

Fall colors may be early this year

■Late summer autumn-like temperatures might bring peak color three days earlier across Michigan

By Sally Rummel

Autumn doesn't officially begin until Sept. 23, but those chilly nighttime

temperatures we've been experiencing just may bring on Michigan's fall color show earlier than usual.

Every year, the timing and vibrancy of Michigan's fall foliage is different, and this year is no exception. It all depends on the temperatures in coming days, as well as moisture that heads our way in the form of rain.

At this point, weather reports are showing that peak color might be coming about three days earlier across Michigan, compared to the historical average.

"Moisture is the key," said David Petts, owner of Branching Out Nursery & Landscaping in Fenton.

See **FALL COLORS** on 17A



Photo: Bernard Spragg



Terri Hartwick



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Weekend Times

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Board votes to put millage on November ballot

■Fenton Area Public Schools asking for sinking fund renewal for three years at current rate

By Vera Hogan

Fenton Area Public Schools (FAPS) officials have placed another sinking fund renewal proposal on the Nov. 5 ballot. Only this time, they are asking voters to renew the current

See **MILLAGE** on 15A

Lake Fenton to seek 1.25-mill sinking fund for 10 years

By Vera Hogan

Lake Fenton Community Schools will be asking voters to approve a 1.25-mill sinking fund for the next 10 years (2020 to 2029).

See **SINKING FUND** on 13A



Photo: Tim Jagielo

Tony and Patti Bonura of Linden play the Coke ring game with children Theo, 5, and Zoe, 2, at Applefest on Thursday, Sept. 12. See more photos at myfenton.com.

Amid state and federal bans, teen e-cig use is up

■School districts have policies to deter and punish students who vape

By Tim Jagielo

Teen vaping is a top concern among schools and governments. One school in Alabama made national headlines after stall doors were removed in the students' bathroom.

See **E-CIG** on 16A



Juul vape pod mods allow the user to change the flavor of the vapor they breathe. Photo: Vaping 360

TEXT
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“I said a prayer for the man in the black car, who was speeding past a gravel hauler on the curve north of Clyde Road on the double line and missed my car by inches as I was going home traveling north. Please slow down and obey the law.”



“Picked up my Bottles, Brews & News tickets this week! The countdown is on for this awesome new event on Sept. 28. Can't wait to try some new beer and wine while enjoying live music and the beauty of our community. Plus, it's for a great cause — FARR.”



“Does anyone know why the worst half of Lobdell Road was not resurfaced? I don't get it.”



COMMENT
OF THE WEEK

“I don't mind you picking through my garbage at 2 a.m. but it would be nice if you had a vehicle that didn't wake up the entire neighborhood.”

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Ladies and gentleman...now showing in the village of Holly

■New mural depicts Holly’s history with the circus

By Vera Hogan

More public art is being added in downtown Holly.

Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Director Katy Golden, who is also the assistant village manager for Holly, said Kevin Burdick was back in town, painting an interactive mural in Alley Street, on the side of the Hippie Love Lifestyle building.

“The mural does not replace the large train that appears on the side of the RHL Group’s building; it’s a new piece of art,” Golden said.

The bottom of the mural has huge letters spelling out the word HOLLY. Visitors are encouraged to stand against the building with arms outstretched upward and put themselves into the picture, essentially becoming the letter Y in HOLLY. The top part of the mural will depict a circus midway, complete with a big top, Ferris wheel, animals, and many other elements from the carnival atmosphere, Golden said.

Holly has strong ties to circuses of the past. Battle Alley got its name be-



The circus now has a permanent home in Holly. It is depicted in a new interactive mural on Alley Street, on the side of the Hippie Love Lifestyle building. Submitted photo

cause of an altercation between some locals and members of a traveling circus. There’s a historical marker next to the Holly Hotel that tells the story of that incident. And Holly is home to the McGuinness Mansion,

also known as the “Bailey House,” located on the corner of Sherman and College Street where James Bailey of the Barnum and Bailey Circus had a house built for his older brother.

See MURAL on 8A

Shiawassee rehab project to cost \$870,000

■Fenton officials approve \$53,000 for engineering services to get things started

By Vera Hogan

Shiawassee Avenue in Fenton, from Bent Oak Street to Adelaide Street is scheduled for a 4-inch overlay in 2020.

At its Monday, Sept. 9 meeting, the Fenton City Council approved the Scope of Engineering Service proposal for the project at \$53,000. These services will be provided by OHM, the city’s engineering firm.

In addition to the 4-inch overlay, the project will also include curb and gutter repair, sub-grade repairs as needed, edge drain and drainage structure repairs as needed. Pedestrian ramp upgrades also will be performed at intersections.

See REHAB PROJECT on 8A

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Words with Hannah The government sells your data

Facebook. Equifax. How are these entities similar? They're under fire for giving and/or not protecting personal information.

Department of Motor Vehicles. Michigan Secretary of State Office.

How are these entities similar? They'll sell your information, too. And they're the government.

I'm one of those "if the FBI wants to watch me through my computer video camera struggle to write and endlessly scroll on Twitter, that's their loss" kind of person. I'm worried when data companies get hacked, but I change my passwords, shake my head, and hope Congress can eventually bring these companies to heel.

You know what really grinds my gears? When we're required by the state to have a photo taken, give our Social Security number, our address, and pay for an ID, only for the state to sell that information to private citizens.

The Michigan Vehicle Code (MVC), section 257.40b, defines

"personal information" as an individual's photo, name, address (but not the zip code), driver's license number, Social Security number, telephone number, digitized signature, and medical and disability information.

MVC, section 257.208c, states that the SOS can disclose this "personal information" to law enforcement, to an employer to verify information, insurance companies, motor vehicle business, statistics and data gathering companies, and a few other reasons that make you squint, shrug, and think "I guess that makes *some* sense."

Protecting from fraud is important, but I have a major issue with two parts of this section. The media can buy this information to write a report related to the operation of a motor vehicle or public safety. At least, that's what we'd claim on the form. We could lie. (The Times has never bought personal information from the government.)

That list also includes private investigators. PIs are not law enforce-

ment. They are private citizens, who can buy your address *from the government*.

PIs must be licensed under the Professional Investigator Licensure Act, or they must work for a licensed private security guard agency or alarm system contractor, to buy data from the SOS, which has an entire webpage explaining the process.

The Driver's Privacy Protection Act was created in 1994 after an actress (Rebecca Schaeffer) was killed by a stalker who hired a PI to obtain her information from the California DMV. However, many states still sell to PIs, including Michigan.

According to the SOS request form, PIs can only ask for this information if it relates to the above reasons. I'm sure PIs do more than stalk cheating spouses, but they could simply lie on the form.

It's incredibly easy to find someone's address in this day and age, but the government should not make it easier. If you think your information is not worth something, think again. A lookup fee is \$7.

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.



Hannah Ball

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.

NO ONE UNDERSTANDS climate. The data we have today shows climate change is due to both natural variation and human activity. Carbon dioxide is just one part of the human part of climate change.

■■■■
YOUR SPECIFIC IDENTIFICATION of the AR-15 as a target of restriction proves your ignorance of both guns and crime. But good job on learning and regurgitating the CNN and Democrat party lines.

■■■■
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■■■■
THE HOT LINE about Democrats not being Socialists is partly true because actually, they are closer to being Communists. All of the proposals by the Democratic candidates can be found in the Communist Manifesto. Yes, the Communist Party is alive and well in America.

Compiled by Hannah Ball, staff reporter

Where's the most interesting place you've been?

street talk



"When I got out of college, I hiked the Appalachian Trail for six months. I hiked north to south. Most hike south to north."

Gary Holvick
Tyrone Township



"New Zealand. Because it's the farthest I've ever been from home and they have every kind of climate. They have no animals that can kill you."

Amellia Hall
South Lyon



"Singapore. Because it's the cleanest city on earth. At least, that's what they say."

Kenny Versola
Modesto, California



"I went to Honduras in 2016 for a mission trip. The people are really family oriented. They were really accepting of us."

Nicola Gehringer
Fenton



"Yellowstone in February, snowmobiling for three days, at the top of Two Tops during a snowstorm. We were snowmobiling with buffalo in the road."

K.C. Smith
Fenton

Still no official answers on sudden exit

■ Village manager says Holly police chief resignation was voluntary

By Tim Jagielo

Holly Village government and administration are remaining tight-lipped about the sudden resignation of former Holly Police Chief Michael Story.

This is the procedure following anything discussed in closed session meetings. It's meant to protect all parties involved and is often part of the negotiations.

Former Chief Elena Danishevskaya made it public that she resigned in 2012 amid what she felt was a hostile work environment during her 16 months as chief.

While rumors and possible insights are available, they haven't been shared on the record.

One rumor is that Story was forced to resign, which Village Manager Jerry Walker addressed in an email. "When

minutes, had to be moved from the regular meeting room to the commons area at the Karl Richter Center.

While not listed overtly on the agenda, the possible exit of Michael Story prompted several public comments. Most supported the chief, asking him for a "fair shake," while others like resident John Lauve accused the council of violating the Open Meetings Act for not listing the reason for the closed session.

According to meeting minutes, the council referred to the departure of Story as the "separation agreement" struck between the village and Story's attorney.

While the Times sent a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for Story's resignation letter, Walker said such documents are exempt from FOIA requests.

Walker appointed Scott Fischer as acting police chief. Fischer retired in 2010 with 33 years at Holly with the rank of detective lieutenant. He has been working for the Oakland County Sheriff's Office for seven years.

Fischer will serve for 60-90 days while the village goes through the hiring process.

Officials such as Holly Township Supervisor George Kullis are on the hiring committee.

Story and Village President Tom McKenney did not respond to questions by press time.



Michael Story

"... they did vote to accept Chief Story's written resignation, which some term as a 'separation agreement,' but it was a voluntary resignation and retirement."

Jerry Walker
Holly Village manager

NEWS BRIEFS

COMPILED BY SHARON STONE

LOCAL STATE REP ANNOUNCES OFFICE HOURS

State Rep. Mike Mueller of Fenton Township will host office hours Monday, Sept. 30 to meet with local residents of the 51st District. "Students are back to school and

we're back in session," Mueller said. "I'm eager to tackle more issues this fall on behalf of my constituents. I welcome residents from across our community to come share their priorities with me." Office hours are scheduled from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Gaines Township Hall, 9255 W. Grand Blanc Rd., in Gaines. No appointment is necessary. Residents unable to attend may contact Mueller's office at (517) 373-1780 or MikeMueller@house.mi.gov.

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MSP awards nearly \$56 million in safety grants since 2015

■ Used to secure school entrances, buy cameras, install intercom systems and more

By Hannah Ball

In 2015, 87 Michigan schools and districts received grants from the Michigan State Police Competitive School Safety Grant Program. The organization gave out \$4 million that year, which was the first year for the program.

After years of numerous school shootings, that number has increased to nearly \$25 million given out to 229 schools and districts in 2019.

Nancy Becker-Bennett, division director of the Grants and Community Services Division of the MSP, said these funds are appropriated by the Michigan Executive office and Legislature to “help schools secure their buildings in an effort to keep students and staff safe.”

The grants are funded through the state’s general fund.

The combined years of 2015, 2017, 2018, and 2019 have seen almost \$56 million awarded in grants in the program with 556 total recipients. There was no appropriation for the funds in 2016.

“Safety for our children should always be a top priority,” said Gov. Gretchen Whitmer in a press release in

March about the grant program. “Every parent should have the peace of mind that their children are receiving an education that allows them to achieve their dreams under the safest possible conditions.”

Applicants must fill out a form and adhere to the rules for how the money is used. Eligible expenditures include access control systems, bollards and barriers, classroom/interior doorway

enhancements, lighting, intercom systems, modification of entryways to create secure vestibules, panic button/alert system, public address system, signage and security cameras.

Applications are reviewed by a committee that includes representa-

tives from the MSP, Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police, Michigan Sheriffs’ Association, Michigan Department of Education, Michigan Association of Non-Public Schools and other school safety professionals.

The grant now has two programs—one that requires a match and one that does not.

Local schools received some of this money. None of these grants required a match.

In 2017, Holly Area Schools received \$59,000 from the program. In 2018, Linden Community Schools received \$138,470.

In 2019, Lake Fenton Community Schools received \$177,073 and Fenton Area Public Schools received \$96,736. Linden and Holly did not receive any money from this program this year.

The program has grown, and more money is being awarded each year. However, 2019 saw a slight decrease in the amount awarded compared to 2018.

2015:

87 recipients, \$4,000,000 awarded

2017:

52 recipients, \$1,955,506 awarded

2018:

188 recipients, \$25,000,000 awarded

2019:

229 recipients, \$24,864,427 awarded

“Safety for our children should always be a top priority.”

Gretchen Whitmer
Michigan governor



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Have a beer with us — or five!

■ The View Newspaper gang looking forward to partying with you for a great cause

By Vera Hogan

There's just under two weeks left to get your advance tickets to The View Newspaper Group's first-ever Bottles, Brews & News craft beer and wine fest, from 3 to 8 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 28, in Rackham Park, behind the Community & Cultural Center.

Along with amazing beer and wine samples, the event will feature food for purchase and live music under a big tent in the park. Craft beer and beverages from more than a dozen breweries, including our local friends at the Fenton Winery & Brewery, Northern Oak Brewery and The Barn, The Fenton Pub and Ponemah Lakeside Lodge, will be featured.

Bottles, Brews & News proceeds will benefit FARR (Fenton Area Resources and Referral Network, Inc.) which is aimed at helping Fenton, Lake Fenton and Linden area residents in crisis.

Advance tickets to Bottles, Brews & News are \$25 and include five tasting tickets and a souvenir glass. Additional tasting tickets will be available at the event for \$1 each. The event is for those 21 and older only. Tickets can be purchased at myfenton.com, at the Times office at 256 N. Fenway Dr. in Fenton and at the Fenton Regional Chamber of Commerce offices at 104 S. Adelaide St.

For more information, contact Emily Caswell at ecaswell@mihomepaper.com or at (810) 452-2608.

Zombies, scarecrows and monsters coming to Linden

■ Annual Halloween celebration to take place Oct. 11

By Hannah Ball

The zombies are coming back to Linden this year, but they'll be joined by scarecrows and monsters as well.

Linden's annual Zombie Walk, now called Zombies, Scarecrows and Monsters, will take place Friday, Oct. 11 at 6:30 p.m. The event is put on by the Linden Arts Council (LAC).

"Calling all vampires and other ghoulish creatures to walk with the zombies for the scariest parade ever," the flyer reads.

The zombies and other monsters will line up outside Linden's Fairview Cemetery at 6 p.m. and depart down Tickner Street at 6:30 p.m. The route ends at Eagle's Wooden Park.

Attendees can also enter to win a scarecrow contest.

The Linden Dance Academy will perform the classic Michael Jackson dance "Thriller" after the parade. The studio will host free dance clinics at 15188 Linden Rd. for those wishing to participate in the dance. The dates are Sept. 21, 22, 28 and Oct. 5 and 6, from 11 a.m. to noon.

"We have been involved with this event since its inception and enjoy working with the LAC. Our studio loves to get the kids involved in this event to learn a quick dance and perform at the end of the parade," said Danielle Sorum, owner of Linden Dance Academy. "It's an opportunity to promote dance and the theatrical arts in our community that reaches across the county. Many students join us from other cities to learn the Zombie dance and families are committed, too."

Their staff will also share tips on makeup and costumes to help achieve the zombie look.

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

COMPILED BY SHARON STONE

New report reveals positive impact of Hurley Medical Center on Genesee County Economy

Hurley Medical Center is making a significant impact on Flint and Genesee County through efforts designed to improve the overall health, wellness and quality of life

for local residents. Hurley has served more than 2,000 food insecure patients in the past two years through their Food FARMacy. Their Diabetes Prevention Program is at various community locations. Camp Move It has helped children get healthier the past five years. They're also involved in several collaborative projects like the annual Community Baby Shower and Vaccination Fair. Their Nurse-Family Partnership helps first-time mothers during their pregnancy and all the way through the second year of their child's life

to provide guidance and access to health-related resources.

"We are here for those who need us, but another measure of our success is knowing that there are those in our community we have helped to stay healthy and not require hospitalization," said Hurley President and CEO Melany Gavulic.

"It is critical that community members get the service they need and we make sure that no one gets turned away," said Cass Wisniewski, Hurley senior vice president and CFO.

Pawsitive Care Affordable Pet Clinic

■ Offers home visits, home Euthanasia services and no exam fee for wellness visits

A healthy pet community is the goal for the team at Pawsitive Care Affordable Pet Clinic, which opened in downtown Holly last November.

Founded by veterinarian Dr. Ashley Hotchkiss, veterinary assistant Haley Jackson and veterinary technician Alyssa Pennington, Pawsitive Care Affordable Pet Clinic focuses on preventative health services for pets including vaccinations, heartworm testing and prevention, flea and tick prevention, microchips, toenail trims, anal gland expressions and medical care for uncomplicated conditions like ear infections, skin problems, eye trouble and stomach upsets.

To keep their care affordable, there is no exam fee for wellness visits that include preventative health services. This creates an instant savings for clients of about \$45. In addition to no exam fee, products and services are affordably priced. Vaccinations range from \$20 to \$40 depending on the type. Bloodwork starts at \$65. Minor illness exams are offered for \$40. The clinic does not offer X-rays

or ultrasounds, eliminating the need for expensive equipment.

"Less overhead means less out of your pocket ... We aim to provide transparent pricing so that the cost is easy to understand and there are no surprises," Dr. Hotchkiss said. "Our focus is to prevent disease before it occurs ... We pride ourselves on taking an alternative approach."

Additional unique offerings at Pawsitive Care include home visits and home Euthanasia.

Home visits allow fearful pets to receive the care they need without the anxiety sometimes felt in a clinical setting. This also allows elderly pet owners to seek care for their furry friends without having to visit a clinic.

Home Euthanasia allows pets to have their final moments in a familiar place, like under a favorite tree or in front of the fireplace, surrounded by family.

"We are passionately dedicated to alleviating the stress that can arise when a pet's last moments are spent at a veterinary clinic," Dr. Hotchkiss said. "Euthanasia



Veterinary assistant Haley Jackson, Dr. Ashley Hotchkiss and licensed veterinarian technicians Brittany Sayyae and Alyssa Pennington make up the team at Pawsitive Care Affordable Pet Clinic in Holly. The clinic offers home visits, home Euthanasia services and no exam fee for wellness visits. Submitted photo

in the comfort of your home makes sure your pet's last moments are as comfortable and stress free as possible."

Pawsitive Care also operates a nonprofit animal rescue — Pawsitive Cause, which is devoted to working toward a world where all animals have a home. The nonprofit provides foster homes and medical care while animals are in pursuit of their forever home. Adoptable pets can be viewed by visiting PetFinder.com. Donations to Pawsitive Cause, including pet food, linens, cleaning supplies are appreciated. Volunteers (and foster families) are also welcomed.

The clinic also recently launched "Spay-it-Forward,"

which is a program focused on combating pet overpopulation in Holly and neighboring communities by offering sponsored spay (female) and neuter (male) sterilizations for free. Anyone interested in utilizing the free service or donating may contact the clinic.

Pawsitive Care Affordable Pet Clinic is at 611 N. Saginaw St., Holly. Hours are (Monday) 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., (Wednesday) 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., (Thursday) 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday and Friday by appointment only. For more information, please call 248-587-PAWS (7297).



Artist Kevin Burdick works to get the circus mural done in time for the HollyDays celebration last weekend.

Submitted photo

MURAL

Continued from Page 3A

"This beautiful mural was made possible by a grant from Flagstar Bank, coordinated by the Main Street Oakland County program, and a generous donation from Kevin Burdick," Golden said.

"We love this new art installation and think that this is the perfect visual representation, helping to tell the story of Holly's connection to the circus," Golden said.

REHAB PROJECT

Continued from Page 3A

The project has been approved by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) to receive S/TIP (State Transportation Improvement Program) funding in 2020 in the amount of \$351,578, with the city's matching funds of \$159,354 for a total S/TIP budget of \$510,932.

"The city's total estimated project cost is \$350,500, which includes engineering and geotechnical services," said Dan Brisson, interim Public Works director. "Total project cost is estimated at \$870,000."

A start date for the project has not yet been determined.

September is Suicide Prevention Month

■ Look for signs, find the right resources, reach out for help

By Hannah Ball

September is National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month.

It's a time to share resources in an effort to educate and "shed light on this highly taboo and stigmatized topic," according to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI).

In 2016, nearly 45,000 Americans age 10 or older died by suicide. It's the 10th leading cause of death and one of three leading causes on the rise, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Nationally, the suicide rate has increased by 25 percent from 1999 to 2016.

"Every year thousands of individuals die by suicide, leaving behind their friends and family members to navigate the tragedy of loss. In many cases, friends and families affected by a suicide loss (often called 'suicide loss survivors') are left in the dark. Too often the feelings of shame and stigma prevent them from talking openly," according to nami.org.

Genesee County event

NAMI of Genesee County is hosting its second annual Illuminate Community Event on Saturday, Sept. 21, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the downtown Flint Flat lot, at the corner of Saginaw and Kearsley Streets.

The event will focus on education. Barb Smith from the Suicide Resource & Response Network will be the keynote speaker. After the speech, attendees can participate in interactive

activities, such as talking with the Genesee Health System Mobile Mental Health Unit.

Other activities include a Mind, Body and Soul Stop with a drum circle and yoga demonstrations; a Make and Take Art Stop sponsored by Mott Children's Health Center; a Veteran Stop with a 22 push-up challenge; and Suicide Awareness One Mile Sidewalk Stroll.

Suicide statistics and demographics

The majority of suicide victims are white males, which account for approximately seven out of 10 suicides. The highest suicide rate is among males age 65 and older with 32.3 deaths per 100,000.

Women account for 6.2 suicides out of 100,000 people. The 45 to 54 age group has the highest suicide rate with 10.3 deaths per capita. Suicide rates among veterans were 1.5 times higher than non-veterans in 2016, and rates are higher in rural communities than urban areas.

One in five adults will experience mental illness this year, which can lead to suicidal thoughts.

"Researchers found that more than half of people who died by suicide did not have a known diagnosed mental health condition at the time of death. Relationship problems or loss, substance misuse; physical health problems; and job, money, legal or housing stress often contributed to risk for suicide," according to the CDC.

Firearms were the most common method of suicide used by those with and without a known diagnosed mental health condition.

During this month especially, NAMI urges people to reach out to those

who have been affected by suicide. Help these individuals connect with resources if they need help.

Sources: nami.org, 2016 National Vital Statistics System data, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Warning signs of suicide

- Increased alcohol and drug use
- Aggressive behavior
- Withdrawal from friends, family and community
- Dramatic mood swings
- Impulsive or reckless behavior

Crisis resources

If you or someone you know is in an emergency, call 911 immediately.

If you are in crisis or are experiencing difficult or suicidal thoughts, call the **National Suicide Hotline at 1-800-273 TALK (8255)**.

If you're uncomfortable talking on the phone, you can **text NAMI to 741-741** to be connected to a free, trained crisis counselor on the Crisis Text Line.

Source: nami.org

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Our Town

MEET

Matt Bach

- Public relations director
- Stand-up comedian
- Former journalist

By Vera Hogan

Matt Bach, 50, of Mundy Township is the director of communications for the Michigan Municipal League (MML), a nonprofit organization that represents Michigan's cities, villages and urban townships. A former journalist, Bach is also now a stand-up comedian who has also appeared in Fenton Village Players productions on and off for 15 years. He is on the Mundy Township Board of Trustees.

What are some of your responsibilities with the MML?

The cities of Fenton and Linden,



Submitted photo

and the village of Holly, are among some of our most active and engaged member communities. I oversee all communications of the organization, including media relations, member outreach, our social media and website, mml.org. In this role, I also host the regular podcast,

"Michigan Politics, Huh?" I'm also host of the bi-weekly Facebook Live show, Monday Morning Live.

What motivated you to become a stand-up comedian?

I've always loved stand-up comedy. About two years ago, my wife, Katie, and I attended an amateur comedy show in Grand Blanc where the audience votes for the comedians and I came away from that show saying, 'I'd like to try that.' So, a few weeks later I went to an open mic comedy night and got hooked. My goal is to do 100 shows and I'm currently at 82 shows.

Name some of the places you have performed.

I mostly do Genesee County-area shows, but have performed throughout the state, including at Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle in Royal Oak, Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase, and Dr. Grin's in Grand Rapids. Next, I'll be hosting the Laugh Your Tail Off Comedy Fundraiser for the Thompson Road Regional Dog Park in Fenton Township. The fundraiser is 5-8 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 13, at Legend's Bar & Grill off Thompson Road. It's for a great cause and I'm excited to do it.

Can you describe your humor?

I'd say it's observational humor and a lot of personal stuff about my family. Sometimes there's even a little singing involved although I'm a terrible singer. Oh, and sometimes I talk about poop.

Tell us about your involvement with the Fenton Village Players.

I've done shows with the Fenton Village Players (FVP) on and off for probably 15 or more years. I love FVP and my most fond memories have been doing shows with my two kids, Zach, now 25, and Emily, now 21. We did "Annie" together many years ago when they were 10 and 6 and Zach and I more recently were both in "A Little Murder Never Hurt Anybody" directed by the amazing Sam Di Vita.

Do you regret giving up your career as a journalist?

I loved my time as a newspaper reporter which I did for nearly 20 years at the Daily News in Greenville, the Livingston County Press in

Howell and about 12 years at The Flint Journal. But I was ready for a change when I took a buyout offer at The Journal in 2009 and have thoroughly enjoyed working as a public relations official, first with the Flint Area Convention and Visitors Bureau

and now with the Michigan Municipal League. I'll be celebrating my 10th year at the League this November.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I'm a huge movie fan and make a point to see as many of the

Oscar-nominated films as I can each year. I have a goal to see 365 movies in 365 days each year, but always fall way short of that. We do love to travel and visit places we haven't experienced before in Michigan. I'm also an avid runner and completed four marathons last year. But I pushed running too hard and had a series of injuries that now keep me limited to shorter distances. I'm also a member of the Mundy Township Board of Trustees and past member of the Mundy Township Planning Commission and Genesee County Metropolitan Alliance.

How has becoming a grandfather changed your life?

Being grandparents has changed our lives in so many ways. Our grandson, Emmett, is now 18 months and is the true joy of the lives for myself and my wife, Katie, as well as our daughter (Emmett's mother, Emily). He lives with us in Mundy Township so we're lucky to get to see him a lot. He brings out my silly side and I'm amazed by him and all the new things he does, learns and says every day.

What else do you want people to know?

I want your readers to realize how lucky they are to have three amazing communities and downtowns right in their backyard in Fenton, Linden and Holly. The leaders in these three communities are fantastic and have done an excellent job in fostering and encouraging place making to serve their residents. I've been to communities throughout Michigan and these three could easily be included on anyone's short list for the best towns in the state.

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NEWS BRIEFS

COMPILED BY SHARON STONE

Milford Road just east of Fenton Road in Rose Township expected to close Sept. 16 for culvert replacement

The Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) expects to close Milford Road just east of Fenton Road in Rose Township beginning Monday, Sept. 16, to replace the culvert that carries the Shiawassee River under the road. The work is expected to be completed in mid-October. The detour for through traffic is Clyde Road to Hickory Ridge Road to Fenton Road, back to Milford Road and vice versa. The approximately \$850,000 project is funded by RCOC and includes resurfacing the road over the new culvert as well as new guardrails and lane markings. The contractor for the project is Zito Construction of Grand Blanc. This section of Milford Road carries approximately 6,500 vehicles daily.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

■■■■
MANY AMERICANS ARE burdened by high healthcare costs. The liberal Democrat socialists demand free healthcare for illegal immigrants. It's logical and not unkind to give Americans' healthcare the highest priority with the limited resources available. That's a privilege for being an American. Remember that in the next election.

■■■■
REPUBLICANS HAD FULL control of congress for Trump's first two years. Many of them were elected based on their complaints about health care. Yet they did nothing. If you still have problems with health care, you should be questioning the Republican leaders.

■■■■
TO THE PERSON complaining about having to work two jobs to pay bills and feed his family. You understand that you're in the position you're in because of choices you made to get there. It's not anyone else's fault. Also, the Obama healthcare has hurt more than it has helped.

■■■■
NO MATTER WHAT folks say about Fox, CNN and MNSBC, they are the

only ones that covered today's 9/11 ceremonies live and in full. Channels 2, 4 and 7 ran regular programming. How sad they didn't care enough to put aside their moneymaking priorities.

■■■■
THE GOVERNMENT HEALTHCARE program saved 'everyone' money? Well, here in the real world, I know that my insurance cost and premiums went up thanks to Obamacare along with every single one of my co-workers who use the employer insurance program. My wife saw increases in her employer plan as well.

■■■■
TO THE HOT-LINER about the Texas gunman, what's your source? Every media source I looked at said the shooter was denied purchase due to failed background check. The gun may have been acquired through a private sale. You can purchase almost anything via a private sale but that doesn't mean it is legal.

■■■■
ALL GUNS ARE weapons. So are knives. A baseball bat can be a weapon. So can a frying pan. It is the intended use that determines the classification of an item.

■■■■

NEWS BRIEFS

COMPILED BY SHARON STONE

Hospice and dementia seminar

The community is invited to a free Hospice and Dementia Seminar at Fenton United Methodist Church Family Life Center at 119 S. LeRoy St., Fenton on **Saturday, Sept. 21, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** Refreshments will be served. Presented by subject matter experts from our community, the seminar will provide everything you need to know about these important topics. There also will be valuable information for caregivers as well as care receivers. Seating is limited. RSVP by calling (810) 629-2132 by Sept. 18.

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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, Sept. 11, Midweek Times**. To subscribe and receive both the Midweek and Sunday Weekend editions, please call (810) 629-8282.

Moving veteran wall moves emotions

Traveling memorial lists 2,661 Michigan veterans who died in the Vietnam War.



\$1.25-million Torrey Road rehab will remain a 2022 project

An opportunity to move 2022 funding and project scheduling to 2020 tabled in fairness to area businesses.

Holly coach aided in 9/11 search and recovery in NYC

Twin Towers attack happened 18 years ago today; Holly coach recalls on-the-ground experience.

Going once ... going twice

City of Fenton puts surplus vehicles and equipment up for online public auction.

For the love of music and giving

Barnfest keeps growing; event raises nearly 6,500 pounds of food.

Monster storms: 'They don't come until they come'

Former Holly area and Fenton man talks about Florida hurricane fears.

Ally Challenge is underway

Opening musical acts announced for Ally Challenge concert; Singh, Toms and Cabrera commit to the event that began Sept. 9 and ends Sept. 15

SINKING FUND

Continued from Front Page

According to Superintendent Julie Williams, sinking fund dollars can be used for renovation, repair, and construction of buildings, but recent legislation has allowed for expanded use. This expanded use now covers some expenses related to safety, security, and technology.

Sinking fund dollars cannot be used for any operating expenses such as salaries, benefits, or routine maintenance. In addition, the money cannot be used for textbooks or bus replacement.

"Lake Fenton Community Schools currently has a Sinking Fund that was approved by voters in 2009 and expires in 2019," Williams said. "The district has used Sinking Fund dollars to complete renovations in three of our buildings, update parking lots, replace boilers, replace roofs, replace sidewalks, update playgrounds, add acoustical treatment to the auditorium, upgrade lighting systems, replace water filtration system at West Shore and the list goes on."

Due to legislative changes, districts can now use sinking fund dollars for safety, security and technology. If districts choose to include these items they cannot refer to the sinking fund as a renewal, but must call it a "new" sinking fund, Williams said.

For the November election, the board is asking voters to approve a 1.25-mill Sinking Fund, which will include the addition of safety, security and technology to the list of eligible

expenses.

Areas of need include, but are not limited to: parking lots, boiler systems, replacement of sidewalks, roof replacement as needed, abatement and flooring replacement, replacement of older windows, additional security cameras, student technology devices and more.

According to the Genesee County Clerk's (Election Division) website, the revenue collected in 2020 is expected to be approximately \$765,000.

The Lake Fenton Board of Education voted 4-0 on July 15 to place the sinking fund on the ballot. They discussed a 1-mill and 1.25-mill new sinking fund for unforeseeable infrastructure costs, including technology upgrades. According to the minutes of that meeting, they decided to ask for 1.25.

What it will cost

Taxable value	Annual millage
\$75,000.....	\$ 93.75
\$100,000.....	\$125.00
\$150,000.....	\$187.50
\$200,000.....	\$250.00
\$250,000.....	\$312.50
\$300,000.....	\$375.00

HOT LINE CONTINUED

RED FLAG LAWS are a violation of everyone's civil rights. They are punishment without proof or a chance to defend one's action before the court. If your ex-spouse decides to 'get even' for anything they can claim anything with no proof required. Is this what you want in your community?

GUN BANS? NO new law will prevent gun violence. A person intent upon violence for some perceived insult will always be able to obtain the means for revenge. As a nation with nearly half a billion people, you can't lock up all the crazies. The way to cut down on violence is respect for all people and vigilance.

OOPS, I MEANT three road entrances into the circle, two from North Road and one from Torrey Road.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

COMPILED BY SHARON STONE

Seventh annual Shred-It party

Harris Financial Services, 1115 N. LeRoy St., Fenton is hosting its seventh annual Shred-it party, from **11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 28**. Do you have old documents that need to be disposed of permanently? If so, go to the Shred-It party for free document shredding and enjoy a complimentary lunch. Items to avoid: three-ring binders, hard drives, hard plastic containers. Acceptable items: Staples, paper clips, binder clips, paper boxes. RSVP to (810) 629-4900 so that they have enough refreshments on hand. Be advised, individuals put themselves at risk by throwing out information-sensitive documents. These documents need to be disposed of wisely.

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NEWS BRIEFS

COMPILED BY SHARON STONE

What you need to know about your drinking water

Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner Jim Nash invites the community to attend "Water Infrastructure 101," a discussion forum at the Holly Township Library, 116 N. Saginaw St., Holly, on **Thursday, Sept. 19, from 6 to 8 p.m.** Discussion topics include:

- Aging infrastructure
- Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner projects
- Home infrastructure — tips to protect your systems
- Water quality and PFOS (Perfluorooctane Sulfonate) in drinking water
- Sewer and flooding
- Lead and copper
- Employment opportunities
- Water Residential Assistance Program (WRAP)
- Public concerns, Q & A and feedback

HOT LINE CONTINUED

■■■■
GUN PURCHASES: IF you think that more background checks will prevent illegal gun sales, when did more speed limit signs stop speeding? Does a bigger STOP sign make more people stop? You can't stop human nature and it's respect for the law that makes safe drivers. That and respect for other people.

■■■■
I WORKED TWO jobs for years to pay off debt and build a nest egg. Never felt like I had to, I wanted to. I doubt those working two jobs have any impact on employment numbers. Some people need to find fault with the economy simply because their candidate lost, which is simply ridiculous.

■■■■
FEDERAL LAW REQUIRES licensed gun dealers to run a background check on anyone who attempts to purchase a firearm. However, anyone who fails a background check can fairly easily purchase a gun from a private seller.

■■■■
SINCE WHEN IS securing a border considered 'extreme'? I bet you have a fence around your property.

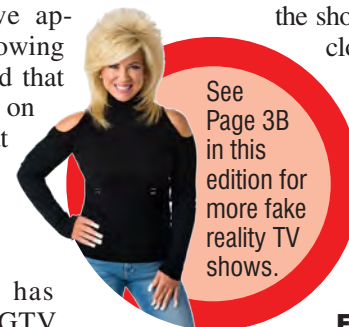
Fake reality TV shows

■ Houses already bought, unfinished work and hidden costs

By Hannah Ball

Reality television is one of the most popular genres of entertainment, but not all reality TV shows are 100 percent honest.

People who have appeared on the following shows have reported that what viewers watch on TV isn't always what happens behind the camera.



See Page 3B in this edition for more fake reality TV shows.

House Hunters

House Hunters has been airing on HGTV since 1999 and is one of the most popular reality TV shows. The premise is that a couple tours three houses before choosing which one to buy.

However, it came out in 2012 that most of the people on the show have already bought or at least picked out which house they want before agreeing to be on the show. One of the people who was featured on "House Hunters" revealed this, causing controversy.

HGTV released a statement to EW at the time, which stated that they specifically chose couples who were far along in the home buying process to maximize production time.

"Because the stakes in real estate are so high, these homeowners always find themselves right back in the moment, experiencing the same emotions and reactions to these properties. Showcasing three homes makes it easier for our audience to 'play along' and guess which one the family will select," HGTV said in the statement.

What Not to Wear

The show ran on TLC from 2003 to 2013 as the most popular makeover show at the time. One person gets a makeover, their wardrobe thrown out and \$5,000 for a new one, and advice from hosts Stacy London and Clinton Kelly.

According to eonline.com, people in a Reddit thread who had been on the show revealed that most of their clothes were taken away and given to charity. They do get the \$5,000, but they had to pay for hair services and tailoring. Stacy and Clinton were also accompanied by a stylist who reportedly did most of the styling.

Fixer Upper

This popular show, which has aired on HGTV for five seasons, shows a couple or a single person choose a house around Waco, Texas. Chip and Joanna Gaines renovate the house. In this show, most of the homeowners have already bought the house and the "touring" was fake.

Reportedly, none of the furniture Joanna places in the house for the big reveal is included in the budget, so homeowners only keep it if they want to pay for it. Not all of the rooms are redone either.

Love It or List It

Appearing on HGTV since 2008, this show features a decorator who redoes a homeowner's current house while a Realtor finds them a new one. The homeowner decides if they want to keep the house they have or list it and move to the new one.

It was sued in 2016 by a North Carolina couple who said the series hired a contractor they didn't agree to, didn't use the deposit for repairs, and left the home with holes in the floor, spots of missing paint and multiple windows painted shut.

A Reddit thread revealed that some people on the show were forced to record both potential endings and the producers chose which ending they liked best, even if it was the wrong ending.

Source: eonline.com,

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MILLAGE
Continued from Front Page
.8999 mills being levied for another three years (2020, 2021 and 2022). The current sinking fund millage expires on Dec. 31.
If approved, revenue collected in 2020 is expected to be approximately \$820,000.

Superintendent Adam Hartley said, “Since the election this August, we continue to listen to all of our stakeholders and have gained important feedback from both our parents and our community members.

“After taking all of the feedback and looking forward to the future, the Board of Education approved seeking a renewal of .899 for three years,” Hartley said. “The Sinking Fund has been critical to our school district and the community as a whole for the past 20-plus years and it is important we are able to maintain our safe and quality facilities to attract and retain families.

“The Board decision to renew the current Sinking Fund is based on not seeking new HVAC systems for our buildings and not adding technology and security to the Sinking Fund,” he said. “The tax increase in August was to support both HVAC and the technology and security upgrades over a 10-year period.”

By dropping the HVAC and the technology/security areas and seeking a renewal, the school district can ask the community to support its current fund, expiring in December, that is critical to the district.

“This can be done without raising taxes, to continue providing safe and quality learning spaces for our students, while allowing many community groups to use the school district’s buildings and facilities,” Hartley said.

“The decision to go for a three year Sinking Fund is based on the future responsibilities we will have as a school district to provide robust, progressive measures in the areas of instructional technology and most importantly, student safety,” he said. “The Board of Education and FAPS administration continue to plan for the future in these high need areas. The renewal means we will use the Sinking Fund for exactly what we have used the funds for over the last 20-30 years. That is, buildings and grounds, facility repairs and upgrades. We must take care of what we have.”

In August, voters overwhelmingly

rejected a proposal to renew the current sinking fund for another 10 years and more than double the mills property owners are paying now to 2.25. The proposal failed by 1,543 “no” votes to 828 “yes” votes.

After the August fail, Hartley said, the result of the vote prompted school officials to begin looking at what options they have when it comes to funding building repairs and construction along with school security.

Hartley said the average amount of Sinking Fund dollars spent on each building in the last three years are: Fen-

ton High School, \$207,000; AGS Middle School, \$54,000; K-5 schools, \$50,000 to \$60,000, and the Ellen Street campus, \$61,000.

What it will cost

If the voters renew the current sinking fund for another three years at .8999 mills, the cost to homeowners will be:

Taxable value	Annual millage
\$75,000.....	\$ 67.49
\$100,000.....	\$ 89.99
\$150,000.....	\$134.99
\$200,000.....	\$179.98

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“I’ve been here multiple times and I will return again if needed. It’s wonderful!”
– WB Fenton

“I have been here two times now, it’s fantastic!”
– WB Fenton

Everybody was so kind and thoughtful.
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HOT LINE CONTINUED

■■■■
KNIVES, CLUBS, HAMMERS, rocks, guns, fists, cars, can be 'used' as 'weapons.' Statistically, guns are most often used as a deterrent to intimidate, not a weapon to injure or kill, and for sporting activities and collecting. Taking good private citizens' legal guns wouldn't eliminate bad people with illegal guns.

■■■■
I CAN'T WAIT for Halloween. I love all of the decorations.

■■■■
I SEE THAT Governor Whitmer's ban on flavored e-vaping has caught on in Washington. Even Trump is supporting a ban. I guess the Republicans will be supporting her efforts now.

■■■■
NOT EVERYONE HAS access to a gun. There are restrictions. There are logical and legitimate purposes for AR-15 style guns (hunting, sport shooting, home defense). Most gun crimes take place with handguns. The problem with taking guns away is that you are taking guns away from legal, responsible gun owners.

E-CIG

Continued from Front Page

At its open house Tuesday, Sept. 10, Holly Area Schools (HAS) included a presentation from a representative from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) to speak to students and parents about the dangers of vaping.

Earlier this month, the MDHHS was directed by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer to ban the sale of flavored vaping products.

Just this week, the Trump administration announced a similar plan by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to also ban most flavored vaping products due to health concerns, and an increase in teen e-cigarette use.

According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, teens are more likely to vape than to smoke traditional cigarettes. Of high school seniors, 37.2 percent reported "any use" in the past 12 months according to December 2018 numbers, compared to 27.8 percent in 2017. Teen e-cigarette users are also more likely to start smoking traditional cigarettes.

According to USA Today, six people have died from vaping-related lung illnesses.

"Vaping" is inhaling the tobacco infused water vapor created by e-cigarettes.

According to Hopkinsmedicine.org, it's healthier than traditional cigarettes, but still harmful. E-cigarettes like those made by Juul Labs, Inc. accept cartridges, which can be menthol, mint or a multitude of other fruity flavors.

These flavors are what are banned by the Whitmer administration.

Lake Fenton High School Principal Chris Belcher said, "I was very pleased to see the 'fruity' flavored vapes get banned and I do believe that will have a positive impact."

Flavored or not, e-cigarettes, like regular cigarettes and all tobacco products are not allowed at local schools.

All local districts have their own policies for deterring and punishing the use to e-cigarettes on campus.

One school in Alabama was made famous by the controversial policy to remove the doors from its bathroom stalls. All the local schools that responded said they would not consider such a tactic for discouraging vaping.

Rumors were circulating that an area school district, possibly Byron Area Schools (BAS), had removed bathroom stall doors to deter vaping in restrooms. Byron High School Principal Mark Dobson said the school has not removed restroom stall doors. Tricia Murphy-Alderman, superintendent of BAS, said she hadn't heard the rumor about the high school stalls, but suggested they may have been removed temporarily while the partitions were replaced. She is in support of the ban.

Fenton Area Public Schools (FAPS) punishments include suspension time

and fines of \$50 per incident. Athletes incur additional penalties at Lake Fenton High School.

While suspension could be the penalty for vaping, restorative justice can also be used to make sure the student learns, but is back in school sooner. "Students/parents can opt to take a vape education course to reduce that suspension, lessening the time spent out of the classroom," said Darin Dreasky, Linden High School principal.

Discouraging vaping is woven into many activities at FAPS. Signs are posted, and employees are on the lookout for vaping in the restrooms and during lunch hours at the schools. It's a subject in physical education and curriculum on substances, and what it does to young people.

Even law enforcement such as the Michigan State Police educate students and their parents at Lake Fenton High School.

Fenton schools report 12 to 33 instances of vaping per year.

Lake Fenton and Linden weren't able to provide hard numbers. "There is no doubt that vaping is an issue we deal with and my hope is that recent reports of health problems help detour students from making this choice," Belcher said.

The good news is that regular smoking and opioid use are down, according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

"Vaping is a serious health threat and disruptive element in our schools," said HAS Superintendent Scott Roper.

He said students caught vaping or in possession of vaping devices will immediately be suspended with possible expulsion for a repeat offense.

Lessening a punishment by taking an online course on vaping is also an option in Holly.

“There is no doubt that vaping is an issue we deal with and my hope is that recent reports of health problems help detour students from making this choice.”

Chris Belcher
 Lake Fenton High
 School principal

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FALL COLORS

Continued from Front Page

“It allows the trees to hold onto their leaves long enough for a strong color showing. When you have a dry fall, leaves just dry up and fall off the trees.”

Although the scientific concept of how leaves change color is fairly simple, predicting when it will happen is far from an exact science.

The major factors impacting peak fall are sunlight, precipitation, soil moisture and temperature.

Although this fall’s weather forecast is anybody’s guess, one thing is certain — the strength and length of Michigan’s fall color show depends on a “normal fall” with temperatures in the 60s or 70s and some rain, Petts said.

“The cooler the weather and the more moisture we have, the longer we’ll have our fall colors,” he added. “It’s got to be cool enough to keep the fall color developing but warm enough to not be freezing.”

This week’s Indian summer temperatures might slow down the color progression that has already begun to start in the Upper Peninsula and tip of the northern Lower Peninsula.

Here’s a sneak peek at possible fall color dates:

Week of Sept. 28 — near peak in U.P.

Near peak conditions in the U.P. and tip of the northern Lower Peninsula.

SUMMARY

■ Peak fall color might be coming to Michigan a few days earlier than usual, because of early season cooler temperatures.

Week of Oct. 5 — peak season in the U.P.

The entire Upper Peninsula, as well as the Straits of Mackinac area, will be at peak foliage. The upper portion of the Lower Peninsula, north of Cadillac and Manistee, will be at near peak. The rest of the state remains at partial foliage.

Week of Oct. 12 — peak for northern Lower Peninsula

The U.P. is past peak and the lower portion of the state is nearing peak.

Week of Oct. 19 — peak for lower Michigan

If you didn’t make it up north for the turning of the leaves, you can just stay home and enjoy the color show from Metro Detroit all the way up to the West Branch area.

Week of Oct. 26 — entire state is past peak

Nearly the entire state is past peak at this point unless you’re planning a visit to the New Buffalo area. This tiny portion of the Lower Peninsula (near the Indiana border) will be at peak season for this week.

Fall color tour tip: It’s better to be a few days late in your fall color tour than a few days early. If you show up late, there will still be plenty of color. If you come early, peak color might not have arrived yet.

Source: Freep.com

View stories at
myfenton.com



BUSINESS BRIEFS

COMPILED BY SHARON STONE

McLaren Flint and Karmanos Cancer Institute invite area residents to celebrate

Its ‘Healing Through Art Exhibition’ McLaren Flint and Karmanos Cancer Institute invite the public to attend a free event celebrating the opening reception of their Healing Through Art exhibition. The reception will be held Sept. 27, from 5:30 to 7 p.m., at the Flint Institute of Arts Art School, 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. The one-of-a-kind exhibition of local artists touched by cancer will run through Nov. 3. Registration is requested. Light appetizers will be served. Parking is available on the south side of the building. RSVP by Sept. 16 by calling (810) 342-4206 or emailing erin.keith@mclaren.org.

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

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Al Serra Auto Plaza ranked #1 in Michigan and #4 in the nation in new and used vehicle sales

Wards Dealer Business Magazine's has released its 33rd annual list of the Top 500 automotive dealerships in the nation and it announced that

the Al Serra Auto Plaza in Grand Blanc is once again #1 in new and used vehicle sales in Michigan and #4 in the nation out of nearly 18,000 across the country. "I know I've said this countless times before, but all the credit for this achievement belongs to the team we have here," said Matt Serra, executive manager of the Al Serra Auto Plaza. According to Serra, 2018 was another strong year for the automotive industry, and that momentum has carried through for the first half of 2019. "In addition

to our total commitment to our customers, we have the advantage of 12 franchises, offering car buyers the opportunity to shop a wide range of exciting new vehicles with just one stop," Serra said. The team concept of putting the customer first, which has been the key component to the organization's success, was put into practice when Serra's grandfather first opened the doors at Al Serra Chevrolet in Grand Blanc back in 1973. It's a tradition that was taken

to the next level by his father, Joe Serra, and now the torch has been passed to a third Serra generation. "Our goal is to take customer service to another level. To make a big impact through little acts of kindness and consideration," Serra said. "Simple things like holding a door open for someone or even a smile, those things make a difference." The Al Serra Auto Plaza is located along S. Saginaw Street just south of Hill Road in Grand Blanc Township.

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LOOKING BACK at this week in HISTORY

COMPILED BY VERA HOGAN

Source: history.com

SEPT. 15

2008: The venerable Wall Street brokerage firm Lehman Brothers seeks Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection, becoming the largest victim of the subprime mortgage crisis that would devastate financial markets and contribute to the biggest economic downturn since the Great Depression.

SEPT. 16

1845: Phineas Wilcox is stabbed to death by fellow Mormons in Nauvoo, Illinois, because he is believed to be a Christian spy. The murder of Wilcox reflected the serious and often violent conflict between the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and the surrounding communities.

SEPT. 17

1996: Daytime talk show host Oprah Winfrey launches a television book club and announces "The Deep End of the Ocean" by Jacquelyn Mitchard as her first selection. Oprah's Book Club quickly became a hugely influential force in the publishing world, with the popular TV host's endorsement capable of catapulting a previously little-known book onto best-seller lists.

SEPT.18

1973: Future President Jimmy Carter files a report with the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP), claiming he had seen an Unidentified Flying Object (UFO) in October 1969. During the presidential campaign of 1976, Democratic challenger Carter was forthcoming about his belief that he had seen a UFO. He described waiting outside for a Lion's Club Meeting in Leary, Georgia, to begin at about 7:30 p.m., when he spotted what he called "the darndest thing I've ever seen" in the sky. Carter, as well as 10 to 12 other people described the object as "very bright (with) changing colors and about the size of the moon." Carter reported that "the object hovered about 30 degrees above the horizon and moved in toward the earth and away before disappearing into the distance."

SEPT. 19

1969: President Richard Nixon announces the cancellation of the draft calls for November and December. He reduced the draft call by 50,000 (32,000 in November and 18,000 in December). This move accompanied his twin program of turning the war over to the South Vietnamese concurrent with U.S. troop withdrawals and was calculated to quell antiwar protests by students returning to college campuses after the summer.

SEPT.20

1881: Chester Arthur is inaugurated, becoming the third person to serve as president in that year. The year 1881 began with Republican Rutherford B. Hayes in office. Hayes served out his first and only term and in March 1881, officially turned over the reins of government to James A. Garfield, who happened to be a close friend of his. Just four months into his term, on July 2, Garfield was shot by a crazed assassin. Though it appeared he would pull through in early September, the autop-

sy report revealed that the internal bullet wound contributed to an aneurism that ultimately killed Garfield.

SEPT. 21

1938: Without warning, a powerful Category 3 hurricane slams into Long Island and southern New England, causing 600 deaths and devastating coastal cities and towns. Also called the Long Island Express, the Great New England Hurricane of 1938 was the most destructive storm to strike the region in the 20th century.

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Spencer on his way to LA for fight No. 9

By David Troppens

With each bout of his professional career Joey Spencer has seen many aspects of his career elevated.

During his second year as a professional boxer, Spencer has seen the number of rounds of his fights increase from three to six. His opponents have gotten stronger as well with each of those bouts being on network television.

And now, as he prepares for his ninth professional bout, all of those things have been elevated

once again.

Spencer will be facing his first unbeaten opponent of his professional career on network television as a part of the card on what could be the biggest professional boxing match of the year — the Errol Spence Jr. vs. Shawn Porter — to unify the welterweight championship of the world.

“It feels great,” Spencer said.

CONTINUED AT
MYFENTON.COM



Joey Spencer



Fenton's Lydia Podlesak attacks a ball during a recent contest. Fenton defeated Kearsley in three sets. Photo: Mark Bolen

Sports Times

Linden soccer soars vs. Bronchos, 7-0

By David Troppens

Linden — The Linden varsity boys soccer team is starting to peak.

An early season Metro League loss put Linden behind the leaders early, but the Eagles have now rattled off four straight victories.

The fourth of these wins was a pretty impressive 7-0 win at home against the Holly Bronchos Wednesday.

The game was called early in the second half due to weather problems, but by that time the game's results were well established. Linden's offense drove Holly's defense nuts all night long.

At first, Holly's offside trap forced the Eagles to be offside on

many promising scoring attempts. However, as the first half evolved, the Eagles timed it perfect, resulting in quality scoring chance after quality scoring chance.

The Eagles scored on their third shot of the game when Alex Smith broke the offside trap and scored on a breakaway from about 10 yards out with 35:11 left in the opening half.

The Eagles were held scoreless for almost the next 10 minutes before another breakaway goal by Smith made it 2-0. Aiden Miller assisted the goal. And then just 27 seconds later, Ryan Gillespie attempted a shot. It was saved by Holly keeper Mitchell Tiell, but the

See **LINDEN** on 21A



Holly's Jayden McDougal (left) and Linden's Tyler Light battle for a ball. Photo: David Troppens

Tigers crush Kearsley in three sets

By David Troppens

The Fenton varsity volleyball team rebounded from its loss earlier in the week against the Holly Bronchos with a resounding Metro League win against Kearsley.

Fenton smacked the Hornets, beating them 25-4, 25-14, 25-5.

“This was a great night for the entire program which was led by senior Abby Sizemore. She anchored the defense all night,” Fenton varsity volleyball coach Meghan Polce said. “The highlight of the night was watching the future of the Fenton varsity — the underclassmen — get a chance to see the floor.”

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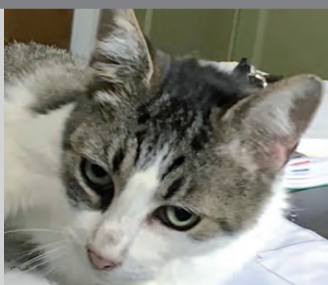


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Fenton tennis becoming a major Metro contender

By David Troppens

Fenton — Gabe Hand has seen the Fenton varsity boys tennis team progress tremendously in his four years with the program.

“When I was a freshman, our team was not really the best,” Hand said. “We all needed work. Everyone needed as much help as they could get and a lot of those seniors are here today.”

Fenton has plenty of talent today. The Tigers improved to 4-0 in Metro League play defeating Clio 7-1 on Tuesday, and then defeating Kearsley 8-0 on Thursday.

“Everyone on the team has contributed a lot,” Hand said. “They’ve contributed to practicing, to playing and right now it’s pretty much showing on the court.”

“It has been working as the years go on. We started out with a pretty young program with

some talent and now we’ve gotten a little older and a little bigger. Now we have more talent and we are doing well.”

Against Clio, Fenton’s doubles flights all won matches with three coming in straight sets. Bradley Trecha and Jack Gundry (No. 1) had the three-set match, winning by a 4-6, 6-3, 6-3 score. No. 3 doubles players Garrett Bloss and Tom Lockwood had the easiest match, winning theirs 6-1, 6-0. Josh Brott and Nate Dymond won their No. 4 doubles match almost as easily, earning a 6-0, 6-2 victory. Finally, the No. 2 doubles squad of Trevor Bloss and Mitchell Scheer also earned a 6-3, 6-3 win.

In singles action, all three Fenton winners had to win at least one set by a 6-4 margin. Jordon Conn (No. 3) earned a 6-4, 6-4 victory overall.

CONTINUED AT MYFENTON.COM



Fenton's No. 1 singles player Gabe Hand returns a ball during the Tigers' 8-0 victory against Kearsley on Thursday. Photo: David Troppens

Linden golfers improving, defeat Swartz Creek

By David Troppens

The Linden varsity girls golf team is putting together a pretty strong Metro League season.

Linden improved to 4-1 in Metro play with a victory against Swartz Creek last week.

The Eagles defeated Swartz Creek 210-129 at Spring Meadows Country Club on Tuesday.

Linden's Cassie Most captured medalist honors with a 50. Caitlin Draper and Emma Lurvey shot 53s. Kaitlyn Straub and Hannah Baldwin each carded 54s.

After losing to Goodrich in their opening Metro match of the season, the Eagles continue to win and play better golf. After shooting a 213 in the double-dual against Goodrich and Owosso (Linden beat Owosso), Linden has shot a 206, a 203 and the 210.

CONTINUED AT MYFENTON.COM

LINDEN

Continued from Page 20A

rebound came to Miller who scored on his shot from about five yards out. Linden led 3-0.

Holly had one shot on net minutes after Linden's third goal, but the Eagles made it 4-0 about five minutes later. This time Miller assisted a goal by Hunter Hall. Hall took the pass, dribbled downfield and scored. By then it was apparent the Eagles weren't going to be stopped, and they weren't.

Linden got goals by Brandon Davis, Gillespie and Aaron Whitted by halftime, making it a 7-0 lead at the break. Miller had three assists while Gillespie provided two and Davis one. Ian Downarowicz earned the shutout in net.

The Eagles (8-2-1 overall) have outscored their last four Metro foes 21-2.

“Our kids wanted to go right away



Linden's Aaron Whitted (right) and Holly's Jayden McDougal collide during the Eagles' 7-0 victory.

Photo: David Troppens

quickly and when they pulled the off-side trap we had to break them down with a pass and get them that way,” Linden varsity boys soccer coach Kevin Fiebert said. “The boys are playing a lot better of late. The scoring has been distributed around and the play has gotten a lot better.”

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Holly tennis collects dominating wins vs. Kearsley, Owosso

Holly's varsity boys tennis team is starting to put together a few wins again.

The Bronchos posted their most lopsided victory of the Metro League season on Tuesday, crushing Kearsley 8-0. Holly followed that victory up with just as lopsided a victory against Owosso, earning an 8-0 win, Thursday.

The Hornets not only lost all eight flights, but they were unable to earn even a set victory. None of the sets in the match were any worse than a 6-3 score, with each Holly flight earning at least one 6-0 set victory during their match.

The doubles teams were particularly impressive with all four earning 6-0, 6-0 victories. The winning teams were Matthew Moller and Quinten Monty at No. 1 doubles, Wyatt Caldwell and Jake Distel at No. 2 doubles, Parker Monty and Garrett Reid at No. 3 doubles and Drew Hignite and Cameron McAninch at No. 4 doubles.

CONTINUED AT MYFENTON.COM

Devils earn first historical Metro win

By David Troppens

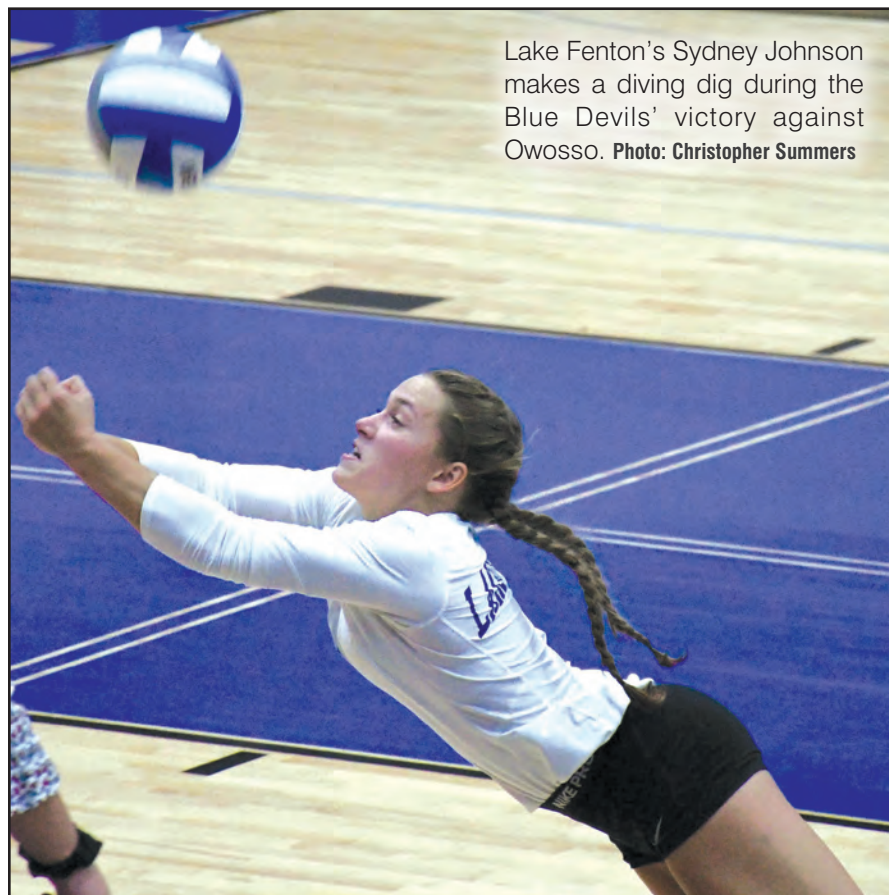
Lake Fenton — The Lake Fenton varsity volleyball team made some history in its home gym Thursday night.

The Metro League newbies collected their first league victory in varsity volleyball history during the Blue Devils' dominating 25-22, 23-25, 25-16, 25-15 victory against the Owosso Trojans.

"I think it's awesome," senior Morgan DeRidder said. "It's the first one of my senior year and it's a great feeling."

"It feels awesome," Lake Fenton varsity volleyball coach Allison von Daggenhausen said. "It feels really good. We've struggled the past few weeks. We are a super young team. We have a bunch of sophomores and a freshman on our team, and it's just all about learning to play with each other and play as a team. I think we are finally coming together with that. I think tonight shows that."

The contest didn't start as a dominating performance for the Blue Devils. In fact, the two squads found themselves in a tight competitive battle for the first



Lake Fenton's Sydney Johnson makes a diving dig during the Blue Devils' victory against Owosso. Photo: Christopher Summers

two sets.

In the first set the lead changed hands four times with neither squad taking more than a three-point lead. The final lead change came after Owosso suffered a service error, tying the game at 19-all. Lake Fenton followed with a Cassie Lipinski kill and a Bailey Wilson service ace, giving the Blue Devils a 21-19 lead. Owosso still only trailed 22-21 in the

opening set until the Trojans had a violation. That gave DeRidder the final three service points, earning the Blue Devils the 25-22 lead.

In the second set, Owosso gradually took a lead. A Lake Fenton service error gave Owosso a 24-20 lead late. However, the Blue Devils made a final run.

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Eagles fall to Flushing, beat Creek

By David Troppens

The Linden varsity volleyball team had an up and down Metro League week.

The Eagles (9-6-4 overall and 1-2 in the Metro) lost to Flushing 25-18, 25-18, 25-16 on Monday. However, the Eagles rebounded with an easy 25-14, 25-9, 25-16 win against the Dragons on Thursday.

Against Flushing, Katie Strickert led the offense with eight kills while Ellie Klocek had six kills. She had five blocks.

“Unfortunately, we have not been playing our best matches the last couple of times we have stepped on the court,” Linden varsity volleyball coach Cori Mason said after the Flushing match. “We are working to make improvements and adjustments as we continued moving forward.”

Against Creek, the defense was strong with Avery Koan, Strickert and Drew Kinney collecting 10 digs each.

CONTINUED AT MYFENTON.COM

PREP REPORT

BOYS SOCCER

► **Fenton 5, Clio 2:** The Tigers remained undefeated in Metro League play with the road victory. Austin Ames led the Tigers with two goals while Calvin Curtis, Jimmy Myers and Des Coughlin had a goal each. Max Guerra had three assists while Alexander Flannery and Myers had an assist each. Gannon Welch had three saves in net.

AREA ACES

BOB STEVENS

► Stevens used a six-iron to ace the 165-yard third hole at Tyrone Hills Golf Course on Aug. 7. He scored a 34 for nine holes. It was witnessed by Kirk Hanly, Jim Sprague and Russ Comer.

MARSHA JOHNSON

► Johnson used a nine-wood to ace the 102-yard third hole at Tyrone Hills on Sept. 3. It was a scramble event. It was witnessed by Donna Nimphie, Sandy Mantini and Sharon Dorland.

Tigers keep winning, face Martians this week

By David Troppens

The Fenton varsity girls golf team remains undefeated in Metro League play.

The four-time defending league champions remain in a tight battle with also undefeated Goodrich as the teams get close to the end of the year.

The Tigers earned a victory against Clio, defeating the Mus-

tangs 184-211. The only thing that could slow down the Tigers was Mother Nature. Rain forced a match with Kearsley to be postponed on Wednesday.

Fenton’s Brook Herbstreit was the match medalist with a nine-hole score of 40 at Clio Country Club. Olivia Herbert followed with a 46 while Katlyn Burkett and

Elise Roberts shot 49s. Only one Clio golfer shot better than a 50.

The Tigers are 4-0 in the Metro, one-half game behind Goodrich (5-0), but still in complete control of their own destiny to earn their fifth straight league title.

Fenton travels to Spring Meadows to face area rival Linden (4-1) on Monday.

September 15, 2019



LIAM SACK
Boys Cross Country

LINDEN



NICK REES
Boys Soccer

HOLLY



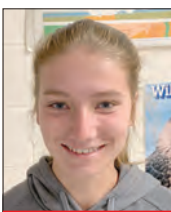
CAMERON MCANINCH
Boys Tennis

HOLLY



QUINTIN MONTY
Boys Tennis

HOLLY



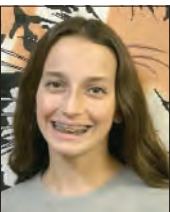
ALYSON KELLY
Girls Cross Country

LINDEN



BROOK HERBSTREIT
Girls Golf

FENTON



SOPHIE STEPHANIC
Girls Swim/ Dive

FENTON



SARAH JEWELL
Volleyball

HOLLY



REMINGTON STAPP
Boys Cross Country

FENTON



BEN CHAPPLE
Boys Soccer

FENTON



JACK FORD
Boys Tennis

HOLLY



ADAM BOOHER
Boys Tennis

HOLLY



LOGAN DZENZEL
Football

HOLLY



TAYLOR HUNTOON
Girls Cross Country

FENTON



VIOLET SINISHTAJ
Girls Golf

HARTLAND



AVERY KOAN
Volleyball

LINDEN

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