



Family of murdered jogger pleads for answers

TRI-COUNTY TIMES
TIM JAGIELO

Franz Brueger, father of Ally Brueger, speaks during the Crime Stoppers press conference at the Rose Township Hall on Tuesday, Feb. 21. He is standing before Ally's aunt Alecia Nosseck (left) cousin Christopher Nosseck, cousin Amanda Nosseck and aunt Reinette Rent (right).

■ **Crime Stoppers:** Even minors are eligible for reward money if tip leads to arrest

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

Rose Twp. — It has been nearly eight months and police are no closer to finding the person who shot and killed Alexandra “Ally” Brueger than they were after it happened on July 30, 2016.

Amid a roomful of cameras, TV, radio and newspaper reporters, Ally's family spoke at a media conference held by Crime Stoppers of Michigan on Tuesday, Feb. 21.

See JOGGER on 16A

“He shot her in the back four times. Only a coward would look at someone that looks like a child and shoot her in the back four times.”

Nikki Brueger
Mother of murder victim,
Alexandra Brueger

Weekend Times

SUNDAY EDITION

VOL. 24 NO. IX

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2017

2016 NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

PAGE 3A
**FAT
TUESDAY
IS PRELUDE
TO PENANCE**

\$1.00

Fenton — a ‘foodie’ destination

■ Restaurants may come and go, but dining out as a lifestyle is here to stay in the tri-county area

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Fenton has become a “foodie” destination with nearly 60 restaurants within the city and township — plus another 20 nearby in Linden and Holly.

So if you find yourself frequently asking, “where are we going for dinner tonight?” you’re not alone. More people than ever are opting to dine out, especially for their main lunch and dinner meals.

Zagat, a national restaurant reviewer, estimates that people eat out a national average of 4.5 times per week, not including breakfast.

See FOODIE on 12A

SUMMARY

■ The Fenton area restaurant scene is constantly changing as more eateries open, while some close their doors.

CRUST spending \$3 million on expansion



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

At the CRUST expansion project in Fenton on Wednesday morning, Feb. 22, Jorge Alonso (left) pilots a lift with Sean Norris. The bakery is adding 8,000 square feet, and increasing retail, production and seating space. Alonso and Norris were responsible for dismantling the chimney. **See story on Page 13A**



TRI-COUNTY TIMES
TIM JAGIELO

The Ann Street crossing was permanently closed in November of 1999 in large part due to the Tri-County Times.

Times’ news coverage does make a difference

■ **Positive changes made as a result of aggressive reporting**

By Vera Hogan

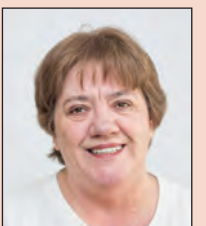
vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

The Tri-County Times has been a major influence in the community for

several decades. Countless positive changes have been made in Fenton and the surrounding communities as a result of our reporting.

For the next few weeks, we are going to take this opportunity to educate

See NEWS on 6A



Vera Hogan

TEXT
YOUR
HOT LINE

810-771-TEXT



“In regards to Heller’s last rant in our paper, he seems to have a fixation on his patoot. Quite possibly he should buy stock in Preparation H and then rub it all over.”



“Friday, standing outside my door, looking up and seeing a big, beautiful American eagle flying in circles around the Eagle Wooden Park in Linden. How cool is that? The Eagle Wooden Park is being monitored by a live eagle. Cool.”



“Why do all Hot lines infer that the shooter of Ally Brueger is automatically a man?”



COMMENT
OF THE WEEK

“Times readers should remember that in 1999 the media said planes would crash because computers couldn’t handle the switch to the year 2000. Now they claim global warming will kill us all in a few years. Liberals, for some reason, like to live their lives in fear.”

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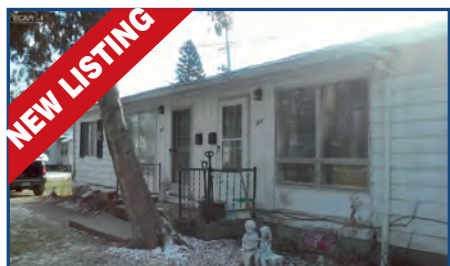
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\$99,900

Call Laura Pennington 248-245-5351



GRAND BLANC

12010 Murray

This condo in popular Sleep Hollow is the perfect location near retail, restaurants and the expressway. No worries about stairs as everything you need is on the first floor. 2 bedroom and 2 bath. Also has a 2 car attached garage. Basement with daylight windows is just waiting for your finishing touches.

\$131,900

Call Donna Mynatt 810-397-5779



FENTON

405 Fourth

Great find in the city of Fenton! Cute, clean and adorable 3 bedroom ranch with hardwood floors in each one. Homey kitchen and living room. Fenced back yard with a shed and deck. You will be within walking distance to all quaint downtown Fenton has to offer. With spring just around the corner don't miss out on this deal!

\$110,000

Call Diana Beckemeyer 810-877-2167



MUNDY TOWNSHIP

7162 Brittwood

Charming & move-in ready. Located in quiet neighborhood, yet close to expressways. Gorgeous hickory cabinets in the kitchen. Natural stone shower in the master. Brand new concrete driveway. Landscape is low maintenance perennials w/tons of curb appeal. Large fenced-in backyard w/a new pool & huge deck.

\$164,000

Call Alicia Faille 810-247-2293



LINDEN

4331 McCormick

Don't miss this opportunity to build your dream home. The lot is located in upscale Liberty Shores subdivision in Linden. The baseball lovers can take advantage of The Cartwright Field complex right in the neighborhood. Sub is just around the corner from Spring Meadow Golf Club and downtown Linden.

\$14,900

Call Mark Goldsworthy 810-955-3739



LENOX TWP.

59314 New Haven

Looking to build your dream home or property to develop check out this beautiful 70 acre parcel. This property offers woods great for hunting and a 20 acre lake that has great fishing. You could even look in to developing the property, which has 3 separate tax i.D's.

\$385,000

Call Donna Fraidenburg 810-845-1971



OTISVILLE

9480 E. Mount Morris

Almost 1800 square foot ranch close to fairgrounds (but not TOO close), Buttercup Beach & Wolverine Campground. Pretty property almost totally surrounded by trees gives great privacy. 2 car detached garage has large usable storage space above. Home is well cared for w/a brand new furnace.

\$107,900

Call Kevin Usealman 810-965-6552



FENTON

19107 Hickory Ridge

Contemporary home on 10 heavily wooded acres. Home has gorgeous wood floors throughout the living area. Open floor plan is great for entertaining. 3 bedrooms and 2 full baths on main level with an additional bedroom in the walkout basement. 16x24 Pole barn and 2 car attached garage.

\$360,000

Call Patrik Welty 810-750-2300



HOLLY

2012 Bone

Beautiful rustic contemporary situated on one acre. Not only is this home located in Fenton schools but it is one of 13 homes that share a private 5 acre park on pristine Taylor Lake! Almost 2000 sf w/4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths plus a partially finished basement, deck & above ground pool. What more could you ask for??

\$244,900

Call Patrik Welty 810-750-2300



FENTON

Carole Lane

16+ acres, mostly wooded, and with its own pond & gorgeous views. Space has been cleared for a build site, but you could choose your own spot as well. Property located on a private road on a cul-de-sac & in high demand Fenton school district. Great for commuting as it's just a hop, skip, & a jump from US 23.

\$124,900

Call Frank Cramer 810-869-5701



WHITE LAKE

8586 Pontiac Lake

A great opportunity for income property on Pontiac Lake. A 4 unit apartment bldg. at 8565, a separate 1028 sq.ft. 3 bedroom ranch with 26x24 att. garage at 8563 and a wonderful 70' lot on Pontiac Lake with paved boat launch at water and dock. Breathtaking views across the lake.

\$259,900

Call Diana Beckemeyer 810-877-21567



FLINT

3409 N. Jennings

Great opportunity! Come see this wonderful commercial property. Currently used for lumber processing, this 4 acre property w/ large parking lot and new office add-on is perfect for any business. Plenty of room for machinery on the lot. Spacious facility includes two separate workshops & a loft!

\$150,000

Call Kelsey Kerr 810-210-4155



LINDEN

222 Chestnut Way

Affordable, move-in ready, three bedroom blevel in high demand Chestnut Grove. Open floor plan with large vaulted family room. Kitchen appliances included. Two bedrooms and full bath on main level with a 3rd bedroom and full bath on the ground floor. New carpet, paint and updates throughout!

\$168,900

Call Shelia Rhoades 810-348-7357



LINDEN

15042 Longfield

100 feet of sandy shoreline on peaceful McCasin Lake. Contemporary 5 bedroom home offers lots of living space. Functional kitchen with plenty of cabinets and counter space. Roomy living room with great views or sit outside on your large deck and soak in the tranquility of living on the water.

\$199,000

Call Patrik Welty 810-750-2300



FENTON

511 Beach

Large parcel with many commercial and/or light industrial possibilities! Property is over 8 acres and in the city of Fenton. The building is actively being used for storage and boat maintenance; however it does need substantial repairs.

\$449,900

Call 810-629-1511



FENTON

9170 Bennett Lake

Spacious home on just over an acre. Gorgeous updated kitchen with granite, double oven, stainless appliances & breakfast nook. Master suite has its own balcony & huge master bath. Great home for a large family; 5 bedrooms, 3 baths, finished walkout with fireplace and kitchenette. 2 car attached garage plus pole barn!

\$349,900

Call Patrik Welty 810-750-2300

FAT TUESDAY

IS PRELUDE TO PENANCE

■ Catholics around the world indulge on the day before Ash Wednesday, Lenten season

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

No, the French are not backwards, but as is the case with many foreign languages, the words "Mardi Gras" quite literally mean "Tuesday fat."

Mardi Gras falls on Feb. 28 this year, followed by Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent on March 1.

When people think of Mardi Gras, images of the big party in the "Big Easy" (New Orleans) come to mind, complete with costumed characters, parades, beads and free-flowing alcohol and mischief. When people think of Fat

Tuesday, mouth-watering images of paczki (pronounced poonch-keys) in every flavor come to mind, despite the fat content and calories each pastry promises to deliver.

Paczki is translated as "doughnut" or "little package." The recipe, which involves egg, stems from the idea of using up all the lard, sugar and eggs in the house before fasting begins during the 46

See **FAT TUESDAY** on 8A


ASH
WEDNESDAY
ABOUT THE DAY
SEE PAGE 8



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO
Michelle Thomas, bakery clerk for VG's Grocery on Silver Parkway, wraps up coating and filling 300 paczki before 5 a.m. Thursday morning.



The belief in horoscopes and Astrology rises even with lack of scientific evidence.

WWW.HARPERSBAZAAR.COM

Do you believe in horoscopes?

■ Astrological predictions 'give a nice sense of direction,' says one Linden graduate

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

If you're a Pisces, you're devoted. If you're a Cancer, you're very empathetic. If you're a Leo, you're very passionate.

Astrology is the belief that the position of planets, sun, moon

and stars during birth play a role in shaping someone's personality and earthly events.

The above descriptions most likely don't describe everyone born within those certain months, but astrology See **HOROSCOPES** on 15A

“...they are designed to be vague and apply to your life in the way you interpret them. Almost like a higher power guidance.”

Nichelle Curtis
Linden graduate



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Come *Heller* high water

andrewheller@tctimes.com

Saying goodbye to this bizarre and wonderful spate of warm February weather is like saying goodbye to your grown-up kids going back to college and jobs after visiting. 'Bye! We'll miss you! Come back soon! Are you sure you can't stay? You don't come home often enough. Do you have enough money? Drive safe! Yes, yes, I know you're grown-up. Mwuh, mwuh! Bye!' Good weather and visiting kids always leave you wanting more.

• **Doesn't it seem** like Trump has been in office for years already? Remember the good old days when facts were facts, Sweden, Bowling Green and Atlanta hadn't yet been attacked, and 70 percent

of the country wasn't going, 'Oh sweet Jesus, what have we done?'

• **OK, riddle me** this: If the news is so fake, how come Trump keeps watching and reading so much of it?

• **Mike Pence** spent the week

assuring European allies that Trump really doesn't want to ditch NATO. I guess others in the administration are having to do the same kind of thing. I don't want to tell them how to do their jobs but wouldn't it be more efficient to just appoint a 'Secretary of Walking Back Dumb Stuff the President Said?' I mean, it's not like it's going to stop, right?

• **I love all** the protest marches. I love that Dems are packing town halls and showing some spirit. It's long since past due — the center left has been too passive, too nice and too uninvolved for too long. But I didn't like the name of the 'Not My President's Day' rallies. Sorry, they don't get off that easy. Trump wasn't elected because of some Republican tide. He was elected because Democrats — including many of those people who are suddenly awake — either didn't show up or voted for third party candidates because they didn't like Hillary. Let's not forget that.

• **Best audience comment** I heard at one of the town halls was from a woman who was angry about the coming demise of Obamacare. She said to her Republican lawmaker: 'You ask us to be calm, cool and collected. But what kind of

insurance do you have?'

• **Exactly.** (The answer is he has really good insurance paid for by the government. Irony, it doth sting.)

• **All of a sudden** there's a flurry of commercials by restaurants and food manufacturers about how they put real food in their food. Have you noticed? If you have, maybe you also noticed that the actors doing the voiceovers don't say 'food,' like you or I would say it. They say 'ffffood.'

I'm sorry. It bugs me. And, yes, I pay way too close attention for my own good. I need to stop it. By the way, the Panera woman is the biggest offffender. She sounds like a leaky tire.

• **The president of** Iceland says if it were up to him pineapple on pizza would be banned. He's wrong, of course. Pineapple and ham pizzas are delicious. Now if he'd said feta and spinach, I'd be right behind him. Those things on pizza are an abomination and an insult to all that is good and decent.

• **Do not take** life too seriously. You will never get out of it alive.' — Elbert Hubbard

Opinions offered in Come Heller High Water are the author's alone and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Tri-County Times or its staff. Email the Andrew at andrewheller@tctimes.com.

“OK, riddle me this: If the news is so fake, how come Trump keeps watching and reading so much of it?”

Hotlines

Submit at: tctimes.com, call 810-629-9221 or text to 810-771-8398

All submissions, if approved for publication, must be 50 words or less and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Tri-County Times. We reserve the right to edit for clarity, length and liability.

TO THE HOT-LINER that identified June 14 as the president's birthday (Donald Trump). Some people will display the flag because it is Flag Day, it also happens to be the birthday of one of the greatest ground gaining organizations in the world. — The United States Army

THE DISHONEST MEDIA that brazenly alters the news to discredit Trump is not the enemy of Donald Trump. It is the enemy of every American citizen.

GOVERNMENT MODES OF operation are reactive, proactive, and non-active. Michigan being type three did nothing about the Flint water disaster until they were forced by outside sources to admit a problem exists. The infrastructure is also a disaster. Even now they do as little as possible.

HOT-LINER ASKED 'DON'T these protesters have jobs?' Yes, most of them do. They work for 'Organizing for Action,' started by Obama in 2009. Do a search on this organization. I think you will learn a lot about what is going on.

ARE YOU AWARE that according to (FOIA) records obtained by Judicial Watch, it cost taxpayers \$85 million for the Obamas' travel expenses during his two terms in office? What's a wing nut?

BAD GUY PUTIN tried to interfere in our election. But wait, what about us? We were involved in numerous elections or overthrows of governments. South Viet-

nam, Israel, Panama, Ukraine, Egypt, Cuba, and Nicaragua are just a few examples of our interference in other countries.

I AM DOWN here in Florida, vacationing with my family, and talked to someone in Fenton and it was warmer back home than it was down here. Based on this scientific example, it is now proven that global cooling is going on. Signed, a liberal.

YOU GOT SCREWED by a hiring freeze with two years left of college and will remember in November? Sounds like you could use a lot more time in school to learn about elections and how often presidential ones take place.

THIS FALSE STORY on Republican obstruction. Do some research — not true. They financed every budget for Obama and all Boehner did was cry. This is why no mainstream Republican won the primary.

TODAY, SIX DIFFERENT people came in, had a few beers and a couple shots. Guess what my tip was? Zero. Why? You had good, friendly service. This isn't the first time. You know how I make a living? Tips.

AGREE OR DISAGREE with Betsy DeVos, her interest is the children not the money. She could find \$9.5 million in the bottom of her purse.

IT IS GREAT seeing all the new local stores and restaurants come to Fenton. Over the past six months, I have lost count of how many out-of-towners I have spoken with, that are spending their hard earned money locally. Which only means more jobs.

A PERFECT FIT for the empty Kmart spot would be a Hooters/Twin Peaks. A great spot for food, beverages and socializing with friends and family.

WHAT I WANT to know is when is Wendy's coming back to Fenton. I think Wendy's is the best burger in town.

IF OUR COUNTRY is running like a well-oiled machine, why are we having so much trouble here? We'll never find out the truth.

IT'S NICE THAT people pay for other people's food at a restaurant but if you're already there, you can afford it. How about paying for someone who can't afford it, or give that money to a shelter.

TRUMP'S APPROVAL RATING would be much higher if he showed some humility and empathy every once in a while. The tweet about condemning anti-Semitism was nice, but it just seems like he doesn't have a heart.

See **HOT LINE** throughout Times

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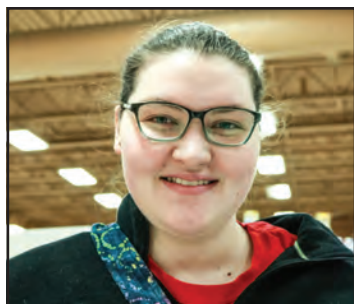
Compiled by Tess DeGayner, intern

What was your favorite restaurant that is no longer around? | streettalk



"Wendy's."

Crystal Thompson
Fenton



"Luigi's. I used to go there all the time with my friends. It's so sad they're gone."

Megan Faris
Clayton Township



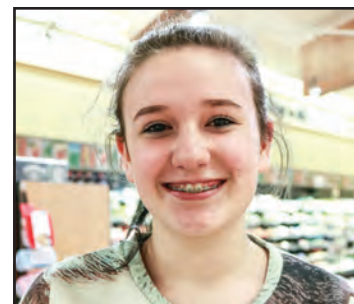
"Ruby Tuesday's. We used to go there quite a bit."

Terry Sova
Fenton



"I miss the Big John's here!"

Brandon Trammel
Flint



"Ruby Tuesday's. It was my favorite."

Katelyn Kubik
Fenton



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711 Shady Brook Ln. • Flushing
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LOBDELL LAKE WATERFRONT



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LAKE FENTON WATERFRONT



14189 Swanee Beach Dr. • Fenton
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LAKE FENTON WATERFRONT



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PENDING & SOLD PROPERTIES



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PENDING!

9277 Country Club Ln • Davison
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PENDING!

4443 Maplewood Meadows • GB
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PENDING!

5423 Olde Saybrooke • Grand Blanc
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SOLD

1910 Hampden • Flint
\$160,000



SOLD

7270 South Fork • Swartz Creek
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SOLD

2429 Valley Lane • Grand Blanc
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HOT LINE CONTINUED

WOULD THE people at Tri-County Times please put in their paper what POTUS is? I see it on television all the time and I don't know what it means. Editor's note: POTUS is an acronym for President Of The United States.

IT WAS HILLARY Clinton who was in bed with the large banks. Trump, on the other hand, is going to do away with Dodd Frank, making it easier for the smaller banks to compete and survive. Please know your facts before calling into the Hot lines.

THE BOOK '1984' had references to no walls, no country, no sovereign nation, allowing billions to locate into a strict society. And of course there was no order. This book describes the world according to Obama.

YOU ASK WHY Trump so often voices his opinion to tens of millions of followers through Twitter? This is the only unfiltered venue available that the gatekeepers at the mainstream media can't distort.

Owner of condemned cat house located**■ Rescue group finding foster homes for cats**

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

The owner of the condemned house in Gaines Township that housed more than 30 cats has been located.

On Monday night, Feb. 13, a house on Grand Blanc Road was condemned after emergency responders found a hoarding situation and dozens of cats inside while responding to a welfare call for a 60-year-old disabled man. Genesee County Animal Control was called and was on scene early Tuesday.

Gaines Township Police Chief Mark Schmitzer previously said, "We had a hoarder situation. It was up to our arm-

pits," he said. They then called the Gaines Township Fire Department for assistance.

Police worked to establish contact with the owner. This week, Schmitzer said the owner was located in Argentine Township and voluntarily signed over the cats. He

said a cat rescue group has been trapping the cats and placing them in an animal foster care-type system.

"They seem to be in good health," he said. "There are a few that are more feral that were living under the house."

Schmitzer said the group found between eight and 10 feral cats, but there could be more because they scurry when humans get close.

The Gaines Township building and zoning officials are dealing with the condemned house.

“They seem to be in good health.”

Mark Schmitzer
Gaines Township police chief

NEWS

Continued from Front Page

readers, especially newcomers to the community, about changes that have occurred because of your hometown newspaper.

Ann Street railroad crossing

On March 22, 1996, Taylor Ann Malone, 5, of Byron died as a result of her injuries, after the car driven by her aunt was struck by a westbound Grand Trunk Railroad train at the Ann Street crossing.

The accident occurred shortly after 9 a.m. the morning of March 21, 1996, following an overnight winter storm. The driver claimed the tracks were slippery and that she could not stop in time to avoid being hit by the train.

June (Leonard) Broecker and I were staff reporters at the time. We were on

scene before most of the police and fire personnel arrived. We took hundreds of photos.

In March of 1999, I happened to be talking with the head of the Railway Division of the Michigan Department of Transportation about another matter. During that conversation he asked me if the Fenton City Council had chosen to decline on the department's offer. "What offer," I asked.

He said a letter was sent to the Fenton City manager months ago, outlining an offer to upgrade other crossings in town, including Lemen Street, with all the bells, arms and whistles, if the city agreed to permanently close the Ann Street crossing. He said the offer was set to expire one week from the date of our phone conversation.

I called the city manager at the time about it and he said he had not presented to the City Council. He didn't think one death in a hundred years made it a dangerous crossing.

One thing led to another, including an extension on the offer, and the Ann Street crossing closure and the upgrades to other dangerous crossings in the city.

If it were not for the Tri-County Times, the existence of MDOT's offer likely would not have been discovered in time, if at all. The Ann Street crossing was permanently closed in November of 1999 and lives probably have been saved because of that initial conversation with the MDOT Railway Division manager and the subsequent articles informing the public of the situation.

Fenton's DPW garage

During the year 1998, I covered Fenton City Council meetings. At almost every meeting, an eight-year employee of the Department of Public Works addressed the council during public comment, complaining about the working conditions of the DPW garage on Lincoln Street. He was fearful for the health and safety of his coworkers and city residents.

After one of those meetings, that employee, Pete Medor, and I happened to be leaving the building at the same time. I asked him if the garage was as bad as he said. He replied, "Would you like a tour?"

We arranged to have him show me around the building that week. Pete was right. The DPW was housed in an unheated, dilapidated building on Lincoln

Street, where millions of dollars of equipment trucks sat on dirt floors, and where raccoons had their run of the place.

After my article was published, the Fenton City Council began paying more serious attention to what then-DPW Director Leslie Bland and Medor and been complaining about for years.

A lengthy process ensued and eventually the City Council and Downtown Development Authority (DDA) found a way to work together to provide the new facility on Alloy Drive. Funded through the DDA, the new \$2 million DPW facility was built without an increase in taxes.

The official ribbon cutting, marking the opening of the new DPW offices and garage took place in November of 2002, four years later. The Lincoln Street buildings were razed and all that remains is a grassy field.

Coincidentally, both Bland and Medor were elected by the voters — at different times — and served on the Fenton City Council.

See upcoming editions of the Times for more stories about how our news coverage helped effect positive changes in our community.

The Tri-County Times has been a major influence in the community for several decades. Countless positive changes have been made in Fenton and the surrounding communities as a result of our reporting.

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Tri-County Times

ONCE UPON A TIME...

Disney films viewed as racist and sexist?

■ Popular children's movies becoming more diverse, socially responsible

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Disney movies are great children's movies, right? Maybe not.

Disney movies, especially the early films, convey racist and sexist undertones while only focusing on young, beautiful princesses finding love.

When there is diversity, the black or dark-skinned characters and Native Americans are often portrayed as stereotypes.

In "Peter Pan" (1953), the Native Americans are portrayed as stereotypically red skinned, whose language is portrayed as nonsensical in the song "What Makes the Red Man Red." The original release of "Fantasia" in 1940 featured a dark-skinned centaur with braids serving the light-skinned centaurs.

In "Dumbo," (1941) the black crows have an enjoyable musical number called "When I See an Elephant Fly," but they speak in stereotypical black vernacular. Their leader is also named Jim, as a reference to Jim Crow, the name of a racial caste system that operated in southern and border states that established anti-black laws, according to the Constitutional Rights Foundation.

Many old Disney movies also convey misogynistic undertones, especially with why the prince falls for the princess — their beauty.

In "The Little Mermaid," (1989) Ariel trades her voice for legs, meaning she doesn't talk for most of the movie. Prince Eric only falls in love with her looks.

However, Disney movies are indicative of their time, so they've become more socially responsible and inclusive over the years.

"Pocahontas," released in 1995, has a song entirely about how the Native Americans are savages, but the movie is about two cultures learning to coexist and the white men return to their home in the end and leave the natives to their land.

"The Princess and the Frog" (2009) featured Disney's first African American princess, Tiana, a young girl who dreams of becoming a successful business owner by opening her own restaurant.

Disney has become more diverse with their plots. More and more Disney storylines are about these young heroines going on epic journeys to self-discovery or to save their people.

"Brave" (2012) isn't about the typical young, white princess finding love—it's about a Scottish, frizzy-haired princess strengthening the bond between her and her mother.

"Frozen" focuses entirely on the



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Jive-talking black crows, smoking while singing, "I'd be done see'n about everything, when I see an elephant fly" conveys racial undertones.

relationship between sisters, and even includes the line "you can't marry a man you just met," proving how much Disney has grown. Princess Anna does have a love interest, but it takes a backseat to saving her sister and kingdom.

Disney's latest diverse feat features another non-white princess. "Moana"

(2016) is about a young Polynesian girl whose mission is to save her people by reversing a terrible curse. She has no love interest except the sea.

Animated movies aren't Disney's only diverse films. Since Disney bought Lucasfilm for \$4 billion in 2012, moviegoers have seen two female-led major blockbusters in "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" and "Rogue One: A Star Wars Story."

These films have veered away from the traditional white male led storylines. In "The Force Awakens," Rey, a woman, and Finn, a black stormtrooper, work together to defeat the Empire, and "Rogue One" is led by a woman and its secondary lead is played by a Mexican actor.

Viewers can expect to see more diversity from Disney films, especially after "Moana" earned more than \$500 million worldwide, "Rogue One" crossed the \$1 billion mark, according to Forbes, and "The Force Awakens" passed \$2 billion.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

THE OBAMA ECONOMY cost millions of full-time jobs. He did create many part-time jobs. He did allow 1,800 hardened criminals to leave prison and join the workforce so at least he has that going for him.

■■■
I'M VERY CONCERNED about this new White House regime. A business shark surrounded by generals and no peace-seeker around them.

■■■
CONSUMER PROTECTIONS ARE laws that help protect ordinary people when they must deal with banks or other branches of the financial industry. Such laws try to keep interest rates and contracts understandable so the little guy won't be taken advantage of. The financial world is a complex and a dangerous place.

■■■
WHY ARE SEVERAL North LeRoy streetlights on 24/7 for years?

■■■
THANK YOU TO the individuals at the real estate office on Silver Parkway who provided me with assistance when my car became disabled in the parking lot. It is nice to know that there are people in our community who will help a stranger in need.

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Pam Bruce, bakery lead at VG's Grocery, carries a tray of paczki to the proofer, a warming chamber that encourages fermentation of dough by yeast through warm temperatures and controlled humidity to let the dough rise for frying.

FAT TUESDAY

Continued from Page 3A

days of Lent. The doughnuts themselves have existed since the Middle Ages. The recipe was modified when French cooks came to Poland and improved the paczki dough to make it lighter, spongier and more resilient.

Today, these jelly-filled pastries are cranked out by bakeries across the United States just before Fat Tuesday to indulge before Lent begins.

The history of Fat Tuesday begins in Roman Catholic Europe. Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday) is a Christian holiday turned pop culture phenomenon that dates back thousands of years to pagan spring and fertility rites.

Also known as "Carnival," it is celebrated in several nations, predominantly those with large Roman Catholic populations, on the day before the religious season of Lent.

When Christianity arrived in Rome, religious leaders decided to incorporate some pagan traditions like a few raucous Roman festivals into the new faith — a much easier task than abolishing them outright. As a result, the debauchery and excess of Carnival season became a prelude to the 46 days of penance between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday, according to the Roman Catholic liturgical calendar.

Source: Ibtimes.com



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

VG's Grocery began baking and selling paczki for Super Bowl weekend. By Wednesday, March 1, approximately 21,000 individual paczki will have been sold by VG's. Other bakeries will start production this weekend.

ABOUT ASH WEDNESDAY

According to catholic.org, Ash Wednesday is one of the most popular and important holy days in the liturgical calendar.

Ash Wednesday opens Lent, a season of fasting and prayer. It takes place 46 days before Easter Sunday, and is chiefly observed by Catholics, although many other Christians observe it, too, for 40 years.

Ash Wednesday comes from the ancient Jewish tradition of penance and fasting. The practice includes the wearing of ashes on the head. The ashes symbolize the dust from which God made us. As the priest applies the ashes to a person's forehead, he speaks the words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Alternatively, the priest may speak the words, "Repent and believe in the Gospel."

Ashes also symbolize grief. In this case, it's grief that we have sinned and caused division from God.

Writings from the Second-century Church refer to the wearing of ashes as a sign of penance. Priests administer ashes during Mass and all are invited to accept the ashes as a visible symbol of penance. Even non-Christians and the excommunicated are welcome to receive the ashes.

The ashes are made from blessed palm branches, taken from the previous year's Palm Sunday Mass.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Pam Bruce, bakery lead at VG's Grocery smooths a 4.5-pound break of dough to be separated into individual pieces, which will eventually become paczki.

Dr. Juan Alvarado
O.D.
Diplomate, American Board of Optometry

Dr. Cynthia L. Cupal
O.D., F.A.A.O.
Diplomate, American Board of Optometry

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Kristyn Stillman stands with her sister, Ashley Wright, 25, outside their custom \$67,000 van, which has a mechanical ramp for Wright's wheelchair.

Caregiving — the dirty and expensive details

■ Taking care of the disabled means it can be difficult to live a normal life

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

This is part two of a story about Kristyn Stillman, 36, of Holly and her 25-year-old sister, Ashley Wright. Stillman is the primary caregiver for Wright, who has cerebral palsy, along with severe mental and physical disabilities.

Traveling can be especially stressful, specifically when Kristyn Stillman and her sister, Ashley Wright, have to make a run to the emergency room.

Because Wright goes to school, which can be a breeding ground for germs, she often gets sick and can't keep down medication. She has to go to the emergency room to avoid becoming dehydrated.

"Every time we've taken her to the ER we take her to Genesys. Genesys has always been amazing," she said.

Trying to find an affordable caregiver has been one of the hardest things for Stillman and her husband. Community Living Services, a non-profit in Oakland, Wayne and Macomb counties, watches Wright for 12 hours a week to give the family a break, and they have an additional caregiver who works with Wright to help

develop skills, like holding her own cup and brushing her own teeth.

However, it's gotten harder with the cuts to Medicare.

"What the government gives us has gone down for many, many years," she said. They've had to fight to keep getting some assistance from Medicare, and she lost her food stamp privileges, so now Wright only receives Social Security Disability.

Stillman said they're lucky that Michigan allows people to go to school until they're 26.

"But at the same time, they've cut so much," she said. "When she was younger, 13, 14, 15, she was getting assistance from a different company and it paid for eight or 16 hours a week to hire somebody to care for her. My parents, at that point, would not have qualified

if it was income based, but now it is income based."

When Wright first started to go to school, they offered respite time three times a month, which is when a caregiver will watch Wright to give the family a break.

"Those things are important for the family of these individuals because it allows them to be normal for a little while. I was 11 when Ashley was born, my brother was 8. Being able to do those things meant a lot to my family, we were able to do normal things," Stillman said.

See **CAREGIVING** on 13A

“But the other customers stare at her. I get it, but at the same time I’m doing everything to lead a normal life with my family and that’s hard.”

Kristyn Stillman
Holly resident

WHAT YOU MISSED in the MIDWEEK TIMES

Compiled by Vera Hogan

The following is what you missed in the **Wednesday, Feb. 22, Midweek Edition** of the Tri-County Times. To subscribe and receive both the Sunday Weekend and Wednesday Midweek editions, please call (810) 629-8282

Child porn suspect found dead at home

Arrested the previous week, Steven Dale Brown of Fenton Township, who was on the sex offender registry for 10 years, faced federal charges for having hundreds of child porn images on his home and work computers.



Loose Center could lose significant funding

Southern Lakes Park and Recreation Board of Directors adopt new grant application process.

Linden resident dies in accident

Kevin Haas, 63, of Linden, was among the three people who died in a fatal crash near Lansing. An investigation is underway.



YOUR SMILE MATTERS!

By: Dr. Steven Sulfaro

SEALANTS

Dental sealants are preventative and protective composite resins that are applied to posterior teeth. Sealants are usually placed on children's teeth but I have placed them on adult teeth as well. Some teeth develop in such a way that they have very deep and prominent pits and fissures on the occlusal (biting) surface. These are good candidates for sealants. These deep pits and fissures can trap plaque and food debris and are sometimes so deep that they're virtually impossible to keep clean. This accumulated plaque and debris can lead to decay of the teeth in these areas. Once decayed, the teeth need to be filled. As a preventive measure, dental sealants are placed. The sealant material is very fluid and readily flows into these deep pit and fissure areas. This literally seals out plaque and food debris preventing its accumulation in the pit and fissures and subsequent decay formation. The process is very easy for the child. There's no drilling or anesthesia required. The surface of the tooth is prepared for bonding and then the sealant material "painted on" then hardened with use a curing light. Once in place, a dental sealant should last for years. The sealant will protect against decay formation as the child passes through the cavity prone years and into adulthood.

I welcome your questions and comments. Feel free to e-mail me drsulfaro@comcast.net



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LAKE SHANNON \$649,999
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Water Front

OPEN SUNDAY 1-3
JUST LISTED!!!

122 S WEST ST, FENTON

FENTON SCHOOLS \$164,999
Charming Ranch with 1431 SF, 3BDR and 1.5 BA. Fireplace in family room, with hardwood floors. Storage shed and deck with private, wooded views. Sale includes 2 parcels of land. Close to Fenton Intermediate School, US-23 and shops.

OPEN SUNDAY 1-3



1354 SEWARD CT, BRIGHTON

BRIGHTON LAKE VILLAGE \$299,999
2043 SF, 3 BDR and 2.5 BA. 2 story entryway with hardwood floors. Fire-lit family room with floor to ceiling windows and a gorgeous view of Brighton Lake. Crown molding, office and 1st floor laundry. Walk out basement and 2 story TREX deck.



1263 VICTORIA LANE, FENTON

FENTONWOOD ESTATES \$314,999
2720 SF of finished living space, 4 BDR and 3 BA. Open floor plan, soaring ceilings, crown molding, hardwood floors and large windows with beautiful views of your own gorgeous wooded back yard. Great kitchen featuring hardwood floors, pantry, breakfast nook, lots of cabinet and counter space.



4331 REDDING CIRCLE, GRAND BLANC

HOLLY HILLS \$218,999
2069 SF, 4 BDR and 3 BA. Open kitchen with island, dining area and slider to the deck. 1st floor handicap accessible bathroom, fire-lit family room and 1st floor laundry. Corner lot in popular sub close to schools, Genesys Hospital and I-75!



6239 CANTER CREEK, GRAND BLANC

PINE HOLLOW ESTATES \$1,199,000
Stunning Pine Hollow Manor 7900+ SF w/ finished walkout. Built 2002 at a cost of 2.5+ million, 5 BDR and 7 BA, home boasts luxury! Nestled on lavish grounds providing pure privacy. Marble floors, granite, cherry, Swarovski Crystal, Enkeboll trim, 24k Gold fixtures.

OPEN SUNDAY 1-3



2393 DAVIS RD, FENTON

LAKE FENTON \$765,000
72' frontage on all sports Lake Fenton, 5400 SF, 4 BDR and 3.5 BA. Open floor plan w/ fantastic views. Kitchen features breakfast nook, granite counters, snack bar, lots of cabinet and counter space. Crown molding, exposed beams, finished walkout and so much more.

Water Front

OPEN SUNDAY 1-3



633 SHORELINE DR, FENTON

WATERS EDGE VILLAGE \$189,999
Wonderful Waters Edge ranch condo in Fenton Schools, within walking distance to Downtown. 2563 SF, 3 BDR and 3 BA. Spacious kitchen with dining area and fire-lit living room. First floor master suite and first floor laundry.

JUST LISTED!!!



NORTH LINDEN RD, CLIO

COMMERCIAL ACREAGE \$350,000
3+ commercial acres - Great location in Clio - near Menards & Walmart. Close to M57. Potential, Potential. Don't miss out on this opportunity.



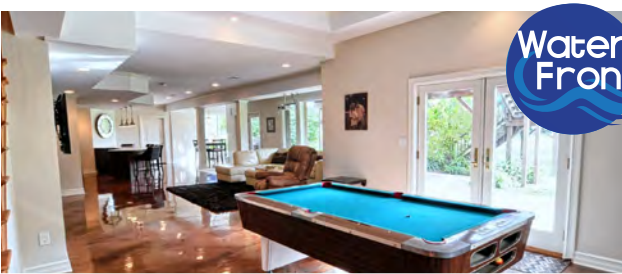
6263 CANTER CREEK, GRAND BLANC

PINE HOLLOW ESTATES \$1,750,000
Over 10,000 SF of Luxury Living! 5 BDR, 8 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, dog bath, heated floors, heated drive way.



16207 HILLTOP DR, LINDEN

ACREAGE \$207,499
2+ acres, 1900 SF, 3 BDR and 2 BA. Great room features natural light, brick fireplace & soaring ceilings. Bonus room can be used as a family, game room or office. 2 car attached garage and whole house generator included!



4130 WATERLAND DR, METAMORA

LAKE LAPEER \$744,999
179+' frontage on all sports Lake Lapeer w/ 2.87 acres. 6072 SF of finished living space, 4 BDR & 4.5 BA. Private setting, open floor plan, soaring ceilings, great natural light, crown molding. Finished walkout basement w/ kitchenette, workout room, sauna & pole barn.

Water Front



1274 S HOLLY RD, FENTON

ACREAGE \$575,000
Charming Farmhouse in Fenton Schools on 69+ Acres. 2685 SF spacious home, 5 BDR, 2 BA, 1 car garage, barn, and shed. Fire-lit living room, large kitchen, wood burning stove and 1st floor laundry. 23 farmed acres, 2 parcels and 2 ponds on the property.



8383 HENDERSON, GOODRICH

ACREAGE \$374,999
Beautiful home in Goodrich Schools. 2577 SF, 4 BDR, 2.5 BA and all on 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.



1500 TRIPLE OAK DR, FENTON

DOLLAR LAKE \$249,999
120' frontage on Dollar Lake (connects to Little Long Lake) 2718 SF of finished living space, 4 BDR and 3 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.

Water Front



1048 GRANGE HALL RD, FENTON

HOLLY SCHOOLS \$64,999
Potential, potential, potential!! 1000 SF, 2 BDR, 1 BA and garage, all on almost 2 acres. Great location, close to I-75 and US 23. Enjoy all Fenton and Holly have to offer. Close to schools, shopping and more. Don't miss this opportunity!



2060 GRANGE HALL RD, FENTON

ACREAGE \$750,000
Gorgeous property 140+ acres w/ limitless potential. Great for fishing, hunting or horses. Superb water fowl hunting habitat, Boone & Crockett hunting potential for deer. Farming & development potential. Farmhouse has 3 BDR, 2 BA & 1871 SF.



9850 BURNING TREE DR, GRAND BLANC

WARWICK HILLS \$1,199,999
This custom home is nothing less than spectacular. Offering 13,000+ SF of living space. 5 BDR, 9 BA including 2 master suites, 6 fireplaces, marble flooring, gold leaf ceilings and wine cellar. Custom in ground pool and 4 car garage.



80 CHATEAUX DU LAC, FENTON

SILVER LAKE \$225,000
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Water Front



3496 PONEMAH DR, FENTON

LAKE PONEMAH \$100,000
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Water Front



2095 WIGGINS RD, FENTON

BARNUM LAKE \$99,999
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Water Front

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FOODIE

Continued from Front Page

That gives people more opportunities to try out the many different foods offered at area restaurants, from American cuisine to Mediterranean, Mexican, Italian, Chinese, Japanese, Thai, plus every fast food/fast casual restaurant you could imagine.

Yet the landscape of local restaurants is constantly changing, as eateries come and go.

Restaurants that have closed recently include L. George's Coney Island, formerly Spoonz and TeeBonz, in Fenton Township, after just six months in business. What's Shake'n Burger Grille in Fenton, which opened in late 2014, did reopen after a six-week hiatus, but is now an events venue, not a restaurant.

These closures followed closely on the heels of national chains Bob Evans, which shut its doors on June 26, 2016 after being open in Fenton since 2003, and Ruby Tuesday, which closed last August, 2016, after opening in 2001.

Restaurants that opened locally in 2016 include LaMarsa Mediterranean Cuisine, The Green Olive Tree, Cancun Mexican Restaurant & Cantina and El Topo, The Relief & Resource Co. and Ekklesia on the Water in Argentine Township, recently re-named Lakeview Bar & Grill.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

Doug Lintz of Tyrone Township hugs his friend, Shelly Fender of Argentine Township, on Tuesday, Dec. 20 at The Fenton Hotel Tavern & Grill. Doug and his wife, Sue (right), planned to spend New Year's Eve there. "We love it here, we love our bartender," said Sue.

WHAT'S COMING IN 2017?

There's been a long wait for Goki Goki Korean Barbecue & Specialty Meat Market at 1243 North LeRoy St., which should be opening soon, according to Mike Reilly, Fenton city building and zoning administrator.

"I eagerly anticipate its opening," he

said. "The original permit was issued in January 2015. They're pushing hard, but I don't have a target date yet."

CRUST in downtown Fenton is undergoing a \$3 million expansion (see related story) with a larger café and new menu for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

There has also been talk about new buildings possibly for Big Boy and Taco Bell in Fenton, but plans for these are in very preliminary stages.

"One of the issues we have is that some of our buildings are dog-gone old," said Keith Sirois, chief executive officer for Big Boy, headquartered in Warren. "We know we want to be in Fenton. Fenton's been good to us."

McDonald's on Owen Road will be completely rebuilt into "the concept of the future," beginning this August.

In Linden, a new Taco Bell has been approved for construction, following preliminary site plan approval with conditions. It will tentatively be located at 605 W. Broad St., across from Alpine Marketplace.

Restaurants 101 — success or failure?

There is no predictable pattern for what makes a restaurant succeed or fail.

In Fenton, for example, national chains such as Wendy's, Domino's Pizza, Bob Evans, Papa John's Pizza, Quizno's Subs, Dairy Queen and others could not survive. And sometimes local, one-owner places thrive and sell food to generations of happy customers.

For the most part, however, the lifecycle of a restaurant begins with the hopes and dreams of one person, or a small group with a menu and style in mind.

He or she has two choices: connect with an existing food company to bring a chain restaurant to the area, or strike out all alone with a new concept.

Neither of these choices guarantee success or promise failure. What makes restaurants so much riskier than other businesses? One of the biggest reasons is location, followed by low start-up capital, inconsistent food and poor staffing, according to CNBC.

Erecting a new building and equipping can cost \$1 million, while basic remodeling and upgrading can still cost several hundred thousand dollars.

The biggest problem for would-be eatery owners is the amount of money required to sustain a place until it catches on with the public — often hundreds of thousands of dollars and can take a year or longer.

Today's technology can also make or break a new restaurant, with social media comments on sites like Yelp often determining their future. Think twice before skewering a restaurant with a bad review that they can never remove.

Many franchise agreements require the local person to invest \$150,000 or more of his own money, as well as paying ongoing hefty franchise licensing fees — usually 10 percent or more of total sales.

They often must pledge their existing homes, retirement savings or other valuables as collateral, meaning a family could lose their house and life savings if the new eatery fails.

Nationally, an average restaurant's profit margin of about 6 percent means 94 cents of every dollar pays for food, staff and overhead. Bad weather, rising food prices or changing public attitudes can wipe out that entire profit without warning.

It can be a risky, yet rewarding venture, but it's not for the faint of heart.

Police&Fire report



FENTON FIRE QUICKLY SNUFFS BACKYARD BLAZE

Fenton firefighters responded to a backyard fire on Sinclair Street on Saturday, Feb. 18. According to Fire Chief Bob Cairnduff, the call came in at 3:10 p.m. "Our first officer was on at 3:14 and our engine was on scene at 3:18," he said. No one was home at the time of the fire. "There was a small fire pit in the back yard that did have hot embers in it," he said. "I am not sure what they were burning or when." Residents are allowed to have a recreational fire, or campfire, but no burning of leaves is allowed in the city. "The fire on the garage was most likely started from blowing hot ashes from the fire pit," Cairnduff said. "The rear of the garage had damage. There was a lean-to type addition on the back of the main garage. That sustained most of the damage. There was a short section of wood fencing between the garage and the rear chain link fence that did burn as well." There were no injuries reported.

FOUR UNLOCKED CARS BROKEN INTO IN ARGENTINE

The Argentine Township Police Department received four LFA (larceny from auto) reports in the areas of Hilltop Drive, Geneva Drive and Alpine Drive. The LFAs occurred during the nighttime hours of 10 p.m. on Feb. 23 and 6 a.m. on Feb. 24. Items such as phone chargers, spare change, GPS devices and one firearm were taken from unlocked vehicles. Police are reminding residents again to lock their vehicles. Anybody with information about these incidents are asked to contact Det. Doug Fulton at (810) 735-5317 or (810) 280-0987.

LAWN JOB

On Monday, Feb. 13, the Genesee County Sheriff's Office received a malicious destruction of property (MDOP) complaint from a resident in the 12000 block of S. Jennings Rd., in Fenton Township. The homeowner reported that an unknown person drove through his yard.

CREDIT CARD COMPROMISED

On Feb. 14, the Genesee County Sheriff's Office received a fraud report from a resident in the 6000 block of Oak Leaf Trail in Fenton Township. A 62-year-old man's American Express credit card had been compromised. There are no suspects at this time.

CREDIT CARD ACCOUNT FRAUD

On Feb. 14, the Genesee County Sheriff's Office received a fraud report from a resident in the 6000 block of Lakeview Park Dr., in Fenton Township. A credit card was opened in the 54-year-old woman's name without her knowledge. There are no suspects at this time.

ORV FALLS THROUGH LAKE FENTON

On Saturday, Feb. 18, the Genesee County Sheriff's Office responded to an ice/water rescue on Lake Fenton. A 55-year-old Fenton man and 45-year-old Fenton woman went through the ice on their ORV. Both recovered without injury and the ORV recovered.

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

New construction projects sometimes have setbacks — like accidentally cutting a natural gas line. Here, the Fenton Fire Department along with Cook Excavating secure the construction scene at CRUST on Tuesday, Feb. 14.

CRUST spending \$3 million on expansion

■ Project includes new café and increased kitchen, retail, packaging production

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

CRUST is about to get a bigger piece of the pie in Fenton with a large expansion project now taking place at the north end of its current location on Caroline Street.

"We're expanding all of our kitchens, production areas plus our retail and café space," said Mike Green, executive baker/co-owner. "We're busting at the seams."

Now five years old, CRUST started out with 5,000 square feet of production/retail space and will measure 13,000 square feet when the construction project is complete.

The kitchen expansion will include the addition of another oven from Italy, new equipment for bakers to divide and shape dough, plus an expansion of the packaging area for more online, wholesale and retail orders. "We'll be shipping more products with dry ice," said Green.

The pastry kitchen will be adding more production equipment, plus a

stovetop, ovens and more refrigeration.

Most visible will be the addition of a café, which will expand indoor seating in its current retail space to more than 50. "We're expanding our café menu for breakfast, lunch and dinner," said Green. "Our Executive Chef Jody Brunori will be putting that menu together."

The CRUST café will also include outdoor seating along River and Caroline streets. The current entrance facing Caroline will continue to be used, according to Green.

"The 'feel' of the café will be the same as it has been, just larger, with more cold case items on display and more seating," he added.

CRUST currently employs 80 people and looks to add 50-plus jobs over the next few years. The wholesale business continues to

be strong with 50 customers throughout mid- and southeast Michigan, including the Flint Farmers Market, Midland Farmers Market this spring and growth into the Saginaw market.

Bren-Mar Construction in Fenton is the general contractor. "The community here in Fenton has just been so great, so supportive," said Green.

He's expecting the project to be done by late summer or early fall. "We're hoping for August," Green added.

WATCH THE VIDEO



AT TCTIMES.COM WITH THIS STORY

CAREGIVING

Continued from Page 9A

They had no assistance recently buying their Town and Country \$67,000 van, or the \$7,000 lift for their house, or the \$7,000 special needs bed, or paying to remodel their basement for Wright.

"I'm not complaining, I'm not saying we should be given help with everything we need. It's insane how much has been cut," she said, adding that she worries about families that can't afford a \$65,000 van.

Stillman said it's really impacted their family. They rarely ever eat out, but they did go to Pizza Hut in Fenton recently and the staff was wonderful to Ashley.

"But the other customers stare at her. I get it, but at the same time I'm doing everything to lead a normal life with my family and that's hard," she said.

Taking care of Ashley is a full-time job.

"Just because I put her to bed at 8:30 at night, doesn't mean it ends there. If she's up crying at 4 in the morning, I'm up with her," she said.

Stillman's husband was originally the person who stayed home with Wright when she first moved in with them, and Stillman said he has been amazing. Even though it's an extremely difficult situation, Stillman said it's made her boys incredibly thoughtful people.

"They happily, willingly give her their toys and food. As much as it's difficult, I don't think I would change it for the world because of how much positive influence it has on my boys. They understand what it means to take care of someone who is disabled. They're only 2 and (almost) 4," she said.



ASK THE MECHANIC

Chris Wilkinson,
Certified Mechanic

Q: I have a 2005 Dodge Neon SRT4 commemorative edition number 111/200. My check engine light came on recently so I had my mechanic check it. They said it was the ignition coil/coil 2 or spark 2. I replace my ignition coil twice with 2 brands, my spark plugs twice and my wires once. It fixes it for a few hours and then the check engine light comes back on. When this happens, my car loses half its power and will come back but it's a constant battle with it, especially on the highway. Please help what could this be?

- Noah

A: Noah, You need to check the connector where the coil plugs in. It is possible that it looses contact intermittently, or has opened up like a wall plug in your house that is old and does not have a tight fit any longer. When this happens it will cause this type of issue and it is an easy fix. If that is not it, you may have a bad power-train control module or a wire from it to the coil shorting out or opening up somewhere. This type of problem is better diagnosed at a repair shop with specialty tools that will aide in an accurate diagnosis.

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HOROSCOPES

Continued from Page 3A

has garnered enough attention throughout the years that a significant amount of people believe in them.

One Linden graduate Nichelle Curtis, 23, has been following her horoscope since middle school, and her family has been into Zodiac signs for as long as she can remember.

"I don't feel like it's necessarily valid, but it can give a nice sense of direction because they are designed to be vague and apply to your life in the way you interpret them. Almost like a higher power guidance," she said.

Curtis was born May 3 so she's a Taurus. According to astrology-zodiac-signs.com, Tauruses are reliant, patient, and practical but also stubborn, possessive and uncompromising. They're also said to be good money savers and good cooks.

"A lot of times I do feel like I fit the stereotype of the stubborn hardheadedness, the appreciation of beautiful things, the protectiveness of family and loved ones, but I definitely am not good at making and saving money, I am not a greedy person, and I am not a good cook," she said.

The 12 signs — Aquarius, Pisces, Aries, Taurus, Gemini, Cancer, Leo, Virgo, Libra, Scorpio, Sagittarius, and Capricorn — all have different symbols and stereotypes. Aquarius' are said to be independent, Aries' are said to be confident, Virgos are said to be shy, and Scorpions are said to be brave.

"There are sometimes when I meet a person and I am like, 'Oh I bet they are an [insert sign],' or find out what their sign is and am not shocked about it. There are certain personality factors about Zodiac signs that do stand out more than others," she said.

Is there scientific evidence to support the Zodiac? Most experts say no. According to thescienceexplorer.com, the few studies that have been done fail to support the validity of astrological views.

Time magazine reported that in the 1980s, 15 percent of college undergraduates believed Astrology was scientific. In 2014, the National Science Foundation found that 30 percent of college graduates believed Astrology was scientific.

That number is higher among the general population. About three decades ago, Northern Illinois University found that 39 percent of adult Americans believed that Astrology is scientific. In 2014, the NSF reported that 45 percent of adult Americans believed Astrology is scientific.

"If someone doesn't believe in horoscopes, that is totally fine," Curtis said. "More often than not I tell them that I understand, that they are just for fun and not for everyone, but there are some Zodiac signs that are naturally skeptical about their signs and horoscopes. I have never been offended by someone making fun of me for believing in horoscopes or zodiac."

LOOKING BACK

at this week in

NATIONAL HISTORY

COMPILED BY VERA HOGAN

FEB. 26

1919: Two national parks were established in the United States 10 years apart — the Grand Canyon in 1919 and the Grand Tetons in 1929. Located in northwestern Arizona, the Grand Canyon is the product of millions of years of excavation by the mighty Colorado River. The chasm is exceptionally deep, dropping more than a mile into the earth, and is 15 miles across at its widest point.

FEB. 27

1827: A group of masked and costumed students dance through the streets of New Orleans, Louisiana, marking the beginning of the city's famous Mardi Gras (Carnival) celebrations. Nowhere in the United States is Carnival celebrated as grandly as in New Orleans, famous for its over-the-top parades and parties for Mardi Gras (or Fat Tuesday), the last day of the Carnival season.

FEB. 28

1953: Cambridge University scientists James D. Watson and Frances

H.C. Crick announce that they have determined the double-helix structure of DNA, the molecule containing human genes. Watson and Crick had solved a fundamental mystery of science — how it was possible for genetic instructions to be held inside organisms and passed from generation to generation.

MARCH 1

1692: In Salem Village in the Massachusetts Bay Colony, Sarah Goode, Sarah Osborne, and Tituba, an Indian slave from Barbados, are charged with the illegal practice of witchcraft. Trouble in the small Puritan community began the month before, when 9-year-old Elizabeth Parris and 11-year-old Abigail Williams, the daughter and niece, respectively, of the Reverend Samuel Parris, began experiencing fits and other mysterious maladies. A doctor concluded that the children were suffering from the effects of witchcraft, and the young girls corroborated the doctor's diagnosis.

MARCH 2

1944: A train stops in a tunnel near Salerno, Italy, and more than 500 people on board suffocate and die. Occurring in the midst of World War II, the details of this incident were not revealed at the time and remain somewhat murky. Although it was a freight train that was not supposed

to carry passengers, it was common at the time for both soldiers and civilians to hitch rides on any convenient train.

MARCH 3

2009: The uber-luxurious Maybach Zeppelin sedan goes on sale, with a starting price of \$523,870 for the Maybach 57 Zeppelin and \$610,580 for the Maybach 62 Zeppelin. Daimler-Benz, owner of the Maybach brand, announced that only 100 Zeppelins would be built, with each vehicle hand-crafted to its individual buyer's specifications. Among the Zeppelin's many optional amenities was the world's first perfume-atomizing system, for which customers could even have their own personal fragrance designed.

MARCH 4

1944: Louis "Lepke" Buchalter, the head of Murder, Inc., is executed at Sing Sing Prison in New York. Lepke was the leader of the country's largest crime syndicate throughout the 1930s and was making nearly \$50 million a year from his various enterprises. His downfall came when several members of his notorious killing squad turned into witnesses for the government.

Source: history.com

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HOT LINE CONTINUED

I DID NOT know that Fenton Township had two dog parks. After ice fishing this year and learning about everything that goes on at the boat launch, we have two dog parks. Most of the people who let their dogs run around are walking. So they're your friends and neighbors.

I THINK IT'S probably impossible for our country to come together. Some of us have deeply held values about protecting our environment, background checks on guns, respecting immigrants, keeping Planned Parenthood, doing away with corporate welfare, and stopping hateful rhetoric. Trump's policies are opposite to our deeply held beliefs. I'm so sad.

LEE HARVEY OSWALD'S name was added to the CIA memorial wall after 50 years. Trump thinks he's a better liar? The truth always wins.

HEY GLOBAL WARMERS, before you get wound up in this warm weather, remember in 1930 it was warmer than this and many times since and before. It's called 'cycles.'

ABOUT A MONTH ago my neighbor had thrown out a basketball, the base, the hoop, and the board. It's been sitting out there if anyone is interested. It's free. It's on Granger Street.

ONE THING I'VE learned is that Democrats are sore losers. Now let's pick up our hammers and go to work. The free ride is over, baby.

IF YOU THINK Obama's party caused a lot of turmoil, wait until Trump's party is finished with us. The Republicans are determined to change laws so that their brand of religious belief is shoved down everyone's throat. Nothing can cause more anger than that.

TRUMP'S CABINET IS eliminating frivolous regulations. Now mental patients can own a gun, coal can run freely in our streams and rivers, and an action to eliminate a methane cloud the size of Delaware over New Mexico is stopped.

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JOGGER

Continued from Front Page

Franz and Nikki Brueger, her parents, were surrounded by friends and family as they talked about their daughter, sometimes also referred to as "Alex," and begged the community to come forward with any information that will lead to the arrest of the killer who took their daughter from them.

Ally, who was 31 years old at the time, was shot in the back four times on that fateful Saturday afternoon. She was jogging on Fish Lake Road in Rose Township, which is a regular part of the route she took during her daily, 10-mile runs.

The police have one clue, a tan or white sedan that may have been speeding or driving erratically in the area.

"Someone knows something," her parents have said repeatedly.

Holding back tears, Franz spoke tender, heartfelt words about his daughter on Tuesday. He said his daughter's killer not only took her away from their family, he took her away from countless others. As a registered nurse trained to help people, her impact was larger than life, he said.

He spoke of Ally's passion for writing. "Her gift of writing was exceptional," he said. According to her mother, Ally received her Master's Degree in Creative Writing posthumously.

Franz, who served in Vietnam, said, "As a grieving veteran, I am asking for your help. Who took Alexandra in such a cruel fashion? If you know something, we beg of you to speak up."

"Imagine never seeing your child again, never being blessed with grandkids, no chance to say good-bye and never being able to look into her eyes for the last time. Please help bring the person who killed her to justice. Please help us put Alex's



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

The Crime Stoppers press conference drew several TV, radio and print news organizations to the Rose Township Hall on Tuesday, Feb. 21. The organization is offering a \$7,500 reward for information leading to the arrest of Alexandra "Ally" Brueger's murderer.

soul to rest."

Nikki first expressed her gratitude to the unanimous donor who contributed to the Crime Stoppers effort. She, too, spoke of her daughter's talents. "Nursing was her profession, writing was her passion," she said. A professor of Ally's shared a paper with her parents, a paper she wrote that addressed fear. "Come at it (fear) with strength, with reserve and determination," Ally concluded in her writing.

Nikki said her daughter was 4-foot, 9-inches tall and weighed 98 pounds.

"When she ran, when she saw a person with a gun, she had to push down her fear and turn to run away. He shot her in the back four times. Only a coward would look at someone that looks like a child and shoot her in the back four times."

To the public, Nikki said, "Push down your fear like she pushed down hers."

Some questions from reporters included whether Ally could have known her killer, was she being stalked by anyone.

"We don't know and because we don't know we have no closure," said Nikki.

"The hardest part is I am a Vietnam War veteran. We were trained not to cry," said Franz. "When do you cry?"

Ally's parents said the community is still fearful. Parents don't let their kids go out walking anymore, or play outside or in the driveway.

"We don't know if it is someone she knew or if her murder was random," said Nikki.

Franz and Nikki were accompanied by Ally's dog, Zeus. "My husband and myself and our dog, Zeus, we need answers," said Nikki. He (Zeus) is still looking for his girl. I don't know if it is indifference or fear, but if you know something even if you don't think it's important, please come forward. Let's not let her be forgotten."



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Nikki Brueger, mother of Ally Brueger, urges anyone watching their press conference to have courage, and step forward if they know anything about her daughter's death. "Push down your fear," she said.



Crime Stoppers of Michigan has increased its reward to \$7,500 for information leading to an arrest. The federal ATF (Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms) also has put up a reward of \$5,000.

According to Anthony Jones with Crime Stoppers of Michigan, individuals leaving tips do not have to be 18 years old. Crime Stoppers of Michigan often receives tips from minors that lead to the arrest of individuals that have committed crimes.

The day Alexandra Brueger was killed was a pleasant Saturday afternoon weather-wise. It's quite possible that children or teens old enough to be outside unsupervised by a parent or adult could have seen or heard something out of the ordinary and not realize it could be significant. If their tip is good and leads to an arrest, minors are just as eligible as adults to receive the Crime Stoppers reward money.

People of all ages are encouraged to call Crime Stoppers at 1(800) SPEAK-UP or text CSM and their anonymous tip to 274637. Do not give your name in either case otherwise Crime Stoppers cannot take your information, as all tips must be made anonymously.

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Watch the new Southern Lakes Parks & Recreation video on tctimes.com by clicking on the video tab.

New video focuses on senior programs

■ Social, arts and fitness programs plentiful on Southern Lakes Parks & Rec schedule

By Sally Rummel
news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282
Senior residents in the tri-county area: this video is for you. You may not realize until you watch this video from Southern Lakes Parks & Recreation, that so many of their programs are dedicated to people in your age group, including some for ages 45 and up.

“Our goal is to let area seniors know how many programs we have to offer,” said Kristen Archambeau, activity and marketing coordinator for SLPR. Nancy Muffley runs the senior programs and is SLPR’s recreation programmer.

Reel Times Video, a division of the Times, produced this video. You can view it by visiting tctimes.com, and clicking on the Video tab.

Some of the SLPR programs include:
• Senior Fridays at the Fenton Community & Cultural Center, where seniors can enjoy bingo, bunco, euchre, a social gathering and lunch. “It’s a really fun group,” said Archambeau. “Some of the seniors even bring a grandchild along.”

Program sponsors are Genesee County Senior Millage Fund, The State Bank and the FCC.

• Open Art Studio is free on Wednesday at FCC, from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. “You

can paint or draw while chatting with other artists,” said Archambeau.

• Exercise programs, from free indoor walking at Fenton High School (ages 18 and up) to Chair Yoga, Pilates for Seniors and Senior Splash at the FHS pool. Senior Splash begins another six-week series of Tuesday/Thursday classes on Tuesday, Feb. 28 through April 6, then April 11 through May 18.

“You can sign up for classes online at slpr.net or stop by the FCC office between 9 and 5,” said Archambeau.

Other programs sponsored by SLPR are the summer Concerts in the Park in Fenton and Music by the Mill in Linden and Back to the Bricks Tune-up Parties in Fenton and Linden.

The SLPR office is at 150 S. LeRoy St., Fenton, telephone (810) 714-2011.

WATCH THE VIDEO



AT TCTIMES.COM WITH THIS STORY

“Our goal is to let area seniors know how many programs we have to offer.”

Kristen Archambeau
SLPR activity and marketing coordinator



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Bingo is one of the senior-friendly activities offered by SLPR.



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Girls district basketball action begins this week

By David Troppens
dtroppens@tctimes.com

March Madness is adequately titled when it comes to the tri-county area's prep girls basketball teams and the postseason.

All four squads won't begin district action until the calendar hits March 1 on Wednesday.

Three of the programs will be competing at the Class A district being held at Grand Blanc

High School. The one that isn't at Grand Blanc, is at Lake Fenton, who will be hosting its own Class B district tournament.

The Grand Blanc district will feature a contest between two area foes in Wednesday's semifinals when the Bronchos (9-10) take on Linden at 5 p.m.

On the other side of the bracket, Fenton begins district action in the semifinals at about 7

p.m. on Wednesday when the Tigers face Monday's Grand Blanc (9-11) vs. Brandon (5-14) winner. Last season the Tigers (13-6) won the Class A district title at Ortonville-Brandon High School by defeating Linden, Brandon and Holly.

CONTINUED ONLINE AT TCTIMES.COM



The Holly Bronchos and the Linden Eagles are going to get another chance to play each other in Wednesday's Class A district semifinal at Grand Blanc High School.

Sports

THE COUNTY Times

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2017 | PAGE 18A | WWW.TCTIMES.COM/SPORTS

Sarkon, Lund power Eagles past Lake Orion

■Linden shooting touch returns in 71-57 victory

By David Troppens
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Life on the Linden varsity boys basketball team got a little bit better on Tuesday.

After a strong start during the 2016 portion of the season, the Eagles have been mired in a midseason slump ever since. However, that slump may have ended during Tuesday's 71-57 non-league victory at home against Lake Orion.

"We finally made some shots tonight," Linden varsity boys coach Chris Root said. "The kids played hard. Gavin (Lund) got hot early and Aaron (Sarkon) was able to get to the free-throw line and finish some shots around the rim. Gavin hit three threes, but we finally

made some shots we've been getting all year."

Lund scored 13 points in the opening quarter, leading the Eagles to a 20-17 lead after eight minutes. In the second quarter, Sarkon made 5-of-6 free throws and also hit a 3-pointer, sparking a second straight 20-point quarter. Josh Biel also hit two treys during the period as Linden (5-12) led 40-33 at halftime.

Sarkon remained hot in the second half, netting eight points in the third quarter. Meanwhile, Corbin Sines also had four points off the bench during the period, helping the Eagles push their lead to 58-48 entering the final quarter. In the fourth quarter, Sarkon capped a team-high 24-point effort with eight more points, assuring the Eagles came away with the relatively easy victory.

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Linden's Aaron Sarkon (right) attacks the basket in a recent game. Sarkon scored 24 points in Linden's victory against Lake Orion.



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Lake Fenton's Dalon Earnest (left) dribbles the ball in a recent game. Lake Fenton defeated Powers on Tuesday.

LF takes the power out of the Chargers, 67-43

By David Troppens

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The Lake Fenton varsity boys basketball team has won seven straight games.

The Blue Devils blew open what was a reasonably close game after three quarters in the fourth stanza, resulting in a 67-43 victory.

Lake Fenton led just 43-35 entering the final quarter, but the Blue Devils locked up the victory during the period, outscoring the Chargers 67-43 during the final stanza.

The Blue Devils dominated most of the game. The exception was the second quarter when Powers outscored the Blue Devils 18-9, cutting Lake Fenton's 18-8 first-quarter lead to just 27-26 at halftime.

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Lady Devils cap season with eighth win

By David Troppens
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Hannah Garty has had a pretty outstanding girls basketball season for the Lake

Fenton Blue Devils. The Blue Devils can feel pretty good about their season overall as well.

Garty scored a team-high 18 points for Lake Fenton in

the Blue Devils' 41-34 victory against Saginaw Arts & Sciences Academy (SASA).

Team-wise, the regular season was a success as the Blue Devils finished the regular season with an 8-12 overall record, double

See **DEVILS** on 19A

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Lake Fenton's Hannah Garty scored 18 points in the Blue Devils' 41-34 victory on Tuesday.

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MSU's ROTC program aiming for Ft. Benning event

By David Troppens

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Growing up, Lake Fenton graduate Matt Maldonado had two dreams.

"From a young age, I always knew I wanted to go in the military, but I also knew I wanted to go to college," Maldonado said.

He's found a way to do both, and compete at the same time.

Maldonado is a member of Michigan State University's ROTC program, the Spartan Battalion, and also one of the members of the marksmanship team, currently preparing for a competition in Fort Benning, Georgia. He's one of two tri-county residents that are on the team. The other is Fenton resident Brady Hocevar.

"I love it," Hocevar said about being a part of Michigan State's ROTC program. "It is a lot of fun. It keeps me in shape. I get up at 5:20 in the morning and work out at 6 (a.m.). All the cadets in the program are awesome."

Hocevar is also a member of the National Guard and spent last summer in Fort Benning.

The marksmanship team is trained by Sergeant First Class Quinn Stone, and includes nine competitors. Needing a place to practice, the Fenton Lakes Sportsman's Club has offered its facilities for free during several Saturday mornings. The practice facility was needed because the competitors are shooting M-4 rifles during the competition, which cannot be utilized at their typical range. The Fenton Lakes Sportsman's Club was contacted by Maldonado's father, Dan, to see if their facilities could be used for practice, and the club readily opened up their range free of charge.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES
DAVID TROPPENS

Two tri-county area members of Michigan State's ROTC marksmanship team are Brady Hocevar (shooting) and Matt Maldonado. They are pictured here practicing for a future competition to be held at Fort Benning, Georgia.

"We had a request to the board to allow the Michigan State ROTC come out and it was like, 'Yeah, what do they want and what do they need, no problem,'" Fenton Lakes Sportsman's Club Board of Director Member Karl Schuneman said. "Anything like this that we can support, we will support."

The teams will compete with M-9 pistols as well, and the squad trains with them indoors at the sportsman's club. The 2017 US Army Small Arms Championship will be held from March 12 to March 18 at Fort Benning, Georgia.

CONTINUED ONLINE AT
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DEVILS

Continued from Page 18A

the win total of the 2015-16 season. The Blue Devils still found life in the Genesee Area Conference Red Division demanding, but their biggest highlight of the regular season came in conference play. It came when they posted a 53-51 upset victory against state-ranked Hamady on Jan. 24. Offensively, the squad eclipsed the 40-point barrier for the 12th time, or three more than the past two seasons combined. The squad averaged 43.4 points a contest this season.

Meanwhile, Garty had some individual honors to feel pretty good about as well. Garty's 18 points placed her above the 300-point plateau for the season (at 308), while also increasing her career point total to 505 points.

The Blue Devils dominated the Dragons from the start. Lake Fenton held the Dragons to just 23 points in the opening three quarters while Lake Fenton scored double-digits in each of those stanzas. Lake Fenton led 39-23 entering the final period. SASA made the final score considerably more respectable by outscoring Lake Fenton 11-2 in the final quarter.

Garty also led Lake Fenton with five steals and three assists. She also had six rebounds. Freshman Katelyn Siebert continues to develop as she had 11 points, eight rebounds and three steals. Fellow freshman Morgan Furey chipped in seven points and three rebounds. Senior Renee Shaw tied Siebert for high-rebound honors with eight.

Lake Fenton hosts a Class B district next week, with the Blue Devils beginning action against Monday's Perry versus Ovid-Elsie opener on Wednesday at 7 p.m. The winner of the semifinal game will play in the title match on Friday at 7 p.m.

Fenton girls defeat Goodrich; Fenton boys fall to the Martians

By David Troppens

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The Fenton varsity girls basketball team jumped out to a strong start, trailed and then finished strong, defeating the Goodrich Martians during the final home game of the regular season.

Fenton jumped out to an 18-6 lead after one quarter, but Goodrich scored 39 points in the two middle quarters and led 44-41 entering the final period. Fenton came roaring back in the fourth quarter, scoring 19 points during the final period while limiting Goodrich to just 10 fourth-quarter points.

Chloe Idoni continues to get stronger as the season progresses, netting 28 points and 11 rebounds in the victory. Senior Emma Evo had 10 points and five rebounds while fellow senior Taylor

Mowery had four steals. Aly Lenz netted 11 points while Maddie Carr had four points, four assists and three rebounds.

Boys basketball Goodrich 68, Fenton 39

Fenton's offense was held to single-digits in three of the four quarters, resulting in the 68-39 loss to the Martians on Tuesday night.

Goodrich jumped out to an 18-7 lead after one quarter. Fenton had its best offensive period in the second quarter, scoring 16 points, but Goodrich still stretched its lead to 39-23 by halftime. Fenton never put together a serious threat in the second half.

Fenton hurt itself on the free-throw line, making just 5-of-13 free throws. Nick Wyrick netted 11 points while Addison McIntosh had eight points.

PREP REPORT

HOCKEY

► **Fenton/Linden 6, United 4:** The Fenton/Linden co-op team scored the final two goals of the contest against United — a co-op squad including Holly, Lake Fenton, Kearsley and Brandon players — to earn the win.

Six different players scored for the Griffins (7-12-1). They were Tristan Deniau, Ian Crampton, Brendan Buerkel, Heyden Justus, Dylan Meisch and Brendan Miles.

Alec Copeland scored two goals for United (4-12-1) while Luke Harrington and Landon Kash had a goal each.

The victory was the Griffins' second of the season against United.

BOYS BASKETBALL

► **Linden JV boys basketball vs. Lake Orion & Swartz Creek:** The Linden JV boys basketball team defeated Swartz Creek 49-39. Travis Klocek led the Eagles with 12 points while Brenden Miller had 11 points. Max James netted 10 points while Seeger DeGayner scored eight points.

The Eagles also played Lake Orion and lost a tight 40-36 verdict. DeGayner netted 14 points while Miller had nine points and Klocek had seven points.

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