

Lawmakers blow through \$190,000 on pre-retirement trips

■ Other taxpayer money goes to designing new condoms and educating prostitutes

Compiled by Hannah Ball

So far in 2018, 17 members of Congress have announced retirement and gone on overseas trips before they leave office for good. The total cost of these trips were approximately \$190,000 of taxpayer dollars. Some of these lawmakers travel for work.

Rep. Sander Levin, a Democrat from Michigan, announced in December he was retiring. He then traveled Jan. 25-28 to Canada and March 2-4 to Mexico to join negotiations on a new North American Free Trade Agreement, according to travel information from the Congressional Record.

See **WASTED MONEY** on 19A

The Department of Health and Human Services gave out more than \$650,000 to fund a video game designed to allow adolescents to explore their future selves. The grant was sought by Robert Wittman (right), a Republican from Virginia.

Photo: Emporia News



PAGE 6
STRAWBERRY FARMING GIVES AMPUTEE A NEW PURPOSE

Weekend Times

VOL. 25 NO. XXXIII SUNDAY, AUGUST 19, 2018 \$1.00



Happy ending for this 'Prince Charming'

See story on Page 11A

Photo: Hannah Ball

19-year-old Linden grad dies in crash

■ Victim was alone in vehicle, ejected through sunroof

By Hannah Ball

A 19-year-old Linden High School graduate died in a car crash Sunday, Aug. 12 in Shiawassee County.

Aaron Steedman was driving northbound on Byron Road, just north of Lovejoy Road in Burns Township, between 1:45 a.m. and



Aaron Steedman

4:30 a.m., according to Lt. David Kaiser with the Michigan State Police-Flint Post.

"The vehicle ran off of the right side of the

See **CRASH** on 10A

Summer coming to an end for Fenton students

■ Only area district returning to school prior to Labor Day

By Sally Rummel

"See you in September," may be the words to a popular 1966 song, but students at Fenton Area Public Schools will be seeing each other in August instead of September this year.

Fenton schools, along with 150 other Michigan districts, applied for a waiver to

See **SCHOOL** on 14A



Traffic on North LeRoy Street, north of downtown Fenton, is generally very busy, making it difficult for pedestrian traffic to cross safely during the day.

Photo: Tim Jagielo - media editor

Rapid downtown growth a concern for pedestrians

■ Local couple pleads with city to address North LeRoy Street traffic

By Vera Hogan

Robert and Marie Bechtel of Fenton are worried. They have observed potential dangerous situations from their North LeRoy Street home and are trying to get the city of Fenton to do something about it.

See **TRAFFIC** on 16A

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“The fact that you sometimes may be unable to park 10 feet or less from your destination does not mean there is a parking problem in downtown Fenton.”



COMMENT OF THE WEEK

“In most of Foster Childs rants I can find some value. However, last Wednesday's issue will be saved for deer hunting deep in the woods.”

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Ford rolls out 10 millionth Mustang



What cost her \$3,447.50 in 1964 is now worth between \$350,000 to \$450,000, according to Jonathan Kling of Hagerty Ford in Traverse City, quoted in the Detroit Free Press.

The iconic Ford Mustang rolled out its 10 millionth car at Ford's Flat Rock facility in Dearborn on Wednesday, Aug. 8, adding fuel to the popularity of this 55-year-old model. Photo: www.thenational.ae

First Mustang ever sold will be at Woodward Dream Cruise

By Sally Rummel

The year was 1964.
Lyndon B. Johnson was president, the Beatles debuted on the Ed Sullivan Show and “Mary Poppins” was showing at the local movie theater.
There’s no other car beyond the Ford

Mustang that brings back the nostalgia of this simpler time in America’s history.
The iconic Mustang’s popularity today continues today with the rollout last Wednesday of its 10millionth vehicle at the Flat Rock production facility in Dearborn.
For car lovers, the timing is perfect,

bringing more attention to the Mustang’s prominent role in classic car history just as the Woodward Dream Cruise rolls out this weekend in Metro Detroit.
The Mustang is the nation’s best-selling sports car in the last half-century and the
See MUSTANG on 19A

“We’re so passionate about the brand we treat every one we sell like it’s our own.”
Matt Lasco
Lasco Ford in Fenton



SUMMARY
■ Breastfeeding in public rarely causes a scene, but some mothers have been asked to leave establishments for feeding their children.

Breastfeeding moms — know your rights

■ Nursing your baby is legal anywhere in public in the U.S.

By Hannah Ball
This past July, police were called on two mothers who were breast-

feeding their babies at a public swimming pool in Mora, Minnesota.
Minnesota law allows mothers to breastfeed in any location, public or private, even if the nipple of the breast is showing. The police officer who arrived on scene said the establishment, which is run by

the city, reserved the right to ask them to leave.
The women involved plan to file a discrimination lawsuit against the city of Mora.
It is legal for a mother to breastfeed her child anywhere in
See BREASTFEEDING on 21A



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Andrew Heller

andrewheller@tctimes.com

Come *Heller* high water...

• **More than 2** million voters turned out for the August primary in Michigan. That’s a record by a wide margin. But is it good? No. Not at all. There are just shy of 10 million people living in Michigan. About three quarters of them are eligible to vote, meaning only about a quarter of the people who could have voted actually did. As the Trumpster would say: “Sad!”

• **If you hooked** them to a lie detector, people who habitually don’t vote



Andrew Heller
FEATURED COLUMNIST

would say, “I just don’t care” or “One vote doesn’t matter.” Which is sometimes true, but a whole lot of “just one” votes do matter. A lot.

• **But another issue** is summer. Why in the world does

Michigan hold any election, much less a primary, in August? It makes no sense. People are on vacation, mentally or physically. Their minds aren’t on elections. So why do we do that? Part of the answer is because “that’s how we’ve always done it.” Another part is schools and other entities seeking money purposely get on the ballot in August precisely because there will be far fewer votes. All they have to do is turn out their core of supporters, and voila.

• **Another reason people** don’t vote is Tuesday. Who ordained that, and why? It makes no sense to have an election on a weekday when most people are working. Elections should either be weeklong or on a weekend.

• **Now that I’ve** solved our election problems, let’s fix MSU. The cover of the current edition of the alumni magazine features a self-congratulatory, happy-talk quote from MSU president John Engler about the shameful Larry Nassar case: “The university, which faced the most difficult chal-

lenge in its history, has emerged and is going to be stronger, safer and more competitive than before.” That may be true, but you also don’t erase stains by pretending they don’t exist, and that’s what this cover attempts to do. What’s worse is Engler nixed the original cover featuring a woman wearing teal lipstick, the color of support for sexual assault victims. And his comment suggesting this is about the university and not the girls and women who were assaulted is both appalling and proves that he just doesn’t get it and never will. Engler is not the one to fix the culture at MSU that enabled this scandal. In fact, he’s making it worse.

• **You know what I miss?** Old school miniature golf courses. The ones with right angles and 2 by 4s and windmills and clown faces. I don’t like the “new” ones that channel the ball to within a foot of the hole no matter how bad your aim is. Those were invented to feed more people through the course faster. Profit over fun. I protest.

• **Why do colleges** still start classes before Labor Day? Nothing gets done. It’s a waste of time and money. And wasting money is a crime when colleges are charging so much. When I went to school, a credit hour cost about \$40. Now it’s more than \$400. No wonder kids graduate owning the equivalent of a home mortgage. Student debt and bankruptcies will be the next great financial crisis. You watch.

• **“From this instant** on, vow to stop disappointing yourself. Decide to be extraordinary and do what you need to do.” — Epictetus

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.

“It makes no sense to have an election on a weekday when most people are working.”

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.

IN REGARDS TO Councilwoman Pat Lockwood’s comment about the proposed street millage in the Wednesday Aug. 8, Times. ‘We only have three months to educate 8,000 voters.’ Spoiler alert — the residents are very educated. Go into next year’s budget and find some money to apply toward the roads.

■■■■ **SOCIALISM / ‘SŌSHŌ LIZŌM/ (NOUN):** a political and economic construct of social organization based on government ownership and regulation of the means of production, distribution, and exchange. So yes, by definition, Democratic Socialists do want to control your private property.

■■■■ **WHERE IS EVERYBODY** supposed to sit now during the concerts in the park? My child used to climb the trees and roll down the hill.

■■■■ **I LOVE READING** all of the Hot lines saying liberals are just going to be against anything Trump does no matter what it is. Did they forget how they and Congress acted with Obama?

■■■■ **THE CITY’S WEBSITE** offers a tax assessing search tab. <https://bsoonline.com/MunicipalDashboard/Performance?uid=561>. Use it to look up your address. It’s likely your taxes are down considerably from 10 years ago. If you don’t think fixed roads are worth

roughly \$500 a year for a \$200,000 home then vote no. I think they are, and will be voting yes.

■■■■ **I DON’T THINK** the city of Fenton is capable of providing the basic roads in the city. There are still dirt roads. There are paved roads that haven’t been replaced in over 40 years. Don’t give them any more money and get ready to start driving on gravel because that’s all we’re going to get.

■■■■ **FOR 20 YEARS** they’ve raised gas taxes to fix the roads. And now they want us to pay to fix the roads. Isn’t that just wonderful?

■■■■ **I LOVE THE** Hot lines, so I was so grateful that in Sunday’s paper all the Hot lines were on white paper with black pen. I hope it stays that way. Thank you.

■■■■ **I’M RESPONDING TO** the untrue statement about Shiawassee Shores Retirement Park. I live in the park and have never seen trash or anything else to be cleaned up. It is a beautiful, safe place to live. Thank you.

■■■■ **WHEN I READ** that we had a \$54,000 butterfly garden I was hoping that was fake news. Like a lot of the other fake news I found out it was true.

■■■■ **CHRIS COLLINS BUSTED** and ‘cries witch hunt.’ He assures supporters he will be vindicated. Two days later, he withdraws himself from reelection. Good year for hunting witches.

■■■■ **SPACE FORCE? WHAT** happened to infrastructure?

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Compiled by Tim Jagielo, media editor

What are your thoughts on breastfeeding in public?

“Absolutely, baby has to eat. When I would breastfeed Roman in public, no one would bother me.”

— Liz Rodgers
Fenton Township

“Until you’re a mother, you’re not in a position to judge. It’s very much a private choice.”

— Joetta Zalewski
Argentine Township

“I think it’s awesome that they’re breastfeeding. It’s a bonding experience with the baby. I’ve never seen anyone expose themselves.”

— Elaine Heller
Fenton

“There’s nothing wrong with it. I just try to be respectful when someone is (breastfeeding).”

— Mike Kosal
Fenton Township

“I don’t have anything against it; they could cover with a blanket.”

— Laura Nolkemper
Mundy Township

| streettalk



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PENDING



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Fenton
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PENDING



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SOLD



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Davison
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SOLD



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Mundy Twp
\$255,000

SOLD



9459 Morrish Rd
Gaines Twp
\$223,000

Strawberry farming gives amputee a new purpose

■ Fenton High School graduate finds new life after being critically injured

By Sally Rummel

Ben Geiger, 43, never expected that a kernel of kettle corn and a red, ripe strawberry would totally change his life.

On Sept. 6, 2016, Geiger choked on a piece of kettle corn he was snacking on while driving a semi-truck for work on I-69 near Marshall.

That episode caused him to crash into the trees along the highway, severing his left leg and resulting in severe injuries to every part of his body other than his left arm, face and back.

"It took over an hour for emergency personnel to cut me out," said Geiger, a 1993 graduate of Fenton High School, now living in Gaines. "I also had chemical burns all over my body from lying in oil spills from the accident."

Geiger was airlifted to Bronson Methodist Hospital in Kalamazoo, where he underwent 17 surgeries, including amputation of his left leg above the knee. His right leg was also badly injured and is held together with 18 pins and plates. He shattered his right hand, requiring screws, plates and a bone graft.

He spent two weeks in Intensive Care, then was moved to Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital in Grand Rapids for intense physical and occupational therapies to help him gain strength and learn how to care for himself. This avid outdoorsman, who loved to hunt, fish, ride bikes and four-wheelers,



Ben Geiger, Gaines resident and Fenton High School graduate, survived a horrific automobile accident that nearly cost him his life. He has endured 17 surgeries, including amputation of his left leg below the knee. He's now able to stand and walk for limited lengths of time. Photo: Tim Jagielo - media editor

was now confined to a wheelchair.

However, Geiger didn't just sit there. He poured himself into therapy, got a customized prosthesis and has since learned to walk again. He still spends three days a week, two hours a day, in therapy, although closer to home at Sparrow Hospital in Lansing.

But Geiger found a new passion for his time and energy, which literally propelled

“Last year, I planted everything from my wheelchair. This year, I’m up walking, pounding pipe and weeding.”

Ben Geiger

Accident survivor and strawberry farmer

him out of the wheelchair for the majority of his day.

He has become a strawberry farmer, tending 17,000 strawberry plants that he grows hydroponically with his neighbor, Marie Nelson, 63.

"My neighbor had been growing strawberries for over 10 years at her sister's house and was looking for a new place to grow," Geiger said. "I had the land and the time. It all just fit perfectly into place."

Now through Maren Farms (a combination of their names, Marie and Ben), a unique partnership has been formed and it has given new life to these unlikely business partners.

"This allows me to work at my own pace," Geiger said. "Last year, I planted everything from my wheelchair. This year, I'm up walking, pounding pipe and weeding."



Ben Geiger's semi tractor accident occurred in September of 2016. He said choking on a piece of popcorn was what caused the crash. "Kind of silly how it went down," he said.

Their hydroponic growing practice extends the traditionally short strawberry season to past frost, so strawberries are still available and will be for several months at their roadside stand at the farm, at 11305 Cook Rd. in Gaines. They're also sold at the Fenton Farmers Market.

The only other hydroponic strawberry farm Nelson knows about is in Traverse City. "It's a lot of work because of the weeding," she said.

Ben's mother, Lorraine Geiger of Fenton, sometimes helps by spending up to 10 hours a day, helping weed the berries.

But the hard work is nothing compared to the pay-off. Nelson, who lost her husband, Elliott, unexpectedly in March, is grateful for the work and sense of family she has with her nine children and 32 grandchildren, who love to help with the strawberries.

For Geiger, the strawberry farm has fueled his rehabilitation journey and amazed all of his doctors.

"The more I do, the more the doctors want to do for me," he said. "I'm about to be fitted for a new prosthetic leg. Now that I can walk without a cane, my goal for next year is to run the Crim."

WATCH THE VIDEO



AT TCTIMES.COM
WITH THIS STORY



Ben Geiger's mother, Lorraine Geiger of Fenton, helps with weeding and picking of ripe strawberries on Thursday, Aug. 9. Photo: Tim Jagielo - media editor



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Plea deal reached in threatening email case

■Fenton man to be sentenced Oct. 1

By Sharon Stone

Stephen Anthony Challis, 59, of Fenton, was back in court Wednesday, Aug. 15 on felony charges of sending a threatening email in March.

A plea deal was agreed to after Challis pleaded guilty to two reduced counts of unauthorized access to a computer, a five-year felony.

According to the Genesee County 67th District Court, Challis was originally charged with two counts of false report or threat of terrorism, and two counts of using a computer to commit a crime. Using the computer to commit a crime carries a maximum prison time of 20 years to life.

He was arraigned Wednesday, March 15, and released on \$60,000 personal recognizance bond and placed on a tether at his home.

Challis' legal problems began when he made threats via email to shoot and kill employees at Nexteer Automotive in Auburn Hills. He worked for Flex Live Smarter Corp. and was involved with a contracted project with Nexteer Automotive.

As previously reported in the Times, Genesee County Prosecutor David Leyton said Challis was triggered to send the threatening email after he read a report that he believed would delay his project with Nexteer. Frustrated that he hadn't seen the

report, which he felt he should have, he sent the email on Friday, March 9.

Leyton said from his home in Fenton, Challis sent a threatening email to 34 workers, some of whom he never met.

Leyton read sections of the email verbatim during a March press conference.

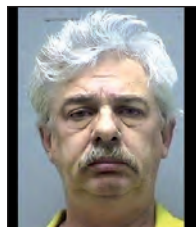
"I'm sorry to report, that I'll be forced to kill one of you, just to send a message to others. You pick and tell me who it is. You can vote on it and decide on Monday. Any of you who do NOT take the time to read this carefully to the end, will make the short list."

The email included detailing current problems with the project, before it came back to the threat against employees. "As for the first part, execution of one of you, whomever it turns out to be, don't worry you won't feel it. See second attachment, one of my team building tools."

The attachment was a photo of a shotgun with shells.

Some employees became frightened and contacted the police after reading the email. Fenton police became involved along with the FBI and Michigan State police (MSP). The MSP took over the investigation as part of the Safe Streets Task Force.

Police determined it was a false report after interviewing Challis. He didn't own the weapon depicted in the email attachments, though two rifles were recovered from his home. Challis had no prior convictions or history of known mental health issues.



SUMMARY

■ Stephen Challis, 59, of Fenton took a plea deal in the threatening email case. He will be sentenced Oct. 1.

Nearly half pound of marijuana found laying in middle of McCaslin Lake Road

■Chief: 'Someone's gonna be really mad'

By Vera Hogan

At about 7:40 a.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 15, a woman, who was traveling northbound on McCaslin Lake Road, called police to let them know that a big plastic bag of what appeared to be marijuana was laying in the middle of the road.

"She stopped and said, 'is that what I think it is,' and called us," Argentine Township Police Chief Daniel Allen said. "Since we're so close, I ran over there and sure enough there it was laying in middle of the road on the bridge."

"There are about 10 or 12 individual bags inside the larger bag," Allen said. "It is definitely all packaged up for sale."

Allen said the total weight is 190 grams. He said he is unsure at this time exactly how much that is worth on the street, but estimates it is probably worth thousands since an ounce of marijuana goes for around \$200 or \$300. There are .035 ounces in a gram.

Anyone who wishes to share information about this bag of packaged marijuana may call the Argentine Township Police at (810) 735-5317.

“... sure enough there it was laying in middle of the road on the bridge.”

Daniel Allen
Argentine Township
police chief



Argentine Township Police Chief Daniel Allen poses with a bag containing individual packages of marijuana totaling 190 grams. The bag was found laying on McCaslin Lake Road Wednesday morning. Photo submitted to the Times

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\$894,666 Fantasy 5 ticket sold in Grand Blanc

Have you purchased a Fantasy 5 ticket lately? If so, you may be a winner. A lucky lottery player won an extraordinary Fantasy 5 lottery prize Sunday evening after matching all five numbers drawn — 04-06-14-16-17 — to win a \$894,666 jackpot.

The winning ticket was bought at Tony's Kwik Mart, 5124 East Hill Rd. in Grand Blanc, according to the Michigan State Lottery.

The jackpot was so high because it had been several days since anyone had won the jackpot which starts out at \$100,000 every time someone wins it. Sunday night's jackpot is not something that is likely to be seen again soon.

The winner from Sunday's drawing should contact the Michigan Lottery Public Relations Division at (517) 373-1237 to schedule an appointment to collect the big prize. The prize must be claimed at the Lottery's headquarters in Lansing. Tickets for Fantasy 5 are valid for one year from the drawing date.

History will come alive at Oakwood Cemetery

■ Walking tour will feature some of Fenton's more interesting residents

By Vera Hogan

Fenton residents and visitors may want to mark their calendars for Saturday, Sept. 8, when the Oakwood Cemetery History Walk will take place.

This annual event is being sponsored by the Fenton Historical Society, Fenton Memorials and the city of Fenton. It will take place from 1 to 4 p.m. Oakwood Cemetery's main entrance is on the south side of the city, from Owen Road to Davis and Davis straight into the cemetery.

According to Oakwood Cemetery Board Chair Doug Tebo, the Fenton Village Players will be portraying some of the city's more interesting and notable residents.

For example, tour stops include the mausoleum of F/Lt. J. Thad Johnson, a World War I pilot who flew in Europe with a connection to Charles Lindbergh. Johnson was the squadron leader for 12 planes escorting Lindbergh to a jubilee celebration in Ottawa, Canada, after Lindbergh's successful flight across the ocean.

The 12 planes flew overhead at the jubilee doing fancy tricks and maneuvers. Only seven of those planes landed. Johnson was not one of the surviving



Oakwood Cemetery Board Chairman Doug Tebo reads aloud the history of the Fenton seminary building at the official dedication in May of 2016. Photo: Times file photo

pilots. He was brought home on a train to Fenton for his funeral. His fellow pilots flew overhead and dropped flowers on the train.

The next stop is the Thurber and Stone mausoleum. Don't know who they are? You will when you reach the second stop on this tour. Ross Stone, who is 91, takes care of this mausoleum personally. On Sept. 8, he will open it so visitors can

take a look.

The tour also stops at the Baptist Seminary Memorial and graves of Dexter Horton, Bryson Horton, the Latourette family, Cynthia Roberts Gorton and the Phillips Family Mausoleum.

The following are questions that will be answered during the walk on Sept. 8:

- Where was the O.E. Williams Flying School?
- Who was the "Blind Bard of Michigan?"
- What is Fenton's connection to almost every home and business in America?
- What is the link between Fenton and the Great Lakes National Cemetery?
- Who donated the land for the "Baptist seminary?"
- What building in town has been a private office, a library and a museum?

Admission to the cemetery walk, which is a family friendly event, is free. Pets are not permitted in Oakwood Cemetery at any time.

"We still need five tour guides for this event," Tebo said. Those interested in spending a few hours serving as a tour guide should plan to come to a "dry run" of the walk at Oakwood Cemetery on Tuesday, Aug. 21 at 6:30 p.m. Meet behind the soldier statue once inside the cemetery's main gates.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

■■■
THANKS AGAIN TO the Fenton homeowners who put so much time and money into their historic homes — my favorite part of town.

■■■
THANK YOU, VERA Hogan for the article on plastic and our oceans. I am amazed weekly on garbage day at the lack of recycling in my neighborhood. We could do so much but sadly most don't bother. How about shaming pictures on garbage day.

■■■
THANK YOU TO all you wonderful folks at the Freedom Center Boot Camp this year. You did a superb job of spreading Jesus' word to all the kids.

■■■
THE STOP SIGNS on N. Oak Street between Fifth and Sixth streets obviously don't work because very few drivers obey them. Can we get them fixed before a child gets hit by a car?

■■■
WHAT IN THE world is taking them so long on Bridge Street? Who wants to bet they finish this one day early so they get their bonuses?

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EVENT

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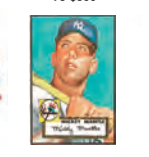
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Waterworks park building comes down

By Tim Jagielo

Holly — Starting on Thursday, Aug. 16, the Holly Waterworks Park building was demolished, before a small but enthusiastic crowd. Demolition was completed on Friday.

“This building should have come down a long time ago, or it should have been restored a long time ago, but that didn’t happen,” said resident Sherlynn Everly. “I’ve lived with this building ... it’s just been deteriorating over the years.”

The building was constructed in the early 20th century to house older water system equipment, which pumped residential water through the village.

It has been out of use and closed for safety reasons for decades.

It was previously reported that demolition would cost approximately \$25,000. The council has received estimates of \$18,000 to demolish the structure and estimates as high as \$200,000 to make the building usable.

As an excavator was used to pick apart the building, the equipment that actually moved the water from the Shiawassee River was pulled out and set aside to be displayed at a later date.

While the group that watched with umbrellas was happy to see the building demolished, there had been a community effort led by Oakland County Commissioner Bob Hoffman and resident John Lauve to save the building.

After multiple extensions for more than a year, the council voted in June to award no further extensions, effectively ending the restoration effort.



This is what the original Holly Waterworks building looked like. This photo was taken prior to 1890 and before the first of three fires. Photo: Times file photo



Bystanders watch from the bridge over the Shiawassee River, as the Holly Waterworks Park Building is demolished Thursday, Aug. 16. The project has been in the works for more than a year, but was delayed by a grassroots effort to save the dilapidated structure. Photo: Tim Jagielo - media editor

HOT LINE CONTINUED

■■■
TO THE GUN toting guy. Are you so insecure in your manhood that you need to wear your Glock 45 on your hip in a neighborhood coffee shop for all to see? It is offensive and unsettling.

■■■
YOU ONLY HAVE to keep changing your story if you're lying.

■■■
A BUTTERFLY PARK? Fix the darn roads. North Road is awful between Adelaide and LeRoy and is not long for this world. Are you going to wait for school to start? Nice for buses.

■■■
YES, CITY OF Fenton. I know you think you need a millage for the road, but with all the new buildings and businesses coming into town, doesn't that up your tax base and give you more money to fix your roads without slamming us with another millage?

■■■
I SUPPORT THE model of 'the rich getting richer, middle class staying the same and poor getting help' as a preferable outcome over the 'make everyone poor' model being offered by socialists.

■■■

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CRASH**Continued from Front Page**

roadway, where it struck a culvert and driveway and then went airborne. The vehicle traveled over the driveway and then struck two different trees approximately 12 feet off of the ground," he said.

Steedman was reportedly not wearing a seatbelt, and he was ejected out of the sunroof.

The vehicle came to rest in a bean field and investigators found Steedman approximately 100 feet north of the vehicle. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

The crash was called into police at approximately 7:45 a.m.

Kaiser said alcohol may be a factor in the crash, but that is unconfirmed. Based on the evidence and observation at the scene, police believe the vehicle was traveling at an extremely high speed before the crash.

Steedman's mother, Laura Orr, said, "Although we have no information on my dear son's accident, I'd like to acknowledge that my son was not only an unbelievable athlete, he was an awesome son, brother, grandson and friend and loved by many. The enormous amount of love and support we have received has helped tremendously through this difficult time."

"From the bottom of our hearts, we thank everyone for all the prayers and support. I would also like to thank all the first responders, All Star Towing and Sharp Funeral Homes for their professionalism and compassion," she said.

Steedman's friends have been posting on his Facebook page since news of the accident spread on social media.

Bella posted, "My heart is broken. I am having a hard time accepting the fact that you are no longer here with us. You were not only a great friend but you were an amazing athlete and an outstanding artist! I'm so thankful for the loyal friendship you gave Dawson and I throughout the years and I will forever cherish all the great memories I have of you."

Jason wrote, "Aaron, your light and your kindness will continue to live on with us all. Whether we were close to you or just another face in school, you impacted everyone."

"I wish nothing but peace for the Steedman family and all the parties involved as this hard time can test many limits."

Andreanna wrote, "So unreal to me. Rest in paradise, Aaron. You are truly going to be missed. So many lives you have impacted with your great personality."

HOT LINE CONTINUED

NO SUCH THING as economic discrimination. ■■■

SO FOX NEWS and fake news both start with the letter F? How about the words hate, liar, elitist, racist, misogynist and traitor, which all begin with the word Democrat. ■■■

PLEASE KNOW THAT if it is hot outside, the asphalt is hot under a dog's feet. I see so many people walking their dogs in parking lots or at fairs on hot days. Please use common sense and walk them on sidewalks or other non-asphalt surfaces when it's hot. ■■■

THE KING IS correct and uses humor to get his point across. The reason he uses the 'king' nom de plume is shown very clearly by how Trump supporters are treated vs. how we confront ignorance with speech not violence. ■■■

MAYBE SOMEONE CAN explain it to me. If I belong to a different political party and have moral values how does this translate to me hating our country? ■■■

Police&Fire**report****WOMAN ATTACKED BY DOG IN HOLLY**

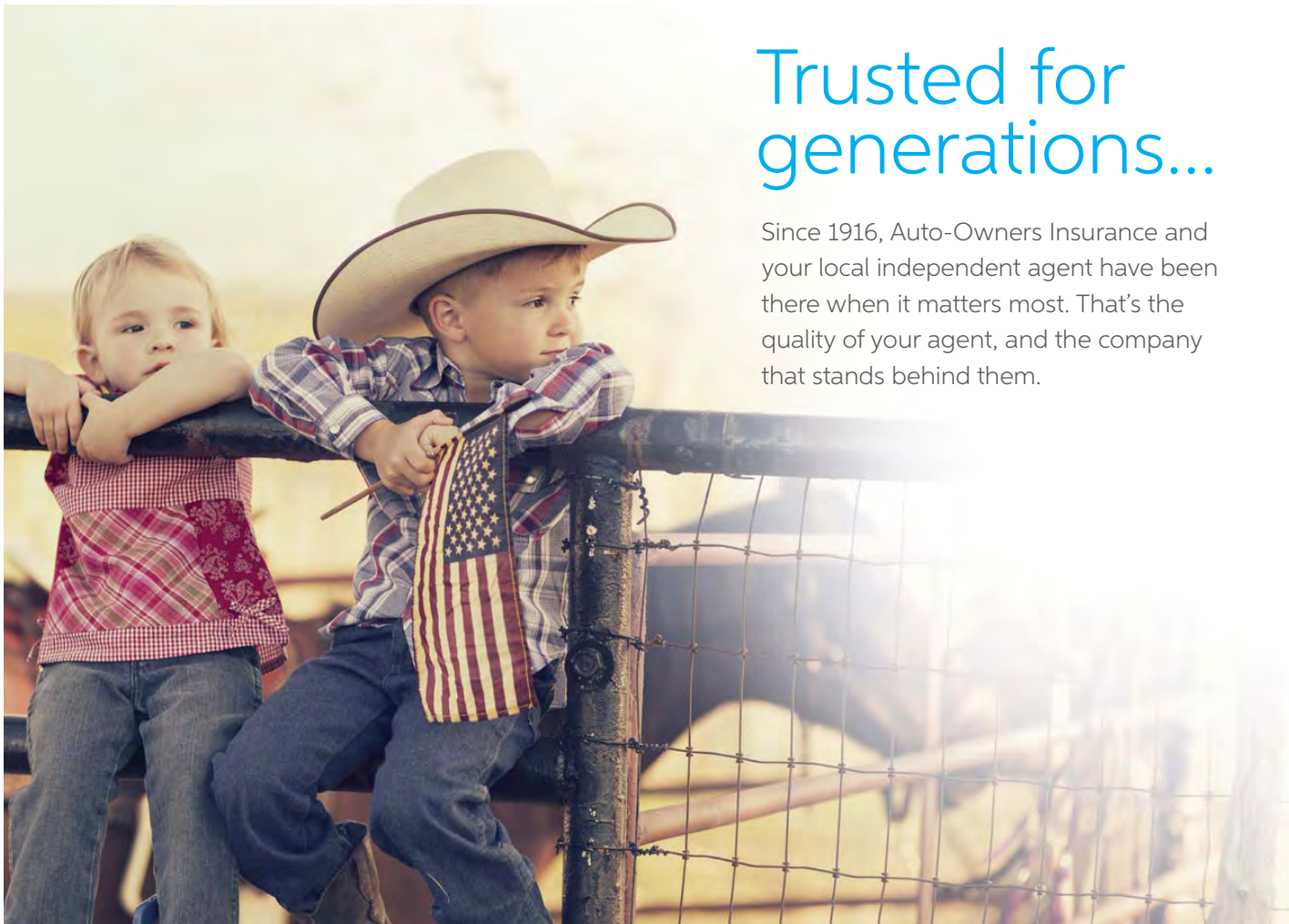
At 8 p.m. on Aug. 10, Holly police were dispatched to the 700 block of S. Broad Street to investigate a dog attack. According to police, a Rose Township woman was walking her blue tick dog when a pit/mix dog crawled under a fence where it lives and began attacking her dog. The woman and the dog were both bitten and police observed puncture wounds. The officer drove the woman home and she later sought treatment at an area hospital. She made arrangements for her dog to be treated by a veterinarian. The owner of the pit/mix dog admitted responsibility and told police he would pay the vet bills and the woman's medical bills. The owner also told police he would put the dog down the next day.

BOY ON PARK SWINGSET ATTACKED BY DOG IN HOLLY

On Aug. 13, at 6:35 p.m. Holly police responded to a park in Holly on a report of a dog bite. According to police, a 6-year-old Holly boy was playing on a swing when an unleashed pit bull/mix dog bit the child's left calf unprovoked. The owner fled the area with the dog prior to police arrival. Police later found the dog abandoned at the home of the owner's friend on Grange Hall Road where it was tied to the front porch. The injured boy was treated by the Holly Fire Department and his mother was going to seek further treatment for him with urgent care. Charges are pending.

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News briefs

LAFF Pathways, Inc. receives \$25,000 grant from The Hagerman Foundation

The LAFF Pathways project of non-motorized trails is moving one step closer to reality with a \$25,000 grant from The Hagerman Foundation. The 2.1-mile paved trail portion in Linden/Argentine is proposed from Haviland Beach Drive and Lobdell Road intersection through the Linden school campus to Silver Lake Road and Chestnut Way. The new pathway will connect to the existing city of Linden sidewalks and bicycle lanes, making it safe and efficient to access the existing 1.2-mile non-motorized pathway at Linden County Park. This 10-foot wide paved pathway is part of a potential 16-mile trail through Linden and Fenton, ultimately connecting into the Iron Belle Trail System linking Belle Isle in Detroit with Ironwood in the Upper Peninsula, and Seven Lakes State Park in Holly. This grant supports the \$1.325 million trail system through Argentine Township, which has received more than \$1 million in multiple federal grants. With the announcement of this Hagerman grant, the project awaits the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund decision for the final \$300,000, which prioritizes regional trail projects in their funding allocation.



Prince Charming, a happy 13-month-old puppy, stands in his cart with his new owner, Len Adams, at Adopt-A-Pet on Friday, Aug. 10. On front page, Prince Charming is pictured with his other owner, Josephine Adams. **Photos: Hannah Ball - staff reporter**

Puppy with deformed spinal column finds 'forever' home

By Hannah Ball

Fenton Twp. — Prince Charming is as charming as the name suggests. The 13-month-old Shepherd mix, who has a deformed spinal column and can't move his back legs, was adopted Friday, Aug. 10 from Adopt-A-Pet.

After papers were signed, Prince Charming was walking around the room on his front legs, getting pets from anyone he could.

Tyrone Township couple Len and Josephine Adams officially adopted the puppy after fostering him for a few weeks. Josephine, who volunteers at Adopt-A-Pet, first met Prince Charming mid October of 2017.

"I completely fell in love," she said.

He has a deformed spinal column, said kennel administrator and event coordinator Joyce Zentmeyer.

"It's almost like one of the vertebra is really misaligned and one of the other ones is missing," she said. Adopt-A-Pet had the cart specially made for Prince Charming.

The puppy can move around with or without his cart. Josephine said his upper body and core are very strong. He can move his whole body by standing on

his front legs and dragging his back legs behind him. In his cart, he can run fast.

Prince Charming can still control his bladder, but that may change depending on how he progresses. He can also wag his tail. They don't anticipate he will get better, and no surgery will help.

"But he is the happiest boy and he was aptly named 'Prince Charming' because he truly is a prince and he is just charming," Zentmeyer said.

Len originally resisted adopting him because they already have four dogs. After Prince Charming was adopted the first time and then brought back to the shelter, the couple decided to foster him. Josephine said her dogs fell in love with him in two seconds. He gets along with animals and humans.

"He is a really perfect addition," Josephine said.

The couple live on a few acres in Tyrone Township, with a lot of space for the dogs to run around. Len said Prince Charming is super fast in the cart, and can sometimes move his back right leg.

"I'll run with him in the backyard and use his harness. He'll extend his front paws, and his (back right leg) will be trying to kick," Len said. "He doesn't know he's handicapped."

"...he was aptly named 'Prince Charming' because he truly is a prince and he is just charming."

Joyce Zentmeyer
Adopt-A-Pet kennel administrator
and event coordinator

Living with anxiety

■ Recognizing when it's more than stress

By Hannah Ball

Living with anxiety and panic attacks feels like watching the planes hit the World Trade Center and knowing your family is in there.

"You have absolutely no control. There's nothing you can do. You are in another building, behind glass. Completely helpless," said Lori, 61, (her last name has been withheld for privacy reasons) on what it's like to have anxiety.

She also describes it as "out of control terror" during someone's first time on a roller coaster.

"Only when it's over you don't laugh about it with your friends and want to do it again. You just want to go to bed and cry," she said.

Approximately 40 million Americans live with some type of anxiety disorder. The technical term better known in the medical field is Generalized Anxiety Disorder (GAD). Not everyone who deals with stress has anxiety, and the condition is classified in different ways, according to sciencedirect.com.

Someone might suffer from fear associated with obsessive compulsive disorder or spiders, but most anxiety and mood disorders share similarities such as feelings of hopelessness, easily fatigued, and poor concentration.

Someone who suffers from GAD might be emotionally and socially withdrawn, irritable and compulsive.

Without treatment, these symptoms can lead to sleep problems, fatigue and bouts of unexplained physical ailments, according to healthline.com.

A 60-year-old Fenton woman, who wished to remain anonymous, was diagnosed with GAD and said she often feels trapped with a small group of people, or she can't make eye contact with people or leave her home for too long.

"It can become hard to breathe and sounds become very intense, similar to a panic attack. Stress can bring on the anxiety," she said.

Anxiety can lead to panic attacks, which is the "abrupt onset of intense fear or discomfort that reaches a peak within minutes and includes at least four of the following symptoms, according to the Anxiety and Depres-

sion Association of America:

- Palpitations, pounding heart, or accelerated heart rate
- Sweating
- Trembling or shaking
- Sensations of shortness of breath or smothering

Short-term stress can actually boost your immune system, but long-term anxiety can prevent or make it harder for your body to fight off bacteria, viruses and other illnesses.

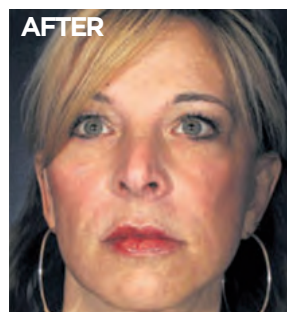
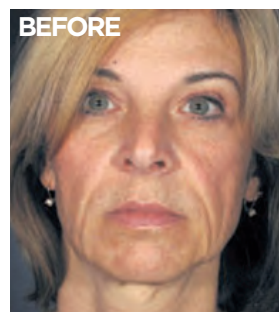
To deal with her anxiety, the Fenton woman removes herself from the stressful situation. She takes deep breaths and meditates, and said just five minutes helps a lot. She also takes medication.

See ANXIETY on 14A

"You have absolutely no control. There's nothing you can do."

Lori
Local resident

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 22, 2018
EDITION OF THE MIDWEEK TIMES




FENTON AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

FAPS 2021:
LEARNING TODAY...
LEADING TOMORROW

FAPS 2021: Learning Today...Leading Tomorrow

Fenton Area Public Schools, in collaboration with our community, is committed to educational excellence and to developing lifelong learners who are responsible citizens in a global society.

Goal Area: Support and Development	Goal Area: Community	Goal Area: Stability
Fenton Area Public Schools will seek and deliver innovative and diverse curricula, instruction and assessments that grow the capacity of our students and staff.	Fenton Area Public Schools will strengthen and build relationships within our school community and beyond.	Fenton Area Public Schools will responsibly invest resources in personnel, systems, and facilities.
FAPS will develop a district-wide PK-12 multi-tiered system of support that includes strategies and supports for: high-achieving students, at-risk students and social-emotional learning.	FAPS will use all available resources to showcase and market our school district as an exemplar district.	FAPS will promote and provide a safe and secure learning environment for all students and staff.
FAPS will increase opportunities for professional development for staff and educational opportunities for families.	FAPS will foster positive partnerships with multiple community entities to strengthen our academic programs to support educating the whole child.	FAPS will design and implement a process for continuous curriculum review and adjustment.
FAPS will increase staff collaboration, both vertically (Young 5 through 12th grade) and horizontally (within grade level and subject-area).	FAPS will develop a strong network of communication that uses identified, preferred means in order to provide support for our school community.	FAPS will invest time and resources to develop, increase, and support opportunities for teacher capacity.
FAPS will align its PK-12 curricular resources and assessments in the areas of ELA, math, social studies and science.	FAPS will develop a sense of unity among our six buildings, and across the school community, to enhance positive learning environments for our students.	FAPS will continue to take focused and transparent steps to strengthen its financial standing.
FAPS will develop a robust technology plan that supports: student data management, instructional technology, assessment systems and alignment, emerging technology, professional development and student access/use of technology in a variety of learning environments.		FAPS will design and implement a targeted and transparent plan for the purchase and use of technology in classroom instruction and district/building management.

WHAT YOU MISSED

in the

MIDWEEK TIMES

Compiled by Vera Hogan

The following are stories you may have missed in the **Wednesday, Aug. 15, Midweek Times**. To subscribe and receive both the Midweek and Sunday Weekend editions, please call (810) 629-8282.

Fire chief suspended without pay until October

Fenton Township Fire Chief Ryan Volz said he's "absolutely" been falsely accused.



FANG officer crashes state-owned vehicle after night of drinking at headquarters

A police officer assigned to the Flint

Area Narcotics Group (FANG) was allegedly drinking alcohol before he got into a crash in Durand on May 15.

Former Holly police chief's case bound over for trial

Elena Danishevskaya has been charged with 25 felonies involving fraudulent auto inspections.

Woman's drowning appears accidental

The body of Paulina Krystyna Turowska, 30, of Wixom, was recovered from Lake Shannon on Saturday, Aug. 11.

Chickens, mother-in-law flats and tiny houses part of new Fenton Township master plan

The plan will determine the layout and future land use of the township.

Tomek-Eastern will have new principal

Craig Salter of Goodrich taking lead at Fenton elementary school starting with the 2018-2019 school year.

SCHOOL

Continued from Front Page

the Michigan Department of Education to bypass a 2005 law that mandated the first day of school not be held until after Labor Day.

This year, Fenton students will begin school on Tuesday, Aug. 28. Most tri-county area school districts, including Lake Fenton, Linden and Holly, will start after Labor Day, on Tuesday, Sept. 4.

"The decision to start before Labor Day allows us to get an early jump on our K-3 students' literacy needs," Hartley said.

"Having an extra week of routine learning at this young age will allow a more accurate measure."

A new third-grade reading law states that schools have 30 days to screen K-3 students for reading and once a deficiency is identified, there are only 30 days to notify parents of the Individual Reading Improvement Plan

for their child.

"Starting earlier means we can access and begin to support IRIP strategies sooner, to impact growth," Hartley said. "The early start allows us to have a more consistent flow of education with our summer programming, At-Risk and Special Education programs."

Starting before Labor Day will also align Fenton school's calendar to fit the Early/Middle College and credit forward opportunities for high school students. The Early/Middle College will give high school students an opportunity to earn their high school diploma and an associate's degree in a program beginning this fall in partnership with Mott Community College.

Students won't be the only ones going back to school earlier than usual. The schedule of teachers reporting, training and sending out communications to the school community has all been moved up a week, Hartley said.

The process to apply for the waiver began last spring.

"A representative from the Michigan Department of Education attended a board meeting to hear a presentation on why we'd like to start before Labor Day. The state has made it a smooth process for school districts. We're one of a handful in the county to be approved to begin before Labor Day."

He said that most parents have been positive about the change but a few families have expressed concern they've had to cut their summer vacation plans short this year.

SUMMARY

■ Fenton Area Public Schools applied for a waiver through the Michigan Department of Education to start the 2018-19 school year before Labor Day. Their first day of school is Tuesday, Aug. 28.

"Many of our students are back on campus with athletics or other extracurricular activities and an early start doesn't disrupt their summer plans," he said. "While starting this year out early seems

like it cuts the summer short, we will dismiss for summer break the first week of June and not hold classes into the second week."

ANXIETY

Continued from Page 11A

When it comes to misconceptions, she said, "People don't realize it's not because you don't want to go to a concert or sporting event or a party. It's not being unsociable. Some days are better than others," she said.

Lori shared similar sentiments. Her anxiety keeps her from doing a lot of fun and wonderful things.

"It keeps me from being around friends and family and doing things I would really like to do but just can't," she said. "I would like to see the stigma disappear and discover effective help for us."

If you or someone you know is struggling with anxiety, visit myflintstrong.com or mystrength.com for information and help.

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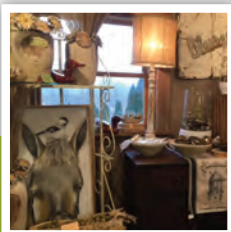
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(From left) Mary Solomon, Jackie Bossenberger, Debbie Zerbo, Lauren Bossenberger and Camryn Solomon flash their certificates after completing the Mackinac Bridge Walk for the first time in 2017. Photos submitted to the Times



Last year, Greg (left) and Linda (right) Hathaway walked with their brothers, Tom Walters (back right) of Wichita Falls, Texas and Richard Hathaway (center) of Livonia. Walters had undergone open heart surgery just nine months prior to the bridge walk.

Many changes this year to Mackinac Bridge Walk

■ No public buses, added security means new walking options in Labor Day tradition

By Sally Rummel

Jackie Bossenberger of Fenton knew about the annual Labor Day Mackinac Bridge Walk for years, but it wasn't until last year that she walked it for the first time.

She and her mother, daughter, aunt and niece were among the throngs of walkers from several states and countries to cross the Mackinac Bridge last year on foot, in an annual tradition that spans almost as long as the bridge itself.

"It was neat to do," said Bossenberger, 48. "It wasn't scary. You couldn't get super close to the edge. I liked to see the perspective from the bridge at that angle."

This annual bridge walk has been a tradition since 1958, the year after the bridge opened to traffic. But the tradition is changing along with the need for security to protect the 25,000 to 60,000 walkers who show up every year.

This year's walk on Monday, Sept. 3 will begin at 7 a.m., led by Gov. Rick Snyder. The bridge will be closed to public traffic from 6:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., at the recommendation of Michigan State Police and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Bossenberger noticed the heavy security at last year's event, including bomb-sniffing dogs, a strong police presence and snipers up above the towers of the

bridge. But she still enjoyed the experience and is glad she took the opportunity to do it last year, before many of the traditions changed this year.

Greg and Linda Hathaway of Fenton Township have walked the bridge for three years, and hope to continue to as long as they are able.

"It's so inspiring to do it," she said. "You'll see people with 40 patches, one for each year they've walked it. It's all age groups, even seniors with oxygen. People have been doing it for years, so they push themselves to continue."

Linda admits to being "kind of disappointed" about the new security rules this year that change the way the walk is being handled, but she understands the reasons behind it.

"Last year, thousands of people were turned away because they didn't have enough buses," Linda said. "There were so many disappointed people. At least everyone will be able to walk this year." She's hoping to find other people to ride share on each side of the bridge, so they can walk the five-mile span as usual.

This year, walkers will have several new options, since there will be no public bus transportation:

• **You can walk from either end of the bridge and cross to the other side**, as in previous years. However, you will have to arrange their own transportation back across the bridge after it reopens at 12 p.m. Walkers who don't reach the midpoint of the bridge before 10 a.m.

will be turned back.

• **You can start from either end of the bridge**, in St. Ignace or Mackinaw City, then turn around at midpoint to walk back to your starting point. Beginning at 10 a.m., the turnaround point will be moved toward the ends of the bridge, but you may start walking up until 11:30 a.m.

• **You can walk from either end of the bridge**, continue across to the other

SUMMARY

■ The annual Mackinac Bridge Walk will be held on the Labor Day holiday on Monday, Sept. 3, but with added security measures, no public bus transportation and new walking guidelines.

side, then walk back to the end of the bridge you started from. This will be a 10-mile round trip.

Participants will receive a numbered bridge walk certificate at the completion of their walk. Individuals under

age 18 must have the permission of a parent or guardian to participate, according to the Mackinac Bridge Authority. The bridge walk is free to all participants.

It's really cool to see generations of families who've done the walk together for years.

Linda Hathaway
Fenton Township resident

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Fenton superintendent nominated for 'Best K-12 School Leader' Award

Fenton Area Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Adam Hartley has been nominated for Tech Edvocate's 2018 "Best K-12 School Leader" for his passion in education and successful implementation of Odysseyware, an industry leading, customizable online learning software, to strengthen student achievement.

"I am honored to be considered for this award," Hartley said.

The public is welcome to cast their vote for Hartley now through Aug. 21, by visiting <https://www.theed-advocate.org/tech-edvocate-awards/>.

The Tech Edvocate Awards recognize outstanding companies, people, and products in educational technology.

Hartley's nomination is a result of his dedication to his students, exemplified with his co-founding of GearUp2Lead, a leadership development organization with the mission of educating and inspiring youth and adults through Growth Mindset.

"Dr. Hartley's dedication to education and his exceptional use of Odysseyware has truly made a difference in the lives of Fenton students," said Josey Borman, senior vice president of product development. "His innovative leadership approach allows students to take ownership of

their learning and be invested in their future, and I encourage our community to vote for him as Tech Edvocate's 2018 'Best K-12 School Leader.'"



Adam Hartley

TRAFFIC

Continued from Front Page

According to Robert, the couple approached the Fenton City Council last fall, and relayed their concerns again at the May 24 community meeting. Their third attempt took place during the public comment period of the Monday, Aug. 6 work session.

The Bechtels presented a three-page document outlining their concerns, and offered a possible solution. Robert read it to the council.

At issue are pedestrian safety concerns that are occurring because of the fast growth in and around the downtown Fenton area.

Specifically, the Bechtels are referring to the three-quarter mile, primarily residential stretch of North LeRoy Street, from North Road going south to the downtown, at Silver Lake Road.

This stretch of roadway includes several popular walking destinations, according

to the Bechtels. They include Bush Park, St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church (rear), St. John's School and the First Baptist Church.

The Bechtels say the problem is getting worse with the dramatic increase in construction trade traffic and large construction vehicles that "drive too fast and rattle all of our homes."

They say drivers are being allowed to drive too fast on this three-quarter mile, three-lane stretch of road. "As soon as they turn south on North LeRoy heading downtown, the first speed sign they see is 35 mph and they quickly join their fellow drivers in the race to the finish line—downtown," Robert said.

"By the time the average driver (and truck) passes Bush Park, they are traveling 40 to 45 mph or even faster.

"Pedestrians trying to cross North LeRoy to and from the park, or to and from St. John's School or church, or First Baptist do so at great peril," he said.

Currently, there is no traffic light or crosswalk, and no sign.

"On countless occasions, I have witnessed mothers with babies in strollers, kids and adults crossing to and from St. John's church and school, or just out for a walk to the park, nearly hit while trying to cross LeRoy, especially by Bush Park," Robert said.

The Bechtels have proposed a solution. Change the speed limit on this primarily residential road to 25 mph as has been done on North Road. They also suggest installing a pedestrian-activated flashing signal at Fifth Street, across from Bush Park, like the one in the center of downtown. "Maybe the DDA will help pay for it," Robert said.

They also believe an increase in police presence is needed.

"This is a very important issue that needs the City Council's immediate attention before injuries occur," the Bechtels said.

Having served for 15 years on the Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority (DDA), Robert said he appreciates the growth taking place in downtown Fenton.

"Let's keep growing but with safety and quality of life for our residents always in mind," he said.

According to Fenton City Manager Lynn Markland, "The police department is going to be conducting a speed study in that area. However, it's not unusual for pedestrians to overestimate the speed of vehicles traveling near them. I travel that area of N. LeRoy on a regular basis and the traffic is following the speed limit.

"We will look at putting in a crossing in the Bush Park area, however, because there are no streets that actually cross N. LeRoy it will be challenging to find an appropriate location," Markland said. "I doubt placing an activated signal like we have at LeRoy and Ellen Street would be a solution. I use that one and oftentimes cars don't stop at all. Also, we may have a difficult time finding one of those we could use.

"A few months ago we were notified by the (Michigan) Department of Transportation that we could no longer use those at crossings," he said. "Apparently the manufacturer has a patent on those and the federal government does not allow a single source product to be used.

"We will conduct the study and see what the results are and go from there," Markland said.

“Let's keep growing but with safety and quality of life for our residents always in mind.”

Robert Bechtel
Fenton resident

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SAVINGS**

Meet a resident of

Our Town

Sean Sage

- Community activist
- Father
- Theatre lover

By Vera Hogan

Sean Sage, 42, has lived in the city of Fenton since 2005. He and his wife, Karey, just celebrated their 15th wedding anniversary. They have four children: John, 13, Aidan, 12, Teaghan, 10 and Rowan, who will be 8 years old in September.

Are you a native of Fenton?

My dad and his eight siblings grew up on Adelaide Street so I consider myself native, but I grew up on Loon Lake and went to Lake Fenton High School.

Where did you attend college?

I studied Classical Archaeology at the University of Michigan.

What do you do for a living?

I am the Project Manager for Kirby Steel in Burton. I realize that has nothing to do with Classical Archaeology,

“I realize that has nothing to do with Classical Archaeology, but Indiana Jones wasn’t hiring apprentices.”

Sean Sage

but Indiana Jones wasn’t hiring apprentices.

Are you involved with any civic organizations?

I am the chair of the Fenton Parks and Recreation Board,

vice-chair of the Zoning Board of Appeals, am on the board of the Kidz Theatre Kompany, and I coach baseball and flag football.

What is your favorite thing about living in Fenton?

I enjoy the ability to walk downtown with my family. There are many events, activities and opportunities in town to enjoy, or we can just take a casual evening stroll.

What do you and your family like to do in your spare time?

I enjoy backpack hiking/camping and we spend a lot of time with our extended family, but really most of our ‘free time’ is spent with the kids in their various activities.

Tell us something most people don’t know about you.

I am a huge fan of theatre, particularly musical theatre. My aunts took me and a couple of my cousins to see ‘Phantom of the Opera’ at Pantages Theater in Toronto when I was 12, and I have enjoyed it ever since. I never had any musical talent myself so I was never in anything, but I have had the amazing joy of watching my kids perform with the Kidz Theatre Kompany the last couple of years and it has been a highlight of my life.



Sean Sage of Fenton is chair of the Parks and Recreation Board. Here, he stands at the entrance of O'Donnell Park in Fenton. He said the parks board has recently applied for a grant that would fund significant river walk upgrades.

Photo: Tim Jagielo - media editor

HOT LINE CONTINUED

SPACE FORCE? I thought we had N.A.S.A.

TIME TO REPEAL the DDA law. Comparing the condition of South LeRoy Street to the condition of other streets in Fenton shows the DDA benefits only a few while the rest of Fenton decays.

I WAS BORN and raised in the north-eastern suburbs of Detroit. Liberal policies and overwhelming support and welfare has just destroyed that town.

I CAN'T BELIEVE the two useless people that we've got to vote for governor. Talk about tax-raisers and waste-of-money people.

YEAH, I READ the Ugly Truth a couple of times. Ugly, yes, truthful no. Somebody has to put Foster Childs back on his head because all that crap was nothing but bologna.

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No-shows for job interviews frustrating for businesses

■ Work 'ghosting' becoming more common

By Hannah Ball

You interview a candidate for a job, and they seem like a perfect fit. They go through training, learning all the important information, but when they're scheduled for their first day, they don't show. No phone call, no explanation.

This is referred to as work "ghosting." Ghosting also describes candidates who never show up to a scheduled interview.

Fenton resident Richard Taft works at Wireless Zone, a Verizon retailer, and sees this happen frequently.

"I would say people don't show up to the first interview or first day 25 to 50 percent of the time," he said, adding that most of these applicants are between 18 and 26 years old. "It affects our business because the sales reps are commissioned base, and for a lot of them, it's their first commission-based job. If they get a bad check, they'll usually seek employment elsewhere, so we're usually hiring to replace someone."

They've often been understaffed and worked extra hours because applicants are hard to come by or don't show up.

For Linden resident Douglas Taylor, vice president of administration of Advanced Physical Therapy Center, which has several locations surrounding Fenton, the ghosting happens after he sets up an interview.

"The day and time arrives and they are a no-show. No email or phone call. It is very frustrating as there are certainly other candidates that would've liked



Despite the strong job market, work "ghosting" is an issue in the employment world.

Photo: www.11ahleven.com

to interview," he said. "If I had to put a number to it I'd say one in 15 interviews will ghost."

Only once has someone not showed up to the first day of work without notification. Taylor imagines it happens more often in other industries.

Despite the strong job market, USAToday.com reports that approximately 20 to 50 percent of job applicants are no-shows without giving any notice. In May, unemployment in the nation was at an 18-year low with 3.8 percent, and there are more job openings than unemployed people.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2.4 percent of workers quit their job for another position in May 2018, which is the highest percentage in 17 years.

Taylor believes there are two reasons why people "ghost."

"One, they are seeking or are on unemployment and must prove to the state that they are actively seeking employment. This is a requirement to receive unemployment benefits," he said, adding that it's a state requirement to be looking for work if someone is receiving those benefits. "I think some individuals don't really want to return to work."

The second reason is a combination of generational and economical factors. He

hires many college-aged students who aspire to be a physical or occupational therapist. He reaches out to them with a call and discusses details of the job.

"I think many hesitate to speak up at that point and say 'you know I was really seeking a higher wage' or 'I can't work those hours.' They will tell me it all sounds good and schedule the interview, but then just not show up. It's a lack of an ability to confront and speak their mind," he said. "Combine this with a job market with such a low unemployment rate and they figure that another employer will need them bad enough to snatch them up."

To curb this trend, some hiring managers hold group interviews to increase competitiveness, and they're doing more to sell the benefits of the company to the potential employee.

Taylor has started to text with more applicants. This gives them the opportunity

to think about the offer and formulate a response. This doesn't put them on the spot, he said, and it's easier for them to say no.

"I also think it's important as an employer to ask the candidate what they are looking for in a position. And then expound on how your organization can fulfill that (or not). It makes them feel better and more confident this may be a job they'll enjoy," he said.

**“They will
tell me it all
sounds good
and schedule
the interview,
but then just
not show
up.”**

Douglas Taylor
Advanced Physical Therapy
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WASTED MONEY

Continued from Front Page

Levin's trip cost \$5,327. Rep. David Reichert, a Republican from Washington, joined Levin in Canada after announcing his retirement. His trip cost \$19,821.

Most expensive pre-retirement trips by members of Congress

Of the 17 members of Congress who traveled before leaving office, 14 are Republicans and three are Democrats.

Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen, Republican from New Jersey and chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations, traveled to India, Cambodia, Laos and Thailand in February and spent \$23,158.

Rep. Ted Poe, a Republican from Texas and member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, traveled to Moldova and Poland in March and May respectively and spent \$26,467.

Rep. Ed Royce, a Republican from California and chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, traveled to Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates at a cost of \$16,311.

Other questionable and expensive federal spending

In 2016, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) awarded nearly \$1.5 million to the California Prostitutes Education Project to teach prostitutes how to have safe sex and safe needle use. The grant was sought by Democrat Barbara Lee.

In the same year, the HHS awarded more than \$200,000 to a company called Hydraglyde Coatings to make a new condom design. The grant was sought by Joseph Kennedy III, a Democrat from Massachusetts.

The HHS gave out more than \$650,000 to fund a video game designed to allow adolescents to explore their future selves. The grant was sought by Robert Wittman, a Republican from Virginia.

SUMMARY

■ So far, 17 members of Congress have announced their retirement this year, and then gone on a trip.

Source: USAToday, Congressional Record, foxnews, openthebooks.com

MUSTANG

Continued from Page 3A

world's top-selling sports car three years in a row, according to a recent article in USA Today.

That's not a surprise to the Lasco brothers at Lasco Ford in Fenton.

"We're a racing family, so we've always had a passion for Mustangs," said Matt Lasco, vice president of Lasco Automotive Group. "We've been one of the largest dealers around and we've built a reputation as a customizing dealership. We're so passionate about the brand we treat every one we sell like it's our own."

One of their most memorable customizations was for a local customer who wanted both cosmetic and performance upgrades. "We built him a \$100,000 Mustang," Lasco said.

But you don't have to spend that much to be a happy Mustang customer. Lasco said you can buy a 2019 Mustang Coupe for as low as \$26,000, then add a Ford Racing Supercharger kit.

"With a couple of tweaks, it will be a 700 hp car," Lasco said. "You can build one for about \$40,000. It just makes it a heck of a car. It's very hot right now."

Lasco Ford also has a brand new Mustang GT350R in the showroom, almost track-ready with a 1,200 hp special motor. "It's a pre-production car that we bought," Lasco said. "It's a dealership collectible."

He's also anticipating the arrival of the Ford Mustang Bullitt tribute model, based on Steve McQueen's Highland Green 1968 Ford Mustang GT fastback from the film, "Bullitt," tied in with the movie's 50th anniversary.

"We've been allocated one and think we'll also have a second," said Lasco. "We'll see it within the next 60 days."

Mustang nostalgia never seems to get old, because it was built as a "fun" car and remains so today.

The first Mustang to have ever been sold, on April 15, 1964, will be on display at Woodward Dream Cruise at Ford's Royal Oak site at the Kruse & Muer Restaurant on Saturday. Amazingly, it's still owned by its original owner, Gail Wise, 76, who bought the car at age 22.

What cost her \$3,447.50 in 1964 is now worth between \$350,000 to \$450,000, according to Jonathan Kling of Hagerty Ford in Traverse City, quoted in the Detroit Free Press.

Holly 'on the grow' with farmers market

■ It's open for the season on Sundays at Crapo Park

By Sally Rummel

The taste of ripe peaches, crisp corn on the cob and fresh watermelon are on the menu at the Holly Farmers Market, every Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Crapo Park in downtown Holly now through early fall.

"We may extend the season until Oct. 14," said Genevieve Rainey, market coordinator. In addition to fresh produce, the market showcases vendors from bakers to beekeepers, local artists and crafters.

This is the first year of this Holly Farmers Market, which debuted soon after Springfield Township closed its farmers market in Davisburg at the last minute.

"There were all these vendors that needed a place to go," Rainey said. She decided to take the proper steps and bring it to Holly, with the mentorship of Colleen Love, who has operated farmers markets previously in Holly.

While the market is privately owned by Rainey and her husband, Eric Gamble, it is actually more of a gift to the community than a business venture.

"The village is partnering with us," Rainey said. "They are providing the space for free and insurance."

This seasonal venture



The Holly Farmers Market is open for the season every Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Crapo Park, near the Holly Hotel in downtown Holly. Photo submitted to the Times

has the backing of the village of Holly Parks and Recreation Commission, according to Village Manager Jerry Walker.

"It's approved under the Parks and Rec Commission," Walker said. "In exchange, 10 percent of the proceeds will go toward the renovation or moving of the Holly train depot. It's growing every week, not only in customers, but in vendors. We think it's a great service to the community."

"She went through all the proper channels," added Katy Hughes, Holly DDA director. "There is lots of support from the Village Council and Parks and Rec, not as a money maker, but as a community event."

“It's growing every week, not only in customers, but in vendors. We think it's a great service to the community.”

Jerry Walker
Village of Holly manager

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BREASTFEEDING

Continued from Page 3A
public in the U.S.

Internet users may have seen the few viral videos of mothers being yelled at or shamed for breastfeeding their children in public, but those mothers are not breaking any laws. Breastfeeding has been legal in public nationwide since this year, after Utah and Idaho legalized it.

In Utah, the Breastfeeding Protection Act permits a woman to breastfeed in any place of public accommodation. In Idaho, nursing moms are now also protected against obscenity and indecent exposure laws. It passed unanimously and without debate.

Michigan law

In Michigan, Gov. Rick Snyder signed Public Act 197 in 2014 that prohibited any discriminatory action against breastfeeding, and enforces a mother's right to breastfeed in public. Indecent exposure laws include an exemption for public breastfeeding.

Sarah Koza of Fenton said she will soon be nursing her seventh child and she's never experienced negativity while nursing in public.

"I have nursed at almost every restaurant in Fenton and several sporting events. I have had looks before, second takes, but never a negative comment. I have been praised by elderly women, other moms, and I have even nursed my newborn while having a dental exam by Dr. Paxton," she said. "I once took my daughters shopping at the mall and got a couple looks while nursing, nasty looks mostly from men but I just smiled kindly and walked away."

On Facebook, we posed the topic of breastfeeding in public to our readers and received overwhelming support for nursing mothers.

Ali wrote that she breastfed her children for four years in total. "Most times

you can't even tell the mother is nursing. You hold your baby so close and it's not like your entire breast is out. You can nurse in public very discreetly," she said. "That said, some moms don't feel comfortable doing it outside of the home. And that is fine too. How you feed your child should be up to the mom, not anyone else."

Christa wrote, "I feel people need to stop harassing moms by telling them to cover up or feed in the bathroom. No one is going to ask an adult to cover up when they are eating or to eat in the

bathroom why do it to a nursing mother?"

Lauren posted, "If I wasn't allowed to nurse my children in public when they

were hungry, they would have always been hungry. Our bodies were built to not only grow and birth babies but to feed them as well! There should be zero shame for how a baby is fed when out and about."

Trish wrote, "I do not understand how we can be OK with a half naked woman all over the place and women in tiny bikinis posted everywhere but God forbid a mother feed her baby in public."

Jean said, "As a mother I never wanted to feed my kids in public, however sometimes you just have to. I have no problem with it."

Sources: *scarymommy.com*, *USAtoday*

Breastfeeding not recommended?

Breastfeeding in the Western civilization hasn't always been widely accepted among the medical world. In the 1950s, the loudest attitude was negative. Breastfeeding was seen as something done by the

uneducated and the lower classes because they couldn't afford formula. It was discouraged by medical practitioners at the time. By the 1970s, breastfeeding was on the rise again.

Source: *U.S. National Library of Medicine*

About breastfeeding

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 81 percent of mothers start breastfeeding their babies right after birth. Multiple medical organizations, such as the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and more, strongly recommend breastfeeding due to the benefits.

Breastfeeding lowers a baby's risk of getting asthma or allergies, decreases the chance of ear infections, respiratory illness, diarrhea, and more.

Sources: *scarymommy.com*, *USAtoday*

"I have nursed at almost every restaurant in Fenton and several sporting events. I have had looks before, second takes, but never a negative comment."

Sarah Koza
Fenton resident

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Blue Devils begin second Borski era with a postive outlook

By David Troppens

A new era is starting for the Lake Fenton varsity football team.

Or is it just the return of an era that is a part of the program's past?

Either way the Blue Devils have a new varsity football coach that really isn't that new at all. The second Marty Borski era is about to start this fall. The first was a success-

ful one that lasted from 2002 until 2009.

It ended when he had to move due to family reasons. When his family returned, he joined Eric Doyle's staff. And when Doyle moved on from the Lake Fenton position to take the Kearsley athletic director position, that

left Borski as the obvious successor to Doyle, who himself had a pretty successful era as head coach as well.

"It is nice to be back," Borski said. "But I don't think it will truly hit me until game one on the sideline."

Between Borski and Doyle, the Blue Devils have experienced some of their finest seasons ever. Since 2002, the Blue Devils have experienced 12 winning seasons, made the playoffs 11 times and became the tri-county area's first team ever to win a district crown in 2006. Lake Fenton has had some super successful seasons as of late, earning Genesee Area Conference Red Division championships with undefeated records in each of the last two seasons. How-

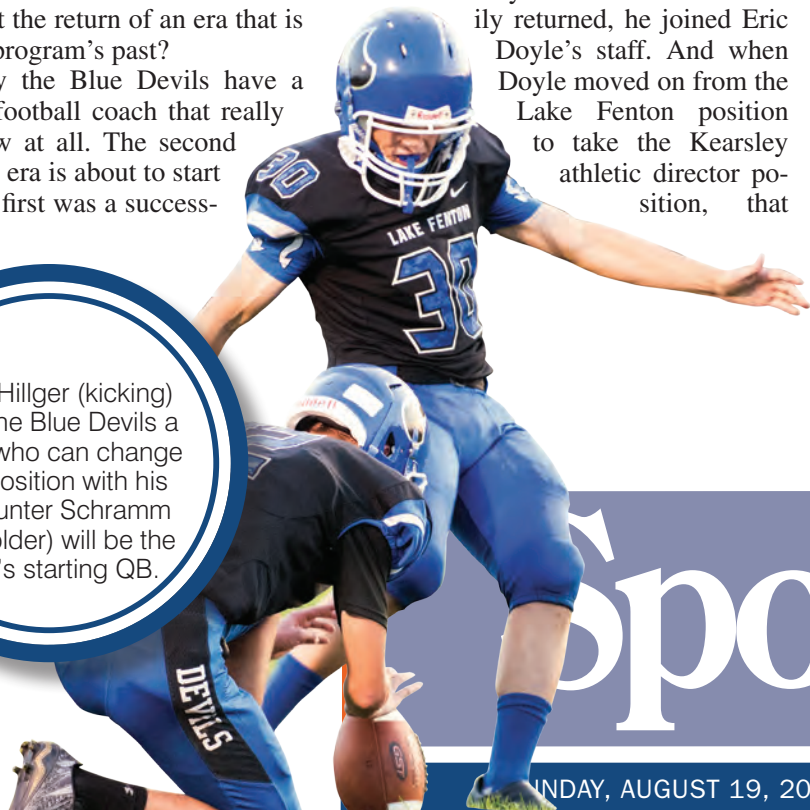
ever, with the graduation of a lot of the players that made those strong seasons possible, it's hard to see if the team is reloading ore rebuilding.

"We have a lot of young talent coming up and a lot of people are stepping up in big-time areas," Lake Fenton junior quarterback Hunter Schramm said. "We are going to make the most out of it, and trust me; we are going to be pretty good. We always have to reprove ourselves every year, and we are going to do that this year."

"Our efforts have been fantastic," Borski said. "We are still a work in progress as far as cleaning up our tech-

See **BORSKI**
on 23A

Dylan Hillger (kicking) gives the Blue Devils a player who can change field position with his leg. Hunter Schramm (the holder) will be the team's starting QB.



Sports

Times

MONDAY, AUGUST 19, 2018 | PAGE 22A | WWW.TCTIMES.COM/SPORTS

WHERE'S FENTON & LINDEN

Fenton's and Linden's football previews will be in the Wednesday publication.

Holly expecting to move up in Metro

By David Troppens

It seems every year begins in the same position for the Holly varsity football team.

Pretty much since the day Ryan Culloty took over as the Bronchos' head football coach, the program has taken strides toward becoming a much stronger program than it was prior to his hiring in 2008. The Bronchos have enjoyed six five-win or better seasons since then and have qualified for the playoffs three times.

But, for the most part, the Bronchos are usually trying to break within the league's traditional top two during that period — Fenton and Linden.

Holly did work itself to a co-Metro League championship in 2011, but for the most part, they've been just a step from the elite in the league, but still generally one of the teams in the upper-half of the standings.

Holly enters the 2018 season after posting a 5-4 regular season for the third straight year. Can they make a move and join the Metro's elite this fall? Culloty isn't ruling the possibility of something like that happening.

"I think it will be a very interesting year around the Metro," Culloty said.

We'll soon find out.

OFFENSE

Holly scored 295 points a year ago, the second most they have since 1950. In 2012, Holly scored 303 points. The Bronchos return the quarterback that made that scoring production happen a year ago, Cade Dallwitz.

"He looks like a four-year player," Culloty said. "He's making reads and making calls. He's playing with confidence. I'm proud of the progress he's making."

The Bronchos return three linemen with varsity experience. Lucas Riepe started at a tackle spot last year and will return. Blake Querio also returns after starting on the line a year ago as well. Tyler Hild didn't start a year ago, but did see some time. The other spots will likely be filled by Jenson Walker and Andrew DeHart.

The running game is a staple at Holly and should remain that way this season. Joe O'Connor and Adam Welch each ran the ball a year ago, as did Tanner Graveratte. Others who will see time at running back include



Holly's Joe O'Connor makes a tackle during a game last season. O'Connor will play at linebacker this fall. Photo: David Troppens

Logan Spencer, Colton Steele and Jacob Hill. Delrico McDonough also plays at full back.

When the Bronchos look to pass, Jacob Henski is a target to watch. Welch could see some time at end as will Kyle Snodsmith.

The Bronchos's primary kicker should be Garrett VanGilder. He can kick field goals

consistently from inside 40 yards.

DEFENSE

Many of the players that will key the offense will play key roles on defense as well.

On the defensive line, Delrico McDonough and Lucas Riepe will play key roles. Others expected to play on the line

See **HOLLY** on 23A

CADE DALLWITZ

Dallwitz returns another season as the Bronchos' starting quarterback. He's entering his fourth season as a varsity performer.



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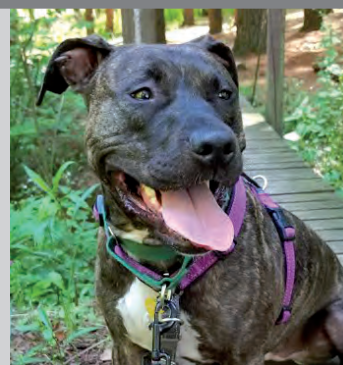
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BORSKI

Continued from Page 22A

nique and being more polished, but our effort and energy has been fantastic.”

OFFENSE

The Blue Devils are going to be a different team on offense than they were a year ago, because many of the key personnel graduated. This will be very apparent at quarterback with the graduation of Jackson Nevadomski. Replacing him will be Hunter Schramm.

“He’s going to make less dynamic plays than Jackson, but he will take excellent care of the ball,” Borski said. “His reads have been almost perfect. He’ll do exactly what we ask him to do.” The Blue Devils are known for their running game, and that should be the case again this year. A bevy of running backs should get time carrying the ball this fall. Sean Trombley will be one of them. Nate Demasi will move from the JV to varsity team, while Cameron McNeill and James Hamilton will be two of the teams power runners.

The offensive line does have a few changes. The tackles are set with Riely Novack and Nick Scharrer established on either side of the line. In the guard positions Ben Muenzer is established. The left guard and center positions have plenty of quality players doing battle for starting spots. They are Ethan Dunkel, Nick Ellison, Alec Mosher and Carter Foerster.

“We do have a little sorting out that needs to be done on the offensive line,” Borski said.

Schramm’s top receiver should be 6-foot-4 sophomore Collin Wade.

“He has a chance to be a good one for

sure,” Borski said.

Other receivers include Blake Bokor, who was on the varsity a year ago. Kevin Stephens took last year off from football, but has returned this season.

“We will go as far as our offensive line takes us,” Borski said. “We are not the type of team that can throw it 25 times a game. We have to sustain drives to be super successful. We have to run it when we want to run it.”

If the Blue Devils want to kick a field goal or punt, they have a strong kicker with Dylan Hillger on the squad. He was a strong kicker a year ago, but has spent most of the summer concentrating on getting even better.

DEFENSE

The Blue Devils lost a lot of players that led Lake Fenton to four shutouts a year ago, including three in a row from week #6 through week #8, but six players do return, so it could happen.

On the defensive line Cam McNeill and Jimmy Hamilton return.

“They make us go,” Borski said. “We can’t block them in practice and that’s a great thing.”

On the inside of the line, Ben Muenzer, Riely Novak and Alec Moser are battling for starting spots. Expect them to rotate in and out of the lineup early in the season.

The linebackers will be Ethan Dunkel and Michael O’Brien in the inside positions. The outside linebackers will probably be Sean Trombley and Jacob Brophy.

The secondary will include corners Hunter Schramm and Dillon Byers and safety Zachary Coon.

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM



Lake Fenton’s Sean Trombley (6) will be a key player to the Blue Devils’ running game during the 2018 football season. Traditionally, the Blue Devils’ running game is the strength of the team’s offense.

Photo: Mark Bolen

LAKE FENTON BLUE DEVILS

2017

New Lotrop	22-28L
Montrose	21-0W
Mount Morris	44-6W
Goodrich	20-7W
Byron	24-6W
Durand	55-0W
Corruna	48-0W
Otisville LakeVille	55-0W
Williamston	35-28W
Williamston	14-34L D4 playoffs

2016

Southwestern	41-7W
Olivet	18-14W
Beecher	61-14W
Mt. Morris	42-21W
Montrose	35-0W
Goodrich	40-0W
Corunna	22-20W
Waverly	63-35W
Williamston	35-38L
Powers	19-20L D4 playoffs

2015

Freeland	13-31L
Durand	44-6W
Montrose	49-21W
Mount Morris	48-0W
Sault Ste. Marie	42-33W
Beecher	26-27L
Goodrich	0-35L
Corunna	28-35L
Williamston	39-14W
Corunna	29-27W D4 playoffs
Flint Powers	0-41L D4 playoffs

2014

Freeland	0-42L
Durand	55-0W
Montrose	12-27L
Mount Morris	38-33W
Divine Child	24-38L
Beecher	6-44L
Goodrich	36-37L
Corunna	27-26W
Williamston	20-34L

HOLLY

Continued from Page 22A

include Blake Querio, Leighton Helzer and Marko Ballard. Adam Welch, Tanner Graveratte and Mason Weishuhn also should get playing time on the line.

The linebackers are set. Joe O’Connor will play at one of the outside linebacking positions while Kyle Snodsmith should fill the other slot. Playing inside linebacker, Jacob Hild and Colton Steele should start.

The corners are expected to play at corner are Jacob Henski and Taj Pittman. The safeties will be Cade Dall-

witz and Hild.

“I like that they are fast learners,” Culloty said about his defense. “They adapted to the changes we made easily. I like how our defensive line is playing right now. We have some smart kids.”

OUTLOOK

The Bronchos won’t be the favorites on paper entering the year, but they hope to put themselves in the middle of the Metro League race. But more importantly, Culloty wants to see his team just keep getting better.

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM

HOLLY BRONCHOS

2017

Swartz Creek	32-18W
Owosso	61-12W
Linden	28-49L
Kearsley	34-13W
Flushing	21-43L
Fenton	6-42L
Detroit U Prep	61-0W
Brandon	21-28L
Clio	31-0W

2016

Berkley	26-29L
Williamston	35-28W
Kearsley	21-0W
Clio	28-24W
Flushing	35-14W
Fenton	35-54L
Swartz Creek	35-16W
Linden	27-30L
Brandon	26-43L

2015

Berkley	29-7W
Williamston	6-7L
Linden	13-14L
Kearsley	42-12W
Clio	14-7W
Flushing	23-20W
Fenton	19-35L
Swartz Creek	21-13W
Brandon	23-27L
Fenton	20-21L D2 playoffs

2014

Berkley	7-34L
Williamston	7-26L
Linden	6-23L
Kearsley	20-21L
Clio	0-7L
Flushing	14-41L
Fenton	3-35L
Swartz Creek	23-26L
Brandon	6-27L

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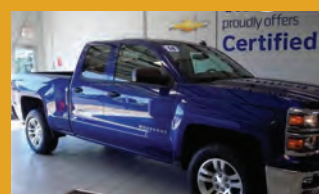
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