State appeals court strikes down county ban on tobacco sales

By Vera Hogan

On Monday, Dec. 2, the Michigan Court of Appeals struck down a Genesee County ban on tobacco sales and related products to people under the age of 21.

The county can’t adopt a regulation that is stricter than state law, which allows tobacco sales to anyone who is at least 18, the age of majority, according to the appeals court ruling.

In a 3-0 opinion, the court affirmed a decision by Genesee County Circuit Court Judge Judith Fullerton, who on June 19, 2017, ruled against Tobacco 21, the effort to ban sales of tobacco and related products to anyone under 21.

The ordinance, which was to become effective May 15, 2017, was approved by Genesee County commissioners in

See TOBACCO on 11A
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Home for local AYSO safe until July

Talks to shift operations of Deer Run Soccer Complex to Southern Lakes Parks and Rec stalled

By Tim Jagielo

The local American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) group, Region 417, will not pack up and leave its original home in Fenton Township, at least for now.

On Monday, Dec. 3, the Fenton Township Board of Trustees agreed to extend the contract of AYSO to use and operate the Deer Run Soccer Complex until June 30.

This 40-acre complex is at 16021 Linden Rd. It was developed by the local AYSO more than 25 years ago. AYSO uses the fields along with Nationals Genesee, a large travel league.

The lease agreement was set to end February 2020. It was possible that AYSO would pull up its equipment and move to another facility without another contract. This is due to Fenton Township working to cede its long-term sublease for the complex.

The league and soccer complex have been funded and operated by parents and volunteers for the past 25 years, while Fenton Township has been the holder of the sublease from Genesee County Parks and Recreation (GCPR).

Amy Converse, AYSO director, said the next step is choosing a date to meet with Fenton Township officials, SLPR and Nationals Genesee to discuss a new contract.

“We’re open to listening to their ideas,” Converse said, though communications between AYSO and SLPR have been tense at times.

The main concern by AYSO is that if SLPR runs the complex, prices to participate could increase. It costs $140 for a 16-week season. This summer, Converse circulated an email to families suggesting that prices could rise.

See AYSO on 9A
Words with Hannah

We need paid family leave

America is an economic superpower and one of the world’s largest economies. Yet, we’re the only developed country without some form of a federal paid family leave policy.

I agree with Ivanka Trump that we need to fix this.

The benefits of the mom or dad (or better yet, both) staying home with the baby for a few months is indisputable.

USAToday published an excellent, eye-opening and enraging series on motherhood in the U.S. In one article, “Why American moms are seriously struggling,” it says, “Experts say returning to work so soon after having a baby is dangerous, jeopardizing a woman’s recovery and putting her at increased risk for depression. Studies show depressed mothers have a harder time caring for their babies, and children of depressed parents may suffer academically, are more likely to have behavioral issues, and are at higher risk of developing their own mental health problems.”

At the national level, Democrats and Ivanka Trump have been getting more Republicans on board with some form of a paid family leave policy, but it’s astounding that this isn’t a bipartisan effort. A Pew Research Center study found that nearly half of Americans believe kids are better off if one parent stays home, preferably the mother.

Yet, having one parent stay home with the kids isn’t as economically feasible as it used to be. Childcare costs on average are $12,350 to $13,900 a year, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It can be double that amount in big cities.

If both parents work, then the children either go to a family member, but what if none live close? The cost of daycare can be thousands each month. Millions of parents work multiple jobs as well, which takes away from spending time with their children.

More and more corporations are offering maternal and paternal leave policies to better attract employees, but what about the small businesses that struggle to afford it? I highly doubt a one-size-fits-all policy would work; they would benefit from more support from the federal government.

Want us millennials to have more kids? Make it more affordable. Not even considering a lack of paid family leave, the cost of even having your child in a hospital is an average of between $10,800 to $30,000, according to businessinsider.com.

Supporting parents with children should not be viewed as “hand-outs.” Populations need to have babies to survive. We’re one of the wealthiest countries in the world and we can’t figure out how to support families? Shame on us.

It seems like we’re getting to a point in this country where work is valued over family when the entire point of working is to have and support a family.

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.

Have you ever considered an alternative diet such as going vegan or vegetarian?

Compiled by Hannah Ball, staff reporter

“Oh yeah. I try to do a vegan plant-based diet because of what it says in Genesis. I do a lot of smoothies with fruit. My diet is two-thirds fruits and vegetables and one-third meat.”

“Tim Strong
Fenton

“It comes down to moderation and eating a well-rounded diet. I wouldn’t go vegan. I’ve done low carb and felt better, but it’s all about moderation.”

“It comes down to moderation and eating a well-rounded diet. I wouldn’t go vegan. I’ve done low carb and felt better, but it’s all about moderation.”

“Krista Zsafranski
Tyrone Township

“I’ve done Keto. I gave up meat for Lent and I felt like I was eating a bunch of carbs. I’ve thought about doing more of a plant-based diet.”

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“I love fish and meat. No way. I wouldn’t do either. I do like a good salad. I love my salmon and steak. I eat salmon at least once a week.”

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“I did the South Beach diet 15 years ago when it came out. I lost 17 pounds in a month’s time. We’ve given up processed foods and eat less sugar.”

“Robert Nuss
San Francisco

“I did the South Beach diet 15 years ago when it came out. I lost 17 pounds in a month’s time. We’ve given up processed foods and eat less sugar.”

“Ray Stewart
Linden

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“Ray Stewart
Linden

“I did the South Beach diet 15 years ago when it came out. I lost 17 pounds in a month’s time. We’ve given up processed foods and eat less sugar.”
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How the Census affects local funding

Community Development Block Grant funds, roads, healthcare and more

By Hannah Ball

The next Census will be conducted in 2020. Residents will be asked to provide some information to help the federal government get an accurate count of how many people live in each municipality, county and state.

This data affects local funding in a few ways.

Thomas Broecker, operations manager and deputy clerk for Fenton Township, said income data from the Census will be used to determine which areas of the township, if any, are eligible for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. This money is used for low-income areas to help with road improvements, lighting improvements, sewers and more.

Broecker said constitutional revenue sharing payments from Michigan, which is the distribution of sales tax revenue, is calculated on a per capita basis.

“The higher our population — the higher the payments. Since the 2010 Census, our payments have been based on a population of 15,552. I believe the 2020 Census will show a population increase of at least 2,000 people. Using the revenue sharing distribution rates for the past year, that equates to a revenue increase of more than $170,000 per year,” Broecker said.

According to Census.gov as of July 1, 2018, Fenton Township has an estimated population size of 15,531, a .3 percent decrease from the 2010 Census count.

Fenton City has a population of 11,329, which is a decrease of 3.5 percent since the 2010 Census, which showed Fenton had 11,756 people.

As of July 1, 2018, Argentine Township has a population of 6,548, a 5.2 percent decrease from 6,913 in 2010.

Holly Township has a population size of 11,625, a 2.3 percent increase from 11,362 in 2010.

Holly Village has a population of 6,173, which is an increase of 1.6 percent from 6,077 in 2010.

Tyrone Township saw an estimated population increase of 4.6 percent from 2010 to 2018, with 10,019 people growing to 10,476.

Rose Township has a population of 6,446 people, a 3.1 percent increase from 6,250 in 2010.

According to worldpopulationreview.com, Linden’s estimated population is 3,916.

The Census is an important indicator for federal funding. In 2016, Michigan received 35.9 percent of its $57.8 billion budget from the U.S. federal government. This money goes to programs like Medicare, Head Start, and more.

2017 MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME AND POVERTY LEVELS

GENESEE COUNTY
Genesee County: $45,231; 18.3 percent in poverty
Argentine Township: $74,014; 8 percent in poverty
Fenton City: $49,575; 13.8 percent in poverty
Fenton Township: $83,051; 4.6 percent in poverty
Linden: $62,378; 8 percent in poverty

OAKLAND COUNTY
Oakland County: $73,369; 7.8 percent in poverty
Holly Township: $63,265; 13 percent in poverty
Rose Township: $72,479; 10 percent in poverty
Holly Village: $50,897; 14.2 percent in poverty

LIVINGSTON COUNTY
Livingston County: $78,430; 5.3 percent in poverty
Tyrone Township: $90,469; 4.6 percent in poverty

The median household income includes the income of the householder and all other individuals 15 years old and over in the household, whether they are related to the householder or not. Because many households consist of only one person, average household income is usually less than average family income.

This information is based on data collected in the American Community Survey (ACS) and the Puerto Rico Community Survey (PRCS) conducted annually by the U.S. Census Bureau. A sample of over 3.5 million housing unit addresses are interviewed each year over a 12-month period.
Former Fenton fire chief dies at age 89

Served the fire department for 25 years

By Vera Hogan

Bruce Dorland, who served as the Fenton City fire chief from 1964 to 1989, died Friday, Nov. 29. He was 89 years old.

According to his obituary, Dorland was born March 10, 1930 in Flint. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army, serving during the Korean War.

Former Fire Chief Jerry Palmer, who served as chief from 1990 to 1997, said Dorland is the one who put him on the fire department. “We were in the drug store one day and got to talking,” Palmer said. “He asked why I didn’t join the fire department and I said I never really thought about it. So I got on and was with the department for 37 years.

“He was a very very good fire chief to work for. He was very dedicated and very professional,” Palmer said.

“Bruce was a great guy and was one of the most respected chiefs in the county — ever,” said Fenton’s current Fire Chief Bob Cairnduff. “Everyone in the 1970s and 1980s knew who Bruce was. He was very involved in the fire service across the state of Michigan. When I first started as chief in 2006 and started attending meetings and events across the state everyone always said, ‘You’re from Fenton? How is Bruce doing?’

“Bruce was still the chief when I started as an Explorer (in 1988) as a teenager,” Cairnduff said. “He was well respected by all of the firemen and I have to say I was a little afraid of him when I first met him, but over the years as I got to know him I learned that he was a great guy.

“When I took over as chief he met with me and gave me some great advice. He told me ‘Don’t ever forget where you started. Remember you started out as a firefighter. Take care of them and they will take care of you.’ Those were great words that I try to live by,” Cairnduff said.

In addition to his service on the fire department, Dorland was a member and past president of Genesee County Fireman’s Association, Genesee County Fire Chief’s Association, Livingston County Fire Chief’s Association, Southeastern Michigan Fireman’s Association, Michigan State Fireman’s Association, Michigan State Fire Chief’s Association, International Association of Fire Chief’s and was appointed to the State of Michigan Fire Fighters Training Council by Gov. William Milliken.

He also served as a charter member and past president of the Fenton Rotary Club, Michigan Construction Code Commission and Genesee County Building Inspectors.

He is survived by his children, Leo (Teresa) Doan, Ruth Dorland and Joan (Tim) Salley; son-in-law, Doug Crane; eight grandsons; six great-grandchildren; brother, Paul (Sharon) Dorland. He was preceded in death by his wife, Olive; daughters, Rose Crane and Jean Young; sister, Mary Henderson.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

A WRITER REMARKED about Obama saying he would have ‘greater freedom’ after he was re-elected. He failed to note that Hillary Clinton told a group of Democrat high-rollers that after her election she would ‘go after the guns with or without Congress approval.’

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In November 2009, former Fenton Fire Chief Bruce Dorland poses with the new fire truck, which was dedicated to him for his years of service to the department. Times file photo

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WATCHING THESE IMPEACHMENT hearings on TV is the absolute worst form of theatrics ever. We pay these people and this is what we get. Every elected official in favor of this ridiculous impeachment should be ousted next election.
Remembering the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor

Saturday, Dec. 7, 1941, marks 78 years since ‘a date which will live in infamy’

Compiled by Vera Hogan

President Franklin D. Roosevelt, affectionately known as FDR, called Dec. 7, 1941 “a date which will live in infamy…” It was the day the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by the Empire of Japan — and World War II came home.

The number of local residents old enough to remember Pearl Harbor are dwindling. Many were small children at the time of the attack and don’t remember much other than the obvious sadness of their parents and other adults.

In a previous Times article, Louise Kinsman, a 93-year-old Abbey Park resident, said she was 16 years old when Japan bombed Pearl Harbor, just 200 yards away from her family’s home at the Ford Island Naval Air Station.

She distinctly remembers the terrifying events of that day. She recalls getting ready to teach Sunday School that morning, and hearing a rumbling outside.

The scene outside their home was terrifying, she recalls. Five of eight battleships, three destroyers and seven other ships were sunk or severely damaged, and more than 200 aircraft were destroyed. A total of 2,400 Americans were killed and 1,200 were wounded.

After all these years later Kinsman said previously that she can still smell the sea and feel the blast. “One Japanese plane came so close to our house that the pilot looked at us standing on the porch of our house and smiled,” she said.

Sources: history.com; reuters.com
AYSO
Continued from Page 3A
increase to more than $200 per child under SLPR, because instead of the army of volunteers that maintains the facility, they would have paid employees.

If they can’t come to an agreement, the local league will remove the equipment including goals and find a new place, as would Nationals Genesee.

For several years, Nationals Genesee has used Deer Run, offering funding and facility assistance.

Rick Miracle is one of the directors for Nationals Genesee. He said they’re the largest travel soccer club in Genesee County, with more members than AYSO, and that they like using Deer Run.

“It’s one of the best complexes in the state and by far the best complex in the area,” Miracle said.

He said the extended lease agreement is a big positive step. He’d like to see an agreement that prioritizes AYSO and is a good plan for everyone locally.

Vince Paris was executive director of the SLPR for the initial discussions. He’s been replaced by Nancy Muffley. SLPR could not be reached for comment.

SLPR could not be reached for comment.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

STOP JUDGING MEMBERS of different age groups by the actions of some. There are enough idiots in each age group that if taken in general none should be allowed out. I am a boomer and am embarrassed by most of my generation.

THE MEDIA KEEPS reporting of all these bombshells being dropped. The only question I have is where are the craters?

CONGRESS SEEMS TO get more done when they are on recess than when they are working for us taxpayers.

JUST SAW FENTON Coney’s Christmas light display last night. It is beautiful and it certainly lights up the north end of Fenton. Wish all of the stores and businesses would decorate like this. Check it out.

THE FOOTBALL COACH in Durand was only letting his favorite players play. Parents complained, but they were ignored. So, last year, my nephew along with the rest of the team did not go out for football. Durand did not have a football team last year.

PLEASE SEE THE deep potholes get fixed in the service drives to Walgreens, Home Depot and coming into Burger King from the VG’s parking area. These service drives have damaging potholes for customers’ cars.

IF YOU ARE so dissatisfied with the coaches, maybe next year you could start coaching.

IF OBAMA WAS in control during the last presidential election, why didn’t he stop the so-called Russian interference?

PIGS HAVE FLOWN. My Republican dad is voting for Andrew Yang. In case Trump is impeached, he wants a candidate he can live with.

CAN SOMEONE PLEASE tell everyone that ‘yield’ means slow down and look and if safe keep going? Those of you who are stopping at the new roundabout are defeating the purpose. Get it together people.

SERIOUSLY? THAT STANFORD law school professor was filmed saying she had to cross the street just so that she wasn’t too close to the Trump hotel in DC? Good grief. Get over yourself. I’m not even going to mention what she said about Trump’s young son. She is pure evil.

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Linden author adds two books of poetry to his collection


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ORV Continued from Front Page

The county will hold a public hearing before the Governmental Operations Committee on Jan. 15, 2020. It begins at 9 a.m. in the Harris Auditorium on the third floor of the Genesee County Administration Building, 1101 Beach St., Flint.

If the ordinance is adopted, it would fall under state law which would prohibit people under 12 from operating these vehicles. State law also prohibits people under 18 from operating ORVs unless they have a valid driver’s license or direct supervision of a parent or guardian that has an ORV safety certificate.

“The main point is we’re trying to increase public safety and give municipalities the opportunity to participate in them,” said Shaun Shumaker, Genesee County commissioner.

When he lived on a Fenton Township lake, he said, “It’s almost scary sometimes” with ORVs, such as dirt bikes and four-wheelers, going down the road, often driven by young teens.

While the ordinance is still a draft, he’s hoping it will make county roads safer.

“I’m sure after we have the public hearing, it’ll be scrutinized more” which he’s hoping for, Shumaker said. “We’ve got to create a safe environment for not just the people using them, but for the people who don’t own them but engage with them.”

Genesee County Clerk John Gleason said the ordinance will be used to clarify the use of ORVs on county roads.

“They’re very popular machines here. There are times throughout the year when people use them because of weather, like snowmobiles,” he said, also mentioning four-wheelers with plows. “It’s nice to have some kind of parameters to clarify when they can be used.”

He’s in favor of a grace period after the ordinance is adopted.

“When you have a community-wide ordinance, then you must have an education window where you don’t ticket people. You inform and educate them about the ordinance,” he said.

In accordance with state law, the county sent notices about the adoption of an ORV ordinance to county municipalities. The Fenton Township Board of Trustees discussed it at the Monday, Dec. 2 meeting.

“It looks like they’re just looking to adopt something according to state law with ORVs to ride on county roads,” said Thomas Broecker, Fenton Township operations manager and deputy clerk.

Attorney Jack Belzer said the ordinance only applies to county roads, not subdivisions.

“We can opt out of this ... we can say, ‘we don’t want this to happen within our township.’ If that passed at the county level under state law, we can opt out of it,” he said.
TOBACCO
Continued from Front Page
2017 but was not enforced because of a lawsuit. Then-Commissioner Drew Shapiro voted against the measure claiming it was unenforceable.

The lawsuit, filed May 12, 2017, by RPF Oil Company in Grand Blanc, challenged that ordinance. The lawsuit alleged that the regulation, adopted by the Genesee County Board of Commissioners on Feb. 14, 2017 is in direct conflict with the Age of Majority Act (MCL 722.51), and directly conflicts with the sign requirements of the Youth Tobacco Act (MCL 722.641(2).

The Court of Appeals agreed.

Supporters of the ordinance said it was intended to discourage young people from smoking. The ordinance didn’t ban young adults from using tobacco products in Genesee County — just buying them.

University of Michigan researchers say raising the age to buy tobacco could save thousands of lives.

Big national retailers, however, have done what Genesee County could not and have made their own policies on what age individuals should be to purchase tobacco products.

On April 23 of this year, Walgreens announced it would be implementing a new chain-wide policy that will require customers to be at least 21 years old in order to buy tobacco products in its stores.

Walgreens joins Rite-Aid and Walmart, which earlier this year raised the age to 21 to buy tobacco products. CVS stores ceased selling tobacco products altogether in 2014.

Walgreens’ new policy became effective Sunday, Sept. 1, and claims it is their most recent step in an ongoing effort to further prevent youth access to tobacco products, according to the retailer’s press release.

“We’ve seen positive results from other recent efforts to strengthen our policies related to tobacco sales, and believe this next step can be even more impactful to reduce its use among teens and young adults,” said Richard Ashworth, Walgreens president of operations in April. “Through ongoing training and certification for pharmacists and technicians, we also continue to help and support people looking to quit the use of tobacco in their lives.”

Walgreens has supported such legislative proposals. Studies have shown cities that have enacted Tobacco 21 laws have seen a sharp decline in tobacco use among young adults 18-20 years old, according to the Walgreens officials.

Additionally, the company continues to focus efforts on promoting cessation products and services, and offers a comprehensive suite of digital information and support tools to patients who want to quit smoking.

VET 2 VET
Holly Area Veterans Resource Center will sponsor VET 2 VET, welcoming all current and prior military and their partners/spouses, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. every third Monday of the month with food provided. Please come spend time with fellow veterans. Organizers hope to see you. The Holly Area Veterans Center is at the Karl Richter Community Center, 300 East St. Contact Joseph Mishler at (810) 348-9960 with any questions.

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RECYCLING
Continued from Front Page
waste pickup for another five years, starting this coming January and ending Dec. 31, 2024.

In year one, residents will pay $14.71 per unit/month, which is an 18-percent increase from the current rate. The rate increases 3 percent annually. This comes out to an approximate 30 percent at the end of the five years.

A stipulation was added in the agreement that states if the costs get too high, they can exit out of the recycling program.

“The cost of recycling is huge,” said Gary Hicks, municipal services manager of Republic Services. “Recycling has changed dramatically in the last few years.”

Last year, China restricted imports of certain recyclables, including magazines, office paper, junk mail and most plastics, which has changed the way U.S. companies handle and price recycling.

Councilor David Franz asked if recycling was “worth it” anymore.

Hicks said there’s still a need and still a use for the material. Paper in cardboard, laptop cases and the headliners in certain vehicles are made from recycled water bottles.

“I certainly don’t want to discourage anyone,” he said. “There’s still good material in there. Since China shut the door, it’s been difficult to find new places to utilize the material. Republic’s done a good job. We’ve found new markets.”

Councilor/Mayor Pro-Tem Ray Culbert asked if Republic could arrange for trash and recycling to be picked up at the same time.

“In this economy, with a 3.4-percent unemployment rate, keeping, retaining, incentivizing, hiring training drivers is our number one focus now. Just keeping these guys in the fray,” Hicks said.

Uncle Ray’s Dairyland owner Dave Durant serves ice cream to St. John the Evangelist Catholic School sixth grade students Tuesday, Nov. 26. Photos: Tim Jagielo

Ice cream for breakfast?

St. John School students say ‘yes’ in lesson about validating internet sources

By Tim Jagielo

Fenton — At St. John the Evangelist Catholic School, students are learning digital literacy in the internet age — and eating ice cream for breakfast.

They are learning how to investigate sources of claims online. One such claim is that ice cream is effective as breakfast food. Students in sixth grade explored the article “Experts Say, Eating Ice Cream for Breakfast is Good for You.”

The article was translated by The Telegraph from a study by a professor at Kyorin University in Tokyo, Japan.

The end result was students eating ice cream for breakfast on Tuesday, Nov. 26, provided by Uncle Ray’s Dairyland. They received two “breakfasts,” the second for a photo opportunity.

Owner Dave Durant even created a faux egg on toast. It was yellow pound cake as the toast with white cream and a fresh apricot on top as the egg yolk.

This “egg on toast” was created by Uncle Ray’s Dairyland for St. John School. Photo: Tim Jagielo

The lesson was part of their applied digital skills section from Google curriculum taught by computer teacher Cheryl Wright. She said they learned about evaluating the credibility of sources. The article claims that the dessert makes one more mentally alert in the morning.

View stories at myfenton.com

Students add toppings to their breakfast sundaes. Photo: Tim Jagielo
POSTPONED
Continued from Front Page

Akl is charged with open murder following the fatal shooting of Brady Alan Morris, 16, that evening.

After multiple delays in both the 67th District Court and trial delays in the 7th Circuit Court, Akl was set for a jury trial to begin Tuesday, Dec. 3. The proceeding did not begin. Instead, legal counsel met behind closed doors and no family members were present. The last trial date was set for Oct. 1, but was rescheduled following a request by attorney Frank Manley to Judge Richard Yuille.

When asked why the trial did not begin Thursday, Dec. 5, John Potbury, deputy chief assistant prosecutor for the Genesee County Prosecutor’s Office said, “As far as we’re concerned, the case is proceeding on to trial.” No new court dates are listed in court records.

If Akl is found guilty as charged, “He could be sentenced to life without parole or he could be sentenced to a term of years with 25-40 years as a minimum,” Potbury said Sept. 30 for a previous Times article.

Akl, now 19, was arrested the night of the shooting and with bond denied, has been in custody at the Genesee Valley Regional Center ever since.

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

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

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

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

Akl was found competent to stand trial.

The initial 911 call, which was placed by Akl, and backseat police car footage was played during pretrial motions in district court in spring of 2018. It featured a “hysterical” Akl begging for “suicide by cop,” and screaming at the 911 dispatcher, “I literally killed my friend.”

Last spring, Akl was bound over to the 7th Circuit Court for trial. Yuille will hear his case. The date was adjourned or postponed in April, July and October this year.

Editor Sharon Stone contributed to this story.

WHAT YOU MISSED IN THE MIDWEEK TIMES
COMPILED BY VERA HOGAN

The following are stories you may have missed in the Wednesday, Dec. 4, Midweek Times. To subscribe and receive both the Midweek and Sunday Weekend editions, please call (810) 629-8282.

Hartland man charged with criminal sexual conduct with minors
Youth baseball coach facing 10 felonies, lodged in Livingston County Jail.

Two local daycares 100-percent vaccinated in 2018
Preschool immunization rates range from 70- to 100-percent vaccinated.

Should state term limits be relaxed?
Michigan legislators have some of the strictest term limits in the country.

Former LF student enlists police to help with proposal
Police dash cam video goes viral, featured on Good Morning America.

The dog park effect
Thompson Road Regional Dog Park celebrates two years.

MCC Board approves bond proposal

$80-million bond over 20 years will be on March 2020 ballot for area voters

The Mott Community College (MCC) Board of Trustees voted Nov. 25 to submit to voters a ballot proposal that would continue the College’s authority to issue bonds for capital improvement projects. The proposal will appear on the March 10, 2020 ballot.

The new bond millage being requested is estimated to be .79 mills for the life of the bonds. This means a homeowner whose house is valued at $80,000 would pay $31.60 per year under the proposed bond millage levy, a home valued at $140,000 would pay $55.30, and a home valued at $200,000 would pay $79 per year, according to Larry Gawthrop, chief financial officer for the college.

“The college has historically been a good steward of fiscal resources,” Gawthrop said. “We are pleased to be able to offer the voters a slight reduction of the levy of the current debt levy. Without the past support of the community in bond authorizations, MCC would not have been able to maintain and improve its facilities to best serve our students.”

The bond proposal for $80 million, over 20 years, will be used to make permanent improvements to, renovate, remodel, improve, equip and re-equip college buildings and sites and other buildings to be used by the college for instructional purposes; acquire buildings and sites for buildings; and construct buildings and additions to buildings. The maximum number of years each series of bonds may be outstanding, exclusive of refunding, is 20 years.

The college relies on bonds to finance a majority of its capital needs and bonds are an integral part of the overall college budget.

Previous bond proposals approved by voters helped fund projects such as renovation of the College’s Southern Lakes Branch Center and Law Enforcement Regional Training Academy (LERTA) in Fenton Township, the Culinary Arts Institute in downtown Flint and the...
The Lenore Croudy Family Life Center, named after the late Lenore Croudy, long-time MCC trustee, is the latest service MCC is able to provide students. Currently under renovation, the former Woodside Church will house the College’s Early Childhood Learning Center, in addition to the Mott Eats Food Pantry and Ellen’s Closet, a clothing bank for students needing clothes for job interviews.

The Elf on the Shelf craze is a Christmas tradition involving a storybook and accompanying pixie elf figure. The elf sits on a shelf or table or another part of a family’s home to observe the children’s behavior during the holiday season.

Each night, the elf flies back to the North Pole and reports the kids’ actions to Santa Claus, providing information for his naughty and nice list picks. The elf then returns before the children wake up and settles in a new part of the house, creating a hide-and-seek game each morning.

Elf on the Shelf was the brainchild of a stay-at-home mom and her two grown daughters; more than 11 million elves have been adopted since this game of hide-and-seek elves was created in 2007.

If you have an Elf on the Shelf at your house, here are a few creative hiding places for your elf for the next couple of weeks:

- **Dec. 9** — Elf brightens his morning smile with toothpaste
- **Dec. 10** — Draw banana minons
- **Dec. 11** — Re-caffeinate the Elf (re-purpose Keurig cup with straw)
- **Dec. 12-14** — Take a sick day. Elf Doctor’s Note: No moving for three days
- **Dec. 15** — Prepare Christmas cards (stamp sheet on Elf’s lap)
- **Dec. 16** — Camouflage Elf’s face with dry-erase marker and hide in Christmas tree branch
- **Dec. 17** — Take a spa day inside marshmallow-filled bowl (Jacuzzi)
- **Dec. 18** — TP mischief (place Elf inside tube of toilet paper and roll down the stairs)
- **Dec. 19** — Elf peeks inside a wrapped gift
- **Dec. 20** — Elf reads books to miniature toy figures
- **Dec. 21** — Candy binge (Place Elf face-first into bag of favorite candy)
- **Dec. 22** — Elf makes a snow angel out of rice, powdered sugar or sprinkles
- **Dec. 23** — Elf inside the Christmas wreath
- **Dec. 24** — Christmas Eve Grand Finale Send-off back to North Pole (tucked into stocking waiting for Santa to appear or on a plate of cookies for Santa)

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**Even Santa has Low Back & Sciatica Nerve Pain**

Even Santa has Low Back & Sciatica Nerve Pain... pain that originates in the low back and buttocks, shooting down the leg and into the foot at times is Sciatic Nerve Pain also known as lumbar radiculopathy.

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"Santa Only Trust his Healthcare with the Best of the Best thats why he chooses the Corrective Care Team at Painless Chiropractic & Neuropathy Treatment Center, Fentons No Guess Work, X-Ray Based Safe & Gentle Corrective Care Team" ~ Mrs. Claus
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Breed and Characteristics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hammy</td>
<td>I'm a complete ham! I love attention from everyone.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sage</td>
<td>I would like older children and a family that is less active and a feline companion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riley</td>
<td>I would do well in ANY home as long as I get yummy cat treats!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackson</td>
<td>I'm a fun little dude.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theo</td>
<td>I need a home where I can come out of my shell. I will not be good with children under the age of 11.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diezel</td>
<td>I will LOVE a home with a dog in the home I can play with. I'm NOT good with other felines.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roman</td>
<td>I'm an energetic young guy lookin' for love.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scout</td>
<td>I need a home where I can come out of my shell. I will not be good with children under the age of 11.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simon</td>
<td>I need a home where I can come out of my shell. I will not be good with children under the age of 11.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peanut</td>
<td>I would love to be the center of attention.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris &amp; Donna Anderson</td>
<td>810-691-2124  <a href="mailto:ChrisDonnaHomes@gmail.com">ChrisDonnaHomes@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Adopt-A-Pet is a non-profit animal rescue that goes above and beyond for the physical and mental wellbeing of the animals. Each is treated individually and is provided the specific medical attention, enrichment and training exercises they require to stay healthy. Once healthy, they are carefully matched to their new families and are adopted.

Adopt-A-Pet is very thankful for the support and donations of the community which gives the animals a second chance.

These fine area merchants are asking for your help in finding these animals loving homes.
These fine area merchants are asking for your help in finding these animals loving homes.

**Grinch**
I'm as happy as a mouse on a fireplace mantel eating cheese.

**Willie**
I'm a senior guy who just needs love the rest of my life.

**Max**
I'm the best at hide and seek. I'm waiting for you to come to find me.

**Waltz**
I'm a Lab/Golden Retriever/Shepherd blend puppy looking for a family to commit to me.

**Delilah**
I'm a wire Terrier blend who needs a patient family.

**Thing 1**
I'm a shy girl who would do best in a home with no dogs or young kids. I'm great with other cats.

**Macarena**
I'm a Lab/Golden Retriever/Shepherd blend puppy looking for a family to commit to me.

**Oscar**
I'm a boy that needs to lose A LOT of weight and I need a family that is home more often.

**Red**
I'm a handsome, sweet boy.

**Bagel**
I want a toasty house for the holidays.

**Sadie**
I'm a Lab mix who needs a family who has worked with unsocialized dogs.

**Jazzy**
I love anyone who walks in the door.

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**Garbage Bags**

**Waterless hand sanitizer**
**Stamps & #10 envelopes**
**Computer paper (8.5 x 11)**
**Pet Store Gift Cards**
**Cans & bottles as returnables**

These fine area merchants are asking for your help in finding these animals loving homes.

**Glitch**
I need a home where I can very slowly come out of my shell. No kids or dogs at this time.

**Salsa**
I’m a Lab/Golden Retriever/Shepherd blend puppy looking for a family to commit to me.

**Zip**
I need a home where I can very slowly come out of my shell. No kids or dogs at this time.

**Ollie**
I’m a sweet, energetic boy.

**Sammie**
I’m a cat that will need lots of time for me, so I can show you my charm.

**Glitch**
I need a home where I can very slowly come out of my shell. No kids or dogs at this time.

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Blue Devils open with competitive battle vs. Novi, fall in 45-35 verdict

By David Troppens

If the Lake Fenton varsity girls basketball team was looking to find a big school to play its first game of the 2019-20 season, the squad accomplished its mission.

The Blue Devils opened the season playing a school that has almost triple the enrollment of Lake Fenton, but only left Novi with a 45-35 loss.

“We played okay,” Lake Fenton varsity girls basketball coach Brian VanBuren said. “I told the girls we knew it wasn’t our best game. Novi was consistent the whole night. Their pack line defense bothered us because we were unable to get a lot of penetration. And when we did, we missed too many layups. We may have missed four to six point-blank layups when they drove and they were expecting help or expecting their size to come in there and defense, but they didn’t and just missed the shots.”

Lake Fenton enjoyed a 6-4 lead during a defensive-minded quarter.

“They play a version of the pack line as well and nobody was getting to the See DEVILS on 23A

Fenton’s ‘Builder of men’ Williams headed to Flint HOF

By David Troppens

In 1940, a football coach at Hoover High School made the move from that program to Fenton High School.

About 80 years ago, Fenton still talks about that man’s impact not only with Fenton’s athletic programs, but also as a “builder of men.”

The man was Ivan Williams. During his time with Fenton schools he coached varsity football and varsity boys basketball for 15 years, coached the varsity baseball team for seven seasons and varsity track for six years. He became Fenton’s athletic director in 1955 and held that post until his retirement in 1971. While AD, Fenton athletics had some of its greatest moments while adding wrestling, swimming, tennis, golf cross country, girls track and softball to the athletic program. Even after his retirement, Williams worked with the Fenton Community Center as well. He attended Fenton athletic events right up until his death in 1991 at the age of 82.

His impact was so great, Fenton’s football field was dedicated Ivan Williams Field in 1983, and re-dedicated in 2007. He was selected as a part of Fenton’s first class to its Athletic Hall of Fame in 2008, and the Ivan Williams Scholarship honoring the school’s top senior female athlete has been given annually since 1977. Now, Williams is earning another honor, perhaps many decades late. He’s a member of the 2019 Greater Flint Area Sports Hall of Fame induction class. The banquet was hosted Saturday at Genesys Banquet Center.

This year’s induction class has a large tri-county feel to it with Fenton three-sport star Julie Decker and the Class C 1995 state championship Lake Fenton softball team also being inducted. The sports staff had stories in the past highlighting Roberts-Decker’s and the Lake Fenton softball team’s induction.

“He was a busy man,” Ivan Williams’ son, Rob, said. “He’d come home from school and he was always gone for some sport. Maybe he’d eat some supper and then he’d go at it all evening. ... Our family became a part of his teams. I’m proud of what he accomplished.”

Williams finished his 15-year varsity football coaching career at Fenton with a record of 83-40-12, earning league titles in 1944 and 1950. His 1950 squad went undefeated, outscoring opponents 181-39. As the varsity boys basketball coach he posted a 134-75 record, earning league championships from 1945 to 1947 and in 1949. The 1946 squad made it to the Class B state championship See WILLIAMS on 23A

Fenton’s legendary football, boys basketball coach and athletic director Ivan Williams is being inducted into the Greater Flint Area Sports Hall of Fame. Pictured to the left is Williams’ 1945-46 varsity boys basketball team. The squad advanced to the Class B state championship game before losing to St. Joseph, 33-29. Submitted photos
Fenton starts strong vs. Lapeer, loses 56-31 in opener

By David Troppens

Fenton — Life will be dramatically different for the Fenton varsity girls basketball team this winter.

The squad lost many quality seniors that made last season’s Flint Metro League championship season possible. That said, quality players still remain and they should make this year’s squad a fun one to watch play.

However, their roles compared to last season will change dramatically with the loss of last year’s senior class. Other talented players are making their debut as well, but, of course, they have to figure out what their roles will eventually be on the squad as well.

The first step toward figuring out that jigsaw puzzle for the 2019-20 girls basketball season began on Tuesday with a home game against Lapeer. The Tigers started out just fine, dominating the first quarter. However, Lapeer’s pressure defense hurt the Tigers as they ended up losing a 56-31 nonleague verdict.

“We did some good things tonight but then we had times we looked like we haven’t played together,” Fenton varsity girls basketball coach Rebecca Moore said. “It’s going to take us a little time to get together and figure things out. I’m still trying to figure out where to put everybody right now. The amount of time it takes (to figure out lineups) depends on your kids. We have a lot of new kids and some kids that have seen a lot more varsity time but are playing different roles. It’s just going to take some time.”

When Tuesday’s contest began it looked like the Tigers were already in midseason form. Led by senior Samantha Whaling’s two baskets and four assists in the opening quarter, Fenton lost its opener to to Lapeer 56-31 on Tuesday. (Above right) Fenton’s Mallory Lehmann battles with a Lapeer player for a loose ball. (Above) Maggie Lutz drives to the bucket during the contest. Photos: Christopher Summers
Bronchos make comeback, fall in second half

By David Troppens

First-year Holly varsity girls basketball coach Ben Varner may not have been on the Bronchos’ sideline a year ago, but he does know what will be one of the biggest challenges of the year.

Rebecca Fugate graduated a year ago and all she did was tie the all-time record for most points scored during a Metro League career.

With her graduation, he knew finding an offense could be tough. The Bronchos began looking for those people who would step up offensively with the season-opening game at Lakeland Tuesday night.

Holly had times it did well, but missed too many shots and made just 10-of-29 free throws, resulting in a 49-34 loss.

“We had a lot of points walk out of the door last year and we are going to have to figure out who is going to step up,” Varner said. “It’s a great opportunity for every single one of them — to see who takes on the challenge and does it. I get the feeling Emma (Tooley) and Hunter (Weeder) will do it, but we need a few more to have confidence to take the big shot.”

The Bronchos trailed early on 15-1, but went on a 14-4 run to end the first half and cut the gap to 19-18 by halftime. However, that’s as close as the Brochos would get.

Lakeland outscored Holly 14-9 in the third quarter and 15-7 in the fourth to earn the victory.

“I was pretty pleased. We did a lot of the things I thought we would and I was happy with the things we did,” Varner said.”We defended pretty well, rebounded pretty good. We played hard. But if we could’ve made some more free throws and hit a few more shots, even some layups, see BRONCHOS on 23A

Tigers

Continued from Page 21A

The Tigers were incredibly impressive. Fenton scored the game’s first eight points with Whaling hitting an 8-foot jumper on the team’s first possession. It was followed by her assisting buckets by Kyla Lynch twice and Maggie Lutz on their next three possessions. Lapeer took a time out after Lynch’s second bucket trailing 8-0 with 4:23 left in the first quarter.

The Fenton lead grew to as many as 15-5 when Whaling assisted a three-pointer by Korryn Smith with 1:14 left in the opening quarter. Fenton enjoyed a 15-8 lead entering the second quarter.

However, the Tigers suffered some foul troubles late in the first quarter forcing some key players to the bench for the rest of the half, and the Tigers struggled during the second quarter.

Fenton still led 17-8 after Lutz’s driving hoop, but the Lightning responded with a 10-point run.

Continued at TCTIMES.COM

Linden girls compete in tight loss with Milford, 38-32

By David Troppens

The first game of the Zack Darling era with the Linden varsity girls basketball team was played Tuesday night.

And for the most part, Darling had to be pleased with what he saw.

The Eagles, who posted a 2-19 overall record a year ago, opened its season with a competitive 38-32 road loss against Milford.

“(I) was happy with the team defense we played,” Darling said. “(I liked) the team attitude and support they had for one another, and the fact the girls fought until the bitter end. Overall, it was a very positive game and a step in the right direction for the young Eagles’ team.”

The Eagles led 6-4 after a tight defensive first quarter. However, Milford outscored Linden 11-3 in the second quarter and led 15-9 at halftime.

Both teams had stronger offensive second halves. Linden scored 14 points in the third quarter and trailed only 27-23 entering the final quarter.

However, the Lady Mavericks were able to hold on down the stretch, earning the victory.

Freshman Alexcis Parker had a big debut, scoring a team-high 14 points while grabbing eight rebounds and earning three steals. Jordan Peterson had eight points, six rebounds and two steals. Delanie Prince had two points, no one else scored double-digits for Milford.

Holly’s Emma Tooley is one of the Bronchos returning players on this winter’s Holly varsity girls basketball squad. Times file photo
WILLIAMS
Continued from Page 20A

Ivan Williams coached the 1945 Fenton varsity football team to a county championship. Williams is being inducted into the Greater Flint Athletic Hall of Fame on Saturday. Submitted photo

An outstanding football player during his career at Western Michigan University (Williams is in Western’s Athletic Hall of Fame), Williams also made his impact beyond his typical roles as coach and AD at Fenton.

He found time to coach a Fenton semi-pro football team from 1946 until 1952 and also served as recreation director for 26 years. During the school year he’d run an intramural basketball program for Fenton students who weren’t able to play on Fenton’s varsity or JV boys programs.

In the summer, he was known for his swimming program. His work with Fenton’s youth earned him the designation “builder of men.” It was an honor given to him by one of the area organizations and first publicized in print in the Tri-County Times.

Ken Wensel took over Fenton’s AD position after Williams retired. He worked closely with Williams during his final years at Fenton.

“He was an impressive man,” Wensel said during an interview about Fenton High School’s new building’s 50th anniversary. “I had to work closely with Ivan so we developed a great relationship. He established an outstanding athletic program at Fenton and had outstanding coaches. I was impressed with the athletic traditions at Fenton High School and he helped establish them.”

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM

DEVILS
Continued from Page 20A

basket. That was the same both ways. There were a lot of jitterish shots going up both ways.”

In the second quarter the Blue Devils led 13-12 when foul trouble hit. Katelyn Siebert collected her third foul. She was benched until the third quarter ended. By that time, Novi went on an offensive spurt and led 20-13 at halftime.

“We were getting in a rhythm when Kate Siebert picked up her third,” VanBuren said. “They went on an 8-0 run and hit a three right before the end of the half.

“Anything within five is okay, as long as they don’t get the last basket is always good, but they hit the last basket, it was a three and they led by seven and we were playing catch-up the rest of the way.”

Lake Fenton scored 22 points in the second half, but Novi scored 16 in the third quarter, making sure the Blue Devils didn’t too close down the stretch.”

Despite constant foul troubles, Siebert finished with eight points and three steals in only about 20 minutes of action. Aubrey Fray had eight points and two steals while Macy Phillips had six points and seven rebounds.

Freshman Nichole Sisk had a big first varsity contest, scoring five points and grabbing six rebounds.

The Blue Devils traveled to Imlay City for another non-league contest on Friday. The results can be found in Wednesday’s edition.

BRONCHOS
Continued from Page 22A

we would’ve had a chance. We missed too many layups.”

Holly made just 10-of-29 free throws.

Weeder led the offense with 10 points while Tooley had seven points. Kate Brown played in her first basketball game in two years, scoring seven points.
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