

Package shipping could be savior of the USPS

“While we lost all that (letter) business to the Internet with email, this is a nice recovery.”

Rob Phillips
Customer Service Supervisor, Fenton Post Office

By Tim Jagielo
tjagielo@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795
Fenton — It's 5:30 a.m. on Thursday at the United States Postal Service (USPS) building in Fenton. Before a room full of rolling carts, clerk Jim Roberston is scan-

ning freshly dropped off bulk packages with what looks like a yellow robotic arm, casting a blue glow on objects beneath like a tractor beam. The scanner is taking a photo of the package label, and directing
See USPS on 11A

TRI-COUNTY TIMES

TIM JAGIELO

While the back room can be very busy this week for shipping, so is the front lobby. At right, Kurt Hildebrandt assists Randy Strong, as the line stretches out the door.



PAGE 21A
AUTO SHOW
RETURNS
TO COBO
ARENA ON
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VOL. 21 NO. 11

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2014

2012 - 2013 - 2014 **NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR**

Weekend Times SUNDAY EDITION

\$1.00

‘Shop Local’ campaign a boon for hometown retailers

► Businesses see increased foot traffic, more big ticket sales

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

People in the tri-county area may wake up on Christmas morning to find a little extra under the tree. December has been a busy time for many businesses as they see an increase in sales compared to this time last year.

For Chip Beltinck, it is an exciting time to be the owner Sawyer Jewelers. He decided to wait to move the business into its new location to not disrupt sales during the busiest time of the year, and this decision seems to have paid off.

“Sales are up compared to last year,” Beltinck said. “We are seeing
See SHOP LOCAL on 8A

“I am kind of surprised how many people are buying engagement rings this year.”
Mike Vrooman
Medawar Jewelers



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

Times features writer Sally Rummel buys a pound of harvest flavored Jelly Belly jelly beans from Sweet Variations owner Carol Schuler, while shopping in the downtown Dibbleville district.

New video features 10 area merchants giving you their best sales pitch

► Can be viewed online at tctimes.com

By Sharon Stone
sstone@tctimes.com

If you haven't seen them yet, you'll want to check out the videos of nearly a dozen tri-county area merchants that have worked with the

Times to produce short, catchy videos that feature some of their favorite gift ideas.

These videos can be viewed by going to tctimes.com and scrolling down to
See VIDEO on 6A



To view short, catchy videos of local shop owners previewing their favorite Christmas gift ideas go to www.tctimes.com.

Ronnie Duke arrested for attempted jail escape

► Fenton man with lengthy criminal past chips away at cell wall

By Sharon Stone
sstone@tctimes.com

Ronnie Duke is back in the news. According to a Detroit News article this week, the 47-year-old Fenton man allegedly attempted to escape from the Monroe County Jail. He reportedly chipped away at
See ESCAPE on 8A



Ronnie Duke

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TEXT YOUR HOT LINE



“Why would any American care that we may have tortured captured terrorists? They kill our soldiers daily, they lop off the heads of live Americans and release a videotape it. Our perception of all this is warped by mainstream media. Cut off heads vs. enhanced interrogation? Are we really debating this?”



“At the urging of my son, I discovered the EZ Read tab on the Times' website. Even when I spend time down in Florida, I can see every issue of the Times just like it appears at my house.”



“Each time you bash President Obama you further weaken our nation. He has made some mistakes, but his heart is in the right place. Give him a break.”




tctimes.com COMMENT OF THE WEEK

“Bars can stay open an additional two hours if they pay a ransom to the dysfunctional state? What lunatics ever voted for this? We are surely selling our souls to the devil.”

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OFFICIAL CORNERSTONE MOVE DATE IS JANUARY 15, 2015

Bestsellers make excellent gifts

► From Grisham to King, there is a reasonably priced book out there for everyone

By Ryan Tackabury

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

If you are looking for a last minute gift — you may have more options than you think at your local bookstore. A gift of literature has the potential to be very personalized. You can pick a subject you know your friend or loved one enjoys and find the right fit.

If you are not certain where to get started, look no further than eight of the current bestsellers, which can provide hours of entertainment on a cold winter day.

Gray Mountain (\$29.00)

John Grisham

Follow the story of Samantha Kofer, a lawyer at a prestigious Wall Street law firm, as she leaves her comfort zone and moves out of the big city to work as a legal clinic intern in a Virginian coal-mining town.

Grisham is typically known for his courtroom thrillers, and this novel's change of pace may make it a great read for old Grisham fans and newcomers alike.

The Escape (\$28.00)

David Baldacci

John Puller makes for one capable protagonist — a combat veteran and special agent with the U.S. army. In his newest outing, Puller is pitted against an equally talented foe — his own brother, who has been convicted of treason. After his brother escapes from prison, Puller must hunt his own brother down to face justice,



while learning that all may not be quite as it first seemed.

A bestselling author, Baldacci's latest work is sure to appeal to those who like a military theme to their stories, and an extra portion of suspense.

Tom Clancy: Full Force and Effect (\$30.00)

Mark Greaney

A tale of high stakes international politics, this newest entry in the storied history of United States President Jack Ryan will leave you on the edge of your seat. As a new dictator rises to power in a North Korea armed with nuclear weapons, President Ryan finds himself in a plot against his very life.

Mark Greaney picks up the reins of the late Tom Clancy, writing a military prose that is both exciting and thrilling.

Hope to Die (\$29.00)

James Patterson

Det. Alex Cross has faced many challenges in his day, but he may have finally met his match — and then some. With his family taken from him, Cross must do whatever it takes to save the lives of those he loves most.

Patterson is famous for his cliffhangers that make his books difficult to put down. An excellent gift for fans of thrillers and detective stories, you can consider gifting "Hope To Die" with the novel that precedes it, "Cross My Heart."

The Burning Room (\$28.00)

Michael Connelly

A seemingly unsolvable crime is laid at the desk of LAPD Det. Bosch. A man dies after succumbing to injuries after he was shot — the catch is the shooting took place 10 years ago. Bosch must work with a rookie detective who seems to defy all logic, and may have implications greater than they ever imagined — and they may be gambling with their very lives if they wish to solve the murder.

Gone Girl (\$15.00)

Gillian Flynn

The bestselling novel was recently made into a critically lauded film of the same name and may make another excellent gift.

When Nick Dunne's wife goes

Festive holiday drinks ring in the season

► Christmas and New Year's bring colorful creations to many bar menus

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Part of the fun of celebrating the holidays from now through New Year's Eve is getting together with family and friends for an evening out. Sometimes, it's an office party or a chance to get to-

gether with old friends from high school or college.

"For us, this is an extremely busy time of year, with parties every night of the week," said Fenton Hotel Tavern & Grill Bar Manager Joe Shafer.

Often, these celebrations involve a festive cocktail or special holiday beverage themed to the season.

Colorful drinks

Red and green are the colors of the season so many festive drinks highlight these seasonal colors.

The Grinch is a popular drink at The Holly Hotel, according to Kate Ritter, main bartender. This green cocktail has none of the nasty elements of Dr. Seuss's classic holiday character; in fact, it's a sweet and sour flavor with melon-flavored Midori, vodka and a sour mix. A maraschino cherry or strawberry can be added for a garnish.

Holiday Sangria is a pretty, festive beverage on the seasonal menu at The Fenton Hotel Tavern & Grille, made

See DRINKS on 7A



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CONTACT INFORMATION

General Office 810-629-8282	Hot Line 810-629-9221
Advertising 810-629-8281	Fax 810-629-9227
Classifieds 810-629-8194	Email news@tctimes.com
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In defense of Christmas

Every year, as predictable as a millionaire Hollywood actor condemning capitalism, some killjoy mounts their soapbox to tell us that Christmas no longer has any meaning because Americans spend too much money on Christmas gifts and evil retailers have made a mockery of the true meaning of Christmas.

To them I say quit being a miserly Scrooge — if you can't say something nice about a period each year where the vast majority of Americans feel compelled to buy a gift for those they love, well — just shut the fire-truck up.

For argument's sake, let's imagine that we didn't celebrate Christmas. No festively decorated Christmas trees in

every home. No twinkling lights in the downtown areas of each municipality. No sappy Christmas movies to be enjoyed by popcorn-loving families gathered together in the evening. No children's desperately scrawled letters to Santa. No jingling of the Salvation Army bell-ringers outside the stores. And, unthinkable, no universal feeling of hope and joy for the entire world.

How would the world be improved by ending each year in the same way we lived the previous 360 days? How would that make us better? How would society be better absent the sentiment and love that inexplicably abounds each Christmas season?

Do some spend more than they should,

or can afford? Absolutely. But it is done with the best of intentions — wanting to please the people they love. That, in my book, is a forgivable sin. The act of giving a gift to someone you love and respect is one of the greatest joys of humanity.

I once read the sage observation that people who choose to make a statement by not partaking in the ritual of Christmas gift-giving are not particularly noble — they are particularly cheap. They are the same people who ultimately die with a full bank account, but an empty heart and an empty life.

And what about children? The holiday season is always accompanied by some professorial talking head on TV admonishing us that today's children don't get the real meaning of Christmas — that they

simply associate the season with the commercialized perspective of receiving gifts.

Gosh, do ya think? Doesn't everyone relate in some way to Ralphie's wondrous awe at receiving his coveted lever-action, spring piston, smooth-barreled, adjustable sight, gravity feed Red Ryder Winchester Model BB gun? Do we really expect young children to focus on the theological aspect of Christmas? Isn't it enough to know that most children's happiest memories center around Christmas?

At the end of the day, gift-givers are giving the greatest gift of all — happiness — to both the buyer and the recipient. And at the same time celebrating the birthday of Jesus.

And that's a good thing — right?

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. E-mail the King at king@tctimes.com. Some information reprinted from the Internet.

By Foster Childs



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.

CORPORATIONS COMPLAIN

THEY'RE handicapped because of untrained American workers. What happened to on-the-job training, apprenticeships, etc? Rather than be a good corporate citizen, they dropped all training responsibility to enhance their bottom line. Now corporations seek trained foreign workers to solve problems created by their own greed.

THE ONLY THING Obamacare proved to me is how bad Republican millionaires don't want to give up a few dollars to help the poor and the middle class.

ALL THAT CRAP that went on in that Amtrak train would have been stopped in two seconds with a CPL on anyone.

BECAUSE I'M BLACK, I can't get a job. Because I'm black, the police pulled me over. Get a grip. That's a stupid crutch to keep holding on to. Guess what, old whitey is not having such a wonderful day either. I guess that's because I'm white. Have you ever heard me complain about that?

POOR BILL COSBY. Those 24 women have got to be lying.

OBAMA BASHERS SHOULD consider watching something other than FOX news. They might just hear the truth instead of lies.

I KNOW I'M probably stretching it, but this year for Christmas, all I want is for people to use their turn signals and stop at stop signs.

ALL I WANT for Christmas is the truth about the guns of fast and furious, the truth about the VA scandal and the truth about the Benghazi affair.

WHY DIDN'T LOIS Lerner, when she was the head of the IRS, go after Al Sharpton for his back taxes?

WE SUNK A lot of money into the downtown area and things are looking pretty good. But we still need to do some things, like change the light in front of the library that has been messing up for years.

LAST WEEK AN executive with Chevron said that his company and the oil and gas industry would have hired thousands of new employees if it weren't for the obstructionist actions of Obama, Harry Reid and the Senate.

MICHAEL BROWN WAS 6-feet, 3-inches and weighed nearly 300 pounds. He was not unarmed at that size. He had just robbed a store. He was just a criminal and a thug.

WE NOW KNOW that Michael Brown was a thief, a thug and a threat to Officer Wilson. Unfortunately, recent actions by Obama, Holder, Sharpton and the entire black caucus members of congress have stoked the flames of racial hatred for years to come. Just when

we thought we were making progress, this is a giant setback.

YOU THINK THIS Obamacare is bad? I am glad to see people that were asleep and voted for this finally waking up. Read the Bible and learn all about this man and his buddies. Read the truth.

I HAVE LIVED in Fenton all my life and love everybody here. It doesn't matter who you vote for president, they will all be the same. The outcome is going to be the same regardless.

YOUR COMMENT MADE about religion and government was one made out of foolish ignorance. I don't fault you for it. But if you were willing to put your number in the paper I would call you and we could study the Bible and I will teach you the truth.

WHEN PEOPLE USE words like 'tyranny' and 'freedom' they need to be more specific. Are people using them in anger because they must pay taxes and obey laws? Specifically, what are they complaining about?

THE U.S. IS in worse shape than it was Dec. 7, 1941.

ANOTHER BIG HEADLINE. It says Jeb Bush must reveal his finances. He hasn't even started running yet and they are going after him.

WAY TO GO Lake Fenton High School! Marine Corp League thanks you for more than 140 Toys for Tots and a check for \$400. Very, very proud of you. Have a merry holiday.

See **HOT LINE** throughout Times

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Maryann McConnell
Pre-Planning Specialist

Compiled by Ryan Tackabury, staff reporter

What's your favorite Christmas tradition?

streettalk



"The kids getting up at 5 a.m. to open up their presents and family members coming over."

— Louane Fickes
Swartz Creek



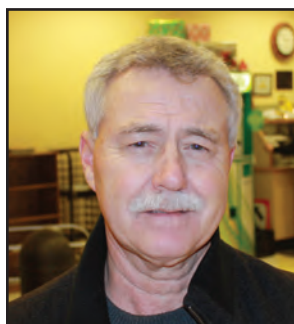
"My family gets together and listens to music, then we play bingo for goofy gifts."

— Marie Sutton
Fenton



"I think praising the Lord Jesus on Christmas. It's the best thing anyone could do."

— Ed Grant
Fenton



"My favorite tradition has to be mistletoe."

— Mike Finch
Fenton



"Decorating the Christmas tree, because we get to do it together as a family."

— David Clark, 6
Fenton



"Making cookies with the kids and our friends and their kids."

— Emily Kuberski
Fenton

Gas pipeline debate continues

►Residents, industry reps voice pros and cons at local 'Scoping' meeting

By Yvonne Stegall

ystegall@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

There were roughly 300 people present at the Flint Scoping meeting Dec. 10 at the Holiday Inn Gateway Center in Mundy Township. The meeting was held in front of a panel from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). FERC is the agency which will ultimately approve or disapprove of the ET Rover Pipeline.

FERC has been conducting scoping meetings to receive input from individuals who are either in favor of or against having a gas pipeline on their property. It is part of the process of creating an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Roughly 30 people spoke and many submitted written comments to the panel. The bulk of the comments were in opposition to the pipeline. Some said it would have a negative impact on the environment, such as degradation of soils, water and air.

Some spoke of the natural beauty of where they live and they wanted to have something to pass on to their heirs. Some told the panel they were unhappy with the treatment from land agents who came to them using the threat of eminent domain, a process of obtaining "legal" use of the land.

The issue of declining property values was discussed as well as a potential for increased homeowners insurance and the inability to obtain mortgages on their home should that be needed.

Because of the size of the pipeline, 42 inches, and the pressure of the liquid natural gas, many people were concerned for their safety. There is a blast radius of nearly 1,000 feet in the event of an explosion.

Those who approved of the project

argued principally for economic gains. Union workers and laborers around Michigan said this would bring in jobs.

In support of the pipeline project, and a speaker at the meeting, was Amanda Sumerix, director of communications at the Michigan Forest Products Council. In an email, Sumerix summarized her testimony from the meeting. "We are here to voice our support for the proposed Rover natural gas pipeline. We do so because it is a promising opportunity for Michigan landowners, an important boost to our infrastructure, and an investment from a company committed to working with landowners and protecting Michigan's environment and natural resources."

Sumerix also spoke of the benefits to the economy, not only with the jobs the pipeline construction will bring, but also with the benefit from the state's first access to energy reserves produced within the Marcellus and Utica shale region.

Most importantly, she said, "We are confident of the Rover project's ability to do right by Michigan property owners. Many people have voiced concerns over the way they were treated by subsidiaries of Energy Transfer. We understand that Energy Transfer has acknowledged these instances, and has taken measures to avoid them in the future."

Like many residents along the proposed pipeline path, Fenton resident Ronald Kardos is opposed to the pipeline for many reasons.

"My personal concerns are many but at the scoping meeting I spoke primarily about soil degradation and the ways in which the installation of a pipeline degrades water quality whether it is in terms of drinking water, the ways it will affect our streams and wetlands and subsequently the wildlife in Michigan," said Kardos.

“We are confident of the Rover project's ability to do right by Michigan property owners.”

Amanda Sumerix
Michigan Forest Products
Council, director of
communications

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Times



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VIDEO**Continued from Front Page**

the video "2014 Tri-County Times Gift Guide." Click the arrow on the screen to watch local business owners give you their best gift ideas in 10-30 second videos.

"It's our most recent tool to promote shopping local," says Times Business Director Gail Grove. "The videos have received rave reviews from all involved."

In less than 10 minutes, viewers can learn about unique area businesses they may be aware of but have never actually visited. They will get a glimpse inside the local shops, meet their owners and learn about the many unique and reasonably priced products available.

These videos are invaluable to the merchants as well as their customers and provide the advantage of shopping

locally without leaving your home.

Best of all, knowing who your local merchants are helps to build a relationship that can last a lifetime.

The professional-quality videos were filmed and produced by Tim Jagielo, the Times associate editor, photographer/ videographer.

Local merchants featured in Times' new videos

Sweet Variations
Sears Hometown Store
Eclections
Vaporio
Serendipity Day Spa
Diamond Sports Gear
Sawyer Jewelers
Goin' Postal
Howard's Hidden Treasures
La Petite Maison

Most residents support 'Clean Power Plan'**► Proposal would cut carbon pollution from Michigan's energy plants**

By Yvonne Stegall

ystegall@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

After being announced on June 2, Dec. 1 was the last day of the formal U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) public comment period on the Clean Power Plan. Reports indicate that 64 percent of Michigan residents support the plan.

What is the Clean Power Plan?

According to the EPA, it is a common sense plan to cut carbon pollution from power plants. While states, cities and businesses across the country are already taking action to address the risks of climate change, the EPA's proposal builds on those actions and is flexible. The proposal will maintain an affordable, reliable energy system, while cutting pollution and protecting health and the environment now and for future generations.

USA Today reported that 233 firms across the U.S. have supported the carbon cuts that the EPA wants to implement. More than two dozen businesses and organizations in Michigan support this act, including Kellogg Co.

More than 120 Michigan companies now build wind and solar power components. However, Michigan ranks 17th in the nation for the rate of carbon emissions emitted by its power plants, which means we have more work to do. That is what this Clean Power Plan is for.

The Clean Power Plan already aligns with the views of Michigan residents, policies that are already set in place in this state, and the direction of the state's economy.

The EPA plans to finalize the Clean Power Plan by June 2015. Once that happens, each state will begin developing its own compliance plan.

Tell your Michigan legislators that we can and should think of ways to increase the amount of renewable energy and energy efficiency we use in our state. After all, our energy policy can protect our health.

Miairmihealth.org

HOT LINE CONTINUED

YOU HAD A recipe in on Sunday, which was absolutely fabulous for caramel corn. It was spicy hot caramel corn. I gave some of it away and everybody liked it. I plan to make some more this evening.

WE HAVE A resurgence of mumps with our hockey players. Wait until all the illegal people start living within us and they start bringing in all those diseases that we thought we had under control. These kids have not been inoculated.

IN AN INTERVIEW, Obama said that he has felt like he was treated like one of the help at The White House. The truth is that all of the help that work at the WH are more qualified with real life work experiences than President Obama is.

I'D LIKE TO thank the family on Bennett Lake Road for having such a beautiful decoration on their front lawn. They did a lot of work and I want to let them know it's appreciated. Thank you.

I'D LIKE TO wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year.

An unhealthy environment

Michigan currently gets more than 50 percent of its electricity from coal, a leading producer of soot, and a major contributor to smog on warm days. In fact, Michigan ranks fifth in the nation in premature deaths, hospital admissions, and heart attacks attributed to coal-fired power plant pollution. These health impacts cost Michiganders more than \$1.5 billion per year in health-related damages.

Source: Miairmihealth.org

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Nearly half of Genesee County roads rated 'poor'

►Many Fenton city and township roads on the list following '2014 road condition survey'

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

If you've put many miles on your vehicle driving Genesee County roads, you already know the poor condition of many of these roads.

Now it's official: the 2014 road condition survey from Genesee County reports that 41 percent of the federal aid-eligible roads maintained by cities, villages and the Genesee County Road Commission (township roads) are failing. Forty-six percent are considered "fair," while only 13 percent are rated "good."

"More funding needs to be found to help with maintaining and improving our streets," said Dan Czarnecki, director of Fenton's Department of Public Works (DPW).

Federal aid-eligible roads in the city of Fenton include LeRoy Street, Shiawassee Avenue, Owen Road and North Road. "However, there are many streets in the city that aren't eligible for federal aid funding that need just as much work, and aren't included in that 41 percent," said Czarnecki. "Here in Fenton, we have 16.4 miles of federal aid eligible streets, yet there's another 36.6 miles of streets the city of Fenton needs to find the funding for to make the necessary improvements."

Street maintenance is currently funded through Public Act 51, which collects monies from gas taxes and registration fees.

Roads in the city rated by the survey in poor condition include Poplar Street, LeRoy Street south of Silver Lake Road, portions of Silver Lake Road, South Long

Lake Road, Adelaide Street south of Owen Road and East Street.

Czarnecki said that LeRoy Street is slated to be re-done during the city of Fenton's upcoming spring 2015 streetscape project. Silver Lake Road repairs are slated for 2016, as is the replacement of the bridge over the Shiawassee River downtown. Poplar Street is slated to be re-done in 2017, providing that the city receives the funding it is expecting for this project.

This year, the city of Fenton re-did Outer, Vassar, Summit and Plateau streets with city funds. Other local streets that are badly in need of repair include Elmwood, Westwood, Southwood, Worchester and Newport. "We patch these the best that we can," said Czarnecki. "We have a transportation program put together; it's just a matter

of trying to figure out the funding."

The Fenton City Council is currently considering a .4 mil increase on the ballot in 2015, earmarked specifically for city roads.

Only 1 percent of Fenton Township roads earned a "poor" rating, with 72 percent "fair" and 27 percent "good."

In Linden, 29 percent of city roads earned a "poor" score, including Rolston Road west of Ripley and a portion of Silver Lake Road. A total of 71 percent of Linden city roads earned "fair" marks and 0 percent earned a "good" rating.

Seymour Road in Argentine Township also got a failing grade.

The state of Michigan is considering several road-funding initiatives through the legislature in coming weeks. "I have yet to see how the state is planning to make changes in funding, or how they plan to spread out the funds to all governmental jurisdictions that must maintain streets and roads," said Czarnecki.

“Either we make changes...and fix the problem, or continue to ignore the problem and pay for damages to our personal vehicles...”

Jamie W. Curtis
Genesee County Board of
Commissioners chairman

DRINKS

Continued from Page 3A

with red wine, pomegranate vodka and fruit flavors.

"Gimme the Loop" is one of the rotating cocktails at The Rough Draught Coffee and Barroom, located in the Cornerstone building in downtown Fenton. "It's a wine cocktail with cognac, grapefruit juice, lemon juice, sugar and sauvignon blanc," said David Martinez, head bartender.

Martinis

Martinis made with seasonal flavors continue to be one of the most popular drinks on the menu at most bars and restaurants.

"Our Pumpkin Pie Martini, with a graham cracker 'crust' is really popular," said Shafer of the Fenton Hotel. "Now that we're close to Christmas, the Jinglefest Martini, named after the Fenton festival, is getting more popular. It's chocolate, cinnamon and vanilla-flavored."

The Mistletoe Martini is an often-requested drink this time of year at The Holly Hotel. "It's made with Grand Marnier Cosmo with vodka, lime juice, crushed cranberries and a sprig of mint," said Ritter.

Holiday Eggnog

"We make our own handmade eggnog

here at The Rough Draught," said Martinez. "It's one of three special drinks being served this Saturday (Dec. 20) as part of a National Lampoon Christmas Vacation Party."

Traditional holiday eggnog is also a favorite at The Holly Hotel, made with Tia Maria coffee liqueur.

Warm drinks

"When the weather is cold, people tend to turn to creamy, hot drinks," said Shafer of The Fenton Hotel. "We sell a lot of Spanish coffees and Irish coffees this time of year."

Most Spanish coffee recipes usually contain coffee, a coffee liqueur like Tia Maria or Kahlua, rum and whipping cream. Irish coffee is made with coffee, Irish whiskey or Bailey's Irish Cream, sugar and heavy whipping cream.

At The Holly Hotel, wassail is one of the most requested beverages this time of year. A Christmastime tradition from the Middle Ages, it continues to be associated with warmth, the gathering of loved ones and holiday cheer. There are many versions, but its main quality is warmth, spice and some form of fruit. The Holly Hotel's version is made with warm apple cider, cranberry mix, orange, cloves, Appleton brandy and banana liqueur.

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SHOP LOCAL**Continued from Front Page**

larger ticket items being sold, which in the last seven years, buyers were very conservative where this year we are starting to see the trend come back. We are seeing some larger, nicer items being sold."

Beltinck is very excited to see Sawyer Jewelers move into its new location in the Cornerstone building, and has announced doors will open on Jan. 15, 2015.

Mike Vrooman of Medawar Jewelers said that they have also seen an increase in business, and although he isn't certain as to exactly why, he is glad.

The trend Vrooman has noticed this year? "I am kind of surprised how many people are buying engagement rings this year. Last year, there wasn't this many."

Jewelry is not the only merchandise that is doing well this year.

Sears Hometown Store in Fenton has also seen an increase in foot traffic and sales. "It's been a good start and we have a few days left, so we'll see how it ends," said owner Jeff Stone.

Stone attributes the increase in sales



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO
Ashley Smith and her brother Matthew of Linden window shop in Fenton.

to volume — selling more sets of tools and appliances, not necessarily higher ticket items. "We are getting more people walking through the store,"

Stone said.

Matt McKay of McKay's Hardware in Holly has also seen a very strong holiday season. Consistent sellers include their

candles, home brewing equipment, and their Milwaukee heated jackets. "I have hardly any of those left. They have been a huge seller for us," McKay said.

Drawing comparisons to 2013 was somewhat difficult for McKay. "Last year was kind of like a fluke year because we had the winter storm that came in that cleaned us out of the emergency-type stuff," he said.

Bridge Street Exchange in Linden is in a unique position — as last year was their first holiday shopping season they were open. However, they too have certainly noticed an impact. Owner Kevin Begola said that they have seen an increase in the number of shoppers stopping in.

For Fenton's Open Book, sales have been steady, with owner Karen Piacentini not noticing much of an increase or decrease in overall sales from this time last year. "There are no big, popular books out right now that you have to have, which usually increase sales," she said.

'Unbroken' and 'Killing Patton' are the best sellers, but 'Killing Patton' probably is not as big a seller yet, but I think it's still a really good story."

ESCAPE**Continued from Front Page**

the wall in his cell and concealed his activity for months. In May, jail workers discovered his handy work before he was able to escape.

This is just the latest incident in a long list of criminal activity for Duke.

After a conviction in February 2013, Duke was out on personal bond and knew he was supposed to show up in June 2013

to begin his sentence at a West Virginia prison. He was sentenced to 13 years in federal prison for his involvement in one of the country's most extensive mortgage fraud schemes. In addition to prison time, he was also ordered to pay nearly \$95 million in restitution and a \$1 million fine.

Instead of reporting to the prison, he stayed out of sight. Investigators eventually caught up with him and arrested him in Saline in February 2014. While in custody, he

reportedly attacked a female federal prosecutor in a Detroit courtroom. At that time, we was transported to the Monroe County Jail.

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

Duke is a long-time criminal, first convicted of embezzlement in Allen Park in

1986. He was sent to prison in 1989 for receiving stolen property and briefly escaped from prison in the Upper Peninsula before he was released in 1993. He later moved into mortgages, even though Michigan regulators banned him from the mortgage business in 2006.

If convicted as charged, Duke could face an additional 10 years for the attempted jail escape and failure to turn himself in, and another 20 years for assaulting the federal prosecutor.

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Finding the ¹ perfect pair of eyeglasses

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

TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

When it comes to eyeglasses, the shape of the frame and shape of the face really work together, and are dependent on one another. Today's trend is toward chunkier plastic frames. Reporter Yvonne Stegall tried on a variety of frames.

The biggest determination of what eyeglasses you should pick for your face is the shape of your face. You want a pair of glasses that will complement your face, after all, everyone is going to see them.

Leigh Balias, optician at McDowell Eye Care in Fenton said, "Face shape is important when it comes to choosing a style of eyeglasses, but prescription and a patient's need also factor in."

Not all prescriptions work with all frames.

Square face

A person with a square face has a broad forehead with a strong horizontal jawline and is proportional in width and length. If you have a square face, your best eyeglass choices will be round or oval glasses. Dark and bold colored frames will look best on you. The idea here is to add contrast to your strong facial features. Avoid too many angles, and glasses that are geometric or square in shape.



Heart-shaped face

If you have a heart-shaped face, then you have a broad forehead that gets slender on the way to your small chin. High cheekbones are also a trait of the heart face. You can balance the widths of your face by choosing oval and round-shaped frames. Thinner, light colored glasses will help balance out your narrow chin. Avoid drawing too much attention to your upper part of your face with dark glasses or top heavy, decorative designs.

Oval face

The oval face is marked by a lightly curved jawline that is just a little narrower than the forehead. Cheekbones are high and angled. This is known as the most versatile face, which means that any style, shape, color or design will work for you. Just don't pick any oversized frames that are too large for your facial features.

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And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

Luke 2:8-14

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Merry Christmas, Happy Birthday

Feelings mixed for those with Dec. 25 birthdays

By Ryan Tackabury

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Al Verscheure of Tyrone Township will be turning 46 on Christmas Day and it's a birth date he loves.

"Everything's closed for my birthday," he said. "It's not a rat race. I love the relaxation and time spent with my family."

He and his whole family on his mother's side get together for a huge celebration, observing not only Christmas, but Al's birthday and his Aunt Carol's, who also celebrates a Dec. 25 birthday.

"We have a big birthday cake, and we get birthday and Christmas gifts," he said. "Even as a kid, I always got both. My wife, Jennifer, and daughter Alicia still fuss over my birthday. It's great."

Not everyone whose birthday falls upon perhaps the biggest holiday of the year shares the same opinion however.

"As a kid it was tough because you



Al Verscheure and his Aunt Carol both celebrate birthdays on Dec. 25. A huge family gathering with birthday gifts and a cake add to the fun of their family Christmas celebration.

don't have your own day. You're always spending it at your Grandma's house, that kind of thing," said Mike Stapula of Brighton.

Stapula said that as a kid, he did not have birthday parties on his birthday, though his parents would try to do a separate celebration for him on Christmas. However, his birthdate is not all that bad — it just depends on how it is approached.

"As I got older, it's not really that big of a deal," Stapula said. "My family tends to celebrate Christmas Eve together and on Christmas, it's my birthday, so it's a separation."

Emily Fernelius of Fenton is torn — she both loves and hates having her Christmas birthday at the same time.

This type of separation that helped Stapula also helped Fernelius appreciate her own birthdate more. "My parents

See **BIRTHDAYS** on 11A

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BIRTHDAYS

Continued from Page 10A

were always really good about it," Fernelius said. "The morning we woke up it was Christmas, and after that it was Emily's birthday. We didn't even talk about Christmas."

Her presents were always wrapped in birthday wrapping paper — not Christmas-themed wrapping paper. "I got so lucky, I couldn't ask for better parents for that whole situation," she said.

One of the few things Fernelius said she can do on her birthday is to go see a movie — though she recalls last year that wasn't an option, thanks to the blackout caused by the winter storms.

"The only other thing I didn't like is when I turned 21. I couldn't go out," she said.

However, with the bad comes the good. "I kind of get three birthday parties almost," Fernelius said, as she has family gatherings for both sides of her parents' family and her own immediate family.

“Everything's closed for my birthday. It's not a rat race.”

Al Verscheure
Born on Christmas Day 1968

USPS

Continued from Front Page

Robertson to put the parcel in the corresponding carrier's rolling bin.

This time of year, letters, of course, used to be the biggest item being shipped. "Now parcels are everything," said Rob Phillips, supervisor of Customer Service. "While we lost all that business to the Internet with email, this is a nice recovery."

This has been the busiest week of the year for Fenton's post office, where Phillips said parcel shipments can go up from an average of 1,200 per day, to more than 6,000 per day. The same amount of staff sorts the packages for the city's 26 routes, and adds about 20 hours of extra overtime per day.

Amazon.com is still one of the biggest retailers, along with others like Target and Zappos.

These packages first went to the Allen Park sorting facility, then to Flint, and finally delivered on pallets and large containers, to be broken down by these clerks. Not counting packaging, Phillips guesses there are seven different stages at least, "including the ringing at your door."

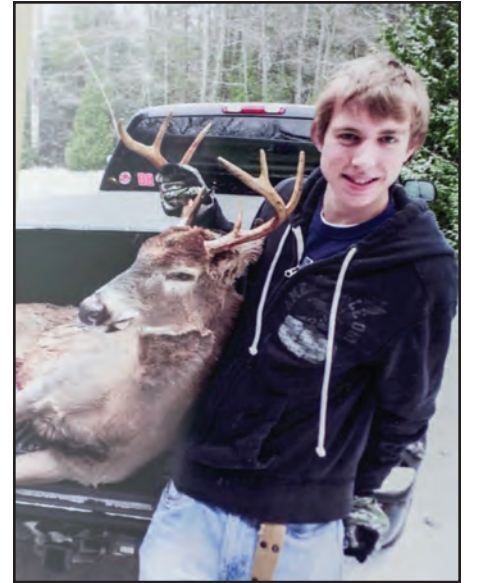
With all that cardboard flying around, when asked if he'd like to add anything, Phillips urges customers to keep their tracking numbers. If a package is lost, it makes it possible to find. "Six thousand packages a day — I can't find your package," said Phillips, "needles in the haystack."



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Fenton Post Office letter carrier Joe Zsigo puts the packages for his route together during a lull on Wednesday afternoon. This week in December is the busiest for package shipping.

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Chase Brancheau, 16, of Fenton shot this 8-point buck on Nov. 15 in Iosco County.

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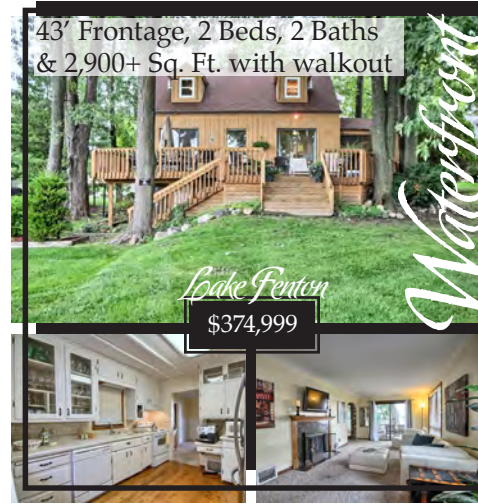









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Ugly Christmas sweater trend growing (unfortunately)

► Popularity of hideous holiday attire makes for lots of laughs

By Yvonne Stegall

ystegall@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

For a few years now, the ugly Christmas sweater has grown into a truly loved icon of the holidays. Once upon a time though, that ugly holiday sweater was the gift that no one wanted to receive, and then they felt hideous and out of place the next year at Christmas, feeling obligated to wear it to the family get together.

Now there are ugly Christmas sweater parties where you are asked to wear the ugliest of this once-hated holiday treasure. When it comes to holiday sweaters, some people may think they are all ugly.

If you've been invited to an ugly Christmas sweater party, or maybe your



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO
Chelsea Schulz poses for a picture in her "ugly Christmas sweater."

work is hosting a competition for ugliest Christmas sweater for their Christmas party, you now have some big decisions to make, from where to shop to what kind of "ugly" look you want to go for.

One of the quickest places to find an ugly Christmas sweater that is not likely to have a twin is the local thrift store. However, you run the risk of finding ratty, old, itchy sweaters this way.

Many retailers are now carrying ugly Christmas sweaters as such, rather than just calling them holiday wear. You might even come across a display full of fun and interesting ugly sweaters, from Star Wars to your favorite sports team.

You don't have to buy a pre-ugly Christmas sweater though. Get creative and make your own. Add festive things like tinsel, pompoms, snowflakes and more. Some stores have sweater kits available or you can make a quick visit to the craft section.

Fenton resident Chelsea Schulz hosted "The Ugliest Christmas Ever" at her home for her friends. She said that everyone was to dress up in the ugliest Christmas attire they could find, bring a dish to pass and a white elephant gift to exchange. In an email, she said, "Christmas is my favorite time of year and since the majority of my friends have relocated to various cities in the state, Christmas is normally the only time we all find our way back home."

"With work, family, church and all other Christmas parties being formal, this was a great way to cut loose and enjoy the silly and sometimes gaudy things that come with Christmas."



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO
Jose Jimenez and Melissa Phillips enjoy their silly holiday look at Chelsea Schulz's party.

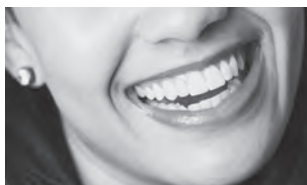


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Kate Fisher poses in her ugliest sweater and silly sunglasses.

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"The Ugliest Christmas Ever" partygoers are (back, from left) Jose Jimenez, Kara Mason and Rob Sevic. (Front, from left) Chelsea Schulz, Beth Reid, Melissa Phillips and Kate Fisher.



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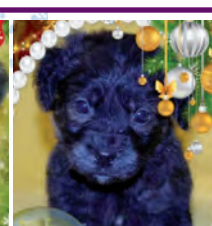
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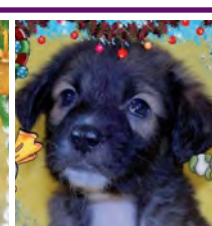
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BOOK

Continued from Page 3A

missing on their fifth wedding anniversary, the public takes notice. Nick finds himself a suspect of his wife's murder investigation — though his answers don't seem to add up, and Nick is harboring his own secrets. Nothing is quite what it seems and the book will keep you guessing from page to page.

All The Light We Cannot See (\$27.00)

Anthony Doerr

Set before, during, and after World War II, this novel tells the story of French girl Marie Laure and a German orphan, Werner, who find themselves on two very different life paths that eventually converge.

Praised for its flavorful writing and optimistic message, this may be the right selection for those who enjoy historical fiction and those enjoy an inspirational story.

**Revival (\$30.00)**

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Police&Fire

report

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The Michigan State Police remind citizens that neither the IRS nor the Michigan State Police will try to contact residents and ask for money over the phone. MSP will only contact individuals in person to confirm a warrant or post any type of bond money. If anyone has any doubts about who is on the phone, hang up and contact the local police department or the Michigan State Police. The MSP Metro Post has received numerous complaints across Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties in reference to this type of scam.

**ITEMS STOLEN FROM
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At 2 p.m. on Dec. 15, Fenton police responded to an apartment on Foley Glen Drive on a report of a larceny from auto complaint. A 29-year-old resident told officers that someone had entered her 2006 Chrysler van and stole her Garmin GPS, as well as other personal items. She thought her van was locked, but there were no signs of forced entry. Police remind everyone to always keep the doors of their vehicles locked.

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'Miracle Boxes' on way to troops overseas

► Sixty holiday packages packed and sent by Linden Cub Scouts

By Yvonne Stegall

ystegall@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Cub Scout Pack 211 out of Hyatt Elementary in Linden recently worked on a project to help support our troops. The Scouts and their parents came together with donations and packed them up to ship to military troops who are currently spending their holidays overseas.

According to Louise Downs Blain, with the Desert Angels, they packed more than 60 boxes of donations.

The Desert Angels, Inc. is a non-profit organization out of Auburn Hills that collects, packs and mails items needed by troops stationed overseas. They call these boxes "Miracle Boxes."

Blain said, "Each item they collected, each box that was packed, each hand written letter, was totally focused on love for our great country and the men and women who protect and defend. Changing our world,

“The boys had a great time putting together the packages to be sent overseas.”

Claudine Hildreth
Troop 211 Cub master

one Miracle Box at a time.”

Cub Master Claudine Hildreth said, "The boys had a great time putting together the packages to be sent overseas, and it helped reinforce the lesson of helping the community and being a good citizen."

Hildreth said that normally they had a contact overseas that they mailed items to each year, but this year that person is no longer overseas. On their search for help in mailing their collected items, they came across Desert Angels. "They are a great organization," Hildreth said. Desert Angels, Inc. is always looking for names and addresses of loved ones serving in harm's way.

"We want to send your loved one a miracle Box," said Blain. "This is how we serve our troops, as they serve and protect our country!"

Send names and addresses to: Office@TheDesertAngel.org or go to their website thedesertangel.org/mailbag.htm.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO

Cub Scout troop 211 puts packages of donations together that they collected to send to troops overseas.

EYEGLASSES

Continued from Page 9A

Round face

A round face has full cheeks, a wide forehead and a rounded chin. Provide contrast to the round face by opting for square or angular frame styles. Don't pick round glasses, or frames that are too small for your face.

Diamond face

The diamond face is the rarest, and it has an angular jawline with wide cheekbones and a narrower forehead. Balance and enhance diamond facial features with oval or rimless frames, or those with strong brow lines. You don't want to draw attention to your narrow eye line if you have a diamond face, so avoid eyeglass styles that are narrow or thin framed.

"Look for a frame that reflects your personality or the look you want to achieve. Just like with shoes it's hard to make one pair of glasses fill every need," Balius said.

“Try not to wait until the last minute or make a rushed decision. Take your time picking out that perfect pair.”

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TRIVIA

FOOTBALL

Q Who played in the “announcer-less” NFL game?

A On Dec. 20, 1980, NBC didn't use any announcers for the New York Jets at Miami Dolphins contest.

Tigers' offense heats up vs. Brandon

►Fenton boys earn first win of season, 70-53

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

The Fenton varsity boys basketball team featured a high-powered and balanced offense in its opener against the Holly Bronchos last week.

The Tigers showcased that same offense again on Tuesday, this time on the road.

Fenton outscored Brandon 20-7 in the first quarter and then scored at least 15 points in every period, eventually earning an easy 70-53 victory against the Blackhawks.

Fenton busted out to a 20-7 lead after one quarter and never looked back. The Tigers (1-1, 1-1) took a 55-32 lead into the fourth quarter. Brandon made the final score look a bit more respectable with a 21-15 edge in the final period.

“I think our intensity and commitment to playing as hard as possible was reflected in that first quarter,” Fenton coach Tim Olszewski said.

Fenton's offense was pretty balanced with five players scoring at least nine points. Dillon Gardner scored a game-high 15 points, while Greg Lukas had 14 points. Austin Bossenberger, Jake Cairn-

See **TIGERS' on 20A**



Beau LePage

Scored seven points and had six assists in Tigers' 70-53 win vs. Brandon.

Photo by Scott Schupbach

TRICOUNTY
Times

SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 21, 2014
PAGE 18A

Sports

ONLINE EXCLUSIVES

► Read Friday's prep basketball action online at www.tctimes.com

GRIFFINS LOSE IN A SHOOTOUT, 4-3

The Metro League Griffins are playing some exciting hockey in recent weeks.

The Griffins, a co-op hockey team with students from Linden and Fenton, played their third straight one-goal contest on Wednesday night.

The squad lost 4-3 in a shootout against the L'Anse Creuse North Crusaders.

The Crusaders made their shootout attempt, but then the Griffins missed theirs in an attempt to force a second round of the shootout.

The Griffins trailed 2-1 entering the third period, but won the third period 2-1. The Fenton-Linden co-op got goals by Brendan Buerkel and Connor Phillips (power play goal) to help establish the tie.

Phillips also scored the Griffins' only goal in the second period.

Mitch O'Lewin and Buerkel had two assists each, while Phillips and Buck Hudson had an assist each.

In goal, Manny Vomvolakis made 25 saves.

Devils cruise in second half

►Defeat Montrose comfortably, 55-39

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com

Lake Fenton — It seems when the Lake Fenton varsity boys basketball team leaves the locker room at halftime, the squad comes out as an impressively energetic and inspired squad.

It happened against Linden when the Blue Devils outscored the Eagles 33-18 during the second half of their first game this season, leading Lake Fenton to a victory. It happened again on Tuesday in the squad's home opener of the season against Montrose as well.

Now, it's a matter of figuring out how to get that second-half mojo going in the first half of games as well.

Both teams appeared sluggish during the first half, as Lake Fenton and Montrose entered halftime tied at 18-all. However, it was the Blue Devils who were the much better team in the second half, nailing a sizzling 15-of-24 shots from the field during the final 16 minutes and sparking a pretty comfortable 55-39 victory



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | MARK BOLEN

Lake Fenton's Jalen Miller (right) scored a game-high 18 points in the Blue Devils' 55-39 victory against Montrose Tuesday night.

against the Rams.

“We picked up the momentum,” said Lake Fenton sophomore Jalen Miller, who had a game-high 18 points and seven

rebounds. “Our momentum in the first half was low. ...I don't know (what we can do to play in first halves like we do second

See **DEVILS on 19A**

Holly only worried about themselves

►Bronchos cruise past Kearsley, 54-44

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com

The Holly varsity boys basketball team has one squad on its mind — it's the Holly Bronchos.

The Bronchos put together an impressive 31-13 first half against the Kearsley Hornets and held to a 54-44 victory on Tuesday.

Holly played its entire roster during the second half. Kearsley did cut the gap to 33-21 early in the third quarter, but still trailed 44-27 entering the fourth period. Kearsley cut the gap to as close as seven in the fourth, but never seriously threatened the lead. Kearsley used a deliberate halfcourt offense to attempt to keep the Bronchos' offense in check. It helped in that it kept Holly's scoring down, but the Bronchos still improved to 2-0 in the

See **HOLLY on 20A**

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LF girls capture second victory of season

►Lady Tigers, Bronchos collect league wins

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

The Lake Fenton girls varsity basketball team continues to progress.

On Tuesday night, that progression translated into a pretty impressive 49-35 road victory against Montrose.

The Blue Devils (2-3) outscored Montrose 17-5 in the second quarter, leading to a 27-12 halftime lead. From there, Lake Fenton comfortably controlled the game.

"Good win, good team win," Lake Fenton's first-year varsity coach Brian VanBuren said. "We had the type of start you want on the road — not letting the crowd get into it right away and making it a battle for the home team. Then, the big second quarter proved to be the difference. And we did that despite having two of our kids in foul trouble. Our freshmen didn't play like freshmen last night and that was an added boost. Sierra (Arroyo) and Autumn (Beardsley) were opportunistic. I saw some good things."

Arroyo led the squad by scoring 14 points. Meanwhile, Beardsley had a big night in the paint with 13 points, 11 rebounds and five blocks. She also had three assists and three steals. Sidney Sheyachich also grabbed 11 rebounds, while Alexis Cash netted five points and four rebounds. Lake Fenton had just

See GIRLS on 20A



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | MARK BOLEN

Lake Fenton's Sierra Arroyo (left) dribbles against Linden's Jordan Holscher in a recent contest. Lake Fenton defeated Montrose 49-35 on Tuesday.

DEVILS

Continued from Page 18A

halves). Our coach was just talking about that. We have to find a way to get our momentum going in the first half."

"We came out with energy and excited to play (in the second half)," said Jake Zielinski, who scored all 10 of his points in Lake Fenton's 20-point third quarter. "We realized this was our rival. We stopped playing sluggish and moved the ball quicker. We started being less selfish and not dribbling the ball as much and just got it done."

The Blue Devils outscored Montrose 20-11 in the third quarter. The Rams did score the first two points of the second half, taking a 20-18 lead, but Lake Fenton went on a 20-8 run after that. The run started with two converted three-pointers by Zielinski. After the second one, Montrose called a time out with Lake Fenton leading 24-20. After the time out, Miller took over with consecutive driving hoops. The second came on Miller's own steal and breaking layup. Montrose called another time out and now trailed 28-22 with 4:44 left in the third quarter. Montrose was still within 30-25 with 2:30 left in the quarter, but a kickout pass from Miller to Zielinski resulted in a breaking foul and two converted Zielinski free throws. Miller followed those points with a driving six-footer, raising the gap to 34-25.

Lake Fenton led most of the fourth quarter by double-digits. Junior guard Christopher Bell controlled the offense during that period, recording nine of his 15 points in the final eight minutes. He also dished out three fourth-quarter assists. Bell either scored or assisted on all but one hoop in the fourth. And when Bell is involved, the Blue Devils are getting

good shots, as proven by their 75 percent field goal shooting in the final period.

"That's been us for the first three games and the first two scrimmages. We have to find a way to play like that well in the first half," Lake Fenton coach Jake Erway said.

"We have not been to the standards we think we are capable of in the first half, and if we want to contend for a league championship we have to figure a way to play two halves. The second half, that's how we should be playing. We played smarter, played a lot more aggressive and we pushed the ball. That's when we are at our best. We have to find a way to do that from the opening."

Bell also finished with seven assists and

eight rebounds, both team highs. Tony Hathaway had six boards. The Blue Devils held Montrose to 12-of-34 shooting and forced 18 turnovers.

The Blue Devils (2-1) will get a chance to work on getting those first halves like their second halves next week, playing in the Imlay City Tournament. The Blue Devils open against Marlette at 6 p.m. on Monday, and will play either at 6 p.m. or 8 p.m. on Tuesday.

"I think it will come with time, being able to start first halves better," Zielinski said.

"We are a faster team than last year," Miller said. "We like to move the ball. We have more talent."

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See ad on page 5A

Times

PREP REPORT

WRESTLING

► **Fenton hosts quad:** The Tigers lost to Yale 50-17 and lost to North Branch 48-30.

The Tigers had two double-winners. Scott Becker (189) and Connor Putman (130) each won two matches by pinfall. Other winners against North Branch included Luke Lynch (119), Jaythan Wright (152) and David Church (160). Against Yale, Andrew Goodman (285) also earned a victory.

BOYS BASKETBALL

► **Linden freshmen 40, Holly freshmen 39:** Nick Koan hit a free throw with five seconds left, giving Linden (3-0) the victory. Zach Horst had eight points for the victors, while Seth Mossing and Noah Giacomantonio had seven.

Holly (3-1) was paced by Ethan Postma's 28 points.



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*WILD (R)

FRI-SAT 10:20 1:05 3:50 6:35 9:15 11:50

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WED 10:20 1:05 3:50 6:35

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STARTING WED DEC 24

*BIG EYES (PG13)

WED 7:15

THUR 11:45 2:15 4:40 7:05 9:30

*INTO THE WOODS (PG)

WED 7:10

THUR 10:10 12:50 3:35 6:30 9:20

*THE GAMBLER (R)

WED 7:30

THUR 11:30 2:05 4:50 7:20 9:50

*UNBROKEN (PG13)

WED 7:00

THUR 10:00 12:55 3:50 6:45 9:40

CONTINUING

*@HOBBIT: THE BATTLE OF FIVE ARMIES, THE (AN IMAX 3D EXPERIENCE) (PG13)

*@3D THE HOBBIT: THE BATTLE OF FIVE ARMIES: REALD 3D (PG13)

*2D THE HOBBIT: THE BATTLE OF FIVE ARMIES (PG13)

*TOP FIVE (R)

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

*2D EXODUS: GODS AND KINGS (PG13)

THE PYRAMID (R)

HORRIBLE BOSSES 2 (R)

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INTERSTELLAR (PG13)

2D BIG HERO 6 (PG)

*Due to movie company policies no passes are accepted. @ No \$5 rate available. • * No \$5 TUES evening rate.

HOLLY

Continued from Page 18A

Metro and to 2-1 overall by the time the night was over.

"We take care of our business and that's fine," Holly coach Lance Baylis said. "A win is a win. We've been up by nearly 20 against two of the better teams in the league, so I'm pleased. Our focus is our team and not the other teams and what they do. I wish everyone the best and hope everyone does well. I hope my coaching friends win as many games as possible, but we are just focused on getting Holly basketball better."

The Bronchos played without point guard Parker Rowse, who was nursing a leg injury. Steven Readman replaced Rowse and did a credible job, finishing with four points, six rebounds and two steals in his first varsity start.

Joshua Simms led the Bronchos with 16 points, while Jake Daniels finished with 15. Kyle Woodruff struggled offensively, scoring just five, but he did have five rebounds and two blocks. Adam Tooley added five points and six rebounds. Isaac Casillas had a team-high nine rebounds and four assists.

"We have to keep on trying to maintain our focus in the second half," Baylis said. "It happened against Fenton and it happened against Kearsley. We are going to have a lot of games we are up by a lot and we are going to have to learn how to maintain our focus and keep the pedal to the medal."

Tigers looking to rebuild after magical year

►Talented youth has Fenton feeling good about present, future

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

With eight seniors on last year's squad, the Fenton varsity boys swimming and diving squad had a season to remember.

This season, the team loses those eight seniors, but the Tigers are looking like a squad with a promising future as well.

And when it comes to the Metro League, defending it is a strong goal once again this winter.

The Tigers opened their dual portion of their season by losing a tight 95-85 dual to Powers on Tuesday at Fenton High School. However, the Chargers are not a Metro squad so it won't impact their Metro race chances. Instead, it gave the team, who was missing a few participants, an understanding that it was a meet they probably would've won if they had their full compliment of performers.

"The expectations are high," Fenton swim coach Brad Jones said. "Even though we dropped one to Powers, 90 percent of the guys had their best times, better than they were last year. So this not being a league contest and the circumstances surrounding the meet, I'm pretty happy with it and where we are."

Led by graduated senior and Oakland University swimmer Brant Cassidy, last year's squad finished 17th in the state.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPENS

Kyle Banner placed first in the 200 freestyle (1:56.56) and was a member of Fenton's winning 200 freestyle relay team during the Tigers' 95-85 loss to Flint Powers on Tuesday.

Most of the swimmers surrounding Cassidy were fellow graduated seniors.

One of the reasons Jones is excited is the maturation of what could be the next great swim class for the program, the sophomores. He sees a lot in that class that made last year's seniors successful. The squad also has senior Austin Landis and junior Zac Miceli, who return with state experience from last year.

"Landis and Miceli are coming back from our state team," Jones said. "Individually, we have high expectations for both of these guys. We are hoping to see a lot from our sophomores. We expect the second-year group to step into their own. We had a very big group of freshmen last year and we are excited about this group. They are not last year's seniors yet, but they are one step closer."

The Tigers had three individual firsts and one relay win against Powers. Banner, Miceli and Landis were two-time winners. Each were members of Fenton's winning 200 freestyle relay squad (1:39.13), along with Michael Fabatz. The individual firsts were posted by Banner in the 200 freestyle (1:56.56), Miceli in the 100 butterfly (1:00.91) and Landis in the 100 freestyle (51.48).

Each also earned an individual second. Fenton had five individual seconds overall. They were earned by Banner in the 500 freestyle (5:17.49), Miceli in the 200 individual medley (2:14.45), Landis in the 100 backstroke (1:03.45), Ian MacPhail-Fausey in the 100 butterfly (1:03.19) and Noah Sizemore in the 100 breaststroke (1:13.54).

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TIGERS'

Continued from Page 18A

duff and Ross Ebert each had nine points, while Beau LePage netted seven.

"The offensive side of things we did extremely well," Olszewski said. "What I mean is our shots fell. One of the things we need to understand is there will be nights when the shots won't fall and we have to get better in the other areas we focus on so we can still be successful. We were able to overcome some issues because we shot extremely well. There are going to be days where we are going to shoot lower percentages and we need to improve in those other areas. And I'm confident we will."

The Tigers displayed a potentially

explosive offense in their home opener against the Holly Bronchos last Friday. Despite losing, Fenton scored 81 points, including 49 in the second half. During that second half, Fenton nailed an efficient 16-for-29 from the field. Included in that second-half mix were eight three-pointers. Four Fenton players scored in double-digits in that game, and neither was one of Tuesday's double-digit scorers. Just two games into this year, the Tigers have had six players already score double-digits in a game.

LePage also had six assists, four rebounds and three steals, while Hajciar had three blocks and three rebounds. Cairnduff had four steals and four blocks, while Peyton Coffman and Lukas had four rebounds each.

GIRLS

Continued from Page 19A

12 turnovers, but forced 15 Montrose steals. Freshman Hannah Garty had four of those steals, while Kaitlyn Begley chipped in three steals. Lake Fenton also had 30 defensive deflections, led by Beardsley's eight.

"I'd have to say that we are progressing, but more so as individuals right now," VanBuren said. "Certain kids are getting better in practice, pushing themselves differently. Some are learning to relax more for games, just small things like that."

Fenton 50, Brandon 37

The Tigers (2-0, 2-2) outscored hosts Brandon 15-4 in the third quarter, making what was a 22-21 halftime deficit into a 36-26 lead entering the fourth quarter. From there the Tigers cruised, scoring 14 points in the fourth quarter.

Hannah Evo led the Tigers with 15 points, including netting nine of her points in the third quarter. She also had eight rebounds. Madison Shegos also recorded 12 points and seven steals.

Holly 41, Kearsley 31

Holly took a 11-4 lead in the first quarter and blew open that gap with a 12-2 third-quarter edge, earning the Bronchos their first Metro League victory of the season.

Kaitlyn Smith scored 19 points, leading all scorers. Jenna Pepper and Brooke Jackman added six points each. Paige Reid had four points, eight rebounds and four assists.

Flushing 52, Linden 32

The Eagles were outscored 18-5 in the second quarter, eventually resulting in the loss. Sterling DeGayner led the Eagles with 14 points, while Taylor Smith netted 12 points.

TRI-COUNTY Autos

21A Sunday, December 21, 2014

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COMING SOON...



► The North American International Auto Show returns to Cobo Arena Jan. 17-25, 2015

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

The North American International Auto Show (NAIAS) in Detroit gives us one more reason to get pumped up and ready to face the month of January, while experiencing North America's largest and most prestigious automotive event.

Summary

► The North American International Auto Show is the largest, most prestigious auto event in this continent.

Detroit pulls out all the stops in showcasing the glamour and excitement of the automotive industry in this once-a-year show.

The NAIAS will have on display the most innovative auto designs for 2015 with more than 500 vehicles given the full "red carpet" treatment.

The show will be open to the public from Saturday, Jan. 17 through Sunday, Jan. 25 at Cobo Arena in Detroit. A Charity Preview will offer the first spectacular glimpse of the event on Friday evening, Jan. 16, offering one of the most exclusive, high-profile events in the U.S. Since 1976, the Charity Preview has raised more than \$91 million for children's charities in southeastern Michigan. It is the largest single-night fundraiser in the world.

The NAIAS has almost a century of history in Detroit. For the first several decades of its existence, however, the show's focus was strictly regional. In 1987, a visionary group of auto dealers within the Detroit Auto Dealers Association asked the question: Why not make the event truly international in scope? Now, the NAIAS pursues a vision of continually redefining what it means to be an international event.

Ticket prices for the public show are: Adults \$13, Seniors 65 and older \$7, Children age 7 to 12 \$7 and 6 and under free with a parent or guardian. Tickets may be purchased online at www.naias.com or the day of the show at ticket booths located in the Cobo Center concourse. For more information about tickets, call (248) 283-5173.

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Last-minute gift ideas for auto buffs

► Lots of ideas for every price range

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Car lovers are some of the easiest people to buy gifts for because there are so many choices in every price range. Everyone can use gift certificates to a favorite store or service business.

Here are a few ideas to get you started:

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- Gift certificate to any auto parts store
- Wash and wax kits
- Car care sampler kits
- Digital tire gauge
- Original Life Hammer
- Microfiber cleaning cloths
- Headlight restoration kit
- Garden hose nozzle attachment

Under \$50

- Trunk organizer
- Detailer bag
- Gift certificates for car washes
- Boar's hair wheel brush
- Garage parking sensor
- Custom license plates
- Pet seat protectors/covers
- Wheel/tire kit
- Emergency tool kit
- Car mats

Under \$100

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- Automatic cordless tire inflator
- Leather auto organizer



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Ready your vehicle now for safe winter driving

►The right supplies in your car will help you respond to an emergency

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

There are more ways to increase your winter driving skills than simply slowing down, safety experts agree.

Here are a dozen simple things you can carry in your car or truck to help avoid emergency problems in these cold driving times.

Every vehicle should have a windshield ice scraper, flashlight and hand warmers, plus an extra set of clothing, according to Danielle Reaume, a customer service representative at Lasco Ford in Fenton. These will be helpful in case your vehicle leaves the road unexpectedly.

"Some people carry a small box in their trunk or behind their seat with general items, including a set of pliers and perhaps some road salt," added Reaume.

Throw a blanket and winter hat into your emergency box, too, experts agree, plus that extra pair of gloves can come in very handy.

A small shovel is helpful if you find yourself stuck in a snow bank. Some shovels fold up for easier storage in your vehicle.

“Every vehicle should have a windshield ice scraper, flashlight and hand-warmers, plus an extra set of clothing.”

Danielle Reaume,
Customer Service Representative at Lasco Ford

Perhaps you've heard that sprinkling cat litter in your tire's path can give you traction, so including a bag can be a good idea. Also, a simple cardboard box can help get you moving when it's placed under a tire on a slick road.

Carry an extra reflector or hazard light to help warn others about your stopped vehicle. These can be battery operated or plug into a car lighter, for greater safety.

Why not keep non-perishable food in your vehicle, too, to keep you satisfied until help arrives. The calories can also help keep you warm. Taking along a bottle of water can also keep you hydrated.

Carrying a tow strap in your emergency kit can help you get pulled out of danger by a fellow driver.

Lastly, keep a pad of paper in your glove compartment or that emergency box with your insurance roadside assistance phone number and even your local garage's



Area experts agree that motorists should put together an emergency bag to keep in their car just in case they become stranded in winter weather.

number, in case those are needed.

The time to gather things such as this is now, to help you and your vehicle stay safe on the roads all winter long — just by planning ahead.

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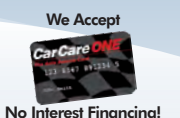
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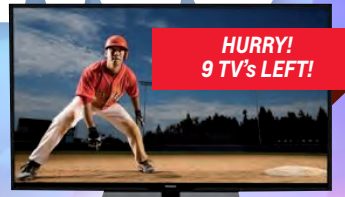
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