Fire destroys historic Holly home

Five families are displaced after this historic house at 415 East Maple Street in Holly was destroyed by fire on Sunday. Holly/Groveland, Springfield and North Oakland County Fire Authority fought the blaze that is under investigation.

Grading the Governor

Will Gov. Rick Snyder's job performance land him another term?

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

Face to face and in person, Rick Pluta of Michigan Radio said Gov. Rick Snyder is a nice guy, who likes to laugh. “The ‘nerdy’ moniker that he’s given himself is definitely deserved,” said the Lansing bureau chief for the Michigan Public Radio Network.

While it might be clear Snyder is nerdy and a nice guy in person, it’s not at all clear whether he’ll be re-elected again in 2014. You can’t assume voters will keep him or kick him out.

He’ll wrap up his first term this year, and he’s kicked off his reelection campaign with the “comeback kid” ads during the Super Bowl. Most of the reviews called the ad confusing, “mixed” or off-key. Of course, these opinions tended to be on

Ronnie Duke back in custody

On the lamb since last June, mortgage fraudster apprehended in Saline

By Sharon Stone

When he was convicted nearly a year ago, Ronnie Duke knew he was supposed to show up in June 2013 to begin his 13-year federal prison sentence. He failed to show up and instead has stayed out of sight. That is until investigators caught up with him and arrested him this week in Saline.

Duke, 46, of Fenton faces 13 years in federal prison for his involvement in one of the country’s most extensive mortgage fraud schemes. In addition to prison time, Duke

Fenton man arrested after fatal highway crash

Mt. Morris man killed, alcohol is suspected

By Sharon Stone

Leroy Batson, 31, of Mt. Morris was killed when his car was rear-ended by a pickup truck on southbound U.S. 23 just before midnight on Friday. A 49-year-old Fenton man driving the pickup truck that stuck Batson’s car was arrested. He has since been released pending further investigation and the return of the toxicology report on the victim, which could take several weeks.

Livingston County Sheriff Bob Bezotte said the sheriff’s department had received a “be on the lookout” for a 1997
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Police&Fire

HIT AND RUN
At 2:15 a.m. on Feb. 22, Fenton police responded to the 200 block of Fifth Street for a hit and run that just occurred. Police were advised that a dark colored vehicle struck two parked vehicles and left the scene. En route, police spotted a vehicle on westbound Silver Lake Road with one of its headlights out and it was also smoking. A traffic stop was initiated and contact was made with the 22-year-old Fenton man driving the 2004 Chevy Malibu. The man admitted to drinking and breath tests revealed he was over the legal limit. He denied hitting any vehicles. However, an assisting police officer recovered parts from his car that were found next to the damaged vehicles on Fifth Street. He has a March 17 court date.

FENTON WOMAN SHOPLIFTS FOOD ITEMS
A 49-year-old Fenton woman was arrested by Fenton police after shoplifting $105 worth of grocery items from a department store on Owen Road. She has a March 24 court date for retail fraud.

Features

Less pop, more coffee, energy drinks and water

Bottled water sales set to outpace pop by 2020

By William Axford

axford@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Kids and teenagers are no longer able to ‘Take the Pepsi challenge’ or ‘Do the (Mountain) Dew’ in school anymore. Instead of sugary, carbonated drinks, vending machines at schools now dispense water, flavored water and juice.

The push for healthier drinks and food in public schools stems from the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act, a nutrition policy mandated by the federal government. The act has been phasing out sugary and fattening foods and drinks for more nutrition and well-rounded meals.

Between 2000 and 2010, drinks like Coke and Dr. Pepper declined by 40 percent amongst older teenagers, according to an article by National Public Radio. That decline may be a combination of changes in personal taste and public restriction to such drinks.

“We haven’t served any carbonated beverages for quite some time now,” said Debbie Brindle, education and food service director at Linden schools. “I think kids on the whole are trying to be a little healthier. Kids are pretty resilient and we don’t get any complaints.”

While carbonated soda consumption is declining, coffee and energy drink consumption amongst kids and teenagers hasn’t decreased. According to a report published earlier this month in the Journal of Pediatrics, coffee accounted for nearly 24 percent of caffeine intake amongst adolescents, more than doubling in one decade.

Energy drinks are still relatively new and account for 6 percent of caffeine consumption. Pop is still the most consumed caffeinated beverage amongst younger people, accounting for 38 percent caffeine intake. That’s lower than in 2000, when 62 percent of kids and teens regularly drank pop.

Feel water on 9

Who needs to buy software?

Look to the Internet for free software solutions

By Amy Mayhew

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

You’ve finally saved up enough dough to buy that fantastic, state-of-the-art computer system you’ve been wanting, but now that you have it, you can’t afford to buy the software.

Sound familiar?

If so, consider looking into some of the many free options the Internet has to offer. Whether it be software to run your business, graphics software to touch up your photo collection, or a software designed to clean up infected hardware — it’s all out there, and ripe for the picking.

Free office software

If you need some help with your office software, you don’t have to spend $400 on the MS Office suite. OpenOffice.org can get you up and running and not cost you a penny in the process.

OpenOffice is the leading open-source software suite for all of your word processing, spreadsheets, graphics and data base needs. Available in multiple languages, it works on any typical computer. Able to store all of your data in an international format.

See SOFTWARE on 9

Summary

Kids and teenagers are bypassing pop for other non-carbonated drinks and water. Caffeine consumption amongst adolescents today is the same as it was in 2000.

I think kids on the whole are trying to be a little healthier

Debbie Brindle
Education and food service director for Linden schools

Think varicose veins are just a cosmetic issue?

Think again!

Varicose veins are a sign of vein (venous) disease.

Now that your deductible has been met...it’s time to have your varicose veins treated.

There are no carbonated drink options in the schools today — though in some cases the sugar amount is comparable. Here, Lake Fenton High School students wrap up the last lunch on Monday.
Germany’s enviable shock absorber

As the usual suspects in Congress argue over whether to extend unemployment benefits, which ran out at the end of last year for more than a million jobless workers, I am feeling Germany envy. Jobs in Germany fell more costly in the 2008 global economic crisis than they did here or in the rest of the European Union — and bounced back more quickly.

Indeed, did they do it? Recoveries are complicated, but a major factor appears to be Germany’s policy of Kurzarbeit — what we Americans call ‘work sharing.’ Instead of firing workers or laying them off in times of economic crisis, it encourages hard-pressed companies to reduce all of their employees’ hours and pay — and the government pays a portion of the workers’ unemployment benefits to help make up the difference.

The benefits of this arrangement are enormous. Workers stay on their jobs, although with reduced hours, and they keep most of their skills.

For government, it’s cheaper to pay partial unemployment benefits to a reduced-time worker than to pay full benefits to an unemployed worker.

Jobs in Germany fell more costly in many ways to keep a reliable worker on the job and, when business improves, expand everyone’s hours again.

Remarkably, in polarized Washington, work sharing has enthusiastic fans on both political sides — which may account for why the idea has received so little attention.

Conservatives are wary about any idea that Germany, a social liberal, feels the same about the Tea Party right.

So far, 27 states are participating, but further growth has come slowly, partly because too few people know about it.

Economic skeptics also question whether it would not be better to encourage workers to pack up and move as workers traditionally do to where jobs are more plentiful.

Indeed, such a move could be dearer for taxpayers than unemployment insurance and more helpful in the long-run for the workers. In the midst of our third ‘jobless recovery’ since the early 1990s, Americans should be less concerned about what’s left or right than with what works.

THANK YOU to the lady that found my keys in VG’s parking lot on Feb. 19 and turned them in. It was so kind of you.

‘LIBERALS DO WHAT’S RIGH AT WHAT THEY’RE TOLD.’ So aborting babies because of reckless personal behavior is ‘right?’ Encouraging people who could work not to and enslaving them with welfare is ‘right?’ Disrespecting the rights of 98 percent of the country to cater to the 2 percent of gays is ‘right?’

MANY YEARS AGO, the unions did some good in this country until they became greedy. The Democrats did some good for this country until they became greedy and lazy. The union supported by the Democrats have fallen. The Democrats supported by the unions will fall too. The end.

TO THE PERSON who was snowmobiling on Lake Fenton Sunday and was chased by that big dog. Thank you. Brooks is a chocolate lab who is 1 1/2 years old and loves to run. You wore him out. He is now sleeping. Thank you.

THE SUPREME COURT was right to remove restrictions from abortion. It is for each woman to make that decision based on her own personal beliefs. It is wrong for anyone to force their beliefs on anyone else. It is wrong to force all taxpayers to fund abortions.

TO THE SELFISH family that drove diagonally across the Silver Parkway parking lot at a high rate of speed and flipped out on me when you nearly crashed into me in the aisle, I had a baby in the backseat — your ignorance is not worth someone else’s life.

IT IS A SHAME TO SEE EVEN OUR NEWEST ROADS (Silver Parkway) cracking up from the frost. Older roads cracked and have heaved on every crack so it’s like driving on a corduroy road. I’m sure the cities and county will get blamed, Bob, increased taxes are at fault.

THANK YOU to the people who stopped to make sure I was OK after the spinout accident I had on U.S. 23 just south of White Lake Road on Feb. 16. Everyone was so nice and I am so grateful for that.

LIBERALS/DEMOCRATS, THE unemployment rate is not declining because of Obama’s policies. Over the last three years, it’s declined entirely because of the reduction in the size of the labor force. Despite this, 742,000 jobs were created but 347,000 fled the workforce that month, no longer jobs were created but 347,000 fled the workforce that month, no longer.

PEOPLE USE THE term global warming incorrectly. The correct terminology is the word w-e-a-t-h-e-r. Rhymes with feather.

REAGAN, THE GREATEST? Tripled the national debt, raised taxes 11 times, largest tax increase on corporations in history, increased the size of the federal government, sold guns to our enemy, Iran, increased funding for federal healthcare. Yes, I can see why conservatives love him.

THANK YOU FOR GIVING US THE FREE TIMES MIDWEEK
Too little, too late?

Local officials grateful for small increase in state revenue sharing, but it won’t make up for years of losses

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

Local governments that have felt the sting of plummeting property values, rising healthcare costs and decreased revenue sharing from the state in the past few years will get a little relief this year.

That’s due to a small increase in revenue sharing promised by Gov. Rick Snyder’s 2014-2015 budget.

What is revenue sharing?

It’s the distribution of sales tax collected by the State of Michigan, based on taxable value per capita, a weight factor based on population and the complexity of the local unit of government. For the tri-county area, it amounts to between a 2.6 and 2.7 percent funding increase, depending on the community.

“The increase will definitely help the city out,” said Linden City Manager Paul Zelenak. “It’s still drastically below what the state has taken from the municipalities. We’ve lost tens of thousands of dollars and more in the last five years.”

For Linden, the increase of 2.6 percent will add $8,282 to its operating budget. “It’s hard to say what it will go for,” said Zelenak. “We’re just in the process of developing the budget for July 1. It might go toward funding the additional costs this winter for snowplowing and salt, or the inevitable potholes. But until those checks from the state are actually written, see LATE on 9.”

A lot of our roads are deteriorating. There are many infrastructure improvements needed.

Paul Zelenak
Linden City manager

GRADING
Continued from Front Page

Parties agree.

The ad starts with Snyder popping up from a pool, wearing SCUBA gear, claiming that 220,000 private sector jobs were created in his tenure, and that he cut “job killing” taxes.

The information and spin firestorm of campaigns are about to start. Has the “tough nerd” Republican governor held up his promises?

Jason Kosnoski, University of Michigan-Flint associate professor and chair of the department of political science broke Snyder’s promises down to two major things — promises of a leadership style, and promises of substantive change. To Kosnoski, he failed on both counts.

For substance, Kosnoski said Snyder’s main platform was to create jobs, which in his view, didn’t happen, aside from a boost from federal stimulus.

For leadership style, he said Snyder promised to be a more pragmatic, non-ideological leader. Again, Kosnoski thinks he failed. “He’s proven to be incredibly ideological and I think some people feel betrayed because of that.”

One example is the controversial “right to work” bills he signed. The legislation was supposed to lure in businesses, which according to a Detroit Free Press article, hasn’t done anything for jobs, though the article quickly added that it could take 10 years to see the impact of such legislation.

Pluta also said that Snyder’s tenure has been more ideological than promised — liberals feel betrayed by right-to-work and same-sex couple benefits, while more tea-party aligned conservatives don’t like his support of a new bridge to Canada.

Overall Kosnoski would give Snyder a failing letter grade for his performance. He gave former Gov. Jennifer Granholm a B-minus. Admittedly, Kosnoski leans liberal, which can color his view of a Republican governor. He feels that polls show Snyder will not be re-elected, and as a governor, has been weak in leading his republican-majority legislature.

Pluta on the other hand, said that historically, GOP governors tend to be given a second term, and polls this far out of the election are less of a solid indicator.

With dealing with his Michigan legislature, Pluta said Snyder’s style has been more work to together on lists of initiatives, while sometimes asking the house and senate to take action on certain items. This has also been a mixed-bag for Snyder. “Now he just seems to be standing back and hoping for the best,” he said.

Pluta said that Snyder delivered on his promise of rolling back the Michi- gan business tax. Snyder also promised to take up the issue of mental health related to the corrections system in Michigan, which he started late in his term.

With jobs, Pluta said the state’s unem- ployment numbers have improved, and hiring is up — but not up enough to match all of those looking for work, and those who are joining the work force. In short, Pluta said that any measure of success or failure is a mixed bag.

When asked if he liked anything the governor did, Kosnoski said he appreci- ates Snyder supporting a new bridge to Canada, and taking up immigration in Michigan.

Snyder will be judged somewhat on how Republicans are judged overall.

Rick Pluta, Lansing bureau chief, Michigan Public Radio Network

Michigan-Shiga Student Exchange Program

High school students currently in grades 9, 10 and 11 are invited to apply to a statewide student exchange program that would take them to Shiga, Japan, our Sister State, for two weeks during the summer of 2014. Applications are due by March 10. Fifteen high school students from Michigan are selected to participate each year and paired with Japanese students with similar interests. The cost for each student is $3,065. There is an orientation April 26 to acquaint selected students and parents with Japanese customs and basic language. Students interested in applying can receive an application and descriptive brochure online at http://www.mishiga.org/programs/.

If you have further questions, please call the program coordinator at (517) 388-1308 or email mc-don286@gmail.com.

CHECK SNYDER’S RECORD

Gov. Rick Snyder has implemented “dashboards” for a variety of topics around the state, which can indicate improvements or declines in specific areas while he’s been in office. Examples include education, health and wellness and infrastructure.

Go to michigan.gov/snyder and click on “measuring performance,” which appears on the website.

Valentine’s Day may be over, but our “Sweetheart of a sale” runs all month!

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www.tctimes.com TIMES MIDWEEK Wednesday, February 26, 2014 5
This Chevy pickup truck struck the parked car on U.S. 23. The driver reportedly had a PBT of .16.

CRASH
Continued from Front Page
Plymouth Breeze that was driving erratically and stopping on southbound U.S. 23. Fenton Police had been looking for this vehicle but ended its search just south of the Fenton City/Livingston County border.

Fenton Police Chief Rick Bezotte said one call came in at 11:43 p.m. from a motorist who reported to 911 that they observed the Breeze driving erratically near exit 80. Fenton police responded to the highway, checked the area and cleared at 11:57 p.m. at the turnaround just south of Owen Road, unable to locate the car.

About three minutes later, 911 received calls about a crash, which occurred on southbound U.S. 23, just south of White Lake Road in Tyrone Township. Bezotte said the Breeze had stopped in the slow lane of the highway and the car was in park. Batson’s car was rear-ended by the truck while it was parked in the slow lane of the freeway.

Batson was pronounced dead at the scene. The driver of truck was not injured. Suspecting that the truck driver had been drinking, a preliminary breath test was administered, which revealed a blood alcohol content of .16 percent. The Fenton man was placed under arrest for operating a vehicle while intoxicated causing death. As of Monday morning, he remained in jail awaiting arraignment.

Bezotte said responding police officers suspected that Batson had also been drinking. However, toxicology testing could take several weeks to receive, and are necessary to confirm that suspicion.

The highway was shut down for four hours for the investigation and clearing of the vehicles. The Livingston County Sheriff’s Department was assisted by Michigan State Police, Fenton Fire Department, Fenton Police Department and Livingston County EMS.

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How does a $200 VG’s gift card sound?

• Fill out entry form, drop it off at the Expo for a chance to win

By Sharon Stone

The Tri-County Times and VG’s Grocery have teamed in their effort to award multiple VG’s gift cards to five lucky residents who drop off their entry form at the Expo on March 1 or 2.

Look for the entry form in the Tri-County Times, fill it out and drop it off at either VG’s or the Times’ booth at the Expo.

Together your local grocery store and your hometown newspaper will be awarding out a total of $500 in gift cards. The first-place winner will receive a $200 gift card. The second- and third-place winners will each receive a $100 gift card and the fourth- and fifth-place winners will each receive a $50 gift card.

Jessica Smith, Community Relations for Spartan Stores said, “Being a local company, VG’s always wants to give back to the community.”

“This year at the Fenton Regional Community Expo, VG’s and the Tri-County Times have joined together to give away five gift cards to area families.”

The drawing will be held during the morning of Monday, March 3. Winners will be notified.

The latest word on the Michigan Medical Marihuana Act – Part II

In the Ter Beck case, the Circuit Court held that the MMMA was preempted by the CSA and accordingly the ordinance, which prohibited any uses in a zoning district contrary to federal, state or local law was valid.

The Michigan Court of Appeals reversed the Circuit Court and found that the CSA did not preempt the MMMA and it was possible to comply with both statutes simultaneously as the limited immunity under the state statute did not stand as an obstacle to the CSA’s regulation or enforcement of marijuana use.

The Appeals Court also found that the ordinance by its terms was preempted by the MMMA and was therefore invalid. The Michigan Supreme Court affirmed the Court of Appeals’ judgment in an unanimous opinion.

The Supreme Court found that when comparing the provisions of the CSA with the MMMA, the CSA prohibits the manufacture, distribution or possession of marijuana and these activities are punishable as a federal offense.

The Court concluded that granting Mr. Ter Beck his requested relief from the ordinance’s prohibitions did not limit his potential exposure to federal enforcement of the CSA against him. Under the MMMA he has immunity for MMMA — compliant conduct under the state statute only.

As to the issue of the MMMA preemption the ordinance, the Court reasoned in part that since the ordinance permits registered qualifying patients such as Ter Beck to be penalized by the city for engaging in MMMA compliant medical use, the MMMA preempted the ordinance and therefore the ordinance was invalid.

In an ending footnote, the Court stated it was not finding that this outcome prohibited local regulation of marijuana cultivation and distribution and it was not holding that the MMMA foreclosed all local regulation of marijuana.

Additionally the case only required it to decide whether and to what extent the MMMA might occupy the field of medical marijuana regulation.

This decision answered a number of very important questions on the MMMA and is available online.
Fenton schools asking for $11 million in May

Bond will update technology, buses and infrastructure

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

The Fenton Board of Education voted 6 to 1 to put an $11 million bond proposal on the May 6 ballot. If approved, the bond will last for 12 years and be used to update technology, buses, athletic facilities and infrastructure.

Director of Finance Doug Busch said passage of the bond will not increase taxes due to rising property values in the Fenton school district and by dispersing bond money every three to four years during the 12-year cycle.

“Interest rates in the bond market are at historic lows,” Busch said. “Simply put, we can borrow money at a lower interest rate than ever before.”

The bond will also be used to replace instructional equipment in the fine arts and performing programs, such as band equipment. The bond calls for 6.94 mills to each taxable property in the district.

Trustee Drew Shapiro cast the dissenting vote, calling for a long-term plan for technology rather than a bond.

“I do not feel comfortable asking this community for more money,” Shapiro said. “I think our students deserve a plan that gives them technology that does not rely on a bond. I’m thinking about the next 50 to 100 years, not the next 12.”

Vice President Tamara Valley and Trustee Daniel Carter agreed a long-term plan for technology should be implemented moving forward. Valley said that due to the structure of school funding, there’s little school officials can do to raise a large amount of funding for projects outside of bonding.

“I absolutely do agree that we need a technology plan going forward,” Valley said. “However, with the state of our finances, that so much of it is dictated by the state, this is the only way we could fund some of the larger portions.”

The school board began mulling a new bond proposal in December, after hearing a presentation on the need for new technology. The board attempted to pass two bond proposals in 2012, one for $9.6 million in May and another for $8.4 million in November. Both bonds were voted down at the polls.

Fenton schools paid $13,466 for the special election in May 2012 since it was not held during the General Election.

Monday, April 7 is the registration deadline in order to vote in the May 6 election.

Carter added that the bond will help give students the best education school officials can offer.

“I feel (the bond) is needed and definitely not wasted money,” Carter said. “It’s up to us as a board to come up with a plan and not just survive the day.”

What $11 million will do for Fenton schools

• School officials are looking to purchase new buses, technology and instructional equipment such as band instruments, as well as update security and infrastructure in buildings.

• If approved, the bond will last 12 years, with funds being dispersed every three to four years.

• Finance Director Doug Busch said the bond will not increase taxes due to “historic low interest rates and rising local property value.”

Summary

• The Fenton Board of Education voted 6 to 1 Monday to place an $11 million bond on the May 6 ballot.

Simply put, we can borrow money and bond at a lower interest rate than ever before.

Doug Busch, Director of finance for Fenton schools

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DUKE

Continued from Front Page
has also been ordered to pay nearly $95 million in restitution and a $1 million fine.

Once in custody this week, Duke reportedly attacked a female federal prosecutor in the courtroom. This latest incident is under investigation and more charges are pending.

Duke pleaded guilty in connection with the extensive multi-million dollar mortgage fraud conspiracy in United States District Court in Detroit. Investigators reported that the numerous defendants, led by Duke, conspired to defraud mortgage lenders and obtain money and property. Losses to the lenders resulting from the scheme exceeded $100 million.

Some of Duke’s co-defendants, now in federal prison, used proceeds to purchase luxury items, including a helicopter, cars, boats, residential properties, and for extensive travel to the Caribbean and foreign vacation destinations.

Duke was a long-time criminal first convicted of embezzlement in Allen Park in 1986. He was sent to prison in 1989 for receiving stolen property and briefly escaped from prison in the Upper Peninsula before he was released in 1993.

He later moved into mortgages, even though Michigan regulators banned him from the mortgage business in 2006.

View all stories online at tctimes.com
FIRE
Continued from Front Page
president for the Holly Historical Society, Linda Smith said.
Holly Fire Chief Steve McGee said the fire began around 11:30 a.m. Sunday and most likely originated in the basement. McGee said “balloon construction,” a method of building typically used in the late 1800s made fighting the fire particularly difficult.
“Balloon construction used longer pieces of lumber and left many voided areas throughout the structure,” McGee said. “We believe the fire began in the basement, and because of the balloon construction, there were no fire stops from the basement all the way to the attic. In fact, when the fire got into the walls, they sort of served as ‘little chimneys.’”
Firefighters from the village of Holly, Groveland and Springfield townships, and North Oakland County Fire Authority fought the blaze, McGee said.
For more than 90 minutes, McGee said crews took an “aggressive interior attack” on the blaze before backing off into defensive mode. “It got to the point where it wasn’t worth risking the lives of fire personnel,” McGee said. Calling the crews’ performance “textbook,” McGee said the age and construction of the building made it difficult.
“Everywhere we went, we’d find a void where another fire was burning — we just couldn’t get on top of it,” he said. With the catastrophic damage done to the upper level of the structure, McGee believes it to be a total loss.
With five of the seven apartments occupied, owner Darin Dell said all of the tenants and their pets got out safely. “The main thing is that everyone is safe and nobody was injured,” Dell said. “The fire departments, the American Red Cross, everyone did a hell of a job.”
Dell said his focus will be determining the fire’s cause, and cleaning up the debris. “It turned a nice building into a hazard — it’s unsightly,” he said. “I plan to cooperate with everyone — the fire department, the fire inspector, the neighbors, and the village to make sure it all gets handled the way it should.”
On Monday, McGee said fire officials will be looking into the cause and origin of the blaze, but for now are calling it “undetermined but suspicious.”
McGee said the Oakland County Fire Investigation team is handling the investigation.
Wednesday, February 26, 2014 9

WATER
Continued from Page 3
Overall, the study found 73 percent of kids consumed some sort of caffeine on any random day. The consumption of less pop and more energy drinks and coffee doesn’t necessarily translate into healthier consumption. The Center for Science in the Public Interest found a regular 12-oz. coffee from Starbucks has 260 mg of caffeine. Energy drinks like Rockstar have 160 mg of caffeine, in a 16-oz. can. A 12-oz. can of Mountain Dew by contrast has 54 mg. of caffeine. The same size can of Coke has 58 mg.

As energy drink and coffee sales grow, so does bottled water. The Beverage Marketing Corporation expects bottled water sales to surpass carbonated drink sales by the end of the decade, pointing toward a permanent trend in consumer habits. “Kids are buying water and taking it to after-school sports. They were buying Gatorade and similar drinks but have been shying away from it,” said Patti Morey, food service director at Lake Fenton Community Schools. “Teenagers don’t need all that sugar. They’ll get it elsewhere. We’re trying not to give them all the sugar here (at school).”

SOFTWARE
Continued from Page 3
open standard format, it can read and write files from other common office software packages.

Used by governments, businesses, non-profits and more, its programmer promises that it is a great software that’s easy to use, and best of all — free. Go online to www.OpenOffice.org to get your free download.

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ware
If you take tons of pictures but have no photo editing program, you’ll be happy to hear about GIMP, a freely distributed program offered on the internet. Tasks like photo retouching, image composition, and image authoring.

With many capabilities, it can be used as a simple paint program, an expert quality photo-retouching program, an online batch processing system, a mass production image renderer, or an image format converter. If you want more than that, you’ll love that it’s designed to be augmented with plug-ins and extensions to do just about any task you throw at it. The advanced scripting interface allows you to do everything from the easiest of tasks to the most complex image manipulation procedures. GIMP will run on both MS Windows and Mac OS X. To download your free copy of GIMP, visit www.gimp.org.

Summary

► You don’t have to spend any money on software for your computer. Instead, check out some of the many free software solutions that are available on the Internet.

For full story see page 4.

MICHIGAN
WHAT YOUR LEGISLATORS
VOTED ON THIS WEEK

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. This was released on Friday, Feb. 21.

Senate Bill 608: Revise Medicaid expansion funding details; authorize extra spending
To adjust spending in the current year budget to reflect fund source changes triggered by adoption of the federal healthcare law’s Medicaid expansion starting in April. And to authorize additional spending on roads (including $100 million for extra winter maintenance costs), government preschool programs, “land bank” authorities, low income heating bill subsidies, National Guard armory improvements, veterans programs, harbor dredging projects, and much more. The bill would also authorize $60.3 million in new debt for state college and university construction projects. Introduced by Sen. Roger Kahn (R) Passed 32 to 6 in the Senate Sen. Jim Ananich (D-Genesee County) □ YES

Senate Bill 608: Hoppog amend-
ment to strip funding for “Pyramid” school project
To remove a line item from Senate Bill 608 that would authorize $5.5 million for a “public/private partnership, Pyramid P20 education hub” project located in a former Steelcase building that reportedly has become a real estate market “white elephant.” Failed 14 to 24 in the Senate Sen. Jim Ananich (D-Genesee County) □ YES

LATE
Continued from Page 5
it’s difficult for us to say how they will be used. They may be allocated across the board for infrastructure and other needs that make our community more desirable.”

Holly Village Manager Jerry Walker expects to see $15,004 more in Holly’s 2014-2105 budget, due to a 2.7-percent increase in revenue sharing. “We’re just entering our budget cycle now,” he said. “We have a lot of maintenance needs for roads, sidewalks and what we’d like to do in our local parks. We’ve got many areas in which the extra funds can go. We’ll put the dollars where they will best serve the community.”

In Fenton, the increase of 2.6 percent will add $24,268 to the city budget.

Scott has Moved!
Dear Friends and Neighbors,

My name is Scott Braeckman. Twenty-five years ago I began my career in the water treatment business with Village and Country Water Treatment in Linden, Michigan, formerly owned by William Beauchamp. Eventually, the business outgrew the Linden location and Mr. Beauchamp sold it to his sons, Jerrad and John. They relocated to Old Us-23 in Hartland, Michigan.

In 2002, the Beauchamps sold the business to explore new opportunities. I continued working for the new owners until the end of 2013.

I’m excited to announce that Jerrad Beauchamp and I are starting Beauchamp Water Treatment & Supply in Brightown, Michigan. We will provide the same personalized and expert sales and service that we provided for many years. I will personally continue to provide the same experience and professionalism that I have for the past twenty-five years. You can contact me at 810-632-2000 or via my personal cell at 810-887-9063.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to visit booth #34, at the Fenton Community Expo this coming Saturday and Sunday, March 1st and 2nd. I’m looking forward to meeting you in person!

Cordially,

Scott Braeckman
Sales Manager

Montessori Preschool
& Pre-Kindergarten, Infant & Toddler programs.

Certified Montessori Staff
Competitive Rates
FIA Accepted
Bus Service to Fenton Schools
Open Monday through Friday
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(810) 750-8051
860 N. LeRoy Fenton, MI
(Located in the First Baptist Church)
SERVING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1996!
Tigers capture third straight Metro crown

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

Fenton collects 10 event titles

“Fenton Tigers? How about winning 10 of the 12 events dominating? How about setting four meet records? And how about earning 621.5 points versus second-place Brandon’s total of 327.5 points? Yeah, they were pretty dominant.”

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

Blue Devils’ state title run ends in quarterfinals

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

Of course, the Lake Fenton varsity wrestling team would’ve loved to begin its Division 3 State Team Wrestling Finals trip with an upset of eventual state champions Dundee on Friday at Battle Creek’s Kellogg Arena.

But even with the 53-12 defeat against Dundee, the Blue Devils had to look at their second trip to Battle Creek in four years only as a positive. Wrestling coach Vance Corcoran felt that way. “It definitely felt nice to be back,” Corcoran said. “Just the experience for all the kids to be there and to get a taste of it. It was good for the younger kids and the freshmen coming up to see it, to get a taste of it so they will want to get back there, win some matches and make some noise in the future.”

The fact the Blue Devils made it to the team state tournament was a huge accomplishment in itself. To make it there, Lake Fenton (33-6) had to defeat highly ranked Birch Run at Birch Run with three starting wrestlers out of the lineup. Unfortunately, when the seedings were released, the Blue Devils were matched against two-time defending Division 3 state champions Dundee.

Lake Fenton’s Cody Sanders (top) was one of three Blue Devils to win matches against Dundee wrestlers on Friday at the team state wrestling meet.
Eagles advance to district semis

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

The third time ended up being the charm for the Linden varsity girls basketball team against Brandon on Monday night.

After losing to the Blackhawks twice earlier in the season, the Eagles defeated Brandon in a Class A district opener by a 51-44 margin.

It was easy for Linden coach Ben Varner to tell what the difference was between the victory and the two losses. “We made shots,” Varner said. “Last time we played them we made eight shots. This time we made 18. That’s huge. Like I’ve said before, I like what we are doing offensively. We are running our offense fine and taking good shots, but we haven’t made the shots. We made some shots and made our free throws down the stretch this time and that was the difference.”

The Eagles (8-13) will continue at home in the Class A district Wednesday at 7 p.m. against the 20-0 Holly Bronchos.

The Eagles’ biggest problem this season has been when the offense has just missed open shots. That has been evident in the two losses to Brandon with Linden scoring single-digits in each of the last six quarters the Eagles had played against the Blackhawks entering Monday’s game. But on Monday, the Eagles started hot and remained pretty hot throughout the contest.

Bri Holscher hit two threes in the opening quarter and Sterling DeGayner added a three-pointer and another bucket, helping lead the Eagles to a 12-6 lead after the first quarter.

“Bri’s two threes in the first quarter helped to get us rolling, and Sterling DeGayner had the five points,” Varner said. “Bam, bam, they got us going.”

The Blackhawks didn’t fold. They scored 17 points in the second quarter, cutting Linden’s lead to 27-23 at the half. In the second half, the contest remained close. The game was tied 36-all when the Eagles took the lead for good on a Taylor Smith bucket. Down the stretch, the Eagles made free throws, including four by Sydney Elmer, icing the victory.

Smith led Linden with 10 points, seven rebounds and four steals, while Holscher, Alyssa Logie and Megan Kenney had eight points each, while Kenney and Logie had eight and seven rebounds, respectively.

Now undefeated Holly looks today in a game scheduled to start about 7 p.m. in the district semifinal at Linden.

“We have nothing to lose. We are not supposed to win,” Varner said. “The most dangerous team in a gym is the team that has nothing to lose.”

See DISTRICT on 12
Continued from Page 10

Tigers

helping the squad to a state time in three of his four starts. He teamed with Mikulenas, Zac Miceli and Nakalka to a championship performance and a state-cut time of 1:32.97 in the 200 freestyle relay.

Cassidy wasn’t the only Fenton swimmer to earn four firsts. Miceli did it as well. Along with the 200 freestyle relay, he also teamed with Landis, Macklin and Mikulenas to win the 200 medley relay (1:46.46). Individually, he won the 200 individual medley (2:09.46) and the 100 butterfly (58.22).

Mike Banner was a third Fenton swimmer to win two individual conference titles. The distance swimmer won the 200 freestyle (1:51.29) and the 500 freestyle (5:02.08). Finally, Macklin won the Tigers’ final individual title, taking first in the 100 breaststroke (1:05.50).

Fenton coach Brad Jones isn’t shocked by what the Tigers accomplished, specifically led by his senior class of Cassidy, Macklin, Mikulenas, Michael Banner, Lack, Nakalka, Luke Idoni and Chevy Redman.

“This senior group really stepped up,” Jones said. “They didn’t win their freshman year when they lost to Brandon by a handful of points back in 2011, and that was the turning point for this group. They were not going to lose again, and they haven’t. They won resoundingly on Saturday... And they’ve instilled it in our freshman class. Our freshman class are head and shoulders above where our senior group was as freshmen, so we’re excited about the future. A lot of what we accomplished is because of this senior group’s leadership and how goal-oriented they are.”

“Our desire (made this happen),” Mikulenas said. “Our grade has had its mindset to get our name on that board (the school record board) and we’ve been working our butts off.”

The Holly Bronchos had one swimmer earn top-five status in his individual events. In fact, Peyton Molzahn earned two seconds. He was a runner-up in the 200 individual medley (2.12.97) and in the 100 backstroke (57.87). Molzahn had the best preliminary time in the 100 backstroke (58.01).

Holly’s best relay finish came in the 200 freestyle relay where Benjamin Kopitski, Dillon Slate, Dilon Lemond and Tom O’ Connor placed fourth (1:48.46). And now there’s just one more meet left, the state meet to be held March 7 and 8 at Eastern Michigan University. Fenton has many individuals and relay teams qualified for the event.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Lapeer West 63, Linden 47:

The Blue Devils placed 12th at the regional event, posting a total team score of 681.46. The Blue Devils’ best performance came during round three. Their score of 282.20 placed 12th at the event. The team scored a 207.50 in round one and a 191.76 in round two. Lake Fenton qualified for regionals a week earlier by taking fourth at districts.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Lapeer West 63, Linden 47: Austin Buick led the Eagles with 14 points, while Collin Hoehberg netted 11 points. Mike Gold chipped in seven points and Travis Rinks had six.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Lapeer West 61, Linden 42: Linden was outscored 37-23 in the middle two quarters, resulting in the loss. Alyssa Loge led the Eagles with 11 points and 11 rebounds, while Megan Kenney had eight points and 10 rebounds. Jesse Spencer chipped in even points, while Taylor Smith had seven rebounds and three assists.
DEAR DR. DONOHUE: My blood count showed that my hemoglobin is too high. Everything else is normal. My doctor says the hemoglobin is high because I smoke. The doctor is on me, every time I see him, to stop smoking. I want to, but I haven’t been able to. Is he putting me on with another scare tactic? — S.C.

ANSWER: Hemoglobin is the stuff inside red blood cells that grabs onto oxygen as the blood cells pass through the lungs. Determining a person’s hemoglobin is a surrogate for determining the number of red blood cells. The carbon monoxide in cigarette smoke prevents the attachment of oxygen to the red blood cell. The body senses an oxygen deficit. It ups the production of red blood cells to compensate. The hemoglobin count rises. Your doctor is telling you the truth. Now you’ve got two doctors harping on you.

New DVD Releases

GRAVITY
Gravity stars Sandra Bullock and George Clooney in a heart-pounding thriller that pulls you into the infinite and unforgiving realm of deep space. Bullock plays Dr. Ryan Stone, a brilliant medical engineer on her first shuttle mission, with veteran astronaut Matt Kowalsky (Clooney). But on a seemingly routine spaceship, disaster strikes. The shuttle is destroyed, leaving Stone and Kowalsky completely alone—tethered to nothing but each other and spiraling out into the blackness. The deafening silence tells them they have lost any link to Earth and any chance for rescue. As fear turns to panic, every gulp of air eats away at what little oxygen is left. But the only way home may be to go further out into the terrifying expanse of space. PG-13. 1 hr. 52 min.

THOR: THE DARK WORLD
Marvel’s “Thor” and “Marvel’s The Avengers,” Thor fights to restore order across the cosmos...but an ancient race led by the vengeful Malekith returns to plunge the universe back into darkness. Faced with an enemy that even Odin and Asgard cannot withstand, Thor must embark on his most perilous and personal journey yet, one that will reunite him with Jane Foster and force him to sacrifice everything to save us all. PG-13, 1 hr. 52 min.

iPhone tip of the week

Shake and shuffle for song playback
While you’re playing songs in iPod app, you can tap on the “shuffle” option to shuffle your playlist. Wouldn’t be cool to shuffle the songs by shaking your iPhone? You can go to “Settings” and tap on “Music”. Simply turn on the “Shake to Shuffle” option. Next time you want to shuffle your songs, just shake your iPhone!

King Features

Crossword Puzzle

Across
1. Stately dance
6. Spice blend in Indian cuisine
12. Nut in a toxic shell
13. “I, Robot” author
14. Acid neutralizer
15. Abrade
16. Disorder
17. Reverberate
19. In medias
20. Early pupil
22. Skater
24. Babilonia
27. Exceptional
29. Make a splash
32. He sang “Alison” and “Veronica”
35. Took off
36. Recognize
37. Peculiar
38. Ther.
55. Dr. Scholl’s product
56. Least bananas
57. As a coquette would
62. Address
63. Easy bounding gait
11. Birds, to Brutus
12. Video maker, for short
18. Long, blunt cigar
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF FENTON
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED OF A REGULAR PUBLIC HEARING TO BE HELD THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2014 AT 7:00 PM BY THE FENTON TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION AT THE FENTON TOWNSHIP CIVIC-COMMUNITY CENTER, 12060 MANTAWAUKA. THIS HEARING WILL BE HELD TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:

PUBLIC HEARINGS:
SP14-001 Christopher L. Collins, 12005 Bennett Lake Rd., Fenton: Requesting a special use permit for a log yard. Property is located at 3383 Thompson Rd. It provides provisions for retaining walls.

YOUR OPINIONS MA. Parcel 06-03-300-001.

Amendments to the Fenton Township Zoning Ordinance #594:
Article 3, Sections 3.15 & 3.16 to add Halls as a permitted use in the C-1, local business and C-2 general business zoning districts.

Article 4, Section 4.14 Y BE EXPRESSED VERBALLY AT THIS HEARING OR IN WRITING TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION PRIOR TO THIS HEARING. THE PLANNING COMMISSION ENCOURAGES YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THIS MATTER.

This notice is published in compliance with PA 267 of 1976 as amended (Open Meetings Act), MLA 41.72a (2) (3) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Fenton Township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of prepared materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting or public hearing upon 14 days notice to Fenton Township. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact Fenton Township by writing or calling the following: Fenton Township Office, (810) 629-1537, 12060 Mantawauka Drive, Fenton, Michigan 48430 or services should contact Fenton Township by writing or calling the following: Fenton Township Office, (810) 629-1537, 12060 Mantawauka Drive, Fenton, Michigan 48430 or 810-629-1537. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Fridays.

Robert E. Krug
Fenton Township Clerk

2014
BOARD OF REVIEW NOTICE
ROSE TOWNSHIP
9080 Mason St
Holly, Michigan 48442

MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW MEETING SCHEDULE
The 2014 Rose Township Board of Review will be held at the Rose Township Offices, 9080 Mason Street, Holly, Michigan on the following dates and times:
March 4, 2014 2:00pm Organizational Meeting
March 6, 2014 9:00 am – 12:00 pm & 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm
March 10, 2014 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm & 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm
March 12, 2014 9:00 am – 12:00 pm & 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

FOR AN APPOINTMENT, PLEASE CALL OAKLAND COUNTY EQUALIZATION DIVISION, TOLL FREE, 1-888-350-0900, EXTENSION 81864 OR (248) 858-1864.

APPEARANCES BEFORE THE BOARD OF REVIEW ARE LIMITED TO 15 MINUTES. PROPERTY OWNERS MAY APPEAL BY MAIL IF RECEIVED BY 4:00PM MARCH 12, 2014

All agents protesting values on property other than their own MUST have written authorization from each property owner they are representing. Handicapped persons needing assistance to attend the meeting are asked to contact the Rose Township Clerk (248) 634-8701 at least 72 hours prior to the meeting.

Debbie Miller, CMC
Rose Township Clerk

Personal Notices
CHECK YOUR AD! Report errors immediately. The Tri-County Times will only be responsible for the first day of incorrect publication.

Help Wanted
3

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT wanted for busy property management company in Fenton. Telephone and Microsoft Office experience necessary. Fax resume to 866-672-0840. Drug free. EOE.

DIRECT CARE - Clarkston, Ortonville, White Lake areas full or part-time. Call 248-620-0477.

HOLLY AREA TRANSPORTATION is seeking qualified individuals to serve as bus drivers for our transportation program. Applicant must possess a valid Michigan drivers license with a chauffeur endorsement. Applicant will be subject to physical examination, drug and alcohol screening. Pay is commensurate with experience. Training provided by organization. Please download applications at the Village of Holly web site at www.hollyvillage.org or pick up at the Village offices. Submit applications to the Village Clerk/Treasurer at 202 S. Saginaw Street, Holly, MI 48442. Contact 248-531-0314 with questions.

CARING GENTLEMAN will transport you to your appointments with meal preparation, medication distribution, safety monitoring, companionship and light housekeeping. I am experienced, CPR certified, with local references. Reasonable rates, and flexible schedule. Call 810-735-5919. Linden area.

HANDYMAN - PLUMBING, painting, drywall, roofing and siding repair. Call 810-262-1434 or 810-629-6729.

Classifieds
FOR AN APPOINTMENT, PLEASE CALL OAKLAND COUNTY EQUALIZATION DIVISION, TOLL FREE, 1-888-350-0900, EXTENSION 81864 OR (248) 858-1864.

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Debbie Miller, CMC
Rose Township Clerk
All scrap steel for cash. Scrap and vehicles accepted! Certified scales. Will pay $5 over scale price with this ad. We buy catalytic converters, batteries, radiators, etc. Call for pricing. We also carry a full range of new and used auto parts. Bridge Lake Auto, 9406 Dixie Hwy., Clarkston, 248-625-5050. Monday-Friday, 8-5:30 p.m.; Saturday, 9:20 p.m. www.bridgelakeautoparts.com. See us on Facebook.

Lost - Burton multi-colored children’s board from Tyron Hills and Center to Silver Lake Road east belonging to my 11 year old daughter. Bad dad, sad daughter. Contact Steve at Northern Window at 810-791-9004.


Debra Ann York 1962-2014
Debra Ann York - age 51 of Fenton, died unexpectedly February 20, 2014. A memorial service will be held 1 P.M., Sunday, March 2, 2014 at the Fenton Seventh Day Adventist Church 406 8th St., Fenton, MI 48430. Debra was born April 22, 1962 in Hind- sdale, Illinois, the daugh- ter of Harold and Janice (Parker) Smith. Debra was a Certified Nurse’s Asis- tant (CNA) for many years and loved working with the elderly. She loved flower gardening, and animals. She especially loved her children and grandchildren. Surviving are her parents Harold and Janice (Parker) Smith; daughter Amber (Andrew) Butcher; son Nathan York; four grand- children; sisters Shelley (Andrew) Butcher; son Robert Brunson; and many nieces and neph- ews. Online condolences may be posted on the obituaries page of www.sharpfuneralhomes.com.

Obituaries
Oscio
OBITUARIES online

Things to do when you have lost or found a pet
1. Place an ad in the Tri-County Times, 810-629-8194
2. Call your local vets.
3. Register with Adopt-A-Pet, 810-629-0723
4. Check out previous lost and found pets on the classified section of our website at www.tctimes.com
5. Make posters.
6. Call all veterinary clinics.
7. Visit all local dog pounds and animal shelters.
8. Utilize Social Networking Sites.

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tctimes.com
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Tri-County Times Photos
- All staff photo published in the Tri-County Times can be purchased by calling 810-433-6797.

Notice of error - It is the responsibility of the advertiser to check the correctness of each insertion of an advertisement. The Tri-County Times will not be responsible for more than one incorrect insertion and for only that portion that may have been rendered valueless by an error.
3RD ANNUAL
BURN OFF THE PACZKI

OPEN HOUSE EVENT

FREE ZUMBA®

TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 2014
7:00 PM TO 8:30 PM

GIVE-A-WAYS & ZUMBA® PUNCH CARD SALE

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3180 W. Silver Lake Rd. Fenton
810.750.1360

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www.chassefenton.com