

Late night U.S. 23 crash in Fenton claims one life

■ The driver, a 25-year-old Mt. Morris woman, is hospitalized with non life-threatening injuries

By Sharon Stone

Clarence Coleman, 27, of Flint was killed and a 25-year-old Mt. Morris woman is hospitalized with non life-threatening injuries following a one-vehicle crash on southbound U.S. 23, south of Owen Road in Fenton on

Friday, July 12.

Lt. Jeff Cross of the Fenton Police Department said the police and fire department responded to a 911 call at 11:18 p.m. regarding a gray Pontiac G6 that had veered from the highway and struck a tree.

Shortly after police and fire arrival,

Coleman was pronounced deceased at the scene. He was a passenger in a car driven by the Mt. Morris woman.

Cross said it remains unknown why the vehicle left the roadway. The crash remains under investigation. The highway was shut down for approximately

three hours.

Assisting Fenton's police and fire departments at the scene were the Michigan State Police crash reconstruction team, STAT EMS, Genesee County Sheriff's Office paramedics, Linden police and the Metro Police Authority.

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**ARGENTINE
PATHWAY
BEING
ENGINEERED**



MidweekTimes

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\$1.00

Gofundme started to take out drawbridge

■ Michigan Attorney General's office aware of the situation on Lobdell Lake

By Hannah Ball

A week after an alleged unauthorized drawbridge was installed from Whitehead Drive to Turtle Island on Lobdell Lake, a Gofundme page was created by local residents to help with "legal efforts" to remove the structure.

The controversial drawbridge was not approved by Argentine Township officials or state officials with the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) before it was installed
See DRAWBRIDGE on 5



Photo: Tim Jagielo

Thousands attend the 2019 ArtWalk in downtown Fenton. See story on page 2.

Dangerous heat expected by end of week

■ Facilities opening their doors as cooling and hydration centers for those seeking relief

By Sharon Stone

Caretel Inns of Linden will be open Thursday, July 18 and Friday, July 19

for anyone who needs relief from the increasingly hot and humid weather.

According to the Weather Channel, Fenton area temperatures are expected to be above 90 on Thursday and in the high 90s on Friday.

See DANGEROUS HEAT on 7

Trial of Abdu Akl adjourned — again

■ Latest delay in 28-month teen murder case

By Tim Jagielo

On Monday, July 15, attorney Frank Manley made the motion to adjourn the murder trial of his client, Abdurrahman "Abdu" Ahmed Akl, 18, of Fenton Township.

Judge Richard Yuille of the Genesee County 7th Circuit Court granted the motion. As of press time the new date was not set.

This is the most recent delay in the local murder case that began with the shooting death of Brady Alan Morris in Akl's home on March 4, 2017.

Akl has been waiting for a jury trial for more than a year after being bound over to Circuit Court on May 7, 2018.

The trial was also adjourned in May, and had been delayed for different reasons
See ABDU AKL on 8



"Thank you TCT for the 'Love where you live' section in the June 30 edition. The fun facts part was the first chuckles we've had since the King retired."



"So many cool classic old cars and pickup trucks at the Wednesday night car show in Holly. Listening to the classic tunes as we walked around was great, too. Good job, organizers."



"Really enjoyed the Fenton ArtWalk this year. Bigger and better each time. Fenton has arrived."



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Nearly 90 vendors line LeRoy Street through downtown at the 2019 Fenton ArtWalk. Photo: Tim Jagielo

Arts funding on the rebound statewide

■ Fenton ArtWalk attracts up to 7,000 visitors and 87 vendors in its 10th year

By Tim Jagielo

Fenton — The weather was perfect, but it was art that brought the estimated 5,000 to 7,000 visitors to downtown Fenton on Saturday, July 13.

The 10th annual Fenton ArtWalk was run by Southern Lakes Parks and Recreation (SLPR) and funded by the Downtown Development Authority (DDA). The DDA funds ArtWalk through the arts millage that Genesee County voters passed in 2018. They spent \$26,580 this year, and \$21,133 in 2018.

The DDA was in receipt of its first payment of \$75,000 from that millage, accord-

ing to the minutes of the March 26 meeting.

This is the largest ArtWalk so far in terms of attendance and vendor participation. SLPR Executive Director Vince Paris said there were 58 booths last year and 87 this year. They lined N. LeRoy Street, from Silver Lake Road to Shiawassee Avenue.

He said the DDA funds are used for staffing, advertising, supplies, tents and portable restrooms.

Overall, spending on art from the state and local governments is increasing as these governments see art as a way to grow their communities.

“We think the arts are a major way that communities transform themselves,” said Chad Swan-Badgero with Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs (MCACA). He serves as Arts Education

See ARTWALK on 9

Argentine pathway being engineered

■ ‘That drop-off location will help with some congestion...’

By Hannah Ball

The new pathway coming next spring to Argentine Township will include a drop-off location for parents at Linden Middle School.

Township officials have been working on developing a sidewalk through Argentine Township for years, spearheaded by former trustee Teresa Ciesielski.

The 2.1-mile project is currently being engineered, Ciesielski said. In March, the Argentine Township Board of Trustees approved a professional services agreement with Fleis & VandenBrink Engineering.

“They have completed the entire survey and are working on construction detailing

such as grade levels, sign placements, and finalizing pathway alignments, and (moving) power poles,” she said.

The path will be 10 feet wide and made of asphalt. It is proposed to go from Haviland Beach Drive and Lobdell Road intersection through the Linden school campus to Silver Lake Road and Chestnut Way.

It will connect to the existing Linden City sidewalks, allowing a safe pathway for students to walk to and from school and a non-motorized pathway for recreational use.

“Part of what the township and Linden schools agreed on for the Safe Routes to

See PATHWAY on 6

Silver Lake Park is Fenton's largest park

■ One of the city's hidden jewels

For the next several weeks, the Tri-County Times will feature the city of Fenton's nine parks, providing information on each park and highlighting the amenities available to the public.

By Vera Hogan

Newcomers to the city of Fenton may not be aware that behind all of that commercial development on Silver Parkway, between Owen and Silver Lake roads, is a beautiful park, complete with a clean and sandy beach, nature trails and more.

It has often been described as one of the city's hidden jewels.

Silver Lake Park, at 16100 Jennings Road off Silver Parkway, is the largest park in the city of Fenton. It is on 35.4 acres and was developed in 1974.

In addition to 300 feet of sandy beach, there is a bathhouse, nature trails, ball fields, volleyball courts, horseshoe pits, badminton courts, play equipment for children, a concession stand, two pavilions with electricity, and picnic areas with grills.

Fenton's Fourth of July Freedom Festival is capped off each year with fireworks launched from Silver Lake Park.

The park is open year round, making it a popular spot for cross-country ski enthusiasts. The beach is open from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day. Outside of this time there are no fees to enter the park.

Summer hours are generally 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily and are closed after dark.

According to Public Works Director Dan Czarniecki, Silver Lake Park is staffed by a supervisor, lifeguards and gatekeepers during the season.

"We have two lifeguards on duty during the park open hours," he said. "The gates are locked outside of those hours during the season. We have trained and certified lifeguards. Their job is to keep an eye on the swimmers. However, it is still the parents' responsibility to keep an



The Silver Lake Ski Club performs a show every Tuesday night during the summer. Onlookers enjoy the performance from the sandy beach. **Times file photo**

eye on their children; our lifeguards are not babysitters.

"While we would prefer not to need them, our lifeguards have been called on in the past to help out ailing swimmers and have been credited for saving lives," Czarniecki said. "Fortunately, it has been a few years since the last time they had to use their training and skills in that manner.

"We have gate keepers during this time,

too. They collect the entrance fee and they give out some general information, which is dependent on what is going on in the park, such as ski shows, Little League use of the park, pavilion rentals, Fourth of July events, etc."

Lori Newton has been the Silver Lake Park supervisor during the summer season for many years.

See SILVER LAKE PARK on 7

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Building Brands

The Golden Rule and a gold card

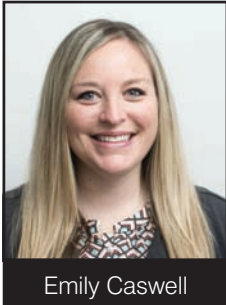
Fellow (and far more famous columnist) Doug Larson said, “Wisdom is the reward you get for a lifetime of listening when you’d have preferred to talk.”

Listening is the key to being successful. A couple of weeks ago I had the pleasure of listening to a man who is considered a legend in his industry. The story he told was too good for me not to share.

While meeting with a new, very important potential client, Mr. Legend (as I’ll refer to him) was taking notes as the client listed what they wanted. After a long list of wants, the client said, “Basically, we want the gold card.” Mr. Legend went back to his office and got to work on the proposal. When the proposal was done, he realized it was missing one thing: the gold card. A quick trip to the print shop and \$10 later Mr. Legend had his card. The client was extremely happy with the proposal, making special mention of how it was clear that Mr. Legend had heard every request. Just as the client was about to sign on the dotted line, Mr. Legend secured the deal by presenting the gold card to the client.

The world lost a different kind of

legend recently when my grandma Pat Fitzgerald passed away, leaving behind a legacy that she and my grandfather (fellow and far more famous columnist) Jim Fitzgerald spent decades building — their family.



Emily Caswell

In a tribute to my grandma, my sister Tricia said that she would (try to) remember to follow the Golden Rule. My grandma was the first to tell us about the Golden Rule — treat other people the way you would like to be treated. My grandma lived by this rule and did everything in

her power to ensure her grandchildren did, too.

The Golden Rule works in life

and in business. My grandma was a talker, and I most certainly inherited her gift of gab. She loved to talk, but she was also a fabulous listener.

While my grandma wasn’t a legend in business, she was a legend among her many friends, her community and most importantly, her family.

If we don’t listen we’ll miss out on important lessons like the ones we gain from The Golden Rule and the story of the gold card. What important lesson have you listened to? Email me at ecaswell@mihomepaper.com.

Emily Caswell is the Brand Manager for VIEW Group, the branding division of View Newspaper Group, which acquired the Tri-County Times in January. A graduate of Michigan State University’s Journalism School, she lives in downtown Fenton with her husband Matt and their rescue pup, Yeti.

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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.

WHY DO GROCERY stores put the bottle return station right next to the entrance? Every shopping trip starts with a big whiff of garbage. Awful.

FENTON VILLAGE PLAYERS. I do not like musicals. Dancing and singing, ugh. So, reluctantly, I go to see ‘Crazy for You.’ WOW, GOSH, HOLY COW what a pleasant surprise. Talented, energetic performers that seemed delighted to be performing. I recommend that you see it while you can. Thank you FVP.

WE ARE PROBABLY at the start of another Republican recession. Whenever Republicans are in political power, the U.S. suffers recessions. This has been happening since the ‘80s.

TO THE LADY driving the green Honda Element who pulled out of the condos Friday night. Sixty years ago, when you took drivers training, you may remember speed limits are max speeds. I’m sure your great grandchildren would be proud to know you are flipping the bird. Quit following people so closely and endangering lives.

What is your favorite thing about ArtWalk? Compiled by Tim Jagielo, media editor | street talk



“All the uniqueness. You can’t get it anywhere else; it’s handmade.”

— Richard VanSickle
Fenton



“I just like talking to all the guests that come through. I’m an auditor by day, so this is a fun thing.”

— Alan Tobias
Saginaw



“I like the woodworking display. He’s got these beautiful Michigan chairs.”

— Allison Moody
Fenton



“Camaraderie with folks we haven’t seen in a long time.”

— John Harkness
Fenton Township



“I like the art work; I like the people watching, and seeing the different and unique things.”

— Cheryl Harkness
Fenton Township

DRAWBRIDGE

Continued from Front Page

Monday, July 8. Christopher Clampitt, environmental quality analyst at EGLE, confirmed that the owner of the drawbridge, Brett DeGayner, did not apply for a permit.

This drawbridge replaced an older, wooden bridge that allowed easier passage for boats through the channel.

Photos posted on nextdoor.com, a neighborhood watch website, shows the structure in action with a cable pulling up the drawbridge to let a pontoon through. Boats are forced to go through weeds and other wetlands when taking this route.

DeGayner uses the property on Turtle Island as a VRBO, which stands for vacation rentals by owners. He has not responded to requests for comment.

On July 8, Argentine Township officials gave DeGayner a stop work order but he had the structure put in anyway.

The Gofundme is called "Remove the Drawbridge of Lobdell Lake." As of Tuesday, July 16, \$470 was raised out of an \$8,000 goal.

Denise Marks, founder of Linden Pay It Forward, created the Gofundme and said on the page that she was contacted by lakefront residents to design a sign to protest the drawbridge.

"As a lakefront resident of Whitehead Drive, many of my neighbors have been adversely affected by this structure," she wrote, calling the structure a "monstrosity."

The next Argentine Township meeting is Monday, July 29 at 7 p.m. The next Lobdell Bennett Lake Association meeting is July 31 at p.m. at 7 p.m. at the Argentine Township Hall. Marks hopes these meetings will be informative and will address the issues and concerns.

Concerns include the safety and maintenance of the bridge, the lack of permits, "violation of wetlands," water flow, and the effects on property values.

Signs can be bought for \$4. They contain the number for Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel.

Kelly Rossman-McKinney, communications director for Nessel, said they have received calls and emails, and their office is aware of the situation.

She said it is "possible" the Department of Attorney General could become involved.

"The function of the Department of Attorney General is to provide legal advice and representation to EGLE and other state government agencies. The Department of

Attorney General has been in communication with EGLE about this situation, and will provide EGLE with any necessary legal assistance," she said.

They are monitoring the situation. If it proceeds as a criminal prosecution, Genesee County Prosecutor David Leyton would work in conjunction with EGLE's Environmental Crimes Investigation Section. If it's a civil suit, it is likely the Department of Attorney General would represent EGLE, Rossman-McKinney said.

The enforcement unit of the Water Resources Division at EGLE is currently investigating the situation.



Times file photo

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PATHWAY

Continued from Page 2

School grant is a drop-off location along the middle school entrance for parents to safely drop off their kids so they can walk to school," Ciesielski said. "That is taking a little time to engineer. That drop-off location will help with some congestion as parents drop off their kids at school."

Argentine Township has funded the entire project through grants and private donations and has secured more than \$1 million so far.

Sources of funding include the Hagerman Foundation, Community Foundation of Greater Flint, Genesee County Metropolitan Planning Organization, Michigan Department of Transportation TAP funds, Safe Routes to School, \$5,000 from Linden schools and private donations.

Another source of funding is \$300,000 from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund, which prioritizes regional trail projects in their funding allocation.

Construction is expected to start in spring 2020.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

COMPILED BY SHARON STONE

Fenton Area Toastmasters move to new home

After several years meeting at the offices of Brown & Brown Insurance on Torrey Road, the Fenton Area Toastmasters have found a new home. They will now be meeting in the training room at the Fenton Fire Department, at 205 E Caroline St. in downtown Fenton. "We have just simply outgrown the space," said club President Sharon Howell. "Brown & Brown was so gracious to allow us to meet there for so many years and we thank them so much."

Fenton Area Toastmasters meets every Friday morning, except holidays and snow days. The entrance to the training room is on the east side of the building. Meetings start promptly at 7:45 a.m. and run for about an hour. Visitors are always welcome. You may learn more about Fenton Area Toastmasters at toastmastersclubs.org or call (810) 620-7590. You may also email them at contact@gulfporttoastmasters.com.

Toastmasters International is a non-profit educational organization that teaches public speaking and leadership skills through a worldwide network of clubs.



Photo: Tim Jagielo

Elizabeth Fritzsching of Grand Blanc selects food during the picnic on Saturday

Making a dent in estimated costs of \$75,000

■ Adopt-A-Pet picnic raises approximately \$8,000 for specialty medical care

By Tim Jagielo

Fenton Twp. — On Saturday, July 13, more than 250 people came together to help dogs and cats get the medical attention they need.

Adopt-A-Pet of Fenton held its 15th annual summer picnic on the grounds of the Fenton Road facility, bringing music, food, outdoor activities and raffles together.

The minimum donation was \$10 per person. Program Director Jody Maddock estimates they raised \$8,000 of the \$10,000 goal.

This money is for the specialty medical cases they handle. Maddock said they spend approximately \$75,000 on

treatments like broken legs and parvovirus treatments each year.

Maddock said they took on three more cases Monday, each of which could cost approximately \$900.

They get calls for assistance all over the state. "We have an incredible doctor and medical staff, so we try to help," Maddock said.

Sometimes she has to say "no" to taking on these tough medical cases when funds don't allow. "This additional money allows me to continue saying 'yes,'" she said.

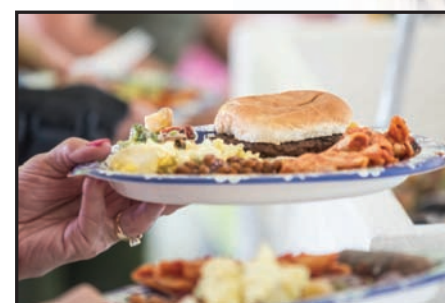
Aside from raising money for specialized medical care, one lucky pup named Floyd met his future

owner at the event, who took him home that day.

The first picnic 15 years ago was held at Maddock's home and raised approximately \$1,000. It has grown since then.

“We have an incredible doctor and medical staff, so we try to help.”

Jody Maddock
Adopt-A-Pet of Fenton
program director



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Mark McCabe
67th District Court
Ask the
judge

Court costs and court funding

Last October, I wrote a two-part column about a case that was pending before the Michigan Supreme Court called *People v Cameron*.

The issue in *Cameron* was the constitutionality of a statute, which gives Michigan judges, when sentencing a criminal defendant, the authority to order the payment of "court costs," which are then used to help in the funding of the court. The Court of Appeals had upheld the statute's validity.

This case was being closely watched because if the statute were struck down, court funding would be severely impacted. I said back then that when the Supreme Court had made its decision I would make a full report.

That time has now come as on July 10, the court denied the application for leave to appeal.

This means that Michigan's trial courts will continue to be allowed to assess costs in criminal cases on a pro-rated basis as long as they are "reasonably related" to the actual costs of running the court.

In the order denying the appeal, Chief Justice Bridget McCormack wrote that she had concerns about judges ending up being a source of their own court's funding and urged the state legislature to seriously consider the recommendations of Michigan's Trial Court Funding Commission in its recently released interim report.

This is a relatively new Commission, which was created by statute in 2017 to review court funding and then make recommendations. It came into being because of a 2014 Supreme Court case, which held that the predecessor to the statute at issue in *Cameron* did not allow court costs to be assessed.

The interim report found that the present court funding system is "broken" and that change is needed.

The recommendations made would result in a complete overhaul of the system and have the state assume a larger share of court funding responsibilities including the possibility of having judges and other court personnel eventually becoming direct state employees.

Other recommendations were establishing a central trial court fund; having the state pay for all court technology needs; more uniform assessments of fines and costs by judges; and a new centralized collection system.

Of course, we'll have to see what happens. Here too, when it does, I'll make a full report.

SILVER LAKE PARK

Continued from Page 3

"Lori does a great job in hiring the staff and training them," Czarnecki said. "She does a wonderful job running the park during the summer. Lori can handle anything that is thrown at her. She can be very diplomatic with complaints and issues. Very rarely do I get genuine complaints from park patrons. She keeps the park running smoothly and in a positive direction. And to top it off, she is an excellent person."

"Keep in mind, there is no entrance fee charged at Silver Lake Park during the time period from September until the end of May," Czarnecki said.

The concession stand is run independent from the city by Tony and Jennifer Book. They have put in a lot of time and energy to clean up the facility. "Their concession is a huge plus for our park," Czarnecki said.

A few years ago an independent group asked for permission to build a disc golf course at the park. They installed a nine-hole course that takes in most of the wooded area along the south property line. While the course isn't heavily used, it does

have many regulars that play it. The course is open year-round.

Park fees include season passes. Residents pay \$20, while non-residents pay \$30. Walkers or those on bikes are charged \$5 per visit. Cars are \$5 per day, walkers are admitted for \$1 and buses are \$30. Motor homes and vans are charged \$10, plus an additional 50 cents per passenger over 10 passengers.

The two pavilions are available for rent from the city offices. For residents, the rental fee is \$35, plus \$25 deposit, or \$60 total. The non-resident rental fee is \$75 plus a \$25 deposit for a total of \$100. The rate for non-profit rentals is \$15 for the rental and \$25 security deposit for a total of \$40.

Although all other city of Fenton parks welcome pets, dogs are not permitted in Silver Lake Park.



A nine-hole disc golf course was the latest addition to Silver Lake Park. Submitted map

DANGEROUS HEAT

Continued from Front Page

The facility will be open as a cooling and hydration center from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Contact (810) 735-9400 for more information. Caretel Inns of Linden is at 202 S. Bridge St. Linden.

The Fenton Community & Cultural Center, 150 S. LeRoy St., will also welcome those seeking shelter from the heat during normal business hours.

Extreme heat can cause people to suffer from heat-related illness, and even death. People suffer heat-related illness when their bodies are unable to properly cool themselves. When temperatures are extremely high, take steps to protect yourself and your loved ones:

- Stay cool, stay hydrated, and stay informed.
- If you do not have air conditioning, visit a shopping mall or public library for a few hours or call your local health department to find any heat-relief shelters in your area.
- Drink plenty of fluids (nonalcoholic), regardless of your activity level.
- Wear lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothing.
- NEVER leave anyone in a closed, parked vehicle, including pets.
- Visit older adults or others at risk at least twice a day and closely watch them for signs of heat exhaustion or heat stroke.

Source: Centers for Disease Control & Prevention

ROSE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING SYNOPSIS

July 10, 2019

Supervisor Scheib-Snyder called the Regular Meeting of the Rose Township Board of Trustees to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Rose Township Office, 9080 Mason Street, Holly, Michigan and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| Roll Call: | Board Members Present: Miller, Gambka, Blaska, Scheib-Snyder
Board Members Excused: Noble. |
| Approved: | Agenda for the July 10, 2019 regular meeting of the Rose Township Board of Trustees. |
| Approved: | Consent agenda with the omission of HAYA report. |
| Presentation: | NOCFA Lt. Scott Blaska, Fire Prevention Officer on carbon monoxide detectors and green reflective address signs. |
| Approved: | Rose Township taking ownership of the fire suppression wells at Tamryn Mallards Landing and Forest Hills of Davisburg. |
| Approved: | SMART FY 2020 Contract. |
| Approved: | Township Board Recording Secretary Contract. |
| Approved: | Township Policy amendment-compensation in lieu of insurance benefits amended 7-10-2019 eligible officers and employees who elect to maintain alternate health insurance through another source up to \$4,200.00 a year, \$350.00 a month for full time employees. |
| Adjourned: | By motion at 7:44 p.m. |

Debbie Miller, MMC, CMMC
Rose Township Clerk

Dianne Scheib-Snyder
Rose Township Supervisor

HOT LINE CONTINUED

THERE IS NOT a 'person who collects money for the DDA. Please learn how the DDA works before you whimper and whine about it.

ACTUALLY, MICHIGAN HAS bad roads because baby boomers were too cheap, lazy, and unpatriotic to care for our infrastructure for decades.

THE FENTON SCHOOL district sinking fund millage increase on the August ballot is a 250-percent increase for the next 10 years.

SOMEONE WITH THE city of Linden needs to check the readings on the dam. Lake levels in Squaw and Ponemah dropped much more than they should have in the past week.

REGARDING THE 'COMMENT of the week' Sunday, July 14. I fly the American flag and Trump flag because I am proud of my country and our President, and I am an adult.

SO THOSE FROM another country were told by a court to go back to the country of origination have broken two laws of this country. Those who protest their deportation advocate

breaking laws. They are potential law-breakers and a law dossier should be started on them.

YOU'RE SITTING IN your home when a family you don't know walks in and wants to live in your house with you, free. They expect you to buy the food, pay the bills, provide healthcare. You protest and call the police. Police (Democrats) tell you to support them and if you make them leave, you're a very bad person.

BET VILLAGE OF Holly taxpayers wouldn't be happy to know that they are paying for DPW's air conditioning running all weekend the last two weekends when they are closed.

BIG SHOUT OUT and thank you to the brave guys walking through the muck in the channel between Ponemah and Squaw lakes Sunday. Anyone who has ever ruined their prop on sunken logs appreciates your efforts.

DOES ANYONE KNOW how to stop the delivery of the Michigan Best 'newspaper'? I have reached out 11 times to them via phone and email. I am always assured it will stop, but delivery continues. Other homeowners are experiencing the

same. Tri-County Times is a real newspaper, and all I need.

TO THE CITY of Fenton officials. You have money for a butterfly garden but no money to fix Elmwood, Westwood or Woodbine roads. It's been since 1975 since you did anything to them. Oh, except for doing repairs to a sinking catch basin two years ago. Enough of wasting my tax dollars.

REMEMBER THAT OBAMA and Biden gave us eight years of economic mismanagement. Over 400,000 jobs were lost, created 700 new job-killing regulations, low GDP, only 58 percent of population working, largest deficit in history, low home ownership, six million on food stamps. Worst economic recovery in history. Trump is MAGA.

THE GOVERNMENT CAN count people and ask if you are a citizen.

TO THE PERSON who keeps stealing from vehicles on Marl Drive. Return my Panasonic Toughbook. You will get caught soon.

A HUGE THANK you to the beautiful Walmart shopper who found my iPhone left in the restroom on Thursday. You made my day and

warmed my heart. Once again I'm reminded how much I love the honesty of our Fenton community.

THANKS TO ABSENTEE ballots, we got our 'no' votes in for the Fenton schools. I know it will be back on the November ballot with a new sales pitch, more wasted funds.

FIRST OFF, IT is not 'sanctuary status,' it is 'asylum status.' They must claim asylum in the first country they come into. Unless they are from Mexico, that would be Mexico, not USA.

MAIL US YOUR HOT LINE

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Times



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ABDU AKL

Continued from Front Page

in district court since Akl was taken into custody. At that time in May, the court documents indicated there would be "no further adjournments."

Background

According to investigative reports from the Genesee County Sheriff's Office, at approximately 11 p.m. on March 4, 2017, Genesee County Sheriff's deputies and the Fenton Police Department were dispatched to 14170 Moffett Dr. in Fenton Township in response to a 911 call regarding a male with a gunshot wound to the head.

Akl was immediately taken into custody and a semi-automatic pistol was found on the front porch and secured by police.

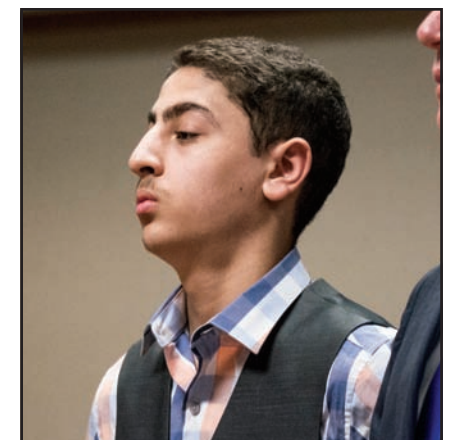
The two teens, who were reportedly friends, were alone on the first floor of the residence when the shooting occurred. Other members of Akl's family and one other guest were on the second and third floors.

According to the autopsy report, it appears that Morris was shot from behind at point blank range on the top left side

of his head.

With bond denied, Akl has remained in custody at the Genesee Valley Regional Center where he's been since his arrest.

Akl was arraigned March 10, 2017, and he underwent competency exams. Evidence such as the police tapes were played in district court. He was eventually declared fit to stand trial.



Abdurrahman "Abdu" Ahmed Akl, 18, is still waiting for a jury trial after his murder case was bound over to Circuit Court more than a year ago.

Times file photo

ARTWALK

Continued from Page 2

Program Manager for the MCAC, which doles out grant money each year to grow the arts in Michigan, whether that is art events, classes, music, theater or public art like sculptures.

"I think that cities are always working to make their communities safe and exciting and interesting," he said.

Prior to the market crash of 2008, the MCACA gave out up to \$30 million in art-related grants. After the recession, the agency was nearly eliminated and provided with less than \$1 million for grants. Swan-Badgero has been with the agency for six years and has watched the slow and steady rebound. Now they're giving out more than \$10 million annually.

The Michigan legislature holds the power of the purse, and he's excited to see that support grow.

Every state has an arts council like the MCACA. According to the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, Michigan is 17th in per capita arts grants funding. Minnesota is the highest, and Kansas is the lowest. Michigan spends more per capita than California, outdone only by Ohio in the Great Lakes region.

Michael Hart also thinks that art can transform a city, and he thinks that applies to Fenton. Hart is the Fenton assistant city manager and DDA executive director.

The Fenton DDA funds most the art projects in downtown Fenton. The DDA also offers grants for local groups like the Fenton Arts Council, which runs free spring and summer events.

Fenton spends thousands of dollars in DDA funds each year on art. This includes ArtWalk, the annual sculpture program and new for this year, the butterfly garden showcasing "Stainless Steel Butterfly" by James Havens.

"Municipalities like Fenton that value art seem to have a high quality of life," Hart said. These communities have a sense of family and walkability. This is good for business, which is what the DDA is charged with bolstering.

Holly and Linden also make art a priority on their spending.

Katy Golden is the Holly DDA director and assistant village manager. She said the DDA more than doubled its "design" budget in 2019, from \$7,000 in 2018 to \$15,000 this year.

The design budget includes art, but also façade improvements, flowers, signage and aesthetics. The village will commission two new murals, one of which is being painted this season.

LF schools foundation awards grants

■ Used to cover costs of items that enhance education programs not in district budget

Compiled by Sharon Stone

The Lake Fenton Community Schools Foundation Board of Directors has awarded 40 grants for a total of \$17,167 in 2019.

Thomas B. Hufton II, board president, said, "The Board is pleased to be able to continue granting awards which have totaled over \$100,000 since the foundation was formed. With awards ranging from \$250 to \$500, teachers and administrators find them very helpful and necessary in supplementing their educational programs."

The 40 grants include funds for:

- **Adequate resources and tools** to enhance literacy in the classroom
- **Flexible seating** to create an engaging environment for students to

learn and collaborate

- **Offset costs for** fourth grade students to tour Fort Mackinac and Fort Michilimackinac

- **Resources for Positive Behavior Support Calming Room** at the elementary level

- **Ten portable lap desks** to allow students this flexible learning option during independent work time, writing, and reading

- **The purchase of three Wacom Intuos Draw Tablets** to give students the edge in creating graphic images and designs and allows students to learn new art form while still in high school

- **Resources for math classes** at middle school to foster learning through games where students use teamwork and critical thinking

- **Updated iPad with an Apple pen** to allow for the use of innovative applications, sharable paperless note taking and hands-on learning experiences

- **Microscopes for Smart Boards**

- **Musical floor drums**

- **Calculators and compasses** for math classes

- **Pickleball Class Pack** for gym classes

- **And many more items** for classrooms across the district

The Lake Fenton Community Schools Foundation began in 2004 as a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing the educational opportunities for students at Lake Fenton Community Schools. The foundation helps fill the gaps by funding projects that would not necessarily be possible within the district budget. The foundation is grateful to the businesses and individual supporters whose financial support makes it possible to carry out our mission.

Anyone interested in making a contribution to the foundation or joining the board of directors may contact Hufton at (810) 714-3967 for more information.



Lauren Moody, 10, of Fenton, has her photo taken by her mother, Allison, at ArtWalk. Photo: Tim Jagielo

Growing businesses, historic preservation and "place-making" are all part of her job with the DDA. "Art helped to do that," Golden said.

Susan Turpen of the Linden Arts Council (LAC) said the Linden DDA has been supportive of the arts, paying \$1,700 in 2019. "Creating art awareness and raising funds for art is a difficult thing here," Turpen said. "We are thankful for their support." She said this is an increase over last year. Funds were used to support bringing the German ballet troupe of 25 to Linden in June.

These positive stories are familiar to Swan-Badgero, who has watched small municipalities grow with art. "Those communities have used the arts to turn that story and that picture around," he said.

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Ageless Veneziano captures women's 15K Bastille Day title; Ralston is overall winner

By David Troppens

Fenton — Lisa Veneziano has a life realization every time she steps on her treadmill.

"I'm on the verge of 55. I'll be 55 in mid-September," Venezia-

no said. "It's so funny, when I go on my treadmill, I have to put my age in and I put in '54' and think who is that? And soon, I'll be putting in '55.'"

However, if the treadmill

has any sort of artificial intelligence within its memory banks, it's probably the machine that's more amazed, wondering how the heck Veneziano accomplished what she does.

Fenton's ageless wonder continued to amaze the 2019 Bastille Day 15K Run and 5K Run/Walk field by defending her title she earned a year ago. Veneziano won her

See 15K on 11



Harry Garrison won the 5K overall walk title at Bastille Day for the sixth time on Saturday.

Photo: David Troppens

Garrison wins sixth 5K walk title; Johnson earns women's top spot

By David Troppens

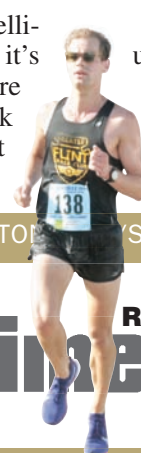
Fenton — When people think of the Bastille Day races in Fenton, most probably think about the runners.

And the majority of athletes during Saturday's event did compete in either the 5K

See 5K WALK on 12



Lisa Veneziano



Alex Ralston

WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 2019 | PAGE 10 | MYFENTONSPORTS

Sports Times

New Fenton resident Rippee takes 5K Bastille title

■ Neiheisel edges Larsen for women's victory

By David Troppens

Fenton — Austin Rippee just moved to Fenton a few months ago.

It didn't take the Grand Blanc native long to put his name among the list of Fenton winners at the 2019 Bastille Day Race 15K Run and 5K Run/Walk.

Rippee, who is entering his sophomore season at Saginaw Valley State University, earned first place overall in the 5K run portion of Satur-

day's event, posting a time of 17:36. He defeated Fenton's Michael Ponkey by almost 30 seconds. Ponkey posted a time of 18:05.

"I moved to Fenton a few months ago, so I have been running these roads a lot," Rippee said. "Yesterday, I checked the course and ran through it, so I kind of knew where to go."

The women's winner was

See BASTILLE on 12



(Top photo) The Bastille Day 5K race starts with eventual winner Austin Pippee (577) working his way to the front. Runners from the 5K race (near right) begin their races. A runner (far right) gets a cup of water at a hydration station.

Photos: David Troppens

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David's Dabblings

Some thoughts about sports and others not dealing with sports at all



CHARACTER TRAITS I'VE ADOPTED FROM MY WIFE

Two weeks ago, 'Weird Al' Yankovic was in town. On Saturday, Alice Cooper will be in town.

I am a huge fan of both. In fact, Alice Cooper is, by far, my favorite musical artist. And what about 'Weird Al'? I have half of my family wanting to go see 'The Biggest Ball of Twine in Minnesota,' a song sang by Yankovic about the actual ball.

But both artists have something in common. I wasn't a big fan of either until the day I married Anna. When we were dating, she had cassettes (yes, cassettes) and CDs of both artists. Eventually, we went to see both in concert, and I immediately became a huge fan of both. Since the turn of the century, we've seen Cooper at least 25 times and Yankovic about 10 times. About a year ago we went to see Cooper in Louisville, Kentucky only to find out Yankovic was in town just two blocks around the corner. I looked at Anna and said 'One way or the other, we had no choice but to be here today.'

We are nearing our 21st anniversary, and I'm starting to realize there are quite a few other Anna attributes that have become a part of me. Here are some other parts of Anna that has become a part of me.

Concerts

This overlaps our love for Yankovic and Cooper. We routinely go to about three or four concerts a year. Prior to being married I went to three (including the 1994 Woodstock). So many groups you hear on the radio, you learn to respect more when you see them live. Some of the groups I enjoy the most are Godsmack, Def Leppard, Poison and Tesla. I still need to see Queensryche.

Zoos

Anna loves animals, so a great

See **DABBLINGS** on 12

15K

Continued from Page 10

third title on Saturday (she won her first 15K championship in 2013) with a time of 1:01:31, nearly a minute ahead of the women's second-place finisher Dexter's Victoria Waidley (1:02:25). Veneziano's time was better than her 1:02:26 she posted last year and just 40 seconds slower than her winning time in 2013. Perhaps, Veneziano is only getting better with age?

"Honestly, as I get older I appreciate it so much more than I used to," Veneziano said. "When you are younger you assume you are always going to be able to do the things you've always done."

"With a few setbacks here and there, it makes you realize that you can't take it for granted. After I sprained my ankle in Boston two years ago, that was my turning point where I realized I won't always for sure be able to do it. Now I am committed to go back to Boston every year. I want to qualify."

The men's winner was another repeat winner who is originally a Fenton resident. Alex Ralston, who now lives in Highland, took first overall with the only time under an hour. He finished in 52:30, a time considerably below his winning time of 54:26 in 2017.

"It's fun to be back again," Ralston said. "The training has been fantastic. It's a familiar course, obviously. Interestingly, I won it a few years ago with the slowest winning time ever. Last year the winner won it with the exact same time. So I just had to beat that time to win it. That's all I had to do."

Ralston was followed by Mike Machala. The Grand Blanc resident posted a second-place time of 1:00:56. In third overall was Veneziano. Just 10 seconds behind Veneziano was Linden resident Andrew Behnke who placed third among men and fourth overall (1:01:41).

Ralston said he hopes to run in the Chicago Marathon (October 13) and the Crim (Aug. 23 and 24) within the not-so-distant future. He said winning Bastille Day is important to him

"It does have meaning," Ralston said. "There are so many guys in year's past that have won it with crazy times. It's tough to be in their shadows. I hope the race picks up again, soon. We need more people running this."



A group of 15K runners begin the 2019 Bastille Day Race 15K Run and 5K Run/Walk on Saturday. Photo: David Troppens

The 15K run had 279 finishers. The rest of the top 10 men finishers were James Micklas in fourth (1:02:24), Brandon Gabany in fifth (1:02:54), Andrew Porinsky in sixth (1:03:27), James Lott in seventh (1:03:46), Merlin Elsner in eighth (1:03:51), Greg Thomas

in ninth (1:04:24) and Matthew Antoniou in 10th (1:04:57). Antoniou finished 12th overall.

The women had two runners within the top 10 overall.

**CONTINUED AT
MYFENTON.COM**

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choreographer KAREN WHITTAKER
producer HOLLY HODGKIN

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DABBLINGS

Continued from Page 11

date night is taking her to zoos. And we've been to plenty of them. I think we've been to 26 different ones at last count. But through the trips, I've grown to love them.

Trail walking

Neither of us were great trail walkers prior to getting married. However, I've always enjoyed walking. But, trail walking has become one of our favorite activities. In fact, most of our vacations are based on places we can walk through forests, mountains and other areas. You can go to the same trails 20 times over and none of those walks will ever be the same.

Running

I'm not a runner, never will be a big runner, but that said, Anna has gotten me to run with her. If it's a local race, Anna will be at it if she's not working.

And now, she's gotten me to run at Linden County Park on at least a weekly basis during the spring, summer and fall. That's something I'd love to end but probably won't.

BASTILLE

Continued from Page 10

Rochester's Laruen Neiheisel, who was the only woman to finish the event in less than 19 minutes. She posted a time of 18:59, beating two-time defending 5K women's champion Fenton's Sue Larsen. Larsen, who has won 10 different Bastille Day Race titles among the 15K and 5K run, finished with a time of 19:20.

"This is my first time up here for the race," Neiheisel said. "I needed a 5K for the summer and this one was in the middle of my training season, so I thought this one would be the perfect one to do."

Rippee said this was the first 5K race he's run since October 2017.

"I'm usually an 800 or a 1,600 guy, so this is out of my comfort zone," Rippee said. "I was kind of surprised with my time. I thought it would be a little faster than that, but I didn't really have anyone to run with during the hill, so it was hard to push myself."

"I thought it was really good. About 1 1/2 to 2 1/2 (miles) there was the big hill. But I've run so many hills."

Finishing third overall was Oak-



A group of 5K runners reach a hydration station during the 2019 Bastille Day Race 15K Run and 5K Run/Walk on Saturday. Photo: David Troppens

land's Timothy Dupress (18:26). Neriheisel was fourth overall, and Trevor Hall placed fifth (19:16). Larsen was sixth overall (19:20).

The rest of the men's top 10 finishers

were: Lawrence Sack (19:26), Jacob Hoppe (19:39), Jose Vivanco (19:44), Liam Sack (19:49), Ben Schoener (20:34) and Gavin Katic (21:06).

CONTINUED AT MYFENTON.COM

5K WALK

Continued from Page 10

run or the 15K run.

However, another group of more than 100 people also can be found competing in the streets of Fenton. They are the walkers.

One-hundred-thirty-two walkers finished the 5K event, and the winner ended up being a pretty common household name in the walk racer circles — Flushing's Harry Garrison.

The 73-year-old is showing no signs of slowing down, finishing the 5K event in 31:00. The female overall winner was another Flushing resident, Jane Johnson.

Garrison has won the 5K walk at Bastille day four of the last five years, and has won it six times overall. His first 5K walk title came in 2012.

Garrison was followed by a fellow Flushing resident, Michael Stewart. Stewart took second in 32:07. Fenton's Steve Wandmacher was the first tri-county area competitor, taking third in 32:52. The rest of the men's overall top 10 finishers were Kevin Dunkel in fourth (34:37), John Mrozik in fifth (38:07), Michael Cushnier in sixth (39:03) Dar-



Heather Sisto and the rest of the 5K walkers start their event at the 2019 Bastille Day Race 15K Run and 5K Run/Walk on Saturday. Photo: David Troppens

old Hogan in seventh (39:46), Mike Nickola in eighth (40:55), Jim Konca in ninth (41:00) and Michael Kelley in 10th (41:09).

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1140 Butcher Rd. Fenton

Times Classifieds

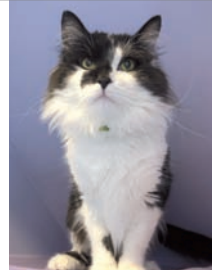
REAL ESTATE | GARAGE SALES | JOB OPENINGS
SERVICE DIRECTORY | PUZZLES | OBITUARIES

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PAGE 13

Personal Notices

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Friday 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM

PAYMENTS CAN BE MADE IN THE AFTER HOURS DROP BOX LOCATED
INSIDE THE POLICE DEPARTMENT OR ONLINE AT www.cityoffenton.org

CLASSIFIEDS CONTINUED ON PAGES 14 AND 15

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Job Openings

Times

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Help Wanted

Help Wanted

Help Wanted

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**LOOKING
FOR GARAGE
SALES?
TURN TO PAGE 14**

Service Directory

Times

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Times

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Fenton



JULY 18TH-20TH
9-5PM

699 Andover Woods Dr.
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Household Items.

Fenton



JULY 19TH-20TH
8-4PM

11308 Fawn Valley
Trail in Hills of
Tyrone Subdivision.
Furniture,
Home Goods, Decor,
Clothing, all new
or like new.

Linden



JULY 18TH-21ST
9-5PM

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Huge Sale!
Tools, Hunting,
Fishing, Household,
Nascar, and
other collectibles.

SIGN UP FOR TEXT BLASTS TO RECEIVE LOCAL GARAGE SALE LISTINGS
Text **GARAGESALE** to 810-475-2030

Horoscopes

For the week of
July 15, 2019

ARIES

Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, there's not much you can do to prevent your momentum from taking you in a particular direction. Enjoy the ride and hold on tight.

TAURUS

Apr 21/May 21

Stick to your gut feeling when someone tries to persuade you otherwise, Taurus. You know what feels right and wrong, and you can guide others in the right direction.

GEMINI

May 22/June 21

Your current focus on finances has all of your accounts under scrutiny, Gemini. You need to have a clear picture of spending habits in order to reign things in.

CANCER

June 22/July 22

Cancer, if you are feeling exhausted, plan a getaway that will have you feeling rested in no time. Go somewhere nearby so you can start relaxing as soon as possible.

LEO

July 23/Aug 23

Leo, you want to give sound advice but are a little worried about how your message will be received. All you can do is put the information out there and hope for the best.

VIRGO

Aug 24/Sept 22

All it takes is a little rescheduling to free up your calendar for something extremely fun, Virgo. Now you just have to settle on which enjoyable activity to do.

LIBRA

Sept 23/Oct 23

If you feel like your coffers are getting a little empty lately, find a fun way to bring in a little more money, Libra. This extra income will alleviate some pressure you have felt of late.

SCORPIO

Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, once you stop trying so hard, all of the answers will fall in your lap. However, it can be difficult to pull back and let nature run its course. Things worth fighting for take work.

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23/Dec 21

It may be time for a big change, Sagittarius. A number of factors that only you can control will determine which direction to go in. Start thinking of the possibilities.

CAPRICORN

Dec 22/Jan 20

A few celebrations are in store for you, Capricorn. Rest up for a period of whirlwind activity that won't abate anytime soon. Bring a friend along for the ride.

AQUARIUS

Jan 21/Feb 18

Learn how to control stressors that impact your well-being, Aquarius. This may be as simple as exercising or getting out in the fresh air for extended periods of time.

PISCES

Feb 19/Mar 20

You may have a reason for keeping your cards close to the vest, Pisces. However, sometimes you may have to share some of your secrets.

Lost and Found



LOST FEMALE ORANGE TABBY CAT
White underbelly, green reflective collar, named Nala. Lost in Fairfield Subdivision.
Call 248-245-1318.

Furniture for Sale



LARGE RUSTIC WOODGRAIN TABLE AND 4 CHAIRS,
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Real Estate

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Midweek Sudoku

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

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Answers in this Sunday's edition of the Tri-County Times

						1		6
	2			1	9	8	7	3
				8		2	9	
	8					7		2
1		5		6				
		7		4				
8								
3							4	
5					2			1

Level: Intermediate

Midweek Jumble

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

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MEGA MILE SOON

How are we going to move all these?

Just start digging, I guess.

AFTER LOSING HIS LEASE, THE OWNER OF THE PLANT NURSERY WOULD BE ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

Answers in this Sunday's edition of the Tri-County Times

KING FEATURES

Midweek Crossword

ACROSS

1 Advertised heavily
6 Bilateral
12 South Dakota's capital
13 Colored ring
14 On the briny
15 Funhouse item
16 Use a sponge
17 Author Wister
19 D.C. fig.
20 Long skirt
22 Obtain
24 Suitable
27 Cacophonies
29 — parmigiana
32 5-ball desktop toy
35 Exchange premium
36 Former veep
37 Vast expanse
38 San Francisco's — Hill
40 One of the Three Bears
42 Sort
44 The same, in a bibliography
46 Approaching
50 Elegantly groomed
52 "Shoo!"
54 Mammoth occasion?
55 Room to maneuver
56 Nun
57 Brilliance

DOWN

1 Stereo setup
2 Shrill bark
3 Opening comment
4 Historic period
5 Rehab goings-on
6 Domesticate
7 Squeeze
8 "— the ram-parts ..."
9 Carpeting fabrics
10 Medicinal plant
11 9-Down
12 Manhandle
18 Endearing
21 Big bother
23 Mendes or Longoria
24 Literary collection
25 Cribbage scorekeeper
26 Longtime
28 Mix up
30 Hearty brew
31 Michele of "Glee"
33 As well
34 Sleep phenomenon
39 Spree
41 Broadway backer
42 Cow-headed goddess
43 Places
45 Antelope's playmate
47 "The Music Man" setting
48 Buzzing pest
49 Attention getter
51 Roscoe
53 Common Mkt., once

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