City to businesses: ‘no sewer fees’

Linden officials vote to back off on sewer fees, back payments

By William Axford

Linden — The 21 business owners in Linden will not have to pay back sewer tap-in fees on their existing businesses. On Tuesday, business owners learned of the news after receiving a hand-delivered letter from Interim City Manager/Police Chief Scott Sutter.

The letter, which was signed by Mayor David Lossing and Sutter, states, “Based upon Attorney (Charles) McKone’s advice the City Council voted unanimously to bring these businesses into compliance without a fee and to establish their baseline for sewer units according to the sewer unit audit that was conducted by the City in November 2012. “We expect this will resolve the issue but if you have any question please See SEWER FEES on 7

Gun ownership – for fun and sport

Members of the Fenton Lakes Sportman’s Club in Fenton Township work through a shooting course Monday night, as part of the Police Pistol Combat (PPC) league, which is held several nights a week. The range master in the booth behind them directs the course.

Medical marijuana legal, dispensaries illegal

Local judges and law enforcement officials find marijuana law complex

By William Axford

More than four years after it passed, the Medical Marihuana Act (MMA) is still shrouded in smoke. Holly police and the Oakland County Sheriffs Office recently raided Well Greens of Holly, the last medical marijuana dispensary in Oakland County.

Although the MMA allows licensed cardholders to carry a limited amount of marijuana, dispensaries are currently ruled illegal.

See MARIJUANA on 9
Holly land dispute continues

Smiths argue their property can’t be split for tax purposes, township claims to have a way

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

The waters continue to get murkier with the ongoing case of Timm and Maria Smith, and the disputed property at 1031 South Holly Rd., in Holly Township.

“I still cannot get anything from the board to pay my taxes,” said Timm Smith at the most recent Holly Township Board of Trustees meeting. He doesn’t want to lose his property to tax foreclosure.

Treasurer Mark Freeman said his department gave Smith a tax bill for the 2010 taxes that are at risk of going into tax foreclosure.

The Smiths maintain that none were given for the past three years, and Timm said he eventually received a delinquent tax bill from the Oakland County Treasurers Office.

“It was labeled ‘occupant,’ with a bill for the whole 20 acres. ‘We’re already paying on the whole 20 acres,’” said Smith.

Because the late tax deadline on the property’s unpaid 2010 taxes is coming up, Freeman is attempting to split the land for tax purposes. Though the ownership of the entire 20-acre parcel is still held up in the Michigan Appellate Court, there is no dispute that the Smiths own two parts of the 20-acre parcel in question.

If the split occurs, the township’s name would be on one 10-acre parcel, and the Smith’s would be on two five-acre parcels.

Initially, Freeman wanted to split the property for three purposes; with three different tax ID numbers. Freeman said that according to Oakland County, it could not be done, but they can generate three tax bills, with fees that match the corresponding size.

Though Freeman admits this is unusual, one tax bill will be generated for the township, and two smaller ones will be created for the Smiths. Currently, $5,362.03 is due on the entire 20-acre parcel, which is still under PHH Mortgage — the mortgage company that Freeman said gifted 10 acres to the township.

At the meeting, Oakland County Commissioner Bob Hoffman brought information he said proved the board cannot break the parcel up for tax purposes.

Hoffman has been a strong voice against the township through these complex proceedings.

Smith said that his deal with County Treasurer Andy Meisner, to pay on the delinquent taxes on his own, blocks the township from splitting the property, or the bill in any way.

Meisner said that the Smith’s set up a payment plan for the parcel. He said a tax ID number is provided by the township — his job is collecting fees. The job of setting parcels rests with the County Assessors.

Brenda Firestein, the supervisor of Tax Descriptions and Mapping initally denied allowing three differing IDs for the property. She said breaking up a bill would be up to Freeman because in this case the township can override the county.

Firestein does not believe a township treasurer can split up a tax bill for delinquent taxes, because the property was still assessed as one parcel. The soonest she thinks it can be done would be for 2013 taxes, because the property, despite all the legal wrangling, is still technically one parcel. “I think they would have to do a lot of jumping around in the system to do that,” she said, though it may be possible.

Firestein said that general tax law does allow for multiple owners of one property.
From laptop to printed page

Self-publishing easier than ever with technology, independent publishers

By William Axford

‘Fifty Shades of Grey’ turned online readers 50 shades of red far before book publishers turned crimson. The risqué series of books has sold millions of copies around the world. But author E. L. James initially didn’t rise to fame from a manuscript contract — James first published her book as an e-book, an electronic book that can be downloaded onto devices.

With the advent of independent online publishers such as Smash Words and bigger companies like Amazon and Barnes and Noble offering methods for electronic books, getting your novel published today is a mere click away. Stephen Goodrum, a Holly author who wrote the novel ‘Blue Water Dead,’ has found success through various online, self-publish mediums.

“I wanted to start (online) because I wrote for family and friends first,” Goodrum said, whose novels are available through Amazon’s ‘Create Space.’ Goodrum’s writing has attracted people outside of his circle of acquaintances. “The more strangers you get to read it, the better.”

Though everything is shifting to electronic media, print novels still exist and don’t always need the backing of a publisher. Vera Thornton, of Fenton, has self-published a few children’s books through Comet Publishing in Burton. Thornton said the process of getting her manuscript and drawings into a full-print book took about six months in total.

“When it goes to press, they send you five copies — the first one, middle one, last one and two in between,” Thornton said. “The more you order, the less it costs per book.”

While getting a novel self-published may be easy, the actual act of writing it may not have the same ease. Goodrum said it took him nearly two-and-a-half years to finish his novel. Goodrum dedicated at least one hour a day to the novel, including weekends.

“I had to be patient with myself. I had to write just to get something written,” Goodrum said. “There’s two things you need to do and self-publish.”

“The more strangers you get to read it, the better.”

Stephen Goodrum
Author of ‘Blue Water Dead’

Winter reads — stay comfy with these page-turners

Best fiction and non-fiction books for every taste

By Ryan Tackabury

While the winter weather trudges on with snow, rain and everything in between — you may have to continue looking indoors to find ways to entertain yourself. Why not stay warm and catch up on that book you have put off reading for a while?

If you don’t have a particular book in mind — there are plenty to choose from.

Timekeeper
Karen Piacentini, owner of Fenton’s Open Book said that author Mitch Albom’s newest book is just as popular as his past work. The novel Timekeeper mixes the supernatural with the mundane to create a modern day fairytale with an uplifting message. Father Time, the creator of the world’s first clock, has been locked away for centuries as punishment for trying to measure time. After centuries, he is released into the modern day on a mission — to teach two individuals how precious their time on this planet can be.

Tell the Wolves I’m Home
Christine Heron, senior librarian at the Fenton Jack R. Winegardenuen Library, recommended this novel by Carol Brunt. It was recommended to her from a member of her mom’s book club. ‘It takes place in the ‘80s and narrated by a teen, which made some of the references to ‘80s culture all the more

Seeking to get your story out?
Check out these self-publishing websites.

• Smashwords.com
• Createspace.com
• Publt.barnesandnoble.com

WINTER READS on 10

TRI-COUNTY TIMES

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FEATURES

SMART SOLUTIONS

1 Cure for cold sores
Place a brewed black tea bag in the freezer for 10 minutes then hold it on the affected area for 3 minutes. The tannic acid reduces inflammation, while the cold sensation slightly numbs the area to alleviate discomfort.

2 Out of rug cleaner?
Out of rug cleaner? Just apply a dollop of shaving cream to the spill and let it sit for five minutes. Then scrape off the foam with a spatula, dab the spill with a wet cloth, and vacuum as usual. Shaving cream contains glycerin, a compound that dissolves stains to leave your carpet spotless.

NEWS

NEWS

TRI-COUNTY TIMES TRUE PHOTO

Stephen Goodrum, an author from Holly has found success with various self-publish mediums.

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Big Government 2.0

Bill Clinton’s isn’t often wrong when it comes to tactics, but his assertion in his 1996 State of the Union Address that ‘the era of big government is over’ was a bit premature. In light of President Obama’s Second Inaugural Address, the era of big government has just begun.

The reliably liberal columnist Dana Milbank of The Washington Post exhibited refreshing honesty when he wrote of Obama’s speech, ‘...it failed to rise to the moment.’

The president’s address was more campaign rhetoric than visionary. He even lowered himself to reference Mitt Romney’s inelegant remark about ‘takers’ versus makers. Obama’s comment was petty and beneath the grandeur of the moment.

There were many inconsistencies. The president quoted the Declaration of Independence, which reads all are ‘...created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life...’ Apparently politics, but his support, abortion, doesn’t believe those rights extend to the unborn, not even those in the third trimester of life.

He declared again the false choice between caring for the elderly and needy, and making necessary reforms in entitlement programs, but then it’s not his money he’s borrowing and spending, it’s ours.

In response to his elevation of same-sex marriage as a civil right, he should note that the vast majority of states have codified the commonsense view held for thousands of years that marriage is the union of a man and a woman. The president is profoundly wrong to imply that those who have acted to protect marriage have denied anyone’s rights by doing so.

The president said, ‘A decade of war is now ending.’ You wouldn’t know it by looking at the terrorist attacks in Algeria, Mali or Bengazi. Terrorists don’t think war is ending. Wars don’t end with a unilateral declaration. Someone has to surrender.

It is the supremacy of the individual, not government that has made America the leader of the world.

JOE ‘YOU CAN trust ME.’ Biden says — It is not gun control, it is gun safety. Yeah right.

FDR STARTED SOC- CIAL Security and said it would be voluntary and 1 percent of $1,400. It’s 7.65 percent of $9,000, LBJ moved SS into general fund and spent it, Clinton taxed SS 85 percent over X-amount when it was promised no tax liabili-

IF MAN HAS no heartbeat, no brain activity, then he has no future life with- out mechanical intervention. A mere dot of a fetus has potential for a future life independent from the mother.

JUST BECAUSE SOMEONE is a great guy, working hard and doing his very best doesn’t mean he’s doing a good job and it’s harmful not to say so.

TO THE PERSON complaining that they work for a cheap non-union com-

IF OBAMA SAID he would not pay the Veterans’ benefits and Social Security recipients’ payments, it was a very cruel threat that he cannot carry out. Everything is about him and his damned legacy at all costs. That is so unfair to every American citizen.

I HAVE BEEN doing some research and am unable to find an answer to this. I know that the Fenton support staff, teachers and even the student programs have taken significant cuts over the last few years, but am curious to know if the central administrators have taken any yet.

THESE STUPID LIBER- ALs have no idea what they are going to do when it is time to fight off the Chinese, or even worse King Obama’s massive army. Good thing I bought a bush- master for my family all my life members for Christmas, even grandma. God, Jesus help us all, amen.

DON’T UNDERESTIMATE THE power of stupid people in large groups — the U.S Congress, the Michigan legislature and those who voted for Mr. Obama.

THE SAME CROWD that doesn’t want a limit to their self-proclaimed right to own and use any kind of weapon led us into a misguided and failed war in Iraq under the premise of stopping another person from owning and using a certain kind of weapon. Ironic isn’t it?

TO WHOMSOEVER wrote that people shouldn’t profit off other people’s work. Get a grip. You expect business owners to take all of the risk, make the invest- ment and share profits equally? You have no idea the hardships people put themselves through to get businesses going. Risk equals reward.

LET’S PLAY FAIR — when Australia government confiscated guns, going door-to-door, to take them from citi-

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Obama 2.0, the sequel

President Barack Obama’s critics are shocked, awestruck, to hear him sound in his second inaugural address like what he is, a liberal progressive. One wonders what they expected.

What happened to jobs, they ask? What about the deficit? The budget? The debt ceiling? The dangerous world overseas? Why didn’t he reach out, some ask, with more soaring rhetoric and bipartisanism? How did Lincoln do in the gold standard of second inaugural speeches, to bind wounds with the warring Confederacy?

In other words, how dare he wage a vigorous defense of what he really believes?

The problem with that critique is that it requires more than a little amnesia about the debate this country has been having over the past couple of years about the role of government.

Obama’s speech was only clarifying the differences between his goals and those who would like to stop him. After all, when he called out those who ‘deny the overwhelming judgment of science’ on climate change or refuse to allow love to be ‘equal’ or seem to promote ‘perpetual war’ or oppose the right of women to ‘earn a living equal to their efforts,’ he wasn’t talking about all Republicans.

But if the shoe fits, wear it.

In his address, the president sounded like a man who knows his clock is running out. To press the issues for which he wants to be remembered, the four-year calendar is misleading. He appears to know that he has only a few months at best before his congressional opposition turns their attention to their own 2014 reelection prospects — and make it much harder for him to get anything done.

Obama 2.0 updated the agenda to include today’s big items, marriage equality, climate change, women’s rights and comprehensive immigration reform.

His opposition disagrees. That’s OK. That’s their job. But these are the issues on which Obama, repeatedly invoking ‘We the People,’ is betting his legacy. Let the people decide.

Do you support new gun control laws?

“I don’t want someone walking around with a machine gun, so I do support some kind of restrictions.”

— Laurie Soermes Howell

“I don’t want to worry about gun control, I just don’t want guns to be over-controlled.”

— Tom Ureche Linden

“I don’t like the idea of having all our guns taken away, but I do think there needs to be some kind of control.”

— Sue Hayden Fenton Township

“Yes, I’m a retired police officer and I don’t want some amateur panicking and pulling the trigger on an automatic weapon.”

— Mike Angeluski Fenton

“Yes, I don’t think we need Uzis and SK40s on the streets.”

— Sandy Hutchins Fenton

“I’ve got mixed feelings. If we outlaw weapons, they’ll get into the wrong hands. It’s a bad world we’re living in. It’s scary.”

— Paul Mocski Linden

Compiled by Sally Rummel
SNOW DAY Continued from Front Page
in the morning. Usually by 4 a.m. they are going out and looking and seeing what the conditions are,” he said. “We check with the bus garage too, to hear from them.” Judgments need to be made based on what is safest for all students. While by the time school starts, many of the main roads have already improved, a lot of back roads that many students use may yet to have seen a snowplow.

In addition to assessing just the condition of the roads, Jalkanen said that temperature is also a factor in the decision. “Half of our students ride the bus. We also have a large number of students in the elementary level who walk to school. We want to make sure that the temperature isn’t too cold either.”

Ideally, Jalkanen said they like to make the decision public as soon as they can, but try to aim for 6 a.m. Once it’s made, it is then sent out in numerous ways to reach parents and students across the county.

“There are a couple things. We contact the local TV channels. We have a process that we use to get it on the TV stations so that it will show there. It’s our Honeywell instant alert system, which is an Internet base system that I personally go on and set up an instant alert to broadcast to our community and our parents and students and staff.”

Snow day announcements have kept up with the times, and can even alert people who sign up to receive updates through email or text messaging.

When making a decision, the superintendents use all of the resources they have available, including other school districts.

“We kind of have a network of superintendents zoned out,” said Ed Koledo, Superintendent of Linden Community Schools. “Everyone makes their own individual decision, but we try to know what the assessments are of those around us.”

The schools are allowed to have up to six snow days before they have to make up time, in which case every day missed after the sixth is then tacked on to the end of the year. However, Koledo said that he does not take this into consideration when he is preparing to make the call on whether the school should open or close its doors for the day.

“I never want to make a decision based on if we have another snow day or not. I want my decision to be based solely on safety,” he said.

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HOT LINE CONTINUED
COMCAST IS OUTSOURCING jobs to the Philippines. I’ve been having problems with my bill, after numerous calls and hold times in December. I thought my problem was resolved. Today my bill is wrong again. I call and get Philippines. Shame on Comcast. I don’t want their services anymore. ■■■

TO WHOMEVER WROTE in comparing the U.S. taxpayer cost that goes to our President with the UK taxpayer cost going to the British Royal Family — the Prime Minister governs Britain, not the Royal Family. Even Sarah Palin knows that. ■■■

I GUESS THE media didn’t find the annual March for Life in Washington on Jan. 25 newsworthy. This year marks the 40th anniversary of Roe v. Wade and 55 million abortions that have been performed since then. I guess daily updates of Lindsay Lohan and Marli Yo’e are more newsworthy. ■■■

I WAS AT an intersection Monday where I had no stop but the cross street did. Some chucklehead came to the stop and all the snow slid onto the windshield of their car. They couldn’t see, but pulled into the intersection anyway, nearly hitting me. Clear the snow off! ■■■

GOOD RIDDANCE, HILLARY. Take Bill with you. If the Democrats scrutinized their candidates meticulously as they did the Republicans, neither of you’d have made it out of Arkansas. ■■■

IT WAS REPORTED on Friday that the FDA has added 5,557 changes to food manufacturers in the last 90 days for the new H/C bill. If I were a guessing man, I would predict food prices to rise by maybe 45 percent. I can feel their hands around my neck.

News briefs
Wanted: Genesee County Road Commission member
Do you have what it takes to be on the Genesee County Road Commission? The Genesee County Board of Commissioners has announced that it is seeking to appoint an individual to fill one vacancy on the GCR, with a term ending Dec. 31, 2018. Qualified applicants may submit a letter of interest and resume, by 5 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 14 to: Jon Care, Board & Criminal Justice Coordinator, Genesee County Board of Commissioners, 1101 Beach St., Room 312, Flint, MI 48502.

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Local “Anti-Aging” Treatment Specialist Returns!
Dr. Kimball Silverton, D.O. and The Silverton Skin Institute of Grand Blanc are pleased to announce the long awaited return of Cindy Wagner, R.N.

“We know the relentless and damaging effects of time, but Cindy has a long history of reversing that clock. Getting to know her and the types of treatments she provides can literally shave years off your face.”

“My start in this profession and my continuing passion comes from a need and desire to help patients at all levels of skin care, I, myself, had a young adulthood where acne more than just affected my face; it affected who I was. Embracing the medical and cosmetic foundations of dermatology truly changed every part of me and me stronger.”

Skin care and skin enhancement techniques have advanced as rapidly as any area of medical technology. Cindy’s expertise and years of experience allow her to tailor a specific course of treatment that enhances the total health and wellness of her patients. She states, “Helping a patient feel better and more confident psychologically is as much my goal as the physical treatment.”

Cindy offers:
• Facials customized to skin type
• Chemical Peels
• Spider Vein Injections
• Botox Injections/Facial Filler Injections
• Intense Pulse Light Treatments for skin discoloration and broken capillaries

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as well as consultation on many other skin services, products and treatments. If you are waging a battle against those things that make you feel self-conscious then Cindy Wagner, R.N. and The Silverton Skin Institute have the tools for a better you.

Cindy began her journey into skin care more than fifteen years ago by working for a Plastic Surgeon in Bloomfield Hills. She then obtained her Aesthetician’s License and Medical Assistant certification. Most recently she received a degree and license as a Registered Nurse. She believes staying up to date with the necessary educational and licensing requirements is paramount. Cindy indicates “Not just the products change and become more complex but also the techniques required to utilize them. Constant training and learning are required as well as working closely with the physicians on staff”.

Getting her most recent degree caused Cindy to take time from her practice. As a “Thank You” to the numerous patients who so kindly waited for her return and also invite those who would love to see just how much better they can look; The Silverton Skin Institute and Allergan (the manufacturers of Botox, Juvederm and Latisse) are hosting a Welcome Back” and “Patient Appreciation” event on Wednesday February 13th from 4:00-6:00pm. Patients and guests at the event will be offered discounts on Botox and Juvederm injections, free product samples and chances to obtain FREE treatment.

R.S.V.P. at The Silverton Skin Institute at 810-606-1545.
HARBER LANDINGS BREAK IN
The Genesee County Sheriff’s Department is investigating a breaking and entering, which occurred during the early morning hours of Saturday, Oct. 26. Det. Sgt. Bill Lanning said the residents returned home around 11 p.m. and discovered that their condominium on Harbor Landings Drive in the Landings at Cranes Cove subdivision had been broken into. Deputies found fresh footprints in the snow and tracked them to the rest area on U.S. 23. Other residents noticed fresh foot tracks around their homes as well. The sheriff’s department has increased patrols of the neighborhood and rest area. At this time, the sheriff’s department has no suspect.

SON THREATENS MOM
The Genesee County Sheriff’s Department arrested a 45-year-old man for threatening his mother in the early morning hours of Sunday, Jan. 20. Det. Sgt. Bill Lanning said deputies responded to the 200 block of Windsor Beach in Fenton Township to investigate a complaint. The woman said her son, who was intoxicated, threatened and kicked her in the bedroom. Charges are pending.

LOUD NOISE COMPLAINT
A 45-year-old Fenton man was arrested and lodged at the Genesee County Jail following visits by Fenton police at his Fenton apartment. Police Chief Rick Arso said two officers responded to the man’s second-floor apartment on Treatour Drive to investigate a loud noise complaint on Jan. 25. Upon contact, he became agitated with police, who eventually issued him a civil infraction for violating the city’s noise ordinance. On Jan. 27, Fenton police again responded to the man’s apartment to investigate another noise complaint at 1:50 a.m. The complainants reported that it sounded like the man was dropping rocks on the floor, which awakened and frightened their children. Upon contact, the man began swearing and threatening police.

After a brief physical altercation, police forcibly arrested the man. En route to the jail, the man attempted to strike his head on the window of the patrol car, prompting police to stop and re-secure him. Arso said police are charging him with resisting and obstructing police. The man’s arraignment is pending.

FENTON MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO MANSLAUGHTER
On Tuesday, Evan James Wells, 37, of Fenton pleaded guilty to manslaughter, as well as guilty to being a habitual fourth offender. Holly police arrested Wells after a bar fight outside Martin’s Bar & Grill on Oct. 12, 2012, which resulted in the death of Ronald Smith, 43, of Highland. Wells will be sentenced in Oakland County Circuit Court on Feb. 26. With a bond set at $1 million, he has been lodged at the Oakland County Jail. Police said Wells punched Smith in the face, causing Smith to fall backward, and striking his head on the pavement.

The Internet Privacy Protection Act
In last week’s column I discussed how there are always new laws that are enacted in both Michigan and nationally every year and the reasons that this occurs. One of the reasons that I gave was for the public’s health, safety and welfare.

As an example of this, Michigan recently enacted a law called the ‘Internet Privacy Protection Act’ which gives employees, prospective employees and students protection from having to disclose to their employer, prospective employer or educational institution their user names, passwords, login information or other security information that protects access to their personal Internet accounts.

The rationale behind the law (Public Act 478 of 2012) is as the name suggests, to give privacy protection to certain individuals from having their personal Internet information examined.

There are anecdotal stories of how in Michigan and other states employers and schools have required and used information, which is personal and perhaps not really related to one’s job or education.

On a national level, a bill was introduced in the United States Congress on May 9, 2012 called the Password Protection Act of 2012 that had a similar purpose. This bill reportedly died in committee.

Maryland became the first state to enact such a law and which became effective Dec. 28, 2012 and not only generally prohibits the requests but also makes a violation a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than $1,000.

A violation can also result in a civil lawsuit that can result in an award of up to $1,000 plus reasonable attorney fees and court costs.

There are exceptions to the law’s prohibitions including allowing access to employer provided electronic communication devices and for disciplining an employee for transferring the employer’s confidential, financial or proprietary information to the employee’s personal Internet account. There are other exceptions specified in the statute.

Michigan is among a handful of states with similar laws. Obviously, the effect of this law is yet to be seen.

The full text of the statute is available on the Michigan government website.
SEWER FEES
Continued from Front Page

It is time for the City Manager,”
Sutter confirmed that each of the
21 business owners will be contacted.
Prior to this action, which was
vote on executive session after
Monday’s meeting. Lossing and city
officials were attempting to collect fees
for 80 sewer tap-ins. At $3,000 per tap-
in fee, city officials would have raised $240,000.
Numerous business
owners attended Monday’s city council
meeting and inquired about the
proposed fees. Doug James, who has been
doing business in Linden for
35 years, said that sewer fees
were never an issue when he
presented business
plans to the planning
commission.
“We live in tough times. This
comes at a bad time for
businesses,” James
said.
Terry Wright, who has served on
the city’s planning commission and the
Linden Board of Education, said the
actions of the city council and Lossing
did not make sense.
“If you read the articles in the
(Times), it almost looks like we’re
criminals,” Wright told the
Times on Tuesday. “Over the years,
we’ve had plenty of consultants either
in advisory or more hands-on
positions...those points have never come
up. There’s more than one set of eyes
on this.”
Business owners also accused
the city of trying to charge sewer fees for
the past, Adre Koechler, who owns Barbiichon Dog Grooming,
said Sutter and another city worker
told her that she would have to pay
32 years worth of back sewer fees. Jim
McIntyre, who owns the building that
houses the Subway sub shop, said the
city council was attempting to collect
15 years worth of back sewer fees from
him. Linden Hotel Owner Jack Furry
said he was told that he would have to
pay for 30 years worth of back fees.
State Representative Joseph
Graves (R-Argentine) of
the 51st District pledged
to introduce legislation in
Lansing that will prevent municipalities from im-
posing excessive sewer fees.
“No one should be
expected to pay a bill
they were not charged,
or should they pay for
a city’s mistake years down
the road,” Graves said in
a press release.
In an article published
Jan. 23, Lossing told the
Times that the sewer fees
stemmed from a November 2012 sewer audit.
Business owners approached the
city council as early as October however,
after receiving letters about the fees.
Lossing said the audit revealed that
several businesses were deficient in
sewer tap-in fees. Lossing also said the
city was pressured by the county
to impose the fees.
In the same article, Genesee County
Drain Commissioner Jeff Wright told
the Times that the county is currently
not increasing sewer rates. Wright also
did not collect tap-in fees that municipalities keep all
proceeds from sewer tap-ins.
The scheduled Feb. 6 open meeting
together Lossing, Sutter, City At-
torney Charles McKone and Depart-
ment of Public Works employee Jason
Payne is no longer scheduled.

DISPUTE
Continued from Page 2
As far as the payment plan the Smiths
set up, Firestein believes it should still
be in effect because back taxes cannot
be split after the fact.
“It seems to me that every time you want to help the Smiths, they end up
worse off than if you hadn’t done any-
thing at all,” said Hoffman during public
comment at the January board meeting.
He cited summertime evictions of the
Smith’s home because of code violations
that the board believed would put
the family at risk.
“The offer that Holly Township made
to Mr. and Mrs. Smith in March of 2012,
to purchase their remaining interest in
the property would have resolved all
delinquent tax issues,” said Freeman in
an email. There were homes available at
that time that Mr. and Mrs. Smith could
have purchased outright with their pro-
ceeds from the sale. They chose not to
accept the offer.”

Jeff LaFerney of Davison is the author of “Bulletproof,” which includes a backdrop of Fenton.

SELF-PUBLISHING
Continued from Page 3
have to do. Step one is you have to read
a lot and know what you like to read. Because
if you’re not enjoying what you’re writing,
you’re not going to enjoy (the process.)
“Second one is write. Have a set schedule
where you can consistently do it is the key.
“Third one is edit. You have to do a lot of
writing, and that’ll be later. Just keep
writing and writing and writing.
“For Thornton, writing and art came easy
to her. However, it was her involvement
with an art group that she discovered Comet
Publishing. For writers looking to break
out or, at the very least, get their stories out
of their head and into the hands of others,
knowing the right person can be key.
“I wrote my story in about 45 minutes and
did the illustrations in about 2 weeks,”
Thornton said, whose children’s books in-
clude ‘Max and Little Bit’s Big Adventure’
and ‘The Simple Life of Max the Dog.’
“I’ve been writing stories in my head all
of my life. In my head, I know what I want
to book to say.”
Responsible gun owners

Focus is on family, fun, sport and also protection

By Tim Jagielo

Nick Danhausen is passionate about guns. “I just love seeing the kids shoot, when they hit a good score, it’s like running track, they’re so excited!”

To be clear, he’s passionate about sport shooting and what it can do for families, and children. His daughter Erin, 20, who attended Linden Community Schools, is a champion trap shooter. She may have grown up responsible gun ownership, but statistics always show the difference between what one sees as a piece of sports equipment, and a weapon for inflicting harm.

Between Aurora, Colo., Newtown Conn., and Kern County Calif., shootings and guns have stayed in the news and on the minds of gun reform, and gun rights advocates since December 2012.

While it may be a political hot button issue today, for many families owning and using firearms is a matter of daily life. On Monday night, a group of adults were shooting at the Fenton Lakes Sportsman’s Club in Fenton Township. They shot revolvers in a course that included kneeling, lying prone and shooting left-handed. Stafford Baumgardner carefully filled his speed loaders for his .38 revolver, while chatting with the other members. He shoots “because I don’t like to play golf,” he said.

And other members worked carefully within the rules of the range, taking all aspects of safety very seriously. Marcia Lefort also shot on Monday night, and has been for 12 years. She grew up around guns. In her home, “they’re everywhere.” Guns are a part of her life for the fun, sport and camaraderie. She lives alone, so peace of mind is also important.

On the flip side, the statistics gun control advocates provide are bleak. The Children’s Defense Council said in a report that in 2008 and 2009, 5,740 teens were killed by guns, or 55 each week for two years. But in homes like Nick Danhausen, guns are a matter of sport. “My daughter does shoot and she shoots competitively, so I don’t see all bad things with guns,” he said.

His daughter Erin is a clay shooter. “She’s had guns around her whole life and started using around age 12,” he said.

Erin belongs to a big hunting and gun family, and was taught early on, never touch the trigger, and never look down the barrel. Nick said the guns were kept in carefully locked storage or in his sight constantly while Erin was growing up.

As a sport, Erin shoots clay discs of a slightly larger diameter than a softball — she’s good enough to receive a scholarship for half her tuition at Bethel University. She sees the shotgun she uses for competition as a piece of sports equipment, not a weapon. “It’s like a baseball bat, you want to be responsible, you have to be aware there’s other people around you,” she said.

Erin uses the same precautions her father did, with a safe and locking gun case. At 20, she is familiar with gun laws, especially focused on gun travel laws. “I believe that taught me responsibility,” she said.

Brett Selby of Fenton makes his living off firearms, in a way. He is Southgate police officer, and he runs Personal Defense Service, a school for obtaining a Concealed Pistol License (CPL). He either shoots with the local sportsman’s club, or even in his backyard. Almost his entire family shoots as well. His 4-year-old has shot before, along with his 7- and 10-year-olds. His 3- and-a-half-year-old does not shoot, but his wife has a CPL. “We make it a family event,” he said of target shooting. “We all have a passion for it.”

With the push for gun control, Nick does see a valid argument for a reasonable ban on certain weapons and magazines. What Nick is actually worried about is the slow erosion, the slippery slope to eat away at the rights of responsible gun owners. While discussing his daughter’s career and the family aspect of shooting, he never mentioned second amendment rights, or home defense.

For Erin and Nick, guns aren’t weapons, they’re a mechanism to bring family together, and open up new worlds to the youth. In a big weekend shoot with hundreds of kids firing at targets, and a thousand rounds being fired, it said no one is ever hurt.

This has been the experience of members of the Fenton Lakes Sportmans Club, as they shoot competitively in a warm, inviting atmosphere.

For their part, Fenton police stay out of the political arguments brewing, and just want common sense. “We just advocate responsible gun ownership,” said Lt. Jason Slater of the Fenton Police Department. They strongly advise gun owners to use trigger locks, gun safes and keep them out of reach of children. He said the odds are a thief won’t carry away a gun safe. “That’s our big thing,” he said.

Marcia Lefort scores another member’s targets. A light and friendly atmosphere was bolstered by the respect for the guns they used.

By Tim Jagielo

Marjorie Hamway checks her grouping after firing from seven yards. She shoots because she loves it.

Tom Moore takes shots during the PPC course Monday night. He scored a 589 out of 600 on his two targets.
MARIJUANA
Continued from Front Page

In 2011, the Michigan Court of Appeals ruled dispensaries are illegal and not covered by the MMA. That case, which involved a dispensary in Mount Pleasant, was appealed to the Michigan Supreme Court and was heard this past October. And, despite being three months later, the Michigan Supreme Court has not released its official ruling.

Waiting on the court’s official ruling has put municipalities in an odd predicament. The Village of Holly currently has an ordinance allowing medical marijuana dispensaries. However, under the current court rulings, dispensaries remain illegal.

“Well Greens had actually come before the council and zoning and did all their work before the state decision,” said Jason Hughes, council president for the Village of Holly. “The owner had been advised that, at the current time, dispensaries were considered illegal. I feel it was unfortunate that he was provided that knowledge and was apparently operating anyway.”

The cities of Fenton and Linden currently have moratoriums for dispensaries and are awaiting the release of the official ruling from the higher courts. Trustees in Tyrone Township discussed drawing up a ‘living document’ at a Jan. 10 meeting. While municipalities are hesitating to take action on dispensaries, most law-enforcement departments in the tri-county area said they are not arresting medical marijuana patients who have the proper identification and legal amount of marijuana.

“If you’re complaint, we take no action and the incident is not recorded,” said Interim Holly Police Chief Michael Story. Story added that marijuana is still deemed illegal by the Federal government and that Holly officers act accordingly. “This act has more holes in it than it should.”

Fenton Police Chief Rick Aro said Fenton police only arrest medical marijuana patients if they have more than the legal amount of marijuana plants allowed. Of the marijuana the Fenton police department has encountered, Aro said most users have their medical marijuana card.

Those who are caught with an illegal amount of marijuana or do not have their card could be arrested and charged with a 93-day misdemeanor, as well as a $500 fine.

In Linden, city attorney Charles McKone has advised police officers to arrest anyone with marijuana, regardless if they have a card. “If we just believe every card we saw, we wouldn’t arrest anyone,” McKone told the Linden City Council at a 2011 meeting.

Judge Mark McCabe of Genessee County’s 67th District Court in Fenton said he has not dealt with a medical marijuana cardholder who was arrested but still acting within their legal rights.

“A medical marijuana card can be an absolute defense, if all the requirements are met,” McCabe said.

Judge Kelley Kostin of the 52-2 District Court in Clinton, Oakland County, whose jurisdiction includes Holly, said patients not following the parameters set in the MMA could potentially be breaking other laws, including Federal ones.

“(Card holders) are allowed to possess 2.5 ounces of marijuana for personal use,” said Kostin. In a recent case involving marijuana, Kostin said, “This person was accused of having a grow room and multiple pounds of marijuana with intent to deliver. That was clearly, based upon evidence, and was probably cause to bind the matter over. The marijuana involved was clear more than what the person was entitled to have.”

Rights of a card holder, according to the Michigan Medical Marihuana Act

To obtain or renew a medical marijuana card, a patient must pay $100 and have written approval from a physician. A card holder is allowed to possess 2.5 ounces of usable marijuana. If a card holder does not have a specified primary caregiver, he or she is allowed to have 12 marijuana plants in an enclosed, lock facility. A qualified card holder shall not be subject to arrest, prosecution, or penalty in any manner, or denied any right or privilege.

Reading is always more fun if you have someone to share your literary experiences with. Fortunately, you have a few options in the area to meet and discuss new books with others every month.

Fenton’s Open Book: Meets the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. Henry’s Sisters, by Cathy Lamb, will be their next book of choice.

Fenton Library: Meets the second Monday of the month at 10 a.m. The non-fiction book club meets quarterly on the third Thursday at 6:30 p.m., with their next meeting being in April.

Holly Library: Meets the last Wednesday of the month at 10 a.m.
WINTER READS

Continued from Page 3

endearing to me since I was a teen in the ’80s,” she said. “However, it is not a teen book, this must be stressed. It is about AIDS and the stigmas around it especially during that time of discovery.”

Gone Girl

If you like to be kept on the edge of your seat and unable to predict what will happen next, now is your time to check out Gillian Flynn’s novel, Gone Girl. Though it has been out for several months, Piacentini said that it has remained popular — likely with good reason. When Nick’s wife Amy vanishes on the day of their fifth wedding anniversary, who is responsible? The truth becomes more tangled and complex as the story evolves, never quite going where you may think.

Game of Thrones

If you’re a fan of a lengthy fantasy novel, George R. R. Martin’s Game of Thrones is everything you could hope it would be. A mixture of fantasy, mystery, and feudal politics, the novel tells its story through the perspectives of a large cast of characters as protagonist Eddard Stark searches for the truth behind the suspicious death behind the King’s right hand man.

The Devil in the White City: Murder, Magic, and Madness at the Fair that Changed America

Written by author Erik Larson, this true story is almost too strange to be believed. Devil in the White City tells the tale of the 1893 World’s Fair, and the serial killer H.H. Holmes, who built a nearby hotel filled with secret rooms where he would lure fair victims to their deaths. In a move that seems less like fact than fiction, Holmes would dissect and sell the skeletons of his victims to medical schools as teaching aids — and that is only touching the surface of the bizarre murder mystery.

White House Burning

This non-fiction work by Simon Johnson was the Fenton non-fiction book club’s latest read. “It was unan- nymous by the group that this book should be required reading particularly for all politicians,” Heron said. She described the book as being about balancing the budget, though written easily enough for laymen to understand. “It doesn’t favor one political party or another — so fairly moderate. I read bits and pieces,” said Heron.

Roll Me Up and Smoke Me When I Die

For people who enjoy an autobiography, this recent popular release will tell you everything you wanted to know about the thoughts and opinions of Willie Nelson and probably much, much more. Piacentini said it was a book that ended up selling well around Christmas time. Though it may not find an audience with those who aren’t already fans, people who may find a lot to enjoy in this autobiography.

Unbroken

If you are looking for a more historical non-fiction read with an inspirational and uplifting message, the true story in this book written by Laura Hillenbrand would be a good selection. “The popular nonfiction hybrid still Unbroken. That’s been selling for years it’s a World War II survival story,” Piacentini said.

Most popular digital books

If you need help filling your e-reader with some new books, the Genesee District Library offers free e-books to Genesee County residents through its digital branch, which can be found through its website at www.thegdl. org. If you’re looking for a reading recommendation, here are their top downloaded e-books.

1. Notorious Nineteen

Janel Evanovich

2. Fifty Shades Freed

E.L. James

3. Fifty Shades Darker

E.L James

4. Gone Girl

Gillian Flynn

5. Fifty Shades of Grey

E.L. James

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RED

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STK# 125180A .....................

GREEN

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STK# 5120457 ....................

RED

$13,900

2012 Ford Fusion SEL

STK# 173696A .................

$20,000

2011 CHEVROLET HHR LT

STK# 1422804A ....................

BLUE

$13,900

2010 CHEVROLET MALIBU LT

STK# 125180A .....................

GREEN

$14,500

2011 CHEVROLET HHR LT

STK# 1422804A ....................

BLUE

$13,900

2012 Chevrolet Impala 2SS

STK# 5120457 ....................

RED

$13,900

2010 CHEVROLET IMPALA LT

STK# 125185 ..............................

BLUE

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2007 Dodge Ram 1500

STK# 173708 ........................

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SEVEN PSYCHOPATHS

Marty (Farrell) is a struggling writer who dreams of finishing his screenplay, “Seven Psychopaths.” Billy (Rockwell) is Marty’s best friend, an unemployed actor and part-time dog thief, who wants to help Marty by any means necessary. All he needs is a little focus and inspiration. Hans (Walken) is Billy’s partner in crime. A religious man with a violent past. Charlie (Harrelson) is the psychopathic gangster whose beloved dog, Billy and Hans have just stolen. Charlie’s unpredictable, extremely violent and wouldn’t think twice about killing anyone or anything associated with the theft. Marty is going to get all the focus and inspiration he needs, just as long as he lives to tell the tale. R, 1 hr. 49 min.

HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA

Welcome to the Hotel Transylvania, Dracula’s (Adam Sandler) lavish five-star resort, where monsters and their families can live it up, free to be the monsters they are without humans to bother them. On one special weekend, Dracula has invited some of the world’s most famous monsters — Frankenstein and his bride, the Mummy, the Invisible Man, a family of werewolves, and more — to celebrate his daughter Mavis’s 118th birthday. For Drac, catering to all of these legendary monsters is no problem — but his world could come crashing down when one ordinary guy stumbles on the hotel and takes a shine to Mavis. PG, 1 hr. 31 min.

RELEASED THIS WEEK

Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS
1 Two-timer
4 Arrow launcher
7 Goya’s “Naked” subject
11 Scads
13 Atmosphere
14 PC picture
15 Panorama
16 Beer cousin
17 Fender bender
18 Artist’s support
20 Knitting need
22 Lower limb
24 Used a switchblade on
28 Unimportant
32 Spry
33 Relaxation
34 de deaux
36 Lug
37 Bother
39 Washington city
41 Half-hour TV show, often
43 Blond shade stat
44 Hawaiian feast
46 Eccentric
50 Note from the boss
53 54-Down stat
55 Eye layer
56 United nations
57 Slithery squeezer
58 Skaters’ venue
59 Out of control
60 Switch positions
61 Two, in Tijuana
62 Down
63 Space
64 Authoritative command
65 Hebrew month
66 Take out of context?
67 Cause, as havoc
68 Earl Grey’s kin
69 Hindu

DOWN
1 Bear lair, often
2 Others (Lat.)
3 Accomplishes
4 Sheep’s cry
5 Uncut
6 Expense
7 Dark time
8 Expert
9 “The Daily Show With Jon Stewart”
10 Pismire
12 Another way to say 7-Down
13 Floral neckwear
14 Genetic letters
15 Space
16 Authoritative command
17 Hebrew month
18 Take out of context?
19 Floral neckwear
20 Another way to say 7-Down
21 Export
22 “The Daily Show With Jon Stewart”
23 Space
24 Authoritative command
25 Hebrew month
26 Take out of context?
27 Earl Grey’s kin
28 Hindu
29 Hindu
30 “Say It — So”
31 — Vegas
32 The Red or the Black
33 Thee
34 Request
35 Ballroom dance
36 “Once — a time...”
37 Amores poet
38 Gambling game
39 Tibetan herd
40 Biz deg.
41 Shade tree
42 Cattle call
43 Auto fuel

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: Many months ago, my feet turned numb. The numbness has spread up to my knees. It has made me quite unsteady when I walk. My doctor can’t find a cause or treatment for this. Can you suggest anything?
— L.O.

ANSWER: Your description fits peripheral neuropathy, a deterioration of nerve function, often of the leg nerves. The causes for it are many. Frequently, however, a precise cause can’t be determined. You need to make an appointment to see a neurologist as soon as you can.

(Dr. Donohue regrets that he is unable to answer individual letters, but he will incorporate them in his column whenever possible. Readers may write him or request an order form of available health newsletters at P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.)
Battle for first place staged for Friday

**Tigers cruise by Kearsley, prepare for Swartz Creek**

*By Jordan Climie\nclimiej@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789*

**Fenton** — After the first quarter, it could have been anybody’s game. But by halftime and beyond, it was clear the Fenton Tigers were the hungrier team, grabbing the 72-49 Flint Metro League win. The Tigers are now 13-0 overall and 11-0 in league play.

Head coach Tim Olszewski saw several areas that could use improvement, however.

“We could’ve played better,” he said. “We were out of sync a lot. We were inconsistent on defense all night and more turnovers than I would have liked.”

“We found a way to overcome that.”

Fenton had two steals and a block to start the game with intensity on both ends, looking solid on defense at the beginning.

“When we bring energy and intensity, good things can happen.”

See **FIRST** on 14

**Linden girls win thriller vs. Dragons**

*By David Troppens\ntroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789*

Winning the close games can make the difference between a strong season and a mediocre one.

In recent times, the Linden varsity girls basketball team is starting to win those types of contests.

The Lady Eagles’ defense kept Swartz Creek from getting off a potential game-tying shot in the final 6.4 seconds, resulting in a tight 36-33 road victory at Swartz Creek Monday night.

“We are starting to win some games and we have won a couple close ones,” Linden coach Ben Varner said. “We won by three at Fowlerville and now won this one by three. It helps you. You win a few of these and it gives confidence.”

Linden (7-4, 9-4) led by four, but Swartz Creek’s Victoria Seitz hit a three-pointer, cutting the gap to one with less than 30 seconds.

See **LINDEN** on 15

**Tri-County Times | Scott Schulpbach**

Fenton’s Eric Readman (right) drives by a Kearsley defender in the Tigers’ 72-49 victory against the Hornets on Monday night.

**TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPENS**

Lake Fenton wrestlers Brittany (left) and Brook Harvey are sisters on the Blue Devils’ varsity team. They are two of three female wrestlers on Lake Fenton’s team.

**Tri-County Times | David Troppens**

Lake Fenton girls basketball team is starting coaching wrestling within a Brighton wrestling program. Suddenly, wrestling was on her mind.

“My dad was coaching so I wanted to try it,” said Harvey, a sophomore at Lake Fenton High School.

“We are starting to win some games and we have won a couple close ones,” Linden coach Ben Varner said. “We won by three at Fowlerville and now won this one by three. It helps you. You win a few of these and it gives confidence.”

Linden (7-4, 9-4) led by four, but Swartz Creek’s Victoria Seitz hit a three-pointer, cutting the gap to one with less than 30 seconds.

See **HARVEY** on 15

**Tri-County Times | David Troppens**

Harvey sisters pack punch for LF wrestling

**Tri-County Times | Scott Schulpbach**

Fenton swim team gets relay team qualified for state

**PG 14**

**GOOD SHOWING**

Eagles place sixth at BCC meet.

**PG 14**

**SPORTS TRIVIA**

**FOOTBALL**

Who was the first sports figure to host Saturday Night Live?

Fran Tarkenton hosted it on Jan. 29, 1977. Many others would host later, including Michael Jordan and George Foreman.

**Fenton’s WIN STREAK**

With one more victory, the Fenton varsity boys basketball team will have upped its current regular-season win streak to 30 games. Here are some of the victories during the current 28-game win streak.

**GAME #1**

**Fenton 67, Lapeer East 29**

The Tigers begin the streak by holding Lapeer East to just 12 second-half points.

**GAME #3**

**Fenton 68, Holly 50**

The Tigers lead all the way, with Dylan Hickoff scoring 24 points and Ryan Hickoff netting 19 points.

**GAME #5**

**Fenton 51, Swartz Creek 48**

The Tigers trailed 21-12 late in the Metro early this year, but the Tigers rattled off 10 straight, giving them the victory during the current regular-season win streak to 30 games.

**GAME #7**

**Fenton 74, Kearsley 47**

The last Fenton loss was to Kearsley in overtime, so this game avenged that defeat. Ryan Hickoff scored 26 points.

**GAME #13**

**Fenton 60, Holly 39**

Holly was held scoreless in the third quarter, her dad, Brent Harvey, thought about wrestling.

**GAME #20**

**Fenton 29, Lapeer East 17**

Cory Cox lead. Eric Readman had a 15-0 run, giving them the win.

**GAME #25**

**Fenton 70, Swartz Creek 60**

In a battle for the top spot in the Metro early this year, the Tigers trailed 21-12 late in the first quarter. However, the Tigers rattled off a 15-0 run, giving them the lead. Eric Readman had 17 points, while Cory Cox netted 20.

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Tigers collect first state time in dual victories

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

Fenton — The Fenton varsity boys swimming and diving team are the defending Metro League champions, and are looking poised to defend that title this year.

But now they are taking the next step up the totem pole. The Tigers are starting to get competitors qualified for the D2 state meet.

The Tigers earned their first state bid in a double-dual with Kearsley/Clio and Bay City Western with a double victory. Fenton beat the Kearsley/Clio co-op 143-43, and beat Bay City Western 126-60.

Fenton’s first state-qualifying swim came in the 200 freestyle relay. The team of Zahne Macklin, Brant Cassidy, Chris Taylor and Adam Andreski won with a time of 1:34.20, breaking the state cut by almost a half-second.

“It’s nice to get our first state cut and to get it unseated,” Jones said.

The Tigers are getting close to a couple of other state-qualifying times. The 400 freestyle relay team of Cassidy, Mike Banner, Alex Chase and Andreski won with a time of 3:32.01. That time is less than a second off the state standard.

Individually, Andreski is .3 second off in the 50 freestyle. He placed second in that event by a time of 23.29 seconds. Cassidy is getting close in the 100 freestyle as well, winning the event by a time of 51.72 seconds, about 1.4 seconds off the state cut.

The Tigers had six other overall first-place finishers at the meet.

Fenton made it a clean sweep by winning all three relays. The 200 medley relay of Austin Landis, Macklin, Chase and Cassidy won (1:50.24) to start the meet. The 400 medley relay of Austin Landis, Macklin, Chase and Andreski (3:41.80) won next, while the 200 freestyle relay team of Cassidy, Mike Banner, Chase and Andreski won with a time of 1:40.02.

While the Tigers were continuing to extend that gap in the first half, it came courtesy of a trio of players. The first 25 points for Fenton were scored by seniors Eric Readman, Mitchell Shegos and Cory Cox.

“The way we run our offense, we want the guys in position to take the shot,” Olszewski said. “Everybody on this team has an opportunity.”

At the break, those three accounted for 31 of Fenton’s 33 points, with junior James Claborn tossing in the other two. Kearsley was down big, with only 21 points at halftime, after being outscored 20-10 in the second quarter.

Looking to claw their way back into the contest, the Hornets scored first in the second half, giving their fans new life in the stands. However, the Tigers then tallied off eight straight points to extend their lead even further. Senior Damon Thomas scored 10 points, all coming after halftime, helping Fenton keep the lead.

Up by 20 with only a quarter left, the only question that remained was what the final margin of victory would be. Olszewski called it a “Monday night game,” also commenting that some of the inconsistencies he saw might have been due to the fact that school was canceled that day.

But the Tigers will need to prepare all week. On Friday, they host one-loss Swartz Creek. That one loss came against the Tigers earlier this season.

“We called this week our championship week,” also commenting that some of the inconsistencies he saw might have been due to the fact that school was canceled that day.

But the Tigers will need to prepare all week. On Friday, they host one-loss Swartz Creek. That one loss came against the Tigers earlier this season.

“We called this week our championship week,” Cox said.

Olszewski saw several things Monday night he would like to work on for that game Friday that could determine the Flint Metro League championship.

“We need to maintain focus for the entire 32 minutes,” he said. “We didn’t talk as well as we could have.

“We can be more consistent.”

Cox agreed.

“I think we had a lack of focus.”

Cox finished with 20 points, while Readman had 22 to lead the team. Shegos added 12.
HARVEY
Continued from Page 13
are still wrestling with Lake Fenton’s var-
sity wrestling team, making the sister com-
bination the only known sisters wrestling on
an area varsity program.

Brent Harvey, who has spent a lot of
his time now developing wrestling oppor-
tunities for girls in the state, said he never
had any intention of getting his daughters
involved in wrestling. But he seems happy
with what they have done since.

“He just wants to get back on the
mat and coach wrestling,” Harvey said.
“I didn’t even know girls wrestled. I vol-
unteered in Brighton (in 2004) and Brook
wanted to wrestle.”

Since then both have wrestled their share
of matches. They’ve wrestled boys during
the high school seasons and against the
girls during the offseason. As members of
their dad’s Michigan Women’s Wrestling
program, they are wrestling all around
the country during the prep’s offseason.

To the Lake Fenton wrestling team, the
women on the squad are a vital part of their
success. Along with the Harvey sisters, the
team also has Bobbie Kincaid, who has spent
most of the season nursing an injury. The
boys say their female teammates.

“I’ve wrestled all three of them and,
in my opinion, they are all scrappers,” said
Lake Fenton wrestler and past state qualifier
James DeMember. “They are great. They
will not quit. And when all three of them
are out there, they are just animals on the
mat. And the kids love them. They are great
teammates. It’s absolutely great having
them on the team.”

The girls do have some success against
the boys as well. Recently, Brook (112) re-
corded a pinfall win and a void victory in
a dual with Perry and Beecher. She earned
her pinfall 1:06 into the first period. Battling
the boys can be much tougher for older sis-
ter Brittany because she’s forced to wrestle
in a heavier 140 or 145 weight class. How-
ever, Brittany’s filling of the weight class
does earn the Blue Devils some wins, as it
did when she earned a recent forfeit victory
against Beecher.

“It’s really, really hard,” Brittany said
about wrestling the boys. “I wrestle the girls
and it’s a lot easier because they are just as
strong or not as strong as me. The boys are
a lot bigger and a lot stronger. A lot of the
boys are cutting down from 152 and I’m just
there. I’m cutting down a little, but I don’t
have the muscle mass they do.”

Both say wrestling boys helps them.

“In the wrestling room during practice
it’s really intense,” Brittany said. “But with
the girls it isn’t as intense. Practicing with
the girls really doesn’t help me at all. Right
now I’m training for all the stuff for sum-
mer/time. I’m getting my cardio and my
strength up now because I’m not getting
that during the summertime. I need to get
it in the winter time. This is when I prepare
for my national meets.”

“When you wrestle guys, you learn the
little things because the guys will catch up
to you, learn the little things and stick you
with it,” Brook said. “Girls will do the same
thing, but it takes them longer. It’s a totally
different style of wrestling.”

But against the women, both have had
their share of success. Brittany placed sec-
ond and was an All-American at the 2011
USA Cadet Junior Freestyle Wrestling
Championships in Fargo, North Dakota.

“When Brittany wrestled in the finals
at Fenton, I couldn’t stop crying I was so ex-
cited,” her dad said.

Brittany also competed in the Pan-Amer-
sic Games in freestyle wrestling for Team
USA in 2011. Last year, both competed in the United
States Girls Wrestling Association Nation-
als at Eastern Michigan University. Brittany
placed fourth at 139 pounds, while Brook
was seventh at 108 pounds. Both love being
on Lake Fenton’s wrestling squad.

“They are amazing. I love them,” Brook
said. “We are like a family. I love this
school. The team is everything. It’s a lot dif-
ferent (than with Brighton).”

“When I transferred here I was kind of
nervous, but I really like the boys here.
They are so welcoming,” Brittany said. “I
do things with them outside of the room.
It’s more of a team than it was in my other
school.”

LINDEN
Continued from Page 13
remaining. Linden’s Rachel Maxheimer
responded by making one-of-two free
throws, including the lead to two. The Eagles’
defense stopped Creek on its next posses-
sion, and Kelsey Brecht raised the gap to
five points.

Freshman Niki Sargent had 10 points
and 11 boards, while Majaa Satakowak net-
ted 11 points, with six coming in the fourth
quarter.

Swartz Creek’s Lauren Adas had a game-
ligh 15 points, but was held to five points
in the second half when Alyssa Logie drew
the assignment to stop her.

“Alyssa did an awesome job on her, and
getting her stopped,” Varner said.

FENTON 53, KEARSLEY 30
The Tigers (9-2, 10-5) kept themselves
right in the thick of the Metro League race
taking on the visitors from Kearsley.

The Hornets only scored 10 points
against Fenton in the first half.

Sarah Cummings and Kristyn Kenney led
Fenton’s balanced scoring effort with nine
each.

Payton Maxheimer had eight
points.

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at Fenton, I couldn’t stop crying I was so ex-
cited,” her dad said.

Brittany also competed in the Pan-Amer-
ny teams. They left with a 2-3 team record.

“We actually wrestled quite well, even
though two starters were out due to illness
and injury,” Holly coach Don Plata said.

“It seems every week we are battling some
adversity.”

Holly averaged a loss to Romeo 33-27. A
week earlier the Bronchos lost to Romeo
31-27, but Holly wrestlers Colton Cleaver
and Kyle Pepper averaged previous losses
with wins this time, sparking the win. Hol-
ly also beat Warren-Lincoln, who is ranked
eighth in Division 2, 41-23.

The Bronchos lost to Richmond, who is
ranked second in Division 3; Dakota, who is
ranked No. 7 in Division 1; and Anchor Bay.

The Bronchos had three wrestlers finish
with perfect 5-0 records. They were Mason
Cleaver, Anthony Gonzalez, and Andrew
Scott. Kyle Pepper went 4-1, while John
Williams was 2-1, Colton Cleaver, Sam
Johnson, Noah Brenner and Jesse Torres
went 3-2.
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