



The 2020 census is coming

Changes include online filing and new questions about nation of origin and immigration status

By Tim Jagielo

April 1, 2020 is the national U.S. Census Day.

It's mandated by the constitution and has been collected every 10 years since 1790, according to a spokesperson

with the Census Bureau.

The census serves to collect basic information on all persons living in the U.S. Preparation for 2020 started as early

See **CENSUS** on 10A



Photo: iStock



PAGE 6-20B
FENTON HIGH SCHOOL 2019 GRADUATION PAGES

Weekend Times

VOL. 26 NO. XXV

SUNDAY, JUNE 23, 2019

\$1.00

Teen pleads guilty to larceny of firearm

■ Youth offender is requesting, prior to sentencing, that felonies be kept off criminal record

By Sharon Stone

David Christopher Rollins, 17, of Linden pleaded guilty as charged during his arraignment May 15 in Oakland County Circuit Court. He is facing one felony count of carrying a concealed weapon.



David Rollins

His sentencing in Oakland County is scheduled for Wednesday, June 26 at 1 p.m.

The Genesee County Prosecutor's Office has a related case against Rollins. They authorized a five-count felony

See **GUILTY** on 12A



On a rare day without rain, farmer Jacob Glass plants soybeans in a Gaines Township field Wednesday, June 19 at Cook and Nichols roads. His family can only plant in select areas not too saturated by the heavy precipitation. Photo: Tim Jagielo

Farmers reeling from unprecedented rain

■ 2019 planting season all but canceled due to wet weather; sweet corn, soy impacted

By Tim Jagielo

Fenton Twp. — Many of the corn and soybean fields between Fenton Township

and Gaines look like they've been surrendered to nature in neglect, but really it's just been too wet for planting. Instead of rolling hills of young corn, there are weeds, mud and even some standing water.

See **WET WEATHER** on 16A

Animal control officers could carry firearms

■ 'These public safety personnel are doing a difficult, dangerous job...'

By Hannah Ball

Should Genesee County Animal Control (GCAC) officers be allowed to carry a firearm while on assignment?

This issue is circulating county boards. On Wednesday, June 5, the Genesee County Government Operations Committee

See **ANIMAL CONTROL** on 11A

“If the animal is aggressive, they have nothing but their wits and a catch pole to defend themselves.”

Paul Wallace

Genesee County Animal Control director

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YOUR
HOT LINE

810-771-TEXT



“You dislike roundabouts because you're a bad driver. Please just avoid them so those of us who are competent drivers don't have to deal with your lack of skills. Thanks.”



“I'm still pushing for Owen Road to be three lanes. It carries, probably, over half the traffic in Fenton Township at various times of the day. During the summer season, the traffic nearly doubles on the weekend.”



“School's out. Teens with their daddy's big boats zooming around Lake Fenton at 12:30 a.m., screaming, honking the boat horn, gangsta rap music as loud as possible. Underage drinking? Where's the sheriff's department? Where are the parents? Somebody's going to get hurt.”



COMMENT
OF THE WEEK

“I would like to know what the state of Michigan is going to do with the money from the sale of Hell, Michigan.”



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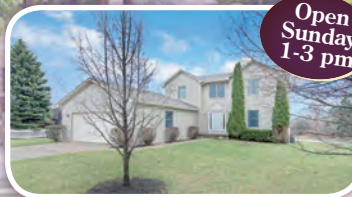
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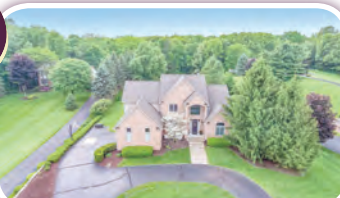
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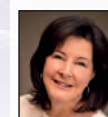
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The Balletschule Feibiecke will perform at Linden High School on Friday, June 28. The event, brought by the Linden Arts Council and Linden Dance Academy, is free, and donations will be accepted. A reception will follow the performance. Submitted photo

Linden welcomes German ballerinas

■ Community invited to free ballet performance at Linden High School on June 28

By Hannah Ball
Residents of Linden and surrounding areas will have the chance to experience a German ballet troupe performance on Friday, June 28.
At 6:30 p.m. at the Linden High School, the Balletschule Feibiecke will perform. The troupe is comprised of 23 girls ages 13 to 20 from Berlin, Germany. The Linden Arts Council and the Linden Dance Academy through the Blue Lake International Exchange Program bring the event to this area.
See BALLERINAS on 8A

“My students are always amazed to see the common language we all have when involved with the performing arts.”

Danielle Sorum
Linden Dance Academy owner



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The Tri-County Times (USPS 018-092) is published weekly (with exceptions) by JAMS Media, LLC, 256 N. Fenway Drive, Fenton, Michigan 48430. Periodical postage paid at Fenton, Michigan 48430-2699 and other post offices. Subscription Rate: 48.00 per year. No non-member subscribers. Postmaster: Send address changes to Tri-County Times, 256 N. Fenway Drive, Fenton, Michigan 48430-2699. We reserve the right to accept or refuse any content and/or advertising submissions.



HOURS:
Monday-Thursday:
8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
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CONTACT INFORMATION
General Office810-629-8282
Advertising810-629-8281
Classifieds810-433-6787
Circulation810-433-6797
Hot Linemyfenton.com
Fax810-629-9227
Emailnews@tctimes.com

EDITORIAL STAFF
Editor Sharon Stone810-433-6786..... sstone@tctimes.com
Associate Editor Vera Hogan810-433-6823..... vhogan@tctimes.com
Media Editor Tim Jagielo810-433-6795..... tjagiello@tctimes.com
Staff Reporter Hannah Ball810-433-6792..... hball@tctimes.com
Features Writer Sally Rummel news@tctimes.com
Sports Editor David Troppens810-433-6789..... dtroppens@tctimes.com

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Words with Hannah

Break that mold

Reading is one of my favorite activities ever. My favored genre is sci-fi/fantasy (N.K. Jemisin is the G.O.A.T.), though I dabble in everything from the classics (currently reading “Pride and Prejudice”), historical nonfiction (“Radium Girls” is next), to biographies (Trevor Noah’s “Born a Crime” is eye-opening). In lieu of Suzanne Collins announcing a prequel to her wildly amazing series, “The Hunger Games,” let’s talk dystopias. (I’m still not over Finnick’s death, thanks for that, Suzanne.) Humans are drawn to stories about survival in which we’re categorized by the government and one brave protagonist attempts to break the mold. I love those desperate situations, and huge, world-changing questions. We have a few local authors who write great dystopias — W. C. Hoffman and Boyd Craven III. You can get their works at Fenton’s Open Book (shop local!).



Hannah Ball

I won’t give away any spoilers, because I truly believe everyone should read the following books. “1984” by George Orwell is known for Big Brother references and the iconic phrases, “War is peace. Freedom is slavery. Ignorance is strength.” It’s necessary to remind ourselves to question things and to keep tabs on the government. Orwell gets an A. In “Fahrenheit 451” by Ray Bradbury, it’s illegal to own books. It’s illegal to read. But this oppressive regime didn’t decide one day that books were bad. People voluntarily gave them up. For that sad thought, even though I feel it’s an increasing danger in our society, I’m giving Bradbury an A-. “Brave New World” by Aldous Huxley opens with an explanation of how scientists have managed to manufacture humans. What diseases they have, how smart they are, and their worth in society is all predetermined by someone with a needle when they’re being grown in

a small tube. Huxley gets an A+ from me, in large part because of the theological discussion. “Never Let Me Go” by Kazuo Ishiguro tore out my heart and stomped on it. I loved every second. Revealing what makes it a dystopia is the biggest spoiler, so I will not do that. Everyone should read this amazing, award-winning book and cry with me. A+. In nearly all of these tales, which have been either banned or challenged in classrooms in this country at some point, expressing individual thought is a fatal offense. It’s not a question of if something is right, it’s how much someone will endure. Logically, ignorance itself is not strength, but there is strength in ignorance. Is it better to accept falsehoods in order to survive in society? Is it better to accept and endure your fate and not fight against it? Katniss would say no, and I agree. Grab your bow and pick up a book. Opinions offered in this column are the author’s alone and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Tri-County Times or its staff. Email Hannah Ball at hball@tctimes.com.

Hotlines

Submit Hot lines online at myfenton.com or text to 810-771-8398

All submissions, if approved for publication, must be 50 words or less and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Tri-County Times. We reserve the right to edit for clarity, length and liability.

MORE THAN 18,000 pieces of balloon waste found in Great Lakes between 2016 and 2018. Heightened understanding of problems associated with balloon litter has led five states to limit or ban intentional releases. At least eight others are considering restrictions — Michigan not among them.

REP. MUELLER WANTS to hear from the public on how we think the roads should be fixed. Funny thing is, in 2018, candidate Mueller sent mailers out claiming he already has a plan to fix the roads without raising taxes. Bait and switch? Just politics as usual?

WHY DO YOU all believe there is a cat killer out there in Tyrone Township? Maybe it is really nature taking its course. There are more coyotes in the area now taking small animals. I’ve personally seen three in the last month.

DAD OF BOY killed in Sandy Hook shooting wins defamation suit against hoaxers.

Compiled by Logan Shanafelt, intern

How do you feel about mandatory vaccines for children?

streettalk



“I think they should have them because it creates a safer environment for everyone around.”

Rylie Becker
Tyrone Township



“Vaccines children get between the ages of 0-4 years, I agree. But certain ones when the kids get to an older age, no.”

Jenn Beardsley
Mundy Township



“I don’t think they should mandate vaccines due to health problems and autoimmune diseases. But if the child is healthy, yes. Especially in schools and daycares.”

Lindsay Sharkey
Mundy Township



“I think yes because why would you not take every opportunity to protect your child?”

Caitlin Vowell
Fenton Township



“I do not think they should be mandatory, although I feel that parents need to have a justified reason they are not choosing to vaccinate their children. There should be mandatory educational sessions on vaccinations, not just the piece of paper doctors hand out.”

Genella Hager, Fenton

Death by train

■ Earliest known local car-train fatalities occurred 100 years ago

By Vera Hogan

The communities of Holly, Fenton, Linden are nearly cut in half by railroad tracks — which increases the odds of accidents involving trains.

In the tri-county area, there have been countless accidents involving pedestrians, vehicles and trains. The first known car-train fatalities occurred 100 years ago on June 22, 1919.

According to information provided by Silver Spray Sports co-owner Patti Smith, her great aunt, Edna May Dunlap Sumner was killed in a car-train accident on that date. Edna was only 26 years old.

Edna was married to Raymond Sumner and they had two children, Gerald and Maynard. On June 22, 1919, the family of four along with Edna's sister, Smith's grandmother Edith Dunlap Westfall (later Wiles) and her son Arnold, age 6, were traveling from



Standing (left) are Edna May Dunlap Sumner and Edith Dunlap Westfall Wiles. Seated is their mother, Alena Dunlap. Edna and her 4-year-old son were killed as a result of a June 22, 1919 car-train accident in downtown Fenton. Edith and other passengers were injured but survived. Submitted photo

their home near Fenton to Detroit for a family picnic.

As they crossed the railroad tracks at Main Street in downtown Fenton, they realized they'd taken a wrong turn and began an attempt to turn the car around. Edna was driving. No one knows what really happened, but none of them noticed the approaching passenger train.

The train struck the car, killing 4-year-old Gerald instantly and critically injuring Edna. The other victims suffered broken bones and bruising but recovered. Edna was carried to the home of Dr. A.J. Wright (across from where CRUST is now) where she died from her injuries.

The following are more recent examples.

1989 — North LeRoy Street

In December 1989, four young



A Fenton couple's disabled car was struck by a train in downtown Fenton the morning of Dec. 14, 2017. They were able to abandon the car just before impact. Times file photo



This beer truck couldn't quite make it up and over the tracks near Tee Bone's and was struck by a train March 1, 2010. Times file photo

people were involved in a car-train accident at North LeRoy Street near Silver Lake Road. Three of them, in their early 20s, died.

1991 and 1992 — Hogan Road

In 1991, three Linden High School students were killed at the Hogan Road crossing in Fenton Township. They

were among seven people who died at that crossing before stop signs and flashing lights were installed. Among those seven was a family of three in 1992.

1995 — Silver Lake Road

In June 1995, the owner of a restaurant called Blaney's on the Water (now See **CAR-TRAIN** on 19A

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NEWS BRIEFS

COMPILED BY SHARON STONE

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR FENTON ARTWALK

Southern Lakes Parks & Recreation is in need of volunteers for the 2019 Fenton ArtWalk. The popular event in downtown Fenton is set for Saturday, July 13, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Volunteers are needed from 6 to 8 p.m., Friday, July 12 for set up and 5:45 p.m. Saturday, July 13. For details or to sign up contact Reeny Sovel at rsovel@slpr.net or call her at (248) 534-2824. Call Southern Lakes Parks & Recreation with any general questions about ArtWalk at (810) 714-2011. The Fenton ArtWalk is a community event celebrating the arts and showcasing local and regional talent with the visual art, music, entertainment, technology integrated art, and children's activities. Artists will display their work along the streets of downtown Fenton. Visitors can enjoy downtown restaurants and purchase pieces of art.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

■■■■
SAD TO SEE some homes in Fenton have so much junk in their yards. Ever heard of a trash can?

■■■■
TO THE PERSON who talked about the do-nothing Dems. I just want you to know that those do-nothing Dems have passed 268 bills in the last six months. Those bills to help the American people sit in the truly do-nothing Republican Senate. You want something done, call Mitch McConnell.

■■■■
HAVE YOU SEEN the mess of long skinny asphalt patches between lanes in the city of Fenton? I hope that mess is not considered a completed job. Don't pay them. I suppose the company that did it submitted the lowest bid.

■■■■
WATCH TRUMP AS he mimics Nixon by sending thousands of troops to the Middle East threatening war to gain support for his re-election campaign. It was Nixon who sacrificed lives of 20,000 troops by sabotaging the Hanoi peace talks to aide his own election campaign.

Tim Hortons recorder bound over for trial

■Fenton man faces 26 counts; allegedly records best friend and her boyfriend without permission

By Hannah Ball

The 21-year-old Fenton man who's charged with recording five coworkers in a Tim Hortons bathroom was bound over to Genesee County Circuit Court.

Eric Andrews Jr. appeared in court Wednesday, June 19 for a pre-examination. He's facing 26 felony counts for six different crimes, including four counts of possessing child sexually abusive activity, eight counts of using a computer to commit a crime, four counts of capturing/distributing images of an unclothed person and two counts of possession of child sexually abusive material.

As of Thursday, June 20, court documents were not updated to include the

rest of the charges.

The Michigan State Police said he illegally videotaped coworkers in the Silver Lake Road Tim Hortons in Fenton. He also videotaped his best friend and her boyfriend in the bathroom of Andrews' grandparent's house in Grand Blanc Township without their knowledge, according to ABC12. This happened between 2017 and 2018, when three of the victims were under 18.

On Wednesday, his former coworkers, former best friend and her boyfriend testified and told Judge William Crawford that they never gave Andrews permission.

At the hearing Wednesday, it was revealed that Andrews created 12 to 15 videos recorded by an old Samsung cell phone and an iPhone.

Andrews is not allowed to have any contact with the victims and he cannot enter the premises of the Silver Lake Road Tim Hortons. He is ordered to live with his mother and is not allowed computers or a cellphone.

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"Homeowners don't have to settle for the same old traditional and loud air conditioning units of years past. Daikin's cutting-edge inverter technology is truly revolutionizing the HVAC industry."

— Ben Warren, Warren Systems



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equipment increasing in the residential heating and cooling sector, the team at Warren Systems began to diversify their clientele 10 years ago. The highly-skilled team of 30 heating and cooling experts at Warren Systems has generations of experience — making them the best choice to tackle your next heating or cooling project. They are experts in the design and construction of high-efficiency heating and cooling systems including air conditioners, furnaces, ductless systems, heat pumps and geothermal.

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BALLERINAS

Continued from Page 3A

It's such a good thing for the Linden community to come out and see things they wouldn't normally see," said Sue Turpen of the Linden Arts Council.

The event is free, and donations will be accepted. A reception will follow the performance.

This is the fourth year the two organizations have brought in a performing group from another country. Last year, they hosted the Theatre Group of the Kaiser-Karl School from Itzehoe, Germany, who performed "Les Brigands." In 2017, Members of the Dance Studio Light from the Czech Republic performed in Linden.

"We feel it has been a very good impact on Linden. It's showing not only people from other countries, but different forms of arts that wouldn't necessarily come into the community," Turpen said.

The dancers will be staying with host families in the area from June 25 to June 29. The Linden Arts Council provides all their food. The Linden Hotel will prepare breakfast for the troupe the

morning they leave.

The council will take them on a field trip to the Flint Institute of Arts and the Longway Planetarium. This has been a hit in past years.

"We give them a little bit of us," she said.

Danielle Sorum, owner of Linden Dance Academy, said many of the visiting dancers are fluent in English but have never visited the U.S.

"My students are always amazed to see the common language we all have when involved with the performing arts. They love to show them how we live in a small town, what we like to do in our community for fun and how we train as dancers. Our time together usually is spent talking over an exchange of our favorite songs and some spontaneous dance offs," she said.

The Linden Dance Academy will host a master ballet class for students of both groups June 26, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. taught by Bethany Lenhart to welcome the German dancers.

"I'm sure our time together will generate some fun and a time to 'show and tell' our skills, too," she said.



Dental hygienist Laurie Clemons cleans the teeth of Zoey Motte, 5, as her mother, Kristy, of Fenton watches. Clemons is dressed as Rapunzel from the movie "Tangled." Photo: Tim Jagielo

Disney/superhero day a hit at Fenton dentist

By Tim Jagielo

Fenton — The second annual Disney Day at Rachor Dental Care in Fenton brought the addition of superhero costumes from the DC and Marvel universes. It also brought dirt sundaes from Uncle Ray's Dairyland.

On Monday, June 17, the Fenton dentist office held Disney Day. Staff members dressed as Disney char-

acters performed children's teeth cleanings.

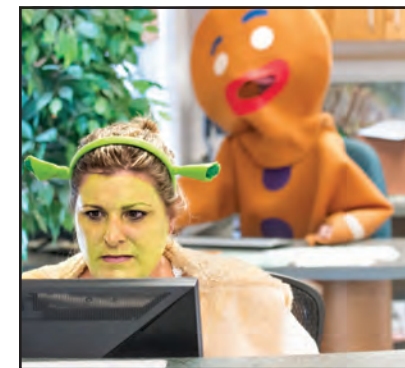
"The Incredibles," "Tangled" and "Beauty and the Beast" were represented, among others. They added superheroes to appeal to boys.

Office manager Linda Sarkon who dressed as the gingerbread man, said more than 45 children came through, and half also were dressed in costumes. They took photos with their staff member of choice and assembled a free sundae after their appointment.

"We do it as a community event just to bring smiles to our patients' faces," Sarkon said. "I think we have more fun than they do," she added with a laugh.



Dental hygienist Katie Bronson cleans the teeth of Olivia Jelinek, 9, while dressed as a character from "The Incredibles." Photo: Tim Jagielo



Terri Steeves is dressed as "Shrek," while office manager Linda Sarkon is the gingerbread man. Photo: Tim Jagielo

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BRIEFS

COMPILED BY SHARON STONE

Section of Grange Hall Road to be closed Saturday, June 22 for culvert work

The Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) will close Grange Hall Road between Wildwood and Jossman roads in Groveland Township on Saturday, June 22, to remove and replace a culvert under the road. This project is expected to be completed by the end of the day on June 22. In case of inclement weather, completion of this project will be by the end of the day June 23. This project is scheduled during the weekend to prevent delays and minimize inconvenience. The detour route is Dixie Highway to I-75 to M-15 and back to Grange Hall Road and vice versa. This section of Grange Hall Road carries approximately 4,710 vehicles per day.

TRI-COUNTY
FUNDRAISERS

COMPILED BY SHARON STONE

Golf outing Sept. 7 to raise money for the Foundation for Angelman Syndrome Therapeutics (FAST)

The community is invited to attend a golf tournament to raise funds for the Foundation for Angelman Syndrome Therapeutics (FAST). Only 1 in 15,000 children are affected by this disorder. These children are non-verbal, have violent seizures, and need 24-hour care. The event is being held at the Coyote Preserve Golf Club in Fenton on Sept. 7, with a shotgun start at 10 a.m. Registration begins at 8 a.m. that morning. Call Brenda Leclercq at (313) 670-6816 for more information. The cost is \$125 per person, rain or shine. Organizers have raised \$130,000 in six years. Hole sponsorships are available at \$125. FAST is a 501(c)3 organization and have seven children with Angelman Syndrome attending the outing this year.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

THANK YOU **UNCLE** Ray's for an event with our veterans, honoring Flag Day on June 14. Dozens of children recited the Pledge of Allegiance, received a flag and certificate for free ice cream and mini golf. Some of these kids even sang the words. The youngest was 4 years old. Inspiring day.

I **THINK LAWS** can be crafted allowing people to do responsible things with their guns versus parading around trying to bully or scare people.

THE **MICHIGAN CHAMBER** of Commerce spent some \$2 million to elect and retain lawmakers friendly to what it defines as the best interests of business.

I **WISH THE** police would ticket the cars and trucks in town for excessive noise. Isn't a working muffler required equipment on a vehicle anymore?

WHEN **PEOPLE ARE** conned by someone they are highly resistant to accepting the reality that they have been conned. They will remain in denial even when the evidence is overwhelming.

THANKS TO THE Livingston County Road Commission, it has cost me \$350 to replace the torsion bar on our family sedan, as we now must drive over a 2-foot embankment to enter our driveway because they've plowed off the top of our hill. Keep plowing and soon we'll be using the top of the sewer manhole cover for a mailbox post.

WHERE **EXACTLY DID** you see that Consumers will be forcing everyone to participate in that A/C peak-cycling program? As far as I can tell, it is optional.



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CENSUS

Continued from Front Page

as 2012, with quarterly Census Program Management Reviews.

Differences for 2020

Historically, mail and phone calls were the only methods to fill out the census form.

This will be the first year that the census form can be completed online. This will also be the easiest method to fill out the form. While the printed copy will be available in Spanish and English the census is available in 13 languages online.

In regards to questions about nationality, this census adds more detailed questions about ethnicity. For example if you choose "white" as your race, you can then select a country of origin, like England or Norway.

Immigration status may also be included, depending on a decision by the Supreme Court later this month. Part of the American Community Survey (ACS) is asking about place of birth, citizenship and year of entry. The question about citizenship is set to be part of the 2020 census. According to NPR, there is no direct precedent for this set of questions, and it is facing legal challenges.

The Census Bureau and ACS make it clear that all answers are confidential and by law cannot be supplied to other government or law enforcement agencies.

Why fill out a census form?

The census is required by the U.S. constitution to be run every 10 years.

"It's very important for people to respond to the census, it impacts their community in many different ways," said a Census Bureau spokesperson. "We want everyone to respond to the census."

The census tracks population shifts. The body of general information is used for academics and journalists alike. Most importantly, the census determines statewide and national representation in congress, and steers \$675 billion in government funds. These funds can be for roads, schools and hospitals. Planning commissions use information to spend money.

The census costs \$15.6 billion to conduct. The most expensive part is non-response follow-ups, which must be done in person by a temporary census employee.

“It's very important for people to respond to the census, it impacts their community in many different ways.”

U.S. Census Bureau

About the form itself

The census questions overall stay the same each census.

As a document, it is about 3.5 pages long and includes detailed questions about the persons living in your household. It includes names, ages, and ethnicity.

It also asks about how everyone in the house is related, such as family members or roommates.

The overall goal it to count every person only once, and in the right place.

Go to www.census.gov for more information.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

RAIN, RAIN GO away.

AH, THERE'S NOTHING like spring/summer in Fenton with all the daily construction, traffic, dust, banging of metal machinery and cautionary beeping of construction vehicles. It's exactly as I pictured it when I moved here. Just shows us the city officials do not represent us, just their own interests.

FYI, CLIMATE CHANGE/global warming, etc. Did you know every round trip flight from New York to London, costs the Arctic three more square meters of ice loss?

THIS IS IN response to the writer commenting about abortion and vasectomies. You missed the point so completely — the point being choice. Men can choose what they can do with their bodies, but women? Heaven forbid we have a choice of what we can do with ours. Is that clear enough?

FENTON CITY COUNCIL, you gave us a Walmart, unemployment office, and now a pipe shop, all conveniently located within walking distance from our subs. Can you work on getting a pawnshop and perhaps an adult bookstore, too? Keep up the great work; we really appreciate it, just like the artwork downtown.

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Event to celebrate first responders set for Aug. 6

■ National Night Out will have games, free food and kids can get sprayed with fire hoses

By Hannah Ball

The public is invited to celebrate police, firefighters and EMS responders at National Night Out on Tuesday, Aug. 6 at Hyatt Elementary in Linden.

First responders from Linden, Fenton, Argentine Township and Fenton Township will be honored.

"The purpose of the event is to show our appreciation for the policemen, firefighters, and EMS drivers for the four different municipalities," said organizer

Beverly Vondra, treasurer for the city of Linden.

The event starts at 6 p.m. with a flag raising ceremony, the national anthem and a small presentation for the first responders. At around 7:15 p.m., Vondra said they will spray water on the kids with the fire hoses, weather permitting.

It's a free event, and attendees can get free food, such as hot dogs, chips, water and cookies. Kids will be able to play games, see inside the fire trucks, police vehicles and EMS vehicles, as well as play in bounce houses and the Oakland County smoke house.

This is the third year for the event.

ANIMAL CONTROL

Continued from Front Page

unanimously voted to approve arming animal control officers and sent it to the Board of Commissioners.

GCAC Director Paul Wallace supports allowing his officers to carry a firearm.

"They are charged with capturing up any dog running off leash, but they also check welfare on dogs that are in abandoned houses, that are tied outside without shelter, that are used in fighting rings or simply running loose with no license. It goes without saying that some of these dogs are dangerous," he said.

These officers conduct raids with local police units, the FBI and the animal taskforce to different kinds of cases involving hoarding, drugs, dog fighting and human trafficking. Currently, these officers are armed with chemical tranquilizer dart rifles, which take several minutes to take effect.

"If the animal is aggressive, they have nothing but their wits and a catch pole to defend themselves," he said. "Public Safety officers have come under recent attack, all over the country, and the frequency and ferocity is increasing. Each of our ACOs (animal control officers) can tell multiple stories of being threatened by dog owners and their associates, many times where weapons were flashed at them."

Police cannot always escort these officers on assignments.

"These public safety personnel are doing a difficult, dangerous job that no police officer would do unarmed, including me," he said.

Legal issues are being worked out. Clerk John Gleason said he hopes it comes to the Board of Commissioners soon, and that he fully supports this measure. If it passes, he expects the officers to be trained. "These folks are doing a public service. When they go to deal with a volatile dog, they should have every means available," he said.

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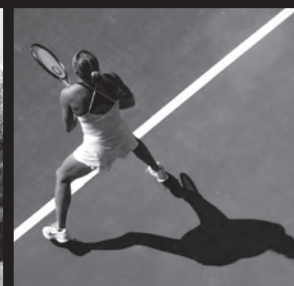
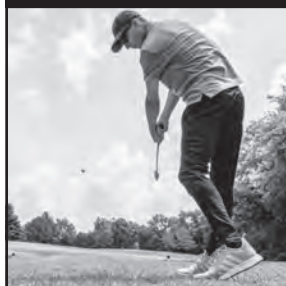
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BUSINESS

GST Michigan Works! helps mitigate loss for employers.

Whether you're looking for a job or trying to find employees, it's no secret that GST Michigan Works! is the go-to solution for the Region, but recently they've taken their commitment and resources to a whole new level entirely. Having introduced their new program, The Connection, GST Michigan Works! is providing even more to their customers throughout the region.

The Connection, a Business Resource Network (BRN) located in east Michigan, is comprised of local member companies who aim to increase job retention and job productivity among their employees. Member companies pay an annual membership fee to belong to the network, which allows access to a "share" (or multiple shares) of an on-site Success Coach.

"Everyone here is passionate about the work we do," said Communications Manager Diona McLaughlin. "And with The Connection, we're able to do even more. The Connection is a business resource network where a team of employers have come together to solve their retention issues. The Connection assists an employee with the resources needed to keep them employed, while simultaneously helping the employer by keeping them on the job. It's very costly to replace employees, and nobody wants to have to let people go, but with The Connection, we assist with a lot of barriers like childcare, or transportation issues, housing, many different things that most employers are unable to address. We provide assistance with utility bills, or to buy a car – things that your typical HR department can't do."

With The Connection, once membership is established, a Success Coach is scheduled to immediately begin working with a company's employees who may be facing individual

challenges. The Success Coach is trained to begin connecting them with resources and assistance to resolve or improve their circumstances. Issues the on-site Success Coach can help navigate include:

- **Work attendance issues** – Solving issues and overcoming barriers- Conflict resolution – Family or co-worker conflicts
- **Childcare or child custody issues**
- **Substance abuse** – Treatment and support
- **Counseling** – Personal, marital, family
- **Workplace training** – Skills and better pay
- **Life skills** – Budgeting, high school equivalency and language barriers
- **Tuition assistance**
- **Financial stability** – Credit counseling, 401K, college, savings plans – Public assistance – Applying and navigating
- **Housing** – Affordable rentals or home buying
- **Transportation** – Public, repairs, car purchases

"Our Success Coaches act as an extension of our members' human resources department," said McLaughlin. "With a one-share membership, the coach will be at your office four hours per week, and available via phone or email through the entire work week. They will work with employees to address any issues they're having at home or at work and help them create an action plan to resolve them."

As of now, The Connection is available in all six counties in the region and as demand grows, more Success Coaches will be added to the team. The program has quickly and steadily grown since first being deployed last year and is available to all employers looking to retain and assist their employees.

For more information about The Connection or GST Michigan Works! visit www.gstmiworks.org.

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The Connection
AN EAST MICHIGAN BUSINESS RESOURCE NETWORK

Registration is open for 'Safety Town'

■ Fun activities and small-scale learning experiences teach kids valuable safety lessons

Compiled by Sharon Stone

"Safety Town" is once again coming to Fenton this summer. Fenton Kiwanis has open registration for the "Safety Town" program, which teaches pre-kindergartners, young 5s, and kindergartners a variety of life safety aspects.

This is the 24th year Safety Town has been offered in the Fenton area. Registrations will be accepted until all available slots are filled.

Safety Town is set up to resemble a small-scale "town" with small buildings, roads, street signs and railroad crossings. The interactive learning environment is used to offer practice in many of the safety lessons. It will be offered Aug. 5–8 at the Ellen Street

Campus in Fenton.

Two sessions are offered: Session One is from 9 a.m. to noon and Session Two is from 1 to 4 p.m. All lessons and activities relate to a specific topic regarding safety such as traffic and pedestrian safety, riding and parking a bicycle, stranger danger, playground safety, railroad safety, school bus safety, animal safety, sun safety, fire safety, swimming safety and much more.

On Thursday, the last day of class, parents are invited to attend the Safety Town graduation ceremony to watch their children, wearing their Safety Town T-shirt and bicycle helmet receive their certificate.

For more information or to register, call Fenton Kiwanis members, Cathy Utter (517) 230-6161, uttercat@aol.com or Heidi Howieson (810) 955-6754, Hhowieson@gmail.com.

GUILTY

Continued from Front Page

arrest warrant March 15 against the teen.

Rollins was arraigned April 28 in Genesee County 67th District Court on five counts of larceny of firearms. He was released on \$10,000 personal bond, with a tether and is to receive mental health treatment.

On May 30, Rollins was in Genesee County Circuit Court where he agreed to plead guilty as charged. He also requested Michigan's Holmes Youthful Trainee Act (HYTA), which gives a youthful offender (ages 17 to 23) a chance to keep a criminal of-

fense, including felonies, off of his or her record.

If this HYTA request is denied by the courts, Rollins agreed to plead guilty to one count of larceny of a firearm while the other charges are dismissed. Sentencing is scheduled for July 19, at 9 a.m.

Case background

As previously reported in the Times, Rollins' arrest came after area schools were placed on secure mode March 12, while several police departments investigated a report of an unaccounted for Linden teen, Rollins, and four stolen weapons. Rollins was taken into custody and arrested several hours later in Holly.

His parents had notified authorities when they discovered guns missing from their Linden City home and learned their son had not shown up for school. Local school districts were advised to go into secure mode as a precaution.

Holly police were dispatched to an apartment where Rollins was said to be visiting a friend. While Linden police were en route to investigate, Holly police observed Rollins walk out of an apartment and arrested him. Holly police reported Rollins had a 9mm handgun in his waistband.

All of the weapons reported stolen were recovered. No injuries were reported.

OMG!
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HEAR?

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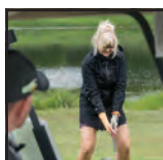
WHAT YOU MISSED IN THE MIDWEEK TIMES

COMPILED BY VERA HOGAN

The following are stories you may have missed in the **Wednesday, June 19, Midweek Times**. To subscribe and receive both the Midweek and Sunday Weekend editions, please call (810) 629-8282.

Brad Stone Summer Classic keeps growing

Outing in memory of 12-year-old boy has raised more than \$200,000 in 19 years.



Area man to serve years on drug, weapons charges

Russell Cockerham of Highland Township pleaded guilty in April, sentenced on June 11.

Four Lakes assessment approved

Fifty-six percent of owners voted 'yes' to pay \$4,600 for new roads.

Section of road still closed due to massive hole

Ray Road funding approved.

Fenton Farmers Market opens Thursday

Rain or shine, local farmers markets offer their bounty of the season and a little more.

The longest day of the year

Friday, June 21 marks the first day of summer.

New committee charged with restoration project

Will explore grant opportunities and more for one of Genesee County's oldest buildings.

Nancy E. Petruska dies at 89

She and husband inspired annual Fenton Education Foundation award.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

RATHER THAN THAT person surrender their license, let's face it, most people get unnerved coming up on you. We never know what you're going to do. How about you stay out of the way of the motorized vehicles

on the roads, which is what the roads were intended for.

AFTER THE GUYS pick up the trash along the main highways it looks so nice and makes one proud of our area. Why, within hours, is trash again being thrown out of our vehicles? Don't you have any pride? Do you do this in your house/yard?

REGARDING THE DOWNTOWN block in Dibbleville, business owners and residents are in disbelief that the city would approve any mural on the wall of any of the few remaining historic buildings left in Fenton (c. 1867). How can the integrity of this block be so devastatingly compromised?

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NEWS BRIEFS

COMPILED BY SHARON STONE

McLaren welcomes internal medicine specialist to medical staff

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rheumatology, has
joined the medical
staff at McLaren
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seeing patients at
his office, G-5232
Richfield Rd. in
Flint. Al-Jabban
completed a fel-
lowship in rheumatology at the Uni-
versity of Tennessee Health Science
Center in Memphis, Tennessee. He
completed his residency at McLaren
Flint. Al-Jabban earned his medi-
cal degree from the University of
Damascus Faculty of Medicine in
Damascus, Syria. Al-Jabban is ac-
cepting new patients and can be
reached by calling (810) 736-0970.

Motorhome catches fire on U.S. 23



At 1:17 p.m., Thursday, June 20, Fenton police and fire departments responded to a vehicle fire on southbound U.S. 23 just south of Silver Lake Road in Fenton. A motorhome, parked off to the side on the shoulder, was fully engulfed in flames. Occupants made it out safely and were uninjured. Black smoke could be seen nearly a mile away. Police closed the southbound lanes and traffic was rerouted off the highway at Silver Lake Road so crews could clear the scene. Woody's Towing of Fenton was called to the scene to remove the motorhome on a flatbed trailer. According to police dispatch, a propane tank and ammunition was reportedly inside the motorhome. At 1:42 p.m., firefighters had the fire under control. There were no injuries. The road was re-opened at 1:45 p.m. **Photo: Tim Jagielo**



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Should summer camps require vaccinations?

■ Measles outbreak of 2019 prompt some states to require vaccinations to attend camp

By Tim Jagielo

Summer camps in the tri-county are well underway, rain or shine for the 2019 summer season.

Locally there are YMCA Camp Copneconic in Fenton Township and YMCA Camp Ohiyesa in Rose Township. Both host hundreds of young campers each year.

Following the worst measles outbreak in 27 years, some camps are requiring that children be vaccinated before attending.

New York State made national news because this year it is requiring campers to be vaccinated before attending camp.

According to the Wall Street Journal, the New York State Department of Health

code requires multipurpose camps to maintain immunization records for all campers, which are then regularly reviewed by local health departments.

Katie Comack is summer camp director for Camp Copneconic. She

said campers aren't required to be vaccinated, and the subject hasn't been brought up by the board of directors.

If a camper is not vaccinated, they just need the waiver signed. Comack said she's not aware of the camp having any issues with measles.

In Rose Township, Camp Ohiyesa also doesn't require vaccinations. While also a YMCA camp, they are associated with Detroit YMCA.

The American Camp Association (ACA) accredits educational camps like these YMCA locations.

The ACA updated its information for summer camps in light of the measles outbreak for the 2019 season.

While it doesn't specifically urge vaccine mandates, it does suggest camps pay close attention to their campers' immunization status, and get educated on diseases. The ACA

does suggest the camps to decide if they will allow non-immunized children in their camps.

Online, readers responded positively to the idea of ensuring campers are vaccinated.

“ACA standards require that camps have an established procedure in practice to carefully screen for illness, injury and communicable diseases including measles.”

Henry DeHart

American Camp Association
chief operating officer

HOT LINE CONTINUED

WE WILL LIKELY never resolve the abortion issue. Liberals don't consider a fetus a 'person' until it can vote, so they think it's OK to kill one any time. A baby 'prevented' is preferable to murdering one, every time. Until males can carry a fetus' it is the assigned duty for a female to complete the process of creating a person.

THE DEPARTMENT OF corrections controls the release of convicts, not the court. A prisoner is generally released after half his minimum sentence. Normally, all sentences are served concurrently. That means if a person were sentenced to serve two years

on each of several crimes they would probably serve one year, minus time off for 'good behavior.'

HOW ABOUT A 5-cent deposit on every disposable water bottle sold. Everyone can afford a nickel. It might help keep some of the billion bottles sold every day out of our landfills, and our oceans. I am sure there are persons out there who would gladly pick up that nickel if it were lying on the ground.

TO THE FAMILY in Rose Township with the corral of six garbage cans by the road every day, it's not a pretty sight. Maybe recycle or you can take your garbage down once a week like your neighbors do? Just a thought because it's gross.

Closed until June 28



The Genesee County Road Commission made good on its plans to close a section of Torrey Road, starting June 6. Here, Tuesday June 11, the important local artery was closed to through traffic. Construction route residents and emergency vehicles are exempt. All other traffic is to use the posted detour route of Lahring Road, North Road and Torrey Road. The project will repair an existing drainage culvert, add signage, upgrade guardrail, resurface and add pavement markings to the roadway. Photo: Tim Jagielo

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WET WEATHER

Continued from Front Page

"Mother Nature has picked on us a bit in the past, but nothing like this," said corn and soybean farmer Mike Glass. He's never seen such weather in his 40-year career, and neither has his 92-year-old father. "Mother Nature's pretty much the boss right now. There are a lot of farmers in this situation."

Farmers across the state and even most of the country have been drowned in water, preventing them from planting crops they need to bring to market in the fall. At best, many are at less than half the normal amounts planted by today, and it could be too late to salvage their growing seasons.

ABC-12 Chief Meteorologist JR Kirtrek said even before the rain Wednesday and Thursday, the region has already experienced 4.3 inches in precipitation for the month when 1.75 inches is the average. He said the area is up more than 5 inches for the year over average.

"The Midoki El Niño that affected our winter has held into the spring," Kirtrek said. "This has resulted in



Dwight Eichelberg (left) and employees work to bolster a tomato crop on Wednesday, June 19. Photo: Tim Jagielo

a series of storm systems moving from the Pacific, all the way across the country."

The cause might be less important to area farmers than the affect. Some areas have experienced more than 200 percent the national average in

rain for June according to government data.

Glass said by this time last year he was finished planting. This year, he's approximately 40-percent planted overall, and he'll probably give up for the season soon. Any planting this year has been in non-ideal conditions.

Glass has corn and soy fields spread about Shiawassee and Genesee counties. This time last year, his soybeans were planted in the fields surrounding Prices Airport, and harvested in October. Today, those fields are muddy and green with weeds.

Dwight Eichelberg of Eichelberg Farms in Fenton Township said his popular sweet corn will be available "slim to none" due to the weather. He said crops are three weeks behind, and he also only has a small percentage of his crops planted.

He currently has one row of beans, and a little corn and tomatoes. His first group of tomatoes were splitting due to the water.

Pat Starrs of Starrs Lakeview Farms in Fenton Township said, "We have not been able to get anything planted." This includes soybeans, corn and other produce. They're at 15-percent planted, or 30 acres of 275, when they're usually finished by now.

Some farmers are pivoting to com-

pensate or salvage the growing season. Eichelberg is trying aggressive fertilizers for his tomatoes along with rows of greenhouse plastic, something he never does this late in the season.

At the same time, Glass' son Jacob is planting in any fields not overly wet or muddy, and not bothering with tilling as a "hail Mary," or trying to beat the clock move.

Starrs said they'll ride it out until next year.

Marilyn Thelen is associate director of agriculture and agribusiness for the Michigan State University Extension.

Thelen said there's no precedent for this weather in 30 years of her career. She's hearing much the same from farmers she's spoken with. "Is there alarm? Yes, they're concerned," she said. "There's still some optimism that things could come out okay in the fall."

Mark Seamon is research coordinator for the Michigan Soybean Promo-

tion Committee. He said even if the soy planted across the state manages to grow, farmers will still be dealing with lost yield potential.

Glass compared this situation to losing one's job for an entire year. Some can weather the season with savings, while others will be devastated.

Some will have crop insurance, and they'll have to decide to take partial payment through insurance, or chance it and plant and hope they make more from their crops.

Consumers could see the difference in selection and pricing come fall.

“Mother Nature has picked on us a bit in the past, but nothing like this.”

Mike Glass

Soybean and corn farmer



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Crops this year will be little and late to markets because farmers are still unable to plant everything they normally would. Photo: Tim Jagielo

POLICE & FIRE REPORT

COMPILED BY SHARON STONE

TWO EXHAUSTED TEENS PULLED FROM SHIAWASSEE RIVER IN HOLLY

At 6:46 p.m. on Tuesday, June 18, Oakland County Sheriff's Office marine deputies and the Holly Fire Department responded to the 400 block of Academy Road on a report of two juveniles who had fallen into the water while floating on the Shiawassee River. The teens, a 13-year-old female of White Lake and a 13-year-old female of Davisburg, had dialed 911 after their inflatable inner tube was punctured and began to sink. They were able to grab hold of a tree branch near the river's edge to stay afloat until first responders arrived. Prior to the arrival of the dive team, Holly firefighters were able to locate the teens and pull them from the water. Not wearing life jackets, the teens were fatigued from the elements but not injured.

TEEN RUNS RED LIGHT, CRASHES INTO SUV

Fenton police responded to a two-vehicle crash at the intersection of Silver Lake Road and Adelaide Street at 7:50 p.m., Tuesday, June 18. Lt. Jeff Cross said the driver, a 19-year-old Brighton resident, failed to stop for a red light on northbound Adelaide. His car collided with a westbound SUV (photo below), driven by a 50-year-old Holly woman. The impact pushed the SUV into the utility pole on the northwest corner of the intersection. Minor injuries were reported and patients were treated at the scene. Both vehicles were towed away and the Brighton teen was ticketed for disregarding the traffic light.



HOT LINE CONTINUED

■■■■
WE NEED TO move forward. Coal is not the way to do this. We need to focus on energy sources that are the least polluting. Coal is one of the highest.

■■■■
THE GUY THAT invented roundabouts is a hero. I gain four car lengths by going around every time you stop at one, even when nobody is on your left, and hold up those behind you. Get with the times. All that unnecessary braking, stopping, and accelerating is bad for the environment.

■■■■
WE HAVE FOUR feral cats. We were trained on trap, neuter, release. Our cats are fixed, and you can tell this by looking at the left ear. The top of the ear is clipped off when they get fixed. We were trained at, All About Animals Rescue, in Warren. See their website for information.

■■■■
I AGREE, OWEN Road was better off before. What a waste of money, time and resources that could have been better spent on roads in greater need. This poor spending and judgment does not persuade me to vote for a millage

to repair roads. Definitely embarrassing for the city.

■■■■
WHO PAID FOR the patchwork on W. Shiawassee/Owen Road? My guess would be the local car repair facilities. What a horrendous result.

■■■■
MICHIGAN VOTES, HOUSE Bill 4397 Instead of giving us a discount on rates this year (Senate Bill 1) our wonderful legislators craft another bill to delay those discounts until next year. You can all pat yourselves on the back for fleecing us yet again. When will you give us real reform?

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Don't eat that!

■ If you think you have a food allergy, it's best to avoid it and anything made from it

By Vera Hogan

Many years ago, a Fenton mother was delighted when her little boy discovered he liked eating a salad. His favorite dressing was ranch. But there was one problem. The little boy liked to eat the lettuce and salad toppings with his fingers. His fingers, hands and areas around his mouth turned completely red where the ranch dressing made contact. Only one dressing didn't do that — Ken's ranch dressing.

The mom called the Ken's corporate office in Massachusetts to find out what was different about their dressing versus other known brands. No one could figure it out. The allergy was temporary, though. Now that the boy is an adult, he can eat whatever ranch dressing he likes.

What causes food allergies? The short answer is that no one knows. Research

suggests they develop from a mix of genetic and environmental influences.

According to foodallergy.org, a food allergy happens when your immune system attacks a food protein. Your body makes its own proteins, called IgE antibodies, or immunoglobulin E, to fight against the food allergen.

When you eat or drink that food again, your body sends out the IgE antibodies to attack the allergen. This process releases chemicals that cause an allergic reaction, which can make you feel itchy, have trouble breathing, or even pass out. If you're highly sensitive to a food, even breathing it in or having it touch your skin can trigger a reaction.

Your immune system detects and destroys germs, such as bacteria or viruses that could make you sick, sometimes, it makes a mistake and attacks something harmless.

People can be allergic to any food, but eight foods cause most reactions in the U.S. These are milk, egg, peanut,



tree nuts, soy, wheat, fish and shellfish.

Some people can make IgE against a certain food allergen but don't end up developing an allergy. Some experience only mild allergies, while others are more prone to severe, life-threatening reactions. A person's allergic reactions can vary with each exposure to the offending food, with the same amount of allergen causing mild symptoms in one instance and severe symptoms in another.

Foodallergy.org states that family history is known to play a role. You're more likely to have a food allergy if a close family member does. If you have other kinds of allergic reactions — conditions like eczema, asthma or hay fever — you are also at greater risk.

You also may become more sensitive to a food allergen if you are exposed to it through air or skin contact. Having pets, livestock or siblings in your environment may lower your risk. The bacteria in your stomach (known as the microbiome) may even have something to do with it.

Risk factors

The most important risk factors for food allergy are things you cannot change.

Age is one of them. Young children are more likely to develop food allergies than older children or adults (though allergies can start at any age).

Having a parent or sibling with a food allergy increases your risk.

People with food allergies tend to have more than one.

Another risk factor is having a related medical condition. Some people develop a cluster of several allergic diseases called the Atopic March. These include eczema, food allergy, allergic rhinitis and asthma.

While there is no cure for food allergies, children can outgrow them. Adults are much less likely to do so.

It is important to have your food allergy confirmed by a board-certified allergist. Food allergy symptoms overlap with symptoms of other medical conditions.

Treatment

If you have a food allergy, the best way to prevent an allergic reaction is to recognize and avoid the foods that will trigger it. Always carry epinephrine with you to treat accidental exposure.

Prevention

Recent research shows that early introduction of peanut (before 6 months of age), followed by regular consumption, can help protect children at high risk for peanut allergy. If you delay introduction, it can actually increase the risk.

MOST COMMON FOOD ALLERGIES

Cow's milk
Eggs
Tree nuts
Peanuts
Shellfish
Wheat
Soy
Fish

People with nut allergies (as well other potentially life-threatening allergies) are advised to carry an epi-pen with them at all times. An epi-pen is a potentially life-saving device that allows those with allergies to inject themselves with a shot of adrenaline if they begin to have a severe allergic reaction. Adrenaline is a naturally occurring hormone that stimulates the body's "fight or flight" response when you are stressed. When given as an injection to people having a severe allergic reaction, it can reverse the effects of the allergy and save the person's life.

Sources: Foodallergy.org; healthline.com

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CAR-TRAIN

Continued from Page 5A

Ponemah Lakeside Lodge), died when his vehicle was struck by a westbound train. The owner, Raymond Blaney, 58, had publicly expressed concern about the safety of that railroad crossing. A few months prior to his death, he paid out of pocket for the lighted signal and its installation at the crossing.

1996 — Ann Street

Ann Street in the city of Fenton was the scene of another fatality in March 1996. A female driver, her 15-year-old son and her 5-year-old niece were in the woman's Chrysler LaBaron. As the woman was about to cross over the Ann Street tracks, her son shouted to her that a train was coming. She first hit her brakes, but when she realized she could not stop in time, she instead accelerated. Her 5-year-old niece died as a result of the car-train crash. The Ann Street crossing has since been closed.

2005 — Silver Lake Road

A Milford woman escaped with minor injuries after the vehicle she was driving collided with a train in early March of 2005. The 46-year-old woman was attempting to cross the railroad tracks at Allen's Landing off Silver Lake Road and was going to Tee-Bonz's Tavern (now Ponemah Lakeside Lodge). When she realized the train was coming, she put the vehicle in reverse and tried to back off the railroad tracks. The train struck the right front wheel of her vehicle, which then spun and rolled down the embankment.

2009 — Fish Lake Road

An early morning truck-train collision in February 2009 cost the life of a 38-year-old Holly man. Officials said the driver was traveling northbound on Fish Lake Road in Holly Township. Officials said it appeared that the truck crashed through the lowered crossing arm on the south side of the tracks and the crossing lights were flashing.

2010 — Silver Lake Road

A Budweiser delivery truck driver couldn't quite make it up and over the railroad tracks at Tee Bone's restaurant (now Ponemah Lakeside Lodge), and was struck by a train. The driver survived the crash.

2012 — near Silver Lake Road and U.S. 23

In July of 2012, a 17-year-old Fenton

girl was killed when she was struck by a CN Railroad train. The girl was reportedly walking westbound along the north rail when the eastbound train struck her.

2014 — private drive Argentine Township

A 31-year-old Gaines man and 67-year-old Argentine Township man were killed in February 2014 when the pickup truck they were traveling in was struck by a CN train in Argentine Township. The 67-year-old driver crossed over a private crossing on private property on Lahring Road when the truck

was struck by a westbound train.

2016 — between Hogan and Lahring

A 41-year-old Louisiana man was struck and killed by a train on June 25, 2016. The man allegedly was walking along the tracks between Hogan and Lahring roads when he was struck by a train at 3:40 a.m.. The accident occurred in an undeveloped wooded area about halfway between Hogan and Lahring roads.

2016 — downtown Fenton, and U.S. 23 overpass between North and Silver Lake roads

Twice in November of 2016, fatal train accidents occurred in Fenton. One involved a 15-year-old girl who died after being struck by a train in November. Later at the railroad tracks beneath the U.S. 23 overpass between North and Silver Lake roads, a 63-year-old man was fatally struck by a train.

2017 — downtown Fenton

A Fenton couple's disabled Saturn four-door car was struck by a train in downtown Fenton in December 2017. They were able to abandon the car just before impact.

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Nineteen Fenton athletes headed to college level

By David Troppens

People hear routinely that only a handful of athletes ever get a chance to play collegiate sports.

Apparently, the Fenton graduation class of 2019 has beat the odds. A whopping 19 Fenton graduates will continue to play college athlet-

ics in nine different sports when the 2019-20 school year begins in the fall.

Of those, one athlete, softball player Erin Carter, will be headed to a Division I NCAA school. Carter will be continuing her career with the University of Iowa's softball team.

"I know it's cheesy but when I went to Iowa, it just felt right," Carter said. "I went a few times and every time I went back I loved it more and knew I wanted to spend four years there."

Carter is excited to be able to play at the next level.

"It's crazy. I feel so blessed and hon-

See **NINETEEN** on 23A



Ron Stack (left) has been a volunteer for the FirstTry Triathlon since the first event in 2011. Photo: David Troppens

FirstTry Triathlon still as strong as its first season

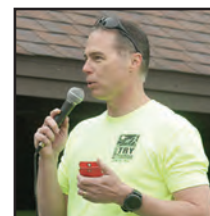
By David Troppens

Fenton Twp. — Jeff Haggerty has been helping make sure the FirstTry Triathlon runs smoothly since its first event nine years ago. He's been the race director the last two years.

Ron Stack also has donated his time with the event all nine seasons. He's helped train rookie triathletes and has usually helped with the exchange station where the cycles are located. He's done just about everything but compete in the actual event.

Both are reasonably amazed nine years after the FirstTry Triathlon started in 2011 it is still going as strong as

See **TRIATHLON** on 22A



FirstTry Triathlon race director Jeff Haggerty

Erin Carter Sports Times

Fenton trap team takes fourth at state meet

By David Troppens

With each season the Fenton trap shooting team seemingly gets larger.

While getting larger, the squad also has continued its success during the season.

The Fenton trap shooting team grew to 34 high school and middle school competitors this spring, won the Conference 8 championship and finished fourth at the Michigan State High School Clay Target League meet.

"We got bigger this year," Fenton trap shooting coach Kevin Johnson said. "We won our conference. Of our five weeks, we won all five weeks of scoring. We had the season-high average."

It's not hard to see why Fenton did so well in conference action. Nine of the top 25 performers in the conference were from Fenton, including the



The 2018-19 Fenton trap shooting team won a conference title and took fourth at the state meet. Photo submitted

top performer, Parker Bundy. Bundy averaged a score of 24.7 birds (targets hit) during a round of 25 for the season, 1.1 better than Portland High School's second-place performer Payton Platte's 23.6 average. Also making the top 25 for Fenton during the season were James Brown and Adam Dickie, tied in eighth (22.4); Roanan

Stellberger, tied in 10th (22.2); Drew Carnell, tied in 13th (22.1); Garrett Bloss, tied in 16th (21.9); Joey Price, 19th (21.8) and Jacob Donaldson, 25th (21.0).

"I felt super good about it," Bundy said about his conference season. I was surprised over the course of the season

See **TRAP TEAM** on 22A

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TRIATHLON
Continued from Page 21A
it ever has. The most recent event was held June 15.

“When we first started it, there were only a handful of people and we weren’t sure if it would make it or not,” Haggerty said. “Getting to nine years, and having this success is exciting.”

“It is really pretty amazing,” Stack, Cyclefit Sports owner, said. “It’s a testament to the group and the GFAC (Greater Flint Athletic Club) crew because they have such a great group of triathletes. Some of them aren’t. Some are just cyclists and some are just runners, but this is the one thing they all have in common in that group.”

One-hundred-eighty-one participants finished the first FirstTry Triathlon on June 25, 2011 at Linden County Park, and not much has changed in terms of the formula that has made this a successful event in the tri-county area since then. The course has changed slightly. The cycling course has been adjusted, and Haggerty jokes about how there have been five different running courses over the nine years of the event, but the distances have stayed about the same.

It starts with a 300-yard swim in Byram Lake, followed by a 11.3-mile bike ride around the area streets. The first event did have just a 9.1-mile bike course. The competitors finish with the two-mile run at Linden County Park. Two of the major sponsors — Fenton Winery and Brewery and CycleFit Sports — have been around since the start as well.

The biggest change is the addition of the FastTry race, which is for triathletes who have done the FirstTry event in previous years. Recent races are pretty close to being a 50/50 split between rookie performers and veterans. In fact there are a handful of competitors that have been at all nine races.

“It’s a good way to train. You have all three disciplines, so you are going to work your entire body,” Haggerty said.

CONTINUED AT MYFENTON.COM



Jill Welch (front) leaves the transition area and starts biking during the 11.3-mile cycling portion of the 2019 FirstTry Triathlon hosted on June 15. Photo: David Troppens

TRAP TEAM
Continued from Page 21A
I got 247 out of 250 targets. I usually shoot pretty high, but I did really well this year. I’ve been shooting for five or six years, so after that period of time I got comfortable and used to it, especially going into the state shoot.”

“Parker was just hitting them this year,” Johnson said. “He had a good year. He was putting a little more emphasis on his shooting, I guess.”

At the state meet all of the squads regardless of their team size had to compete in the same division. Bundy led the team with a score of 98 out of 100 birds. Bundy hit his first 25 shots and then hit 24 of 25. He repeated the pattern on his final 50. Bundy made the All-State squad with the highest season average of any competitor in any conference.

“It’s really stressful after shooting your first 25 because you feel you have to do it again and again,” Bundy said.

CONTINUED AT MYFENTON.COM

Wednesday Night Races at the Park

Here are the results for the first week of the Wednesday Night Races held at Linden County Park. Despite the wet course conditions due to this spring’s constant rain, more than 50 athletes ranging from the ages of 3 to 74 competed in the half-mile, one-mile, two-mile or three-mile event. The attendance was greater than any of last year’s events. There are future events starting at 6:30 p.m. (registration starts at 6 p.m.) on June 26, July 10 and July 17. The cost is \$2 a person and \$5 for a family. Times for the half-mile race weren’t distributed at the first event.

JUNE 19 RESULTS ONE MILE RACE

BOYS (AGE)	
Dillon Hamilton (11)	6:26
Lincoln Floyd (12)	6:32
Ben Morgan (3)	7:21
Tanner Kelley (9)	7:37
Jacob Orzol (8)	7:56
David Meckstroth (13)	8:43
Abram Larsen (9)	8:50
Jack Miller (14)	9:55
GIRLS (AGE)	
Lilly Ciesielski (9)	7:38
Melody Meckstroth (10)	8:43
Riley McKissic (8)	8:50
Anna Miller (9)	9:55

TWO MILE RACE

11-12 WOMEN	
Eva Tomcala	20:13
Elli LaFay	21:06
Riley McLeman	22:46
13-14 WOMEN	
Olivia Bale	21:01
17-18 WOMEN	

Alexis Kesley	21:33
7-8 MEN	
Miles Wallace	21:33
9-10 MEN	
Max Bladzick	15:40
Cameron Gordon	22:03
13-14 MEN	
Patrick Hamilton	12:22
Jack Miller	15:55
50 & OLDER MEN	
Brian Burnell	16:09
David Troppens	22:37
THREE MILE RACE	

WOMEN	
Anna Troppens	31:43
11-12 MEN	
Jim Fitt	26:04
30-39 MEN	
Brandon Gabany	20:24
40-49 MEN	
Eric Larsen	20:49
Dave Kolch	23:38
50-59 MEN	
Tony Micallef	23:28

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NINETEEN

Continued from Page 21A

ored,” Carter said. “I grew up watching Division 1 softball and watching the Cowgers who played here, and I thought it would be so cool to do it. Now it’s happening next year. I’m going to be one of those people I looked up to for so long.”

The sport that has the most people going to the next level is soccer. Three are boy players — Remington Smith, Brady Young and Chase Poulson — and two played with the girls team — Kirsten Foor and Lauren Koscielniak.

Poulson and Young are both headed to Northwood University’s men’s soccer team while Remington Smith will play at Indiana Institute of Technology. Poulson was a Division 2 All-State player while Young was an All-State honorable mention performer. Poulson was the Tri-County Times’s 2018 Boys Soccer Player of the Year. The trio helped lead the Tigers to a Metro League championship and a district title.

After leading the Fenton varsity girls soccer team to a league title and a district championship, Foor and Koscielniak are both headed to Madonna University. Foor was the Tigers’ leader on defense, but at the same time possessed the leg strength and talent to contribute goals and dangerous scoring chances. Meanwhile, Koscielniak was Fenton’s starting keeper, and played outstanding during the postseason in net.

Fenton’s regional championship baseball team has three athletes headed to the next level. They are Brock Henson to Kellogg Community College, Logan Welch to Saginaw Valley State University and Andrew Fox to Alma College. The trio helped Fenton baseball to its first-ever DI district and

regional title this spring. They also helped the Tigers win back-to-back Metro titles their sophomore and junior seasons.

“When I was on my visit, it was a different coaching staff than the one that is there right now, but it was a really nice place,” Welch said about Saginaw Valley. “They made me feel welcome and they had my major. ... When the coach left I was bummed out, but when (the new coach Steve Jaksa) texted us ... I knew he was an amazing guy. He made me feel at home.”

“I made my decision with a little help from an old teammate (2017 Fenton graduate Shawn Lawrence),” Henson said. “He had good things to say about the program. I like what they are doing over there. They had a big run and went to the Junior College World Series. I went down there and had a visit. I thought it was a place where I go go and succeed.”

The Fenton/Linden co-op lacrosse programs are still relatively young, but the programs have three athletes headed to the next level. Girls goalie Kyle Bliss is headed to Baldwin Wallace University while teammate Minna Ramirez is going to Adrian College. Boys player Joseph Loria is headed to Concordia College.

“It’s really special for me,” Bliss said about going to play at the next level. “To know this isn’t my last (time playing) and I will have more opportunities (is great), especially because I was new to the game in high school.”

Two swimmers are headed to the next level. Jacob Iddings is going to Calvin College while Josh Kippe is going to swim at Davenport College.

Both have helped the Tigers to four more consecutive Metro League titles during their careers. Iddings com-

peted in the 500-yard freestyle at last winter’s boys swim state meet. Kippe also competed in the 500, but also competed on Fenton’s state-qualified 400 freestyle relay.

Fenton’s successful football program has two athletes headed to the next level. Parker Brady is headed to Olivet College while Spencer Rivera will be playing at Madonna University.

Rivera was a first-team All-Metro running back for the Tigers, leading the team in rushing. Parker Brady was a first-team All-Metro defensive end.

Abbey Lee and Cassandra Campbell have helped bring success to the Fenton girls track program for four years, and are hoping to do the same at the college level. Lee will run cross country and track at Michigan State University, while Campbell will run track competing in hurdle events at Saginaw Valley State University. She was a state performer in both hurdle events this season. Lee has been one of Fenton’s key distance runners for the track program, and has been a member of Fenton’s three straight years of league championship squads.

CONTINUED AT MYFENTON.COM



Abbey Lee is headed to Michigan State University to compete on the squad’s cross country and track team. File photo



Fenton 2019 graduate Spencer Rivera will continue his football career at Madonna University. Photo submitted

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