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Complete forecast, A12

Get the weekly police wrapup LOCAL, PAGE A6



The Holland Sentinel

Sunday, August 10, 2014

www.hollandsentinel.com

\$2

NATION/WORLD

Minorities become majority in U.S. schools

For the first time, U.S. public schools are projected to have more minority students than non-Hispanic whites.

LOCAL

Embattled councilman to run again

Four people will be seeking four seats on the Douglas City Council. One of them recently pleaded guilty to a breaking-and-entering charge. Eric Smith pleaded guilty in June to the misdemeanor of breaking and entering without owner permission. **A3**

AREA DEATHS

- Ruth Bartels, 92
- Robert Cox, 63
- Harold De Roo
- Phillip Hill, 78
- Donald Hutchinson II
- Doris Kennedy
- Dorothy Lugten 85
- Lawrence Sarver, 81
- Roger Timmerman, 74
- Irene Walters, 85

Obituaries.....C2

COMING IN PRINT

An open house Tuesday will inform residents on the state's plan for a safer M-40. Roundabouts are the likely solution, but it's not written in stone. **Coming tomorrow**

ONLY ONLINE

These stories you'll find only on hollandsentinel.com.

- **ENTERTAINMENT** Review: 'Into the Storm' a disaster pic done in by blandness
- **BUSINESS** Boring sit-down restaurants suddenly look lively

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REBOUNDDING



Jim Szilagyi is leading a rebirth of the Lynx Golf Course in Otsego as a multipurpose entertainment facility. It is located off M-89 just outside of Allegan. PHOTOS BY BRIAN VANOCHTEN/SENTINEL STAFF

By Brian.VanOchten
@hollandsentinel.com
(616) 546-4279

In search of a golf course to own and operate, Jim Szilagyi, a third-generation golf industry professional, settled on a 185-acre parcel of land in Allegan County even his father might have smiled upon.

"I remember one of the last things my dad told me was, 'Don't buy a golf course.' He thought too many people get into the business who don't know anything about the golf industry," he said of his late father, Bob, who died in 1995. "I know it's not going to be easy.

"We're in the right spot on the

right side of the state to make it a successful place."

He and a small group of investors purchased the Lynx Golf Course, which opened in 1998 off M-89 between Allegan and Otsego, for less than \$1 million about 13 months ago.

The former Christmas tree farm, situated at the second-highest point in Allegan County, has lots of mature pines, a modern clubhouse and restaurant completed six years ago, and unlimited potential for

Allegan County golf property comes under new ownership

"I'm patiently impatient, but I'm in this for the long view."

- new Lynx Golf Course owner Jim Szilagyi

success despite being neglected by the previous ownership.

"I had been looking for a course for a long time," the 59-year-old Szilagyi said. "It's a beautiful piece of property with a 100-foot elevation drop. That's what really struck me about the place.

"I knew I had some work to do when we bought it," he added. "It was in pathetic condition. They had let it go. I thought it was a three- to

SEE LYNX, A2



Lynx Golf Course offers panoramic views from the second-highest elevation in Allegan County.

KNOW MORE ART

Campaign seeks public's art stories

By Annette.Manwell
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(616) 546-4270

So that's what it's all about.

No More Art became Know More Art after the real goal behind the original mysterious campaign was unveiled Saturday evening at the Holland Symphony Orchestra's Community Pops concert at Kollen park.

For more than a month, "No More Art" has been promoted on a Facebook page and website, each with

little information, a countdown to the Thursday night two-minute take over of the Street Performers Series downtown, which then led people to the concert. In the meantime, those following along have been asked to consider what the world would be like without art, in all its forms.

It was revealed Saturday that now that people have imagined a world without art, they should get to "know more art."

The background: The Holland area has a lot of

How to get involved

The No/Know More Art campaign wants to hear how you are involved in the arts. Write about it, share your story, your experience and especially how art has affected you.

Upload that story to the knowmoreart.com website, where it and others will be collected over the next year.

nonprofits, diligently working for the greater good. The Lakeshore Nonprofit



Alliance is a way for them to all come together and work together rather than working against or parallel to each other. From the alliance came the Nonprofit Next Initiative idea.

It was for "a group of us to get together and make something happen," said Lorna Freestone, executive director of the Holland Area Arts Council and one of the Know More Art campaign organizers. She called it a "strategic doing," meaning the nonprofits with similar goals would plan to do something big to bring more awareness to their organizations and their common goal.

Because many of the arts

SEE ART, A2

HOLLAND TWP.

Planning commission to re-establish itself

Move will put board in compliance with 2008 state law

By Peg.McNichol
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(616) 546-4629

The Holland Township's planning commission agenda Tuesday includes a public hearing for establishing a planning commission. A 2008 state law required township planning commissions to create a new ordinance establishing the commission with operational rules and guides for such things as pay, reimbursement and gifts. The law also called for bylaws to be established.

The law gave a 2011 deadline for boards to make the changes.

SEE COMMISSION, A2

CONTAGION IN CONTEXT

Ebola: Why it's scary, why it's not

By Connie Cass
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The United States' top disease detective calls Ebola a "painful, dreadful, merciless virus."

The World Health Organization has declared the outbreak in West Africa an international emergency, killing more than 900 people and spreading.

That's scary and serious. But it also cries out for context.

AIDS alone takes more than a million lives per year in Africa — a thousand times the toll of this Ebola outbreak so far.

Lung infections such as pneumonia are close

SEE EBOLA, A4

NEWS

Online at www.hollandsentinel.com

5 THINGS TO DO THIS WEEK

MORE ONLINE: Can't find what you're looking for? Check out our Facebook page for an ever-expanding list of things to do around town, or see the complete calendar at www.hollandsentinel.com.

HOW TO SUBMIT: Send your event and contact information for verification to lori.timmer@hollandsentinel.com or 54 W. Eighth St., Holland, MI 49423

1 Tuesday Talks, "Car Talk": 11 a.m., Tuesday, Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society, Old School House, downtown Douglas; Free; sdhistoricalsociety.org. The impact of early autos and their impact on community life will be the topic of this week's Tuesday Talk sponsored by the Saugatuck/Douglas Historical Society.

2 Kids Fun at the Farmers Market: 10 a.m.-noon, Wednesday, Holland Farmers Market; Free; (616) 796-0472. This week's theme is "Michigan Wildlife" with a program by the DeGraaf Nature Center. Children will have the opportunity to see live animals.

3 Chamber Music Festival of Saugatuck, Fresh Airs: 7:30 p.m., Thursday and Friday, Saugatuck Woman's Club; \$5-\$20; saugatuckmusic.org. This is the final concert for the summer season in the Chamber Music Festival of Saugatuck. Musicians include Jennifer Walvoord, Leslie Van Becker, Alicia Eppinga, Paul Austin, Bradley Wong and Andrew Le.



4 Trilogy, Summer Concert Series: 6:30 p.m., Friday, Kollen Park, Holland; Free. The group Trilogy will perform a variety of hits at this week's concert. Bring a lawn chair or blanket and enjoy the evening at Lake Macatawa.

5 Salsa Showdown: 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Holland Farmers Market, Eighth Street Market Place; Free; downtownholland.com. Watch as contenders create their best salsa hoping to win the top honor at the farmers market. Taste the salsas for \$3.

LOTTERY

Friday, August 8, 2014
Midday Daily 3-1-0
Midday Daily-4 6-7-6-6
Daily Lottery 7-7-4
Daily-4 2-0-7-5
Fantasy 5 4-15-18-24-33

Keno 1, 2, 7, 9, 10, 12, 17, 25, 30, 38, 39, 42, 46, 49, 54, 57, 58, 67, 70, 71, 72, 80
Mega Millions 9-16-61-70-75
Mega Ball 7
Saturday, August 9, 2014

Midday Daily 7-3-8
Midday Daily-4 3-6-8-6
Daily Lottery 8-6-7
Daily-4 6-3-4-6
Fantasy 5 9-16-29-32-38
Keno 1, 3, 5, 10, 11, 19, 22, 23,

27, 30, 38, 41, 43, 44, 51, 55, 61, 63, 71, 74, 76, 77
Powerball 3-12-31-34-51
Red Ball 24
Classic Lotto 47 17-19-26-28-41-43

LYNX

From Page A1

five-year project to restore it. I now think we'll get it done in three years. It's all part of the plan. We want to have a golf focus."

The Lynx is in the midst of a rebirth since Szilagyi, managing partner, took possession of it.

He has taken steps to prune the course back to its original splendor and transform the clubhouse and restaurant side from a misguided mess into a solid revenue producer. He already has reinvested six figures into the property and has plans for additional changes in the spring.

Still, despite its bargain price, he understands the Lynx is a high-risk proposition.

The National Golf Foundation reported 157 closings and only 14 openings of golf courses in the U.S. last year. It follows a trend of net course closings for eight consecutive years.

"There's an old saying in the golf industry that every golf course is a great deal for the third owner," said Tom Cleary, a former golf course marketing professional and longtime friend.

"I'm the fourth owner of this place," Szilagyi added with a laugh.

It all starts with an 18-hole routing open to the public, but it definitely doesn't end there.

The Lynx staff has been slowly trimming the overgrowth and "pushing back against nature" to help restore the original shot values at the tranquil par-72, 6,471-yard layout.

The previous ownership had 14 coupon discounts, including a shortsighted buy-one-get-one-free program that sharply reduced revenues from greens fees. Now, Szilagyi has three discount programs, including a three-for-four coupon, and revenue is up 5 percent.

He projects the course will do slightly less than the 14,000 rounds it did last year, but translates into higher revenue — since the Lynx isn't giving away rounds or earning a bad reputation as a "cheap track."

"I honored everything in 2013 that already had been pledged, but we had to stop a lot of that staff for the sake of the business," said Szilagyi, a defensive back on the 1974 Central Michigan University NCAA Division II national championship football team. "Our rounds are down slightly, but our revenues are up. That tells me we're going in the right direction."

The 5,600-square-foot clubhouse has undergone a much-needed adjustment.

It started off with a narrow sports-bar-themed restaurant, which lagged, switched to a bistro theme that failed, and gained little traction as

Upcoming changes

Lynx managing partner Jim Szilagyi is planning to make some significant changes to the property to help maximize its potential as a multi-use facility for the Allegan, Otsego and Plainwell communities.

1. Wedding chapel: An outdoor chapel in the pines with seating for 100 people behind the 18th green should be completed in early spring. The space will be carved out of the forest and a path from the clubhouse to the chapel will be constructed. It'll require transplanting some large pines along the right side of the 10th fairway to this tranquil hilltop setting.

"If the chapel goes, that'll drive our wedding business," Szilagyi said.

2. Open-air pavilion: An outdoor structure with room for 100 people near the practice tee should be ready in the spring. It'll be an ideal spot for corporate outings, wedding receptions and special events.

3. Practice facility: There are plans to redo the practice tee to make it more functional. It'll be part of the three-pronged renovation project happening near the clubhouse in the spring.

— Brian VanOchten

a banquet facility without a clear focus.

Food and beverage revenue is up "over 100 percent" this year.

Szilagyi has upgraded the menu, which changes quarterly, and made the clubhouse into a multi-purpose space for widespread special events including live music, a comedy show one Saturday night per month, bachelor parties, wedding rehearsal dinners, wedding receptions, Lakeshore Corvette Club meetings, Allegan and Otsego chambers of commerce events, painting classes, craft beer and chili tastings, and class reunions.

The Lynx hosted three class reunions last year. So far, it is booked for 15 this year.

"We're trying to fill the room," Szilagyi said. "We've had to rebuild our golf audience. We're also trying to use the clubhouse for more than just golf, since golf is a six-month season and we've got 12 months of bills to pay. We just want to be the best golf course facility in the Kalamazoo Valley."

He even started unique fall color tours to take advantage of the property's elevation last year.

It is \$20 to rent a golf cart to ride around the course, but includes a \$15 voucher for use in the grille.

"I'm patiently impatient, but I'm in this for the long view," Szilagyi said of turning the Lynx around. "Make no mistake: It's still very much a risk, but we're going to make it work here."

— Follow this reporter on Twitter @BizHolland

COMMISSION

From Page A1

Holland Township resident Jennifer Buitenhuis discovered the oversight earlier this year. She helped form a grass-roots group, One by One, to protest a truck stop proposed for the corner of Adams Street, to protest a truck stop proposed for the corner of Adams Street, to protest a truck stop proposed for the corner of Adams Street, to protest a truck stop proposed for the corner of Adams Street.

The township planning commission's failure to meet the state's 2011 deadline was one of several reasons cited in court by One by One's attorney for sending the truck stop proposal back to square one. The board's lack of by-laws and non-compliance with public comment rules were also part of the complaint. Circuit Judge Jon Van Allsburg rejected One by One's appeal last month. One by One members have not indicated whether they will ask a higher court to review Van Allsburg's opinion.

Holland Township's board of trustees voted to create the planning commission on Jan. 6,

1972, according to Holland Sentinel records.

Other items of the planning commission's agenda Tuesday:

■ A public hearing on rezoning three lots at The Crossings, Banyan Enterprises LLC's condominium development, from C-2 Commercial to I-1 Light Industrial

■ Three separate special use requests: 1. Maust and Brouwer Properties, LLC, 9652 Black River Court, Suite 30, request to operate a crossfit training facility in an I-1 zone.

2. Ben Phillips' (on behalf of TRT Co.) request to operate an indoor gun range and retail store in a C-2 zone on vacant property on South Waverly Road; and 3. Phillip Stassen's request to display approximately 25 vehicles for sale at 392 136th Ave., a C-2 zone.

■ A review of Savannah Lakes Planned Unit Development amendment report review.

■ A final review of the township's updated Master Plan.

Holland Township's planning commission is set to meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the township offices, 353 N. 120th Ave. for details, visit hct.holland.mi.us or call (616) 396-2345.

— Follow this reporter on Facebook and Twitter, @SentinelPeg.

ART

From Page A1

organizations already work together so well, they decided to launch a big campaign first, Freestone said.

There were two ideas that needed to be implemented: a website for communication and an event to pique interest. An arts festival of some sort was discussed, but such a large event takes a lot of time, energy, money and other resources, Freestone said.

Eventually the No/Know More Art campaign was born. For more than a month, the idea of "No More Art" was quietly pushed out to make people think "what would happen if there were no more art in your community," Freestone said.

That campaign came to

a head Thursday during the Street Performer Series as a flash mob took to Eighth Street with fliers asking people to imagine a world without art while others draped downtown public art in black cloth. Many people attending the series looked more confused than anything else.

With the mystery revealed, the goal now is to get people to "go to a concert, go to a play, do something," Freestone said. And then write about it, share your story, your experience and especially how art has affected you.

Upload that story to the knowmoreart.com website, where it and others will be collected over the next year.

— Follow this reporter on Facebook or Twitter, @SentinelNetty.

The Holland Sentinel

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