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
vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

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 news.

See BRIDGE on 20A

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

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

MSP continues to investigate accident

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

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 in critical condition has been released.

See SURVIVOR on 17A

One crash survivor released from hospital

MSP continues to investigate accident

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

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.

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See SURVIVOR on 17A

Linden VFW Parade unchanged since 1947

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.

Forensic report on Abdurrahman Akl incomplete

By Tim Jagielo
tjagielo@tctimes.com

Flint — Teen murder suspect Abdurrahman (Abdu) Ahmed Akl, 16, of Fenton Township, spent 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

Attorney Frank Manley.

Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Lia Perryman

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.

"Who doesn'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 news."
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 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.”

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

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Call or Visit our Urban Retreat Today for a FREE Consultation with Dr. Hanczaryk!
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
news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

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, 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.

Barbecuing 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 that. It’s cooking.”

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 barbecue

FIDGET SPINNERS

Small device can be choking hazard, distraction in school

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

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 a 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 lifesavere.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 their tablets.”
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? Oohh, I bet they’re infuriated. I 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? Not Too Far!”

• 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 breakfasted 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 cards? Not so much. Guess you should have 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

• Why UPDATE all the speed limit signs on MDOT’s 9,869 miles of roadway? Better if MDOT would just update everyone’s phone. Speed limit, ding ding ding.

• FOR YOUR INFORMATION, I care deeply about 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 the summer of resistance. In other words, the Democratic Party wants 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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FENTON ORCHARDS

1195 Butternut • Fenton
4 bedrooms, 5 1/2 bathrooms, 2,903 sq ft. Beautiful home in Fenton Orchards. Kitchen has double ovens, granite, 2 eat-in areas & open dining area. 2 decks, large lot, master suite w/ private deck. Finished basement, no/ bar, workout room and possible extra bedroom.
$400,000

NEW LISTING

GRAND BLANC SCHOOLS

13505 Torrey Rd • Fenton
3 bedrooms, 3 bath, 1,996 sq ft. Newer construction, 4 seasons room, large master suite with jetted tub, separate shower and dual sinks. Finished basement and heated garage. Minutes from I-75 and Genesys Hospital.
$325,000

NEW PRICE

GRAND BLANC

5379 Tall Oaks Dr • Flint
3 bedrooms, 3 bath, 1,396 sq ft. This move-in ready 2 story colonial has it all! Flowing main floor large living room, Formal dining room, large fenced backyard and fire pit.
$130,000

NEW LISTING

BYRAM LAKE WATERFRONT

Byram Lake Dr • Byram
Beautifully updated home on a gorgeous deep lot with a sandy beach, 3 1/2 car garage and finished lower level. 3 bedroom, 1 bath, 1,000 sq ft.
$275,000

NEW PRICE

LAKE FENTON SCHOOLS

2068 Wiggins Rd • Fenton
Finished basement, extra garage. 4 bedroom, 3 1/2 bath, 2,998 sq ft.
$270,000

NEW PRICE

MUNDY TOWNSHIP - 70 ACRE ESTATE

1525 W. Reid Rd • Flint
Beautiful sprawling ranch on private 70 acres, completely remodeled in 2012. Barn with 29 horse stalls and chicken coop. Groomed for hunting. 3 bed, 3 bath/1/2, 2,000 sq ft.
$700,000

OPEN SUNDAY 1-3

1065 Jordan Ln • Grand Blanc
3 bedroom, 3 1/2 baths, 2,527 sq ft. More than 200 ft. on Swartz Creek.
$325,000

LAKE FENTON SCHOOLS

10501 Lake Shore • Fenton
5 bedroom, 3 bath, 2,700 sq ft. PENDING
$520,000

PENDING

1045 Jordan Ln • Grand Blanc
3 bedroom, 3 1/2 bath, 2,507 sq ft. More than 300 ft. on Swartz Creek.
$325,000

PENDING

9508 Woodmont Dr • Grand Blanc
$250,000

NEW PRICE

12326 Wenwood Dr • Fenton
3 bedroom, 2 bath, 1,396 sq ft. PENDING
$500,000

PENDING in 10 days

16181 Valcrest • Linden
4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, 2,700 sq ft.
$349,000

NEW LISTING

LAKE PONEMAH WATERFRONT

3142 Ponemah Dr • Fenton
55 ft. of frontage on lake Ponemah with a magnificent view! 3 bedroom, 3 bath 1,628 sq ft.
$325,000

NEW LISTING

LAKE FENTON WATERFRONT

13505 Torrey Rd • Fenton
3 bedroom, 4 1/2 bath, 1,488 sq ft. Spacious Ranch with beautiful deck and sandy swim area.
$450,000

NEW PRICE

MARL LAKE ACCESS

4206 Northshore Dr • Fenton
Custom built home features over 4,700 sq ft. with a finished walk out. 5 bedroom, 4 1/2 bath, 595,000

NEW PRICE

LAKE FENTON WATERFRONT

10501 Lake Shore • Fenton
5 bedroom, 3 bath, 2,700 sq ft. PENDING
$520,000

PENDING

1045 Jordan Ln • Grand Blanc
3 bedroom, 3 1/2 bath, 2,507 sq ft. More than 300 ft. on Swartz Creek.
$325,000

PENDING

4386 Mount Vernon Pass • Swartz Creek
Amazing home updated in 2015 with a fenced in yard, pool and hot tub. 4 Bedroom, 2 1/2 bath, 1,892 sq ft.
$159,000

PENDING in 15 days

SOLD & PENDING PROPERTIES

JohnTremaine.com
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?

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 tight 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 will cause a lot of vibration at that speed. Also, you want to make sure the suspension is not bent.

Another thing is the year of record number of holiday travelers. Expect heavy traffic this Memorial Day weekend. Lower gas prices account for fifth year in a row.

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 the 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. Win-garden 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 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?’”

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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 in 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.

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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’d be gone in a few months, just like that Pokemon thing.”

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.”

“Finally had enough today and banned them from my third-grade classroom. I hope this fad doesn’t return next school year,” she said.
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. Contestants 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.

“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

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 Argentine dam that are supposed to open and close.

Patsy doesn’t know how long maintenance will take. It’s a perpetual project that could last throughout the summer, but until they open the gate operators 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.
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 midterm 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 herself 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.

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, Warner 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

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.
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 co-founder, 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 Bottlers, 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 plane 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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Hearing Aid Facts

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• Results may vary depending on severity of hearing loss
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• Hearing aids need to be professionally cleaned
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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.

“There has been a number of students who have made 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 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
Lamie Chodacki and Jesse Mossman, eighth grade; Marissa Martin, seventh grade; Riley Caracasaden, sixth grade.

Lake Fenton Middle School
Jasmine 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 Annabellie Nelson, seventh grade and Aaron Spooner, sixth grade.

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

- Helps canines relax, acclimate to stressful situations
- 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.

**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

**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, 9120 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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**HOT LINE CONTINUED**

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May 28, 2017

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— Robin Hayes

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• 24 MONTH LEASE $79 per month
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- Sale Price $21,432
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- Rear Vision Camera
- Bluetooth for Phone
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• 24 MONTH LEASE $179 per month
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- Sale Price $28,999
- No Employee Discount Required

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- Remote Keyless Entry
- 18” Aluminum Wheels
- Bluetooth for Phone
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• 24 MONTH LEASE $169 per month
• 24 MONTH LEASE $169 per month
- $999 DOWN
- No Security Deposit Required
- Was $23,035
- Sale Price $21,039
- No Employee Discount

2017 GMC SIERRA DOUBLE CAB 4x4
- 4.3L Ecotec3 Engine
- IntelliLink Radio w/ 8” Diag. Color Touch Screen
- Rear Vision Camera
- Aluminum Wheels
- Bluetooth for Phone
- Remote Start
• 36 MONTH LEASE $199 per month
• 36 MONTH LEASE $199 per month
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- $999 DOWN
- No Security Deposit Required
- Was $40,155
- Sale Price $34,142
- No Employee Discount

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.

“This 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
• RFL of Davison

Saturday, June 3, 10 a.m. to midnight
Davison High School Cardinal Stadium
delayforlife.org/greatblancmi
delayforlife.org/davisonmi
GRILL
Continued from Page 3A
a good steak or burger, along with some grilled vegetables 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 grate 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.

“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 squash 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 grate 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 carmelize 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 ¼-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.

TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO
To avoid burning, Scott Fischer always adds barbecue sauce at the last minute.

SUMMARY
Summertime is grilling time, and here are some tips for backyard grilling from local barbecue competitor Scott Fischer of Rose Township.

“With charcoal, let the coals get going and spread them out evenly within your cooker,” 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 grate on top of the gas burners. Wait for the smoke to start and add your food.

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Meet
FRANZ
BRUEGER

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

**Grieving Father**

By Vera Hogan

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.

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 appreciate.

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.

What is your fondest memory of your daughter?

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 would you like to say to Ally?

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.

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 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 did you do here in Vietnam?

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.

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.
Survivor
Continued from Front Page

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 Tortomosia, 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.

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 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.

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Brittany Merryman
Personal Lines Sales

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.

“There’s a memory of those we served with and those that have gone before us, and those who persisted 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. 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 reasssembles 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.

WHICH PROVIDES A BETTER VALUE FOR YOUR FAMILY?

X 104 Issues of your hometown newspaper delivered to your door.
☐ A weekday lunch for two.
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 with a brief stop at Freedom Park to place a wreath, turning south 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 Lakeside 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.

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.

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

Continuing from Front Page

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. Don’t want it to rewrite it? Well, good luck. I’ve got my AR-15.

I see this city get 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 grave marker for Leslie Ann Pluhar.

Gone but not forgotten

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 5,090 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 span 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 linear 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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SUMMARY

MackinacBridge.org features daily bridge conditions (including high winds), live bridge cam images so you can see exactly what’s going on, faxes, which start as low as $2 per axle, traffic, and information on local events and activities.

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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 undeniably 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. In the but multi millions of crossings, no one has ever driven off the bridge. Not until Pluhar did it on Sept. 22, 1989 as twilight fell. 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 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 scattered 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 $36 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, 1955. According to school children, 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**

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Source: mackinacbridge.org
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 $35,500. Here, Trent Hilliger and Natalie Gallamore receive United State Marine Corps Scholarship Excellence Awards.

Hard work nets $35,500 in local awards

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

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

Fenton's girls repeated as champions and the Fenton boys won their first league championship since 2006 as both squads won their gender's Metro League titles by taking first at the Metro League meets on Wednesday at Ortonville-Brandon High School.

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 meet on 23A.

The Holly varsity softball team has been through a lot this season, including a cold, rain-soaked start to the season. However, the team has persevered and is now co-Metro League champions.

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 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 against the Bronchos, Clio 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 title and could win it outright by being victorious in the second 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.”

“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.”

TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPENS
The Holly varsity softball team huddles up seconds after winning the Metro League title for the first time since 1977.

TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPENS
The Holly varsity girls tennis team huddles up seconds after winning the Metro League title for the first time since 1977.

TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPENS
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 meet on 23A.

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Fenton’s girls repeated as champions and the Fenton boys won their first league championship since 2006 as both squads won their gender’s Metro League titles by taking first at the Metro League meet on 23A.
Tri-County Soccer tourney brings nearly 1,000 to area

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

Deer Run Field was the place to be if you were a young enthu-
siastic 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 So-
coks. Toss 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 tourna-
ment that is fun and positive,”
said Amy Converse AYSO Re-
gional Commissioner of Region
417. “We have kids playing from
six to 16 from all around Michi-
gan.

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

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

CONTINUED ONLINE AT TCTIMES.COM

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,” Fen-
ton’s three-time league meet event champ-
ion Zach West said.

CONTINUED ONLINE AT TCTIMES.COM

The Bronchos

Berkley 3, Holly 0:

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

Lake Fenton varsity baseball’s team is head-
ded to the Greater Flint Tournament’s D2 cham-
pionship 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.

CONTINUED ONLINE AT TCTIMES.COM

PREP REPORT

SOFTBALL

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

Byron 9-12, Linden 4-2: Liz Ra-
kowski and Sterling DeGayan led the offer-
ting with three hits in the first game.

In the second contest, Elle Klocik 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 Klocik had two doubles and a home run while Christina Clemens had four hits, leading the Eagles’ (20-15) offense. Jili-
lian Wright pitched a five-hitter, allowing just one run.

Fenton 6-4, Grand Blanc 1-3: 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, includ-
ing 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. Krity 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 Smigieliski had a hit each.

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

Linden 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 Neistroy tossed a two-
hitter, taking the hard-luck loss.

Fenton 5-12, Brandon 1-2: The Tigers (22-2 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 in-
nings. Trent DeGayan earned the save, pitching 1 2/3 innings of shutout relief.

In the nightcap Tommy Aclands 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 win the win. Trent DeGayan tossed 1 1/3 in-
nings 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 Koen, Cobrin Sines and Jaron Link had two hits each. In the second game, Rivera led the offense with two hits each. The Eagles (23-8) earned nine walks.

1/2 share of an entry in the free weekly sweepstakes

The American Youth Soccer Organization 417 program.

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