

Remember the woman in the Yugo?

■ 31-year-old waitress plunged 170 feet to her death from the Mackinac Bridge in 1989

By Vera Hogan

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With summer vacations just about to take off in the state of Michigan, many families are planning trips up north and over the Mackinac Bridge.

And there aren't too many people who

don't think about the woman who plunged to her death in September of 1989 and wonder — could it happen to us?

For more than a week, the tragic accident that killed Leslie Ann Pluhar, a 31-year-old waitress from Royal Oak, made front page

See **BRIDGE** on 20A

Chicago Tribune article:
“Pluhar died in the most spectacularly frightening and awesome manner...one could imagine.”



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A 31-year-old waitress from Royal Oak died on Sept. 22, 1989, when her Yugo was blown off the Mackinac Bridge.

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SUNDAY, MAY 28, 2017

2016 NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

Murder pretrial delayed by psychiatric exam

■ Forensic report on Abdurrahman Akl incomplete

By Tim Jagielo

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Flint—Teen murders suspect Abdurrahman (Abdu) Ahmed Akl, 16, of Fenton Township, spent but three minutes in court on Wednesday morning, May 24, before his case was adjourned until late June.

Akl is charged with open murder, for the March 4 shooting death of Brady Alan Morris, 18, in Akl's family's Fenton Township home on Lake Fenton. He's also charged with receiving and concealing a stolen firearm, and two counts of felony

firearm.

Akl was in Judge Mark McCabe's 67th District Court on Wednesday, May 24 for a forensic review of his competency exam, which was ordered in March by defense attorney Frank Manley.

Manley made the request on March 23, and Wednesday was the date for reviewing the results, and to decide if Akl is competent to stand trial.

Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Lia Perryman said that she and Manley had received an interim, but incomplete report from the forensic center. "It is not done but it is forthcoming," said Perryman.

See **MURDER** on 19A



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

The attorney-requested psychological exam to determine Abdurrahman Akl's competency was not completed as of his pre-trial on Wednesday, May 24. The hearing was adjourned and rescheduled for June 28.

Linden VFW Parade unchanged since 1947



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | COURTESY PHOTO

This ceremony took place in 1948 at the World War II memorial at the future location for The State Bank. According to the VFW, pictured (back row from left) are Bud Wardie, Herb Jacques, Ed Sturgis, Bob Sargent, John Stiff, Ed Shea, Don Miller and W.F. Close. The Front row honor guard includes Bub Welding and Don Crane. The Linden VFW Post has held the same parade for the past 70 years. See **story** on Page 18A.

One crash survivor released from hospital

■ MSP continues to investigate accident

By Sharon Stone

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Investigators from the Michigan State Police (MSP) Brighton Post

continue their investigation into the Tuesday, May 9 deadly two-car crash in Livingston County. The crash occurred at 10:40 p.m.

Five people, including two Fenton men, were killed.

Three people, including two

Fenton men, were initially hospitalized following the accident at the intersection of Argentine Road and M-59. One of the three men initially hospitalized in critical condition has been released

See **SURVIVOR** on 17A

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“When someone asks me why I don't have any tattoos, I just say 'you wouldn't put a bumper sticker on a Porsche or a Ferrari, would you?'”



“Family and friends say I drive too fast, drive too close, and should use my signals more. I am on my cell phone endlessly when driving even though it could all probably wait. I even text while I drive although I know too well I shouldn't. Is this you?”



“The Times brings to mind the old adage that 'freedom of the press' is generally limited to those who are fortunate enough to own one. The Republicans are the party that says government doesn't work. And then they get elected and prove it.”



COMMENT
OF THE WEEK

“Many families have lost loved ones due to drug overdoses that are the direct result of our Democratic-created open border with Mexico. There is so much heroin coming in that it gets cheaper and cheaper, meaning it is the best high for your money. Political agendas cost our children their lives.”



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Local 'Naked and Afraid' contestant gets high marks

■ Fenton native Melissa Miller proves her worth as a competitor

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Melissa Miller, a recent competitor on Discovery Channel's TV show "Naked and Afraid," had to go home and watch the show herself after inviting the public to watch it with her at Boston's Restaurant & Sports Bar in Fenton on Sunday, May 21.

"I was so busy just talking with people, I really didn't have a chance to watch it," said Miller. "I was so surprised by how many people were there. The response has been very positive."

Miller, 28, a Fenton native, was selected by the Discovery Channel to appear as a contestant on this three-week survival journal, after an extensive application process.

Male and female competitors are placed in one of the most remote locations on the earth, and have to survive using their own skills and courage, making their own shelter and finding their own food and water.

Only about half of the contestants, who are mostly survivalists and ex-military, survive for the three weeks.

No one knew until watching this episode whether Miller and her partner, Chance Davis of Virginia, would survive for 21 days in the remote, piranha- and insect-infested tropical rainforest region of the Amazon in eastern Ecuador, considered to be one of the most remote, dangerous locales in the world.

"We were inundated with rain," said Miller. "I was swearing. I thought I went the whole three weeks without swearing."

In one of her many memorable survival moments, Miller climbed a tree, grabbed a snake, killed it with her bare hands and then cooked it for dinner to share with Davis.

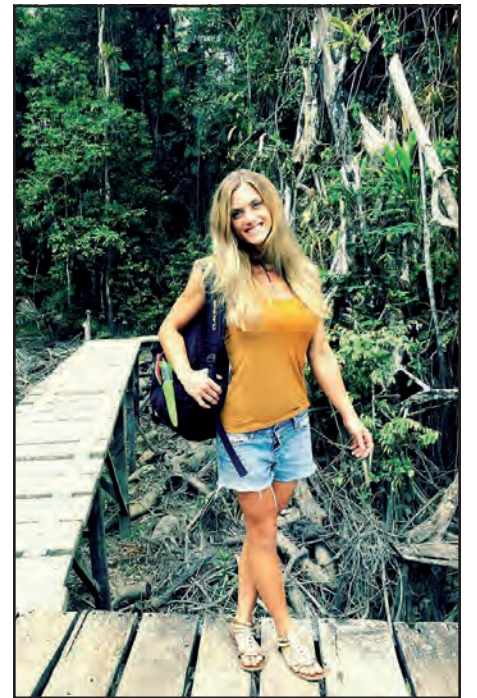
People who watched the show seemed to connect with Miller, a 2007 graduate of Fenton High School. The comments on "Naked and Afraid's" Facebook page have been overwhelmingly positive about this particular episode and felt that

“We do things for a reason. This was about my own emotional and personal journey. I’m really glad they brought that out in the show.”

Melissa Miller

Survival competitor on "Naked and Afraid"

**To watch
 “Naked and Afraid”
 starring Fenton native
 Melissa Miller, you
 can visit the Naked
 and Afraid
 Facebook Page.**



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DISCOVERY CHANNEL

Melissa Miller, 28, is shown here leaving her 21-day survival challenge in the Amazon tropical rainforest of eastern Ecuador. She was unable to stay for the extended 40-day challenge because of a family health situation at home.

Miller has been one of the show's strongest survival contestants since the show debuted in 2013.

One fan, Tamie Beeman, commented, "Thank you for being such a strong and inspiring woman. Other women need to see that we can do anything and are more capable than we realize."

As a successful survivor, Miller and Davis were both asked to stay on for the 40-day "Naked and Afraid XL" challenge, but Miller declined because her

boyfriend's father has been battling cancer, and she felt the need to return home.

In the end, Miller was very pleased about how she was portrayed on the show and also that the show's producers didn't shy away from talking about Miller's past struggles with depression and anxiety. "We do things for a reason," said Miller. "This was about my own emotional and personal journey. I'm really glad they brought that out in the show."

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Scott Fischer of Rose Township grills pork tenderloin, peppers, asparagus and stuffed mushrooms on Wednesday afternoon. Fischer, who cooks outdoors year-round, said he has been grilling since he was a child and now grills in multi-state competitions.

Fire up the grill

■ It's barbecue time here in Michigan; read hints from a local barbecue competitor

By Sally Rummel

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Cooking with fire probably goes back to cave-men and cavewomen, who cooked whatever they could over hot flames, once fire was discovered.

Today, grilling your dinner may seem more sophisticated than that with all the new grills and gadgets available, but it really gets down to the basics of meat and heat, with a few tweaks thrown in.

Scott Fischer of Rose Township, a deputy with the Oakland County Sheriff's Department,

“Don't squish the burgers down with your spatulas and push the juices out. Moisture is good. Just let them cook until the desired doneness.”

Scott Fischer
Competitive barbecuer

is a member of the Rubbed Smoked & Sauced Competition Barbecue Team, competing and winning awards in all different categories. This year, they'll be competing in 12 contests in Michigan, Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky.

Barbecue vs. grilling—what's the difference?

He's a huge fan of “low and slow” cooking and says that's the big difference between barbecuing and grilling.

“Barbecuing is cooking a piece of meat low and slow so the fat and collagen breaks down, creating a tender product,” he said. “Grilling is what most people do in the backyard. That's cooking hot and fast over coals. You can't beat

See GRILL on 15A

FIDGET SPINNERS — the latest fad

■ Small device can be choking hazard, distraction in school

By Hannah Ball

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As the Pokémon Go fad seems to have faded, a new device is capturing kids' attention as well as the attention of teachers and schools.

Fidget spinners, which are meant to help kids with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), are little devices with two or three prongs that spin around. The user holds the device in the middle and spins it with another finger. The momentum is supposed to be a calming effect, according to livescience.com. Kids are teaching themselves how to do tricks, like spinning it on one finger.

Stephanie Howes of Argentine Township has two kids, Mia, 5, and Max, 7, who both have a few fidget spinners.

“At least it keeps them off of their tablets. They're trying to find different things to do with

See FIDGET SPINNERS on 6A



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Come *Heller* high water

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Random thoughts

• **Ever wonder why** it seems like you're working harder but never seem to get ahead? A new Stanford University study says it's because "the economy is growing slower, and almost all the growth has accrued to the top (earners)," says one of the researchers. "Wages for the bottom 50 percent haven't gone up in 40 years (adjusted for inflation)." Only 46 percent of kids in Michigan are likely to do better than their parents, ranking the state third worst in the nation, the study says.

• **"Evil losers?"** That's the best insult President Trump could come up with for terrorists? Oooh, I'll bet they're infuriated. I'll bet they're thinking, "He could have gotten away with calling us low-born sons of donkeys or jiggly-eyed radicalized nut-jobs. But evil losers? No! Too far!"



Andrew Heller
FEATURED COLUMNIST

• **God help us** if there's ever a recognizable terror leader again like Osama bin Laden. The president will call him "Stinky" or some such. "We gotta get Stinky!"

• **An Ann Arbor** restaurant owner says three Immigration and Customs agents ate breakfast then walked into the kitchen and arrested three employees for being illegal aliens. That's kind of low. If you're going to arrest them, at least don't make them cook you eggs first. Jeez.

• **According to the** nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, 23 million people would eventually lose health insurance if the House's Obamacare replacement plan becomes law. So how is that a good thing again for the nation? Those people will go right back to using the emergency room as their primary doctor, raising rates for all.

• **When are we** going to grow up and join the rest of the world in providing universal health care? Jeez oh Pete, this is frustrating. The only reason we don't have it already is ideology. You know what I think a pre-existing condition is? Being someone who is convinced his ideology is more important than your

leaky aortic valve you can't afford to have fixed.

• **The thing that** galls me is the people deciding on health care have perfectly wonderful government-paid health care. But you? Not so much. Guess you shoulda developed an ideology and run for office.

• **Speaking of politics**, according to a Jack Lessenberry column, a group named Voters Not Politicians is working to put a constitutional amendment on the ballot in Michigan to have a legislative district drawn by a nonpartisan commission instead of by the party in power at the time of each census. Why should you care and why should you support this effort? Because Michigan is gerrymandered to a point that it nearly guarantees this remains a red state at all levels, no matter how you vote. The group's slogan is "Voters should choose their politicians, not the other way around." Makes sense to me. And once we get rid of gerrymandering, we should get rid of term limits. We already have the power to limit the terms of politicians. It's called voting.

• **Memorial Day** can't possibly be Monday because Memorial Day is the unofficial start of summer and we haven't had spring yet.

• "We accept the love we think we deserve." — Stephen Chbosky

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.

HEY PHIL AND Jocelyn, thanks for your generosity and all that you have done for our downtown and the residents. You are a first class act.

• **SINCE ILLEGAL DRUGS** are illegal, isn't any amount an overdose?

• **THERE ARE MANY** differences between a fetus and a baby. A fetus is completely dependent on the pregnant woman for survival. To tell that woman that she must carry that fetus to term makes her a prisoner of her own fetus. That is why abortion must remain legal.

• **THIS IS ADVICE** for putting eye drops in. Tip your head back, pull the lower eyelid down, look straight at the dropper, get it close and squeeze the drop right in. Tip your head up and blink your eye a few times.

• **WHY UPDATE ALL** the speed limit signs on MDOT's 9,669 miles of roadway? Better if MDOT would just update everyone's phone. Speed limit, ding ding ding.

• **FOR YOUR INFORMATION**, I care deeply for every decent human being. You seem to want to downplay illegals killing American citizens because it's only being done every once in a while?

• **ANY NASCAR FANS** out there? Let's all use the Hot lines.

• **WE OWE IT** to our president to give them excellent transportation and protection. However, the Freedom of Information Act just revealed that Obama spent over \$100 million so he and Michelle could vacation like kings and queens around the world.

• **I FIND IT** fascinating that President Obama, who was the most pro-regulation president, the most anti-business, anti-corporation president is now a free market capitalist, raking in millions of dollars as a speaker.

• **AS PRESIDENT TRUMP** visits the Middle East, I love how he did not bow down to the King of Saudi Arabia and I love how Trump is not apologizing for America. Instead, he is acting tough and like a true president of the United States of America should.

• **WE WANT OUR Big Boy** back.

• **I HOPE WE** all can agree now, that there is no reason not to support President Trump's immigration executive order in light of the bombing in England. Trump is right. And unlike the Democratic liberals who want open borders, I believe that it's time to restrict who's coming in to our country.

• **THE HEAD OF** the Democratic Party is calling this summer the summer of resistance. In other words, the Democratic Party wants to resist lowering taxes and regulations. They want to resist cuts to bloated Medicaid and food stamp programs and border control.

• **THE QUOTE OF** the day comes from our beloved President Ronald Reagan. "The problem with liberals is that they know so much that isn't true."

• **WITH PRESIDENT TRUMP'S** actions and words in Saudi Arabia and Israel, it is evident that we have a true diplomat, negotiator and tough foreign relations expert in the White House. Hopefully, he will dismantle the abysmal Iran deal and improve relations around the world.

• **A NEW STUDY** came out this morning that emphasizes the negative coverage by the media of President Trump. Whether you are talking about the New York Times or The Washington Post, CBS, NBC, or CNN, the negative coverage is over 80 percent.

• **THE MATH IS** simple: anti-death penalty equals pro-murder.

• See **HOT LINE** throughout Times

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How would you improve the community?

Compiled by Tim Jagielo, media editor

streettalk



"I would try and make it more teenager-friendly. We're trying to get a dedicated skate park."

— Craig Newberry
Linden



"Not really too much, I like it out here. I think Linden is a very good community."

— Tim Schloss
Grand Blanc Township



"I'd like to see the downtown development come to fruition; the Union Block property."

— Doug Morgan
Linden



"To keep the small town feel. I like being able to talk to the police chief and city manager. I don't live here, but I'm here most the time."

— Pat Munch
Deerfield Township



"I would have more to offer downtown to get people out and about in the community."

— Lisa Wabel
Fenton Township

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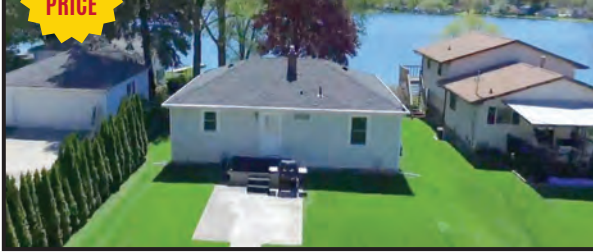
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ASK THE MECHANIC

Chris Wilkinson,
Certified Mechanic

Q: We have a Ford Windstar. We had a flat tire in the rear and put on a full size spare. The spare has deeper tread than the other three tires. There is a loud noise and a bad vibration at about 50 mph. Could this be caused by the spare? - Virginia

A: Virginia, If this noise and vibration was not there prior to putting the spare on, then this is most likely the cause. You need to check for mud build up in the rim if the spare tire was kept under the vehicle, as this will cause a lot of vibration at that speed. Also, you should check the lug nuts right away to make sure they are tightened properly. Other things I would look at is to see if the rim is making contact with any part of the brake or suspension. This should show some signs of rubbing like a shiny spot on it.

Last but not least, I would check the air pressure and balance of the tire.

If it is a spare it may not have been properly balanced. Also depending on how old it is, tires can go bad over time without having ever been on the road. If this is an all wheel drive van or has anti lock brakes; the difference in the tread wear can certainly cause a problem as well.

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WHAT YOU MISSED in the MIDWEEK TIMES

Compiled by Vera Hogan

The following is what you missed in the **Wednesday, May 24, Midweek Times** of the Tri-County Times. To subscribe and receive both the Sunday Weekend and Wednesday Midweek editions, please call (810) 629-8282

Trial begins for driver in Trooper Chad Wolf's death

Charles Raymond Warren, Jr., the 70-year-old man who's been charged in the death of Michigan State Police Trooper Chad Wolf, is currently facing a jury trial.



Expect heavy traffic this Memorial Day weekend

Lower gas prices account for fifth year of record number of holiday travelers.

Linden residents concerned about gas leak; potential legal actions against gas station

Linden residents and business owners continue to have concerns about the Beacon and Bridge gas leak, and expressed their worries at the Monday night City Council meeting.

FIDGET SPINNERS

Continued from Page 3A

them, like he held it on his thumb and he's trying to do different tricks," she said. "It gives them something different from tablets, computers and phone."

Howes' mom bought Max his first fidget spinner when camping.

"She said he was so mesmerized with this thing the entire night that he didn't want to touch his tablet, he didn't want to play his game, he didn't want to watch movies, he was just trying to figure out tricks," she said.

"I'm just very impressed with how fast they spin and how many tricks I can do," Max said. Mia said she likes that they're different colors and that they spin.

Howes said they're about \$10 but can go up to \$20, and are sold in many stores, like BC Comix and Games in Fenton and Alpine Marketplace. The Jack R. Wingarden is making these spinners using a 3-D printer. There are different types of spinners, from three-pronged to two-pronged, and ones that glow in the dark.

However, parents take caution. The spinners can be a safety hazard. Some of the pieces can come apart if the device is dropped. One mom warned people on her Facebook page after her 8-year-old daughter tried to swallow a piece, and it got caught in her throat, according to USAToday.

While they're marketed as a tool to help kids with ADHD and anxiety, a clinical psychologist at the University of Central Florida, Mark Rapport, told livescience.com that the devices more likely serve as a distraction than something that benefits kids with ADHD.

Some teachers aren't happy with kids using them in school.

Howes said, "I dropped them off at school and one of the boys came up to me just randomly and was like 'my teacher took my spinner' and I'm like 'well, are you supposed to have it in class?'"

"I finally had enough today and banned them from my third-grade classroom."

Haley Day

Patterson Elementary third-grade teacher

Many kids are not supposed to have them in class.

On the Times' Facebook page, Haley Day, a third-grade teacher at Patterson Elementary, said, "I finally had enough today and banned them from my third-grade classroom."

Now, they're only allowed during snack time in her room.

"I hope this fad doesn't return next school year," she said.



What's being said on
SOCIAL MEDIA

Heather: "I find the fidget spinners help my kids with ADHD focus but only on the fidget spinner itself. They do not focus on anything else around them including people who are speaking to them. If my kids can't even hear what I'm saying to them while using their fidget how can they hear their teachers and be focused on their school work. I think these are a great focus item for children affected by ADHD for certain things like long car rides, waiting rooms, anywhere you need them to be semi calm and relaxed. School not so much."

Nicholas: "Kids need to go out and do yard work or get a job. LOL. Fidget spinners, come on now."

Becky: "My 3 kids have a few.... and my sons both have ADHD and it does help with the fidgeting of the fingers."

Andy: "They're a fad. They'll be gone in a few months, just like that Pokemon thing."

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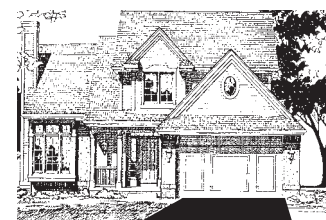
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FLINT

Homemade canoe or kayak competition returns to Shiawassee River Fest

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Linden — The Shiawassee River Fest is officially taking place Sunday, June 25 in downtown Linden.

The Linden City Council unanimously approved the request by the Keepers of the Shiawassee at its meeting on Monday, May 22.

"This is our third year and we've been growing every year," said Brad Jacob, chairperson of the Keepers of the Shiawassee.

From noon until 7 p.m., people can enjoy kayaking, canoeing, and other lake activities. People can receive information and do activities related to the health of the river. The

Union Block property will be used for kids' events. Jacob said they do have permission from Dr. Nicole Wax to use the area.

Food vendors will be set up along the sidewalks and parking lot area, and a few local restaurants will be open. The VFW parking lot will be closed off for the event.

People can also participate in one of the most popular competitions — the homemade canoe/kayak regatta. Con-

testants will bring a homemade vessel to sit in, and paddle down the river. The contestant who goes the farthest or passes a specified finish line wins.

Races begin at 1 p.m. and end at 5 p.m. The entry fee for kids under 13 is \$15, and the fee for anyone older is \$20 per vessel.

“Instead of having them go to tournaments and then leave the city, we'd like them to come around and see what we have to offer.”

Brad Jacob

Keepers of the Shiawassee chairperson

"We're also working with the local shops and with the Fenton (Regional) Chamber of Commerce," he said. They're planning to offer a door prize to an attendee who visits all of the local shops. Jacob said people can take a certain form and get it stamped by each business to be entered to win.

The festival is the same weekend as the Gus Maker event, a community basketball tournament at Hyatt Elementary.

Jacob said they've talked with Grow Linden and Gus Maker organizers.

"We are cross promoting with them. Their goal is to get maybe some of the people who are done with their tournaments to come down and hang out downtown," he said. "Instead of having them go to tournaments and then leave the city, we'd like them to come around and see what we have to offer."

Maintenance on Argentine dam starts Wednesday

■ Genesee County Road Commission will fix broken gate operator

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Starting on Wednesday, May 31, construction workers will begin repairs on the Argentine dam.

Alex Patsy, civil engineer with the Genesee County Road Commission, said there are two gates, or spillways, built into the Argentine dam that are supposed to open and close.

He said the auxiliary spillway is working fine. This is the gate the dam operators will open when there's a lot of rain.

"It's the first line of defense," he said. It's controlled by the west gate operator, which was replaced in 2007 and fixed again in 2013.

Patsy said half of the second gate, called the primary spillway, is not working. The east gate operator controls this spillway, and Patsy said something is wrong with the operator, not the gate.

"It's probably a broken gear or something like that," he said. Contractors will open the east operator to find the problem.

"It's been running fine with just what we have, with one gate that opens, the auxiliary spillway," he said, adding that the primary spillway "needs to be operating. We want to have everything working all the time."

Argentine Township owns the dam, but the Genesee County Road Commission is responsible for the upkeep on the



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | HANNAH BALL

Currently, only one of the gates, or spillways, in the Argentine dam works. Repairs are to begin this Wednesday.

bridge and dam.

Patsy said it's important to make sure all the dams that are connected with local lakes are working. Parshallville Pond flows into Lake Shannon, which are separated by a dam. The water then flows through another dam and into Bennett Lake and Lobdell

Lake, and then another dam separates those bodies of water from the Shiawassee River.

"They all have to function together," he said. "Operators have emergency action plans to communicate when they open and close."

Patsy doesn't know how long maintenance will take. It's a perpetual project that could last through the summer, but until they open the gate opera-

tor and find what's broken, they won't know how long it will take.

"No road closures," he said, adding that people won't even know they're doing maintenance.

“We want to have everything working all the time.”

Alex Patsy

Genesee County Road Commission civil engineer

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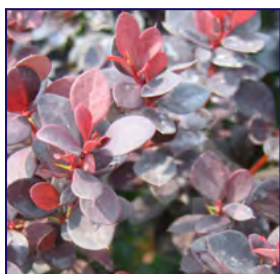
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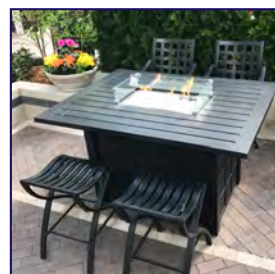
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Fenton student wins national competition

■ Future nursing student places 10th out of 7,000 contestants across U.S.

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

One senior at Fenton High School placed 10th in a national writing competition out of 7,000 entrants by writing about the stock market.

Sydney Cislo, 18, said for the mid-term in her finance class, they played The Stock Market Game, a program that helps students learn about stocks. They “invested” in a stock and kept track of it for three months, with graphs, company profiles, and buying and selling receipts.

Each person also had to turn in an essay for InvestWrite, which is the national writing competition produced by The Stock Market Game. The topic was “Buying in What You Know.”

“I talked about the stocks I invested in Apple, and using a blended approach to choose stocks to invest in,” she said. “It took me a couple days to write it because going into the class, I had no financial background knowledge. I had to do a lot of research on the blended approach and stocks in general.”

The essays were sent to panels of business people nationwide to be graded, she said. For winning 10th place, her teacher, Bruce Burwitz, said she won a \$100 American Express gift card, a party for the class, two medals, a certificate and



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO

A senior at Fenton High School, Sydney Cislo, won 10th place out of 7,000 in an essay competition about stocks.

a dinner of recognition at the Detroit Federal Reserve.

The school also received a banner and her class had a party with cake and punch.

“The presentation was a surprise to her and the class. Representatives from InvestWrite, sponsored by SIFMA

Foundation for Investor Education, came out to the school along with our superintendent, principal and vice principal. Needless to say she was very surprised and excited,” Burwitz said.

When asked if she plans to study stocks, Cislo said she’s not really that interested in the field. “I am going into pediatric nursing. I did not expect to do that well in the competition. It was a huge surprise for me because I thought there were way too many students in the competition to get noticed,” she said.

“It was a huge surprise for me because I thought there were way too many students in the competition to get noticed.”

Sydney Cislo
Fenton High School senior

HOT LINE CONTINUED

■ ■ ■
WHAT IS THIS? The party of lower corporate taxes complaining because Home Depot and other stores get a tax break? Isn’t that what you want? Surely they will use it to create more part-time nominal wage jobs.

■ ■ ■
I NEVER LIKED ‘Hanoi Jane,’ but she never attacked the constitution like the kids that didn’t support ‘free speech,’ from the University of California, Berkeley or Notre Dame.

■ ■ ■
YOU HAVE TO prove defamation of character. Look at the person’s character. Enough said?

■ ■ ■
TO FENTON TOWNSHIP chicken lover, your claim that township officials are violating ‘your rights to do what you want on your own property’ is false. You have no such rights.

■ ■ ■
I LOVE THE Hot-liner who said if you’ve been bullied, then you know how Trump feels because of the Democrats blocking his every move. Poor guy. I hope you felt this way when the same exact thing was being done to Obama.

■ ■ ■

Notes of thanks

The Fenton United Methodist Church would like to thank the following businesses and individual parties for supporting our Cuba for Christ mission, by purchasing a table for our Murder Mystery fundraiser. Our thanks go to the Law Office of Mark Willmarth of Flint, Sharp Funeral Home of Linden, Coldwell Banker - Rick Morris, My Sister & Me Consignment of Fenton, Warren and Melanie Hein, Judy Bell and party, Nancy Clemmer and party, The State Bank of Fenton, State Farm’s Doug Mercer, Carl Peterson, and Judy Becker and party. Thank you to all the generous people who made the Murder Mystery such a huge success!

Deb Rogers
Fenton United Methodist Church

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News briefs

SECOND ANNUAL RAVE RUN SET

Many local businesses and community organizations have come together to put on an event that is the first of its kind in Fenton for the second year in a row. Rave Run is a 5K run/walk, while nontoxic colored powder is thrown at participants, followed by a family friendly electronic dance music concert afterwards. It will take place **Friday, June 2, from 9 to 11 p.m.** This event is appropriate for families, and runners of all ages. Undersheriff Chris Swanson says, "Events like this help to keep our community connected, and safe for families." Fenton Rave Run was launched by Fenton Challenge, a community based organization started by The Freedom Center. Jim Wiegand, Fenton Challenge cofounder, and senior pastor at The Freedom Center said, "The Freedom Center has been active in Fenton for many years, and after hearing of a need from many families, we launched Fenton Challenge. This Rave Run is one of many events Fenton Challenge will host." Local businesses who have partnered with Rave Run include, LaFontaine Automotive Group, Mega, Bostons, Patrick Widing Custom homes, Dr. Wax Orthodontics, to name a few. The Rave Run is \$45 but the concert that starts at 10 p.m. is free. Tickets are available at FentonChallenge.com.

MAY 29 (5/29) IS 529 DAY, DESIGNATED TO CREATE AWARENESS ABOUT COLLEGE SAVINGS

You probably won't see this on your calendar, but May 29 (5/29) is 529 College Savings Day, named after the popular 529 college savings plan, according to Chad Robinson, Edward Jones financial adviser in Linden. This day is designed to promote people's awareness and need to save and invest for the high costs of higher education. College costs continue to

rise. For the 2016-17 school year, the average cost (tuition, fees, room and board) was about \$20,000 for in-state students at public universities and more than \$45,000 for private schools, according to the College Board. Because of these costs, student debt is at record levels. Of the Class of 2016 graduates who received loans, about 70 percent of the total student population, the average individual debt was \$37,172, a record high, according to a study cited by CBS News. You can help a family member with these costs by finding out more about a 529 plan, which has high contribution rates and withdrawals free from federal taxes. For more information, contact your local financial advisor.

LINDEN MEMORIAL DAY PARADE AND COMMUNITY PICNIC

The 70th annual Linden VFW Price Crane Robinsons Post 4642 Memorial Day Services and parade will be held on **Monday, May 29, at 10 a.m.** The parade steps off at 10 a.m. from the VFW Post. It proceeds to the bridge over the Shiawassee River, where services will be held for those who served at sea. The parade will then proceed to the Veterans memorial section at Fairview Cemetery where a VFW Memorial Day ritual service will be held. After the ceremony, the parade will return to the VFW Post where the city of Linden will provide hot dogs, chips, pop or water and ice cream. Spectators are encouraged to line the parade route with flags, decorate bikes, strollers and wagons. All current and former members of the military are invited to march. Transportation will be provided for those not able to march. Call (248)-752-5445 to confirm a spot. Other participant groups are welcome to participate in the. For more information on participating, call (248) 752-5445. Please remember that the parade is a solemn Memorial Day function dedicated to veterans. Signage identifying the float or participant group is encouraged. Political or personal recognition signage is not allowed.

LAKE FENTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS Offers Schools of Choice Program 105 and 105c for Students in Grades K-12

The Lake Fenton Community School District will accept applications for the 2017-18 school year under Sections 105 and 105c of the State Aid Act.

- Section 105 – Students who reside within the Genesee Intermediate School District's (GISD) boundaries.
- Section 105c – Students who reside in counties contiguous to Genesee County.

Applications are available through September 7, 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 Schools of Choice 105/105c application and return to Katy Wade, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, Lake Fenton Community Schools, before 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 7, 2017.
- Applications may be obtained in person, mail, online ([School of Choice Application-2017](#)) or by calling:

Katy Wade, Executive Asst. to the Superintendent
Lake Fenton Community Schools
11425 Torrey Road
Fenton, Michigan 48430
(810) 591-2532

- Notification of acceptance should be completed within 7 – 10 business days from the date of application submission.
- Student Enrollment must be completed prior to the end of the school day on Friday, September 8, 2017.

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Try outs will be held on June 17 at Lake Fenton High School: **4070 Lahring Road, Linden, MI 48451.**

Specific try out times for each age group will be posted closer to the date.

Try out registration for new players can be found at www.LaForzaSoccer.com

Questions? Visit our website or contact:

2011 - 2008 teams: Josh Hockin	Coachhockin@laforzasoccer.com	810-624-2224
2007 - 2004 teams: Dean Welsh	Coachdean@laforzasoccer.com	810-252-0330
2003 - 1999 teams: Mike Gilmour	Coachmike@laforzasoccer.com	517-281-7917
Financial questions: Kim Skidmore	Treasurer@laforzasoccer.com	810-964-4625

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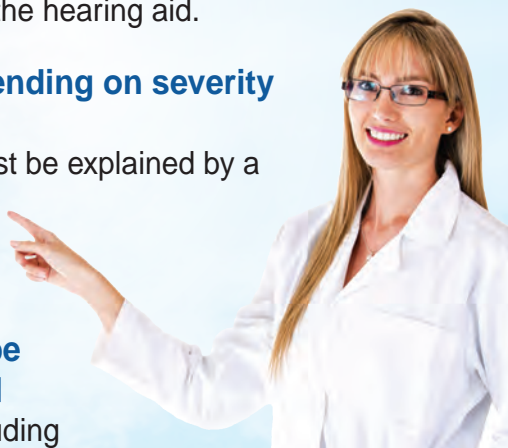
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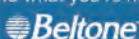
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'Turn Around' middle school students applauded

■ Fenton Area Optimist Club honors local students who have turned their lives around

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

Nate Nielson missed so much school because of truancy issues that his teachers and administrators at Lake Fenton Middle School decided two years ago that retaining him in sixth grade was the best decision to help him bridge the gap in his learning.

Now as a seventh grader, he has achieved 95-percent attendance and is not only passing his classes, but is in line to finish on the honor roll, according to his principal, Dan Ferguson.

Nate has also had to deal with the sudden death of his father, Ryan, added Ferguson. "After taking some time with his family to honor and celebrate his dad's life, Nate returned to school with the help of his extended family and really turned his education around."

Nate was one of a number of local sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade students who were guests of honor at the annual Fenton Area Optimist Club Turn Around Achievement Program on May 10 at Spring Meadows Country Club in Linden. He was accompanied by his aunt, grandmother and great-grandmother.

Each of these students has a story behind their newfound success and improvements in the classroom, and it has become a Fenton Area Optimist Club tradition to honor them with a luncheon, program and gifts.

"Nate has used his father's death to make the choice to honor him by working hard and attending school daily," said his teacher, Steve Muenzer, who nominated him. "Many times how we deal with adversity in our lives defines us as a person. Nate has proven he's defined as a winner and will be successful in the future. We look forward to seeing him prosper in school and life at the next level."

Chase LeJeune, a senior at Fenton High School, was a past "Turn Around" award winner and talked to this year's

“Nate has used his father's death to make the choice to honor him by working hard and attending school daily.”

Steve Muenzer
Teacher of award
winner Nate Nielson



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTOS
Lake Fenton Middle School seventh-grader Nate Nielson is pictured here with his nominating teacher, Steve Muenzer.

honorees about what the experience meant to him and how it changed his life.

Guest speaker was Herman Ferguson, local business owner and motivational speaker. Michigan Optimists Lt. Governor Pam Barckholtz was a special guest, along with local municipal leaders.

Dan Ferguson (no relation to Herman Ferguson) expressed his appreciation to the Fenton Optimists for hosting

this event every year.

"As middle school educators, we are so thankful to your support of our adolescent students. The middle school years are often the 'forgotten years,' and the Optimist Club has a deep understanding of the various needs of our students."

Award winners from the Fenton, Lake Fenton and Linden school districts include:

AGS Middle School, Fenton

Lane Chodaki and Jesse Mossman, eighth grade; Marissa Martin, seventh grade; Riley Carscadden, sixth grade.

Lake Fenton Middle School

Jamie Johnson, Leslie Johnson and Patrick Wheatley, eighth grade; Nate Nielson, seventh grade; Tyler Birmingham, sixth grade.

Linden Middle School

Ty Blackburn and Hayden Hitchcock, eighth grade; Kristin Davidson and Annabelle Nelson, seventh grade and Aaron Spooner, sixth grade.

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DOGTV grows in popularity

■ Helps canines relax, acclimate to stressful situations

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

TV isn't just for humans anymore—now, there's a network with shows specifically aimed at furry, four-legged, tail-wagging friends.

DOGTV may seem like an odd concept, but it can change your dog's behavior, especially when you're not at home. This network, which based its programming on more than 60 studies on dog behavior, organizes its content into three categories: relaxation, stimulation, and exposure.

According to dogtv.com, dogs spend 14 hours of each day sleeping or napping, but when they're left alone, they get anxious. This can cause destructive behavior. The relaxation channel can help them relax with soothing videos and sounds, like clips of dogs sleeping or watching the sunrise.

If your dog is too lazy or bored while at home, you can turn on the stimulation channel. This channel includes sounds and videos of other animals that dogs react to, like when other dogs bark in the neighborhood. Some stimulation videos include dogs playing in the park and playing fetch.

The exposure channel is meant to help dogs deal with stressors over time. It includes videos and sounds from vacuum cleaners, car rides or busy streets. By having your dog exposed to these stimuli over time, they should become less anxious when around them and they learn to acclimate in high-stress situations.

Each segment is approximately five minutes long, and can be based off a dog's daily schedule.

There's also DogStar, a segment that features user-submitted videos of dogs doing entertaining things in real life. You can go to dogtv.com and watch some of these videos, or search for DOGTV on YouTube.

Currently, providers that offer DOGTV are Xfinity, DirectTV and RCN. Dog owners can turn the programs on at night, in the morning, or leave it on for their furry pets throughout the day.

Source: dogtv.com

Calendar of events

Mental health talk with Stuart Pigler

The public is invited to hear Stuart Pigler from Congressman Mike Bishop's office, speak about mental health on **Tuesday, May 30, from 2 to 3 p.m.** The event will be held at Holly Presbyterian Church, 207 E. Maple St. Holly.

Notes of thanks

Thank you so much to all the volunteers who helped with Christmas in Action. Forty-nine volunteers came out to my home on April 29 and installed a new back door, a walk-in shower, painted a porch, and planted flowers among other things. A special thank you goes to Ed Pedley of First Baptist Church of Holly and Mike Harris of The Journey Church in Holly. My home looks wonderful. The flowers are beautiful. Your program is truly a blessing.

Dorothy Miner, Holly

News briefs

RECRUITING FAIR

The Fenton Township Fire and Rescue is hosting a recruiting fair from **9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, June 3** at Station #2, 5120 Owen Road.

The fire department is looking for individuals who would like to become a paid, on-call firefighter. Qualifications include: must be 18 years old, must have valid driver's license, must live within six miles of fire station, pass a physical exam and must be in good physical condition. Benefits include: paid training and certification, very rewarding career, great camaraderie, able to serve the community and unparalleled sense of pride.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

I AGREE WITH city residents. The officials of this town serve themselves and their own agendas. This used to be a nice small town but now the powers that be want to turn it into 'Pleasantville,' like the movie, to impress others and bankroll the deficits mismanaged by same officials

POOR LIBERAL JUST doesn't get it. There is no hypocrisy being pro-life and supporting the death penalty. The penalty is also pro-life in that it protects innocent life by punishing murderers and preventing them from killing again. Your progressive allegiance to criminals blinds you to the victim's loss.

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ORE LAKE \$275,000
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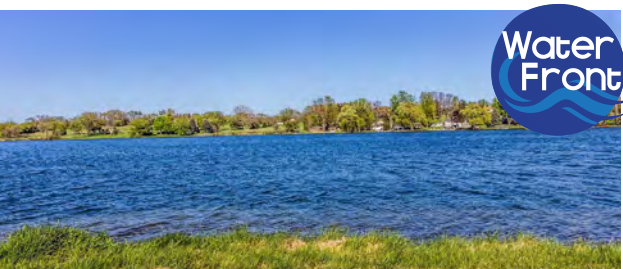
4757 FOX LAKE RD, GOODRICH

ACREAGE WITH HORSE BARN \$299,999
Great home on over 14 gorgeous acres, 2852 SF of finished living space, 3 BDR & 3.5 BA. Full finished basement and attached 2 car garage. Barn has 7 stalls with tack room, electric, and water. There are 5 paddocks and 2 running sheds.



15225 LONGFELLOW DR, BYRON

MYERS LAKE \$293,900
54' frontage on All Sports Myers Lake. 2370 SF, 4 BDR & 2.5 BA. Open floor plan, great natural light, exposed beams, fireplace and more. Formal dining room, office, lots of storage space, large multi level decking and 40x22 pole barn and much more.



11482 BAY OF FIRTH BLVD, FENTON

MARL LAKE \$434,999
108FT of frontage on private All Sports Marl Lake. 3081 SF, 3 BDR & 3.5 BA plus a bonus room that could be a 4th BDR. Full finished walkout basement. 2 car attached garage, plus an additional 2+ car garage. Over 1.5 acres of waterfront property!



JUST LISTED!!!
OPEN SUNDAY 1-3

201 N HOWARD ST, FENTON

FENTON SCHOOLS \$225,000
Fantastic home with 2220 SF of finished living space, 3 BDR & 2.5 BA. Beautiful kitchen with tile backsplash, island, granite countertops, and dining area. Full finished basement, stamped concrete patio and private back yard. Walking distance to downtown Fenton.



JUST LISTED!!!
OPEN SUNDAY 1-3

4185 JUDITH CT, LINDEN

LAKE FENTON SCHOOLS \$219,999
2352 SF of finished living space, 3 BDR & 2.5 BA. Living room features fireplace, soaring ceilings and great natural light. Formal dining room and first floor laundry. Full finished basement with lots of storage. 2 car attached garage, large deck and private back yard.



16486 WHITEHEAD DR, LINDEN

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



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2393 DAVIS RD, FENTON

LAKE FENTON \$729,000
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OPEN SUNDAY 1-3

9693 BURNING TREE DR, GRAND BLANC

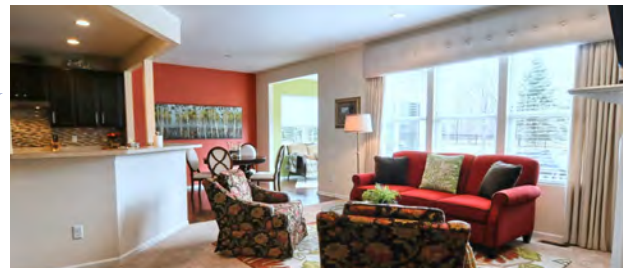
WARWICK HILLS \$375,000
Over 4000 SF of finished living space, 4 BDR & 2.5 BA. Amazingly maintained home with meticulous attention to detail. Family room with fireplace, exposed beams & great natural light. Four season room, first floor laundry, full finished basement and views of the golf course.



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4430 FULTON CT, LINDEN

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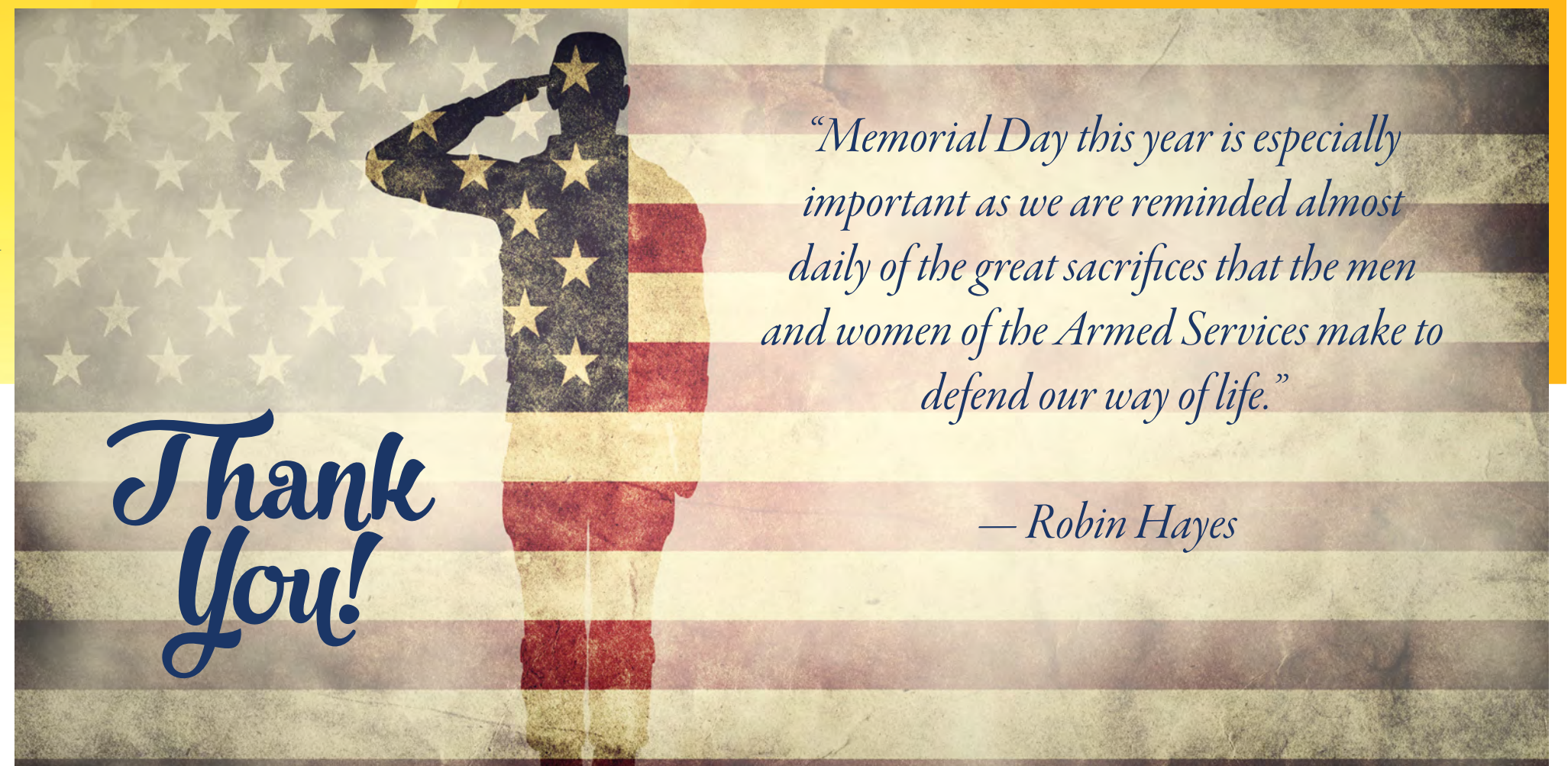
6326 PRAIRIE DUNES DR, GRAND BLANC

GRAND RESERVE \$274,999
1660 SF, 2 BDR & 2 BA. Gorgeous kitchen features hardwood floors, pantry, tile back splash, lots of cabinet and counter space. Open floorplan, beautifully decorated, fireplace and great natural light. Spacious master suite, full basement and 2 car attached garage. Enjoy resort-style living at Del Webb's Grand Reserve!



8211 PINE HOLLOW TRL, GRAND BLANC

WOODS OF PINE HOLLOW \$1,033,725
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.



2208 ISLAND SHORE DR, FENTON

LAKE FENTON \$1,200,000
Stunning home with over 350' frontage on All Sports Lake Fenton. 3485 SF, 3 BDR & 2.5 BA. Soaring ceilings, great natural light, spectacular views, open floor plan, character, charm and luxury. 3 car attached garage, in ground pool, outdoor kitchen and much more.



13090 TORREY RD, FENTON

LAKE FENTON SCHOOLS \$169,900
1736 SF of finished living space, 4 BDRs & 1.5 BA. Spacious living room with great natural light. Kitchen features pantry, lots of cabinet and counter space. Dining room, sun room and partially finished basement with lots of storage. 2.5 car attached garage, large deck, storage shed and fenced yard.



6036 COOK RD, SWARTZ CREEK



6382 COOK RD, SWARTZ CREEK

ACREAGE \$499,999
3162 SF, 3 BDR & 3 BA. One of a kind, true log home, 52 acres filled with wildlife and your own private vineyard. Groomed trails for your riding pleasure and 4 out buildings. Peaceful, tranquil and a life style all its own. Exposed logs, stone fireplace and hardwood floors, everything about this home says WOW!



9720 BURNING TREE DR, GRAND BLANC

WARWICK HILLS \$449,999
4090 SF, 4 BDR & 3.5 BA all on the 5th Tee of Warwick Hills Golf Course. Stunning gourmet kitchen with high end finishes, hardwood floors, granite counters, lots of cabinet space and fireplace. Open floor plan, grand entry, natural light, and much more.



1274 S HOLLY RD, FENTON



12402 WOODHULL LANDING, FENTON

LAKE FENTON \$795,000
126' of frontage on All Sports Lake Fenton. 3893 SF, 4 BDR & 3.5 BA. Open floor plan, soaring ceilings and great natural light. 3 car attached garage, large deck and more. This home has it all - fantastic location, large flat yard and beautiful water frontage.



1263 VICTORIA LN, FENTON

FENTONWOOD ESTATES \$289,999
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.



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6036 COOK RD, SWARTZ CREEK



1274 S HOLLY RD, FENTON



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Mr. Fenton 2017

TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

The Mr. Fenton 2017 production pitted 10 Fenton High School seniors against each other in a competition that included casual and formal wear, musical performances, rap, and well-executed Bo Burnham comedy sketches. In the end, Brendan Triola (above) won the crown. (Left) Joe Bujak strikes a pose near the end of the Mr. Fenton 2017 production Thursday night.



Relay for Life pulls out of Fenton

Volunteers encouraged to go to Grand Blanc, Davison

Janet Leslie, senior manager for Relay for Life, has announced that this year's event, scheduled for June 3 at Silver Lake Park in Fenton has been cancelled.

"We've come a long way in the fight against cancer, and the American Cancer Society has been looking at ways to further accelerate our progress," Leslie said. "An important part of this process has been identifying ways we can stretch donations to help the most people, end the most suffering, and save the most lives."

"We continually review ways to hold the line on expenses so that even more of the money our volunteers raise goes to our lifesaving programs. As a result, we have decided not to hold a traditional Relay For Life in Fenton this year," she said.

"Our decision in no way suggests that the event has not been valuable. We know that the support, participation and dedication of the many volunteers Relay For Life of Fenton/Lake Fenton/Linden has engaged over the years made it an empowering and special event for many in the community, especially our beloved survivors."

Anyone who would like to participate in a Relay event this summer can reach out to Leslie at (517) 664-1413 or 1 (800) 227-2345 join a neighboring Relay For Life event:

• **RFL of Grand Blanc**
Friday June 2, 5:30 p.m. to midnight
Physician Park
relayforlife.org/grandblancmi

• **RFL of Davison**
Saturday, June 3, 10 a.m. to midnight
Davison High School Cardinal Stadium
relayforlife.org/davisonmi

Golden Buffet

LUNCH • 11:00am - 3:30pm
\$7.99 Adult | \$3.99 Children under 10

DINNER • 4:00pm - close
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GRILL

Continued from Page 3A

a good steak or burger, along with some grilled veggies at home. Pork chops, chicken and sausage rank right up there, too.”

Charcoal or gas?

Charcoal or gas is always the great debate when it comes to cooking methods in your own backyard. “The real purist will cook with charcoal,” said Fischer. “I believe it adds that little something extra with the charcoal and wood flavors to any food.”

But he added that you can’t beat cooking on a gas grill for convenience and time saving. “With both, you can enhance the flavors by adding wood chips, spread right on the lit coals, or you can wrap the chips in tin foil, poke several holes in it and place under the grates on top of the gas burners. Wait for the smoke to start and add your food.

Here’s a tip: If you don’t like the taste of “smoke,” try fruit wood chips such as apple or cherry. Fruit wood has a lot “lighter” smoke, according to Fischer.

Managing the fire

Whether you use charcoal or gas, fire management is an important part of the grilling process.

“With charcoal, let the coals get going and spread them out evenly within your cooker,” said Fischer. “It’s really important to keep a ‘safe zone’ where you have an empty space in the grill to put food that may be cooking too fast or if you have flare-ups, and need to move the food away from being directly over the lit coals.”

With a gas grill, it’s usually as simple as moving the food over to a space where there’s no lit burner. “This can be used for something as simple as moving a burger with cheese over so the cheese can melt,” said Fischer.

Just the right seasoning

The sky’s the limit when it comes to seasoning, but Fischer said you need to remember that salt actually pulls the moisture out of whatever you’re cooking. “So salt your food at the end,” he said.

Most commercial rubs and sauces have the same base seasonings, so you can just pick out the ones you like.

Grilling with marinades

You can find many commercial marinades or recipes online. “Flare-ups are common when marinades drip down onto coals or an open flame, so cook over a ‘safe zone’ until the liquids firm up on whatever you’re cooking,” said Fischer.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

To avoid burning, Scott Fischer always adds barbeque sauce at the last minute.

“Then move over to the coals or flame to finish the cooking.”

Adding the sauce

Most barbecue sauces have a high sugar content, and since sugar burns easily, that’s why many things cooked on a grill get blackened before their time.

“The most common mistake using barbecue sauce is saucing too early,” said Fischer. “The sauce can be applied 5 to 10 minutes before the food is removed from the grill. That’s plenty of time for it to firm up and adhere, without burning.”

For the best burgers in town

“Don’t squish the burgers down with your spatula and push the juices out,” said Fischer. “Moisture is good. Just let them cook until the desired doneness.”

Let steak or any meat “rest” for several minutes after cooking. “The longer the better,” said Fischer. “This lets the moisture re-distribute back into the meat.”

What about seafood?

Make sure to oil the grill grates and pieces of fish, so they don’t stick. If the fish still has skin on it, cook it skin-side down. “Shrimp is easiest to handle on

skewers and will cook quickly,” said Fischer. “Once it turns pink, it’s done.”

For non-carnivores

Vegetables and fruits also are great grilled, according to Fischer. “Just remember that pineapple, peaches and pears are high in sugars and will burn easily. Keep a close eye on them and they will caramelize nicely.”

Fischer enjoys bacon-wrapped asparagus, as well as colored bell peppers, mushrooms, cauliflower, broccoli, even lettuce grilled.

For a real treat . . .

Go to your local grocer deli and ask for bologna slices cut ½-inch thick, or slightly thicker. Put them on the grill, get good grill marks and char, then flip on the other side.

When they’re almost ready to come off the grill, brush slices with your favorite barbecue sauce. Put the grilled bologna on a bun or roll along with lettuce or coleslaw. “Get crazy, then add some cheese and it’s an amazing grilled bologna sandwich,” said Scott Fisher, expert griller.

If you really want to turn heads at your next backyard gathering, pulling out a couple of cans of SPAM. Slice it ¼-inch thick and place on the grill like you did with the bologna.

When you flip it, sprinkle it with brown sugar and drip some maple syrup on top. Cover the grill and as the bottom cooks, the brown sugar will start to melt. When it’s done, take it off the grill and let it sit for several minutes. The sugar will harden up like maple candy. “Excellent stuff,” said Fischer.

MICHIGAN VOTES

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

MichiganVotes.org is a free, non-partisan website created by the Mackinac Center for Public Policy to provide concise, non-partisan, plain-English descriptions of every bill and vote in the Michigan House and Senate. This report was released Friday, May 19.

House Joint Resolution C:

Protect “electronic data and communications” from unreasonable search and seizure

To place before voters in the next general election a constitutional amendment to add “electronic data and communications” to the Article I provision that recognizes the right of the people to be secure from unreasonable government searches and seizures of their “person, houses, papers, and possessions.”

Passed 107 to 0 in the House

Rep. Joe Graves (R-Dist. 51) ☒ YES
Rep. Hank Vaupel (R-Dist. 47) ☒ YES

HOT LINE CONTINUED

■■■
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■■■
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our town

Meet FRANZ BRUEGER

- Vietnam veteran
- Great Lakes National Cemetery volunteer
- Lifetime member of Fenton VFW
- Grieving father

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

Franz Brueger, 69, lives in Rose Township with his wife, Nikki, and Zeus, their late daughter Alexandra's beloved dog. They live in the same house Franz bought in 1976.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Franz Brueger of Rose Township, and his late daughter's dog, Zeus, have become inseparable since his daughter was murdered on July 30, 2016.

You have a wonderful German accent. Where were you born?

I was born in Schweinfurt, Germany, which is near Wurtzburg, along the Main River. Schweinfurt is known for its ball bearing factories and other mechanical parts.

When did you come to the United States?

I arrived here in 1966, when I was 18 years old. I had two sisters already living here. One of the conditions of coming to the United States was that I was to sign with the U.S. Selective Service within six months, which I did.

What was your first job in Michigan?

I started working right away as a mechanic in a Volkswagen (VW) repair shop.

How did you end up in Vietnam?

In March of 1968 I was drafted. I was not yet a citizen of the United States, but it didn't matter if you could not speak, read or write in English, as long as you could figure things out. I was first stationed in Alaska but had some issues there. Not only did I talk funny, I had a high work ethic, which some of my fellow troops didn't

"One of the many tough parts for me is the memory of the footprints on the hospital floor. They were the footprints of the doctors and nurses working on her, and they were made in my daughter's blood."

Franz Brueger

appreciate. In order to get out of Alaska, I had to volunteer to go to Vietnam.

In what branch of the military did you serve and what was your rank?

I was in the U.S. Army, and my rank was E4, special fourth class. Even though I was still a German citizen, I was in the 1st Infantry Division. I am most proud of the big red patch that says '1st.' I am very proud of that patch because even though I wasn't a combat fighter, I belonged to an elite group of people.

Do you think about Vietnam today?

Vietnam will never go away for me. Vietnam is a daily thought and will be what I think about

when I take my last breath. I can't look at road kill because of Vietnam. I see dead people. I belong to a Vietnam support group where we talk about these things.

There are many veterans who don't know there is a lot of good help out there. All they need to do is contact a VA hospital or veterans center.

When did you begin volunteer work at Great Lakes National Cemetery?

It was around 2008. I help with a variety of jobs but am known for putting up the tents and setting up chairs. I also help with the flags, cleaning headstones and even make coffee. I know everyone there and love volunteering.

Tell us about the other war you are fighting today.

Our only daughter, Alexandra (Ally) was murdered on July 30, 2016. She was shot in the back four times while on one of her daily 10-mile runs. One of the many tough parts for me is the memory of the footprints on the hospital floor. They were the footprints of the doctors and nurses working on her, and they were made in my daughter's blood. How do I get out of this war? Where is my exit? But I get comfort from my support group, and we have Zeus. He was Alexandra's dog for six months before she died.

What is your fondest memory of your daughter?

I took her on an extended weekend, four days, to Germany when she was about 12. We went to the Playmobil factory. She had a lot of Playmobils. I also built her a dollhouse. It is very detailed, even the refrigerator light comes on when you open it. I made all the furniture. Pumpkin carving is another fond memory. She liked to reach in and get the guts out.

What would you like to say to Alexandra's killer?

I would rather not waste my time speaking to that person, but if I did I would say 'Your time will come. I do believe you have to stand before a higher power and explain what you did.'

What would you like to say to Ally?

I would say it is too bad I wasn't around more times to see all the things she accomplished as a nurse and a writer. I didn't know what an excellent writer she truly was.

Has your daughter's killer been caught?

No, and we again ask that anyone with a tip or information that would lead to an arrest call Crime Stoppers, which is offering a \$12,500 reward. The number to call is 1 (800) SPEAK UP.

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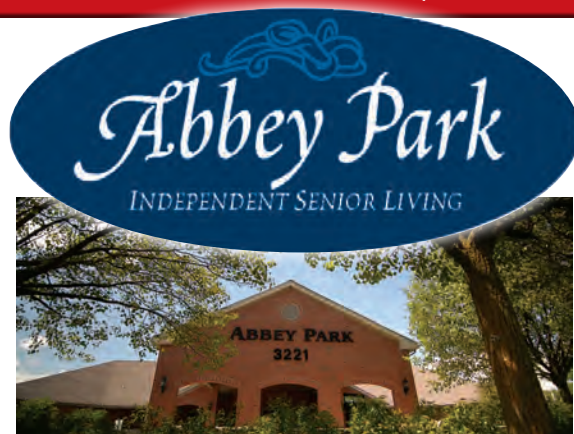
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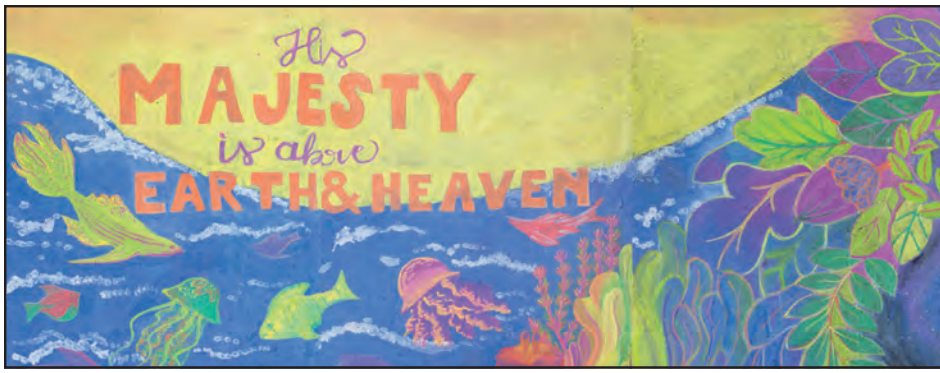
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SAVANNAH COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN

College art student Sarah Lauinger of Holly and her team won first place in the student category at Sidewalk Arts Festival with this sidewalk art done in chalk.

Holly woman wins first prize in sidewalk art

■ Competition held at Sidewalk Arts Festival in Savannah, Georgia

Sarah Lauinger of Holly and her team of animation students claimed a top honor at the Savannah College of Art and Design's (SCAD) Sidewalk Arts Festival held last month. Students transformed Forsyth Park in Savannah, Georgia into an outdoor art gallery with hundreds of vibrant, hand-chalked



Sarah Lauinger

sidewalk squares. The event has become synonymous with spring in the heart of Savannah's historic district and draws nearly 50,000 visitors each year.

This year, Sidewalk Arts brought together more than 900 SCAD students, alumni and prospective students, who competed individually and in groups for more than \$10,000 in prizes. The imaginative creation of Lauinger and her team, which depicted an underwater scene, earned the "Student (Group) 1st Place" honor.

SURVIVOR

Continued from Front Page

from the hospital, according to Lt. Mario Gonzales, assistant post commander.

MSP reports that Matthew Carrier, 22, of Fenton, ran the stop sign on southbound Argentine Road at the M-59 intersection and crashed into the other car traveling east on M-59. Carrier's license was suspended at the time of the crash, according to the Secretary of State.

Killed in the crash were Justin Andrew Humberto Henderson, 18, and Preston Wetzel, 24, both of Fenton. These two men were passengers in Carrier's car, according to MSP.

Also killed was Candice Dunn, 36, of Oakland County, her mother, Linda Hurley, 69, of Macomb County and Hurley's boyfriend, Jerome Tortomosa, 73, of Macomb County. These three individuals were passengers in the car driven by Boswell. Boswell was driving on an expired license, according to the Secretary of State.

The following are updates on the three survivors:

- Driver Matthew Jordan Carrier, 22 of Fenton, is hospitalized and receiving medical care. No condition is available.
- Rear driver side passenger Kyle Eugene Lixie, 23, is hospitalized and receiving medical care. No condition is available.
- Eastbound driver Albert Rudolph Boswell, 39, of Oakland County, was released from the hospital last week.

The MSP continues to investigate the deadly crash that occurred in Livingston County's Oceola Township.

Several interviews have been conducted and accident investigators are reviewing findings and physical evidence. The MSP is also awaiting completion of toxicology

reports as it is now believed that alcohol was a factor in this crash.

When the investigation is completed and all medical reports have been gathered, the MSP will submit its report to the Livingston County Prosecutor's Office for review.

SUMMARY

■ One driver who was injured in a two-car fatal crash has been released from the hospital. The second driver and a passenger remain hospitalized. State police continue to investigate the crash that killed five people.

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Linden VFW Parade unchanged since 1947

By Tim Jagielo
tjagielo@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795
The Linden VFW Post 4642 Memorial Day Parade is practically as old as the post itself.

The route and ritual of the parade hasn't changed in 70 years, and there is a photograph displayed from the late 1940s to prove it.

VFW Trustee Doug Morgan calls the parade a rite of passage, a "welcome obligation."

An Army veteran, Morgan served in Vietnam and has participated in the parade since he could ride a bike.

"It's the memory of those we served with and those that have gone before us, and those who perished in service," he said. This also includes members of the military who returned from service, lived and died naturally.

Linden's post was established in December 1945. Its first parade was held in 1946, with a simpler, shorter route.

The location of the post hasn't changed, and the first route was a shorter stroll to the present-day location of The State Bank on Main Street. In 1946, it was an empty lot, with a simple wooden monument, painted with the names of local World War II veterans. After a short service, participants marched back to the VFW hall.

Today, the route takes the parade from the VFW hall to the Shiawassee River, to Fairview Cemetery, and finally back to the VFW hall.

The parade and service is outlined in the VFW "Ritual Manual."

VFW organizations are required to perform one public service per year, and they don't have to follow the manual. Morgan said they prefer the official service. "We follow that because it's beautifully done," he said.

The parade includes police and fire

departments, the U.S. flag, any veterans who wish to march, and anyone else who would like to participate.

While anyone is welcome to march in the parade, no individual recognition is allowed. "It's truly a memorial service," he said.

Political figures can march, for example, but they cannot display a campaign sign with their name.

ORDER OF LINDEN MEMORIAL DAY PARADE:

1. Police cruiser escort
2. VFW Color guard, with U.S. flag, and VFW colors
3. Rifle squad of seven
4. Assembled veterans — veterans of various branches and organizations wear a white shirt and march with a hat marking their affiliation
5. Linden High School Marching Band
6. Vehicles for transporting participants who need to ride
7. The Assemblage — fire trucks, floats, etc.

PARADE ROUTE AND STATIONS

1. Parade leaves from Linden VFW Post 4642 on Mill Street
2. Parade stops at Shiawassee River for brief service for members lost at sea. Flowers are dropped into the river
3. Parade continues to Fairview Cemetery
4. The National Anthem is played, followed by a service, Taps, and 21-gun salute
5. The parade reassembles and marches back to the VFW Hall

HOT LINE CONTINUED

YOUR ARGUMENT WORKS in reverse. There is no such thing as being 'pro-choice' and 'anti-death penalty.' Hypocritical Democrats need to pick a side. Either all life is negotiable and humans decide issues of life and death or only God should intervene. Pick one.

TO AMBER AT the Fenton Walmart, just want to say thank you. I had walked away from the checkout leaving a \$20 bill in change. After about 20 minutes, I realized it and went back. Amber working the self-checkout lanes, had retrieved it and saved it. You deserve a raise in my book. Thank you so much.

WHOMEVER DECIDES WHAT new sculptures are added every year should have their head examined.

ALMOST GOT T-BONED trying to turn off North Road onto Lahring. Some guy came over the hill at 70 mph. Be careful and watchful.

I WISH LAKE Fenton High School people would paint some lane markings on the entrance from Lahring Road. It's confusing and I've seen some people driving the wrong way and holding up traffic as they try to turn left onto Lahring Road. It looks like there is room for two exit lanes but there are no yellow lines.

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Memorial Day events near you

Great Lakes National Cemetery Memorial Day Service

Location: 4200 Belford Road, Holly Michigan

Date: Sunday, May 28

Time: 1 p.m.

Notes: Service begins at 1 p.m., but it is suggested that attendees arrive as early as noon for parking. The event draws hundreds of participants. Parking is near the stonewall, but shuttles are available for those who need a ride to the service location.

Service includes a musical prelude, opening remarks, several speakers, the Pledge of Allegiance, National Anthem color guard, rifle salute, Taps and moment of silence.

City of Fenton Memorial Day Parade

Location: 150 S. LeRoy Street, Fenton

Date: Monday, May 29

Time: 10 a.m.

Notes: The event will begin at 10 a.m. at the Fenton Community & Cultural Center.

The parade route will start south on LeRoy Street, with a brief stop at the Shiawassee River, adjacent to the gazebo, then turn west on West Shiawassee, with a brief stop at Freedom Park to place a wreath, turning south on Davis Street to Oakwood Cemetery where a memorial ceremony will be conducted.

Village of Holly Memorial Day Parade

Location: Saginaw and Maple Streets, downtown Holly.

Date: Monday, May 29

Time: 10 a.m.

Notes: The parade begins with an eastward turn onto Maple Street. The parade continues north onto Park Avenue, to Lake-side Memorial Cemetery. The service will include a wreath-laying, Taps, rifle volley and various speakers.

Specific veterans of World War I, World War II, the Korean War and Vietnam War will be recognized. This includes the 74 names being read and a rose being placed for each.

The Holly High School Marching Band will perform musical selections.

MURDER

Continued from Front Page

Both attorneys agreed to adjourn the forensic review for June 28, at 9 a.m. If the report on Akl is complete earlier, the review will be moved up in the calendar.

Background

According to investigative reports from the Genesee County Sheriff's Office, at approximately 11 p.m. on March 4, Genesee County Sheriff's deputies and the Fenton Police Department were dispatched to a home at 14170 Moffett Dr. in Fenton Township in response to a 911 call of a male with a gunshot wound to the head.

WATCH THE VIDEO



AT TCTIMES.COM
WITH THIS STORY

Akl was immediately taken into custody and a semi-automatic pistol was found on the front porch and secured by police.

The two teens, who were reportedly friends, were alone on the first floor of the residence when the shooting occurred and other members of Akl's family and one other guest were on the second and third floors.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Abdurrahman Akl looks at his family and friends as he's escorted out of the courtroom on Monday, May 22.

According to the autopsy report, it appears that Morris was shot from behind at point blank range on the top left side of his head.

Editor Sharon Stone contributed to this story.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

■ ■ ■
THERE IS NO reason not to support President Trump's immigration executive order in light of the bombing in England. Trump is right. I believe that we all need to agree that it's time to restrict who's coming in to our country.

■ ■ ■
TO THE GUY who knows about Eisenhower. Exactly right. Look what's happening. Bleeding hearts want to take down our history, taking down monuments, statues, this and that, whatever, it's like a rewrite. Now it's just ancient history. You want to rewrite it? Well, good luck. I've got my AR-15.

■ ■ ■
I SEE THIS city got all these new lawn decorations downtown. What we need is new road work. What a waste of money.

■ ■ ■
CITY OF LINDEN. Get rid of the hall monitor and hire another police officer.

■ ■ ■
I THINK THAT LeRoy Street should have been repaired instead of spending money on the new lawn decorations. What a waste.

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THE TRI-COUNTY
Times

BRIDGE

Continued from Front Page news in Detroit's two dailies, and as far away as Chicago.

According to the Oct. 3, 1989 Chicago Tribune article, "Pluhar died in the most spectacularly frightening and awesome manner that any Michigander could imagine.

"Her car went out of control and swerved off the Mackinac Bridge, free-falling 170 feet into the chilly waters below."

The 3,800-foot suspension bridge, which links Michigan's Upper Peninsula to the lower mainland, was considered an engineering marvel when it opened in 1957. The graceful arc of steel and wire across the Straits of Mackinac is undoubtedly the state's most famous piece of architecture.

"Mighty Mac," as it is known by many, inspires affection and fear. Sweaty palms

are one of the more visceral responses the bridge evokes from approaching motorists.

Today, the Mackinac Bridge Authority has a "Drivers Assistance Program" for those uncomfortable with driving across the Mackinac Bridge.

But in the multi millions of crossings, no one has ever driven off the bridge. Not until Pluhar did it on Sept. 22, 1989 as twilight fell on the gusty, rainy Friday evening.

At first, nobody was sure who the victim was or even how many people might have been in the car. Witnesses reported seeing



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The grave marker for Leslie Ann Pluhar.

a small blue car swerve out of control into oncoming traffic, veer back again and slam head on into the curb railing.

The car then skidded along an outer railing for about 40 feet before striking a vertical suspension cable and flipping over the side.

The morbid drama began to gather momentum that weekend when authorities were unable to find the car in the deep waters of the Straits of Mackinac, and so could not confirm the identity of the victim.

Pluhar's friends and family had suspected the worst from the beginning. She owned a 1987 blue Yugo, a small imported car, and had left Detroit Friday to meet her boyfriend that evening in St. Ignace, the tiny community at the bridge's north terminus. She never arrived.

Four days after the mishap, divers using sonar located the car perched on a ledge about 150 feet below the surface, according to the Tribune. But high winds and bad weather made it impossible to recover the wreck for another four days.

On Saturday evening, a team of 12 divers was finally able to bring up the wreck after more than 10 hours of risky maneuvers in the murky waters. Pluhar's family looked on from a small boat.

The Yugo was so badly crumpled by the impact that police had difficulty removing



the woman's body. It was not until later that night that her family was able to positively identify her.

Pluhar is buried at White Chapel Memorial Cemetery in Troy. According to findagrave.com, "She died of blunt force trauma and drowning when she plunged 150 feet to the water and then 100 feet to the lake bottom."

History of the bridge

A newspaper, the Lansing Republican, dated Feb. 5, 1884, reprinted a story from the Grand Traverse Herald pointing out that the experiment to provide all-year service across the Straits by boat had failed, and that if a great east-west route were ever to be established through Michigan a bridge or tunnel would be required.

The dedication of the Brooklyn Bridge in 1883 gave Mackinac Bridge backers encouragement.

On July 1, 1888, the board of directors of the famous Grand Hotel at Mackinac Island held their first meeting and the minutes show that Cornelius Vanderbilt, an American business magnate and philanthropist who built his wealth in railroads and shipping, said, "We now have the largest, well-equipped hotel of its kind in the world for a short season business. Now what we need is a bridge across the Straits."

During the ensuing years there were a few farfetched ideas about the connection of Michigan's two peninsulas.

In 1923, the legislature ordered the State Highway Department to establish a ferry service at the Straits. Within five years, traffic on this facility became so heavy that the late Governor Fred Green ordered the same agency to make a study of bridge feasibility.

The report was favorable and its cost was estimated at \$30 million. Some strides to get the project underway were taken but it was eventually dropped.

In 1934, the Legislature created the Mackinac Straits Bridge Authority of Michigan and empowered it to investigate the feasibility of such construction and to finance the work by issuance of revenue bonds. The authority began its studies in May 1934 and has been continuously active since that date.

In January 1951, the Authority submitted a very favorable preliminary report, stating that a bridge could be built and financed with revenue bonds for \$86 million, but because of the shortage of materials due to the Korean outbreak, legislation to finance and build the structure was delayed until early in 1952.

Despite delays and setbacks for varying reasons, the bridge was officially begun amid proper ceremonies on May 7 and 8, 1954, at St. Ignace and Mackinaw City.

The bridge opened to traffic on Nov. 1, 1957 according to schedule, despite the many hazards of marine construction over the turbulent Straits of Mackinac. The last of the Mackinac Bridge bonds were retired July 1, 1986. Fare revenues are now used to operate and maintain

the bridge and repay the State of Michigan for monies advanced to the Authority since the facility opened to traffic in 1957.

Gone but not forgotten

In May 2004, during a public ceremony, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and the Mackinac Bridge Authority (MBA) presented a special plaque to the surviving family members honoring the five men who died during the construction of the Mackinac Bridge.

One man died in a diving accident; one man fell in a caisson while welding; one man fell into the water and drowned; and two men fell from a temporary catwalk near the top of north tower.

'Mighty Mac' stats

The Mackinac Bridge is currently the fifth longest suspension bridge in the world. In 1998, the Akashi Kaikyo Bridge in Japan became the longest with a total suspension of 12,826 feet. The Mackinac Bridge is the longest suspension bridge in the western hemisphere.

The total length of the Mackinac Bridge is 26,372 feet. The length of the suspension bridge (including anchorages) is 8,614 feet. The length from cable bent pier to cable bent pier is 7,400 feet. Length of main span (between towers) is 3,800 feet.

The width of the roadway is 54 feet. The outside lanes are 12 feet wide (2), the inside lanes are 11 feet wide (2), the center mall is 2 feet wide, and the catwalk, curb and rail width is 3 feet on each side — totaling 54 feet. The stiffening truss width in the suspended span is 68 feet wide making it wider than the roadway it supports.

The height of the roadway at mid-span is approximately 200 feet above water level. The vertical clearance at normal temperature is 155 feet at the center of the main suspension span and 135 feet at the boundaries of the 3,000 ft. navigation channel.

All suspension bridges are designed to move to accommodate wind, change in temperature, and weight. It is possible that the deck at center span could move as much as 35 feet (east or west) due to high winds. This would only happen under severe wind conditions. The deck would not swing or "sway" but rather move slowly in one direction based on the force and direction of the wind. After the wind subsides, the weight of the vehicles crossing would slowly move it back into center position.

The steel superstructure will support one ton per lineal foot per roadway (northbound or southbound). The length of the steel superstructure is 19,243 feet. Each direction will, therefore, support 19,243 tons.

Source: mackinacbridge.org

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From the editor

Sharon Stone



AWARDING THE BRAD STONE SCHOLARSHIP

On Wednesday evening, I attended the Senior Awards event at Lake Fenton High School. I went, not as a parent of a soon-to-be graduate, but as a presenter of a college scholarship. Attending with me was my husband, Jeff, and my mom, Barb Richey. On stage, I had the pleasure of sitting next to Char Olmstead, my neighbor. She, too, was handing out a scholarship in memory of her husband, John, who was a longtime counselor for Lake Fenton. Char and I, as well as several other presenters sat on stage and waited for our turn to walk to the podium to announce our scholarship and meet our winners. The bright lights shining on us made it difficult to see everyone in the audience, but I could see so many smiling faces of seniors wearing their graduation gowns in the front rows of the auditorium. I've been presenting the Brad Stone scholarship since 2004. So far, Brad's memorial scholarships have been awarded to 20 Lake Fenton graduates for a combined amount of \$107,300. We've also given out Brad's scholarships to 23 hockey players with the Eastern Michigan Hockey Association for a combined amount of \$63,500.



On Wednesday, I was thrilled to announce that **Abigail Rhodes** (left) and **Allison von Dagganhausen** were this year's recipients. Their names have already been engraved on Brad's plaque, which hangs at

the high school and we hope the Abigail and Allison display the plaque at their graduation open houses. Giving out these scholarships in Brad's memory is our opportunity to turn a parent's worst nightmare into something positive. Our hope is that all of these scholarship winners continue to live life to the fullest, reach for the stars, laugh every day, love their families and treat everyone like a friend. After congratulating both girls, I took my seat and realized that I was seated next to Abigail's dad, Cliff Rhodes. As the president of the Athletic Boosters, he was there to hand out a scholarship as well. I remember him reaching around my shoulder and saying 'thank you.' That made my heart happy. The program continued and I believe the entire audience gasped in awe when they heard with a senior class of 159 students, this year's graduates earned a total of \$593,000 worth of combined scholarships. That is an incredible amount and shows just how special Lake Fenton Community Schools and its families are. Jeff and I would also like to give a sincere thank you to high school counselor Duanita Bailey for all of her hard work with organizing all of these scholarships and the Senior Awards event.

Hard work nets \$35,500 in local awards



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

There were 19 different local scholarship awards given out at Senior Awards Night at Lake Fenton High School, totaling \$35,500. Here, Trent Hillger and Natalie Gallamore receive United State Marine Corps Scholarship Excellence Awards.

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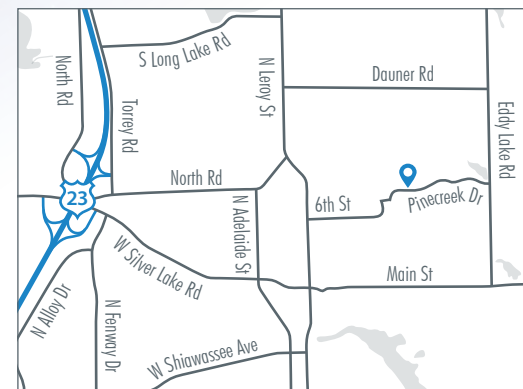
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Bronchos earn perfection at Metro tournament

■ Just as they did at regionals, Holly wins titles in all eight flights

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

Apparently being perfect at regionals wasn't enough for the Holly varsity girls tennis team.

The Bronchos went out and did it again at the Metro

League meet, capping off a perfect Metro League championship season.

Holly won all eight flight championships en route to the team's third straight Metro League title. Holly has won every Metro League season title but two (2012 and 2014 which Fenton won) since winning it in 1982. Fenton took sixth at the meet and finished sixth

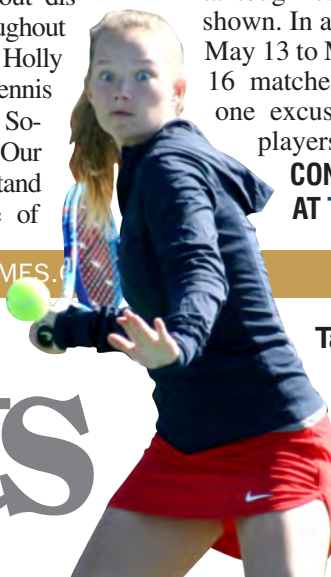
overall.

"Our coaches are just so proud of the way the team has supported each other and been able to block out distractions throughout the season," Holly varsity girls tennis coach Will Sophia said. "Our players understand the importance of

selflessness when it comes to accomplishing lofty team goals.

"We are also so impressed at both the physical and mental toughness our players have shown. In a 10-day span from May 13 to May 23, we played 16 matches. There was not one excuse by any one of players."

CONTINUED ONLINE
AT TCTIMES.COM



Taylor Barrett

SUNDAY, MAY 28, 2017 | PAGE 22A | WWW.TCTIMES.COM

Times Sports

Forty year dry spell ends, Holly softball are Metro champions

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com

Holly — It was a cold, sometimes sprinkling and always overcast gray day on the Holly varsity softball field during the Bronchos' doubleheader against the Clio Mustangs on Thursday.

But by the time the day ended, the Bronchos' program reached a level of warmth, happiness and closeness Holly hasn't been able to feel for the last 40 seasons. When the day was finally over, the only severe shower that hit the infield was the water cooler downpour the Holly varsity softball team repeatedly tried to drop on their first-year head coach Scott Culver.

After defeating the Mustangs 15-4 in the nightcap of a doubleheader the Bronchos earned the twinbill split they needed to capture their first Metro League title since 1977, creating the festive mood. Holly needed at least a split with Clio to share the title with the Mustangs and the Kearsley Hornets. After losing the first game 16-6, Clio assured themselves of the co-title and could win it outright by being victorious in the sec-



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPENS

The Holly varsity softball team huddles up seconds after splitting a doubleheader against the Clio Mustangs. The split means the Holly Bronchos are co-Metro League champions, earning them the league title for the first time since 1977.

ond game. It didn't happen. The Bronchos regrouped in the second contest, collected 12 hits in just four innings and earned a 15-4 mercy shortened five-inning victory, earning them the share of the crown.

"It's amazing. All we've been through, it's great to see it pay off," senior four-year varsity player Katie Dewey said while fighting back the tears of happiness. "Through

all the ups and downs, we get one last mark. It's amazing."

"It's the greatest feeling I've felt in my life to be honest," four-year player and three-year varsity member Hailey Thompson said. "It's something I've wanted since my freshman year and it's been over three years. It's just the best feeling ever."

CONTINUED ONLINE AT
TCTIMES.COM



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | BECKY CUBR PHOTOGRAPHY

The Fenton varsity boys and varsity girls track teams completed a first-time double, with each winning Metro League titles by taking first at the Metro League meets on Wednesday at Ortonville-Brandon High School.

Fenton track teams complete impressive Metro League sweep

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com

Ortonville — The Fenton varsity girls track team entered this season as defending Metro League champs, and winners of 10 other Metro League seasons since 1976.

The Fenton boy track team entered the year holders of eight past league crowns.

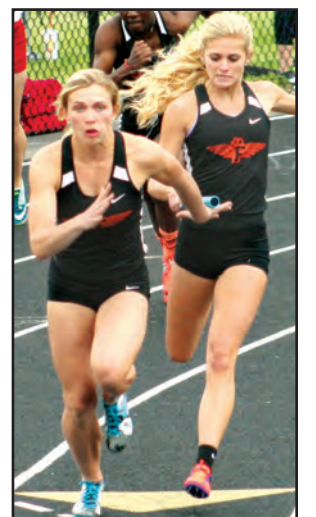
But there was one thing that had never happened until Wednesday at Brandon High School during the Flint Metro League track meet. Both had never won a league

crown during the same season. Now it has.

Fenton's girls repeated as champions and the Fenton boys won their first league championship since 2006 as both squads won their gender's meet and cruised to overall season championships.

Fenton's boys won the meet with 194.83 points, beating second-place Flushing by 78.67 points. The Fenton girls scored 180 points, 46.6 more points than second-place Flushing.

See **SWEEP** on 23A



TRI-COUNTY TIMES
DAVID TROPPENS

Fenton's Madaline Hall and Kiley Aldred compete in the 400 meter relay, an event won by the Tigers.

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■ Linden, Holly athletes place many at Metro meet

While the Fenton track teams captured both Metro titles, one of the most dominant individuals on Wednesday wasn't from Fenton. She was Linden's Alia Frederick. Frederick captured three league titles at the meet, helping lead the Linden girls to a third-place finish. The Holly boys and girls each took seventh while the Linden boys placed eighth.

■ LF track athletes compete at GAC meet

The Lake Fenton track programs concluded their seasons having to feel pretty good about their performances. The boys scored 122 team points and earning six conference championships.

Tri-County Soccer tourney brings nearly 1,000 to area

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

Deer Run Field was the place to be if you were a young enthusiastic soccer player on May 20 and May 21.

Eighty teams and nearly 1,000 athletes invaded American Youth Soccer Organization 417's (AYSO) home soccer complex to make friends, to compete and to have fun playing the game they all love — soccer.

The tournament was the first of two major weekend events AYSO 417, also known as Tri-County Soccer, is hosting this spring. The next one is the Spring Soccer Festival on June 10 from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. But last weekend's event was a bit larger.

Many of the teams were local squads, but many others came from all around Michigan. They included other AYSO teams and some travel teams.

"We want to create a tournament that is fun and positive," said Amy Converse AYSO Regional Commissioner of Region 417. "We have kids playing from six to 16 from all around Michigan."

Teams were grouped into similar age groups and then competed in round-robin action. The winners of those contests played in championship games throughout Sunday.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPENS

The American Youth Soccer Organization 417 program, named Tri-County Soccer, hosted a tournament on May 20 and 21 at Deer Run Field.

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SWEEP

Continued from Page 22A

"It's awesome especially being my senior year," Fenton's four-time Metro champion Madaline Hall said. "We lost a lot of talent from last year's team with all the seniors that left, so it was reassuring that we had the depth to carry on and defend our title."

"Honestly, I'm not too surprised," Fenton's three-time league meet event champion Zach West said.

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Fenton's Dominic Dimambro (left) and Andrew Bond finished 1-2 in the 1,600 meter run at the state meet. Bond won the race.

LF baseball in Greater Flint Tournament title game

By David Troppens
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Lake Fenton varsity baseball's team is headed to the Greater Flint Tournament's D2 championship game, looking to defend their title against the same squad they beat last year.

That's because the Blue Devils edged Mt. Morris 8-7 in the semifinals on Tuesday.

Lake Fenton faces North Branch at Flint's Broome Park at 5 p.m. on Monday.

The Blue Devils scored three runs in the top of the second inning and never trailed again.

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PREP REPORT

SOFTBALL

► **Holly 1-9, Mt. Morris 5-0:** Katie Dewey and Madisen Beesley had two hits each in the first game. In the second game Marissa Beck had two hits with one being a home run. Beesley and Megan Sisson had two hits as well.

► **Byron 9-12, Linden 4-2:** Liz Rakowski and Sterling DeGayner led the offense with three hits in the first game. In the second contest, Elle Klocek and Ashley Bertschy had a hit and an RBI each. Beck tossed a three-hit shutout, striking out four.

► **Linden 9, Rochester Adams 1:** Elle Klocek had two doubles and a home run while Christina Clemons had four hits, leading the Eagles' (20-15) offense. Jillian Wright pitched a five-hitter, allowing just one run.

► **Fenton 6-4, Grand Blanc 1-5:** Erin Carter had two hits while Logan Carter hit a two-run home run in the Tigers' second-game victory. Michaela Willett earned the victory on the mound.

In the first game, Logan Carter led the Tigers with two hits and two RBI, including another home run.

GIRLS SOCCER

► **Oxford 2, Fenton 0:** Abby Quesnelle made four saves in the contest.

► **Fenton 2, Bay City Western 1:** Lauren Murphy scored the game-winning goal with eight seconds left in the game on an Eryn Isaacson goal. Kiry Foor opened the game with a goal off a Murphy assist.

► **Berkley 3, Holly 0:** The Bronchos were shutout in the non-league contest. Berkley scored two goals in the first half.

BASEBALL

► **Hartland 9-4, Fenton 0-2:** The Tigers were swept by the traditional D1 powers.

In the opening contest, Nolan Law-

rence led the Tigers with two hits. Logan Benson tossed two innings of shutout relief.

In the second contest, Brock Henson had a hit and an RBI. Chase Coselman, Jared Ryan, Benson and Troy Smigielski had a hit each.

Matt Sullivan tossed a three-hitter over five innings, striking out four.

► **Lakeland 11-4, Lake Fenton 2-0:** In the opener, Luke Tomczyk had two hits to lead Lake Fenton's offense. In the second game Christopher Stephens had two hits. Eric Niestroy tossed a two-hitter, taking the hard-luck loss.

► **Fenton 5-12, Brandon 1-2:** The Tigers (22-8 overall) completed a 13-1 Metro League championship season with the sweep of Brandon.

In the opener, Jake Henard had two hits while John Gillman drove in two runs. Brock Henson was the winning pitcher, allowing one run over 5 1/3 innings. Trent DeGayner earned the save, pitching 1 2/3 innings of shutout relief.

In the nightcap Tommy Adams had three hits and two RBI while Jared Ryan (three RBI) and Logan Benson (two RBI) had two hits each. Graham Staib tossed 3 2/3 innings of two-run ball to earn the win. Trent DeGayner tossed 1 1/3 innings of shutout relief.

► **Linden 13-8, Byron 1-3:** Parker Mabe led the offense with three hits in the first contest while Ryker Rivera, Nick Koan, Cobrin Sines and Jamon Link had two hits each. In the second game, Rivera led the offense with two hits each. The Eagles (23-8) earned nine walks.

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