

Relatively calm Fourth of July

■Local police: ‘There was nothing too crazy’

By Sharon Stone
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Local law enforcement report a relatively calm Fourth of July.

Fenton Sgt. David Reinfelder said the police department received numerous fireworks complaints, however, those complaints did not result in any arrests. He added that residents cooperated when police responded to the complaints.

“There was nothing too crazy,” said Reinfelder.

Reinfelder added that a resident on Armstrong Street reported that sometime over the night time hours of July 1 and 2, someone tore down his American flag and his “Don’t Tread on Me” flag from the flagpole in his front yard. The culprits then cut up the flags and left them scattered on the lawn. There is no suspect information on this complaint.

On July 4, at 8 p.m. Fenton police were alerted to a car with underage occupants suspected of being intoxicated at a

See FOURTH on 12A



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | HANNAH BALL

A fireworks display took place over Lobdell Lake on Saturday, July 1. At one point during the evening a small island was engulfed in light and smoke after numerous fireworks were ignited accidentally. Authorities say there were no injuries reported as a result. **See story on Page 12A**



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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Owners of Starrs farm say they have come to an agreement with the DEQ regarding a corrective action plan that would have been due in late June.

Runoff from Starrs farm reaching Byram Lake

■DEQ: ‘It was diluted by the time it got to the lake’

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

Starrs farm in Fenton Township is in violation through the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) over discharge from the farm that’s going into Byram Lake.

The DEQ, Water Resources Division, Lansing District office recently issued a

See RUNOFF on 6A

How the DDA spends your tax dollars

■Signs of progress are evident throughout the city of Fenton

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

Other than the obvious work by city-paid police, fire and public works employees, people don’t often get a visual on how their tax dollars are actually being spent.

That is not the case in communities with an active Downtown Development Authority (DDA). Whether citizens like it or not,

See TAX DOLLARS on 15A

Fenton Freedom Festival



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Brad Nunn (left) and six young volunteers help Steve Nunn of the Fenton Rotary Club to round up the 3,000 plastic ducks following the 2017 Rubber Duck Regatta on July 4. The race unofficially kicks off the Fenton Freedom Festival after the parade and yields \$3,000 in prizes divided among 15 winners. This year, the \$1,000 top prize was won by Ryan Snader.

See Local Living (Section B) for story and more photos.

Shapiro arraigned on misdemeanor charges

■Shapiro: Obvious bias won’t keep me from doing my job

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

Genesee County Commissioner Drew Shapiro (Dist. 6) has been arraigned on two misdemeanor charges of indecent language and one count of reckless operation of a vessel.

The charges stem from an alleged incident over the Memorial Day weekend, when on the morning of May 27, Shapiro, 28, is accused of yelling ethnic slurs from his pontoon boat to an unidentified individual on shore.

Following an investigation by the Genesee County Sheriff’s Office, the county’s prosecuting attorney, David Leyton, chose not to pursue felony ethnic intimidation charges. He instead referred the matter to the Fenton Township attorney, Jack Belzer, to determine if any local ordinances may have been violated.

See SHAPIRO on 13A



TRI-COUNTY TIMES FILE PHOTO

Genesee County Commissioner Drew Shapiro (Dist. 6) has been arraigned on misdemeanor charges.

TEXT
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“What is the matter with people these days? You bicker back and forth about the president. What about the children who are beaten? What about the animals that are being beaten. Stop all this hate. Can’t you see where society is headed?”

“Fireworks are like whistles. The only person having fun is the person playing with it.”

“I’m not surprised that coach Skinner was released. His sin was that he treated your little babies like young men. If we had more teachers and coaches who did that the world would be a better place. Thanks coach, we will miss you.”

COMMENT
OF THE WEEK

“Ever since Trump talked about that wall between the U.S. and Mexico, I wondered how he was going to do it and get Mexico to pay for it. Now I see the wall is being built with solar panels — clean renewable energy for everyone. Genius, pure genius!”

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Self-driving cars on I-75?

■ Three-mile section in Oakland County will soon accommodate new technology

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

While technology isn't at the level yet of "I, Robot" or "Star Trek," there's more and more buzz around self-driving cars.

Known as an autonomous vehicle, a self-driving vehicle is a vehicle with the technology to operate itself on the road without a driver. Motorists who commute using I-75 will have the opportunity to drive in an area that can accommodate self-driving cars after a current construction project is finished.

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), along with

Magna International and 3M, will construct a vehicle-to-infrastructure connected work zone along a three-mile section of I-75 near M-59 in Oakland County. Magna International is a leading supplier of camera-based driver assistance features.

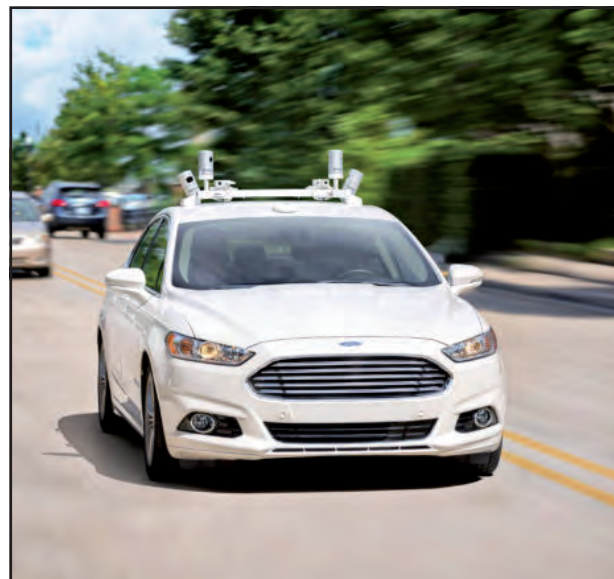
"Findings from the project are expected to play an integral role in optimizing vehicle connectivity infrastructure on construction-related roadways going forward," according to a press release from Magna, which is lending cameras and secure connectivity technology for the project.

MDOT recently resumed construction on this project that will now incorporate signs with QR-looking codes, according to Scott Worden, public relations manager at Magna.

See **SELF-DRIVING** on 17A

“A vehicle equipped with cameras is able to ‘see’ those codes and provide the driver with information.”

Scott Worden
Magna International
public relations manager



MICHIGAN RADIO.COM

Construction work on parts of I-75 in Oakland County will include technology that can accommodate self-driving vehicles.

From Downward Dog to baby goats

■ Yoga with frolicking baby goats in a historic barn is newest area fitness opportunity

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

If yoga makes you think of Downward Dog, what about a new move called Baby Goats?

The new Yoga on the Farm in Rose Township is locally leading a national fitness craze called Goat Yoga, offering eight frolicking goats — one mama and her seven babies — along with your yoga workout.

Why would anyone want to practice yoga with baby goats climbing, nuzzling and generally “disrupting” the mindful practice of yoga?

“Goats bring laughter,” said Darlene Stieber, who owns the historic barn where the classes are held. “There’s so much power in

laughter.”

The entire setting is a serene, rolling 42-acre parcel of land, just around the corner from Diehl’s Orchard. The idea sprung from a friendship between Stieber and Gail Anderson, who grew up in Holly and wanted to help her friend come up with a creative way to use the barn for a good purpose.

“Only one other place in Michigan is offering Goat Yoga, and that’s in Detroit,” said Anderson, a fitness buff herself who’s new to yoga.

“We decided that the people of our area needed the opportunity to experience practicing yoga with beautiful friendly baby goats walking and playing amongst them.”

See **GOAT YOGA** on 14A

“It’s a simple style of yoga that anyone can do.”

Kathryn Nicolai
Ethos Yoga in Holly



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Mini Nubian goats wander around a yoga session put on by Kathryn Nicolai in The Yoga Barn in Rose Township on Saturday, June 24. “Goat Yoga” is simple in concept — hold a low-intensity yoga session while interacting with baby goats.

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Come *Heller* high water

andrewheller@tctimes.com

My buns are steamed

The food department at the New York Times recently taste-tested 10 hot dog brands to determine the best.

Koegel franks and Viennas were not on the list.

Now that's what I call fake news.

I'm sorry to use a Trump term like that, especially a bogus one, but my buns are steamed about this. How could the best newspaper in the land not only not rank Koegel atop its list, but not even test them in the first place? That's outrageous. Oscar Mayer dogs were on the list. (Ick.)



Andrew Heller
FEATURED COLUMNIST

Trader Joe's dogs were on the list. (Dog food.) Nathan's was on the list. (Cat food.) Hebrew Nationals were on the list. (OK, those are acceptable but only with lots

of mustard.)

But no Koegel.

And they call themselves a newspaper. OK, maybe — since Koegel isn't yet a national brand, far as I know — the Times' grillers simply didn't know about them.

Whatever the case, as someone who resided in and around Flint for more than 25 years, I immediately posted the Times story to my Facebook feed, knowing the local outrage that would ensue.

"SERIOUSLY??!!!" one person responded. "What's a taste test without the best hot dog in the world?"

"They're clueless!" said another.

"It's New York," said a third.

"They prefer the mystery meat they call a hot dog."

"My relatives from Texas come up every year for Christmas and they take back a case of Koegel's with them. They have all their friends in Texas hooked on them now," said one more.

One woman added this story:

"When I lived in the east, they did not know about Koegels. I would come to

Michigan, buy a case on dry ice and haul them home. At parties people raved about how good they were and where could they buy them. No doubt they are the best, but I think they remain the best because it is family owned and controlled with family pride keeping them the same quality we have always come to expect. Some say they are not really hot dogs, they are Koegel's, a product in a class by itself."

I heartily agree. I think it *IS* the family's focus on quality that keeps Koegel's the best.

And how do I know they're the best?

Simple. Because I don't like hot dogs. When I contemplate eating one, my brain inevitably conjures some vague, fuzzy memory of the horrible things that are supposed to be in them. Or were, anyway, at some point. You probably have similar thoughts. If you didn't, they wouldn't have started putting "all beef" and "nitrates-free" on the packaging.

But I don't have those thoughts when eating a Koegel. I trust them. And it may sound silly but that trust somehow makes the dog taste even better. (I like mine with mustard and onions, by the way. No ketchup. Never ketchup.)

If you agree, perhaps you might want to leave a comment beneath the online version of the story, which you can find at www.nytimes.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.

TRUMP HITS BACK 10 times harder with his mouth? Oh really? You never heard of sticks and stones.

REGARDING SUSAN RICE and the unfolding unmasking scandal, we can describe Rice as she spied, she denied. She lied and then she cried claiming sexism and racism.

THE SIX-COUNTRY travel ban is now in effect and Kate's Law passed, and the sanctuary city penalty law passed in the house. I want to thank President Trump and the Republicans for these measures, which protect Americans.

AS WE CELEBRATE the Fourth of July, we need to remember the true meaning on citizenship. It's all about sacrifice, individual freedoms and the willingness to serve a cause greater than themselves. We are truly blessed to live in the U.S.A.

MAYBE THERE'S HOPE for this old world after all. After cutting the cable almost 10 years ago, the cable company just got me back with \$20 a month, basic service, lots of channels I might just watch. Welcome back, cable company. Welcome back.

TO THE HOT-LINER who believes that it's delusional that Reagan was a good president. Please name a political leader in history who destroyed the world's second most powerful military, toppled

21 dictators in the Soviet Union and Warsaw Pact nations, freeing 400 million people, without a war. Reagan was the greatest.

DOWNTOWN IS NEWLY redone, but the shopping area has been the north side of Fenton for the longest time.

HOLLY HAS A Family Dollar store, Dollar General. Now a Dollar Tree? How did that ever get approved? Seriously?

THIS IS IN response to 'seems to me.' Jared Loughner, who shot Gabby Giffords, was a registered Independent, who had previously been a Democrat, not a 'right winger.' Fake news.

WE AS A nation are slipping farther behind every year. Our healthcare, tax system, and infrastructure are all shot. Our politicians can't even write their own laws. Lobbyists do it for them. It's all for business, not 'we the people.'

THE REPUBLICANS WANT to deregulate everything. Most of those regulations were put in place to protect us. Now they are being removed with loopholes written in so we have no way of defending ourselves against big businesses. Do your homework people. Internet providers are a prime example.

GREATEST STATE DEBT in states are led by Democrats, states with smallest debt are led by Republicans.

IF EVOLUTION IS a theory, then religion is just an opinion.

TO THE ANTI-bike lane Hot-liner. The ordinances prohibit bike riding in the downtown area of the village during business hours Monday through Friday. You are allowed to ride a bike anywhere in the village of Holly with the exception of downtown during the specified hours. I recommend actually reading the ordinance for yourself.

TO THE HOLLY Hot-liner complaining about the new dollar store. Any business is permitted to open as long as they comply with zoning and ordinance. It is unlawful for planning or council to deny a new business if it complies with zoning and ordinance. Welcome Dollar Tree.

GOVERNMENT SAYS IT doesn't want to be in the health business. Well you already are. If you're taking our taxes to help big medical companies that rich people own, then big government owes us. Yes, I'm mad. My big brother just found out he has stage 4 abdominal cancer and he pays \$2,000 a month for insurance. They were too cheap to do tests earlier.

See **HOT LINE** throughout Times

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Would you ride in a self-driving car?

Compiled by Crystal Schubach, intern

streettalk



"No. I just don't think it is safe."

Walter Smith
Linden



"Yes. There would be a lot less accidents. My sister and I often talk about something like that."

Cindy Johnson
Fenton



"They'd have to test them a lot more, and I would have to have someone show me that it works. I think it would be hard for people who have been driving a long time to give up control."

Cheryl Toellen, Fenton



"Yes but after it's been tested — a lot."

Jackie Renshler
Fenton



"Yeah, because it would be really cool. You wouldn't probably have to steer the wheel, and I think it would never get lost."

Ty Schubach
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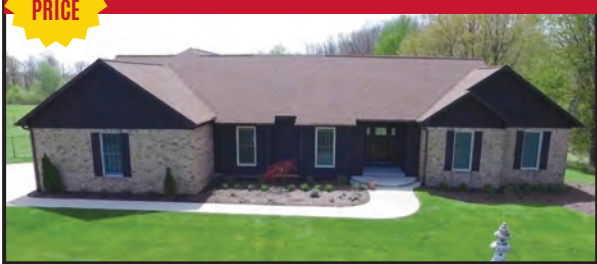


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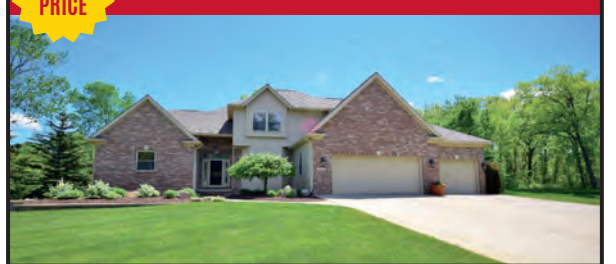


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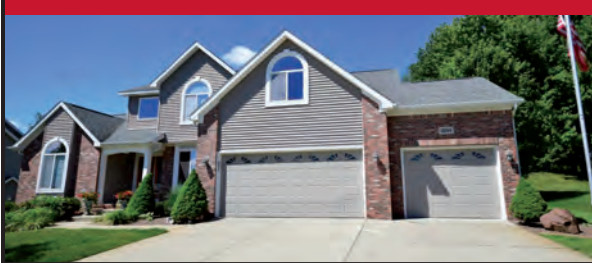
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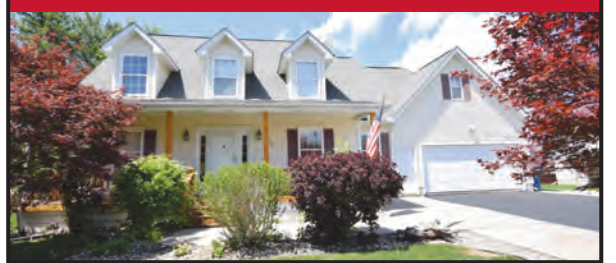
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SOLD

2279 E Grand Blanc • Grand Blanc
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HOT LINE CONTINUED

■■■
I'M EMBARRASSED TO be an American. We had to choose between a corrupt, lying, self-serving, email deleting, life-long politician and a corrupt, lying, thin-skinned, man-child who lashes out on Twitter. I'm disgusted with lackeys from both political parties who enable this garbage.

■■■
IS THERE A Fenton ArtWalk this year? If so, where is the advertising, fliers for businesses to pass out, and posters in business windows?

■■■
AS A PROFESSIONAL businessman working for a global company, I find Mr. Trump's actions and comments disturbing, toxic, and comparable to a junior high playground bully. America has

become a laughing stock to the world. Wake up America and quit drinking the Trump Kool-Aid. Time to make America smart again.

■■■
PEOPLE ARE BLOCKING the intersection at U.S. 23 and Silver Lake Road when the light is green allowing others to make blind turns onto or off of the highway. Stop trying to justify that. No one is blocking it when the light is red. Seriously, learn to drive before you cause an accident.

■■■
CAN'T SPEAK FOR everyone but my intention on Silver Lake Road and U.S. 23 is to allow the cars exiting U.S. 23 to turn onto Silver Lake. A left turn there is treacherous. For Pete's sake, put up a light there and take the risk out of it.

■■■

Local fire departments awarded federal grant

■ **Will use \$292,596 FEMA grant to buy new breathing apparatus**

The village of Holly Fire Department has been awarded an "Assistance to Firefighters Grant" from the Federal Emergency management Agency (FEMA) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in the amount of \$292,596 for self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA).

The goal of obtaining this grant was to immediately improve the health and safety of firefighters, and the communities served by purchasing new SCBA and masks, which are used to supply firefighters with breathable air during an active fire. SCBAs are one of the most important pieces of personal protective equipment that firefighters use when entering an atmosphere that is immediately

dangerous to life and health.

The grant is a regional award that will not only outfit the fire department, but also Groveland Township Fire Department with the newest SCBA technology available to firefighters. The village of Holly acted as the lead on the project and will handle the purchasing and distribution of the SCBAs and mask.

The current age of both departments' SCBAs and masks are over more than 10 years old and have endured heavy use during training and emergency incidents.

The grant partners are responsible for a 5-percent match of \$13,979 of non-federal funds toward the \$292,569 SCBA replacement cost. The grant partners will divide this cost based on the number of units each department receives.

RUNOFF

Continued from Front Page

second notice to the farm for violations of Part 31, Water Resources Protection, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, said Stephanie Kammer, the Lansing District supervisor for the Water Resources Division of the DEQ.

In the letter, the DEQ cites discolored water from Starrs farm discharging over the curb and onto Lakeview Park Drive, which discharges into Byram Lake.

"The discharge of contaminated wastewater from Starrs farm presents a potential threat to human health and may be injurious to designated uses of Byram Lake," according to the letter.

"The discharge does not have a significant impact on the lake. It was diluted by the time it got to the lake the day we were there," Kammer said. "We definitely want to protect the lake."

Kammer added that they are more concerned with the discharge itself than the lake.

The first violation notice was issued Oct. 28, 2016. Starrs farm responded to the notice on Nov. 18, 2016, and the DEQ states, "This response, and actions taken by Starrs farm, are inadequate due to the ongoing, unlawful discharges from animal feeding operations at the farm to Lakeview Park Drive that ultimately discharge into Byram Lake."

Pat Starrs, owner of the farm, said "The DEQ hasn't given me any information about what was in the runoff," and added that the DEQ mentioned E.coli but they told Starrs they didn't have the report on it.

Starrs said the farm has been there for

decades and they've never had a problem.

"We've never had a complaint," he said. "When people drive by and they see something, they think it's pollutant. But it's not."

The DEQ has noted violations on March 24, April 6, and May 9.

There are two other violations: an agricultural waste storage structure that retains runoff and contaminated wastewater from agricultural feeding operation, and a large depressed area between the storage

structure and Lakeview Park Drive that was full of brown water, which flows to Lakeview Park Drive in several directions. Samples taken from the water confirmed the presence of fecal indicator bacteria from the livestock on Starrs farm.

The letter states that it's against the law to di-

rectly or indirectly discharge a substance that is or may be injurious to public health, livestock, wild animals, fish, the value of riparian lands, and the domestic, commercial, industrial, agricultural, recreational or other uses for the body of water.

Starrs farm was issued a second violation notice on June 27 and was required to present a corrective action plan by June 30. Starrs said he talked with the DEQ and came to an agreement about the plan. He said he is still waiting to receive all the information from the DEQ.

“The DEQ hasn’t given me any information about what was in the runoff.”

Pat Starrs
 Starrs farm owner



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Police & Fire report

CONTRACTOR FRAUD

On June 20, the Genesee County Sheriff's Office received a larceny complaint from a resident in the 13000 block of Jennings Road in Fenton Township. A 76-year-old woman reported being defrauded by a contractor for work on her house. This investigation is currently under investigation.

Fenton Township man arrested for 10th OWI

Joseph Edward Booker, 52, of Fenton Township was arrested for his 10th OWI in Mason County on July 3, according to the Mason County Press. Booker was arrested following a roadside drive-off on the Mason-Manistee counties border. Mason County sheriff's deputies received a report of a vehicle crash. Upon arrival at the scene, emergency personnel determined



Joseph Booker

that the incident was not a crash but actually a driver who had just driven off the roadway. In addition to Booker's 10th OWI offense — a felony — he is also facing felony charges of driving while license suspended, third offense. A Breathalyzer test revealed an alcohol level of .28 percent, according to Mason County Sheriff Kim Cole. Booker was arraigned and remains lodged in the Mason County Jail on a \$15,000 cash/surety bond.

View stories at
tctimes.com



Longtime wrestling coach explains choice to leave

■ Skinner: 'My main focus right now is my son'

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

After resigning his Linden High School varsity wrestling coach position, Todd Skinner spoke about his career at Linden, his wrestlers, and the events that led to his resignation.

In April, the Linden teacher was removed from his wrestling position after it was revealed that he ran an alleged illegal gambling operation for three years by having his wrestlers sell football squares as a fundraiser. After an investigation and a public appeal at a Linden Board of Education meeting, Skinner officially resigned from his coaching position Thursday, June 29.

"I'm doing good. I'm saddened but at the same point I felt it was the right choice," he said. Skinner said he will be able to focus more on his own kids' lives now. He will still coach the Predator's youth wrestling program.

Skinner said he appealed the decision to fire him as coach because he wanted everyone to hear his side. Multiple coaches, parents and wrestlers attended the school board meeting to speak on his behalf, but because the matter was tabled, there was no public comment.

"When an Olympian shows to speak on your behalf, what does that tell you?" he said.

"I still have a lot left to give. My best coaching is still to come."

Todd Skinner
Linden teacher

At the appeal, a few of his past wrestlers wore shirts that said "Fire Skinner" in the hallway after the meeting. Skinner said two of those kids were state placers on his national team.

"It was disappointing to see that after everything I've done for these kids, all of the opportunities I've provided for every one of those kids," he said. "As a coach, I have high expectations. I expect kids to work hard. The harder you work the more success you'll have. It's about making these lives better for these kids so these kids can go out and conquer."

Skinner said his wrestlers had the opportunity to meet with college wrestling coaches, training at camp, and meet high-level wrestlers like Olympians. While Skinner was coach, the team won districts eight times, and were academic all state eight times. They advanced to the state quarterfinals in 2006 and the state semifinals in 2007.

"I'm not sure who's going to run this program but hopefully they'll get someone in there that cares as much about these kids as I do," he said. "I can't express how grateful my family and I are for the support the community, our friends and family have given us. The wrestling community is really tight." While he's been offered wrestling coaching positions at several high level programs, Skinner said he's going to take this time to reflect.

"My son is 11 so I really need to focus



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

Former Linden High School varsity wrestling coach Todd Skinner explains his reason for resigning his position.

on him and his wrestling," he said.

He said many kids who have graduated have come back and thanked him.

"When I came here, this program was nothing. It was nonexistent. I like to think I did a pretty decent job putting it on the map and changing kids' lives. I still have a lot left to give. My best coaching is still to come," he said.

He said out his 27 years of coaching and 18 years of coaching wrestling at Linden, he's never had a problem until this year. "I've never had a bad evaluation," he said.

"My heart is in Linden and you never know, maybe someday again I'll be able to coach there. I don't know what God's plan is but he has a plan," he said. "My main focus right now is my son."

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Council nominating petitions deadline looming

■ Potential candidates have until 4 p.m. July 25 to make intentions known

City of Fenton residents have fewer than three weeks to decide whether they would like to hold public office.

In addition to the two-year term of mayor, three four-year terms are up for grabs.

The person elected mayor in November will serve until 2019, and the three council members until 2021.

Mayor Sue Osborn has held her current position since 1999. She is seeking re-election.

Councilman Brad Jacob announced a few weeks ago that he will not be seeking re-election, opting instead to spend more time with family and other projects.

Scott Grossmeyer and Dave McDermott also are up for re-election. Grossmeyer began his current four-year term in 2013. Dave McDermott

won the election in 2013. Both intend to seek re-election.

To serve on the Fenton City Council or as mayor, candidates must have been a resident of the city for more than one year, must be a registered voter in the city of Fenton, must be over 18 years of age and must not be in default to the city.

Potential candidates must submit nominating petitions with a minimum of 50 valid signatures of registered voters within the city of Fenton, accompanied by an Affidavit of Identity. Affidavits and petition forms are available at the Clerk's Office at City Hall, 301 S. LeRoy St.

The deadline to submit petitions and affidavits is 4 p.m. on Tuesday, July 25.

According to the Fenton clerk's office, 50 valid signatures is the required amount to become a candidate, however, it is recommended that the potential candidate obtain more than 50 signatures, but no more than 100 signatures, to avoid complications.

Ciesielski named interim superintendent

■ Search is on for a permanent leader at Linden schools

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Linden — After Ed Koledo retired from his superintendent position at Linden schools, Linden High School Principal Russ Ciesielski was named interim superintendent at the Linden Board of Education June 29 special meeting.

"I'm very excited," Ciesielski said. "It's definitely going to be a new challenge, very similar to last time."

The vote was 6-1, with board Vice President Steve Murphy casting the dissenting vote. He said he would rather give Curriculum Director Julie Brown a shot at the job.

Ciesielski was named interim superintendent for the 2015/2016 school year while Koledo was on active duty with the U.S. Army. He resumed his other position as Linden High School principal when Koledo returned.

"I'm looking forward to it, working with the entire district. A little more community involvement. The hardest part is going to be filling the shoes. That's going to be a challenge right off the bat," he said.

Ciesielski said he's going to miss Koledo, who was superintendent for eight years. Koledo is leaving Linden to pursue a career with the Genesee Intermediate School District and to spend more time with his family.

“I’m looking forward to it, working with the entire district.”

Russ Ciesielski
Linden interim superintendent



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

The Linden Board of Education voted to name Russ Ciesielski (front) as interim superintendent. Ed Koledo (back) has retired from the position after eight years.

"He's been a great mentor for myself and others. He's always been there for advice and I'm sure that will continue," he said. "We're going to miss him. He brought a whole different perspective to education. He did some great things here at Linden."

During the meeting, Trustee Jason Rowden said while they search for a permanent superintendent, they want the community to know that the position is open and they will give everyone a fair shot.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

TO THE PERSON worried about Medicaid. The Republicans are not trying to devastate Medicaid; they are trying to get it under control. Do you know how many people are receiving it that should not be because in reality they do not qualify? There's nothing wrong with trying to make it right.

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our town

Meet ROBERT 'BOB' HAMEL

- Long-time local businessman
- Jack of all trades
- Dedicated family man

Robert "Bob" Hamel, 73, moved to Fenton in 1976. He has been married to Elaine for 53 years. They have five adult children, four sons and one daughter, and nine grandchildren. The entire family lives in the local Fenton area with the exception of their oldest son, who resides in Nashville.

Where did you grow up?

I'm from River Rouge originally. I was born and raised there.

When did you come to Fenton and what brought you here?

We moved to Fenton in 1976 and bought Locke's Party Store (now Locke's Party Shoppe and Deli). My brother owned the 'barn' house at the corner of Crane and Torrey Road in Fenton Township in 1968. That's how we got interested in the area. I miss the people and the camaraderie at Locke's. We knew everyone who came in the door.

We've always heard that you once owned Oliver T's on Hill Road. Is that true?

I built Oliver T's. Oliver is my father's name. We opened in 1981 or 1982 and sold it in 1990.

How did you get into this business?

My dad owned a gas station and I grew up in the gas station business. I worked there all through grade school and high school. After that I started thinking, 'there's gotta be a better way to make a buck.' So, I went to work for Ford Motor Company. But then my dad got sick and I went back to the gas station and worked until he could sell it. There was a party store down the street at the time and I said, 'Let's buy that party store, it's a gold mine,' and it was. Things changed when the riots came in July of 1967. Later that summer, our party store burned to the ground.

What did you do next?

After the riots, everything changed. We got married in 1965. I bought a Baskin Robbins in Dearborn and owned it for five years. Our first four children came right away. I drove a truck for a while and later we came to Fenton and bought Locke's. I had a brother who bought into Locke's with me. He died of an aneurysm in the back room at age 43. My oldest brother, Tom, has been involved in all our businesses, from Locke's on up.

Have you owned other businesses?

Yes, my brother and I owned two self-storage facilities, including the one on Fenway Drive. Being in this business is a little like being the Maytag repairman — boring all the time. So we worked with this couple, Bill and Marsha Finks, who



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Bob Hamel is a long time business owner in Fenton and now works seven days a week for his adult children's various businesses, such as The Laundry and CRUST.

became known for their folk art and painting on metal. I believe they sold some of their works through Robert Redford's retail business called Sundance. She would draw up a design and put it on metal and

we would cut it out.

How do you spend your time today?

My son, Mark and daughter, Mary Beth and their spouses are co-owners of The Laundry, CRUST, El Topo and

Fenton Relief & Resource Co. (speak-easy). I work seven days a week ... not all day, but I fix things, deliver things and whatever needs to be done. I also manage our commercial properties. We have one in Fenton and one in Holly.

Do they pay you for your work?

Yes, all I can eat.

Seriously, what's it like to work with your family in these businesses?

The Laundry is celebrating its 20th year in August. Working in these businesses with my family is a lifestyle. It's like being self-employed on a farm, operational seven days a week. I can come and go as I please and I can see my kids and grandkids whenever I want.

Do you have any hobbies?

I have always loved cars and owned a couple of Model Ts once. My brother and I would go to Hershey, Pennsylvania every year during the first week in October for its big car show. My favorite car was my first Corvette in 1962.

What are your hopes for the future?

Well, I'd like to live another 20 years and have time to spend with my family. Family is everything. We're lucky that all five of our kids are in good shape, they're on their way.

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The **JOHN WORTH WORTH**
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Justin Hardy
*Licensed Agent /
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Favorite Song: **Immigrant Song By Led Zeppelin**
Favorite Restaurant: **Sava's (Ann Arbor)**
Favorite Sports Team: **UK Wild Cats**
Basketball: Big Blue Nation
Favorite Thing About Michigan: **Up North And The Lakes**
Fun Fact: **Raced Competitive Motocross From Age 10 To 18**

A large, multi-story house with a prominent front porch and a large 'SOLD' sign in the foreground. The house features a mix of siding, including light blue and white, and has multiple levels of balconies and windows. The porch is covered and supported by wooden posts. The house is set on a green lawn with some landscaping. The sky is overcast.

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Congratulations to the lucky winner who guessed how many Led Zeppelin albums Justin owns. See all the results and join the fun this week on Facebook or Instagram

THIS WEEK'S ANSWER:
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3

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Fireworks mishap on Lobdell Lake

■ No injuries after
ashes ignite fireworks

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Argentine Twp. — During the Fourth of July, fireworks are synonymous with freedom and patriotism, and many gathered to watch the explosive light display at area lakes this past weekend.

However, things can go wrong.

On Saturday, July 1, dozens of boats gathered around a small island on the south side of Lobdell Lake to watch the annual fireworks.

At one part in the show, the small island and the two people on it were engulfed in light and smoke, and it appeared that many fireworks went off at ground level.

Argentine Fire Chief Matt Lafferty said from what he's heard, "It sounds like ashes flew back and ignited all of the remaining fireworks at once."

No one was hurt and 911 was not called. See the video on tctimes.com.

WATCH THE
VIDEO



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WITH THIS STORY

FOURTH

Continued from Front Page

fast-food restaurant on Owen Road. Employees reported to police that the four occupants were behaving erratically while waiting for their order.

Police responded and initiated a traffic stop off Torrey Road. The 19-year-old driver from Linden was arrested for OWI and his car was impounded. The three occupants, a 19-year-old male, an 18-year-old male and a 17-year-old female, all of Fenton, were cited for minor in possession of alcohol.

At 2:25 a.m. on July 5, a Fenton police officer patrolling observed a white Impala having difficulty staying in its lane while traveling faster than the posted speed limit on westbound Shiawassee Avenue, near Rounds Drive. A traffic stop was initiated near U.S. 23 and the officer made contact with the driver, a 21-year-old Fenton man.

Suspecting the man had been drinking a field sobriety test was administered, as well as a Breathalyzer test. The driver had a blood alcohol content of .153 percent and he was arrested for operating a vehicle while intoxicated. The officer also recovered an open can of Four Loko, an alcoholic beverage, from the front passenger seat.

The driver was lodged at the police station until he was sober and then released with a court appearance ticket.

Meanwhile, sunny skies and warm weather made for a busy Lake Fenton on the Fourth of July.

Genesee County Undersheriff Chris Swanson said several deputies were stationed on "the point" near the south end of Lake Fenton to protect the property owner's property as well as keep boat-ers safe.

Swanson said there were no arrests made, however, one female was transported to the hospital by ambulance after falling and hitting her head.

LOOKING BACK

at this week in

NATIONAL HISTORY

COMPILED BY VERA HOGAN

JULY 9

1960: President Dwight D. Eisenhower and Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev trade verbal threats over the future of Cuba. In the following years, Cuba became a dangerous focus in the Cold War competition between the United States and Russia.

JULY 10

1962: The United States Patent Office issues the Swedish engineer Nils Bohlin a patent for his three-point automobile safety belt "for use in vehicles, especially road vehicles."

JULY 11

1979: Parts of Skylab, America's first space station, come crashing down on Australia and into the Indian Ocean five years after the last manned Skylab mission ended. No one was injured. Launched in 1973, Skylab was the world's first successful space station.

JULY 12

1984: Walter Mondale, the leading Democratic presidential candidate, announces that he has chosen Representative Geraldine Ferraro of New York as his running mate. Ferraro, a daughter of Italian immigrants, had previously gained notoriety as a vocal advocate of women's rights in Congress.

JULY 13

1985: At Wembley Stadium in London, Prince Charles and Princess Diana officially open Live Aid, a worldwide rock concert organized to raise money for the relief of famine-stricken Africans. Continued at JFK Stadium in Philadelphia and at other arenas around the world, the 16-hour "super concert" was globally linked by satellite to more than a billion viewers in 110 nations. In a triumph of technology and good will, the event raised more than \$125 million in famine relief for Africa.

JULY 14

1966: Eight student nurses are brutally murdered by Richard Speck at their group residence in Chicago, Illinois. Speck threatened the women with both a gun and a knife, tying each of them up while robbing their townhouse. Over the next several hours, Speck stabbed and strangled each of the young women throughout various rooms of the place. One young woman, Corazon Amurao, managed to escape with her life by hiding under a bed; Speck had lost count of his victims.

JULY 15

1988: Die Hard, an action film starring Bruce Willis as wisecracking New York City cop John McClane, opens in theaters across the United States. A huge box-office hit, the film established Willis as a movie star and spawned three sequels. Die Hard also became Hollywood shorthand for describing the plot of other action films, as in "Speed is Die Hard on a bus."

Source: history.com

Spotlight on:

PEABODY
INSURANCE

• Newly remodeled and expanded Fenton office attracts growth in staff and clients

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Jim Peabody has been in the insurance business for almost three decades and his newly expanded Fenton office reflects both the traditions of a long career and the workplace of the future.

"The building we're in was built in the early '70s and needed an update. It's a familiar building that housed our agency almost 15 years ago," said Patty Peabody, referring to their location at 265 N. Alloy St. in Fenton. "We've owned the building for 15 years and have been back here since 2015."

Peabody Insurance has a legacy that



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Peabody Insurance recently completed a full-scale interior renovation of their Fenton Alloy Drive location, combining a mid-century with an unfinished industrial look. From left is: Dave Lucas, partner, Kelly Dues, office manager and co-owner, Patty Peabody.

dates back to 1919 and has 19 employees, including their daughter, Grace, who is returning to the family business after earning her MBA at Notre Dame.

"Our goal in renovating was to become the office building of the future," said Patty. "We came up with an open, free-flow design, with lots of glass windows to see outside, yet we've retained some familiar touches

like a sliding barn door with wood from the Peabody family's old apple orchard."

Kevin Johnson of Rhoads & Johnson handled construction, which took about a year from dream concept to completion.

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SHAPIRO

Continued from Front Page

On Thursday, June 29, Belzer brought forth the reckless driving and indecent language charges and misdemeanor warrants were issued, according to district court records.

The next day, on Friday, June 30, Sha-

piro was arraigned on those misdemeanor charges. His pretrial has been scheduled for July 27. Misdemeanor charges carry possible penalties of up to a \$500 fine and/or 90 days in jail.

Shapiro has repeatedly stated that alleged complaints from individuals with obvious bias and motive won't keep him

from doing his job.

Shapiro was elected as county commissioner for the sixth district in November 2016. Prior to his elected position with the Genesee County Board of Commissioners, the 2006 Fenton High School graduate served on the Fenton Board of Education as president from 2012 to 2016.

"WHY ALL THE HOUSEHOLD DUST?"

I'm Keith Meadows, owner and operator of Power Vac Air Duct Cleaning. For years I've been improving our community's health one family at a time. By now, we've all heard the statistics: 50% of all illness is a direct relation to dirty indoor air and that it's 90 times more polluted than outdoor air. Yet, 90% of the calls that I receive everyday are from people complaining about dust, they tell me they dust the TV on Friday but by Sunday they are pushing the dust out of the way again so they can watch America's Got Talent and none of them know exactly where it's coming from. Well I'm



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO
April and Keith Meadows help keep indoor air clean with their local business, Power Vac.

here to tell you that you're not a bad housekeeper. I tell people that by simply having the air ducts cleaned, it will drastically reduce household dust and the reason is your cold air returns. Cold air returns suck in dirty air and over time it builds up until you have the same type of debris that you would find in your vacuum bag. Cold air returns are also the reason new homeowners are experiencing dust. While your drywall was being sanded, your air returns sucked all of the dust through the system. To prove it, go down to your basement and look for the thin sheets of tin nailed between your floor joists, these are your cold air returns now give them a good pounding. You'll see puffs

of dust seeping from the edges. That my friends is the reason you have uncontrollable Dust issues. This debris cannot be removed without a professional.

Which brings me to my next point - choosing an air duct cleaning company. We have the equipment that is powerful enough to get the job done right, a Power Vac truck. It's the most powerful equipment in the industry, the truck motor actually powers the equipment and it's able to generate 16,000 cfm (cubic feet of air per minute) of vacuum. Most competitors opt for the cheaper, portable equipment attached inside of a van that's only capable of moving 4,000 cfm. To put things into perspective, your furnace moves 2,000 cfm. So basically what's coming out of your register. The power vac trucks we invest in offer quadruple the amount of vacuum than most other companies.

Power Vac is family owned and our crews are trained to arrive on time, work with a smile and respect people and their belongings.

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ASK THE
MECHANIC

Chris Wilkinson,
Certified Mechanic

Q: I have a 2005 Dodge Neon SRT-4. When I am driving, the power will turn off and then back on. The emergency brake and engine light will come on as well as the gauges and the radio will turn off. Sometimes it will just turn the car off. It happens more after I shift out of gear please help me.

- Doug

A: Doug, This sounds like a loose connection to me. I would start by wiggling the wiring harness's around while the car is idling and see if you can duplicate the problem. Be careful not to get near any moving or hot parts when doing so! Also, check the battery connections and the ground connection at the block.

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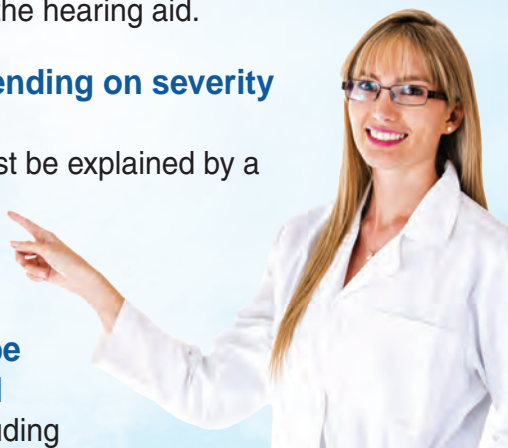
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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Following the Goat Yoga class on June 24, plenty of time was given to hold and take pictures with the goats.

GOAT YOGA

Continued from Page 3A

The first Goat Yoga classes on Saturday, June 24 were sold out, and so are the two classes on Saturday, July 8. Yoga on the Farm plans to offer two classes every other Saturday, from 11 a.m. to noon and from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., from now through October.

Yoga on a Farm has partnered with Kathryn Nicolai of Ethos Yoga in Holly for yoga instruction, and so far, they've been thrilled with the response. It appears that Goat Yoga is a popular way for adults to exercise and play.

"There aren't many challenges to this practice," said Nicolai. "It's a simple style of yoga that anyone can do. We remind our students that if they want to just sit on their mats and hug goats, they are more than welcome to. We get a bit dirty and you might leave with some straw in your hair but other than that, it's all fun and games."

Nicolai sees huge benefits in practicing yoga out in nature. "Yoga connects us to the present moment and to our bodies,"

she said. "Animals already live very happily and easily in the moment, so when we share our practice space with them, we tend to see through their eyes and become connected and present ourselves. It's a simple way to be joyful and play."

Some people who came out the first time have already signed up for future classes, according to Anderson. "People just love the goats. They come away from this experience with a big smile on their face. It's pretty hard to resist their bleating, nuzzling and innocence."

Erica Peabody of Fenton was a student on the first day and absolutely loved the experience. "It's just silly, giggling yoga with goats all around," she said. "Actually, it's quite peaceful and even more present in the moment. It's light-hearted barnyard fun with some yoga involved. It's like being a kid again. I loved it."

Goat yoga participants must be 16 years of age or older, and those under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. For more information, go to ethos.yoga or call (248) 328-YOGA.

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WITH THIS STORY

Mt. Holly Ski & Snowboard Resort owner dies

Joseph Kosik, Sr. of Lake Angelus, long-time owner of the Mt. Holly Ski & Snowboard Resort, died on June 12 at the age of 87.

According to his obituary, Kosik served in the United States Air Force and was a proud University of Michigan alumni. He practiced law until he was 35 years old and then became a



Joseph Kosik

self-employed entrepreneur opening a number of ski areas in Michigan and Wisconsin.

A celebration of life gathering was held Saturday, June 17 at Mt. Holly Ski & Snowboard Resort, where friends said Kosik spent many of his Sundays.

He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Elaine, five adult children and 10 grandchildren.

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Police&Fire report

THREE SUSPECTS CHARGED

According to the Genesee County Sheriff's Office, the home invasions and larcenies from automobiles reported in the area of Island View Drive and Pavilion Drive in Fenton Township during the months of May and June were found to be related and most likely committed by the same individuals. The following individuals have been charged by the Genesee County Prosecutor for the listed offenses. Austen Webber, 18, of Fenton Township, was charged with fraudulent use of a transaction device (credit card) and larceny from a motor vehicle for the offense reported on June 13 in the 16000 block of Pavilion Drive. Webber is currently out on \$10,000 cash/surety bond. Jaxon Gatza, 17, of Fenton Township, was charged with first-degree home invasion for the offense reported on May 31 in the 4000 block of Island View Drive. Gatza is currently out on \$25,000 cash/surety bond. Christian Sornson, 17, of Fenton Township, was charged with first-degree home invasion for the offense reported on May 31 in the 4000 block of Island View Drive. Sornson is currently out on \$25,000 cash/surety bond. These investigations are ongoing and more charges are likely to follow.

HOUSE AND CAR DAMAGED

On June 14, the Genesee County Sheriff's Office received a malicious destruction of property complaint from a resident in the 14000 block of Hogan Road in Fenton Township. A 49-year-old Fenton Township man reported damage done to his house and car. This complaint is under investigation.

TAX DOLLARS

Continued from Front Page

the work of a DDA shows taxpayers every day where their money is going.

The city of Fenton has had an active DDA since 1993. The development district includes the area surrounding Silver Parkway on Owen Road to just east of Donaldson Drive; part of the industrial park, and the downtown district from Adelaide Street east to Walnut Street, and Elizabeth Street north to Sixth Street.

Among the more extensive of the projects completed in Fenton include the recent Streetscape Project in the downtown. This was a major project aimed at improving walkability and making Fenton a popular destination. The project included everything from major street and infrastructure repairs, to lighting and parking improvements and an attractive landscape.

The DDA in Fenton has also been instrumental in the completion of the Cornerstone building project, the recent upgrades to the Fenton Community and Cultural Center, the Fire Hall Restaurant, Silver Parkway resurfacing project, and the Adelaide Street streetlight improvement project.

Older, original projects included the cleanup of the plastics factory behind city hall, the city hall parking lot project, the new DPW building and new fire department facility.

The DDA provided funding for the Elizabeth Street project, library renovations, the Fairfield Inn development project and several façade grants for downtown businesses such as Fenton House Restaurant and others.

The Fenton DDA was responsible for reconnecting Main Street and LeRoy Street. DDA dollars also support multiple events such as the Fenton Freedom Festival, Thursday night Concerts in the Park, the ArtWalk, etc.

DDA dollars were well spent on cleanup after the Aug. 24, 2007 tornado that ripped through downtown Fenton.

The Fenton DDA also provided critical resources to the city when financial woes struck during difficult economic times.

While infrastructure improvements can be funded with DDA funds, money from the DDA could not be used for projects outside of the DDA district. Its revenue-sharing agreement with the city helped offset some costs in the downtown district.

How is the DDA funded?

The concept of a DDA came with Michigan legislation Public Act 197 of 1975.

According to DDA Director Michael Hart, "The money (budget) comes from the Tax Increment Finance plan (TIF) which takes a portion of the 'increment' or 'increase' of property value. So, when the baseline was created in 1993, as the DDA invests money to improve the district, it helps create the extra property value, which in turn provides the 'increment' that can then be collected on.

"If a property declines in value, let alone goes below the baseline when the DDA (or other TIFs) were created, it then becomes a negative capture," Hart added. "Our DDA has managed to strengthen the tax base of properties, which in turn provides the increase of increment from the baseline, allowing money to be collected, which in turn is reinvested supporting the development plan.

"On some level, it is really a merit-based economic development plan because it rewards the increase of property values beyond the baseline, which was a core intent of the DDA enabling legislation."

Who's in charge?

Hart, who has been on the job for about six months, leads the Fenton DDA. He replaced the former director, Michael Burns. Hart also is the assistant city manager in Fenton and the director of the Local Development Finance Authority (LDFA) which addresses needs in the industrial park.

While Hart serves as director of the DDA, a board votes on actions, based upon recommendations by either Hart or committees within the DDA. Craig Schmidt is the chairperson. Board members are appointed by the mayor and approved by

the city council.

The board consists of business owners, employees and residents from the DDA district and two at-large members who do not work or reside in the district.

Hart's salary and benefits are funded mostly from the DDA and LDFA.

How are citizens involved?

DDAs are required to have a Development Area Citizens Council if the proposed development area has residing within it 100 or more residents. According to the DDA Act, a development area citizens council is to be in place at least 90 days before the public hearing on the development or tax increment financing plan. A citizens council services as a recommending board to the DDA.

Fenton's DDA did comply with the law in this regard. A citizens council was in place when the development plan was created, but the council has since gone dormant.

"It could have been dissolved, but it was looked at being able to be brought back in the future subject to finding enough people that are interested," said Hart.

Will they become involved again?

Hart said he is excited about the possibility of putting another citizens council together, not only for the purpose of making recommendations to the DDA, but also to solicit input from citizens in the spring, when the city is working on its next year's budget. In the meantime, Hart said the public also can attend DDA Board meetings, sit on committees, or volunteer to help out with events.

More information about a future citizens council will be forthcoming as additional details become available.

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THIS WEEK'S
LETTER:By Vera Hogan
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A to Z

This is a weekly series encompassing a variety
of things in the tri-county area from A to Z.

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-629-6823

There are a lot of "Bs" in our local beehive, too many to do all of them justice in this one piece. But until we can get to them all, here are a few that we have highlighted for now.

BATTLE ALLEY

There are few local places that speak to history like Battle Alley in the village of Holly. Once home to more than 18 bars and saloons, Pro-Temperance movement advocate Carry Nation took care of that when she and her axe came swinging into town during the late summer of 1908, hollering for all who could hear her sobering message about the perils of alcohol.

Today, Battle Alley continues to be a destination in the village, featuring a variety of specialty shops and antique stores. Holding up the east end of one square block, Battle Alley joins Saginaw, Maple and Broad streets to house some of the finest stores and restaurants in our reader area.



BREWERIES

Ms. Nation would not be too happy to learn that breweries are popping up all over the area, including Holly and Fenton. Young adults especially have hopped on the bandwagon to brew and enjoy a variety of craft beers available at local brew pubs, restaurants and retailers offering the cool, refreshing beverages.

BOATS & BEACHES

Boats and beaches are naturally together in the tri-county area. With nearly 40 lakes in the tri-county area, water enthusiasts have their pick of places to enjoying boating, swimming or both.

Finding the right boat is as easy as checking the Tri-County Times' weekly pages and Source Book for a local dealer. All have a vast selection of watercraft from fishing boats to big pontoons. If you aren't one of the thousands of lo-



cal swimming pool owners, you can cool off in the summer at one of our dozens of beautiful area beaches, including the public beaches in Fenton Township and the city of Fenton, and Seven Lakes State Park.



BARNs

The popularity of barns has really never gone away. For some reason, people love driving through the countryside looking at barns. Whether they're dilapidated and falling down, or brand new, most people are fascinated with barns.

Today, barns, of all places, have become popular wedding venues. We're pretty sure the cows, horses and hay are gone, but the square dancing will likely still be on the ticket for a fabulous, fun reception.

So, grab your honey, get yourself hitched and swing your partner round and round.



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HOT LINE CONTINUED

ENJOYED SALLY RUMMEL'S article 'Michigan Companies From A to Z.' It was very interesting. Thanks.

AW MAN! READING the TCT article in regards to the new restaurants and learning that a Whitey's was proposed for the old Ruby Tuesday, but sadly not happening. It would have been better not knowing, than to be now broken-hearted.

REPUBLICANS RESPECTED OBAMA'S authority? I've got eight years worth of TCTimes Hot lines to refute that statement.

PITY, THE FEDERAL Democrats and the national news media hate Trump more than they love America.

THREE AUTO PARTS and three dollar stores. What a great way to define our little town. Shame on the village for

allowing this. They should seek out new opportunities — not just blindly accept what comes to them.

THANK YOU, TO the kind gentleman and his wife for buying our breakfast at the Moose Lodge on Sunday, July 2. Your kindness and generosity is greatly appreciated, God bless you.

THE PERSON WHO wrote that Rep. Scalise is enjoying his health insurance while recovering from life threatening gunshot wounds is a moron and disgusting. Have a little compassion.

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Spotlight on:

818, INC.

- New niche insurance company focuses on Medicare for seniors

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Jeremy Harrison of Tyrone Township, a former personal wealth management banker and tax consultant, has opened his own insurance business. 818, Inc. focuses on helping seniors age 65 make the right decisions on Medicare insurance. He and his wife, Keri, a photographer, have five children ranging in age from 1 1/2 to 9.

Your business has an interesting name, 818, Inc. Where did that come from? It's based on Deuteronomy 8:18, one of my favorite Bible verses. The name stands out and reflects that I'm a Christian. Once people know me by my own name, 818 will be more in the background.

How is 818, Inc. different than other insurance companies that market to seniors? I don't make 'cold calls' to seniors to get their business. I market effectively so they can find me when they have a need. Seniors get spammed so hard with unnecessary calls and emails; I prefer "warm calls" that take place when a person hears about my business and contacts me. That way, I know they have an interest in what I have to offer. This is what I really love — I'm not selling someone a product.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Jeremy Harrison of 818, Inc. works with Charles Weber of Linden on his medical gap plan.

All I'm doing is helping them make the right decision.

How does your business work? I provide a consultative approach with clients. It's critical that people in the age group of 65 or before find someone to talk to who can help them through the maze of Medicare insurance options available. You don't want to get stuck in the wrong plan that you can't get out of. My consultations are free. My job is to find all the different insurance carriers that will best fit their needs. Together, we place them with the right insurance plan. I do all the paperwork. I become your point of contact between you and the insurance company.

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SELF-DRIVING

Continued from Page 3A

The three-mile stretch runs from Coolidge Road to Featherstone Road.

"A vehicle equipped with cameras is able to 'see' those codes and provide the driver with information. As part of the project Magna is developing a demo vehicle equipped with cameras and software that will be able to drive through the three-mile work zone, receive/process the messages received from the posted signs, and adjust speed, lane selection, etc as needed," he said.

3M is providing advanced all-weather lane markings, retro-reflective signs with smart sign technology and short-range communication devices for vehicle-to-infrastructure communications. This will help the cars communicate with the signs.

"The I-75 modernization project will position Michigan to be among one of the first states to test connected vehicle infrastructure at this level of scale. As vehicles become increasingly automated and connected, existing road infrastructure must be updated to ensure safety and reliability of this emerging technology," according to MDOT.

This is one of the nation's first projects that will introduce self-driving cars to our roadways in this manner and scale.

Michigan is one of 17 states to pass bills relating to autonomous vehicles on public roads, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. In December 2016, Gov. Rick Snyder signed into law

News briefs

LINDEN FARMERS MARKET BEGINS WEDNESDAY, JULY 12

The weekly Linden Farmers Market has a new location at Triangle Park on Silver Lake Road between the cemetery and the airport. The market, put on by Southern Lakes Parks and Recreation, will run from 5 to 8 p.m. For more information, visit Linden Farmers Market on Facebook.

a package of bills that allow self-driving cars to operate on public roads. This also provided manufacturers and developers of these technologies a framework for both testing and deployment activities.

According to Public Act 332, in order to operate an autonomous vehicle network, manufacturers must hold at least \$10 million in insurance, show that the entity has operated the vehicles in a public test program for a minimum of one million miles. It also allows passengers in autonomous vehicles to use handheld devices.

The automated driving system is considered the driver/operator of the vehicle.

Uber users in big cities sometimes have the opportunity to ride in an autonomous vehicle. The taxi-like company has been testing self-driving cars for months in a few states including Pennsylvania and Arizona. Each vehicle has two Uber employees in the car: one to grab the wheel if anything goes wrong, and one to monitor the computer screen connected to the car's rooftop laser bouncing radar.

SUMMARY

■ With this new addition to a construction project on I-75, Michigan is one step closer to seeing self-driving cars on the road.

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Tri-County Top 16 filled with many amazing memories, squads

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

The 2016-17 school year began with Fenton dominating the fall sports season. It ended with Linden's girls varsity soccer team making their first-ever trip to the state semifinals. In between, the school year had state champion wrestlers, skiers and track athletes. We saw other teams post historic tournament runs, capped by four squads competing in state semifinal contests. What a ri-

diculously great athletic season this was.

And now it's the sports staff's job to figure out what 16 teams had the greatest seasons in the tri-county area. Yeah, without a doubt some teams are going to be mad where some of their favorite teams placed. We have league champions off of the Top 16. We have teams

See TOP 16 on 19A

SUNDAY, JULY 9, 2017 | PAGE 18A | WWW.TCTIMES.COM/SPORTS

Times Sports

Lake Fenton's varsity boys cross country team



David's Dabblings

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



CLOSING IN ON 15 YEARS AT THE TRI-COUNTY TIMES

It was about 15 years ago when past Tri-County Times sports editor Steve Grob contacted me about a job he thought may interest me.

I was working at a daily paper in Howell, but I felt I needed a change. When he told me the paper he used to work for was looking for a new sports editor, I jumped at the opportunity to interview for the position. With Steve's approval, I think I pretty much had the inside track to the job. That was until I noticed something at the interview — somehow I had put on two different shoes.

Well, I guess the shoe fiasco didn't end up being an issue. Quickly, I was offered the job and 15 years later, I'm still here. And I'm glad I am still here. Since getting the job, I can honestly say I haven't even looked for another job. Heck, I haven't updated my resume' in the 15 years I've been here. Ever since I've been at the paper, I've been treated with a 'If you do the job, we'll let you run your own department' kind of mindset. While the job can be demanding at different times of the year (there are occasional times when my wife Anna thinks about selling my stuff wondering who the heck it belongs to), there's something very satisfying about working for a small local paper. There's something about looking at the section in each publication and knowing that you are one of a small number of staff members that produced the quality publication I am holding in my hands.

Fellow sports staff workers

The Tri-County Times sports staff has never been a large staff, but over the years we've had plenty of great people help us out.

The first name that comes to mind is Jason Alexander. For a short period of time, we had a two-person full-time sports staff, and Jason was our assistant sports editor. Being a Lake Fenton

See DABBLINGS on 19A

Linden camp gives newbies a chance to impress

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com

Linden — In some ways it's the first symbolic vision of the upcoming football season at Linden High School.

In recent years it's happened in late June, not long after school ends.

It's the Linden Eagles Football Spread Camp. This year's camp was June 29 and 30 from 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. and it was well attended. About 90 players participated at the camp.

"It's been going really well," Linden varsity co-head football coach Denny Hopkins said. "We were really happy with our turnout. Other than three or four kids who are at individual camps, most of the kids are here. We are really happy with that turnout. We had almost 90 kids and they worked really hard."

This year's camp may be a tad more important than some others based on the inexperience the Eagles will have this season. There will be many new faces on the varsity team this fall. Of the 10 players who earned either first- or second-team Metro status last year, seven were seniors. The Eagles' typically potent offense took a severe blow, losing starting

quarterback Aaron Sarkon and other potent key skill position players Ryker Rivera and Aaron Steedman. On the offensive line the Eagles lost Sawyer Bengie, and Gabe Piesko among its top Metro League selections. So any chances the team gets to run its reps, the better.

"It's been exciting," junior Tyler Hart said. "It's been our first go of things and I'm pumped we will have a good season. It's been exciting for me because I'm a junior this year and that's a big deal. We have a lot of new people but I think our team can do well."

That seems to be the case at Linden. Regardless if the team has many returners, some returners or very few returners, the Eagles have made the playoffs every year since 2002, the longest streak of any tri-county squad or any Metro League team by a long stretch. Last year, the Eagles finished 7-4 overall, advancing to a Division 3 District 3 district championship game. In the playoffs, the Eagles avenged a regular season loss to Brandon by beating the Blackhawks 34-7 in the district semifinals.

CONTINUED ONLINE AT TCTIMES.COM



TRI-COUNTY TIMES
DAVID TROPPENS

(Above) George Walterhouse runs around to the outside during Linden's recent Linden Spread Camp.

(Left) Walterhouse prepares to throw the ball to running back Sam Dunkley. The Linden Spread Camp was the first chance for some of the inexperienced varsity players to prove they are ready to play on Friday nights.

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Linden Youth Football prepares for year #2

■ Teams, number of interested players grows as program readies for the fall

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

Linden — In February of 2016 Derrick Bushon was approached by some parents.

They wanted to start Linden's first youth football league.

"I said something about doing it for (the 2017 fall) season and they wanted it for (2016)," Bushon said. "It all worked really well. A lot of the guys coached at Byron and we did a lot of things together outside of football. It came together really quick."

Amazingly, in less than a year the Linden Youth Football program not only existed, but had a super successful first year, placing two teams at the JV level (fifth- and sixth-grade), three at the freshman level (third- and fourth-grade) and two at the flag football level. The first-year program even played at halftime of one of the Detroit Lions' home games.

Now entering its second season, the program is only getting bigger and better. Bushon, who is the President of Linden Youth Football, says the team will be the biggest program in the newly created Metro Youth Football League, fielding three JV and freshman



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPENS

Connor Jeric tackles a dummy during a drill at the Linden Youth Football Camp.

squads while fielding possibly as many as five flag football teams. And the organization is getting serious during the summer as well, as was apparent during last week's Linden Youth Football Basic Skills Camp. Hosted for three days from 6 to 8 p.m. about an hour after the Linden Spread Camp for the older students, about 75 athletes ranging from

kindergarten to sixth grade attended, preparing the students for the upcoming fall season. And there will be one more camp before the fall sessions start on July 17 and 18. Indeed, the organization has grown tremendously in about 20 month's time.

CONTINUED ONLINE AT
TCTIMES.COM

TOP 16

Continued from Page 18A

that had state champions off our list. That's how good this school year was in terms of athletics.

Let's start by releasing about one-third of our Tri-County Top 16 Teams of 2016-17 Poll. We'll do this in our traditional three installments.

Honorable Mention – Fenton baseball, Fenton/Linden girls ski, Fenton boys swim and Linden boys cross country: Wow, for the first time since we started making this season-end list in 2008-09, the Linden varsity boys cross country team isn't in the top 16. But apparently competing at the state meet for the 10th straight year isn't good enough to make our poll.

No. 16 – Fenton boys cross country: The Tigers dominated the Metro League in what may be its toughest sport and won a league title by winning all three jamborees. Unfortunately, the Tigers finished fourth at the regional meet and failed to qualify for the state meet as a team.

No. 15 – Fenton girls track: Much like the Fenton boys swim team, the Fenton girls track team dominated the Metro competition during the league season. They beat the next-best team at the league meet by 180 points. The Tigers also finished a very respectable third at regionals, qualifying a lot of athletes for the state meet. However, Fenton didn't score any team points at the state meet, keeping them at No. 15.

No. 14 – Lake Fenton girls soccer: It seems like every year I goof up and miss one team that should've been in one of the season lists. This year the mistake was Lake Fenton girls soccer. Somehow I didn't include them on the spring list. Lake Fen-



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPENS

The Lake Fenton varsity girls soccer team finished 14th in our Tri-County Top 16 Poll.

ton dominated conference teams earning an undefeated GAC regular season and a championship in the GAC tourney. They also posted many wins against area Metro squads. Finally, the team advanced to the district title game before losing to Williamston.

No. 13 – Lake Fenton boys cross country: The Lake Fenton boys cross country team had to contend with Corunna in the GAC, so finishing second was the best the Blue Devils could do there realistically. But in the postseason Lake Fenton were super strong, earning a state trip with a third-place finish at regionals. Once at state, the Blue Devils placed 10th, beating out area foe Linden in the process.

DABBLINGS

Continued from Page 18A

graduate, he was able to give me a better sense of the athletic landscape. And while he's been gone probably nearly a decade, there aren't many weeks since he's left I don't have something happen to remind me of our era together.

Over the years I've had my share of outstanding photographers. The first two were Rick Perry and Tom Chiatlas. Eventually Rick and Tom went to other things and then came Scott Schupbach and Mark Bolen. Both have been around for a mighty long time and have shown tremendous commitment to our publication. I couldn't imagine doing my job without them. If they say they'll be somewhere, they will.

We've had some pretty awesome writers as well. I saw Greg Chrapek, Dan Gilbert and Al Zipsie are three from the past. All three were awesome to work with.

Finally, in recent times I've been able to rely on two other reporters — Jordan Climie and Dale M. Smith. We have had Holly Township's

past supervisor covering athletics for us. Dale only does it because he loves promoting the kids. And what about Jordan? He started out at our paper as an intern and has been seemingly all over the state since then. Yet, despite all his travels Jordan seemingly finds his way in our backyard, prepared to cover more area prep sports.

I'm sure I missed a few people. If I did, I'm sorry. **Remembering 15 years**

Over the last 15 years the sports section has seen tremendous change. We've seen our jobs change from primarily a print source to a combination print/internet source of news. But through it all one constant remains, covering the kids is a bunch of fun. Talking to some of the long-time coaches and seeing some of the kids I covered become coaches at their schools is also pretty awesome. Over the next few columns I'll do some reflecting back on some of the people I've met and the moments I've experienced over my 15 years here. I hope you enjoy reliving the memories as much as I will.

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