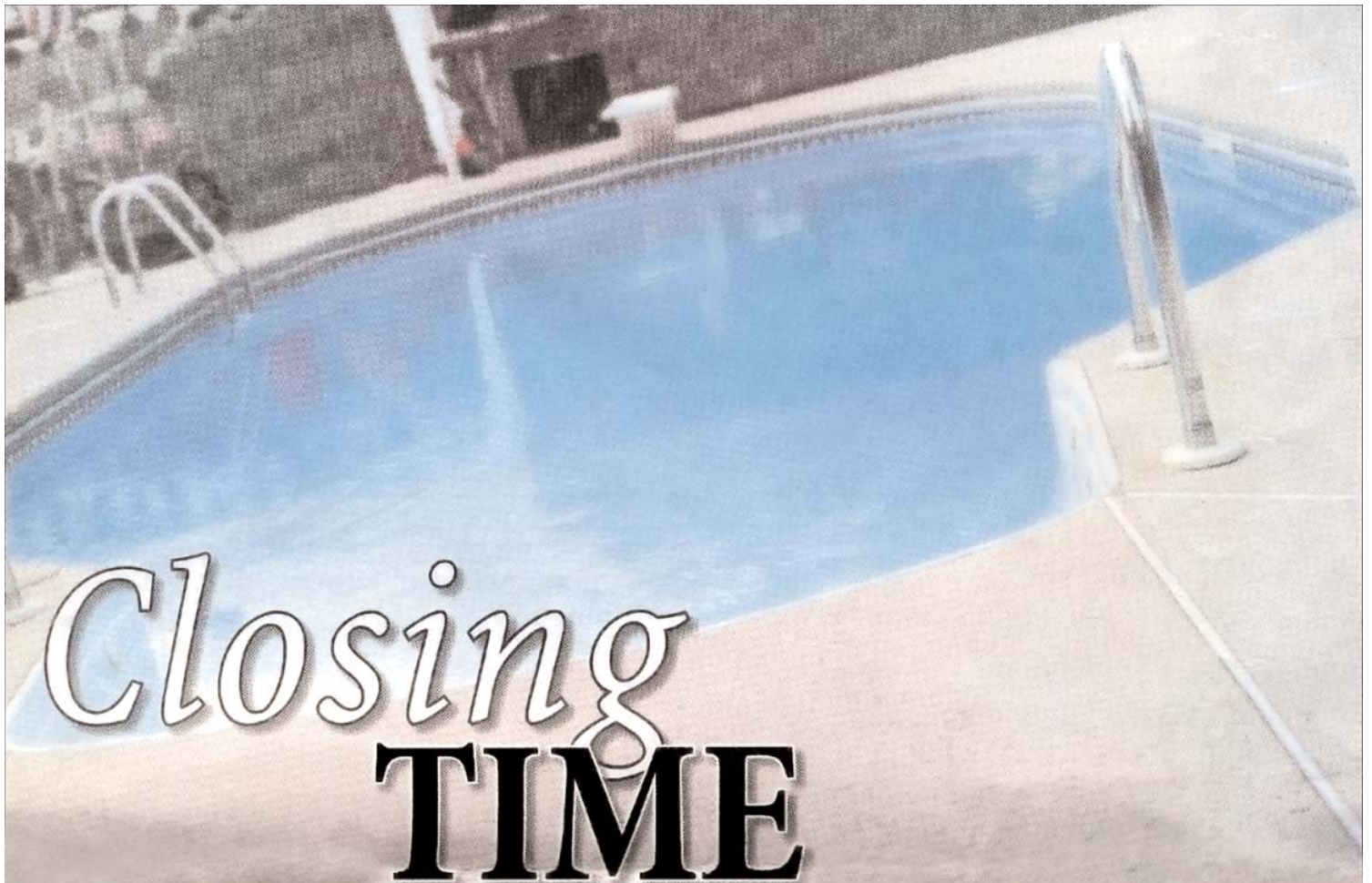


KENT COUNTY DAILY TIMES

Friday, September 14, 2007

WWW.RICENTRAL.COM

50 CENTS



There's a right way to hide away your pool for the season

Jessica Selby
Daily Times

The leaves are starting to change color and fall from the trees onto the lawn-or-worse into the swimming pool. For those who mark summer's passing by the closing of the pool for

the season, it's just a matter of time until it's officially fall.

According to Annette M. Stockley, owner of the Pool and Patio Center, located at 57 Sandy Bottom Road in Coventry, it's really a matter of time and timing.

With some preparation, the task of closing the pool doesn't have to be a

major ordeal, Stockley said. The entire closure shouldn't take more than an hour, but there are some preparatory steps prior to the actual closing that may be a bit more time consuming, she said.

Stockley provided the following tips for homeowners to consider

while closing down their pool:

1. Make sure the water is clear and in balance before you close the pool. To do this, shock it and then add a winter kit or a winter algaecide. This keeps the water from getting too acidic, and makes for a nice clean pool in the spring.

2. Close it at the right time. The optimum: air and water temperature both at 65 degrees.

3. Close the pool before the leaves fall.

If pool owners take these steps, said Stockley, "chances are you'll be good to go when you open it up." Pool and Patio Center offers pool-closing services, but also provides step-by-step instructions for customers who complete the tasks on their own, Stockley said.

The instructions are very detailed and easy to follow, right from the preparatory stages to placing the cover. There are details on the balancing of the water, house-keeping tasks, cleaning and closing down the filter system, and partially draining and then covering the pool, she said.

The Pool and Patio Center is just one of several pool retail stores in the area that provides such services. There are also the Pool Doctor on Nooseneck Hill Road and Sun and Fun-Spas, Pools and Billiards, on Tiogue Avenue. Many local retail stores such as Benny's, Ocean State Job Lot and Wal-Mart also sell the necessary tools for pool closures.

