

TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO According to an employee, the Beacon and Bridge gas station in Linden underwent routine checks to its tanks ahead of a meeting on an underground gas leak Friday morning in council chambers.

## Underground gasoline leak confirmed in Linden

DEQ meets with Linden council, gas station, residents

**By Yvonne Stegall** 

ystegall@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792 **Linden** — After reports came into the Times that an underground gas leak, reportedly from a gas station in downtown Linden, had contaminated ground in the small city,

Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Analyst Marjorie Frisch confirmed that Beacon and Bridge gas station is responsible. Beacon and Bridge is located at 110 East

Broad St., and owned by Quick SaV Food See GASOLINE on 11A

See story on

\$**1.00** 



## Forecast: 4.1 percent increase in holiday sales

### National trend expected to be reflected in our area

### **By Yvonne Stegall**

ystegall@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792 The holiday season is always a time of more spending. It's a time when families get together for large meals, we exchange gifts with friends and family and we might even spend some extra money on ourselves. This month, the National Retail Federation announced that it expects sales in November and December to increase 4.1 percent to \$616.9 billion. This is even higher than the 3.1 percent increase in sales in 2013.

The NRF prediction excludes the sales of autos, gas and meals at restaurants.

Not only are people expected to be shopping more in stores this year, Shop.org recently released its 2014 online holiday sales forecast. See SALES on 16A

## **'It just feels good to volunteer'**



TRI-COUNTY TIMES I TIM JAGIELO Kathy Bede of Burton volunteers along with friends from the Holy Redeemer Catholic Church at the North End Soup Kitchen in Flint on Wednesday. The soup kitchen is fully staffed with volunteers until January, but is still in need of food donations for Thanksgiving.

### 'KEEP PUBLIC NOTICES WHERE THE PUBLIC NOTICES'

### New legislation could keep residents in the dark about government decisions

### **By Yvonne Stegall**

ystegall@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

About 72 percent of Michigan households pay for access to the Internet, according to census data. This puts the percentage of Michigan households with Internet access at slightly below the national average of 74 percent.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO If you can't attend public meetings, reading public notices in the newspaper is the best way to stay informed about pending See PUBLIC NOTICES on 15A government agendas and actions.

### Genesys to develop \$106 million retirement village

Other plans include skilled nursing, memory care, independent and assisted living facilities

### By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

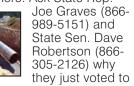
Genesys Regional Medical Center is leading the way in Genesee County for a model of community wellness that could potentially expand Genesys Health Park into a hub of preventative care and lifestyle innovation.

The first project is a \$106 million

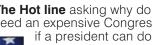
senior retirement village set to break ground next April in the southwest corner of Genesys Health Park, according to Nick Evans, vice president for business development at Genesys. This project would feature skilled nursing, memory care, independent and assisted living. Phase I of the plan, a 128-bed skilled nursing facility, will begin in April with completion expected by June 2015. Genesys would lease the 12-acre parcel of land to the partnership of the WellBridge Group and See GENESYS on 14A



### **LET** Rover Pipeline watchers: Ask State Rep.



authorize another eminent domain pipeline project in Michigan (House Bill 5255)."



whatever he wants through executive orders? Why are we

paying billions of dollars for legislators' offices, staff and expenses? This makes no sense to me, and it shouldn't to you either.'

that the only ones who actually had a vote on Obamacare were our legislators. In

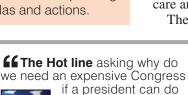
that sense he is right, the Demo-

crats who voted for it are stupid."

**G** Someone tell Gruber



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# **TIMES News & Features**

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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2014

## Fall chores not to ignore

• If you have a fireplace or woodstove, make sure you have a supply of wood ready as early as possible. Store wood where it is dry but has good airflow. Burn dry wood and keep fires small and hot to reduce build-up in chimneys.

• Make sure your gas fireplace, woodstove or pellet stove is in good working order. If you burn wood, make sure your chimney is cleaned regularly.

• Clean your gutters; make sure downspouts are free-flowing and water is directed well away from the foundation.

• Check your roof and make any small roof repairs now. Make sure ridge vents are clear of any obstructions.

• Trim trees and bushes back away from the house to prevent insect infestations and reduce damage from whipping branches. Nothing should be touching your house.

· Have your heating serviced for your family's health and safety and your own peace of mind.

• Check your smoke alarm to make sure it's functioning.

• Make sure you have a carbon monoxide detector and that it's working.

• Weatherize your home by caulking joints where materials meet, replace weather stripping on all doors and windows. The U.S. Department of Energy says if you can pull a piece of paper out of a closed door without it tearing, you're losing energy.

• Set up a 72-hour stock of emergency provisions; allocate a space and keep everything you need if the power goes off.

Source: demesne.info

# **IN THE GUTTER...**

### Still time to make sure your gutters and downspouts are cleaned out for winter

### **By Sally Rummel**

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282 Probably the last place you want to be

this weekend is up on your roof or on a ladder, especially with the recent snowfall. But if you haven't done the must-do fall

chore of cleaning out your gutters before full winter hits, you need to do it now.

"Winter came so early last year and then it didn't

go away," said Stacey Mrazik, owner of A-Team Gutters & Covers in Fenton with her husband Todd. "People who waited 'til the last minute

### **L**It's a messy job, but it's easier to do now than when it's all frozen.77 **Stacey Mrazik**

Co-owner of A-Team Gutters to do it last year didn't get the

job done. Some homeowners ended up with water in their basement or broken gutter systems because of the heaviness of the frozen debris."

What's so important about your gutters anyway? Roof gutters help channel water away from the home and deposit it at a safe distance from your home's foundation, following a system of interconnected troughs.

They help protect

your home from

damage by mak-

ing sure water

doesn't settle and

cause mold and

decay. Because

See GUTTER

on 10A

### Summary

With this weekend's warmer temperatures, you might want to take one last look at your gutters and make sure that leaves and debris have been removed.

TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Crew Leader Larry Reason of A-Team Gutters adds hidden hangers to a 6-inch commercial-sized gutter, for a home in Fenton last week. The gutter is bent and assembled by the machine in the back of the truck.

## **TEXT YOUR SPORTS** PHOTO TO 810-922-5193

Your photo will be posted in a gallery on the Tri-County Times website.

### tctimes.com



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## hasing the 'good life'

**By Foster Childs** 

If I Were

possession.

the phone?

We Americans expend a lot of time and effort chasing the 'good life.' And

thanks to Madison Avenue, we have no problem identifying what the good life consists of --- homes with state-of-the-art technology and high-definition, big screen televisions, garages filled with luxury automobiles, closets full of designer clothing, a healthy portfolio that we obsessively check several times each day in order to gauge our overall comfort level...and, as Sonny

and Cher used to say — the list goes on. In a nutshell, the 'good life' consists of feeling good, looking good, and having lots of good stuff in order to reassure

Ibmissions, if approved for publication, must be 50 w is and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Tri-Co s. We reserve the right to edit for clarity, length and liabi

JONATHAN GRUBER'S COMMENTS are confirming all the worst suspicions Republicans had about Obamacare. Finally, some transparency.

TO THE PERSON who doesn't see the need for the Groveland Township adventure park. You are short-sighted. I am a 56-year-old female and I am excited to have a place to use my UTV without driving 150 miles north. Revenue: gas, food, repairs, sales of machines — ingenious!

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE finally voted Harry Reid off. Now it's time to get rid of the Monarch. He thinks he's emperor of the U.S. and doesn't understand he was elected president.

SOME DO-GOODER JUST flashed his brights at me on Hickory Ridge Road, presumably because of a deer. But now I'm blinded, what deer? Don't be a do-gooder.

TO THE PERSON complaining about the kids riding ORVs at the gravel pit, let me guess, your kids are the ones sitting around playing video games all day. My suggestion to you is to go buy an ORV and have yourself some fun. You never know, you might enjoy it.

DO YOU KNOW how annoying it is when you call a company for direc-

Compiled by Christopher Jones, staff reporter

ourselves, and our friends and neighbors, that we are doing good. So what's the problem?

Easy. It's never enough. In America, climbing the success ladder is an exercise in futility. Because the more we get, the more we want. Do you recall that hi-tech gadget that you desperately had to have last year? You might have stood in line for hours, or you may have gotten up early and driven to several retailers to find it. No doubt that by now, a scant 12

months later, it's just another obsolete

Are you still enamored with the

tions or information and you never do get through to a human being. Whatever hap-

pened to the good old days when you called

some place and a person actually answered

THE RECENT ELECTIONS show a com-

plete rejection of Obama, his policies and of

course, his poor leadership. Maybe now with

Senate and most Governorships, we can get

They will be on sale until they close for reno-

CHECK OUT THE books for sale for 50

cents and a dollar at the Fenton Library.

the Republicans controlling the House, the

this country back on track.

vation on Wednesday, Nov. 26.

high-definition, flat-screen TV you

bought last year? It's more likely you are already feeling left behind as savvy manufacturers introduced curved screen TVs this year.

We chase these things like we're on a treadmill, the speed of which is controlled by puppeteers in thousand-dollar suits ensconced in high-rise New for our wonderful York boardrooms. They are why Christmas **communities** 

has morphed from a family celebration of the birth of Jesus, to an insane race to compete with...well, everyone.

crime is nearly Who can forget the TV footage of Black Friday or **nonexistent.** 77 even Thanksgiving Day crowds trampling each other in their

frenzy to get a promotion-priced television set at 'Bust Buy.' This footage is then played around the world, further

JONATHON GRUBER IS wrong when he calls the American people stupid. Most of us knew that Obamacare would not be perfect, but it offers some hope that the government cares about the little people. Three cheers for effort. Please give Obamacare a chance. 

AT THE END of the day, Obamacare was only passed because Michigan Rep. Bart Stupak sold his soul and his vote to the devil in the White House. Why don't you try interviewing him now.

# If you don't make the declslons... **THEY WILL HAVE TO.**

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So, what's my point? That's easy. Be thankful for what we have. Be thankful for our wonderful communities of Fenton, Holly and Linden, where crime

is near nonexistent and we know our neighbors. Be thankful for the local stores and businesses with free and easy parking and friendly clerks. Be thankful for friends that comfort us in times of need. Be thankful for family who love us. At the end of the day,

most of us reading this are rich.

We already have the

'good life.' We just don't realize it.

Opinions offered in If I Were King are the author's alone and do not neces-sarily reflect the opinion of the Tri-County Times or its staff. Email the King at king@tctimes.com. Some content adapted from the internet.

PERHAPS A SUGGESTION for a new motto for the city, 'At least Fenton's not Buffalo!'

### DON'T FORGET TO order your

holiday rolls from Fenton High School. They also have cinnamon rolls, frozen cookie dough and pizza for sale. Call (810) 591-2626 to order. They're the

WHOM DOES THE Linden postmaster report to? Again misdelivered mail, mail found in road, call states 'left for the day.' Whoever delivers weekdays on Hoisington Road is useless. Get someone who can do the job.

THAT'S FUNNY, AFTER elections gasoline in Roswell, New Mexico is \$2.75/gal.

**I HAVE A** new food labeling idea. Start identifying the foods that any illegal immigrants had any part in bringing to the shelves. That way those of you so against that can stop buying these products and get the illegals sent home for not being needed. Do you like produce?

### LIVING OFF OWEN Road and trying

to pull out at 7:30 a.m., is challenging — absolutely none of the faculty, bus drivers, students, parents of Fenton High will be considerate enough to leave space to enter Owen Road. This has been going on for 18 years. Enough!

I SURE DO miss all the pretty horses that were on Torrey Road in Fenton. I loved seeing them every day. Where did they go?

See **HOT LINE** throughout Times

streettalk

## How do you feel about stores being open on Thanksgiving?



"I enjoy shopping on Thanksgiving, but should they be open? No."

— Lorrie Boyce

Linden



"Close them. Family is more important. They can get their profits after midnight the next day."

— Barbara Harris Deerfield Township



"I think they should not be open. People should be home with their families that day."

— Amy Hollis-Burnham

Fenton



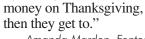
"I don't think they should be open. It's a time to be home and count your blessings."

– Paula Martin

Swartz Creek



"As a retail worker, I think the holidays should be off, and I think most agree with me."



– Amanda Marden, Fenton

best!

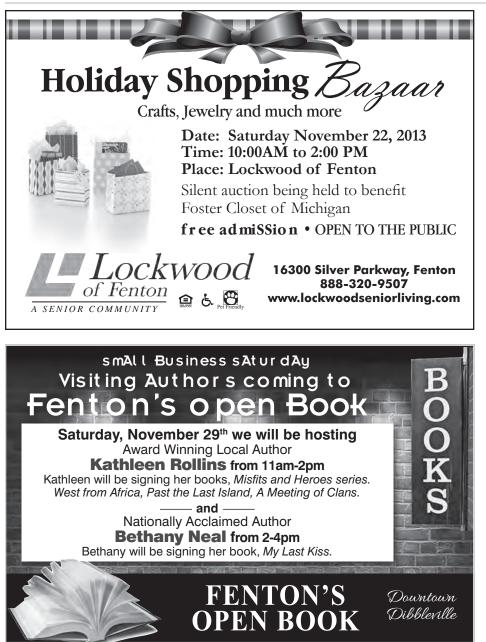
of Fenton,

Holly and

Linden, where

WOW, A RECORD time for breaking a campaign promise of no additional taxes. Just as the last ballot was counted at Mid-Terms the Senate slapped us with a bill doubling our gas tax.





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### IN OUR OPINION...

# Is our news being edited by the mainstream media?

**We suggest** 

that it would be in

our reader's best

their news sources

interest to vary

- both print and

broadcast – on a

regular basis. 77

### Times Editorial Board

news@tctimes.com; 810-433-6786

As part of our jobs at the Times, we monitor as many news websites as possible on a daily basis. It's often interesting to see what each news organization considers to be the top news of the day, and thus their lead story.

From MSNBC, ABC News, FOX News, CBS News and CNN, to NPR, Michigan Radio, Huffington Post and USA Today, readers can experience a wide range of viewpoints and slants on pretty much any given news story.

Take the story on Obamacare architect Jonathan Gruber for instance. Had

you watched any news broadcast other than FOX News last week, you would have not heard Jonathon Gruber's name. You were more likely to see stories about the Kardashians, Bill Cosby, ISIS, Al Sharpton, Ferguson, Missouri or Ebola.

For several consecutive days last week, Gruber was the top story on only FOX News. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) economist played an integral part in drafting the Affordable Care Act, more widely known as Obamacare.

To date, six video recordings show

Gruber saying on camera that the bill became law because it was too complicated for anyone to understand. He also said on camera that Americans were stupid. Gruber laughed as he stated that the ACA was intentionally drafted and written to be unintelligible to anyone.

Yet, while the story was the lead on FOX News, neither NBC, ABC, CBS, CNN and MSNBC made any mention of the Gruber videos for several days. In our opinion, these networks were intentionally ignoring a blockbuster story for personal political reasons.

That is censorship, by omission, in its purest form and a violation of news organiza-

tion ethics. We believe that it is imperative that all Americans be informed of all the news — not just news that is slanted, edited or favorable to persons, political parties or political agendas. To that end, we suggest that it would be in our reader's best

print and broadcast — on a regular basis. An informed and knowledgeable citizenry is the best defense against government tyranny.

interest to vary their news sources - both

## What the heck is an executive order?

►So far, President Obama has issued 191 of them

### **By Sharon Stone**

sstone@tctimes.com; 810-433-6786 What is a presidential executive order?

According to answers.usa.gov, an executive order is a directive by the President of the United States that has the power of a federal law. Presidents might issue executive orders to create committees or organizations like the Peace Corps.

In general, though, Presidents use executive orders to direct and manage how the federal government operates.

Can executive orders be overturned? Congress may attempt to overturn an executive order by passing legislation (a bill) that opposes the order. However, the President can veto that bill, and Congress would then need to override that veto to pass the bill.

Also, the Supreme Court can declare an executive order to be unconstitutional.

How do I find executive orders?

The White House posts all executive orders from the current U.S. President, and the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) maintains text of executive orders from former presidents since 1937.

### **Presidential Executive Orders**

191
291
364
166
381
320
169
346



**WEEKEND TIMES** 

## Featured columnist By Roger Campbell

### A pleasant day...so far

'It's a pleasant day,' I said to the receptionist, hoping to brighten her mood.

'So far,' she sighed.

'So far is all we have,' I replied. The Psalmist emphasized the importance of the present, writing: 'This is the day which the LORD has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it' (Psalm 118:24).

John Ruskin kept a piece of stone on his desk containing just one word: 'TODAY!'

Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote: 'One of the illusions of life is that the present hour is not the critical decisive hour. Write it on your heart that every day is the best day of the year. He only is rich who owns the day, and no one owns the day who allows it to be invaded with worry, fret and anxiety.'

In his book, 'How to Win Over Worry,' John Edmund Haggai says: 'Give every moment your all. Give your entire attention to the work at hand, the person to whom you are talking. The Lord grants us time only in the quantity that we can use it — one moment at a time.'

Try this kind of living. Drink deeply from the present. Look for beauty that surrounds you but that you have been too busy or preoccupied to notice. Listen for sounds you've been missing. Hold someone you love and be glad you're both alive.

My wife, Pauline, was once hospitalized for what the doctor said might be her last illness. Two unwanted words he used in explaining the possible outcome of her condition still linger in my mind: 'even death.' Now, when I take her in my arms, I often say 'I have right now with you.'

Our Lord told a parable about the son of a wealthy man, who, upon receiving his inheritance early, left and wasted it far from home. Finally, out of funds and friends, he found himself feeding hogs to survive and feeling hungry enough to eat with them. At this point, the prodigal decided he'd return to his father seeking forgiveness and asking if he could become one of the hired hands on the old homestead. Upon his return,



however, his father welcomed and forgave him, placing an expensive robe over his rags and a gold ring on his finger. Even the forgiving father couldn't restore the time his son had lost while he had been away, but together they could make the future better than the past. The yesterdays of this former wayward one had been discouraging, but the story ends on a day of delight, a day to enjoy his father's love and provision.

Most of us are prodigals. We've spent too much of our most valuable possession in efforts to gather temporary trinkets or experience momentary highs that didn't satisfy. Time has slipped through our foolish fingers and we have little to show for it. We've wasted precious hours being moody, negative, critical, gloomy and sad when joy could have been ours for the taking by simply counting present blessings and allowing gratefulness to make us glad. Expect God to care for all the problems you'll face tomorrow. Is the present pleasant? Enjoy it and give thanks.

Roger Campbell is an author, a broadcaster and columnist who was a pastor for 22 years. He can be reached at rcministry@ameritech.net.

## Police&Fire report

ARGENTINE TOWNSHIP HOME DESTROYED BY FIRE

An old farmhouse with a two-car attached garage was destroyed by fire early Thursday morning in Argentine Township. A caller told 911 at 4:11 a.m. that flames could be seen coming out of the roof of the home in the 15000 block of Bird Road, just north of Silver Lake Road. In addition to the Argentine Township Fire Department, fire departments from Linden, Gaines, Burns, Fenton Township and Hartland responded through mutual aid. Argentine firefighters cleared the scene about 10 a.m. No one was home at the time of the fire and no firefighters were injured. The state fire marshal has been called in to help with the investigation to determine a cause.

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Rene Bede of Burton serves treats at the end of the lunch line at the North End Soup Kitchen on Wednesday.

### Busy soup kitchen needs food for the holidays

**It just** 

feels good to

volunteer. We

get more out

believe, any of

the customers

get out of it.77

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days a week, with two

meals served, except

Sunday, with one

meal. Volunteers are

needed again for the soup kitchen starting

in January. Give the

soup kitchen a call and

find out about all the

opportunities coming up.

**Connie Rothley** 

NESK volunteer

of it than, I

► Volunteer opportunities open up in January, plenty available in spring, summer **By Tim Jagielo** 

tjagielo@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795 Flint — While Flint can seem a world away from Fenton, local volunteers make up a healthy portion of what keeps the North End Soup Kitchen running.

At least two local churches, St. John Catholic Church and Fenton United Methodist Church, regularly send youth and adult volunteers there.

On Wednesday, it happened to be a scheduled group from Holy Redeemer church in Burton. Offenders with minor traffic or drug charges can do community service by volunteering there also.

If you were thinking about volunteering at the soup kitchen this holiday season, you're a little too late — the holidays fill up really quickly because that's when everyone thinks of volunteering there.

Director John Manse said the soup kitchen spends about \$1,500 on food each week, bought from venders and the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan.

Therein lies the most current pressing need for the soup kitchen that gave out 175,000 meals in 2013 food, not volunteers. They are also short on Thanksgiving turkeys this year.

Customers like Dennis Johnson and Kodah Thomas greatly appreciate the food.

TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELC

Volunteer Imari Burse of Flint takes food and drink to North End Soup Kitchen customers who are disabled.

"Angels from God, man," said Johnson. 'Heaven sent."

TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

A few minutes before lunch service started on Wednesday, customers had made their way in from the local neighborhoods for the lunch offering — a hot potato chili with corn and a dessert.

Eventually, the 30 or so customers were able to line up, as the volunteers took requests and kindly kept the line moving. There was enough food for seconds, and most got in line for more.

The volunteers, and customers were gracious and courteous, and they seemed to have fun with it.

One such volunteer was Connie Rothley of Flint. Volunteering runs in her family and she also enjoys the camaraderie with the group of volunteers. "It just feels good to volunteer. We get more out of it than, I believe, any of the customers get out of it," she said.

This group volunteers every third Wednesday of every month of the year.

Rothley said she also enjoys working with head cook Gloria Waite, who ran around the kitchen on Wednesday with the various tasks.

She said they can't do it without volunteers, though Manse has had to run the shop himself during heavy winter weather. "We fill up real fast, especially in youth groups," she said, mentioning that both major upcoming holidays are already full.

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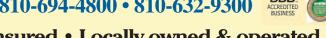
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## **PLUMBING PROBLEMS?**

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to include additional levies passed

election. It is anticipated that this

process will be completed at the Dec. 3 meeting of the Genesee

County Board of Commissioners,

after which the county will begin

this delay, local township and city

After Leaf Off prward Gutter Cove

offices expect to mail property tax

bills sometime during or after the

week of Dec. 8.

printing tax bills. As a result of

by the voters in the November

### GUTTER

### Continued from Page 3A

your gutters are part of a system that moves water and debris away from your roof and home. They have to be maintained so they will work properly.

Cleaning out your gutters doesn't take any special equipment this time of year. If you have a leaf blower to do the job, you can try to use it, but leaves and debris may be too wet by now. "You just have to get in there and do it by hand," said Mrazik. "It's a messy job, but it's easier to do now than when it's all frozen. If you're hesitant to be on the roof or use a ladder, you can always call a professional to do the job."

In addition to scooping up the debris and removing it from the gutter, a gutter cleaning job should also include checking the downspouts, whether you're doing it yourself or using the services of a professional.

"You can clean those out by running a very high pressure hose through it," said Mrazik. "If water and debris are left frozen inside, they won't be directing water away from your house. You might not know you have a problem until you see the end result — a wet basement."

Some people use gutter covers to help solve the problem of leaves and debris collecting in their gutters. "There are hundreds of different styles of covers, and some work better than others, depending on how they are used," said Mrazik.

"For example, if you have a lot of pine needles that collect in your gutters, covers with small holes for drainage won't keep those needles out. Pine needles can be trickier to deal with than leaves, because at least leaves will decompose."

The most important thing to remember about covers, according to Mrazik, is that they aren't a miracle product. "If you know what you're getting and have realistic expectations, you'll be satisfied."

How do you know if you need gutter covers? "As a general rule, if you have to clean out your gutters more than twice a year, you probably need covers," said Mrazik.

You may also need covers if you have downspouts buried in a drainage



**TRI-COUNTY TIMES** I TIM JAGIELO A-Team Gutter helper Austin Alchin attaches a section of gutter to the Fenton home.

tile system underground. If your house is surrounded by trees that are close to the house, you may need covers.

"Look at the house itself," said Mrazik. "Do you have a straight ranch, or lots of angles? If there are many twists and turns, you may need a cover system. Some are installed at angles and slide up under a layer of shingles, so if you have a metal roof, they may not work. Not every house needs gutter covers; every house is different."

The important thing to know is that homeowners shouldn't let the gutter cleaning chore be left undone before more snow flies. "If there's a problem, it's better to catch it early before there's more damage and expense," said Mrazik.



News briefs

### GENESEE COUNTY PROPERTY TAX BILLS TO BE MAILED OUT WEEK OF DEC. 8

Genesee County Treasurer Deborah Cherry has reported that the county is in the process of amending the Genesee County millage rates for the 2014 winter property tax bills

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### GASOLINE

**Continued from Front Page** Stores LTD, out of Flint.

This underground gas leak has been under investigation since June of this year, and the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, Bureau of Fire Services (LARA) was notified upon confirmation.

According to an email from Frisch, "The gas station's responsibilities are defined in Part 213 of Act 451. They will need to submit an IAR (Initial Assessment Report) in 180 days from the confirmed release date (Nov. 14, 2014)." In Part 213, the liable owner or operator needs to define the extent of contamination in soil and groundwater and provide corrective actions to deal with all contamination issues. The DEQ will work with the gas station during these 180 days.

After testing the sump pump in the business located at 109 North Bridge St., Bridge Street Exchange, the DEQ enlisted the assistance of Environmental Consulting & Technology (ECT), which, according to ECT Senior Design Engineer Joel Parker, put in a vapor mitigation system at the affected business.

The gas components that were found at 109 North Bridge were tracked back to the gas station's underground storage tanks. The DEQ remedied this situation with the implementation of the mitigation system.

Kevin Begola, owner of Bridge Street Exchange said the past 4-plus months have been a very stressful time as a property owner due to the situation at hand.

"I am relieved that this issue is finally coming to light. I would like to thank the DEQ (as well as the private firm ECT) and their representatives for assisting in this situation and making sure our safety issues were addressed.



WEEKEND TIMES

above the DEQ criteria."

About 50 residents and business own-

ers got together on Friday morning at the

City Council Chambers for an informa-

tional meeting with representatives of the

DEQ, its environmental testing firm, the

health department, and other personnel to

discuss the results of the air and ground

water testing that was done over the sum-

mer, and to find out what will be done next.

of the ground water helped determine why

the contamination ended up at Begola's

Linden City Manager Paul Zelenak

said, "We were informed Thursday

morning by the DEQ that the Beacon and

Bridge gas station was the likely source

Parker told the audience that the flow

**TRI-COUNTY TIMES** I TIM JAGIELO All of the pumps are shut down, while tanks are inspected at Beacon and Bridge on Thursday.

"After purchasing my building, we started noticing some smells that were alarming so we worked with these agencies to further inspect the situation and what they uncovered was very shocking.

"As a property and business owner, the liable party should do the right thing for our town and take care of those involved and clean up this mess. My main concern lies with the cleanup efforts within our town as well as crumbling property values due to this situation."

In November 2012, the Times reported that petroleum related ground contamination was found in the ground where the Union Block once stood, prompting Linden City to change its mind on purchasing the parcel. According to an article from December 2012, the termination stemmed from the second environmental study conducted by Atwell Hicks who "identified the presence of petroleum related contaminants in soil and groundwater on the southwestern portion of the property at concentrations



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713 Silver Lake Road • Fenton www.gerychsflowers.com of the leak." He said that they have been working with the DEQ and ECT since over a year ago on the matter of ground contamination. He said the DEQ's first tests were inconclusive, but after businesses began smelling fumes earlier this year, they had them come back for more testing.

"If we want to move forward as a city we need to have this problem taken care of," Zelenak said. "We're just pleased that we are moving forward with this with the help of the DEQ. They will come up with ways to fix the problem."

Residents may call Frisch at (517) 284-5101 with questions or concerns. Linden City will post updates on its website www. lindenmi.us, and at city hall and the library.

# couponclippers )

TIMEŠ

business.



### **WEEKEND TIMES**











## Why I hate Thanksgiving?

▶It's not what you think

### **By Yvonne Stegall**

ystegall@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792 Thanksgiving has always been one of my favorite holidays. I love the food and the time with family. However, the last four years have turned Thanksgiving into a challenge for me. I am gluten free.

As I type this, I am just coming off a gluten cross contamination. I am in pain and finding it hard to focus on writing. What I really want to do is curl up in bed in a ball, with a heating pad across my lower back and go to sleep.

That being said, Thanksgiving went from a happy holiday of thankfulness and stuffing my face to a holiday of being picky and pouting at the tasty foods on everyone else's plates.

Being "glutened," a way of saying I got some gluten in my system, can happen a couple ways. I can eat something with gluten in it (which comes from wheat, rye and barley)

or eat something prepared too closely to something with gluten in it (shared pan, shared serving plate, etc.).

I am still grateful to be able to spend

time with family on Thanksgiving, but now I have the added stress of wondering with every bite of my meal if I will be sick in a half an hour.

What makes things difficult is not knowing how other people make certain dishes. That means no meatballs for me, even if they do look delicious sitting in

that crockpot. It means no beer basted turkey or ham. It even

What I am left with on Thanksgiving Day, if I don't just make it all myself, is some turkey, dry mashed potatoes and some corn.

I don't even want to get into dessert, or I might just start to cry.

### **66** Do you The lesson here is to promote awareness. Think about what health issues other people gluten-free have when it comes to celebratmenu?77 ing the holidays with family and friends. More and more **Yvonne Stegall** people are suffering from What I wish I could food allergies now, some of

them life threatening. Take a moment to check with your expected guests and try to offer them some good options so they don't have to feel left out while everyone else is enjoying all that great food!

### GENESYS **Continued from Front Page**

Burton-Katzman, LLC, of Bingham Farms, which would develop, own and operate the facility.

"This senior retirement village will be built in the shadow of Genesys Regional Medical Center, as a planned, integrated vision of the future," said Evans. "It will be part of the 'core campus' that actually began in 2007 when four Flint hospitals merged into Genesys Health Park.'

The emphasis now is on wellness and health outreach into the community, according to Evans. "As part of Affordable Health Care Act, the goal

at Genesys is to keep people healthy by reaching out into the community so they need the hospital less and less," he said.

That focus goes along with the plans for expanding Genesys Athletic Center into Genesys Athletic & Wellness. "Our goal is to make it a wellness destination that's

not just accessible to members, but also a community outreach to the area's diverse populations as a model for healthy living," said Evans. Highlights for the plan include an indoor turf field that would make it a state-of-the-art sport and wellness facility. For expansions at the athletic center, Genesys is partnering 50-50 with The Granger Group of Wyoming, Michigan.

Plans for the future also include the proposal of a Veterans Retirement Home, in partnership with the Michi-

### **HOT LINE** CONTINUED

THE SMITHS IN Holly are being taken advantage of by Holly Township. They need to be left alone. This is their land, and they should be able to do with it as they want! Shame on the government!

# GENESYS gan Veterans Affairs Agency. "Half of

This strategic visioning

process started in 2007

as we looked forward to

Vice president for business development at Genesys

the next 25 years. 77

**Nick Evans** 

the veterans in Michigan live in the southeastern part of the state," said

Evans. "The only veterans retirement homes are in Grand Rapids and one in the Upper Peninsula, both of which put a burden on veterans' families because of the distance."

tctimes.com

Evans is anticipating a release for proposals in the spring. If Genesys is approved for the site, they would lease the ground to the VA, which would own the building and have a single administrative assistant, while Genesys would hire staff and handle operations, according to the plan.

A retail center with shops, hotels and restaurants to complement the hospital, senior village, athletic center and proposed research and development center may begin as soon as next spring.

THE ONLY PEOPLE who continuously bring up Obama's race as an issue are the liberals because it shuts down discussion. I didn't vote for Obama because he had no experience running anything and this has been proven over and over since he took over the White House. Enough race



Dr. Jeremy M. Grove DDS 501 S. Bridge Street, Linden • 810-735-7511 www.dentistinlinden.com





**Yvonne Stegall** 

have a

ask at people's

houses.

# means no homemade bread.

### PUBLIC NOTICES Continued from Front Page

It also means that more than one quarter of all Michigan households will be unable to read public notices in the futura if pending Michigan

future if pending Michigan legislation passes. Recently, the House

Local Government Committee approved legislation (House Bill 5560) that would remove the requirement that all public notices be published in a newspaper. The new bill would permit government and municipal websites to be the sole source for access to public notices across the state. This bill is now awaiting a second reading.

According to backers of the bill, it was introduced by legislators to "modernize our public notice laws and put taxpayer dollars to

### Summary

Public notices may become less public soon. Legislation is currently in the lame-duck House that will remove the requirement that all public notices be published in the newspaper. more efficient use." Some supporters of the bill say that newspaper readership is moving online. Opponents say the bill doesn't seem to take into account that there are still more than 25 percent of Michigan

**L** The

government

the public is

will have total

control of what

allowed to know

regarding what

they're doing. 77

Michael MacLaren

MPA Executive Director

who can't, or choose not to, use the Internet. One critic said he asked six friends the question: "When was the last time you

### Local state reps

State Rep. Brad Jacobsen (R-District 46) www.gophouse.org/representatives/ southeast/jacobsen/ Phone: (517) 373-1798 Toll Free: (855) 737-2723

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State Rep. Cindy Denby (R-District 47)

www.gophouse.org/representatives/ southeast/denby/ Phone: (517) 373-8835 Toll Free: (866) 828-4863 Email: CindyDenby@house.mi.gov

State Rep. Joe Graves (R-District 51) www.gophouse.org/representatives/ southeast/graves/ Phone: (517) 373-1780 Toll Free: (866) 989-5151 Email: JosephGraves@house.mi.gov

### Local state senators

State Sen. Mike Kowall (R-District 15) www.senatormikekowall.com/ Phone: (517) 373-1758 Toll Free: (866) 301-6515

State Sen. Joe Hune (R-District 22) www.senatorjoehune.com/ Phone: (517) 373-2420

Fax: (517) 373-2764 Email:SenJHune@senate.michigan.gov

State Sen. Dave Robertson (R-District 26)

www.senatordaverobertson.com/ Phone: (517) 373-1636 Toll Free: (866) 305-2126 Email: SenDRobertson@senate.michigan.gov visited your local municipality's website?" All six answered "never."

Michael MacLaren, executive director of the Michigan Press Association, said, "The Michigan Press Association is gravely

concerned about this legislation because it eliminates any sort of third-party verification. The government will have total control of what the public is allowed to know regarding what they're doing."

**b know what ing. 77 aren**  *rector* Years, there would be no public notices If the bill becomes law, a phase out of newspaper notices will begin with the maximum required number of public notices for any government actions set at two insertions. Within 10

required by law in newspapers.

At this point, it will only be necessary for them to be posted on government websites. This means that in order to know what is going on in local government, residents will need to continually monitor multiple government websites on a regular basis.

MacLaren added, "In a larger sense, this legislation allows government to have a chokehold on information; and that starts the creep toward totalitarianism."

The Times is urging citizens to call or email their state representative (phone numbers and emails are below) and tell them to vote NO on HB 5560.

### Police identify motorist killed Tuesday on U.S. 23

► Driver's injured wife released from hospital, atfault driver could be charged

### By Sharon Stone

sstone@tctimes.com; 810-433-6786 Fenton police released the name of the motorist who was killed Tuesday morning on U.S. 23.

Police Chief Rick Aro said Larry Ehrman, 73, of Monroeville, Indiana was killed when his minivan was struck by a pickup truck. Ehrman's wife, who was a passenger in the minivan, was seriously injured. She was released from the hospital on Wednesday.

The driver who initially lost control in the four-vehicle crash, identified as a Linden man, could be charged with a moving violation causing death, a one-year misdemeanor, if the county prosecutor decides to file charges.

Fenton city police and fire departments responded to the four-car crash on southbound U.S. 23 between Silver Lake and Owen roads in Fenton at about 9:30 a.m.

The initial investigation indicated that a 2010 Ford pick-up truck was northbound on U.S. 23 when the driver lost control of the vehicle causing it to hit and vault over the median guardrail



Fenton emergency responders extract a crash victim from the four-car crash scene on Monday, after removing the Chevy Uplander's roof.

into oncoming southbound traffic, striking the minivan, driven by Ehrman.

The Ford pick-up then struck a large box truck. A third vehicle, a Chevrolet Malibu then rear-ended the box truck.

Ehrman was pronounced dead at the scene by paramedics. Ehrman's wife was transported to Hurley Medical Center in Flint with serious injuries. The Linden man driving the pick-up, and the occupants of the box truck and Chevrolet Malibu were not injured.

Slippery road conditions were believed to be a factor in the crash. Southbound lanes were shut down for several hours as the crash was investigated.



### SALES

### Continued from Front Page

They are expecting sales in November and December to grow between 8 and 11 percent over last holiday season, to as much as \$105 billion. Their forecast is based on government data including consumer credit, disposable personal income, and previous monthly retailadear places. Holidayayay

tail sales releases. Holiday non-store sales in 2013 only grew 8.6 percent. Looking back, on average, holi-

day sales have grown 2.9 percent over the past decade, including the current estimates. If their prediction is correct, this would be the first time since 2011 that sales have had a more than 4 percent increase for the holiday season.

While consumer confidence has

been unstable much of the year, improvements over the past few months in key economic indicators will give way to increased spending power among holiday shoppers. Retail sales, jobs and housing data all point

View all stories online at tctimes.com



DID YOU KNOW?

### WEEKEND TIMES

Summary

Sales are expected to

increase for

holiday sea-

and some

local stores

are already

son shopping,

to healthy gains.

**We have seen** 

a nice jump so far

this month and we

be a good season.77

fully expect it to

Owner, Bridge Street Exchange

Kevin Begola

The holiday sales forecast by NRF is based on much the same economic model as shop.org, and also looks at jobs and housing data. It also includes a non-store category which considers direct-to-consumer, kiosks and

online sales. seeing it. Locally, some

businesses are already seeing a sales increase, according to one local business owner. Kevin Begola, owner of Bridge Street Exchange in Linden, said, "We have seen a nice jump so far this month and we fully expect it to be a good season." For local businesses, having local events like

Ladies' Night Out have helped boost sales.

Begola added, "I am pretty sure we have a short window again between Thanksgiving and Christmas like last year, so people are getting an early jump on holiday shopping. This month has shown strong promise and we hope to keep the momentum going through December! I do think their prediction will ring true this year."

The French Flamingo in Holly saw a brief upswing in sales for their Ladies' Night participation, but believe the early onset of cold and snow has kept more shoppers at home this month.

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Holiday shopping strategies

**Beware of the constant promotions.** When consumers are constantly bombarded by offers and discounts, they're more likely to eventually be worn down and make purchases that they didn't plan on.

**Make a shopping list.** Start shopping early and look for discounts. Don't just focus exclusively on Black Friday. Whenever you're shopping, compare prices and look for coupons in advance.

**Shop by the calendar.** The best days to buy are not necessarily the traditional shopping days of Black Friday or Cyber Monday. In fact, Savings.com points out that so-called Black Friday sales actually peak six to seven days before Thanksgiving, not the Friday after it. The best days to buy electronics are Nov. 1, and toy sales peak on Nov. 26.

If you are going to shop on Black Friday, review the circulars in advance. Check out store maps in advance so you can plan your route to the items you're after.

**Don't fall for the doorbusters.** While it's true some of the steepest discounts are available on Black Friday, especially for HDTVs, these products typically lack certain features and quality that come with namebrand items.

Source: usnews.com

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### **Times**

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2014 PAGE 17A

Sports

INSIDE SPORTS

AUSTIN BUERKEL LInden senior is headed to Northwood See Page 18A

DID YOU KNOW?

The first hockey goalie mask worn in an NHL game was worn in 1930.



Who won the first regular season game in NFL history?

The New York Jets defeated the New York Giants 26-20 in overtime on November 10, 1974.

### **DAVID'S DABBLINGS**

Here are a few quick thoughts on some subjects. **The SEC** 

Place me among those who think the SEC is a bit overrated this college football season. I'm not trying to say the SEC is the third- or fourth-best league or anything like that. It can be easily argued it's the top conference in D1 football. However, it's not the clear elite that so many, including those at ESPN, seem to proclaim. **NASCAR** 

### NASCAR's

new version of a chase to determine who is the season champion recently ended with Kevin Harvick the victor. He was a deserving champion. However, I think the championship round should be at least three races. While I wanted him to win, it would've been bad if Ryan Newman won the title despite having a pretty blah season.

### Max Scherzer

It seems if the Tigers can get Max Scherzer under a lofty contract, they should do it immediately. But I wonder if the Tigers would be better served to use that money to satisfy other glaring weaknesses. That's what I would do.

## Holly programs have high expectations, again

Bronchos' squads excited to experience new challenges during 2014-15 hoops season

### By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789 **Holly** — It was a busy day at the Horseshoe in Holly High School on Monday.

And it was particularly busy during the late afternoon hours.

The Horseshoe, the name given the Holly High School's gymnasium because of its horseshoe-like designed stands, was separated into three different basketball courts by two heavy material blankets. And between two of them were a pair of varsity squads who combined for two outright Metro League championships, 38 victories and a district crown during the 2013-14 prep basketball season.

The girls finished the regular season with a perfect 20-0 mark and capped it with the team's first district crown since 1993. They were practicing on the farthest court from the normal

gymnasium entrance. Nearing the end of practice, the girls remained intense, doing some fullcourt offensive and defensive

Holly's

Jake Daniels



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPENS

(Above) Holly's 2014-15 varsity boys basketball team prepares to begin its first practice of the season on Monday. (Right) Holly's girls, led by Kaitlyn Smith, are near the end of its Monday practice. Both teams begin this season as defending Metro League champions, and each has high expectations for this season.

three-on-three drills right to the end of practice. Coaches David Hall and Casey Lombard made sure the practices remained uptempo and intense.

Located in the center gym were the Holly boys. The Bronchos were just beginning their first practice of the new season after posting a 16-5 overall record and earning their first Metro League championship since the 2008-09 season last year. Even if the coaching staff wasn't there yet, it seemed the entire playing roster was there well before the start of practice, competing in an intense game of basketball. Once the coaches — head coach Lance Baylis and assistant coach Jason Lambart — did show, the squad **See HOLLY on 19A** 



## With Dad's blessing, Daniels headed to SVSU

 Holly star inspired by departed father's memory

### **By David Troppens**

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789 **Holly**—Jake Daniels remembers taking that first recruiting visit to Saginaw Valley State University.

The Holly High School senior left impressed. But, perhaps more importantly,

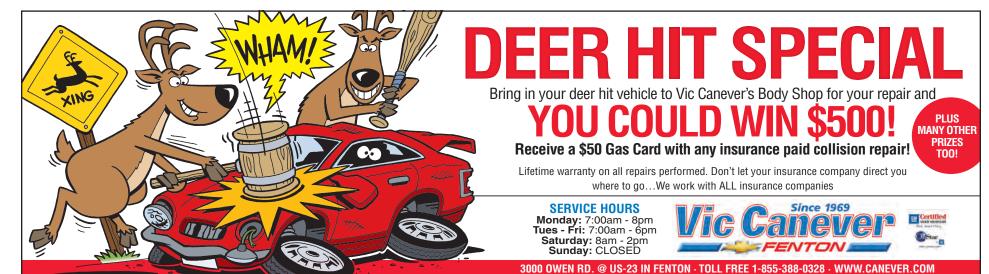
it seems Jake's father, Jim Daniels, loved what the university had to offer for his son as well.

"It was kind of cool, my dad was able to go to my first visit with me to Saginaw Valley and knowing he was at the campus and stepped on it, kind of gave me a sense of comfort," Jake said.

Jake's father's nod of support helped make the decision of where to continue his collegiate basketball career an easy one. While Jake's father died after a two-year battle with bladder cancer on May 13, his father's spirit was felt by Jake's family, friends and Jake himself when he made his decision official at a signing party at Holly High School on Wednesday.

"My dad also weighed into my decision," Daniels said. "But I also loved the team, the coaches and everyone. It's been an amazing experience."

"His dad was very impressed with the school," Holly varsity boys basketball See DANIELS on 19A



## Buerkel trusts talent, not luck to earn baseball spot at Northwood

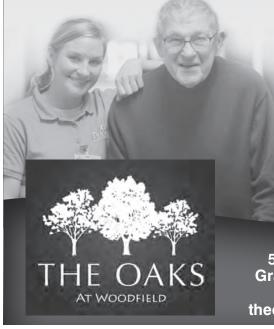


TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

Linden's Austin Buerkel swings at a pitch during last season's baseball season. Buerkel will continue his baseball career at Northwood University next school year.

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### By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

Austin Buerkel probably doesn't believe in the saying "It's better to be lucky to be than good."

When it comes to his prep athletic career he's been incredibly unlucky when it comes to injuries and other situations beyond his control.

The Linden senior was sidelined for a good chunk of his sophomore season with an ACL injury. It was his talent that allowed Buerkel to capture our Tri-County Baseball Player of the Year

honors as a junior. His junior season also helped place Buerkel on the radar of many area colleges.

Earlier in the fall, being on the radar earned him an invitation to a prospect camp at Ball State. However, that same weekend, the Linden varsity football game against Fowlerville was pushed to Saturday due to Friday night thunderstorms, keeping him

from being able to travel to the event. It didn't seem like a problem though. Ball State's coaching staff planned on going to one of Buerkel's weekend baseball game a week later. Unfortunately, Buerkel was given proved unlucky again when he hurt his same knee during the Eagles' football game against the Holly Bronchos two days before the contest.

However, while Buerkel has had his share of bad luck his talent still prevailed, as Buerkel recently signed to play college baseball at Northwood University.

From the beginning, Northwood has been high on Buerkel's list. And even when Buerkel told the program about his injury, Northwoood still wanted him. It may have been at that moment Buerkel knew Northwood, a Division II school who plays its collegiate baseball in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLI-AC), was the right place to to play.

"I liked Northwood right off the bat," Buerkel said. "The coach hit home to me. It was my first offer. I liked what they had to offer. Their coach, Jordan Bischel is a really good guy.

"When I hurt my knee I told him about the knee injury ... he told me I know you are a good athlete and I'm going to stick with my offer. That was a big character move."

Buerkel also had some good luck when it came to the injury. It wasn't the same ACL injury as was originally diagonosed. Instead it was an MCL sprain. Buerkel was already back on the football field before the end of football season. He should be healthy this spring when he begins his baseball season.

### Family ties

**FF** I liked Northwood right

Linden senior who recently signed to play college baseball at Northwood

off the bat.'

— Austin Buerkel

University.

Buerkel won't be the first one to play collegiate baseball in his family. His father, and Linden varsity baseball coach Steve Buerkel played at the University of Michigan. He's excited for his son.

"To me it's important he goes to a school where he wants to go for his education," Buerkel said. "If he happens to

play baseball, so be it. And that's what happened here. He wants to major in accounting and they have a degree in that. Plus, he gets to play baseball. I'm really happy with Northwood."

Bischel became head coach at Northwood over the summer after spending the last two seasons as head coach at Midland University (Nebraska). While there, his teams won 74 games and

earned trips to the NAIA National Tournament both seasons. Buerkel will be a member of Bischel's first recruiting class at Northwood, located in Midland.

### About Northwood

The Timberwolves posted an 18-27 record last spring and a 10-21 mark in GLIAC action. Northwood's last winning season came in 2009 when the team went 27-23 overall and 18-15 in league action.

Buerkel has a lot of attributes Northwood should like. Buerkel gets on base at a high percentage (.383 batting average and .492 on-base percentage last year), has great speed (28 stolen bases) and is a strong centerfielder. He also can pitch, earning a 2.29 earned run average.

"I'd rather play outfield for sure, and I'm about 99 percent sure I will," Buerkel said. "But there's a possibility I may do some pitching. They think they can tweak my mechanics and get me more velocity. But I think I'll primarily be an outfielder."

Currently, Buerkel is getting ready for the Linden baseball season. Several of the players have been practicing on their own during the offseason. They bring out pitcher mounds into the gym and practice pitching. Linden will be the defending Metro champions this spring. The Eagles have won back-to-back district titles as well.

"Me and Brady (Sarkon) are getting the team together twice a week for practices indoors," Buerkel said. "We want to be prepared for the spring."



### DANIELS

### **Continued from Page 17A**

coach Lance Baylis said. "I'm happy his father was able to visit the school. It's good to know his dad approved, too."

It only makes sense that Daniels' father had a role into Jake's college decision. After all, he was the one that helped spark Jake's interest in the sport.

"I was one of those kids who tried baseball, basketball and soccer, but I gravitated to basketball," Daniels said. "That's what I stuck with and my Dad taught me everything I needed to know.

"At first (after his death) it was hard, but he was the kind of guy that wouldn't have wanted me to sit around and mope about (his death). He always wanted me to keep going, and I learned that from him. He fought hard and never quit. He never stopped fighting. Even when he was feeling bad, he told people he was feeling good. He taught me you have to give your best every single day and never give up. He's my role model and my best friend, too. We are sad we lost him, but he's still here in spirit."

### **SVSU** made sense for Daniels

Part of why Daniels' experience with Saginaw Valley was so amazing also had to do with the coaching staff. Their constant attention to Daniels' career helped make the decision easy as well.

"I know they care abut their student-athletes," Daniels said. "They came to all of my workouts. They came to all of my scrimmages over the summer. They wanted me to be a part of the team. It was the love they showed me. They never gave up on me and always knew everything I did. It was the school I felt the most comfortable at."

### Jake's game

It's easy to see why Saginaw Valley was so eager to have Daniels' sign up with the Cardinals' program. Daniels has a work ethic and a sincerity to him that endear people to him. Secondly, he's also an outstanding basketball player. Our Tri-County Boys Basketball Player of the Year last season, Daniels led the area with a scoring average of 22 points a game. He also dished 39 assists and earned 42 steals. Baylis considers him a complete player.

"Jake is the complete package," Baylis said. "I can't fault his game. He plays defense, he plays offense, he shoots the ball. He does it all. He has the skills.

"He's in the gym every day. He'll get it done. He'll embrace it and he'll be in the gym more than anybody (else at Saginaw Valley). He's going to have a good career at Saginaw Valley. I promise, we'll hear from him again."

### **About the Cardinals**

Saginaw Valley State University is a Division II school in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Association (GLIAC). The squad struggled to a 9-17 record last year and to 5-17 in the GLIAC. However, the prior season the squad was 12-13. This season the Cardinals are 1-1 with their loss being an 81-71 loss to 16th-ranked Bellarmine University. Their win was an 87-81 victory against St. Joseph's (PA).

**TRI-COUNTY SPORTS** 

Daniels said it's likely he'll get redshirted next year, meaning he probably won't play. Athletes are given five school years to satisfy four years of athletic eligibility, so he'll still be able to play four seasons. He's expected to play at shooting guard, the position he plays at Holly. Daniels came to Holly from Grand Blanc during his sophomore season. He had to sit out his sophomore season due to transfer rules.

"After (being redshirted) I should be getting playing time," Daniels said. "I'll be working hard and we'll be good."

The Bronchos are the defending Metro League champions and the squad is among the teams expected to contend for the title again this season.

"(Signing) is going to take a lot off of my mind," Daniels said. "I won't say there's pressure but it feels good that I already have made my decision and now I can just focus on my teammates and everything else and make the most out of (my senior year). I can focus, get good grades and have a good year."

TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

Holly's Jake Daniels (left) prepares to make a layup in a contest last season. Daniels will continue his basketball career at Saginaw Valley State University next season.



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### HOLLY

**Continued from Page 17A** 

went into some equally intense halfcourt defensive drills and remained working on those drills for a good chunk of practice.

While separated by that curtain, it became apparent to anyone who checked both sides of the divider why each enters this season as defending champs. And more importantly, why both are expected to be serious contenders again this season.

The Lady Bronchos will see the Allyssa Copley era end, but minus the loss of Copley and fellow graduates Abby Lewandowski and Katie Oridway, the girls have the rest of their talented team back from last season. Players like Kaitlyn Smith, Brooke Jackman and Jenna Pepper should make sure Holly remains a serious contender again this season.

"I'm so pumped," Jackman said. "It's going to take a lot this year to live up to our expectations and everything, but I'm so pumped about the season and (my) senior year. This is a great group of girls to play with.

"We have a lot of talent. We have a few shooters and a few of us posts. I think we can cover Allyssa's position. We will never be able to replace her, but I think we can be better this year to be honest."

Smith was one of the league's top players a year ago with her deadly perimeter shot. That shouldn't change this year.

"I'm just excited to play with this team," Smith said. "We are a lot quicker. We can play well together and I think a lot of girls are more confident in themselves this year. ... We have a lot of talent. It's definitely

different this year, but we'll still be a tough team, play well together and compete."

The goals haven't changed. All that's changed this year is teams will be gunning for the Lady Bronchos harder than ever before because of last year's title and perfect 20-0 regular season.

"We have the same goals as last year," Smith said. "Nothing has changed and we are ready to play, excited about the year. (Going 20-0) definitely put a target on our back, but it doesn't mean anything to us this year. ... It's a new year, we have new girls."

The Holly boys will have just as high expectations considering they have even more stars coming back than the girls. Only Logan Spiker and Mike Davis graduated. Returning is last year's Tri-County Player of the Year and recent Saginaw Valley State signee Jake Daniels. Also returning are starters Kyle Woodruff, Parker Rowse and super sixth man Josh Simms, among others. In short, the Bronchos could easily field two strong Metro squads.

"We are a team run by seniors and this is our final season," said senior Morgan Baylis. "We are giving it our all. Every game is going to be played as though it's our last game. That's the mindset we are going to have from the get got. We are working as hard as we can in the preseason."

The Bronchos are a team that loves basketball. They spent much of the summer working together and playing in summer leagues. They spend as much time playing games, so they may know each other as well as any squad in the area.

"What freaks me out about our team is the only way I think we'll lose is if we beat ourselves," Morgan Baylis said. "I have a strong feeling we can beat anybody. We have the talent that we can go as far as we want, but it's up to us in terms of how hard we practice and the mindset we have."

20A Sunday, November 23, 2014

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# Now to the end of the year is a big part of our sales volume for 2014."

Matt Stevens, general sales manager at Vic Canever Chevrolet

 Local auto dealers 'pull out all the stops' with Black
 Friday events and other incentives

### By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282 If you are in the market for a new car, this will be the best time

of the year to buy one.

American consumers are on pace to spend more than \$400 billion buying new vehicles this year for the first time ever, according to Automotive News. That's nearly 80 percent more than just five years ago, during the recession, said a report by J.D. Power and Associates.

Locally, that means tri-county residents can take advantage of many endof-the-year incentives on 2014 vehicles and some 2015 models.

While the last-quarter push began in earnest in October, local auto dealers are "pulling out all the stops" on Black Friday, Nov. 28 and extending deals and discounts into Saturday to finish out the month.

"We've got lots of incentives," said Matt Stevens, general sales manager at Vic Canever Chevrolet in Fenton. "Now to the end of the year is a big part of our sales volume for 2014. Our 2014 models are especially good deals, including some truck models at an \$11,300 discount."

Black Friday sales at Vic Canever will include \$1,000 bonus cash on many vehicles, including zero percent financing. "Lease incentives have come on strong, too," said Stevens. "About 50 to 60 percent of our new car sales are through our leasing programs."

Biggest sellers for the year have been the 2014 Silverado truck and now many 2015 models, plus leases for the Chevy Cruze.

This is the best time of year to buy a Camaro, said Stevens. "You may not be able to drive it in the winter, but you can get the best deal on one right now," he added. A huge Black Friday event at

A huge Black Friday event at Hall Chrysler Jeep Dodge Ram will draw buyers this Friday and Saturday, Nov. 28 and 29. "Everything is priced below cost," said Nick Golson, sales manager. "There will be employeelike pricing for everyone."

This fourth quarter should cap a very good year at Hall Chrysler, according to Golson. "We're promoting our Big Finish for the year," he said. "We are well over last year's goals, up over 120 percent for the year."

www.tctimes.com

Biggest sellers at Hall Chrysler have been the Jeep Cherokee and the Ram 1500 truck.

### Summary

▶ 2014 is heading into a record year, based on expected high-volume fourth quarter sales. Local auto dealerships are attracting more buyers with Black Friday events and huge end-of-theyear incentives and deals. New leasing programs are promoting the 2015 Chrysler 200 and the Dodge Dart. "You can get into a new vehicle for just under \$200 per month, with a small down payment and regular fees," said Golson.

Black Friday will be an enormous sales event at Lasco Ford with tons of giveaways and deals on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 28 and 29. "Some of the deals are ridiculously good for buyers," said Matt Lasco. "Every 2014 model will be sold at a minimum of \$200 below invoice, plus all rebates. Some will actually be priced at \$1,000 below invoice. We'll be offering zero percent financing for up to 72 months plus other incentives and deals on top of that."

Hottest vehicles for the year have been the F150 pickup and a tie for the Fusion and Escape. "These have all been very high-volume vehicles for us this year," said Lasco.

See BIG FINISH on 22A



# Will your car last up to 300,000 miles?

Your vehicle's lifespan depends mostly on your maintenance practices

### **By Sally Rummel**

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

People used to start looking for a new car when their odometer reached 100,000 miles.

Now, some cars will last up to 200,000, 250,000, even 300,000 miles, thanks to new engine standards, and better body technology and protection from today's lubricants and fluids. But much of the success of your vehicle's life span is up to you, and how well you maintain your vehicle.

"We see these high-mile vehicles all the time here," said David Gilles of Auto-Lab in Fenton.

"It's all about regular maintenance performed at an earlier point in the life of your car," he said. "The real success stories are those vehicles that have an owner who changes fluids a little early rather than too late, keeps tires maintained for less stress on the car and keeps the car clean — without dirt or ice build-up, for less stress on the frame and suspension system."

Here are eight ways to avoid the major problems that impede performance and send your car to the salvage yard sooner than is necessary, according to Tom Torbjornsen, author of "How to Make Your Car Last Forever." **1. Pay extra for** synthetic motor oil and a high-quality filter when you have your oil changed. Yes, it's pricier, but synthetics are less likely to degrade during extreme temperature fluctuations. Use the specific filter recommended in your owner's manual or another high-quality, brand-name filter when changing the oil. Use a mechanic for an oil change so he can get to know your vehicle.

**2. Check your coolant** every 20,000 miles, by opening the coolant reservoir and taking a look. Have the coolant replaced if it is dark red rather than orange, feels gritty between your fingers and/or smells burnt. There may be rust in the system. If the coolant looks milky, motor oil may be getting into the coolant and engine work may be needed.

**3. Check your power** steering and brake fluids every 20,000 miles. They may need to be replaced if the brake fluid is rusty or gritty or if the power steering fluid appears dark, smells burnt or feels gritty. **See 300,000 MILES** on 23A



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Q My coolant leaks, however, the car never overheats. I can see that the coolant level is low. I changed the water pump, but a mechanic says that it is leaking from the head gasket. My buddy told me that the cooling fan is not working so the car has too much pressure and that is what is causing it. Would this be the problem? — Sam

Sam, the head gasket could be the cause. It may not always show signs of leaking, as the coolant is burned in the combustion **A:** chamber. If the coolant leak in the head gasket was excessive enough; you would see white smoke from the tailpipe when running the car or have a hard starting problem. An external head gasket leak, or any other external leak if small enough, could dry up before hitting the ground. The best way to find this would be to add dye to the cooling system and watch for leaks with a black light and special glasses that show the dye glowing. Like the stuff they sometimes put on your hand when you go into clubs or events then have you hold your hand under a light upon re-entry. There is also a combustion leak test that we do here to find head gasket leaks. It involves using a special chemical and drawing air from the radiator or coolant reservoir that changes color when there are combustion gasses present. As for the cooling fan not working; this could be the cause of the problem but the car would most likely be overheating and you would see the temp gauge getting very hot

Make sure you have this cooling fan repaired no matter what the cause of the coolant leak is since summer is here your car could overheat and cause engine damage.





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## Keeping a clear view ahead

Make sure your car windshield is free of fog, snow and ice

### By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

One of the most important aspects of cold weather driving is keeping your windshield clear for visibility. Any accumulation of moisture or dirt will block a driver's view of the road, other cars, dangerous obstacles and pedestrians. **Fog inside your car windows** 

When you're dealing with cold weather and you turn on the heater inside your car, fog will typically form on the inside of your car windows.

For a quick fix, turn on the defrost vent with cool air or crack open a window; don't turn on the heat, suggests the All State Insurance website. This will make the inside of the car cooler and help reduce the fog. Also, turn on your car's rear-window defogger to help clear up the back window.

For a more comfortable solution, turn on the defroster and blow warm air across the windshield to evaporate the moisture that has accumulated.

Plan ahead: keep your car glass as clean as possible, inside and outside. When your glass fogs up, you know the problem isn't just a dirty windshield.

### Make sure your wiper blades are working

Most major windshield wiper manufacturers recommend changing wiper blades every six months. After six months, there is frequently a noticeable deterioration in windshield visibility. To make it easy to remember, vehicle owners should consider changing their wipers each time the clock is changed for Daylight Saving Time or Standard Time.

Regardless of the time frame,

### **BIG FINISH** Continued from Page 20A

At Randy Wise Buick GMC, a select inventory of Regal, Lacross, Verano and GMC Sierra will be on sale for 20 percent cash back from MSPR now through Dec. 1, according to Lisa Consiglio, new car sales manager.

"This huge sale was just announced

if you notice streaking, chattering, warped or split rubber or bent rubber frames, change the wipers immediately. Any of these

Any of these conditions can distort the driver's view of the road and create a driving hazard. **Use a deicing product on your windshield** Products

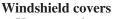
**Customers** usually buy the one (windshield de-icer) that's on sale because all brands pretty much work the same." <u>Matt Wilson</u> Manager of O'Reilly Auto

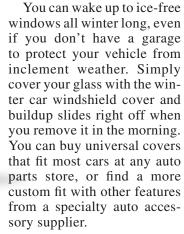
Like Prestone De-icer or Rain-X Deicer are com-

monly sold at auto parts stores. "They put a film on your windshield to protect it from ice build-up," said Matt Wilson, manager at O'Reilly Auto Parts in Fenton. "People usually buy the one that's on sale or the cheapest, because all brands work pretty much the same."

While the commercial de-icers worked well according to reviews on amazon.

com, you can also make your own with a solution of one-third vinegar, one-third rubbing alcohol and one-third water.





this week and began Nov. 19," she added. "New leasing programs will also be attractive to buyers, especially on the new 2015 Yukon XL and the 2014 Buick Encore."

Consiglio is expecting that the end of the last quarter will be very busy. "We've had a really great year at Randy Wise Buick GMC," she said.



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### **300,000 MILES** Continued from Page 21A

**4. Replace the transmission** fluid and filter every 35,000 miles. While your owner's manual may say 100,000 miles, if you want to play it safe, replace it at 35,000 to 40,000 miles. Having this done regularly will reduce the odds you will have to pay \$2,000 to \$4,000 or more to have your transmission replaced or rebuilt.

**5. Wash away the** ravages of road salt. The salt can rust away the underside of your car. To limit damage, take your car to a car wash for an underbody wash after every major snow or ice storm, but wait until temperatures are above freezing.

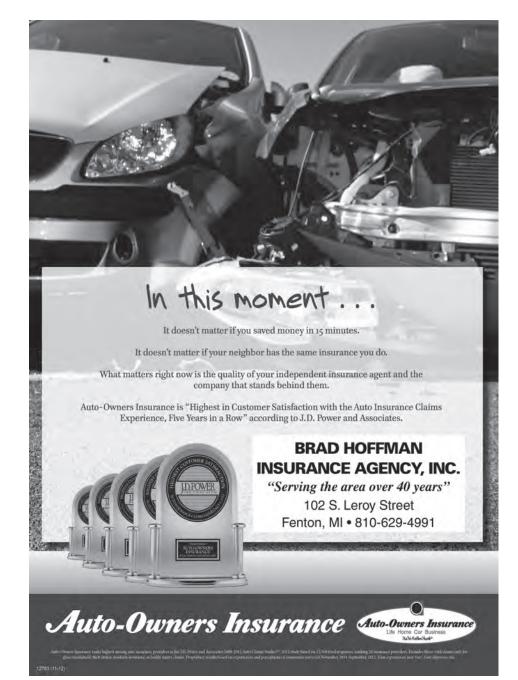
**6. Have your timing** belt inspected regularly. The timing belt synchronizes the rotation of the crankshaft and the camshaft. Your engine could be ruined if this timing belt snaps. If your vehicle has a timing belt chain instead of a belt, it will not require regular replacement.

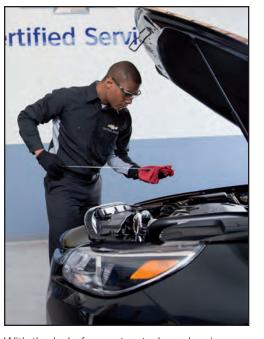
7. Give your radiator hose a squeeze every 20,000 miles. If they feel mushy and soft or cracked and brittle, replace all the radiator hoses, before they all age at about the same time.
8. Use a good mechanic. Find one who will help you identify auto issues because they become serious problems. If you hear your car make a strange noise or handle differently, take the car in.

### How to choose a mechanic

• Look for one who has been in business in your community for many years

- Watch for a clean shop
- Make sure there's a friendly, helpful employee behind the counter
- Check to see if the shop is AAA-approved and/or ASE-certified





With the help from a trusted mechanic, routine maintenance and regular inspections, your vehicle will have a longer, healthier life.

> Lt's all about regular maintenance performed at an earlier point in the life of your car. Don't wait 'til your car has 200,000 miles on it." - David Gilles Auto-Lab of Fenton



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