

'I pointed a gun at him and pulled the trigger, I killed him...'

TRI-COUNTY TIMES
TIM JAGIELO

Fenton Sgt. William Andringa waits to testify while a courtroom screen plays the dash cam video of Abdurrahman Ahmed Akl in the back seat of the patrol vehicle shortly after the shooting.

■ Akl murder case includes 911 audio tape and dash cam footage

By Tim Jagielo

tjagielo@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795

Flint — Abdurrahman "Abdu" Ahmed Akl re-lived the nightmare of

the shooting death of his friend in a Genesee County District Court courtroom Tuesday, April 10.

Submitted for evidence in Akl's preliminary exam were both the "hysterical" 911 call and patrol car dash cam footage of Akl, provided by his defense attorney Frank Manley.

See MURDER CASE on 11A



PAGE 9A
ROGER SHARP
TO BE HONORED
FOR LIFETIME
ACHIEVEMENT

VOL. 25 NO. XV

SUNDAY, APRIL 15, 2018

2016 NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

Weekend Times

\$1.00

Another sex assault charge for area man

■ Newest charge involves incapacitated victim

By Sharon Stone

sstone@tctimes.com; 810-433-6786

Michael Todd Sackrider, 53, of Fenton Township posted \$100,000 bond on Tuesday, April 10 and was released from the Genesee County Jail.

Dating back to alleged incidents in 2006, he is facing five felony counts

See SEX ASSAULT on 19A



A story about Michael Sackrider, 53, of Fenton Township was on the front page of the Times last weekend. He's now facing a new sex assault charge.

TROUBLE IN DAIRY LAND?



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Jason Juengel, 17, of Mundy Township, works in the milking parlor of Corner Oak Farm, his family's dairy business. The Michigan dairy industry is struggling with a nearly four-year wave of low profits, lower demand and a worldwide milk surplus. These factors are pushing some dairy farmers out of the business. **See story on 15A.**

Registration tags being considered for kayaks, canoes

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Starting in 2019, anyone in Michigan using a kayak, canoe or paddleboard could be required to pay a fee and register their water craft.

On Feb. 1, the Michigan State Waterways Commission (MSWC) voted 6-0 to approve a list of recommendations for proposed legislation

See TAGS on 19A

TRI-COUNTY TIMES
FILE PHOTO

Come summer 2019, people using Michigan's waterways with kayaks, canoes, and paddleboards might have to pay to register their paddle sport vessel.



Tuesday is tax day

■ Still time to keep some of your hard-earned money

By Tim Jagielo

tjagielo@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795

You can thank the traditional tax day falling on a Sunday, and a federal holiday for the later tax filing deadline in 2018.

See TAX DAY on 13A

TEXT
YOUR
HOT LINE
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“I am an insurance agent. It's not your local insurance agencies that are causing our outrageous insurance rates, it's the lawyers on TV every day urging people to sue someone. We end up paying for all these so-called recoveries.”



“If the Michigan Lottery gives so much to the schools, why are all the schools in such dire need of everything? Where can we get true accountability for all that money?”



“Facebook billionaire Mark Zuckerberg told one lie after another to the politicians questioning him. Not one challenged him or had the knowledge to call him out. How about using other tech titans to ask questions, not political geezers who don't even know what, or how, to question him.”



COMMENT
OF THE WEEK

“Be glad you don't work where I do. The boss has a motivational poster in the lunch room that says, 'There are two kinds of people in life: Those who do their job well, and those who don't work here anymore.' Is it even legal to have that?”

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Strong schools equals strong communities



THE DOMINO EFFECT

It starts with college debt and low paying jobs, then living with parents which delays marriage and childbirth, which decreases school enrollments and real estate values.

The Times will explore this issue in a series over the next few weeks.

WANT TO SHARE YOUR OPINION?
Contact Vera Hogan
vhogan@tctimes.com

■ Loss of students costs millions in per-pupil funding

PART 2 IN A SERIES

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

Last week we talked about a growing problem of well-meaning, college-educated young adults unable to leave their parents’ home because their expenses and what their monthly bills would be if they did move out, and how the bills might far outweigh the salaries they are able to earn.

As a result of this financial fiasco, young adults are waiting longer to

get married and even longer to start families or choosing not to have children. Not having children is and will continue to have an impact on enrollment in local schools.

A community without good schools becomes a place where no one wants to live, which negatively affects the local economy, starting with real estate. On the plus side, communities

in the tri-county area are consistently working on projects to improve their attractiveness as great, safe places to live and raise families.

Lake Fenton Community Schools

Julie Williams, superintendent for Lake Fenton Community Schools, said she has not seen a decline in enrollment in Lake Fenton.

See SCHOOLS on 7A



Tee it high. Let it fly.

Golf season is finally here

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

Steve Scherff, general manager of Hartland Glen Golf Course in Livingston County, frowned when he woke up to 4 inches of snow on the ground last Tuesday.

“It’s been a slow start this year,” he said. “Our leagues will start next week if we don’t get more snow.”

Now that spring is officially here, area golf courses are open and ready for play, weather permitting.

See GOLF SEASON on 21A

“The course has never looked better. Now we just need Mother Nature to cooperate.”

Chris White
Fenton Farms Golf Club & Driving Range owner

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Andrew Heller

andrewheller@tctimes.com

Come *Heller* high water...

see that “mom jeans” — that ‘90s look where the waistband of a woman’s pants are up around her armpits — are back.

Since I’m a guy, you probably expect me to say this is a terrible development in women’s fashion, especially since they are replacing low-rise jeans.

But you would be wrong. I welcome any look that kills off low-rise pants, which are just plain silly, no matter who’s wearing them. Human beings just weren’t meant to show butt cleavage. You don’t see depictions of cave people walking around with loin cloths or bear skins slung so low you can see all the way to “where the good Lord split ya,” as my Grandma Rose used to say.

And yet low-rise jeans became so ubiquitous, everyone was



Andrew Heller
FEATURED COLUMNIST

forced to wear them whether they wanted to or not because that’s all the stores sold.

Even I momentarily owned a pair. I bought them after “Old Blue” (yes, I name my pants, don’t you?), a pair of Levi’s I’d owned for 10 years, finally gave up the ghost.

I didn’t try on the new pants at the store, per my strict policy about getting in and out of clothes stores as fast as possible. My best time, by the way, is two minutes and 38 seconds. It’s a record that may never be broken, although you’re welcome to try.

But I did try them on at home. The lovely yet formidable Marcia took one look, frowned and said, “Um, yeah, no. Humanity isn’t ready for that,” for which I was glad because they were tight and uncomfortable anyway.

The older I get the more I think life’s too short to wear tight and uncomfortable clothes. In my worldview, men shouldn’t bother with tight jeans, neckties or dress shoes, and women should hunt down and stone the idiot that came up with high heel shoes. How they walk around in those things is beyond me. I actually tried it once — not walking in women’s heels

but walking on my tiptoes like that. I was sore after two minutes.

Fashion designers are to blame, of course. The profession clearly attracts people who enjoy punking other people. For instance, I saw a Gap ad last week that described mom jeans as “a 90’s throwback that seriously flatters.”

The misuse of a possessive apostrophe in the number notwithstanding, that’s a bald-faced lie. Fashion designers know it, too. They have eyes, after all. High-waisted jeans may be comfortable, but they’re also patently ridiculous, whether you’re a man or a woman. (And make no mistake, high-waisted pants for men are on the way, you watch. MC Hammer is thrilled.)

I don’t believe for a second that fashion designers think mom pants are attractive. I think what happened is they realized people had lost patience with low-rise pants and a replacement was needed so they had a meeting and asked, “What would be the most ludicrous thing we could talk people into wearing?”

“How about buckskin pants with fringes?” one said.

“The anti-fur and leather crowd would protest,” said another.

“How about clown pants — you know, with polka dots on them and secret compartments for rubber chickens and stuff?”

“Too obviously ludicrous.”

“I’ve got it — how about we bring back mom jeans?”

The room fell silent.

“Perfect!” they cheered in unison. “My God, it’ll be hysterical to see people walk around in those again!”

And then they all laughed and toasted one another with white wine spritzers.

So now you know how the fashion world really works.

You’re welcome.

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

“I didn’t try on the new pants at the store, per my strict policy about getting in and out of clothes stores as fast as possible.”

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.

I'M SITTING in (a local restaurant) for Sunday lunch, sitting down a booth or two is a jerk with a hat that reads 'F__ k yeah.' My wife said, 'keep quiet.' Wrong.

MOST 'PROTEST' MARCHES have financial and participant support from non-government political action groups. This is especially true of liberal anti-NRA protests and most university anti-anything conservative protests.

HELLER, YOU ARE an idiot.

ANYONE REMEMBER THE good old days before Facebook and instagram when you actually had to take a photo of your funny cat, get the film developed and go to all your friends homes and show it to them? No? Me neither. Stop it already.

HYPOTHETICAL OUTGOING SPEECH by President Obama. Unemployment rate is 4.6 percent, stock market nearly tripled in my eight years, no scandals, deficit cut in half, my family life stable, no recession, inflation less than 2 percent, Osama bin Laden dead, very good relations with other countries, Iraq War winding down.

SUPER EXCITED! THE new Big Boy restaurant on Silver Parkway will be serving the Blackburn submarines.

NANCY PELOSI IS ridiculous with her 'pathetic crumbs' comment. Her crew couldn't formulate a tax cut to save

their pathetic lives. My paycheck saw a substantial increase. What a disgusting person to represent even a fraction of this great country.

I HOPE PEOPLE are through with getting their 'news' from 'Fakebook.' MAKE RUSSIA GREAT AGAIN.

WITH SPRING CLEANUPS beginning has anyone looked at the river (pond) at the apartment building next to Holly Elementary? It looks like a dump site.

THIS BIG OLD car stops at anything red. If you don't stop when I do you're going to get a lot of broken plastic and a pretty pink ticket to put under your pillow. Drive safe now.

SOMEONE SAID, 'YOUTH today feel they can dictate to parents, government, and society.' Well, they should shake and wake up the ones mentioned. The young people of today seem to be very intelligent. We could learn a thing or two.

I WONDER IF the man arrested and lodged overnight in the police station for operating while intoxicated, speeding, and driving on a suspended license, was allowed to drive home the next day.

PELOSI IS GOING to repeal the tax cut for individuals and companies if they take back the Congress. So, instead of the companies being able to hire more people and expand, they will be going back overseas. Is that what the Democrats who vote for her really want?

See **HOT LINE** throughout Times

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What tax do you find the most irritating? Compiled by Gracie Warda, intern | streettalk

“On my lease vehicle, because they already got their money, so they’re just double taxing.”

Nancy Schoban
Rose Township

“I’m retired so I don’t pay a lot of taxes, but I think that buying a new car would be irritating.”

Dick Farone
Fenton Township

“It always irritated me to pay school taxes when I didn’t have children. I have one now, though, so it doesn’t bother me anymore.”

Renee Riepe
Holly Township

“I agree with all of our taxes, I don’t really have an objection to any of them.”

Brandon Douthitt
Holly Township

“As long as my tax dollars are going to the right cause and being used efficiently, I don’t have a problem with them. I don’t enjoy paying taxes, but they’re necessary.”

Misty Douthitt
Holly Township

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Track closed during school for safety of students and staff

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

Several readers have submitted Hot lines that the Fenton High School track is closed, and senior citizens who wish to walk the track for health and fitness reasons can no longer do so. They referenced senior citizens whose tax (millage) dollars paid for the track.

Be advised, however, that according to Superintendent Adam Hartley's March "We Are Fenton" newsletter, which is mailed to staff and parents each month, and is posted to the district's Facebook page, the track is only being closed during school hours and/or track practice.

Hartley said in the newsletter that a safety gap was identified during Fenton High School and AGS Middle School walkthroughs. "... in the past we have kept the track open for the community during school hours.

"Based on our efforts to make FAPS (Fenton Area Public Schools) as secure as possible, we will not open the track for community use until after school hours and/or track practice. Thank you for helping keep FAPS a safe place to teach and learn!"

Due to numerous threats and attacks taking place at schools nationwide, school personnel around the country are taking as many measures as possible to secure their facilities for the safety of students and staff.

Being an online bully could be a felony in Michigan

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Cyberbullying could soon become a felony in Michigan, with a sentence of up to 10 years if it causes the death of a victim.

This bipartisan-supported bill, House Bill 5017, passed 91 to 17 in the House of Representatives March 22, with 88 percent of Republicans voting "yes" and 76 percent of Democrats voting "yes."

The bill is currently in the Senate.

The bill is sponsored by Rep. Peter Lucido (R-Dist. 36), who said while speaking before the House Law and Justice Committee, "I'm a firm believer in the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, but hate speech, threats and intimidation are

not universally accepted forms of free expression.

"We're seeing more and more of this kind of behavior online and it's not free speech. It's permanently damaging lives and encouraging suicide among the young and old alike. It has no boundaries and Michigan is overdue to establish limitations."

In the bill, "cyberbullying" is defined as posting a message or statement in a public media forum about any other person, if the message is intended to place a person in fear of bodily harm or death, and expresses an intent to commit violence against the person, or if the message is intended to communicate a threat knowing that it will be viewed as a threat.

SUMMARY

■ Being a bully online could be a felony in Michigan if House Bill 5017 becomes law.



If the cyberbullying causes the death of the victim, it is a felony punishable by up to 10 years imprisonment and/or a \$10,000 fine.

Rep. Joe Graves (R-Dist. 51) and Rep. Hank Vaupel (R-Dist. 47) voted in favor of the bill.

Graves said, "Cyberbullying is an issue that is all too common in today's world. The people who cyberbully others should be held accountable. HB 5017 doesn't restrict anyone's ability to communicate. Rather, it simply creates a punishment for communication that crosses the line and causes harm to another person."

Genesee County Undersheriff Chris Swanson said, "Genesee County Sheriff Robert Pickell supports anything that protects the victims of bullying. Cyberbullying has been a long-standing platform where people can hide and be anonymous. People can anonymously attack others without any factual basis."

Swanson said this legislation is enforceable if there's enough probable cause that a crime has been committed. Although, it will have to be on a case-by-case basis because, "What's bullying to me might not be bullying to you," he said.

He also questioned if the law will require the victim to say "stop" to the cyberbully in order for it to be prosecutable.

"There is free speech, but it becomes bullying when the intent of the sender is to cause harm to another individual ... when that person wants to self harm," he said. "It's no different from bullying in school. It's about protecting people."

Punishment

A first offense would be punishable by up to 93 days in imprisonment and/or a \$500 fine. If the cyberbullying causes serious injury, the punishment is worse.

A person who violates the law "in a manner that involves a continued pattern of harassing or intimidating behavior and by that violation causes serious injury to the victim is guilty of a felony punishable by imprisonment for not more than five years, a fine of not more than \$5,000 or both," according to the bill.

If the cyberbullying causes the death of the victim, it is a felony punishable by up to 10 years imprisonment and/or a \$10,000 fine.

“It's no different from bullying in school. It's about protecting people.”

Chris Swanson
Genesee County undersheriff

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SCHOOLS

Continued from Page 3A

"I do agree that people are waiting until they are older to start a family," said Williams. "I have three nieces, the youngest of which will be 27 this year. Between the three of them, there is only one child and my niece was 32 when she had her."

"I think people are waiting until they have financial stability and those that do may do some traveling before they have children," she said. "The birth rate data for Genesee County does show a decline in birth rates that could eventually impact our student enrollment. Only time will tell."

Linden Community Schools

Russ Ciesielski, superintendent for Linden Community Schools, said, "Our enrollment has decreased since the 2012-2013 school year. In 2012-2013, our district total head count was 2,983. Based on our 2017 fall count, our district is at 2,801 — a decrease of 182 students during this time frame."

Each of the four tri-county area school districts (Fenton, Holly, Lake Fenton and Linden) receive in the neighborhood of \$7,000 to \$7,500 in per-pupil funding from the state. Losing 182 students means losing nearly \$1.3 million between the 2012-2013 and 2017-2018 school year.

"Birth rates continue to decline, and the overall population in Genesee County has declined over the years," said Ciesielski. "I would agree that younger adults are more career-focused at an earlier age and are starting families later in life."

Despite the uncertainty of the future, Ciesielski is optimistic and takes great pride in the district.

"Linden is a great area with a lot of opportunities for students and families," he said. "Our community is very supportive of our educational system and the direction of building educational leaders."

Fenton Area Public Schools

Adam Hartley, superintendent for Fenton Area Public Schools, said, "We have declined since 2008 and have been steady since 2015 at or around 3,400."

"The state population has steadily declined over the years and enrollment in Michigan's schools has declined each year since 2002-2003."

"Genesee County population has declined over the years and there are fewer young families in the county than we had a decade ago. Many younger families have left Genesee County and birth rates continue to fall. Schools are now faced with competing over fewer students in the era of school of choice."

"We are fortunate to be in a great community where our parents and community leaders support our mission."

"When families are shopping for homes and for schools, it helps them to know that this is a great area to raise a family and have their children attend school."

According to a chart provided by Hartley, enrollment in Fenton schools was 3,609 in 2008, and in 2018 enrollment is 3,382, a loss over 10 years of 227 students.

At an average of \$7,000 in per-pupil funding, that's an approximate loss of nearly \$1.6 million in 10 years.

Holly Area Schools

Of all the local districts, Holly has seen the biggest decrease in enrollment. In the 2009-2010 school year, there were 3,841 students enrolled. There was a drop of just over 100 students in the 2010-2011 school year, followed by a larger drop in the 2011-2012 year by just over 200 students. Enrollment numbers leveled off from the 2012-2013 school years to today, even gaining a few students during the 2015-2016 year. The number of students enrolled for the 2017-2018 school year is 3,320.

Using the average of \$7,000 in per-pupil funding, Holly has lost approximately \$3.6 million since the 2009-2010 school year.

“When families are shopping for homes and for schools, it helps them to know that this is a great area to raise a family and have their children attend school.”

Adam Hartley
Fenton Area Public Schools
superintendent

Michigan State Demographer data on student enrollment

Steve Lenar, assistant superintendent for Holly schools provided information and a January presentation on this topic from Eric Guthrie, Michigan's state demographer with the Department of Technology, Management & Budget, Bureau of Labor Market Information & Strategic Initiatives.

In his presentation, Guthrie says between 2003 and 2015, the median age for mothers having a first child increased from 25 to 26, and the median age for all mothers increased from 27 to 28 years.

Guthrie says migration, or more families moving into the state of Michigan, will help to increase enrollment numbers in schools.

"Migration patterns are shifting and looking better for the state," he said. In 2017, estimates show the state had a positive net migration for the first time since before 2001.

"Domestic migration is still negative, but trending in the right direction," he said. "Migration will bring school-age children in addition to those that are a

result of natural increase."

Guthrie said age at first marriage and first child are both increasing, which is resulting in delayed fertility. Fertility in Michigan and the U.S. more generally has been trending downward for decades.

Guthrie's presentation also states:

- The Total Fertility Rate for Michigan in 2014 was 1.81 versus 1.84 for the U.S.
- Declining fertility will translate into declining enrollment over the next five to 10 years, but enrollment should increase some following that period of decline.
- Increases will not get back up to the peak, but declines will stop for a time.
- Any decrease or increases in fertility and enrollment will not be experienced evenly across the state.
- Some areas are seeing increases in enrollment even in this period, while other areas will continue to see declines over the entirety of the millennial generation's period of fertility.

Parts III and IV will deal with affordable housing and future jobs/salary outlook for Millennials.

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HOT LINE CONTINUED

■■■■ **WHETHER YOU BELIEVE** it or not, your spirit leaves the body and lives on somewhere when you die. Aren't you concerned where you will be forever?

■■■■ **SO YOU AND** I will pay for the manure spreader to be called a farmer, not Fenton Township? I wonder how much two years in court will cost us all. Maybe we could have fixed the roads.

■■■■ **ANYONE APPEALING YOUR** Deerfield Township property taxes, hold your ground and take your fight to the state level. Chances are you'll be successful. Good luck.

■■■■ **BUILDERS, PLEASE COME** to Linden and build senior complexes or condos. We truly need them. If you build, we will come.

■■■■ **FROM WHAT I'M** reading in your paper, the state's not going to have collected the money until 2021 to fix our roads. Can't our leadership in Lansing issue bonds and start fixing the roads immediately? I mean, we're worse than a third world country right now.

■■■■ **PAUL RYAN NOT** in Congress anymore. Now there's a step forward.

Maybe there will be less hate in the federal government.

■■■■ **CAPTAIN AMERICA IS** here, I love my country, God, guns, wear a cowboy hat while boating and drive a truck. Unfortunately, my wife will not share.

■■■■ **THE TYRONE TOWNSHIP** officials sure gave themselves a nice raise for a four-day workweek. The hardworking taxpayers they are supposed to serve will remember at election time.

■■■■ **THE SWAMP DWELLERS** in the FBI and D.O.J. are stalling the congressional investigations into their activities. The deep state, swamp dwellers are hoping the Democrats will take over Congress in November and stop the investigations. This would allow them to continue to try to destroy Trump.

■■■■ **TUESDAY, MAY 8,** please vote in your school elections. Byron, Millington, Grand Blanc, Fowlerville and Westwood Heights schools.

■■■■ **THERE IS SO** much traffic now I can't pull out of my driveway during rush hour without cutting off someone. I really hate driving like that. Over-development is the problem.

Works of art coming to Fenton

■ **Detroit Institute of Arts' Inside/Out** program to place high-quality reproductions throughout downtown

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

Beginning at 8 a.m. Monday, April 16, residents and visitors to downtown Fenton will notice newly placed works of art, thanks to the Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA) and its 2018 Inside/Out program.

Michael Hart, assistant city manager and Downtown Development Authority (DDA) director is liaison between the city and the DIA. He said the city recently learned that Fenton was one of the communities selected to participate in this program.

Now in its ninth year, the 2018 Inside/Out program brings high-quality reproductions of masterpieces from the DIA's collection to outdoor venues throughout each participating community. The program is sponsored by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

The reproductions will be on display



OAKLAND PRESS

A reproduction of Vincent van Gogh's "Bank of the Auvers" was on display in 2015 outside of Meadow Brook Hall in Rochester Hills in this Oakland Press photo.

throughout the downtown Fenton area, from April to July. Eleven works of art will be clustered within walking or bike-riding distance. The DIA will provide walking maps to the city of Fenton for distribution, including placement on the city's website, cityoffenton.org.

On Thursday, April 19, the city's Art & Cultural Commission will host a public wine and cheese reception at the Fenton Community & Cultural Center in the rec room, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Walking maps will be handed out during this reception.

News briefs**Hartland Alumni Reunion/Banquet**

The 95th annual Hartland Alumni Reunion/Banquet will be held at Ore Creek Middle School on Hartland Road in Hartland Township on **Saturday, May 19**. Alumni are cordially invited to social hour at 5:30 p.m. Dinner is at 7 p.m. This year's honored graduates are from the classes of 1953 and prior, 1958, 1963, 1968, 1973, 1978 and 1983. All Hartland graduates and their guest may attend. Cost is \$15 per person, plus dues of \$5 for each graduate. All reservations must be mailed by May 8, with check payable to Hartland Alumni Association. Send to Cindy Voss, 5435 Norton Rd., Howell, MI 48843. For details and 2018 reservation form, email alumnihartland@gmail.com.

Wounded Warrior Project fundraiser

A Wounded Warrior Project spaghetti dinner benefit is planned for **May 12, from 4 to 7 p.m.** at St. John's Activity Center, 600 N. Adelaide St., Fenton. Proceeds benefit the Wounded Warrior Project. Contact John at (810) 714-3561 or Rich at (810) 735-4891 for details.

Health and Wellness Fair

The Holly Area Community Coalition will be hosting a Health and Wellness Fair on **Saturday, April 21, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.** with an array of health practitioners including full health screenings provided by MSU School of Osteopathic Medicine. The Community is welcome to this free event located at the Karl Richter Center, 920 Baird St., Holly.

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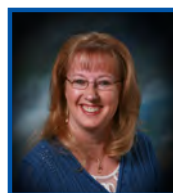
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Roger Sharp to be honored for lifetime achievement

■Has served community as funeral director for 50 years

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

He said if he had it to do all over again, he would choose the same profession.

It's because of this kind of passion and dedication to his work that Roger Sharp is being honored for serving 50 years as a licensed funeral director.

He will be awarded for that lifetime achievement at the Michigan Funeral Home Directors Association Convention in Mt. Pleasant on Wednesday, April 18.

Speaking from his home in Naples, Florida last week, Sharp said he actually began his career in the funeral home business in 1962. "I washed cars for Bowles Funeral Home in Linden," he said.

After that Sharp served in the U.S. Army and graduated from college. "I got my funeral director license in 1968 and bought my first funeral home in Swartz Creek in 1970," he said.

Today, with the help of his family and nearly 50 employees, about half of whom work part time and the other half full time, Sharp operates four successful funeral homes in Genesee County, including Fenton.

Sharp can't say enough about his family and how much their dedication and contributions mean to him.

"My kids are a very big part of my life," he said. "All of them treat the business as if it were their own, including my



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO

Roger Sharp has a fondness for great cars. Here he stands by the vintage vehicle the family often uses during parades and other civic functions.

son-in-law Mike Scully, who has been working with me for 35 years."

Over the past 50 years, Sharp said the biggest change in the funeral home business is the availability of professional help.

"Death takes no holiday," he said. This is not a part-time effort. Help for the families of the deceased must be available days, nights and weekends. "All of my children are li-

censed funeral directors," he said. They are: Jennifer Sharp Scully, Stephanie Sharp Foster and Roger (RJ) Sharp II.

"We have 10 licensed directors on staff. We have been doing about 1,200 funerals a year," he said.

Sharp said as soon as his kids could walk, they started helping. "It's been good for my family and it's been good for me," he said.

At 74 years young, Sharp said he still meets with families. And even though he

takes some time in Florida during the winters, he maintains an office there and still arranges funerals for hometown friends, including transportation when needed.

"While in Florida I've made four funeral arrangements in Genesee County and had the deceased transferred back to Michigan," he said.

But Sharp Funeral Homes offer much more than just funeral services. They offer assistance to veterans, UAW members, have grief support resources and help people with prepaid funeral services, Social Security, Medicare, insurance and other tasks that can be daunting for people during their time of grief. The Sharp family also gives back to the community in a variety of ways.

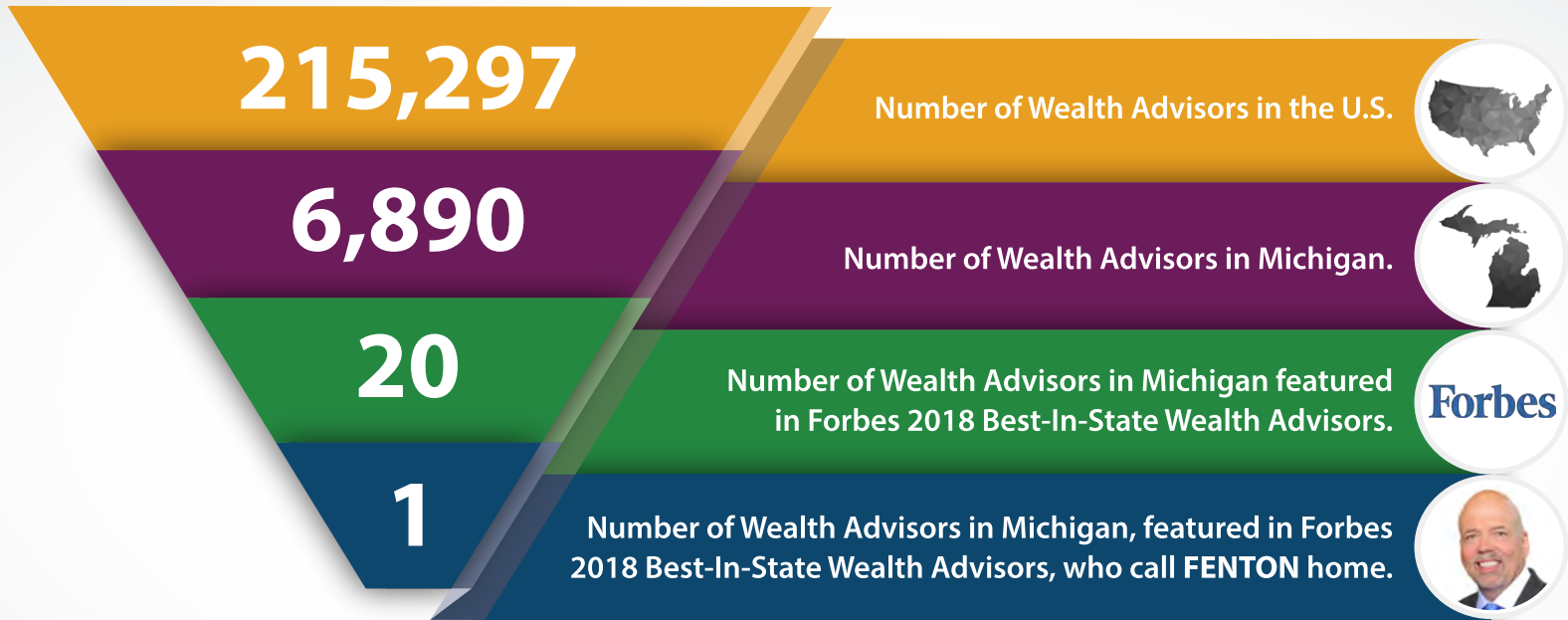
Sharp said humbly that he has been fortunate with his successes. "I've received a number of awards, awards that I probably didn't deserve," he said.

Will his grandchildren carry on with the Sharp Funeral Home business? Sharp laughed and said, "Well, the jury is still out on that one. My oldest grandchild is 16 and he'll be doing some part-time work this summer."

“Death takes no holiday.”
Roger Sharp
Sharp Funeral
Homes owner

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HOT LINE CONTINUED

TO THE PERSON defending John McCain, this is old news. You might want to look into what John McCain did while he was a POW and what his daddy did for him when he got into trouble. You have a right to your opinion but get your facts straight.

SO YOU THINK lying on Fox News is a point of view? Really? A point of view is truth, not fake news, not lies. You're right, Tucker gets a good laugh at some of the people that he has on and don't you really believe they know what he is going to do. They all know what is coming. Wow.

CAN'T BELIEVE ALL the trash lining the roadside at the soccer field on Linden Road. Where on earth does this come from? Construction across the road? Careless people? So hard to believe anyone could throw trash from their cars these days. Let's get it cleaned up.

I READ THE Hot line about the young lady who's looking for a man who wears a hat and is not afraid of his own shadow. I'd love to apply for that job.

GOD'S IN CHARGE of the whole world, every space and every place. Pray and accept Him and He'll be there for you.

LOOKING BACK

at this week in

NATIONAL HISTORY

COMPILED BY VERA HOGAN

APRIL 15

1912: The RMS Titanic, billed as unsinkable, sinks into the icy waters of the North Atlantic after hitting an iceberg on its maiden voyage, killing 1,517 people. The United Kingdom's White Star Line built the Titanic to be the most luxurious cruise ship in the world. With its individualized watertight compartments, it was seen as virtually unsinkable.

APRIL 16

1943: In Basel, Switzerland, Albert Hofmann, a Swiss chemist working at the Sandoz pharmaceutical research laboratory, accidentally consumes LSD-25, a synthetic drug he had created in 1938 as part of his research into the medicinal value of lysergic acid compounds. After taking the drug himself, Hofmann was disturbed by unusual sensations and hallucinations. He said he perceived an uninterrupted stream of fantastic pictures, extraordinary shapes with intense, kaleidoscopic play of colors. After intentionally taking the drug again to confirm that it had caused this strange physical and mental state, Hofmann published a report announcing his discovery, and so LSD made its entry into the world as a hallucinogenic drug.

APRIL 17

1964: The Ford Mustang, a two-seat, mid-engine sports car is officially unveiled by Henry Ford II at the World's Fair in Flushing Meadows, New York. That same day, the new car also debuted in Ford showrooms across America and almost 22,000 Mustangs were immediately snapped up by buyers. Ford sold more than 400,000 Mustangs within its first year of production, far exceeding sales expectations.

APRIL 18

1945: Pulitzer Prize-winning war correspondent Ernie Pyle was killed by Japanese machine-gun fire on the island of Ie Shima off the coast of Okinawa. Extremely popular, especially with the average GI, whose life and death he reported on (American infantrymen braved enemy fire to recover Pyle's body), Pyle had been at the London Blitz of 1941 and saw action in North Africa, Italy, France, and the Pacific.

APRIL 19

1995: Just after 9 a.m., a massive truck bomb explodes outside the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The blast collapsed the north face of the nine-story building, instantly killing more than 100 people and trapping dozens more in the rubble. When the rescue effort finally ended two weeks later the death toll stood at 168 people killed, including 19 young children who were in the building's daycare center at the time of the blast. On April 21, the massive manhunt for suspects in the worst terrorist attack ever committed on U.S. soil by an American resulted in the capture of Timothy McVeigh, a 27-year-old former U.S. Army soldier who matched an eyewitness description of a man seen at the scene of the crime.

APRIL 20

1999: Two teenage gunmen kill 13 people in a shooting spree at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado. At about 11:20 a.m., Dylan Klebold and Eric Harris, dressed in long trench coats, began shooting students outside the school before moving inside to continue their rampage. By the time SWAT team officers finally entered the school at about 3 p.m., Klebold and Harris had killed 12 fellow students and a teacher, and had wounded another 23 people. Then, around noon, they turned their guns on themselves and committed suicide.

APRIL 21

1930: A fire at an Ohio prison kills 320 inmates, some of whom burn to death when they are not unlocked from their cells. It is one of the worst prison disasters in American history. The Ohio State Penitentiary was built in Columbus in 1834. Throughout its history, it had a poor reputation. A cholera epidemic swept through the facility in 1849, killing 121 convicts.

Source: history.com

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Volunteers needed for Earth Day cleanup set for April 21

The inaugural Earth Day Tri-County Community Clean Up day will take place Saturday, **April 21, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.** Now that the snow has melted, trash and debris are visible throughout the city of Fenton. Volunteers are asked to bring work gloves and trash bags, and meet at the Fenton Area Public Schools Administration Building parking lot, 3100 Owen Road. The cleanup is sponsored by Republic Services, which is donating a dumpster, and Genesee County Commissioner Drew Shapiro.

MURDER CASE
Continued from Front Page

While both were played for the courtroom, Akl sat with his head down. He could be seen and heard crying softly during the 911 call.

Akl, 17, has been charged with open murder in the March 4, 2017 shooting death of his friend Brady Alan Morris, who was reportedly living at Akl's Moffett Drive home at the time. He's also charged with receiving and concealing a stolen firearm and two counts of felony firearm.

Preliminary exams are the first opportunity for the judge to hear evidence of the case. This exam brought several media outlets to the courtroom of 67th District Court Judge David Guinn. Akl's family and friends packed the gallery area, but many had to leave because police had officially interviewed them regarding the case and they might be called on to testify.

Fenton Police Officer Julie Bemus along with her partner, Sgt. William Andringa, were first on scene at Akl's home. Bemus testified about arriving on scene, securing the firearm, and Akl being handcuffed by her partner. The investigation was turned over to the Genesee County Sheriff's Office, which has jurisdiction in Fenton Township, where the home is located.

Assistant Prosecutor Anthony Williams set the basics of the scene, while Manley worked to emphasize Akl's emotional state.

Manley submitted the graphic 911 call into evidence, and his assistant, Scott Bigger, played it for the courtroom. During the call, Akl screamed that he shot his friend.

"I literally killed my friend," Akl could be heard screaming in the 911 call. He wailed "ma'am," repeatedly to the 911 operator, and said "I pointed a gun at him and pulled the trigger. I killed him, ma'am. I killed him." Akl said that his friend's brains are on the wall, and that he threw the gun.

The 911 operator asked him where

“I pointed a gun at him and pulled the trigger, I killed him, ma’am. I killed him.”
Abdurrahman Ahmed Akl



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO
A Genesee County Sheriff's deputy leads Abdurrahman "Abdu" Ahmed Akl, 17, into the courtroom Tuesday, April 10.

the gun was and told him not to perform mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, but to put pressure on the wound.
The call ended with Akl begging to be shot in the head. "I have to die," he said.

Manley also submitted and played the patrol car footage after Akl was cuffed and placed in the back seat of Andringa's patrol car.
He was heard screaming, "I'm 16 and I

killed my best friend in the whole world." He begged to be beaten by the police, and that the police not hurt his family. He screamed "Brady" repeatedly and said, "Why did I do this."
Bemus testified that according to dispatch, Akl wanted "suicide by cop," a term used when someone wants to provoke police into shooting someone who wanted to commit suicide by threatening the police, leaving them no choice but to shoot.
Andringa said Akl was not combative or a threat to police, and he approached officers with his hands up. He agreed with Manley that Akl was "hysterical."
The preliminary hearing will continue May 7 at 1:30 p.m., which could include the testimony of Akl's friend, Kiegan Beardsley, who confessed to stealing the Glock 9mm handgun from a safe and bringing it to Akl's home, where it was used regularly for shooting in the basement crawl space of the home.
With bond denied, Akl has remained in custody at the Genesee Valley Regional Center since his arrest.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO
Defense attorney Frank Manley comforts Abdurrahman "Abdu" Ahmed Akl, 17, as he cries while listening to his own 911 call, when he claimed he shot his friend Brady Alan Morris on March 4, 2017.

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Teach your children well

■ Life skills training should begin at home

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

When members of the older generations were in high school, they learned important life skills at home and at school. Home economics classes taught cooking and sewing and skilled trades classes like metal shop, auto shop and more.

Area high schools no longer offer this type of training, so much of what our kids need to learn about life must begin at home. We asked some local parents what they do to teach their children important life skills. Here's what they had to say:

Katy Hughes, the Downtown Devel-

opment Director and assistant village manager for Holly, and her husband are very involved parents.

"My daughter Olivia is 11 years old and an only child. My husband and I have been teaching her skills to become an independent tween/teen/adult," Hughes said. "She helps make dinner, folds and puts away her laundry, and is in charge of taking care of all of our pets (two dogs, two cats, one guinea pig, one fish, and five chickens).

"Olivia likes to tinker with her grandpa in the barn and is learning what is required to restore an antique Ford 8N tractor and eventually it will become hers to learn how to drive (before driving a car — tractors are very forgiving)," Hughes said.

"She has a savings account at Metro

North Federal Credit Union and adds birthday money to it. Whatever money she saves will be matched by my husband and me at the end of each year," she said. "We are teaching her about compounded interest and the importance of saving and investing. Olivia will be selling things that she has made at a Juried Art Show. As a young entrepreneur, Olivia knows that it takes money to make money. She bought most of her own art supplies and is eager to see some return on her investment.

"It is our job as parents to raise confident, independent young people. They are the next generation and they deserve to be taught well," Hughes said.

Veronica Pheasant of Argentine Township said she is teaching her kids what her mother and grandmother taught her.

See **CHILDREN** on 20A



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO
Olivia Hughes, 11, takes very seriously the task of decorating holiday cookies.

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TAX DAY

Continued from Front Page

Tax day is April 15, but this year it falls on a Sunday. This would mean that tax day would be April 16 instead, but April 16 is also a federal holiday — Emancipation Day.

This is the day in 1862, in Washington, D.C., that President Abraham Lincoln signed the Compensated Emancipation Act, freeing slaves.

Hence, tax day 2018 is April 17, according to IRS rules. Taxes are due by midnight that day.

Go to IRS.gov for more information on filing taxes.

The seven most overlooked deductions

COMPILED BY FORBES.COM

1. Unreimbursed employee expenses

You may be able to deduct unreimbursed employee expenses on your 2017 return (but not after that). But there's a big catch: The expenses will be deductible only to the extent that they, along with other miscellaneous expenses such as tax prep and investment advisory fees, exceeded 2 percent of your adjusted gross income. That's potentially a high bar to clear.

2. Job-search expenses

If you dished out a lot of money to look for a job in 2017, you may be able to deduct some of the costs of your quest. A few examples: out-of-town trips for interviews, mileage driving to meetings (53.5 cents a mile), fees for outplacement agencies, resumé prep

and registration fees for events related to your line of work.

3. Moving costs for a new job

If you landed a job last year that required you to pick up roots, your timing was excellent, tax-wise. The deduction for moving expenses for a new job also got the ax starting in 2018. Plus, beginning this year, any moving costs your new employer reimburses you for are taxable (that perk used to be tax-free). To qualify for this deduction, however, you must meet what the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) calls the "distance test." Your new workplace must be at least 50 miles farther from your old home as your previous one was from your former home. In other words, if where you used to work was 10 miles from home, your new job must be at least 60 miles from that same home.

4. State and local taxes

The deduction for state and local income, sales, and property taxes hasn't gone away entirely, but in 2018, the maximum you can write off is \$10,000 in total. If you stood in line in late December to prepay your 2018 property taxes due to the new tax law, you likely won't forget that. What's easier to overlook are the state income taxes you paid last spring with your 2016 return. Plus, if you live in a state with no or low-income taxes, don't overlook the state sales tax deduction, an alternative to deducting state sales taxes.

5. Casualty and theft losses

If your car was stolen or your home was broken into or damaged in a disaster last year, you can write off damages not covered by insurance or recouped in a salvage sale. Between

hurricanes, floods and wildfires, 2017 was a big year for disasters, of course. However, unless you have the misfortune to live in a federally declared disaster area, you won't be able to deduct casualty and theft losses after 2017.

6. Dependent exemption

The 2017 tax law killed off personal exemptions starting in 2018, replacing them with a nearly doubled standard deduction. So for 2017, you can take exemptions worth \$4,050, for yourself and your dependents. What you might overlook when totting up your dependents are any family members who you supported last year but didn't live with you. For a relative to qualify — an adult child, a parent, a sibling — you had to supply more than half that person's support and his or her 2017 gross income could not have been above \$4,050 (excluding, in most cases, Social Security income).

7. The deduction that expanded: medical expenses

Although the new tax law ended many write-offs, it expanded the deduction for medical expenses, at least for 2017 and 2018. For those tax returns, the threshold for qualifying to deduct medical expenses fell from 10 percent of your adjusted gross income to 7.5 percent. That's still a tough hurdle to clear, but the drop could make a difference.

If you haven't already filed your taxes, go to IRS.gov for more information on filing.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

IT WASN'T SO long ago that a young teen community service project supported senior citizen veterans in our community. Now, just a few years later, that same young man is still looking out for our veterans and voting the right way to use our veterans' bond money — for the veterans.

RICHARD ROCKMAN STARTED the Times paper and I'm sure he's looking down from heaven saying pay attention to eternal things.

YES, THE CLIMATE is changing indeed, not due to mankind but changing just the same, just as it has since the beginning of time. It's just the way God planned it.

I BET THE person that was raised in Linden in the '60s and is concerned, drives a foreign car.

THE LOCAL NRA member wanting to advise school boards may find the schools have already taken their own measures for better security.

LET ME ASK you this. Would you leave your wife, your mother, your sister, your girlfriend or your daughter in the same room with Donald Trump?

MY HUSBAND IS a veteran and went to school for three years in order to graduate with a degree in Public Health from U of M, all by the age of 25. Now we are deciding if he needs another career change. All he wants is to be able to support his family, while helping the public.

THE U.S. POSTAL Service continues to illegally reduce rates for Amazon, which has resulted in undercharging Amazon for delivery of those packages by \$1.46 per unit. Yeah, cuz' Jeff Bezos needs the money.



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Young girl honored by MLK Foundation

■ Addisyn Goss, 11, and siblings, are honored for Snuggle Sacks humanitarian effort

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Addisyn Goss and her family spent the last weekend of spring break out of town, but it wasn't for a typical vacation like many families take this time of year.

She and her family traveled to Atlanta, Georgia where Addisyn, 11, and siblings Sheridan, 16 and Jaxson, 13, were among 15 young Americans recognized by the Martin Luther King Foundation for their humanitarian efforts.

The founder of Snuggle Sacks — Survival Kits for the Homeless, Addisyn was just 8 years old in 2015 when she met her estranged grandfather, who had been homeless for a number of years. She made it her mission to fight the reality of homelessness, by providing bags of basic necessities and distributing them in the poverty-ravaged streets of Flint.

Yolanda Renee King, granddaughter of Martin Luther King and Maryn Rippey, granddaughter of A.D. King, Martin's younger brother, hosted the youths on Saturday, April 7 at the Georgia Freight Depot for "their extraordinary work for humanity."

This event was the culmination of a week of special events honoring Martin

Luther King on the 50th anniversary of his assassination on April 4, 1968.

The Martin Luther King Foundation called Addisyn to let her know that she had been selected for this once-in-a-lifetime honor. All three siblings were honored, but Addisyn spoke on behalf of the group as the founder/CEO.

Her entire family became involved in homeless relief efforts, including her siblings; her mother, Stacy Daul; her stepdad, Andrew Daul and her dad, Jason Goss. "Both of her dads are very involved," Stacy said. "They alternate taking days off to make deliveries, attend non-profit meetings, and so on."

“It's nearly impossible to put into words the experience we had.”

Stacy Daul

Mother of Snuggle Sacks founder Addisyn Goss

"It's nearly impossible to put into words the experience we had," Stacy said. "We met so many influential members of the King family, plus all the other kids who were also honored for making a difference. To know that the King family sought my kids out and invited them to this is amazing, and the ultimate honor and moment of pride."

The Goss siblings also were introduced to Martin Luther King III and Dr. Bernice King, children of Martin Luther King, Jr.

"The kids said it is the highest honor they have ever received," Stacy said.

Since those early days of Snuggle Sacks, when the Dauls' home basement was used as a distribution warehouse, this cause has grown from not just one



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO

The three Goss siblings, Sheridan, Addisyn and Jaxson, are pictured with Maryn Rippey (second from left), third cousin to Martin Luther King Jr.

family's mission, but to a cause embraced by the Fenton area community, as well as nationally.

Addisyn was featured in USA Today one year ago, raising awareness of Snuggle Sacks to a national cause.

Now officially a registered non-profit organization, Snuggle Sacks packs about 500 bags each month, filled with new socks, gloves, small blankets, lip balm, applesauce, toothbrush/toothpaste, hand/foot warmers, raisins, crackers or any protein-type snack, travel-size toiletries, personal hygiene items and much more.

These bags are then distributed to the homeless through shelters, state organizations and street outreach, now extended to Lansing and Detroit Metro areas. Snuggle Sacks works with Carriage Town Ministries and Homeless Angels to distribute, as well as various other organizations.

Each Snuggle Sack costs about \$10, from the price of the bag to its contents, and the cost is paid for through individual donations and partnerships with local businesses.

Even more than the gift of these survival bags is the human touch provided by the Goss and Daul families to the homeless people they encounter. "They

SUMMARY

■ Addisyn Goss, founder of Snuggle Sacks — Survival Kits for the Homeless, and her siblings, Sheridan and Jaxson, were among 15 young people recognized for their humanitarian work by the Martin Luther King Foundation on April 7 in Atlanta, Georgia.

don't get treated as humans," Stacy said. "The crying, the hugging, that goes further than the bag does. I still get teary-eyed every single time."

One of Snuggle Sacks' biggest milestones was moving into its new office/warehouse next

to Animal Health Clinic in Fenton five months ago. Packing days at the warehouse are usually Wednesdays and Sundays and people can sign up to volunteer or make donations on the organization's website, snugglesacks.org. On Saturdays, the family delivers the bags to about 15 shelters.

The Daul family has added homeless advocacy to the Snuggle Sacks cause, attending Homeless Advocacy Day in Lansing on Wednesday, April 11, hoping to change the system for getting identification cards. This is one of the biggest obstacles for the homeless in securing jobs and housing, Stacy said.

WATCH THE VIDEO



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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Taylor Conway of Brighton fills a snuggle sack Wednesday, April 11, with various items, including women's hygiene products. The volunteer group will fill 50 bags for men and women, which were requested by Shelter of Flint.

Trouble in dairy land?

■ Michigan dairy farmers struggling with shrinking profits, higher expenses

By Tim Jagielo

tjagielo@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795

Mundy Twp. — It takes approximately three hours to milk 180 cows. Wearing rubber boots, Corner Oak Farm co-owner Julie Juengel walks up and down the milking parlor floor, making sure the milking machines are attached to the cows. She shuts off the ones that are done for the night.

Juengel's daughter, Amy, and son, Jason, 17, are helping to clean and treat the udders. When finished, they guide the cattle away from the parlor. Most know where they're supposed to go, but are wary of anything new in their path — like a journalist with cameras.

While everything appears to be fine at the farm and the grocery aisle, there is deep trouble for Michigan's dairy farmers.

For nearly four years, dairy farmers have been receiving approximately half the price for their milk, and dealing with escalating expenses. Worldwide, there is a surplus of milk, which is good for everyone but the milk producers.

This surplus is pushing some producers out of the business and some have even considered suicide, according to milkbusiness.com.

At Corner Oak Farm, the husband/wife team of Peter and Julie Juengel are hanging on by a thread, trying to keep the business going until it's profitable again.

"It's rough," Julie said. "We're managing, we're making cuts." They've laid off employees, so everyone stepped in to do more.

"It makes me feel like, why the heck am I doing this, still," Peter said. He said Michigan farms are in rough shape and it won't be fixed anytime soon.

Farmers are used to wavering milk prices. A bad year every so often is weathered by equity and savings. However, going on four years is too much for many



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Corner Oak Farm co-owner Julie Juengel turns off a milking machine Friday, April 6. Her farm, which she operates with her family and a small, dedicated group of employees, produces 11,000 pounds of milk daily.

farmers to endure.

Peter and Julie are living paycheck to paycheck, and working with their bank to make their loans more manageable.

Too much of a good thing

There is a worldwide milk surplus, making milk everywhere less valuable. The surplus is caused by farmers maximizing production through better technology, feed and care of the animals, while there is less demand.

"Each animal is giving more every year because of genetics, better feeding, better care," Peter said. "All those things have improved."

They can buy "sexed semen," which determines sex, to inseminate their cows, leading to 90-percent females being born, leading to more milk-producing heifer cows.

Even the European Union (EU) affects the daily lives of farmers here. The EU lifted production restrictions making milk everywhere less valuable.

The Juengels' farm produces 11,000 pounds of milk each day, which is a suppressed amount. They've decreased

production, and Peter believes that if everyone dropped 3 or 4 percent, the surplus would end. "That's 3 to 4 percent of milk you have to find a home for. No one really wants it, so it lowers the price for everything," Peter said.

A problem with price

While Michigan dairy farmers are receiving about \$14.50 per 100 pounds of milk, store prices list milk at between \$2.50 to \$3.99 per gallon.

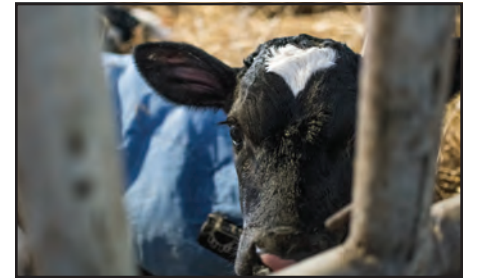
Ken Nobis is president of the Michigan Milk Producers Association, which is a co-op that markets Michigan milk, and is a dairy farmer himself in St. Johns. He said there is a total disconnect between what farmers receive for the fluid milk they sell to processors and what retailers

WATCH THE VIDEO



"It's an uphill battle it seems like, but it's a beautiful way of life. I don't think I'd want to do anything else."

Julie Juengel
Corner Oak Farm co-owner



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Amy Juengel hoses down the milking parlor after the Friday, April 6 session.

Suicide among teens and young adults tripled since 1940s

■ Local middle school counselor says level of anxiety has soared among students

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

At only 15 years old, one Fenton freshman has already lost two of her close friends to suicide.

Fenway Jones doesn't know exactly why her friends, age 16 and 15, decided to take their own lives, but she wants to help prevent it from happening to other people.

"I am planning a Dungeons and Dragons charity event where all of the proceeds are going to a suicide prevention charity," she said. "I lost two friends in the past year to suicide."

She's trying to do some good so other people don't have to feel the grief of losing someone close to them to suicide. The event, called Jasper's Game Day, named after one of Jones' friends who died from suicide, will take place April 21 at Ziege Games in Howell. All the proceeds go to the Barb Smith Suicide Resource and Response Network. See sidebar for more information.

Suicide, which claims 4,600 young lives every year in the U.S., is the third leading cause of death among young people between the ages of 10 to 24, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. That amounts to more than 12 suicides a day from young people.

"More kids have died from suicide than school shootings in the past year," Jones said.



PHOTO: SHSTHETORCH.COM

Suicide is the third leading cause of death among young people aged 10 to 24, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Youth suicide is on the rise.

Suicide among teens and young adults has nearly tripled since the 1940s, according to the CDC.

The number of children and adolescents admitted to children's hospitals for thoughts of suicide or self-harm more than doubled in the past decade, according to cbsnews.com. The U.S. saw a 5.7-percent increase in emergency room visits for self-inflicted, non-fatal injuries among children and young adults between 2008 to 2015. The most

common patients were female tweens (ages 10-12) and young teens, yet boys are more likely to die from suicide than girls.

Jennifer Tews, Lake Fenton Middle School counselor, said the increased use of technology and social media is a factor.

"I think the lack of personal communication and disconnect people have with one another can make them feel alone and isolated. It has also become easier for people to be cyber bullied making them feel powerless," she said.

Teens who spend more

“I think the level of anxiety has soared among middle school students.”

Jennifer Tews
Lake Fenton Middle
School counselor

time on their phone are 70 percent more likely to have suicidal thoughts or actions compared to those who used their phone one hour per day, according to a report published in Clinical Psychological Science.

Tews said middle school students are more stressed compared to middle school students decades ago.

"I think the level of anxiety has soared among middle school students. The use of social media, acceptance, how many likes their posts get, and constant comparing their life with what others are posting. It is not the healthiest environment for our students," she said.

Tews recommends that parents talk more with their children.

"Parents/guardians need to keep lines of communication open with their kids as much as possible. Putting personal devices aside and spending quality time with one another may help," she said.

Dungeons and Dragons charity event

At Jasper's Game Day, on April 21, people can buy in to play the games. A 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dungeon Master Seminar costs \$40. From 3 to 7 p.m., people can attend a writing seminar for \$40, and from 8 to 11 p.m., there will be 12 tables at play, which is \$15 per person. Participants can also win door prizes, giveaways and silent auctions. More information can be found at ziegegames.com.



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Now that you have that degree...

■ Here's help in finding a career that will put your education to best use

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

When you walk into a business wearing flip flops and shorts, and yell from the front door, "Hey, are you guys hiring,?" the employees there know instantly that you're not looking for a job, you're looking for a name and address to put on your Unemployment Insurance form.

With college graduations coming up soon, there are going to be many college grads eager to put their newly acquired degrees to good use.

To give yourself an edge in the jobs market, the following are some tips from careerbuilder.com to nailing that interview, and ultimately the job.

Speak the truth

It should go without saying that lying during an interview is a huge mistake. Yet, candidates still do it, and when they get caught, it's enough for 66 percent of hiring managers to immediately remove them from consideration.

Turn off your cell phone

One of the fastest ways to lose favor and ruin a job interview is to answer a call or text in the middle of it, according to 64 percent of hiring managers surveyed. Checking your phone during an interview sends the message that you don't take the interview seriously and shows a lack of respect for your interviewer and his or her time. Take temptation out of the way entirely by turning your phone off or silencing it before you start the interview.



How you look, and what you say and do, at a job interview can make the difference between being sent on your way or starting a new career.

Don't be arrogant

Appearing arrogant or entitled is an instant disqualifier for 59 percent of hiring managers. While you should be ready and able to discuss your professional accomplishments and what makes you stand out, there's a fine line between boasting and bragging. Remember that no one owes you a job, no matter how well qualified you think you are. Remember your manners and show them that you appreciate their time with a

simple but genuine "thank you."

Dress for success

Wearing clothes that are too tight or too loose, too dressy or too casual, or wearing brands and logos in professional settings is a bad sign, according to 49 percent of hiring managers. But before

you accuse your interviewer of playing fashion police instead of interviewing you about your skills, remember why they even care about your appearance. They're evaluating your judgment and how you'd appear to customers. Do you show you can fit in with company culture? Are you there to bring professionalism to the organization? Dress the part.

Take responsibility for your actions

According to careerbuilder.com, nearly half of hiring managers are completely turned off by a candidate who appears to have a lack of accountability. Oftentimes,

interviewers ask about difficulties you've encountered in the workplace — from a conflict with a co-worker to making a mistake on the job — in order to assess your ability to overcome challenges and learn from them. But if your answers involve placing blame on others without taking any ownership for your own actions, it can be perceived as a lack of maturity and self-awareness, as well as an inability to work well with others.

Make eye contact

Two-thirds of hiring managers say that failing to make eye contact is one of the biggest body language mistakes job candidates make. This could be because not looking someone in the eye can appear as if you're trying to hide something and are therefore untrustworthy.

Smile

Failing to smile is a major concern among 39 percent of hiring managers. Aside from giving off the impression that you're cold or standoffish, not smiling also tells hiring managers that you'd rather be anywhere else. Who wants to hire someone who doesn't want to be there?

Keep your hands to yourself and sit still

One-third of hiring managers have witnessed a candidate playing with something on the table during the interview. Not only is it completely juvenile behavior, it shows a complete lack of interest in the interview and disrespect for

See **FINDING A CAREER** on 18A

10 signs you rocked your interview

See Page 18A

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News briefs

SEEKING DONATIONS FOR BOXES FOR TROOPS

The Linden High School Student Council is seeking donations for boxes that will be sent to overseas troops. Students will join Desert Angels, the organization that packs and mails the boxes, for a packing event April 27. The group is seeking donations, such as Pop-Tarts, instant foods, Lifesavers candy, cereal, cookies, Slim Jims, breakfast bars and other packaged items; personal items such as combs, brushes, toothbrushes, wipes, razors, deodorant, shampoo and other like items; and recreational material, such as DVDs, CDs, stationery, magazines, pens, paper, footballs, soccer balls, decks of cards and like items. Items can be dropped off at Linden High School starting April 16. The organization is asking people to also write a letter for the troops and donate money.

VETERANS SEMINAR

Mission Point Nursing and Rehabilitation Center of Holly invites the community to attend its Veterans Seminar on **Wednesday, April 18, at 3 p.m.** The Holly Area Veterans Resource Center will be presenting information for veterans, and widows of veterans, regarding veteran benefits. Mission Point of Holly is at 313 Sherwood St. in Holly. Come and learn about the benefits to which you are entitled. Refreshments will be served.

FENTON ROAD RECONSTRUCTION STARTS MONDAY, APRIL 16

The Genesee County Road Commission will be begin reconstruction of **Fenton Road between Cook and Grand Blanc roads** in Grand Blanc and Mundy townships starting Monday, April 16. The anticipated project completion date is Aug. 24. A detour route will be posted using Grand Blanc, Torrey and Baldwin roads. Motorists are advised to proceed with caution and allow themselves additional time to reach their destinations.

Tri-county fundraisers

Spring rummage sale fundraiser

A spring rummage sale fundraiser will be held at Calvary United Methodist Church, 15010 N. Holly Rd., Holly on Thursday, April 19, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and April 20, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Budget prices and there's something for everyone. Also, they are collecting good, clean, usable items for this sale. All items not sold will be donated to Purple Heart. For details, go to www.hollycalvary.org, email hollycalvarychurch@gmail.com or call (248) 634-9711.

FINDING A CAREER

Continued from Page 17A

the manager's time. Is there some place more important you have to be? This is the message you send hiring managers when you fidget too much in your seat.

Arms down

Did the interviewer say something to offend you? Is someone forcing you to be there? Are you pouting because someone stole your snack pack? These are the messages you might be sending with your arms crossed over your chest. About 32 percent of hiring managers find this gesture off-putting.

Nailed it!

According to careerbuilder.com, here are 10 signs you rocked your interview:

You got a second interview

Receiving an invitation for a second interview is a sure-fire indicator of success. If the hiring manager wasn't interested, she would be evasive about when and whether you could expect to hear back.

They asked for references

If the hiring manager asks for a list of references, it means they are seriously considering you and want to make sure you are a qualified candidate. A company won't spend the time and money to complete this process if they aren't interested in hiring you.

You met the team

Being introduced to people who weren't on your interview schedule — especially if they are higher up in the company — is a great sign. Bonus points if they are a president or senior executive. Drop-ins like that signal that word of you and your abilities is already getting around the office and your potential colleagues are interested.

You discussed the specifics of leaving your current job

If a hiring manager asks about the amount of time needed for a transition or what non-compete agreements might be in place, you can be sure you're on their short list. It indicates that the hiring manager is interested in moving forward with an offer and wants to get out ahead of any potential roadblocks that would slow down your departure from your current organization.

Salary was discussed

This is more dependent on the stage of the interview process you're in, but discussing salary expectations is often a good sign. It indicates that the company is considering investing in you. So come prepared.

The interview ran long

Hiring managers schedule interviews in between their other responsibilities. If they don't rush you out the door to get to their next candidate or meeting, consider that a positive sign.

You asked a lot of questions

If the interviewer spends as much time answering your questions as he did asking his own, it's a sign that the tables have turned and instead of wanting you to pursue the role, he is trying to sell you on it.

They called you by name

When a hiring manager references you by your name, it signals that she is picturing you joining her organization. By using your name and not the generic "you," she is attempting to engage you.

The conversation got nonverbal

Nonverbal signals can tell you a lot about a situation. If the interviewer is nodding, smiling and taking scrupulous notes, for example, that shows he is engaged and interested.

Cultural fit

In today's job market, it's not just about a candidate's ability to do a job. It's about how they'll potentially fit into the company's culture. The more a hiring manager talks about how you'll fit into the mold at a company, the better. It means they see you as a good fit.

Again, none of these are sure-fire signals that you've gotten the job. Plus, even though you did everything right, there is always the chance that someone else did, too. But if you continually see a couple of the above signals you'll know you've at least got a shot.

Source: careerbuilder.com

TAGS

Continued from Front Page

to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). In that list is a stipulation that would require people to register rigid-hulled kayaks, canoes, and paddleboards 8 feet in length or longer for up to \$10 each per year, and require a seasonal pass for non-resident craft for up to \$10 per year. See more specific suggestions in sidebar.

Dennis Nickels, chairman of the commission, said these suggestions came after years of collecting data on Michigan's waterways and paddle sports, and gathering input from dozens of paddle sport organizations in Michigan.

Currently, there are approximately 800,000 registered boats and more than 3,000 miles of water trails in the state of Michigan. The U.S. Coast Guard estimates the state sees 650,000 paddle sport vessels, such as kayaks, canoes, and paddleboards every year.

"Paddle sport vessels are 45 percent of vessels on the water," he said. But these vessels do not come with a registration fee.

Boat registration fees partially go to the 1,300 boating access points around the state, which many paddle sport users take advantage of but don't pay for. These access points are packed, Nickels said.

Safety concerns

Another concern is safety and law enforcement resources for paddle sport vessels. Nickels said they heard first a "dull roar and then a plea for help" from the DNR water safety division and from county sheriffs and municipal marine patrols.

By law, if an individual is out on the water and someone else is in distress, they are required to help if it does not put themselves in danger, and then to alert law enforcement.

"Disproportionately, law enforcement gets called on emergencies for paddle craft, not motorized vessels," he said. "With no ID on the kayak, they don't know if it was blown off someone's dock or their lawn, or if they're looking for a person in the water, also. They don't know if it's a vessel recovery or a search and rescue."

Funding for water safety

Approximately 50 cents from every dollar collected from boat registration fees is divided between three sections: the DNR law enforcement division, county and municipal marine patrol, and for both the states and local units of government to provide watercraft safety and awareness. The other 50 cents goes to the waterways fund and can only be spent on maintenance and construction for public access points.

"We do what we can but we can't keep taking money from registered boaters to give resources to unregistered boaters," he said. "Law enforcement budgets have

been blown to smithereens."

Numerous states, such as Ohio, Minnesota, Indiana and others require these vessels to be registered. If paddle sport vessels are registered in Michigan, those users would not have to pay the fee in other states if they wish to travel and kayak.

What the money would go to

While the commission voted on a fee up to \$10, Nickels said he expects the fee to be around \$5. The commission aims to disperse the money through grants for local paddle sport organizations. The money would go to the water trails initiative, public access sites, law enforcement, boater safety education, and providing identification for paddle sport owners to aid in search and recovery attempts.

In talking with paddle sport organizations, Nickels discovered a need for adaptive launch devices that are handicap accessible with hydraulic lifts. Disabled people would be

able to get their kayaks and canoes in and out of the water.

"It's not going to be without controversy, but so far largely the controversy is misunderstanding as to where the money would go," he said.

Nickels hopes to get legislation passed by the next voting season this coming fall.

Suggestions that could become law

The Michigan State Waterways Commission is a seven-member advisory body responsible for the construction and maintenance of public recreational harbors, channels, docking and launching facilities.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- **Require registration** of all rigid-hulled kayaks and paddleboards (over 8 feet in length) at a fee to be determined
- **Require that the** registration certificate be affixed to the vessel in a prominent location, containing information on the owner's name, address, landline and cell phone, emergency contact, and email address
- **Require that personal** flotation devices be on onboard or worn while using these crafts, which is already state law
- **Not allow new** owners to use previous owner's registration
- **Require that out** of state paddle craft register the vessel in Michigan or get a seasonal permit, but this excludes vessels registered in other states

Source: Michigan State Waterways Commission

MICHIGAN VOTES

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 Friday, March 6.

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

House Bill 5031: Impose licensure on assisted living facilities for seniors

Introduced by Rep. Abdullah Hammoud (D), to impose licensure on assisted living facilities for seniors, similar to licensure regimes imposed on hospitals, nursing homes and others. Referred to committee, no further action at this time

SEX ASSAULT

Continued from Front Page

of first-degree criminal sexual conduct (CSC) with a victim under the age of 13 and one count of second-degree CSC with a female under the age of 13.

On Wednesday, April 11, a new arrest warrant was issued against him in Genesee County District Court. Sackrider has now been charged with one felony count of third-degree CSC with an incapacitated victim. This alleged incident took place in July 2017, according to court records.

He was arraigned Thursday, April 12 on the new charge. Sackrider has retained defense attorney Michael Manley to represent him. A cash surety bond of \$25,000 was ordered and a probable cause conference has been scheduled for April 26 at 8:30 a.m.

On the earlier charges, Genesee County Sheriff's detectives were alerted Jan. 13 to a CSC complaint involving Sackrider. Detectives interviewed the victim, who alleged she was sexually assaulted by Sackrider several times when she was between the ages of 11 and 16 years old. She told detectives that the alleged assaults took place at Sackrider's Linden Road home in Fenton Township. The young victim said Sackrider was her mom's ex-boyfriend.

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

House Bill 5224: Revise barber licensure detail

Introduced by Rep. Jeff Yaroch (R), to revise a state licensure mandate imposed on barbers that mandates 1,800 hours of barber college instruction before an individual can earn a living at this trade. The bill would permit up to 1,000 hours of training for a cosmetology license to be substituted. Referred to committee, no further action at this time.

CHILDREN

Continued from Page 12A

"Always recycle, reuse or repurpose," Pheasant said. "It's hard to do but when you do it makes you feel good. Always have a recycle bin, a compost pile and a garden to get back out what you put in. Besides, who doesn't love a nice warm vine ripe tomato."

"I've always had my kids help me cook, I only have boys but they were always able to cook and take care of themselves," Pheasant said.

Pheasant said their family camped and always cooked at the campsite so her kids would learn how to cook while roughing it. "Hunting or fishing and cooking it afterwards is a huge bonus," she said.

Pheasant said it is important for parents always to set a good example by getting up and going to work every day yourself. When it comes to finances, she said she teaches her kids what her mom taught her. "Always pay \$50 to \$100 extra on your mortgage every month toward your principle," she said.

Pheasant said she has always taught her kids to stick up for the underdog or whoever was being picked on at school. "I always told them the way you act now in high school is the way your classmates are going to remember you when you get older no matter how much you change or

how much you say 'sorry.' They're only going to remember the good or the bad come reunion time. How do you want to be remembered," she said.

Heather Gundry of Fenton said her children have learned life skills along the way as members of the family. They have learned some cooking skills, and banking skills by managing their own checking accounts, and once they turned 16, paying for things on their own with money they've earned from part-time jobs. They also learned to do their own laundry.

Moreso, Gundry said, "We've really focused on life lessons. Being good to people. Being nice to people. Always doing what makes you happy. Never giving up on life."

"They may not be able to boil water but they will reach out to homeless to help in a heartbeat," she said.

Joe Ludwig, former battalion chief for the Argentine Township Fire Department, who currently works at the General Motors Proving Grounds, has four kids, ranging in age from 34 to 14.

"As a skilled trades mechanic at the GM Milford Proving Ground, I have taught my children the basics of automotive repair and maintenance," Ludwig said. "It is important to simply know how to change a flat tire and your oil, especially for girls, of which I have three."

Rob Harris of Fenton said, "After dinner, each of our three girls are assigned two jobs to do before they can get dessert or use their tablets. We have a spinning dial, which we use to rotate the assignments. When the girls know there is a reward to be had soon after their chores, it helps (not guarantees) their cooperation."

Will Stiverson of Fenton is a single dad. He said, "One of the things that I feel all people need is hope. One way I have been able to teach Logan that is by going to church and praying as often as possible."

"He helps sweep, take out garbage, and rinses the dishes off before putting them in the dishwasher," Stiverson said. "Those seem like bland things but he really knows how to clean his room well when I ask him. I normally don't have to tell him twice when he puts his mind to it."



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO

One of Olivia Hughes responsibilities at home includes taking care of the family's animals, including their five chickens.

WHAT YOU MISSED *in the* MIDWEEK TIMES

Compiled by Vera Hogan

The following are stories you may have missed in the **Wednesday, April 11, Midweek Times**. To subscribe and receive both the Midweek and Sunday Weekend editions, please call (810) 629-8282.

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

911 audio tape and dash cam footage released in Abdurrahman "Abdu" Ahmed Akl case. He was in court Tuesday, April 10 for his preliminary examination.



Fenton students worry that 'the arts' are in danger

Switch from block scheduling pits foreign language against music.

Genesee County commissioners reverse their vote

\$50,000 to go to veterans instead of Ally Challenge golf tournament.

Imagine theater in Hartland breaks ground

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

You, too, can belly dance

Middle Eastern dancing now weekly event at restaurant.

A look back at 1968

Vietnam peace talks begin in Paris.

Julie Brown leaves Linden after 14 years

Former middle school principal will become superintendent in Houghton Lake.

Happy National Pet Day

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GOLF SEASON
Continued from Page 3A

Leagues are already organized and planning to start play next week.

“I’m trying to be upbeat about the weather,” said Chris White, owner of Fenton Farms Golf Club & Driving Range in Fenton Township. “In the 17 years I’ve owned the course, this is the first year that the golf season has begun on the calendar, without any active play.”

He’s hoping that will all change next week, when golf leagues officially start Wednesday, April 18, if the weather cooperates.

“We have very robust league play,” White said. “Whether they’ll start next week or not will depend on if the course will be able to handle golf carts without ruining the course, because of the weather. At least 80 percent of our golfers use carts.”

Fenton Farms Golf Club boasts a brand new golf cart fleet, plus the added beauty of 1,500 new tulips dotting the landscape. “The course has never looked better. Now we just need Mother Nature to cooperate,” White said.

Most golf course owners and managers see this delay in warm, sunny spring weather as an opportunity because of pent-up demand. That’s the word from Jason Raney, general manager at Coyote Preserve Golf Course in Fenton Township. “Once the weather breaks, it’s going to break for the season,” Raney said.

Coyote Preserve has been open periodically since the end of March, but play hasn’t been consistent because of the weather. “Last year at about this time, we had to close for five days because of snow,” Raney said. “Sometimes we forget. We’re not too many days behind



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO
(Above) Lake Fenton High School golfer Olivia Snyder, 17, plays a match Wednesday, April 11 with Montrose and Durand at Fenton Farms Golf Club in Fenton Township. (Left) There was actual spring-like weather for the high school golfers during their match at Fenton Farms Golf Club on Wednesday, April 11.

where we were last year at this time.”

Raney said Coyote Preserve Golf Course is in great shape. “We’ve already mowed the greens twice and rolled them, so we’re just waiting for them to green up,” he said.

Leagues are already filled to capacity. “If we do get any openings, it will be this time of year,” Raney said. “We do have a waiting list.”

Hartland Glen Golf Course opened for its

first official day Thursday, April 12. “This is a lot later than usual,” Scherff said. “This is one of the latest dates I remember, and I’ve been here 20 years. We did open for three days in March, but we couldn’t stay open because of the weather.”

As a 36-hole golf course, Hartland Glen is in a unique position for league play. “We are actually a destination for leagues,” Scherff said. “We’ve got more than 600 league golfers who can play a double rotation on our four nine-hole courses.”

While this golf season has gotten off to a slow start, at least one local golfer has proven his dedication to the sport.

Scott Grossmeyer, 61, has hit the links at least once a month — even during the winter — at Tyrone Hills Golf Course in Tyrone Township.

He’d catch a sunny 40-degree day in January, February and March and walk the course, enjoying a respite from winter. The funny thing is, he was never the only one out there golfing.

“I’d post pictures on Facebook every time because I wanted to encourage others to get out there and play,” Grossmeyer said. He’s looking forward to getting out there twice a week, beginning with league play next week.

Michigan loves to golf!

Michigan has more public golf courses than any other state (660), beating Florida, California, New York and Texas.

SOURCE: National Golf Foundation



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Baylis era ending after 13 successful Holly basketball seasons

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

The Lance Baylis era didn't start when the Holly varsity boys basketball coach accepted the position about 13 years ago.

Instead it started one day when he was house hunting.

"When I bought the house in Holly, I didn't even know what school district we were in," Baylis said. "I got lucky to move into a community like Holly who has been so appreciative and supportive."

That move eventually sparked Baylis toward serving as the founder and youth di-

rector of Holly Hoops and the Broncho Basketball League. He became Holly's varsity head coach in July 2005. Since then, he's spent 13 seasons being the face of the Holly boys basketball program, while also being a teacher of life to every athlete that was part of the Holly boys basketball program.

While Baylis' love for Holly and his relationship with the program may never end, something changed Tuesday when he resigned the varsity boys basketball position during a meeting with Holly Athletic Director Deb Vankuiken.

"Deb was pulling out the schedule and I

said, 'Hold on there for a second. I'm going to tell you something' and it was like she saw a ghost. We spent two hours talking and she gave me a big hug. This was perfect timing for me. The program is in great shape and I'm thankful and so proud of the program we build over the last 13 years. ... I'm not sad right now. I'm very happy. I gave my heart, soul, blood, sweat, tears and my intensity every single day for 365 days for 13 years, and that's why I have such a satisfying feeling right now."

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM



Lance Baylis

SUNDAY, APRIL 15, 2018

WWW.TCTIMES.COM/SPORTS

PAGE 22A

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Times Sports

Lake Fenton, Holly brave cold weather; Devils win 4-1

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com;

On a day that a lot of Flint area baseball teams cancelled scheduled games, the Lake Fenton Blue Devils and the Holly Bronchos proved weather wasn't going to keep them from opening their season on Monday.

The squads ended up doing just that as the Bronchos captured a 6-1 home victory against the Blue Devils.

Holly scored three runs in the first inning and never trailed. They led by as many as 6-0, before Lake Fenton scored a single run in the sixth inning.

But probably more important than the actual results for both teams was just getting the season started. Holly varsity baseball coach Benny Jackson was pleased with his team's performance.

"As far as last night, I was very happy," Jackson said. "We played a nice, complete game."

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM

Blue Devils, Eagles battle to entertaining deadlock

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

Lake Fenton — It was a game both teams could look back at and wonder what if.

Both teams had chances to break a 1-1 deadlock, but neither did, meaning area rivals Lake Fenton and Linden had to settle with a 1-1 varsity girls soccer draw on Wednesday.

Both teams scored goals in the opening half. Erica Breitling scored the first one early in the contest on a free kick from about 40 yards out. That goal remained the game's only tally until Lake Fenton's freshman Bella Reitano tied it up. The Eagles gave the ball up in their own zone, and Reitano scored with about 14 minutes left. From that point, both teams had chances to score again, but never did. Both coaches had mixed thoughts about the contest.

"I thought we did enough to keep

ourselves locked in, engaged and gave ourselves a chance to win the game, but we couldn't find the final thing to score," Lake Fenton varsity girls soccer coach Spencer Quick said. "Some of it has to do with effort on some areas of the field, and some of it has to do with bad bounces. If we change two to three things I think we could've won that game. But if you change two to three things the other way, we could've lost that game."

"We are a complete rebuild right now," Linden varsity girls soccer coach Kevin Fiebernitz said. "It's going to be a challenging year. Our back line was supposed to be our strength because we were supposed to have the whole back line coming back. ... We just have one of them back and that's forced our team to take on a great challenge."

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPENS

Linden keeper Allison Bush punches a ball away from the net in the Eagles' 1-1 tie with Lake Fenton on Wednesday.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPENS

Holly's Madisen Beesley tries to tag Lake Fenton's Kalani Lau during Wednesday doubleheader. Both teams won a game.

Defending league champs post split decision

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

Lake Fenton — It was a battle between two teams that won league titles a season ago.

And when the varsity softball twinbill between Holly and Lake Fenton ended at Lake Fenton High School on Wednesday, both teams came home with a victory.

The Lake Fenton Blue Devils captured the first game 6-4, while the Holly Bronchos won the second 4-2.

Neither squad was particularly thrilled with their performance, but that was understandable considering both teams have spent very little time outdoors.

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | MARK BOLEN

Fenton's Margaret Berry (front) and Holly's Payton Price battle for the ball in the Tigers' 2-0 win on Tuesday.

Tigers, Bronchos hopeful about season; Fenton edges Holly, 2-0

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

Team goals are never about wins or losses for the Fenton varsity girls soccer squad.

But if the Tigers satisfy their goals, the wins usually start coming their way.

That was the case Monday when the Tigers hosted the Holly Bronchos for a non-league contest at Fenton High School, when the Tigers captured a 2-0 victory.

"Our goal, as every year, is to treat each other with love and cherish each

other's company for two hours a day, for three months. I am happy to say we are well on our way to fulfilling that goal," Fenton varsity girls soccer coach Matt Sullivan said. "(The Holly game) was another example of that. We are able to play our hardest, compete against each other for playing time and still have fun doing it. That's not easy to do, but that attitude comes from your seniors, and we are blessed again this year with an unselfish group who is willing to put the team before themselves."

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM

Tigers' offense crushes Flushing in softball twinbill

Entering last week, the Fenton varsity softball team had one session outdoors.

It was hard for first-year coach Ken Brant to know much about his squad.

He found something out Thursday. Apparently, they can hit the ball just fine.

The Tigers swept Flushing in a doubleheader, winning the Metro League

contests 20-5 and 19-4.

In the opening game, the contest was tied at 5-all until a Hailee Prater home run gave the Tigers the lead. From there, the floodgates opened. Fenton collected 10 runs in the seventh inning, cruising to the 20-5 victory.

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM

PREP REPORT

BASEBALL

► **Fenton at Saline:** The Tigers lost two tight games 3-2 and 2-1. The game-winning run scored in the sixth in the opening contest on a fielder's choice play. Spencer Rivera had an RBI-single during the Tigers' two-run fifth. David Pietryga pitched five innings of shutout ball, allowing just two hits.

Logan Benson had both Fenton hits in the second game. Fenton scored its run on a Logan Welch fielder's choice play, enabling Ryan Adams, who walked, to score.

SOFTBALL

► **Fenton at Powers:** The Fenton Tigers began Ken Brant's era as Fenton coach with a 10-7 victory and an 8-8 tie at Powers.

In the opener, the Tigers' bats came alive scoring eight runs, enough to win the contest right there. Fenton had 13 hits with Natalie Thomas, Hailee Prater,

and Erin Carter providing two hits each. Sara Eisenbeis was the winning pitcher, striking out five.

Fenton had 10 hits in the second game with Carter going 3-for-4. Chloe Lefever and Prater had two hits each.

BOYS GOLF

► **Fenton def. Lake Fenton 174-175:** The Tigers were paced by medalist Mitchell Chopp's 41. Braden Lapa shot a 43 while Logan Lake netted a 44 and Tait Shultz a 46.

► **Holly finishes third in battle for Old Gold Wedge:** Holly was led by Danny Mathews, who scored a 45.

GIRLS SOCCER

► **Davison 4, Holly 1:** Victoria Karakuc scored Holly's goal.

GIRLS LACROSSE

► **Fenton/Linden 13, Swartz Creek 3:** The Fenton/Linden co-op dominated the game, scoring 10 first-half goals en route to the victory.

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Beesley tosses perfect game against Owosso

The first game the Holly varsity softball team played against the Owosso Trojans wasn't so great Thursday.

The second one was perfect.

Madisen Beesley pitched a five-inning no-hit, no-walk perfect game and also had three hits at the plate, leading the Bronchos to a 13-0 Metro League win in the second game. However, Owosso was able to win the first game 7-1.

Fenton baseball splits Metro opener vs. Flushing

The Fenton varsity baseball team started the defense of its Metro League championship with a split against Flushing on Thursday.

The Tigers (1-1, 3-3) won the first game 4-1, but lose the second contest 3-2.

Linden, LF track teams compete at Powers meet

Lake Fenton and Linden's track programs faced off in a four-way meet at Powers Catholic High School on Wednesday with both teams earning some solid results.

In girls' action, the Eagles ended up tied with Powers 74-74 for first while Lake Fenton took third with 22 points.

In boys' action, Powers won with 100 points while Linden (41) and Lake Fenton (28) were second and third, respectively.

Linden baseball splits contests vs. Cavaliers

The Linden varsity baseball team captured its first victory during Anthony Puente's era as head coach on Wednesday.

The Eagles won the second game of a doubleheader against Carman-Ainsworth 14-7, after losing the opening game 4-1.

Blue Devils swept by Class A Grand Blanc

Lake Fenton — Going against a school with an enrollment of about 2,000 more students can be a challenge to say the least.

The Lake Fenton varsity baseball team took that challenge against Grand Blanc on Wednesday and lost a pair of contests. Lake Fenton lost the first game 10-3 but played a stronger contest in the second game, losing a pitchers' duel 2-0 in six innings.

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