Captain now a firefighter after tense meetings

By Hannah Ball

A Fenton Township man, who has been with the Fenton Township Fire Department for 17 years and a captain for eight years, resigned as captain Monday, June 24.

Had Kirk Stephens not resigned his officer position, he would have been fired. He is now a firefighter. This came after a tense Monday, June 3 Fenton Township Board of Trustees meeting when Fire Chief Ryan Volz recommended to the board that the employment of Kirk Stephens be terminated.

See FIREFIGHTER on 15A

Cornerstone parking situation reviewed

Many recommendations approved including $250 parking permits to businesses, residents

By Vera Hogan

It’s been an issue since the Cornerstone building was constructed at the corner of N. LeRoy Street and Silver Lake Road in 2014 — and with all of the new businesses and restaurants that have located downtown since then, finding a parking space can be an exercise in patience.

See PARKING on 16A

Community center fountain to be refurbished

Selling miniature sculptures for $300 each; DDA to contribute $30,000

By Hannah Ball

Fenton — Currently, it’s dirty and doesn’t work, but the Fenton Community and Cultural Center fountain will be refinished.

See FOUNTAIN on 11A

Happy Independence Day

A representative with the Linden Community Schools bus drivers hands out candy at the 2019 Fenton Freedom Festival parade on Thursday, July 4. Thousands of people lined the streets to watch the parade, which consisted of local businesses, schools, charities, organizations and more. See more photos on 24A. Photo: Hannah Ball

Butterfly garden price tag reaches $65,200

Last item is new stainless steel handrails with anti-skateboarding devices

By Vera Hogan

Skateboarders beware — the new downtown Fenton butterfly garden will not be a good place to “shred” on the rails.

One of the final items to be purchased will be a stainless steel handrail to prevent skateboarders from grinding the edges of the concrete flower beds.

See BUTTERFLY on 7A

Captain now a firefighter after tense meetings

Kirk Stephens

Dogs’ paws can easily be burnt when walking on asphalt when the temperatures are hot. Please stop bringing your pets to fairs, etc., and walking them down the hot asphalt roads. If it burns your bare feet, it is burning their paws.

Why do boomers rant about participation trophies? You all invented them. We tossed them out.

I feel that the city of Fenton finally showed some fiscal responsibility by patching the roads. They are more functional than they were. That should be good enough if that’s all we could afford.

WOW! Kudos to Fenton for throwing such an awesome Fourth of July festival. We had family in town and we all thoroughly enjoyed everything.
Trusted for generations...

Since 1916, Auto-Owners Insurance and your local independent agent have been there when it matters most. That’s the quality of your agent, and the company that stands behind them.
High prices, low inventory

By Tim Jagielo

“Lack of inventory is really what’s hurting us,” said Kim Thompson, CEO of ECAR (East Central Association of Realtors.)

What has been true for the last few years is still true today — interest rates are still low, and demand for homes is still strong, leading to a limited inventory of available homes and bidding wars on many properties. Sellers can easily sell a home if priced right, but will struggle to find something in the $150,000 to $175,000 range in some areas.

See REAL ESTATE on 14A

Aging population reveals shift in retirement savings

■ Individual plans become more popular than pensions as life expectancy increases

By Hannah Ball

Baby boomers are getting older, and as more and more retire every year, the Great Lakes State is seeing a shift in retirement plans.

In 1988, 63 percent of full-time workers had a pension and 45 percent had a 401(k), according to the U.S. Department of Labor. In 2007, 32 percent had a pension and 53 percent had a 401(k).

Noah Morgan, MBA, CFP, and private wealth advisor at Acorn Wealth Advisors, said, “Most companies that are hiring today and almost all publicly traded companies have some sort of defined contribution, also known as, 401(k) plan where employees can save up to $19,000 per year and if over age 50

See SAVINGS on 13A

Discover & Explore Scotland

Departing

October 22, 2019

With the Fenton Regional Chamber of Commerce

Plus! Time to visit: Dunfermline Abbey, Stirling Castle, St. Andrews Castle & Cathedral, and more!

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Round trip scheduled airfare
- Round trip transfers between airports and hotel while overseas
- 6 nights hotel accommodations

Tours of:

- Edinburgh Castle
- Rosslyn Chapel
- Edinburgh & Glasgow City Tours

$3,199

Per person, based on double occupancy. Airfare, hotel accommodations: includes 8 meals - Breakfast each morning, 1 lunch and dinner.
Mark my words
By Mark Rummel

How much profit is the right amount?

This isn’t a trick question, but I expect most people won’t know the correct answer: What is the profit margin for an average business in the U.S.?

Many Americans think companies make massive profits, mostly because the products or services they sell cost so much. They think owners might keep 50 percent or more for themselves, after all expenses are paid — or 50 cents of every dollar in sales. All owners are rich, right?

In reality, American companies make an average of about 10-percent profit, or 10 cents of every dollar they take in. That’s according to multiple government and private studies. Larger corporations might make more, but Ford Motor Company’s 2018 net profit was 8.8 percent, while General Motors had a 6.02-percent net profit last year. Even Amazon’s net profit was under 5 percent in 2018.

Many small businesses in the U.S. lose money for their first few years in operation. That’s why many don’t last — they run out of funds to stay open. One study found that 90 percent of all U.S. businesses with sales under $1 million have 10-percent profit margins or less. That doesn’t leave much room for error.

Experts say a corporate profit goal should be 20 percent of sales, after all materials and equipment are bought and all workers are paid. However, owners have to take business taxes out of that amount, which brings that profit closer to the 10 percent figure again.

The biggest risks are taken by manufacturing companies. They must buy, rent or lease buildings and equipment, buy raw materials, then hire and train staff members to produce the needed products. Making just one or two mistakes in any of these areas can result in unprofitability, and might eliminate their entire profit margin. Remember the auto company bankruptcies of 2009?

Think of a doughnut shop: owners need to find a building, get equipment, hire and train staff and then buy the raw ingredients to make the doughnuts, often seven days each week. An error in any of those areas — maybe hiring too much staff or setting prices too low — can result in disaster.

Service companies — think accountants, lawyers, barbers, lawn care businesses, tutors and dry cleaners — usually don’t create items, but fix or improve them. These can be less costly to open, but they are the first to lose business if the economy declines.

There’s no magic answer or solution to making enough profit in the business world. Success takes a sometimes lucky combination of needed products or services, made by caring people with good leadership, sold at prices that are fair yet provide enough profit to keep a company alive.

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 Mark Rummel at news@tctimes.com.

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

How do you feel about food trucks?

Compiled by Logan Shanafelt, intern

“I have never tried them, but I would like to. I would like to see more around. It is nice to have that variety of food.”

“I really like the Mexican-styled ones.”

“I am pro food trucks. I think it is a great option for chefs to have a low cost entry to the food service. It helps people who do not have the funds to open a restaurant, or if they just don’t want to take that on.”

“I do not think much about them. I have only had food from trucks at a fair.”

“I like food trucks because you have so many choices. I really like the Mexican-styled ones.”

Denise Lorence
Fenton Township

Glenn Peach
Fenton Township

Russ Bradley
Argentine Township

Katie Cook, Denver, Colorado

Eva Benore
Fenton Township
Fenton public works director resigns

Will work as DPW director in Lowell, under former Fenton Assistant City Manager Mike Burns

By Vera Hogan

Dan Czarnecki, the city of Fenton’s director of public works since January of 2011, has resigned. His last day with the city will be July 24.

Czarnecki replaced the late Leslie P. Bland, who served in that position for more than 41 years before retiring in 2011.

“I am leaving Fenton because I have an opportunity to return to the west side of Michigan and end my career near where it began,” Czarnecki said. “I am from the Grand Rapids area originally, my mother, in-laws, and the rest of our families live in that area. I will be returning there myself with this change of employment. While it was a very, very hard decision to make, I think the move will be for the better for me and my family.

“I was offered the Public Works director position for the city of Lowell,” he said. “It was a very good offer that was hard to turn down. My last day working at the city of Fenton will be July 24. Although I will be in the area until the end of the month. I start in Lowell on Aug. 5.”

Czarnecki will be joining former Fenton Assistant City Manager Michael Burns, who left in 2016 to accept a position as city manager in Lowell. Burns said this week, “I am very excited to work with Dan again. Dan is an excellent Public Works director and stood out amongst me and my staff during the interview process. We have some needs in our Department of Public Works where I

See RESIGNS on 16A
Residents oppose $115 per year assessment; will vote in November election instead

By Hannah Ball
After months of discussions and talks of petitions, it was decided that Gaines Township residents will vote on a referendum for police funding.

The Gaines Township Board of Trustees recently approved putting the question on the Nov. 5 ballot.

Supervisor Paul Fortino said they haven’t decided yet on the ballot question wording but he expects they will start discussions soon.

In March, the Gaines Township Board of Trustees voted to direct Fortino to create a tax roll and calculate the assessment for each improved parcel. The Board of Trustees planned to create a 10-year assessment and charge each improved parcel $115 a year to pay for police services. This would cost each assessed property approximately 32 cents a day.

However, this move was opposed by residents. In April, residents submitted a petition to the board with enough signatures to stop a board-proposed assessment to pay for police.

When asked if the police department is funded through this year, Fortino said, “Toward the end of the year, we’re going to have to cut back hours, I presume. It’ll depend on the vote.”

Five years ago, Gaines Township passed a 0.5-mill tax to pay for police, which recently ended. This brought in approximately $85,000 to $90,000 a year and wasn’t high enough to pay for police, Fortino said. The township dipped into the general fund to make up the difference. The department has grown and the general fund cannot completely support it.

HOT LINE CONTINUED
I’D MUCH RATHER have healthcare reform than a parade.

OBAMA-ERA RULE policing for-profit colleges axed. The decision proves that DeVos only cares about protecting for-profit colleges, no matter how many students they swindle.

MONEY IS FUNGIBLE. What Planned Parenthood gets from Feds, it can use on its propaganda and use donations for non-approved things, like abortions.

WELCOME TO THE longest U.S. economic expansion in history, one perhaps best characterized by the excesses of extreme wealth and an ever-widening chasm between the unfathomably rich and everyone else. Indeed, as the expansion entered its record-setting 121st month on Monday, signs of a new Gilded Age are all over.

THREE CHEERS TO the new owners of the Times. The coverage of the Fourth of July festivities was both informative and interesting. Thanks for the great coverage.

TRUCKS IN MICHIGAN can weigh as much as 180,000 pounds. In Ohio and Indiana, it’s 110,000 pounds. That extra 70,000 pounds is killing our roads.

IT IS TIME for a complete turnover in our legislature. Vote ‘em all out.
Tired of hearing your air conditioner?

TRADITIONAL A/C
• Loud
Disruptive: Standard condenser units can crank on and off throughout the day.
Sound is important when selecting air conditioning equipment.

VS.

DAIKIN FIT
• Quiet
Inverters cycle and run smoothly and are barely audible.

Get FIT™

• Affordable – up to $2,200 in rebates available this summer
• Cuts cooling costs up to 50%
• Efficient, Compact, Quiet

Warren Systems
HEATING & COOLING
810-245-8751

HEATING • COOLING • COMMERCIAL • RESIDENTIAL • 3D CAD DESIGN • GEOTHERMAL

BUTTERFLY
Continued from Front Page
handrail for both sides of the stairs. The $14,200 handrails were approved by the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) at its April meeting. The price includes delivery and installation.

“I am working on approval of the final design sketches and they will be going into production soon,” said Michael Hart, assistant city manager and DDA executive director. “They (handrails) will have the anti-skateboarding devices installed and to the best of my knowledge, will be the first handrails with this application in the state of Michigan.”

The Butterfly Garden project has been over a year in the making. The garden has been built near the butterfly sculpture on S. LeRoy Street, just north of city hall. The butterfly sculpture was paid for in 2017 by Gerald and Kay Willey, owners of Fenton Home Furnishings. They donated $17,000 so that the city, through the DDA, could acquire the sculpture.

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

In May of 2018, Hart said there are specific flowers and plants that attract butterflies. Fenton’s garden could have approximately 12 to 18 species of flowering plants. This week Hart pointed to the city’s Facebook page where on June 14, photos of Monarch butterfly caterpillars were posted.

There are flowerbeds all around, with sidewalks so even someone in a wheelchair can have access. Hart said since last winter and spring, a steady flow of people have been visiting the sculpture plaza area and taking pictures by the butterfly sculpture.

Although the original price tag for the butterfly garden project was anticipated to be about $35,000, additional features added for a variety of reasons that include safety, have resulted in that figure climbing to about $54,000 late last summer.

Once the handrails are purchased and installed, the price tag will climb to $65,200.

COST BREAKDOWN
• $35,000 was originally approved
• $11,000 to replace existing dangerous steps with jagged stones
• $2,000 approximate cost to pay for footings for the permanent placement of the butterfly sculpture
• $6,000 for lighting since it was discovered people like to visit at night
• $11,200 for handrails (both sides) with anti-skateboarding devices
• Unknown amount for flowers, plantings and other related expenses

The back steps of the butterfly garden are still blocked from use. They will be opened after the handrails are installed. Photo: Tim Jagielo

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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 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
- **Transportation** — Public, repairs, car purchases
- **Life skills** — Budgeting, high school equivalency and language barriers
- **Substance abuse** — Treatment and support
- **Financial stability** — Credit counseling, 401K, college, savings plans — Public assistance — Applying and navigating
- **Housing** — Affordable rentals or home buying
- **Housing** — Affordable rentals or home buying

“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.

Cindy Thornthwaite
810-233-5974 ext. 352
gstmiworks.org/theconnection/

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A Cinco de Mayo fundraising event brought hundreds of St. John School supporters and community members together and helped raise funds for the $45,000 that was recently presented to the St. John School Educational Foundation.

**St. John School benefits from $45,000 donation**

**St. John Educational Foundation Cinco de Mayo event provides educational support, scholarships**

By Sally Rummel

Families and supporters of St. John School in Fenton enjoyed a special Cinco de Mayo night out, but it is the school families and supporters and community members together and helped raise funds for the $45,000 that was recently presented to the St. John School Educational Foundation.

The St. John Foundation was formed in 1981 by several longtime parishioners of St. John Church to ensure that St. John School would stay in existence and serve the community for many years in the future. Every year, the foundation and school designate a particular cause to support with a fundraiser.

“The support we are able to give positively impacts our school and would not be possible without the generous donations and support of our parishioners, school families and community members,” Walstrom said.

St. John School is now enrolling students for preschool through eighth grade.
WEEKEND TIMES

HOT LINE CONTINUED

WE CAN’T GET roads fixed. I was in Texas recently. They were building an entirely new freeway, from Dallas to the gulf coast. If the feds can spend over a billion dollars for that, why can’t Michigan maintain the roads it has? We pay more gas tax than Texans do.

OUR ROADS CARRY much heavier trucks than Texas. Perhaps that is why our roads fall apart in two or three years. I’d bet on the ‘good old boy’ network stuffing the pockets of contractors who donate millions to campaign accounts.

I HAVE TO make a small correction to the person that says medical procedures are none of my business. They certainly are if I have to pay for them through my tax money.

RAIN FALLS BECAUSE the droplets (dew) form when the water vapor (a gas) reaches the dew point and condenses into drops. The drops come together until they are heavy enough to fall. Gravity is what makes everything fall.

NEWS BRIEFS
COMPILED BY SHARON STONE

McLaren welcomes vascular surgeon to medical staff

Edgar Guzman, MD, board certified in vascular and general surgery, has joined the medical staff at McLaren Flint. Guzman is seeing patients at Vascular Institute of Michigan, 1325 S. Linden Rd., Flint. Guzman completed a fellowship in vascular and endovascular surgery at the Cleveland Clinic in Cleveland, Ohio. He completed his residency at University of Illinois Metropolitan Group Hospitals in Chicago, Illinois. Guzman earned his medical degree from Universidad Nacional de San Agustin in Arequipa, Peru. Guzman is accepting new patients and can be reached by calling (810) 535-5555.

TYRONE TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING SYNOPSIS
HELD JULY 2, 2019 AT 7:00 P.M.

2. Approved the agenda as presented; approved the consent agenda as presented.
3. Received and placed on file Communication #1-2 as presented.
4. Pledged the Township’s full faith and credit for the Laurel Springs and Irish Hills Road Improvement Projects.
5. Accepted the resignation of Trustee Allen Pool.
6. Accepted the bid of $198,000 from contractor Sorensen Gross for the renovation of the 8420 Runyan Lake Rd. building.
7. Accepted the bid of $239,106.55 from contractor Allied Construction for the parking lot improvements to the 8420 Runyan Lake Rd. property.
8. Adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

The minutes of all regular and special Tyrone Township Board Meetings are on file and may be viewed at the Tyrone Township Clerk’s office, 10408 Center Road, Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and online at www.tyronetownship.us. The next regular meeting of the Tyrone Township Board will be held on Tuesday, July 16, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at the Tyrone Township Hall. The public is encouraged to attend. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Tyrone Township Clerk at (810) 629-8631 at least seven days prior to the meeting.

Marcella Husted, Tyrone Township Clerk

McLaren welcomes vascular surgeon to medical staff

Edgar Guzman, MD, board certified in vascular and general surgery, has joined the medical staff at McLaren Flint. Guzman is seeing patients at Vascular Institute of Michigan, 1325 S. Linden Rd., Flint. Guzman completed a fellowship in vascular and endovascular surgery at the Cleveland Clinic in Cleveland, Ohio. He completed his residency at University of Illinois Metropolitan Group Hospitals in Chicago, Illinois. Guzman earned his medical degree from Universidad Nacional de San Agustin in Arequipa, Peru. Guzman is accepting new patients and can be reached by calling (810) 535-5555.

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AT McLaren Flint’s Emergency Department, The Waiting Room is Your Living Room.

Check-in to the ER from home.

At McLaren Flint, we understand that when you need emergency care, the waiting room is the last place you want to be. That’s why we offer an online registration so you can check-in to our ER right from home and minimize the wait when you arrive.

Just visit mclaren.org/FlintER to select an ER treatment time that fits your schedule.

The next time you need expert ER care, register online so the waiting room can be your living room. It’s one more way McLaren Flint is doing what’s best.
TRI-COUNTY TIMES

CHURCH DIRECTORY

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

FREEDOM CENTER
2473 W. Shiawassee • Fenton
810-629-5261
Pastor Jim Wiegand

Sunday Worship: 9:00 am & 11:30 am
Sunday Youth Group: 11:30 am & 6:30 pm
Encounter Young Adults (seniors in high school thru 32 years old) Mondays: 7:00 pm
Small groups meet throughout the week.
For more information call 629-5261

BAPTIST

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HOLLY
15030 N. Holly Rd. • Holly
248-634-8772
www.fbcholly.org

Sunday Services
Traditional Service: 9:00 am
Sunday School (all ages): 10:00 am
Modern Worship Service: 11:00 am

CATHOLIC

ST. AUGUSTINE CHURCH
6481 Faussett Rd. • Howell
517-546-9807
Father Greg Pleiness, Pastor

Saturday Mass: 5:00 pm
Sunday Mass: 8:30 am & 10:30 am
Weekday Mass Wed-Fri.: 8:30 am
Confessions Sat., 4 pm and upon request

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH
600 N. Adelaide • Fenton
810-629-2251
Father Robert Copeland, Pastor
Father Ryan Riley, Associate Pastor

Saturday: 5:00 pm
Sunday: 11:00 am & 5:00 pm
Daily Mass: Monday-Friday: 8:20 am
First Saturday of the month: 8:20 am
Holy Days: See Parish Bulletin or website
Confession: Saturdays: 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Monday & Friday following morning Mass and Confession Saturday: 4 pm and upon request

ST. RITA CATHOLIC CHURCH
309 E. Maple St. • Holly
248-634-4841
Fr. David Biatas, Pastor

Saturday Mass: 4:00 pm
Sunday Mass: 8 am, 10 am, 12 noon & 6 pm
Weekday Mass: Tues 7:00 pm
Wed. & Thurs.: 7:00 am
Reconciliation after Sat. 4 pm Mass or by apppt.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST
204 E. Rockwell • Fenton
810-629-3211

Church Service: 11:00 am
Sunday School: 11:00 am
Wednesday Evening: 7:00 pm

EPISCOPAL

ST. JUDE’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
106 E. Elizabeth St. • Fenton
810-629-5681

Holy Communion: 8:00 am, 10:30 am
Children Program-Godly Play: 10:25 am
Youth Group: 11:45 am

LUTHERAN

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH, LCMS
7325 W. Silver Lake Road (Behind Linden High School)
Linden, MI 48451
810-735-4807
www.hopelinden.org
Reverend Paul K. Kollek

Sunday Worship: 8:15 am & 10:45 am
Adult Bible Study: 9:45 am
Sunday School: 9:30 am

TRANSFIGURATION LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA
14176 Fenton Rd. • Fenton
810-629-7332
www.fentontinc.org
Dr. Mark Fisher, Pastor

ALL ARE WELCOME ALWAYS!
Sunday Worship: 10:00 am
Open Communion Celebrated every Sunday
Adult Sunday School: 9:00 am
Summer Wednesday Worship: 8:30 pm
Women’s Adult Bible Study Thursdays: 10:00 am
Children of all ages are welcome and supported at our worship services.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, LC-MS
1025 Main St. • Fenton
810-629-7861
Fax: 810-629-5177
www.trimcsonline.org
Reverend Dean G. Dumbrell

Worship Services
Wednesday in the Word: 6:30 pm
Saturday Traditional Worship: 8:30 pm
Sunday Traditional Worship: 8:30 am
Sunday Education Hour: 9:45 am
Sunday Contemporary Worship: 11:00 am
Saturday — 5:30 pm, Bible Study

SHEPHERD OF THE LAKES - WELS LUTHERAN CHURCH
Worship Service at Fenton Community Center
150 S. Leroy St. • Fenton
810-224-1250
Pastor Nathan Loersch

Sunday Worship Service in Main Hall: 9:30 am
Bible Study & Sunday School: 10:30 am
Worship streamed live @ facebook.com/myshepherdchurch

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METHODIST

FENTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
119 S. Leroy St. • Fenton
810-629-2132
www.fentonumc.com
Jeff Jaggers - Lead Pastor
Michelle Forsyth - Associate Pastor
Kate Glasson - Director of Children’s Ministry
Ashley Bach - Director of Youth Ministry
Sunday morning traditional-style worship in our sanctuary: 9:30 am and 11:00 am
Sunday morning in our Family Life Center: 11:05 am
Nursery and children’s ministries at 9:30 am and 11:00 am

HOLLY CALVARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
15010 N. Holly Rd. • Holly
248-634-9711
www.hollycalvary.org
Rev. Cliff Schroeder

Sunday Worship: 9:30 am
Wednesday Worship: 6:30 pm
Nursery Provided at all services.

LAKE FENTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
2581 N. Long Lake Rd. • Fenton
810-629-5161
Pastor Char Shay

Sunday Worship: 9:00 am

LINCOLN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
201 Bridge St. • Linden
810-735-5858
New Pastor
Reverend Michelle Forsyth
Assistant Pastor Reverend Bob Eastick
New email: mlindenburgmc@gmail.com
Worship Hour: 9:30 am
Coffee Hour: 10:30 am
Nursery Available.

NAZARENE

ARGENTINE CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
16248 S. Seymour Rd. • Linden
810-735-7118
Pastor Robert Lindsay

Sunday School: 9:45 am
Sunday Morning Worship: 11:00 am
(Junior Church and Nursery Provided)
Sunday Evening Worship: 6:00 pm
Wed. Children & Teens: 7:00 pm
Wed. Prayer Meeting: 7:00 pm

FENTON CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
11075 Runyan Lake Rd. • Fenton
810-629-1261
www.fcotn.com
Pastor Ron Sharpe

Sunday Worship Services: 9:00 am
Sunday School for all ages: 10:00 am
Nursery provided for Sunday services.

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

THE CARPENTER’S HOUSE CHURCH
2740 Grange Hall Rd. • Fenton
Corner of Fish Lake Rd.
248-328-9844
Pastor Bradley Teague 248-634-2195
Sunday Morning Service: 11:00 am
Bread Pantry: Wed. 1 pm - 3 pm

THE ROAD COMMUNITY CHURCH
810-922-2088
Lead Pastor Chris Vitarelle
www.theroadcommunitychurch.com
Howell Campus - 4101 Clyde Rd. ....... 9:00 am
Fenton Campus - 301 E. South Holly Rd.: 11:30 am
Cloth Closet and Food Pantry available on Sundays or by appointment (810) 348-4286

THE ROCK
11400 S. Linden Rd. • Fenton
810-629-2444 • www.hisrock.net
Pastor Wes Morris Welcome You
Saturday Evening Service: 6:00 pm
Sunday AM Service: 8:30 am
Sunday AM Service/LakeFenton 10 am & 11:30 am
Wednesday Mid Week Service
Kidz Rock (2 yr-5th grade): 7:00 pm
Adult Bible Study: 7 pm
Jr. & Sr. High Bible Study: 7 pm
Addiction & Recovery: Tuesday nights
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THE WAY CHURCH
2940 Georgetown Pkwy. • Fenton
810-373-2718 • findandfollow.org
Email: contact@findandfollow.org
Pastor Scott Statson
Join us Sundays: 9:30 am; 11:00 am
Fun and engaging children’s program every week.
*No perfect people allowed.*

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF FENTON
503 S. LeRoy St. • Fenton
810-629-7801 • www.ffpc.org
Pastor Lindsey Carnes
Pasor Robbie Carnes
Sunday Worship: Summer hours: 10:00 am

LINCOLN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
119 W. Broad St. • Linden
810-735-5755
Pastor Dawn Russell

Traditional Service: 9:00 am
Contemporary Service: 10:30 am
Children’s Church: 10:30 am
(Nursery provided at each service)

TYRONE COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
9141 Hartland Rd. • Fenton
810-750-0350
Pastor Lawrence Bowlin

Sundays or by appointment (810) 348-4284

TYRONE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
(PCA)
Pastor Steve Livingstone
10235 White Lake Rd. • Fenton
810-678-2137

Please call for a ride!

TRI-COUNTY TIMES 
10A Sunday, July 7, 2019
WEEKEND TIMES

myfenton.com
The fountain at the back of the Fenton Community and Cultural Center will be fit with new ram heads, a new automatic pump system and other upgrades. Renovations are expected to cost $59,229. Photo: Hannah Ball

**FOUNTAIN**

Continued from Front Page

(FCCC) Board of Governors hope to have the fountain on the west side of the FCCC building refurbished and working in the coming months.

Built in 1937, this fountain spouts water from seven ram heads held atop a pillar. In hasn’t been operational in many years, and a fence prevents anyone from getting in the fountain.

The Fountain Restoration Committee, a subsidiary of the FCCC Board of Governors, spearheaded the project.

For renovations, the limestone surrounding the water will be raised approximately 12 inches to create a space for people to sit. A new automatic pump system will be installed, and the top of the fountain will have a new cap. Fine Arts Sculpture Centre of Clarkston cast two new ram heads to replace ones that had been stolen in the past.

The work includes the re-patina of the seven heads, which helps maintain the blue/green antique look.

The expected cost of the project is $59,229. The FCCC will pay $30,000 and the Fenton Downtown Development Authority (DDA) approved up to $30,000 in reimbursement grants for the project in June.

According to a letter from Vince Paris, executive director of the FCCC, to the Fenton DDA during a May 21 meeting, this committee found a document that tied famous sculpture artist Carrado Parducci to the FCCC building. Along with further investigation from Michigan architectural historians, the original ram heads on the fountain may have been contributed by Parducci.

In the 1940s and ’50s, children played in the fountain, but the structure fell into disrepair and was overgrown with ivy. It experienced vandalism, damage, and two of the ram heads were pilfered.

In the 1940s and ’50s, children played in the fountain, but the structure fell into disrepair and was overgrown with ivy. It experienced vandalism, damage, and two of the ram heads were pilfered. In the early 2000s, Venture Crew 212 and Eagle Scout Chris Peters, with the support of the Fenton Kiwanis Club, made the fountain operational.

When the center was expanded and renovated in 2014, the construction eliminated the mechanical operation of the fountain. In 2018, the Board of Governors approved commissioning two new ram heads from Fine Arts Sculpture Centre of Clarkston, which is the same company that created the popular “The Game” sculpture in front of the building.

Earlier this year, the Fountain Restoration Committee presented the renovation concept to Fenton City Manager Lynn Markland and Fenton DDA Director/Assistant City Manager Mike Hart. The committee developed a proposed budget to have the fountain repaired and modernized.

“The Board of Governors and Fountain Renovation Committee believe renovating the fountain (currently the only public fountain in the Fenton area) will not only enhance the attractiveness of the center for the public, but also honor the original design by architect Eero Saarinen and the donors of the center, Horace and Mary Rackham,” according to the letter by Paris.

The new limestone used on the fountain will come from the same Indiana quarry that provided the limestone for the FCCC, Paris said. Saarinen is the architect who designed the FCCC.

Paris expects the work to begin in the next few weeks.

The FCCC will fundraise to help pay the $30,000. These efforts include accepting donations and selling miniature bronze ram heads, replicated to look like the heads on the fountain. They are $300 a piece. To order a ram head, call the FCCC at (810) 629-2512 and ask for Vince Paris.

**McLaren welcomes ophthalmologist to medical staff**

Aman Shukairy, MD, board certified ophthalmologist, has joined the medical staff at McLaren Flint. Shukairy is seeing patients at Premier Glaucoma & Eye Center, 1160 South Linden Road, Building A, Flint. Shukairy completed both a fellowship in glaucoma and her residency in ophthalmology at the Kresge Eye Institute through Wayne State University and Detroit Medical Center in Detroit. She earned her medical degree from Wayne State University School of Medicine in Detroit. Shukairy is accepting new patients and can be reached by calling (810) 820-8230.
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We offer a FREE INITIAL CONSULTATION to determine the needs of our clients.
SAVINGS
Continued from Page 3A
people in their 40s and 50s, and younger, will either have to save aggressively or work longer to “live the lives of their parents,” Morgan said.

“The problem is Americans have to decide whether they want to lease a new car for $500 a month or plan for a long retirement. The average household income in Fenton, believe it or not but according to Census data, is $49,575 annually. So saving $6,000 a year would equal a 12 percent savings rate of income,” Morgan said.

If a family saved $6,000 a year for 30 years, they’d be able to accumulate $505,268 if they earned a 6 percent rate on their investments.

More and more Americans are putting away money in individual saving plans compared to previous years. In 2016, of those 55 and older, 48 percent had no money saved in a 401(k)-style plan or individual retirement account, according to the U.S. Government Accountability Office. While that number is low, it’s an increase from 52 percent in 2013.

“It is a beautiful thing when savings becomes an automated habit in our lives and we can live on our net income,” Morgan said.

MICHIGAN’S AGING POPULATION

- The U.S. Census shows that in 2016, 23 percent of Michigan residents were 60 or older, a significant increase compared to past decades.
- In 1930, 5.2 percent of Michigan’s population was 65 and older. By 1980, that number increased to 9.8 percent, and in 2010, it was 13.8 percent.
- Genesee County has similar percentages. In Genesee County, 15 percent of the population was 60 and older in 2000. From 2012 to 2016, that number increased to 22 percent.

Even with a 401(k), an IRA and Social Security, people in their 40s and 50s, and younger, will either have to save aggressively or work longer to “live the lives of their parents,” Morgan said.

People really need to ask themselves — do we really want to depend on our company to help them save or can they take a more independent approach?”

One reason there’s a shift from defined benefit plans toward contribution plans is that baby boomers are living longer and the plans are becoming too expensive to fund.

This shift in retirement plans forces younger generations entering the workforce to take an active role in planning for their future.

“Michigan has always been a great state to live, work and play, especially given our generous labor relations packages that created pensions for many automotive, union, state and municipal workers. During periods of economic boom and surplus in tax revenues, it was easy to set up plans that gave employees a check on the first of every month for the rest of their life once they retired,” Morgan said.

However, many of these programs are underfunded.

Individual retirement accounts (IRAs) are also becoming more popular and accessible due to new technology and online financial services. The average American can save $6,000 a year in an IRA, and those over 50 can save an additional $1,000.
REAL ESTATE
Continued from Page 3A

“There’s no sign of decline,” said Patrik Welty, owner/broker of Legacy Realty Professionals in Fenton.

He added that while the market is not declining, it’s not as dramatic as last year. “It’s not like a feeding frenzy 24/7,” he said.

This has been the situation for a couple years, with no clear answer as to when prices will plateau.

Homes in the $175,000 range remain “hot commodities,” and can sell before they hit the market with multiple offers. Welty said the only balanced market is the non-lake homes listed for around $500,000. These can actually sit on the market for a few weeks with a regular pattern of offers.

Sales are still climbing. Thompson said 480 residential homes were sold in May of 2018 in Genesee County. There were 540 sold in May of 2019. Every month so far has beaten sales for 2018.

She added that average home prices in Genesee County have also increased from $151,000 to $163,000.

“I can’t believe we haven’t reached that plateau yet. It feels like it’s time,” she said. She added that this won’t happen until this problem of inventory is solved. There aren’t enough single family homes under $200,000 for sale.

New homes needed
To ease the lack of inventory, more new homes need to be built — especially those under $200,000.

Lisa Sears is executive officer of the Home Builders Association of Mid-Michigan with 30 years in the industry. When asked if new builds have increased, she said that it’s “complicated.”

“It’s pocketed,” she said. “Fenton’s really hot right now.” Southern Genesee County is seeing more construction than northern Genesee County.

She said there are a few challenges to building new homes. One major issue is affordable land. A smaller builder won’t be able to buy up an entire subdivision-worth of land and develop it. “It’s a real quandary for the smaller builders,” Sears said.

Another issue is that in previous years, someone building a new home would have instant equity, and it would be worth more than a similar existing home.

Today, an existing home may be a better investment. The price to build a home can only go up with the cost of materials and the impact of federal tariffs on steel and aluminum.

Still, she said in many ways the industry is doing better than during the crash of 2006 to 2009.

Welty is confident that there is no real estate “bubble” that can be burst leading to another crash. “Dynamics from 2008 don’t exist today,” he said. Risky, no documentation, no proof-of-income loans created back then, don’t exist today.

Because he doesn’t predict a crash, he can’t predict when this sellers’ market might change.

What are sellers and buyers being advised, according to Welty?

Buyers: make sure financing is in order, and be informed about what your price range can buy. Be prepared to move quickly if you like the home. Homes can sell in hours.

Sellers: homes need to be priced appropriately for the market and be in good condition. They shouldn’t have major issues that could impede financing.

Sellers and buyers need to be informed about what homes will sell for, and what the personal financial impacts and process will be.
FIREFIGHTER
Continued from Front Page
Stephens and another firefighter be terminated because they hadn’t responded to enough calls. After discussion, the board told Volz to better document warnings he gives to his firefighters.

Firefighters must respond to at least 20 percent of calls a month, per their contract. For officers, which includes captains, that percentage is 30 percent. If these employees fail to meet this requirement, they first receive a verbal written warning from Volz. If they don’t meet these numbers for a second time, they receive another written warning. The third time, they’re fired.

A Freedom of Information Act request shows that Stephens did not respond to more than 30 percent of calls for any month in 2019, but in two months, he responded to more than 20 percent. The documents also show a number of other firefighters who did not make their percentages for a few months, but they were marked with “leave of absence” or “medical leave.”

Stephens said he misses calls because he often gets them when he’s at work. He also agreed it’s a hostile work environment.

At the June 17 meeting, instead of termination, Treasurer John Tucker asked the board if Stephens could have the option of resigning his officer post and be a firefighter because he met 20 percent. If he did not resign his officer position in seven days, he would be fired.

The board voted 6-1 on this, with Clerk Robert Krug dissenting.

‘Hostile work environment’ claim

Kristy Polidan, a plaintiff in a sexual harassment lawsuit against Volz, spoke during the June 17 meeting. She spoke in favor of Stephens and alleged that Volz wanted to fire Stephens because he supported Polidan in a lawsuit against Volz.

Polidan, who works at Station 1, said, “Station 2 is here to support the chief in firing a captain who’s given 17 years of his life. Yeah, he hasn’t made his percentage. You want to know why he hasn’t made his percentage? Because he supported me. It is a hostile work environment. I have let you guys (the board) know that. You have been told that and you don’t care about it.”

Stephens and Polidan are plaintiffs in a sexual harassment lawsuit that was brought against Volz in July 2018. The Fenton Township Fire Department has two fire stations. Stephens works at Station 1 on Bowles off North Long Lake Road.

Julie Gafkay of Gafkay Law, PLC represents Stephens and Polidan in the case, which alleges that Volz failed to stop the sexual harassment of Polidan and participating in a “pervasively” culture of sexual harassment. Volz was accused of retaliating against Stephens for supporting Polidan by altering his hours, assigning a lower ranking lieutenant to use his office and failing to allow him to be in charge during Volz’s absence.

Case dismissed

When asked about the case Tuesday, Gafkay declined to comment but confirmed the case was dismissed.

The township conducted its own investigation. In mid August 2018, the board decided to suspend Volz without pay until Oct. 1 and included other stipulations, such as attending diversity training.

“Through this whole process, our crew has gotten tighter. We’ve gotten more family oriented,” Volz said. “You have these problems all over the U.S., it’s not just here. We’re just ready to move forward and do what we do, protecting the township.”

Volz said the standard operating procedures (SOPs) are simple, and it’s not fair to the residents when people don’t show up.

“It’s just a nightmare I hope can soon be over. It’s cost my family and department a whole lot of heartache,” he said.

Firefighters comment

Township Supervisor Bonnie Mathis, Volz’s mother-in-law, did not abstain from the discussion or vote. She directed the firefighters in attendance of the June 17 meeting to direct any complaints to Thomas Broecker, operations manager/deputy clerk.

A handful of firefighters were in attendance at the June 17 meeting. One firefighter who works at Station 1 claimed they are constantly cancelled on calls, making it harder for them to make their required amount.

A few firefighters spoke in favor of Volz.

Mike Cross, who’s been with the department for 16 years, said, “I’ve known Ryan since he was captain. I have nothing but the utmost respect for him. We’re all adults in this department.”

He said everyone in the department is aware of the rules.

“In spite of everything that’s going on, these people, these men and women on this department I’ve served with, have done it honorably, under intense pressure. They’ve never wavered. That’s a reflection of the chief,” he said.

At the time, Clerk Robert Krug suggested that deputies with the Genesee County Sheriff’s Office accompany the fire department on calls for security purposes. He expressed concern that the township will be sued, which was his reason for voting no. He said Volz has suggested they realign the supervisory positions.

Trustee Vince Lorraine said what he saw at the meeting was “seriously disturbing. If our fire department, which protects constituents in Fenton Township and there is that much turmoil within, we’ve got a problem.”

Mathis said the township will get through this and that the board did the right thing.

On June 17, Treasurer John Tucker said, “The probability of a lawsuit is 150 percent,” but since learning that Stephens resigned his officer position, Tucker said he believes any lawsuit has been averted for the time being.
LEGISLATORS HOST JOINT OFFICE HOURS IN FENTON TOWNSHIP ON FRIDAY, JULY 12

State Sen. Ken Horn (R-Frankenmuth) and State Rep. Mike Mueller (R-Fenton Township), will be hosting joint office hours in Linden on Friday, July 12. The lawmakers will be available to meet with constituents at the following date, time and location:

• Friday, July 12 - 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mueller’s Orchard and Cider Mill 6036 Lobdell Road, Linden

Both legislators will be on hand to answer questions and respond to concerns any residents of their respective districts may have. No appointment is necessary. For more information or to contact Horn, visit SenatorKenHorn.com or call (517) 373-1760. To contact Mueller, visit gophouse.org/representatives/mueller or call (517) 373-1780.

McLaren welcomes urologist to medical staff

Roger Jump III, DO, a board certified urologist, has joined the medical staff at McLaren Flint. Jump is seeing patients at Urological Services, PC, 1121 W. Hill Rd., Flint. Jump completed his residency at St. John Providence Health System in Warren. He earned his medical degree from Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine in Lansing. Jump is accepting new patients and can be reached by calling (810) 232-8888.

PARKING

Continued from Front Page

The Fenton City Council heard recommendations for the Cornerstone public parking lot at its Monday, July 1 work session. Officials agreed with the City Council Parking Committee’s recommendations, which are that:

• All of the existing temporary parking signs will be removed and made permanent.
• All of the temporary parking signs per the Cornerstone HOA (Homeowner Association) agreement, which expired Dec. 31, 2016, be removed.
• The three parking spaces with special parking time limits in front of Rough Draft coffee and barroom will be removed.
• The city will enter into an annual permit and/or lease agreement with Sawyer Flowers & Gifts will be removed (agreement expired Feb. 28, 2017).

Additionally, Cornerstone building residents and businesses will have parking permits available to them for $250 per year.

According to the committee, the intent of these recommendations is to create the most beneficial and user friendly parking environment for all of the various businesses and residential customers within the downtown area.

RESIGNS

Continued from Page 5A

Believe Dan can come in and correct those needs and put us on a proper path. Dan is from West Michigan and I’ve always known he’s wanted to come back to West Michigan if the opportunity presented itself. We had a very good person in that role who we lost to the city of Douglas to become their city manager and while I didn’t want to lose that individual, I’m glad the opportunity presented itself for Dan to come help us in the City of Lowell.”

“I have very much enjoyed working for this community. There are many good people working at the city that I enjoy working with,” Czarnecki said. “The entire Public Works Department, including those in the public works division, as well as the water treatment employees, water distribution workers, and water billing clerk, are the best anywhere. They are a team of dedicated people who will do what it takes to serve Fenton. I have never worked with a better group of public works employees. The community should be very happy with the quality of workers that are here.”

Czarnecki added that the Fenton community has many volunteers that are doing a great job helping to build up the area for residents and visitors.

“It’s amazing to see some of these people work very hard for the benefit of the entire city,” he said. “There are a couple of those volunteers I am going to miss dearly. I wish the best for the entire community.”

“The direction of Fenton is positive,” Czarnecki said. “There have been many improvements over the years that have been very good for the city of Fenton and the area. I wish only the best for my coworkers, my Fenton friends, and the community.”

Until the Fenton City Council and administration decides how to proceed with replacing Czarnecki, there is a deputy Public Works director, Dan Brisson, who will likely handle the responsibilities of the director.
**WARREN WOMAN ARRESTED FOR DRUNK DRIVING**

At 1 a.m. on Saturday, June 29, a Fenton police officer following a vehicle observed several moving violations. A traffic stop was initiated on U.S. 23 near Silver Lake Road. The officer made contact with the driver, a 39-year-old Warren woman who admitted to have consumed alcohol prior to driving. Field sobriety tests were administered and she was arrested for operating a vehicle while intoxicated. She was lodged overnight at the police station and released with a court appearance ticket for OWI.

**DIRT BIKE STOLEN**

The Fenton Police Department is investigating the theft of a dirt bike. Lt. Jeff Cross said a 36-year-old man living in an apartment complex off Torrey Road said sometime between 8:30 p.m., June 30 and 7:30 a.m., July 1, someone stole his orange and white KTM dirt bike, valued at $2,000. It was parked in a carport near his apartment. The bike was not functioning at the time and the suspect(s) had to either push it or pick it up to steal. The bike has a Colorado license plate on it and the numbers 666 printed on each side. If anyone has information, they are asked to call Fenton police at (810) 629-5311.
Get off your butt!

Sitting at your job for hours on end can be risky to your health

Compiled By Vera Hogan

It’s not just couch potatoes that have to worry — working people who sit at their jobs all day face several health risks due to inactivity.

According to webmd.com, sitting all day hurts your heart. Scientists first noticed something was wrong in a study that compared two similar groups: transit drivers, who sit most of the day, and conductors or guards, who don’t. Though their diets and lifestyles were a lot alike, those who sat were about twice as likely to get heart disease as those who stood.

They also found:

It can shorten your life
You’re more likely to die earlier from any cause if you sit for long stretches at a time. It doesn’t help if you exercise every day or not. Of course, that’s no excuse to skip the gym. If you do that, your time may be even shorter.

Dementia is more likely
If you sit too much, your brain could look just like that of someone with dementia. Sitting also raises your risk of heart disease, diabetes, stroke, high blood pressure, and high cholesterol, which all play a role in the condition.

Moving throughout the day can help even more than exercise to lower your risk of all these health problems.

You’ll undo all that exercise
The effects of too much sitting are hard to counter with exercise. Even if you work out seven hours a week — far more than the suggested two to three hours — you can’t reverse the effects of sitting hours at a time.

Your odds of getting diabetes rise
You’re more likely to have it, too, if you sit all day. And it isn’t only because you burn fewer calories. It’s the actual sitting that seems to do it. It isn’t clear why, but doctors think sitting may change the way your body reacts to insulin, the hormone that helps it burn sugar and carbs for energy.

You could get DVT
Deep vein thrombosis (DVT) is a clot that forms in your leg, often because you sit still for too long. It can be serious if the clot breaks free and lodges in your lung. You might notice swelling and pain, but some people have no symptoms. That’s why it’s a good idea to break up long sitting sessions.

You’ll gain weight
If you watch a lot of TV or surf the web...
**Looking Back at This Week in History**

**JULY 7**
1981: President Ronald Reagan nominates Sandra Day O’Connor, an Arizona court of appeals judge, to be the first woman Supreme Court justice in U.S. history. On Sept. 21, the Senate unanimously approved her appointment to the nation’s highest court, and on Sept. 25 she was sworn in by Chief Justice Warren Burger.

**JULY 10**
1889: In a drunken rage, “Buckskin” Frank Leslie murders his lover, the Tombstone prostitute Blonde Mollie Williams. Leslie was an ill-tempered and violent man, especially when he drank. He sometimes claimed he had been trained in medicine and pharmacy, and he even boasted that he had studied in Europe. Supposedly, he earned the nickname “Buckskin” while working as an Army Scout in the Plains Indian Wars. None of his assertions can be confirmed in the historical record.

**JULY 11**
1656: Ann Austin and Mary Fisher, two Englishwomen, become the first Quakers to immigrate to the American colonies when the ship carrying them lands at Boston in the Massachusetts Bay Colony. The pair came from Barbados, where Quakers had established a center for missionary work.

**JULY 12**
1979: As the 1970s came to an end, the age of disco was also nearing its finale. But for all of its decadence and overexposure, disco didn’t quite die a natural death by collapsing under its own weight. Instead, it was killed by a public backlash that reached its peak on this day in 1979 with the infamous “Disco Demolition” night at Chicago’s Comiskey Park. That incident, which led to at least nine injuries, 39 arrests and the cancellation and forfeit of a Major League Baseball game, is widely credited with dealing disco its death blow.

**JULY 13**
1990: The romantic-thriller Ghost, starring Demi Moore, Patrick Swayze and Whoopi Goldberg, opens in theaters across the United States. The film, about a woman who communicates with her murdered husband through a sassy psychic, was a box-office hit and received multiple Academy Award nominations, including Best Picture and Best Screenplay.

**JULY 11-14, 19-21, & 26-28**

The Fenton Village Players proudly present:

**Dazz You For You**

Tickets and Info at: www.fentontheatre.org

Previews: Thursday, July 11 & April 28

Opening Night: Friday, July 12

Performances: 7:30 p.m. Friday & Saturday; 2 p.m. Sunday

Make up: June 24 & 25

Tickets: $27.50, $22.50, $16.50, $10.50

**JULY 15**
1962: “This here ain’t no protest song or anything like that,” Bob Dylan said. “Blowin’ in the Wind.” A few weeks later, Dylan walked into a studio and recorded the song that would make him a star.

**JULY 16**
1860: Jefferson Randolph Smith went west while still a young man, finding work as a cowboy in Georgia in 1860.

**JULY 8**
1889: A disgruntled city engineer in Skagway, Alaska, murders “Soapy” Smith, one of the most notorious con men in the history of the West. Born in Georgia in 1860, Jefferson Randolph Smith went west while still a young man, finding work as a cowboy in Texas. Smith eventually tired of the hard work and low wages offered by the cowboy life, though, and discovered that he could make more money with less effort by convincing gullible westerners to part with their cash in clever confidence games.

**JULY 9**
1962: “This here ain’t no protest song or anything like that,” Bob Dylan said. “Blowin’ in the Wind.” A few weeks later, Dylan walked into a studio and recorded the song that would make him a star.

**JULY 17**
1962: “This here ain’t no protest song or anything like that,” Bob Dylan said. “Blowin’ in the Wind.” A few weeks later, Dylan walked into a studio and recorded the song that would make him a star.

**JULY 18**
1962: “This here ain’t no protest song or anything like that,” Bob Dylan said. “Blowin’ in the Wind.” A few weeks later, Dylan walked into a studio and recorded the song that would make him a star.

**JULY 19**
1962: “This here ain’t no protest song or anything like that,” Bob Dylan said. “Blowin’ in the Wind.” A few weeks later, Dylan walked into a studio and recorded the song that would make him a star.

**JULY 20**
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**JULY 23**
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**JULY 24**
1962: “This here ain’t no protest song or anything like that,” Bob Dylan said. “Blowin’ in the Wind.” A few weeks later, Dylan walked into a studio and recorded the song that would make him a star.

**JULY 25**
1962: “This here ain’t no protest song or anything like that,” Bob Dylan said. “Blowin’ in the Wind.” A few weeks later, Dylan walked into a studio and recorded the song that would make him a star.

**JULY 26**
1962: “This here ain’t no protest song or anything like that,” Bob Dylan said. “Blowin’ in the Wind.” A few weeks later, Dylan walked into a studio and recorded the song that would make him a star.

**JULY 27**
1962: “This here ain’t no protest song or anything like that,” Bob Dylan said. “Blowin’ in the Wind.” A few weeks later, Dylan walked into a studio and recorded the song that would make him a star.

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**JULY 29**
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**JULY 30**
1962: “This here ain’t no protest song or anything like that,” Bob Dylan said. “Blowin’ in the Wind.” A few weeks later, Dylan walked into a studio and recorded the song that would make him a star.

**JULY 31**
1962: “This here ain’t no protest song or anything like that,” Bob Dylan said. “Blowin’ in the Wind.” A few weeks later, Dylan walked into a studio and recorded the song that would make him a star.

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**Your Smile Matters!**

By: Dr. Steven Sulfaro

Dentures restore the smile and aid in chewing of food when the natural teeth are lost because of dental disease and/or trauma. The biggest challenge for most denture wearers is the lower denture. Unlike the upper denture which usually has retention and is stable; the lower denture has no retention and is often unstable. Lower dentures float. Most people get along pretty well with their complete upper denture but tolerate, at best, their lower denture. Since lower dentures are less stable and lack retention; eating is often a challenge. Those of us with our own teeth take for granted the fact that we can go to any restaurant and order anything we want from the menu. Denture wearers are often limited on what they can eat because of their lower denture. Now, I am happy to report that there is hope. With the help of dental implants it is now possible to give a denture wearer a lower denture that is stable and HAS retention. With dental implants it is possible to have a lower denture that DOES NOT FLOAT. Dental implants give a precision, snap fit to a once loose and floating lower denture. An implant retained lower denture can be life changing. Now, with their lower denture firmly and snugly in place, they can eat and enjoy essentially anything they want. If you or someone you know and love can eat and enjoy essentially anything they want. If you or someone you know and love...
Buying a private label vs. national brand has very little to do with quality of goods

By Vera Hogan

Last week, a shopper at the VG’s Grocery in Fenton could buy a dozen fresh “jumbo” eggs for $1.29. The eggs were sold under the private “Our Family” label. The same size eggs under another label could cost over $3 a dozen.

Are the “Our Family” eggs inferior in some way? Experts say store brand products are just as good as their national brand counterparts.

A private brand is a product that is manufactured for and sold under the name of a specific retailer, competing with brand-name products. Also referred to as “private label” or “store brand,” prices for private brands tend to be less than those of nationally recognized name brand goods. Private brand items can provide retailers, such as supermarkets, with a better margin than the brand-name goods they also carry.

Branding products are more expensive for many reasons, ranging from marketing and advertising to investors demanding a high return-on-investment. Also, national brand products can carry prestige, which justify a higher price. There have been studies that suggest store brands are, in most cases, every bit as good as their name brand equivalents. Consumer Reports recently ran some blind taste tests and found 33 of 57 store-brand foods to be as good as or better than the big name brand.

According to Consumer Reports, “We found that not only are store-brand foods often much cheaper, but in nearly 60 percent of the comparisons we did our experts found them to be at least as good as the national brand. We recommend that consumers take advantage of the lower prices. After all, if they’re not satisfied with the store brand, most supermarket chains will refund their money.”

There may be some name brand food items that should remain in your shopping cart. For example, you might be fond of a particular brand of frozen pizza. If the store brand is made by the same manufacturer, that could be an option. On the other hand, if not it could be a disappointment. The only way to know is to give it a try.

The overall objective is to save money without sacrificing quality, so the savvy grocery shopper should go where the savings are. Sometimes that might be the advertised brand. Shoppers should be on the lookout for sales and coupons that might make the advertised brand cheaper than either a store brand or generic.
Four bikes raffled off at Bike Rodeo

Kids get free helmets and bike inspection

By Hannah Ball

Argentine Twp. — Bike rides, free helmets and hot dogs were enjoyed by attendees at the second annual Bike Rodeo hosted by the Argentine Township Police Department on Saturday, June 29 at the Linden High School.

The event helps promote bike safety. “This is the second year. We’re going to do it every year. Every year we’re going to get it bigger,” said Doug Fulton, Argentine Township detective sergeant.

Kids brought their own bikes, and police recorded the serial number in case the bike is stolen or lost. They gave parents a sticker to put on the bike that contains emergency contact information, such as the parent’s name, number, any allergies to medication and more. If a child falls off their bike and is knocked unconscious, emergency responders know who to call. Kids also got a free toy and a sticker.

The department also handed out pamphlets on Crime Stoppers and where to properly store guns in the house.

Representatives from the Hurley Trauma Center were on scene to teach kids about common injuries associated with biking, which include concussions. They taught parents about warning signs associated with head injuries. The children were fit with a new helmet and their bike was inspected by Cyclefit Sports. After that, they biked through the course and learned hand signals.

The Argentine Township Fire Department was on scene with a truck that kids could explore. The hot dogs were donated by Patty and Larry Davis, the buns were donated by The Deck, and the tents were donated by Tents Events with E’s.

The helmets, along with four bikes that were raffled off, were paid for by the police department through two grants from the Walmart store in Grand Blanc, totaling $2,000, Fulton said.

The police department started this event through their crime prevention unit. They held the first bike rodeo last summer in a mobile home park that had an issue with kids on bikes running through stop signs and not riding safely.

Fulton said he once responded to a 5-year-old riding her bike on McCaslin Lake Road, which is a 55 mph road.

Rebecca Singelis walked around with her son, Mason, 7, who went to every station. “I brought him to get his bike checked out, get a helmet. He needed one, and I wouldn’t know which one to buy. And to see all the policemen, see the fire trucks and ride his bike,” Singelis said.

House Bill 4234: Authorize subsidized state farm loans for rainy weather

To authorize $15 million in state-subsidized, below-market rate loans to Michigan farmers affected by rainy weather in the spring of 2019. Passed 34 to 1 in the Senate

- Sen. Ruth Johnson (R-Dist. 14) ✗ YES
- Sen. Jim Runestad (R-Dist. 15) ✗ YES
- Sen. Lana Theis (R-Dist. 22) ✗ YES
- Sen. Jim Ananich (D-Dist. 27) ✗ YES
- Sen. Ken Horn (R-Dist. 32) ✗ YES

Passed 99 to 6 in the House

- Rep. Hank Vaupel (R-Dist. 47) ✗ YES
- Rep. Mike Mueller (R-Dist. 51) did not vote

House Bill 4694: Authorize more school retiree “double dipping”

To revise a law that allows certain retired school employees to work in schools that need more staff in particular subjects while still collecting pension checks alongside their current pay. According to the House Fiscal Agency, this would benefit some former staff brought back as instructors in a particular non-profit’s reading program used by around 150 western Michigan schools, and like other “double dipping” exceptions in the law could potentially increase unfunded liabilities in the school pension system.

Passed 102 to 7 in the House

- Rep. Hank Vaupel (R-Dist. 47) ✗ YES
- Rep. Mike Mueller (R-Dist. 51) ✗ YES

House Bill 4223: Mandate dental testing and screening for children

To mandate that children entering kindergarten or first grade for the first time bring a form signed by a dentist or dental hygienist certifying that the child’s teeth were examined and assessed within the past six months. Also, to require the state welfare department to create a dental oral assessment program for children who did not get the exam before registering for school enrollment.

Passed 93 to 16 in the House

- Rep. Hank Vaupel (R-Dist. 47) ✗ YES
- Rep. Mike Mueller (R-Dist. 51) ✗ YES
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Back this year!
Robo-Con will host an official off-season High School robotics competition.

APOLLO 11 FOUNDING MEMBERS:
SITTING
Continued from Page 18A
for hours on end, you’re more likely to
be overweight or obese. If you exercise
every day, that’s good, but it won’t make
a huge dent in extra weight you gain as
a result of too much screen time.
Your anxiety might spike
It could be that you’re often by your-
self and engaged in a screen-based ac-
tivity. If this disrupts your sleep, you can
get even more anxious. Plus, too much
alone time can make you withdraw
from friends and loved ones, which is
linked to social anxiety. Scientists are
still trying to figure out the exact cause.
It hurts your back
The seated position puts huge stress
on your back muscles, neck, and spine.
It’s even worse if you slouch. Look for
an ergonomic chair, one that will be the
right height and support your back in the
proper spots. But no matter how com-
fortable you get, your back still won’t
like a long sitting session. Get up and
move around for a minute or two every
half hour to keep your spine in line.
It leads to varicose veins
Sit for too long and blood can pool
in your legs. This puts added pressure
in your veins. They could swell, twist,
or bulge to what doctors call varicose
veins. You may also see spider veins,
bundles of broken blood vessels
nearby. They usually aren’t serious,
but they can ache. Your doctor can
tell you about treatment options if you
need them.
If you don’t move it, you could
lose it
Older adults who aren’t active may
be more likely to get osteoporosis
(weakened bones) and could slowly
become unable to perform basic tasks
of everyday life, like taking a bath or
using the toilet. While moderate exer-
cise won’t prevent it, you don’t have
to go out and run a marathon to stay
mobile in your golden years.
Your cancer risk goes up
You may be more likely to get
colon, endometrial, or lung cancer.
The more you sit, the higher the odds.
Older women have higher odds of
breast cancer. That doesn’t change
if you’re super-active. What matters
is how much you sit.

How to take a stand
Work more movement into
your day. Stand up and stretch
every half hour or so. Touch your
toes. Take a stroll around the
office. Stand at your desk for
part of the day. Get a desk that
raises or make your own. Set your
computer on top of a box. Talk to
your boss about a treadmill desk.
All these things can help stop the
negative effects of uninterrupted
sitting and keep you on the road
to good health.

Reality TV series holds virtual casting call

Seeks Fenton area residents to help raise awareness, resources for mental illness

Compiled by Sharon Stone

Mental health charity, Journey’s Dream (journeysdream.org), co-found-
ed by Breaha Wallin of Fenton has been
selected to partner with the socially con-
scious, award-winning media project,
Charity TV Global (charitytvglobal.
com), as they prepare to launch their
groundbreaking adventure reality TV
series in the United States.

An innovative virtual casting call is
underway to find 12 people to feature in
an unforgettable adventure.

“The question we’re asking Fenton
and greater Genesee County residents
is this,” said Charity TV Global founder
Troy Gray, “Are you ready to go on the
adventure of a lifetime, be filmed by
an award-winning TV crew and be a
reality TV star?”

Those who are interested can watch
a three-minute video on Charity TV
Global’s Facebook page and visit www.
charitytvglobal.com to register. Charity
TV Global is a cutting-edge fundrais-
ing platform for charities worldwide,
which combines entertainment with
philanthropy.

Almost 44 million Americans experi-
ence mental illness in any given year, ac-
cording to the National Institute of Mental
Health. From widespread maladies like
anxiety and depression, to headline-
making crises like post traumatic stress
disorder (PTSD) among veterans and
opioid addiction in rural communities,
mental illness takes a real toll on Ameri-
can families.

The partnership with Charity TV
Global further equips Journey’s Dream
to bring these mental health challenges
out of the shadows, face them head-on,
and fill an enormous need for accessible
resources and hope.

Proceeds raised from this project
support Journey’s Dream in achieving
its mission to convene, develop and
share the most effective and innovative
solutions for mental health.

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Office reconfiguration and new equipment aimed at improving efficiency

By Vera Hogan

The Fenton Building and Zoning Department is making a few changes aimed at making day-to-day operations more efficient.

At its Monday, July 1 work session, the City Council approved two requests by Building and Zoning Administrator Mike Reilly — one to re-arrange current office space to better accommodate staff and visitors, and two, to purchase digital equipment for the review and storage of construction plans.

Upon review of the department’s functionality, Reilly proposed switching offices to place the majority of personnel in the larger office. This will put Reilly’s office adjacent to that of the Public Works director. This will allow Reilly to close off the office for private discussions without “trapping” people in the center room.

As he was previously instructed, Reilly contacted Space, the company that designed the front office work space. A representative from Space provided a design proposal that includes new work stations with adjustable desks and work space dividers.

The total cost to implement this plan will be $12,116.40.

“I am proposing to take the department ‘paperless,’ which is a two-fold benefit,” Reilly said. Document storage will be greatly reduced, another space saver.

Reilly proposed the purchase of a digital construction plan review table with a plotter/scanner. The construction plans will be submitted, reviewed and approved in digital format, he said.

“The digital plans will be accessible to our field inspectors, fire and police emergency responders with modem access,” Reilly said.

The total cost of the plan table is $19,223. Required licensing will be $1,037 per year. The plotter/scanner will cost $10,995 and six printer cartridges will cost $720.

In considering this change, Reilly said he discussed the matter with the State of Michigan Bureau of Construction Codes to ensure compliance.

---

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**2019 Fenton Freedom Festival**

(Above) The Fenton Center of Hope brought more than a dozen parade walkers and kids who rode bicycles, some decked out in red, white and blue festive decorations.

(Left) A girl on a back of a truck blows bubbles for the crowd at the 2019 Fenton Freedom Festival parade. (Below) Freedom Festival attendees applauded members of the military who led the way for the parade. See more photos online at myfenton.com.

Photos: Hannah Ball

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Holly’s Beck headed to Saginaw Valley State

By David Troppens

Marissa Beck has wanted to play softball at the collegiate level for a long time.

Her dream will come true when the 2019 Holly graduate hits Saginaw Valley State University campus this fall as a member of the team’s softball squad.

“It’s been a long-time dream of mine,” Beck said. “I’m super excited. I can’t wait for it.”

Beck, who made her decision during her senior season, said it was between Saginaw Valley State and Aquinas University.

“I picked Saginaw because I fell in love with the school,” Beck said. “As soon as you walk on campus, it’s like a community of people that just welcome you. When I met the coach, he was inspirational. All the players pushed me to be better than I was before, and I absolutely

See BECK on 26A

Local runners lead pack at Firecracker 5K

By David Troppens

Fenton — Joseph Gilbert, 16, wanted a personal-best time at the Fenton Firecracker 5K Run held Thursday morning during Fenton’s Freedom Festival activities.

He ended up doing a bit more than that.

The Lake Fenton junior ended up winning the 5K race, posting a best time of 16:48.4 during a hot and humid morning at the event. The Fenton resident edged out another teenager, Howell’s Connor Joyce, for the top spot. Also 16, Joyce finished in 16:52, less than four seconds behind Gilbert. Another Howell teenager, Dan Kromberg, 14, finished fourth in 17:36.9. The top finishing woman was Fenton resident Jacklyn Juhl, who took 10th overall.

She was the only woman to finish under 20 minutes with a time of 19:36.7. Amber Armstead was the second woman to finish, crossing the finish line in 22:15.6. Fenton’s Amanda Thomas was third overall with a time of 22:57.3.

“I came here hoping to PR (personal record),” Gilbert said. “I stuck with the kid who was in front of me for most of

See FIRECRACKER on 26A

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GREATEST CHAMPIONSHIP TEAMS I’VE EXPERIENCED IN MY LIFETIME (PART 1)

Last week I posted my sixth through 10th most memorable championship squads in my sports lifetime.

Let’s not waste that much space and let’s start my top five.

No. 5 - 2008 Linden boys cross country:
I don’t think I’ll ever forget that day. The Linden cross country team not only won the school’s first-ever state championship for any sport, but did it in about as dominant way as possible. Linden scored 59 points, with all five scoring runners finishing within the top 29. Second place Vicksburg couldn’t compete, scoring 174 points. It was complete domination.

No. 4 - Our Monday Summer Volleyball League team:
I know, how lame can I get? This isn’t even a varsity sports team. But, for this then 49-year-old guy the fact that young athletic players like Annette Rutkowski, Morgan Gavulic and Jordan Sidebottom were completely willing to include ‘Mr. Fourth-best Player’ on the team as I tried to prove I belonged was a complete honor. We only lost two matches all summer long and actually made more prize money than we paid into the league. But as good as they are players, they are awesome people. It was a lot of fun.

No. 3 - 2003-04 Detroit Pistons:
Known as the ‘Going to Work’ Pistons, this team played outstanding defense and was balanced on offense, leading the franchise to their third NBA championship.

Continued from Page 25A

Beck pitched just about every inning for the Holly Bronchos and expects to pitch at Saginaw Valley as well. She should provide a solid bat as well.

“My goal is to be a starter, so I’m going to be working this whole summer,” Beck said. “I’m working with my pitching coach Mike Tomlinson over at Virtual Baseball, and he’s working with me with my hitting and pitching. We are making new strides each day to get better and better.”

Saginaw Valley State University is a Division 2 team from the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Association (GLIAC). The squad posted a 28-24 record overall and a 16-16 mark in the GLIAC during the spring. The Cardinals used seven different pitchers a year ago, and two were seniors.

Beck said she’s ready for the next level.

Continued at MYFENTON.COM
TOP 16
Continued from Page 25A
four others have been on at least 10 polls, and seven different teams have topped the poll at No. 1. With each poll, at least one new team made the top 16 for the first time.

That’s enough of a summary right now. In today’s edition we’ll detail the bottom six squads of our 2018-19 Tri-County Top 16 Teams.

No. 16 - Linden softball: The squad started the season with a 5-4-1 record, but this team filled with only sophomores and juniors started putting it together. The squad went 21-5 the rest of the season and posted a 14-2 co-championship record in the Metro League. The Eagles also won a district crown, defeating Lake Fenton and Goodrich en route to the title.

This is Linden’s first time in our top 16 since placing third in 2012-13 after making it to the state semifinal.

No. 15 - Linden boys basketball: This is the first time the Eagles have ever been on the poll. Linden flirted with posting an undefeated Metro League season until a loss to Clio in the second-last game of the year. Linden finished the season with a 15-1 Metro record, two games ahead of Clio. The Eagles also beat the Fenton Tigers three times, beating them in the district. Linden’s season ended in the Division 1 district championship game, falling to Howell in overtime. Howell advanced to the state semifinals.

No. 14 - Fenton boys swimming and diving: The Tigers won their eighth straight Metro League title, posting a 5-0 dual record. At the Metro meet, the Tigers crushed it as well, scoring 242 more points than second-place Swartz Creek/Flushing.

The Tigers also earned eight different individual entries and three relay entries into the Division 2 state swim meet, with three entries making it to the second day. The Tigers scored 17 points, earning 25th place overall.

The Fenton boys swim team has been in our final 16 poll seven of the last eight years.

No. 13 - Fenton boys soccer: Seven fall teams will eventually earn a spot on this list, giving the fall season the most entries in the top 16. The Tigers finished the Metro League season with a 7-0-1 record, earning a league title. They spent a good chunk of the season ranked in the top 10. Fenton won a district title, beating the Linden Eagles for a third time during the season in the process.

The Tigers have been on our list only three times, finishing as high as fourth on our 2016/17 list.

No. 12 - Fenton girls track and field: The Tigers dominated the Metro League, going 8-0 in duals and then scoring 200.5 points, 64.5 points ahead of second-place Flushing. The Tigers won seven of the 17 events at the league meet.

The Tigers took third at the regional meet, earning two regional champions (Hanna Chapin in the pole vault and Cassandra Campbell in the 300 hurdles). The Tigers placed 32nd at the state meet.

No. 11 - Lake Fenton boys cross country: The Blue Devils are the first of three cross country squads on our list. Lake Fenton didn’t capture the Genesee Area Conference title, but had an outstanding postseason. Lake Fenton captured its first-ever Division 2 regional championship, beating out Goodrich to earn the crown.

CONTINUED AT MYFENTON.COM

DABBLINGS
Continued from Page 26A
championship ever. Ben Wallace dominated games without scoring a point. Gosh, do I miss this team. It’s hard to believe that 15 years has gone by since that title already.

No. 2 - 1988-89 Detroit Pistons: Anyone who lived in suburbia Detroit during the Bad Boys era will never forget it. It was the Pistons versus everyone else. The world hated the Pistons, we loved them. They were about defense, mental toughness and just beating up their opposition. If you couldn’t mentally deal with the Pistons’ physicality, you were dead meat.

What made this team awesome was it seemed like the squad had to climb hurdles forever. First, it was beating the Celtics. Then it was figuring a way past the Lakers. The process to the first championship season was like a story book that lasted about four seasons. And when the Bad Boys got to the top, they had the entire Detroit area buzzing as much as it has for any team in my lifetime with maybe the exception of the No. 1 team on this list. The Bad Boys were awesome.

No. 1 - 1984 Detroit Tigers: After a strong second-place showing in 1983, it just felt like the 1984 season was going to be the Detroit Tigers’ season. And the Tigers pretty much proved that within the first few games. They won the first nine games, and among those wins Jack Morris pitched a no-hitter. The team started 35-5, and cruised to an American League East title from that point.

Once the Tigers won the division, they crushed the Royals in three straight games and then beat the Padres in the World Series in just five contests.

The Tigers captured the imagination of the state, and the entire nation. ‘Bless You Boys’ was the battle cry and radio stations played a song based on the saying. It was a great summer to be alive and be a Detroit sports fan. I will never forget that season.
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SALES HOURS
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Wednesday, Friday: 8:30am - 6pm
Saturday: 10am - 4pm
Sunday: CLOSED

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