White out!

Local DPWs put to the test battling predicted ‘blizzard conditions’

By Tim Jagielo

Without the Department of Public Works (DPW), just driving to the grocery store after a big winter storm requires a lot of guts, or a very capable SUV.

On Monday, the National Weather Service issued a winter storm warning for Southeast Michigan, including the tri-county areas of Fenton, Linden, and Holly, predicting possible “near blizzard conditions,” in some cases starting Tuesday night or Wednesday morning.

See WHITE OUT on 7

Argentine Township insurance premiums to skyrocket

By Sharon Stone

After Argentine Township was dropped by its former insurance provider over costly lawsuit settlements, township officials are scrambling to pay higher liability premiums with a new provider. This added expense prompted the board to tell the police department it has to wait on moving out of the township hall basement and back to its former building.

See INSURANCE PREMIUMS on 11

Aging community center needs work

By Anna Troppens

“The building is slowly becoming obsolete.”

Fenton — First, the numbers. The Fenton Community & Cultural Center (FCCC) was dedicated in 1938. It hasn’t had any major repairs since the ’80s. And the Fenton Downtown Development Authority (DDA) is paying $18,000 for a study on how to renovate it.

The DDA has $100,000 in its budget for the current fiscal year, said DDA Director Andy Rooney.

See COMMUNITY CENTER on 9

Fenton man arrested for possession of heroin

By Sharon Stone

Fenton — Michael Thomas Scott, 24, of Fenton, was arrested in Genesee County District Court on Jan. 30 on a two-count felony warrant for larceny from a vehicle and possession of heroin.

LT. Jason Slater, of the Fenton Police Department, said just before 12 p.m. on Jan. 26, Fenton police officers and members of the Flint Area Narcotics Group (FANG) went to an apartment in the 15000 block of Silver Parkway to search for a Fenton man for possession of heroin. While searching his apartment, thousands of dollars of stolen property was recovered.

See DRUG SEARCH on 6
Meet Christopher Iacobelli, M.D.

Credentialed at Genesys Hospital of Grand Blanc and McLaren Hospital of Flint

• 1999 graduate of Wayne State University School of Medicine
• 2001-2002 Chief Resident at Genesys Regional Medical Center in Grand Blanc
• 2009 Flint Journal “Favorite” of Genesee County

Practicing medicine in Fenton since 2002, Christopher Iacobelli, M.D., a resident of the Fenton area, is a Board Certified Family Physician and is well studied in all aspects of Internal Medicine and Pediatrics. He currently practices at Parkway Family Medicine, located at 17200 Silver Parkway in Fenton, and is still accepting new patients. When scheduling an appointment with Dr. Iacobelli, you can take comfort in knowing that he will be the one to see you, not another physician.

Dr. Iacobelli, unequaled in his diagnostic capabilities, provides a wide array of services right inside his office, including x-ray and laboratory. He also offers on-site diagnostic testing through National Diagnostics. All of these tests are read by Radiologists that were hand selected by Dr. Iacobelli and are specialists in each practical area of testing.

He works closely with specialists at all area hospitals, as well as those located at University of Michigan, Beaumont, Detroit Medical Center, Karmanos, Henry Ford Hospital and The Mayo Clinic.

Dr. Iacobelli is in the process of designing the Iacobelli Medical Center, a modern, state-of-the-art medical facility, which will allow him to care for his patients more efficiently with the most current technology available for decades to come. The Iacobelli Medical Center will be located in the Fenton area and is scheduled to open sometime in the Fall of 2011.

Dr. Iacobelli is still accepting new patients!
To make an appointment or receive information on becoming a patient, please call Melissa or Misty at 810-714-9660.

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Crazy Super Bowl commercials

> Advertisers pay big bucks to catch viewers’ eye Super Bowl Sunday

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

The Super Bowl XLV (45, for anyone who doesn’t speak Roman numeral) commercials should really resonate with the Motor City crowd. That’s because, many of them feature the hot cars we all wish we had.

Making the jump from a (insert make, model and year of your car here) to a brand, spankin’ new BMW, Audi, Chrysler, Chevrolet, Hyundai or Mercedes-Benz might be awhile away, but we can dream. These are just some of the hot wheels that will be featured in the Super Bowl commercials on Sunday.

See SUPER BOWL on 6

SHOWTIME!

2011 SCHEDULE
March 17-20 & 24-27
Over the River and Through the Woods
By Joe DiPietro

June 4-7 & 11-14
Anything Goes
Music and Lyrics by Cole Porter
A madcap farce set in the 1930s on an ocean liner bound for London from New York.
Anything Goes boasts a brilliant script, delightfully witty songs, and huge dance numbers.

Oct. 13-16 & 20-23
Escanaba in Love
by Jeff Daniels
Actor, musician and playwright Jeff Daniels’ eleventh play brings a touching, romantic comedy element to the rugged hunter-humor of Michigan’s favorite Yooper family.

Theater group gears up for exciting season

By Sharon Stone
stone@tctimes.com; 810-433-6786

The Fenton Village Players (FVP) are proving that, “Acting is the only way to run away without leaving home,” especially for those who reside in the Fenton area.

The theater group is embarking on a full and exciting season of productions and events. Nightly rehearsals have recently begun on the newest theatrical production, “Over the River and Through the Woods,” a comedy by Joe DiPietro. Performances are set for March 17-20, and 24-27.

Well settled in at their new digs on Torrey Road, community members are seeing firsthand, and supporting, the talent that abounds in this area.

Over the River and Through the Woods revolves around Nick, an American-Italian in New Jersey, and his family. He’s single and found his dream job. Unfortunately, for Nick, this means he would have to relocate across the country. In their effort to keep him in town, they plot by introducing him to Caitlin at dinner.

See SHOWTIME on 8

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Roman numeral)

CR A P T E R

TRI-COUNTY TIMES

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Features and News

SMART SOLUTIONS

1 Sweat stains?

Dissolve sweat stains on work shirts by combining 1 tablespoon ammonia and a one-half cup of water. Rub the yellow marks with a sponge soaked in the solution, then launder. Ammonia’s alkaline nature neutralizes stain-causing acids in sweat while dissolving unsightly oil and salt buildup.

2 Sticky plastic wrap

Never wrestle with plastic wrap again. Store cellophane wrap in the freezer. The cold air reduces the plastic’s static electricity so it won’t stick to the roll.

TRI-COUNTY TIMES

TIM JAGIELLO

Katie Carr, of Linden, reads the script of “Over the River and Through the Woods,” as Caitlin, with Chris Vitarelli as Nick, at the Fenton Village Playhouse in Fenton.

See TRI-COUNTY TIMES on 3
Blizzard of ‘74

Everyone has a storm story — if you live in the state of Michigan. Here’s mine.

I was driving back to Washington D.C. after spending my first Thanksgiving with my husband’s family, November 1974. I was seven months along in my pregnancy of my first-born son. There was a surprise baby shower for me on Sunday, which delayed our return trip home. By the time the shower was over it had started snowing. Not knowing familiar with Michigan winters, I wasn’t concerned.

As we were driving down U.S. 23, heading for the Ohio Turnpike the snow was coming down so fast you couldn’t see. My husband, a trained Michigan driver, was a little worried, but we kept going. It soon began to snow so hard that if the car in front of you stopped, everyone would get stuck, and the people behind you had to get out and push to get you going again. I kept thinking if we got to the turnpike (and out of Michigan), it would be OK. But, we didn’t make it that far. As we inched our way to the turnpike entrance, it seemed we were stopped to inform us that it had been closed.

The closest thing to us was a Big Boy restaurant. After after sitting in a car for seven hours looking so bad. We were hoping to find a hotel but everything was full as well as any emergency shelters that had been established. So, we spent the night at the Big Boy restaurant. In that condition, it was pretty uncomfortable, but it was warm and there was plenty of warm beverages and hot food.

The next day, we were able to get back on the road, and ran into a little car trouble. This was for me. We found a nearest hotel, where I fell asleep, exhaust-ed while my husband got the car fixed. That snowstorm was named the Blizzard of 74. With 14 inches of snowfall in Toledo, and 18 inches in Detroit, it was reported as the largest storm total snowfall since 1900.

If the weather predictions are correct, as you read this, we may be experiencing the biggest snowstorm of the winter (so far). Hopefully, you’ll be cozy and warm, watching it from your window.

Have a storm story? E-mail me at cedennis@tctimes.com.

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What are you doing to prepare for the storm?

“i’m doing grocery shopping early, instead of waiting.”

— stephen martin

“i just picked up eggs, milk and juice. i don’t believe it. we usually get half of what they say.”

— rich fannan

“i’m shopping ahead and getting ready for a snow day. i’m a hairstylist and if there’s nothing on the board, i’ll be home.”

— vanessa vivian

“I just bought two quarts of motor oil for our snow blower so we can get to work.”

— Roxanne ButeraKas

“I changed my hair appointment from Wednesday to Tuesday.”

— Cathie Killewold

“I’m coming to get supplies, junk food, formula for the baby, stocking up on comfort food.”

— Cheryl DownowRicz

Compiled by sharon stone, staff reporter

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Richard Rockman

Straight from the Shoulder

Compiled by Sharon Stone, Staff Reporter

Some content may be compiled from opinions expressed in other media. Some content may be adapted/obtained/reprinted from other news sources.
Back to the Bricks to visit Fenton
Would bring 300 to 500 cars in August

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

Fenton — It looks like Flint’s new Back to the Bricks Tune Up Party Week will visit Fenton, in conjunction with the city’s farmers’ market and concert series.

Mayor Sue Oshorn said the city council needs to give its official approval, after receiving a report from Fenton’s police chief and proof of insurance from event organizers.

The Back to the Bricks Tune Up would bring 300 to 500 cars to Fenton, Thursday, Aug. 11 — the same week as the Fenton chamber’s Taste in Fenton, on Saturday, Aug. 13, said Fenton Regional Chamber of Commerce President Shelly Day.

Councilman John Rauch said he supports the Tune Up coming to Fenton “100 percent.” Councilwoman Cheryl King agreed, saying she welcomes it with open arms.

Day said the chamber also supports it. Depending on how this year’s event goes, chamber officials hope the Tune Up can visit Fenton on the same day as the 2012 Taste in Fenton. The Back to the Bricks event itself will be in downtown Flint, from Aug. 16-20.

Hosting the Tune Up will require closing LeRoy Street downtown, Day said. The evening will begin around 5 p.m., City Manager Lynn Markland said.

Councilwoman Dianne North supports all of those types of activities, but she worries about closing Fenton’s streets so often. “After we have an event, everyone complains,” North said.

Police&Fire

WARRANTS SOUGHT

Lt. Jason Slater said Fenton police went to a home in the Jennings and Owen roads area on Jan. 27 to make contact with a 23-year-old Fenton man suspected of larcenies. Responding officers recovered items reported stolen from Tyrone Township, including a GPS stolen from a vehicle in November.

Investigators have learned that some of the items were being sold on Internet auction sites or taken to Flint area pawnshops. The 23-year-old man was taken into custody and transported to the police station. Police are seeking arrest warrants from the prosecutor’s office.

HOME INVASION

At 4:50 p.m. on Jan. 28, a Fenton police officer was sent to a home in the 14000 block of Appletree Lane to investigate a home invasion. Lt. Jason Slater said a 50-year-old woman said that between 7:30 a.m. and 3:45 p.m. someone entered her home and stole $1,200 in personal belongings, including several jewelry pieces. Police have not determined how the intruders gained entry since the woman reported that her teenage son unlocked a door when he arrived home. The case remains under investigation.

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DRUG SEARCH
Continued from Front Page

interview Scott, who was suspected of conducting drug activity.

Officers recovered a small amount of suspected heroin, found in his apartment. While questioning Scott, officers also

discovered thousands of dollars of stolen property. Slater said the items, mostly electronics and tools, were stolen from

vehicles in the area.

One GPS that was recovered led police to an address on Plum Tree Lane, said Slater. Officers recovered items that were

stolen from a second vehicle on Plum Tree Lane. Items stolen from the Plum

Tree Lane residents were returned to the rightful owners.

Area police departments have been advised of the recovered items and all efforts are being made to return the

stolen property to the rightful owners. Slater said residents who have had items

stolen from their vehicles, regardless of whether they filed a police report, should call Fenton police to identify their

belongings.

Scott was ordered to pay a cash surety bond of $10,000 on the larceny count and a cash surety bond of $5,000 on the drug count. He will be back in court on Feb. 9 for his preliminary hearing.

SUPER BOWL
Continued from Page 3

Kia also is featured. “’Mon, Kia?! We’re supposed to be dreaming here. Thanks for the cold, hard shot of reality, advertising people.”

On a lighter note, the Volkswagen commercials should be funny, with a black beetle hopping around the car to

the rockin’ tune of “Black Betty.” In the second Volkswagen spot, a youngster dressed in Darth Vader duds tries to use

the force on everything he meets, with only the 2012 Passat responding — thanks to his dad using the remote

ignition.

The Best Buy commercial promises to be entertaining, a space age tale

featuring Ozzy Osbourne and Justin

Bieber. Younger viewers will be screaming they have “Bieber fever,”

while older music fans will be excitedly trying to decipher whatever

Ozzy is mumbling about.

It will be a case of art imitating life as Kim Kardashian, stumping for Sketchers Shape-Up shoes, goes through yet another word as she works out — wearing the shoes, of course.

Building on last year’s Go Daddy Super Bowl commercial, racecar

driver Danica Patrick

will entice more men to skip a trip to the fridge in favor of viewing her commer-

cial. With Patrick in this year’s promotion is personal trainer Jillian Michaels, of reality TV fame. The two women direct

viewers to the Go Daddy website, where they say they do something they are reluctant — but contractu-

ally obligated — to do. It could be tricky finding the website, though; its address is GoDaddy.co, without the “w” at the end.

So, there’s your cheat sheet. Guaranteed, the water cooler talk next Mon-

day will include the game and the commercials, so

at least understand the commercials.

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DID YOU KNOW?

The estimated cost of a 30-second spot during this weekend’s Fox broadcast of Super Bowl XLV is $2.8 million

to $3 million.

Source: moneywatch.com

Animal commercials

• The perennial-favorite Budweiser Clydesdales will star in an Old West-themed plot.

• Sheep will drive the competitions’ cars in an ad for the Hyundai Elantra.

• The crazy Carebear chimpanzees should be funny, as they make life difficult for the only human working at their

company.

Any commercial with a bunch of monkeys and a failed business trip, weird fire safety drill and a “car sandwich” in the parking lot has to be hilarious.

LIKE YOUR NEW article by Andy Rooney. I look forward to seeing some more.

I’M JUST WONDERING why you never put anything in the paper about the Fenton Police Department. Apparently, they don’t do anything. There was a big thing on Worcester and North Road last Saturday, and I never saw anything in the paper about it.

WE NEED A flat tax rate in this country, so all citizens pay the same. The deductions should be the same for all. It’s the only thing that is fair.
WHITE OUT
Continued from Front Page

“Hopefully, the weather guys are wrong,” said Daniel Czarnecki, new director of Fenton’s DPW.

Behind the scenes, those responsible for keeping the roads clear were already preparing for the storm. In the cities of Linden and Fenton, and the village of Holly, the DPW is charged with keeping the roads passable and safe.

Summary
In anticipation of a large winter storm, local public works departments have prepared fleets of plow trucks to clear the roads.

Starting Monday morning, all three departments had checked over their plow fleet.

As the new DPW director, Czarnecki has only been on the job for a week. Work on Fenton’s nine-truck fleet started around 8 a.m. to ensure there would be no breakdowns. Plowing blades were checked, and Fenton’s 500-ton capacity bins of salt were filled.

Czarnecki is no stranger to bad weather conditions, having previously worked near Marquette in the Upper Peninsula, and said that the upcoming storm to him is pretty standard. He’s interested in seeing how the DPW crew works in the conditions ahead. “I’m kind of looking forward to it,” he said.

If the snow comes Tuesday night as predicted, plow trucks will start running after local police declare the roads impassable. The trucks will clear the main roads, the police station, schools, and then the roads to the highway.

Salt will be applied if the roads are clear and the snow has slowed. If temperatures below 22 degrees, sand is used for traction.

Roy Baird, of the Holly DPW, changes back-up lights on an underbelly scraper truck, after replacing its blade.

In Linden, DPW equipment operator Kevin Tyler clears piles of snow from the municipal lots, which are taken by dump truck to the nearby playground, and illegal plow piles are cleared.

Czarnecki said that during the storm, he may ride along with the plow crew, or will be available if needed. He said clearing the streets during busy driving times would be difficult.

“Give us time to take care of the roads the best we can. The more space and time they give us, the more we can serve the public.”
Daniel Czarnecki
Fenton DPW director

Tips from Michigan State Police

The Michigan State Police – Brighton Post offers these suggestions for preparing for the proposed snowstorm. With a winter storm predicted with proposed snow accumulation of 12 inches or more, along with gusty winds and drifting snow, driving conditions will be hazardous. These types of storms will tax state and county road-clearing abilities to the maximum. These storms will also tax public safety (police, fire, EMS) resources to the maximum, and response times may be increased due to hazardous roads and increased calls for service.

DRIVING TIPS

• If you don’t have to drive somewhere — don’t.
• If you must drive for emergency reasons, be prepared in case your vehicle becomes stuck or incapacitated.
• Wear warm clothes.
• Put a blanket(s), food, water, and first aid kit in the car.
• Make sure the cellular telephone is charged.
• If you need to run the car for heat — only run it for short periods.
• Extended running of vehicles while stuck in snow banks can cause carbon monoxide buildup in the car, which can lead to death.
• While driving give yourself ample response distance between vehicles.
• Travel at a speed that is safe, using due care and caution for the road conditions.

HOME

• Stock up on needed items — before the storm arrives.
• Be prepared for a possible power outage.
• Make sure you have fuel for a generator and snow blower.
• Have enough food for at least a few days. Electricity may be out, so be prepared to cook your food without electricity. If needed, or have meal plans that do not require cooking.
• Fill up water containers, in the event of power outages.
• Make sure you have enough prescription medications to last a few days.
• Keep a portable radio for news/weather reports, batteries for flashlights/radios and other battery-operated devices on hand.
• Using space heaters indoors can be very dangerous without proper ventilation.
• If you know or have a neighbor who may be in need — check on them to make sure they are doing OK.

Remember, we are in Michigan and our weather can change without much notice. Being prepared for weather emergencies can make a situation tolerable, rather than hazardous or deadly.

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Fenton Village Players

One Act Play Festival
Continuation — Cash Prizes
FVP is now accepting amateur
One Act Play scripts appropriate to
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postmarked no later than April 1.
Selected plays will be performed
at the Fenton Village Playhouse in
June, during the festival.

Fenton Village Players
www.fentonvillageplayers.org

How it all began…
Community Theatre began in Fenton
in 1939, when a group of aspiring
actors organized what they called the
Mimes Club. They performed numerous
programs and plays for more than a
decade. The group dissolved in 1950,
but was revived in its present form in
1972 as the Fenton Village Players.

SHOWTIME
Continued from Page 3
Laura Legant, producer of Over the
River and Through the Woods is thrilled
with the many exciting things going on
at the Fenton Village Playhouse. She’s
been involved with the FVP for many
years and said there is more going on now
than she has ever seen. “We are expanding
our three-show season to include a fourth
show,” she said.

The FVP has been presenting one-
act plays at the Fenton
Winery, several murder
mystery dinners, a
Cemetery Walk at
Oakwood Cemetery
each fall and an annual
Christmas show that
concludes with visits
with Santa Claus.

The FVP will be kicking off their latest
play with a Meet and Mingle party at
the playhouse on March 11. Afterglow par-
ties are also scheduled. “As you can see, we
have a lot going on at the Playhouse,”
said Legant.

Stephen Shelton plays the part of Nunzio
in the upcoming play. An attorney by day,
he’s been acting since high school and has
been a member of the FVP since 2005.

“As you usually do character roles, the
ones that require over-the-top stuff,
like accents,” he said.

For this play, he’s practicing his Ital-
ian accent. “Every American-Italian will
hate me for the way I’m butchering their accent.”
Past roles have included
accents as well. “I’m a
bit of a mimic.”

His latest character, Nunzio, came to the
United States from Italy. He met his wife 55
years ago and is always proud to tell their story
even though his version of the story is
different than what actually happened,
said Shelton.

Shelton agrees that the theater group is
flourishing. “It’s grown from a simple
stage, chairs and portable lights to
auditorium seating and a fully-loaded lighting and sound system. This sum-
mer, actors and guests will also enjoy the
newly installed air conditioning.

Having FVP here in Fenton is great, said Shelton. “It gives us something
special to be proud of.

“It puts Fenton on the map.”

ONLINE
Continued from Front Page

HOT LINE: IF PALIN IS PRESIDENT

“I will never want to move to Canada,
get started now because there is a two-
year waiting list. I know, because I checked
when Bush won a second term.”
— Jim

STORY: STREETER
FUNERAL HOME FIRE

“Such a tragedy about the Streeter Funeral Home.
The original starter of the business was my hus-
band’s great uncle, Louie Small. I know he would have hated to see this. Our prayers are with the Streeter family in their great loss.”
— Gloria W.

HOT LINE: BATTERY-
OPERATED VEHICLES

“Every time I hear a battery-
operated vehicles in cold weather and
overloading the grid, if you followed the
development of the tech-
nology for these vehicles
(like the Volt) you would
know that your concerns
were considered and have
been addressed. Batteries
are housed in a compart-
ment that is kept near the
optimum temperature during operation. Municipalities will have to consider over-
loading a grid, but recommendations to
restrict charging during off-peak usage
times have been recommended. It didn’t
take rocket scientists, just creative and
thoughtful engineers.”
— Jason

STORY: SILVER PARKWAY
IMPROVEMENTS

“My hat’s off to the Fenton DDA. A lot of
ideas and a lot of hard work go into making
the ideas into reality. I served on several
DDAs, and understand the time-consum-
ing, thankless job it is. Updating the park-
way is one of the best ideas. Thank you.”
— Larry
Wednesday, February 2, 2011

COMMUNITY CENTER
Continued from Front Page

Michael Burns. He doesn’t believe the entire amount will be used this year. In fact, the budget for the renovations hasn’t been determined yet. Fenton is waiting to see what historical architect John Dziurman says in his study of the building, which he’s been working on for six months. The study will be compiled very soon, Burns said.

Dziurman is researching how the building was, and determining what mechanical, heating ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) and electrical issues it has. In addition, the FCCC has issues with acoustics, windows and leaks.

Meeting Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements will be part of the work. The stairs coming into the front of the FCCC are a concern. In addition, the elevator in the building is in bad shape and “pretty much obsolete,” Burns said. “The building needs a restoration.”

An asbestos study, and an on-site lead paint test, has taken place. These issues are relatively minimal, he said. Most of these problems that need to be resolved can be addressed with by encapsulating the material, and it won’t need to be removed.

Dziurman’s report will go to the committee, which will give the information to Fenton City Council. The committee will begin developing a plan to restore the FCCC, which the Downtown Development Authority and the Community Center’s board of governors serve on the committee for the issue.

Summary

A study of the Fenton Community & Cultural Center, by historical architect John Dziurman, will show what renovations the building could use. Members of city council, the downtown development authority and the community center’s board of governors serve on the committee for the issue.

WHO IS ON THE COMMITTEE FOR THE FENTON COMMUNITY & CULTURAL CENTER?
Chairman Craig Schmidt and Jim Saule, of the Fenton Downtown Development Authority; Mayor Sue Osborn and Councilman John Rauch, of city council; Pat Parker and Doran Kasper, of the Fenton Community & Cultural Center Board of Governors, Director Vince Paris of Southern Lakes Parks & Recreation, City Manager Lynn Markland and Assistant City Manager/Director Michael Burns.

More about the study — and the community center today

More about the study — and the community center today

It’s a very comprehensive report about possibilities for the building, both long- and short-term, he said. It’s about taking a jewel Fenton has, and getting it shined up.

SLPR began collaborating with the board of governors for the community center, 18 months ago. Through the Rackham fund, the board of governors manages the building, which is the city owns. SLPR is reimbursed for its expenses in managing the building, and SLPR has a new office at the community center, Paris said. The office staff at the community center is from SLPR and work on behalf of both the community center and SLPR.

Fenton architect John Dziurman has performed an extensive historical review of the Fenton Community & Cultural Center (FCCC), said Director Vince Paris of Southern Lakes Parks & Recreation (SLPR). He’s studied how it was built and the materials used, looking through Cranbrook’s archive of information on Saarinen architecture.

In addition, heating and cooling specialists examined the FCCC, and a landscape architect will provide information on the outside of the building, Paris said.

Studies took place on the electrical, water and cooling systems, and how to make the FCCC more “green” and energy efficient.

February Events

Friday, February 4th thru Saturday, February 5th, 2011

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Fenton events

Sunday, Feb. 6
The fundraiser for Linda Ward is set for Sunday, Feb. 6, from 12 to 3 p.m. at the Bottom’s Up Restaurant, 14007 Dixie Highway, Holly. Ward, 10 and under, are free. All of the admission money will go toward the Ward family and for finding a cure for ALS.

Sonya Kowal

Fenton events

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News briefs

Argentine extends moratorium on medical marijuana dispensaries

At the recommendation of David Lattie, attorney, the Argentine Township Board of Trustees unanimously approved a one-year extension to a moratorium prohibiting medical marijuana dispensaries from operating in the township. Lattie told the board that there are gaps in how medical marijuana is being dispensed and it was in the township’s best interest to have the moratorium in place.

Township sticks with Worthing

The Argentine Township Board of Trustees voted unanimously in favor of continuing a contract with Stuart Worthing as the township’s building inspector. Four individuals were interviewed. The township will continue utilizing Worthing’s services for $18,000 per year.

Understanding the U.S. Constitution

Local author strives to make it an easy read

By Tim Jagielo

Is Barack Obama the 44th president, or the 40th? Is the separation of church and state spelled out in the U.S. Constitution? According to local author Jon Ettinger, the answer lies within the Constitution. This author wants people to read the U.S. Constitution, and more important, he wants people to understand it.

Jon Ettinger believes that there’s a simple answer, he said. “It’s just not authorized.”

The title for his book came from the discussions on the relevance of the U.S. Constitution, today. “A lot of people talk about the Constitution as this ‘living document.’ Others like to think of it as dead,” said Ettinger. “Some people think it needs to be discarded because it’s 200 years old,” he said. Ettinger believes that it’s neither. Currently, he has sold around 80 copies of his book.
INSURANCE PREMIUMS
Continued from Front Page

Discussion was tabled in order for officials to figure out how the departments would divide the additional $25,000 in insurance premiums and some minor language revisions in the lease contract. Annual premiums are in excess of $100,000.

Supervisor Robert Cole said the township’s former insurance provider, Burnham and Flower, told the township it would no longer be able to insure it due to the numerous lawsuit settlements.

The township signed with a new insurance carrier, Nickel and Saph, however, the cost to do so increased more than $26,000 per year. This increase was not budgeted for and the added expense must be covered by the township’s three main departments, the township board, police department and fire department.

Each department pays a portion of the premium, by using an existing formula. Cole said based on the newest figures, the police department is paying the overwhelming majority of the premium, which he believes is inaccurate. “It’s an internal issue,” said Cole. Believing it might be an accounting snafu, Cole said the police department’s portion of the insurance premium is more than available in its budget.

This added expense might prevent the police department’s proposed move. The supervisor said he would look into the matter to see if the portions were calculated wrong and could be redistributed.

Cole said due to all of the past lawsuit settlements, not just the most recent one where former firefighter Blythe Amenson, was awarded $400,000 in a sexual harassment case, have put the township in a high-risk category for liability insurance.

Not wanting to let this opportunity slip away with Ferrellgas, Police Chief Daniel Allen told the board, “I’d hate to lose the opportunity to work with this company that’s bent over backwards to work with us.”

Moving back to the former site would enable the police department to operate and collect fees for running its own impound lot. The police chief and township attorney believe that revenue generated by those impound fees, as well as forfeitures would cover much of the lease payment.

Costly lawsuit settlements hurt Argentine Township
Supervisor Robert Cole said if Argentine Township could go a few years without any new lawsuits, insurance premiums should go down. He added that the insurance companies look at Argentine Township as being “high risk.”

“They said ‘we won’t insure you anymore.’”
Robert Cole
Argentine Township supervisor

Police Department lease agreement
The Argentine Township Board of Trustees was expected to approve the lease-to-buy contract with the owner of the building, Ferrellgas. However, Supervisor Robert Cole asked that the township’s attorney, David Llatte amend the contract to include an escape clause for the township in the event that it needs to walk away from the contract and that the township board, rather than the police department be listed as the entity leasing the building.

Trustee Teresa Giesielski asked that the lease agreement be for four years rather than two. Overall, the board is pleased with the contract, which has the township paying $500 per month (one-half of what the township previously paid) to lease its former building. Board members acknowledged that the police chief had done a lot of legwork and an excellent job on working out the terms of the lease agreement.

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The National Weather Service

Unless the weather forecasters have gotten their forecasts terribly wrong, the odds are that when you are reading this column we will have been blanketeted with a substantial amount of snow.

Mark Twain is quoted as having said ‘Everybody talks about the weather but nobody does anything about it.’ Whether he actually said this (or something close to it) is the subject of historical debate. What isn’t debatable is the fact that the United States has a long history of great interest in the weather.

Accordingly, and since we are experiencing a weather event, I thought it appropriate to give a very brief history of what we now call the National Weather Service.

Our interest in the weather dates back to the 17th and 18th centuries. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Weather Service (whose websites are a major source for this history), Thomas Jefferson bought his first thermometer while writing the Declaration of Independence and purchased his first barometer a few days after the document was signed. A number of colonial leaders were also weather observers.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

I AGREE ABOUT the city of Fenton’s water bills. When our bill comes in the mail, we have to cut back big time, in order to pay the ridiculous amount.

LOOKS LIKE OUR Republican friends in the oil companies want to scare off any attempt to cut their industry support from the United States. The day after cuts were suggested, the price at the pump goes up 23 cents on average. Take that, American public. Sure quieted down the budget people in Congress on both sides.

PLEASE, PLEASE, MAKE Pain the candidate in 2012. That would ensure Obama’s re-election.

THANK YOU TO the person who turned in my box of coupons at Walgreen’s in Fenton on Wednesday. I deeply appreciate your honesty and kindness.

TO THE PERSON who commented and those of like mind who ask the question, ‘Why don’t they pass some legislation that helps the working man/woman?’ This is the type of thinking that has created the problems this country has now, asking how the government is going to help them. Keep the government out of our lives and help yourself.

KING, PLEASE DO SOME research before you slander. President Obama said his ‘father’ served in World War II by which he meant his grandfather, Stanley Dunham, who raised him from the age of 10.

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Arthritis and psoriasis: public speaking

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: Your article on arthritis was very interesting, but you did not explain about the arthritis that comes with psoriasis. I have it, and I know of two other people who have it. We don’t understand it at all. Please explain. — B.E.

ANSWER: Autoimmunity is the explanation for many illnesses, including both skin and joint psoriasis. “Autoimmunity” indicates that the immune system — our protection against germ invasion and other harmful attacks — for reasons not yet understood, turns against our own bodies; in this case, it’s the skin and joints. The immune system targets joints in as many as 7 percent of those who suffer from skin psoriasis. That’s a considerable number of people when you consider that as many as 3 percent of the entire population suffers from skin psoriasis. The fact that skin and joint psoriasis run in some families also points to a genetic influence on this particular condition. Any joint can be affected. The topmost finger joint, the one below the fingernail, is frequently targeted. Back, neck, knees, you name it — psoriasis can strike it. Like all dermal points, psoriatic joints are swollen, red, tender and stiff. The severity of joint involvement doesn’t always mirror skin involvement, but it does correspond to nail changes. Nails have small pits, become lossened from their attachment to underlying skin, often turn yellow and even crumble. Treatment of psoriatic arthritis depends on how bad the arthritis is. For mild to moderate cases, NSAIDS do a good job. They include the familiar Aspirin, Advil, Motrin and many others. For more severe involvement, doctors prescribe drugs like methotrexate.

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: Public speaking panics me. My job requires that I do lots of public speaking. In spite of the fact that I am called on to perform often, it doesn’t get any easier for me. In fact, I think it’s gotten worse. My sister has a similar problem. Her doctor gave her a medicine that makes her actually relish getting up and addressing a crowd. Do you know the name of the drug? — S.S.

ANSWER: I’m pretty sure it’s lnderal (propranolol). It has many medical uses, like regulating the heartbeat, controlling blood pressure and abolishing certain tremors. It also controls the signs of stage fright. Many professional musicians have to use it before their performances. It’s a prescription drug, so your doctor has to agree to its use. Limit taking it to those occasions when you have to speak in public. It’s not habit-forming. It’s not a narcotic. It’s not a tranquilizer.

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DeWitt rewrites Metro history

Becomes league’s all-time winningest girls hoops coach vs. Brandon

By David Troppens
droppens@tctimes.com

Fenton — Of all the games Fenton varsity girls basketball coach Brad DeWitt has won in his career — and that’s 340 games overall — it’s one of his first losses that he remembers the most.

Playing against Oxford’s Ian Smith in a regional final contest in 1989 during his first year as Fenton’s coach, DeWitt’s team faced Oxford in a Class B regional championship game. His team came back from a 10-point fourth quarter deficit, had the ball with four seconds left, trailing by one and threw it away. The Wildcats left Ortonville-Brandon High School with the 40-39 victory.

“It’s probably losing to Ian Smith my first year,” DeWitt said when asked about his most memorable game. “It came down to the wire at Ortonville-Brandon. It was a tremendous game. That’s a game that pops out to me a lot.”

While not as dramatic a game, Monday’s may be one DeWitt remembers awhile as well. With the Tigers’ 66-23 home victory against Ortonville-Brandon, DeWitt became the Metro League’s all-time winningest girls basketball coach. His 246th Metro win put him one victory ahead of Williams. DeWitt holds a 246-80 Metro record and a 340-138 record overall.

“(The record) means a lot to me,” DeWitt said. “It really does. I’m proud of it. At the same time, I recognize without all the assistant coaches, middle school, JV and freshmen coaches and administrators, none of this is possible. There is a lot of people involved with this record. It’s not just mine.”

This was the Tigers’ second shot at giving DeWitt the record, losing to Chenoa on Jan. 25. However, the Tigers made sure there would be no question that Monday would be the night for the record-breaking game. Fenton scored 10 of the game’s first 12 points and led 25-4 after one quarter. Senior Alyssa Ostrowski scored 11 of those first-quarter points, while also grabbing four rebounds and assisting in the scoring. See DEWITT on 16

Fenton varsity girls basketball coach Brad DeWitt won his 246th Metro League contest on Monday, more than any other girls coach in league history.

No thriller here

Broncos cruise past Mustangs

By Al Zipsies
droppens@tctimes.com

Clio — After a big, emotional win Friday, some might think Holly’s varsity boys basketball team might have a letdown in its next game. That did not happen.

The Broncos (9-2, 10-3) turned in a 57-48 Metro League victory against Clio Monday. The win came three days after Austin Hopkin hit a three-pointer with 2.2 seconds left in the third overtime to defeat Swartz Creek, and he co-for second place, and a spot still in the Metro League race. Holly remains one game behind Fenton in the loss column.

“You have to credit our guys, after they played 45 minutes in three overtimes just on Friday. I’m still tired from that game,” Holly coach Lance Baylis said. “We brought it when we needed to. It was an historic night. For the first time in 35 years, Holly has five straight years of 10 wins or more.”

The Broncos came out strong and led 19-6 after the opening quarter. Holly then had a little huff as Clio outscored them 18-13 in the second quarter and 12-9 in the third period cutting the lead to 41-36 going into the final quarter. A pair of Coleby Smart charity tosses helped Clio, 4-39 with 4:29 left in the game. However, Hopkin hit the front end of two free throws, for one Holly point. Hopkin then hustled and knocked the ball out off of a Clio player. On the inbounds, Josh Fugate drove and scored for a 46-40 lead. Moments later, Smart was called for interference as he hung on the rim. See BRONCHOS on 16
Quinnan making a splash with Holly swim program

By David Troppens
dtroppens@tctimes.com

Holly — Jake Quinnan has one simple goal for this boys varsity swim season.
He wants to win every individual race — a perfect record.

So far, the Holly senior is well on his way to doing just that.
The recent two-time individual county champion earned another individual first on Thursday in the Bronchos’ 84-83 victory against Kearsley High School, in an event that wasn’t as close as the final score suggests.

“I’m hoping to go undefeated this season in my individual events,” Quinnan said. “So far, it’s in the bag. I am pretty sure I can do it. Being my senior year, it would be exciting to do it.”

If the county meet was any indication, Quinnan will accomplish his goal. Minus the state meet and the MISCA Meet, most of his competitions that remain are against local competition, the competition he destroyed at county. He won the 200 freestyle (1:49.84) and the 100 freestyle (49.41), posting state qualifying times in the process.

On Thursday, he swam the 50 freestyle with a first-place time of 23.28 seconds. He followed that up by breaking a school record by nearly seven seconds in the 500 freestyle, with a time of 5:11.26. Yet, it was the first time in nearly two seasons since he’s competed in the event.

“I was nervous about that,” Quinnan said. “I haven’t swam that since my sophomore year, and I was very nervous about it.”

“He’ll win the Flint Metro League meet,” Holly coach Danielle Gray said. “At the state meet, I’d like to see him finish in the top eight. I’d like to see him go 1:47 in the 200 and probably like a low 48 or high 47 in the 100.”

Quinnan is Holly’s most talented swimmer, and finds himself on a squad with many new faces. Yet, the team is starting to thrive. The Bronchos posted 10 first-place finishes or top-times against Kearsley.

Three firsts were swim exhibitions, meaning the Bronchos didn’t receive points for those events. The exhibitions didn’t matter, because Holly had a sizeable lead.

“This team has come a long way,” Quinnan said. “Many important parts of our team last year are gone. We are starting to bond as a team, starting to have fun, and I feel you have to do that before you can learn to swim fast. These guys are starting to pick it up, and that’s fun to watch.”

“I had a video that first day, and if I could show them that to them now, it’s amazing the difference.” Gray said. “It’s really rewarding.”

Quinnan helped to relays to top times. He teamed with Garrett Pinadel, Dakota Gordon and Thomas O’Connor for a first in the 200 freestyle relay (1:44.49) and with Pinadel, Aaron DeHaven and Gordon for a top time of 3:47.34 in the 400 freestyle relay.

Other individual firsts were posted by Pinadel in the 200 IM (2:18.45) and the 100 butterfly (1:04.40), Gordon in the 200 freestyle (2:07.82), DeHaven in the 100 freestyle (54.67), Michael Gombar in the 100 backstroke (1:14.92) and Parker Cuthbert in the 100 breaststroke (1:21.58).

(Above) Holly’s Jake Quinnan has yet to lose an individual race this season, and won two more in the Bronchos’ 84-83 victory against Kearsley recently. He has qualified for the state meet in two events already this season. (Top) Holly’s Garrett Pinadel won the 200 individual medley against Kearsley.

Fenton swimmers remain perfect, defeat Metro foe Swartz Creek

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

It was a case of near-perfection.
The Fenton varsity boys swim team competed against the Swartz Creek Dragons and won all but one event, earning a 122-61 victory recently.

“It was a good opportunity for our younger swimmers to get to race,” Fenton coach Brad Jones said. “We won every event except the 100 breaststroke.”

The Tigers spread out the wealth, having no one win more than one individual event. The victors included Brant Cassidy in the 200 freestyle (2:09.31), Zahne Macklin in the 200 individual medley (2:27.09), Sam Moss in diving (175.90), Adam Ransom in the 100 butterfly (1:01.57), Bryan Wick in the 100 freestyle (1:00.80), Josh Bryant in the 500 freestyle (6:03.92), and Brendan Doherty in the 100 backstroke (1:13.29).

The Tigers dominated the 100 freestyle in particular, earning each of the top three positions.

In relays, Ransom, Dave Congdon, Joe Panlener and Wick won the 200 medley relay (2:02), while Summers, Anthony Miceli, Brant Cassidy and Adam Andreski won the 200 freestyle relay (1:45.45). Ransom Andreski, Ken Carbury and Congdon won the 400 freestyle relay (3:42.72).

Weather allowing, the Fenton Tigers host Flint Kearsley for a Metro League meet on Thursday at 6 p.m.
Still leading Metro — Tigers crush Blackhawks, 53-38

By David Troppens
droppereis@ctimes.com

For the Fenton varsity boys basketball team, success has been in session the last couple of Metro League contests.

The Tigers (9-1, 11-1) are finding teams are packing their defenses, forcing them to have to nail their perimeter shots to free up the offense. So far, the Tigers are still learning exactly how to do that. Yet, it’s not impacting their results too dramatically. The Tigers posted a 53-38 road blowout at Ortonville-Brandon Monday night.

“More and more teams are apparently clogging up that whole middle and don’t want any of that middle penetration,” Fenton coach Tim Olszewski said. “They are forcing us to take more jumpers than anticipated, and, frankly, we’ve struggled. Our outside shooting percentage is not where we want it to be. But that said, we are still winning games by 15 and 30 points. Once we get that figured, and I have players that I know can figure it out, it will make us that much tougher.”

What continues to impress is Fenton’s defense. While the Tigers are trying to solve their halfcourt issues in first halves recently, the defense has held foes to minuscule offerings. Brandon scored just 11 you a better person.”

DeWitt took over the possession in 1989 after legendary coach LeRoy Decker resigned the position. He won his first four games and got his first Metro victory on his third try — a 38-32 victory against the Holly Bronchos on Sept. 19, 1989. Since then, he’s won six league titles and nine district titles.

DeWitt said the games has changed a little bit he started coaching. “I think the game has gotten faster with the girls,” DeWitt said. “The game has gotten more athletic, and the players have gotten better. “The kids are still the same. They are hardworking and good kids. I think that’s it — it’s a quicker and more athletic game.”

Sam Granger had 10 points with six rebounds and three steals in the win.
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1800 ft. plus, includes basement, 2.5 bathrooms, great space. $700 plus utilities. Call 810-736-6425. 

FENTON - VARIOUS ROOMS


HOULY - 3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH

HOLLY - ONE MONTH FREE

Ranch apartments, fireplaces, porches, front yards, from downtown, parking private, entry; pet friendly, central location. Call for more in moves! 248-634-3300.

FENTON - 1 and 2 bedroom

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FENETRA

Office/Retail

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Obituaries, Funeral Services and Memorials

Allan W. Chapman
1931-2011
Allan W. Chapman - age 79, of Fenton, died Sunday, January 30, 2011 at Cincinnati General Care Facility. Services will be held 11 AM Thursday, February 3, 2011 at Fenton Chapel, 1000 W. Silver Lake Rd., Fenton. Intermment will follow at Oakwood Cemetery. Visitation will be held 4-9 PM Wednesday at the funeral home. Those desiring may make memorial contributions to Fenton Little League or Fenton Adopt-A-Pet.

James D. Soldan
1943-2011
James D. Soldan - age 67, of Fenton, died Saturday, January 29, 2011 at his residence. Services will be held 11 AM Wednesday, February 2, 2011 at Sharp Funeral Homes, Fenton Chapel. Visitation was held 24-6 PM Tuesday at the funeral home. Those desiring may make memorial contributions to Golden Retriever Rescue Resources, Inc. 26842 Tracy Rd., Waldbridge, OH 43466. James was born September 7, 1943 in Flint, the son of Duane Henry and Irene (Gyurisik) Soldan. He married Valerie Anne Steele on August 29, 1970. Surviving are: loving wife, Valerie; daughter, Kristin Elizabeth and husband, Matthew Plew, son, Richard James Soldan; expected son, Matthew Plew, sister, Nancy and husband, Ralph Spencer; many nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins and in-laws; faithful dog, Marty. He was preceded in death by his parents and father-in-law, Justin E. Steele. Friends may share an online tribute on the obituaries page of www.sharpfuneralhomes.com.

Joann K. (Mattord) Huntley
1964-2011
Joann K. (Mattord) Huntley - age 46, of Fenton, died Tuesday, February 1, 2011. Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes.

For rates and service information call:
810-433-6800

Still looking for Florida!
If you stand & call her name, she will run.
Sometimes Florida comes out of the area right past the pine trees that mark the border of Fenton Oaks, at the entrance by the mail boxes. She is seen consistently at night between 8:00-9:30 pm in Fenton Oaks.

The area where Florida is consistently seen:
Along Owen Rd. to Carrie Lane/end of Silver Landings. She runs and runs and runs all of Fenton Oaks and back to Owen Rd. and back to Carrie Lane/Silver Landings. Last Sunday Florida was seen in the field between Jennings Rd. and Silver Chase/Autumn Wood Dr.

James D. Soldan
1943-2011
James D. Soldan - age 67, of Fenton, died Saturday, January 29, 2011 at his residence. Services will be held 11 AM Wednesday, February 2, 2011 at Sharp Funeral Homes, Fenton Chapel. Visitation was held 2-4 and 6-8 PM Tuesday at the funeral home. Those desiring may make memorial contributions to Golden Retriever Rescue Resources, Inc. 26842 Tracy Rd., Waldbridge, OH 43466. James was born September 7, 1943 in Flint, the son of Duane Henry and Irene (Gyurisik) Soldan. He married Valerie Anne Steele on August 29, 1970. Surviving are: loving wife, Valerie; daughter, Kristin Elizabeth and husband, Matthew Plew, son, Richard James Soldan; expected son, Matthew Plew, sister, Nancy and husband, Ralph Spencer; many nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins and in-laws; faithful dog, Marty. He was preceded in death by his parents and father-in-law, Justin E. Steele. Friends may share an online tribute on the obituaries page of www.sharpfuneralhomes.com.

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810-433-6800
Fresh All-Natural, Grade A Whole Chicken

59¢ limit 3

SAVE AT LEAST 40 lb.

Lay’s Potato Chips
10.5 - 11 oz. (excludes baked, light and natural)

$1.49 limit 2

SAVE AT LEAST 2.50

More Ways to Save.

$2.88 limit 3

SAVE AT LEAST 1.61

THURSDAY • FRIDAY • SATURDAY
February 3 February 4 February 5

Fresh, All-Natural, Grade A
Fresh Miller Amish Boneless Skinless Chicken Breast
Antibiotic Free, No Added Solutions
Taste The Difference

buy 1 pkg., get 1 pkg. of equal or lesser value

Earn yes Points. Get FREE Groceries

3-Day Savings!

Johnsonville Brats
Selected Varieties (19.76 oz.) or Bratwurst Patties (16 oz.)

FREE of equal or lesser value

limits apply

Aunt Millie’s Deluxe White Hamburger or Hot Dog Buns
8 pk.

77¢ limit 3

SAVE AT LEAST 2.22

Prices effective Thursday, Feb. 3, Friday, Feb. 4 and Saturday, Feb. 5, 2011