Shop small this year

The hunt for the best price

Factors that drive people to shop on Black Friday

By William Axford
axford@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Get on your mark, get set — Black Friday is here. It's the biggest shopping day of the year and is increasingly creeping into Thursday night, Thanksgiving and is increasingly being seen as the start of the holiday season. The biggest shopping day of the year is just hours away. Black Friday begins immediately after Thanksgiving and is increasingly creeping into Thursday night, which was traditionally spent bursting from overeating. But it’s not just the biggest deals of the year that drive people ravenous. Promoters and stores have people’s shopping habits down to a science, tapping into their psyche. And whatever retail stores are crowding up, it must be working. See BLACK FRIDAY on 8

Exchange students share in U.S. tradition

Local high school exchange students offer their native home experience

By Editorial Staff
news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

As local residents prepare for the traditional U.S. holiday of Thanksgiving, the Times staff went into the four local high schools to see what their foreign exchange students thought of the holiday as well as how they and their host families were celebrating the holiday.

Holly High School
Camila Farias, 17, Cuiaba Brazil
What do you know about our Thanksgiving? What I’ve seen in the movies, is that families get reunited, even if they are from another state, to give thanks for something that occurred in the past, and eat turkey. See EXCHANGE on 11

Camila Farias, Holly High School

Readers speak out on what they want in their community

Movie theater, vibrant downtown and new businesses top list

By Sharon Stone
sstone@tctimes.com; 810-433-6785

The Times conducted an online survey to see what improvements area residents would like to see in their hometowns. We have compiled their wish list for Fenton, Linden and Holly areas below. See WHAT THEY WANT on 7
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SMART SOLUTIONS

1. Smelling perfume

Before you visit the perfume counter to find a new scent, pick up a coffee to go. As you test different perfumes, refresh your nose by taking a sip or sniff of the brew in between. By introducing a different type of odor, you reset scent receptors in the nose, so you are better able to detect the different notes and nuances between each fragrance.

2. Cupboard liners

Instead of struggling with shelf paper, line kitchen cupboards with inexpensive peel-and-stick floor tiles. Just cut them to size, peel off the backing and set in place — no muss and much less fuss.

TRI-COUNTY TIMES

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Can’t we all just get along?

Happy holiday gatherings depend on thoughtful, well-behaved guests

By Sally Rummel
news@tctimes.com; 810-629-3282

The holidays are supposed to be a time of good cheer and family togetherness, but what happens when Uncle Bob drinks too much or your mother asks you — again — when you’re finally going to get married?

Before you go “over the river and through the woods,” take a few minutes to remind yourself of some key elements that will ensure your holiday gathering is enjoyable for all. Above all, remember that attitude is everything when it comes to family gatherings. You can choose to be positive, or you can come to the evening with a huge chip on your shoulder over something that happened 20 years ago, according to makeitbetter.com.

Being in good humor is the best way to start off a long weekend of time spent with many relatives. Don’t forget your dish to pass, but even more importantly, bring to the table a willingness to forgive, forget and forge ahead.

Remember that each guest at a family gathering has a job to do — an obligation to contribute to the overall good time of the group. The host can provide a destination and a lot of the food and refreshments, but it’s up to the guests to help provide a good time for everyone — by bringing pleasant conversation, a few family memories to share, a willingness to play with kids or get them involved with a game, etc.

It’s not enough to just plop down on the couch after eating to watch the football game. Maybe you could organize a family walk after dinner, for anyone interested in burning a few calories or just to enjoy an outdoor setting.

However, even in the best of families, some combinations of guests may be less than ideal. That’s when it helps to seat people in the most pleasant way for conversation at the dinner table and keep topics neutral for all. Neutrality is the key to stress-free holiday, avoiding “hot button” topics like politics, religion, even medical issues, especially during dinner. As a guest, anything you have to be the “diplomat” is doing your host a big favor.

See GET ALONG on 12

COMING SOON

The Hobbit: The Unexpected Journey
Before Frodo and company set off to destroy the One Ring in the depths of Moria, Bilbo Baggins journeys to the Lonely Mountains with nine dwarves and the wizard Gandalf to battle the dragon Smaug. Director Peter Jackson will once again take moviegoers back to Middle Earth with one of J.R.R. Tolkien’s most beloved stories. The first installment of the trilogy will be released Dec. 14. PG-13

Hobbit and Skyfall the big releases for holiday season

By William Axford
axford@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

It’s almost Oscar season for the movies, which means some of the best films of the year will appear in theaters soon. Here’s a look at a few films that are out and some movies you may want to venture out and see.

See COMING SOON on 12

New Century Buffet

Formerly New Century Buffet

Lunch Buffet
November 12th - 18th • 11:00-3:30pm
$4.99 SPECIAL
Monday - Sunday: 11:00am - 3:30pm
Regular Price: $6.49 Not valid with other offers

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James Bond: Skyfall
James Bond investigates an attack on his boss, M, pitting him against a former M16 agent.

Daniel Craig returns as Bond and Sam Mendes, who is best known for his 1999 movie American Beauty, directed the film. In theaters now. PG-13, 2 hr., 25 min.

November 12th - 18th • 11:00-3:30pm
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Monday - Sunday: 11:00am - 3:30pm
Regular Price: $6.49 Not valid with other offers

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COUPON

Page 3
The resignation of CIA Director David Petraeus over an extramarital affair has raised a number of questions. First among them is why should he have resigned? I am always amazed when jour- nalists use the words ‘sex scandal’ when writing about such things. Having aban- doned most standards for what used to be called ‘upright behavior,’ why does culture now ‘tsk-tsks’ when someone is caught in a compromising position?

Bill Clinton didn’t have to resign after the Monica Lewinsky scandal. He lied about their assignations under oath, for which he was later impeached by the House.

The late Senator Edward Kennedy’s sexual liberalism was well known and he wasn’t forced to resign. In fact, he repeatedly won re-election, despite his predilections. Sexual liberalism was well known and he wasn’t forced to resign. In fact, he repeatedly won re-election, despite his predilections.

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Person of interest sought

Detectives seek to identify, question individual in church break-in

The Livingston County Sheriff’s Detective Bureau is requesting assistance from the public in identifying a person of interest in a breaking and entering of the Fellowship Bible Church located at 2300 Hartland Rd., which occurred between Sunday, Oct. 7, 2012 and Wednesday, Oct. 10.

The person of interest left a piece of property at the Fellowship Bible Church during the timeframe of the breaking and entering. Livingston County Sheriff’s Detectives are looking to speak to this person of interest to assist in solving this crime.

If anyone recognizes the subject in the picture, please contact Det. Curt Novara at (517) 540-7952 or call Crime Stoppers Michigan anonymous tip hot line at 1-800-773-2887, which is offering a reward.

BEWARE: CREDIT CARD SKIMMERS

Fenton Police Chief Rick Aro said residents should be concerned with and aware of credit card/debit card skimmers, especially during the holiday season. A device (pictured here) is placed over the real card reader at an ATM, which captures the credit card/debit card information. The perpetrator then removes the skimmer device and uses the card information obtained. One way to detect this scam is the skimmer can be removed from the actual ATM device. It may also look suspicious, different, amateurish, etc.

LOUD PARTY

At 2:43 a.m. on Sunday, Nov. 18, Fenton police were sent to an apartment south of Silver Lake Road, just east of Jennings Road to investigate a loud party complaint. Upon arrival, police heard the party and made contact with a 20-year-old male resident who had several friends over. Five individuals at that party were eventually cited for Under 21 Consumption and three male residents from that apartment were also cited for allowing consumption of alcohol by minors at a social gathering. Preliminary breath tests ranged from .10 to .13 percent blood alcohol content. Those cited received court appearance tickets for Dec. 17.

ITEMS TAKEN FROM UNLOCKED VAN

At 12:30 p.m. on Nov. 17, Fenton police received a larceny from auto complaint from a 32-year-old Tyrone Township woman. She told police that she had parked her 2007 Dodge Caravan overnight at a restaurant on Silver Parkway and when she returned, she discovered that several of her personal belongings were missing from the van. Missing items included a laptop computer, several CDs in a case, a portable DVD player and a leather briefcase. There were no signs of forced entry.

**Double jeopardy and judicial error – Part II**

In last week’s column I discussed a criminal case called Evans v Michigan that is presently pending in the United States Supreme Court involving the issue of double jeopardy. Here is Part II.

The Michigan Supreme Court found in a four to three Opinion, that there is a distinction to be made when a judge makes an error of law as opposed to an error of fact in granting a directed verdict of acquittal in a criminal case.

The Court held that if a trial court grants such a motion on the basis of an error of law that did not resolve any factual element of the charged offense, the trial court’s ruling does not constitute an acquittal for double jeopardy purposes and a retrial may be held. If the court makes an error as to the factual elements of the crime charged double jeopardy would apply.

In Evans, since the trial court added an extra element of the crime that did not exist, this was an error of law and accordingly the Michigan Supreme Court held double jeopardy did not prevent a retrial of the defendant.

The dissent in Evans said that the majority did not properly apply existing United States Supreme Court and Michigan case law and that double jeopardy does apply as the distinction the majority found does not exist.

Statistically, approximately 1 percent of submitted cases are accepted for review by the United States Supreme Court. The cases that are accepted normally have some very interesting jurisprudential issues. The defendant in Evans appealed his conviction to the Supreme Court and they agreed to hear his appeal. The question now before the Supreme Court is what the result should be when a trial judge erroneously adds an element to a charged crime and then acquits a defendant after finding that the prosecution failed to prove the erroneously added element or to put it in a different way — how broad should the double jeopardy clause be in such a situation.

This promises to be a most interesting decision and when the Court’s opinion is announced, I will give everyone a full report.

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Should seniors or park benefit from federal funds?

Other funds of $16,781 allocated for low-income homes

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

Rose Twp.—County home improvement and single home unit rehabilitation in the township will benefit from 2008 and 2013 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, after they were programmed by the board of trustees on Wednesday.

The funds are for low-income areas, must be allocated for very specific uses, or they will be lost. Funds from year 2008 of $988 will be used for county home improvements and funds of $15,793 for 2013 will go to benefit single-family dwellings, at $2,000 per home.

While the board decided unanimously on these items, other items were tabled or voted down.

Funds for 2011 of $8,293 have been under public dispute and dispute. Cemetery Sexton Tom Wilwerth gathered a petition and argued for the 2011 funding to be used for low-income home improvements, instead of at Dearborn Park, which was another option.

“How can you sit there and vote for this, when there are people out there that need it,” he said, addressing the board. Wilwerth mentioned the Holly Shores community, as a low-income area that could benefit from the funds.

Other audience members voiced support for using the money on Dearborn Park benches. Both possibilities were resolutions on the agenda and differing opinions on the board came out during discussion.

Board member David Gordon made a motion to give $1,000 of the total amount to the Oakland Livingston Human Services Agency (OLHSA) and $7,293 to the park fund. OLHSA provides daily living services for area seniors. Clerk Debbie Miller pointed out that she also had motioned to give $3,000 to OLHSA.

“...I think we need to be giving OLHSA more money,” said Miller. “We give $3,750 to Holly Area Youth Assistance, we give zero to seniors. OLHSA deals with seniors, disabled people and low income. They need the money. They get all their money from donations.”

Parks and township board member Diane Scheib-Snider argued that the funds should go into the parks, as there will be no more CDBG funds available for parks in the near future. “Diane, why would you want to put it into parks when there are people that clearly don’t want it,” said Miller.

Superior Glen Noble said he had no problem with $1,000 going to OLHSA, but wanted to see a more developed park plan, including detailed sketches from Scheib-Snider. “I believe that federal and state plans should have definitive plans,” he said.

Gordon’s proposal failed, with Gordon and Scheib-Snider voting for the measure and Noble and Miller voting against. As the funds have to be allocated by 2014, the board decided to table the motion until next year. With Treasurer Susan Foster not present, a vote in 2013 would also include the new, complete board.

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Bridge to keep hikers dry

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

A Fenton High School senior completed his Eagle Scout Project, a much-needed bridge over a wetland area in the Dauner Nature Sanctuary in Fenton.

On Wednesday, Nov. 14, Jordan Dagenais presented his project. Dagenais, a member of Troop 219 completed the bridge, which spans over an area that floods each spring, making the trail impassable. The bridge was well designed and constructed and is expected to provide users of the sanctuary many years of service.

WHAT THEY WANT

Local officials might want to check out what their residents are saying about their areas. Even though the survey has officially ended, keep sending in your ideas.

If you live in the Fenton area, send your suggestions for this area to Fenton@tctimes.com. If you live in the Holly area, send your suggestions to Linden@tctimes.com. And if you live in the Holly Core, send in your suggestions to Holly@tctimes.com.

The folks in Fenton were the most vocal with ideas and improvements that they’d like to see in their hometown.

Fenton, Holly, Linden

• My suggestions would be Kohl’s or a Carson’s, which was formerly Elder Beerman, currently located in Howell. Also, a Red Lobster, to house the Fenton Cinema repurposed and a Hobby Lobby.

• Believe our town needs a movie theater and some clothing stores, such as Marshall’s, Kohl’s, Parisian, Youkners, or Elder Beerman.

• My family and I refuse to go to Grand Blanc or the Rochester/Troy area. I think that’s terrible that our town has no theater. I end up buying most of my family’s clothes in Howell or Brighton.

• I would like a Costco to come to Fenton, also an office supply store would be great. Buddy’s Pizza too.

• More parking in the Dibbleville area. So many great businesses, but zero parking!

• Love The Laundry, but customers take up any available parking in the area. People can’t patronize businesses if they can’t get to them.

• Clean up the eyesores, like the incredible piece of “center city” property at Buddy’s Pizza too.

• Restaurants, restaurants to the attraction for today’s active families. Having access to walking/biking trails adds to the attraction for today’s active families.

• We have the river running right through downtown but no businesses are taking advantage of it, or the city. Create a river-walk that not only offers an attraction but beautifies the city along the way.

• The clubs should feature local talents, have youth nights and contests that bring talent from other areas. I know the City has plans to purchase area around the Pine Street vicinity in downtown. If planned right this could be huge and entice people to come/stay downtown longer, benefiting the businesses while making the city look alive.

• If you’ve ever been to downtown Naperville in Illinois, Fenton could be very similar where people flock to because there are things to do. To get to any type of this, people have to go to the Rochester/Troy and surrounding areas to get some go energy. We need to create activity that entices our young professional adults to stay here because there is enough to do. It’s a long-term plan but Fenton is one step by beginning to make this happen. This idea has been the biggest complaint that I’ve heard from the young professionals and a big reason why they leave.

• My improvement wish is actually concerning both Fenton and Linden. We are a very active 60-year-old couple. We live in Fenton and we have family in Linden. We often walk or ride our bikes the six miles between the two communities along Silver Lake Road. Sidewalks end just past Silver Parkway in Fenton and there is nothing until you get just outside the city of Linden. It would be wonderful to join the communities by continuing the sidewalks or bike path between the two. Along by the lake a couple of benches could be placed for people to stop, rest and enjoy the view of the lake. We live in a great community and having access to walking/biking trails adds to the attraction for today’s active families.

• Restaurants, restaurants, restaurants! Whole Foods or Trader Joe type store. A restaurant that serves organic and healthy food.

Also more retail shops that stay downtown but could be larger retailers, like the Pier 1 on Silver Parkway. Increase the foot traffic.

TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO

Jordan Dagenais, a senior at Fenton High School poses next to the bridge.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

EIGHT YEARS OF fire and spend policies of Jennifer Granholm put Michigan at the bottom of productivity for all the states. Eight years of Obama’s tax and spend policies will put the county at the bottom. Remember the old saying — the borrower is slave to the lender.

PEOPLE, WHEN YOU add a pool or do any construction inside or outside of your home, you need to check with your city to see if you need permits. Posting pictures on Facebook with your changes isn’t smart.

YOU LIBERALS are all doing a dance that he got four more years. You will be sorry.

TO THE PEOPLE late for an appointment Do not drive down Hickory Ridge Road for the next few weeks. There will be construction.

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Mark Your Calendars: Christmas at Gerych’s

Two Great Events | Two Weekends

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Photos with Santa & Mrs. Claus

Mon. – Sat. & Sun., DEC 1 & 2
Christmas Open House
Featuring The Michigan Santa’s & Mrs. Claus as seen on the WKTV Detroit 7 Christmas Parade

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www.gerychspartyrentals.com/classic Nim
**Garlands go on 48 poles, in three days**

On Monday Fenton Department of Public Works (DPW) workers Dan Wayne (left) and Brian Waller prepare to wrap a light pole on LeRoy Street near Fenton United Methodist Church. The DPW will take three days to decorate 48 poles downtown.

**SHOP SMALL**

Continued from Front Page

by visiting local retailers this Saturday, and for all their Christmas gift shopping, holiday décor, grocery needs as the season progresses.

Shopping at independent stores is not just “the right thing to do,” it’s also part of a national movement of “indie shopping” — a conscientious effort to patronize locally-owned, independent businesses whenever it is possible to do so.

In fact, shopping “small” at independent retailers is the single most important thing you can do this Christmas holiday to ensure the future success of your own community.

With the economic situation of the U.S. literally hanging on a “cliff” (referring to our nation’s Fiscal Cliff) and other financial situations uncertain, the one area we can control is how and where we spend our own dollars. By supporting our own local stores, restaurants and businesses, we can make a difference in the viability of our own communities in an uncertain world.

If tri-county residents follow the national trend of spending approximately $750 per household on Christmas, according to the National Retail Federation, imagine the impact this could have locally.

For every $100 spent at an independent store, $86 is returned to the community through taxes, payroll and other local expenditures, according to independent-westand.com. If you spent your dollars at a national chain store in your community, $43 goes to work for your hometown. If you shop online at a store without local roots, zero dollars are returned home.

Every one of us has a choice as to whether we spend our shopping dollars at malls, online or in local businesses. Shopping at locally owned establishments can leverage community funds three to four times the average. For example, supporting a local clothing boutique, a consumer is also supporting a local attorney, tax preparer and printer. Local businesses tend to source small manufacturing and banking needs closer to home as well.

If we choose to spend our money at local businesses, our dollars will help stimulate the economy as businesses patronize each other. The taxes will stay in the local community to support roads, schools, police and fire and other public services.

When it comes to supporting the area’s nonprofit organizations—from our local schools to local scouts, churches, etc.—local businesses provide a average of 250 percent more support, benefiting the community even more. Business owners are much more vested in the community in which they live and work, and care deeply about the future of their town or city.

How you spend your dollars this holiday season will speak volumes about how deeply you feel about your hometown and the people who work hard to make a living here.

**Jingle Jog – 5K Run/Walk**

**Saturday, December 1st, 2012**

Organized By: The Fenton Regional Chamber of Commerce and Jingle Festival Committee

NEW COURSE: New route this year. (A true 5k and not a lap run)

Race begins and ends at the Old Fire Hall, Fenton MI 201 S. Leroy St. at the corner of E. Ellen St. Mostly flat, fast, one loop and well-marked on paved streets in downtown Fenton. Roads are open to vehicle traffic, but are monitored by volunteers.

START TIME: 3pm at the Old Fire Hall

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Register by mail, drop off, online at www.gacage.com or on race day at Packet Pickup.

RACE INFORMATION

810-629-5447 or www.fentonchamber.com

ENTRY FEE:

Before Deadline - $20 November 18th, 2012

After Deadline - $25

CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

Fenton Regional Chamber of Commerce
114 N. Leroy St. Fenton, MI 48430

AWARDS

Overall Male & Female

Masters Male & Female

2 Deep in each Age Group

Male & Female in Walk/Run

Receive a Jingle Jog mug at the finish to be used for hot beverages and soup donated by VG’s Grocery.

Wear a Santa costume and you will receive a $5 dollar refund at registration.

Jingle Jog kicks off the Jinglefest celebration, shopping, music, food, reindeer, ice sculptures, horse & wagon rides, lighted parade at 6pm and fireworks.

PACKET PICK UP:

RACE Day 1:30pm – 2:45pm

Old Fire Hall, Fenton, MI 201 S. Leroy St. at the corner of E. Ellen St.

**BLACK FRIDAY**

Continued from Front Page

The National Retail Federation estimates about 150 million people will shop this Friday and Saturday, up 10 million people from last year. If you choose to brave the long lines and overcrowding, here are some things you may not be aware of.

That urgent, nagging feeling. Those low prices are oftentimes once a year only and shoppers know their favorite products are in limited stock. Peter Darke of York University in Toronto found that people achieve a higher self-esteem when they get an item for a steep discount. “There’s some evidence to suggest that it reflects back on them as a sort of rational, good, effective, skilled shopper,” Darke said in an article for Live Science.

Add in deadlines for Black Friday sales and shoppers will move as quickly as they can to get their coveted items. Some researchers believe that Black Friday sales trigger an instinct to gather what is scarce, and other trophies for said item.

The ‘happy’ shopping crowd. It’s not just the items and unheard of prices that encourage people to shop. With everyone hoping to grab the same items, shopping on Black Friday creates competition amongst consumers. Shoppers are in it for the “thrill of the hunt,” skillfully getting the most demanded items before others do.

“At certain levels, consumers enjoy arousal and challenges during the shopping process,” said Sang-Eun-Byun of Auburn University in Alabama, in a Washington Post article. “They enjoy something that’s harder to get, and it makes them feel playful and excited.”

So while people generally despise crowds, they are more willing to battle long lines and a mass of people so long as they feel achievement in their shopping.

“A sweet treat while shopping. Big- hoppers please around the store. McGonigal said studies show that fatty, sugary foods changes chemistry in the brain, tempting people to spend more money and seek pleasure. Even if you don’t eat at that unhealthy fast food spot, McGonigal said just the presence of food will have an ef- fect on you.

“It doesn’t matter if you indulge or not — in fact, if you resist the snacks, you may have less willpower to resist the sales,” McGonigal said in an article for Psychology Today.
What to get

mom and dad for Christmas

Oftentimes the least expensive, yet creative idea makes for the perfect gift

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

What do you buy for Christmas for the person who seems to have everything they need? Often, that person is your mom or dad, because many parents just go out and buy what they need, when they need it. When thinking of gift ideas this Christmas, you may have to get creative, to come up with just the right gift.

Many adults begin to downsize at some point in their lives, so a gift of an event or a “consumable” item is often more welcome than another knick-knack or tie.

Tickets to a favorite sporting event, theater or upscale restaurant are a gift that might pleasantly surprise the recipient. Perhaps you could give them a date for a particular activity, and include a night’s stay at a local bed and breakfast or hotel.

Season tickets to the Fenton Village Players, coupled with a restaurant gift certificate would be a clever idea. They could be presented with a gift tag attached to your parents’ favorite bottle of wine.

If you have children, you can create an event that your parents could enjoy with their grandchildren — a weekend trip as an extended family that you could help “fund” with tickets for transportation, hotel, etc.

Gift baskets are another idea that will be fun for them to open. If your mom loves to bake, give baking items that she wouldn’t splurge on for herself. High-end baking chocolate, fancy butters, decorating toppings and a cookbook would all be something special.

Sons and daughters could also create a coupon book that include errands or odd jobs that they could do for their parent throughout the year. Those who are creative could have fun putting together one of these personalized booklets.

Find a focal point for your dad — maybe grilling, golfing or photography, and build a basket around that hobby, just for him. Wrap it with bungee cords, twine, a personalized golf towel or anything else that could be reused later.

Give your parents a digital picture frame and load it with pictures of their children or grandchildren. If it’s programmable, set it to change pictures every 20 seconds or every 24 hours. Some picture frames hold just a few photos, while others can hold hundreds. Parents can upload different pictures as they choose. Many frames are battery powered, but some must be plugged in. Pick a style they would prefer. They will enjoy this gift for years.

For parents who have it all, what about a recurring monthly gift, such as “dinner of the month,” “bread of the month,” something personal that you arrange yourself? You could buy a 12-month calendar and put a different gift card, coinciding with the season and your parents’ interests in a “pocket” of each calendar month.

A calendar itself could be a special gift, especially if it is personalized with family photos to coincide with birthdays, anniversaries, etc.

All you need to do in finding “just the right gift” is to put yourself in their shoes and try to figure out what would make them smile on Christmas morning.

Summary

Think about what interests your parents and try creative ways to give a gift from the heart — from no-cost coupons to extravagant tickets that they would not buy for themselves.

Tickets to a favorite sporting event, theater or upscale restaurant are a gift that might pleasantly surprise the recipient. Perhaps you could give them a date for a particular activity, and include a night’s stay at a local bed and breakfast or hotel.

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All you need to do in finding “just the right gift” is to put yourself in their shoes and try to figure out what would make them smile on Christmas morning.
We need your input.

You are invited

City of Fenton Community Forum

December 5th, 2012

Andrew G. Schmidt Middle School Cafeteria

3255 Donaldson Drive

6:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Dinner & Childcare will be provided

Input from all elements of the community is essential to the next step in the Strategic Plan for the City of Fenton. This vision-goal setting session with the Citizens will provide the basis for the Council to compare previous discussions and develop a final community strategic plan.

What changes or improvements would you like to see in your community?

What would you like to see the City of Fenton look like in the next 10 years?

Your input is a very important part of this endeavor for our city. Please join us for a very stimulating evening.

We look forward to seeing you there.

RSVP to Fenton City Hall 810-629-2261
**EXCHANGE**

Continued from Front Page

The turkey looks really good on the TV. Do you have a similar holiday back home? Christmas is really close. Our Christmas and our New Year, we like to spend with our family and we all get together, it’s kind of like here. We get together from midnight, 24th to 25th. We thank God for everything we have, and we sing songs.

What is life like right now back home? It’s really really hot, about 120 Fahrenheit, for the whole year. Right now, the students are all on vacations, so everyone there is partying, and not studying anymore. My mom is a plastic surgeon, so she is getting a lot of people to get surgery because they like to be pretty for Christmas. What are you thankful for? I’m thankful for the opportunities that I’m having to make sure our family gets together. It is healthy, and friends are doing right at my town. My family is thankful for the life that I’m having

**Summary**

- Foreign exchange students from area schools share their own festive family traditions, and what they expect to experience here.

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**LAKE FENTON HIGH SCHOOL**

Aya Elsawi, 17, Egypt

What do you know about our Thanksgiving? All of the family gets together and have a big dinner with turkey, and there’s shopping on Black Friday.

Do you have a similar holiday back home? We have Ramadan, where you make sure our family gets together. It takes place during a different month each year, depending on the calendar. There’s a lot of food, big tables with a lot of people.

What are you thankful for? I’m thankful for being here in Lake Fenton High School. I’ve wanted to study abroad for the past few years.

---

**LAKE FENTON HIGH SCHOOL**

Ilaria Musso, 16, Italy

What do you know about our Thanksgiving? Thanksgiving is a huge day, and this year it is the 22nd of November. It is a day for saying thank you. I don’t know too much about it. I know I will spend time all day at home with family here and we will eat a lot.

Do you have a similar holiday back home? No. I know what Thanksgiving is, but we have nothing similar.

What is life like right now back home? We celebrate Christmas and New Year’s in December. The 26th of December, the day after Christmas, is a big day in Italy. We see family; we eat together and spend time together.

What are you thankful for? I want to say thank you for my Italian parents and really all of my family in Italy that supports me so much, and my family here. Here I have an awesome family that help me, feed me, and is really nice. I have some teachers here who are very smart and nice. I need to have help for things like English because everything is different and my family here and teachers help me so much.

---

**LINDEN HIGH SCHOOL**

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---

**FENTON HIGH SCHOOL**

Patricia Marin, 18, Venezuela

What do you know about our Thanksgiving? I know that you guys have dinner and you all sit together and say what you are thankful for. It’s a time for family. And something about Indians?

Do you have a similar holiday back home? No. The closest thing we would have is Pascua, where we all sit and have a big family dinner together.

What is life like right now back home? Christmas is a big thing back home. We usually get our Christmas tree on December 1. We don’t have pine trees in Venezuela, so we order them. We get the real ones because we like the smell.

What are you thankful for? I’m thankful for my family here and back home, and so thankful for the opportunity to be here.

---

**Local store assists Toys for Tots**

The UPS Store helps literacy program provide books to local children in need

By Sharon Stone

The UPS Store at 17195 Silver Parkway has launched its holiday donation drive for the Toys for Tots Literacy Program, helping deliver the gift of reading to less fortunate children in Fenton. Through Dec. 31, The UPS Store will sell donation cards to benefit the Toys for Tots Literacy Program, a year-round initiative of the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation. Every dollar donated helps purchase books for less fortunate children in the local community.

“We feel that education is one of the key ways children can become successful in life,” said The UPS Store owner Les Beare. “The holidays are a great time to make a positive impact by helping children break the cycle of poverty through literacy and education.”

“Our nation’s less fortunate children deserve the resources to learn and experience the joy of reading,” said Lt. Gen. Pete Osman, USMC (Ret), President and CEO of the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation. “We are thrilled to be entering the fifth year of the Toys for Tots Literacy Program, providing children the gift of a book which can leave a lasting impact even after the holidays are over.”

The UPS Store will continue additional fundraising activities throughout the year. Since it began in 2008, The UPS Store franchise network has raised more than $2 million for Toys for Tots Literacy Program.
This holiday season, give blood and help save lives

The American Red Cross and the First Presbyterian Church of Fenton are sponsoring a blood drive on Saturday, Dec. 1 from 9 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. To schedule an appointment, log onto redcrossblood.org, sponsor code: fentonfpc. Those wishing to donate can also call Norma Witten at (810) 397-8038 to schedule an appointment. Giving blood gives hope to those in need of blood. The church is located at 503 South LeRoy St.

Distinctive holiday decorations

(Above) Designer Matt Cmnolalic of Flint, arranges a display table at Gerych’s Distinctive Flowers and Gifts on Thursday, ahead of Ladies Night Out in Fenton.

(Below) Wedding consultant Kathy Roach decorates a Christmas tree with Detroit sports team memorabilia for the Festival of Trees in Detroit. The tree was taken to Detroit for the festival soon after she was done.

GET ALONG

Continued from Page 3

If your family is truly a dysfunctional bunch, you may have to take a more proactive stance to protect your own enjoyment of the holiday. Oprah.com suggests that you go into a holiday event with little hope that people have changed their past behavior, so you won’t be disappointed during this year’s holiday celebrations. If the situation is better than you expected, you can be pleasantly surprised. If not, you were already emotionally prepared for it.

She suggests that you may have to set boundaries and/or time limits for your exposure to a dysfunctional family, giving yourself an opportunity to make a graceful exit at an appropriate time. Accept the fact that you can’t change anyone else’s words or behavior, but you have control over your own thoughts and actions.

If you truly can’t enjoy the holiday event because of dysfunctional behavior on the part of some of your relatives, oprah.com says that you can be a participant observer, looking at your family as if from a distance for comedy material or a game show. It’s one way to lighten up the day for yourself, while trying not to take your dysfunctional family too seriously.

Linda’s Place

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Providing 24 hour care in a beautiful, safe setting

Included in monthly price:

- All Meals & Snacks
- Medication Distribution
- Laundry & Housekeeping
- Hair & Nail Care
- Visiting Physician
- Activities

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627 E. Silver Lake Rd. Linden, MI
Memorable Lions Thanksgiving Day victories

The Lions hold a 33-37-2 record on Thanksgiving Day. Here are some of their more memorable victories.

<table>
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Fenton swimmers capture 14th place at state meet

**By David Troppens**

Fenton swimmers capture 14th place at state meet

**Fenton swimmers capture 14th place at state meet**

A **TRI-COUNTY TIMES**

**SPORTS TRIVIA**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

**Football & Thanksgiving**

For Michiganders, when you bring up Thanksgiving, the words Detroit Lions are just as likely to be one of the first visions in one’s mind as turkey, family or parades. Here is a little history lesson about football and Thanksgiving.

**Origins:** Despite what many may think, the Detroit Lions were not the first team to host a game on Thanksgiving. That honor would go to either Yale or Princeton. The two college teams began playing football against each other in 1876. The University of Michigan also had a short tradition of competing on Thanksgiving, playing 19 games between 1885 and 1905. During the first professional football seasons, many teams played on Thanksgiving. When the Portsmouth Spartans became the Detroit Lions in 1934, the Lions hosted their first Thanksgiving game, and have done so almost every year.

**First Lions’ Thanksgiving game:** In 1934, the Lions hosted the defending NFL World Champion Chicago Bears in a battle for first place. Chicago won a thriller 26,000 fans 19-16. Since then, the only time the Lions haven’t played on Thanksgiving was from 1939 through 1945.

**Lions battle to keep the Thanksgiving game:** Over the years there have been challenges to the Lions always hosting one of the games. However, each challenge has been thwarted by the Ford family itself who embraces the tradition.

**Shaw comes home with two individual fourths**

By David Troppens

Dhoppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

**Rochester — Haley Shaw had a smile on her face. It had been a long two days. She competed in seven events during the two-day Division 2 State Swimming and Division Championships held at Oakland University.**

She had just finished her last race with three of her teammates in the consolation finals of the 400 free-style relay, the second-to-last event of the meet, and was returning from the awards podium preparing to collect her stuff before leaving.

And while Shaw, a Fenton senior, may have been a bit upset to see her prep swim career end, it was obvious she was pretty pleased with her last prep performance.

Individually, Shaw broke two school records and came home from Saturday’s finals with two fourth-place finishes. Her performances helped the Fenton Tigers to a 14th-place team finish out of the 31 squads that scored points overall.

“It’s been a really good experience,” Shaw said about her final state trip. “I’ve gone my best times in all of my events. I knew I would have a lot of competition coming in here, and basically it played out the way I thought it would.”

While Shaw finished with fourth-place finishes in the 200 individual medley (2:07.07) and in the 100 breaststroke (57.00), she also capped the meet by teaming with Gabrielle Haaroja, Lauren Davis and Susan Yeotis to set a new school record in the 400 free relay (3:43.19).

**Memorable Thanksgiving Day victories**

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Konopitski caps career with strong state effort

By David Troppens
dthropens@cttimes.com; 810-432-6789

Rochester — When Courtney Konopitski began her swimming career at Holly High School, it wasn’t always such a happy experience.

“At the beginning of my freshman year, I used to always cry before my races, I would get so nervous,” Konopitski said. “But, now I’m so much more confident. I look back at it, and I’m embarrassed about it.”

There was no need for crying at the Division 2 Girls Swimming and Division Championships held at Oakland University Friday and Saturday. After all, the senior capped her career with a couple of nice performances.

Konopitski posted personal-best times in both events she qualified in, and also earned second-day swims in both events. The senior ended up placing tied for 14th in the 100 freestyle (54.40 seconds) and 16th in the 50 freestyle (25.29).

“I’m really happy with what I did,” Konopitski said. “At the beginning of my season I didn’t even think I was going to make it back to the finals. And now that I’m here, it’s crazy.”

Holly varsity swim coach Danielle Gray was proud of Konopitski.

“She couldn’t have asked for a better senior year and last meet,” Gray said. “She had best times in both events, making it back in both for the second day. It was perfect.”

Konopitski was the only Holly performer at the state meet. Her two placings helped the Bronchos finish the season in 30th place at the meet.

Konopitski entered the state meet with a seeded time of 54.66 seconds in the 100 freestyle. During Friday’s preliminaries, she qualified for Saturday’s consolation finals with a personal-best time of 54.07, dropping more than a half-second off her seeded time. The drop was needed, as her seeded time wouldn’t have qualified her for the second day. Once in the finals, she ended up tying Puckney’s Carolyn Kehn for 14th place overall with her time of 54.40.

The two were always close to each other in the pool. At the halfway point Kehn had a slight .02-second lead.

“I liked my 100 freestyle race,” Konopitski said. “I like the race more, plus I got the higher ranking.”

In the 50 freestyle, Konopitski, once again, had to perform her best time of the season just to make it beyond the preliminaries. It didn’t seem to faze her as she accomplished that task, improving her seeded time of 25.24 seconds by posting a personal-best mark of 52.02 seconds in the preliminary round. It got her into the consolation round by just .03 seconds behind Ann Arbor Skyline’s Johanna Buchhause. Once in the consolation finals, Konopitski remained in 16th, posting a time of 25.29 seconds, just .1 second behind Midland Dow’s Emily Maraske for 15th place.

The second-day performances marked the first time Konopitski had competed in the second day of the event in an individual event. Last year, Konopitski placed 25th in the preliminary round of the 100 freestyle (55.81) and in 35th place in the 200 freestyle (2:01.53).

The swim meet marked the end of Konopitski’s prep career.

“It’s really sad now that I think about it and it’s over,” she said. “I loved meeting all the new girls and getting so close to them. Every single season I cut time, and it’s helped me as a person. Swimming has helped me grow.”

Konopitski said she wants to continue swimming, possibly at the Division 2 level.

“I hope she does (swim in college),” Gray said. “I don’t think she’s done. I think she has the potential to go faster. She has a future in college.”

STATE

Continued from Page 13

of 2:07.07. In the 100 backstroke, she posted her personal-best time as well.

“I am amazed I got a chance to do the IM,” said Shaw, who is headed to Eastern Michigan University to continue her swim career. “I never expected to do that race (at the state meet). . . The IM I was very proud of. To go even a half-second faster was good, and I already had dropped six seconds this year. That was just another ‘Oh my gosh’ moment.”

“I would’ve liked to go under 57 (seconds in the backstroke), but I am super happy with that race. Last year I went a 58.00, so it shows the progression of both years.”

“Haley finished fourth in both events, which is great,” Jones said. “She broke school records in both events, which is tremendous. What a way for her to go out in her last high school meet.”

Shaw said she just wanted to enjoy her last prep meet.

“I felt there was pressure on me to go fast, but I kind of took a step back from it and was there for the swimming and to just race myself, and go faster times,” Shaw said. “It’s been a really good experience. I’ve gone my best times in all of my events.”

Haaraoja also had an outstanding meet. In the 50 freestyle, she posted a personal-best time during the preliminary round, posting a time of 24.71 seconds. She recorded a 24.83 time in the finals. In the 100, her 11th-place finish was 12 places better than last year’s 23rd-place effort.

“I feel really good this year,” Haaraoja said. “I have a lot of goals, and still have another year to get them. I haven’t dropped in my 50 in a year, and I dropped yesterday, so it was a good experience.”

“Gabby swam faster than she did last year, and moved up in both places with great times,” Jones said. “She’s our lead girl coming back next year as a senior.”

The 400 freestyle relay team placed 14th in the preliminary round with a 3:43.40, and improved upon that time in the finals.

“We did really good,” Shaw said. “Both girls (Davis and Cassner) went best times. We stack in there with it and we got back both days (in the 400 freestyle relay). I didn’t even know if we’d make a relay this year, and we did.”

Haaraoja said getting state experience for Cassner and Davis was important.

“Just to get that out of the way is good. It’s nerve racking. It really is to be in the finals,” Haaraoja said. “And now next year, hopefully when they have individual (events) and make it back, they’ll have that experience out of the way.”

The Tigers also took the four swimmers to the meet in the 200 medley relay, placing 27th in that event (1:57.26).

Diver Mackenzie Deuputy also competed, placing 28th in the preliminary round (1:31.45).

“We are going to compete for the Metro League (championship) for sure,” Foguth said. “Hopefully we can win that and have a successful year.”
ARTHUR CHRISTMAS
So how does Santa deliver all those presents in one night? The answer: Santa’s exhilarating, ultra-high-tech operation hidden beneath the North Pole. But at the heart of the film is a story with the ingredients of a Christmas classic — a family in a state of comic dysfunction and an unlikely hero, Arthur, with an urgent mission that must be completed before Christmas morning dawns. PG, 1 hr. 37 min.

THE EXPENDABLES 2
The Expendables are back and this time it’s personal... Barney Ross (Sylvester Stallone), Lee Christmas (Jason Statham), Yin Yang (Jet Li), Gunnar Jensen (Dolph Lundgren), Toll Road (Randy Couture) and Hale Caesar (Terry Crews) — with newest members Billy the Kid (Liam Hemsworth) and Maggie (Yu Nan) aboard — are reunited when Mr. Church (Bruce Willis) enlists the Expendables to take on a seemingly simple job. The task looks like an easy paycheck for Barney and his band of old-school mercenaries. But when things go wrong and one of their own is viciously killed, the Expendables are compelled to seek revenge in hostile territory where the odds are stacked against them. R, 1 hr. 43 min.
**HELP**

**CAREGIVER - DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED** lady, Holly area. Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 3-8p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday, 8a.m.-7p.m. 248-636-2461.

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**HELP WANTED 3**

**Trucks For Sale**

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**LINDEN 3 BEDROOM** duplex. Updated, dishwasher, washer/dryer, basement, 8x12 storage shed. No smoking/pets. $700/month. 810-938-7211.

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**Real Estate - For Sale**

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**VACANT LAND**

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**FREE ITEMS**

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