





PAGE 14A
FENTON HOLDS SPECIAL GRADUATION FOR TEEN BATTLING CANCER

Weekend Times

SUNDAY, MARCH 4, 2018

2016 NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

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VOL. 25 NO. IX

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.

See POLICE CHIEFS on 7A



Dan Allen



Jason Slater



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

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.

See CRIME WATCH DAILY on 15A

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.

See SAWYER on 12A



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | HANNAH BALL

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.

TEXT YOUR HOT LINE
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“The problem with taking all your photos on your phone is that you never print them, and you always lose your phone. All you millennials will never have a photographic history of what you and your family looked like through the stages of life. You don't care now, but you'll care someday.”



“Am I standing alone when I look around Fenton and wonder how I personally gained anything over the years of construction to become a 'cool city?' Let's stop all new construction and take a breath. Maybe new leadership would help?”

“How many more school shootings will we need to experience before we start addressing this as a social issue, and not a random collection of isolated incidents? It's about parenting, the internet, video games and culture.”



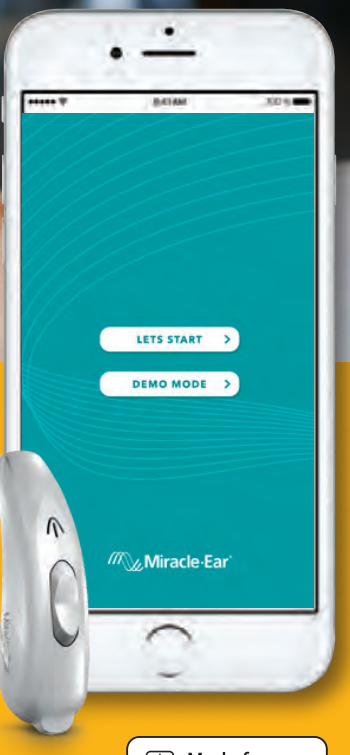
COMMENT OF THE WEEK

“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.”

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Linden Elementary School kindergarten students share their reading selections after library time with teacher Teresa Hanak on Wednesday, Feb. 21. Today, kindergarten has a much heavier emphasis on academics than in the past.

Reading writing 'rithmetic

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

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

Gone are the days when kindergarteners went to school for half a day, took a nap, had a snack and played outside for recess.

Today's kindergarteners 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



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

Owners of Uncle Ray's Dairyland in Fenton look for employees who are high-energy, hard-working and friendly.

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

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Andrew Heller

andrewheller@tctimes.com

Come *Heller* high water...

■ **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*



Andrew Heller
FEATURED COLUMNIST

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 sarcasm and needed to go indulge my habit on the loading dock with all the smokers 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 cue to disabuse me of such silly notions. I apologize in advance for the mammoth blizzard we're about to receive as a result of my impertinence. Spring doesn't arrive early in Michigan. I know that.

■ **"The most difficult** thing is the decision to act, the rest is merely tenacity. The fears are paper tigers. You can do anything you decide to do." — Amelia Earhart

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

“If I hear one more millennial say they’re going to ‘crush’ their workout, I may throw up on them...”

Hotlines

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

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

■ **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. Ever 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 McDonald's 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 selfie generation 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 OLYMPIC** 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 forget his mistakes. There's no sense in two people remembering the same thing.

See **HOT LINE** throughout Times

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Compiled by Gracie Warda, intern

Who is the most famous person you've met?

streettalk



"Elvis Presley. It was a concert in Pontiac, and I got free tickets from a coworker, and so I got to meet him."

Bobbie Goch
Tyrone Township



"I met Tara Lapinski, who was an Olympic skater when I was a kid, with my cousin on an airplane to Texas."

Mitzi Swanick
Churchill Township



"Former governor of the state of Michigan, G. Mennen Williams. He used to go to every town. I probably shook his hand three times as a kid."

Tom Murphy
Fenton Township



"In high school I met Henry (Arthur Fonzarelli) Winkler in New York. I went to a play and I got to meet him after."

Sarah Spickler
Fenton Township



"I met Maksim Chmerkovskiy from 'Dancing with the Stars.' He was doing a concert in Livonia, and I stood in line afterwards to meet him."

Stacy Tabor
Fenton Township

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— Dr. Beth Steczek, DC

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Times' crop circle article attracts national attention

■ 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 of 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 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,



PHOTO BY: JEFFREY WILSON (WWW.ICCRA.ORG)
This crop circle photo was taken in Coles County, Illinois in August 2005.

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 that 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 available to come out and take a look. The officer, who has since left the department, suggested we call some "UFO people."

See **CROP CIRCLE** on 16A



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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 plainclothes. 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 buildings, 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 he believes it is a mental health issue. Tied to the mental health issue is the current screening process.

HIPPA laws, also known as "Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996" also make things challenging for police. Allen said mental health records of someone trying to obtain a concealed pistol license (CPL) are not accessible to law enforcement.

Adding to the screening process problem, Allen said that possession of marijuana is still illegal at the federal level but residents in Michigan can legally have



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

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.

a permit for medical marijuana. Federal law should prevent them from owning a firearm, which is under federal control. However, because of the privacy laws, law enforcement does not have access to that information and that person might be able to purchase the weapon if they do not reveal that on the gun purchase application.

Law-abiding citizens have a right to own firearms, said Allen. "The gun laws now are solid, but the screening ... With the criminal element, they will get a gun no matter what, just like drug dealers. They will get the guns. All we can do is plan and train," he said.

School shootings in the U.S. in 2018

Jan. 9	Forest City, Iowa.....	No injuries
Jan. 20	Winston-Salem, North Carolina.....	One killed
Jan. 22	Italy, Texas	One injured
Jan. 22	New Orleans, Louisiana	One injured
Jan. 23	Marshall County, Kentucky....	Two killed, 18 injured
Feb. 1	Los Angeles, California	Five injured
Feb. 5	Oxon Hill, Maryland	One injured
Feb. 14	Parkland, Florida	17 killed, 14 injured

Source: various news reports

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 staging 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."

SUMMARY

■ Fenton Police Chief Jason Slater and Argentine Township Police Chief Dan Allen provide insight and expertise on the topic of school shootings.

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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



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | HANNAH BALL

Scott Conner, Argentine Township trustee, is sworn in by Clerk Denise Graves as a part-time police officer in the same community he serves on Monday, Feb. 28.

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.

“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.”

Scott Conner
Argentine Township trustee
and police officer

SUMMARY

■ An Argentine Township trustee is now also a police officer for the same community.

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'Underhanded, unethical, immoral and probably illegal'

■ Treatment of Rose Township constable debated in fiery 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 Dianne Scheib-Snyder 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.

"Imagine my shock that 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 his medication. He shouldn't be signing anything. I think you just put the township in a position for a lawsuit."

Another resident, Tom Willwerth, 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 80 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, "I understand there's a specific monthly payment for rest of his life." He said he understands there is also dental and optical.



Emile Bair

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

Treasurer Paul Gambka 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-Snyder'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-Snyder) 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

See **TREATMENT** on 19A

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HOT LINE CONTINUED

WE REALLY WANTED to go to South Korea to see the Winter Olympics first hand, but we didn't have the travel budget. Then I realized the potholes in Fenton were so deep, wait a minute, we came out at the other end, and we're there. It's the Winter Olympics.

IN REGARD TO all of these school shootings, it seems like there's more and more of them. The school districts are going to have to have a police officer there while school is in session, and maybe even churches for a few hours each day. There are plenty of retired officers who would do it. It would tell the bad guys not to go in.

STUDENTS WHO CALL in threats to the school should be expelled.

YEP, YOU'RE RIGHT. I didn't have active shooter drills when I was in school. We had active nuclear annihilation drills called duck and cover and we didn't get pansy dog therapy when we were done either.

CAN SOMEONE PLEASE define assault weapon? I remember when blunderbusses and muskets were assault weapons.

BLAMING THE NRA in any way for the Florida shootings is ridiculous. Punishing them in the business world for promoting the second amendment is even more ridiculous. People kill other people with guns. The guns themselves do not pick a target, aim, fire and reload — human beings do. Evil has a face and it's human, not the cold steel of a Smith & Wesson.

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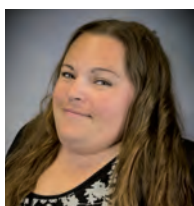
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Goki Goki Korean BBQ nears its opening date

■ 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 care 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



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | HANNAH BALL

Goki Goki Korean BBQ & Specialty Market in Fenton has been under construction for several years, and tentatively plans to open in April. Co-owner Joe Kim is pictured above.

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.

“Goki means ‘meat’ in Korean. That’s the focus of our restaurant.”

Joe Kim
Goki Goki Korean BBQ
in Fenton co-owner

More homeowners find elevated radon levels

■ Testing is the only way to detect this silent killer

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

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-Maki 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.

See RADON on 21A

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 30 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 pressure than ever to perform well in school, so many are taking summer college courses or unpaid internships instead of a job. Other teens are traveling on summer vacations with their families or playing sports that require a serious time commitment.

One local mom expressed this viewpoint. "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 business of fun. We can't afford to be good, we have to be great."

The summer hiring season is now

Camp Copneconic 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



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

Being a lifeguard is one summer job option for teens.

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, lifeguards, ranch counselors, kitchen and housekeeping help."

What are they looking for from applicants? "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 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 year-round, said Mike 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?

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- 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

SOURCES: USA Today, bachelorsdegreeonline.com

News briefs

Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest Scholarship

Students with a passion for patriotism and art, may enter the 2017-2018 VFW Auxiliary's Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest and compete with other student artists from across the nation for a chance at winning one of eight national scholarships. First-place is \$10,000, second place is \$5,000, third place is \$1,500 and fifth through eighth place is \$500. The contest is open to all students, including home-schooled students, in grades nine through 12.

Students must be U.S. citizens. No digital art or photography will be accepted, and artwork must be on canvas or paper. It will be judged on patriotic theme and technique.

The deadline to have the art turned in is March 31, 2018.

The application has all the contest rules, and eligibility. To enter, get applications at www.vfwauxmi.org under Programs-Scholarships or contact the VFW 3243 Post at 1148 N. LeRoy St., Fenton for applications.

“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

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SALLY RUMMEL

Paula Smith is the new owner of Morgan's Consignment in Holly since October 2017.

Morgan's Consignment

■ New owner adds jewelry and other services

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

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 5 on up, plus shoes, purses, jewelry and accessories.

"All of 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.

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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 selected \$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 Vanavery and Erika Flood 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 families going through difficult times. The Beltinck's chose several recipients who they believed 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 charity as a passion project after their children lost a classmate, Katie Wyatt, to cancer in 2011 when she was just 14 years old. They now use their charity to

give other terminally ill young people the chance to enjoy the experience of their choosing.

One by one, Mary Ann and Chip invited their recipients up to the front of the gathering to introduce them and to present them each with a \$1,000 check. Recipients included:

- The Old Newsboys of Flint
- Snuggle Sacks
- Adopt-A-Pet received cash, plus a partnership was formed with Animal Health Clinic to provide prescription and non-prescription pet food
- Clara's Hope
- The Gabriel Project
- F.A.R.R. (Fenton Area Resource Referral)
- The family of Dave and Colette Turkowski
- The Schummer family

Mary Ann Beltinck said their charitable efforts began with Katie's Game after Katie Wyatt died. She was overwhelmed by the generosity of the Fenton community and that her goal in raising money is for families to create memories.

Robinson said once her crew finishes their filming, they would be sharing their video of Fenton and the other 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, Gold Beach, Oregon
- Mattress for Less, Peoria, Illinois

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News briefs

VETERANS ART SHOW

Holly Area Veterans Resource Center is sponsoring juried 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.

our town

Meet BILLY HOFFMAN

- Best-selling author
- Comedian
- Husband and father

By Hannah Ball

hball@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 still young and want to be by your side at every minute.

Tell me about your writing. Anything new coming out soon?

My newest release is a comedy book called 'Thoughts from the Throne.' It's a collection of jokes and witty musings that I sell after comedy shows. If people like my stage performance they will love a signed copy to read at home while they powder their nose. All of my books are available locally at Fenton's Open Book or on my website WCHoffman.com.

What made you want to become a comedian? Where else have you done stand up?

"Memories are worth more than money in the bank."

Billy Hoffman
Father of two

TRI-COUNTY TIMES
SUBMITTED PHOTO

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

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?

Gary Paulson — his Hatchet series changed my life. There is a lot of his influence in my fiction novels, the 'Twins of Prey' series, particularly.

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?



I've always joked that it would be 'Bill Hoffman — Good at everything, Great at nothing.' However, I'd like to think I'm a pretty great dad.

If you could star in an already-made movie, which would you choose?

Tim Allen in the Santa Clause movies. I don't have the age, beard or the belly yet but one day I am confident that is a gig I'll be doing. Santa brings so much happiness to so many.

If you could visit any planet, which would you pick?

So many choices — Planet Hollywood, Planet Fitness, Pizza Planet from Toy Story. Probably Pizza Planet cause my kids would love the arcade.

What's something about you many people don't know?

Many people have heard both my voice as well as my wife's and not realized it. We both do voice over acting for advertisements and commercials.

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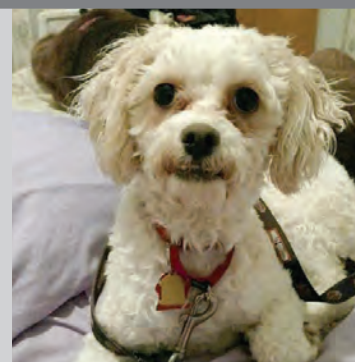
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Abby

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

Commencement comes early for student battling cancer

■ 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.”

His 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



PHOTO BY PAM BUNKA

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.

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, Rachel Nelson, was guest speaker on the topic, “The Three Keys to Life.” Nelson is a 1998 FHS graduate.

Kyle was presented with several awards by his teachers, including “Work-

Based Student of the Year” and a “Good Citizenship” award. “You have the most amazing work ethic,” said his teacher, Tracy Skene. “It far exceeds any student I have ever had.”

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.



PHOTO BY MAYA MEAD



PHOTO BY REAGAN WILSON

Family, friends, board members and school staff surrounded Kyle with well-wishes at a cake and punch reception following the ceremony, in the school’s main foyer.

When asked about his favorite high school memory, Kyle said, “Graduation.” He said he was overwhelmed by the turnout of people.

“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.”



PHOTO BY REAGAN WILSON

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

Nikki Brueger, the mother of Alexandra "Ally" Brueger, prepares for her Crime Watch Daily interview.

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 ABCNews 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 F/Lt. Michael Shaw, and Ally's self-proclaimed boyfriend, Weston Sutherland. The Fish Lake Road 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.

SUMMARY

■ 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.

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 (\$5,000) and Crime Stoppers (\$8,500) is \$13,500.

Crime Stoppers pays for information that leads to an arrest, not a conviction.

News briefs

LINDEN VFW POST 4642 ANNOUNCES ESSAY WINNERS

The Veterans of Foreign Wars national organization encourages young people from middle school ages through high school to write an essay. The middle school contest is Patriot's Pen, which had a theme this year of "America's Gift to My Generation." The winner is **Emily Medford**, a home-schooled student. The high school contest is the Voice of Democracy and their theme was "American History: Our Hope for the Future." Linden High School student **Gabby St. Clair** (pictured) is the winner. There is also a Teacher of the Year competition. The Linden VFW chose social studies teacher **Spencer Bodzick** (also pictured). Local winners go on to compete



against other posts for a district winner for each category. District winners then go on to compete for a state winner and then state winners go on to compete for the national winner. There are prizes at each level ending with \$5,000 for the Patriot's Pen and \$30,000 for the Voice of Democracy. The teacher of the year wins \$1,000 for professional development expenses, \$1,000 for their school, an award plaque and an all-expenses paid trip to the national convention.

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

By Ingrid Ream

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Ingrid Ream
CTC President

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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 with the curious, and those who believe in UFOs and that aliens are afoot.

Since the initial call we received was anonymous, we had no way of knowing if it was the homeowner, or a neighbor. We do know that the homeowner at the time sold the house in the fall of that same year, 1998.

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 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 away, we gave up on the crop circle of 1998.

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 DNC 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.

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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 features a huge, three-story play structure with slides, obstacles, zip line and three-story bear slide. For

younger kids, Cub Cove is a smaller version of the big play structure with a variety of age-appropriate toys.

Kids will have a blast taking a ride with some of their favorite super heroes and characters, such as Spiderman, Mickey Mouse and Bob-the-Builder, to name a few.

Kids can bring out the "kid" in their parents by challenging each other in a game of skee ball or basketball. "You can also dare to venture through the giant play structure," said 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

“Come in and play, eat, relax and create great family memories.”

Pam Rush
Fort Clarkston owner



Fort Clarkston is a family entertainment center in Clarkston, catering to "fun" for both kids and parents.

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'!"



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Weekday Mass..... Mon-Fri & 1st Saturdays 8:45 am
Tuesday Evening.....6:30 pm
Holy Days: See our parish bulletin or visit our website at www.stjohnfenton.org
Confessions Saturday 3-4:30 pm Tues 6-7 pm
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Pastor Steve Schilke
Sunday Worship 8:15 am & 10:45 am
Adult Bible Study9:30 am
Sunday School.....9:30 am

TRANSFIGURATION LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA
14176 Fenton Rd. • Fenton
810-629-7332
www.fentontlc.org
Dr. Mark Fisher, Pastor
ALL ARE WELCOME ALWAYS!
Sunday Worship.....10:30 am
Open Communion Celebrated every Sunday
Adult Sunday School.....9:30 am
Women’s Adult Bible Study Thursdays.....10 am
Children of all ages are welcome and supported at our worship services.
Third Wednesday Night Worship Service held Monthly, 6:30 pm dinner, 7 pm Worship

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, LC-MS
1025 Main Street • Fenton
810-629-7861
Fax 810-629-9877
www.trinitylcmsfenton.com
Reverend Dean G. Dumbrille
Worship Services
Wednesday in the Word.....6:30 pm
Saturday Traditional Worship6:30 pm
Sunday Traditional Worship.....8:30 am
Sunday Education Hour.....9:45 am
Sunday Contemporary Worship 11:00 am
Saturday5:30 pm, Bible Study

SHEPHERD OF THE LAKES WELS LUTHERAN CHURCH
8420 Runyan Lake Rd. • Fenton
Pastor Nathan Loersch
810-224-1250
Sunday School.....9:15 am
Adult Bible Study9:15 am
Sunday Worship Service 10:30 am

METHODIST

FENTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
119 S. Leroy St. • Fenton
810-629-2132
www.fentonumc.com
Jeff Jaggars - Lead Pastor
Michelle Forsyth - Associate Pastor
Mallory Lyman - Director of Children’s Ministry
Deb Rogers - Community Outreach Coordinator

Sunday morning traditional-style worship in the sanctuary.....9:30 and 11:00 am
Sunday morning casual-style worship in the Family Life Center 11:05 am
Nursery Provided at all worship services.
Sunday morning kids program in the Family Life Center9:30 and 11:00 am
Wednesday Evening gathering.....6:30 pm
in the North Building, Children and Youth in the Family Life Center.

HOLLY CALVARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
15010 N. Holly Rd. • Holly
248-634-9711
www.hollycalvary.org
Rev. Cliff Schroeder
Sunday Worship9:30 am
Wednesday Worship.....6:30 pm
Nursery Provided at all services.

LAKE FENTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
2581 N. Long Lake Rd. • Fenton
810-629-5161
Pastor Char Shay
Sunday Worship9:00 am
Sunday School..... 10:00 am

LINDEN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
201 Bridge St. • Linden
810-735-5858
Pastor Crystal Thomas
Worship & Jr. Service 10:00 am
Coffee Hour 11:00 am
Nursery Available.

NAZARENE

ARGENTINE CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
16248 S. Seymour Rd. • Linden
810-735-7118
Pastor Robert Lindsay
Sunday School.....9:45 am
Sunday Morning Worship..... 11:00 am
(Junior Church and Nursery Provided)
Sunday Evening Worship6:00 pm
Wed. Children & Teens..... 7:00 pm
Wed. Prayer Meeting 7:00 pm

FENTON CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
11075 Runyan Lake Rd. • Fenton
810-750-6544
Pastor Ron Sharpe
Sunday Worship Services 11:00 am
Sunday School for all ages 10:00 am
Nursery provided for Sunday services.

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

THE ROAD COMMUNITY CHURCH
810-922-2088
Lead Pastor Chris Vitarelli
www.theroadcommunitychurch.com
Howell Campus - 4101 Clyde Rd. 9 am
Fenton Campus - 301 E. South Holly Rd...11:30 am
Coat Closet and Food Pantry available on Sundays or by appointment (810) 348-4286

THE ROCK
11400 S. Linden Rd. • Fenton
810-629-2444 • www.hisrock.net
Pastor Wes Morris Welcome You
Saturday Evening Service..... 6 pm
Sunday AM Service 8:30 am
Sunday AM Service at Lake Fenton HS...10am&11:30am
Wednesday Mid Week Service
Kidz Rock (2 yr-5th grade) 7 pm
Adult Bible Study 7 pm
Jr. & Sr. High Bible Study 7 pm
Addiction & Recovery Tuesday nights 7 pm
BUS MINISTRY IS NOW AVAILABLE - PLEASE CALL FOR A RIDE!

PRESBYTERIAN

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF FENTON
503 S. LeRoy St. • Fenton
810-629-7801 • www.ffpc.org
Pastor Lindsey Carnes
Pastor Robbie Carnes
Sunday Worship 9:00 am, 11:00 am

LINDEN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
119 W. Broad St. • Linden
810-735-5755
Pastor Dawn Stoker
Traditional Service9:00 am
Contemporary Service 10:30 am
Children’s Church..... 10:30 am
(Nursery provided at each service)

TYRONE COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
9141 Hartland Rd. • Fenton
810-750-0350
Pastor Linda Living-Hawley
Sunday Worship Schedule
Celebratory Worship..... 10:00 am
Children’s Sunday School..... 10:30 am
Fellowship 11:30 am

TYRONE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (PCA)
10235 White Lake Rd. • Fenton
810-629-1261 • Tyronepca.org

Sunday Worship (includes Children’s Church) .. 10:15 am
Sunday School9:00 am
Sunday Evening Worship6:00 pm

Would you like to advertise in this church directory?

Call Kathleen at 810-433-6787

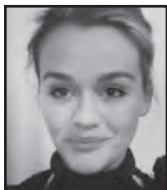
WHAT YOU MISSED in the MIDWEEK TIMES

Compiled by Vera Hogan

The following are stories you may have missed in the **Wednesday, Feb. 28, Midweek Times**. To subscribe and receive both the Midweek and Sunday Weekend editions, please call (810) 629-8282.

Lake Fenton grad featured in revealing Netflix series 'Flint Town'

Flint City administration denies permission to interview Flint Officer Bridgette Balasko of Fenton about her role in the documentary series.



Local man competent to stand trial

Derek Watson, 62, of Fenton Township, has been declared competent to stand trial on seven felonies, including criminal sexual conduct with a 12-year-old girl.

Fenton woman posts wild crash details on social media

Erratic driver speeds through Fenton, putting many in harm's way on Thursday, Feb. 22.

Shirley's Café — where everybody knows your name

Linden café opened in the 1940s and remains a small-town gathering spot.

News briefs

GOAT CASE POSTPONED

The court hearing involving two Fenton Township residents illegally keeping goats on their property has been postponed. Theresa and Shaun Hamilton were scheduled to appear in court on Feb. 1, but the date was rescheduled for March 8.

View stories at
tctimes.com



HOT LINE CONTINUED

I THINK IT'S about time they start looking at the extreme violence, guns, bombs, the whole thing. Kids are constantly looking at whether it's video, TV. All it does is glorify the violence. I think it's time they stopped doing this.

I THINK THEY need huge cameras and guards at school. Not many of the shooters want their picture taken and to get caught at the site. And advertise in big letters on TV that their pictures are being taken in schools.

EVERY SINGLE STUDY on video games and gun violence shows that there's no correlation between playing violent games and committing violent crimes. No correlation.

I TOO WILL make myself available to recertify, register and train for volunteer

TREATMENT Continued from Page 9A

all of this. You do not treat people this way, especially an elected official who has worked here for almost 30 years. He is a kind man who does not deserve this type of treatment.

"This was handled very inappropriately," Miller said. "Denise Hanley is not Mr. Bair's wife and should have never done this and Dianne should have never typed up a letter and gave to Denise to have Mr. Bair sign ... you don't go to a hospital or rehab or nursing home and have anything signed by the patient."

"The whole process was very underhanded and I feel it is unethical, immoral and probably illegal," Miller said. "There are laws to protect people when an individual is on medication and in a hospital or rehab facility."

"Also, this was not shared with any members of the board and they took it upon themselves to do this without board knowledge," she said. "This was not handled properly and this is strictly between Mr. and Mrs. Bair, not the township. This was a personal decision on his part and they kept coming at them. 'Doesn't everybody talk about retiring long before they actually do it,'" Miller said.

THE SUPERVISOR SAYS

"Everyone at the township offices knew that Emile has wanted to retire for some time now," said Scheib-Snyder. "Several of us at the office have gone out of our way to help him the last few years with simple everyday tasks as well as with his duties."

"Emile called the office and asked me to help him write his resignation letter," she said. "I spent time on the phone with Emile and asked what he wanted the letter to the board to say. I also consulted with the township's attorney about what was needed in an elected official's resignation letter and it was his legal opinion was that there was nothing illegal about us helping Emile. Our attorney even noted that he had written several letters himself for Emile."

"Several times Emile stated to me that he wanted to resign and that he would not be coming back. When he said he would not be coming back that day when he called to speak with me I decided helping

efforts at our schools to assist the children and teachers. If our district is going to practice a soft lockdown, please include communication to all parents and staff members.

CONGRESS HAS FINALLY acted regarding the murder of 17 children at Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida. They have authorized the purchase of bulletproof vests and armed security guards for themselves, at taxpayer expense. Of course, the security guards will only be provided when they're on official business.

WHEN YOUNG, SOCIAL media and what people think of you are important. At age 40, with the burden of job and family, you care less what anyone thinks of you. Finally, retirement and time to reflect, then you realize no one ever thought of you. Welcome to the golden years.

“The whole process was very underhanded and I feel it is unethical, immoral and probably illegal.”

Debbie Miller
Rose Township clerk

him was the right thing to do.

"I compared his situation to when I had breast cancer about 14 years ago and I recalled how extremely difficult it was for me to try and make all of my obligations in life," Scheib-Snyder said. "I also recalled that when you are ill sometimes it is best to let some things go. My empathy for his situation is the reason I decided to help Emile."

"Emile and Denise (Hanley) are friends and he asked Denise to bring the letter to him on a day she had planned to visit him anyway," she said. "I consulted with our attorney before I shared his signed letter with the Township Board and most importantly with Emile. When I called him that day the first thing he

said to me was 'Did you get my resignation letter?' I said, 'Yes, would you like me to share it with the rest of the Township Board?' He replied 'Yes, I'm not coming back.'"

WATCH THE FEB. 14 MEETING

To watch a YouTube video of the Feb. 14 Board of Trustee meeting, or other past meetings, look for the link "Watch Township Board Meetings Here" on Rose Township's website, rosetownship.com.

Board voted narrowly to keep constable position in 2016

In January 2016, the Rose Township Board of Trustees voted 3 to 2 to keep the constable position.

Every four years, the board must decide what to do about the constable position. Emile Bair has held the position for the last 30 years. His duties include working as an officer of the peace, and handling all code enforcement activities.

Bair often has been credited with intervening and helping to resolve situations that may otherwise have involved the need to summon law enforcement.

The position currently pays \$10,000 a year for constable duties, and \$6,000 per year for code enforcement activities.

Supervisor Paul Gambka, who is now the treasurer, and the late Treasurer Trish Lumley voted against keeping the constable position in Rose Township.

During board discussions, Lumley made it clear that while she appreciates the work Bair has done, she has concerns over the wrong person being elected, and the board being powerless to do anything until the four-year term is up. Gambka favored seeing what savings there would be with an independent contractor doing the work.

TEXT YOUR HOT LINE

810-771-TEXT (8398)

THE TOWNSHIP
Times

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

KINDERGARTEN ROUNDUP

& 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

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Fundraising to buy "The Librarian," the statue outside of the Jack R. Wingarden 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 purchase 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



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

Fenton City Library Board hopes to raise \$12,000 by mid-March to buy the currently rented statue called "The Librarian."

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," Sweetman 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 construction 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 identify 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 extreme 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 — orange — 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 second 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 expected 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 representatives 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 it is 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 people? 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 Argentina — 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 experience I've learned that anything I say after that is the beginning of a new argument.

■■■

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for 3 & 4 year olds - Available M-F

• **GSRP-State Funded Preschool**

for 4 year olds - Available M-Th - Full and half day sessions

• **WonderWay Program-Flexible Preschool** - Monday - Friday
9:00 A.M.-4:00 P.M. with Wrap-Around Care 6:00 A.M.-6:00 P.M.

• **JumpStart and WonderWorks Parent-Child Playgroups**



For more information on all our programs visit us at
www.fentonschools.org
go to "our schools" and select **Ellen Street Campus**



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Linden Elementary School 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 let-

ter card with A to the letter card with C."

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

"There's something almost every day," 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 mean-

ingful 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

It's important that we make school meaningful and enjoyable for the kids. Not like it's work, but a fun place to be."

Teresa Hanak

Kindergarten teacher at Linden schools for 22 years

RADON

Continued from Page 10A

According to his sister-in-law Mary York, a former Fenton resident and long-time 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 house 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 superheroes 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 these guns don't care about your rules.



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- ☒ Child's Original Birth Certificate
- ☒ Child's Official Immunization Record
- ☒ Proof of Vision Screening
- ☒ Proof of Residency (Utility Bill, Property Tax Statement, etc.)

ALL PARENT/GUARDIAN ENROLLMENT MEETING Thursday, March 8th • 6:30pm at Hyatt Elementary

Hyatt Elementary - 325 Stan Eaton Dr. - 810-591-8180
Linden Elementary - 810-591-9130

PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT

March 15th • 9:00am - 4:00pm
Argentine Early Childhood Center
8483 W. Silver Lake Rd.
810-591-0320

Enrollment Questions?

please contact: Jennifer Bentley
jbentley@lindenschools.org
or 810-591-0986

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Gramer takes over, leads Bronchos past Our Lady of the Lakes, 52-51

By David Troppens
dtroppens@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. How-

ever, 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

SUNDAY, MARCH 4, 2018

WWW.TCTIMES.COM/SPORTS

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Sports

THE COUNTY Times

Holly's Ben Gramer



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | MARK BOLEN

Holly's Taylor Vines prepares to attempt a shot during a recent game. The Bronchos earned a spot in Friday's district title game by beating Oxford on Wednesday.

Bronchos move on to district final

By Dale M. Smith
dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

Clarkston — What happens when your team goes more than 10 minutes without scoring, has one of its starters ejected in the second quarter; and and only hits two free throws all night?

Easy, it wins by 22 points. In an improbable but wholly impressive manner the Holly Lady Bronchos dominated the Oxford Wildcats Wednesday night in Clarkston, 39-17.

Led by junior standout, Rebecca Fugate, the Bronchos came out on fire. Fugate hit a 3-pointer only 20 seconds into the game.

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM

Devils take overtime to beat Mt. Morris

By David Troppens
dtroppens@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
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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPESS

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

Blackwell heading to Europe to play, coach softball

By David Troppens
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Hailey Blackwell is one to not wait.

If she wants to do something, the Fenton ninth-grader will seek it and make it happen.

A perfect example of this happened when she heard about the possibility of playing softball in the 2019 European Cup. The 14-

year old heard about the tournament, did some research on the internet and applied to represent the United States.

"She applied herself and made it happen," Hailey's mom Nichole Blackwell said. "She just applied herself to see if she could make it. I was impressed. I'm not going to lie. She's not that much of a go-getter for her chores."

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

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

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



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Blue Devils continue recent winning ways, defeat Ortonville Brandon 63-54

By David Troppens
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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 McNerney.

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,” McNerney 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 for a 5:30 p.m. semifinal contest in the Powers Catholic district.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | MARK BOLEN
Lake Fenton's Ethan Dunckel scored 12 points in the Blue Devils' 63-54 loss to Brandon on Tuesday.

Linden defeats Lapeer, Flushing during final regular season week

By David Troppens
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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



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | MARK BOLEN
Linden's Garrett Strang scored 19 points in the Eagles' 65-35 victory against Lapeer.

Fenton Tigers lose to Powers, Milford

By David Troppens
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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



TRI-COUNTY TIMES
SUBMITTED PHOTO

Fenton's Hailey Blackwell leaps to catch a high pitch during a past softball game. Blackwell will be competing in a softball tournament in Europe for Team USA in January.

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 around the world are expected to compete. Blackwell is expected 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 ex-

cited 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



ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

March 4, 2018



ASHLEY GRUGEL
Competitive Cheer

HOLLY



NICK HALL
Boys Bowling

FENTON



JULIA CONWAY
Girls Bowling

HARTLAND



CODY SCHRAMM
Boys Basketball

LAKE FENTON



SABRA ROBINSON
Gymnastics

LINDEN



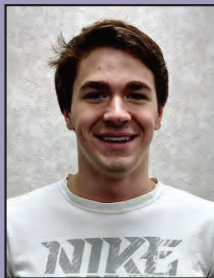
KORRYN SMITH
Girls Basketball

FENTON



DEVON CHERNEY
Boys Ski

FENTON



JACKSON NEVADOMSKI
Wrestling

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