

No answers — no killer — no closure

■ It's been one year since Ally Brueger was gunned down

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

It was a news report that shocked an entire community to its core. And one year

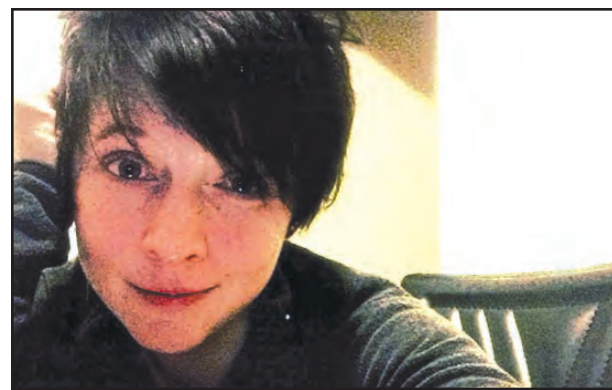
later, the murderer is still out there.

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

TRI-COUNTY TIMES
SUBMITTED PHOTO

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.



PAGE 1B
WILD LIFE IN MICHIGAN

VOL. 24 NO. XXXI

SUNDAY, JULY 30, 2017

2016 NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

\$1.00

Weekend Times

SUNDAY EDITION

Animal abuse penalties not harsh enough?

■ Animal abuse often precursor to human abuse

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.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.

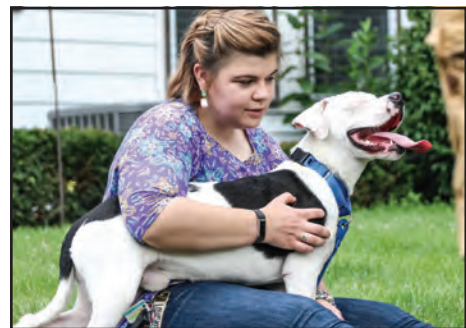
Genesee County Circuit Court Judge Geoffrey L. Neithercut said sentencing guidelines for animal cruelty allow for a maximum of four years in prison, up to a \$5,000 fine, and not more than 500 hours of community service.

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



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | HANNAH BALL

Harvey Dent, the 9-month-old puppy that was burned and blinded, was adopted by his new owner, Megan Pawloski, on July 18.

Feeling down? Saddle up!



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Students in the three-day horsemanship camp practice riding at Silver Lake Stables in Fenton Township on Wednesday, July 12. Some of the riders are beginners while others are experienced. They'll all learn the basics of working with a horse as well as grooming, showing and riding. See story on Page 14A.

Fenton City Council candidates revealed

■ Three candidates vying for mayor office

By Vera Hogan

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Fenton citizens may now know the names of the individuals who will be seeking to be re-elected, or elected for the first time to the Fenton City Council.

Mayor Sue Osborn, 69, is being challenged by two individuals hoping to unseat her. She has served as Fenton's mayor for 19 years.

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 See **FENTON CITY** on 20A



Mayor
Sue Osborn

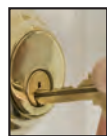
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“Now that OJ is being paroled, we should also free Charlie Manson, Jeffrey Dahmer and John Wayne Gacy. Hell, let's throw in Pablo Escobar and the Menendez brothers for good measure also.”



“I lock the doors in my home every night. I don't lock them because I hate the people outside my house. I lock them because I love the people inside my house.”



“As a veteran, I can tell you that any political correctness in the military will cost lives when in combat. I have nothing against gays, trans or women in the service, but they should not be present in life or death battle situations. We have everything to lose and nothing to gain.”



COMMENT
OF THE WEEK

“It's amazing that students and others know your address to send out invitations, but apparently can't find your address to send a 'thank you' note for the gift. Parents bear the responsibility to teach about graciousness.”

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

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.

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

■ Michigan faces shortage of skilled workers

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

You don't have to attend an expensive university for four years to have a successful career, and the Genesee Career Institute (GCI) is proving that.

Jim Ply, principal of the GCI, said "The vast majority of careers that we prep kids for don't require a four-year degree."

This includes everything from skilled trades like plumbing, to information technology, computer repair, nursing and cosmetology.

More and more students are taking advantage of the GCI. Last year, 1,370

kids enrolled, Ply said. For the 2017-2018 school year, 1,477 students are enrolled.

"It's a changing philosophy of everyone needs a college education to everyone needs a career," he said. "It doesn't have to be a four-year program."

Ply said EMTs and medical assistants do not need four-year degrees, and they have programs that give students the skills for those careers. When it comes to engineering, students can go the four-year route and become engineers, or the two-year route and become engineering technicians.

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.

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.

See **COLLEGE** on 18A

“It's a changing philosophy of everyone needs a college education to everyone needs a career.”

Jim Ply
Genesee Career
Institute principal

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.



Vera Hogan

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



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Come *Heller* high water

andrewheller@tctimes.com

Don't let microchips invade our privacy

A 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?



Andrew Heller
FEATURED COLUMNIST

The only advantage I see is if you only have one of those old, crumpled 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 of that stuff day in and day out, then you could get fat and die.

There are always tradeoffs.

The company expects 50 employees or so to volunteer for the chip. Personally, I wouldn't trade my privacy for a few perceived conveniences.

The company, I'm sure, is telling employees they won't use the chip to monitor them.

Then again, Hitler said he wasn't going to invade Poland, and every kid on the planet swears he won't ruin his appetite before dinner. So I can totally see a company control room where they track employees and what they're doing.

"Hmm, Heller's been in the bathroom 8.7 minutes longer than the allotted time window for performing bathroom functions. He's clearly either sleeping or playing Words with Friends on his phone. Alert the dogs!"

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.

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.

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

Hotlines

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

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

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 blight 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's 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? And how do they take care of them? They always look beautiful. Mine are already dying.

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 'It 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



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Compiled by Crystal Schupbach, intern

How did you know when you had become an adult?

street talk



"I haven't, but I'll know when I become a cowboy. I say that as a joke meaning if you dwell too much on your age, you lose the good around you. I try to act like a kid."

Andy Marko
Fenton Township



"I am not an adult. I'll let you know when it happens."

Erin Dennis
Fenton



"I knew when I started going to college and driving."

Ragda El Andere
Linden



"When I moved 3,000 miles away to California, right after high school, I thought I was an adult. Also, when I had my kids — those were two different adult moments."

Alicia Hicks
Fenton



"It was probably when I hired into General Motors two weeks after I graduated high school because I had to grow up fast."

Steve Carpenter
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THIS WEEK'S
LETTER:By Vera Hogan
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810-433-6823

A to Z

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



It is *eeeeeasy* 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.



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Linden grad wins international competition

■ 18-year-old defeats more than 150 contestants

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

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 in the Health Occupations Students of America Annual International Leadership Conference for job seeking skills.

Through the Genesee Career Institute, Henrich became a certified emergency medical technician. The GCI has approximately 56 competitive events students can compete in, and Henrich chose the job seeking skills category for the past two years.

"It was a lot of fun," she said.

Henrich 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.

Henrich said she was really nervous this year, but more personable.

"I just really sold myself well, I think," she said.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO

Miranda Henrich, 18, of Linden was honored at the Linden Board of Education meeting for winning first place at an international competition for job seeking skills. Henrich poses for a photo on July 26 with Board President Scott Maker (left) and Interim Superintendent Russ Ciesielski.

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.

“I just really sold myself well, I think.”

Miranda Henrich
Linden graduate

"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

COMPILED BY VERA HOGAN

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 Hoffa, 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 Hoffa'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 undersea 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 axe the day before. But Lizzie was a sweet-looking Christian woman and the jury took only 90 minutes to decide that she could never commit such a heinous crime.

Source: History.com

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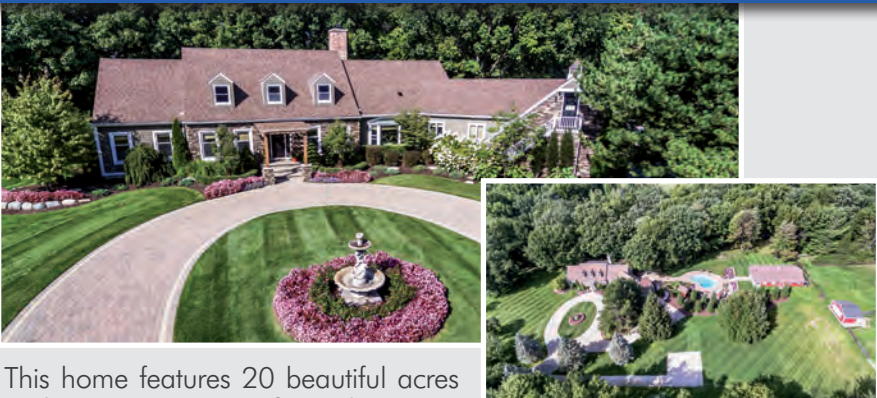
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News briefs

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

A bike-a-thon to benefit the Linden, Argentine, 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 RAZOR 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 p.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 something suspicious about 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.

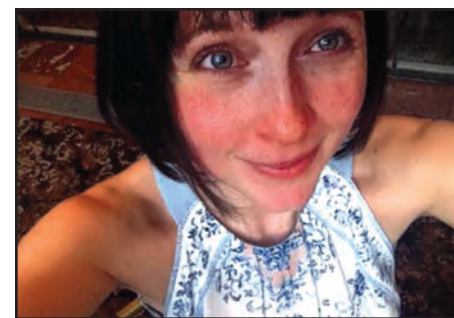
Investigators found some fresh tire marks on the gravel road.

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.

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



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 the 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 (773-2587). Crime Stoppers pays for information that leads to an arrest, not a conviction.

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Homicide victim's mother speaks out

■Calls the murderer a 'puny, repulsive coward'

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 first daughter. When we got home I put it away in a drawer and forgot about it until the other day."

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 murder is still inconceivable to her parents, family, friends and co-workers.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | HANNAH BALL

This is the little outfit Nikki Brueger was hoping her granddaughter would wear one day.



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.

"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 lewd and crude remarks that were yelled at her from cars ... by boys and men. It happened all the time."

"Even I've gotten comments," said Nikki, who asks that the public continue with the hanging of the sneakers for awareness.

Several months ago, Nikki asked the public to hang their old sneakers outside the front of their homes to promote awareness of the violence and sexual harassment perpetrated on women that run and walk.

Although no one has been ruled out, it is believed Ally's murder may have been a random act. Because of that her mom asks that runners and joggers always be aware and somewhat fearful.

"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."

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.

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News **briefs**

Holly VFW 'flea market'
The Hulet-Bravender VFW Post 5587 in the village of Holly is hosting a flea market on Thursday, Aug. 10, from 12 to 5 p.m., Friday, Aug. 11, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday, Aug. 12, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. To learn more about available vendor space, call Rick at (248) 459-0055 or Bruce at (248) 807-3458. The VFW hall is at 201 Airport Dr.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

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
tjagielo@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 that.”

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 Wind-walker 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 over-night 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 quizzed 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.

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www.campcopneconic.org
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Windwalker Farms
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- Pepperoni Slice (1 ticket)
- Cheese Slice (1 ticket)
- Breadsticks - 4 sticks (1 ticket)

LA MARSA

- Deboned Chicken - 4oz (2 tickets)
- Chicken Shawarma - 4 oz (2 tickets)
- Hommous - 2 oz (1 ticket)
- Garlic - 2 oz (1 ticket)
- Bread - 2 oz (1 ticket)

MAMA K'S CAFE

- Breakfast Burrito (2 tickets)
- Mini Ham or Turkey Sandwich (2 tickets)
- Small Salad (1 tickets)

THE LAUNDRY & EL TOPO

- Buffalo Chicken Meatballs - The Laundry (2 tickets)
- Artichoke Dip w/ Baguette - The Laundry (2 tickets)
- Beef Nachos - El Topo (2 tickets)
- Flautas Corn - El Topo (1 ticket)

VG'S BAKERY

- Gourmet Cookies (1 ticket)
- Brownie (1 ticket)
- Cake Slice - Cherry Chip or Marble (1 ticket)
- Baguette Slices w/ Garlic Expressions - 3 pcs (1 ticket)

TROPICAL SMOOTHIE CAFE

- Smoothies - 4oz (2 tickets)

VG'S DELI

- BBQ Ribs - 3 bones (2 tickets)
- Corn Bread Slice (1 ticket)
- Cole Slaw - 4 oz (1 ticket)
- Homemade Potato Salad - 4 oz (1 ticket)

WELLBRIDGE OF FENTON

- Lobster Roll - 1/2 oz (2 tickets)
- Watermelon Gazpacho - 4 oz (2 tickets)
- Apple/Berry Brie Torte - 2 oz (1 ticket)

THE GREEN OLIVE TREE

- Fattoush Salad - 5.5 oz (1 ticket)
- Choice of Hummus, Garlic, B's Dip, Tabbouli - 4 oz (1 ticket)
- Chicken Breast - 1/6 piece (1 ticket)
- Chicken Shawarma - 1/6 piece (1 ticket)
- Falafel Sandwich - 1/6 piece (1 ticket)

SPRING MEADOWS COUNTRY CLUB

- Crab Cakes - 1/4 cake (1 tickets)
- Lobster Mac & Cheese - 5 oz (2 tickets)
- Sacchetti Pasta - 5 oz (2 tickets)

CULVERS

- Reese's Concrete Mixer - 8 oz (2 tickets)
- M & M Concrete Mixer - 8 oz (2 tickets)
- Oreo Concrete Mixer - 8 oz (2 tickets)
- Strawberry Mango Cooler - 8 oz (2 tickets)

LEO'S CONEY ISLAND

- Spinach & Cheese Pie (2 tickets)
- Gyro (2 tickets)
- Baklava (1 ticket)
- Chicken Lemon Rice Soup (1 ticket)

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PENALTIES

Continued from Front Page

"The way they're (sentencing guidelines) organized, they're tough on people who have assaulted human beings rather than on people who have assaulted animals," he said.

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.

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.

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.

SUMMARY

■ Law enforcement and a Genesee County Circuit Court judge are questioning whether animal abuse penalties are harsh enough in the state of Michigan.

"When 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 history, and he's been to Lansing to encourage legislators to increase the penalty for animal abuse.

"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," Neithercut said. Neithercut said just because the guide-

lines 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

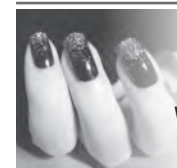
According to the Michigan Penal Code 750.50b, in Michigan, maliciously killing or injuring an animal, which counts as animal cruelty, is defined as failure to provide animals with adequate care, beating an animal, tying an animal's feet together, and failing to provide space in a vehicle when driving. 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.

"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



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By: Dr. Steven Sulfaro

POSTERIOR COMPOSITES

A posterior composite is a "white filling" placed in a back tooth. Until fairly recently, the most common restorative material for restoring posterior (back) teeth was silver/mercury amalgam. Today, posterior composites are becoming more and more popular. Silver/mercury amalgam has been used, by dentists, since the mid-1800's. It's relatively inexpensive, easy to work with, and it performs well over time. Composite resin material (white filling) was first developed in the 1960's. It's highly esthetic and blends in very nicely with the surrounding tooth structure and has been used since it's development for the restoration of teeth in the front of the mouth. It becomes almost invisible when properly placed. The reason for composite resin material being used primarily in the front of the mouth was that early formulations of the composite resin material were not as strong as amalgam and didn't hold up to the tremendous stresses of biting and chewing that occur in the posterior areas of the mouth. Today's modern formulations have greatly enhanced composite resin's physical properties making it as strong if not stronger than amalgam. Composite resin is more costly, and is technically more demanding and challenging and time consuming for the dentist to place. However, because composite resin is bonded in place, the seal between composite and tooth is much greater creating internal reinforcement for the tooth with much less post-operative sensitivity when compared amalgam. And a popular benefit with my patients is the far greater esthetics of posterior composites over amalgam. All things considered, posterior composite resin is now the ideal treatment of choice over silver/mercury amalgam for both me and my patients for routine filling of back teeth.

I welcome your questions and comments.
Feel free to e-mail me drsulfaro@comcast.net



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Spotlight on:

SUGAR SHACK — LIFE & STYLE

• Pastry chef backgrounds bring the 'sugar' to this re-purpose, vintage Fenton business

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Michael and Shawn Hall reached the top of their corporate chef careers in the metro Detroit area when Shawn's love of estate sales and re-purposing changed her career vision for their future. Their online business was born three years ago, and they opened their brick and mortar business, Sugar Shack, a year and a half ago at 1440 Torrey Rd. in Fenton, in the same plaza as SunRy's Archery.

How did you get your business started?

We took \$50 and bought items to flip. We started our online business, Sugar Rush, and we started shipping items all over the U.S. Then we decided to have people come to us, and we set up appointments for people to see what we had to offer. It grew from there.

How did you end up opening your business in Fenton?

We've waited 20 years to get here. The location is so good, and we love the quaintness. We're blessed to still have



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SALLY RUMMEL

Shawn and Michael Hall are the vision and drive behind Sugar Shack - life & style, standing in front of a Model A fender that they upcycled into an industrial-style light fixture.

both sets of parents nearby and on our travels. We always knew this was where we wanted to end up. When we were able to retire from our corporate careers, we finally got our home in Fenton, and six months later, we opened Sugar Shack. What are your main products and services?

We upcycle, meaning we re-purpose an item, then upscale it. We travel all over to find unique items, then use our vision to upcycle it. We're eclectic, we love lots of different styles, but mostly mid-century modern, industrial and one-of-a-kind items. We're not shabby chic. We sanitize and clean every piece of vintage that

comes in. Every item is ready to use or display in your home.

What else sets you apart?

We're a lifestyle company. We bring our 30-year chef careers into Sugar Shack with Social Nights and private parties that offer cooking demos. We give our chef secrets away. We believe this is just the beginning.

(248) 425-0565

Hours: Tues.-Wed.: 10-6, Thurs.: 10-7
Fri.: 10-6, Sat.: 10-5

www.sugarshackstudiomichigan.com



Friday, August 4 through Saturday, August 12



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FRIDAY, AUGUST 4

4-9pm.....NAST Truck Show & Vendors
At Dusk.....Light Judging

SATURDAY, AUGUST 5

9am.....Exhibit Building - Youth
10am-7pm.....NAST Truck Show & Vendors
At Dusk.....NAST Truck Show Light Parade

SUNDAY, AUGUST 6

- Veteran's Day -

8am.....Flag Raising Ceremony
8am.....Car/Truck/Motorcycle Show Registration
8:15am.....Sunrise Service
8:30am.....Ribbon Cutting
9am.....Pancake Breakfast
Sponsored by Young Chevrolet-Cadillac-Buick-GMC, Tim Horton's & Blight Propane
10am-3pm.....Car/Truck/Motorcycle Show
Noon-10.....BINGO
4pm.....GRANDSTAND-T.T.P.A. Modified Truck & Tractor Pull
6pm.....Jack Clarkson Band-Entertainment Tent

MONDAY, AUGUST 7

FREE SURREY RIDES DAILY
Noon-10 pm.....BINGO
5pm.....CARNIVAL OPENS
6pm.....Royal Bengal Tiger Show
6:30pm.....Dogs-Cloverbuds
7pm.....Jimmy G the Hypnotist-Entertainment Tent
7pm.....GRANDSTAND-DeWayne Spaw
-Country Recording Artist
7:30pm.....GRANDSTAND-U.S.A. Enduro Derby/
Pickup Truck Demolition Derby

GATE ADMISSION • GATES OPEN 9:00 A.M.

ADULTS\$3.00
CHILD (6-12)\$2.00
CHILD 5 & UNDERFREE
TUES. - TEENS (13-19)\$2.00

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GRANDSTAND

DAILY ADMISSION
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CHILD (6-12).....\$5.00
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ADULTS.....\$50.00
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11am-Noon.....Special Time 4 Special Kids
CARNIVAL OPEN
Noon-10pm.....BINGO
Noon-10pm.....CARNIVAL OPEN
1pm.....Antique Tractor Clubs- Rally & Parade
1pm.....GRANDSTAND-Gee Haw Teamster Classic
Draft Horse Obstacle Course-FREE
2pm.....Royal Bengal Tiger Show
5pm.....GRANDSTAND-Custer's Cowboys
& Cowboy Mounted Shooting Team-FREE
5:30pm.....Royal Bengal Tiger Show
7pm.....Movie Night hosted by NCG Cinemas-
Entertainment Tent
7pm.....GRANDSTAND-Michigan State
Championship Mini Horse Pull-FREE
8pm.....Royal Bengal Tiger Show

FRIDAY, AUGUST 11

- Junior Livestock Auction Day -

11:30am.....Sheep and Swine Auction
Noon-10 pm.....BINGO
1-11 pm.....CARNIVAL OPEN
3pm.....Royal Bengal Tiger Show
5:30pm.....Royal Bengal Tiger Show
6pm.....Ben Risney-AUCTION-Wood
Sculptures-in the ARENA
7pm.....Market Beef Auction
7pm.....Steve "Elvis" Hunt -Entertainment Tent
7:30pm.....GRANDSTAND -U.S.A. Figure 8 Derby/
Demolition Derby
8 pm.....Royal Bengal Tiger Show

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12

- Small Animal Auction Day -

FREE SURREY RIDES
Noon-10 pm.....BINGO
Noon.....Small Animal Auction
Goats, Ducks, Chickens, Rabbits, Geese, Pigeons & Turkeys
1-11pm.....CARNIVAL OPEN
2:30pm.....Pedal Pull Competition
A tractor pull just like the "big boys" but you provide the power! Ages: 3 - Adult in the Free Show Tent
Sponsored by Shiawassee County Farm Bureau
3 pm.....Royal Bengal Tiger Show
5:30 pm.....Royal Bengal Tiger Show
7pm.....SHOUT!-Beatles Tribute Band
-Entertainment Tent
7pm.....GRANDSTAND-MONSTER TRUCKS!
8 pm.....Royal Bengal Tiger Show



MORE INFORMATION AT:
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shiawasseeefair.com

EYES AND EARS

Continued from Page 3A

City police, or Fenton Township Fire Department, etc.).

Give us a call or text your information and photos to 810-771-TEXT (8398) and our staff will take it from there.

A news event might include a fire, a lake accident, a vehicle crash or other such tragic event.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

IT'S ABOUT NOON on Tuesday and a very healthy looking red fox just went through my backyard on the south end of Fenton.

IF JOHN MCCAIN were here, I would pray for him. I had my tonsils out. I was 29 years old. God always does a good job.

COMMON SENSE HAS been wasted on this society.

WHY IS IT every other young person has a Bridge card yet every other business has help wanted signs up? The young have made a career out of collecting state aid. To the young, you're welcome because your free stuff comes from us hard-working taxpayers. Time to stop welfare all together.

I'VE LIVED in the Fenton area all my life, and Fenton Township has always been a farmland area. Why are horses allowed and chickens aren't? Leave the family with chickens alone. I bet if a local farmer had chickens, nothing would be said.

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 lending your eyes and ears so we can do our jobs better and make sure the public is informed sooner.

Tri-county fundraisers

EDWARD JONES OF LINDEN COLLECTING SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR LINDEN SCHOOLS

Edward Jones of Linden is asking all residents and business owners of the Linden area to donate school supplies. These donations can add value to Linden Community Schools as one more student will be provided with the appropriate tools to begin or continue his or her learning and development. Edward Jones staff members have set up a donation box at their office, 618 W. Broad St., Suite A in Linden, and items can be dropped off any time during normal business hours — 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Donated items could include pencils, pens, crayons, highlighters, glue sticks, erasers, rulers, paper, notebooks, folders, etc. They cannot accept cash or checks. The school supply donation program will end Aug. 31. They hope you will participate in this great program benefiting Linden Community Schools.

Spotlight on:

RELIABLE WRENCHES AUTO AND TRUCK REPAIR

• New Holly business offers full service auto-truck-trailer repair with small-town personal service

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Logan LaClair, 30, opened Reliable Wrenches three weeks ago, at 722 E. Sherman St. 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.

What sets you apart from other auto repair shops?

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



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

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."

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.

(810) 962-6454

Hours:

Mon.-Fri.: 8-5

Sat.: By appointment

Police&Fire report

LINDEN POLICE BEGIN DRUG INVESTIGATION

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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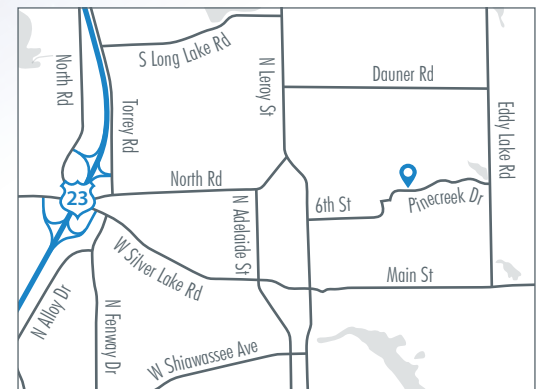
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COLLEGE

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,

SUMMARY

■ College isn't for everyone, and one Genesee County program is helping students find a career that doesn't require a four-year degree.

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.

View all stories
online at
tctimes.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."

ANNUAL SALARIES
OF SKILLED CAREERS

Bricklayers: \$45,965

Chemical plant operator: \$40,473

Dental hygienist: \$62,220

Locomotive engineer: \$62,995

Machinist: \$41,032

Cosmetologist: \$27,940

Certified nursing assistant: \$33,223

Source: salary.com

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.

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WHAT YOU MISSED in the MIDWEEK TIMES

Compiled by Vera Hogan

The following are stories you may have missed in the **Wednesday, 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

Jacquelyn 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.

'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 Café."

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 Café, WellBridge of Fenton, LaMarsa 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



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

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.

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

Times
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TREE MAN Tree Service

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Service Call

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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 person, all 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



Cherie Smith



Kurt Wilkinson

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 Bancroft, 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 am re-elected to council I will continue to make decisions based on the best interests of the community through research and an open dialogue with the residents."

McDermott, 44, said, "I love our community and I think we should all want to play a part in what makes Fenton extraordinary."

"My wife and I chose to raise our



Scott Grossmeyer



Dave McDermott

three kids here, and have been passionately involved since we arrived with the St. John Applefest, the Fenton Education Foundation, Little League, Upward, City Council, and more, for example.

"Our current City Council has accomplished a lot of things, but we still need to focus on the big issues of roads and infrastructure. We can't wait another 10 years, 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 expansion of 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



Donald "Skip" Bancroft



Tracy Bottecelli

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 'roots,'" 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."



Sean Sage

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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 Retail Association of America) and they are also both a CSI

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Action Water Sports team is made up of dedicated employees who enjoy sharing their knowledge and love of boating with customers.



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.

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 boats 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.

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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 field to the team's first league title since sharing one with Lapeer West in 2001. The squad also was ranked at the end of the season, capturing a 27-9 overall record. However, while the team success was nice, Smigielski's individual play was a huge reason why the Tigers did so well.

The lefty hurler couldn't be beaten during his senior season, going 11-0 on the mound. It was his pitching performance that helped propel the Tigers to their magical season, earning Smigielski the 2017 Tri-County Times Baseball Player of the Year award.

"I just pounded the strike zone and didn't walk a lot of people," Smigielski said. "I made sure they were hitting it and I challenged them. I had more trust in my teammates. They had my back and when they did hit it, they would make the plays."

"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 smigiel ski on 23A



Photo by David Troppens

Other cOntender s

Here are a couple of players who competed for 2017 Tri-County Baseball Player of the Year honors, but lost out to Troy Smiegelski.

Chase Coselman

- The Fenton senior broke a school record for most hits, finishing his season with a .370 batting average and 12 doubles.

Lucas Marshall

- The Linden senior posted a 9-4 record with a 0.67 earned run average, striking out 59 batters in 62 2/3 innings of work.

smigiel ski's seasOn

Fenton 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.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | David Troppens

(Above) Evan Johnson hits a ball during the Holly Tennis Summer Program on Monday. (Far right) Coach Sami Hild helps out student Mathew Young.

Holly tennis summer program remains a hit

Lessons mixed in 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 the 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 to a final destination. The tasks are accomplished with a varying degree of success each cycle through, but one thing that is clearly successful is the fun factor of the camp. It seems everyone is having a great time. Certainly the instructors are.

"I love working with the little 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 hOll y on 23A



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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 Lawrence 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," Smigielski said. "I mixed 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 inning of his next start, a 6-2 victory against Flushing. Still, he earned the win, improving 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 complete game victory.

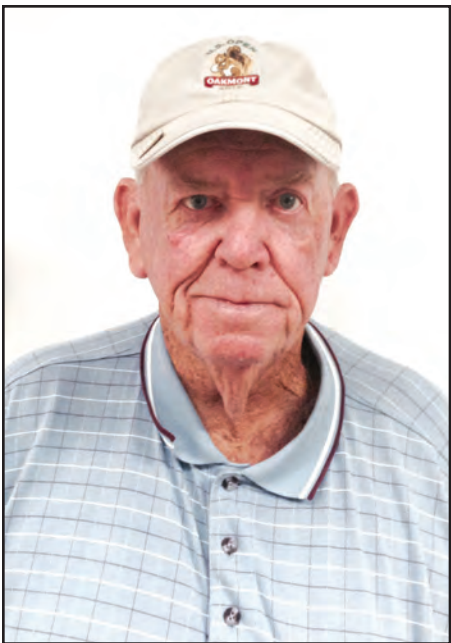
"He gave us a chance every time he was out there," Lawrence said. "All of our pitchers improved from last year, and that was a huge plus."

But his favorite outing came in the district semifinals, a 6-2 win against Lakeland. 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 ONLINE AT
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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | Davi D Troppens

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 seven-wood to record his fifth ace. Glozier has been playing for about 60 years.



Troy Smigielski

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.

PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

Troy Smigielski, Fenton pitcher

Smigielski was the ace of the Metro League champion Tigers, posting a perfect 11-0 mark. He struck out 70 and allowed just 32 hits and 13 walks in 59 innings.

REST OF FIRST TEAM

Pitchers

Lucas Marshall

Infielders

Nolan Lawrence
Chase Coselman
Aaron Sarkon (P)
Jack Shore (P)
Jack Babbitt

School

Linden
Fenton
Fenton
Linden
Linden
Lake Fenton

Catcher

Jamon Link

Outfielders

Logan Benson
Corbin Sines
Brendan Buerkel

First Base

David Pietryga

School

Linden
Fenton
Linden
Linden
Fenton



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | Davi D Troppens

Mikah Schroeder catches a tennis ball in between two rackets during the Holly Summer Tennis Program on Monday.

hOLly

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 teams, starting with Bill McDaniel back in the day and now with Will Sophia. 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.

Sophia 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 activities begin. The day ends for the youngsters 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."

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