Toxic mold forces family out of home

Dana and Adam Voss have been living with their parents in Fenton Township since early December, when toxic black mold was found in their rental home in Grand Blanc. Their children (from left) Jenna, 4, Noah, 3, and Connor, 1, have been affected by the mold, but have since recovered.

By Sally Rummel
news@tctimes.com; 810-623-8282

Adam and Dana Voss and their three young children escaped from their Genesee County home with just the clothes on their backs in late November 2010. But, it wasn’t a fire that sent them running. It was black toxic mold, which wreaked such havoc with their health that they no longer could stay in their rental home.

See MOLD on 8A

DDA considers $760,000 in Silver Parkway improvements

Includes better lighting, irrigation and landscaping

By Anna Troppens
atroppens@tctimes.com

Fenton — At Tuesday’s meeting, the Fenton Downtown Development Authority (DDA) could act on an estimated $760,000 in improvements for Silver Parkway. The work, for which the DDA would pay 100 percent, would be

See DDA on 10A

Township to pay $400k to former firefighter in sexual harassment lawsuit

By Sharon Stone
sstone@tctimes.com

Argentine Twp. — A lawsuit filed by a former firefighter has been settled out of court for $400,000. The lawsuit was filed against former fire chief William Harvey. The settlement will be paid by the township’s insurance provider, according to Supervisor Robert Cole.

Blythe Amenson, a former lieutenant with the Argentine Township Fire Department, filed the lawsuit in February 2010, against Harvey for alleged sexual harassment, and against Argentine Township for alleged discriminatory discharge. She was employed by the township from May 2007 until July 6, 2009.

Amenson sought damages exceeding $25,000 for each of the six counts listed in the complaint. Cole said the case was turned over to the township’s insurance company and the insurance company was responsible for settling the complaint and paying Amenson. He said township officials had no input in the settlement.

See LAWSUIT on 6A

Faulty ceiling fan may be cause of house fire

By Sharon Stone
sstone@tctimes.com

Linden — A Linden woman and her grandson escaped a house fire Tuesday night. Linden Fire Chief Brian Will said the fire department received the 911 call at 9:47 p.m. and responded to the house, located at the northeast corner of North Bridge and Murphy streets.

Will said the grandmother and grandson saw smoke.

See FIRE on 7A

Masked gunmen rob Fenton home

By Sharon Stone
sstone@tctimes.com

Fenton — At 9:11 p.m. Tuesday, Fenton police responded to a 911 call involving a masked man in a red sedan. According to Lt. Jason Slater, the caller reported a masked man pointing a gun at them.

Slater said officers searched the area but did not find evidence of a robbery.

See GUNMEN on 24A
Fenton’s assistant manager interviews for Dewitt job

By Anna Troppens
atroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Fenton — Assistant City Manager Michael Burns might be moving on, to the city administrator job in Dewitt. Most assistant managers look to, eventually, become a city manager or administrator, and the position in Dewitt would allow him to do that, Burns said. "It was an opportunity for me to try to become the lead administrator," he said. "That’s what interested me in the position."

His skill sets are a good match with what Dewitt is looking for, he believes. It is a city of 5,000 in Clinton County, seven miles north of Lansing. Dewitt has a nice downtown, and there is a lot of opportunity for the downtown, said Burns, who is director of Fenton’s downtown development authority.

Burns began his job in Fenton in February 2009. He lives in Sterling Heights and would relocate, if Dewitt hires him.

He has had a couple of interviews for the Dewitt position and will know more about the outcome within about a week.

Summary

►Fenton’s assistant city manager, Michael Burns, might be moving on to the city administrator job that he interviewed for in Dewitt, near Lansing.

Manager candidate’s past discussed at open meeting

By Tim Jagielo
 tjagielo@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795

Holly — At the village council meeting on Tuesday, discussion took place regarding the past history of interim manager Jerry Walker at his last job as city manager of Walled Lake. Walker is close to becoming village manager in Holly, following a background check and contract negotiations.

In his interview last week, Walker said he left the position of Walled Lake city manager in early 2008 for mutual reasons. Walled Lake City council member Casey Ambrose spoke to the council about his experience with Walker. Walker was present at the meeting.

President Jeff Miller made it clear he wanted written proof from Ambrose of the information that would be given during public comment, against Walker. “If it’s not in writing, it doesn’t exist,” he said. Ambrose agreed to supply documents supporting his statements. As of this report, none have been supplied.

“As far as his management style that we experienced in Walled Lake, it didn’t fit with the direction we were going, nor did we believe the financial background was there,” Ambrose told the council.

Ambrose said the decision to push Walker was made because of a change in leadership on the council and a lawsuit against the city by Oakland County because of an issue with the Walled Lake Downtown Development Authority (DDA). Ambrose said he feels that Walker had responsibility in the suit concerning the DDA, while Walker said he was acting under the direction of the (Walled Lake) city council.

Walker’s statement was validated by Walled Lake Mayor Pro Tem Monica Lasnau, according to Walled Lake City Council meeting minutes from Dec. 7 2007, “The things that happened were a result of the council’s decision.” Lasnau said, “The County did not look at Walled Lake because of anything Jerry Walker did.”

Walled Lake City Mayor William Roberts expressed support for Walker in a letter recommending Walker for the position of village manager in Holly. “In November 2007, with the election of a new council, Jerry Walker talked about leaving. I urged him to stay, both publicly and privately to stay.”

At the Nov. 20 Walled Lake City Council meeting, seven residents of Walled Lake acted upon rumors of Walker being forced out, and voiced support for Walker during public comment. The Holly Village council member who most wanted information about Walker delivered in a public forum was Pauline Kenner, who also voted against making him village manager, and gave him the lowest score in his interview last week. Council members Sandra Kleven, Tom Clark and Don Wingelmore also wanted information about Walker’s past.

Following the testimony from Ambrose, public comment was peppered with statements from residents who felt the public forum about Walker was inappropriate. “I would like to know who created all this crap,” said Shirley Campbell, mother of Council member Jackie Campbell. She then challenged Kenner directly, asking who initiated this meeting with Ambrose from Walled Lake.

“I had some people call me from Walled Lake, and then I got some other numbers,” said Kenner. “I wanted some people to have some awareness,” said Kenner.

“Oh, you succeeded there,” said Shirley Campbell.

After the meeting, Kenner felt that her aim to raise awareness about Walker was achieved. She said she does not expect the information Ambrose discussed to impede Walker’s hiring.

Currently, the personnel committee is waiting for confirmation of Walker’s personal references, and his background check has thus far come up clean, save a speeding warning when he was 17, said Miller. His academic records have checked out.
Rare coin collection returned to rightful heir

By Sharon Stone

It’s been nearly eight years, but a Fenton woman has finally been reunited with a collection of rare coins, owned by her late father.

The coins had been held in a property room at the village of Holly Police Department following an arrest of a man in April 2003. The property was held for safekeeping since the man arrested on the warrant could not prove ownership.

Patrol investigator Julie Bemus was recently appointed property room custodian for the police department. While conducting several follow-up investigations and auditing items in the property room, she discovered the coin and paper currency collection.

Bemus researched the collection and found that it had been seized during a warrant arrest of a man who had committed several larcenies and home invasions.

Detective work led to the return of a collection of coins, some rare and dating back to ancient times, back into the hands of the original owner’s family.

Protect your roof from winter damage

By Sally Rummel

Ice may be beautiful to look at, but they are the first sign that winter’s ice and snow may be causing damage to your roof. If icicles do form on your roof, you’ll want to take steps to remove them from gutters and downspouts—keeping a path open for melted roof snow to leave the roof before “ice dams” are formed.

Ice dams occur when snow melts on the roof above a warmed attic, and water from the melting refreezes at the colder roof edge and sofitt, according to Steve James of The Stain Shop in Linden. As the ice dam builds, the water from the melting snow begins to “pool” behind it, eventually working up under the shingles and possibly entering the attic, causing damage to the roof, ceilings, walls and contents of the home.

While it’s important to remove the ice and snow load from the roof to avoid this situation, James advises homeowners on what not to do. “Don’t use a hammer.

At the end of the day are you having problems with restless, tired legs?

The symptoms of this unsightly condition include symptoms such as:

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Don’t worry — I’ve got it handled

A recent e-mail sent by a royal reader made me realize that it’s time someone took charge of the things that are being grossly mishandled by our wasted, faceless, spineless, incompetent government. Effective immediately, I’ll handle it.

• Free Housing — I’ll handle it. All government housing will be located in military barracks. The current active soldiers will move into newly built, nicer facilities, thereby opening hundreds of thousands of dwellings for welfare housing. All residents will keep their free housing clean, spotlessly maintained and in good repair. All housing will be subject to random inspections by drill sergeants for any abuse, drugs, tobacco, or alcohol. If you can afford any of those, you can afford your own home. Any violation results in eviction. No excuses, no exceptions.

• Medicaid — I’ll handle it. First, no more abortions. In addition to being murder (does ‘thou shalt not kill’ ring a bell?), abortion is counterproductive to the process of accountability for one’s actions. If you are pregnant and test positive for drugs, nicotine or alcohol at your mandatory monthly screening, you forfeit all ‘benefits’ — immediately and permanently. No excuses, no exceptions.

• Food Stamps — I’ll handle it. No more cash. But, you will get vouchers good for bulk bread, rice, beans, sugar-free cereal, cheese and powdered milk. Nothing can be ‘purchased’ that is not on the approved list. No more cigarettes, Pepsi, Twinkies or pork rinds.

• Aid to Dependent Children — I’ll handle it. Maximum two children to any married couple. A third child results in forfeiture of any and all welfare ‘benefits’. If you can’t feed ‘em, don’t breed ‘em. The father of any child must be identified on the birth certificate in order to obtain any ‘benefits’. No excuses, no exceptions.

• Unemployment — I’ll handle it. Every citizen who has worked will earn a total of 52 weeks of unemployment once every decade. If you do collect unemployment, you will report to a government job three days a week (cleaning parks, building roads, painting public property, etc.) That will leave you two days a week to find a job. Late for your government work, or miss a day? No problem — no check for that week (it will count against your 52 weeks, though). No excuses, no exceptions.

• Free — I’ll handle it. Any instance of fraud results in instant loss of any government assistance for life. No excuses, no exceptions.

• Logic — If, while accepting any given help, you ask yourself: ‘can I configure a Wii, XBox, HD TV, or show up with a new tattoo or body piercing — all ‘benefits’ end immediately. If you can afford those, you don’t need us. We’re in, in any form, is a choice. All choices carry consequences. If you and I are to pay for someone else’s bad choices, then we should set the system up so that they learn the value of making good choices. The current system does just the opposite.

Don’t worry, I’ve got it handled.

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TEA PARTY PEOPLE are the silent majority who see the destruction of this country and have the guts to speak up. History shows the majority who witnessed the destruction of Germany and Russia allowed it, by doing nothing.

TO THE LADY who feels violated at the airport, don’t fly. It is not a God-given right. It is a privilege and a choice. The rest of us would prefer to be safe.

I WOULD LIKE to thank Jeremy for stopping to pull me out of the ditch on Rolston Road on Tuesday, Jan. 11. He would not take any money for helping me. I just wanted to thank him in public. Unfortunately, I didn’t get his last name.

CAN’T HELP BUT laugh at every ego-boosting, rear-wheel-drive sports car in the ditch or leaning on the trees this winter. Buying a winter car along with your sports car in Michigan is just common sense. You don’t look cool waiting for the tow truck, but you do look cold and late for work.

TO THE PERSON who was traveling 15-18 mph on Grange Hall Road during the snow showers, you really need to either get some good tires for your car or stay home. No excuse that you can’t afford it. If you can’t afford the right tires or even a good car for the weather, stay home. You endanger everyone else on the road. Call for a ride if you must go out.

THE TRICOUNTY TIMES constantly bashes liberals, but never compares their record and accomplishments to conserva- tives. Name one conservative bill that has helped the working man, the poor, the unemployed and the needy.

THERE ARE STILL good people in Fenton. Andy, you make two old women socal happier and safer. Thank you for shoveling our drive and God bless you always. Thank you.

THIS IS AMERICA, I should be able to do what I want in my own home and in my car.

IS THE UNEMPLOYMENT rate so high because people don’t want to work? Is it re- ally because they really like making half the money they made while working? If people prefer layoffs, why are there six people applying for one job? Who left all off of all those who were working in the first place?

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What features are you looking for in your next vehicle?

“I like bare bones. I live on a gravel road. Ponder windows and such are just something else to go wrong.” — Carl Estes Tyrone Township

“I’d like a GPS. It also needs to be easy to get in and out of.” — Carolyn McGrew Fenton

“Good gas mileage, I just leased a Malibu. I liked the looks of it. My wife likes it.” — William Blinka Holly

“Safety. We just had a baby. It needs to be bigger and handle really well in bad weather.” — Matt Roach Fenton

“Heated seats are the greatest thing ever. It needs to have good visibility, and I’d like Bluetooth capability.” — Laura Baniaronto Ortonville

“The vehicle should be solid, not ‘plastic’. I’d like comfortable seats, temperature control, and seat warmers.” — Nancy Korch Linden

**Compiled by Sharon Stone, Staff Reporter**
Coyotes, other critters, causing problems at Fenton water plant

By Anna Troppens
atroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Fenton — The man who caught an alligator swimming in Lodsdell Lake in 2005 is living trapping wildlife at Fenton’s water treatment plant. Mike Lowe, of Wildlife Management and Rescue, hasn’t encountered any alligators at the plant, but he has caught and relocated many other “critters.”

Since September, Lowe has caught and relocated four foxes, 12 woodchucks, two skunks and three raccoons. In addition, he live trapped and released four domestic cats.

One of the wildlife problems at the water treatment plant is coyotes, Lowe said. These animals are moving into the treatment plant area, and there are apartment complexes nearby. Small pets could become targets of the coyotes, if the coyote situation becomes out of control.

In addition, burrowing animals could create potential for failure of the banks containing lime sludge, said Stephen Guy, operator in charge at the plant. The treatment plant is an attractive area to animals because of low traffic, no predators and nearby food sources.

Fenton City Council has approved spending $2,500 for a year of animal control at the treatment plant, from Wildlife Management and Rescue, of Linden. The price includes live trapping, relocation of animals and demolition of their dens. If council opts for a second year, Lowe said he would discount the price for the second year by $1,000.

Councilwoman Cheryl King said the city should notify those who have dumpsters, to shut the lids so animals can’t jump in. City Manager Lynn Markland said he would talk to Fenton’s code enforcement officer about it.

Lowe live traps the animals and any wounded ones go to a state-certified wildlife rehabilitator, he said. He must report to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE) on certain animals he captures, and what happens to them. There are animals the DNRE counts, such as foxes and coyotes.

“The alligators, they don’t,” he said.

Contractor: Garbage and recycling programs to remain the same in Fenton

By Anna Troppens
atroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Fenton — After 20 years, the city has changed its garbage collection contractor. The switch from Waste Management to Republic Waste Services has gone well, Assistant City Manager Michael Burns said.

The change began Tuesday, Jan. 4. There are no changes to Fenton’s garbage collection and recycling services, Burns said. Republic Waste Services — a national firm — has different recycling programs in other areas. But, it is not making any changes to the materials Fenton residents can recycle. Information residents might have read on Republic Waste Services’ website about certain plastics refers to the firm’s national program.

The new contract is for three years, with options for renewing it after the first and second years. The change in contractors will save the city $65,000 over three years, officials have said.

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LAW SUIT
Continued from Front Page
According to the complaint, Amenson claimed Harvey made unwelcome comments that were sexual in nature. The complaint stated that the unwelcome conduct and communications created an intimidating and hostile work environment for Amenson.

The complaint also claimed that Amenson was discharged from her position as lieutenant of the fire department by the fire chief and Argentine Township on July 6, 2009. It stated that she was discharged from the fire department for not reaching the fire run count, yet a male firefighter who had a lower run count, remained employed.

In October 2009, the board of trustees declined to renew Harvey’s contract as fire chief. Prior to that Harvey had been placed on paid administrative leave, pending the outcome of a criminal investigation by the Michigan State Police. No charges have been filed.

Cole said the township has been paying more than $100,000 in annual insurance premiums with its past carrier. Burnham and Flower, The township was required to pay the $25,000 deductible to the insurance company.

The township has recently switched insurance providers and is now insured by Nickel and Saph, said Cole. Premiums still exceed $100,000 annually, however, Cole expects that amount to decrease since he believes this was the last lawsuit to be resolved involving the township.

Amenson said she is glad to have this behind her. During the depositions, Cole and the current fire chief, Jim Reid were very encouraging to her. “They want me to come back,” she said. “They made me feel very welcomed.”

Not wanting to put any negative light on the fire department, as a whole, Amenson said, “I miss all those people. The guys have been phenomenal and like family to me.”

Amenson said, after taking care of her legal fees, she donated some of her settlement money to local churches and the fire department at Christmas time when they provided gifts to local residents in need. Now, she is focusing on establishing a horseback riding program for handicapped individuals.

Clerk Denise Graves said the township’s insurance provider indicated that the township’s premiums are expected to decrease since the last of the settlement was resolved. Township employees don’t have a contract, as they did in the past. All employees are at-will employees, meaning their employment can be terminated without breaking a contract. “We have to protect the taxpayers,” she said.

News Briefs
Public hearing set to discuss possible road projects
The Fenton Township Board of Trustees is holding a public hearing on Monday, Jan. 24, to discuss local road improvement projects for this year. Residents are invited to provide input as to potential projects, which may include improvements to previously paved or unpaved local roads. The hearing will be held during the board’s regularly scheduled meeting.

Council seeks new council member
The Linden City Council is seeking resumes from any person interested in serving on the council to fill a vacancy. The person would be replacing Patti O’Dwyer, who recently resigned. Qualifications for office include being a resident of the city and a registered elector of the city. Those interested are to submit a resume and cover letter to Clerk Martha Donnelly, PO Box 507, 132 E. Broad St., Linden, MI, 48451, no later than 5 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 31. Questions should be directed to Donnelly or City Manager Christopher Wren at (810) 735-7980. A sub-committee of the Linden City Council will be reviewing the resumes and interviewing candidates to make a recommendation at its Feb. 14 meeting. It appointed, the individual would be in office to finish the remainder of the term, which ends Nov. 2011. That person would then have to submit nominating petitions to fill the remainder of the term, November 2012. The deadline for filing nominating petitions is December 23. A November election is set for 5 p.m. on May 10.

The UPS Store in Fenton open on Martin Luther King Day
The UPS Store, 17195 Silver Parkway in Fenton will be open on Martin Luther King Day, Monday, Jan. 17, providing residents with a convenient alternative to the post office, which will be closed for the holiday. Regular business hours are Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Holly Village to improve dispatch system
Following presentations by Interim Police Chief Sft. Michael Story, the Holly Village Council voted to improve the Holly Police Department dispatch system. A new digital recorder equipment. This machine records all local air traffic from police and fire, and calls that come into the station. The equipment broke down in the middle of October. Former Police Chief Rollie Gackstetter had contacted vendors for a replacement. Currently, Holly police picked equipment from Advanced Wireless. Story negotiated for a lower price, and was given a one-year lease agreement for the new digital recorder will cost $15,487, which will be paid for with a combination of funds pulled from various places in the police budget, and money from the DOA.

Holly Dispatch coordinator position
In an effort to fill the role of Holly Police emergency dispatch center coordinator, Interim Police Chief Sft. Michael Story will begin interviewing the four current dispatchers at The Holly Police Department, following a motion by council. A current dispatcher would become the “conduit” between the dispatchers and the supervisors at Holly. This would streamline the operation, and conduct training for the other dispatchers. The coordinator would still be a dispatcher and have increased responsibilities, and 5-percent more pay. The dispatch coordinator position will take effect in March, following an interview.

Sunday liquor sales hearing date set
The hearing date for the proposed liquor sales in Holly Village is set for Tuesday, Feb. 8, at 7 p.m. at council chambers, during the regular village meeting. Clerk/ Treasurer Susan Nasser will invite each liquor license holder in the village to attend.

Public hearing on possible changes to fire buildings
The Fenton Township Board of Trustees will hold a public hearing on Friday, Feb. 11, at 9 a.m. to discuss possible changes to fire buildings in Fenton. The hearing will be held in the Community Room at the Fenton Township Civic Center at 7:30 p.m.

Council seeks new council member
The Linden City Council is seeking resumes from any person interested in serving on the council to fill a vacancy. The person would be replacing Patti O’Dwyer, who recently resigned. Qualifications for office include being a resident of the city and a registered elector of the city. Those interested are to submit a resume and cover letter to Clerk Martha Donnelly, PO Box 507, 132 E. Broad St., Linden, MI, 48451, no later than 5 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 31. Questions should be directed to Donnelly or City Manager Christopher Wren at (810) 735-7980. A sub-committee of the Linden City Council will be reviewing the resumes and interviewing candidates to make a recommendation at its Feb. 14 meeting. It appointed, the individual would be in office to finish the remainder of the term, which ends Nov. 2011. That person would then have to submit nominating petitions to fill the remainder of the term, November 2012. The deadline for filing nominating petitions is December 23. A November election is set for 5 p.m. on May 10.
MAN CAUGHT STEALING ROAD SALT
At 6:18 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 9, a Holly po-
lice officer was sent to the old bus garage on Elm Street to investigate a call. Accord-
ing to police, the caller said a white male, driving a black pickup truck, was stealing road salt. The responding officer spotted the sus-
spect vehicle and initiated a traffic stop at Cogshall and Sherman streets.
The driver said he had been at a store and was heading home. Upon more question-
ing, the driver said he stopped by the bus garage to get a couple small boxes of salt. He said he had done it several times in the past. A computer check of the man revealed he had an outstanding arrest warrant. He was taken back to the police station and turned over to the sheriff’s department the next morning.

DOMESTIC ASSAULT
At 6:55 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 7, a Holly po-
lice officer was sent to a home in the village of Holly to investigate a domestic assault complaint. A female resident called 911 to report that as she was driving to work, she learned that one of her sons had assaulted another one. The woman wanted the older brother arrested. The older brother admitted to assaulting his brother. He was arrested for domestic violence and trans-
ported to the police station for booking.

TORCH STOLEN
At 1:50 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 4, a trooper with the Michigan State Police Groveland Post was sent to an address in the 3300 block of Grange Hall Road in Holly Town-
ship to investigate a larceny complaint. The complainant owns tractor-trailers and parks them on his property in an unsecured lot. He uses torches to work on the trucks.

HOT LINE CONTINUED
ROSE TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS should take a look at the auditors’ report for this year. Several deficiencies that were reported in 2008 and 2009 are still not corrected. The list is too long to be ig-
ored. We have elected officials drawing big salaries and we have to hire outside sources to do the work. Residents need to start attending board meetings.

WEEK AFTER WEEK, Foster Childs an-
noys the liberals with the truth. Week after week the liberals complain and demand his firing. Week after week, the liberals show their true censorship colors.

IT WOULD BE nice if they would remove the curbed peninsula, as you turn right into the Alpine parking lot in Linden. What’s the point of that being there? Also, the planter by the cemetery is smashed, again. Time for a barrier of some kind.

He hid a torch underneath a truck before Christmas and when he returned on Jan. 4, the torch, valued at $450, was gone. The windshield of a Ford tractor had also been shot at.

COPPER FITTINGS STOLEN
The Michigan State Police Groveland Post received a burglary, forced-entry com-
plaint on Jan. 4. Troopers responded to the address in the 3300 block of Grange Hall Road, near Fish Lake Road in Holly Township. The complainant said the break-
in and theft occurred on Dec. 31. A work crew discovered that a fence had been cut in two places. Once inside the fenced area, suspects broke into three trailers. They stole copper fittings, valued at $2,000, used for plumbing from one of the trailers. The case is open pending further investigation.

WOODEN BEARS STOLEN
On Jan. 7, the Michigan State Police Groveland Post received a larceny com-
plaint from a 50-year-old female resident in the 3800 block of Rolling Hills Drive.
The victim said she left her home at 2 p.m. When she returned at 3:30, she noticed that someone had taken her carved wooden bears, planters and bench. Troop-
ers observed fresh tire imprints in the snow and took photographs. The large bear was described as 5 feet tall, 600 pounds, and valued at $2,500. Two small 2-foot planters and a bear bench were also missing. Area police departments were notified to be on the lookout. Those responsible pulled up to the house in a full-size truck and loaded the items into the bed. The case remains under investigation.

RUNWAY LOCATED
At 12 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 4, a trooper with the Michigan State Police Groveland Post responded to an elementary school on Milford Road for a report of a student running away. The 10-year-old student was eventually located.
MOLD
Continued from Front Page
Since that time, the Voss family has been living in the basement of the Linden home of Dana’s mother and stepfather, Donna and Greg Hehn, trying to pick up the pieces of their own lives, while warning others about the dangers of mold. “I wouldn’t want anyone else to have to go through what we have,” said Adam.

The Voss family moved into a rental home last March in Grand Blanc. The Voss’s settled into their daily routine of work—Adam as a machine setter at TDM International in Flint, and Dana as owner of WP Latchkey in Grand Blanc—plus taking care of their three children, Jenna, 4, Noah, 3, and Connor, 1.

In June, Noah began showing the first signs of illness, with vomiting and diarrhea on top of the asthma problems and celiac disease he had already had since he was born. “We took him to the doctor, thinking maybe he was sick from wheat allergies by eating the wrong food at a babysitter’s or something like that,” said Dana. “Then, Jenna started getting sick, and then I did, too, all with severe stomach pain.

Once they started getting sick, the illnesses never stopped. “Every three days, you knew you’d be getting sick,” said Dana, who got sick enough to go to the hospital, along with Jenna and Noah. While Adam didn’t get the stomach pain the rest of the family had, he experienced difficulty breathing, even with no history of asthma. Dana even had to shut down her childcare business for a while, because of her family’s illnesses, and spent her days at the doctor’s office, testing for parasites, water contamination, etc.

But, it was the youngest child, Connor, who became the sickest. “He was diagnosed by the doctor with failure to thrive,” said Dana. “He was losing weight, not growing and still not walking.”

As a last resort, the Voss family’s doctor suggested testing the air. When Dana put out a dish to test for mold, it literally sprouted all over the dish. “The doctor said mold could cause all of the symptoms shown by the family except for vomiting—unless they had been ingesting mold. “We had no idea how bad it was,” said Dana. “All of a sudden, mold came breaking through the walls, and the landlord hired Clean Air Management, an air quality company out of Chelsea, to do some testing.”

It turned out the situation was much worse than originally thought. Underneath the house, the crawl space was literally filled with standing water, brimming with black toxic mold. The house’s heating ducts weren’t sealed, which is why the Voss family was so sick. “That’s why we were all throwing up,” said Dana.

“The heating ducts were pulling wet mold spores throughout the house. “When we found out on Nov. 24—that the day before Thanksgiving—from the company’s Mold & Moisture Survey that the mold was all over the house, our furnishings, our clothes, bedding, etc. it was the most stressful day we’ve ever had.”

Jim Kukalis, president of Clean Air Management, agreed that they had a pretty serious problem, more than a typical mold problem. He said that mold is a huge issue with foreclosed houses, because many of them have been vacant for long periods, with no power.

“The vast majority of mold problems result from crawl spaces and basements,” said Kukalis. “It’s especially a problem with duct work running through crawl spaces and floor slabs, especially if you have a high water table. Humidity tends to grow mold and bacteria.”

Since evacuating the house in November, the Voss’s have returned to their former residence only to pick up paperwork for taxes, bills, etc., which are scanned, and then immediately shredded. They have also returned to their general good health, for which they are most grateful. “The doctor has told us that Connor has already gained weight and is no longer diagnosed with ‘failure to thrive,’” said Dana. “He still doesn’t weigh what he should, but the doctor said he’ll get back to normal.”

Adam just went into the home this past week, fully suited in a hazardous materials suit, protective gloves, etc. “Everything in the house has been ruined, including appliances we had bought for the house, new furniture, all of our family’s clothes, even all of the Christmas gifts we had bought for the kids,” said Adam. “We even had to destroy the clothes we wore on our backs when we were leaving the house.”

They’re still hoping to salvage some of the outdoor play toys not apparently harmed by the mold, such as a white swing set, a trampoline and swimming pool.

Thankfully, the Central Church of the Nazarene on Bristol Road in Flint has stepped up to help the family. College-age students, as do all the Villa’s party for the Voss kids at the church, bringing some much-needed joy back into their lives. A church benevolence fund provided money for the Voss family to each get a new costume and a pair of shoes, in addition to other clothing.

The Great Wolf Lodge in Traverse City sent a new “Penguin Daisy” to Jenna, whose original souvenir stuffed animal from a family vacation had to be discarded. This sentimental stuffed animal had been purchased for Jenna during therapy she underwent after a burglary at the Flint home, their living in at the time. The Great Wolf Lodge was so touched by the Voss’s story that they sent another “Penguin Daisy” to Jenna, plus two outfits for the stuffed animal. “It was way beyond what we ever expected,” said Adam.

Some of the other losses aren’t so easily replaced. Medical bills amounting to more than $22,000 plague this young family, as do all the bills for the household goods they can no longer use.

But, there is some good news on the horizon for the Voss family. They’ll be moving into a new home in a few weeks, knowing the couple who currently lives there. “We’ve had our angry moments about this situation, but we’ve also been blessed with much support,” said Adam. “We’re glad to be healthy again and out of that house.”

The best defense against purchasing or renting a foreclosed home with mold problems or any other defect is a good quality home inspection, according to Patrik Welty of Legacy Realty in Fenton.

For about $250 to $300, a good home inspector will go through a home from top to bottom, and can detect a sign of moisture in a home. Mold is everywhere, but when there’s water infiltration and building materials are saturated, then it becomes an environmental issue.
**MOST READ**

**Midweek stories**

Stories originally appeared in the Wednesday, Jan. 12, 2011 Midweek edition and can be read online at [www.tctimes.com](http://www.tctimes.com)

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**Lupus related to rheumatoid arthritis**

Dr. Donohue gives his expert opinion.

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**DVDs & Movies**

Short write-ups on DVDs and movies released this week.

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**CITY OF FENTON**

Fenton detective honored for investigation of $356,000 theft

Fenton Det. Scott Townsend helped when no one else would. For his work investigating the theft of $356,000 from an area resident, Townsend received the Departmental Meritorious Service Award from Mayor Sue Osborn at Monday’s city council meeting.

See complete story at [www.tctimes.com](http://www.tctimes.com)

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**STATE OF MICHIGAN**

U.S. Census numbers are in

Although Michigan was the only state to lose population since 2000, local communities show population increases according to 2009 estimates. Fewer residents points to lower federal funding and one less U.S. representative for Michigan in the 2012 election.

See complete story at [www.tctimes.com](http://www.tctimes.com)

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**MOST POPULAR MIDWEEK**

**HOT LINE**

“SHOP LOCAL. KEEP it local. Don’t we want our 911 service kept local, too?”

---

**Right up my alley**

Davisburg Elementary School first-grade student Lilly Hejhal, 6, releases the bowling ball during her physical education class with Ryan Snodsmith Monday afternoon. Lilly has spina bifida, and uses braces to walk, and a wheelchair. This ramp lets her bowl with the rest of her class.

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**Fenton orchestra going strong**

Since September, the Fenton Community Orchestra has grown from just a dream of two women to a full-fledged orchestra with more than 60 musicians. In December, the orchestra performed its first concert with 52 of its members on stage.

See complete story at [www.tctimes.com](http://www.tctimes.com)

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**Fenton Right to Life, Genesee Right to Life & St. John’s Respect Life are holding a Candlelight Vigil**

Saturday, January 22 at 6:30 pm

St. John the Evangelist Parish
Main Sanctuary
600 N Adelaide St.
Fenton, MI 48430
810-629-2251

Fenton Right to Life, Genesee Right to Life & St. John’s Respect Life are holding a Candlelight Vigil Saturday, January 22 at 6:30 pm. See complete story at [www.tctimes.com](http://www.tctimes.com)

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GIVE KIDS A SMILE
February 4, 2011 is GIVE KIDS A SMILE, a day designated by the American Dental Association for participating dental offices to reach-out to local area children in need. I am again, the local chairperson for the Genesee District Society for this year’s event. We have over twenty dental offices in and around Genesee and Oakland counties participating in this year’s GIVE Kids A Smile day. We are offering teeth cleaning, exams, x-rays, fluorides, sealants, fillings, etc FREE OF CHARGE for kids without insurance. Last year the dentists of the Genesee District Dental Society saw over 350 kids and donated a total of $65,000 in free dental care during GIVE Kids A Smile. Dental decay is the number one preventable disease found in children. If left untreated, dental decay can lead to pain, sleep deprivation, malnutrition, and potential life threatening infections. This is why the American Dental Association promotes GIVE Kids A Smile. My dental team and I have donated our time for Give Kids A Smile for almost ten years now. The kids are great patients; happy to be seen and the time for Give Kids A Smile for almost ten years now. The kids are great patients; happy to be seen and the
Continental Dental Society saw over 350 kids and
A Smile day. We are offering teeth cleaning, exams, x-
radio, fluorides, sealants, fillings, etc.

COIN
Continued from Page 3A
Up until recently, the rightful owner of the coin collection had never been found. While sorting through the coins, Bemus found a membership card from 1966, for a numismatic association. The card listed the member’s name and membership number. In checking with the association, Bemus was able to obtain more information regarding the owner, however, the owner had since passed away and his home was vacant.

With her leads exhausted, Bemus shared the information at a newly convened monthly cross-jurisdictional meeting hosted by Holly police. With assistance from Trooper Val Dakin from the Michigan State Police Brighton Post, the original owner’s next of kin, a retired teacher living in Fenton, was located and contacted.

The Fenton woman, who did not want to be identified, said Trooper Dakin came to her house on Jan. 3. She had no idea why the state police wanted to speak with her but invited the trooper in to find out the reason for her visit.

The Fenton woman’s father passed away in 1987 at the age of 72 and her mother passed away in 2005 at the age of 87. When Bemus ran out of sources to find the coin owner’s next of kin, Dakin looked into death records, which led her to identifying the Fenton woman.

“I was shocked,” said the woman. “I knew he had a collection. We didn’t know what was left.”

Since the woman’s family never filed a police report on the missing coins, she realizes it made it much more difficult for police to track down family. “That card in the box led to us,” she said.

“I was so impressed. They took so much trouble to get them to us.”

The woman said each of those coins has a story and some date back to ancient times. She said her father was a captain in the Air Force in World War II and traveled the world. When he visited foreign countries, he made a point of collecting a few coins.

Finally having the coins in her possession, the woman said her three children are very excited to see and learn about their grandfather’s collection. She added that the next step is to sort through all the coins and have them appraised.

HOT LINE CONTINUED
I want to give big thanks to teachers everywhere. I would like to especially thank the wonderful teachers in Linden. My kids are at Central and Argentine, and I rest assured knowing they are with great people everyday. Mrs. Topham, Mrs. Burke, Mrs. Melbel, Mrs. Finney, Mrs. Sommers, Mrs. Schmidt, Mrs. Kraft, Mrs. Denise and Mrs. Lunn are awesome. All the ‘specials’ teachers are the best, too. You all are so appreciated.

WHEN TRYING TO catch Florida, the lost dog, you must be patient. Have on hand some cut up hot dogs and sit quietly. If you spot her, let the smell lure her to you. Do not look, talk, or touch her, no last moves. Feed her little pieces at a time. If she gets close enough, hold her by her harness. Hope people in the area where she was spotted leave her food, water, doghouse, and hay.

TO THE PERSON who says the Times runs too many comments from the right, just the opposite is true. They print far too many comments from the left.

Dental dams and professional services offered by a company like ours, that specializes in roof care during the winter season.

Ice dam prevention can also start from “the inside out” — with homeowners making sure that their home’s attic insulation is at least R-30, which will keep an attic cool and dry on the underside of the roof deck to discourage the rapid melting of snow.

Another method to prevent ice dam formation is with the use of heat tape put on the roof on the first two to three feet, so that the ice won’t “back-up” into pools that form ice dams.

Protecting your home’s roof from winter damage can even start in the fall months, by cleaning leaves, sticks and other debris from the gutters and down spouts — allowing the melting roof snow to flow into the gutters and down spouts, as they were designed to do.

“A lot of people aren’t aware of the potential damage that winter’s ice and snow can cause,” said James. “Just a few easy preventive steps can make the difference between a roof that works as it is designed to do or a roof that collapses under the weight of snow and ice damns.”

DDA
Continued from Front Page
include lighting, landscaping and irrigation, said DDA Director Michael Burns, also assistant city manager.

It would provide LED lighting improvements for the roadway and pedestrian traffic, he said. The irrigation work would support the new landscaping.

The original plan was to spread the cost between two fiscal years. There is $300,000 in this year’s DDA budget for the project, which Burns believes the DDA will carry over into the upcoming budget year.

The project would begin after July 4 and Fenton’s annual Freedom Festival activities and fireworks. In addition, administrators do not expect the construction to last long enough to impact Thanksgiving shopping, he said. And, the entire road will not be shut down as it was for the Silver Parkway paving project. Instead, there might be intermittent lane closures.

In addition to aesthetic improvements for Silver Parkway, the DDA will consider approving a marketing plan for the city. The proposed plan, by New Moon Visions of Milford, is very proactive and includes the “Get closer” tagline, Burns said.

The DAA meeting begins at 6 p.m. at Fenton City Hall.
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Real Estate For Sale .......... 15
Resort Property ............... 18
Rooms/Apts. For Rent ....... 23
Manufactured Homes ......... 17
Special Occasions ........... 61
Music For Sale ................ 70
Sporting Goods ............... 50
Lawn & Garden For Sale .... 41
Truck/SUV’s For Sale ...... 8b
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LINDA THISTLE

Letter Box

Place a letter in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 3x3 box contains all of the letters listed above the diagram. When completed, the row indicated will spell out a word or words.

ANSWERS BELOW

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New Home for the New Year. Great 1,568 sq. ft. home, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, fireplace, $750/month. 810-714-1200.

Note: If you made more than $600 in miscellaneous or self-employed work, you should have a Form 1099 for that. Remember that a copy of each one goes to the IRS, so don’t leave any out.

David Uffington regrets that he cannot personally answer reader questions, but will incorporate them into his column whenever possible. Write to him care of The New Year, PO Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or send e-mail to columnreplies@gmail.com.

Run Mano

GO FIGURE

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: * * * Moderate ** Difficult

ANSWERS BELOW

123456789

ANSWERS BELOW

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

ANSWERS BELOW

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

ANSWERS BELOW

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

ANSWERS BELOW

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

ANSWERS BELOW

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ANSWERS BELOW

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ANSWERS BELOW

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2011 LOCAL ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

The Flint Township Board will conduct a public hearing on January 24, 2011 to discuss local road improvement projects for 2011. Citizens are invited to provide input regarding potential projects, which may include improvements to paved or unpaved local roads. The hearing will be held in conjuction with the board’s regular meeting on Monday January 24, 2011 beginning at 7:30 p.m.
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AFFORDABLE PRIVATE CARE - 24 hour care, lovely Linden home for senior woman. Private room, home cooked meals, in room cable and phone, medication management, facilitate doctor visits, laundry/lines, hair/nails, assisted bath/grooming. Serenity/peace of mind. Call for appointment. 810-397-0549. CARE PROVIDERS! Husband/Wife team can help you no matter what your needs are: We will take you to doctor appointments, pick up your prescriptions and other shopping. We will dispense medication, do light housekeeping, meal preparation, or just stop in daily to check on you. We can help you daily, weekly, or occasionally. Overnight stays can also be arranged. We are experienced and CPR certified. 810-735-5910, 810-513-1646, 810-265-6814. References from past satisfied clients.

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Lisa Branham
810-922-0543

TYRONE TOWNSHIP PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR BOARD MEETING TENTATIVE AGENDA JANUARY 18, 2011 – 7:00 P.M. (810) 629-8631 The regular meeting will recess after Roll Call for a public hearing.

PUBLIC HEARING
Review of the proposed Jayne Hill Farms Subdivisions 1, 2 and 4 Waste Removal Project (2011) Special Assessment District.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA
Regular Board Meeting Minutes – January 4, 2010
Treasurer’s Report
Clerk’s Warrants & Bills

COMMUNICATIONS
#1 Revenue & Expense Report ending December 31, 2010.

NEW BUSINESS
#1 Resolution #110103 Approving project details and directing the Prepara
tion of the Special Assessment Tax Roll for the Jayne Hill Waste Collect
ion Project.
#2 Resolution #110104 Filing Special Assessment Roll, Scheduling Second Public Hearing, Issuing Notices and Ratifying Previous Actions for the Jayne Hill Waste Collection Project.
#3 Request of township engineer firm to reduce the Park Lane Road Im
mprovement Project retainers.
#4 Request of Hartland Senior Center for budgeted funds.
#5 2010-2011 Budget Revisions.

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
“Most real estate companies are charging additional fees above and beyond their commission these days. They are also sending you to title companies that charge you too much for their services. In many cases they get a kick-back from the title company. With Legacy…. It’s simple. No additional fees, no excess charges by the companies we work with….Just the best Advertising and Service around…..period.”
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
UPON SPECIAL ASSESSMENT RATING FOR THE
TYRONE TOWNSHIP JAYNE HILL FARMS SUBDIVISION NO. 1, 2 AND 4
WASTE REMOVAL PROJECT (2011)
SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN:

(1) The Township Board of Tyrone Township, Livingston County, Michigan (the “Township”) in accordance with the laws of the State of Michigan, will conduct a public hearing beginning at 7:00 p.m., local time, on Tuesday, January 18, 2011, at the Tyrone Township Hall, 10408 Center Road, Fenton, Michigan, to review the following proposed special assessment district:

TYRONE TOWNSHIP JAYNE HILL FARMS SUBDIVISION NO. 1, 2 AND 4
WASTE REMOVAL PROJECT (2011)
SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT

and to hear any objections thereto and the proposed project.

(2) The project (the “Project”) will consist of establishing a single waste hauler for the following roads in the Jayne Hill Farms Subdivision No. 1, 2 and 4 in Tyrone Township: Farmhill Drive, Orchardview Drive, Carl Drive, Armesbury Court, Greenview Drive, Woodstock Drive, Hillsbury Drive, and Manchester Drive. The Project is designed to serve the properties in the Special Assessment District (the “District”), which District consists of the properties located within the area designated on the map attached at Appendix I and includes the specific properties that are identified by the permanent lot and parcel numbers described in Appendix II.

(3) The Township plans to impose special assessments on the properties located in the Special Assessment District to pay for the costs of the Project.

(4) The plans and cost estimates for the proposed Project and the description of the District are now on file in the office of the Township Clerk for public inspection. Periodic redeterminations of the cost of the Project may be made, and subsequent hearings shall not be required if such cost redeterminations do not increase the estimated cost of the Project by more than 10%. Any person objecting to the proposed Project or the proposed District must file his or her objections in writing with the Township Clerk before the close of the January 18, 2011 public hearing or within such additional time (if any) as the Township Board may grant.

This notice is given by order of the Tyrone Township Board.

Dated: January 4, 2011

Keith L. Kremer
Tyrone Township Clerk

APPENDIX I • Map of Special Assessment District

APPENDIX II • Special Assessment District Permanent Parcel Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parcel Numbers</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>47-04-01-100-032</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The Journey of Learning is Important
Charly Stockwell Academy Prepares You for What’s Ahead

OPEN ENROLLMENT now being held for FALL 2011. Beat the lottery! Openings now in September Kindergarten and Early Elementary Classrooms.

A Charly Stockwell Academy education puts students on course for success in college, career and life. The rich and diverse education programs will spark your child’s intellect, creativity and enthusiasm for learning.

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(810) 632-2200 www.charschool.org
Students to perform 'Hairspray' at Lake Fenton High School

Outside the Box Theatre Guild, a Fenton-based theatre company, will be performing Hairspray on Jan. 20, 21, 22, and 23 at 7:30 p.m. The show will be held at Lake Fenton High School, 4070 Lahrning Rd. in Fenton Township. For more information on Hairspray or future productions, please visit www.otbtheatre.com.

GUNMEN

Continued from Front Page

the four masked men forced their way into the home.

The residents said one of the white men and the black man were holding black, medium-sized pistols.

The intruders restrained the residents and ransacked their house. They stole jewelry, electronics and an undetermined amount of cash. The suspects fled from the house toward North LeRoy Street, where they drove away from the area in two dark-colored vehicles. One vehicle might have been an older model Impala and the other was a Grand Prix.

During the home invasion, the intruders stole the cell phones of both residents. One cell phone was recovered off North Road.

The suspects were described as being between 25 and 32 years old. One of the white men was described as being about 5-feet, 8-inches tall and weighing about 300 pounds.

If anyone witnessed suspicious activity near this area, or has information about the suspects, they are to call the Fenton police at (810) 629-5311.

Punctual occlusion for dry eyes

Having “dry eyes” is a very generic term. Dry eyes are actually a symptom, not a diagnosis. The cause of the scratchy dry feeling can be from decreased tear production, an oil deficiency in tears or from a type of protein deficiency in tears.

The best treatment for a significant “dry eye” is punctal occlusion. This is when a very tiny plug is inserted in the tear drains located on the eyelid. This procedure keeps your own tears on the eye longer than normal so that you can get more use of your own natural tears instead of using artificial tears. The procedure is very technical, but non-invasive. No shots are necessary, only a simple eye drop. It is also completely reversible.

Artificial tears are great for certain mild cases of dry eye, but not all are created equal. I cater the type of drops to the type of tear deficiency. Some drops can make your dry eye even worse.

Dry eyes can also be caused by several eye lid problems. The majority of these problems require simple procedures that are done at home, are quick, and don’t hurt.

Have Your Eyes Examined Annually.
The domestic automakers have returned, healthier and with a renewed vigor, to the North American International Auto Show (NAIAS) after a couple of lean years. Both General Motors and Ford were awarded top honors.

General Motors won North American Car of the Year with its revolutionary Volt electric vehicle and Ford took the top truck spot with its all-new Explorer. Although Chrysler did not win either competition, its Grand Cherokee and Durango SUVs were both Top 3 Truck finalists — a fine showing in anyone’s book. The awards are unique in the United States because, instead of being given by a single media outlet, they are awarded by a coalition of 49 automotive journalists from the United States and Canada, who represent magazines, television, radio, newspapers and web sites. See AUTO SHOW on 5B

GM wins car of the year with Volt

The Chevy Cruze engine is made in Flint.

The new Chevy Volt won International Auto Show Car of the Year.

Study: Misuse of child safety seats can lead to serious injury

By Anna Troppens

Motor vehicle injuries are the leading cause of death among children in the United States. Yet, many of these deaths are preventable.

Placing children in age- and size-appropriate car seats and booster seats reduces serious and fatal injuries by more than half. Child safety seats reduce the risk of death in passenger cars by 71 percent for infants, and by 54 percent for toddlers ages 1 to 4 years, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) report.

A sticker on the car seat has instructions for proper use, weight limit, model number and the date of manufacture. The Genesee County Health Department (GCHD) advises caregivers to check new and used seats for maker recall.

See SAFETY on 4B

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By Chris Harbowy • news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

The Ford Explorer is the North American Truck of the Year.

The all-new 2012 Ford Focus is larger and sleeker than previous models.
HUGE Indoor Liquidation Sale

January 20th – 24th
Thursday, Friday, Saturday & Monday: 9am-9pm
Sunday: 10am-6pm

• over 1,000 vehicles to choose from
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$14.95
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MEGALOT
Linden Rd. @ Corunna Rd. • PatsyLou.com

*Maximum dealer participation: $500 toward the purchase of any new or used vehicle during this sale with approved credit. See dealer for details.
CC & Co. Salon celebrates new location with open house

By Sally Rummel
news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

It has been 10 years since Cynthia Thomas and Cindy McAberrns first opened the doors of CC & Co. Salon in Fenton, and they’re celebrating their new location with an Open House Friday, Jan. 21, from 5 to 7 p.m.

Now located at 415 Rounds, across from Fenton Fitness & Athletic Center, this local salon has not only made a move, but has also added several new services to its extensive menu. In addition to staff barbers, cosmetologists, make-up artists and nail technicians, CC & Co. Salon has added massage therapy, an aesthetician (skin care specialist) and popular, long-lasting Baby Lix.

“Regardless of the services you choose, you will know that our staff is always at the leading edge of the beauty industry and is committed to excellence,” said the salon owners, who have worked together for more than 25 years.

CC & Co. Salon was established in 2001, with its first location next to Mann’s in Fenton.

The entire staff is looking forward to the festive nature of this Friday’s open house, which will include many give-aways, raffles and refreshments. “We’re excited about giving away free 30-day gym memberships to Fenton Fitness & Athletic Center,” said McAberrns. “Make sure and stop in so you’ll have a chance to win.”

Other giveaways will include free beauty product samples, mini-facial, haircut specials and more.

Salon hours are Monday through Thursday, from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For more information or to make an appointment, call (810) 750-0166, or visit CC & Co. Salon on Facebook.

Financial Plus Credit Union earns 5-star superior rating

Flint-based Financial Plus Federal Credit Union has earned the highest rating for strength and stability from Bauer Financial, Inc., the nation’s credit union rating firm. Earning Bauer’s coveted 5-Star superior rating in the most recent quarterly rating, Financial Plus Federal Credit Union is one of the strongest credit unions in the country, excelling in such areas as capital adequacy, delinquent loan levels and profitability.

specialty program has been a lot of debate recently about how much capital financial institutions should have on hand,” explained Karen Dorway, president of Bauer Financial. “That has never been a question here at Bauer. As a leading capital cushion, like Financial Plus Federal Credit Union has, can make all the difference in an economic crisis. With 27 years to back us up, Bauer has always worked on the premise that ‘capital is king’. I am sure Financial Plus Federal Credit Union’s members will agree.”

Financial Plus President and CEO Jill Reno said, “We work very diligently to take good care of our members’ money, and this rating tells us that we are doing things right. We’re financially sound, well-capitalized and have a passion for taking care of our members — it’s the perfect combination.”

Financial Plus Federal Credit Union is a member-owned, not-for-profit financial institution serving more than 42,000 members in Genesee County and the surrounding area. Established in 1952, it now operates through five conveniently located offices in Flint, Swartz Creek, Fenton and Grand Blanc.

Customers say ‘yes’ to VG’s new rewards program

By Sally Rummel
news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

“Driving value” for customers is the driving force behind VG’s new “yes Rewards” program, which debuted last Sunday after a four-week pilot program with VG’s own associates.

“People have had to make tough choices in this economy,” said Brian Haaraoja, senior vice president/general manager of VG’s Grocery Eastern Division. “What this program offers is a chance for local shoppers to save money at the grocery store, while still enjoying VG’s quality and customer service — the two things VG’s stores are best known for.”

Changing the advertising “start date” to Sundays, rather than Mondays, is another way VG’s officials said they are responding to customers’ needs. “People don’t want to wait until Monday to take advantage of all the specials they read about the paper,” said Haaraoja.

“yes Rewards” has been launched with a one-million points sweepstake contest, running through March 19. Every time customers use their “yes Rewards” cards, they are entered to win, according to Haaraoja. There will be more than 800 total sweepstakes winners, with prizes valued at more than $5,000 in free groceries.

In addition to offering savings on groceries and pharmacy prescriptions, “yes Rewards” also offers shoppers an opportunity to earn points, which they can redeem for free grocery items or reduced prices on select items throughout the store.

What sets this customer loyalty program apart from others is that it saves customers money, not only on groceries, but also in VG’s pharmacies, fuel stations and specialty programs like their Baby, Milk and Caucus Clubs. “It’s all encompassing,” said Haaraoja. “Our No. 1 purpose in starting this program is to drive value for our customers.”

By selecting products from a list of more than 60 available each month, customers can earn free groceries by shopping with “yes Rewards.” They can also earn 50 points with purchases of $50, 100 points with $100 purchased and 150 for all purchases of $150 or more. There are also fuel discounts with every $50 in purchases, redeemable at four fuel locations — two in Fenton and one each in Howell and Waterford.

Customers are also rewarded with double points for e-mail members, plus e-mail notices twice a week outing free products and discounts.

This program reflects what is happening in society, with more and more emphasis placed on health and wellness. With “yes Rewards” available at VG’s

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How to sign up...

Stop in at any VG’s store location and sign up using the in-store kiosk or online at www.vgfoods.com. Customers can also sign up to receive e-mail notices of specials, in-store promotions and special events, plus receive more rewards points through e-mail.
SAFETY
Continued from Page 1B
Child restraint systems are often used incorrectly, the CDC states. A study found 72 percent of nearly 3,500 observed car and booster seats were misused in a way that could be expected to increase a child’s risk of injury during a crash.
Instructions provided by the GCHD include, always use the car’s safety belt to secure the seat and never place a child in front of an airbag. Replace and destroy car seats that have been in a crash. Infants 20 pounds or less should sit in an approved rear-facing infant seat. Center the seat in the back seat of the car. Babies who weigh more than 20 pounds can use a convertible seat. The seat can face forward once the child is 12 months old. Children under 12 years of age should be in the back seat.
Pull the car seat straps snug around the child’s shoulders, allowing one or two fingers to fit beneath. The plastic clip holding the harness straps should be at the child’s armpit or mid-chest level. Be sure the seat sits level on the back seat.
A child may be too large for a car seat, but too small for seat belts alone. Children who weigh more than 40 pounds can use a booster seat. A booster seat sits the child higher so the car seat belt fits properly. Booster seats have straps that secure the shoulders and fit over the pelvic area (not the stomach).
MICHIGAN’S CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY LAW REQUIRES:
• Children younger than 4 years must ride in a car seat in the rear seat if the vehicle has a rear seat. If all available rear seats are occupied by children under 4, then a child under 4 may ride in a car seat in the front seat. A child in a rear-facing car seat may only ride in the front seat if the airbag is turned off.
• Children younger than 8 years or shorter than 4 feet, 9 inches must be properly buckled in a car seat or booster seat.
Source: Michigan State Police
For the latest news on safety seat recalls, contact the National Highway Traffic Safety Commission at 800-424-9393 or the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission at 1-800-638-2722.

SAFETY
Continued from Page 1B
Store’s 13 pharmacy locations, customers can take advantage of free, select diabetic, antibiotics and prenatal vitamins, plus about 300 $4/$10 generic medications, “You can shop while you wait for your prescriptions,” added Eddie Garcia, director of pharmacy at all VG’s pharmacy locations. “Each qualifying prescription also earns a customer 25 ‘yes Rewards’ points.”
There are also a number of free or very low cost health screenings that take place at VG’s throughout the year — from bone density testing to cholesterol checks, diabetes health checks, shingles prevention, flu shots and more.
The “yes Rewards” program takes care of computing points and savings, even letting customers now at the register when they’re entitled to something free. VG’s customers can also participate in the “yes Rewards” programs at many Glen’s Spartan Store locations. “We’re trying to continuously enhance the program that we offer so that’s it’s relevant for everyone,” said Haaroja.

YES
Continued from Page 1B

SAFETY
Continued from Page 1B

SAFETY
Continued from Page 1B

SAFETY
Continued from Page 1B
Saturday, Jan. 22
A candlelight memorial service for the unborn will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 22, at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Fenton. That date will mark the 38th anniversary of the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion in the United States. The interfaith service will include a candlelight procession from the church to an outdoor monument that commemorates the 50 million unborn children who have died in America through procured abortions since the court decision in 1973.

AUTO SHOW
Continued from Page 1B
Now entering its 23rd year as an international event, this year’s show features more than 500 vehicles on display, including some of the automotive world’s most eagerly anticipated vehicle premieres. With many industry analysts predicting gasoline prices will exceed $3.50 per gallon, this year’s show has a clear focus on improved fuel economy. Some of the vehicles with remarkable fuel economy on display at the show include:
• Chevrolet’s high-tech Volt electric vehicle
• Nissan’s pure electric Leaf
• The Chevrolet Cruze Eco with its incredible non-hybrid, segment-leading, 42 mpg
• The new 40 mpg Hyundai Elantra
• Ford Focus EV pure electric vehicle
Parking for the auto show should not be a problem since the Cobo Center is one of the People Mover route stops. The cost is 50 cents per person. Nearby parking is available in the following lots:
Joe Louis Arena
900 W. Jefferson • 6:30 a.m. - 11 p.m.
Cobo Roof Deck
625 W. Congress • 6 a.m. - 11 p.m.
Millennium Garage
432 West Congress • 6 a.m. - 11 p.m.
Q
How do I properly care for a coin collection?
A
Whether you’re a new collector, or someone who has inherited a coin collection, being able to take care of your new coins is sometimes misunderstood. First and foremost, always remember that coins are basically antiques, and should be treated as such. Cleaning coins, like cleaning antique furniture, should be left to only the professionals, just because a coin looks dirty doesn’t mean that it is. Often silver coins tarnish over time just like sterling flatware, which can give them a dark or oddly colored appearance. This is completely normal, and should not be removed from the coin. The fact is if you keep the coins in a cool, dry place, and handle them only when you need to, they will stay in excellent shape for many generations. And always remember: Even if you are not wanting to sell your coins, it’s always a good idea to get an appraisal from someone you trust.

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Coupon good thru Jan. 31, 2011

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Coupon good thru Jan. 31, 2011

Yankee Votive Candle
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Southern Genesee County Sites
• NorthShore Market 16177 Seymour Rd., Linden/Argentine Township
• Linden Council Chambers 201 North Main St., Linden
• Gaines Township Hall 8655 Grand Blanc Rd., Grand Blanc
• Mundy Township Office 3478 Mundy Ave., Swartz Creek
• Grand Blanc Township Hall 5371 South Saginaw, Grand Blanc
• Grand Blanc Senior Center 1280 North Irish Road, Grand Blanc

Linden City Clerk Martha Donnelly said volunteers are also trying to reach out to those who may not actually be living on the street but have been displaced from their homes and are living with relatives or friends. Anyone who is homeless, or near home- less is encouraged to go to any of the sites listed (see sidebar) on the night of Jan. 26 between 6 and 9 p.m. Homeless individuals can also be counted by phone by contacting the Resource Genesee Hotline at (810) 767-0500 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Rick Harman and his family need your help
Last Spring (2010) Rick was diagnosed with Stage 4 Acute Myeloid Leukemia and is ultimately fatal. Rick’s only hope was a bone marrow transplant, which he received last September.

Unfortunately his body is rejecting the transplant and he continues to fight around the clock to live another day. Rick along with his wife Lori, and their two sons Sebastian and Collin reside in Fenton. The boys attend Fenton High School where they both play football and are very good students.

Rick is a true maverick by trade and is the sole bread winner for the family. At this time they have no money coming in and have been only granted $36 a month from Social Security.

As friends of the Harman’s we can continue to offer our prayers and encouragement during this difficult time. However, we can also help them financially! A fundraiser dinner has been scheduled for contributions to help offset their financial burden of uninsured medical and living expenses.

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The folks at Joseph Auto Sales & Service feature the new web site www.NeedMyCarFixed.com. The site is simple. You go on line, register your car click the things you want done and hit submit. You can even print your own repair order. The minute you hit submit, it generates the paperwork at Joseph and alerts the service manager, Dave Campbell, to contact you. It really could not be more simple.

Cheryl Luttman helped design this site with the main focus being the gals of the world. “We are the ones multitasking. We are busy, we work, we have kids, grandkids, places to go, things to do, people to see. This is 2010, well almost 2011, and we should be able to do this task online with very few clicks. Standing in line is wasting time” Luttman said.

All you need to do when you first register your car, is have your registration and know the mileage. That’s it. So, put the kids to bed, put the laundry in, maybe have that “toddy,” sign your car up, get $5 off your oil change, that makes it only $11.95, and get a free tire rotation. Don’t waste time this time of year. “So, while you take care of this, make sure ‘HE’ gets the sidewalk shoveled. lol,” She said.

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Helen Marie Pinkston
1920-2011
Helen Marie Pinkston - age 90, of Swartz Creek, died January 7, 2011. Services were held 1 PM, Monday, January 10, 2011 at Sharp Funeral Homes, Fenton Chapel, 1000 Silver Lake Road, Fenton. Reverend Hal Phillips officiated. Visitation was 4-8 PM Sunday, Helen was born April 2, 1920 in Fenton to John Mitchell and Mary (Judson) Mitchell. Helen attended Fenton Schools. She married John Pinkston in Holly, Helen was a homemaker and a member of South Mundy United Methodist Church. Surviving are 2 sons: Russell and wife Donna Pinkston of Swartz Creek, William and wife Mary Jane Pinkston of Grand Blanc; daughter-in-law, Betty Allmand; 8 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, John, son, John Jr.; brother, Jack. Tributes may be shared on the obituaries page at www.sharpfuneralhomes.com.

Brandon Rae Nicole Podeski, Brandon Rae Nicole Podeski - age 29, died January 11, 2011. Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes.

Bruce Gould, Bruce Gould - age 57, died January 9, 2011. Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes.


William McCarthy, William McCarthy - age 86, died January 9, 2011. Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes.

Trudy Fischer, Trudy Fischer - age 51, died January 12, 2011. Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes.

Jean Glozier, Jean Glozier - age 66, died January 14, 2011 surrounded by family at her home in Fenton. She is survived by her loving husband of 50 years William “Bill” Glozier, son Bill Glozier Jr., grandson Kael Glozier. Jean is also survived by 1 brother, 5 sisters, many nieces, nephews and loving friends. Mrs. Glozier retired from Fenton Extended care in 2005. A Funeral Service will be held Tuesday 11AM at Temrowski Family Funeral Home, 500 Main St., Fenton. Visitation will be Monday 3-8 PM. Share memories at www.temrowskifamilyfuneralhome.com.


Thomas Stauffer, Thomas Stauffer - died January 12, 2011. Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes.

Michael McLean, Michael McLean - age 43, died January 8, 2011. Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes.

Orville Crothers, Orville Crothers - age 100, died January 7, 2011. Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes.

Patricia Hoholik, Patricia Hoholik - age 73, died January 9, 2011. Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes.

Anthony Rust, Anthony Rust - died January 13, 2011. Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes.

Robert Harris, Sr., Robert Harris, Sr. - age 73, died January 13, 2011. Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes.

Judy Phipps, Judy Phipps - age 71, died January 14, 2011. Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes.

Deborah Wood, Deborah Wood - age 51, died January 9, 2011. Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes.


BY SAM MAZZOTA

paw's corner

Here’s how to take better pet photos

DEAR PAW’S CORNER: I have the hardest time getting a good photo of my Australian shepherd, “Session.” It’s not just that he’s hyper (Aussies just are), it’s that the photos generally turn out awful. Do you have any tips for photographing pets? — Harriet T., via e-mail

DEAR HARRIET: I also have a hard time getting just the right photo of my pets, so I feel your pain. But there are a few basic techniques for photographing animals that you can practice. Most of these are courtesy of Kodak, which still maintains picture kiosks where you can touch up digital photos if they don’t come out perfect.

• For active pets like Session, use a fast shutter speed along with a high ISO setting. If you’re using a small point-and-shoot camera you should still be able to adjust these; check your camera’s manual.

• To avoid those glowing or red eyes, don’t use the flash. An ISO setting above 400 is helpful in low-light situations. You also can compensate by using lots of natural light.

• A tripod to steady the camera, particularly in low light; this will reduce blurriness.

• Photograph your pet from its level, rather than standing above. Try shooting at different angles to see the effect.

• Keep the background simple, whether at home or at the park.

• Want a picture of Session running? Keep him in the center of the viewfinder and pan along with him as he runs. Snap the picture when he’s at an angle to you, not right in front.

• In a still portrait, focus on your pet’s eyes.

• Posing with your dog? The camera needs to focus on both of your faces along the same plane, so place your face close to Session’s, or hold him in a big hug.

• Finally, be patient with your pet. Let him get used to the camera, and don’t hold him in one place for too long. There’s always tomorrow for pictures, too.

Get more pet advice and information at www.pawscorner.com. Send your questions or tips to askpawscorner.com, or write to Paw’s Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.
**Social News**

**FIVE GENERATIONS**

Five generations pictured here are mother, Tabitha Jeffers (seated) holding 5-month-old Noah Smith, along with Yvonne Miller (grandmother), Marianne Slaughter (great-grandmother) and Marianne Putnam (great-great-grandmother).

**ENGAGEMENTS**

**Bellili-Lemke**

The engagement of Valerie Bellili of Holly to Scott Lemke of Ionia has been announced by her parents, Matt and Mary Bellili of Holly. His parents are Dennis and Dee Lemke of Ionia. The bride-elect is a 2003 graduate of Holy High School and a 2008 Central Michigan graduate. She is employed by Grand Blanc High School. Her fiancé is a 2002 graduate of Ionia High School and a 2007 graduate of Central Michigan University. He is employed by Big Communications in Ferndale. A July 2, 2011 wedding ceremony is planned in East Lansing.

**Peterson-Niedzwiecki**

Gary Peterson of Fenton and Kathy Peterson of Fenton are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Colleen Peterson of Grand Blanc to Jeff Niedzwiecki of Grand Blanc. His parents are Joe and Roslyn Niedzwiecki. The bride-elect is attending the University of Michigan-Flint and is employed by ReMax Grande. Her fiancé is a graduate of Ferris State University and is employed by the Genesee County Sheriff’s Department. An Aug. 6, 2011 wedding is planned.

**BIRTHS**

**Hungerford twins**

William and Sara Hungerford of Linden have announced the birth of their identical twin sons, Tanner and Chase. The twins were born Dec. 15, 2010 at Genesys Regional Medical Center in Grand Blanc. Tanner weighed 6 lbs., 3 ozs., and was 20 inches long. Chase weighed 5 lbs., 13 ozs., and was 20 inches long.

They have two brothers, Jacob and Christian. Paternal grandparents are Roger and June Hungerford of Sault Ste. Marie. Maternal grandparents are Ron and Lana Cotton of St. Ignace. Great-grandparents are Irene Hungerford and the late Gordon and Marie Storey, all of Sault Ste. Marie.

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**Vic Bond Sales**
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By Anna Troppens • Associate Editor

My name is: Ashley Kendrick.
I am: 17 years old and a senior at Fenton High School.
My parents are: Caryn and Cliff Kendrick. I have an older sister named Kaylee, and she is a freshman at Central Michigan University. My younger brother, Kyle, is a freshman here. And, I have a new half-sister; she’s 4 months old.
If I have learned one thing in life so far, it has been: to never let obstacles get in my way.
What I like most about my friends is: that they’re very supportive and always there for you when your family cannot be.
In my spare time, I enjoy: I love to play sports. I’ve been playing them for about eight years. And, I like to hang out with my friends. I’ve played golf, basketball and softball, but I currently just play softball.
The person who made the biggest impact on my life is: That would be my grandma. She has always been there. She’s always the person who takes care of me. She came from a family who had very little, and she still got a doctor’s degree. She’s been very successful.
What I like most about my school is: I love all the various programs and activities that they provide. I took a couple of IB (International Baccalaureate) Spanish classes, and I’m currently in the Captains Club. I’m in National Honor Society, and I’m part of Youth Advisory Council and sports.
What I remember about kindergarten is: If I do remember anything, it would probably just be having fun and enjoying life to the fullest.
Whom would you choose to portray you in a movie? I would say,

Rachel McAdams. I love all the movies she’s been in. She’s my favorite actress.
The advice I have for parents of teens is: always support what your child wants. Support all their goals and give them a little bit of independence, but not too much.
The advice I have for younger students is: never let challenges hold you back. Do what you want to do in life and what you want your career to be.
My favorite clothing is: probably jeans and a nice shirt, with a sweatshirt.
The nicest thing anyone ever did for me is: My friend Alena Smith moved in her sophomore year to Florida, and every year, I fly down for Christmas. They allow me to stay in their house for a few days. They always take me in as their own.
The one thing I am most proud of is: I’ve come from a financially burdened family, and I have just currently won the Horatio Alger scholarship. I’ve overcome a lot and gotten really far.
I want to be remembered as: a student who strives to always be successful and not let anything ever hold me back.
The food I cannot live without is: I don’t really have one, I guess chicken quesadillas.
My favorite television show: ‘Grey’s Anatomy.’

My postgraduate plans are: I’m going to Central Michigan, and I am pursuing a career as a physician’s assistant.
In 10 years, I see myself: with at least a bachelor’s degree and going for a doctorate, most likely, and having an internship at a hospital. I’m trying to work up to being a doctor, a surgeon. But, my main goal right now is just to be a physician’s assistant.

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Late goal leads Swartz Creek past Fenton, 4-3

By David Troppens
droppens@ctimes.com

Fenton — Three weeks after a 3-2 Metro League loss to Swartz Creek, the Metro varisty hockey team’s rebuilding squad has learned one thing — they can still compete with the top teams in the Metro League.

However, winning the title is going to come a bit harder than last year.

The good news about Wednesday’s contest with the Swartz Creek Dragons was that the Tigers bounced back from an early 2-0 deficit to take a 3-2 lead. They know they can compete with the squad. However, the bad news was while they learned they are pretty much the Dragons’ equal, they still dropped the contest. With just 29 seconds left in regulation, Creek’s Antonio Schipppono fought to the front of the Fenton net, took a shot and scored the game-winning goal, earning the Dragons a 4-3 victory at Iceland Arena.

The loss drops the Tigers to 3-2 in the Metro, while Creek jumped to the top of the standings with a 4-1-1 record. Chances are the Tigers will need to win the rest of their Metro contests to defend their Metro title. And even doing that won’t be enough. Creek will need to at least tie one of its last four league games so the Tigers can earn at least a tie. However, with the balance the league has been displaying this season, that’s a possible scenario.

“It was a tough loss,” Fenton senior T.J. Polakowski said. “We were come to seeGOAL on 15B

By Al Zipsie
droppens@ctimes.com

Clio’s varsity boys basketball team came back from its poor first half, and had its chance to pull out a win down the stretch. However, the Eagles were unable to complete the comeback resulting in a 43-39 loss at Clio.

Trailing 24-11 at halftime, Linden took its first lead since the first quarter on a Jack Plasters hoop with 2:25 left in the contest, at 39-37. The Eagles would not score the rest of the game.

During their last five possessions, they missed three free throws and had three turnovers. Leading 39-37, Max Lezni missed two free throws, and Clio answered with a converted free throw, cutting the gap to 39-38.

Clio’s Bryan Long put Clio ahead for good at 40-39 on a drive. Linden’s Brad Farthing missed a free throw with 28 seconds left. Farthing then came up with a steal, but lost control of the ball. The Eagles fouled Long with 7.3 seconds left, and he hit a free throw for a 41-39 lead. The Eagles got the rebound but turned the ball over again. “The Mustangs’ Ken Lenzi iced it with two free throws. “We had our chances, but it is a killer when you come up empty on your last five possessions,” Linden coach Denny Hopkins said. “We had a couple of turnovers and missed three free throws. We were awful in the first half and didn’t come ready to play for whatever reason. Hopefully we can learn from this.”

SUNDAY, JUNE 16, 2011

One up, one down for Fenton vs. Swartz Creek

Boys can’t match Creek’s intensity, drops home contest

By David Troppens
droppens@ctimes.com

Fenton — Anyone thinking the Fenton varsity boys basketball team would have a little separation between them and the rest of the Metro League at the end of Friday night was sadly mistaken.

The Tigers found out that last season’s other co-Metro champions, the Swartz Creek Dragons, are a major player in this season’s league race once again.

The Dragons came out with an intensity that the Tigers never matched during the 32 minutes of Friday night’s contest at Fenton High School resulting in Swartz Creek’s impressve 63-51 drubbing of the Tigers.

“We didn’t match their intensity, and it isn’t as though we didn’t know all week that the intensity would be brought,” Fenton coach Tim Seitz said. “They finished around the basket and we didn’t. They outrebounded us. They wanted this really bad. We have a target on our backs, and they came in and punched us in the mouth.”

The results put the two teams tied atop the Metro League with 6-1 conference marks. The loss was Fenton’s first this year, dropping them to 8-1 overall.

Clio was a team that commanded respect on the floor all night long. The Dragons scored the game’s first five points — the first three on a Joe Seitz three-pointer, and never trailed.

Fenton had just one rebound the entire first quarter, resulting in a 16-9 deficit after one period. And while the team struggled, so did the Tigers’ biggest star, Ryan Hickoff. Playing in his first game after sitting out of Monday’s Holly game due to illness, Hickoff struggled mightily all night long. He finished the first half with no points on 0-for-3 shooting. He also had three fouls and four turnovers. Overall, the entire game didn’t go much better.

He finished with a gash on one of his fingers that probably resulted in a trip to get stitches later Friday night and scored just six points on 3-of-11 shooting for the game. He also turned the ball over six times.

Creek’s lead grew to as many as 11 a couple of times during the second quarter, but Fenton was able to cut it to only a 34-29 half-time deficit after a breaking layup by Joseph Eddy.

The Tigers cut the gap to 34-31 on Hickoff’s first converted field goal — an eight-foot jumper, with 5:69 left in the third quarter, but Fenton never got any closer. It was still only a 41-37 lead after a driving layup by Hickoff with 2:01 left in the third, but Creek’s Max Cummings capped the quarter with a conventional three-point play on a drive and free throw. Creek also scored the first seven points of the fourth quarter, effectively icing the game with still half the period remaining.

Fenton trailed by as many as 55-34 in the second half, 15-7 in the third, and was down 43-39 at the start of the fourth.

“Everytime we got a little run...Fenton’s Ryan Hickoff (front) drives to the hoop. The Tigers lost to Swartz Creek 63-51 Friday night, with a conventional three-point play on a drive and free throw. Creek also scored the first seven points of the fourth quarter, effectively icing the game with still half the period remaining. Fenton trailed by as many as 55-37 in the second half, 15-7 in the third, and was down 43-39 at the start of the fourth.

Rivette scores 17 points in Tigers’ victory

By David Troppens
droppens@ctimes.com

Fenton — Gabrielle Rivette isn’t quite sure what her longest streak of converted free throws is in a game.

At least now she can remember making at 1 in a row.

Rivette scored a game-high 17 points, including 10-of-10 free throws in the second half, leading the Tigers to a 43-49 home victory against Swartz Creek Friday.

“Everyday in practice we shoot free throws a lot,” Rivette said. “You have to step up to the line, confident that you are going to make it. And that’s all you really have to think.”

The Tigers (6-1, 8-2) led the entire game, but it was always close. Fenton did extend the lead once. Leading just 33-31 in the second half, the Tigers went on an 8-0 run, raising the gap to 11. It started with two converted free throws by Rivette and ended with two more at the stripe.

However, that lead didn’t last long.

Creek connected with a 7.0 run to end the third quarter, cutting the gap to 31-27. The lead got as little as 11-29 on a putback hoop from Creek’s Corrissa Walk-er early in the fourth, but Fenton responded with another run.

Fenton’s Matt Hopper scored the game’s next four points, and Rivette hit a driving layup, putting Fenton up 37-29 with 4:14 remaining.

Creek cut the gap to 42-40 on a three-pointer by Gaby Deering with 46 seconds left, but Rivette missed two of her free throws seconds later.

Rivette had seven rebounds to go with her 17 points, while Sam Granger had six points, 11 rebounds and three blocks, Max-heimer and Alyssa Ostrowski also had six points.

Linden win streak ends at three, lose road verdict vs. Mustangs

By Al Zipsie
droppens@ctimes.com

Clio’s varsity boys basketball team came back from its poor first half, and had its chance to pull out a win down the stretch. However, the Eagles were unable to complete the comeback resulting in a 43-39 loss at Clio.

Trailing 24-11 at halftime, Linden took its first lead since the first quarter on a Jack Plasters hoop with 2:25 left in the contest, at 39-37. The Eagles would not score the rest of the game.

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Linden, Holly finish 2-0 at meet

By Al Zipise

dZipise@tctimes.com

Linden — The Linden varsity wrestling team picked the right time to take its first lead in a 37-35 comeback win over Clio Wednesday. The Eagles completed a Metro League sweep with that second win, after defeating Lapeer East 48-20 in the opener.

Linden trailed all the way until the night’s final match at 285. Cliff Coleman provided the heroics, as he needed just a decision with Linden behind 33-31. Leading 5-0 late, Coleman put an exclamation point on the victory with a pinfall with 23 seconds left in the final period.

“I planned on a pin instead of just a win by decision,” Coleman said. “My team is always there for me, and it was my chance to be there for them. I got the pin off a headlock. It wasn’t the first time it came down to me in the last match to win, but it felt great.”

“Cliff is only a sophomore, but he is the type of kid that likes the pressure situation,” said Linden coach Todd Skinner. “It keeps us close with one loss in the (Metro) league. They were huge wins over good teams. Lapeer East had a lot of forfeits but wrestled well when they had matches.”

Metro League leaders Holly (4-0, 13-2) stayed in first place as the Bronchos dominated over Fenton 72-5 and Lapeer East 65-12.

“Beating Linden last week, we are sitting good. We can compete with Oxford (who won the title in their last season), but it does open up the league,” Pluta said.

“Oxford is good competition and we still see them, but with them gone it gives us more of a chance to shine.” Holly wrestler Anthony Gonzales said.

“We were talking on the bus about the team district being one month from today,” Pluta said. “We are dropping from Division 1 to 2. We have a nice team and our goal is a trip to Battle Creek (for the team finals). Things can happen, and we will see where it ends.”

Holly’s Esteban Gonzales (130, 26-0) and Shawn Scott

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

The Linden varsity boys basketball team knew they were a better program than a year ago.

But through four games this season, it was hard to see that based on the record.

But in the last three games, the Eagles are starting to prove what they thought all along.

The Eagles got a game-high 31 points from Brad Farthing, leading to a 69-61 road win at Bloomfield Hills Lahser Tuesday night. The victory gave the Eagles three straight wins.

“We are just playing better at the end of the game. That’s the main reason,” Linden coach Dennis Hopkins said. “We are taking care of the basketball down the stretch.”

The Eagles took a 36-28 lead into halftime, but Andover cut the gap to 47-42 entering the final period. That didn’t matter. The Eagles responded by taking a double-digit lead for portions of the quarter. Farthing had a big quarter, helping see the victory.

“He got on a roll there in the fourth quarter. He hit three threes in a row and everything else we let it go through him,” Hopkins said. “He had a few layups in there, and he’s a decent free-throw shooter.

“I’m happy for the kids. They’ve been up in every game, which is nice and we are getting the most out of the kids in every game. They’ve been working pretty hard at it. We still have lots of improvement to make, though. We still get turnovers with the basketball, but we are getting better.”

Farthing also had eight rebounds and four steals. Kevin Baker provided 14 points, five assists and four steals. Plasters had nine points, while Garrett Callard had seven points and nine rebounds.

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

The Linden boys basketball team has won three straight games.

Linden’s Max Powell drives to the basket in a recent game. The Eagles entered Friday night with a three-game winning streak.

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TRI-COUNTY SPORTS

LF boys cruise past Mt. Morris, 56-36

By David Troppens
dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

Lake Fenton — The Lake Fenton varsity boys basketball team knows it has a decent number of players that can score. But that doesn’t mean that the immediate thought in their minds should be to shoot. It wasn’t on Tuesday, and it paid off big time.

The Blue Devils played selfless basketball, resulting in a 56-36 home victory against Mt. Morris.

The Blue Devils (2-2, 4-3) looked for the open man all night long, but particularly in the opening half. The results were a 31-point first half that included 12-for-22 team shooting from the field and nine assists on the 12 first-half goal fields. Meanwhile, the defense was pretty good as well. Only one Panther made more than one field goal in the first half, as the visitors hit on just 5 of 27 shots from the field in the first half. The combination of Lake Fenton’s selfless offense and strong defense resulted in a 31-14 halftime lead.

“It went well,” Lake Fenton senior Sean Canning said. “We were making most of our shots. We were passing the ball well. We were playing good defense and moving our feet. It was a good game.”

Canning had one of the best nights among the Blue Devils. He had a game-high 18 points, while collecting 10 rebounds and five assists. Three of those assists came in the first quarter, helping lead Lake Fenton to a 17-6 edge after the first eight minutes.

“It was selfless basketball,” Lake Fenton coach Matt Furey said. “We moved the ball well. We broke their press down and broke it easily. We got off to a good start early.”

The Blue Devils never trailed, and the game’s only tie came at 2-2. The Blue Devils led just 5-4 after Devin Evans assisted a Mitch Kirk layin with 5:02 left in the first quarter. That hoop sparked a run of eight unanswered Blue Devils’ points, including six off nice assists. Canning had two of those dishes — one to Kirk and the second to Spencer Quick on a base- ball pass downcourt, helping break the Panthers’ press. Lake Fenton took a 17-6 lead into the second quarter. The Panthers never got back in the game, trailing by as many as 47-16 after an Evans’ hoop midway through the third quarter.

After Canning’s 18 points, Quick had 13 points and Kirk had 11 points. Kirk also had five rebounds, three assists and two steals. Evans had four points and three first-quarter assists. He also played defense against Mt. Morris’ Jacob Roberts, holding him scoreless. Roberts averaged almost 18 points a game entering the contest.

“Devlin played great pressure defense,” Furey said. “He held their leading scorer, to no points in the game. That was a huge factor in allowing us to get into our transition, and playing the game our way.”

“Our defense went well,” Canning said. “We were moving our feet and helping out whenever we lost a man. We were doing good.”

Lake Fenton’s Sean Canning (right) scored 18 points in the Blue Devils’ 56-36 victory at home on Tuesday night.

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Lake Fenton girls mercy Mt. Morris, 63-17

By David Troppens

Lake Fenton — When Lake Fenton’s Sydney Scott went out of the Blue Devils’ varsity basketball game during the first half against Mt. Morris, one had to wonder where Lake Fenton could get some inside production. Apparently, that wasn’t much of a mystery. Another Lake Fenton sophomore, Makenzie Gottron, provided the answer. Gottron scored a game-high 21 points, while grabbing 11 rebounds and swiping six steals in the Blue Devils’ 63-17 thumping of the Lady Panthers at Lake Fenton High School on Tuesday.

“I guess I rebounded more than usual because Sydney got hurt in the first half, so rebounds were kind of my job and not hers in the first half,” Gottron said. “I was following my shots and getting more shots to get points, and our team played well. It wasn’t just me.”

“Makenzie did a really good job stepping up her game when Sydney wasn’t there,” Lake Fenton coach Dennis Lucius said.

One thing that certainly wasn’t just Gottron was the team defense. While she was a part of it, the entire cast of Blue Devils made it tough for Mt. Morris to get anything going. Mt. Morris made just eight field goals for the entire game and turned the ball over 35 times, just three less than times just the Panthers had field goal attempts. No Panther had more than Holly Craig-Hallman’s six points. Frequently, the turnovers resulted in transition hoops for Lake Fenton. The Blue Devils had 23 steals, scoring 17 points in transition hoops off those swipes. Paige Stafford was tied with Gottron with six steals, while Rachel Mundey had five steals. Madison Skinner had three.

“We were in the right places at the right times, and were helping each other on defense,” Gottron said. “We were rebounding and blocking shots. We just played good on defense.”

Lake Fenton (6-2) scored the game’s first three points and never trailed. The lead was just 3-2 after a hoop by Mt. Morris’ Craig-Hallman, but Mundy assisted a Kari Dick three-pointer, putting the Blue Devils up 6-2. The hoop sparked 15-0 run to end the first quarter, with Dick and Gottron having five points each in the first eight minutes of play.

Mt. Morris only cut the gap to as close as 11 points, at 21-10, but the Blue Devils finished the first half with an 11-0 run. Stafford started it with two converted free throws, and Gottron capped it with a 12-foot jumper. The Blue Devils led 32-10 at the half.

The Blue Devils had eight players score at least two points. After Gottron’s 21 points, Mundy had 11 points and Dick had 10 points. Skinner finished with seven points, and Scott returned in the second half, scoring six points while collecting 10 rebounds.

“It’s apparent the Blue Devils have something good with their two sophomore interior players — Scott and Gottron. “It’s good because if she doesn’t finish her shot, I can get it,” Gottron said. “And if I don’t finish my shot, she usually gets it. It’s good be able to play with her for two more years.”

The Blue Devils, certainly, never took the Panthers lightly.

“We talked about that before the game. I didn’t want them to overlook this game for the Durand game,” Lucius said. “We talked about taking care of Mt. Morris first and then we will worry about Durand.”

Lake Fenton’s Paige Stafford (left) drives to the hoop against Mt. Morris’ Courtney Burt in the Blue Devils’ 63-17 victory Tuesday.

GOAL

Continued from Page 12B

LITTLE EMPIRE

PETTITTE. We came back and scored three goals at the end of the first period. They got a couple of more lucky bounces on us.

“If we stay focused we know we are competitive and can play with anyone out there. We just have to stay strong.”

“Coach” Tim Polakowski said it — we can play with anyone,” Fenton coach Matt Krusniak said. “We’ve known that. We can play with anybody.”

Early on, it looked like the Dragons may blow the game open fast. Nick Webb scored on the game’s first shot on net and Derek Earl scored again with 8:48 left in the first period. Suddenly, the Tigers trailed 2-0.

However, the Tigers fought back fast. Ryan Fuller scored on the power play on a nice crossing pass from Ben Hackney, about three minutes later, cutting the gap to 2-1. Then, not long after killing a penalty, Kyle Foguth scored, tying it up at 2-all.

Then with 28 seconds left in the opening period, Tyler Delong scored on a rebound off of Foguth’s saved shot, giving the Tigers a 3-2 lead entering the second period.

Creek scored the tying goal with 12:51 left in the second period on Webb’s second goal off a cross from Derek Makimaa, but from there neither team scored again.

But it looked like Fenton had a prime chance to break that tie late. The Tigers went on the power play with 3:16 left in regulation and had a rebound chance by David Johnson just go wide with about 2:00 left. Creek was called for another penalty with 1:29 left, giving Fenton a two-man advantage for 13 seconds and what looked like it would be at least a man advantage for the rest of regulation.

However, a Tiger played the puck with a broken stick, creating a penalty just nine seconds later. That nullified much of the advantage and created a four-on-four scenario, setting up Creek’s final goal.

Polakowski likes his team.

“We lost a couple of good guys last year, but we are still staying strong,” Polakowski said. “If we stay focused, we know we are competitive and can play with anyone out there.”

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