Fenton woman faces felonious driving

Police respond to unusual 911 call Saturday afternoon

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

A 47-year-old Fenton woman could face a variety of charges related to a driving incident on Saturday once Fenton police receive a toxicology report back from state police.

Lt. Jason Slater said police responded to an unusual call at 3:18 p.m. that involved a 1993 Chevy Lumina, driven by the 47-year-old Fenton woman, pushing a Chevy Traverse down North LeRoy Street. A 34-year-old Fenton Township woman was driving the Traverse and she had two female passengers, 12 and 16.

From the preliminary investigation, police learned that the Fenton Township woman driving the Traverse was in the business parking lot at Dauner and LeRoy. While in the lot, their vehicle apparently hit the side of an unknown vehicle.

An unknown person then got out of the vehicle and got in the Traverse.

At the same time, an individual driving a Lumina swerved unexplainedly and hit the Traverse from behind.

The unknown vehicle continued up North LeRoy Street.

The Traverse then hit a telephone pole in front of Fenton High School.

A 47-year-old Fenton woman then started a car in the parking lot and drove it to the front of the high school, where she was arrested.

At 4:19 p.m. Fenton police received the call.

The Fenton woman was arrested and charged with second-degree perjury, church of Christ false teaching, and one count of using force or violence to commit a petty larceny.

The Fenton woman faces three charges after her arrest.

A preliminary hearing has been scheduled for March 25.

Today’s sophisticated, super-safe playgrounds

Nearly $2 million project will feature studio classrooms, elevator, restrooms

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

Fenton — Before ground can truly be broken for the 5,400-square-foot renovation to the Fenton Community and Cultural Center, Fenton City Council unanimously voted to allow city manager Lynn Markland to execute the documents to get the process started with local builder Rhodes & Johnson.

The $1.9 million project will be financed by a $1 million bond held by the Fenton Board of Education.

The Fenton Community and Cultural Center work to begin this spring

On Monday, March 24, 1,800 homes and businesses lost power in the Owen and Bennett Lake roads area in Fenton Township after a car stuck a guy wire late in the afternoon on Owen Road, snapping the top of a utility pole off, leaving to the loss of power at two substations.

Consumers Energy spokesperson Debra Dodd said by 10:30 p.m., 1,000 had their power restored. The remaining 800 customers had theirs restored by 5 a.m. Tuesday. According to Dodd’s report, the crash was caused from an on-road confrontation between vehicles.

Police are still investigating the incident.

11-year-old Linden dancer appearing on TV’s ‘Dance Moms’

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

At age 11, Ava Cota has already achieved a level of dance accomplishments that most young girls have only dreamed of.

Having appeared on Lifetime Channel’s Dance Moms reality TV show this past season, Ava competed against 1,000 other dancers to win one of 20 coveted positions in episodes seven and 10. Dance Moms stars Abby Lee Miller in a drama-filled reality show about dance competitions “behind the scenes.”

The daughter of Rick and Jeanette Cota of Argentine Township, Ava is professionally trained through the Broadway See DANCES on 5
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Police & Fire report

BRICK THROWN AT SHOP
On March 19, Fenton police received a report of a business in the 100 block of South LeRoy Street with a broken front display window. Because it was a two-paned window, just the outside pane was broken. It appeared that the suspect used a paver-type brick to throw at the window. The business owner provided the name of a possible suspect. The case remains under investigation.

WRISTLET SNATCHED AT RESTAURANT
On March 18, a 40-year-old Marysville woman told Fenton police that her Coach wristlet had been stolen while she was at a sandwich restaurant on North LeRoy Street at about 1 p.m. She told police that as she threw away her garbage, someone took her wristlet containing cash and credit cards. Police could not locate any witnesses but they are waiting to see if the suspect tries to use any of the stolen credit cards.

Creating success at recess

What it takes to build and fund today’s state-of-the-art, super safe playgrounds

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

Linden — At Central Elementary, the fifth-graders don’t use the playground equipment as much, as they prefer to play soccer on the finally cleared field. That is until the field is taken over by mud.

When the whistles are blown on Monday, the play structures are again occupied by the kindergarten, and first-grade classes.

The playground is ubiquitous to childhood — but See PLAYGROUNDS on 8

Emma Manis plays with a chunk of ice while playing on the playground at Central Elementary in Linden on Monday. The school’s equipment is newer, coated metal and plastic, and caters to different grade levels. Playgrounds can be inspected by the Department of Human Services (DHS) and are laid out, and built to exacting standards designed with safety in mind.

Brandon Brown erupts from a slide at Holly Elementary on Monday. The playground complex was built over a four-year period.
Humbled nation(s)

What is it about Western leaders from Neville Chamberlain to George W. Bush who want to find good men in bad character?

Acting as if he were endowed by special insight bestowed upon no one else, President George W. Bush declared in 2001 that he had looked Vladimir Putin in the eye and ‘was able to get a sense of his soul.’

In a 2010 interview with talk radio host Hugh Hewitt, Bush, who was promoting his book ‘Decision Points,’ was asked about his ability to see into the souls of men. The former president explained, ‘The reason why I said that is because I remembered him talking movingly about his mother and the cross that she gave him that she said she had blessed in Jerusalem.’

Bush should have asked Putin is whether he shared his mother’s faith and if so, what difference that had made on his thinking?

Putin and his cronies are now openly mocking the United States. Under President Obama, we are becoming a humiliation nation. Meaningless ‘sanctions’ are laughed at in Moscow. And the problem with sanctions is that Russia has options, too, like cutting off gas and oil supplies to Europe and making trouble in other former Soviet republics. Recently, Russian news anchor Dmitry Kiselev took to the Rossiya 1 news channel to declare that Russia is the only country capable of turning the United States into ‘radioactive ashes.’ A picture of a mushroom cloud was projected on the screen behind him.

Understanding one’s adversary is something more important than defeating him, especially if one wishes to avoid armed conflict. The fall of the Berlin Wall was the symbolic collapse of the Soviet Union and occupied Eastern Europe. Putin clearly believes Russia was humiliated after the collapse. But humiliation can cut two ways.

Putin has promised not to annex any territory beyond Crimea. We’ll see if he keeps that promise.

Meanwhile, it would be nice if President Obama led on this matter instead of making the United States the laughing stock of the world’s dictators and to our detriment, perhaps some of our allies.
Elementary hosts Leadership Day

Parent: ‘You set an amazing example to what we should be doing every day’

By Amy Mayhew
news@tctimes.com; 810-629-9282

Holly — For the second straight year, students, parents and staff members of Holly Elementary School demonstrated the perks of being a part of the “Leader in Me” program — a program that uses the “Seven Habits of Highly Effective People” to generate better student academic achievement, fewer discipline problems and an increased engagement among teachers and parents.

In 2012, Holly Elementary became one of 60 schools in the U.S. and one of two “Lighthouse” schools in Michigan to participate in the program. Students, staff and parents celebrated the success of the program by hosting Leadership Day on March 13.

Superintendent Dave Nuss shared thoughts about the two-year journey from his perspective.

“What if somebody came to you from your teaching staff and asked, ‘What if we could bring a program that would really fire up your kids?’ Your kids are going to respect each other, they’re going to hold the door open for each other, they’re not going to fight as much, they’re not going to argue as much, they’re going to work together, and start using words like ‘put first things first,’” he said. “You’d say — nice idea, but it’s not going to work.”

But it does work, Nuss said, adding that the motivation and commitment of the staff, students and parents has made all the difference.

In his first year serving as Principal of Holly Elementary School, Ryan DeSana said he had spent four years working with the Leader in Me program at his former school, Beaumont Elementary School in Waterford.

“It was a seamless transition and just a great marriage of me coming in and helping pick up where (the staff) left off,” DeSana said.

As the father of three young sons who attend Holly Elementary School, Holly Lanes owner, Brian Aubuchon said he has seen huge transformations in his children.
Pyramid schemes

I am confident that most people are familiar with the Egyptian pyramids.

With that assumption in mind, today’s column is not about Egyptian pyramids, but rather an illegal marketing or sales scheme where the people who are near, or at the top, of another type of pyramid can make a lot of money while those who are levels down from the top are left with little or nothing to show.

Pyramid schemes have been with us for many years and have taken on many forms.

Typically, the starting point is the selling of a product or services and not only paying an initial fee for the privilege of being a distributor and perhaps buying a product or service but also recruiting others to be distributors as well.

The promise is that the more people one recruits the more money that can be made. This is accomplished when the second wave of recruits make their payments and the first distributor receives compensation for these receipts. The recruiting process then repeats itself.

At some point, it becomes impossible for the lowest level recruits to recruit new members and as a result, they are left with nothing. This is why it is called a pyramid, as the top is small and the bottom large.

I can’t describe all of the pyramid schemes that have been introduced into the marketplace here. However, one type that has been in existence for some time is based on what is called the “multilevel marketing” model (MLM). According to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) in MLM or network marketing, individuals sell products to the public — often by word of mouth and direct sales. Typically, distributors earn commissions not only for their own sales but also for sales to the public.

This is normally a legal business plan. However, what is not legal are those plans, which base the money, made on the number of people recruited and sales to them. The FTC labels these as illegal pyramid schemes.

As a starting point for more information on this topic (including ways to spot an illegal pyramid), I would advise going to the FTC website.

HOT LINE CONTINUED
WHENEVER SOMEONE comments using “weasel” words, I automatically tune them out. Some examples: extreme, affordable, climate change, living wage. They are vague terms used by hucksters and repeated by gullible followers.

I HAVE a notebook, which shows every gasoline purchase I’ve made. I bought my 2005 Vibe. From March 2005 through the end of the Bush administration, the price was never below $2.50 per gallon. The high point was in May 2007 when I paid $3.45 per gallon.

“THANK YOU” to the person who explained to the uneducated what global warming’s effects are! This winter was a perfect example, thank you!
Measles, whooping cough resurgence

Health officials blame growing trend to reject vaccines

By William Axford

Cases of whooping cough and measles are resurging in America, despite access to numerous vaccines to prevent both diseases. Health officials attribute the increased outbreaks of long dormant diseases to the anti-vaccination movement, where parents are refusing to vaccinate themselves and their children.

Genesee County Health Officer Mark Valacak said the anti-immunization movement is a danger to everyone, even if they are immunized. “One of the basic concepts of immunizations is herd immunization — the higher the rate of immunization, the lower the rate of transmission of diseases,” Valacak said. “We are seeing cases in Michigan because of international travel. People come back from areas that are poorly immunized and, if you have populations that are not properly vaccinated, you are at risk for getting these diseases.”

The Council on Foreign Relations reports that since 2008, Michigan has had 600 cases of whooping cough and one case of measles. Nationwide, thousands of cases of whooping cough and measles have increased since 2008, as well as incidents of mumps, polio and typhoid.

Opposition increased due to a fear that vaccinations cause autism, in children, especially from outspoken advocates like Jenny McCarthy. However, numerous studies have disproven any link between vaccinations and autism. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), as well as the Journal of Pediatrics, have found zero cases where vaccination caused autism. Still, Pediatrics reports more than one in 10 parents choose not to vaccinate their children.

Valacak attributes the fear of vaccines to false information that continues to circulate on the Internet, despite being disproven years ago. “A lot of people go to the Internet and there’s a lot of misinformation out there,” said Valacak, citing a falsified study where an English doctor was paid to link vaccines to autism. “Because this study is still on the Internet, people believe it.”

Valacak added that some diseases, like small pox, could be completely eradicated if a population is immunized enough.

According to the CDC Morbidity and Mortality weekly reports, 1,336 people have died from diseases that could have been vaccinated from June 3, 2007 to Feb. 1, 2014. There have been 128 flu cases of preventable illness during the same time.

One common argument against vaccinations is despite most Americans being vaccinated, cases of diseases are still popping up all over the country. Valacak points to a student in the county who died due to the flu last winter and a case in Oakland County where a young infant died because the mother had whooping cough. Valacak said both deaths could have been prevented had the mother and student been vaccinated.

Valacak recommends researching vaccines through reputable sources such as CDC.gov, a doctor or even with a pharmacist, since some vaccination shots are available at pharmacies. For those who dislike shots, Valacak said nasal vaccines are available.

“Everybody should talk to their healthcare provider,” Valacak said. “Vaccines don’t stop with childhood. As adults we need to remember to get booster protection.”

A burning summer after a freezing winter?

Farmers’ Almanac predicts above average heat for this upcoming summer

By William Axford

The Farmers’ Almanac gets some bragging rights after this winter. Back in August, the almanac predicted this winter would be the “Days of Shivery” and that two-thirds of America would experience below average temperatures. The annual periodical also predicted that many parts of the country would see a staggering amount of snow.

“Precipitation-wise, the Southern Plains, Midwest and Southeast will see above-normal conditions, while the rest of the country will average near normal,” wrote Caleb Weatherbee, the official forecaster for the Farmers’ Almanac. “But even if we are off by a day or two with the timing of copious wind, rain and snow, we wish to stress that this particular part of the winter season will be particularly volatile and especially turbulent.”

From an ice storm that slammed most of Michigan Christmas week to record snowfall all through January, this past winter hit hard. And, if the almanac was on point in predicting this past winter, what do they expect for this upcoming spring and summer?

Back in February, Weatherbee predicted snowfall to last all the way through mid-April. Cold temperatures and frequent showers are expected through early May. But the temperature should start warming up and feeling like summer by Memorial Day. While rain is expected for Northern and Midwest states, drought is predicted for southwestern states. For summer, the almanac predicts above average temperatures (extreme heat) and average precipitation in eastern states.

How predictions are made with the Farmers’ Almanac is heavily guarded. According to the periodical’s website, predictions are based on “sunspot activity, moon phases, tidal action and more. This carefully guarded formula has been passed along from calculator to calculator and has never been revealed.”

The almanac’s accuracy is debatable. The writers claim longtime readers estimate the almanac is 80 to 85 percent accurate. According to a 2012 article by National Public Radio (NPR), the almanac was way off in its predication of the winter of 2012 in terms of snow and temperature. But so too was the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, where an official told NPR that long range weather predictions are difficult to make and often inaccurate.

It’s doubtful that many Americans will complain about too much heat, especially after the winter we just had.
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PLAYGROUNDS
Continued from Page 3

they aren’t free to elementary schools
that erect them, and each is different not only in appearance, but how they came
to be at all. Equipment has also changed
and evolved over the years.
At Holly Elementary, the playground
was upgraded in a series of phases begin-
ing in 2002, and ending in 2006. From
the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, $37,000
was used, in addition to funds
raised by the Parent Teacher Organiza-
tion (PTO).
Today, the playground is a mix of new
and old, the outlying equipment wood
and metal, and the central three-story
structure of plastic and metal, built in
2006.
“That was the huge thing with the
wooden play structures, we had splin-
ters all the time,” said Debbie Bartlett,
administrative assistant. The new equip-
ment is also Americans with Disabilities
Act (ADA) compliant, and safer.
“By offering more playground struc-
tures, you have the capability of serving
more kids at one time,” said Principal
Ryan DeSana. The updated structures also
attract families on evenings and
weekends, especially in the summer.
DeSana says fine with the equipment
being used in off-recess times, he would
just like visitors to introduce themselves
at the office.
For a sense of safety, Cindy Karas,
playground aide for Central Ele-
mentary said that in guiding them to use
the equipment, common-sense prevails.
The most popular misuses of the playground
is sliding face-first down the slide, and
swinging sideways instead of straight
on a swing.
She’s also seen the evolution of the
playground equipment in the 19 years
she’s been an aide. The equipment before
was “terrible,” because it was wooden,
and kids got splinters. “When we got this
new playground equipment, oh wow, it
was the best thing ever,” she said.
DeSana said that some equipment
from his childhood — like the geodesic
dome climber has been replaced by a
series of handles and platforms allowing
kids to traverse (climb sideways) instead
of potentially falling from 5 feet up.
Karas said animal spring rockers used
to cause bumped heads, or teeter totters
would launch kids off as one would jump
off the ride. These rides are modified
today, or not as often in use.

At West Shore Elementary at Lake
Fenton Community Schools, the play-
ground was upgraded through sinking
fund dollars in 2010. Superintendent
Wayne Wright said the goal was ADA
and safety code compliance.
Principal Sonya Shaughnessy said the
upgrades were a multifaceted communi-
ty effort, by the playground committee,
which was made up of parents, adminis-
trators and community members.
“Due to the combined efforts, West
Shore offers a fun and safe playground
that students and community members
enjoy,” said Shaughnessy via email. Dif-
ferent groups raised funds for different
playground areas.

WHO REGULATES PLAYGROUNDS?
Playground safety is overseen
by the Department of
Human Services (DHS), and is based on
a 2010 State of Michigan publica-
tion. Playgrounds can be held to
compliance by safety inspections,
by a Certified Playground Safety
Inspector.
Everything from schools to parks
to multiple family housing areas
are under the scope of the DHS,
that estimates 200,000
injuries happen annually on play-
grounds. Failing represented the
largest chunk of injuries at 44 per-
cent, followed by equipment failure at
23 percent.
Aside from funding, choosing
a site and an appropriate layout
could also be a challenge for
schools — the DHS handbook has
very specific guidelines to avoid
conflicting activities, and mixing
gear-specific activities along with a
myriad of other possible problems.
The surface material is even
suggested by the handbook, which
recommends treated wood chips
over untreated, and not using
grass, or asphalt.
Whether wood, metal or plastic,
the handbook has design sugges-
tions for each, to mitigate injury.
They even suggest, and give
equipped examples of grade-appropriate
equipment. At Holly Elementary,
there are several different play
areas, some of which are placed
with pre-school or kindergarten
students in mind.
WOMAN
Continued from Front Page

vehicle was rear-ended by the Lumina. Instead of stopping, the woman driving the Lumina proceeded to push the Traverse with her car.

The Lumina pushed the Traverse onto Dauner and then onto northbound North LeRoy Street. The victim and witnesses reported that the Lumina kept pushing the Traverse and bumping it down the road. When the two vehicles approached the area of Petts Road, the woman driving the Lumina tried to pass the Traverse, however, as she did this, her Lumina struck a pickup truck.

When police made contact with the 47-year-old woman in the Lumina, she swore at them and became belligerent. Slater said she even tried to assault a police officer with her cane. The woman was taken into custody and transported to the hospital where she consented to a blood draw. She was not injured but she was held for psychological evaluation.

Slater said the actions of the 47-year-old appeared to be intentional, although, there was no connection between her and those in the Chevy Traverse. The driver of the Traverse sustained minor injuries. Her passengers who were calling 911 as they were being pushed down the road were not injured.

Slater said one witness tried to help by taking the keys out of the Lumina, but the driver swung her cane at her as well.

The Fenton woman could face charges related to assaulting a police officer, felonious driving, operating a vehicle while on drugs, and resisting and obstructing police. The case remains under investigation.

LEADERSHIP
Continued from Page 5

as a result of the program. In a true show of support, Aubuchon presented members of the staff with a check for $1,000. “This check is for Holly Elementary School — to help them because I know money is tight,” he said.

“It’s amazing what you do, and the whole community should be behind you — you set an amazing example to what we should be doing every day.”

Following a luncheon provided by Chartwells Food Service, the day concluded with classroom visits, student presentations, parent testimonials and a question and answer segment.

Champions on ice

TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO

Congratulations to the Guardians! The men’s 30 and over hockey club, made up of primarily Fenton and Lake Fenton High School alumni, won the Kensington Valley Ice House, Over 30 League Championship by a score of 5-2 over the Pylons. The team finished the year with a record of 17-8-1. The game winner came from an unassisted goal with 3:21 left in the first period from left-winger #14 Bill Holloway.

Dear Tablet User,

We have an ‘EZ READ’ location on our Website where you can view both Sunday and Wednesday paper editions by flipping through the pages digitally. Go to www.tctimes.com and click on the red tab called ‘EZ READ’ and scroll down to the either ‘Sunday’ or ‘Wednesday’ section. Here you will also find our print inserts, special sections, Source Book and Yes coupon book in digital format. Best of luck to you on your travels.

— Tablet User
Last year children enjoy carnival rides during Linden Mills Days.

"In past years, we haven’t seen the involvement like this year," Culbert said. Plans for the Mills Days has not been finalized yet and organizers are expected to meet with city council at least once more before the summer. To get involved or find more information about the event, call Linden City Hall at (810) 735-7980.

By William Axford

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**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 report was released on Friday, March 22.

House Bill 4118: Require drug testing of welfare recipients

To establish a one-year pilot program in at least three counties that would require drug testing of state welfare benefit recipients and required "an empirical screening tool" indicates a reasonable suspicion of drug use. Benefits would be halted for six months if a person tests positive or refuses to take the test, with an exception for medical marijuana and prescription drugs. If a welfare recipient who is a parent tests positive, the child would still be eligible for assistance, and a "protective payee" would be designated to receive the parent’s welfare money. The bill appropriates $500,000 for the pilot program. Introduced by Rep. Jeff Farrington (R).

Passed 25 to 11 in the Senate
Sen. Jim Ananich (D-Denesse County) NO

House Bill 5396: Trim mandated barber college instruction hours

To reduce from 250 to 225 the number of hours of classroom study, demonstrations, and recitations that a licensed barber college must offer, and reduce from 1,750 to 1,575 the amount of required "practical barber training" it must provide. Introduced by Rep. Andrea Lafontaine (R).

Passed 103 to 7 in the House
State Rep. Joe Graves (R-Argentine Township) YES

House Bill 4293: Add additional spending to current school budget

To appropriate extra money for various school-related purposes, including a $51.7 million federal "early learning challenge grant" the state applied for and received. Among other things, this will pay for government programs that promote "physical, social, and emotional health for high-needs children from birth to kindergarten entry," in ways that are "culturally, linguistically, and developmentally appropriate." The money can also be used to train the employees who perform these activities, and figure out how and what to measure in assessing them. The bill would also appropriate $5 million more for transition costs related to dissolving the fiscally-failed Buena Vista and Inkster school districts; $2 million for a year-round school pilot program; $5 million for class size reduction; $3.9 million for contracts to provide students "information technology education opportunities; and more. Finally, it makes adjustments to the current school aid budget to reflect lower than expected student counts. Introduced by Rep. Joseph Haveman (R).

Passed 36 to 1 in the Senate
Sen. Jim Ananich (D-Denesse County) YES
How about those Tigers?

Here’s one man’s thoughts about the 2014 version of the team

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

There’s something opening day for baseball as opposed to any other sport season. People don’t act like it’s a holiday when the NHL or NBA begins their season. Even football doesn’t compare to baseball. For many years the NFL opening week coincided with Labor Day weekend, so it almost got swallowed up by parties. And, frequently opening games in college football means playing weaker schools for the big boys, making them rather boring. But for baseball, it’s completely different. My dad wasn’t a big sports fan when I was growing up, but I could get him to purchase opening day tickets for many Tiger seasons so I could miss a day of school and go to Tiger Stadium. People do take days off of work to watch or attend the game. And, frequently opening games in college football means playing weaker schools for the big boys, making them rather boring.

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Baseball is a unique game. It’s season is unique. It’s end of winter. That certainly helps. But while football may be our national past time now, baseball still wins the battle for best sports opening day — by a long shot.

Here are three strengths entering the 2014 Detroit Tigers’ season.

1. Miguel Cabrera
2. Starting pitching rotation
3. Back end of bullpen

Note: A healthy Cabrera gives the Tigers the most feared hitter in baseball. And he’s healthy right now. It’s hard to look at his numbers from last year and remember he was hurt for a good chunk of the year. I’d take those numbers this year right now. No team has a potentially better first three in their rotation than Justin Verlander, Max Scherzer and Anibal Sanchez. With the addition of Joe Nathan and his career 341 saves, the Tigers have their first stud closer in a very long time. Even if he’s 39 years old.

The Good

Here are four concerns entering the 2014 Detroit Tigers’ season.

1. Lack of power, particularly a left-handed bat
2. Bullpen depth
3. Left field
4. Injury concerns

Note: Most were happy when Prince Fielder was traded away. I was one of them, but with his departure, the Tigers lost their primary resource of power on the left side of the plate. Jhonny Peralta’s loss also hurts the power. After Miguel Cabrera, no one is a given to hit 20 home runs. Joe Nathan was a nice pick up, but there is quite the hodge-podge of back end bullpen arms, Drew Smyly, is in the starting rotation. Left field remains a complete mystery. There’s a chance about 25 people will play there for the Tigers, and none will be a solid selection. Finally, injuries are already a concern. Justin Verlander had surgery. Cabrera was injured last year. Anibal Sanchez is having issues. Jose Iglesias and Andy Dirks are also out for long periods of time. And this is only spring training. Yikes!

The Concerns

Here are four concerns entering the 2014 Detroit Tigers’ season.

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Other stuff & prediction

1. Is Brad Ausmus ready?
   The honest answer for everyone should be, who knows? No one knows. Hiring a first-time manager seems a strange move for a team looking to win now. If the Tigers struggle out of the gate it will be interesting to see how Ausmus reacts.

2. Power vs. manufactured runs
   This has been a problem for the Tigers the last couple of years, not being able to get “extra” runs through baseball speed or being able to do the “little things” at the plate to get that one run when you need it most. The Tigers have less power, but are they really that much more athletic to suggest they can make up that loss of run production in other areas? We’ll find out I guess.

SEASON PREDICTION

The AL Central is getting better, and I see injuries being a bit of a concern. I am guessing around 86 wins. Winning the division that number of victories could be tough.

Now, a new era begins with rookie manager Brad Ausmus leading the troops. But there’s more than a manager change. Power hitters like Prince Fielder and Jhonny Peralta are gone. And with their departure and their replacements, the thought is the Tigers will manufacture more runs “the traditional way” by advancing runners extra bases and stringing more hits along. Will it work? I’ll make my guesses here.

A healthy Miguel Cabrera will go a long way to leading the Tigers to a fourth straight American League Central Division title in 2014. Cabrera hit .348 with 44 home runs in 2013.

New Faces

Joe Nathan: The Tigers wanted to get a reliable closer and Nathan satisfies that need.

Ian Kinsler: He’s expected to add punch to second base, but some think his career may be on the decline already.

Brad Ausmus: Many should remember Ausmus as a Tigers catcher in 1999 and 2000, playing a key role in the closing of Tiger Stadium ceremonies. Now at 41, he’s managing his first baseball team. Is he ready? We’ll find out soon.
Fenton’s Eicher headed to Northern Illinois

Two-time individual state champion is pleased he gave wrestling a shot

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

Austin Eicher wasn’t even sure if he wanted to give wrestling a try. But he did, and he isn’t regretting it today.

After capping his career by earning consecutive individual state titles, the Hartland senior and Fenton resident has grown to love the sport of wrestling. And now, he’s headed to the next level.

Eicher has signed to wrestle at Northern Illinois University in the fall.

“I was looking at Central (Michigan), Eastern (Michigan), Ohio University, Michigan State and NIU, of course,” Eicher said. “I really liked the coaches at NIU and I liked the team. I liked pretty much everything they had to offer.”

Eicher offers the Huskies quite a bit of talent.

“Definitely my best memory, but me wrestling my wrestling partner in the finals was pretty weird,” Eicher said about his junior state title match against Grandville’s Collin Tomkins by a 4-2 decision in the 135-pound title match. Eicher ended the match with a cartilage injury in his rib cage the previous week in the tournament. He captured his first state title by defeating Grandville’s Collin Tomkins by a 4-2 decision in the 135-pound title match. Eicher ended the match with a cartilage injury in his rib cage the previous week in the tournament.

“It’s definitely not my best memory, but me wrestling my wrestling partner in the finals was pretty weird,” Eicher said about his junior state title match against Grandville’s Collin Tomkins by a 4-2 decision in the 135-pound title match. Eicher ended the match with a cartilage injury in his rib cage the previous week in the tournament. Eicher ended his career at Hartland with a 39-1 record at 135 pounds. He also captured his second state title.

Hartland senior and Fenton resident Austin Eicher (above) competes in his state championship match at the Palace of Auburn Hills. Eicher won the match. He’s headed to Northern Illinois University to wrestle in the fall.

Eicher will probably redshirt his freshman year, but he hopes to make the lineup sooner than later.

“If I want to adjust to the whole new college style,” Eicher said.

“I definitely feel I can compete with most of the wrestlers in the country. I know it’s going to be stressful and a lot of work. This is basically my job. I’m being asked to do the best I can.”

The Eicher file

Fenton resident and Hartland High School senior is headed to Northern Illinois University to continue his wrestling career. Here’s a quick look at his career at Hartland Records are based on www.mhsaa.com.

Freshman season

Posted a 60-4 record, taking fourth at state at 112 pounds.

Sophomore season

Recorded a 50-7 record, collecting a second-place effort at state at 119 pounds.

Junior season

Eicher captured his first state title, getting it at 130 pounds. He finished 52-1 overall.

Senior season

Posts a 39-1 record at 135 pounds. He also captured his second state title.

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LAKE FENTON EDUCATION FOUNDATION PRESENTS

SATURDAY, MARCH 29 • 7PM-9PM
LAKE FENTON HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPENS
Hartland senior and Fenton resident Austin Eicher (above) receives the bracket sheet and his first-place medal from Hartland varsity wrestling coach Todd Cheney at the state wrestling meet. Eicher is headed to Division I Northern Illinois University to continue his wrestling career in the fall.

Eicher ended his career earning two state championships, a state runner-up finish and a fourth-place state effort.
NEW DVD RELEASES

**THE WOLF OF WALL STREET**
Martin Scorsese directs the story of New York stockbroker Jordan Belfort. From the American dream to corporate greed, Belfort goes from penny stocks and righteousness to IPOs and a life of corruption in the late 80s. Success and affluence in his early twenties as founder of the brokerage firm Stratton Oakmont warranted Belfort the title "The Wolf of Wall Street." R, 2 hr. 59 min.

**DELIVERY MAN**
From DreamWorks Pictures comes "Delivery Man", the story of an affable underachiever David Wozniak, whose mundane life is turned upside down when he finds out that he fathered 533 children through sperm donations he made twenty years earlier. In debt to the mob, rejected by his pregnant girlfriend, things couldn’t look worse for David when he is hit with a lawsuit from 142 of the 533 twenty-somethings who want to know the identity of the donor. As David struggles to decide whether or not he should reveal his true identity, he embarks on a journey that leads him to discover not only his true self but that he could become as well. PG-13, 1 hr. 43 min.

**King Features Crossword Puzzle**

ACROSS
1 Longtime TV host
5 Lion or tiger
8 Wound cover
12 Lotion additive
13 Caustic solution
14 Dorothy’s dog
15 Violent protest
16 Always, in verse
17 Soldiers collectively
18 Connected series
20 Incursion
22 Finds by chance
26 Actor
29 Chart format
30 Cistern
31 Unsigned (Abbr.)
32 Corral
33 Long story
34 Hostel
35 Skillet
36 Choir member
37 Region of Northern Ireland
40 Repast
41 Gripped

DOWN
1 Painter
2 Director
3 Cheer (for)
4 11/11 Honoree
6 8 Out of the storm
7 Inseparable
9 Cab
10 $100 tip
11 Summer mo.
12 Transmit
13 Finished
14 Compassion
15 “CSI” evidence
16 Relax
17 Pristine
18 Ray cancels
19 Lay of the land
20 Flight component
21 $100 tip
22 Lay of the land
23 Coq
24 Flight component
25 Compassion
26 Inseparable
27 Inside
28 Chopin
29 Literature
30 Art
31 Life
32 Inner
33 Inside
34 Life
35 Art
36 Inner
37 Life
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ANSWER: infertile? — J.Z.

**NEW YORK TIMES**

*Wednesday, March 26, 2014*

**To your good health**

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: When I was about 10 years old, I got the mumps. Now I am 30 and my wife and I want to have a family, but we aren’t having any luck. Do you think the mumps made me infertile? — J.Z.

ANSWER: In around 40 percent of men who get the mumps after puberty, the virus also travels to the testicles. That results in impaired fertility in only 13 percent. Sterility almost never happens. If both testicles are infected, then sterility might be a problem. Before puberty, testicular involvement is rare, and infertility isn’t a problem. You were only 10. It’s highly unlikely that the mumps caused you to be infertile. You and your wife shouldn’t have to handle this problem on your own. Why not consult a doctor so both of you can be examined?

**Sudoku**

Place a number in each empty box 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.

**Jumble**

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

Answer here:

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

**iPhone tip of the week**

Use spell check to correct your typo

You can use spell checking in most iPhone apps (such as Mail, Notes). The word that is considered as misspelled is highlighted in red. You can tap on the word and iPhone will popup the suggested replacement. By tapping on the suggested word, the misspelled word will be replaced with the correct one.

You do not always need to tap on the misspelled word in order to popup the suggestions. Say, you have typed “Wating.” As the word is detected as misspelled, iPhone will automatically show the recommended replacement when you hit the backspace button.

*The tip is provided by Handbook for iPhone Lite.*

**New DVD Releases**

**DVDs and movies released this week**

**THE WOLF OF WALL STREET**
Martin Scorsese directs the story of New York stockbroker Jordan Belfort. From the American dream to corporate greed, Belfort goes from penny stocks and righteousness to IPOs and a life of corruption in the late 80s. Success and affluence in his early twenties as founder of the brokerage firm Stratton Oakmont warranted Belfort the title “The Wolf of Wall Street.” R, 2 hr. 59 min.

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HELP WANTED: Looking for part-time sales associates at Fenton retail store. Must be hard workers and be available evenings. Hourly wage plus commission. If interested, please email your contact information togatsbyolney@gmail.com.

APARTMENTS

ALL SCRAP METALS

Help Wanted

PHYSICAL/PHARMACY TECH

Help Wanted

HELP WANTED

BROADBAND INSTALLER

Join Charter and live the career you’re hired for. Charter Communications is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Broadband Installer in the Whitmore Lake, MI area as well as other positions throughout Michigan. Shift days and hours may vary. Visit www.CharterCares/Careers for complete details. We are an equal opportunity employer. Women and Minorities are encouraged to apply.

CUSTODIAL/ HOUSEKEEPING POSITIONS

Full-time, part-time, weekend, and on call. We are a drug free workplace, must have reliable transportation and employees must submit to a criminal background check, results of which are not necessarily a bar to employment. EOE. Please send resume or contact info to custodials2013@yahoo.com.

MAINTENANCE TECH

needed for local apartment community. Able to work on call, valid drivers license required. Fenton Estates, 810-629-5333.

PART-TIME EXPERIENCED

Medical Receptionist needed for Grand Blanc medical clinic. Please email resume to amyjojoey@gmail.com.

CLEANER: PART-TIME

Evenings, background check required. Reliable transportation needed. Please send resumes to American Maintenance, Inc.

SERVICE MANAGER


HOLLY SCHOOLS

are hiring substitute bus drivers. Will train. $13.70/hour. Call 248-326-3090.

WANTED

SALESPERSON

Fenton Hardware/land. Must be dependable with good communication skills. Casual work environment, will train. Call 810-750-9971.

POST OFFICE

is hiring for the upcoming season!

Wahitstaff/ Bartenders

Dishwashers

Beverage Cart Attendants

Cooks

Course Maintenance

Seasonal Employment Employment Ended (Must be 18 for food and beverage positions)

Apply within: 9218 Preserve Drive, Fenton (One mile north of Exit 75)

ALL ADVERTISEMENTS PUBLISHED

in the Tri-County Times are subject to approval before publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time.

DENTAL ASSISTANT

wanted part-time in Flint office. Send resume to rynearson7911@boglobal.net.

DIRECT CARE STAFF

needed at Davidson/Holly areas. Starting rate is $8.95/hr. Call between 9-3 p.m. at 248-634-5494.

EXPERIENCED ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

needed for a fast paced business office. HR/payroll skills a plus. Email resumes to sj_olney@yahoo.com.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

in the Fenton area.

MUNDY TWP.

Upper 2 bedroom with deck, heat included, $599, upper $450, lower. $1,480. Plus security deposit, no pets. 810-348-6908.

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3,341 sq. ft., 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, $2,495. Call 248-625-2546 or 248-620-2999.

GREAT HOME FOR SALE

in the Fenton area. Contact us for more information. www.americanmaintenance.biz.

REMODELED CONDO

in Holly. $3,500 each or both for $6,500. 313-613-5222.

FOR LEASE

Fenton, MI. 48430 or FAX to 810-629-5502. Call 810-262-1434 or ext1.

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1 & 2 Bedroom private entry apartments.

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On site laundry, central air, pool, picnic areas and we are friendly.

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Morgan Lumber

WANTED

Wood for sale near the building. Will deliver. Call 810-730-7514 or 810-449-0045.

ALL SCRAP METALS

picked up including appliances. We buy scrap cars, trucks, farm equipment/motor homes, auto and farm batteries. Please call 810-730-1514, 810-449-0045.

AAC AUTO

buys all junk cars, paying up to $600 cash. Call 810-691-7564.

FREE LUBKEY" RECLINER

sofa and maple Sauder entertainment center. Owen/Linden Rd. Other household items free too. Call 310-815-1930.
OBITUARIES

Martha Anne Philburn - age 66, long time resident of Fenton, passed away peacefully on Thursday, March 20, 2014 due to complications due to her battle with cancer. She was born July 14, 1947 in Buffalo, New York, the daughter of Richard and Martha (Matthews) Minder. She was a 1965 graduate of Byron High School. She centered her life on taking care of her family and nurturing their lives with her kind, generous spirit. Martha is survived by her husband, Gary H. Philburn; children, Christina Philburn-Gillespie, Christopher Philburn, and Paula Philburn. Martha took immense delight in her nine grandchildren; Brianna Gillespie, Elisha Philburn-Baig, Evan Philburn, Aria Gillespie-Smith, and Maddon Moore; special nieces and nephews; William Krieg and Carol Ann; and special cousins and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, she was deeply missed by her nine grandchildren: Paula Philburn. Martha is also survived by her nine grandchildren: William Krieg and Carol Ann; and special cousins and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, she was deeply missed by her nine grandchildren: Paula Philburn.

Shane Canfield Helsene - age 86, passed away Sunday, March 23, 2014. Funeral services will be held 1 PM Saturday, March 29, 2014 at Sharp Funeral Homes, Fenton Chapel, 1000 Silver Lake Road, Fenton. Pastor Martin Shouse officiating. Visitation will be held at the funeral home Friday from 1-4 and 6-9 PM. Those desiring may make contributions to Livingston County Humane Society. Shane was born November 10, 1917 in Detroit; the son of David and Debra (Canfield) Helsene. He was a 2006 graduate of Fenton High School. He had lived in Fenton most of his life. Shane was employed by M & J Excavating in Holly. Surviving are: his mother, Debra Helsene of Fenton; brother, Justin Helsene; aunt, Hope Mistrani of Florida; uncles, Wesley and Kaye Canev of New York and Robert Helsene of New Jersey; girlfriend of over 5 years, Hillary Krall, and family, and several cousins and friends. He was preceded in death by his father, David Helsene. Online tributes may be posted on the obituaries page at www.sharpfuneralhomes.com.

Ron Peter - age 76, of Sun City Center, formerly of Quincy, died on Wednesday, March 19, 2014 in the Hospice House of Sun City Center, FL. He was born on May 2, 1937 in Quincy, a son of Andrew and Leona (Wand) Peter. He married Sharlene Taylor on June 10, 1967 in Holly, MI. She survives. Ron served in the U.S. Navy Reserves. He was a graduate of Quincy College. He was of the Catholic faith. He spent his career primarily in education, including CYO Director; teacher and coach at Quincy Notre Dame, Quincy College, Marion High School; University of La Crosse, WI, Aquinas High School in La Crosse, WI, Eastern Connecticut State University and Trinity College in Hartford, CT. He was a golf coach at Liberty High School. While in Quincy, Ron was also the owner and operator of the “Sport Shack” and was a board member of Adams County Board District 5. He served as sheriff of Windham County, Windham, CT. Ron was a member of the Elvis, American Legion, Knights of Columbus and Bogue Busters (Champion). Ron was the instigator of the Happy Hatter Out-for-a-Sunday Drive Golf League in Quincy and in Ft. Meyers, FL the Sunday Couples Bowling League in Quincy and in Lehigh Acres. Ron was the owner of the Fog Fry establishment in 1967 at 39 Hickory Grove in Quincy. In addition to his wife, Sharlene, he is survived by four children: Lynne Bender of League City, TX, Brian Peter of Tucson, AZ and his significant other Jackie Fitz, Howard Cruz and his husband Orlando of Windham, CT, and Gale Lanning and her husband Derek of Wyoming, MN; seven grandchildren: Brett, Brandon (Kelle), Brittni, Shane, Joshua, Sheila and Ethan; one great-grandchild: Brant- luey; four brothers: Danny (Mary Lou) Peter, Charles (Jane) Peter, Dale (Paye) Peter and Mike “George” (Deb Chadd) Peter; one sister: Arlene Brocksmith. He also survived by several nieces, nephews, cousins and brothers and sisters-in-law. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his children: Lynne Bender of League City, TX, Brian Peter of Tucson, AZ and his significant other Jackie Fitz, Howard Cruz and his husband Orlando of Windham, CT, and Gale Lanning and her husband Derek of Wyoming, MN; seven grandchildren: Brett, Brandon (Kelle), Brittni, Shane, Joshua, Sheila and Ethan; one great-grandchild: Brant-
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**THIS WEEK AT CHASSÉ BALLROOM AND LATIN DANCE STUDIO**

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