

Linden man's CSC case dismissed

■ Judge rules that combination of consent and coercion not sufficient to proceed with jury trial

By Sharon Stone

Livingston County Circuit Court Judge Suzanne Geddis dismissed a felony case against Rrok Dedivanaj, 40, of Linden, in its entirety July 26.

Dedivanaj was bound over to Livingston County Circuit Court on

Tuesday, April 23 for a jury trial on five counts of third-degree criminal sexual conduct, force or coercion.

According to the judge's order, defense attorney Michael Manley motioned to quash (void) the complaints against Dedivanaj on

July 25.

As stated in the judge's July 26 order, "A circuit court reviewing a district court bind over on a motion to quash must look at the four corners of the transcript. The transcript

See DISMISSED on 20A



Suzanne Geddis

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Weekend Times

VOL. 26 NO. XXXI

SUNDAY, AUGUST 4, 2019

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Anti-robocall bill passes House in 429-3 vote

■ Bipartisan effort requires federal agency to authenticate calls

By Hannah Ball

The U.S. Congress is one step closer to helping curb the number of robocalls Americans receive.

On Wednesday, July 24, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Stopping Bad Robocalls Act. The bill passed with overwhelming bipartisan support, 429 to 3.

See ROBOCALLS on 15A

Michiganders prefer to drink at home



■ Retail stores buy 84 percent of liquor through state in 2018; 16 percent of sales are to bars

By Tim Jagielo

The top four wholesale liquor buyers in the area are not bars — they're corner party stores and grocery stores.

See DRINK on 14A

Liquor is sold to retail shops in much higher numbers than bars and restaurants. *Times file photo*

Building faith, building fun



Aksel Campau tags Laney Walling during a game of duck-duck-goose at First Baptist Church in Fenton on Saturday, July 27. Activities like these are part of Vacation Bible School along with learning about Bible scripture. **See story on page 25A. Photo: Tim Jagielo**

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“Thanks to those who planted flowers along North Bridge Street in Linden. They are so beautiful, they add so much to the city and I enjoy driving through that area and seeing them.”



“What is with this epidemic of people just pulling out into traffic with no regard to oncoming traffic? Several times I've had to brake hard to avoid coming too close to them. This is illegal and rude. Stop it.”



**COMMENT
OF THE WEEK**

“My 82-year-old dad hadn't been to Fenton for many years. As we went through Dibbleville all he could say was 'Wow. Wow. Wow. This is beautiful.' I couldn't agree more. Superb job Fenton peeps.”

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American Red Cross declares blood shortage emergency

■ Donate between July 29 and Aug. 29 and receive \$5 Amazon gift card via email

Compiled by Sharon Stone

To help address the current emergency blood shortage, all who come to give blood or platelets with the American Red Cross July 29 through Aug. 29 will receive a \$5 Amazon.com Gift Card via email. Currently, the Red Cross has less than a three-day supply of most blood types available and less than a two-day supply of type O blood.

When an emergency arises, the blood already on the shelves saves lives. Only through the generosity of blood donors can the Red Cross provide hospitals with lifesaving blood to meet the ongoing and often, unpredictable needs of patients. The need for blood is constant.

In the United States every two seconds blood is needed to help accident and burn victims, heart surgery and organ transplant patients, and those receiving treatment for leukemia, cancer or sickle cell disease.

“We are grateful to Amazon for their support in addressing a ‘Right Now



Photo: www.papermag.com

Need’ for blood donations,” said Cliff Numark, senior vice president, Red Cross Blood Services. “Each donation truly matters to those counting on blood products to battle illness and injury. Today, we are asking the public to donate as soon as possible to ensure blood is available on hospital shelves for those in need.”

Blood transfusion is one of the most common inpatient hospital procedures in the U.S., and these blood products can only come from volunteer donors. Yet, only 3 out of 100 people in the U.S. give blood.

Don’t wait to give

The Red Cross urges individuals across the country to roll up a sleeve today to ensure blood is available for patients across the country. A blood donation takes about an hour from start to finish,

but the actual donation itself only takes about 8-10 minutes.

Donors can also save up to 15 minutes at the blood drive by completing a RapidPass, where donors complete the pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online, on the day of donation, from a mobile device or computer. To complete a RapidPass, follow the instructions at RedCrossBlood.org/ RapidPass or use the Red Cross Blood Donor App.

To donate blood, individuals need to bring a blood donor card or driver’s license or two other forms of identification that are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school

LOCAL BLOOD DRIVES

- **Wednesday, Aug. 7**
Byron High School
312 W. Maple Ave, Byron
10 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.
Faith Lutheran Church
12534 Holly Rd., Grand Blanc
11:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m.
- **Monday, Aug. 12**
Fenton VFW Post
1148 N. LeRoy St., Fenton
12 to 5:45 p.m.
- **Wednesday, Sept. 4**
ReMax
3295 W. Silver Lake Rd., Fenton
12 to 5:45 p.m.

students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also must meet certain height and weight requirements.

Individuals can schedule an appointment to give now by activating Amazon’s Alexa Red Cross Blood Skill by saying, “Alexa, find a blood drive,” or by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org, or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Source: redcrossblood.org

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Classifieds810-433-6787
Circulation810-433-6797
Hot Linemyfenton.com
Fax810-629-9227
Emailnews@tctimes.com

EDITORIAL STAFF

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

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Words with Hannah

My handwriting is terrible

No really, it is. Ask my co-workers who are forced to decipher my scribbles when we're editing.

I have atrocious handwriting. It's "this almost resembles cursive, none of the i's are dotted, and does she ever finish her lowercase h's?" bad.

Sometimes I can't even read it, but that's rare. It's my own secret code. My scribbles in my notebooks are legible only to me.

It's not a matter of not writing enough. I put words down in a notebook every day, either for work or a creative project. I can write like a princess when I want, but my default is doctor. To really write well, I have to concentrate and write slowly, but who has time for that? Not this friendly neighborhood journalist.

Also, I sometimes struggle to read cursive, much to the enjoyment of our Associate Editor Vera Hogan, who has impeccable cursive handwriting. I didn't use the art past middle school except to sign my name. You use it or lose it, right?

I absolutely had to have good

handwriting when I covered the Michael LaJoyce embezzlement case. In March 2017, LaJoyce appeared in the U.S. District Court in Detroit, which doesn't allow recording devices. No



Hannah Ball

phone, no recorders, no camera. Just a notebook, a pen, and me furiously scribbling, trying to accurately write down quotes and how long he was sentenced for (11 years in federal court, seven to 20 years in Oakland County. He turned himself in January 2016, so he has a minimum of seven and a half

years left). It was hard, but I did it. Thanks, shorthand.

I've always wondered why my handwriting was so naturally terrible, so I researched it. The internet did not disappoint.

If I'm to believe everything online, bad handwriting is actually a sign of being a serial killer. Or, according to graphology-world.com, it means I'm an independent thinker bursting with creativity and eccentricity. Although, this same website said it also could mean I'm emotionally unstable, have low self-esteem and I'm insecure.

I read about a learning disorder called dysgraphia, which can show itself through bad handwriting. Symptoms include struggling to cut food, trouble reading maps, difficulty drawing, tracing or painting and more. I've never dealt with any of those, so I don't have that condition.

Maybe I just never developed the fine motor skills required to write in that beautiful, looping style, even though I made amazing U.S. History outlines in high school.

My favorite answer was from a Quora contributor. He said people who have bad handwriting simply think faster, and, in an effort to get all the words down on a page, write hastily.

Now, who wants to be my pen pal?

Opinions offered in this column are the author's alone and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Tri-County Times or its staff. Email Hannah Ball at hball@tctimes.com.

KNOW SOMETHING INTERESTING?

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Times

Hotlines

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

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

BUILD THE DAMN wall, said the Supreme Court on Friday.

■■■

TELL CONGRESS WE don't want to waste any more time and money on impeaching Trump. We're already having debates for the next election. Do your job and the people will have their chance to vote him out if they don't like the job he's doing.

■■■

TO THE PERSON who wrote healthcare is not a human right, I'll guess you believe owning a gun is?

■■■

IF YOU WISH to remain at odds with your local, state and federal governments and their guide for all services and utilities, practice conventional wisdom and common sense.

■■■

C'MON VERA, U.S. taxpayers have spent trillions of dollars to assist other countries. This idea really isn't feasible. Let's reinforce our borders to allow us to focus better on legal immigration and the processing of asylum seekers, while securing our nation and its sovereignty.

■■■

What is your favorite breakfast food?

Compiled by Logan Shanafelt, intern | **street talk**



"Waffles with strawberries on the top. Also, a caramel iced coffee."

Hailey Johnston
Fenton Township



"Golden Grahams cereal, some fruit, and a cup of tea."

Ferne Renwick
Fenton



"Danish sweet rolls, simply because I love them, and eight ounces of orange juice."

George Frieling
Fenton Township



"Cream of Wheat with brown sugar and raisin bread toast. It is amazing."

Jan Frieling
Fenton Township



"Normally oatmeal, but sometimes sausage, gravy, and biscuits."

Kris Bondurant
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Determining THC in impaired drivers

■ Should there be a blood level threshold for marijuana, similar to alcohol?

By Hannah Ball

Approximately nine months have passed since Michigan voters approved legalizing recreational marijuana.

Since November 2018, and the campaigns leading up to the date, law enforcement agencies, scientists and politicians have expressed the difficulties of regulating marijuana use and driving.

To determine the level of inebriation from alcohol, law enforcement officers administer a breathalyzer. It's illegal in Michigan to drive with a blood alcohol content (BAC) of .08 percent or more.

However, for marijuana, there isn't a quick, side-of-the-road method to determine how much tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) is in someone's system from marijuana. This can be determined by a blood, saliva, hair or urine test, but THC can stay in someone's system for days after they've stopped feeling the effects.

One bill, Senate Bill 347, would prohibit driving with a blood level of at least 5 nanograms of delta 9-tetrahydrocannabinol and related marijuana chemicals.

F/Lt. Michael Shaw, public information officer with the Michigan State Police, said he doesn't believe there should be a state-determined THC blood level like there is for alcohol.

"There is a very strong and well-defined correlation between blood alcohol levels and impairment of an individual's ability to operate a motor vehicle. Based on this well defined correlation, a legal threshold of 0.08g/100ml was established and is supported by a number of studies," he said.

"By contrast, there is a poor correlation between blood levels of THC and impairment due in part because the effects of cannabis use persist, even as THC is being eliminated from the body. Therefore, a blood level for THC is not appropriate."

According to a March 2019 report by the Impaired Driving Safety Commission, there is no scientifically supported

Marijuana and guns

House Bill 4502 would have banned carrying, have in possession, or discharging a firearm if the individual had 2 nanograms of THC per milliliter of blood in their system. This bill was introduced by Rep. Jim Lilly (R. Dist-89) in April.

However, no action has been taken on the bill due to the findings of the Impaired Driving Safety Commission's report.

"I have made it a point to be proactive and pragmatic about the implementation of Michigan's new recreational marijuana law," Lilly said. "The new law presents unique challenges, particularly for law enforcement. As a result of these findings, we're hitting the pause button on this legislation for now but we're willing to revisit it as technology and the regulatory environment evolves. I will continue to monitor this issue, but I do not expect (and have not requested) any legislative action on my bills in the immediate future."

threshold of THC bodily content that would be indicative of impaired driving. This is because there is a poor correlation between driving impairment and the blood levels of THC at the time of blood collection.

Police do not necessarily need to know the exact amount of THC in someone's

blood to arrest them. Shaw said people have been smoking marijuana and driving before it was legalized, and the MSP has been arresting drivers for being impaired for years. The key isn't how high someone is, he said — the key is impairment.

"This is determined through the driver's driving behaviors that may include: failure to maintain lane of travel, disregarding traffic control devices, driving with headlights off, weaving/drift within and across lanes, excessively wide turns, following too closely, excessive speed, speed significantly slower than posted limits, etc.," he said.

See THC on 17A

“Therefore, a blood level for THC is not appropriate.”

F/Lt. Michael Shaw
Michigan State Police public information officer

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Try the 'zipper method'

■MDOT says to wait to merge for lane closure until signs say so

By Hannah Ball

When there's a lane closure on the highway due to construction, most motorists will, as quickly as they can, get into the lane that's staying open.

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) is saying motorists shouldn't do that.

"Many drivers have the mentality that if someone didn't merge earlier, when they saw signs of the coming lane closure, then that means that they shouldn't be letting them in at all ... that is not the case," said Jocelyn Hall, communications representative of the MDOT Bay Region.

MDOT is urging motorists to do the "zipper" method.

"To break it down in its simplest form, the zipper merge relies on a series of signs warning customers that a lane reduction is occurring ahead and reminding them to stay in their lane until instructed to move," Hall said.

"When motorists hit the zipper point, a sign will instruct the lane that is closing to 'merge now,' and the other lane of traffic is expected to allow vehicles in the merge lane to come over, so essentially everyone is taking turns."



When a lane is closed in a construction zone, a zipper merge occurs when motorists use both lanes of traffic until reaching the defined merge area, and then alternate in "zipper" fashion into the open lane. Photo: dot.state.mn.us/zippermerge/

“Many drivers who have traveled to surrounding Midwest states, or live outside of Michigan, can attest to the success of this traffic control method.”

Jocelyn Hall

Michigan Department of Transportation
Bay Region communications representative

This method helps to prevent traffic from backing up for miles before the lane closure even begins.

Hall said this isn't a new concept, but it is different from what many Michigan drivers have been taught and it's outside of many drivers' comfort levels.

"Many drivers who have traveled to surrounding Midwest states, or live outside of Michigan, can attest to the success of this traffic control method," she said.

For the zipper method to work, MDOT encourages drivers to do the following:

Drive the posted speed limit in the work zone.

"You can't safely navigate a work zone or zipper merge if you drive faster than the posted speed in the work zone," Hall said.

Follow the sign instructions.

If your lane is ending, stay in that lane until you see the sign that says, "merge now."

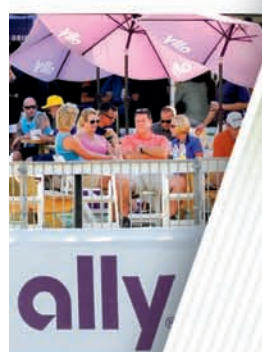
Be accommodating.

"This may be the most important part of a successful zipper merge. If you are driving in the lane remaining open, and you reach the point where traffic is starting to merge over, you need to let a vehicle in ahead of you," she said.

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■■■■
TO DEMOCRAT CITIZEN. I disagree with every point made. Illegal aliens (a legal term) are welcomed by the Democrat Socialists for their new voting block, and many members of the Repub/ Dem elite want illegal aliens for cheap labor.

■■■■
TEN THOUSAND LIES had to be told fearing the real truth may begin to unfold. While the future's unclear for both you and me, voting must matter if we are to remain free.

■■■■
WHY WOULD A person that once lived off people's taxes have a sign in his yard that reads, 'taxation is theft?' The cognitive disconnect is astounding.

■■■■

POLICE & FIRE REPORT

COMPILED BY SHARON STONE

THIEF STEALS COUPLE'S MOUNTAIN BIKES

A Holly man and woman reported their bicycles stolen to Holly police. The pair told police that the Schwinn mountain bikes were stolen from a driveway on Park Avenue sometime between 11 p.m. on July 17 and 1:30 a.m. on July 18. The man's bike was described as black and purple and worth \$250. The woman's bike was described as black and pink and worth \$100.

HOLLY MAN ARRESTED ON OUTSTANDING WARRANTS

Holly police observed a man known to them walking out of a restaurant July 18. Police were aware that the 29-year-old Holly man had two warrants that needed to be taken care of. The man was handcuffed and placed in the backseat of the patrol vehicle. He was later turned over to the Oakland County Friend of the Court.

MAN ARRESTED FOR ASSAULTING GIRLFRIEND

At 1:37 a.m., on July 22, Holly police were dispatched to a home in the 300 block of Fairfield Avenue for a domestic complaint. A 40-year-old Holly woman told police that her 39-year-old boyfriend had assaulted her following an argument. The man was transported to the Holly police station for processing and was issued a citation for domestic assault.

46-YEAR-OLD HOLLY MAN ARRESTED FOR DOMESTIC ASSAULT

On July 20, at 7:41 p.m. Holly police were dispatched to a home in the 200 block of Michigan Street to

investigate a physical disturbance between two individuals. A 46-year-old man, who witnessed an alleged disturbance between a 51-year-old woman and her 46-year-old boyfriend, called 911 while the witness was secured in another room. The woman and witness said the woman's boyfriend had been drinking when an argument began. They said the suspect threw items and pushed the woman. The suspect was transported to the Holly police station for processing and was issued a citation for domestic assault.

VERIZON BILL SURPRISES LOCAL MAN

On July 24, a Holly police officer was dispatched to a home on Herrington Drive for an identity theft report. The resident told police that his Verizon bill showed amount of \$3,004.36 due. The resident said he checked with Verizon and they said someone had purchased an iPhone and an iPad Pro. The resident has no idea who made the purchase on his account and was advised to file a police report.

FOUR YOUTH CAUGHT IN HOLLY BUILDING

On Sunday, July 28 at 6:55 p.m., Holly police were dispatched to a commercial building on College Street to investigate a breaking and entering complaint. Police observed a white Escalade parked on the sidewalk by the doors at the southwest entrance. Police entered the building and located four juveniles. The building owner arrived and told police he didn't want to press charges but wanted to tell the kids to stay out of the building, which is not vacant. No damage was observed. The kids apologized and were turned over to their parents. The four youth were referred to the Holly Area Youth Assistance.

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Best nature apps for identifying birds, plants

■ Find more trails to hike and explore with these helpful apps

By Hannah Ball

When you immerse yourself in nature and go for a walk in the woods or on a trail, you're surrounded by countless trees, plants and birds you might not know the names of.

Here are some of the best nature apps for identifying a bird by its sounds, telling you what kind of plant you've found, and finding new hiking trails.

BirdNET

If you're sitting on your porch or walking your dog and hear a bird, many times it's hidden by trees and foliage. Take out your phone and record the audio, then upload it to BirdNET. The app has approximately 1,000 birds in its database and will match the video you recorded to one of the species.

This app is available for Android.

Seek

This app can identify plants and animals in real time when you point your camera at it through the app. It contains

information such as the kingdom, phylum, class, order, family, genus and species of the object or animal.

Users can earn badges for finding different types of birds, amphibians, plants and fungi, as well as participate in monthly challenges with Our Planet on Netflix.

This app is available for iOS and Android.

Merlin Bird ID

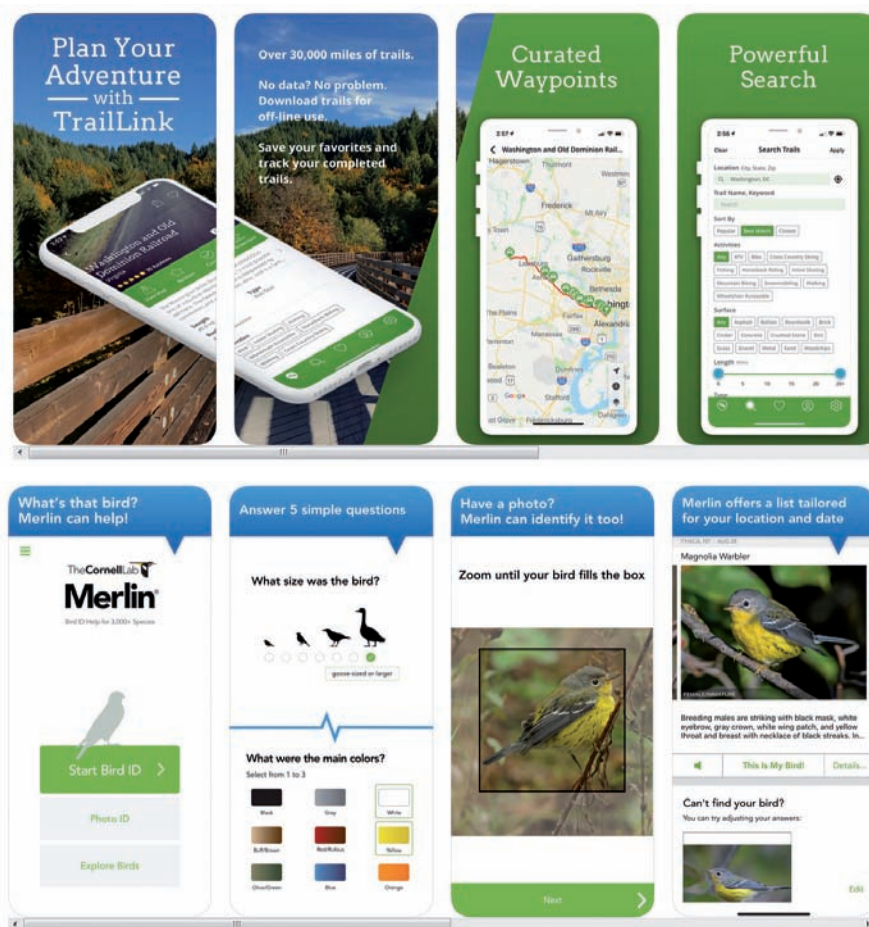
If you want to know what bird is perched on the corner of your house, Merlin can help even if you don't manage to get a photo.



You can upload a photo or answer three simple questions about the bird you saw, from its color to its size. The app also uses location information to

determine which species of birds are in your area. It will then show you options for what type of bird you might have

See **NATURE APPS** on 17A



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CommunityThreadsOfFenton.com



A family from Allegan County shows off their large silver maple tree they entered in the Michigan Big Tree Hunt Contest. **Submitted photo**

Who can find the biggest tree?

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to submit your entry
for possible prizes

By Sharon Stone

Now is the time to find a Michigan big tree and enter it into the Michigan Big Tree Hunt Contest, before the contest closes Sept. 3. Trees from all Michigan counties are welcome in this celebration of Michigan's amazing trees.

To date, Michiganders have entered hundreds of trees from 67 of Michigan's 83 counties, including a willow that measures over 30 feet in circumference.

When the contest closes, certificates and prizes will be awarded for the largest tree submitted from each Michigan county, the largest tree found by a youth hunter (15 and younger) and adult hunter (16 and older), the largest

Eastern White Pine found in the state and for potential state champion trees.

To enter your big tree, visit bigtreehunt.com for an online entry form or for information on where to find a paper entry form.

ReLeaf Michigan, a statewide tree planting and education nonprofit, started the Michigan Big Tree Hunt in 1993 to celebrate our state's beauty and gather information about Michigan's biggest trees. Contest entries provide potential state champion trees to Michigan's Big Tree Registry as well as the National Register of Big Trees. Contest entries are a wonderful opportunity for all age groups to help track these vital, historical, living landmarks.

If you have a question not answered on the website, email info@ReLeafMichigan.org or call (800) 642-7353.

ReLeaf Michigan's Big Tree Hunt contest is sponsored by Adventure-KEEN, Consumers Energy Foundation, the DTE Energy Foundation, the Michigan Botanical Foundation and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources — Urban and Community Forestry Program and supported in partnership by the Arboriculture Society of Michigan, Huron-Clinton Metroparks and the Michigan Botanical Club.

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**THE CHERRY
TIMES**

AAA: Vehicle escape tools can be lifesavers

New research from AAA reveals that most vehicle escape tools, intended to quickly aid passengers trapped in a car following an accident, will break tempered side windows, but none were able to penetrate laminated glass.

Motorists may not realize it, but an increasing number of new cars — in fact, one in three 2018 vehicle models — have laminated side windows, a nearly unbreakable glass meant to lessen the chance of occupant ejection during a collision.

AAA urges drivers to know what type of side window glass is installed on their vehicle, keep a secure and easily accessible escape tool in their car and have a backup plan in case an escape tool cannot be used or doesn't work.

In its latest study, AAA examined a selection of vehicle escape tools available to consumers to determine their effectiveness in breaking tempered and laminated vehicle side windows. Of the six tools selected (three spring-loaded and three hammer style), AAA researchers found that only four were able to shatter the tempered glass and none were able to break the laminated glass, which stayed intact even after being cracked.

During multiple rounds of testing, it was also discovered that the spring-loaded tools were more effective in breaking tempered windows than the hammer-style.

Drivers can determine the type of glass installed on their vehicle by first checking for a label located in the bottom corner of the side window, which should clearly indicate whether the glass is tempered or laminated. If this information is not included or there is no label at all, AAA advises contacting the vehicle manufacturer. It is also important to note that some vehicles are outfitted with different glass at varying locations in the car (i.e. tempered glass on rear side windows versus laminated on front side windows).

The increased use of laminated glass is in response to federal safety standards aimed at reducing occupant ejections in high speed collisions. In

2017, there were an estimated 21,400 people who were partially or fully ejected during a crash, resulting in 11,200 injuries and 5,053 deaths.

While these types of crashes are more prevalent, there are instances where vehicles may catch fire or become partially or fully submerged in water, forcing drivers and their passengers to exit the vehicle through a side window. In situations like this, vehicle escape tools can assist ahead of emergency responders arriving.

Vehicle escape tools come in many varieties, but AAA suggests avoiding tools with extra features such as lights or chargers since these functions do not improve the performance of the tool itself. Drivers should also remember that in the event their vehicle is submerged, a hammer-style escape tool (as opposed to a spring-loaded-style) will be ineffective underwater.

Being prepared in an emergency can greatly improve the chances of survival, especially if drivers and their passengers have become trapped in the vehicle. AAA strongly recommends drivers do the following:

IF TRAPPED IN A VEHICLE, REMEMBER THERE IS A S-U-R-E WAY OUT:

Stay calm. While time is of the essence, work cautiously to ensure everyone safely exits the vehicle.

Unbuckle seat belts and check to see that everyone is ready to leave the car when it's time.

Roll down or break a window — remember if the car is sinking in water, once the window is open the water will rush into the car at a faster rate. If the window will not open and the car has tempered glass, use an escape tool to break a side window to escape.

Drivers should also remember that: if a window will not open or cannot be broken because it is laminated, everyone should move to the back of the vehicle or wherever an air pocket is located. Stay with it until all of the air has left the vehicle.

Once this happens, the pressure should equalize, allowing occupants to open a door and escape.

If the vehicle is submerged, a hammer-style escape tool (as opposed to a spring-loaded-style) could be much harder to swing underwater.

Exit the vehicle quickly and move everyone to safety. Call 911 — while this is typically the first step in an emergency, if a vehicle has hit the water or is on fire, it is best to try to escape first.

THE GALLS
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HOT LINE CONTINUED

IS SHAUN SHUMAKER still our county commissioner? I haven't seen his name in the paper since he got elected last year. The dude before him, Drew Shapiro, you couldn't go a week without hearing about something he was doing, good or bad.

'NO' TO INCREASED taxes. Besides, aren't you a bit curious to plan 'B' for the November ballot? Dr. Hartley says he already has one in case the first one is defeated. Let's not disappoint him. Vote 'no' Aug. 6. Don't give in to his wish list/money grab.

THE FOURTH OF July was four weeks ago. Everyone enjoys parades, but could we please have a band? A huge millage is being asked for. Can we all enjoy some of that money in our celebration? Bring more representation; the farms, more church functions, old cars, tractors. Start thinking how you could add to this parade next year and make it exciting.

ANYONE VOTING 'YES' on the August tax increase ought to explain to seniors and retirees on fixed incomes why they need to live on even less per month. It's called perspective.

TIMES ARE BETTER now. Really? I can recall when all Americans proudly displayed their names on their mailboxes. While we are not under siege, it sure feels like it.

IF I WERE king, for a surprise ending, the bachelorette would end with two of the guys walking off hand in hand.

HERE WE GO again. Spend thousands of dollars in hopes of low voter turnout; and 1.0 mill to 2.25 mill equals tax increase. Vote 'no.' Send a message: no more from us hard working, struggling, taxpayers who have wish lists also.

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

COMPILED BY SHARON STONE

The State Bank hires new community office manager

The State Bank is proud to announce the addition of Jacob Burke as the company's newest community office manager, serving the Grand Blanc branch location. Burke will be responsible for managing day-to-day retail banking operations, including the interaction with business partners to expand relationships with our existing customers, as well as nurturing new relationships in the Grand Blanc market. Burke started his banking career at



Jacob Burke

Clarkston State Bank as a part-time teller and was promoted to lead teller and then assistant branch manager. Burke believes that strong relationships in the community are a cornerstone of banking and was an active member of the Clarkston Area Chamber of Commerce as an ambassador and chairman of the Young Professionals Network. He is looking forward to becoming a part of the Grand Blanc community in the same facets. Burke enjoys staying active in his free time, including golf, playing softball and bowling. "I am very excited to serve the community of Grand Blanc with their financial needs as well as through the Grand Blanc Chamber of Commerce. I am very grateful to The State Bank for this opportunity," Burke said. Brooke Jansen, retail banking officer at The State Bank, said, "I am very excited that Jacob has joined The State Bank. He comes to us with bank management and relationship building experience and is eager to apply that to the business development efforts in the Grand Blanc market. He is a great addition to our team."

Becoming financially independent

■ Four savings accounts you should be aware of

By Hannah Ball

The definition of financial independence varies depending on which website you're looking at or who you're talking to.

However, the definition commonly includes saving enough money to retire comfortably.

Noah Morgan, MBA, CFP and private wealth advisor with the Acorn Wealth Advisors, offers advice on which type of savings accounts people should consider to become financially independent.

"There is no excuse why someone should not familiarize themselves with these accounts as we move toward more consumer-driven retirement savings plans. Save today if you want to earn interest tomorrow," he said.

**“Save today
if you want to
earn interest
tomorrow.”**

Noah Morgan
*Acorn Wealth Advisors private
wealth advisor*

1. Tax deferred

Tax-deferred accounts include 401(k)s, 403(b)s and individual retirement accounts (IRAs).

"Money put into these plans reduces taxable income dollar for dollar in the year you make the contribution. The tax benefit received today and the tax on the growth on these accounts is also deferred until retirement when you begin taking withdrawals," Morgan said.

Savers can have these assets invested until age 70½, when the IRS mandates account owners start taking out the annual required minimum distribution.

2. Roth

These accounts consist of after-tax money put into Roth 401(k)s and Roth IRAs. Contributions won't reduce your current taxable income. Users don't receive a tax benefit when they put money in, but they don't owe taxes on appreciation, income or withdrawals in retirement.

People in their 30s or 40s have a "substantial" amount of time to contribute and grow these accounts, which will be tax-free down the road.

"These accounts are the ideal solution for a younger person working

especially with modest incomes. High incomes will still want to weigh the pros/cons of a Traditional IRA vs. a Roth IRA or blend the two," he said.

3. Taxable

Taxable accounts include bank savings and brokerage accounts, which are funded with after-tax dollars.

"You can hold it in money markets, buy stocks, bonds, precious metals, real estate or any other security investments. Buying and selling does mean the gains and/or losses will have their respective tax implications," he said.

If these accounts aren't held for a year, the account holder could be subject to short-term capital gains, Morgan said, which is "fancy" talk for ordinary income tax rates.

If the account is held for a year, the IRS puts lower tax rates on the capital gains compared to your respective income tax rate.

"Losses may be used to offset gains and or reduce taxable income up to \$3,000 each year until exhausted as they can also be carried forward," Morgan said. "Another benefit is the IRS has no mandatory distributions and this money is always available to you."

4. Health savings

These accounts are not traditional retirement accounts. Health savings accounts (HSAs) have the potential to be an effective savings vehicle if your employer offers one and you're covered by a high-deductible health plan.

"These accounts offer a triple tax benefit in that they are tax deductible, the investments grow tax-free, and you pay no tax on the earnings provided they are used toward qualifying medical expenses," he said.

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DRINK

Continued from Front Page

According to the Michigan Liquor Control Commission (MLCC), the top local wholesale liquor buyers are Merchants Gourmet & Wine Shop, Walmart, VG's, and Locke's Party Shoppe & Deli.

Collectively, they spent \$2.7 million on wholesale liquor in 2018. The MLCC reports that Michigan businesses spent \$1.45 billion on wholesale liquor purchases the same year, and 84 percent of these are retail stores. The rest are bars and restaurants.

Of the top 18 wholesale liquor buyers, eight are Meijer stores and eight are Costco stores.

The MLCC oversees the distribution system through which bars and retailers buy their liquor and monitors patterns. A recent report brought several interesting facts to light.

For example, in 2017, the MLCC reports that enough alcohol was sold in Michigan that every person (children included) could have eight drinks per week. This is 10.9 drinks per week for every adult over age 21.

This is lower than the recommended limit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) suggests — seven drinks per week for women, and 14 for men.

Alcohol sales are inching down, according to the report.

**In 2017, enough
alcohol was sold in
Michigan to allow
10.9 drinks for every
adult over 21.**

Alcohol and crime

Argentine Township Police Chief Dan Allen said that alcohol is a "common denominator" with domestic assaults. He doesn't see a trend up or down with alcohol-related crimes.

He added that alcohol sales pick up in the summer due to the activity on the lakes. One business, NorthShore Market, sells directly to boaters on the lake.

Allen said that so far in 2019 his department had 18 drunk-driving arrests, two drunk driving crashes, and 20 assaults with alcohol as an element.

Drinking and driving crash stats

According to Michigan TrafficFactsCrash.org, 99,091 collisions involved drinking between 2009 and 2018. Between 2004 and 2008, 63,942 crashes occurred where at least one party had been drinking.

Of all the collisions that occur each year, alcohol remains a strong factor. Consistently, alcohol-involved fatalities make up a third of all crash fatalities in Michigan. Alcohol-involved collisions hover around the 10,000 mark each year. In 2018, there were more than 312,000 crashes. While only 9,786 were alcohol related, 315 of the 974 fatalities involved alcohol.

Overall, crashes were up in 2018, 2017 and 2016 from the previous two years.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

HERE WE ARE again. After three people were killed and at least 12 were injured at the Gilroy Garlic Festival, elected officials of all political stripes, with their version of prayers, heart goes out, we need to do better as a country. And, seemingly, for a lot of folks, they feel like nothing's changing.

SO, ROSE TOWNSHIP, now that you took care of the blight on Rattalee Lake Road, when are you going to finish the one on Davisburg Road that you started?

WHAT IS WITH some Linden City officials and their continued harassment of a long time business in their downtown (not the gas station)? This business is thriving and continually

gives back to the community in so many ways. Personal feelings clouding their judgment?

'THE ENJOYMENT OF the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights.' This is a quote from the WHO's constitution. Americans have the right to choose whether to live in accord with this standard of health, but it doesn't say that healthcare (which is different than a 'standard of health') is a human right.

HOPE SOMEONE CAN answer this. My wife and I were walking across the road in downtown Fenton at a marked crosswalk, with the yellow lights blinking. Cars stopped but a man and a woman riding bicycles rode right across the crosswalk and nearly hit us. Don't bicyclists have to follow the same rules?

ROBOCALLS

Continued from Front Page

Independent Justin Amash, (Michigan, Dist. 3), Republican Andy Biggs, (Arizona, Dist. 5) and Republican Thomas Massie, (Kentucky, Dist. 4) cast the dissenting votes.

This bill would create more consumer protections for authorized calls and give the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) more tools to stop robocalls. This includes requiring incoming calls to have authentic caller identification before coming to the customers, as well as requiring telephone carriers to confirm that calls are from a verified caller.

Rep. Dan Kildee (D-Flint), chief deputy whip of the House Democratic Caucus who cosponsored the bill, said, "We know the amount of robocalls Americans receive have increased over the years and these calls are scamming people out of their hard-earned money. I'm proud that both Democrats and Republicans in the House of Representatives came together to act to protect Michiganders and stop these calls. This bipartisan bill puts consumers first so that when people answer their phone, they don't have to worry someone is trying to cheat them."

According to robocallindex.com, Michiganders received approximately 1.2 billion robocalls in 2018. Already in 2019, residents in this state have received 784 million. Americans have lost an estimated \$10.5 billion to robocall scams this year, according to Truecaller, a communications website.

Rep. Elissa Slotkin (D-Holly) also cosponsored the bill.

"Michiganders are sick and tired of getting robocalls, and they're even more fed up with being scammed by these companies," Slotkin said in a press release. "I'm thrilled that today we have passed a bipartisan bill I have co-sponsored to directly respond to this daily, frustrating, and indeed serious problem our constituents are facing. The Stopping Bad Robocalls Act not only helps prevent folks from receiving irritating robocalls, but cracks down on companies who have preyed on and taken billions of dollars from consumers."

The bill makes an exception for calls made on equipment that requires substantial human intervention. The Act

“I’m proud that both Democrats and Republicans in the House of Representatives came together to act to protect Michiganders and stop these calls.”

Dan Kildee
U.S. representative (D-Flint)

would amend the Telephone Consumer Protection Act, and calls for more consumer protections for specified exemptions, such as student debt collectors.

The FCC would have to specifically state which parties can make the calls, who can be called, the purposes for which calls can be made, the number of calls allowed for exemptions and an option for consumers to opt out of receiving the calls.

A year after the Act would go into effect, the FCC would require telephone service providers to authenticate the source of calls. The service would be free for consumers. The FCC would be required to create a nationwide database of numbers from persons that may not have consented to being called. Robocallers would be required to use it. People can revoke their previous consent to being called at any time.

The FCC would be required to submit annual reports to Congress detailing the progression in stopping robocalls. Information provided must include the following: complaints alleging violations of this act; complaints alleging that a call transmitted misleading or inaccurate caller identification information; numbers of citations issued; amount of criminal fines collected and more. The bill also establishes a four-year limit statute of limitations on crimes mentioned in the act, extended from the current one-year limit.

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**THE COUNTY
Times**

APPS TO STOP ROBOCALLS

Nomorobo, as in “no more robo-calls,” is a monthly subscription service that blocks automated scam or telemarketing phone calls. It allows useful notices, such as school closings and prescription reminders through, and obviously, regular phone calls. However, it’s still not able to block “neighbor spoofing” calls, which are scam calls that have your same area code for deception.

Truecaller, for iOS and Android will tell you who’s behind that anonymous number with a community-based spam list from more than 250 million users. It can also block spam calls.

Hiya Caller ID & Block, for both major operating systems, allows users to block calls, blacklist unwanted numbers and text messages, reverse phone search incoming calls and more.

AT&T, Verizon, and T-Mobile have all developed free robocall-blocking apps. Search for them on your device.

Source: USAToday

HOT LINE CONTINUED

NOTHING IS BEING done in our city. Roads are a mess. Historical building is falling to the ground. DPW couldn’t care less if anything is done and getting a city manager appears to be a problem?

HERE IS THE Democrat/Socialist platform: the New Green deal costing trillions of dollars and thousands of jobs, reparations to blacks and higher taxes to whites, 100 billion for mortgages for blacks, billions to pay college loans, free college and health care for illegals, open borders and identity politics.

PEOPLE PUSHING REMEDIES for climate change remind me of a used car salesman because if he doesn’t sell you something he doesn’t get paid.

HEALTH CARE IS not a right. Health care is a process we are all doomed to fail without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition.

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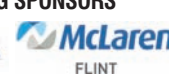
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413 S. Leroy St. • (810) 629-0661

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NATURE APPS

Continued from Page 9A

seen, along with audio clips of songs and calls for those birds. The app is available for iOS and Android.

Leafsnap

Did you find an unfamiliar plant or tree while on a walk and want to know what it's called? Columbia University designed Leafsnap to identify plants. Just upload the photo to the app.

The app is available for iOS. Planet-NetPlant, which is a very similar app, is available for Android.

TrailLink

If you're looking for new trails, this is the app to use. It has more than 30,000 miles of trails with 179 search results in Michigan alone. Use this app when you're on vacation and want a quick hike. It contains trail descriptions, reviews, photos and more. It could also be a helpful tool in the event of a lost person.

This app is available on iOS and Android.

Yonder

This app allows travelers to browse geo-located photos and videos taken by outdoor enthusiasts with activities such as hiking, biking, skiing and rock climbing. It helps users find new adventure spots and acts as a social media platform. Post your own pictures, interact with others and more.

This app is available for iOS and Android.

Sources: merlin.allaboutbirds.org, inaturalist.org, americanforests.org



THC

Continued from Page 6A

This also includes drivers having difficulty finding their license, slurred speech, bloodshot eyes, swaying, odor of intoxicants and more. If an officer does want to determine how much THC is in someone's system, they go the blood test route.

"When you receive your driver's license you give consent to give either a breath, blood or urine sample to law enforcement if arrested for impaired driving. If the driver refuses, a search warrant will be sought to obtain the sample based on probable cause during the stop and arrest and their license would automatically be suspended and points added to their driving record," Shaw said.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

CAN'T SUPPORT LOCAL without bikes? Baloney. Walking and driving are fine options while supporting local.

TO 'IN MY America.' Your America exists in socialist Europe. Please go. Yes, I find myself 'in need' everyday, so I work and earn resources to meet my needs. If I ever desire to fill my needs by demanding from government, I'll join you in socialist Europe.

WHY IS IT that the entrances and exits off U.S. 23 in Fenton are such an atrocious site? We welcome and encourage visitors to our beautiful downtown area yet they see such unkempt sites. Look at Clio, Grand Blanc, Milford and Novi. Even Linden takes care of their entrances and exits. Such a shame.

WHY ARE THE government agencies pussyfooting with this guy on Lobdell Lake? He's broken the law many times over. Is he paying the \$10,000 a day

fine? Bridge still there?

ANSWER THIS: IN the moments of your death, exactly who violated your right to health care?

WHY DO PEOPLE believe they have a right to someone else's labor, let alone without having to pay for that labor? You have a right to be provided with healthcare without cost to you? A right? Does someone have a right to your labor without cost to them?

Pigeon in the Parlour in Holly

■ Come visit 'our avenue of boutiques within a boutique' for fashionable clothing, jewelry and home décor

By Sally Rummel

The name, Pigeon in the Parlour, isn't the only thing that's unique about one of historic Holly's most successful downtown businesses.

"We named the store Pigeon in the Parlour because I saved the life of a pigeon that had been hit by a car," said Emily Rath, who owns this business with her husband, Ray. "I took her home and prayed for her, and I had her for eight years."

The Rathes bought this charming 1865 building in 1991 and restored it to its beautiful stature today with the help of their two sons. It's much more than just a building — the store's tin ceiling and creaky floors create a welcoming atmosphere and its customer service brings a smile to each customer's face.

What stands out about Pigeon in the Parlor is that it's not just one business; it's actually an avenue of boutiques within a boutique. "We are a team of entrepreneurs coming together to create a beautiful shopping experience," Emily said.

You'll find stylish, comfortable and affordable fashion, accessories and jewelry for women; European and home décor ranging from specialty lighting, unique mirrors and other custom finds from vintage to french chic. Look for the cool white color of ironstone and French-European



"In the world there is no place like Pigeon in the Parlour."

Emily Rath

*Pigeon in the Parlour
co-owner*

Pigeon in the Parlour in downtown Holly is one of the community's most successful businesses. Its unique 'avenue of boutiques within a boutique' creates a wonderful shopping experience.

Photo by Tim Jagielo

inspired farmhouse style in lanterns, luminaria, candles, soaps, lotions and more to delight the senses.

New this summer is children's room décor, located on the second floor.

The most well known brand in the store is Chalk Paint® by Annie Sloan, the world's most respected expert in decorative paint, colors and technique. You can use Chalk Paint® to paint furniture, floors and walls, and even to dye fabric.

Pigeon in the Parlour is proud to be one of Michigan's largest suppliers for these paints and offers Chalk Paint® workshops to cover a range of painting techniques, whether you're a beginner or a pro. You can also order

Chalk Paint® and accessories online at Pigeonintheparlour.com or dive into one of the store's many Annie Sloan books.

"In the world there is no place like Pigeon in the Parlour," Emily said. "To learn about the country, you must come to the country. Come and visit us today."

Pigeon in the Parlour is at 110 S. Saginaw St. in downtown Holly phone (248) 634-7467. Store hours are Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., closed Sunday.

You can also contact the store via their website, Pigeonintheparlour.com and on Facebook.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

COMPILED BY SHARON STONE

Genisys Credit Union recognized by CardRates.com with its Editor's Choice Award for Community Commitment

Genisys Credit Union received recognition from CardRates.com with its Editor's Choice Award for Community Commitment, which recognizes businesses for their demonstrated efforts to educate and improve the communities in which they operate. Genisys extends their thank you to CardRates.com. "Each year, Genisys team

members contribute nearly 5,000 hours and sponsor over 975 events to benefit everyone who lives or works in our communities," said Heather Pizzala, vice president of marketing for Genisys. CardRates.com Editor's Choice Award for Community Commitment is a merit-based recognition that focuses on community engagement, financial literacy efforts, and quality products and services. Each year, Genisys Credit Union sponsors a multitude of "Making a Difference" campaigns, which support and serve communities across Michigan. In addition to supporting their communities, Genisys is committed to expanding knowledge about financial literacy. For both members and non-members, there is access to a weekly blog series and e-books on the Genisys website. Genisys also offers products and services to aid in financial goals. "Genisys Credit Union stood out to us because of its demonstrated efforts in going above and beyond to give back to its communities in ways that provide real-world impact," said Adam West, managing editor for the financial news site, CardRates.com.



YOUR SMILE MATTERS!

By: Dr. Steven Sulfaro

FLOSSING

As most of you are now aware, the Associated Press and the US News and World Reports released an article stating that according to their investigative research there is no scientific evidence to support the ongoing recommendation by us dentists that daily flossing has any positive effect on the health of your mouth. They are dead wrong. It must have been a really slow week in the news business. Their investigation is flawed because they only looked at short term studies of a year or less. The problem is that dental disease such as gum disease take years to progress and a short study probably won't show much improvement in the test subjects gum health after such a short period of time. It's like doing a research study on the benefits of fertilizer for plants that lasts for only one week. At the end of one week the researcher notices no difference between the fertilized and unfertilized plant and reports there is no benefit for using fertilizer on your plants. Unfortunately, the AP did their own, independent investigative search of the dental literature without any input from true dental experts such as the ADA. So, research or no; I can't help but notice those people in my practice who brush and floss on a regular basis tend to have better teeth than those who don't. Bottom line: "If you want to keep them, floss if ya got-um".

I welcome your questions and comments. Feel free to e-mail me drsulfaro@comcast.net

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HOT LINE CONTINUED

I DON'T GET it. If someone parked in the middle of a road, you tow their car. The guy parked a bridge over a lake. The township should just hire a wrecking company to rip it out. Have a police officer go with them and if he interferes with them, arrest him and put him in jail. All talk and no action.

YOU'RE RIGHT. HEALTH care is not a human right. But it should be. Especially when the U.S. ranks 27th in the world for quality of its citizens' health, 45 million uninsured, ranks 25th in life expectancy, infant mortality and immunization rates. Get with your congresswomen and men to get U.S. all quality healthcare.

THE U.S. ECONOMY is consumption-limited, not capital-limited. Giving corporations and the wealthy a tax cut did not spur economic growth. Putting more money into low- and middle-income pockets where it will be spent on consumption is the best way to grow our economy. Increasing wage income is the stimulus that works.

POLICE & FIRE REPORT

COMPILED BY SHARON STONE

FENTON RESIDENT INJURED IN THURSDAY MORNING CRASH

On Thursday, July 25, at approximately 7:23 a.m., Livingston County Sheriff's deputies were dispatched to the intersection of Fenton and Clyde roads in Hartland Township for a two-car personal injury crash. The preliminary investigation has revealed that a 26-year-old Clarkston woman was operating a 2017 Kia sedan traveling westbound on Clyde Road when she failed to yield the right-of-way. The vehicle was struck by a 2015 Toyota Tacoma traveling southbound on Fenton Road driven by a 60-year-old resident of Fenton. The driver and passenger of the Kia were transported to U of M hospital by Livingston County EMS. The driver of the Toyota was transported by a family member to Saint Joseph of Brighton. No other serious injuries were reported. Alcohol and speed do not appear to be factors in the crash. The intersection was closed for two hours while emergency crews cleaned up the scene. Deputies were assisted at the scene by the Michigan State Police, Hartland Area Fire Department, and Livingston County EMS.

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Proposed bill encourages adoption or retirement for lab animals

■ More than 50,000 cats, dogs, monkeys, rabbits and more were used in labs in 2018

Compiled By Vera Hogan

A bill to encourage the adoption or retirement of animals no longer needed for research in federal labs has the support of U.S. Senators Susan Collins of Maine and Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire.

Co-sponsors include Senators Gary Peters of Michigan, a Democrat, and Martha McSally, of Arizona, a Republican.

Supporters say more than 50,000 cats, dogs, monkeys, rabbits and other animals regulated under federal law were used in labs in 2018.

They say many animals are killed when federal agencies lack policies on adopting or retiring animals no longer needed for research.

The bill introduced Tuesday, July 30 would direct federal agencies to have such policies.

The bill would amend the Animal Welfare Act to allow for the retirement of certain animals used in federal research. The original bill has been given the short title, "Animal Freedom from Testing, Experiments and Research Act of 2019, or the "AFTER Act of 2019."

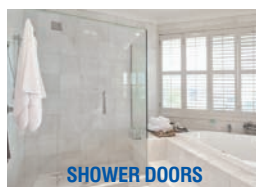
If enacted, nonprofit animal rescue organizations could be asked to find permanent adoptive homes for those animals.

The bill can be found on Collins's homepage at: www.collins.senate.gov.

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DISMISSED

Continued from Front Page

from the preliminary exam reveals that the district court, after hearing the evidence put on by the parties regarding the five charged counts of criminal sexual conduct in the third degree (by force or coercion), concluded that the evidence presented showed a combination of consent by the complainant and coercion by the defendant.

“A combination of consent and coercion is not legally sufficient to support the element of force or coercion in the

charged counts, and it is not sufficient to warrant binding the case over to circuit court.

“Therefore, the bind over by the district court was an abuse of discretion. For those reasons, the bind over is hereby quashed, and the case is dismissed in its entirety.”

As previously reported, Lt. Jim Lynch of the Livingston County Sheriff's Office said an 18-year-old South Lyon female reported the incident to the sheriff's office Dec. 17, 2018. He said the female alleged she had been sexually assaulted two days prior at a residence in Tyrone Township. She identified the suspect as Dedivanaj.

Following the dismissal, Manley said, “The complainant had her day in court and was again able to tell her story. This time her story was subject to cross-examination on behalf of Mr. Dedivanaj. The result was that the judge dismissed the case based upon her testimony and the testimony of others.

“We commend the judge for upholding the rule of law. I am pleased to have vindicated Mr. Dedivanaj and look forward to him continuing to be a valuable member of the Fenton community.”

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

COMPILED BY SHARON STONE

McLaren welcomes interventional cardiologist to medical staff

Ashraf Mostafa, MD, board certified interventional



cardiologist, has joined the medical staff at McLaren Flint. Mostafa is seeing patients at Premier Cardiovascular Consultants, PC,

1257 N. Main St., Lapeer. Mostafa completed fellowships in cardiology and interventional cardiology at Detroit Medical Center through Wayne State University in Detroit. He also completed his residency at Detroit Medical Center. Mostafa earned his medical degree from Ain Shams University, Faculty of Medicine in Cairo, Egypt. Mostafa is accepting new patients and can be reached by calling (248) 480-0363.

MICHIGAN VOTES

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

— Compiled by Sharon Stone —

MichiganVotes.org is a free, non-partisan website created by the Mackinac Center for Public Policy to provide concise, non-partisan, plain-English descriptions of every bill and vote in the Michigan House and Senate. This report was released Friday, July 26.

The legislature is on summer break with no votes until at least August. Rather than votes, this report contains some interesting or noteworthy recent bill introductions.

Senate Bill 380: Authorize teacher college loan repayment grants

Introduced by Sen. Rosemary Bayer (D), to give college loan repayment grants of up to \$20,000 to new teachers who teach in a school defined as "at risk," meaning more than half the children come from households with incomes low enough to make them eligible for a federal meal subsidies. Ten percent of the grant would be paid for each year the beneficiary works in an at-risk school. Referred to committee, no further action at this time.

Senate Bill 385: Repeal ticket scalping ban

Introduced by Sen. Tom Barrett (R), to repeal a state law that bans ticket "scalping" at sports and entertainment events, but prohibits the sale or use of software primarily designed to interfere with an event sponsor's internet ticket sale operation, or a website that is designed to ensure an equitable ticket allocation process. Versions of this bill passed the House in each of the last three Legislatures but were not taken up by the Senate. Referred to committee, no further action at this time.

House Bill 4658: Restrict use of data from "machine-readable" driver's license

Introduced by Rep. John Chirkun (D), to prohibit businesses from collecting personal information by scanning a machine-readable state-issued driver's license or state-issued identification card. The bill permits scanning but limits to limited identity-confirming and fraud-avoiding purposes. Referred to committee, no further action at this time.

House Bill 4659: Require tick warnings in state parks

Introduced by Rep. Sheryl Kennedy (D), to require state parks, campgrounds, and trails to have signs posted that warn of tick-borne diseases. Referred to committee, no further action at this time.

House Bill 4666: Increase front-line social service worker pay

Introduced by Rep. Brenda Carter (D), to increase reimbursement rates to child care providers in public assistance and foster care programs, for the purpose of giving wage hikes to front-line staff. Referred to committee, no further action at this time.

House Bill 4667: Authorize putting 3-year-olds in government pre-school

Introduced by Rep. Kristy Pagan (D), to extend eligibility for government pre-school programs to 3-year-olds from low-income households. A related bill, HB 4668 introduced by Rep. Lori Stone (D), would extend eligibility for these programs to children from households whose income is under 350 percent of the federal poverty rate, and 400 percent if a program has room. Under current law, an income cap of 250 percent of the federal poverty rate applies. Referred to committee, no further action at this time.

House Bill 4672: Authorize grants to try pavement ideas solicited from public

Introduced by Rep. Shane Hernandez (R), to create a state board to solicit, filter and assess ideas from the public on better road pavement materials and processes. House Bill 4673 proposes spending \$10 million in state transportation dollars annually to try some of the ideas, and House Bill 4674 authorizes grants to local governments for the purpose. Referred to committee, no further action at this time.

WHAT ELSE SHOULD THE TIMES BE COVERING?

The staff is seeking interesting upcoming events, big and small, to take photos and write stories. Please email tips to news@tctimes.com.

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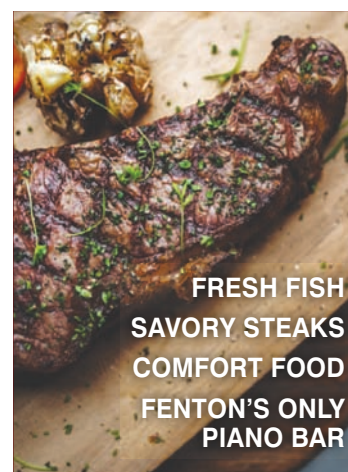
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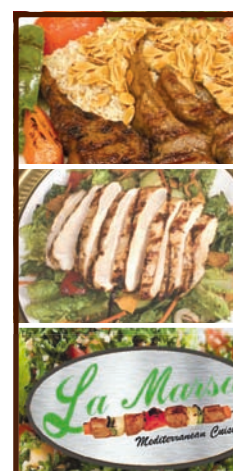


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WHAT YOU MISSED IN THE
**MIDWEEK
TIMES**

COMPILED BY VERA HOGAN

The following are stories you may have missed in the **Wednesday, July 31, Midweek Times**. To subscribe and receive both the Midweek and Sunday Weekend editions, please call (810) 629-8282.

Not fighting cancer alone

Inaugural event raises at least \$3,100 for cancer research grants with help of local organization.



‘Dirty Dozen’ nabbed by GHOST task force

Felon cases proceed involving local residents charged with soliciting sex from children.

Safety concerns arise over drawbridge

Argentine Township officials want state to lead case.

Drowning deaths up on Lake Michigan

Swimmers and boaters on Great Lakes and inland lakes should heed caution from “pop-up” storms and high winds.

Sale of school property stalled; Aldi not confirmed

Construction that was expected to begin in the spring of this year delayed.

Check your social media privacy settings

Apps like Facebook can use the data you share, and sometimes sell it.

Franklin D. Adams Park

The third in a series about the nine parks in the city of Fenton. This park may receive grant money from Community Foundation of Greater Flint.

BUSINESS
BRIEFS

COMPILED BY SHARON STONE

McLaren welcomes psychiatrist to medical staff

Rachel Thiem, MD, psychiatrist, has joined the medical staff at McLaren Flint. Thiem is seeing patients at the McLaren Behavioral Health Center, 4448 Oak Bridge Dr., Flint. Thiem completed

her residency at Henry Ford Health System in Detroit. She earned her medical degree from the American University of Antigua College of Medicine in Osbourn, Antigua and Barbuda. Thiem is accepting new patients and can be reached by calling (810) 342-5333.



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Sunday is 'National Sisters Day' and 'Single Working Women's Day'

■ Both are unofficial, but fun observances

Compiled By Vera Hogan

Today, Sunday, Aug. 4 is "Sisters Day." The unofficial holiday honors the strong bond that people share with their sisters. Sometimes called National Sisters' Day in the United States, the holiday encourages people to celebrate the special relationship between them

and their sisters.

This is a day to acknowledge the joy and love that your sister brings into your life and to make sure that she knows that you cherish all that she does for you.

While "sister" is usually used to refer to a female sibling, the term can be used for a variety of relationships. In many cultures, the term is used to address a female nurse, a woman who is in religious service, like a nun, or any other unrelated woman who shares a person's

religion. Members of a sorority — a female social organization on college campuses — also call each other sisters.

If you live far from your sister or sisters, call them or send them a card telling them how much you love them and appreciate them.

If you live close to them, visit them or take them out for a nice meal and treat them to their favorite dessert.

Don't have a sister who you share genes with? What about celebrating your

female friends who have provided you the love and support that only a sister can?

Single Working Women's Day

Today is also the unofficial holiday "Single Working Women's Day." It was created by Barbara Payne who realized that despite the important economic and social contributions of single working women, there were no holidays that celebrated their achievements, creativity, and courage. Thus, Single Working Women's Day (SWWD) was founded in 2006. SWWD falls with Single Working Women's Week, a whole week devoted to celebrating happily single women who are gainfully employed.

As societies around the world have progressed, the age-old stigma associated with single and/or working women is slowly but surely disappearing. Today, women do not have to be married and stay at home to prove their worth. Successful and accomplished single women can be found in every walk of life and they contribute to their workplaces and communities on par with their peers who are married or in relationships.

Despite this, there are many challenges that single working women still face in the workplace and in society. SWWD raises awareness about these issues and encourages people to find equitable solutions. The day also attempts to eliminate singlism, the stereotyping and discrimination of single people. It acknowledges that singlehood does not preclude happiness and satisfaction with life and that some people prefer going through life solo than with a partner.

Honor all the single, working women in your life. Let them know that you admire them, respect their decisions and are inspired by what they do.

Source: timeanddate.com



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Building faith, building fun

■ Vacation Bible School includes Bible-infused activities for kids like singing, dancing, crafts

By Tim Jagielo

Fenton — On Saturday, July 27, it looks and sounds like a school field day at First Baptist Church on N. LeRoy Street in Fenton.

That morning, children played duck-duck-goose with wet sponges, church leaders walked around armed with water guns, and other groups rehearsed dance moves flanked by undersea decorations while bathed in blue light.

Vacation Bible School (VBS) is learning about the Bible, but area churches also put a lot of work into making it a memorable, fun experience for children.

VBS is generally held in June, July

and August and revolves around a theme. The Freedom Center's theme for this year is "Mega Camp," The Rock Church's theme is "Transformed," Holly Calvary's theme is "To Mars and Beyond," and Fenton First Baptist's was "Submerged."

Each camp will contain Bible stories or lessons, which will be reinforced with other activities.

Many churches will purchase a VBS curriculum and a program from a publisher. This is why some churches will have the same theme, or even share their program with another church once they've finished.

“Our church has a passion for reaching out to children in our community.”

Debra Nickels

*Holly Calvary United Methodist Church
children's ministry director*

Debra Nickels is children's ministry director for Holly Calvary United Methodist Church. She works and spent the last six weeks getting the program ready. There are approximately 40

children in her program, and it takes 38 volunteers to run the children through the weeklong evening program.

Each church will teach on a specific



The "Submerged" theme of the First Baptist Vacation Bible School includes music and choreographed dances. Photo: Tim Jagielo

area of the Bible. In Nickels' case, it's the Book of Ephesians in the New Testament. She'll choose one verse per day for the children to learn about, and she will reinforce it with crafts, snacks, games and music. Volunteers act out stories that include sound effects. "That's the main point of it," Nickels said. "To learn lessons from the Bible stories."

Nickels' program includes a CD with music and a DVD with dance moves

for the songs. The program isn't denomination specific, and she said they'll be passing it onto a smaller church — as it had been passed on to them.

For First Baptist Church Pastor James Bell, the point of VBS is making memories and making study of God's word fun and enjoyable. First Baptist Church's theme is "Submerged" which also includes

See BIBLE SCHOOL on 27A

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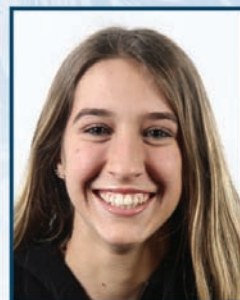
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Holly Calvary Methodist Church members depict the "Daniel and the Lions' Den" Bible story at their VBS on Monday, July 29. It was performed for each of the four age groups of children.

Photo courtesy of Ellen Pease

BIBLE SCHOOL

Continued from Page 25A

companion music, dance moves and materials. It took organizers six months to set up. The theme is about making scripture easy to understand and show that Jesus ministered to children.

The camp includes children entering kindergarten up to fifth grade. The church's youth group begins at sixth grade.

VBS can run for different lengths and be in different locations.

Nickels' VBS camp is at the church every evening this week from 6 to 8 p.m.

Bell's camp was three days — Friday, Saturday and Sunday, culminating into a community picnic on Sunday.

The Rock Church's program is called "Transformed," using the "Transformers" theme, and is a camp held in Rose City.

The Freedom Center (TFC) doesn't use the term "VBS." Its annual "Summer Spectacular" draws hundreds of attendees, and the church is known for going big with their programs. Its 2019 theme, "Mega Camp," centers on sports and science.

JD Wiegand with TFC said they currently have 203 children signed up. He expects they'll have up to 350 participants. While they'll be working on team sports, cheerleading and science, they'll be weaving in Bible lessons from Nehemiah in groups. He said they'll use key points to connect sports to Christianity.

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Traditional Service9:00 am
Sunday School (all ages) 10:00 am
Modern Worship Service 11:00 am

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

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600 N. Adelaide • Fenton
810-629-2251
Father Robert Copeland, Pastor
Father Ryan Riley, Associate Pastor

Saturday.....5:00 pm
Sunday 8:30 am, 10:00 am, 11:30 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 Wednesday 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm
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Saturday Traditional Worship6:30 pm
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Sunday Contemporary Worship 11:00 am
Saturday5:30 pm, Bible Study

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Contemporary Service 10:30 am
Children's Church..... 10:30 am
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9141 Hartland Rd. • Fenton
810-750-0350
Pastor Linda Living-Hawley
Sunday Worship Schedule

Celebratory Worship..... 10:00 am
Children's Sunday School..... 10:30 am
Fellowship..... 11:30 am

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Sunday Worship10:15 am
Sunday School9:00 am
Sunday Evening Worship6:00 pm

Bronchos' Barrett headed to Grand Valley State

By David Troppens

Taylor Barrett ranks among the greatest tennis players in Holly High School history.

Now she's going to get a chance to make some history at the college level.

Barrett, a 2019 graduate, is headed to Grand Valley State University to continue her tennis career. She made the decision sometime during the summer between her junior and senior year.

"I've worked really hard since I

was young, and that was my goal," Barrett said. "I'm really proud of my

See **BARRETT on 31A**

Holly graduate Taylor Barrett will play college tennis at Grand Valley State University this fall. **File photo**



SUNDAY, AUGUST 4, 2019 | PAGE 29A | MYFENTON.COM/SPORTS

David's Dabblings

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



TURNING 50 SIX MONTHS LATER

About seven months ago, I became a half-century old.

It's supposed to be one of those defining birthdays. In some ways it has. I certainly have thought about being the big 50 way more than I ever did when I turned 49, 48, 47 or even 40. But I haven't had some serious breakdown moment where I thought 'My God, I'm 50. What have I done with my life.'

But since turning 50, I have noticed a few things that have happened and a few that haven't. I thought I'd address those.

There are times when I'm still the youngest: One thing that has always amazed me is the fact no matter how old I am, there are times when I'm still the youngest person within a group, or

See **DABBLINGS on 31A**

Fenton teams dominate Top 16 poll's top five

Fenton girls golf takes top spot in our poll

By David Troppens

Here we go!

All that's left are the top five.

Some old trends continued.

All five that remain were in the top 16 a year ago, and many have made it a trend to make it pretty consistently.

As has been the case in many recent years, Fenton teams dominated, taking four of the top five spots.

However, there are some changes. For example, the biggest involves the top spot. There is a new No. 1 team on the 2018-19 Tri-County Top 16 Sports Teams list.

That's enough of an introduction. Let's get into the top five.

No. 5 - Fenton girls soccer: The Tigers were our No. 1 team in 2014-15, and have been in the top five for three of our polls.

The Tigers opened the season by struggling against some very strong non-league teams, but those games seemingly made the team better by the time late May arrived.

Fenton ended up winning the Metro League title with a 7-0-1 record, led by a strong defense and a potent offense led by Lauren Murphy and Cal-lie Dickens.

When tournament time came around, the Tigers were as strong as any team in Division 2 and proved it. The Tigers beat eighth-ranked Goodrich

See **TOP 16 on 30A**



The Fenton varsity girls golf team is our No. 1 squad in our 2018-19 Tri-County Top 16 Sports Teams list. **File photo**

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TOP 16**Continued from Page 29A**

and fifth-ranked Notre Dame Prep while winning a district title. In regional action, the Tigers defeated DeWitt, the top-ranked team in the state. They then faced Powers but lost in the regional final contest.

The Tigers continue to prove that any given year, they can consistently compete with the top teams in the state of Michigan.

No. 4 - Fenton boys cross country: The Tigers were our sixth-ranked team in our poll last year and have been in the top 16 for four straight seasons.

Fenton had a strong league season, earning a third straight league crown. The Tigers did it by winning all three jamborees.

When the postseason began the Tigers earned a third-place finish in regional action, just sneaking themselves into the state meet. But once there, the Tigers did super well, earning 11th at the state meet.

No. 3 - Fenton girls cross country: Cross country squads have always done well in our top 16 polls. Linden's boys team has been No. 1 three times and

have been in every poll until this season. The Linden girls also were No. 1 once, and in recent seasons the Fenton squads are dominating.

The Fenton girls were 10th in our poll last year, and improved its status by reaching its highest ranking ever this season. The Tigers won their third straight league title, winning all three of the jamborees.

The Tigers made history by earning their first-ever Division 1 regional title, clinching a state trip. Once at the state meet, the Tigers placed ninth and had Alexa Keiser earn All-State honors.

No. 2 - Holly girls tennis: If this poll was based on the last five seasons, the Bronchos would probably be No. 1. The Bronchos have been in the top 16's top four each of those seasons, and were this year's defending No. 1 squad.

Holly put together a strong Top 16 title defense starting the year with its fifth straight outright Metro League crown. Holly crushed that competition, winning every dual meet and then crushing the field at the league meet.

Holly's dominance continued at the regional meet when the Bronchos captured a regional championship. Finally,



(Above) Holly's girls tennis team is No. 2 on our 2018-19 Tri-County Times Top 16 Poll, while the Fenton varsity girls cross country team (below) is No. 3. **File photos**

when the Bronchos were at the state meet, they had another strong showing, placing eighth. That made it five straight seasons the Bronchos have earned a top-10 finish at the state meet.

And let's not forget, due to court condition issues, the Bronchos didn't have a home event the entire spring. They proved themselves to be the ultimate road warriors.

No. 1 - Fenton girls golf: Last year's No. 2 team made the final jump and is now our eighth different team to earn the No. 1 spot of our Tri-County Top 16 list.

The Tigers won their fourth straight Metro League crown (third outright) this spring with an 8-0 dual meet record

and a first-place score of 335 at the Metro League meet.

In the postseason, the Tigers continued to shine. Led by Charlotte Cunaud, they placed second at the regional meet with a team score of 361. Meanwhile, Cunaud was second at the regional meet with an 82.

At the state meet, the Tigers placed sixth with a two-team score of 371-360-731. Cunaud placed sixth individually (156) and was named to the 2018 Michigan High School Super Team.

This was a reasonably easy decision. The Fenton girls golf team was at the head of the class during the 2018-19 school year.



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Holly graduate Taylor Barrett was a four-time No. 1 singles Flint Metro League champion. She will be playing tennis at Grand Valley State University. **File photo**

BARRETT

Continued from Page 29A
self for that.”

Barrett not only played No. 1 singles during her entire career on Holly’s varsity girls tennis team, she was a four-time No. 1 singles Metro League champion, making her only the second woman to earn that honor in league history. The other was Fenton’s Madison Ballard, who just happened to graduate from Grand Valley State University.

Barrett was a four-time First-Team All-State tennis performer for the Bronchos, helping lead the squad to some of its finest team seasons ever.

She was a No. 2 seed in the D2 No. 1 singles state tennis tournament this spring, but was upset in her second match. Her junior season she was the No. 3 seed, and advanced to the state semifinal round. She also

advanced to the semifinal round her sophomore season and advanced to the quarterfinals her freshman year.

Grand Valley had an outstanding season during 2018-19, advancing to the Division 2 national tournament, earning a Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Association Conference championship and posting a 23-5 record overall.

“I picked Grand Valley because it was closer to home and I liked the girls on the team as well,” Barrett said. “I want to get along with the girls.”

Many of the players who made last year possible will be graduating. The team also will have a new head coach. Most recent women’s tennis coach John Black announced his resignation in June.

“There are going to be quite a few seniors graduating,” Barrett said. “After my freshman year, I’ll have a new start.”

DABBLINGS

Continued from Page 29A
very close to it.

That has happened a few times this year with our volleyball group. One day I suggested we do teams based on age, thinking I’d be on the older team. About 20 seconds later, I realized I was actually the youngest among the group.

On a pretty similar note, I have noticed another phenomena. No matter how old you are, there’s always someone that will ask your age and after you say it the person will say ‘Oh, you are still a young one.’

I’m AARP’s biggest fan: About once a month I get a subscription request from the AARP magazine. It’s actually a decent magazine, and I have thought about getting it because I thought Anna may enjoy reading the magazine. However, I’ve haven’t subscribed yet because with each mailing, they send a nice plastic bookmark-like thing with it. You are supposed to send the card back to get a free gift with your subscription. Instead, I have

kept each one of them and they are located in sports reference books I use frequently.

I’m more active today than 15 years ago: It’s weird. When I was a teen, thinking about people in their 50s represented someone laying on a reclining chair, wearing a plain white T-shirt while falling asleep with a Tiger game on. That hasn’t been the case.

I’ve probably played more volleyball this summer than ever before, and I also occasionally run with my wife as well. Instead of watching the Tigers, I find myself wanting to compete. I figure I can have a medical issue tomorrow and watch the Tigers as much as I want to then. Right now is time to compete. And there are plenty of us over-50 competitors in area athletic activities.

I’m considerably more forgetful: Actually, that’s not right. That’s been the case since I’ve been 15. That’s pretty nice to be this way. I really have no clue when or if I’m going senile. After all, this is how I’ve always been.

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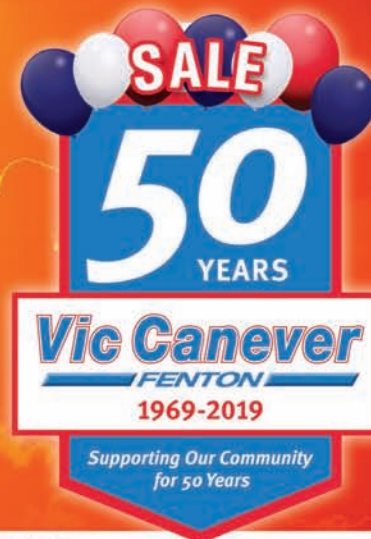
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