

The chickens must go

■ Increase in urban agriculture conflicts with Fenton Township Master Plan

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

Fenton Twp.— A Fenton Township man has 27 days to get rid of his chickens from a vote decided in August 2016. It's rare that the

Fenton Township Board of Trustees is deadlocked in a vote. However, when discussing whether Michael Krause could rezone his property on Hogan Road and apply for a special land use permit to keep his chickens, the board had a long discussion and the vote was 3-3 in that July 2016 meeting. The motion to rezone his property did not pass. Krause was able to keep his chickens until this point for

unknown reasons — the removal was not enforced.

In August 2016, Krause first went to the Planning Commission and asked to rezone his property from R-3, single family residential, to R-1, single family residential so he could keep the chickens he's had for decades. His request was denied because

See **CHICKENS** on 18A



SUMMARY

■ Fenton Township is seeing an upward trend in backyard agriculture. More and more people want to have chickens and grow their own food. However, this trend conflicts with the township's Master Plan.



PAGE 1B
AROUND THE
WORLD TRAVEL
SERIES FEATURES
NORWAY

Weekend Times

SUNDAY EDITION

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2016 NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

Fenton officials considering 6-mill referendum for roads

■ Five-year project cost is over \$12 million

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

There is only one way the roads in the city of Fenton are going to get fixed — if voters pass a citywide millage.

The Fenton City Council held a special meeting on Monday, April 17 to review the results of a street study and consider funding options for street and infrastructure improvements and repairs.

Tim Juidici with OHM Advisors, the city's engineering firm, provided council members with a five-year plan for road projects. The plan details Fenton roads in need of repairs and rated their condition from 1 to 10, with 1 being the worst condition.

See **ROADS** on 20A



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

The Elmwood subdivision, off North Road, which includes Southwood, Westwood and Woodbine, have among the worst roads in the city. These roads are slated for reconstruction in 2019. Three Elmwood Drive residents were represented at the special meeting on Monday, April 17. One said her road had not seen repairs in over 40 years.

Income tax is not the only tax we're levied

■ Americans are caught in tax slavery

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

Benjamin Franklin wrote in a 1789 letter that "Our new Constitution is now established, and has an appearance that promises permanency; but in this world nothing can be said to be certain except death and taxes."

He wasn't kidding!

When the federal income tax was originally introduced a little more

See **TAX** on 7A

Lahring Road bridge work begins this weekend



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Work to repair the Lahring Road bridge was expected to begin in earnest at about midnight Saturday morning, April 22.

■ Some road closures will be necessary

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

Work on the Lahring Road bridge is taking place this weekend. 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.

See **CLOSURES** on 17A

Mayor, three council seats up for grabs in city of Fenton

■ Deadline to submit petitions for November election is July 25

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

City of Fenton residents have approximately three months to decide whether they would like to hold public office.

In addition to the two-year term of mayor, three four-year terms are up for grabs.

See **MAYOR** on 16A



“The worst program ever initiated for our kids is the idiotic and traumatizing ‘stranger danger’ agenda. We have traumatized hundreds of millions of children for no reason.

We have taught our children to live in fear.”

“America exists because our forefathers rebelled against taxation without representation. Our elected leaders are worse thieves than King George. It's time for another resolution against the politicians who steal from us and laugh at us. Stand up America, we are at war with our own government.”

“I am embarrassed by the foolish and unwarranted character assassination of one of the best teachers in the Linden school system. School authorities should be embarrassed also. If all Linden personnel had half the character he does, the world would be a better place. Everyone involved should be ashamed.”

COMMENT OF THE WEEK

“All Americans need to realize that our country and our politicians are stealing us blind through insane taxation of everything they can think of. Just read the Times each week and see the new taxes from Michigan legislators. The IRS is a dysfunctional mess and should be dismantled. Help!”



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SUNDAY
1-3PM

DAVISON

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\$149,900

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Exceptionally maintained one owner home. Open floor plan with cathedral ceilings and hardwood floors throughout the first floor. Kitchen features granite counter tops, reverse osmosis system and all appliances. Dining room has inlay feature in floors and sliding door out to Trex deck. First floor master with master bath as well as first floor laundry.

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Call Donna Fraidenburg 810-845-1971



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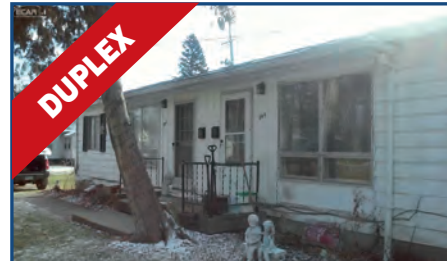
FENTON

19107 Hickory Ridge

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

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SPACIOUS

FENTON

9170 Bennett Lake

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

\$349,900

Call Patrik Welty 810-750-2300



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SHORES

LINDEN

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CONDO

GRAND BLANC

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\$124,900

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BYRON

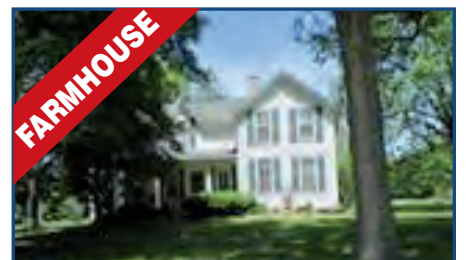
16222 Murray

Private full acre with frontage on all sports Lake Cardinal. No need to fight up north traffic this summer when you can enjoy all of it right from your own backyard. House was taken down to the studs in 2004 and remodeled. Beautiful views from every window.

4 bedrooms, partially finished basement and a 2 car garage.

\$210,000

Call Patrik Welty 810-750-2300



FARMHOUSE

FENTON

12179 Rohn

Great location and a beautiful parcel of land come with this unique farmhouse! Barn and out buildings. Possible splits available. Mature trees and pond site. If you so desire, have your horses, chickens, cows or goats and your own garden! Currently furnace is LP, but natural gas is now available.

\$249,000

Call Shelia Rhoades 810-348-7357



PRIME
LOCATION

HOLLY

507 N. Saginaw Street

Prime commercial location in the village of Holly.

Building is right on the main drag across from the new Dollar General.

Excellent visibility with high traffic count. Free span building offers many possibilities.

\$269,900

Call Patrik Welty 810-750-2300



IRISH
VILLAGE

DAVISON

Faulkner

Best of both worlds with this stunning parcel of vacant land accessible at the end of a cul de sac in the popular Irish Village sub in coveted Davison schools! Build your dream home; hunt, ride, sit under the stars, and have that country feel all while entering on a secluded and quiet subdivision street where kids ride bikes and play!

\$69,900

Call Kevin Usealman 810-695-6552



GREAT
OPPORTUNITY

FLINT

3409 N. Jennings

Great opportunity!

Come see this wonderful commercial property. Currently used for lumber processing, this 4 acre property with large parking lot and new office add-on is perfect for any business. Plenty of room for machinery on the lot.

Spacious facility includes two separate workshops and a loft!

\$150,000

Call Kelsey Kerr 810-210-4155



COMMERCIAL

FENTON

511 Beach

Large parcel with many commercial and/or light industrial possibilities! Property is over 8 acres and in the city of Fenton.

The building is actively being used for storage and boat maintenance; however it does need substantial repairs.

\$449,900

Call Patrik Welty 810-750-2300

TORNADO SEASON IS HERE

■ The busiest months for storms and tornadoes in Michigan are in the spring and summer

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

You never think it will happen to you, until it does.

In Fenton, that moment came 10 years ago on Aug. 24, 2007, when many local families were just sitting down to dinner. That's when an F2 tornado plowed into the heart of this city, damaging homes, municipal buildings, businesses and trees.

SUMMARY

■ The months of May, June, July and August are the most active for violent weather, including tornadoes in Michigan. You and your family need to be ready with a plan before the unexpected happens.

That same year, a tornado hit Davisburg Elementary School in the Holly School District, causing \$600,000 worth of damage.

Fortunately, no one was hurt as a direct result of either tornado. However, the unpredictable, scary

path of these storms has left an indelible mark on every person's vulnerability in the face of violent weather, especially as we head into storm season this year.

The months of May, June, July and August are considered the most dangerous for severe weather and tornado outbreaks in Michigan. They typically occur in the late afternoon and evening, although they can happen anytime of the day, during any month.

In 2016, 16 tornadoes roared across the state, including six in the Upper Peninsula, a weather record. Flooding, severe thunderstorms and tornadoes caused about \$160 million in damages.

The average lead-time for tornadoes to develop is only about 10 to 15 minutes, which means residents need to be ready to act quickly when a warning is issued.

See **TORNADO** on 19A



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

In a restroom, which they used as their safe room in case of a tornado, Rebecca Heil's second-grade class waits for the tornado drill to end on Wednesday at West Shore Elementary School. Rooms are checked to make sure there is enough space to accommodate everyone.

Tornado drill goes off without a hitch

■ Elementary school coincides practice with national event

By Tim Jagielo

tjagiolo@tctimes.com
810-433-6795

Lake Fenton — At precisely 1 p.m. on April 19, the bell sounded, and the halls of West Shore Elementary School were filled with an orderly stampede to the nearest safe room, which for some classes was a restroom.

Inside, teachers and aides wait with students, for the "all clear" from Principal Sonya Shaughnessy.

This was one of five tornado drills West Shore Elementary will complete in the school year. This one was scheduled to coincide with the statewide tornado drill.

Ray Gifford, director of childcare at the school, said, "Michigan is a weather wonderland, and a tornado can pop up at any time. We do have severe weather quite often."

Gifford was there for the 2007 tornado. "We did have a summer program here, and the staff were able to take the children to safety," he said.

WATCH THE VIDEO



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Come *Heller* high water

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Random thoughts

One of the best things about the internet is its instantness. Anyone can broadcast whatever they want to the world in a snap. That's also the worst thing about the internet.

No one should have wanted to see the video of the Facebook murderer killing of 74-year-old Robert Godwin Sr., God rest his soul.

But a lot of people did. It was viewed more than 1.6 million times before it was removed.

I'm just glad I didn't accidentally see it. I don't want to see that. I don't need to see that. And if you did — if you will-



Andrew Heller
FEATURED COLUMNIST

ingly sought out the video and consumed it — may it haunt you the rest of your days. I inadvertently saw a few seconds of reporter Daniel Pearl's beheading at the hands of terrorists and to this day it

in dreams.

You can be certain we'll see more of that kind of thing in the future. Bad people copycat this sort of thing. I'm firmly convinced a lot of the slaughters we see today are a direct result of Columbine. Hug your loved ones close.

- **I wish Trump** would spellcheck his tweets. He needs a talking to from my high school English teacher: "Tax Returns should not be capitalized, young man. And the term is 'hereby,' not 'hear by.'"

- **C'mon, winter, let go,** wouldja? No more days in the 40s, OK? I say that because I just attended a high school track meet. Four hours sitting on a metal bench. There's no weather worse than track weather.

- **At the request** of Prime Minister Theresa May, Great Britain will hold a special early election for her job, even though one wasn't scheduled for three more years. Hey, America, are you thinking what I'm thinking?

- **A packet of McDonald's** Szechuan sauce from 1998 just sold on eBay for \$14,000. The guy who sold it found it

on the floor of a used car he bought. So tomorrow, I'm searching the minivan. I'm guessing there are at least a hundred McDonald's French fries back there that are at least as old as that sauce packet. Who knew having kids would pay off someday?

- **It's promposal season.** Every teenage boy is busy figuring out a big, showy way to ask a girl to the prom. I think that's unfair. How's a girl supposed to say no when the kid asking her rents a Lamborghini, hires Mr. T to drive it, and has the local marching band play "entrance" music? C'mon. Too much pressure. I prefer the old way. Boy asks girl way out of his league. She says 'no' and he goes home and develops a lifelong complex about what a loser he is.

- **"Let me give you a wonderful Zen practice.** Wake up in the morning, look in the mirror, and laugh at yourself." — Bernie Glassman

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.

“I inadvertently saw a few seconds of reporter Daniel Pearl's beheading at the hands of terrorists and to this day it comes back to me in dreams.”

Hotlines

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

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

HOPEFULLY, FENTON CAN replace the broken picnic table on the island in Bush Park and repair the damage to the gazebo at the Mill Pond soon. I hope they weren't damaged on purpose. The parks in this city are one of the best parts of living here. Let's not trash them and let's keep them clean. Thank you.

NO, FOX NEWS is repulsive, \$13 million to bail out O'Reilly. People get your heads on. Trump spends \$3 million every time he goes to Florida, not to mention his boys' security traveling the world. They act like a monarchy.

THE MAIN REASON that journalism is down nearly 50 percent is because most of them now try to create news as opposed to report it. Similar to what Heller tries to do in his column.

LINDEN WOLVES LACROSSE parents are disgusted with the Hot-liner who commented on the 'annoying Lax Mom.' Volunteer your time to coordinate 39 players, 38 sets of parents, every home and away game with logistics, organize fundraisers, volunteer for every game, collect fees and much more. This is a full-time job. Thank you to the awesome mom who does all this. Go Wolves.

SO THE FENTON City Council is now a business that will sell a variance for the right price. Something is rotten in the city of Fenton.

PLANNED PARENTHOOD DOES not use federal money to pay for abortions.

It's a fact. It is prohibited by law. And if you don't like abortions, put your money where your mouth is and start donating to foster care and impoverished children. Hypocrites.

EPA MISSION IS to protect health and environment. EPA's purpose is enforcing regulations based on laws passed by Congress. Did the EPA director cancel clean air, radiation and chemical laws passed by Congress, or just cancel certain EPA regulations never voted on by Congress? They might have overstepped their responsibilities.

REPUBLICANS HAVE BECOME 'RepubliCan'ts.' Can't govern. Can't legislate. Can't stop lying. Can't play by the rules. Can't be accountable. Real good at gerrymandering, though.

PEOPLE WHO ARE saying Trump's weekends away are fine while Obama spent too much, please know that Trump is on pace to outspend Obama's entire eight years in one year.

WAR 'WÄR, VERB: to be in active or vigorous conflict. Armistice 'är-mə-stəs', noun: a temporary suspension of hostilities. Source: Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary. A 60-year suspension of hostilities is not temporary. The war in Korea is over.

WE LIVE NEAR downtown Fenton and this weekend had someone leave a beer can on our front lawn, and had a dog use our yard as it's personal restroom, and the owner did not pick up after the dog. We work hard to keep our yard clean for our kids, neighborhood, and town. Please pick up after yourself.

THE MICHIGAN HOUSE and Senate are on a two-week spring break? I never had any such perk, nor do I know anyone other than politicians and their cronies that do.

MR. HELLER, JUST to let you know, Hillary would have never gotten my vote no matter what. No fake news or real facts would change my mind.

IN LIGHT OF recent events, I think someone needs to tell black people that black lives matter. Where's the outrage from them when an innocent 74-year-old man gets blasted? If that was a white dude, they'd be freaking.

I WISH THE Facebook killer would have rolled up on me. I would have handled his a\$\$ back to him.

See **HOT LINE** throughout Times

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What tax bothers you the most?

Compiled by Hannah Ball, staff reporter

streettalk



"Probably income tax because it's unfair. Big money doesn't pay their fair share."

Mike Jacques
Argentine Township



"I'm the kind of person who tries not to think about it. The tax that takes the most out of your paycheck, income tax."

Stephany Velasquez
Brighton



"I believe we have to pay taxes in order to have all the roads and things we need to be the America that we are."

Donna Hajec
Fenton



"I think property tax. There's no end to property tax, it keeps going up every year. Mine goes up every year and I'm on a fixed income."

Velda Bishop
Fenton Township



"Probably property taxes. All the taxes they have on gasoline in the state of Michigan."

Dave Bradley
Fenton Township

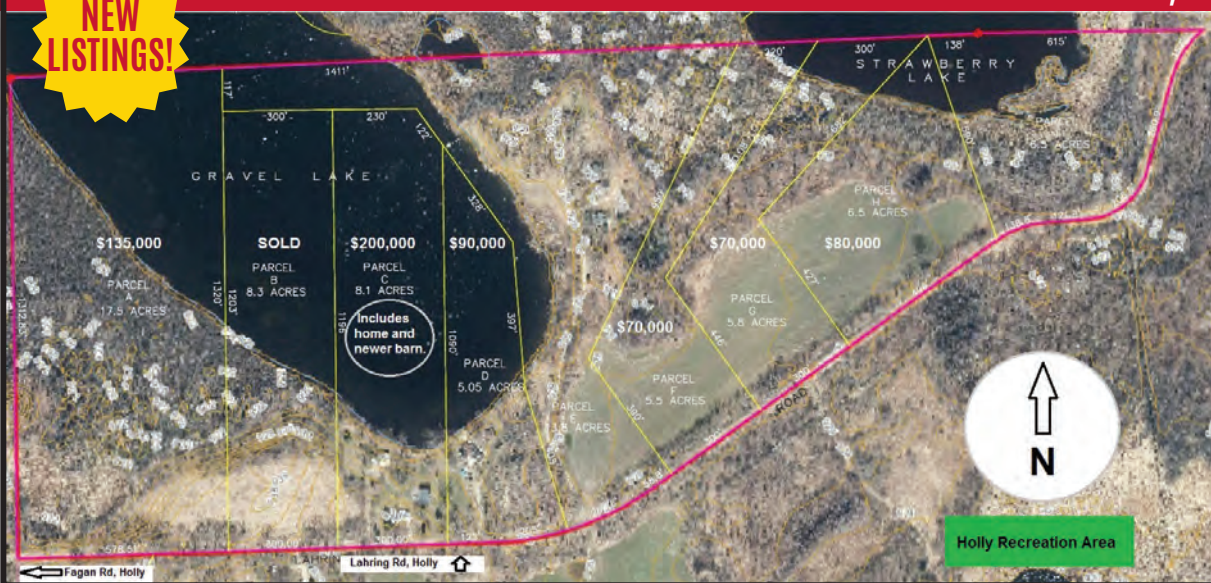


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LAKE FENTON SCHOOLS

2068 Wiggins • Fenton
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FENTON

904 Eagle Dr. • Fenton
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Still Meadow Lane • Fenton
\$181,000



5452 Chatham Ln • Grand Blanc
\$190,000



4260 Neal Ct. • Linden
\$290,000



425 Jayne Rd. • Fenton
\$280,000



2300 N. Long Lake • Fenton
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Voters to decide 911 surcharge increase

■ If approved, monthly fee will go up from \$1.24 to \$1.86 per device

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

On Jan. 30, the Genesee County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to let voters decide the matter of increasing the 911 surcharge.

On Tuesday, May 2, they will do just that. The Genesee County Central Dispatch Proposition for 9-1-1 System Funding, asks: "Shall the County of Genesee, Michigan be authorized to assess a charge on all landline, wireless, and voice over the internet protocol (VoIP) service users located within Genesee County of up to \$1.86 per month, for a period ending December 31, 2021, to be distributed exclusively for funding of 9-1-1- emergency call answering and dispatch services within Genesee County including facilities, equipment, maintenance and operating costs?"

The 9-1-1 funding question is the only thing on the ballot for local voters.

If approved by the voters on May 2, the per-device fee will go up from \$1.24 to \$1.86, which will generate \$2.6 million

for county 911 operations.

Prior to leaving the city, former Police Chief Rick Aro told Fenton City Manager Lynn Markland that an audit conducted by Genesee Central indicated that the current surcharge will not sustain their operations.

Fenton has its own 9-1-1 dispatch center. Its 9-1-1 dispatch operational cost in 2015 was \$278,989, according to Aro. The sum of \$135,196 was received in surcharge revenue and the balance of \$141,800 was funded through the city's general fund.

The proposed surcharge increase would result in \$67,000 more in 9-1-1 surcharge revenue for the city, Aro said.

County Commissioner Drew Shapiro (District 6) said at the time that the vote needs to be done in May. Once a year on May 15, the phone companies report to the state of Michigan. If the matter of a surcharge fee increase were to wait until later in the year, the county would have to wait another entire year to collect the much needed funds.

In the event of a successful vote on May 2, collection of the additional funds will begin in November.

The polls open at 7 a.m. on Tuesday, May 3 and will be open until 8 p.m.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

■■■■
THERE WILL NEVER be a Navy blockade or show of force that will stop a nuclear launch. By researching the work of author James Douglas, I found how diplomatic ground was established not only by JFK and Khrushchev but also with the help of Pope John, Thomas Merton, and political journalist Norman Cousins. It was diplomacy at its best.

■■■■
DON'T TELL ME you can't have birth control. If you don't like it, don't have it yourself, but don't tell others they can't have it.

■■■■
IN RECENT HISTORY, we've had three Republican presidents who have brought down the taxes on the very rich, no one else. It's all resulted in recessions and four wars. I guess we want to repeat that again.

■■■■
OBAMA DIDN'T TAKE off every weekend, he just took off occasionally. Trump has already spent more on traveling than Obama did for his four years in office, and Trump's only been in office a couple months.

■■■■
WE'LL SEE HOW you like Donald Trump when you start growing mushroom clouds to the east and west coast of this country.

■■■■
IN REGARDS TO the wrestling coach, I can't believe what I just read.

Unbelievable that this man who has helped inspire so many children to better themselves and go on to college and has dedicated his life to teaching children while at work and while off is being slighted by such a disrespectful reason is beyond me. I'm stunned.

■■■■
COACH SKINNER IS one of the good guys. He's one of the best teachers Linden has ever had and one of the best coaches and it sickens me that some PC parent can destroy a man's career, a man who has helped so many kids.

■■■■
I CAN'T BELIEVE I read that article last week by Vera Hogan saying that we should leave poor old Bill Cosby alone because she believes two or three women might be telling the truth but not all 60. So then it's OK to drug and rape a few people, just not 60.

■■■■
YOU WANT TO talk about personal responsibility, how about 'love thy neighbor and others.' Try some of those things.

■■■■
WOW, VERA HOGAN. I'm surprised at you. From your past columns, which I've usually found delightful, I thought you have never wanted to protect a rapist.

■■■■
WHEN IS SOMEONE going to start up a canoe livery? We need one. Everybody else has one with a river. What's wrong with Fenton?

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Only four states pay more in gasoline tax

■ Michiganders pay average of \$356 annually per vehicle

On “Tax Day,” this year Tuesday, April 18, \$198 million is the amount of tax that local, state and federal officials received thanks to gasoline taxes. Gasoline taxes, amount to \$72 billion a year for local, state and federal coffers, with all of that except \$198 million received on days not considered Tax Day, according to GasBuddy.com.

Gasoline taxes are collected from motorists with every fill-up. While the federal gas tax of 18.4 cents per gallon has not been increased since 1993, there has been renewed talk of increasing the tax from various politicians in recent years. In addition, motorists must pay local and state tax on gas.

Nowhere in the U.S. is the pain worse than in Pennsylvania, where a total of 78 cents of every gallon are diverted to local, state and federal taxes. The average nationally sees nearly 50 cents per gallon spent on gas taxes, while in Alaska, motorists pay the least on gasoline taxes — 31 cents per gallon.

The average American will spend \$297 on gasoline taxes this year, while households with two vehicles will spend nearly \$600. Motorists in Pennsylvania, however, will spend \$466 per vehicle this year. Nationally, gas taxes in the Mid-Atlantic states average the highest: 62.5 cents per gallon, while taxes in the South average the lowest: 38.7 cents per gallon.

States with higher than average combined gasoline taxes and the yearly cost of gas taxes:

| | STATE COMBINED TAX* | YEARLY COST** |
|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| Pennsylvania | 77.70 | \$466.20 |
| Washington | 67.80 | \$406.80 |
| Hawaii | 62.62 | \$375.72 |
| New York | 61.94 | \$371.64 |
| Michigan | 59.34 | \$356.04 |
| Connecticut | 58.55 | \$351.30 |
| California | 57.20 | \$343.20 |
| New Jersey | 55.50 | \$333.00 |
| Florida | 55.19 | \$331.14 |
| North Carolina | 52.95 | \$317.70 |
| National Average | 49.50 | \$297.00 |

*Average C/Gal, as of 4/1/17
**Cost Per Vehicle, Average

TAX

Continued from Front Page

than 100 years ago, for example, most Americans were taxed at a rate of only 1 percent.

Since that time, tax rates have gone much higher and the tax code is now 3.8 million words long. If you took all of William Shakespeare’s works and collected them together, the entire collection would only be about 900,000 words long.


The United States appears to have the most convoluted tax system in the history of the planet.

In addition to annual income taxes, the following, according to **zerohedge.com**, are 97 additional taxes, from A-Z that Americans pay:

1. Air transportation taxes
2. Biodiesel fuel taxes
3. Building permit taxes
4. Business Registration Fees
5. Capital gains taxes
6. Cigarette taxes
7. Court Fines (indirect taxes)
8. Disposal Fees
9. Dog license taxes
10. Drivers license fees (another form of taxation)
11. Employer health insurance mandate tax
12. Employer Medicare taxes
13. Employer Social Security taxes
14. Environmental fees
15. Estate taxes
16. Excise taxes on comprehensive health insurance plans
17. Federal corporate taxes
18. Federal income taxes
19. Federal unemployment Taxes
20. Fishing license taxes
21. Flush taxes (yes, this actually exists in some areas)
22. Food and beverage license fees
23. Franchise business taxes
24. Garbage taxes
25. Gasoline taxes
26. Gift taxes
27. Gun ownership permits
28. Hazardous material disposal fees
29. Highway access fees
30. Hotel taxes (these are becoming quite large in some areas)
31. Hunting license taxes
32. Import taxes
33. Individual health insurance mandate taxes
34. Inheritance taxes
35. Insect control hazardous materials licenses
36. Inspection fees
37. Insurance premium taxes

38. Interstate user diesel fuel taxes
39. Inventory taxes
40. IRA early withdrawal taxes
41. IRS interest charges (tax on top of tax)
42. IRS penalties (tax on top of tax)
43. Library taxes
44. License plate fees
45. Liquor taxes
46. Local corporate taxes
47. Local income taxes
48. Local school taxes
49. Local unemployment taxes
50. Luxury taxes
51. Marriage license taxes
52. Medicare taxes
53. Medicare tax surcharge on high-earning Americans under Obamacare
54. Obamacare individual mandate excise tax (If you don’t buy qualifying health insurance under Obamacare you will have to pay an additional tax.)
55. Obamacare surtax on investment income (a new 3.8 percent surtax on investment income)
56. Parking meters
57. Passport fees
58. Professional licenses and fees (another form of taxation)
59. Property taxes
60. Real estate taxes
61. Recreational vehicle taxes
62. Registration fees for new businesses
63. Toll booth taxes
64. Sales taxes
65. Self-employment taxes
66. Sewer and water taxes
67. School taxes
68. Septic permit taxes
69. Service charge taxes
70. Social Security taxes
71. Special assessments for road repairs or construction
72. Sports stadium taxes
73. State corporate taxes
74. State income taxes
75. State park entrance fees
76. State unemployment taxes
77. Tanning taxes (a new Obamacare tax on tanning services)
78. Telephone 911 service Taxes
79. Telephone federal excise taxes
80. Telephone federal universal service fee taxes
81. Telephone minimum usage surcharge taxes
82. Telephone state and local taxes
83. Telephone universal access taxes
84. The alternative minimum tax
85. Tire recycling fees
86. Tire taxes
87. Tolls (another form of taxation)

88. Traffic fines (indirect taxation)
 89. Use taxes (Out of state purchases, etc.)
 90. Utility taxes
 91. Vehicle registration taxes
 92. Waste management taxes
 93. Water rights fees
 94. Watercraft registration and licensing fees
 95. Well permit fees
 96. Workers compensation taxes
 97. Zoning permit fees
- We are literally being taxed into oblivion, and most Americans don’t know and don’t seem to care. So the monstrous system that is in place now will continue to get even bigger and even more complicated.
- Source: Zerohedge.com



ASK THE MECHANIC


Chris Wilkinson,
Certified Mechanic

Q: My 92 Chevy S10 was driving fine, until we pulled into a gas station and all of a sudden it started smoking and my brakes went out! It will stop but the brake pedal goes all the way to the floor and when I push the brake, it will smoke! What could the problem be? - Derek

A: Derick, There are a couple of possibilities here, first thing is to check the level of the brake fluid. It is most likely leaking and either spraying on the hot engine or exhaust as you hit the brakes. If the smoke is coming from the tailpipe of your exhaust then you most likely have a bad master cylinder and it is getting in to the vacuum hose through the brake booster. This will cause damage to the brake booster if it happens for too long.

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Don't believe every 'study'

■ Not all headlines about health benefits of food are true

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

No, one glass of red wine does not equal one hour of working out at the gym.

This fallacy spread like wildfire this past fall when news organizations chose to promote a sensational headline rather than do their own research.

Organizations such as Fox, Huffington Post, bustle.com, and dozens of other sites published articles about a study that "found" that drinking one glass of red wine a night is the equivalent to working out and burning calories for one hour at the gym.

SUMMARY

■ Headlines about how snack foods negatively affect your memory or about how passing gas help prevent cancer should be viewed with skepticism.

In reality, this is false.

As Dr. Hayden-William Courtland explains in scienceforfitness.com, the study cited does not involve wine at all. Scientists looked at how an antioxidant compound in wine, resveratrol, can yield similar results to exercise. Only male rats were used, so scientists

do not know if these results would be the same for humans.

This study, and the headlines that followed, is an example of how scientists often choose sensational, but misleading, headlines, and journalists don't do enough research before reporting on them.

There are dozens of new studies published every week claiming that foods harm or help your body in different ways, and the news often seems outlandish or contradictory, or both.

John Oliver, host of "Last Week Tonight" on HBO did a lengthy segment on how studies are published with sensational but misleading headlines and news

See **FOOD** on 9A

This study, and the headlines that followed, is an example of how scientists often choose sensational, but misleading, headlines, and journalists don't do enough research before reporting on them.

PHOTO: BLOG.
ABCFS.COM

Claims of drinking a glass of red wine being equal in benefits to working out for an hour has gone viral on social media.



If you recognize the man in this photo, Fenton police ask that you contact them at (810) 629-5311. Police believe he is connected to a fraud investigation involving a local resident.

Police try to identify fraud suspect

■ Tyrone Township man's credit card hit with someone else's online purchase

By Sharon Stone

sstone@tctimes.com; 810-433-6786

Fenton police are hoping someone can identify the person in a still shot photo taken from a store security video. Police believe this person is connected to a credit card fraud complaint filed by a 50-year-old Tyrone Township man.

Fenton Interim Police Chief Jason Slater said on April 3, the Tyrone Township man filed the complaint with Fenton police. The man reported that he had learned someone had used his credit union's credit card information to purchase \$400 in electronic accessories from Walmart.com on March 21.

At 9:53 a.m., on March 22, the man shown in this photo visited the Walmart store in Fenton and picked up the merchandise. Slater said the man showed his identification to pick up the item, however, the employee said the man did not remove the ID from his wallet.

The Walmart loss prevention department turned over the video to police. The video showed the man receiving the merchandise and exiting the store. He was seen getting into a white four-door sedan, possibly a Ford Fusion.

Slater said it is unknown at this point if this man made the online purchase with the Tyrone Township man's credit card information or if he was just picking up the item for someone else.

The victim told police that he was still in possession of his credit card and he was not sure how someone else had all of his information to make the online purchase. He reported the fraud complaint to his credit union, which cancelled the card.

LeRoy Street crash



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Fenton — Up to five vehicles were involved in a crash at approximately 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 19, on N. LeRoy Street just north of North Road. Fenton police and fire departments, as well as the Genesee County Sheriff's Office responded. One man was injured with a laceration to his face. He was transported for medical care. One driver, according to Fenton Fire Chief Bob Cairnduff, fled the scene and was stopped at Poplar Street and North Road.

FOOD

Continued from Page 8A

stations run with them without actually looking at the study.

Fox News ran a segment on a study that found that late night snacks could damage the part of the brain that creates and stores memories. Today ran a segment on how sugar may fuel the growth of cancer. Time ran a headline that states, "Scientists say smelling farts might prevent cancer."

These headlines appear on your TV, Facebook newsfeed, and national and local news stations.

"There are so many studies being thrown around, they seem to contradict one another," Oliver said during the segment with screenshots of examples. "In just the last few months, we've seen studies about coffee that claim it may reverse the effect of liver damage, help prevent colon cancer, decrease the risk of endometrial cancer, and increase the risk of miscarriage."

News outlets pick up on these sensational headlines because of how the studies are published. In order to secure funding, scientists will sometimes pick out a small detail from their findings and make it the headline or include it in the summary.



PHOTO: CARE2.COM

A misleading headline suggested that chocolate was beneficial for pregnant women. The cited study, however, did not prove any benefits.

Oliver uses the example of how the Society for Maternal Fetal Medicine conducted a study on whether high-flavanol chocolate improves placental function. They found no evidence to suggest it does. However, their headline read, "The benefits of chocolate during pregnancy."

Before you start drinking wine instead of working out thinking it will have the same effect on your body, it's best to ask your doctor what studies and medical journals you should trust.

Or, you can always read the study yourself.

Tri-county fundraisers

QUILT TO BE RAFFLED FOR FUNDRAISER

Fenton's Curtis-Wolverton VFW Auxiliary received a handmade, red, white and blue quilt, which is being raffled as a fundraiser. The money raised will be used for its Hospital Program, which includes bingo parties and horse races at the Ann Arbor VA, plus Christmas, and regular visits to Fenton Health Care and Crestmont. Raffle tickets are \$5 each or three for \$10. To get tickets, call (810) 629-2210 or visit 1148 N. LeRoy St., Fenton.

TEXT YOUR HOT LINE

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THE COUNTY Times

HOT LINE CONTINUED

YOU WIN, TRUMP. Now I'm begging you to please stop winning. I can't take it anymore.

■■■■
IT'S ONLY A matter of time before Trump is impeached. Hopefully, the rest of the world is patient enough until then.

■■■■
WOULD THE PERSON walking your golden retriever behind Michaels several times a week please pick up after your dog? We all see you.

■■■■
LOVE THE LOCAL living section on bunny imposters. We need more of that.

■■■■
I DON'T KNOW why people have to be so critical of other people. Take a look in the mirror. Some people can take a vacation. I lost out on a vacation last year but I won't this year.

■■■■
I SEE WHERE Sheriff Pickell has all his trustees and they're picking up all the trash around U.S. 23. That makes statement for Michigan I think. We're neat and clean. You don't have all that debris lying around and he's doing a good job. Say thank you to him.

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LOOKING BACK

at this week in
NATIONAL HISTORY

COMPILED BY VERA HOGAN

APRIL 23

1969: Sirhan Sirhan is sentenced to the death penalty after being convicted in the assassination of politician Robert F. Kennedy. In 1972, Sirhan's sentence was commuted to life in prison after California abolished the death penalty.

APRIL 24

1908: A single tornado travels 150 miles through Louisiana and Mississippi, leaving 143 dead in its wake. In total, 311 people lost their lives to twisters during the deadly month of April 1908 in the southeastern United States. Another 1,600 were seriously injured. Tornadoes on average travel four to eight miles along the ground at about 60 miles per hour.

APRIL 25

1990: The crew of the U.S. space shuttle Discovery places the Hubble Space Telescope, a long-term space-based observatory, into a low orbit around Earth. The space telescope was designed to give astronomers an unparalleled view of the solar system, the galaxy, and the universe.

APRIL 26

1986: Almost a decade after they met at a celebrity tennis tournament, the television news reporter Maria Shriver marries the movie actor and former bodybuilder Arnold Schwarzenegger on this day in 1986. Her mother, Eunice Kennedy Shriver, was the sister of John F. Kennedy and Robert F. Kennedy, while her father, R. Sargent Shriver, had been the Democratic nominee for vice president in 1972.

APRIL 27

1956: World heavyweight champ Rocky Marciano retires from boxing at age 31, saying he wants to spend more time with his family. Marciano ended his career as the only heavyweight champion with a perfect record 49 wins in 49 professional bouts, with 43 knockouts.

APRIL 28

1969: Following the defeat of his proposals for constitutional reform in a national referendum, Charles de Gaulle resigns as president of France. A veteran of World War I, de Gaulle unsuccessfully petitioned his country to modernize its armed forces between the wars.

APRIL 29

2004: The last Oldsmobile comes off the assembly line at the Lansing Car Assembly plant in Michigan, signaling the end of the 106-year-old automotive brand, America's oldest. Factory workers signed the last Oldsmobile, an Alero sedan, before the vehicle was moved to Lansing's R.E. Olds Transportation Museum, where it went on display. The last 500 Aleros ever manufactured featured "Final 500" emblems and were painted dark metallic cherry red.

Source: history.com

News briefs

HARTLAND ALUMNI REUNION AND BANQUET

The 94th annual Hartland Alumni Reunion/Banquet will be held at Ore Creek Middle School on Hartland Road in Hartland on Saturday, May 20. Social hour begins at 5:30 p.m. and dinner begins at 7 p.m. Every graduate, including 2016 graduates are welcome to attend. Bring your spouse or a friend. The honored graduates are from the classes of 1942, 1947, 1952, 1957, 1962, 1967, 1972, 1977 and 1982. Graduates are encouraged to contact fellow classmates and meet them at the banquet. Cost is \$15 per person. In addition, dues are \$4 for each alumni. Reserve your seat by May 16. Make checks payable to Hartland Alumni Association and mail to Cindy Voss at 4535 Norton Rd., Howell, MI 48843. An additional charge of \$5 will be charged for any unpaid registration at the door.

Tri-county fundraisers

ADOPT-A-PET OF FENTON HOSTS GOLF FUNDRAISER

Adopt-A-Pet of Fenton is hosting its 12th annual Golf Scramble at the Fenton Farms Golf Club, 12312 Torrey Rd. in Fenton on May 20. Registration is open through May 7 for teams or individual participants. The \$90 registration fee includes greens fees, lunch and dinner. This event will raise funds for medical costs for the animals of Adopt-A-Pet. If you are not a golfer, but would still like to contribute, join your friends for dinner and cocktails beginning at 6 p.m. for only \$30 per person. Adopt-A-Pet is also looking for sponsors for the event. Sponsorship levels range from \$175 to \$2,500, with various levels of business and organization recognition. For more information, go to www.adoptapetfenton.com.

News briefs

ACTION WATER SPORTS NAMED 'MARINE DEALER OF THE YEAR'

The Water Sports Industry Association (WSIA) has awarded Action Water Sports of Michigan the prestigious honor of "Marine Dealer of the Year," at its annual conference in Denver, Colorado. Consideration for this award focused on leading dealerships in the towed water sports industry that have a strong service department, an accommodating showroom for consumers and merchandising that connected the consumer with what it's really like to be part of the towed water sports lifestyle. Brian Lerch of Action Water Sports accepted the award, saying "We always say in our shop that an award is not something that defines us, but is something to live up to, so we have another challenge to look up to in the coming year." Action Water Sports operates in Fenton at 8051 Old U.S. 23, and also has marine dealerships in Hudsonville and Traverse City. For more information, visit Actionwater.com.

our town

Meet

KRISTY SCHAFER

- Bank senior vice president
- Busy wife and mother
- Community volunteer

By Vera Hogan
vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-629-6823

Kristy Schaffer is 42 years old and was raised in Fenton. The Fenton graduate and one of the senior vice presidents of The State Bank blends her busy professional and family life.

Tell us about your family:
I've been married to Steffan Schaffer since September of 2015. My son Andrew Premo, 15, is a sophomore at Fenton High School and my daughter, Katie Premo, 13, is a seventh-grader at AGS Middle School. My stepson, Cameron Schaffer, 14, is a freshman at Lake Fenton High School. We have a dog, a 12-year-old lab mix named Coco, and two cats named Ruger and Bailey. They are both 2 years old.

Where did you grow up and attend school?
I was born in Mt. Pleasant, but my family moved to Fenton before I started school. I graduated from Fenton High School in 1992. I received my bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Michigan-Flint, and my MBA in Human Resources Management from Baker College.

What is your position with The State Bank?
I am a senior vice president at The State Bank with responsibilities of directing our Human Resources and Marketing function. I work from our Main Office in downtown Fenton.

How long have you been with The State Bank?
I started at The State Bank on June 20, 1994. When I started with the bank, I was a part-time teller at our Holly Branch on Grange Hall Road.



SUBMITTED PHOTO
Kristy Schaffer has been with The State Bank for nearly 23 years, working her way up from a part-time teller to a senior vice president.

Over the years, I have held the following positions: senior teller, community office supervisor, branch manager, retail banking officer, payroll/benefits administrator, retail banking department head, human resources generalist. I have been in my current role as a senior vice president and director of Human Resources/Marketing for the last 13 years.

What do you like best about your job?
I love working with people. Being in Human Resources allows for so many opportunities to interact with people from recruitment to employee development. It is so fulfilling

to see someone grow and experience success in their career and know that you played a small part in supporting them. I also love working in the community that I live. The bank does so much with our local communities and it is awesome to be a part of that as part of my work responsibilities. It has allowed me to get involved with so many great organizations like Fenton Area Chamber of Commerce, Fenton Education Foundation, United Way of Genesee County and the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan.

What are some of the challenges?
Certainly not all parts of Human Resources are glamorous. There are often difficult decisions that need to be made that directly impact your people. That is certainly the most challenging aspect of the job. I have tried to always balance the business

needs of the bank with the well-being of our staff and make decisions accordingly.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
I love to read and spend time with my family. We enjoy going on vacation and have spent a fair amount of time going on cruises. I enjoy going on wine tours and try to do that at least once a year in the Traverse City area. My sons both play baseball and my daughter is a volleyball player so I spend a good deal of free time at their sporting events as well.

What is something people don't know about you?

As a senior in high school, I wanted a Vietnamese pot-bellied pig, which is a small pig that can be a pet. They are the size of a small dog. I found one through an ad in the paper. My mom and I went to go pick it up and I had read the ad wrong. It was a pot-bellied pig — like a huge farm pig. In typical teenage rebellion — I said that I wanted the pig still and for some reason — my mom allowed it. The pig took up the entire back seat of our Chevette. Unfortunately, the pig died on the way home because it was very worked up about getting in the car and apparently had a heart attack. We lived in downtown Fenton at the time and I had no idea what we were going to do with this farm pig in downtown. My dad, who knew nothing about this plan, came home from work to a dead pig in the middle of our garage.

News briefs

Fenton's Open Book observes Independent Bookstore Day and Children's Book Week
Local independent bookseller Fenton's Open Book will be among 457 stores in 48 states celebrating Independent Bookstore Day on Saturday, April 29. The event will include special merchandise and festive activities that celebrate the joy of reading and local small businesses. The party will include snacks from Sweet Variations, Fenton House and CRUST; Adopt-a-Pet visitors, pirate selfies, a make-and-take craft, local authors' book signings and more. Prizes, coupons and treats will also be part of the celebration. "We had so much fun last year, we had to do this again," said Fenton's Open Book owner Karen Piacentini. The following week, May 1 to 6, the bookstore will celebrate Children's Book Week with discounts and drawing for a store gift card. Voting for the 10th annual Children's & Teen Choice Book Awards will also be available at the store, an official polling location. Fenton's Open Book is at 105 W. Shiawassee in downtown, Fenton. Store hours are Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

"You have to know when to throw in the veil. It's exciting to close one door and fully commit to the next chapter."
Kristy Schaffer

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LAKE FENTON \$1,395,000
Almost 100 ft of frontage on All Sports Lake Fenton. Over 6000 SF of finished living space, 5 BDR w/ possible 6th & 4.5 BA. Amazing attention to detail, beautiful views from every window, in-ground pool & additional 5.49 acres across the street included in sale.



WOODLAND MEADOWS \$179,900
1605 SF, 3 BDR & 2.5 BA. Large kitchen w/ island, breakfast nook, lots of cabinet & counter space. Great natural light, fireplace & formal dining room. Master suite features crown molding and private bath. 2 car attached garage, large deck, fenced yard and more.



ACREAGE \$149,999
Beautiful brick ranch home on almost 5 acres, 3700 SF of finished living space, 4 BDR & 2.5 BA. Crown molding, beautiful fireplace, window seat and more. Kitchen has Corian counter tops and is open to the dining room with fantastic built ins.



PINE HOLLOW ESTATES \$1,750,000
Over 10,000 SF of Luxury Living! 5 BDR, 8 BA, nestled on 2.25 acres w/ large pond and beautiful water views. 2 gourmet kitchens, 3 spiral staircases, theater room, wine cellar, 2 laundry rooms, 2 master suites, dog bath, heated floors, heated drive way.



WOODS OF PINE HOLLOW \$1,075,000
Stunning home, never occupied, in highly sought after Pine Hollow. 8000 SF of finished living space, 6 BDR & 6 full bathrooms & 3 half bathrooms. Every detail of this home is exquisite, gourmet kitchen, hand crafted cherry cabinetry throughout, luxury at every turn.



COVE VIEW ESTATES \$169,900
1736 SF of finished living space, 4 BDR & 1.5 BA. Spacious living room with great natural light. Kitchen features pantry, lots of cabinet and counter space. Sun room and partially finished basement with lots of storage. 2.5 car attached garage, large deck, storage shed.



PINE HOLLOW ESTATES \$1,175,000
Stunning Pine Hollow Manor 7900+ SF w/ finished walkout. Built 2002 at a cost of 2.5+ million, 5 BDR and 7 BA, home boasts luxury! Nestled on lavish grounds providing pure privacy. Marble floors, granite, cherry, Swarovski Crystal, Enkeboll trim, 24k Gold fixtures.



LAKE PONEMAH \$25,000 - \$100,000
Beautiful buildable lots in Cottage Cove development. Deeded dock on All Sports Lake Ponemah, enjoy this 378 acre lake that connects to Tupper Lake and Squaw Lake. Great fishing, boating and ice skating in the winter. Close to shopping and expressways.



WYNDHAM ESTATES \$249,999
2926 SF, 4 BDR & 3 BA. Open floor plan, beautiful floors, cathedral ceilings and fireplace. Great kitchen with snack bar, pantry, breakfast nook, lots of cabinet and counter space. Master suite features walk in closet and private bath. Full finished basement, 3 car attached garage, beautiful deck, large yard and more.



TRANQUIL ACRES \$149,999
Beautiful ranch home, 1331 SF, 3 BDR & 2 BA. Gorgeous remodeled kitchen featuring new cabinets, granite counter tops, tile backsplash, pantry, snack bar and beautiful floors. Master suite features private bath that has been remodeled.



ACREAGE \$525,000
Charming Farmhouse in Fenton Schools on 69+ Acres. 2685 SF spacious home, 5 BDR, 2 BA, 1 car garage, barn, and shed. Fire-lit living room, large kitchen, wood burning stove and 1st floor laundry. 23 farmed acres, 2 parcels and 2 ponds on the property.



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!



LAKE FENTON \$699,999
Remodeled home w/ 40' frontage on All Sports Lake Fenton. 3508 SF, 4 BDR and 3.5 BA. Gourmet kitchen with marble counters, double oven and breakfast nook. Open floor plan with large living space and door walls to the deck. Master Suite with fireplace, shower, waterfall jetted tub, large closet & balcony.



LAKE LAPEER \$699,000
179+ frontage on all sports Lake Lapeer w/ 2.87 acres. 6072 SF of finished living space, 4 BDR & 4.5 BA. Private setting, open floor plan, soaring ceilings, great natural light, crown molding. Finished walkout basement w/ kitchenette, workout room, sauna & pole barn.



LAKE LAPEER \$589,999
91' frontage on Lake Lapeer, 4899 SF, 5 BDR & 4 BA. Kitchen features hardwood floors and large island, snack bar and pantry. Living room with cathedral ceilings, floor to ceiling stone fireplace, beautiful view of the lake. Full finished basement, 4 car garage, large deck and patio.



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.



FENTONWOOD ESTATES \$299,999
2720 SF, 4 BDR and 3 BA. Open floor plan, soaring ceilings, crown molding, hardwood floors and large windows. Great kitchen, beautiful master suite with trey ceiling, walk in closet, large tub and separate walk in shower. Full finished walkout basement and 2 car attached garage.



LOBDELL LAKE \$354,999
94' Frontage on All Sports Lobdell Lake. Fantastic ranch home with 2040 SF of finished living space, 2 BDR and 2 BA. Fantastic views of the lake, beautiful floors throughout and vaulted ceilings. Gorgeous wrap around deck, patio, 2 car garage and more.



LAKE FENTON \$749,999
72' frontage on All Sports Lake Fenton, 5400 SF, 4 BDR and 3.5 BA. Open floor plan w/ fantastic views. Kitchen features breakfast nook, granite counters, snack bar, lots of cabinet and counter space. Crown molding, exposed beams, finished walkout and so much more.



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



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.

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

The Fenton Community Orchestra (FCO) is performing a spring concert on April 27 and 29. Here, the FCO performs at the Fenton Community Expo in March.

Fenton Community Orchestra 'tunes up' for spring

■ Annual Spring Concert set for April 27 and 29 also features the FHS Jazz Orchestra

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Residents are invited to enjoy the seventh annual Spring Concert, presented by the Fenton Community Orchestra (FCO) and Fenton High School Jazz Orchestra on Thursday, April 27 and Saturday, April 29 at Fenton High School.

Admission is free but donations are greatly appreciated, according to FCO Executive Director Jennifer Fleck.

At Thursday's concert, students from Prelude String Orchestra in grades 3-8 will open the concert, under the direction of Lisa Bayer and Joe Snider. At Saturday's concert, FCO's new group, Simply Strings Orchestra, intermediate level strings for ages 14 to adult, directed by Jane Ball, will begin the concert.

FCO and the FHS Jazz Orchestra will perform a variety of classical works and jazz standards, under the direction of Andrew Perkins. A highlight will be FCO's performance of an original piece written by Perkins, "Prayers in Villefranche."

The orchestra's seventh season will continue on Thursday, June 1 at 7 p.m. with FCO and the AGS Middle School sixth grade band, directed by Pamela Hayes, kicking off the Fenton Concert in the Parks series. Location will be the back patio of the Fenton Community and Cultural Center (Rain venue: FCC Main Hall).

A "Music in the Schools" program on Friday, March 24 was made possible through the sponsorship of Vic Canever Chevrolet. A 30-member ensemble of FCO musicians visited three elementary schools for an interactive and educational experience attended by nearly 1,000 students.

For more information about FCO, visit FentonOrchestra.org.

Supervisor speaks in support of Linden wrestling coach

■ Special education teacher/coach has been placed on administrative leave

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Linden — At the Linden Board of Education meeting Wednesday, Argentine Township Supervisor Brian Saad spoke in support of Linden wrestling coach and teacher Todd Skinner.

It's been approximately a week since news broke that Skinner was placed on administrative leave for allegedly running an illegal Super Bowl square fundraiser during a recent championship game as a way to raise revenue for the Linden wrestling program.

Saad said, "I just want to speak about the character of this community, why I chose to

run for office in this community, why I support this board so much, and really why I support coach Skinner. I think the penalty has been doled out. The embarrassment, the humiliation of something that was probably not codified and this is something we shouldn't do.

"We've all done it. We've all bought 50/50 tickets, we've all supported a program that our children are involved in with extra monetary things.

"Being that this is not even a week after Easter, I think this is the season of forgiveness and this board can think long and hard about whatever comes from Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA), and whatever we decide to do to a special education teacher in this community when we are trying to develop a destination community in Genesee County.

"Argentine Township is the fastest growing ... community in Genesee County. We continue to capitalize on all things that are good in this com-

munity," he said.

Saad added that everyone makes mistakes and that Skinner's wasn't egregious.

"Slap on the wrist, write it in the file, let's not do this again and move on. I think that's the lesson we try to teach our kids," he said.

Saad also talked about the LAFF (Linden, Argentine Township, Fenton and Fenton Township) pathway and what it will add to the community.

"Ultimately, we're going to have a community that's walkable...and we'll all come together on that pathway. I

think that starts with supporting our athletics and especially such a program like wrestling where we're the second best program in the county next to Davison," he said.

As well as coaching wrestling, Skinner is the former girls' varsity golf coach. He is also a Hyatt Elementary special education teacher.

According to a recent Times article, Skinner allegedly ran Super Bowl squares for many years. According to volunteer wrestling coach Dan McNeill, who had a son who wrestled four years in Linden's program, Skinner would try to get his wrestlers to sell squares for his Super Bowl fundraiser.

According to state law, any contest is deemed illegal if it involves three elements: consideration (generally an entry fee), prize, and chance. All 50 states recognize that any play-for-cash contest based entirely on chance is illegal. Super Bowl squares involve randomly assigned numbers, so the contest is based on chance making it illegal.

The Michigan Gaming Control Board is aware of the situation. Linden Community Schools is conducting an investigation.



Brian Saad

“I think the penalty has been doled out.”

Brian Saad

Argentine Township supervisor

HOT LINE CONTINUED

MR. WHITE, READ the Right to Farm Law. You do not have to bow down to the so-called elected officials or neighbors or anybody else. The Right to Farm Law is on your side.

ONCE AGAIN, KING is taking an issue

and warping it to fit his agenda. No one was mad at police over the United situation. Everyone is mad at United.

PLEASE ADVISE HELLER that there is no evidence that the Russians had any effect on the election regardless of how many times the whiners keep repeating fake news.

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WHAT YOU MISSED in the MIDWEEK TIMES

Compiled by Vera Hogan

The following are stories you may have missed in the **Wednesday, April 19, Midweek Times**. To subscribe and receive both the Midweek and Sunday Weekend editions, please call (810) 629-8282.

Fenton Township prohibits medical marijuana facilities — by doing nothing

No action on resolution keeps these facilities out of the township.



Popular Fenton Hotel Tavern & Grille closed for repairs

Easter Sunday fire leaves 161-year-old restaurant in need of new roof.

Rezoning for apple orchard postponed a third time

Animals are biggest concern among nearby residents and planning commissioners

Fenton man serving 30-50 years for CSC with minor

Additional charges against Robert Lee Dennis, 41, could result in life in prison.



Ask Andy THE REAL ESTATE EXPERT

Andy Alger
Keller Williams Realty

Q: How do I know if I should buy or rent?

A: There is a season for everything, and sometimes it is wise to rent instead of buying a home. For instance, if you are relocating to a new area that you know very little about, I recommend - almost 100% of the time - to rent for a while to get acclimated to the new area. How are the neighborhoods? The commute? The schools? These questions take time and a sense of familiarity to answer. Another great time to rent is when you are going through a major life change. Will you be relocating? Changing careers? Getting married or divorced? You may want to wait until life settles a bit before committing to home ownership.

Andy Alger
810-241-0554

AndyAlger.com
Andy@AndyAlger.com

KW ANDY ALGER
KELLER WILLIAMS

3295 Silver Lake Rd. | Fenton

Tell us why your mom is the greatest

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

There is no end to the reasons we love our mothers. Not only did they give us life, they taught us the most important life lessons. Moms always know how to cheer us up and how to put up with us through every stage in life, including the teenage years.

Moms are our biggest fans and are the best listeners. She has always been our greatest cheerleader, supporting us in all our endeavors. Mom would do anything for us, even when it meant sacrificing something for herself, because she loves us unconditionally.

Moms teach us how to do everything so that someday we would be able to take care of ourselves. She is always proud of us no matter what.

These few examples in no way sum up the hundreds of reasons we love our mothers.

We would like to hear from you. If your mom lives in the tri-county

reader area, please tell us about her in 150 words or less, and why she is such a great mother. Please include a color photo.

Send or deliver your entry to Tri-County Times, c/o Editor, 256 N. Fenway Dr., Fenton, MI 48430, and write the words "My mom is the best" on the envelope. Or, you can email your letter and photo to sstone@tctimes.com and write, "My mom is the best" in the subject line.

All letters must be 150 words or less, and must be accompanied by a photo. Be sure to include your mother's full name and contact information, as well as your name and contact information.

Letters must be received by no later than 5 p.m. on Monday, May 8 to be considered. We will review all of the letters and print as many stories about these wonderful moms in the Sunday, May 14 edition of the Times.



PHOTO: METRO CREATIVE GRAPHICS

Tell us in 150 words or less why your's is the greatest mother in the world.

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| <p style="color: white; font-weight: bold;">CLARKSTON</p> <p style="color: white;">8600 Dixie Hwy.</p> | <p style="color: white; font-weight: bold;">BRIGHTON</p> <p style="color: white;">6347 Grand River Ave.</p> |



YOUR SMILE MATTERS!

By: Dr. Steven Sulfaro

ZOOM WHITENING

The number one requested dental service is teeth whitening. Whitening can have a dramatic impact on your smile. Teeth become discolored by different staining processes. External staining is caused by environmental conditions; smoking, coffee, tea, etc. Internal staining is changes in the intrinsic color of the teeth. Internal staining is often natural. And as we grow older our teeth often become darker; a natural part of the aging process. All of these teeth darkening conditions can be treated and improved with the teeth whitening process. There are basically three different types of teeth whitening methods. The first type is "over-the-counter" whitening kits that can be purchased at your local pharmacy. The second type is professionally supervised home whitening which is provided by your dentist. The third type is in-office whitening done in the dental chair by your dentist and staff. All methods have varying degrees of effectiveness and cost and all three use the same basic chemistry which is some varying form of hydrogen peroxide. The fastest and most dramatic results are achieved through in-office ZOOM whitening where the entire whitening process is completed in a single visit in about an hour. The number one chief complaint by those who have gone through the whitening process is tooth sensitivity both during and after the process is completed. I am happy to report that with advancements in product formulations and chemistry, tooth sensitivity with teeth whitening is not nearly the issue it once was.

I am pleased to announce the official launch of the new and improved ZOOM whitening system in our office. The new ZOOM has greater effective whitening with 99% of people reporting no sensitivity what so ever. I, myself, had the ZOOM whitening done on my teeth and the results were amazing. My teeth became 7 shades whiter with no sensitivity. For a dazzling white smile call and ask us about teeth whitening and which system is right for you.

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



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MAYOR

Continued from Front Page

The person elected mayor in November will serve until 2019, and the three council members until 2021.

Mayor Sue Osborn has held her current position since 1999.

Councilmen Brad Jacob, Scott Grossmeyer and Dave McDermott also are up for re-election. Incumbents, Jacob and Grossmeyer, began their current four-year terms in 2013. Newcomer Dave McDermott won the election in 2013, defeating Ben Smith, who later died in August of 2014.

Both Osborn and McDermott have picked up petitions. The intentions of Grossmeyer and Jacob are not known at this time.

To serve on the Fenton City Council or as mayor, candidates must have been a resident of the city for more than one year, must be a registered voter in the city of Fenton, must be over 18 years of age and must not be in default to the city.

Petitions can be picked up at city hall at any time. The deadline for submitting them is Tuesday, July 25 at 4 p.m. At this time, no one has filed any petitions, according to Fenton City Clerk Renee Wilson.

View stories at
tctimes.com



Local lake levels still high



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Vince and Mary Balasko make their way to their boat to brave the choppy waters of Lake Fenton on Saturday, April 15. They own property on Cases Island, and have been visiting it since February. Well into spring, local lake levels are still high.

Jennifer Lasco Real Estate opens new office

Ribbon-cutting to take place on Wednesday

On Wednesday, April 26, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., Jennifer Lasco Real Estate will celebrate the opening of its new Fenton location with a ribbon cutting ceremony with the Fenton Chamber of Commerce.

The ceremony will take place at the new office at 101 N. Adelaide St., in Fenton (the former Sawyer Jewelers building). Immediately following the ribbon cutting will be tours of the office, food, drinks, music and more.

Jennifer Lasco Real Estate is owned and operated by Jennifer Lasco of Fenton. Her real estate brokerage cur-

rently consists of Lasco operating as the broker, as well as three additional agents working out of the Fenton space, with an additional associate broker and agent being added in the next few weeks.

Lasco and her team are excited to bring their client-centric model to the area and continue putting clients' wants

and needs on the front line and working as hard as it takes to get them there. The team will be handling all clients big and small.

Lasco and her team will be on site for questions and comments throughout the event.

For more information visit www.JenniferLasco.com or

email sold@jenniferlasco.com with any questions.



Jennifer Lasco



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Just sayin'...

vhogan@tctimes.com

I'm her number one fan

Every once in a while a question goes around our office, and among our family and friends: "Who do you think should play you in a movie about your life?"

My answer is easy — Kathy Bates. She is by far my favorite actress and the only woman, I think who could do my personality justice.

One of my favorite movie scenes with Kathy Bates is in "Fried Green Tomatoes," the scene where she is trying to find a parking space in the grocery store parking lot. She finally finds one, waits her turn having engaged the courtesy blinker to show others she's got dibs on that spot. Then bam, two young ladies rip their VW bug in front of her and take the spot she's been waiting for. They say, "Face it lady, we're younger and faster."

Instead of leaving and finding another parking spot, Evelyn (Bates' character in the movie) rams her much larger vehicle into the VW bug multiple times. The horrified young ladies come running back out of the store and Evelyn says, "Face it girls, I'm older and I have more insurance."

This actually happened to me twice this year in a grocery store parking lot. The last time was two weeks ago. I found a spot close to the front door of the store, activated my turn signal to show that I was waiting for that spot, and just as the occupant cleared the space, a woman came out of nowhere and yanked her white SUV into the spot. She was inches from my front bumper. I didn't ram her car like in the movie, but I sure wanted to. Don't they teacher driver courtesy in drivers education anymore?

Another one of my favorite Kathy Bates movies is "Misery," based on the book by one of my favorite authors, Stephen King. The movie is about a famous writer who gets into a treacherous car accident during a blizzard after finish-

ing his last novel. His car is buried deep in the snow, but he is rescued by Bates, whose character's name is "Annie" and she is a nurse. Annie takes him to her home and cares for him. Once she learns that he has killed off her favorite character in his last book, things get ugly. You'll have to read the book or see the movie to find out what happens.

Stephen King lives in Maine and I'll bet that if anyone sees him in public and says, "I'm your number one fan," he'd run the other way — fast.

Dolores Claiborne also is a great movie starring Kathy Bates. It, too, is based on a novel by Stephen King. They must be friends. Anyway, it addresses a number of negative issues facing women and girls today including abusive marriages and pedophilia.

I won't be a spoiler, but Bates' character, Dolores, has some of the greatest one-liners ever. My favorites include: "Sometimes being a bitch is all a woman's got to hold onto."

Another favorite is when she says to her husband, Joe: "That is the last time you ever hit me. Next time, one of us is going to the bone yard."

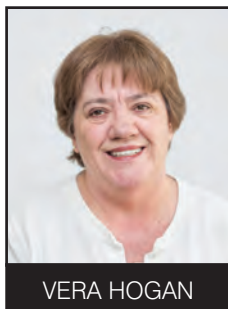
Also to her husband, Joe: "If you say you're sorry one more time, I'll kick your butt up so high, you'll look like a hunchback."

And to a detective Dolores has to deal with in the movie she says: "The last time you were sorry was when you had to use the pay toilet and the string on your pet dime broke."

I even love Kathy Bates' recent TV commercial, the one where she tries to find out if she can use the "ghost" children in her new house as tax deductions.

Oh yeah, a movie about my life — definitely Kathy Bates.

Opinions offered in Just Sayin' are the author's alone and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Tri-County Times or its staff. Email the Vera at vhogan@tctimes.com.



VERA HOGAN

CLOSURES

Continued from Front Page

MDOT plans to do demolition, beam replacement, and deck repairs. The estimated completion date is May 2017.

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

Bridge demolition is planned this weekend, which will require 15-minute closures of U.S. 23 between midnight Saturday, April 22 and 4 a.m.

U.S. 23 traffic is being maintained with single-lane closures while Lahring Road over U.S. 23 has only one lane open using a temporary signal. Lahring Road traffic will continue to be maintained with temporary signals and full closures when necessary.

"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.

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.

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.

(Vera Hogan contributed to this report.)

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HOT LINE CONTINUED

KING, I DON'T understand your latest column. You say people shouldn't be mad at police for how they handled the man on the plane, they should be mad at United. United is taking all of the heat from it. Not one news channel has mentioned any hostility against police in this matter.

■■■■
SHAME ON VERA Hogan for defending a perpetrator. I cannot believe her article regarding Bill Cosby. Shame, shame, shame.

■■■■
TRUMP HAS MISPLACED his Warcraft carrier and four other warships. I don't know whether to laugh or cry when I think of Pence talking with North Korea's nut son about America's resolve while his backup war ships are headed the other way. God help us.

■■■■

CHICKENS

Continued from Front Page

it wasn't consistent with the intent of the Future Land Use Plan, which indicates that agricultural uses would be phased out over time.

Code Enforcement Officer Tom Hosie told Krause on Thursday, April 20 of this year that he has 30 days to get the chickens off his property.

Krause said he's not sure what to do next, and that most of the township officials have been very helpful with this matter. He said the ordinance, as bad as it is, exists, and Hosie has to enforce it.

The Future Land Use Plan conflicts with recent trends.

Treasurer John Tucker said he's heard more than a dozen requests to raise chickens, other farm animals, and to grow their own food.

"All this urban agriculture has come. People want to do small scale farming in residential settings," he said.

The Planning Commission minutes

from Krause's situation state that the board struggled with the request because trends are starting to turn back to farming, raising chickens and growing one's own food.

Township officials disagree on how to handle this new trend while operating under current zoning ordinances.

At the August 2016 meeting and the deadlocked vote, Trustees Mark Goupil and Robert Kesler, and Clerk Bob Krug voted to rezone the property, while Trustees Vince Lorraine and Shaun Shumaker and Treasurer John Tucker voted against it. Supervisor Bonnie Mathis was absent so the vote was even and the motion to rezone failed.

Lorraine and Tucker said they do not support rezoning property that does not comply with the Future Land Use Plan, which is part of the Master Plan.

The Master Plan is the "Bible" or the "big picture" for zoning, Tucker said. All zoning ordinances are built off the long-

term plan. It accounts for growth trends, infrastructure, income of residents, and many other factors. The Master Plan determines the Future Land Use Plan.

At a recent meeting when the topic arose again, Tucker explained while more people are requesting to rezone their property to have farm animals, diverting from the Master Plan opens the township up to litigation and liability.

"You win when you follow your Master Plan, you lose when you don't," he said.

Goupil said he prefers to consider each case on an individual basis.

"If we're going to revisit it and put that in, why not look at individual merits? Our whole existence shouldn't be prevention of lawsuits," Goupil said. "Forgive me for this word, but if our Master Plan now is flawed and we're going to revisit it, are we going to continue enforcing our flawed plan?"

"I think it's fair to ask the question whether urban agriculture ought to be done but you don't know the answer to

that yet," Tucker said.

Tucker, who's also chair of the Planning Commission, said the commission is fine with horticulture aspect of urban agriculture, but they're "kind of dicey" when it comes to animals.

"Once you get straight agriculture zoning, you can have pig farms, mass poultry. It comes with smells and sounds you don't necessarily want in a residential setting. Agriculture even involves buffalo," he said.

This has caused the board to discuss revisiting the 12-year-old Master Plan. Attorney Jack Belzer said townships are supposed to look at the plan every five years, but they're not required to

change it. Tucker said they're planning to have companies send in bids for the job, which can cost tens of thousands of dollars and involves approximately 10 public meetings and many Planning Commission meetings. The process could take a year.

Tucker suspects that agriculture will be discussed, and if they decide to allow more agriculture zoning, they'll be an extensive list of rules residents have to follow.

Potential new legislation

Even though the township currently has the power to regulate farm animals, new legislation could damper that. Senate Bill 109 would prohibit local units of government from adopting or enforcing provisions that regulate raising of livestock in urban and suburban areas unless the zoning ordinance provisions meet guidelines established by the Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development and with the Michigan Right to Farm Act.

"...if our Master Plan now is flawed and we're going to revisit it, are we going to continue enforcing our flawed plan?"

Mark Goupil
Fenton Township trustee

"You win when you follow your Master Plan, you lose when you don't."

John Tucker
Fenton Township treasurer

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Police&Fire report

TRAFFIC STOP LEADS TO ARREST

A Pennsylvania man is facing a felony charge of possession of crack cocaine following a traffic stop in Fenton. Sgt. Dave Reinfelder of the Fenton Police Department said an officer pulled over a 2001 Volvo for a traffic violation as it traveled northbound on U.S. 23 at 4 a.m. on April 16. Suspecting the driver, a 49-year-old Pennsylvania resident, was intoxicated, a field sobriety test was administered. The driver failed the test and was arrested for operating a vehicle while intoxicated. A passenger in the car, a 47-year-old Fenton Township man, was released. The car was impounded. The driver was taken to the police station for processing. During a search, police found a rock of crack cocaine in the man's pants pocket. The man said he found the rock on the floor of a restaurant in Flint and stuck it in his pocket. The next morning, the man admitted the crack cocaine was his. He will be charged with possession of crack cocaine, a felony and a misdemeanor charge of OWI.

TORNADO
Continued from Page 3A

If residents hear emergency tornado sirens outside of their testing times the first Saturday of each month at 1 p.m., they should take them seriously and seek shelter. Don't ignore the sirens — if the tornado siren in Fenton is activated, it means one has been sighted in or near Fenton, or is heading this way.

"When there are severe storms in the area, Fenton has the ability to set off our weather sirens independent of the county system," said Fenton Fire Chief Bob Cairnduff. "Most of our severe weather typically comes from the southwest and out of Livingston County. During our 2007 tornado, we set our sirens off ahead of the tornado hitting. The National Weather Service hadn't even issued a tornado warning for Genesee County yet. We feel this saved many lives."

Cairnduff said that residents should understand that when the sirens are set off in Fenton there is dangerous weather approaching very soon. "The sirens are set off for three minutes, then will be activated again if the weather threat is still active," he explained. "They will continue until the threat is gone. There is not an all clear siren."

Signs that can indicate an approaching tornado includes a dark, often greenish sky, large hail, a large, dark low-lying cloud and a loud roar, similar to a freight train.

Stay tuned to commercial radio or television broadcasts for updates on changing weather conditions or approaching storms. Know the difference between a Tornado Watch — conditions exist for a tornado to develop, and a Tornado Warning — a tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar.

"We always recommend people are aware of incoming weather," said Cairnduff. "Most people nowadays are constantly connected with their phones and computers to weather apps, but it is always a good thing to set up weather alerts that will automatically notify you of weather in your area. Most of the weather apps have this feature."

To be ready, residents should:

- Know in advance the lowest place you can take cover during a tornado — usually a basement or interior bathroom away from windows, doors and outside walls. In the basement, you should crawl under a sturdy structure, such as a stairwell or workbench.
- Develop a 72-hour emergency sup-

ply kit with essential items, such as a three-day supply of water and food, a NOAA Weather Radio, important family documents, prescriptions, medical equipment, etc.

- Develop a family plan about how to contact one another in the event of a weather emergency.
 - If severe weather is coming, move and secure outdoor lawn furniture and other objects.
 - Make sure all cell phones are charged.
- During a tornado:
- Seek shelter in the safe spot at home. If necessary, use a pillow or blanket to protect your head from glass.
 - If you are in a vehicle during a tornado, do one of these two actions:

1) If it's safe to do so, get out of your vehicle and lie in an area lower than the roadway, covering your head with your hands.

2) Otherwise, stay in the car with your seatbelt on and put your head below the windows, covered with your hands or a blanket.

“During our 2007 tornado, we set our sirens off ahead of the tornado hitting. The National Weather Service hadn't even issued a tornado warning for Genesee County yet. We feel this saved many lives.”

Bob Cairnduff
Fenton City fire chief

After a tornado:

- Inspect your home, property and vehicles for damage. Check for electrical problems and gas leaks. If damage is suspected, shut off power, natural gas and propane tanks.
- Avoid downed power lines and report them to Consumers Energy.
- Restock supplies in your emergency kit.

What NOT to do after a tornado

"One of the most important things for people to NOT do is go anywhere near downed wires," said Cairnduff. "Power lines can fall and be touching things like fences or phone/cable lines and the power line is still energized and now is conducting energy through those items. People can lean on a fence that is energized and be electrocuted."

"We treat all power lines as if they are still energized," added Cairnduff. "Residents should never go near them as they are extremely dangerous. Parents should not let their children go out and play right after a storm until they are sure there are no downed wires in the area."

Source: Michigan.gov, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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HOT LINE CONTINUED

IT SEEMS THE city of Linden, in typical anti-business form, is looking for a problem in search of a solution, i.e. the proposed Taco Bell parking lot and drive-through lane. It sounds like a customer nightmare and eventually Taco Bell's nightmare.

■■■■
I LOVE THE creative and pithy headline 'No News is Bad News.'

■■■■
HOW DO YOU feel having your hard-earned money confiscated by the immoral thieves in Washington? When will we all stand up as one and demand that they fix the dysfunctional tax code. We pay, GE and other multi-billion dollar corporations pay nothing. Time to just say no!

ROADS

Continued from Front Page

The plan also gave estimated project costs (see sidebar).

Juidici said roads rated 9 and 10 require no maintenance at this time. An 8 rating means little to no maintenance is required. A 7 rating means routine maintenance is in order.

"A 4 rating means the road is at a critical distress point," said Juidici. "Below 4 means the road needs heavy heavy rehabilitation."

He said today city of Fenton roads, on a scale of 1 to 10, have an overall rating of 3.5.

"If we spent \$2 million over a 10-year period, we would see an average rating of about 5.5," Juidici said.

It isn't just the roads that need repair. Several have drainage and storm sewers to consider. Council members agreed with engineers and the Public Works Department (DPW) that addressing drainage and storm sewer issues before putting down a new road will need to be done.

This could mean that one road could get fixed that doesn't look as bad as another because the other has infrastructure repairs that need to be addressed first.

City Manager Lynn Markland said the focus at this point should be on preservation. "The majority of our roadwork is beyond the point of maintenance," he said. "This is a long-term problem that happened over several years. It's not that we didn't want to do it (road fixes) it's because we didn't have the funds."

Markland said the Michigan legislature has not helped matters either and told council not to count on funds from the state. Fenton can't afford to accept the "Band-Aid approach," he said.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

The pavement around this drain on Westwood Drive in Fenton is crumbling. The Fenton City Council is considering asking for a 6-mill tax increase in November for the purpose of fixing city of Fenton roads.

About \$500,000 is expected from Act 51 funds (gas taxes), but that does not come close to the millions needed to repair or replace city streets over the next five years.

Markland said the council needs to consider a referendum to pay for city roadwork. "To do something less ... I don't think it serves the public very well," he said.

At first the council considered Markland's recommendation of asking for 5 mills. However, after learning that this millage if passed, would be subject to

“No one is coming to our rescue. We’re not going to get the money anywhere else. The roads are not going to get better. Doing nothing is not an option.”

Lynn Markland
Fenton city manager

Headlee rollbacks, they decided by an informal consensus vote to ask for 6 mills instead.

"The only way we are ever going to get this done is through a millage," said Markland. "No one is coming to our rescue. We're not going to

get the money anywhere else. The roads are not going to get better. Doing nothing is not an option."

City administration and the council hope to get the question on the November ballot. If passed by the voters, the 6 mills will be dedicated to road projects only, nothing else. Attorney Stephen Schultz is working on ballot language that will be presented to council at a future meeting.

What will it cost

If voters in the city of Fenton pass the 6 mill roads referendum in November, the new tax will be collected with the summer 2018 bill. To calculate what they will pay,

homeowners should multiply the taxable value of their home by .006. (Six mills is \$6 for every \$1,000 of taxable value). So, if the taxable value of a home is \$50,000 for example, the cost of the road millage will be \$300 per year.

Although council members discussed a length of 15 years for this millage, the ballot language has not yet been completed.

Five year road projects and costs

The total estimated cost to repair major roads and local roads has been calculated for a period of five years. These costs do not include any required infrastructure (drains, sewers, etc.) that may need to be done.

- 2018 Projects = \$2,887,000
- 2019 Projects = \$2,379,000
- 2020 Projects = \$2,383,000
- 2021 Projects = \$1,999,000
- 2022 Projects = \$2,384,000

For details on specific streets and the year the work is planned in the event of a successful millage vote, call or visit Fenton City Hall.

What is a Headlee rollback?

Prior to Proposal A legislation passed in 1994, local governments were allowed to "roll up" their millage rates when growth on existing property was less than inflation. "Roll ups" were a self-correcting mechanism that allowed local governments to naturally recapture taxing authority lost due to Headlee rollbacks in prior years. A local government could only "roll up" its millage rate to the amount originally authorized by charter, state statute, or a vote of the people.

Additions to taxable value (such as newly constructed property) are typically excluded, or exempt from the Headlee roll back calculation. The 1994 General Property Tax Act changes did not specifically define "uncapped values" (increases resulting primarily from property transfers) as exempt.

Although it may appear that a community with an annual increase in uncapped property values would benefit monetarily, uncapped values are treated as growth on existing property and trigger Headlee rollbacks.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

PEOPLE NEED TO be educated about Planned Parenthood. Any abortions are paid for by the individual, not funded!

MY KIDS DIDN'T go to school across from Comber & Fox and have never been to Herlich's Drug Store. Can they still say they are from Fenton? This is the only hometown they know.

NO, PRESIDENT TRUMP is not going to intervene in the Dollar Store, Pizza Hut, or shoe store closings. He is interested in creating well-paying, manufacturing jobs,

not in maintaining Obama's minimum wage service sector jobs.

SINCE WHEN DOES it require a scientific background to read and understand facts?

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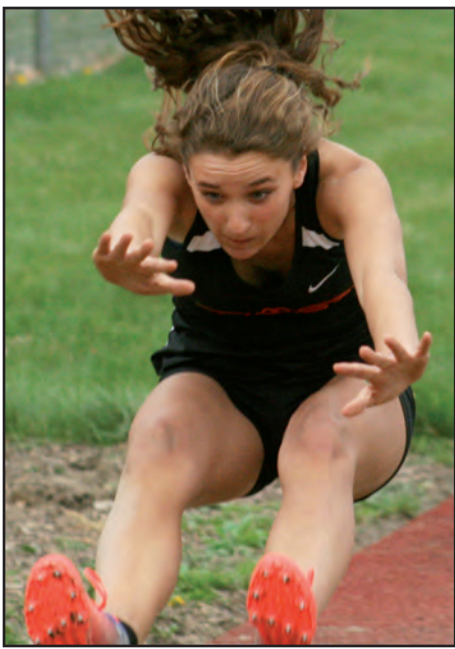
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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPENS
Fenton's Vien Sturm won the long jump in a meet against Holly and Kearsley.

Lady Tigers open defense of Metro League track championship with sweep

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

Holly — It was a strong start of the season for the defending Metro League girls track champions, as the Fenton Tigers dominated its first Metro action against Holly and Kearsley at Holly High School on Wednesday.

Fenton beat Kearsley 104-33, and also beat Holly 105-32. Holly lost a tight dual against Kearsley 74-62.

Fenton's strong program finished the three-team event with 13 of the overall firsts. Nine athletes came home with individual event first-place performances. In field events, freshman Vien Sturm won the long jump (14-8 1/4) in her first Metro action of her career. Hannah Chapin won the

See METRO on 23A

Bronchos draw even with Notre Dame Prep

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

Holly — It was a crazy start. The Holly varsity girls soccer team and Auburn Hills Avondale began their non-league contest at Holly High School with three goals in the first 18 minutes. However, the defenses settled down after that as the squads ended their game deadlocked at 2-2.

It was Avondale who tied it after trailing 2-1. With 11:50 remaining, the Yellow Jackets scored the game-tying goal.

Early on it looked like Holly's offense was going to erupt for

a seriously high total, scoring two goals within the first five minutes of the game.

CONTINUED ONLINE AT
➤ **TCTIMES.COM**

SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 2017 | **PAGE 22A** | WWW.TCTIMES.COM/SPORTS

Times Sports

Holly's Lexie Curtis



Blue Devils, Bronchos making positive strides

Blue Devils sweep twinbill vs. Holly

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

Holly — The Lake Fenton varsity softball team is young. But they have a winning history, and they play like it.

The Holly varsity softball program has struggled for about two decades, but there's one thing first-year head coach Scott Culver wants his team to know. There's no reason why they can't be like the Blue Devils, and be a strong team themselves.

Both teams faced off



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPENS
Lake Fenton's Mikala Hunsinger (right) slides safely into second base against Holly's Lilly Raymer during the Blue Devils' sweep against the Bronchos on Tuesday.

CONTINUED ONLINE AT
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Fenton boys track opens Metro with sweeps vs. Holly, Kearsley

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

Holly — It was an impressive Metro debut for the Fenton varsity boys track team on Wednesday, as the Tigers swept through both Kearsley and Holly.

Fenton defeated Kearsley 102.66-33.33 and Holly 97-40. Holly had a tight match with Kearsley, but lost 77.66-66.33.

I'm happy with the way the team performed," Fenton varsity boys track coach Anthony

McMillan said. "We had some very fast times considering the wet conditions. We are starting to find the right combinations for our relay teams. Also the depth of our team came into play. We were not able to run some guys in some events because of minor injuries."

Fenton had 10 event firsts with Zach West playing a part in four of them. West won the 200 (22.37) and the 400 (49.98) while also teaming with John Sage, Keegan Pombier and Ethan Pyeatt to win the 800 relay (1:31.56). He also teamed with Pyeatt, Brandon Bossnberger and Peter Ken-

nings to win the 1,600 relay (3:34.83). Kennings had a strong meet as well, winning two individual events. He won the 110 hurdles (17.07) and the 300 hurdles (43.50). Other individual winners for Fenton were Drew Miller in the high jump (5-10), Dominic Dimambro in the 800 (1:58.76) and Andrew Bond in the 3,200 (10:21.25). The 3,200 relay team of Bond, Samuel Deardorff, Mitchell Chabott and Dimambro (8:42.65) also won.

CONTINUED ONLINE AT
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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPENS
Fenton's Peter Kennings (above) who both hurdle events against Holly and Kearsley.

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPENS

Holly's Julian Solis sneaks back to first base safely during the Bronchos' losses against Notre Dame Prep.

Youthful Bronchos working on getting better, fall to Irish

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

Holly — It's been a start with some ups and downs for the Holly varsity baseball team, so far this season.

On Tuesday, the Bronchos experienced one of the lows, dropping a pair of winnable contests against Notre Dame Prep at Holly High School.

The Bronchos had the game-tying run at the plate in the seventh inning, but lost the opener to Notre Dame Prep 7-4. In the nightcap, the Bronchos were unable to get their offense going, resulting in a 2-1 loss in a game shortened to five innings due to darkness.

Holly had the game-tying run at first when the second contest ended. With two

out, J.D. Lannon reached base on an infield error. However, the inning and game ended with a ground out a few minutes later.

"We are young," Holly varsity baseball coach Benny Jackson said. "We are not hitting the ball well, but we'll get there. We threw our four, five, six and seven (pitchers) today, so it's a learning experience. They have to throw strikes."

Notre Dame Prep took a 2-0 lead during the top of the fourth with some clutch two-out hitting. The Irish had two two-out singles, scoring runs, earning the 2-0 edge.

Holly bounced back in the bottom of the fourth with a run of its own.

CONTINUED ONLINE AT
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METRO

Continued from Page 22A

pole vault (10-0) while senior and first-year track performer Jessica Warford won the high jump (4-6).

On the track, Madaline Hall won the 100 (12.68) while the Keiser sisters earned a first each. Alexa Keiser won the 800 (2:27.93) and Jenna Keiser won the 1,600 (5:35.17). Cambria Tiemann won the 3,200 (11:44.99) while Cassandra Campbell won the 100 hurdles (17.10). Nikki Mathee took the top spot in the 300 hurdles (54.14).

The Tigers also won all four relay events. Kiley Aldred, Johanna VanCamp, Abby Koza and Hannah Chapin won the 400 relay (52.62), while Campbell, Aldred, Stum and Hall won the 800 relay (1:53.24). Jenna Keiser and Alexa Keiser combined with



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPENS

Fenton's Jessica Warford won the high jump with a leap of 4-foot-6.

Chapin and Lauren Bossenberger to win the 1,600 relay (4:23.31) and also teamed with Tiemann and Brenna Bleicher to win the 3,200 relay (10:51.93).

Holly had a handful of overall seconds. Sara Johnston had two of them, earning second in the shot put (32-5) and in the discus (87-1).

PREP REPORT

GIRLS SOCCER

► **Lake Fenton 3, Goodrich 0:** The Lake Fenton varsity girls soccer team posted a big victory in its first Genesee Area Conference match up of the season, defeating the defending conference champions. Ashlyn Skidmore, Morgan Reitano and Teyana Brown scored goals.

GIRLS LACROSSE

► **Waterford Mott 20, Fenton/Linden 11:** The Heat (3-3) played their toughest opponents of the season, but were still tied with Waterford Mott 8-8 at the half. However, Waterford Mott outscored the Heat 12-3 in the second half.

TRACK AND FIELD

► **Lake Fenton vs. Corunna, Mt. Morris:** The Lake Fenton boys defeated Mt. Morris 112-21 but lost to Corunna 78-55. The Lake Fenton girls lost to Corunna 111-25 and Mt. Morris 72-55.

The boys earned overall firsts in eight events. Jason Baird and Elijah Bourdeau took part in three firsts each. Baird won the 100 (11.0) and the 200 (22.55) while Bourdeau won the 400 (51.66) and the long jump (18-2 3/4). Each were members of winning relays. Baird teamed with Jerry Yelinek, Nolan Mitchell and Cade Holland to win the 800 relay (1:32.8). Bourdeau teamed with Yelinek, Remington Clements and Isaac Golson to win the 1,600 relay (3:38.40). The other Lake Fenton men to win an event were Golson in the high jump (6-2) while Thomas Mueller won the 800 (2:04.68). Rachel Learman earned the women's only overall first, taking the top spot in the 300 hurdles (58.30).

GIRLS TENNIS

► **Brandon 8, Fenton 0:** Kasey Walsh lost a close three setter at No. 4 singles.

Online Exclusives

STORIES ONLINE AT
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Fenton baseball remains perfect, sweeps Lapeer

The Fenton varsity baseball team has to be a confident bunch right now.

The squad has proven unbeatable during the early portion of the season, earning victories in five straight contests.

The Tigers improve to 5-0 with a 5-2 victory at Lapeer on Tuesday.

Linden's pitching leads Eagles to doubleheader wins

Outstanding pitching led the Linden varsity baseball team to the Division 2 state championship game a year ago.

Outstanding pitching has led the team to a 5-1 record in the early going of the 2017 baseball season as well.

Linden pitchers allowed just one run in a doubleheader sweep against Bay City John Glenn on Tuesday.

LF baseball captures twinbill wins vs. Mustangs

It has been a tough start to the Lake Fenton varsity baseball team.

That tough start got brighter on Wednesday. The Blue Devils (2-3) swept a doubleheader against Clio, earning a 4-3 win and a 7-0 victory. The Blue Devils scored two runs in the bottom of the seventh inning, earning the win.

Linden soccer working on conditioning, earning wins

The talent is there. Kevin Feibernitz knows that.

The Linden varsity girls soccer team returns almost the entire squad from last year's team that was very talented as well.

So far this season's record reflects just how talented the team is, posting a 6-1 mark. Now, all the coach Feibernitz wants to see is the team improve its conditioning.

Linden girls track earns two wins, boys get split

The Linden track programs were three-for-four in their first Metro League competitions of the season at home against Brandon and Clio on Wednesday.

The girls swept both Brandon and Clio while the boys defeated Brandon but lost to Clio.

Both programs had plenty of overall firsts. The girls had nine.



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