SkyPoint closes on LaJoice properties

Development opportunities being discussed

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

It’s official!

The downtown properties once owned by LaJoice Properties, have been purchased by SkyPoint Ventures, the organization owned by Phil and Jocelyn Hagerman.

According to Peter Hughes, director of real estate for SkyPoint, the sale of the properties closed on Friday, Aug. 19 for an undisclosed amount.

SkyPoint Ventures executed a purchase agreement to acquire the commercial properties earlier this summer.

“We are actively discussing development opportunities with some other partners for the properties,” said Hughes on Tuesday.

“We don’t have any specific plans or renderings that can be released at this time.

“We feel very optimistic about opportunities in the city,” said Hughes. “We’re excited about the new acquisitions but don’t have more information at this time.”

See SKYPOINT on 7

Gasoline, old computers, batteries, televisions taken in Recycle Day event

‘It’s easier to say what we can’t take’

By Tim Jagielo
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Fenton Twp. — On Saturday, Aug. 20, the Lake Fenton High School parking lot looked like an outdoor warehouse for recycling.

Instead of students and faculty, semi trailers, hi-lo machines, huge dumpsters and a small army of workers and volunteers managed six stations spanning the blacktop.

Recycle Day events are free for county residents to drop off a variety of hazardous materials, and are usually held in the spring and fall.

The Genesee County Metropolitan Planning Commission

The next Recycle Day is Oct. 22, at the Trinity Assembly of God in Mt. Morris (4363 W. Mt Morris Rd.), and Water Service Center in Flint (3310 E. Court St.), from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

“Downtown train signal getting upgrade

Project overlooked by MDOT during Streetscape

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

Fenton — The city of Fenton has received funding from the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), according to a memo by Daniel Czarnecki.

See SIGNAL on 6

CRUST receives five-year tax abatement

Owners dedicated to Fenton redevelopment

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

Fenton — On Aug. 8, the Fenton City Council voted to establish the Industrial Development District (IDD) for CRUST, the 104 Caroline St. baking company.

See CRUST on 7

“Hey Foster Childs, it is you who needs to pull your head out and get a grip of what is going on around this country.”

“Nostradamus’ prediction of the anti Christ already came true. He has been in office for the last seven and a half years. How did you miss it?”

“The DDA is legal and is acting completely within its authority granted by law. They are doing great things for downtown. Get over it already.”

“To vote for Hillary Clinton solely because she is a woman is the most ignorant thing I’ve heard. How about you do some research and vote based on facts or don’t vote at all.”

“Dear city of Fenton, I want to remodel my home, which is near downtown. Please provide me with a check for $400,000 at your earliest possible convenience. If you don’t, I won’t remodel my home and property values will go down. Signed, A. Rich Developer.”
Police & Fire

STOLEN ROOSTERS IN HOLLY TOWNSHIP
On Aug. 21, at approximately 8 a.m. troopers from the Michigan State Police-Metro North Groveland Detachment were dispatched to the 1200 block of Baker Road in Holly Township for a missing roosters report. After speaking with the complainant, the whereabouts of four of the five roosters was unknown. One of the roosters was found in a cage and had been killed. The complainant said he was sure that he had locked the rooster cage and did not believe an animal would be able to unlock the cage. The owner also believes somebody opened the cage and took a bird or two and a raccoon got one of them. Anyone with information is asked to contact the Metro North post at (248) 584-5740.

Are you always on time or always late?

How you handle your appointments says a lot about your personality

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

Are you a person who is always punctual for every appointment and social event, or are you always rushing in at the last minute, perpetually late by five minutes or more?

Whether the event is a dinner party, hair stylist appointment or doctor visit, your punctuality says a lot about you. According to a recent article in Forbes magazine, experts say that the reality of being late is that it demonstrates certain personality traits that you may or may not want to project in a work place or social setting. It also causes undo stress for yourself, which arriving early can totally erase.

Being on time is about respect and shows the other person that you value and appreciate them and have respect for their time. The opposite is also true, and demonstrates that you have an overall lack of consideration for other people. Chronic tardiness is also about power. The person who is always late for an appointment may feel they are more important than the other person, and that their schedule and time is more valuable.

Being late tells others that you don’t handle your calendar or commitments as if you are an organized way or have difficulty prioritizing your time. It can also demonstrate that you’re a “flaky” person who doesn’t keep commitments well.

“Timeliness is very important,” said Heidi Gumbleton, a certified massage therapist at JD Michel Salon in Fenton. “If the first person scheduled for the day is late, it can literally throw off the schedule for the entire day.”

She also said that late clients aren’t usually a huge issue at JD Michel Salon, because everyone likes to get a massage or their hair done, so they make an effort to get there.

That’s not always true at a doctor’s office or dental appointment.

“One of the clients is perpetually late by five minutes or more,” said Kathy Chezick, office manager for Patricia McGarry, DDS in Linden. “If you’re late for your appointment, and the other patients scheduled after you arrive on time, they might have to wait, even though they weren’t late. We have a ‘grace time’ of about 10 minutes and we can still usually get you in, depending on what procedure you have scheduled.”

Summary

Being punctual for appointments, events and social activities tells other people that you value them and are considerate of their time. Being late says just the opposite.

Many meical and dental offices use technology to encourage patients to remember their appointments and be on time. “We call patients the day before and send a text the morning of their appointment,” said Chezick. “Most patients aren’t late, but we will call someone if they are late, to make sure they are coming. Sometimes we do have to reschedule.”

When an emergency arises or you’re stuck in traffic, you may have a good excuse for being late, but how you handle this also says a lot about you. Explain why you’re late, apologize and make sure that the other person knows how seriously you take their appointment and their time.
On Thursday, Aug. 18, the Lake Fenton marching band rehearses through the sweltering heat. Practice took them from the side of the high school building down to the track in preparation for their first game, which is this Friday.

Lake Fenton fields its largest marching band ever

By Sally Rummel

While the calendar still says it is summer, the season for marching band halftime shows, football and tailgating has just begun...

Like other marching bands in the area, the Lake Fenton High School Marching Band has been gearing up for its first performance this Friday, Aug. 26, when the Lake Fenton Blue Devils meet the Flint Southwestern Academy Knights on the football field at 7 p.m.

“We’re here to support our athletic teams,” said Ryan Gonder, Lake Fenton marching band director since 2002.

Marching with the biggest band in its history, the Lake Fenton Marching Band is also youthful — with 65 incoming freshmen as part of the 160 band members.

During Friday’s performance, the marching band’s halftime show will be in the stands, not on the field. “With so many new members, our uniforms had to be re-fitted,” said Gonder.

“They’ll be ready for our halftime performance on the field for our next home game Sept 23.”

Band Director Ryan Gonder leads his band in a series of drills last Thursday night.

This season’s musical theme will be music by Bon Jovi. “It’s an awesome arrangement and a good fit for our program,” said Gonder. “Our halftime shows are there to entertain the crowd and get them excited. People will love ‘You Give Love a Bad Name,’ ‘Living on a Prayer’ ‘Wanted Dead or Alive’ and ‘It’s My Life.’”

While the Lake Fenton Marching Band isn’t a competitive band, it certainly has had its share of opportunities to perform outside the local area.

They will travel to East Lansing for Michigan State University’s Homecoming on Oct. 14. On Nov. 19, they will be in Chicago for the 25th Annual Magnificent Lights Festival Parade in front of two million spectators. “This Disney parade kicks-off the holiday shopping season in Chicago,” said Gonder.

“We applied and were accepted. It’s unreal. There really are two million people watching this parade live.”

See MARCHING BAND on 5

Think varicose veins are just a cosmetic issue?

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

Now that your deductible has been met... it’s time to have your varicose veins treated.

Varicose vein symptoms may include pain, swelling, restlessness, burning, itching, fatigue of the legs as well as skin damage. Learn more about vein disease at www.flintveins.com

Integrated Vascular Vein Center of Michigan
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600 Health Park Blvd. Ste. G, Grand Blanc • 810.606.1660

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Words to the wise

I recently had the misfortune to read an unnamed girl’s posting on her Facebook page lamenting the fact that she has low, and I quote, ‘self-of-steam.

Statements such as the above are the basis for the old saying, ‘Better to be silent and thought a fool than to open your mouth and receive all doubt.’

I suspect that the aforementioned young lady is a member of the Society That Uses Phrases Inappropriately Daily, commonly known as STUPID. Members of STUPID use words on a daily basis that aren’t even actual words. If you have ever used ‘smack,’ ‘brag’ or ‘ir-regardless,’ in a sentence you are definitely a candidate for membership in STUPID.

Then there are the perennially misrepresented words, such as ‘arctic;’ ‘February’ and ‘library’ that chronically suffer the indignity of mispronunciation through omission of a single letter.

Here’s a sample of common mispronunciations that you, but not me, are likely guilty of committing on a daily basis.

Coupon: It is now official: it is pronounced ‘koo-pon,’ not ‘cue-pon.’

Candidate: Note that the fourth letter is a ‘d’ and is NOT silent. Thus, the correct pronunciation is ‘can-da-det.’ Candidate can often be replaced with ‘thief,’ ‘liar,’ ‘scumbag,’ ‘degenerate,’ ‘Hillary’ etc.

Often: Do not say ‘off-tun.’ The correct pronunciation is ‘off’n.’

Avery: Think of a waitress asking a shy customer which kind of toast he would like with his eggs — ‘uh-euy.’

Niche: In the U.S., it should be pronounced as ‘nesh,’ not ‘nutch.’

Prescription: It is annoying enough that you came to work when ill, without the added aggravation of telling me you want to pick up a ‘prescription.’

Porsche: The correct pronunciation is ‘po-shu-mu-kid’; not ‘Porch’ and not ‘Pore-shu.’

And all these years I thought Porsche owned a ‘per-scription.’

Cache: Even as you are reading this you likely don’t know that it is pronounced the same as that bag of greenbacks in your pocket — cash — and it means a collection of items, or cash, hidden somewhere.

Hyperbole: No, it is not a crazed and frenetic piece of stoneware in your cupboard. It is pronounced as ‘hy-per-ba-lee’ and refers to the literary practice of exaggerating for effect. Hmm — come to think of it this column is an excellent example of hyperbole.

Picture: Aaaargh! This drives me crazy. It is not, as most pronounce it, a vessel for holding water or iced tea. It is an image or photograph. And it is pronounced ‘pik-shur,’ not ‘pichur.’ Hit the hard ‘c’ as an example to others.

Bruschetta: You are not going to like this because you have been saying it incorrectly for years. It is pronounced ‘broo-sketa,' not ‘broo-shetta.’

Prostrate: We will finish this column with a tip that I guarantee you will use on multiple occasions in the future. My good friend Dave Barry authored this short and clever rhyme that will eliminate the chronic confusion associated with the unrelated, but oddly similar, words ‘prostrate’ and ‘prostate.’ If two ‘Rs’ are found, you are on the ground. If one ‘R’s on hand, it’s in the gland.

You are welcome!

Compiled by Hannah Ball, staff reporter

Top 10 things about your name: postal workers, pizza delivery, women who are pregnant, parents who have kids, people who love you, people who are at a party, people who don’t know you, people who are your fans, people who don’t like you, people who are your fans.

If you have a name that is not as interesting or as fun as your ‘new’ name, then it’s a good time to change it.

Words to the wise

Are you the early, on time or late type? Compiled by Hannah Ball, staff reporter

‘Kind of depends on what it is. I’m usually early. If it’s something important, I’m usually there early.’ —Tim Holden

‘Early or on time. I always try to make sure I’m early or on time.’ —Betty Allmond

‘Early. I just always have been. My parents are always late so I’m just always early.’ —Kaitlin Stamm

‘I’m early. Just out of respect for my time and other people’s time.’ —Jeremie Birch

‘Early, because if you’re late, you lose your job. My daddy raised me right.’ —Kristina Zub

Horrible the brick on the community center looks. They took a beautiful, unique building by one of the most famous architects in the country and wrecked it. Another example of letting architects and engineers run all over you.

Bill Clinton used Monica Lewinsky for humor in the Oval Office? I almost wet myself. Foster Childs, you’re the best.

The most beautiful block for a tour destination in our town is Diblevie. The flowers are unbelievable. Wouldn’t it be sad to see a huge three-story building there instead? Wake up, DDA.

Hillary’s campaign is a joke. She doesn’t want to be president, she just wants the power and publicity to make even more money for her foundation. She doesn’t care about Americans, just votes.

Hillary says she didn’t delete a single work-related email. Those 33,000 deleted emails proves she either doesn’t know what a work-related email looks like, or she deliberately lied to Congress about it, which is a felony punishable by up to 10 years in prison.

All DDA’s should be disbanded because they are not democratic. They take taxpayer money that the electorate has voted to go other places. They can spend it without a care because they cannot be voted out of office.

News Flash. Trump’s daughter is on vacation with owner of Fox News Rupert Murdoch’s ex-wife.

I went and saw Donald Trump yesterday. He was terrific, the crowd was huge. I had to walk a mile and a half to get there. This country cannot keep going how it’s going. Take a chance. Vote for the man who’s saying the right things and trying to do the right things.

Hillary was not working for the government last year when she gave 85 speeches she was paid for. She was not a government employee. You are dense.

I’m voting for Hillary Clinton and I am not working because I worked for over 60 years. I’m 82.

Trump’s campaign is a joke. He doesn’t actually want to be president. He just wants the publicity to make more money. He doesn’t care about Americans at all.

Why would you want to have Hillary for president? She supports abortion. That’s killing.

See Hot Line throughout Times.
The Fenton City Council has unanimously approved spending $77,500 for engineering services needed to get funding for a Poplar Street rehabilitation project.

According to Department of Public Works (DPW) Director Dan Czarnecki, the city of Fenton will be receiving funding to rehabilitate the Poplar Street surface from Silver Lake Road to North Road.

The work will include new surface pavement, intersection realignment at Silver Lake Road and a larger turning radius a North Road.

“Drainage and sidewalks will also be evaluated and addressed as necessary,” said Czarnecki in a memo to City Manager Lynn Markland.

Federal funding in the amount of $499,909 has been made available for this project through the Genesee County Metropolitan Planning Commission as part of the 2017 County Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP). The city of Fenton will need to contribute $124,977 toward the project, which brings the overall projected cost to $624,886.

In order to perform this work, which will be administered through the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), the city needs to have design engineering completed.

The city’s engineers, Orchard, Hiltz & McCliment, Inc. (OHM) has prepared a scope of services for the project. They propose the design services to cost $71,000, with another $6,500 to perform the signal study work to create a model to provide for the proper timing of signals at Poplar Street and North Road.

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**MARCHING BAND**

**Continued from Page 3**

The band will perform at Disney World in Orlando, Florida during Spring Break 2017. These performances are made possible through a strong school-business-community partnership, according to Gonder.

A recent Drive 4 UR School, a national promotion by Ford Motor Company was coordinated locally by Lasco Ford and generated $6,000 for the band’s Florida trip next spring. “Our goal is to send every kid to Florida with $100 in Disney Dollars so they don’t have to pay for food,” said Gonder.

Other upcoming fundraisers include an evening at Culver’s of Fenton on Sept. 29, where portions of profits are donated to the Lake Fenton Marching Band, and the annual Tin Can Raffle on Dec. 2-3. “This is our third year for this fundraiser and it’s extremely successful,” said Gonder.

He encourages the community to come out to the first music performance of the season this Friday. “We’re two weeks ahead of school starting,” said Gonder. “This show will give a new perspective to the audience.”

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- 157,000 Miles
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**2007 Lincoln Navigator**
- 147,000 Miles
- $10,900
- 3rd Row Seating, 4x4, Heated and Cooled Leather seats

**2007 Chrysler 300**
- 152,000 Miles
- $5,900
- Leather Seats, Very Nice, Great Deal!! 2 other to choose from
I’m watching the Olympics, listening to the National Anthem. I bet all the other countries are tired of hearing that song. Good old-fashioned rock and roll. Go USA.

Please note, if Hillary makes it to the White House, look at those available bedrooms for Bill.

If this election cycle has taught us anything, it’s that the U.S. government really needs to take a good hard look at itself and think about major changes if this many Americans distrust the government enough to vote for a complete outsider and idiot like Donald Trump.

The second amendment is all about trying to keep the government in check. That’s it. Pure and simple. That’s all about.

The DOWNTOWN FENTON redevelopment, where are the hardhats parking spots? All they’re doing is catering to the healthy people.

All the Big insurance companies are leaving Obamacare. Premiums will go up and make it impossible for many people to keep their heads above water and my doctor is leaving practice due to fees reduction.

Hey, Lt. Shaw, just because, “There’s not a heck of a lot of crime in your town,” does not mean Alexandra’s brutal and heinous murder should go by the wayside.

America has three major enemies who would destroy us. Radical Islam is the first. Second, Communists have joined our concentration camps. Third, Globalists have infiltrated our universities, the environment movement, and the media and are creating racial strife. Now that the Streetscape landscaping has changed in the vicinity of the railroad crossing, it has been determined that the west signal device needs to be moved closer to the curb, he added.

This should have been upgraded during the Streetscape project, however, it was overlooked by MDOT at that time,” Czarnecki said.

MDOT approached the city at the conclusion of the Streetscape project. They said they would provide 80 percent of the project cost, and said the city would be responsible for the other 20 percent.

MDOT is getting its 80 percent share from the Highway-Railroad Grade Crossing Safety Improvement Program.

“The railroad has estimated the total project cost to be $1,457,985,” said Czarnecki. The city’s share would be $264,966, he added.

Had the need for this upgrade been discovered during the original design process, it is likely MDOT would have required the change and would have provided the same amount of funding, according to Czarnecki.

“This is a community safety issue that needs to be addressed,” he said.

The design and construction work will be handled by CN Grand Trunk and MDOT.

“The city will work with the railroad to keep any work that disrupts our new Streetscape to a minimum, and gets reinstalled properly,” said Czarnecki in his memo.

“We want to have the resulting work to keep the same look and layout as the Streetscape, with only the signal change being noticeable,” he said.

Because the work is being done by the railroad and MDOT, Czarnecki said he does not know at this time when the work will begin, or how long it will take.

“This should have been upgraded during the Streetscape project, however, it was overlooked by MDOT at that time.”

Dan Czarnecki, Fenton DPW director

Grandson is honored by township and fire department for reacting quickly to fire

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

Fenton Twp. — Not all heroes wear capes. Instead, this 4-year-old boy wore a giant smile while holding his two awards for reacting quickly in a dangerous situation.

The Township Board of Trustees unanimously approved a resolution honoring 4-year-old Levi Brewer Monday for alerting his grandmother when a fire broke out in his grandparents’ home on Ray Road in Fenton Township on July 21.

In front of family and friends, Levi received a copy of the resolution and a Citizen Service Award from the Fenton Township Fire Department.

“That’s the reason why we gave him the award,” Volz said. “He realized the problem and went to the adult and alerted her of it and got it taken care of.”

During the afternoon of July 21, an electrical fire broke out in the kitchen of John and Karen Rogers. They believe the fire started in the bottom of the dishwasher, possibly due to a nearby lightning strike.

According to the resolution, Levi was watching television at the time and noticed smoke coming from the kitchen. He quickly alerted his grandmother who didn’t know a fire had started because she was in another part of the home.

Levi’s quick action allowed the family to exit the home safely and call 911. The Fenton Township Fire Department arrived on scene and limited the damage to a portion of the kitchen.

The Township Board of the Charter Township of Fenton hereby honors Levi Brewer for his heroic actions, which may well have saved the lives of his grandparents as well as his own, and expresses its gratitude and appreciation for his courageous efforts.

Tom Broecker
Fenton Township Operations Manager/Deputy Clerk

“We the fire department, as well, would like to recognize Levi with a Civilian Service Award,” said Fire Chief Ryan Volz. “Presented to Levi Brewer for his brave efforts of alerting his grandmother, about the smoke and flames coming from the bottom of the dishwasher when she was out of the room.”

“He did everything he was supposed to. For a 4-year-old, that’s awesome. He could have just freaked out and ran outside. No one was injured and that was it,” Volz said.
The properties in question were purchased by LaJoice prior to his being charged with embezzling $20 million from the Clarkston Brandon Community Credit Union (now Michigan State University Federal Credit Union), where he presently worked as chief financial officer, until he turned himself in on Jan. 6 of this year, is currently moving through the county and federal court systems. He is presently w roking with his attorneys on a plea deal in the Oakland County Circuit Court.

The proper - ties that SkyPoint Ventures has pur - chased include 225 W. Caroline St., the now-vacant lot where LaJoice planned to construct a multi-million dollar, mixed development called “Riverview.”

The remaining properties are at 229 W. Caroline St., 116 S. Caroline St., 116 S. Adelaide St., 116 M ill St. and 108 S. LeRoy St. SkyPoint did not purchase the personal, multi- million dollar Tyrone Township home of Michael and Ash - leigh LaJoice.

According to city of Fenton records, all taxes and utility bills due on the properties were paid and posted on Monday, Aug. 22.

The properties in question were pur - chased by LaJoice prior to his being charged with embezzling $20 million from the Clarkston Brandon Community Credit Union (now Michigan State University Federal Credit Union), where he worked as chief financial officer.

LaJoice, who has been in the Oakland County Jail since he turned himself in on Jan. 6 of this year, is currently moving through the county and federal court systems. He is presently w roking with his attorneys on a plea deal in the Oakland County Circuit Court.

The proper - ties that SkyPoint Ventures has pur - chased include 225 W. Caroline St., the now-vacant lot where LaJoice planned to construct a multi-million dollar, mixed development called “Riverview.”

The remaining properties are at 229 W. Caroline St., 116 S. Caroline St., 116 S. Adelaide St., 116 M ill St. and 108 S. LeRoy St.

LaJoice paid nearly $2.5 million in cash for these properties last spring.

The SkyPoint purchases do not include the multi-million dollar Tyrone Township home owned by La - Joice and his wife, Ashleigh.
Old televisions and computer monitors were pulled from their cars wrapped in plastic, to be loaded onto pallets and recycled. Residents placed car tires, one-third of a semi of appliances and one-half of a semi of tires and 3,000 pounds of automobile batteries into large, 30-yard dumpsters.

Kevin Fuhrman of Redford wraps five-gallon buckets of paint, which will be loaded onto a semi trailer via hi-lo.

**Summary**

On Saturday, 740 people took advantage of the free Recycle Day for Genesee County residents, held at Lake Fenton High School. A variety of hazardous materials were accepted.

Shane Kelley, who helped coordinate the event with the GCMPC, said someone once tried to turn in weapons from WWII, which is not allowed. “It’s easier to say what we can’t take,” he said.

Weapons and explosives are not accepted, and neither is waste from a business or regular lawn refuse or paper products. While exact numbers were not available, Taylor said they collected about 3,000 pounds of automobile batteries.

**Automotive skills**

For a day during gym class, students could learn how to change a tire, change the oil, and how to jumpstart a car.

**Cooking**

A cooking course in high school would teach students the basics of how foods mix together, the importance of eating healthy, and it would better prepare them to live on their own in the future.

**Financial literacy**

I didn’t know how to file taxes until I was about 20. Shout out to TurboTax for making it easy, but I wish I would have learned about the different tiers of income taxes, how much we pay in federal and state taxes, sales tax, and everything else taxed in school.

Students always complain about not learning anything they’ll use in the real world, but if you give them real life problems and situations they’ll face in the future, they’ll be much more interested in class.

What about applying for a car loan or signing a lease on an apartment? Kids also need to learn about being responsible with their money, and the options of saving for retirement, like a Roth IRA and a 401K.

**Sewing**

I can sew now thanks to my mother but 16-year-old me would have loved a hands-on class on altering clothes, sewing on buttons, hemming pants, and wrapping to be loaded onto a semi trailer. Everything from entire desktop computers to old batteries were taken and handled safely. Taylor said that in past events, 90 percent of the materials are recycled.

While exact numbers were not available, Taylor said they collected about 3,000 pounds of automobile batteries.

**What I wish I learned in school**

**How do I ‘adult?’**

By Hannah Ball

There’s this trend in the millennial generation called “adulting,” which refers to completing adult-like activities like paying bills, setting up doctor’s appointments, and cleaning. It shouldn’t be a trend to complete basic life skills. Yet, we get praise for “adulting” because we never officially learned any of it.

Here’s what I wish I learned in school, but didn’t — how to change a tire, jumpstart a car, balance my checkbook, how to cook, how much money will be taken out of paycheck for taxes, how to hem pants and sew on buttons, how to sign up for health insurance, saving for retirement options, what happens when I buy my first car, the importance of having good credit, and simply how to write a check.

To older generations, this probably seems ridiculous. This stuff is common knowledge, right? Wrong.

We don’t have home economics in school, or a class on finances, like the older generations did. I’m 23 and I didn’t know how to do many “adult-like” things until about a year ago, four years past the age of being a legal adult.

If my generation is this clueless, imaging how clueless young adults will be in 10 to 15 years.

Parents can only teach their kids so much. After being in school for seven hours, the last thing a teenager wants to do is listen to Mom and Dad. I didn’t want to listen.

It’s not public education’s fault either. Over the past few decades, high schools have become more focused on preparing students for college, as they should be. Students are more likely to take certain classes in high school if it means taking fewer in college.

However, not everyone goes to college, and anything that affects the entire population should be taught in high school. We learn about wars, the quadratic formula, and what an al- legory is, but we don’t know how to balance a checkbook by the time we graduate.

I’m proposing schools bring back required classes like home economics, financial literacy, and other necessary life skills classes.
**Debbie Downers’ bring everyone down**

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

If there’s someone in your life who seems like they complain more than everyone else, it’s not just your imagination.

Studies have shown that complaining rewires your brain for negativity, and also affects those who listen.

“It is like any other bad habit,” said Paul Russell LPC, a Licensed Professional Counselor and training consultant in Lin - den. “Once you continually repeat a habit your life adapts to see, feel, and on some levels, even seek out the habit.”

Russell said that having negative thoughts starts from real-life problems, but can sink into a life view.

“If I tell my clients ‘what you focus on determines what you miss. ’ Meaning if I am only looking at life problems, I miss the good that life is giving me at the same time,” he said.

There are a few varieties of complainers.

One type, venters, only want to rant about their situation without seeking a solution.

Sympathy seekers are fishing for attention by trying to one-up everyone with the “my life is worse than yours” attitude.

Finally, chronic complainers complain so much that they live in a state of compl - plaint and think about their problems again and again.

For this type of person, complaining can actually make things worse.

The late Canadian neuropsychologist, Donald Hebb, believed that neurons that fire together, wire together. When you have a thought or feel physical sensation, thou - sands of neurons are triggered to form a neural network.

The more those networks are used, the stronger they get. The more you have negative thoughts and complain, the easier it becomes to be a negative person.

“In psychology we call this a negative schema — it is the core of how life is interpreted by a person,” Russell said. “If one processes all life through a negative filter, they will tend to be negative over all.”

Russell said, as a cancer survivor, he’s developed and shared the perspective that you have to force your brain to see the good after a traumatic event.

Someone’s constant complaining also affects other’s mental habits.

Do you find yourself in a bad mood after the office complainer finishes their daily rant, or tells you about the same problems again and again. Russell said, as a cancer survivor, he’s developed and shared the perspective that you have to force your brain to see the good after a traumatic event.

Someone’s constant complaining also affects other’s mental habits.

Do you find yourself in a bad mood after the office complainer finishes their daily rant, or tells you about the same problems again and again.

Russell gave a few tips to develop a positive life view:

1. Find three positive things that happened that day before you go to bed. It can be as simple as not breaking any bones that day, or seeing a hummingbird.
2. Instead of saying negative things, don’t say anything. “Start rewiring your brain by controlling your tongue (actions). This will allow you to see other things in your life,” he said.
3. Be friends with a positive person.

“Watch them, learn from them,” he said. “See how they look at life problems and repeat their actions. In time, you will see both external and internal changes.”

The “Debbie Downer” sketch character played by Rachel Dratch on Saturday Night Live was known for running fun group events with her sad, gloomy facts and commentary.

(I’m glad to say I have seen major recovery in negative people that focus on the positive,” he said.

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“Watch them, learn from them,” he said. “See how they look at life problems and repeat their actions. In time, you will see both external and internal changes.”

Dealing with complaining

Here are tips on talentsmart.com from Dr. Travis Bradberry, author of "Emotional Intelligence 2.0," on how to deal with complaining.

How to stop complaining:

— Remove yourself from the situation. Take a five-minute break to calm down and get some air.
— Try to express your emotions more effectively. Avoid confrontational language.
— Think of solutions instead of stresses. Instead of constantly complaining about something, either fix the problem or learn to live with it.
— Stop the negative self-talk. When you find yourself having unnecessary and self-defeating thoughts, remind yourself that being down on yourself doesn’t help at all. Wallowing in self pity only makes the situation worse.

What to do when someone around you complains too much:

— Set limits. Don’t join in on the pity party, and don’t indulge someone else’s. Remind them how they plan to fix the problem, suggesting an end to their problem and their complaining.

Constant complainers will either quiet their problem and their complaining.

Attorney General opinions

In this world, there are many opinions on a wide variety of topics. Some random examples include how well the various professional and collegiate football teams will do this fall, the state of the economy and who will win this year’s presidential race.

The importance of one’s opinion on a question of course depends on the topic and who is giving it. As a judge, I am required to carefully consider and follow the opinions of higher courts in making my decisions in the courtroom.

Opinions in this legal realm of ‘opinions,’ Michigan has a special statute requiring the Attorney General to give an opinion on questions of law submitted to him or her by the legislature, governor, auditor, treasurer, or any other state officer.

Over the years, there have been thousands of Attorney General opinions on a wide variety of legal issues including elections, the environment, criminal and civil law, and the interpretation of statutes.

These have proven to be very important opinions. However, they are binding only upon the state department or agency which requested them.

As to the courts, the opinions do not have precedential effect but are normally entitled to great weight where there are no other controlling opinions in the area.

Pursuant to the Attorney General’s official policy, opinions on local units of government questions are typically not issued as they have their own legal counsel to provide this service.

Of possible local interest is the latest Attorney General opinion, number 7291, issued July 29, 2016, to be answers a question posed by State Senator Paul Pavlov. Specifically the question is whether charitable and civil organizations may solicit contributions in public roadways.

After reviewing the applicable law including the Michigan Vehicle Code MCLA 257.676(b) and Rule 28.1713 of the Uniform Traffic Code and considering the first amendment rights of the organizations, the Attorney General concluded that the statute prohibits such solicitation if the solicitor blocks, obstructs, impedes, or otherwise interferes with the normal flow of vehicle traffic in a street or highway.

The rule prohibits asking for contributions from the occupants of a vehicle.

What effect this opinion may have on such organizations remains to be seen.

The full text of the opinion is available online.
**Eagles off to strong start**

Linden begins with wins vs. Powers, Hartland

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

It was a good start to the season for the Linden varsity boys soccer team. The squad competed against Flint Powers and came away from the contest against Flint Powers and boys soccer team.

"It's one of the same goals the squad had a year ago, and it wasn't an easy goal to accomplish, eventually achieving it.

One weekend into the season, the Tigers had to do some altering of those goals. Fenton captured one tournament title in one attempt as they captured the top spot at the West Bloomfield Invitational, winning the tournament for the first time since Jerry Eisinger has been coaching the squad.

"We've never won this tournament the last three years so it was nice," Eisinger said. "We set the same goal to win two tournaments this year as well, but now we've revised the goal. Our goal is to try to win three."

The Tigers opened pool play with convincing sweeps against Lutheran Northwest, Bloomfield Hills and Roseville.

**Fenton volleyball earns hardware at first tourney of season**

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

The Fenton varsity volleyball team entered the season with a goal to win two weekend tournaments.

"It's one of the same goals the squad had a year ago, and it wasn't an easy goal to accomplish, eventually achieving it.

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**Tri-County Eagles time up at Lapeer**

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

All three area varsity girls golf teams opened the season by competing in the one of the earliest tournaments of the fall season — the Lappeer Summer Tune-Up.

Fenton's Molly Gundry placed in a tie for ninth at the event while Linden was 18th. Holly placed 21st.

Fenton's Keegan Miller finished in the top 10 in the event with an 18-hole score of 86 at Lapeer Country Club, leading the Tigers to a team score of 382. She was followed by Molly Gundry's 91 and Mar' garet Berry's 98. Alexis Scheer completed the scoring with a 107.

"I knew going into the year we would be young and would struggle a bit to find our third, fourth, fifth and sixth golfers, but it's still early so that's where we are at," Fenton coach Kurt Herbstreit said. Linden's Sydney Bond led the Eagles with a score of 100.

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**Tri-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPENS**

Dominic Dimambro (center) runs in an event last fall. He finished second at the Running Fall Preview Invitational.

**Fenton XC teams place second at meet**

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

It looks like the Fenton cross country teams are ready to have another strong season if the Running Fall Preview Invitational was any indication.

Both Fenton squads finished second at the meet held at Huron Meadows Metro Park on Friday, with the Fenton boys (40 points) coming just one point out of first. Livonia Stevenson (39 points) won. Meanwhile, the Fenton girls were second to Ann Arbor Pioneer (58), recording 75 points.

"We're excited to get the new season underway," Fenton coach Jesse Anderson said. "The coaches were happy with how we opened the season. We ran the same meet last year so it was instructive to compare results. We are happy with where everyone is at, and especially how they raced. Pacing was smart and both teams were picking up runners the whole race."

Fenton's top two returning male runners — seniors Dominic Dimambro and Andrew Bond — were two of many Tigers who had dramatic time drops versus last year's race.

Dimambro more than 20 seconds from last year, pacing second in 16:22.34.

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**TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPENS**

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Dimambro more than 20 seconds from last year, pacing second in 16:22.34.

**CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM**
The Linden varsity volleyball team is off to a nearly perfect start to the 2016 season.

The Eagles began the season by winning the Linden Invitational on Saturday, and then followed that performance up with a 3-0 effort at the Clio quad on Monday.

At the Linden Invitational, the Eagles, who went 6-1 at the tournament, earned a 25-22, 25-15 victory against Davison in the semifinals and then beat Lapeer 25-21, 25-22 in the title match.

Emma O’Keefe led the offense with 45 kills while Allison Conly had 35. Breyanna Turnipseed had 33 kills. Morgan Fitch was the team’s setter, providing 93 assists.

Defensively, Patricia Racknor had 10 blocks while Fitch had 51 digs and seven blocks. Fitch also had 12 aces.

The Eagles followed up Saturday’s effort with three more wins at Clio on Monday, defeating Saginaw Nouvel, Powers and Clio.

Linden travels to Fenton for a 6 p.m. nonleague contest today.

Three times over for Linden Warriors

Fastpitch softball program wins three league championships

The Linden Warriors Fast Pitch Softball program had a pretty strong summer.

The Warriors have three squads — a 12-under, a 14-under and a 16-under program — that had strong seasons. All three finished their summers with just one loss and league titles.

The 12U team was 14-1-1, capturing first place in the Oakland County Fastpitch Grey Division. Meanwhile, the 16U squad won the Greater Flint Fastpitch Whaley Championship with a 12-1-1 mark. Finally, the 14U team had an even better record than the other squads, going 15-1 during the season in the Oakland County Fastpitch Red Division.

The Linden Warriors had just three teams this year, but are expanding to five teams next summer. The program will include the three squads that already exist and will add a 10U team and an additional 14U squad.

The three Linden Warriors Fastpitch softball teams that won league titles this summer were the 12-under squad (top), the 16-under team (middle) and the 14-under squad (immediately above).
**DEADLINES:**
**SUNDAY PAPER:** Display Ads: Wednesday 3 p.m.  
**Line Ads:** Noon Thursday  
**WEDNESDAY PAPER:** Display Ads: Monday 3 p.m.  
**Line Ads:** Noon Tuesday

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**PUBLIC AUCTION**
Due to unpaid rent at Fenton Storage, 1159 N. Leroy St., 810-714-3707 on September 8, 2016 at 9:30a.m. or later, Steve Hacker unit #201, Hannah Sprague unit #501, Jerry Austin #602, Anthony Knitter #527. All units contain miscellaneous items.

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**Miscellaneous Wanted**

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<tr>
<td><strong>HORSE RESCUE FARM</strong></td>
<td>Goodrich, Michigan</td>
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1. Ability to operate equipment (tractor, spreader, brush hog, drag pastures).  
2. Clean run in sheds and water troughs.  
3. Ability to make repairs.  
4. 5+ Years of experience in all of the above (ideally with horses but if not other livestock).  
Pay: $75/day with raise potential.
| Email jr@mnfcu.com or stop in. |  
**DELIVERY DRIVER** | 
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2. Blanket/unblanketing.  
3. 6. 5+ Years of experience in all of the above.  
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| Email hlevin267@gmail.com. |  
**WAREHOUSE LABOR** | 
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2. Blanket/unblanketing.  
3. 6. 5+ Years of experience in all of the above.  
Pay: $34/day with raise potential.
| Email hlevin267@gmail.com. |  
**TELLER PART TIME** | 
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2. Clean run in sheds and water troughs.  
3. Ability to make repairs.  
4. 5+ Years of experience in all of the above (ideally with horses but if not other livestock).  
Pay: $10.00 per hour, Monday-Friday, 7:30am-4:00pm, (part-time shifts may be available). Must be able to stand for long hours. Some heavy lifting may be necessary. Email resume to hr@alliedmedia.net. |  
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6. Include professional references (not family or friends).  
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OBITUARIES

Pauline R. Shepherd

1925-2016

Pauline R. Shepherd - age 90, childhood sweetheart and wife of Harold Shepherd (deceased). Adoring sister to Marge Burke (deceased); Dearest mom of Stacy and Marge Shepherd, Paullette and Roger Packard, Steve and Michelle Shepherd, Janice and Claude Tunison, Sharon and Norm Stulz, Sandy & Larry (deceased) Michaels, Darlene and Chris Parney. Loved so deeply by her grandchildren, Stacey and Greg Hankz, Doug and Mary Ann Shepherd, David and Melissa Shepherd, Glenn Packard, Jennifer Adkins, Tim and Cassie Packard, Dawn and Bill Cowan, Joy Shepherd and Julie Miller, Wendy and Ken Nuss, Steven and Erin Shepherd, Claude and Rhonda Tunison, Paul and Tracy Tunison, Eric and Melissa Tunison, Norman and Sheri Stulz, Christopher Stulz, Sarah and Matt Menoruk, Renee Michaels and Danny Lezotte, Paul Michaels (Deceased), Michelle Michaels, Precious G.G. (Great Grandma) to Katie, Ryan, Allee, Harrison, Kendall, Shane, Savie, Ryan, Erica, Mason, Kennedy, Paxton, Grace, Gavin, Emily, Abby, Nick, Olivia, Sophia, Olivia, Cameron, Ryan, Laura, Sarah, Taylor, Jamie, Corey, Connor, Keegan, Kloe, Zaylee, Megan, and Bailey. Deeply loved by her only two nieces; Billie Jean Whitaker, Peggy (Bob) McCo- rnie, and her only nephew Johnny Burke. Also many extended family members. Long time friend to many. Pauline’s biggest joy in life was her family. Please join us in celebrating Pauline’s wonderful life. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to Wounded Warriors or the Michigan Humane Society. Funeral services will be held at 11 AM Thursday, August 25, 2016 at the Dryer Funeral Home, Holly. Burial will be in Lakeside Cemetery. Holly, Visitation was from 3-9 PM Tuesday, August 23, 2016 and from 2-9 PM Wednesday, August 24, 2016. www.dryerfuneral homeholly.com.

OBITUARIES updated daily online!

www.tctimes.com
ARIES (March 21 to April 19) A troubling situation takes a positive turn and moves toward a resolution that should please you and your supporters. Meanwhile, make time to deal with new domestic issues.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) It’s a good time to reassess your goals and consider shifting directions. Remember to keep an open mind, and be prepared to make changes as new opportunities arise.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Rely on your strong Mercury aspect to help you close that communication gap before it becomes too wide to cross. A sibling or other family member has news.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) You’re about to get off that emotional roller coaster and start experiencing more stability than you’ve been used to. This is a good time to let someone new into your life.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Good news: A trusted friend comes through for you. But you still need to shed that last scrap of self-doubt and once more become the cool, confident Cat we all know and love.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) Things should be getting back to a less hectic pace. Enjoy the more peaceful atmosphere. You earned it. But don’t forget about those still-unresolved issues.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) A more positive family relationship develops as misunderstandings are explained away. A job situation appears promising, but check it out before you act on it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Congratulations. That on-the-job situation is working out as you’d hoped. Now’s a good time to relax and to enjoy the company of family and close friends.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You might feel as if you’re caught in an emotional tug-of-war. But don’t be rushed into a decision on either side. Wait for more facts before you act.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) The Goat’s usually high level of self-confidence is brimming over these days. This should help you deal with a situation that you’ve avoided for far too long. Go for it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) Relationships become more intense. But be careful not to be pushed into decisions you’re not comfortable with. Remember: You’re the one in charge of your life.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to Mar. 20) You need to show more confidence in your ability to reach your goals. Make that long-delayed decision, and avoid floundering around in a sea of self-doubt.
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