Five big law changes possible in 2017

Drug policies, marijuana, and congressional term limits could change

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

A new year brings many new laws. Some laws will change while many others stay the same. Here are five issues with growing controversy that could undergo policy changes in 2017.

See LAW CHANGES on 18A

The high cost of living longer

Increasing life expectancy means longer retirement and more health-related costs

By Hannah Ball
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Even though American life expectancy dipped for the first time in more than two decades, Americans are living longer than they ever have.

In the last century, the average American’s life expectancy rose from 47 to 78, according to Forbes Magazine. Living longer means more time with loved ones, but it also brings financial ramifications.

Chris Douglas, economics professor for the University of Michigan-Flint, said, “The main point in people living longer is they’re going to have to save more to pay more for a longer retirement,” he said. “Most people aren’t saving enough.”

See COST OF LIVING on 7A

Discover the Dinosaurs: Unleashed

Families observe the dinosaur displays at the “Discover the Dinosaurs: Unleashed” event held last weekend at the Birch Run Expo Center. The weekend brought 9,000 visitors through for several dinosaur-related activities. See story on Page 15A

The King column in Wednesday’s paper just broke my heart. Anyone who would do that to their pet should be left alone out in the cold every night themselves, like he was. If they don’t want him my husband and I will gladly take him and give him a wonderful, warm, loving indoor home.”

In just a few days we will welcome a new president, one who offers us a new beginning and a new opportunity to work towards a better America. I believe we are all united by a deep, abiding love of our country. Let’s show it by working together to make it even better. God bless America.”

2016 set a new and appalling record. According to CNN, citing figures released by the Chicago Police Department, Chicago experienced 762 murders, 3,550 shooting incidents and 4,331 shooting victims for the year 2016. It’s important to note that this is the city with the strictest gun laws in America.”

People often underestimate how long they’ll live, and don’t save enough money throughout their life.

"Sometimes you need to use your common sense. Who do you really think the Russians would rather see in office — an Obama clone that they can push around or someone who has vowed to strengthen our military and add more nuclear weapons?"

TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

CONTROVERSIAL LAWS

Opioid addiction laws
Marijuana revenue
Daylight Saving Time
Health care
Congressional term limits

MARIJUANAPOLITICS.COM

New lawmakers are setting plans for the new year. Medical marijuana revenue is one of several issues that could experience policy change in 2017.

The high cost of living longer

Summary

People may be living longer, but most Americans are not prepared for the costs associated with retirement and health care they face later in life.

People may be living longer, but most Americans are not prepared for the costs associated with retirement and health care they face later in life.

Police are still looking for tips that will help them convict the person that murdered Alexandra “Ally” Brueger.

"We must keep talking about Ally and what happened to her. Someone knows something." - C. Kelly, Concerned neighbor of Ally Brueger

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

It has been nearly six months since Alexandra “Ally” Brueger was gunned down while jogging along Fish Lake Road in Rose Township.

She was on her daily 10-mile run, something she had done for the past dozen years.

On July 30, 2016, she was shot to death, four times in the back. Her murderer remains unsolved, and her murderer remains at large.

See UNSOLVED on 11A

Ally Brueger murder remains unsolved, shooter still at large

Nearly six months later, fearful neighbors remain cautious

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See UNSOLVED on 11A
Celebrities do it - ‘Y’ not you?
The Y Lift ™ is your fastest, safest (non-surgical), technique for a natural look

By Sally Rummel
news@tctimes.com

Every time you look in the mirror, you may begin to notice that each advancing year has diminished your high cheekbones, defined jawline and nice, taut neck.

You’re still confident in your appearance and have never even considered plastic surgery or a traditional facelift. But if you can instantly turn back the clock and achieve a very natural, more youthful look over your lunch hour, wouldn’t you want to do it?

The Y Lift ™ is the newest technique in today’s generation of non-surgical facial contouring procedures, pioneered by Dr. Yan Trokel, a New York cosmetic surgeon.

Y Lift trained, Dr. Eric Seiger, Medical Director of the Skin & Vein Centers (in Fenton, Sterling Heights and Garden City) performs the procedure locally and is one of only 17 surgeons in the U.S. to do so.

As a highly-skilled cosmetic surgeon for more than 25 years, Dr. Seiger has earned a national reputation for using cutting-edge technology and science. He pioneered The Hour Lift (a mini-facelift technique) more than 15 years ago, and considers the Y Lift ™ the most amazing non-surgical, facial/neck procedure he has ever seen. Many patients elect Seiger’s “Total Lift,” which combines both the Y Lift and Hour Lift techniques to achieve a desired look.

The Y Lift ™ itself, re-volumizes the facial structure from the hollowness under your eyes, to your cheekbones, jawline and neckline. It can literally be done during your lunch hour, with no incision, stitches or general anesthesia. You can resume your daily activities immediately after the procedure.

How does it work?

Basically, it’s a molding and sculpting technique, according to Seiger. “As we age, our skin isn’t looser because of gravity, but because we lose volume in our bone structure. This technique is based on ‘structured volumizing,’ replenishing lost volume and restoring youthful facial contours. Suitable for men and women of all skin types, The Y Lift ™ accentuates the cheekbone region, revives the under eye area and defines the jawline and upper neck instantly.

The Y Lift ™ is customized to each patient and uses FDA-approved fillers. This technique is suitable for adults, ages 25 to 80. Results last between one and three years, depending on the product used.

“The Y-Lift utilizes a specific technique and instruments to inject filler in order to achieve these amazing results without surgery” states Seiger. “Physicians who use fillers in their practice cannot achieve the same result as a Y Lift. Standard filler injection technique is completely different to the Y Lift.”

Thinking about having The Y Lift™?

Here’s what to expect:

Q. What happens during the procedure?
A. The Y Lift ™ is performed, first using novocaine to numb the area. Then, a specialized titanium instrument is inserted beneath the skin and maneuvered throughout designated parts of the facial region to instantly lift and contour the muscles, fascia and fat underlying the skin.

Once lifted, naturally occurring hyaluronic acid is then added to hold the new position of the facial features, at which point the titanium instrument is removed. The rejuvenated face is then “sculpted” by Dr. Seiger to accent and highlight each individual’s facial features highlighting their natural beauty.

Q. How long will the Y Lift ™ procedure take?
A. The entire procedure itself takes 30 minutes. Include some time for a consultation beforehand and a brief follow-up afterward.

Q. Is the procedure painful?
A. The Y Lift ™ doesn’t involve any painful surgery, sutures or anesthesia. A local anesthesia is applied to manage any discomfort.

Q. What can I expect during recovery?
A. There is no recovery time with the Y Lift ™ and you can resume normal activity right away. However, you may have some slight swelling and soreness for a couple of days.

Q. How much does the Y Lift ™ cost?
A. The cost can be determined at a free consultation and is based on each patient’s own particular age and facial structure and the type and amount of fillers used.

Q. Can I talk to anyone from The Skin & Vein Center who has had the Y Lift ™ done?
A. The Skin & Vein Center can arrange for a contact with someone who has had the procedure and agrees to speak to prospective patients.
Whether you’re a newbie or a regular, here are a few things to know before you go
By Sally Rummel
news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Move over, Las Vegas. Michigan is making a name for itself in the high-stakes world of casino gambling.

Our state is No. 11 nationwide in casino revenues through Detroit’s big-three casinos: Greektown, MGM Grand and MotorCity, not including unregulated revenues from the many tribal casinos that blanket the state.

Michigan is also home to No. 7 of the Top 10 casinos in gaming floor space, with Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort in Mt. Pleasant boasting more than 210,000 square feet.

SUMMARY
Enjoy a day trip to a local casino or a family weekend to enjoy all that a casino resort and/or hotel has to offer, especially during this long, cold winter months.

Even if you’re a casino newbie, you’ll have fun with the ambiance of the experience, including many five-star restaurants, live shows and people-watching. The bet is on that you’ll find something you’ll enjoy playing, whether it’s slots, blackjack, roulette, craps or poker.

Today’s casinos are open 365 days a year, 24 hours a day and are one of the few places smokers can also enjoy their vice, as the gaming rooms are exempt from Michigan’s non-smoking laws.

Whether it’s the thrill of the lights, the sounds of the slots or the exhilarating nightlife, a visit to one of Michigan’s more than two dozen casinos can bring some excitement to your winter doldrums.

According to gambling sites.com, slot machines now make up 85 percent of an average casino’s revenues.

Mark your calendar for upcoming events

From bridal shows to boat shows, the winter months are filled with special shows/expos
By Sally Rummel
news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Whether you’re a bride, boater, home remodeler or fly fisherman, there’s an upcoming event in the next few months to whet your appetite for the excitement to come.

Michigan is home to hundreds of events that cater to these special interests, and many of them are held during the cold winter months when it’s more enjoyable to be indoors.

Here are a few upcoming dates to mark on your calendar:

Community Expo
• March 4-5: Fenton Community Expo, Fenton High School

There are plenty of special events coming up during the winter months to whet your appetite for your favorite hobby or interest. Shown here is the petting zoo at last year’s Fenton Expo held in March 2016 at Fenton High School.
Fans weren't fair to Mariah

Many people are having a great time making fun of Mariah Carey, the pop diva whose New Year’s Eve performance went kerplow when technical difficulties made it clear her performance was lip-synced.

Every news show on the planet delighted in replaying the disaster. And, of course, social media exploded with snarky comments like “With 15 minutes remaining before the New Year, 2016 claimed its final victim: Mariah Carey’s career” and “Breaking news: Mariah Carey has just been invited to sing at Trump’s inauguration.”

There was even a popular Facebook meme with photos of an actual train wreck next to a photo of Carey’s New Year’s Eve performance.

I thought all of it was grossly unfair, and not because I’m a fan of Carey’s. I’m not. I think she has a great voice, but like most singers these days she prefers showing off her vocal range more than delivering a great song. I don’t like that style of singing. I think if you’re going to sing the word ‘love’ it shouldn’t come out “LooOOOoooOOOoooOOOove’ the word ‘love’ it shouldn’t come out ing. I think if you’re going to sing fair, and not because I’m a fan of singers throughout history have stood stock still when they perform, with their only movements being maybe a dramatic hand gesture, a hair flip or a hey-baby-you-know-what-I’m-singing-about leer.

That all changed back in the ’80s with the advent of music videos. Suddenly, people wanted live performances to match what they saw in the videos, which meant dancing, flipping, flying, sprinting and tumbling, which meant lip syncing because without it songs would sound like this: ‘Ooh baby (pant, pant), I really want you (huff puff), I want you so bad … whoo boy, hold on a sec, everybody, I gotta catch my breath.’

That’s not very sexy.

Personally, I think lip syncing is silly, and I imagine performers feel pretty silly doing it. I know I’d feel pretty goofy giving a PowerPoint presentation by mouthing the words.

But the fact remains that modern audiences and performers have tacitly agreed that it’s OK for performers to lip sync their songs while zipping around the stage.

So when something goes wrong at a performance, I think it’s wrong for people to say, ‘See, she’s a fake!’ because of course she’s a fake. That’s what we asked her to be. So we can hardly blame or make fun of her for being what we demanded she be.

So to you, Mariah Carey, I say: ‘You have nothing to feel bad or embarrassed about. In fact, you have every right to be mad at the people who are making fun of you.’

Of course, I’m not really saying that out loud. I’m just mouthing the words. But you get the idea.

With over 15 years of experience and a strong working relationship with multiple architects, we will make your DREAM HOME A REALITY!

If you won $1 million at a casino, what would you do with the winnings?

“I would share it with everyone and then buy a new car. But I would definitely help people who need it.”

Marcelline Robinson
Byron

“I would pay off my student loan debt and my parents as well.”

Justin Jay
Linden

“I’d expect I’d pay off everything and give the grandkids a new car. I would hope I would then have some left.”

Robert Groom
Byron

“I would retire and move someplace warm.”

Kris Kusser
Fenton

“I would make sure that I was happy. I would make sure it was used well. There are so many people who are hungry. I would make sure that I was happy, too.”

Casey Rogers
Fenton
The simplest of evidence can solve crimes

Tossed butts
Randal Comeaux was a longtime member of the sheriff’s department in Lafayette, Louisiana, having worked there for more than 20 years. What no one knew was that he was also a serial rapist, terrorizing the women of his town for 13 of those years.
The attacks started in the early 1980s and continued through 1995.
All that was known was that Lafayet
ette and a neighboring town had been
struck by a series of unsolved rapes
that all appeared to have been committed by the same man. He never left any physical evidence and always covered his face with a ski mask, leaving him unidentifiable.
Comeaux, however, made one simple mistake. He had a tendency to leave cigarette butts at the victims’ houses, and the epithelial cells from the saliva on the cigarettes were matched to a sample taken from Comeaux.
With that evidence, he first pleaded not guilty by reason of insan
tivity but later entered a simple guilty plea. He was given three life sentences.

Paint specks
The abduction of Vicki Lynne Hoskinson gripped the Tucson, Ariz
o region in the mid-1980s. The 8-year-old girl had left her house on her bike one day and was never seen again. The only evidence left at the scene of her abduction was her bike, which was abandoned just a few blocks away from her house.
A local gym teacher who worked at the school only a block away from the site of Vicki’s abduction noticed a suspicious-looking sports car near the school and wrote down the license plate number. Police traced it to Frank Jarvis Atwood, a California man on parole for molesting an 8-year-old boy.
The only evidence that was found at Atwood’s home linking him to the abduction was a dent and traces of pink paint on the car’s bumper. It was not enough to be admissible, though, as further testing matched the paint to Vicki’s bike, and an accident reconstructionist matched the bike pedal to the dent. After Vicki’s body was eventually found, Atwood was convicted of her mur
der and sentenced to death in 1987.

Seed pods
On May 2, 1992, Denise Johnson was murdered. Her strangled body was discov
ered the next day in the remote wilderness outside of Phoenix, Arizona.
A pager belonging to the father of a man named Mark Bogan was found near the body, and an eyewitness reported a truck similar to Bogan’s at the scene around the time Johnson was killed.
However, Bogan claimed that Johnson, who he said was a hitchhiker, had stol
en his pager. Given that there was virtu
ally no physical evidence tying him to the crime, police were stuck.
That is, until one of the detectives no
ticed a small abra
sion on a nearby tree and remembered that two small seed pods from that species of tree had been found in the back of Bogan’s truck. Since the truck was fairly common in the area, that wouldn’t have been enough to tie the Bogan to the crime without the work of a professor of molecular genetics from the University of Arizona who matched the DNA of the tree at the scene to the pods found in the truck.
As a result, Bogan was convicted and sentenced to life in prison in the first murder case in the U.S. that involved plant DNA.

No Insurance • No Problem!

ASK THE
MECHANIC
Chris Wilkinson, Certified Mechanic

- have a 2009 impala and the heater will not stay hot when the car is idling. When I touch the accelerator pedal it gets hot almost instantly. It makes it very hard to melt ice on the windshield.

Marty, this problem is most commonly caused by a restricted heater core. A good flushing should fix it. To check this when the car is warm and idling, feel both heater hoses. If one is considerably cooler than the other then you most likely have a restricted heater core. Other things to look for are proper coolant level and circulation. If you need to flush the cooling system and heater core, do so by first draining as much of your old coolant as possible, then take off both heater hoses and flush the heater core back and forth from one hose to the other. You should see when the debris comes out and the water should flow free and clear. Next flush the radiator and block from the other end of the heater hose where they hook to the engine and also from your upper and lower radiator hoses in both directions on all hoses. When finished drain as much water out as you can and start by filling the system with straight antifreeze for the first gallon. Then use a 50/50 mix and make sure to bleed the system. On this car, leave the top heater hose off all filling. Use a small funnel into the heater hose and fill it until it comes out the heater pipe at the engine, then reconnect the hose, top of the system and run until hot. Now if it cools down again you will need to check for the proper coolant level with an antifreeze tester. It should be good to 32-34 F. If not, you may need to adjust this by draining some out then adding more coolant or water to adjust the mix. Don’t forget to take your old coolant to a parks store or repair shop that accepts it for recycling purposes as this should not be put down the drain or left outside. Pets seem to like the drinking and it is poison!

NEW LOCATION!
WWW.NCIDS.COM

Sometimes a seemingly insignificant piece of evidence becomes key to solving a crime.

WEEKEND TIMES www.tctimes.com

OUT OF CONTROL DRUNK

Barack Obama, while a gifted orator, never had a clue about actual governing. Can anyone provide me with examples of anything he accomplished? We are fortunate we survived it. Can’t wait for an adult to retake the White House on January 20th.
COST OF LIVING
Continued from Front Page

People born in 1950 had a life expectancy of 68.2, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). People born in 2013 are expected to live to 78.8 years old.

“It’s not a guarantee that life expectancy is always going to go up,” Douglas said.

People can start collecting Social Security at age 62, the age many people retire. However, people often underestimate how long they’ll live and don’t save enough for retirement, according to USA Today.com.

“One of the costs we are already paying for the gift of longevity is the placement of elderly citizens and their families in degrading and difficult situations that simply were not possible in earlier times,” according to a report on aging for The President’s Council on Bioethics.

To counteract this, people are starting to work longer. “There’s not a whole lot you can do to prolong retirement indefinitely. There’s a limit to how long you can work,” Douglas said.

It’s estimated that young people will have to work longer and save more for retirement to pay for the older, retired generation.

According to Forbes, the ideal ratio for a healthy economy is four workers to every one retired person. This has dropped to three-and-half workers to every retired person, and is nearing three to one. This puts a strain on a government to take care of more people by using fewer resources.

“Living longer really exacerbates that problem of people not saving enough,” he said. “Not only do you have to save for retirement but you have to save for health care and that’s astronomically expensive.”

The demand for nursing homes and assisted living facilities is going to increase.

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Douglas said there’s going to have to be policy change to get people to save more money for retirement and future health care costs.

“Living longer is just really expensive,” he said.

According to money.cnn.com, the Social Security trust fund is projected to run dry by 2034. This means the program won’t have enough revenue to pay 79 percent of promised benefits.

Medicare revenue is projected to run dry sooner, by 2028, when the trust will only be able to pay approximately 87 percent of expected benefits.

These programs could possibly run dry sooner due to the growing older population.

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Rules snowmobilers need to know

Popular wintertime toy prohibited on public streets and most public highways

By Hannah Ball
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With snow in the extended forecast, the loud sounds of snowmobilers zipping past your house, sometimes over your lawn and onto your neighbor’s, is also a likely scenario. What many snowmobilers might not know is that they are not allowed on public roads or the shoulders of public roads.

According to the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (NREPA) 324.82119, “A person shall not operate a snowmobile upon a public highway, land used as an airport or street, or on a public or private parking lot not specifically designated for the use of snowmobiles.”

According to Genesee County Undersheriff Chris Swanson, “Snowmobiles are Off Road Vehicles (ORVs). They need to be registered and if they go on state land, they also need a trail pass.

“They are allowed to go on private roads.”

Swanson said the most common violations with snowmobilers are speed and driving while intoxicated. Violations are misdemeanors.

There are exceptions to the NREPA in regards to where snowmobiles can legally operate. Snowmobiles are allowed to be operated on the right-of-way of a public highway, except a limited-access highway, only if it is operated at the extreme right of the open portion and with the flow of traffic.

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Chris Swanson
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Animal protection bills become law

Shelters can now access criminal database to vet adopters

By Hannah Ball
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Michigan animal shelters can now conduct background checks to determine if someone is suitable to adopt an animal, thanks to a package of bills signed by Lt. Gov. Brian Calley on Dec. 28, 2016.

Under this new law, shelters can use the Internet Criminal History Access Tool (ICHAT) to search for someone who wishes to adopt an animal. The search will tell the shelter if that person has a history of animal abuse.

The shelter then “may choose not to allow an individual who has been convicted of an animal abuse offense to adopt an animal unless a period of at least five years has elapsed since the date of his or her conviction,” according to House Bill 4353.

This law applies to animal control shelters or animal protection shelters. Earlier versions of this bill made the background checks a requirement before allowing someone to adopt.

The bill passed in the House Feb. 9, 2016 and passed in the Senate Dec. 15, 2016. Sen. Jim Ananich (D-Flushing) and Sen. Dave Robertson (R-Grand Blanc) both voted in favor of the bill.

Ananich said, “Every pet deserves a safe home. Performing background checks on people looking to adopt is the least shelters can do to make sure animals go home to a good environment. I was happy to support legislation that protects those who can’t speak for themselves.”

While this new law appears like it will benefit animals by keeping them out of the hands of abusers, in February 2016 after the bill passed in the House, Paul Wallace, director of Genesee County Animal Control, said it looks like “feel-good legislature without a lot of teeth.”

Only Michigan convictions are recorded in the ICHAT system, Wallace said, and if an offender is from another state, or charged but not convicted, “an all too common occurrence,” their name will not appear in the system as an abuser.

If someone is charged but pleaded out to a lesser charge, which is more common, Wallace said, their name also wouldn’t be listed as an offender.

“With the number of just plain stray animals and myriad other ways of acquiring an animal I think this sounds good, like ‘background checks’ for firearm purchases, but will have little impact at street level,” he said.

Someone with mental health issues could also avoid being listed as an abuser because those records are protected under Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA) laws.

In a previous Times article, Jody Maddock, director of Adopt-A-Pet in Fenton, said the bill is a good idea, but she has concerns over breeders not being included in the bill.

“If they’re going to do it, they need to do it across the board,” Maddock said. She said if someone can’t adopt from an animal shelter because of their criminal history, they could still go to a breeder.
Make America great again?

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

I’ve heard the phrase “make America great again” hundreds of times on TV, online, on shirts, and even on an old classmate’s Facebook page. It’s everywhere.

This overreaching phrase is too ambiguous for me. One, it implies that America was great at some point in time, and two, that we as a country have lost said greatness. I don’t believe it is definitive nor does it define “greatness.”

It’s been more than 50 days since the election, and I’m disappointed in the American people. I don’t see greatness in this country right now. I see division.

I see older Republicans running away from discussion about issues dealing with race, sexuality, and gender, and I see a huge slew of people that are unaware of the definition of “xenophobia,” while acting out the term.

I see young liberals boycott the electoral college and protest our election system just because this election didn’t turn out in their favor.

I see people on both sides of the political spectrum fighting for the same things, just in different ways. I see the right ignoring facts about police brutality, and I see the left using the same kind of hateful rhetoric that they fight against.

I saw the Republican Party struggle with, but ultimately support, a loose cannon this past election. Now I’m seeing an increase in hate crimes because of that loose cannon, and what I’m not seeing are people on the right condemning those hate crimes.

I see Republicans saying “get over it” to fellow Americans who have to put up with said crimes.

I see the Democratic Party unfairly supporting one candidate who’s broken the law, while pushing down the one clean candidate who I believe truly cares about Americans.

Now I see Democrats calling all Republicans “racist” because they voted for someone who has encouraged xenophobia. People on both sides care more about winning fights on Facebook rather than establishing effective communication.

This is why I loved Trevor Noah’s segment with Tomi Lahren on The Daily Show. Those two represent the extremes of both sides, and were able to have a civil conversation.

People talk big, but most everyone falls in the middle — and that’s where we have to meet. It’s not black and white. It’s every color of gray you can imagine.

What’s going to help this country finally achieve greatness is effective communication and compromise. It’s not going to matter how right you are or how staunch you are in your beliefs — if you’re not initiating effective, progressive dialogue that leads to solutions for everyone, you are part of the problem, not the solution.

Picking fights with people online solves nothing. I see people of all ages fall prey to fake news that’s easily identifiable. Don’t be the sheep — the thing you’re always accusing the other side of being — by only reading headlines. Do the work to get the entire story.

To ‘make America great again’ we need to make America educated. We need to empathize with people who don’t look like us, talk like us or worship like us. We need to do more listening instead of soapboxing. We need to realize that someone else’s struggle isn’t invalid just because we haven’t experienced it.

Make America great again? It’s up to us.
UNSOLVED
Continued from Front Page

Although a $10,000 reward is being offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for this homicide, no one has come forward.

The Times asked readers on its Facebook page, especially people who live in the area of the murder, to share their thoughts.

“...I used to be only concerned about possibly getting struck by a driver, but this tragic incident reminded me that abduction and murder are very real dangers...”

S. Drouin
Concerned neighbor of Ally Brueger

Jorgensen added, “Somebody knows something.”

K. Rogers said, “My daughter and grandchildren live by there and she will no longer walk these roads. So sad.”

“I live about six miles away,” said S. Drouin. “My parents live right down the road where it happened, and shortly after this murder occurred, I bought a new treadmill so I could run indoors now. I used to love running outdoors in rural parks and pass so many scenic roads that I would have loved to venture down, but I will not for fear of my safety.

I used to be only concerned about possibly getting struck by a driver, but this tragic incident reminded me that abduction and murder are very real dangers for a young small female running alone and that no community is safe from random violent crime.”

Drouin added, “This was such a tragedy, and my prayers are with Ally and her family.”

Last week, F/Lt. Michael Shaw was asked if any new information was available on this case.

“I can tell you that this is still a very active investigation,” said Shaw. “Every tip we get is investigated as soon as we receive it.

“We are still looking for any information that may help us solve the murder of Alexandra Brueger. They can call Crime Stoppers at 800 SPEAK UP or MSP at 855 MICH-TIP. Someone out there knows what happened and we need this missing piece to solve this investigation,” said Shaw.

As far as the reward money, the ATF has partnered with Crime Stoppers. MSP is not responsible for the reward process. Shaw said anyone wishing to contribute by starting a gofundme account, for example, should know there is much more to the process, such as determining who actually gets the reward, what happens to the money if no one becomes eligible to receive it, etc.

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SCHOOLS OF CHOICE PROGRAMS 105/105c OFFERED IN LINDEN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS FOR STUDENTS IN GRADES K-12 UNLIMITED

FOR SECOND SEMESTER
2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR

The Linden Community School District is accepting applications for enrollment for the second semester of the 2016-2017 school year for K-12 students who do not reside within the district’s boundaries pursuant to Sections 105 and 105c of the State Aid Act.

This applies to students who reside in our intermediate school district or one that is contiguous to, or borders, Genesee County. These applications will be accepted January 16, 2017 – January 27, 2017. Second semester begins on January 30, 2017.

Schools of Choice applications will be available January 16, 2017 through January 27, 2017 at the Administration Building:

- Transportation will be the responsibility of the parent/guardian.
- There is no tuition charge for students accepted for enrollment under these programs.
- To apply, complete the application and return to Jennifer Bentley, Schools of Choice Coordinator, Linden Community Schools, by January 27, 2017, no later than 12:00 p.m.
- Notification of acceptance by choice district no later than January 27, 2017.
- If accepted, the student must enroll by February 3, 2017.
- Applications may be obtained in person, at www.lindenschools.org, by mail or by calling:

Jennifer Bentley
Linden Community Schools
7205 W. Silver Lake Road
Linden, Michigan 48451
(810) 591-0986

Stephanie Sharp Foster, Manager
(810) 629-9321

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Sunday, January 8, 2017

THE TIMES
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**GRAND BLANC SCHOOLS**
$174,999

1304 SF, 3 BR and 2 BA. This ranch features a flex living room, hardwood floors, kitchen w/ beautiful cabinets and granite countertops. Dining room walks out to 3 season room and deck. First floor laundry and master suite features tiled shower. 3 car garage.

**WESTCHESTER**
$79,999

100 S Fenton Rd. 3 BR and 1 BA. Cute all brick ranch home. Kitchen features all appliances, breakfast nook, lots of cabinet and counter space. Beautiful hardwood floors, partially finished basement, covered patio, 2 car attached garage, large fenced yard and much more.

**FOX CHASE FARMS**
$249,999

Great location. Full basement. 1568 SF, 3 BR and 1.5 BA. Open floor plan, beautiful hardwood floors, eat in kitchen with granite counter tops, pantry and stainless steel appliances. Great sandy shore line for swimming.

**LAKE PONEMAH**
$675,000

Large lakefront home on 2.48 acres. 6 BR, 3 BA. Home is in the middle of the lake. Excellent fishing. Beautiful lake views from the inside and outside. Great location.

**LAKE SILVER**
$449,900

Beautiful home w/ 50' frontage on private all sports Silver Lake. 2040 SF. 2 BR and 2 BA. Open floor plan, beautiful hardwood floors, eat in kitchen with granite counter tops, pantry and stainless steel appliances. Great sandy shore line for swimming.

**WARWICK HILLS**
$1,199,999

This custom home is nothing less than spectacular. Over 7000 SF of finished living space, 4 BR, 4.5 BA. Quality at every turn - beautiful hardwood floors, fantastic natural light, attention to detail & excellent craftsmanship. Chef's dream kitchen, formal dining room w/ Butler's pantry, & great room.

**DOLLAR LAKE**
$259,999

100' Frontage on Dollar Lake. 1710 SF of finished living space. 3 BR, 2.5 BA. Finished walkout basement w/ large rec room, full bath + sauna, fireplace, office. 1 acre lot with 2 oversized 2.5 car attached garages. Plus 3rd garage.

**PLATINUM**
$57,500

Beautiful build-able lot, almost 1 acre with access to private Lake Shannon. Private all sports lake community located west of US-23 and North of M-59 between Ann Arbor and Flint. All sports lake has a private deeded dock. Call anytime for more details.

**LAKE SHANNON**
$1,750,000

Over 10,000 SF of luxury living. 4 BR, 4 BA. Nestled on 2.25 acres w/large pond and beautiful water views. 2 gourmet kitchens, 3 spiral staircases, theater room, wine cellar, 2 laundry rooms, 2 master suites, door bath, heated floors, heated drive way. 

**PINE HOLLOW ESTATES**
$385,000

Beautiful home in Goodrich Schools. 2177 SF of 4 BR, 2.5 BA and 10 acres. Open floor plan, nice kitchen w/ tile floors, dining and living room w/ hardwood floors, great storage and mud area. Beautiful patio, in ground pool, plus large pole barn.

**SILVER LAKE**
$225,000

Beautiful build-able lot, almost 1 acre with access to private Lake Shannon. Private all sports lake community located west of US-23 and North of M-59 between Ann Arbor and Flint. All sports lake has a private deeded dock. Call anytime for more details.

**ACREAGE**
$35,900

Small lakefront lot. Chateaux Du Lac is a prestigious gated community where you can enjoy the private clubhouse, in ground pool and tennis courts. All that’s left to do is start building!
### CASINOS

**Continued from Page 3A**

**Are you old enough to gamble?**

Michigan’s official gambling age is 21, but you’ll find the minimum gambling age varies when you leave the Detroit area casino market.

Casinos across the state offer age requirement signs for legal age, and the age varies when you leave the Detroit area casino market.

**Tribal casinos can choose their own minimum gambling age:** 18 at Soaring Eagle in Mt. Pleasant, Leelanau Sands in Suttons Bay, Turtle Creek in Williamsburg, Island Resort, Ojibwa in Marquette, Ojibwa II in Barraga, and LacVieux in Watersmeet. 19 at all five Kewadin casinos, plus the Odawa Casino Resort in Petoskey; 21 at all other tribal casinos.

**Are minors allowed in the casino?**

Minors are not permitted in gaming areas, although they may be able to walk through with an adult. Many casinos offer child care programs for younger children and supervised arcades for older kids.

**Can you bring in personal electronics?**

Electronics are frowned upon at most casinos, including the use of cell phones, although some offer nytimes.com. Most casinos resist photos taken on the gaming floor, but ask a nearby security guard what the rules are at a particular venue.

**What’s your spending limit?**

You already go into the casino knowing that the odds aren’t in your favor. So pay to know the exact amount you’re willing to spend, with the mindset you probably won’t see that money again. advises travelzoo.com. Understanding table limits is also key to not blowing your budget. The table minimum is the lowest amount of money you can bet for each round — this number is usually clearly posted on a sign by the table. You can often find lower table minimums during non-peak hours, like mornings.

**Which games should you start with?**

Travelzoo.com suggests you start with games of pure chance, such as slots. But when you tire of that, head toward an easy initiation game like a roulette wheel. Like slots, there’s no skill required; you just put your chips on top of your bets on the table and leave them. It’s your job then to remove the chips if you want or “let it ride” on the next bet.

**How do you turn your cash into chips?**

To buy chips, never hand the dealer your money. To buy chips, never hand the dealer your money. The croupier (or dealer) will place trays of chips of various values on your table. You can then pick and choose the tokens you want to buy and the dealer will hand you the chips.

**Should I tip the dealer?**

The tip is usually a percentage of your winnings, although it’s up to your discretion. The tip is usually a percentage of your winnings, although it’s up to your discretion. Slipping a dealer or changing person a chip is like any other tip: a small gratuity for services rendered.

**Speaking of tips . . .**

Do not forget to tip the server who is bringing you drinks — at least $1 per drink. Do not forget to tip the server who is bringing you drinks — at least $1 per drink. While valet parking is free at all casinos, tip your valet parking attendant $2 or $3.

**WHERE DOES MICHIGAN’S CASINO REVENUE GO?**

MGM Grand, MotorCity and Greektown casinos in Detroit are owned, operated and regulated by the Michigan Gaming Control Board. Michigan has two wagering taxes. The first is 18 percent of Adjusted Gross Revenues with 8.1 percent going to the state school aid fund and 9.9 percent going to the city where the casino is located. An additional 6 percent tax was levied in 2004, with one-third going to the city where the casino is located. 7/12 of the general fund and one half to the Michigan agricultural equine industry development fund.

**Source:** National Conference of State Legislatures: ncsl.com

The Tribal-State Gaming Compact requires payment of 2 percent of the net win be returned to the local governments in the immediate vicinity of the established tribal community. Between 1994 and 2012, U.S. Native American tribes have made total payment of $350.1 million to local units of government.

**Source:** Michigan.gov

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### MICHIGAN CASINOS

- Bay Mills Resort & Casino
- FireKeepers Casino and Hotel
- Four Winds Dowagiac
- Four Winds New Buffalo
- Greektown Casino-Hotel
- Gun Lake Casino
- Island Resort & Casino
- Jackpots
- Kings Club Casino
- LacVieux Desert Resort Casino & Golf Course
- Leelanau Sands Casino
- Little River Casino Resort
- MGM Grand Detroit
- Motor City Casino Hotel
- Odawa Casino
- Ojibwa Casino-Marquette
- Ojibwa Casino Resort-Baraga
- Sagaming Eagles Landing Casino
- Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort
- Turtle Creek Casino & Hotel

For detailed information on these casinos, visit michigan.org
More than 9,000 visited Dinosaur show in Birch Run

By Tim Jagielo • tjagielo@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795

Birch Run — In the dim light, children pointed and stared at the dinosaurs, which stood partially frozen in time in the middle of a battle for survival, or just grazing in a field.

As epic music plays quietly behind the roars of the giant reptiles, parents and family took pictures of their excited children.

Last weekend, “Discover the Dinosaurs: Unleashed” took over the Birch Run Expo Center, bringing in more than 9,000 visitors for several days of dinosaur-related activities.

In the main area of the event, there were 10 separate dinosaur displays, and 20 dinosaurs. Many were moving and roaring and all colorfully lit with neon yellow and orange lights.

Dinosaur factoids accompanied each display, and every surface and stitch of employee clothing was set in the key of “adventure.”

The overall din was that of a neon-bathed children’s natural history museum.

See DINOSAUR SHOW on 20A
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LOOKING BACK
at this week in NATIONAL HISTORY
COMPILED BY VERA HOGAN

JAN. 8
2011: Gabrielle Giffords, a U.S. congresswoman from Arizona, is critically injured when a man goes on a shooting spree during a constituents meeting held by the congresswoman outside a Tucson-area supermarket. Six people died in the attack and another 13, including Giffords, were wounded. The gunman, 22-year-old Jared Lee Loughner, was taken into custody at the scene.

JAN. 9
1493: Italian explorer Christopher Columbus, sailing near the Dominican Republic, sees three “mermaids” (in reality manatees) and describes them as “not half as beautiful as they are painted.” Six months earlier, Columbus (1451-1506) set off from Spain across the Atlantic Ocean with the Niña, Pinta and Santa Maria, hoping to find a western trade route to Asia. Instead, his voyage, the first of four he would make, led him to the Americas, or “New World.”

JAN. 10
1976: “Convoy” — It was a song that celebrated the exploits of a rebellious trucker with a reckless disregard for human life and highway safety codes. It gave the gravelly-voiced C.W. McCall his biggest pop hit on this day in 1976, except that technically, “C.W. McCall” was a figment of the imagination. The genius behind “Convoy” was, in reality, an Omaha advertising executive named Bill Fries.

JAN. 11
2010: Miep Gies, the last survivor of a small group of people who helped hide a Jewish girl, Anne Frank, and her family from the Nazis during World War II, dies at age 100 in the Netherlands. After the Franks were discovered in 1944 and sent to concentration camps, Gies rescued these writings were later discovered in 1944 and sent to concentration camps. Gies rescued the notebooks that Anne Frank left behind describing her two years in hiding. These writings were later published as “Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl,” which became one of the most widely read accounts of the Holocaust.

JAN. 12
1926: The two-man comedy series “Sam ‘n Henry” debuts on Chicago’s WGN radio station. Two years later, after changing its name to “Amos ‘n Andy,” the show became one of the most popular radio programs in American history.

JAN. 13
1929: Nearly 50 years after the famous gunfight at the O.K. Corral, Wyatt Earp dies quietly in Los Angeles at the age of 80.

JAN. 14
1954: The tall, handsome hero of the country’s national pastime captures the heart of the beautiful, glamorous Hollywood star. But the brief, volatile marriage of Marilyn Monroe and Joe DiMaggio — the couple wed on this day in 1954 — barely got past the honeymoon before cracks began to show in its brilliant veneer.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

“IF I WERE King’ really disappointed me. When I read his article about the dog and him seeing the same dog in the same yard all the time, why didn’t he rescue the dog? Instead he wrote a damn article in the paper. The dog can’t read.

TO DATE, OBAMA has issued 78 pardons and more than 1,150 commuted sentences. Many of these were federal inmates and many were hardened criminals. Keep in mind that the rate of recidivism is high and most of these criminals will return to a life of crime.

TYRONE TOWNSHIP IS wanting to have a mileage increase in order to fix our roads. Isn’t that what we’re paying with the over 7 cents a gallon and 20 percent registration increase to fix our roads?

JUDICIAL WATCH HAS reported that Obama’s travel and vacation costs over the past eight years have exceeded $397 million. This includes Hawaii, Michelle’s trip to Spain, and fundraising and campaign trips for Hillary.

WHAT A DIFFERENT world it would be if we could pry into the government’s business like they pry into ours. Back in the day, it was all the same. Now it’s just us and them.

Business briefs

Fentura Financial, Incorporated completes acquisition of Community Bancorp, Inc.

Fentura Financial, Inc., the holding company for The State Bank, announced Jan. 3 that it has completed its previously announced acquisition with St. Charles based Community Bancorp, Inc., the holding company for Community State Bank, and began operating as one company effective Dec. 31, 2016. “Fentura’s acquisition of Community Bancorp will allow the combined company to promote community banking in a larger market area by expanding The State Bank product line and exceptional customer service reputation into the Community State Bank market,” said Ronald L. Justice, president and CEO of Fentura Financial, Inc. and The State Bank. “We are excited to continue the great work that Community State Bank has done locally as we welcome new customers and clients to The State Bank.” Approved by both boards of directors on March 24, 2016, The State Bank’s acquisition of Community State Bank will grow the company to approximately $680 million in assets, $535 million in loans and $580 million in deposits. The State Bank’s branch offices will double to 16 locations, predominately serving mid-Michigan markets. The transaction will strengthen The State Bank’s foothold as the largest Bank headquartered in Genesee County. Justice will continue to serve as president and CEO of Fentura Financial, Inc. and The State Bank.

John C. Wendling, Community’s President and CEO will serve as an Officer of The State Bank. Both The State Bank and Community State Bank customer relationships will continue business as usual until the system conversion. Customers will be kept informed of account conversions and timing on a regular basis.

“I thought all funeral homes conduct cremations the same. Boy, was I wrong.”

Many people think all cremation providers are alike, until they hear terrible stories in the news about families who weren’t treated right. Our funeral home is the exclusive provider in our area to offer Cremation with Confidence™. This means we commit to a 10-step process in taking care of cremation. We are so committed, we offer the Cremation with Confidence™ Guarantee.
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Food Aid

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Southern Lakes Parks & Recreation begins fitness programs Jan. 9

Southern Lakes Parks & Recreation begins its 2017 fitness season on Monday, Jan. 9 with a number of six-week sessions, including Pilates and Zumba, Chair Yoga, Pound (weighted drumsticks), On the Ball Core Stability Classes and a 30-Minute Ab Class. A new punch card allows participants to save money on Pilates and Zumba classes, with 24 different class opportunities on Mondays and Wednesdays. For more information, visit slpr.net or call (810) 714-2011.

LAW CHANGES

Continued from Front Page

Opioid addiction laws

As opioid prescriptions and overdoses have increased drastically, law enforcement across the nation has started to change how they deal with addicts.

The Michigan State Police is beginning to send addicts to rehab instead of arresting them as part of the Angel program with the Police Assisted Addiction and Recovery Initiative, which has seen promising results.

Michigan Lt. Gov. Brian Calley recently signed legislation that allows life-saving overdose reversal drugs to be purchased without a prescription. This will allow schools and other organizations to have drugs, such as Narcan on hand, which has been proven to reverse the effects of an opioid overdose.

With these new programs regarding drugs and addicts, residents can expect some significant changes in the law regarding drug policy.

Marijuana revenue

With more and more states legalizing medicinal and recreational marijuana, sellers are having a difficult time finding places to save their money. Banks cannot legally accept drug money per federal law. However, this problem is going to become worse with each new dispensary that opens, making it more difficult to save their money. Banks cannot legally accept drug money per federal law. However, this problem is going to become worse with each new dispensary that opens, making it more difficult to save their money. Banks cannot legally accept drug money per federal law. However, this problem is going to become worse with each new dispensary that opens, making it more difficult to save their money. Banks cannot legally accept drug money per federal law. However, this problem is going to become worse with each new dispensary that opens, making it more difficult to save their money.

Daylight Saving Time


Daylight Saving Time typically begins in March and ends in November, with the goal of people starting their day when the sun comes up to save on energy costs. However, Irwin pointed out that people in Indiana used more energy with Daylight Saving Time, not less.

If there is change, it will take place at the state level.

Healthcare

Healthcare is likely to change drastically in 2017 and the following year.

Throughout his presidential campaign, President-elect Donald Trump promised many times to repeal the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare.

Trump has since revealed he wants to keep certain parts of the law, like allowing people to be on their parents’ health insurance for additional years and not allowing health insurance companies to deny coverage to people with pre-existing conditions, according to foxnews.com.

Trump and Republicans in Congress are expected to repeal major parts of the law, changing the country’s healthcare system and affecting millions of people.

Congressional term limits

Another talking point of Trump’s campaign was setting term limits for the members of Congress. Sen. Ted Cruz and Florida Republican Don DeSantis introduced a constitutional amendment Tuesday that would limit senators to two terms, which is 12 years total, and representatives to three terms, which is six years total, according to washingtonexaminer.com.

With Trump’s support and the Republican-controlled Congress, the amendment has a chance of passing.
Bridal shows
• Jan. 7: Zehnder’s Bridal Extravaganza in Frankenmuth
• Jan. 7-8: Novi Bridal Show at Suburban Collection Showplace
• Jan. 8: The Bridal Show at Holiday Inn Gateway Center in Flint
• Jan. 8: Winter Bridal Celebrations at The Palace of Auburn Hills
• Jan. 15: Here Comes the Brides Bridal Show at Brighton High School
• Jan. 29: Genesee County Bridal Alliance 6th Annual Wedding Marketplace, The Captain’s Club at Woodfield, Grand Blanc
• Feb. 12: Michigan Wedding Expo Valentine’s Bridal Show at Brighton High School
• Feb. 29: Genesee County Bridal Alliance 6th Annual Wedding Market- place, The Captain’s Club at Woodfield, Grand Blanc

For a complete list of bridal shows in Michigan, visit www.michiganweddingslavin.com.

Boat shows
• Jan. 13-15: Lansing Boat Show, Lansing Center
• Feb. 11-19: MBIA Detroit Boat Show, Cobo Center
• March 16-19: Spring Boating Expo, Suburban Collection Showplace, Novi

Fishing/outdoor shows
• Jan. 12-15: Ultimate Fishing Show, Suburban Collection Showplace, Novi
• Jan. 21-22/March 18-19: Ultimate Fishing Show, Suburban Collection Showplace, Novi
• Jan. 21-22/March 18-19: Ultimate Fishing Show, Suburban Collection Showplace, Novi
• Jan. 21-22/March 18-19: Ultimate Fishing Show, Suburban Collection Showplace, Novi

Home shows
• Jan. 27-29: The Novi Home Show, Suburban Collection Showplace
• Feb. 23-26: Cottage & Lakefront Living, Suburban Collection Showplace, Novi

Camper/RV shows
• Feb. 10-14: Camper & RV Show, Suburban Collection Showplace, Novi
• Feb. 23-26: RV & Camper Show, Birch Run Expo Center
• March 16-19: Camper & RV Show, Dort Federal Credit Union Event Center, Flint

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www.tctimes.com WEEKEND TIMES Sunday, January 8, 2017 19A
HOT LINE

CONTINUED

IF ANYONE FOUND a small note card envelope with Walmart gift cards in it around Christmas somewhere in Fenton, those gift cards were going to be a family in need.

THE REPUBLICAN NEWS conference regarding Obamacare was hilarious. Each of those powerful Republicans chanted the same ‘I hate Obama’ mantra and proceeded to tell how they would destroy the president’s legacy, no matter who it hurts and even if it is political suicide for the GOP.

I’M HAPPY TRUMP spoke out against Republicans trying to shut down the Ethics Committee. Even Paul Ryan was against the move. If Trump really wants to ‘drain the swamp,’ he would strengthen the Ethics Committee to better weed out the corrupt politicians.

FUNNY HOW DEMOCRATS berate Trump’s ‘blase’ attitude toward alleged Russian hacking but remain silent on the fact that Clinton aided and abetted the hacking through her intentional violation of cybersecurity protocols. Hypocrites.

SIX HUNDRED AND nineteen blacks killed in Chicago in 2016. Black Lives Matters (BLM) must have been protesting every day from 2017. But there were none because victims of black-on-black murder don’t matter to BLM. It is simply a racist organization created to protest white police.

WHERE CAN I go to find a restaurant that serves smaller meals for older adults? At 80, I don’t need so much to eat but still would like a balanced meal. Any help is appreciated.

TRUMP WON the country popular vote. California is irrelevant. Eliminate their electoral votes and their popular vote and that is a countrywide win.

DINOSAUR SHOW

Continued from Page 15A

While the animatronic displays were non-interactive there were dinosaur rides, archeological digs, temporary tattoo paintings, face painting, a dinosaur bounce house area, food, photos and a gift shop.

Michael Vasquez, the company manager for VStar Entertainment Group, which runs the tour said, “We hope they get some knowledge of the dinosuars... We have a lot of kids that leave, and say they want to be paleontologists. It kind of sparks their interest.”

Discover the Dinosaurs: Unleashed is not a cheap day for parents, but Vasquez said the value lies in bringing a dinosaur-related event to families, where normally there is none. There are currently three dinosaur shows on the road around Michigan. Soon dinosaurs will be unleashed on other areas of the U.S.

Parking cost $5 per car. Adults and children’s tickets cost $15, and $12 for seniors.

“‘We have a lot of kids that leave, and say they want to be paleontologists. It kind of sparks their interest.’

Michael Vasquez
Manager, VStar Entertainment Group

IF YOU MISSED THE DINOSAURS...
The University of Michigan Museum of Natural History holds its own free Dinosaur Tours most days of the week. Go on a 30-minute guided tour on Saturday, and Sunday at 2 p.m. Go to umich.edu and search ‘dinosaur,’ and check out the events.

TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Visitors observe a Dilophosaurus near the entrance of the dinosaur exhibit held last weekend at the Birch Run Expo Center. The Dilophosaurus was among the largest carnivores of its time.
**E-cigs are ‘major public health concern’**

Local expert: ‘They’re truly not as safe as the marketing makes them out to be’

By Hannah Ball

E-cigarette use, or vaping, is a “major public health concern” among young people, according to a report by the U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy.

This report was put together by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Office of the U.S. Surgeon General, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and can be seen in full on e-cigarettes.surgeongeneral.com.

E-cigarettes are known as a healthier alternative to traditional cigarettes. Also called e-hookahs, tank systems, and vape pens, these devices heat a liquid into an aerosol inhaled by the user.

According to the report, the nicotine in e-cigarettes is addictive and harmful, containing diacetyl, a chemical linked to serious lung disease, other volatile organic compounds, and heavy metals like nickel, tin and lead.

Val McLeod, manager of Pulmonary Rehabilitation and Tobacco Treatment Specialist at McLaren Flint, said he is in full agreement with the Surgeon General.

“They’re truly not as safe as the marketing makes them out to be,” she said.

Vaping use is on the rise with middle school students, she said, and while they may be a safer alternative to smoking cigarettes, they’re still harmful.

E-cigarettes are the most commonly used form of tobacco by youth, and the CDC found that young people are vaping now more than ever. In 2015, approximately three million teenagers used e-cigarettes, 13 percent of girls and 19 percent of boys, which is a ten-fold increase over four years.

According to the report, one in six high school students reported using e-cigarettes in one month.

The report said the brain is still developing until age 25. “Nicotine exposure during adolescence and young adulthood can cause addiction and harm the developing brain,” the report states.

“People think it’s just water vapor,” McLeod said.

She said-cigarettes have only been on the market since 2008, which hasn’t allowed for enough research.

“Give it 20 years. Now when they’re in their 30s, they’re going to end up having some significant health problems,” she said.

She also doesn’t believe it’s true that e-cigarettes help people not smoke cigarettes, especially with young people.

The report states that there isn’t strong evidence proving that these devices help people quit smoking cigarettes. It also concluded that vaping is “strongly associated” with the use of other tobacco products, like regular cigarettes, cigars, hookah, and smokeless tobacco.

“With middle school students...I think it’s a gateway to people trying real cigarettes,” she said.

“It’s not healthy in itself. You’re just substituting a cigarette for the vaping, which still has carcinogens. Not nearly as many but all you need is one cancer-causing agent to cause cancer. It’s not safe.”

They’re also a fire risk. Police have received reports of the lithium batteries in the devices exploding.

“E-cigarettes are not allowed on planes. They’re not made in the U.S. The insulation around the lithium battery is not built well and can catch fire and that’s a pretty big risk,” she said. This is why vaping devices are not allowed on planes.

**E-CIGARETTE REGULATIONS**

Use and/or possession of tobacco simulation products is prohibited at local schools.

Linden Superintendent Ed Koleto said “it’s not really an issue at the schools, and he hopes it remains that way.

Lake Fenton Superintendent Wayne Wright said, “We have had issues with students bringing and using e-cigarettes to school. I believe the problem is increasing.”

At Fenton, Superintendent Adam Hartley said they’ve only had four or five incidents in the last two years of students being caught with e-cigarettes. “I know that it is a growing issue through my parenting networks and observations of kids of my own, (not specifically Fenton) out and about,” he said.

Earlier this year, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration banned the sale of e-cigarettes to people under 18, and require ingredients in the products to be approved.

The report recommends stronger regulations, a sales ban for people under 18, higher taxes on e-cigarettes, and restrictions on marketing that target a younger audience.

**You’re just substituting a cigarette for the vaping, which still has carcinogens. Not nearly as many but all you need is one cancer-causing agent to cause cancer. It’s not safe.**

Val McLeod

McLaren manager of Pulmonary Rehabilitation and tobacco treatment specialist

**Elegant Senior Living Redefined**

Tranquility Estates is giving back to the community this season.

The residents of Grand Blanc’s premier senior living facility, Tranquility Estates, are certainly feeling the spirit of the holiday season. In November they raised money by selling refreshments at their Fall Craft Fair. When faced with the daunting decision of where their profits should go, instead of buying something for themselves, they decided to help two young Cub Scouts raise money for Pack 133. Tranquility Estates agreed to match what the resident’s had made to help sponsor the Cub Scouts.

The boys, Aiden and Evan, were invited to come to Tranquility Estates to receive their donation.

The boys’ mother, Cheryl Smith, who is also their Cub Scout den leader, explained that this money would help their pack with expenses for buying something for themselves, they decided to help two young Cub Scouts raise money for Pack 133.

The boys, Aiden and Evan, were invited to come to Tranquility Estates to receive their donation. The boys, faced with the daunting decision of where their profits should go, instead of buying something for themselves, they decided to help two young Cub Scouts raise money for Pack 133.

The residents then decided to donate the basket of goodies to the Whaley’s Children Center in Flint. Plans were then set to deliver the holiday basket to the children at the Whaley Children’s Center. The residents boarded the Tranquility bus and set out to Flint. Once there, they were given a tour of the facility and met the children who would be enjoying the gift basket this holiday season. It was a moving experience for both the children and the residents. The residents came away from this experience with a profound humility and a knowing that they made a difference in the lives of some deserving young people this Christmas.

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Miller, Golson lead Blue Devils to 55-37 victory vs. Owosso

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

Jalen Miller certainly knows how to score when he has the basketball. And it seems he’s doing that a lot in recent Lake Fenton boys basketball games. Miller scored a game-high 29 points, helping lead Lake Fenton (4-2) to a 55-37 victory against Owosso on Tuesday night.

Miller has been the Blue Devils’ biggest scoring threat of the season for certain, but in recent contests he’s become even hotter, netting 81 points in his last three games. Within that span he also scored 34 points in an 80-76 victory against Hamady.

While Miller was doing a lot of scoring, Isaac Golson was making sure his teammates were getting good offensive looks, dishing off eight assists and scoring eight points himself. “Isaac Golson and Jalen Miller both had very good games for us with what they brought,” Lake Fenton varsity boys basketball coach Jake Erway said. “Isaac was great seeing the floor and finding the open guy in transition, and Jalen did a great job of getting rebounds for us and getting himself to the free-throw line.”

CONTINUED ONLINE AT TCTIMES.COM

Lake Fenton’s Jalen Miller

Devils drop state-ranked New Lothrop

By David Troppens
dtroppens@tctimes.com

It was a battle of Genesee Area Conference heavyweights when Lake Fenton and New Lothrop met on the wrestling mat on Tuesday night.

Both have state-ranked teams with state-ranked wrestlers looking for individual state championships once March hits the calendar.

So, there is no question that getting a victory in this dual would be pivotal if the Lake Fenton Blue Devils want to repeat as GAC champions. The Blue Devils got the pivotal victory, earning only pinfall or forfeit victories in every win. Lake Fenton had against the fourth-ranked team in Division 4 in the state. The decisive individual wins resulted in a 42-37 tight victory for the Blue Devils on Wednesday night. Lake Fenton also wrestled Perry and defeated them 54-21.

CONTINUED ONLINE AT TCTIMES.COM

Lake Fenton’s Ryan Franks pinned his foe in the Blue Devils’ victory against New Lothrop.

Bronchos make early statement in first Metro League dual of the season

■ Holly sweeps Clio, Fenton; Tigers lose two

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

Holly — So far, it’s been a season of positives when the Holly and Fenton varsity wrestling seasons look at what they’ve accomplished this year.

The Holly Bronchos are off to an 8-2 start and placed third at the Oakland County meet prior to the winter break. Meanwhile, for the first time in years, the Fenton Tigers look to have a sizeable team that has found ways to win matches and do well. They won a tournament earlier this season and one can see the enthusiasm within the squad.

Holly’s enthusiasm continued after Tuesday’s opening Metro League dual against Madison Academy. The Bronchos defeated Clio 39-29 and then followed that victory with a 43-30 win against area rivals Fenton at Holly High School. The Tigers still remain impressive, but that enthusiasm was dampened a tiny bit after being swept. Fenton also lost to Swartz Creek 39-32.

“Things are going good,” Holly wrestler Collin Dallwitz said. “We are working hard, work hard every day. Our coaches push us hard. … We want to get better every day.”

“The new coaches are definitely doing well,” Fenton wrestler Tommy Adams said. “We have been doing really well. The kids are working a lot harder. We feel like we can do really well this season and win a lot of matches. We feel like we have a chance. It feels great.”

CONTINUED ONLINE AT TCTIMES.COM

Lake Fenton Veterinary Clinic
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SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 2017 | PAGE 22A | WWW.TCTIMES.COM/SPORTS
Holly falls to Flint Northwestern, 77-66

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

The Holly varsity boys basketball team started the season with four straight victories, which included a tournament championship and two Metro League victories.

But on Tuesday, the Bronchos faced their toughest foe of the season so far, eventually losing to Hartland 43-23.

The Bronchos tried to stay close with the Hartland Eagles with a strong defensive effort early on. Holly allowed just four first-quarter points, but the Bronchos actually trailed 4-2 due to netting two early points on two 3-pointers and a free throw, helping the Bronchos cut the Flint Northwestern lead to just 61-60 with about five minutes remaining, but that’s as close as Holly would get. Northwestern had a couple of breaking layups to take a lead and extended it down the stretch.

Harless led the Bronchos with 25 points, helping him to maintain his 19.5 points a game average. Williams finished with 16 points while Baylis had nine points and five assists. Baylis wasn’t the only freshman playing ample playing time. Austin Pellett performed well in the fourth quarter, finishing with five points and five rebounds.

“He plays a very high-level IQ game,” Lance Baylis said about Pellett.

Noah Baylis scored nine points and dish five assists in Holly’s 77-66 loss to Flint Northwestern on Tuesday.

Lady Bronchos lose first game of the season vs. Hartland, 42-23

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

The Holly varsity girls basketball team out of the lineup when the Metro League dual season began on Tuesday.

That made it more challenging when the Eagles faced Flushing and Ortonville-Brandon on Tuesday.

Eagles split first two Metro matches

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

The Linden varsity wrestling team had two of its state-ranked wrestlers out of the lineup when the Metro League dual season began on Tuesday.

That made it more challenging when the Eagles faced Flushing and Ortonville-Brandon. The Eagles were able defeat Flushing by a 45-35 margin, but lost to the Blackhawks 48-31.

Dawson Blank, Jacob Kitowski, Justin Cygnar and Koloten Strauss each won both of their matches, while Avery Jacobs won his only match of the night. Colby Kohlmescher, Caleb White, Colton Powell, Uziah Delgado and John Marne each won a single varsity match.

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Bronchos still searching for an identity

Lady Bronchos lose first game of the season vs. Hartland, 42-23
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