America better wake up soon and realize that this country is disintegrating at an ever-increasing pace. If we don’t all learn to live together with our differences, we will all die together with our differences. It starts with every citizen individually. Become part of the solution, not the problem.”

The speakers at the Holly commencement ceremony were, in my opinion, way off the reservation with their political remarks. Neither the place, nor the time.”

“Remember when you walked into a restaurant and they said ‘smoking or no smoking?’ Now it should be ‘dogs or no dogs.’ I really do not want dog hair on my dinner.”

“100 Deadliest Days’ reminds teen drivers of summer danger
Inexperience and more road time lead to increase in crashes between Memorial Day and Labor Day.

‘Why would any American ever choose to willingly travel to a backwards hell-hole like North Korea? Otto Warmbier’s death was a tragedy that never should have happened. It is a reminder that decisions have consequences. My deepest condolences to his family.”

Lake Fenton grad dies in highway crash
Frankie Messina’s pickup truck veered from the road and struck a large power line stanchion in Novi.

Old law requires animal control to ‘destroy’ animals
No enforceable state law on holding strays; GCAC ignores part of county ordinance

‘100 Deadliest Days’ reminds teen drivers of summer danger
Inexperience and more road time lead to increase in crashes between Memorial Day and Labor Day.

The Skinner situation

What led Linden to fire a successful wrestling coach
By Hannah Ball hball@cttimes.com, 810-433-6792
Linden — After a nearly five-hour meeting, the Linden Board of Education tabled a motion to decide disciplinary action for Todd Skinner, the Linden teacher who was fired from his wrestling coaching position after it was revealed he ran an alleged illegal fundraiser.

Skinner was removed from his coaching position in April, and on Wednesday, June 21, appealed that decision in front of the board. Skinner requested the meeting take place in open session.

The administrative board, consisting of Athletic Director Greg Durkac, Linden See SKINNER on 9A
Lake Fenton grad dies in highway crash

Pickup truck veers from road, strikes large power line stanchion in Novi

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

Family and friends are mourning the death of Frank (Frankie) Joseph Messina, 27, of Fenton Township, after he was killed in a highway crash on I-96 in Novi on Wednesday afternoon. Messina was a 2008 graduate of Lake Fenton High School.

According to WWJ Newsradio 950, witnesses said a pickup truck left the roadway and struck a power line stanchion at Taft Road, near Novi Road. It was reported that Messina was driving the pickup truck.

Michigan State Police responded to the crash. It was unclear as to whether another vehicle was involved. A witness told WWJ that the pickup truck struck the utility pole, which was at least 100 feet from the highway.

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Michigan State Police are investigating a fatal crash, which occurred on I-96 in Novi on Wednesday, June 21. Frank (Frankie) Joseph Messina, 27, of Fenton Township died in the crash.

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Is your home a target for burglars?

Some safety methods homeowners employ are a mistake according to expert thieves

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

In the United States, someone’s home is burglarized every 15 seconds. Many times, the victims are careful people who think they are doing all the right things, but the reality is they are making mistakes that make them targets.

Closset Factory Co. asked a reformed burglar, who stole more than $70 million in jewelry during his career, and he said the following are the big mistakes people make in trying to protect their homes.

**Mistake 1**
Leaving the burglar alarm off when you’re running out for a few minutes. Nearly all the households robbed had expensive alarm systems, and more than half the time, the alarms weren’t turned on.

Sophisticated burglars watch neighborhoods and learn when residents go to work or run errands, and how long they are likely to be away.

**Mistake 2**
Posting detailed alarm signs on your doors or windows. When you post a sign that identifies the alarm company, you’ve just given the burglar the information he needs to disable the alarm. All the burglar has to do is buy a diagram of how that particular system is wired.

It would be better to buy a generic sign from a home supply store that simply says, “This House is Protected By an Alarm System.” As long as it doesn’t give specific information, it can be a good deterrent.

**Mistake 3**
Hiding valuables in the bedroom. It’s the first place burglars go when looking for jewelry, cash and other valuables. Instead, keep these items in a safe-deposit box.

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Homeowners are advised against hiding valuables in dresser drawers. Bedrooms are one of the first places burglars go when looking for jewelry, cash and other valuables. Instead, keep these items in a safe-deposit box.

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**Knock, knock, who’s there?**

New home security systems answer front door with smartphone

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

Most home burglaries start with the ring of your doorbell, to find out if anyone is home.

That’s why there’s a lot of buzz about new “smart” doorbells, which allow you to answer your front door from anywhere you are, with any style of smartphone.

Thanks to today’s smartphones, plus connections to your home’s Wi-Fi network, you can answer any doorbell ring with a voice or video greeting. The person at the door doesn’t know if you are just behind the door or across the street. What matters is that you are in control of the situation, while video cameras record it all.

One of the most popular brands is Ring, which sends instant alerts to your phone when visitors press your doorbell or trigger the built-in motion sensors. When you answer the alert, the free Ring app lets you see, hear and speak to whomever is there, according to the company website at ring.com.

You can install the system yourself. If there’s a problem, you can quickly contact police, to help you keep control of what’s happening in your neighborhood. Outdoor sensors also let you see, hear and speak to what’s happening in your neighborhood.

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**EX SERIES Waverunners starting at $6,599**

Yamaha Revs Your Heart

Summertime is prime time for water enthusiasts. Yamaha’s Waverunners are the perfect choice for anyone looking to make a splash this season.

Yamaha Waverunners are known for their speed, power, and versatility. With a variety of models to choose from, there’s something for everyone, whether you’re a beginner or an experienced rider.

The EX Series is the perfect option for those looking for a cost-effective yet high-performance watercraft. Priced starting at $6,599, the EX Series offers a range of features that make it an ideal choice for families and individuals alike.

Yamaha’s Waverunners are built to last, with rugged construction and advanced technology that ensure smooth rides and reliable performance. Whether you’re planning to hit the open water or explore local lakes and rivers, the EX Series Waverunners have got you covered.

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**Contact Information**

**General Office:** 810-629-8282

**Advertising:** 810-629-8281

**Classifieds:** 810-629-8194

**Circulation:** 810-433-6797

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The Tri-County Times is published semi-weekly by Rockman Communications, 341 N. Farrow Drive, Fenton, Michigan 48430. We serve the communities of: Fenton, Linden, Lake Fenton, Holly, Hartland, Byron,Garva, Davison, Swartz Creek and Grand Blanc and the townships of: Fenton, Holly, Rose, Tyros and Argentown. We reserve the right to accept or refuse any content and/or advertising submissions.
Random thoughts

How tough is Lt. Jeff Neville, the Bishop Airport police officer who helped subdue the man who unexpectedly stabbed him with an Amazon Jungle Survival knife? The airport’s director of public safety said Neville “fought him right to the very end until I was able to handcuff this person. Lt. Neville never stopped fighting him.” Wow. In this age of false heroes, this is a real one. Imagine how many others could have been attacked if Neville wasn’t the tough son-of-a-gun he is. Kudos, my man. Kudos.

• The Georgia House special election — won handily by the Republican shows us two things: 1) Democrats continue to be a puzzling combination of wussy, arrogant and clueless when it comes to what voters want to hear. Wussy in that Jon Ossoff’s opponent — i.e. the winner — had no problem demonizing him as the second coming of (hide the children! ) Nancy Pelosi, while Ossoff politely shied away from going full tilt using Trump as an issue. Arrogant in that he continued the Hillary Clinton campaign feel that people should elect him because of his intellectually superior ideals, when what people really want is change, any change. (Americans don’t care about what change so much. They just don’t want things to be the way they are, dadgummit, whatever that is at any given moment.) Clueless because the Democratic Party poured buckets of money into this election when there was absolutely no chance of winning in a heavily Republican district, thus handling the media the handy narrative that this was a referendum on Trump, which it was not. It might have been for Dems, but it certainly wasn’t for voters in the 6th Congressional District.

2) The mainstream media doesn’t do fake news — that’s a Trump invention — but they do create fake narratives that are almost as misleading. By rights, there should have been no national news interest in this race because it wasn’t going to be close. But (see the entry for “clueless”)

they were more than happy to turn it into a false referendum on Trump because, well, it’s summer and there’s not much going on, especially when Trump isn’t tweeting anything juicy at the moment. As a result, and in the eyes of a nation that barely pays attention at it is, the Democrats lost a big one to (registered trademark very possibly pending) Trumpitarianism. Which is bad for everyone. Typical Dem. Typical media. Dammit.

• Speaking of Trump, if he were to hang one of his patented sixth-grade nicknames on the Detroit Tigers, it would be “low energy.” The low energy Tigers led by the low energy Brad Ausmus, followed by bored, low energy fans and covered by a dispassionate, low energy media. I’m sick of it. I know I said a few weeks ago, they should hang onto their pieces and make a run in what is suddenly the worst division in baseball, but I’ve changed my mind. I’m weary of watching the same guys going through the motions without an ounce of fire. Gimme just one angry guy. There’s nothing wrong with this team that putting Kirk Gibson on the field wouldn’t fix. (Or, hey, how about as manager?)

• How a jury could look at the dash cam video of Minnesota Officer Jeronimo Yanez blasting the life out of Philando Castile and decide it was justified is beyond me.

• “We are what we pretend to be, so we must be careful about what we pretend to be.” — Kurt Vonnegut

Opinion offered in Come Heller High Water on the author’s column and not necessarily reflects the opinions of the Tri-County Times or its staff. Email the editor at andrewheller@tctimes.com.

Here’s a thought:

How short would the Hot line sections be if you omitted all the partisan complaints from Democrats about Republicans and vice versa? Say something worthwhile or keep to yourself.

The article ‘rain wreaking havoc on 394 miles of gravel roads’ said that the gravel roads would all be graded in May, and chlorinated also hasn’t happened. It’s the middle of June. Typical of the road commission. They don’t even return phone calls.

I was appalled at the devastation left by Consumers Power, where clear cutting a natural area located on the east side of Fish Lake Road, between Grange Hall and the railroad tracks in Holly Township was done. That area is a conservation easement owned by a local conservancy group, where boaters put in or take out their canoes along the Shiawassee River.

CLINTON DODGES THE draft and goes to England until it is safe, Obama is a community organizer, no military. President Reagan ends the cold war. Carter lets a radical cleric into Iran and goes to England until it is safe, Obama is a community organizer, no military. President Reagan ends the cold war.

I’m a woman who totally agrees with ‘just don’t get pregnant.’ If you are going to have sex and do not want children, be responsible enough to use one of the many birth control options available. Abortion should not be used as a form of birth control. It is called common sense.

I think many people living in Fenton are great Americans.

What a one-sided article on ‘net neutrality’ really received included a substantial quote from the FCC commissioner who opposes getting rid of net neutrality and none from the two in favor, in fact there was nothing in the article from those who oppose so-called ‘net neutrality’ which is a misnomer. Net neutrality is actually government control over the internet.

Dogs on restaurant patios should have the same unwritten rules as bringing children to restaurants. Loud, obnoxious ones whose bad behavior is ignored by its parents should be left at home.

Hey Rosemary, your rubarb custard pie sounds awesome. How about sharing the recipe with us through the Tri-County Times?

Congratulations to Trinity Lutheran and their first year in their new church.

Congratulations to all the Holly High School graduates. However, I was very disappointed with Mr. Nuiss and the other gentleman who gave speeches. A high school gradu- ation is no place to bring up your political views. Our children should be taught to have an open mind and look at both sides, not be your clone, Mr. Nuiss.

Talked to a gentleman last night about the shooting of Republicans. The liberal was just fine. Of course, he had another bumper sticker that said he was a good Democrat.

Yes, you are correct. That Hot line was indeed called in by a man but what are you saying? As a woman, you are incapable of preventing a pregnancy? What does gender have to do with it?

The democrats brought back the housing industry seriously. George H. Bush wanted oversight into that. Barney Frank told him, ‘no no we’re fine, nothing to see here.’

As a liberal you turn on Fox News and you think ‘oh my God, these guys are just nuts. Can’t handle truth and common sense, huh?’

Trump can only make billions for himself, not the country.

See Hot line throughout Times.

What is your favorite summer activity?

Playing golf. I like being outdoors and spending time on the water.

Playing volleyball in the sand. I play pick-up with friends or on local leagues.

“I like to spend time on the deck with the kids and my family, just relaxing.”

“I like swimming at the YMCA and jump-roping.”
**LAKE FENTON WATERFRONT**

2424 Cranewood Dr • Fenton
3 Bed, 2 Bath, 1400 Sq Ft. Beautiful view of Lake Fenton from peaceful Cranes Cove. Comes with extra lot across the street, lots of potential.
$485,000

12025 Jennings Road • Linden
4 Bed, 3 Bath/2964 Sq Ft. Beautiful home on private wooded 10 acres with 24x28 pole barn. Large open kitchen/dining area with granite and custom tile, Main floor master.
$375,000

**FLUSHING**

5068 Cambridge Ct • Flushing
3 Bed, 2/1 Bath, 2560 Sq Ft. Beautiful immaculate custom built Colonial, vaulted ceilings, open floor plan, surround sound, huge master suite. Amazing koi fish pond, stamped concrete patio, large garage, and an extra storage shed.
$234,900

**WARWICK LAKE**

6490 Carriage Hill Dr • Grand Blanc
Spectacular Lake Front Home on Warwick Lake with top of the line everything! 4 Bed, 3 Bath, 2823 Sq Ft.
$875,000

**MUNDOY TOWNSHIP - 70 ACRE ESTATE**

1525 W. Reid Rd • Flint
Beautiful sprawling ranch on private 70 acres, completely remodeled in 2012. Born with 29 horse stalls and chicken coop. Groomed for hunting. 3 Bed, 3 Bath/2111, 3000 Sq Ft.
$700,000

**FENTON ORCHARDS**

1195 Butternut • Fenton
4 bedrooms, 5.5 Bath, 2801 Sq Ft. Granite kitchen, Large 1st floor master suite w/ private deck. Finished basement, w/ bar, workout room.
$400,000

**LAKE FENTON SCHOOLS**

2068 Wiggins Rd. • Fenton
4 Bedroom, 3 (2/1) Bath, 2300 Sq Ft. Vaulted ceilings, open floor plan, second story game room, finished basement and an extra garage.
$259,000

**FLUSHING**

904 Eagle Dr. • Fenton
2 Bedroom, 2 Bath, 1507 Sq Ft. Completely updated 2nd floor ranch style condo in desirable Waters Edge. Granite counters, SS appliances, new carpet and wood flooring and vaulted ceilings.
$140,000

**LAKE ESTATES NEW DEVELOPMENT IN HOLLY, ACREAGE LOTS AVAILABLE**

Lahring Rd • Holly
Beautiful lots to build your dream home on 5-17 acre parcels on Gravel or Strawberry Lakes. East of Fagan Road, off Lahring.

**LAKE FENTON WATERFRONT**

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Old law requires animal control to ‘destroy’ animals

No enforceable state law on holding strays; GCAC ignores part of ordinance

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

Flin Twp. — Questions have been raised over how long an animal shelter is required to hold stray animals.

The answer is that currently, there is no enforceable state law that defines how long an animal shelter is required to hold a stray animal. According to Michigan Law, Public Act 324 Section 287.388, “an animal shelter or dog pound must wait four days before selling or otherwise disposing of a dog or cat. If the dog or cat has a collar, the owner must be notified in writing and disposition shall not be made until seven days from the mailing of the notice.”

After the four or seven days, the shelter can choose whether to euthanize or put the animal up for adoption. The law was written in 1969.

However, the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) released a statement in January 2016 stating that they do not have the authority to enforce Public Act 224. The above section was written into the research section of the Act in 1969. When the Michigan Humane Society questioned if the hold times applied to animal shelters that did not sell animals for research, they realized they couldn’t enforce it, according to the MDARD.

The Genesee County Board of Commis-
sioners adopted an ordinance in 1996 that set similar rules. According to the Genesee County Animal Control Ordinance, Article 2, Section 3, animal control is required to impound dogs without proof of ownership for four days and dogs with a proof of ownership for seven days. After that time period, however, the ordinance states the animals must be “de-
stroyed.”

GCAC Director Paul Wallace said they don’t follow that rule.

“Not on my watch,” he said.

The GCAC’s policy is to hold all ani-
imals brought in, collar or no collar, for at least seven business days, unless there is medical reason to put them down. The shelter is closed Sunday and Monday and those days don’t count.

After that time, they try to adopt them out.

Wallace said the ordinance was implemented when packs of wild dogs roamed the street in the 1900s, and the shelter was first developed as a public safety organization to keep rabid dogs off the street.

Wallace said the survival rate for animals was below 40 percent before he became director in January 2015. It’s currently 93.6 percent. This means the shelter is a “No Kill” shelter. “But they were following the law,” he said of the high kill rate. “The people of Genesee County, they don’t want that. We don’t want that. I voted for the millage.”

The GCAC millage was passed in 2014 and increased funding for the shelter from $1 to $1.3 million to $1.7 million. This allowed the shelter to hire more staff and improve the shelter.

After that time period, however, the ordinance states the animals must be “destroyed.”

As the Michigan Humane Society

What to do with lost or found animals

Check online at Tri-County Lost and Found

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

Dogs get loose. That is a fact of having a canine companion, no mat-
ner how many precautions you take. Someone accidentally leaves a door open, a leash breaks, or they jump out of a car window when you’re parked somewhere.

Thankfully, there are multiple resources to use if you find a stray animal or lose one.

If you find a stray...

First, be careful in approaching the dog because it might not be friendly. If it exhibits aggressive be-
havior, call Genesee County Animal Control (GCAC) at (810) 732-1660. The shelter will send someone to collect the animal.

If you manage to catch the dog, and it’s friendly, check for a collar and tags. If there’s a number on the tag, call it and detail the animal until the owner arrives. If there’s an address, walk or drive the animal to the house.

If there are no tags or any form of iden-
tification or ownership, you can take the dog to Adopt-
A-Pet in Fen-
ton (810) 629-
0723 and they will scan the dog to determine if it’s microchipped.

You can also take the animal to GCAC and the Humane Society of Genesee County (HSGC) (810) 744-0511 and see if they have room to take an animal. It’s recom-

mended to call ahead.

Utilize social media. Take a photo of the animal, put it on your Facebook page (if you have one), and ask your friends to share it.

You should also send this informa-
tion to Facebook pages like Tri-County Times Lost and Found, For the Love of Louise “Michigan Lost Pet Lookers,” Genesee County Animal Control, Humane Society of Genesee County, and Adopt-A-Pet. All of them regularly share posts about lost animals and reach thousands of people.

See LOST OR FOUND on 7A
Details emerge on airport stabbing
FBI alleges terrorism, Canadian suspect in custody
By Sharon Stone
stone@tctimes.com; 810-433-6786
A Canadian citizen, originally from Tunisia, has been charged and remains in the custody of the United States marshal following a terrorist attack at Bishop International Airport in Flint Township on Wednesday, June 21.
The FBI alleges in its complaint that Amor M. Ftouhi, 49, unlawfully and intentionally used a knife to perform an act of violence against another individual at Bishop International Airport. His actions were likely to endanger safety at that airport and was likely to cause death or serious bodily injury and extreme physical pain.

At approximately 9 a.m., law enforcement officers from a number of organizations including the FBI’s office in Flint responded to Flint’s Bishop International Airport after receiving the report of a stabbing of an airport police officer, Lt. Jeff Neville. He is currently in stable condition at Hurley Medical Center in Flint.

The suspect, Ftouhi, was taken into custody at the airport.
FBI Special Agent Thomas M. Sondgeroth reported that his investigation revealed that Ftouhi walked up to a publicly accessible area of the airport, yelled “Allah Akbar,” pulled out a knife and stabbed the officer in the neck. After stabbing Neville, Ftouhi allegedly continued to yell “Allah” several times. He further exclaimed something similar to, “You have killed people in Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan, and we are all going to die.”

Neville was able to subdue Ftouhi, who asked him why he did not kill him. Police took all of Ftouhi’s possessions, which included identification documents.

Security video showed Ftouhi entering the first level of the airport carrying a red duffle and a dark satchel bag at 8:52 a.m. At 9:10 a.m., Ftouhi went up an escalator to the second level of the airport. At the top of the escalator, Ftouhi turned left to go to a restaurant. At 9:37 a.m., Ftouhi left the restaurant carrying both bags. He entered a second-floor restroom at 9:38:15 a.m. and left at 9:38:46 a.m., at which time he attacked Neville and was subdued by other law enforcement.

During a court hearing on Wednesday, it was learned that Ftouhi is from Tunisia and several family members still reside there. He is married and has three children. He has lived in Montreal for about six months, and was likely to cause death or serious bodily injury and extreme physical pain.

Details emerge on airport stabbing
Continued from Page 6A
If your dog gets out...

You have multiple places and online pages to check.

First, call GCAC, Adopt-A-Pet, and the HSGC and ask if anyone has dropped off a dog that matches your dog’s description.

Check Tri-County Times Lost and Found on Facebook. For the Love of Louise “Michigan Lost Pet Lookers,” Adopt-A-Pet, GCAC and HSGC.

Post a photo of your dog and include information like its name, description, breed, size, where it was last seen, if it is wearing a collar, and how it interacts with strangers. Let people know if your animal is skittish around strangers, or if it can be easily caught with a certain kind of treat. Always include your contact information so the person who finds your animal can get in touch with you.

Ask your friends to share the post.

The Times runs their popular Tri-County Lost and Found Facebook page and share photos of lost and found animals on their main Facebook page. This service is free.

If you’re not tech savvy, feel free to come into the Times with the above information and staff will make a Facebook post.

Make sure your pet...
• Always wears a collar with tags. Tags should contain a name, phone number, and owner’s name.
• Is microchipped. Getting your pet microchipped is the best way to ensure that if your pet is lost, an animal control worker or veterinarian will be able to find out who the animal belongs to.
BURGLAR
Continued from Page 3A
underwear drawer, under the mattress, high closet shelves, etc.
Keep money or jewelry you rarely wear in a safe-deposit box. Don’t hide all your valuables in one place. A burglar is less likely to get everything if you put items in different places.
Mistake 4
Getting a big dog. A 100-pound Rottweiler or German shepherd might look scary, but burglars know better. Most big breeds, unless they are trained as guard dogs, aren’t barkers. What you want are “yapper,” small dogs that make a lot of noise. Breeds such as Chihuahuas are better deterrents than large dogs.
Mistake 5
Hiding windows with landscaping. Tall bushes and shrubs allow burglars to jimmy windows without being seen. Keep all bushes trimmed to below window level.
Also, don’t count on thorny plants to prevent entry. Professional thieves routinely wear gloves and two layers of clothes, and carry cutting tools to remove any thorny obstacles that may get in their way.
Mistake 6
Leaving the lights on. A light that stays on all the time is no more of a deterrent than a dark house. In fact, it helps burglars see better when they’re inside. Instead, use timers that turn lights on and off in different parts of the house at different intervals.
Mistake 7
Having newspaper and mail delivery stopped when you go away. You may trust your mail and newspaper carriers, but the fact is that you don’t know who else is getting the information. We used to get tips all the time about homeowners going on vacation. So keep your plans quiet. Have a neighbor or close friend pick up your paper or mail. Ask them to drop by at different times of the day. The more activity burglars see, the less likely they are to target your house.

SECURITY
Continued from Page 3A
security lights and siren alarms can be added, to flood an area with the system.
Basic Ring Video Doorbell systems are sold at local stores, beginning at about $180, with several upgrades available.
Other brands include SkyBell HD Wi-Fi Enabled Video Doorbell, Vivant Doorbell, August Doorbell Cam, Zmodo Greet and Vtech IS741 Accessory Audio/Video Doorbell Camera.

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Brown and Brown’s professional advisors are your neighbors, friends and community members with the resources of the industry’s premier regional and national carriers behind them. Whether for personal, commercial or life insurance, we strive to provide the highest level of service and seek the most effective insurance solutions at a competitive price.

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SKINNER
Continued from Front Page
High School Principal Russ Ciesielski, and Assistant Superintendent Mike Engelter presented the case for why Skinner was removed from his coaching position. Engelster said it was a fairly lengthy investigation that resulted in terminating Skinner from his coaching position. The situation, he said, and a team of coaches then reviewed and decided that Skinner would not be retained as a Linden High School varsity wrestling coach,” Durkac said.

ALLEGED VIOLATIONS
1. Telling a student to postpone a surgery
Durkac said the father of the student is a former Linden coach of wrestling and football, and was emotionally concerned for his son’s safety. Skinner violated school policy by not taking into consideration the student’s injuries or the ability to compete. In rebuttal, Skinner said this student injured himself playing football, and said there was nothing on file that said he couldn’t compete. The athletic trainer told him she wouldn’t recommend he wrestle, but both parents said he could, Skinner said. They wouldn’t have won districts without that one wrestler, he said.

2. Writing an inappropriate letter to parents
Durkac said the letter, which he stopped in its tracks, was written out the day before it was sent to parents, demanded respect from parents and wanted “to bully them into submission.” He described the letter as “presumptuous and offensive,” and restricted communication.

3. No response for questions
Durkac sent Skinner 14 questions and never received a response. Skinner said he had written out the answers and wanted to meet with Durkac in person to discuss them, but Durkac was too busy.

4. Not allowing students to see the athletic trainer
While the athletic trainer told students with open skin sores not to wrestle in practice already, before this, because Skinner said it was OK, Durkac said. Skinner did not report that a student who contracted herpes was not cleared by a vaccination to the athletic trainer. Skinner did not report that a student who injured himself playing football, and said there was nothing on file that said he couldn’t compete. The athletic trainer told him she wouldn’t recommend he wrestle, but both parents said he could, Skinner said. They wouldn’t have won districts without that one wrestler, he said.

The students plan to tell their stories on June 29.

He constantly lied throughout that interview. He knows what happened, we’ve been through it for years.

Stojan Prusac
Linden High School student

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ENGELSTER
Engster stated insubordination issues led him to his decision. In a meeting with Skinner on April 10, Engelster said Skinner admitted to selling squares. He was placed on paid non-disciplinary leave pending further investigation, and Engelster outlined rules for Skinner, which he broke.

Engelster said Skinner contacted people he wasn’t supposed to, and he deleted over 200 computer files on April 10 from district storage files, many of which pertained to wrestling activities.

Engelster said the paraprofessionals Skinner worked with in his classroom of emotionally impaired students said Skinner was not using appropriate behaviors in the classroom. This involved pulling a student out from underneath a desk by their ankles, and inappropriately grabbing a student.

Engelster said the first incident, a student wouldn’t leave from underneath a desk in an area with wires and cables, and he was concerned for the safety of the student. The second incident involved calming down a student by using a wrestling hold, which did not compromise the safety of the student. In both cases, he called the parents of the students, who were fine with the situation.

Engelster said he’s been coaching for 27 years and he’s never had a bad evaluation. Board President Scott Maker said the issue is not how good of a coach he is, the issue is the illegal gambling operation. He cited an email where Skinner is advising someone to not put Linden’s name on the operation because it “wasn’t approved and they “have to be careful how they spin it.”

Ultimately, around 11:30 p.m., Superintendent Ed Koledo recommended tabling a decision on disciplinary action. “I think there needs to be time for the board to read through this and clarify some of their positions,” he said.

The issue was tabled until Thursday, June 29 at 6 p.m. After the meeting was over, a few LHS students stood in the hall in T-shirts that read “Fire Skinner.”

Stojan Prusac, 18, said, “They’re there to have their voice heard. We want everybody to know how we feel about him. We’re not here to disrespect Skinner, we’re here to tell the truth about him. He constantly lied throughout that interview. We know what happened, we’ve been through it for years. We all went through injuries...were told not to wrestle. Todd would tell us ‘you got to wrestle.’ We’ve all looked up to him at one point or another, but then you realize that’s not someone you want to look up to. The community sees him as this great guy, but nobody knows what he’s like behind closed doors.”

The students plan to tell their stories on June 29.
County commissioner case went public before prosecutor decided not to pursue charges

The danger of using information obtained via FOIA prematurely

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

Occasionally, it is necessary for the Tri-County Times to seek documents and information using the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Usually it is for court records or something from the state of Michigan’s Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA). Sometimes, it is for something random from our local communities.

Most recent FOIA requests by the Times involved court documents for the Michael LaJoice embezzlement case, for a licensing complaint from LARA involving a local funeral home, and an accounting of how much it cost to send the majority of the Fenton City Council and some administrators to a conference in Lansing in the spring.

When we request information and/or documents via FOIA, it is for the purpose of making sure we have all the facts and accurate information for each case before we put anything in print or online.

The Tri-County Times does not typically request information via FOIA if we know an investigation is still ongoing. We wait until it’s over to make sure the report we receive is complete.

If we know an investigation is still ongoing, we don’t write or publish any article until it has come to a conclusion — especially if the investigation involves a crime.

In the case of Michael LaJoice, he was already charged with a crime before the Times published articles and released his name. His case also was unusual because he actually walked into the Oakland County Sheriff’s Office and confessed.

Releasing the name of someone suspected of a crime is not done by the Times until after a suspect has been arraigned, which means charged with a crime.

Earlier this month, a Flint newspaper and Flint TV news station reported that a police complaint had been filed against County Commissioner Drew Shapiro, 2k, of Fenton.

The newspaper reported that it obtained the police report by submitting a FOIA request. How they knew to do that is unknown.

Perhaps they got a “tip” — we get them all the time.

The newspaper said an unidentified complainant alleged that over the Memorial Day weekend, Shapiro yelled ethnic slurs to someone while he was on a pontoon boat on Silver Lake at 8 a.m. on Saturday, May 27.

The Genesee County Sheriff’s Office was investigating. No charges had yet been filed against Shapiro.

Last week, Genesee County Prosecutor David Leyton decided he would not pursue charges against Shapiro.

After reviewing the case, Leyton said his office determined that Shapiro did not commit a felony crime and that Shapiro’s warrant request has been referred to the Fenton Township attorney for review as to whether any ordinance violation occurred.

Leyton said no physical contact or property damage occurred, which is required for ethnic intimidation charges to be filed.

This case speaks to the danger of the media releasing names to the public — even if they are elected officials — until actual charges have been filed.

People in this country are presumed innocent until proven guilty, and when the prosecuting attorney says he can’t prove guilt, that speaks for itself.

The media business is very competitive, but the Times takes great care to make sure innocent people are not “convicted” on the pages of the newspaper or website — even if the investigation involves a crime.

Occasionally, it is necessary for the Times to seek information about a criminal investigation via FOIA, but we don’t write or publish any article until law enforcement and the justice system have a chance to do their work.

What is FOIA?

Public has the right to request records from any federal, state, county and local municipal government agency

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

The ability to use the FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) to access records from governmental agencies has existed since 1967. According to foia.gov, it is often described as the law that keeps citizens in the know about their government.

Government agencies are required to disclose any information requested under the FOIA unless it falls under one of nine exemptions, which protect interests such as personal privacy, national security, and law enforcement.

The FOIA also requires agencies to proactively post online certain categories of information, including frequently requested records.

Any person, United States citizen or not, can make a FOIA request. Before doing so, however, first look to see if the information you are interested in is already publicly available. You can find a lot of useful information on a range of topics on each agency’s website.

You cannot make a FOIA request to a private person or any private enterprise. If the information you want is not publicly available, you can submit a FOIA request to the agency’s office. Some have a person designated as the FOIA agent, who handles requests for the entire agency.

The request simply must be in writing and reasonably describe the records you seek. Most government agencies now accept FOIA requests electronically, including by web form, email or fax. There is no specific form that must be used to make a request.

A FOIA request can be made for any agency record. You can also specify the format in which you wish to receive the records (for example, printed or electronic form). The FOIA does not require agencies to create new records or to conduct research, analyze data, or answer questions when responding to requests.

After an agency receives your FOIA request, you will usually receive a letter acknowledging the request. If the agency requires additional information before it can begin to process your request, it will contact you. The agency will typically search for records in response to your request and then review those records to determine which — and what parts of each — can be released. The agency will not redact, or black out, any information protected from disclosure by one of the FOIA’s nine exemptions. The releasable records will then be sent to you.
Missing Kentucky woman might be in Fenton area

Kentucky sheriff reaching out to help locate 53-year-old

The Graves County Sheriff’s Office Mayfield, Kentucky is asking for assistance in locating a missing Sedalia, Kentucky woman.

Lynette McCollum, 53, was last seen on the morning of June 15 between 9:30 and 10 a.m. at her residence. She was later reported missing that day to the Sheriff’s Office. McCollum is a white female, 5-feet, 11-inches tall, 180 pounds with blond hair and brown eyes. At the time she went missing, she was reportedly wearing a white tank top and shorts.

McCollum is originally from Michigan and it is possible she may be back in the tri-county area.

The Sheriff’s Office is still trying to locate McCollum or anyone who may have had contact with her on or after June 15. An extensive ground and air search has been conducted in the area near the residence by both law enforcement and family members.

Deputies have also spoken with several individuals and followed up on leads as to the whereabouts of McCollum, but nothing has materialized. McCollum has no criminal charges pending against her over this incident. Her family is concerned for her welfare as she was reported to possibly be suicidal when she went missing.

The Sheriff’s Office would like to reach out to anyone with any information on the whereabouts of McCollum, but nothing has materialized. McCollum has no

‘Summer Blast’ keeps students in the garden

Kids as young as 3 learn ‘from seed to feed’ cycle

By Hannah Ball

Students at Patterson Elementary School in Holly are developing a green thumb after helping plant a community garden near the school’s playground.

Kindergarten teacher Kathy Marion, started the garden as a way to keep students involved with learning over the summer as a part of their Summer Blast program. This program keeps students doing volunteer work over the summer.

“We have such a wonderful campus, I thought it would be the perfect addition,” she said. “This program is now a deeply rooted part of summer and a garden seemed like a perfect addition to the hands-on learning piece.”

Students will care for the garden all summer long and write about their experience of growing bush beans, tomatoes, cilantro, zucchini, mini pumpkins, a variety of peppers, and a variety of marigolds surrounding the garden to keep the rabbits away.

Before school ended, volunteers and students of all ages, even as young as 3, helped plant everything on May 30.

“All students painted a rock that represents their unique person to place around the edge of the garden. It was an amazing day at Patterson,” she said.

Her goal with the garden, which was funded entirely by donations from the community, is to continue to be used by community members.

“This program will give students the opportunity to grow their own food with a mentor and harvest the food in the fall,” Marion said.

Students will tend to the garden throughout summer.

A new community garden is located near the Patterson Elementary playground. Students will tend to the garden throughout summer.

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SOLD
12A

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BLACK BEAR FARMS  $329,999
2565 SF, 4 BDR & 2.5 BA. Beautiful kitchen features granite counter tops, tile back splash, dining area with door leading to the large deck with breathtaking view of the entire Blue Lake. Modern Master bath over looks the water. Lots of storage, high end kitchen and energy efficient. 4 car garage. Over 1.5 acres of waterfront property!

FENTON SCHOOLS  $265,000
Adorable home with beautiful views of every turn. Living room features fireplace, formal dining area with door leading to the large deck with breathtaking view of the entire Blue Lake. Master bath features double sink, tub, walk-in shower, and tile back splash. Overlooks the water. Lots of storage, high end kitchen and energy efficient. 2 car attached garage, plus an additional 2+ car garage. Could be a 4th BDR. Full finished walkout basement. 3081 SF, 3 BDR & 3.5 BA plus a bonus room that could be a 4th BDR. Full finished walkout basement, 4 car attached garage, large front yard and beautiful water frontage!

GREEN TREE ESTATES  $579,000
1318 SF, 4 BDR & 2.5 BA. Gorgeous kitchen features pantry, tile back splash, double oven, snack bar. Lots of cabinet and counter space. Crown molding, fireplace & door wall leading to spacious backyard. 2716 SF, 2 BDR & 2BA. Fantastic kitchen and dining area. Full finished walkout basement, 3 car attached garage, large front yard and beautiful water frontage.

LAKE FENTON
72 Frontage on All Sports Lake Fenton, 5400 SF, 4 BDR & 3.5 BA. Open floor plan w/ fantastic views. Kitchen features breakfast nook, granite counters, snack bar, lots of cabinet and counter space. Crown molding, exposed beams, finished walkout and so much more. Great location, large flat yard and beautiful waterfront. 9000 SF, 5 BDR & 3.5 BA. Masterful home with spacious entries, 5 car garage, large deck and patio. 91’ frontage on Lake Fenton, 4899 SF, 5 BDR & 4 BA. Gorgeous kitchen features island, granite counter tops, snack bar, large deck and patio. Water views from every room.

LAKE LAPERER 57’ frontage on Lake Laperer, 4919 SF, 5 BDR & 5.5 BA. Features hardwood floors, brick fireplace, large island, snack bar and pantry. Living room with cathedral ceiling, office and 4 car garage. Formal dining room, office & first floor laundry. Full finished basement, family room and views of the lake. 12,500 SF, 6 BDR & 4.5 BA. Beautiful ranch home nestled on 2 acres. 1516 SF, 3 BDR & 1.5 BA. Spacious kitchen features pantry, tile back splash, dining area, lots of cabinet & counter space. Great natural light. 3 car attached garage, large flat yard and beautiful waterfront.

WARWICK HILLS
4607 SF, 3 BDR & 2.5 BA. Amazingly maintained home with meticulous attention to detail. Family room features half bath, wet bar, family room, office & first floor laundry. Full finished basement, family room and views of the golf course. 9467 WHITE PINE CT, CLARKSTON 9693 BURNING TREE DR, GRAND BLANC

MARL LAKE
108’ of frontage on private All Sports Mar Lake. 3009 SF, 4 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!

MYERS LAKE
$289,900
54’ Frontage on All Sports Myers Lake, 2135 SF, 4 BDR & 2.5 BA. Open floor plan, great natural light, exposed beams, tiled floor. Home features breakfast nook, office, lots of storage space, large multi level deck and 40x40 pole barn and much more.

RIVERBROOK
$449,999
435’ of finished living space, 4 BDR & 4.5 BA. Gourmet kitchen features breakfast nook, tile splash, pantry, snack bar & breakfast nook. Great room/office/foyer, formal dining room, living room, office & first floor laundry. Full finished basement w/ full bath, wet bar, family room & lots of storage.

WARWICK HILLS
$445,000
$3400 SF, 3 BDR & 2.5 BA all on the 15th tee of the Warwick Hills Golf Course. Stunning gourmet kitchen with high and finishes, hardwood floors, granite counters, lots of cabinet space and fireplace. Open floor plan, great entry, natural light, and much more.

LAKE LAPEER
$329,999

FENTON SCHOOLS
$374,999
2710 SF, 4 BDR & 2.5 BA. Gorgeous kitchen features pantry, tile back splash, double oven, snack bar. Lots of cabinet and counter space. Crown molding, fireplace and great natural light. Full basement, ready to be finished and more. 2 car attached garage, garage, large front yard and beautiful waterfront. 3081 SF, 3 BDR & 3.5 BA plus a bonus room that could be a 4th BDR. Full finished walkout basement, 4 car attached garage, large front yard and beautiful water frontage!

GREEN TREE ESTATES
$349,999
5400 SF, 3 BDR & 4.5 BA. Gorgeous kitchen features island, granite counter tops, snack bar, large deck and patio. Water views from every room.

WARWICK HILLS
$349,999
Over 4000 SF of finished living space, 4 BDR & 2.5 BA. Amazingly maintained home with meticulous attention to detail. Family room features half bath, wet bar, family room, office & first floor laundry. Full finished basement, family room and views of the golf course. 9467 WHITE PINE CT, CLARKSTON 9693 BURNING TREE DR, GRAND BLANC

ACREAGE
$224,999
Adorable home on over 1.5 acres. 1872 SF, 4 BDR & 2 BA. Great kitchen, open floor plan with spacious formal dining room and Florida room with great natural light. Living room features beautiful floors and fireplace. Nice deck with pool and more.

FLUSHING SCHOOLS
$299,000
72 Frontage on All Sports Lake Fenton, 5400 SF, 4 BDR & 2.5 BA. Great kitchen, open floor plan with spacious formal dining room and Florida room with great natural light. Living room features beautiful floors and fireplace. Nice deck with pool and more.

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WARWICK HILLS
$439,999
5400 SF, 3 BDR & 4.5 BA. Gorgeous kitchen with island, granite counters, hardwood floors, breakfast nook and pantry. Full finished walkout basement with bar and stone fireplace. Large deck and patio overlooking the pond. 4 season room, first floor laundry, full finished basement and views of the golf course.

FENTON SCHOOLS
$255,000
32424 SHADY HILL CT, NOVI
2200 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.

LYONS 3556 SF, 4 BDR & 3.5 BA. Great room features breakfast nook, fireplace and more. Formal dining room, office & first floor laundry. Full finished basement, 4 car attached garage, large front yard and beautiful water frontage.

2718 PEPPER CT, HARTLAND
$224,999
Adorable home on over 1.5 acres. 1872 SF, 4 BDR & 2 BA. Great kitchen, open floor plan with spacious formal dining room and Florida room with great natural light. Living room features beautiful floors and fireplace. Nice deck with pool and more.

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Meet NICK STARR

• Machine Shop employee
• Touring drum technician
• Lifelong music lover

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

Nick Starr, 34, is in the middle of his busy week. He’ll help run events at The Machine Shop every night, and is setting up “tattoo a village” at a music festival for 3Thirteen Entertainment Group. He’s toured the world as a drummer and met some of his rock star heroes. Every week is busy for this Fenton Township resident though, and that’s how he likes it.

How would you describe your lifestyle? Hectic. Between The Machine Shop every night, and is setting up “tattoo a village” at a music festival for 3Thirteen Entertainment Group. He’s toured the world as a drummer and met some of his rock star heroes. Every week is busy for this Fenton Township resident though, and that’s how he likes it.

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Music has just been the one thing ever in my life that I’ve ever felt so strong about. It’s been my lifelong obsession since I was a little kid. Just the feeling it gives me all the way around. It’s been the one main driving force in my life, and the biggest factor in my life I’d say.

What do you like about living in Fenton Township? I love being right on the water, and I love just the little community. It’s just a nice area with a lot of cool stuff, cool business. I dig a lot of the local businesses.

What’s one thing you feel like you still need to accomplish or do? Within the next five years, my plan is to be managing bands. That’s what I’m working toward. At 3Thirteen Group I have an all around utility role, whether booking bands or a ton of administration work. My end goal is to be managing bands.

I definitely feel very fortunate for everything I’ve gotten to do; the international travel, everyone I’ve met, there were times when things were in no way glamorous, but I think about all the cool stuff I’ve been able to do, and cool stuff I get to do. I definitely appreciate everything.

What do you do for a living, currently? I work for the Machine Shop, and I work for the 3Thirteen Group. We recently started focusing on setting up tattoo villages at music festivals, and that’s been my main focus with the company this year now.

What do you do at the Machine Shop? I would describe my role as a ‘utility player,’ everything from loading in gear for bands, handling the front door to wristband people, and then helping out the bartenders, whatever they need that night while they’re behind the bar. You’re a drummer — what have you done in the past? All my national and international tours have been done in the past?

You’ve toured and seen a lot of bands — which famous musicians have you met? The one time I was ever star struck when I was on tour, was when I met Lemmy from Motorhead. At the Machine Shop, it was Waylon Jennings’ drummer Richie Albright. He was there with Waylon’s son, Shooter Jennings.

Why do you love rock, why do you love music? Music has just been the one thing ever in my life that I’ve ever felt so strong about. It’s been my lifelong obsession since I was a little kid. Just the feeling it gives me all the way around. It’s been the one main driving force in my life, and the biggest factor in my life I’d say.

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What do you do for a living, currently? I work for the Machine Shop, and I work for the 3Thirteen Group. We recently started focusing on setting up tattoo villages at music festivals, and that’s been my main focus with the company this year now.

What do you do at the Machine Shop? I would describe my role as a ‘utility player,’ everything from loading in gear for bands, handling the front door to wristband people, and then helping out the bartenders, whatever they need that night while they’re behind the bar. You’re a drummer — what have you done in the past? All my national and international tours have been done in the past?

You’ve toured and seen a lot of bands — which famous musicians have you met? The one time I was ever star struck when I was on tour, was when I met Lemmy from Motorhead. At the Machine Shop, it was Waylon Jennings’ drummer Richie Albright. He was there with Waylon’s son, Shooter Jennings.

Why do you love rock, why do you love music? Music has just been the one thing ever in my life that I’ve ever felt so strong about. It’s been my lifelong obsession since I was a little kid. Just the feeling it gives me all the way around. It’s been the one main driving force in my life, and the biggest factor in my life I’d say.

What do you like about living in Fenton Township? I love being right on the water, and I love just the little community. It’s just a nice area with a lot of cool stuff, cool business. I dig a lot of the local businesses.

What’s one thing you feel like you still need to accomplish or do? Within the next five years, my plan is to be managing bands. That’s what I’m working toward. At 3Thirteen Group I have an all around utility role, whether booking bands or a ton of administrative work. My end goal is to be managing bands.

I definitely feel very fortunate for everything I’ve gotten to do; the international travel, everyone I’ve met, there were times when things were in no way glamorous, but I think about all the cool stuff I’ve been able to do, and cool stuff I get to do. I definitely appreciate everything.
Linden Arts Council is looking for host families for students

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

The local dance community in the Linden area will be going international with a visit from a Czech Republic dance troupe staying in the area from Aug. 22-25.

Members of the Dance Studio Light from the Czech Republic will hold a performance showcasing original works from Prague at Linden High School on Thursday, Aug. 24 at 6:30 p.m., organized in part by The Linden Arts Council.

Generous donations from the Linden Downtown Development Authority (DDA) and performance accommodations provided by Linden Community Schools are making this event possible, according to Sue Turpen, president of the arts council.

This global visit is part of the Blue Lake’s International Exchange Program and is being arranged locally by Danielle Sorum, owner of Linden Dance Academy. She is looking for host families to accommodate the visiting students.

Dance Studio Light is one of 10 Blue Lake Visiting Guest Groups to visit the Midwest this summer.

Anyone interested in supporting this project or hosting dancers in their homes may contact Sorum at (810) 938-7911 or by email: Danielle@lindendanceacademy.com.
GARDEN
Continued from Page 11A
volunteers and local businesses, is to teach live science.
“The best way for children to see those concepts is through practical hands-on experiences. It is very typical for an elementary teacher to plant with kids and watch seeds grow. This experience will give children the chance to see the full life cycle,” she said.

When they reap their rewards, they’re going to have cooking days to make salsa and zucchini bread, as well as flash freeze green beans. In mid to late September, they’re going to plan a market day where donations can be offered to try the products.

“The is a ‘full circle’ learning experience. I always have parents and can be offered to try the products. Any money earned at our market day will go toward improving our garden for next year,” she said.

The Senate vote on the identical pension employee retirement system
Sen. Ken Horn (R-Dist. 32)  YES
Sen. Jim Ananich (D-Dist. 27)  YES
Sen. Joe Hune (R-Dist. 22)  YES
Sen. Mike Kowall (R-Dist. 15)  NO
Sen. David Robertson (R-Dist. 14)  YES
Sen. David Robertson (R-Dist. 14)  YES
Sen. Mike Kowall (R-Dist. 15)  YES
Sen. Joe Hune (R-Dist. 22)  YES
Sen. Jim Ananich (D-Dist. 27)  YES
Sen. Ken Horn (R-Dist. 32)  NO

Passed 55 to 52 in the House
Rep. Joe Graves (D-R-Dist. 51)  YES
Rep. Hank Vaupel (R-Dist. 47)  YES

Senate Bill 401: Overhaul school employee retirement system
To replace the current school pension system with one that requires more cost-sharing by new employees, and contains provisions intended to limit state management practices responsible for the $29.1 billion of unfunded liabilities in the status quo system. New employees could choose instead to receive substantial employer contributions to 401(k) accounts. If the overhauled defined benefit component is not properly funded then enrollees would have to pay half the cost of correcting this, and if underfunding exceeds specified levels this option would be closed to new hires.

Passed 21 to 17 in the Senate
Sen. David Robertson (R-Dist. 14)  YES
Sen. Mike Kowall (R-Dist. 15)  YES
Sen. Joe Hune (R-Dist. 22)  YES
Sen. Jim Ananich (D-Dist. 27)  NO
Sen. Ken Horn (R-Dist. 32)  YES

Senate Bill 4647: Overhaul school employee retirement system
To replace the current school pension system with one that requires more cost-sharing by new employees, and contains provisions intended to limit state management practices responsible for the $29.1 billion of unfunded liabilities, even though their employees do not get benefits from the system. The amendment was supported by all Democrats and by Republicans Emmmons, Rocca and Schmidt.

Failed 14 to 24 in the Senate
Sen. David Robertson (R-Dist. 14)  NO
Sen. Mike Kowall (R-Dist. 15)  NO
Sen. Joe Hune (R-Dist. 22)  NO
Sen. Jim Ananich (D-Dist. 27)  YES
Sen. Ken Horn (R-Dist. 32)  NO

House Bill 4636: Criminalize female genital mutilation of minors
To make it a crime subject to 15 years in prison to perform a clitoridectomy, infibulation, or other female genital mutilation on person less than age 18. Claims that the procedure is required by custom or ritual would be explicitly excluded as a defense to prosecution. Related bills would ban transporting a girl for this purpose, authorize lawsuits from victims, and permanently revoke the license of a medical professional convicted of this.

Passed 30 to 0 in the Senate
Sen. David Robertson (R-Dist. 14)  YES
Sen. Mike Kowall (R-Dist. 15)  YES
Sen. Joe Hune (R-Dist. 22)  YES
Sen. Jim Ananich (D-Dist. 27)  YES
Sen. Ken Horn (R-Dist. 32)  YES

House Bill 4013: Allow electronic vehicle registration in car instead of paper
To allow the vehicle registration document motorists are required to have when driving to be an electronic picture of the document on their smartphone or other device.

Passed 105 to 2 in the House
Rep. Joe Graves (D-R-Dist. 51)  YES
Rep. Hank Vaupel (R-Dist. 47)  YES

House Bill 4047: Require opioid abuse training in schools
To require public schools to include instruction on prescription opioid abuse in required health classes. House Bill 4406 requires a state commission to develop a lesson plan.

Passed 102 to 5 in the House
Rep. Joe Graves (D-R-Dist. 51)  YES
Rep. Hank Vaupel (R-Dist. 47)  YES

House Bill 4403: Include opioid addiction treatment in Medicaid benefits
To include acute treatment services and clinical stabilization services for opioid addiction among the medical services the state has authorized to provide through its social welfare system, including Medicaid.

Passed 105 to 2 in the House
Rep. Joe Graves (D-R-Dist. 51)  YES
Rep. Hank Vaupel (R-Dist. 47)  YES

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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, June 16.

House Bill 4677: Amendment to impose unfunded school pension liability costs on charters
Curtis Hertel amendment to require charter schools to contribute to the cost of paying down the school pension system’s $29.1 billion of unfunded liabilities, even though their employees do not get benefits from the system. The amendment was supported by all Democrats and by Republicans Emmmons, Rocca and Schmidt.

Passed 38 to 0 in the Senate
Sen. David Robertson (R-Dist. 14)  YES
Sen. Mike Kowall (R-Dist. 15)  YES
Sen. Joe Hune (R-Dist. 22)  YES
Sen. Jim Ananich (D-Dist. 27)  YES
Sen. Ken Horn (R-Dist. 32)  YES

House Bill 4215: Repeal rule banning car driving in roadway
To repeal a ban on leaving an unattended vehicle running other than on a public street or highway. This would allow warming up the car in the driveway in winter.

Passed 30 to 6 in the Senate
Sen. David Robertson (R-Dist. 14)  YES
Sen. Mike Kowall (R-Dist. 15)  YES
Sen. Joe Hune (R-Dist. 22)  YES
Sen. Jim Ananich (D-Dist. 27)  YES
Sen. Ken Horn (R-Dist. 32)  YES

House Bill 4613: Create process to restrict expansive court cost levies
To create a state commission to recommend changes to trial court funding in light of a Michigan Supreme Court ruling that questioned charging defendants for costs that are unrelated to their case and instead cover routine court and municipal operations. The Senate also passed House Bill 4612 to extend the current (possibly excessive) levies another three years.

Passed 30 to 0 in the Senate
Sen. David Robertson (R-Dist. 14)  YES
Sen. Mike Kowall (R-Dist. 15)  YES
Sen. Joe Hune (R-Dist. 22)  YES
Sen. Jim Ananich (D-Dist. 27)  YES
Sen. Ken Horn (R-Dist. 32)  YES

Hot Line
Continued from Page 11A

The best way for children to see those concepts is through practical hands-on experiences.
Kathy Marion
Holly kindergarten teacher

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The reason I flew the flag on June 14 was not for Trump’s birthday. It’s National Flag Day. You’re supposed to fly it every June 14.

Obviously you forgot all the crap we put up with when Obama was in office. Now when someone makes a little fuss over your president, suddenly we’re nasty people.

Well, it’s finally happened. Flint has one on their council. The county has one on their council. And now we have one in Fenton Township. Guess it’s contagious.
Fenton woman runs her first 50-mile ultra marathon on June 10 in Traverse City

By Sally Rummel

Donna Czarniak rounded the corner in the pitch black of night, nearing the finish line after running for 11 hours, 43 minutes and 16 seconds.

She heard her brother, Tony, and his wife, Teresa, cheering her on, and her 12-year-old daughter, Qwynn, joined her to cross the finish line.

“It was just brutal,” said Czarniak, 51, who completed her first 50-mile ultra marathon on Saturday, June 10 in The Lighthouse 50, a 50-mile race in northern Michigan. “My feet were throbbing with a heart beat of their own.”

Czarniak was the second female to cross the finish line and ninth overall, out of 19 runners who completed the race after starting with 25.

The race route was from Torch Lake, running through Elk Rapids, Traverse City and ending at the old lighthouse at the tip of Mission Point.

“There were 35- to 40-mile-an-hour head winds, over 90 degree temps and an elevation of 1,734 feet with hills throughout the entire route,” said Czarniak. “It was all on asphalt and that just beats up your body and your feet.”

While the race was a challenge, Czarniak never doubted for a moment that she would complete it. “I come from a ‘can do’ family, the youngest of nine kids,” said Czarniak. “My goal was just to finish the race. I like endurance.”

She raced with a two-man crew for support, Collins Zathrey and Chuck Cova, fellow runners who kept her hydrated and fed and during the race.

The only thing she ate while running 50 miles was a Cliff Bar and a couple of pickles, but she drank more than a gallon of electrolyte water. “Sometimes you have to drink your calories,” she said.

When it comes to basics like going to the bathroom during a 50-mile run, Czarniak admitted you sometimes have to improvise, especially if a portable toilet along the route isn’t available when you need it.

Czarniak has been running for 28 years, but seriously racing only for the past three years. She typically runs between 35 and 45 miles a week, usually around the Fenton area, Waldenwoods (just north of Hartland) and other trails.

As the owner of Absolute Massage, LLC, she works daily as a licensed massage therapist and certified nutrition counselor, and believes in “walking the talk” about healthy living.

“What fuels my passion for running is being inspired by others and then to inspire people,” she said. “If you want to live a healthy lifestyle, you have to be a healthy lifestyle.”

When asked if she’d ever consider running a 100-miler, she said, “I’ll let you know.”

But she did just sign up for the 70.3 Steelhead Half Ironman, this fall in Benton Harbor.

“I never doubted I could do it”
Huber celebrate 50th anniversary

Donald and Kathleen (Henning) Huber will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary on June 26, 2017. The couple was wed at their Fenton Township home on Lake Fenton by the Justice of the Peace and celebrated with friends and family.

The couple enjoyed spending time boating and having picnics on Lake Fenton with their two sons, Barry and Derek. Donald was a Holly High School graduate and attended Michigan State University for a year then went on to become a tool and die designer. Kathleen was a Boyne Falls High School graduate and attended Michigan College of Art and Design.

The couple have two sons, Barry and Derek. The couple will be celebrating their anniversary with family and friends.

Police & Fire Report

ROAD RAGE LEADS TO ARREST

Devon Ficarro, 21, of Fenton was arraigned on June 16 on one felony count of assault with a dangerous weapon following a suspected road rage incident in Fenton on June 15. Sgil. Dave Rentfled said a 25-year-old Holly man driving a pickup truck flagged down a Fenton police officer at 8:19 p.m. on June 15. The Holly man said he was behind a car on Silver Lake Road at Fenway Drive when the car in front of him took too long to move when the light turned green. The man honked and the other driver made a hand gesture back. When the two stopped at Adelaide Street, the Holly man said the other driver exited his car, opened the trunk and held a handgun. When the Holly man saw the gun, he drove away and alerted the officer. Police located Ficarro at Bush Park and recovered an SR357 revolver BB gun. He denied showing the gun and instead said he showed and expandable baton he keeps for protection. He was arrested, later charged, posted bond and was released.

MAN TRESPASSES ON RR TRACKS

On June 21, Fenton police arrested a 47-year-old Linden area man for trespassing on the CN railroad tracks. The man told police he was familiar with the tracks and was walking from Fenton to his home in Linden via the tracks. He knew it was illegal. Police issued him a court appearance ticket and CN police were advised of the trespassing.

BURNTות STICKS IN CITY PARK GRILL AFTER HOURS

At 3:30 a.m. on Thursday, June 22, Fenton police and fire responded to Conklin Park at Poplar Street and Silver Lake Road on a report of a large fire in one of the grills, next to a tree. Upon arrival, police saw a woman and a dog seated at a picnic table. She was burning sticks in the grill. Police smelled alcohol on the woman. They told her she was violating city ordinance by being at the park after hours. The woman, later identified as a 27-year-old Fenton resident, refused to provide her name and said she attempted to walk away. Police eventually handcuffed the woman while she said she was doing nothing wrong. She was arrested for being there after hours, having open intoxicants, disorderly intoxication and resisting a police officer. En route to the police station, police dropped her dog off at her apartment. She was lodged until sober and issued the court appearance tickets.

View stories at tctimes.com
Gotta go?

You’ll find plenty of porta potties at outdoor events this time of year

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

They buy toilet paper rolls by the thousands and work weekends while you’re out having fun. You likely won’t notice them until the next time you’re at an outdoor event and “have to go.”

That’s when you’ll really be grateful for one of the most underappreciated amenities to have ever been invented.

Commonly known as porta potties, you’ll likely find these colorful polyurethane structures at a soccer field, outdoor wedding venue, music festival, open house or construction site— anywhere that people are gathering outdoors, with no relief in sight.

Summer is big business for porta potties because of the large number of outdoor events.

“I’ll be working seven days a week from now until late October, early November,” said Gretchen Hole, who founded Poopy’s Potties in 1998 in Holly, Hole, 44, a graduate of Lake Fenton High School, operates her business with no other employees, although she does partner with R&D Septic for the labor portion of the business. “My business is growing, but I keep it to a level that I can handle myself,” she said.

Porta potties were unheard of until the 1940s, when the first models were created at Long Beach, California shipyards, to reduce the time dock workers spent going back and forth to the main dock to use the bathroom.

Over the next few decades, the convenience of porta potties created a new market for construction workers, event coordinators, etc., although these earlier models were heavy, constructed out of steel and wood.

Today’s models are mostly plastic and go from very basic to added-on features like solar lighted, handicapped, fresh water flush, hand-wash sinks, etc. Starting rent for one unit is typically $80 to $90 and goes up, depending upon features added.

The rental price includes delivery by Friday and pickup on Monday for a weekend event, plus emptying, cleaning and sanitizing the unit.

Charles and Melanie Harris operate their portable toilet and septic business, Harris & Son, in Byron, with their son, Austin. They rent porta potty units for open houses, weddings, birthdays, mud bog events, the Flint Art Fair, Gus Macker in Linden, even for funerals or memorial services at someone’s house.

“We also rent them at boat launches, parks and waterfront property owners who rent them by the month for their docks,” said Melanie.

What happens after you “go” in a porta potty?

A sewage waste removal truck removes the contents from the unit with a hose, then takes it to a sewage treatment plant.

“We have a receiving station in Livingston County, off 23,” said Melanie, “We pay by the gallon.”

Just in case you’d think tipping over a porta potty would be a funny practical joke, it’s actually a criminal offense and could be punished by a heavy fine, community service and/or jail time.

To avoid tipping and damage by wind, monthly rentals are usually staked down. They’re also cleaned out and sanitized on a weekly basis.

For an even “swankier” portable toilet experience, you can rent a restroom trailer from Swanky Trailers, a division of Poopy’s Potties. “It’s like going into your bathroom at home, but nicer,” said Hole.

She rents these high-end units starting at $850 up to $2,000 per weekend, mostly for weddings, corporate VIP events, movie and TV sets. “I’ve got five of these units and each one is different,” said Hole.

What are the most unusual things ever found in a porta potty?

1) Mail, deposited in the public toilet in Macomb Township
2) A miniature meth lab, when something smelled bad inside a golf course porta potty in Purcell, Oklahoma
3) Marijuana plants/heroin paraphernalia
4) Fireworks, discharged, inside the potty
5) Camera, installed for eavesdropping
6) Guns and weapons
7) A pipe bomb
8) A third-trimester fetus
9) A newborn baby who survived, and was assigned to social services upon discharge from the hospital
10) Corpses

TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO

This Swanky Trailer houses a portable toilet that’s suitable for weddings or other upscale outdoor events.

Source: Listverse.com

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Summertime is big business for porta potties. No one else has ever done it.

Source: Listverse.com
The competition of cornhole — a popular pastime

Summer league at The Barn starts in July

By Hannah Ball

Saturday night, June 16.

It’s a game where you can have fun but be competitive at the same time,” said the owner of The Barn, Adam Frye (left) of Swartz Creek, watching his bean bag go a little left after a toss during a game at The Barn in Fenton Tuesday night, June 20.

The first team to reach 21 wins. Some say it was invented in the 14th century in Germany. Workman, who’s been playing for nearly 15 years mainly at family gatherings and tailgates, said he likes that anyone can play.

“He looked into feather bowling, but decided on cornhole. At the restaurant, 15 teams compete in the league on Monday, and 19 on Tuesday. Teams can compete both nights. Warda said he’s thinking about adding a third day for the summer league. “People can compete in all of them,” he said.

Teams consist of two people, and they usually play three or four games a night. The Barn has three games going at once. They follow official cornhole guidelines set by the American Cornhole Organization and the boards are 27 feet apart. Refer to sidebar below for the rules.

The first team to reach 21 wins. The Barn has three games going at once. They follow official cornhole guidelines set by the American Cornhole Organization and the boards are 27 feet apart. Refer to sidebar below for the rules.

How to play CORNHOLE

The boards have a hole on one end of the top surface, and are tilted up during the game. The four players form two teams, and team members stand at opposite boards. Each player takes a turn tossing bean bags onto the opposite board. Landing a bean bag on the board is one point, and landing it in the hole is three. If the bean bag leans on the board or hits the ground and then lands on the board, that does not count as a point.

The first team to reach 21 wins. Some people, like at The Barn, play with the rule that points cancel out. This means that if someone scores three points in one round and the other team scores two, then the first team gets one point and the second team doesn’t get any. This makes the game longer. At The Barn, teams must win by two points.

Fifty-year-old resident of Fenton, who always pays his taxes please call city hall and ask to speak to the cemetery guy so we can try to solve your problem? This is the first I have heard of anyone having this problem.

Obama tweeted yesterday that the best thing he has done with his life is his two daughters. I would challenge him to say that is his only accomplishment in his life.

If you’ve been nearly hit by a car three times, don’t you think you should watch where you’re going? Don’t blame it on everybody else.

Over the past 30 days, President Trump has arrested over 30 MS-13 gang members in New York City and Long Island. This is part of his crack down on violent gangs and murderers.

The Democrats are out of ideas and have no proposals to help Americans resolve current issues of the day. They have quit governing and have stopped doing their jobs.

Ronald Reagan is revered as the man who’s hardly worked. The Democrats represent the man who’s hardly working. How true that is today.

It’s been weeks and weeks since I’ve seen some people get filled on a lot of the roads that go to the busi¬nesses in Fenton. Get some guys to fill these roads. It doesn’t seem like it will be that hard.

Democrats are always complaining about hate speech but I have yet to see any of them condemn behavior by their Hollywood late night talk show and personnel.

We live on a private drive, we have a sign posted. ‘Private drive, do not enter,’ we have a lot of little kids here. People continue to come down the road.

The curling was such a big hit. I was trying to figure out something we could do that was similar,” he said. “People talked about horseshoes but that made me a little nervous, throwing horseshoes when people are drinking.”

He looked into feather bowling, but decided on cornhole. At the restaurant, 15 teams compete in the league on Monday, and 19 on Tuesday. Teams can compete both nights. Warda said he’s thinking about adding a third day for the summer league. “People can compete in all of them,” he said.

Teams consist of two people, and they usually play three or four games a night. The Barn has three games going at once. They follow official cornhole guidelines set by the American Cornhole Organization and the boards are 27 feet apart. Refer to sidebar below for the rules.

If you don’t have leagues going on, people are just out here playing Friday and Saturday night,” he said. “I think it’s just one of those games that anyone can play. It doesn’t require a ton of skill.”

The following are stories you may have missed in the following editions, please call (810) 629-8282.

What you missed in the Midweek Times

Compiled by Vera Hogan

The following are stories you may have missed in the Wednesday, June 21, Midweek Times. To subscribe and receive both the Midweek and Weekend editions, please call (810) 629-8282.

Les Bland dies unexpectedly at the age of 70

Sudden illness claims the life of former Fenton councilman and long-time DPW director.

Judge says ‘Tobacco 23’ is unenforceable

On Monday, June 19, Genesee County Circuit Court Judge Judith Fullerton ruled against "Tobacco 23," an ordinance that would prohibit the sale of tobacco products to 18- to 20-year-olds in Fullerton ruled against “Tobacco 23,” an ordinance that would prohibit the sale of tobacco products to 18- to 20-year-olds in Genesee County.

Artists show off kaleidoscope of winged creatures

Twelve uniquely adorned butterfly sculptures unveiled in Rackham Park, behind the Fenton Community and Cultural Center on Friday, June 16.

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Adam Frye (left) of Swartz Creek, watches his bean bag go a little left after a toss during a game at The Barn in Fenton Tuesday night, June 20.

Tri-County Times
FOIA

Continued from Page 10A

There is no initial fee required to submit a FOIA request, but the FOIA does provide for the charging of certain types of fees in some instances. For a typical request, the agency can charge for the time it takes to search for records and for duplication of those records.

You may always include in your request a specific statement limiting the amount that you are willing to pay in fees. If an agency estimates that the total fees for processing your request will exceed $25, it will notify you in writing of the estimate and offer you an opportunity to narrow your request in order to reduce the fees. If you agree to pay fees for a records search, you may be required to pay such fees even if the search does not locate any releasable records.

Once the agency has processed your request it will send you a written response. This response will let you know whether records were located and will include all releasable documents. If any portions of the records are withheld, for instance because disclosure would invade an individual’s personal privacy, the agency will inform you of the specific FOIA exemption that is being applied.

Typically, agencies have five business days to respond to a request. They can take an extension if needed for various reasons.

FOIA Exemptions

Not all records are required to be released under the FOIA. Congress established nine exemptions from disclosure for certain categories of information to protect against certain harms, such as an invasion of personal privacy, or harm to law enforcement investigations.

The FOIA authorizes agencies to withhold information when they reasonably foresee that disclosure would harm an interest protected by one of these nine exemptions. For a list of those exemptions and exclusions, visit foia.gov.

Source: foia.gov
Buerkel resigns varsity baseball coach position

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

Steve Buerkel has had plenty of memories during his seven years as Linden’s varsity baseball coach. He’s led the team to four district titles, four Greater Flint Tournament titles, and a magical run to the Division 2 state championship game in those seven years. Of course, there are a ton of great memories those types of runs. However, it’s the memories he has missed that overwhelmed his thoughts. His daughter, Lauren, was called up to the varsity softball team and he missed her first varsity home run this spring. He has a son, Brendan, who had a strong season with Northwood University’s JV baseball team he never saw play last spring either.

Missing those memories are what matter now, so Buerkel recently resigned as Linden’s varsity baseball coach after seven years.

“I’m going to miss it. It’s hard because we have a good group of kids and a winning culture established here and things are going well,” Steve Buerkel said.

CONTINUED ONLINE AT TCTIMES.COM

Holly tennis takes top spot in elite eight spring poll

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

The spring sports season was one to remember. There were eight league championship teams. We also had a team post perfection en route to a regional championship, had a team advance to a state semifinal game and had two state championship teams. We also had a team post from placing higher in our survey.

However, finishing won the first meet with a team score of 810-629-0601

The Blue Devils were unable to win the Genesee Area Conference this season, but that’s only because the team that finished fourth in Division 2, Corunna, was one of their opponents. So placing second with 122 points at the GAC meet was impressive. The squad took fourth at the Metro meet and then ended the season by taking 16th at state, capped by the 3,200 meter relay team capturing a state championship.

No. 6 – Lake Fenton softball: This is where the selecting gets tough as a lot of teams could fit the No. 6 to No. 4 spots. Lake Fenton softball posted an undefeated GAC Red Division season and finished 23-12 with a fairly young squad. Those are impressive numbers. However, the Blue Devils didn’t win a district game, keeping them at No. 6.

No. 5 – Fenton baseball: The Tigers had an outstanding regular season, eventually earning a spot in the state polls. The Metro League didn’t want to bother with the Tigers, as they finished 13-1 in league play and captured the Metro title in the process. They also finished with a pretty impressive 27-7 record. Unfortunately, the Tigers are stuck in a mighty tough district. They See ELITE EIGHT on 23A

THOUGHTS ON THE U.S. OPEN TO THE WEDNESDAY RACES AT THE PARK

Whew, the spring sports season is finally over.

It was a super successful one for many area squads, keeping me mighty busy.

However, that also means the season has kept me from expressing my opinion on some subjects, so now that it has slowed down, I figured I’d make a few points.

U.S. Open scores

Let’s look at some numbers at the U.S. Open held recently at Erin Hills. The 36-hole cut was at one-over-par. Seven players finished double-digits under-par and Brooks Koepka finished at 16-under-par, tying Rory McIlroy (2011 at Congressional Country Club) for the lowest winning score in US Open tournament history.

Huh? As recent as 2013, a score of one-over-par won the US Open, and now it’s the cut line? I thought the Buick Open at Warwick Hills ended in 2009. Apparently the USGA has found a way to stroke the professional golfers’ egos for low scores by destroying one of my favorite golf tournaments of the year.

Maybe rain helped scores, but maybe the bigger culprit was fairways large enough to land two commercial airliners had something to do with it.

See DABBLINGS on 23A

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Linden JV softball team ends spring season perfect

By David Troppens

do@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

When the 2017 JV softball season began, Linden JV coach Sean Darling knew he had a talented team.

So he figured, what the heck, let’s create the ultimate goal. Let’s go for the perfect undefeated season.

The JV Eagles amazingly accomplished that goal.

The Linden JV team finished the season with a 31-0 mark this spring.

“When (Linden varsity softball coach) Gordon (Jamison) and I watched them as eighth-graders we knew this was a talented group,” Darling said. “We talked about this as a goal on the JV when we broke up into teams because we wanted the expectations to be high. We play some big schools because we want to up the competition and make sure they get challenged because they are going to be good. We went into the season dreaming about going undefeated, but I never thought it would be this good.

All it takes is just one bad day from a pitcher and all of a sudden you have a loss.”

The Eagles went undefeated, but it didn’t come easy. As Kearsley gave Linden a big battle in their final game of the regular-season, with Linden winning a 5-4 contest.

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ELITE EIGHT Continued from Page 22A

were to beat Lakeland 6-2 in the semifinals but lost a tough 4-1 verdict to Hartland.

No. 4 – Fenton girls track:

It was another outstanding season for the Tigers, as they dominated Metro foes all season long, going 7-0 in the dual season. The Tigers also won the league meet with 180 points and ended up in a solid tie for third at the regional meet. Fenton had a nice contingency going to the state meet, but didn’t score any team points. That’s what kept them from the top three spots.

No. 3 – Fenton boys track:

The Tigers had the type of season that probably could’ve occasionally contended for No. 1 in other seasons, but they finish a very solid No. 3 with a great resume. Like the Fenton girls, the Tigers won all seven of their Metro duals, and won the Metro League meet handily with 197.83 team points. They followed that up with a second-place finish at regions and then capped the season by taking seventh at the state meet. Of course, the top performance at the state meet was provided by Dominic Dimambro who won the 3,200-meter run championship, keeping the event state title at Fenton for a second straight year.

Jacob Lee

won it two years ago.

No. 1 – Holly girls tennis:

It looked like the Bronchos were going to be No. 1 last year, but then the Linden baseball squad snuck to a state title game and took it away from them. But this year it wasn’t going to happen again. Of course the Bronchos went undefeated in Metro dual action and took first at the league meet, earning the title. Of course, the Bronchos won a regional title. But what was amazing about both beyond the titles was how they won them. Holly won all eight flight championships at

DABBINGS Continued from Page 22A

Augh, I did it again! My quick jeans story

About six months ago I purchased a new pair of jeans. About a week ago, I finally wore them for the first time. I wore them to Lake Fenton High School to meet the school’s new varsity boys basketball coach Brian McInerney (pronounce his last name as though you were saying the words Mack and Ernie) then wore them at our office. After being at work for about an hour, one of my co-workers mentioned the company size sticker on the pant leg. Augh! I think I’ve forgotten to take those stickers off my pants legs probably 10 times and wore the pants with the sticker in full public view. Is that a record?

Wednesday Night Races at the Park

Anyone who knows my wife, Anna, knows she’s a pretty dedicated runner. As each summer pushes forward she pretty much pesters me to embrace her sport and run with her wherever and whenever possible. There’s one issue with that — I hate running, I mean, I think running can be fun if it is a 50-yard dash to see who is the first one to the car, but beyond distances like that, I’d rather walk.

However, there is one time of year when I give in and run (or more run and then walk, run a little less and then walk a little more) with Anna — that’s during Wednesday nights at Linden County Park during the summer when the Wednesday Night Races in the Park is being held.

The races are held starting at 6:30 p.m. for the 1/2 mile race (mostly children), 6:45 p.m. for the mile race (mostly children again) and at 7 p.m. for the two-mile and three-mile races. The cost is only $2 a person and $5 for a family, and the event is held on the final two Wednesdays of June and on July 12 and 19.

What I like about the event beyond most running events is the fact that we can run our own pace and own distances and remain within the same area to cheer each other on a bit. That’s because the two-mile and three-mile race is based around a one-mile loop. I always do the two-mile run and then catch Anna in different places during her third lap. Also, I enjoy the fact that it’s about as low pressure as it gets. If someone runs 15-minute miles they’ll be cheered on as they finish versus being just waited for impatiently.

Finally, it’s fun to see all the families with their kids show up each year. So many are the same kids from past seasons return and it’s fun watching them grow up.

So if you run six-minute miles, 12-minute miles or have never run in a race ever at all but want to see it a whirl, I suggest coming out to one of these Wednesday events. It may help you establish a positive trend in your life.
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-Richard B.  6/19/17

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