

**2012 & 2013
NEWSPAPER
of the
YEAR**
Michigan Press Association

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**ONLINE
COMMENTS**

HOT LINES

“To the guy whose unemployed friends sleep until noon and smoke pot all day: maybe you need some new friends.”



“I vote Democratic because I’m not concerned about millions of babies being aborted so long as we keep all the death row inmates alive, well fed and comfy.”



“When did ‘liberal’ become a bad word. When did it become evil to be compassionate about your fellow man?”

“The weatherman can’t tell us if it’s going to rain tomorrow, but I’m supposed to believe they can predict the weather at the North Pole 10 years from now?”



“Is it just me or is everybody really sick of the silly Flo insurance commercials. They have morphed from being entertaining to asinine. They don’t make any sense any more.”



**Leftover
Christmas
cards?**
check out these green
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**Looking
for a
new TV?**
Now is the time
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**Still
perfect**
Tigers undefeated
in Metro League
action
11

**Still
perfect**
Tigers undefeated
in Metro League
action
11



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The Midweek Times

VOL. 21 NO. III WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2014 \$1.00

‘A bad day of fishing is better than a good day at work’

► Early winter cold means early ice fishing season in tri-county area

By Tim Jagielo
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Fenton Twp. — As the lake ice creaks and crackles underfoot, it doesn’t inspire confidence.

On Monday, skies were clear and temperatures reached into the mid 40s. Ice fishermen were out on Lake Fenton and Crane’s Cove in permanent and temporary shanties. Many resembled ostriches, their faces inches above auger-drilled holes in the ice.

The ice fishing season started a little earlier this year because of the robust Michigan winter weather.

From January through April, inland lake fishermen can try their luck at northern pike, muskellunge, walleye, or any panfish including sunfish, bluegill and perch. Anglers have a daily limit of five fish for

See **FISHING** on 9



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Robert Ley laughs as he pulls another tiny bluegill out of the water on Monday. He is fishing with half-brother Fred Sheahan and neither are having a ton of luck.

Gov. Snyder declares energy emergency

► Propane suppliers confirm shortage, increased prices

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

Doug Smith usually pays 30 to 30 cents more for propane during a typical winter. But with the recent ice storms and heavy snowfall, Smith said propane prices have increased 95 cents per gallon since the middle of December. The Smitty’s Exit 80 owner isn’t sure if the price will drop before spring and is doing

See **EMERGENCY** on 8



Rick Snyder

Summary
► The recent winter storms have triggered a shortage of propane and gas, causing prices to increase.

Now’s the time to buy a home

► Interest rates rising slightly in 2014, will likely top 5.5 percent in 2015

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

If 2014 is going to be the year you decide to buy or sell a home, local housing experts say that this year might be better than next, to still take advantage of low interest rates.

Average rates for a fixed 30-year mortgage will rise to 5.5 percent by the end of 2014, predicts Lawrence Yun, chief economist for the National Association of Realtors in a recent story in USA Today.

Local Realtors in the tri-county area are slightly more optimistic that rates will

See **BUY A HOME** on 7



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

This home on Swanee Beach Drive is listed by John Wentworth, with RE/MAX of Michigan. “The market will be the best it’s been,” he said, in 2014.

TRI-COUNTY
TIMES

FILE PHOTO
Wolfgang
Zientek of
Fenton and
Eli, therapy
animal for
his daughter,
are the
impetus for
the ordinance
amendment.



Therapy animal ordinance on hold

► Controversial measure tabled for housing act compliance concerns

By Tim Jagielo
tjagielo@tctimes.com

Fenton — The amendment to the existing service animal ordinance to allow for therapy animals within the Fenton city limits has been tabled.

The topic was on the agenda at last week’s City Council work session as the city continues to respond to a family using a pot-bellied pig as a therapy animal for their daughter.

See **ORDINANCE** on 7

“I think the act allows you to balance a little bit. We have some very small lots in this community.”

Stephen Schultz,
Fenton City attorney

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Police & Fire report

MAN IMPERSONATES FEDERAL OFFICER

The Genesee County Sheriff's Department is investigating a suspicious person complaint that deputies received on Jan. 5 in Fenton Township. Dep. Geno Gaticka said a homeowner in the 13000 block of Hogan Road reported that an unknown white male came to the house impersonating a federal officer and attempted to question the resident. The unknown man was dressed professionally and had a work ID, but no badge.

STORAGE UNITS BROKEN INTO

The Genesee County Sheriff's Department is investigating break-ins, which were reported on Jan. 6 at a storage unit facility in the 3300 block of West Thompson Road in Fenton Township. Dep. Geno Gaticka said several units were broken into between Jan. 2 and 6. Stolen items included tools and generators.

BAD CHECK UNDER INVESTIGATION

On Jan. 7, the Genesee County Sheriff's Department received a bad check complaint from the Moose Lodge in Fenton Township. The complaint remains under investigation.

Leftover Christmas cards?

► Before you throw greeting cards away, check out these green recycling ideas

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Christmas may be over, but holiday greeting cards linger year after year. Once you have read the sentiments over and over, it's time to re-purpose them for another chance to make someone smile.

Terry Tibbitts, first-grade teacher at Hyatt Elementary in Linden, is one teacher who takes in used Christmas cards to re-make into new greetings.

Her students give them as part of a gift to their parents, picking out favorite pictures to use on the front of the card, and writing their own greeting inside. Since Hyatt's class Christmas parties were cancelled due to a snow day before break, the kids made their cards at the rescheduled party on Wednesday — their first day back to school in three weeks.

"They love picking out special cards to



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO

Hyatt Elementary teacher Terry Tibbitts was back in her classroom on Wednesday, helping her students make Christmas cards for their parents out of recycled greeting cards.

use," said Tibbitts, who's been using recycled Christmas greetings for three years now. "I'm glad we were finally able to have our party and make the cards."

Tibbitts has volunteered to distribute cards

Summary

► If you have Christmas greeting cards left at your house after the holidays, you can put them to good use by giving them to a teacher, sending them to a card-recycling program.

to any other teachers at Hyatt who would like to use them for art projects. Readers who want to contribute cards may drop them off at Hyatt Elementary, 325 Eaton Dr., Linden.

See **CHRISTMAS CARDS** on 5

TRI-COUNTY TIMES

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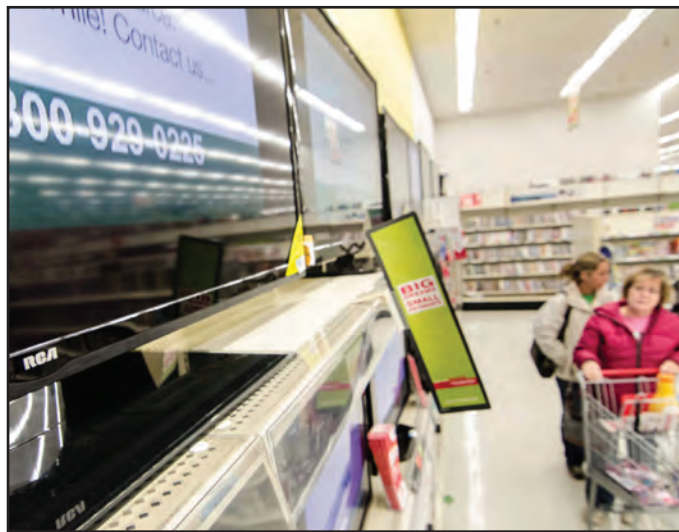
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Looking for a new TV? Now is the time to buy



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

Although Black Friday and the Christmas season feature low prices on televisions, the best time to buy a new one is after the New Year and before the Super Bowl.

► Location, function will influence what TV to buy

By William Axford

axford@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Hopefully you held off on buying a television until after the Christmas season. Late January and early February, right before the Super Bowl, is prime television buying time. If you're in the market for a new set, here's what you need to know before you step through the showroom doors.

Know where you're going to set up your new TV ahead of time before you buy it. Is your new screen going in the kitchen, living room,

garage or workout room? The size of your TV is dependent on where you plan to place it. According to USA Today, living rooms should have a TV 46 inches or larger and kitchen TVs should be around 32 inches. Generally, the bigger the TV, the better.

Not all screens are created equal. LCDs, LEDs, Standard High Definition, and 4K (Ultra High Definition) are the latest selections for TVs. TVs with 4K are the newest, sharpest on the market right now, costing thousands of dollars. The 4K has four times the pixels of a standard HD TV and is currently the best picture available. Lower resolutions include 720p, 1080i and 1080p are lower

See **TV** on 9

WINTER BLAST

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Elmo will not be appearing.



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FROM THE LEFT

Clarence Page

Nationally syndicated

columnist

Is GOP waging 'war' against poverty or against the poor?

Some of the ideas that Republican presidential hopefuls offer for a conservative 'war on poverty' aren't bad, although too many of the rest sound like a war on the poor.

Republican Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida offered some ideas worth further debate in his antipoverty speech on the Jan. 8 anniversary of LBJ's declaration of a 'War On Poverty.'

For example, he would lift the marriage penalties from safety net programs like Medicaid. These are penalties that, in effect, discourage marriage by counting a couple's combined income as if it were a single person's income. He also offered some promising examples of states that tie benefits for the long-term unemployed to requirements that they take courses to upgrade their skills.

Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky also has called for more civic engagement outside government. He sounded hopeful last week that his idea for economic 'freedom zones' to encourage jobs and businesses with tax breaks might be merged with President Obama's five newly designated economic 'promise zones' to promote social mobility in deprived cities and rural areas.

Even Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas managed to tie an anti-poverty theme to his relentless calls for the repeal of the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare: 'All of America needs to be a real Promise Zone,' he said, with reduced barriers to small businesses creating private-sector jobs — 'and we should start by repealing every word of Obamacare, building the Keystone pipeline, abolishing the IRS and rolling back abusive regulations.'

Which brings me to what's troubling about the idea of giving antipoverty funds to the states to do as they please. Unfortunately, some aren't going to do much, if anything.

As one who is delighted to see Republicans compete for the votes of women, minorities and other persuadable groups in the marketplace of ideas, I applaud efforts to bring forth market-driven conservative alternatives to compete with government-oriented Democratic programs. But we should all be skeptical of antipoverty efforts that only help lawmakers to ignore the poor.

IF YOU HAVE been on unemployment for more than three years, shame on you. What have you done to seek retraining? Is a job at McDonald's beneath you? You and the others like you are the reason this program is being discontinued. Get retraining and take a job.

■■■■
I WANT TO thank the two young men in the white truck for pulling my daughter out of the snow bank on Jennings Road between Loon and Crane lakes Sunday evening. Thank you again!

■■■■
TO THE PERSON calling out Republicans for voting down an extension after three years of being on unemployment, look in the mirror, the problem is your own. Stop blaming others and get a flipping job, they are out there!

■■■■
NO MATTER WHAT, you will not ever change an Obama voter's mind on what kind of job he has done or of what his actions will do to the future of the country. They are blind to the effects it is having on the working class and don't care.

■■■■
IT IS SHAMEFUL to deny the unemployed some sort of assistance because there are no jobs due to Republicans sending all our jobs overseas. Just ask yourself this question: What would Jesus do?

■■■■
I WOULD LIKE to thank everyone who stopped to help me on Rosé Center Road after I got stuck in a snow bank. I really appreciate your kindness. God bless.

■■■■
THE STOCK MARKET isn't up three times. Work on your math skills. Houses

Hot lines

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are selling because Obama paid off mortgages with your tax dollars. The auto industry isn't vibrant, rather a joke that working Americans are paying for. Al Qaeda is back against our decimated military.

■■■■
I'M A REPUBLICAN and you are an idiot. Being out of work for more than three years is a choice. You have obviously made the choice to sit around on your duff and let other people pay for your existence. This country was built on personal pride, of which you have none.

■■■■
OUR HEARTFELT THANKS to the Fenton City Fire Department! They dug us out of our home and an ambulance was there to transport our son, who had major surgery. Please recognize these selfless men in this dreadful, cold weather. God Bless.

■■■■
IS THERE AN organization in the Fenton, Holly and Grand Blanc area where one can meet (Similar to AA) to deal with what has become an addiction? It cannot be too costly.

■■■■
OVERHEARD IN A Fenton coffee shop: a group of private contractors from down south, up here to help with the ice storm, express amazement at the poor organization and weak infrastructure of the Consumers Energy system. Somebody should investigate. We deserve better for the money we're paying.

■■■■
BEING AGAINST GAY marriage is not a religious belief; it's a sin and is recorded in the Bible, Gen., and 1 Corth. Look it up and read it for yourself.

See **HOT LINE** throughout Times

FROM THE RIGHT

Cal Thomas

Nationally syndicated

columnist

Not getting what we paid for

In real life when you find yourself paying more and getting less, you usually search for another product or service. With the federal government, it isn't possible to take your business elsewhere.

At the end of the year comes a letter from the person who prepares my taxes. He wants me to know about changes in the tax law associated with Obamacare.

Here is an excerpt.

Read this: '(i) Subject to a Medicare payroll tax increase of .9 percent on earned income (e.g., wages and net self-employment income) above these amounts. Employers will pay 1.45 percent and employees will pay 1.45 percent on the first \$200,000 and 2.35 percent (1.45 percent + .9 percent) on the amount over \$200,000 (withheld by the employer). Some of this may be returned if the employee files jointly because the threshold on a joint return is \$250,000. Self-employed will pay 2.9 percent on the first \$200,000 of net income and 3.8 percent on the amount over \$200,000 (or \$250,000 if filing jointly).'

Is this the kind of stuff a free people should put up with? What kind of twisted mind comes up with language and policies that college-educated and otherwise successful people can't understand?

There are many hidden and not-so-hidden taxes in Obamacare and elsewhere. Here's one part of my tax attorney's letter I do understand: 'The top tax bracket is now 39.6 percent (up from 35 percent) [and] the capital gains rate and dividend rate may be increased to 20 percent (from 15 percent) plus the additional 3.8 percent Medicare surtax.'

In our just concluded Christmas season, we recalled a different kind of Magi: wise men who came to worship and bring gifts to the Christ child. Now MAGI stands for Modified Adjusted Gross Income. How appropriate with a president who was called a messiah figure by some and to whom we are being forced to bring 'gifts' in increasing amounts to be misspent on bloated and dysfunctional government.

There's only one way to fix this and it comes in the next two elections.

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Compiled by Torrey Christopher, intern

Will you be buying/selling a home soon?

streettalk



"No, I live in a house that I like because of the location and style."

—Susan Long, Fenton



"Yes, in Fenton or Grand Blanc. We downsized 10 years ago and went too small."

—Mary Ann Throp, Fenton



"No, because I don't own one and don't have the money to buy one."

—Duane Beausoleil
Argentine Township



"No, I am perfectly happy where I live. It's a nice little town."

—Dave Spencer, Fenton



"No, because we just moved five years ago and said I would never move again."

—Jennifer Sage, Fenton



"Yes, but it depends on what happens with the buying and selling rates."

—Leah Tanton, Fenton



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | AMY MAYHEW

This shelter is under the cobblestone structure at this tri-county area home. It had been used mostly to wait out severe storms.

Armageddon can wait

► Survival shelters offer all the comforts of home

By Amy Mayhew

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

They certainly didn't have all the bells and whistles that today's survival shelters boast, but back in the 1950s and '60s, survival or bomb shelters were the thing to have.

Up until the time Ronald Reagan uttered those famous words, "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall," the Cold War forced Americans and others to seek alternatives in keeping their families and loved ones safe in the event of Soviet atomic or nuclear attack.

My father was among those in the '50s that built a bomb shelter in our backyard. Back then, the federal government recommended that fallout shelters — and that's the term I remember my dad using — be placed in a basement or buried in the back yard. The concept was to get as much mass as possible between the survivors, the detonation and its after-effects.

Usually, a backyard fallout shelter was a trench with a strong roof buried under 3 feet of earth. The two ends of the trench had ramps or entrances at right angles to the trench so that gamma rays could not enter. To make the roof waterproof in case of rain, a plastic sheet was buried a few

inches below the surface and held down with rocks or bricks.

Basement shelters were the cheapest to build, and supposedly offered adequate protection. Concrete blocks were used to construct the walls, and an open doorway with vents near the floor provided ventilation. The shelter's entrance was made with a sharp turn designed to reduce radiation intensity. Do-it-yourself fallout shelter kits could be purchased for \$150 to \$200 at the time.

Ventilation in the shelter was provided by a hand-cranked blower, attached by a pipe to a filter mechanism on the surface. More elaborate custom-built shelters actually had tunnels running from the basement to the shelter, or with double-entry areas through hatches in the yard.

When a local woman, who chose not to be identified, and her husband bought their

tri-county area home in 1987, it already came equipped with a fallout shelter in their backyard — built she said, in 1972.

Constructed from reinforced concrete, the dome-like structure is covered with dirt, with its angular-end disguised by a natural rock waterfall into an awaiting pond.

The woman said the original owners of the home routinely took shelter there in the midst of severe storms as the house

See **ARMAGEDDON** on 6

Summary

► Survival shelters that can protect families from the weather or man-made disasters have come a long way since they gained popularity in the '50s.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Continued from Page 3

Other uses for recycled greeting cards

St. Jude's Ranch for Children accepts new and used, all-occasion greeting cards year 'round, according to its website, stjude ranch.org/your-donations-at-work-recycled-card-program.

Recycled cards are sold to support programs and services for abused, neglected and homeless children, young adults and families.

Operated by Kids' Corp, a program designed to teach entrepreneurship skills, children at the Ranch participating in making the "new" cards by removing the front and attaching a new back. They then sell the cards in packets of 10 for \$17, which includes shipping.

To donate cards to St. Jude's Ranch for Children, follow these tips before sending in your donation:

- Only the card front can be used, so be sure the backside of the front is clear of any writing.
- No Hallmark, Disney or American Greeting cards are accepted.
- 5x7 size or smaller is preferred.
- To mail large quantities affordably, use a USPS flat rate box, which holds up to 70 pounds.

Mail donations to:
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Boulder City, NV 89005

If you like to be crafty yourself, there are many projects you can make from recycled greetings. Visit marthastewart.com, Pinterest, bhg.com, familycrafts.com to learn how to turn colorful cards into gift tags, monogrammed labels, holiday garland, etc.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

THERE MUST BE a huge flaw in the educational system. Not only now but also as far back 50-60 years ago. There are actually people who believe that Obama has been a good president. They must have slept through the classes about economics, free enterprise and how to interview for jobs.

DID YOU KNOW that the creation of most oil was from massive life-ending events in the oceans over billions of years? Now we burn it and pump it out of the ground without conscience. It must just be a part of the circle of life.

LET'S LOOK AT L.A. county in California, home of Nancy Pelosi. Of the 10.2 million illegals, 40 percent are working for cash. That's 4.1 million not

paying the 15.3 FICA tax and 10 percent minimum tax liability. Estimating \$20,000 per person, that's \$5.060 billion. This is only one fix that could be made.

SHOCKED. CNN, THE liberal media, admitted that the reason unemployment went down was due to people giving up and dropping out of the workforce. Why are there no jobs? Obama has been in charge for six years and he holds two-thirds of the power in DC.

REPUBLICANS ARE COSTING Michigan taxpayers \$7 million a day in missed government funding with a political stunt. By waiting until April 1 (instead of January 1) to give immediate effect to the 'Healthy Michigan' Medicaid expansion law. They've wasted over \$70 million so far.

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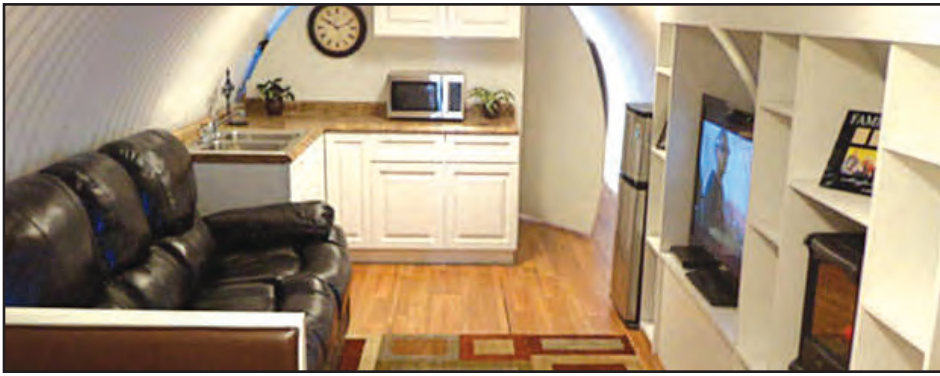
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Times



Modern-day shelters can come with modern conveniences, costing between \$50,000 and \$400,000 or more.

ARMAGEDDON

Continued from Page 5

is without a basement. "She had some bunk beds, a small table and some chairs in it," she said, adding that the entire shelter measures approximately 10-by-8-feet. "It's vented, and is plumbed so that it could use water from the pond."

Even during severe storms, she said she and her husband are content to ride out tornados in the safety of their brick home. "It's dark, damp, and moldy with bugs," she said of the shelter. "I don't want to go down there."

Some of the shelters built in the late 50s and early 60s weren't designed well. Ours caved in 1973. Most built back then may have blocked radiation in their day, but they weren't able to hold people long enough for the nuclear threat to dissipate, mainly because of flaws with the air-handling and waste disposal systems.

Today's shelters

While it seems like survival shelters are a thing of the past, the fact is they are not.

In fact, out in California, Ron Hubbard, a builder who specializes in underground

survival shelters says he can't build them fast enough. With the fear market booming, Hubbard maintains that it's better to have a shelter 10 years too early, than five minutes too late.

Perhaps Hubbard's success centers on the fact that his shelters are far from the old school shelters of yesteryear. Equipped with just about everything a conventional house has, Hubbard says it's all there 20-feet underground — luxury bedrooms, big screen TVs, game rooms and sometimes even underground pools or Jacuzzis.

With nuclear attacks from Cuba and Russia the only worry in the 60s, nowadays, folks worry about biological attacks, chemical warfare, terrorist threats, economic doom, nuclear fallout and nuclear attacks from Korea and China.

The peace of mind of having a below-the-ground safe haven doesn't come cheaply — costing anywhere from \$50,000 to more than \$400,000.

"I mean I hope it never happens," Hubbard said in a October 2013 interview with CBS news. "Mathematically, it all adds up to Armageddon, but down here, Armageddon can wait."

Digital eyes on the road for Fenton police

►City Council approves new in-car cameras, will replace outdated VHS system for \$44,342

By Tim Jagielo

tjagielo@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795

Fenton — Fenton City Council approved resolution 14-1, allowing for the purchase of new video camera systems for its five police vehicles at the regular council meeting Monday.

The topic was brought to council in a work session in October, where council agreed to allow the police department to use general fund money to finance the systems.

The cameras and hardware will cost \$44,342, interest included, paid over a four-year period.

The Watch Guard brand systems include a laundry list of components not limited to just five cameras.

The cost includes installation and a dedicated wireless network for downloading the video automatically, forward facing, and in-cabin digital video cameras in each car and microphones, GPS, dedicated servers and hard drives in the car and the police station and software protection.

These cameras will replace the outdated VHS system, which according to Police Chief Rick Aro, can no longer be serviced, and were bought used to begin with.

The new system is all digital and will record the entire time the vehicle is in service, which according to Aro, will protect the city from lawsuit as the front, and inside of the car will be recorded and saved automatically, providing a high-quality record of entire shifts.

Installation will take around a month, and will be done at the police station.



Summary

►The city council approved the purchase of new in-car cameras and microphones for police, to record entire shifts, and save the information to hard drives at the police station.



Mark McCabe

67th District Court

Ask the judge

The 'Unicorn Hunters,' banished words and the meaning of words

I certainly can't presume this, but I believe that most people at one time or another in their lives have heard about a mythical animal called a 'unicorn.' If you don't know about them suffice it to say that it has been described by various sources as a four-legged animal with a large spiraling horn protruding from its forehead. Most importantly, being mythical, they do not exist.

In 1971, there was a gentleman from Detroit named Wilbur (Bill) T. Rabe (pronounced Ray-Bee) who was very gifted in public relations and was hired as the PR man for the then relatively new Lake Superior State College in Sault Ste Marie. The college wanted publicity as it had recently become independent from Michigan Tech. Since Bill had many connections from his days in Detroit, he was a frequent guest on the J.P. McCarthy Show on WJR radio and promoted the college in any way he could. One of his ideas was to form what came to be known as the whimsical 'Unicorn Hunters,' which sponsored activities such as the International Stone Skipping Tournament (held annually on Mackinac Island), and World Sauntering Day (which began at the Grand Hotel). A favorite was 'The Annual List of Words Banished From the Queen's English for Mis-Use, Over-Use and General Uselessness,' which published its first list on Dec. 31, 1975.

One of Bill's colleagues when this all started was my late uncle Professor John C. McCabe. They were both wordsmiths in the truest sense and thoroughly enjoyed publishing this list every year. Of course, the precise definitions of words was important to them. The banned word list is now in its 39th year of publication by the now Lake Superior State University.

Since I see I'm running out of space, the point I will make as to the law is simply this — all of the judges in Michigan and elsewhere must define words and phrases on a daily basis. For example, there are times when words in a statute could've been better defined or other words used but judges simply don't have the power to banish them. Instead, the key is to do their best to interpret the written word and reach a proper decision under the law.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

SO, THE STATE of Utah has determined through their court system that gay marriage is not allowed and has elevated it to a higher court. Next all-powerful Obama decides that he knows better than the courts and people of Utah and overturns it. Goodbye America, it's been fun.

PEOPLE DRAW UNEMPLOYMENT for two years because it pays more than the low-tier jobs they are able to find. This post-recession economy is not friendly

to gainful job seekers. It's all about incentives. I bet the people complaining would make the same choice to stay on unemployment.

SO YOU CAN'T find a job. Why don't you try creating one instead of relying on the government to take care of you? What are you good at? Market yourself, come up with a plan and create a business.

CONSERVATIVES MAKE ME wonder, when they say 'do not blame all of Wall Street for a few bad apples.' Yet they want to nuke the welfare system over a few cheaters?



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City to communicate follow-ups at meetings

►Councilor concerned residents may feel inquiries are ignored

By William Axford

axford@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Linden — Councilor Ray Swan is hoping to establish more transparency between the Linden City Council, City Manager Paul Zelenak and the public.

At Monday's city council meeting, Swan expressed concern that complaints and inquiries from the general public were not followed up by the city. The councilor suggested including all follow ups as part of the meeting minutes or having them addressed monthly at a city council meeting.

"We should have something on record that says we did some kind of follow up," Swan said. "I'm sure things are being done but they (the public) don't see our response and what we do."

Zelenak said an average of five to 10 inquiries are made to city hall every day

and that at times, he'll have to repeat the same information to multiple people. Zelenak may include complaints and inquiries with his city manager's report. Swan suggested keeping the inquiries to ones made at city council meetings as well as pertinent issues that occur at city hall.

"I would say somehow or another we need to show response and that we're not just throwing things under the rug," Swan said. "Before I became a council member, I felt that was happening with a lot of issues and that wasn't the case."

The updates may include what city officials can or cannot do, as well as actions they took or did not take. Swan said he'd like to see the responses from officials available on the city website.

The rest of the council was in agreement with Swan, noting that the shared information could be beneficial to each council member. Mayor David Lossing said the first report could be delivered at a February meeting. A vote was not taken on the matter.

BUY A HOME

Continued from Front Page

stay at 5 percent or slightly below, but all agree that the historically low rates found in late 2012 and throughout 2013 will be just that — history.

"The sooner you buy, the better it's going to be for you to buy," said Tom Jones, associate broker for the RE/MAX Platinum office in Fenton. "This year, they're going to be between 4 and 5 percent, which is still very low compared to the 12 and 14 percent rates back in '92 when I got into real estate."

"It's still going to be a good year for interest rates," said Ken Brant, of Coldwell Banker Professionals in Fenton. While these rates are still historically low, they are definitely rising past the extreme lows of late 2012/early 2013, when interest rates fell as low as 3.31 percent — the lowest rate since 1971, according to a CBS news report.

What excites Brant the most about this year is the balancing of the market between buyers and sellers, which he predicts will take place by the end of the year.

"This year is going to be a good period of time for buyers and sellers to make a move in the market," said Brant. "I see that in 2015, interest rates will be considerably higher, up by more than a point. People who are looking now can take advantage of the lower interest rates, which are now between 4 and 4.5 percent, depending on your credit score."

Each percentage point increase in mortgage rates makes homes about 10 percent more expensive, in terms of higher housing payments.

"It's still a seller's market," said Kristy Cantleberry, of RE/MAX Grande in Grand Blanc. "There's a shortage of inventory because there aren't as many foreclosures as there were." She sees interest rates going up slightly, "but not enough to impact housing sales locally," she said. She and her sales team experi-

enced a 20-percent increase in sales in 2013 over 2012 figures, selling a total of 173 homes last year.

She sees housing prices rising slightly this year, not a lot, which echoes what is being predicted in the national housing market. The 2013 market saw prices up 12.5 percent, following the same rise in prices from the year before.

This year, housing prices are expected to rise only in the single digits. "Values have gone up 25 percent in the last two years," said Jones. "This has really helped put people back in the market. This year, we're looking at values rising in the single digits, perhaps about 6 percent.

That would put values up 30 percent compared to what they were three years ago."

All Realtors are hoping that this year will see a larger inventory of homes on the market. With inventories so low in 2013, home sales in Genesee County actually dipped a bit from 2012 figures of 6,271 homes sold to 2013 figures of

5,925 homes sold. "That's because of low inventory, fewer bank-owned properties and fewer short sales," said Jones. "We're starting to return to a more normal market now."

What's also new for 2014 is the return of new construction. Construction won't return to pre-housing crash levels, but it will be strong enough to be the main driver of the housing recovery as home price gains shrink, according to Goldman Sachs Asset Management.

"Fenton and Grand Blanc have a deep pocketed developer who has bought subs that have been dormant in the area," said Jones. More home construction means more jobs for construction workers, plumbers, civil engineers and others in the building trades, as well as related industries. Construction alone will add 300,000 to 500,000 jobs a year to the U.S. job base for the next three years, according to Goldman Sachs. That compares to about 100,000 in 2013.

ORDINANCE

Continued from Front Page

The language of the proposed amendment was drafted based on Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements. Representatives from Legal Services of Eastern Michigan were on hand, presenting concerns over Fair Housing Act (FHA) compliance in the amendment, because in some cases, they felt ADA requirements didn't cover FHA requirements.

Fair Housing program manager Patricia Baird with Legal Services of Eastern Michigan brought her concerns, and offered her advice, as she believes it could help the city avoid a lawsuit later on. "I don't want you to have a problem with someone in the community," she said.

She had concerns that limitations were being placed on breeds that can become therapy animals and that only those specializing with a disability can sign for a therapy animal's use.

She also said that under the FHA, service, and therapy animals mustn't need

to be certified, which is contained in the language of the existing service animal ordinance.

City attorney Stephen Schultz said that the breed, when compared to the space, must be a reasonable accommodation. "I think the act allows you to balance a little bit," he said. "We have some very small lots in this community."

He added that the ordinance has to satisfy the sometimes competing opinions of many in the community, and Genesee County requirements. After all, the amendment is being looked at because of a complaint levied against a resident using a pot-bellied pig as a therapy animal for his daughter.

"We think this meets the guidance that's been put out by HUD and the like," said Schultz.

In the end though, there were enough questions and concerns that Councilwoman Pat Lockwood suggested council table the item until Schultz is able to rectify the FHA and ADA requirements.

Summary

► Because of concerns over Fair Housing Act (FHA) compliance, the ordinance amendment allowing for therapy animals within Fenton City has been tabled, as language is checked against FHA requirements.

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PUBLIC NOTICE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF FENTON BOARD MEETING SYNOPSIS JANUARY 8, 2014

The Fenton Township Board held a regular meeting on Wednesday January 8, 2014 (rescheduled from Monday January 6 due to snowstorm) at the Fenton Township Civic Community Center, 12060 Mantawauka Drive, Fenton, Michigan and took the following actions.

1. Clerk Krug led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.
2. Appointed Clerk Krug as Temporary Chairperson.
3. Approved the agenda as amended.
4. Approved invoices and expenditures for payment in the total amount of \$202,131.44.
5. Scheduled a public hearing for January 20, 2014 to obtain citizen input regarding potential local road improvement projects for 2014.
6. Approved 2014 summer property tax collection agreements with Linden Community Schools, Fenton Area Schools and the Genesee Intermediate School District.
7. Awarded a contract for asbestos abatement from a blighted structure to be demolished to Environmental Maintenance Engineers, Inc.
8. Adjourned at 4:24 p.m.

A complete copy of the minutes of this meeting and any ordinances adopted at the meeting are on file and available for review at the Fenton Township Office, 12060 Mantawauka Drive, Fenton, Michigan 48430. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Friday. Ordinances, meeting schedules, meeting minutes and other Township information are also available at www.fentontownship.org.

ROBERT E. KRUG
FENTON TOWNSHIP CLERK

EMERGENCY**Continued from Front Page**

all he can to keep from passing on the costs to his customers.

"I was told that winter hit so quick that suppliers didn't have enough propane in stock," Smith said. "Once the demand went up and there was no supply, the prices went up. A gallon of propane was selling for \$3.77 — it's now up to \$4.44."

The high prices and short supply are not exclusive to Smith's business. An energy shortage of heating oil and propane is so widespread that Gov. Rick Snyder declared a state of energy emergency on Friday, Jan. 10.

The rain in early December followed by a quick freeze the week of Christmas caused downed power lines and trees, severing power to hundreds of thousands of residents across the state. Followed by the subzero temperatures and heavy snowfall earlier this month, this winter's weather has caused many residents to utilize generators and other sources of power.

The energy emergency will remain intact until the end of the month or when Gov. Snyder repeals it, whichever comes first. The executive order suspends state and federal regulations relating to hours of service for motor carriers and drivers transporting heating oil and propane within the state, according to a press release from Gov. Snyder. The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration and the Michigan State Police require drivers operating under the emergency orders to have a copy of the declaration in their possession.

"The extreme cold and hazardous winter weather of the past week continues to impact our communities," Gov. Snyder

said in a press release. "This executive order will ensure there is enough heating oil and propane in the coming days and weeks to protect the health, safety and welfare of Michigan residents and visitors."

The emergency orders could lower the price of propane and energy for customers.

Until then, Smith may have to increase some of his prices, despite his displeasure. Smith said he would never want to appear to be price gouging



"I was told that winter hit so quick that suppliers didn't have enough propane in stock."

Doug Smith,
Owner of Smitty's Exit 80



his customers.

"This week the prices are still going up, simply because so many people went without power," Smith said. "This is the most expensive I've ever had to pay for energy."

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MICHIGAN VOTES

WHAT YOUR LEGISLATORS VOTED ON THIS WEEK

The Michigan House and Senate opened the New Year with a pro-forma session on Wednesday, Jan. 8 as required by the Constitution, but no bills were voted on. This report contains several recently introduced bills of interest, as published on Friday, Jan. 10.

Senate Bill 626 and House Bill 4623: Repeal criminal penalties for marijuana possession — Introduced by Sen. Coleman Young (D) and Rep. Jeff Irwin (D), to repeal criminal sanctions on possession of one ounce or less of marijuana, and instead authorize a civil penalty of \$25, and \$50 to \$100 for subsequent violations. The House version is cosponsored by four Democrats and two Republicans. Referred to committee, no further action at this time.

Senate Bill 631: Revise carrier pigeon licensure mandate — Introduced by Sen. Hoon-Yung Hopgood (D), to prohibit a person from getting a state-mandated carrier pigeon license if his or her facilities do not meet regulations imposed by the local government. Referred to committee, no further action at this time.

Senate Bill 633: Allow community service to cover some "bad driver" fees — Introduced by Sen. Bruce Caswell (R), to allow a person to do 10 hours of "community service" in lieu of paying a state "bad driver fee" for certain offenses, including accumulating seven or more "points" within a two-year period, driving without a license and failing to produce proof of insurance. These very high, revenue-raising fees were originally imposed in 2003 to avoid spending cuts in that year's and subsequent state government budgets. The bill would also earmark some of the revenue from these levies to a drunk-driver vehicle "interlock" program. Referred to committee, no further action at this time.

Senate Bill 654: Mandate front and rear license plates — Introduced by Sen. Tupac Hunter (D), to mandate that vehicles have both a front and rear license plate starting in 2016. Referred to committee, no further action at this time.

Senate Bill 655: Impose licensure on "applied behavioral analysis" — Introduced by Sen. Rebekah Warren (D), to impose licensure and regulation on the practice of "applied behavioral analysis," with \$90 annual license fees, apprenticeship mandates and more. Among others, this would impact individuals who provide treatment for autism spectrum conditions. Referred to committee, no further action at this time.

Senate Bill 657 and House Bill 5199: Establish rental unit bedbug infestation procedures — Introduced by Sen. Dave Hildenbrand (R) and Rep. Andy Schor (D), respectively, these similar but not identical bills would establish the duties of both landlords and tenants related to a rental unit that is infested with bedbugs. Landlords would have to promptly hire a professional pest management company, and tenants would be required to follow pest control protocols. Both bills were referred to committee, no further action at this time.

SOURCE: MichiganVotes.org, a free, non-partisan website created by the Mackinac Center for Public Policy, providing concise, non-partisan, plain-English descriptions of every bill and vote in the Michigan House and Senate. Please visit <http://www.MichiganVotes.org>.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Permanent shanties are already dragged out onto the ice of Crane's Cove, and Lake Fenton, marking the beginning of ice fishing season.

FISHING

Continued from Front Page

both pike and walleye. Pike must be 24-inches long to be legal, while walleye must measure 15-inches.

Muskellunge or "muskie" season is open all year on the Great Lakes and inland lakes in the lower peninsula, with the exception of Lake St. Clair, the St. Clair River, and the Detroit River. In those places, you can only fish for muskie the first Saturday in June through Dec. 15. In the upper peninsula, muskie season is March 15 through May 15 in the Great Lakes, inland waters and the St. Mary's River, and each keeper must be at least 42-inches long.

The temporary thaw has thinned the first few inches, unnervingly allowing boots to break through with nearly every step in some places, but Robert Ley, of Flint wasn't worried. "There's a good 11 inches of ice, that's good," said Ley.

He trudged out to meet his brother Fred Sheahan of Swartz Creek, both hands full with a bucket, tiny fishing rod (jig), bait and sonar, leaving a slushy, crunched trail of footsteps



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Some use a close eye to the water, others like Fred Sheahan use sonar to see if his lures are getting any attention.

across the ice.

Both used sonar to see whether they were getting a bite. Sitting on a plastic bucket, Sheahan pointed to the churning digital screen, which is connected to a sensor dipped in the water. "See that dark thing by my lure? That's a fish."

Ley caught two tiny bluegills, which he tossed back in the water. In his bucket he had several larger ones already, which was the only bounty he's gotten so far.

Closer to Torrey Road, Tom Hall of Flint caught a pike.

Ley has been fishing in this area since the '60s. He and Sheahan also fish on Lake Ponemah, Silver Lake and Indian Lake in Deerfield Township.

Though in some ways the weather was cooperating, the fish were not. Sheahan wasn't having much luck, and father/son pair Dan and Daniel Gill walked off the ice empty-handed.

"A bad day of fishing is better than a good day at work," said Dan, and father-son time is always good, even if leaving empty-handed. "It's just a little too warm, it's early yet in the season, it will get better."

Outdoor writer Amy Mayhew contributed to this report.

“It’s just a little too warm, it’s early yet in the season, it will get better.”

Dan Gill, Ice fisherman



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Tom Hall of Flint closes a portable shanty on Monday, allowing himself to see better into the ice.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

NEW AND SHORT-term unemployed are eligible for unemployment benefits. The issue in the news is about long-term unemployed. For every job available there are three people looking for work. It may be the economic norm now that so many people have been replaced by automation.

I CONTINUE TO read arguments pro

and con for the provision of birth control in Obamacare. Does it not make sense to provide birth control to the poor and uneducated so they will stop procreating new generations of welfare and entitlement babies? I would gladly pay the increased premium.

I WANT TO thank the person who found my wallet on the floor of the restaurant in Grand Blanc on New Year's Eve. I thank the Lord there are honest people like you, and the cashier.

TV

Continued from Page 3

resolutions. The 720p is better for smaller TVs and standard definition. The 1080i is optimal for high definition. The 1080p is better for browsing the Internet and overall resolution, rather than motion.

Like phones, TVs are getting smarter. Smart TVs connect to the Internet, allowing viewers to stream movies from Netflix or check out their profiles on social media. While TVs accessing the Internet aren't a new phenomenon, it is becoming more refined.

Howtogeek.com urges caution when purchasing a smart TV however, as the programs are made by TV manufacturers and not computer engineers. That can make for some clunky interface and technology that can be outdated in only a

few years. If you're someone who wants to hold onto your TV for the next five to 10 years, smart TVs may not be the route for you.

Instead, consider investing in box technology like Apple TV or Chromecast. Apple TV costs \$99 and lets users stream iTunes, Netflix, Hulu Plus and HBO Go on their TVs. Chromecast from Google costs \$35 and will stream content from your computer to your TV wirelessly.

No matter what type of TV you end up purchasing, it should be placed at eye level where people can sit and watch a movie without neck strain. Mounting a TV above a fireplace may seem like a good idea initially but your neck won't enjoy being strained to look up at a screen. It's best to put the TV where you and other viewers will be comfortable.

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WednesdaySudoku

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

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

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

WednesdayJumble

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

PODEK
□ □ □ □ □

NOOHR
□ □ □ □ □

GLUTLE
□ □ □ □ □

SHMAIF
□ □ □ □ □



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

Answer: THE "□ □ □ □" OF THE □ □ □ □ □

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



PAUL G. DONOHUE, M.D.
To your good health

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: I suffered from an enlarged prostate, so I was sent to a urologist. He checked for cancer, but I don't have it. He put me on Flomax and Avodart. After three years, the doctor said the medicines were no longer working and that I had to have surgery or my bladder would be damaged and I would have to carry a bag for the rest of my life. I am 57. I had a transurethral resection of the prostate, TURP. It's been two months, and I still am passing blood clots. Is this normal. — J.G.

ANSWER: It's normal to bleed after a TURP, but it's not normal to be bleeding two months after the procedure. Give the urologist a call. Let him examine you again and determine why the bleeding is lasting this long.

NEW DVD RELEASES

DVDs and movies released this week



LEE DANIELS' THE BUTLER

Lee Daniels' The Butler tells the story of a White House butler who served eight American presidents over three decades. The film traces the dramatic changes

that swept American society during this time, from the civil rights movement to Vietnam and beyond, and how those changes affected this man's life and family. PG-13, 2 hr. 12 min.

RIDDICK

Riddick, the latest chapter of the groundbreaking saga that began with 2000's hit sci-fi film Pitch Black and 2004's The Chronicles of Riddick reunites writer/director David Twohy (A Perfect Getaway, The Fugitive) and star Vin Diesel. Diesel reprises his role as the antihero Riddick, a dangerous, escaped convict wanted by every bounty hunter in the known galaxy. The infamous Riddick has been left for dead on a sun-scorched planet that appears to be lifeless. Soon, however, he finds himself fighting for survival against alien predators more lethal than any human he's encountered. The only way off is



for Riddick to activate an emergency beacon and alert mercenaries who rapidly descend to the planet in search of their bounty. The first ship to arrive carries a new breed of merc, more lethal and violent,

while the second is captained by a man whose pursuit of Riddick is more personal. With time running out and a storm on the horizon that no one could survive, his hunters won't leave the planet without Riddick's head as their trophy. R, 1 hr. 59 min.

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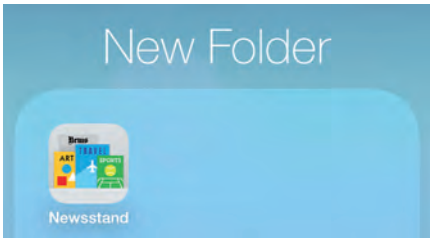
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iPhone tip of the week

Organize apps into folders

As you install more apps on your iPhone, the app icons can fill the home screen quickly. To better organize your apps, you can create folders and keep your apps organized. To create a folder, tap and hold on an app icon till it wiggles, drag it to another app. iPhone automatically creates a folder with a suggested name and organizes both apps together. If you do not like the folder name, just key in your own name. You can repeat the same process to arrange more apps. Apple's iOS 7 changes the limit on the number of apps you can place in each folder has been lifted, meaning you can now put an unlimited number of apps into a single folder.

The tip is provided by Handbook for iPhone Lite.



KING FEATURES

Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

- 1 Thick slices
- 6 Modeling materials
- 11 John le Carre spy
- 12 Excursion
- 14 Impede
- 15 RV
- 16 Scepter topper
- 17 Cleavage-hiding scarf
- 19 Shell game need
- 20 "So be it"
- 22 "You've got mail" co.
- 23 Bacterium
- 24 Suitable for singing
- 26 Nobility member

	1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10	
11							12					13
14							15					
16				17		18				19		
20			21		22				23			
24				25		26		27				
			28		29		30					
31	32	33				34		35		36	37	38
39					40		41		42			
43				44				45		46		
47			48				49		50			
51							52					
	53						54					

- 28 Enjoyment
- 30 Hearty quaff
- 31 Parlor pieces
- 35 Phi Beta —
- 39 Quarry
- 40 30-Across provider
- 42 Mountain lake
- 43 Anger
- 44 Wheat bundle
- 46 Central
- 47 Monkey (with)
- 49 Put a — on (deaden)

- 51 Sound system
- 52 Lubricate
- 53 Decorate
- 54 Dadaist Max
- 51 Sound wingding
- 8 \$ dispenser
- 9 "Hooray!"
- 10 Villainous looks
- 11 Sandbar
- 13 Metric measures
- 18 Officer of the law
- 21 Swell
- 23 Terrific
- 25 Prompt
- 27 Wapiti
- 29 Kidney component
- 31 Skewers
- 32 Mistakes in
- print
- 33 Abounded
- 34 Seek restitution
- 36 South American plains
- 37 Mass figure
- 38 Violinist Rieu
- 41 18-Down's emblem
- 44 Prophet
- 45 Jamie of "M*A*S*H"
- 48 Expert
- 50 Chaps

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

SPORTS TRIVIA FOOTBALL

Q When was the last time the Detroit Lions played in the NFC Championship game?

A It's hard to believe there are people in their 20s who weren't around since the last time the Lions played in the NFC Championship game on Jan. 12, 1992, losing to the Washington Redskins 41-10.

DAVID'S DABBLINGS

Ken Whisenhunt was supposed to be the ideal Lions' head coach candidate, the Lions' job was supposed to be his ideal job. Yet, Whisenhunt is headed to Tennessee and won't be replacing Jim Schwartz. Who can blame him?

The Lions haven't proven themselves capable competitors ever since William Clay Ford Sr. took over ownership in 1963. They have a quarterback who remains mired in mediocrity and doesn't seem ready to change how he plays the game.

The Lions have some nice pieces, but those same pieces are the reason why the team is stuck with salary cap issues.

There are positives to the job, but some people have fooled themselves into thinking this is the greatest coaching job available right now in the NFL. It wasn't, and Whisenhunt realized that. After all, we are talking about the Lions.

TRI-COUNTY Times

sports

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2014

WWW.TCTIMES.COM

PAGE 11

Sam Johnson

- Member of Holly's varsity wrestling team.
- Won a key match by decision in a win vs. Kearsley.

Lupro, Bianchi spark amazing Holly comeback

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

Lapeer — Vince Bianchi and Wyatt Lupro know about Holly's great Metro tradition of winning three straight league crowns with undefeated records.

The pair, along with Evan Renusch, also understands about waiting your turn to be part of that tradition.

On Monday, the trio helped extend that Metro history for one more day.

With Holly already trailing Kearsley 30-24 with just three matches remaining, Bianchi, a senior, was trailing Kearsley's Reese Harburn 11-6 in the third period, looking like he was going to lose his match and maybe nail the coffin on the Metro win streak. However, the senior 189-pounder came up with a cradle, got a pin and tied the match at 30-all.

After Bianchi, who has bounced between JV and varsity matches his entire career, it was two juniors who responded. Evan Renusch (215) and Lupro (285) posted decision victories, earning the Bronchos the 36-30 win against the Hornets. Renusch and Lupro have also had to

put in their time between the JV and varsity levels, but all three shone bright and became part of the Holly lore on Monday.

"Honestly, I was just hoping not to get pinned," Bianchi said during his match. "He came out pretty fast, I was down pretty early and I just wanted to give the team a chance. But once I saw the cradle (an offensive pin move), the cradle has always been my go-to-move. I saw it present itself and I locked it up. I knew it was my only chance and I held it (earning the pin)."

"I was excited. It got me pumped up and I wanted to win," said Lupro about Bianchi's comeback pinfall win. "I didn't think he had a chance. He was too tired, too winded, but he won. It overwhelmed me and got me excited."

But his excitement didn't change that Lupro was wrestling a heavyweight about 80 pounds heavier than him. And he trailed 4-2 late, before bouncing back to tie it at 4-all and force overtime. In the OT period, he got the match-winning takedown in 29 seconds, giving the Bronchos the team win.

"I just wanted to get those two points that I needed," Lupro said.

See **HOLLY** on 12



TRI-COUNTY TIMES
DAVID TROPPENS

Two Holly wrestlers who came up with vital late-match wins against Kearsley were (above right) Wyatt Lupro and (left photo, right wrestler) Vince Bianchi.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | ALYSSA TRAPP

Fenton's Landon Mikulenas was a member of the Tigers' winning 200 freestyle relay team against Swartz Creek. Fenton won the event 108-73.

Fenton swimmers remain perfect in Metro League, defeat Swartz Creek 108-73

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

The Fenton varsity boys swim team is expected to be among the favorites to capture the Metro League title this season.

And the defending champions showed Swartz Creek why on Thursday, as Fenton cruised to a 108-73 victory.

"With the week we had, it was a good night," Fenton coach Brad Jones said. "We lost four days in a row with snow. So we're kind of getting back where we want to be."

Brant Cassidy posted state cut times in the 50 freestyle (22.49) and in the 100 freestyle (49.70). Other individual first-place finishers were: Michael Banner in the 200

freestyle (1:58.56) and the 500 freestyle (5:23.60), Zack Miceli in the 200 individual medley (2:21.73) and in the 100 butterfly (1:04.17), Zahne Macklin in the 100 breaststroke (1:07.89) and Austin Landis in the 100 backstroke (1:03.15).

The Tigers won all three relays. Jones was impressed with Miceli's split time of 54.62 in the 400 freestyle relay.

Fenton hosts the county meet on Friday.

"We'll have a couple of hard days before county, then we'll have a recover day and get ready for a big day on Friday," Jones said. "This is big for us to get our cuts so we can go to MISCA and then use MISCA to get our times for state."



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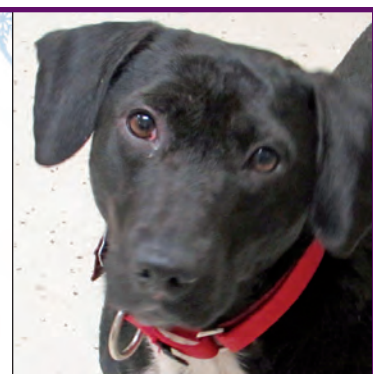
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Holly boys bowlers lose a tight match vs. Kearsley, 17-13

The Holly varsity boys bowling team knew they were facing a tough Kearsley squad during the weekend.

But the Bronchos proved they are a pretty tough outfit themselves, pushing the Hornets all day long.

However, Kearsley did edge out a 17-13 victory, remaining undefeated in Flint Metro League action.

"We did give them a run for sure," Holly coach Fred Walz said. "It came down right to the end, and that's all you can ask of your team."

The Bronchos (2-2) held the early lead, after the baker games. Holly lost the first baker game 218-194, but won the second one by a 168-116 score, taking a 6-4 team lead entering match play.

The first series of matches were the Bronchos' biggest downfall, losing that round 1,016-880. Matt Harrison led Holly in the opening round with a 256, but even his win didn't come easy. Harrison bowled eight straight strikes to start the match, but so did Kearsley's Branden Richard. However, Harrison won down the stretch, as Richard bowled a 254.

Holly bounced back in the second round of match play, winning the series 997-983, but it wasn't enough to overcome Kearsley's lead. Mitch Smith led Holly with a 235, while Albert Lewellen had a 226. Harrison finished with a 449 two-game series, while Mitch Smith had a 426 series.

Lapham excited about third version of Winter Classic

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

Sean Lapham isn't going to complain about the unseasonably cold temperatures and the unseasonably high snow falls the tri-county area has already collected this winter.

In fact, as the organizer of the third-annual Lake Fenton Winter Classic, the pond hockey enthusiast is thrilled.

"Yes, the stress level is gone this year," said Lapham about the Jan. 24 through 26 event. "We were skating on Thanksgiving on the pond behind my house. That was a first for me. We had a little warm-up in December, but these sub-zero temperatures mean we have nothing to worry about. I'm excited."

Lapham has a right to be excited. When he started the annual pond hockey tournament in 2012 at Barnum Lake, located behind The Fireplace and Lake-side Market on North Long Lake Road, he had all the concerns of a rookie organizer putting together an event, plus the issues created by an unseasonably warm winter. The event had to be postponed once due to weather and the venue was moved to its current location. However, through it all, he got the event running and it proved a success.

Now, in its third year, registration for the event ended on Sunday, and the tourney was almost completely filled up a week prior to that date.

"I would have to say about 80 percent of our teams are returning teams from previous years," Lapham said. "People enjoy a good product and are having fun. A lot of teams make this their one destination of the year."



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

Players compete during last year's second-annual Lake Fenton Winter Classic pond hockey tournament on Barnum Lake. This year's edition is slated to start on Jan. 24 and conclude on Jan. 26.

The event pits two teams with four skaters on a side on the rink at any given time. There are no goalies. Both teams consist of seven players who alternate shifts on the ice. Games are played to a specific amount of time with winners having a chance to get their names engraved on the Des Crowley Memorial Cup.

An opening night party is held at The Fireplace on Friday with games played during Saturday morning and afternoon. Games continue on Sunday with each championship contest being played sometime Sunday. There will be either five or six divisions in an attempt to create competitive play at all levels.

Primarily due to the weather, there will be a few changes this season.

"With the amount of snow we have this may be the first year we don't bring the two-by-fours out for boundaries,"

Lapham said. "We might be playing pure pond hockey and by using snowbanks."

That will be a big change. In the past teams would pass off the boards, but that won't be the case this year. Also, if a puck left the area of play, it could slide forever on the ice surface.

There will be a change with the goals in some of the divisions as well. Instead of using an open "net" that left the entire goal open between the two ends, this season some will have just two slots at each end. This will decrease the area a player can score.

"Every year we try to take things that worked, try to improve on other things and drop things that didn't work," Lapham said. "The first year was a huge learning curve, and even last year we moved stuff around. This year it's been smooth sailing so far."

HOLLY

Continued from Page 11

"I was hoping to shoot for an ankle (in overtime), but he was really strong."

Renusch (215) also came up with a big 10-6 decision win in between Bianchi and Lupro's matches, helping set up Lupro's match-deciding victory.

The Bronchos also defeated Lapeer East 57-18, putting the three-time defending champs at 2-0 in league action.

Also winning matches against Kearsley for Holly were Josh Gonzales (125), Sam Johnson (140), Keegan Soles (145), Kyle Pepper (152) and Tre Flores (160). At one time Holly trailed 27-3 but the Bronchos won seven of the final eight matches.

"We've been undefeated league champs for three straight years and I

didn't want it to end tonight, and I didn't want to be the reason it ended tonight," Bianchi said. "I was pretty fired up that we win. We have Clio and West (tonight) and that's going to be tough. But we are going to take it one day at a time."

"I get the feeling this is how it's going to go this year," Holly coach Don Pluta said. "I always said those kids that have wrestled a little bit of varsity and some JV, those are the kids who have to step up."

Against East, Andrew Scott (160), Flores, Bianchi and Cam Gudzoil (285) won by pinfall, while Clolton Cleaver (119) won a decision. Justin Hennard (103), Jacob Caldwell (112), D'Anthony Austin, Jacob Palleson (135), Johnson and Soles each won by void.

The Bronchos travel to Lapeer West today at 5 p.m. Clio is ranked in the state.

PREP REPORT

HOCKEY

► **Swartz Creek 8, Metro League Griffins 3:** The Griffins got goals from Buck Hudson, Connor Phillips and Brandon Diener, while Bobby Temple had two assists. Phillips also had an assist. Natalie Miller made 33 saves in the loss.

COMPETITIVE CHEER

► **Metro League jamboree:** The Fenton girls were the top area team at the first meet, taking fifth with an overall score of 588.60. The Tigers posted round scores of 181.50, 163.10 and

244.00 to earn their total.

Holly started strong, with a first round score of 188.80, eventually finishing in sixth with a total score of 583.86. Holly also had a second-round score of 167.96 and a third-round score of 251.10. A 16-point penalty during the second round kept the Bronchos from finishing as high as fourth overall.

Linden placed eighth with a team score of 572.70. Their round scores were 174.20, 156.30 and 242.20.



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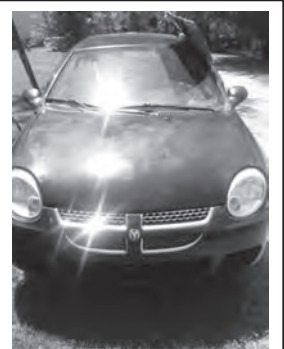
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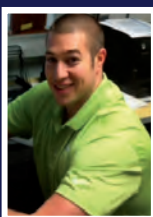


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Kenneth Franklin Harper

1938-2014

Kenneth Franklin Harper - age 75, of Byron, went home to be with the Lord on January 10, 2014. Funeral services will be held 11 AM Friday, January 17, 2014 at Sharp Funeral Homes, Linden Chapel, 209 East Broad Street, Linden. Pastor Thomas Goupil officiating. Interment in Crestwood Cemetery, Grand Blanc. Visitation will be held 12-4 PM and 6-9 PM Thursday at the funeral home. Those desiring may make contributions to Bethany Baptist Church, Morrice. Mr. Harper was born January 18, 1938 in Hilton, VA the son of Kenneth and Verna Mae (Olinger) Harper. He retired as a die maker after 47 years from GM Truck & Bus. Kenneth was a faithful member of Bethany Baptist church and loved to sing gospel music and hymns. Mr. Harper is survived by his wife, Carolyn; children, Chris Harper, Thresa Cook, Glen Harper, Curtiss Harper, Bryan Harper; 11 grandchildren; 9 great-grandchildren; 3 step-children, Shannon Shatter, Mickey Hayes, Christopher Hayes. He was preceded in death by his siblings, Kathryn, Pauline, Glen, Wolmer; his parents and former wife, Joyce (Gilliland) Harper. Online condolences may be shared on the obituary page of www.sharpfuneralhomes.com.



Colton James Lambert

2003-2014

Colton James Lambert - age 10, of Linden, passed away, January 10, 2014.



Funeral services will be held 1 PM Saturday, January 18, 2014 at The Rock Church, 11400 S. Linden Rd., Fenton. Pastor Wes Morris will officiate. Visitation will be held 2-9 PM Friday at Sharp Funeral Homes, Linden Chapel, 209 E. Broad St., Linden and from 12 PM until the time of service Saturday at the church. Those desiring may make contributions to the Colton James Lambert Fund c/o The State Bank. Colton was born July 19, 2003 in Grand Blanc, the son of Kevin James Lambert and Jessica Lynn Englund. Colton attended Hyatt Elementary School. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, soccer and working on cars. He also loved swimming and boating. Colton was loved by everyone that knew him. Surviving are: parents, Kevin and Jessica; sister, Savannah Englund; brother, Gabriel Lambert; half-brothers, Adam and Matthew Lambert; half-sister, Emily Bar-lup; grandparents, Steve and Amy Englund, Darrell and Karen Lambert; aunts, Angie (Chris) Sczodronski, Andrea Englund, Susan (Brian) Washburn, Heather (Brian) Foutz, Kim (Frank) Wilcox, Heidi Lambert; uncle, Jason Lambert; cousins, Tyler Lambert, Brianne Englund, Allisha Sczodronski, Kasey Foutz; many great aunts and uncles and cousins. Online condolences may be posted on the obituaries page of www.sharpfuneralhomes.com.



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John Francis Holtmeyer

1915-2014

John Francis Holtmeyer - age 98, of Fenton, died January 11, 2014. Funeral mass will be celebrated 11 AM Thursday, January 16 at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, 600 N. Adelaide St., Fenton, Fr. David Harvey celebrant. Interment in St. John Cemetery. Visitation will be held 2-4 and 6-8 PM Wednesday at Sharp Funeral Homes, Fenton Chapel, 1000 Silver Lake Road, Fenton and 10 AM until time of service Thursday at church. A vigil service will be held 7 PM Wednesday at the funeral home. In Lieu of flowers, those desiring may make contributions to St. Vincent De Paul Society at St. John Parish, Fenton or Capuchin Soup Kitchen, 6333 Medbury St., Detroit, MI 48211. John was born May 24, 1915 in Cincinnati, OH, the son of John Joseph and Louise (Schneider) Holtmeyer. He married Elizabeth Ann Bright October 19, 1940 and she preceded him in death on April 6, 1983. John was an Engineer at GM Fisher Body and retired after many years of service. He was a member of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church. John is survived by daughter Carol (Christiaan) DeSmet of Farmington Hills; grandchildren, David (Lisa) DeSmet and Marc (Nicole) DeSmet all of Vermont; great-granddaughter Arielle; brother Richard (Johanna) Holtmeyer; and several nieces and nephews. He was also preceded in death by his son Joseph John Holtmeyer on October 25, 2010 and sisters, Mary Dolores Pfent and Louise Hunt. Tributes may be shared on the obituaries page of www.sharpfuneralhomes.com.



Catherine E. LaBoskey

1922-2014

Catherine E. LaBoskey - age 91, of Fenton, MI and Bradenton, FL, passed away peacefully on January 9, 2014 in Bradenton, Florida. There will be a private family service at Sunset Hills Cemetery in Flint Michigan. Arrangements are being handled by Sharp Funeral Homes, 6063 Fenton Rd., Flint MI. Catherine was born on August 8, 1922 in Flint, MI. She was raised for a while as a young girl in St. Ives, Cornwall, England. After returning to Flint, she graduated from Flint Northern High School, subsequently obtained her cosmetology license and owned her own beauty shop in the 1940's. She married William LaBoskey on August 3, 1942; he preceded her in death October 27, 1980. She was a member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Flint and was an active volunteer and Sunday school teacher. She participated in many forms of dancing throughout the years and particularly enjoyed clogging with a group in Paradise Bay Park in Bradenton. She is survived by: two children, Christopher P. (Janet) LaBoskey of Edinburg, TX, Karen (Bill) Mavredes of Bradenton, FL; seven grandchildren, Lisa Lindsey of Tampa FL, Shannon Conley of Chicago IL, Lynn Bryant of Bay City, MI, Bill Mavredes Jr. of Flint, MI, Kathryn Smith of Greenville, NC, Nicole Balamucki of Greensboro NC, Christopher LaBoskey of Edinburg, TX; nine great-grandchildren; several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband William; and three siblings, William Lander, Mary Graham, and Gladys Murray. Tributes may be shared on the obituaries page at www.sharpfuneralhomes.com.



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