakes. Fortunately, for most people their mistakes do not involve a violation of the criminal law.

However, there are times when what some may call a type of mistake rises to a much more serious level and what has been done turns out to be a violation of the criminal law with the consequences that follow including punishment and a criminal record.

A criminal record can follow a person for the rest of their lives and the consequences invariably include difficulty in finding employment.

In 1965, the Michigan state legislature recognized that for those deserving it, an opportunity for a so-called “second chance” should be a possibility under the law.

As a result, the legislature passed Public Act 213 of 1965 allowing eligible defendants to apply to the court in which they were convicted to have their convictions set aside or “expunged.”

This law requires proof that the defendant has led a crime free and positive life and setting it aside is consistent with the general welfare.

The law has been amended several times as to the types of crimes that are eligible and other substantive requirements, with the latest of these amendments becoming effective Jan. 12, 2015.

An application may be filed to set aside one or more convictions if the procedural rules are followed and a sufficient showing is made.

Generally, there is a minimum five-year waiting period after the sentence was imposed or since the defendant was discharged from imprisonment, probation, or parole whichever is later.

If a person has been convicted of not more than one felony offense and two misdemeanor offenses the felony can be set aside. Alternatively, if a person has had not more than two misdemeanor convictions one or both convictions can be set aside.

There is a list of offenses that can’t be set aside including traffic offenses, life felonies, and most criminal sexual conduct convictions.

If an applicant is granted relief, the statute provides that they are considered not to have been convicted. A non-public record is still kept for law enforcement, court, and other purposes.

More information on this, including court forms and some special rules, is available on the Michigan Supreme Court website.
First used only for military, devices now becoming mainstream for business and recreation

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

What do real estate, the U.S. military, sports and aerial photography, law enforcement, delivery companies and farmers have in common? They are all businesses or groups that either use drones now or will be in the foreseeable future.

Simply put, a drone is an unpiloted aircraft or spacecraft often used for military purposes. However, their application for many other industries is quickly becoming apparent as drones become more commonplace.

According to the Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International (AUVSI), the drone industry will have nearly a $100 billion economic impact in the next 10 years, as they begin to be integrated into the public and private sector.

The Michigan State Police is the first group in the state of Michigan to get approval for unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

“We don’t call them drones,” said First Lt. Michael Shaw, public information director for the MSP-Metro Post. “They’re unmanned aerial vehicles or systems. We’ve had two now for a year. It’s a huge process to get them.”

Priced at about $100,000 each, the two UAVs are stationed out of Lansing, and are used primarily for crime scene photographs, search and rescue and arson investigation. “Ours are operated by pilots in the aviation division, the same ones who fly our helicopters and fixed wing aircraft,” said Shaw.

They’re also available to local, county and federal partners who also use the state police’s K-9 units, dive teams, etc. “They don’t have to invest money in having their own equipment,” said Shaw.

He believes that the UAVs save the department money. “We don’t always have to use helicopters, they can get into tighter spots and they’re a lot more quiet. There’s a lot of good in using UAVs,” he said.

While Shaw is very positive about the use of UAVs in law enforcement, other people are nervous about UAVs taking away jobs. The AUVSI report states that the drone industry will actually create about 100,000 jobs between now and 2025, as the industry requires manufacturers, monitors, maintenance and controllers.

Others are concerned about privacy, which has kept the FAA on top of guidelines regarding commercial drones. They can’t fly above 400 feet or travel faster than 100 mph. They also can’t fly above pedestrians and must remain in sight of the operator. Drones also are restricted from flying near populated areas, airports or stadiums.

While we think of drones as a recent technological invention, they’ve actually been around for decades, and in more rudimentary form, for centuries. One of the first recorded usages of drones was by Austrians on Aug. 22, 1849, when they launched 200 pilotless balloons against the city of Venice. Even in the Civil War, Confederate and Union forces both flew balloons for reconnaissance missions.

A forerunner of today’s drone was even a presence in World War II, when radio controlled B-24s were sent on bombing missions over Germany. In Vietnam, remotely controlled aircraft carried still cameras over battlefields.

In 1995, the U.S. military deployed a small squadron of Predators with video cameras for the first time in Yugoslavia during the war on Bosnia.

Since that time, drones have become popular as their possibilities for commercial, agricultural and other uses just begin to scratch the surface. Drones with cameras are being purchased “just for fun,” priced at about $1,000 and up. Even if your drone is for recreation, it must be registered with the FAA if it weighs more than .55 pounds. Anything lighter is considered a toy.

You can register your drone on faa.gov. gov and the $5 fee is much cheaper than a possible $27,500 fine for operating a drone without registration.

**SUMMARY**

Drone have come a long way since their primary intended use in military intelligence and combat. Today, they are being used for many commercial applications – from photography to law enforcement.
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Fenton
Continued from Front Page

The family held its 2016 reunion in the city and were welcomed with open arms and hearts by the thousands of citizens who call themselves “Fentonites.”

Their first taste of Fenton hospitality came Friday night during the Fourth of July Parade Grand Marshal reception at the Fenton Community & Cultural Center.

The next morning, they visited the A.J. Philpips Museum, where a wealth of Fenton history is housed through documents and artifacts. During their visit, the Fentons showed they are a friendly, close-knit family with a great sense of humor.

Elizabeth Fenton (see sidebar for lineage), is from Plainwell, Illinois and works as an IT Systems Analyst for Chicago O’Hare International Airport, Customs and Border Patrol. This was Elizabeth’s first visit to Fenton and said, "I love it, it’s beautiful. It’s decorated so nicely, it’s just wonderful.

“I really like seeing the names of all the businesses here that start with ‘Fenton.’” I want my share.” Elizabeth Fenton, Great great great granddaughter of Horace Fenton

"I really like seeing the names of all the businesses here that start with ‘Fenton.’ I want my share.” Elizabeth Fenton, Great great great granddaughter of Horace Fenton

Gus Fenton, a retired bio-medical engi neer from Minneapolis, Minnesota, was there with his wife, Pat. He has been spending his time writing his second book called, “The writings of Horace Fenton,” 1804-1876.” He is currently working on the third. A copy - auto - graphed by members of the family who were in town over the holiday weekend, can be viewed at the museum.

Larry Fenton transcribed the writings of Horace Fenton. The writings were first typed by Elizabeth in 1973.

“It was very special to be able to type it on my IBM Selectric typewriter ,” she said.

Larry, who with his wife Kathy, came in from their home in Columbia, Mary - land, put it all on the computer. The family lauded Larry and Kathy for serving as the family genealogists and doing “a lot of the legwork.”

Larry is a retired electrical engineer from the NSA (National Security Agency).

“We don’t ask him what he did there,” said Peter. "We came here last year on a scouting trip to the NSA (National Security Agency)."

Larry is a retired electrical engineer from the NSA (National Security Agency).

Pauline and Elizabeth said they think this is a wonderful, creative way to keep William Fenton’s name and the legend alive while raising money for a worthy cause.

“‘They (Fenton City) did such a great job of preserving its history while at the same time making it look so pleasant,” said Gus. Fenton residents and visitors were able to easily spot the family members, who sported colorful caps that say, “I am a Fenton” and T-shirts bearing the same message.

Fenton is buried.

** Summary 

In town for the Fenton Freedom Festival Fourth of July festivities were direct descendants of Horace Fenton, siblings – Larry, Pauline, Elizabeth and Gus Fenton. Their great great grandfather was Horace Fenton, second cousin to Col. William Fenton. Also present were their cousins Naomi Gettier and her husband, Ray; Pete Fenton and his wife, Lynn; Jim Fenton and his wife, Lesa.

Ed Davison and his daughter, Ashley Davison were also in attendance. Ed’s great great grandparents are Col. William and Augusta Fenton.

Other family members in Fenton for the reunion were Eric Kiltinen, Charlie Heimerdinger and Chris Chambers, as well as Christina Fenton.

To see the story about the has relief of Col. William Fenton at Red Fox Outfitters, visit this story online at tctimes.com.

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Fenton Lakes Sportman’s Club - Serving our community by protecting natural resources and supporting fellow sportsmen since 1953.
Fenton ArtWalk coming this Saturday

Downtown Fenton will host a variety of art events

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

Art will be coming to the streets of downtown Fenton this weekend with the Fenton ArtWalk on Saturday July 9, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Local and regional artists will showcase their work in area retail stores. The event also will feature family friendly activities, music, strolling performers and more. The community is invited to an evening reception on Friday, July 8 at the Fenton Community & Cultural Center.
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Ridding your garden of those pesky critters

When it comes to determining what critter is munching on your spring garden, homeowners may feel like their partnership with Mother Nature is as contentious as any that ever graced the big, or small screen. According to an article at RISMedia.com, how are you supposed to fight the “crime” of a decimated garden if you can’t identify the suspect who’s been devouring your daylilies?

Hungry critters of all sizes can destroy your garden and landscaping quickly. Once you’ve identified the critters that are eating your flowers, bulbs and decorative grasses, you can choose animal repellents that will persuade pests to leave your garden alone.

Here are some facts to get your detective work under way, according to RISMedia.com:

• **Deer** — Ragged bites, typically a foot or more above the ground, indicate deer damage. Deer are known for devouring gardens and landscapes. You’ll see their tracks every year, making dinner of your daisies, daylilies and other ornamental plants.

• **Rabbits** — If plant damage is low to the ground — a few inches above the soil and includes stems clipped cleanly at an angle, you’re probably dealing with rabbits. Rabbits will eat just about any kind of vegetation, including your flower, bushes and other woody plants. Remove all brush and other debris that could provide them with shelter.

• **Voles** — When flower bulbs disappear from the ground or plant roots go missing, chances are you have voles — mouse-like creatures that burrow under ground and that are highly destructive to gardens. Exit holes are further indications that voles are tunnelling under your garden. Teeth marks around the base of trees, droppings or trails in the grass can also indicate the presence of voles.

• **Groundhogs** — Mounds of dirt beside burrow entrances are a sure sign of groundhogs, a garden pest that eats just about every type of green plant. Groundhogs can destroy a garden. These solitary herbivores live in burrows underground.

• **Chipmunks** — The presence of chipmunks in your garden is nothing but bad news. Damage to flower bulbs, plant shoots and leaves, uprooted plants and dug-up roots are all signs you have chipmunks. Their underground burrows may be a challenge to spot since the entrances are usually only about 2 inches in diameter and not surrounded by noticeable dirt mounds. You can curtail their activity by removing yard debris where chipmunks hide.

• **Squirrels** — Squirrels live in colonies, digging underground tunnels and mounds in grassy areas and around trees that can lay waste to gardens and landscapes.

Once you’ve identified the critters eating your garden, you’ll need the right tools to take care of them. Most traditional pest-control measures — row covers, netting, noise deterrents, predator urine or even human hair strewn around the yard — might not be enough. Fences can do the job, but they can be expensive and you may live in a community that restricts the type and height of fences you can erect. Some small animal repellents, however, do work. Bobbex-R is all-natural, environmentally friendly and proven effective at protecting ornamental plantings from small, four-legged garden critters.

In testing by the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, the product, which works through smell and taste aversion, received a 100-percent efficacy rating at repelling rabbits. Usable in any weather, it won’t burn plants or wash off. Use it as a bulb dip to deter underground damage, or spray it at the mouth of burrows to prevent animals from re-entering. Safe for humans, pets, birds and aquatic life, Bobbex-R contains no petro chemicals.

To thwart deer damage, try Bobbex Deer, an all-natural repellent made from a combination of ingredients, including putrescent eggs, garlic, fish, clove oil and vinegar. By mimicking predator scents, this tear repellent also tastes unpleasant to deer. The product is more effective than other commercial repellents (including coyote urine), according to independent testing by the Connecticut AG Station. Testers gave it a 93-percent protection index, second only to a fence at 100-percent. These products are available at The Home Depot and Walmart.

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Two additional locations: 8138 Miller Rd. in Swartz Creek and 6063 Fenton Rd. in Flint/Grand Blanc Township
Open Gate Garden Club tour features seven gardens

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

The Fenton Open Gate Garden Club’s 19th annual Summer Garden Tour will take place on Sunday, July 10, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Seven different gardens will be featured this year, showcasing gardens along the Shiawassee River, garden structures, water features, stonework, potting, island gardens, vegetable gardens, fairy gardens, and many other features.

The press release states that “This is a wonderful opportunity for gardeners of all ages and experience to spend a day wandering through lovely area gardens, appreciating their beauty and inspired by each garden’s unique personality.”

Admission the day of is $10 and children under the age of 10 get in for free. These tickets can be bought at the A.J. Phillips Fenton Museum, at 310 S. LeRoy Street in Fenton.

Advance tickets for $8 can be purchased at the following places: Bordine’s Nursery, Gerych’s Distinctive Flowers and Gifts, Heavenly Scent Herb Farm, Holly Township Library, Sweet Variations, Yard ‘N’ Garden and The Weed Lady in Grand Blanc.

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ADELPHIAN ACADEMY ALUMNI HOSTS ANNUAL HOMECOMING

More than 125 Adelphian Academy Alumni attended the annual homecoming in Holly last weekend. The Honor Classes were the 40-year, 1976, and the 60-year, 1956. Services were held at the Holly Seventh-day Adventist Church. Alumni President Peggy Dean Hoffmeyer, Class of 1960, of Holly, said, “The purpose of the Alumni Homecoming is both to maintain school-day friendships and support Christian Education.”

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MIDWEEK TIMES
Wednesday, July 6, 2016

www.tctimes.com

INCI DENTS
Continued from Front Page

According to Argentine Township Police Chief Dan Allen, however “Nothing notable occurred — I was surprised.”

The village of Holly also banned outdoor burning and fireworks. Holly Police Chief Mike Story said from Friday, July 1 through Tuesday morning, the police responded to 14 fireworks calls.

“No one was issued a citation or arrested, and no fireworks were confiscated,” Story said.

Neither a burning or fireworks ban was imposed in the city of Linden.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

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Fenton’s trap shooting team capped its first season by winning its first state championship.

**Tigers’ trap shooting team is aiming high**

Fenton High School team more than successful in its first season

By Grant Cislo
rcislo@tctimes.com; 810-433-6786

Fenton High School added a new sport to its high school athletics program this past school year. The school now has a trapshooting team. It is currently recognized as a club sport by the high school.

Senior Spencer Bundy, 17, sparked an interest in the sport and brought it to the attention of Athletic Director Mike Bakker.

Bundy wrote a proposal for Bakker in order to get approval for the team. Once the team was approved, Bundy had to find a faculty advisor to give Bakker updates on how the team was doing. Deanna Baker agreed to sponsor the team.

“She was all for it, she really enjoys trap shooting,” said Bundy.

Baker is a fan of trap shooting and shot competitively in college.

For anyone who is not familiar with trap shooting, here is how it works. Participants take turns shooting from their assigned station at flying clay disks that are 16 yards away. There are five stations, and each participant will take a turn shooting five times at each station. Once they are done shooting at one station, they move onto the next until they have completed all five stations.

Once Bundy had everything together to get the team started, they began holding meetings to get the word out to students at the high school. Spencer’s younger brother, Parker Bundy, helped throughout the whole process. Parker is a sophomore at Fenton High School. Around 45 students showed interest at first and by the time the season started in the spring, they had 13 shooters on the team.

The team is coached by Dr. from “Doc” Abraham. The entire team calls Abraham “Doc” because he is a podiatrist. Abraham is in charge of the Linden Sports-man’s Club, where the team practiced for the entire season.

The team participated in the Michigan State High School Clay Target League during the 2015-2016 school year and saw nothing but success for its first season finishing the five-week season with an undefeated record.

The team competed in the state championship on June 18 where they defeated Richmond High School with an overall score of 1852.5 to 1696 to give the Tigers its first trap shooting state championship.

“The greatest thing about this whole thing has been the coaches, the parents, the other kids coming in. It’s just an amazing group of people,” said Ed Negley parent of sophomore team member, Cameron Negley.

The students on the team also showed their excitement about the sport.

Junior Trevor Johnson was new to the sport and decided to join the team because he was into hunting and thought it would be a good fit for him.

“It’s just coming out and shooting, it doesn’t matter if you have a bad day or good day, it’s just fun to come out and shoot,” said Johnson.

Four of the boys on the team finished in the 2016 spring league’s “top five male” members with Tommy Kemp being first overall, Spencer Bundy placed third and both Parker Bundy and Trevor Johnson tied for fifth place. Freshmen Hannah Doyle, finished in the league’s “top five female” shooters at first place.
### Sargents preparing for athletic college careers

By David Troppens
droppens@tctimes.com

Nikole Sargent had the dream ending for her prep athletic career earlier this spring.

The Powers graduate and Fenton resident capped her career by winning her second straight Division 2 state championship shot put title and her first-ever discus state championship.

This fall she gets to experience another dream — going to Michigan State University. Sargent will follow the same path her father took as a football player and continue her track and field career as a Spartan.

Sargents preparing for athletic college careers

Nikole said Indiana University, the University of Louisville and Michigan State were her final schools in the running.

“When I went there I loved the atmosphere of the team,” Nikole said. “I loved the people and the coach and that was a big factor for me. Since they are who I will be spending most of my time with for the next four to five years. Athletically and academically it was everything I was looking for.”

Noah capped his football career in the D4 championship game with Powers, with the Chargers losing a 40-14 verdict. Just a couple of weeks ago he also played in an all-star game hosted by his new school, Saginaw Valley State University. He was also looking at Northwood, Wayne State and Eastern Michigan. Noah is doing summer work outs on campus.

“My dad played football there, was on the 1988 Rose Bowl team. ... We go to football games and volleyball games there. That’s what we do and what our family does.”

Noah capped his football career in the D4 championship game with Powers, with the Chargers losing a 40-14 verdict. Just a couple of weeks ago he also played in an all-star game hosted by his new school, Saginaw Valley State University. He was also looking at Northwood, Wayne State and Eastern Michigan. Noah is doing summer work outs on campus.

“I liked the coaches and they seemed to be interested in me. It fit well,” Noah said. “The facilities are top-notch. They have a brand new indoor turf field. That was an eye-opener, I liked it.”

Sargent was the Flint area’s offensive player of the year after completing 60 percent of his passes for 1,300 yards and 17 touchdowns. He also ran for 12 TDs and 859 yards while playing quarterback.

“Coach talked to me about going in as an athlete,” Noah said. “I’ll start out with the quarterback group and if that doesn’t work out, I’ll switch to receiver and see how that goes.”

### TC’s Top 16 of 2015-16 starts with a fall flavor

**Linden boys XC, Fenton volleyball in poll for eighth straight year**

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

We’ve been rating the top 16 teams of the tri-county sports school year for eight years. In those eight seasons, only three teams have found a spot on our list in each of those polls.

When we start our three-part installation of the 2015-16 Tri-County Top 16 Poll, two of those three squads (Linden boys cross country and Fenton volleyball) will be represented. Eventually all three (we won’t list the other squad, yet) will make it.

Quite often sports fans will ask what makes a team a strong program? To me, consistency is a major component to any answer to that question. Today, we’ll discuss No. 11 to No. 16 on our list. Future editions will include our middle five teams and then the top five programs. Is your favorite team among our top 16? Six will find out today.

**No. 16 – Linden boys cross country:** The Eagles have earned the honor of being our No. 1 squad during three of the seasons. This represents the second time they’ve just held on to the No. 16 spot, continuing their eighth-year run on our lists. The fall didn’t start out that great for the Eagles. Used to competing for a Metro League crown, Linden finished fourth in the Metro. However, Linden rebounded during the postseason, proving why the Metro League’s most talented sport is clearly boys cross country. Linden placed third in regionals and qualified for the state meet for the 10th straight season. Once there, the Eagles placed 16th at Michigan International Speedway. Who was Linden’s top competition for the No. 16 spot? It was Fenton girls track, who is the first team out.

**No. 15 – Fenton volleyball:** Much like the Linden boys cross country team, the Tigers started the 2015 fall non-league season a bit slow, but as the season went on they got better and better. The Tigers ended the season with a strong 40-12-7 record and captured the Metro League championship.
Holly’s summer tennis program emphasizes fun, program’s future

By David Troppens
dtroppens@tctimes.com

Holly — Activity and smiles are abundant at the William McDaniel Holly Tennis Complex on what was a beautiful sunny Wednesday morning.

There are about 100 kids ranging from ages from 4 to teenagers on the 12 courts doing all sorts of activities. The older players are competing against each other, while the younger members are having fun playing other games, but they are contests that represent tennis in some fashion.

Today, the game of choice for the younger players seems to be “Champs and Challengers.” During it, the players cut the courts into about half the size and play out a point. One person on one side is the champ, while the other is the challenger. If you beat the champ, you go to the other side of the court and keep battling other challengers until you earn a point. Quite often the champion is replaced by the challenger. And when they pass each other as they go on to other sides of the court, typically you hear some good sportsmanship as well. The students proclaim “Good game,” giving each other a high-five.

This is a pretty typical summer morning at the Holly varsity tennis courts during the summer months. The Holly Summer Tennis Program may be the biggest reason why the Bronchos’ boys and girls varsity tennis programs are among the most successful in the tri-county area over the last three decades.

It’s likely the same girls who competed for a state championship on their own home tennis courts in early June may have been the girls who attended the camp a decade ago as “tot tennis” campers. And when they came to the month-long camp (this year’s camp runs until July 25) they were not only taught by the current varsity coaches, but the varsity students in the program, creating that family pipeline that the Bronchos’ two tennis programs are so well known for. They are already a part of the Holly tennis family.

There’s a good chance they will be the players winning Metro League championships and regional titles for the program in the future.

“I have been a part of the program since I was six years old,” Holly graduate and past Holly varsity tennis player Evan Vergith said. “I’ve been here since I was very young, me and my brother both. (Ex-Holly varsity tennis coach) Brennan (Brown) taught it and he was a great influence for us. Every day I looked forward to getting up here and playing every morning.”

CONTINUED ONLINE AT TCTIMES.

TOP 16
Continued from Page 18

championship with an undefeated conference record. Fenton began the post-season by capturing a Class A district championship. They eventually lost in the regional semifinals in a five-set defeat against Eisenhower. Fenton volleyball was No. 16 each of the last two years. They’ve snuck up one spot this year.

No. 14 — Fenton girls swimming and diving: The fall sports season eventually will make up seven of the 16 teams in the poll. So far, they’ve made up all three squads in this story. The Lady Tigers had another strong season, dominating the Metro League with an undefeated conference record and an overwhelming victory at the Metro League meet. The Tigers also had five competitors qualify for the state meet with all five making it to the second day. Diver Taylor Shgos earned All-State honors, placing fifth. Fenton finished 22nd overall at the state meet.

No. 13 — Fenton football: Look, another fall sports team. The Tigers began the season with a loss to Davison, but then went on to capture eight straight victories to finish the regular season with an 8-1 mark and a perfect Metro League championship season. The Tigers continued their winning ways with an opening playoff victory against Holly, but then lost to Midland Dow in the district championship game. The Tigers are the only football team to make our top 16. Fenton football placed 15th last year.

No. 12 — Lake Fenton girls soccer: Finally, a non-fall sports team! The Lake Fenton’s varsity softball players celebrate getting out of a jam in a contest this year. The Blue Devils are No. 11 on our Tri-County Top 16 Teams of the 2015-16 school year.

Lake Fenton girls soccer team struggled early but rebounded during the second half of the season by capturing a couple of nice tournament titles, including the Genesee Area Conference’s postseason tourney championship. The Blue Devils continued their second-half strong portion of the season by capturing a district title for the second straight season. However, their run ended when the Blue Devils lost to Muskegon Catholic North 1-0 in the regional semifinals. Lake Fenton girls soccer was sixth in our poll last year.

No. 11 — Lake Fenton softball: The Blue Devils continued their fine tradition by earning another Genesee Area Conference title, this time sharing the honor. The Blue Devils also continued their strong season during the postseason tourney, capturing a district crown at home. However, the team’s run ended in the regional semifinal.

TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPIENS

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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 3x3 box contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★★
- Moderate ★★★★ Challenging ★★★★★★★★★

Answer in this Sunday’s edition of the Tri-County Times.

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**HOROSCOPIES**

**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) You clever Aries and Rams love nothing more than to rise to a challenge. So, by all means, if you feel sure about your facts, step right up and defend your side of the issue.

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) You’ve done some great work recently. Now it’s time to reward yourself with something wonderful, perhaps a day at a spa or a night out with someone very special.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) You love to talk, but don’t forget to make time to do a little more listening; otherwise, you could miss out on an important message someone might be trying to send to you.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) Your aspect indicates some uncertainty about one of your goals. Use this period of shifting attitudes to reassess what you’re ready to do to get it.

**LEO** (July 23 to Aug. 22) Your social life is picking up, and you’ll soon be mingling with old friends and making new ones. But twist the fun times, stay on top of changing work-place conditions.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 Sept. 22) A trusted friend offers understanding as you vent some long-pent-up feelings. Now, move on from there and start making the changes you’ve put off all this time.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You might well feel uneasy as you face a difficult situation involving someone close to you. But you know you’re doing the right thing, so stick with your decision.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You’re a good friend to others. Now’s the time to allow them to be good friends to you. Rely on their trusted advice to help you get through an uncertain period.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Family and friends are always important, but especially so at this time. Despite your hectic workplace schedule, make a real effort to include them in your life.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) That project you’ve been working on is almost ready for presentation. But you still need some information from a colleague before you can consider it done.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) Don’t let those negative attitudes that have sprung up around you drain your energies. Shrug them off, and move ahead with the confidence that you can get the job done.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19 to Mar. 20) Aspects favor some dedicated fun time for the hardworking Pisccean. A nice, refreshing plunge into the social swim can recharge your physical and emotional batteries.
Planning a Garage Sale? SATURDAY JULY 9TH vintage tables chairs, toys, office, school, huge accumulation! Water toys, pool table, books, VHS/DVD recorder. Huge vintage living room set, end tables, miscellaneous. Do not analyze the idea of how the deceased were remembered or not, but think about their legacy and what they left behind. Write something genuinely heartfelt and sincere, and avoid any insensitive or inappropriate remarks. In memory of [Name], we celebrate a life well-lived. We loved you and will miss you deeply. May you rest in peace. Answer in this Sunday’s edition of the Tri-County Times.
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