Emagine theater in Hartland breaks ground

■Nine-screen theater will feature full-service bar, expanded menu

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com: 810-433-6792

Developers of the Emagine movie the ater in Hartland Township broke ground Friday, April 6.

This 55,000-square-foot theater, which is approximately 13 miles south of Fenton at Hartland Towne Square at U.S. 23 and M-59, will have nine screens. Patrons can

also experience IMAX movies, which the company is calling an "EMAX experience."

The theater will include various ame nities including upscale décor, reclining chairs, special front row seating of cuddle chairs, a full-service bar of beer , wine

See **EMAGINE** on 9





PAGE 6 **LIMITING YOUR KID'S SOCIAL MEDIA IS A GOOD THING**

MidweekTimes

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11, 2018

Genesee County commissioners reverse their vote

■\$50,000 to go to veterans instead of golf tournament

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com

On Monday, April 2, the Genesee County Board of Commissioners voted 7-1 to sponsor the Ally Challenge, the u pcoming Se ptember PGA T our Champions event at W arwick Hills in Grand Blanc Township with \$50,000 from the county wide veterans millage (November 2012).

Commissioner Drew Shapiro cast the sole dis senting vote. Commissioner Martin Cousineau was ab sent from the meeting.

On Monday, April 9, commissioners reversed that decision. They voted 9-0 to withdraw from the golf tournament agreement and instead use the funds to work with veterans services to create an outreach plan.

During the week since the first vote, Shapiro and his team launched a petition drive. He said nearly 500 people signed that p etition b efore it was presented to the Board of Com missioners Monday morning.

See GOLF on 7





"Breslin" Submitted by Sharon Stone



"Layla" Submitted by Bonnie Calmes-Verran



"Penny Submitted by Theron Wilson

Fenton students worry that 'the arts' are in danger

■Switch from block scheduling pits foreign language against music

By Tim Jagielo

tjagielo@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795

Fenton—The Fenton Board of Education meetings are usually not standing room only but concern over the arts brought more than 50 residents Monday, April 9.

Seeing the audience, school board presi dent Keith Reynolds welcomed them, and



TRI-COUNTY TIMES I TIM JAGIELO Andrew Perkins, Fenton High School instrumental music direct or, re ads a prepared statement at the Enton Board See 'THE ARTS' on 10 of Education meeting Monday, April 9.

'I'm 16 and killed my best friend in the world'

■911 audio tape and dash cam footage released in Akl murder case

By Tim Jagielo

tjagielo@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795

Flint — Abdurrahman 'Abdu' Ahmed Akl, 17, was in court for his preliminary exam Tuesday, April 10, before Judge G. David Guinn in 67th District Court.





TEXT YOUR HOT LINE 810-771-TEXT



Life expectancy for women is 79 in the United States, 72 for men.



Men are expected to pay for everything on dates. Divorce courts are notoriously stacked against men. Fifty six percent of college students are fe-

male and only 44 percent are male. A war on women? I think not.'

LLI am looking for a real man to



date. I want a law-abiding, guncarrying, truck-driving, hat-wearing fellow who is not afraid of his shadow and loves his country. Are there any of you out there? Please

reply in Hot lines.'



LI can't complain about our current Michigan weather when I see what has happened and is happening in other parts of the country. May God bless those in need due to weather conditions."

Fenton lawn services and landscaping bids approved

■City to be maintained by CJ Callaghan & Sons

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

When things finally "go green," the city of Fenton is going to be ready.

On Monday, April 9, the City Council voted 6-1 to approve two new contracts for 2018-2020 landscaping and lawn maintenance servi ces. Co uncilwoman Cherie Smith cast the dissenting vote.

According to Michael Hart, assistant city manager and Downtown Development Authority (DDA) executive director, four bids were accepted from companies interested in providing the lawn and landscaping services on city and DDA properties.

"... with consideration given to longevity, I believe the city and DDA should continue with our past contractor CJ Callaghan & Sons," said Hart in a memo to City Manager L ynn Markland. "They have provided lawn care services to the city for 14-plus years and, in my hands-on experience working with them, they have addressed any and all issues that have arisen



during the last year of their three-year lawn care contract with the city and DDA.

Smith, who is the council liaison member on the Oakwood Cemetery Board, said each year. She voted "no" based on past performance by CJ Callahan & Sons. "That and the dissatisfaction of the Cemetery Board," she said. "We went with a diferent contractor that we're much more satisfied with." in the DD.

For land will be pair that the dissatisfaction of the Cemetery Board, said each year.

For land will be pair to the prices of the three of the three of the three of the prices of t

For the years 2018, 2019 and 2020, CJ for 2018-2020.

Callaghan will be paid \$52,580 for lawn care in the city, and \$7,150 for lawn care in the DDADistrict, for a total of \$59,730 each year.

For landscaping work, CJ Callaghan will be paid \$9,720 for work in the city and \$2,100 for services in the DDA District. The prices will remain the same for each of the three years for a total of \$1 1,820 for 2018-2020



LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

MichiganVotes.org is a free, non-partisan website created by the Mackinac Center for Public Policy to provide concise, non-partisan, plain-English descriptions of every bill and vote in the Michigan House and Senate. This report was released Thursday, March 29.

The Legislature is on spring break with no sessions scheduled until April 10. Rather than votes, this report contains some noteworthy legislative proposals to amend the constitution. To become law these require a two-thirds vote in the House and Senate and approval by voters.

Senate Joint Resolution M: Give legislature power to cancel administrative rules

Introduced by Sen. Patrick Colbeck (R), to place before voters in the next general election a constitutional amendment that would give a majority of the legislature the power to cancel administrative rules promulgated by state departments. Also, each state department would have to post a list of core services for which it is uniquely responsible, annual spending on these and key performance measures. Then, the governor's annual budget recommendation would be required to have two parts, a core services budget and a budget for everything else. Referred to committee, no further action at this time.

Senate Joint Resolution P: Limit authority of university governing boards

Introduced by Sen. Patrick Colbeck (R), to place before voters in the next general election a constitutional amendment that would limit the powers of the governing boards of the University of Michigan, Michigan State and Wayne State to those prescribed in state laws enacted by the legislature. The constitution now grants these boards "general supervision and control" of the universities, which this measure would make subject to limitations established by the political branches (legislature and governor). Referred to committee, no further action at this time.

House Joint Resolution DD: Replace elected university boards with governor appointments

Introduced by Rep. James Lower (R), to place before voters in the next general election a constitutional amendment to no longer elect the directors of the University of Michigan, Michigan State and Wayne State. The institutions' governing boards would instead be appointed by the governor upon the advice and consent of the Senate. Referred to committee, no further action at this time.

House Joint Resolution EE: Impose term limits on university governing boards

Introduced by Rep. Aaron Miller (R), to place before voters in the next general election a constitutional amendment to elect the eight-member governing boards of the University of Michigan, Michigan State and Wayne State for four year terms, rather than the current eight-year terms, and limit members to two four-year terms. Referred to committee, no further action at this time.



IN: DEATALS

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belly dance

well into

your 70s

and 80s. As

long as you

can move,

you can belly

dance. 77

Nikki Gomez

Dance performer

■ Middle Eastern dancing now weekly event at restaurant

By Tim Jagielo

tjagielo@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795

Fenton — The weightless movement of veils and the rhyth mic jingle of hip belts timed with the music brought something different to La Marsa Mediterranean Cuisine.

On Saturday, April 7, two Middle Easternstyle dancers provided another dimension to the experience, enter taining guests from 6 to 9 p.m.

General Manager George Bardakjian said performers were featured for the restaurant's one-year anniversary. The people loved it, so

they decided to bring them back. "Fenton right now needs entertainment," he said. "W e want to give them the real Mediter ranean feel."

This is the first weekend of a yearlong schedule, which will feature Middle Eastern and fusion-style dancers each Saturday, from 6 to 9 p.m.

This week, it was Kendra Ray from Y psilanti and Nikki

Gomez of Grand Blanc Township.

Gomez, 38, is a Lake Fenton gradu ate, who now lives in Grand Blanc Township. "I ab solutely love it, I get pleasure out of performing; it's my art form," she said.

She prefers the term "Middle Eastern Dance" instead of "belly



TRI-COUNTY TIMES I TIM JAGIELO

Nikki Gomez (right) of Grand Blanc Township and Kendra Ray of Ypsilanti, dance for the La Marsa ofenton crowd on Saturday, April 7. There will be a different group performing Saturday evenings.

dancing" to show more re spect for the nations and cul tures the dances are derived from. Belly dancing can have negative connotations.

For this evening, Gomez brought Ray to perform with her. They danced four or five

songs for several 20-minute sets thr oughout the nig ht. They said that this style of dance has its roots in sto rytelling.

As an interactive art form, they danced and engaged with the audience. Saturday happened to be JD Wegand's birthday, so they danced around him more, to the amusement of the rest of the restaurant goers. "It was in credibly unexpected, I went to dinner thinking it was going to be like any other dinner, and instead I have two belly dancers around me," he said.

Wiegand of The Freedom Center in Fenton said this was the first time watching Middle Eastern-style danc ing. "Both were incredibly nice and interactive which eased the tension a little bit," he said. "It definitely caught me off guard."

Through the evening, the pair drew from dance moves originating in Turkey, Lebanon and Egypt combined

The signature style in cludes a lot of body isolation moves like the three-quarter

See 1968 on 9

with fusion dance moves.

See **DANCING** on 10

at 1968 "A look back at 1968" is a series that will be published throughout this year in the Wednesday Midweek edition exclusively. To subscribe to the Midweek edition, please call (810) 629-8282.

A LOOK BACK

3



Vietnam peace talks begin in Paris

Compiled By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

After 34 days of discussions to select a site, the United States and North Vietnam agree to begin formal negotiations in Paris on May 10, or shortly thereafter. Hanoi disclosed that ex-Foreign Minister Xuan Thuy would head the North V ietnamese delegation at the talks. Ambassador W. Averell Harriman was named as his U.S. counterpart.

The start of negotiations brought a flurry of hope that the war might be settled quickly. Instead, the talks rapidly degener ated into a dreary ritual of weekly sessions, during which both sides repeated long-standing positions without seeming to come close to any agreement.

In October 1968, during the Paris Peace Talks, the U.S. was ready to agree to cease bombing Hanoi, the capital of North Vietnam, in exchange for concessions that wouldhalt the decades-long conflict which eventually killed an estimated 58,000 American soldiers, 2 million V ietnamese civilians and 1.1 million North Vetnamese and Viet Cong combatants.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Kendra Ray of Ypsilanti dances and spins with veils for the La Marsa of Marsa of Marsa of The Country of Saturday April 7. Each five-minute dance featured something a little different.

Who will take us



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If I Were King...

king@tctimes.com

The secret to happiness?

clearly recall a college lesson on the "secret to happiness" where the instructor placed a 2- by 8- by 10-foot board on the floor and asked each of the 30-plus students to walk across it. Everyone did with no problem. He then placed the same board across two chairs about 2 feet high. Only about half the class tried it and only

about half of them made it. He then placed the board across two ladders about 4 feet high. Only eight students attempted it, only three were successful.



I was one of them.

It seems to me that more and more I'm seeing people who aren't happy. They're not happy with their career, their marriage or their life. The reason they are not happy is that they are like most of my college classmates — they think that life should always be like that first board — flat, stable and risk-free. They want to travel through life with as little risk as possible, always walking on the easy board, the board on the ground.

I couldn't disagree more. While I know that board would be safe and comfortable, I think it would also be dull and meaningless.

To me, the higher boards are the very reason for life.

Some of these high-boards may seem unfair. Many are painful or even devastating. But in time, we realize that the challenges that we overcome become integral threads in the fabric of our individual characters.

The different people constantly coming in and out of our lives often represent different boards. We never know what role they may play, what end they may serve or what lessons they may teach us. Co-workers, neighbors, relatives, teachers, casual acquaintances, close friends and even complete strangers each serve some purpose — to teach us a les-

son, to help us figure out who we are, or to show us what we don't want to become. Some will have a profound effect on our life; others will pass briefly through like the proverbial ship in the night.

We are, and can only be, the product of the unique experiences that each of us undergo in life. 77

As newborn babies, we had no fears, no prejudices or loves. We didn't know right from wrong. We had no opinions, no likes or dislikes. We were neither saint nor sinner. All that we know and everything we feel is learned behavior. And so we are, and can only be, the product of the unique experiences that each of us undergo in life. How we choose to react to these experiences is up to us and us alone. Some of us will walk the board on the floor, playing it safe, taking no risks, watching the minutes, hours and days pass by. Others will walk the high board, taking charge of their own lives, appreciating every moment and taking from those moments everything they can.

Each of us can make anything of our lives that we choose. We can choose to be happy and enrich the lives of those around us or we can choose to be unhappy.

The secret to happiness? It's simple: Destiny is choice, not chance — make your own choices, and thus you make your own destiny.

Opinions offered in If I Were King are the author's alone and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Tri-County Times or its staff. Email the King at king@tctimes.com. Some content adapted from the internet

Hotlines

Submit at: tctimes.com, call 810-629-9221

All submissions, if appr oved for publication, must be 50 wor ds or less and do not necessarily r effect the views of the Tri-County Times. We reserve the right to edit for clarify length and liability.

DO YOU WONDER if the anti-Trump protesters ever realize the pro-Trump people were just as disgusted with Hillary or, gasp, even Obama? Get over it. Telling me I'm stupid for supporting Trump isn't winning me over to your way of thinking.

WHEN IS RUNYAN Lake Drive going to be repaired or resurfaced? From White Lake Road north to Donaldson, this road is as bad, bumpy, and full of cracks and potholes as any road in the area. This is a heavily traveled road (as compared to the U.S. 23 service road, west of U.S. 23, which was repaired last year). Let's get it repaired, now.

WHICH CITY HAS a higher murder rate — London, England or New York, United States? London. Which city is a gun-free zone — London, England or New York, United States? London. I'm glad we are not Europe.

SO, SOMEONE THINKS it's OK for Fox News host Tucker to interrupt people because they are lying? That's not letting them explain their point of view and it's rude to interrupt. Tucker also laughs at people that he is not in agreement with.

YOUR ARTICLE ON kids graduating college and not being able to move out of mom and dad's home really hit the nail on the head. My son just graduated with his second degree (could not find work with

first degree). Still he is left wondering if he will be able to afford his own home someday. Sad reality.

TRUMP SAID HE was going to drain the swamp, but he has turned it in to a cesspool.

IF THEY KEEP raising insurance rates it won't be long before everybody just starts driving illegally without it. I'll just pay the fine when I get caught. It's a lot cheaper than getting it.

I GUESS RIPLEY Road in Linden will not be paved but not because of the alleged high cost, but because most residents on Ripley feel that it might increase traffic. The cost of paving this street should not be any higher than paving any other street.

YES, WE ARE aware the federal budget deficit is our responsibility. Maybe someone in the eight long years when Obama was in office should have told him. He spent and gave away money like it was his to do with whatever he pleased.

SHAME ON ANY veteran who supports draft dodging Donald. I did not watch my brothers lie face down in the mud in Vietnam to sit idly by and hear Trump go after legitimate Vietnam war hero John McCain. Shame on Trump and any veteran who supports him.

THERE ARE MANY devout people who object to strangers coming to their homes, spreading the stranger's own religion. The homeowners are just being polite not saying anything.

See **HOT LINE** throughout Times



Compiled by Ellie Bennett, intern

What is/was the most unique trait of your pet?



"I have a half Chihuahua half Maltese and he has a white spot on the very top of his head while the rest of him is completely brown."

> **Vivian Huynh** Grand Blanc



"I have a brindle American Staffordshire. His markings are unique in the sense that in some light she is really blonde. Her name is unique, too, it's Zeyla."

Angie Kryzaniwskyj *Holly*



"The family dog I had growing up used to think that it could climb trees. And she always thought she was a huge dog when she wasn't. She one time ran after a black bear."

Samantha Slack



"I had a Dachshund growing up. He oddly would roll around in someone's hair, so if you laid on the floor he would lay down and roll around in it."

> Amy Caldwell Grand Blanc



"I have a Shih Tzu and pug mix now. He's a rescue and the most unique thing about him is that his teeth stick out. It's one of the first things you will notice about him."

Colleen Collison *Fenton*

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— Dr. Beth Steczek, DC

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HOT LINE CONTINUED

IT'S NOT THE weather. How many times must you be told? It's climate change. The ocean is 4 degrees warmer in critical areas. Go to Alaska and witness the melt. I personally hope the White House sinks first. All we need is 1 foot more of ocean rise and we save \$3 million a week.

I CAN'T QUITE understand why those who vote consistently for Democrat candidates only do so because a union tells them to do so or because their parents voted that way. Sheeple. Can't they think for themselves?

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO

the 'Welcome to Fenton' sign the taxpayers spent money for? The sign on Main Street by the new church disappeared about a year ago. The city said they're studying where to put it. Guess they need more committees.

I'D BE WILLING to bet that a lot of the so-called erratic driving is caused not by alcohol on Michigan roads, but potholes. Where does Michigan rate as far as road maintenance?

THE SO-CALLED trade wars will bring a rise in manufacturing jobs, but it'll take a little while. Those are the same jobs that left the country 20 and 30 years ago, the same jobs that brought the middle class to exist. Bring 'em on, just get ready to work again America.

WELL, SHE STILL needs yarn. It takes all spring and summer to do hats and mittens for next winter for the vets, homeless, kids and preemies. Thank you everyone who did bring yarn in to the Loose Center. We really appreciate it. Thank you.

Limiting your kid's social media is a good thing

■Study shows adolescents are less happy if they spend too much time on phone, electronic devices

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Too much smartphone and social media usage has been linked to teens feeling less happy.

Monitoring the Future, a study conduct ed by the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan, surveys 50,000 eighth-, 10th- and 12th-grade students annually to collect information on self esteem, self satisfaction and personal happiness.

While trends show that psychological well-being among adolescents was rising in the last four decades, recent research suggests it could be going in the opposite direction.

Most Americans owned a smartphone by 2012. Beginning in that year continuing to 2016, there was a drop in certain aspects of an adolescent's life. This includes a drop in satisfaction with friends, satisfaction with the government, overall life satisfaction, personal safety, level of fun experienced, satisfaction with parents, personal happiness and self esteem. All of those categories declined.

Adolescents who spent more time with electronic devices, such as a smartphone, electronic games and the internet reported being less happy and having lower self esteem.

"On the other hand, adolescents who spent more time on non-screen activities,



VENTUREBEAT.COM

According to Psychology Today, the highest levels of happiness and well-being are in adolescents who only spend a few hours a week online rather than those who avoid online use entirely.

44On the other

hand, adolescents

who spent more

time on non-

screen activities,

including sports

and exercise, in-

person socializing,

and print media

had higher

psychological

well-being. 77

Psychology Today

including sports and exercise, in-person socializing, and print media had higher psychological well-being. This trend was especially apparent for eighth- and 10th-graders though the overall relationship between screen time and well-being was much weaker for 12-graders," according to Psychology Today.

Students who spent more time on homework had higher self esteem and well being.

The st udy r ecognized that there could be other factors af fecting ado - lescents' well being and happiness, such as the decrease in face-to-face interaction, loss of sleep time, and becoming too dependent on social media. Other potential factors include mental health issues and cyber-bullying.

The solution?

In finding a solution, the study discovered that getting rid of social media was not the answer.

"In looking at these results in greater detail, the researchers found that the high est levels of happiness and well-being were in adolescents who only spent a few hours a week online rather than those who avoided online use entirely" according to Psychology Today.

One local mom, Amy W right, has a 13-year-old daughter and an 18-year-old

son. They aren't allowed to have Face -book, Twitter, Snapchat or other social media accounts until they're 16.

"It's bad enough children getting bullied in real life, online is a double whammy and is awful. I don't know how an adult could survive it," she said.

As a police officer, she's seen nu -

merous cases of cyber -bullying. She monitors her daughter 's phone, and used to monitor her son's. Now that he' s 18, she doesn't anymore.

"I believe that since they are children and the phone is essentially mine, it is my job to monitor their activities," she said. "We needed to know when and where they were at all timeswhile we're gone."

Wright said her chil - dren are her number one priority, and people often tell her how well-rounded her children are.

"I cannot tell you how many times I've gone to a

home and seen a child giving their parents problems and the first thing I say is 'why do they still have a phone, Tyand Xbox?'I usually get a response from parents such as, 'they need it for an emergency,'" she said. "That to me is a false positive ... this is just a snippet of how we handle social media use and cell phones in our home. And our children are much happier because of it."



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The great social and economic experiment

There are times in our history when we've seen laws that simply don't work out as planned. This week's column discusses one famous example.

On Jan. 17, 1920, the 18th Amendment went into effect banning the manufacture, sale or transportation of intoxicating liquors in the United States, thus starting the era commonly known as "Prohibition."

Since the Amendment itself was fairly short and arguably ambiguous, Congress also enacted a statute called "The Volstead Act" (named after its sponsor Senator Andrew J. Volstead) to define terms and provide penalties for violations of the law.

Why was this enacted? The short answer is found in the fact that there was overwhelming national support for it by individuals and by numerous organizations including the Women's Christian Temperance Union, churches, and a political lobbying organization called The Anti-Saloon League.

There were many hopes and beliefs as to what would happen with Prohibition. Solving the problems of alcoholism and crime were at the top of the list. Of course it did not reduce Americans desire to drink alcohol.

As time went by, it became clear that there were numerous problems with the Volstead Act including not making it illegal to consume alcohol.

There were also unintended consequences including a significant loss of tax revenue caused by alcohol no longer being taxed by the government; the loss of thousands of jobs in the industry and related businesses; an increase in crime and organized crime emerging as the new distributors of liquor and alcohol; and difficulties with enforcement and its high costs.

This was not what anyone hoped for and as a result, the 18th Amendment was repealed by the enactment of the 21st Amendment on Dec. 5, 1933. This was the first and only time in our history that one Amendment was repealed by

President Herbert Hoover called Prohibition a "great social and economic experiment" for our country. He may have been right but history shows that sometimes government experiments don't work out.

Although well intentioned, Prohibition failed because the reality of the law turned out to be far different than what people thought they were getting both socially and economically.

When Prohibition was repealed, then President Franklin D. Roosevelt famously said, "What America needs now is a drink!"

GOLF

Continued from Front Page

Additionally, he said about 50 veterans attended the meeting, with dozens of them speaking against the sponsorship. They said the funds should be given back and used as originally intended, to be used toward services that will enrich and protect the lives of veterans.

Had the April 2 vote prevailed, county veterans would have received free admis sion to the week's golf events, which is valued at \$95. They would also have received free entry to the Big & Rich concert taking place during the event. There are approximately 25,000 veterans in Genesee County.

Veterans who attend would also have learned from county representatives about programs and services available to them.

Cousineau confirmed that he was absent from the April 2 meeting when the first vote was taken, having been out of state on a family emegency. "Before I left,

I expressed my op position to using this money for the golf tournament to the (board) chairman," he said.

Shapiro made a mo tion Monday to w ithdraw from the agreement, which was supported by Commis sioner Martin Cousineau. Two other

44 I opposed this because to me \$50,000 could be better used to assist veterans. Our taxpayers did not have this in mind when they passed the millage in **2012.77**

Drew Shapiro Genesee County commissioner

commissioners voted against the reversal at first but asked to change their vote making it a 9-0 vote in the end, Shapiro said.

"I'm thrilled that my colleagues saw the light and changed their opinion on entering the agreement," Shapiro said Monday afternoon.

"I opposed this because to me \$50,000 could be better used to assist veterans. Our taxpayers did not have this in mind when they passed the millage in 2012,"

Efforts to reach out to the other seven commissioners were unsuccessful.

News briefs

Street sweeper repairs approved

The Fenton City Council has authorized spending a total of \$16,870 to repair its street sweeper. According to Mike Hart, assistant city manager and Downtown Development Authority (DDA) director, there is a hydraulic leak by the side broom, which city workers could not fix. There is a large problem with the suction portion of the unit that is not allowing for any debris to be sucked up, he said. The original supplier of the sweeper provided the quote for the repairs.

View stories at tctimes.com



Credit card signature no longer required

■New policy takes effect Saturday, April 14

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

You may hardly notice, but there's a small change coming in the way you do business with your credit card and debit card transactions.

Currently, customers are only re quired to sign for credit card purchases of more than \$50, which means that 80 percent of store transactions in the U.S. and Canada already don't require a signature.

This will go one step further on April 14, when major credit card companies Mastercard, Visa, American Express and Discover will no longer require shoppers to sign receipts.

It's a move that credit card companies are taking to streamline the payment process, especially in light of new credit card



security measures, including the EMV (Europay, Mastercard, Visa) chip. Don't be surprised, however, if some businesses still require your signature, i.e., a rental car company or restaurants, according to USA Today. Asit-down restaurant may go ahead and give the receipt to a customer as a tangible reminder for a tip.

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Thursday, April 19 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (Continental Breakfast) Fairfield Inn & Suites 3125 W. Silver Lake Rd. (West of US-23)

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HOT LINE CONTINUED

MORE MANURE OUT of the ZBA of Fenton Township with my taxed dollars. They should have to resign or pay out of their own pockets. Hold them accountable for their poor judgment and vote them all out. They are the most unprofessional group in office.

OHPLEASE TYRONE Township and Genesee County, redo State Road around State Road school. It has never been right the 45 years we have lived off it. Now drivers are riding down the middle of the road to protect their tires and car. Help.

I'M R EADING YOUR Sunday paper. It's saying that the \$1.2 billion that was collected since 2015 under Governor Rick Snyder won't be devoted to the transportation until 2021? Now that doesn't even make sense. Our roads are tearing our cars apart.

I WAS RAISED in Linden in the '60s. I am someone who is concerned and frustrated by the eroding economy and lack of opportunities for our children and grandchildren. I didn't vote for either major party candidate suspecting them both of being corrupt.

WHEN LOBBYISTS ARE outlawed, we will finally have laws fair for all, not just the rich.

CLEARLY SOME OF you still do not know the difference between climate change and weather. Please look it up before you comment again.

that force is the solution to the world's problems. Therefore, having compassion is weakness. It appears that he may be an atheist, as he has never used the word 'God.' Trump cares only about himself.

Julie Brown leaves Linden after 14 years

Lat loved working

in the middle

school. I just love

the energy. 77

Julie Brown

Linden Community Schools

outgoing curriculum director

■Former middle school principal takes superintendent position at Houghton Lake

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Linden — After 14 years at Linden Community Schools, Curriculum Director Julie Brown is leaving the district.

Brown, who has worked in education since 1992, accepted a superintendent position at Houghton Lake Community Schools, which is near Higgins Lake. Her last day at Linden is June 30.

"I think it's a good move for our family," she said.

At Linden, Brown served as the middle school principal for 1–1 years and then took over he curriculum director position along with her principal position three years ago. In April 2017, she became the full-time curriculum director.

"I loved working in the middle school. I just love the ener gy. I know it's a difficult age, but it's not them,

it's just the age. I think we had a great staf f at the middle school, who loved middle school kids and wanted the best for them," she said, "I will miss that a lot."

When she took the curriculum director position, she saw a bigger view of K-12 education and wanted to pursue it.

She said the Houghton Lake oppor -



TRI-COUNTY TIMES I HANNAH BALL Julie Brown, who was the Linden Middle School principal for 11 ye ars and then took over the curriculum director position, is leaving Linden schools.

tunity was a good fit. Brown is looking forward to being a "servant leader" and helping everyone else be successful at their jobs.

Brown is going to miss the people who support Linden schools.

"This community is so strong. It's a close community where these schools will never fail because of the community. The parents, business owners, the retirees that still want to make an impact and help support schools," she said.

Brown has learned that "kids are kids" and

all of them from every socioeconomic background want to belong, know what's expected of them, and they want people to listen

"Kids in general need to be supported in taking leadership roles and seeing what the struggles are, and finding ways to get past them. I've learned if you give them enough support they can follow through and do really well," she said.

Superintendent Russ Ciesielski said, "Julie put a lot of time and ef fort into Linden Community Schools. She was a champion for our students, our schools and our community . We will miss her , but we also wish her the best of luck."

View all stories online at tctimes.com



MICHIGAN VOTES LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

MichiganVotes.org is a free, non-partisan website created by the Mackinac Center for Public Policy to provide concise, nonpartisan, plain-English descriptions of every bill and vote in the Michigan House and Senate. This report was released Friday,

March 6.

The Legislature was on spring break with no sessions scheduled until April 10. Rather than votes, this report contains some interesting or noteworthy bill introductions.

Senate Bill 663: Mandate emotional support animal certification

Introduced by Sen. Peter MacGregor (R), to expand a law that authorizes criminal penalties for falsely claiming to have a disability that makes a person eligible to have a certified service animal, so that it also applies to a bona fide "emotional support animal." The bill would establish procedures and requirements for getting an emotional support animal certification, which among other things would require a health care professional who has been treating the individual for at least six months to attest to the validity of the need. Referred to committee, no further action at this time.

House Bill 5281: Impose licensure on assistance-animal trainers

Introduced by Rep. Peter Lucido (R), to impose a new comprehensive regulatory and licensure regime on individuals who provide "basic obedience training and instruction for assistance animals" (including both service animals like seeingeye dogs and "emotional support animals"). Referred to committee, no further action at this time.

Senate Bill 641: Impose licensure on "psychological associates"

Introduced by Sen. Judy Emmons (R), to impose licensure and regulation on "psychological associates," with license fees, continuing education mandates, a mandate to have accumulated 4,000 hours of experience within a two-to-four year period prior to being eligible for a license, and other requirements imposed by a board of existing practitioners. Referred to committee, no further action at this time.

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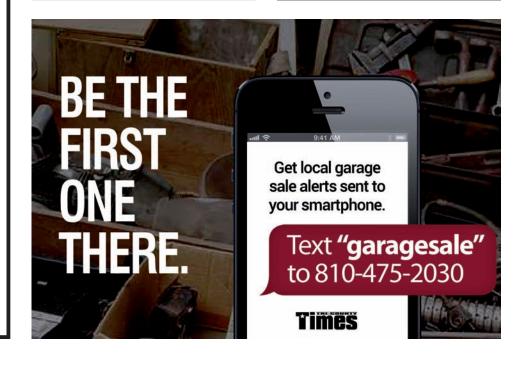
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Kim Allard
DIRECTOR OF CARE TRANSITIONS
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1968

Continued from Page 3

But suddenly, the day before the 1968 presidential election, a close race between Hubert Humphrey and Rich-ard Nixon, South Vetnam inexplicably walked away from the negotiating table. Direct U.S. military involvement in the war lasted another five years.

For decades, rumors have swirled that Richard Nixon's presidential campaign had interfered in the Vetnam peace negotiations by sending mes sages through Nixon aide Anna Chennault to the South Vetnamese embassy and on to President Nguyen van Thieu. The Nixon campaign, it was rumored, promised the South Vetnamese bigger concessions if they waited to negotiate peace until after Nixon was elected. The idea was to not give President Lyndon Johnson and Humphrey a public relations victory by suspending the war before the election.

Political biographer John Farrell, writing in The New York Times' opinion section in January 2017, reported that handwritten notes from Nixon's future White House Chief of Staff H.R. Haldeman show evidence that the 36th president tried to secretly influence the peace talks while still a presidential candidate and a private citizen.

Throughout his lifetime Nixon and his aides vociferously denied that he would do any such thing. "My God. I would never do anything to encour age" South V ietnam "not to come to the table," Nixon's heard telling Johnson in a conversation taped in the White House, reports Farrell.

But over the years, more information about the incident leaked out. According to David T aylor at the BBC, in 2013 declassified tapes from Johnson's White House show that the FBI had in tercepted Chennault's calls to the South Vietnamese ambassador telling them to "just hang through the election." Johnson also ordered the FBI to surveil the Nixon campaign and to figure out if Nixon was personally involved in the back channel operation.

Taylor reported that Johnson became convinced that Nixon knew about the ploy and even sent the candidate a mes sage through Senator Everett Dirksen telling him to back down and that he was engaging in treason.

Though the Johnson administra - tion debated going public with the information before the election, they decided against it because they lacked "absolute proof" that Nixon was personally involved, Farrell wrote.

While it's likely that the revelation of Nixon's involvement might have influenced the outcome of the 1968 American election, it was reported that the Paris Peace Talks were likely on the ropes before November 1968, and that the North Vietnamese were not serious about ending the war.

Source: history.com; smithsonianmag.com

TEXT YOUR HOT LINE

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Times



"Garth" Submitted by Jill Young



"Zoey"
Submitted by
Mary Carsten





44She was

starving when

we found

her. She was

nothing but

skin and

bones, very

afraid of

everything and

everyone. 77

Diane Desonia

"Maggie" Submitted by Janine Marie



9

"Anikin" Submitted by Shelly Fulton

Happy National Pet Day

■Pets, whether adopted or rescued, bring great joy to their owners

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

National Pet Day is today , and while hundreds of animals are adopted from shelters every day many don't have a happy beginning.

A year ago, Daysie, a 2-yearold hound and beagle mix, was found abandoned in a box with her brother and sister.

Her owner, Diane Desonia of Linden said, "She was starving when we found her. She was nothing but skin and bones, very afraid of everything and everyone."

They took her brother and sister to a shelter to find homes and Daysie stayed with Desnoia and her familyDesonia said they took her to many vet appointments and tried to help her gain weight.

"After a year she has gained all her weight and is very healthy now . She is still scared of new people but she is very loving, sweet and totally thinks she is a princess," she said. "Which she is."

Daysie loves the two human babies in the house and loves to cuddle.

"Even after all she has been through she is loyal and loving like no other ," Desonia said.

Desonia also has Mika, a 10-year-old German shepherd, after her mother -inlaw and husband found her covered in fleas on Walmart property.

"Someone was selling her for only \$20. So they took her home and got her healthy. When I meet Mika, she was one of the best German shepherds I have ever seen. Super loving, smart, protective and will give you kisses until you fall over. All my animals are rescued and I love them all," she said.

National Pet Day was founded in 2005 by celebrity pet lifestyle expert and animal

EMAGINEContinued from Front Page

and cocktails, and an expanded conces - sion menu.

According to whmi.com, local officials, community members and representatives from Emagine Entertainment and developer Ramco-Gershenson attended the groundbreaking ceremony.

The official grand opening for the theater is scheduled for December 2018.

Originally, the theater was set to be 64,000 square feet with 1 1 screens, how-ever, county officials blocked the company from obtaining a seven-year tax abatement, according to a previous T imes article. Emagine Entertainment chose a smaller theater and Ramco-Gershenson agreed to cover some of the site improvement costs.

Source: whmi.com

View stories at tctimes.com



welfare advocate Colleen Page, and is spon sored by the Animal Miracle Foundation and Network, according to pedayusa.com.

In honor of the holiday , nationalday - calendar.com suggests observing the day by helping your local shelters. Y ou can donate supplies, like gift cards for food,

toys, animal beds and more to your local shelter for the animals waiting to find their forever homes.

Erica Crawford of Linden said adopting a cat changed her grandma's life after her husband's passing. A little over six years ago, Craw - ford's grandfather passed away at age 87.

"He and my grandma had been married over 60 years and were both very active, so understandably, she was heartbroken. They were each other's sole companions and still lived on their own in their home together," she said.

Crawford's aunt decided to adopt a cat for her grandma.

"It was love at first sight when this cat

Water Treatment & Supply

came home to my grandma, who gave the cat a name that she said came to her in a dream. We truly believe this cat 'saved' my grandma following my grandpa' s passing," she said.

The cat's name is Ninouche, pro - nounced "nee-noosh." Crawfords grand-

ma grew up in Switzerland and speaks English and French. Anytime her grandma sits down, Ninouche immediately sits on her lap, purring. The cat also waits for her going in and out of rooms.

"She is more social than most felines and greets visitors when they arrive. She even won over my husband, who claims to be exclusively a dog person, during our visit last summer," she said.

Ninouche even plays calmly with Crawford's young children.

"If not for this sweet cat, we're not sure my grandma, now 97, would be what she is today or perhaps even still with us," she said.

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44 The intent

wasn't there.

of world

language

versus

band. 77

Adam Hartley

Fenton Area Public Schools

superintendent

'THE ARTS'

Continued from Front Page

welcomed their input. "I appreciate you guys coming out tonight," he said.

Students, parents and staf f came to show support for the arts, most specifically music programs at Fenton Middle School (FMS) and Fenton High School (FHS). Both schools are switching from block scheduling, which results in one less class each day of school.

Students are now facing a schedule that could put electives like the arts and foreign language in conflict.

During public comment, Cheryl Beck of F enton em otionally ad dressed t he audience about her daughter, Molly, who took band and music in middle and high school, and is now attending Adrian Col lege, and how it changed her life. "For the first time in a long time, she was looking forward to going to school," Beck said. "We saw a change in her."

Beck urged the board and administrators to keep band as an option. Reynolds was moved by her. "We want to provide as much opportunity as we can," he said.

Andrew Perkins, FHS instrumental music director, said he is not a middle school staf f member, but as the band director at the high school, his program

is directly affected by students in middle school. He said that in his view, the only way for a sixth-grade student to take band music in middle school for language and a foreign language, is to take a course in the latter online, and over the summer for \$140 to free up their schedule.

"I'm concerned that this will force our students into a difficult decision between courses of study that are highly valued

and incredibly important to them," he said. He feels that the district is steering students toward foreign language, over music.

"The intent wasn't there, of world language versus band," said Superintendent Adam Hartley. "Certainly, that's what it may come down to for some families." With one less course per day, students may not be able to take both foreign language and arts.

Hartley said that the transition away from block scheduling has been dif ficult on everyone and that he's aware of the situation. He said he is communicating about the issue, and wants all concerned parties to sit down soon to discuss it.

Perkins said that the language re -

quirement can be met anytime between sixth and 12 th grade, while skipping can be detrimental to their musical development, and the music program as a whole.

"Ensemble music is unique and special," he said. "Please keep this unique na ture of instrumental music in mind when

planning the schedule." His finished his statement to a round of applause.

Hartley said he's aware of the quality of programs, and wanted to make sure there were no program cuts when creating the new six-hour schedule.

He encouraged concerned families to callFenton Middle School administration to talk about the options. "There's some tough deci -

sions for families that haven't had to be made for some time, because we were able to reap the benefits of seven courses ... Through team work, through dialogue, we will move forward," he said.

Reynolds emphasized that this isn't just about music — it's about electives and the arts as a whole.

DANCING

Continued from Page 3

shimmy, traveling steps, hip bumps and mayas, a move that smoothly moves one side of the hips up and down. They also used canes, swords, veils and fingers cymbals called "zills" for different dances.

To Gomez it's about confidence and having fun. "Y ou don't have to be young and in great shape to do this art form," she said.

She said no one needs a perfect

stomach to do it, and not all danc ers even show their stomach. "Belly dancers come in all dif ferent shapes and sizes," she said. Gomez, a mother of two, teaches Middle Easterndance to children and adults all theway up to their 70s. "You can belly dance well into your 70s and 80s. As long as you can move, you can belly dance."

While the dance can be made to be as sensual as the performer wants, the La Marsa performances are family friendly. Gomez said that if a dance becomes too sensual, it loses the point and focus, and can be misinterpreted or make the audience uncomfortable.

On Saturday, some guests were trying to watch and learn, others were a little shy, and others watched with

Anyone interested in taking lessons can email Gomez at ngomez5330@ gmail.com.

AKL

Continued from Front Page

Akl is charged with open murder for the March 4, 2017 shooting death of Brady Alan Morris, 18, in Akl's family home on Lake Fenton. He's also charged with receiving and concealing a stolen firearm and two counts of felony firearm.

Fenton police officer Julie Bemus testified Tuesday that she was the first responder on scene. Once in the home, she described the bloody scene as

In an excerpt from the 911 tape, Akl can be heard saying "I'm 16 and I killed my best friend in the world." The pa-



AT TCTIMES.COM WITH THIS STORY

trol car's dash cam also recorded Akl screaming while handcuffed in the back seat.

According to investi gative reports from the Genesee County Sher iff's Office, at approximately 11 p.m. on March 4, 2017, Genesee County Sheriff's deputies and the Fenton Police Depart -

ment were dispatched to 14170 Mof fett Dr. in Fenton Township in response to a 911 call of a male with a gunshot wound

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

The two teens, who were reportedly friends, were alone on the first floor of the residence when the shooting occurred. Other members of Akl's family and one other guest were on the second and third floors. According to the autopsy report, it appears that Morris was shot from behind at point blank range on the top left side of his head.

Read more on Akl's preliminary exam in the Weekend Times and at tctimes.com.

The preliminary exam will continue May 7 at 1:30 p.m.

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11, 2018

PAGE 11

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES PHOTOS

Any staff photo published in the Tri-County Times can be purchased by calling 810-433-6797.

Lost and Found



LOST FEMALE DOG

Black long haired dachshund, wearing blue and white collar with tags, Holly area near Fish Lake Rd. Call 248-245-3086 or 248-802-4607

Help Wanted

ORDER FULFILLMENT The Winfield Collection in Linden, MI is seeking a dependable, team oriented associate in the order filling and shipping department. Requires some lifting, bending and the ability to work on your feet in a fast paced environment. Flexible schedule, 15-30 hours/wk. Please send resume to tracyb@thewinfieldcollection.

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PLANNING COMMISSION CITY OF FENTON **GENESEE COUNTY, MICHIGAN PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE FOR MASTER PLAN UPDATE**

The City of Fenton Planning Commission will hold a public hearing at the City Office, 301 S. Leroy Street, Fenton, MI 48430 on Thursday April 26, 2018. The Planning Commission meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. The estimated time of the "Master Plan" public hearing is 7:15 p.m. The public hearing is for the purpose of considering the updated City of Fenton Master Plan, in accordance with the Michigan Planning Enabling Act (Public Act 33 of 2008).

The proposed updated City of Fenton Master Plan is available for public inspection at the City Offices, during regular business hours between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00p.m., Monday through Friday. Any resident or property owner may participate in the hearing, or submit written comments to the City prior to Wednesday, April 25th, 2018. For more information, please contact the Zoning Administrator at 810-629-2261.

PLANNING COMMISSION CITY OF FENTON **GENESEE COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR SPECIAL LAND USE REVIEW

THURSDAY, April 26, 2018

Notice is hereby given that the City of Fenton Planning Commission will hold a public hearing at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, on Thursday, April 26, 2018, for the purpose of considering a special land use request to allow a drive-through window for the proposed retail building at 1383 N. Leroy Street, Tax ID #53-23-400-026. The property is zoned is zoned GBD, General Business District, where retail is a permitted use and restaurants with drive-through windows are special land uses in that District.

The public hearing will be held in the City Hall Council Chambers, 301 South Leroy Street. The purpose of the public hearing is to describe the proposed special land use request and receive public comment on the proposal. All interested parties are welcome to attend and present their comments.

A copy of the special land use request is available for public inspection at the City of Fenton offices, 301 South Leroy Street, during regular business hours. Written comments concerning the special land use may be submitted at the above address prior to the hearing and will be made part of the official record. All minutes of meetings are available at the City Clerk's office.

Comments and questions may be directed to the City of Fenton Zoning and Building Administrator, Michael Reilly, at 810-629-2261.

PLEASE CONTACT THE FENTON CITY CLERK'S OFFICE IF ANY ACCOMMODATIONS ARE NEEDED DUE TO A DISABILITY.

Tri-county area softball teams have reason for enthusiasm during upcoming season

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

Softball has quietly become one of the tri-county area's top sports.

Just look at last season. While none of the area teams advanced deep into the state tournament series, the Lake Fenton Blue Devils continued their dominance in the Genesee Area Conference with a league crown, while the Holly Bronchos found a way to become one of the feel-good stories of the 2016-17 school year by winning their first conference championship in 40 years.

This season promises to be another fun softball season in the tri-county area. The Lake Fenton Blue Devils should be a strong squad once again. Until someone proves otherwise, it's fair to say they are the favorites to capture the final GAC Red Division championship this spring.

The Blue Devils return an abundance of talent starting with Oliva Tanner, Mikala Hunsinger, Allison LaVallier, Erin Ezell, Haley Whittecar and Kalani Lau. All of those girls batted better than .300 a year ago.

"We have a pretty solid group," Lake Fenton varsity softball coach Amos Rinks said. "I think 1 1 of my girls can flat out play and we can be competitive with anyone. I think we are going to surprise some people."

Holly shocked the Flint area by be coming one of three teams to earn the Metro League crown last season, and should be solid again this season. Returning is the 2017 Tri-County Softball Player of the Year Madisen Beesley. Some other strong players return. Gillian Cohoon is a returning first-team All-Metro player as well. However, there are many new faces as well.

"We are a young team this year"
Holly softball coach Scott Culver said. "We don't have the experience we had last year, but they are putting in a lot of work during the open gyms we are having. ... Our goal is to get

better every day."

Linden had 38 players try out this spring, so there is plenty of enthusiasm surrounding the program. The Eagles also return players like Elizabeth Ra-kowski, Jillian W idner and Ashley Bertschy. All three earned some level of all-league status a year ago.

"I think we are going to be pretty competitive," Linden varsity softball coach Gordon Jamison said. "W e

> are looking to be competitive in both leagues and districts."

> > CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM

David's **Dabblings**

Some thoughts about sports and others not dealing with sports at all



A FEW RANDOM THOUGHTS

With the spring sports season still not really getting to a proper start, I thought I'd throw in a couple of random thoughts in today's paper. Here we go. **Monday night's snow shower**

Ok, I know most people aren't thrilled to see snow in mid-April, but it's not that unusual. And, I'll have to admit, Monday's snow storm gave the area a nice Christmas postcard feel. I thought it looked cool anyway.

I don't know how much more snow we'll get in April, but I made a personal pact with myself concerning any possible deep snows. No matter what, I'm not shoveling any more until next winter. My snow shovel is retired for the time being.

Congratulations Michigan men's basketball

I'm not a Michigan fan, but I did watch a lot of the Wolverines' games during the NCAA tournament. I have this to say about Michigan — that was a fun team to watch play. They were an easy team to want to root for. But before Harold Krueger gets excited, this tournament run didn't convert me to being a Michigan fan. Those days ended the day I went to Central Michigan for my schooling.

The spring sports season will eventually start!

A littering of games happened before spring break, but to this point, Mother Nature hasn't allowed our prep athletes to practice outdoors too often, much less actually compete. I think that's going to end today. As I type this the weather is supposed to be in the 50s today, and there is a large slate of events including some tri-county battles. At Powers, the Lake Fenton and Linden track teams will compete, while Linden varsity girls soccer travels to Lake Fenton. It'll be nice to finally get to a couple of outdoor events.

Joey Spencer's second fight

I'm pretty pumped about this. I remember going to Spencer's house and talking to him about one of his amateur boxing tournaments he won, but never really getting a chance to see him compete. He may be the greatest athlete I've covered but never personally watched compete. Plus, he's just a good person as well. He's very easy to cheer for. Good luck on Friday, Joey.

Sports

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11, 2018 | PAGE 12 | WWW.TCTIMES.COM/SPORTS

One of the many returning players on Lake Fenton's talented softball team is Taylor Godlewski.

Spencer ready for prime time during fight #2

■ Friday's second pro bout will be on Fox Sports 1

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

He only turned 18 on March 24, but Linden native Joey Spencer 's boxing career couldn't be going any better.

Still only 17 at the time of the bout, the super welterweight began his professional boxing debut in February boxing at Las V egas' Mandalay Bay Hotel and Casino Events Center, earning a technical knock out (TKO) in the second round.

And now things are only getting bigger and brighter for Spencer as he prepares for his second profes sional bout on Friday at The Armory located in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Spencer will be one of the undercard fights during a Fox Sports 1 broadcast, competing against Ousmane Sylla (1-2-1). The event begins at 9 p.m.

Spencer is excited to be able to present his abilities on national television.

"It feels good because I'm excited to be able to allow all of my friends, familie and supporters watch this one live," Spencer said.

Spencer spent some of his recent time training for the fight in Paris, France. While his boxing friend T ony Y oka earned his fourth victory in four fights, Spencer had his last sparring session prior to Friday's bout.

"I'm on my way to my last sparring session and this will be my last really hard day (Friday) and the rest of the week I will be winding down," Spencer said. "Until the fight, I will be resting, training lightly and getting my weight. I will have a few final diet changes that are planned for next week. I'm staying on Minnesota time as well."

During the weekend he traveled to Minnesota, preparing for his second fight

"This fight will be different in some ways," Spencer said. "I know more of what to expect than the last time. Last time there was a little bit of wondering what I was in for This time I know what





PHOTOS COURTESY OF

RYAN HAFEY/PREMIER BOXING CHAMPIONS

Linden's Joey
Spencer won his first
professional boxing
match Feb. 17, and
will be competing in his
second one Friday on
Fox Sports 1 against
Ousmane Sylla.
Spencer won his first
professional bout in
Februrary against Uriel
Gonzalez. The photos
are from that bout.

to do and I am prepared better for what is coming up."

Spencer's professional debut was an impressive one. He dominated Uriel Gonzalez. He earned a first-round knock down, and then ended the bout early in the second round. Spencer says he has a few things he wants to work on during his second fight.

"I want to work my jab a little more," Spencer said. "I want to work my jab and

take my time a little more."

Spencer is quickly building a name for himself, and being on national television will help enhance his name. Yet, for the momentum to continue, Spencer will need to defeat Sylla. Sylla's most recent fight was a TKO victory against Jamykle Wade, so the 25-year -old is coming of f his most successful professional bout of his career.

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM

2018 TRI-COUNTY SOFTBALL PREVIEWS

LAKE FENTON BLUE DEVILS

Coach: Amos Rinks Last year: 23-12 overall, 10-0 GAC Red champions. Lost to Powers in district semifinal.

Graduated All T-C players: Allison Petts

Returning All T-C players: Taylor Godlewski, Erin Ezell

Summary: The Blue Devils have become a Genesee Area Conference Red Division power, and may end the conference's final season the same way. Lake Fenton returns starting pitcher Taylor Godlewski. Two other pitchers will play pivotal roles — sophomore Kamaya Whittaker and freshman Ally Postal. Postal can throw the ball in the 60 mile an hour range. Christina Lamb may get called up from the JV team upon occasion as well. The catching position is set with Erin Ezell. Ezell's backup at catcher is the returning first baseman from a year ago, Haley McLellan. Olivia Tanner provides a strong glove at second as well as a strong bat at the plate, while the same can be said about Kalani Lau at third base. She led the team with a .418 batting average a year ago. At short Allison LaBallier will patrol the position, while the outfield will be Haley Whittecar, Mikala Huntsinger and Kaylie Terburg. Whittecar and Hunsinger return. Justine Bicego will play in the outfield as well.

Coach Rinks says: "I really feel like we are going to be a better team this year than last year. It may be a little rough at the start because we have not been able to go outside and do what we have to do, but everyone has that issue. We have a really good infield and we turn a lot of double plays that you see in baseball but you usually don't see in softball."

Projection: The Blue Devils are the favorites to repeat in the GAC Red until someone else proves otherwise. The Blue Devils have a great group of talented returning players to go with some strong new young players. This should be a fun team to watch play this spring.

LINDEN EAGLES

Coach: Gordon Jamison
Last year: 23-17 overall, 8-6
in the Metro League. Lost to Flint
Powers in district title game.

Graduated All T-C players: Sterling DeGayner

Returning All T-C players: Elizabeth Rakowski, Elle Klocek

Summary: The Eagles lost just two seniors and have a bunch of talent returning and/or being promoted from the JV squad from a year ago. The enthusiasm for the program shows in the number of people who tried out to play this season — 38. Megan Oda, Jillian Wright and Jillian Widner will be the team's primary pitchers, with freshman Jordyn Hobson also getting some mound time. Liz Rakowski's potent bat returns while Widner is expected to start at second, Lauren Buerkel will play at short and Avery Koan is expected to start at third. At catcher Heather Crampton returns and will be starting this year. In the outfield Elle Klocek, Ashley Bertschy, Hobson and Emma Mossing will be seeing ample playing time.

Coach Jamison says: "They are starting to gel really well. They are playing with a little more confidence. Last year so many were on varsity and I think they were just happy to be here. Now, they realize what it's all about. I think they are ready to compete and really want to do something."

Projection: The Eagles should be one an upper-half Metro squad and Metro contenders.

Expect a fun season at Linden.

Linden's Elle Klocek

FENTON TIGERS

Coach: Ken Brant Last year: 5-9 in the Metro League. Lost to Lakeland in district semifinal.

Graduated All T-C players: Logan Carter, Megahan McArdle

Returning All T-C players: None Summary: The Tigers struggled a year ago and will be a team with many new faces this season. That includes at coach where Ken Brant takes over at the helm. Due to lack of outdoor practices, it's been hard for the first-year mentor to get established positions, and hopes this week goes a long way in terms of creating those roles. The Tigers have plenty of pitchers. The list includes Hailee Prater, Sara Eisenbeis, Angela Hanners, Chloe Billings and Abby Skinner. All have great opportunities to earn ample mound work this season.

At catcher, the Tigers will have two new underclassmen — sophomore Abby Taylor and freshman Coral Lefever. Where the other players will fit in is still up for determination. The only returning senior on the squad is Cynthia Barcome. She will be one of the captains. the other two will be Eisenbeis and Erin Carter. Others on the varsity squad include Madison Dunkel, Chloe Lefever, Natalie Thomas and Cheryl Hatch.

Coach Brant says: "Everyone is working hard for the nine to 10 starting spots. We have 13 and we are a very young team. ... We've been working hard inside, but it's different than being outside. We will have a better idea about our team after our first three outings."

Projection: The Tigers struggled near the bottom of the Metro League last season. Just improving from last year's seventh-place showing would be a nice start during Brant's first year at the helm. If the Tigers can finish above .500 would be a great season for the Tigers.

HOLLY BRONCHOS

Coach: Scott Culver

Last year: 18-18-1 overall, 11-3 in Metro, tri-Metro

champs. Lost to Milford in district opener

Graduated All T-C players: Hailey Thompson Returning All T-C players: Madisen Beesley,

Gillian Cohoon

Summary: Holly won its first Metro title in 40 years last spring, and has enough people back to remain in contention this season. Returning is the area's MVP from a year ago, Madisen Beesley. She has a potent bat and can pitch as well. Marissa Beck returns to the mound. Catching will be Maika Hogarth who caught last year as well. Cohoon also returns and can catch, play first and play in the outfield. When not pitching, Beesley will play at short. Second and third base remain up for grabs with Aubrey Jenkinson and Maggie Shaw probably

the best candidates for the positions. In the outfield, Cohoon, Miah Beck and McKenna Robarge should see a lot of playing time.

Coach Culver says: "These girls

work. Last year I came in and was surprised by the level of dedication and commitment they had to the program especially considering the school is not known for softball. This year

that commitment remains. The kids coming are ready go."

Projection:
The Bronchos
should be among the
teams competing for the
Metro title again this season.

MADISEN BEESLEY

Beesley was our 2017 Softball Player of the Year, and returns to Holly for her senior season this spring.

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James F. Baker 1930-2018 James F. Baker - age 87,

of Holly, died Friday, April 6, 2018. Funeral services will be held at 11 AM Wednesday, April 11, 2018 at the Dryer Funeral Home, Holly. Burial was in Lakeside Cemetery, Holly. Visitation was held from 4-9 PM Tuesday, April 10, 2018. Mr. Baker was born in Detroit on August 9, 1930 to James and Frances (Adams) Baker. He was retired from the GM Fisher **Body Security Department** after 30 years of service. He was a member of the Holly and Houghton Lake Moose. Surviving are his wife, Norma; three children, James F. Baker III of Houghton Lake, Terry Baker of Holly, and Lori (Ray) McConnell of Holly; three grandchildren, Jessica Stack, Kevin McConnell, and Daniel McConnell; two greatgrandchildren, McKenzie and Hunter; sister, Susan (Mike) Basso of Clarkston. He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, George Baker, and sister, Nancy VanCleav. Memorial donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association. www.dryer funeralhomeholly.com.



Shirley D. Jones 1930-2018

Shirley D. Jones - age 88, of Charlevoix passed away on April 2, 2018 at Grandvue Medical Care Facility. Shirley was born on January 30, 1930 in Lamberton, MN to the late Louis and Myrtle (Northby) Small. Shirley attended Maplewood Academy in 1947 then graduated from Elk River Minnesota High School in 1948. She worked as a legal secretary in Columbus, OH for years. Shirley was a lifelong member of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church most recently attending Petoskey Seventh-Day Adventist Church where she served as a deaconess. She also served as the Vice President of the Charlevoix Area Garden Club. Shirley loved spending her time with her grandchildren. She also enjoyed going golfing and sailing with her family and friends. On September 10, 1950 in Minneapolis, MN Shirley married Brad Jones who survives. She is also survived by her children, David (Karen) Jones of Loma Linda, CA, Steve (Terri) Jones of Perry, MI; grandchildren, Brad (Holly) Jones, Jamie (Chris) Nelson, Michael (Sheree) Jones, Courtney Jones, Brent Jones; five greatgrandchildren; brother, Jan Small. She was preceded in death by her son, Douglas Jones; siblings, Helen, Dorothy, Betty, Ron, Wayne, Robert and Jim as well as her parents. Funeral service will be held at 2 PM on Sunday, April 15, 2018 at Seventh Day Adventist Church in Petoskey with Pastor George Dronen officiating. Visitation will be held from 6-8 PM on Saturday, April 14, 2018 at the Winchester Chapel of Mortensen Funeral Homes. Memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association. Arrangements are being handled by the Winchester Chapel of Mortensen Funeral Homes. Please visit her online guestbook at www. mortensenfuneralhomes.

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Horoscopes

For the week of April 9, 2018

ARIES

Mar 21/Apr 20

A solid week is ahead for you, Aries. However, some surprises can pop up on a day when you need a little extra sunshine in the routine. Embrace the unexpected

TAURUS Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, your relations with authority figures are very good right now. Do your best to maintain this both in the shortand long-term. You will benefit from having done so.

GEMINI

May 22/Jun 21

Gemini, a surprise invitation may come your way this week. You aren't sure if you have the time or the gumption to accept at this point. But give ample thought to accepting.

CANCER Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, even though you may want to spend time at home and maybe make a cocoon under the covers there are some things you need to face if you are going to move forward.

LEO

Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, you are so full of clever ideas that you are eager to share with coworkers and people at home. Pace yourself so you don't overwhelm others with information.

VIRGO

Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, an opportunity to earn more money will catch your eye this week. Even if it seems a little risky, it could be well worth pursuing.

LIBRA

Sept 23/Oct 23

This can be a fun-loving week for you, Libra, if you embrace the opportunities for letting loose. You may feel impulsive, and that's okay in moderation.

SCORPIO

Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, home repairs and renovations are on the brain. You are ready to pour your energy into changing your home spaces for the better. Start making an idea board.

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, a very fast-paced week is ahead. The good news is that any related unpleasantness will move by quickly, and you can focus on enjoying the fun parts.

CAPRICORN

Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, work relationships can be unpredictable, which means you may need to reevaluate your approach. A change in tone or direction may be all that's needed.

AQUARIUS

Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, travel plans can change on a dime, but you are adaptable. It's not the destination, but the journey. Take someone along for the ride.

PISCES

Feb 19/Mar 20

Pay close attention to your bank account, Pisces. Financial surprises might be something to look out for in the near future.

Wednesday Jumble

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

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Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

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5 Always

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18 Implement

position

25 Cookware

26 Both ways

31 Bichon -

we go"

35 Metal refuse

33 Reins

36 Actor

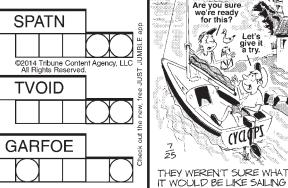
30 Equal (Pref.)

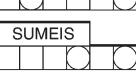
(dog breed)

way

24 Behave

1 Old





Now arrange the circled letters suggested by the above cartoon.

O THEY WENT

IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

Answer here: Answers in this Sunday's edition of the Tri-County Times

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All The Money In The World follows the kidnapping of 16-yearold John Paul Getty III (Charlie Plummer) and the desperate attempt by his devoted mother Gail (Michelle Williams) to convince

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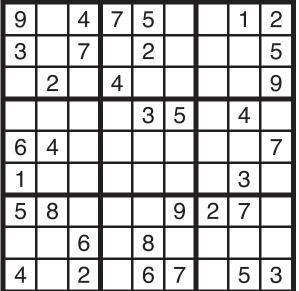
Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

Answers in this Sunday's edition of the Tri-County Times

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Level: Beginner

Wednesday Crossword 12 13 14



53 Relaxing discipline

McGregor 37 How one says 1 "alas"

38 Georgia city 40 Leaves

42 Past

43 Absolute dominance

48 Web address 49 Teeny bit

50 Soon, in verse 7 Right angle

51 Pop 52 Vacillate **DOWN**

"Bow-wow!" 2 Sticky stuff

3 Tokyo's old name 4 River-mouth 23 Absolutely

regions

5 Therefore 6 String instru- 26 1982 movie

ment

8 Claret, for one 27 Lubricant

9 "Pin the tail 28 Authentic

on the donkey" prop

10 Play area

11 Rams fans?

16 Sauce source 35 Strut about

20 Conclusion 21 Grand tale

22 Mediocre

24 Church service

with a 2010

seguel

29 Wild party 31 Hollywood's

> "Talking Mule" 34 Pair

37 Witness

38 Tennyson poem

39 City of India 40 "- match?"

41 Fine

44 Explanation

45 Yoko of music

46 Journal

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