

**BALLOT PROPOSALS:**  
“I agree with the Hot line about the ballot proposals being so confusing. My policy is to vote no on any proposal that is not crystal clear in its intent.”

**“The Hot line whining** about not understanding the



proposals must have been called in by a second grader. If you can read, then you should be able to clearly understand what they are saying.”

**HOT LINES:**

**“A glorified fortune teller** in the same issue with the announcement that you won newspaper of the year? Who made that decision?”

**“Yes, our country** is divided. But the truth is that every presidential election divides the country. It always seems worse



the closer we get to the election. Some things don't change.”

**PROPOSALS:**

**“Thank you Times** and Ryan Tackabury for the enlightening explanation on the various proposals. It's unfortunate that they have to be explained at all though.”



**Living a life of luck and skill**

Former Michigan native reflects on playing in Main Event in Las Vegas



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VOL. 19 NO. XLII

**A helpful guide for Tiger Fever**

Opinions about this year's team



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**Midweek Times** WEDNESDAY EDITION

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2012

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**Assault at Holly bar leaves Highland man dead**

►Fenton man, 37, arrested, held on unrelated charge

By Sharon Stone

sstone@tctimes.com; 810-433-6786

Ronald Smith, 43, of Highland, formerly of Holly, is dead and Holly police have

arrested a 37-year-old Fenton man following an incident outside a Holly bar.

Det. Julie Bemus of the Holly Police Department said Holly



Ronald Smith

police responded to Martini's Bar & Grill on Apollo Drive in Holly at 10:20 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 12 after receiving a report that an assault had just occurred.

Responding officers found the victim, later identified as Smith, lying unconscious

See **ASSAULT** on 6

**Argentine police receive 'good tip' on church break-ins**

►Suspect used stolen gift card at Walmart store in Canton

By Sharon Stone

sstone@tctimes.com; 810-433-6786

Within two hours after a story was posted on the Times website Friday afternoon, someone called in a tip, which led Argentine Township police to two suspects in a string of church break-ins. The department continues to investigate the break-ins and robberies at three churches,

See **BREAK-INS** on 11

**Summary**

►Argentine Township police are investigating break-ins at three churches, which were reported Sunday, Oct. 7. A tip phoned in led police to two possible suspects.

**Fenton Fire Hall restaurant hopes to open in spring**

►Construction is expected to begin as early as next month

By Ryan Tackabury

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

**Fenton** — The old fire hall in downtown Fenton is on schedule to become the Fenton Fire Hall restaurant.

The agreement between the DDA and the Clarkston Union requires the old fire hall to be open for business by April 30 of next year.

See **FIRE HALL** on 6



**TRI-COUNTY TIMES** | FILE PHOTO After years of sitting empty, and at least one commercial deal falling through, the old fire hall in Fenton should be opening as a restaurant next spring.

**Holy gourd!** Pumpkin weighs in at nearly 1,500 lbs.



**TRI-COUNTY TIMES** | TIM JAGIELO

Mark Clementz, of Holly, cheers after the 1,478-pound pumpkin is safely loaded onto the truck of his cousin Bud Bennett, of Brighton. Clementz took the pumpkin, a watermelon and a tomato to a competition in Ohio, winning more than \$1,500 in prizes. See pumpkin video online at [tctimes.com](http://tctimes.com).

See full story page 8

**Educators embrace mobile devices**



**TRI-COUNTY TIMES** | TIM JAGIELO

Alexey Rose, 14, uses her phone to socialize during lunch at Lake Fenton High School, but also uses it for classes like science and social studies.

►Local high schools allow smartphones in classrooms with certain restrictions

By William Axford

axford@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Interact with any high school student and they're likely to hold a conversation with you while texting their best friend and updating their Facebook or Twitter simultaneously. Cell phones have evolved beyond

being a novelty. For many, the portable devices have become part of their identity and connection with the world.

It's an evolution that some educators are beginning to embrace. If given discretion from teachers, students now have the ability to use their smartphones for in-class assignments.

“We left it up to the staff members to decide if they want to include them in the classroom,” said Darin Dreasky, See **DEVICES** on 10



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Vicina Gardens in Fenton Township is being built by RHS Commercial, LLC. The groundwork, which includes sewer, water and electrical systems is currently being laid.

## Assisted living facility coming to Fenton Township

► Vicinia Garden's first 12,000-square-foot building to be completed by spring 2013

By Tim Jagielo

tjagielo@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795

The local developer of a new assisted living facility in Fenton Township has begun working to clear the land in preparation for construction.

The planned unit development (PUD) by Linden resident and developer Steve Steffey combines an assisted living facility, memory care facility, independent living senior apartments and detached garden homes.

The first phase, which has just begun, includes the assisted living and later, memory care facilities.

The development is called Vicinia Gardens and will feature a craftsman or cottage-style fascia. "It's because of the generation we're trying to appeal to," said Steffey. His company, Assisti Care, has facilities in Burton and Clio.

Steffey said the groundwork with water, sewer and electrical systems is currently underway. The first 12,000-square-foot assisted living building will be completed by spring of 2013 and the memory care building of similar size will be underway within a year of the assisted living building's construction. Steffey will manage the facility once it is built. The assisted living building will house 20 residents and cost \$3,395 to \$3,500 per month depending on the patient's needs.

The rest of the development that extends southward into the property will be undertaken as the market allows and demands, said Steffey.

During public hearings on the project last December, Steffey told Fenton Township officials that each facility in the first phase would create 20 or more jobs.

Total density for the development is 161 units, 23 fewer than the 184 units previously approved for this property. The project includes a Type I community well system that will provide arsenic-free water to the entire complex.

The development sits west of Jennings Road, south of Owen Road, in Fenton Township, just west of the Fenton City border. It is bordered by Autumn Wood Drive and Silver Chase Boulevard and the shopping center that includes Mancino's and Kathy's Patisserie Cakes & Bakes.

### Summary

► The new assisted care facility, Vicinia Gardens, on Jennings Road, south of Owen Road in Fenton Township will be completed this spring. A memory care facility will follow soon after.

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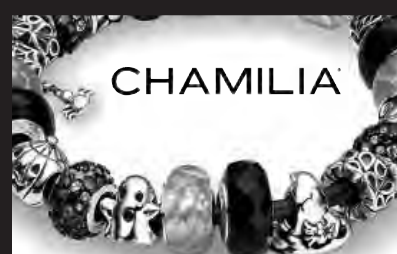
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### 2 Erase yellow spots



Erase yellow spots (and mystery smells) from the dishwasher with this trick: In an empty machine, add a packet of citrus flavored drink mix to the detergent cup and run a normal cycle. The acid in the powder acts as a mild bleach.

## TRI-COUNTY TIMES

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### CONTACT INFORMATION

Editorial 810-629-8282  
Advertising 810-629-8281  
Classifieds 810-629-8194  
Circulation 810-433-6797  
Hot Line 810-629-9221  
Fax 810-629-9227  
E-mail: news@tctimes.com  
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## A helpful guide for

# Tiger fever

### Opinions about this year's team, along with information about the past

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

It seems wherever you go in Michigan these days, there's one question that comes up immediately — "How about them Tigers?"

And why not? At press time, the Tigers led the American League Championship series two games to none against the New York Yankees, assured of at least a 2-1 lead when this publication was printed. Everyone has Tiger fever.

While they do, we thought this might be a good time to answer some questions.

### Miguel Cabrera won the Triple Crown. What is the Triple Crown anyway?

For those afraid to ask because they thought the Triple Crown involved horseracing, here's your answer. Traditionally, the three statistics that are always presented in baseball history are batting average, home runs and runs batted in (RBI). If a player leads the league in all three categories, it's considered winning the Triple Crown. Since post World War II, only five players have won it. The only other Detroit Tiger to win it was Ty Cobb (1909).

### Should Cabrera be the American League's MVP or should Justin Verlander win the Cy Young Award for a second year?

Because he won the Triple Crown, it's going to be hard to deny Cabrera. However, it might be Anaheim Angels' Mike Trout. He had an outstanding offensive season. He also brings more dimensions to the game than Cabrera. I'd vote Trout, but Cabrera will probably win it. Somehow, it seems Verlander is being ignored in Cy Young Award talk and yet he almost had the same season last year when he won the Cy Young and the MVP.

See **TIGER** on 11



Miguel Cabrera

## Living a life of luck and skill

►Former Michigan native reflects on playing in Main Event in Las Vegas

By William Axford

axford@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

(Note: David Shotwell is the nephew of Times Features Writer Sally Rummel)

For five years of his life, David Shotwell chased the dream of every poker

player. As a professional Texas Hold 'Em Poker player, Shotwell made it to the Holy Grail of poker games, competing in the Main Event of the World Series of Poker in Las Vegas. And although he didn't win, the experience has given Shotwell skills that he will use for the rest of his life.

### Summary

►David Shotwell has played at the Main Event in Las Vegas, which pays millions of dollars to the top placers. Shotwell didn't make it to the top however and now uses his experiences on the pro poker circuit toward writing.

"It's very difficult to be good at the game, sustain it and balance it with a personal life," Shotwell said on playing poker professionally. "It's so different from any other job. Your hobby becomes your life."

Shotwell decided to pursue poker as a career after watching Rounders, a movie about high stakes poker. He developed his skills by reading and playing as much online poker as possible, winning as much as \$8,000 in a weekend from online tournaments. Shotwell grew confident enough to bet it all and try his luck in Las Vegas.

Shotwell played dozens of tournaments and competed in the Main Event once. After six hours of playing and going up against hundreds of players, Shotwell was eventually beaten by a Four-of-a-Kind hand, despite having a Full House. Still, he

See **LUCK** on 9



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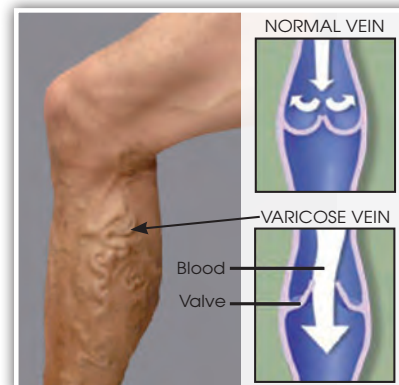


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Cal Thomas

Nationally  
syndicated

columnist

**Needed: A new foreign policy**

Last week Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney delivered a foreign policy speech to cadets at the Virginia Military Institute in Lexington, Va. He was correct in his indictment of the Obama administration for its numerous failures — especially in the Middle East — and his embracing of Ronald Reagan's "peace through strength" philosophy.

A strong and respected America is less likely to be attacked.

The Obama administration's approach to foreign policy has been one of apology, genuflection to dictators and inconsistency.

Perhaps in the Oct. 22 presidential debate on foreign policy, moderator Bob Schieffer might ask Romney what is our cause, what is our purpose and where has might, alone, caused that purpose to be successful? Does Romney think bombing Iran, with or without Israel's assistance, will deter the mullahs from their goal of acquiring nuclear weapons?

John F. Kennedy said in his 1961 Inaugural Address that we were willing to "... pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, and oppose any foe, in order to assure the survival and success of liberty."

America's role in the world must be re-defined and explained to its citizens. The presidential candidates should be asked about it. We can't afford to go everywhere and do everything. It isn't fair to our young men and women who are asked to die, or lose limbs, and it isn't fair to taxpayers who must pay for these wars.

Still, America has an interest in promoting liberty and freeing people from tyranny. That interest is moral as well as self-serving. Democracies don't attack each other. But when and how should we act.

Western values — including religious values — can't be forced on people who don't share them. There is a fundamental gap between Islamic cultures and the West that cannot be easily bridged by diplomacy or military might.

Romney's VMI speech sounded good to some American ears, but what does it mean to the rest of the world, which faces not invading armies, but invading terrorists without uniforms or a nation-state? Perhaps Bob Schieffer will ask Romney and President Obama to answer these questions.

**INSINUATING U.S. FOREIGN** policy is unraveling and suggesting military actions in Syria and Iran for the purpose of swaying votes is disgraceful. The military decision-making process used by the previous Republican administration was flawed.

AS I LAY in bed waiting for daybreak, I hear the marching band practicing at Fenton High School. How wonderful to have students dedicated to practicing in the wee hours of the morning in this cold weather. Their teacher deserves praise for his commitment to his students.

**SENIORS, DOCTORS HAVE** been instructed to profile patients for Obamacare. In case you haven't been paying attention, if you need a procedure and the cost outweighs your life expectancy, call your favorite funeral home. If you don't believe it, ask your primary care doctor. This will reduce costs.

**TWELVE HOURS AFTER** the VP's debate, Hilary Clinton and Jay Carney were on TV saying we still don't know the facts even after personnel under oath are reporting getting no help on security. I say put Clinton, Obama, Biden, Pelosi and Reid under oath and see if their memories improve.

**ON NORTH ROAD**, turning left on Poplar, a Bravada turns in front of me, I slam on the brakes and a dog goes flying into my seat. Get to store, guy in Jeep pulls out in front of me, incoming traffic doesn't have a stop sign. Wake up.

**ROMNEY, OBAMA AND** Biden: The Good, The Bad and The Ugly. The VP debate Thursday night showed the

Hot  
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All submissions, if approved for publication, must be 50 words or less and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Tri-County Times. We reserve the right to edit for clarity, length and liability.

true and real Biden. An angry old white man that needs some more fiber, or should it be mineral oil. Ryan showed some real class and will make a great VP.

**THE MOMENTUM IS** shifting again after Joe Biden tore Paul Ryan a new one. That was fun to watch.

**I VOTED FOR** President Obama I am sorry to say. Our president basically ignored the pleas of the staff in Benghazi resulting in their murder because he was too busy campaigning. Disgraceful. He should be held accountable.

**REGARDING TRICK-OR-treating** person in Linden who was disappointed. How old is your son? I took my 15-month-old son and he had an awesome time. You also didn't have to pay \$5 had you paid ahead of time, and it definitely paid for the candy. He got tons! Fun event!

**'THE PRESIDENT IS** not a magician who can wave a wand and instantly cure a recession' — Gerald Ford. Mitt Romney wouldn't have fared any better than Obama over the last four years or the next four years.

**NO MATTER WHAT** the issue — pass a law, but don't amend the state constitution.

**TO THOSE OF** you who are going to vote 'no' on Proposal 2. If you vote, no you will be supporting the 1 percent, corporate interest and greed. You will also open the door to Michigan being a 'Right to Work State.' It's not as good as it sounds.

See **HOT LINE** throughout Times



Clarence Page

Nationally  
syndicated

columnist

**VP debate winner? Barack Obama**

In the debate between Vice President Joe Biden and his Republican challenger Rep. Paul Ryan, the real winner was off stage: President Barack Obama.

That's no swipe at Ryan. Former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney's running mate admirably accomplished what normally is expected of aspiring vice presidents: He held his own, avoided tripping over the furniture and caused no apparent damage to the guy at the top of the ticket.

That was Biden's task four years ago. Still a senator from Delaware, he only had to appear statesmanlike and avoid any hint of condescension toward then-Gov. Sarah Palin of Alaska.

This time, after Obama's lackluster debate performance a week earlier and a big surge in national polls for Romney, Vice President Biden's mission was elevated from Do-no-harm to Stop-the-bleeding.

Biden soon appeared to be accomplishing both missions. Partisan tweets across the Twitter-verse during the debate indicated a clear trend: Obama supporters were delighted and Romney backers were furious.

Biden did what debaters are supposed to do and that Obama had failed to do: Take the fight to their opponents with a passion, even when the passion tests the boundaries of politeness.

On issues that varied widely from Libya, Iran and Afghanistan to taxes, debt, Medicare and Social Security, Biden blunted the Romney-Ryan assault on the Obama-Biden record, point-for-point, spin-for-spin, and threw in some counter-punches of his own.

Among the highlights: Biden was at his most ferocious in defending Social Security and Medicare, partly to clean up some damage Obama did by sounding too conciliatory the previous week.

Obama, speaking of himself and Romney, said, 'I suspect that on Social Security, we've got a somewhat similar position.' Biden, responding to a question from moderator Martha Raddatz of ABC News, highlighted the differences between the two campaigns on what may be the government's most popular program.

Halfway through the debate, at least one liberal Twitter tweeter nominated Joe Biden to substitute for Obama in all future debates. That's not going to happen. But Obama could use a cupful of Joe in his own performance.

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Compiled by Olivia Dimmer, intern

## What do you dislike about cell phones?

## streettalk



"You never have privacy because everyone expects you to answer."

— George Pelton  
Fenton



"They're rude. People use them in doctor's offices, restaurants and even at school."

— Rayne Bosch  
Argentine



"I like being able to get a hold of people, but they're overused when driving."

— Jessica Vankoningsveld  
Fenton



"They're fine in emergencies, but there's already been evidence that they are linked to brain tumors."

— Chris Mathews  
Fenton



"I'm a second-grade teacher and we have a hard time getting younger kids to memorize phone numbers."

— Carol Lafferty  
Argentine



"Nothing, I like the convenience and the security. 911 is always there if you need it."

— Gary Ball  
Fenton

# Looking back at the great debates

## ►Presidential debates typically make for memorable moments

By Ryan Tackabury

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Presidential debates have become an American tradition. Over the years the debates have had varying degrees of influence over the elections and some have clearly been more memorable than others.

As everyone is pondering and scrutinizing what happened during Tuesday evening's debate between President Barack Obama and Mitt Romney, here's a summary of a few past debates that have gone down in American history.

### Lloyd Bentsen's famous put down

In 1988, vice presidential nominee Dan Quayle came under fire for his lack of experience. When this topic was mentioned in the vice presidential debate, Quayle compared his experience to that of John F. Kennedy's experience before he had taken office. This was a comparison that Quayle's opponent, Sen. Lloyd Bentsen, did not take to.

"I served with Jack Kennedy. I knew Jack Kennedy. Jack Kennedy was a friend of mine. Senator, you are no Jack Kennedy," Bensten said to applause.

Bentsen may not have won the vice-presidency, though he has gone down in history as having one of the most memorable debate moments of all time.

### Reagan pokes fun at his age

In 1984, Ronald Reagan ran for re-election against challenger Walter Mondale. Reagan was 73 years old at the time, and already held the record for being the oldest person to be inaugurated as the President from his previous term, a record that he still holds to this day.

When asked during a debate if his age would affect his ability to lead

the country, Reagan said it would not, then replied with a humorous quip.

"I will not make age an issue of this campaign. I am not going to exploit for political purposes my opponent's youth and inexperience," he said.

### Reagan takes on Carter

Reagan's showing in 1980 may not be as memorable as his quick witted comeback he would make four years later, perhaps because his remarks in the debate that won him his first term were more tactical than they were funny.

After President Jimmy Carter went on the offense, Reagan was able to side step the accusations and attack aimed at him with four simple words — "There you go again."

### Admiral James Stockdale's poor showing

Not all debates are memorable for how quick-witted the candidates are — sometimes they just come off as confused and meandering.

In 1992, Adm. James Stockdale was Ross Perot's vice presidential nominee, and could have performed better in the vice presidential debate. His opening line, "Who am I? Why am I here?" found itself parodied endlessly. His showing in the debate was considered a disaster, at many times bordering on the completely incoherent.

### The first televised debate

The first debate in 1960 between Sen. John Kennedy and Vice President Richard Nixon was the first debate to be televised. Those who listened to the debate on the radio agreed hands down that Nixon had won the debate. Those who watched the televised broadcast and saw a sweating Nixon, however, had a different opinion.

The debate gave Kennedy a boost in the election, and would forever change how candidates would prepare themselves for debates.

**"I served with Jack Kennedy. I knew Jack Kennedy. Jack Kennedy was a friend of mine. Senator, you are no Jack Kennedy."**

— Lloyd Bensten  
former U.S. Senator



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**HOT LINE CONTINUED**

**FOOTBALL IS ABOUT** winning! Only in recent years, cuts have not been made on middle and high school teams. This is caused from the need for all to be fair. Welcome to the real world, your child should learn now that life is not fair. My son 5, plays this season.

■■■■  
**WHEN ARE ALL** the Romney loving GM retirees, who claim Obama has done no good, going to show some integrity and put their money where their mouth is and start sending back to GM all the financial benefits, pension and health care, that they have been receiving since the bankruptcy.

■■■■  
**IMAGINE GETTING MARRIED**, and when things do not work out as promised, getting divorced is nearly impossible. Would you like that? Well, if you make a constitutional amendment, you will experience this. Vote no on any constitutional amendment.

■■■■  
**IF WINNING ISN'T** everything, why do they keep score? A winner is someone who recognizes his God-given talents, works his tail off to develop them into skills, and uses these skills to accomplish his goals.

■■■■  
**WHY IS IT** that every inch of land in Fenton has to have something on it? When is the construction going to stop in the Owen Road area? I work nights and this morning I was awakened at 7:30 to the construction noise across the road from me. Leave some nature for heaven's sake.

■■■■  
**THE SARCASTIC CALLER** who claims the political Hot lines are 'from the mostly uninformed and under-educated' is obviously a pseudo-intellectual who requires no facts because his mind is already made up. So sad.

**ASSAULT****Continued from Front Page**

outside of the bar. Holly Fire Department and Groveland EMS responded to the scene. Smith was transported to a nearby hospital in critical condition.

Based on their investigation, police said Smith had been punched in the face by another man, who had since left the bar. When Smith was punched, he fell backward and struck his head on the concrete. As a result, he sustained a severe injury to his brain.

**Summary**

►Holly police arrested a 37-year-old Fenton man Friday night for aggravated assault against a 43-year-old Highland man, who has since died from his injuries. The victim, who struck his head on concrete after he fell backward outside a bar never regained consciousness.

district court.

Story said the police department has more interviews to conduct and they are awaiting the results of the autopsy. Once their report is complete, they will present their findings to the county prosecutor, who in turn will issue charges.

**FIRE HALL****Continued from Front Page**

Mike Burns, assistant city manager and DDA director said that plans are moving along quite well, with the city having received the Clarkston Union's site plans earlier this month.

"They are currently going through the review process, and should be finalized in the next couple of weeks," Burns said. "They want to begin construction as soon as possible."

Construction on the fire hall will begin sometime this winter, and could possibly be as early as this November.

When finished, the Fenton Fire Hall is expected to have an open fire pit kitchen, a 60-tap beer garden, rooftop and outdoor patio dining, and a lounge area in the building's bottom floor. Planned to accompany all of this is also the serving of a Fenton Fire Hall ale.

What many may anticipate the most however, could be the renowned macaroni and cheese the Clarkston Union serves that will soon be making its way to Fenton.

**Mark McCabe**

67th District Court

**Ask the judge****Latest news on the Michigan Medical Marihuana Act**

Over the past few years, I have periodically updated readers of this column on various Michigan Court decisions concerning Michigan's Medical Marihuana Act, which became law in 2008.

I will not attempt to summarize everything that has been ruled on in the past four years by Michigan's Courts, but suffice it to say that there is a fairly broad consensus that the language of the Act lacks the precision of many other statutes.

Accordingly the final word on the meanings of the various sections of this law are for the Michigan Supreme Court to decide.

One of the biggest issues that has been raised over the years is the legality of so called 'medical marijuana dispensaries.' The concept behind the dispensaries is for people who have a Michigan Medical Marijuana Card and who do not grow their own marijuana to be able to go to a dispensary and purchase marijuana from other authorized patients or caregivers.

Last year in *People v McQueen*, the Michigan Court of Appeals ruled that the marijuana law did not allow for patient-to-patient transfers of marijuana in a dispensary setting.

The dispensary in question was located in Mount Pleasant and called 'Compassionate Care.'

To be a member of the dispensary an individual had to either be a qualifying patient or primary caregiver and possess a registry identification card from the Michigan Department of Community Health. The dispensary charged \$5 per month for membership and rented lockers at \$50 per month to its members to facilitate the purchase of 'excess' marijuana by a member from another member.

The full details of the dispensary procedure are contained in the Facts and Procedural History section of the Opinion, which is available online.

In March of this year, the Michigan Supreme Court granted leave to appeal this decision and on Oct. 11, 2012 heard oral arguments from the attorneys.

Commentators believe this will be a very significant case and will address some important unanswered questions in the law. I will write a follow up column when a final decision is reached by the Court.

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# Board debates use of CDBG funding

►Low to moderate income neighborhood required, hard to find in township

By William Axford

axford@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

**Fenton Twp.** — Township officials are anticipating receiving \$111,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding in 2013. Street improvements, code enforcement policies and sewer improvements are some of the activities the CDBG funds can be allocated for. But there's a catch — the funds have to be

## Summary

► Fenton Township officials are unsure of how to use potentially \$111,000 from a Community Development Block Grant.

used to benefit lower to moderate-income families in Fenton Township.

That's a problem township officials are encountering when it comes to deciding where to apply the funds.

"According to the last census, we really don't have low to moderate income neighborhoods," said Operations Manager Thomas Broecker.

Trustees discussed various projects that needed improvement within the township at Monday's meeting including upgrading fire department equipment, improving the sewer system and removing blight on township property.

Broecker said that each project may be covered by CDBG monies but the township may have a hard time getting the projects approved under the guidelines, given that lower income families are spread out throughout the township and are not concentrated in one area.

Citizens who spoke during public comment urged trustees to use the funding for bicycle and walking paths.

"People would slow down. It'd help our businesses more," Fenton Township resident Sandy Williams said. "It would

give us the opportunity to get to know each other and promote health."

Township Treasurer John Tucker agreed more walkways would be ideal. However, the township has had difficulty in the past establishing walkways next to roads since the engineering of the road would have to be adjusted. Tucker said the Genesee County Road Commission has blocked such project proposals in the past.

Beth Redmond, of Fenton Township, suggested the CDBG funds be used for a food bank.

"We always do this at Christmas time and I always wonder what happens to these families for the rest of the year," Redmond said.

Broecker said he would investigate the possibility of a township food bank further but said he had the feeling it might not be approved.

Township Supervisor Bonnie Mathis suggested using the funds for residents in the Lake Ponemah Mobile Home Park. Broecker said that suggestion was probably not viable, as the funds have to be used for those who own property. Residents in the mobile home park own the trailers but not the land.

"That doesn't make sense. By the very virtue of the definition, you're not helping people," Tucker said, noting that most people who own land have the ability to pay for it.

Township Clerk Robert Krug suggested using some of the monies for a proposed park on Thompson and Wiggins Road.

The township has until Nov. 16 to submit a plan to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in order to receive the funding. Broecker said surveys will be mailed to households in the township to determine if and where the funding can be applied.

Mathis said, in her experience, that most families who are low to moderate income do not wish to be identified and could possibly have skewed the census.

**"According to the last census, we really don't have low to moderate income neighborhoods."**

— Tom Broecker  
Fenton Township  
operations manager



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTOS

## Comfort pillows

Members of Fenton Zonta Club make about 40 "Comfort Pillows" annually for women who have had mastectomy surgery. The pillows, which are donated to the American Cancer Society, are made from a soft material, are heart shaped with an adjustable strap to help patients cope with their pain. "We meet twice a year to produce as many of these pillows as we can," said Denise Keipert of Zonta. To help, or for more information, go to [www.fentonareazonta.org](http://www.fentonareazonta.org).



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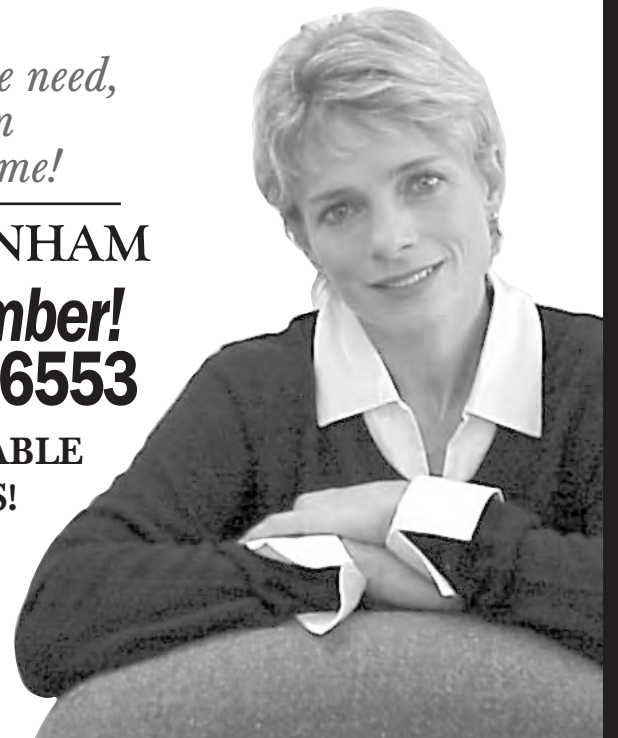
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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

A small crowd of friends, family and media witnessed and aided in sending Mark Clementz down to Ohio for his competition.

# Just for the thrill of growing'

►Holly man brings home prizes for super-sized produce

By Tim Jagielo

tjagielo@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795

**Holly** — On Friday, Mark Clementz stood with relief, in the bed of the pick-up truck that would cart his 1,478.5-pound pumpkin to a competition in Ohio on Saturday. "Adrenaline baby!" said Clementz with a howl after it was safely loaded. "This was like Christmas for a kid."

## Summary

►A Holly man regularly competes in grower competitions. His 1,450 pound pumpkin won him prizes over the weekend.

Moments before, as it dangled from a specially designed harness from a neighbor's wrecker, there was a real danger

it could have split, ruining months of hard work. "It's a whole season of work right there," said a friend who was there. Clementz said the effort was more like 20 years. "Twenty years before I got this lucky," he said.

In preparing for the Ohio Valley Giant Pumpkin Growers competition over the weekend, he started with three plants bred to grow big, but two of them split as they grew, leaving the pale orange giant that gulped more than 60 gallons of water every day, for 97 days as his only chance. "This one kept growing and never looked back," he said.

The pumpkin, which is a squash, gourd and pumpkin hybrid, won Clementz an eighth-place award, out of 39 who competed. He's also number 50 out of the entire world, currently. Clementz received cash awards, and sold his pumpkin for \$500. "I would do this if there was no prize money, just for the thrill of growing them," he said.

He submitted a second-place watermelon at 221.5 pounds, and a tomato at 3.36 pounds, earning him the "Grand Exhibitor" award.

The winning pumpkin was named after his grandson, Jackson Reed, of almost the same age. Clementz was hoping to beat the state record of 1,725 pounds. His goal for next year is to focus on a heavy gourd, to tackle the world record of 2,009 pounds.

Clementz enjoys the challenge of growing, but also feels a deeper purpose to his gardening. "(God) put us here to pull weeds, man," he said, meaning he believes gardening is an essential function of being human. "I think it's a God-given instinct to garden."

## TO GROW A GIANT PUMPKIN

Mark Clementz will give you one of his seeds from the 1,478 pound pumpkin that is 50th in the world. E-mail him at clementz.mark@yahoo.com.

Watch the video



Giant pumpkin in Holly

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Mark Clementz of Holly gets his giant pumpkin ready to be hoisted up and driven by truck down to Ohio for a competition.

**Clarification:** On Wednesday, Oct. 3, the Times reported that a particular Lake Fenton High School lunch containing whole grain pizza cost \$1.20 to make and cost students between \$2.25 and \$3.40. This lunch costs \$2.25.

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## HOT LINE CONTINUED

**PROPOSAL 2 WILL ONLY** benefit the already pampered unions, such as the teachers union. The MEA has 25 officers. The president makes \$300,000, the 25th one makes \$183,000, and they are just Michigan officers. All of this, and lavish benefits such as free massages, are paid for by our tax dollars. Vote no on 2.

**IT'S SUNDAY**, I went by Linden Elementary. There were five cars in the parking lot. Must have been those greedy, overpaid teachers getting ready to teach your children tomorrow. How many of you complainers go to your work on your own time and get ready for the next workday?

**YES, I WOULD** prefer a president who keeps money in offshore accounts so Obama does not give it to his takers. People, any income raised from Obama's tax increase on all of us will only result in more for those who won't work, it will not reduce the deficit.

**CONGRATS TO THE** Holly High marching band on their District 1 rating at the Oct. 13 district competition. You kids are amazing!

**OK, ROMNEY EARNED** a million dollars working, paid 28-35 percent tax on that money, then, he invested for his future. He then paid 14-15 percent on that money, so he paid 50 percent tax on a good deal of money. His fair share.

**WHAT HAPPENED TO** the Hot lines? Only some on the front of the page? More Hot lines please, it's my favorite part of the whole paper.

**PLEASE VOTE 'YES'** for the education bond proposal. Just look to the Hot lines for evidence that we need to improve access to information. We can't make our schools or city great with a misinformed electorate.

**WE WOULD LIKE** to thank the Lake Fenton United Methodist Church for handing out free popcorn and water during the Lake Fenton homecoming parade.

**THIS MESSAGE IS** for the sleazy son of a pulp that stole my 'Barack Obama for president' sign out of my yard. I'm going to put another one up, and if I catch you taking it down you'll need an absentee ballot.

**'ALL YOU OLD** people drive too slowly and you're sapping up the system.' Oh, we had better lighten up. One day, we're going to be old too.

**I WOULD LIKE** to thank the couple that lives on Blossom Lane in Linden for finding my son's wallet. You went out of your way and contacted the Linden High School who called us to say that honest people had found it with everything still there. Thank you so very much!

**I HOPE THE** overgrown kids who destroyed the pumpkin head and broke our pole had a good time last night! Alpine Shores residents — keep your eyes open.

**A HEARTFELT THANKS** to the gentleman who found my purse in (retail store). And thanks to the customer service representative who kept it safe. God bless you both and may good things happen to you. It's good to know there are honest caring people out there.

**FARMERS DON'T WANT** hunters on their property because they get arrows through their windshield. That's what happened to me, the hunters' actions cost me \$475.

## LUCK

Continued from 3

said he met the nicest people during the event, which isn't always the case in high stakes poker games.

"It was very fun, it's a good group," Shotwell said. "The tournament is like a lotto ticket. They know one of these people could become astonishingly rich."

But no matter how good you are at the game and no matter how many friendships you develop, Shotwell said the game will wear you down.

"Poker is an isolationist life — your coworkers are your competitors," Shotwell said. "Your loss is their win. A lot of kids get jaded. I was jaded."

Shotwell described the 'regulars' of the poker circuit as 55-year-old obese unmarried men. Nerds, jocks, degenerates, ex-convicts and people with competitive personalities are some of the players you can be sure to come across while running the gauntlet of big league Texas Hold 'Em. Shotwell developed a lot of friends who he couldn't stand speaking to.

"People go broke not because they're bad at poker. They go broke because they don't plan (their money)," Shotwell said. "Self discipline is the number one attribute in poker."

So where does a professional poker player go after they fold their last hand? Ironically, Shotwell is now in the line of work that inspired him to play poker — the movie business. Shotwell moved to Los Angeles and currently writes movie scripts. He is in the process of submitting a movie to film festivals, including the Sundance and Toronto festivals.

The five years of playing poker has influenced Shotwell's writing, particularly when it comes to a character's habits or delivery of speech.

"What I've learned from poker is that I definitely am a people reader," Shotwell said. "I know people's subtext more aptly than other people do. It translates over

**"It's so different from any other job. Your hobby becomes your life."**

— David Shotwell, former professional poker player



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FACEBOOK

David Shotwell said he learned how to read people from years of playing poker professionally. It now influences his movie script writing.

into how I write about people."

Would Shotwell do it all over again, knowing what he knew now?

"I would never say (anyone) shouldn't play it for a year. It's such a slim percentage for the long term path though."

## How to become a professional

Shotwell's favorite quote on the game of poker is "In the time it takes to be a good poker player, you could have become a doctor." Mastering the game of poker takes dedication and hard work. Here's some advice from a former pro:

- **Get involved in the** online community. Shotwell recommends the website twoplustwo.com, where many users share strategies, former hands and other tidbits on the game.
- **Play the game** as much as possible. Visit the local casino or get regular games going. The more people you play, the better you become. Be forewarned though that regulars to the game are not always experts. Pay attention to the online community too.
- **Read up on strategy.** The more poker books you read, the more you can contribute to online communities and apply to your games.

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## News briefs

### 'Handwriting Without Tears' this Thursday

The Ellen Street Early Childhood Development Center (ECDC) at 404 West Ellen St. in Fenton is holding a free event on **Thursday, Oct. 18 from 6 to 7:30 p.m.** Parents and caregivers of children of preschool or kindergarten age can partake in a "Handwriting Without Tears," and fine motor skills workshops to introduce and aid in learning to write. The students need not be enrolled in the ECDC.

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## DEVICES

Continued from Front Page

assistant principal of Linden High School. "They are becoming more prevalent, it seems like every student has one. Instead of fighting the inevitable, it's become kind of the exception to the rule."

Dreasky isn't too far off in saying that nearly every student has a smartphone. According to assessment management firm Piper Jaffray, 34 percent of high school students have an iPhone, with 40 percent of students intending to purchase an iPhone in the next six months. The survey did not include tablets, other smartphones or iPods that are capable of connecting to the Internet.

With so many students with Internet accessible devices and schools expanding their wireless capabilities, school officials are finding it's sometimes easier to embrace technology rather than to fight it.

### Summary

►Some educators are allowing students to use the Internet and apps on their mobile devices during classroom hours.

"We're training teachers how to use cell phones as instructional instruments," said Lake Fenton High School Principal Todd Reynolds. "The perception is that kids will get onto sites, check

e-mail, text, etc. But the more you show kids you're willing to trust them, the better they will trust you."

At Linden and Holly high schools, cell phones are banned during school hours unless a teacher encourages the use of mobile devices in the classroom. Instead of visiting a computer lab, students may be able to do research right from their desk. If they have a useful app for class



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Cheyenne Fisher, 16, checks her iPhone during lunch at Lake Fenton High School. This would not have been allowed last year. LFHS is the only district to allow the use of phones during lunch periods. The phones may also be used when school computers are occupied and students need to do research for class.

work, teachers may authorize students to use it.

At Fenton High School, Principal Mark Suchowski said students are not allowed to use mobile devices during school hours. Although Fenton does have wireless Internet access, students do not have authorization to use the network.

Lake Fenton High School has a more liberal policy, allowing students to use cell phones during passing time and lunch. Reynolds said educators used to have a problem with students using bathroom passes to text and check e-mail during class hours.

"Cell phones are becoming a part of life. Instead of denying it, we're trying to teach kids appropriate times to use them and when not to use them," Reynolds said.

Dreasky said the cell phone policy at Linden High School is reviewed, as needed, which is usually annually. Dreasky said the process of setting policy on cell phones is finding a "balance between educational purposes and disruptive personal use."

But despite the growing acceptance of cell phones in the classroom, students still

**"They are becoming more prevalent, it seems like every student has one."**

—Darin Dreasky  
assistant principal, Linden High School

face harsh penalties if caught using mobile devices when they're not supposed to. Cell phones can be confiscated and may be returned to the student at the end of the day. If the problem persists, parents may have to pick the cell phone up from school or the student may be suspended.

"Do we have a big problem with it? No, the kids are pretty good about not being blatant about it," said Mark

Mattingly, a counselor at Holly High School.

### Some useful apps for school

Here are some apps that Mashables.com recommends for students:

**Essentials by AccelaStudy.** A free foreign language app that has flashcards and audio quizzes.

**Graphic calculator.** Instead of paying \$100 or more for a graphic calculator, download it for \$2.99. The app does everything a graphic calculator can do and even allows students to take pictures of graphs and e-mail them.

**Studious.** This app is a personal planner, complete with a calendar to mark due date assignments and exams.

**The Chemical Touch.** A fully interactive Periodic Table. Each element on the table has properties and definitions with a single tap. It's only available for iPhone and costs \$0.99.

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## BREAK-INS

Continued from Front Page

which occurred in the early morning hours of Sunday, Oct. 7.

Police Chief Daniel Allen said at approximately 5:13 a.m. on Oct. 7, Hope Lutheran Church at 7356 Silver Lake Road, Church of the Nazarene at 16248 Seymour Road and Church on the Street at 15015 South Seymour Road had reportedly been broken into.

Entry was made into Hope Lutheran Church through a kitchen window on the southeast side of the church, through a north side window at the Church of the Nazarene and through a south side window at the Church on the Street.

The suspects stole an undisclosed amount of cash, several musical instruments and other miscellaneous items.

A gift card stolen from one of the churches on Sunday was later used by the suspect at a Walmart store in Canton. A male suspect was caught on the store's surveillance camera after purchasing a car stereo system with the card.

The break-ins remain under investigation. If anyone has information they are to contact the Argentine Township Department at (810) 735-5317 and ask for Det. Doug Fulton or Allen.



**TRI-COUNTY TIMES** | SUBMITTED PHOTO  
Argentine police believe this unidentified person is involved with church break-ins.

## TIGER

Continued from 3

Tampa Bay's David Price will probably win it, but one can easily argue Verlander over Price. Whatever happens, both had outstanding seasons.

### Verlander is sizzling in the postseason

Since 2006 he's been recognized as Detroit's top starting pitcher, and since 2009 most have recognized him as one of the few true ace pitchers in baseball. But he has struggled in the postseason. Verlander held a 3-3 record with a lousy earned run average (ERA) of 5.57 before this year. However, this year he's been masterful, posting a 2-0 record with a 0.56 ERA. He has allowed just one run and seven hits while striking out 22 in 16 innings of work. That label may be gone.

### Other great postseasons by Tiger pitchers

One that sticks is Mickey Lolich. Lolich collected three wins in the 1968 World Series, helping lead the Tigers to the World Championship. He pitched

three complete games, allowing just five runs.

Another pitcher that can challenge Lolich is Kenny Rogers in 2006. He started three postseason games, winning all three and not allowing a single earned run in 23 innings of work. He allowed just nine hits and struck out 19.

### Team the Tigers have done the best against in postseason play

Until 1994, it was impossible for the Tigers to face the Yankees in the playoffs due to the previous playoff format. Since then it's happened two other times. In 2006, the Tigers beat the Yankees three games to one (3-1) in the American League Divisional Series (ALDS).

Last year, the Tigers also beat the Yankees in the ALDS, 3-2. This season, entering Tuesday night's game the Tigers enjoyed a 2-0 lead. History is on the Tigers' side this season. No team has ever won a series after losing the first two games at home. The first two games were at Yankee Stadium.

### Summary

► Learn a little about the Tigers and their history while you enjoy "Tiger Fever" this postseason.

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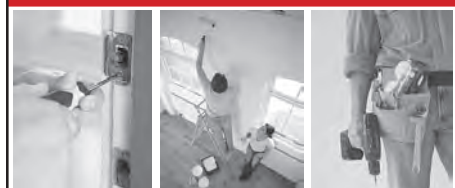
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WednesdaySudoku

4			6				8	
		5	7	2		6		
	1				9			2
	4		1		3	2		
		3		6			5	8
6		1			8			7
	5			4	7		2	
2		4	5			9		
3				9				5

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

Answer in this Sunday's edition of the Tri-County Times

WEEKLY

WednesdayJumble

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

PODOR

HOACC

HABLEC

TORRCE

WHAT THE BIRD WAS  
LOOKING FOR WHEN  
HE FLEW OVER  
ALL THOSE FISH.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: " " " " " "

Answer in this Sunday's edition of the Tri-County Times

PAUL G. DONOHUE, M.D.

To your  
good health

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: I read your article on osteoporosis, as I have it. I was put on Actonel (risedronate) by my former doctor. My new doctor had me switch to Fosamax (alendronate) when it came out as a generic. This doctor says you must take vitamin D and calcium also. Are they necessary? — B.G.

ANSWER: They are necessary. They work hand in hand with osteoporosis medicines. Calcium is the mineral needed for strong bones. Vitamin D enhances the absorption of calcium from the digestive tract into the blood. Not having a supply of these two is like trying to build a sandcastle without sand.

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KING FEATURES

Crossword Puzzle

**ACROSS**

1 "Monty Python" opener

4 Met melody

8 Raggedy Ann, e.g.

12 Calendar abbr.

13 Gangster's companion

14 Pennsylvania port

15 Pennsylvania Dutch pork concoction

17 Appellation

18 With skill

19 Monarch

20 Comfortably inviting

22 Pebbles' papa

24 French cleric

25 Sit-ins and such

29 Part of AT&T

30 Water nymph

31 Greek X

32 Glittery cosmetic

34 Actor Pitt

35 Census stats

36 Cheer up

37 Inundated

40 Amorphous mass

41 Mail

42 Earn an F in penmanship

46 Satan's

specialty

Owl's call

Shelter

Challenge

Oxen's burden

Corn spike

cosmetic

a lineup

Sleuth

Mix up

Without stinting

Thickly fibrous

Under the weather

Hearty brew

8 Strip

9 Exam format

10 Rickey

11 Ogler's look

16 Busy as —

19 Emeritus (Abbr.)

20 Loathe

21 Do as you're told

22 McDonald's offering

23 Bellow

25 Sheet of glass

26 Where "TWELVE" is worth 12

27 Just one of

those things

28 22-Down, e.g.

30 Approaching

33 In conclusion

34 Sci-fi villain

36 Upper-class group

37 Mimicked

38 Made on a loom

39 "Yeah, right!"

40 Understand, slangily

42 Bashful

43 Dove's call

44 Meadow

45 Always, in verse

Answer in this Sunday's edition of the Tri-County Times

## SPORTS TRIVIA

### BASEBALL

**Q** When did the Detroit Tigers win their first World Series?

**A** After losing in 1907, 1908, 1909 and 1934, the Detroit Tigers finally won a World Series Championship by defeating the Chicago Cubs four games to two in 1935.

## Football Round up

### Flint Metro League

Team	Conf	All
Swartz Creek	6-1	7-1
Linden	6-1	7-1
Fenton	6-1	7-1
Lapeer West	6-1	6-2
Holly	3-4	4-4
Kearsley	3-5	3-5
Lapeer East	2-5	3-5
Brandon	0-7	0-8
Clio	0-7	0-8

### Last week's results

Fenton 55, Swartz Creek 28  
Linden 63, Lapeer East 21  
Holly 35, Brandon 27  
Lapeer West 48, Kearsley 7  
Cadillac 42, Clio 6

### Friday's games

Linden at Swartz Creek  
Lapeer West at Fenton  
Holly at Lapeer East  
Clio at Brandon  
Kearsley at Northwestern

### Genesee Area Conference Red

Team	Conf	All
Lake Fenton	6-0	7-1
Montrose	6-0	7-1
Goodrich	5-2	6-2
Beecher	3-4	4-4
Mt. Morris	3-4	3-5
Perry	3-4	3-5
Durand	1-6	2-6
Lakeville	0-7	0-8

### Last week's results

Lake Fenton 70, Durand 6  
Montrose 54, Perry 6  
Beecher 21, Mt. Morris 20  
Goodrich 53, Lakeville 12

### Friday's games

Montrose at Lake Fenton  
Montabella vs. Perry  
Beecher vs. Sandusky  
Millington vs. Lakeville  
Birch Run vs. Mt. Morris  
Andover vs. Goodrich  
Durand vs. Livonia Clarenceville  
**Note:** For more details on any Friday night game, go to [www.tctimes.com](http://www.tctimes.com) and we'll have detailed game stories starting late Friday night/early Saturday morning.



**Fenton soccer defeats Brandon in district opener**

PG 14

**HOME FOR STATE**

Holly boys tennis competing at home during state meet.

PG 14

THE TRI-COUNTY TIMES

# sports

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2012

[www.tctimes.com](http://www.tctimes.com)

HOLLY'S JEFF SOPHIEA

PAGE 13

## Three area football teams gunning for league titles

By David Troppens

[dtroppens@tctimes.com](mailto:dtroppens@tctimes.com); 810-433-6789

Week nine of the prep football season means one thing for three tri-county teams — a chance to earn a league championship.

Lake Fenton will be seeking an outright Genesee Area Conference Red Division title, while the Fenton Tigers and Linden Eagles will be fighting to earn a share of the Flint Metro League championship. All three also play teams that are right in the conference title fights as well.

Perhaps the Blue Devils' match-up is the easier to grasp since the entire GAC Red championship will be determined at one site when Lake Fenton hosts Montrose at 7 p.m. Both teams enter with 6-0 GAC Red records and 7-1 overall, and both have been the dominant teams in the conference.

The defending GAC Red champions Montrose have been dominant against the other conference squads, outscoring them by a com-

bined 224-61 in the six games. The Rams' only close game among the group was a 13-12 victory against Goodrich. However, the Blue Devils, have been even better than that. The Blue Devils have outscored its GAC Red foes 320-39, earning continuous clock mercy victories in all but one GAC Red game, a 34-7 victory against Goodrich.

"That was our goal all along," said Lake Fenton coach Eric Doyle about winning a conference title. "It's the first of a few goals for us. It's another step and we are excited for the opportunity."

"You don't beat these guys by accident. You have to do the right things. They are a well coached team and we have to be ready to play and answer that emotion. If we do that, then it's about our execution."

The battle in the Flint Metro League involves four teams in two games, but remains pretty easy to grasp. The winner of the Lapeer West at Fenton contest will earn

**See TITLES on 14**



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | GARRETT GORMLEY

Lake Fenton's defense swarms an opposing running back in a recent game. The Blue Devils need a victory against Montrose on Friday to capture the Genesee Area Conference Red Division title.

## Website plays guessing game with state playoff picture

By David Troppens

[dtroppens@tctimes.com](mailto:dtroppens@tctimes.com)

With the MHSAA prep football playoffs less than two weeks away, it's natural for fans to wonder who their team may be playing in the playoffs for the first round.

For those who are interested, there's a website for you.

One check on [snooze2you.com](http://snooze2you.com) and you'll find their projections for the state playoffs entering Friday's final week of the regular season. Actually, the site has been creating possible playoff scenarios since the third week of the regular season was completed.

According to the site, two of the three tri-county squads headed for the playoffs would likely have No. 1 seeds in their districts if the playoffs started today.

Entering the ninth week, the "mapetology" projections, as the process is called on the website, have Fenton as the No. 1 seed of the Region 2, District 2 bracket in the Division 2 tourney. Fenton (7-1) would host ex-Metro League member Oxford (5-3), while Walled Lake Northern (6-2) and Walled Lake Western (6-2) would face off in the 2 v. 3 matchup.

The No. 1 Linden Eagles (7-1)

would host North Branch (5-3) in the opening round, while Lapeer West (6-2) would be the No. 2 seed hosting St. Johns (5-3) in Division 3, Region 3, District 1 action. Such a bracket could give the Eagles a chance to avenge their only loss of the regular season against Lapeer West during the second week of the playoffs.

Based on the brackets, it's Lake Fenton who seemingly can't get a break. Despite holding a 7-1 regular season record, the Blue Devils are projected to be a third seed in Division 5 action in the Region 4,

**See PICTURE on 15**

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## Holly tennis excited about being at home for state meet

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

When it comes to competing in a state meet, it's always exciting.

The Holly varsity boys tennis team knows that as well as anyone. The squad has made going to the state tennis meet a part of its regular-season schedule over the years. But this season will be a little extra special because the tourney will be at Holly High School.

The D2 state tournament — hosted among Holly and Fenton high schools and Genesys — starts Friday with opening round matches. It'll conclude Saturday with the semifinals and finals. The Bronchos, who qualified for the state meet by winning a regional title at Fenton, are excited to be staying at home.

"That will be a fun time. That definitely will be," Holly player Connor Bilkos said. "I'll miss not going to an overnight tournament. Those are fun, but it's nice to be at home."

"It's really convenient and makes it really nice for us," Holly's Taylor Mills said. "It's going to be fun playing on our own courts. It may be a little advantage."

If it is an advantage or not, no one can say for sure. However, most state tourney trips involve going to a facility where the Bronchos play just that one time during the season. However,

See **HOLLY** on 15

## Fenton soccer advances to district semifinals

►Preparing for fourth contest against rival Linden this season

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

Fenton — A.J. Huntely doesn't get many chances to score goals.

So when he gets them, he remembers those chances.

He got one on Monday during the Fenton Tigers' 3-0 district victory against the Brandon Blackhawks.

It came in the second half, while the game was still, reasonably, in doubt. The Tigers led just 2-0 when the Tigers had a free kick near the Blackhawks' net. The initial kick from J.D. Davis nearly went in itself. It bounced right off the crossbar and right back in front of the Brandon net. That's when Huntely came in and pounded the ball into the net, giving the Tigers a pretty decent 3-0 lead with 23:34 remaining in the second half.

"Usually the only opportunities I get are on free kicks when I crash the net," Huntely said. "I got one at Kearsley where I did almost the same thing. It was off the goalie, and I got the rebound."

It was only right that a Fenton defender scored a goal. After all, for much of the season the Tigers' defense has been close to perfect. Brandon managed just three shots on net all night long against the Tigers and keeper Carl Berkey, making it much easier for the Tigers to assure the victory. It marked the 10th shutout victory for the Tigers this season.

Actually, the defense could be attributed to all 11 players on the pitch. Fenton's



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SCOTT SCHUPBACH

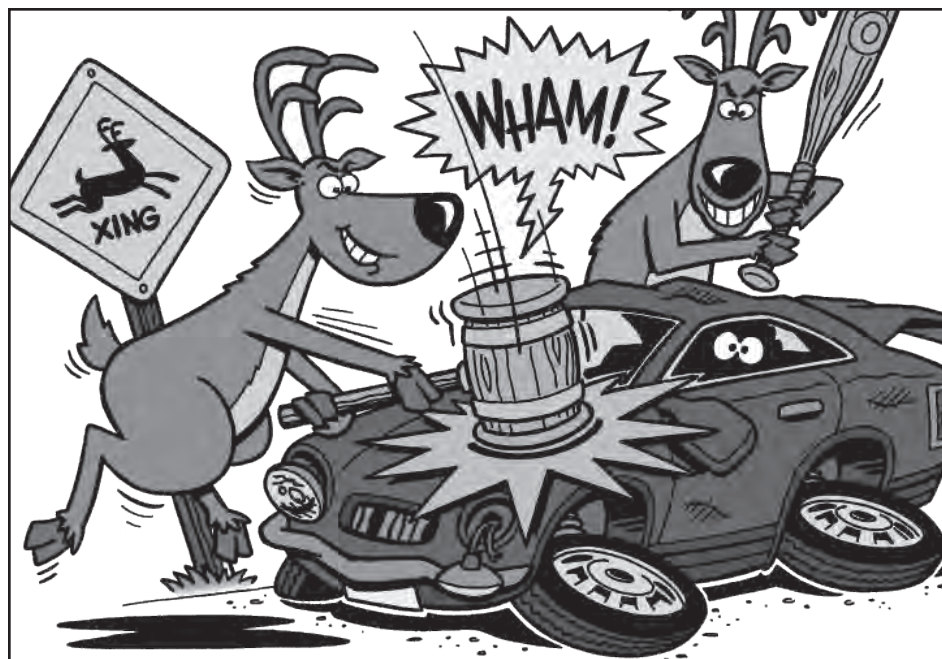
Fenton's J.D. Davis (right) tries to work by a tackle attempt by a Brandon defender in the Tigers' 3-0 district victory against the Blackhawks on Monday.

forwards and midfielders kept possession of the ball so much that Brandon found penetrating the Tigers' side of the field difficult. It wasn't like Fenton pounded the Brandon net with shots all night long — the Tigers had just seven shots themselves — but they kept the ball away from their

defensive third for most of the game.

"We can be a dangerous team when we are sharing the ball on offense," Sullivan said. "It gives our defense time to sit back, and any time that a team comes out of their zone, we can jump it. We have quality

See **SEMIFINALS** on 15



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## Fiebertz clinches milestone win in Linden's 8-1 verdict vs. Creek

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

It was Kevin Fiebertz's 300th victory as a varsity boys soccer coach.

The game also earned his Linden squad a spot in the district semifinals against the Fenton Tigers today at 7 p.m.

The Linden Eagles got goals from six different players resulting in an 8-1 district opening victory at Swartz Creek High School Monday. Linden got every player into the contest and scored four goals in each half. Kevin Wright and Michael Ziccardi led the offense, each scoring two goals. Wright also had an assist. Meanwhile, Zach Bakos had a goal and three assists.

Fiebertz put his 300th varsity boys soccer victory into perspective.

"It's like another day," Fiebertz said. "It's a sign of longevity. I guess I don't think the kids knew anything about it. I didn't say anything to them about it. We've had some good teams at Powers

Catholic, and when I took over the boys at Linden in 2003, we have done really well. It's a credit to the kids."

Bakos and Wright took part in three of the four Linden goals in the first half. He assisted both first-half goals by Wright, and scored unassisted for the team's third goal. Meanwhile, Wright assisted Ziccardi's first-half goal, the second goal in the game.

In the second half, Kyle Frederick, Ziccardi, Colin Rhead and Patrick Labahn each scored. Rhead and Labahn scored on penalty kicks. Cole Birchmeier also finished with an assist.

The win sets up the fourth match between Fenton and Linden this year. The teams are 1-1-1 against each other. The game is slated at Fenton High School for a 7 p.m. start.

"The beautiful thing about it is both teams know each other very well and both teams respect each other very well,"

See **MILESTONE** on 15

## TITLES

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a co-title with the winner of the Linden at Swartz Creek game. All four are tied for first with one week to play, meaning two are forced to share the title.

Swartz Creek entered the eighth week with a chance to win the title outright, but were blown out by Fenton 55-28, putting those two teams tied in first place in league play with one week left. Meanwhile, Linden defeated Lapeer East 62-21 and Lapeer West defeated Kearsley 48-7, creating the four-way tie at 6-1 in the Metro standings.

"This is a statement game," Fenton player Mitch Shegos said after last week's win. "And next week is going to be just as big, so we are going to work hard this week, and hopefully it turns out like this."

Linden coach Denny Hopkins is glad his team is in the position it's in.

"Since what happened at Lapeer West we've been taking it one game at a time," Hopkins said. "The kids know if they just worry about themselves and deal with what they control, they have a chance to share it with somebody."

# Shaw captures a first at prestigious MISCA meet

►Fenton's Haaraoja, Holly's Konopitski also post strong performances

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

Haley Shaw and the Fenton varsity swim team found out what they are capable of before this season is over at the Michigan Interscholastic Swim Coaches Association Meet this weekend.

Shaw won one event and took second in another, creating evidence once again that she will be a force to be reckoned with at the Division 2 state swim meet at the end of the season.

Shaw won the 200 freestyle with a time of 2:07.58, while placing second in the 100 backstroke (57.64) in a meet that fields the toughest competition during the regular season. Her biggest competition in both events was Grosse Pointe South's Gabrielle DeLoof. DeLoof won the 100 back-

stroke (57.31), while taking second in the 200 IM (2:07.61).

"She just beat out DeLoof (in the 200 IM). It was a great race. She swam really well," Fenton coach Brad Jones said about Shaw's performance. "DeLoof went 2:06 last year at the state meet, and both went 2:07, so we know there are faster races out there."

Meanwhile, Gabrielle Haaraoja found out she should earn a couple of second-day individual swims herself. She took seventh in the 50 freestyle (24.82) and 18th in the 100 freestyle (55.58).

"They are ahead of where we were last year, so we are feeling good about it," Jones said.

The Tigers also had the 400 relay team of Haaraoja, Davis, Meagan Cassner and

Shaw place 15th (3:46.06) with their best time of the season. Most of the drop came from Davis and Cassner.

"We got big drops out of those two," Jones said.

"Davis and Cassner still have a whole lot to lose. Gabby and Haley can come down a little but now they know what is possible."

Finally, Cassner, Shaw, Davis and Haaraoja placed 29th in the 200 medley relay (1:58.01).

"We just had a great day at MISCA," Jones said. "Everybody swam their best times."

Holly had one individual at the meet. That was Courtney Konopitski. She also performed well, placing 19th in the 50 freestyle (25.42). She also placed 30th in the 200 freestyle (2:01.48).



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Fenton's Haley Shaw won the 50 freestyle and took second in the 200 individual medley at the MISCA meet on Saturday.

## SEMIFINALS

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defenders who can jump those balls and lock the other teams in, and it kind of snow-balls. It gives our offense more chances."

The Tigers took the lead just 6:05 into the contest off a direct kick. Davis took this one as well about 25 yards out just wide of one of the posts of the net. He took the shot and it cleanly went in about five feet inside the near-side post. Fenton led 1-0.

Brandon had one of its few chances just minutes later when the ball danced around the Fenton box with Berkey fighting to get back in between the ball and the net. He finally did after the ball jostled around for about 10 seconds, catching the ball after about the third header.

The Tigers took a 2-0 lead with 23:05 left in the first half. The goal was set up by a cross from Anthony Flannery, who had the ball wide about 15 yards from the end line. He crossed the ball to Julian Weinberg who was near the middle of the field from about 25 yards out. Weinberg then blasted a shot that went in just above the keeper's save attempt.

Fenton held on for a 2-0 halftime lead.

The Tigers always seemingly had control of the contest while up 2-0, but eventually Huntley's goal pretty much iced the win.

The Tigers now play the Linden Eagles today in the district semifinals at Fenton High School's soccer field at 7 p.m. It will mark the fourth time the two teams faced each other this year. They are 1-1-1 against

each other.

"This gives us all the confidence going into our next game," Huntley said. "Of course, it being Linden, it's going to be a hard-fought battle. Winning this game is a confidence booster going into Linden."

I don't think Fiebs (the nickname for Linden varsity soccer coach Kevin Fiebernitz) and I have to even show up on Wednesday," Sullivan said. "The kids are going to be ready. These guys have a lot of respect for each other. It's going to be a great game, a coin flip either way."

The winner of Wednesday's game will play either Holly or Goodrich in the district finals Thursday at 7 p.m. at Fenton High School. Holly plays at Goodrich in the other semifinal, also on Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

## MILESTONE

Continued from 14

Fiebernitz said. "We are anticipating another classic Fenton-Linden soccer game. Any team can win this game. It's just a matter who seizes the opportunity."

"I'm interested and want to see a great game. I want to be a fan as well as a coach. I'm excited to see both teams go at it a fourth time. I'm sure they are excited as well."

Wednesday's winner plays in the district title game at Fenton on Thursday at 7 p.m. Their opponent will be the winner of Wednesday's other semifinal contest, Holly or Goodrich.

## PICTURE

Continued from 13

District 1 bracket. The Blue Devils would face undefeated and second-ranked Frankenmuth in the opening round, while Flint Powers Catholic(8-0) would be the top seed, facing Almont (5-3).

Of course, these are just unofficial projections and there is still a week left to play. There will certainly be many changes to the playoff landscape by the time Friday night is over. But, for many the guessing game at this time of the season is just as fun as the games. And that includes the varsity football coaches themselves. Of course, guess-

ing who they may play has added benefits. Most teams will have a couple advanced scouts from their programs attending possible first-round opponents on Friday night.

"I've looked at the projections. They've been right on in the past and they've also been far off," Lake Fenton coach Eric Doyle said. "So many things can happen. One team can change everything up. I know they have us going to Frankenmuth, and with Powers (in the other half of the bracket), but that can change. We are fine where they send us."

"They are fun to look at. And I am as guilty as anyone else when it comes to looking at them."

## HOLLY

Continued from 14

at home, the Bronchos not only practice there, but they host their share of duals and tournaments during the year as well. No one knows the courts better than Holly.

"I think it is because we are there every day, playing," Mills said. "It's just like another day, another match for us."

There are other benefits to being at home.

"Being at home for states is really cool," Gunnar LaFave said. "I think it's kind of an advantage because we will have more fans coming to states to support us. I would guess that's an advantage."

The Bronchos aren't creating strict goals. Instead, they are sticking with their usual more abstract objectives.

"We just want to do the best we can," Bilkos said. "We are going to keep playing like we are playing and see what happens."

ing who they may play has added benefits. Most teams will have a couple advanced scouts from their programs attending possible first-round opponents on Friday night.

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