Masked gunman tries to rob Fenton convenience store

Would-be robber threatens clerk with pistol in early morning robbery

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

The Fenton Police Department is investigating an attempted armed robbery, which occurred at the One Stop Food Store at the corner of North Leroy Street and South Long Lake Road at 4:32 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 14.

The 23-year-old male clerk told police that a black male, between 5-feet, 8-inches and 5-feet, 10-inches, and between 180 and 200 pounds entered the convenience store at the gas station. The suspect was wearing a green parka with the hood up. He was also wearing a ski mask, black pants and black shoes.

The clerk said the suspect showed a black semi-automatic pistol and demanded money. The gunman then proceeded to jump over the counter, demanding cash and threatening the clerk. The store clerk, however, was unable to open the cash drawer.

As the gunman was threatening the clerk, a motorist pulled up to one of the gas pumps and the driver started to walk toward the building. Seeing the suspect, the motorist pulled off the pump, got in his vehicle and drove away.

The Fenton Police Department is still actively seeking the suspect. Anyone with information on this case is asked to call the Fenton Police Department at 810-750-1212.

U of M study: noise damages more than just hearing

Depression, heart disease, hearing loss due to everyday noise

Tim Jagielo
Tjagielo@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795

Now hear this: decibel levels above 80 for an extended period of time can cause hearing damage. As an example, vacuums produce about 75 decibels of noise. One begins to experience discomfort at more than 105 decibels — about the level that music in loud headphones produces.

“Noise is all around us every day, you just have to pay attention to what you’re exposing yourself to,” said Jason Gilmore, hearing instrument specialist for Miracle Ear in Fenton.

A new study from The University of Michigan explores damage to one’s health that goes beyond just hearing loss — increased chance of diabetes,

White-washed in Linden

Emily Miller, 12, and Devin Nowak, 8, come to a crashing halt at the edge of the pond at Linden County Park on Saturday. The first real snow of the year brought out first-time sledders.

Fenton Township renews sheriff contract

Three-year contract will cost the township nearly $672,000

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

Fenton Twp. — The board of trustees voted to renew a three-year contract with the Genesee County Sheriff’s Department for services. The contract will begin Jan. 1, 2014 and expire Dec. 31, 2016. The sheriff’s department will continue to have an office at the Fenton Township hall, located at 12060 S. South Street.

Loose Center completes construction

Activity room, offices and lounge area added to senior citizen center

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

Renovations at the Loose Senior Citizen Center have recently been completed. The expansions come two years after a section of the center — known as “building B” — burned down.

The new additions, which include more office space and an open room that can be divided into smaller rooms,
**You can be hearing in time for the holidays!**

**Decorate your life with the sounds of better hearing**

And……

**Decorate your tree with a special Christmas ornament from Miracle-Ear!**

If you are at least 60 years old, or have a hearing loss, just call for an appointment, get a free hearing test and video ear canal inspection and you’ll receive a FREE Christmas Tree Ornament compliments of your Fenton Miracle Ear office.

**Christmas Shopping? Use Your Imagination**

Your hearing loss can affect your family and friends even more than it affects you. So giving yourself the gift of better hearing can be the best Christmas gift of all for your loved ones.

Imagine a holiday season communicating with your grandkids once again. Imagine joining the family activities that bring so much cheer into your life.

So give yourself the gift of hearing and your friends and family the gift of you… participating fully in their lives. That’s using your imagination!

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**Call us today to schedule an appointment at our Fenton location.**

**MIRACLE-EAR Hearing Center** 18010 Silver Parkway

**FENTON** 810-750-2626

---

**IT’S NOT ME, IT’S YOU!**

**Q.**

Dear Jason: My friends and family are so sure I need hearing aids. But I notice that they all mumble and often talk to me with their back turned. Please straighten them out and explain that it’s probably their speaking problem and not my hearing problem.

-Surrounded By Mumbler in Fenton

**A.**

Dear Surrounded: Unfortunately, it is more likely that you have a hearing loss than all of the people that you know have a speaking problem. But don’t worry; it’s natural to feel that way. In most cases a hearing loss comes on gradually with age. Since it’s a slow process it’s hard to notice the change. It’s like watching the grass grow: you can’t actually see it growing but you know it grows because you have to mow it regularly…. you have to do something about it.

Our loved ones, who have to communicate with us daily, usually are the first to notice. Do you have to ask them to repeat themselves? Do people complain that you have the TV volume up too high? Do your grandkids seem to talk too fast these days? These complaints are indications of a hearing loss.

You don’t really believe everyone in your life started mumbling all of a sudden, do you? But that’s a common reaction. We don’t want to admit that our bodies are not working as well as we would like….as well as they used to when we were younger.

Now, a hearing loss does not only affect us. The people we spend our time with also suffer. I know folks who were watching TV at night in two separate rooms! The same show! He wanted the volume louder than she could stand. Their relationship was suffering until he finally accepted the fact that he had a hearing loss and did something about it.

Eighty-five million Americans have a hearing loss and 96 percent of them can be helped with hearing aids. So, you’re not alone, Surrounded. In fact, you’re in good company. Presidents Reagan and Clinton had hearing losses that required amplification assistance.

So tell your family and friends that you are willing to investigate this problem and call my office for a free Hearing Evaluation and Video Ear Canal inspection. In fact, bring one of those “mumbler” with you! We’ll test their speaking ability too!

Jason Gilmore is a Miracle Ear Hearing Instrument Specialist in Fenton, MI. You can reach Jason at 810-750-2626.
State law: Don’t plow or shovel snow onto any road in Michigan

The Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) reminds residents and business owners that it is illegal under Michigan law to plow or shovel snow onto any road or highway, or to deposit snow on a road or road shoulder in such a way that it blocks motorists’ views of traffic. “Unfortunately, we have had problems in some areas lately, when business owners and residents have plowed their driveways or parking lots by pushing the snow out into the road,” said RCOC Highway Maintenance Director Darryl Heid. “This creates a safety problem for motorists and creates additional work for the Road Commission, which, in some cases, has to re-plow the road. Pushing snow from a driveway or parking lot onto a road or depositing snow in a way that blocks a drivers’ ‘safety vision’ is specifically prohibited in section 257.677(a) of the Michigan Vehicle Code. Doing so is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to $100 and/or a jail sentence of up to 90 days.

TRI-COUNTY TIMES

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SILVER LAKE SAND DUNES

Michigan ‘on the map’ for travel in 2014

$Travel experts
Fodor’s and Lonely Planet find lots to love about our state

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

The rest of the U.S. is finally discovering what we Michiganders have known all along—that Michigan is a travel destination all its own with enough natural beauty to rival more “glamorous” states like Hawaii and southern California, plus interesting attractions for family fun.

Just ask the travel experts at Lonely Planet or Fodor’s. Both of these travel guidebook publishers have put Michigan “on the map” for travel in 2014.

You may be surprised at the travel destination that Fodor’s has called Michigan’s new “hot spot.” But you might also swell with just a bit of hometown pride when these travel experts of note say that Detroit is No. 1 on its “Go List” for 2014, especially with all the negative publicity usually surrounding Michigan’s largest city.

They call Detroit “an under-the-radar city getaway that’s cooler (and cooler) than you realize. The hip new cultural and design-savvy Detroit is emerging from…’

See MICHIGAN on 7
Why the right should support boosting minimum wage, too

I’ve heard a lot of goofy arguments against raising the federal minimum wage. The silliest goes like this: ‘You want to raise the minimum wage to $12? Why not $50? Why not $100?’

Of course, that’s not a real argument. Yet I hear it a lot, which means it probably originates somewhere in the nation’s conservative talk show hosts. The error this pseudo-argument deserves one, is that $15 is at least where the current minimum hourly wage of $7.25 would be if it had kept up with worker productivity since the 1960s, according to various experts.

Yet at the other end of the political spectrum you have conservatives like Rep. Joe Barton, a Texas Republican, who told National Journal that he would rather just get rid of the federal minimum wage altogether. ‘I think it’s outdated its usefulness,’ he said, although he acknowledged that, ‘It may have a role of some value back in the Great Depression.’

But whether Barton’s fellow Republicans share his extreme view or not, a minimum wage increase isn’t likely to have any easier time in the current Congress than most of this president’s other requests. Yet not all conservatives are opposed to raising the minimum wage. While Washington sounds gridlocked, the issue has divided Republicans in various states and municipalities.

In California, fast-food workers and others who have been rallying nationwide for a minimum wage increase, have been joined by liberal unions like Unz. The former publisher of The American Conservative magazine has submitted a ballot initiative to the California secretary of state that would raise the state minimum wage to $12 an hour in 2016 from the current $8. His reasons: Strictly conservative, he points out. He sees it as an economic growth measure. And it would be funded entirely by the private sector, he points out.

But there’s no question that raising wages would make work in this country even more attractive, particularly to Americans who already toil in the bottom rungs of the income ladder. They deserve a raise.

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KUDDOS TO ANDY Perkins and his amazing high school bands. If you were not in attendance either Tuesday or Thursday evening, you missed two great concerts.

WHERE DID THIS notion that liberals were so kind and such humanitarians come from? It is a joke to listen to those people on MSNBC talk about disparity of rich and poor when they all get paid millions to preach their hate and resentment of Republicans. Wise up!

APPELLANTLY, A LOCAL company doesn’t feel that it should ask me (the property owner) if they could use my driveway to get to the house next door. A little common courtesy would be nice before you backed your rig over my already crumbling driveway.

THE SAME REPUBLICANS that complain about the GM bailout complain that the economy has not created enough manufacturing jobs. Increase the minimum wage so that people can afford their own way then WIC, SNAP numbers will go down and the economy will be in better balance and start growing strong.

I AM THANKFUL for a total stranger in the VG’s parking lot who said ‘sure’ (no questions asked) when he was asked if he would do a favor for a super frazzled lady. I love Barton.

I WAS WRONG about all those Republicans. They really do care about the deficit, holding out five years for a hard fought tough budget putting America back on track. The new budget will reduce the deficit by $23 billion over 10 years or roughly 46 percent of Hurrah! Savings spending.

I’VE GOT A better idea. How about an issue of the Times that doesn’t have any political Hot lines, Republican or Democrat.

YES, THE BANKS were loaned, just like GM, but the banks paid back the loans in full with interest. Cannot say the same for GM. The only ones who came on top there were — you guessed it, the corrupt unions. The stockholders lost everything, along with retirees.

I WANT TO send a huge ‘thank you,’ to all the guys at Kanrock Tire. I pulled in late on Saturday with a flat tire and they happily and graciously fixed it. They’ve always been there when they were needed and they’re always smiling! The best tire place around!

MANY THANKS and best wishes to the honest person who turned my purse into VG’s on Silver Parkway.

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FROM THE LEFT

Clarence Page
Nationally syndicated columnist

FROM THE RIGHT

Toni Thomas
Nationally syndicated columnist

Income equality
In a December 4 speech, President Obama declared income ‘inequality’ to be ‘the defining challenge of our time.’ It is time for me to come clean; to own up to a dark secret I have been hiding most of my life. It is embarrassing to admit it, but I suffer from income inequality.

Yes, there are hundreds of thousands, perhaps millions of people who make more money than I do and it has affected my life in ways too numerous to recount.

Starting with my first summer job as a bellhop and kitchen worker at a hotel in Maine when I was 14, I kept records of the amount of money I earned. The hotel owner paid me a salary of $20 a week, but included a small room in the basement and all the food I could eat. In the early ‘60s, as a copyboy at NBC News in Washington, my take-home pay was less than $100 a week. Everyone else, including, I suspect, the janitor, made more than I did.

When I finally got on the air as a broadcast journalist, my NBC check stubs were far less than the withholdings on David Brinkley’s paycheck. I still bear the scars from this income ‘inequality.’

When I was 37, I made $25,000 a year and took public transportation to and from work. Many others, including most of the people I interviewed, made far more money than I did.

President Obama and some leaders in the Democratic Party appear to want us to accept a false premise: that if I earn more money than you, ‘I owe you some of my money to make things ‘fair.’ Envy, greed and entitlement are not the things that built America, or sustained her through numerous wars and a Great Depression.

The concern should not be how much others make, but how much you can make if you apply yourself and adopt the values embraced by successful people.

Those who make what I once earned and think they can now earn more are being told a lie. Realizing this is the first step to improving one’s income and one’s life.

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WHERE IN MICHIGAN DO YOU WANT TO VISIT?

“I’ve been a lot of places, but I would love to say Mackinac Island; it’s beautiful.”

— Valerie Martuch, Fenton

“Ironwood, in the UP. My brother goes hunting up there.”

— Rebecca Lash, Flint

“The UP or Traverse. My brother goes hunting while I like to shop in Traverse.”

— Sally Granger, Gaines

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COMPILATION OF TCT TIMES MIDWEEK

OF THE LEFT

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Michigan school violence tip line coming soon

Tim Jagielo

A new tip line for reporting violence or threats of violence at schools will soon go statewide.

On Friday, Dec. 13, Gov. Rick Snyder signed into law the “Michigan Student Safety Act,” which was sponsored by State Sen. Judy2, Michigan’s 33rd district.

The act allows for the creation of the OK-2-SAY tip line, which will accept voice, text and photographic information anonymously.

The tip line will be for potential or actual threats of harm against oneself, students, teachers or school property. The information will be used by the Michigan Department of the Attorney General (DAG) and operate under the control of the DAG.

A contractor hired by the state will manage the tip line, which will operate 24 hours a day, every day, and protect the identity of the callers. An email from the State of Michigan said that the system will be comparable to the one used in Colorado following the Columbine shooting in 1999.

The system will be toll-free and accept voice, text and photos. Any names submitted to the system and to the DAG would be investigated based on probable threat. If no threat is found, associated names will be expunged from the system.

Before the system can be built and installed, however, the Department of Technology, Management and Budget (DTMB) would have to issue a request for proposal (RFP) to attract bids for the project. Any existing state-run tip lines will be dismantled, making way for this system.

“With school violence being a threat all around us, it is good for everyone,” said Lake Fenton Community Schools Superintendent Wayne Wright. “I hope there is never any need to use it.”

It’s unclear when the state-run system will be in place, but until then, the local districts have their own systems.

In 2012, Fenton Area Public Schools (FAPS) established an anonymous Safety Hotline that students could call or text to report any safety concerns at the high school. The Safety Hotline number is posted in every classroom at the high school, said Superintendent Timothy Jalkanen.

“Also, last year all schools and the district website main pages have a link to report bullying. Again, this can be done anonymously if desired,” said Jalkanen via email.

Attention existing patients!

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See TIP LINE on 7

LOOSE CENTER

Continued from Front Page

amount to 4,100 square feet, slightly more than the 3,000 square feet lost in the 2011 fire. The center, located at 707 Bridge Street, serves as a social and activity center for some estimated 4,000 members.

Executive Director Carl Gabrielson said the extra space allows officials to bring programs that had been held at other local areas back to Loose (pronounced Low-see). So far, Gabrielson said members have embraced the changes.

“Everything farmed out after the fire is back under one roof,” Gabrielson said. “We hope the communities around us will thoroughly enjoy the building and the activities here.”

An expansive activity room, extra offices and a lounging area for members were part of the updates.

The center is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, as well as some late night hours for scheduled events. Board members Vince Eible said officials at the center will be reviewing their programs soon, possibly adding more activities due to the extra space. A full open house for the center is scheduled for Jan. 31, 2014 from 3 to 7 p.m.

“It’s wonderful, we got it done in time,” Eible said. “I’ve talked to many members and they’re excited it’s open.”

Plans to upgrade the center were revealed in March, which included fire suppression and energy efficient features. Builders said in a March 8 Times article.
How to keep your body from making embarrassing noises at holiday gatherings

By William Axford

The holidays are times of family gathering, including seeing some members you may have not seen for years. Cut down on embarrassment with these tips for silencing bodily noises.

Burping is a result of too much air in the body. Two ways to cut down on burping is to swallow less air and avoid carbonated beverages like beer and pop. If the burping persists, med—health.net recommends eating yogurt since it helps to digest food more thoroughly. Peppermint also helps since it removes excess air from your system.

In an article by Bottom Line Personal, MD Richard O’Brien said burps that cause pain might be a sign of gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), where stomach acids may pass through the esophagus. Those who have GERD should use over-the-counter medication as a suppressant.

It’s one thing if air is coming out of your nose, but it can be a whole different embarrassment if it comes out other places. To help cut down on flatulence, avoid foods like beans, onions, broccoli and asparagus. For some, foods that include dairy products and gluten can cause stomach pain. In general, eating foods slower and chewing more can also help. Like burping, limiting the amount of air you intake can also help avoid this embarrassment.

Stomach growls are not always a case of hunger. The intestines may make noise as they contract and move food. To help silence your stomach, Sarah Stanners with The Telegraph suggests drinking herbal tea or eating ginger to help improve digestion. O’Brien points out that water, bananas, trail mix and granola bars can also reduce stomach growls.

The colder weather may affect your breathing, causing nose whistles. O’Brien attributes nose whistles to congestion, where some parts of the nose may swell or the passageway for air is constricted. To keep your nose from becoming a musical instrument, use nasal spray to help moisturize your nose. O’Brien warns that nasal de-congestion sprays that have oxymetazoline should only be used for up to two days. Any longer and nasal congestion may return.

Continued from Front Page

Mantatouka Drive

The total costs of the contract shall not exceed $671,928 and the total fee will include all salaries and wages, sick leave, vacations, retirement contributions, unemployment insurance and other costs.

Township Supervisor Bonnie Mathis said this contract is approximately $10,000 less than the previous contract. The township council agreed to have five full-time deputies and 60 percent of the time for a detective sergeant, which will be shared with Atlas Township.

Any overtime hours will be funded by the township separately. Funding for overtime hours was a point of discussion at Monday’s meeting as Township Treasurer John Tucker mentioned the township budget would need to be altered in the past in order to cover costs. Deputy Clerk Tom Broecker suggested the township set aside $20,000 in the budget in case of overtime fees.

“This is still a better alternative than trying to have our own force,” Broecker said.

Mathis said the township often authorizes overtime during the holidays like the Fourth of July and Memorial Day, when people are out on open waters with boats. Mathis added that the township would be frozen for three years. The 2013 township budget lists $27,000 extra in fees to the sheriff’s department.

GUNMAN

Continued from Front Page

customer, the suspect jumped back over the counter and ran out of the store, running north on Water Street.

The suspect was seen running westbound on South Long Lake Road.

Police followed the suspect’s tracks to a nearby driveway where the suspect apparently entered a waiting vehicle to flee the scene.

Police processed the scene for evidence and the surveillance video was consistent with the accounts given by the clerk and customer. Detectives are following up on this attempted armed robbery. The suspect fled before stealing any cash.

Lt. Jason Blater said they were advised by a couple other police agencies that other armed robberies occurred after the one in Fenton and police believe the suspect might be the same individual. This case remains under investigation.

CONTRACT

Continued from Front Page

Genesee County Bar Association Holiday Dinner 2013

Today, I hope to show everyone that no matter what your feelings about lawyers happens to be, there are times when all can agree that what lawyer’s are doing is very good for the community. Toward that end I refer all to tonight’s 23rd annual Genesee County Bar Association Holiday Dinner at the Flint Masonic Temple and start with a brief history.

In 1992, Genesee County Circuit Judge Duncan Beagle suggested to two Genesee County Bar Association (GBCA) attorneys, Brian Barkey and Tom Pabst, that the GBCA might want to consider sponsoring a Christmas holiday dinner so that people who were a little down on their luck (especially the children), could be ensured of a hot dinner with a meal, at least.

One thing led to another and in December 1992, the first GBCA Holiday Dinner was born when approximately 250 people were fed at the Flint Masonic Temple. Then and every year since then, all that goes with it has been entirely funded by Genesee County lawyers and the legal community. The Masonic Temple remains the location with the Batiste family (which operates the dining room) being our annual host with Attorney Barkey the perennial chairman.

It is an all volunteer program with legal community members providing the labor while GBCA members provide the food. This year, approximately 1,208 people attended, with 585 presents were given to children by Santa, and more than 150 GBCA volunteers helped in every way imaginable. The children also have their picture taken with Santa. There have always been both sufficient contributed monies and volunteers to make the event a success.

I’m running out of space to say more but before I run out, a story I could say. I will simply leave you with this — I’m proud to be a lawyer and a part of this event and it is indeed a very good thing!
Although fun, fireworks like this display at Fenton’s 2013 Jinglefest generate 150 decibels or more. Anything above 80 decibels for prolonged periods can damage hearing, which can lead to other negative side effects.

**NOISE Continued from Front Page**

cardiovascular disease, sleep disturbance, annoyance, noise-induced hearing loss (NIHL) and endocrine effects.

The study by Monica Hammer, Tracy Swinburn and Richard Neitzel points out that noise is the most common environmental exposure and that 104 million in the U.S. are in danger of experiencing more than 70 decibels of noise each day. The authors of the study chose to focus more on sleep disturbance, hearing loss and heart disease.

Hearing loss is of deep concern, especially to someone like Gilmore, whose business is people’s hearing—but a noise-disrupted sleep can actually put strain on the heart.

During normal, undisturbed sleep, the heart rate slows and the body experiences deep sleep. Even if someone is used to noise and can “sleep through anything,” their body still responds to noise.

The nervous system engages, taking the body out of deep sleep, which raises the heart rate and blood pressure, putting more strain on the heart.

Also, “disordered” sleep like this can cause an increase of the stress hormone, and make those experiencing it more prone to depression. “The effects of noise on conscious subjects are insidious, and result at least in part from increased psychosocial stress and annoyance,” per the report.

“Children in noisy environments have poor school performance, which leads to stress and misbehavior.”

Around 80 decibels (dBa) is where noise-induced hearing loss (NIHL) occurs. Gilmore said 80 dBa is as loud as a garbage disposal or a lawn mower, and eight hours straight of exposure can damage hearing permanently.

“The louder the noise is, the quicker the affect,” he said. “Just because you don’t experience discomfort doesn’t mean you’re not being affected.” Most people experience discomfort at 100 or so dBa.

According to the study, those with NIHL can also experience fatigue, headaches, nervousness, depression and anger, because of the extra effort it takes to process sound.

This applies to children with NIHL, who may also experience reduced academic achievement and difficulty with social development.

Occasional noise and rail, air and road transport contribute most of the harmful noise—but so can loud music in the car or with headphones, said Gilmore.

Gilmore urges people to use earplugs when exposed to loud noise. If they don’t find regular earplugs comfortable, they can get custom ones made.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommends a cap of 24 hours of noise up to 55 dBa — the equivalent of a regular conversation.

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**TIP LINE Continued from Page 5**

When asked about OK-2-Say Jalkenan said, “I am in favor of a system that would increase the safety of all students.”

At Holly High School, students can text an anonymous tip line, in a system that began this fall. It’s for drugs, threats of suicide or issues that require immediate intervention.

Linden Community Schools (LCS) has Eagle Hotlines at the high school and middle school, which also accepts texts. It isn’t just for violence and bullying. Superintendent Ed Koledo said most messages are responded to within a reasonable amount of time.

“We believe input to the hotline is valuable, encouraged, confidential, and acted on with urgency,” he said.

Wright said students can always contact any office at the school or employee in regards to a threat of violence, and they would contact police.

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**MICHIGAN Continued from Page 3**

what remains of the Motor City.” Fodor’s cites Detroit’s microbreweries, the rich foodie scene, organic bakeries, coffee shops, the Eastern Market, the Motown Museum to be just a few of Detroit’s bright spots.

Festivals are another uniquely Detroit attraction. “Michigan really does put on really great festivals, which give you a reason to go places,” said Michelle Grinnell, public relations coordinator for Travel Michigan. “Did you know that Detroit hosts the largest free Jazz Festival in the world? There’s also Friday Night Live! a city-wide celebration organized by the Detroit Institute of Arts. There really is a lot of interest in Detroit as a popular travel destination right now.”

Art is another huge draw, from the Detroit Institute of Arts to The Heidelberg Project, a blocks-long area where the houses are the works of art. The love of art has also created a No. 1 spot on Lonely Planet’s “Best in Travel 2014” list for Grand Rapids and Lake Michigan’s Gold Coast.

Grand Rapids hosts the world’s largest art competition with ArtPrize in October, showcasing the creative spirit of more than 1,700 artists. Michigan’s third-largest city also hosts unique festivals surrounding our state’s brewing craft beer industry, from Cool Brew Hot Eats to the Winter Beer Festival, both set in Michigan’s winter-warmer month of February.

This large city is also situated near some of America’s most natural, sandy beaches, along the 300-mile area dubbed “Michigan’s Gold Coast” by Lonely Planet. They say that western Michigan is the place for beach bums, beer lovers and art enthusiasts. “This 300-mile stretch of seemingly endless beaches rivals the beauty of Hawaii and southern California, and is also home to sugar-white sand dunes, wineries, antique shops, up-pick berry farms and orchards and more.”

Even the New York Times has gotten into the act of boosting Michigan, with a recent piece published on Michigan’s Upper Peninsula.

Grinnell said that 2014 is definitely the time for any Michiganders who haven’t crossed the Mackinac Bridge yet into the Upper Peninsula to make this the year to do so. She adds that many naturalists and rugged outdoors people should put Isle Royale on their list of places to visit.

“We get a lot of calls about Isle Royale National Park,” said Grinnell. “It’s a national park right in our own state and it takes a boat or plane to get there.”

When planning Michigan travel for the coming year, Grinnell suggests that people start first at Michigan.org. “You can plan your trip by searching by interests or destination,” she said. “If you have a particular interest or hobby you’d like to explore, you can search for places that will let your explore those further, or if you have a particular destination in mind, you can plan your trip that way, too.”

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**There really is a lot of interest in Detroit as a popular travel destination right now.**

Michelle Grinnell
Travel Michigan

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112 East Ellen Street, Fenton, MI 48430
DO I NEED FINANCIAL PLANNING?

YES NO

☐ Do I have excess income that I am not sure where to allocate – i.e. savings vs. retirement, reduce down debt, etc.?  

☐ Do I have retirement plans at my employer that I don’t understand – i.e. stock options, nonqualified deferred compensation plans, 401k’s, 403(b)”s, 457, etc.?  

☐ Have I had a life transition recently or am I worried about an upcoming life transition – i.e. Retirement, divorce, widowhood, etc.?  

☐ Do I have parents that I have to take care of either physically, financially or both?  

☐ Do I have to choose social security options within the next 2 years?  

☐ Do I have pension options that I have to make elections on – i.e. options with or without spousal continuation, lump sum payouts, etc.  

☐ Is my household income $100,000 or more?  

☐ Are my total assets (excluding real estate) more than $250,000?  

☐ Do I have a taxable estate (including life insurance death benefits) over $5,000,000?  

☐ Have I ever wondered what my (or my family’s) quality of life would be like if something happened to my spouse or myself?  

If you have answered yes to any of these questions, you are in need of financial planning!

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The first real snow of the season brings out the kids — of all ages

Tim Jagielo

Tyler and Alicia Small help son Landen, 20 months, up the hill on Saturday. This is his first time sledding ever, and after going down twice with mom and dad, he’s not a fan.

"He's used to walking up the hill, but this was the first real snowfall of the season. He wasn't happy when mother Alicia joined them in walking back up the hill. They considered sledding on the bigger, and more heavily used hill next to this one but Tyler said, "He’s about done anyways."

While driveways were being cleared, sledgers took advantage of the first real snowfall of the season. Winter officially begins Saturday, Dec. 21. The 2-4 inches of snow and 25-degree weather proved perfect for the after-lunch crowd.

Emily Miller, 12, of Fenton trudged back up the hill recounting the trip down that sent her airborne on her first sledding trip of the season. Later she careened into the reeds at the edge of the pond with Devin Nowak, 8, also of Fenton.

"We got snow in our face," she said. "It was totally worth it."
Trinity Lutheran Church
806 Main St. Fenton (810) 629-7861
www.trinitylcmfsfenton.com
Pastor Dean G. Dumbrille

A SAVOR IS BORN!
Please join us as we proclaim the wonderful news!
Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service
December 24 at 4:00PM, 7:00PM, and 11:00PM
New Year’s Eve Communion Service
December 31 at 7:00PM

Please join us for Christmas
HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Christmas Eve Services
5:00PM & 7:00PM
Christmas Day Service
10:00AM
Pastor Jim Rolf
810-735-4807
7355 W. SILVER LAKE RD. - LINDEN

St. Rita Parish of Holly
Invites and Welcomes all
“O’ Come Let Us Adore Him”

Communal Penance Service
With Individual Reconciliation
December 19 • 7pm

Vigil of Christmas Mass
Tuesday, December 24 • 4pm, 6pm, 11pm

Christmas Day Mass
Wednesday, December 25 • 9am & 11am

Feast of the Holy Family
Saturday, December 28 • 4pm
Sunday, December 29 • 8am, 10am, 12noon

Vigil of Mary, The Mother of God Mass
Tuesday, December 31 • 7pm

Mary, The Mother of God Mass
Wednesday, January 1 • 9am, 11am

Fenton United Methodist Church
119 S. Leroy Street • Fenton • 810-629-2132
www.fentonUMC.com • FentonUMC.office@gmail.com

Christmas Eve Gatherings
4:00pm in the Family Life Center
9:00pm & 11:00pm in the Sanctuary with Candle lighting

Join with us for Christmas Eve
Pastors:
Dale C. Swihart, Jr. and Larry McMellen

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810-629-7801 • www.ffpc.org

Children's Christmas Pageant ........................................... 5:00 p.m.
Candlelight Family Service ............................................. 7:00 p.m.
Service of Lessons and Carols ........................................... 11:00 p.m.

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DEAR DR. DONOHUE: My husband tells me I have bad breath. I have seen my dentist and done all the things I was told to do, but there hasn’t been any improvement. I have tried many mouthwashes, without success. What more can I do? — W.B.

ANSWER: You were right in starting out with your dentist. When no oral conditions are found that produce bad breath, then the most likely cause is mouth bacteria that produce odoriferous, sulfur compounds. Let me repeat what your dentist told you for the sake of others. Brush after every meal, and brush your tongue as far back as you can. You might want to get a tongue scraper for the backmost part of the tongue. That’s where the sulfur-producing bacteria live. Keep your mouth moist by drinking water or chewing sugar-free gum. Products containing zinc have been sold since the 1970s and have gotten mixed reviews for their effect on halitosis. Listerine with zinc is one product. Another is SmartMouth.

ELYSIUM
in the year 2154, two classes of people exist: the very wealthy, who live on a pristine man-made space station called Elysium, and the rest, who live on an over-populated, ruined Earth. The people of Earth are desperate to escape the planet’s crime and poverty, and they critically need the state-of-the-art medical care available on Elysium — but some in Elysium will stop at nothing to enforce anti-immigration laws and preserve their citizens’ luxurious lifestyle. The only man with the chance to bring equality to these worlds is Max (Matt Damon), an ordinary guy in desperate need to get to Elysium. With his life hanging in the balance, he reluctantly takes on a dangerous mission — one that pits him against Elysium’s Secretary Delacourt (Jodie Foster) and her hard-line forces, but if he succeeds, he could save not only his own life, but millions of people on Earth as well. R, 1 hr. 37 min.

THE LONE RANGER
From producer Jerry Bruckheimer and director Gore Verbinski, the filmmaking team behind the blockbuster “Pirates of the Caribbean” franchise, comes Disney/Jerry Bruckheimer Films’ “The Lone Ranger,” a thrilling adventure fused with action and humor, in which the famed masked hero is brought to life through new eyes. Native American spirit warrior Tonto (Johnny Depp) recounts the untold tales that transformed John Reid (Armie Hammer), a man of the law, into a legend of justice-taking the audience on a runaway train of epic surprises and humorous friction as the two unlikely heroes must learn to work together and fight against greed and corruption. PG-13, 2 hr. 29 min.

NEW DVD RELEASES
DVDs and movies released this week

Domain Shortcut
When you are using Safari and typing a URL, tap on “.com” button and hold it for a couple of seconds. iPhone will pop-up a selection of domain choices (e.g. .org, .net and .edu) for you to select directly. Depending on where you are, iPhone even shows you the country-specific domain name (e.g. .hk).

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Run Like the Dickens starting its second decade

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

Holly’s winter race gets stronger each year

Holly — One July day about 11 years ago, Holly varsity track coach Rob Basydlo decided he wanted to do a fundraising race for his program.

By December that first year, he was hosting his first Run Like the Dickens event to a field of 227 runners, a pretty respectable number of participants for a first-year race.

Now in its 11th year, the Run Like the Dickens 10K/5K Race had about 1,000 people register Saturday to compete in the cold and snowy weather. It was the first time in the 11-year history that director Basydlo could call it snowing during the race.

“I always want snow on the ground,” Basydlo said. “It makes everything pretty. This was the first year we had a major snow during the day of the event. I remember one year we had an ice storm.”

“Probably six years ago we had a snow day before the day. We had eight inches of snow.”

The snow levels weren’t that great on Saturday morning this year. For the most part, areas had less than an inch on the course, but it did create the holiday theme. And others helped along as well. There were running Christmas trees, some dressed as Santa or elves and a few that looked like snowmen. The race has certainly captured that holiday feel to it.

“We had six people from the Dickens’ family. They run it every year,” Basydlo said.

Of the four major winners, only one was a veteran champion. Rochester’s Clint Verran captured the 5K men’s overall victory by posting a time of 18:47. His time was slowed considerably while a train cut the leaders from completing the course for a period. Many caught him at the tracks, but it bothered Verran little, as he won the race by 29 seconds. It was Verran’s first-time winning the 5K race. He’s won the 10K event in 2009, 2010 and 2012. He also won the 8K race in 2006 and 2007. Davisburg’s Michael McCarty Jr., who won the 5K in 2012, took second with a time of 19:16. Holly High School student Nate Fraser took third (19:23).

The girls 5K overall winner was Oxford’s Brittany See DICKENS on 15

The winners

Here is a list of the overall run winners for the 11th-annual Run Like the Dickens event.

5K Male: Clint Verran, 18:47
5K Female: Brittany Johnson, 20:28
10K Male: Ryan Hackett, 36:27
10K Female: Tammy Nowik, 39:18

Linden wrestlers post perfect record at Dansville Duals

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

The Eagles went undefeated at the Dansville Duals on Saturday. Linden defeated Pinckney 47-22, Perry 45-36, Dansville 48-27, Maple Valley 65-18 and Grosse Pointe South 63-14, earning a 5-0 team record.

“It was a good day for our team as we still have some starters out of the lineup, but everyone did their part on Saturday,” Linden wrestling coach Todd Skinner said. “The competition was good and the boys looked much better than they did the week before. My returning varsity wrestlers stepped up and had a good day.”

Among those veterans were seniors Dylan Musall, Nick Siouli and junior Austin McNeill. They all went 5-0. So did sophomore Luke Zimmerman and freshman Patrick Kerr.

Others posted 4-1 marks. They were Zach Shaw, Dawson Blank and Aaron Stedman.

See WRESTLERS on 15
Melton, a member of our 2013 All Tri-County Softball Team, has been an outstanding player for the Blue Devils ever since she entered the high school level. Last year Melton led the team with a .476 batting average, an .810 slugging percentage and a .579 on-base percentage. She clubbed 40 hits in 84 at bats and drove in a team-best 36 runs. She also led the team with 22 runs scored, 12 doubles, two triples, four home runs and 18 walks.

Defensively, Melton was just as solid behind the plate. She picked off three baserunners a year ago and had just one error. She’s expected to stay at catcher while with the Cardinals. Melton thinks she’s ready for the next level.

“Personally, I am ready for the next level and the next step to becoming a better softball player and an athlete,” Melton said. “I’m very ready. I’m super excited to get coached by (Saginaw Valley State head coach) Todd Luckingham. He’s full of knowledge and I’m so ready to take it all in. I’m ready for Lake Fenton’s Alexis Melton expects to play catcher for the Saginaw Valley State University softball team starting with the 2014-15 school year.

Lake Fenton’s Alexis Melton expects to play catcher for the Saginaw Valley State University softball team starting with the 2014-15 school year.
MELTON
Continued from Page 14
anything he throws at me. This is my dream and the goal I always wanted.”
Saginaw Valley State University is a Division 2 school, competing in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC). The squad posted a 16-22 mark overall last year and a 12-12 record in conference action during head coach Tom Buckingham’s first year at the helm. Last year’s GLIAC mark was better than 2012’s, which was 14-18.
The program has had its share of strong seasons. In 2011, the team posted a 42-19 record overall and a 22-6 GLIAC record. In 2010, the team was 30-16.
Melton likes Buckingham.
“I know they are very talented and they have a very talented group of girls who want to work hard,” Melton said.
“(Buckingham) puts them to work.
“He is a big family guy. He loves his girls and treats everyone like his daughter. He’s a very good coach. But he trainsthe girls good. Everyone in the program has bumps and bruises, but it’s nothing I can’t handle.”
Melton has played at Saginaw Valley’s field one other time. During the 2011 season the Blue Devils advance to the state quarterfinals and played their contest there, losing to Unionville-Sebewaing, 6-0.
Melton likes how the school is close. Melton credits her parents — Bill and Jennifer Melton — for much of her success. She is glad she remains close to them.
“It is very cool to me that it’s 45 minutes away and I’ll be able to come home on weekends and see my family,” Melton said.
“I’m going to miss home, but it’s going to be easier knowing I can come see them whenever I want.”

DICKENS
Continued from Page 13
Johnson (20:28). Davisburg’s Amanda George took second (20:57), while Fenton’s Pamela Rynearson placed third (21:12). The Male Masters winner was Ypsilanti’s David Crane (20:03), while the Female Masters winner was Clarkston’s Patti Braundreger (25:11). In the 10K race, Shepherd’s Ryan Hackett took the Male Overall championship by posting a time of 36:27. Male Masters winner Ontario’s John Trojanisk placed second (36:36), while South Lyon’s Todd Connor (37:17) placed third overall.

WRESTLERS
Continued from Page 13
“My returning letterwinners have lofty goals. They are working very hard in practice and are being extremely patient with the freshmen that we have. I like the bonding that is taking place and we are working to improve every week. The break coming up will be nice as we have a busy week ahead of us.”
The Eagles travel to Lapeer West for matches with St. Clair and Anchor Bay on Wednesday. On Friday, Linden will host an assembly dual at 1 p.m. against Owosso. Jake Herbert, a 2012 wrestling Olympian will speak for about 15 minutes prior to the dual meet.

Lake Fenton at Swan Valley Invitational
The Lake Fenton wrestling team placed third at the meet, defeating Ogemaw Heights 48-23, Madison Heights Lamphere 60-10 and Milford 51-27, and lost to Chippewas Hills 37-33 and Swan Valley 38-28.
Carson Whaley was voted the upper weights MVP at the tourney, earning a 5-0 record at 160 pounds. Trent Hillger (171) and Andy Donoho (189) went 5-0 as well. Hunter Corcoran, Zach Zoll and John Barry were 4-1 overall, while Tristen Nevdomski had a 3-1 record. Jared Corcoran went 3-2, but his losses came in a weight class (125) which had five ranked wrestlers. One of his losses came to second-ranked Matt Santoro by an 8-6 decision.
“Overall, it was a very good performance despite having two of our senior starters out of the lineup,” Lake Fenton coach Vance Corcoran said. “Cody Sanders is still out and our state-ranked 215-pounder Chase Hull is out as well. Hopefully we get everyone back and healthy soon so we can really see where this team is at.”
Lake Fenton hosts Goodrich and Durand for important GAC dual meets tonight at 5 p.m.

Lake Fenton’s Alexis Melton (batter) will continue her softball career at Saginaw Valley State University in the fall.
Due to expansion... Caretels Inns of Linden - Skilled Nursing Facility currently has an opening for a FULL TIME RN SUPERVISOR ON THE AFTERNOON SHIFT

The primary purpose of the Manager is to direct the long term care nursing care to the residents and to supervise the day-to-day nursing activities performed by the 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 and as may be required by the Director of Nursing to ensure that the highest degree of quality is maintained.

QUALIFICATIONS:
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- Minimum 1 year experience in long term care facility.
- Must have criminal background check.

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- OR - send resume to hcaretellden@gmail.com

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Certified Nurse Assistant (CNAs) positions available, full-time and part-time, 2nd & 3rd shift, hours will vary. 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 hcaretellden@gmail.com

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Sunday: CLOSED
ROSE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING SYNOPSIS
December 11, 2013

Supervisor Gambka called the Regular Meeting of the Rose Township Board of Trustees to order at 7:30 p.m. at the Rose Township Offices, 9080 Mason Street, Holly, Michigan and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

Board Members Present: Gambka, Miller, T revethan, Kemp, Scheib-Snider

Board Members Absent: None

Approved:

Agenda as amended.

Consent Agenda as submitted.

Presentation:

Tom Willwerth, Cemetery Report.

Amended Rose Township Investment Policy.

Appointment of Glen Noble to the Planning Commission.

Appointment of Cindy Eisenberg to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Re-programming of 2013 CDBG funds $16,849.00 and the Programming of 2014 CDBG funds of $16,849.00 until the January 8, 2014 Regular Board Meeting.

Waiver of $200 PT A penalty request by Thomas Buechel.

Adjourned:

By motion at 8:40 p.m.

Paul Gambka
Debbie Miller, CMC
Rose Township Supervisor
Rose Township Clerk
Obituaries, Funeral Services and Memorials

Goldie “Suzie” Pelkey
1930-2013
Coralville, Iowa
Age 83, of Linden, died December 19, 2013.

Funeral services will be held at 1 PM Thursday, December 19, 2013 at Sharp Funeral Homes, Linden Chapel, 209 E Bro. St., Linden, Visitation will be held 1-3 and 5-8 PM Wednesday, Pastor Robert Linderman, Pastor


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810.750.1360

ARGENTINE TANGO
BACHATA
BOLERO
CHA-CHA
COUNTRY TWO-STEP

East Coast Swing
Fox Trot
Hustle
Mambo
Merengue

Nightclub Slow
Nightclub Two-Step
Quickstep
Rumba
Salsa

Samba
Tango
Viennese Waltz
Waltz
West Coast Swing

THEY MAKE GREAT STOCKING STUFFERS!