

Why did teen kill his grandmother, then himself?

■ Sheriff says he attempted to overdose on prescription drugs last weekend

By Vera Hogan
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Because Steven Calvin Wilkerson, 15, purposely ended his own life after fatally stabbing his grandmother early Tuesday morning, Aug. 22, the public

may never know what troubling circumstances may have led to these tragedies. Wilkerson took his own life by standing in front of an oncoming train a few hours later.
See TEEN on 18A

TRI-COUNTY TIMES
TIM JAGIELO
Steven Calvin Wilkerson, 15, committed suicide in the village of Holly, just hours after taking the life of his 65-year-old grandmother.





PAGE 1B

THERE'S MORE TO THE 'MOOSE' THAN BURGERS AND BEER

Weekend Times

SUNDAY EDITION

\$1.00

VOL. 24 NO. XXXV SUNDAY, AUGUST 27, 2017 2016 NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

McDonald's is coming down

■ Owen Road restaurant closing for complete rebuild

By Vera Hogan
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Motorists looking for their Monday morning cup of joe at McDonald's in Fenton were likely surprised when the orange cones prevented them from reaching the drive-thru.
The restaurant closed on Monday, Aug. 21, marking the beginning of a construction project that will result in a brand new McDonald's facility. Owner Mark Pfau anticipates the new McDonald's will re-open again around Thanksgiving.

WATCH THE VIDEO



AT TCTIMES.COM WITH THIS STORY

On Tuesday, employees and workers from a nearby assisted living facility spent the day taking apart the interior of the restaurant.
"We have donated the seats, tables and some of the décor to an assisted living facility close to us," said Pfau. "Employees are also being allowed to take some mementos."
Speaking of employees, Pfau said that no employee from the Owen Road restaurant has lost their job because of the closure. Everyone has been transferred to Pfau's other McDonald's restaurants. He owns 12 total, with another in Fenton on North LeRoy Street and one in the city of Linden.
Demolition of the building is expected to take place on Monday or Tuesday of this week. The wrecking ball arrived on Friday, Aug. 25.
See MCDONALD'S on 8A



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO
Workers salvage parts of the play place from inside the McDonald's on Owen Road, Wednesday Aug. 23. The long-standing restaurant, owned by Mark Pfau, closed on Aug. 21 for demolition and rebuilding.

Village of Holly postpones marijuana vote decision

■ Taking no action effectively prohibits licenses

By Tim Jagielo
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After considerable discussion, the village ended talks, for now, on allowing various marijuana growth and distribution licenses in the village of Holly.
Previously, the village had permitted medical marijuana dispensaries, but an update to the Michigan law allowing recreational marijuana licenses allowed municipalities to vote on whether to issue these licenses in their cities. Taking no action effectively prohibits these licenses.
The village is giving the matter a year before a deciding vote.
The Aug. 22 hearing wasn't supposed to end in a vote, but Council Member Ryan Shiel made a motion to pass a one-year moratorium on these licenses, to allow for more research.
See MARIJUANA on 16A

“I’d rather have a bunch of hard data in front of me to make a good decision.”
Ryan Shiel
Holly Village council member




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“None of my children would ever get involved in any of these all too common ridiculous demonstrations because they were taught discipline, respect and if you work hard, you can accomplish nearly anything.”



“In this day and age, with all the efforts to improve our roads in the state of Michigan, why does the orange sign still say 'Men Working'? I see the women working just as hard, wearing the hard hats and building the new roads. Can we change the signs to reflect reality?”



“As retired people on a fixed income we can no longer afford, nor do we need, more taxes. What we need is fiscally responsible officials who do not waste tax dollars on roundabout studies nobody wants, overpriced ugly Fenton signs, and recycled scrap metal placed throughout the city and passed off as art.”



COMMENT OF THE WEEK
“Despite what you see on TV and read in newspapers you are 50 times more likely to be hit by lightning than to be harmed in a Muslim terrorist incident. Does anyone reading this know a single person ever hit by lightning?”

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

From atop the Fenton Fire Hall Kitchen & Taproom, guests play pool and have drinks while watching the Tune up Party on Thursday, Aug. 8. Since the recession, the city budget has stabilized, and careful investments like in the Streetscape project below, and even the restaurant itself, are evidence of the city's continuing recovery. While real estate prices are recovering in Fenton, lower-paying jobs replaced the higher-wage jobs that were lost.

Has tri-county recovered from recession?

■ Real estate sales up, auto industry recovered, but local and statewide recovery a mixed bag

By Tim Jagielo

tjagielo@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795

Technically the Great Recession of 2007 only lasted about 18 months, but that does not mean everyone personally experienced the recovery.

Chris Douglas is an associate professor at the University of Michigan-Flint, and chair of the Economics Department.

"There are a lot of people that never saw any sort of recovery after 2007," he said. For example, there were 14 million manufacturing jobs in the U.S. in 2007, and only 12.4 million of these jobs

exist today.

There is still a lot of good news with the economy in 2017 — home values are back to 2005 levels, and the auto industry has recovered.

"Steady but slow improvement," is how he characterizes today's U.S. economy.

Local municipal budgets, while still tight, are not forced to make drastic cuts as they did in previous years. Fund balances (government and school district savings accounts) are starting to recover from razor-thin margins of the past.

See **RECESSION** on 21A

About the recession of 2007

At 18 months, it was the longest recession since the Great Depression that began in October 1929.

The simplest definition of a recession is "an overall slowdown in economic activity," according to Douglas.

From December 2007 to early 2009, the U.S. economy shrank, and eventually leveled out to begin slow growth in June of 2009.

The first quarter of 2008 saw a 7-percent drop in gross domestic product (GDP). For comparison, the drop was 25 percent during the Great Depression. "That's a record I hope never gets broken," said Douglas.

The only industry that fully recovered is the auto industry, which was propped up by the federal government, said Douglas.

He takes grim view of the recovery.

"I think the stage is set for another one at some point," he said, based on how little things changed in the financial system following the crisis.

How pure is that bottled water you're drinking?

■ Make sure your favorite bottle water brand is certified

By Hannah Ball

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Don't be fooled— just because it comes in a bottle, doesn't mean it's safer.

Bottled water is a \$4 billion industry that sells \$50 billion bottles of water a year, according to the Chicago Tribune. Brands like Aquafina, Dasani and Smart Water are popular, and people often think drinking bottled water is safer.

A few studies show otherwise.

Some have labels

like pure, and "mountain water" or "stream water," but only drinking water you believe comes from streams is not a guarantee you're consuming

See **BOTTLE** on 7A

SUMMARY

■ Before you reuse the bottle from bottled water, make sure you wash it.

Neither the EPA nor the FDA certify bottled water. However, if you want to check the integrity of your favorite bottled water, there are a few organizations that can help.



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Classifieds	810-629-8194	Email	news@tctimes.com
Circulation	810-433-6797	Website	tctimes.com



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

Come *Heller* high water

andrewheller@tctimes.com

Random observations

• **So glad to hear** that Lear is opening a car seat manufacturing facility at the old Buick City site in Flint. That's good news for the entire region. The only downside is Lear is related to the auto industry and its massive ups and downs. Maybe at this point no one cares about diversifying the economy. Jobs are jobs.

• **Also great to see** pro golf coming back to Warwick Hills. The whole region lost a lot of zip and prestige when the Buick Open departed. The Ally Challenge Champions Tour (meaning the senior tour) will be a great fit for



Andrew Heller
FEATURED COLUMNIST

Warwick's soft greens. And just think, only nine years until Tiger Woods qualifies. I wonder if the hole 17 stands will be as rowdy as they were for the younger players? I'm guessing not.

Somehow it seems undignified to get boozed up and do the wave for players in their 50s and 60s.

• **I freely admit** that I wasn't interested in the "totality" eclipse and didn't understand why people were so giddy about it. But then, I often don't get things and people that seem to excite everyone else, including but not limited to dabbing, the Macarena, chicken wings, soccer, Adele, low-rise jeans, Fast & the Furious movies, kitten photos, kale, and Instagram.

• **As a lifelong** journalist, though, I have to tell you that my industry hyped the living bejeezus out of the eclipse, so it's no wonder it turned into a thing. Why'd we do it? Because it was a good "soft" story during summer, which is always a slow time for news.

• **And, please, the eclipse** did not "bring us all together and remind us all of our shared humanity," as so many gag-inducing commentators said. The best thing it did in my view is give people an excuse to leave work for a few minutes on a Monday.

• **Yes, I have** my cynical shoes on to-

day. But I did like this meme: "I tried to watch the eclipse through my colander, but it strained my eyes."

• **A new survey** says Detroit Lions fans are the second most dateable fans in the league. I figure it's the pity factor.

• **USA Today** is asking readers what the best attraction is in every state. For Michigan, it has to be the Great Lakes, yes? Possible exception: Sleeping Bear dunes. Don't argue with me.

• **This is the** time of year that I want to carry green spray paint to cover any leaves that are prematurely turning color. Admit it. You do, too.

• **None of you** will remember this, but I did, in fact, say before the season started that Mikie Mahtook would be the Tigers' starting centerfielder.

• **There's a song** on the iTunes Top 50 list that consists of nothing but silence.

Why didn't Madonna think of this back in the '80s? Think what the world would have been spared.

• **One of the** new McDonald's automated menu computers charged a customer 99 cents for a hamburger with no meat, cheese, bun or condiments, in other words nothing. It was the healthiest thing not consumed there all day.

• **"When you reach** the end of your rope, tie a knot in it and hang on." — Franklin D. Roosevelt.

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.

SAVINGS ACCOUNTS ARE still paying less than 1 percent despite the stock markets doing well because the federal interest rates are so low.

RESIDENTS, BETTER READ your Times every week. As they say, they go to the meetings so we don't have to. Stay up to speed on everything going on or you will find yourself with an outrageous ten year millage that will make it impossible to sell your home. No more taxes.

TO THE INDIVIDUAL who says that Trump has been investigated since day one, please tell me what your liberal friends have found so far.

THE CIVIL WAR was fought to preserve the union. Slavery was a secondary cause.

WE HAVE SPENT millions in tax dollars improving downtown to the benefit of just a few individuals and a burden to the residents trying to drive through downtown. Now you want the already-overtaxed residents to cough up tens of thousands more in tax dollars to fix the roads so that more visitors will come here to dine? Not gonna happen.

THE REPUBLICAN GOVERNMENT has problems passing bills because each and every one wants to do what he/she thinks is right for most people, whereas the Democrats just thoughtlessly group together and pass stupid bills like Obamacare.

PART OF THE reason that tuition has in-

creased so dramatically is because the greedy universities keep raising rates because the government has made it too easy for students to get money. Well meaning programs like welfare have become a cancer.

THE REPUBLICAN GOVERNOR in Michigan is giving tax breaks to companies that create jobs whereas a Democrat governor would tax the company right out of the job market.

THE MILLENNIAL CROWD is more interested in feeling good as opposed to doing good. No discipline.

I AM TIRED of hearing that the DDA should spend money on roads and neighborhoods. They obtain their tax money from designated commercial areas and can only spend its money in those areas.

MEN WROTE THE words in the Bible but God dictated the contents. There are 66 books, written by 60 different men, over 1,500 years, in three languages — Hebrew, Greek and Aramaic, over three continents — Europe, Africa and Asia. You don't think that God didn't have a hand in writing it.

THE UNSPOKEN PROBLEMS with the war in Afghanistan and Pakistan are not only a dual government system. They have their main government but they also have their government of religion, which is radical in itself. They have nothing to market to the world other than poppy. Until they change, they will always be a burden on the world.

I SEE GOOD economic activity both locally and at the state. Low unemployment but very poor confidence in government spending, both taxes and long-term debt. I think things are looking up, but we've got to build more confidence.

YESTERDAY IN OHIO, one dozen MS-13 criminals were arrested and are getting ready to be deported. These criminals were involved with murdering children, pregnant women, kidnapping and extortion. We do have to remember they were let into this country by Obama and his weak immigration policy.

WE MUST APPLAUD President Trump's victory in getting North Korea to back down from the missile crisis. His powerful stance is what did it. Power is the only thing that is respected by this North Korean dictator.

TWO NASTY, LEFTIST socialist groups get at each other in Charlottesville and it's Trump's fault?

See **HOT LINE** throughout Times

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Compiled by Hannah Ball, staff reporter

What do you remember about the 2007 recession?



"I don't remember that much. Right now, I think the economy is going up."

—Ben Hughes
Fenton



"Working from home more often than driving to the office because of gas prices."

—Angie LaValle
Holly



"Job loss. I don't remember much from that, I really don't."

—Linda Lapp
Fenton



"It forced me to retire, which I was going to do anyway. I was happy about it. I worked at General Motors in Detroit. It was a long commute."

—Bob Hutchings
Linden



"I was in high school and my sister was starting college. We both went to Kettering. When she went, there were about 20 companies hiring students for co-op. When I went, there were over 100."

—Andre Torfeh, Fenton

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\$340,000



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7147 Mabley Hill • Fenton
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\$210,000



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12144 Princewood Dr. • Fenton
\$335,000



1350 Fieldcrest Ct. • Flint
\$165,000



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Wenwood Dr. • Fenton
\$630,000



Lake Fenton
Edgewater Dr. • Fenton
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HOT LINE CONTINUED

■■■
WHILE I LOVE the fact that we live in a country that lets people fly the Confederate flag in their front yard, or carry a Nazi flag in a parade, I do question their intelligence and their sanity, as well as their integrity.

■■■
GOVERNMENT HAS RUN out of money to pay Secret Service protections for the President. Let the Klan and the Nazis protect their leader.

■■■
OUR PRESIDENT DISPLAYS very little concern about politics and little concern about politicians. Perhaps he's searching for the pulse of the real American people. The pulse might be difficult and weak to find. How's your pulse, fellow American? Get that heart rate up.

■■■
IT REALLY IS quite sad when you hear a right-wing conservative make a common sense statement with something factual and you think they're an idiot.

■■■
WHAT TRUMP BASE? Attendance at the Trump rally in Phoenix was only 2,000 out of millions of residents in the immediate region.

■■■
WHAT IS WRONG with people? You're going to throw a fit because you don't get your own way? Grow up, you're not five years old anymore.

■■■
JUST WONDERING, ARE the other picnic tables in Fenton's park as disgusting as the ones at Strom Park? I wouldn't let my dog eat off those.

■■■
FOSTER CHILDS IS at it again with his moronic ideas, making up liberal logic, only marred by the conservative logic it generated.

■■■
NOT EVERY REPUBLICAN president

was preceded by a Democratic president. Try George Hubert Walker Bush and others.

■■■
THE CITY WAITED too long to address streets. Six miles? Ten years? Way too much. Should have done it years ago before changing downtown at a huge expense. Infrastructure before beauty. Construction downtown forced us onto horrible streets.

■■■
NEANDERTHALS TO APE man? You're just mad you couldn't figure out who came after you. You're the Neanderthal. Go to school and learn something.

■■■
YOU SUPPORT TRUMP because the stock market is up and unemployment is down? The stock market went from a little over 6,000 to over 20,000 under Obama. You didn't support him. Unemployment went down under Obama.

■■■
JOHN KENNEDY AND Lyndon Johnson inherited the Vietnam War. Obama inherited Iraq and Afghanistan from Bush. It's now a 16-year war, the longest war we've been involved in our entire history. How many people have we lost and how much money have we spent?

■■■
LEAVE IT TO a conservative to bad mouth someone who wants to tear down a statue that was erected to promote someone who wanted to enslave another human being. That's a Republican for you.

■■■
I LOVED TRUMP'S speech. He must be doing something right because all the politicians are in a tizzy as to what to do. You go Mr. President, to hell with all of them.

■■■
I DON'T HAVE to call Foster Childs an idiot, because every time he writes something down he proves it.

Sewer maintenance contract extended**■ Not all 57 lift stations in sanitary sewer system have been repaired**

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Fenton Twp. — The Fenton Township Board of Trustees voted 7-0 to extend its contract for one year with Cook Excavating, Inc. so that the company can complete upgrades on the sanitary sewer system.

Originally, Supervisor Bonnie Mathis proposed the township extend the contract for two years. However, a few board members expressed their concerns over the two-year length.

Trustee Shaun Shumaker said it would have been good to know that Cook's contract was expiring this year before they approved the bonds last year to help pay for the sewers.

Cook Excavating has been the township's sewer maintenance contractor since 2011.

"We are not having any problems with the sewer line where we have repaired and replaced different things. It's very important to get this thing going," Mathis said.

In 2014, Fenton Township awarded Cook Excavating a second, three-year contract, set to expire this coming Thursday, Aug. 31, in order to perform upgrades and maintenance on the 57 sewer pump stations.

In November 2016, the Board of Trustees issued the sale of bonds up to \$2 million to replace or repair the lift stations in the sewer system.

The total maintenance cost is \$11,000

per month, according to the contract.

Shumaker said he remembers being told in 2016 that they would be done with upgrades within a year. Trustee Vince Lorraine confirmed that the company expected to be done with upgrades by Nov. 5, 2017.

"I don't want to go for two years with them," Shumaker said.

Treasurer John Tucker said he thinks full maintenance work still needs to be completed along with a few other repairs.

Shumaker said his fear is the company will continue to work on the pump stations, and when the contract does expire, they won't have any bids ready.

"I have two concerns. One, how long

it is. Two, I want to be able to opt out," Shumaker said.

The contract states that either party can opt out at any time for any reason by providing written notice to the other party.

"I understand you can be set behind with rain ... I just like to be prepared for when the time the contract is finally done, that we have our bids in place," Shumaker said. "It's a pretty big decision ... I think it's fair to our residents,

with the cost of sewers, and our sewers, especially with the complexity of them, to put some major effort into this."

He requested the board start discussion on bids in a few months.

“I think it’s fair to our residents, with the cost of sewers, and our sewers, especially with the complexity of them, to put some major effort into this.”

Shaun Shumaker
Fenton Township trustee

SUMMARY

■ The Fenton Township Board of Trustees unanimously approved extending a contract with Cook Excavating, Inc. for another year to continue work on the sanitary sewer system.

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News briefs**Special assessment bond issued for Liberty Shores' road project**

The Fenton Township Board of Trustees voted 7-0 to sell bonds to pay for the Liberty Shores Special Assessment District. The district will pay for asphalt resurfacing. The project is estimated to cost approximately \$261,000 and the bond will not exceed that amount. There are approximately 125 parcels, and each will pay a total of \$2,180. The assessments will be divided into 10 installments paid over a 10-year period. The project entails removing and recycling deteriorated asphalt pavement, applying herbicide to vegetation along the curb and gutter, cleaning existing pavement, and applying new asphalt.

Fenton Township Board of Trustees creates Dartmouth Drive Special Assessment District

Residents of Dartmouth Drive submitted a petition to create a new special assessment district for the northern part of the road. The petition has 62 percent of signatures from residents with road frontage. The length of the

district is .12 miles with 23 parcels of land. The total proposed cost is \$92,000. Construction would include resurfacing and paving. The board previously dissolved a special assessment district to resurface Dartmouth Drive due to unresolved right-of-way issues. A public hearing is scheduled to discuss the assessment district Sept. 5 at the Fenton Township Civic Community Center, 12060 Mantawauka Dr.

Public hearing scheduled for Loon Lake Improvement Special Assessment

The Fenton Township Board of Trustees scheduled a public hearing for Sept. 5 for Loon Lake residents to express their thoughts on the Loon Lake Improvement Special Assessment. The five-year special assessment roll was created in 2014 to manage the weeds, and the new assessment roll will only cover 2018 and 2019. Thomas Broecker, operations manager/deputy clerk said the residents want to increase the treatments for 2018 and 2019, and Aquatic Nuisance Plant Control submitted a proposal. There are approximately 117 parcels in the district. The entire cost for two years is \$84,054. Each resident will pay \$257 instead of the previous \$183.

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BOTTLE

Continued from Page 3A
healthier water.

The largest study on bottled water was conducted by the Natural Resources Defense Council about 16 years ago. They tested more than 1,000 bottles from 103 brands of water with three independent labs. One-third contained significant contamination of chemicals or bacterial contaminants exceeding amounts allowed by state guidelines, according to the Chicago Tribune.

In 2013, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) started testing and banning water sources contaminated with E.coli and regulating the level of di (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate, or DEHP. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulates tap water through making sure the source of the water is not contaminated.

Neither the EPA nor the FDA certify bottled water. However, if you want to check the integrity of your favorite bottled water, there are a few organizations that can help.

The International Bottled Water Association (IBWA) is an organization for water bottlers. Its members must meet the organization's standards and are subject to annual inspections by an independent third party.

Members of the IBWA, like Evian Natural Spring Water, usually indicate membership on their labels.

Members must meet their "Model Code," which states regulations for bottled water like coming from an approved source, proper decontamination practices, the best labeling practices, and more.

The logo of IBWA is the acronym in blue.

You can also check if the bottled water is NSF (National Sanitation Foundation) certified. NSF, which is based in Ann Arbor, performs unannounced plant inspections on the bottler's operations. The company checks the disinfection treatment, container closure, product storage and more.

This mark has the letter NSF in white surrounded by a white circle with a blue background.

Why doesn't all water taste the same?

Not all water tastes the same. Water from the tap doesn't taste like bottled

What popular brands are NSF and IBWA certified?

NSF

Aquafina
Evian Natural Spring Water
Fiji Natural Artesian Water
Glacier
Clear Mountain Spring Water
Mountain Valley Spring Water

IBWA

Evian Natural Spring Water
Fiji Natural Artesian Water
Glacier
Ice Mountain Spring Water
Kroger Drinking Water
Misty Mountain Spring Water
Mountain Valley Spring Water
San Pellegrino
Spring Mountain Water

Sources: NSF International,
bottledwater.org

water, and different brands of bottled water don't have the same taste.

The brands have different amounts of calcium, magnesium, and other minerals. They also come from different sources, which mean different geological factors contribute to the taste.

Water bottles and chemicals

Many water bottle manufacturers indicate a shelf life of one to two years, but it wasn't always so. Bottles now are made of polyethylene terephthalate, or PET, and the old bottles leaked chemicals into the water. According to the Chicago Tribune, ink from the label used to go through the bottle and into the water.

There can be problems if the bottle of water is allowed to sit in the sun. Substances in the bottles will leach in the water and it will change the color, taste, or smell. However, it does not compromise the quality of the water, according to livestrong.com.

Reusing one-time plastic water bottles can be dangerous. After one has been sitting around for a few days, it's likely there's bacterial growth in the bottle. If you do reuse the bottles, make sure to wash them before to get rid of any bacteria.

was a climate change on earth, the dominant life form ceased to exist. Want to be next?

GETTING RID OF liberalism? You're an idiot. When was the last time you or your family were put into a concentration camp because you were Catholic or Protestant? When was the last time you had to go to the back of the bus because you were white? How about being denied food service or where you could live because you were white?

THANKS TO TRUMP, GOP bigots are drawn out of their closets. Their beliefs have become self-evident, that only white people were created equal with certain unalienable rights.

AMERICA HAS NOW forgotten God. This is now a Godless nation. We are imploding. We are at war with one another. Not even Trump can save us. We have to return to God.

IF IT WEREN'T for the free press receiving leaks, we wouldn't ever know the truth. For 51 years, the CIA was able to cover up the assault on its own agent, Lee Harvey Oswald, because no one leaked.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

THANKS TIMES STAFF for the wonderful section that revisited the tornado of 10 years ago. Your coverage of it now was just as compelling and interesting as it was in the days following the actual event. Great job Times.

I JUST DID the math, 37 years since high school graduation. I worked and went to school, and worked full time continuously with a few sick days and couple vacations every year and I'm still doing it. How many people out there still remember that kind of time?

ALL THE LIBERALS are crying about Trump's policies not working but we've added one million jobs since Trump's been in office. I think his plan of turning in your Obama phone for an alarm clock has really helped a lot of people get back to work.

I LOVE HEARING you Fenton right-wingers talking about taking responsibility for your own actions and not blaming others for where you're at, and then you turn around and support Trump who's against fellow Americans.

REMEMBER THIS, WHENEVER there

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Township Board, Broecker agree on new contract

■ Operations manager to be paid \$82,500 annually plus benefits

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Fenton Twp. — After more than a year of discussing a new contract, Tom Broecker, Fenton Township's operations manager/deputy clerk, accepted a new employee agreement.

Broecker's annual salary is \$82,500, which includes a \$6,000 stipend for deputy clerk responsibilities. Under his old contract, his salary was \$80,784 plus a deputy clerk stipend of \$200 monthly and \$66 per board meeting.

The Board of Trustees approved the agreement unanimously.

"I'm pleased we finally reached an agreement and I'm eager to move forward," said Broecker, who has been with the township for just over 23 years. He said there are no notable changes in the agreement. However,



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

Tom Broecker, Fenton Township operations manager and deputy clerk, works at the presidential primary election in March 2016.

the type of employee agreement is different. Broecker now has an employee at-will agreement with the township.

With contracts, a township or organization can only terminate an employee if they show just cause, like stealing or doing something fraudulent.

With an at-will agreement, neither party needs a reason to terminate the agreement, nor do they need to give notice.

"Either party can terminate the agreement without notice and without cause," he said.

Broecker still has health insurance through the township, which utilizes Blue Cross. The township pays 80 percent of the cost and employees pay 20 percent. His benefits will remain the same.

Broecker said at-will agreements are becoming more common among municipalities.

“I’m pleased we finally reached an agreement and I’m eager to move forward.”

Tom Broecker
Fenton Township operations
manager/deputy clerk



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Consumers Energy cuts power to the building to prepare for demolition, which is slated for Monday, Aug. 28.

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Offers End 9/30/17

MCDONALD'S

Continued from Front Page

Actual construction of the new building will begin the week of Aug. 28. When it's all said and done, Pfau said there will be a larger, 5,218-square foot, state-of-the-art facility in place, complete with customer kiosks for self-ordering, and a new digital outdoor menu board (drive through).

"The new digital outdoor menu board is in place at the Linden McDonald," said Pfau. "It's one of the first McDonalds in the country to have one."

The Owen Road McDonald's has been serving fast food patrons for well over three decades. Prior to the influx of businesses along the Owen Road corridor, it stood alone as the only fast-food restaurant for many years.

The restaurant was remodeled in the early 1990s, making it a more "homey" environment for the adults, and more fun for the kids with the enlarged, towering play area.

"This store is being prepped for the 'experience of the future' concept at McDonald's," said Pfau of the new construction.

Pfau stressed Tuesday that no employees will lose their jobs as a result of the changes.

News briefs

Sandwich Bag Wreaths workshop on Monday, Aug. 28

Nothing says welcome like a dressed up, decorated front door. Join the Genesee County Parks craft expert Michelle Litwiller for a Sandwich Bag Wreath workshop. The workshop is scheduled for **Monday, Aug. 28, from 7 to 8:30 p.m.** at the Linden County Park, Clover Beach Pavilion in Fenton Township. They will have everything crafters need to make decorative wreaths — sandwich bags, wire hangers, and decorative objects. Once crafters learn how to make them, they'll be able to create one for any holiday or season. These also make great DIY gifts for friends and family. It's fun, free and for all ages and abilities.

How much do your municipal leaders earn?

■ Many are paid more than national averages

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

It is often reported that a municipality's greatest expense is salaries and benefits for its department heads and employees.

According to payscale.com, the salary range for city managers in this country is \$49,773 to \$160,454. The national average is \$86,000. The salary range for assistant city managers is \$41,168 to \$126,414. The national average is \$84,896.

The salary range for city treasurers is \$35,467 to \$192,124, with the national average being \$42,580. The salary range for city clerks is \$30,810 to \$81,025, with the national average at \$46,000.

The salary range for police chiefs is \$42,114 to \$130,243. The national average is \$74,000. The salary range for fire chiefs is \$48,093 to \$122,482, with the national average also at \$74,000.

The salary range for public works directors is \$46,319 to \$128,013. The national average is \$76,000.

The following, received via Freedom of Information requests, are the salaries that administrators in Fenton, Linden and Holly earn annually. All receive medical benefits and depending on the community, they also have a combination of one or more additional benefits such as dental, vision, retirement, life, Workers Compensation and unemployment.

What employees and department managers earn also has to do with the size of the communities they serve, how long employees have been on the job, and any union contracts.

See how they compare to the national averages above:

CITY/VILLAGE MANAGER
(National average: \$86,000)
Fenton (Lynn Markland): \$92,075
Holly (Jerry Walker): \$88,335
Linden (Paul Zelenak): \$79,722

ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER
(National average: \$84,896)
Fenton (Mike Hart): \$75,000
Linden (none)
Holly (Katy Hughes): \$56,100
Hughes is also DDA director

TREASURER
(National average: \$42,580)
Fenton (Cynthia Shane): \$75,000
Holly (Deborah Bigger): \$63,750
Bigger is the clerk/treasurer
Linden (Beverly Vondra): \$55,620

CLERK
(National average: \$46,000)
Fenton (Renee Wilson): \$65,000
Linden (Lynn Harvey): \$55,100
Holly (see clerk/treasurer above)

POLICE CHIEF
(National average: \$74,000)
Fenton (Jason Slater): \$79,290
Linden (Scott Sutter): \$66,200
Holly (Mike Story): \$64,283

FIRE CHIEF
(National average: \$74,000)
Fenton (Bob Cairnduff): \$75,000
Holly (Steve McGee): \$71,000
McGee also is Groveland Township fire chief; cost of salary is split
Linden (Brian Will): \$25.05/hour

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR
(National average: \$76,000)
Fenton (Dan Czarnecki) \$84,755
Linden (Scott Fairbanks) \$25.05/hour
Holly (Brian Klaassan) \$71,483

Source: payscale.com; information received via FOIA requests

HOT LINE CONTINUED

WOULD YOU PLEASE, please stop the political rhetoric? Nobody is going to change anyone's mind. That is a fact. Thank you.

THE CURRENT STARS and bars and even many of the statues that they're trying to take down are not from the Civil War time. They're from the '60s when they were trying to intimidate black people who were trying to get their civil rights established.

HEY TRI-COUNTY civics teachers, how about a summary of Judge McCabe's weekly articles about the operations and transparency of Genesee Courts as part of a really thorough lessen of the judicial system. Keep it up, Judge McCabe.

FOR WELL OVER 100 years, there's been a highway across the Potomac from Washington, D.C.; it runs along Arlington National Cemetery named the Jefferson Davis highway. I was on it myself a few

weeks ago. Now the state of Virginia is petitioning to rename that road.

EASY TO DRAW a line between George Washington and Robert E. Lee. Washington risked his life to create the United States. By contrast, Lee commanded an army through years of slaughter and destruction in an effort to dismantle a nation that Washington built. As Trump might put it, big big difference, huge.

ALTHOUGH THOMAS JEFFERSON failed to live up to his own ideals, he gave the U.S. a vision to aim toward that all men are created equal. By contrast, Robert E. Lee served rebel government dedicated to a very different proposition.

CHARLOTESVILLE WAS A terrorist attack and the KKK sympathizers are terrorists. Plain and simple. Time for our government to start treating these organizations as terrorist groups and prosecuting them accordingly.

WILL WE EVER recover from last week's total Trump eclipse of moral leadership?

WHAT YOU MISSED in the MIDWEEK TIMES

Compiled by Vera Hogan

The following is what you missed in the **Wednesday, August 25, Midweek Edition** of the Tri-County Times. To subscribe and receive both the Sunday Weekend and Wednesday Midweek editions, please call (810) 629-8282

15-year-old killed by train hours after fatally stabbing grandmother

A 15-year-old Holly youth reportedly took his own life by stepping in front of a train just hours after stabbing his 65-year-old grandmother to death.

Russ Ciesielski named Linden superintendent

The Linden Board of Education voted favorably to name Russ Ciesielski to the permanent position of superintendent. The former Linden High School principal had been serving as the interim superintendent.



Fenton opens football season at Michigan Stadium

The Fenton Tigers will open the 2017 varsity football season against the Brandon Blackhawks on Saturday, Aug. 26 at Michigan Stadium in Ann Arbor.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

GOOD PEOPLE DO not participate in a torch parade led by hooded Klansman, Nazis and skin heads who shout hateful messages. Good people protest at their city council meeting.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY IS paramount whether it be a home, a family, a small business, a congregation, an organization, or a government. Know what you're spending and be careful you don't overspend.

DON'T THINK OF it as only three weeks until school starts, that's almost 21 days and 500 hours until school starts.

WHAT ARE THOSE bumps and holes in the blacktop road on State Road? Are they potholes? Dinosaur footprints? Bigfoot?

WE PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE to the flag and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice, not bigotry and racism, for all.

WHY IS IT that the center turn lane has become the standard mode for left turn entering traffic instead of existing traffic? Any idea how crazy that is? That's why we call it the suicide lane.

MY FATHER AND father-in-law fought the Nazis in Germany and in France. Now my grandchildren are going to have to fight the Nazis here in the United States.

FOR THE PERSON who can't do anything but complain about people shooting their guns. That's why we live in the country. We would rather have cows and chickens and crows and pigs instead of gunfire and sirens.

LOOKING AT ALL these beautiful classic cars from the '60s and early '70s, I think back, wow, look at all the ones I used to own and drive. Beautiful work.

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News briefs

Fenton Township sells Hogan Road property

The Fenton Township Board of Trustees voted unanimously to sell a Hogan Road property to Genesee County for \$12,000. The piece of land is a vacant lot across from the sewer treatment plant. Fenton Township Realtor Ed Constable with Tremaine Real Living Real Estate said the township asked for \$15,000 and the county offered \$12,000. He advised the township to accept the offer. Supervisor Bonnie Mathis said the county plans to grow trees on the lot.

Tenth annual Mackinac Bridge Antique Tractor Crossing

Antique tractor owners are invited to take part in the 2017 Antique Tractor Drive over the Mackinac Bridge on **Friday, Sept. 8**. The crossing starts in Mackinaw City, parades over the Mighty Mackinac Bridge and through downtown St. Ignace. Whether you come to watch or participate (must be a member of a tractor club), it's a great time in beautiful Upper Michigan. More than 1,300 tractors took part in 2016. For more information and registration forms, go to mackinacbridgecrossing.com.

Spotlight on:

NATURES BATH & BODY

New Fenton store joins Holly location in offering all-natural products for the entire family

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Natures Bath & Body opened at 1459 North LeRoy St. in Fenton two months ago, adding a second location to this successful Holly business, which has been operating at 113 Battle Alley for several years.

How did Natures Bath & Body get its start? Barb Gerber was the original founder, making soaps back in the 1970s, then opening her retail store to showcase all-natural soaps, essential oils, bath bombs and more.

Her daughter-in-law Jennifer Justus and Justus' sister, Lyn Smith expanded the business and product lines and opened the Fenton store two months ago. This is where all the products are handcrafted now. Two nieces also work in the business, Makala and Aleceia Keene, and customers may notice several younger family members sweeping the floors and stocking shelves.

What are your main products and services? We specialize in handmade



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Owner Jennifer Justus (front right) and sister Lyn Smith, head of production (back row, center), employ their children at Nature's Bath & Body in Fenton. (Front row, from left) Heyden Justus, 15, Chloe Justus, 15, and Jocelyn Smith, 10. (Back row, from left) Brooklyn Smith, 16, Lyn Smith, and Jaiylynn Smith, 12.

vegan soaps, bath bombs, essential oils and carry a wide variety of all natural bath and body products that cater to men, women, kids, babies, even pets — the entire family. Our most popular products are our all-natural handmade soaps, followed by our all-natural bath bombs.

What makes your products so unique? Families are becoming more mindful about not only what they put into their bodies, but also what they put on them. With skin being our largest organ, what we put on it is ultimately absorbed into our bodies. All of our soaps are unique and there are an in-

finite number of recipes and scents to choose from. Our bath bombs are filled with moisturizing and skin-nourishing oils, salts, herbs, etc. They're scented, fizzy and just plain fun, and are free from colorants.

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Three area sixth graders publish book

■ All proceeds to go to St. Jude's

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Three local sixth-graders started their writing careers early.

Alexa Scott, Megan Riley and Riana Kivari, who attended Rose Pioneer Elementary School last school year, wrote "Under the Sea Treasury" as part of a year-long project in their fifth-grade class with teacher Doug Camper.

The girls are now entering middle school as published authors.

The girls worked on the book during "Passion Hour," when students work on their year-long project. Their book is a collection of three well-known fairy tales with an underwater theme. Cinderella is Finnerella, and The Three Little Pigs is The Three Little Fish and the Big Bad Shark. The girls wrote the stories, did the illustrations, edited the book and learned how to self-publish.

Matt Scott, Alexa's father, said the girls decided that all proceeds will go to St. Jude Hospital of southeast Michigan.

Jen Henderson, a local author who's written numerous books, including two children's titles, "Daniel the Draw-er" and "Daniel the camper," helped the girls with the technicalities like editing and putting a book on Amazon.

"The girls were very organized during the whole process... I'd give suggestions and check



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO

Local author Jen Henderson stands with Megan Riley (left), Riana Kivari, and Alexa Scott with their book "Under the Sea Treasury."

on progress, but they did all of the work themselves," she said.

Scott said his daughter was very engaged in the project.

"It was something that she was passionate about," he said. "She would come home and get excited about a new part of the story she came up with."

He said their hearts are in the right place by wanting to donate to St. Jude's.

"It's a great cause. They all are published authors. That's a cool thing to be able to say at any age, but particularly when they're going into middle school," he said.

“They all are published authors. That’s a cool thing to be able to say at any age, but particularly when they’re going into middle school.”

Matt Scott
Alexa Scott's father

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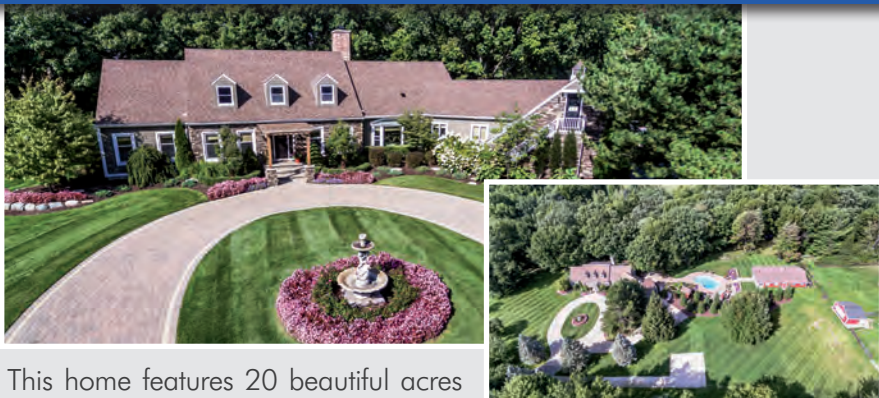
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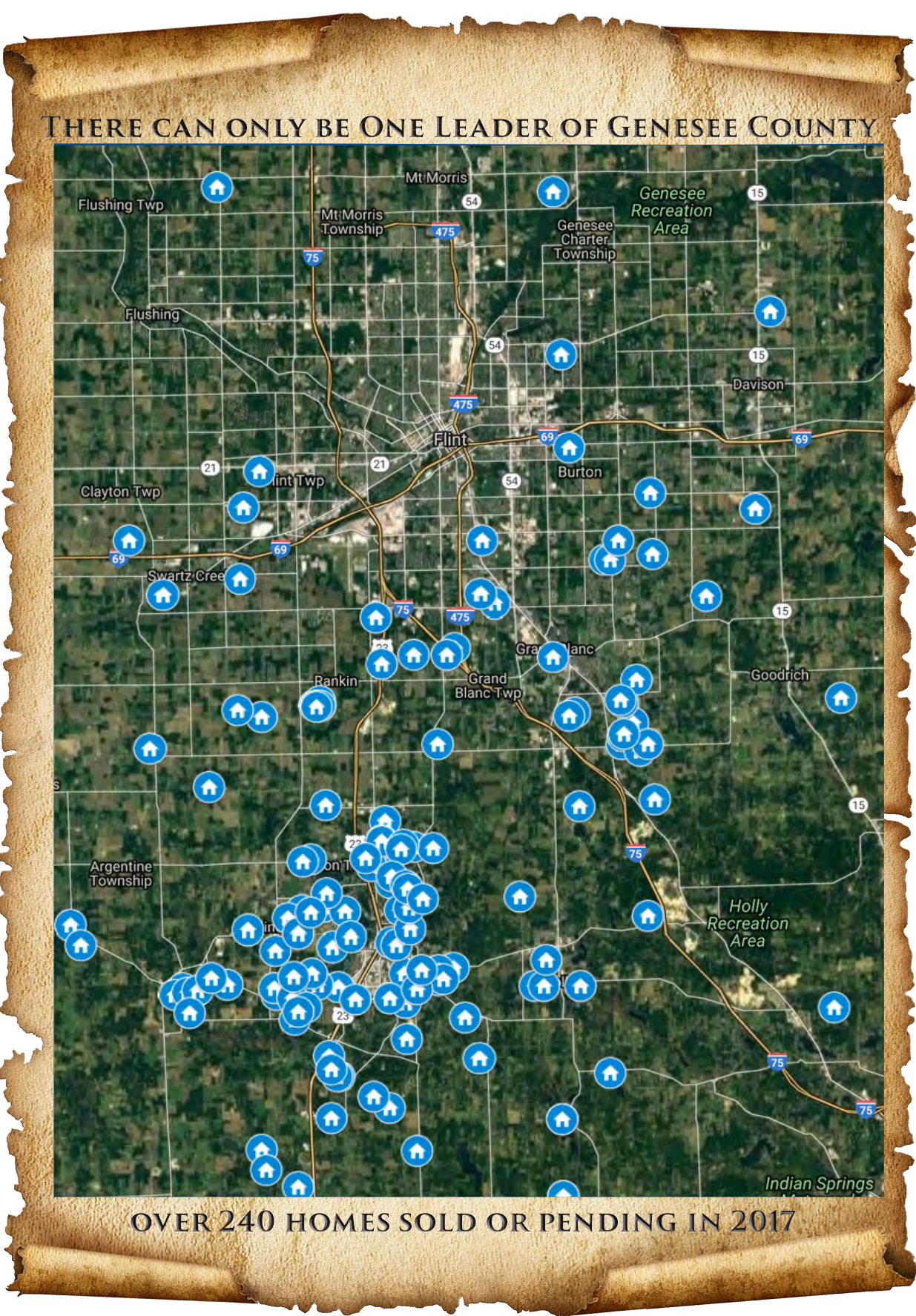
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Trent Hillger is Lake Fenton's accomplished wrestler. He also played high school football. For more information on Hillger's athletic accomplishments at Lake Fenton High School, visit tctimes.com/sports.

The State Bank applauds athletic achievement

■ Has been honoring local high school athletes for nearly 35 years

By Vera Hogan
vhogan@tctimes.com

Well known for putting the "community" into community banking, The State Bank's "Athlete of the Year" program started 34 years ago to recognize the outstanding athletic achievements of student athletes from Fenton, Lake Fenton, Holly, Linden and Hartland.

According to Kristy Schaffer, a senior vice president for The State Bank, the athletic directors from each of the five school districts meet at the bank every Monday morning to discuss the previous week's athletic accomplishments.

"They vote and determine who the Athlete of the Week winners are," said Schaffer. "These athletes receive a gold medal and a certificate of recognition. They are also recognized on The State Bank's Facebook page and Twitter."

At the end of the school year, each athletic director nominates one male and one female athlete for Athlete of the Year, Schaffer added. The State Bank hosts a breakfast for those nominees, their parents and athletic directors.

"Each athletic director talks about their nominees and the nominees all receive

another personalized medal," she said. "Following the presentations — the Male Athlete of the Year and Female Athlete of the Year are announced."

Each of the winners receives a trophy with his and her named engraved on it. "The winners get to take these trophies home for their open houses and then they return the trophy to their school where it remains until the following year," said Schaffer.

The trophies have all the winners on them since the inception of the program.

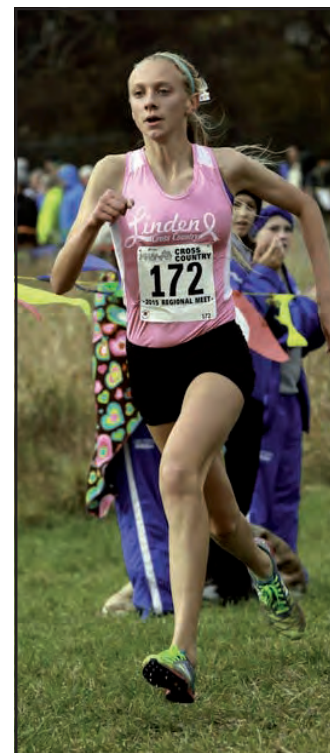
Since 1898, when H.B. Latourette and four other prominent citizens founded the Commercial Savings Bank of Fenton, The State Bank has spent the last 119 years building relationships.

"Our primary role is that of a community bank," said Ron Justice, president and CEO in a 2015 interview. "That's what sets us apart. We live here and work here, we know our neighbors and we partner with those who make the decisions."

We understand the 'culture' of the communities we serve."

2017 Athletes of the Year

The State Bank's 2017 Athlete of the Year winners are Alia Frederick of Linden and Trent Hillger of Lake Fenton.

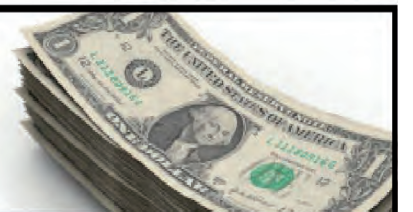


Alia Frederick is Linden's accomplished soccer player and crosscountry and track runner. For more information on her athletic career at Linden High School, visit www.tctimes.com/sports.

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Meet KEVIN JOHNSON

- Construction company president
- Devoted family man
- Dedicated to God and missions

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

Kevin Johnson, 49, has been the president of Rhoads and Johnson, a commercial construction firm, for 21 years.

Are you a lifelong resident of Fenton and where did you go to school?

I was born in Flint, raised in Burton and attended Bentley and Grand Blanc high schools. I also attended Mott Community College. I lived in the Seattle area before moving back to Michigan in 1996.

Tell us about your family.

My wife is Debi. She is a fantastic mother, homemaker, and missions leader. Our daughter Sarah attends Wheaton College in Chicago, and our son Joshua is a freshman at Fenton High School.

How did you get into your current business?

Our company is a fourth-generation



"We are a small family business and all of our employees are like family, we stick together through good times and bad."
Kevin Johnson

family company

founded by my great grandfather in 1902. I worked in the business during high school, but moved away after college to the Seattle area to live. I worked skilled trades and was sales manager for a chain of electronic stores before moving back and rejoining my dad in the business in 1996.

What are some of the best things about your position?

While our business is construction, the best part of the business is people. We are in the customer service business, and the people that we interact with everyday are important. We are a small family business and all of our employees are like family, we stick together through good

TRI-COUNTY TIMES

TIM JAGIELO

Kevin Johnson, president and CEO of Rhoads & Johnson has lived in the tri-county area for 20 years. He's able to build visible impactful local projects. "It's rewarding, it's great to be involved in your community in a tangible way," he said.

times and bad. Being involved and caring for our family and customers personally is more valuable than construction.

What are some of the challenges in your position?

Among the challenges of owning a small business is the pressure of providing and caring for those families. Another challenge is continuing to

keep our core family values in corporate world. I believe a handshake, my word, and honesty are more valuable than a contract, and when times are tough or bumps in a project come, that's when values are tested.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

In my spare time, I love to be with my family, whether it is playing games, watching TV, eating, or being with friends. If I am with family and friends, life is better, no matter what we are doing. I love Michigan football, and our Detroit sports teams.

Where are some exciting or favorite places you've traveled to for business and pleasure?

Our family does travel a fair amount. Anywhere we can go together is great. We love to travel to Hawaii, Seattle, cruising in the Caribbean, Italy, Paris and spending time at Dories Promise in Guatemala. I have traveled around the world for work and some of my favorite cities are London, Paris, Prague and Singapore.

Since school is about to start again, what is the best advice you can give returning students?

I would tell a returning student to work hard, but more importantly to honor and be respectful to your teachers because they have feelings, too. Be a loyal friend, find someone who is lonely and be a kind friend to them. Be true to your family values and don't cave into the pressures. Love God and love others with all of your heart, the two most important things in life.

Tell us something no one knows about you.

If I wasn't running a commercial construction business, I would be doing travel photography for missions and people. I would be telling the story of God's love and life through photos.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

MY BRIDE IS the most wonderful wife in the world.

■■■
I DON'T KNOW if I need to call the DPW, but is there any way we could get a speed limit sign on Trealout Drive? To those people who pull out of the apartments — there are little kids, people walking their dogs.

■■■
WHAT IS IT that white supremacists want? If they succeed in driving everyone out of the country that do not suit their specifications as white, this country would be almost empty. DNA samples prove that few of us are pure anything anymore.

JUST TOOK A drive through downtown Fenton on my way to work. Beautiful. Streets are nice, but those back streets are not. They need to be fixed.

■■■
FREE SPEECH IS an integral part of a democratic country but the abuse of it should be banned. You can't yell fire in a crowded movie theater and you can't incite to riot. So watching hate-filled marchers, lit torches in hand, repeating words we haven't heard since Nazi, Germany should be illegal.

■■■
YOUR EDUCATION IS lacking in science and now its lacking in history. I hate to tell you this but the Civil War was about slavery. States rights came in because they wanted to make their own laws to have slavery.

Business briefs

The Tri-County Times is pleased to announce the promotion of **Jill Breitling** to Circulation Director, which will become effective on Monday, Aug. 28. Breitling began her career with the Times as Circulation Coordinator a year ago, on Aug. 29, 2016. She is responsible for ensuring the delivery of the newspaper and advertising inserts. She is responsible for coordinating the warehouse employees, newspaper drivers and carriers as well as maintaining the subscriber database.



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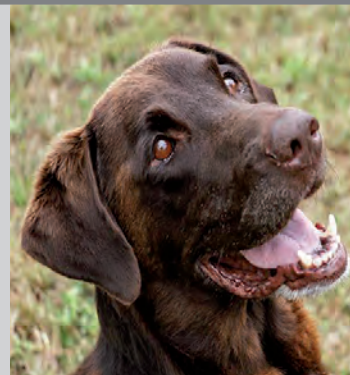
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Should state close medical marijuana dispensaries?

■Licensing board to meet before deadline to consider proposal

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

At their Monday, Aug. 21 meeting, members of Michigan's Medical Marijuana Licensing Board argued that dispensaries are illegal under current state law, and want them all shut down by Sept. 15, according to Detroit Metro

Times (metrotimes.com).

It was reported that State Police Sgt. David Bailey, a member of the board, said he wanted the dispensaries closed immediately. Some, however, would be granted licenses to stay open under a law passed in 2016 to regulate the medical marijuana industry.

Those that aren't shut down by Sept. 15 risk being unable to obtain licenses to operate legally under the regulatory framework that will go into effect Dec. 15.

The proposal to shut down every marijuana dispensary in the state of Michigan has been tabled by the board for now.

If Bailey's proposal eventually goes through, this would severely limit the places where medical marijuana patients can get their cannabis, most likely forcing many to return to the black market.

Another meeting of the Medical Marijuana Licensing Board is being planned before Sept. 15 to decide the matter.

LARA SEEKING WORK GROUP PARTICIPANTS

In the meantime, on Aug. 22, Michigan's Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) issued a communication seeking participants for "Medical Marijuana Stakeholder work groups."

According to the release, "LARA's Bureau of Medical Marijuana Regulation (BMMR) is facilitating five stakeholder work groups to discuss and provide suggestions on regulatory topics related to the Medical Marijuana Facilities



[HTTP://CANNABISREPORTS.ORG/](http://cannabisreports.org/)

Michigan's Medical Marijuana Licensing Board argued that dispensaries are illegal under current state law, and want them all shut down by Sept. 15.

Licensing Act (MMFLA). The work groups are:

- Grower
- Processor
- Safety Compliance Facility
- Provisioning Center
- Secure Transporter

"Individuals interested in participating in a work group must send an email to LARA — MedicalMarihuana@michigan.gov. Work group requests must have WORK GROUP in the subject line. Requests and inquiries made via telephone or to other bureau contacts may not be accepted.

"In order to be considered to sit on a work group panel, the interested individual's email must contain the information listed below.

- The name of the individual interested

in participating and his or her contact information including mailing address, email address and phone number.

- Which one of the five work groups the individual would like to participate in
- The individual's occupation, job title, and employer or organization
- A brief explanation of no more than 150 words detailing the individual's qualifications for inclusion in the stakeholder work group
- No attachments should be included

"The bureau will consider all email applications that meet these requirements, and any additional relevant information when establishing the stakeholder work groups.

"The deadline to email requests to participate in a work group is Tuesday, Sept. 5, by 9 a.m. Selections for the work groups and the public announcements will be made by Tuesday, Sept. 12.

"The work groups will gather information only and will not interfere with the authority of the Medical Marijuana Licensing Board or Advisory Panel procedures as provided under the MMFLA. LARA is in the process of starting the formal rulemaking process pursuant to the Administrative Procedures Act of 1969.

"To that end, the purpose of the work groups is to seek input on the regulatory topics. Regardless of participation in the work groups, all interested members of the public will be able to participate in the permanent rule making process that includes public comment, hearing notices and draft rules that will be published for review and comment."

For more information, visit the BMMR webpage at www.michigan.gov/medicalmarihuana.

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By: Dr. Steven Sulfaro

FLUORIDE

The enamel of your teeth is the hardest structure in the human body. Though enamel is very hard, it is susceptible to attack by acid producing bacteria which causes mineral loss and enamel breakdown known as dental decay. Enamel is composed of 98% of a mineral compound of calcium phosphate called hydroxyapatite. In the presence of fluoride the hydroxyapatite of your tooth's enamel can be converted to fluoro-hydroxyapatite. Fluoro-hydroxyapatite is harder and much less soluble in acid than the regular hydroxyapatite of tooth enamel. Therefore, fluoride can greatly reduce the tooth's vulnerability to acid attack and dental decay. Fluoridated drinking water works internally to strengthen the enamel in developing teeth of children from birth to about age 18 and is very beneficial. Since the introduction of fluoridated water there has been a 70% reduction in the decay rate. Municipalities add fluoride to their water for the sole purpose of strengthening developing tooth enamel of its young citizens. Grand Rapids, Michigan was the very first city to fluoridate its water in 1945. There is much reporting in the press and on the internet saying that fluoridated water is harmful. Too much of any good thing is bad. Yes, in high concentrations fluoride is toxic. The same can be said for most other things we place into our bodies. Even pure water in high enough amounts can be harmful and even deadly in rare cases. As with childhood vaccinations, the benefits of fluoridated water far exceed any minute risks. Systemic fluoride from fluoridated drinking water helps kids to have stronger, cavity-free teeth.

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

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MARIJUANA Continued from Front Page

Shiel said he wanted more time to gather information. "It's not too solid just yet as to why we need to look at it and vote on it now," he said. "I'd rather have a

bunch of hard data in front of me to make a good decision."

Council can't discuss the topic on the record for a year, but can do individual research, and bring to council later. According to Council Member Dave Cruick-

shank, Council Member Bob Allsop seconded Shiel's motion. They, along with President Jim Perkins and Council Member Suzanne Heiple, voted in favor of the moratorium. Council members Cruickshank, Chris Rankin and Musgrave voted against the measure.

Rankin said that while he believed more discussion was needed, he didn't think a moratorium was necessary.

He made his comments on Facebook, which is part of a robust discussion on the matter by village residents. Many congratulated Shiel for his motion on the moratorium.

"Glad you are taking more time. Maybe there will be more data from the cities and states that allowed it," said resident Lore Felch.

Moratoriums are a common way to avoid a direct vote on a complicated legal topic, like medical marijuana. Most municipalities, including Fenton and Linden, have passed them repeatedly to block medical marijuana grow facilities.

Fenton has continually passed moratoriums. In May, the council voted to not enact an ordinance allowing marijuana licenses to be given in the city.

The Argentine Township Board passed a moratorium in April of 2016. Fenton and Fenton Township have opted out, by not taking action. Linden City Council will likely follow suit.

The Holly Village Council had met and held workshops on medical marijuana facilities in June and July.

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Fenton Township hopes to sell \$350,000 property

■ Former Fenton Fast Lane location is prime industrial site

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

Fenton Twp. — The Fenton Township Board of Trustees voted 4-3 to take a piece of property on Thompson Road, that they wish to sell for no less than \$350,000, off the market pending further discussion.

What used to be Fenton Fast Lane, an oil change company, at 3095 Thompson Rd. is now a vacant building on an increasingly industrialized road. The building was built in 1999. It sits on 1.52 acres in between U.S. 23 and Torrey Road. It is approximately less than a mile from U.S. 23.

The property was acquired by the township through tax forfeiture by the Genesee County treasurer in December 2013.

“The vacant lot immediately east of that property, 3125 Thompson Rd., was purchased for back taxes by the township from the Genesee County Treasurer in June 2011,” said Tom Broecker, operations manager/deputy clerk. The two properties will be sold together.

Broecker said, while they’ve received the occasional offer for the properties over the past few years, they weren’t technically “on the market” until the township hired Realtor Ed Constable of Tremaine Real Living, in early July.

Constable told the board he received three offers on the property, but the board decided not to accept any of them. There was banter among board members about what they wanted to do with the property.

First, the board voted 4-3 to reaffirm the price of \$350,000 they want to sell

the properties for. Clerk Bob Krug and Trustees Mark Goupil, Robert Kesler, and Vince Lorraine voted yes, and Supervisor Bonnie Mathis, Treasurer John Tucker and Trustee Shaun Shumaker voted no.

The motion passed.

Next, the board voted 4-3 not sell the properties of 3095 and 3125 Thompson Rd., pending further discussion and review by the board. Mathis, Krug, Tucker and Goupil voted yes, and Kesler, Lorraine and Shumaker voted no.

The motion passed.

While the property is technically not listed anymore, the board decided not to sell it for less than \$350,000.

The property at 3095 Thompson Rd. is zoned C-3 Highway Service And M-2 Light Industrial, while 3125 Thompson Road is zoned M-2. C-3 zoning allows for more extensive business and entertainment activities compared to general business zoning districts. C-3 zoning requires more off-street parking. Businesses allowed under C-3 zoning include operations such as retail, clubs, daycare centers, hotels, manufacturing establishments, medical care facilities, offices, and many others.

M-2 zoning is meant to encourage and facilitate the development of industrial businesses in a setting conducive to public health, according to Fenton Township. A few uses permitted include industrial service establishments, landscape contractors, automotive repair facilities, truck terminal, towing service, and wholesale and warehousing among other uses.

The township is currently paying approximately \$2,100 per year to maintain these properties.

“The vacant lot immediately east of that property, 3125 Thompson Road, was purchased for back taxes by the township from the Genesee County Treasurer in June 2011.”

Tom Broecker
Fenton Township operations
manager/deputy clerk

HOT LINE CONTINUED

THE PROBLEM WITH this area is you can't report someone being bad to their children or bad at all because the police and people like you turn in people's names. You can't report something without people knowing your business.

THE ODDS IN Las Vegas are improving for Trump to resign before he's impeached.

SO WHATEVER HAPPENED to Trump's plan to get out of Afghanistan? Or Iraq? Whatever happen to his plan to have Mexico pay for the wall?

HILLARY CLINTON'S BOOK is called "Hard Choices" but in it, you will not find anything about the fact that she lied about Benghazi, had no economic agenda, no vision, and she had mish-mashed policies. You will not hear about the corrupt Clinton Foundation.

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TEEN**Continued from Front Page**

Oakland County Sheriff Mike McCabe has identified the grandmother as Mary Ann Barnes, 65. According to Dryer Funeral Home in Holly, the visitation and funerals for Barnes and Wilkerson were at the exact same time on Friday, Aug. 25 and Saturday, Aug. 26, and burials were in the same Grand Blanc cemetery.

Holly Police Chief Mike Story said, "The grandmother did die immediately during or at the end of the attack by her grandson as I know it, she was stabbed repeatedly."

"The only oddity from after the event was that my officers had to tell juveniles

that evening to stay off the railroad tracks. My officers were instructed to keep a check on the scene to assure compliance," he said.

McCabe said Thursday that the case is still under investigation, "but we are confident that the young man committed suicide on the train tracks and that he murdered his grandmother."

"He did attempt suicide by prescription drug overdose last Saturday," McCabe added.

Holly High School Principal Peter LoFiego said, "Steven was a nice young man, he had a core group of friends and was seemingly well liked by staff and students. He would have been a sopho-

more this year.

"He was in good standing both socially and academically," said LoFiego. I am not sure of his extra-curriculars, I do not believe he was involved with sports."

LoFiego was not sure if Wilkerson was a participant in any of the many clubs and after school programs offered at Holly High School.

Asked if there were any signs to indicate Wilkerson would be capable of doing what he did, LoFiego said, "I only know what I have seen in the news or read in the papers. With that said, there were no major concerns that had been brought up regarding Steven."

HERE'S WHAT HAPPENED

Early Tuesday morning, Aug. 22, the sheriff's office issued a statement asking for the community's assistance with locating Wilkerson. The teen was suspected of stabbing his grandmother to death early Tuesday morning at her Springfield Township home on Sleepy Hollow in the Oak Hill Mobile Home Park.

Steven reportedly fled the scene in his grandmother's black 2006 Pontiac G6.

The sheriff's office received a call at 5:42 a.m. advising them that a woman had been stabbed to death. The caller said that his son had left a note at his home saying he was going to kill his grandmother. The stabbing occurred between the hours of midnight and 5:30 a.m.

The 65-year-old victim was found in a bedroom at her residence with multiple stab wounds. The suspected murder weapon, a large kitchen knife, was recovered by deputies.

The victim's vehicle was located in the village of Holly.

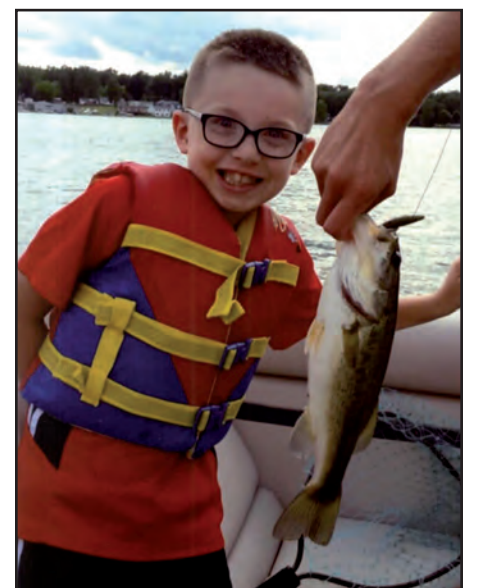
Detectives later found a body, believed to be the suspect, on railroad tracks on South Saginaw Street, near Railroad Street, in the village of Holly. Police reported it was obvious the body was struck by a passing train.

FACEBOOK RESPONSE

There have been nearly 30,000 page views on the Tri-County Times Facebook page since Tuesday. The story was shared 560 times and more than 150 people shared comments, the majority of which acknowledged the tragedy, and offered supportive comments and prayers for the family.

One of the commenters said, "So sad for this boy, his grandma and his whole family. I don't know them, but I know they will need the arms of the whole community around them at this terrible time."

Another said, "Just so sad in all directions. A young man so troubled that he kills and then kills himself, his family has to be in such pain. I am so very sorry that you have lost two people in such unnatural circumstances."

**CATCH OF THE WEEK**

Cameron Clark, 8, of Oak Lawn, Illinois caught this largemouth bass on Aug. 5, 2017 on Byram Lake while visiting family. The fish was 15 inches long and weighed 2 pounds. This was his first catch.

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At what age should your child get a smartphone?

■ National average is 10.3, but many families try to hold back until age 14

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Dakota Naganashe, 13, has a track phone with prepaid minutes to use for communicating with his mom, Amber, while she's at work, or he can borrow her basic smartphone if he wants to text a friend.

He leaves his phone at home while he's in classes at AGS Middle School, then checks in with Amber, 44, a medical billing clerk, when he gets home. In the summer, he calls when he gets up, so they can talk over the plans for the day.

SUMMARY

■ The age that a child should get a smartphone for the first time is a discussion that many families are having right now, especially with the upcoming school year right around the corner.

Amber knows that she is delaying the inevitable, that when Dakota is in high school, he'll likely need a smartphone to use for class assignments. But for now, she's avoiding all the issues that come with teens and smartphones, including cyber-bullying, impaired sleep, academic distraction, etc.

While smartphones claim to keep us more connected, there's evidence that they also make us less aware of the world around us. Smartphone use has caused a rise in pedestrian deaths and injuries, and has caused distraction in the interactions between parents and children.

One study, based on a sample of 170 U.S. couples with young children, found that "gadget interference" was linked to children's behavioral issues ranging from anxiety to disruptive behavior.

Because three-quarters of Americans own a smartphone, according to Pew Research Center, just about every family has to come up with their own set of family rules. At what age do you allow your child to have a smartphone?

Many parents give their child a smartphone at younger and younger ages, for fear they will be isolated socially without one. That peer pressure led one mom to take action.

Brooke Shannon founded what is now a national movement, "Wait Until 8th," in which parents sign a pledge not to get their child a smartphone before eighth grade. The pledge is for smartphones only; their child can have a basic phone that just calls and texts, which the organization considers to be free of many of the distractions and dangers of the smartphone.

Wait Until 8th is a support network for parents who want to wait longer than the national average age of 10.3 for a child getting their first smartphone.

Here's how it works: A pledge becomes



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO

Dakota Naganashe, an incoming eighth-grader at AGS Middle School in Fenton, enjoys participating in sports and doesn't spend a lot of time on his cellphone. He is pictured with his mother, Amber, who plans to wait until Dakota is in high school to get him a smartphone.

According to a story in The New York Times, many technology executives wait until their child is 14 to allow them to have a phone. While these teens can make calls and text, they aren't given a data plan until age 16.

Waituntil8th.org

active when 10 or more families sign it from the same grade at a school. It's designed this way, according to Shannon, so there's no fear of being the only parent to sign.

For other parents, criteria for getting a smartphone may be when their child gets their driver's license or has their first job and can foot their own cellphone bill.

For the Naganashe family, waiting at least until age 14 has been a good compromise. "Truthfully, I don't really think it's a 'need,'" she said.

"When he gets to high school, we'll have to re-visit the issue."

“Truthfully, I don't really think it's a 'need.' When he gets to high school, we'll have to re-visit the issue.”

Amber Naganashe
Mother of 13 year old

WHY WAIT TO GIVE YOUR CHILD A SMARTPHONE?

- **Smartphones are addictive**, producing some of the same addictive brain responses similar to alcohol, drug and gambling addictions.
- **They can be** an academic distraction.
- **They can affect** the quantity and quality of sleep in children and teens.
- **Smartphones can interfere** with face-to-face relationships, including the parent-child relationship.
- **They increase the** risk for anxiety and depression, because children aren't emotionally equipped to navigate tricky social media waters at such an early age.
- **The overuse of** technology causes constant stimulation of the brain, which in turn causes the hormone cortisol to rise. Too much cortisol can inhibit a child's feeling of calm and can lead to serious anxiety disorders.
- **Smartphones put your** child at risk for 24/7 cyber-bullying.
- **They expose your** child to sexual content, "sexting," online predators, etc.

Source: waituntil8th.org

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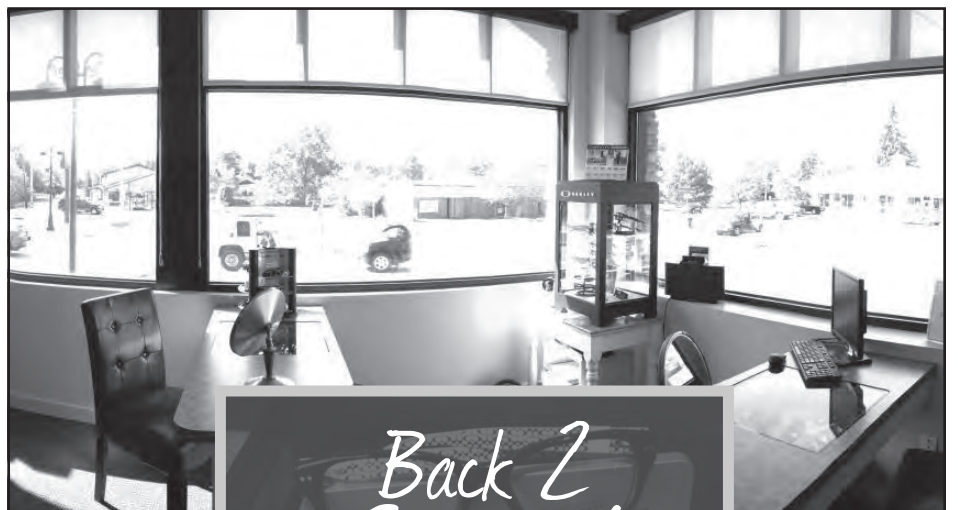
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THIS WEEK'S LETTER:

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.



They say there is no “I” in team, and it’s true, we have a great team here at the Tri-County Times. We have a group of very talented **INDIVIDUALS** who bring new meaning to the words **INNOVATION** and great **IDEAS**.

Check us out on the **INTERNET**, you'll see our twice-weekly publications posted there. We also buy **INK** by the barrel for our print editions.

We never pass up a chance to enjoy some delicious **ICE CREAM**, especially when it comes from one or more of our local ice cream **ICONS**.

Because our offices are located in Fenton's **INDUSTRIAL PARK**, we don't have occasion to encounter too many **INSECTS**, although they must be here somewhere. Watch, there will be a spider under someone's desk tomorrow.

ICE and **ICICLES** are a more common sight, but we have nothing

to fear. Our Public Works facility is right around the corner and they're great at making sure our roads don't turn into an **ICE RINK** in the winter.

Just in case though, you might want to check with your **INSURANCE** agent to make sure your auto coverage is up to where it should be.

There are some fun things to do with ice though, like **ICE FISH-**

ING on one of our area lakes. There is nothing like fresh fish that got pulled out of ice cold water. That is unless you're one of those catch and release people.

ICE SCULPTURES are a special treat during our holiday events in downtown Fenton.

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LOOKING BACK

at this week in

NATIONAL HISTORY

COMPILED BY VERA HOGAN

AUG. 27

1955: The first edition of "The Guinness Book of Records" is published in Great Britain; it quickly proves to be a hit. Now known as the "Guinness World Records" book, the annual publication features a wide range of feats related to humans and animals. To date, the book has sold more than 130 million copies, been translated into more than two dozen languages and is the top-selling copyrighted title in history.

AUG. 28

1968: At the Democratic National Convention in Chicago, tens of thousands of protesters against the Vietnam War battle police in the streets while the Democratic Party tears itself to shreds concerning a platform statement on Vietnam. In one day and night, the Cold War consensus that had dominated American thinking since the late 1940s was shattered.

AUG. 29

2005: Hurricane Katrina, the most destructive hurricane ever to hit the United States, makes landfall on the U.S. Gulf Coast, near New Orleans, Louisiana. Katrina, which formed over the Bahamas on Aug. 23, was the third major hurricane of a particularly severe 2005 season. The storm caused massive devastation in and around the city of New Orleans and major damage elsewhere in Louisiana and along the coasts of Mississippi and Alabama.

AUG. 30

2003: The actor Charles Bronson, best known for his tough-guy roles in such films as "The Dirty Dozen" and the "Death Wish" franchise, dies at the age of 81 in Los Angeles.

AUG. 31

1985: Richard Ramirez, the notorious "Night Stalker," is captured and nearly killed by a mob in East Los Angeles, California, after being recognized from a photograph shown both on television and in newspapers. Recently identified as the serial killer, Ramirez was pulled from the enraged mob by police officers. During the summer of 1985, the city of Los Angeles was panic-stricken by the killer who crept into his victims' homes at night.

SEPT. 1

1983: Soviet jet fighters intercept a Korean Airlines passenger flight in Russian airspace and shoot the plane down, killing 269 passengers and crewmembers. The incident dramatically increased tensions between the Soviet Union and the United States.

SEPT. 2

2013: Diana Nyad, 64, becomes the first person to swim from Cuba to Florida without the use of a shark cage for protection. Nyad completed the 110-mile swim from Havana to Key West, through the jellyfish-and shark-infested waters of the Straits of Florida, in approximately 53 hours.

Source: history.com

RECESSION

Continued from Page 3A

Fenton City Manager Lynn Markland said, "The recession had a very significant impact on the revenue of the city that we still have not recovered from. Overall the City lost approximately \$1,000,000 in annual revenue."

"Cities like Fenton are in a process of recovery, but it's going to take a long time," said Fenton Assistant City Manager Michael Hart. Revenue sharing with the state is down, and because of the Headlee Amendment, the city won't see a quick increase in property tax income as property values rise.

He said the difficult, but necessary budget cuts made during the recession, and smart investments since, coupled with an improving state economy, have helped create the busy downtown Fenton of today.

Still, the budget is tight but stable, and investments are careful.

On Facebook, current and former residents added comments about the current economy and life since the recession. Mary Ann Podjun lives in Caspar, Wyoming, but is originally from Fenton. "Had to leave both

our business and home in Genesee County for other business opportunity out of state," she said.

Another commenter has since moved onto a job with more pay, while another retired and saw income drop, and expenses rise.

In the tri-county area, real estate has returned to 2005 values, but is still at least 20 percent below the peak of 2007, according to Bridge Magazine.

"It's a different world out there, completely," said Patrik Welty, broker/owner of Legacy Realty Professionals. Welty said

“There are a lot of people that never saw any sort of recovery after 2007.”

Chris Douglas
Associate Professor of
Economics, UM-Flint

that home prices during the recession in 2008 were approximately half of their value in 2006, and at the time, he wondered if the market would ever recover, or if it would take 15 years.

Again, home prices are back to 2005 levels, and the market includes more conventional loans. The challenge is that there are far more buyers than there are homes available, so sales are actually down 10 percent over the previous year.

Linden is the only local municipality to only lose up to 20 percent of property values since the peak.

Douglas said that growth in Michigan has been mixed. "We lost a ton of jobs during the recession," he said, exacerbated by an already suffering one-state recession in Michigan. Michigan lost 800,000 jobs, or one in six, and only brought 400,000 back.

Also, overall, 3.5 million jobs were destroyed, and 2.5 million returned. The economy lost 2 million low-paying jobs, and created 4 million low-wage drops.

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Young Eagles are off to a strong start

By David Troppens

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Last year was a strong season for the Linden varsity volleyball team as the squad broke a school record for wins and also narrowly upset Fenton twice in a span of about a week.

However, last season's team was

filled with seniors, meaning when the 2017 version of the Eagles take to the volleyball court, there is a lot of young players.

A quick examination of the roster shows the Eagles have just four seniors and four juniors. There are actually more sophomores (five) than any other

class. So while there is talent on the squad, it may take some time before Linden reaches anything considered their peak this fall.

But the Eagles are off to a pretty solid start.

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM

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Times Sports

Linden's
Lauren Buerkel



Linden wins a thriller at Atwood Stadium

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com

Flint — It was a game fitting of the inaugural Vehicle City Gridiron Classic held at Kettering University's Atwood Stadium.

It is a venue that has seen many great games in Flint's past. And on Thursday it saw a pretty good Metro League clash between Linden and Flushing.

In a game pitting two of the expected Metro League contenders, both teams had the lead at one time in the fourth quarter. However, Linden rookie starting quarterback George Walterhouse tossed a 19-yard TD pass to receiver Corbin Sines with 4:10 remaining, leading the Eagles to an entertaining 27-22 victory against the Raiders.

"We were running a go

(route) and I had the outside," Sines said, recalling the TD reception. "George had some pressure and it brought me back to the inside. We kind of tangled up, but somehow I came up with the catch, and that's what gave us the win."

Flushing still had a chance to take the lead after Linden scored. The Raiders charged to the Linden 23 and faced a third-and-9 play with 1:11 still remaining. The third down play was incomplete as Linden's Luke Kenney and Seeger DeGayner sandwiched the Flushing receiver. On fourth down, it was Dickson who broke up the play, locking Linden's win.

"It was intense. When I saw the ball coming I knew I had to get it otherwise it

See **LINDEN** on 23A



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | MARK BOLEN

Linden's defense played a strong game, helping lead the Eagles to a 27-22 victory against Flushing at Flint's Atwood Stadium.

Blue Devils fall to New Lothrop in OT

By Jordan Climie

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New Lothrop — It all came down to a fourth-and-goal in overtime, where a stop by the Lake Fenton Blue Devils would have kept their hopes alive tied at 22.

But New Lothrop showed why they've managed to string together seven straight seasons with 10-plus wins, as senior running back Mason Ruddy punched it in from the outside to give the Hornets a 28-22 season-opening victory.

"Right now it hurts, but when we go back and look at film, we played hard. That's the number one thing I always ask," Lake Fenton head coach Eric Doyle said. "This is a tough environment to play your first game."

It was hard to remember the last time New Lothrop lost a game at home, but at first it seemed like there would be a new, painful memory of a loss in front of the hometown fans Thursday night. The Hornets were stopped by the stout Blue Devil defense in a three-and-out on their first drive.

When Lake Fenton got the ball for the first time, their offense seemed to be firing on all cylinders as senior running back Jarrett Trombley knocked out a huge run, but it was called back by a holding penalty.

"It screws with your mojo," Doyle said of the penalty.

New Lothrop wouldn't be so easy the next time up, as the Hornets methodically sliced through the Lake Fenton defense en route to a short running touchdown. The extra point was blocked, as the Hornets went up 6-0.

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM

Bronchos bounce back in fourth, capture road victory vs. Dragons

By David Troppens

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Swartz Creek — After Holly's first-game contest against Swartz Creek ended, it was a comment heard quite frequently around the Holly varsity football team's victory huddle.

Yes, the Bronchos had earned a hard-fought road victory in their first game of the season, but it wasn't time to rest on that success. The comment after the game

was to "raise the bar a little bit more every week."

The Bronchos have a nice place to start with that bar after Thursday night's 32-18 win. It was a contest, the Bronchos looked poised to dominate early in the first half, but then the Dragons showed some fire and actually had the game tied at 18-all entering the final quarter. However, the Bronchos showed some poise, came up with two impressive offensive scoring

drives in the first half of the fourth quarter, while the defense stifled the Dragons, resulting in the victory.

"We really gutted it out," said Holly senior Jacob Honstetter who scored a kick-off return TD in the contest.

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM

TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVIDTROPPENS

Cade Dallwitz (left) ran for two scores and threw for a TD in the Bronchos' 32-18 win against Swartz Creek.



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Eagles earn first victory of fall vs. Fenton

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789
Linden — The first of many 2017-18 school year Fenton-Linden rivalry battles took place on Wednesday at Linden High School.

Ryan Gillespie made sure the Linden Eagles were the first to celebrate in rivalry games as he scored two goals in the Linden varsity soccer team's 2-1 victory against Fenton in a non-league clash.

Gillespie scored the game's first goal about seven minutes into the contest and the game-winning goal with 11:31 remaining in the second half, resulting in the win.

"The first goal I was standing by the goalie and saw the ball going across," Gillespie said. "My teammate David (Fowler) headed it.

"On the second (goal) David shot the ball and their teammate touched it. I got it and just hit it in."

It was a pretty balanced contest with neither team getting off too many golden scoring chances. Linden had a slight 13-12 shot edge but many of the shots by both teams weren't terribly dangerous chances. Linden enjoyed a 10-5 shot on goal edge.

"We are a work in progress," Linden varsity soccer coach



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPENS

Linden's Ryan Gillespie (middle) scores his first goal in the Eagles' 2-1 victory against Fenton on Wednesday.

Kevin Fiebert said. "We have talent here ... but we have the same problem we had last year. When we play teams that want to be physical, we have trouble. When we play teams that want to play soccer, we are OK."

Fenton earns the label of one of those teams that want to play physical. That combined with Linden having three players out due to injury or card suspensions, the Eagles weren't playing at full capacity. However, they did enough to earn the win.

Fenton trailed most of the game by a goal, but did tie it at 1-all with 19:34 remaining

in the game. The goal was provided by Marco Rivera-Gomez who scored off an assist by Alex Flannery. The 1-1 score held for about eight minutes before Gillespie, a sophomore, scored his second goal. The win improves Linden to 2-1. The Eagles beat Hartland 3-1 but lost to Powers 3-1 in their first two games.

"We are doing pretty decent," Gillespie said. "We played Hartland and Powers and we are doing pretty good. I like how we all get along."

Fenton coach Matt Sullivan liked his team's effort. Fenton is 1-1.

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPENS

Lake Fenton's varsity volleyball team celebrates a point during their victory against Swartz Creek on Tuesday.

Lake Fenton volleyball having some fun, getting better

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

There's no doubt, based on how the Lake Fenton varsity volleyball team played on Tuesday at Linden High School, the Blue Devils are a more optimistic squad.

They were having fun, not looking terribly worried about making mistakes. They were just having a fun time.

Maybe that's why the Blue Devils finished the quad at Linden High School with an entertaining three-set win with Swartz Creek. They also

faced Linden and lost that match.

"It's a new season," first-year Lake Fenton varsity volleyball coach Caroline Ostrander said. "I wasn't the coach last year so we looked at this season as being a brand new year for all of us — freshman, JV and varsity."

The Blue Devils also opened the season at the Linden Invitational, earning a 2-1-1 record. So the Blue Devils already have three wins on the year.

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM

Fenton golfers already breaking records

By David Troppens

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The prep's fall sports season has just begun, but the Fenton varsity girls golf team is already breaking records.

The Tigers broke a team scoring record and Keegan Miller tied the school's nine-hole scoring record in an 163-260 win against Brandon at Goodrich Country Club.

Miller shot a 35 leading the Tigers to the easy win.

"Keegan was playing really well," Fenton varsity girls golf coach Kurt Herbstreit said. "She's hitting her driver well, and she's getting some easy wedges into the greens. If she's accurate with her driver, it puts her in a position to score."

Following Miller was Lily Horning with a 42 and Angela Hanners and Brook Herbstreit each carding 43s. Molly Gundry carded a 44.

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM

at Atwood Stadium.

"It was truly an honor to compete here," Dickson said clearly impressed by the event and the historic facility. "Flushing is a very tough team. It was crazy. The atmosphere was amazing."

"This is so much different from a regular game," said Zac Brown, who was a beat on the defensive line all day long for the Eagles.

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM

LINDEN

Continued from Page 22A

would've been over," Dickson said. "I'm so glad I was able to push forward and knock the ball down."

The game had a feel of a special contest. With a pretty full crowd which included nice fan bases from both teams, the squad had a different feel to it. The players loved being a part of the contest

PREP REPORT

GIRLS GOLF

► **Flushing 210, Linden 213:** The Eagles' Payton Leedle was medalist with a 45 at Spring Meadows Country Club, but Flushing still snuck out with the win. Deanna Jenkinson shot a 52 while Isabel Wright carded a 57. Heather Crampton shot a 59.

► **Holly 221, Owosso 230:** The Bronchos (1-1 in the Metro) were paced by Kate Brown who shot a nine-hole score of 49. Morgan McReynolds shot a 54.

► **Swartz Creek 205, Holly 224:** Kate Brown paced the Bronchos with a 49.

VOLLEYBALL

► **Holly at North Branch:** The Bronchos went 1-3-2 at North Branch. In a victory against Frankenmuth, Sydnie Meszler led the Bronchos with six assists while Victoria Karakuc had six digs. Paige Weeder and Kennedy Hogan had three kills each. In a draw against Bay City Central, Hogan and Jesse Hepner had five kills each while Maddie Meszler had seven assists. Meszler had 14 assists in a loss to North Branch, while Katie LaClair had 11 digs in a loss to Traverse City Western.

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