Worst of 2011

The most talked-about court cases and criminals

By Sharon Stone
sstone@tctimes.com

Dominick Calhoun murder trial

By far the biggest story in the tri-county area is the ongoing criminal case of Brandon Hayes. The 26-year-old Argentine Township man is facing life in prison for the torture and beating death of 4-year-old Dominick Calhoun.

See YEAR IN REVIEW on 30A

Welcome signs don’t meet specs

DDA blames consultant

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

Fenton — Fenton’s new welcome signs do not match the original specs and the Fenton Downtown Development Authority (DDA) intends to hold the consultant who approved them responsible for the inconsistencies.

The finding came to light during an independent review by the city’s engineering firm OBM. The DDA asked OBM to look into the matter after Jamie Elfrstrom, one of the rejected bidders on the project, expressed concern that the signs did not match what the DDA advertised.

See SIGNS on 9A

Random acts of Christmas kindness “overwhelming”

21 more layaways paid off at Kmarts after Times’ story

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

“For the first time ever, I’ve experienced the true meaning of Christmas.” That’s the word from Fenton Kmart Manager Rick Faulk, who is overwhelmed by the generosity of the community.

One person came in to our store on Thursday and paid off $2,000 worth of layaways.

Rick Faulk, manager, Fenton Kmart

Top 2011 stories

World News

By William Axford

The year 2011 has had its fair share of ups and downs — from widespread protests to devastating disasters. Here are the Top 10 news stories from around the world over the past year.

Osama Bin Laden killed

A decade after the terrorist attacks on the Twin Towers, Al-Qaeda leader Osama Bin Laden was found and killed by U.S. Navy Seals, inside a private compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan. Bin Laden was a major target on the War on Terror and was at the top of the FBI’s Most Wanted List for the past 10 years.

See WORLD on 19A
HOPING ALL OF YOUR HOLIDAY WISHES COME TRUE

Merry Christmas!

and

Best wishes for the New Year!

from all of us at

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SMART HOLIDAY SOLUTIONS

1 No corkscrew
Need to open a bottle of wine but there is no corkscrew around? Simply run the neck of the bottle under very hot water for 2 minutes. The heat causes the glass to contract slightly—just enough to force the cork partially out of the bottle’s neck—so all you have to do is give it a quick tug.

2 Chewy cookie
Add a slice of bread to your cookie jar before you fill it. The bread absorbs moisture from the cookies, so they retain their chewy freshness without turning mushy.

TRI-COUNTY TIMES

The Tri-County Times is published semi-weekly by Rockman Communications, 256 N. Fraway Drive, Fenton, Michigan 48430.

Serving the communities of: Fenton, Linden, Lake Fenton, Holly, Hartland, Byron, Gaines, Davison, Swartz Creek, Grand Blanc, Lake Fenton, Holly, Hartland, Byron, Gaines, Davison, and the Fenton Independent School District. A member of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, Rynearson served as a Eucharistic Minister, active in the St. John Education Committee and the St. John Applefest. An active member of her community, Rynearson was a member of the Fenton Beautification Commission, Questors, Fenton Dibbleville, the Fenton Freedom Festival Parade and other organizations.

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Jan Rynearson
Katie Wyatt
Briona Jawhari

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Jan Rynearson

As 2011 draws to a close many area residents are without loved ones who died this year. Here are some of the deaths reported and remembered in the Tri County Times.

Jan Rynearson, 77, died on Feb. 8. Rynearson was the features editor for the Tri-County Times for many years. Her journalistic career included the Detroit News, Toledo Blade, the Farm Journal and the Fenton Independent. A member of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, Rynearson served as a Eucharistic Minister, active in the St. John Education Committee and the St. John Applefest. An active member of her community, Rynearson was a member of the Fenton Beautification Commission, Questors, Fenton Dibbleville, the Fenton Freedom Festival Parade and other organizations.

On June 14, Katie Wyatt, 14, of Fenton and a student at Andrew G. Schmidt Middle School, passed away, from a form of liver cancer. Her story touched the hearts of the community. Community members worked together and held Katie’s Game, which drew around 800 people and raised more than $10,000 for her medical bills. After the benefit game, it became clear that her story had reached beyond the Fenton area. Briona Jawhari, 17, died on Feb. 14 from a heroin overdose. She attended Lake Fenton High School where she had been active with the debate team.

See DEATHS on 32A

MOST-READ FEATURES OF 2011

PUBLISHED: SUNDAY, FEB. 13
She’s run a marathon in all 50 states
Marit Janeiro, 50, of Fenton, has had lots of company on some of her marathon runs—seals, penguins, dolphins and bears—to name a few. Janeiro has run marathons in every state of the United States, and is already halfway through running in them for the second time. Now her goal is to cover all seven continents, with three already under her belt.

Her most grueling race to date was her run in Antarctica, not just the 26.2 miles itself, but getting there and back again. She joins an elite group of 70 who finished the race.

PUBLISHED: SUNDAY, MARCH 27
Salons — not just for women anymore
Women, move over. That styling chair next to yours at your favorite hair salon might be taken up by a man. Today’s men are getting more and more comfortable using salon services that used to be “for women only” — from manicures and pedicures to brow waxing and moisturizing skin treatments.

Angie Wynn, manager of Allure Hair Company in Fenton, estimates that about 15 percent of their customers are men, many of whom started

See MOST-READ on 10A

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Three trees on a hill

Once there were three trees on a hill in the woods. They were discussing their hopes and dreams when the first tree said, “Someday I hope to be a treasure chest. I could be filled with gold, silver and precious gems. I could be decorated with intricate carving and everyone would see the beauty.”

Then the second tree said, “Someday I will be a mighty ship. I will take kings and queens across the waters and sail to the end of the world. Everyone will feel safe in me because of the strength of my hull.”

Finally the third tree said, “I want to grow to be the tallest and mightiest tree in the forest. People will see me on top of the hill and look up to my branches, and think of the heavens and God and how close to Him I was standing as I grew. People will see me on top of the hill and as close to God as was possible.”

The trees were approached by a group of woodsmen one day. When one came to the first tree he said, “This looks like a strong tree, I think I should be able to sell the wood to a carpenter.” and he began cutting it down. The tree was happy, because he was sure that the carpenter would make him into a treasure chest.

At the second tree a woodsmen said, “This looks like a strong tree, I should be able to sell it to the shipyard.” The second tree was happy because he knew he was on his way to becoming a mighty ship.

When the woodsmen came upon the third tree, the tree was frightened because he knew that if they cut him down his dreams would not come true. One of the woodsmen said, “I don’t need anything special from my tree so I’ll take this one,” and he cut it down.

When the first tree arrived at the carpenters, he was made into a feed box for animals. He was then placed in a barn and filled with hay. This was not at all what he had prayed for.

The second tree was cut and made into a small fishing boat. His dreams of being a mighty ship and carrying kings had come to an end.

The third tree was cut into large pieces and left alone in the dark. The years went by, and over time the trees forgot about their hopes and dreams until, late one cold winter evening, a man and woman took refuge in the barn. Not long after they arrived, the woman gave birth and they placed the baby in the hay in the feed box that was made from the first tree. The man wished that he could have made a crib for the baby, but this manger would have to do. The tree could feel the importance of this event and somehow knew that he was holding the greatest treasure of all time.

Years later, a group of men in the fishing boat made from the second tree, One of them was tired and went to sleep. While they were out on the water, a great storm arose and the tree didn’t think it was strong enough to keep the men safe. The men woke the sleeping man, and he stood and said, “Peace” and the storm stopped. At this time, the tree knew that he had fulfilled his dream of carrying the King of Kings.

Some time later, on a Friday, someone came and retrieved the third tree from where he had been for many years. He was made into a cross and carried through the city by a man who was mocked and harassed mercilessly by the crowds lining the street. When they came to a stop at the top of a hill, the man was nailed to the cross and then raised in the air and left to die.

The tree suddenly realized that, again, he was standing tall and straight on top of a hill and as close to God as was possible because the son of God had been crucified on him.

The moral of this story is that when things don’t seem to be going your way, always know that God has a plan for you. If you place your trust in Him, He will give you great gifts. Each of the trees got what they wanted, just not in the way they had imagined.

From my family to yours, best wishes for the holidays.
The renovation and expansion project at the First Presbyterian Church of Fenton is complete, just in time for Christmas services this weekend.

Church receives Christmas gift

Renoation and expansion done in time for services

By Sharon Stone

Dale Swihart, the pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Fenton is pleased to announce that the $1.6 million church renovation and expansion project is complete, just in time for Christmas services this weekend.

“T’s a tremendous Christmas gift for the church.”

Dale Swihart
First Presbyterian Church of Fenton pastor

The church received its temporary occupancy permit this week, which allows church members to use every part of the building.

The sanctuary remained the same, except for a new fire suppression system. The primary enhancements to the building are the new fellowship hall and new modern kitchen. “It more than doubles our capacity for fellowship events, dinners,” said Swihart.

The exterior of the building is complete, as well as the landscaping. Swihart wanted to point out that the building has a new entryway at the back of the building.

Swihart said throughout the project, people gave positive comments about how the new part blends so well with the old part of the building. “It looks like it’s always been there,” he said.

“The architect was respectful of the historical nature of the church and blended the new part so beautifully with the sanctuary.”

Christmas Eve services will be at 5, 7 and 11 p.m. On Christmas Day, a communion service will be held at 11 a.m.

Coming up...

Jan. 8, 2012 – The First Presbyterian Church of Fenton will dedicate its new building.

Mid/late February 2012 – An open house will be held and the entire community is invited to attend.

ATTENTION LINDEN RESIDENTS!

Dear City of Linden Resident,

Effective the week of January 1, 2012, Republic Services will be your new solid waste, recycling, and yard waste provider. Republic is pleased to have this opportunity and we look forward to being a part of your community. With Republic becoming your new hauler there will be a couple of changes you need to know; first we will be changing your waste removal and recycle pick-up day from MONDAY to the new day of FRIDAY. Second we will be offering more items for you to recycle. You can find out more by going to the city’s web site to see the new list. Last, Republic will not be changing the level of service that you are currently receiving, simply place all your trash and recycling at the curb on Friday January 6th by 6:00am and we will collect it. Yard waste will restart in April. Republic will however be collecting Christmas Trees the first 3 weeks in January. We are committed to providing our customers with the best, most cost efficient service and we look forward to working with the City of Linden.

Your first collection will be Saturday January 7, 2012 because of the New Year Holiday and then the following week January 13, 2012 your new service day will be Friday.

If you have any questions regarding your new service provider or day change, please call our Customer Service department at 1-800-436-0966.

Thank you for allowing Republic to service your waste removal needs.

Sincerely,

Republic Services
Freedom Center founder dies

Services for F.E. Burke set for early next week in Fenton

By Sharon Stone

Rev. F.E. Burke, the founder of The First Assembly of God Church, now known as The Freedom Center, died Thursday, Dec. 22 at the age of 85. He was at his home in Zephyr Hills, Fla. with his wife, Thelma and four sons.

Burke’s grandson, Chris Burke, said his grandfather had been battling leukemia for the past five years before he died.

Burke was born in Tennessee and his family moved to Detroit when he was 16. He fought in World War II and returned to the Fenton area afterward. He worked his way through Bible school and began his ministry in his mid-30s after the death of a son. He felt God calling him into the ministry.

In 1962 he founded Fenton Assembly of God, which was later renamed The Freedom Center. He was involved with building of the current Fenton Freedom Center in 1985 and it opened in 1986. Jim Wiegand took over as pastor after Burke retired in 1995.

“He started the church with nothing,” said Chris. “He had that old time spirit. He did a lot of good things for the community. He had a good life.”

Funeral services will be held Monday or Tuesday in Fenton and are being handled by Sharp Funeral Homes. His funeral is set for 11 a.m. at The Freedom Center.

Kindness

Continued from Front Page

“Secret Santas” this Christmas, who have anonymously come into the store and paid off peoples’ layaways. “In my 35-plus years in this business, I’ve never seen the generosity of people toward total strangers as I’ve seen this year,” said Faulk.

The Times ran a story on Wednesday about these anonymous benefactors, who stop in at stores and restaurants and pay off layaways and orders of food that are waiting for pick-up. At Kmarts, they focus primarily on layaways that have toys and children’s clothing, like outerwear and boots.

Because Kmarts has been known for years for its layaway service, more of these “Secret Santas” are paying off layaways there, than at stores like Wal-Mart, which just this year began to offer layaways on toys and electronics. The Fenton Wal-Mart hasn’t reported any anonymous benefactors, as of Friday morning.

Since the story ran on Wednesday, another 20 layaways have been paid off, according to Faulk. “What it does is plant the seed to a lot of people that this is something they can do,” said Faulk.

“One person came in to our store on Thursday and paid off $2,000 worth of layaways. The stories I’ve been hearing have actually moved me to tears. It has been unbelievable.”

One lady who came into Kmarts on Thursday to pick up her layaway found it had been paid except for the last penny. “She came up to me and thanked me, and said she was determined to save money for next Christmas so that she could pay off someone else’s layaway and give them the same feeling she had,” said Faulk.

Mary McKenzie, footwear manager/event planner, has been overwhelmed by these acts of kindness this year. “One lady broke down in tears when someone anonymously paid for the only two toys her kids had asked for,” said McKenzie.

Another gentleman had been standing in line in our layaway department to return the layaway because he couldn’t afford to pay for it, when he found that his layout had been paid — all except for one penny.”

Faulk estimates that about 40 layaways have been paid off by “Secret Santas” so far this season. It’s been happening nationwide at Kmarts, with more than a half-million dollars donated by people toward layaway payoffs.

“When the holiday season is all done, I think the numbers of anonymously paid layaways will be amazing,” said Faulk.

“It’s been a continuation of the whole ‘pay it forward’ concept of generosity. I’ve never seen anything like it.”
Police seek witness to morning crash

- Flint man airlifted to Ann Arbor in critical condition

By Sharon Stone

Fenton — Fenton police are hoping that a witness will come forward and provide information about a Friday morning crash on southbound U.S. 23.

Det. Ron Skaryzinski said police were called to the highway, just south of Owen Road at 7 a.m.

A 1996 Chevrolet Blazer with three male occupants from Flint was traveling southbound. None of the men were wearing seatbelts and all three were injured, one critically.

The driver, who sustained minor injuries, told police that a vehicle had cut in front of him, causing him to lose control of the Blazer. The Blazer left the roadway and flipped over as it entered the ditch.

The front seat passenger was ejected due to the Blazer rolling over.

All three men were transported to Genesys Health Park in Grand Blanc Township, however, the critically injured man was later flown to the University of Michigan Hospital in Ann Arbor.

If anyone observed the crash, they are to call Fenton police at (810) 629-5311.

Linden Firefighter of the Year

Members of the Linden Fire Department selected Amanda Stokes as this year’s Firefighter of the Year. She is an EMT and has been with the department since 2009. She assisted with the department’s fire prevention program and worked with elementary students. She is currently taking a paramedic class to improve her skills.

DDA stays on course with ‘Be Closer’ tagline

- Members undeterred by anonymous complaints

By Sharon Stone

Fenton — Despite some anonymous complaints in the Hot lines, the Fenton Downtown Development Authority (DDA) believes the marketing campaign, “Be Closer,” is working and good for Fenton.

Natalie Burg, writer, public relations specialist, and social media manager for New Moon Vision, the city’s marketing firm told DDA members on Tuesday that their data shows growth within the city and retailers’ cash registers are ringing.

An online presence continues to grow as NMV maintains the website, fentenbecloser.com. Burg said traffic and interaction has also increased on their FaceBook page.

Their Facebook page has more than See BE CLOSER on 10A

Police&Fire

WOMAN ARRESTED FOR DOMESTIC ASSAULT

at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 21, the Genesee County Sheriff’s Department responded to the 12000 block of Torrey Road, near I-ahring Road in Fenton Township to investigate a domestic violence complaint.

Undersheriff Chris Swanson said two adults were fighting over a custody issue, as the 33-year-old woman attempted to smash the windows of the man’s vehicle with piercers, the man attempted to grab the piercers, causing the woman to fall to the ground.

The woman then went inside the house and threw a bicycle into the yard. The woman was arrested for domestic assault and was transported to the Genesee County Jail pending arraignment.

Sears Hometown Store

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JANUARY

FRI., 12/30 & SAT., 12/31, 2011

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OR “NO INTEREST IF PAID IN FULL IN 18 MONTHS” ON ANY APPLIANCE OVER $499 WHEN YOU USE A QUALIFYING SEARS CARD

INTEREST WILL BE CHARGED TO YOUR ACCOUNT FROM THE PURCHASE DATE IF YOU DO NOT MAKE THE MINIMUM PAYMENT ON TIME OR AT ANY TIME DURING THE INTEREST FREE PERIOD.

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FREE STANDARD DELIVERY ON ALL APPLIANCES OVER $499*** IN PARTICIPATING STORES. INSTANT SAVINGS, NO REBATE. OFFER GOOD THRU 12/31/11. SEE STORE FOR IMPORTANT DEFERRED INTEREST DETAILS.

SAVE 25% OFF ALL KENMORE APPLIANCES* PLUS 15% OFF ALL APPLIANCES OVER $499 WITH YOUR SEARS CARD

You can save $100 with Sears Hot Deals from Sears Home Improvement AccountSM valid on installed sales only. Offer is only valid for consumer accounts in good standing and is subject to change without notice. May not be combined with any other promotional offer. See store for restrictions. Non-VARIABLE 14.00%-29.99%. NO INTEREST IF PAID IN FULL WITHIN 18 MONTHS. OFFER ENDS 12/31/11. APPLIANCE OFFER: SEE ONE OF OUR SALES STAFF FOR DETAILS!

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4193 E. Grand River Ave.
Howell, MI 48843
517-545-4004

LAPEER

1356 Imlay City Rd.
Lapeer, MI 48446
810-664-1861

FOR AN EVEN GREATER SELECTION SHOP SEARS.COM BUY ONLINE, PICK-UP AT YOUR LOCAL SEARS STORE

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Lake Fenton

Christopher Fletcher and Larry Godlewski are the new members of the Lake Fenton Board of Education. Former school board member Kristi Ocenasek was also elected to serve a partial term.

Todd Reynolds is the new principal at Lake Fenton High School. He replaces Jerry Kramer, who retired.

Fenton

Tamara Valley and Daniel Carter are the new members elected to the Fenton board of education.

Linden

Write-in candidate Steven Losey, of Linden, was elected to the Linden Community Schools Board of Education with 122 write-in votes. After 41 years, Linda Tottingham retired from Linden Community Schools.

Holly

Faced with a deficit in per pupil funding, and reduced tax revenue, the Holly Area Schools Board of Education implemented a plan which laid off more than 20 staff members, and closed Sherman Middle School. Grades seven and eight moved to the Karl Richter Campus, and sixth-grade students were retained by their elementary school one more year.

Christmas Card Contest winners

Pictured here are the winners of the 2011 Christmas Card Contest held by the Northwest Oakland County Right to Life. Prizes were awarded at A Simpler Times in downtown Holly. Front (from left) are Rachel Decker, Sydney Scanlon, Rebekah Padgett, Elizabeth Padgett and Marissa Nickels; Back (from left) Kay Phillipps, John Shoemaker, Martha Burton, Sue Hyde and Bev Suski.

2011 YEAR IN REVIEW

SCHOOL NEWS

Lake Fenton

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HOT LINE CONTINUED

ANOTHER LUMP OF coal for Tyrone Township residents’ stockings. Did you know that when we passed the $150 fee for fire runs and police protection that the trailer parks pay $500 for both parks that would be up to 1,000 homes. What a scam for taxpayers.

THE POST OFFICE

may not be the only place to mail packages. However, the ladies and gentleman who work at the post office not only deliver letters in your neighborhood; they live in your neighborhood and shop locally. Merry Christmas and thank you letter carriers for doing a great job.

Looking for some paint?

There are nine paint stores in Fenton, Linden and Holly.

SHOP LOCAL.
INVEST IN YOUR COMMUNITY.

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Recent weight loss Challenge w inner

I lost 216 lbs. in 24 months*
Ron, Detroit, MI

I lost 53 lbs. in 5 months*
Sarah, Flint, MI

*These results are not typical. Individual results will vary

6 Week Class starts the week of Jan. 9th, 2012
Several classes to choose from!
Only $35 to join.

Class Includes:
Your Own Personal Coach
Free Meal Plan • Group Support
Best of All — It’s Fun!

Call Today!
Sue Grissim was hired by the DDA in 2006 as part of the consulting team that John Dziurman, to conduct the Downtown Master Plan. Since that project, Grissim was hired by the DDA and Fenton City to be involved in a number of projects. Those that she has been paid for include:

- Landscape architecture services for the Fenton Community & Cultural Center parking lot in 2007-
- Landscape architecture services for the tree restoration project due to the 2007 tornado in 2007 and 2008.
- Development of a landscape maintenance plan for the Downtown District in 2009.
- The Wayfinding signage project that began in 2008 that is still ongoing.
- Landscape architecture services for the 2010 downtown landscape project.
- Landscape architecture services for the Silver Parkway landscaping, lighting and irrigation project in 2010.
- Work as part of John Dziurman’s team for the Community Center restoration project in 2010 and 2011.
- Work involved in creating a Downtown Streetscape Project (she provided a conceptual design in 2010, prior to us contracting with Landscape Architecture Services).
- Since December 2006, Grissim, Metz & Andriese has been paid $101,245 for all of the projects listed above. Source: Fenton City records

Projects of Sue Grissim - $101,245

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- Development of a landscape maintenance plan for the Downtown District in 2009.
- The Wayfinding signage project that began in 2008 that is still ongoing.
- Landscape architecture services for the 2010 downtown landscape project.
- Landscape architecture services for the Silver Parkway landscaping, lighting and irrigation project in 2010.
- Work as part of John Dziurman’s team for the Community Center restoration project in 2010 and 2011.
- Work involved in creating a Downtown Streetscape Project (she provided a conceptual design in 2010, prior to us contracting with Landscape Architecture Services).
- Since December 2006, Grissim, Metz & Andriese has been paid $101,245 for all of the projects listed above. Source: Fenton City records.
BE CLOSER
Continued from Page 7A

Craig Schmidt, chairperson of the DDA, told Burg that he appreciated the hard data she provided. Referencing the time it’s taking for the Be Closer tagline to take hold with some people, he told her that the “Pure Michigan” campaign took about two years to catch on.

Councillwoman Cheryl King questioned Burg on whether an $1,800 radio ad on a Detroit radio station was worth the money. “Are we getting our money’s worth?” asked King. King said she liked a summary about Be Closer, which revealed everyone in Fenton is closer to I-75, U.S. 23, I-69 and good schools among other things. She also said lengthy explanations of what people would be closer to can confuse people.

Schmidt said the Be Closer campaign is all about bringing people to this community. “Once they come in, they might see something they didn’t know we had,” he said. “I think it’s working.”

Chris Beyer, DDA member and owner of A Joyful Noise Music Studio, appreciates the efforts of NMV and said he was glad to be a participant of the Art Walk held throughout downtown earlier this month. “So many people came into my place,” he said.

DDA member Jeff Canevel said he believes the Be Closer campaign sits in the imagination, “Be closer to everything,” he said.

John Strayer, of the DDA, said he believes the campaign is unusual, memorable and controversial. “It’s versatile,” he said. “You can do all sorts of things with the tagline. It benefits the entire city.”

Strayer added that businesses looking for a way to locate their cities with active DDAs. “This has the potential to be enormously successful,” he said.

MOST-READ
Continued from Page 3A

coming in with their wives and kids, and found they liked the atmosphere and the services.

“We can totally groom a man with a mustache trim, nose/ear hair trim, eyebrow trim, etc.,” said Jenny Ross, a stylist at J.D. Michel Salon in Fenton. “Just like other salons, the only thing we can’t use is an open-ended razor. That’s just for barbers.”

It might be the high-energy Latin music, or the socializing. However, the most likely reason for the Zumba craze is the fun people have without feeling like they’re working out. The Zumba dance/fitness craze has hit the tri-county area, with classes available in almost every fitness center, studio and school in Fenton, Linden and Holly.

PUBLISHED: SUNDAY, APRIL 24
Zumba fitness - Dance fever hits tri-county area

By day, Michelle St. Andre is a soft-spoken hairdresser, and a wife and mother of two. By night, she turns into “Tat2 Barb-B” — a Roller Derby Girl in full derby regalia, who knows how to block, hit, slide and stop as part of the Mid-Michigan Derby Girls team.

“It’s just like football on roller skates,” said St. Andre, 39, of Holly. She loves the great workout that being a Derby Girl provides, plus the glam side of being a Derby Girl. It takes me about two hours to get ‘derby’d up’ before a bout,” said St. Andre. “When I wake up on Saturday morning before a bout, I’m so excited because it’s derby time. As soon as my feet hit the floor, my adrenaline starts running.”

PUBLISHED: SUNDAY, OCT. 30
Men and grocery shopping

More and more men are literally “bringing home the bacon,” as greater equality in the workplace is leaving more household chores divided between the sexes, including the grocery shopping.

A survey by Yahoo last year showed that 51 percent of men considered themselves the primary grocery shopper in their homes, although another survey found that 85 percent of women said they were the primary shoppers at home. What that may mean is that more men are doing the actual grocery shopping, from a list provided by their wives, who still make most of the shopping decisions.

Men who occasionally find themselves at the grocery store find it as challenging to them as sending women into a hardware store for a specific item. “Grocery shopping can be complicated,” said Norm Schmidt, of Argentine Township.

“I just spent 10 minutes trying to pick out shampoo.”
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!
Thank you for your support over the last year.
We appreciate your business.
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**Marshall Colley named Firefighter of the Year**

> Others recognized for years of service

By Sharon Stone

**Fenton** — The Fenton City Firefighters Association held its annual Christmas party and awards night on Dec. 10 at the Fenton Community & Cultural Center. During that celebration, the firefighters association presented service awards to several firefighters reaching milestones.

Fenton Fire Chief Robert Cairnduff said, “It is really important for the community to realize the commitment and dedication that our firefighters have.

“Three of our personnel were honored for 25, 30, and 40 years of service respectively. That is impressive to say the least.”

Firefighters are volunteer paid-on-call employees. Their role as firefighter is in addition to their normal job, said Cairnduff. “It takes a special person to give that many years of service to their community, sacrificing their spare time, family time, holidays, etc. to respond to the needs of our residents.”

The firefighters association also selects a firefighter of the year award, voted on by the entire department. This year, firefighter Marshall Colley, who has been with the department for six years, was selected. Colley serves as secretary/treasurer for the association and its non-profit Firefighters Charities group.

City Manager Lynn Markland said, “I want to congratulate Marshall Colley for receiving the Firefighter of the Year award, one of the highest recognitions a person can receive is from one’s peers,” he said. “The Firefighter of the Year Award is that type of recognition from Marshall’s peers. It is well deserved recognition.”

Markland praised the other firefighters, as well, saying, “The 10 firefighters recognized for their longevity together represent 155 years of service to our community.

“Those years of service were filled with shared sacrifice by their families every time the firefighter responded to an emergency, attended training a session or performed their assigned duty at the Fire Hall.

“I want to thank each one for their many years of exemplary dedicated service and I also want to thank their families for supporting them as firefighters in their service to our community.”

“We are extremely fortunate to have the volunteer fire department that we have,” said Mayor Sue Osborn. “They are fully committed to the city of Fenton and its residents. They sacrifice to serve this community.”

Osborn congratulated the entire department especially those achieving milestone awards.

---

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**Firefighter Frank Carpenter is presented with his 25 Years of Service award.**

**Service Awards**

- **5 years of service**
  - Firefighter Cameron Gilbert
  - Firefighter Brent Sharp
  - Firefighter Ryan Jenera

- **10 years of service**
  - Firefighter Nate Mosher
  - Firefighter Nick Schulz
  - Lieutenant Casey Gilbert

- **15 years of service**
  - Chief Bob Cairnduff

- **25 years of service**
  - Firefighter Frank Carpenter

- **30 years of service**
  - Chief Engineer Craig Jensen

- **40 years of service**
  - Assistant Chief Charlie Koan

“It takes a special person to give that many years of service to their community, sacrificing their spare time, family time, holidays, etc. to respond to the needs of our residents.”

Robert Cairnduff

Fenton Fire chief
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Memorable PHOTOS of 2011

Scott accepts defeat in recall

A fallen hero’s journey home

Fenton teachers protest

Teacher heading to Afghanistan

Polar Plunge raises $38,000 for charity

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Man dies trying to save co-worker

'I'm basically homeless'
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**2011 BEST AND WORST...**

**HOT LINES**

IF EVERYONE WOULD repeat after me, I’m an American, not a Republican, Democrat, Independent or anything else. An American is someone who stands for what is best for the country.

THE PROBLEM I have with teachers protesting in front of students is that I know they are trying to influence the kids to join a union when they grow up, then make someone else take care of their every need, like health care and pensions. I would rather kids grow up and learn to be self-sufficient and take care of their own needs. That’s why my kids are not in public schools.

TO ANYONE WHO shops at retail stores, thank you for making my job as a cashier enjoyable. Thank you for being considerate and treating people the way you would like to be treated.

**WELCOME TO MICHIGAN,** where you can snow ski on Friday, golf on Saturday, and fly a kite in a 50-mph wind on Sunday.

**TO THE PEOPLE** who feel it’s necessary to insult college students, stereotyping them as ‘easily brainwashed idiots and stupid,’ would you be more intelligent if your eyes if I hadn’t made the choice to go to college? I spent a lot of time expecting a great career. False hope.

**IT WAS SO refreshing** to attend the Patriot Week Festival in Holly. It was not just a celebration of our American heritage and treating people the way you would like to be treated.

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**IT WAS SO refreshing** to attend the Patriot Week Festival in Holly. It was not just a celebration of our American heritage and treating people the way you would like to be treated.
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18A Sunday, December 25, 2011

www.chassefenton.com

TOP 2011 NATIONAL NEWS

NOTABLE DEATHS

David Nelson (Jan. 11)
David Nelson broke into acting at a very early age, staring with “The Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet” with his brother and their parents. Nelson would go on to star in movies after the show closed, spanning a career that would last 30 years.

Len Lesser, “Uncle Leo” (Feb. 16)
Len Lesser may have played in many different movies that included other greats such as Clint Eastwood and Steve McQueen, but the actor will always be fondly remembered as Uncle Leo on “Seinfeld.” Eccentric and demanding of proper greetings, Uncle Leo was a hit amongst a star-studded cast.

Elizabeth Taylor (March 23)
An iconic American actress, Elizabeth Taylor died March 23 at the age of 79. Her 50.6-carat pearl necklace and earrings set was recently sold for $11.8 million.

Sidney Lumet (April 9)
Sidney Lumet has over 50 films credited to him, whether through directing, producing or screenwriting. His most notable works include “Dog Day Afternoon,” “The Verdict,” and “12 Angry Men.”

Betty Ford (July 8)
As the First Lady of Gerald Ford’s presidency, Betty Ford set the precedent for politically and socially active first ladies to come. Known for her work in the Women’s Movement and raising awareness for addiction, she founded the Betty Ford Clinic to help battle substance abuse.

Amy Winehouse (July 23)
The British singing sensation died at the young age of 27. Amy Winehouse won five Grammy awards for her second album “Back to Black.”

Steve Jobs (Oct. 5)
The founder of Apple died of cancer on Oct. 5, sparking global mourning. Steve Jobs was described as a visionary for his inventions such as the iPod, iPad, iPhone and other prominent Apple products.

Muammar Gaddafi (Oct. 20)
For 41 years, Muammar Gaddafi ruled over Libya, making him the longest-serving non-royal leader since 1900. Gaddafi was overthrown and killed on Oct. 20 by the National Liberation Army this year.

Jeff Conaway (Oct. 27)
Jeff Conaway was an actor who held many roles during his life and starred in such American staples as “Grease” and “Happy Days.”

Andy Rooney (Nov. 4)
A “60 Minutes” commentator known for his humor during his “A Few Minutes with Andy Rooney.” He died at the age of 92 on Nov. 4.

Joseph William “Joe” Frazier (Nov. 7)
An Olympic and Undisputed World Heavyweight boxing champion, Smokin’ Joe Frazier defeated boxing greats such as Buster Mathis and Muhammad Ali.

Harry Morgan (Dec. 7)
Born in Detroit, Harry Morgan appeared in more than 100 films and held the role of Sherman T. Potter on the hit show “MASH.” Before his death, Morgan was inducted into the Hall of Great Western Performers at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum.

Christopher Hitchens (Dec. 16)
The controversial writer died at the age of 62 in Texas on Dec. 16. A contributor to Vanity Fair, Christopher Hitchens drew criticism for his unfavorable views of Mother Theresa and blasting President Obama for receiving the Nobel Prize, amongst other criticisms of popular public figures.

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The U.S. economy

The U.S. economy has experienced so many highs and lows this year it could match the top thrill ride at Cedar Point. The debt-ceiling crisis over the summer brought out the worst in U.S. politicians, creating a polarizing view of both parties. With slow job growth and steady unemployment, the U.S. economy frequently made headlines. Recently, unemployment has been slowly falling and the holiday shopping season is stronger than expected, signs that the economy may be improving.

It's a revolution

All across the Arab world, civilians have demonstrated and protested against authoritarian governments, demanding a more inclusive society and democracy. So far, there have been full-blown revolutions in Tunisia, Egypt and Libya, where dictators have been overthrown. Other uprisings have occurred in Bahrain, Syria and Yemen. The world is watching now to see which governments will be set up across the Middle East.

Japan rocked by earthquake

On Friday, March 11, Japan was hit by the most powerful earthquake ever to hit the country. The earthquake triggered several tsunamis, causing 15,842 deaths and injured 5,890 people. Japanese Prime Minister Naoto Kan said, “In the 65 years after the end of World War II, this is the toughest and the most difficult crisis for Japan.”

Massacre, car bombing in Norway

Norway was hit with a one-two punch this year on July 22. A car bomb exploded near government buildings, killing eight people. That same day, a shooter went on a rampage at a youth camp on the island of Utoya, killing 69 people before he was caught by authorities. The shooter was 32-year-old Andres Behring Breivik. Diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia, Breivik will either be placed in prison or a psychiatric institution after his trial in April of next year.

Tornado rips through Joplin, Mo.

On May 22, a powerful EF-5 tornado struck Joplin, Mo., reaching nearly one mile in length when it touched the ground. Early estimates place the amount of damage at nearly $3 billion. Emergency managers of the National Weather Service reported that nearly 75 percent of Joplin was destroyed by the tornado. With 160 deaths and nearly 1,000 people injured, the tornado was one of the most powerful and deadly disasters in U.S. history.

Penn State scandal

The sexual abuse case at Penn State may very well come down as the worst scandal in sports history. Former assistant coach Jerry Sandusky was indicted on 40 counts of sexually abusing young boys. Even more disturbing are the accusations that football coach Joe Paterno and the university president knew about the behavior and did nothing to stop it.

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*Available only on new Smart Savings accounts opened in conjunction with this offer. Not available for public works. 1.25% Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is accurate as of 12/10/2011 and is guaranteed for 12 months. The advertised rate is based on a $5,000 balance and is calculated using a standard 365-day year. It is subject to change. After your initial 12-month period, unless otherwise notified by you, your account balance will automatically earn the standard Smart Savings interest rate in effect at that time or the Business Savings rate. This account is not available to individuals under the age of 18. For ATMs that are not Flagstar Bank branded, calling for fees and surcharges apply. The rate for new accounts is a competitive rate determined by Flagstar Bank. For additional information, call your local branch or visit flagstar.com.

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Happy Holidays
From My Family to Yours

John, Jennifer, Christian, Rocco & Dahlia Wentworth

Thank You to All of Our Clients for Your Continued Trust & Support.
You Have Helped Make 2011 Our Best Year Yet & We Look Forward to Helping
Many More Families Achieve their Real Estate Goals throughout 2012!
From My Family to yours, HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

WentworthWaterfront.com

Some of Our Waterfront Sales 2011: Year in Review

Lake Fenton
13151 Torrey Rd. - $780,000
2559 N. Long Lake Rd. - $700,000
2473 Margaret Drive - $405,000
12350 Windsor Beach - $376,000
14194 Darts Landing - $350,000
12085 Torrey Road - $269,250
13329 Lakeshore - $175,000
13529 Torrey Road - $199,000

Lake Tyrone
5776 Bullard Rd. - $375,000
6025 Mabley Hill - $157,603

Runyan Lake
10159 Carmer Rd. - $285,000

Lobdell Lake
7213 Lobdell Rd. - $539,900
11627 Clairmont - $337,000
7357 Haviland Beach - $330,000
16067 Knobhill Dr. - $295,000
8448 Peninsular - $295,000
7035 Whitney Woods - $265,000
16486 Whitehead Dr. - $199,900
7351 Selma Drive - $157,500
16350 Sunset Way - $149,900
16016 Moran Drive - $300,000

Lake Ponemah
4261 Four Lakes Ave. - $525,000
4273 Four Lakes Ave. - $507,000
14001 Squaw Lake - $322,000

Silver Lake
15127 Marl Drive - $325,000
16305 Hi-Land Trail - $304,000
16158 Silvercrest - $300,000
15167 Marl Drive - $280,150
16212 Silvershore - $292,000

Byram Lake
6292 Restwood - $193,700

Pine Lake
16093 Scenic View - $510,000
5006 Island View - $199,900

Lake Shannon
7294 Surfwood - $310,000

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HOLY SPIRIT, who gives all problems and lights all roads so may attain my goals. Who gives me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me. In all instances of your life are we as me. I want in this short prayer to thank you for all things and confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you. I wish to be with you in eternal glory. Thank you for your mercy towards me and mine. This person must say this prayer for 3 consecutive days. After 3 days the favor will be granted, even if it appears difficult. This prayer must be published immediately after the favor is granted, without mentioning the favor. Only your initials should appear at the bottom. LAGB

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NEED HELP with your elderly loved ones or help with cleaning? Your home ANYTIME! Call Patrica, 810-569-0977.

Send sealed bids to Argentine Township Clerk, 9048 Silver Lake Road, Linden MI 48451. Truck can be viewed at address above. Sealed bids accepted until 4:00 p.m. January 20, 2012. The Township Board has the right to accept/refuse any and all bids.

PUBLIC NOTICE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF FENTON BOARD MEETING SYMPOSIUM DECEMBER 19, 2011

The Fenton Township Board held a regular meeting on Monday, December 19, 2011 at the Fenton Township Civic Community Center, 12060 Mantawauka Drive, Fenton, Michigan and took the following actions.

1. Supervisor Mathis led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.
2. Approved the agenda as amended.
3. Approved invoices & expenditures for payment in the total amount of $457,322.47.
4. Adopted Ordinance No. 742, a Zoning Ordinance amendment to revise PUD conditions of a previously approved PUD project, located near the intersection of Owen and Jennings Roads.
5. Adopted Ordinance No. 743, a new Home Occupations Ordinance.
6. Conducted the first reading of a proposed Zoning Ordinance amendment to add provisions regarding Internet Sales.
7. Conducted the first reading of a proposed Zoning Ordinance amendment to add provisions regarding accessory residences on agricultural property.
8. Adopted amendments to the 2011 Fenton Township Budget.
9. Approved the implementation of the optional 80/20 rules to comply with the Publicly Funded Health Insurance Contribution Act, Public Act 152 of 2011.
10. Approved a 2-year law enforcement services agreement with the Genesee County Sheriff Department.
11. Adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

A complete copy of the minutes of this meeting and any ordinances adopted at the meeting are on file and available for review at the Fenton Township Office, 12060 Mantawauka Drive, Fenton, Michigan 48430. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Ordinances, meeting schedules, meeting minutes and other Township information are also available at www.fentontownship.org.

ROBERT E. KRUG
FENTON TOWNSHIP CLERK

Synopsis of The Argentine Township Regular Board Meeting December 19, 2011
Meeting called to order @ 7:00 p.m.
Roll Call: Schmidt, present, Cole, present, Hallman, present, Ciesielski, present, Graves, present.
A moment of silence was observed in memory of RU Groom and Sarah Stork. Motion to approve the minutes as printed of November 28, 2011 Regular Board Meeting and Board Workshop on December 16, 2011. Motion passed.
Motion, to approve the budget adjustments as recommended by the Clerk. Motion passed.
Motion to accept payment of the invoices and expenditures as printed. Motion passed.
Guest speakers: Mr. John Daly, Genesee County, Manager –Director of the Genesee County Road Commission and Mr. Robert Slatery, Genesee County Road Commission, Director of Information Systems Planning gave an oral report. Police: A written report was submitted. Fire: A written report was submitted. Building: Supervisor Cole said 2 permits were issued that totals $407.00. Planning Commission: No report. Attorney: An oral report was given. Old Business: Appointment to the Zoning Board of Appeals: Motion to appoint Joe Rzepcki to the Zoning Board of Appeals to fill the remainder of the term ending July 25, 2012. Motion passed. Motion to appoint Eugene Satkowiak to the Zoning Board of Appeals to the term ending July 25, 2014. Motion passed.
Bids for Grass Clip: Motion, to accept the bid from Michael Ressequie in the amount of $5,100.00. Motion passed.
Bids for Watering: Motion, to accept the bid at $457,322.47. Motion passed.
New Business: Public Act 152 of 2011. Motion to opt out of PA 152. Motion passed.
Motion to accept the Board's 2011 Mid-Year Budget Amendments. Motion passed.
Apprenticeship: Motion, to accept the bid from Michael Ressequie in the amount of $5,163.00. Motion passed.
New Business: Public Act 152 of 2011. Motion to opt out of PA 152. Motion passed.
Risk Management Updates: Motion, to adopt the Argentine Township Sexual Harassment Policy. Motion passed.
Bid out old pumper: Motion to place an ad for bids on 1975 Ford 700-pumper truck as is with no warranty and a minimum bid. Motion passed.
Bid out 01-28-100-002 fuel for agricultural use. Motion to place an ad and bid out parcel 01-28-100-002 for agricultural use. Motion passed.
Adjourned @ 8:07 p.m.

Submitted by Denise Graves, Clerk
Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year

From the Fountain of Youth Staff!

FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH

SERVICES:
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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF FENTON
PUBLIC NOTICE OF ORDNANCE ADOPTION
AND PROPOSED ZONING ORDNANCE AMENDMENTS

At their meeting of December 19, 2011 the Fenton Township Board took the following actions relative to ordinances:

1. Adopted Ordinance No. 742, a Zoning Ordinance amendment to revise PUD conditions of a previously approved PUD project, located near the intersection of Owen and Jennings Roads.
2. Adopted Ordinance No. 743, a new Home Occupations Ordinance.
3. Conducted the first reading of a proposed Zoning Ordinance amendment to add provisions regarding Internet Sales.
4. Conducted the first reading of a proposed Zoning Ordinance amendment to add provisions regarding accessory residences on agricultural property.

The second reading for the proposed Zoning Ordinance amendments is scheduled for January 9, 2012.

Complete copies of the ordinances may be obtained at the office of the Fenton Township Clerk, 12060 Mantawauke Drive, Fenton, MI 48430. The ordinances are also available on Fenton Township’s website at www.fentontownship.org.

ROBERT E. KRUG
FENTON TOWNSHIP CLERK
SuperCrossword

Many happy returns

Sears Hometown Store in Fenton will open early on Monday at 7 a.m. for returns and exchanges. “If you have a receipt and everything is packaged in the original box as it was given, then you should have no problem,” said Sears co-owner Jeff Stone. “Without a receipt, your return will be given in the form of a gift card.”

Summary

• About 25 percent of gift recipients will return at least one gift they received this Christmas. For the most hassle-free returns, keep all receipts and give gift receipts.

TIPS FOR RETURNS AFTER THE HOLIDAY:

• Know the retailer’s return policy before you buy. Most retailers have return policies prominently displayed, and spelled out on the merchandise receipt and on their website.

• Save and file all receipts for hassle-free returns. Some retailers will allow consumers to exchange merchandise without a receipt, but may only provide merchandise credit for the lowest mark-down price at which the item was sold during the holiday season. Provide the recipient with a gift receipt to save the hassle of a return after the holidays.

• If you think you will be returning a gift, avoid opening the packaging, especially those items that are sealed in hard plastic. Keep the original packaging including Styrofoam, plastic product wrapping, the box, instruction manuals, and all parts (including tags). If you are given clothing or sleepwear, try it on for fit and extra help in the stores during the holiday season.

• Provide the return gift online:

-is there a restocking fee on returns?
-is the return for exchanges or refunds?
-where can the item be returned to a local store?
-what’s the mailing address for returns?

MAKE ONLINE RETURNS EASY

Returns are a part of shopping, no matter where you buy. In addition to the other rules of returns, here are a few things to find out before you purchase a gift online:

- Who will pay for shipping the return, you or the merchant?
- Is the return policy the same for exchanges or refunds?
- Is there a restocking fee on returns?
- Can the item be returned to a local physical store?
- What is the mailing address for returning merchandise to the company? Some online merchants have off-site service centers specifically assigned to handling returned merchandise.

- Be patient. The week after Christmas is one of the busiest weeks of the year for retailers. With people’s frustration high and tolerance low, be patient when returning merchandise.
Gerych's

After Christmas Sale

After Christmas Sale begins on Dec 26th

30% to 70% off

Storewide Sale
Cash and Carry items only

12/25 Christmas Day: Closed
12/26 Boxing Day: 9 AM - 6 PM
After Christmas Sale Begins
12/31 New Year's Eve: 9 AM - 3 PM
1/1 New Year's Day: Closed

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NOTICE This is a debt collector attempting to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used to determine whether you are the person to whom the notice is addressed. It is made in accordance with MCL 600.3241 or MCL 600.3241a(c), whichever is later. A verified complaint may be filed by the mortgage holder or mortgage servicer. Potestivo & Associates, P.C. is either a mortgage holder or mortgage servicer with respect to the following mortgage at 5441 Richfield Rd. The following does not apply if you have previously agreed to modify the mortgage loan under section 323B.302a and 323B.302b or do not apply unless the terms of the modified mortgage loan entered into were complied with by one or both of the parties before this date.

In order to request a meeting with your mortgage holder or mortgage servicer, Potestivo & Associates, P.C. is either a mortgage holder or mortgage servicer with respect to the following mortgage at 5441 Richfield Rd. The following does not apply if you have previously agreed to modify the mortgage loan under section 323B.302a and 323B.302b or do not apply unless the terms of the modified mortgage loan entered into were complied with by one or both of the parties before this date.

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And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

Fernando said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.
Fenton unveils ‘Be Closer’ tag line

The Fenton City Council unveiled the tag line ‘Be Closer’ in January, which included coordinated billboards, several signs, a website, and other promotional media. The project cost more than $60,000, and has been popular with some, and confusing to others.

City manager inks $88,508 contract

City Manager Lynn Markland signed on through 2014, with no increase in pay. Markland has 25 years of experience as a city administrator. He said he is proud of his accomplishments, including capturing grants for Silver Park, sewer lift stations, and balancing the city budget in difficult economic times.

Acument opens

The Fenton fastener company reopened in February after closing in 2009 at the peak of the recession. Acument has adjusted its business, and employs more than 45 people.

Two teens dead due to drug overdoses

Fenton and Lake Fenton high schools were closed by the deaths of Briona Jawhari, and Erika Schlosser. The teens died of heroin overdoses less than a week apart. Their deaths inspired the ‘Chasing the Dragon’ campaign, designed to compel students to avoid illegal drugs. Two more young people in the area died from drug overdoses in the following months.

Fenton First Presbyterian Church undergoes renovation

The Fenton First Presbyterian Church in Dibberville began its $1.6 million expansion in April, which included larger space for youth and fellowship. The expansion also included a new, larger kitchen, gathering space, classrooms and conducive offices.

City Council approves new equipment

In December, the Fenton City Council approved the purchase of new emergency dispatch equipment, ending a debate that began in the spring. The city council had considered closing it, as Flint and Fenton are the only cities in the area with their own dispatch centers. The equipment will be paid for by the Downtown Development Authority (DDA). The DDA budgeted almost $320,000 for the project. Police Chief Rick Aro hopes to have the equipment in place by late January or early February.

Culvers coming to Fenton

In January, Culvers’ owners Kevin Powers and Katie Schmitt announced plans to tear down The State Bank building on Owen Road, across from Fenton High School, and build another Culvers restaurant. About a month later, the building is well under construction.

North LeRoy Street to receive $1.25 million facelift

The Fenton City Council approved spending almost $150,000 on an engineering firm to design improvements for LeRoy Street, from North Road to the Fenton Township border. The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) will complete the project. The construction of the project will begin spring 2012, and cost $1.25 million

HOLLY TOWNSHIP

Officer Conklin rescues men from methane gas

In August, Linden Police Officer Gary Conklin rescued two men from a sewer hole filled with poisonous methane gas. One of the men died. The other survived. Conklin was recognized for his heroic efforts by former State Rep. Paul Scott, State Senator John Gleason and the Linden City Council. Conklin was also selected as the grand marshal of the Linden Holiday Happening parade.

Holly Township man fights to keep his property

A 20-acre parcel of land in Holly Township was the point of a legal battle between Timm Smith and Holly Township since 2009. After a complicated and drawn out legal process, the courts upheld the township being gifted 10 acres of the property, which were being paid for by a mortgage upon which Smith defaulted.

Medical marijuana ordinance

The village of Holly was one of the first to approve a medical marijuana ordinance allowing dispensaries to operate within the village borders. Most municipalities either disapproved dispensaries, or placed moratoriums on them, waiting for the courts to work out how dispensaries are defined, and where they can be.

Lawsuits settled

After Powars Powers was fired from his position as Holly Village manager in fall of 2010, she filed a lawsuit against six members of the council. Powers was awarded a total of $111,250 in 2011, but the village settled with Powers for an undisclosed amount in December 2011.

New village manager hired

After former village manager Marsha Powers was fired in 2010, former police chief Rollie Gaskett was appointed to serve as interim manager. Jerry Walker, a former city manager and police chief, was hired as interim village manager. After an interview process, he eventually became the permanent village manager.

First woman police chief hired in Holly

Police Chief Rollie Gaskett retired in December 2010. Sgt. Michael Story applied for the interim police chief and nearly 50 candidates applied for the position. The committee to interview the candidates fielded the applicants and made a recommendation to village council. Elena Danishevskaya was hired as the first female police chief in the village of Holly.

Village residents swallow higher water bill

The residents of the village of Holly saw their quarterly water/sewer bill increase by at least $40 this past summer. The council voted to raise the fees to cover the bond service that was used for the expansion of the village water treatment system several years ago. Residents registered complaints at public hearings and during public comment at meetings before, and after the fees were implemented.

ROSE TOWNSHIP

Rose Township family barely escapes fire

A Rose Township family safely escaped the house fire on Demode Road that engulfed their home in January. When North Oakland County Fire Authority chief Jeremy Lintz arrived, the family was watching the fire consume their home, from the safety of a family vehicle. The home owners blamed a partially doused fire from a wood-burning stove as a possible cause.

ARGENTINE TOWNSHIP

Police move back to old building

In March, the Argentine Township Police Department moved back to its old building on Silver Lake Road, across from Navistar Bar & Grill. In the summer of 2007, the department moved from that spot to the basement of the township hall, about a ½ mile drive to the road to save the township $12,000 per year in rent. The police department opened its own impound lot. The lot opened for business in August of 2009.

Lawsuits settled

A lawsuit filed by a former firefighter was settled out of court for $400,000 in January. The lawsuit was filed against William Harvey, the former fire chief. The settlement was covered by the township’s insurance provider.

Blythe Amenson, a former lieutenant with the fire department, filed the lawsuit in 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.

51ST DISTRICT

Paul Scott recalled

State Rep. Paul Scott, (R, Grand Blanc, 51st District) was recalled by a narrow margin in November. The recall effort was largely credited to the Michigan Education Association (MEA) who did the bulk of the signature gathering. Scott fought the recall in different state courts, but ended up facing the election at a loss. His recall brought into question the possible need for recall election reform, because of the price tag for recall elections.

Steven Losey (D-Linden) was selected by the Democratic Party of Genesee County to be the Democratic candidate for state representative. In February, voters in the 51st District will vote for Lowey or Joseph Graves, (R-Argentine) to serve the remainder of Scott’s term, which expires November 2012.

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Come party with us at our 3rd annual New Year’s Eve Party

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Contact Navistarz for details 810-458-4385
DJ & Dancing all night long!
Party Favors, Midnight Champagne Toast
Open Late till 4 am! We will be keeping the kitchen open all night, offering a limit breakfast menu after midnight.
Taking reservations. We can accommodate large groups.

Sunday Morning: Create your own Bloody Mary!
We will be having our first bloody mary bar open.

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DEATHS
Continued from Page 3A
Erika Schlosser, 19, died Feb 13 from a heroin overdose. She was active in sports. She attended Fenton High School. Albert H. Callahan, 92, died on Feb. 23. He was a former Fenton city attorney and served as a lieutenant in the Navy during World War II. He attended the University of Michigan in 1945. He was a municipal lawyer who helped pave the way for the village of Fenton to become a city in 1964.

Rick Rockman Sr., 81, died on March 2. He founded the Tri-County Advertiser in the late '50s, which later became the Tri-County News and eventually the Tri-County Times. Before moving to Fenton, Rockman was the police commissioner of Linden and founded the Linden Leader. Rockman was an active member of his community and was involved with many organizations including St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, the Michigan Harness Racing Association, the Kiwanis Club, Michigan Press Association, Fenton Chamber of Commerce and Spring Meadows Country Club. Rickman was also an avid football player and was a part of the semi-pro Fenton Independents, the Flint Sabres, and he tried out for the Detroit Lions.

Marjorie Hodges, 56, died June 4 after losing her battle with cancer. She was the director of the Loose Senior Citizen Center in Linden for many years.

Paul Bottecelli, 90, died October 9. Bottecelli had served as mayor of Fenton and on the Fenton City Council. He owned and operated Fenton Drug/Ideal Pharmacy from 1947, until his retirement in 1985. A lifelong resident of Fenton, Bottecelli was a member of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, Fenton VFW Curtis-Wolverton Post 3243, American Legion and Fenton Rotary. As a veteran of the Army, Bottecelli served during World War II.

John Moulton, 66, died on Nov. 9. He served as the Fenton Township fire chief for 20 years, joining the department in 1985. Moulton was a lifelong resident of Fenton Township, closely following Lake Fenton football and played quarterback during high school. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army.
Scary Santa

Picture taken with the man in the red suit not fun for all

By Sally Rummel

Meeting Santa Claus for the first time, with his large red suit, a snowy white beard and an intimidating “ho-ho-ho” can be scary through the eyes of a small child. Well-meaning parents who would never knowingly put their child in harm’s way have taught their children not to talk to strangers. Then they pick out the scariest looking stranger possible — Santa Claus — and put their child in his lap.

When 8-month old Rennie Stickel visited Santa for the first time at Crossroads Village, let out a big scream during her visit with Santa at Bass Pro Shop at Great Lakes Crossing.

Polar Express at Flint Institute of Arts a few weeks ago, she was too young to tell Santa what she wanted for Christmas. But she was old enough to be afraid of this strange new situation.

“Actually, it wasn’t Santa she was afraid of, it was Mrs. Claus,” said Rennie’s mom, Tessa Stickel, of Fenton. “Take a look at Mrs. Claus in the picture. She is kind of garish looking.”

Paw’s Corner

Pets to the Rescue

9B

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

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Rennie Stickel, daughter of Dan and Tessa Stickel of Fenton, doesn’t like what she sees when she looks up at Santa and Mrs. Claus during a recent visit to Crossroads Village.

Ava Green, daughter of Andrew and Sarah Green and granddaughter of Fenton residents Mark and Sally Rummel, let out a big scream during her visit with Santa at Bass Pro Shop at Great Lakes Crossing.

This photo from 12 years ago is an annual fun Scary Santa memory for Jackie McGrady and her family. Pictured are her grandchildren, Josh, then 2, and Kaitlyn who was 7 months old.

See SCARY SANTA on 13B

Summary

Why are many young children so afraid of Santa Claus? It just might be his big red suit, snowy white beard, and the fact that he’s a stranger.

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13 CLEVER IDEAS to make LIFE EASIER

Overhaul your linen cupboard. Store bed linen sets inside one of their own pillowcases and there will be no more hunting through piles for a match.

Rubbing a walnut over scratches in your furniture will disguise dings and scrapes.

Stop cut apples browning in your child’s lunch box by securing with a rubber band.

Pump up the volume by placing your iPhone & iPod in a bowl. The concave shape amplifies the music.

Forever losing your bathroom essentials? Use magnetic strips to store bobby pins, tweezers and clippers, behind a vanity door.

Hull strawberries easily using a straw.

Bread tags make the perfect cord labels.

Find tiny lost items like earrings by putting a stocking over the vacuum hose.

How to: Green your holidays

Tips, ideas and resources for a waste-free holiday

For many of us, it’s back to work on Tuesday. All that’s left of the festivities is a hangover and bulging bin-liners piled at the back door. But whether it’s food, the tree or gift paper, there is a better way than dumping it all in the bin.

Food, foil and plastics

Seek inspiration for “leftover” recipes by visiting www.tctimes.com/recipes. The acres of tin foil used for turkeys can also be recycled too (after washing), as can other aluminium items such as cans, milk bottle tops and wine bottles.

Plastics occupy a tricky area for recycling. More and more local organizations accept them via recycling banks or kerbside collections. Check the triangular recycling symbol on the bottom of the bottle, which identifies the type of plastic. PET and HDPE bottles are recycled by most local organizations. To check what is (and isn’t) recyclable, see www.recycenow.com.

Christmas trees

Most areas will collect trees during their regular pickup schedules on the weeks following Christmas. There are often requirements for size and removal of ornaments.

Santa’s rule: get one, toss two

Try this simple idea to pack a powerful clutter-cutting punch as you put away new holiday gifts: for each gift received, toss two counterparts.

As you put away holiday gifts, take time to make extra room throughout the house. For example, for every new Christmas DVD you add to the shelves, remove two older titles. Did Nana gift the children with new holiday pajamas? Find two outgrown sets to add to the donation bag. If craft supplies made it into your stocking, be sure to remove double their number from your stash before adding them to the craft closet.

Whether you recycle, donate or sell the losers, each gift will reduce clutter in your organized home — and the excitement of new possessions helps cut the ties to old, outworn items.

Get One, Toss Two: short, sweet and painless way to declutter for the New Year.
Tri-County Times Christmas Coloring Contest

ENTRANTS & WINNERS

AGE 3
WINNER - Kennedy Walrath (Fenton)
HONORABLE MENTIONS:
Elia Buchalski (Linden)
Sabrina Dudek (Holly)
Dane McKee (Fenton)
Titan Tremaine (Fenton)
Claire Weir (Fenton)

ALEX AYOTTE (Fenton)
Riley Beckermeyer (Fenton)
Reagan Bouls (Linden)
Fletcher Clark (Fenton)
Kayleigh Coburn (Holly)
Ryan Czop (Fenton)
Karsen Diehl (Fenton)
Gwen Grove (Linden)
Ciara Hankins (Linden)
Amelia Romine (Fenton)
Briele Schoen (Davisburg)
Katelynne Scott (Fenton)
Lauren Skank (Fenton)
Lily Turskowski (Fenton)
Kaitlyn Rose Wentz (Fenton)

AGE 4
WINNER - Carson LaVanway (Fenton)
HONORABLE MENTIONS:
Mackenzie Bradley (Rose Township)
Nina Chandy (Fenton)
Estella Emerson (Davisburg)
Lily Hitchings (Fenton)
Sarah Learman (Linden)
Justin Perantoni (Fenton)
Mackenna Sweeney (Fenton)
Jack Todorovski (Fenton)
Hannah Yolkening (Swartz Creek)

ALEX LINDA (Fenton)
Reed Krueger (Linden)
Brooklyn Kinney (Fenton)
Miranda Miller (Davisburg)
Haley Ranta (Fenton)
Amelia Romine (Fenton)
Jessica Sands (Holly)
Lauren Swartz (Fenton)
Lily Turskowski (Linden)
Blair Ungvorsky (Linden)

AGE 5
WINNER - Chelsea Goin (Holly)
HONORABLE MENTIONS:
Giavanna (Holly)
Archer Anderson (Fenton)

ALEX LA私下 (Fenton)
Riley Bouls (Linden)
Fletcher Clark (Fenton)
Kayleigh Coburn (Holly)
Ryan Czop (Fenton)
Karsen Diehl (Fenton)
Gwen Grove (Linden)
Ciara Hankins (Linden)
Amelia Romine (Fenton)
Briele Schoen (Davisburg)
Katelynne Scott (Fenton)
Lauren Skank (Fenton)
Lily Turskowski (Linden)
Caitlyn Rose Wentz (Fenton)

AGE 6
WINNER - Caprice Dunn (Holly)
HONORABLE MENTIONS:
Alivia (Fenton)
Jackson (Fenton)
Sydney (Fenton)
Matthew Allen (Holly)
Olivia Anderson (Flushing)
James Appleton (Linden)
Abigail Baran (Linden)
Alyson Churian (Swartz Creek)
Skyler Glotfelter (Fenton)
Nicole Horst (Linden)
Ryan Maser (Gaines)
Ryan McWeil (Linden)
Vanessa Shafer (Linden)
Jillian Shanahan (Fenton)
Cooper Smith (Fenton)
Meghan Smith (Linden)
Kendall Stiwel (Flushing)
Ben Weigle (Fenton)

AGE 7
WINNER - Sean Bowies (Fenton)
HONORABLE MENTIONS:
Christopher (Fenton)
Claire (Fenton)
Grace (Fenton)
Brenna Bair (Fenton)
Molly Blanchard (Fenton)
Matthew Bryant (Fenton)
Gena Duffy (Holly)
Alyssa Fancher (Holly)
Zeke Ford (Linden)
Jillian Graham (Holly)
Peyton Graham (Fenton)
Tyler Hahn (Fenton)
Chelsea Harding (Linden)
Mara Kanopka (Holly)
Aiden Krueger (Linden)
Jack Larson (Fenton)
Nic Learman (Linden)
Abby Logan (Linden)
Susan Gahon (Linden)
Kaleigh Shukar (Fenton)
Shanna Shuck (Holly)
Olivia Tremaine (Linden)
Hannah Wasilewski (Linden)
Noah F. Watson (Fenton)
Kelly Wilkovich (Fenton)
Grace Woodruff (Fenton)

AGE 8
WINNER - Mason Tabor (Fenton)
HONORABLE MENTIONS:
Allie Browne (Linden)
Logan Bushon (Fenton)
Ashlyn Cooper (Linden)
Emily Day (Byron)
Madeline Davis (Byron)
Braden Diehl (Fenton)
Jesse Durand (Flint)
Megan Engel (Linden)
Lexi Gellert (Gaines)
Cooper Hinrich (Fenton)
Sarah Hollenbeck (Byron)
Garrett Huggins (Linden)
Abby James (Linden)
Charley MacIntosh (Holly)
Skye McDougall (Holly)
Olivia Meissner (Linden)
Rylee Ochs (Fenton)
Kaitlyn Premo (Fenton)

AGE 9
WINNER - Caleb Learman (Linden)
HONORABLE MENTIONS:
Geneva (Fenton)
Madilyn (Perry)
Brooke Bair (Fenton)
Sydney Bommensbach (Holly)
Lauren Bossenberger (Fenton)
Paige Brown (Saginaw)
Sarah Burke (Holly)
Margaret Culkowski (Holly)
Lila Darling (Flushing)
Trinity Fanos (Fenton)
Austin Harding (Linden)
Grace Havel (Clarkston)
Zachary Hampsiel (Fenton)
Maggie Kelley (Linden)
Amber Kelly (Fenton)
Jax McDonald (Linden)
Melody Miles (Flint)
Ally Riley (Linden)
Gabrielle Smith (Linden)
Alex Stanszewski (Fenton)
Breanna Trecha (Fenton)
Hannah Tucker (Linden)
Kendall Hunter VanDeVenter (Waite Lake)
Alex Volkening (Swartz Creek)
Anna Weigle (Fenton)
Serena Winan (Holly)

AGE 10
WINNER - Audrey Tremaine (Fenton)
HONORABLE MENTIONS:
Dylan Baker (Linden)
Russel Buffa (Fenton)
Sophia Clements (Fenton)
Kaya Davis (Holly)
Samantha K. (Linden)
Lillian Kildow (Fenton)
Joe Loria (Fenton)
Alexus Maybee (Holly)
Chloe McKenzie (Fenton)
Taylor Parker (Holly)
Jordan Revels (Fenton)
Katelyn Sowash (Linden)
Alaina Strauss (Burrton)
Peyton Tinsley (Fenton)
Cole Wilkich (Linden)

AGE 11
WINNER - Jacob Ford (Linden)
HONORABLE MENTIONS:
Elizabeth (Fenton)
Kayla Lee Armstrong (Linden)
Sabrina Bigelow (Linden)
Cameron Bodoh (Fenton)
Lexie Curtis (Holly)
Abbey Gordon (Flushing)
Taylor Hart (Fenton)
Delaney Hundzinski (Fenton)
Rachel Learman (Linden)
Charlotte Morgan (Fenton)
Hunter Muffley (Fenton)
Logan J. Prater (Linden)
Cassie Young (Fenton)
The Retreat expands spa area

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

The Retreat Salon & Skin Spa owners Cortney Gwaltney and Kristen Steele show the expanded setting of their salon, which now includes the services of six hair stylists, three nail techs, two skin specialists and one massage therapist.

Summary
The Retreat Salon & Skin Spa in Fenton Township has expanded its space, now offering an additional 1,200 square feet for relaxation and pampering. Located at 12272 Fenton Rd. at The Shoppes of The Backyard, the Retreat has maintained its unique elements of coziness and the same intimate setting that their guests have come to expect. “We wanted to create a space where guests would relax and feel welcome the moment they walked through our doors,” said owners Cortney Gwaltney and Kristen Steele.

Now with two pedicure thrones, including a relaxing chair massage and three more custom-built nail tech stations, The Retreat can offer its comprehensive spa treatments in a more relaxed, spacious setting. In addition, the owners added a glass bamboo door, carpet and relaxation room where the spa’s treatment rooms for skin care and massage are located. The new space includes a “wash house,” which focuses on the experience as much as the service with dimmed lighting, candles and leg rests for the comfort of clients. Guests will also find that the dryer area is a room of its own where they can enjoy more privacy, owners say.

The Retreat’s Custom Paul Mitchell color bar is now three times the size of the original bar, and offers the opportunity for guests to watch their color come to life if they choose. Still a Paul Mitchell focus salon, The Retreat now also offers the luxurious Pureology line. New laser skin care services will be added in January, according to Gwaltney, who is now joined by Tracy Castro, skin-care specialist, in providing skin-care services by licensed, experienced professionals.

For more information or to make an appointment, call The Retreat at (810) 208-7002 or visit their website at www.theretreatsalonandskinspa.com.
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**NIKON 1 J1**

WITH 1 NIKKOR VR 10mm–30mm ZOOM LENS

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**NIKON 1 J1 ALSO AVAILABLE IN BLACK, SILVER AND RED.**

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Based on performance with shooting using a standard zoom lens (10-30) at the maximum wide-angle position with AF-area mode set to Single-point (results based on Nikon test conditions).

§§ All Nikon 1 models and colors subject to availability.

*1 All Nikon products include Nikon Inc. USA limited warranty. ©2011 Nikon Inc.
Jessica Fugate

If you could do anything over in high school what would it be?: I would try harder in my freshman year, because I slacked off.

What do you do outside of school?: I do a lot of photography and hang out with my family.

My greatest high school regret is?: I wish I would have taken more classes that would help with my career interest.

My most embarrassing moment in high school was?: I almost slipped on ice in front of the school in front of everyone.

If you could have one super power what would it be?: I would want to read people’s minds. I wouldn’t like it if they could read mine, though.

If you were principal for a day what changes would you make to the school?: I would add more passing time between classes to talk to friends and have the school day start later in the day.

What is an upcoming event you are looking forward to?: Christmas, because of the presents, spending time with family, and no school.

If you had to walk through downtown all day wearing a sign, what would it say?: ‘There is a thin line between knowing when to give up and when to try harder.’

Front row seats and back stage passes, whom are you seeing?: Tim McGraw or Bruno Mars

Best day in your life so far?: My 17th birthday, I had a party with all my friends and it was really fun.

What are your plans after graduation?: I want to go to Saginaw Valley, major in graphic design and minor in Spanish.

Where will you be 10 years from now?: I hope to be graduated from college, married, and live in a big house.

Jessica Fugate
17-year-old junior
Holly High School

FAMILY:
Wendy and Phil Fugate. I have two brothers, Michael and Joshua Fugate, and one sister, Rebecca Fugate.

MY DREAM CAR IS:
A white Land Rover, with black leather interior.
Members of St. John Catholic Church dedicate a memorial, the "Eternal Flame," on Sunday, Dec. 11 outside St. John’s Activity Center. The monument is to remember unbom babies lost to abortion, miscarriages, or pre-birth complications. The Knights of Columbus Council #7418 and the members of St. John’s parish would like to thank Roger Sharp for his donation of the memorial stone set into the flames’ foundation.

**Eternal Flame**

**Obituaries, Funeral Services and Memoriums**

**Charles Leachman Jr.,** Charles Leachman Jr. - age 77, died December 19, 2011. Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes.

**Ermal Sellers,** Ermal Sellers - age 48, died December 16, 2011. Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes.

**Evelyn Dillingham,** Evelyn Dillingham - age 81, died December 15, 2011. Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes.

**George Nemer,** George Nemer - age 87, died December 16, 2011. Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes.

**Irene Stiles,** Irene Stiles - age 89, died December 16, 2011. Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes.

**James Farmer,** James Farmer - age 80, died December 17, 2011. Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes.

**Joseph Pease,** Joseph Pease - age 65, died December 17, 2011. Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes.

**Joseph Veselsky,** Joseph Veselsky - age 68, died December 21, 2011. Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes.

**Ralph Schell,** Ralph Schell - age 88, died December 18, 2011. Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes.

**Patricia A. Solberg**

1956-2011

Patricia A. Solberg - age 55, died December 17, 2011 at Genesis Hospice Care Center in Goodrich. She is survived by her loving son, Zachary Blissor, brother, Thomas (Jo Tucker) Heidtke, nephew, Alex Heidtke and many dear friends. Mrs. Solberg taught for 24 years in the Hartland School District. She loved gardening, flowers, animals, and especially visiting Lake Charlevoix. Donations may be made in Patricia’s memory to the Fenton Adopt-A-Pet, 13575 N. Fenton Rd., Fenton MI, 48430. Share memories at www.temrowskifamilyfuneralhome.com.

**Marilyn M. Hampton**

86-2011

Marilyn M. Hampton - age 86, died December 21, 2011. Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes.

**Ernest J. Pinter**

97-2011


**Donald W. Sherey**

86-2011


**Michelle Pirker-Fruehaus**

70-2011

Michelle Pirker-Fruehaus - age 46, died December 21, 2011. Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes.

**Robert James McDonald**

70-2011

Robert James McDonald - age 83, of Fenton, passed away Friday, December 23, 2011 at Young at Heart, Holly. Services will be 12 PM Saturday, January 7, 2012 at Sharp Funeral Homes, Fenton Chapel, 1000 Silver Lake Rd., Fenton. The family will receive friends 10 AM Saturday, until the time of service. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Young at Heart, Holly. Online condolences may be posted on the obituary pages of www.sharpfuneralhomes.com.

**Jack M. Lukas**

1932-2011

Jack M. Lukas - age 79, of Fenton, died December 21, 2011 at Carleton Inn, Linden. Funeral services will be held 1 PM Tuesday, December 27, 2011 at Fenton Church of God, 14669 North Rd., Fenton, with Pastor Eugene Blankenship officiating. Burial will follow in Oakwood Cemetery. Visitation will be held 3-6 PM Monday at Sharp Funeral Homes, Fenton Chapel, 1000 Silver Lake Rd., Fenton. Jack was born February 5, 1932 in Princeton, Wv, the son of Oakley and Stella (Miller) Lukas. He retired from General Motors. Mr. Lukas enjoyed hunting, spending time with family and friends and loved Bluegrass Music. Surviving are: daughters, Linda Lukas, Rhonda (Michael Nelson) Lukas, Kelly (Harold) Haag; step-daughters, Carol (Gale) Blankenship Daggett, Michelle Lukas, sisters, Sandra Lukas Charles, Judith Luke Farning, several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, wife, Violet, brother, Bobby. Online condolences may be posted on the obituaries page of www.sharpfuneralhomes.com.

**Michael Perkins**

67-2011

Michael Perkins - age 67, died December 20, 2011. Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes.

**Walter Walker Jr.**

81-2011

Walter Walker Jr. - age 81, died December 17, 2011. Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes.

**Wendy Neideffer**

47-2011

Wendy Neideffer - age 47, died December 18, 2011. Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes.

**Gordon Tandeske**

70-2011

Gordon Tandeske - age 70, died December 22, 2011. Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes.

**Arvid Neely**

81-2011

Arvid Neely - age 81, died December 22, 2011. Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes.

**SUNDAY DEADLINES**

Display Ads: 3 p.m. Wednesday
Line Ads: Noon Thursday
PETS to the RESCUE

There’s a good crop of pet books this season, but two really stand out from the pack of training and pet-care tomes I normally receive. These are perfect for curing up with beside the fire in the new year. You might, or might not, remember the story of the library cat named Dewey, who ruled the Spencer, Iowa, public library for nearly two decades as a resident cat. Library director Vicki Myron along with author Bret Witter published a series of books about Dewey. Now, they’re back with another great addition to the plucky cat’s story: “Dewey’s Nine Lives: The Legacy of the Small-Town Library Cat Who Inspired Millions” (New American Library). Myron and Witter present nine true stories of cats and their people, and retell the way pets can affect and change our lives for the better.

If you’re more interested in a good piece of fiction, take a break with “Walking Back to Happiness” (Berkley Books) by Lucy Dillon. It’s a well-composed, smart tale of Juliet, who is grieving the recent loss of her husband and rarely leaves the house except to visit her husband’s并发, Minton. Her mother and sister both try to lift her spirits in between their own busy lives, but it isn’t until Juliet begins walking her mother’s aging Lab, Coco, that things begin to change. It’s a sensitive depiction of grief and healing, with a bit of romance thrown in.

Send your question or comment to ask@pawsoncom.com, or write Paw’s Corner, cc King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32863-4745. For more pet care-related advice and information, visit www.pawsoncom.com.

DEAR AMY: My husband and I bought our first home more than a year ago. A friend of my husband’s asked if he could stay with us for “a few weeks” while he worked on finding a job so he could move in with another friend. It has been almost a year since he started living in our house. His welcome inspired very quickly for me, but my husband was more protective of him. The friend acts incredibly ungrateful and has remained unemployed the entire time he has lived in our home. He has turned to Instagram, Facebook and other social media applications for hope.

How can I express to the friend and my husband that this is the last deadline we are setting for him to move – without coming across as an insensitive person?

— An Irritated Hostess

Dear Amy,

Dear Dr. Donohue: Have a friend who has a case of chronic hiccups. Can you suggest any possible cures? — PW.

Answer: Hiccups come from involuntary contractions of the diaphragm, the horizontal muscle sheet that lies between the chest and the abdomen. It is the principal breathing muscle. Sometimes persistent contractions can be traced to gallbladder problems, diseases of the pancreas, reflux of stomach acid into the esophagus (heartburn) or an abscess on the abdominal side of the diaphragm. However, most of the time, no cause is found. For temporary hiccups, gulping food and simultaneously swallowing air sometimes brings them on. So can carbonated beverages. Through the years readers have provided me with hundreds of home remedies for dealing with hiccups, and I welcome new additions. Swallowing a teaspoon of sugar irritates the throat, which sets in motion a reflex that can end hiccups. Breathing into a paper bag raises the blood carbon-dioxide level, which, in turn, raises blood acidity, and that triggers a release of calcium. Calcium can spark nerve signals to stop hiccups. Putting angostura bitters on the back of the tongue is another sometimes-successful trick.

Hiccups that last longer than 48 hours aren’t likely to respond to home remedies. Medicines have to be turned to. Chlorpromazine, metoclopramide and baclofen are often successfully used. In cases that are resistant to medicine treatment and that are disrupting a person’s life, doctors can interrupt, in a number of ways, the transmission of nerve signals conducted to the diaphragm by the phrenic nerve. Dr. Donohue regrets that he is unable to answer individual letters, but he will incorporate them in his column whenever possible. Readers may write him or request an order form of available health newsletters at P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32863-4745.
Season's Greetings • Season's Greetings • Season's Greetings • Season's Greetings • Season's Greetings • Season's Greetings • Season's Greetings • Season's Greetings • Season's Greetings • Season's Greetings

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

From your favorite local businesses

We wish you a safe and happy holiday. Thank you for making our year something to celebrate. We are so glad that you stopped by to see us and we are looking forward to serving you in 2012.

Season's Greetings • Season's Greetings • Season's Greetings • Season's Greetings • Season's Greetings • Season's Greetings • Season's Greetings • Season's Greetings • Season's Greetings • Season's Greetings
By Sally Rummel
news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

For most of the fourth-grade students recently interviewed at Hyatt Elementary School in Linden, getting gifts on Christmas morning is not what they like most about the holidays. Family traditions and making memories together are higher priorities on their “wish lists” as the greatest joys of the holiday season. During a recent visit to Anne Strong’s fourth-grade classroom, the students were coloring pictures that are sprinkled throughout this Christmas edition of the Tri-County Times — each one sponsored by a generous local business.

The children were asked to color a picture based on their choice of one of these Christmas themes:

- If you could give the world a Christmas gift, what would it be?
- What Christmas means to me.
- What is your favorite thing about Christmas?
- One student, Taylor Rabinus, answered the first question by saying, “I’d give everyone a family to love them,” and colored a picture representing the joy of her own family at Christmas. Another student, Lauren Brennan, said that she’d give everyone in the world a Christmas, and a family.

Several other students chose the second theme about the meaning of Christmas for them. Colt Frescura believes that spending time with his family is the greatest meaning of Christmas.

For Christian Thomas, celebrating Baby Jesus and Christmas has special meaning to area fourth graders

Most of the students chose to color a picture describing their favorite thing about Christmas. Hannah Creech’s favorite holiday tradition is making cookies with her grandma, Barbara Creech. Together, they’ll bake dozens of Rudolph-decorated cookies, gingerbread, and peanut butter blossoms. Alyssa Bowen enjoys spending time with family and opening presents, and also values singing along with other Girl Scouts from her class at area nursing homes. She was all dressed up in her Girl Scout uniform, complete with reindeer antlers, to attend a Christmas sing-along event after school.

Brena Clarey loves to get “that Christmas feeling,” which to her means being cozy, while celebrating with all of her family. “Two days after Christmas, we go to one of our relatives and celebrate a late Christmas with the whole family. We’re making memories,” she said.

Still others love the whole ambiance of the holidays, including Riley Moore, who loves to decorate the Christmas tree, and Kaya Miller, who enjoys standing by the fireplace where it’s nice and cozy — and warm.
SCARY SANTA
Continued from Page 1B

The Stickel family’s Santa experience plays out the often-thought notion that usually one out of two children in a family has a problem with Santa, and that twin boys are more likely to scream with Santa than twin girls.

Six-month-old Ava Green got her first look at Santa just a couple weeks ago, and she didn’t like what she saw at all. Her mom, Sarah Green, formerly of Fenton, was thrilled to be first in line while Santa was on break after a long day of visiting children at Bass Pro Shop in Auburn Hills. Ava wasn’t so thrilled, however. When her mom lovingly placed her on Santa’s lap, hoping for a cute “First Christmas” photo, Ava promptly screamed in his ears until her mom rescued her. (So much for a Kodak moment.)

Thankfully, most of these innocent, traumatic episodes of childhood don’t scar a child for life, but they often do remain a laughable memory.

Jackie McGrady, originally from Linden, now of Ripley, West Virginia, recalls taking her grandchildren Josh and Kaitlyn to see Santa for the first time 12 years ago, when Josh was 2 and Kaitlyn was 7 months old.

“When Josh screamed at Santa, he grabbed hold of Josh’s shirt, trying to keep him in the picture,” said McGrady. “The rest of the day Josh complained, ‘Santa pull my shirtrrrt!’ Josh has definitely gotten over his Santa fears. Now 14, he’s an athlete in three sports, while Kaitlyn, 12, is an artist who also loves to sing. Josh and Kaitlyn’s mom is Bethany (McGrady) Landis, a 1993 graduate of Linden High School, now residing in Ripley, West Virginia.

Why is Santa so scary to kids?

Most experts think it’s the fact that he’s a stranger and a rather intimidating presence in his red suit.

He also has a big, white beard, when most people don’t have beards anymore. It also could have to do with the fact that kids have to wait in line to see Santa, and by the time they get up there, they’re over-tired, over-heated and stressed out.

For most children, having his or her picture taken with Santa is a happy moment — so a “scary Santa” moment captured by the lens of a camera just might be a once-in-a-lifetime Christmas memory.
Why the manger instead of a mansion?

Dr. Luke’s announcement of the birth of Jesus, read by millions at family Christmas gatherings, expounded on by ministers at this time of the year and amplified by choirs and singing congregations, was brief and to the point: ‘And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn’ (Luke 2:7).

But the impact of that humble birth is impossible to fully comprehend. Arnold Toynbee, the famed historian, wrote, ‘As we stand and gaze with our eyes fixed on the farther shore of history, a simple figure arises from the flood and straightway fills the whole horizon. There stands the Savior.’

Phillips Brooks, composer of the familiar carol, ‘Oh Little Town of Bethlehem,’ said, ‘I am far within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that were ever built, and all the parliaments that ever sat, and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man upon this earth as powerfully as that one solitary life — the life of Christ.’

Today, the worldwide effects of this miraculous birth continue.

Business and industry from Main Street to Wall Street screech to a halt to acknowledge the birth of this One who was born in Bethlehem’s stable and whose bed was a manger. As we close 2011, we’ll finish another year that dates from His birth and when we begin 2012, we’ll start dating our letters and legal documents with numbers that look back to the first Christmas.

Why, then, was our Lord born in a stable where His bed was a manger? Why the manger instead of a mansion?

The answer is obvious. The manger birth announces to all that the One born that day is approachable. Shepherds, stricken with fear at the angelic announcement of the Savior’s birth, could trade their fears for faith, leave their sheep on the hillside and make their way to the manger. They could arrive with the smell of the fields and flocks still on them and be accepted.

Wealthy ones who have found their chase for power and property disillusioning can come to the manger and learn that satisfaction isn’t found in gathering gold but in a right relationship with God.

The message of the manger is one of openness to all. Those who feel they have fallen too far to ever regain hope find mercy at the manger. People who might have been intimidated by ornate buildings and expensive clothing feel at ease approaching the One who at His birth was wrapped in rags and laid in a manger.

The four lines below are part of a poem titled ‘The Manger’ that I penned many years ago. If you’re feeling down or discouraged and find yourself wondering if God really cares, consider them written just for you.

‘The manger speaks of God’s great love that reaches down from heaven above. It reaches to the lowest place to give the gift of life through grace.’

Roger Campbell is an author, a broadcaster and columnist who was a pastor for 22 years. He can be reached at rcministry@ameritech.net.
Fenton’s Gilbert is our CC Runner of the Year

By David Troppens
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There’s one thing that Matt Gilbert really likes about cross country running.

“It’s the feeling of being done,” Gilbert said.

“After you are done with the race, you feel good. I don’t know why. I don’t think there are any words to explain it. You have to experience it.”

When it came to finishing a 5K cross country race this fall, no one did it better from the tri-county area than Gilbert.

And that is why he is our 2011 Tri-County Cross Country Runner of the Year. Our runner of the year includes both boys and girls divisions.

Gilbert capped what was a pretty spectacular prep career by placing 19th at the Division 1 State Cross County Championships at Michigan International Speedway with a time of 15:56. He did that despite nursing a case of bronchitis.

“Unfortunately, I got bronchitis right before the state meet,” Gilbert said. “I was 19th at state despite it. I was pleased and satisfied.”

Really, it’s only fitting that Gilbert closed the season with health problems. When it started, he was also nursing some health issues.

He sustained a severe ankle sprain during the summer, and it kept him away from running until the second week of fall training.

“I started a little slow,” Gilbert said. “The injury set me back a little. I sustained it over the summer. I was on crutches with three weeks to go. I had to go to Fenton Physical Therapy for five weeks. I didn’t get cleared to start running until the second week in practice. I didn’t get to train over the summer as much as I liked.”

It didn’t seem to bother Gilbert too much. He had some help.

See GILBERT on 18B

Fenton Tigers cruise past Davison, 56-39

By David Troppens
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Fenton — Eric Readman is one of many new faces on the Fenton varsity boys basketball team.

He’s also one of many new faces that are making an impact on the season.

Readman netted 13 points, four assists and four rebounds, and was just one of the many new players that had a big day in the Tigers’ 56-38 non-conference victory against Davison Wednesday night.

The Cardinals tried to stick close by playing more of a deliberate halfcourt style, and it worked to a degree. The Cardinals, while never leading the entire contest, cut the gap to 39-31 on a three-pointer by J.C. Carrizales with 6:22 left in the game. However, that’s as close as they would get the rest of the contest, as many of the new varsity players started to step up.

First, Cory Cox dished a pass to Mitch Shegos for a layup, raising the gap to 41-31. Then, Shegos earned a steal and scored on two free throws while being fouled during the break. Next, Fenton veteran Ryan Hickoff earned a steal and a breaking layup, raising the edge to 45-31. Davison cut the gap back to 45-34 with another Carrizales trey with 4:18 left, but Fenton pulled away.

See TIGERS on 17B

Fenton hockey continues recent winning ways, 4-0

By David Troppens
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The Fenton varsity hockey team’s winning fortunes continued Wednesday night.

The Tigers improved their record to 5-4 with a 4-0 victory against Goodrich at the Polar Palace.

The contest remained close until the Tigers scored three goals in the third period. Leading just 1-0, the Tigers doubled their lead when Kyle Lixie scored his second goal of the game unassisted with 9:01 left in the period. Then with 6:23 left in the period, the Tigers raised the gap to 3-0 on a Jake Foguth goal on assists from Connor Phillips and Jake Blackburn. Blackburn then scored off an assist from Jake Fisher and Danny DeLong with 2:12 left in regulation.

The Tigers took the lead for good with 4:20 left in the first period. Lixie scored on assists from Phillips and Foguth.

“Once again, we had three strong periods of play,” Fenton coach Jeff Mynatt said.

Joe Foguth earned the shutout in net, making 20 saves.

LF girls capture second straight win

Blue Devils defeat GAC foe LakeVille 45-24

By David Troppens
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The Lake Fenton varsity girls basketball team has played its share of tough games during the preseason.

It resulted in a 1-3 start to the season.

But now those games seem to be starting to pay off.

The Blue Devils won their second straight game, defeating LakeVille 45-24 on Tuesday night.

The Blue Devils’ defense was strong, holding LakeVille scoreless in the first quarter. The defense continued to play well the rest of the way, never allowing more than single-digit points in any quarter.

“Defensively, we played a zone, helping to cut off easy shots inside, and forcing them to beat us from the exterior,” first-year Lake Fenton coach Matt Gildner said.

“They like to do a lot of backdoor cuts against a man-to-man to get easy shots. We were successful in shutting down the inside and limiting second chances.”

The offense played well. The Blue Devils scored 13 points in the first quarter, establishing the 13-0 lead.

With LakeVille cutting the gap to 21-9 at the half, the Blue Devils iced the game by outscoring the hosts 15-8 in the third period.

“We ran the floor well in the first half, getting some easy opportunities in transition,” Gildner said.

“In the second half, we were a little more patient with our offense.”

The Blue Devils (3-3) were led by Mackenzie Gottron’s and Jordan Newman’s 11 points each.

See DEVILS on 17B

Happy Birthday

MLB Hall of Fame player Rickey Henderson and NFL Hall of Fame player Larry Csonka were born today.
Lake Fenton wrestlers split dual with Goodrich, Durand

By Al Zipsie

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Durand — Four injuries proved too much to overcome for the Lake Fenton varsity wrestling team against their rivals, the Goodrich Martians.

The Blue Devils (2-1 in the GAC) fell to the Martians 45-18 and beat Durand 51-24 in GAC duals Wednesday. If losing six wrestlers who were state placers from last season was not enough, the Blue Devils also were missing four of their starters out with injuries. Todd Melick, who was third at state a year ago, suffered a rib injury and was side-lined. The others out were Alexis Melton, D.J. Melton and Ray Denam. With only 15 wrestlers to fill the 14 weight classes, the Blue Devils had to forfeit four matches to the Martians. Lake Fenton also had three first-year wrestlers pinned in the first minute by Goodrich.

“With D.J., Alexis, Todd and Ray all out, that is four matches with a 16- to 20-point swing,” said Lake Fenton coach Vance Corcoran. “The final score would have been about the same, just in our favor. We scored 123 points at the county meet and Goodrich had only 74 points. It would have been a nice win. We got them at the wrong time.”

Lake Fenton’s double winners were James Demember (125), John Barry (130) and brothers Cody Sanders (140) and Tyler Sanders (152). Barry had a pin over Durand and then had a decision victory over Goodrich. Tyler Sanders had two decision wins. Cody Sanders had a void and decision win. Demember beat Goodrich’s Nick Fisher 9-6, and won by forfeit.

“I am glad to be back wrestling,” senior Tyler Sanders said. “I had two tough matches and have been real happy with the season so far.”

“It’s nice to wrestle with my brother (Cody). I was on the varsity as a freshman and decided to come back this year. I did a couple practices over the summer and decided just a couple weeks before the season began to wrestle.”

“Some kids stepped up for us tonight,” said Corcoran. “John Barry and the Sanders (Cody and Tyler) looked good today and have been on a roll. James has been on a roll lately. He has beaten some top kids … and now Fisher. They have been great wins for James, who is changing his style. We had a heart-to-heart and if a kid sees the coaching style working for him, he buys into it.”

In the opener with Durand, Alexis Melton (135) was able to take the forfeit win to start things out. However, the Railroaders cut the lead to 15-12. Denam (171) then came up with a key 4-3 victory. Chase Hull had a fall in 1:20, and Lucas Allen had a 7-2 decision to build a cushion at 27-12.

Kalan Harbin (103) had a pinfall in 5:30 and Jared Corcoran (112) took a void. Barry (119) capped the match off with a pin in 1:10.

In the nightcap, Cody and Tyler Sanders had decisions to even the score at six-all. Goodrich then took the lead to stay with a 21-point run.

The Blue Devils’ Demember beat Fisher 9-6. Demember almost had a pin with 1:30 left in the third period but was awarded three points for a near fall, and hung on for the 9-6 win. Barry then finished things off with a decision.

“It really wasn’t any moves. I just outworked and out-powered (Goodrich at the end),” said Barry. “I just want to get better this year, see where it takes me and then go for it as a junior. This year we don’t have as much talent, but we have been working hard as a team.”

“We had a nice easy win over Durand and Goodrich just got away from us,” Tyler Sanders said. “We have a solid team.”

Fenton girls basketball loses strong effort in overtime to Davison, 56-53

By David Troppens

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Davison — Things are looking up for the Fenton varsity girls basketball team.

After a struggling start with plenty of new faces, and veteran faces playing more substantial roles this season than last, Fenton coach Brad DeWitt thought it would take time for his team to gel. It seems the team is starting to do that now.

The Tigers proved that, competing into overtime in what was an entertaining 56-53 loss to Davison Tuesday night.

Even in defeat though, the Tigers are starting to show that they are a much different team than the one that opened the season about a month ago.

“It was going to take some time for this team to get used to playing each other and getting comfortable with each other,” DeWitt said.

“I think it took time to get our chemistry with this team. I don’t think that happened early on in the season because we had to combine a lot of young kids and a lot of different people. But now it’s starting to click. I feel good about where the team is headed.”

The contest remained tight throughout. In regulation the Tigers trailed by two points with about three seconds left with Julie Gilbert at the line. She nailed both free throws, setting up the overtime.

In the extra session, Payton Maxheimer tied it up at one time with two free throws. However, the Tigers found themselves behind after two converted free throws in the final seconds. Down three, all Fenton could muster was a final desperation shot before the buzzer.

See GIRLS on 17B
TIGERS
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then Readman dished a three-point bucket to Shegos. Shegos followed by assisting a Readman hoop on the Tigers’ next possession and then Readman dished a pass to Cox for a three-pointer, raising the gap to 53-36 with just 2:20 left.
Fenton’s new trio of key performers — Readman, Shegos and Cox — put the game out of reach with their defensive pressure, unselfish play and ability to finish.
“I was keeping my head up, and I knew when I pass the ball to these guys, they are going to hit shots,” Readman said.
“They are all great players. There’s Ryan (Hickoff), Dylan (Hickoff), Cory (Cox), Mitchell (Shegos), Connor (Muntin), Damon (Thomas) and everybody. They can all shoot the ball.”
And after an adjustment period, it looks like the Tigers are starting to figure out how everyone fits, with the new cast certainly making an impact. Cox led Fenton with 14 points and 10 rebounds, while Shegos had nine points, five rebounds and three assists. Meanwhile, the veteran cast made an impact as well. Dylan Hickoff had 13 points, three assists and three rebounds, while Ryan Hickoff scored just four points but had four rebounds, three steals and three assists.
“We are just trying to figure ourselves out,” Readman said. “We have a lot of new guys, so we are just trying to figure out where we are as players, kind of how we fit together as a team.”
“Like anything, there is a learning curve to it,” Fenton coach Tim Olszewski said. “The kids are learning to play with each other. We’ve not only got the kids that moved to Fenton, but the young kids from the JV program that are up. It’s been a little bit of a task, but everyone is learning their roles and learning exactly what role they play. Thus far, they all get around great. They are all friends and they are committed to one thing, and that’s winning. We don’t have any selfishness or those types of issues, and that’s a credit to them.”
The Tigers always seemed to have control of the game, but never really blew it open until the fourth quarter. Fenton’s defense held Davison to just 4-of-22 shooting from the field in the first half, sparking the Tigers to a 20-12 halftime lead. That lead grew to 39-28 by the end of the third quarter due to Fenton’s 6-for-9 shooting from the field in that stanza. However, Davison put together one more run in the fourth, before the trio of Shegos, Readman and Cox effectively ended it.
Fenton hosts Lapeer West on Jan. 6 and Holly Jan. 9.

DEVILS
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Meanwhile, Sidney Scott had six points and a team-high 11 rebounds. Faith Weier also had six points.
The Blue Devils are off until a Jan. 5 contest at Beecher High School. They then travel to Mt. Morris for a game on Jan. 9.
“I feel like we’re starting to gel, but there’s still a lot to learn and accomplish,” Gildner said.
The tough non-league schedule was definitely a help, as it exposed some of the weaknesses we needed to work on. The real test will be following the break when we play Beecher and Goodrich.”

Boys basketball
LakeVille 65,
Lake Fenton 23
The Blue Devils (0-3) were led by Jed Horski’s six points, while Kaleb Nealy had five points.
Lake Fenton returns to action on Jan. 3 with a road contest against Linden at 7 p.m. They return home on Jan. 7 against Beecher.

GIRLS
Continued from Page 16B
“We are not turning the ball over,” DeWitt said.
“We are just taking good care of the ball, better shots and made the shots. Our defense is good. Last night, we made a lot of free throws, I don’t know how many we made, but it was a lot. It was a good all-around team effort.”
Maxheimer and Gilbert led Fenton with 18 points each. Hannah Evo chipped in 10 points.
The Tigers (4-4) return to Flint Metro League action when they host Lapeer West for a 7 p.m. contest on Jan. 6.

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GILBERT

Continued from Page 15B much. He opened the season posting a first-place time of 16:34.97 at the first Metro League Jamboree at Torzewski Park, winning the event by about 26 seconds. From there, Gilbert kept up his dominance in key meets.

He made it a clean sweep in the Metro League, by easily winning the final two races. He won the second jamboree at Linden Middle School with a time of 16:30.59, and then won the final meet at Vienna Greens Golf Course with a time of 16:11. While cruising to the Metro title, he also won the prestigious Holly Invitational Division 2 title, winning with a time of 16:19.

Gilbert’s biggest challenge may have been the most demanding Division 1 regional in the state. To qualify for the state meet, he had to finish within the top 15 individuals at his regional. He did that by recording a seventh-place time of 15:41.77 at Huron Meadows Metro Park. The bronchitis attacked Gilbert by the next weekend at the state meet, but he still finished that event with a time under 16 minutes.

“I ran really well at regionals,” Gilbert said. “Unfortunately, I got bronchitis before the state meet.”

Gilbert has played other spots. He’s played basketball, soccer and baseball at various times in his life. However, when he was in the seventh grade, he joined the cross country team.

“It was just the idea that my dad was good at it. He ran at the University of Cincinnati and I thought I might be good at it,” Gilbert said. He quickly found out his suspicions were true.

“At my first race I was second and just got out-kicked,” Gilbert said. “I thought this may be something I might be good at and continued doing it.”

But while Gilbert is a strong cross country runner, it’s not his top race. That race would be the 1,600 during the track season. Last year, he took third at the Division 1 State Track and Field Championships in the event, with a time of 4:17.04. The good news is the two runners who finished ahead of him — Grand Blanc’s Omar Kaddarah and Swartz Creek’s Jeremy Dickie — graduated last season.

“I am one of the top guys returning in the state because Omar and Jeremy are gone,” Gilbert said. “I’d like to be a state champion and break 4:10 for sure.”

“Matt is a pretty confident kid and is well informed on the sport,” Fenton cross country coach Todd Mills said. “While he likes cross, he prefers track and the shorter distances. He has talent that hasn’t been reached yet.”

After Fenton, Gilbert expects to run in college. He hasn’t made his decision yet, and is expecting to make several visits soon.

“I think once he gets to the collegiate level, if he is willing to work hard, he will do some amazing things,” Mills said. “His future can be really bright if he’s willing to put in the extra work. This year, he would run in the mornings as well, and I think this is one of the reasons he was up on top, but I still think he has so much more potential.”

TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROSSPENS

Two of the area’s top cross country runners in the tri-county area this fall were Fenton’s Matt Gilbert (left) and Linden’s Roger Phillips. Gilbert is our Tri-County Runner of the Year, while Phillips is a member of our All Tri-County Boys Cross Country Team.
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