

# Compelling student video addresses drunk driving



**TRI-COUNTY TIMES**  
TIM JAGIELO

Fenton High School senior Madison Dotson lays "dying" on the hood of a car before shooting the final scene for the 2018 Advanced Video Class public service announcement on Tuesday, April 24. The video was played for students Thursday, May 3, two days before prom, to deter drunk driving.

See story on  
Page 10B





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**Weekend Times** SUNDAY EDITION

**\$1.00**

VOL. 25 NO. XVIII SUNDAY, MAY 6, 2017

## Trio arraigned on murder charges

■ Bond denied for Owosso residents charged with killing 20-year-old California man

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

Three Owosso residents have been formally charged with first-degree premeditated murder and conspiracy to commit first-degree murder in the stabbing death of Austin Culkins, 20, formerly of

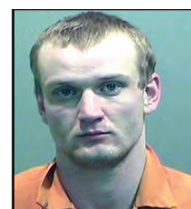
California.

Culkins was found stabbed to death in a Mundy Township field, near Baldwin and Jennings roads, on Saturday, April 21.

See **MURDER** on 17A



Mataya Delores Shaw



Christian Lee Lover



Frederick Daniel Clark



## Butterfly garden coming to downtown Fenton

**TRI-COUNTY TIMES**  
FILE PHOTO

This butterfly sculpture in downtown Fenton may soon be surrounded by an actual butterfly garden.

■ City's Streetscape improvement monies covering the \$30,000 price tag

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

Famed author Nathaniel Hawthorne once said, "Happiness is a butterfly, which when pursued, is always just beyond

your grasp, but which, if you will sit down quietly, may alight upon you."

Fenton residents and visitors to the downtown may be able to experience just that once the new butterfly garden is in place near the butterfly sculpture on South LeRoy Street, just north of city hall.

See **BUTTERFLY** on 13A

## Michigan Lottery funds just small portion of school aid

■ \$924 million went to public education in fiscal year 2017

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

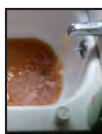
Even though Michigan schools receive a portion of lottery funds, that money is only a drop in the bucket compared to other sources of school aid funding.

See **LOTTERY** on 16A

**TEXT  
YOUR  
HOT LINE**  
810-771-TEXT



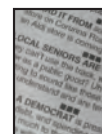
“Please don’t compare Linden’s water trouble with the Flint water crisis. City of Flint residents were poisoned, lied to and required to pay some of the highest water rates in the country, and now the bottled water has been stopped by the state. This is on top of all the lost equity in their homes.”



“All you parents who are breaking the bank to send your precious babies to college to be educated should open your eyes and recognize that universities are no longer bastions of learning, but bastions of liberal indoctrination. You are wasting your money.”



“I’m calling in to complain about other people complaining about people who are complaining about other people who are complaining. Nonetheless, love the Hot lines.”



**COMMENT  
OF THE WEEK**

“The evolution of the internet from an ‘information highway’ to a digital insane asylum filled with babbling loonies is closer every day. We now officially have the stupidest generation in the history of America.”





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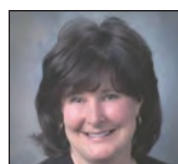
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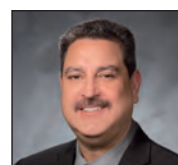
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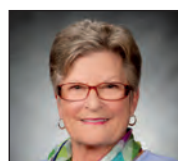
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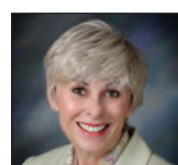
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# Tuesday, May 8 is National Teacher Day

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

In honor of Teacher Day on May 8, the Times asked the four local superintendents for the name one of their **outstanding teachers**. Here they are:

## LINDEN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

**Pam Nicoll**  
third-grade teacher at  
Hyatt Elementary

Nicoll, who was named Educator of the Year at Linden, was inspired to teach by her own elementary school teachers. "I remember being excited every morning to go to school because I couldn't wait to see what we were going to learn," she said.



Challenges include increasing class sizes, and dealing with the demands of testing and curriculum. She spends the entire year preparing students for the M-Step.

"The curriculum standards have shown a steep increase in the past 10 years. I have to become very creative in how I am going to get all the third-grade curriculum covered in a school year," she said. Nicoll is the first teacher in her family. A few of her nieces and nephews want to go into teaching because of her.

"I love the age of the third-grade student, they come with experiences that they can relate to many of our topics. I know it sounds cliché but it's when you see it in their faces that they finally understand a concept, light bulb moments," she said. "That is when I feel like I am making the biggest impact."

## LAKE FENTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

**Patti Sabourin**  
third-grade teacher at  
Torrey Hill Intermediate School

Sabourin has taught first grade, sixth grade, and special education, but has taught third grade for the past 20 years. She was inspired to teach because of her sixth-grade teacher, Sister Eleanor, who helped her through a difficult family time.



"The impact of her kind words and willingness to listen, at a time when I needed it most, inspired me to follow her lead and teach. I hoped that someday I would also get the opportunity to make a difference in a child's life," she said.

The biggest challenge she faces is lack of time during the day to accomplish everything, and still make learning fun.

"I try never to lose sight of the importance of laughing and having fun in our classroom," she said.

One of her proudest moments is raising a daughter who also became a teacher, and she loves connecting with her students. "I love cheering them on at their games or special events. They always smile and wave when they see their teacher outside of school," she said.

## FENTON AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**Tonya Powers**  
fifth-grade teacher at  
State Road Elementary

Powers has been teaching for 23 years, and wanted to be a teacher for as long as she can remember. "My family has teasingly told me for years that my desire is because I like to boss others, be in charge, and have an audience. I like to go with the more accurate answer of loving to interact with children and families," she said.



Her biggest challenges are dealing with changing standards, lack of curriculum and absorbing expectations set by the state. "I'm in competition with technology in keeping students' attention. They don't know how to wait without being entertained or making noise," she said.

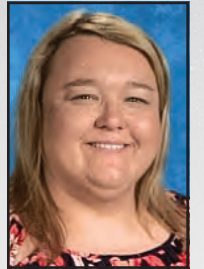
Parents don't have to worry about her being negative or a questionable person. "I allow opportunities for parents to get to know me and I welcome them into my room to see what is happening," she said.

Her favorite part of teaching is being part of someone's story. "Few careers allow you to have direct daily influence in so many lives at such impressionable ages. It is a tremendous amount of pressure that I take very seriously, as well as the ultimate privilege that I treasure in my heart," she said.

## HOLLY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**Stephanie Raymoure**  
fifth-grade teacher at  
Patterson Elementary

Raymoure, who has taught for 19 years, wants to help kids become productive, thoughtful members of society, who know kindness, empathy and a strong work ethic.



"I love seeing students grasp a difficult concept, and have that 'Aha' moment. Watching their confidence grow and having them come back and tell me how their progress on a particular topic has continued, is an amazing reward," she said.

Meeting the needs of every student is challenging, Raymoure said, along with teaching in an age where education isn't as valued as much as it should be. "If a child isn't surrounded by adults who promote school and the importance of education and supports teachers, it can be very hard for me to overcome that in the classroom," she said.

Raymoure cherishes the relationships she's made with the families and the teachers she works with. "I really love just sitting and talking to them (her students) and seeing what their young minds have to say about the world around them. Even for their young age they have amazing insight and some incredible ideas," she said.



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## Andrew Heller

andrewheller@tctimes.com

# Come *Heller* high water...

A few months ago, Great Britain Prime Minister Theresa May appointed a “Minister of Loneliness,” probably the first in world history. “For far too many people, loneliness is the sad reality of modern life,” May said, citing a report indicating 14 percent of the population often or always feels lonely. An article I read said loneliness often becomes depression, which costs people work time, which costs U.K. employers \$3.5 billion annually. The cynic in me thinks that’s probably a big reason why May did it.



Andrew Heller  
FEATURED COLUMNIST

But I love the idea nonetheless. Loneliness is a fundamental problem for just about everybody I know. To be human is to experience loneliness. So why shouldn’t government address the issue? The government is just us, af-

ter all. But it seldom deals with things that would actually make a difference in the lives of real people.

For instance, wouldn’t it make sense for this country to have not only a Minister of Loneliness but a Minister of Laughter? I’m not kidding. Laughter is good for you in every way, and yet how many people do you know who seldom if ever laugh? The Minister of Loneliness would be in charge of injecting humor into our days. How, I’m not sure, but I think repeated viewings of the Monty Python skit “Ministry of Silly Walks” would be a great start.

I’d also like to see a Minister of Getting Stuff Done. Have you noticed how things the government is supposed to do — fix roads, keep the water safe, manage Social Security, run the parks, and so on — it doesn’t do very well anymore?

That’s because of bureaucracy, budget constraints, and politicians who have a stake in stuff not getting done. So the Minister of Getting Stuff Done would have the power to increase his or her budget depending on what stuff needs doing, as well as the power to tell the bureaucracy and the politicians to stuff their self-interest in a sack.

I’d also like to see:

A Ministry of Who the Hell’s to Blame for This Mess? — Have you noticed that when things go terribly wrong, as they often do, it’s hard to tell who’s responsible? Take the Great Recession. It ruined lives and drained retirement accounts. That nation is still recovering. And yet was anyone held accountable? Not really. The Minister of Who the Hell’s to Blame for This Mess’s sole job would be to identify and punish the individual rats and scoundrels responsible for public crises. Our court system certainly isn’t going to do it.

A Ministry of Sarcasm — I don’t know what public good would be served by having a Minister of Sarcasm but interviews with him or her at least might be something the Minister of Laughter could use:

Reporter: “Minister, could you please explain what you do?”

Minister: “Yes, I could.”

Reporter: (Awkward pause.) “So, uh, will you?”

Minister: “Yes, I will.”

Reporter: (Awkward pause) “Do you mean, like, now?”

Minister: “No, I figured I’d answer next month.”

For maximum effect, the Minister of Sarcasm would always be accompanied by a drummer who would be in charge of rimshots.

The Ministry of No, I’m Sorry, That’s Just Stupid — Its job would be similar to the Supreme Court except it would rule on lesser social annoyances like low-rise jeans, tongue studs, Heinz Mayo-chup, and roundabouts.

I would be perfect for that job, incidentally, as many, many things annoy me.

Don’t get me started.

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.

“Have you noticed how things the government is supposed to do — fix roads, keep the water safe, manage Social Security, run the parks, and so on — it doesn’t do very well anymore?”

## 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.

### PROMOTING AND GRADUATING

students who cannot read, write or speak English or compute basic math problems at a minimum of an eighth-grade level must be stopped.

IF YOU THINK Nixon did far less damage than Hillary Clinton did, you better go back and review what Nixon did and also take a look at what Hillary really did. Don’t take the word of your friendly Republican; look for yourself.

THE LIBERAL LEFT again showed their true colors at the Correspondents Dinner. They disrespected Republicans especially Sarah Sanders. I fear the children of these liberals will mimic their parents’ bullying behavior at school. When will this hate ever end?

IT DEEPLY DISTURBS me that the Hotliner who points out the seven deadly sins that Trump is guilty of implies that he is Christian. For one, only God is to judge him, and secondly has he ever heard of ‘casting the first stone?’ A true Christian would not judge.

DOGS ARE LIKE kids. I just wish you stopped so you could keep them from being alone. No one is blaming anyone.

WE ARE GRATEFUL recipients of this year’s Christmas in Action award. We want to thank everyone from the board, to all the volunteers who gave their time and talents, and all the suppliers, all to help us. Thank you.

TO THE FAMILY that chains their dog outside. Thanks for making Fenton look like Flint. The other dog is gone and you ran out and got a new one to neglect. People like you make me sick.

THE MESSAGES THAT Carl Gabrielson writes for the Loose Center are very interesting.

I DON’T CARE which city or township State Road is in. Just get it fixed. Getting my kids to school is a nightmare and it’s an embarrassment to the community.

BEWARE, THE VILLAGE of Holly is trying to free up parking by installing parking meters. They are relying on a ‘study’ showing that it will generate more than \$100,000 of additional revenue a year.

TO THE SEVEN deadly sins Hot line in the April 29 issue. I don’t know what religion you are, probably not a Christian because of what you have said about our President. But just in case you are a Christian, I would suggest you go directly to church and ask God to forgive you in regard to how you speak about our President.

IMAGINE WHAT A paradise this land might have been if the natives who originally used it would have been able to steward it in their respectful, spiritual ways.

LINDEN, CAN WE please get the quarry truck down into the Eagle Wooden Park? The dust down here on the stretch of road is unbelievable. Let’s not wait until Memorial Day weekend. Just get the truck in here, please.

See **HOT LINE** throughout Times

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## Who was your favorite teacher?

Compiled by Gracie Warda, intern

## street talk



“My science teacher because the class was very hands on. I don’t remember his name, but I remember loving the class.”

**Teresa Ward**  
Fenton Township



“I went to Flint. Mrs. Stanton was my favorite. She was my music teacher and she was so sweet, just a really great teacher.”

**Kim McCreedy**  
Fenton Township



“I would say Helen G. Wilson. She was a college professor of Japanese Literature, and I was her TA and we were very close. I even named my son after her.”

**Sue Borrego**  
Flint



“I was really a rotten kid. Mr. Bach was my P.E. teacher in grade school, and he really whipped me into shape.”

**Pat Priestap**  
Fenton Township



“I would say Sister Antoinette. She ended up changing her life because of some advice that I gave her.”

**Elena Paddison**  
Genoa Township



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SOLD PROPERTIES



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LASTS AND LASTS AND LASTS.

# Laws for politicians, media

■ Candidates and media have to worry about libel, slander and defamation

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

During election season, TV commercials are filled with political ads from local politicians, montages with upbeat music about a candidate, and smear campaigns, all wrapped up with the phrase “my name is so-and-so and I support this message.”

That ending catchphrase isn’t included only because it sounds powerful — it’s actually the law. Politicians, their campaigns, and the media have laws to follow in regards to political campaigns.

## Libel, slander and defamation

Candidates and media outlets can be sued for libel, slander, and/or defamation if they’re not careful. Libel is a printed false statement, and slander is a spoken false statement. Defamation is a broad term describing when that false statement damaged an individual’s reputation. Truth is an absolute defense

### SUMMARY

■ It is not legal to say or print anything you want about anyone else.

“If you’re spending all your time attacking another candidate, that doesn’t do much for your cause or for earning public trust about yourself.”

Scott Greenlee  
Political consultant

against all three, and opinions cannot be considered false.

Scott Greenlee, owner/president of the business and political consultation firm Greenway Consulting, has worked with the attorney general’s office and said, “If I talk to a public figure about someone else and it damages that person’s reputation, I could be held liable.”

It’s illegal to exaggerate facts. For example, if a candidate is driving 10 mph over the speed limit and gets a ticket, it would be slanderous for their opponent to exaggerate the situation and say that candidate was going 20 mph over and was drinking.

“Try and be honorable. There are ways to slant things to be honorable,” he said.

It is legal to say or print something that is likely true even if it hasn’t been confirmed. Greenlee said if a Republican candidate is running and has never been

endorsed by Right to Life, doesn’t attend their events, and has not received any money from the organization, it would be fair for their opponent to say “I don’t believe that person supports Right to Life.”

When it comes to the media, Greenlee said there is presumption that the media has done their due

diligence.

“One of the things people don’t like about the media is with social media and with fake news, everyone wants to be first to get the story. I advise people to be first to get the story right,” he said. He advises all of his clients to make accurate statements to the media, and to always do it in writing.

With candidates talking about other candidates, Greenlee said to stay away from the negative. “Run your own race. Highlight the good things you’ve done and the body of work you’ve developed over the years. Don’t worry about your

opponents,” he said.

Always consider context before making a statement about another candidate.

“Nobody wants to be or should be judged on their best day or their worst day,” he said. “If you’re spending all your time attacking another candidate, that doesn’t do much for your cause or for earning public trust about yourself.”

## Disclaimers

Any public communication made by a political committee must display a disclaimer in anything published or broadcasted in the media, on its web-

sites, in certain email communications, mass mailing and more.

Greenlee said the disclaimers are required to hold people accountable. These disclaimers must state how a communication was paid for and if the candidate being referred to authorized it.

## Media coverage

The Federal Communications Commission established “equal time” rules in 1934, which require broadcast television and radio stations to give political candidates equal opportunities for airtime. Cable stations and news programs, like talk shows, are exempt.

Source: Federal Election Commission, Federal Communication Commission, theatlantic.com

“I approve this message”

For ads appearing on radio or TV, candidates must provide an audio statement identifying themselves stating they approve of the message. The “stand by your ad” provision gave rise to the “I am (name) and I approve this message” phrases. In TV, it must include a full-screen view of the candidate making the statement, or a voiceover by the candidate with an image of that person occupying at least 80 percent of the vertical screen height. TV also requires a visible, written statement.

Source: Federal Election Commission

## HOT LINE CONTINUED

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Stephen Pilon (center) is executive chef/partner at the Wooden Spoon in Brighton. He won the 2018 Fenton Chef Showdown on Thursday, May 3.

**Brighton chef wins Chef Showdown**■ Defeats Fenton's chef  
Jodi Brunori in second  
annual fundraiserBy Sharon Stone  
sstone@tctimes.com; 810-433-6786**Fenton** — Stephen Pilon, executive chef and partner at the Wooden Spoon in Brighton, won this year's Fenton Chef Showdown, which was held at The Freedom Center on Thursday, May 3.

Fenton Chef Showdown pits two local chefs against each other to duke out who can use the secret ingredient best in three dishes.

Pilon defeated Fenton's own chef, Jody Brunori, who came in as the returning champ.

Brunori is head chef at The Laundry, El Topo, Crust and Relief &amp; Resource Co. Always up for a challenge, she is no stranger to competition as she recently competed on Food Network's TV show, Guy's Grocery Games.

Pilon, too, is familiar with competition. He traveled to Germany to compete in the Culinary Olympics.

While the chefs battled it out using a secret ingredient, which was avocado, those in attendance dined on samples from several area restaurants. The evening also included a live auction and entertainment.

The Chef's Challenge is a fundraiser for the Fenton Center of Hope, which is a nonprofit organization that offers a food pantry and baby closet.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

The Freedom Center Pastor Jim Weigand (right) chats with the judges after the first round of the 2018 Fenton Chef Showdown.

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# Free-range parenting prevails

■ One Maryland couple was charged with child neglect after letting kids walk home alone

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Should it be legal to let your child walk to school or go to the park by him or herself?

That's the question people in Maryland, and subsequently people around the U.S., have been asking since three years ago when Danielle Meitiv, a Silver Spring, Maryland mother, was charged with child neglect for letting her two children, ages 6 and 10, walk home from a park by themselves.

The park was reportedly less than a mile from their home. The children were picked up by police and the parents weren't allowed to retrieve their children from Child Protective Services until 10:30 p.m., four hours after the children were supposed to be home.

This began a three-year movement called "free-range parenting." Meitiv and her husband were cleared of all charges and Maryland clarified its laws so neglect does not include children playing or walking alone outdoors.

The movement spread to Utah where lawmakers were inspired by Meitiv's story and passed new legislation of their own. In late March, Utah's governor signed a law that redefined what's considered child neglect. Neglect now does not include letting a child, "whose basic needs are met and who is of sufficient age and maturity to avoid harm or unreasonable risk of harm, to engage in independent activities," such as walking to school, running or bicycling, going to nearby stores or parks, and playing outside.

Michigan Rep. Joe Graves (R-Dist. 51) said, "I don't think this is an issue in Michigan. It shouldn't be illegal for parents to allow their children to go to school or go to the playground without a parent or guardian, although it may not be wise, depending on each individual situation."

Child neglect laws vary from state to



PHOTO: FASTCOMPANY.COM

One Maryland couple was investigated by Child Protective Services and charged with child neglect for letting their children walk home from a park less than a mile from their home.

state. According to freerangekids.com, 19 states have specific laws about when it's legal to leave a child in a car, five states have laws specifying when kids can be left home alone, and 10 states have guidelines.

## Michigan's child neglect laws

Michigan's law on leaving a child unattended in a vehicle states that children under 6 years of age cannot be left alone in a car without the supervision of someone who is at least 13 years of age. It is illegal to leave them unattended for a period of time that would pose an unreasonable risk of harm or injury to the child.

In Michigan's child neglect laws, "child neglect" is classified as "harm or threatened harm to a child's health or welfare by a parent, legal guardian, or any other person responsible for the child's health or welfare that occurs through either of the following."

The following includes negligent treatment, which means failing to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter or medical care, and placing a child at an "unreasonable risk to the child's health or welfare by failure of the parent, legal guardian, or other person responsible for the child's health or welfare to intervene

See **PARENTING** on 16A

# Byron schools seeking millage renewal

■ Last renewal of Non-Homestead Operating Millage was in November 2012

Compiled By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

On Tuesday, May 8, voters in the Byron Area Schools will be asked to renew the Non-Homestead Operating Millage.

This is a renewal of a millage already being paid by property owners.

According to the district website, this proposal will allow the school district to continue to levy the statutory rate of not to exceed 18 mills on all property. The exceptions include principal residences and other property exempted by law. This is required for the school district to receive its revenue per pupil foundation allowance and restores millage lost as a result of the reduction required by the Michigan Constitution of 1963.

Primary residences, qualified agricultural property, and qualified forestry property are not subject to the 18 mills.

In November of 2012, Byron Area Schools' community supported the renewal of the Non-Homestead Operating Millage, which was previously passed in the early 1990s.

For more information, contact Superintendent Tricia Murphy-Alderman at (810) 266-4881.

# WHAT YOU MISSED in the MIDWEEK TIMES

Compiled by Vera Hogan

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

## Man wearing dress exposes himself to woman

The Holly Police Department is investigating an indecent exposure complaint at a Holly car wash and is asking the community to call if they have any information about the suspect. The suspect was described as a white male, in his mid-50s, with a full head of gray hair, clean shaven, approximately 5-feet, 7-inches to 5-feet, 8-inches tall, and has a thin build and possibly blue eyes. He was last seen wearing a short blue paisley patterned dress with no underwear, women's flip flops and his toe nails were painted blue. Anyone with information is asked to call Holly police at (248) 634-8221.

## OTHER HEADLINES:

• **Hartland man struck by two vehicles, killed**

• **Pouget headed to Pittsburgh Steelers**

• **Kentucky Derby is first of 'Triple Crown' races**

• **The magic returns to The Capitol Theatre**

• **A look back at 1968 - Bullitt**



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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

Ron and Ronda Dycus enjoy a walk in Dauner Martin Nature Preserve in Fenton.

## Where to walk

■ Tri-county area home to 23 walkable parks

By Tim Jagielo

tjagielo@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795

**Fenton Twp.** — This week, Michigan flipped the switch and gave everyone perfect spring weather and walkers took notice. On Wednesday, May 2, at 1 p.m., visitors were at Linden County Park and Clover Beach, enjoying the sun and a warm breeze.

Downtown areas of Fenton, Linden

and Holly are already very walkable at any hour. Whether paved and wide or narrow woodsy paths, there also are multiple parks that allow casual exercise and a breath of fresh air.

If you have a 2018 Times Source Book, you can simply flip to page 20, for a listing of 23 local parks. Below are some popular examples of walkable local areas.

Although the track and outdoor athletic facilities at Fenton High School are closed during school hours and student activities, walkers can enjoy these facilities at other times.

The outdoor athletic facilities of Linden, Lake Fenton and Holly High Schools are open to the public as well.

All of these locations are free, and generally open from dawn to dusk.

See **WALK on 17A**

## SPAGHETTI DINNER BENEFIT



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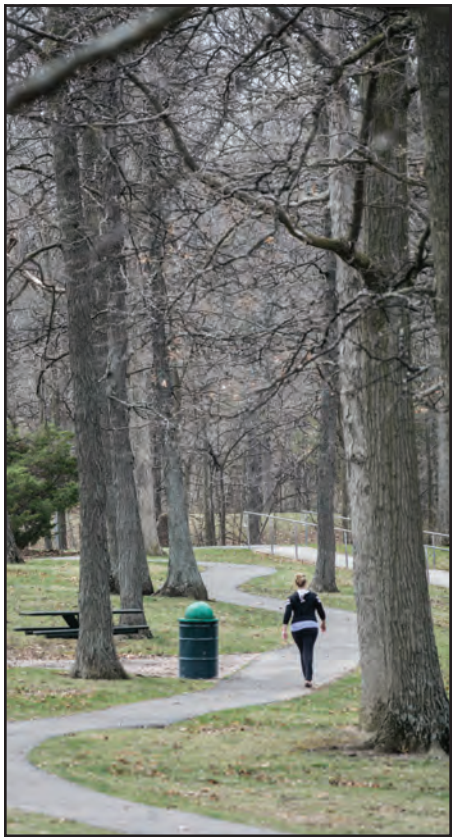
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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Walkers take advantage of the paved Clover Beach walking trails in Fenton Township on Wednesday, May 2. The tri-county area is home to several walking opportunities, from connected downtowns to high school tracks and parks.



## BUTTERFLY

Continued from Front Page

According to Assistant Fenton City Manager Michael Hart, who is also the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) director, the butterfly sculpture was paid for last year by Gerald and Kay Willey, owners of Fenton Home Furnishings. They donated \$17,000 so that the city, through the DDA, could acquire the sculpture.

When the sculpture was moved from the river area to its current location a little greenbelt location caught the attention of those attending the dedication. A landscape architect with the city's engineering firm put together a concept drawing of what that greenbelt area might look like with a butterfly garden.

"The idea was to place the sculpture first and then figure out how to improve the area around it," said Hart.

"What we've been working on is seeking proposals from landscape contractors within the area to give us their best efforts on how they would improve the area around the butterfly sculpture," Hart said.

Hart said proposals are currently under review. The Beautification Commission will have a chance to see a presentation on how a butterfly garden will improve the landscape around the sculpture. One of the proposals will eventually be chosen to go forward to the DDA for approval.

Hart said there are specific flowers and plants that attract butterflies. Fenton's garden could have approximately 12 to 18 species of flowering plants. "We will make a conscious effort to attract butterflies and potentially hummingbirds," he said.

Hart said they are not planning on an enclosure for this garden. Rather there would be flowerbeds all around, with sidewalks so even someone in a wheelchair can have access.

"We appropriated about \$30,000 for this garden," Hart said. "If we want to have nice areas within the downtown obviously we have to carefully invest."

This is a lower cost than if a wall or some kind of enclosure were to be installed. The boulders already in the area to surround the flowerbeds will help reduce the cost.

"We are confident we can do it without a retaining wall," Hart said.

The DDA has set money aside knowing this garden was being planned. "This is our modest cost project, to put in a nice

garden area," he said. Accessibility is important whether people are on foot, using walkers or in wheelchairs. There will be benches for seating as well.

What happens to the butterflies in the winter? Hart said, "There are butterflies that migrate and some that hibernate. We can't say right now which ones we'll get, but we're confident that in spring, when everything reblooms, the butterflies, looking for a food source will be back."

The perennials that will be used are hardy and the bulk of them are native Michigan species.

"If all goes well, we contemplate starting either this month or in June," Hart said. "The sculpture will have to be temporarily relocated while the work on the garden is being done."



## FAMOUS MICHIGAN BUTTERFLY GARDENS

While there are many communities in Michigan featuring butterfly gardens, the most well-known include:

### Frederik Meijer Gardens in Grand Rapids

The annual Fred & Dorothy Fichter Butterflies Are Blooming exhibition at Meijer Gardens is the largest temporary tropical butterfly exhibition in the nation.

### Dow Gardens in Midland

Dow's interactive exhibit features thousands of brilliantly-colored butterflies, from countries around the world, emerging from their chrysalis, feeding, and flying all within the tropical environment of The Dow Garden's conservatory.

### Detroit Zoo in Royal Oak

The Butterfly Garden, inside the Detroit Zoo's Wildlife Interpretive Gallery, houses hundreds of free-flying butterflies. Approximately 25 species can be observed engaging in many of their natural behaviors.

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## News briefs

### Countywide Recycle Day Event

Genesee County is having a countywide Recycle Day collection event for hard-to-recycle items such as household hazardous waste, electronics, paint, tires, and appliances. The event will be held at Grand Blanc High School and the Flint East Water Service Center on **Saturday, May 12, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** Genesee County residents can bring materials in their vehicle to either location during the listed hours. Recycle Day staff will be available to assist attendees in navigating through the event site and to unload items from vehicles. Event organizers are requesting that attendees enter the Grand Blanc High School West Campus parking lot from Holly Road to Jewett Trail, or enter the Flint East Water Service Center site from eastbound Court Street (from Dort Highway). In 2017, approximately 5,000 residents attended Genesee County Recycle Day events and over 618,000 pounds of waste was collected. For more information about the event, contact the Genesee County Recycle Hotline at (810) 762-7744, email [Recycle@co.genesee.mi.us](mailto:Recycle@co.genesee.mi.us) or visit [www.gcmpc.org/environmental](http://www.gcmpc.org/environmental).

### HOT LINE CONTINUED

■■■■  
**YES, I REMEMBER** Obama bowing to the Saudi king. I also remember George W. Bush kissing the Saudi king on the lips (Google it, the photos are hilarious). However, the money Obama returned to Iran was its own money. The U.S. confiscated it from Iran during the 1970s.

■■■■  
**I AM REALLY** upset over the Holly Village office people. I have lived here 44 years. They are very rude. Today, they hung up on my husband. They work for us. I think they need to remember that.

■■■■  
**I RESPECT PEOPLE'S** right to smoke, but please dispose of your cigarette butts in the appropriate containers. Parking lots, beaches, parks and the side of the road are not your ashtrays. Tossing your ciga-

## NOCFA, Holly Fire Department earn upgraded rating

■ Some residents could see decrease in homeowner insurance premiums

By Sharon Stone

[ssstone@tctimes.com](mailto:ssstone@tctimes.com); 810-433-6786

The North Oakland County Fire Authority (NOCFA) and the village of Holly Fire Department (HFD) announced that effective July 1, their fire departments' Public Protection Classification (PPC) will upgrade to a class 3.

NOCFA and HFD received their PPC notices from the Insurance Services Office (ISO). Prior to this, NOCFA was a PPC 8 and HFD was a PPC 5.

The improvement was the result of ongoing restructuring of NOCFA and its operations that has taken many years to achieve, said Fire Chief Jeremy Lintz.

HFD Fire Chief Steve McGee said, "This rating reduction is welcome news. The department members have worked very hard to maintain the rigorous standards required by ISO while seeking additional points in the new area that ISO now grades.

"I would urge all property owners in the village to contact their insurance agents to make sure they understand that the department has received a lower rating classification."

The ISO is an independent organization that serves insurance companies, communities, fire departments and other agencies throughout the country in mitigation and risk management analysis.

Fire departments can be rated anywhere between a Class 1 to a Class 10, with Class 1 being the best public protection and Class 10 indicating no recognized protection.

NOCFA and HFD each receiving a Class 3 places the departments in a very

rettes is littering, inconsiderate and pure laziness on your part.

■■■■  
**NAME CALLING SHOULD'N'T** be allowed in the Hot lines. It's childish and bullying behavior. It's also a form of domestic violence and demeans us as a community.

■■■■  
**TO THE SELFISH,** ignorant person who commented on who is to blame when a dog is hit by a car. You obviously aren't a dog lover/owner. Most dog owners consider their pets their kids. How would you feel if you ran over someone's kid?

distinguished group with only 29 other fire departments in the state and 1,400 in the country.

"We provide highly skilled fire, rescue and Advanced Life Support transport service to our Holly Township and Rose Township residents," Lintz said. "This new classification level 3 we have been awarded reflects the high quality of service that we provide."

McGee said, "We would like to thank the village management and council

for their support, Oakland County Sheriff's Office 911 Communications Center, village of Holly Department of Public Works and our automatic aid fire department partners for their assistance in providing information for this survey process."

The impact of the new rating benefits residents with their homeowners' insurance rates. A reduction in the PPC rating usually means a lower home insurance premium. "In fact, some residents could see up to a 20 percent cost savings in their annual premiums," said Lintz.

Residents of Holly Township, Holly Village and Rose Township are encouraged to contact their homeowner insurance agent and inform them that their fire department's PPC is now a 3.

### SUMMARY

■ The North Oakland County Fire Authority and Holly Fire Department received an upgraded Public Protection Classification from the Insurance Services Office.

## YOUR SMILE MATTERS!

By: Dr. Steven Sulfaro

### XEROSTOMIA (DRY MOUTH)

Xerostomia is the technical term for dry mouth. Everyone experiences dry mouth once in a while and occasional dry mouth is considered normal. But if dry mouth is experienced all the time, it can be uncomfortable and can lead to serious health problems. Xerostomia can cause difficulties in tasting, chewing, swallowing and speaking. Dry mouth can be very challenging and frustrating for dentists and their patients. One of the primary functions of saliva is the protection of the teeth from dental decay. Normal saliva is loaded with calcium ions that work to repair, re-mineralize and restore the teeth enamel from the constant attack of plaque bacteria. If the mouth is dry, then there is insufficient saliva, making the teeth much more susceptible to decay. Saliva also helps digest food, prevent infections by controlling bacteria and fungi in the mouth and makes it possible to chew and swallow. Causes of dry mouth include side effects of some medications, disease, cancer treatments and nerve damage. If medications are causing dry mouth, your physician might change your medication or adjust the dosage to help improve saliva production. Sometimes medications can be prescribed that help treat dry mouth in certain disease conditions. Also, artificial saliva can help to improve the symptoms of dry mouth. Remember, if you have dry mouth, you need to be extra careful to keep your teeth healthy through regular, daily careful brushing and flossing in addition to the use of fluoride tooth pastes and mouth rinses. Eating a healthy, non-sugar diet is also vitally important along with visiting your dentist at least twice yearly for check-ups. Your teeth will be glad you did.

I welcome your questions and comments.  
Feel free to e-mail me [drsulfaro@comcast.net](mailto:drsulfaro@comcast.net)



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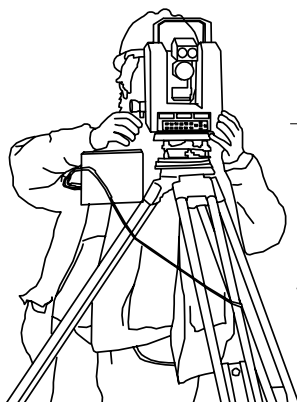
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# MICHIGAN VOTES

## 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, April 27.

### House Bill 5234: Authorize probation for medically frail prisoners

To let county sheriffs request, and a court grant, probation for a prisoner who is physically or mentally incapacitated due to a medical condition that renders the prisoner unable to perform activities of basic daily living, and/or the prisoner requires 24-hour care. Also, to let county sheriffs ask, and a court grant, a compassionate release if a physician determines the prisoner is not expected to live more than six months.

#### Passed 25 to 10 in the Senate

Sen. David Robertson (R-Dist. 14)

Sen. Mike Kowall (R-Dist. 15)

Sen. Joe Hune (R-Dist. 22)

Sen. Jim Ananich (D-Dist. 27)

Sen. Ken Horn (R-Dist. 32)

✗ NO

✗ YES

✗ NO

✗ YES

✗ YES

## LOTTERY

### Continued from Front Page

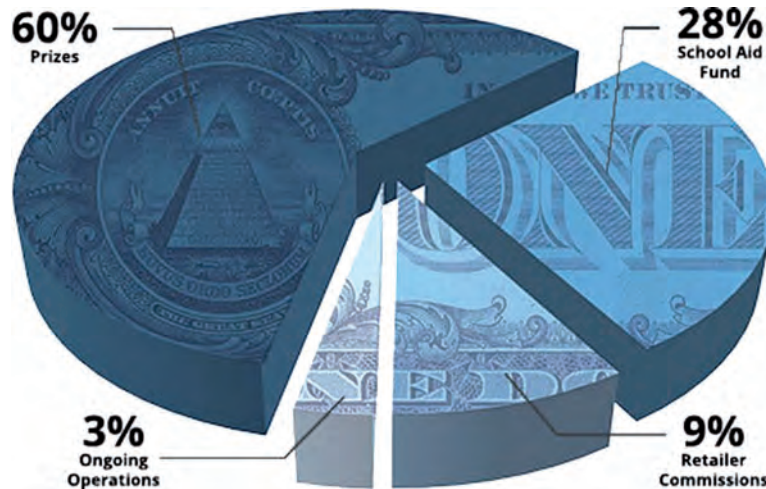
In 2017, Michigan lottery players contributed a record \$924 million to the School Aid Fund, according to the Michigan Lottery. In 2016, the Michigan Lottery contributed \$889 million to the School Aid Fund, which amounts to \$585 per pupil in the state's K-12 school system, according to the Michigan State Budget Office.

Once this money goes to the School Aid Fund, the legislature decides how to allocate it to the schools.

While the lottery contributes hundreds of millions to education every year, the \$889 million in 2016 was only 6.3 percent of the entire School Aid Fund.

The amount put in by the lottery has been increasing since 2013. In the 2013-2014 school year, the lottery contributed \$734,148,118, which was approximately 5 percent of the whole School Aid Fund.

"It's really not a big piece of the pie," said Phil Boone, director of the



**“It's really not a big piece of the pie.”**

**Phil Boone**

Michigan Department of  
Education Office of  
State Aid and School  
Finance director

Office of State Aid and School Finance in a previous Times article.

The biggest source of funding for the School Aid Fund is the sales and use tax, which contributes anywhere from 36 percent to 56 percent of the annual budget. Other sources of funding comes from the state education

For Michigan Lottery money, 60 percent of every dollar goes to the prize money, 28 percent goes to the School Aid Fund, 9 percent goes to retailer commissions and 3 percent goes to ongoing operations.

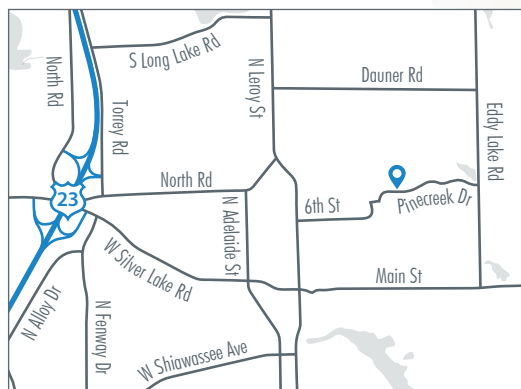
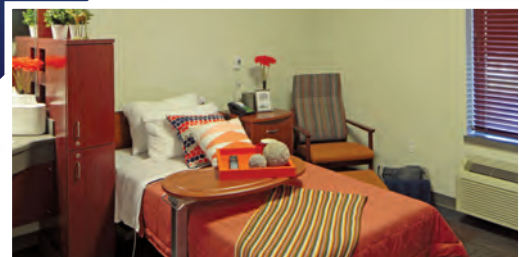
tax, income tax, tobacco tax, liquor tax, real estate transfer tax, federal funds and other taxes and revenue.

In 2016, the sales and use tax contributed 42.9 percent of the School Aid Fund, income tax contributed 18.7 percent, property tax amounted to 13.6 percent, federal reserve amounted to 11.3 percent, and miscellaneous taxes amounted to 6.6 percent.

Source: Michigan State Budget Office

The Michigan Lottery provided a record \$924 million for public education in the 2017 fiscal year, its third straight record contribution.

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## PARENTING

### Continued from Page 11A

to eliminate that risk when that person is able to do so and has, or should have, knowledge of the risk."

The "unreasonable risk" clause could be interpreted to mean letting a child walk home alone in an unsafe neighborhood.

In Michigan, there is no legal age that a child can be left home alone. According to the Child Protection Law, these situations are determined on a case-by-case basis, but as a general rule, a child 10 years old and younger is not responsible enough to be left home alone. If the child is between 10 and 12, and someone complains, he or she will be evaluated, according to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

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**WALK**

Continued from Page 12A

**Fenton****Rackham Park**

This park has paved riverside walking paths connecting downtown, and the added bonus of public art peppered throughout. The park is located behind the Fenton Community and Cultural Center, at 150 S. LeRoy St.

**Bush Park**

Bush Park is located near St. John the Evangelist Catholic Parish and is accessed from Adelaide Street. Bush Park doesn't have extensive paved walking paths, but offers plenty of grassy scenic river walking opportunities.

**Dauner-Martin Nature Preserve**

If you're looking for a winding immersion into nature, this is the park for you. Follow the maps and navigate the trails, with entrances on Dauner Road and LeRoy Street just north of VG's.

**Silver Parkway**

Many local residents have found that walking on the wide paved sidewalk along Silver Parkway to be very convenient. The span of the road is approximately 1.5 miles.

**Linden****Linden County Park/Clover Beach**

These attractions are right across the street from one another, separated by Linden Road in Fenton Township. The

address for the park is 15349 Linden Rd. Clover Beach, located on Byram Lake, offers paved, winding, gently hilly paths with easy parking.

Linden County Park has both paved and unpaved walking trails in the open and through the woods.

The Eagle Wooden Park in downtown Linden also is a popular place to walk. It is accessed from Walmar Street off West Broad Street.

**Check your  
2018 Times  
Source Book for  
a complete list of  
local parks and  
campgrounds.**

**Holly****Sorensen Park**

Located at 5142 E. Holly Rd., this township park has a 5-kilometer trail system.

**Lakeside Park**

This park is at Park Avenue and Thomas Street and is adjacent to Lakeside Cemetery, which is the best paved walking opportunity in the village.

**HOT LINE CONTINUED**

■■■  
I WOULD LIKE to thank Taylor Hardware for reopening their doors after they closed so I could get parts to fix the garage door for our fire station. Thanks a million, Capt. Stephens.

■■■  
PRESIDENT TRUMP'S POPULARITY will decrease the longer he is in office.  
■■■

**MURDER**

Continued from Front Page

Frederick Daniel Clark, 28, Christian Lee Lover, 23 and Mataya Delores Shaw, 23, were apprehended less than a week later and jailed while investigators sought warrants from Genesee County Prosecutor David Leyton.

The three were arraigned on the charges Friday, April 27. Bond has been denied for all three, who have probable cause conferences set for 1 p.m. on Thursday, May 10.

Shaw, Lover and Clark also face one count of retail fraud in Grand Blanc Township. They were in court Tuesday, May 1 for a pretrial of the retail fraud charge that allegedly took place April 21, the same day as the murder. They each pleaded not guilty to this charge and have pretrial hearings on May 15.

According to the Michigan Department

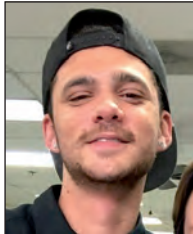
of Corrections, Lover was sentenced to 20 months in prison in December 2012 for breaking and entering and unlawful use of a vehicle in Shiawassee County. He was paroled in December 2013.

According to Lt. Matthew Bade of the Metro Police Authority of Genesee County, evidence obtained by investigators quickly led to the identification of the three known associates of Culkins.

Bade said Culkins had been living in the Owosso area for the past couple of months.

Residents in the 9300 block of S. Jennings Road called 911 just before 11 a.m. Saturday, April 21. They said they saw

a truck, which turned out to be an older model GMC pickup with California license plates, by some trees in the middle of their farm field at the northwest corner of S. Jennings and Baldwin roads and found the man dead lying next to it.



Austin Culkins

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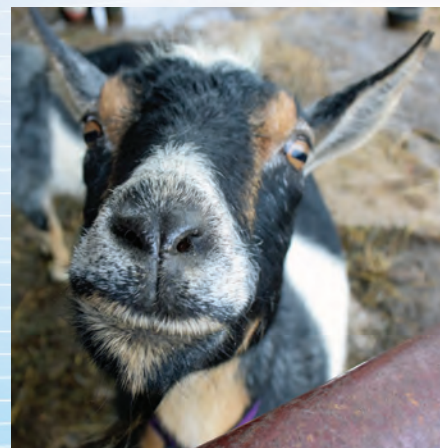
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## our town

# Meet LINDA ANDRADA

- Journalism and English teacher
- Past Times reporter
- Mother
- Gardener

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Linda Andrada, 57, has been teaching for 31 years, with 21 of those at Lake Fenton Community Schools. The Wisconsin native, who grew up along the Mississippi River, teaches English and journalism. She's been married to her husband, Michael, for 25 years, and has two daughters: Jillian, 19, who's finishing her second year at Michigan State University, and Lauren, 15, a freshman at Fenton High School.

## You teach journalism and head the student paper. What do you like about teaching news?

I love the fact that my students get feedback that's more authentic than just a grade. I love how they get to use their voices in writing. Best of all, I love it when they become passionate about a certain topic they're writing on. Writing is such a personal activity and it can be very cathartic.

## Do you face any special challenges teaching journalism in the era of "fake news?"

I try to stress that they have an obligation to present all sides and to be truthful. One lesson that they have learned is that adults aren't always adult-like, and professionals aren't



"Writing is such a personal activity and it can be very cathartic."

Linda Andrada  
Lake Fenton Community Schools teacher

always professional; therefore, my students need to rise above and set a positive example. We also discuss evaluating the validity of sources, particularly those on the internet.

## What are your grammar pet peeves?

For teens, it's probably those related to texting. I cringe at a lower case 'i' for 'I' and for adults, it's probably the use of 'of' instead of 'have' in contractions, such as 'should of' versus 'should have.'

## Tell me about your gardening hobby.

I love to work in the yard, but don't usually get time to start until after school gets out. This is my busiest time of the year, especially since I teach mostly seniors. I have patio tomatoes and herbs, but not a full garden because the deer visit my yard almost nightly. I love roses and lilies, and prefer perennials because they take less care and time.

## Who are a few of your favorite writers and books?

I love historical fiction, true crime, and biographies/autobiographies. Tracy Chevalier and Ann Rule are two of my

TRI-COUNTY TIMES  
TIM JAGIELO

Linda Andrada, Lake Fenton Community Schools English and journalism teacher, is a mother of two and a gardener. She tried to start a school newspaper when she was in sixth grade.

favorite authors. My favorite classic writer is Mark Twain. He could analyze people and life; he had so much common sense.

## Have you ever thought about writing a book yourself?

Yes, but have never had the time to really think seriously about it. I think I would prefer writing something more "journalistic," like for a newspaper or magazine.

## Michigan or Michigan State?

I graduated from Michigan but have taken classes at Michigan State, too. It's kind of a toss-up. We have a "house divided" when it comes to this.

## Do you like to cook? Do you have a favorite recipe?

I love to cook when I have time. One of my guilty pleasures is any show by Gordon Ramsey. From his shows, I've actually learned to cook some dishes that aren't typical fare such as scallops, panna cotta, and 'gourmet' sauces.

## What's something people are surprised to learn about you?

In sixth grade, I got in trouble with my teacher because I wanted to start a school newspaper and when she wouldn't follow through in helping me, I went straight to the principal to ask for help. I also used to write for the Tri-County News, before it became the Tri-County Times, many years ago. I guess journalism has been in my blood for a long time.

## What or who inspired you as a kid?

My mother — she taught me strength, character and the value of getting an education. My grandmother — she taught me compassion for others, and a love for good writing, by reading Poe and Twain to me before I could read on my own. Jim Markos, my high school English teacher (and third cousin) — he taught me that the best students weren't always 'A' students.

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# Help! Mother's Day is only one week away

■ Gifts should be thoughtful and personal

**By Sally Rummel**  
news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282,  
Are you stuck in a rut trying to find the perfect Mother's Day gift to celebrate with your mom on Sunday, May 13?

If so, you're among the 86 percent of Americans who celebrate this special holiday, creating not only a sentimental day of celebration, but also an economic boon of \$23.1 billion to the U.S. economy.

The average Mother's Day gift is \$186 per person, spent equally among department stores, specialty shops and online, according to the National Retail Federation.

Gift giving is much more than just a statistic, however. Finding the perfect gift for your mom all starts with giving a little thought about what makes her happy. Does she like to garden? Is her favorite time spent reading a book, baking her grandkids' favorite treats or running a marathon?

Maybe she loves concerts, plays and Broadway musicals, and would appreciate a splurge on tickets she wouldn't buy for herself. If she loves sports events, how about tickets to a Detroit Tigers, Lions, Pistons or Red Wings game?

Is she obsessed with the hit Broadway musical "Hamilton?" If tickets for the 2019 shows are a bit pricey for your wallet (from

\$560 to \$3,500 apiece), you might consider a "Hamilton" music mix from iTunes for \$14.99 or the book, "Hamilton: The Revolution," with the full text of the play.

Other "experience" gifts include gift cards for spa services; travel, including a down payment on a dream trip or a weekend hotel; destinations such as Dow Gardens, Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park, Greenfield Village, Meadowbrook Hall, etc.

Flowers are still a very popular Mother's Day gift, purchased by 69 percent of the people who celebrate the holiday. Hanging baskets, annuals and container pots are all colorful, thoughtful gifts, but maybe you could "think outside the vase" a bit this year.

How about a succulent wall garden, a

bonsai tree (Japanese art form producing small trees in containers) or an indoor herb garden? What about a pretty garden tool set, knee stool, gardening journal, tote bag, garden stone, etc.?

Most moms are sentimental, and would love anything personalized with photos, names of their children and grandchildren, etc. A photo collage, a digital scrapbook of a favorite trip, a photo blanket or pillow would be much appreciated. They're easy to create and might become a favorite keepsake.

Jewelry can be sentimental, too, beyond a mother's birthstone ring. You can order "map jewelry" that denotes your mom's hometown, or have a loved one's handwriting preserved on a piece of jewelry.

If your mom is into electronics, get her a beautiful new iPhone case with its own fashion style or buy a FitBit to keep her active.

For a mom who loves to read, what about a special reading pillow for bedtime, a reading nightlight or a new Kindle Oasis, the first waterproof Kindle, also audible when paired with Bluetooth.

Gift ideas are endless, but it takes some time to think about what makes your mom happy. That will provide you with a perfect gift idea or two.

## Top Mother's Day gifts:

1. Greeting cards (77 percent)
2. Flowers (69 percent)
3. Dinner or brunch (55 percent)
4. Gift cards (45 percent)
5. Clothing (36 percent)
6. Jewelry (34 percent)
7. Personal/spa (24 percent)
8. Housewares/gardening (19 percent)
9. Books/music (19 percent)
10. Electronics (14 percent)



## PERFECT 'BREAKFAST IN BED' IDEA:

### Blueberry Surprise French Toast Casserole

**INGREDIENTS:**  
12 slices dry white bread, cut into 1/2-inch cubes (about 8 cups)  
28 ounce packages cream cheese, cut into 3/4-inch cubes  
1 cup fresh or frozen blueberries  
12 eggs  
2 cups milk  
1/2 cup maple syrup  
Blueberry-flavor, maple, or maple-flavor syrup

**PREPARATION:**  
Place half of the bread cubes over the bottom of a well-buttered 3-quart rectangular baking dish. Sprinkle cream cheese and blueberries over bread cubes. Arrange remaining bread cubes over blueberries.  
In a large mixing bowl beat eggs with a rotary beater; beat in milk and the 1/2 cup syrup. Carefully pour egg mixture over the bread mixture. Cover dish with plastic wrap and chill for 2 hours.  
Preheat oven to 375 degrees F. Remove plastic wrap and cover dish with foil. Bake for 25 minutes. Uncover and bake about 25 minutes more or until a knife inserted near the center comes out clean, and topping is puffed and golden brown. Let stand for 10 minutes before serving. Serve warm with blueberry-flavor or maple syrup.

**From the Test Kitchen**  
**TIP:** To dry bread slices, arrange bread in a single layer on a wire rack; cover loosely and let stand overnight. Or cut bread into 1/2-inch cubes; spread in a large baking pan. Bake, uncovered, in a 300 degrees F oven for 10 to 15 minutes or until dry, stirring twice; cool.  
**MAKE-AHEAD TIP:** Prepare as directed. Cover dish with plastic wrap and chill for up to 24 hours. To serve, preheat oven to 375 degrees F. Remove plastic wrap and cover dish with foil. Bake for 25 minutes. Uncover and bake about 25 minutes more. Let stand for 10 minutes.

SOURCE: Bhg.com





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# Linden's offense keeps up its recent hot streak, sweeps Flushing

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

The hitting parade continued for the Linden varsity softball team in Metro League play on Tuesday.

A day after scoring 21 runs against Kearsley in a doubleheader, the Eagles scored 33 against Flushing in a twinbill, earning a doubleheader sweep.

The Eagles have been particularly hot

at the plate lately, collecting 26 runs in two games at the Clare Invitational on Saturday.

The Eagles needed just four innings of at bats to earn a 20-5 victory in the opener. The nightcap took a little bit longer, earning the 10-run mercy rule after five innings.

In the opening inning of the first game the Eagles scored 11 runs and never trailed after scoring those runs. The big hits during

the stanza were two run singles by Jillian Widner, Jordyn Hobson, and Ashley Bertschy, an RBI-single by Lauren Buerkel, a two-run double by Ellie Klocek and, finally, another two-run single by Widner.

Linden (4-2 in the Metro and 14-5 overall) had 21 hits in the first game.

Buerkel had four of them while Klocek had three of them. She had two doubles and a solo home run. Mossing and Hobson had three hits each while Deanna Jenkinson, Widner and Bertschy had two each. Bertschy, Klocek and Widner each drove in four runs.

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Linden's Jordyn Hobson



**TRI-COUNTY TIMES** | SUBMITTED PHOTO

Fenton's Ron Rummel (left) was a three-year starter for Central Michigan University when the school first became a Division 1 program. Rummel died after a long bout with cancer on Sunday.

## Rummel remembered for his play on the field, being a better person off the football field

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

Ron Rummel wasn't one to talk about how great of an athlete he was. Instead, he let his performances do the talking for him.

The member of Central Michigan University's 1974 Division II national championship team and one of the greatest prep quarterbacks in Michigan football history while at Saginaw Arthur Hill, didn't brag about his athletic successes, but there were plenty of them.

However, those who knew him would tell you he was a greater person than he ever was an athlete. The Fenton resident, 61, died at his home in Fenton after a six-year battle with cancer.

"We were great friends," member of the Michigan Amateur Softball Association Hall of Fame and area resident Harold Krueger said.

"I saw him at the Fenton Fitness Center and we'd talk all the time about sports. He was such a great guy. You wouldn't know he was a great athlete unless you talked to him about it. He was just one of the greatest. A great family man and just a great guy. I don't think anyone ever had a bad word to say about Ron Rummel,"

CONTINUED AT  
TCTIMES.COM

# Fenton track teams earn key Metro sweeps

**By David Troppens**  
dtroppens@tctimes.com

**Lake Fenton** — The Lake Fenton varsity boys track team doesn't have the numbers the squad had in previous years.

But the Blue Devils do have something. They have quality. And they have quite a bit of it.

Lake Fenton's talented track and field team competed against Goodrich, Durand, Mt. Morris and LakeVille on Tuesday and came home with a perfect meet sweep. The Lake Fenton girls had a pretty solid day as well, defeating LakeVille and Mt. Morris, but losing to Goodrich. The girls beat LakeVille and Mt. Morris, but lost to Goodrich.

The Lake Fenton boys earned eight event firsts among the five teams, showing their top-line strength.

The distance crew showed how strong it can be by sweeping each of the top three spots in the 1,600. Eric Niestroy won the event in 5:00.53, but not close behind were teammates Thomas Hufton (5:00.76) and Sam Selley (5:02.42).

Elijah Bourdeau showed his strength in the middle distances. He earned firsts in the 400 (44.94) and the 800 (2:16.94). He also teamed with different runners on two different relays. He teamed with Selley, Hufton and Niestroy to win the 3,200 relay 99:08.17) and also ran with Eric Somsy, Niestroy and Brenden Schroeder to win the 1,600 (3:53.55).

"We had some good performances overall," Lake Fenton boys track and field coach Kyle Smith said. "We are starting to get rolling with the weather. It was probably a shock for them to go from so cold to so warm, especially considering Saturday was so cold (at Brighton).

"Our numbers are down. Unfortunately, it's the smallest team I've coached. But every team member is working to the maximum of their abilities, so that's a highlight. We do have some really talented athletes that could go far in regionals and the state meet."

CONTINUED AT  
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**TRI-COUNTY TIMES**  
DAVID TROPPENS

Some of Lake Fenton's key performers in Tuesday's meet against Goodrich, Durand, Mt. Morris and LakeVille on Tuesday were Andre Herron and Dillon Byers in the sprint relays and Sophia Clements in the 300 hurdles. The boys swept their opponents while the girls went 2-1.



**TRI-COUNTY TIMES** | DAVID TROPPENS

Fenton's Brandon Miller and Blake Marchi helped the Tigers take first in the 800-meter relay on Wednesday.

## Tigers' track teams sweep Holly, Kearsley

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

**Fenton** — The beat goes on for the Fenton varsity track teams.

Both squads remained undefeated in Metro League play in their quests to repeat as double conference champions.

The Fenton girls took two more steps closer to its third straight league crown by defeating Holly 96-37 and Kearsley 87.5-47.5 at Fenton High School on Wednesday. Holly also lost to Kearsley 72-58.

Meanwhile, the Fenton boys defeated Kearsley 83-54 and Holly 109.5-27.5. The Bronchos also lost to Kearsley 84.5-51.5.

The Fenton boys won 11 of the events and flat out crushed the field in a few of them. For example, the top six times in the 200 meter dash were all Fenton times. The

top five times in the 3,200 were Fenton performers.

"It was a very good day for our team yesterday," Fenton varsity boys track and field coach Anthony McMillan said. "We are improving each week with our times and that is always a good sign at this time of year. We are a pretty young group overall and they are really starting to gain a lot of confidence and momentum going into the bigger meets coming up at the end of the year.

"Our depth on the roster allowed us to shake our lineup around yesterday which was important as we were able to qualify some more guys into regionals and the Metro League meet."

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM



# Holly baseball split a pair of pitchers' duels with Clio Mustangs

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com

The Holly varsity baseball team had its pitchers toss two outstanding games against Clio in Metro League action.

Unfortunately, only one of those two performances resulted in a win.

DJ Tennis pitched a masterful five-hit shutout in the second game, leading the Bronchos to a 6-0 win.

JD Lannon pitched seven innings of one-run ball, but it wasn't enough as the Bronchos lost a 2-1 contest in eight innings in the opener.

In the nightcap, the Bronchos opened the contest with three runs in the first inning. The big blow during the inning was Tennis' two-run triple. Lannon also had an RBI-single, making it a 3-0 lead.

Holly added another run in the top of the fourth. With two out, Garrett Van-Gilder singled in Ben Gramer, who walked, for the fourth Holly run. In the



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPENS

Holly's JD Lannon pitched seven innings of three-hit ball in a 2-1 loss to the Clio Mustangs.

sixth, Aaron Lochitski and Lannon began the inning with singles and both hits eventually resulted in runs scored. One on Jack DeVries' single and the other on a fielding error by Clio.

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM

## Fenton soccer remains perfect in Metro, defeat Lady Mustangs, 6-0

By David Troppens

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Metro expectations were high for the Fenton varsity girls soccer team entering the season.

So far the Tigers have delivered.

The Tigers returned a deep and talented team that looked like one that could contend for the Metro League title, and their play has supported that notion all season long. The Tigers crushed Clio 6-0 in their most recent road Metro game on Wednesday.

Fenton took control of the game with three goals in the first half, and concluded it with three in the second half.

Lauren Murphy and Annie Koester paced the Tigers' offense, each collecting two goals. Erin Conroy and Chloe Wagner each had a goal as well. While those players scored the goals, Hayley Clarke was providing the assists, collecting three during the contest. Murphy, Hannah Polzin and Margaret Berry had an assist each as well.

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM

### PREP REPORT

#### BOYS GOLF

► **Fenton 178, Holly 197:** The Tigers remained undefeated in dual meet play, defeating the Holly Bronchos 178-197 at Heather Highlands on Wednesday.

The Tigers had co-medalists. Addison McIntosh and Dylan Conte each shoot 44s. Mitchell Chopp and Edward Farrell darn near made it a four-way tie for medalist honors, each shooting 45s.

Danny Mathews and Matt Moller led the Bronchos with 48s.

► **Fenton 177, Clio 212:** The Tigers dealt with Tuesday's windy conditions well, crushing the Clio Mustangs by 35 strokes on Clio's own home course, the Clio Country Club. Dylan Conte was the match medalist, scoring a 40 for Fenton. He was followed by Addison McIntosh with a 44, Tait Shaltz with a 46 and Mitchell Chopp with a 47.

► **Flushing 180, Holly 195:** Noah Roomer led the Bronchos with a 42 in the loss at Flushing Valley Country Club.

► **Kearsley 192, Linden 210:** Ian Mann returned to the squad, shooting a team-best 43. Jack Whitman carded a 50 while Tyler Manner shot a 59. Aidan McCarthy carded a 59.

#### GIRLS LACROSSE

► **Lake Fenton/Goodrich 14, Fenton/Linden 10:** The Lake Fenton/Goodrich co-op defeated the Fenton/Linden

squad by taking a first-half lead with six unanswered goals.

Minna Ramirez led Fenton/Linden with four goals while Lara Kemp had two goals and an assist. Sarah Reuschlein had two goals while Kelly Kemp and Jessica Lynch had a goal each.

No goal information was received from the Lake Fenton/Goodrich co-op team.

#### GIRLS SOCCER

► **Flushing 9, Holly 1:** The Bronchos' lone goal was scored by Sam Peters on a penalty kick. The JV team tied Flushing 1-1 with Maxine Bonner scoring the goal.

#### SOFTBALL

► **Holly vs. Notre Dame Prep:** Holly swept a pair of games, beating Notre Dame Prep 17-2 in the first game and 9-5 in the second.

In the opener, Madisen Beesley struck out nine batters in a game that lasted just four innings. Aubrey Jenkinson, Gillian Cohoon and Grace From had strong games at the plate.

In the second game, Jenkins and Megan Sisson were strong at the plate while Beesley earned the win. Coach Scott Culver also noted Miah Beck, Chloe Magalski, Gracie Ortiz and Lilly Dodge as strong participants in the contest.

## Online Exclusives STORIES ONLINE AT TCTIMES.COM

### Eagles remain in first place in Metro, split with Flushing

During the recent past, the Linden varsity baseball team has been one of the toughest teams to beat in Metro competition.

It looks like that trend is continuing this

season under new head coach Tony Puente.

The Eagles remain in first place in the Metro League after splitting a pair of games with Flushing on Tuesday.

### Linden track squads record splits vs. Clio, Flushing

The Linden varsity track program had some good news and some bad news in its duals with Clio and Flushing on Wednesday.

Both teams beat Clio, but both were

unable to defeat Flushing. The girls beat Clio 110-25 while Flushing beat Linden 85-52. For the boys, the Eagles beat Clio 95-41, but lost to Flushing 85.5-51.5.

### Bronchos enjoy a second trip to U-M, split games

The Holly varsity baseball team got to play the sport they love in a little different venue on Wednesday.

The Bronchos faced the Goodrich

Martians at The University of Michigan's Ray Fisher Stadium, splitting the contests. Holly lost the first game 4-2, but bounced back to win the second 3-1.

### Linden soccer performing well in Metro despite adversity

The Linden varsity girls soccer team has gone through its share of adversity this season.

After making it to the D2 state semifinal contest a year ago, the Eagles entered this

season looking at a rebuilding season due to the fact many of the key players that made last year possible graduated.

Compounding matters, the Eagles have had plenty of injuries this season as well.

## ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



RACHEL EVERETT  
Softball

HARTLAND



TAIT SHALTZ  
Golf

FENTON



MATISON BOYLE  
Girls Lacrosse

LAKE FENTON



CHANSE SETZKE  
Boys Track & Field

FENTON



LAUREN LESCH  
Girls Tennis

HOLLY



JESSICA LYNCH  
Girls Lacrosse

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