Holly man charged with child porn

FBI, Holly police, Idaho sheriff conduct joint investigation

Chad Alan Cole, 45, of Holly was charged federally on Friday, Feb. 15 on alleged child pornography crimes. Det. Julie Bensus, of the Holly Police Department, said Cole was charged with four offenses in United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan.

Through a joint investigation with Holly Police Department, the Nez Perce County Sheriff’s Office in Idaho and the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), it was alleged that Cole had been communicating with a minor via the Internet. Detectives claim Cole sent sexually explicit photos of himself to the minor and had received sexually explicit photos and other communications from the minor as well.

Cole was previously convicted in July 2006 of a misdemeanor for Furnishing Obscenity to Children. He had successfully completed probation in that case and was not required to register as a sex offender from the previous conviction.

Council selects candidates for city manager

Interviews will be held this Saturday in council chambers

By William Axford

The Linden City Council has narrowed its search for the next city manager to four candidates. Interviews are scheduled for this Saturday, Feb. 23 at the city council chambers from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The interviews are open to the public.

Review your homeowners policy before disaster strikes

Frozen pipes, floods, damaged roofs, downed trees — what is covered?

By Tim Jagielo

Imagine this — you’re gearing up for a big weekend party, and you’ve spent more than $200 filling your refrigerator with food and drink, and your pantry with snacks.

A cold snap hits and cuts power. The party is canceled, and the food sits, and spoils in your fridge. Is this covered by insurance? The answer according to Hartland Insurance Vice President Barbara Walker is always, “it depends.” It can depend on why the power was interrupted, or even where the outage originated.

Unpredictability of whiteouts make them difficult to plan for or respond to

A man runs toward the 30-vehicle crash on U.S. 23 Saturday. A sudden whiteout caught drivers by surprise, causing them to crash into vehicles they couldn’t see.

By Ryan Tackabury

Road and visibility conditions last Saturday were safe and clear until all of a sudden motorists found themselves blinded by an unexpected blanket of heavy snow. Sudden weather changes such as this can and did have catastrophic effects on the road, leaving drivers with little time to compensate.

When whiteout conditions took those drivers on U.S. 23 by surprise around 1 p.m., the result was an approximate 30-vehicle crash that left many injured, including at least nine who were transported by ambulance to hospitals for treatment.

Grand Blanc resident Tonya Wilson now knows all too well of the dangers of whiteouts after being involved in the multi-car pileup last Saturday.

“It was very frightening. It goes from clear sky to snow, there is no warning, you don’t know what’s going to happen and drivers just can’t see. It just seemed like it started snowing all of a sudden, and then the next thing we knew we couldn’t see at all.”

Tonya Wilson

Victim of Saturday's crash
I wish I could stay’

Holly Township trustee resigns after five years, two elections

By Tim Jagielo

After nearly five years on the Holly Township Board of Trustees, Trustee Janet Leslie has resigned. She tendered her letter to the board 10 days ago. January was her last meeting, though she’ll be present as a citizen at the Wednesday meeting.

“It just wasn’t financially feasible for my family,” she said, to stay in Holly. It wasn’t a political decision. She has relocated to Okemos.

Leslie felt that she was seen by the public as someone who would stand up for their interests, sometimes going against the consensus of the board. “I was willing to speak up even when it was unpopular,” Leslie added that although shared services is a popular topic between municipalities, it wasn’t when she was first elected in 2008.

She disagreed with the board on some aspects of the handling of the Smith case, and she voted for extra board members, which did not pass. Despite differences, disagreements stayed in the boardroom.

Leslie said she is most proud of amendments to the zoning ordinance which now allows for houses of worship to be in a commercial district. She is proud of the medical marijuana ordinance which appears to be validated by the recent decisions by Michigan courts.

“I felt very strongly that we shouldn’t prevent patients from getting treatment they deserve, but to not allow dispensaries,” she said.

She is grateful to the community from support in both elections. “I wish I could stay to continue to serve them,” said Leslie.

On Wednesday, the board will appoint someone in her place. She hopes they will consider someone with a family to offer a different perspective.

“My greatest frustration with the board has been their reluctance to engage the community to make meetings convenient to the community,” said Leslie, who believes that Wednesday meetings interfere with church and downtown events.

“I hope they move in the direction to be more accessible and more transparent,” said Leslie.

Leslie hopes for a happy and prosperous future for Holly residents. “I’ll be around, I still have friends in Holly.”

FENTON REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE COMMUNITY EXP SATURDAY, MARCH 2 10:00AM TO 5:00PM SUNDAY, MARCH 3 11:00AM TO 4:00PM Fenton High School

TRY SCUBA! What a great opportunity for someone to give SCUBA DIVING a try!

Everyone starts in the shallow end of the pool and we get them into the dive gear. We explain what the gear is and how it works. We teach them a few simple skills like equalizing their ears for the pressure and clearing their masks. Let them breath off the regulators above water, then once they are comfortable they get to go underwater and continue how it works. We teach them a few simple skills like equalizing their ears for the pressure and clearing their masks. Let them breath off the regulators above water, then once they are comfortable they get to go underwater and continue

Everyone starts in the shallow end of the pool and we get them into the dive gear. We explain what the gear is and how it works. We teach them a few simple skills like equalizing their ears for the pressure and clearing their masks. Let them breath off the regulators above water, then once they are comfortable they get to go underwater and continue
‘Controversial’ ZBA member tabled

Tim Claus has been offered as a new member for the Rose Township Zoning Board of Appeals by Supervisor Paul Gampka, for a three-year term. Gampka admitted Claus is a controversial pick because of the legal wrangling the township has had with Claus and his father Terry over disputed zoning enforcement violations, which have been resolved. Gampka would like to offer Claus a chance to get involved with the township. Claus ran and lost for a bid as township trustee in November. Treasurer Trish Treveithan would like the township attorney to see if there are any legal issues with appointing a former opponent in court. The decision has been tabled until the March meeting.

Moratorium on Medical Marijuana continues

The Rose Township Board of Trustees unanimously passed continuing a moratorium on drafting an ordinance for medical marijuana use. Supervisor Paul Gampka said he is waiting for guidance through the cloudy marijuana issue from the Michigan courts, and consulting with what other municipalities do. “It’s a real hot potato,” said Gampka. The board also passed a moratorium in 2011 and Rose Township is in line with many other local boards in continuing a moratorium on drafting an ordinance.

TRI-COUNTY TIMES
The Tri-County Times (E197 38092) is published weekly (with exceptions) by Rockman Communications, Fenton, Michigan 48430. Periodical postage paid at Fenton, Michigan 48430-2099 and other post offices. Publisher: Craig Rockman. Serving the communities of: Fenton, Linden, Lake Orion, Flushing, Flushing Charter Township, Davison, Swartz Creek and Grand Blanc townships of Fenton, St. Clair Charter Township, and Saginaw Twp. Sales optimal Rate: 30.00 per year. No mailto member returns. Postmas- ter Send address changes to Tri-County Times, 256 N. Fenway Drive, Fenton, Michigan 48430-2189.

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Editorial: 810-629-3826
Advertising: 810-629-2821
Classifieds: 810-629-4194
Circulation: 810-433-6799
Hot Line: 810-629-9221
Fax: 810-629-9227
E-mail: news@tctimes.com
Website: www.tctimes.com
Office: Mon-Fri 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Friday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Closed Saturday & Sunday

Douglas Water Conditioning Service Tech Seth Dahl prepares copper pipe for soldering to a new water softener in Fenton Township on Tuesday, as Gilbert Aida (right) runs the drain line for the unit. “It’s something pretty unremarkable, but something people can’t live without,” said Dahl.

Hard water wreaks havoc on you and your household

What does a water softener actually do?

By Ryan Tackabury
news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Have you noticed residue lingering in a ring around your bathtub, shower tiles or shower doors? Does your hair feel sticky after you wash it? Do your dishes come out of the dishwasher with a residue, or do your clothes feel stiff and scratchy?

If the above are problems for you, those are clear symptoms that your water is too hard. Should you already own a water softener, it may be time to replace it. If you live in mid-Michigan and don’t own a water softener, you should be buying one right away.

“We measure hardness in grains per gallon, anything that’s over one is considered hard water,” said Jeff Stone, owner of Sears Hometown Store in Fenton. “Mid-Michigan is typically in the mid-20s, which is considered very hard.”

Hard water is simply water with a high level of minerals within it. Though drinking hard water is not harmful to your own health, it can be harmful to the longevity of your appliances, which makes water softening important.

“What a water softener really does is remove lime and iron from the water. It works by ion exchange, so as the water passes through the resin which is inside the water softener, it pulls out the calcium and iron,” said Eric Smith, a service tech sales representative from Douglas Water in Fenton. “It helps protect all of the appliances in your house — your dishwasher, your water heater and so on.”

Everyone knows there is another important component to water softeners — sodium chloride, or salt. The salt is used in a process called hardening.

TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Water — bottled, tap, or filtered?

The human brain is composed of 70 percent water — so it matters!

By Ryan Tackabury
news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

In 2011, Americans purchased more than 9.1 billion gallons of bottled water — almost 30 gallons per person. This is the highest volume of bottled water ever sold in the United States. Clearly, the demand for bottled water is growing, and the market is meeting those demands. There are many reasons people give for preferring bottled water — health benefits, better taste, convenience. Are these reasons necessarily true though?

According to Eatingwell.com, 40 percent of bottled water that is sold is only tap water from municipal sources that has been filtered — not bottled from the beautiful springs that some bottles would have you believe. These include popular brands such as Aquafina and Dasani. The marketing of bottled water

Between varying quality of both bottled and tap water, there is no one clear winner.
Let Us Prey
Our politics have become so polarized and corrupted that a president of the United States cannot even attend an event devoted to drawing people closer to God without being lectured about his policies.
At the National Prayer Breakfast in Washington, D.C., Dr. Ben Carson, director of Pediatric Neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, and a 2008 recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, broke with a 61-year-old tradition and publicly disagreed with some of the president’s policies, such as ‘Obamacare,’ taxation and the national debt.
Several in the audience of 3,000 apoplectic Carson’s remarks, which must have made the president feel even more uncomfortable.
I am no fan of the president’s policies, but the National Prayer Breakfast is billed as one of the few nonpolitical events in a very political city. Each year, the co-chair, one Democrat and one Republican from either the House or Senate, put aside their political differences to pray for the nation together.
Carson, who spoke at the same event several years ago, has a compelling and inspirational personal story. He and his brother grew up in Detroit. His parents divorced when he was 3. His mother kept an eye on her children and made them turn off the TV and read books. Carson said he did poorly in school until he later caught the learning bug. He retold part of that story, but it was overwhelmed by his criticism of the president’s policies.
His remarks were inappropriate for the occasion. It would have been just as inappropriate had he praised the president’s policies. If Carson wanted to voice his opinion about the president’s policies, he could have done so backstage. Even better, he might have asked for a private meeting with the man.
As a fellow African American who faced personal challenges and overcame them, the president might have welcomed Dr. Carson to the White House. Instead, Carson patted him back.
If this and future presidents think their policies will be prey for political opponents at the prayer breakfast, they might decide not to come. That would be too bad for them and too bad for the country.

LET ME SEE, when President Bush was in office we blamed him for the skyrocketing cost of gasoline. At the pump. So, the shoe is on the other foot and we get to blame President Obama for the high gas prices after he promised lower prices. 
HERE WE GO again, blaming the Republicans for the country’s problems! The Democrats started this whole mess when Bush was leaving and Obama took over. America didn’t like it so they got rid of the Democrats and voted Republican. If it’s broken, fix it!
THE HOUSING BUBBLE and resulting financial crisis was far more Barney Frank, Franklin Raines and Mario Cuo- mo’s fault than Bush’s—al-Democrats Mario as head of HUD demanding more minority home loans, Franklin buying all the sub-prime loans as head of Freddy Mac and Barney saying all was well.

DON’T SEE where Facebook is paying zero in taxes and getting a multi-million dollar tax refund? Do recall what presidential candidate was being supported by Facebook? Follow the money. I thought Obama was for little guys and gal.

BY THE WAY, the second amendment has nothing to do with hunting or self-protection. It was added to give well-armed citizens a chance to fend off a tyrannical federal government.

TODAY, A STORE’S email revealed that February will be the worst in seven years showing that letting the tax cuts expire will put our economy in another free fall. Obama keeps campaigning every day, spending millions but the only thing he’s doing is keeping the liberal’s mesmerized, but that just is normal.

GREAT LAKES NA- TIONAL VA Cemetery in Holly Township is looking for volunteers to do headstone cleaning on April 13 at 9 a.m. Please RSVP your headcount by April 1 to Carl Pardon al (248) 318-2042 or pardoncar@yahoo.com. Lunch will be provided.

Please bring your own buckets and brushes. Thank you for your support!

THERE ARE STILL bullies in Linden schools. Bullies that say hurtful things and are protected because they are fast runners and good throwers.

RECAP OF OBAMA’s State of the Union address. Tax, spend, tax, spend, free, tax, spend, tax, free, tax, spend, more tax, and spend even more.

TO CLARIFY, FASCISM is the most ex- treme point of the right wing. While Adolf Hitler was a Nazi, he turned Germany into a fascist state. For all you Obama haters, you can’t be a socialist, commu- nist and a fascist at the same time.

LETTING FENTON CINEMA be torn down for a building to be built later sounds exactly like the same Urban Renewal garbage we were sold in the 70s. The Cinema will come down, but nothing will ever be built in its place.

IF YOU THINK that Obama’s re-election even comes close to something like Sandy Hook, there is something wrong with you. Immediately seek help. You need it.

See HOT LINE throughout Times

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What’s the worst cell phone behavior you’ve seen?

“People checking out a store and being on their phones. They lack common sense respect.”
— David Watson, Fenton

“People on phones while they’re at a kid’s school activity.”
— Dawn Beckley, Byron

“In the movies, especially when they’re asked to stop and they just cover it up more.”
— Charles Siekierzyński, Argentine Township

“I saw someone record a dance at a recital and then play back the dance loudly during another person’s performance.”
— Penny Deming, Fenton

“When people on their Bluetooth devices talk loudly. You can never tell if they’re talking to you or themselves.”
— Marsad Kakoom, Fenton

Obama’s license to kill
If you really want Washington’s chatter- ing classes to pay attention to something, look to the media.

Whoever leaked the Justice Department’s 16-page confidential ‘white paper’ memo on the use of armed drones to NBC News sparked a long-overdue debate about something that makes both political sides feel uneasy: targeted killings by drone.

Drones aren’t the problem. As tools of war, they’re a lot less likely than traditional bombing to kill innocent civilians. They avoid the hazards of putting American boots on the ground.

Most other Americans love drones, too, judging by the polls. An overwhelming 83 percent in Feb. A Washington Post poll ap- proved of Obama’s drone strikes overseas. But support fell to a less-robust 65 percent if the terror suspects are American citizens living abroad.

Targeting our fellow Americans has been a very real issue since September 2011, when a drone strike in Yemen killed Anwar al-Awlaki and Samir Khan, two al-Qaeda operatives and U.S. citizens. Although al-Awlaki had been formally charged with any crimes by the U.S. government, it’s pretty clear that Awlaki had it coming. The American-born cleric was believed to be directly involved in the infamous ‘underwear bomber’ plot, among others.

That debate has stirred up with a new fury after NBC’s Michael Isikoff revealed the white paper memo laid out criteria under which the U.S. government can kill Americans by drone who are ‘senior opera- tional leaders’ of al-Qaeda — even when there is no intelligence indicating they are engaged in an active plot to attack the U.S.

But the confidential white paper ‘does not require clear evidence that a specific attack will take place in the immediate future.’

The white paper, in short, invites more questions than it answers. Congress in its oversight role needs to engage in a thor- ough debate over how drone strikes can be conducted without handcuffing our nation’s ability to defend itself successfully and effectively.

The authority should be granted broadly enough to respond to strikes requests without waiting for court approval, yet narrowly enough to avoid taking out the Bill of Rights as collateral damage.

Times Midweek
Taking calls during a date is not a good way to make a good first impression.

**Etiquette update for the smartphone age**

Many say smartphones leading to epidemic of rude phone habits?

By Ryan Tackabury

news@cttimes.com; 810-629-8282

Today’s smartphones are capable of doing things that no one 20 years ago would have predicted. Now any of your friends and family are one phone call, email, or text message away from reaching you at any time of the day — or night.

With so much now resting at our fingertips, it is easy to get lost in your phone at the expense of those around you. There may not be an app for cell phone etiquette, but fortunately there are a few simple rules you can follow.

Be mindful of the people you are with, and what your cell phone interactions tell them about you. “Taking a call signals that the person you are with is less important than the person calling,” according to Emily Post.com. This also applies to texting. No one will mind if you have to take an occasional call or reply to an important text message — though you will start to build a reputation over time if you are constantly neglecting those in front of you for those on the other end of your cell phone communications.

Be mindful of how loud you are speaking. According to the Emily Post’s online etiquette guide, the Etipedia, people’s “phone voices” tend to always be louder than the voice they use in normal conversation.

“Add to that the noise of a busy sidewalk or the background noise of a public place, and the urge to shout can become overwhelming for the person on the other end of the conversation as well,” the Etipedia says. If you must make or take an important call in a store or restaurant, the least you can do is give priority to the work staff you are interacting with. Do not approach a checkout line or a counter while still on your phone, and if approached by a waiter, do not hold them up in favor of your phone friend.

In other places, there is no excuse to be

*See ETIQUETTE on 9*
In November, Mayor David Lossing recommended the council utilize the Michigan Municipal League (MML) for Linden’s search for the next city manager. Lossing serves as president of the MML.

Bob Hamilton of the MML attended a Dec. 3, 2012 Linden City Council special meeting, detailing the process of the candidate search with the MML. According to minutes from the meeting, Hamilton told the council, “The cost of the MML services — straight search 10 percent plus expenses, cost of running the ad $200-$300, $90 Hogan Aptitude Test and $500 miscellaneous expenses. Roughly $8,200 in expenses for the search.”

Lossing said a budget amendment would be needed to transfer fund balance dollars to cover the cost of the search.

According to the job posting on the MML website, the next city manager will earn between $60,000 to $70,000. The MML is charging 10 percent of that salary and will be paid an extra $6,000 to $7,000 from the city.

The search for a new leader has been ongoing since the resignation of former City Manager Mark Tallman, who held the position for less than five months. Tallman was heavily involved in the city council’s $240,000 pursuit of the Union Block, which the council ultimately abandoned. Reasons for his resignation are unclear.

Using the MML for the city manager search is new for the city council. When hiring Tallman and former City Manager Chris Wren, city officials conducted city manager searches by using selection committees that were comprised of citizens from Linden.

Here are the four candidates Linden City Council has chosen for interviews. Michael Mitchell — Worked as city manager in New Buffalo from March 2011 to August 2012. Worked as city manager in Hillsdale from September 2007 to February 2011. The Harbor County News reported that Mitchell quit his position in New Buffalo after 18 months. Wendy L. Jean-Buhrer — Currently works as the finance director/assistant city manager in Grand Blanc. James V. Creech — Currently works as township superintendent/manager of the Charter Township of Oakland, has held position since 1999. Creech is familiar with the tri-county area, having worked as assistant city manager in Fenton. He also held the positions of city manager in Inlay City and administrative assistant in Oak Park.

Paul Zelenak — Currently serves as village manager in Lake Orion. Zelenak formerly served as village manager of Ortonville.

What is the Michigan Municipal League? According to the group’s website MML.org, the League “is the one clear voice for Michigan communities. Our goals are to aid them in creating desirable and unique places through legislative and judicial advocacy; to provide educational opportunities for elected and appointed officials, and to assist municipal leaders in administering community services.”

HOT LINE CONTINUED

DO YOU KNOW anybody who would like to take a trip on a cruise ship? Neither do I.

SPORTS MAY NOT be part of a millage, but they are definitely a part of the school district that wants me to support their millage and go broke trying to watch my own kids play sports.

WATCH THE HOT lines for grouchy members of the older generation to complain about your comment that we are doing too much. I live in an assisted living complex and personally I want it to be right on the money and a good read. I’m an 82-year-old grandmother who is sending this from her iPad.

STOP AND THINK before you say we grown adults don’t help our elderly parents. We have tried to do that but they seem to like to complain to others that family doesn’t help.

WAKE UP PEOPLE and stop holding grudges. Life is too short. Don’t be too proud to communicate. Life milestones of turning 13, 16, 18, graduation, prom, college apps, weddings, birth of children, etc. are too important to miss out on. Forgive and move forward.

I THINK the article, Understanding the older generation’ in Sunday’s TCT stereotyped our senior citizens and was very disrespectful. Neither generation knows it all. They can learn from each other if they only are willing to listen.

SO, NOW OBAMA wants to have the government provide free preschool? Wake up people — all this is, is government control/programming of your children.

I TURNED 87 recently and loved your older generation article. You described me, and every one of my remaining friends perfectly. Thank you Mr. Oxford for telling the truth and making us laugh.

MARRIAGE, A MAN and woman union. Same-sex unions need their own marriage. Name legal unions with benefits. Name our own unions. Name legal union with benefits. Same-sex couples that want recognition need solutions that respect traditional values. They shouldn’t demand that others adopt their value system.

OLD PEOPLE DRIVING too slow? Do you mean actually doing the speed limit and driving carefully? When you have been to as many senseless funerals as I have, you will understand.

NOT SURE of the intent of ‘Understanding the older generation’ article. It is so negative it will only widen the gap you seek to define. The elderly have much to offer in advice and experience, take it or leave it. Your journalist widens the divide.

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The Fair Debt Collection Practices Act

In February, we have fallen behind in the payment of their bills during these difficult economic times, it comes as no surprise that the business of collection agencies has increased dramatically, and some consumers are now receiving telephone calls and letters from these agencies urging them to pay their debts.

In collecting debts, the law provides for certain practices and procedures that must be followed and the question becomes just what is allowed.

Two fairly recent examples of what is not allowed are contained on the Federal Trade Commission’s website.

A Texas based collection agency was engaged in practices that included falsely representing that they were a law firm; falsely claiming that in not paying their bills consumers had committed a crime, would be arrested and go to jail and lose custody of their children; using obscene or profane language in telephone calls and calling late at night or early in the morning; adding unauthorized fees to the bill; and failing to inform consumers of their rights to dispute debts, having the debts verified and obtaining the names of the original creditors.

A California firm was cited for abusive collection practices, which included harassing and abusing consumers by threatening physical harm and death to them and their pets and threatening to desecrate the bodies of deceased relatives.

The FTC filed federal lawsuits against both of these companies alleging violations of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (FDCPA).

The FDCPA is a federal law, which prohibits debt collectors from using abusive, unfair or deceptive practices in attempting to collect debts.

This law applies to consumer ‘debt,’ which is defined as personal, family, or household transactions. It specifically limits collectors in a number of ways including no phone calls before 8 a.m., or after 9 p.m., no threats of violence or harm, no obscene or profane language and no false statements. There are a number of other prohibitions.

Violations of the law can result in a lawsuit by the FTC or the consumer and an award of costs, damages and actual attorney’s fees. Michigan also has a collection practices statute. For much more information on these laws, go to the FTC and State of Michigan websites.


**POLICE & FIRE REPORT**

**LAWN JOBS ON BLUE HERON**

Fenton police responded to a home on Blue Heron Drive at 6:52 a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 5 to investigate a malicious destruction of property complaint. The homeowner reported that someone had driven across their snow-covered yard and around their home. Lt. Jason Slater said the responding officer noticed tire tracks through several yards, including the complainant’s yard. The officer followed the tracks, which led from the subdivision. There are no suspects at this time.

**FIFTEEN-YEAR-OLD DRIVER**

At 11:53 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 17, Fenton police responded to the 900 block of Granger to investigate a possible lar- ceny from auto, in progress. The caller said they witnessed a male, wearing a black hooded sweatshirt and blue pants going through cars. A responding officer spotted a white Chevy Aveo traveling at a high rate of speed from that area. A traffic stop was eventually initiated on Main Street. The officer saw a back seat passenger trade spots with the driver, later identified as a 15-year-old Fenton female. There were four occupants in the car, the 15-year-old, as well as an 18-year-old Fenton male that she traded spots with, a 17-year-old Argentine Township male and a 16-year-old Fenton female. The car belonged to a relative of the 18-year-old. The Argentine teen was found to be in possession of 1.2 grams of marijuana. All teens were transported to the Fenton police station. The 15-year-old driver was petitioned into probate court for driving with no license. The one with marijuana was given a court appearance ticket. All were released to their parents.

**HOT LINE CONTINUED**

**HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS** are not necessarily about the ‘big league.’ It’s about learning teamwork, hard work, and sportsmanship. These are all lessons carried through life. And a total plunge? Maybe it wasn’t done your way but they raised money. Maybe you can organize your own ‘Holier-than-thou- clean-livin’ fundraiser.’

**WHAT DO YOU think? Will Tiger Woods now come out and say that he is OK with more taxes after meeting with Obama on the golf course? Let’s see how this all plays out. Tiger said he moved to Florida due to taxes.**

**FUNNY HOW those with the biggest mouths don’t have to back it up.**

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**NEWS BRIEFS**

**Eli Foundation to host athletic outreach event**

Flint Community Schools and Flint Affiliation Sports are presenting The Eli Foundation’s annual Pros Athletic Outreach Event on Saturday. The event will include messages of hope, strength, perseverance to athletes, families and community from professional vocalist and speaker Tina Florence-King. Florence-King is the mother of Eli Florence, a Lake Fenton student who died of Leukemia in Oct. 2007. The event will be held at Flint Northern High School, with doors opening at 5:30 p.m. Activities start at 6:30 p.m. It is designed for athletes ranging from sixth-grade to college. For more information, go to www.thesefoundation.com or search for the Eli Foundation on Facebook.
Township park gets $8,293 in upgrades

By Tim Jagielo

Rose Twp. — The parks won, after $8,293 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds were allocated at the Rose Township Board of Trustees meeting last Wednesday.

CDBG funds are used to enhance low-income areas and must be programmed for specific purposes, and used in a certain amount of time. This issue was last visited by the board in November, when it was tabled amidst disagreement on how the funds should be used.

Now, the 2011 CDBG funds will be used for park benches, trails, signage, trash containers and picnic benches for Dearborn Park.

Opposed were Clerk Debbie Miller, who wanted funds to assist the low-income elderly and Trustee Diane Scheib-Snider who wanted to put funds into finishing the park.

The vote was 4-1, with Miller voting against the use of funds for parks. Treasurer Trish Trevathan backed up Scheib-Snider’s position. “Right now we have no liability signage,” said Trevathan. She said it’s important to protect the township and residents through a sign for liability, and signage can be expensive. “It’s not going to be a small cost,” she said. She also mentioned an olive tree infestation. Miller felt that different CDBG funds could be used for signage — but the remaining $8,293 should be devoted to area seniors. “We give them nothing,” she said. She’d like lower income people assisted through the money. In previous discussions, she said that Holly Area Youth Assistance (HAYA) has received nearly $4,000 in CDBG funds, while Oakland Livingston Human Services Agency (OLSHA), who assists area seniors, hadn’t been given any.

Scheib-Snider said she’d like to see them assisted too, but pointed out that this is the last time the parks would be eligible for CDBG funds. In the future, parks wouldn’t qualify any more because of changing CDBG criteria.

“I think we should listen to our residents, they’re the ones who voted us in,” said Miller, who has heard from nearby residents who don’t interest in the parks.

The two disagreed on how much has already been spent on the parks, and previous meetings had lengthy public discussion on the different sides.

Scheib-Snider eventually made the motion to program the money for Dearborn Park, which was seconded by Trustee Tom Kemp.

Previously, $1,000 of the $8,293 was offered to be given to OLHSA, but as Miller wanted $3,000 to go to OLHSA, it was voted down.

FILTERED

Continued from Page 3

This can be misleading. “For example, one brand of ‘spring water’ whose label pictured a lake and mountains, actually came from a well in an industrial facility’s parking lot,” wrote Erik Olson in a report from the Natural Resources Defense Council.

Health wise, one is not necessarily healthier than the other. While bottled water is regulated by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), tap water is regulated by both the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), both have similar, or in some cases, identical standards. Many studies have shown no real significant difference between most sources of tap water and their bottled brethren, both in the taste as well as health related issues.

One major difference you will notice between the two options is in cost — as bottled water will cost you a deal more than tap water. According to FastCompany, if all of our water usage cost the same as bottled water, you could expect your monthly water bill be around $9,000.

Some groups have also raised concerns about the chemical phthalate, which is used to soften plastic, and has been linked with reproductive disorders and liver problems.

Perhaps the most controversial issue when it comes to the bottled versus tap debate is the use of fluoride, which many municipal water sources put into their drinking water, including Fenton. According to both the Centers for Disease Control Prevention (CDC) and the American Dental Association (ADA), the appropriate use of fluoride is not only safe, it is an effective tool to prevent dental issues and promote dental health. The American Cancer Society has said that there is no strong link between the use of fluoride in water and cancer.

“I don’t know that there are any cons,” said Fenton Water Plant Superintendent Steve Guy. “From what I read, the belief is that it helps prevent decay of the teeth. It actually can reverse it even.”

Still, fluoride is one reason many people have found themselves making the switch from tap water to bottled water. Guy said that taste was a big complaint people had with the area’s water when the new treatment plant first opened. “It is understandable, it is sort of one of the effects when you change the treatment of the water, it changes the water itself,” he said. Guy said he still receives complaints about tap water taste, and the best advice he can give is to improve it to be refractory to the water before drinking.

The answer as to which should you drink, bottled water or tap water, is never a clear one. Just like how all bottled water is not created equal, neither is the tap wa-

Beside tap and bottled water, you also have a third option — home filtered water. A water filter does not have to be expensive, and in fact, compared to the cost of regular tap water, bottled water, it can be much less expensive.

A filtered water system gives you the benefits that the best types of bottled water have to offer right at your tap, said Douglas Water Conditioning consultant Ron Steward.

“The difference is mostly in taste. It does remove everything — you can’t just remove the bad and leave the good,” Steward said. “It’s healthier for you. How Fenton adds fluoride to its water

Fluoride is a naturally occurring chemical ion of the element fluorine. It is found in water, foods, soil, and minerals. Additionally, it is added to the water supply at the Fenton water treatment plant, where a pump introduces hydrofluoric acid to the wa-

Softening

Continued from Page 3

regeneration, which allows the resin to continue softening water.

“Basically what it does is after a certain amount of gallons, let’s say 900 that resin gets loaded up with calcium, lime and iron it removed from the water. Then it uses the sodium chloride, the salt, to clean that resin inside the water filter, and you are good for another 800, or so gallons depending on what size machine you have,” Smith said.

Ron Steward, owner of Douglas Water, said that well water is typically harder. Though city water may be softer, a water softener makes a big difference, and is greatly needed.

“The water doesn’t stain, doesn’t calcify, doesn’t plug up radiators, as you no longer have the hardness of the iron,” said Steward. “Soap products work bet-

Upgrading an old water softener will not only save you money, as new, more efficient models use less sodium chloride and water to ac-

SOFTENING

Continued from Page 3

First thing is they should have their water tested and see what their hardness level is,” said Stone. “Based on that sample, you can put you into what you need for your home.” These tests can be performed both at Sears as well as Douglas Water.

Once you know how soft or hard your water is, the other criteria you will need to consider when asking your purchase is the size of your family. A bigger family will use more water from additional showers, loads of laundry, and dishwasher tanks, which will require a water softener that can accommodate a larger capacity.

“If you undersize, you are going to have a situation where your resin bed needs to regenerate, flushin the day away money, as new, more efficient models use less sodium chloride and water to ac-

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Continued from Page 3

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VICTIMS OF THE 30-CAR CRASH ON SATURDAY including Charleen Kowal-Taylor (center) wait while emergency crews work through the collisions that began at around 1 p.m. on Saturday.

WHITEOUTS
Continued from Front Page
nothing you can do but pray,” she said. “It just seemed like it started snowing all of a sudden, and then the next thing we knew we couldn’t see at all.”

Tonya’s son Brad Wilson, 17, was behind the wheel, and four others were also in the vehicle, a Dodge Ram truck.

“As we looked up, it was just like a white out so you couldn’t see anything. So you start slowing down. When you could see, it was basically too late. I said ‘OK we are going to crash, you guys, brace yourself.’ It was the most horrible thing,” Tonya said.

Tonya credited her son’s driving skills and quick reactions in helping to minimize damage to the truck — and much more importantly, the health and lives of those involved.

“We knew we were going to crash, there was nowhere we could go, except we were trying to not hit head on the car in front of us because it was full of kids,” Tonya said.

Wilson said that from what she saw, she didn’t think any of the vehicles in the pileup were in drivable condition afterward. She is still waiting to hear about her own vehicle, whether the truck will be drivable again or if it is totaled.

Laurie Newman was helpless when the crash occurred. She was on the phone talking to her daughter Jordan, who was in the truck along with her 11-year-old sister Elaina when the white out occurred. She said, “Brad was driving and I’m still in disbelief and so grateful that a young man of his age was capable of such heroic actions.

“His quick reaction and thinking, maneuvering skills, and unselfish actions to protect his family and mine and run to the aid of others, with his mom bring tears to my eyes.”

When out of control conditions are forecasted, the best thing you can do is not be on the road. If you find yourself hit unexpectedly, your options are limited.

Fenton Township Fire Chief Ryan Volz that said there are not really any cut actions you can take if found in a white out. “I don’t know if there is any real answer to that, it’s just a dangerous spot to be in,” he said. “The worst thing you can do is stop. When you stop that’s where people hit you. You can slow down and go toward the shoulder, but anything you can do might be undone by someone else. It’s an unpredictable situation.”

Volz said that given what happened on Saturday, the outcome could have been a lot worse. “I was lucky that no one got hurt too bad.”

ETIQUETTE
Continued from Page 5

talking on your phone. During any meeting or public presentation, inside of a library, during church service, or in a movie theater or at a play, under no circumstances should you be talking on your phone and it is extremely rude to all of those around you. If you must take an important call, step outside before doing so.

Know how to manage your ringtone and vibrate settings on your phone, and remember to do so. In any situation where it would be rude to be talking on your cell phone, you would be rude to not have your cell phone set to vibrate.

The worst place to use your cell phone? In a car while you are driving. Not only can it land you in legal trouble, you are impairing your own ability to drive safely and react to dangers on the road.

According to National Safety Council, texting alone is responsible for 1.6 million car crashes a year, and result in 11 deaths of teenagers every day. You are at least 23 times more likely to crash while texting according to the National Highway Transportation.

When it comes to driving and your cell phone, you are surpassing a simple breach in etiquette, you are endangering your life, and all of those around you.

If you are calling someone who has a cell phone and they don’t answer, you will have the option to leave a voice mail. If there is some important piece of information you would like you relay, you can leave a message. If you wish for your call to be returned on the other hand, you typically do not need to, as the recipient will see who called and when.

Navigating voicemail systems can be cumbersome and time consuming with some phones, and a voicemail messages just asking for returned calls can be redundant.

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DISASTER
Continued from Front Page
This time of the year, freezing and bursting pipes, hail-damaged roofs and power outages are all normal home owners insurance claims, she said.

The water damage from the burst pipe is likely covered, but is the plumbing? What about the ruined personal belongings? When it comes to what is covered, it all depends on the policy. Walker cautions that nothing can be taken for granted. “Every home is different, every individual is different, every home is different,” she said.

If a roof is damaged by hail, requiring shingles to be replaced, the policy may just cover the damaged areas, and you may be left with a roof that doesn’t match.

If a tree branch falls and destroys some of your garage, if part of your policy, insurance will cover the tree removal, but only the part that damaged the part of your home or property that is insured.

Ice damming damages the roof itself and can also cause internal water damage. Repairing the water damage may not be covered in the insurance policy. “You want to check those things out when you’re purchasing that coverage,” she said.

Winter storms can easily knock the power out in a home. This can shut down the HVAC system. The residents may then use their fireplace for the first time in years causing a chimney fire, and an insurance claim.

Tim Fagan is general manager for Belfor Property Restoration. Once a claim is made, an insurance adjuster will determine whether loss is covered by the policy. A business like Fagan’s may then get involved. Fagan said 30 percent of their business comes from insurance work.

“Waiting until the damage happens is the wrong time to learn about your coverage,” said Walker. The kind of home insurance you buy and for how much is as varied as there are homes and policies.

Normal wear and tear is not covered by homeowners insurance. In the industry, the words “sudden and accidental” are one quick test for homeowners insurance.

Home catastrophes are often sudden and accidental — but one thing a homeowner may be able to do is mitigate the damage immediately. Don’t wait to take action whether your home is flooding or a tree has fallen. Call your agent, take pictures to document the event, and then call a plumber or whichever service is needed.

Fagan and his crews see the results of home disaster all the time. His advice — have a plan ready, both for the short and safety. “Things can be replaced, but people can’t.” Being prepared for floods, carbon monoxide and smoke detectors are all ways to protect loved ones. Once loved ones are protected, the home is the next priority.

Homeowners Insurance tips
1. Know your home’s value. Before you choose a policy, it is essential to establish your home’s replacement cost. A local builder can provide the best estimate.
2. Insurers differ. As with anything else you buy, what seems to be the same product can be priced differently by different companies. You can save money by comparison shopping.
3. Don’t just look at price. A low price is no bargain if an insurer takes forever to settle your claim. Research the insurer’s record for claims service, as well as its financial stability.
4. Go beyond the basics. A basic homeowners policy may not promise to entirely replace your home.
5. Demand discounts. Insurers provide discounts to reward behaviors that reduces risk. Americans waste money every year because they forget to ask for them.
6. At claims time, your insurer isn’t necessarily your friend. Your idea of fair compensation may not match that of your insurer. Your insurer’s job is to restore you financially. Your job is to prove your losses so you get what you need.
7. Prepare before you have to file a claim.

Source: money.cnn.com
Community colleges vs. four-year universities

Here’s how to make the choice for you

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

Residents in the tri-county area are fortunate to have a community college and a number of four-year colleges or universities located right here in Genesee County.

How to choose the right college setting for you? Here’s a list of pros and cons of each:

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Pros:
• Tuition is much less expensive at a community college. Students can get prerequisites out of the way more affordably and try different subjects before picking a major.
• Flexible scheduling, including night classes, provides students with an opportunity to work while attending school.
• Smaller class sizes, with instructors more accessible for assistance when needed.
• Qualified professors — some may be fresh out of a master’s program, but many will be well-seasoned academics who choose a community college that can work with a flexible schedule so they can focus on their own pursuits and career goals.
• A chance to transition — students can earn college credit while taking the time to select the future four-year institution that will be just right for them. Otherwise, many college freshmen drop out when they feel displaced at the university level and found their expectations not met at the college they attended.

Cons:
• Limited curriculum — if you plan to obtain a four-year degree, you will have to transfer to another university at some point.
• Lighter workload — the workload may be significantly lighter than at a major state university.
• Lack of student involvement — some students may be more complacent because they are not looking at a future beyond the community college level. Those with more motivation or plans for the future may find it less stimulating than a four-year university.
• Lack of campus life — for most students at community college, their lives revolve around work and school, without as many opportunities for an active social life or involvement in on-campus groups and activities.

FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

Pros:
• A huge spectrum of on and off-campus learning opportunities, from cultural events to study abroad, student-run clubs and honor societies, internships, etc.
• More well-rounded education with flexible degrees, compared to more vocational training.
• More on-campus life experience.
• Challenging coursework.

Cons:
• Classes fill up quickly, so it may be difficult to get what your major requires at the time you need the class.
• Accessibility of professors — it’s easier to get “lost in the shuffle” at a big university.

Average cost of tuition and fees:
• Two-year community college: $2,963.
• Public four-year college or university: $8,244, plus another $8,890 in room and board.
• Private school $28,500, plus another $10,090 in room and board.

Source: collegeboard.com

Information Night

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By Sally Rummel

“Start early” is the best advice most people get when talking to financial professionals about saving money for their child’s college education. The earlier that you begin to start financially planning for this milestone, the better you’ll be able to save enough money by investing over time or pre-paying the tuition, according to mich.gov.com, the website that provides information about two college fund vehicles offered by the state of Michigan.

“The best advice I can give is to meet with a financial planner and get a solid financial plan done,” said Margie Shard, of Shard Financial Services in Fenton. “That way you’ll get a clear picture of your income and expenses, debts and assets so you’ll be able to see the surplus you have to invest. It will also show you what you should pay off so you have extra money to put away.”

The state of Michigan offers two programs:

- Michigan Education Trust (MET), Michigan’s guaranteed tuition program, which allows parents, grandparents or others to pre-purchase undergraduate tuition and mandatory fees. The contract price is based on current tuition costs and the age or grade of the child. Call 1-800-MET-4-KID (1-800-638-4543) or visit www.setwithmet.com.
- Michigan Education Savings Program (MESP) is a savings/investment program in which a child’s parents or others can open an account for the child beneficiary. The MESP account then can grow through regular contributions and investment growth. Call 1-877-861-MESP (1-877-861-6377) or visit www.misaves.com.

Other investment opportunities for college savings are both 529 funding plans and Coverdell Educational IRAs, and many people have options within their own work retirement plans that they aren’t utilizing as well, according to Shard.

For example, many executives have Non-Qualified Deferred Compensation plans that can put money into tax deferred above and beyond their normal 401(k)s amounts. These plans make you choose the date that you want to withdraw funds. If you’re planning to pay for your child’s education, you may be able to not pay taxes on income or even bonus payouts, let it grow, and then pull it out when your child is due to go to college — even before you’re 59 ½.

“Some of my clients have a MET and others choose not to fund through MET,” said Shard. “Many people don’t want the state of Michigan handling their money and are also confident they can earn more by paying less themselves. It’s really a personal choice that deserves a discussion between a financial planner and a client.”

One thing is for certain, however. “College savings should be thought of as a separate and distinct goal from retirement savings,” said Jim Kruzan, of Kaydan Wealth Management in Fenton. “The sooner you start saving for college funds, the better. You can borrow your way through an education, but you cannot borrow your way through retirement.”

Here are some other methods for college planning:

- Financial aid from the federal and state government, institutions themselves and private sources such as associations, employers, foundations and unions. To apply for financial aid, students must fill out a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) by Jan. 1 of their senior year and every year thereafter that they are applying for aid.
- Michigan programs include the Michigan Competitive Scholarship, Michigan Tuition Incentive Program, Police Officer’s and Fire Fighter’s Survivor Tuition Act.
- Federal financial aid programs include the Federal Pell Grant for undergraduate students who demonstrate financial need, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant for students with exceptional financial need, Federal Work-Study provides part-time employment for undergraduate students with financial need to assist with educational expenses.
- Federal Direct Stafford Loans and Federal Perkins Loans are available for students, and the Parent PLUS loan is available for parents, with loans that must be repaid with interest. Contact the U.S. Department of Education at 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243) or visit: studentaid.ed.gov. Scholarships — check local sources first through the high school guidance office and local civic groups and businesses. Start looking early, during your high school junior year, according to mich.gov.

Here are a few useful web sites:

- www.michigancap.org
- www.collegeboard.org
- www.fastweb.com

Timeline to save for college

Birth through seventh grade:

From the time your child is born, invest $50 a month in a college fund, such as a 529 fund. In 18 years, a fund that earns 6 percent a year will be worth about $20,000. Along with $20,000 in student loans and belt-tightening while your child is in college (about $5,000 per year), should be enough to pay the average four-year tab, according to a Readers’ Digest quote from certified financial planner Kevin McKinley.

Eighth through 10th grades:

If you don’t have any money saved at this point, a prepaid 529 plan, which protects against college increases, might be a good way to start. Check out college savings.org. For students interested in a private university, the independent 529 plan is good at about 300 private, mostly small liberal arts colleges.

11th and 12th grades:

Still haven’t managed to sock away tuition by now? The Federal Parent PLUS Loan program lends parents the balance of any costs minus any financial aid. You’ll pay 3 to 4 percent of the loan amount in fees and around 8.5 percent interest (it’s slightly lower if you borrow directly from the government at direct.ed.gov — ask if the college your child plans to attend participates in the program). Federal Pell Grants, which do not have to be repaid, offer a maximum of $5,350 per child, based on need. Most families that qualify earn less than $50,000 annually. If your income is higher but you have more than one child in college, you still may qualify, according to Readers’ Digest.
How the arts help stimulate the mind

By Ryan Tackabury
news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Art and music are appreciated by people of all ages — including the very young. In fact, not only can they be a great way for children of all ages to have fun — but they can also be an incredible learning and development tool for them as well.

The international program Kiindermusik is enjoyed in more than 70 different countries by children from birth, and even has those of age up to 7 and 8 involved. The purpose of the program is to encourage interaction between parents and children, while introducing them to music, singing, dancing, and sharing.

Shelly Gillett-Behrens, the director for the local Kindermusik program in Fenton, uses activities such as making music and dancing to not just teach children about art, but to also help them grow and develop. “We’re out to help the development in the whole child,” Gillett-Behrens said.

Research has shown that early exposure to music can help develop connections within the brain. “We know that music helps promote early literacy and processing spoken language,” Gillett-Behrens said. Music is associated with phonological processing, spoken language skills and comprehension skills which all help with literacy.

The benefits of music education do not stop there however. According to Education.com, ongoing music education assists children in many different areas, including academic performance. A study conducted by a Canadian research group demonstrated that those with musical instruction scored higher in memory tests, literacy, mathematics, and IQ tests.

According to the Kindermusik website, children who are engaged in music by a socially accepting environment build spatial-temporal and reasoning skills required for math, science, and engineering. “Music has been shown to help build what matters in the corpus callosum,” Gillett-Behrens said. “Literally the nerve connections in the brain, is what music can do for children.”

The benefits that are seen are not just all mental, either. Aside from just putting a crayon to paper or dancing to a happy tune, the arts also aid the development of motor skills and manual dexterity.

To round out the benefits of the arts, there is another area to look at — social skills. Those children involved in Kindermusik are reported to better regulate their responses and relate to others in more complex ways.

“We want to help them develop a good set of social skills and the ability to relate to others,” Gillett-Behrens said.

Exposing children to the arts and music at a young age also has another effect — it helps to instill in them a love of both for years to come.
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A stretch of a couple of weeks entering 2013. I'm reasonably optimistic about the Tigers, closing? Jose Valverde's one great issue — what are they aren't without they could be playing World Series against the San Francisco Giants. And the World Series was just starting when the was past time is starting to get used to be America's great landscape from late August right through the beginning of February. But with the end of football season, the other sport that used to be America's great past time is starting to get some attention. While we may still be stuck with ice, wind and snow, Major League Baseball teams are now "stuck" doing their preseason drills while training in either Florida or Arizona.

The 2012 holiday season was just starting when the Detroit Tigers were swept in the World Series against the San Francisco Giants. And while the Tigers look like they could be playing World Series ball around Halloween in 2013, they aren't without some issues. There's at least one great issue — what are the Tigers going to do for a closer? Jose Valverde's issues were well documented last year, particularly in the postseason. But with his loss, the Tigers haven't really addressed who will take over his spot in the pen. Another issue will be the middle infield positions. Going another season with Johnny Peralta and a full season with Ramon Santiago in those spots could be an adventure. However, for the most part, it's pretty easy to be optimistic about the Tigers entering 2013. I'm reasonably pumped.

Five Bronchos remain alive for state title dream

Two-time state champion Gonzales among those headed to Auburn Hills

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

And now five remain.

The Holly Bronchos had five of their seven wrestlers at the Division 2 Bay City Western regional on Saturday. The 135-pound weight class continues to be an exciting one for the Holly Bronchos. Two-time state champion Anthony Gonzales made it to the finals and lost to St. Johns' Logan Massa 7-2 in the championship match. The two have continued to battle back-and-forth in recent weeks. Massa won a district crown against Gonzales, but then Gonzales responded with a pinfall victory against Massa in a team regional match. Massa returned the favor on Saturday. However, those two are only part of the plot. Holly teammate Mason Cleaver remains in the thick of the competition, placing third in the event. He defeated Escanaba's Kaleb Rahoi by a 7-1 decision in his third-place match. Cleaver also faced Massa, but lost a tight 4-3 decision in the semifinals.

"Anthony wrestled well. I think both have a reasonable chance of beating (Massa). However, Mason and Anthony are in the same semifinal bracket, which is not good. Also there are other really good kids in their bracket."

Gonzales opened the season with two technical fall victories. He's 50-3 overall. Cleaver, who has 202 career victories, is now 50-2 this season, with his only two losses

See BRONCHOS on 16

Three Blue Devils headed to state meet

By David Troppens
droppens@tctimes.com

When you want a good coach, it doesn’t hurt when your brother can be of service. That was the case for Lake Fenton junior Jared Corcoran on Saturday. His older brother, past state champion Zach Corcoran, helped coach him at individual regionals, aiding Jared's first trip to the state wrestling championships at the meet. Jared Corcoran is one of three Lake Fenton wrestlers headed to the D3 state meet to be held at the Palace of Auburn Hills, starting on Feb. 28. The other two qualifying were Andy Donoho (171) and James DeMember (119). Cody Sanders (152), D.J. Melton (160), Chase Hull (189) and Lucas Allen (215) competed at the regional, but were unable to advance. Corcoran was the only Blue Devil to make it to the finals. He won his first match by technical fall and then won his second by

See BLUE DEVILS on 17

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Champagne

Champagne is a one year old, friendly, lovely little shelter dog. She loves people.
AGS swimmers take top spot in Genesee County meet

Quality depth enables Tigers to edge Grand Blanc for event’s top spot

By David Troppens dtroppens@tctimes.com 810-433-6799

Fenton — It’s been a crazy season for the AGS middle school swim team.

Meets have been postponed and flat out cancelled due to the weather.

But it hasn’t kept the team from having success.

In fact, they still finished the season as champions. The Tigers won the Genesee County Middle School Swim Meet hosted at Fenton High School on Thursday, edging out Grand Blanc by 15 points. AGS collected 479 points, while Grand Blanc finished with 464 points. None of the other six schools came close to the top two teams. Holly Middle School finished eighth with 52 points.

“It was so exciting,” co-AGS coach Stephanie Olsen said. “They worked so hard all year. There were meets we had to keep rescheduling and two meets we were not able to complete, but we pulled through and had a great season. We had a really deep team. We didn’t have a lot of first-place medals, but we had a lot of depth.”

Out of the 11 events, the Tigers captured the top spot in three of the events. Kyle Banner and Donovan Vickers took the top spot in three of the events. Holly Middle School finished eighth with 52 points.

“We didn’t get first in a lot of the events, but we knew that would probably be the case. But the kids were satisfied because they swam their best. We had so many time drops. Not just with the kids getting the top five or four places, but with all the kids all the way down the line. We don’t just look at the points, but we look at the time drops. When you look at the time drops, you see the individual satisfaction from each kid.”

The team was made up of 42 boys and girls this season.

“The team was a little bit smaller, but it was nice because instead of working with 60-some kids, we were able to give more individual and more time to each student individually,” Olsen said. “It made a big difference.”

Holly Middle School’s top individual performances were turned in by Chloe Konopitski in the 100 freestyle (1:20.38) and Aline Karwoski in the 50 butterfly (26.37).
Six other tri-county grapplers headed to individual state meet

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

There will be three more regional champions from the tri-county area on squads not from the tri-county schools competing at the individual wrestling state meet.

Detroit Catholic Central’s Ken Bade (135) and Drew Garcia (171) made easy work of their foes en route to D1 regional titles on Saturday. Bade won two matches by pinfall and another by decision en route to his title. He defeated Wyandotte Roosevelt’s Quentin Santiago by pinfall in 3:28 in his championship match. Bade will be entering the state meet with a 34-6 record.

Garcia wasn’t only perfect on the day, he remained perfect in his quest for a third straight individual state championship. He won his first match by pinfall in just 35 seconds, and won in the semifinals 7-0. In the title match he beat Brownstown Township Woodhaven’s Derek Hillman by pinfall at 4:28 for his championship.

There is one more Fenton wrestler who won a regional title at Hartland. And he beat another tri-county grappler to get it. Austin Eicher (130) won the title by default in his championship match. Eicher won both of his first two matches by pinfall, improving his record to 45-0. Meanwhile, Gorial won his first two matches by pinfall and decision. He is 50-3 overall.

Fenton, Linden at Eaton Rapids

Linden’s Zach Shaw is the only Eagle headed to the state meet this year. The 119-pounder placed third in his final match, by winning it by default.

Shaw won two matches by pinfall, including the match which earned him the state spot. The junior enters the tourney with a 37-10 record.

“We were very excited to see Zach advance,” Linden coach Todd Skinner said. “This is something he’s worked toward all year long. Zach is very dedicated when it comes to this sport, and no one deserves it more than him.”

Fenton’s Norm Golden competed at 103 pounds, but lost both of his matches.

BLUE DEVILS

Continued from Page 15

a 13-1 major decision. That put him in the championship match against Saginaw Swan Valley’s Anthony Schiavone. Schiavone won the match by pinfall in 3:30, but Corcoran still finished in second place.

“Jared wrestled great,” Lake Fenton coach Vance Corcoran said. “He stuck to his game plan of non-stop attacking and it worked out very well for him. His brother coached him on the day, which gave Jared a lot of confidence going into his big matches. Plus, the kid gives me a heart attack every time he wrestles, so it’s better for me when Zach is there also.”

Donoho placed third by going 3-1 on the day. Donoho won his first match by pinfall but then lost by major decision in his second-round match. He had to beat Caro’s Tyler Deming by a 7-5 decision to qualify for the state meet. He then beat Perry’s Alex Proudfoot by a 3-1 decision to earn third place.

Donoho is one of three Blue Devils headed to the D3 individual state wrestling meet.
FUN SIZE
Fun Size is a teen comedy centered on a sarcastic high school senior, Wren (Victoria Justice), who is eager to distance herself from her dysfunctional family by going off to college. Before that can happen, Wren’s mother, Joy, insists that she watch her little brother Albert on Halloween night, so Joy can go to a rager with her much younger boyfriend. When Wren gets distracted by an invitation to the party of the year, Albert disappears into a sea of trick-or-treaters. Frantic to locate him before their mother discovers he’s missing, Wren enlists the help of her sassy best friend April, as well as Peng, an aspiring ladies man and co-captain of the debate team, and Peng’s best friend, Roosevelt, a sweet nerd whose crush on Wren clouds his better judgment. This unlikely foursome embarks on a high-stakes, all-night adventure to find Albert, crossing paths with outrageous characters every step of the way. PG-13, 1 hr. 26 min.

ANNA KARENINA
The third collaboration of Academy Award nominee Keira Knightley with acclaimed director Joe Wright, following the award-winning box office successes Pride & Prejudice and Atonement, is a bold, theatrical new vision of the epic story of love, adapted from Leo Tolstoy’s timeless novel by Academy Award winner Tom Stoppard. The story powerfully explores the capacity for love that surges through the human heart. As Anna (Ms. Knightley) questions her happiness and marriage, change comes to all around her. R, 2 hr. 10 min.

Released this week
DVDs & Movies

KEVIN "Dundie" WILLIAMS

KING FEATURES

Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS
1 Eastern European
5 Use a crowbar
8 Resistance measures
12 Chantilly, e.g.
13 Individual
14 Reach 212 degrees, perhaps
15 Microwave, for one
16 Willingness to wait
18 No-goodnik
20 Bit of progress
21 Makes a mistake
23 Neither partner
24 New England football team
28 Astronaut
31 “This tastes awful!”
32 Wall painting
34 Ram’s mate
35 Standard
t New Jersey city
39 Corn spike
41 Purple shade
42 Sculpture
45 Pale brown monkey
49 Spoke rapid-fire
51 Conflagration
52 Out of the storm
53 — carte
54 Rim
55 Fix
56 Firmament
57 Smell bad
58 — Ireland
59 Coaster
60 — Hostel
61 Break
22 Knapsack part
24 Play on words
25 Past
26 Menace
27 “— Night Live”
28 Jima
29 Jima
30 Preceder
31 Author
32 Deighton
33 Waless of
34 Poland
35 In a thick tangle, as hair
36 Close-fitting jacket
37 Regret
38 Unwanted email
39 Story
40 Historic periods
41 Faction
42 Incite
43 Look for
44 Wapiti
Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA) (Part time midnight shift only) Must have certification from the State of Michigan as a nurse aide and worked with the elderly in long term care environment.

Apply in person at 202 S. Bridge Street, Linden, MI 48451 - OR - send resume to hrcaretellinden@gmail.com

UNIT MANAGER: Caretel Inns of Linden is currently seeking an RN Unit Manager. The primary purpose of the Unit Manager is to direct nursing care to the residents and to supervise the day-to-day nursing activities performed by staff nurses and nursing assistants. Such supervision must be in accordance with current federal, state and local standards, guidelines, and regulations that govern our facility.

- Must possess current, active license to practice as an RN in N Michigan
- Graduate of an accredited school of nursing
- Bachelor’s degree in Nursing is desired, but not necessary
- 1-3 years of management experience with LTC / SNF and enjoy working with the elderly.

Apply in person at 202 S. Bridge Street, Linden, MI 48451 - OR - send resume to hr caretellinden@gmail.com
VILLAGE OF HOLLY
ORDINANCE RESSION NUMBER 414

Ordinance No. 414 was rescinded at the regular meeting of the Village Council of the Village of Holly on February 12, 2013. The ordinance rescinds Title 8 of the Village Code of Ordinances, Chapter 14, “Business Licenses”.

ORDINANCE ADOPTION NUMBER 426

Ordinance No. 426 was adopted at the regular meeting of the Village Council of the Village of Holly on February 12, 2013. The ordinance adopts Chapter 8, Section 14, regulating Business Registrations, and to proscribe penalties for violations thereof. The full text of the ordinance amendment is available for inspection at the Village of Holly, 202 S. Saginaw Street, Holly, MI during regular business hours.

NOTICE of 2013 HOLLY TOWNSHIP BOARD of REVIEW

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Holly Township Board of Review will meet at the Holly Township Hall, 102 Civic Drive, Holly, Michigan as follows:

Tuesday, March 5, 2013 at 1:00 PM - Organizational Meeting to receive 2013 Assessment Roll from Assessor [MCL 211.29(1)] No Public Appointments Appointments will be taken for:

Tuesday, March 5, 2013 from 2:30 PM-4:30 PM and 6:00 PM-9:00 PM
Monday, March 11, 2013 from 9:00 AM-12:00 PM and 1:30 PM-4:30 PM
Tuesday, March 12, 2013 from 6:00 PM-9:00 PM
Thursday, March 14, 2013 from 1:00 PM-4:30 PM and 6:00 PM-9:00 PM

Appointments before the Board of Review may be made for the dates listed above by calling toll free, 1-888-350-0900 Extension 85583 or 248-858-5583.

VILLAGE OF HOLLY
CDBG RE-PROGRAMMING PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that in accordance with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) requirements a Public Hearing will be held by the Village of Holly on Tuesday, March 12, 2013 at 6:30 pm at the Village of Holly Police Department, 315 S. Broad Street, Holly, MI to receive written and verbal comment regarding the reprogramming of federal CDBG funds as follows:

EXISTING – 2012 Program Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account Number</th>
<th>Activity Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>72170-73073</td>
<td>Fire Equipment</td>
<td>$15,043.00</td>
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PROPOSED – 2012 Program Year

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<th>Activity Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>72170-730345</td>
<td>Demolition</td>
<td>$15,043.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Catherine A. Behrens
Clerk/Treasurer

I NEED your scrap metal, washers, dryers, water heaters, furnaces, aluminum, copper piping, etc. Please call 810-739-5910.

TURN YOUR SCRAP STEEL into cash. Scrap and vehicles accepted! Certified scales. Will pay $5 over scale price with this ad. WE NOW OFFER MISCELLANEOUS SCRAP PICK UP SERVICE. We also carry a full range of new and used automotive parts. Bridge Lake Auto and Truck Parts Inc., 9406 Dixie Hwy., Clarkston, MI. 248-625-5050. Monday-Friday, 9:30-5:30pm., Saturday, 9-2pm. www.bridgelakeautoparts.com. See us on facebook.
FORECLOSURE NOTICE This is a notice of default on a debt. Any information obtained will be used for debt collection purposes. If you are in the Military, please contact our office at 844-5123.

FORECLOSURE NOTICE This is a notice of the filing of a complaint to foreclose a residential real estate mortgage. Any information obtained will be used for debt collection purposes. If you are in the Military, please contact our office at 844-5123.

FORECLOSURE NOTICE This is a notice of default on a debt. Any information obtained will be used for debt collection purposes. If you are in the Military, please contact our office at 844-5123.

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William Lee Goss 1934-2013

William Lee Goss, 78, of Fenton, died February 16, 2013. Funeral services will be held 11 AM Wednesday, February 21, 2013 at Sharp Funeral Home, Fenton Chapel, 1000 Silver Lake Rd., Fenton. Visitation will be held 4-8:30 PM Wednesday. Those desiring may make contributions to American Cancer Society, 7251 Schoolcraft, Westland, MI 48185.

Sharon G. “Woody” Loomis 1946-2013

Sharon G. “Woody” Loomis, age 66, of DeForest Twp., died February 15, 2013. Sharon is the beloved wife of 19 years to David; son, Vern; William and wife, Marita; step-son, Charles; step-daughter, Mary; sisters, Betty and husband, Bill, Judy and husband, Dan; nieces and nephews; dear sister of David (Debbie) Wood; and loving grandmother of Keith, Jessica, Arica, Alyssa, Julianne and Matthew. Visitation and funeral services will be held Monday, February 18, 2013 at the Heeney-Sundquist Funeral Home, downtown Farmington (248-474-5200). Interment followed at Parkview Memorial Cemetery, Livonia. Memorial gifts suggested to American Heart Assn., or American Diabetes Assn. heeney-sundquist.com.

Vernon Roy Guntharp 1955-2013

Vernon Roy Guntharp, age 57, of Holly, died Thursday, February 14, 2013. Mr. Guntharp was a veteran of the Vietnam War, serving in the US Army. He was a member of the Holly Moose Lodge. Surviving are his children, Darlene, Owen, and Sara; 7 grandchildren, and one great grandchild. Vernon is survived by his mother, Roxie Jane Guntharp; sisters, Marsie and husband, Bert, Kay and husband, Jim, Mary and husband, Tim, and Rhonda and husband, Mike; and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; his sister, Donna Guntharp; and his niece, Nancy Guntharp. Vernon will be remembered as a hardworking man who was always there for family and friends.

FORECLOSURE NOTICE This firm is a debt collection agency employed to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for the purpose above. If you are in the Military, please contact our office at a number listed below. MORTGAGEーSALE is pending in the State of Michigan. The mortgage holder for damaging the mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public vendue, Circuit Court of Livingston County at 10:00 am on the 14th day of February, 2013 in the 7th Judicial District, at the County Building, of the County of Livingston, State of Michigan, at the first floor of said building.

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PROS AND CONS of open floor plans

Open floor plans have evolved to be the floor plan of choice in new homes and current home renovations. Turn on a home renovation show, and you’re likely to see eager homeowners knocking down walls to open the kitchen to the family room. Walls have become anathema to homeowners.

There are many supporters of the open floor plan, particularly those who entertain frequently or like to keep an eye on children through the house. Although open floor plans are touted, there are plenty of people who have never been enamored with having all of their rooms flowing into one. There also are some people who prefer a different style.

For those who are not fans of the open floor plan, blame the excess of the 1980s for their inception. In homes built in the 1960s and 1970s, rooms were compartmentalized and isolated for specific activities. During the 1980s, an era of “bigger is better,” when entertaining was widely popular among homeowners, designers noticed that many homeowners preferred an open floor plan in which rooms merged into one another, creating the illusion of more space. These floor plans also enable people to be in separate rooms and still interact with one another across the space.

A home’s floor plan largely depends on the preference of the homeowner. There are many advantages to having an open floor plan versus one that is more compartmentalized. Here is a look at some of the pros and cons.

**Pro:** Open floor plans can be safer for parents of young children. If the home opens up with the living spaces branching off from the kitchen, parents can keep an eye on children while the parents prepare dinner. It also eliminates the number of places that kids can hide and get into mischief.

**Con:** Privacy is reduced in a home with few walls. Much in the way that an open floor plan enables children to be seen from every angle, it also enables you to be seen — and all of your belongings as well. There’s also no place to retreat to if you need a minute to collect yourself when entertaining. You’re on display unless you retreat to the bathroom.

**Pro:** Entertaining can be easier in a home with an open floor plan because hosts and hostesses are not separated from their guests or holed up in the kitchen. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also eliminates parents preparing dinner. It also elimina
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