Silver Lake Road project to begin week of July 5

Council approves $174,500 for engineering — watch for road closures, detours, delays

By Sharon Stone

The Fenton City Council approved the Scope of Construction Management Services at its meeting Monday, June 14 to rehabilitate Silver Lake Road. This came after city staff recommended approval based on the Orchard, Hiltz & McCliment, Inc. (OHM) proposal dated May 19. OHM is the consulting engineers for the city of Fenton.

Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) has approved Silver Lake Road, from the western city limit to Poplar Street for rehabilitation for the 2021 construction season. Work is slated to begin the week of July 5.

City Council recently approved authorizing MDOT to fund the project and Ace Saginaw Paving Company was recently awarded the project by MDOT. The project consists of 1.53 miles of asphalt milling and resurfacing, concrete curb, gutter and ramp repair, pedestrian signals, signing and pavement markings.

OHM will perform construction staking, construction project observation, construction engineering and contract management for the project.

See ROAD PROJECT on 7

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Beacon & Bridge redevelopment begins

Store will be located on north corner of property

By Hannah Ball

Linden — Beacon & Bridge in Linden is demolished.

Work started Monday, June 14, beginning a redevelopment project that will change the look of downtown Linden after the convenience store and gas station is rebuilt.

“It’s exciting,” said Robert Eastman, owner of Quick-Sav Food stores and Beacon & Bridge. “Everybody who grew up in Linden knows Beacon & Bridge.”

Eastman has owned Beacon & Bridge at 110 E. Broad St. for 43 years, and it has operated as a convenience store and gas station.

Fenton Fire Chief Bob Cairnduff said when their first truck arrived, there were flames showing from the roof.

Cairnduff said the incident commander quickly requested a second alarm.

The chief said the cause of the fire was from an internal exhaust system that vents gas byproducts out the roof. The roofing around that vent system caught fire.

See ROOF FIRE on 5

Fenton Community Garden helps families in need

By Sharon Stone

Jason Gieseler (front) and Eddie Muller, Fenton residents and neighbors, lay down a plastic sheet to try to prevent weeds from growing on one of their plots in the Fenton Community Garden on Oak Park Drive. They’ve been involved with the garden since 2012 and share three plots. They’re currently growing onions and tomatoes in the community garden, and they’re growing more vegetables in their private plots.

See story on Page 3. Photo: Hannah Ball

Five departments respond to roof fire

Commercial structure fire at Accument Global Technologies on Owen Road in Fenton

By Sharon Stone

The Fenton Fire Department responded to a commercial structure fire at Accument Global Technologies, 2480 Owen Rd., at 12:09 a.m. on Monday, June 14. The was reportedly a fire over the generator area.

Fenton Fire Chief Bob Cairnduff said when their first truck arrived, there were flames showing from the roof.

Cairnduff said the incident commander quickly requested a second alarm.

The chief said the cause of the fire was from an internal exhaust system that vents gas byproducts out the roof. The roofing around that vent system caught fire.

See ROOF FIRE on 5

Thankful that private donations are making Fourth of July fireworks possible on Lake Fenton and Lake Ponemah on July 3. Happy Independence Day, everyone.”

Thanks go to The State Bank for sponsoring the next section of the LAFF Pathway.

Congratulations to all of our area high school graduates. After making it through a pandemic, you can make it through anything in life.”
YMCA of Greater Flint awarded grant

Camp Copneconic in Fenton Township to benefit

Compiled by Sharon Stone

The YMCA of Greater Flint has announced it has been awarded a portion of a $2.3-million grant from the Michigan Department of Education to provide summer learning opportunities for children in summer programs. Local YMCAs throughout Michigan have joined together to deliver a coordinated program to support children, families, and schools while they recover from the pandemic and prepare for a successful return to the school year.

“For over 100 years, the Flint Y and Camp Copneconic have been leaders in summer programming,” said Shelly Hilton, CEO of the YMCA of Greater Flint. “We are excited and honored to help our local kids heal and recover from an incredibly difficult year.”

Camp Copneconic, at 10407 N. Fenton Rd. in Fenton Township, has served thousands of families since 1915. Add 700 acres of beautiful, serene property, a medley of historical and modern facilities, and a long-standing reputation of caring staff.

“The Y is prepared to work with schools to overcome the challenges facing students, families and communities,” said Fran Talsma, executive director for the Michigan Alliance of YMCAs. “To effectively combat COVID learning loss, in- and out-of-school learning needs to be connected and seamless. We have the capacity and expertise to support schools and help achieve positive outcomes for kids.”

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Fenton Community Garden helps families in need

By Hannah Ball

Fenton — A community passion for gardening has led to providing hundreds of families with fresh vegetables around Genesee County.

Tucked away off North Road on Oak Park Drive is the Fenton Community Garden. It has two sections — private rented lots on the left and the community garden on the right that grows food to be donated.

Janet Macksood, president of the garden, said the city was gracious enough to donate the space for the area.

“It’s a great community,” she said. Plots, which are 200- to 100-feet, cost $40 a year to rent, which includes a water hookup. Most people start with one plot and realize they want more space. Macksood said they have 35 plots, and they’re nearly full for this summer.

Renters take care of their own space and they’re required to tend to space and weeding. This area used to be a park with a baseball diamond and swing set. The baseball diamond is gone, but the swing set is still there.

Photo: Hannah Ball

This handicap-accessible plot in the Fenton Community Garden grows onions and other vegetables. Gardeners are out at the garden nearly every day, watering their plants and weeding. This area used to be a park with a baseball diamond and swing set. The baseball diamond is gone, but the swing set is still there.

Macksood said “100 percent” of the food grown in the community garden is donated to families in Genesee County, but, “What we found was it wasn’t enough.”

Before the pandemic, they regularly gave food to approximately 50 families. That number is now more than 100. They plan to expand the community garden next year. They added 30 more tomato plants for 80 total, and they have around 30 zucchini plants, 40 pepper plants and more vegetables. They also have medicinal herbs, donated by Rebecca Culley-Healey, owner of Hawthorne & Violet, as well as a sunflower patch and a pumpkin patch.

They donate to places such as St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, St. Jude’s Episcopal Church, Dauner House, Whaley Center, Fenton First Presbyterian Church, The Freedom Center, The Rock and a few nursing homes.

One organization they partner with, Holy Redeemer, has a large Hispanic population they help, so the Fenton Community Garden grew hot peppers for them.

See GARDEN on 9

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When my alarm went off at 5 a.m. last Saturday, I had a moment of disbelief. I’d broken one of my Cardinal rules. I set my alarm on a weekend and I wasn’t heading to the airport or a tailgate. No, I was heading to the golf course for the second day in a row. No, I don’t really golf.

With events back in full swing (pun intended) following many cancellations due to the pandemic, last week was a busy one for our team. We were proud sponsors of an area chamber of commerce golf outing on Friday and an education foundation golf outing on Saturday. Those sponsorships afforded us the opportunity to be a vendor at each event, set up a tent and table at a hole, talk to golfers and rep our brand.

I have to admit, much like my golf game, my brand rep game was a little rusty. Luckily, I have years’ worth of branding columns I can review when such an occasion arises. Back in 2016, I wrote a column with advice on how to make the most of being a sponsor-vendor at an event. With golf outings, expos and other events reappearing, I think we all could benefit from a refresher course on how to be the best brand rep you can be. So, if you’ll be a vendor at an event any time soon, here is some advice:

**Be there** — This one isn’t about being an event vendor since not all sponsorships come with vendor space, but most event sponsorships come with tickets to attend the event. I highly recommend attending or sending your team members to events your company sponsors. The networking can’t be beat, and it means a lot to event hosts to have a full house.

**Don’t sit down** — Obviously if you need a break, sit down, but if you’re working a vendor space right, there won’t be much time for that and that’s a good thing. Guests are much more likely to approach your area if you’re standing.

See **BRAND REP** on 8.

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**WHEN** my alarm went off at 5 a.m. last Saturday, I had a moment of disbelief. I’d broken one of my Cardinal rules. I set my alarm on a weekend and I wasn’t heading to the airport or a tailgate. No, I was heading to the golf course for the second day in a row. No, I don’t really golf.

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**WHAT HAPPENED TO** our yard waste pick up? I called Fenton Township. They didn’t know so I called Republic and they didn’t know either. Who the heck does know? Is there a place where we can take it to them? We do pay them through our taxes.

**WHAT KIND OF** person is so rude that they mow their lawn at 10 p.m. in a neighborhood? My neighbor.

**IS THERE ANY** place that will take old fiberglass boats?

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**What advice would you give to high school graduates?**

Teri Jo
Fenton

“Do all the things you love now. Travel, explore, have fun, get your education. Once you get married and have children, it’s so much harder. Life is short! Live it!”

Angie Common
Linden

“Learn Dave Ramsey and follow his steps early on.”

Drew Shapiro
Fenton

“Don’t take on crushing loads of debt for degrees you don’t plan to use. Student loan debt is the second largest consumer debt behind only mortgage debt. Professionally I’ve seen this inhibit many from purchasing homes, and saving for retirement. Not everyone needs to, or should go to college.”

Stephanie Howes
Linden

“Slow down. In all aspects of life. You’ll get there.”
Installation work timed with redevelopment plans

By Hannah Ball

Linden — On Monday, June 14, the same day demolition began on the Beacon & Bridge site, the Linden City Council approved a plan for PM Environmental, Inc. to install underground remediation wells around the Beacon & Bridge property in downtown Linden.

The council allowed PM Environmental access to S. Bridge Street and E. Broad Street to install up to 21 wells and associated piping for construction of a soil and groundwater treatment system.

This comes seven years after an underground gasoline leak was first detected. Beacon & Bridge paid to have a remediation system installed to the north last year and this will be the south remediation system. They timed the installation of the wells with the redevelopment project of the Beacon & Bridge convenience store and gas pumps, which also began Monday.

The PM Environmental plans approved correlate with the updated plans showing where the new building structure will be located, said Christie Santiago, senior project manager at PM Environmental. The tank removal will start next week, which is when they will remove contaminated soil.

The south remediation system will be installed on the east and west side of S. Bridge Street and on the south side of Broad Street. A few will be located on the Beacon & Bridge property.

Santiago said they won’t be cutting a trench across Bridge Street.

“That’ll be horizontally drilled across the street,” she said.

The timeline will be dependent on contractors’ availability. Santiago said late this summer is possible.

The remediation system enclosure with the tank will be located next to the dumpster in the corner of the lot.

We want to make this as seamless as possible.

Christie Santiago
PM Environmental senior project manager

This is the only thing in the system that will be above ground. The sidewalks will be ripped out and replaced, like how workers did the north remediation system.

Councillor Pam Howd asked how long it will take once they dig up the tanks and begin work on the contaminated soil. Santiago said the estimate is two weeks to pull the tanks and the contaminated soil, and that’s supposed to start Monday. It should finish in a couple of weeks, and then they’ll begin other construction.

City Manager Ellen Glass said they’ve had verbal confirmation on the timeline, and the contractor has been “phenomenal” in keeping in touch with the city. He attended the Grow Linden meeting to start conversations with businesses.

“We don’t have a hard, fast timeline,” she said. “There’s such a lead time on certain things, so it was hard for them to give us a hard, fast timeline.”

Glass said the contractor mentioned four months.

Mayor Danielle Cusson said it’s important that they stay advised on the schedule for remediation.

“A couple years ago when we were talking about this, one of the things I said was, ‘this looks great. I just don’t want it to happen in the middle of our sesquicentennial celebration.’ As luck would have it, guess where we are?” Cusson said. “We’re having our opening for our sesquicentennial celebration on July 17 and we have activities planned downtown.”

She said communication is essential and they have to make sure the safety of the residents is taken into account.

“When these wells are being dug, we need to make sure that all precautions are taking place,” she said.

Santiago said there’s no problem making sure communication is happening.

“We want to make this as seamless as possible,” she said.

ROOF FIRE
Continued from Front Page

“Our crews were able to extinguish the fire pretty quickly but there was extensive overhaul that had to happen,” he said. “The roofing materials around the fire area had to be exposed and peeled back to make sure there was no extension. They have foam insulation under the rubber roof and fire can be hidden in those insulation panels.”

Responding with mutual aid were Fenton Township Fire Department, Linden City Fire Department, North Oakland County Fire Authority (NOCFA) and Hartland Fire Department.

There were no injuries and all units cleared the scene by 1:57 a.m.
GRANT
Continued from Page 2
students. The Y is ready to meet the academic, social-emotional, physical, and nutritional needs of children and is committed to strong collaborations to improve the academic success and overall well-being of children.”

The Y’s summer programs will focus on fun, keeping kids safe, active, fed, and engaged with other children and adults. The support from the Michigan Department of Education allows Ys to offer traditional camp programs that are enhanced to address the unique academic needs created by the pandemic.

YMCA of Greater Flint and Camp Copneconic are still accepting registrations for these programs. To sign up, visit campcopneconic.org. They are also still hiring for some positions. Information to join the staff team can be found at campcopneconic.org/about-us/employment/.

BEACON & BRIDGE
Continued from Front Page
Linden’s sole gas station for years with four gas pumps. He said this is his third building.

Plans for redevelopment were approved in May 2020. The convenience store will be moved to the north end of the property and the gas pumps will be moved to the southern portion. After work is done, the current 2,240-square-foot convenience store will be 2,592 square feet and there will be eight pumps located on the south portion of the property.

Eastman wasn’t there Monday when work began, but he was getting descriptions from onlookers.

Scott Nelson, vice president of Quick-Sav Food Stores/Beacon & Bridge Markets, told Eastman that there were a surprising number of people watching the demolition Monday, and that there was enthusiasm from the community.

“They view it as progress, more of a community spirit. We’re finally making progress as a community,” Eastman said.

Eastman said there was some friction getting plans approved, but it was nice to be able to work with Linden.

“We worked out our differences and came up with a plan that works for everyone in Linden. I thank Linden for their cooperation,” he said, adding that his goal is to provide customers with what they need and to be able to bring jobs into the city.

“It’ll be a beautiful new facility,” he said.

One of the most important aspects is the addition of two new gasoline islands, which will provide four more pumps for a total of eight. Eastman said it will be more convenient for customers to get gasoline, and he hopes it will help ease traffic and safety issues.
The entrapment defense

In 1982, charismatic automobile executive John DeLorean was charged in federal court with eight counts of cocaine trafficking after being caught in an FBI sting operation.

The allegations against him were that he became involved because he needed money for his then failing DeLorean Motor Company (the manufacturer of the DeLorean car featured in the “Back to the Future” movies) and he could receive $24 million in the venture.

Although the evidence against him seemed strong, including a video showing him with a suitcase full of cocaine proclaiming “it’s good as gold.” He was found not guilty by a jury Aug. 16, 1984.

The reason? The jury found that there had been entrapment as the improper actions of the FBI induced him to commit the crimes (including an informant telling him of possible death threats from Colombians if he didn’t participate) and having no criminal record.

Full disclosure — 57 years ago I occasionally was his caddie when he played golf at the Bloomfield Hills Country Club.

Entrapment is a judicially created defense dating back to the 19th century.

There are two different tests for entrapment — the subjective test and the objective test.

The subjective test is used in federal court and a majority of state courts. Under this test, there are two requirements: (1) a showing by the defendant that the government induced them to commit the crime and; (2) establishing that the defendant was not predisposed to commit the crime prior to any government contact. A jury usually decides these issues.

Under the objective test (which is Michigan’s test) entrapment is established if: (1) the police engaged in impermissible conduct that would induce a law-abiding person to commit a crime in similar circumstances or; (2) the police engaged in conduct so reprehensible that it cannot be tolerated. A judge decides whether this test has been met.

The subjective test focuses on the defendant’s state of mind while the objective test looks at the government’s actions.

Michigan case law makes it clear that the defense of entrapment disincentivizes the use of governmental authority to manufacture a crime by a person who otherwise would not have committed it.

Entrapment is difficult to prove, usually unsuccessful, and not often used. However when shown, it’s an absolute defense.

ROAD PROJECT
Continued from Front Page

administration on a hourly basis for the not-to exceed cost of $174,500. Materials testing services will be provided at an additional cost under a separate contract with G2 Consulting Group.

Department of Public Works Director Dan Brisson said MDOT also has scheduled repair work on the U.S. 23 bridge over Silver Lake Road and North Road, which is expected to begin in early July where the first phase will be maintenance work to the understructure and piers of the bridge.

This week the contractor will begin mobilization, traffic control placement and concrete curbing/sidewalk work. Traffic will remain open to two-way traffic during this time.

Due to MDOT maintenance work currently underway on the Owen Road bridge over U.S. 23, work in the roadway of Silver Lake Road will begin the week of July 5 to allow sufficient time for the Owen Road bridge to be completed.

Brisson said this scheduling strategy ensures the Owen Road bridge is fully open to traffic prior to starting Silver Lake Road resurfacing work.

The week of July 5, the contractor has scheduled Silver Lake Road for “Road Closed to Through Traffic” from E. Broad Street in Linden/Fenton Township border to Silver Parkway in Fenton. This section of road will be open to local traffic only. The road closure is necessary to allow for total reconstruction of the eastbound lane of Silver Lake Road that runs along Silver Lake near the Fenton City/Fenton Township border.

Brisson said from the western border by the marina to Jennings Road, the eastbound lane needs to be completely torn out and replaced. The westbound lane will remain open to local traffic only. There will be access to all businesses, but expect delays.

The posted detour route will be E. Broad Street/Silver Lake Road in Linden to south on S. Bridge Street/Linden Road to east on Owen Road to north on Silver Parkway to Silver Lake Road and vice-versa.

The project is expected to be paved and re-opened to traffic in early September with project completion by late September. As with any road project, weather may impact the construction schedule.

Project updates will be posted on the city’s website at cityoffenton.org.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

EVERY TIME I shop at the local big box stores on Owen Road, I just shake my head when I see parents still making their little kids wear a useless mask. What are you trying to prove? C’mon people, keep up with the news.

I HATE HAVING to come up with $500 a month to pay taxes while millionaires and billionaires pay nothing. Even Warren Buffet knows the rich pay the lobbyists to line the pockets of the senators to vote against stopping the loopholes for the rich.

HERE IS FENTON’S plan to fix the streets: keep letting the streets crumble in disrepair until citizens finally pay up through a millage.

GAS PRICES UP. Food prices up. Workers still sitting on their butts at home collecting checks from us taxpayers. Are you still glad you voted for Biden?

WHITMER HINTED THAT she might lift all restrictions before her random July 1 date. Why? I’ll tell you why, so that people will be so elated over their new freedom that they will forget how inept she was. Gov. Whitmer, those paying attention will never forget. One and done.

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**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:**

- Easy
- Moderate
- Challenging
- HOO BOY!

**BRAND REP**

Continued from Page 4

Listen — When representing a brand at an event, it’s important to know the basics — for example, have a 30-second elevator speech ready to go, but use it only if you need to. While you do get the occasional guest who says, “Okay, tell me about your company,” most visitors want to talk to you, not receive a sales pitch. Chances are if you listen versus pitch that potential customer will remember you.

Provide a giveaway — After years of working events, our team has narrowed down what people want in a giveaway. Last weekend we offered branded note pads and pencils and something even more important — FOOD! Since we are proud craft beer and wine fest hosts, last weekend we served up a refreshing craft beer sample. It was a fun way to remind people that the newspaper is more than just news — we’re event hosts, we’re community cheerleaders and we’re a lot of fun. We gave away salty snacks as well to complement the beer.

Have fun — Waking up at 5 a.m. on a weekend isn’t fun, but spending my Friday and Saturday on beautiful golf courses chatting with community members about craft beer, and more importantly, community newspapers, is truly a great time.

What’s the best branded freebie you’ve received from an event? Email me at ecaswell@mihomepaper.com.

Emily Caswell is the brand manager for VIEW Group, the branding division of View Newspaper Group.

**Horoscopes**

**ARIES**

Mar 21/Apr 20

You may be confused about a love interest’s seeming lack of communication this week, Aries. What may seem like silence to you could be patience to him or her.

**TAURUS**

Apr 21/May 21

It may be challenging to see the progress you are making when it comes in small quantities, Taurus. Rest assured you are getting things done and moving along.

**GEMINI**

May 22/Jun 21

Gemini, others have a lot of interest in you, and that can lift your spirits especially if you are looking for a new job. Being in demand also can lead to new friendships.

**CANCER**

Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, the praise you deserve finally arrives. After all of this waiting, the recognition can be a bit overwhelming. However, do your best to accept it with grace.

**LEO**

Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, someone you haven’t seen in a while reaches out to reconnect. It may come as a surprise to hear from this person, but welcome him or her with open arms.

**VIRGO**

Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, with so much high energy, you can accomplish anything that you set your mind to this week. You might even polish off your entire to-do list.

**LIBRA**

Sept 23/Oct 22

Libra, you may start to feel at ease in situations that may have put you on edge in the past. This may mean that you’re learning the ropes or that you’ve gotten experience.

**SCORPIO**

Oct 23/Nov 22

Scorpio, with so much high energy, you can accomplish anything that you set your mind to this week. You might even polish off your entire to-do list.

**SAGITTARIUS**

Nov 23/Dec 21

Positive new influences may come in your life through a new relationship or a career change, Sagittarius. Embrace the changes and enjoy the results.

**CAPRICORN**

Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, you have all the support in the world but you may not be ready to embrace it. Accepting help is not a sign of weakness. Rather, it shows you are self-confident.

**AQUARIUS**

Jan 21/Feb 18

You can fix problems for others or yourself with ease, Aquarius. In fact, others may start coming to you for help more often. It can be emotionally fulfilling to help others.

**PISCES**

Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, with a steadier financial situation and improved self-esteem, you have less to worry about what the future will bring you.
GARDEN
Continued from Page 3

“We’re trying to also fit the needs of the community,” she said.

The Fenton Community Garden is always looking for more places to donate, more sponsorships and more volunteers.

High school students often volunteer there in spring and fall to get school credits, and they also partner with a local church that does recovery programs for people who struggle with addiction, and those people will volunteer at the garden.

Macksood said they receive a lot of community support. Pete Healey, who joined the garden this year, donated the mulch and installed wood planks around some of the plots. He’s growing a variety of vegetables.

This past year, the frost came late and the garden lost 50 percent of the crops. Carlson’s in Fenton Township donated tomatoes, beans and squash. Bordine’s and Hills in Swartz Creek offered them discounts, and Johnson’s Farm also gave them discounts for compost to help replenish the soil.

“We’ve got fabulous soil out here. We try to get everything local,” she said.

Rabbits and other animals are a major issue.

“We have this gorgeous plot, it gets full sun all day long and it’s the perfect spot, but the deer and the rabbits and the groundhogs, they own this place,” she said. Weeds also pose a problem, and they use different methods to prevent them, including laying down cardboard boxes, hay and other material.

They don’t use any pesticides or fertilizers. “We keep it 100-percent organic,” Macksood said.

Last year, they had an issue with low pollination, so they added more flowerbeds to attract more bees. They’re considering adding a beehive.

They’re planning to use the garden for picnics, events and classes like yoga.

Macksood said it’s a good place for meditation. When she comes to the garden, she can clear her mind, pull weeds and get her frustrations out.

“You get your hands in the dirt, you’re doing something good. The most beneficial is at the end of the season when we donate the food. You never thought that a tomato can make a difference in someone’s life and it does,” she said. Macksood, who has four plots, keeps some of the food and also gives it to a friend who has elderly parents and a father who has Alzheimer’s.

Harvest will begin in mid-July, and Macksood said they planted crops in stages to extend the season hopefully through October.

“We have plenty. Let’s hope they all continue to grow,” she said.
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Move in 2021
By David Troppens

The Fenton varsity softball team played a lot of tough teams this season in non-league play.

The Tigers were the only Flint Metro League squad who were able to give eventual league champions Owosso a defeat during league play.

The squad finished the season with a strong 24 victories despite suffering some injuries during the season. They also captured a Division 1 district title.

The Tigers almost added a regional crown to that list on Saturday as well, but fell a couple of runs short. Facing Traverse City West, the Titans were able to score a single run in the bottom of the sixth to break a 4-4 tie, and then held off a Fenton rally in the top of the seventh to earn the Titans a 5-4 regional championship victory at the Bay City Central district on Saturday.

“I believe our girls were diligent through the whole season and did whatever they had to do to play together,” Fenton varsity softball coach Ken Brant said. “We had a theme for our team — ‘stronger together’ — and we believed that all season long. No matter how it went — wins or losses, positives or negatives — they always believed they could do it together.

“Having fun and being successful at those moments were part of this team. It showed at the end. We came out swinging right down to the last strike. The game could’ve gone either way. We were one strike, one hit away from going one run further.”

Fenton’s Sophie Collins watches a pitch in a past game. Collins had three hits and scored two runs in the Tigers’ 5-4 regional title loss to Traverse City West. Photo: David Troppens

Linden softball soars to a regional championship

By David Troppens

Clio — Haley Ludwig had just one goal when she came to the plate with nobody on and one out in the top of the eighth inning of the Eagles’ 3-3 deadlock with Essexville Garber Saturday in a Division 2 regional championship game at Clio High School.

“I was thinking to just make contact,” Ludwig said. “I wanted to get it through so we can score and that’s it.”

Ludwig did more than make contact. On the second pitch she saw, she lined a shot beyond the center-field fence into a large dirt pile for a solo home run. It gave the Eagles a 4-3 lead, and an eventual 4-3 regional championship victory in the Clio regional.

The title, Linden’s second regional title in school history, means the Eagles will play in a Division 2 state quarterfinal game Tuesday against Marysville. The results of that game weren’t known at press time. The last time the Eagles won a regional title was in 2013. That season, the squad advanced to the D2 state semifinal before finally bowing out of the tourney.

“I just remember thinking to myself to calm down, relax and you got this, and it’s nothing,” Ludwig said about her home run plate appearance.

“ ‘She’s been playing well this year,’” Linden varsity softball coach Gordon Jamison said. “She did not feel good the other day when we were here for districts, so I’m not surprised to see her have a really good day today.

“I’m pretty excited.”

The squad, obviously, was thrilled with the regional championship.

“It means everything,” Ludwig said. “We are trying to go all the way so we really wanted this, and we are going to go far.”

“I’m really enjoying it,” senior Jordyn Hobson said. “I’m so glad we’ve come this far. We’ve been practicing together and getting along, and that’s what counts.”

The Eagles advanced to the regional championship game earlier Saturday when Linden defeated Imlay City 9-4 in the semifinal of the Clio regional. In that game, the Eagles scored
By David Troppens

The Fenton varsity softball team had a strong start to its D1 Bay City Central Regional Tournament by posting some big offensive numbers in a 12-5 victory against Oxford.

Facing Oxford for the third time this season (the squads split a doubleheader previously), the Tigers broke a 2-2 tie with five runs in the top of the fourth inning.

With one out, Cadyn Reger reached base on a batted ball error and Sophie Collins followed with a single. It looked like the threat may end there after a fly out, but Lily Turkowski singled in a run and Madi Best followed with a three-run home run. Fenton led 6-2. The threat wasn’t over just yet. Lauren Miller walked, Tammy Craven singled and Jordyn Bommersbach walked to load the bases. Megan McDermott followed with a bases loaded RBI-walk. Fenton led 7-2.

Oxford did cut the gap to 7-5 with three runs in the bottom of the fifth, with home runs by Meghan Lupu and Mya Spisz being the inning’s key shots, but that’s as close as Oxford would get. With the bases loaded in the sixth, Reger provided an RBI-single, raising the edge to 8-5. Finally, a four-run seventh blew the game open. Jessica Dunkel walked and an out later Best singled her in. After a second out, three more runs ended up scoring. Grace MacCaughan hit an RBI-double and Bommersbach followed with a single. McDermott then followed with a two-run single. Fenton led 12-5.

Oxford wasn’t able to put together much of a threat in the bottom of the seventh, going out in order against winning pitcher Bommersbach. Bommersbach tossed the final five innings in relief, allowing five hits and a walk. She struck out two. Kariana Pelkey pitched the first two innings.

Both teams scored a run in the first inning. Fenton scored its on an RBI-single by Best. Oxford jumped to a 2-1 lead with a run in the second, but the Tigers answered back with a single run in the third. That run scored on Best’s RBI-double.

Best had an outstanding offensive game, going 4-for-5 with six RBI. McDermott had two hits and three RBI, while Miller had two hits and scored two runs.

Fenton’s Madi Best leads off first base in a recent contest. Best had four hits and six RBI in a 12-5 Fenton victory against Oxford in a regional semifinal contest. Photo: David Troppens

By David Troppens

Two tri-county prep golfers saw their prep athletic careers end at state tournaments on Saturday.

Lake Fenton senior Avery Schaal finished in 21st place at the Division 2 Boys Golf State Championships at Battle Creek’s Bedford Valley Country Club while Fenton senior Dylan Davidson finished tied for 67th at the D1 event at East Lansing’s Forest Akers West Golf Course.

Schaal opened his state tournament with a 77 on Friday, placing him further down the field entering Saturday’s final round. He responded with a 72. Only five golfers posted a stronger score than that, enabling Schaal to finish 21st with a 73-77-150 36-hole score.

Davidson had one of his toughest tournaments of the season, posting an 84 during Saturday’s opening round at Forest Akers West. He followed that round with a better 81 on the second day for an 80-82-162 score.

Both golfers were among the elite golfers in the Flint Metro League this spring with both collecting an equal number of points (201) to earn first-team league spots.

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CHAMPIONSHIP
Continued from Page 12

three runs in the first inning, and never looked back. It looked like the championship game may follow the same pattern after Linden scored three runs in the top of the second inning of the title contest.

Emma Mossing started the threat with a walk and Ludwig and Cassie Sylvester followed with back-to-back singles, loading the bases. Starting pitcher Mikayla Timm helped her cause with an RBI-single, and Liv Burke followed with a two-run single. The Eagles led 3-0 and looked in great shape. However, Essexville Garber scored single runs in the second, third and sixth innings, eventually tying the game at 3-all. The run in the second was set up by a single by Jackie Brinkman, a sacrifice bunt by Kortney Kotenko and batted ball by Laney Kokaly that was booted by the Eagles’ defense.

The run in the third, set up by an Alexis Linton double, saw her advance to third on an error. She then scored on Lauren Claerhout’s suicide squeeze bunt, plating Linton. Finally, Emma Miller hit a solo home run to lead off the sixth, tying the game at 3-3. Essexville Garber actually had runners on first and third during the sixth as well, but a pop out by Ireland Michalak ended the threat.

In the top of the seventh, Linden’s Hobson doubled with one out and was sacrificed to third by Morse, putting a runner on third. However, a ground out ended that threat. In the Dukes’ seventh, Claerhout singled and stole second base with just one out. However, Timm got the final two outs with an infield pop out and a strike out, forcing extra innings.

In the top of the eighth, Ludwig hit her home run with one out. The Dukes were unable to present a threat against Timm. The first two batters flew out and the final batter struck out, earning the Eagles their second Division 2 regional championship in school history.

“It was definitely a battle,” Timm said about pitching the complete-game victory. “The girl that hit the home run definitely rattled me, but I had to trust my team and my coaches. (In the eighth inning) I was a little nervous but I had trust in my defense and just gave it my all.”

“I just love these girls and we play so hard together,” Ludwig said. “We have such good teamwork and chemistry. We leave it all on the field and we love each other so much.”

“Of course, this means a lot. (The regional title) shows their resilience and how hard they work. We lost some good players last year, and we had underclassmen and juniors from last year that just stepped right up and picked up the pace.”

Timm tossed an eight-hitter over the eight innings, walking just one and striking out five. It took her 104 pitches to finish the contest, tossing 72 of them for strikes.

Ludwig and Hobson had two hits each. Ludwig finished the two games with a combined 5-for-8 with five RBI.
The last time the Linden Eagles won a regional title was in 2013. That squad went to the D2 state semifinals.

Burke hit a two-run single in the Eagles’ three-run second inning.

Timm needed 104 pitches to toss her eight-inning complete-game victory against Essexville Garber. She struck out five batters and 72 of the 104 pitches she tossed were strikes. She threw first-pitch strikes to 21 of the 34 batters she faced.

Basket had a solid effort in the loss, throwing 75 of her 106 pitches for strikes. She struck out six batters and walked just one.

Linden’s Zoe Brown slides safely into home plate. She scored two runs as a courtesy runner in the Eagles’ 9-4 victory against Imlay City. Photo: David Troppens

There was an error on Bollinger’s single, enabling Morse to score and moving Bollinger to second.

**EAGLES**

Continued from Page 12

singled, loading the bases just three batters into the contest. An out later, Haley Ludwig hit a three-run double, giving the Eagles a three-run lead.

Imlay City closed the gap to 3-2 in the bottom of the second inning with the aid of two Linden errors, but the Eagles would score three more runs in the top of the fourth to establish a sizable 6-2 lead.

The third inning’s big blow was a three-run home run by Liv Burke. It was set up by singles by Ludwig and Mikayla Timm. If the third inning didn’t establish a large enough lead, then the three-run fifth inning did. Back-to-back singles by Morse and Bollinger started that inning.

Ludwig hit the game-winning home run with one out in the eighth inning, earning the Eagles the 4-3 victory.

Essexville Garber’s only home run was hit by Miller. It was a solo shot to start the bottom of the sixth inning, tying the contest at 3-3. She hit a fly ball to left in the eighth inning but Linden’s Haley Ludwig made a nice catch for the out.

**Div 2 Regional Championship Softball Box**

**Linden vs. Essexville Garber**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Linden</th>
<th>AB</th>
<th>R</th>
<th>H</th>
<th>BI</th>
<th>Garber</th>
<th>AB</th>
<th>R</th>
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<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
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<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>Payton Dueweke</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<td>Ella Wagner</td>
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<tr>
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<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Emma Miller</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cassie Sylvester</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Jackie Brinkman</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mikayla Timm</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Kortney Kotenko</td>
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<tr>
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<td>1</td>
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<td>Laney Kokaly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Megan Widner</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Josie Killey/Ireland Michalak 1/2</td>
<td>0/0</td>
<td>0/0</td>
<td>0/0</td>
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Totals: 33 4 9 4

**Score by Inning**

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>R</th>
<th>H</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Linden</td>
<td>030</td>
<td>000</td>
<td>01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garber</td>
<td>002</td>
<td>001</td>
<td>00</td>
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</table>

Left on base: Linden 6, Garber 8

Doubles: Lud. H. & M. - 1.00
Triples: None.

Home runs: Lud. 2, Gar. 1

Walked: Lud. 2, Gar. 5

Sacrifice bunts: Gar. 2, Lud. 2

Hit batter: None.

**Pitcher**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Linden</th>
<th>IP</th>
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<th>ER</th>
<th>H</th>
<th>K</th>
<th>W</th>
<th>HR</th>
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<tr>
<td>Timm</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
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<table>
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<th>H</th>
<th>K</th>
<th>W</th>
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<td>4</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
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Cherie Joy Riddle Martin
1946 - 2021

Cherie Joy Riddle Martin of Fenton died Friday, June 11, 2021.
Cherie was born July 16, 1946 in Holly. She attended Holly High School and received a degree in merchandising from Michigan State University. After many years as a successful retail manager and buyer for Dillards, Winkelman’s and Ralph Lauren, Cherie married the love of her life Dr. Jim Martin and retired so they could travel the world together. They had 34 wonderful years together until she was taken by a stroke. As well as traveling, they also shared a love of skiing, bow hunting, fishing, friends, family, fine wine and their wonderful kitty, Anthony. She also loved gardening, watching sports (go Spartans!), and most of all the Lord. Cheri leaves behind her beloved husband, Jim; stepdaughters, Deborah Martin Zimmerman, Marianne Martin and Stephanie Martin Strohl; her sister, Sue Riddle Cotcher; and nieces and nephews Paul Cotcher, Matt Cotcher, Missy Cotcher Bourne, and Jenny Joy Cotcher Winograd. She is preceded in death by her parents, Marion and George Riddle. Her spirit, elegance and grace will be missed by all.

Visitation will be at Dryer funeral Home in Holly on Friday June 18 from 4 – 6 PM and funeral services will be on Saturday, June 19 at 11 AM, also at Dryer Funeral Home. www.dryerfuneralhomeholly.com.

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**FENTON**
**JUNE 17-19**
**9-5 PM**

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