

Where's the money?

■ Questions remain unanswered about \$20 million embezzlement case

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

On Jan. 4, 2016, Tri-County Times Editor Sharon Stone received an anonymous phone call from a man, alerting her to

a meeting that took place at the Clarkston-Brandon Community Credit Union.

She tried desperately, but unsuccessfully, to find out the identity of this caller so she

See **LAJOICE** on 12A

TRI-COUNTY TIMES
FILE PHOTO

Michael LaJoyce sits in Oakland County Circuit Court before his plea hearing on March 27. He'll be sentenced on Monday.



Senior Living Featured Section
included with this edition

TOP 5
GOLF TRENDS
FOR 2017

Weekend Times

SUNDAY EDITION

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2016 NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR



Matt Cooper

Chef's Showdown to feature local culinary artists

Foodies will love sampling fare from more than 20 area restaurants

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

The Freedom Center in Fenton is planning a gala event that people of all ages will enjoy — if they like to eat and be

entertained, that is.

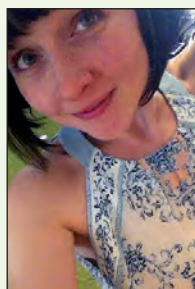
On May 18, the church will be hosting its first “Chef’s Showdown,” featuring The Laundry’s top chef, Jody

Brunori and Matt Cooper, a frequent competitor and winner on the Food Network. Cooper also is the
See **CHEF’S** on 9A



Jody Brunori

Reward for Ally's killer up to \$13,500



Alexandra
“Ally”
Brueger

By Vera Hogan
vhogan@tctimes.com

Today, April 30, marks the nine-month anniversary of the vicious murder of Alexandra “Ally” Brueger, in Rose Township on July 30, 2016.

Ally was 31 and a nurse at Providence Park Hospital in Novi at the time of her death.

See **REWARD** on 14A

Linden school board mulls new millage

■ New artificial turf is first on list of upgrades

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Linden — At the April 19 meeting, the Linden Board of Education discussed creating a sinking fund proposal to pass a 1.3-mill in order to generate funds to improve the overall appeal of the district, as well as security and technology.

See **MILLAGE** on 15A



THE AUCTION
CHANT
PAGE 6B

TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Roger Willis (front) spots a bid during Tim Narhi’s auction in Tyrone Township on Saturday, April 22. Narhi and his group auctioned 600 “lots,” or groupings of items that day — everything from pennies to lawn tractors for their client. Approximately 100 guests bought items that day. Narhi said that the “chant,” the fast-paced counting style, comes from the old-time livestock auctions, where bidders wanted the auction done as quickly as possible so they could load their cattle and return to their farms. See story on Page 6B.

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“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.”



“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.”



“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.”



COMMENT
OF THE WEEK

“I have learned that if a woman asks a man a question, you’d better tell her the truth because it’s likely that she already knows the answer anyway.”



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Area student nabs NFL field day

■ School nets \$6,000 grant from Detroit Lions

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

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

See FIELD DAY on 17A



WATCH THE VIDEO



AT TCTIMES.COM WITH THIS STORY

TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

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

■ National chain will open in early June on Silver Parkway

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

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

“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



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

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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CONTACT INFORMATION

General Office 810-629-8282	Hot Line 810-629-9221
Advertising 810-629-8281	Fax 810-629-9227
Classifieds 810-629-8194	Email news@tctimes.com
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Come *Heller* high water

andrewheller@tctimes.com

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 Kaine 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 an 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, at least 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 Saudi.)

• **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 always to try just one more time." — *Thomas A. Edison*

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.

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.

■ ■ ■
I CAN'T BELIEVE this man who has had chickens for decades is being forced to remove them. Is he even allowed three like 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 bashed 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 isn't 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.

DOES MS. HOGAN, in her article, believe it's OK if she believes, 'a few of them,' (women accusing Cosby) were telling the truth, then that's OK for sexual assault? Isn't one, one too many?

■ ■ ■
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 contact 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 that are 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 MILENNIALS who help make Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg a multi-billionaire, are you aware that his policies are created to hassle Christian and conservative sites but allow Isis to blatantly recruit on Facebook? I've not 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.

■ ■ ■
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

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What's your summer job?

Question asked to
Linden High School seniors

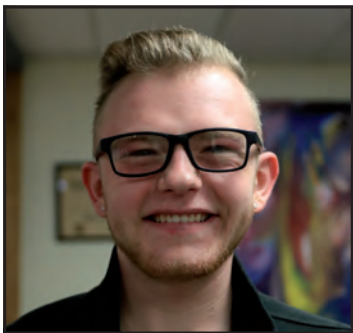
Compiled by Hannah Ball, staff reporter

street talk



"My summer job is going to be working on the grounds crew at the Flint Golf Club. This will be my first time working there."

—Tyler Bourassa



"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."

—Jason Craine



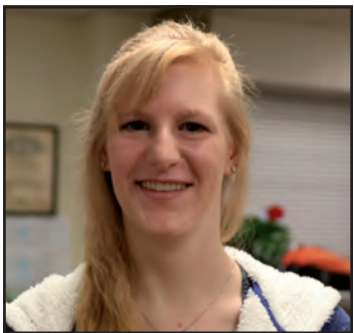
"Working at my current job in Goodwill. I might be getting a second job to pay for an apartment. I'm not sure where at."

—Mia Qualls



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

—Alia Frederick



"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."

—Katherine Gauthier

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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) 230-1318.

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 bsimons@lindenmi.us.

Why churches and non-profits don't pay taxes

■ Richest tax-exempt organizations make billions

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 floor 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.

“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...”

Slate.com

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 give. 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 nonprofits that aim to improve the community, like Planned Parenthood, universities, hospitals, and charities are exempt under 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

SUMMARY

■ The debate over whether or not churches should pay taxes arises every tax season.

Section 501 (c) 3 gives exemptions to organizations like churches, nonprofits, synagogues, universities, hospitals, the Red Cross, homeless shelters and other groups that aim to help people. These organizations don't have to pay income taxes of any kind or property taxes.

However, the nonprofits may engage in activities that require them to pay taxes. If these organizations engage in activities unrelated to their basic purpose, they have to pay income taxes on that money.

Sources: investopedia.com, irs.gov

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.

Source: listverse.com

HOT LINE CONTINUED

REPEAT: IF TRUMP really wants the wall, instead of stinging the U.S. taxpayers for it, Trump should pay for it.

I'D LIKE TO thank the person in the white SUV that was in front of us at McDonald's Monday night after 6. They paid for our order. I'd just like to say thanks.

PLANNED PARENTHOOD'S MANY contributors more than pay for abortions that poor women need but can't afford. Contributors also pay many of the other expenses for that much-needed organization. There is no need for taxpayer dollars to pay for anyone's abortion.

I WANT TO thank the man in Argentina for the great Easter Egg hunt. We had tons of fun and there were a lot of great prizes. It was very well organized.

I WAS BORN and raised in Linden and I was so upset to see the photo of the building planned for our downtown. Why not a façade in keeping with the businesses on Bridge Street and the rest of the town?

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26. Foster Child's article hit it right on the button. That is exactly what happened to our children. He is totally right.

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our town

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, identified, qualified, weighed and



staged for processing.

Materials then go into manufacturing, which may include shredding, grinding, baling 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

"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
MCDUNNOUGHTRI-COUNTY TIMES
TIM JAGIELO

Darren McDunnough has been president and CEO of McDunnough, Inc. since 2002. He's also a musician and a former videographer.

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 busi-

ness. 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 Delicious — 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."

HOT LINE CONTINUED

TRUMP'S TAX PLAN is brilliant. It will reduce taxes for all Americans and it will help all businesses, small and large. It will promote jobs and economic growth. But the Democrats probably won't like it because they like high spending and high taxes.

I JUST READ in the Wednesday Times that someone actually thinks the people who flew into the towers on 9/11 did something good. It's unbelievable that there is someone living in this country who actually thinks that's a heroic thing.

THE CITY OF Fenton has a little over 20 miles of paved roads. City council is considering asking taxpayers for \$5 million, roughly 6 mills, to repave the roads. But the DDA will use their \$400,000 to pave about 65 feet of road. How many

thousands of dollars of foot would that be? At that rate, Fenton's \$5 million won't go very far.

I JUST READ King's article. I can't believe how plain he made everything and how I wish it was in the Sunday paper. Maybe we could make changes in our lives. I'm just amazed he made everything so simple for us to read and that you printed it.

CARBON DIOXIDE IS required for a tree to live, however, when a tree dies, that carbon dioxide is released into the atmosphere. We're also making more carbon dioxide than we are growing trees.

YOU FENTON RIGHT-wingers took a couple of science classes in middle school and right away you think you're Albert Einstein.

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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.

It's also a great way for retirees whose children and grandchildren are spread out across the country, to be able to spend some time with each of their families.

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.



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Retiring in Florida has been a popular option with older adults for a long time. 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.

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.

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.

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

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 (13th place), dentists (fifth place) and nurses (first place), as well as health care facilities (also first place).

And it finished in third place for emotional health.

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 (54 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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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 spectacular 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 Jennifer Strygulec, "The two are a real comedy show."

The event is being organized by a committee headed to Strygulec and her husband, Bob. The couple manage the Fenton Center of Hope, with Bob serving as director 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 fare of local restaurants. Some of those restaurants include LaMarsa, The Green Olive Tree, The Laundry, El Topo, Cancun Restaurant, Fenton Hotel Tavern & Grille, Beale Street Smokehouse, Bangkok Peppers, Tia Helitas (Flint), John's Pizzeria, Golden Buffet, Mott Community College Culinary Department, Leo's Coney Island and more.

There will also be an auction with Genesee County Undersheriff Chris Swanson

serving as the auctioneer. Prizes to be auctioned include a private dinner for six by Brunori, a time share in Branson, Missouri and a week driving a new Cadillac.

A special guest will be Martina Hahn, a world-renowned 'speed painter.' During the event, she will be speed painting and later reveal what it is she painted.

"No one will know what she's painting until she's done," said Jennifer. "She will do two paintings."

Sponsorship opportunities, ranging from \$250 to \$10,000 are still available. So far, some of the sponsors already committed include Skaff Furniture, the John Wentworth Group, The 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 budgeting 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 information, 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.

“We want to empower them to take care of their families by breaking the chain of dependency.”

Jennifer Strygulec
Fenton Center of Hope

HOT LINE CONTINUED

PLEASE TAKE A look through the curtain of what's claimed to be economic disadvantage. Minority- families moved into predominantly white family neighborhoods. White families left, decreasing property values. Now we see the effect. The neighborhoods are vacant, destroyed, abandoned and being torn down.

OBAMA WAS AN over achiever. He over regulated, over taxed, over borrowed and he over spent, over apologized for America and over appeased our enemies.

America's decline has now been stopped and reversed by President Trump.

AS WE SPEAK, Trump is releasing the amazing tax reform plan that will benefit all Americans. Tax reform is being worked on and will soon be done.

IN BERKLEY, CALIFORNIA, the university should be called an institution of lower learning. After witnessing the protests, violence, and the liberal fascism, this institution is becoming more radical and less relevant.



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Lake Fenton grad earns Naval Award

■ Recipient of Navy Outstanding Tester Award

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Lt. Cmdr. Thomas Dill, a sailor who graduated from Lake Fenton High School in 2001, was recently selected as the 2016 Department of the Navy Small Program Outstanding Tester Award military recipient.

"I feel honored and excited about this award," said Dill, a 2014 graduate of Florida Atlantic University and 2005 graduate of the United States Naval Academy. "This award represents the hard work and dedication of the team that works on unmanned underwater vehicle (UUV) technology on a daily basis at the Naval Surface Warfare Center, Panama City Division (NSWC PCD)."

Dill has become a critical leader for the Unmanned Systems Remote Sensing Program in the areas of testing and evaluation. "Dill aggressively pur-

sued test director qualifications to better leverage his knowledge and experience in military operations in UUV systems for the Office of Naval Research, Naval Facilities and Engineering Command and other organizations," said Tony Bond,

head of the NSWC PCD Test & Evaluation and Prototype Fabrication Division.

Dill is a Civil Engineer Corps Officer with a specialty in Ocean Engineering and diving operations. As fleet liaison officer in charge at NSWC PCD, he leads six military personnel in providing support for Fleet Mine Warfare systems, test support, UUV operations and command functions.

His past military awards include a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal in 2009, Commendation Medal in 2011, Joint Achievement Medal in 2012 and Joint Commendation Medal in 2013. He is a qualified Seabee Combat Warfare and Joint Diving Officer, and a Professional Engineer licensed in Michigan.



“This award represents the hard work and dedication of the team that works on unmanned underwater vehicle technology on a daily basis at the Naval Surface Warfare Center, Panama City Division.”

Lt. Cmdr. Thomas Dill
U.S. Department of Navy


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12247 MARGARET DR, FENTON

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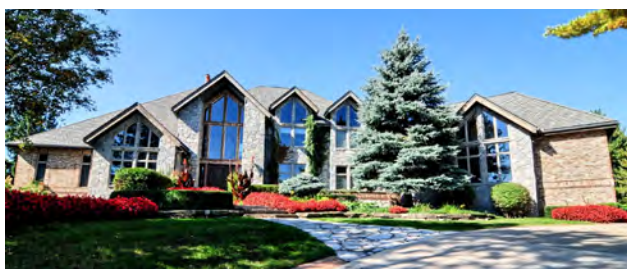
736 HARTNER DR, HOLLY

HOLLY SCHOOLS \$99,999
1000 SF, 3 BDR & 1 BA. Great ranch home in Holly. New windows and lots of updates. Large partly fenced yard, storage shed and more. Large deck great for entertaining, 2 car garage. Close to shopping, schools, expressways and fantastic historic downtown Holly.

OPEN SUNDAY 1-3



8211 PINE HOLLOW TRL, GRAND BLANC

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.

6263 CANTER CREEK, GRAND BLANC

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

12350 WINDSOR BEACH, FENTON

LAKE FENTON \$999,999
2.36 acre lot with 190' frontage on All Sports Lake Fenton. Includes 2 out lots that offer a guest home and canal frontage to Little Long Lake and Dollar lake. 2620 SF, 4 BDR and 2.5 BA. Character and charm at every turn, cove ceilings, crown molding, open floor plan. You'll never find this again on Lake Fenton.OPEN SUNDAY 1-3
JUST LISTED!!!

1067 GREEN MEADOWS DR, GRAND BLANC

CONDO LIVING \$59,999
Cute ranch condo in Grand Blanc, 770 SF, 2 BDR & 1 BA. Nice kitchen with updated cabinets and counter tops. 1 car attached garage and more. Open floor plan, dining area and living room Great location, close to shopping, schools and expressways!

OPEN SUNDAY 1-3



2718 PEPPER CT, HARTLAND

ACREAGE \$224,999
Adorable home on 1.5+ acres. 1872 SF, 4 BDR & 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!

4130 WATERLAND DR, METAMORA

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.OPEN SUNDAY 1-3
JUST LISTED!!!

16182 MEREDITH CT, LINDEN

LINDEN SCHOOLS \$349,999
3516 SF of finished living space, 5 BDR & 3.5 BA. Beautiful kitchen w/hardwood floors, tile back splash, island, snack bar, pantry, granite counter tops, lots of cabinet & counter space. Full finished walk out basement complete w/2nd kitchen, 3 car attached garage, large deck.OPEN SUNDAY 1-3
JUST LISTED!!!

645 SHORELINE DR, FENTON

WATERS EDGE VILLAGE \$199,900
Beautiful condo in high demand city of Fenton. 1600 SF, 2 BDR & 2 BA. Open floor plan with gorgeous hardwood floors, cathedral ceilings, first floor laundry and more. 2 car attached garage and deck. Great location, enjoy all downtown Fenton has to offer!OPEN SUNDAY 1-3
ADDITIONAL LOT
4 CAR GARAGE

2393 DAVIS RD, FENTON

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.

3654 WOODLAND DR, METAMORA

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.

12237 MARGARET DR, FENTON

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.

6239 CANTER CREEK, GRAND BLANC

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.

16486 WHITEHEAD DR, LINDEN

LOBDELL LAKE \$354,999
336 Acres with water frontage on Parker Lake. Great location close to downtown and expressways. Beautiful lot with lots of potential to build your dream home or possible commercial building opportunities.

1274 S HOLLY RD, FENTON

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.

1263 VICTORIA LN, FENTON

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.

1465 PETTS RD, FENTON

COMMERCIAL ACREAGE \$219,999
3.36 Acres with water frontage on Parker Lake. Great location close to downtown and expressways. Beautiful lot with lots of potential to build your dream home or possible commercial building opportunities.

10079 GOLFSIDE, GRAND BLANC

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.

13090 TORREY RD, FENTON

LAKE FENTON SCHOOLS \$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.

PONEMAH DR, FENTON

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.*Buying or Selling?* Get ahead with The John Wentworth Group.
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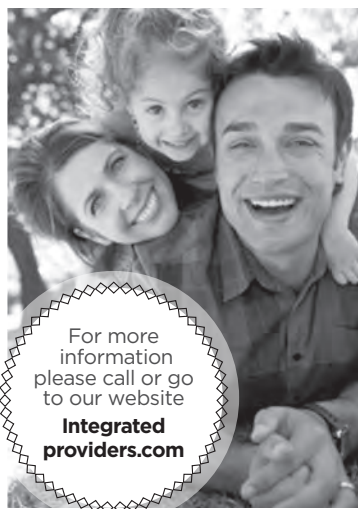


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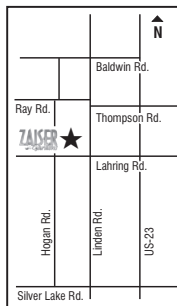
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LAJOICE

Continued from Front Page

could obtain more information.

According to the anonymous caller, Michael LaJoyce, the bank's chief financial officer, allegedly excused 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 LaJoyce 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 LaJoyce had turned himself into the Oakland County Sheriff's Office, confessing to authorities that he had embezzled around \$20 million from the Clarkston-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.

More than a year after his confession, on March 23, 2017, Michael LaJoyce was sentenced to spend 11 years in federal prison on federal bank fraud charges. Tomorrow, May 1, he will face a judge in Oakland County Circuit Court for sentencing on the embezzlement charges. He is likely to receive an additional seven to 11 years, which his attorney, Michael Manley, says will run concurrently to the federal sentence.

Although LaJoyce 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 LaJoyce 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 LaJoyce 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-

sheriff Mike McCabe and asked him, "How did Michael LaJoyce get to the police station at 9 a.m. on Jan. 6, 2016?" Undersheriff McCabe said LaJoyce just walked in the front door and turned himself in.

To clarify further, I asked Undersheriff McCabe, "Did he get dropped off by someone, or did he walk in, confess and say 'here are my keys, my car is in the parking lot?'"

Undersheriff McCabe checked for us and confirmed that his vehicle was in the parking lot. LaJoyce's wife, Ashleigh, picked the Jeep Cherokee up later that day. To quote Lt. Bart Wilson, whom the under-

sheriff asked to provide the information, "LaJoyce told his wife he was going to work. He drove his Jeep Cherokee to the OCSO Headquarters and reported that he had embezzled/stolen about \$20 million from his place of work. Detectives obtained a statement, confirmed the story. The wife at that time called Fenton P.D. (it was clarified later that she walked in) to report that her husband was missing, she was advised to call the OCSO. Fenton P.D. called the OCSO (it was clarified later that OCSO called Fenton P.D. to check on wants or warrants for LaJoyce) looking for him and discovered he was here. LaJoyce was placed in custody and lodged at OCJ. The wife then picked up the car at OCSO Headquarters."

Here's another fact I find to be odd. It was reported that Ashleigh visited the Fenton Police Department at approximately 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2016 to report that her husband was missing. Police say she was upset and said she had not heard from her husband since he left for work and that he was not answering his cell phone. In another email to Undersheriff McCabe, Lt. Wilson said, "His wife thought he went to work as he does Monday thru Friday, I'm assuming 0800 hrs. to 1600 hrs. When she found out he did not arrive (I'm assuming she called his work and they told him he was not there) she attempted to call his cell phone with no response. Thinking this behavior was highly unusual she went to the local police department. He was not answering the phone because he was confessing..."

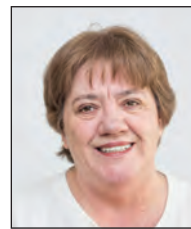
I also find that a bit odd. If your husband leaves for work, probably at 7:30 a.m. or thereabouts if he works in Clarkston, starting at 8 a.m., then why at 9:30 a.m., just 90 minutes later, would you start worrying about him? Did she call the credit union? Going to the police that quickly seems a bit dramatic to me. Especially the Fenton police, which is out of their jurisdiction. The LaJoyces lived in Tyrone Township, where the Livingston County Sheriff's Department has jurisdiction.

So, Michael LaJoyce turned himself in to authorities Wednesday morning — but didn't fill his wife in on his plans to do something that would radically change his life, her life and the lives of their family for many years to come?

If he serves 11 years in prison, he will be 49 years old when he is released. That leaves a lot of life left to live.

My question is, why is no one asking where the \$17,748,380 is? Or, at the very least, was there ever any attempt by either authorities, or the Clarkston-Brandon Community Credit Union, to account for the missing funds?

If not, why not?
Just sayin.'



Vera Hogan

View stories at
tctimes.com



LaJoice to be sentenced in Oakland County Monday

■ Already sentenced to 11 years in federal court

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 will receive credit for time served.

Background on this case

LaJoice committed bank fraud from October 2007 to December 2015.

In federal court, LaJoice said he committed check fraud by addressing cashier checks out to himself, along with a few other methods. As chief financial officer (CFO), he was able to write large



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

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

deposits, and then approve them with no oversight.

According to U.S. Attorney Barbara McQuade, to conceal the fraud, LaJoice created fictitious investments in certificates of deposit and bonds, and represented to auditors and bank examiners that the money he stole had in fact been invested in these vehicles.

When LaJoice was confronted by regulators at the Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Services about discrepancies in the credit union's books, he was prompted to turn himself in.

The Clarkston Brandon Community Credit Union became insolvent from the embezzlement and joined with the Michigan State University Federal Credit Union.

LaJoice's properties, including his multi-million dollar home in Tyrone Township, were sold to help pay restitution. Skypoint Ventures executed a purchase agreement to acquire the Fenton City commercial properties last summer.

LaJoice been lodged in the Oakland County Jail since January 2016.

Manley and Neal have asked that the sentences run concurrent.

Source: "No Mercy — LaJoice gets 11 years" Times article by Hannah Ball



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Ashleigh LaJoice, wife of Michael LaJoice, watches court proceedings in Oakland County Circuit Court, waiting for her husband's case to go before the judge.

WHAT YOU MISSED in the MIDWEEK TIMES

Compiled by Vera Hogan

The following are stories you may have missed in the **Wednesday, April 26, Midweek Times**. To subscribe and receive both the Midweek and Sunday Weekend editions, please call (810) 629-8282.

City to apply for \$413,000 for repairs to six bridges

If approved, Fenton will have to match 5 percent.

Bridges to be repaired include Caroline Street, East Street, LeRoy Street, North Road and Torrey Road.



\$400,000 Caroline Street extension moves ahead

Project to be paid for with DDA construction bond funds.

Linden hires curriculum director in 4-3 vote

Julie Brown, principal for Linden Middle School, has been hired to serve as the district's full-time curriculum director.

View stories at tctimes.com



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REWARD

Continued from Front Page

The Holly VFW (post 5587) is the most recent organization to add reward money to Crime Stoppers 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,



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

During a press conference at the Rose Township hall in February, Nikki Brueger, Ally's mother, talked about their daughter. She and Ally's father, Franz, begged the community for any information leading to the arrest of the person responsible for killing Ally.

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 devel-

ops," Shaw said.

During a press conference at the Rose Township hall in February, Franz and Nikki Brueger, Ally's parents, were sur-

“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

rounded 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.

Special request from Ally's mom

Nikki Brueger, the mother of Alexandra "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, spends her days 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 bring attention to troops still away from home.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

Nikki Brueger, the mother of murdered jogger, Alexandra "Ally" Brueger, is asking the community to hang running shoes in front of their homes, if they can, to bring attention to the violence perpetrated on girls and women walkers and runners.

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MILLAGE

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 1.2958 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,

SUMMARY

■ The Linden Board of Education is expected to vote on a new sinking fund proposal to pass a millage to improve the appeal of the district. First on the list is a \$890,000 artificial field for the high school.

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.

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 clocks systems, and upgrades to the media center along with more renovations. The list also includes redoing the public restrooms, redoing the lockers at Linden Elementary, a new bus garage roof and other regular maintenance.

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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 now we can focus solely on Dairyland, so it's a win-win."

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 Clio 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.



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.



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PHOTO: FORTUNE.COM

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 Merriweather 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-leafed ceiling is a copy of the famous "Thousand-Wing Ceiling" in the Accademia 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



PHOTO: HILLWOODMUSEUM.ORG

Above is a painting of Post heiress Marjorie Merriweather Post, who in 1973 tried to give the U.S. government Mar-a-Lago to be used as a presidential retreat.

sought 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



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Ameer Abdulla of the Detroit Lions speaks to Patterson Elementary students about exercise and eating healthy at the school's field day on Friday, April 21.

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 paper work, the big event happened Friday, April 21, and featured Ameer Abdulla of the Detroit Lions. The students and staff donned Danon "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 nutri-

tion 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

Police&Fire report

STUDENT IN POSSESSION OF WHITE POWDER

The Genesee County Sheriff's Office is investigating an incident at Lake Fenton High School on April 19. A student was allegedly in possession of an unknown powdery substance and alcohol. The case remains under investigation.

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.

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Fenton continues hot streak, defeats Devils

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

Lake Fenton — There have been many great players that have played on Fenton's baseball teams.

But 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**

SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2017 | PAGE 18A | WWW.TCTIMES.COM/SPORTS

Times Sports

Fenton's
Chase Coselman

Lady Bronchos remain undefeated in Metro

By David Troppens

dtroppens@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 half-time) 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
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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPENS

Holly's Jacquelyn Compton (left) dribbles with the ball in a recent game. Holly defeated Clio 2-1 on Wednesday.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPENS

Ashlyn Skidmore has helped lead the Blue Devils to an undefeated start in the Genesee Area Conference.

LF soccer continues perfect GAC ways

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

After defeating Goodrich in their first Genesee Area Conference contest, the Lake Fenton varsity girls soccer team earned the early inside track to the GAC regular-season crown.

However, the Blue Devils have to keep on winning to keep that inside track. And that's what Lake Fenton did on Tuesday and on Thursday.

The Blue Devils made their second and third straight GAC road trips this week and came back home with victories. They defeated Corunna 8-0 on Tuesday and defeated Mt. Morris 4-0 on Thursday. The Blue Devils also recorded a pretty impressive 3-0 non-league victory against Laingsburg recently.

"We are definitely headed in the right direction," Lake Fenton varsity girls soccer coach Spencer Quick said. "We still have work that needs to be done and we are definitely trending the right way. We are developing players on our bench and that helps our future."

It wasn't only a victory, but the Corunna contest was a game to remember for three players. Salina Mueller, Vakia King and Morgan Furey each scored their first goals of their Blue Devils' soccer careers. Ashlyn Skidmore has

See LF on 19A



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

By David Troppens

dtroppens@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 for 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."

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Fenton track programs capture another two Metro League victories

By David Troppens

dtroppens@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 (10:02.68), Bronson Kelly in



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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 Chanse Setzke in the long jump (20-10).

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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.

They really want to compete and play for each other," 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

The Holly varsity 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 Hor-

nets. 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.

LF

Continued from Page 18A

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,

Helleybuck 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.

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 Elks Golf Club. Braden Lappa shot a 40 while Dylan Conte carded a 41. Brandon Diener and Tait Shultz 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 Plesko shot a 49 while Ian Crampton and Logan Kirkey shot 50s.

► **Holly 195, Clio 220:** The Bronchos Noah Rooker carded a 46 earning medalist honors and leading Holly to the victory at Clio Country Club. Matthew Moller followed with a 48. Jason Allmen posted a 50 and Griffin Lamb shot a 51.

► **Brandon 183, Linden 189:** Linden's Ryan Montini took home medalist honors with a 41 while Gabe Plesko 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 Piwowarczyk won her match 6-3, 6-3, earning the Tigers' only point. No. 1 singles player Leah

Krantz lost a three-set match 6-3, 6-7(7), 6-0.

BOYS LACROSSE

► **Greenhills 21, Fenton/Linden 5:** The Fenton/Linden co-op lacrosse squad had two goals recorded by Derek Delong. Dylan Meisch and Zack Eakes also had goals.

BASEBALL

► **Linden 11-9, Bath 0-0:** Linden's pitching staff posted two shutouts against Bath.

In the opener, Lucas Marshall tossed a three-hit five-inning shutout, striking out eight. In the nightcap, Travis Klocek and Jack Shore combined to pitch a two-hitter, resulting in the win.

Klocek allowed two hits and struck out six over five innings, and got the win. Shore tossed two innings of three-strike out ball.

Offensively, Ryker Rivera, Brendan Buerkel and Nick Koan had two hits each in the first game. In the second contest, Shore had two hits.

GIRLS SOCCER

► **Linden 3, Flushing 0:** Linden evened its Metro record to 1-1 with the win. Alia Frederick, Madeline Zayan and Erica Freeman scored goals for the Eagles.

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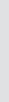


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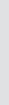


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

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















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