

The Skinner situation

■ What led Linden to fire a successful wrestling coach

By Hannah Ball
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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

TRI-COUNTY TIMES
HANNAH BALL
Linden teacher Todd Skinner speaks to the Linden Board of Education Wednesday, June 21, publicly appealing the decision to fire him as varsity wrestling coach.





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*Farewell to
A FRIEND
— Les Bland —*

TRI-COUNTY TIMES | HANNAH BALL
A detail of approximately three dozen Department of Public Works vehicles escort Les Bland's hearse through Fenton Friday, June 23, honking their horns along the way. The funeral procession began at Sharp Funeral Homes on Silver Lake Road, making its way past Fenton City Hall on S. LeRoy, and ending at The Freedom Center on W. Shiawassee. Bland died June 18 from an unexpected, sudden illness. He served as Fenton's DPW director for more than 41 years and had served on the Fenton City Council.



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.
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Old law requires animal control to 'destroy' animals
No enforceable state law on holding strays; GCAC ignores part of county ordinance
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'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.
Page 4B

“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.”




“I am a volunteer at Genesee County Animal Shelter. Everyone I've met loves animals. Staff and volunteers alike work very hard with what is available to make these animals' lives better until a home or rescue can be found. Criticism does not help, volunteering does. Be 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.”



“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.”



 **COMMENT OF THE WEEK**
“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.”



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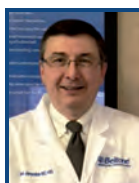
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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO

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.

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.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO

This photo is from Frankie Messina's Facebook page.

The crash remains under investigation. F/Lt Michael Shaw of the Michigan State Police added that they are awaiting autopsy results.

Marty Borski, Messina's former varsity football coach said, "Frankie was such a dynamic personality. He brought life and energy to our room. The wins and losses, I don't remember them all, but his energy, his laugh and his determination is what I will carry with me. My heart breaks for his family."

Sharp Funeral Homes is handling funeral arrangements.

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Times

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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.

Closet 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 system, 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 look. Burglars spend 15 minutes or less in each house. More than half that time was spent in the bedroom, checking the usual hiding places — the

See **BURGLAR** on 8A



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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.

Knock, knock, who's there?

■ New home security systems answer front door with smartphone

By Sally Rummel

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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 state. 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

See **SECURITY** on 8A



SUMMER
CONSTRUCTION UPDATE:

Work on Holly Road ramps begin

■ Could affect I-75 commute

Work to reconstruct the northbound I-75 ramps at Holly Road began on Monday, June 19.

The Michigan Department of Transportation is adding a second northbound ramp to the tune of \$3 million.

The reconstruction project is expected to last until October. Motorists can count on one lane of I-75 to be closed during construction.

After the Fourth of July holiday, the northbound ramp to Holly Road will be closed and people will be re-routed to exit at Dixie Highway.

According to MDOT, the number of accidents should reduce because once the new ramp is built, drivers will no longer have to make a left turn onto Holly Road.



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HOURS:

Mon-Thurs: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
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Website tctimes.com



The Tri-County Times is published semi-weekly by Rockman Communications, 256 N. Fenway Drive, Fenton, Michigan 48430. We serve the communities of: Fenton, Linden, Lake Fenton, Holly, Hartland, Byron, Gaines, Davisburg, Swartz Creek and Grand Blanc and the townships of: Fenton, Holly, Rose, Tyrone and Argentine. We reserve the right to accept or refuse any content and/or advertising submissions.

Come *Heller* high water

andrewheller@tctimes.com

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



Andrew Heller
FEATURED COLUMNIST

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, dadgumit, 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 handing 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.

And 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 as 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 him 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

Opinions offered in Come Heller High Water are the author's alone and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Tri-County Times or its staff. Email the Andrew at andrewheller@tctimes.com.

Hotlines

Submit at: tctimes.com, call 810-629-9221
or text to 810-771-8398

All submissions, if approved for publication, must be 50 words or less and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Tri-County Times. We reserve the right to edit for clarity, length and liability.

■■■■ **HERE'S A THOUGHT:** how short would the Hot lines section 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 look what we got. I'll take true history over your made-up one anytime.

■■■■ **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.' The reporter 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** rhubarb 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. Nuss and the other gentleman who gave speeches. A high school graduation 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. Nuss.

■■■■ **TALKED TO A** gentlemen last night about the shooting of Republicans. The liberal was just fine. Of course, he had a 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 W. 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

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What is your favorite summer activity?

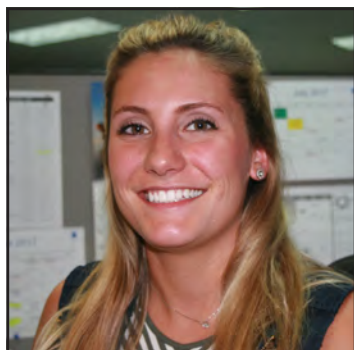
Compiled by Vera Hogan, web content editor

streettalk



"Camping, specifically at North Higgins Lake. It's relaxing and I love being outdoors and spending time on the water."

Ryann McKinney
Grand Blanc



"Playing golf. I like being outside and being social. It's also great exercise."

Jillian Banish
Linden



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

Terese Allen
Goodrich



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

Annette Rutkowski
Rose Township



"I like swimming at the YMCA and jump-roping."

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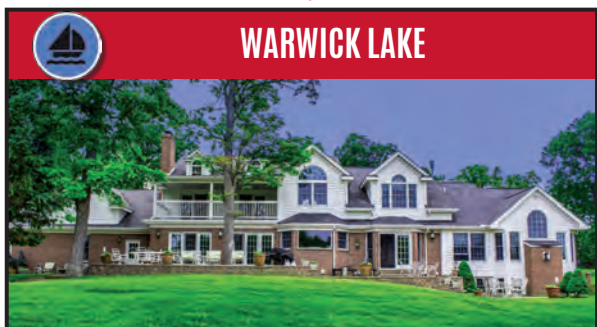
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ASK THE MECHANIC

Chris Wilkinson,
Certified Mechanic

Q: I have a '97 Chevrolet Blazer. When I hit the brakes while driving the first few times they work fine, but then they go all the way to the floor and make a beep noise. It doesn't need brakes though. What could this be? - Kim

A: Kim, This sounds like you may have a bad master cylinder or anti lock brake problem. First make sure that your brake fluid is full then test the master cylinder with the vehicle turned off. Pump the pedal until it is high and firm. Hold steady pressure on the pedal to see if it fades slowly to the floor. If it does and you are not losing brake fluid, I suspect the master cylinder. If not, you may want to have it diagnosed at a repair facility. Other problems could be binding caliper pins, brake pads and/or mis-adjusted rear brake shoes.

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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
hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Flint 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 224 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

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

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 Commissioners 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 "destroyed."

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 animals 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.

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES FILE PHOTO

The Genesee County Animal Control shelter should keep dogs up to seven days without a tag, according to its own bylaws.

What to do with lost or found animals

■ Check online at Tri-County Lost and Found

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Dogs get loose. That is a fact of having a canine companion, no matter 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 behavior, 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 detain 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 identification or ownership, you can take the dog to Adopt-A-Pet in Fenton (810) 629-0723 and they will scan the dog to see 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 recommended 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. If you don't use Facebook, ask someone who does. Include information such as where the animal was found, what they look like, if they're friendly, and include a photo. Make sure to post your contact information as well so the owner can call you.

SUMMARY

■ In the event that you find a stray animal or a pet runs away, contact these places for help.

You should also send this information to Facebook pages like Tri-County Times Lost and Found, For the Love of Louie "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

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Details emerge on airport stabbing

■ FBI alleges terrorism,
Canadian suspect in custody

By Sharon Stone

ssstone@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 fully uniformed police officer (Neville) at a publicly accessible area of the airport, yelled "Allahu 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



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

Lt. Jeff Neville is recovering from stab wounds to his neck. He was the victim in an alleged terrorist attack at Bishop International Airport in Flint Township on Wednesday, according to the FBI.

first level of the airport carrying a red duffel 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 9:38:48 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 the past 10 years and has worked as a truck driver as most recently as two weeks ago. He claimed that he had no mental, health, drug or alcohol problems.

A detention hearing is scheduled for 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 28 at United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan courthouse.



Amor M. Ftouhi

LOST OR FOUND

Continued from Page 6A

If your dog gets out...

Your 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 Louie "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 they 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.

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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

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.

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.

Source: closetfactoryco.wordpress.com

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THE-COUNTY
Times

"Stay Connected To Your Community"

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.

Engelter said it was a fairly lengthy investigation that resulted in terminating Skinner from his coaching position, and an unpaid suspension from his teaching job.

Durkac presented an evaluation of Skinner, and focused on seven violations of Linden's guidelines.

"Overall, coach Skinner has conducted himself below what we expected of a seasoned coach... There are many moral and integrity issues outlining this evaluation. The evaluation warrants an unacceptable rating and that coach Skinner 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 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.

Skinner's wife, Dawn, said the letter was written after she attended a wrestling meet and received verbal hatred from Linden parents. Skinner wrote the letter, with input from a few parents, and sent it to Durkac to get his opinion.

3. No response for questions

Durkac sent Skinner 14 questions about self-improvement after the letter situation, but 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, they did anyway because Skinner said it was OK, Durkac said. Skinner did not report that a student who contracted herpes was not cleared by a doctor to wrestle. The student was going to compete in regionals, but after a call from Ciesielski, Skinner did not allow him to compete.

Durkac said there's a history of Skinner telling athletes not to inform training staff of their injuries. Engelter said the athletic trainer indicted that she had concerns over the years and felt like Skinner wasn't concerned with the welfare and safety of the students. She gave Engelter multiple examples.

Skinner denied this and said there are always going to be injuries in wrestling. He said students were showing up late

to practice because they were seeing the trainer. Skinner said he had them check in first and then see the trainer.

5. Withholding awards, letters, and accolades from students who didn't attend practice until all students were eliminated from the state competition

Durkac said Skinner forced students to practice even when some had failing grades, skin issues, and injuries just because there were a few students still competing.

In rebuttal, Skinner said that the season doesn't end until all students have been eliminated from states. If no one attended practice, those students wouldn't have anyone to wrestle.

6. Illegal gambling/selling squares

Skinner pressured students to sell squares as a fundraiser for the team, Durkac said. He did not receive approval from the school for the illegal operation, nor did he have a license for it. He kept the proceeds in a private account. The Michigan Gaming Commission is still investigating.

Skinner said he's been running this fundraiser for three years, and someone in an administrative position advised him to not run it as a Linden thing. He said he did not know it was illegal. He said he used the proceeds to lower costs for banquet costs and the rest was used for non-school related things, like Team Michigan Blue. Parents handled everything, he said, not the students. Skinner said if students didn't want to participate, he wouldn't pressure them to.

7. Illegal door-to-door fundraising

Boys on the wrestling team sold squares door to door, which is a direct violation of school policy. One incident resulted in the police being called, Durkac said.

Skinner said he told the team to only sell to family and friends, but they don't always listen.

INSUBORDINATION

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

Engelter 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.

Engelter 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.

Skinner said with the first incident, a student wouldn't come out 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.

Skinner 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 making 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.

“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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Eagle scout honors



Michael Visniski, of Troop 219, has achieved the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest in Boy Scouts. Over the past five years, Michael has performed many hours of community service and learned traditional outdoor skills while working toward his Eagle rank. Last fall, Visniski organized and carried out a service project to build a 150-yard handicap trail at the Ligon Outdoor Center, which serves the Genesee and Lapeer schools and communities. Michael will formally receive the award at a Court of Honor ceremony at the First Presbyterian Church of Fenton on July 6.

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, 28, 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 him from his 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 our newspaper or website until law enforcement and the justice system have a chance to do their work.



Drew Shapiro

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.

FOIA Exemptions
Page 21A

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 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.

See FOIA on 21A

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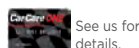
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Police & Fire report

DODGE CHARGED KEYED IN HOLLY

On June 12, at approximately 6:20 p.m., an 18-year-old Holly resident stopped by the Holly police station to report a malicious destruction of property. She said she was not sure when it happened, but someone keyed deep scratches into the paint on her black Dodge Charger. She said it either happened at her home in the 4000 block of Grange Hall Road or while she was at business on North Holly Road. The woman said she did see an old girlfriend at the business, however, she did not see her do any damage to her car.

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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 anyone with any information on the whereabouts of McCollum to contact them at (270) 247-4501 and speak with Det. Steve Halsell or Capt. Jeremy Prince.

News briefs

Genesee District Library to host 'We are the Northern Lights' in concert
Genesee District Library will present "We Are The Northern Lights" at the Grand Blanc-McFarlen Library on June 27 at 6 p.m. This New York indie folk-pop duo features Hadar Orshalimy and Sheldon Low, whose sound is defined by tight harmonies, melodic hooks and personal lyrics, and draws comparisons to The Lumineers and The Civil Wars. "We are really excited to host 'We Are The Northern Lights,'" said Eileen Button, Community Relations assistant for the Genesee District Library. "It won't be long and we'll be saying we 'knew them when.'"

'Summer Blast' keeps students in the garden

■ Kids as young as 3 learn 'from seed to feed' cycle

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

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.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO

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

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
See GARDEN on 16A

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4561 KODIAK DR, TRAVERSE CITY

BLACK BEAR FARMS \$329,999
2556 SF, 4 BDR & 2.5 BA. Gorgeous kitchen features tile back splash, island, snack bar, granite counters and more. Open floor plan with fireplace and cathedral ceilings in great room. Beautiful sunroom for enjoying this gorgeous setting. Full finished walkout basement and 2 car attached garage. Condo living at it's best.JUST LISTED!!!
OPEN SUNDAY 1-3

805 OAK PARK DR, FENTON

FENTON SCHOOLS \$99,999
696 SF, 2 BDR & 1 BA. This home is cute as can be, updated kitchen with stainless steel appliances and living room has great natural light. Remodeled bathroom, freshly painted, new carpet throughout, fenced yard with lots of privacy and great location.OPEN SUNDAY 1-3
PRICE REDUCED

10460 BEERS RD, SWARTZ CREEK

ACREAGE \$199,999
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. Open floor plan with family room, featuring fireplace & door wall leading to spacious backyard.

11482 BAY OF FIRTH BLVD, FENTON

MARL LAKE \$434,999
108' of frontage on private All Sports Marl Lake. 3081 SF, 3 BDR & 3.5 BA plus a bonus room that could be a 4th BDR. Full finished walkout basement. 2 car attached garage, plus an additional 2+ car garage. Over 1.5 acres of waterfront property!JUST LISTED!!!
OPEN SUNDAY 1-3

10462 LAKE SHORE DR, FENTON

FENTON SCHOOLS \$265,000
Adorable home with beautiful views at every turn, 2716 SF, 2 BDR & 2BA. Fantastic kitchen and dining area with door leading to the large deck with breathtaking view of Runyan Lake. Living room overlooks the water. Loft area, office, finished walk out basement with fireplace and so much more.

OPEN SUNDAY 1-3



9967 WHITE PINE CT, CLARKSTON

GREEN TREE ESTATES \$579,000
Almost 7000 SF, 4 BDR & 4.5 BA. Gourmet kitchen w/ new appliances, granite counters and amazing attention to detail. Spectacular master suite offers gorgeous views, fantastic closet w/ private laundry, walk in shower, large tub & more. Indoor pool & hot tub located off full, finished, walk out basement.

12402 WOODHULL LANDING, FENTON

LAKE FENTON \$775,000
126' of frontage on All Sports Lake Fenton. 3893 SF, 4 BDR & 3.5 BA. Open floor plan, soaring ceilings and great natural light. 3 car attached garage, large deck and more. This home has it all - fantastic location, large flat yard and beautiful water frontage.

15225 LONGFELLOW DR, BYRON

MYERS LAKE \$289,900
54' frontage on All Sports Myers Lake. 2370 SF, 4 BDR & 2.5 BA. Open floor plan, great natural light, exposed beams, fireplace and more. Formal dining room, office, lots of storage space, large multi level decking and 40x22 pole barn and much more.JUST LISTED!!!
OPEN SUNDAY 1-3

7040 PARTRIDGE DR, FLUSHING

FLUSHING SCHOOLS \$99,999
1056 SF, 3 BDR & 1.5 BA. Spacious kitchen with dining area, lots of cabinet and counter space. Living room with fireplace and great natural light. Full basement, ready to be finished and more. 2 car attached garage, nice large yard, patio, and lots of privacy.OPEN SUNDAY 1-3
PRICE REDUCED

153 E AUBURN TRL, BRIGHTON

BRIGHTON SCHOOLS \$374,999
2332 SF, 4 BDR & 2.5 BA. Gorgeous kitchen features pantry, tile back splash, double oven, snack bar, lots of cabinet and counter space. Coved doorways, cathedral ceilings and hardwood floors. Walkout basement ready to be finished, 3 car attached garage, large deck and covered patio.

201 HOWARD ST, FENTON

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

43247 ASHBURY DR, NOVI

RIVERBRIDGE \$449,999
4259 SF of finished living space, 4 BDR & 4.5 BA. Kitchen features granite counter tops, tile back splash, pantry, snack bar & breakfast nook. Great room offers fireplace, formal dining room, living room, office & first floor laundry. Full finished basement w/ full bath, wet bar, family room & lots of storage.Thank you
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2393 DAVIS RD, FENTON

LAKE FENTON \$729,000
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.

10079 GOLFSIDE, GRAND BLANC

WOODFIELD \$439,999
5407 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.

2718 PEPPER CT, HARTLAND

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.

9693 BURNING TREE DR, GRAND BLANC

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 with fireplace, exposed beams & great natural light. Four season room, first floor laundry, full finished basement and views of the golf course.

3654 WOODLAND DR, METAMORA

LAKE LAPEER \$589,999
91' frontage on Lake Lapeer, 4899 SF, 5 BDR & 4 BA. Kitchen features hardwood floors and large island, snack bar and pantry. Living room with cathedral ceilings, floor to ceiling stone fireplace, beautiful view of the lake. Full finished basement, 4 car garage, large deck and patio.

9720 BURNING TREE DR, GRAND BLANC

WARWICK HILLS \$445,000
4090 SF, 4 BDR & 3.5 BA all on the 5th Tee of Warwick Hills Golf Course. Stunning gourmet kitchen with high end finishes, hardwood floors, granite counters, lots of cabinet space and fireplace. Open floor plan, grand entry, natural light, and much more.Buying or Selling?
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16182 MEREDITH CT, LINDEN

Get To Know
The JOHN WENTWORTH
GROUPStacey Peters
Office ManagerFavorite Song: **Anything by Gwen Stefani**
Favorite Restaurant: **Fiesta Cantina**
Favorite Sports Team: **Watching my daughter dance is the only sport I know**
Favorite Thing About Michigan: **There are so many beautiful places to visit**
Fun Fact: **Fractured my ankle during an open house - when I was 4 months pregnant!**THIS WEEK'S ANSWER:
How many dances was Stacey's daughter in at her recital this year?

8

SEE MORE stunning PHOTOS of these properties AT: www.JohnWentworthGroup.com

our town

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 drum tech 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 and 3Thirteen Group, I'm basically working seven days a week all day every day, but that's the way I like it.



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

"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."

Nick Starr

TRI-COUNTY TIMES
SUBMITTED PHOTO

Nick Starr of Fenton Township is a Machine Shop employee, drummer and avid reader.

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 tour-

ing was drum teching for bands.

What is 'drum teching'?

Basically, the role of a drum tech on road crew, is anything and everything drum-related; cleaning, maintenance, set-up, and anything the drummer needs to make their lives as easy as humanly possible.

Who have you worked for?

Taproot, In This Moment, We Came as Romans, Memphis May Fire, Whoa Is Me, Alesana, Emmure, Monstro.

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 Motörhead. 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.

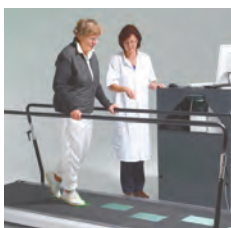
What's one thing you feel like you still need to accomplish or do?

Within the next five years, my plan is to solely be managing musical acts. 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.

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HOT LINE CONTINUED

IT WASN'T TOO long ago that restaurants and bars had banned smoking, owners were worried but we increased the number of times we ate at restaurants. If there's a dog shedding hair in a restaurant, I will leave without paying for that meal.

I'D REALLY LIKE to know why the north end of Fenton gets shafted while the downtown gets all this beautification. There's no sidewalks on Trealout Drive. There's a lot of elderly people and it looks like the north end of Flint on North LeRoy.

HOW WILL PASSING a secret health care bill bring us together by forcing 15 million people to state-run tax-supported emergency rooms so the top 1 percent can enjoy another tax cut?

SENATOR STEVE SCALISE is receiving excellent government paid healthcare, yet he denies it for others. What a hypocrite.

OBAMACARE IS NOT dying. It is dead. This Democratic debacle was built on lies and has harmed patients, doctors, hospitals and the insurance companies.

News briefs

Pet Adoption Event on July 1

The Fenton Tractor Supply Company (TSC) store is inviting customers to attend a Pet Adoption Event on **July 1, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** "Tractor Supply is an active advocate and supporter of pet rescue and adoption," said Bonnie Martin, manager of the Fenton store. "Through this and other adoption events, our goal at the Fenton store is to continue to increase total pet adoptions locally and help put great animals in great homes." The pet adoption event, in partnership with Heaven's Half Acre Rescue & Sanctuary, is open to the public — and all leashed, friendly pets — and will take place at Tractor Supply at 3265 Owen Rd. For more information, contact the Fenton store at (810) 629-9972.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO
The Linden community will be welcoming a dance troupe from the Czech Republic in late August.

Czech Republic dance troupe will visit Linden Aug. 22-25

■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.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO
The dance troupe's visit is part of the Blue Lake's International Exchange Program and being arranged by Danielle Sorum, owner of Linden Dance Academy.

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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.

"It is a 'full circle' learning experience. I already have parents and teachers who are interested in helping can, bake and freeze our products. Any money earned at our market day will go toward improving our garden for next year," she said.

“The best way for children to see those concepts is through practical hands-on experiences.”

Kathy Marion

Holly kindergarten teacher

View stories at
tctimes.com

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 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 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 55 to 52 in the House

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

Senate Bill 401: Overhaul school employee retirement system

The Senate vote on the identical pension reform provisions as in the House Bill 4647 described above.

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 401: 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 in unfunded liabilities, even though their employees do not get benefits from the system. The amendment was supported by all Democrats and by Republicans Emmons, 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 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 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 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 running in driveway

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 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 4407: 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 (R-Dist. 51) ☒ YES
Rep. Hank Vaupel (R-Dist. 47) ☒ YES

House Bill 4403: Include opioid addiction treatment in Medicaid benefits

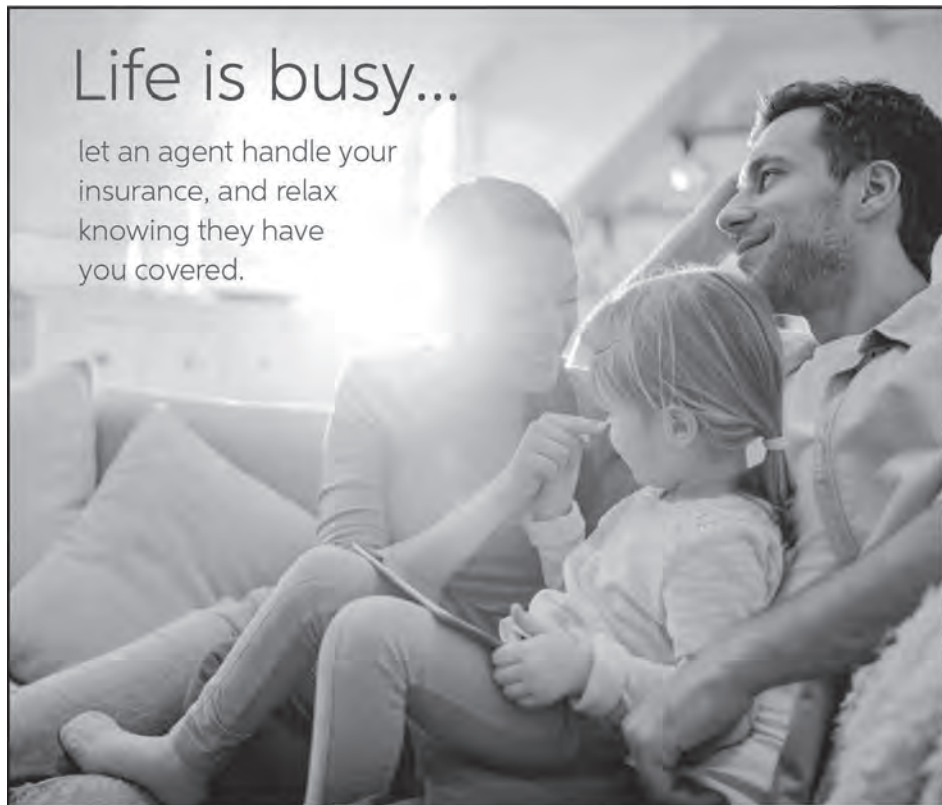
To include acute treatment services and clinical stabilization services for opioid addiction among the medical services the state has assumed a duty to provide through its social welfare system, including Medicaid.

Passed 105 to 2 in the House

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

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HOT LINE CONTINUED

I JUST WITNESSED a true act of kindness. A young lady in Linden sat with an injured bald eagle for a couple hours. She was waiting for a wildlife rehab sanctuary to pick it up. She and her neighbor ended up taking it home because the sanctuary might not be able to retrieve it until the following morning.

A WRITER FRIEND of mine said that the three major themes in American history are willful ignorance, meanness and silliness.

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.

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.

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.

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'I never doubted I could do it'

■ Fenton woman runs her first 50-mile ultra marathon on June 10 in Traverse City

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

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, Colleen Zathay 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,



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO

Donna Czarniak wrote the words, "I can" and "She shall run and not grow weary!" on her arms before her 50-mile ultra marathon.

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.

“What fuels my passion for running is to being inspired by others and then to inspire people.”

Donna Czarniak
50-mile ultra marathon runner



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO

Czarniak pushes through the challenges of high winds, extreme heat and hilly terrain in The Lighthouse 50 on a route that took runners along Lake Michigan through Traverse City.

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MUST present coupon for specials.
Must make tee time. Valid July 1-4, 2017 only.

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MUST present coupon for specials.
Must make tee time. Valid July 3-4, 2017 only.

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Social News

ANNIVERSARY



Hubers 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 after the wedding. Don and Kathy have 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 maker for General Motors for 43 years. Kathleen was a Boyne Falls graduate. She earned a degree in business from Baker College and became a stay-at-home mother. The couple enjoyed spending time boating and having picnics on Lake Fenton with their sons. Don and Kathy plan to celebrate their anniversary with family.

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. Sgt. Dave Reinfelder 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.

TEEN IN POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA

While investigating a road rage incident at Bush Park on June 16, Fenton police approached three males carrying backpacks to see if they had a handgun in their backpacks. The males consented to a search of their backpacks. During the search, police found 2.9 grams of marijuana belonging to an 18-year-old Fenton resident. He was arrested and issued a court appearance ticket for possession of marijuana.

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.

BURNING STICKS IN CITY PARK GRILL AFTER HOURS

At 1:30 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 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.

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Police&Fire

report

CARS RANSACKED, CASH STOLEN IN HOLLY

On June 12, a Holly police officer responded to a home in the 3400 block of Quick Road for a report of a larceny from automobile. The caller told the officer that five vehicles were parked in her driveway during the overnight hours and sometime between 2:30 and 6:30 a.m., someone had gone through the vehicles. The only thing that appeared to be missing was \$10 in change and a phone charger. The gloveboxes and center councils had been emptied and items thrown throughout the vehicles. The caller's son said he was awoken around 4 a.m. from a noise outside but he did not look outside. The complainant said that she did not hear or see anything out of the ordinary.

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 be really grateful for one of the most underappreciated amenities to have ever been invented.

Commonly known as porta potties, you'll likely find these colorful poly-urethane 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.

Portapotties 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



TRI-COUNTY TIMES I SUBMITTED PHOTO
This Swanky Trailer houses a portable toilet that's suitable for weddings or other upscale outdoor events.



The biggest collection of porta potties ever gathered was 5,000 units, for the inauguration of President Barack Obama in 2009.

I'll be working seven days a week from now until late October, early November.

Gretchen Hole
Owner of Poopy's Potties

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 to 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**

Source: Listverse.com

HOT LINE CONTINUED

I AM ABSOLUTELY disgusted with the Republicans behavior in regards to the health care bill. No one else has seen the bill. There hasn't been one hearing, not any input from Democrats. This is not bipartisan.

HERE IS THE question I have. What American would ever 'visit' a (blank)-hole like North Korea.

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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

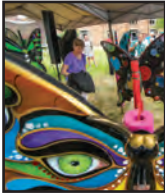
Sudden illness claims the life of former Fenton councilman and long-time DPW director.

Judge says 'Tobacco 21' is unenforceable

On Monday, June 19, Genesee County Circuit Court Judge Judith Fullerton ruled against "Tobacco 21," 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.



The competition of cornhole — a popular pastime

■ Summer league at The Barn starts in July

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Throwing a 1-pound bag of corn onto a board, and hopefully into a hole, as a fun pastime isn't as weird as it sounds.

Cornhole is a bean-bag toss game consisting of eight bags of corn, four players, and two boards set a certain distance apart. It's played at family events such as open houses, outdoor holiday events or relaxing evenings. Cornhole is becoming more and more popular locally, especially with leagues at The Barn in Fenton.

Fenton resident Aaron Workman plays at The Barn on Mondays and Tuesdays with his best friend from middle school Eric Austin. Their team name is "You've Been Corn-holed."

"It's great to get out, enjoy the summer weather, meet new people. The Barn atmosphere allows a great experience. Great food with an even better staff," he said.

There's debate over where cornhole was invented. According to cornholeantics.com, Cincinnati, Ohio lays claim to where the game originated. Kentucky has also made those same claims, however, and some say it was invented in 14th century Germany.

Workman, who's been playing for nearly 15 years mainly at family gatherings and tailgates, said he likes that anyone can play.

"Any sex. Any age. It's a game for everyone and anyone. The social aspect.



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.

It's a game where you can have fun but be competitive at the same time," he said.

They play three to four games per league night at The Barn, depending on time. Workman enjoys having a league so close to home, and takes advantage of "Taco Tuesdays" at The Barn.

Jason Warda, owner of The Barn, said the first cornhole league started April 22 and finished this week. The summer leagues start July 10.

"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.

"When we 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."

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.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

■■■■ I WAS ORIGINALLY worried we were going to be attacked by religious fanatics. Now it turns out we're more likely to be shot at by liberals.

■■■■ TO QUOTE RONALD Reagan, he said, 'The Republicans stand for the hard working man. 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 potholes get filled on a lot of the roads that go to the businesses in Fenton. Get some guys to fill these holes. 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.

■■■■ WOULD THE 50-year resident of Fenton who always paid 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 with this problem.

■■■■ OBAMA TWEETED YESTERDAY that the best thing he has done with his life is have his two daughters. I would challenge him to say that is his only accomplishment in 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 murders.

■■■■ 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 having won two elections by land-slides. He helped save the U.S. from Democrat policies and we are hoping that Trump can do the same.

CATCH OF THE WEEK



Stella Larson caught this largemouth bass off her great grandma's dock on Lobdell Lake.

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CATCH OF THE WEEK



Dustin Grimshaw caught this big pike Saturday evening, May 27 on Runyan Lake while fishing from a pontoon. It was 13.4 pounds and 41 inches long. It was caught and released.

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 requester 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 letter 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

LOOKING BACK

at this week in

NATIONAL HISTORY

COMPILED BY VERA HOGAN

JUNE 25

1950: Armed forces from Communist North Korea smash into South Korea, setting off the Korean War. The United States, acting under the auspices of the United Nations, quickly sprang to the defense of South Korea and fought a bloody and frustrating war for the next three years.

JUNE 26

1959: In a ceremony presided over by U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower and Queen Elizabeth II, the St. Lawrence Seaway is officially opened, creating a navigational channel from the Atlantic Ocean to all the Great Lakes. The seaway, made up of a system of canals, locks, and dredged waterways, extends a distance of nearly 2,500 miles, from the Atlantic Ocean through the Gulf of St. Lawrence to Duluth, Minnesota, on Lake Superior.

JUNE 27

1985: After 59 years, the iconic Route 66 enters the realm of history on this day in 1985, when the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials decertifies the road and votes to remove all its highway signs. Measuring some 2,200 miles in its heyday, Route 66 stretched from Chicago, Illinois to Santa Monica, California, passing through eight states.

JUNE 28

1953: Workers at a Chevrolet plant in Flint assemble the first Corvette, a two-seater sports car that would become an American icon. The first completed production car rolled off the assembly line two days later, one of just 300 Corvettes made that year.

JUNE 29

1972: In *Furman v. Georgia*, the U.S. Supreme Court rules by a vote of 5-4 that capital punishment, as it is currently employed on the state and federal level, is unconstitutional. The majority held that, in violation of the Eighth Amendment to the Constitution, the death penalty qualified as "cruel and unusual punishment," primarily because states employed execution in "arbitrary and capricious ways," especially in regard to race.

JUNE 30

1981: Glen Godwin, a young business owner, is convicted of murder in Riverside County, California, and sentenced to 26 years to life in prison. According to his roommate's testimony, Godwin stomped on, choked, and then stabbed Kim LeValley, an acquaintance and local drug dealer, 28 times before using homemade explosives to blow up his body in the desert near Palm Springs. Godwin, who had no previous record, eventually found his way onto the FBI's Ten Most Wanted List.

JULY 1

1997: At midnight, Hong Kong reverts back to Chinese rule in a ceremony attended by British Prime Minister Tony Blair, Prince Charles of Wales, Chinese President Jiang Zemin, and U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. A few thousand Hong Kong citizens protested the turnover, which was otherwise celebratory and peaceful.

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPENS
Linden varsity baseball coach Steve Buerkel resigned his position recently.

Family time too precious for Linden's Buerkel

Buerkel resigns varsity baseball coach position

By David Troppens

dtroppens@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 overwhelm 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

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SUNDAY, JUNE 25, 2017 | PAGE 22A | WWW.TCTIMES.COM/SPORTS

Times Sports

Holly tennis takes top spot in elite eight spring poll

By David Troppens

dtroppens@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 track performances.

Wow was it an amazing spring. And now it's up to the sports staff to go through all those strong squads and make our list of the elite eight teams of the 2017 spring sports season. This one won't be an easy list to make. Well, check that, some aspects of it were pretty easy. Selecting the top three teams and then who would be the next five was reasonably easy. However, figuring out the order of the top three and then the next five squads wasn't. In fact, our list won't even include all eight league championship squads. That's how tough it is to make this list of teams.

That's enough of the preliminary discussion, let's get to our list.

No. 8 – Fenton boys golf: The Fenton boys golf team had an outstanding season under first-year coach Kurt Herbstreit. The team finished the dual portion of the Metro season with a 6-1 mark and also won both Metro meets. The squad won the first meet with a team score of 326, and then won the postseason tournament with a 337. However, finishing just seventh in regionals kept the Tigers from placing higher in our survey.

No. 7 – Lake Fenton boys track:

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 regional 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 Ti-



TRI-COUNTY TIMES
FILE PHOTOS

The Holly varsity girls tennis team (above) captured a league title and a regional title, placing fourth at the state meet. They earned the No. 1 spot in our Tri-County Elite Eight Spring Poll. (Left) The Linden girls soccer team won a regional title and finished second in our annual poll.



gers 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 27-9 record. Unfortunately, the Tigers are stuck in a mighty tough district. They

See **ELITE EIGHT** on 23A

David's Dabblings

Some thoughts about sports and others not dealing with sports at all



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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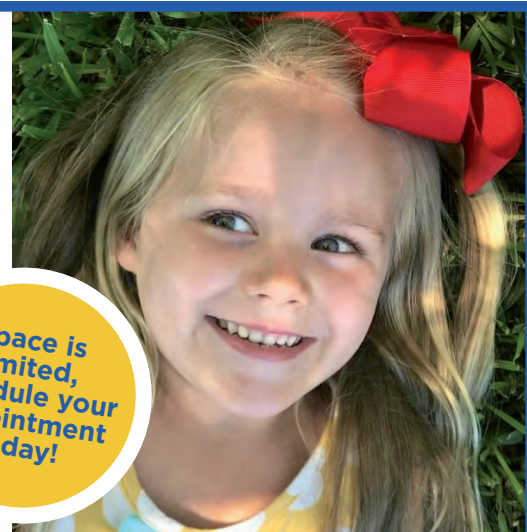
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Linden's JV softball team finished the season a perfect 31-0 this spring.

Linden JV softball team ends spring season perfect

By David Troppens

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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 season, with Linden winning a 5-4 contest.

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ELITE EIGHT

Continued from Page 22A

were able 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 regionals 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. 2 – Linden girls soccer: The Linden girls had a historical season, advancing to a regional championship contest for the first time in school history. The season didn't end until the Eagles lost to Marian 2-0 in the state semifinals. Prior to that, the Eagles were a fierce team to compete against in the regular season, but fell short of winning the Metro title, and also lost both regular-season games to Fenton. However, when the postseason started the Eagles won the district title, beating Fenton during the process. Of course, a regional crown was next. Linden spent a good chunk of the season ranked in the state's top 10 as well.

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

TRI-COUNTY TIMES
DAVID TROPPESS

Dominic Dimambro (front) and Andrew Bond were two key members of Fenton's boys track team. The squad finished third on our Tri-County Elite Eight Poll.

each meet. Now that is impressive. When they got to the state meet, the Bronchos remained strong finishing in a tie for fifth place at the meet. Holly has been an outstanding program for decades, perhaps the best in the last 25 years. But during the last two years the program has become a state power. It's exciting to see them continue to grow and improve.

DABBLINGS

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 are 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 pant 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 give 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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