

No news is 'bad news'

■ **Hometown newspaper is 'base of operations' for strong communities**

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

In 17-century America, colonial governments would rather have done without newspapers than put up with their "annoyance."

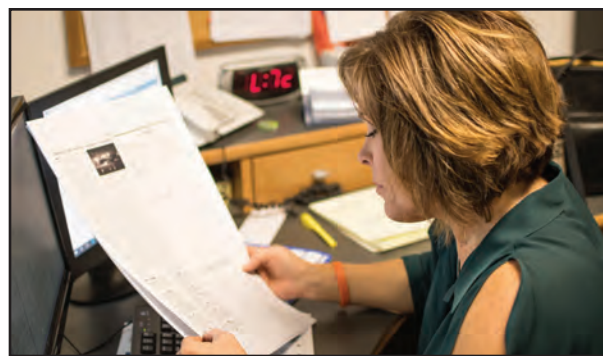
In 1671, Gov. William Berkeley of Virginia wrote: "I thank God, there are no free schools nor printing and I hope we shall not have, these hundred years, for learning has brought disobedience, and heresy, and sects into the world, and printing has divulged them, and libels against the best government. God keep us from both."

As the British government once told the governors of Massachusetts,

"Great inconvenience may arise by the liberty of printing."

They were right, of course. Newspapers have and always will be an inconvenience to government, especially when those governments have something to hide or engage in wrongdoing. They have been a godsend for those of us who rely on the "liberty of printing" for the

See **NEWS on 18A**



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Tri-County Times Editor Sharon Stone proofreads the April 16 Weekend Times on Friday morning.



PAGE 18
THE ARK ENCOUNTER

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2016 NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

Weekend Times

SUNDAY EDITION

\$1.00

Streetscape earns numerous awards

■ **Fenton lauded for downtown beautification efforts**

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

A lot of blood, sweat and tears went into the laborious "Streetscape" project in the city of Fenton. But at the end of the day, the results have been duly recognized.

At the Monday, April 10 Fenton City Council meeting, Kerry Sutton of the Michigan Concrete Association was in attendance to present the city with their Award of Excellence for the Downtown Fenton Streetscape and Road Rehabilitation for 2017. She said this year there were 54 applicants her organization reviewed for this award.

"The city of Fenton rose to the top of their list," said Department of Public Works (DPW) Director Dan Czarnecki.

See **AWARDS on 16A**

Holy Thursday brings parishoners together at St. John the Evangelist



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Fr. Robert Copeland of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in Fenton finishes washing the feet of a young parishioner on Holy Thursday. It is one of three holy days before Easter Sunday, and commemorates Jesus' last supper. The washing of the feet symbolizes love and humility.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Expect road closures on U.S. 23 and Lahring Road bridge beginning Monday

■ **MDOT to invest \$535,000 in repairs**

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) has committed to investing \$535,000 in repairs for the

Lahring Road Bridge over U.S. 23 nearly nine months after a truck struck the bottom of the bridge while traveling southbound on the highway.

MDOT plans to do demolition, beam replacement, and deck repairs. The estimated

See **CLOSURES on 15A**



Variances approved for Linden Taco Bell

The Linden Zoning Board of Appeals approved two variances for the proposed Taco Bell in Linden. The final site plans now go to the Planning Commission.

Page 6A

“Hitler killed nine million people and we call it Nazism. Stalin killed 20 million and we call it Communism. American parents have killed 57 million and we call it choice. Wrong is still wrong. It doesn't matter what you call it.”



“Regarding Planned Parenthood. You are saying that as a taxpayer my two options are to help pay for your birth control or help pay for your baby? How about you being responsible for your actions? It's ignorant to suggest others pay for your irresponsible behavior.”



“The enemy of self-respect is the liberals' vote-buying expansion of the welfare state. Like so many of the generational poor, white and black, they are hopelessly addicted to generational welfare, which destroys all self-respect. How tragic.”



“It's not just administrators and teachers who don't want the balanced calendar. As a parent, I'm against it. My kids are able to spend several weeks at overnight camp, have a few weeks family vacation, and a few weeks of hanging out with neighborhood kids.”



COMMENT OF THE WEEK

“Definition of irony: While God doesn't really need us, he still wants us. While we desperately need God, we don't really want him most of the time. Happy Easter to everyone.”



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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Capt. Andy Greene, 30, is taken, casket draped with an American flag, to his final resting place. Greene was laid to rest at Lakeside Cemetery in Holly on Thursday, April 13. There were approximately 25 to 30 local fire departments that joined the procession to show their support.

Holly firefighter laid to rest

■ Capt. Andy Greene loses battle with rare skin cancer

By Sharon Stone

sstone@tctimes.com; 810-433-6786

Capt. Andy Greene, 30, a 12-year veteran of the Village of Holly Fire Department lost his battle with Merkel Cell Carcinoma, a rare skin cancer that he was diagnosed with in 2015. He died on Sunday, April 9.

Following his funeral service on Thursday at The River Church in Holly, he was laid to rest at Lakeside Cemetery in Holly. Personnel from multiple agencies brought out their apparatus and took part in the procession from the church to cemetery. Community members, including school children waving American flags lined the streets to show their respect for Greene.

"Andy joined the department in 2005," said Sgt. David Platz in a previous Times article.



Capt. Andy Greene

"Before that he was a cadet at Groveland Fire and Springfield fire departments."

Greene, a village of Holly resident, leaves behind his wife, Ashley, and three children — two boys and one girl, ages 8, 6 and 3 respectively.

The fire department learned of Greene's illness when they were toned out for a medical, according to Platz. Greene had been calling for help for severe stomach pain. He was rushed to the hospital, where doctors discovered a tennis ball-sized tumor that was connected to his stomach and small intestine. He had emergency surgery to remove the tumor.

An outpouring of love and support for Greene and his family has been expressed on the Village of Holly Fire Department's Facebook page.

On Wednesday, Platz said, "Andy's passing is a great loss not only to his family, friends, and the fire department but the whole community as well. Andy was one of a kind and will never be forgotten."

Kids quickly outgrow or destroy everything — buy used

■ 1,000 attend semi-annual Mom 2 Mom sale to save up to 80 percent off retail

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

Flint — To ensure getting the best deals, shoppers have to arrive just as the doors open. "I wouldn't want to buy when it's all picked over," said Kristen Saber of Fenton Township.

Saber was one of about 150 shoppers who waited outside the threshold of the event, before it started on Saturday, April 8.

Approximately 1,000 people came through the doors of the Dort Federal Credit Union Event Center between 8:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 8 for Flint's Largest Mom 2 Mom Sale. More than 80 vendors sold previously owned family and child necessities ranging from maternity, to preteen. Items included clothing, toys, strollers and more, for at least 50 percent off retail.

Near the large items, moms and expectant moms carefully go over the walker seats, checking the individual parts and weighing the options with their own mothers, who tend to come as a buying assistant.

"It can really be a great value. You can get a whole



seasonal wardrobe for under \$50," said Saber. Buying nice clothing new just doesn't make sense, because kids simply outgrow or ruin it. She has saved up to 80 percent on items.

Saber was specifically looking for nicer 2T-sized toddler clothing for summer. She said it's a matter of luck whether you can find clothing in the right size, in the right season. Her daughter's size will change by winter 2017, so there's no sense in buying winter clothing in her size now.

Her strategy was to find a table (with a mom) who has a child close in age, and buy everything that fits for the season.

She ended up buying pajamas and outfits that will fit her daughter in the fall and winter instead.

See MOM 2 MOM on 9A

“It can really be a great value. You can get a whole seasonal wardrobe for under \$50.”

Kristen Saber
Fenton Township
resident and mother

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AT TCTIMES.COM WITH THIS STORY



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'Certified real'

Products at the grocery store are "certified organic" or "made with 100 percent real dairy butter." Maybe we need something like that for news.

I had this brilliant idea after reading — in an actual newspaper (you know ... the foldy thing that stains your fingers) — about the 1,000 internet trolls the Russians may have unleashed upon American voters in an attempt to damage Hillary and help the Donald win the White House.

Sen. Mark Warner, the Democratic chair of the Senate Intelligence Committee, said recently the evidence suggests the Russians were particularly focused on swing states like Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania where people were "reading during the waning days of the election that "'Clinton is sick,' or 'Clinton is taking money from whoever for some source' ... fake news."

It sounds impossible that fake news could possibly make a difference in such big states. But, remember, Trump only won Michigan by 10,704 votes, and that's a pittance when you consider 4,799,284 total votes were cast, including 172,136 for Gary Johnson, the Libertarian candidate, who was the popular "protest" vote against Hillary and Trump. (Still feel proud, folks?)

So, OK, it's clearly possible fake news *could* have affected the outcome in Michigan. (Whether it did or not, we'll never know.) And if it *could* have happened here, maybe it *could* have happened in Wisconsin and Pennsylvania. And if it happened in Michigan, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania, it could happen anywhere again in future elections.

Assuming that's true, maybe it would behoove us as a nation to clarify what's real news and what's not. I'm not sure how we'd do that exactly, but if we can figure out a way to certify butter, we certainly can figure out a way to certify news, news organizations and news re-

porters. (I can tell you right now, my list would not include Fox, Sean Hannity, Rush Limbaugh, Rachel Maddow, CNN or MSNBC.)

If we do, though, no one should assume that'll fix the whole problem.

Trump, I figure, wasn't elected solely because of too much fake news but because not enough people consumed enough real news. (Or, maybe, they just liked the guy.)

The internet is partly to blame. It gutted journalism. According to the Niemann Lab, there were about 56,400 newsroom jobs in 2000. Now there are just 33,000.

That's a whole lot less real news and a mighty big information void. Something was bound to fill it. The Russians took advantage and filled it at a critical moment with the empty calories of fake news.

And we gulped it down with some fava beans and a nice Chianti.

That's our fault, by the way, not theirs. They just did what enemies do. We're to blame. We're the ones who fell for it. We could have read, watched and listened to those credible news sources that still remain. But we chose not to.

Want to make sure it doesn't happen again? Get off of Facebook and read a newspaper or watch the network news.

Oh, and make sure to look for the "certified real" label.

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.



Andrew Heller
FEATURED COLUMNIST

Hotlines

Submit at: tctimes.com, call 810-629-9221
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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.

SPRING IS NATURE'S way of saying, 'Let's party!'

THIS WEEK THERE have been terrorist attacks in Sweden and Russia. Add that to the list of Germany, France, England and the U.S. and you can see that Islamic extremist terrorism is rampant throughout the world.

THE DIRECTOR OF the EPA has cancelled most clean air, radiation and chemical regulations. Now Dow Chemical is once again allowed to market banned pesticides. You sure you voted in the good guys?

PRESIDENT TRUMP AND the Republicans just pushed through legislation making it legal for internet providers to sell your personal information like name, address, credit card numbers, and Social Security number without your consent. This is so important. Please pay attention.

TO THE GUY in the white pickup truck on Silver Lake Road Wednesday who went around the car in front of him as it was pulling over to the right to let an ambulance through. All I can say is unbelievable.

SO IS DONALD Trump going to intervene in the Dollar Store closing and the shoe stores closing and Pizza Hut closing and save all those people's jobs? Where is he?

HOW DO YOU expect the Democrats to treat Trump's nominee any different than the Republicans treated Obama's nominee? Michigan doesn't want Gorsuch. Obama won Michigan, too, but that didn't mean anything when he was president.

ALL THE RESTAURANTS in the area that are advertising entrees with portabella mushrooms, I wish they would understand that some people know what a portabella mushroom actually is.

PRESIDENT TRUMP PLANS to simplify our tax codes in the U.S., which will bring down taxes for all Americans. It will bring down taxes for corporations so we can keep jobs here and create new jobs.

ON WEEKENDS, PRESIDENT Trump gets to get out of the swamp and go to his place in Mar-A-Lago, Florida. He stays for free and he golfs for free. And he takes no salary. Contrast this with the Obamas, who spent over \$100 million so they could vacation like the king and queen, which doesn't even include the \$4 million golf day with Tiger Woods.

AFTER EIGHT YEARS of anti-corporate sentiment and rhetoric, it is so refreshing now to see the creation of 300,000 new jobs and the end of needless regulations and a sense of optimism in the corporate world. Thank you, President Trump.

IF YOU'RE SO upset about the Democrats fighting Gorsuch, how did you feel about the Republicans not moving forward with hearings for Obama's pick, Merrick Garland to the court last year?

FOX NEWS DRAWS an audience that is more than double the combined audience of MSNBC and CNN. There are over 200 advertisers waiting in line to advertise during the Bill O'Reilly hour because he draws an audience that is more educated than the other networks draw. Those are facts.

IF YOU DON'T like the partisanship in Congress not voting on Donald Trump's nominee for Supreme Court, how did you feel about the Republicans sitting on Obama's nominee for over a year? Talk about partisanship.

THE ORMOND FAMILY would like to express thanks to Dryer Funeral Home, Rev. Sharlyn Gates of the Holly Presbyterian Church and Holly musician Gary Musgrave for all that they did to make the Memorial Service for Dr. Robert Ormond so very special and memorable.

See **HOT LINE** throughout Times

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Who inspires you?

Compiled by Tim Jagielo, media editor

| streettalk



"I'm deaf, so I am inspired by my professors at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf that I attended 30 years ago."

— **Debby Dietrich**
Linden



"My mom. She had so many great traits. She's fun, optimistic and courageous. She always set a great example."

— **Ruth Winter**
Fenton



"My main inspiration in my entire life is my father, who has since passed away. He just had a heroic quality about him. He fought in WWII, and brought himself out of poverty."

— **Brian Liljeblad**
Groveland Township



"My husband, because of his values and he's a hard worker. He's a good guy."

— **Carla Frownfelter**
Holly Township



"My dad. He's a good role model and we have the same career. He coached me in football and basketball."

— **Matt Maksymowski**
Fenton

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Relay for Life moves to Silver Lake Park

■ Park fee waiver not yet decided

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

Relay for Life, the American Cancer Society's annual event to raise awareness about the disease and funds to combat it through research and more, may be coming to Silver Lake Park for the first time this year.

The local event is called Relay for Life of Fenton-Lake Fenton-Linden.

The organization's original request, made in October of 2016, was for the 2017 event to be held May 19-20. At the time, the Fenton Parks and Recreation board approved the request contingent on City Council approving the use of the park after 9 p.m., and approval to exceed the limits of the noise ordinance.

The event features music, a disc jockey and amplified speakers. Several homes on surrounding streets could be affected by excessive noise, according to Dan Czarnecki, Department of Public Works director, in his memo to City Manager Lynn Markland.

Since then, Relay has changed the date to Saturday, June 3, and has reduced the usual 24-hour event to go from 3 p.m. to midnight.

On Monday, April 10, the Fenton City Council agreed to the use of the park for Relay, but tabled the matter and sent it back to the Park Board to decide whether to charge fees to the park that day.

According to Czarnecki, between Memorial Day and Labor Day there is a \$5 per vehicle fee for entrance into Silver Lake Park. The charge is \$1 for walkers.

...between Memorial Day and Labor Day there is a \$5 per vehicle fee for entrance into Silver Lake Park. The charge is \$1 for walkers.

"The original date for this event was outside of this time period and the need to pay an entrance fee," he said. "However, the new date would require those entering the park to pay the entrance fee."

Use of the pavilions for nonprofit groups is \$15 each per day, plus a \$25 deposit to ensure the area is left in a clean and sanitary condition at the conclusion of its use. "June is a busy

time for pavilion rentals due to graduation parties and other family events," said Czarnecki in his memo.

Kris Vezino, representative for Relay for Life said she is still working on specific details with Czarnecki. "We will be using the park from 3 p.m. to midnight and have shortened the walk due to decline in participants and a focus on making the event more attractive to new participants," she said.

The Parks Board meets on the second Tuesday of each month at city hall.

Two variances approved for Linden Taco Bell

■ No left turn exiting onto Broad Street allowed

By Hannah Ball

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Linden — The Linden Zoning Board of Appeals approved two variances for the prospective Taco Bell in Linden at 605 W. Broad St., near McDonald's.

WT Development Corp., representing Taco Bell of America LLC, asked for a menu board that exceeds limitations set by zoning ordinances, and to not provide a bypass lane along the drive-through lane.

The Planning Commission approved a special land use permit Dec. 5, 2016. The site is zoned general commercial, which allows for a drive-through.

Developing Consultant Bill Beckett said Taco Bell has over 7,000 restaurants in the country.

"As a national design standard for Taco Bell, they discourage any potential conflicts between the drive through and pedestrians so they would just...have a dedicated drive-through lane, keep the pedestrians on the south side or the main entry side of the building, and let the drive-through function the way it's designed to," he said.

They occasionally hear about an emergency with a car stalling or a similar situation, but people simply push the car out of the way. But, "on a day to day basis, not having a bypass lane is just not a problem," he said.

Beckett said there's no bypass lane in the drawings partly because of the size of the property, and because it's located on a corner. The plans must account for the two front-yard setbacks, which are 35 feet. They would need an additional 12 feet to add the lane.

Beckett said not having a bypass lane also helps manage the size of the detention pond.

ZBA board member Chris Kinyon said she's concerned about not having a bypass lane, and requested that there be signage indicating it's a drive-through only lane. "We could have the language 'drive through only,'" Beckett said.

The condition to add verbiage indicating the drive-through only lane on the site was added to the variance

before it passed.

The second approved variance lets builders install a sign larger than zoning ordinances currently allow.

Linden City Planner Adam Young said the current ordinance allows for signs up to 6 feet in height and 16 square feet. Taco Bell asked to build a menu board that's 7-feet, 2-inches tall and 44 ½ square feet.

The menu board at the McDonald's, which is near the Taco Bell site, is larger than the one requested by Taco Bell. Young said he measured the McDonald's menu board and said that it's 44 square feet in area and 9.2 feet in height. However, McDonald's was established in the early 2000s, before the ordinance was adopted.

Young said he's not aware of any problems with the McDonald's menu board.

Another issue raised was turning left onto West Broad Street to leave the site. Young said not allowing left-hand turns out of Taco Bell was one of the Planning Commission's conditions of approval for the preliminary site plan.

"That took Taco Bell a couple months to digest and decide whether or not they wanted to continue with

development," Beckett said.

ZBA member and Linden City Councilor Brad Dick said that decision was based on feedback from residents at Planning Commission meetings.

He said they didn't want any left turns at Broad Street because it's very close to the intersection, and they didn't want left turns on Hyatt because the zoning becomes residential.

"They'd be operating later at night. Residents were concerned about traffic, trash, people coming through there later on in the evenings,"

Dick said.

Final site plans for Taco Bell have been submitted to the Planning Commission, and it will be on the agenda at the next meeting, May 1.

“...on a day to day basis, not having a bypass lane is just not a problem.”

Bill Beckett
Taco Bell developing consultant

SUMMARY

■ The Linden Zoning Board of Appeals approved two variances for the proposed Taco Bell in Linden. The final site plans now go to the Planning Commission.

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Teen driver facing multiple charges

■ High speed chase involving Fenton police ends at teen's Fenton Township home

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

The 18-year-old Fenton Township male who led Fenton police on a high-speed chase on March 18 was arraigned Wednesday, April 12 on multiple charges in Genesee County 67th District Court.

Jelinek is facing one count of assaulting/resisting/obstructing a police officer, one count of operating a vehicle while intoxicated and one count of fleeing-third degree.

To recap what happened, Sgt. Dave Reinfelder of the Fenton Police Department said a Fenton police officer observed a car at 12:41 a.m. on March 18 drifting within the lane as it headed northbound on North LeRoy Street. The car was traveling 52 mph in the posted 35-mph zone.

Suspecting that the driver might be intoxicated, the officer activated the patrol vehicle's lights and attempted a traffic stop. The officer followed the car



TRI-COUNTY TIMES I FILE PHOTO
The car involved with a high-speed chase in Fenton City and Fenton Township on March 18 is impounded.

and requested assistance. A Linden patrol car and Genesee County Sheriff patrol car responded.

The car, driven by Jelinek, eventually came to a stop at a home on Belle Glade Court in Fenton Township.

Jelinek was released on personal bond. He is expected back in court on April 20 for a probable cause conference.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

THE ZEALOTS ON the right are just as evil as the zealots on the left. The confirmation process of Judge Gorsuch showed just how ugly the Senate has become. Unfortunately, there's more to come.

■■■■ **CORRECTION. I ASKED** if anybody knew of a softball field for seniors to play on in the evening or Saturday. This is for pickup ball not pickle ball. Pickup ball is softball without organized teams. Pickle ball is played on a court.

■■■■ **ASSAD GASSES HIS** own people and we zap his air base. Why? We are helping ISIS overthrow Assad to take over Syria. Assad is reducing the number of refugees headed to our country, with terrorists mingled in with the masses.

■■■■ **TRUMP GOES TO** his own resort and conducts business. The Democrats never complained when Obama went to resorts to play golf and ignore the responsibilities of his job. Multiple flights to Hawaii instead of the Obama family going together. Time for the Democrats to stop whining and accept that Hillary lost.

■■■■ **HAS ANYONE COLLECTING** Social Security noticed how they took our .3 percent increase in benefits for 2017 and added it to the cost of our Medicare part B premiums, resulting in no increase in benefits? I asked Mike Bishop and Gary

Peters about it and got nothing. ■■■■ **KOREAN ARMISTICE; AN** armistice is a formal agreement of warring parties to stop fighting. It is not necessarily the end of a war, since it may constitute only a cessation of hostilities while an attempt is made to negotiate a lasting peace.

■■■■ **THE PROBLEM IS** not the funding of Planned Parenthood for birth control — it's about funding for abortions.

■■■■ **HISTORY WILL FOREVER** remember Justice Gorsuch as the illegitimate product of a broken Senate filling a stolen seat for a dictator. RIP U.S. democracy.

■■■■ **PLEASE, SHARE YOUR** opinion with your grandchildren or your cat. No one else wants to hear it.

■■■■ **TO THE TEXTER** complaining of Democrats filibustering over Gorsuch. Republicans prevented a seated president from appointing a Supreme Court judge. They're all politicians with their own agendas. Whose best interest? Not ours.

■■■■ **HEY HELLER, LUMBERJACK** beards will 'be done' when the tattoo fad that started in 1991 ends. Plus, I thought you were all about personal choice.

■■■■ **LOOKS LIKE WE** finally have a president.

News briefs

Curtis-Wolverton Post 3243 and Auxiliary recognizes local students

Local students were recognized March 27 for winning themes in essay contests sponsored by the Curtis Wolverton Post 3243 and its Auxiliary. First, second and third place winners for the Voice of Democracy Essay Contest, "My Responsibility to America," are Rhiley Cole, Sage Holland and Christina Walker, all seniors at

Lake Fenton High School. Patriot's Pen essay winners for their essays on "The America I Believe In" are Jordyn Bommersbach and Isabella Henson, seventh graders at Fenton's AGS Middle School. Donations and certificates were also given to the Fenton High School National Honor Society students from the VFW and its Auxiliary, thanking them for assisting the post for their Friday Fish Fry events.

SAVE THE DATE!



DRIVING AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

10TH ANNUAL

4 PERSON GOLF SCRAMBLE JULY 15, 2017

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**18 HOLE
SCRAMBLE**

Registration 12 noon
Shotgun Start..... 1:00pm

- Entry Fee: \$340 per Team of 4 (\$85 per golfer)
Includes green fees, cart, driving range, light lunch, dinner, awards and prizes.
- Dinner Only: \$20 per person
- Team Sponsor: \$400 includes 4 person team and tee sign

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ASK THE MECHANIC

Chris Wilkinson,
Certified Mechanic

Q: I have an '04 chevy 2500hd 6.0 gas motor. There is no oil pressure when the engine is cold. It warms up the oil pressure at around 40psi. Every so often I here a nasty loud valve tap. The truck has 356,000 miles. Do you have any ideas?

A: Thanks Jeff. This could be caused by many different things. The first step we take in this situation, is to take the oil filter off and cut it open. Then take the folded fabric out and hold it up in good lighting to see if there are any signs of metal shavings or glitter in it. If so, then you will need to replace or rebuild the engine. If not, then I would do an oil change on it and a manual oil pressure test to see if it still shows low oil pressure. If it is still low then you will need to remove the oil pan to check the rod and main bearings for clearance with a plastigauge. If the bearings are within spec, take the timing cover off and the oil pump apart and look at the oil pressure relief valve to make sure the spring is not broken and that the valve at the end of the spring has smooth travel. Also, check the oil pick up screen for being clogged, if all of this is ok, I would try a new oil pump and screen to see if this cures your problem. There are a few other not so common problems that it could be, (spun cam bearing, clogged oil passage) but you would need to disassemble the engine to check this. With so many miles it would not make sense to not just replace it at that point.

Do you have a question that you would like to have answered?
E-mail it to me at:
askthamechanic@wilkinsonautorepair.com

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Upcoming Meetings

The **Fenton City Council** will hold a special meeting at 5 p.m. on Monday, April 17 in the training room of the Fenton Fire Department, 205 E. Caroline St. The purpose is to review results of street study and consider funding options.

The **Fenton Board of Education** will hold a board workshop at 6 p.m. on **Monday, April 17** at the Administration Building.

The **Lake Fenton Board of Education** meeting will hold a regular meeting at 7 p.m. on **Monday, April 17** in the Alberta B. Martin Board Room at the Administration Office.

The **Fenton Township Board of Trustees** will hold a regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. on **Monday, April 17** in the Fenton Township Civic Community Center.

The **Tyrone Township Board of Trustees** will hold a regular meeting at 7 p.m. on **Tuesday, April 18** at the Township Hall.

The **Linden Downtown District Authority** will hold a regular meeting at 8:30 a.m. on **Wednesday, April 19** in Council Chambers.

The **Holly Township Board of Trustees** will hold a regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. on **Wednesday, April 19** at the Township Hall.

The **Linden Board of Education** will hold a regular meeting at 7 p.m. on **Wednesday, April 19** in the Linden High School Media Center.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SALLY RUMMEL

Marie Todorovsky of Fenton bid on and won a purple Joy & Iman purse. "I've always wanted a purple purse," she said, excited about her \$20 purchase.

Purses bring in more than \$9,100 to protect sexual assault survivors

Domestic violence will effect one in every four women

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Fenton — "I am the number one out of four," Mary Ann Beltinck told the group of women, and some men, at Sawyer Jewelers' annual Purses for Protection event Tuesday, April 11. She referred to the statistic that one in four women will experience domestic abuse in their lifetime.

The event, hosted by Sawyer Jewelers and the Zonta Club of Fenton, isn't all about dressing up to bid on cute, designer purses, drink wine and eat cheese, and hopefully win prizes — it's about raising awareness about domestic violence and raising funds for domestic violence.

Host and co-owner of Sawyer Jewelers, Beltinck told her story

of how she was in an abusive relationship before she met her husband, Chip, who also co-owns the jewelry store in the Cornerstone building.

"I took the opportunity to let the girls here know that I am the number one. I am the number one out of four who experienced some sort of domestic violence in their life, whether it's financial, emotional or physical, and I think a lot of people didn't know that about me," she said. "I have a lot of experience with it. It's very close to my heart."

More than \$9,100 was raised at the second annual Purses for Protection event.

To raise money, Sawyer Jewelers and Zonta collected donations of designer purses to auction. Attendees bought raffle tickets in hopes of winning one of the many prizes, which were donated from local businesses.

See PURSES on 21A

“But if you’re strong enough to stay in, hoping it will change, hoping you can stick with it... that’s a lot of strength. If you’re that strong there, you’re definitely strong enough to get out of the situation.”

Mary Ann Beltinck
Sawyer Jeweler coowner



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | HANNAH BALL

Dozens of designer handbags were available for bidding at the second annual Purses for Protection event at Sawyer Jewelers in Fenton.

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Fenton officials approve cemetery cost increase

■Oakwood lot price increased to \$600

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

On Monday, April 10, the Fenton City Council approved increasing the cost of a lot at Oakwood Cemetery to \$600.

The current rate is \$450 and will now be \$500. The additional \$100 will go into a "Perpetual Care Fund," ensuring that Oakwood Cemetery is maintained properly for the coming years.

According to Department of Public Works (DPW) Director Dan Czarnecki, 20 percent of the revenue received from cemetery lot sales went into the Perpetual Care Fund. The interest earned on the fund is to be used toward the maintenance of the cemetery. At the rate of \$450 per lot, \$90 went into the fund from each sale. Currently, there is about \$164,000 in the fund, Czarnecki said.

Czarnecki and Oakwood Cemetery Board Chairman Doug Tebo confirmed there are 1,400 grave spaces currently available at Oakwood Cemetery.

The Oakwood Cemetery Board has been discussing options to bring the fund to a level that would sustain the maintenance of the cemetery into the future.

Currently, the maintenance costs for mowing, raking of leaves, trimming bushes and tree limbs, filling of settled areas and general routine maintenance is \$31,200, said Czarnecki.

"This work is contracted out to TNT Outdoor Services for the current year," he said.

At the current rate of sales, it is anticipated the cemetery will be full in about 30 years, at which time there will be no additional money being placed into the fund as a result of lot sales.

With the new increase, the amount going into the Perpetual Care Fund will be \$200 for every lot sale.

The newly approved rate structure will bring in \$280,000 to the Perpetual Care Fund by the time all the lots are sold.

Czarnecki said Fenton Cemetery Service, the agent for selling lots, earns 20 percent from every lot sale, which will now go up from \$90 to \$100 per sale.

With the newly approved lot sales rate of \$500 and fund fee of \$600, at the time the cemetery is full there should be at least \$444,000 in the fund to earn interest.

"If the fund can earn at least 7.1 percent interest, there should be enough gained through interest to cover the current cost of maintenance at Oakwood Cemetery in the future, at the current maintenance costs," said Czarnecki.

Increasing the number of lots at Oakwood Cemetery would help to increase the Perpetual Care Fund, however, there is not much land available. The addition of columbariums for cremation sales may be discussed at a future date.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Chastity Besson of Burton has a couple hundred items for sale at the mom-to-mom sale in Flint.

MOM 2 MOM

Continued from Page 3A

Saber learned how to shop thrifty from her mom and step-sister.

Brenda Batson has run the sales for nine years. "You can outfit your kid, who's going to grow out of (the clothing) super quick," said the mother of two children.

Over the nine years she's run events in Flint and Lansing, she said consumers have become more savvy buyers, who are

educated on important things like recalls before they even arrive. "They come and they know what they're looking for, they know what's a reasonable price," she said. "I think they're more educated on what's good, and what's useful."

The next sale of this kind is in September. Visit www.m2m.net for more information and dates. For other mom-to-mom type sales across Michigan, visit mom2momsalesmichigan.com.

Sleep apnea in children, while not common, may have significant effects

By Dr. Mark J. Williamson

Recently, an article came to my attention concerning sleep disorders, specifically obstructive sleep apnea, which contained some disconcerting misinformation when referencing children.

Also, there has been some advertising in the local papers that has the same misinformation. I thought it best to address these issues to help improve understanding about sleep apnea and its potential risks in children.

The article and the advertisements state that "nine out of 10" children have some form of sleep-disordered breathing. According to the American Academy of Dental Sleep Medicine (AADSM), only 4 percent of children have obstructive sleep apnea, not 90 percent, as stated in the article.

I decided to call a colleague of mine, Dr. George Zureikat, who is not only a pediatrician but also a board certified sleep specialist to get his opinion. When I asked Dr. Zureikat about the number of children who suffer with sleep-disordered breathing, he explained that the number is actually closer to 3 percent. Also, if a child is obese, he or she has a 10 percent chance of having a sleep disorder.

Many times, there is a correlation between a child's inability to focus and learn, issues like attention deficit disorder (ADD) and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) that could be the result of an underlying sleeping disorder.

Has your child been diagnosed with ADD or ADHD? It may be that they are not receiving an adequate amount of oxygen into their blood stream while sleeping.

Sometimes when a child is snoring, parents may find that humorous or cute. It is important to understand that while this does not mean your child has sleep apnea, it is an indicator that your child may have an obstructed airway. If your child is a thumb sucker or a mouth breather, these are also indicators.

Children with sleep apnea typically have an obstruction in their airway that should be addressed while they're still developing. So, what do you do if you suspect your child may have sleep-disordered breathing?

My recommendation is twofold:

Discuss with your family pediatrician your child's symptoms (mouth breathing, snoring or lack of focus). They will then decide the best way to proceed. They may refer you to an ear, nose, and throat (ENT) doctor to evaluate your child's tonsils and adenoids or may refer you to a sleep physician to determine if sleep apnea is actually present.

An orthodontist (specialist) may be able to establish any deficiencies in the growth patterns of your child's dental arches. Many times the deficiencies can be corrected at a young age and the issues with sleep disorders and malocclusion (biting issues) can be avoided. Your family dentist can help you with this referral.

It is worth noting that some ENT specialists are also board certified sleep specialists. If you suspect your child may have a sleep disorder, your pediatrician, ENT, sleep specialist, dentist, and orthodontist can all work together to help with the screening, diagnosis and treatment process.



Dr. Mark J. Williamson has practiced dentistry in Genesee County for 33 years. He is well respected and has repeatedly been recognized by Hour Magazine as a Top Dentist in his community, one of only a few. Dr. Williamson opened Michigan Dental Sleep Center for the sole purpose of educating and treating patients with obstructive sleep apnea. Dr. Williamson offers free consultations and can be reached at (810) 659-1721.



HOT LINE CONTINUED

YOU SAY YOU didn't vote for Trump to have the national parks strip-mined, decimate the NEA, and discontinue safeguards. He ran as a Republican — what did you expect?

NOW THAT WARM weather is coming, all you walkers with dogs please bring a doggy bag with you to clean up after your dog. Thank you so much.

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Desert Angels



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO
Jen Koester of Fenton volunteers at the University of Michigan-Flint on Wednesday, April 12. She assisted in filling care packages for Desert Angels, an organization which sends these packages to troops overseas. Volunteers packed items such as deodorant, candy, toiletries, Bibles, and other essentials. Koester was there representing Zonta Club of Flint.

LOOKING BACK

at this week in

NATIONAL HISTORY

COMPILED BY VERA HOGAN

APRIL 16

1947: A giant explosion occurs during the loading of fertilizer onto the freighter Grandcamp at a pier in Texas City, Texas. Nearly 600 people lost their lives and thousands were injured when the ship was literally blown to bits. Ammonium nitrate was used as an explosive by the U.S. Army in World War II and, after the war ended, production of the chemical continued as its use as a fertilizer became accepted. However, the precautions used in its transport became far more lax in the post-war years.

APRIL 17

1970: With the world anxiously watching, Apollo 13, a U.S. lunar spacecraft that suffered a severe malfunction on its journey to the moon, safely returns to Earth.

APRIL 18

1956: American actress Grace Kelly marries Prince Rainier of Monaco in a spectacular ceremony on this day in 1956. Kelly, the daughter of a former model and a wealthy industrialist, began acting as a child. Her big break came in 1952, when she starred as Gary Cooper's wife in "High Noon." Her performance in "The Country Girl" won her an Oscar in 1954. The same year, she played opposite Jimmy Stewart in Alfred Hitchcock's "Rear Window."

APRIL 19

1993: At Mount Carmel in Waco, Texas, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) launches a tear-gas assault on the Branch Davidian compound, ending a tense 51-day standoff between the federal government and an armed religious cult. By the end of the day, the compound was burned to the ground, and some 80 Branch Davidians, including 22 children, had perished in the inferno.

APRIL 20

1999: Two teenage gunmen kill 13 people in a shooting spree at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado. At about 11:20 a.m., Dylan Klebold and Eric Harris, dressed in long trench coats, began shooting students outside the school before moving inside to continue their rampage. By the time SWAT team officers finally entered the school at about 3:00 p.m., Klebold and Harris had killed 12 fellow students and a teacher, and had wounded another 23 people. Then, around noon, they turned their guns on themselves and committed suicide.

APRIL 21

1980: Rosie Ruiz, age 26, finishes first in the women's division of the Boston Marathon with a time of 2:31:56 on April 21, 1980. She was rewarded with a medal, a laurel wreath and a silver bowl; however, eight days later Ruiz is stripped of her victory after race officials learned she jumped into the race about a mile before the finish line.

APRIL 22

2004: Pat Tillman, who gave up his pro football career to enlist in the U.S. Army after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001 is killed by friendly fire while serving in Afghanistan on April 22, 2004. The news that Tillman, age 27, was mistakenly gunned down by his fellow Rangers, rather than enemy forces, was initially covered up by the U.S. military.

Source: history.com

HOT LINE CONTINUED

'MICHIGAN VOTES' SHOWS our House of Representatives is purposing a part-time legislature with no pay cuts. Even worse, Senate Bill 242, gives \$250 million in subsidies to certain developers and cash subsidies from the income tax of employees. It's enough to make you sick. What is wrong with these people?

■■■■
THE LINDEN/FENTON Lax team mom is so annoying. Let the boys grow up. Stop bossing all the parents and boys around.

■■■■
DEMOCRATS COMPLAINING PRESIDENT Trump is slashing funding for all sorts of programs are wrong. Trump is simply slashing unfunded debt. If you love your program, you should have paid for it.

■■■■
FENTON TOWNSHIP NEEDS to do yearly rental house inspections. By not doing so, you're creating slumlords and lowering our property values. If the township cannot afford it, there's probably many retirees who would volunteer their services and start a program for this. Please consider this thought.

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that the most secure, stable
and safe communities to live
in all have a locally owned and
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TRI-COUNTY
Times

our town

Meet

JIM ROLPH

- Associate Pastor at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church
- High school/college athlete
- Born and raised in Ann Arbor

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Father Jim Rolph, 28, is on his first parish assignment after being ordained a priest of the Diocese of Lansing on June 14, 2014. He was born and raised in the Ann Arbor area and attended Catholic schools through high school. He attended The University of St. Thomas while living at St. John Vianney College Seminary, obtaining his Bachelor's Degree in Philosophy and Catholic Studies. He completed seminary studies at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit and his Masters of Divinity and a Baccalaureate in Sacred Theology.

"It wasn't until after my fifth year of seminary that I knew that this is what God had created me for and this was His plan for me, but he waited for me to say 'yes.' I did say 'yes' to Him and cannot say how happy I've been as a priest."

Father Jim Rolph
Associate pastor at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in Fenton



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Fr. Jim Rolph washes feet, and finishes by saying, "God bless you," at the Maundy Thursday Mass on April 13.

Easter is the day we remember and celebrate Jesus' victory over sin and death. Because of this, Easter gives me the opportunity to thank Jesus for the gift of His life and recommit myself to allowing His love, grace, and mercy to flow in and through me.

How does St. John's minister to people who come to church only twice a year - Easter and Christmas?

With love and mercy. I would encourage these people to make their best effort to attend church every week, not because they're being forced to, but because at every Mass, Jesus has a special grace and gift for that person. I'm happy that they make the effort to come twice a year, but would encourage them to take the next step and attend more often.

How many people do you expect to worship at St. John's on Easter Sunday?

I expect we'll have between 2,000 and 2,500 people worship with us on Easter Sunday. We'll have additional seating in our gathering space. This is about a 50-percent increase for us from a regular Sunday.

What is your favorite symbol of Easter?

My favorite symbol is actually the Cross. On Easter Sunday, we can look

at the Cross and know that God is able to bring good even out of evil; even the worst situations and circumstances in our lives can bring forth good if we unite them to Jesus on the Cross.

How do you spend Easter Sunday, after your final Mass of the day?

I always make it a point to spend time with family.

What are your regular activities at St. John's?

One of the things I love about be-

ing a priest is that no two days are the same. On a weekly basis, I celebrate Mass, hear confessions, attend different council meetings, meet with individuals for spiritual counseling, answer questions for students in the school, attend staff meetings, prepare for homilies and talks, visit the sick in the hospitals and nursing homes, bless parishioners houses and enjoy dinner with them, celebrate baptisms, weddings, and funerals, and that's on a normal week.

When did you know that you wanted to be a priest?

I first felt called to be a priest when I was a senior in high school. At the time I was very involved with sports and was hoping to play baseball in college and was even dating a girl. I tried to push the idea out of my mind but it kept coming back. I finally decided I would join the seminary, but only to prove to God that I wasn't called to be a priest. It wasn't until after my fifth year of seminary that I knew that this is what God had created me for and that this was His plan for me, but He wouldn't force it on me, He waited for me to say "yes." I did say "yes" to Him and cannot say how happy I've been as a priest.

What is something that most people don't know about you?

During my time in school, I played any sport I could try, and lettered in baseball, football, and basketball in high school. Most people probably don't know that I hold a record from my high school baseball team for fitting 77 pieces of bubble gum in my mouth at one time.



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PRESENTER: Dr. Seann Willson - Orthopedic Surgeon

DATE: Thursday, April 20, 2017 @ 6:00 p.m.

WHERE: Loose Center
707 North Bridge Street - Linden, MI

RSVP to reserve your seat!
(Suggested but not required)

Loose Center 810.735.9406

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HOT LINE CONTINUED

DEERFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD of Review for property taxes is a farce. It's so much easier to deny petitions than it is to do the right thing and make decisions based on facts. I hope the board members aren't paid for this process. I'll let you know how my appeal to the state goes.

■■■■
IF YOU CAPPED out your Social Security contribution for 35 years at \$4,800, you would pay in approximately \$170,000. If you draw Social Security

for 20 years of retirement, you will receive approximately \$480,000. How do you figure you pay in more than you will draw?

■■■■
IF YOU INVEST enough money, any variance will get passed. The public has no control. The city wants the tax dollars. The city is a business as well. Basic economics at work.

■■■■
WANTED TO THANK the guys or gals who filled the potholes on Linden Road by Bennett Lake Road. Did a fabulous job. Thanks again. You're doing great.

■■■■



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9064 NEWCASTLE CT, GRAND BLANC

HOLLY HILLS \$249,900
Beautiful 2 story home, 2417 SF, 4 BDR & 2.5 BA. Open floor plan with hardwood floors, great natural light, crown molding & more. Spacious kitchen with island, pantry, lots of cabinet & counter space. Sitting room that could be formal dining room, office & first floor laundry. Large deck, 3 car attached garage & more.



2718 PEPPER CT, HARTLAND

ACREAGE \$224,999
Adorable home on over 1.5 acres. 1872 SF, 4 BDR and 2 BA. Great kitchen, open floor plan with spacious formal dining room and Florida room with great natural light. Living room features beautiful floors and fireplace. First floor master bedroom with attached bath. Nice deck with pool, 2 car attached garage and more!

OPEN SATURDAY 1-3



2691 EARL LAKE RD, HOWELL

EARL LAKE \$349,999
91' frontage on all-sports Earl Lake. 2986 SF, 3 BDR and 2.5 BA. Great kitchen with granite counters, pantry, lots of cabinet and counter space. Formal dining room and spacious living room with fireplace, character and charm. Finished walkout basement, large deck, beautiful views, and great yard.



7334 GRAND PKWY, GRAND BLANC

COMMERCIAL ACREAGE \$399,900
Fantastic opportunity, great location visible from US-23 just north of Grand Blanc Rd. Phase 1 environmental study is complete. The possibilities are endless. Do not miss out on this one!!!

OPEN SATURDAY 1-3



16125 GRANDVIEW, FENTON

SILVER LAKE \$999,999
76' frontage on all sports Silver Lake in private gated Isle of Bordeaux community. 4700+ SF of living space w/ stunning views. 5 BDR & 4.5 BA. Maintenance free brick exterior, 4 car attached garage and generator. Finished walkout lower level with full kitchen.



10079 GOLFSIDE, GRAND BLANC

PRICE REDUCED WOODFIELD \$440,999
5407 SF of finished living space, 3 BDR and 4.5 BA. Gorgeous kitchen with island, granite countertops, hardwood floors, breakfast nook and pantry. Full finished walkout basement with bar, stone fireplace and full bath. Large deck and patio overlooking the pond.

HAPPY
Easter
from all of
us!

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

JOHN 15:5

PENDING 7 DAYS

4168 W THOMPSON RD, LINDEN

SIMONS LITTLE FARMS \$199,999
2200 SF, 3 BDR and 2.5 BA. Great kitchen, snack bar, wood floors, and breakfast nook. Formal dining room, first floor laundry, finished walkout basement and sun room. Master suite features large closet, private bath and door wall leading to balcony.

PENDING 5 DAYS
MULTIPLE OFFERS

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MULTIPLE OFFERS

5456 OWEN RD, LINDEN

LINDEN SCHOOLS \$179,999
2420 SF, 3 BDR and 3 BA, all on over 1/2 acre. Open floor plan with cathedral ceilings, great natural light, dining area, living room and great kitchen with lots of cabinet and counter space. Master suite with walk in closet and private bath. 2 car attached garage, large deck and fenced yard.

PENDING 4 DAYS
MULTIPLE OFFERS

11691 ORCHARDVIEW, FENTON

FENTON SCHOOLS \$199,999
1920 SF, 3 BDR, and 2.5 BA all on over 1/2 acre. Hardwood floors, crown molding and great natural light. Great kitchen with double ovens, island and breakfast nook. Family room features fireplace and beautiful built in bookcases. Full basement, attached 2.5 car garage, deck and beautiful yard.

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Wrestling coach placed on leave

■ Alleged Super Bowl squares fundraiser under investigation

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

Longtime Linden High School varsity wrestling coach and Hyatt Elementary special education teacher for Linden Community Schools, Todd Skinner, has been placed on paid administrative leave, according to Linden Community Schools Director of Athletics Greg Durkac.

Skinner, who has been the varsity wrestling coach at Linden since 1999 and the girls' varsity golf coach since 2009, may find himself in trouble due to an alleged Super Bowl squares fundraiser he allegedly ran during recent championship games as a way to raise revenue for the Linden wrestling program. Linden Community Schools Superintendent Ed Koledo would not confirm Skinner's paid administrative leave status, but did say, "We are aware of the allegations" and said the school is conducting its own investigation.

"We knew at the beginning of the week (about the allegations)," Koledo said. "Unfortunately, I cannot comment much about it."

It has been alleged that Skinner ran Super Bowl squares for many years, asking players to sell the squares. According to volunteer wrestling coach Dan McNeill, who also had his son wrestle four years in Linden's program, Skinner would try to get his wrestlers to sell squares for his Super Bowl fundraiser.

"One day before the Super Bowl he came home with envelopes. ... He was supposed to sell the Super Bowl squares," McNeill said. "I was like, hell no. My minor son is not gambling, as minor as it may be."

McNeill said the alleged practice continued throughout the years his son was on the team and this season as well. McNeill was concerned that if his son did sell the squares

it may risk his college eligibility as well. McNeill believed the squares cost \$20 each.

"This year he made sure to give the parents (the squares to sell)," McNeill said. "He was still doing it."

McNeill said he wasn't the only parent upset by the practice and has discussed the issue with several parents. McNeill is speaking out because he is standing up for the students.

"I'm there for the kids and helping the kids," McNeill said.

Skinner did not return a recorded message on his phone.

McNeill said he has had discussions with members of the Michigan Gaming Control Board (MGCB) about the allegations, but the Deputy Director of the

Licensing and Investigations Division Mark Mazzone said, he hasn't started any investigation. He said he isn't even sure if the allegations would fall under his jurisdiction. Jack Garrett, a regulation officer for the Michigan Gaming Control Board said information did come in through an anonymous tip, but didn't

SUMMARY

■ A Linden teacher/high school wrestling coach has been placed on administrative leave. An investigation is underway.

say there was an ongoing investigation at this time. Again, questions remain if this would be under the MGCB's jurisdiction with him as well.

Durkac had no further comment about the allegations either.

Skinner has had his share of success as Linden's varsity wrestling

coach, winning more than 200 matches during his tenure. He led the team to two team state tournaments. The squad advanced to the D2 state quarterfinals in 2006, losing to Middletown Thornapple-Kellogg 33-31. The Eagles advanced to the D2 state semifinals, losing to eventual state champion Allegan by a 49-19 score in that match. Skinner has won coach of the year honors at a variety of levels throughout his Linden coaching career.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

HEY, FATHER OF the 38-year-old in Holly that stole the two six packs of beer who paid the bill when the cops showed up — quit enabling your son, he's 38 years old.

SURE LOOKS NICE what Dr. Wax plans on doing for the city of Linden and her future business. That building sure looks great. But did you read the fine print? The city has their hands into something you will not have control of. If you have color signs or anything like that, you're going to fight tooth and nail. You're not going to have control over your building.

I'M A LINDENITE and I agree with the comment from the Fentonite. If you didn't shop at Felches, or buy your gas at Big Tom's where Linden City Hall is right now, or your parents didn't have a beer at the Linden Hotel, or you bought your vehicle at Close Chevrolet, you're really not a Lindenite.

HOT LINES TRYING to define liberal versus conservative are always good for a laugh. To me, a conservative is a person who thinks they have the right to tell me how to live my personal life.

ISIS members are all extreme conservatives. Do it their way or they kill you.

FROM A HISTORIC perspective, at least chronologically, the term 'white flight' was a response to the decline of the life experience in major cities. That was not the cause, the cause was before that occurred.

TRI-COUNTY TIMES PLEASE check how long or how much you have to pay to collect Social Security. I worked for many years off and on between my children and I could not collect my Social Security, I hadn't paid enough into it. After they were raised, I worked, too. I had to collect from my husband's.

SELF-ESTEEM COMES from success, not the other way around.

I'M SURE THAT first batch of Social Security people are long gone. However, there are people like my parents who worked from the time they were 16 to the time they were 60 then died a year later and never collected a penny. You're right, Social Security is a scam.

IN THE SOCIAL and political spheres, feeling good rather than doing good has characterized virtually every left-wing policy.

CLOSURES

Continued from Front Page

starting date for repairs is Monday, April 17. The estimated completion date is May 2017.

Jocelyn Hall, with the MDOT Office of Communications, said "Lahring Road will not be completely demolished, only the portion over the damaged beams."

On June 17, 2016, a contractor hauling an excavator too tall to fit beneath the overpass struck the bottom. It damaged some of the concrete and bent approximately six beams on the bottom of the bridge.

Five of the eight beams on the bridge were damaged, and the two beams that sustained the most damage need to be replaced. The remaining three damaged beams were fixed with a heat straightening technique, according to a previous Times article.

Hall said the first weekend of work, starting April 21, will include full closures for southbound U.S. 23 for up to fifteen minutes at a time between Friday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 10 a.m. Occasional single-lane closures may be required during overnight hours on weeknights from

8 p.m. through 7 a.m.

"The contractor plans to demo, remove the damaged beams, and place the new beams, in this first weekend, between the hours of midnight and 4 a.m.," Hall said.

"Lahring Road traffic will also be fully closed during some overnight hours, especially during the first weekend. The single lane of traffic that is currently open on Lahring will remain open during the daytime, so traffic is able to continue passing through with the one lane of alternating traffic maintained with temporary signals," Hall said.

"Lahring Road will not be completely demolished, only the portion over the damaged beams."

Jocelyn Hall
Michigan Department of
Transportation office of
communications

The truck driver's insurance company is paying for additional repairs. Hall said they do not have the exact amount the insurance company will pay. "The low bid accepted for the work being completed is \$535,000. There are additional costs involved because of the

initial repairs we completed on the damaged beams, the signals we placed on Lahring Road to maintain traffic for the last year, etc.," she said.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

On June 17, 2016, a contractor hauling an excavator too tall to fit beneath the overpass struck the bottom. It damaged some of the concrete and bent approximately six beams on the bottom of the bridge.



Senate Joint Resolution I and House Joint Resolution K: Repeal constitutional prohibition on graduated state income tax

Introduced by Sen. Rebekah Warren (D) and Rep. Tom Cochran (D), respectively, to place before voters in the next general election a constitutional amendment to repeal an existing prohibition on imposing a graduated income tax (as opposed to Michigan's current flat tax). Referred to committee, no further action at this time.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

WE ELECTED 'THE Donald' for one reason. Save the SCOTUS. Mission Accomplished. Everything else will just be business as usual. That's OK.

■■■

I AM ONE of the intolerant hateful Republicans who wants to know how responsible you feel in having kids when you are not able to look after them yourself but want my tax money to pay for healthcare for your kids.

■■■

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■■■

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AWARDS

Continued from Front Page

"Our Streetscape project had many hands in it that had an effect on the overall quality of the project and helped produce an outcome the community should be proud of," he said.

"The project started with the initial planning by city staff and the Downtown Development Authority (DDA). City Manager Lynn Markland, former DDA Director Michael Burns, DDA Chairman Craig Schmidt and the rest of the DDA directors all helped to bring a vision to the project."

The city's engineers, OHM Advisors from Livonia put together a great project plan and they also watched over the work of all the contractors and subcontractors on the project.

"The OHM staff and city of Fenton Department of Public Works staff were instrumental for keeping the project running smooth and for working toward completion of the project in the vision of the city was expecting," Czarnecki said.

Since the award is for the concrete work, the concrete supplier Modern Concrete from Flint, and the testing company G2 Consulting Group from



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Fenton's Streetscape was completed in Spring of 2016. The city was recently recognized by the Michigan Concrete Association, among others, for excellence in beautification.

Troy, were also recognized for their part in our project. The placement of the concrete for walkways, planters, curbs and crosswalks was done by Eastlund Concrete Construction from Holt.

"Their fine work completed the enhancements of the downtown area,"

Czarnecki said. "Final credit and thanks goes to Champagne and Marx Excavating from Saginaw who were the general contractor and led their entire construction project team."

Since the project completion, the city has also received awards from several other groups and organizations.

On Feb. 24, the Genesee County Metropolitan Planning Commission awarded the city of Fenton and the Downtown Streetscape Project their "2017 Innovation in Infrastructure Award" at its annual meeting.

On Feb. 25, the American Society of Civil Engineers, Southwest Michigan Branch, awarded the City of Fenton's Downtown Fenton Streetscape and Road Rehabilitation Project its "2017 James F. Bliskey, P.E., Quality of Life Project of the Year Award".

At the end of February, the Michigan Chapter of the American Public Works Association awarded their "2017 Project of the Year in the category of Quality of Life \$1 million to \$5 million." This award will be presented to the City at the APWA state conference in May and is a finalist for the national APWA award.

In March, Sen. Dave Robertson and our State Rep. Joseph Graves presented to the City of Fenton a Special Tribute from the State of Michigan in recognition of our

Downtown Streetscape Project and the GCMPC Award.

All of these awards can be seen at Fenton City Hall.

"We are very proud of all the awards the project has received," Czarnecki said. "While we do all our improvement projects for the betterment of the community, it is also nice to know others see how the improvements we have made in our downtown area have helped to improve our community. These awards help to push us to do just as well on all the projects and tasks we do for the city, big or small, those that affect individuals and those that have an effect on the entire community."

Streetscape recap

The city of Fenton's "Streetscape" project, which began in the spring of 2015 and was completed a year later, has won several awards for excellence. The \$4.7 million project was paid for by the DDA, with additional federal and state grant dollars.

The plan called for renovating and upgrading the streets, curbs, sidewalks, approaches and equipment like benches and trash receptacles.

The project on LeRoy Street extends from Elizabeth Street to Second Street, with reconstruction on Shiawassee Avenue, Mill and Ellen streets, and some work on Caroline Street.

The total reconstruction work, which involved complete replacement of the road and included infrastructure like storm sewers underneath, took place from Adelaide to LeRoy Street on Shiawassee, and on LeRoy, from Elizabeth to Silver Lake Road.

The streets have been upgraded with everything new from the curb to the storefront, with scalloped pavers, and wider sidewalks designed to bring pedestrians closer to store fronts.

New trees have been planted with lighted planters. The exact positions of the trees will prevent blocking the fronts of any businesses.

Instead of angled parking, there is now parallel parking.

Final touches on the project, such as landscape restoration and additional planting, etc., will take place in the spring of 2016.

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I'm starting to hate my phone

■ A millennial's struggle with a phone and social media addiction

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

I have a problem. It arises when I'm working, when I'm eating, when I'm hanging out with my friends, when I'm watching an all-right TV show, and almost every waking minute when my mind isn't 100-percent focused on something—the urge to check my phone.

I'm sick of it. I hate how much of a distraction, and how addictive, technology is. According to Time magazine, Americans check their phone eight billion times per day. It's no surprise that people between the ages of 18 and 24, my generation, check their phones most often at 74 checks per day. That number goes down as the age goes up.

Technology is very helpful. I can talk to friends from college and my aunt who recently finished another round of chemotherapy. But I also spend a lot of time on social media sites, just scrolling through Facebook or Instagram without a reason.

The other day, I had a book open on my lap ("All the Light We Cannot See" by Anthony Doerr) and I unlocked my phone to check my Instagram "really quick" and then 20 minutes later, I'm still on my phone. Why do I subconsciously find more value in stupid memes than in a Pulitzer prize-winning book?

Have my priorities shifted? No. I've been an avid reader my whole life, and if you ask me what I'm passionate about, it will be about my favorite books and authors, journalism, and my latest project. Deep down, I don't care what meme is popular this week, nor do I need to see every Facebook post that comes across my dashboard. But it's addictive entertainment that's easy to get sucked into.

I know there are psychological rea-

sons behind this. Getting a reward, or a new notification, is like getting a treat and it becomes addictive, and affirmation from people online makes us feel better about ourselves. But how much value is that bringing to your life?

When I become self aware while in that rabbit hole, I always tell myself there are many more productive things I could be doing: reading my book, writing, working on my blog, working on my latest cosplay, literally anything besides staring at a tiny screen at things that don't matter.

Out of the 77 percent of Americans (from Pew Research) who own a smartphone, how many of us do you think use them to learn something new, except for Googling something when we have a specific question? I'm learning French using an app called Duolingo, but I also could be learning about Ireland's two potato famines or Sylvia Plath's childhood instead of reading political fights on Facebook posts in the comments.

It's a staple of human nature when pop culture sites with memes are more popular than researching literally anything that challenges the human mind intellectually. Although, you could make the argument that social media is a bridge to news and information. There's value in that, but, unless you're getting paid to do it, I don't think anyone should be spending hours on social media every day.

I worry about future generations. A doctor told BBC that kids need to be bored in order for them to develop the ability to be creative. She said technology short circuits the development of creative capacity, and it enables them to entertain themselves. It's worrisome. Google it.

To fix this, I now use voice activated functions a lot, and downloaded App-Detox on my phone because, ironically, there's an app to help you get over a smartphone addiction. This app tells me how much I use each app, and I can set limits for how much I'll use each one.

It's ironic to check an app on my phone to see how much I'm using apps on my phone. But technology is a double-edge sword and I'm determined to wield it to the best of my ability — not when I want a distraction.



Hannah Ball

HOT LINE CONTINUED

WHETHER IT HAS to do with man evolving from apes or global warming caused by man, it's clear to see you have no scientific background whatsoever and don't know what you're talking about.

CONSERVATIVES ARE SO generous they don't want to feed hungry schoolchildren breakfast in the morning and they want to cut Meals on Wheels. That's how generous you are.

PEOPLE NOWADAYS SPEND too much time with diets and special pills when all that's needed is a loving heart. Whether it's a 50-yard dash or reality TV, go for a walk, smell some roses.

I THINK GOVERNOR Snyder's trying hard to catch up. Just getting back from our travels last week, there's so much more business growth in Ontario, Pennsylvania and Ohio. Michigan's getting busy but there's much more in those other places.

Can we stop fake news on Facebook?

■ New feature allows users to tag articles as false

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Facebook users can now help stop the spread of fake news.

The social media site rolled out a new feature this month that lets users alert Facebook when a story could be false.

Fake news ran rampant during this past election cycle, and data collectors found that sensational, fake news was shared more than accurate articles.

Creator of Facebook, Mark Zuckerberg, released a statement in November 2016 that reads,

"We don't want any hoaxes on Facebook. Our goal is to show people the content they will find most meaningful, and people want accurate news. We have already launched work enabling our community to flag hoaxes and fake news, and there is more we can do here. We have made progress, and we will continue to work on this to improve further."

Users can now flag these hoaxes and fake news.

When you see an article on Facebook you suspect is fake, you can click on the drop down menu that looks like a downwards arrow on the top right section of the story preview, according to vox.com. Click on "report post" and



PHOTO: CHICAGO-D.COM

Try out the new feature of Facebook that allows users to tag a news story as fake.

you have multiple options. One is "it's a fake news story."

Once that option is chosen, Facebook will be alerted and third-party fact checking sites will review the article. Those fact-checking sites include sources

like Poynter, Snopes, the Associated Press, and a few others. Once two of those sources says the story is incorrect, a little red hazard symbol will appear below it with the caption "Disputed by SITE and SITE."

Users can click on the hazard symbol and a pop-up message appears explaining that these sites have debunked the information in the article.

Critics said this won't stop people from sharing fake news. However, Facebook doesn't stop there.

See FAKE NEWS on 18A

If effective, this feature could significantly help reduce the spread of fake news everywhere.

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NEWS**Continued from Front Page**

accurate news and information they depend on.

For hundreds of years since those colonial times, newspapers have been the community watchdogs, taking elected leaders to task over questionable practices and making sure they do right by the citizenry that put them in charge.

A healthy family owned and operated newspaper, such as the Tri-County Times, serves as the store where local businesses showcase their goods and services via affordable advertising. Without their “newspaper storefront” pages, potential customers may not know they exist, resulting in loss of revenues and eventual closure.

The newspaper drives the “shop local” initiative that not only keeps your hard-earned dollars in the community, it builds a strong business base, creates jobs and generates tax dollars that help pay for effective police, fire and other essential local services.

It's truly a domino effect because a strong, locally owned and operated newspaper that does all those things results in higher home values, better schools, less crime, safer streets and a community where people want to live, work and play.

Take all that away and what do you have? Just look north to Flint to see what happens when a community loses all these factors.

Other media outlets will admit there is not a news organization that doesn't check the local hometown newspaper to find out what they may have missed. Local hometown newspapers are better staffed and equipped to bring all

the important details, not just a few on-air snippets.

Just look at the intense coverage provided by the Tri-County Times when disasters strike — disasters like F-2 tornadoes that wipe out sections of our local communities, an entire family tragically killed by carbon monoxide poisoning and a whole town set on edge by one who would have pulled the wool over all of their eyes by embezzling \$18 million. These are just a few samples of the type of comprehensive news coverage provided by the Times.

On a more heartwarming note, a 2005 Times article about a Fenton Township teen who happens to be a triple amputee, caught the attention of local officials and concerned community members. Once word got out that the home of the wheelchair-bound teen did not accommodate his needs, the community pulled together and built a new handicap-accessible home for him and his family. The Times was there from start to finish.

With the number of new ways to get news, people can begin to lose a sense of community. If everyone is looking at dozens of different news sources — i.e. TV, internet, blogs, Facebook, Twitter and other social media — there is no common point of reference that is a critical part of democracy and our community.

It's no coincidence that all the best communities to live in have a locally owned and operated newspaper.

Subscribe to it, read it and support your hometown merchants.

Great community newspapers are how we create and maintain great communities.

FAKE NEWS**Continued from Page 17A**

If a user ignores the warning and goes to share it, another pop-up message will appear with the message “Disputed by multiple, independent fact-checkers. Before you share this content, you might want to know that the fact-checking sites, SITE and SITE disputed its accuracy.”

Users can choose to cancel the action of sharing it, learn more about why it's disputed, or choose the “post anyway” option.

By doing this, Facebook is forcing people to acknowledge and consent to willingly share fake news. The Guardian found that this feature may not be universal yet, with the fake news warning working in their San Francisco office but not in Sydney or London.

Critics worry about the independent fact-checking sites being biased, and the length of time it takes these sites to review the articles.

If effective, this feature could significantly help reduce the spread of fake news everywhere. The Pew Research Center found that more than 40 percent of American adults get news on Facebook, and one in five people change their minds on a political issue or candidate after seeing information about the issue or candidate on social media.

Because Facebook has 1.8 billion active users, tagging potentially viral fake news stories as fake could help reduce the spread of misinformation.

Another new feature

Facebook also launched another feature called Town Hall, which helps users connect with their local representatives. Search “Town Hall” on the site and click on the blue icon that looks like a government building. You'll need to enter your address. After doing that, a list of your representatives will pop up and you have the option to follow and contact them.



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Will foreign language no longer be required to graduate?

■ House bill would let students take computer or art classes

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Michigan students might not be required to complete two credits of a foreign language in order to graduate if a new bill becomes law.

Instead of requiring these two foreign language credits, House Bill 4315, which passed 79 to 29 in the House, would allow students to graduate if they complete any combination of three credits in any of the following:

- If students complete one or more credits in a language other than English, they can graduate. The bill states that American Sign Language counts, as well online coursework for another language.
- Students can take visual arts, performing arts, or applied arts to fulfill this requirement.
- Students can complete a course in computer science, computer coding, or a combination of these.
- Or students can complete a department-approved formal career and technical education program.

Brian Hacker, a French teacher at Holly High School said he's not a fan of this bill.

"For starters, HB 4315 creates some false equivalencies. To say that World Languages, Visual Arts, and Computer Coding are three interchangeable disciplines is inaccurate at best. If we really believe in leading our kids to become citizens of a 21st-century, global society, we should encourage them to explore all of these areas, not just one," he said.

Skills developed while learning a new language are different from those acquired learning artistic methods or

computer science.

"What I do is not just for college-bound students. We all live in a world that is interconnected, and truly global. Our country is not monolingual, nor is our state of Michigan. I help my students learn language skills, but also to look at their own experiences in a global context. English is not the only way to communicate, nor should it be," Hacker said.

Hacker said the biggest problem he has with this bill is the implication that world languages are not important to students.

"It is a very parochial attitude that ignores the wide variety of languages and cultures around the globe, and says that Michigan high school students don't need to participate in them," he said.

Current high school graduation requirements don't serve the entire student body,

he said, and that college-bound students have different needs than those planning to immediately enter the workforce.

"I think all students can gain a great deal from learning another language. Our entire graduation requirement system ought to be overhauled to allow for more flexibility, but that is perhaps another conversation," Hacker said.

Representatives Joe Graves (R-Dist. 51) and Hank Vaupel (R-Dist. 47) both voted in favor of the bill.

Graves said, "I voted for this bill after a review and a better understanding of the impact of such a bill. I have had an ongoing discussion with educators for most of my time in the legislature, regarding a need for these types of changes."

He said schools need to stop using the "cookie cutter approach in K-12 education," and that the vast majority of stu-

dents will never use a foreign language in their life.

Hank Vaupel said he voted for the bill because, "It does give students more opportunities to explore different classes. It gives students more options, especially students that would not be college bound but are going for careers in trade."

He talked with administrators and teachers about this.

"Some of the opinions were mixed," he said, adding that there's always more administrative work involved in changes like this, but the administrators he talked to said they could handle it.

He said he believes it's a good idea to "give students that were not interested in going to college an opportunity to take the classes in the trades. It will help them be more employable and move them into better paying jobs after high school."

SUMMARY

■ If House Bill 5317 becomes law, Michigan students wouldn't have to complete two credits of a foreign language to graduate.

“It is a very parochial attitude that ignores the wide variety of languages and cultures around the globe, and says that Michigan high school students don't need to participate in them.”

Brian Hacker

Holly High School French teacher

HOT LINE CONTINUED

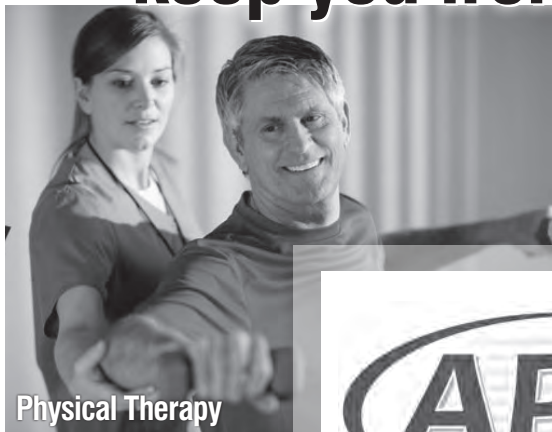
TO THE HOT-LINER who said he was pleased with what a wonderful community Fenton had become, um, excuse me, Fenton was always a great place to raise your family. It's becoming just another city.

YESTERDAY U.S. SENATOR Elizabeth Warren said the U.S. should take in all Syrian refugees. The last count was somewhere between two to four million refugees. She's just another liberal Democrat set on destroying our country.

MURDER, VIOLENCE, GANGS drugs, terrorism and illegal immigration. These are all on the rise due to incompetent Democratic leadership. It will be up to Republicans and Trump to take these issues and control them.

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

"What are these things? How many of them do I need? How will they affect me? When do I take them?" These are questions I ask myself in the medicine aisle.

Filling a medicine cabinet from scratch

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

Recovering from food poisoning is the latest reason I saw the aisle of a pharmacy. For the first time in months, I was scanning the wall-to-wall medicine, looking for a bright pink bottle of Pepto Bismol.

Stocking a medicine cabinet is not a skill I carried into adulthood. Instead, I would get sick, ask my sister what I should buy, and then I'd add that item to the disorganized pile. This week it was the gross pink stuff.

My mom, step mom, and sister are or were medical professionals, so I asked them what I, (an adult at 35) should keep on hand for everyday life.

To be clear, I'm not a doctor, and neither the 'Times, nor my mom(s) are offering professional advice on what you should take. That's what the internet is for. Just kidding — see a doctor.

But here's what the smart women said.

The first thing to note is that over-the-counter (OTC) meds can be condition, or age appropriate. Some regular meds like ibuprofen can raise one's blood pressure, which can be inadvisable. Some meds can cause ulcers in certain people. So, consult a primary care physician.

If you have old meds already, check the labels for expiration dates, and even

write the date on the bottle, big, with a Sharpie marker.

When buying meds, check the expiration date as well. If it's discounted, it may be expiring soon.

A SHORT MEDICINE CABINET LIST:

- **Tylenol** (acetaminophen) for fever
- **Motrin** (ibuprofen) for headaches, body aches, fever
- **Aspirin** can also help in the case of a heart attack.
- **Claritin, Zyrtec** or **Benadryl** for allergic reactions
- Any **cold medicine** you'd like
- A decent sized **first-aid kit** will cover a lot of emergency medical needs. Make sure there is peroxide, anti-itch cream, ace wrap and tweezers.
- Of course, add a **thermometer, sunscreen, calamine lotion** and **Neosporin** in case the kit doesn't come with it.
- Phone number for **poison control** — (800) 222-1222



Tim Jagielo

STORING YOUR MEDS

- Most medications should be stored in a dry place away from heat and humidity.
- Some medications also have special instructions for storage. Check for special instructions on your prescription label.



H SPRING **OME**
& GARDEN

See the Spring Home & Garden featured section included with this edition.

Times

WHAT YOU MISSED in the MIDWEEK TIMES

Compiled by Vera Hogan

The following are stories you may have missed in the **Wednesday, April 12, Midweek Times**. To subscribe and receive both the Midweek and Sunday Weekend editions, please call (810) 629-8282.

Tuesday, April 18 is income tax filing deadline this year

This year's tax deadline is April 18 because April 15 falls on a Saturday, and April 17 is a holiday in the District of Columbia.



Water levels high, flood watch ended Tuesday

Many area lakes and rivers feeling effects of wet and stormy spring.

Rain wreaking havoc on 394 miles of gravel roads

Genesee County Road Commission fields thousands of complaints.

Holly DDA votes against Bladzik appointment

Majority of DDA against 'assistant village manager' being part of job title.

Calendar of events

American Legion dinner meeting

The American Legion Post 38 in Fenton is hosting a dinner meeting beginning **at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 18** at John's Pizzeria at 1492 N. LeRoy St.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

TO THE PERSON begrudging Donald Trump needing Secret Service, why should he not when he is our president? All former presidents, except Jimmy Carter, are still receiving services and they are no longer our president.

YESTERDAY, TOYOTA ANNOUNCED a \$1.3 billion investment in their Kentucky plant. They also committed to \$10 billion in these plants over the next five years and they did credit President Trump for his strong role in keeping these 82,000 jobs in the United States. Keep going President Trump, you're on a roll.

HAVE YOU NOTICED none of the conservatives are howling about how much time and money Trump spends on his vacations. He has spent \$21 million in 81 days. He is on track to spend as much in one year as President Obama had spent in eight.

MITCH MCCONNELL IS such a hypocrite. How can people not see that? He advocates for blocking a hearing on Merrick Garland and gets upset when Democrats won't go for Gorsuch. He vows to block any and all Obama legislation, but cries foul when the Democrats show no support for Trump.

PURSES

Continued from Page 8A

This is the second year Sawyer and Zonta have partnered for Purses for Protection. Beltinck said the event is run through their new foundation called Gem Charities. The money will be split between the YWCA's sexual assault crisis center and the Zonta teen dating violence program.

Denise Keipert, a Zonta Club member who's also the Board of Directors for the YWCA, said Beltinck approached the YWCA last year.

The safe center has nurses available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to provide medical exams to sexual assault survivors. Counseling and advocacy services are available. All services are free and confidential.

Keipert said the center has been open since January and 17 women have already come in, seeking help.

"Hopefully some of the stories that were sold (at Purses for Protection) will bring awareness. We want awareness. We want people to know the signs and know how to help," she said, adding that one in four women experience domestic abuse, which could be physical,

financial, emotional, or mental abuse.

"It's not just physical," she said. "If we can bring public awareness and help the safe center, it's a good thing."

Keipert said they're still accepting donations, and designer bags can be turned in throughout the year.

Marie Todorovsky of Fenton was happy with her purchase of a \$20 purple Joy & Iman bag during the event's silent auction. "I've always wanted a purple purse," she said Todorovsky, who matched the purse to her outfit and lipstick. "I wanted to support Mary Ann (Beltinck) and the cause. What they're doing is amazing. I grew up in sort of a violent household, so it hits pretty close to home."

Beltinck said, "The event went great. I think we had a little over 100 people here, 100 women. Some men, which is great to see."

She wants people to know that "A lot of women in a relationship that is experiencing this (domestic abuse) feel that they're not strong enough to get out. But if you're strong enough to stay in, hoping it will change, hoping you can stick with it, hoping you can

change this person, you can deal with the situation you're in, that's a lot of strength," Beltinck said. "If you're that strong there, you're definitely strong enough to get out of the situation."

"I have a wonderful life now. I have a very stable relationship, very stable life. I have an absolutely wonderful family, my kids are amazing. I wouldn't trade them for the world. I wouldn't change what I went through to get where I'm at now, because it made me even stronger," she said.

ACCEPTABLE DONATIONS

Donations can be dropped off at the YWCA, at 801 S. Saginaw St., Flint.

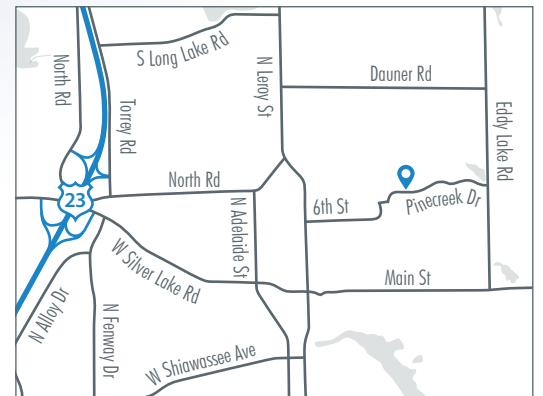
- Hand sanitizer, without fragrance (no lotion)
- Fuzzy socks or slippers
- Crib sheets
- Kleenex
- Small white kitchen garbage bags
- Sharpies
- Flash drives
- Fleece blankets
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Linden/Fenton player Tyler Bourassa looks to take a shot in the team's victory against Ovid-Elsie.

Wolves keep on growing, defeat Ovid-Elsie decisively

By David Troppens
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Fenton — Two years ago, the Fenton/Linden varsity co-op boys lacrosse program was starting its varsity season behind the rest of the state.

Not only was it their first season, but the squad

got a late jump with practices due to the fact it took awhile to find a first-year coach. Once the team did, Stan Orzel was the coach selected and remains the varsity coach. There also was very little experience on the team.

"The first year was very slow because we were brand new to the sport," junior Luke White said. "It was almost April

before we started. Our skills — we have really picked it up. We can practice like a game. We can get a lot more done than we used to. ... Now we can work on plays like picks, pick and roll and shooting."

CONTINUED ONLINE AT
► TCTIMES.COM

SUNDAY, APRIL 16, 2017 | PAGE 22A | WWW.TCTIMES.COM/SPORTS

Times Sports

Eagles looking to soar again in 2017

■ Linden baseball sweeps season-opening DH against Blue Devils

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

Linden — Lucas Marshall was probably a little lucky to be pitching at all on Tuesday during Linden's first varsity baseball game of the season.

A day before leaving Florida to come back to Michigan, Marshall slammed one of his fingers in a sliding door. He had actually super-glued one of his fingernails back in place. But apparently it didn't bother him a bit on Tuesday. Marshall was one of three Linden pitchers that combined to toss a five-inning no-hitter in the Eagles' season-opening contest against the Lake Fenton Blue Devils. Linden won the first game 10-0 and also the second in a much tighter affair 4-3.

"It blew up pretty bad," Marshall said. "But it's not too bad any more. I don't notice it anymore."

It's not a shock that the Eagles' pitching looked good in their first game of the season. Linden returns its top three starting pitchers from a season ago. However, of the three to combine for the no-hitter, Marshall was the only hurler of those returning three to pitch. Marshall tossed two innings of three-strike out ball, taking only 22 pitches to do so. Travis Klocek followed with three strikeouts and two walks over two innings while John Miller tossed the final inning, striking out two and walking one.

CONTINUED ONLINE AT
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TRI-COUNTY TIMES
DAVID TROPPENS

(Top) Linden's Nick Koan jumps to avoid the tag by Lake Fenton catcher Jaeden Yurk. (Left photo) Lake Fenton's Chris Tomczyk scores while Linden pitcher Mike Brown tries to make a tag. Linden won both games of the doubleheader on Tuesday.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | MARK BOLEN

Fenton's Lucy Foguth (right) and Lake Fenton's Mackenzie Rampy battle for the ball in the Blue Devils' 3-1 victory against Fenton.

Blue Devils off to strong start

■ LF opens season with defeats vs. Holly, Fenton

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

Lake Fenton — Lake Fenton's Ashlyn Skidmore couldn't be happier about how her team's varsity girls soccer season has begun.

Within the last week, the squad has two victories against larger area schools that can be considered local rivals. The run started with a 4-2 victory against the Holly Bronchos on Tuesday, and ended with another pretty decisive 3-1 victory against the Fenton Tigers.

"This is great redemption because we lost to Holly, playing a bad game last year," Skidmore said. "We played terrible. And I don't think we've beaten Fenton in a long time, so this is awesome, especially playing down one (player). We did great."

That was another aspect about how impressive the Blue Devils' victory was against Fenton, they did play a player down for about two-thirds of the contest after a red card was administered to one of their players.

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPENS

Linden's Kim Freitas slides into home safely before Lake Fenton's Erin Ezell is able to make the tag during the Lake Fenton Blue Devils' doubleheader sweep against the Eagles on Tuesday.

Rinks captures 400th win in LF's sweep against Linden Eagles

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

Linden — Amos Rinks had a little bit more reason to celebrate Lake Fenton's doubleheader sweep to start the 2017 softball season than you'd expect when facing a non-league foe.

With the sweep, the Lake Fenton varsity softball coach captured his 400th career victory.

Lake Fenton defeated Linden 9-4 in the opening contest and then 8-5 for his 400th win in the twinbill at Linden High School. He has a 264-126 record at Lake Fenton and went 136-28 while coaching in Indiana prior to coming to Lake Fenton.

"I am not done coaching so these so-called milestones are just stepping stones," Rinks said. "I hope to be able to coach until I get 400 wins in Michigan."

If wins were so important to me, I could schedule less competitive teams and accomplish this goal quicker, but this is not about me. It is about helping these hard working Lake Fenton girls get another state title someday, and hopefully soon. I have great assistant coaches. I have great young players that want to win and play hard. I have some good talent coming in from the junior high for our future. That kind of combination lends to great possibilities. We set high goals each year to strive for, but they are not too high that we can't attain them."

The Blue Devils scored five runs in the second inning, blowing open the first contest.

CONTINUED ONLINE AT
➤ **TCTIMES.COM**

Linden soccer captures first victory of season vs. Heritage

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

The Linden varsity girls soccer team had to wait a long time to avenge its season-opening 1-0 loss to the Fenton Tigers. They had to wait over two weeks to be exact.

However, the Eagles finally were given a second chance to play a contest on Wednesday, earning a relatively easy 4-0 victory against Saginaw Heritage at Linden High School.

Maddie Zayan led the offense with two goals, while Hannah Wabel and Alia Frederick had a goal each. Frederick had a strong night creating scoring chances, assisting two goals. Erica Freeman and Madison Paige had an assist as well. Paige, who played keeper, earned the shutout, making five saves.

Linden returns to action on Saturday at the Chelsea Tournament. The Eagles travel to Bay City John Glenn on Tuesday.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | KLARI FREDERICK
Linden's Taylor Acox (left) battles for a loose ball in the Eagles' 4-0 victory vs. Saginaw Heritage.

Online Exclusives STORIES ONLINE AT **TCTIMES.COM**

Fenton soccer falls to Powers, Dexter

The Fenton varsity girls soccer team had a couple of breaks go against them, resulting in a tough 1-0 loss to Powers Catholic on Monday.

Fenton also lost a 3-0 verdict to Dexter on Wednesday.

The goal in the Powers' game was provided by the Chargers' Sophie Bubnar just 11 minutes into the game.

Linden baseball splits with Dragons

The Linden varsity baseball team opened the Metro League season with a split against Swartz Creek.

Linden (1-1, 3-1) lost the opening game 5-3, but bounced back to crush the Dragons in the nightcap 7-0.

In the second game, the Eagles scored seven runs in the bottom of the third to blow the game open.

Holly baseball wins in extra innings

Holly scored the game-tying run in the top of the sixth and then scored the game-winning run in the top of the eighth, leading the Bronchos past Kearsley 3-2 in the opening game of a baseball doubleheader.

Holly's eighth opened with walks to Peyton Bilbia, Johnny Peck and Grant Tooley.

Holly softball earns win vs. Notre Dame

The Holly varsity softball team waited until the final inning before making a rally for its first victory of the season on Monday, but the Bronchos got it done just before darkness ended the contest.

Holly trailed 3-0 after three innings but scored a run in the fourth and five in the fifth, earning a 6-3 second-game victory against Notre Dame Prep.

Holly opens Metro season with split

The Holly varsity softball team continues to show signs of steady progress.

The Bronchos captured their second win of the season in a doubleheader split against Kearsley on Thursday.

Holly lost the opening game 14-4 but bounced back to win the second game 4-2.

Holly scored two runs in the opening inning off an RBI-double by Katie Dewey.

Linden softball sweeps Dragons

Linden scored two runs in the bottom of the sixth to earn a thrilling 3-2 victory in the opening game of a Metro League doubleheader with Swartz Creek on Thursday.

The Eagles capped the day with a sweep by blowing out the Dragons in the second game 14-4.












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