Linden still searching for city manager

Search so far has cost city approximately $14,000

By Hannah Ball

Linden — The Linden City Council is still searching for a new city manager. Police Chief Scott Sutter has been interim city manager since Paul Zelenak left the position for a job with South Lyon at the end of September 2018.

The City Council used the Michigan Municipal League (MML) to find applicants and conducted one round of interviews with four candidates. They decided on a candidate but that individual took another position.

At the Monday, May 13 meeting, Linden City Council made a motion to continue the search process with the MML and look for a new pool of candidates. Sutter said the cost would be capped at $2,250. The city has spent approximately $14,000 on the search so far, according to Sutter.

Local state rep to assist with justice system reform

Mike Mueller to serve on Joint Task Force on Jail and Pretrial Incarceration

By Vera Hogan

State Rep. Mike Mueller (District 51) of Linden will have a chance to help with reforming Michigan’s justice system. He was appointed by Speaker of the House Lee Chatfield to the Michigan Joint Task Force on Jail and Pretrial Incarceration, created See JUSTICE on 21A

Great Lakes near record water levels

Local lake levels typically high during spring, early summer

By Hannah Ball

All five Great Lakes have higher than average water levels, with Lake Superior and Lake Erie experiencing the most dramatic rises.

Lake Superior is approximately 15 inches higher than its long-term average for this time of the year, which is 9 inches higher than last year, according to a report from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Lake Erie is up See GREAT LAKES on 20A

‘Leveling the playing field’ with flight

Wings of Mercy pilots Cody Welch (left) and Tim Draeger stand by Welch’s aircraft for a photo at Price’s Airport on Thursday, May 2. Their organization is funded through donations and the upcoming 5K race. See story on page 9A

Good article, Sharon, on the Leader Dogs for the Blind. We were fortunate to have donated a German Shepherd who graduated and was assigned.

Can we at least get a sidewalk out here on Owen Road between Fenton and Linden? We have all of these beautiful neighborhoods but no way for our families to walk or ride to any of them.

I can’t wait to see the new stores go in on Silver Parkway. They repaved the road and it’s so much better.

Warning people not to use Google browser because you got scammed is like warning people not to answer their phone because you sent money to a Nigerian prince.
NEW LISTING

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$249,900
Call Dawn Placek 810-223-1341

FOREST GLEN
1340 Park Ridge Point
Beautiful home in "Woods of Forest Glen."
Oversized corner lot.
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LINDEN
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Full basement.
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Call Shelia Rhoades 810-348-7357

NEW LISTING

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All Sports Bevins Lake! 2 car detached garage. Nice large fenced in lot.
$227,900
Call Laura Pennington 248-245-5351

FENTON
13062 Sam Hill
Gorgeous contemporary home with over 3000 square feet. 26 acres.
$675,000
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FENTON
14541 Blue Heron
Overlooking the wetlands, wildlife, birds galore.
Three season room.
$221,900
Call Judy Wright 810-845-4414

GRAND BLANC
6003 Murray
Sleepy Hollow Condo in Grand Blanc Schools
$169,900
Jaime Howells 810-429-2942

NEW LISTING

GLADWIN
3203 N West Branch Dr.
Hard to find private setting on all sports Secord Lake!
$290,000
Call Lauren George 248-293-1253

FENTON TWP
1319 Arborview
Beautiful lakefront home on Loon Lake. Walk-out lower level.
$799,999
Call Lida Athearn 810-523-8206

LAPEER
1169 Lake Nepessing
Unique farmhouse with updates on approximately 2 acres.
$187,900
Call Kevin Usealman 810-965-6552

FENTON
5473 Green Bank Drive
Beautiful brick home in great location, close to schools, shopping.
$329,900
Call Tammy Harper 248-459-8688

NEW LISTING

FENTON TWP
16371 Oak Hill
Beautiful views of the lake. Open floor plan & walkout basement.
$319,900
Call Patrik Welty 810-240-0418

FENTON
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VENICE TWP
9980 E. Brooks Rd.
4,100 sq ft ranch on 20 acres, 3 car garage & large 40x60 pole barn.
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Call Judy Wright 810-845-4414
May is Foster Care Month in Michigan to draw attention to 13,500 children in need of a temporary home

By Tim Jagielo

Fenton — On Wednesday, May 15, Nicholas Earley, 9, played GaGa Ball on the playground at Tomek-Eastern Elementary School, like so many other children his age.

On Thursday, sister Baylee, 14, chatted with other students before science class. These siblings lead everyday lives for kids their age, but they come from far different circumstances than others — they’re both former foster children adopted by their foster family.

The state of Michigan is working to raise awareness for the 13,500 children in foster care, through a blue and white flag campaign through the MDHHS new release. The MDHHS oversees the foster care system in Michigan. “Fostering” is temporarily sheltering a child before they are adopted, or settled with their biological family.

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer declared May “Foster Care Month” to recognize foster families and to encourage others to foster. Rosa and John Earley of Tyrone Township have fostered 13 children between 2008 and 2015, including Nicholas, Baylee, and Baylee’s biological sister Bree, 15.

“I was not able to have children,” Rosa said. This was the catalyst for fostering, and eventually adoption.

The couple fostered 13, and adopted three of the children. They adopted the first two they ever fostered — Baylee and Bree.

They adopted Nicholas in 2015, and stopped fostering at that time, with three children in the home. The children attend Fenton schools. Bree has some emotional challenges and is receiving professional help. Rosa attributes those challenges to Bree’s time with her biological family. They’re open about the struggles Bree has had, and the community is supportive.

See FOSTER CARE on 23A

Baylee Earley, 14, waits for eighth-grade science class to start at Fenton’s Andrew G. Schmidt Middle School (AGS) on Thursday, May 16. Baylee was adopted in 2010 by her foster parents. Photo: Tim Jagielo

Rosa Earley
Fostered 13 children with husband John

I’m proud of them being adopted, and so are they.

---

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES

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You don’t know what you’re missing

Before I returned to the Tri-County Times in March of 2015, I worked in the sales and leasing office of a local residential community.

One day, one of our residents stopped by our offices to chat. While he was sitting at my desk, my phone lit up and did its little buzzy thing to let me know I received a text.

He said, “I think you have a message on your phone.” I said, “I know, it’s just Verizon thanking me for my payment.”

“What? How did you do that?” he demanded to know.

“I paid it a few minutes ago while we were talking,” I said.

He was dumbfounded. I explained that I looked up my account on the computer in front of me and paid the bill. It only took a second — it was that simple.

The ability to pay my bills online is a wonderful convenience. I don’t have to carry a checkbook. In fact, I don’t even know where my checkbook is. I don’t have to buy stamps or envelopes or go to the post office. I can’t remember the last time I had cash in my purse.

In addition to my bills, I order my groceries online whenever I can and have them delivered to my home. I know it’s a luxury but I’ve worked hard all my life and believe I deserve it. Besides, it stops me from impulse shopping. Believe me, if I’m in the store I buy things I see on impulse. It’s true what they say, “out of sight, out of mind.”

I know that many people, especially those who are my age and older, have not yet embraced the use of computers and the internet. I get that, I really do. It took me forever to give up my old flip phone in favor of a smart phone. But my coworkers were relentless and I finally gave in. I’m so glad I did.

Not everyone is comfortable giving up their personal financial information in order to pay bills online, or shop online for that matter. You don’t have to, at least not yet.

But this is a new day, when need-to-know information is on the internet within seconds. Without the internet, I would not be able to visit in real time with my little grandson or other relatives who live out of the country, or communicate and share photos instantly with my sisters and other out-of-state friends and relatives. Moreover, I would not be able to do my job effectively.

When I hear people say, “I don’t do computers, or the internet or email,” it makes me very sad. I wish you knew what you are missing.

Opinions offered in Just Sayin’ are the author’s alone and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Tri-County Times or its staff. Email Vera at vhogan@tctimes.com.
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- Numbness in Legs, Feet or Hands
- Neuropathy

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— Dr. Katrina Nicholson

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Feel free to bring a guest. Seating is limited to ONLY 20 spots. Adults only.

Dr. Katrina Nicholson, BS DC, presenter
Eligible people with type O blood urged to donate; will receive $5 Amazon gift card

Compiled by Sharon Stone

The American Red Cross has a critical shortage of type O blood and urges eligible donors to give now to help patients facing trauma and other life-threatening situations.

As a thank you for helping replenish the blood supply, all donors who come to give blood and platelets now through June 10 will receive a $5 Amazon.com gift card via email.

Right now, the Red Cross has less than a two-day supply of type O blood available for emergency rooms, where it can be most critical. That means just six units of type O blood are available for every 100,000 people, but at least 14 are needed every day. While just 7 percent of the U.S. population has type O negative blood, it can be transfused to patients with any blood type and is what hospital staff reach for during emergencies when there isn’t time to determine a patient’s blood type. Type O positive blood is the most transfused blood type and is also critical in trauma situations.

“All blood types are urgently needed, but we’re facing a critical shortage of type O blood — the blood group most needed by hospitals,” said Cliff Numark, senior vice president, Red Cross Blood Services. “Because it’s vitally important for hospitals to have type O blood available when every second counts, type O donors are urged to donate now and make a point to donate often.”

Donations needed now

Donors of all blood types, especially type O, are urged to make an appointment to donate using the Blood Donor App, at RedCrossBlood.org or by calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

LOCAL BLOOD DONATION OPPORTUNITIES

FENTON

- Friday, May 31 — 11 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., Fenton Fire Department, 205 E. Caroline St.
- Saturday, June 1 — 8:30 a.m. to 1:45 pm. First Presbyterian Church, 503 S. LeRoy St.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

ON MAY 11 at 9:15 a.m. on Silver Lake Road, just east of the gas station in Argentine, a red sports car chased down a car for beeping at him. The male driver was speeding, passing cars in a no-pass zone and then harassed the other driver. Witnesses should contact Argentine police.

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP signed a pair of executive orders seeking to make it easier for firms to build oil and gas pipelines and harder for state agencies to intervene.

WE LIVE IN Holly and we’re having a really tough time with ticks. We have had to pull a few off (which is not easy) and have found quite a few in the house. We have friends in Grand Blanc having the same problem. I don’t ever remember it being this bad.

ONE WORD TO sum up the Fenton schools millage on the ballot Aug. 6. Greed. Vote ‘no’ to new taxes. They need to figure it out with what they have. Just like us taxpayers.

TRUMP SAYS U.S. farmers to get $15 billion in aid amid China trade war.

TO THE HOT-LINER talking about people struggling and other people making more money. If you do strive to be better, you will continue to struggle. The rich know when to take advantages of opportunities. Why shouldn’t they? If you just sit around and wait for it to drop in your lap, believe me it won’t.

CONGRATULATIONS TO A job well done by Holly Village and Holly Fire Department. They took an eyesore building on Saginaw Street and re-purposed it into a beautiful fire station.

HOW MUCH DOES it cost to fix a sinkhole twice, compared to once, done correctly?

THOSE ELECTED POLITICIANS, all Democrats, spent Flint into bankruptcy because of the huge incomes from GM. The city bought water from Detroit at exorbitant prices and ignored the needs of their water department. GM left Flint, taking billions with them and left Flint to face huge debt with no income. The state had a choice, let Flint fail or help with an emergency manager.

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TRUMP SAYS U.S. farmers to get $15 billion in aid amid China trade war.
Starving for attention

By Sally Rummel

Tyrone Township resident shares story of her battle with anorexia nervosa

For every day of her adult life, Peggy Schultz would look at herself in the mirror before starting her day, and check to make sure her bones, spine and ribcage were still showing.

She would eat breakfast, her only meal of the day, surviving on only about 800 to 1,000 calories a day. Then she would work her long shift in sterile processing at Ascension Providence Hospital in Novi. In the evening, Schultz would hop on her treadmill for a two-hour exercise session.

Schultz was so obsessed with her weight that she would step on her scale multiple times daily. Controlling her eating and exercise was all she thought about every single minute of every single day. She wouldn’t shop or go to a restaurant, and she’d avoid any social situations that involved food.

“All I wanted to do was get home and ‘tread’ for two hours,” she said.

Today, Schultz, 53, is on the road to recovery from anorexia nervosa, an eating disorder characterized by self-starvation and excessive weight loss that has plagued her since she was in her early 20s.

“I always felt I wasn’t good enough for my mom, that other girls were prettier than I was,” Schultz said. “I lacked self-confidence. I had in my mind that I didn’t want to be fat.”

Schultz had topped out in the 180s at her highest weight more than 30 years ago and weighed just 80 pounds at her lowest, when she was 52 years old.

Early on, compliments at work fueled her unhealthy eating and exercise patterns. “The worst thing you can do is to tell someone how good they look when they obviously have an eating disorder,” Schultz said. “I fed myself on the attention I got. I was so far down in weight but I didn’t care. My brain was hardly functioning anymore.”

Peggy Schultz, 53, or Tyrone Township, was down to 80 pounds in October 2018. With medication and lifestyle changes, she’s up to a healthy 145 pounds.

But her job performance at work never suffered. “She’s as determined as they come,” said her boss, Wanda Korzowski, manager of sterile processing at Ascension Providence. “Peggy and I have gone through a lot together — me praying for her every day and her trying to fight it. It was a long road. I’m ecstatic. I’m so excited she’s on the path to total recovery.”

Her heart, feet, kidney and liver all suffered from the effects of her self-starvation. Both of her feet are broken and she is working in air cast boots as they heal.

But she wants people to know there is hope and help out there for people with eating disorders.

“I am very lucky to have seen my 53rd birthday,” she said. “My mom was very worried about me. She contacted other family members and didn’t think I’d still be alive at Christmas.”

Schultz knew she didn’t want to die.

She began treatment for eating disorders in October 2018. “The first time I took a normal bite of food was on Dec. 24 (2018) with family,” Schultz said. “Under the guidance of a doctor specializing in eating disorders, plus a psychiatrist, she began to eat four to six small meals a day and work on her mental health issues.”

“T’m just blessed to be alive,” she said. She no longer lives her life by the number on a scale, but instead, counts her blessings. “I have a whole new outlook on life.”

WHERE TO GO FOR HELP:
• National Association of Anorexia Nervosa and Associated Disorders - ANAD.com
• Nationaleatingdisorders.org
• Eatingdisorderhope.com
• U-M Comprehensive Eating Disorders Program - Ann Arbor, Michigan

WHAT IS ANOREXIA NERVOSA?

Anorexia nervosa is an eating disorder characterized by weight loss (or lack of appropriate weight gain in growing children); difficulties maintaining an appropriate body weight for height, age, and stature; and, in many individuals, distorted body image. People with anorexia generally restrict the number of calories and the types of food they eat.

Source: WebMd.com
May kicks off summer concert season

DTE Energy Music Theatre’s first concert is Sunday, May 19 with retiring metal band, Slayer

By Sally Rummel

No one jumps on the summer concert bandwagon faster than Michiganders, taking full advantage of the concert season from May through September.

It’s here before you know it, in fact, it unofficially begins with this weekend’s kick-off concert of retiring metal rock band, Slayer, at DTE Energy Music Theatre in Clarkson on Sunday, May 19. The traditional concert season opener of Eddie Money will take place Saturday, May 25.

What you might notice this year is the absence of huge, blockbuster stadium acts at Comerica Park and Ford Field, especially compared to last year’s appearances by Beyoncé, Taylor Swift and Ed Sheeran. It looks like the Lions and Tigers will have their homes all to themselves for the next few months, according to Freep.com.

Other concert venues will be busy, including Little Caesars Arena, which will welcome Jennifer Lopez for her first headlining Detroit appearance on July 5. Other big acts at Little Caesars will include The Who on May 28, New Kids on the Block on June 18, John Mayer on Aug. 2, Shawn Mendes on Aug. 5 and Backstreet Boys on Aug. 12.

Following the popularity of “Bohemian Rhapsody,” the Adam Lambert-fronted Queen heads to Little Caesars Arena on July 27. Also on a Queen-theme will be the Detroit Symphony Orchestra at Meadow Brook Amphitheatre on July 14 performing “The Music of Queen.”

The newly named Aretha Franklin Amphitheatre, formerly known as Chene Park, boasts 5,000 seats facing the Detroit River. Summer acts include Gladys Knight (Aug. 11), Charlie Wilson (June 15-16), UB40 (Aug. 2) and Herbie Hancock (Aug. 8).

DTE concertgoers this summer will note fewer artists lined up than usual — about three dozen compared to 50 last year, according to Freep.com.

Bigger shows with more dates are replacing some of the one-nighters. For example, Bob Seger & The Silver Bullet Band will hold a six-night stand, all sold out, on June 6, 8, 12, 14, 19 and 21, part of his Roll Me Away Tour, an ongoing farewell event that kicked off in November.

Other DTE favorites will include the Dave Matthews Band on July 9, Jimmy Buffett and the Coral Reefer Band on July 16, Alice Cooper and Halestorm on July 20, Train/Goo Goo Dolls on July 23 and Heart on Aug. 5, to name a few.

Kid Rock will be on the DTE stage on two back-to-back weekends in September, Fridays and Saturdays Sept. 6-7 and Sept. 13-14. These are his first Detroit area performances since he opened Little Caesars Arena in September 2017.

Final DTE concerts of the season will be country star Jason Aldean, Sept. 28-29. For a complete list of DTE concerts, go to dteenergy-musictheatre.org.

Concerts are already in full swing at DTE’s sister venue, Meadow Brook Amphitheatre in Rochester Hills, with a lineup of more than 30 acts, including Willie Nelson on June 25, Yes on July 3, Weird Al Yankovic on July 5, Steve Miller on June 30, ZZ Top on Sept. 8, The Temptations and Righteous Brothers on July 27. For a complete list, go to Meadowbrookamphitheatre.com.

Other popular concert venues include the Michigan Lottery Amphitheatre at Freedom Hill in Sterling Heights, St. Andrew’s Hall, Fox Theatre, The Fillmore, Motor City Casino Hotel and the MGM Grand Casino.

FENTON’S “MUSIC IN THE PARK”

Concerts begin Thursday, June 6, from 7 to 8:30 p.m.. Bring your own chairs. Music is sponsored by the Southern Lakes Parks & Recreation (SLPR) and the Fenton Downtown Development Authority (DDA).

See CONCERT on 18A
‘Leveling the playing field’ with flight

Locally based non-profit Wings of Mercy East Michigan has flown 2,600 missions

By Tim Jagielo

Wings of Mercy volunteer pilots take patients who cannot receive the specialized medical treatment they need to locations that would be difficult to reach quickly by car, like the Boston Children’s Hospital.

“It’s really kind of cool to level the playing field for people who are fighting incredible battles,” said Cody Welch, founder and president of Wings of Mercy East Michigan.

As a group, the non-profit has shuttled approximately 8,000 patients to far-away locations for medical care, at no cost to the patients. The pilots donate their time and their aircraft, but the fuel is covered by the organization.

There are three Wings of Mercy organizational “chapters” in the U.S. — one in Minnesota, one in Holland (Michigan) and one in Fenton Township, which Welch leads, headquartered at Price’s Airport.

He said the local group has run approximately 2,600 missions since the first flight in 1995. “We’re moving the needle a little bit making a difference in people’s lives,” he said.

There are approximately three active pilots who fly out of the local airport, and up to 30 pilots across the organization at any given time flying from different airports.

One of these regular pilots is Tim Draeger of Fenton Township who flew 46 missions himself. “Even though I give, I get more in return just knowing that I made a difference in the lives of the people I’ve helped and all of their friends and family,” he said.

He said whenever they travel east, they usually get to fly their recipients over Niagara Falls. “I picked up a young man in Philadelphia who was at Philadelphia Children’s Hospital. I gave him my digital camera, and he filled the memory card with pictures of Niagara Falls,” Draeger said.

Welch said that his organization flies about 150 missions per year from 33 different airports. Between five and eight missions originate at the local airport.

He said there have been about 350 pilots helping over the years in teams of two.

Wings of Mercy pilots have many stories about the people they’ve helped.

There’s currently a patient with 28 flights under his belt, fighting a disease by traveling back and forth to Mayo Clinic. “He’s defying odds with this disease because he can get there on a regular basis,” Welch said.

This mission is 1,300 miles round trip at $.60 per mile. The trip costs about $800 each time, meaning the total price is approximately $22,400 to fly this patient back and forth.

Welch said the organization operates on $10,000 per month, funded through a variety of means.

These include unsolicited donations, a year-end appeal, and three fundraising events, including the Wings of Mercy Runway 5K race. Last year, the race around Price’s Airport drew 400 people, and Welch expects 500 this year. The event is June 22, the longest day of the year. Registration is open; go to wingsofmercyrunway5k.org for more information.

See WINGS OF MERCY on 21A

Pilots Tim Draeger (left) and Cody Welch use their aircraft to transport patients for medical treatment through Wings of Mercy. They also take Wings & Wheels visitors on rides for fun.

Photo: Tim Jagielo
The Ally Challenge selects its beneficiaries

Proceeds to benefit Genesee County Habitat for Humanity and United Way of Genesee County

Compiled by Sharon Stone

Two non-profit organizations in the greater Flint area have been designated as the primary beneficiaries for The Ally Challenge presented by McLaren in 2019.

The PGA TOUR Champions event will be Sept. 9-15 at Warwick Hills Golf and Country Club.

The Ally Challenge has established a legacy of giving, including raising more than $800,000 for charity in its inaugural year. The tournament will continue to positively impact the community in Genesee County and beyond by designating net proceeds from the 2019 tournament to benefit Genesee County Habitat for Humanity and United Way of Genesee County.

“Both of these charities are focused on building economic mobility, which is at the heart of our philanthropic efforts at Ally,” said Andrea Brimmer, Ally chief marketing and public relations officer. “We know that the tournament will have a lasting and positive impact on this community for years to come through the work of Genesee County Habitat for Humanity and United Way of Genesee County.”

“We are humbled by this generous gift to help expand our work further in Genesee County and to contribute to the health, safety and wellbeing of people in our community,” said Margaret Kato, Genesee County Habitat for Humanity executive director.

United Way of Genesee County (UWGC) has operated in the community for over 97 years providing support to residents of all socioeconomic backgrounds. Last year dollars raised impacted over 100,000 lives representing every zip code of Genesee County.

“The UWGC is committed to providing support to a variety of nonprofits throughout Genesee County. The funds received from The Ally Challenge will allow us to support many programs that are working to remove barriers to employment, increase the financial health of residents and provide families with quality stable housing,” said, James Gaskin, CEO, United Way of Genesee County.

In addition to the aforementioned charity partners, The Ally Challenge announced in February of this year the return of Birdies for Charity presented by Ally. This grassroots charity platform creates positive opportunities for charities to partner with the tournament and benefit from the philanthropic objectives of The Ally Challenge. For more information about Birdies for Charity presented by Ally, including how to participate, visit theallychallenge.com/charity.

Linden High School students win art competition

Two Linden High School students placed first and second in the 2019 Congressional Art Competition. The first-place winner’s artwork will be on display for a year in the state capitol and in the hallway of the White House in Washington, D.C., according to Linden High School art teacher Christina Vanchina. First place winner is Quinn Arnold, who did a portrait in colored pencil (top). Second-place winner is Hannah Lapham, who submitted her landscape photograph (bottom). The students and their families were invited to join Congressman Dan Kildee’s Congressional Art Competition Award Ceremony on Friday, May 17, hosted by the Greater Flint Arts Council.

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Nurses celebrated

McLaren Flint hosts annual Margaret McLaren Awards Ceremony

Compiled by Sharon Stone

McLaren Flint ended Nurses Week by honoring five members of the nursing team Friday, May 10, at its annual Margaret McLaren Nursing Awards of Excellence. The celebration took place in Ballenger Auditorium.

The event is held in honor of Margaret McLaren, RN, who served as superintendent of McLaren General Hospital and its predecessor, The Women’s Hospital, for 27 years. When McLaren General Hospital opened in October 1951, it was named in her honor, making it the first hospital in the country to be named after a nurse. This year, the hospital is celebrating its 100th year of caring for patients.

Winners were nominated by their peers and chosen by a special committee. They are described as having positive attitudes, putting patients first, being “go to” coworkers and for their willingness to help, including as preceptors on their units.

This year’s five winners are Sarah Potter, RN, 12 South; Mary Mauer, RN, 9 South; Rob Fletcher, RN, CVCU; Rebecca Howe, RN, ED; and Jessi Emmons, RN, CCU.

Fenton Rotary preps for ramp project

Members and volunteers building ramp for local family May 21 and 22

Compiled by Sharon Stone

The Fenton Rotary Club is preparing for an upcoming ramp-building project. The local organization identifies local residents who are confined to their homes and are in need of an accessible route. Club members field the conditions, design a ramp plan that satisfies the residents’ needs, meets code and then secure materials.

Club members then hit the jobsite with tools and volunteers to construct a fully accessible ramp for those in need. Brad Alvord of Lindhout Associates Architects is the chairman of the Fenton Rotary’s Community Service committee and he is instrumental in making this program a success.

For the last eight years the club has worked together to construct over 14 wheelchair-accessible ramps for individuals in the community. Their recent ramp was supported through a grant through The Home Depot Foundation.

With the help of volunteers, the right attitude, and the goal to change someone’s life, the Fenton Rotary continuously is making a difference in the community.

Members are coordinating a ramp building project for Tuesday, May 21 and Wednesday, May 22.

If anyone is interested in the Rotary, call (810) 287-3167 or email info@fentonrotary.org. Also follow them on Facebook @FentonRotary to stay up to date on their projects and programs.
Disposing of toxic e-waste

Safe disposal of old computer monitors, batteries and other electronics

By Tim Jagielo

Electronics are a part of daily life, and so is electronic waste (e-waste). This can be an old desktop computer, TV or cell phone. This can also be a pile of used batteries you don’t know what to do with.

E-waste contains harmful substances, such as lead, cadmium, chromium and brominated flame retardants, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). These substances are harmful for people and the environment.

There are also valuable elements like copper and gold that can be extracted and recycled. Computers and mobile devices can also contain personal data if they weren’t properly deleted.

Because of this, they can’t usually be disposed of on regular trash pickup days, and are labor intensive to recycle.

According to the United Nations University 2014 report, the world produced 40 million metric tons of e-waste. E-waste also ends up in developing nations where it’s sorted by hand and sometimes burned, polluting the air and putting the local residents and environment at risk.

“It’s really important to recycle e-waste properly,” said Ashton Ponder of Fenton CPR Cell Phone Repair of Fenton. “Otherwise it can end up in third world countries.”

He said most importantly, batteries need to be recycled, especially lithium ion batteries, which run computers, cell phones and even power tools.

Josh Elder, owner of CPR Cell Phone Repair, said they recycle up to 5,000 pounds of e-waste per year.

If you have e-waste around your home, there are safe options for disposing of it.

**E-waste contains harmful substances like lead, cadmium, chromium and brominated flame retardants, according to the World health Organization (WHO). These substances are harmful for people and the environment.**

**Events**

There are local hazardous waste collection days that accept e-waste including lithium ion batteries, and large computer monitors.

For Genesee County residents, search “Genesee County Recycle Day” for a full information sheet on details.

On Saturday, June 8, the Genesee County Metropolitan Planning Commission is hosting a recycle and household hazardous waste collection day at Fenton High School. It runs from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 3200 W. Shiawassee Ave., Fenton.

Holly Township in Oakland County is holding a Spring Clean Up Day on Saturday, May 18, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 5051 Grange Hall Road in Holly. Go to hollytownship.org, click “services” at the top and select “garbage, recycling …” tab for details on what is accepted.

They’re accepting batteries, computers, and large computer monitors.

If you missed this event, there is a countywide program, which may not be free to use, but will take hazardous materials. Look for the link under the “RECYCLING” subheading.

**Drop off recycling business**

GFL Recycling (Green for Life) is at 2051 W. Bristol Rd. They’re currently listed as “Great Lakes Recycling” online and can be reached at (810) 238-2836.

They take lithium ion batteries, flat screen monitors, cell phones, laptops and desktop computer components like motherboards and memory modules.

They don’t accept large computer monitors.

See E-WASTE on 13A
The Robot Zoo, a traveling exhibit, is open now through Sept. 8, at Sloan Museum’s Courtland Center Mall in Burton. The larger-than-life-size animated robots include a chameleon, a rhinoceros, a giant squid with 18-foot tentacles, and a platypus. Also featured are a house fly with a 10-foot wingspread, a grasshopper, a bat, and a giraffe.

The Robot Zoo exhibit is now open

Visitors can explore the larger than life animated robots at Sloan Museum in Burton

Compiled by Sharon Stone

Sloan Museum visitors can explore the biomechanics of complex animal robots to discover how real animals work at the newest traveling exhibit, The Robot Zoo. The traveling exhibit, created by Evergreen Exhibitions, is open now through Sept. 8, at Sloan Museum’s Courtland Center Mall in Burton.

The 5,000-square-foot exhibit reveals the magic of nature as a master engineer. Eight robot animals and more than a dozen hands-on activities illustrate fascinating real-life characteristics, such as how a chameleon changes colors, how a giant squid propels itself, and how a fly walks on the ceiling.

Hours are Monday–Friday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday, 12–5 p.m. Admission is free for Genesee County residents and members. Non-resident tickets are $8 for adults, $7 for seniors, and $6 for kids ages 2-11.

Follow Sloan Museum on Facebook and Instagram @SloanMuseum.

E-WASTE
Continued from Page 12A

They pay by the pound, but it varies on the day and on the item. This is where CPR Cell Phone Repair takes its cast-off electronics for customers.

Recycle by mail

Republican Services offers “safe, secure, responsible” electronics recycling with a third party service, “BlueGuard.” According to Republican Services, the personal data is wiped seven times, and everything that can be recycled and reused is separated and sorted, and will not end up in a landfill.

This service is somewhat costly — to fill and ship a small box holding up to 10 pounds, it will cost $10 to ship from Fenton. A 50-pound box is $95.

Waste Management also offers recycling by mail in several states, but not Michigan. Local residents are only able to recycle things like compact fluorescent bulbs and batteries.

HOT LINE

THE WRITER WHO blames Republicans for the current economy is confused. The U.S. currently has the best economy it has enjoyed in over 30 years, brought to you by Republicans. Obama nearly destroyed this country, giving billions to terrorists in the process and doing his best to destroy this economy and our world standing.

HVAC? HEATING AND ventilation is enough. If air conditioning weren’t so costly to install and maintain including the cost additional boiler capacity this would be laughable. This pie in the sky proposal has no pay back. If so, show me?

GOP GOES ‘GREAT guns’ on rights to carry. Numerous proposals would liberalize rules. Michigan gun owners could carry concealed pistols without a license, and license holders could take them into gun-free zones under Republican-sponsored bills pending in the state House. Just what we need... more guns on the street.

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Hearing aids do not restore natural hearing. Individual experiences vary depending on severity of hearing loss, accuracy of evaluation, proper fit and ability to adapt to amplification. Our hearing test and video otoscopic inspection are always free. Hearing tests at an audiometric test to determine proper amplification in need only. There are not medical exams or diagnoses nor are they intended to replace a physician’s care. If you suspect a medical problem, please seek treatment from your doctor.

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Holly ORV park awaits name

Local governments push for ‘The Mines of Oakland,’ set to open in June 2020

By Tim Jagie10

Progress continues on the new and long-awaited ORV park located in Holly and Groveland townships. “ORV” stands for off-road vehicle, which includes vehicles like Jeeps and trucks, and dirt bikes and quads.

The Bent Wheels Motorcycle Club recently hosted a test event for dirt bikes. The event drew 250 enthusiasts to ride the courses specifically for quads and dirt bikes.

Jim Kitson is with the Great Lakes Four Wheel Drive Association (GLFWDA.) “No issues, no injuries,” Kitson said. “We’re calling the event a success.” Just one month ago, the paths of clay and sand were in development. The large vehicle paths are already developed.

Kitson is coordinating the physical development of the park, and writes posts on the Friends of the Mines of Oakland Offroad Park Facebook page for updates.

The park currently has no official name. In Late April, Holly Township Supervisor George Kullis drafted a

See ORV PARK on 15A

Fundraiser for The FACES Foundation

Help celebrate The FACES Foundation latest accomplishments. This year they are holding a golf outing at 10 a.m., Saturday, June 1, at Dunham Hills Golf Club in Hartland. Most people probably know someone whose premature baby had respiratory issues, or someone with asthma, blood clots, cystic fibrosis, lung cancer, pneumonia or COPD. This fundraiser will help FACES (Family and Caregivers Education & Support) provide resources and support to the network of respiratory therapists around the country. The FACES foundation awards the PHIL Award each year. It is the only nationally recognized hospital-based recognition program dedicated to honoring outstanding respiratory therapists who provide exemplary care and treatment for patients with respiratory illnesses. Find out more at: www.thefacesfoundation.org/golfouting2019.
**WILD NIGHT IN**

The North Oakland Headquarters Land Conservancy (NOHLC) is holding a unique dinner event hosted at three separate homes in the Clarkston area, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Friday, May 31. Each guest and their companion(s) will be seated at one of the three homes for an evening of winning, dining and nature-themed conversation. The dinners will feature cuisine from the area’s finest restaurants plus appetizers, sides and cocktails made from locally sourced ingredients. Guests can rank their preferences between “The Lakeside Garden Home” in Waterford, “The Birds & Bees Home” in Clarkston and “the Farm-to-Table Home” in Clarkston. Seating is first come, first served. Only 40 tickets will be sold at $200 per person. To register, go to nohlc.org or call (248) 795-2808. The NOHLC is a private, non-profit, member supported organization with 47 years’ experience in preserving open space in northwest Oakland County. Since its inception, more than 1,500 acres have been preserved in six townships, with parcels ranging from a half to over 250 acres.

**ORV PARK**

**Continued from Page 14A**

A letter to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) offering a suggestion for a name for the park.

Because the park will be located on former gravel mines, the suggested name is “The Mines of Oakland.” The letter included support from Groveland Township, and State Sen. Ruth Johnson and State Rep. Mike Mueller. Kullis submitted his letter to the MDNR as supervisor and as president of the Holly Area Chamber of Commerce.

On April 26, the MDNR closed a public survey also asking for name suggestions.

The name hasn’t been announced yet but Kitson’s groups supports “The Mines of Oakland.” However, he doesn’t think it will be accepted.

“There is support for the name but not in the right place,” Kitson said. “I’ve been flat out told it will not be used … for some reason there is resistance to this name although I haven’t been able to find out why.”

Kitson said that in the meantime there are many discussions behind the scenes. He said the proposed land swap with Mt. Holly will hopefully be complete mid-summer.

**Background**

The state of Michigan purchased two parcels for the purpose of an off-road park in June 2017. The land totals 235 acres. One parcel is in Groveland Township and the other is in Holly Township.

While the state owns the property, it will be managed by Oakland County Parks and Recreation. An operating agreement was cleared in April.

The section of the park in Groveland Township is expected to open the summer of 2020. The section in Holly Township could open in summer 2023, according to Kitson.

**I am sure that the name ‘mines’ will not be part of the final name. For some reason there is resistance to this name although I haven’t been able to find out why.”**

Jim Kitson
Great Lakes Four Wheel Drive Association

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**COMPILED BY SHARON STONE**

**Free fishing weekend**

Michigan is home to outstanding fishing, more than 3,000 miles of Great Lakes shoreline, 11,000 inland lakes, and tens of thousands of miles of rivers and streams. The 2019 Summer Free Fishing Weekend will be held Saturday, June 8 and Sunday, June 9. As part of these weekends, all fishing license fees are waived for two days with residents and out-of-state visitors invited to enjoy fishing on both inland and Great Lakes’ waters for all species of fish during their respective open seasons. Please note all other regulations still apply during that time.

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“Everyone cared for me so much!”
— WB Grand Blanc

“Everyone was so kind and thoughtful.”
— WB Grand Blanc

“I’ve been here multiple times and I will return again if needed. It’s wonderful!”
— WB Fenton

“I have been here two times now, it’s fantastic!”
— WB Fenton

“I’ve been here multiple times and I will return again if needed. It’s wonderful!”
— WB Fenton

“I have been here two times now, it’s fantastic!”
— WB Fenton

“Honoring our police and corrections officers”
By Livingston County Sheriff Michael Murphy

Being a law enforcement officer is sometimes a difficult and thankless job. There are hours spent away from family, dangerous situations and the heartbreak involved in tragic situations of life and death. But, as police officers, we know that each day is an opportunity to serve our communities and make a difference in the lives of people around us. It truly is an honor, and we are blessed to serve.

National Police Week gives us all, including me, the opportunity to honor and thank the brave women and men of law enforcement, those who serve in the Livingston County Sheriff’s Office and all of our law enforcement colleagues across Michigan as well. To all of you on the front lines, and to those we have lost in the line of duty, we salute you.

Our law enforcement professionals do so many great things for which we are thankful during police week. While there are many successes, one important fight is the battle we wage against illegal and dangerous drugs, like opioids and methamphetamine. Officers, troopers and deputies have become all too familiar with the impact these drugs have on the individual, the family unit, and the ancillary crimes being committed as a result of usage.

Years ago, local meth production was a significant problem in Michigan. Criminals would buy large quantities of common cold and allergy medicines, like Sudafed or Claritin-D, that contain pseudoephedrine (PSE), to illegally make meth. By working together with state lawmakers and pharmacists, we now use the National Precursor Log Exchange (NPLEx) technology to spot, in real time, attempted illegal sales of over-the-counter cold and allergy medicine, so it cannot be abused.

While there has been a significant decline in production, our job is not over. Most meth now comes from Mexico. We will continue using all the tools at our disposal to prevent any resurgence of meth production here at home.

This is just one example of law enforcement officers working tirelessly to help keep our communities safe. During this National Police Week, please take time out to thank and support your local officers for their service, and say a prayer for those who sacrificed their lives in the line of service. I stand with these officers and their families and we know that you do, too.

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We would like to thank the staff and volunteers of St. John’s Catholic Church and their friends and family for their support since our son John Robert Clark died suddenly. Your kindness is greatly appreciated during the most difficult time in our lives.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Clark
Fenton

NOTES OF THANKS

MAIL US YOUR HOT LINE
Don’t want to email your Hot line?
Mail or drop off your written 50-word Hot line to
256 N. Fenway Drive in Fenton

GUEST VIEWPOINT
By Livingston County Sheriff Michael Murphy

Honoring our police and corrections officers
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The kids don’t really need to leave the house to be social, they have a lot of their social life online.

-Marie James
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WEEKEND TIMES Sunday, May 19, 2019 17A

Teens continue to wait for their driver’s license

The cost of training, online social lives and anxiety about driving may push the trend

By Tim Jagielo

Are students pumping the brakes on getting their driver’s licenses early? Trends in data and anecdotal observations say “yes.”

Tom Bryant is director of the driver program division at the Michigan Secretary of State (SOS). He said that it’s understood that teens are not as interested in getting their license at 16 as previous generations.

In Michigan, a student can begin learning at age 14 and 8 months. This is “Segment 1,” which includes 24 hours of classroom time, six hours behind the wheel minimum, and four hours of observation time in a training vehicle.

Segment 2 requires six hours of classroom instruction, and is offered after the student has acquired 30 hours of driving. This is the last step before unsupervised driving. A student can skip the classroom work of Segment 1 if they’re older than 18.

The most recent hard data is from 2014. Bryant said the percentage of 16- and 17-year-olds who get a Level 2 license has decreased over the years. In 2014, 28.2 percent of 16- and 17-year-olds obtained a Level 2 license, allowing unsupervised driving. In 2005, 31.4 percent received their level 2. “I’m certain it’s continued to incrementally decline,” he said.

One of the biggest reasons for this is the cost of education. Bryant said there was a shift from public schools handling driver education primarily, to private businesses. In 1997, public schools were no longer required to fund driver’s training. In 2004, all subsidies for driver education ended and the SOS took over driver’s education, said SOS Communications Director Shawn Starkey.

This reason was cited by some Times readers online. “All three of our teens have waited until they were 18,” said Annette Spiece. “Drivers ed costs too much to send three kids through in two years.”

The cost of training matters, but also the cost of insurance with a young teen driver in the household. “Age does make a difference,” Bryant said. “An older novice driver is safer than a young novice driver.”

Marie James is owner of Allsafe Driving School, with its newest branch in Fenton. She agrees that cost is a reason for delaying driver’s training. Today, both segments of training combined costs $365 at her school.

While her rosters remain full, she’s seen young teens delaying getting their license in the course of 12 years running her business. She added that the cost of the education, online social lives and anxiety about driving are possibly reasons they wait to get their licenses.

Another aspect is social media. “The kids don’t really need to leave the house to be social; they have a lot of their social life online,” she said. James had to leave the house when she was a teen just to talk to her friends.

Finally, she said many parents advise her that their children are simply anxious about driving.

James said 18-year-olds come in for help with their driving test in steady numbers. They can do this instead of taking the Segment 1. “I get a tremendous amount of 18-, 20-, 21-year-olds coming in doing instructional to get them ready for the road test,” she said.
HERE IS THE 2019 LINEUP
AT THE FENTON GAZEBO.
June 6 — Fenton Community Orchestra (behind Fenton Community Center)
June 13 — Slick Jimmy Band (80s classic)
June 20 — IMAGE (Classic rock)
June 27 — Paddlebots (Progressive soul & pop)
July 4 — No concert
July 11 — Chautauqua Express (Kids and family)
July 13 — Denise Davis & The Motor City Sensations (Motown, R&B)
July 18 — Gary Sacco Band (Frank Sinatra tribute)
July 25 — Kari Lynch Band (Alternative, country)
Aug. 1 — Ghost Town Blues Band (Blues)
Aug. 8 — SHOUT! (Beatles tribute band)
Aug. 15 — Arena Rock Detroit (70s & 80s rock & roll)
Aug. 22 — Captured Detroit (Journey tribute)
Aug. 29 — Magic Bus (Woodstock era)

LINDEN’S “MUSIC BY THE MILL”
Linden’s “Music by the Mill” is sponsored by SLPR and the Linden DDA. Concerts begin Monday, May 27 with Billy Mack & The Juke Joint Johnnies at 10:45 a.m. on Memorial Day. The remaining concerts are held on Wednesday evenings.

Aug. 7 — 6:30 p.m. — IMAGE (Classic rock)
Aug. 14 — 7 p.m. — The Invasion (’60s rock and British Invasion)
Aug. 21 — 7 p.m. — Saline Fiddlers Philharmonic
Aug. 28 — 7 p.m. — John Fett Quartet (1960-1999 rock & roll)
**Call (248) 826-0397 for tickets.**

WAG’s trap-neuter-release program. Proceeds from this event will benefit dogs and cats throughout Michigan.

**loving forever homes for homeless organization.** Their mission is to an all volunteer 501(c )3 rescue door. WAG Animal Rescue is $20 in advance and $25 at the Fenton. Tickets are

Fireplace, 2238 Long Lake Rd., 

The event happens Wednesday, Rescues TNR Outreach program. and more, all to benefit W

Fundraiser for WAG Animal Rescue

The community is invited to attend a fun night of live music, comedy and more, all to benefit WAG Animal Rescue’s TNR Outreach program. The event happens Wednesday, May 22, from 6 to 10 p.m. at the Fireplace, 2238 Long Lake Rd., Fenton. Tickets are $20 in advance and $25 at the door. WAG Animal Rescue is an all volunteer 501(c)3 rescue organization. Their mission is to provide veterinary care and find loving forever homes for homeless dogs and cats throughout Michigan. Proceeds from this event will benefit WAG’s trap-neuter-release program. Call (248) 826-0397 for tickets.

**LOOKING BACK at this week in HISTORY**

**COMPILED BY VERA HOGAN**

**MAY 19**

1935: T.E. Lawrence, known to the world as Lawrence of Arabia, dies as a retired Royal Air Force mechanic living under an assumed name. The legendary war hero, author, and archaeological scholar succumbed to injuries suffered in a motorcycle accident six days before.

**MAY 20**

1873: San Francisco businessman Levi Strauss and Reno, Nevada tailor Jacob Davis are given a patent to create work pants reinforced with metal rivets, marking the birth of one of the world’s most famous garments — blue jeans.

**MAY 21**

1881: In Washington, D.C., humanitarians Clara Barton and Adolphus Solomons found the American National Red Cross, an organization established to provide humanitarian aid to victims of wars and natural disasters in congruence with the International Red Cross.

**MAY 22**

2017: Just moments after Ariana Grande finished the final song of her May 22, 2017 concert at Manchester Arena, a suicide bomber detonated an explosion on the premises, killing 22 concertgoers and injuring 116 more. ISIS claimed responsibility for what was the deadliest act of terrorism in Britain since the 2005 London metro bombings.

**MAY 23**

1934: Notorious criminals Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow are shot to death by Texas and Louisiana state police while driving a stolen car near Sailes, Louisiana. Parker met the charismatic Barrow in Texas when she was 19 years old and her husband (she married when she was 16) was serving time in jail for murder. Shortly after they met, Barrow was imprisoned for robbery. Parker visited him every day, and smuggled a gun into prison to help him escape, but he was soon caught in Ohio and sent back to jail. When Barrow was paroled in 1932, he immediately hooked up with Parker, and the couple began a life of crime together.

**MAY 24:**

1844: In a demonstration witnessed by members of Congress, American inventor Samuel F.B. Morse dispatches a telegraph message from the U.S. Capitol to Alfred Vail at a railroad station in Baltimore, Maryland. The message — “What Hath God Wrought?” — was telegraphed back to the Capitol a moment later by Vail. The question, taken from the Bible (Numbers 23:23), had been suggested to Morse by Annie Ellworth, the daughter of the commissioner of patents.

**MAY 25**

1977: The first of George Lucas’ blockbuster Star Wars movies hits American theaters. Star Wars received seven Oscars, and earned $461 million in U.S. ticket sales and a gross of close to $800 million worldwide. Its incredible success began with an extensive, coordinated marketing push by Lucas and his studio, 20th Century Fox, months before the movie’s release date.

**HISTORY**: Just moments after Ariana Grande finished the final song of her May 22, 2017 concert at Manchester Arena, a suicide bomber detonated an explosion on the premises, killing 22 concertgoers and injuring 116 more. ISIS claimed responsibility for what was the deadliest act of terrorism in Britain since the 2005 London metro bombings.

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Lake levels for Michigan, Huron and Ontario are also above average.

David Watkins, Ph.D and professor in civil and environmental engineering at Michigan Technological University, said it’s normal for the Great Lakes levels to rise in the spring and early summer and drop in the fall and winter. Some experts have attributed these drastic increases to climate change, but Watkins said “We can’t definitely say,” that.

“We have seen relatively large changes in water levels in the last 10-12 years compared to the previous 100 years, which is consistent with increased climate variability which we have seen in many locations, likely due to climate change,” he said.

The lakes are experiencing a rapid rise in water levels after a 14-year low.

Lake levels were at near-record lows in 1999, and continued for years until 2013, when levels began to rise.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers expects the lakes will continue to rise for the next couple of months due to abundant snowfall over the winter and recent wet conditions. Watkins said there is “always uncertainty” in these forecasts because it depends on the summer rainfall.

A recent Ohio Department of Natural Resources report stated concerns over Lake Erie and how the winds and waves could cause more flooding and erosion.

“There is definitely a threat of coastal flooding and erosion, primarily during storms and high wind events. High water levels on the lakes essentially increase the risk of flooding and erosion, since wave heights will be on top of the already high water levels,” Watkins said. “Wetland communities require intermittent periods of drying and flooding, so if lake levels remain high for an extended period of time, it could have a negative impact. Coastal erosion could also have negative impacts at local scales.”

With inland lakes, Watkins said he expects these water levels to be higher than average right now too, and it could continue throughout the summer.

LOCAL LAKES

The Genesee County Drain Commission (GCDC) monitors the water levels for the Linden and Fenton millponds.

A computer system, with sensors at the dam and at North Road where the river runs into Lake Ponemah, measures the levels every three hours and makes adjustments when needed.

The GCDC uses weirs, which are concrete walls with a surrounding steel plate placed across an opening, to measure the water levels of other area lakes.

Lake Fenton has two weirs that control the water level. Thomas Broecker, Fenton Township operations manager and deputy clerk, said he’s not aware of any calls to the township with concerns about lake levels in the township.

“While I’m far from an expert on the subject, my own observation is that the lake levels are generally a little on the high side this spring, but not high enough to cause any significant flooding,” he said.

According to Dan Czarnecki, public works director for the city of Fenton, for Silver Lake the water level is regulated by the drain commissioner’s office as there is a pipe under Silver Lake Road that connects it to Lake Ponemah, and there is a valve in the pipe that regulates the level.

As for the Mill Pond water levels, Czarnecki said they are slightly elevated, about 3-6 inches higher than what he would think is normal, but they do not appear to be causing any problems.

“While I’m far from an expert on the subject, my own observation is that the lake levels are generally a little on the high side this spring, but not high enough to cause any significant flooding,” he said.

Luke Trumble, Department of Environmental Quality dam safety engineer, said there’s no one state agency that regulates inland lake levels, but the DEQ and county drain commissioners monitor dams and water levels.

“It’s been a pretty wet May so far. The levels at dams or in rivers are at or above average,” he said. “They monitor this by measuring how much water flows through the dams. Rain has been a contributing factor. But, water levels on inland lakes are not setting any records this year. “There may be some fluctuations. Lakes with dams should be relatively stable,” he said.

**CORRECTION:** In the Sunday, May 12 Weekend edition, in “Looking Back in Local History,” it was reported that on May 14, 1972, Washington Senators pitcher Walter Johnson threw his 54th consecutive scoreless inning... The year was actually 1914.
JUSTICE
Continued from Front Page

to evaluate Michigan’s justice system and identify best practices for reform. Mueller will serve as the sole designee of the speaker.

“This issue hits very close to home for me,” Mueller said via a news release. “As a former deputy, I have seen these issues firsthand and know how the system works and doesn’t work. Reforming our justice system and making it better for all Michiganders is something I am passionate about. I look forward to working with my fellow members to dig deep and find real solutions.”

According to Gov. Gretchen Whitmer’s Executive Order 2019-10, little statewide data exist to account for who is booked into local jails, how long they stay, and why.

National sources show Michigan jail populations tripling in the last 35 years. With crime now at a 50-year low, hundreds of thousands are still admitted to Michigan jails every year, and people are staying in jail longer on average than before. And roughly half of the people held in Michigan’s jails on any given day have not been convicted of a crime and are constitutionally presumed innocent as they await trial.

According to the executive order, “A significant portion of county budgets in Michigan go to justice-system costs. Growth in jail populations has stretched county resources, leaving less for investment in treatment services, crime prevention, victim services, economic development, and other local priorities.”

Michigan’s elected leaders are committed to good government, transparency, responsible spending of taxpayer resources, and to the constitutional guarantees of liberty, due process, and equal protection of the laws, according to the executive order. The elected leaders of this state have a strong interest in easing the burden on county budgets, taxpayers, and citizens by ensuring jail beds are used in targeted ways that promote public safety and economic stability.

To that end, the bipartisan, inter-branch task force, comprised of 21 members from the executive, judicial, and legislative branches and community leaders from across the state, including representatives from law enforcement, has been created.

The members will take an all-aspect approach by examining data, research, and constitutional principles to set recommendations for statewide policy and budgetary practices.

Residents of the 51st House district who have questions or ideas regarding the task force may contact Mueller’s office by calling (517) 373-1780 or emailing MikeMueller@house.mi.gov.

TASK FORCE ACTION ITEMS
The following, according to Gov. Gretchen Whitmer’s Executive Order 2019-10, are specific actions the task force plans to address.

• To expand jail alternatives for those who can be managed in the community
• To safely reduce jail admissions, length of stay, and associated costs
• To support consistent, objective, and evidence-based pretrial decision-making
• To provide services and support to crime victims
• To improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the state’s and counties’ justice and public safety systems
• To better align practices with research and constitutional mandates

NEWS
BRIEFS

STATE REP. MIKE MUELLER SCHEDULES LOCAL OFFICE HOURS ON MAY 24
State Rep. Mike Mueller of Fenton Township will host district office hours Friday, May 24 to meet with local residents of the 51st district. “I believe it is important to prioritize accessibility,” Mueller said. “As your voice in Lansing, I want to know your thoughts and questions. I hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to have a one-on-one conversation about the state issues you care about most.” Office hours are scheduled from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at village of Goodrich Hall, 7338 S. State Rd. in Goodrich. No appointment is necessary. Residents unable to attend may contact Mueller’s office by calling (517) 373-1780 or by email at MikeMueller@house.mi.gov.

WINGS OF MERCY
Continued from Page 9A
Memorable patient stories

Wings of Mercy tends to fly patients requiring care at specialized facilities. They’ve transported patients with many different organ transplants, difficult cancers and a patient headed to experimental heart surgery.

One of Welch’s all-time favorites was a teen girl born with no lower jaw. He said she couldn’t eat or speak, and had a difficult life. The family found a surgeon in New York who could rebuild her jaw. “We took her, and over the course of five trips, she got a jaw, and she got to be like other kids, just an incredible life-changing procedure for her; that one was special, there’s been so many special ones,” Welch said.

“We’ve taken a geriatric patient who suffered from dwarfism for a very complicated rebuilding of disintegrating vertebrae,” Welch said.

He remembers a man who was crippled with diabetes. After receiving a new pancreas he was able to take his first bite of ice cream.

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FOSTER CARE
Continued from Page 3A
“Foster kids come to you with a lot of baggage,” she said. “It can take a couple years before it comes to a head.” She said the agency was not transparent with the issues some children had. It took a year to learn that both girls had been diagnosed with ADHD.
“I think they need more help through the adoption places to have more therapy for them,” John said. He said they need help realizing the issues aren’t the kids’ fault.
Still, the family is proud of their status as adopters and adoptees. They emphasize that these parents chose their children.

A challenging experience
“You have to have a strong backbone, and patience,” Rosa said, to foster children.
They fostered 10 other children between 2008 and 2015. Some were twins, others individual children. At one time, they had three siblings together, and they were not toilet trained. “They were all in diapers; it was crazy,” Rosa said.
Fostering is short term. However, they had Nicholas for three years only due to the complicated process of adopting him.
Sometimes children simply spent the night, in what Rosa called “respite.” Others were only with them for a few months. Once they had a set of twins for four months, and they eventually returned to their biological mother.
Taking foster children on custody visits was a stressful experience for the children.
Rosa would like to see more support and information for foster families. “When we started fostering we had to learn everything on our own,” she said.

The fostering process
To learn more about becoming a foster family, go to Michigan.gov/hopeforahome.
Rosa said that fostering includes some financial support for families. She said they were given $200 per child for clothing per season, and $30 allowance every two weeks. She had WIC to help the girls.
Rosa said they first had to submit to fingerprinting and a background check. After training, they were able to accept foster children, based on age parameters they chose.

(From left) Adopted foster children Baylee, Nicholas and Bree stand for a family photo in 2014. Submitted photo

Nicholas Earley (black shirt) watches fourth-grade classmates play GaGa Ball during recess at Tomek-Eastern Elementary School on Wednesday, May 15. He was the last child his parents fostered and adopted. Photo: Tim Jagielo

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Safe and inexpensive solutions to get rid of those pesky insects

Compiled by Vera Hogan

It’s that time again when the flying, buzzing, biting things come out. Rather than poisoning yourself, your family or your pets to get rid of annoying insects, here are some safe, alternatives:

All-purpose outdoor insect spray: Mix one chopped garlic clove, one chopped small onion, and one tablespoon cayenne powder with one-quart water. Allow to steep one hour, then add one tablespoon liquid dishwashing soap, like blue Dawn or Ivory liquid. This all-purpose insect spray remains potent for only one week, so use it up by spraying the exterior perimeter of the house.

Ants: Repel an ant invasion by washing countertops, cabinets and floors with equal parts water and vinegar.

Aphids: Mix 1 gallon water, 1 tablespoon vegetable oil, and 2 tablespoons Ivory liquid. Spray on plants where aphid damage is evident.

Bugs, spiders, ants: To prevent ants, spiders, and bugs from entering your home or other structures, spray the foundation and the grout within a foot of the wall with a mixture of 1/2 cup ground lemon (you can puree the lemon in a blender or food processor) including the rind plus one gallon of water. Apply with a garden sprinkling can. Not only is the weak solution versatile, but it’s also mild, cheap and environmentally sound.

Fly and insect spray: Rubbing alcohol makes a great fly and insect spray. Fine mist evaporates quickly and is not harmful to anyone but the pests. This doesn’t necessarily kill them but anesthetizes the little guys, so once they’re asleep, dispose of quickly.

Fruit flies: Set out a small dish of apple cider vinegar (white vinegar will not work, it must be apple cider vinegar) to which you’ve added a few drops of detergent. Cover with plastic wrap then pull back the wrap along part of the edge to give an entrance point. Fruit flies fly in and never come out.

Mice: Use peanut butter as bait for your mousetraps. You can reset the traps and catch several mice before you need to add bait.

Moths: Make sachets of dried lavender or equal portions of rosemary and mint. Place in closets, drawers, or closed containers to mothproof garments.

Silverfish: To get rid of silverfish, put about 1/4 inch of flour in a small, straight-sided glass. Run a strip of adhesive tape from bottom to top on the outside. Silverfish will travel up the tape and drop into the glass, but they won’t be able to get back out. Place one of these traps in each room where you’ve seen silverfish.

Snails and slugs: To keep snails and slugs out of your garden sink pie pans in the garden so the rims are flush with the ground. Fill with beer. The slugs and snails will be attracted to the beer, which will be their final undoing.

Snails: Snails will turn around and go the other way rather than cross a protective border of sand, lime, or ashes.

Spiders: To discourage spiders spray rubbing alcohol on windowsills.

Tacky fly swatter: For fruit flies and other tiny flying insects that a regular fly swatter just seems to miss, put a few strips of double-backed tape on your flyswatter.

Tape that sucker. Don’t squash a bug crawling on your wall, drapes or anywhere else it can stain. Just “apply” a strip of tape; the bug adheres to it and can be disposed of.

Wasp repellent. Toilet-bowl deodorizers nailed by the door, placed near wastebaskets or set on a windowsill will keep wasps away. They hate the smell.

Source: everydaycheapskate.com
Fifth-ranked Holly continues to play tough competition

By David Troppens

The Holly varsity girls tennis team traditionally prepares for the regional and state meets by facing some strongest teams in the state of Michigan.

This year is no exception. Recently, the squad competed in an event that included two of the top 10 teams in the state of Michigan, including top-ranked Grosse Pointe South. Seventh-ranked Troy was included in that event as well, and Holly followed up the demanding quad with a dual against Troy.

The fifth-ranked team in Division 2, had some reasonable success against those squads, earning four points at the quad and losing a competitive 6-2 dual against Troy. They also faced Birmingham Groves on Tuesday, earning a 5-3 victory. An update on Holly’s regional action can be found at myfenton.com.

CONTINUED AT MYFENTON.COM

FLaX Heat win rematch vs. LF/Goodrich co-op

By David Troppens

Goodrich — The last time the Lake Fenton/Goodrich varsity girls lacrosse team faced off against the Fenton/Linden co-op squad, the two teams played what probably was their most entertaining game of the season.

The Fenton/Linden co-op (FLaX Heat) won a thrilling 8-7 verdict.

The Heat didn’t want it to be a thriller again the second time the two teams faced.

The squad worked on some of the things they didn’t do well in the first game, scored five straight goals in the first half to take a 5-2 halftime lead and never trailed in the second half en route to a 12-7 victory against Lake Fenton/Goodrich.

“It was really important to win this game because the last game was so close,” Heat senior Sarah Reuschlein said. “We practiced a lot to beat them and practiced a lot of the things that we were not so good at last time, so we could be better at those things this time. Clearly we were.”

“The kids worked hard,” Heat coach Roger Ellis said. “We were patient, made wide open passes and good things happened. They made some shifty moves.”

The Lake Fenton/Goodrich co-op scored the game’s first goal, but the Heat followed with the next five goals.

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Fenton baseball splits with Mustangs

By David Troppens

Fenton — The Fenton varsity baseball team’s chances at earning a Metro League title took a serious downturn on Thursday.

The Tigers started out just fine against the Clio Mustangs, winning the first game 6-1. However, the Tigers fell behind the Flushing Raiders by three games in the loss column when Fenton lost to Clio 6-1.

In the opener, the Tigers were tied at 1-1 when Fenton scored three runs in the third inning to take the lead for good. Logan Angel singled and an out later, consecutive walks to Ryan Adams, Logan Welch, Spencer Rivera and Josh Brown had consecutive walks, plating two of the runs.

Connor Luck hit a sacrifice fly, giving Fenton (10-3 in the Metro and 15-10 overall) a 4-1 lead.

CONTINUED AT MYFENTON.COM

LF softball’s offense sparks sweep vs. Goodrich

By David Troppens

The Lake Fenton varsity softball team can hit the ball. That has become evident this season.

The Blue Devils hit the ball again on Thursday, sweeping rival Goodrich in a doubleheader. The Blue Devils won a tight 8-7 contest in the opening game, but crushed the Martians in the second game 24-12.

Lake Fenton had the lead for most of the first game, but Goodrich scored six runs in the top of the sixth and a run in the top of the seventh, tying the game at 7-all. Lake Fenton drove in the game-winning run in the bottom of the seventh. With one out, Taylor Goodlewski singled.

CONTINUED AT MYFENTON.COM

Online Stories

Linden track sweeps Swartz Creek, Kearsley

The Linden varsity girls track and field team will enter next week’s Flint Metro League Meet in fourth place.

The Eagles earned that status by sweeping Swartz Creek and Kearsley in a dual on Tuesday. The Eagles (5-3 in the Metro) defeated Kearsley 104-32 and beat Swartz Creek 83-54.

Linden's win vs. Owosso places team in third

The Linden varsity girls soccer team had ended the Flint Metro League season in outright third place.

The Eagles earned that status by sweeping Swartz Creek and Kearsley in a dual on Tuesday. The Eagles (5-3 in the Metro) defeated Kearsley 104-32 and beat Swartz Creek 83-54.

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Holly soccer defeats Mustangs, finishes in fourth

The Holly varsity girls soccer team has ended the Flint Metro League season in fourth place.

The Bronchos locked up fourth place by defeating the Clio Mustangs 3-2 in the final league contest of the season.

Linden's win vs. Owosso places team in third

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Linden softball splits with Owosso, still in first place in Metro League

By David Troppens

The Linden varsity softball team found themselves in a battle for first place against the Owosso Trojans.

The Eagles earned a split and left Owosso still a game ahead of the Trojans in the loss column.

The squads played two tight contests. Linden won the opener in the seventh inning while Owosso won the second game 4-2.

In the opener, the Eagles trailed 3-2 entering the seventh, but scored two runs in the top of the inning and earned the victory. The inning started with a Jillian Widner walk. Ellie Klocek singled and Mikayla Detman hit a two-run double to center, earning Linden the 4-3 lead.

Fenton softball’s offense sparks sweep vs. Mustangs, sneaking closer to first place

By David Troppens

Fenton is closing in on the Metro League lead in the varsity softball race.

The Tigers swept Clio in a doubleheader, moving Fenton (12-2 in the Metro and 20-5 overall) to just one game in the loss column behind the Linden Eagles in the Metro race.

Fenton won the opener 14-10 and won the second game 5-4.

In the opener, Fenton scored five runs in the first, two in the second and four in the fourth to take an 11-3 lead. Clio tried to get back into the contest, but were unable to get any closer than the final score.

Holly pitching staff sparks baseball sweep

By David Troppens

The Holly varsity baseball team used its pitching staff and some hitting heroics to earn a sweep against Kearsley.

In the opening game, Nolan Jenkinson pitched a six-hitter, leading the Bronchos to the 8-0 victory. He struck out five.

In the second contest, Brendan Kreft pitched six innings of seven-hit ball and Mason Jewell pitched a scoreless seventh, leading the defense. At the plate, Aaron Lockitski broke up a 2-2 tie with a game-winning walk-off double, plating Jacob Bridgewater, who opened the inning with a single. Holly won 3-2.

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Linden softball splits with Owosso, still in first place in Metro League

By David Troppens

The Linden varsity softball team found themselves in a battle for first place against the Owosso Trojans. The Eagles earned a split and left Owosso still a game ahead of the Trojans in the loss column. The squads played two tight contests. Linden won the opener in the seventh inning while Owosso won the second game 4-2.

In the opener, the Eagles trailed 3-2 entering the seventh, but scored two runs in the top of the inning and earned the victory. The inning started with a Jillian Widner walk. Ellie Klocek singled and Mikayla Detman hit a two-run double to center, earning Linden the 4-3 lead.

Fenton baseball sweeps Gabriel Richard

The Fenton varsity baseball team used a lot of pitchers in the squad’s doubleheader against non-league Gabriel Richard on Tuesday.

Pretty much all of them pitched well as the Tigers earned a doubleheader sweep, beating Gabriel Richard 6-2 and 4-1.