

'I thought it must be another Dallas...'

■ Fenton Township man shares experience of being a Dallas police officer on day of shooting

By Sharon Stone

sstone@tctimes.com; 810-433-6786

Never did he expect to be part of the deadliest day for police since 9/11, but that is exactly where

Preston Bigger found himself on Thursday, July 7.

Bigger, a 27-year-old, 2006 graduate of Lake Fenton High School is a police officer with the



Preston Bigger

“Handshakes and a thank you mean more than you can know.”

Preston Bigger

Dallas police officer, formerly of Fenton Township

Dallas Police Department.

Five police officers were killed and seven others wounded July 7, when sniper fire from a lone gunman, later identified as Micah Johnson, turned a peaceful rally in Dallas over recent police shootings, into a deadly chaotic scene.

On that day Bigger worked his usual day

See **DALLAS OFFICER on 20A**



PAGE 3A
Your canine companions... and your protectors

Weekend **Times** SUNDAY EDITION

\$1.00

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2012 - 2013 - 2014 NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

Mike Burns leaving assistant manager post

■ Has conditionally accepted Lowell city manager job

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

After more than seven years as Fenton's assistant city manager, Mike Burns will be leaving this job to become the city manager in Lowell, a community of close to 4,000 residents, 20 miles east of Grand Rapids.

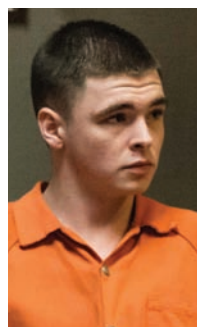
"I have conditionally accepted an offer to become the city manager of Lowell," said Burns. "This is contingent upon com-

See **MIKE BURNS**

on 19A



Mike Burns



Child pornography case adjourned — again

Linden resident could get 20 years to life in prison.

Page 19A



Usewick to be sentenced for bank fraud

Facing up to 30 years in prison and \$1 million fine.

Page 14A

GIFT of a LIFETIME



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Jonny Hendricks, 9, shakes the hand of a Mt. Morris police officer Wednesday night at the Red Devil restaurant in Holly. Behind him is Holly Police Chief Michael Story. Jonny, who has leukemia, was able to fulfill a wish by meeting officers from eight local police departments, touring the Holly police station and taking a ride in a patrol car.

Nine-year-old with leukemia wins dinner and patrol car ride with Holly cops

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

The sirens were blaring, the lights were flashing, but no crime had been committed.

The Holly Police Department gave two young people the ride of a lifetime, as part of a prize won during a June 18 fundraising event for Holly Little League.

“His face lit up from ear to ear.”

Samantha Hendricks
Mother of 9-year-old with leukemia

But the story is about much more than just winning a prize — it's about the bravery of one young boy, a selfless friend and a Holly police officer who wanted to make a difference.

Jonny Hendricks, 9, has been battling leukemia since he was 6 years old, enduring blood transfusions, IV and oral chemotherapy

See **GIFT on 15A**

TEXT
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“Why would anyone want to become a cop? Under liberal rule, the criminals have become bold enough to kill cops at will. And the cops can't fight back because, regardless of circumstances, it is now politically incorrect to pursue and arrest black criminals. This is social suicide.”

“After a meeting with FBI Director James Comey, the PGA has implemented the following rule change. From now on, your opponent must prove that you intended to hit the ball into a hazard, the woods or the water in order for a penalty stroke to be assessed.”

“The Tri-County Times should get a blue ribbon for allowing people to express their opinions on either side of the subject. This is a freedom guaranteed in the constitution that the liberals would like to take away. Keep up the good work, Tri-County Times.”



COMMENT
OF THE WEEK

“Hillary had trouble with her emails. Bill had trouble with his females.”



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13095 Torrey
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\$264,000

PENDING PROPERTIES



11472 Moffett Ct | Fenton
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Canine companion... and protector

■ Personal protection dog training takes place in Rose Township every weekend

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Rose Twp. — On Saturday in an open, grassy field in Rose Township a sable German shepherd, named Paikea, darts around a 7-foot-tall wooden structure, looking for someone around the corner.

There's no one there.

She runs about 15 yards away to the next structure, also called a blind, without stopping. Paikea runs around the blind, but doesn't find anyone.

Finally, she runs to the third and sees the man standing in the corner of the blind. She starts jumping up and barking at him. The man doesn't do anything.

She jumps up and bites his arm, tearing at the bite guard on his arm. Her owner Mike Scudder of Oxford, yells to her, "don't be dirty," followed by a command in another language and she lets go.

Pat Riley, owner and main trainer of the Backwoods K9 Misfits, a dog training company, said they use the word "dirty" to describe a dog that is not listening.

Paikea was only supposed to bark, and wait for the command from Scudder to bite.

The bite does not hurt Riley. He's wearing a "sleeve," a padded arm guard with a bite bar, and occasionally puts on the padded jacket throughout the day of training.

Riley is working with Paikea on IPO training. IPO, also known as Schutzhund, originated in Germany and stands for Internationale Profungs-Ordnung, which translates to International Auditing Rules or International Exam Rules, according to landheimk9.com.

Riley started training dogs in 2001. What started as a hobby has turned into a full-time job, with busy Saturdays filled with training and events throughout the year.

To protect themselves, trainers also use rattle sticks or rubber rods to make sound and frighten the dogs to test their courage and see if they will run away.

"We're testing that dog's fight," Riley said.

Helpers, often called decoys, also wear



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | HANNAH BALL

(Top) Mike Scudder of Oxford tells his German shepherd, Paikea, to search for Pat Riley, main trainer of Backwoods K9 Misfits, as Riley stands ready behind the blind. (Bottom left) Cannon, a 5-year-old German shepherd, bites Riley's arm seconds after Riley "attacked" his owner, Cassidy Hamilton. (Bottom right) Cannon stands with his owner.

ing sleeves, will help train the dogs. They'll yell and be aggressive toward the dog, or "attack" their owner to train the dogs to bite attackers.

Everything is reward based. If they do something right, they get a reward. If they don't, they are told "no" and they do the exercise again.

"For the dog, it's very black and white," Riley said. "I call it paying. You won't work for free. The dog won't work for free."

People come from all over the state for Riley's classes. Cassidy Hamilton from Waterford has been training her 5-year-old German shepherd, Cannon, since he was a year old.

Cannon already passed the first level of Protection

SUMMARY

■ The Backwoods K9 Misfits are a group of dog trainers who work on obedience, personal protection, and other dog training exercises every week.

"We're big on people having fun with their dogs and being good owners."

Pat Riley
Backwoods
K9 trainer

Dog Training, and they're going for the next level this year.

"It's just a hobby. It's really fun," she said.

Another owner, Jeanie Saagman, who lives in Westland, brings her 1-year-old Dutch Shepherd, Dutchess, every week. Saagman started Dutchess' training when she was 4 months old. She uses Dutch and German commands.

"I wanted a good protection dog," she said. "I love it. Absolutely love it. The dog loves it."

Riley said Backwoods K9 accepts all breeds, although the pointy-eared breeds are more predominant in the sport.

Riley said there's a misconception about personal protection dogs being scary or mean.

When the dog is on the field and their owner is being "attacked," the dogs are trained to get aggressive and attack. But, on their owner's command, they stop.

All the dogs trained on Saturday were friendly and greeted everyone who watched. Riley stressed that these are actually very nice dogs. Their aggression is controlled and only used in certain situations.

"We're big on people having fun with their dogs and being good owners," he said.

To get in touch with Pat Riley and Backwoods K9, visit backwoodsk9.com, or email rielyk9@yahoo.com.

BACKWOODS K9 TRAINING

IPO is based on old school police work, Pat Riley said. They teach the dogs to bark when they find someone, and bite if they're told. Backwoods K9 Misfits also trains dogs for basic obedience, Service Dogs of America, tracking and scent-work, dock diving and other methods.

"We do a little bit of everything. We like to be very active of all the sports we do," he said.

He has trained seven of his dogs and approximately 100 other dogs. Currently, he actively works with about 20 dogs. They train the dogs for about five minutes at a time, a few times a week.

"It can be a long process with some dogs. It's quick with others," he said.

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Come *Heller* high water

andrewheller@tctimes.com

Back away from my spot

I seldom take on ‘causes’ here at the Old Word Ranch, but I am making an exception today with this direct appeal to you, the people who are, I’m sorry, quite simply ruining this country with your destructive, immoral and disgraceful behavior.

I’m of course referring to back-in parking.

If you do this, please stop. It’s making me hate you and I don’t want to hate you because I need to reserve all of my hatred for the incessant prescription drug commercials that are not only ruining the TV-watching experience but also making



Andrew Heller
FEATURED COLUMNIST

me wonder if I have a 101 diseases I’d never heard about before. (C’mon, tell me you don’t want to reach through the screen and throttle that woman in the flesh-toned body suit pretending to be a spastic colon.)

Where did this sudden passion for backing in come from? For 100 years, people were content to pull in front bumper first, as God intended. (You can tell God wanted it that way because he put your eyes on the front of your head. Duh.)

But now I’d say about half the population backs in, usually directly in front of me. The worst cases go like this: I’ll be creeping along behind someone in a crowded lot when he (it’s almost always a guy) rolls past an open spot and I think, ‘Hey, great! It’s my lucky day.’

I’m almost to it, ready to turn in, when all of a sudden dipstick there slams on his brakes and starts backing toward the spot he just passed. This forces me to make a choice: Do I zip in and take the spot like a major jerk or do I back up so dipstick can have it, forcing every other car behind me to back up as well, creating, potentially, a five-car pileup in a Meijer parking lot?

I always choose the latter because I’m an incredibly nice guy but I’m starting to wonder if I shouldn’t take a stand for all that is good and decent by taking the spot and declaring, ‘I hereby claim this here spot on behalf of normal parkers everywhere!’

Look, I wouldn’t mind back-in parking nearly so much if any of you could do it correctly. But you can’t because you are not me, the world’s only good driver. It’s OK. I don’t blame you for this. There can only be one me. But you could at least try. You could at least take the time to center yourself in the parking spot so I don’t have to crawl out my window if I’m parked next to you. Is that too much to ask?

And when you leave, you could also not fire out of the spot like you’re piloting a Mars rocket. Yes, we get it, you do it because you can and it’s fun and makes you feel like Batman, but that doesn’t make it right.

Here’s a thought: If you’re one of those who back in because you think it’s safer to pull out front first, then just find yourself a nice pull-through spot. Problem solved.

That way I can get back to focusing all of my hatred on the couple in the Cialis commercial that thinks hanging curtains is irresistibly sexy.

“If you’re one of those who back in because you think it’s safer to pull out front first, then just find yourself a nice pull-through spot.”

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.

FBI DIRECTOR COMEY said ‘no reasonable prosecutor would take the case.’ That is not his job. His job is to gather and present the evidence, not to predict how prosecutors might view it. More corruption, lying and cheating by the Clintons.

A HUGE THANKS to the young men who put on the fireworks display over McCaslin Lake Sunday night. They did this out of their own pockets for the community. See the show on YouTube: Fireworks over McCaslin Lake 7/3/16. Leave a comment or thanks for them. Great job gentlemen.

I DON’T REALLY mind people hanging out in my yard to watch the parade. But, I sure wish they wouldn’t leave their trash behind for me to clean up.

IF OUR RULERS in Washington, D.C., don’t have to follow the law, citizens will soon do the same resulting in anarchy.

TO THE CLOSE-minded Hillary defenders — why did Hillary need to have her Secretary of State email private from the government and taxpayers? What was she hiding?

TO THE WRITER, ‘college is meant to expand your mind,’ most universities have become Marxist incubators. My daughters and nephews told me that they could not share their conservative views in class

without getting into grade trouble with their professors.

SIXTY BLACK PEOPLE were killed in Chicago over the Fourth of July weekend. Where’s the outrage over this? God’s word says, ‘Unless you forgive those who have sinned against you, God in heaven will not forgive you.’

ANOTHER POSSIBLE LEGACY for Obama — cop killings skyrocket under his administration.

POLICE MAY NEED training but police protesters definitely need training.

YES, ANOTHER ‘GET over it’ Hot line. This is because you and several others in this community refuse to accept progress and change and the transformation of Fenton into a destination community where people of all types are excited to live, work and play. Get over it.

REPUBLICANS HAVE CORRECTLY criticized Obama for not calling ‘radical Islam’ by name because we need to identify the enemy. And yet, when we see the raised clinched fists at demonstrations, the Republicans fail to identify the rally leaders as Communists. Let’s identify all of our enemies who would destroy us.

DESPITE BEING LOCATED between Detroit and Flint, the residents in the Fenton/Linden/Holly area should be very thankful we have such a low crime rate.

IT HAS BEEN reported that the Clinton Foundation spends 80 percent on administration costs. So when a company was given a contract where they sold our uranium to Putin for \$195 million, \$156 million went in their pockets. When asked, Hillary exclaimed ‘What difference does it make?’ Good answer.

I THINK THEY need to ask both Comey and Loretta Lynch which bank in the Cayman Islands was the one where their pay-offs were deposited.

I’D LIKE TO thank our local police and fire departments for always being there for us. Who do we call when there is a problem? Them. Who always shows up? Them.

AS A UNION member who has voted for Democrats for over 40 years, I have to say that I’m incredibly embarrassed by Obama and how he’s torn this country apart, and I’m embarrassed that I voted for him twice.

See **HOT LINE** throughout Times

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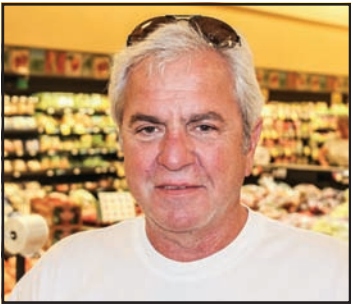
Compiled by Grant Cislo, intern

How are you enjoying this hot summer weather?



“I do not like the heat. I stay in the air conditioning as much as possible.”

— Mike Weinberger
Hartland



“I am trying to take advantage of it. We do not have a swimming pool, but we have been working in the garden and making the most of it.”

— Bill Prestanski
Argentine



“I do not enjoy it but my husband does. He rides his bike to cool himself off and we get to go camping, which is wonderful.”

— Pamela Coffin
Fenton



“Sitting by my pool all day long and trying to get out on the lake every other day.”

— Jacob Kinsman
Fenton



“I have two very young children, so we have a water table and kiddie pool that they splash around in. We also have gone to some friends’ pools.”

— Stephanie Corey
Linden

street talk

Lake Ponemah trailer park passes inspections

■Neighbors not satisfied with conditions and reports

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Fenton Twp. — The inspections have been completed and the reports are in.

Fenton Township Supervisor Bonnie Mathis read aloud reports from Fenton Township Fire Chief Ryan Volz, Ordinance Enforcement Officer Tom Hosie and Building Official Dave Gibson, to the audience members at the Board of Trustees meeting on Monday. The audience included neighbors of the trailer park who have been attending meetings for approximately three months, hoping to improve conditions.

Mathis said the township employees walked through streets of the park on June 29 to look for obvious building code, fire code, and general ordinance violations. According to Hosie's report, "The general condition of the park was good, good to very good condition. A review of prior conditions of the park indicate past problems with blight and junk vehicles. There are no junk vehicles observed during inspections. There were several minor blight issues observed. These issues will be addressed with the property manager and will be monitored for voluntary compliance."

They took photographs of the park for documentation. Hosie's report indicated the park manager and residents of the park are putting in more effort to maintain the property. Gibson's report said there were no violations found, no recent complaints from residents, the parking looked good, no vacant structures, and the appearance of the homes in the park looked good. Volz checked for fire violations. His report indicated he didn't find any. "All of the units we looked at were very satisfactory," according to the fire chief's report. "We didn't have a representative from the park assist us on the interior checks but we will request confirmation about their smoke detector and fire extinguishers, which I believe were provided by the park."

The park does look better this year than it ever has."

Neighbors of the trailer park weren't satisfied with the reports, and told the board that residents of the park are still leaving debris around.

"All three reports you read to us say everything is just fine. It's not just fine,"

“All of the units we looked at were very satisfactory.”

Ryan Volz

Fenton Township fire chief

said Sharon Garfield, who lives on Eastview Drive with her husband, Terry.

"The reports aren't saying what we're seeing," said Terry. "They've gone back to their old days."

Sharon said there's been a mattress lying

around by the dumpster for over a week. "There are all kinds of debris and there's some kind of frame for a couch. This is the stuff you guys are telling us is OK?" she said. She added that the police are not patrolling enough.

Treasurer John Tucker said the reports tell the board the park meets minimum conditions, and that doesn't mean the park received "glowing reports."

“All three reports you read to us say everything is just fine. It's not just fine.”

Sharon Garfield

Fenton Township resident

Mathis said they don't have enough police officers to patrol the park every day, and they're working on getting a wood fence built around the dumpster. Mathis said she

regularly drives through the park and speaks with residents about improving the conditions.

"We will do all that we can do and I hope it makes you happy," she said.

Clerk Bob Krug said has been trying to schedule a meeting with Michigan's mobile home governing body, the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, the township, and the neighbors of the trailer park to work out a solution.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

Neighbors of the Lake Ponemah trailer park have been attending Fenton Township meetings for the past three months, asking the board to do something to improve the conditions of the park.



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HOT LINE CONTINUED

IF YOUR CHILDREN'S conservative views are getting shot down by teachers in college, maybe their views aren't backed by factual evidence.

MUCH OF THE chaos the entire world is experiencing is the result of populations that are expanding faster than economies can expand to accommodate them. Add to that technology and globalization that makes jobs disappear. Young people with no useful work to do cause trouble everywhere.

THE ROAD IS way too narrow downtown. You can hardly get out of your car when you park. It's another example of putting all your trust in engineers instead of using common sense. Why didn't someone say the road needs to be a foot or two wider?

THE NUMBER ONE best-selling book in the U.S. now is 'A Crisis of Character' by Gary Byrne, who was a secret service person during the Clinton Administration. He illustrates how horrible and corrupt the Clintons are.

WHENEVER THERE IS a crisis in the U.S., Obama is never around, but don't worry he is going to rush home from Poland, he has an emergency tee time tomorrow.

SO, HILLARY CLINTON is blaming the crisis on the fact that whites aren't listening to blacks? She easily dismisses the facts that blacks are only 13 percent of the population yet they commit over 50 percent of the crimes and violent murders in the U.S.

Police&Fire report

FLINT WOMAN ARRESTED FOR POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA

On July 3 at 12:08 a.m., a Fenton police officer observed a vehicle on Silver Lake Road with no headlights on. A traffic stop was initiated. As the officer approached the car, she detected a strong odor of marijuana. The driver provided a Michigan ID card to the officer and said there was no marijuana in the car when asked. During a consent search of the car, the officer discovered a small amount of marijuana beneath the driver's seat. The driver, a 40-year-old Flint woman, was arrested for possession of marijuana. Her car was towed from the scene by Fenton Express Towing.

FLINT MAN IS DISORDERLY AND INTOXICATED

At 11:05 p.m. on July 4, just after the fireworks ended in Fenton, Fenton police responded to the area of Jennings Road and Bealfred Drive on a report of an intoxicated man cursing loudly as he walked to his car. The man was accompanied by his girlfriend and young son. The girlfriend tried to calm the man and the officer asked the man to calm down or be arrested. The couple got in their vehicle and started to leave the area. The woman soon stopped the car and wanted her boyfriend to get out because of the language he was using. A computer check indicated to police that the man, a 50-year-old Flint resident, had been aggressive or assaultive with police in the past. The officer took the man into custody and called for backup. The man was arrested for disorderly intoxication and lodged until he was sober.

SWARTZ CREEK MAN ARRESTED FOR OWI

At 2:25 a.m. on July 5, a Fenton police officer observed a male in the parking lot near the businesses at Fenway Drive and Silver Lake Road. The officer stopped to investigate. The 21-year-old Swartz Creek man told the officer that he had crashed his car after hitting a deer near the U.S. 23 exit and Silver Lake Road. The man could not find his phone and walked to find a phone to call his mother. The officer detected alcohol on the man and determined he was too drunk to drive. They found the man's car and it was impounded. The man was arrested for operating a vehicle while intoxicated and he was lodged at the police station until he was sober.

News briefs

FREE BOOKS FOR LOCAL CHILDREN AT THE UPS STORE IN FENTON

The UPS Store at 17195 Silver Parkway, Fenton, in conjunction with the Toys for Tots Literacy Program, has new books available to children who love to read and do not have access to good reading material. While supplies last, The UPS Store in Fenton will give children who visit the store their choice of up to three books. The books are for children in grades 2 through 9. The UPS Store collects donations during holiday season and throughout the year for the Toys for Tots Literacy Program. The money is then used to buy new books for local schools, charities and children.



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New lighting will save city 60 percent in electrical costs

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

The Fenton City Council voted unanimously Monday night to accept the recommendation of Department of Public Works Director Dan Czarnecki and replace failing streetlights on Silver Lake Road with more efficient lighting.

In a memo to City Manager Lynn Markland, Czarnecki said the DPW is having trouble keeping the decorative street lights along Silver Lake Road lit. The issues are with the metal halide light bulbs and the ballasts, he said. Many of the lights are burned out, several due to the ballast being worn out and causing the light bulb to fail quickly.

To save money and improve the lights, Czarnecki recommended changing out the standard streetlights to LED type lighting, the same as they did on LeRoy Street during the Streetscape project.

Switching to that type of lighting will save the city about 60 percent in electrical costs, Czarnecki said.

“If the savings holds true for the lights on Silver Lake Road, we would save about \$2,880 annually in electric costs

by changing out the lights to LED type,” he said in his memo.

By changing to LED type bulbs, the DPW won’t need to replace light bulbs all the time, saving another \$4,000 a year in labor and equipment costs, and another \$1,000 a year on materials and outside assistance.

The switch doesn’t come without a price, however. In order to make the change, the city will have to buy retrofit kits for a total of \$26,016, said Czarnecki. The total cost to purchase the and install the LED retrofit kits will be about \$30,816.

Having analyzed the return on investment, Czarnecki said the payback for this work would be just under four years.

“The LED lights give off a nice, clean glow,” said Czarnecki. “The globes do not fade like they do with metal halide and the overall look would be the same as LeRoy Street.”

Czarnecki said there is a four- to five-week turnaround time from order to delivery of the retrofit kits.

A local electrical contractor will be contracted to install the kits and have the work done as quickly as possible, Czarnecki said.

SUMMARY

■ The Fenton City Council has approved switching the failing Silver Lake Road streetlights with halide bulbs, to the more efficient LED bulbs like those installed on LeRoy Street during the Streetscape project. Doing so will save the city about 60 percent a year in electrical costs.

News briefs

AFFORDABLE HEALTH SCREENINGS COMING TO FENTON

Residents living in and around the Fenton area, can learn about their risk for cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, diabetes, and other chronic, serious conditions with affordable screenings by Life Line Screening. St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church will host this community event on Aug. 16. The church is at 600 N. Adelaide St. in Fenton. Screenings can check for:

- The level of plaque buildup in your arteries, related to risk for heart disease, stroke and overall vascular health.
- HDL and LDL cholesterol levels
- Diabetes risk
- Bone density as a risk for possible osteoporosis
- Kidney and thyroid function, and more

Screenings are affordable, convenient and accessible for wheelchairs and those with trouble walking. Free parking is also available. Packages start at \$149, but consultants will work with you to create a package that is right for you based on your age and risk factors. Call 1 (877) 237-1287 or visit www.lifelinescreening.com. Pre-registration is required.

TOWNSHIP HONORS RETIRED ATTORNEY

The Fenton Township Board of Trustees unanimously voted to approve a resolution honoring retired township attorney Richard Cooley at its meeting on Monday. Cooley served as legal counsel for the township for 45 years. There will be an open house on Aug. 1 at the Fenton Township Civic Community Center, 12060 Mantawauka Dr., to honor Cooley.

Tri-county fundraisers

CMN Hospitals Miracle Picnic fundraiser

The Hurley Foundation invites the community to its seventh annual CMN Hospitals Miracle Picnic on **Tuesday, July 26, from 5 to 8 p.m.** at the Sloan-Longway Museum Courtyard, 1221 East Kearsley St., Flint, to benefit its Child Life program. The evening is presented by the Flint Area School Employees Credit Union and CO-OP Financial Services Miracle Match Program. The event features live music, face painting, a balloon artist and special

character appearances. Sloan will present its “A Bug’s World” exhibit. Hurley’s Child Life program helps to support children faced with tests or procedures. “The Child Life Service team explains what is going to happen with a doll if they are younger, or a book if they are older, along with a variety of distraction activities. So, when a child has a test, the fear of the unknown isn’t so huge. This service is crucial and only adds to the clinical excellence we provide at Hurley, day in and day out,” said Laura Parcels, director of Child Life at Hurley Children’s Hospital. For more information on The Miracle Picnic, contact Hope Ponsart-Hansen of the Hurley Foundation at (810) 262.9399 or hponsar1@hurleymc.com.

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Some parents upset over receiving unsolicited food debit card

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

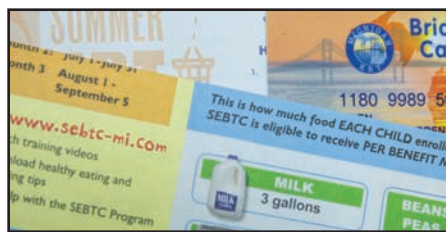
It's not like most people to question or turn down something offered for free. But when it comes to Michigan Bridge cards, some parents are wondering why they got one in the mail — since they didn't apply for or ask for one.

In April, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that \$26.9 million in grant funds would be used to provide summertime nutrition assistance to children who receive free and reduced price meals during the school year.

Families eligible for this assistance received the debit-type Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT), or Bridge card to be used for food purchases during the months of June, July and August.

"We're encouraging everyone who has received a card and is interested in participating to set up a PIN so that they can receive the benefits," said Bob Wheaton, communications manager and public information officer for the Michigan Department of Health & Human Services (MDHHS).

"They will receive instructions with the mailing on how to set up their PIN.



Some area parents recently received a Michigan Bridge card. The unsolicited card was sent to families with children eligible for the reduced school lunch programs to help pay for food during the summer months.

This is an important public health effort to reduce child hunger with nutritious food during the summer. Once activated with a PIN, the card can be used to redeem WIC-approved food at any WIC-authorized grocery store.

Families receive these cards if they have children who are eligible for free/reduced lunch at school during the school year based on family income," Wheaton added. "The idea is to continue to provide for nutritious meals during the summer, while children are out of school."

See **FOOD CARD** on 16A



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Invasive algae found in Lobdell and Lake Fenton

■ Dense beds pose threat to fish population and other aquatic life

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

Starry Stonewort, an invasive species of algae to North America that takes over lakes and kills other plants, has become a problem in local lakes.

Eric Bacon of the Aquatic Nuisance Control of Michigan's Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Water Resources Division said, "Starry Stonewort is a non-native macro algae that has quickly spread across inland lakes of Michigan, most notably across southeast Michigan and the southern half of the Lower Peninsula."

An invasive species is defined as a species that is not native and causes harm, or is likely to cause harm to the area, according to michigan.gov.

The algae have infected lakes around the tri-county area, like Lobdell Lake, Lake Fenton, and Byram Lake.

Argentine Township Trustee Tom Hallman said if you Google Lobdell Lake, look at Google Maps, and zoom in on the water, all the green you see is Starry Stonewort.

The species was detected in Lobdell Lake about 10 years ago.

It can be found in slow moving waters in depths ranging from 3 to 95 feet, according to the DEQ.

You can identify the algae by the whorls of four to six branchlets/leaves with blunt tips. They have star-shaped bulbils produced at the nodes, which are generally 3-6 millimeters wide.

It can reach up to 33 inches and over 2 meters tall, according to michigan.gov

The concern about Starry Stonewort is that it is taking over aquatic life. It forms dense mats in lakes and can significantly reduce the diversity of other aquatic plants. These dense mats can impede the movement of fish, their spawning activity, and water flow.

"The presence of Starry Stonewort has impacted the native plant community, which fish species rely upon for habitat, and may be negatively affecting fish spawning areas of lakes in Michigan," Bacon said.

The dense mats can also affect recrea-



ADKWATERSHED.WORDPRESS.COM

Starry Stonewort can be identified by the whorls of four to six branchlets/leaves with blunt tips and star-shaped bulbils produced at the nodes. It can create dense beds that crowd out native species.

tional activities.

"The bad thing about trying to treat Starry Stonewort is if you harvest it, it spreads more seeds," Hallman said.

Hallman said they've been working with the Lobdell Bennett Lake Association and Aquatic Nuisance Control (ANC) to try to subdue it. ANC treats the lakes with chemicals every year.

These chemicals are not a danger to public health or the environment if applied correctly, according to the DEQ. All pesticides are registered by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Hallman said the treatment kills the top layer of the algae.

The water has to be a certain level in order to treat it or else the chemicals aren't effective. However, if they put too many chemicals in the lake, it kills the fish.

Hallman said not getting a lot of ice this past winter made it worse. Starry Stonewort grows more if it receives more sunlight and oxygen throughout the year.

The algae is unintentionally spread by watercrafts that pick up the algae's bulbils from an infected lake and is then launched into another lake.

The Michigan Department of

Natural Resources (DNR) recommends draining all the water from your watercraft and bait bucket before using it in another lake.

"If Starry Stonewort is suspected in their waterbody, a lake resident or lake user should have the observation verified by a qualified resource professional, or report the observation to the DNR Fisheries Division or the DEQ Water Resources Division," Bacon said.

SUMMARY

■ An invasive species of algae called Starry Stonewort is making it harder for fish to spawn, and for other aquatic life to grow.

“The presence of Starry Stonewort has impacted the native plant community, which fish species rely upon for habitat, and may be negatively affecting fish spawning areas of lakes in Michigan.”

Eric Bacon
MDEQ Aquatic Nuisance Control

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Save the veggies, not the grass

■ Despite dry, brown blades your grass is not dead — it’s dormant

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

If your grass recently turned yellow and brown because of the lack of rain — it likely wasn’t dead but merely dormant.

According to Michigan State University (MSU) Extension, lawns not watered during extended dry conditions will go into a dormant state and grass becomes brown. Dormancy is a protective mechanism allowing a lawn to survive during unfavorably dry conditions.

During an extended dry spell of three to four weeks along with temperatures in the mid-80s or higher, dormant grasses continue to lose moisture from the crowns of the plants.

Continued loss of water in the crown can cause the plants to die. To prevent death of dormant plants, apply about 1/2 inch of water every two to three weeks. This amount will not green up the lawn but provides enough moisture to keep plants alive until temperatures begin to cool and rain becomes more consistent.

Because growth of grass slows or stops during the summer heat, fertilization in the summer should be limited to times of water availability.

A dormant lawn is not actively growing, so fertilization should wait until it comes out of dormancy.

NEW TREES AND SHRUBS NEED THE WATER MORE

With temperatures in the upper 80s and 90s so far this summer it is essential to keep newly planted trees and shrubs watered to ensure survival and rapid establishment.

According to MSU Extension, new trees, whether containergrown or balled-in-burlap, need time for their roots to grow into surrounding soil in order to survive the transpiration water loss associated with hot afternoon temperatures.

After a couple of months, watering new trees and shrubs once every two weeks should be adequate unless we get into an especially hot and dry spell.

Mulching can be key to improving survival and early growth on newly planted trees and shrubs. Mulching provides multiple benefits for plants; conserving soil moisture by reducing surface evaporation and reducing weeds are highest on the list.



During times of extreme heat and no rain, it’s best to regularly water your vegetable garden rather than your lawn.

Research on mulch at the MSU Horticulture Teaching and Research Center suggests that almost all organic mulches (wood chips, ground or shredded bark) can fulfill these functions.

WHEN ALL ELSE FAILS, SAVE THE FOOD

Although the tri-county area did enjoy some rain last week, it hasn’t been enough to consider the dry spell over. If it gets worse some municipalities can, as they have done in the past, impose watering restrictions.

In that case, it would be best to forget about the lawns and mature trees and bushes, and save the vegetable garden by watering it instead.

As with other plants, the time of day you water is as important as how much to water. Long periods of leaf wetness can lead to certain diseases.

Focus on watering during morning or early evening hours. If possible, avoid overhead irrigation. This helps reduce the potential for disease infections. Watering in the morning also reduces water loss from evaporation.

One way to know how much you need to water is to use a rain gauge. Wide variations in weather patterns distribute uneven amounts of rainfall across a geographical area.

Watch your local weather forecast for information on rainfall, or visit MSU’s Enviroweather at enviroweather.msu.edu and check the station nearest you. Be aware if you are out of town, one site may receive little to no rainfall while another nearby site could receive a deluge. Using a measuring device like a rain gauge or even an empty can will help you know how much water your garden received while you were sleeping.

The gauge should be near the garden where water splashing of pavement or overhangs won’t affect the reading.

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Midwest Dock & Marine Services of Milford cut down the underwater weeds in the Fenton millpond last week using mechanical weed harvesters. The weed-cutting efforts chopped the curly-leaf pondweed below the water a few feet. Fenton city workers and their trucks then unloaded the algae and hauled it to an area so farmers could use it as compost.

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WHAT YOU
MISSED
in the
MIDWEEK TIMES

Compiled by Vera Hogan

The following are stories you missed in the **Wednesday, July 13 Midweek edition** of the Tri-County Times. To subscribe and receive both the Midweek and Weekend editions, please call (810) 629-8282.

Five-alarm fire on
Grove Park Road

Fenton Township home is heavily damaged by fire the morning of Tuesday, July 12.



Pokemon GO takes over world,
Fenton

Local kids and adults are among the new craze. Smartphone app forces players to walk around in order to catch Pokemon.

Holly man killed in motorcycle crash

A 37-year-old Holly man was killed in a motorcycle crash on July 11. Michigan State Police say high speed likely a factor.

Fire chiefs say burning bans are
working

Not too many incidents reported since the bans were put into effect before the Fourth of July weekend. Bans may be lifted if it rains.

THIS WEEK'S INSERTS

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- CVS Pharmacy
- Holly Foods
- Rite Aid
- Sears Hometown Stores
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Lake Fenton - \$849,999



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Usewick to be sentenced next month

July 12 sentencing date postponed

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

The July 12 sentencing of Edward Frank Usewick III, 36, formerly of Fenton Township, has been rescheduled to 12 p.m. on Aug. 9, before U.S. District Court Judge Linda V. Parker.

Usewick pleaded guilty on March 29, to one count of conspiracy to commit bank fraud.

According to the plea agreement, the maximum penalty he can receive is 30 years in prison, with up to five years mandatory supervision upon his release.

The maximum fine that could be imposed on him will not exceed \$1 million.

The federal prosecutor has recommended that Usewick be sentenced to 41 to 51 months in federal prison, while Usewick's attorney recommends four to 10 months.

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

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

Count 1 was for attempt and conspiracy to commit fraud, and counts 2-20 are for bank fraud.

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

Usewick's federal troubles began a few years ago, when he and an unidentified



Edward Usewick

co-conspirator entered into an agreement with the owners of Suski Chevrolet-Buick in Birch Run to operate several used car dealerships around the Flint area using the Suski name.

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

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

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

According to the federal indictment, Usewick allegedly began submitting vehicle titles to Ally Financial in September 2013 for cars he claimed to have purchased in exchange for money that was deposited into a bank account operated by Usewick.

Prosecutors say Usewick never actually purchased the vehicles, however, and the titles contained fraudulent title numbers.

The Secretary of State decided to take action after receiving some consumer complaints regarding title work.

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

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

Police & Fire report

HOLLY TOWNSHIP RESIDENT HURT IN CRASH

A 48-year-old Holly Township resident was injured in an automobile crash at 12:14 p.m. on Wednesday, July 13. Oakland County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) deputies responded to the area of Baldwin and Judah roads in Orion Township for a rollover crash involving three vehicles. A 48-year-old Holly resident was driving a 2016 Dodge Ram pickup on northbound Baldwin, south of Judah. The driver lost control of the vehicle, went left of the centerline and sideswiped a southbound 2007 Chevrolet Silverado. The Dodge Ram overturned, striking a southbound 2012 VW Toureg. The driver of the Chevrolet Silverado was a 66-year-old Orion Township resident. The driver of the VW Toureg was a 38-year-old Rochester Hills resident. The driver of the VW had a 2-year-old child in the vehicle. The Holly Township resident driving the Dodge Ram was trapped, had to be extricated by Orion Township Fire, and was transported to McLaren-Oakland Hospital in stable condition. The driver of the Chevrolet Silverado was injured, treated and released on scene. The driver and the passenger of the VW were not injured. The OCSO Crash reconstruction Unit responded to assist in the investigation. Drugs may have been a factor in this crash. OCSO will be awaiting test results. All occupants were wearing safety belts.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

■ ■ ■
I LOVE READING the King. Now I see you've got Heller. So I think you got this Heller guy to balance out the King. I don't know why you got Heller, to tell you the truth.

■ ■ ■
I GOT MY absentee ballot and I don't know what to do because I don't want to vote for any of them. I wish we could get some new blood in there.

■ ■ ■
IT'S BETTER TO have six wives between two men than being responsible with the deaths of four men, leaving their families without fathers and widows and maybe no support.

■ ■ ■
I'M NOT AN attorney but I think the head of the FBI and attorney general are covering up. Both ought to be replaced.

■ ■ ■
IT'S MICHIGAN, IT'S summer, it's dry. I love it and as a bonus, there are no mosquitoes. Nothing better than a Michigan summer.

■ ■ ■
NO MORE TAXES in Fenton, no more expenditures put on the people. I don't know where they think the gold mine is that we're all working in. They're bleeding us to death.

■ ■ ■
HAVE YOU SEEN the similarities between Nixon and Clinton? There are many between the cover up, paranoia, and the lies.

■ ■ ■
YOU DON'T NEED to pass on to go to heaven. This Michigan summer is heaven. Enjoy it.

GIFT
Continued from Front Page
and more. He'll be done with treatment in December, inching slowly toward a five-year mark where he will be considered in remission.

"He's always had a smile, no matter what he's had to endure," said his mother Samantha Hendricks. "He's always been the strong one."

Seeing her son surrounded by police, while eating his favorite spaghetti, and receiving patches from various police departments, Samantha said she felt "overwhelmed ... grateful."

When asked what kind of a kid her son is, Samantha said, "(During) the darkest times, he made us laugh, and helped us though it — instead of us helping him."

He also loves baseball, and has dreams of growing up to be a police officer, among other things.

When Holly Little League was thinking of auction ideas, organizer Sonya Boehm talked to her friend, Holly Police Officer Steve Pulling and said, "Can I auction you off to a kid? You can have dinner together and ride around in your police car for the day as an auction prize."

Meanwhile, Jonny was busy helping sell auction tickets. His friend, Maggie Boehm, 10, was the lucky winner of the "Officer for a Day" prize, and she was really excited about it herself, until she realized how much the prize would mean to Jonny.

"His face lit up from ear to ear," said Sonya.

Plans for the "Officer for a Day" event began to grow by leaps and bounds.

Pulling was so impressed by Maggie's selflessness that he invited her to be a part of the activities, and he personally invited



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO
Sonya Boehm hugs her daughter, Maggie, 10, as Jonny looks at the patches he was given by local police departments. Maggie's generosity made the event possible.

all the officers from nearby police departments to join them for dinner Wednesday at the Red Devil restaurant in Holly.


Before dinner, Holly police hosted the young duo at the police station and joined them for dinner. After dinner, Pulling "arrested" them for a slight infraction and placed them in the back of the police car as he sped toward the Holly DQ Grill & Chill for a "punishment" of ice cream for dessert.

"He wanted to show Jonny and Maggie that it's not just about the Holly Police — it's about all being 'Brothers in Blue,'" said Sonya.

Multimedia Director Tim Jagielo contributed to this story.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO
Jonny Hendricks eats his favorite meal, spaghetti, on the patio of Red Devil restaurant in Holly on Wednesday.



ASK THE MECHANIC

Chris Wilkinson,
Certified Mechanic

Q: Hi, I recently had my brake shoes changed on my Buick Century because they were squealing. Since they've been changed I still hear the squealing! The mechanic who changed them said its a little rust but, eventually I won't hear it. Is that true or is there a problem still?

- Mela

A: Mela, The answer to this is yes, it is common for brakes to make noise first thing in the AM. The reason for this is that your rotors will develop a slight amount of rust when sitting even just overnight, more so when it is wet or humid out. This is nothing to worry about if the noise goes away after the first few stops. Semi metallic brake pads will do this slightly more than ceramic pads, but again it does not indicate a problem or faulty workmanship. I noticed that you mentioned drum brakes and this does happen from time to time on drum brakes but a good cleaning and adjusting will normally cure this. If not, try a different brand of brake shoe. My choice is Monroe and Riveted if they are available.

Do you have a question that you would like to have answered?
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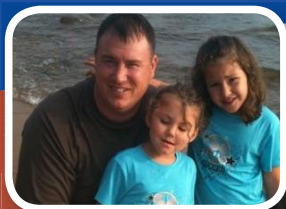
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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SALLY RUMMEL

Dr. Jason White shows one of the family focused chiropractic rooms in his newly expanded offices.

Advanced Chiropractic Care
adds doctor, more space

■ Holly chiropractic office expands to fill growing demand for care, services

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Advanced Care Chiropractic in Holly has grown and expanded since Dr. Jason White first opened his doors in Holly in 2005.

Within the last year, he purchased his building at 1016 North Saginaw St., Suite A, and expanded to the front of the building, adding 1,000 square feet to his

lobby and office space.

"We've got so much more room, and more visibility for our practice," said White, 41. "It's much better flow and the extra space has allowed us to grow."

Dr. Jarrod Bailey has joined the practice, and together they focus on family practice and sports-related chiropractic with five adjusting rooms and two therapy rooms. "We've also brought back massage therapy," said White.

His wife, Misty, is operations manager and office manager is Jan Bickford.

To make an appointment, call (810) 280-4505.

FOOD CARD

Continued from Page 8A

The criteria for eligibility in Flint is different to address the water crisis, Wheaton added.

"Children who live in Flint or live outside of Flint but go to school in Flint are eligible," he said. "Some children who live inside of or outside of Flint and go to a school in Flint may not typically qualify, but they do qualify because of possible lead exposure."

There are some restrictions as to what can be purchased with the Bridge cards.

"Restrictions are to assure the nutritional value of food being purchased with the cards," Wheaton said.

Why send out cards automatically vs. utilizing an application process?

"The USDA decided to do it that way. This is a demonstration project administered by USDA to fight child hunger during the summer months,"

Wheaton said. "At this point there is no application process.

"Families with eligible children from selected schools receive an EBT card plus extensive information on the program," he added. "The program participation is voluntary. Directions are provided to destroy the card if the parent chooses not to participate."

The cards are not valid to use until the PIN is set up.

"We're instructing people who don't want to participate to cut across the magnetic strip. However, if they want to return the card they can return it to the state WIC office to the attention of "SEBTC. We will then discard the card.

"It is not legal to give the card to someone else if you don't want to use it," said Wheaton.

Unwanted cards can be sent back to: WIC Division - SEBTC, 6th floor, Lewis Cass Building, 320 South Walnut, Lansing, MI 48913.

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Meet Jill Martin

- Park naturalist
- Geologist
- Antarctica visitor

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

Jill Martin, 37, of Fenton, has been a park naturalist at Indian Springs Metropark in White Lake for almost 12 years. She works as an interpreter in the Environmental Discovery Center. Married to Scott Martin, an environmental consultant, Martin is also the mother of two girls, Julia, 8 and Natalie, 4.

How did you get interested in geology? I started out at Michigan State University to study engineering, then had a geology class as freshman. I went by van with a youth group to Washington State at the foothills of the Cascade Mountains and fell in love with hiking. I changed my major to geology. I want to take my family back there someday; it changed everything for me. I've got my master's degree in geologic sciences, which means I study rocks.

What does an outdoor naturalist do on a typical day? I develop programs, teach students, families, classes. I lead a lot of outdoor hikes, studying fossils. I also do administrative stuff like ordering materials, making a budget, counting visitors, even clean toilets — we do it all. I'm the only full-time naturalist/interpreter at the Environmental Discovery Center.

What is the Environmental Discovery Center? It's a place where people can enjoy the beauty of prairies, wetlands and woods. It has 60 acres of restored native

"There are so many miracles that go on outdoors. You just have to be open to observing them. Pause...put a finger up for every nature sound you hear. Any family can do this. It changes your demeanor."

Jill Martin
Park naturalist at
Indian Springs
Metropark



prairie ecosystems as part of the 2,500-acre park. We've got classrooms, a biology lab, an event room, interactive exhibits and an underwater pond. My job as an interpreter there means I help connect people

to different resources. Sometimes I help them identify plants on their iPhone; yesterday I was out there pulling invasive weeds after leading a fossil hike with kids and families. It's different every day. **Do you work outdoors in all the different seasons?** I sure do, and I love something different about each of them. Every time I think I have a favorite season, I think of something I like in each of the other seasons. Right now, I'm loving summer because I can chill out on the deck at home, enjoy gardening, watch our kids play, and enjoy being outdoors on the job. It's actually a little more laid back in the summer because spring is so busy for us. We have thousands of school kids come between April and mid-June. I love winter, too, watching animals burrow in the snow, the sparkly blanket of a huge snowfall. **It's really hot outside right now.** **What ideas do you have for families for getting outdoors?** Our goal is to get people outside enjoying nature whenever we can. We try to use technology to get kids engaged in science. I'm not really into Pokémon, but the new Pokémon GO craze at least gets people outside and active.

TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO
Jill Martin, a park naturalist at Indian Springs Metropark in White Lake, spends much of her day outdoors working with kids and families.

Scavenger hunts and color hunts are fun for families to do at home. Get paint samples at the store and tell your family to go outdoors and find something that color. We also like to look for rocks and shells. Try to find something that looks like different letters in the alphabet.

There are so many miracles that go on outdoors. You just have to be open to observing them. Pause . . . put a finger up for every nature sound you hear. Any family can do this. It changes your whole demeanor.

Are you afraid of anything outdoors? Probably more weather-related than animals. I'm afraid of tornadoes and severe weather because I got caught in a really bad storm when I was in second grade. It was scary. I came within 15 feet of a black bear when I was in 19 and in Washington. I was told to say 'hello' calmly if you run into one, so I did that and just walked quietly away, backwards, sideways, then I ran.

What is something most people don't know about you? Probably that I spent two months in Antarctica with other scientists — biologists, meteorologists, etc. It was a huge defining experience for me.

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- VG's Bakery • VG's Deli
- Wellbridge of Fenton
- Fun with Frosting

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News briefs

YELLOW, WHITE LINES TO BE REPAINTED IN FENTON

The Fenton City Council voted unanimously Monday night to spend approximately \$11,082 on the repainting of 36 miles of yellow street lines and nine miles of white lines in the city. The lines were last painted during the spring of 2014. The work will be performed by M & M Pavement Marking of Grand Blanc. The approximate figure is based on previous work done. The final cost will be based on actual footage of paint put down. M & M Pavement Marking does the line painting for Genesee County. In 2014, M & M also painted all the arrows, crosswalks, stop bars and other markings. This year, the city's Department of Public Works crew will perform that work.

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FRI-SAT 11:05 4:30 8:20 9:50 11:00
SUN-WED 11:05 4:30 8:20 9:50
THUR 11:05 4:30 9:50
***@3D GHOSTBUSTERS: REALD 3D (PG13)**
FRI-WED 1:45 7:15
THUR 1:45 6:15 7:15 9:00 11:50
***@GHOSTBUSTERS : AN IMAX 3D EXPERIENCE (PG13)**
FRI-SAT 10:00 12:45 3:30 6:15 9:00 11:50
SUN-WED 10:00 12:45 3:30 6:15 9:00
THUR 10:00 12:45 3:30
***THE INFILTRATOR (R)**
FRI-SAT 10:05 12:55 3:50 6:40 9:25 10:30
SUN-WED 10:05 12:55 3:50 6:40 9:25
THUR 10:05 12:55 3:50 6:40 9:25 10:30
STARTING THUR JULY 21

***2D ICE AGE: COLLISION COURSE (PG)**
THUR NIGHT/FRI MORNING 7:10 12:05
***2D STAR TREK BEYOND (PG13)**
THUR NIGHT/FRI MORNING 12:05
***@3D ICE AGE: COLLISION COURSE: REALD 3D (PG)**
THUR 5:00 9:30
***@3D STAR TREK BEYOND: REALD 3D (PG13)**
THUR 10:35
***LIGHTS OUT (PG13)**
THUR 7:35 9:45 12:05
***STAR TREK BEYOND: AN IMAX 3D EXPERIENCE (PG13)**
THUR 7:00 9:35 12:05
CONTINUING

***MIKE AND DAVE NEED WEDDING DATES (R)**
***@3D THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS: REALD 3D (PG)**
***2D THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS (PG)**
THE PURGE: ELECTION YEAR (R)
2D THE LEGEND OF TARZAN (PG13)
2D THE BFG (PG)
#THE SHALLOWS (PG13)
FREE STATE OF JONES (R)
2D INDEPENDENCE DAY: RESURGENCE (PG13)
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE (PG13)
2D FINDING DORY (PG)
THE CONJURING 2 (R)
NOW YOU SEE ME 2 (PG13)

*Due to movie company policies no passes are accepted.
© No \$5 rate available. • No \$5 TUES evening rate.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

THEY CAN MAKE downtown real pretty but they can't do anything for the Millpond? That really stinks.

OKAY, WE GET it. Hillsdale College in Michigan is a conservative college and teaches about the constitution but do we have to read it five or six times in the Hot lines?

HILLARY CLINTON is a model for women everywhere. She takes no guff from the men she is surrounded by and stands her ground on all issues.

NOT SINCE THE Watergate days have we seen such corruption, lies, and perjury going on as we are seeing today.

YESTERDAY, OBAMA DISPARAGED the memories of five fine officers of Dallas at the memorial service with his divisive rhetoric.

FLINT WANTS MICHIGAN to pay for their water problems. When I had water probes, I didn't see any help from the state. I've got \$14,000 invested.

IF BLACK LIVES matter, why don't they stop shooting each other?

IS DREDGING THE Fenton Millpond to a depth that would not allow the vegetation to reach the surface a consideration?

SO, IT'S GREAT that the bridge in Fenton is complete, but I am surprised at how ugly it is. After all the money spent on Streetscape, I expected the bridge to be attractive.

THERE IS NOTHING better than to see a young father giving his full loving attention to his children.

LOOKING BACK

at this week in

NATIONAL HISTORY

COMPILED BY VERA HOGAN

JULY 17

1955: Disneyland, Walt Disney's metropolis of nostalgia, fantasy, and futurism, opens. The \$17 million theme park was built on 160 acres of former orange groves in Anaheim, California, and soon brought in staggering profits. Today, Disneyland hosts more than 14 million visitors a year, who spend close to \$3 billion.

JULY 18

1984: James Oliver Huberty opens fire in a crowded McDonald's restaurant in San Ysidro, California, killing 21 people and wounding 19 others with several automatic weapons. Minutes earlier, Huberty had left home, telling his wife, "I'm going hunting... hunting for humans."

JULY 19

1799: During Napoleon Bonaparte's Egyptian campaign, a French soldier discovers a black basalt slab inscribed with ancient writing near the town of Rosetta, about 35 miles north of Alexandria. The irregularly shaped stone contained fragments of passages written in three different scripts: Greek, Egyptian hieroglyphics and Egyptian demotic. The ancient Greek on the Rosetta Stone told archaeologists that it was inscribed by priests honoring the king of Egypt, Ptolemy V, in the second century B.C. More startlingly, the Greek passage announced that the three scripts were

all of identical meaning. The artifact thus held the key to solving the riddle of hieroglyphics, a written language that had been "dead" for nearly 2,000 years.

JULY 20

1969: At 10:56 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time, American astronaut Neil Armstrong, 240,000 miles from earth, speaks these words to more than a billion people listening at home: "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind." Stepping off the lunar landing module Eagle, Armstrong became the first human to walk on the surface of the moon.

JULY 21

1944: Adolf Hitler takes to the airwaves to announce that the attempt on his life has failed and that "accounts will be settled." Hitler had survived the bomb blast that was meant to take his life. He had suffered punctured eardrums, some burns and minor wounds, but nothing that would keep him from regaining control of the government and finding the rebels.

JULY 22

1991: In Milwaukee, Wisconsin, police officers spot Tracy Edwards running down the street in handcuffs, and upon investigation, they find one of the grisliest scenes in modern history — Jeffrey Dahmer's apartment. When Dahmer's apartment was fully searched, a house of horrors was revealed. In addition to photo albums full of pictures of body parts, the apartment was littered with human remains. Several heads were in the refrigerator and freezer, two skulls were on top of the computer; and a 57-gallon drum containing several bodies decomposing in chemicals was found in a corner of the bedroom. There was also evidence to suggest that Dahmer had been eating some of his victims.

JULY 23

1984: On this day in 1984, 21-year-old Vanessa Williams gives up her Miss America title, the first resignation in the pageant's history, after Penthouse magazine announces plans to publish nude photos of the beauty queen in its September issue. Williams originally made history on Sept. 17, 1983, when she became the first black woman to win the Miss America crown. Miss New Jersey, Suzette Charles, the first runner-up and also an African American, assumed Williams' tiara for the two months that remained of her reign.

Business briefs

BRIAN HARRIS OF HARRIS INSURANCE AGENCY RECEIVES AWARD

As a business leader and involved citizen in the Oakland County area, Allstate exclusive agency owner Brian Harris of Harris Insurance Agency has been designated an Allstate Premier Agency for 2016. The Allstate Premier Agency designation is bestowed upon 32 percent of Allstate's nearly 10,000 agency owners across the country. The Premier Agency designation is awarded to Allstate agency owners who have demonstrated excellence in delivering an accessible, knowledgeable and personal customer experience while achieving outstanding business results. Harris Insurance Agency is located at 124 North Saginaw St. Ste. A in Holly and can be reached at (248) 382-5575.

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Auto-Owners Insurance

MIKE BURNS

Continued from Front Page

pletion of a background check and mutually agree d up on e mployment agreement.”

Burns was hired as Fenton’s assistant city manager in February 2009. Prior to that, he was a Macomb County Sheriff Deputy, from February 2000 to February 2009. From 2006 to 2008, he also served as an administrative intern in the Sterling Heights city manager’s office.

In addition to assistant city manager Burns also served as the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) director in Fenton. He also served as the staff liaison to the Library Board, Beautification Commission, Museum board and Brownfield Redevelopment Authority.

Burns’ many accomplishments during his time in Fenton include working with the City Council, the DDA and Corlin Group to redevelop the southeast corner of Silver Lake Road and LeRoy to construct the Cornerstone building.

He worked with the City Council and DDA and Union Joints to redevelop the Fenton Fire Hall. Burns also oversaw the completion of the \$5.3 million downtown Streetscape project that was 42 percent grant funded.

He has been working with SkyPoint Ventures on the numerous projects they have completed in the last year and a half. He also has been working with the City Council, DDA and Fenton Community Center Board of Governors in the restoration and expansion of the Fenton Community and Cultural Center.

Along with the DDA and Fenton Library Board, Burns has worked toward the modernization and rehabilitation of the Jack Winegarden Library. He also developed the marketing campaign for Fenton.

Burns has been instrumental in assisting large local companies. He worked with Acument Technologies and assisted in bringing them back to Fenton and with receiving a MEGA (Michigan Economic Growth Authority) Tax Credit from the state of Michigan. He also helped Creative Foam get the MEGA tax credit when

they upgraded their infrastructure to manufacture products for the alternative energy industry.

On his reasons for leaving Fenton, Burns said, “I believe it is time to move from the role of an assistant to that of a city manager. In years past, I sought some opportunities but after realizing the tremendous opportunities to transform downtown Fenton I focused on that. Lowell is a great community and I could not pass up the opportunity to manage in west Michigan.”

Burns said he is going to miss the many people with whom he has developed positive relationships.

“I really enjoyed being involved in the transformative projects that have

been achieved,” he said. “Also, I am going to miss the charm of the downtown. From my desk, I can view the gazebo (Fenton), Fire Hall, the Shiawassee River and the dam. I think I have the nicest view in the entire city.”

The recent few years have been transformative for the city of Fenton, said Burns.

“The accomplishments made in our downtown in the last seven years will be a catalyst for the future of this city,” he added. “With the economy we have endured, revitalization is not happening to cities our size in Michigan and I would argue the United States. Fenton is a great community and better days are to come.”

City Manager Lynn Markland said Burns has been fortunate to start his city management career in Fenton where he has had the opportunity to be involved in extraordinary projects in a dynamic community.

“He has been an asset to our management team and we will miss him,” said Markland.

As to when Burns will be leaving Fenton and starting his new job in Lowell, Markland said, “As I understand it, there are a few items that need to be worked out with the city of Lowell. I’m sure those items will be completed in short order. I have enjoyed working with Mike and I wish him the best of luck in his new position with the city of Lowell and with the career path he has chosen. I’m sure he will be an asset to their community as he has for ours.”

“With the economy we have endured, revitalization is not happening to cities our size in Michigan and I would argue the United States. Fenton is a great community and better days are to come.”

Mike Burns
Fenton assistant city manager and
DDA director

Child pornography case adjourned

■Linden teen faces five counts of child sexually abusive conduct

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Flint — The July 13 Genesee County Circuit Court hearing for Ryan Stevens, the 18-year-old Linden resident who is facing five counts of child sexually abusive conduct, was adjourned.

Stevens allegedly recorded a 13-year-old having sex with a 15-year-old male, who attends Linden schools, at a Red Roof Inn on Miller Road in Flint Township in October 2015.

Because the victim was a minor, recording the video qualifies as producing, distributing and possessing child pornography.

Afterward, Stevens allegedly sent the video to his own phone, and forwarded the file to the 15-year-old male’s phone as well. According to the victim’s testimony from a preliminary exam in January Stevens said he would delete the video, but he didn’t.

The five felony counts from the child porn video allegedly produced by Stevens last fall, bound Steven’s case over to circuit court, with Judge Archie Hayman. The trial date had been set for July 12, but was moved to July 13. The July 13 date was adjourned to July 20.

Stevens’ attorney, Marc Hart, said it was adjourned due to legal matters they’re still trying to work out.

“Last week, I was advised that it would not be going today so we’re just trying to work out preliminary matters,” he said.

Argentine Township police discovered the video while investigating a separate case where Stevens allegedly made threats against students at Linden High School and Linden Middle School.

Stevens has also been charged with conspiracy to commit first-degree, premeditated murder, a felony punishable by up to life in prison and false report or threat of terrorism, a felony punishable by up to 20 years in prison. His co-defendants in this second case include Lamarr Dukes and Kody Brewer.

“...we’re just trying to work out preliminary matters.”

Marc Hart
Ryan Stevens’ attorney

17, and most recently the Airbus A320 crash on the French Alps, may have

PAGES 6-7B
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By Vera Hogan
vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433
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YOUR SMILE MATTERS!

By: Dr. Steven Sulfaro

SUGARLESS GUM

This may sound strange coming from a dentist, but I sometimes recommend sugarless gum to my patients. Clinical studies have shown that chewing sugarless gum for about 20 minutes after eating can prevent tooth decay. The action of chewing increases the flow of saliva which helps wash away food and other debris and neutralizes acids produced by bacteria in the mouth. Increased saliva also carries calcium and phosphate ions that help to remineralize and strengthen tooth enamel. This can really help folks who get a lot of cavities like people who have xerostomia (dry mouth). Look for sugarless gum with the ADA Seal of Approval so you can be sure that it is sweetened with non-cavity causing sweeteners such as aspartame, xylitol, sorbitol, or mannitol. Of course, chewing regular sugar containing gum also increases the flow of saliva but also leads to an increase in cavities. So please stick to sugarless gum only. However, don't let chewing sugarless gum replace brushing and flossing. It's not a substitute. The ADA still recommends brushing twice a day with a fluoride containing toothpaste, morning and night, flossing once a day to remove plaque and debris between the teeth, and visiting your dentist regularly.

I welcome your questions and comments.
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DALLAS OFFICER

Continued from Front Page

shift and then went home to sleep. "I did not know anything about a protest," he said. "I was surprised by that."

Bigger's wife, Chelsea, was home and had heard about the shootings and asked him if he knew what was going on. He quickly turned on the news and soon began to receive numerous texts from his co-workers.

"I couldn't believe it," he said. "I thought it must be another Dallas but I started seeing landmarks and realized it was my city."

Bigger was summoned back to work by his supervisors and waited with other officers in their break room. In uniform, they were on standby and ready in case they were dispatched.

"It was the quietest room ever in my entire life," he said. "Normally, when the next shift comes in, they're joking and laughing. This time, no one's laughing, no one's joking."

As the deadly details unfolded, the investigation revealed that Johnson shot and killed officers Brent Thompson, Patricio E. Zamarrilla, and Michael Krol, Senior Cpl. Lorne B. Ahrens and Sgt. Michael J. Smith.

The ambush was followed by a stand off that lasted for hours. Johnson told authorities he was upset about the recent police shootings and said he wanted to kill white people, especially white officers, according to Dallas Police Chief David Brown.

Johnson was killed when police detonated a bomb-equipped robot.

Despite mourning the loss of their co-workers/friends, Bigger and the other Dallas police officers returned to work

their regular shifts. Bigger said when he was out last Saturday and Sunday the streets were quiet.

"It felt like no one was out there," he said. "For me, it felt like we were alone."

On Tuesday, while President Barack Obama was in town, Bigger said it remained quiet. "I was not down there today," he said. "There are a lot of mixed emotions. I watched Obama. I agree with some, but not all."

With a heightened sense of danger, Bigger said his department, even on low priority calls, will send three or four officers out for their own protection.

"We know there's a real opportunity for an ambush," he said. "We've always thought about it, but it's turned us a bit more paranoid."

Tragedies have a way of bringing people closer together. Bigger said this is the case with his colleagues. "It has brought us closer," he said. "Why did this happen to us? We're here to protect you and this is what it's turned into?"

Bigger addressed recent incidents of police shooting black suspects in Louisiana and Minnesota.

"Don't get me wrong, there are bad apples in the bunch, but everyone only sees that one bad apple. There are thousands of calls you don't see or hear about. There are thousands more trying to do the right thing."

Bigger loves the video he watched online showing a police officer responding to a group of kids playing basketball outside and being too loud. Someone complained. Rather than giving them a warning, the officer gladly joined their game. "Those small acts are not getting observed," he said.

Bigger who has been with the department for a year and a half, said Dallas is everything you would imagine of a large city. "It has everything you can imagine," he said. "It's got the rich and famous as well as minorities who are struggling. There are all facets of society in one city."

Bigger had not personally met any of the officers who were killed. He does believe that he recognized two of them, however, from previous work-related duties.

When asked if he had ever been in a situation of having to shoot a suspect, he said he has not shot at anyone, but he has drawn his weapon.

Police never want to shoot their weapons, he said. "But if we have to, we



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO

Dallas Police Chief David O. Brown presents Preston Bigger with his certification of completion from the Dallas Police Academy in 2014.

know how to do it," he said, adding that his first priority is to get home that day.

"I'm going to do everything in my power to go home," he said. "I have family at home that needs me."

This dedication to serve is just one of the things Bigger loves about Dallas. "Even though we are hurt, we keep going, keep fighting. We don't quit until everyone is safe."

GROWING UP IN FENTON TOWNSHIP

After Bigger graduated from Lake Fenton, he went on to earn his degree in Criminal Justice at Eastern Michigan University. Afterward, he attended and graduated from the police academy at Washtenaw Community College. He knew he wanted to be a police officer since he was 12 years old.

Looking for a job, he learned that recruiters from the Dallas Police Department were in town. He was hired and left his small town life in Fenton in January 2014 to move 1,170 miles away to one of the largest cities in the country. Within two weeks, he began his job with Dallas police, working for the south central division.

Bigger lives in a suburb of Dallas with his wife of less than one year, Chelsea, whom he met in college.

They married in 2015.

Bigger is heading back to Fenton this weekend to spend time with family and friends. "I love Fenton and it will always be my home," he said. "We eventually plan to move back to Michigan. Chelsea is from Whitmore Lake."

Comparing Fenton to Dallas, Bigger said it is like night and day. With 1.3 million people in Dallas, he said there is always something to do and something going on. "There's so much diversity here, every ethnicity. I know that," he said.

Interacting with the public brings on a combination of emotions for police officers. Bigger appreciates the handshakes and high fives. Lately, he has even had minorities tell him that things like this should not have happened and that they acknowledge that the officers are there to protect them. "It's very interesting right now."

For those who come in contact with police, Bigger suggests, "Don't fear us. We're not out there to get you."

"Handshakes and a thank you mean more than you can know."

SUMMARY

■ Fenton Township native Preston Bigger, 27, is currently a police officer with the Dallas Police Department. He opens up as to what it has been like since five of his colleagues were shot and killed in an ambush on July 7.

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TRI-COUNTY
Times



Dave Broadworth, a Realtor with Tremaine Real Living Real Estate, now has his own video, produced by Reel Times Video Production, a division of the Tri-County Times. To view the video, go to tctimes.com and click on "videos."

Realtor Dave Broadworth uses technology to market services

■ He stars in 30-second Reel Times Video Production

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Realtor Dave Broadworth took his own advice in 2011 and began a real estate career to use his decades of experience in law and finance.

"Selecting a Realtor is like buying a house," he said, in his new 30-second commercial created by Reel Times Video Production. "You want a good foundation."

Broadworth, a Realtor for Tremaine Real Living Real Estate, says his background is a huge benefit to clients because he knows and understands the law and how it works in real estate transactions. As a past licensed financial advisor, he works in the best interest of his clients

in keeping home ownership affordable. "I really like working with first-time home buyers," he said. "I can advise them on how much home they can really afford without overextending themselves."

He also understands the stress of buying or selling a home, having invested in real estate himself. "I know it can be stressful and my goal is to alleviate or eliminate that stress for my clients," he said.

He invites prospective clients to check out his Facebook page. "I have more followers than other Realtors," he said. "Plus, 30,000 Twitter followers. I mix traditional, social digital platforms together when marketing your home. We don't always know where our buyers are coming from."

Broadworth can be reached at (810) 347-5354.

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Times Sports

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Linden baseball leads the tri-county pack

Eagles edge out Lake Fenton wrestling squad for Tri-County Top 16 Team's top spot

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

During the previous seven years we've done our Tri-County Top 16 Poll, a few trends have existed among the No. 1s.

First off, Linden boys cross country has dominated our lists, capturing the top spot three of the first seven seasons. And even when they haven't been No. 1, two other times they were No. 2.

Cross country is another trend that has existed. Not only have the Linden boys won the No. 1 spot three times, but the Linden girls cross country team captured the top spot in 2013-14. Only once has a cross country team not finished either No. 1 or as our season runner-up. You'll see two cross country programs make today's top five. Wrestling teams (Lake Fenton in 2010-11 and Holly in 2011-12) have earned the top spot twice, while Fenton girls soccer has been the Tigers' only No. 1 finisher ever.

This year, four squads have a reasonably decent argument to earn the top spot. Two are Linden teams. Read on to see who gets the



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPENS

The Linden varsity baseball team captured the No. 1 spot in our Tri-County Top 16 Teams of the 2015-16 Season. They beat out the Lake Fenton wrestling team which finished in second place.

top spot in the 2015-16 Tri-County Top 16 Poll. Numbers 16 to 6 were discussed in previous publications.

No. 5 – Fenton boys cross country: In recent seasons the Tigers have struggled to get back to where they were at the start of the 2000s. In the fall of 2015, they came back. Fenton finished second in the Metro League standings,

winning one of the jamborees in what was a talented field in league play. The Tigers followed league play with a D1 regional championship, and followed that with a strong ninth-place effort at the D1 state meet. The Tigers had three all-state runners — Jacob Lee, Dominic Dimambro and Andrew Bond.

See **BASEBALL** on 23A

Linden's Wright prepared for second year at Lawrence Tech

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

When Kevin Wright played his prep soccer at Linden High School, everything went a bit easier.

A First-Team All-State member his seniors season, the striker scored 33 goals en route to leading the Eagles to a Metro League championship and a trip to a D2 regional championship game.

However, when one goes to college, life can be quite different. Wright learned that during his freshman season at Lawrence Tech.

See **WRIGHT** on 23A



LF's Sydney Sheyachich will play for Mott Community College next school year.

LF's Sheyachich sticks with softball, going to Mott

Joining other Blue Devils who are playing at Mott

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

Sydney Sheyachich did a little bit of everything for the Lake Fenton varsity softball team over the last four years.

It would be hard to imagine the team without her, but it almost happened.

"I guess if it was not up to the Lake Fenton softball program I wouldn't be playing softball anymore," the recent Lake Fenton graduate said. "I quit playing and the coach-

es got me back in it. (A)past coach told me I wouldn't make it so I was going to quit, but they told me to stick with it."

It's a good thing Sheyachich did stick with it. Because she did, she'll be continuing her softball career at the collegiate level, at Mott Community College.

"I learned I have to be humble and be in the moment," Sheyachich said about her past experience. I feel proud and know I can do it."

Sheyachich said she's excited about continuing her career at Mott.

"Mott was really convenient and close to home," Sheyachich said. "I thought it was a

good choice and I never looked at any other school."

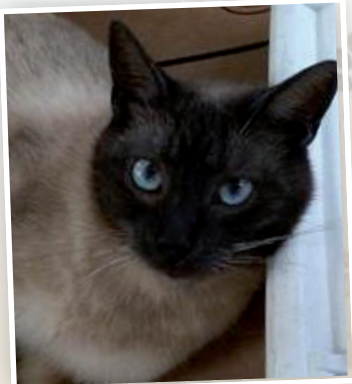
Sheyachich helped lead the Blue Devils to either outright or co-Genesee Area Conference championships during each of her four seasons. This year the squad won a co-championship and also won a Division 2 district crown, posting a 23-13 record. Sheyachich played a huge role in that success on the pitcher's mound and with her bat.

Sheyachich was Lake Fenton's top hurler this season, tossing 131 innings and posting a 12-7 record and completing 20 of the 23

See **SHEYACHICH** on 23A

MEET
Sapphire

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BASEBALL

Continued from Page 22A

No. 4 – Holly girls tennis: The Holly girls are making their seventh appearance in our Top 16, and their fourth ever within our top five. What a season it was for the Bronchos. They started the season by winning the Metro League crown and followed that up by capturing a D2 regional title.

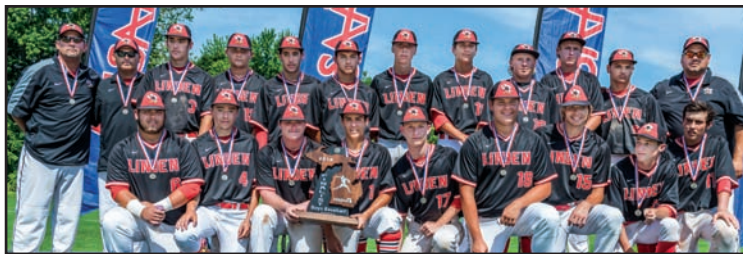
At the state meet Holly had all eight of its flights win at least a match. Holly finished with the most points the Bronchos have ever recorded at the state meet (19 points), finishing sixth overall. The No. 3 doubles team of Megan Lesperance and Nicole Johnson advanced to the state championship match before finishing runner-up and freshman No. 1 singles player Taylor Barrett and the No. 1 doubles team of Megan McReynolds and Sydney Renehan were named First-Team All-State.

No. 3 – Linden girls cross country: The Lady Eagles were No. 1 two years ago and were No. 7 last season. This year Linden finished with a league championship after winning both Metro jamborees and the league meet. The Eagles followed the Metro season with a D2 regional championship and then a fourth-place team finish at the D2 state meet. This is the fourth straight year Linden girls cross country has finished in the top half of the

Top 16 Poll. They are truly one of our power teams.

No. 2 – Lake Fenton wrestling: Here's a team that has been at the top of our poll in the past (2010/11) and were really close to making it a second season this year until June happened. The Blue Devils finished the season with their first-ever Genesee Area Conference championship, which is quite a feat considering state power New Lothrop is included in that conference. The Blue Devils were ranked all season and showed why recording a 39-4 record overall. Once the postseason began, Lake Fenton's team won a D3 district title, a D3 regional championship and advanced to the D3 state semifinals before losing a tough match with Remus Chippewa Hills. Individually, Trent Hillger and Jarrett Trombley won second individual state championships at the Palace of Auburn Hills. The Blue Devils are young. They could compete for the No. 1 spot next year, again.

No. 1 – Linden baseball: What didn't the Eagles do this spring? During the regular season, they eventually jumped up to the No. 1 spot on the D2 polls after winning a whole bunch of games to start the season. They came within one game of having the first-ever perfect Metro League baseball season, finishing at 13-1. They also captured their fourth Greater Flint Baseball Tournament title during the



TRI-COUNTY TIMES FILE PHOTOS

Here is a look at our top three teams of the 2015-16 school season. Linden baseball (top) was No. 1, followed by Lake Fenton wrestling (left) and Linden girls cross country (bottom).

regular season. Yet, it was their postseason that made the season. Sparked by the outstanding pitching duo of First-Team All-State selection Jack Shore and Second-Team All-State selection Lucas Marshall, the Eagles captured thrilling pitching duel victories while winning a D2 district

title, a D2 regional title and a D2 state semifinal victory. That put the Eagles in the state championship game for only the second time in school history, eventually losing to Holland Christian 8-5. And here's the thing — the Eagles' top three starting pitchers all return next spring.

SHEYACHICH

Continued from Page 22A

games she pitched. She struck out 94 batters and allowed just 43 walks. At the plate, she batted .377 and hit 11 doubles and one home run among her 46 hits. She scored 17 runs and drove in 41 runs. Sheyachich, who earned first-team All-GAC honors this spring, is expected to pitch at Mott.

"They said I would be pitching," Sheyachich said. "My favorite part of softball is pitching because I get to be in control. I can do a lot of things out there. I'm the most confident out there."

Sheyachich will have some familiar teammates with the Bears. Ex-Lake Fenton players Kim Roe and Melody Draeger will be sophomores next season with Mott. Mott has become Lake Fenton players' second home. Also playing on this season's team was Sheyachich's sister Taylor Sheyachich and Kayla Ward. Lake Fenton's Katey Cairnduff was a freshman on the squad and Fenton graduate Myla Wolosonowich is expected to join the squad next year as well.

"I've been playing with them my whole travel life and at school," Sheyachich said.

CONTINUED ONLINE AT
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WRIGHT

Continued from Page 22A

"Freshman year was a struggle to get through everything, but I got through it," Wright said. "It was a busy time. Soccer practice was from 7 a.m. until 9 a.m. almost every single day except the weekends when there were games. With practices, games, and school work I hardly had any time to do much other than soccer and school."

And he had more than the learning curve to deal with.

"I had an injury with my shoulder at the beginning of the season that took a little time to heal," Wright said. "The first or second day I got back from my shoulder injury after being out three or four weeks, I sprained my ankle during a morning practice."

While it may have felt like a season of ups and downs for the 2015 Linden graduate, he got through the season well.

Wright ended up finishing second on the team with six goals scored, helping lead the Lawrence Tech Blue Devils to a 9-9-1 over-

all season, which included a respectable 5-5-1 record in Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference contests. He also had two assists and was second on the team in total points with 14. He took just 18 shots, meaning his 33 percent success rate was the best among his teammates. He also had his first game-winning goal, scoring the first goal in a 5-0 victory against Cleary University. But

it sounds like Wright's biggest adjustment had to do with what happened before games.

"During the first two to three weeks you have two-a-days and then you have conditioning in the afternoon. That really told you if you were in shape as a freshman,"

Wright said. "That was the biggest thing for everyone. There's a lot of injuries for quite a few players during that time."

"The best thing I can tell anyone is to do the workout plan at least a month before you start. Get it rolling because if you are

"If you are not in shape, you will feel it for the first two or three weeks. That's for sure."

Kevin Wright, Lawrence Tech sophomore soccer player

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sports briefs

FENTON YOUTH FOOTBALL CAMP BEGINS JULY 20

► In preparation for the 2016 youth football season, Fenton Youth Football will hold a two-day summer camp at Tomek Elementary School on July 20 and 21.

The camp runs from 5 p.m. until 8

p.m. and costs \$30 a player of \$40 for a non-resident participant. Please bring running shoes/cleats and water bottles. Several varsity football players will participate as coaches at this camp.

For more details about the camp go to slpr.net.



...about our Catering Menu

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