Police chiefs not in favor of arming teachers

By Sharon Stone
sstone@tctimes.com; 810-433-6786

In 2018, there have been eight school shooting incidents in the U.S., resulting in a total of 21 deaths and 40 injured victims, according to various national news reports.

Seventeen of those deaths occurred on Valentine’s Day, Feb. 14, when a 19-year-old former student, who had been expelled, began shooting students and staff members with a semi-automatic rifle at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida.

The massacre remains under investigation and details regarding police response and reported calls to the FBI and local law enforcement regarding the shooter’s mental stability prior to Feb. 14 are being scrutinized.

Sawyer Jewelers — a gem in its community

Charitable efforts within their hometown recognized with $20,000 award

By Sharon Stone
sstone@tctimes.com; 810-433-6786

Fenton — A special evening at Sawyer Jewelers in downtown Fenton included tears of joy, tears of gratitude and a celebration of community.

Ten businesses across the United States were selected to receive Synchrony Financial’s “Working Forward Small Business Award,” and Sawyer Jewelers in Fenton was one of those 10 winners.

Crime Watch Daily to feature Ally Brueger murder

Program will air at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, March 6

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

The Thursday, Feb. 15 interview with Franz and Nikki Brueger by Chris Hansen of Crime Watch Daily will be broadcast on Tuesday, March 6 at 4 p.m.

Mary Ann Beltinck, owner of Sawyer Jewelers with her husband, Chip (not pictured), speaks about their love of the Fenton community during a special event at their Fenton store on Thursday, March 1. Sawyer Jewelers won $20,000 from Synchrony Financial for an essay employees submitted regarding the Beltincks’ charitable efforts.

Comment of the Week

“Nearly every media outlet, whether TV, newspaper, radio or digital, is guilty of promoting terrorism by making the idiot shooters famous. Just look at the smirk on the face of the latest monster.”
Introducing our best TECHNOLOGY EVER.

Our most natural sound quality.

With 60% more processing power,® GENIUS™ 3.0 technology delivers listening so natural, you might just forget you have hearing aids in your ears.

Life’s better when you’re more connected.

Enjoy telephone conversations, music and television in high quality sound, streamed directly to your GENIUS 3.0 hearing aids.

Endless options to fit your lifestyle.

Miracle-Ear hearing aids come in a variety of sizes and styles, from the nearly invisible to the super powerful, the possibilities are endless.

Why Miracle-Ear®?

• 3 Year Warranty*
• Lifetime Of Aftercare
• 30 Day Money Back Guarantee**

Call Now to Schedule Your FREE Hearing Evaluation†

Take advantage of this offer! buy one, get one 50% off

SAVE ON OUR FULL LINE OF DIGITAL HEARING SOLUTIONS.

Special offer applies to purchase of ME-1, ME-2, ME-3 & ME-4 Solutions. 50% discount applies only when first aid is purchased at the regular list price. Valid at participating Miracle-Ear locations only. Not valid with any other discount or offer. Not valid on previous purchases. OFFER EXPIRES 3/31/18.

Miracle-Ear Hearing Center
18010 Silver Parkway
Fenton
810-643-1028

*As compared to previous Miracle-Ear models. Hearing aids do not restore natural hearing. Individual experiences vary depending on severity of hearing loss, accuracy of evaluation, proper fit and ability to adapt to amplification. Not valid on Audiotone® Pro. **If you are not completely satisfied, the aids may be returned for a full refund within 30 days of the completion of fitting, in satisfactory condition. †Our hearing test and video otoscopic inspection are always free. Hearing test is an audiometric test to determine proper amplification needs only. These are not medical exams or diagnoses nor are they intended to replace a physician’s care. If you suspect a medical problem, please seek treatment from your doctor. Not valid with any other discount or offer. Does not apply to prior purchases. See store for details. Apple and iPhone are registered trademarks of Apple Inc. Apple App Store is a trademark of Apple Inc.
Are summer jobs a thing of the past?

■ Number of teens working has declined, employers are still looking for summer workforce

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

Ice cream needs teens to scoop it, burgers have to be flipped and camp kids are looking for cool counselors to look up to.

Yes, there are many summer job opportunities for teens who want to work this summer. And now is the time for teens to be applying for and securing these positions.

However, national statistics show that these numbers are dwindling. Thirty years ago, about 60 percent of teens had summer jobs, but that number has declined in recent years to about a third, according to Pew Research Center.

See SUMMER JOBS on 11A

“There’s not a financial burden like we had. I had to work.”

Mark Hamel
Local restaurateur

Kindergarten roundups begin this week for full-day classes in tri-county area

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

Kindergarten roundups begin this week for full-day classes in tri-county area.

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

Today’s kindergartners are in school for a full day, learning their “three R’s”: reading, writing and arithmetic, along with their older elementary school counterparts.

See KINDERGARTEN on 21A

The Tri-County Times is published semi-weekly by Rockman Communications, 256 N. Fenway, Fenton, MI 48430. Opinions and views expressed in the Tri-County Times are not necessarily those of the Tri-County Times or its corporate affiliates, officers, employees or members of its respective board of directors. The opinions and views expressed on Tri-County Times social media platforms do not in any way reflect the views of the site; the views of the site are posted or any member of its site. While Tri-County Times makes reasonable efforts to monitor and moderate content posted on its social media platforms, we do not moderate all comments. Social news is no longer published in the Tri-County Times or its affiliated due to privacy and safety practices. This includes content such as birth announcements, birthdays, engagement announcements and wedding announcements. Recognition of members of our communities serving on active duty in the Armed Forces will be published at no charge.
Well, I’m now a Dick’s Sporting Goods customer for life. The company announced this week it would no longer sell assault-style rifles in the wake of the Florida massacre. The company’s CEO wrote: “Our thoughts and prayers are with all of the victims and their loved ones. But thoughts and prayers are not enough. We have tremendous respect and admiration for the students organizing and making their voices heard regarding gun violence in schools and elsewhere in our country. We have heard you. The nation has heard you. We support and respect the Second Amendment, and we recognize and appreciate that the vast majority of gun owners in this country are responsible, law-abiding citizens. But we have to help solve the problem that’s in front of us. Gun violence is an epidemic that’s taking the lives of too many people, including the brightest hope for the future of America — our kids. Following all of the rules and laws, we sold a shotgun to the Parkland shooter in November of 2017. It was not the gun, nor type of gun, he used in the shooting. But it could have been.” That’s powerful, courageous stuff. Thank you, Dick’s. May other retailers follow suit.

Is it possible this year’s Detroit Tigers squad could be worse than the historically bad 2003 team that set an American League record with 119 losses? I think it’s very possible. You’re thinking, “No way, we have Cabrera.” Yeah, well Cabrera hit .249 with 16 home runs and 60 RBI last year. In 2003, Dmitri Young, the team’s best hitter, hit .297, with 29 home runs and 85 RBI. In looking at both rosters, I’d take the 2003 team’s offense and defense over the current team’s. I’d give the edge, however, to this year’s pitching staff, which is bad, but not nearly as wretched as the 2003 crew.

Can we be done, please, with the term “crush”? Terms don’t seem to play out and disappear as fast as they used to. If I hear one more millennial say they’re going to “crush” their workout, I may throw up on them, after which I can say I “crushed” my nausea.

A new survey says non-smokers should get more vacation days so they get as much time off as smokers, who spend hours a day outside smoking. Count me in. That’s always struck me as grossly unfair. I once told my boss at the newspaper that I was addicted to cigarettes so I had a captive audience. For some reason, she wasn’t thrilled at the idea. Neither were the smokers.

So I’m beginning to think this spate of non-crappy to almost decent weather we’ve had the past two weeks is a harbinger of an early spring. This is, of course, Mother Nature’s curse to disabuse me of such silly notions. I apologize in advance for any tears and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Tri-County Times. We reserve the right to mail for clergy, legal, and family.

YOU KNOW WHAT really burns me about President Trump? I won’t even call him a president, just Donald Trump. He heard those boys and girls from the school, talking about a tragedy. He heard them, he wasn’t listening to them. He was too busy scanning the crowd for his future wife. My God, they’re just kids.

MONEY FACTS FOR the married man. Every notice that a man will pay $2 for a $1 item he needs but his wife will pay $1 for a $2 item she doesn’t need because it’s on sale. Makes a man wonder, that’s all I’m saying.

ONE HUNDRED MILLION Americans own guns and are owned for the most part by law-abiding, freedom-loving, average Americans who use them for sport and self-defense. I have an open mind but that does not include allowing Hillary Clinton or the Democrats to take away all of our guns.

TO THE GUY in the red truck at McDonal’ds on Thursday, thank you so much, God bless you. What an awesome thing, to buy my breakfast.

OBAMA GAVE US a failed, stagnant economy with stagnant wages. He gave us increases in taxes, regulations, deficit, debt, food stamps and welfare. Trump has given us tax cuts to help 80 percent of our population, 2.7 million new jobs, $4.3 million in raises and bonuses and $400 billion in new investments.

I’M AN ICE fisherman. I’m at the Lake Fenton boat launch, picking up after other fishermen who I apologize for. But, you people who use this as a dog park, your dog poops everywhere. I know who you are and you know who you are. The dog poop is running into Lake Fenton right now.

I WOULD have been devastated if my child was a victim in that high school shooting. I can’t believe that with all the talk about gun control from the liberal Democrats, they never seem to address the fact that they openly promote abortion and that over a million babies have been aborted annually, even late term, up to the minute of delivery.

I USED TO refer to people between 15 and 25 as the age-eligible group because they were constantly taking selfies. I can’t call them that anymore. I blame these devices. They’ve turned our young people into anti-social people. The only way they communicate is texting and pictures and this is so terribly wrong.

TRUMP SUPPORTERS, IF he was a Democrat, what would you think of him?

THE WOMAN’S OL YMPIC hockey team with the gold medal blew a prime opportunity to take a knee. What a golden opportunity. They blew it.

TO MY WIFE: A married man should not forget his mistakes. There’s no sense in two people remembering the same thing.

See HOT LINE throughout Times.
You’re invited to a Free Dinner Exclusively for Neuropathy Pain Sufferers

Preceding your free dinner, Dr. Beth Steczek, DC will be speaking on the latest FDA cleared treatment program found to relieve pain where others have failed.

You will discover how Dr. Steczek’s unique treatment program is designed to decrease pain, improve function and relieve the following symptoms:

- Numbness
- Leg cramping
- Sharp electrical-like pain
- Difficulty sleeping from leg & foot discomfort
- Prickling or tingling of the feet or hands
- Burning pain
- Pain when you walk

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

— Dr. Beth Steczek, DC

Seminar Dinner will be held at:

Aubree’s Pizzeria & Grill
11501 S. Saginaw St. • Grand Blanc
Wednesday, March 14th at 7:00 PM

Reservation Required
Please RSVP to
810-771-7624

Feel free to bring a guest. Seating is limited to ONLY 30 spots. Adults only.
Research group collects evidence for comparison and mapping purposes

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

After publishing the article, “Crop circle in Fenton City” in late January, the Times received an email from Jeffrey Wilson, director if ICCRA (Independent Crop Circle Researchers Association).

“Thank you very much for writing your ‘Crop circle in Fenton City’ article,” he wrote. “I so wish that you had run the ‘Crop circle in Fenton City’ article,” he wrote. “I so wish that you had run the article about the crop circle at the time in 1998 — so that I would have heard about it then, and gotten the chance to investigate it.

“By 1998, I had been investigating crop circles in the Midwest (Michigan, Ohio and Indiana) for two years, and had visited several by then, including one in 1997 at the Island Lake State Recreation Area about 19 miles due south of the crop circle you’ve reported. At the time, I was a graduate student teaching Astronomy and Physics at Eastern Michigan University and was developing various scientific tests to evaluate crop circles such as measuring them for radioactivity.

“In the summer of 2003, I investigated another crop circle report in Howell about 20 miles from the crop circle in Fenton. I’ve been to several crop circles located within 50 miles of Fenton.

“Today, I serve as the volunteer director of the Independent Crop Circle Researchers’ Association (ICCRA) that is the only organization in the USA that continues to investigate and track the appearance of crop circles in North America.”

Anyone who is interested can visit organization’s website at www.iccra.org. There they will find reports of crop circles from just about every state in the Union. The website is still in the build-out phase (they are all volunteers), but this link will show all the reports on file from the state of Michigan.

“I’d very much like to include your report in our archives so that other researchers can have access to that historical report,” Wilson said.

Wilson did ask for more specific information that because it was 20 years ago, the Times was not able to provide. Although it was reported that the crop circle in Fenton was woven together, there are no photos in existence. “I have come across reports of crop circles that have been ‘woven’ together, but such reports are rare,” he said.

“I believe that historical crop circle cases are important to keep track of, first as a body of evidence for comparison studies, but secondly for mapping purposes. I posted a link to your article on our Facebook page, and already I received a response from a German researcher who is interested in the woven aspect of your report for comparison purposes. The details, no matter how small, can be important.”

If any readers have more information about the crop circle in Fenton 20 years ago, please contact Wilson at jeff.wilson@iccra.org.

The story
Twenty years ago, in 1998, myself and three other Tri-County Times employees visited the scene of what we believed was a crop circle. The existence of this “crop circle” remains unexplained and the other three coworkers left the company many years ago.

We received an anonymous tip from one of our readers that there was a crop circle in the backyard of a home on West Street, just south of the Ellen Street school building, before W. Shiawassee.

Intrigued, we drove out there and parked on the street. We had to walk up the driveway of the little house and through the backyard. At the northwest corner of that backyard was a little opening that led us to another parcel of land, about a third of an acre in size.

It was there that we saw a perfectly formed circle. Green and brown weeds had been woven into the circle that took up the majority of the parcel. It was huge.

This did not appear to be a natural occurrence, where a big wind gust or mini tornado flattened the weeds down into a circle. These weeds were actually woven together, braided like an old-fashioned rug or hot pad for the stove. I bent down to touch it and the woven weeds were tight and appeared to be tied together.

Even more odd, the weeds in the circle were woven into a counter clockwise direction. There were no breaks in the circle, no heavy equipment in sight, and no other footprints.

We all stood there for a long time in disbelief. Who or what could have done this? I called Fenton police and was connected with an officer who thought this was all a joke and said no one was involved. The officer, who has since left the department, suggested we call some “ UFO people.”

See CROP CIRCLE on 16A

We are the cheerleader, guardian and watchdog of our communities – all rolled into one.

We monitor the pulse of the community and focus on local news stories of interest—not what we want, but what our readers want in their community newspapers.

“Stay Connected to Your Community.”
POLICE CHIEFS

Continued from Front Page

As the country mourns the victims, the Times approached two local police chiefs, Fenton Police Chief Jason Slater and Argentine Township Police Chief Dan Allen, to ask for their opinions and suggestions to prevent any future school shootings.

Police Chief Daniel Allen

Allen said he is extremely disturbed by the news reports coming out of Florida. “If there were four (deputies) that didn’t go in (to the school), they are in the wrong career field,” Allen said. “It makes me sick. You go in at least to check.” He said he does not understand how the school resource officer at the Florida school lives with himself, knowing he did not enter the school to help.

Since the Columbine High School shooting that occurred on April 20, 1999 in Columbine, Colorado, Allen said police tactics have changed. “Even if there is just one police officer, you go in. You don’t wait,” Allen said.

The philosophy of “see something, say something,” is getting better, Allen said. “Students are realizing this is serious.”

Argentine Township police have recently been investigating two alleged threats. Allen said police will immediately investigate any reported threat 24/7. “We investigate and determine if the threat is credible,” he said.

Allen is undecided about having armed teachers in a school building. Major reasons include the amount of training that is required and the fact that teachers wear plain clothes. When police converge on a school for a shooting report, “We don’t know who is who and there could be multiple suspects.” He added that is why students are instructed to exit schools with their hands up over their heads.

The best suggestion Allen has for schools is to control all entry points of every school building. “We continually stress that to schools,” he said. Another suggestion is to have better video cameras inside the building, as well as outside. “Video cameras are priceless,” Allen said. “And keep the doors locked all of the time.”

As for having uniformed police officers at school buildings, Allen said it would be helpful, and feasible if the resources are available to cover the added cost. He believes there is a potential for an emerging industry to deal with these school incidents. “I could see that happening. Retired military and police officers, but it wouldn’t be cheap,” he said.

When asked if school shootings were a mental health or gun problem, Allen said, “The men and women I work with, none of them would have waited outside. We’re parents. We understand our job and to keep our kids and school staff safe.”

“We’re not staying and waiting. We immediately address the threat.”

Slater said Fenton police and Fenton schools have a comprehensive approach in the event of a threat. “We’ve worked really hard for the best response we can do,” he said.

When asked who is responsible for keeping our kids safe in schools, Slater said, “I think we all are. Everyone has a role.” Fenton police will investigate any tip and will not stop until that threat has been deemed non-credible. Community members are encouraged to report even subtle clues of a suspected threat.

Similar to Allen, Slater said mental health issues need to be addressed. “We need a better system for us to report someone if they are to be able to possess a firearm,” he said. Privacy laws make this challenging.

The best scenario to prevent a school shooting would be to have an armed, police officer at every school building, said Slater. “Is that possible? Financially, no,” he said.

Fenton police make random visits at all of the Fenton school buildings daily. Slater wants to ensure that the students see the officers. Police conduct threat assessments on a regular basis, make recommendations to the school and together, plans are put in place.

Slater agreed with Allen about being concerned with having armed teachers in the buildings. “That puts even more guns in the schools,” he said.

“We’re not only police, we are parents and community members, Slater said. “We do everything we can to make sure that all of the students and staff are as safe as they possibly can be.”

School shootings in the U.S. in 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Outcome</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 9</td>
<td>Forest City, Iowa</td>
<td>No injuries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 20</td>
<td>Winston-Salem, NC</td>
<td>One killed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 22</td>
<td>Italy, Texas</td>
<td>One injured</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 22</td>
<td>New Orleans, LA</td>
<td>One injured</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 23</td>
<td>Marshall County, KY</td>
<td>Two killed, 18 injured</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 1</td>
<td>Los Angeles, CA</td>
<td>Five injured</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 5</td>
<td>Oxon Hill, Maryland</td>
<td>One injured</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 14</td>
<td>Parkland, Florida</td>
<td>17 killed, 14 injured</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: various news reports

In an effort to protect students and staff members, Fenton police conduct active-shooter drills inside school buildings. These drills are done when school is not in session.

Police Chief Jason Slater

Referencing the most recent Florida shooting, Slater said, “To me, it’s such a tragedy.” He said he understands that facts change as investigations continue, but he assures everyone that, “The men and women I work with, none of them would have waited outside. We’re parents. We understand our job and to keep our kids and school staff safe.”

“We’re not staying and waiting. We immediately address the threat.”

Slater said Fenton police and Fenton schools have a comprehensive approach in the event of a threat. “We’ve worked really hard for the best response we can do,” he said.

When asked who is responsible for keeping our kids safe in schools, Slater said, “I think we all are. Everyone has a role.” Fenton police will investigate any tip and will not stop until that threat has been deemed non-credible. Community members are encouraged to report even subtle clues of a suspected threat.

Similar to Allen, Slater said mental health issues need to be addressed. “We need a better system for us to report someone if they are to be able to possess a firearm,” he said. Privacy laws make this challenging.

The best scenario to prevent a school shooting would be to have an armed, police officer at every school building, said Slater. “Is that possible? Financially, no,” he said.

Fenton police make random visits at all of the Fenton school buildings daily. Slater wants to ensure that the students see the officers. Police conduct threat assessments on a regular basis, make recommendations to the school and together, plans are put in place.

Slater agreed with Allen about being concerned with having armed teachers in the buildings. “That puts even more guns in the schools,” he said.

“We’re not only police, we are parents and community members, Slater said. “We do everything we can to make sure that all of the students and staff are as safe as they possibly can be.”
HOT LINE CONTINUED

THE WALL ON our southern border is necessary to prevent drugs, guns, and violent illegal aliens from coming across and into our country. But the Democrats are not concerned about security and law enforcement. Under Obama, our immigrant laws were ignored, and he allowed 300,000 MS-13 gang members to enter our country.

THERE’S NO GUARANTEED right to own a military assault weapon, as determined by the late conservative Supreme Court Justice Scalia. The second amendment is null and void.

THIS NEW CODE enforcer that we have here, if he wants to do something constructive instead of harassing longtime conservatives, have him fix potholes that are all over the city. That’d be a good start for him.

I’M A LITTLE bit late calling about your comment of the week in your February 18 issue. A parent blaming everything but the parent for not being home watching the children. This is the third generation who haven’t had at least one parent home, watching what the children are doing.

BULLY IS TOO nice of a word to use about the torture and cruelty inflicted on a small percentage of our students. Hazing is also too nice of a word. The appropriate words to use are torture and cruelty, but we don’t use those words, do we?

SURE IS NICE the way the Lobdell Lake Association keeps their lake at a perfect level all of the time. It’s just too bad that all the property owners on the other side of the dam have to pay for it.

I THINK YOU’RE a lousy aim if you need a machine gun to go deer hunting.

---

Trustee is now officer for community that elected him

Argentine Township Board discusses potential conflict of interest issues

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Argentine Twp. — One Argentine Township trustee is also a part-time police officer protecting the same community and residents that elected him.

Trustee Scott Conner was sworn in Monday, Feb. 26 after the township board discussed the potential conflict of interest with voting on issues that affect him monetarily.

“I am excited,” he said. “It’s been a long time coming. There’s been a lot of questions raised about it … a lot of different scenarios and I’m glad everyone’s worries were kind of put to rest.”

Conner was a police officer for another community while running for office in Argentine Township.

Police Chief Dan Allen said before the elections last year, the department considered Conner a great candidate to become an Argentine Township police officer, and he still believes that. He said the board was worried about a potential conflict of interest during election season so they didn’t pursue hiring him as an officer.

Supervisor Brian Saad said, “I think we’re comfortable, most of us, at this point that we could do a year probation.”

All police officers are subject to one-year probation when hired.

“After a conversation I had, I realized that you’re as concerned about the community as we are,” said Treasurer Norm Schmidt to Conner. “If it becomes a friction, you’ll be the first to come back and tell us this isn’t gonna’ work.”

Schmidt said Conner’s main commitment should be to the community that elected him.

Saad said a conflict of interest shouldn’t be a problem. Saad is the liaison between the police department and the township board, and Schmidt negotiates the contracts for the department. Conner isn’t involved in any of it.

“There are the occasional one or two cases that come up a year that we may vote on that impact the police department. Trustee Conner said he would recuse himself from those votes,” Saad said.

Clerk Denise Graves said she’s discussed the topic with the township attorney twice, and has spoken with Conner about it a few separate occasions to ask questions and propose scenarios.

“Mr. Conner answered those to my satisfaction,” she said. “I’m very comfortable with it.”

Conner said he wouldn’t be able to vote on labor negotiations, because he would be a part of the union, as well as hirings, firings and monetary issues dealing with the police department.

“My recusal or my abstain of voting shouldn’t be very often,” he said. Conner was sworn in as an officer after the vote.

The vote was 3-1. Conner abstained and Trustee Tom Hallman was the dissenting vote.

“I feel it could be a future conflict of interest,” Hallman said.
‘Underhanded, unethical, immoral and probably illegal’

TREATMENT OF ROSE TOWNSHIP CONSTABLE DEBATED IN FEBRUARY MEETING

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

Whether Rose Township Constable Emile Bair still has a job this month remains to be seen.

Bair, who has been battling health issues, recently signed a letter of resignation. That signature, and how it was obtained, prompted a lively Rose Township Board of Trustees meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 14.

During public comment, Katherine Bair, Emile’s wife said that on Jan. 18, Supervisor Diane Scheib-Snider sent a letter of resignation to their home, wanting Emile to sign it.

Katherine said she went to the care facility where her husband is recovering and discussed it with him. The couple decided to wait and see how his health progresses. She said his condition is improving.

“I imagine my shock at someone from this office went to the (care facility) to have my husband sign it without my knowledge,” Katherine told the board. “We’re not ready to commit at this time.”

She further stated that this sounds like “collusion,” and that she is having an attorney look at it.

“How dare you,” she told the board.

Katherine further reminded residents that if Bair leaves the township’s employ, the constable position will no longer go on the ballot.

“I agree with Mrs. Bair,” said another resident, Linda Dagenhardt. “I can’t imagine anyone going to an ill man in the hospital … they are trying to straighten out their medication. He shouldn’t be signing anything. I think you just put him in a position for a lawsuit.”

Another resident, Tom Willerworth, said, “How can you do it? You should take this thing (signed letter of resignation) and put it in the trash can.”

Denise Hanley, the Rose Township deputy treasurer, addressed the board, also during public comment.

Hanley said Emile Bair asked her to bring him the letter. “He called me on a Friday and asked me to bring the letter,” she said.

She said she took the letter to him on Monday. Hanley said Emile asked her what she thought and she said it was his decision.

“He has been wanting to resign for the last six to eight months,” Hanley said. “Yes, he was on medication but he was with it that day. One day he wasn’t. But he is with it 90 percent of the time. I asked him who the president was and he knew. “I don’t want people being blamed for something they didn’t do,” Hanley said. “He has been wanting to retire for a long time. … It was not initiated by anyone here. It was him.”

When the agenda item dealing with the acceptance of Bair’s resignation letter came up, Trustee Glen Noble said, “There certainly seems to be an issue. I suggest that we … we have no other choice but not to accept the resignation of the constable. Put it on agenda for next meeting.”

Trustee Teresa Blaska said she was unaware of the matter of the letter of resignation.

If Bair does decide to retire, Noble said, “It is understandable there’s a specific monthly payment for rest of his life.” He said he understands there is also dental and optical.

CLerk Debbie Miller said retirees receive $575 per month as a stipend they can use toward medical. They also receive dental and optical.

Clerk Debbie Miller said Bair came to him in October of 2015 and said he didn’t want to run again. “He can’t do his job. I don’t think anything is going to change.”

Miller said, “This is not how you go about it. You don’t kick someone when they’re down.”

Noble made a motion to table the resignation letter matter. The board voted 4 to 1 to table it until the March 14 meeting. Gambka cast the dissenting vote saying nothing was going to change.

THE CLERK SAYS

On Wednesday, Feb. 28, Miller said that Katherine Bair responded to Scheib-Snider’s email that she and her husband discussed the situation and because he was making progress, they were not ready yet to submit a resignation.

“Mrs. Bair did not even know that Dianne (Scheib-Snider) typed and Denise Hanley drove the letter out to the rehab facility and had him sign when he is on several medications,” Miller said. “This was after Denise already went out there once and left a letter and Mrs. Bair said ‘no’ and they turned around and did this again. Imagine how Mrs. Bair felt when she found out. He was not thinking clearly due to meds and thought he was on medical leave but said Denise and Dianne keep calling him,” she said. “Mrs. Bair said they really stressed her and him out over this issue.”

See TREATMENT on 19A

“Put it on agenda for next meeting.”

Katherine Bair responded to Scheib-Snider’s email that she and her husband discussed the situation and because he was making progress, they were not ready yet to submit a resignation. She further stated that this sounds like “collusion,” and that she is having an attorney look at it.

“How dare you,” she told the board.

Katherine further reminded residents that if Bair leaves the township’s employ, the constable position will no longer go on the ballot.

“I agree with Mrs. Bair,” said another resident, Linda Dagenhardt. “I can’t imagine anyone going to an ill man in the hospital … they are trying to straighten out his medication. He shouldn’t be signing anything. I think you just put him in a position for a lawsuit.”

Another resident, Tom Willerworth, said, “How can you do it? You should take this thing (signed letter of resignation) and put it in the trash can.”

Denise Hanley, the Rose Township deputy treasurer, addressed the board, also during public comment.

Hanley said Emile Bair asked her to bring him the letter. “He called me on a Friday and asked me to bring the letter,” she said.

She said she took the letter to him on Monday. Hanley said Emile asked her what she thought and she said it was his decision.

“He has been wanting to resign for the last six to eight months,” Hanley said. “Yes, he was on medication but he was with it that day. One day he wasn’t. But he is with it 90 percent of the time. I asked him who the president was and he knew. “I don’t want people being blamed for something they didn’t do,” Hanley said. “He has been wanting to retire for a long time. … It was not initiated by anyone here. It was him.”

When the agenda item dealing with the acceptance of Bair’s resignation letter came up, Trustee Glen Noble said, “There certainly seems to be an issue. I suggest that we … we have no other choice but not to accept the resignation of the constable. Put it on agenda for next meeting.”
Owners of authentic Korean barbecue restaurant in Fenton plan to open in April

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

Some things worth having are worth waiting for.

That’s what has driven Goki Goki Korean BBQ & Specialty Market owners Joe Kim and his mother, Insook Kim, to be patient in getting their new Fenton restaurant up and running at 1243 N. LeRoy St. in Fenton. This site was formerly Luigi’s on LeRoy and before that, O’Dooley’s and The Heritage.

“We’re aiming for April,” Joe said. “We’ll know the date for sure as soon as we get the mechanical, building and health inspections done. That’s all that’s left.”

Following a walk-through of the restaurant on Thursday, March 1 by Mike Reilly, city of Fenton building and zoning administrator, he found only small minor things that need to be taken cared of before they get their occupancy permit. “It should be opening very, very soon,” he said.

The Kims of Linden currently own several fast food franchises in Flint and Burton and were eager to bring an upscale authentic Korean barbecue dining experience to the local area.

The reality of opening Goki Goki Korean BBQ actually began when the Kim family applied for a building permit from the city of Fenton in December 2014.

But the process of construction and opening has taken much longer than the Kims expected. “They changed the building layout so many times,” Reilly said. “It was a tough-go for contractors.”

“The city of Fenton has been very helpful,” Joe said. “The state inspections, well, we’ve had issues. They’re so busy, it’s been hard for us to fit into their schedule.” The state of Michigan recently has allowed the city of Fenton to handle the inspections locally. “That really helped us,” Joe said.

But now the opening date appears to be getting closer and people are asking what Goki Goki is all about.

“Goki means ‘meat’ in Korean,” Joe said. “That’s the focus of our restaurant. We offer authentic Korean barbecue.

You can pick your own meats to cook, or we can cook for you. We’ll show you how to do it. It’s very family oriented and interactive. You can choose your own vegetables, meats, seafood and lobster.”

Specialties include Kalbi beef, a marinated ribeye steak and Bibimbap, a choose-your-own-ingredients spicy rice bowl.

Goki Goki Korean BBQ has a full liquor license, but will be concentrating on serving beer and wine from specialty selections across the world, Joe said.

Right now, the shelves and refrigerated cases in the specialty market on the north side of the building are just waiting to be filled with premium meats, cheeses and deli specialties. “We’ll have everything premium, including organic chicken, seafood, pork and beef,” Joe said.

On the restaurant side, tables and booths are all ready, complete with small, built-in hibachi grills for tableside cooking and dining.

More homeowners find elevated radon levels

Testing is the only way to detect this silent killer

By Vera Hogan
Vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-8823

Since publishing the article, “Radon, the silent killer, found in Fenton home,” in mid-January, more people have come forward to say they had their homes tested as a result, and found high levels of radon.

One couple, Dale Smallidge and Jan Capello-McNeil of Fenton, said the article caught their attention and prompted them to pick up a test kit at Menards. “The results came back at 16.6 and we quickly contacted SWAT to perform the needed mediation,” Smallidge said. “We wanted to thank you for the heads up. We’ve been in this house for 30 plus years and have no idea what harm may have been done but we intend to find out soon.”

Prompting the article earlier this year were Pam and Gary Buerger of Fenton Township who had their house tested for radon. The levels were so high they were told it was equivalent to smoking two packs of cigarettes per day.

The Buergers levels came back at 15-20. Acceptable levels, according to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are 4 and under.

Both families contacted a company called SWAT Environmental, Inc.: Radon testing and mitigation. The work cost about $800, she said, and the couple did not have to move out of the house while the work was done.

According to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), radon is a Class A carcinogen, which means it is known to cause cancer in humans. It is the second leading cause of lung cancer after smoking, and results in approximately 21,000 lung cancer deaths in the United States each year.

The Buergers quit smoking cigarettes about 45 years ago, according to Pam. She does not know what length of time they were exposed to radon since they never had the house tested.

In May 2006, Marshall Pallett of Plainwell died of lung cancer. He had never smoked a day in his life and was diagnosed with lung cancer, and died six weeks later at the age of 64.

Drivers are 23 times more likely to be involved in a car accident while texting.

Virginia Tech Transportation Institute

Elevated radon levels were found in the Fenton home of Pam Buerger.

Radon gas is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that is a by-product of the decay of radium, an element found in low levels in the earth’s crust.

The EPA recommends that the level of radon in your home be tested. The radon test kit is inexpensive and easy to use. Test kits are available free of charge from the local Michigan Department of Environmental Control office, or you can purchase one for about $20. The test kit must be left in your home for two to four weeks. Then the readings can be sent to the state lab for analysis.

If elevated levels are found, a mitigation specialist can help you lower the radon levels to a safe level.

Radon mitigation costs vary depending on the size of the home and the complexity of the job. The EPA recommends that homeowners find the radon mitigation specialists that are certified by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

www.michigan.gov/mdeq
SUMMER JOBS Continued from Page 3A

Why are fewer teens in the summer workforce?

Mark Hamel, co-owner of four Fenton restaurants, The Laundry, CRUST, El Topo and The Resource & Relief Co., sees a trend in high school and college kids not wanting to work as much as he did at the same age.

“There’s not a financial burden like we had,” said Hamel, 50. “I had to work. I don’t feel that young people today say that very often. I had an apartment and rent, a car payment, etc. Many college students still live at home so they don’t have rent, and parents pay for their car and cell phone.”

He also sees that many young people are interested in having experiences rather than regular employment. “They want to volunteer for Habitat or camp in the summer,” he said. “Many of them ask to work only 15 to 20 hours instead of 40.”

These four restaurants are having a job fair on March 5 and 6 at The Laundry Room in Fenton. “We ‘bulk up’ staffing for summer and holidays,” Hamel said. “At CRUST and The Laundry, we’re understaffed right now by 10 each and about five at El Topo.”

Research also shows that teens feel more pres- sure than ever to perform well in school, so many are taking summer college courses or unpaid internships instead of a job. Other teens are travel- ing on summer vaca- tions with their families or playing sports that require a serious time commitment.

One local mom expressed this view- point. “My teen won’t be working this summer, or anytime at all while he is a teen,” said Beth Larson of Fenton. “He can work in college. I want him to enjoy being a kid while he can, sports, school, etc. It all goes too quick.”

These kinds of commitments can be an obstacle to summer employment. Dave Durant, co-owner of Uncle Ray’s Dairyland in Fenton, is right up front with applicants about the expectations he has for their summer work schedule and their work attitude.

“We ask for a two-year work commitment,” Durant said. “Kids have got to be available two out of three weekend days each week. Friday, Saturday and Sunday, plus work two of the weekdays. They need to be home to work during spring break.”

Still, he’s had plenty of applications for the 2018 season, 40 applicants for 12 positions.

“I still have one more position open for a ‘super star,’” he said. He asks young people to apply in person. “We’re looking for high energy people who are already fun and happy,” he said.

Durant admits it’s a demanding job, but it’s also a lot of fun — if you’ve got the right attitude. “The Dairyland is the second happiest place on earth, next to Disneyland,” he said. “We’re in the busi- ness of fun. We can’t afford to be good, we have to be great.”

The summer hiring season is now

CampCopeconic in Fenton Township is right in the middle of its application season, hiring 90 teens and young adults over age 18 for overnight camps and 70

for day camp positions. “We’ll be hiring ‘til we fill all our positions,” said Katie Comack, summer camp director. “We’re hiring the basics, like counselors, life- guards, ranch counselors, kitchen and housekeeping help.”

What are they looking for from ap- plicants? “We look for people who have experience working with kids, who have fun, outgoing personalities,” Comack said. “Also, high energy, because we’re all about kids having a great time at camp.”

VG’s Grocery, with two locations in Fenton, is hiring all across the board. “We’re in the process of a big remodel (at Sil- ver Parkway location) so we’ve got openings in all departments and posi- tions, from deli to cashier, night stock and produce,” said Larry Allen, VG’s Silver Parkway general manager. “We’re ready for summer hires, any time they are ready. We’re looking for availability and what they have to offer, age 16-plus.”

A ‘SHRINKING JOB POOL’

McDonald’s locations at Owen Road and North LeRoy in Fenton and on Broad Street in Linden are all hiring now for the summer and “you” round, said Steve Perkins, director of operations for ULM, Inc., the family owned company that operates these stores.

The entire job pool in Michigan has shrunk,” Perkins said. “We need at least 10 more employees on Owen Road, six to eight at North LeRoy and about five more in Linden. We pay our employees a higher rate than other restaurants, including other McDonald’s, and also offer a bonus program, college tuition reimbursement and more.”

SHOULD YOUR TEEN HAVE A SUMMER JOB?

HERE ARE SOME OF THE BENEFITS.

• Learning financial responsibility and the value of money
• Learning important life skills, including time management, dependability and responsibility, helpful in college years and first career jobs
• Building confidence by tackling new skills and becoming proficient at them
• Having extra spending money for expensive teen indulgences like electronics and entertainment
• Helping to build a college fund
• Learning skills about how to find a job, write a resume and perform well in an interview
• Spending free time constructively
• Learning the important life lesson of balance between work and life
• Building valuable work experience
• Building references and recommendations for future employers

OURCES: USA Today, bachelorgradonline.com

WE’RE in the business of fun.
We can’t afford to be good, we have
to be great.

Dave Durant
Uncle Ray’s Dairyland
in Fenton co-owner

TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO
Being a lifeguard is one summer job option for teens.

Continued from Page 3A

Something to Smile about

New Patient Special

$85

Includes: Cleaning, Exam (complete set of x-rays)

www.drmcgarry.com
810-735-9426

200 Lindenwood Dr., Linden
Mon. Tues. Wed. 11am-7pm • Thurs. 8am-3pm
Sat. by appt only

JOURNEY TO THE SOUTH OF FRANCE
WITH THE FENTON REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

STARTING AT $3,699 PER PERSON
w/air & taxes

INCLUDES AIR AND A BONUS NIGHT IN GENEVA, SWITZERLAND!

We’re in the special corner of Europe.

At Lyon, the Rhône and Saône rivers “kiss” and together they become the Grand

Rhône-Saône river winds its way through picturesque Provence and the heart of

villages, famous vineyards, UNESCO World Heritage sites, architectural masterpieces

Departing October 23, 2018

Jean-de-la-Ruelle, the Toulon frontier, and papal palaces. Come along and savor the taste, sights and sounds of this very

American private tour of

Departing October 23, 2018

TOUR JOURNEY:

• Explore the history of Troyes, a modest town near the ancient city of

• Relax with luxurious

a beautiful perfume

TRI-COUNTY TIMES

SONGBIRD TO SOANO:

TRI-COUNTY TIMES

MANY ACTIVITIES ARE INCLUDED:

• Walking and nature exploration

• Boat trip

• Ocean-going cruises

• Full days in the Provençal market

• Visit to the postcard village

• Wine tastings and vineyard tours

• Rhône-Saône river cruise

• Triangle Marche en Provence

• Mediterranean beaches

• Biking in the heart of Provence

• Local regional food

• Shopping

• Fabulous museums

• Architectural masterpieces

• High energy, because we’re all about

fun, outgoing personalities,” Comack said.

“Also, high energy, because we’re all about kids having a great time at camp.”

VG’s Grocery, with two locations in Fenton, is hiring all across the board. “We’re in the process of a big remodel (at Silver Parkway location) so we’ve got openings in all departments and positions, from deli to cashier, night stock and produce,” said Larry Allen, VG’s Silver Parkway general manager. “We’re ready for summer hires, any time they are ready. We’re looking for availability and what they have to offer, age 16-plus.”

A ‘SHRINKING JOB POOL’

McDonald’s locations at Owen Road and North LeRoy in Fenton and on Broad Street in Linden are all hiring now for the summer and “you” round, said Steve Perkins, director of operations for ULM, Inc., the family owned company that operates these stores.

The entire job pool in Michigan has shrunk,” Perkins said. “We need at least 10 more employees on Owen Road, six to eight at North LeRoy and about five more in Linden. We pay our employees a higher rate than other restaurants, including other McDonald’s, and also offer a bonus program, college tuition reimbursement and more.”

SHOULD YOUR TEEN HAVE A SUMMER JOB?

HERE ARE SOME OF THE BENEFITS.

• Learning financial responsibility and the value of money
• Learning important life skills, including time management, dependability and responsibility, helpful in college years and first career jobs
• Building confidence by tackling new skills and becoming proficient at them
• Having extra spending money for expensive teen indulgences like electronics and entertainment
• Helping to build a college fund
• Learning skills about how to find a job, write a resume and perform well in an interview
• Spending free time constructively
• Learning the important life lesson of balance between work and life
• Building valuable work experience
• Building references and recommendations for future employers

www.tctimes.com
Morgan’s Consignment

New owner adds jewelry and other services

By Sally Rummel

Morgan’s Consignment in Holly has always been a popular destination for gently used children’s clothing and accessories, since the store opened Feb. 12, 2010 in downtown Holly.

Eight years later, the store has a new owner, Paula Smith, at 4048 Grange Hall Rd. in the Subway/Domino’s plaza.

Morgan’s Consignment includes clothing inventory for men, women from size 0 to plus-sizes, juniors (teen boys and girls), children’s sizes S on up, plus shoes, purses, jewelry and accessories.

“Of all our clothing and accessories are reputable brands and in very nice condition,” Smith said. “I try to make it fun for people to shop, with a rewards system for every purchase you make.”

You can add some “bling” to your purchase with Smith’s new line of Paparazzi Jewelry at an affordable $5 price point. Watch for new, fun, decorative wire lampshades coming next month, and a chance for you to create your own with supplies available at the store.

(248) 328-1130
Hours: Mon.-Tues.-Thur.-Fri. 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Wed. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sat. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (watch for new spring and summer hours coming)

I try to make it fun for people to shop, with a rewards system for every purchase you make.

Paula Smith
Morgan’s Consignment owner

SAWYER
Continued from Front Page

Synchrony Financial, which is headquartered in Hartford, Connecticut, gave each of the 10 businesses they select $10,000 to grow their business and an additional $10,000 to make a difference in the community. Winners were selected based on an essay the businesses submitted to the bank. Theresa Vanuary and Erika Floyd sent in an essay on their own and the Beltinck’s learned about the contest when the winners were announced.

To present Chip and Mary Ann Beltinck, owners of Sawyer Jewelers, with their award and $20,000, Jennifer Robinson, small business marketing leader for Synchrony Financial in Dayton, Ohio and other bank representatives came to Fenton Thursday afternoon and held a special event inside the Beltinck’s jewelry store. They also filmed areas of downtown Fenton for their own promotional video.

While Sawyer Jewelers was presented with a $20,000 check, the essay contest instructed winners to use $10,000 of that amount and give it away to local charitable organizations or nonprofit organizations through difficult times. The Beltinck’s chose several recipients who they believe have touched the hearts of the Fenton community.

After conducting videotaped interviews with the recipients, Robinson told the invited guests that this stop in Fenton was their last and that it was by far the most unbelievable gathering for their contest. Ten winners were selected from 1,440 entries. “This was one of the 10 that bubbled to the top,” Robinson said. “I am forever changed by today.”

Using half of their prize to improve their store, Sawyer Jewelers plans to construct a new design space inside their store in the Cornerstone building that will include the latest CAD technology and a 3-D printer to create original designs for client approval.

The Beltinck family and employees at Sawyer Jewelers began GEM Charities client approval.

The Beltinck family and employees at Sawyer Jewelers began GEM Charities with a $20,000 check, the essay contest winners on their website, synchronybusiness.com, and with all of their clients.

Following the presentation, guests enjoyed food and beverages from The Corner Bar and Fenton Winery and brewery and piano music was provided by Will Stiverson.

The other “Working Forward Small Business Award” winners

• Bandwagon Music and Repair, Nashville, Tennessee
• Home Exterior Systems, LLC, Tomball, Texas
• Midas of Sarasota-Bradenton, Bradenton, Florida
• Super Stitch, Inc., North East, Pennsylvania
• MAE Power Equipment, Mission, Texas
• Laws Flooring and Rugs, Jonesboro, Arkansas
• Clark’s Car Care, Naperville, Illinois
• C&M Equipment, Golden Beach, Oregon
• Mattress for Less, Peoria, Illinois

VETERANS ART SHOW
Holly Area Veterans Resource Center is sponsoring an art show promoting the talents of American veterans, and their family members, on April 7, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. If you draw, paint, carve, and write, we would like to host your creations. Veterans will be able to display and sell their works. Certificates will be awarded to winners of their categories. Works should be original. Deadline for submitting work is March 15. Submit a photocopy of your work in PDF or JPEG format. Please include name, rank and branch of service with work, to yredp@outlook.com or mike@lincatphotography.com. Table fee is $40 plus a $10 non-refundable jury fee. For further information contact: Paul Dery or Mike Mishler at yredp@outlook.com or mike@lincatphotography.com. Holly Area Veterans Resource Center is at Karl Richter Community Center, 300 East St., Holly.
Meet BILLY HOFFMAN

• Best-selling author
• Comedian
• Husband and father

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

Billy Hoffman, 37, is a Fenton High School graduate and has always considered the city his home. He married a Linden High School graduate and they now live in Fenton Township with their two kids. Along with writing, doing comedy, and being a family man, he’s also a magician and an ordained wedding officiant. He will be performing stand-up comedy on Thursday, March 9 for the Fenton Village Players.

What’s your family like?

My wife is the most supportive person in the world. She has been by my side through all my crazy adventures and most importantly, she thinks I am funny. My kids enjoy the spotlight and stage as well. Both kids play the piano and will be in Peter Pan Jr. this spring with the Holly Youth Theater.

What’s the best parenting advice you’ve received?

Memories are worth more than money in the bank. Take those special vacations and trips while they (children) are in the bank. Take those special vacations and trips while they (children) are in the bank.

Tell me about your writing. Anything at every minute.

I have always been a huge stand-up comedy nerd. As a fan of the art form over the years, the desire to perform has been building. I’ve been doing comedy magic shows for almost 15 years and found myself enjoying the comedy aspect more than the magic. I’ll be touring with the Dad Bod Comedy Tour this year with shows all over Michigan, Ohio and even Hawaii.

Are you excited about the Fenton show?

Sharing the stage with JR Williams and Connie Ettinger on March 9 is a dream come true. They both are exceptional performers and I know my fans are going to love them as well.

What other hobbies do you have?

Archery, camping and web design. I serve as the Web Master and Social Media Director for both the Land-O-Lakes Bowmen here in Fenton and the Michigan Bow Hunters Association. Who’s your favorite author?

I have always been a huge stand-up comedy nerd. As a fan of the art form over the years, the desire to perform has been building. I’ve been doing comedy magic shows for almost 15 years and found myself enjoying the comedy aspect more than the magic. I’ll be touring with the Dad Bod Comedy Tour this year with shows all over Michigan, Ohio and even Hawaii.

In general, do you prefer the book or the movie?

As an author, this may surprise you, but I generally like the movie. When I write my novels, I see them play out in my mind like a movie and I write what I am seeing.

If someone wrote a book about your life, what would you want it to be called?

Memories are worth more than money in the bank.

“Memories are worth more than money in the bank.”
Billy Hoffman
Father of two

TRI-COUNTY TIMES

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Billy Hoffman, 37, is pictured with his wife, Alicia, and their two kids, Summer and Hunter.

Mystic Creek Golf Course & Banquet Center

248.684.3333
One Champions Circle | Milford
www.mysticcreekgc.com

MOTHER’S DAY BRUNCH

SUNDAY • MAY 13, 2018
10AM - 1PM
LAST SEATING AT 1PM
FOR DETAILS.

EASTER BRUNCH

SUNDAY • APRIL 1, 2018
10AM - 1PM
LAST SEATING AT 1PM
FOR MENU OPTIONS VISIT WWW.MYSTICCREEKGCO.COM

BRIDAL SHOW

SUNDAY • APRIL 8, 2018
NOON - 3PM
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
VISIT WWW.MYSTICCREEKGCO.COM
FOR DETAILS.

SAVE THESE DATES:

Mystic Creek Golf Course & Banquet Center

248.684.3333
One Champions Circle | Milford
www.mysticcreekgc.com

Who will take us home?

Adopt A Pet
A friend for life!

13575 Fenton Rd • Fenton
www.adoptapetfenton.com
810-629-0723

Tuesday, Friday & Saturday 12pm-5pm
Thursday 12-7 • Sunday 1pm-4pm
Closed Monday & Wednesday

SPONSORED BY:

Accent

www.accentdd.com
810-232-3530

Who will take us home?

Adopt A Pet
A friend for life!

13575 Fenton Rd • Fenton
www.adoptapetfenton.com
810-629-0723

Tuesday, Friday & Saturday 12pm-5pm
Thursday 12-7 • Sunday 1pm-4pm
Closed Monday & Wednesday

SPONSORED BY:

Accent

www.accentdd.com
810-232-3530

Hercules

This handsome hunk is a master smuggler!
He would love a home where he can just be a lazy old man.

SPONSORED BY:

Painting & Wall Coverings
www.paintingwallcoverings.com
810-232-3530

Abby

Lahsa Apso mix.
She needs a family that will be calm and patient with her as she learns how good life can be now.

SPONSORED BY:

Mystic Creek Golf Course & Banquet Center

248.684.3333
One Champions Circle | Milford
www.mysticcreekgc.com

MOTHER’S DAY BRUNCH

SUNDAY • MAY 13, 2018
10AM - 1PM
LAST SEATING AT 1PM
FOR DETAILS.

EASTER BRUNCH

SUNDAY • APRIL 1, 2018
10AM - 1PM
LAST SEATING AT 1PM
FOR MENU OPTIONS VISIT WWW.MYSTICCREEKGCO.COM

BRIDAL SHOW

SUNDAY • APRIL 8, 2018
NOON - 3PM
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
VISIT WWW.MYSTICCREEKGCO.COM
FOR DETAILS.

SAVE THESE DATES:
Fenton High School held its first ceremony for 2018 graduating senior Kyle Gauer

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

Fenton — “I’m honored to welcome all of you to the first commencement ceremony for the Class of 2018.”

While high school graduations are traditionally held in June, these words were spoken by Fenton High School Principal Mark Suchowski on Thursday, March 1 as he opened the ceremony for one honored 2018 graduate.

Fenton High School senior Kyle Gauer, who has been battling acute myeloid leukemia since Dec. 30, 2017, was the sole graduate of this special ceremony, a first of its kind at Fenton High School. The ceremony was a team effort planned by teachers, students and staff, said Suchowski.

The audience was absolutely silent during remarks made by Superintendent Dr. Adam Hartley, saying, in part, “Kyle, we congratulate you on this amazing accomplishment. The words ‘resilience’ and ‘perseverance’ come to mind.”

Family, friends and the staff at Fenton High School knew just how important graduation was for Kyle, who has been a student in FHS’s work-study program. He hasn’t been able to attend school while undergoing treatment at University of Michigan Hospital in Ann Arbor.

A close family friend of the Gauer family, Bonnie Showers, while his twin sister, Katie and their parents, Kevin and Kimberly Gauer, watched on stage.

Kyle walked slowly across the stage with the aid of a walker to receive his diploma from Suchowski and teacher Dana Hayes-Grimes. “Kyle, the first 2018 graduate of Fenton High School, recognized for his achievements at a special commencement ceremony held March 1 in the Ruby F. Zima Auditorium.

Kyle Gauer was the first graduate of the Class of 2018 from Fenton High School, recognized for his achievements at a special commencement ceremony held March 1 in the Ruby F. Zima Auditorium.

Kyle walked slowly across the stage with the aid of a walker to receive his diploma from Suchowski and teacher Bonnie Showers, while his twin sister, Katie and their parents, Kevin and Kimberly Gauer, watched on stage.

After the traditional ringing of the bell, Suchowski said, “I now pronounce you, Kyle, the first 2018 graduate of Fenton High School.”

The audience applauded with a roar and stood up to honor Kyle’s achievement.

Kyle is an exceptional young man. It’s an honor and privilege to be his teacher and it was a beautiful and inspiring ceremony,” Dana Hayes-Grimes, Fenton High School teacher

Fenton High School and the community raise over $5,000 for the Gauer family

At the Feb. 20 basketball game between Fenton High School and Holly High School, a raffle was held to raise money to help Kyle’s family, following his recent diagnosis of acute myeloid leukemia.

The idea was the brainstorm of fellow senior, Matthew Sullivan, son of teacher and coach Matt Sullivan. “He wanted to do a fundraiser for Kyle,” Sullivan said. “A three-point contest was added at the game and it just exploded.”

Businesses generously offered donations and gift cards for the raffle and more money was raised during a “miracle minute” fundraiser at the game. “We raised $5,000, and it all went to the Gauer family,” Sullivan said. “This is what this community is all about.”
CRIME WATCH DAILY
Continued from Front Page

For those with Comcast, it will be on WXYZ Channel 7 (ABC). For those with Spectrum (formerly Charter), it will be on WXYZ Channel 6 (ABC Detroit).

In addition, the Brueger’s interview with ABC News Detroit will be broadcast during the Monday night 11 p.m. news, immediately following The Bachelor finale.

The Bruegers’ interview will detail the brutal slaying of their daughter, Alexandra “Ally” Brueger while she was jogging on Fish Lake Road on Saturday, July 30, 2016. In addition to the Bruegers, Hansen has interviewed Michigan State Police Fr.Lt. Michael Shaw, and Ally’s self-proclaimed boyfriend, Weston Sutherland. The Fish Lake property owner, where Ally’s body fell after being shot four times in the back, was also interviewed.

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

Brueger ran 10 miles every day for the past 10 years, until that deadly Saturday afternoon. She was a nurse at the time and on her way to becoming a successful writer.

Crime Watch Daily is a syndicated investigative news magazine series that premiered in September 2015. The program is currently hosted by Hansen, a veteran TV journalist.

The show features a mix of investigative reports and true crime stories. The program showcases current and ongoing crime stories, including those that are unsolved.

KEEP THE TIPS COMING

Anyone with information leading to the arrest of the person(s) responsible for the murder of Alexandra “Ally” Brueger is asked to call 1-855-MICH-TIP (642-4847) or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-SPEAK-UP (773-2587). The current reward, offered by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms ($30,000) and Crime Stoppers ($5,000), is $13,500. Crime Stoppers pays for information that leads to an arrest, not a conviction.

Superior Experience with Superior Travel

Superior Travel Service is here for you before, during and after your journey.

By Ingrid Ream

FENTON — Whether you’re new to travel or you have already checked off a few destinations on your bucket list, you may be missing out on perks or deals if you’re not considering a travel agent from Superior Travel Service. Our highly trained agents cut through the clutter of the internet.

We offer many services and conveniences not found on a search engine. Our agents can save hours of research and handle any setbacks that could potentially derail your vacation plans. We also obtain visas and foreign currency, book excursions, plan weddings, and honeymoons, groups, luxury and multigenerational travel and more!

We are a one-stop shop for customer service to design personalized experiences for each unique traveler.

By Ingrid Ream

We offer many services and conveniences not found on a search engine. Our agents can save hours of research and handle any setbacks that could potentially derail your vacation plans.

Superior Travel Service offers flexible payments if you’re still saving for your vacation. Typically a low deposit is all that is required and flexible payments can be made before your departure.

Because of our partnership with numerous suppliers Superior Travel Service has access to exclusive benefits, even for groups! We have access to more information than you do at our fingertips which allows us to see more options and inventory that you wouldn’t be able to see on your own. And we can help simplify group travel arrangements by handling various payments and requests for each traveler.

Superior Travel Service is family owned and operated since 1967 and is currently operated by Ingrid (Schmitt) Ream. Our travel agents make your dollars travel further and provide peace of mind wherever you travel!
CROP CIRCLE
Continued from Page 6A

We made a few other calls but were unsuccessful in getting anyone to take us seriously enough to come out and take a look for themselves.

So, the decision was made to bury the story. The fear was that readers would think we were crazy, and that the poor homeowner’s property would be overrun by the curious, and those who believe in UFOs and that aliens are afoot.

Crop circles became a phenomenon of the 1980s in this country. Tales of the circles have been moving through Great Britain for centuries. This topic has been researched repeatedly but to this day, no one can say with any certainty whether they are or were manmade or if something “other worldly” was involved.

There have been cases where pranksters have admitted they created the crop circles as a hoax. Just Google crop circles and you’ll find countless informational sites.

While I am absolutely not suggesting that aliens created the West Street crop circle as a sign, I do continue to wonder who would take the time to weave together the weeds on a big parcel. It had to have taken hours, yet we were told it appeared overnight. But if it did happen that way, my next question is why? Why spend hours creating a crop circle on a back parcel of land, one that could not be seen from West Street or from the side streets before and after it.

Because the officer I spoke to “implied” that we may be trespassing on private property, and because subsequent days of heavy rain probably washed it all way, we gave up on the crop circle of 1998.

Easter Sunday
RESERVATIONS REQUESTED
SUNDAY, APRIL 1ST
11:30 AM – 4:30 PM
celebrate with us!
- SPECIAL MENU -
DESSERT BUFFET INCLUDED
Full menu available at:
www.cranberriescafe.com
LUNCH HOUSES
Mon-Sat 11am-2pm
DINNER HOUSES
Mon-Sat 5-10pm
10250 Hegel Rd., Downtown Goodrich
810-636-3409 • www.cranberriescafe.com

HOT LINE CONTINUED

ALL YOU IDIOTS keep saying no guns, that we want to take your guns away. We're trying to keep idiots like this guy down in Florida from getting a gun. He's 19 and off his rocker. There's no reason there shouldn't be a gun check with people like that.

TO MY HUSBAND: Six items in our bathroom are yours. They are toothbrush, toothpaste, shaving cream, razor, bar of soap and a towel. The other 160 items are mine by default. You cannot even name most of them.

MAYBE THESE KIDS would be happy sitting in their basements, shooting up their video games if it wasn't so darn easy to get a hold of a real gun, let alone an AR-15.

OBAMA NEGLECTED TO take cyber security measures for years. During his administration, many agencies, such as the CIA, Pentagon, NSA and DNI all were hacked by China and Russia. Now we can add allowing Russian meddling to Obama’s legacy. This all contributed to him being a weak and reckless president.

WE DIDN'T HAVE mass shootings because 20 years ago, you could correct your children when they did something wrong. Nowadays you go to prison for it. It’s their fault. Think about it.

FOR THE GUY who picked up the snow thrower on the side of the road Saturday, if you want to stop back by, I have the book on it.

FOURTEEN MASS SHOOTINGS happened while Obama was in office. Yet he never blamed this faulty immigration policies or ineffective gun free zones or the ideology for the shooting. He just blamed guns. Whether we’re talking Obama or Hillary or the Democratic party, they do want to take guns away from all law-abiding citizens.
Fort Clarkston is here for your family’s fun

Parents and kids will enjoy this family entertainment center in nearby Clarkston

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

It’s only 22 minutes away for you to have the time of your life with your family.

Fort Clarkston, at 7127 Dixie Hwy. in Clarkston, offers a safe, clean children’s indoor recreation center, while Mom and Dad can enjoy a café and bar, big screen TVs and a comfortable, relaxing massage chair.

Open since November 2015, Fort Clarkston is a family entertainment center in nearby Clarkston, catering to “fun” for both kids and parents.

Fort Clarkston owner Pam Rush. “Come in and play, eat, relax and create great family memories.”

It’s also a destination for premium-themed birthday parties in any of four party rooms available for your special event. “We’ve got numerous themes available, plus our very own ‘partistas,’ your own personal concierge for parties,” Rush said.

“The creation of Fort Clarkston came from my heart,” Rush said. “All my life I have run day care centers, so I know and am very comfortable around children and families. Everything inside Fort Clarkston has been carefully designed with this in mind — a place where moms and dads would be comfortable, knowing their children were having fun in a safe environment.”

The Fort Clarkston Café and Bar serves locally brewed craft beer or wine, wraps, paninis, salads and fresh pizza for lunch and dinner.

There are also a number of special events, including Teacher Tuesday, Winey Wednesday and a Friday night Pizza Party.

Because of Fort Clarkston’s popularity, Rush is already thinking about expanding. “My daughter and son-in-law are raising their family in Fenton and absolutely love it there,” Rush said. “Fenton might just be next on the list for a ‘Fort!’”
TREATMENT
Continued from Page 9A

GOAT CASE POSTPONED

Lake Fenton grad featured in revealing Netflix series 'Flinth Town'  
Flint City administration denies permission to interview Flint Officer Bridgette Balasako of Fenton about her role in the documentary series.

Local man competent to stand trial

Fenton woman posts wild crash details on social media

HOT LINE

Lake Fenton Community Schools
West Shore Elementary
3076 Lahring Rd. • Fenton, MI 48430 • (810) 591-6542

KINDERGARTEN ROUNDPUP & INFORMATIONAL NIGHT

March 8th
5:30-7:30 pm

Who should attend?
Parents of students who will be 5 years of age on or before September 1st, 2018

Information Provided:
• Kindergarten Readiness
• Kindergarten Screening
• Requirements for Enrollment
• Vision and Hearing Screening
• Transportation
• Online Enrollment Process
• Young 5’s

• Your child may be eligible for Young 5’s based on the following:
  • Birthday must be between June 1st and September 1st
  • Kindergarten Readiness Screening
  • Evaluator’s Recommendation
Fundraising continues to complete purchase of ‘The Librarian’

Library board has raised more than half of $12,000 needed to buy sculpture

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

Fundraising to buy “The Librarian,” the statue outside of the Jack R. Win- egarden Library is going “pretty well,” said Bobbie Sweetman, a member of the Fenton City Library Board. “We’re a little over halfway to our goal. Money is still coming in,” she said. “We have some outstanding commitments that we are expecting to come in before the end of fundraising period.” The board announced its goal to pur- chase the popular statue in December 2017 with the goal to raise $12,000 by fundraising community-wide.

The campaign was set to end at the end of February, but the board decided to extend the timeframe into mid-March to have the opportunity to have a booth at the Fenton Community Expo. “People who had intentions but just hadn’t gotten around to it because of this miserable weather, this will give people another opportunity to give donations if they have been thinking about it,” she said.

The library’s booth will be in the civic section of the Expo, near the animal petting booth. Members will set up a large poster of the statue. People can receive more information on the statue and donate. The statue is currently being rented by the city of Fenton and could go to another community for good if the city doesn’t purchase it soon. “She’s perfect. She’s the right size and the children love her,” Sweet- man said. “It would be lovely at some point in the near future to put little park benches by her and a community garden so children would sit there. She belongs in front of our library.”

The Horizon Building still on track for summer occupancy

Harsh winter weather has contributed to delays in completion

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

The Horizon Building, under construc- tion at Silver Lake Road and LeRoy Street, is still on schedule and expected to be completed in time for summer occupancy, according to Kevin Johnson of Rhoads & Johnson. There are no first floor tenants to iden- tify at this time, but Johnson said there has been a lot of excitement and interest. “Stay tuned,” he said.

“The winter weather has been a little ex- treme this year and it has made it difficult to navigate and work on that site,” Johnson said. “But in the end it will be a beautiful building and addition to Fenton.”

The current color of the building — or- ange — has drawn some mixed reviews. For those who hate it, Johnson said the orange is not going to stay. The building will be a wood grain brown. The Horizon Building is a 23,500-square-foot, three-story, commercial and retail facility. Construction on the building began in August.

The third floor will be occupied by Serra Automotive personnel, and the sec- ond by The Horizon Group of Raymond James Financial Advisors. The first floor is available for commercial and retail use.

Some have expressed concern about the availability of parking, however, owners say there will be a lot of parking. Next to Fenton Community & Cultural Center, they say this will be the biggest parking lot in city of Fenton.

Since the occupants of the second and third floors will not be there nights and weekends, any businesses on the first floor will have ample parking available for customers. Parking is one of the things owners wanted to maximize.

There also will be a covered, outdoor seating area.

The $6.3 million investment is ex- pected to create 10 full-time jobs.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

RED WINGED BLACK birds, sand hill cranes, tundra swans and very large pot- holes are back. It must be spring.

WHAT STOPS A bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun. That fact will never change. Ask Congressman Steve Scalise what saved him at the ball field last spring as the evil, loony liberal opened fire on unarmed House repre- sentatives with a rifle.

WITH ALL OF these school shootings, we should have armed guards, maybe retired policemen or teachers that pass the test for carrying a firearm. We cannot continue to have all these kids getting killed. I for one would be happy to pay more in taxes to fund a program to arm teachers in schools and churches.

I DON’T KNOW who is it to blame for kids taking guns to schools nowadays and shooting everybody. But the reason why I live in Argentine — McCaslin Lake. Our neighbors help each other out when we need us. We don’t just call the law on everybody.

I DON’T KNOW if you agree with our president or not, but he was forced to make a decision and that’s the one he had. Give him a break.

RECENTLY FIGURED OUT that in a husband and wife argument the woman always has the last word. From experi- ence I’ve learned that anything I say after that is the beginning of a new argument.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

Red winged black birds, sand hill cranes, tundra swans and very large pot- holes are back. It must be spring.

What stops a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun. That fact will never change. Ask Congressman Steve Scalise what saved him at the ball field last spring as the evil, loony liberal opened fire on unarmed House repre- sentatives with a rifle.

With all of these school shootings, we should have armed guards, maybe retired policemen or teachers that pass the test for carrying a firearm. We cannot continue to have all these kids getting killed. I for one would be happy to pay more in taxes to fund a program to arm teachers in schools and churches.

I don’t know who is it to blame for kids taking guns to schools nowadays and shooting everybody. But if you remember, they made it against the law to punish or correct your child in any way shape or form. That is abuse. Think about it.

Drugs like heroin and opiates are devastating our communities. The DEA has just said that most of these drugs are coming into our country across our southern border. What reasonable persons would not want a wall to prevent these drugs or would not want more immigration officers and border patrol agents, or would support sanctuary cities, which would hide these criminals?

What is going on with immigration? Your kids are safer in the military than they are at school. At least in the military they give you something to shoot back with and you know who your enemy is.

That’s the whole reason why I live in Argentine — McCaslin Lake. Our neighbors help each other out when we need us. We don’t just call the law on everybody.

I don’t know if you agree with our president or not, but he was forced to make a decision and that’s the one he had. Give him a break.

Recently figured out that in a husband and wife argument the woman always has the last word. From experi- ence I’ve learned that anything I say after that is the beginning of a new argument.
Linden Elementary kindergarten teacher Jenny Teffner teaches her students how to count by fives on Wednesday, Feb. 21.

**KINDERGARTEN**

*Continued from Page 3A*

This is the time of year when local school districts are gearing up for the 2018-19 school year, holding kindergarten roundups in March for pre-registration and enrollment (see sidebar).

Heidi Ciesielski, executive director of reading and learning at Fenton Area Public Schools, advises parents of fall kindergarten students to look at online resources like Ready4K, a free text messaging program that gives you activities with your child based on things you already do, like getting your child dressed, meal time, and more.

“It gives you a text alert of reminders of things to work on with your child — putting on boots, knowing the letters of their name, that will be helpful going into kindergarten,” Ciesielski said. She suggests also that parents look at the pamphlet, “Getting Your Child Ready for Kindergarten” by Woodburn Press, available online.

Many of these activities and tips will help parents prepare their child for the new experience of all-day kindergarten.

“At the beginning of the year, the kids are tired,” said Jenny Teffner, Linden Elementary kindergarten teacher for 14 years. “Then they get into the swing of things.”

Teffner and the other two kindergarten teachers at Linden Elementary like the full-day kindergarten schedule, at least for the most part.

“Kindergarten used to be much more about play than academics,” said teacher Peggy Fiewig. “Now we’re very focused on reading, writing and math. It’s much more curriculum-based. But we still do snacks, recess and action-based learning, like having the kids use their large motor skills with language, jumping from a letter card with A to the letter card with C.”

Now with a full day of learning, kindergarteners not only have academics, they also get library time, computer lab, gym, art and music.

“There’s something almost everyday,” said Teresa Hanak, a 22-year kindergarten teacher in Linden. “It gives them a very well-rounded approach to the day.”

Even with all the activities required by the Michigan Common Core Curriculum, the teachers make time in their day for being creative with their students. “We were learning many ‘how to’ activities and I brushed my teeth in front of the kids,” Fiewig said.

“One little girl said, ‘ewwww.’” Hanak used shaving cream to show the kids how germs spread when you touch your hands to your nose, and then shake someone’s hand, etc. “It’s important that we make school meaningful and enjoyable for the kids,” Hanak said. “Not like it’s work, but a fun place to be.”

**Kindergarten Roundup dates:**

**FENTON AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

March 13: Information meeting, 6 p.m. at Fenton High School

March 15: Registration at Administration building

**LAKE FENTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**

March 8: 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at West Shore Elementary gymnasium

**LINDEN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**

March 6: 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Hyatt Elementary

**HOLLY AREA SCHOOLS**

March 6: 1 to 7 p.m. at Davisburg Elementary and Patterson Elementary

March 8: 1 to 7 p.m. at Holly Elementary and Rose Pioneer Elementary

**RADON**

*Continued from Page 10A*

According to his sister-in-law Mary York, a former Fenton resident and longtime employee of the Tri-County Times, now retired, the first thing the doctor asked was if the home had ever been tested for radon. “Patti (York’s sister) flat out asked the doctor if it could have been the radon, but he told her he really didn’t know,” York said. “She did say he had respiratory problems before they ever moved into this house so maybe there is no connection to the radon. But it did make the family want to have their homes tested. They did and the level was 10. After that, they had their home remediated.

“I even spent $100 to buy a monitor for our house in Fenton and had all of my family check their houses. Radon is some scary stuff,” York said. There is no ‘safe’ radon level. According to MDEQ, there is no safe radon level. There is believed to be some risk to be associated with any exposure, and as a general rule, the higher the radon level and the longer the exposure, the greater the risk.

The only way to know whether your home has elevated radon levels is to test for it. There are no physical signs to warn you of the presence of radon, and it cannot be detected with the senses.

Any home, regardless of age, energy-efficiency, or foundation type, could have a radon problem. The only way to know whether a particular home has a problem is to test that home.

Radon enters homes through openings in the foundation floor or walls, wherever the foundation is in contact with the soil.

**Getting help**

The Genesee County Health Department offers free radon test kits during the month of January. Contact the GCHD at info@gchd.us or call (810) 257-3612 or fax (810) 257-3147.

For more information about radon, the EPA has a booklet that can be obtained online at www.epa.gov/radon.

SWAT Environmental Inc., a company that can remediate radon in a home, can be reached at swatradonteam.com/Fenton, or by calling (810) 694-6149.

**HOT LINE**

**CONTINUED**

**FENTON DPW Did** a great job once again snow plowing and salting after our Thursday snow fall. Keep up the good work.

**WITH ALL THE white superhero- es out there, The Flash, Superman, Batman, and you have to take issue because they come up with one black superhero? I think it’s time for you to grow up.

**NOW THAT HE’S been out of office for over a year, Obama’s legacy is now being written. One of the most corrupt administrations in history. A pushover by Iran, North Korea, China, Russia and the reason we are having problems with those countries today. When he wasn’t golfing, he was fundraising for his fellow Democrats. He allowed Russian meddling for many years and was ineffective or incompetent to do anything about it.

**YOU CAN CHANGE all the gun rules you want to, but people committing these crimes with their guns don’t care about your rules.**
Gramer takes over, leads Bronchos past Our Lady of the Lakes, 52-51

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

It was an off-night for the Holly varsity boys basketball team’s top offensive players against Our Lady of the Lakes.

However, that didn’t matter. Ben Gramer came to the rescue.

Gramer, who missed many games earlier in the season due to some broken fingers, had a career-high 18 points in the Bronchos’ 52-51 victory against Our Lady of the Lakes.

“Nobody had a good game except one player and that was sophomore Ben Gramer,” Holly varsity boys basketball coach Lance Baylis said. “He had a career game. He had 18 points and they were all athletic layups. He made two free throws.

And he had a very instrumental block in the fourth quarter when they had a fast-break layup. He chased the guy down and blocked the guy off the backboard. It was the Ben Gramer show.”

The game appeared comfortably in hand when the Bronchos led by nine with about two minutes left. However, Our Lady of the Lakes made some key three-pointers down the stretch, cutting into Holly’s lead. A three-pointer with three seconds left closed the Holly lead to just one, but the Bronchos milked the final three seconds to earn the win.

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM

Devs take overtime to beat Mt. Morris

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

Flint — Sophomore Morgan Furey had a lot of pressure on her shoulders.

After all, there was 3.7 seconds left in Lake Fenton’s varsity girls basketball district game against Mt. Morris, the Blue Devils trailed 51-49, and she was headed to the free-throw line.

Basically, she had to hit both free throws, or more than likely the Blue Devils’ district run was going to end after just one game.

But Furey felt no pressure for one reason. The only thing up for grabs on Wednesday night at Powers Catholic High School was a win and a spot in the district title game.

During Lake Fenton practices, free throw sessions had more pressure.

Miss them, and the team runs.

“When I went to the line I was relaxed,” Furey said. “In practice we have to make 5-for-5 in practice, and I usually make five out of five every day, so I just had to keep calm and remember I’ve done this before. This is not something I’ve never done before, so I just had to keep cool and make my shots.”

Furey did just that, forcing overtime. Once in the extra session the Blue Devils (8-13) looked completely relaxed, cruising to a 63-57 district semifinal victory against Mt. Morris, a team that had beaten the Blue Devils twice earlier this season.

Lake Fenton advanced to the district title game, playing against Goodrich on Friday.

“We try to put them in pressure situations (with the free-throw drill),” Lake Fenton varsity girls basketball coach Brian VanBuren said.

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM

Blackwell heading to Europe to play, coach softball

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

Holly’s Hailey Blackwell will be playing in the 2019 European Cup for Team USA in January.

Lake Fenton’s Katelyn Seiert tries to defend Mt. Morris’ Linda Blackwell during the Blue Devils’ 63-57 overtime victory in the semifinals of the district tournament on Wednesday.

Then again, chores don’t have the same meaning and passion in Blackwell’s life as softball does. It is her sport.

See BLACKWELL on 23A

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM
Blue Devils continue recent winning ways, defeat Ortonville Brandon 63-54

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

The Lake Fenton varsity boys basketball team had a lot of strikes against the squad when the season began. The Blue Devils lost pretty much their entire team from a year ago and had to learn a new system under first-year coach Brian McInerney.

It took awhile, but it seems the squad has selected the right time of the year to play its best basketball of the season. The Blue Devils won their fourth of seven games by defeating Brandon 63-54 on Tuesday.

“The scoring was spread around and the kids played very hard,” McInerney said. “We are starting to win at the right time of the year — right before the start of the tournament. We are excited about our prospects.”

Cody Schramm led the balanced attack with 13 points, while Ethan Dunckel and Hunter Schramm had 12 points each. Matt Tomczak had 11 points and Luke Tomczak netted eight points.

The Blue Devils start district action on Wednesday when they face Lakeville four a 5:30 p.m. semifinal contest in the Powers Catholic district.

Linden defeats Lapeer, Flushing during final regular season week

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

If defense actually wins championships, the Linden varsity boys basketball team has to feel pretty good about the postseason starting next week.

The Eagles held Lapeer to just 35 points, earning a 65-35 victory on Tuesday at Lapeer High School.

The Eagles also forced Flushing to only a share of the Metro League title by defeating the Raiders 46-43 on Thursday. Against Flushing, the Eagles had to play without Noah Giacomantonio, who rolled his ankle prior to the start of the game. That meant Hayden Mahakian started, and he had a big game.

“He played virtually the entire game and had to deal with Cal Endicott most of the night, and he did a great job,” Linden varsity boys basketball coach Chris Root said.

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM

Fenton Tigers lose to Powers, Milford

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

It’s been a season of ups and downs for the Fenton varsity boys basketball team this winter.

It’s fair to say the Tigers are going through a lull right now.

The Tigers (8-12) lost their fourth and fifth straight games, dropping a 79-65 road verdict against Flint Powers Catholic on Tuesday and a 68-64 result against Milford on Thursday.

Against Milford, the Tigers trailed 23-6 after one quarter, but slowly fought back into the game.

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM

Blackwell

Continued from Page 22A

“Somebody was telling me about it in Arizona, so I was researching about it online and I found it,” Blackwell said. “I was emailing (the coach), I sent a video of me playing and he contacted me. The video was basically my tryout.”

The tournament isn’t until January of 2019 and begins in Amsterdam, Netherlands and continues in France and England. Teams from all over the world are expected to compete. Blackwell is excited to catch, but playing softball isn’t the only thing she will be doing. She’s also going to do some teaching. The United States players will be teaching young players about the game while competing.

“I want to become a better softball player and I feel like it’s going to make me even better,” Blackwell said. “I’m excited to meet new people, learn from them and teach people, too. When I get older I want to teach softball classes and batting. I want to be a coach and a teacher to people. This experience will help me get to where I want to go.”

Softball has been a lifetime love for Blackwell. She started playing when she lived in Arizona at the age of 5. At first it didn’t look like the sport would be her passion.

“When I first started playing softball I was so scared of the ball,” Blackwell said.

But she soon got over that and became a pitcher, the position where a player can’t be scared of the ball.

“I improved a ton when I first started catching, and I improved a ton in Arizona because we practiced so much. That’s when I started getting better.”

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM
**GREEN TAG SALES EVENT**

**MARCH MELTDOWN**

- **2018 SPARK LT**
  - Price: $17,985
  - Save: $3,606
  - Details: 20% off

- **2018 SONIC LS**
  - Price: $17,985
  - Save: $3,606
  - Details: 20% off

- **2018 IMPALA LT**
  - Price: $17,985
  - Save: $3,606
  - Details: 20% off

**CLOSEOUT**

- **2017 TAHOE PREMIER 4X4**
  - Price: $41,993
  - Save: $18,012
  - Details: **20% OFF**

**GREEN TAG PRICES**

- **2018 TRAVERSE**
  - Price: $31,800
  - Save: $16,900
  - Details: **$179/MONTH FOR 36 MONTHS**

- **2018 MALIBU**
  - Price: $18,900
  - Save: $11,900
  - Details: **$119/MONTH FOR 36 MONTHS**

- **2018 CRUZE**
  - Price: $10,900
  - Save: $3,606
  - Details: **$109/MONTH FOR 36 MONTHS**

- **2018 SILVERADO 1500 CREW CAB LT Z71**
  - Price: $33,400
  - Save: $19,200
  - Details: **$199/MONTH FOR 36 MONTHS**

**GOING away 2018 TRAX**

- Price: $14,300
  - Details: **$99/MONTH FOR 36 MONTHS**

**CERTIFIED PRE-OWNED**

- **2004 FORD EXPLORER SPORT TRAC**
  - Price: $3,900
  - Details: **GREAT DEAL!**

- **2007 GMC SIERRA 1500**
  - Price: $6,500
  - Details: **GREAT DEAL!**

**SALES HOURS**

- Monday: 8:00am - 8:00pm
- Tuesday: 8:00am - 6:00pm
- Wednesday: 8:00am - 6:00pm
- Thursday: 8:00am - 8:00pm
- Friday: 8:00am - 6:00pm
- Saturday: 10:00am - 4:00pm
- Sunday: CLOSED

**SERVICE HOURS**

- Monday: 7:00am - 7:00pm
- Tuesday: 7:00am - 6:00pm
- Wednesday: 7:00am - 6:00pm
- Thursday: 7:00am - 6:00pm
- Friday: 8:00am - 2:00pm
- Saturday: CLOSED

**ALL SERVICES SHUTTLE**

- **SHUTTLE SERVICE**
- **DONUTS**
- **BATTERY INSPECTION**
- **WiFi**
- **COFFEE**
- **CHECK ENGINE LIGHT SCAN**
- **BRAKE INSPECTIONS**
- **KID'S PLAY AREA**

**AFFORDABLE, QUALITY, CERTIFIED SERVICE!**

**Bonus Coupon**

- **You Spend This:** $50.00
- **You SAVE This:** $49.99

**Cannot be combined with other offers. Expires 3/31/18**