Feeling down? Saddle up!

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Fenton City Council candidates revealed

By Vera Hogan
vhogan@cttimes.com; 810-433-6823

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Her challengers are Councilwoman Cherie Smith, 66, who was elected to office in 2015. Her term ends in 2019. If she does not win the mayoral bid, she will continue to serve on the Fenton City Council for two more years.

Newcomer Kurt Wilkinson, 48, also will be on the Nov. 7 ballot seeking to become the city’s next mayor.

Osborn said, “I have loved my service to the city of Fenton since 1998,” she said. “I will continue to serve the citizens of Fenton to the best of my ability.”

See FENTON CITY on 20A

Animal abuse penalties not harsh enough?

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

After news broke about the 9-month-old puppy that was burned and blinded, people have been questioning the penalties for animal abuse in Michigan.

Genesee County Circuit Court Judge Geoffrey L. Neithercut said sentencing guidelines for animal cruelty allow for a maximum of four years in prison, up to a $5,000 fine, and not more than 500 hours of community service.

See PENALTIES on 15A

“...When you look at the people behind animal abuse and neglect, if you’re going to abuse a helpless, defenseless animal, there’s a high probability you’re going to hurt a human being.”

Chris Swanson
Genesee County undersheriff

Animal abuse often precursor to human abuse

By Vera Hogan
vhogan@cttimes.com; 810-433-6823

It was a news report that shocked an entire community to its core. And one year later, the murderer is still out there.

On Saturday, July 30, 2016, one year ago today, Alexandra “Ally” Brueger, a 31-year-old nurse, was gunned down while jogging on Fish Lake Road in Rose Township. She ran 10 miles every day for the past 10 years, until that deadly Saturday afternoon.

See ALLY BRUEGER on 10A

No answers — no killer — no closure

Michigan State Police are still asking for tips that may lead to finding Ally Brueger’s killer. So far they have investigated 200 tips without success.

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College isn’t for everyone — and it shouldn’t be

Michigan faces shortage of skilled workers

By Hannah Ball

The GCI encourages vocational learning through a variety of programs, such as culinary arts, cosmetics and electrical work.

In veterinary medicine, students can take programs through the GCI or an affiliated college, and study for two years and become a veterinarian technician or go to school longer and become a veterinarian.

Jim Ply said they focus on giving students the opportunity to gain work experience while in high school, which can be used as college credit, without having to go to an expensive university. The GCI partners with Mott Community College, University of Michigan-Flint and Baker College, and credits can transfer between the colleges.

 Sophomore students visit the Genesee Career Institute (GCI) in Mundy Township in November 2016 to explore program options. The GCI encourages vocational learning through a variety of programs, such as culinary arts, cosmetics and electrical work.

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

Lend us your eyes and ears

Times asking citizens to alert us to news as it’s happening

By Vera Hogan
vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

As much as the editorial staff at the Tri-County Times would like to be superheroes we sadly are not! We can’t fly and we are not telepathic.

It would be wonderful if we knew what was going to happen, where it was going to happen and when, but that’s just impossible. We work with police scanners and rely on each other when a news event occurs, but sometimes that isn’t enough.

That’s why we are asking for your help. If you happen to be somewhere and a news event is unfolding in front of you, please take some photos, if you are able, and jot down some notes about where you are and what’s happening. It would be helpful to note the time of day as well and the names of the law enforcement or fire personnel agency on scene (i.e. Fenton). See EYES AND EARS on 16A

SMARTONES EQUIPPED WITH CAMERAS ARE MAKING IT EASY FOR PEOPLE TO CAPTURE THE MOMENT.
Don’t let microchips invade our privacy

Wisconsin software company is offering to implant microchips into employees’ hands so they can effortlessly make purchases in the break room, open doors, log in to computers, use the copy machine and so forth.

My first reaction is “How lazy are these people?” I mean, opening a door with a key card takes what, two seconds?

As for vending machines, is it really that much of a bother reaching into your pocket for a few coins or a bill?

The only advantage I see is if you only have one of those old, crammed bills that the machine keeps spitting back at you. Maybe then, a microchip in your hand would be useful. Then again, it might make buying that candy bar or soda so easy that you end up eating a lot more because you’re not counting your calories.

Say you want to order a pizza. Do you really want a microchip warning sent to your brain saying, “Don’t eat that, have some nice kale instead?”

Or say I decide to binge watch “Game of Thrones” on Saturday instead of mowing the lawn. Do I really want the lovely yet formidable Marcia checking her “What’s Andy Up To?” app to see what I’m doing then sending me a text saying, “Get moving, buster!”

I most certainly do not. If it ever came to that, I’d dig the chip out of me with my teeth if necessary.

Microchips would also be the end of a teenager’s social life. Try parking with your sweetie when mom and dad can track your whereabouts and your heart rate from their smartphones.

The point here is we’ll miss privacy once it’s gone. We should protect it aggressively.

The only chip I want implanted in me is a potato chip.

It could happen. I would also hate someone knowing how often I screw up the copy machine at work (answer: a lot) or knowing whether I snuck out the back door a few minutes early on a warm, sunny day. (We don’t get many of those in Michigan — you gotta take advantage.)

I seldom think the slippery slope argument is a good or valid one. But I do think the second we allow ourselves to be implanted with a microchip for some supposedly innocuous reason, things are only going to go downhill from there.

 ALLOWING CARS TO park in front of the post office on LeRoy is a huge mistake. It creates a large blind spot and drivers leaving the post office are pulling out into traffic. There was another accident this past Monday.

 ‘THE THEORY OF Evolution’ A word to the wise. Take a banana and place it on your kitchen countertop for three weeks and watch it evolve.

 IT TAKES A special kind of idiot to think that importing refugees who will be on welfare their entire life and who want to kill us is a good idea.

 THE REPUBLICANS HAD seven years to come up with an alternative to Obamacare. And all they came up with is a huge transfer of wealth to the top 1 percent at the expense of everyone else. Very sad. Shows they are opposition party only, not a governing party.

 FINALLY, THE DEQ is enforcing the law. When will Fenton Township enforce the bright codes and make them clean up their property on Lakeview Park Drive and tear down that old barn?

 GREAT ARTICLE on the farm. Polluting the lake is outrageous. Let them know we do not approve of it.

 SWALLOW-WORT IS ALSO invading Holly Township. I live on Lahring Road and it is along the roadside (right next to farmer’s fields) in several places, and it has invaded my property. Very tenacious.

 TEACH YOUR CHILDREN about voting. It is the single greatest act of citizenship we have in this country. Bring them with you on voting day. Children are permitted to join parents inside voting booths.

 AMERICAN-Made CADILLAC owners thinks they own the road when it is really owned by Lincoln owners.

 THE SPEED LIMIT on Dauner Road is only 35 mph. It is not whatever you decide you want it to be. Please be courteous of the people who live on that road.

 CONGRATULATIONS TO ANDREW Heller for being named the Best Newspaper Columnist by magazine readers, and congrats to the Tri-County Times for having him on your staff.

 BE AWARE, THE fake IRS scam is calling around. Area code shows up as 202 Washington, D.C. FYI, the IRS will never contact you by phone.

 I’D LIKE TO know where the city of Fenton gets its beautiful flower baskets. How often are they watered? Do they still require the care of them? They always look beautiful. Mine are already drying.

 WHAT? EVOLUTION a proven fact? What spaceship did you get off? Sorry, still a theory, and a poor one.

 SHAME ON THE judge who gave the Flint man two years probation for abusing that poor dog. We need stronger laws and we need to elect judges who will protect the victims, whether they be human or animal.

 THIS IS IN response to the social worker’s comment about the Flint man who abused the dog. Abuse is abuse and there is no excuse for it. This was an adult who should have known right from wrong. Maybe next time he’ll say ‘I was just a child.’

 YOUR ARTICLE SAYS city of Fenton taxes are paid July 1 and Dec. 1, then why do I have to pay my taxes by Sept. 15? Also, why can’t the city improve the water quality? No one will drink that stuff. Hook up with the county before another Flint develops in Fenton.

 HOLLY IS MAKING progress. A Dollar General and a Dollar Tree. Now we need a Sav-a-Lot. Or another grocery store. And a different type of restaurant. Everyone agree?

 See HOT LINE throughout Times.
It is easy to see why people would want to live, work and play in the tri-county area. We have everything here that a person could need or want.

Take EDUCATION, for example. Students in the Holly, Fenton, Lake Fenton and Linden areas receive the best educations available, regardless of which district their parents choose to send them.

Hey guys and gals, put a ring on that loved one’s finger. We have some of the finest jewelry stores in the state when it comes to finding that perfect ENGAGEMENT ring. Or, how about some nice EARRINGS to decorate the lobes of a loved one.

If you leave the tri-county area to dine you must be one of two things — on vacation, or just very picky. We have some of the best EATERIES from which to choose, with a very diverse selection of menu items. The tri-county area boasts countless restaurants of all description. As the saying goes, if you leave here hungry, it’s your own fault.

Once you’ve had your fill at one or more of our fabulous restaurants, or just want to boost your ENERGY, you may feel the need for some EXERCISE.

There are plenty of local gyms and workout establishments aimed at helping people with that very issue. Even if you decide to go solo, taking long walks or runs through our communities may be just the workout you need. Hey, you might even see an EAGLE or other interesting wildlife along the way. You may be so engrossed in your surroundings you could wind up at the END OF TOWN.

Since local citizens often serve as the EYES and EARS of any community, taking care of those eyes and ears on a regular basis is critical. Whether it’s for your annual eye exam, a new set of glasses or contacts, or even something more serious like cataract surgery or glaucoma, we have several professionals from which to choose for all of your optical needs.

Speaking of ears … ELEPHANT EARS are coming … elephant ears are coming … Look for these delectable treats during the St. John Applefest, coming in September.

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
810-433-6823

THIS WEEK’S LETTER:

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Dr. Juan Alvarado, O.D., Diplomate, American Board of Optometry

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“If you suffer from pain due to Peripheral Neuropathy — tingling, numbness, or loss of feeling in your feet — I invite you to call our office and reserve a spot for our FREE dinner seminar to learn more about the latest treatment available. More than 20 million Americans suffer from Peripheral Neuropathy, a condition caused by damage to the nerves. This pain affects everything you do, from work, play, and ultimately your quality of life. I am here to tell you that there is hope. You can reduce or get rid of your pain and get your life back. At our offices, we offer advanced customized treatment programs and our goal is to help you have a better quality of life.”

— Dr. Brad Dionne, DC

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Feel free to bring a guest. Seating is limited to ONLY 30 spots. Adults only.
Linden grad wins international competition

18-year-old defeats more than 150 contestants

By Hannah Ball
hbali@tctimes.com; 810-433-6702

A recent Linden graduate won first place at an international competition for job seeking skills, and was honored at the July 26 Linden Board of Education meeting.

Miranda Henrich, 18, who graduated from Linden High School this past June, competed against more than 150 people from the U.S., Canada, Puerto Rico, and other countries.

The interview lasted five minutes and then she asked interviewers two questions — if she continued in the paramedic field and went to school to become an EMP, would they pay for her tuition, and if they could describe the perfect candidate for the job.

Henrich said she was really nervous this year, but more personable. “I just really sold myself well, I think,” she said.

“Miranda is the first person from the GCI to win first place in the competition at the regional, state, and international levels. She competed against more than 150 people from the U.S., Canada, Puerto Rico, and other countries. The interview lasted five minutes and then she asked interviewers two questions — if she continued in the paramedic field and went to school to become an EMP, would they pay for her tuition, and if they could describe the perfect candidate for the job.

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Miranda Henrich
Linden graduate

TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO

The GCI paid for the trip, which took place at Disney World in Orlando. While studying at the GCI, Henrich had the opportunity to ride in ambulances and go on calls.

“The adrenaline of it is crazy. I got to go to a fire. We got the man out. It’s so exciting. It’s a high unlike anything else,” she said.

She plans to continue her education and become a certified emergency medical paramedic, and then go into nursing.

Looking Back

at this week in
NATIONAL HISTORY

JULY 30

1965: President Lyndon B. Johnson signs Medicare, a health insurance program for elderly Americans, into law. At the bill-signing ceremony, former President Harry S. Truman was enrolled as Medicare’s first beneficiary and received the first Medicare card. Johnson wanted to recognize Truman, who, in 1945, had become the first president to propose national health insurance, an initiative that was opposed at the time by Congress.

JULY 31

1975: James Riddle Hofia, one of the most influential American labor leaders of the 20th century, disappears in Detroit, never to be heard from again. Though he is popularly believed to have been the victim of a Mafia hit, conclusive evidence was never found, and Hofia’s death remains shrouded in mystery to this day.

AUG. 1

1981: Music Television (MTV) goes on the air for the first time ever. It revolutionized the music industry and became an influential source of pop culture and entertainment in the United States and other parts of the world, including Europe, Asia and Latin America, which all have MTV-branded channels.

AUG. 2

1943: Future President John F. Kennedy is serving as commander of a torpedo boat in the Solomon Islands when his ship is fired upon by the Japanese navy. As a young man, Kennedy had desperately wanted to go into the Navy but was originally rejected because of chronic health problems. In 1942, Kennedy volunteered for PT (motorized torpedo) boat duty in the Pacific.

AUG. 3

1958: The U.S. nuclear submarine Nautilus accomplishes the first underwater voyage to the geographic North Pole. The world’s first nuclear submarine, the Nautilus dived at Point Barrow, Alaska, and traveled nearly 1,000 miles under the Arctic ice cap to reach the top of the world. It then steamed on to Iceland, pioneering a new and shorter route from the Pacific to the Atlantic and Europe.

AUG. 4

1892: Andrew and Abby Borden, elderly residents of Fall River, Massachusetts, are found bludgeoned to death in their home. Lying in a pool of blood on the living room couch. Andrew’s face had been nearly split in two. Abby, Lizzie’s stepmother, was found upstairs with her head smashed to pieces.

The Bordens, who were considerably wealthy, lived with their two unmarried daughters, Emma and Lizzie. Since Lizzie was the only other person besides the housekeeper who was present when the bodies were found, suspicion soon fell upon her. Because of the sensational nature of the murders, the trial attracted attention from around the nation.

Despite the fact that fingerprint testing was already becoming commonplace in Europe at the time, the police were wary of its reliability, and refused to test for prints on the murder weapon — a hatchet — found in the Borden’s basement. The prosecution tried to prove that Lizzie had burned a dress similar to the one she was wearing on the day of the murders and had purchased a small ax the day before. But Lizzie was a sweet-looking Christian woman and the jury took 90 minutes to decide that she could never commit such a heinous crime.

Source: History.com

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News briefs

Bike-a-thon nets $2,400 for LAFF multiuse pathway

A bike-a-thon to benefit the Linden, Argente, Fenton, Fenton Township (LAFF) multi-use pathway raised $2,420. The fundraising event was held May 13 at State Road Elementary School in Fenton. Teacher Sonja Brooks and other teachers supported the children in their efforts to organize and coordinate the project with school administration, local vendors and the community. For more information regarding the multiuse pathway and its development, visit LAFFpathways.com or LAFF Pathways on Facebook.

Police & Fire report

MAN STABBED WITH ROAZOR BLADE

The Genesee County Sheriff’s Office responded to a stabbing at 2:29 a.m. on Friday, July 28 at a home in the 3000 block of Bay View Drive, off North Road in Fenton Township. A male reported being stabbed with a razor blade and he was bleeding from the ear. This case remains under investigation.

ALLY BRUEGER
Continued from Front Page

Although he was asked about 10 specific questions about this case, all Lt. Calvin Hart, assistant post commander, Michigan State Police-Metro Post could say is he was told by the MSP Detective Bureau that “the case is not currently considered a cold case.”

“Detectives from our Special Investigative Section (SIS) are still actively investigating the case by following up on tips as they are received,” said Hart. “Currently, investigators have followed up on over 200 tips, and they are requesting that the public continues to provide tip information as the investigation continues in Ms. Brueger’s murder.”

Brueger was shot shortly after 2:30 a.m. while running in the 11000 block of Fish Lake Road. She was shot in the back four times before collapsing in the yard of a private residence.

The homeowner found her bleeding in his front yard. He called 911 and tried to resuscitate her. She died later at Genesys Regional Medical Center in Grand Blanc Township.

Brueger was described as small in stature at 4-feet, 9-inches tall, weighing 98 pounds. Despite her small size, her parents said she was mighty in presence.

Her mother, Nikki Brueger, has often said that from the back, her daughter resembled a 12-year-old child. “Who would shoot a child in the back,” she asked.

The Michigan State Police asked for the public’s help in locating anyone who may have seen a white or light-colored, four-door sedan on Fish Lake Road between 2 and 3 p.m. that day. It was believed there may have been some suspicious activity concerning the vehicle, that it was being driven erratically or at a high rate of speed.

Crime scene investigators used a K-9 team to help find clues in Rose Township’s first homicide in 20 years.

Investigators found some fresh tire marks on the gravel road.

Ally was the only child of Nikki and Franz Brueger. They describe her as kind, thoughtful, considerate and witty, with a serious side. She was a talented writer, something she aspired to do outside of her nursing career at Providence Park Hospital in Novi. She was working on a master’s degree in creative writing, which was eventually awarded to her posthumously.

“Her parents said, ‘... writing was her passion, nursing was her profession.’

In August of 2016, a group of 40 runners gathered under a tree, surrounding Franz. They laid caring hands on Franz as they all prayed. They held a memorial run/walk on Fish Lake Road to honor Ally’s memory.

In September of 2016, MSP answered concerns over the safety of children waiting for school busses on remote township back roads.

“The homicide is tied to this victim,” said F/Lt. Michael Shaw of the Michigan State Police Metro North Post at the time.

“...that the investigation of this case is considered a cold case.

Shaw did add, “As far as the kids go, there is no indication this homicide had anything to do with children. With that being said, I think that parents do need to keep an eye on their kids as a matter of routine.”

Because some of the township is dark and isolated, especially after time changes in the fall, Shaw says to make sure there is lighting in your yard, talk with your kids about stranger danger and if you see something suspicious call police. Since then, Crime Stoppers has become involved and the reward money continues to climb. The current reward, offered by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms ($5,000) and Crime Stoppers ($8,500) is $13,500.

In February of this year, Crime Stoppers held a press conference at the Rose Township hall.

In a room filled with TV, radio and newspaper reporters, Franz and Nikki, surrounded by family and friends, talked about their daughter and begged the community for any information leading to the arrest of the person responsible for murdering Ally.

The day Ally was killed was a pleasant Saturday afternoon weather-wise. It’s quite possible that children or teens old enough to be outside unsupervised by a parent or adult could have seen or heard something out of the ordinary and not realize it could be significant. If their tip is good and leads to an arrest, minors are just as eligible to receive the Crime Stoppers reward money, according to Anthony Jones of Crime Stoppers of Michigan.

Keep the tips coming

Anyone with information leading to the arrest of the person(s) responsible for the murder of Alexandra “Ally” Brueger is asked to call 1-855-MICH-TIP (642-4847) or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-SPEAK-UP (773-2589). Crime Stoppers pays for information that leads to an arrest, not a conviction.

Nikki said she believes it was a mistake to make this statement because it may have led the public to believe her daughter’s killer was someone she probably knew. And doing so may have prevented people with information from coming forward because they believe the police may already have suspects in mind.

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Tri-county times | submitted photo

Ally Brueger was described by her parents as kind, thoughtful, considerate and witty, with a serious side.

Nikki said she believes it was a mistake to make this statement because it may have led the public to believe her daughter’s killer was someone she probably knew. And doing so may have prevented people with information from coming forward because they believe the police may already have suspects in mind.

Shaw did add, “As far as the kids go, there is no indication this homicide had anything to do with children. With that being said, I think that parents do need to keep an eye on their kids as a matter of routine.”

Because some of the township is dark and isolated, especially after time changes in the fall, Shaw says to make sure there is lighting in your yard, talk with your kids about stranger danger and if you see something suspicious call police. Since then, Crime Stoppers has become involved and the reward money continues to climb. The current reward, offered by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms ($5,000) and Crime Stoppers ($8,500) is $13,500.

In February of this year, Crime Stoppers held a press conference at the Rose Township hall.

In a room filled with TV, radio and newspaper reporters, Franz and Nikki, surrounded by family and friends, talked about their daughter and begged the community for any information leading to the arrest of the person responsible for murdering Ally.

The day Ally was killed was a pleasant Saturday afternoon weather-wise. It’s quite possible that children or teens old enough to be outside unsupervised by a parent or adult could have seen or heard something out of the ordinary and not realize it could be significant. If their tip is good and leads to an arrest, minors are just as eligible to receive the Crime Stoppers reward money, according to Anthony Jones of Crime Stoppers of Michigan.

Keep the tips coming

Anyone with information leading to the arrest of the person(s) responsible for the murder of Alexandra “Ally” Brueger is asked to call 1-855-MICH-TIP (642-4847) or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-SPEAK-UP (773-2589). Crime Stoppers pays for information that leads to an arrest, not a conviction.

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Homicide victim’s mother speaks out

By Vera Hogan
vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

“Ally and I went shopping a few years ago,” said Nikki Brueger. “We were in the children’s section and Ally’s eyes were drawn to a little outfit and said to me, ‘isn’t this cute.’

The outfit, a ‘onesie’ sized for a 3-month-old infant, had an elephant on the front. “Ally loved animals, especially elephants, giraffes and sloths.”

“Sloths,” we asked and Nikki said, “Yes, she always wanted to hold a sloth.”

“Anyway, Ally returned the item to where she picked it up, but I went back and bought it along with a cute little pair of matching socks,” said Nikki. “I told her I would save it for her granddaughter.”

“We still don’t know why, there is no closure,” said Nikki. “We’re stuck in the same place we were a year ago. But as bad as it is for us, what bothers me the most is what he took from her.”

“She was only 31 years old. She was at a time in her life when she was confident and comfortable with who she was,” Nikki said. “She was looking forward to marriage, to having children, buying a house. …

“Ally was passionate about her writing, having earned her Master’s Degree in creative writing. It was awarded to her posthumously a week before her birthday in November of last year.”

“She had plans to get her doctorate, probably in poetry,” said Nikki. “Her professor told me later that Ally would definitely have been published. It’s what he (murderer) took from her that bothers me the most. It pulverizes my spirit when I think about that.”

Nikki describes her daughter as very kind, thoughtful and considerate. “She also had a very dry, witty sense of humor,” she said. “She also had a very serious side. She had to in order to be a nurse.”

“Ally was very serious about her physical fitness. In order to be a nurse, she had to be able to lift patients, not an easy task when you’re under 5-feet tall and under 100 pounds.

“She ran 10 miles every day and every other day lifted 20-pound weights,” said Nikki. “She loved the outdoors. Running and physical activities fulfilled her mental, spiritual and emotional needs.

“Ally ran every day, even in the winter when it was snowing,” said Nikki. “She sometimes brought home baby birds, and little baby turtles. ‘She occasionally liked to run into the village of Holly, but only at certain times of the day,’ added Nikki. “She didn’t like the loud and crude remarks that were yelled at her from cars … by boys and men. It happened all the time.”

“Ally was very aware and somewhat fearful. The outburst of harassment perpetrated on women that happens all the time.”

“Ally was very important to Ally that her organs be donated, said her mother. “This puny, repulsive coward shot her in the back while running away,” said Nikki. “He knows he’s a puny, repulsive coward and now everyone knows what he already knows because it’s all over the TV, social media and the newspapers.”

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It was very important to Ally that her organs be donated, said her mother. Her wish could not be fulfilled because when there is a homicide, an autopsy is required, making organ donation impossible.

“Ally’s murderer is still inconceivable to her parents, family, friends and co-workers.”

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

Nikki Brueger (right near microphone) is shown here with her family at a February press conference organized by Crime Stoppers.

Calls the murderer a ‘puny, repulsive coward’

Nikki is the mother of Alexandra “Ally” Brueger, the 31-year-old nurse who was murdered while jogging on Fish Lake Road in Rose Township on July 30, 2016.

Ally, the only child of Franz and Nikki, will never get married. She will never have a daughter, or a son, and her mom and dad will never be grandparents.

‘This is what this puny, repulsive coward took from us,’ Nikki said of her daughter’s killer.

Ally’s murderer is still inconceivable to her parents, family, friends and co-workers.

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**$374,999**

Adorable ranch home with 49’ frontage on All Sports Lobdell Lake. 2324 SF, 4 BDR & 2 BA. Gorgeous views of the lake, hardwood floors, 2 kitchens, formal dining room, living room, family room with fireplace, first floor laundry, awesome sun room, full finished walkout basement, great storage and more. Large deck with stair leading to patio, fantastic home for entertaining both inside and out. Additional lot included, located across the street!

**FENTON-SCHOOLS**

**$249,999**

Adorable ranch home, 1759 SF, 3 BDR & 3 BA. Beautiful living room offers fireplace, hardwood floors, crown molding and great natural light. Kitchen features hardwood floors, pantry, island, granite counter tops, lots of cabinet and counter space. Full basement, 2 car attached garage, fenced yard, large deck, patio and more. Awesome location, walking distance to downtown Fenton.

**ACREAGE**

**$124,999**

Charming home nestled on 1.89 acres, 1591 SF of finished living space. 3 BDR & 1.5 BA. Cute kitchen with pantry, dining area, lots of cabinet and counter space. Formal dining room with great natural light, large living room and 3 season porch. Partially finished basement with family room and kitchenette.

**LAKE-FENTON-SCHOOLS**

**$224,999**

1959 SF, 3 BDR & 2.5 BA. Great kitchen with lots of cabinet and counter space. Open floor plan with cathedral ceilings, dining room, first floor laundry, and living room with door wall leading to large deck. Full basement ready to be finished or perfect for storage.

**LAKE-FENTON-SCHOOLS**

**$99,999**

Great ranch condo in high demand Glen Devon Development. Main floor unit, no stairs to climb. 1229 SF, 3 BDR & 2 BA. Nice kitchen with lots of cabinet and counter space. Sun porch, laundry room with extra storage. 1 car detached garage and more.

**FENTON-SCHOOLS**

**$135,000**

Cute ranch home with tons of updates, 1710 SF of finished living space, 3 BDR & 1 BA. Spacious kitchen with lots of cabinet and counter space. Updated bathroom, fresh paint, refinished hardwood floors throughout, coved ceilings, newer windows, siding, gutters, and windows. Spacious yard, 2 car detached garage and deck.

**GRAND-BLANC-SCHOOLS**

**$129,999**

1615 SF, 3 BDR & 1.5 BA. Beautiful hardwood floors throughout, natural, wide oak trim throughout, oak leaded glass french doors leading to family room. Updated kitchen with lots of cabinet and counter space. Full basement, cute screened back porch, charming front porch for enjoying beautiful, perennial gardens.

**GRAND-BLANC-SCHOOLS**

**$149,999**

1615 SF, 3 BDR & 1.5 BA. Beautiful hardwood floors throughout, coved ceilings, natural, wide oak trim throughout, oak leaded glass french doors leading to family room. Updated kitchen with lots of cabinet and counter space. Full basement, cute screened back porch, charming front porch for enjoying beautiful, perennial gardens.

**GRAND-BLANC-SCHOOLS**

**$129,999**

1615 SF of finished living space, 3 BDR & 1.5 BA. Large living room offers great natural light and hardwood floors continuing down the hallway and into the bedrooms. Full, finished basement with family room, 4th bedroom and tons of storage. 2 car attached garage, shed, large deck with awning and pergola. Beautiful yard with lots of gardens and mature trees.

**FENTON-SCHOOLS**

**$135,000**

Charming home nestled on 1.89 acres, 1591 SF of finished living space. 3 BDR & 1.5 BA. Cute kitchen with pantry, dining area, lots of cabinet and counter space. Formal dining room with great natural light, large living room and 3 season porch. Partially finished basement with family room and kitchenette.

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**6466 WAGNER AVE, GRAND BLANC**

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**12266 SAINT ANDREWS WAY, FENTON**

JUST LISTED!!!

**12417 MARGARET DR, FENTON**

JUST LISTED!!!

**10185 E RICHFIELD RD, DAVISON**

JUST LISTED!!!

**750 ELMWOOD DR, FENTON**

JUST LISTED!!!

**3630 E RICHFIELD RD, DAVISON**

JUST LISTED!!!

**401 FENTON COMMONS LN, FENTON**

JUST LISTED!!!

**10707 MARGARET DR, FENTON**

JUST LISTED!!!

**824 S LEROY ST, FENTON**

JUST LISTED!!!

**12920 JAMES ST, FENTON**

JUST LISTED!!!

**3005 S KELLOGG ST, FENTON**

JUST LISTED!!!

**3700 S KELLOGG ST, FENTON**

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**12347 MARGARET DR, FENTON**

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**248 S LEROY ST, FENTON**

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**1315 S KELLOGG ST, FENTON**

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HOT LINE CONTINUED

LAST YEAR DONALD Trump said he was 70 years old. This year he’s saying he is 71. Which is it Donald? ■ ■ ■

KID ROCK SHOULD’VE ran for Fenton’s mayor.

■ ■ ■

I WANT THE power to make a fortune off my public service, pardon myself and the criminals around me, and fire any law enforcement that may investigate my conduct, just like Putin and Trump.

■ ■ ■

JUST ANOTHER EMBARRASSING day with this administration. While touting to the Boy Scouts, he starts out by swearing, instead of inspiration for these fine young boys and men, they got a campaign speech. Sad.

HOTLINE: (248) 647-1300

NEWSPAPER ADVERTISING

This year he’s saying he is 70 years old. This year he’s saying he is 71. Which is it Donald? ■ ■ ■

WEEKEND TIMES

www.tctimes.com

Sena Bowling of Taylor Creek Stables leads a three-day horsemanship class at Silver Lake Stables in Fenton Township, which ended on Wednesday, July 12.

**Horsemanship programs refine skills for life**

Local horse-riding programs available for kids and adults

By Tim Jagielo

jagielo@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795

Fenton Twp. — Sena Bowling of Taylor Creek Stables watches the girls lead horses by the bridle around the arena and calls out suggestions and encouragement as they run through exercises.

These children are learning how to effectively control and work with a 1,000-pound animal as part of the “horsemanship” training they received at the first three-day camp at Silver Lake Stables.

“I think the greatest thing about horsemanship is that they learn to team with an animal,” said Bowling. “You have to be flexible and really work with horses’ moods and control them.”

Bowling’s business is in Davison, but she’s just wrapping up her first time holding classes at the brand new Silver Lake Stables on Silver Lake Road, just west of Fenton. She said she started Silver Lake Stables with the Hagerman family, including Phil and Jocelyn, who built the facility in 2016.

Bowling’s camp isn’t the only one in the tri-county area. YMCA Camp Copneconic in Mundy Township hosts Ranch Camp and Windwalker Farms in Tyrone Township teaches horsemanship as well.

“We teach people how to interact effectively with horses,” said Tim Scarberry, owner of Windwalker Farms. He focuses on working to understand the mind of a horse and how to effectively communicate with them. He doesn’t like the term “horse whisperer,” but said his students learn the language of horses to ease the horse’s nerves to better work with this powerful and potentially skittish animal.

Scarberry has worked with horses since he was a child and said he appreciates their loyal, but honest personalities. “They’re going to show you how they think and feel about every situation,” he said.

Riders learn how to stay calm and in control when working with these large animals, which can translate to staying calm in daily life situations, such as work or stress.

Camp Copneconic has day and overnight Ranch Camp programs for children, said Brandon Dreffs, associate executive director. These camps run all week and campers spend half the day around horses.

Students can learn English show styles of riding as well as western saddles and trail riding. Programs can cater to beginners and more advanced riders.

Our ranch programs can be the perfect place for campers to step out of their comfort zone and try something new that helps them gain self-assurance and independence that will become vital later in life,” he said.

At Silver Lake Stables, the camp ran July 10-12, and included a mix of new students and those with more experience. They learned horsemanship, which includes working with, handling and riding their horse, and also grooming and showing their horse.

For the horse show segment, the students had to groom and prep their horses as if it were a real show. Then they had to lead them into the arena to execute a pattern while being watched by the other students, Bowling and her helpers.

Students were also on different parts of the horse and the program concluded with an award ceremony with ribbons.

Bowling said that her students can learn discipline from the training, and take it further if they like. While this class was all girls, she said it’s also open to boys. “The boys sign up a little later. They realize all the pretty girls hang out at the barn,” she said with a laugh.

**WHERE TO RIDE**

YMCA Camp Copneconic

www.campcopneconic.org

(810) 829-6622

Windwalker Farms

www.windwalkerfarms.com

(810) 276-2415

Taylor Creek Stables

www.taylorcreekstables.com

(248) 459-0059; (248) 459-0879
In Michigan, there are two tiers of animal abuse: animal cruelty and malicious animal cruelty.

According to the Michigan Penal Code 750.50b, the first offense for animal cruelty is a misdemeanor with a fine of up to $1,000 and/or imprisonment of up to 93 days and/or community service for not more than 200 hours. If you’re guilty of animal cruelty in the second offense tier, you could receive up to $5,000 and/or imprisonment of up to four years and/or community service for not more than 200 hours.

With more offenses, offenders can be sentenced with a felony with a fine of up to $5,000 and/or imprisonment of up to four years and/or community service for not more than 500 hours.

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Genesee County Undersheriff Chris Swanson said a four-year sentence is not enough.

“When you look at the people behind animal abuse and neglect, if you’re going to abuse a helpless, defenseless animal, there’s a high probability you’re going to hurt a human being,” he said.

Many animal abusers plead down to a misdemeanor and then only receive 90 days.

“Once you consciously starve a dog or consciously neglect a dog in the winter time and it freezes to death, when you light a dog on fire, that to me is greater than a four-year penalty,” he said. “If we don’t protect them, then who will?”

Swanson said Sheriff Robert Pickell has investigated more animal abuse cases as a police department than ever before in the state of Michigan.

“He’s a champion in this cause,” Swanson said.

Animal shelters have more tools to weed out potential animal abusers now than in past years.

In December 2016, Lt. Gov. Brian Calley signed into law a package of bills that allow Michigan animal shelters to conduct criminal background checks on people wishing to adopt animals using the Internet Criminal History Access Tool (ICHAT).

The shelter can choose not to allow the adoption if the person has been convicted of an animal abuse offense within the last five years.

Predrick Hurt, the man who pleaded guilty to one count of animal abuse in the case of Harvey Dent, the 9-month-old puppy that was burned on the left side of his body and blinded, was sentenced to six months in jail and two years probation.

He is also ordered to pay back over $2,000 for restitution and any medical bills Harvey’s treatments amassed, and he cannot own an animal.

“I remember he said something about ‘what’s the big deal, it’s just an animal,’ which was kind of cold,” Geoffrey Neithercut, Genesee County Circuit Court judge said.

“I remember he said something about ‘what’s the big deal, it’s just an animal,’” Neithercut said just because the guidelines allow for a maximum of four years, that doesn’t mean someone will receive four years. With the sentencing guidelines allowed in this case, the worst Hurt could get was six months in jail.

“If he violates the terms of probation … they bring him back in front of the court and the guidelines get thrown out the window and the judge can throw him in prison,” he said.

THE LAW

According to the Michigan Penal Code 750.50b, in Michigan, maliciously killing or injuring an animal, which counts as animal cruelty, is defined as failure to provide animals with adequate care, beating an animal, tying an animal’s feet together, and failing to provide space in a vehicle when driving. It is illegal to willfully neglect an animal, including one who is aged, diseased, maimed, sick, disabled or cause them to suffer unnecessary neglect, torture, or pain. When tethering a dog, the rope must be at least three times its body length attached to a harness or non-choke collar. The same four-year penalty applies to someone convicted of malicious animal cruelty.
Friday, August 4 through Saturday, August 12

**Friday, August 4**
- 4pm.......................................................... **Free Sundaes**
- 6pm.......................................................... **Rodeo Stock Sale**
- 6pm.......................................................... **Bingo**
- 8pm.......................................................... **Sonic the Hedgehog**
- 9pm.......................................................... **Sunday Drive**
- 10pm.......................................................... **Cruisin’ on the Fairway**

**Saturday, August 5**
- Noon.......................................................... **Oklahoma Joe’s Family Fun Day**
- 5pm.......................................................... **Carnival & Kiddie Kiddie Rides**
- 5pm.......................................................... **The Simpsons**
- 6pm.......................................................... **Bingo**
- 9pm.......................................................... **Local Country Band**

**Sunday, August 6**
- Noon.......................................................... **Dress Rehearsal**
- 1pm.......................................................... **Tribute to LaBelle**
- 6pm.......................................................... **Bingo**
- 7pm.......................................................... **Live Band**

**Monday, August 7**
- Noon.......................................................... **Free Sundaes**
- 4pm.......................................................... **CARNIVAL OPEN**
- 5pm.......................................................... **Copenhagen**

**Tuesday, August 8**
- Noon.......................................................... **Free Sundaes**
- 4pm.......................................................... **CARNIVAL OPEN**
- 9pm.......................................................... **Carnival Arena**

**Wednesday, August 9**
- Noon.......................................................... **Free Sundaes**
- 4pm.......................................................... **CARNIVAL OPEN**
- 4pm.......................................................... **Carnival Arena**
- 7:30pm...................................................... **Carnival Arena**

**Thursday, August 10**
- Noon.......................................................... **Free Sundaes**
- 4pm.......................................................... **CARNIVAL OPEN**
- 10pm.......................................................... **Bingo**
- 10pm.......................................................... **Bingo**

**Friday, August 11**
- Noon.......................................................... **Free Sundaes**
- 4pm.......................................................... **Carnival & Kiddie Kiddie Rides**
- 6pm.......................................................... **Carnival Arena**
- 6pm.......................................................... **Bingo**
- 7pm.......................................................... **Bingo**
- 9pm.......................................................... **Carnival Arena**

**Saturday, August 12**
- Noon.......................................................... **Free Sundaes**
- 4pm.......................................................... **CARNIVAL OPEN**
- 5pm.......................................................... **Copenhagen**
- 6pm.......................................................... **Bingo**
- 10pm.......................................................... **Bingo**

**Sunday, August 13**
- Noon.......................................................... **Free Sundaes**
- 4pm.......................................................... **CARNIVAL OPEN**
- 5pm.......................................................... **Copenhagen**
- 6pm.......................................................... **Bingo**
- 10pm.......................................................... **Bingo**

Please also give us your name and contact information so we may reach you.
A word of caution, however, emergency personnel are on scene to do a job so please don’t interfere with their work or do anything to jeopardize the safety of others or yourself just to get photos or video.
Thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation.
Logan LaClair, 30, opened Reliable Wrenches Auto and Truck Repair in Holly two weeks ago. He handles brake work, chassis work, axles, transmissions, motors and exhaust systems on foreign and domestic cars. “We try to have the best labor rates in town,” he said. “I try to be fair with everybody.”

Logan LaClair, 30, opened Reliable Wrenches Auto and Truck Repair in Holly, across from the Karl Richter Community Center.

How did you get started in the automotive repair business?

I grew up on a farm and we always had to fix stuff. I found I had a knack for repair and after working for someone else in auto repair, I decided I wanted to do it on my own.

What are your main products and services?

I do full-service auto, truck and trailer repairs — anything from oil changes to engine swaps. I do a lot of chassis work, engines, drivetrain, tune-ups, brakes, exhaust and suspension. I’m a state-certified mechanic.

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I only sell people what they need. I have the lowest labor rate in town, because I keep my business small and personal, a mom-and-pop shop. When you come into Reliable Wrenches, I’m the one who will give you a quote on the work you need done and I’m the one actually fixing your vehicle. I also like to give customers a fast turn-around time. I offer towing services as well.

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Hours:

Mon.-Fri.: 8-5
Sat.: By appointment

Linden police have started an investigation involving drugs provided to a minor last weekend. Linden Police Chief Scott Sutter said Michigan State Police-Flint Post called during the morning of Saturday, July 22 and advised the police department that a 15-year-old Linden area girl was found lying on the ground and foaming at the mouth in front of a home in Shiawassee County. MSP advised Linden police that the girl had consumed a variety of pills, including LSD, a hallucinogen. The girl was transported to the hospital for medical care and was released to her mother. The girl told investigators she got the pills from an individual in the 700 block of Bush Street in Linden. Sutter said they are in the process of interviewing the girl as well as individuals who may have been at the home on Bush Street late Friday night and early Saturday morning.

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COLLEGE
Continued from Page 3A

Ply said they provide career technical education for high school students in the county, and they have approximately 30 programs. Most programs only accept juniors and seniors, but junior ROTC accepts freshmen and sophomores as well.

The most popular fields are the cosmetology and health-related areas, like nursing. In the cosmetology program, students study at the GCI in their junior and senior years, and can get their licenses after completing two years. This saves cosmetology students a lot of money because other schools cost around $12,000.

Students in the health field work in actual doctor’s offices and nursing homes.

Ply said one of the biggest draws of the GCI is that students gain work experience while still in school, and they don’t have to spend thousands of dollars at a university.

“You can take our electrical program, step into apprenticeship. While you’re an apprentice, you’ll start making money and working while they send you to school,” he said. “Then you get the certification and you are a master electrician.”

Ply said those students can start making $60,000 to $70,000 right out of school with no debt.

“If you are going into the skilled trades you don’t need a college degree,” Ply said. These trades include plumbing, construction, electrician work, automotive, machinists, operators and other fields. At the GCI, students can get college credit while in high school.

“You walk out of here with no debt and you’re employable right away,” he said.

ANNUAL SALARIES OF SKILLED CAREERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Salary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bricklayers</td>
<td>$45,965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemical plant operator</td>
<td>$40,473</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental hygienist</td>
<td>$62,220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Locomotive engineer</td>
<td>$62,995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Machinist</td>
<td>$41,032</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cosmotologist</td>
<td>$27,940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certified nursing assistant</td>
<td>$33,223</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: salary.com

SHORTAGE OF MANUFACTURING WORKERS

Jim Ply, principal of the Genesee Career Institute, Jim Ply, said there’s an “incredible” shortage of people going into these skilled trade jobs, which started during the recession in the early 2000s. According to the Manufacturing Institute and Deloitte, approximately 22 percent, or 2.7 million people, of skilled manufacturing workers are retiring over the next decade. But, the industry is expected to fall short by 2 million workers it will need to fill those careers.

“I think people saw a downturn in a lot of manufacturing areas. People were getting laid off. That just kind of spurred that whole get-that-college-education philosophy, so people moved that direction rather than going into skilled trade,” he said.

However, the number of manufacturing jobs has increased in Michigan since 2009 at its lowest with approximately 600,000 jobs, to over 900,000 this year, according to the Bureau of Labor. Ply said there’s a gap in these jobs right now, because for decades, not many people went into those fields and the people working them now are retiring.

“You’ve got to have the people to fill those,” he said. “We’re seeing a resurgence in students and parents starting to realize that these are careers. It is a well paying career. All that information about student debt is hitting people, too.”

GENESEE CAREER INSTITUTE

To enroll in a Genesee Career Institute program, go to geneseeisd.org and see if they accept students from your high school. Fill out the application and give turn it into your school.
‘Taste in Fenton’ to feature 20 restaurants on Aug. 2

Watch for one of Fenton’s largest events at the Fenton Community & Cultural Center

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

How would you like to sample the best tastes of 20 restaurants in Fenton, all in one place?

This year’s ‘Taste in Fenton’ on Wednesday, Aug. 2, from 4 to 8 p.m., will feature not only sit-down and take-out eateries but also fare from three local food trucks.

“We’ve expanded into the parking lot with three food trucks,” said Matt Sherrow, event chairman. “Watch for Halo Burger, Bangkok Peppers and Mama K’s Cafe.”

Other participating restaurants include Beale Ste. BBQ Smokehouse, Hungry Howie’s Pizza, VG’s Bakery, VG’s Deli, Biggby Coffee, The Laundry, El Topo, Tropical Smoothie Cafe, WellBridge of Fenton, La Marsa Mediterranean, Canadian Steak, Fish & Sandwich, CRUST, Fenton Fire Hall, The Corner Bar & Grill, Culver’s, Leo’s Coney Island, Spring Meadows Country Club and The Green Olive Tree.

This event is more than just about food — there are plenty of family friendly activities to attract all ages, including the Beer Stein-holding Contest, Kids Zone, Adult Pie Eating Contest and Kids’ Doughnut Eating Contest.

Reserved tent seating will be available by advance registration. A shuttle will provide convenient transportation between the community center and overflow parking next to the Chamber office.

Car Raffle Tickets will be sold, with the drawing at 8 p.m. The winner will have their choice of a 2017 Chevrolet Silverado Crew or a 2017 Chevrolet SS Convertible or a $30,000 cash prize. There will be 10 secondary prizes of either an Apple Watch or $250 cash.

Taste in Fenton tickets will be available online at Fentonchamber.com until midnight on Aug. 1, for a reduced fee of $10 per strip of 10 tickets. Online tickets can be picked up at the Chamber office at 104 S. Adelaide St., Fenton or at the Will Call tent on the day of the event. Tickets purchased on Aug. 2 will be $15 each.

Main presenting sponsors are Fenton City, The State Bank and VG’s Grocery. Other sponsors include: Dort Federal Credit Union, Douglas Water Conditioning, JD Michel Salon, Behind Your Design, C&L Ward Bros., LaFontaine Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge & Ram, Genisys Credit Union, Action Water Sports, ELGA Credit Union, Vein Solutions, Michalkow Orthodontics, Flint Firebirds and Valley Tent Rental.

For more information, contact the Chamber office at (810) 629-5447.

Many family friendly events will be returning, including the Beer Stein-holding Contest, Kids Zone, Adult Pie Eating Contest and Kids’ Doughnut Eating Contest.

Matt Sherrow
Taste in Fenton chairman

Taste in Fenton is Wednesday, Aug. 2, from 4 to 8 p.m. bringing a variety of local eateries to one place, including Leo’s Coney Island. There will also be a pie-eating contest, beer stein holding contest and musical entertainment.

Compiled by Vera Hogan

WHAT YOU MISSED
in the MIDWEEK TIMES

The following are stories you may have missed in the Wednesday, July 26, Midweek Times. To subscribe and receive both the Midweek and Sunday Weekend editions, please call (810) 629-8282.

One year later — shooter still deemed incompetent
Jaccelyn Faye Tyson, the woman charged with killing two women at a Grand Blanc leasing office. One of the women, Lyric Work, is formerly from Linden.

‘He was clinically dead when we arrived on scene’
Emergency personnel and citizens recognized for saving the life of a local teen.

Fenton man claims $4.4-million lottery jackpot
Winner chooses to remain anonymous which is allowed by Michigan law when the prize won is greater than $10,000.

Fenton man in serious condition after lake accident
Unconscious and not breathing, a 25-year-old Fenton man was pulled from Big Seven Lake on Sunday, July 23.

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Cannot be combined with any other offers or coupons. Must present coupon to get order. One offer per customer. Some restrictions may apply. Expires 8/26/17

$10 OFF Service Call
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Expires 8/31/17.

$50 OFF Tree Service of $300 or more
TREE MAN Tree Service
Expires 8/31/17

$1 OFF Any Real Fruit Smoothie
Tropical Smoothie Cafe

Valid only at 4009 Owen Rd., Fenton. Please present coupon when ordering. Not to be combined with any other coupon or offer. One discounted smoothie with coupon per customer. Expires 8/31/17

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WEEKEND TIMES Sunday, July 30, 2017 19A
FENTON CITY
Continued from Front Page
and I am running again because I have been part of countless discussions and plans about downtown revitalization during my years as mayor,” said Osborn. “I would like to provide a continuity of leadership as we enter the final steps of Fenton’s downtown and development. We have done so much without raising taxes and maintaining fiscal discipline, and I would like to improve our financial health even more if I am re-elected.”

Smith said, “I feel it’s time for voters to have a choice. The current mayor has held this position for 19 years and I feel it’s time for our city voters to have options and choices.

“I bring a different perspective to the table as a council person. I represent those residents who felt that I spoke for them. I was never one to show favoritism of one segment of our citizens or businesses over another. I’d like to think I represent a broader segment of Fenton.

“As a council member, I do my homework and vote what I feel is best for our city as a whole,” Smith added. “I’m not a special interest group. I vote for the residents and businesses should be as important as the next. In the end though, one must weigh the benefits of keeping a balanced budget, working within our means and doing what is best for our community.”

Wilkinson said, “I have no previous political experience, but am running to make Fenton great — for everyone.

“If elected, I will hear what the citizens want and act on it,” I am an honest, loyal, hard-working owner of my own small business, have strong leadership skills, quick decision-making abilities when needed, I am fair and just, and fiscally responsible.”

There will be five people on the November ballot for Fenton City Council. They are incumbents Dave McDermott, and Scott Grossmeyer, who have served on the council since 2013. Their four-year terms expire this year. Councilman Brad Jacob has chosen to not seek re-election.

McDermott and Grossmeyer are being challenged by Donald Bankcroft, Sean Sage, and Tracy Bottecelli.

Grossmeyer, 60, said, “After serving on various boards and commissions over the last 18 years as well as city council for the past four years, I have witnessed the revitalization of Fenton.

“It has been both a pleasure and an honor being a part of that transformation, and I would very much like to continue being a part of that progress,” he added. “If I would very much like to continue being a part of that transformation, and I want to make sure it stays a priority,” McDermott said.

Bancroft, 61, who goes by the nickname “Skip,” has been active with the city of Fenton behind the scenes.

“I am a member of the Board of Review, the Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals and the Library Board.”

On his reasons for seeking a seat on the City Council, he said, “I enjoy serving the community and would like to serve more.”

Bottecelli, 61, said, “While working as vice president and head of the Investment/Trust Department at The State Bank, I served on the Fenton Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and held the office of treasurer on that board for two years.

“In addition, I was marketing director for the initial fundraising efforts for the Fenton Community Center,” she added.

“I was born and raised in Fenton as was my father. He and my grandfather both owned and operated businesses in Fenton. In addition, my father served on the Fenton City Council and as mayor.

“I have a great love for the city of Fenton and feel I have a good insight into the needs of the city based on my years at Scott,” she said. “I have good skills and know I can contribute to the positive growth and bright future of my home town. Throughout my 21-year career as a legal assistant, I have developed excellent problem-solving and organizational skills as well as expertise in communications and leadership.

Sage, 41, said, “My grandparents raised a family on Adelaide Street and I am raising mine on East Street.

“Fenton is my home and my piece of Earth. I want my children and (hopefully) grandchildren to have that same feeling. But for Fenton to be as successful in future generations as it has been in past generations, it needs serious shepherds. It needs qualified and faithful representatives with the ability to adjust with changing times, but who have the depth of experience to remember and cherish the past,” said Sage.

“It needs people who want the job more than the title, and who have the broad range of skills and knowledge to do the job well. I am running for Fenton City Council because there is a job to do, and I feel that I am uniquely qualified to do it well.

“I can be a representative of the people because I have the experience of Fenton’s past and a stake in its future, a track record established in years of work on city boards, youth sports, Cub Scouts, school committees, etc. I have a career on the management side of the construction industry, which will be needed to navigate the opportunities and pitfalls that this city will face in the next four years.”

Cherie Smith
Kurt Wilkinson
Scott Grossmeyer
Dave McDermott
Tracy Bottecelli
Donald “Skip” Bancroft
Sean Sage

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20A Sunday, July 30, 2017 WEEKEND TIMES www.tctimes.com
Get into the ‘action’ with an Anniversary Party for Action Water Sports

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

Action Water Sports will celebrate its 10-year anniversary at its location on Old US-23 in Tyrone Township, just south of Fenton, with a party on Thursday, Aug. 10, from 5 to 9 p.m. In addition to an old-fashioned barbecue, musical entertainment and Pro Shop specials, you’ll have a chance to see all the new and exciting boating products for 2018.

Even though Action Water Sports is celebrating its 10th year, their longevity and experience in the boat business dates back long before then. Back in 1971, the Rising family first became associated with MasterCraft Boats, which had been founded in 1968. “We are the longest-standing MasterCraft dealer in the world,” said Mary Rising, manager of this Fenton area family business.

The Rising family began its marine business by selling boats from a home office. In 1976, their storefront on Silver Lake was opened and 10 years later, a second location was added in Waterford to service their growing Oakland County customer base. Business grew to a point that upgraded facilities were required and in 2007, the dealership built a brand new store and three storage buildings at 8051 Old US-23. They also added their popular line of Cobalt Boats at that time.

Their growth continues today with seven storage buildings on their property and plans to add another one this fall. They also plan to add 9,500 square feet to their existing Sales/Service building. “Our growth has everything to do with our customers, who are such wonderful people,” said Rising. “They appreciate what we do for them and in turn, give us great referrals. It also helps that our core team members are avid water sports enthusiasts that truly thrive on sharing their love of the sport with our customers.”

In addition to being the oldest MasterCraft Dealer in the world, Action Water Sports is also the largest volume dealer and a Service Award winner. They have been a CSI (Customer Service Index) winner for five years with Cobalt Boats, recognized for 13 years as one of the Top 100 Dealers in North America by the MRAA (Marine Retailers Association of America) and they are also both a CSI and Sales Award Winner by the NMMA (National Marine Manufacturers Association). In March, they were named WSIA (Water Ski Industry Association) Marine Dealer of the Year.

You don’t have to be a boater to like Action Water Sports. You can find a nice selection of sun protection products by Sun Bum, Oakley sunglasses, the largest selection of Sanuk Sandals in the area and lifestyle clothing by Billabong, Duvin, Fox, Hurley, O’Neill, Quiksilver, Roxy, Skroove and Under Armor. You will also find a huge selection of ski, wake board and wake surf products by Connelly/CWB, HO/Hyperlite, Liquid Force, Radar/Ronix and Stand Up Paddle Boards by Bote and Connelly and paddle boards by Paddle King.

When your boat needs to be tucked away for the winter, Action Water Sports will do your fall maintenance then store it on-site either indoors or outdoors. For more information, call Action Water Sports at (810) 629-1342 or visit their website at actionwater.com. You can also like their Facebook page – Action Water Sports of Fenton.

TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO
Action Water Sports continues to grow and expand, adding another storage building this fall and more space in their existing showroom/office facilities.
Tri-County Times | July 30, 2017 | page 22a | www.tctimes.com/Sports

Smigielski leads our diamond team

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

Troy Smigielski had high expectations for his senior season.

But, even he had to admit his final year with the Fenton varsity baseball team went better than he could’ve ever expected.

“I expect a lot out of myself, but I was a little surprised how well it all went,” Smigielski said. “I worked very hard and I was happy how it turned out.”

There wasn’t much to be upset about. His squad probably surpassed most people’s expectations, going 13-1 in Metro League action, crushing the opposition 13-1 in Metro League action, crushing the Lapeer West in 2001. The squad also was ranked fifth at the Division 2 state meet.

Senior pitcher Troy Smigielski had an outstanding 2017 season. Listed below are some of his stats from the season.

- Smigielski posted a perfect 11-0 record, while recording a 0.95 earned run average. He struck out 70 and allowed 32 hits in 59 innings.
- Batted .389 with 10 doubles and 24 runs batted in.

“It was just a lot of fun. We knew when to have fun and when to focus. Winning made it more fun. It was amazing being a part of the team. (Coach) Lawrence made it more of a family environment. We trusted him and it made it a blast.”

Smigielski’s pitching stats look like those of an 11-0 hurler. He tossed 59 innings, allowing just 32 hits and 13 walks. He allowed just 10 runs all season, with eight being earned. That helped him record an amazing 0.94 earned run average. He ended up taking the defense out of the equation.

See Smigielski’s season on page 23A

Holly tennis summer program remains a hit

Lessons mixed with fun for youngsters at camp

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

Holly — Nicole Johnson is one of the top tennis players in the state of Michigan.

She earned Honorable Mention All-State honors last spring after posting a 26-10 record at No. 2 singles for the Holly Bronchos’ state-ranked team that finished the year tied for fifth at the Division 2 state meet.

Sami Hild is a pretty good player herself, recording a 30-6 record in doubles matches for the squad.

However, this summer’s pair has found an even tougher challenge than playing against the best teams in the state of Michigan. It involves coaching children who are frequently not even in school yet.

The annual Holly Tennis Camp is concluding its last week of the summer this week, and the two Holly players are just a couple of the student-athletes in the school that have helped run the camp. On Monday, they were working with the 3-to-5-year-olds. The games included catching a tennis ball between two rackets and balancing a ball on their racket while running.

“I love working with the kids. They are my favorite group,” Johnson said. “I just like watching them learn to play the game. It’s a lot different than the older kids who, obviously, have an idea about the game. It’s just interesting to see how they pick it up.”

“I love working with the kids. They are the future of Holly tennis,” Hild said. “The dedication that they already have at such a young age helps build our program. They are so much fun to work with and they are just so cute. I like to imagine myself at that age. I wish I was out here playing tennis (at that age). I’m glad to be out here.”

When it comes to successful athletic programs very few, if any, have been more successful.

See Holiy ly on 23A

Meet Pepe Lepeu

I am a handsome 8-month-old. I am great with other cats but should not go home with a dog. I am fun loving and ready to Rough and Tumble.

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smigiel ski
Continued from Page 22A
at times as well with his 70 strike outs.

“I can’t say I thought he’d have the type of
season he had for us, but I knew he was
going to be a really good pitcher for us,”
Fenton varsity baseball coach Shawn Law-
rence said. “He just made a really great
jump from his junior season to his senior
year and really became a pillar of our
team.”

Smigielski, who will pitch for Albion
College’s baseball team next season, used
three pitches to lead him to success — a
fastball, a change-up and a curve ball.

“I have a good mix of pitches. I can
throw three pitches pretty well,” Smigiel-
ski said. “I raised my speeds pretty good
and kept the hitters off balanced. I threw
something they weren’t expecting.”

Smigielski had several outstanding
games on the mound. His success started
in the first game, four innings of one-hit,
no-run and five-strike out ball in a 10-0
win against Grand Blanc. He followed that
performance with a seven-inning one-hit
shutout against Holly in his second start
of the season, striking out 13. Fenton won
that contest 5-0. Smigielski didn’t allow a
run during the season until the seventh in-
nings of his next start, a 6-2 victory against
Flashing. Still, he earned the win, improv-
ing to 3-0.

He ended up tossing two more shut-
outs before the season was over. One was
a three-hitter in a 10-0 win against Swartz
Creek, with the final one in a thrilling 1-0
victory against area rival Linden. In that
contest, Smigielski’s pitching opponent
was Lucas Marshall, who allowed just one
unearned run in the top of the first inning.
Smigielski needed just 89 pitches to toss a
four-hit, one-walk and six-strike out com-
plete game victory.

“He gave us a chance every time he
was out there,” Lawrence said. “All of our
pitchers did. Every single one of our pitch-
ers improved from last year, and that was
a huge plus.”

But his favorite outing came in the dis-
trict semifinals, a 6-2 win against Lake-
Land. In it, he allowed just four hits and
two walks en route to the complete game
victory.

“Everyone talked about how good they
were and Fenton didn’t stand a chance,”
Smigielski said. “Pitching it and proving
Fenton was the real deal was special.”

But Smigielski did more than pitch. He
actually provided a strong bat, hitting .389
with 10 doubles and 24 RBI.

Continued from Page 22

Holly Tennis Program

Sessions began June 19 and ended this
week.

“Many eventually became varsity players
in between two rackets during the Holly
sessions of the program, with


tennis programs over the last

Continued from Page 22

hOly
Continued from Page 22A
than the Holly tennis programs over the last
25 years in the tri-county area. It’s fair to
say the camp may have a small reason why
that is the case.

The program has always been run by the
person coaching the varsity tennis team,
starting with Bill McDaniel back in the
day and now with Will Sophiea. There
are sessions for every age and every talent
level. Competitive events are for children
anywhere from 6 to 18. Lessons are given
Monday through Wednesday with match
play happening on Thursdays. The various
sessions began June 19 and ended this week.

Sophiea says about 150 are participating in
the various sessions of the program, with
many eventually becoming varsity players
within the boys and girls tennis teams.

The most visually entertaining to watch
are usually the preschool and elementary
school students with their different types of
classes. Typically a day begins with one of
the participants saying a joke before the ac-
tivities begin. The day ends for the young-
ers about an hour later with a group huddle
and a cheer.

“Will does the best job with the kids,”
Hild said. “I like to look up to him. It’s so
cool to see how he works with them.”

Continued Online at TCTimes.com

All Tri-County Baseball Team

Here is a list of the players
that made our All Tri-
County Baseball Team as
selected by the sports staff.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pitchers</th>
<th>School</th>
<th>Outfielders</th>
<th>School</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lucas Marshall</td>
<td>Linden</td>
<td>Logan Benson</td>
<td>Fenton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nolan Lawrence</td>
<td>Fenton</td>
<td>Corbin Sines</td>
<td>Linden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chase Coselman</td>
<td>Linden</td>
<td>Brendan Buerkel</td>
<td>Linden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aaron Sarkon (P)</td>
<td>Linden</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack Shore (P)</td>
<td>Linden</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack Babbitt</td>
<td>Lake Fenton</td>
<td>David Pietryga,</td>
<td>Fenton</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Rest of First Team

School

Linden
Fenton
Linden
Linden
Linden
Linden

Troy Smigielski

TRI-COUNTY TIMES | David D. Troppers
Mikah Schroeder catches a tennis ball in between two rackets during the Holly Summer Tennis Program on Monday.

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES
Sunday, July 30, 2017
23a

Fenton resident Bill Glozier has had a little more luck on golf courses than the average player, recording five aces in about 60 years. His most recent came on Monday at Burton’s Southmoor Golf Course.

Glozier posts fifth ace of his golf career on Monday

Bill Glozier posted a hole-in-one on

Monday.

But he’s used to doing that. The
Fenton resident has recorded five of
them.

Glozier, 77, posted an ace at the
par-3 130-yard 10th hole at Burton’s
Southmoor Golf Club. He used a sev-
enn-wood to record his fifth ace. Glozi-
er has been playing for about 60 years.

TRI-COUNTY SPORTS

Sunday, July 30, 2017
23a

TRI-COUNTY TIMES | David D. Troppers
Fenton resident Bill Glozier has had a little more luck on golf courses than the average player, recording five aces in about 60 years. His most recent came on Monday at Burton’s Southmoor Golf Course.

Glozier posts fifth ace of his golf career on Monday

Bill Glozier posted a hole-in-one on

Monday.

But he’s used to doing that. The
Fenton resident has recorded five of
them.

Glozier, 77, posted an ace at the
par-3 130-yard 10th hole at Burton’s
Southmoor Golf Club. He used a sev-
enn-wood to record his fifth ace. Glozi-
er has been playing for about 60 years.
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Michele Vaughan was most helpful. She explained the work that needed to be done, in terms anyone could understand. She ordered the parts needed, and what and how the work was going to be done. Once the parts came in, I was given a reminder call for the time & day it happened. The repair was done in the time frame I was given. I am going to recommend her to all my friends. She is an asset to an already great dealership.

-Jim G.