

Akl's attorney requests new competency exam

■ Two prior exams, two different results

By Tim Jagielo

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Flint — Abdurrahman (Abdu)

Ahmed Akl, 16, was back in Judge Mark McCabe's courtroom on Wednesday, Aug. 9 for what was to be the results hearing for his competency exam.

“Because of the serious nature of this case, that's why it's being done.”

Frank Manley
Attorney

Instead, defense attorney Frank Manley requested a third exam be conducted, independent of the two prior state exams. His request was filed and an independent study will be conducted to determine the teen's competency to stand trial, with a hearing date set for Oct. 18, 2017.

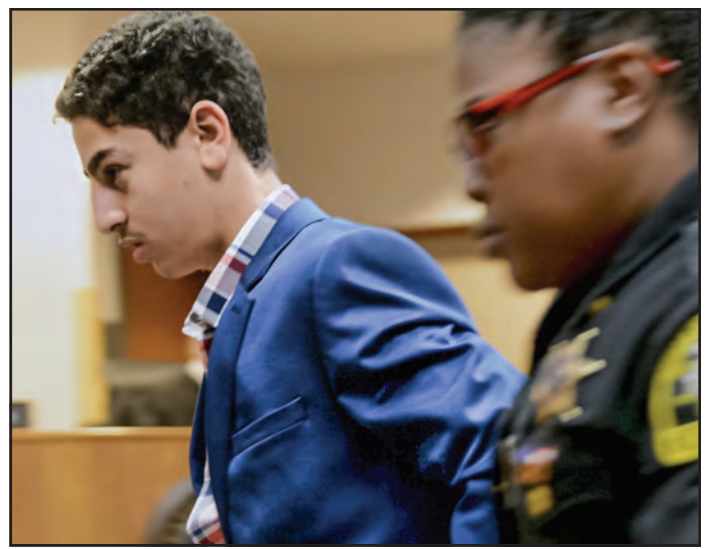
Assistant prosecuting attorney Lia Perryman had no objection on behalf of the people.

See EXAM on 14A

VIDEO 
online at tctimes.com

TRI-COUNTY TIMES
TIM JAGIELO

Abdu Akl, 16, is led out of court on Wednesday, Aug. 9. Akl is still in the pretrial phase of his open murder case.





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SUNDAY, AUGUST 13, 2017

2016 NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

City wants to extend millages from three to 10 years

■ Voters will have to approve change in November election

By Vera Hogan

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City of Fenton officials and admin-

istrators want voters to approve a city charter change that would allow them to levy taxes on property for 10 years instead of the current three.

If the voters approve this change in the city charter in the Nov. 7 election, the

matter of a 6-mill, 10-year street millage will appear on a ballot in the near future, probably in May 2018.

According to City Manager Lynn Markland, in order for the street repair

See MILLAGE on 15A

Fenton Hotel plans to re-open later this month

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Nobody is more excited about the re-opening of The Fenton Hotel Tavern & Grille after its devastating Easter Sunday fire than owner Nick Sorise.

“I’m not used to having weekends off,” he said, although he has been working steadily with contractors and work crews since the April 16 fire. “We’re shooting for the end of August, but there are lots of ‘moving parts.’ It’s all a process.”

See FENTON HOTEL on 15A

A classic line up



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Approximately 2,000 visitors strolled through downtown Linden on Wednesday, Aug. 9, for the Tune-up Party. This local event precedes downtown Flint's Back To The Bricks, which begins on Aug. 15. Fenton's cruise party was Thursday, Aug. 10.

See story on Page 1B



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

The Fenton Hotel Tavern & Grille has been closed since a kitchen fire on Sunday, April 16.

**TEXT
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“When did the response to someone saying ‘thank you’ become the moronic and meaningless ‘no problem?’ For all the kids out there who apparently have no parent capable of teaching them basic etiquette, the proper response is ‘you’re welcome.’”



“Most citizens don’t realize that when you add up all the hidden taxes we pay, such as gas tax and millages, we are already paying more than half of our income to a bloated and dysfunctional government. Get rid of waste like a business does.”



“Our superior school systems have produced a vast inventory of young adults who are able to read, but are incapable of distinguishing what is worth reading, thanks to mindless drivel such as Facebook.”



**COMMENT
OF THE WEEK**

“I got such a chuckle out of that Hot line. I love the fact that Rush Limbaugh and the King live rent-free inside these liberals’ heads.”



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WWW.ECLIPSEGECKS.COM

Be prepared to watch the solar eclipse safely

■ Average sunglasses will not protect your eyes

By Hannah Ball

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A total solar eclipse is coming Aug. 21, and you will need special spectacles to view it. Sunglasses will not protect your eyes.

According to NASA, the only safe way to look at an un-eclipsed or partially eclipsed sun is through special-purpose solar filters, like "eclipse glasses," or hand-held solar viewers.

The only safe time to look at an eclipse without eye protection is when the moon completely blocks out the sun's rays, which won't happen in Michigan.

On Aug. 21, the total eclipse path, called the path of totality, is only about 70 miles wide crossing the U.S. from west to east. It will start in Oregon at 9:05 a.m., and then go through Idaho, Wyoming, Montana, Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia, and North and South Carolina. It will end in Charleston, South Carolina at 2:48 p.m.

In Michigan, 75 to 90 percent of the eclipse will be visible, meaning the moon will block 75 to 90 percent of the sun. In Fenton, the eclipse will start at approximately 1 p.m., and peak viewing time will be at 2:26 p.m. The moon will move past the sun by 3:46 p.m.

If you plan to watch the solar eclipse, you have options.

See **ECLIPSE** on 14A

School uniforms vs. strong dress code

■ Debate has been ongoing throughout the ages

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

A couple of years ago, an attorney was overheard talking with her clients outside of a Flint courtroom. Referring to a teenager also waiting in the corridor, she quietly said to her clients, "He's going to jail today."

The teen was wearing a very expensive red leather jacket with black sleeves. A giant marijuana leaf was embroidered on the back of the coat. To complete the look, the male teen was wearing baggy jeans with the waistband hanging below his butt cheeks, exposing a good chunk of his boxer shorts.

The attorney and her clients were left to wonder where this kid goes to school, and whether they have a dress code, or uniforms.

The pros and cons of school uniforms vs. a strict dress code has been ongoing since kids started going to school.



HTTP://WWW.SJBELEMENTARY.ORG

School uniforms help students resist peer pressure to buy trendy clothes their families may not be able to afford.

Benefits of uniforms

According to greatschools.org, the benefits of school uniforms include that they:

- Help prevent gangs from forming on campus
- Encourage discipline
- Help students resist peer pressure to buy trendy clothes
- Help identify intruders in the school
- Diminish economic and social barriers between students
- Increase a sense of belonging and school pride

Angel Rynearson, 23, attended St. John School, graduating from eighth grade in 2008. She said the uniforms were "super expensive." Toward the end of her time there, she said the uniforms had to be ordered through the school.

"I hated them and other kids teased us about them," Rynearson said. "Even the girls in my own school would tease each other if a girl ever wore pants instead of skirts."

"I don't think kids today should wear uniforms," she added. They should be able to express themselves in an appropriate way, of course, because some kids wear some crazy things to school. I think they would focus more on school if they were relaxed in their own wardrobe."

Many local residents offered their opinion on this topic on Facebook. Here's what they had to say.

Sharon Paulin agrees. "Uniforms are a good idea in most circumstances," she said. "My grandkids attend parochial school in Bay City. Uniforms don't mean what they used to mean. The shirts, skirts and slacks can be purchased at Kmart, Walmart, J.C. Penney's or Sears ... So the rich kids and the scholarship kids wear pretty much the same thing, unless someone is looking at tags."

Donna Zeman speaks from experience. "Yes to uniforms. There's no competition with clothing styles, and no bullying from

See **UNIFORMS** on 12A



When all of the students in school are wearing uniforms, unwanted intruders in the building are easily identified.

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Come *Heller* high water

andrewheller@tctimes.com

Random thoughts

- Nope. Don't even try to come up with something better. I'm declaring right here, right now the best news story of the week to be the giant inflatable Trump Chicken staring at the West Wing from outside White House grounds. It was put there by protesters, who are still trying to shame the Republican Party's president into releasing his tax returns. The problem with that strategy is pretty obvious. The man has none, near as I can tell.
- Plus, the thing looks more like a blonde Elvis chicken than anything else, doesn't it?
- The North Korea thing is close to turning into a "Your mama" contest.



Andrew Heller
FEATURED COLUMNIST

Trump threatened them with "fire and fury like the world has never seen." They responded that they're going to "teach the U.S. a severe lesson." To which Trump is bound to say, "Oh yeah?" To which they'll say,

"Yeah!" Then the mama insults will start flying, if not missiles. Gosh, it's nice the world's two most calm and reasonable leaders have found one another, isn't it?

- By the way, anyone got blueprints for a bunker?
- This is a bit freaky for someone who grew up in the '60s like I did. I'm old enough to have done the little drill in school where you got under your desk to protect yourself from a nuclear strike. Desks were apparently extremely sturdy back in those days, and impervious to radiation.
- Check me on this: June and July feel like summer, but August somehow always seems like a transition month back into real life — school, work, etc., right?
- I know a lot of people this year who took summer vacations to tropical places. I've never understood that. There's so little good weather in Michigan, why would you leave in summer? The tropics, I figure, are for the non-nice months, meaning October through May.
- Ah, it's that time of the year again when I predict, as I always do, that the Detroit

Lions will stink their way to an 8-8 or 7-9 record once again. I love tradition.

- Is anyone really in that much of a hurry that they would need one of those pizza vending machines Little Caesar's is installing?
- According to a new poll, 73 percent of Americans say they can't trust all or most of what they hear in official communications from the White House. That's pretty incredible. You probably couldn't get that many people to agree that kittens are adorable.
- Which they are.
- Concert season has me thinking about stuff like this, so here goes: The top five rock/pop bands of all time in my book are: 1) The Beatles, 2) The Rolling Stones, 3) The Eagles, 4) Queen, and 5) Electric Light Orchestra. Or maybe the Doobies. Or possibly Prince and the Revolution. Or AC/DC. Commence to arguing and judging me.
- And yes, I said ELO. I like 'em. So what?
- Five best solo acts: 1) James Taylor, 2) Billy Joel, 3) Elton John, 4) Bob Dylan, and 5) Eric Clapton. Or Neil Young. Or Bob Seger. Or Michael Jackson. Damn, this is hard.
- And yes, I said James Taylor. Your mama.
- "Good taste is as tiring as good company." — Francis Picabia

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.

FOR HOW MANY years have the city council, city manager and DDA told us they're spending our money wisely for city improvements? Now I can't get my 30-plus-year-old road repaved without 5 mills?

TO THE PERSON who keeps whining about how great Center Road in Flint is, you should move there.

GRAVEL TRUCKS ON Denton Hill. We may be able to handle all the noise and shaking, but those trucks are going at least 60 mph. Some biker or walker or even someone in their front yard is going to get killed.

YAY, LOOKS LIKE they're finally working on the dog park in Fenton Township.

SIXTY AND 70 degrees in Michigan in August? Bring it on, climate change.

I JUST WANT to warn people that there's somebody calling from another power company, not Consumers, and just telling you that they can lower your bill if you go with them. They don't tell you they're not Consumers.

I WOULD LIKE to know where a restaurant is that does not add sodium or sea salt to their food. There are a lot of us out there who cannot have that and we need some place we can go and get a decent meal without it full of sodium.

ANOTHER REPUBLICAN PRESIDENT, another potential for war. Only this one will be nuclear.

WITHOUT CONSIDERATION FOR damage, Trump threatens a nuclear attack on North Korea. During the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962, it was estimated that a nuclear launch by the U.S. would result in a loss of 30 million lives.

THERE IS A lot of confusion on the Thompson Road construction. From the plaza across the street, from the BP, people are taking left hand turns and going the wrong way because they don't want to go around and those are the people who feel entitled. The Genesee County Road Commission should be forcing a right hand turn.

WOULD YOU LIVE in a house that has mice, rats and cockroaches? I describe the 'White House.' Clinton had mice, Bush W had rats, and Obama had cockroaches. Given the White House, issues, Trump had to leave during the renovation. He is not on vacation.

DO YOU THINK it is OK for illegal immigrants to live freely In America? Do you think it is OK for pregnant illegal immigrants to come to America, have her baby at a hospital at no cost to her, and have American taxpayers support, provide healthcare and education for the mother and the new citizen child with money that should go to Americans' needs?

WHO INSTRUCTED THE Fenton Township attorney to file charges against Drew Shapiro?

GOT A PROBLEM child? Bad behavior? Into drugs? Take a hard look in the mirror. They are a reflection of yourself and you failed as a parent.

A LOT OF the Hot lines in Sunday's Times made me believe there are still some intelligent, sane people out there. But we know we can't win over all the crazy morons out there. They are, after all, the majority.

FOX NEWS IS fake news. Taking news and slanting toward viewers' ideology is not presenting the facts. Roger Ailes knew he could change politics by catering to viewers' fears.

YOU DO UNDERSTAND 'word' is not proof? God's word is not proof of anything.

FOSTER CHILDS IS the quintessential Baby Boomer — uneducated and loud mouthed.

See **HOT LINE** throughout Times

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Compiled by Crystal Schupbach, intern

What's your experience involving a distracted driver?



"People are always weaving. When I pass them, I see that they're on their phone. I've been fortunate enough to have never seen a crash."

Alison Rummel
Holly



"Too often I deal with people texting on the road. When I see them, I say a little prayer that no one is killed."

Doug Stranahan
Fenton



"I was headed south on a highway in Baltimore. A car was shooting in the other direction. I saw a cop and told him what I saw, but they told me it was probably already taken care of."

Eric Clifford
Gilbert, Arizona



"When I visit my daughter in Grand Rapids, there are always young girls weaving on the highway because they are on their phones. They appear as though they are a drunk driver."

Colleen Snell
Fenton Township



"Driving back from Vermont, a man followed us closely for two hours. Every time I tried to pass, he sped up. I just ignored him. It was scary. Maybe he was distracted by his road rage."

Edith Estep
Fenton

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'Keep your eyes on the road, your hands upon the wheel'

■States are cracking down with tougher distracted driving laws

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

It doesn't appear that it will be too many more years before legislators in more states start beefing up their distracted driving laws.

There are three main types of distraction: Visual, taking your eyes off the road; manual, taking your hands off the wheel; and cognitive, taking your mind off what you are doing.

The state of Washington is the most recent to put a tough new distracted driving law into effect.

Gov. Jay Inslee surprised everyone last month when he accelerated Washington's new distracted driving law called the "Driving Under the Influence of Electronics (DUIE) Act." It was supposed to go into effect in 2019, but became effective instead a few weeks ago.

Will Michigan be too far behind?

According to State Rep. Joe Graves (Dist. 51), "Distracted driving is a serious concern everywhere. We have seen the tragic results of people paying attention to



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Distracted driving includes anything that takes the driver's eyes off the road and hands off the wheel, including eating and drinking.

their electronic devices when they should have been watching the road.

"I don't think there is a one-size-fits-all solution. Where would we draw the line? Are children acting up in the back seat less of a distraction than a driver viewing a video while behind the wheel? How about putting on makeup while on the interstate, or taking a bite out of a big burger while driving? It is difficult to draw the line

on what constitutes distracted driving," said Graves.

"We have enacted some laws to eliminate distracted driving, but I believe we need to do more to cut down on this dangerous trend, and I think anti-distracted driving education and public relations efforts help," he added. "However, the Legislature must be very deliberate so we do not pass what amounts to an unenforceable law."

WASHINGTON'S NEW LAW

Washington's law forbids all use of handheld gadgets such as phones, tablets, laptop computers and gaming devices while driving. The governor's move put the pressure on to mount an education campaign and get more troopers on the roads.

Texting already is illegal in Washington, as is holding a cell phone at the ear. Drivers evade those rules by holding a phone between their legs or just below their chin.

The new bill forbids handheld uses, including composing or reading any kind of message, picture or data. Photography while driving also is illegal. Drivers aren't even allowed to use handheld devices while at a stop sign or red light.

Drivers may still use a smartphone mounted in a dashboard cradle, for instance to use a navigation app, but not to watch video. The new law permits "minimal use of a finger" to activate an app or device.

Built-in electronic systems, such as hands-free calling and maps, remain legal.

Calls to 911 or other emergency services are legal, as are urgent calls between transit employees and dispatchers.

Amateur radio equipment and citizens-band radio remain legal.

Handheld devices may be used if the driver has pulled off the roadway or traffic lanes, where the vehicle "can safely remain stationary."

The standard traffic fine of \$136 would nearly double to \$235 on the second distracted-driving citation.

Miscellaneous distractions such as grooming or eating will be a secondary offense, meaning a ticket may be issued if a law enforcement officer pulls you over for some other offense, such as speeding or a dangerous lane change. The penalty

will be an extra \$30.

Insurance rates will likely increase in Washington because of the new law. Distracted-driving citations will be reported on a motorist's record for use by the insurance industry, which testified in favor of the law.

Arkansas, North Dakota, and Colorado lawmakers passed stronger distraction bills this year, but insurers especially like the Washington law's broader sweep.

DISTRACTED DRIVING IN MICHIGAN FACTS

• **There were 7,516** crashes in Michigan during 2015 involving distracted driving, resulting in 28 fatalities and 3,472 injuries. Cell phones were involved in 753 crashes, with three fatalities and 377 injuries, according to the Michigan State Police Criminal Justice Information Center.

• **Forty-one percent** of young adult drivers in Michigan admitted to sending texts and emails on a regular basis while driving, according to a statewide telephone survey conducted in 2016 for the Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP). More than 26 percent indicated they did so daily.

• **Research shows that** the brain remains distracted for 27 seconds after dialing, changing music, or sending a text using voice commands, according to the National Safety Council.

• **In addition to texting**, distracted driving can include: eating and drinking; using a navigation system; attending to children; grooming; reading, including maps; talking to passengers; changing the radio

• **Michigan law prohibits** a driver from reading, manually typing or sending a text message while operating a moving motor vehicle on a street or highway (driving). Fines include \$100 for first offense and \$200 for subsequent offenses.

• **Michigan law prohibits** Level 1 and level 2 license holders (under 21) under the Graduated Driver Licensing program from using a cell phone while driving. Violations are a civil infraction and fees may be up to \$240.

Source: michigan.gov

(Headline: The Door's "Roadhouse Blues.")

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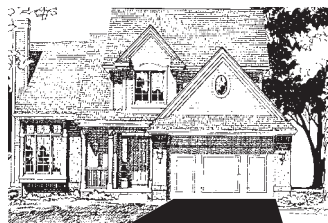
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HOT LINE CONTINUED

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IN YOUR BEST Ronald Reagan voice, 'Mr. Starrs, tear down that barn.'

ANOTHER SCIENTIFIC FACT is that energy can neither be created nor destroyed. Glad to know the energy of my body will transfer to the earth when I am buried.

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Holly waterworks building coming down

■ Village Council unanimously approves razing dangerous structure

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

It's a done deal, the Holly Waterworks Park building will be demolished. The Holly Village Council voted unanimously Tuesday, Aug. 8 to have the building torn down.

The building has been vacant for years and is blighted to the point where restoration will be too costly. Until now, the fate of the building has been tossed back and forth between those who wish to preserve it and those who want it torn down.

One portion of it is covered with dark brick, the other has wood siding. The Shiawassee River flows beneath it.

On Tuesday, no one spoke in favor of saving the building, said Councilman Dave Cruickshank.

The council authorized a demolition cost not to exceed \$25,000. Quotes received to rehab the building came in at more than \$200,000.

Contrary to what many people think, the building is not historic, said Cruickshank.

The original waterworks building, built before 1890, burned down three times before the existing pump house structure was built in 1920.

"It has no real historical value other than it's old," Cruickshank said.

In February, the village of Holly's Parks Commission voted to recommend the Village Council seek bids to demolish the blighted pump house building on the Waterworks Park property.

At the Feb. 28 Village Council meeting, the motion was tabled to give community members time to offer their feedback, or possibly seek an alternative to demolition. These options included selling or leasing the building, or seeking grants or donations.

Councilman Chris Rankin said at the time that the council has a love/hate relationship with the building. "We love the idea that it's such an integral part of the village's history, and we hate that the cost of rehabilitation of the building is so high and its condition worsens with each passing year," he said.

Former Holly Fire Department Chief Jack Hollands broke his ankle in the building in 2006.

ABOUT THE PUMP HOUSE

Lifetime resident Jerry Coale is mainly interested in seeing the water turbine and other hardware saved to become a static display for the public. The water turbine and building may be approximately 110 years old.

"It's absolutely historically significant. It was the first pressurized water system in Oakland County," said Coale in February. "Back in the day it produced water for wooden water mains."

Cruickshank said all of the valuable internal items will be preserved and stored at the DPW for future use of some sort.

A demolition is expected to take place in the fall.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO

This is what the original Holly Waterworks looked like. It was prior to 1890 and before the first of three fires.

News briefs

POP-UP ADVENTURE PLAY & FAMILY RESOURCE FAIR

A Pop-Up Adventure Play & Family Resource Fair will be held from **10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 19** at the Ellen Street Campus, 404 W. Ellen St. in Fenton. It is being hosted by Fenton Area Public Schools World of Wonder (WoW). Pop-Up Adventure Play events are free public celebrations of child-directed play, stocked with loose parts, such as cardboard boxes, fabric, tape and string. Pop-Up Adventure Play introduces themes of risk and freedom by welcoming people of all ages and abilities to play together. In addition, WoW will host a community Family Resource Fair and invite community vendors to offer their foods and wares.

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Local schools begin Tuesday, Sept. 5

■Excitement and anticipation builds as summer winds down

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

The first school bell of this school year will ring the morning of Tuesday, Sept. 5 for Linden, Fenton, Lake Fenton, and Holly schools.

The 2017-2018 school year will begin. Students will store things in lockers and teachers will have lesson plans prepared.

Adam Hartley, superintendent of Fenton Area Public Schools, said, "I want our students to feel as though they are entering a place that encourages creativity and true learning. Every learner is different and we at Fenton Area Public Schools know that and want to embrace that fact."

Hartley is entering his second year as superintendent and is excited about where the district is headed.

For the first day of school, Hartley said, "Each year brings surprises. The less weird that first day can be the better."

Something special Fenton schools do is share first-day-of-school photos on the district's Facebook page and Twitter using the hashtag #WeAreFenton.

"We did this last year and it was cool to see all of the happy faces as our families

geared up for an amazing year of learning," he said.

Here are 17 back-to-school facts to celebrate the 2017-2018 school year:

1. The Boston Latin School is the oldest public school in the United States. It was founded in 1635. Five signers of the Declaration of Independence attended the school, including Benjamin Franklin, John Hancock, Robert Treat Paine, Samuel Adams and William Hopper.

2. Approximately 480,000 yellow school buses carry more than 25 million children to and from school every day during the school year.

3. A standard pencil has enough graphite to write approximately 45,000 words or draw a line 35 miles long. Although, this has never been tested.

4. Before the eraser was invented, bread-crumbs were used to

erase mistakes.

5. School buses are yellow because that color attracts more attention than any other color.

6. Until the late 1800s, only the wealthy were allowed to attend school.

7. Crayola started making crayons in 1903. At the time, there were only eight colors: blue, black, brown, green, orange, red, violet, and yellow. Crayola now has more than 120 different colors.

8. The eraser was added to the pencil in 1858. A single pencil can be sharpened 17 times.

To see what school supplies your child will need, check out www.teacherlists.com/parents. Teachers and schools are submitting their lists with regular updates.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

With high-fives and blasting music, Yakelin Burneau (front) and Claire Reynolds greet Andrew G. Schmidt Middle School students as they enter the building for the first day of school for the 2016-2017 school year.

10. The word "pencil" comes from the Latin word "penicilius," meaning "little tail."

11. The act of giving teachers an apple dates back to 16th century Denmark, when parents would pay the teachers with food because teachers didn't make that much money.

12. There are more than 31 million children enrolled in school lunch programs in the U.S.

13. There are more than 7.4 million teachers in the U.S.

14. More than 78.8 million kids, teens, and

adults enroll in school.

15. Approximately 6 percent of kids age 6-11 repeat at least one grade, and 11 percent of kids aged 12-17 repeat at least one grade.

16. Back-to-school spending, including college, is expected to reach \$83.6 billion.

17. Most consumers plan to buy back-to-school supplies at department stores approximately three weeks to one month before school starts.

“Each year brings surprises. The less weird that first day can be the better.”

Adam Hartley
Fenton Area Public Schools
superintendent

Source: americangraduate.org, kidsplayandcreate.com, surfnetskids.com

Fenton woman leads at VFW Auxiliary's 104th national convention

Bonnie Pray, president of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary and a member of Curtis-Wolverton Auxiliary 3243 in Fenton, led the state delegation at the 104th National Convention held July 22 to 26 at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans, Louisiana.

As leading representative for the state, Pray voiced the delegates' votes during the election of national officers and played a key role in deciding the direction of the national organization for 2017-2018.

One highlight of many during the convention was the inaugural Circle of Excellence Ceremony, where 35 Department (state) presidents were honored for their leadership during the 2016-2017 year.

During the convention, National President Colette Bishop commended the 2,000 attendees for all their hard work in honoring veterans and supporting deployed military personnel and their families. Members have spent millions of dollars and volunteer hours helping the heroes of our country.

Bishop also thanked members for volunteering nearly one million hours in the nation's hospitals, and donating \$300,000 to VFW veterans and military support programs, which includes Operation Up-

link to provide long-distance calling opportunities to deployed soldiers and hospitalized veterans.

To learn more, go to vfwauxiliary.org or search VFWAuxiliary on Facebook.



Bonnie Pray




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Sewage leak from trailer could spark new ordinance

■ Other concern is rented docks at Lake Ponemah Mobile Home Park

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Fenton Twp. — An incident at the Lake Ponemah Mobile Home Park involving sewage on the street could prompt the Fenton Township Board of Trustees to create a new ordinance.

At the July 24 meeting, a few neighbors of the mobile home park asked the board about the sewage leak coming from one of the trailers. The leak was discovered sometime on July 20. Sewage was coming out of the pipe, which was coming out from under the trailer and going toward the street.

Michael Vaughn, co-owner of the park, said, "There was a plumbing issue with one of the trailers. It was quick. We had someone come out, fix it. It was pretty routine. It was nothing major." He added that the tenant moved out of the trailer while it was being fixed.

At the Aug. 7 meeting, Supervisor Bonnie Mathis said she called the engineers and they capped the sewer pipe to stop the leak. A portable toilet was brought out for the resident of the mobile home. Fenton Township Fire Chief Ryan Volz took photos of the leak. The township contacted the Genesee County Health Department (GCHD), and Mathis said they declined to do anything.

Trustee Shaun Shumaker said they should penalize the person responsible by charging them clean up costs and include an additional fine.

"We've got a pipe attached to a trailer and sewage was flowing out. We finally do have something we can do something about," he said.

The board discussed creating an ordinance for spilling hazardous waste in the environment.

Annette Bambach, a neighbor of the park who said she's been attending township meetings to complain about the park for over a year now, said the park still has problems. One problem was the owners renting dock slips on

Craigslist. Bambach said she brought this to the board's attention in early June and nothing has been done.

Vaughn said they've gotten positive feedback about the boat slips.

"Last year, 16 slips on Lake Fenton went away," Vaughn said. "People needed a place to put their boat in Fenton."

Mathis read a letter from former Code Enforcement Officer Tom Hosie, which stated that the park is commercial property that meets state and township definition of a marina.

It was determined that this use by a mobile home park is not prohibited.

Township Attorney Jack Belzer said there's nothing they can do about it because it's not illegal. "There's nothing that they're doing wrong legally with that," he said.

Bambach said she filed a complaint with Gov. Rick Snyder's office, and she contacted Attorney General Bill Schuette's office.

"It's always 'we need to do something about it' but no one does anything about it," she said.

"There's all these rights that individuals have ... this place doesn't look real nice, I'll give you that, but there's nothing illegal about it looking bad," Belzer said.

Bambach said the trailers are not habitable and should be inspected.

Shumaker said they have no right to go into people's homes and infringe on their privacy, adding that it could be a liability issue.

New owners, Michael Vaughn and Loretta Vaughn, bought the trailer park in July 2016.

"This place doesn't look real nice, I'll give you that, but there's nothing illegal about it looking bad."

Jack Belzer
Fenton Township attorney

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Public hearing on taxes scheduled

■ Four special assessment districts to pay for police, fire, garbage and chloride services

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Argentine Township residents are invited to attend a public hearing on Monday, Aug. 14 when the board will discuss special assessment districts to pay for emergency services, such as police and fire, as well as garbage services and chloride treatments on gravel roads.

The hearing will be held at the Argentine Township Hall, 9048 Silver Lake Rd., at 7 p.m.

"This is really a very routine assessment hearing," said Denise Graves, Argentine Township clerk. "The board will vote on these the same evening. We do these every year."

Graves said the township created these special assessment districts in the 1980s to provide for police, fire, and garbage services, and chloride

treatment for parcels on public gravel roads. The township estimates the cost of police services for the 2017 fiscal year will be approximately \$481,950, the cost for fire services is \$397,730, the cost of garbage services is \$382,950, and the cost of chloride for public gravel roads is \$102,304.

Per parcel, these costs estimate to be:

- \$170 per parcel for **police**, with 2,644 people in district
- \$130 per improved parcel, \$50 per unimproved parcel for **fire**, with 3,213 people

"These amounts are not an increase as these are the same as they already pay."

Denise Graves
Argentine Township clerk

in district

- \$150 per improved parcel for **garbage**, with 2,550 people in district
- \$92 per parcel for **chloride** treatments, with 1,118 people in district

These assessments are for one year. The only people who pay for chloride treatments live on dirt roads.

"Residents will see these on their winter taxes. These amounts are not an increase as these are the same as they already pay," Graves said.

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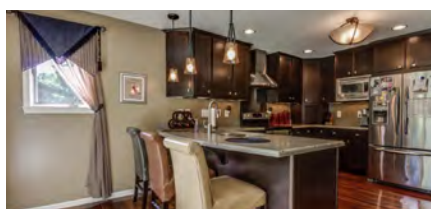
OPEN SUNDAY 1-3



8220 BURLEIGH RD, GRAND BLANC



JUSTIN HARDY



ACREAGE

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701 SILVER LAKE RD, LINDEN



MATT BULLY



LINDEN SCHOOLS

Adorable ranch home nestled on 1/2 acre, 2426 SF of finished living space, 3 BDR and 1.5 BA. Character & charm at every turn, coved ceilings, hardwood floors, arched door ways, fantastic built ins and more. Large living room with fireplace and great natural light. Formal dining room located off of the charming kitchen. First floor laundry, full basement, partially finished with fireplace.

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2426 HUTCHINSON LN, FLINT



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CARMAN-AINSWORTH SCHOOLS

Cute ranch home on almost 1/2 acre, 1384 Sq Ft, 3 bedrooms and 1.5 bathrooms. Spacious kitchen offers pantry, dining area, lots of cabinet and counter space. Living room has great natural light, family room offers fireplace. Full basement ready to be finished, 2 car attached garage, extra garage and more. Move in and put your stamp on this home. Do not miss this opportunity!

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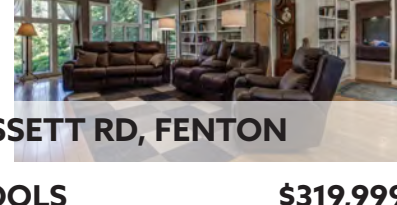
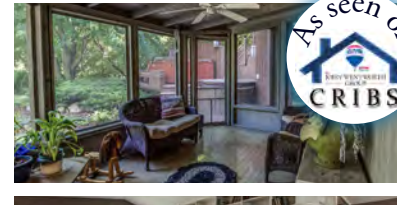
OPEN SUNDAY 1-3



9319 FAUSSETT RD, FENTON



TODD WARD



HARTLAND SCHOOLS

2931 SF, 3 BDR & 2 BA on 1 acre. Open floor plan, soaring ceilings, great natural light. Modern kitchen offers concrete counter tops, pantry, dining area, island with granite top, prep sink, lots of cabinet and counter space. 3 car attached garage, plus pole barn, large deck, mature trees and fenced yard.

\$319,999

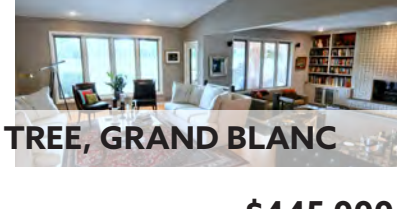
OPEN SATURDAY 1-3



9720 BURNING TREE, GRAND BLANC



JUSTIN HARDY



WARWICK HILLS

4090 SF, 4 BDR & 3.5 BA all on the 5th Tee of Warwick Hills Golf Course. Stunning gourmet kitchen with high end finishes, hardwood floors, granite counters, lots of cabinet space and fireplace. Open floor plan, grand entry, natural light, and much more.

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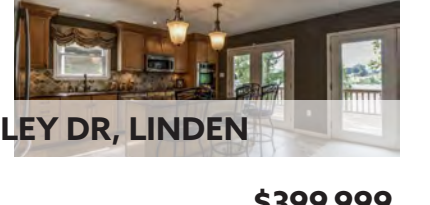
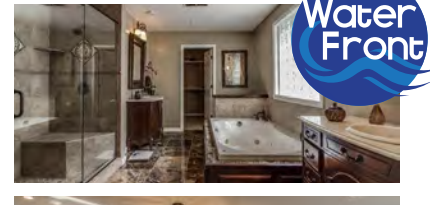
OPEN SUNDAY 1-3



5405 DOOLEY DR, LINDEN



PAULA VISSER



BYRAM LAKE

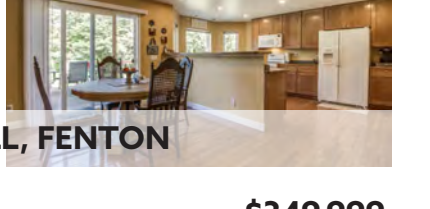
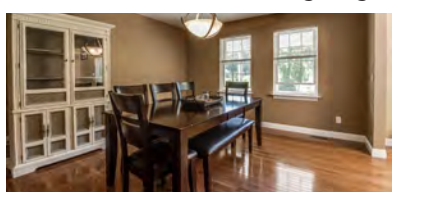
50 Ft of frontage on All Sports Byram Lake. 4060 SF of finished living space, 4 BDR & 4 BA. Beautiful kitchen with tile back splash, island, granite counter tops and built in double oven. Living room offers stone fireplace and gorgeous views of the lake. Finished walkout basement complete with workout room and full bath and 2 car attached garage.

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PRICE REDUCED



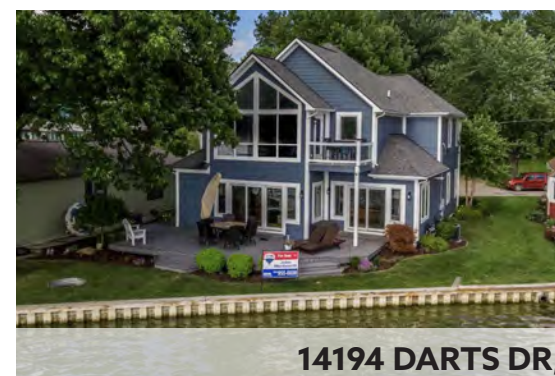
7489 DENTON HILL, FENTON



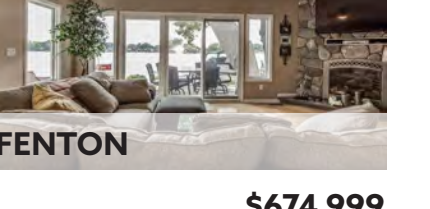
ACREAGE

Beautiful home on over 3 acres, 3843 SF, 3 BDR & 3.5 BA. Spacious kitchen features hardwood floors, great natural light, breakfast nook, lots of cabinet and counter space. Living room offers soaring ceilings and fireplace. Finished walkout basement, 3 car attached garage, large deck, pole barn and more.

\$349,999



14194 DARTS DR, FENTON



LAKE FENTON

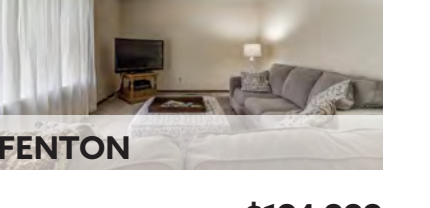
60' of frontage on All Sports Lake Fenton. 2086 SF, 4 BDR & 3.5BA. Open floor plan with beautiful flooring throughout the main floor. Great kitchen with granite countertops and island. Great room offers fireplace and spectacular views of the lake. First floor bedroom with private bath. Second floor master suite with stunning views of the lake. Large deck perfect for entertaining, additional lot across the street for parking and 2 car garage.

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11422 MALAGA DR, FENTON



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Watch Andy answer these questions & more online at www.AndyAlger.com

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UNIFORMS

Continued from Page 3A

kids whose parents can afford better quality clothes and the latest fashions.

"This comes from a mom who not only was teased most of my young life, but also whose kids were teased and bullied about some of the clothes they wore or didn't wear," she added. "Kids will find their own individuality in many other ways."

Dave Cruickshank said, "My kids attend Holly Academy. They have required uniforms and I like it. It takes the branding of clothes out of the mix. Just one less distraction so they can concentrate on school instead of who's wearing what."

Denise Ketchmark said she favors school uniforms for all grades. "It takes away the morning decision of 'what should I wear,' there's no brand name competition as everyone wears the same brand."

Nancy Anderson Hanks said she has mixed feelings. "Not everyone can afford to clothe their children in the latest fashions. Uniforms may result in less bullying, just my thought."

School uniforms are easier, said Heather Edmonds. "It takes away from stress for kids who may not have the money to keep up with the latest trends, and as we all know kids can be mean."

On the opposing side

Those who oppose school uniforms say they:

- Violate a student's right to freedom of expression
- Are simply a Band-Aid on the issue of school violence
- Make students a target for bullies from other schools
- Are a financial burden for poor families
- Are an unfair additional expense for

parents who pay taxes for a free public education

• Are difficult to enforce in public schools
Mary Rendon, who parents her two granddaughters, says no to uniforms. "Our kids need to find their own individuality. They can't do that if they all look the same."

Veronica Pheasant said, "No, no uniforms for public schools but there should be rules and limitations as always and they should be enforced with consequences as well as extra privileges for not breaking the rules, because once an offender, always a repeat offender."

April Bland doesn't like the idea of uniforms either.

"Why make them want to act out more later," she said. "I do think that schools should have one of their noon aides stay an extra hour or so and check clothes. I am so tired of seeing bottom of butt cheeks and so far up their crotch with the girl clothes."

Bland said her nephew got into trouble because his tank top arm openings went too low on the side, and the girl next to him... "You couldn't see the bottom of her shorts because they were so far up her crotch. That ticks me off," she said. "You want men to respect women and get all mad when they don't. How about if parents buy some clothes that fit their daughters. They're out there, you just gotta look. Teach her how to respect herself so the boys can respect her and not see every part she owns on display."

Hanks, too, said, "Has anyone actually seen what some of the girls are wearing to school? Such distractions for hormonal teenagers."

Diana Davis said maybe not uniforms, but at least a dress code that everyone has to follow — teachers included.

Elizabeth Lowe said, "We wore extremely ugly school uniforms at a parochial school. I hated them. I also hated when my son had to wear almost a uniform to a charter school, with collared shirts tucked in, and a belt ... I do favor rules regarding clothing (ban the yoga pants, sketchy sayings, etc.) but I do not favor uniforms whatsoever, or any sort of arbitrary rules. When someone decides that one brand or one style or one color will work for everyone, inevitably it will be unflattering for someone."

Local rules on dress and grooming

All four of the school districts in the tri-county area (Fenton, Holly, Lake Fenton and Linden) have rules regarding dress and grooming. While some are worded differently, they all expect students to use good taste in dress and grooming appropriate to the learning activity.

Some of the types of dress local schools prohibit include, but are not limited to, fashion that may pose a safety risk such as choke chains or certain spiked bracelets, etc. They also prohibit mutilated or torn or ripped clothing, pajamas and slippers, and fashions that are too revealing such as underwear showing, cleavage exposed, halters or tops that expose the midriff, shorts or skirts that are shorter than fingertip level, etc.

Fashion with profane or obscene suggestions, or that are sexually suggestive are prohibited. Any item of clothing that bear hate, lack of tolerance or inflammatory messages cannot be worn to school. The same holds true for fashion that advocates the use of illegal substances, or that advertise drug, alcohol or tobacco-related messages.

The student handbook for Fenton Area Public Schools reads, "While fashion changes, the reason for being in school does not. Students are in school to learn."

LOOKING BACK

at this week in

NATIONAL HISTORY

COMPILED BY VERA HOGAN

AUG. 13

1899: Alfred Hitchcock, the macabre master of moviemaking, is born in London on Aug. 13, 1899. His innovative directing techniques and mastery of suspense made him one of the most popular and influential filmmakers of the 20th century. His more famous movies include "Psycho," "Rear Window" and "Vertigo" to name a few.

AUG. 14

1985: It was during their collaboration on 1983's "Say Say Say" that former Beatle Paul McCartney is said to have advised King of Pop Michael Jackson to invest some of his enormous wealth in music publishing. It was sound financial advice that McCartney may have come to regret giving on this day in 1985, when Michael Jackson purchased the publishing rights to the vast majority of the Beatles' catalog for \$47 million, outbidding McCartney himself.

AUG. 15

1914: The American-built waterway across the Isthmus of Panama, connecting the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, is inaugurated with the passage of the U.S. vessel "Ancon," a cargo and passenger ship. The rush of settlers to California and Oregon in the mid 19th century was the initial impetus of the U.S. desire to build an artificial waterway across Central America.

AUG. 16

1948: Baseball legend George Herman "Babe" Ruth dies from cancer in New York City. For two days following, his body lay in state at the main entrance to Yankee Stadium, and tens of thousands of people stood in line to pay their last respects. He was buried in Hawthorne, New York.

AUG. 17

1962: East German guards gun down a young man trying to escape across the Berlin Wall into West Berlin and leave him to bleed to death. It was one of the ugliest incidents to take place at one of the ugliest symbols of the Cold War.

AUG. 18

1940: Walter Percy Chrysler, the founder of the American automotive corporation that bears his name, dies on this day in 1940 at his estate in Great Neck, New York, after suffering a cerebral hemorrhage. He was 65 years old.

AUG. 19

1964: The Beatles took America by storm during their famous first visit, wowing the millions who watched them during their historic television appearances on "The Ed Sullivan Show" in February 1964. But after the first great rush of stateside Beatlemania, the Beatles promptly returned to Europe, leaving their American fans to make do with mere records. By late summer of that same year, however, having put on an unprecedented and still unmatched display of pop-chart dominance during their absence, the Beatles finally returned. On Aug. 19, 1964, more than six months after taking the East Coast by storm, the Fab Four traveled to California to take the stage at the Cow Palace in San Francisco for opening night of their first-ever concert tour of North America.

Source: history.com

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Spotlight on:

THE UPS STORE

Fenton business celebrates 20th anniversary with Aug. 17 event, month-long specials

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

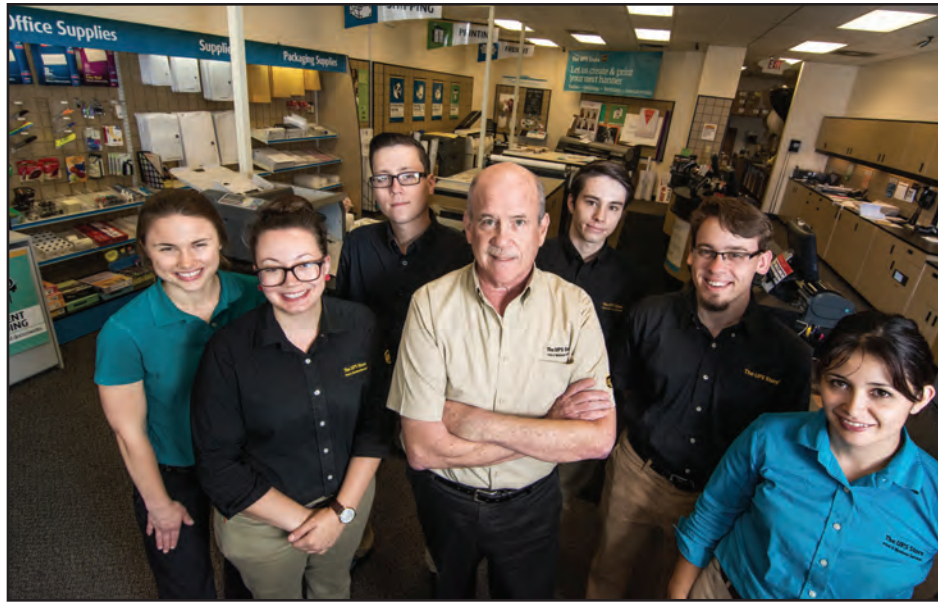
Les Beare opened Mail Boxes Etc. in Fenton in August, 1997, catering mostly to the needs of packing and shipping customers.

Twenty years later, his business is still at the same location, 17195 Silver Parkway near VG's Grocery, but the business has been known as The UPS Store since 2001.

The business has evolved into a print shop, with a talented design team and a strong emphasis on quick turn-around time and customer service. They also offer packaging, shipping, mailbox

“My employees are my biggest asset.”

Les Beare
The UPS Store in
Fenton owner



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

The UPS Store owner Les Beare (center) is celebrating 20 years in business in Fenton. His staff includes (front, from left) Sally Erickson, Kathy Byers, Beare, and Kristin Ulrich. In the back (from left) are Jered Orvis, Josh Orvis and Kyle Ryan.

services and more.

“We can take an idea and turn it into a quality graphic,” said Beare. “We do a lot of printing for local restaurants, including menus, posters and foam-mounted signs.”

Beare and his staff of seven will be celebrating the store's 20th anniversary in Fenton with refreshments on Thursday, Aug. 17, from 12 to 4 p.m. They are also

offering print specials throughout the month of August.

He is pleased to share the credit for his business success with his employees. “My employees are my biggest asset,” he said.

The UPS Store is open Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and on Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; phone (810) 750-2920.

Social News

BIRTHDAY

Henry Repphuhn celebrates 100th birthday

Henry Repphuhn will celebrate his 100th birthday on Aug. 14, 2017. Henry was born to Marie and Charles Repphuhn. He is one of 18 children and attended MacIntire School in Richfield Township, Michigan. He married Lulu June 4, 1938 in Lapeer. The couple has three sons, Eugene of Otisville, Michigan, Michael of Tyler, Texas and Dan (deceased) of Fenton; four grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren and many great-grandchildren. Henry retired from General Motors in Pontiac in 1974, with 38 years of employment. He worked in the truck repair, gas, and electric department. He was a part-time farmer in Hadley, Michigan from 1952-1966. The family will gather to celebrate on Saturday, August 12, 2017.



HOT LINE CONTINUED

IS IT JUST me, or have the lovely new Republic trash cans become lawn art in Fenton. These blue behemoths can be seen in front yards, in front of garages and displayed along side of many homes in our beautiful city and township locations. I find them to be quite utilitarian, but apparently not as attractive as many Fenton area residents.

DO NOT YELL at me for going 35 mph on Silver Parkway. That is the speed limit. Just because you want to break the law and drive 50 doesn't mean I will pull over so you can pass while you are honking and swerving around making a fool of yourself.

TO THE HATEFUL person who assumes if someone is home during the day that they do not work for a living. Many jobs do not adhere to a 9 to 5 schedule.

TO THE PEOPLE professing that President Obama was the best president we ever had. You must have a glass belly button to see when you are driving because it's obvious where your head is at.

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SAYING ANYONE WHO does not share your religious beliefs will be punished demonstrates a meanness of spirit that itself deserves punishment. Where is your compassion?

IT IS THOSE whose faith is weak who feel threatened by the fact of evolution.

Fenton Lions Club Community FLEA MARKET & CRAFT SALE

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Calendar of events

FENTON VFW FISH FRY

The Friday Fish Fry is back at the Fenton VFW Post 3243, 1148 N. LeRoy St., Fenton. The next fish fry will be from **4 to 7 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 18.**

Attention All Gardeners!

The Open Gate Garden Club is looking for spectacular gardens in the Fenton/Holly/Linden area to show in the

2018 OGCC Summer Garden Tour July 15th

If you, a friend, or a neighbor has a garden worth sharing please email the contact information to janicecooley216@gmail.com or pestedman@gmail.com or leave a message at 810.750.0359



..... We would love to share
Your Garden

EXAM

Continued from Front Page

Akl is charged with open murder, for the March 4 shooting death of Brady Alan Morris, 18, in Akl's family home on Lake Fenton in Fenton Township. He's also charged with receiving and concealing a stolen firearm and two counts of felony firearm.

Akl was evaluated twice since March at the forensic center in Saline. His first exam found him incompetent to stand trial. The second exam found that he was competent.

Because the state exam deemed he was competent, Manley said the defense has the right to an independent exam.

He said this situation is "fairly uncommon, but because of the serious nature of this case, that's why it's being done, that and the fact that normally you don't find someone incompetent."

WATCH THE VIDEO



AT TCTIMES.COM
WITH THIS STORY



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Abdurrahman (Abdu) Ahmed Akl, 16, stands with attorney Frank Manley in Genesee County 67th District Court in Flint on Wednesday, Aug. 9.

Background

According to investigative reports from the Genesee County Sheriff's Office, at approximately 11 p.m. on March 4, Genesee County Sheriff's deputies and the Fenton Police Department were dispatched to 14170 Moffett Dr. in Fenton Township in response to a 911 call of a male with a gunshot wound to the head.

Akl was immediately taken into custody and a semi-automatic pistol was found on the front porch and secured by police.

The two teens, who were reportedly friends, were alone on the first floor of the residence when the shooting occurred. Other members of Akl's family and one other guest were on the second and third floors.

According to the autopsy report, it appears that Morris was shot from behind at point blank range on the top left side of his head.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Abdurrahman (Abdu) Ahmed Akl, 16, looks to his family and friends filling one-half of the seating area in Judge Mark McCabe's courtroom on Wednesday, Aug. 9

ECLIPSE

Continued from Page 3A

Eclipse glasses

For these glasses to protect your eyes, they must be compliant with the ISO 12312-2 safety standard. They are darker than normal sunglasses and filter out more sun. It's safe to look at a partial eclipse with these.

If they get scratched, punctured, or torn, do not use them. Instead, buy new ones. Packs of eclipse glasses are available at Walmart, eBay and Amazon for under \$20. Ask your local eye doctor's office if they carry these glasses.

Pinhole projection

Another way to view the partial eclipse is the hand method. NASA suggests stretching out your fingers on both hands and overlaying them, creating a waffle pattern. Stand with your back to the eclipse and look at your hands' shadow on the ground.

The little spaces between your fingers will project a small grid of the partial eclipse on the ground.

Box method

This involves taking a large box and cutting out a hole for your head. The longer the box, the larger the projection. Then you tape a small square of aluminum foil near the top on one end of the box, and poke a small hole in it. Tape a sheet of paper on the inside of the box, on the opposite side of the hole. Stick your head through the hole and stand with your back to the sun.

The light will come in and you will see a small projection, a negative image, of the eclipse.

How NOT to watch an eclipse

Do not watch the partial eclipse through a camera lens, telescope, binoculars, or any other optical device.

According to NASA, the concentrated solar rays will damage the filter and enter your eyes, which will cause serious injury.

Solar filters must be attached to the front of the telescope or camera lens in order to view the eclipse safely.

The only safe time to look at an eclipse without eye protection is when the moon completely blocks out the runs rays, which won't happen in Michigan.

SUMMARY

■ If you're planning on viewing the solar eclipse on Aug. 21, make sure you have special eye protection. Sunglasses will not protect your eyes enough.



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MILLAGE

Continued from Front Page and replacement program to be effective, a 10-year millage would be necessary.

The Fenton City Council held a special meeting on Monday, April 17 to review the results of a street study and consider funding options for street and infrastructure improvements and repairs.

Tim Juidici with OHM Advisors, the city's engineering firm, provided council members with a five-year plan for road projects. The plan details Fenton roads in need of repairs and rated their condition from 1 to 10, with 1 being the worst condition.

"A 4 rating means the road is at a critical distress point," said Juidici. "Below 4 means the road needs heavy heavy rehabilitation."

He said today city of Fenton roads, on a scale of 1 to 10, have an overall rating of 3.5.

"If we spent \$2 million over a 10-year period, we would see an average rating of about 5.5," Juidici said.

It isn't just the roads that need repair. Several have drainage and storm sewers to consider. Council members agreed with engineers and the Public Works Department (DPW) that addressing drainage and storm sewer issues before putting down a new road will need to be done.

This could mean that one road could get fixed that doesn't look as bad as another because the other has infrastructure repairs that need to be addressed first.

"The majority of our roadwork is beyond the point of maintenance," said Markland in April. "This is a long-term problem that happened over several years. It's not that we didn't want to do it (road fixes) it's because we didn't have the funds."

Markland said the council needs to consider a referendum to pay for city roadwork. "To do something less ... I don't think it serves the public very well," he said.

At first, the council considered Markland's recommendation of asking for 5 mills. However, after learning that this millage, if passed, would be subject to Headlee rollbacks, they decided by an informal consensus vote to ask for 6 mills instead.

"The only way we are ever going to get this done is through a millage," said Markland in April. "No one is coming to our rescue. We're not going to get the money anywhere else. The roads are not going to get better. Doing nothing is not an option."

WHAT WILL IT COST

Six mills is \$6 for every \$1,000 of taxable value. If approved by Fenton voters, a 6-mill street millage will be billed on the July 1 tax bill.

Taxable Value	Annual Road Tax
\$25,000.....	\$150
\$50,000.....	\$300
\$75,000.....	\$450
\$100,000.....	\$600

FIVE-YEAR CALCULATIONS

The total estimated cost to repair major roads and local roads has been calculated for a period of five years. These costs do not include any required infrastructure (drains, sewers, etc.) that may need to be done.

- 2018 Projects = \$2,887,000
- 2019 Projects = \$2,379,000
- 2020 Projects = \$2,383,000
- 2021 Projects = \$1,999,000
- 2022 Projects = \$2,384,000

For details on specific streets and the year the work is planned in the event of a successful millage vote, call or visit Fenton City Hall.

NOVEMBER BALLOT LANGUAGE

The Fenton City Council may approve the following ballot language for the Nov. 7 election:

Charter Amendment Proposal No. 1

The Fenton City Charter, 11.1 allows the City to levy taxes imposed upon real and tangible personal property in excess of 13 mills for periods not to exceed 3 years, if approved by the voters. The City of Fenton desires to change its City Charter to allow any voter approved increase in taxes in excess of 13 mills to be for a period not to exceed 10 years.

Shall the amendment as proposed be adopted?
YES _____ NO _____

HOT LINE CONTINUED

EVOLUTION AND RELIGION can co-exist if you just interpret the seven-day version into thousands/millions of years. Now everyone can be happy.

PRESIDENT TRUMP'S comment that opioid misuse can be stopped by 'Tell kids no. Bad.' Most of those addicted now, already heard that from Nancy Reagan in the '80s. Drug CEOs, pharmacists, lobbyists, doctors develop, push, and sell opioids. POTUS line of reason is uneducated, naive, and sad.

TO THE MYSTERY person who mailed out letters to all riparians of Byram Lake, awesome job. The riparians need to know exactly what the farm is doing to pollute the lake. We, the riparians, will not accept anything from the farm except complete clean up of your operations.

PRESIDENT TRUMP INHERITED many of Obama's messes and North Korea is no exception. This is a result of weak leadership and doing nothing for the last eight years.

EVOLUTION. REALLY? WITH King Kong sitting in the White House, what's to debate?

AS THE SONG says, you don't tug on Superman's cape. Thank you President Trump for you tough rhetoric against North Korea. Thank you for giving them a verbal gut punch. Thank you for sticking up for the strongest country in the world.

HAVE THE PRINCIPLES of self-reliance and personal responsibility become nothing more than just concepts or ideas?

RECENTLY, CONGRESS APPROVED \$108 billion over a five-year period to rebuild the U.S. nuclear arsenal. It was Obama who had cut this in half.

TEXT YOUR
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THE COUNTY
Times

FENTON HOTEL

Continued from Front Page

Tables and chairs were delivered on Tuesday and a full crew from the restaurant was on hand to get them removed in. The kitchen floor was being re-done on Wednesday and new equipment will be installed at the end of next week.

"We pretty much had to re-do the whole kitchen," said Sorise. "There was a lot of damage, with 11 holes in the ceiling."

Diners will also notice a few new décor touches in the bar area, although the main dining room remains the same.

Sorise said that he has approval from the city of Fenton for outdoor dining, and plans to be ready to complete the construction this year. "It may or may not open this season, depending on timing and weather," he said.

The Fenton Hotel has been closed since April 16, when diners enjoying their Easter Sunday dinner

had to evacuate the restaurant at 3 p.m., due to heavy smoke in the kitchen. Fire departments responded from Fenton, Fenton Township, Linden City, Holly Village and Grand Blanc.

“We’re shooting for the end of August, but there are lots of ‘moving parts.’ It’s all a process.”

Nick Sorise
The Fenton Hotel Tavern & Grille owner

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By: Dr. Steven Sulfaro

FLOSSING

As most of you are now aware, the Associated Press and the US News and World Reports released an article stating that according to their investigative research there is no scientific evidence to support the ongoing recommendation by us dentists that daily flossing has any positive effect on the health of your mouth. They are dead wrong. It must have been a really slow week in the news business. Their investigation is flawed because they only looked at short term studies of a year or less. The problem is that dental disease such as gum disease take years to progress and a short study probably won't show much improvement in the test subjects gum health after such a short period of time. It's like doing a research study on the benefits of fertilizer for plants that lasts for only one week. At the end of one week the researcher notices no difference between the fertilized and unfertilized plant and reports there is no benefit for using fertilizer on your plants. Unfortunately, the AP did their own, independent investigative search of the dental literature without any input from true dental experts such as the ADA. So, research or no; I can't help but notice those people in my practice who brush and floss on a regular basis tend to have better teeth than those who don't. Bottom line: "If you want to keep them, floss if ya got-um".

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



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WHAT YOU MISSED in the MIDWEEK TIMES

Compiled by Vera Hogan

The following is what you missed in the **Wednesday, August 9, Midweek Edition** of the Tri-County Times. To subscribe and receive both the Sunday Weekend and Wednesday Midweek editions, please call (810) 629-8282

Injured bald eagle takes flight again

Young bird rescued by resident was rehabilitated over the summer and recently freed.



Hypnotherapist facing two more accusers

Criminal sexual conduct preliminary exams for hypnotherapist John Tomlinson, will be held Aug. 22.

16-year-old murder suspect to appear in court

Abdurrahman (Abdu) Ahmed Akl of Fenton Township will be in court again Wednesday, Aug. 9, for a review on the results of his competency exam.

View stories at
tctimes.com



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Terry Reed plays with a light saber before "Jedi Academy" Bible class, with volunteers Brittany Huss and Jonnie Vickers at the Freedom Center on Tuesday.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Fun summertime a staple at area churches

By Tim Jagielo

tjagielo@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795

Fenton — You might not think that the hype and excitement of 439 children were all about scriptures in the Bible, but at Vacation Bible School (VBS) at The Freedom Center, it is.

It also might have something to do with the overall "Star Wars" theme used this year.

Renamed "Summer Spectacular," this five-day evening camp called "The Spirit Awakens" (after the "Star Wars" "The Force Awakens") takes the kids through high-energy assemblies, crafts, outdoor recreation activities and indoor scripture lessons, nicknamed "Jedi Academy."

Les Hathon is the children's/family pastor, who oversaw the event. "The thing we teach them this week is going to be the new moral fiber in their heart," he said, adding that VBS teaches children that Christ loves them, "and that they're not alone in this world and that there's hope."

Visually, the Star Wars themes are everywhere, from the scale size X-Wing fighter and other props on stage, to the graphically coordinated T-shirts, signs and lettering.

Hathon said they relate characters in the Bible, to characters in Star Wars in the classroom setting. He compared Paul,

who turned into a huge supporter of the

early Christian movement, into Star Wars character FN2187, who started the movie as a storm trooper, but became Finn, a member of the resistance.

There are dozens of churches in the tri-county area, and many hold VBS.

The Fenton United Methodist Church held its VBS from July 10 to 14, with the theme "Rome: Paul and the Underground Church."

Its theme was based on Ancient Rome where Paul was put under house arrest for being a Christian. "Every day our scripture memory verses

came from the book of Romans from the Bible and our theme each day centered on God's love," said Mallory Lyman, Children's Ministry director.

She said they traveled back in time to ancient Rome. They worshipped God, but also went to several stations. They played games at the "Apprenticeship Games," ate Roman snacks at the Food Shop, and

created pieces of jewelry like head wreaths, and others. The Family Life Center was filled with pillars, vines, and a model of the Colosseum, a Roman horse and chariot.

"We hope that they learned about the story of Paul and how he was a faithful servant for God but ultimately we hope they learned about how much God loves each of them, that

his love is a gift and that we should share that gift with others," she said.

The Rock Church in Fenton didn't hold a traditional VBS in 2017 — instead they held an overnight camp. The 2017 theme was "Gadgets & Gizmos." According to the website, "GADGETS & GIZMOS is geared to capture a kid's imagination about their Creator so they can discover how they are made by God, made for a relationship with Jesus and made to love others."

The camp cost \$225, and was an all-day and all-night camp.

WATCH THE VIDEO



AT TCTIMES.COM WITH THIS STORY

“Ultimately we hope they learned about how much God loves each of them, that his love is a gift and that we should share that gift with others.”

Mallory Lyman

Fenton United Methodist Church, children's minister

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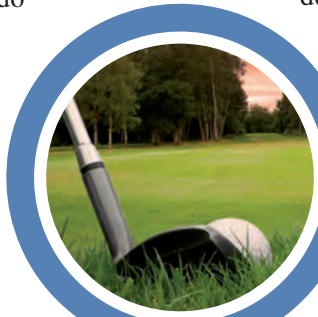
By Vera Hogan
vhogan@tctimes.com
810-433-6823

A to Z

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



Some people are diehard **GRILLERS** and make sure their



It's not too early to
start think-
ing



Finally, yet importantly, the end of summer and start of fall offer the best and coolest times to get rid of some of your unwanted items. You know they say that one man's trash is another man's treasure. If you have unwanted items that only you call **GARBAGE**, consider donating these



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CREDIT UNION

Frederick jumps to the head of the women's class

■ Frederick wins close battle with Fenton's Hall for female track honor

By David Troppens
dtroppens@tctimes.com

Alia Frederick probably has some free time during the course of the day.

But it's hard to figure out when she does have it.

During good chunks of her high school career at Linden, the 2017 graduate ran cross country while also finding time to play

for her travel soccer team. In the spring, she played soccer for the Linden varsity girls team and also found time to compete on the track team.

And what about the winter? She dabbles with another sport on an AAU volleyball team.

What is amazing is at the level she plays all of these sports while remaining busy. And what exactly is Alia? Is she a runner who happens to be a soccer player? A hurdler who happens to run cross country? Based on

how she's excelled to the point of being an All-State cross country runner, hurdler and soccer player, it's darn near impossible to answer that question. Maybe the best answer is she's one of Linden's greatest all-around athletes in school history.

She capped her Linden career last spring with an amazing athletic double. While leading the Linden varsity girls soccer team to the greatest postseason run in school history, she was also earning state trips in both

hurdle events and capturing Division 2 All-State honors in the 300-meter hurdles. She actually holds the best time in three different individual events on our All-Tri-County Girls Track and Field Team, earning her the tight nod of Female Track Athlete of the Year for the second straight season.

See
WOMEN'S
on 19A



Linden's
Alia Frederick

SUNDAY, AUGUST 13, 2017 | PAGE 18 | WWW.TCTIMES.COM/SPORTS

Times Sports

Fenton's West travels to top of our Tri-County Male Track team

■ Edges Tigers' teammate Dimambro for our track honor

By David Troppens
dtroppens@tctimes.com

Zachary West has been competing in track for only two years.

For most of his life, the sport wasn't really on his mind. He had other sports that occupied his time.

"I joined because of football," West said. "I was doing it for football and wanted to do some speed training."

It was the right decision. In only two years, West has made himself a name well known in the Metro League's track circuit. In just his first season, he made our All-Tri-County Boys Track and Field Team in the 200 and in the 400.

During his senior season, West got tremendously better.

He ended up qualifying for the state meet in the 100 dash, the 200 dash and the 400 run, dropping his times significantly in each while also earning All-State honors in two of those events. His season also earned him a spot on Eastern Michigan University's track team next year and did something else — it earned him the Tri-County Times' 2017 Male Track Athlete of the Year, edging out Fenton teammate Dominic Dimambro for the honor.

"Honestly, I really didn't," West said when asked if he thought he would have the season that he did during the spring. "I did have a feeling I would be a decent amount faster than my junior year, but I didn't know what to expect in just my second year running track. But I hit the weight room hard and took offseason practices serious. I guess it paid off."

It certainly did. West did more

than compete at the state meet. He earned third in the state in the 400 (47.98) and fourth in the state in the 200 (22.02). His time of 21.99 seconds in the preliminary round qualified West for the final. He earned All-State honors in both events. Meanwhile, he also competed in the 100 at the state meet, earning 14th overall (11.14 seconds). His 100 best time of the season came at regionals where he posted a mark of 11.05 seconds. And while his teammate Dominic Dimambro captured the D1 state championship in the 3,200 run at the meet, West actually scored more team state points with his two high placings. Fenton ended up finishing the state meet in seventh place with 22 team points. West considered his state-record 400 race his best event of the season.

"My biggest moment was when I broke the school record in the 400 because everything counted on that ace."

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES
SUBMITTED PHOTO

Tess Heavner won many medals at a recent national swim meet, earning first place in the 100-meter backstroke.

Heavner keeps on dominating in the pool

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

Tess Heavner was just happy to see her friends from past seasons she competed with for Team Michigan at past zone swimming championship meets.

The fact she did so well at the 2017 USA Swimming Central Zone 14 And Under Championships was an added bonus.

Heavner ended up being awarded the High Point Runner-Up Award at the event, scoring 102 points at the Central Zone. In the process she also won an event, the 100-meter backstroke with a personal-best time. She also posted top-four efforts in five other events while helping Team Michigan finish second place at the meet.

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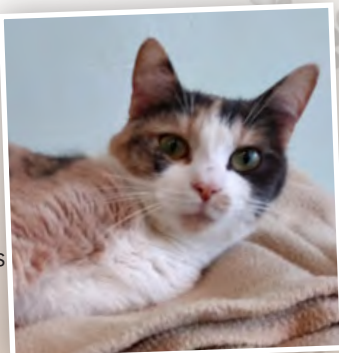


ZACH WEST

West was the tri-county's top sprinter last spring, earning Division 1 All-State honors in the 400- and the 200-meter dashes.

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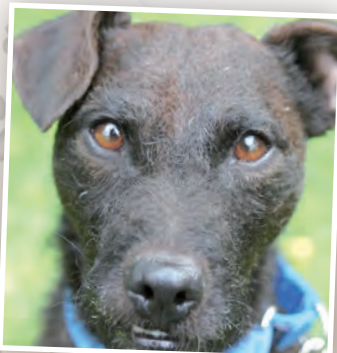


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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | KLARI FREDERICK

Alia Frederick was the tri-county area's only female track athlete to earn All-Sate status during the outdoor season.

WOMEN'S

Continued from Page 18A

She earned the nod in what was a serious competition with Fenton's track superstar, Madaline Hall.

Hall has been Frederick's top competition for the honor the last two seasons. This year, Hall ended up going to the Division 1 state meet for the Metro League champion

Fenton Tigers in four events compared to Frederick's two. However, Frederick ended up being the area's only All-State performer, placing third in the 300 hurdles with a time of 44.93 seconds. She was the tri-county area's only female placer at a state meet in 2017.

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Male Track Athlete of the Year

ZACHARY WEST (Fenton)

This was a tough pick between West and Fenton's 3,200 state champion Dominic Dimambro, but West won it by dominating three events in the area — the 100, 200 and the 400. West was All-State in the 200 and 400 and also scored more state meet points than anyone in the tri-county area. He'll be running at Eastern Michigan University in the fall.

All Tri-County Boys Track and Field Team

Event	Name	School	Time
100	Zachary West*	Fenton	11.05 seconds
200	Zachary West*	Fenton	21.99 seconds
400	Zachary West*	Fenton	47.98 seconds
800	Elijah Bourdeau*	Lake Fenton	1:57.38
1,600	Thomas Mueller*	Lake Fenton	4:21.60
3,200	Dominic Dimambro**	Fenton	9:07.79
110 hurdles	Phoenix Dickson	Linden	17.27 seconds
300 hurdles	Peter Kennings	Fenton	42.88 seconds
400 relay	Ryan Miller	Fenton	44.88 seconds
	Sean Stiles		
	Josh Maher		
	Keegan Pombier		
800 relay	John Sage*	Fenton	1:30.17
	Keegan Pombier		
	Ethan Pyeatt		
	Zachary West		
1,600 relay	Elijah Bourdeau	Lake Fenton	3:35.09
	Remington Clements		
	Isaac Golson		
	Jerry Yelinek		
3,200 relay	Elijah Bourdeau**	Lake Fenton	7:50.92
	Remington Clements		
	Thomas Mueller		
	Isaac Golson		
Shot put	Paul Elsey	Holly	43-feet-2 1/4
Discus	Trevor Edgar	Fenton	124-feet-0
High jump	Jaden Zaitshik*	Lake Fenton	6-feet-6
Pole vault	Jackson Monty*	Holly	12-feet-6
Long jump	Ryan Beltz*	Holly	21-feet-4 3/4

Note: Positions on the team are based on the best times/distances posted during a league meet, a regional meet or a state meet. An * denotes a state qualifier in that specific event. A ** represents a state championship.

Female Track Athlete of the Year

ALIA FREDERICK (Linden)

It was mighty tough to select between two worthy candidates — Alia Frederick and Madaline Hall. Frederick was the area's only All-State athlete, earning third in the 300 hurdles. As an interesting side note, Frederick was also our Female Soccer Player of the Year, making her the first person to ever win two of our athlete of the year awards for two different sports during the same sports season.

All Tri-County Girls Track and Field Team

Event	Name	School	Time
100	Madaline Hall*	Fenton	12.48 seconds
200	Madaline Hall*	Fenton	26.35 seconds
400	Alia Frederick	Linden	59.80 seconds
800	Cambria Tiemann*	Fenton	2:18.12
1,600	Alexa Keiser*	Fenton	5:00.72
3,200	Alexa Keiser	Fenton	11:51.17
100 hurdles	Alia Frederick*	Linden	15.54 seconds
300 hurdles	Alia Frederick*	Linden	44.93 seconds
400 relay	Cassandra Campbell*	Fenton	50.03
	Hannah Chapin		
	Kiley Aldred		
	Madaline Hall		
800 relay	Cassandra Campbell	Fenton	1:51.32
	Vien Sturm		
	McKayla Murphy		
	Madaline Hall		
1,600 relay	Jenna Keiser	Fenton	4:09.67
	Alexa Keiser		
	Cassandra Campbell		
	Cambria Tiemann		
3,200 relay	Brenna Bleicher	Fenton	9:35.17
	Cambria Tiemann		
	Jenna Keiser		
	Alexa Keiser		
Shot put	Jessica Daul*	Linden	38-feet-10
Discus	Jessica Daul	Linden	100-feet-6
High jump	Jessica Warford	Fenton	4-feet-10
Pole vault	Hannah Chapin	Fenton	10-feet-9
Long jump	Madaline Hall*	Fenton	17-feet-9



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