All men are sexual predators. It’s been this way since the beginning of time. It’s only when they become rich and famous that the violated women come forward to punish them and cash in. If they’re poor, it’s not worth it. It’s the ugly truth.”

“Americans, walk away from all late night TV talk shows, just turn them off. These Hollywood crybabies are weakening our country with their relentless mocking of the president. Europe sees it all, as do China and ISIS recruiters. They are putting all Americans in danger.”

“In many cases, it takes a scientific background in order to understand scientific facts. If you want to understand Donald Trump’s facts, all you have to be is gullible.”

“All men are sexual predators. It’s been this way since the beginning of time. It’s only when they become rich and famous that the violated women come forward to punish them and cash in. It’s the ugly truth.”

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Area student nabs NFL field day

School nets $6,000 grant from Detroit Lions

By Tim Jagielo

Holly — Sometimes, when you open up a container of yogurt, you only get a container of yogurt. Other times you find one of five golden “tickets” in the country to meet an NFL player, and get a field day and $6,000 for improvements at your school.

The latter was the situation for Patterson Elementary students Chase and Kole Couchman, who found a “golden” Danimals Bongo Bottle at home late last summer.

“We’ve been planning it pretty much for the whole school year; the boys and I were very excited,” said Chase Couchman’s mother, Melody. “We’ve been planning it pretty much for the whole school year; the boys and I were very excited.”

By Tim Jagielo

Rally’s Drive-in, with locations in 28 states including 13 in Michigan, will open in June at the former What’s Shake’n restaurant in Fenton.

What’s Shake’n Burger Grille opened June 2014 at 15115 Silver Parkway and closed right after Christmas 2016, reopening Feb. 14 as a special occasion facility instead of a restaurant.

Rally’s franchisee Alan Balen and former What’s Shake’n owner Dave Durant closed on the leased deal last week for an undisclosed amount.

See RALLY’S on 15A

Ameer Abdullah, Detroit Lions running back, times a race during the Patterson Elementary NFL field day on Friday, April 21. A student found a Dannon yogurt “golden bongo” bottle last summer, and this event, along with $6,000 for the school, was the grand prize.

Rally’s Drive-in coming to Fenton

Another excellent burger business approached us and it was a great fit for the area. We agreed to step away and now we can focus solely on Dairyland, so it’s a win-win.

Dave Durant

Former owner of What’s Shake’n Burger Grille

Rally’s Drive-in will be the newest national chain restaurant to move into Fenton, at the former What’s Shake’n location at 15115 Silver Parkway.

Tool Box Tip #1

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Random thoughts

- I’m writing this before the NFL draft, but whichever team drafted Joe Mixon, who punched an Oklahoma woman in the face in a sandwich shop near campus in 2014, you should stop rooting for immediately. If you haven’t seen the video of Mr. Mixon’s work, go watch it then tell me you’d be proud to have him representing your team. Yeah, everyone deserves a second chance, but some things are just too much.

- Admittedly, I’m not the type of fan who roots for whomever they put on the field, court, rink or diamond. I have this antique belief that a sports franchise means something and shouldn’t associate itself with bad people who do bad, no good, rotten things. That’s why my all-time favorites are good citizen athletes like Al Kaline and Bart Starr. I’m such an idiot.

- I think the same way about politicians, too. Call me crazy but I think the person who holds the office matters a lot more than the party that holds the office, but clearly a lot of people feel differently. Winning seems to be all that matters.

- I want truth in advertising for dishwashing soap. The commercials show people stuffing caked on, baked on lasagna pans into the dishwasher and they emerge spotless. That’s BS. That’s never happened in the history of lasagna or dishwashing soap. There oughta be a law.

- One of the very, very, very few things the current state Legislature has done right is raise the speed limit on 600 miles of rural freeway to 75. People already drive much faster than that on those stretches, but it’s nice that the speed at which you might get a ticket will rise to 82, which is the official limit plus the 7 mph the police give you before bothering with you.

- Trump signed an executive order to identify national monuments that can be rescinded or resized to allow for drilling, mining and other development. That is so depressing it hurts. Then again, I’ve always thought oil rig would look smashing next to Old Faithful. And how long until there’s a Trump Tower on top of Teddy Roosevelt’s head at Mt. Rushmore? If he does that, just make it two towers so it looks like devil horns or something.

- Wait, Weren’t executive orders the devil’s tool when Obama was issuing them? So how come they’re OK now?

- That might be the most rhetorical question I’ve ever asked.

- Insanity runs amok these days. The United Nations this week elected Saudi Arabia to its Commission on Women’s Rights, which is a bit like electing the Saudis to head up the international war on terror, isn’t it? (In case you’ve forgotten, most of the 9/11 terrorists were Saudis.)

- Spirit Airlines is no longer the worst rated airline for customer service, according to a new survey. That honor goes to Frontier Airlines. I’ve never flown on Frontier and I’ve flown a lot on Spirit because I’m cheap and poor. Spirit is truly awful. So, good God, what could Frontier possibly do that’s worse? Make passengers stick their arms out the windows and flap? Charge for air? Seats that are 6 inches wide? I almost want to try it just to find out.

- Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is if you don’t try just one more time.” — Thomas A. Edison

—Katherine Gauthier

FEATURED COLUMNIST

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I CAN’T BELIEVE this man who has had chickens for decades is being forced to remove them. Is he even allowed three for Fenton City? Curious if there have been any complaints on families with chickens. Seriously. Compare that to the complaints on dogs, cats, and rats in the city. We have bigger problems that families trying to be more self-sufficient.

I’m a sports official. I officiate by what is the spirit of the rules and what advantage is gained. In regards to the chickens in Fenton Township, it looks like someone had a little power and wanted to show it. This code enforcement officer created a problem where one didn’t exist. According to the article, no neighbors complained.

I see that Obama has accepted $400,000 for a speech to a Wall Street firm. This is the industry that he blasted and criticized for the last eight years.

The PICK-UP truck spotted driving around town with a vulgar and obscene message in large letters splashed across the back window is embarrassing and offensive. And if it is not illegal, it should be.

Having children you cannot afford shows weak personal responsibility. Unfortunately, in the vast majority of cases, it becomes repetitious and we are left with a weakening of a once great country and an excess of Democratic voters.

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I love the ‘around the world’ series. I hope you do it until we have truly been around the world.

If you want to raise chickens, move to Holly Township. We are chicken friendly.

Check out the mold growing on the Holly water towers. If you build it, maintain it.

There’s much more to the chicken story than you know. You should consider the Krauses. Do you realize they have many acres and fewer than 10 chickens? They are good people and love their animals. And we are glad they are our neighbors.

Hillary, we are not anti-woman, as most conservatives are that backing Marie Le Pen versus all the men in the France election.

Lies, that’s what the problem is. The government lies, Democrats and Republicans lie, the Hot-liners lie, the media and police and doctors and preachers and teachers and you. Think about it.

What tax bothers me? The luxury tax on top of the state sales tax with feminine products.

Hats off to the lady who spent hours picking up trash and litter from the fence area between the DPW and Linden schools on Silver Lake Road. Thank you.

All you millennials who help make Facebook-founder Mark Zuckerberg a multi-billionaire, are you aware that his policies are created to harm the Christian and conservative sites but allow isis to blatantly recruit on Facebook? I’ve been on FB since I did a thesis on it at U of M two years ago.

Gas prices, registration fees, insurance, they can charge you whatever they want because you have to pay it and you will pay it.

If you wish to blow off James Douglas’ 12-year-study outlining the Kennedy years where he offers over 200 pages of documented references, which anyone with ambition wishing to avoid vague generalities can verify, then who’s the radical?

See Hot Line throughout Times

What’s your summer job? Compiled by Hannah Ball, staff reporter

I have a modeling job in L.A. at the end of July. It’s promotion for their business. It’s a sister company of Glik’s.

Working at my current job in Goodwill. I might be getting a second job to pay for an apartment. I’m not sure where at.

I’m doing lawn care and I’m refereeing soccer games for local clubs. I like the little kids because they’re cute.

I’m working in a concession stand for the fairs here. It’s called Paradise Concessions. I’ve been dying to work there since I was a kid.

—Mia Qualls

—Alla Frederick

—Katherine Gauthier

—Tyler Bourassa

—Jason Craine

—Andrew Heller
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**News briefs**

**VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT FOR TRI-COUNTY AREA**
Heartland Hospice is looking for volunteers. Any adult, 18 years or older, can serve as a hospice volunteer. Some volunteers interact directly with patients and families, while others prefer to work behind the scenes. If you are interested in volunteering go to www.heartlandhospice.com/Flint and click on the Volunteer link to complete a volunteer application. If you have any questions, call Jamie Rhew, Heartland Volunteer Coordinator at (810) 230-1918.

**LINDEN CLEAN UP DAY**
The Linden Beautification Committee and the Linden City Council will be cleaning up the Eagles Wooden Park on May 13, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The city is asking for volunteers to help. Workers will be raking, clipping bushes, and improving the overall appeal of the park. You can follow the event on Facebook/Linden.Mi to RSVP or visit the website for updated information. If you have any questions, contact Brenda Simmons at bsimmons@lindenmi.us.

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**Why churches and non-profits don’t pay taxes**

Carl Jones, pastor at The Freedom Center in Fenton, commented on the story about The Rock Church on Facebook and said “A church, like any non-profit, depends on the giving of people. People, because of their love for God and belief in the trustworthiness and vision of that particular church’s leadership (as it lines up with the Bible), give to the ‘cause.’ If they don’t like it, they don’t get it. If they don’t give, it doesn’t happen. Plain and simple.”

Churches aren’t the only organizations that don’t have to pay taxes. Other non-profits that aim to improve the community, like Planned Parenthood, universities, hospitals, and charities are exempt from the U.S. Internal Revenue Service Code. Subsection 501(c) of the IRS code relates to non-profit organizations and tax laws, and identifies which organizations are exempt from paying federal income tax. Under this subsection, the following types of organizations are exempt:

1. Any organization organized under an Act of Congress
2. Organizations that hold title of property for exempt organizations
3. Corporations, funds, or foundations that operate for religious, charitable, scientific, literary or educational purposes
4. Nonprofit organizations that promote social welfare
5. Labor, agricultural or horticultural associations
6. Business leagues, chambers of commerce, and other organizations not designed for profit
7. Recreational organizations

**TEN RICHEST TAX-EXEMPT ORGANIZATIONS**

1. The Roman Catholic Church has an operating budget of more than $170 billion. Although, no one knows exactly how much money the church has because churches are not required to disclose financial reporting to the IRS.
2. The Children’s Hospital of Boston is one of the richest healthcare facilities in the world with earnings of more than $1.3 billion annually.
3. Universities like Harvard and Yale are some of the wealthiest organizations in the world. These two colleges regularly claim endowments of more than $20 billion.
4. The YMCA has a total revenue of more than $6.6 billion.
5. Goodwill is a multi-billion dollar business that regularly pulls in more than $4 billion a year.
6. The Smithsonian Institution reports annual revenue reports that are more than $2 billion.
7. The American Bar Association regularly makes approximately $10 million.
8. The Susan G. Komen Foundation nets more than $400 million a year.
9. The NCAA regularly brings in more than $60 million a year.

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**WEEKEND TIMES**

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**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26. Foster Child’s Foster Day**

Foster parents and children are invited to the Open House this Wednesday, April 26 at the Ionia Child Guidance Center in Ionia. The center will open its doors to give children and parents a behind-the-scenes look at the center. The center provides services to children, youth, and families through therapy, counseling, and education. The center offers a variety of services, including adoption services, foster care, and child protective services.

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

Churches, along with other nonprofit organizations that aim to help people, have been exempt from paying certain taxes for hundreds of years. The Rock Church recently revealed details plans for the congregation’s new building they’re currently fundraising for. The story received more than 86 comments on Facebook, many positive, some indifferent, and some brought up the debate of why churches don’t pay taxes.

The Roman Catholic Church is the richest tax-exempt organization in the world. No one knows exactly how much money the church annually makes or keeps, but it’s estimated that the Catholic Church has an annual operating budget of more than $170 billion, according to slate.com.

According to money.cnn.com, The Vatican Bank has approximately $8 billion in assets.

The argument for taxing churches, which is prevalent considering tax season just ended, is that the U.S. government would make millions more.

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**CARL JONES, PASTOR AT THE FREEDOM CENTER IN FENTON, COMMENTED ON THE STORY ABOUT THE ROCK CHURCH ON FACEBOOK AND SAID “A CHURCH, LIKE ANY NON-PROFIT, DEPENDS ON THE GIVING OF PEOPLE. PEOPLE, BECAUSE OF THEIR LOVE FOR GOD AND BELIEF IN THE TRUSTWORTHINESS AND VISION OF THAT PARTICULAR CHURCH’S LEADERSHIP (AS IT LINES UP WITH THE BIBLE), GIVE TO THE ‘CAUSE.’ IF THEY DON’T LIKE IT, THEY DON’T GET IT. IF THEY DON’T GIVE, IT DOESN’T HAPPEN. PLAIN AND SIMPLE.”**

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Meet
DARREN MCDUNNOUGH

• President/CEO of McDunnough Corporation
• Musician
• Active outdoorsman

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

Darren McDunnough, 52, founded McDunnough, Inc. in 2002 and has grown it to its position today as a global leader in plastics recycling. He admits that he plays as hard as he works, sometimes even harder. He’s a single father to two children, Darren II, 16 and Shannon, 19. McDunnough grew up in Hartland, graduated from Hartland High School and Eastern Michigan University.

Q. Exactly what do you do at McDunnough, Inc.?
I’m President and CEO. We’re a full-service industrial plastics recycling company specializing in the recycling of post-industrial plastic scrap from manufacturing of plastic products. We also offer full service recycling programs for plastics, cardboard, paper and metal.

Q. How do you explain to people what McDunnough Corporation is all about?
We’re a global leader in recycling post-industrial plastic waste and providing bi-product management. We design custom-made programs for companies to help them recover post-industrial scrap materials and subsequently profit from their scrap.

Typically, we stage semi-trailers at manufacturing locations where suppliers are injection molding or extruding plastic products, parts or components. From there, parts are loaded onto our trailers, brought back to our facility, identity, qualified, weighed and staged for processing. Materials then go into manufacturing, which may include shredding, grinding, bailing or pelletizing and may be blended with other products to create materials with specific physical or mechanical properties. These products are then tested, marketed and sold to manufacturers that use recycled materials in their manufacturing operations.

Headquartered locally but operating globally, McDunnough, Inc. provides services and materials to suppliers and customers from coast to coast in North and South America. Additionally, we export products to countries such as China, Hong Kong, Korea, India, Japan, Mexico, Canada, Brazil, etc.

Q. How did you choose Fenton as a location for your business?
I am a local resident and had previously outgrown our Whitmore Lake facility. I began my search and as luck would have it, in 2010 Lear was selling the building we’re currently in. It was fortuitous timing and an excellent commercial real estate broker (Jim Montgomery, Signature Associates) that helped me land at this perfect location. The facility was exactly what we needed with 18 truck docks, more than 10 acres, fully fenced and secure, significant power and diesel generated backup along with a well maintained building — it was an ideal location well suited for our expansion plans.

Q. What’s a typical day like for you?
My day involves operations, finance, sales (still maintaining a customer and supplier base), marketing, strategic planning, manufacturing planning, contracts/legal, etc. Although I have an excellent staff, I still participate in day-to-day operations without having to micro-manage.

Q. What is your main philosophy of doing business?
Building and maintaining relationships is the most important aspect of business. When all else is equal, people want to work with or for people who are genuine, fair, fun and good at what they do. Also, our most important resource in our company is our people. We can have copious amounts of buildings, equipment and inventory but without the right team to make it all work together, we would not be successful. We are an organization of people, not of products or services. And finally, some of the best deals we ever make are ones we walk away from.

Q. How do you balance your work and personal life?
I stay very active as a musician. I am the lead singer and guitar player in several local bands: ROOK — a rock cover band (lead singer/guitarist), Radiographic — an originals rock band (Writer/lead singer), Magically Delusious — an acoustic rock group (lead singer/guitarist) and finally Second Hand Mojo — an originals rock project (writer/lead singer). We play local and regional venues as well as festivals.

Q. What is something that most people likely don’t know about you?
My favorite sport is MMA (mixed martial arts), sushi, cooking, music — writing, singing and playing. I love lake living, I enjoy being active but am just as comfortable relaxing. I enjoy shooting sports and training, outdoor activities such as hunting, fishing, kayaking/boating. I enjoy travel.

Q. How would you like to be remembered?
I want my tombstone to say: “He was a great guy who knew how to love, live and laugh and he made this world just a little bit better.”

Darren McDunnough has been president and CEO of McDunnough, Inc. since 2002. He’s also a musician and a former videographer.
Best places to retire in 2017

Warmer does not necessarily mean better

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

When people think of retirement their thoughts often zoom to the beaches and golf courses of Florida, or hot, sunny pool sides along the red rocks of Arizona.

The more adventurous types are a little more elaborate, trading their homes and other valuables for a great pickup truck, fifth-wheel motor home with a little Jeep or other small vehicle hitched to the back for quick running around in later.

The best part of the latter retirement scenario is that couples can go anywhere they want whenever they want, and if the weather doesn’t cooperate, they can always leave very quickly.

Eventually that gets tiring though as people get older and they’ll want to once again settle down. The following are rated by benefitspro.com as the top five best places to retire:

5. Colorado

Colorado finished third for adjusted cost of living, but there are other compensations.

It’s 12th in overall tax-friendliness, 14th for mildness of weather, 16th for theatres and dinner theatres, eighth for air quality, and 11th for water quality.

4. Iowa

Iowa finished second in the nation for the number of health care facilities per 100,000 residents, and fourth for the share of its over-65 population with health insurance.

Its elder-abuse protections were strong enough to rank it seventh, while a fifth-place elder-friendly labor market bodes well for those who might want or need to go back to work.

And when it comes to health, it got third place for seniors in good health and for seniors who are active, as well as seventh place for death rate among seniors and 11th for life expectancy overall.

3. South Dakota

South Dakota had the fourth highest percentage of working seniors, and 12th most elder-friendly labor market.

It finished in fifth place for air quality and 12th for water quality, and has plenty of doctors (1.5th place), dentists (fifth place) and nurses (first place), as well as healthcare facilities (also first place).

And it finished in third place for emotional health.

It also does well on golf courses (fifth place) and museums (ninth place), but not so well on theatres and dinner theatres (38th).

2. Wyoming

Wyoming actually tied for 49th place in the high cost of its in-home services, but it came in fourth for being generally tax-friendly and first for tax-friendliness on Social Security and pensions.

Crime rates are low — eighth place for violent crime and 13th place for property crime — but the state doesn’t do so well on the quality of its elder abuse protections, dropping to next-to-last at 50th place.

1. Florida

The reigning king of retirement, Florida tops the list for golf courses, as might be expected, as well as for tax-friendliness on pensions and Social Security.

It has the highest share of 65-plus residents in its population, and ranks 13th in the share of those over-65s who are active.

Its weather ranked 12th, while access to public transportation came in at 20th place.

And when it comes to entertainment, it’s 15th in museums and seventh in theatres and dinner theatres.

Retirees rate what’s important

From most to least important, here are the factors a Bankrate.com study examined:

• Cost of living (70 percent)
• Quality of health care (68 percent)
• Crime (67 percent)
• Cultural vitality (64 percent)
• Weather (49 percent)
• Taxes (47 percent)
• Senior citizens’ well-being and prevalence of other seniors (10 percent)

Sources: bankrate.com, clark.com; benefitspro.com

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FENTON'S OPEN BOOK
**CHEF’S**
Continued from Front Page

culinary director at Mott Community College in Flint.
The event begins at 6:30 p.m. and will end between 8:30 and 9 p.m.
After an introduction featuring the fanfare of any Hollywood production, Brunori and Cooper will be given three secret ingredients, which they will be charged with creating something specta-
cular and be judged on.
Dick Skaff of Skaff Furniture, and Jen and Brian of Smile FM, a Christian radio station are among the judges in the competition.
Pastor Jim Weigand and his son J.D. will emcee the event. According to Jen-
nifer Strygulec, “The two are a real comedy show.”
The event is being organized by a commit-
tee headed to Strygulec and her husband, Bob. The couple manage the Fenton Center of Hope, with Bob serving as direc-
tor and Jennifer, coordinator.
The Chef’s Challenge is a fundraiser for the Fenton Center of Hope, which is a nonprofit organization that offers a food pantry and baby closet.
In addition to the “Iron Chef” style competition, which Brunori has won a few times in the past, there will be more than 20 tables featuring the food fad of local restaurants. Some of those restaurants include LaMar's, The Green Olive Tree, The Laundry, El Topo, Can-
cun Restaurant, Fenton Hotel Tavern & Grille, Beale Street Smokehouse, Bang-
kok Peppers, Tia Helitas (Flint), John’s Grille, Beale Street Smokehouse, Bang-
cun Restaurant, Fenton/Linden Moms Club and Al Serra Auto Plaza.
Jennifer said she is often asked and answers, “There really is a need in Fenton.”
But the Strygulecs have much more in mind for those in need than just giving away food and baby items.
“We want to empower them to take care of their families by breaking the chain of dependency,” Jennifer said.
This fall, they plan to offer a six-week cooking class, for example. Students will learn how to plan for the week, save on groceries and prepare nutritious meals.
There will be a class that teaches budget-
ning and financing. They also want to teach people how to write a resume and what to do to ensure a successful job interview.
“Our church is rich with talent and skills,” said Jennifer, about those who will be teaching the classes.
Tickets to this gala event are $30 per person. For tickets and more informa-
tion, call Jennifer at 810-629-5261, ext. 104, or visit The Fenton Center of Hope (house in front of The Freedom Center) at 2525 W. Shiawassee Ave., Fenton.


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LAJOICE
Continued from Front Page

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LAJOICE
Continued from Front Page

According to the anonymous caller, Michael LaJoice, the bank’s chief financial officer, allegedly exacted himself from that Monday, Jan. 4, 2016 meeting after allegedly learning that he was about to face some problems. He never again returned to that office.

Prior to that day, there was always a lot of questions and speculation floating around the Times office and the community about where Michael LaJoice was going to get the money for a multi-million dollar development project in downtown Fenton called “Riverview.” No one could figure out where a man earning a banker’s salary, most likely less than $100,000 per year, could get that kind of money. Surely, not even his Chassé Ballroom and Latin Dance Studio could generate that amount of cash. So, the question remained unanswered.

That is, until Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2016, when the Times learned that LaJoice had turned himself into the Oakland County Sheriff’s Office, confessing to authorities that he had embezzled around $20 million from the Clarkson-Brandon Community Credit Union over the last 12 years. That confession kicked off a year filled with revelations and events that have been detailed in more than 25 news articles in the Times relative to this case.

Although LaJoice has paid back more than $3 million in “ restitution,” he was also ordered in federal court to pay back an additional $17,748,380.

Now, this is where it gets interesting to me. Does the $17,748,380 figure represent how much money is still unaccounted for? If so, where did it go? Or, where is it now? We realize big houses, swimming pools, nice cars, great vacations and fancy restaurants cost a lot of money — but nearly $18 million? Could it all have been spent?

During our year of reporting on this incredible story there have been conflicting statements with regard to the day and time that LaJoice discovered he’d been busted and walked out of the credit union for the last time. Was it Monday, Jan. 4, 2016 or Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2016?

It appears that from the time he left the credit union, whether Monday or Tuesday, he was not seen again until 9:00 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2016 when he walked into the Oakland County Sheriff’s Office to confess. Which leaves all of Monday night and/or all of Tuesday unaccounted for. But even if Michael LaJoice did leave the bank on Tuesday, he still had all of Tuesday evening, and the overnight hours, until he turned himself in.

So, I called Oakland County Under-
By Vera Hogan
vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

On Monday, May 1, Michael LaJoice, 38, formerly of Tyrone Township will be sentenced in Oakland County Circuit Court, where he is expected to plead guilty to embezzlement charges.

On March 23, he was sentenced in federal court to 132 months, or 11 years, in prison for bank fraud after embezzling more than $20 million from the now-insolvent Clarkston Brandon Community Credit Union.

Judge Gershwin A. Drain gave the ruling in the U.S. District Court. LaJoice appeared in court in chains.

Before the sentencing was given, defense attorney Michael Manley and John Neal, chief of the White Collar Crime Unit, spoke as did LaJoice, who appeared to get choked up as he addressed the judge.

“I used to think that happiness came from money and I learned I was wrong,” LaJoice said. He said he learned that happiness came from his family and God, and that admitting this was a weight off his shoulders.

“I ask for mercy so I can return home to my family,” he said.

So far, LaJoice has paid back more than $3 million of the money he “paid back in restitution,” according to Manley.

LaJoice was ordered to pay restitution of $17,748,380.

LaJoice’s sentencing in federal court matches the U.S. Attorney’s Office, which recommended 132 months, or 11, years of imprisonment, while Manley asked for 60 months, or five years.

LaJoice’s properties, including his multi-million dollar home in Tyrone Township, were sold to help pay restitution.

LaJoice has been housed in the Oakland County Jail since he turned himself in in January 2016. He and his defense attorney, Michael Manley, are pictured above.

LaJoice’s sentencing in federal court runs concurrent.

Michael LaJoice has been housed in the Oakland County Jail since he turned himself in in January 2016. He and his defense attorney, Michael Manley, are pictured above.
the Holly VFW, called for information leading to the arrest of the person or persons responsible for her death.

The $1,000 given by the Holly VFW brings the Crime Stoppers reward money up to $8,500. This is added to the $5,000 put up by the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), for a total of $13,500.

“We would like to extend our gratitude to the Holly VFW,” said Nikki Brueger, Ally’s mother. “These are brave men and women who served their country and are still serving their community. It would be a blessing to us if other groups in the area or community businesses would follow their example and donate to Crime Stoppers on behalf of our daughter,” she said. “We need to find this killer.”

While the reward money keeps mounting, there are no new leads in the case, according to F/Lt. Michael Shaw of the Michigan State Police.

Shaw said Wednesday, April 26, that there is nothing new to report in this case, but said it is not cold. “There is really no standard for when it’s called a cold case as we work on them all the time when something new develops,” Shaw said.

During a press conference at the Rose Township hall in February, Franz and Nikki Brueger, Ally’s parents, were surrounded by family and friends as they talked about their daughter. They begged the community for any information leading to the arrest of the person responsible for murdering their daughter.

Ally was shot in the back four times while jogging on Fish Lake Road in Rose Township on that July day last summer. She was running on a regular route taken during her daily 10-mile jogs. Crime Stoppers of Michigan say that individuals leaving tips do not have to be 18 years old. They often receive tips from minors that lead to the arrest of individuals that have committed crimes.

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

People of all ages are encouraged to call Crime Stoppers at 1 (800) SPEAK-UP or text CSM and their anonymous tip to 274637. Do not give your name in either case otherwise Crime Stoppers won’t be able to accept the information you provide. It is completely anonymous.

Nikki Brueger, the mother of Alexandria “Ally” Brueger, the 31-year-old nurse who was shot four times in the back while jogging on Fish Lake Road on July 30, 2016, finds one way of finding ways to help keep her daughter’s memory alive in the public so that someday her killer will be found.

In the meantime, she has a special request. “I would like the people in the community as a whole to hang running shoes in front of their homes to bring attention to the violence and sexual harassment perpetrated on girls and women runners and walkers,” she said.

Nikki likens this activity to how people once tied yellow ribbons around trees to request. “These are brave men and women who served their country and are still serving their community.”

Nikki Brueger Mother of slain jogger, Alexandra “Ally” Brueger
The Linden Board

Continued from Front Page

Superintendent Ed Koledo said they’re losing students to other districts and want to improve the visual appeal of the schools. The fund would give the district approximately $800,000 a year.

“If you look at the number of kids who are leaving, it was all because of the visual appeal of what they saw,” he said. “When people visit the district, they judge it based on what they see and what they see isn’t very good in a lot of areas.”

The first improvement would be artificial turf for Linden High School, which would cost $890,000. Koledo said he believes the additional cost of the turf is warranted.

The new turf will cost less to maintain, he said, and it will bring in revenue from organizations looking for a place for athletic events.

“It’s not to do these things to keep our district running well and efficiently. I think we’ve already done that,” he said. “It’s about putting a shine on the district and making it bright and beautiful, to the athletic facilities, to the classroom storage and those types of things.”

Koledo hopes to stop students from going to other districts with these improvements.

At the board meeting, a few board members talked about the need to attract more families to Linden. Trustees Michelle Shayna and Jason Rowden agreed that athletics are what bring money to a district.

Steve Murphy said the board shouldn’t be asking residents to pay for another millage after the community voted to renew a sinking fund renewal for 1,295 mills for 10 years in the May 3, 2016 election. This money goes to maintaining facilities, grounds, and athletic complexes.

Koledo said some of the rhetoric is that they’re putting turf in front of education, but that’s not true. For the last 10 years, Linden has used sinking funds for maintaining utilities like insulating the roofs and windows so the buildings run efficiently.

“We’ve done a lot to make our classrooms more efficient. Right now, 100 percent of our classrooms are air conditioned,” he said, adding that currently, Linden pays 78 cents per square foot for utilities, while other districts pay over $1 and they’re not 100-percent air conditioned.

If this millage passes, the district will also be able to add on more technology and security upgrades to the list.

Koledo hopes to put the sinking fund proposal on the November 2017 ballot.

If the sinking fund request is approved at the next board meeting on May 17, and passed by the voters, it will double Linden’s current sinking fund and allow the district to make more improvements.

RALLY’S

Continued from Page 3A

“Another excellent burger business approached us and it was a great fit for the area,” said Durant, who continues to own and operate Uncle Ray’s Dairyland in Fenton. “We agreed to step away and let them handle it. And it was a great decision for Rally’s and a great decision for Uncle Ray’s Dairyland.”

Balen will be converting the restaurant over to Rally’s in the next six weeks. The location will feature seating for 36, a drive-in window and a menu highlighted by made-to-order quality burgers at an inexpensive price.

“We’ll also have our one-of-a-kind famous fries, seasoned and batter-dipped, plus our own ice cream with soft-serve cones and ‘stackers,’” he added. “I’m working with Dave (Durant) to carry several Uncle Ray’s specialties in the future.

Rally’s was founded in 1984 in Louisville, Kentucky by former Wendy’s Restaurant franchise owners. Checkers opened a year later and served the Southeast region of the U.S. while Rally’s operated in the Midwest.

The two merged in 1999 and are the same company, operating under different names, according to Balen. “We’re known as Rally’s in Flint and Clo and other mid-Michigan locations and as Checkers in Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids,” he said.

Balen owns 18 Rally’s and Checkers franchises in Michigan and five in Florida, as well as a number of Qdoba Mexican Eats in Montana.

Rally’s in Fenton is currently hiring staff for assistant manager and crew positions. For more information, go to Work4rallys.com.

This restaurant site was originally opened as Dairy Queen in 2000 by Joe Hood in between The Home Depot and what was then Joseph Pontiac. Hood then gave up the national franchise and opened his own Tacos & Treats. Durant purchased the building in 2014.

Other improvements

The District Level Facility Needs Committee, a group that goes to each building and surveys teachers, secretaries, janitors and others on what that building needs, puts together a list of improvements that can be made with this sinking fund for the next seven years.

Koledo said they try to follow the list. This new sinking fund would pay for items like a new security entrance at the high school, fire alarm systems, security cameras, lighting updates, science lab renovations, a new digital message sign, master clock systems, and upgrades to the media center along with more renovations. The list also includes redoing the public restrooms, redoing the locker rooms at Linden Elementary, a new bus garage roof and other regular maintenance.

LINDEN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS 2017-2018

SCHOOLS OF CHOICE 105/105c

STUDENTS IN GRADES K-12 - UNLIMITED

The Linden Community School District is accepting applications for the 2017-18 school year for K-12 students who do not reside within the district’s boundaries pursuant to Sections 105 and 105c of the State Aid Act. This applies to students who reside in our intermediate school district or one that is contiguous to, or borders, Genesee County.

Schools of Choice applications will be accepted May 1, 2017 through August 23, 2017.

- Transportation will be the responsibility of the parent/guardian.
- There is no tuition charge for students accepted for enrollment under these programs.
- To apply, complete the application and return to Jennifer Bentley, Schools of Choice Coordinator, Linden Community Schools, by August 23, 2017 no later than 3:00 p.m.
- Applications may be obtained in person, at www.lindenschools.org, by mail by calling:
  - Jennifer Bentley
  - Linden Community Schools
  - 7205 W. Silver Lake Road
  - Linden, Michigan 48451
  - (810) 591-0986
- Notification of acceptance will be given within two weeks of submitting the application or no later than September 8, 2017.
- If accepted, student must be enrolled no later than September 8, 2017.
President Donald J. Trump purchased his luxury estate and country club called Mar-a-Lago in 1985 for $10 million. It now serves as a presidential retreat as it was originally intended by the previous owner.

**Trump bought Mar-a-Lago in 1985 for $10 million**

**Government didn’t want it as a gift**

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

They say you should never look a gift horse in the mouth, but that’s exactly what happened when Post cereal heiress Marjorie Merriweather Post tried to give Mar-a-Lago to the U.S. government as a presidential retreat.

The Post cereal heiress Marriweather Post was Mrs. Edward F. Hutton when she commissioned Marion Sims Wyeth to build her a 58-bedroom Spanish-Moorish-Portuguese-Venetian palace on 17 acres of jungle between the ocean and the Intracoastal, according to palmbeachpost.com.

By the time it was finished in 1927, Joseph Urban, a Viennese architect and theater designer, had provided much of the ornamentation. Six hundred workers labored for more than three years to build Mar-a-Lago, using boatloads of Italian stone and approximately 36,000 antique Spanish and Portuguese tiles, as well as old marble floors and roof tiles from Cuba.

The living room’s immense gold-leaved ceiling is a copy of the famous “Thousand-Wing Ceiling” in the Academia in Venice — only with secular rather than ecclesiastical motifs.

The estate’s 75-foot tower is a South Florida landmark — and a navigational aid to boaters. When she died in 1973, Post gave Mar-a-Lago, which in Spanish means “ocean to lake,” to the U.S. government for a presidential retreat, but the government balked at its million-dollar-a-year maintenance cost and its site under the Palm Beach International Airport’s flight path.

In 1985, Donald Trump paid $10 million for the estate, which contained 33 bathrooms, three bomb shelters and a nine-hole golf course. Ten years later, he converted it to a private club with a spa, tennis and croquet courts, a new ballroom and beach club.

According to pursuitist.com, Mar-a-Lago is one of the most highly regarded private clubs in the world. Considered to be a playground for the rich, Mar-a-Lago is the crown jewel of Palm Beach.

Mar-a-Lago is the only private club in the world to attain the prestigious 6-Star Diamond Award from the American Academy of Hospitality Sciences, and is considered to be one of the world’s most coveted after private clubs.

President Donald J. Trump bought the estate in 1985, used it as a private residence in 1995 and in April of 1995, Mar-a-Lago became established as The Mar-a-Lago Club.

The details

- **Mar-a-Lago** is located within 20 acres of perfectly landscaped gardens and with ocean views, this 128-room mansion was transformed into a club with 126 rooms along with private quarters for Trump.
- The club charges a non-refundable membership fee of $100,000 along with annual dues of $14,000, and an additional $2,000 to be spent on food annually.
- The club offers beach and oceanfront pool facilities, a luxurious spa, fine dining, championship tennis courts, a state-of-the-art fitness center and world class entertainment. It is also a venue for special events, holiday celebrations, weddings and galas.
- **Trump’s love** for grandiose is seen in the form of gold leaf detailing, including $7 million worth of gold leaf in the 20,000-square-foot grand ballroom. Trump also installed four gold-plated sinks in the women’s room, each costing $25,000.
- **Trump brought** this club into the forefront during his campaign to win over voters, urging them to consider his record with Mar-a-Lago as evidence he would be a strong commander in chief.
- **Today, Mar-a-Lago** is being used as Post originally intended.

Sources: palmbeachpost.com; pursuitist.com
FIELD DAY
Continued from Page 3A
Girls are so excited,” said third-grade teacher Haley Day, as she watched the event unfold. Day spearheaded the day administratively.

After a lot of paperwork, the big event happened Friday, April 21, and featured Ameer Abdullah of the Detroit Lions. The students and staff donned Dan-non “Danimals” T-shirts, danced, ran and received prizes after winning foot races timed by Abdullah himself.

The event was a joint activity between the NFL, the USDA and the National Dairy Council to promote “Fuel Up to Play 60,” an in-school fitness and nutrition program, urging 60 minutes of activity each day — fueled by dairy products, of course.

Abdullah timed the foot races and spread a message of healthy nutrition and exercise. Abdullah said he spends time with kids as often as he can. “The kids may look up to people in my position … so it’s important for me personally to do this,” said the Lions running back.

Chase Couchman, who found the container, was able to choose how the $6,000 grant from “Fuel Up to Play 60” grant was spent. They made the big announcement before the entire school that the money would go toward a new rock wall for the school gym.

Any message I can give them right now can really make a difference in their future,”

Ameer Abdullah
Detroit Lions running back

MAN TOLD TO STOP HANDING OUT STUFFED ANIMALS
Deputies with the Genesee County Sheriff’s Office responded to the 13000 block of Stoney Brook Pass in Fenton Township on April 19 to investigate a suspicious situation. A 71-year-old man was passing out stuffed animals and baseball cards to children in the neighborhood. The investigation revealed that the man is not a registered sex offender, however, deputies advised the man to cease the activity.

TOOLS STOLEN FROM VEHICLE
On Monday, April 24, deputies with the Genesee County Sheriff’s Office responded to the 16000 block of Valcrest Drive in Fenton Township to investigate a larceny from auto complaint. A 66-year-old man reported that tools had been stolen out of his vehicle, which was parked in his driveway. The investigation is ongoing.

Identity Theft
The Genesee County Sheriff’s Office received a fraud complaint from a 55-year-old resident living in the 12000 block of Odell Street. The man reported that his identity had been stolen to open lines of credit. The investigation is ongoing.
Fenton continues hot streak, defeats Devils

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

Lake Fenton — There have been many great players that have played on Fenton’s baseball teams. Out of them all, Chase Coselman earns one clear distinction. No one has collected more career hits than Coselman.

Coselman added four more hits to his career total, which now is at “136 or 137 hits” according to the senior headed to Kalamazoo College in the fall, in the Tigers’ 18-6 victory against the Lake Fenton Blue Devils on Wednesday.

The old record holder was Matt Idoni who collected 126 hits during his career. Idoni graduated in 1990.

“It’s a big accomplishment,” Coselman said. “It’s been a long time in the making. It’s been kind of weird to look back at the four years that I’ve played and think we’ve come this far. … It’s kind of surreal, but I’m very grateful and I hope to pad it a little bit.”

CONTINUED ONLINE AT TCTIMES.COM

Lady Bronchos remain undefeated in Metro

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

It’s been a great start to the Metro League season for the Holly girls varsity soccer team. The Bronchos are 3-0 and in first place in the Metro League standings. However, as pleased as varsity girls soccer coach Mark Diskin may be with the start, he understands the toughest part of the schedule as yet to come.

“We have played well, but our team is coming up to the toughest part of the schedule now,” Diskin said. “It will be interesting to see how they respond. We are preparing for those last five games. We are moving forward and focusing on our possession game. It seems to be working for us. We first if we out-possess our opponents then nothing bad can happen to us.”

The Bronchos improved to 2-0 in Metro action with a 2-1 victory against the Clio Lady Mustangs on Wednesday. Diskin says the Bronchos’ possession game is something the team is growing confident with, and Wednesday’s game against Clio was a perfect example of it.

“We were down (at halftime) but even though we were down, their shoulders and heads were still up because we out-possessed them and we were confident,” Diskin said.

“We were able to get the two goals in the second half, and it wasn’t easy because Clio was parking the bus.”

CONTINUED ONLINE AT TCTIMES.COM

Holly boys track posts dual meet sweep vs. Linden, Swartz Creek

By David Troppens
droppens@tctimes.com

The Holly varsity boys track team didn’t start its dual meets with Linden and Swartz Creek the way the Bronchos expected. But by the end of the meet, the Bronchos made up a slow start and captured a sweep at the double-dual.

Holly edged Linden 76-61 and also beat Swartz Creek 80-56 to earn the sweep. The Linden boys did beat the Dragons 77-56 to record a split.

In girls action, the Lady Eagles only took two overall firsts among the three teams competing but proved tough with its depth, defeating Holly 81-56. Both teams lost to Swartz Creek. Linden lost 81-57 and Holly lost 86-51.

“We got off to a bit of a rough start by not sweeping the 4X800 (relay) which I had planned on,” Holly varsity boys and girls track coach Nick Ejak said about the boys’ meet. “As the meet went on, we were able to score higher in areas that I had not expected, which is always great.”

CONTINUED ONLINE AT TCTIMES.COM

See LF on 19A

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Fenton track programs capture another two Metro League victories

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

The Fenton track programs are making the Metro League title chase look relatively easy at the halfway point of the race.

Both varsity teams swept a pair of dual meets decisively on Wednesday, moving to the top of the Metro League standings for each gender. The Fenton girls crushed Brandon 110-26 and Flushing 81 2/3-55 1/3, while the Fenton boys handled Brandon 123-14 and Flushing 91-44.

The Fenton boys (4-0), who are now loss ahead of Linden, Flushing, Kearsley and Swartz Creek, collected 11 overall firsts in the Tigers’ dual meet. Zach West played a role in four of them. West won the 100 dash (11.57) and the 200 dash (22.30) while also earning wins in two relays. He teamed with Ryan Miller, Sean Stiles and Josh Maher to win the 400 relay (44.24) while also teaming with John Sage, Keegan Pombier and Ethan Pyeatt to win the 800 relay (1:32.08).

One other relay earned a first for the boys. The 1,600 relay team of Pyeatt, Branden Bossenberger, Peter Kennings and Pombier earned it with a time of 3:35.31.

Dominic Dimambro was a double-individual winner as well. Dimambro won the 800 (2:01.54) and the 1,600 (4:34.02). Other individual winners for the Fenton boys were: Andrew Bond in the 3,200 hurdles (9:36.24), Ethan Pyeatt in the 400 hurdles (50.63), Porter Graven in the 1,600 (4:42.38) and Braeden Graven in the 3,200 (9:44.94).

Fenton girls (4-0) swept Brandon 110-26 and Flushing 81 2/3-55 1/3. They have had an impressive start to the season. Among their victories has been their flawless Metro League victory against the Kearsley Hornets.

That problem apparently ended on Thursday. The Fenton/Linden co-op lacrosse matches had 112 hurdles (41.15) and Chann Setze in the long jump (20-10).

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Online Exclusives

Fenton baseball sweeps Clio Mustangs

The Fenton varsity baseball team has shown itself to be an impressive squad so far this baseball season. It seems the team has some strong pitching, good hitting and strong defense.

Mix those things with a strong senior class and maybe one can see why the team is 10-1 overall and 4-0 in the Metro League.

The Tigers improved to 4-0 in Metro play by crushing Clio 11-1 and 15-2 on Monday.

“This year’s seniors are outstanding, I could not ask for a better group,” Fenton varsity baseball coach Shawn Lawrence said. “We have a ton of fun with them. We definitely have team goals and we are on track to accomplish them at this point in the season.

“One thing we have talked about is worry about the process — did we hit the ball hard, are we getting outs and making plays and are the pitchers doing their job? There is a lot of season left, but a lot of the kids worked hard in the offseason and I hope they continue to have success.”

Holly girls tennis Metro streak up to 112 matches

Holly girls tennis team hasn’t lost a Metro League dual meet in 111 matches entering its dual against Flushing on Tuesday.

That number grew to 112 by the time the match ended with an easy 8-0 victory against Flushing.

The last time the Holly Bronchos have actually lost a Metro League dual meet was on Sept. 19, 1995 when the squad lost 5-2 against the Fenton Tigers.

Holly’s domination was so convincing, Flushing was unable to win a single set during the match. In fact, only one time did a Holly flight get pushed to even a 6-4 final set score, and no Flushing flight was able to manage as many as three games in a set beyond that one 6-4 set.

Fenton soccer’s offense explodes vs. Kearsley

The Fenton varsity girls soccer team has had trouble scoring goals this season. That problem apparently ended on Wednesday.

The Tigers (1-1, 3-6) had nine different players score goals in a 13-1 Metro League victory against the Kearsley Hornets. The Tigers also beat Lapeer 1-0 on Thursday.

The victory against Kearsley was so dominant, the contest was over by halftime.

Not only did nine different players score goals against Kearsley, but 11 different players collected assists.

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Fenton’s Cassandra Campbell won the 300 hurdles against Brandon and Flushing on Wednesday, the 110 hurdles (18.10), Kennings in the 300 hurdles (41.15) and Chann Setze in the long jump (20-10).

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PREP REPORT

BOYS GOLF

♣ Fenton 165, Kearsley 183: The Tigers had all four of their scorers shoot 42 or better, resulting in the easy dual meet victory at Flint Elk’s Golf Club. Branden Lappa shot a 40 while Dylan Conte carded a 41. Branden Diemer and Tael Shaltz posted 42s.

♣ Flushing 183, Linden 185: The Eagles Ryan Montini captured medalist honors with a 39 at Spring Meadows Country Club but it wasn’t enough to lead Linden to the victory. Gabe Pesko shot a 49 while Ian Cranpton and Logan Kirkey shot 52s.


♣ Brandon 183, Linden 189: The Pilots Ryan Montini took home medalist honors with a 41 while Gabe Pesko shot a 47. Aidan McCarthy carded a 50 and Logan Kirkey shot a 51.

GIRLS TENNIS

♣ Clio 7, Fenton 1: Fenton’s No. 4 singles player Kara Pwowarczyk won her match 6-3, 6-3, earning the Tigers’ only point. No. 1 singles player Leah Helleyback and Skidmore scored goals.

♣ The Blue Devils (3-0, 6-1) had Morgan Reitano, Brown and Perigo each score against Laingsburg. Meanwhile, Skidmore assisted all three goals.

♣ Lake Fenton has had an impressive start to the season. Among their victories they have defeated Goodrich and larger schools Holly and Fenton.

♣ Lake Fenton hosts Durand on Tuesday for a 4:30 p.m. contest.

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scored her share of goals during her career, and added another two in the contest. She also had two assists. Meanwhile Hannah Hellebuyck, Maclin Perigo and Abbey Rhodes also provided a goal each. Rhodes also had two assists while Perigo, King and Brown had one assist each.

Against Montrose, Reitano, Perigo, Helleyback and Skidmore scored goals.

The Blue Devils (3-0, 6-1) had Morgan Reitano, Brown and Perigo each score against Laingsburg. Meanwhile, Skidmore assisted all three goals.

Lake Fenton has had an impressive start to the season. Among their victories they have defeated Goodrich and larger schools Holly and Fenton.

Lake Fenton hosts Durand on Tuesday for a 4:30 p.m. contest.