Lake Ponemah Trailer Park sells for $1.4 million

The Lake Ponemah Mobile Home Park is licensed for 61 sites and has approximately 424 feet of lake frontage, according to Fenton Township Operations Manager/Deputy Clerk Tom Broecker.

Alexandra “Ally” Brueger, 31, was murdered on July 30. She was on her daily 10-mile run that Saturday afternoon, when she was gunned down by a still unknown assailant.

A writer and poet
Ally loved poetry, according to Nikki. In fact, when she was 17 years old, in 2002, she entered the William Stafford Poetry Contest in Rosebud Magazine and was one of 10 winners.

Bring on the star students

Third-grade teacher Jennie Turner meets with Jonas Ritchie, 8, and his mom, Heidi, at the open house on Tuesday, Aug. 30. Parents went home with curriculum guides and holiday volunteer sign-up sheets.

Thompson Road to be widened

Fenton Township is scheduled to be widened in 2017 using an $800,000 grant from the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) given to the Genesee County Road Commission (GCRC).
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Van Gilders miss their grocery years at VG’s

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

Everyone remembers shopping at VG’s Grocery in Fenton when Russ “Buzz” Van Gilder was at the helm, working side by side with his wife, Shirley, son, Rusty, and daughter, Lisa.

The Van Gilders knew the grocery business from the shelves up, with Russ starting in the business as a carryout boy at Fenton’s Comber & Fox Supermarket when he just was a teen. Working seven days a week, the Van Gilder family knew your name when you walked through the doors, and likely hired your teenage son or daughter for a summer job.

VG’s in Fenton is the flagship store of a grocery empire the Van Gilders grew to 17 stores in mid-Michigan. Russ handled day-to-day operations, while Shirley did most of the store design and bookkeeping, while raising the couple’s three children.

“I really miss it,” said Russ, now 82 and retired after selling their business to Spartan Foods in 2008, when daughter Lisa was unable to continue her role as chief executive officer for health reasons. “My hobby was working seven days a week. I wish I could still do it. It was never boring. There was never a day I didn’t want to go to work. I still went in every day, even when Lisa and Rusty were there.”

Shirley recalls when Russ first retired. He watched her in the kitchen while she was peeling potatoes, and told her she shouldn’t do it that way because she might cut herself. She immediately handed him the knife and the potatoes for him to finish the task. “The look on his face said it all,” she said. “He was a meat cutter at work, but home was still my domain.”

See VAN GILDERS on 19A

TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Russ Van Gilder, 82, and his wife, Shirley, 78 sold their VG’s supermarket chain seven years ago to SpartanNash. Today they live peacefully retired on seven acres in Hartland Township. Shirley said she likes to garden. “I like to watch her face say it all.”

“We’re all teetotalers here’ (wink, wink)

The Fenton Relief & Resource Co. brings back the secrecy of prohibition

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

It was certainly a trend nationwide in big cities and we were not afraid of trying big city things in little Fenton.

Mark Hamel
Co-owner The Fenton Relief & Resource Co.

Although photos were not allowed inside The Fenton Relief & Resource Co., permission was granted to publish this photo from its Facebook page. The post reads, “We are closely supervised.”

‘We’re all teetotalers here’ (wink, wink)

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It is necessary to go through El Topo take-out taco stand to get to The Fenton Relief & Resource Co.

It was certainly a trend nationwide in big cities and we were not afraid of trying big city things in little Fenton.

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES

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Donald Trump’s meeting with Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto was private. But I managed to get my hands on a secret transcript.

Nieto: ‘Ah, so you are the loud, orange man I have heard so much about. Welcome to Mexico. My, you really are orange, aren’t you?’

Trump: ‘Thank you, yes. It’s a spray tan. It takes my butler a full hour to apply every morning. He’s very thorough. He even does the armpits.’

Nieto: ‘So to what do I owe this visit?’

Trump: ‘Well, Enrique, it’s like this. I’ve come for the check.’

Nieto: ‘Ah, for your famous wall, I gather.’

Trump: ‘Of course. I think $20 billion ought to cover it. So if you don’t mind getting your little checkbook out, I’ll be on my way.’

Nieto: ‘Surely, you are joking?’

Trump: ‘No, I’m not, and don’t call me Shirley.’

Nieto: ‘Excuse me?’

Trump: ‘It’s an old bit from the movie Airplane. You haven’t seen it?’

Nieto: ‘Un, no. I’m afraid not.’

Trump: ‘You do have movies here, right? That technology has reached here?’

Nieto: ‘Of course, but, look, I cannot and will not give you any money for your wall. It is out of the question.’

Trump: ‘You will or else.’

Nieto: ‘Or else what?’

Trump: ‘Or else when I’m elected president I will invade.’

Nieto: ‘That’s preposterous and you know it.’

Trump: ‘Trade sanctions?’

Nieto: ‘Also preposterous. You need us as much as we need you.’

Trump: ‘How about this: I’ll talk really mean about your country.’

Nieto: ‘You already have. We’re still here.’

Trump: ‘Fine, then I’ll fire you.’

Nieto: ‘This isn’t The Apprentice, I’m afraid.’

Trump: ‘OK, look, let me level with you. You know I can’t build a wall, and I know I can’t build a wall. I mean, come on, it’s thousands of miles over mountains, deserts, valleys and rivers. It’s ridiculous. It would bankrupt the country. But I made a promise and if I don’t deliver, the crazy people in my party won’t support me anymore and I won’t get elected. So can you throw me a bone here?’

Nieto: ‘How do you mean?’

Trump: ‘I mean just give me a check. Make it one of those over-sized ones like with Publisher’s Clearing House. We’ll pose for the cameras, you may even let me throw you in a playful headlock and give you noogies. Then later we say it bounced when I tried to cash it and I denounce you for tricking the American people.’

Nieto: ‘You seriously do not believe I would do this, yes?’

Trump: ‘Why not? C’mon, I’ll make it up to you somehow when I’m president. How does a discount coupon to one of my golf courses sound, or maybe a free stay at one of my hotels, mini-bar included. Or how about some nice steaks? I have real nice steaks. They’re huge, believe me. Just name your price, Enrique. Do we have a deal?’

Nieto: ‘You are loco, my friend — muy loco.’

Trump: ‘Yeah, but it’s worked so far. By the way, can I get some tacos to go?’

Nieto: ‘I’ve come for a new school but I’m not excited to go to a new school but I’m not excited for homework.’

“Sad, but I’m eager to go to Florida. Naples. Very nice place.”

“I don’t like it, because I don’t like school. I’m excited to go to a new school but I’m not excited for homework.”

“Pretty bummed about it, but I love fall. I’m looking forward to the cider mills and just comfortable weather when you don’t need AC.”

“I don’t want it to end. Too much water ski season left, it’s too warm out for it to be over.”

“pretty good, but its about to go away”

“How do you feel about summer ending?”

“Come Heller high water”

‘Muy loco’

How do you feel about summer ending?

Compiled by Hannah Ball, staff reporter
Low birth rates can’t sustain population

U.S. could see a major decline in population if birth rates continue to decline

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

Some online sites have been speculating that the U.S. is overpopulating.

One site, worldpopulationbalance.org, claims the U.S. population is growing by more than 25 million people per year, which is about 285 per hour, and there isn’t enough food to sustain everyone.

Chris Douglas, a University of Michigan-Flint professor of economics disagrees, and said it’s hard to make the claim that the U.S. is overpopulated.

“None of the signs are there for the U.S. For countries like India, it’s a different story,” he said.

Douglas said for a country to be considered overpopulated, it has to experience widespread starvation.

“If there’s not enough resources to support the population,” he said. “Like India and Africa, they just don’t have the resources to support the number of people.”

Douglas said in the U.S., it’s the opposite problem.

“For every story of starvation in the world, there’s a hundred stories of obesity in the U.S.,” he said.

Only 10 percent of the land in the U.S. is developed, Douglas said, so it’s not like we’re running out of room to put people.

He said if the U.S. was overpopulating, we’d see starving people in the streets and widespread homelessness.

“We’d need to have some sort of social welfare program to stop that. That would cost money and that course would hurt economic growth,” he said.

Some major cities, like San Francisco and New York City, which attract a lot of people, experience housing shortages and traffic problems.

However, this doesn’t mean the country is overpopulating, especially because of the low birth rate in the U.S.

The U.S. birth rate, which is the number of babies a woman will have in her lifetime, was 1.9 in 2014, and that number is declining.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and National Center for Health Statistics, the birth rate dropped to 1.87 in 2015, and it’s expected to decline even more.

“A couple has to have over two kids on average for the population to grow,” he said, adding that our current birth rate cannot sustain the current population.

“If we didn’t have immigration, the population would start to fall,” he said.

Other countries, like Russia and Japan, are experiencing this issue. Douglas said in Russia, they have public programs aimed at encouraging people to have more kids.

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**Civil Infraction ordinance will change in Argentine Township**

At the Monday meeting, the Argentine Township Board of Trustees adopted a package of ordinances giving the township more authority to deal with civil infractions. Under these ordinances, the people who have the authority to write tickets for municipal civil infractions now include all police officers, the building inspector, the fire chief, and the code enforcement officer. Tickets for activity considered criminal, such as assault and drunk driving, would only be issued by the police department.

Municipal civil infractions are violations of municipal ordinances that were once criminal misdemeanors and have been decriminalized to civil infractions, according to gc4me.com. They have civil penalties, not criminal ones. By decriminalizing a few ordinances and making them municipal civil infractions, these offenses are now punishable by fines, which can be dealt with at the local district court in Fenton.

According to Argentine Township Clerk Denise Graves, municipal civil infractions can carry fines of $50 to $500 for the first offense, and $100 to $2,500 for subsequent offenses, in addition to other related costs. Increased civil fines may be imposed for repeated violations.

**OPERATION C.A.R.E. IN EFFECT OVER LABOR DAY WEEKEND**

During this Labor Day holiday weekend, the Michigan State Police (MSP) is reminding motorists to make safety a priority during their holiday travel. MSP troopers will join their counterparts from across the country in the international traffic safety initiative, Operation C.A.R.E. (Combined Accident Reduction Effort).

The official Labor Day weekend began at 6 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 2, and ends at 11:59 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 5. Last year, 12 traffic crashes resulted in 15 deaths over the Labor Day holiday weekend. Operation C.A.R.E. was launched to deter three causes of highway fatalities including aggressive driving, impaired driving and failure to use occupant restraints.

**PANTY THIEF**

A 16-year-old Holly female filed a larceny complaint with Holly police on Aug. 29. She said at 10:45 on Aug. 28, she was doing laundry in the laundry room at her apartment complex. She left for a short time. When she returned at 11:10 p.m., she noticed the dryer door was open. The teen noticed that a pair of pink and white Victoria's Secret underwear was missing from the rest of her laundry. There are no suspects at this time.

**CAR WINDOW SPRAY PAINTED**

At 5:40 a.m. on Aug. 24, Holly police were dispatched to a home on Sherman Street to investigate a malicious destruction of property complaint. The homeowner reported that someone had spray painted black spray paint on the rear driver seat, back window and back trunk lid of his silver 2008 Dodge Charger. The man said his son had been having ongoing problems with an ex-girlfriend and that he had thrown a brick through the window of his son’s car several years ago. There were also notes left under the windshield wiper of his son’s car. The homeowner is not positive that his son’s ex-girlfriend did the damage. Police took photographs of the damage. The case is closed pending new leads.

**COMPLAINT LEADS TO ARREST**

On Aug. 15, Holly police were sent to a home in the 500 block of North Saginaw Street to investigate a larceny complaint. Upon arrival, police made contact with a 29-year-old Swartz Creek man. Police soon learned that the man had arrest warrants from Genesee, Burton and Michigan State Police. The man was arrested, handcuffed and placed in the patrol car. The man was later turned over to Burton police. The knives that the man had in his possession legally were placed in safekeeping at the Holly police station.

**WOMAN DID NOT FILE FOR UNEMPLOYMENT**

The Holly Police Department received an identity theft complaint on Aug. 29. The woman told police that while she was working, her boss had asked her if she had filed for unemployment benefits. She told her boss ‘no.’ The woman showed police the letter from the Michigan Unemployment Office dated Aug. 23, explaining her benefits for unemployment. The letter contained the woman’s date of birth and Social Security number, but not her home address. It is unknown who filed for unemployment using the Holly woman’s name and personal information.

**CREDIT CARD OPENED IN HOLLY WOMAN’S NAME**

Holly police received an identity theft complaint on Aug. 29. The 48-year-old victim told police that she was notified by her Discover credit card company about an address check for their credit card. The credit card company told her that the address showing on her account was in Louisville, Kentucky, the location where her estranged husband lives. The woman told police that she did not open an account with a Kentucky address. Police advised the Holly woman to go to Social Security Administration office to either obtain another card number or a new one and to notify her estranged husband of the theft.

**GLASS DOOR DAMAGED**

On Aug. 29, at 9:50 a.m. Holly police responded to a home in the 800 block of Elm Street to investigate a malicious destruction of property complaint. The homeowner reported that someone had spray painted black paint on the left rear panel, back window and back trunk lid of his silver 2008 Dodge Charger. The man said his son had been having ongoing problems with an ex-girlfriend and that he had thrown a brick through the window of his son’s car several years ago. There were also notes left under the windshield wiper of his son’s car. The homeowner is not positive that his son’s ex-girlfriend did the damage. Police took photographs of the damage. The case is closed pending new leads.
Teddy is easily recognizable because he has a shrunken left ear. The Kullis’ have raised Teddy since he was about 14 days old. He has never been separated from his mother, brother and sister.

Where’s Teddy?

By Sharon Stone
sstone@tctimes.com; 810-433-6786

A Holly family is desperately trying to find their beloved cat, Teddy.

George Kullis said Teddy was taken from his family’s home at 601 E. Maple St. at approximately 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, Aug. 25.

Holly Police Chief Michael Story said the Kullis’ filed a police report for the theft of their cat. “Pets are considered property under Michigan law,” said Story. Police continue to investigate.

George told police that the cat liked to lay on the ground under the bushes near the road and rarely left the yard. At 11 a.m. that morning, Kullis’ neighbor observed a small black SUV, possibly a Ford Escape pull into the Kullis’ driveway. She observed a white female, around 40 years of age with shoulder length blonde or strawberry blonde hair pick up the cat. She lost sight of what was happening and then the woman drove away. She couldn’t say for sure what happened to the cat.

“Our neighbor saw her but didn’t think anything was wrong at the time until I posted that we couldn’t find Teddy,” Kullis said.

The neighbor called Kullis a few minutes later.

“She felt horrible knowing she had seen the lady take him and didn’t get a license number,” he said.

“We rescued Teddy and his siblings along with his mom just when he started opening his eyes,” Kullis added. “My wife (Diane) is just heartbroken, and I feel helpless as I’ve always been the one to fix things.”

Teddy is easy to recognize with a shrunken left ear. He is declawed on all four paws and weighs about 11 pounds.

“He is very affectionate,” Kullis said. “Bear, his brother, still walks around looking for him and sits on my pillow at night meowing for him. I know it sounds crazy but animals know when something’s is wrong.”

Anyone with information that will help find Teddy is asked to call (248) 431-1894. A reward is being offered for information that brings the cat home.

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Fenton Community Drum Circle to perform 9/11

The first performance of the new Fenton Community Drum Circle will take place at 5 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 11, at the downtown gazebo. It is a gift to the community and free and open to the public, according to Lisa Pearson, hand drum facilitator for the Fenton United Methodist Church. The Fenton Parks Board at its August meeting approved the new endeavor at Millpond Park. A drum circle is a community of people coming together to express themselves through the creating and sharing of rhythms, said Pearson. It is their vision to provide an environment where people of all ages, ethnicity and walks of life can express themselves. They also aim to make a difference in the lives of people by inspiring unity and wellness, Pearson said. Drumming promotes growth in interaction skills, enhances self worth and self-esteem, reduces anxiety and stress, and enhances creative expression. The physical benefits of drumming include the increase in fine and gross motor movement and upper and lower body movement, according to Pearson.

View all stories online at tctimes.com

TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO

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News briefs

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Jason Hamilton, physical therapist, and owner of Hamilton Physical Therapy in Fenton, shows the wide range of equipment available in his therapy clinic.

Hamilton Physical Therapy opens in Fenton

New clinic offers one-on-one patient-centered therapy

By Sally Rummel

tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Jason Hamilton, owner/physical therapist of Hamilton Physical Therapy in Fenton, literally has your back, plus your shoulders, hips, knees, ankles and feet.

As a specially trained orthopedic clinical specialist, Hamilton has dedicated his 15-year career to helping people improve mobility and limit painful movement with everyday activities.

He opened his own practice last spring in the same building as Fenton Medical Center, at 102 N. Adelaide St., Suite B.

Using his own therapy clinic space, Hamilton is able to treat a wide range of conditions, including neck and back pain, shoulder/rotator cuff injuries, tennis elbow/carpal tunnel, sciatica/herniated discs, tendinitis, hip and knee pain, foot and ankle pain, plus more, for pediatric through geriatric patients. “We strive to see new patients within 24 to 48 hours of your first call,” he said.

Hamilton Physical Therapy works collaboratively with local physicians and offers free assessments. “We are also a ‘Veteran’s Choice’ provider, offering special programs for eligible veterans,” said Hamilton.

Before opening his own practice, Hamilton managed the Urban, Health and Wellness Center at the University of Michigan-Flint. He and his wife, Carrie, also a physical therapist, have lived in Fenton since 2001, with their 11- and 8-year-old sons.

Regular hours are Monday through Friday from 9 to 5 p.m., with other therapy times available by appointment. For more information, call (810) 354-8900.

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1974: President Gerald Ford, who assumed office on the heels of his predecessor for his involvement in the Watergate scandal. Congress had accused Nixon of obstruction of justice during the investigation of the Watergate scandal, which began in 1972.

1966: President Lyndon Johnson signs the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act into law. Immediately afterward, he signed the Highway Safety Act. The two bills made the federal government responsible for setting and enforcing safety standards for cars and roads. Until then, Secretary of Transportation John Volpe, Johnson argued, were a menace to public health.

1987: A 25-year-old London taxi driver named George Smith became the first person ever arrested for drunk driving after slamming his cab into a building. Smith later pleaded guilty and was fined 25 shillings.

LOOKING BACK
at this week in NATIONAL HISTORY

SEPT. 5

1975: President Gerald R. Ford survives an attempt on his life in Sacramento, California. The assailant, a petite, red-haired, freckle-faced young woman named Lynette “Squeaky” Fromme, approached the president while he was walking near the California Capitol and raised a .45 caliber handgun toward him. Before she was able to fire off a shot, Secret Service agents tackled her and wrestled her to the ground.

SEPT. 6

2012: In a case that generated national headlines, former Illinois police officer Drew Peterson is found guilty in the 2004 murder of his third wife, Kathleen Savio. Savio’s death originally was ruled an accident after her body was discovered in an empty bathtub at her suburban Chicago home; however, the 2007 disappearance of Peterson’s fourth wife, Stacy, led authorities to reopen the Savio case and eventually label her death a homicide.

SEPT. 7

1813: The United States gets its nickname, Uncle Sam. The name is linked to Samuel Wilson, a meat packer from Troy, New York, who supplied barrels of beef to the United States Army during the War of 1812. Wilson (1766-1854) stamped the barrels with “U.S.” for United States, but soldiers began referring to the grub as “Uncle Sam’s.” The local newspaper picked up on the story and Uncle Sam eventually gained widespread acceptance as the nickname for the U.S. federal government.

SEPT. 8

1974: President Gerald Ford, who assumed office on the heels of his predecessor for his involvement in the Watergate scandal. Congress had accused Nixon of obstruction of justice during the investigation of the Watergate scandal, which began in 1972.

SEPT. 9

1966: President Lyndon Johnson signs the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act into law. Immediately afterward, he signed the Highway Safety Act. The two bills made the federal government responsible for setting and enforcing safety standards for cars and roads. Until then, Secretary of Transportation John Volpe, Johnson argued, were a menace to public health.

SEPT. 10

1987: A 25-year-old London taxi driver named George Smith becomes the first person ever arrested for drunk driving after slamming his cab into a building. Smith later pleaded guilty and was fined 25 shillings.
HOT LINE CONTINUED

WHO LETS THEIR elementary-age children walk into neighbors’ homes? What kind of parenting is that? Next time, I’m giving them free energy drinks before sending them home.

FOR THOSE WHO think that the DDA should be disbanded, understand that only the DDA is allowed to capture taxes from the businesses and use them for projects within their district. No DDA means no pride and no projects.

SCARY TALK. THE zombies will walk in Linden again this year on Oct. 14 at 6:30 p.m. Rumor has it that there will be more zombies than ever and music, food and dancing. Beware!

THINK BEFORE YOU vote. I don’t care about the candidates’ sex, color or financial status. The next president should be a person who will uphold our constitution, preserve our national and personal sovereignty, protect our borders and not involve us in unnecessary wars.

You’re a Neighbor, Not a Number.

rown and Brown’s professional advisors are your neighbors, friends and community members with the resources of the industry’s premier regional and national carriers behind them. Whether for personal, commercial or life insurance, we strive to provide the highest level of service and seek the most effective insurance solutions at a competitive price.

It’s very rare that a township will contribute to someone’s health care for the rest of their life.

Teresa Ciesielski
Argentine Township trustee

Maybe someone’s health care is at a state or national level in retirement.

The biggest problem I have is the 60 years and older. We have an employee right now that has 36 years with this township. She has talked about it that in the next year and a half, she wants to retire,” he said, adding that this ordinance would hurt her because she is not yet 60.

Argentine Township Trustee Teresa Ciesielski said the township has set up retirement plans for township employees. “That’s really what everyone has gone to. It’s very rare that a township will contribute to someone’s health care for the rest of their life,” she said.

Clerk Denise Graves said they passed this resolution because of the vague wording in their old health care plan, which would have allowed for any township employee to receive a wide range of benefits.

Graves said this new resolution would save the taxpayers a lot of money by reducing Legacy Healthcare costs.

Argentina limits health care to retired employees

Resolution is in response to old, vaguely worded ordinance that could have been costly to taxpayers

By Hannah Ball
hbali@cttimes.com; 810-433-6792

Argentine Twp. — In a 4-1 vote, the Argentine Township Board of Trustees passed a resolution, limiting which township employees it would provide health care to after they retired.

The resolution states that only full-time employees who are 60 years of age or older, and worked for the township for at least 30 years can participate in the township health care plan after retirement.

Elected officials are not considered full-time employees.

Supervisor Bob Cole cast the dissenting vote. He said the new plan hurts one of their employees, who hoped to retire soon.

“The biggest problem I have is the 60 years and older. We have an employee right now that has 36 years with this township. She has talked about it that in the next year and a half, she wants to retire,” he said, adding that this ordinance would hurt her because she is not yet 60.

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HANNAH BALL FOR President. You nailed it in your story on ‘How do I adult?’

HAVE PRIDE IN your job. Fenton Township, have your overpaid Republic Service clean up their mess. The township clowns have no pride or worth, fire them all.

I LEARNED TODAY that conservatives pressured McGraw-Hill, a publisher of history books, into altering the history of slavery in America. The publisher has since corrected the more obvious omissions. The KKK and Jim Crow are now included.

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Web Leaders ease anxiety at Linden Middle School

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

Linden—Going from elementary to middle school, and middle school to high school can be stressful for young students. However, local school districts have programs to help students transition from one school to the next.

On Thursday, Sept. 1, hundreds of Linden sixth-grade students roamed the halls of Linden Middle School for the first time, their place of learning for the next three years.

The students will be more prepared for school on Tuesday, their first day.

As a way to help students transition from elementary school to middle school, approximately 60 eighth-graders acted as Web Leaders and took the sixth-graders through a day of activities at the school.

One of the Web Leader organizers, Michelle Steelman, who’s a teacher consultant for Linden schools, said this is the first time these students are meeting the other sixth-graders from the other elementary schools.

“Web leaders took them into classrooms and they did some more team building activities to get to know each other’s names, learn more about each other, some strategies they can learn in middle school, make them feel lessened a little bit more welcome so their anxiety is lessened a little bit more,” she said.

The eighth graders made it fun by having themes for their groups. Some students roamed the halls as pirates with pirate hats, some wore nerdy glasses, and some wore fake moustaches while taking a tour of the school.

Steelman said the event helps the sixth-graders so they know more people by the time school starts.

Sixth-grader Jase Grundy, 11, said the activities have been his favorite part.

“It’s going really good. I’m just really excited. We’ve been talking about what you do at middle school and how not to be afraid because a lot of people think that middle school is scary but it’s not,” he said.
“We had a terrific experience working with the John Wentworth group when selling our home. It went on the market on Friday, we had 25 showings, a huge open house, multiple offers and the house was under contract in 3 days - it was fantastic! Working with the various talented members of the team was great - we highly recommend the John Wentworth group if you want to sell your home.”

- DR. SONBOL

“I was very pleased with John’s knowledge of what I should list my home for. He was spot on and our home sold in three days. The team he has working for him are amazing. The buyer’s agent he recommended I used helped us out every step of the way and we were able to find the house of our dreams. I like that John strictly lists homes and has agents that strictly help individuals buy homes. John’s tactics work and he knows what he’s doing.”

- JAMIE WARD

“We thought about putting our house up for sale and called John Wentworth III for an appointment. He came to the appointment prepared with comparable house sales in our neighborhood and shared his professional viewpoint of the current market, economy and the best price to market the house. He also made recommendations of how best to present our house to the buying public. He shared how he would advertise and market our house. His team was organized using professional photographers, newspaper adds, and realty magazines. He and his staff worked hard and were always very responsive to any questions we had. His plan was solid and very successful. We sold our house 72 hours after signing and I might add way over our asking price. I would highly recommend John and his team to anyone thinking of buying or selling a home. He and his team far exceeded our expectations.”

- BOB DZIAICZAK

“In fifty years of buying and selling real estate John has been the most professional realtor. His staff pays attention to detail. All four of our closing went very well. His recommendation to have two of the homes staged was the most helpful.”

- CLAYTON DEGAYNER

“John and his associates showed the utmost care and courtesy to me throughout the entire process. They were all very professional in every way, and were very helpful in providing the expertise I needed to get my house in tip top shape to sell.”

- BOB WORLEY

“I had John Wentworth list my home. He gave me a price that he thought it would sell for, and I didn’t agree. I wanted 50K more then what he said so he disagreed but still listed it. It sat for a few months with a few showings. John said to trust him and to lower the price to what he thought it should be, and I disagreed, and only brought it down half way between what he said was the selling price and what I thought my home was worth. John sold the house after negotiation for the same exact price John said to list it at. I should of listened to him in the beginning. Very knowledgeable and he never swayed me wrong. The John Wentworth Group and John Wentworth know their stuff. Trust him.... He won’t steer you wrong.”

- RONNY MEDAWAR

“We had an excellent experience working with John Wentworth III and Todd Warda. Not only did they help with the listing and sale of the house, but all of their associates were always available to answer any questions we had. Three days after the showing we had received two good offers. They discussed the offers with us in detail which helped us make up our mind which would work best for us. After our decision was made, everything went smoothly in completing the sale. We couldn’t have asked for better service from John Wentworth III and Todd Warda. John and his associates work together as a “total package” in getting a home sold. We will definitely recommend their company to friends and associates.”

- DIANE STRATMAN

“I had been very impressed and pleased with the people who work at the John Wentworth Group and I was very pleased with all the caring and all the information that was passed onto me. The team taught me a lot and I feel I've gained new friends. It's been a great experience and I will be happy to tell anyone to work with John Wentworth and his team. He told me my home would be sold in the week and it was sold within a day and a half which was very impressive to me. It was amazing and I am very happy, than you for everything!”

- FREIDA SUTTON

“My wife and I talked to John back in November and our experience with John and his staff Jennifer, Tony, and Brooke has been fabulous. We sold the house and purchased a house. I would not go with anybody else but the John Wentworth Group and I really liked the friendly staff.”

- MICHAEL KESKES

“I just recently moved into Fenton thanks to the John Wentworth Group. They helped me to sell my other home and I am really excited to be in the Fenton area. I had the most positive experience and I could not recommend the John Wentworth Group more!”

- STARR CORNELL

“The John Wentworth Group provided lots of communication which was big on our list. We had lots of showings. We have a unique home and they had to figure out how to target the buyer that would really appreciate the home the way that we did. We knew that would take some time but we found somebody and we are super happy!”

- PETE KAUCHECK

Call John today for a Free Market Analysis of your home!

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JohnWentworthGroup.com | WentworthWaterfront.com
Residents of Fenton (Township) to improve the park and improve the town. We have a vision of what we want it to look like when it’s all said and done.”

Neighbors of the Lake Ponemah Trailer Park brought their concerns to the Fenton Township Board of Trustees on several occasions, and complained about blighted properties in the park, roofs caving in, trash and other factors they said harm living conditions.

In July, Fenton Township Supervisor Bonnie Mathis read reports from Fenton Township Fire Chief Ryan Volz, Ordinance Enforcement Officer Tom Hosie and Building Official Dave Gibson, stating that the park passed all inspections.

Neighbors were still not happy.

Vaughn said he wants to change the park’s image by evicting the problematic tenants. They’ve already served 15 eviction notices.

“Unfortunately, throughout the years, they haven’t been very selective of who they let into the park. I think there’s a handful of tenants that cause a bunch of the issues,” he said. “Our goal is going to be to tighten up some of the rules there, get some of the unwanted tenants out, the trouble-making tenants out, and improve the quality of life for people there.”

Vaughn said they aren’t interested in accepting money from residents facing evictions.

“We will have those open spots,” he said.

For those trailers that will be vacant, they will decide to rehab the trailers or bring in a new one. They’re also looking for community input.

“If we have a better indication of people’s interest, it makes our decision a little easier,” he said.

Currently, the rent is $400 a month to live in the park.

Vaughn said, as far as he knows, it’s the cheapest place in Fenton Township, and the residents have lake access and they can also rent dock space.

“The $400 a month is insane, not just with Fenton but with anywhere,” he said. “I think it’s being taken for granted right now. You can’t rent anything on the water for under a grand.”

He said he doesn’t want to raise the price of any people out, but if they clean the park up, it could be a high demand place for people to live. “I don’t want to raise the price of the park but I do feel that we can raise the quality of the park where the rent matches the quality of the park where the rent matches.”

Both Vaughn and his mother have been in the income property business for decades. Vaughn first heard about the park 15 years ago when he was looking for a place to live in the Fenton area. After his mother bought it this July, he went and talked to the residents and said he was surprised at how many long-term residents live at the park.

“We have residents here who met their current spouses on that property,” he said. “There’s a lot of history there.”

Vaughn said improving the park will be a collaborative effort between them, the residents, and the community.

“We’re pretty excited about it. We think there is a lot that can be done there. We will definitely be improving the aesthetics of the park and overall appearance. We will be updating a lot of the trailers and bringing in new trailers where appropriate,” he said.

Vaughn added that he hopes the park will attract new tenants.

“The park will be much more marketable and I think people will start looking at it as an inexpensive place to live in Fenton, and hopefully a quality place to live in Fenton,” he said. “Long term, I think the park is going to go through a major transformation.”

Fenton Township Supervisor Bonnie Mathis hasn’t been able to meet with the new owner yet, but she said she thinks they will take the park in a positive direction. She’s hoping to meet with them next week.

The neighbors

Neighbors of the park, Sharon and Terry Garfield, attended Fenton Township meetings for months, telling the board about all the problems. They’re frustrated with the township and continuing poor conditions, Sharon said on Wednesday.

“We have been so disillusioned with our local unit of government. It’s like the only people who matter are the people in the trailer park,” she said.

The park is still facing issues even with new owners, she said. About two weeks ago, a woman who was only wearing pants and a bra ran up and down the street, according to Sharon. The woman grabbed a raft from someone’s lawn, put it in the water, and tried to jump on it three times. The woman then went to a neighbor’s house, and when the neighbor gave her a shirt, the woman took off her pants.

Sharon said recently, a man ran through her yard, cursing and screaming at someone on a boat in the water. The man climbed on their boat and jumped off it.

“(The new owner) built a fence, a rolling fence, in front of the dumpsters but he didn’t leave enough room for them to put their urine-soaked mattresses, broken TVs, and crap there. They’re not mowing the grass, nobody has cleaned anything up other than to build the fence,” she said. “And we have to look at all that.”

Sharon said they’re tired of fighting it.

“We gave it our best shot. I don’t know what they’re going to do but they win, I’m leaving,” she said. “I’m saddened by the treatment that we have gotten from the township, and they can say they’ve done all they can do, but they haven’t. They care way more about the folks at the park than any of us. We would have liked to see balance. All we wanted them to do was clean it up and keep it cleaned up.”
Nikki said Ray Bradbury was a favorite author of Ally’s, but she had many and liked all genres.

**Passions included running and beloved dogs**

Since Ally was an only child, mother and daughter were best friends. “We watched a lot of reality TV shows,” said Nikki. “When she was younger she liked ‘Seinfeld’ and other comedies of that nature.”

Nikki said Ray Bradbury was a favorite author of Ally’s, but she had many and liked all genres.

The dog before Zeus was a boxer, “Taz,” named so because he ran around the house like a Tazmanian devil.

After the dogs they had previously, they were looking for one that wasn’t too high maintenance, said Nikki. “I was walking around an antique store in Holly and this dog kept following me around.” Nikki said. “I thought that’s kind of cool, maybe we should investigate that.” One thing led to another and when she went to look at the puppies, she brought Ally along and the rest is history.

Taz died in October of 2015. They got Zeus a few months later.

**Mom’s thoughts**

Growing up, Nikki said Ally never gave her a reason to get punished or spanked. As a teenager, she never got a ticket, never got into a car accident. “She wasn’t a drinker and didn’t do drugs,” Nikki said. “I couldn’t have asked for a better daughter.”

“Taz died in October of 2015. They got Zeus a few months later.”

No suspects in murder of Ally Brueger

**Victim’s mom urges students to be aware when waiting for school buses**

By Vera Hogan

Ally Brueger’s mother, Nikki, hates it when she hears or reads that her daughter passed away.

“She didn’t pass away. She didn’t have cancer or get hit by a car. She was murdered,” said Nikki.

Ally, whose entire name was Alexandra Nicolette Brueger, was 31 years old when she was murdered on July 30. As she had for the last 12 years, Ally was on her daily 10-mile run on Fish Lake Road in Rose Township, when she was gunned down by a still unknown assailant.

Because the person who shot Ally four times in the back and left her for dead has not yet been caught, Nikki has a strong message for parents and their children.

“Please tell people for me that next week (Tuesday) kids are going to be standing on the same road, waiting for the bus,” she said. “It is a concern for parents as it would be for me if I still had a school-aged child.”

“I want people to think of their special person,” she added. “Ally was my special person, I want them to know that she turned to run away from the person who took her life away. She had to push her fear down and run.”

Nikki asks everyone to exercise caution and be aware of their surroundings while on the country roads waiting for the bus.

And, if anyone has a tip that could help catch Ally’s killer, no matter how insignificant it may be, “please push your fear down” and call the Michigan State Police at (855) MICH-TIP. There is a $5,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of Ally’s murderer.

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**Half of the US population lives in just 9 states**

9 most populous states = **161.1 million**

Half US population = **161.5 million**

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**POPULATION**

Continued from Page 5A

In Japan, their birth rate is 1.5, and it’s projected by 2060, because of low birth rate, the population will fall by a third, he said.

That could happen here. “The pyramid for demographics is upside down. You have many people who are old, but not many who are young,” he said.

“There’s not going to be a lot of young people to take care of the old people.”

This makes it hard to pay for programs like Social Security and Medicare, which are both paid for by taxes of working people.

“If there’s less people working that’s fewer funds available to fund those programs,” he said.

There are multiple theories about why people aren’t having kids, including that it’s too expensive.

Some sources suggest that it costs about $250,000 to have and raise one child.

“Every time you’re having a kid you’re basically buying a house,” he said.

Another reason for the low birth rate is the limited entry to the workforce. People want to establish themselves in a career before having kids, so they wait longer.

Douglas said when people delay having kids until they’re 30, it becomes harder to have multiple kids down the road.

“It just becomes harder by nature,” he said. Douglas added that people also want fewer kids than people in the past.

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**HOT LINE CONTINUED**

I WISH FENTON or Fenton Township would have a huge flea market all summer long. They attract so many people and would bring business to restaurants and other places. You could even have vendors from our town and restaurants.

**NOVEMBER VOTERS, CHECK out YouTube about criminal aliens being re-released in the U.S. by Homeland Security Chairman Chaffetz and no press coverage on this.**

**WHEN DECIDING WHICH Presidential candidate, it doesn’t matter if you like their style, vote for the one who believes Americans are strong people who cherish freedom, independence, and less government intrusion.**

I WANT TO thank Farmer Laing, Farmer Steve and all the other farmers who worked so hard in the garden at Loose Center. You fought deer, raccoons and woodchucks and still were able to bring the fresh beautiful veggies to the members. Thanks so much.

**THERE WAS AN order to save the people in Benghazi when the fighting began by the then General in charge. This order was changed and the only two people that could have changed it were Obama and Hillary Clinton, or both, to save face.**

**COULDN’T AGREE MORE with the Hot line regarding Fenton Township being out of control. We need an audit of the sewer fund for starters before they raise the fee again as discussed at a recent meeting.**

**OBAMA’S FAILED ECONOMY** is being called one of the worst economies in over 40 years. He hurts minorities especially.

***

OBAMA’S PARTING GIFT as he leaves office is a 35-percent, single-year increase in the federal budget, plus we can’t forget his $20 trillion debt. Much of this money is going to be used for income redistribution.

**IT MAY BE** worthy to note that the sign ordinance typically applies to commercial businesses and government officials alike. Signs on private property are to be considered artwork or the expression of self. That’s a constitutional issue, not one regulated by local ordinances.

**THE EFFORTS OF my brain and my brow, that’s my profit. To say that a city or a region’s population might take their efforts for their own use, look it up, that’s called Communism.**

**ON FRIDAY, CONGRESS** reported GDP numbers and they are worse than ever. Our GDP has fallen below 1 percent. This hurts businesses, profits, and jobs and, of course, the Obama economy has cost over a million jobs.

I DO UNDERSTAND the economy and I can tell you that Clinton’s plan to raise taxes will drive us down to a darker hole than we’ve been in for the past seven years.

CLINTON’S SECOND LARGEST donor group is the land of Hollywood and that’s where she is this weekend, begging for donations. I cannot support these people who want to destroy America.

I JUST READ in the weekend Times that Ruby Tuesday has closed his doors. I’m hoping that we get a good family restaurant, like an I-Hop, Red Lobster or a Cracker Barrel.

TO THE PERSON wondering how we can send some money to Louisiana toward their flooding. Well if we can’t afford it, we can always send them prayers.
into teetotalers. Instead, Prohibition simply drove alcohol consumption underground. Millions of people in small towns and large cities imbibed at secret taverns and bars called speakeasies, according to history.com. Although the exact origins of the term speakeasies are unknown, it was likely because prospective patrons had to whisper, or “speak easy” through a small opening in a door to enter the illegal establishments.

According to history.com, as law enforcement officials shut down countless bars and saloons across the country, speakeasies sprang up overnight, and by 1925, tens of thousands had opened in New York City alone.

Many were draff, makeshift saloons in basements or tenements located in shabby parts of town. Some, however, were fine restaurants in their own right, including New York City’s swanky 21 Club, which featured two bars, a dance floor, dining rooms on two levels and underground passageways leading to a secret wine cellar.

The prohibition act was repealed in 1933.

Inspiration started long ago
Inspiration for The Relief & Resource Co. actually started about a decade ago, when the women on the TV show “Sex in the City” ordered “Cosmos,” a cocktail made with vodka, triple sec, cranberry juice, and freshly squeezed or sweetened lime juice.

“Right about that time our head bartender, Jon Foley, really became interested in cocktails and the history of them,” said Hamel. “That’s about the same time Michigan craft beers started to really take off, but Jon was already ahead of that curve.

“All nine of our draft selections were already dedicated to Michigan beers,” Hamel added. “He started experimenting with cocktails and started ordering some really obscure liquor from around the world.

“The same thing was happening in big cities like New York, Chicago and L.A.,” he said. “Due to the curiosity of these bartenders, men and women, many of these liquors, once dead from obscurity and some since prohibition, started to resurface.

Foley started looking for them online and when the demand increased, the Michigan Liquor Control Commission started to pick up these liquors for distribution.

Hamel and his partners had just purchased the old F.A.R.R. (Fenton Area Resource & Referral) building on Mill Street, and the partners started looking for something to do with it. So the conversation started, he said.

“It was certainly a trend nationwide in big cities and we were not afraid of trying big city things in little Fenton,” Hamel said. “After a lot of conversation we decided a ‘speakeasy’ vs. just a bar would be more appropriate to pay homage to these once great drinks, really spotlight the bartenders, who are the stars of the show, and create an experience to take people back to another place.

“We did have to have a ‘cover business’ and that turned out to be a Latin American take out joint,” said Hamel.

According to The Resource & Referral Co.’ Facebook page, “In keeping with a speakeasy-era interest in avoiding detection, The Relief & Resource Co. is accessible only via El Topo, it’s cover business located at 113 Mill St. Beyond that, we have no comment.”

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WEEKEND TIMES

ARGENTINE TOWNSHIP
GENESEE COUNTY, MICHIGAN
ORDINANCE NO: 73

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CERTAIN ARGENTINE TOWNSHIP ORDI-
NANCES BY DESIGNATING VIOLATIONS AS A MUNICIPAL CIVIL INFRACTION
The Township Of Argentine, Genesee County, Michigan Ordains:

SECTION 1
That the below Argentine Township Ordinances shall be amended as fol-

Ordinance No: 9 – Junk Motor Vehicle Ordinance – shall be amended by deleting Section 3 and replacing it with the wording indicated in Section 2 below.

Ordinance No: 11 - Parking – shall be amended by deleting the language in Section VI and replacing it with the wording indicated in Section 2 below.

Ordinance No: 14 – Public Housing Ordinance – is hereby repealed.

Ordinance No: 18 – Fire Control Measures – shall be amended by adding the wording indicated in Section 2 below.

Ordinance No: 26 – Noise – shall be amended by deleting the language in Section XIII and replacing it with the wording indicated in Section 2 below.

Ordinance No: 31 and 31-1 – Open Burning -- are hereby repealed.

Ordinance No: 46 – Dock Ordinance – is hereby amended by deleting the language in Section IX and replacing it with the wording indicated in Section 2 below.

Ordinance No: 60 – Blight – is hereby amended by deleting the language in Section 6 and replacing it with the wording indicated in Section 2 below.

Ordinance No: 63 – Open Burning – shall be amended by deleting the language in Section IX and replacing it with the wording indicated in Section 2 below.

Ordinance No: 64 - Fireworks - Penalty (A) shall be amended by deleting (A) and replacing it with the wording indicated in Section 2 below.

SECTION 2
The above ordinances shall be amended by adding the following as indi-
cated above: “Violation of this ordinance is a municipal civil infraction. In addition to pursuing a municipal civil infraction proceeding, the Township may also institute an appropriate action in a court of competent jurisdiction seeking injunctive, declaratory, or other equitable relief to enforce or interpret this Ordinance or any provi-
sion of the Ordinance. All remedies available to the Township under this Ordinance and Michigan law shall be deemed to be cumulative and not exclusive. Each day a violation of this ordinance shall exist shall be deemed a separate offense. In ad-
dition to a fine to be determined by the township board, the court, at its discretion, may award other costs, attorney’s fees, damages, expenses and other remedies as provided by law.”

SECTION 3 -- Repealer
All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby re-
pealed only to the extent necessary to give this ordinance full force and effect.

SECTION 4 – Severability
Should any section, subdivision, clause or phrase of this ordinance be declared by the courts to be invalid. The same shall not affect the validity of the ordinance as a whole or any part thereof, other than the part so invalidated.

SECTION 5 – Effective Date
This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon publication.
Engineering has already started on a road-widening project to make Thompson Road’s current two-lane thoroughfare a five-lane road.

**THOMPSON**

Continued from Front Page

The stretch of Thompson from U.S. 23 to Torrey Road will be widened to four lanes with a turning lane in the middle.

John Daly, manager/director of the GCRC, said the road needs more lanes to accommodate the growth and development in that area due to Performance Fabricating’s new facility.

“Statistically, it’s not so much the body of traffic, it’s the type of traffic,” he said. “We need to have a turning lane for the semis.”

Daly said they started seeking the grant, a category “A” grant from the Transportation Economic Development Fund, late last year, and officially received it on Aug. 31.

The total cost of the project is $1,420,000. Along with the $800,000 from MDOT, the GCRC will pay $284,000 and Fenton Township will pay $240,000.

John Tucker, Fenton Township treasurer, said that the township and road commission have been discussing this project for about a year.

He said the township has given its verbal go-ahead to the road commission to get quotes and engineering started. He added that he expects the board to vote in favor of this 2017 project in the near future and place it in the township’s 2017 budget.

Some construction has already started, and the project is expected to be completed next year. Daly said they will close one lane at a time as construction is being done.

“There will be some restraints but the road will stay open,” he said.

**VAN GILDERs**

Continued from Page 3A

The Van Gilders still live in the same house they have for the past 33 years, on a wooded 7 ½-acre parcel of land in Hartland Township. There, Shirley tends to beautifully landscaped flower beds and Russ watches hummingbirds and takes care of their 15-month-old Shetland Sheep Dog, Kaelee. They spend six months living here and six months at their home on Melbourne Beach in Florida.

Russ still plays a little golf, but health issues have kept him off the seat of his Harley motorcycle and the couple has sold the last of their motor homes, which took them on many cross-country excursions. The Van Gilder family now includes their children, Lisa, Rusty and Julie and spouses, plus four grandchildren, two step-grandchildren and soon-to-be seven great-grandchildren. “We still do a Santa Party every year at our house for both sides of our family,” said Shirley. “It’s about 67 adults and 27 kids.”

Travel has always been a hobby for the Van Gilders, from motor trips out west with their family, to excursions to Alaska and a Viking River Cruise to Paris. “If you can only take two trips in your lifetime, go to Alaska and take a Viking River Cruise,” said Shirley.

But Fenton is still very close to the Van Gilders’ hearts. “We like to support Fenton,” said Shirley. A room is named for their family in the renovated Fenton Community & Cultural Center. The couple also established a foundation after they retired, providing scholarships in schools in each town where VG’s does business.

“It’s been a wonderful life,” said Shirley.

**WHAT YOU MISSED in the MIDWEEK TIMES**

Compiled by Vera Hogan

The following are stories you missed in the Wednesday, Aug. 31 Midweek edition of the Tri-County Times. To subscribe and receive both the Midweek and Sunday, Weekend editions, please call (810) 629-8282.

“You can’t even tell there’s a river there”

Some residents upset over the design of the new Silver Lake Road bridge near downtown Fenton.

Trooper’s widow, kids doing well with support

The widow and children of Trooper Chad Wolf, who died after an accident on I-75 on Aug. 28, 2015 talks about life a year later. The motorist involved in the fatal crash awaits trial.

Accused shooter headed to court

The woman charged with fatally shooting Lyric Work, 20, and her coworker, Tamara Johnson, 45, is scheduled for a probable cause conference on Sept. 7. The victims worked together as leasing agents in Grand Blanc.

**HOT LINE CONTINUED**

**TRUMP WANTS TO help all children get a good education. He wants schools of choice for all children, especially the inner city kids to raise them up and out of poverty and to get good paying jobs. Inner city citizens, take a chance for your children, Vote for Trump.**

**CIDERFEST CRAFT SHOW SEPT. 24-25TH**

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248-634-8981
1479 Ranch Rd, Holly
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**VINTAGE & MAKERS Market**

**TWO ARGENTINE TOWNSHIP VOTING PRECINCTS RELOCATED FOR NOVEMBER ELECTION**

The Argentine Board of Trustees unanimously voted to move election precincts No. 2 and No. 3 from the Argentine Fire Hall to the Argentine Church of Nazarene, located at 16248 Seymour Rd., for the November election. Clerk Denise Graves said she expects a lot of traffic, so they moved it to a location with more space.

**NEWS BRIEFS**

- **Sunday, September 4, 2016**
- **Saturday, September 3, 2016**
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Valid at Fenton location only. Dine-in or Carry-Out. Cannot be combined with other offers or discounts. Not valid for buffet.

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Last Tuesday of the Month 5-8pm
14 Items: 4 Soups; Plus Dessert with Hot Pita & Garlic — Of Course!
Adults: $13
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Specializing in post-acute rehabilitation and nursing care, we are designed to provide a bridge to recovery and wellness. We invite you to learn more about WellBridge at www.thewellbridgegroup.com

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**Local SERVPRO Franchise Places Third in U.S. in Total Sales Volume for 2015**

Local SERVPRO franchise owners Randy Miller and Mike Snyder earned a Silver Award for “Outstanding 2015 Sales Performance” recently at the 47th Annual SERVPRO national convention in Las Vegas. As owners of the SERVPRO of Fenton, northwest Genesee County, Saginaw and Bay City, their franchise placed third in total sales volume out of 1,700 franchised in the U.S. SERVPRO is a provider of fire and water cleanup and restoration services and mold mitigation and remediation.

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**SAWYER JEWELERS ATTENDS ELITE JEWELRY BUYING SHOW IN INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA**

Mary Ann Bettinck, Chip Bettinck, Ethel Grandillo and Erin Adams from Sawyer Jewelers Inc. of Fenton and other top jewelers attended the exclusive Fall 2016 Retail Jewelers Organization (RJO) Fall Buying Show in Indianapolis, Indiana. “We attended the show to take advantage of the competitive pricing associated with being a member of RJO,” said Mary Ann and Chip Bettinck.

“Not just any show, but a particularly important one,” added Chip. “The year of the Olympic Games and the trend towards more color have driven up prices of most stones. The show helps us to stay on top of trends and keep our customers happy.”

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**Lost Dog Search Team**

Fiedor has gotten calls from all over the state and even out of state, for dog owners desperate to find their “fur babies.” “We don’t just do rescues,” she said. “We also work with people to help them find their dogs. There’s just five of us. We desperately need more volunteers to help us.”

If you’d like to support the dog rescue efforts of the Lost Dog Search Team, visit their Facebook Page and click on PayPal.

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**Business briefs**

**DOG Continued from Front Page**

shore, then turned around to try to find her owners among a group of boaters in the distance. Her story ended happily when a fisherman got her aboard his boat and took her to shore, but she ran off and was soon found at the Platte River Campground.

What’s amazing about this story is how a local woman, Lynn Fiedor of Holly, became actively involved with this rescue. She headed up north with her team of dog rescue volunteers as soon as she got a call from her husband, who just happened to be one of the fishermen out there searching for Rylee.

Fiedor is now happily reunited with her family, and now it is Fiedor who is getting all the attention.

“This just blew up, I never imagined anything like this ever happening,” said Fiedor, who was on her way with her team to St. Clair Shores on Thursday for another dog rescue.

“I’ve gotten calls from the BBC in London for a radio show, and calls from Norway, Mexico, Good Morning America Online, Inside Edition, and The Today Show is supposed to be calling today,” said Fiedor. “We’re just out here doing this every day.”

She and four other volunteers are the nucleus of the Lost Dog Search Team in Holly. These volunteers became a team in January, when the Holly community united to find Perry, a 3-year-old Shepherd mix with only one eye. He was missing for six days before being found by the ski patrol at Mt. Holly, cold and hungry under the ski lifts.

“The night Perry was found, another dog went missing,” said Fiedor. “That led us to looking for another dog and we decided maybe we should actually be a team. That’s when we started and we haven’t stopped since.”

The Lost Dog Search Team has found more than 70 dogs so far this year. Not all of them have had happy endings like Rylee and Perry. “We’ve found every dog we have looked for, but three or four of them have been found deceased,” said Fiedor.

This team is a volunteer organization, in every sense of the word. “We run on donations and our own money, with what is going on within our industry. It’s a full-time job. We use our own money for flyers, markers, gas, etc. Were recently raised a little money with a garage sale.”

The team starts their searches for lost dogs networking for leads through social media. Then they drive to the area where the dog has been lost, and put up flyers and posters to get sightings.

“Once we have a sighting, we’ll use a trap or actually go into the woods to try to find the dog. What we use depends on the animal, their behavior and how long they’ve been missing. Dogs tend to behave differently when they’re lost.”

Fiedor has gotten calls from all over the state and even out of state, for dog owners desperate to find their “fur babies.” “We don’t just do rescues,” she said. “We also work with people to help them find their dogs. There’s just five of us. We desperately need more volunteers to help us.”

If you’d like to support the dog rescue efforts of the Lost Dog Search Team, visit their Facebook Page and click on PayPal.
Fenton golfers continue dominating Metro, crush Brandon

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

The Lake Fenton varsity boys golf team proved itself to be the early-season favorites at the preseason Metro League Meet recently.

Linden’s defense forced another Goodrich punt after just three plays on the Martians’ next possession, and it didn’t take long for the Eagles to score again. After runs of 29 and 16 yards and a 36-yard completion from Sarkon to Ryker Rivera, the Eagles scored one more time in the opening half. This time Sarkon capped it with a three-yard run.

Linden's Aaron Sarkon dives into the end zone during the Eagles' 41-6 victory against Goodrich on Thursday.

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

Goodrich — Anyone who was concerned that last week’s 42-14 loss to DeWitt may follow the Linden varsity football team to Goodrich on Thursday didn’t have to wait long to settle their fears.

It took 13 seconds precisely.

That’s how long it took Cade Dickson to return the opening kickoff 97 yards for a touchdown, giving the Lin-den Eagles a 6-0 lead.

The Eagles never slowed down, as Linden cruised to an impressive 41-6 victory against Goodrich High School.

“I saw an opening and a walk of blockers,” Dickson said about the game-opening kickoff return for a TD. “They were blocking really well. Our team came together, and when I saw the opening I took it. The block-ers were doing excellent. If I did get touched, it was a dive in the foot.

“It got everyone’s confidence up. It meant we were ready to go. It brought the intensity and the urgency to win.”

“The kickoff return gave us immediate confidence and we started rolling,” said Linden’s starting quarterback Aaron Sarkon. “From that moment on, we thought we were going to win.”

The first half was complete Linden domination as the Eagles scored four TDs and held Goodrich scoreless. After holding Goodrich’s offense to just three plays and a punt on the Martians’ first possession of the game, Linden began its first play from scrimmage at the Goodrich 44. Just four plays later, Sarkon kept the ball on a quar-terback draw and scored on a 23-yard TD run. A completed slant pass to Corbin Sines enabled Linden to convert the two-point play, taking a 14-0 lead with 8:55 left in the first quarter.

Linden’s Aaron Sarkon. “From that moment on, we thought we were going to win.”

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2016 | PAGE 22A | WWW.TCTIMES.COM/SPORTS

The Bronchos scored the game’s final 21 points and came home from Williamson with a thrilling 35-28 victory, evening the team’s record to 1-1 overall.

“We got the ball after they punched it in (to take the 14 point lead) and we saw their ad-justment,” Holly varsity football coach Ryan Culloty said.

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

Blue Devils edge Olivet, 18-14

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

The Lake Fenton varsity football team has opened the season playing two foes the Blue Devils had never played prior to this year.

Maybe the Blue Devils should schedule more unknown foes. It seems to be working. Lake Fenton improved to 2-0 by defeating Olivet 18-14.

At Olivet High School Thursday day.

The Blue Devils trailed 7-6 at halftime, but two TDs in the third quarter gave Lake Fenton the lead for good. The first came on a Matt Tomczyk 15-yard reception from Jack-son Nevadomski. The Blue Devils led 12-7 after the two-point conversion failed.

CONTINUED ONLINE AT ➤ TCTIMES.COM

Second-half comeback leads Holly Bronchos by Williamson, 35-28

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

Down 14 in the second half, the Holly varsity football team looked in trouble on the road at Williamson Thursday night. However, sometimes looks can be deceiving.

TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPENS

Holly’s Kyle Staple makes a tackle in a recent game. Staple had a big game in Holly’s win vs. Williamson.

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Meet Margaret Berry
Margaret Berry — Anyone who was concerned that last week’s 42-14 loss to DeWitt may follow the Linden varsity football team to Goodrich on Thursday didn’t have to wait long to settle their fears.

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Linden's Aaron Sarkon dives into the end zone during the Eagles’ 41-6 victory against Goodrich on Thursday.
Blue Devils continue impressive start, defeat Byron

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

Lake Fenton — The season is still young for the Lake Fenton varsity boys soccer team, but life on the squad has been pretty amazing so far.

In the Blue Devils’ first two games they posted a 5-0 victory against Birch Run, and followed that with a 7-0 victory against Corunna. The defense hasn’t allowed a goal while the offense has dominated play throughout those contests.

On Tuesday afternoon, the trend continued. The Blue Devils made it three impressive performances in a row to start the season by crushing Byron 8-0 in a contest that was ended due to the mercy rule early in the second half.

Lake Fenton has now outscored its foes 20-0 in three contests.

“We’ve been starting to gel as a team,” Lake Fenton captain Joey Reitano said.

“We lost only one senior last year so we are a pretty compatible team right off the bat. We have a lot of chemistry and that’s helped us out a lot, I think.”

The Blue Devils were an extremely young team a year ago, but still challenged for the Genesee Area Conference title, only losing it due to a one-goal loss to Goodrich. Lake Fenton is still a very young squad, but they are an experienced youthful team since just about everyone returns.

“It’s going very well,” Lake Fenton varsity boys soccer coach Sam Jawhari said.

Fenton boys tennis captures two Metro victories

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

When Gary Ballard took over the Fenton varsity girls tennis program, he had a goal to make it competitive with the Holly team.

Ballard accomplished his task, and now the area has two strong girls tennis programs who can use their rivalry to make each other better.

Now, Ballard is coaching the Fenton boys tennis program, and he hopes to repeat history.

“Holly is the big program around here. Holly always reloads and has a great program,” Ballard said.

Fenton captured a tight 25-17, 23-25, 25-20, 21-25, 15-5 victory against Livonia Ladywood High School on Tuesday.

Jessica Warford led the Tigers with 29 kills while Erin Kaye had 14 kills. Kiley Aldred had 44 assists.

Linden XC competes at Early Bird invitational

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

The Linden varsity cross country teams ran during the night in one race already this season.

On Tuesday, they were among the “early birds” competing at the annual Corunna Early Bird Invitational.

The Linden teams competed in the medium divisions and had the girls finish third in a 10-team event and the boys place fourth among eight squads.

The Lady Eagles were paced by sophomore Audrey Steiert, placing fourth in 19:50.19. She was one of just four runners to finish the 3.1-mile race in under 20 minutes.

The Linden girls also had freshman Hannah Wabel finish among the top 20, taking 11th in 21:11.15.

WINNERS OF 21 OF THE LAST 22 METRO OPENING METRO LEAGUE DUAL MATCHES, TRENDS CONTINUE. THE BLUE DEVILS MADE IT THREE IMPRESSIVE PERFORMANCES IN A ROW TO START THE SEASON BY CRUSHING BYRON 8-0 IN A CONTEST THAT WAS ENDED DUE TO THE MERCY RULE EARLY IN THE SECOND HALF.

Lake Fenton’s Riley Besser (left) dribbles with the ball during the Blue Devils’ 8-0 victory against Byron on Tuesday.

CONTINUED ONLINE AT TCTIMES.COM
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Wed & Fri: 8:30am - 6pm
Saturday: 10am - 4pm • Sunday: CLOSED

SERVICE HOURS
Monday: 7:00am - 8pm
Tuesday - Friday: 7:00am - 6pm
Saturday: 8am - 2pm • Sunday: CLOSED