Local men busted in high-profile sex crimes sting

Sheriff’s office uses new task force to crack down on underage sex crimes

By Hannah Ball

On Monday, June 10, Genesee County Sheriff Robert Pickell announced charges for 22 people who allegedly solicited sex from children.

One of those charged was Carl Spradlin, 59, of Holly Township, who faces one count of child sexually abusive activity, one count of accosting a child for immoral purposes and one count of using a computer/internet to commit a crime. He is represented by attorney Frank Manley.

Other local defendants include Kurtis Statler, 25, of Fenton Township, who is charged with one count of child sexually abusive activity, using a computer/internet to commit a crime, and accosting a child for immoral purposes. His bond is

See SEX CRIMES on 9

The cat killer of Tyrone

Accusers say feral feline fatalities are causing rodent infestation

By Vera Hogan

The Tri-County Times has received several Hot lines and other anonymous tips regarding “The cat killer in Tyrone.” While we don’t normally entertain anonymous tips, this one is somewhat intriguing and warrants further investigation.

In an anonymous letter to the editor, one writer, who claims he or she lives in Section 35 of Tyrone Township, says the “cat killer in Tyrone needs to be found and held accountable. I have a

See CAT KILLER on 8

A successful recycle day — Liz Palmer of Ypsilanti sorts light bulbs, medication bottles and sharp items at the Genesee County Recycle Day at Fenton High School on Saturday, June 8. Comparable events have accepted 160,000 pounds of items, most of which are recycled. See story on Page 2. Photo: Tim Jagielo

Bids opened for North Road roundabout project

Lowest bid comes in nearly $92,000 higher than engineer’s estimate

By Vera Hogan

The bids for the city of Fenton’s North Road “roundabout” construction project were opened Friday, June 7 at MDOT (Michigan Department of Transportation), according to Public Works Director Dan Czarnecki.

The three lowest bidders are: L.A. Construction Corp. Inc. at $1,348,661.41; Champagne & Marx at $1,404,619.75; and Zito Construction at $1,420,728.20.

“The ‘Engineer’s Opinion of Probable Construction Costs’

See ROUNDABOUT on 6

‘Thank you for the wonderful article on the local recycling program. May we all follow the clear instructions to make our world a better place.”

“Loved the story on Little League ‘Life Lessons.’ Here’s another one — keep a close eye on the league money, demand transparency and hold board members accountable.”

“Yay! Concerts in the Park started Thursday. Agreeing with the Hot-liner on leaving pets at home. There are six other days to take your pets for a much more leisurely walk through the park.”
1,300 people take advantage of recycle day

Past events have processed 160,000 pounds of hazardous materials from county residents

By Tim Jagielo
Fenton — On Saturday, June 8, dozens of vehicles lined up on Donaldson Drive at Fenton High School for the local Genesee County Recycle Day. Their vehicles were laden with old tires, cans of paint and unwanted electronics.

“These are items that are difficult to get rid of, and we’re doing it in such a way that is environmentally friendly,” said Cody Roblyer, planning specialist with the Genesee County Metropolitan Planning Commission (GCMPC).

Items like large non-flat screen computer monitors aren’t taken by many electronic recyclers because of the lead and toxic materials inside, however, they were accepted Saturday.

This is the first time in several years that a Genesee County Recycle Day has been held in the tri-county area. According to the Roblyer, the day was successful, with 1,362 vehicles coming through.

It takes a couple weeks to get detailed results back for a recycle day, but in 2018, 160,000 pounds, or 80 tons was collected at a comparable recycling event in Grand Blanc.

“Every year it seems like it’s more popular,” Roblyer said.

Residents also seemed to appreciate the service, often thanking the workers as they pulled materials from their vehicles or trailers, putting them on carts for sorting.

Those dropping off items drove their vehicles through the parking lot in two lanes with various stations and several attendants per station. The first stations were for household hazardous waste. This included anything with mercury, oils, gasoline, medications and batteries.

While paint was included in this “department,” the amount was enough to warrant its own area.

They also collected a large volume of electronics, which included TVs, computers and cell phones.

A separate trailer area was set up for collecting passenger vehicle tires.

The GCMPC handles suburban sites, while the city of Flint handles its own site. The GCMPC contracts with ERG Environmental Services (Environmental Waste Management and Remediation) to handle the operation. Roblyer said it costs between $50,000 and $60,000 for the service. ERG sorts all the materials and prepares a detailed list of what was turned in to them.

In 2018 160,000 pounds was collected. Of this amount, 100,000 was

See RECYCLE on 8
Lizzie Edgar, with a passion for horses is now 26 and a successful equestrian

By Sally Rummel

Lizzie Edgar, 26, was like many other little girls her age in the 1990s who grew up with a romantic notion of horses and the idea of riding one of her own into the sunset someday.

She spent her early horse-crazy years collecting Breyer model horses and having horse storybooks read to her at bedtime. She was enthralled every time her parents, Bill and Julie Edgar, drove into town by a horse pasture near her family’s Tyrone Township home.

When she was 8 years old, her mom mentioned Lizzie’s fascination with horses to a woman at church, who happened to own a horse barn and had a trainer who gave lessons.

That one small conversation turned the young girl’s dream into reality. Today, Edgar is an accomplished equestrian with her own four show horses and a lifelong dream into reality. Today, Edgar is an accomplished equestrian with her own four show horses and a lifelong dream into reality.

Lizzie Edgar, with a passion for horses is now 26 and a successful equestrian

Edgar credits her trainers, Sena Bowling, head trainer at Silver Lake Stables in Fenton, home to one of her horses. Sena Bowling, head trainer at Silver Lake Stables in Fenton, home to one of her horses.

When she was 8 years old, her mom mentioned Lizzie’s fascination with horses to a woman at church, who happened to own a horse barn and had a trainer who gave lessons.

That one small conversation turned the young girl’s dream into reality. Today, Edgar is an accomplished equestrian with her own four show horses and a lifelong passion for showing her horses in English-style Saddle Seat Division events throughout the Midwest.

The goal of a Saddle Seat Division is to highlight horses with showy, distinctive gaits, a stunning combination with the elegant tack worn by the horse and the formal wear of the rider. “Our style is about making the horse look as good as possible,” Edgar said. “The American Saddlebred is the ‘peacock’ of the show ring. They love to hear people clap.”

Edgar admits that riding and showing horses gives her an adrenaline rush like nothing else. “It’s the closest thing I can get to the feeling of being limitless,” she said. “You and the animal are working in sync with each other. We might not be riding off into the sunset together, but the relationship is as beautiful as the movies make it seem.”

Today, Edgar makes her home in Oberlin, Ohio, working as a grant coordinator at Oberlin College, her undergraduate alma mater. She was a Fenton High School graduate and valedictorian in 2011.

She spends most weekends during show season at home in Tyrone Township, not too far from Taylor Creek Stables in Davison, where three of her horses board and Silver Lake Stables in Fenton, home to one of her horses.

Last year at the World’s Championship in Louisville, Kentucky, Edgar and her horse, Mien Lalique (a.k.a Lily) earned an adult amateur ribbon – the proudest moment of Edgar’s show career.

Lily and Lily’s full sister, Makesa, are the offspring of Edgar’s first show horse, Crystal Day. “This was my crowning achievement,” Edgar said. “To take a ribbon with the horse we bred and raised was pretty much the highlight.”

Her third horse is Tesoro (a.k.a. Tony), the son of Edgar’s second show horse, Worthy’s Treasure. Her fourth horse is Kalarama’s My Shot (a.k.a. Cole), just recently purchased. She’ll show Lily, Mikasa, and Tony throughout the season and a trainer plans to show Cole before the season ends in November.

Edgar credits her trainers, Sena Bowling, head trainer and Lauren Greenwald, assistant trainer, who work out of both stables, and her parents for her show career success. “My parents love it as much as I do,” she said. “Even though they don’t ride, they love the horses and we’re all in it for each show season.”

Lizzie Edgar, with a passion for horses is now 26 and a successful equestrian

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Lizzie Edgar takes a victory pass with Mien Lalique at the 2019 Heartland Classic Horse Show in Springfield, Ohio on May 12 after winning the amateur five-gaited championship. Photo courtesy of Terry Young

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I ran into a former neighbor a couple of weeks ago when I played in the Fenton Chamber’s annual golf outing at Coyote Preserve Golf Club.

At one of the holes, Olivia Nagel was volunteering and promoting Whaley Children’s Center in Flint. She graduated from Lake Fenton in 2014. She has three brothers, Alexander, Vincent, and Joseph, and says her mom, Linda, is her best friend and biggest supporter. She graduated from the University of Michigan-Flint in 2018 with a degree in business administration and marketing.

When I asked Olivia how she got involved with Whaley Children’s Center, she said, “In my senior year of college, I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to work in my degree field at Two Men and a Truck as their marketing director. A huge value of Two Men and a Truck is giving back to the community. We did charity moves for Whaley Children’s Center events.”

Whaley later offered her a development coordinator position. “That’s when I truly learned the importance of sincere relationships and how vital they are to opportunities,” she said. At Whaley, Olivia’s team handles donations, fundraising, events, and volunteers. “I specialize in the event planning portion. They call us the ‘fun aunts’ of Whaley.”

She’s learned just how important Whaley is to children, many from other counties. “All of our kids have been severely abused and neglected, so to house them in the same area as their perpetrator would be unsafe. I know I have learned a lot, not only about our kids and the foster care system, but about myself.”

Whaley is 80-percent state funded. The remaining 20 percent is from fundraisers. “The things that let our kids be kids and have the childhood every child deserves,” she said. “We heavily rely on support from our community.”

Olivia has many positive stories to share about Whaley. “My favorite story is about a 14-year-old boy who I was very close to. He was having visits with his potential foster family. I still remember exactly what he told me — that he is proud of the person he will soon call his brother. He proceeded to thank me for working at Whaley and caring for him. I had to hide my tears. For a 14-year-old boy, who has been through hell and back, to speak words so mature and unselfish blew me away.”

Whaley is in need of mentors and volunteers. She added that they accept donations for anything 5- to 17-year-old children may need. They have three major fundraising events a year and tours of the facility are available.

As much as Olivia wants to travel the world and experience everything, she wants to stay involved in the Flint community and contribute to its comeback. Visit whaleychildren.org for details.

— Sharon Stone is the editor of the Tri-County Times. To contact her, email her at sstone@tctimes.com or call her at (810) 433-6786.

What might you change about yourself? Compiled by Tim Jagielo, media editor

“My weight; my stomach. I’ve been skipping exercise. I’d like to restart sit-ups, push-ups and walking.”

— Keith Joseph
Grand Blanc

“I’m a loner; I would like to be more social, but I have a tendency to stay home and watch TV.”

— Paul Panchula
Fenton Township

“I would say ‘no’ more, to new commitments. Right now, there’s so much going on. I would work on not taking on so much at one time.”

— Deborah Lee
Tyrone Township

“I probably wouldn’t smoke cigarettes. I’ve been trying to quit for decades. I also wish I could wind down more after a day of stress.”

— Mark Elie
Fenton Township

“I would try to reduce my anxiety. Try to stop stretching myself so thin; spend more time in a resting state.”

— Jennifer Bond
Fenton Township
Gaines dog sets Guinness World Record

Whippet jumps 35 feet, 3 inches in dock diving event

By Hannah Ball

Slingshot, a dog from Gaines, was inducted into the Guinness Book of World Records for farthest jump by a dog in dock jumping.

In July 2018, the 4-year-old whippet, owned by Rachael and Dan Brinkman of Einstein Dog Training in Fenton, set a national record in the event Friday, July 20 at Farmington Fido Fest when he jumped 31 feet and 2 inches.

He jumped even farther less than two months later on Sept. 2, 2018 when he jumped 35 feet and 3 inches in Brookville, Ohio. The jump happened at K9 Splash Zone, a North America Diving Dogs (NADD) sanctioned event.

This jump is a Guinness World Record.

“It was intense. It was a whirlwind of emotions,” Rachael Brinkman said. The 2018 season was busy for Slingshot. He set 12 records for multiple organizations.

The Ohio event was a qualifier for the championship, which was held in Orlando, Florida this past December. Brinkman had plans for Slingshot to compete, but about six weeks before the date, Slingshot broke his tail.

“He was on strict crate rest. No exercise except leash walking,” she said. But, right before the championship, he was given the okay to compete. He had one day of practice and then competed in Orlando.

He took second place.

“It was amazing he was able to pull that off after six weeks of rest,” Brinkman said.

The Brinkman’s will receive a certificate and a plaque for Slingshot setting the world record.

“To people that don’t know the dog sports lingo, when I tell them that it’s the Guinness Book of World Record ... people understand that kind of accomplishment. It’s exciting to have reached that,” she said.

Slingshot is back on track with his training and is currently preparing for a competition in Illinois next weekend.

Then they’re headed to Colorado for the Purina Pro Plan Incredible Dog Challenge Qualifier.

The 4-year-old whippet also will be featured on TV starting this weekend for three Saturdays in a row. He won a dock diving competition at the Super Retriever Series Crown Championship, where he set a record. The event will air on the Discovery Channel.
A roundabout is coming to the North and Torrey roads intersection.

**Roundabout**
Continued from Front Page

(engineer’s estimate) for the project is $1,266,726,” Czarnecki said. “The difference in cost between the estimate and the low bid is $91,935.41, or about 7.25 percent.”

The engineers with OHM Advisors put together the estimate and will now be looking for ways to lower the project costs.

The City Council approved the project and estimated cost when they approved the MDOT contract May 28. The cost at that time was based on the engineers’ estimate.

“I will be keeping council informed of the bids and how we are going to keep the costs as close to the project estimate as possible,” Czarnecki said. “When the engineer reviews the estimate line by line they may be able to find places where small changes could save the city money.”

Czarnecki said it is unlikely that the city would go out for a new set of bids.

Czarnecki said he is not familiar with the work of the lowest bidder, but has worked with Champagne & Marks on several city projects, such as Streetscape, Poplar Street, Caroline Street extension, and a few other smaller projects.

“Their results were very good,” he said. Once the financial end of the project is straightened out, construction is set to start on the northeast side of Torrey Road to Oak Park after the July 4 holiday and be completed before the start of school year. The roundabout portion of the project is expected to start after Labor Day and be completed by mid-November.

Czarnecki said Monday, “At this moment the start and finish times are good if all goes to plan. I think it should start on time. The weather and other factors out of our control will dictate the ending date.”

**Background**

On Dec. 10, 2018, the Fenton City Council voted to adopt a resolution supporting the addition of a roundabout at the North and Torrey roads intersection. The city will be receiving Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) funds to improve North Road, from Oak Park to U.S. 23, which includes the North/Torrey intersection.

In the subsequent Dec. 12, 2018 Times article, “Fenton could see its first roundabout at North and Torrey roads” garnered more than 400 online comments by people wishing to weigh in on the matter.

Nearly all of those who commented agree that something needs to be done at that intersection, but they are divided over whether the best solution would be a traffic light, or the roundabout approved by the City Council. The majority leaned toward a traffic light. Many said roundabouts are too difficult to navigate and that a traffic signal would be sufficient to solve the problem.

**Input from affected businesses**

Matt Cormier of Matt & Terry’s Market voiced his concerns at the Dec. 3, 2018 meeting. His concern about safety at the current intersection also involves access for deliveries along with vehicles towing boats and trailers with the traffic signal option. Cormier stated a roundabout would be a plus.

Doug Smith, owner of Smitty’s Exit 80, said of the coming roundabout, “I absolutely love it.”

A traffic signal would require the closure of one of Matt & Terry’s entrances and one of Exit 80’s. “Those entrances are where all the delivery trucks go,” he said.

“There’s no space to go straight through, it’s gonna be a lot better than it is now,” Lisa Reading owns Beale Street BBQ with her father Phil Canup. “I’m sure it will be safer but I’m worried about having construction right in front of us,” she said last December. “I don’t mind them (roundabouts), but I’m not sure if that’s what we need. Just a simple light would work.”

Reading said her father hates roundabouts. “He would totally not want a roundabout right there,” she said.

Mayor Sue Osborn has said she is not in favor of the roundabout. “There’s a lot of traffic in that area and I’m not sure it’s worth all that money for something that may not work,” she said.

**What is a roundabout?**

A roundabout is a circular intersection design. While some people use the term “roundabouts” and “traffic circles” interchangeably, they are not the same thing. Roundabouts are typically smaller than traffic circles, and drivers must yield to vehicles already in the roundabout before entering. According to the Michigan Department of Transportation, roundabouts have been proven to safely decrease traffic delays and congestion. When selected and designed correctly, roundabouts can handle a high volume of traffic, including commercial trucks and large emergency vehicles.
**The burden of proof**

Under our justice system whenever a matter proceeds to trial, the party filing the case is always required to present evidence to prove their claims. The law calls this “The Burden of Proof.”

In a criminal case, this burden is on the prosecutor representing the government and in a civil case, it’s on the plaintiff.

If the burden of proof is not met in a criminal case, it results in a not guilty verdict and in a civil case a no cause of action verdict or dismissal.

Criminal prosecutions require that the prosecutor prove each part or element of the charged crime(s) “beyond a reasonable doubt.”

In civil lawsuit cases the burden is lower and requires proof by a “preponderance of the evidence” or alternatively “clear and convincing evidence.”

Now for some explanations and definitions.

A reasonable doubt is a fair, honest doubt growing out of the evidence or lack of evidence. It is not merely an imaginary or possible doubt, but doubt based on reason and common sense.

For the preponderance standard, the plaintiff must prove the evidence to be persuasive and the claims being made are more likely than not true.

When the clear and convincing standard applies, the evidence must be strong enough for the judge or jury to have a clear and firm belief that the claims are true.

The required burden in criminal cases is higher for a number of reasons including the fact that a criminal conviction can result in incarceration and has other long-term consequences.

Why is the burden of proof important?

One of the reasons is that before a case is filed it is imperative that there be a decision made as to whether the burden can be met. If it can’t there’s no real reason to file it and if unprovable or false claims are made, the law provides that sanctions or penalties may apply.

Another reason is to ensure that before a person’s freedom or property is taken, a case is properly proved.

Historically the beyond a reasonable doubt standard and the civil preponderance standard trace their roots back to English common law.

The clear and convincing standard is a product of American jurisprudence.

I rest my case.

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**HOT LINE CONTINUED**

**MICHIGAN’S DECLINING TEACHER salaries are leaving many educators feeling undervalued and pushing some to leave the field**

**ETHANOL IS A bad deal for consumers. The only purpose ethanol blending serves is to prop up farmers in politically important agricultural states such as Iowa and Ohio. Gasoline with ethanol blends gets less gas mileage than non-blended fuel, meaning that drivers consume more gasoline.**

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JansCleaners.com
Fenton’s mosquito control contract modified

Compiled by Vera Hogan

The Fenton City Council has voted to extend the mosquito control program it has been utilizing for several years to include the 2019 season.

“We plan to bid out the service next year,” said City Manager Lynn Markland in a memo to Mayor Sue Osborn and the council.

“The current balance will cover about half of the costs through the end of 2019,” said Tamara Seago, owner of APM Mosquito Control. “It is projected that an additional $8,500 may be necessary on the final invoice to cover anticipated work over the next four months.

“This is a projection based on normal weather patterns,” Seago said. “Please note that APM will only invoice for actual work performed.”

The typical mosquito treatment period runs through the end of September, depending on outside air temperatures and mosquito activity. APM agrees to continue services as necessary through Oct. 31, 2019.

CAT KILLER

Continued from Front Page

working farm and all of my cats are gone. This has caused financial hardship due to rodent infestation and crop loss.”

The writer further states, “Did this person trespass on private property to kill the cats or were they killed from the road? Both of these actions are illegal. There needs to be an investigation, prosecution and jail time. The farmers should be compensated for their losses as well. This person is mentally unwell and a danger to the community at large.”

Another anonymous Hot line writer said, “There’s a very sick person in Tyrone Township. It’s a well known fact that people who kill animals for fun move on to humans next. For the community’s safety, please find those responsible for the cat killings and prosecute. My working barn cat was a victim.”

There are a few problems with these statements. First, since they are made anonymously and there is no information on when and exactly where these feral feline fatalities occurred.

Also, how many cats were killed and what was the manner of death? Were they shot dead with a firearm, poisoned, bagged up and thrown in a pond or lake, or were they run over by a vehicle? That information would determine whether the cat killings were perpetrated by a human being and not by animals, such as wild dogs or coyotes. Did these events take place on one farm or more?

In the event animals committed the crimes, there obviously would be no prosecution, jail time or compensation.

Tyrone Township Supervisor Mike Cunningham is aware of these accusations via an anonymous letter sent to the township. He, however, cannot do anything either due to the lack of information.

If the accuser or anyone else with serious information wishes to come forward, provide their name and contact information for the record, they may contact news@tctimes.com. They could also contact the Livingston County Sheriff’s Office at (517) 546-2440 and file a complaint.

What is a feral cat?

According to forgottencats.org, feral cats are the result of a domestic cat being abandoned or lost and left to fend for itself. The offspring of the domestic (now considered feral) cat are usually never handled by people and become terrified when approached. Many times, when approached by people, they will hiss out of fright.
TRI-COUNTY AREA SUSPECTS

Carl Spradlin, 59, Holly Township
Count 1 – child sexually abusive activity - $22,500 cash surety bond
Count 2 – accosting child for immoral purposes - $15,000 (10-percent deposit)
Count 3 – using a computer/internet to commit a crime - $15,000 (10-percent deposit)
Arraigned May 25, 2019
Posted bond May 29, released
Preliminary exam June 25 at 2:30 p.m.
Attorney: Frank Manley

Kurtis David Statler, 25, Fenton Township
Count 1 – using computer/internet with another to commit crime
Count 2 – child sexually abusive activity
Count 3 – accosting child for immoral purposes
Arraigned June 8, 2019
Bond - $30,000 cash surety
Attorney: court appointed

Patrick Joel Tulip, 51, Gaines
Count 1 – child sexually abusive activity
Count 2 – accosting children for immoral purposes
Count 3 – using computer/internet with another to commit crime
Arraigned June 6, 2019
Bond - $50,000 cash surety
Attorney: court appointed

David Edward Pfenning, 49, Davison
Count 1 – child sexually abusive activity
Count 2 – accosting children for immoral purposes
Count 3 – using computer/internet with another to commit crime
Arraigned April 14, 2019
Bond of $11,500 posted
Attorney: Michael Manley

Source: Genesee County 67th District Court

SEX CRIMES
Continued from Front Page

set at $10,000 for each charge. He was lodged over the weekend and his case was sent to the clerk.

Statler has a court-appointed attorney. He is not allowed to have any contact with anyone under the age of 18 except family members, and he is not allowed to use a computer, the internet or a smartphone.

Patrick Tulip, 51, of Gaines faces the same charges and has a $50,000 bond on each charge. He has a court-appointed attorney. He has a GPS tether and is not allowed to use a cell phone.

Justin Kinder, 28, of Burton faces the same three charges. According to court records, his offense date is April 12, 2019, and his case was entered in on April 16. His bond was set at $2,500 per charge and he posted $7,500 on April 16. His case was sent to Genesee County Circuit Court. A jury trial is scheduled for Aug. 7.

Pickell released this statement on his Facebook page Sunday, June 9:

“Tomorrow the Genesee Human Opposition Strike Team (GHOST), a newly formed task force within the Genesee County Sheriff’s Office, will detail the investigation, arrests, and charges of 22 individuals for crimes related to soliciting sex with underage children.

“The suspects in the photo below were identified in a recent child sex sting operation. They are believed to have been targeting children in Genesee County for sexual purposes. While some of the suspects live in Genesee County, others traveled from Saginaw, Shiawassee, Oakland, Wayne, Lapeer, and Tuscola counties.”

GHOST arrested two people who are “accused pedophiles,” according to the statement. One is believed to have sexually assaulted a 2-year-old child. The other is believed to have assaulted a 6-year-old child.

In total, the Sheriff’s office has brought 66 felony charges against these 22 individuals, which amounts to 994 combined years of potential prison time.

“The investigation is a sobering reminder that we must be more vigilant than ever protecting our children, even when they are not in public,” Pickell said.

“Predators are increasingly becoming more adept at interacting with children through various social media platforms.”

Pickell called for law enforcement, parents and the community to work together to increase awareness of these predators and to identify them to police.

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Carnival worker loses leg in accident

Company that brings rides for Applefest says accident happened during maintenance

By Hannah Ball

On Saturday, June 8, a 22-year-old man was seriously injured while working at the Curwood Festival Carnival in Owosso.

The man is an employee of Skerbeck Family Carnival, which provides midway carnivals for festivals around Michigan, including the popular Applefest in Fenton.

Before the Owosso carnival opened for the day, the man was working on the Fire Ball ride, which is a single circular roller coaster that goes upside down at the top. The worker reportedly slipped and hurt himself. He was rushed to Hurley Medical Center where one of his legs was amputated.

Bill Skerbeck, owner of the company, said an investigation is underway and that the ride is safe.

“It was an accident. It was not during operation. It was when he was trying to perform some maintenance. It has nothing to do with safety of the ride,” he said.

Skerbeck Family Carnival released a statement:

“During a routine safety and maintenance check on the Fire Ball before opening on 10:30 a.m. on Saturday morning, there was an employee involved in an accident. He was taken to Hurley Medical in Flint. He is in stable condition. We continue to keep him in our thoughts and prayers. We’d also like to thank all of our employees, the Police and First Response of Owosso, and the Curwood Festival for their prompt response to [the] situation. We have no further information at this time.”

The Skerbeck Family Carnival, which has been in business for more than 150 years, starting as a circus in Europe and evolving into a carnival in the United States, has been providing thrill rides to the St. John Applefest visitors since 1996.

Meet

Sophia Clements

- Lake Fenton High School Salutatorian
- Navy ROTC scholarship recipient
- MVP of high school track team

By Sharon Stone

Sophia Clements graduated from Lake Fenton High School as salutatorian. She received the Navy ROTC scholarship to attend the University of Southern California. She was MVP of the track team last spring and was MVP of the volleyball team this past fall. She was also named Athlete of the Year at LFHS. She has been a volunteer with YoungLife and is a WyldLife leader. She also volunteers with the middle school youth group at Linden Presbyterian Church.

Tell us about your family.

My parents are Shannon and Jim Clements. My older brother, Remington is also in the Navy.

What were your accomplishments at Lake Fenton High School?

Female athlete of the year 2019, salutatorian, track MVP 2018, volleyball MVP 2018, and GAC scholars athlete.

How did it feel to be salutatorian?

It felt good to know that I could accomplish it especially since I got my only A- the first trimester of my freshman year. It was hard to still drive for all As when my 4.0 was already gone.

You won the Navy ROTC scholarship. How did that happen and what are your college/future plans?

The application for the scholarship required many essays, an interview with an officer, and a fitness test. It took several weeks to complete and then months to hear of a result. I was awarded the full scholarship for the University of Southern California and will be attending there in the fall, majoring in Astronautical Engineering.

What sports did you participate in?

Volleyball, track and lacrosse. I was part of the first group to play all four years of lacrosse because we started the program my freshman year.

What were your volunteer activities?

I helped run middle school youth group every Sunday, led WyldLife clubs every second Saturday night, and spent a month washing dishes everyday at a Young Life camp in Missouri.

What did you like most about Lake Fenton High School?

The sense of community seen throughout the school. There were many staff members and friends that I knew I could go to for help at any point if I needed it.

What’s the best movie you have ever seen?

Hot Rod because it is so funny and I could watch it over and over.

What’s the best book you have ever read?

The Zodiac by Robert Graysmith because it is a true story and was a very interesting inside look at the Zodiac Killer.

What makes you laugh?

Just about anything, but especially my family when we’re all joking with each other.

What’s been your favorite vacation so far?

Going to Florida for spring break with my parents and grandma because we got to sit on the beach every day and visit Kennedy Space Center.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

Either still serving in the Navy or working for NASA or SpaceX.

What advice do you have for incoming high school freshmen?

Don’t worry about what anyone thinks or says about you, make every day fun, and be yourself.
SAVE THE DATE

BOTTLES, BREWS & NEWS

VIEW NEWSPAPER GROUP’S CRAFT BEER AND WINE FEST

3 to 8 p.m. • Saturday, Sept. 28, 2019

Rackham Park Downtown Fenton

Advance tickets available at myfenton.com: $25 includes five tasting tickets and souvenir glass

Sponsorship opportunities available, call Emily Caswell at 810-452-2608
By David Troppens

**Novi** — It’s been a year of firsts for the Fenton varsity baseball team.

First, the squad found a way to win its first Division 1 district title at the Hartland district.

The squad added another new piece of hardware to their trophy case on Saturday. Playing in a regional championship game against Detroit Catholic Central, sophomore hurler Brendan Alvord needed just 92 pitches to lead the Tigers to a 6-1 victory against the Shamrocks at Novi High School. It was Fenton’s first ever regional title at the Division 1 level.

“It was great being part of the first group to ever do it,” senior Brock Henson said. “Going into the year nobody expected us to be the team we were. During the regular season we were just average, playing about .500 ball. It just shows you about the group of guys we had, how we were able to stay together, stay energized and play for each other, making this run happen. And we did it.”

“Our senior class had never won a district, and that was our goal, to win one every year since we started playing baseball. It was hard on ... all of the seniors. It was really important to us to be able to do it and make it happen — to win a district and then a regional as well was great.”

“It’s just a big milestone for the program,” fellow senior Josh Brown said. “It’s something we’ve never done before and it goes to show that a team that wasn’t supposed to make a run can make a run and make some noise.”

Fenton trailed early when

See **TIGERS’** on 14

**Linden softball falls in regional semifinal against Eaton Rapids**

By David Troppens

The Linden varsity softball team had a checklist entering the season.

When the season ended on Saturday in the regional semifinal round of the Chelsea regional, a lot of those boxes were checked on the list.

“A lot of the goals we set we accomplished,” Linden varsity softball coach Gordon Jamison said. “At the beginning of the season we put together a road map and we accomplished it all, so it’s been a very special season in that aspect. Of course, it’s nice for the girls because they worked hard and they put a lot of effort into it to achieve their goals and getting the recognition of having done that.”

Without a senior on the squad, the Eagles finished the season earning a co-Metro League championship and then advanced to winning a Division 2 district title. They ended

See **LINDEN** on 13

**Tigers’ historical season ends in super regional round**

- **Fenton captures first D1 regional title in school history**

By David Troppens

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First, the squad found a way to win its first Division 1 district title at the Hartland district.

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Fenton trailed early when

See **TIGERS’** on 14

- **Tigers fall to Brother Rice in super regional, 9-1**

By David Troppens

**Novi** — The final eight.

That’s where the Fenton varsity baseball team found itself when it played in a super regional contest at Novi High School, about 30 minutes after earning a regional championship on Saturday.

Only eight schools remained in the Division 1 state baseball tournament, and the 21-18 Fenton Tigers were one of them. Just three weeks ago, when the squad was fighting to get to .500, this didn’t really seem like a realistic goal, but the Tigers made it reality. They captured a district crown, and then earned the regional crown with their 6-1 victory against Detroit Catholic Central during the Tigers’ first contest on Saturday.

The super regional contest didn’t go the Tigers’ way. Brother Rice scored three runs in the top of the third inning and never trailed as the Tigers lost a 9-1 verdict, but the loss didn’t erase what Fenton had accomplished. The season included a first-ever Division 1 district title

See **REGIONAL** on 13
Two area golfers competed at the Division 2 boys state golf meet held at Michigan State’s Forest Akers West Golf Course.

Linden’s freshman Andrew Skellenger opened the state tournament with a pretty solid 18-hole score of 77. That left Skellenger just six strokes out of the lead entering the second day. However, he shot an 84 during his second round, finishing with a final two-day score of 161, 20 strokes behind eventual event champion Ada Forest Hills Eastern’s Brad Smithson’s 71-70-141 total.

Lake Fenton’s Avery Schaal also competed at the event, beginning the event with an 86, and capping the second day with an 80, for an overall score of 166.

Linden’s Skellenger, LF’s Schaal compete at golf state meet

By David Troppens

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Lake Fenton’s Avery Schaal also competed at the event, beginning the event with an 86, and capping the second day with an 80, for an overall score of 166.
Connor Luck (right) walked twice and doubled, against Detroit Catholic Central.

Cameron Steeves walked three times and scored two runs. He also walked once against Brother Rice in the Super Regional contest.

Logan Angel drove in three runs against Detroit Catholic Central. He had an RBI-ground out in the third inning and a two-run single in the fourth inning.

Detroit Catholic Central 100 000 0 - 1 6 0
Fenton 002 401 X - 6 5 0

Regional Championship Box Score

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Score by Inning

Detroit Catholic Central
- R H E
- 100 000 0 - 1 6 0
Fenton
- 002 401 X - 6 5 0

Errors: None.
Double plays: 2 (Fenton: Paulina, Luck); 2 (DCC: Paulina, Marra).
Triples: None.
Home runs: None.

Detroit Catholic Central

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Fenton

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The Fenton Tigers earned the school’s first-ever Division 1 district and regional title this spring. They finished the season with a 21-18 record.

Detroit Catholic Central scored a run in the first inning. Alvord struggled a bit in the first inning, allowing a game-opening walk to Danny Scott. Two outs later, Ryan Marra hit an RBI-single, putting the Shamrocks up 1-0.

After the top of the first inning, however, it was Fenton, and Alvord, who dominated. And while Alvord took over, DCC starter Brendan Burke struggled with his control. That became apparent in the bottom of the third. Fenton’s Ryan Adams walked and an out later, Cam Steeves also walked. Connor Luck tied the game with an RBI-double, followed by Logan Angel’s RBI-ground out, putting the Shamrocks up 1-0.

The pitching change didn’t bother Fenton. Spencer Rivera responded with a two-run double, making it a 4-1 Fenton lead. An out later, Josh Brown walked as did Steeves, setting up another threat and forcing out Rumberger in favor of Tyler Harris.

Harris did get an out, but with two outs, Angel hit the shot that gave the Tigers a five-run lead with a two-run single. Angel’s hit would end up being Fenton’s final safety of the game, but it really didn’t matter based on the way Alvord was pitching.

Alvord threw 67 of his 92 pitches for strikes and walked one batter while scattering six hits. He struck out nine batters.

“Try our catcher (Logan Angel) called a good game,” Alvord said. “Logan has been great behind the plate and my teammates backed me up. There were no real errors and we played a good defensive game.”

The victory set the Tigers up for a super-regional contest against Brother Rice. A story about the Brother Rice contest can be found elsewhere in this publication.

“We got hot at the right time,” Henson said. “We knew we haven’t played at the highest level we could and we knew we had the goal going into the playoffs to make a run.”
Linden Community Schools

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 2019-2020 BUDGET

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on June 19, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. at the Linden High School Media Center, 7201 W. Silver Lake Road, Linden, Michigan, the Board of Education of Linden Community Schools will hold a public hearing to consider the District’s proposed 2019-2020 budget.

The Board may not adopt its proposed 2019-2020 budget until after the public hearing. A copy of the proposed 2019-2020 budget including the proposed property tax millage rate is available for public inspection during normal business hours at the Linden Community Schools Administration Building, 7205 W. Silver Lake Road, Linden, Michigan.

The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be subject of this hearing.

This notice is given by order of the Board of Education.

Steve Losey, Secretary
Garage Sales

**Fenton**
- **JUNE 13TH-15TH 9-5PM**
  8380 & 8381 Hartland Rd.
  Two family sale, household goods, hunting, fishing, tools and much more.

**Linden**
- **JUNE 14TH-15TH 10-6PM**
  12300 Jennings Rd. (between Thompson and Larch). BIG SALE! Outdoor, boating, hunting and household goods. You won’t want to miss this!
- **JUNE 14TH-15TH 9-4PM**
  16004 Moran Dr.
  Indoor-outdoor, rain or shine!
  House for Sale-Moving Sale on Lobdell Lake. Like new generator and air conditioner, refrigerator, stove, dressers, old buffet with mirror, sewing machine, sofa, large chair with ottoman, pictures and decorative items. Building materials to make tiki bar or hut, new in the box: rectangular umbrellas, outdoor stuff, tools and more. 810-215-1181.

Planning a **GARAGE SALE?**
PLACE YOUR AD ONLINE
Visit myfenton.com
Click on Classifieds
or call 810-433-6787

Job Openings

**Help Wanted**

**DELMIR DRIVER**
Warehouse worker needed $10.75 hourly. Apply at 1480 N. Leroy, 810-714-5865. Background and driving record checked.

**HAIRSTYLIST - LICENSED,**
Experience in roller sets, blow dry. One- two days weekly, Linden area assisted center. Call 800-762-7391.

**DIRECT CARE WORKERS**
needed in Fenton area DIRECT CARE WORKERS NEEDED! $11.00 per hour to start. Direct Care Workers interested in providing services for people with special needs. There are rewarding positions serving persons with special needs in their homes or in group homes. Positions available in Oakland, Macomb, Washtenaw and Wayne Counties. Requirements: Must be at least 18 years of age, have a clear criminal record, have dependable transportation, must be responsible and committed, available for Mandalay stay, be willing to learn and take direction, work well with others. Be available for training if you are not fully trained already. Compensation: Paid training, medical, dental, vision, paid time off. To Apply Call 734-458-8140 between 9:00am-3:00pm. Email resume to: recruiter@questserv.org, mail resume to: 36141 Schoolcraft Rd. Livonia, MI 48150 or fax resume to: 734-855-4200.

**HELP WANTED FOR FENTON**

/business, 2-3 days per week, proficient in Microsoft Excel, quick learner able to multi-task. Send resume to brittany@njamanagement.com.

**HELP WANTED FOR GENERAL GARDENING WORK**
Mainly weeding, weekday mornings in the Fenton area. Call 810-750-5167.

**MIDWEEK TIMES**

**Fencyr Park Senior Living Apartments**
NOW HIRING MAINTENANCE Full Time / Part Time
Please come in to fill out application Interviewing now

**To advertise your JOB OPENING**
call 810-629-8282

To apply, please visit myfenton.com
For the week of June 10, 2019

ARIES
Mar 21/Apr 20
Start sorting through things, Aries. You have many irons in the fire and not much time to get things done. You might have to call in a backup team to help out.

TAURUS
Apr 21/May 21
Relationships take work, Taurus. It’s not much time to get things done. Start sorting through things, Aries.

GEMINI
May 21/Jun 21
Gemini, everyone at work needs to pitch in to get a job done. If you feel like you are putting in more of the effort than others, you may need to speak up.

LEO
Jul 23/Aug 23
Leo, don’t throw in the towel when things do not go your way. Simply find another work-around or tactic that may prove a path to success. Keep trying.

CANCER
Jun 21/Jul 22
Put a strong face on if upsetting you may learn a thing or two.

VIRGO
Aug 22/Sept 22
A few things are coming up that will be completely out of your control, Virgo. Letting go of the reins can be more of the effort than others, you may need to speak up.

LIBRA
Sept 23/Oct 22
You’re tough enough to get through it, and you may need to speak up .

SCORPIO
Oct 23/Nov 21
When life gives you lemons, make lemonade. Why not turn it into lemon meringue pie instead, Scorpio?

SAGITTARIUS
Nov 22/Dec 21
It’s more than a paint job; it is your home. It is time to put yourself first, Sagittarius. A change of scenery that can get you away for a little bit, Investigate some travel options.

AQUARIUS
Jan 20/Feb 19
Be sure to periodically check your on your finances, Pisces. If much has been flowing out, you may have to curb spending for a little bit.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Public Hearing on the Special Assessment Roll for Byram Lake Improvement Special Assessment District No. 2
Charter Township of Fenton, Genesee County, Michigan

TO: THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF FENTON TOWNSHIP, GENESEE COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THE OWNERS OF LAND WITHIN BYRAM LAKE IMPROVEMENT SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT NO. 2, AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Supervisor and assessing officer of the township has reported to the township board and filed in the office of the Township Clerk for public examination a special assessment roll prepared by her covering all properties within Byram Lake Improvement Special Assessment District No. 2 benefited by the proposed continuation of the Byram Lake Improvement Project. Said assessment roll has been prepared for the purpose of assessing the costs of lake monitoring services, the eradication and control of aquatic weeds in Byram Lake and services related thereto within the aforesaid special assessment district as more particularly shown on the plans on file with the Township Clerk at 12060 Mantawauka Drive, Fenton, Michigan within the township, which assessment is in the total amount of $174,667.15 spread over five years.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the assessing officer has further reported that the assessment against each parcel of land within said district is such relative portion of the whole sum levied against all parcels of land in said district as the benefit to such parcels bears to the total benefit to all parcels of land in said district.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Township Board will meet at the Fenton Township Civic Community Center, 12060 Mantawauka Drive, Fenton, Michigan on Monday June 17, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. for the purpose of reviewing said special assessment roll and hearing any objections thereto. Said roll may be examined at the office of the Township Clerk during regular business hours of regular business days until the time of said hearing and may further be examined at said hearing. Appearance and protest at the hearing held to confirm the special assessment roll is required in order to appeal the amount of the special assessment to the Michigan Tax Tribunal.

An owner, or party in interest, or his or her agent may appear in person at the hearing to protest the special assessment, or shall be permitted to file his or her appearance or protest by letter and his or her personal appearance shall not be required. (The owner or any person having an interest in the real property who protests in person or in writing at the hearing may file a written appeal of the special assessment with the Michigan Tax Tribunal within 35 days after the confirmation of the special assessment roll.)

ROBERT E. KRUG
FENTON TOWNSHIP CLERK
12060 MANTAWAUKA DRIVE
FENTON, MI 48430-8817
PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ROLL FOR THE ELEANOR STREET IMPROVEMENT SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT, CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF FENTON, GENESEE COUNTY, MICHIGAN

TO THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF FENTON TOWNSHIP, GENESEE COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THE OWNERS OF LAND WITHIN THE ELEANOR STREET IMPROVEMENT SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT, AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Supervisor and assessing officer of the township has reported to the township board and filed in the office of the Township Clerk for public examination a special assessment roll prepared by her covering all properties within the Eleanor Street Improvement Special Assessment District benefited by the proposed street improvement project. Said assessment roll has been prepared for the purpose of assessing the costs of reconstructing Eleanor Street from Owen Road to Island View Drive, and work incidental thereto within the aforesaid special assessment district, as more particularly shown on the plans on file with the Township Clerk at 12060 Mantawauka Drive, Fenton, Michigan within the township, which assessment is in the total amount of $140,476.50.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the assessing officer has further reported that the assessment against each parcel of land within said district is such relative portion of the whole sum levied against all parcels of land in said district as benefit to such parcel bears to the total benefit to all parcels of land in said district.

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PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT, because the revised costs exceed the previous estimated costs by 10% or more, the public hearing shall also be an opportunity for property owners in the special assessment district to provide comment regarding the continuation of the project in light of the increase in costs.

An owner, or party in interest, or his or her agent may appear in person at the hearing to protest the special assessment, or shall be permitted to file his or her appearance or protest by letter and his or her personal appearance shall not be required. (The owner or any person having an interest in the real property who protests in person or in writing at the hearing may file a written appeal of the special assessment with the Michigan Tax Tribunal within 35 days after the confirmation of the special assessment roll.)

ROBERT E. KRUG
FENTON TOWNSHIP CLERK
12060 MANTAWAUKA DRIVE
FENTON, MI 48430-8817

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MIDWEEK TIMES

Wednesday, June 12, 2019

TEXT YOUR HOT LINE
810-771-TEXT (8398)

“Stay Connected to Your Community.”

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FENCING
FOR ALL YOUR NEEDS
CALL 810-735-7967

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Little Caesars
Home of the Hot-N-Ready

DEEP!DEEP!™ DISH Pizza
$8

CLASSIC Pizza
$5

MAKE IT A MEAL!

2 Liter Pop & Crazy Bread with Sauce
$5.50

2 Liter Pop & Cheese Bread
$6.00

2 Liter Pop & Wings
$8.50

Extra Most Bestest® | $6.00
Extra Pepperoni & Extra Cheese (8 slices)

Extra Most Supreme | $11.00
Deep Dish | $13.00
Extra Pepperoni, Sausage, Mushroom, Green Pepper & Onion (8 slices)

Extra Most Three Meat Treat® | $9.00
Extra Pepperoni, Sausage & Bacon (8 slices)

Extra Most Hula Hawaiian® | $7.75
Extra Pineapple & Ham (8 slices)

Lunch Combo | $5.00
11am-2pm - 4 slice Deep!Deep!™ Dish Pepperoni Pizza with 20 oz. Pepsi®

Crazy Combo® | $3.50
Crazy Breads® & Crazy Sauce® (8 piece order)

Italian Cheese Bread | $4.50

Caesar Wings | $6.50

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PIZZA PORTAL™ Pickup

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*All prices subject to change.