

# Girl Scout cookies going digital?

► Online stores and smartphone apps make ordering easier than ever

**By Ryan Tackabury**  
news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282  
December is a month for many traditions and family gatherings, but is there any tradition more universally

loved than ordering your favorite Girl Scout cookies? Now ordering Girl Scout cookies has become easier than ever, thanks to the Girl Scout's digital initiative,

named Digital Cookie. Lisa Fijolek is co-leader of a troop of Daisies and Brownies out of North Road Elementary and believes the new  
**See COOKIES on 8A**



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**Weekend Times** sunday edition

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2014

2012 - 2013 - 2014 **Newspaper of the Year**

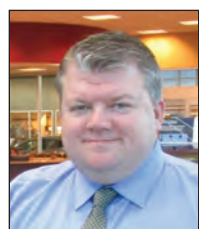
## Local man leaps into action during Amtrak rampage

► Businessman from Grand Blanc steps up to help stabbing victims

**By Sally Rummel**  
news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282  
Jim Ray doesn't think of himself as a hero. He says he just happened to be at the right place at the right time to be helpful.

Ray, 41, was the Good Samaritan who assisted injured passengers on Blue Water Train 364 traveling from Chicago to Port Huron Friday night, when four people, including an Amtrak conductor, were stabbed by Michael Williams, 44, of Saginaw. It happened just minutes before stopping at the Niles Depot at about 7 p.m.

Police boarded the train, tased and apprehended Williams and helped get the injured into awaiting ambulances.



Jim Ray

"My main thought was to keep him/them (the stabber) out of our car," said Ray, the father of two, who was traveling home from Chicago

with his girlfriend, Marian Hazelton of Metamora. He grabbed a glass-breaking hammer on his way running back to the adjoining car where the stabbings had just taken place.

**See AMTRAK on 22A**

**“It's important to be aware of your situation and your surroundings.”**

**Jim Ray**

*A sales manager at Grand Blanc Motorcars who was on the scene helping the injured*

## How the ice storm (almost) stole Christmas



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTOS

The ice storm of December 14, 2013 resulted in an overwhelming amount of fallen tree branches which caused extra work for city workers for months to come. Thousands of homeowners lost power, including Marge Hinman of Fenton (above). Contractors were called from out of state to handle the task of restoring power. Some area residents were without power for nine days. **See story on Page 20A**

## Last call at 4 a.m.?

► New bill would allow bars, restaurants to serve alcohol additional two hours

**By Ryan Tackabury**  
news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Closing time may be coming a little later than usual — two

**“I don't think that it is something we will ever see in Fenton.”**

**Sue Osborn**  
Mayor

hours later, to be precise, as outlined by Senate Bill 247, which was recently passed by the state senate.

The bill would allow businesses in downtown districts to pay a \$10,000 annual fee to allow the serving of alcohol until 4 a.m. on weekends — two hours later than is currently legal. A portion of the fee would go to local police departments, with smaller portions to the Liquor Control Commission and

**See BARS on 14A**



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

A senate bill proposes giving local governments the option to allow bars to stay open until 4 a.m. on weekends.

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**“Those Adopt-A-Pet pages just break my heart. I have adopted two over the last three years and they are the most wonderful, appreciative animals in the world. Please consider adoption.”**



**“What most Americans fail to realize is that there is no left or right, there is only tyranny or freedom. Over the last six years we have been living in tyranny from our own government.”**



**“Why in the world does the news media talk about torture, and then editorialize that this news will embolden our enemies? Their hypocrisy shows us how stupid they think we are.”**



**“Fenton certainly is changing, both cosmetically and fundamentally. I hope this is all for the better and we are not losing our small town charm in the name of 'progress.'”**



tctimes.com  
**COMMENT OF THE WEEK**

**“I often wonder if many of the comments I read in the newspaper and Hot lines are true, or did you hear them on FOX News?”**



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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

The busiest time at the Holly Township Library is story time on Friday morning — where kids not only read, but sing, dance, watch slideshows, feed the fish and make crafts. Children's Librarian Lucy Summers (second from left) leads the group of kids and grandparents through singing "Frosty the Snowman."

## Holly's library – small in size, big on service

► Two area libraries open doors to area residents during Fenton renovations

By Yvonne Stegall

ystegall@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

In the recent Times article about Fenton's Jack R. Winegarten Library renovations closing dates, the Linden library was mentioned as an alternative. Holly Township also has a library and the library

staff is happy to have Fenton patrons use their library.

Shirley Roos, library director at the Holly Township Library, said, "We are all part of the same library cooperative. All you would have to do is apply for a Holly library card, because we are not on their shared system." Library guests will need to bring their proof of address, which would be their driver's license or Michigan ID card.

Getting a library card at the Holly

Township Library takes just a few minutes, and costs nothing.

"While the Fenton library is closed, we are certainly willing to help them out. They are all welcome here," Roos said.

The Holly library may be small, but it offers all the same amenities of any other library. They have approximately 30 computers, DVD rental, large print books, children's books, a photocopier, fax and scanner services and more.

See **LIBRARY** on 20A

## Vaccinations

► They are the reason so many diseases are non-existent today

By Yvonne Stegall

ystegall@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Do you know what immunizations and vaccinations do for us? To make a long story short, immunizations prevent us from getting sick in the first place. In order for our immune system to become immune to an illness, we have to have that illness once. With the invention of vaccines, we no longer need to get sick first in order to not get sick. Makes sense, right?

One of the reasons why vaccines are so controversial is that they contain the same germs that cause disease. However, these germs have been either killed, or weakened to the point that they don't make you sick. This dead or nearly dead germ introduced into the system via vaccine stimulates the immune system to produce antibodies, exactly as it would if you were exposed to the disease.

See **VACCINATIONS** on 21A



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Vaccinations can save lives and prevent the spread of diseases. According to MDCH, five Michigan children currently have measles.

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# It's A Wonderful Life

I read a column recently that discussed the merits of the movie *It's A Wonderful Life*. I'm one of those guys who wouldn't feel the Christmas season was complete without an annual viewing of the beloved holiday classic.

It was just another movie when it was first released shortly after the end of World War II. But over the last 20 years it has acquired a certain cult status.

That's not to say *It's A Wonderful Life* doesn't have its detractors. A few years ago, some professor from Harvard spent a whole semester analyzing the movie (glad to hear our tax dollars are being spent wisely). His conclusion: *It's A Wonderful*

*Life* is a tragedy that epitomizes how empty and bleak life can be when you end up marrying your high school sweetheart and living in the same town you grew up in. The professor's study concludes that George Bailey is the most sad and lonely of all characters — a bitter, unfulfilled shell of a man who deeply regrets the choices he has made and the empty, tragic life he has lived.

"I cry when I see it," the professor concluded.

To me, the real tragedy is the sad and pitiful analysis by the sad and pitiful professor. His life must be devoid of all the things that make my life rich and wonderful. I suspect that the Harvard professor bears a striking emotional

resemblance to the movie's villain, Mr. Potter. And he likely leads as bleak and empty a life as the financially rich but emotionally bankrupt Mr. Potter — with no friends, no spouse and no family.

No wonder he cries when he watches *It's A Wonderful Life*.

Speaking as a guy who did marry his high school sweetheart, I would like to inform the professor that my life has been many things, but never a tragedy. Like most lives, it contains all the elements of a good story. I have a large extended family so there certainly has always been a steady stream of love, as well as lots of drama. It's often been a comedy of errors. My life has had its share of villains and heroes — with me playing both roles at different times

and different places. There have been successes, failures, greed and misplaced values. And it's had its fair share of tragic events, including financial ups and downs, illnesses and deaths.

But never has it been a tragedy.

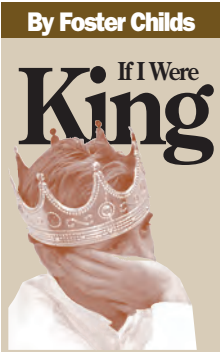
*It's A Wonderful Life* is a celebration of small town values — family, faith and friends. And at the end of the day we are all George Baileys — just so-called ordinary men and women who are happily living our ordinary lives.

I hope you take the time to watch the movie.

I hope you have a Merry Christmas.

And I hope that you, like me, have a wonderful life.

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



## Hot lines

Submit at: tctimes.com, call 810-629-9221 or text to 810-771-8398

All submissions, if approved for publication, must be 50 words or less and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Tri-County Times. We reserve the right to edit for clarity, length and liability.

**I SURE GOT** a good laugh from the Hot liner who said deporting all illegal immigrants is a bad idea because that would mean Joe Biden would be president.

**GREAT JOB FENTON** and Fenton Townships on the roads. Two cold, possibly icy, days in a row and my drive to work was a safe one without slipping and sliding. Thank you!

**IN AN EFFORT** to shore-up Social Security, Congress suggested cutting seniors COLA. They reason that since seniors spend less, they require less COLA protection. Surely, the best possible place to cut COLA is congressional salaries. Due to job perks and free lobbyist vacations, legislators spend less than anyone.

**THE MAIN REASON** there were no Michael Brown protests in Oklahoma is there are way too many rednecks that won't stand for something that ridiculous!

**OF COURSE I** don't have a dog or a cat as a domestic partner. But it makes my point. Our society has degraded to a point where we love our sin and we don't want to hear if it's right or wrong. One day there is going to be a judgment and it's all going to come crashing down.

**TO THE INDIVIDUAL** that said, 'If you think Obama created laws,' what world do you live in? I want to live there too. Where I can wear blinders and dream about fairy tales all day, not a care in the world.

**LADIES BEWARE, AFTER** just getting out of my car, I proceeded to walk toward the entrance of the store when a man in a gold four-door car drove up beside me and asked if I needed a ride. I was just a short distance from the entrance. Why?

**SINCE THE LIBERALS** lost the Senate in November, they have gone to the last straw, 'race baiting.' They have looted and burned buildings in Ferguson, L.A. and

NYC. The violators should be arrested. Instead, they are going to retrain the police. 'Can't we all just get along.'

**ERIC HOLDER IS** going to investigate the grand jury decision in the Ferguson case. We need to find out why the #1 witness' testimony was not included. It was a lie and started the riots when he claimed Michael Brown stood with his hands up.

**I BET THE** people in California are proud to have representatives like Feinstein and Pelosi. I've been there three times and I hope to God I don't have to go back a fourth.

See **HOT LINE** throughout Times

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## Readers write

Letters, 150 words or less must be signed and include a phone number. We reserve the right to edit for clarity and liability. Letters must be written exclusively for the Times

### Empathetic or sympathetic?

Dear editor,  
So, Hillary Rodham Clinton wants us to be 'empathetic to our enemies.' She also wants to be Commander in Chief. I am shocked that someone who spends so much time in the public arena and has a law degree fails to understand the difference between 'empathetic' and 'sympathetic.' The former Ms. Secretary of State fails to grasp that ISIS and other terrorist groups have declared a 'Tribal War' on the United States. A Tribal War, Madam Secretary, means that it is a fight to the death. When hit, hit back harder and when killed, kill more until one side becomes extinct, Madam Secretary! As a Christian, I may be sympathetic when we win this Tribal War or we get the other side to capitulate, but I will never be empathetic to their cause — never will I surrender my autonomy for the dictatorship their cause and religion demands. God Bless America!

— Michael Jewell, Holly

Compiled by Christopher Jones, staff reporter

## How were you affected by last year's Christmas ice storm?

## streettalk



"We had to stay at a hotel for Christmas. Our power was out for a week, but we bonded as a family."

— Rebecca Taylor  
Tyrone Township



"I didn't lose power, but my whole family lost power."

— Victor Bentley  
Rose Township



"We ended up going to a hotel in Howell for three days."

— Donald Setibel  
Linden



"We did lose power, but only for a couple hours. We had a generator."

— Susan Skolnik  
Highland



"I had a generator, so I stayed home."

— Chet Niec  
Flint



"I lost power at home and at work. We had to make do without."

— Shawn Walker  
Fenton





**TRI-COUNTY TIMES** | FILE PHOTO  
Argentine Township Fire Chief Jim Reid took these photos of a home in the 8000 block of Lahring Road in Argentine Township that was destroyed by a fire on Dec 31, 2013. More house fires occur in the winter than any other season.

## Keeping your home safe this holiday season

►Fire and police chiefs offer tips to prevent home fires, thefts

**By Yvonne Stegall**  
ystegall@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

So many things can go wrong in your home this holiday season, it's important to be aware and take precautions. There is a higher risk of house fires and theft during the holiday season.

Fenton Fire Chief Bob Cairnduff and Fenton Police Chief Rick Aro were asked for advice on what everyone needs to know to stay safe and have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Here is their advice:

### Heating your home

According to Cairnduff, home fires occur more in winter than in any other season. The months of December, January and February account for half of the home heating fires in the U.S. Heating fires account for one out of every six home fires. They also account for one of every five home deaths from fire.

As you stay cozy and warm this winter season, you need to be smart about home heating safety.

- Keep all combustible materials at least 3 feet away from heating devices.
- If you use your fireplace or wood burner to heat your home or simply for a recreational fire, you need to have it cleaned at least yearly or more if you burn a lot of wood.
- Make sure the wood you burn is dry and seasoned.
- Ensure that you have checked your fireplace screen and that it's in good

condition and secure in place.

"We also want to make sure that anyone who cleans out their fireplace or wood burner places the ashes in a metal container outside of the home and not in the garage, and at least 10 feet from the home," said Cairnduff. "We have had many fires in recent years from people cleaning out the ashes and believing they are cooled enough and place them in the garbage in the garage. The ashes can remain warm and ignite up to a few days later."

With the increased use of heating devices, it is even more important for every home to have at least one working carbon monoxide detector. "Every year we have

close calls with carbon monoxide and these detectors are true life savers," he said.

### Decorating for the holidays

Of every five home fires started by decorations, two are from candles. Never leave a candle unattended. If you are leaving or going to bed, make sure they are out. Don't place candles near other decorations. The best thing is to have them in a glass container, made for candles, that is taller than the candle itself to keep it contained.

Other decorating safety tips, from Cairnduff, include:

- Be careful with holiday decorations. Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.
- Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.

See **SAFE** on 21A

“Home fires occur more in winter than in any other season.”

**Bob Cairnduff**  
Fenton fire chief

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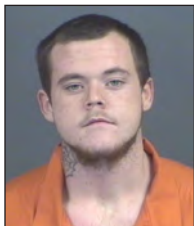


## Knife-wielding party store robber arrested

Livingston County Sheriff's Department detectives apprehended a suspect on Dec. 2 they believe is responsible for a Nov. 14 armed robbery in Tyrone Township. Nicholas Smith, 20, of Holly is currently lodged at the Livingston County Jail. Bond has been set at \$250,000.

Sheriff's deputies responded to the Runyan Lake Food Center on Hartland Road at 8:20 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 14 on a report of an armed robbery. Two employees and one customer were at the store at the time of the robbery. They told investigators that an unknown man entered the store, approached the cashier, displayed a knife and demanded money.

The man made off with an undisclosed amount of money and was last seen running northwest from the store on foot. Detectives followed evidence from the crime scene along with multiple tips over the last two weeks to help identify and track down the suspect.



Nicholas Smith

## Fenton man jailed following home invasion

►Charged with auto theft, stealing and using victim's credit cards

By Sharon Stone

sstone@tctimes.com; 810-433-6786

David Stidham, 30, of Fenton was arraigned Tuesday in Genesee County District Court with three counts of stealing credit cards and one count of auto theft, following a home invasion that took place Dec. 4 in Fenton. Stidham was arrested Dec. 5 and remains lodged in lieu of the cash surety bond of \$50,000 set on each of the four counts.

Lt. Jason Slater of the Fenton Police Department said just after 8 a.m. on Dec. 4, officers responded to a home in the 900 block of Briarwood Lane on a report of a home invasion. The homeowner said that sometime between midnight and 8 a.m. someone had entered his

home through an unlocked kitchen window while he was home sleeping. Evidence indicated that the suspect even entered the homeowner's bedroom.

The intruder, who police allege is Stidham, stole the man's wallet and used stolen keys to steal the homeowner's 2015 Ford Explorer that had been parked inside the garage. Cash, credit cards and assorted jewelry pieces were also stolen.

Police learned that several of the victim's credit cards had been used at businesses on the east side of Flint.

Slater said other police agencies are interested in Stidham and believe he may be involved in other larcenies in the area.

The victim's vehicle was recovered from an apartment complex off Torrey Road in Fenton, however, police are still attempting to recover jewelry pieces.



David Stidham

## Police&Fire report

### CARELESS DISCHARGE OF A FIREARM

Just after 6 p.m. on Dec. 5, Fenton police responded to a residence in the 15000 block of Silver Parkway to investigate a situation. Lt. Jason Slater said a 46-year-old resident was attempting to clear his high-velocity rifle of ammunition when it accidentally discharged a round, which went through his ceiling and into the closet ceiling of the apartment above his. He called police, as well as the residents in the above apartment, when they heard the noise. There were no injuries reported. Police will present the case to the prosecutor to see if any charges, most likely that of careless discharge of a firearm, will be filed.

### WOMAN'S WALLET STOLEN DURING CHURCH SERVICE

On Dec. 5, Fenton police received a larceny report, which occurred at a church service in the 600 block of North Adelaide Street on Sunday, Nov. 30. The woman told police that following the church service, she noticed that someone had taken her wallet from her purse, while it was left at her seat on the pew. The woman learned that someone had attempted to use her credit card from a store on Owen Road during the evening of Nov. 30. Fenton police are working with the store's loss prevention department to identify the suspect using their surveillance video. Lt. Jason Slater reminds everyone to be extra cautious this time of year and to keep an eye on his or her valuables.

### MORNING BREAK-IN

At 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 7, deputies with the Genesee County Sheriff's Department responded to a home in the 6000 block of Lahring Road in Fenton Township to investigate a breaking and entering complaint. Dep. Geno Gaticka said the homeowner was away from the home for a few hours and when they returned at noon, noticed that someone had used force to break in through a door. Items reported stolen include a TV, PlayStation 4, jewelry and loose change.

### PHONE SCAMS CONTINUE

Dep. Geno Gaticka said the Genesee County Sheriff's Department continues to receive complaints from residents about phone scams. He said older residents seem to be targeted for these scams where the unknown caller tells the resident they have won a large amount of money, but they need to send in a small amount of cash to claim their prize. It is a scam. Gaticka said prize winners should never have to pay to receive a prize.

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# Christmas trees, real or fake?

► Experts weigh in on the pros and cons of tree choices

By Yvonne Stegall

ystegall@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

If you ask most people who decorate their homes for Christmas, which they prefer, real or artificial, you will likely get a passionate answer from either side. Those who prefer a real tree love them, and those who prefer artificial ones love their choice too, for many different reasons.

Organicgardening.com put together a detailed comparison of the pros and cons of fresh Christmas trees and the pros and cons of artificial Christmas trees. Here is what they shared:

## Summary

► There are pros and cons for whichever choice you make when it comes to Christmas tree shopping. Do you prefer real or artificial?



Artificial Christmas trees, pre-lit or no lights, are convenient and easier on allergy sufferers than freshly cut trees.

## FRESH CUT PROS & CONS

**Pros:** Few Christmas trees come from forests anymore, as virtually all of them are grown on farms, located in all 50 states. Fresh local Christmas trees can be found all over the tri-county area. Buying real trees helps support small local farmers, and at the end of the holiday season, the trees can be mulched and used to feed plants or find some other environmentally friendly purpose. So, not only are you working toward stimulating the local economy, you are also being green.

Terri Dawson Jordan, on Facebook, said they cut down their own tree each year. "We bring it right home and put it in its stand in its special spot. It usually takes us two or three days to get it and the house decorated. And every year we stand back and say the same thing every time. 'This is our most beautiful, favorite tree ever.'"

**Cons:** Real trees can come with pest problems, and are usually grown with pesticides that are toxic to wildlife and, in some cases, to people. In addition, some people might suffer from allergies to the tree pollen and molds. The other con — the cleanup.



WOMANSDAY.COM

Families often make it an annual tradition to cut down their own Christmas tree.

## ARTIFICIAL PROS & CONS

**Pros:** They're inexpensive and reusable. You can go for the traditional green, or try something fun like a pink tree. You can purchase ones that come with the lights attached, too.

Breanne Clark told the Times on Facebook, "Artificial! I don't like ending up with pine needles all over. It doesn't smell like a real tree so the dog won't pee on it, I don't have to water it and it's a money saver."

**Cons:** Artificial trees are bad for the environment because they are made from the plastic polyvinylchloride (PVC), and the toxic chemical dioxin is released during PVC production. Look

for warning labels on the packaging before purchase too, as some have lead in them. Plastic trees can't be recycled either. As well, remember when one light goes out, they all do — think of dealing with this on an entire tree if it's a pre-lit tree.

“Love real trees! Our first year in our new home we got one so big we had to remove the stationary window in our door wall! I just don't like all the needles during the clean up!”

Michele Hornung  
Facebook

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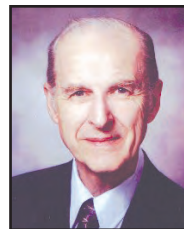
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## Featured columnist

By Roger Campbell



### Great gifts for our children

Since my daily radio broadcast, books and weekly newspaper column penetrate prison walls, I frequently receive letters from prisoners. One of these was so moving it has remained unforgettable.

The writer, a 27-year-old convict, told of spending many years behind bars. He was writing from solitary confinement in the prison and admitted he had read one of my books only because there was nothing else available.

Like many chronic offenders, this troubled young writer had grown up the child of alcoholic parents. By the time he reached the seventh grade, he was hooked on alcohol and other drugs, causing him to drop out of school.

When he was 15, he had his first brush with the law and at the time he wrote to me had spent more time in prison than out. One line in his letter revealed the key to his misery: 'I've never committed a crime while sober.' Thousands of prison inmates could join him in this common confession. Alcohol use accounts for more than half of all crime that sends people to prison.

Sharing experiences from his tragic past, this son in solitary wrote: 'My mom and dad really had bad drinking problems. In 1971, mom shot dad point blank in the chest; that was the last time I cried.' His tearless cry for help still haunts me. And, during this season when we hunt gifts for our children,

forces me to consider the importance of giving gifts that will enrich their lives. Let's give our children memories of faith instead of fighting.

'How many hours do you expect to spend fighting?' I asked the prospective bride and groom sitting across the desk from me?' Surprised, they laughed.

A young wife and member of a couple's class said, 'My husband and I were about to begin another argument when I remembered that fighting is a waste of time.' Our children need examples of trusting God in tough times, instead of blaming each other when things go wrong. Kindness, not conflict, builds faith among family members.

We find peace with God through faith (Romans 5:1) and that same faith can produce peace in our homes, a wonderful heritage for our children. Let's give our children memories of affection instead of anger.

According to the Bible, the love climate of every marriage should illustrate the love of God for us. Our children should be able to learn about God's love for them by seeing the affection of their parents for each other (Ephesians 5). Anger destroys love. Affection expressed often amplifies it.

Let's give our children memories of praise instead of put-downs.

I once heard a friend of my father tell him he was going to ruin me by his frequent praise of my work on the farm. But Dad was no dummy. He knew the more praise I received the harder I worked. Family members who build one another up are continually creating memories that make the past pleasant and fill the future with possibilities. This Christmas, why not give the best gifts of all?

*Roger Campbell is an author, broadcaster and columnist who was a pastor for 22 years. He can be reached at [rcministry@ameritech.net](mailto:rcministry@ameritech.net).*

## COOKIES

Continued from Front Page

online presence will help her troop to sell more cookies.

"I think it will help with our initial orders because we go around in December and approach family and friends first," Fijolek said. "If others are like myself and have relatives in Chicago, if they want to order through my daughters they can, and that will credit back through to our troop.

Troops in the Fenton area can begin taking orders on Dec. 19, and cookies can be expected to arrive around the first week in February.

Even through Digital Cookie, the Girl Scout's initiate the sale, so there is still a personal component. Girl Scout troops will have personalized cookie websites they can invite their customers to, but you will need to get one of those invitations first.

Samoas, Thin Mints, and all of the other favorites will be there to order. Two cook-

ies will be absent this year — the Dulce de Leche and Thank You Berry Much. Have no fear however, as there is also a new cookie to take their place.

"There is a new cookie — this also varies by region because there are two different cookie bakers. The new cookie we have is Ra-Ra Raisin, an oatmeal cookie," Fijolek said.

Collen Chambers Woodruff said that her fifth-grade daughter, Grace, has never run into any problems selling the cookies, whether it be to family and friends, or at cookie stands — because people love them.

For those who are stricken with the cookie craving and can't wait for an order to be shipped, the Girl Scouts have you covered with their Girl Scout Cookie finder app, now available for iPhone and Android. With one press of the "Find Cookies Now!" button, you will be given directions to the nearest cookie booth.

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U.S. PIRG

These toys are toxic, according to the Federation of State Public Interest Research Groups.

By Yvonne Stegall  
ystegall@tctimes.com;  
810-433-6792

There are many reasons toys are recalled, from toxins to choking hazards. However, not all hazardous toys are recalled in time to save a child from suffering the consequences of the negative aspect of that toy.

Recently, U.S. PIRG, the Federation of State Public Interest Research Groups, released a list of hazardous toys, separated in the categories of toxic, ingestion hazard and choking hazard. We all know that any small toy that can fit in your child's mouth can potentially be a choking hazard, but it's more difficult to know what is toxic.

HERE ARE THE TOP TOYS THAT  
U.S. PIRG FOUND WERE TOXIC:

**Badge Playset — star and round badge:** The sheriff's star and "special police" badge contain excessive lead, both measuring above 110 ppm (parts per million).

**Dora the Explorer backpack:** The plastic portion of the backpack contains 200,000 ppm DEHP (di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate) and 3,000 ppm DINP (Di-isononyl phthalate), both of which are banned above 1,000 ppm. The backpack may not be considered a toy and therefore exempt from the standard. However, U.S. PIRG believes that all children's products should be safe.

**Leopard pattern rubber duck:** The duck contains 1,400 ppm DINP, above the limit of 1,000 ppm.

**Hello Kitty bracelet and hair clips accessory set:** The plastic covering the hairclips contains 5,100 ppm DEHP, versus a standard of 1,000 ppm.

For a complete list of hazardous toys, visit [uspig.org](http://uspig.org).

Recent recalls for toys and other products can be found at [saferproducts.gov](http://saferproducts.gov). Not only does this site list recalled items, but also gives contact information for dealing with the recalled item. You can also report incidents involving already recalled items and those that have not been.

Tips on choosing  
SAFE TOYS

- **Buy less.** Do you really need to buy a new toy? Depending on the age of the child, he or she may prefer a book you promise to read aloud. Another special kind of gift is an experience; a trip to the zoo or amusement park or a tour of the local fire station.
- **Avoid plastics.** Vinyl plastic toys are the worst plastic toys for the environment and your child's health. Vinyl itself is toxic and it's loaded with chemicals like lead and phthalates that cause real damage to human health. If you can't bring yourself to abandon plastics entirely, choose safer plastics labeled 1, 2, 4 or 5 in the symbol usually found at the bottom of the product.
- **Choose natural materials.** Choose unpainted wood toys, cloth toys or plush toys instead of plastic toys. Watch out for painted wood toys unless it is certified that the paint is non-toxic and lead-free.
- **Choose high-quality toys.** Buy toys built to last. High-quality toys can take a beating and still last long enough to be handed down to a younger sibling or sold to a second hand store once your child has outgrown it.

Source: [healthychild.org](http://healthychild.org)

Calendar of  
events

**Cookie Walk**  
Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church is sponsoring a Cookie Walk from **9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 20** in the school cafeteria. Guests can walk through a vast display of cookies, all available for \$6 per pound, while enjoying a pleasant Christmas atmosphere. Cookies will also be offered for diet-conscience consumers who desire gluten-free, sugar-free, or those made with organic ingredients. Varieties will be available on a first-come, first-served basis while supplies last. Proceeds will benefit Our Savior's Youth in Mission program. Our Savior is located at 13667 W. Highland Road (M-59) in Hartland. Enter through the school doors by the flagpoles.

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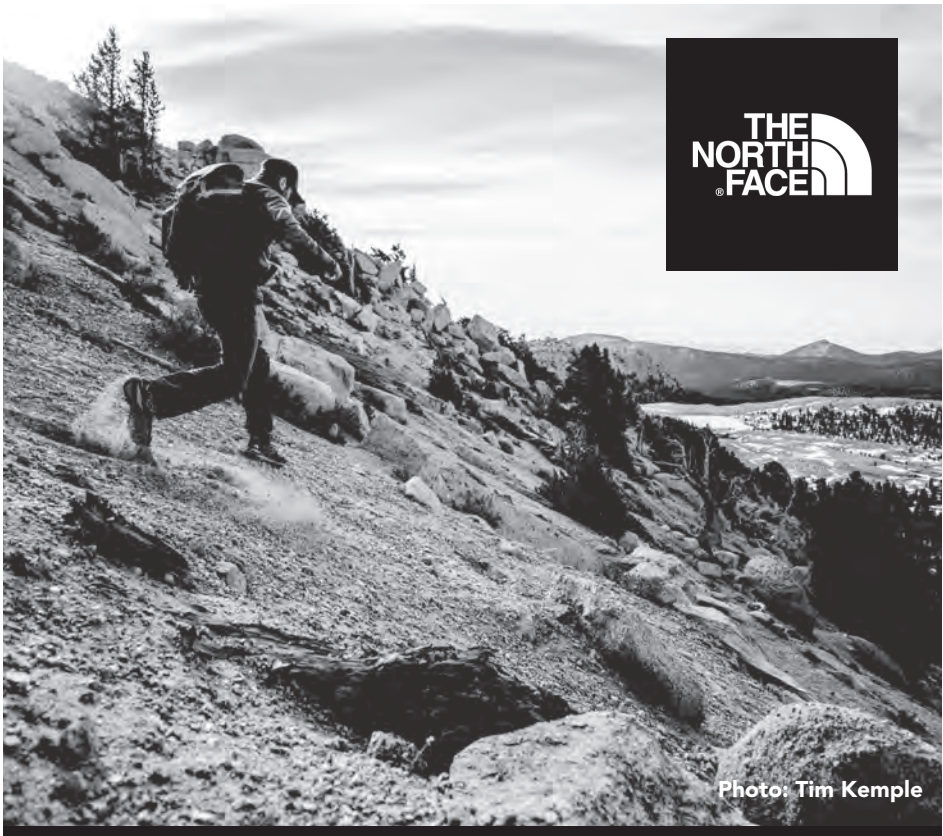


Photo: Tim Kemple

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# The Swellers: local punk rock heroes call it quits

► Fenton and Linden grads toured with Vans Warped Tour, Paramore, in Europe and Asia

By Tim Jagielo

tjagielo@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795

**Detroit** — “We wrote our last song,” said Linden High School graduate Nicholas Deiner to the sold out crowd at The Magic Stick.

From the stage, it’s just a sea of faces of 400 appreciative fans who came to see them off for their last Detroit Show. “And this is the last show we’re going to drive our van to, which is the weirdest feeling in the world.”

Their 12-year career culminated into the best, most energetic show the band had seen. It was a celebration of the band’s years of hard work, and a near brush with commercial success—but The Swellers had decided to call it quits in the last year.

Singer and guitarist Nicholas and his brother and drummer Jonathan Deiner hail from Fenton, but they have lived their lives on the road with The Swellers, touring with the Vans Warped Tour, Paramore and Less Than Jake, along with bassist Anto Boros and guitarist Ryan Collins.

Today, they have nearly 50,000 “likes” on Facebook, an Alternative Press cover photo, years of touring Europe and the Pacific Rim, and six releases to their name. The Deiners have lived off music since their teens, which is at least one definition of success.

It’s an odd time to feature a successful indie band with local ties at the very end, but Nicholas, a Linden graduate, and Jonathan, a Fenton graduate, sold out a popular Detroit venue, and give credit to the city they lived



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Swellers guitarist Nicholas and brother (and drummer) Jonathan Diener wrap up their last Detroit show, after a 12-year career. The Dieners lived in Fenton and graduated from local schools before building a legitimate indie-rock career for themselves. They’ll move on to tour in the U.S., and Europe before officially wrapping up.

in until 2009 for helping them get their start.

“If my brother and I hadn’t moved to Fenton from Grand Rapids, we would have never discovered the Flint Local 432,” he said. “We would have never played our first show there and learned everything. We

would have never branched out and made Detroit our second home.”

Nicholas said he never really felt like the band “made it,” which kept them hungry, fighting through the isolation that touring Asia can cause. “You can feel pretty emotionally detached with your girlfriend or wife sleeping while you’re awake and being awake while you sleep,” he said.

The Deiners lived out of a van and on the road for shows for 12 years. Shortly before the show ended, Nicholas shared the band’s reason for breaking up. He said that while traveling, one forgets what your bed at home feels like. “Sometime in the last year, we kind of remembered what our beds felt like. It was a good feeling, and we feel like it’s a good way to end.”

The ripping final Detroit set sent fans crowd surfing, dancing, jumping and singing along. The first encore song was Nicholas by himself playing the solemn and emotional “Stars,” which he joked was usually too “wussy” to play, but considering it’s the last Detroit show, it was fitting. The crowd joined him in singing, and swayed their lighters back and forth.

“At these final shows we’ve been playing, I have been taking in every single

second of the performance, every detail,” he said. “Watching the fans, listening to each member of our band, paying attention to the words more closely, just knowing it’s one of the last times our band will be doing such a thing.”

It’s not irony that let them finally sell out a big Detroit venue, and pack it with an excited, energetic crowd like they’d always dreamed. It was the years of touring, promotion, writing and making the band central to their lives, and making friends, not just fans.

Their “The Swellers Call it a Night” tour will take them across the U.S. and Europe, each one the last show in each particular city.

Moving forward, Nick may do solo work and will continue to record other bands in his studio. Jonathan will work with his new band, Braidedveins.

“Living in Fenton was actually a very inspirational thing for us,” said Jonathan. “We grew up in Grand Rapids so when we moved over it was not only a fresh start, but a very humbling experience. People were proud of where they’re from rather than white collar kids making fun of each other for not having expensive shoes.”

He said that they learned to appreciate what they had and how to work for the things they wanted. “The work ethic alone helped our band promote heavily and stick out among our peers, leading us to packed shows and eventually full U.S. tours. We missed how relaxed it was when we were away. It’s nice seeing how much the town is flourishing now.” Jonathan currently lives in Grand Blanc, but frequents many Fenton eateries and businesses.

**“Living in Fenton was actually a very inspirational thing for us.”**

**Jonathan Deiner**  
The Swellers drummer,  
Fenton graduate



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

The sold-out crowd at the Magic Stick in Detroit took little separation between stage and audience — throughout the show, fans stage-dove and crowd-surfed, and the band loved it.



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**BARS****Continued from Front Page**

the cities where the permits were administered.

Additionally, the business applying for this license must have approval of the city council — leaving the final decision with the potential new hours with local government.

"I don't think that it is something we will ever see in Fenton," said Mayor Sue Osborn about the prospects of the new late hours. Osborn believes that it doesn't seem like a right fit to Fenton — though of course the city council will

have the opportunity to evaluate this decision on a case by case basis.

Osborn said she expects the bill, if implemented into law, would be utilized more by larger downtown areas such as Detroit, which have a lot more entertainment opportunities than smaller communities such as Fenton.

"You also have to pay the \$10,000 fee, which is a lot of money. You would have to sell a lot of alcohol to make that money back," Osborn said.

As it has passed the Senate, the bill will head to the House to be voted upon next.

**Linden High School Chamber Choir visits Genesys hospital**

TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Each year the Linden high School Chamber Choir does their part to spread some holiday cheer at Genesys Regional Medical Center in Grand Blanc Township. Director John Benett conducted the choir through 10 pieces on Thursday to the delight of hospital employees, visitors and patients.

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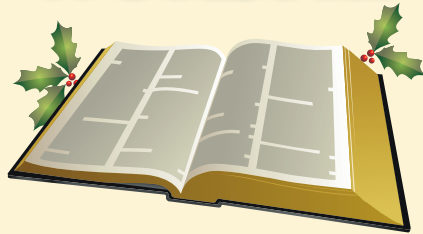
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our town

# Meet Cherie Smith

- Fenton city booster
- 'Dibbleville Dame'
- 'Food is love' cook

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Cherie Smith, 63, has lived in the city of Fenton since 1985, but has always considered this community a 'second home' since vacationing on Lake Ponemah as a child in the summertime. She was married to former Fenton City Councilman Ben Smith for 41 years until his passing on Aug. 24 after a brief illness. 'Life is a 'new normal' for me now,' said Smith, from her home in historic Dibbleville.

**How are you so closely connected to the city of Fenton?** Ben and I moved here on Labor Day 1985 and have loved our city ever since then. I still love this city. Fenton had even been my part-time home in the summer when I was a child. I love the history and that people here care about each other.

I served on the Beautification Commission for 14 years until last year, 13 of those years as chairman. I was also appointed to the Park Board. I was a docent this year on the Cemetery Walk and also on the Ghost Walk in October. The DPW in Fenton is like family to me. I believe they're the 'unsung heroes' of every municipality.

**You obviously had a difficult fall season this year. How have you gotten through it?** After Ben died, I had a series of bad days, including what would have been our 42nd anniversary just a week later, then Ben's 62nd birthday and after that, a car accident. Everything got better after week nine. My DPW family came to my house and did all my fall chores for me. We even grilled burgers out afterward and laughed and joked. My house was so happy!

I had never been alone in my life until Ben died. I was the only child of my adoptive parents, then I went to college and married Ben right after that. It's a 'new normal' for me this year, especially this Christmas. It's OK, I'll get through it. I'm a very strong person.

**You're well known in the area for your cooking.** To me, food is love. When you love someone, you feed them. It's a passion for me. Last year after the big snow, I made the DPW guys a big pot of chili and hot corn muffins. Every week until last June, I brought them a homemade lunch. Whatever they wanted to eat, I made it for them. Every week, I bake for my waste management crew. I know what every policeman in the city likes for cupcake filling and frosting. Your pub-



"If I'm upset, I cook. If I'm happy, I cook. If I want to help someone, I cook."  
Cherie Smith

lic servants do so much; it's the least I can do in return.

If someone's sick, I take a nice rosemary-roasted chicken or pot roast with a roast, onions, carrots and gravy. My dad always said, 'Kindness doesn't cost anything.' I love to do things for people.

**What have you done professionally over the years?** I'm still working two days a week as a third-party vendor for Kroger. I audit three Clarkston stores and a Hartland store. My stores treat me like family, and I can set my own hours and work days. I was an insurance agent for 15 years in Flint/Flushing. I love to sell! Then I bought my own antique-gift shop in the mill area of Linden.

I used to work as food service director for the old Hammond Nursery Home on Adelaide here in Fenton. I was also the food service director at the Flint YMCA, where we fed 150 inmates three square meals a day from scratch. Our hotel was leased out to the Michigan Department of Corrections. I've also been a personal chef to some doctors and bankers.

**Who are the 'Dibbleville Dames?'** Two years ago, my neighbor Kris Williams and I decided to have a potluck to welcome new neighbors. We had so much fun that we kept getting together. Sometimes we'd walk to a neighbor's house for dinner. Now, we meet every month on the third Thursday. We leave the guys out of it.

**Tell me about your dog.** Our dog, Maisy, is well known in the area as 'the Scottie that hates me.' She didn't like Ben either. She was a rescue Scottie we've had since she was 5. She had all sorts of medical problems I had to deal with when we got her and she hasn't liked me since. It's no secret; everyone knows it! She used to follow Ben around City Hall and we'd take her to the Concerts in the Park. She'll sleep in bed with me but only on the opposite side!

**What is something that people don't know about you?** I'm almost 64 years old and I'm still afraid of the dark. My dad teased me when I was 4 that there

TRI-COUNTY TIMES  
SALLY RUMMEL

Cherie Smith is happiest at home in her kitchen, where she loves to make dishes like pasta and seafood, pot roast or a pork roast, even homemade pizza. She also turns out many gifts from her kitchen during the holidays.

was an Indian under my bed with a tomahawk, and it has scared me ever since. Also, I'm a voracious reader.



## ASK THE mECHANIC

Chris Wilkinson,  
Certified Mechanic

**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? - Samsit

**A:** Sasmit, The head gasket could be the cause. It may not always show signs of leaking, as the coolant is burned in the combustion 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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## TRIVIA HOCKEY

**Q** What was the location of the first NHL game played in the United States?

**A** The first game happened on Dec. 1, 1924 at Boston Arena. The Bruins defeated the Montreal Maroons 2-1.



## Holly gives Country Day a good fight

► Fall to Yellow Jackets in final two minutes of tight 79-73 contest

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

There were five buses of Holly students headed to the game at Detroit Country Day.

**Holly's  
Kyle Woodruff**

There was electricity, moments of brilliance by both teams and it was a tight game throughout.

It also was just the first game of what could be a fun season for the Holly varsity boys basketball team. The Bronchos traveled to Detroit Country Day and battled back-and-forth with the Yellow Jackets all game long, but eventually fell to the hosts by an entertaining 79-73 verdict on Tuesday.

The contest was tied 65-all with just under two minutes to play when Country Day's Dawan Perry hit a three-pointer, giving the Yellow Jackets the lead for good. Country Day iced the game from that point on the free-throw line making 9-of-10 from the charity stripe down the stretch.

"It was an incredible game. You would've thought it was a  
**See HOLLY on 17A**

**Tri-County  
Times**

SUNDAY,  
DECEMBER 14, 2014  
PAGE 16A

# Sports

## HOLLY CHEERS

The Holly fan base sent five buses to the boys basketball game at Detroit Country Day.



ONLINE EXCLUSIVES

► Read about Friday night's basketball action, visit [tctimes.com](http://tctimes.com).

## FRIDAY NIGHT SCOREBOARD RETURNS

Starting with this week, Tri-County Times subscribers can get a full dosage of the area's Friday prep boys and girls basketball games through email. We'll be sending early Saturday morning our Internet feature called Friday Night Scoreboard, detailing hoops action for Fenton, Lake Fenton, Linden and Holly schools, as we did during the football season. The email will be sent to all Internet subscribers of our publication. And, of course, complete game coverage can still be found at [www.tctimes.com](http://www.tctimes.com).

This weekend's activity included a Holly at Fenton girls/boys Metro League doubleheader. The Holly boys are the overwhelming favorites to defend its league title, while the Holly girls are among the favorites to defend its crown as well. Of course, the Fenton Tigers are usually involved in both basketball races as well, so Friday night was a first big step toward any of the four teams contending.

We'll have abbreviated game coverage in our Wednesday paper.

## Youth has Linden excited

► Young Eagles open 2014-13 wrestling season with dual split

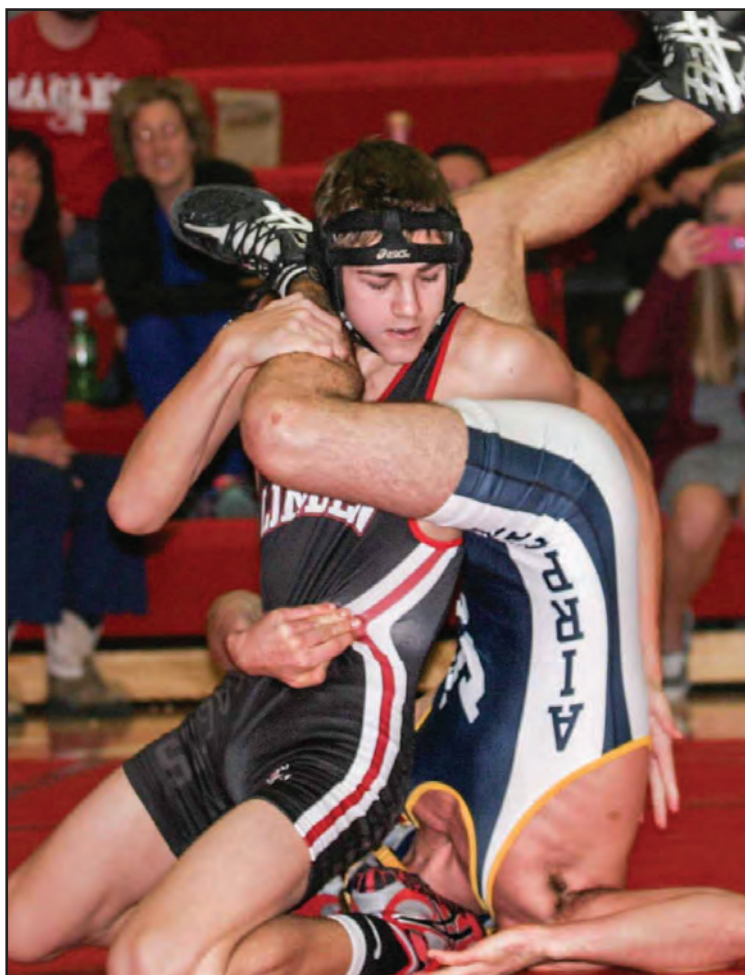
**By David Troppens**  
dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

**Linden** — Austin McNeill called it going through the gauntlet.

He is the only senior surviving from his freshman class on the Linden varsity wrestling team.

In fact, the squad only has a couple of juniors as well. So to say the Eagles are a young squad, would be an understatement. However, the Eagles still remain high in expectations. The squad showed it has potential, earning a 48-24 victory against Carleton Airport during the second meet of a double-dual at Linden High School on Wednesday night. The Eagles began the night pushing Division 1 honorable mention selection Westland John Glenn before losing a 37-30 verdict.

"Right now our team is young but we are working hard," McNeill said. "I like the drive. Everyone is determined to win. A lot of them, even the  
**See LINDEN on 18A**



**TRI-COUNTY TIMES** | DAVID TROPPENS

Linden wrestler Avery Jacobs (left) works on pinning one of his foes during the Eagles' 48-24 victory against Carleton Airport on Wednesday.

## Blue Devils take over in second half

► LF defeats Linden in season opener

**By David Troppens**  
dtroppens@tctimes.com

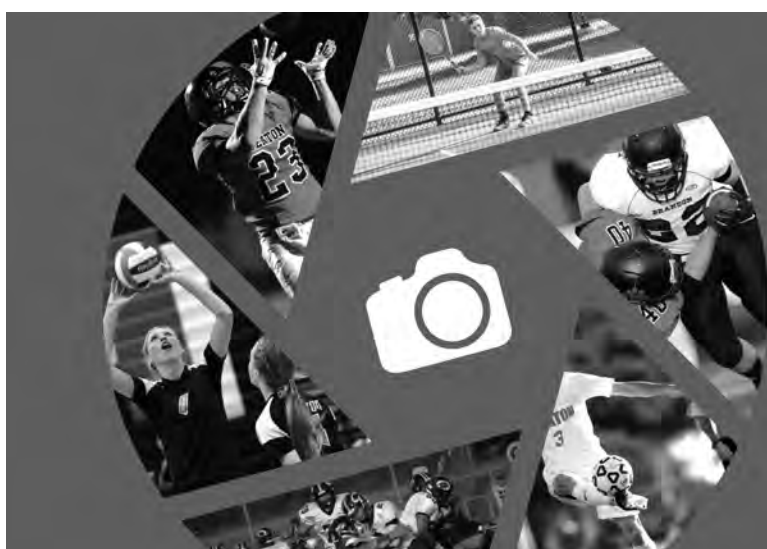
**Linden** — Tyler Browning didn't like the celebration.

The first half of Lake Fenton's varsity boys basketball team's road game at Linden was ending, and it concluded with Linden's  
**See DEVILS on 19A**



**TRI-COUNTY TIMES**  
MARK BOLEN

Lake Fenton's Christopher Bell (right) tries to drive by Linden's Mike Gold.



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[tctimes.com](http://tctimes.com)





TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPENS

Attica's Mark Suiyama was one of many people dressed up for Fenton's annual JingleJog 5K Walk and Run held on Dec. 6. While many dressed as Santa or an elf, Suiyama was the only penguin at the event.

## More than 100 compete in JingleJog 5K race

By David Troppe

dtroppe@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

**Fenton** — There were about 20 Santas, was at least one penguin and many others who could be found running through the streets of Fenton late Saturday afternoon with a bit of the holiday spirit connected to their running outfit.

The annual Fenton Jingle Jog race featured a new 5K course located primarily through the neighborhood streets near downtown Fenton. And while it was a festive run for most involved, there were some strong performances posted among the 120-plus competitors who finished the 5K event.

The overall victor was Caro's Alex Williams, who won the race with a time of 19:23, just three seconds ahead of Fenton 15-year-old Andrew Bond who finished in 19:26. The male Masters winner was the third-place finisher overall, Hartland's Chris Costa (20:00).

Fenton's Pamela Rynearson was the fourth overall finisher and the Women's Open Winner, posting a time of 20:28. Finishing right behind her was the Female Masters Winner, Lapeer's Lori Davis took fifth overall in 20:46 during the occasionally windy outing.

Fifteen walkers also completed the 5K event with a time. Fenton's

See **JINGLEJOG** on 18A

## HOLLY

Continued from Page 16A

regional final or a quarterfinal," Holly coach Lance Baylis said. "We had five bus loads of students go to Country Day. It was a home crowd for us. It was a great night. They made shots. I scouted them the last two Saturdays and they didn't make shots like that, but last night they matched us one-for-one."

The defending Metro League champions jumped to a 9-2 lead by netting three straight three-pointers. However, Country Day was able to cut the gap to 17-15 by the end of the first quarter. From that point, it remained a tight contest with neither team leading by more than six points. Country Day led 32-20 at half-time, but the Bronchos were up after three quarters by a 53-49 margin. The difference ended up being Perry's trey, breaking the 65-all score and Country Day's free throws down the stretch.

"It was an incredible game on both sides," Baylis said. "People walked away from there saying they had not seen talent like this."

"We did what we do. We ran the ball, passed the ball and shot the ball. We played hard. ... Both teams played well and I couldn't get upset about it at all."

Jake Daniels proved why he's headed to Saginaw Valley State University next fall by scoring a team-high 26 points. Kyle Woodruff and Isaac Casillas had 12 points each, while Adam Tooley netted 11. Josh Simms netted nine.

Nazir Wallace led all scorers, netting 28 points for Country Day. DeShawn Lewis netted 18, while Perry finished with 14.

The Bronchos netted 9-of-26 from



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | RICK BURKHARDT

Holly's Morgan Baylis defends a Detroit Country Day player during the Bronchos' 79-73 season-opening road loss on Tuesday. The Bronchos brought five school buses of fans to the contest.

behind the three-point arc, but hit just 14-of-22 from behind the free-throw line. Conversely, Country Day made 18-of-22.

Holly traveled to Fenton for both team's Metro League opener of the sea-

son on Friday. For more on that contest, go to [www.tctimes.com](http://www.tctimes.com) or read Wednesday's edition of the Tri-County Times.

The Bronchos host their first home game of the season on Tuesday against Flint Kearsley. Tip-off is slated for 7 p.m.

## PREP REPORT

### GIRLS BASKETBALL

► **Holly 62, Lake Fenton 30:** The Bronchos (2-1) outscored Lake Fenton 26-8 in the second quarter, blowing the game open for good.

Paige Reid led the Bronchos with 14 points, while Kaitlyn Smith netted 13 points and dished off six assists. Sami Hild and Brooke Jackman had eight points each, while Taylor Vines led the squad with seven rebounds. Lake Fenton (1-2) was paced by Sierra Arroyo's nine points, while Autumn Beardsley had eight points and two blocks. Hannah Garty netted five points.

► **Lake Orion 43, Linden 40:** The Eagles (1-2) were paced by Taylor Smith's 18 points and Megan Kenney's 14 points and 13 rebounds.

### BOYS BASKETBALL

► **Linden freshmen 48, Lake Fenton 44:** The Eagles were paced by Nick Koan and Zach Horst, who each had eight points. Blake Knox added seven points while Corbin Sines and Seth Mossing had six. Lake Fenton's Luke Tomczyk led all scorers with 14 points.

► **Linden JV 51, Lake Fenton JV 43:** Linden's Conor Faught led the Eagles with 12 points, while Gavin Lund netted 11. Garrett Strang netted nine.

### WRESTLING

► **Fenton vs. Perry, Carman-Ainsworth:** The Tigers lost to Perry 66-15 and to Carman-Ainsworth 60-17.

The Tigers had three wrestlers win both of their matches. Tommy Adams (135) won by decision and by fall, while Jake Church (140) earned two technical falls. David Church (160) dominated, earning two pinfall wins.

► **Holly vs. South Lyon, Walled Lake Central:** The Bronchos lost to South Lyon 40-17 and to Walled Lake Central 66-0. No individual wrestling results were reported about the event.

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**TRI-COUNTY TIMES** | DAVID TROPPENS  
Pamela Ryneerson was the Female Overall winner at the JingleJog 5K Run.

## JINGLEJOG

Continued from Page 17A

Susan Mora-Fassett took first (33:28) and was the Women's Open Winner. Swartz Creek's Teresa Galbraight was the Female Masters Winner with a time of 36:45.

Holly's Harold Peterson, 73, was the Male Open Winner, with a fourth-place overall time of 39:08. Fenton's Robert Marr was the Male Masters winner, taking sixth overall in 43:14.

## LINDEN

Continued from Page 16A

freshmen, are coming in the morning before school. Then we go to school, have a hard practice after school every day and then we have a weight-lifting session. It's good to see the freshmen and young kids so dedicated."

"I think our team is strong," junior wrestler Patrick Kerr said. "It is pretty young right now but a lot of kids we have have been wrestling for a long time. We are not as good as we can be right now, but toward the end of the season I think we'll have a killer team."

Being the only senior on the squad creates an interesting dynamic for McNeill, who is a co-captain with Kerr.

"It's kind of cool. I'm the only one left," McNeill said. "I feel like I've gone through a gauntlet. I've been to national tournaments and I am the last one standing. It shows me with my parents pushing me and my tough determination what I can do."

It seems many of the Eagles' young wrestlers have that same drive. Most have wrestled for many years at the youth level or the middle school level. Still, Wednesday was the team's first actual varsity matches of the season, and varsity wrestling is a great learning experience for the freshmen and sophomores.

"I'm excited about the way some of the freshmen performed, but at the same time this is a wake-up call," Linden wrestling coach Todd Skinner said. "This isn't youth club any more. This isn't middle school wrestling. This is high school wrestling and it doesn't matter if you were a multiple-time youth champ. It's not the same as wrestling an 17 or 18 year-old man. ...



**TRI-COUNTY TIMES** | DAVID TROPPENS

Linden wrestler Dawson Blank (left) won both of his matches during the Eagles' double-dual meet against John Glenn and Carleton Airport on Wednesday.

But if the freshman class develops like our sophomore class has, I think we'll be OK. It should be an exciting year."

The Eagles had five wrestlers win both of their varsity matches on Wednesday. Kerr (140) had the most convincing 2-0 record, earning a technical fall victory against his John Glenn foe and a first-round pinfall victory with just .3 second left in the round against his Carleton Airport foe.

McNeill (215) won his matches by major decision and decision, while Dawson Blank (135) earned a pinfall victory and a decision win. Freshman Avery Jacobs (152) was noted by Skinner as one of the team's top performers, earning a pinfall victory and a decision win. Luke Zimmerman (112) was the final double-winner, earning a technical fall victory and a victory by forfeit.

Also winning at least one match during the day were Skyler Stites (285), Aaron Steedman (171), Koleton Strauss (119), Jacob Coleman (130) and Cade Dickson (160)

Despite the team's youth the goals remain reasonably lofty.

"I want our team to go to states," Kerr said. "I think our team is strong enough and good enough to go. We are keeping ourselves out of trouble and keeping good grades. We are working hard."

"Any team is capable of anything depending on the team's drive," McNeill said. "I can see us going through districts and regionals, but it depends on how much work we put in it. It all depends."

Linden hosted its team tournament on Saturday. The squad competes in an assembly dual at Owosso High School Dec. 19 at 1 p.m.

## Metro League Griffins lead, but fall to Team Alliance, 6-5

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

The Metro League Griffins have struggled to find out where they'll get their second win of the prep hockey season.

The co-op squad consisting of Fenton and Linden students came close on Wednesday, leading at times against Team Alliance, but they ended up dropping an entertaining and tight 6-5 verdict against their foes who are made up of players from Lakeville, Dryden, North Branch and Goodrich.

The first period was a good ol' offensive shootout, with both teams scoring three goals. The Griffins started out strong, scoring three goals in the first

seven minutes of the contest. Connor Phillips scored a power-play goal with 14:06 left in the first period and then an even-strength goal with 11:56 left in the period, putting the Griffins up 2-0.

The Alliance cut the lead into half just 14 seconds later with their first goal, but Jackson Steel responded just 61 seconds later, giving the Griffins a two-goal lead once again.

However, the Alliance offense didn't stop, scoring two more goals by the end of the period, tying the score at 3-all.

Fenton-Linden took its next lead about midway through the second period. Connor Phillips completed his hat trick by scoring his third goal on assists

**See GRIFFINS on 19A**



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## DEVILS

Continued from Page 16A

Jake Zorn nailing a three-pointer at the buzzer. The shot put the Eagles up 25-19 entering the break. The shot also created a celebratory feel among Linden and its home fans as they ran into the locker room.

"The big thing was them celebrating at the end of the second quarter," Browning said. "It kind of got to us and we felt we had to come out and make a big statement in the second half."

The Blue Devils did just that.

Lake Fenton pushed the tempo in the third quarter and outscored the Eagles 21-9 during the period, helping spark Lake Fenton to a 52-43 road victory on Tuesday at Linden High School.

The two biggest offensive instigators for Lake Fenton were Christopher Bell and Browning. Browning was held scoreless during the opening 16 minutes, but scored 10 of his 13 points in the third quarter. Most of those points came on the break. Meanwhile, Bell, who ended up scoring a game-high 20 points, only had two points in the quarter but provided four assists in the period, helping spark the high-paced attack. Bell did his scoring in the other three quarters, and was particularly effective in the fourth quarter, scoring seven points in the final eight minutes.

"We cut down on shooting the threes, attacked the basket and looked for our kickouts off the drives," Bell said about the second half. "We came out with more intensity — the first half it wasn't there."

"I didn't really get the ball in the first half. My teammates looked for me in the second half," Browning said about his added offensive role in the second half. "We talked about it at halftime and I got more opportunities, which is good. It just came to me."

"We talked about it through the scrimmages and we've talked about it in practices. When we are pushing the basketball, we are definitely at our best," Lake Fenton coach Jake Erway said. "When we get in an attack mode and stop settling for outside shots, we are a better team."

Lake Fenton only netted 7-of-22 shots from the field in the opening half, but hardly missed in the second 16 minutes, making 12-of-17 field goals. Included in that mix was a 8-for-10 performance in the third.

The Eagles remained competitive throughout the entire contest, but struggled mightily by netting just 16-of-44 shots from the field the entire 32 minutes.

Two converted free throws by Jalen Miller put the Blue Devils up 40-36 entering the fourth quarter, but Linden cut



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | MARK BOLEN

Lake Fenton's Jake Zielinski (left) drives against Linden's Kyle Korman in the Blue Devils' 52-43 victory on Tuesday night.

the gap to just one quickly in the fourth.

Two converted free throws by Kyle Korman and a three-pointer by Kevin Hoeberling off a dish from brother Tyler Hoeberling cut Linden's deficit to just 40-39 with 5:08 left. The Linden deficit was still only 44-41 after a driving layup by Johnny Campbell with 3:25 left, but the Blue Devils never lost control, scoring the game's next four points. All four were provided by Bell — the first two at the charity stripe and the final two on a layup off a Jake Zielinski dish — putting Lake Fenton up 48-41 with just 1:46 remaining.

Linden cut the gap to 48-43 with 1:26 left on a layup by Trent Strang, but the Eagles ended the contest by missing three shots and turning the ball over on

their last four possessions of the game.

"It was OK," Linden coach Anthony Wright said about his team's effort. "Lake Fenton came out and made shots and we didn't. We are fine with the tempo stuff. When one team makes shots and the other team doesn't make shots, that's what happened."

"We are a much better basketball team than we showed tonight."

Bell had six assists and four steals to go with his 20 points. Browning had 13 points and five rebounds. Miller chipped in 11 points and four steals, while Tony Hathaway grabbed eight rebounds.

Korman paced Linden with 11 points and four rebounds. Zorn finished with eight points and three boards. No one else scored more than five points for Linden.

## PREP REPORT

### BOYS BASKETBALL

#### ► Linden freshmen 52, Clio 44:

The Eagles (2-0) used a 19-11 edge in the second quarter, helping lead the squad to the victory. The Eagles iced the game in the fourth by hitting 7-of-9 shots at the free-throw line.

Blake Knox led the Eagles with 14 points, while Nick Koan had 13 points. Zach Horst chipped in six points.

► **Linden JV 47, Clio 43:** The Eagles' Cole Sarkon provided a game-high 22 points, leading Linden to the tough road win. Josh Beil chipped in eight points, while Gavin Lund had seven points.

Linden improved to 2-0.



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TUES 11:50 5:15 8:25 9:35 11:30

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**\*@3D EXODUS: GODS AND KINGS: REALD 3D** (PG13)

FRI-THUR 3:10 6:25

**\*TOP FIVE (R)** 1 Hours 50 Minutes

FRI-SAT 11:55 2:20 4:45 7:10 9:30 11:55

SUN-MON 11:55 2:20 4:45 7:10 9:30

TUES 11:55 2:20 4:45 7:10 9:30 11:55

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**MARATHON: AN IMAX 3D**

**EXPERIENCE** (PG13) MON 1:00

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**\*2D THE HOBBIT: THE BATTLE OF**

**FIVE ARMIES** (PG13)

TUES NIGHT/WED MORNING

9:00 12:05

WED-THUR 3:00

**\*@3D THE HOBBIT: THE BATTLE OF**

**FIVE ARMIES: REALD 3D** (PG13)

TUES NIGHT/WED MORNING

8:00 12:05

WED-THUR 11:50 6:05 9:10

**\*@HOBBIT: THE BATTLE**

**OF FIVE ARMIES, THE**

**(AN IMAX 3D EXPERIENCE)** (PG13)

TUES 7:00 10:10

WED-THUR 12:40 3:40 6:40 9:40

**STARTING THUR DEC 18**

**\*\*ANNIE** (PG)

THUR 6:05 9:25 12:05

**\*NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM:**

**SECRET OF THE TOMB** (PG)

THUR 7:00 9:20 12:05

**CONTINUING**

**\*THE PYRAMID (R)**

**THEORY OF EVERYTHING** (PG13)

**HORRIBLE BOSSES 2 (R)**

**\*@3D PENGUINS OF MADAGASCAR:**

**REALD 3D** (PG)

**2D PENGUINS OF**

**MADAGASCAR** (PG)

**THE HUNGER GAMES:**

**MOCKINGJAY PART 1** (PG13)

**SAVING CHRISTMAS** (PG)

**DUMB AND DUMBER TO** (PG13)

**\*@INTERSTELLAR:**

**AN IMAX EXPERIENCE** (PG13)

**INTERSTELLAR** (PG13)

**\*@3D BIG HERO 6: REALD 3D** (PG)

**2D BIG HERO 6** (PG)

\*Due to movie company policies no passes are accepted.

@ No \$5 rate available. • No \$5 TUES evening rate.

## GRIFFINS

Continued from Page 18A

by Brendan Buerkel and Buck Hudson with 6:11 remaining in the period. However, in the final 2:30 of the period, the Alliance scored twice, giving them a 5-4 lead.

The Alliance fell behind 6-4 early in the third period, but Jackson Steel cut that gap to just 6-5 with a power-play goal with 9:06 left. From there, neither team was able to score again. Also providing assists were Tyler Bourassa, Dylan Mieschand Jonah Lainesse. Manny Vomvolakis made 26 saves in net.

The Alliance return to action at Hartland Sports Center Wednesday at 6 p.m. against L'ance Creuse.

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# 2013 storm ended up making memories for some area families

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Jessica Ryba will never forget her niece Lily's birthday, as her family jokes that the stress of last year's Christmas ice storm is what drove her sister-in-law into labor ahead of her Jan. 1 due date.

Ryba, a 2000 graduate of Fenton High School and her husband, Andrew, had driven from their home in Dearborn to spend the holidays with her parents, Jim and Susan Richmond of Fenton Township. They listened all night to the crackling noises of ice falling onto trees on Dec. 21 and were surprised they still had power when they got up for breakfast.

That's when everything suddenly went dark, and their 2013 Christmas became one for the memory books. "Oh no," Ryba remembers saying out loud. They had to gather all the food and gifts they had planned for their holiday party that day over to her brother, Mark LaBelle's home in Clinton Township. His wife, Tracy, was in the final days of her pregnancy, and after all the festivities were done for the day, she ended up going into labor.

Their first child, Lily, was born on Sunday, Dec. 22 and made her triumphant trip home from the hospital on Christmas Day.

"We'll never forget Lily's birthday," said Ryba, who is also expecting her first child this Christmas season, due Dec. 28. "The running joke is that we all scared Tracy into labor!"

Last year's crazy December ice storm froze Genesee County into a sheet of ice that stopped just about everything in its tracks—including most holiday plans.

Holly Vauter of Fenton Township had thought she had seen everything when it came to wild winter weather, having grown up in Montana. She admits last year's ice storm outdid any kind of weather Montana had ever thrown at her, shutting off power at their home for almost a week.

"We curled up and stayed warm," she said of her husband, Mike, and daughter,



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO

Holly and Mike Vauter and their daughter, Virginia, spent Christmas Day eating peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for a holiday they'll never forget.

Virginia, who was 4 at the time. "Luckily, we have hot water heat, so we were able to stay warm for a few days." She credits Sears owner Jeff Stone with hooking their family up with a generator, which allowed them to keep their heat running, along with some lights, including their Christmas tree.

"None of our families were able to come over to celebrate because of the storm, so we ended up eating peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for Christmas dinner, with our daughter. That was great," recalled Vauter. "Actually, looking back, it wasn't all bad. We ended up skating around outside and it was absolutely gorgeous. I was awestruck; everything was

covered in ice."

Vauter felt well prepared to face this emergency, as she's one who is always organized for holidays and anything "unexpected."

## Looking back to December 2013

December 2013 was one for the record and memory books.

The month started out with more than usual rainfall.

On Dec. 21, an ice storm barreled through the Midwest leaving behind dangerous amounts of ice, which led to 409,000 power outages, downed trees and slick roads.

Temperatures plummeted to below zero and by Dec. 28, Consumers Energy reported 18,000 customers were still without power.

Numerous businesses on North LeRoy Street in Fenton went six days with no power.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO

Family and friends won't forget the birth of Lily LaBelle, daughter of Mark and Tracy LaBelle of Clinton Township. Tracy went into labor the day after the ice storm, and came home from the hospital on Christmas Day.

"The first spring we were here, the tornadoes moved through our area, so we now have an emergency stash down in our basement of water, candles, lanterns, etc.," she said. "Now that we have a generator, we feel a lot more comfortable if something like this happens again."

She does, however, add up the cost of the power outage and said that their losses cost more than a recent Caribbean cruise. "Not only did we have to buy a generator, but also had to pay for the gas to operate it every day for a week, plus we lost a lot of our electronics because of the power surge."

Dan and Tessa Stickel were out of power at their Fenton home for six days, but were able to spend the night of Christmas Day back home with their three young daughters, after having spent four days at her parents' home on Lake Shannon.

"The girls were excited, because they had a lot of fun at their grandparents, making cookies and crafts with their grandma," said Tessa. "It was Dan who really did all the work, spending almost all night Christmas Eve bringing toys from our house to my parents, even assembling a trampoline for the girls!"

She said the biggest problem that came up was that the girls were sleeping downstairs right next to the chimney, and they set a plate of cookies out for Santa. "We had to make sure those cookies were eaten 'by Santa' before the girls woke up at 5 a.m.," recalled Tessa, with a smile. "The whole thing was actually quite fun. It was nice to spend that whole time with family."

## LIBRARY

Continued from Page 3A

They also host a Story Hour for kids, a Library Book Club and a Saturday Knitting Club. You can contact the library for times and other information on these events.

Roos said, "We don't turn anybody away if they need our help, even if they are from out of the area."

Holly Township Library is located at 1116 Saginaw St. Their number is (248) 634-1754.

## Linden Library offers extended hours

For those who have a library card with Fenton's Jack R. Wingarden Library, that card will also work at the Linden Library. They are both part of the Genesee District Library (GDL) system. That means no signing up for a new card.

The Linden Library is located at 201 North Main St., in the Linden Mills building. Normal hours are Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from noon until 8 p.m. and Tuesday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Normally, they are closed Friday and Sunday, but during the Fenton renovation, they will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Fridays. Once the Fenton library opens back up in mid-January, Linden will revert to normal hours once again.

The Linden library has an after-hours drop box. They also have four computers available for public use, fax and copy service, as well as free Wi-Fi. They offer many children's books, large print books, a CD collection, and even books on CD for teens and adults.

For more information, the Linden Library phone number is (810) 735-7700.

## THIS WEEK'S in Se RTS

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-  • Holiday Gift Guide
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- Kmart
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To have your insert/flyer viewable online, call Gail Grove at 810-433-6822.

## CORRECTION:

In the Sunday, Dec. 7 issue of the Times, the address for Salon 416 was incorrect. The addresses for the Cornerstone building businesses at LeRoy Street and Silver Lake Road are:

**Sawyer Jewelers**, 134 North LeRoy St., suite 1 (relocating in January 2105 from its current location of 101 North Adelaide St.)

**Salon 416**, 134 North LeRoy St., suite 2  
**Sagano Japanese Bistro & Steakhouse**, 134 North LeRoy St., suite 3  
**The Rough Draught Café & Barroom**, 134 North LeRoy St., suite 4

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## VACCINATIONS

Continued from Page 3A

Vaccines prevent disease. A quick look at the history of vaccines will most often show a drop in disease cases after the introduction of a vaccination.

"The best way to protect the health of our children is to vaccinate on time," said Jennifer Smith, Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) public information officer. "Most parents today have never seen first-hand the devastat-

### Summary

► Vaccines are believed to be part of the reason so many diseases are rarely found anymore, especially in the U.S. Here is why you should vaccinate your child.

ing consequences of vaccine-preventable diseases. It's important to remember that these diseases do still pose a threat, and we must continue to vaccinate against them to keep our loved ones and our communities safe and healthy."

One of the biggest concerns for many parents when it comes to vaccines is their safety. All vaccines are FDA approved before they can be administered to the general public. Vaccines, like all other medications, do pose some health issues for some people. Just as some have negative reactions to codeine, some people can have negative reactions to different vaccines. For most children, reactions are usually mild. They may get a rash or a slight fever for a couple days.

Some children may have moderate reactions, like chills and high fever. About one in 25 children will have a febrile seizure, caused by vaccinations. This is a seizure, or convulsion, caused by a high fever. Moreover, rarely, a child may have a truly severe reaction, like encephalopathy (brain infection), or a severe allergic reaction.

Under scrutiny, the benefits of vaccinations outweigh the potential risks, according to health experts. While even a severe allergic reaction is scary, it can be brought under control. A child that contracts measles or mumps risks death.

While disease rates may be lowered due to the invention of vaccines, that doesn't mean the illness isn't still in existence. This means that even though it may seem like your child isn't at risk and shouldn't need a vaccine, they are at risk of a resurgence of

## Vaccination statistics

• **All 50 states** require vaccinations for children entering public schools even though no mandatory federal vaccination laws exist.

• **All 50 states** issue medical exemptions, 48 states (excluding Mississippi and West Virginia) permit religious exemptions, and 19 states allow an exemption for philosophical reasons.

• **The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** estimated that 732,000 American children were saved from death and 322 million cases of childhood illnesses were prevented between 1994 and 2014 due to vaccination.

• **About 30,000 cases** of adverse reactions to vaccines have been reported annually to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) since 1990, with 10-15 percent classified as serious, meaning associated with permanent disability, hospitalization, life-threatening illness, or death.

Source: [vaccines.procon.org](http://vaccines.procon.org)

that illness. Measles, mumps and whooping cough are just a few infectious diseases that were once thought gone, but have recently been contracted by people in the U.S., including five current cases of measles in Traverse City.

Michigan laws allow for some leniency when it comes to health, religious and other reasons some families may be against vaccinations.

According to Public Health Code Act 368 of 1978 available at [Michigan.gov](http://Michigan.gov), "A child is exempt from the requirements of this part as to a specific immunization for any period of time as to which a physician certifies that a specific immunization is or may be detrimental to the

child's health or is not appropriate.

"A child is exempt from this part if a parent, guardian, or person in place of the parent of the child presents a written statement to the administrator of the child's school or operator of the group program to the effect that the requirements of this part cannot be met because of religious convictions or other objection to immunization."

**“The best way to protect the health of our children is to vaccinate on time. Most parents today have never seen first-hand the devastating consequences of vaccine-preventable diseases.”**

**Jennifer Smith**  
MDCH public information officer

## SAFE

Continued from Page 5A

• Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Connect no more than three strands of mini light sets and a maximum of 50 bulbs for screw-in bulbs. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of LED strands to connect.

• Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords are not damaged.

• Keep decorations away from windows and doors.

After Christmas, make sure to get rid of the tree. Dried out trees are fire dangers and should not be left in the home, garage, or placed outside against the home.

### Preventing break-ins during the holidays

Aro said, "Unfortunately, crime seems to increase during the holiday season."

One common sense rule is to not post on your social media profiles that you are going to be away for the holidays. You never know who might read that and take it as an invitation to break into your home.

Aro said, break-ins and thefts of Christmas presents seem to occur every year. When leaving your home, lock your doors using a deadbolt if possible, secure windows and sliding doors that may be unused during the winter season. If the manufacturer's locks are not secure (may open by lifting the door) use a wooden dowel or another sturdy object in the door or window track to prevent opening.

A few interior lights controlled by a timer and exterior lighting are a good option to prevent thefts or break-ins also. If you see something or someone in your neighborhood who looks suspicious, Aro recommends calling 911.

## HOT LINE CONTINUED

■■■■ **I SEE THAT** Oakwood Cemetery in Fenton has their memory tree up again this year. What a wonderful thing to do, and the gates are open all night. That tree sure is beautiful. Everyone should hang an ornament on that.

■■■■ **I HAVE LEARNED** that those who live in historic times are the worst judges of it. I believe that history will be the best judge of the changes implemented over the last several years. It's always difficult to judge history when you are living it.

■■■■ **THE ONLY GOOD** thing to come from Obamacare is that it caused most Americans to vote Republican in the last election.

■■■■ **NEW POLLS SHOW** that the majority of Americans are against President Obama's new immigration policy. It will pose a financial burden to the U.S., our school, hospitals and our welfare system, because almost one-half of all illegal aliens end up on welfare or food stamps.

■■■■ **TO ALL THE** Americans who keep saying our country should be ruled by religious people, isn't the Middle East ruled by religion? How's that working out?

■■■■ **THE UNITED STATES** is the top producer of gas in the world and one of the top producers of oil in the world, and this is in spite of President Obama, who for the past six years has had vigorous actions to prevent, shut down and curtail gas and oil productions in the U.S.

■■■■ **IF ANYONE OUT** there is a Nielsen ratings household, please do not watch any NBC channel for the 90-day period. I will gladly buy you a 50" flat screen if

you would do that. Signed, A Patriot.

■■■■ **OBAMA HAS CAUSED** more hateful-ness and destruction in America than any other factor over the last six year years. More lies, more scandals, no shame, oh my!

■■■■ **EVERYONE SURE HAS** short memories. The current administration is not getting any more criticism from the right than George Bush's administration received from the left over his eight years.

■■■■ **ILLEGAL EXECUTIVE ACTION** on immigration will not only open the flood-gates to more illegal immigrants coming into the country, it will make it harder to deport the ones that are already here.

■■■■ **ANYONE WHO VOTED** for Obamacare should be tried for treason. For just me and my wife my premium is going from \$988 to \$1,684 a month. What the hell are we supposed to do?

■■■■ **NO MATTER WHO** is in charge in Washington, nothing ever changes. The system is broken and will never change because the people who created the problem, are the same people trying to solve the problem.

■■■■ **TWENTY STATES HAVE** now joined forces to sue Obama and the federal government due to the unlawful illegal alien and immigration policy. This is why Obama's popularity has now dipped below a 40-percent approval rate, the lowest of any presidency.

■■■■ **ALL THE READERS** slamming our president have very short memories. The majority of Americans voted him in as president twice. That means the majority of Americans support him. Facts are facts.

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**AMTRAK**

Continued from Front Page

"I knew we had a very young child and a special needs young person in our car. After I determined there was no one else acting with the stabber and the police had taken over, I then switched over to helping those who were injured."

He found passengers in the car where the stabbings took place to be mostly in shock, in their seats. "A few people were helping the conductor, who seemed to be the most seriously injured of all," said Ray.

Coincidentally, before the stabbings even took place, Ray had noticed the mesh seat protectors on each train seat. Always curious, he wondered what they were made of, yet had no idea that a half hour later, he would be grabbing them off each seat and using them to stop the bleeding of an emergency room doctor who had been stabbed in the chest. "He was self-diagnosing his injury and telling me what to do," said Ray, who has taken first-aid and CPR classes, but otherwise has no medical or emergency training.

Once the victims were on their way to area hospitals, Ray turned his efforts immediately to getting himself and his



WILX.COM

Blood on the floor and walls is indicative of the violence that took place in the Amtrak train car last Friday.

girlfriend back home. He called a fellow employee of Grand Blanc Motorcars and arranged for him to pick up keys to a seven-passenger Toyota Sienna van.

Ray also assisted fellow travelers, Mark and Sally Rummel of Fenton and Don and Penny Fausey of Fenton Township in getting back to the Durand Depot closer to home by arranging transportation home with a vehicle from the dealership.

After the stabbing incident, the train was considered a crime scene and its 172 passengers were stranded until another train and buses could re-route to Niles and get passengers back to their originating stations.

Ray admitted his adrenaline was really flowing that night after all the action, and that he had never been in a situation like that before. "My mom and aunt are both nurses and another aunt and uncle were EMTs when I was growing up," he said.

He gives the Amtrak conductors on board a lot of credit for their quick action in calling police to get on board, after passenger Williams had begun to act "oddly." "Everything I did was more of a reaction to what was happening," Ray said.

Ray, his girlfriend, and fellow travel-

ers did get in the van, after another train took them first to Battle Creek, where they caught an Indian Trails bus to East Lansing. As promised, Ray's brother, Michael, met the tired but appreciative travelers in East Lansing and drove them to Durand, where their car awaited them at 2 a.m. After making sure his girlfriend was home safely in Lapeer, Ray finally arrived home to Davison at about 4:30 a.m.

"I didn't go into work 'til about 10 on Saturday and I'm usually at my desk at 8," said Ray. "My boss insisted that I leave at 2 to get some rest. By the time I got home at 3, I had to be back for our company Christmas party at 6. It was a long day."

Ray still insists that what he did really wasn't all that special. "It's important to be aware of your situation and your surroundings," he said. "Then offer whatever help you can. A little bit goes a long way. If first responders aren't yet on the scene, even a calming voice to others will be helpful."

## inBusiness

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282



Attorney Sharon Miner has relocated her law practice with attorney Gary Collins to their new offices at Millennium Center in Fenton.

### Miner Law Office Long-time law practice moves to Fenton Millennium Center

After more than five decades at one location, the Miner Law Office has moved to 1100 Torrey Rd., Suite 200 in the Fenton Millennium Center.

"We haven't retired; we have just relocated our offices," said Sharon Miner, who has been practicing law for 31 years, working first with her father, Stanton Miner, out of their original office on South Walnut Street. She offers her clients a specialty in estate planning and elder law, while her partner, Gary Collins, specializes in civil law and domestic litigation.

"Last year's winter made it necessary to relocate our offices," explained Miner, citing maintenance issues and parking as primary reasons for the move.

For more information or to make an appointment, call Miner Law Office at (810) 629-2222.

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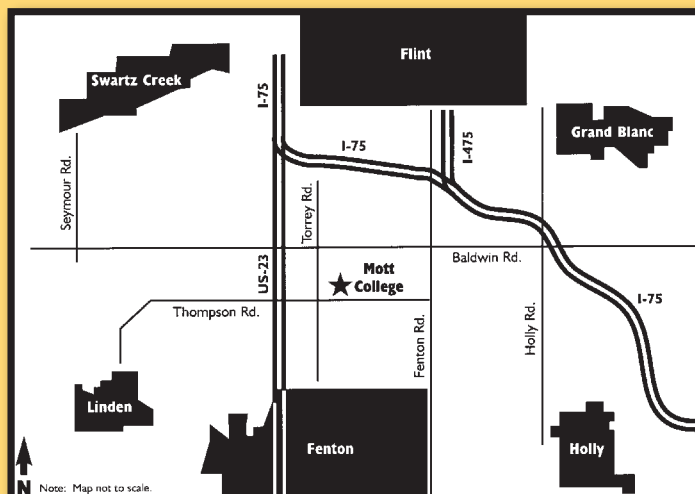


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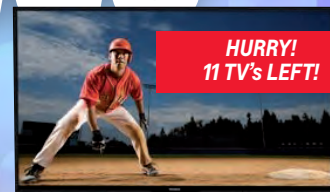
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