

Forget city hall — schools have biggest budgets

► Times kicks off in-depth look at area school boards and district budgets

By Tim Jagielo

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School districts are often the biggest “business,” and the biggest employers in any given area.

They are tasked with the difficult and challenging work of educating the future workforce with tight budgets. This article is an introduction to a four-part series,

profiling our four local school districts, and their boards of education, which oversee the school district administrations.

See **BUDGETS** on 23A

TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

School districts are often the biggest employers in small towns like Fenton, Linden and Holly, commanding budgets upwards of \$34 million.



PAGE 1B
Everything you
didn't think you
wanted to know
about eggs

Weekend Times

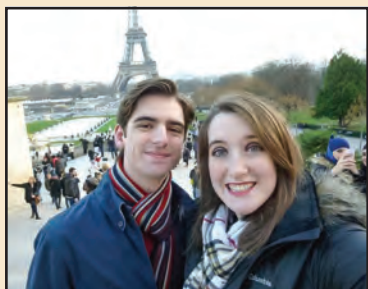
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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO
Lake Fenton grads Caitlin Nelson and Evan Korchnak were four miles from the attacks at the Charlie Hebdo offices on Wednesday.

Lake Fenton grads just minutes from Paris terrorist attack

By Sharon Stone

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When Jennie Nelson, formerly of Fenton Township, woke up Wednesday she was horrified to hear the news about the terrorist attack in Paris. Jennie and her husband, Ted, a former Lake Fenton school board member, now live in the Kalamazoo area but their four daughters graduated from Lake Fenton.

What concerned Jennie so much when she turned on the news was that her daughter, Caitlin, 21, was in Paris visiting her boyfriend of four years, Evan Korchnak, also a Lake Fenton graduate.

“But, with modern tech, I knew I could reach her ASAP and she reassured me they were fine. I trust her and Evan to be smart and stay safe,” said Jennie, Wednesday afternoon. Rather than staying glued to the TV or computer,

See **PARIS** on 14A

“I don't think that I ever imagined I would be this close to such an attack...”



Cheap gas bad for Michigan oil rigs

Workers for Merit Energy shut down a 60-foot oil rig in Hartland Township on Thursday. Technically called a “double derrick work-over,” the site is being abandoned in part due to low oil prices making it unprofitable. It takes several steps, including pulling out the pipes and testing for naturally occurring radiation. Michigan is 17th in the U.S. for oil production.

See story on Page 8A

‘Merry Christmas’ to local retailers

► Tri-county store owners appreciative of ‘Shop Local’ effort by residents

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

It was a very Merry Christmas for most local retailers in the tri-county area, most of which credit a local hometown shopping spirit for boosting their bottom line this season.

A report from the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) and American Express revealed that 88 million consumers “shopped small” on Small Business Saturday, a day in between Black Friday and Cyber Monday that encourages and supports local shopping in small communities. That day on Nov. 29, 2014 was up 14.9 percent from 2013 numbers, according to their reports.

Local shopping appears to be becoming a habit for area shoppers, and merchants benefitted throughout the entire holiday season.

See **SHOPPING** on 7A

Summary

► Local retailers are appreciative of support from hometown shoppers during the 2014 Christmas holiday shopping season.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO
Vic Canever Internet Sales Manager Jamie Smith said that this holiday season, sales increased substantially from the previous year.

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“Shortly after the shootings in France, White House press spokesman Josh Earnest stated on NBC that ‘the attack was a terrible act of violence but not necessarily an act of terrorism.’



Unbelievably, he then said that Islam is a ‘religion of peace.’ Our leaders are in denial.”

“To the Fenton School Board, I am a Democrat as well as a parent. I believe all children should learn firearm use and safety in school. Most of my friends, conservative and liberal, agree with this. The world is changing. Why has no one ever explored this?”



“The Hot liners who submit ideas on which taxes to raise to fix the roads are part of the problem. Don't raise taxes, cut wasteful spending. It's what those of us who run households or businesses have to do. We don't demand more, we spend less.”



tctimes.com
**COMMENT
OF THE WEEK**

“I used to love going to the movies. Heard rave reviews for ‘Wild’ so I went. It was awful. I can't recall the last really good movie I saw. Should have checked on Rotten Tomatoes first, would've saved me some money.”

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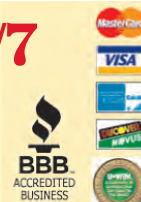
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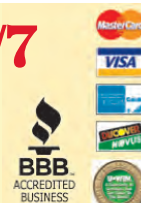
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Owen, Cole, Ripley...

There's a story behind every street name

►Origin of area road names can be traced back to early residents

By Yvonne Stegall
ystegall@tctimes.com

If you drive through any city, town or back road in our area, you'll find numerous street names. Some are common, like "Main" or "Oak," but there are some you may leave you wondering.

Most everyone in the Fenton area knows where Fenton Road and LeRoy Street got their names. In the mid-1800s, local lore has it that Col. William Fenton and Robert LeRoy played poker to name the town and main street. Fenton

won the card game.

Just like these, many of the roads in our area are names for the people that settled early on and lived on those roads.

For the most part, real estate and subdivision developers have the privilege of naming new streets in the U.S. The name is submitted to the city for review, and the public service departments, such as police, fire, and the post office, are given the opportunity to veto the name. Many cities have guidelines and standards for certain areas that require street names to be of a specific theme, as well.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the names of trees and numbers make up the greatest number of

See ROAD on 15A



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

In many cases, streets were named after people. In this case, Adelaide Street was named after the founder of Fenton's wife.

Names and origins of some area roads:

- **Ripley Road** — Morris Ripley (1813-1899), born in New York, settled in Fenton Township.
- **Cole Road** — Joseph Cole (1844-1910), born in New York, settled in Argentine Township.
- **Baldwin Road** — Morgan Baldwin (1796-1880), born in New York, settled in Mundy Township (not to be confused with Baldwin Road, east of Holly in Oakland County).
- **Rolston Road** — Named for William Rolston (1811-1892), born in Ireland and lived in Argentine Township.
- **McCaslin Road and McCaslin Lake Road** — William McCaslin (1816-1858), born in Pennsylvania and settled in Argentine Township.
- **Blythe Avenue** — (Linden), named for Blythe Sleeman.
- **Owen Road** — named after the Owens farm.

Source: Pete Mass, Linden Historical Society

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The law of unintended consequences

The Law of Unintended Consequences states that the actions of people — almost always through government regulations — tend to have negative consequences that are never anticipated.

Hmmm — let's look at a few.

New York liberal politicians hate smoking. So, a pack of cigs in NYC costs \$14.00, the highest in the nation, due to taxes. Kentucky has the lowest cigarette price in the nation at \$4.96 a pack. The result: more than 70 percent of all cigarette sales in New York are smuggled cigarettes from Kentucky, 'depriving' the government of tens of millions of tax dollars.

Three-strikes laws were stupidly enacted by state governments (Washington

was the first) under the naïve logic that criminals would stop committing crimes after being caught twice. The unintended result? Potential 'third strike' criminals

now simply murder all their victims to avoid getting caught, as the sentence for murder is no worse than the sentence for being caught for the third time. Murder rates have soared, the opposite of the intended effect.

The great golf cart boom of 2009. A government subsidy designed to promote the purchase of electric vehicles for the sake of energy conservation was exploited

by clever golf cart manufacturers who recognized that their products fit under the government's definition of an electric car and that the subsidy would make them free. Golf cart companies literally

gave away tens of thousands of 'free' golf carts to consumers with the entire bill being passed along to the government. Nearly all buyers then quickly sold their free golf carts for cash, then 'bought' another one.

To stifle the growing rat population in some communities, the government decided to pay a bounty for every rat pelt brought in. The unintended result? Many entrepreneurs created rat-breeding farms, raking in millions from the government.

Football helmet technology was implemented to protect players from head injuries. Instead, players armed with unbreakable helmets used them as weapons to launch themselves into opposing players. The unintended result?

Injuries have skyrocketed.

Government mandated minimum wage laws invariably result in increased unemployment among the most vulnerable sectors of society, specifically poor, inner-city teenagers of racial minorities.

The radical stiffening of penalties for drunk driving has led to a massive increase in hit and run accidents by inebriated drivers fearful of long jail sentences. Many victims who could have been saved died helplessly on the roadside, as there were often no witnesses to call emergency services.

These are the same fools that can't balance a budget and who focus their efforts on 'gun control' of the honest citizens, as opposed to 'gun control' of the dishonest citizens.

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.



“Potential ‘third strike’ criminals now simply murder all their victims to avoid getting caught.”

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.

IF EVERYONE CARRIED a licensed firearm America would be protected by a built-in militia of citizens. Common sense tells us police can't protect us. Look what just happened in France. Slaughtered because they had no weapons to defend themselves with.

JUST TALKED TO my cousin in Siesta Key, Florida. Forecast is sunny and 81 degrees. In one hour I will be on my way.

THE TRAFFIC SITUATION at Lake Fenton's West Shore and Torrey Hill campus has become dangerous. Parents create two lanes into the campus on the one lane Lahring Road. Any parent who wants to leave must blindly pull out onto Lahring with westbound through-traffic traveling on the east lane.

OKAY, WE PASSED a millage to improve things at the Genesee County Humane Society, how about an update on what's been improved?

IF I WERE a police officer, I would shoot first and ask questions later to anyone who aimed a weapon at me.

HOW COME WE haven't read anything about fines or punishment for the contractor who 'accidentally' polluted the Shiawassee with 15,000 gallons of sewage? If a private resident had done it, the authorities would jail him.

FREE COMMUNITY COLLEGE for responsible students? Are you kidding me? Just saw on the news last night that Obama wants to provide free tuition to community colleges, of course, paid for by the government. Nothing is free — that government money he speaks of comes directly from us taxpayers. I paid for my kids' college and refuse to pay for someone else's kids.

LIBERAL POLITICIANS ARE creating an environment where good citizens will stop applying to be cops. They get ambushed and killed, yet can't fight back, like in Ferguson. Liberal policies are killing cops, and eventually America.

I SO APPRECIATED the tip about EZ Read on the Times website. Now I can read my newspaper from Del Ray Beach every Sunday and Wednesday. Thanks for the tip.

MESSAGE TO DAVE Robertson and Joe Graves: Robo-calls are killing me. I can no longer conduct my business due to solicita-

tions from recordings that tie up my land line. Now I'm getting them on my cell phone too. Please do something to help us.

I WAS WATCHING Nancy Pelosi on the 114th congress and I found out one thing, if you tied her arms up she wouldn't be able to talk at all. When she gets done her arms must be killing her.

CHICAGO HAS ONE of the strictest gun laws in the whole U.S., but in the last six months, 292 people were murdered. In Iraq, 221 died.

THE GOVERNMENT OF the people, by the people and for the people that our founding fathers established has become the government which forgot the people. In the process we've become a select group of self-serving, double talking, dishonest hypocrites. 535 people rule this nation. Sad commentary on us it seems.

I REQUEST THAT everybody remember how the earth is warming. Dire things are happening. Even though you are at below zero right now, remember the earth is warming.

THIS IS ABOUT jobs in Washington, D.C. They are hiring so many people at a salary of \$174,000 to work 137 days and have 228 days of vacation.

IN OHIO, THE sales tax is seven cents and they have really good roads. So I see no problem in paying another penny if it is going to go toward the roads.

See **HOT LINE** throughout Times

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Compiled by Alexei Rose, intern

What's the first thing you read in the newspaper?

streettalk



"I first look up sports because my grandsons wrestle."

— Lynne Lauer
Mundy Township



"The first thing I go to in the paper is the crossword puzzles because I love doing them."

— Jeanne Tarrant
Fenton Township



"I scan the whole paper, and I like looking at the local happenings."

— Marilyn Neil
Fenton



"I look at the local news because I want to know what is going on."

— Jennifer Bittner
Hartland



"I read the front page to get the latest news, and the obituaries."

— Andy Truhan
Linden



"I read the headlines first because they are important."

— Don Gaston
Tyrone Township

News briefs

Win dinner and a movie compliments of the Tri-County Times

How would you like to win \$50 for dinner at an area restaurant and two tickets to a movie? If this sounds good, text the word "dailydeal" to (810) 475-2030 and you will be entered to win \$50 to an area restaurant and two NCG movie passes. Registering at (810) 475-2030 will sign you up with the Times to receive occasional text messages of special offers from area businesses.

Fenton schools refinances bond debt, saves taxpayers \$4 million

The Fenton Board of Education approved a motion to refinance the district's 2005 and 2006 bond debt that will save taxpayers \$4 million. This was done at the school board's meeting on Monday, Jan. 5. According to Superintendent Timothy Jalkanen, by refinancing the two bonds the length of the debt will not change. With the district's strong credit rating, unemployment down, a strong business community and increasing property values, the district was able to significantly lower the interest rate of this bond debt.

Fenton Board of Education appoints officers

At an organizational meeting on Monday, Jan. 5, the Fenton Board of Education elected its officers. Newly elected members, including Elizabeth Geib, Dana Jones, Rick Koester and Lynn Hopper were sworn in. The school board took action to appoint officers. Drew Shapiro is president, Rick Koester is vice president, Tammy Valley is treasurer and Dan Carter is secretary.

Fourth annual Back Pack Night on March 5

There are many exciting changes for this year's Back Pack Night (formerly Women, Wine, Fashion & Finance) fundraiser for the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan. Hosted by Shard Financial Services, the Back Pack Night is sponsored by Chassé Ballroom and Latin Dance Studio of Fenton. Some of the changes include:

- New Location — The Holiday Inn Gateway is going to provide more room (multiple rooms in fact), more options and the ability to really shake things up.
- Live Comedy Entertainment from Comedy Central's Bryan McCree
- More restaurant vendors for the strolling dinner
- Real models with clothes created specifically for the fundraiser by a local clothing designer
- Bigger tables — instead of eight tickets, you now get 10. Tables are limited this year, as the event's major sponsorships have grown.

The event is set for March 5 at 6 p.m. (doors open at 5:30 p.m.) at the Gateway Centre Holiday Inn in Flint.

NAMI of Genesee County

NAMI of Genesee County is a support group for persons with mental disorders, their relatives and friends. Meetings are 7 to 9 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesdays. New location is the McLaren Behavioral Health Center at the Oak Bridge Center, 4448 Oak Bridge Dr. in Flint. The Oak Bridge Center is off the east side of Linden Road between Corunna and Lennon roads. Family-to-family classes for relatives and friends of people with mental disorders begin in February. There is no charge for NAMI meetings and classes. Call (810) 232-6498 for details.

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So, you've written a book, now what?

► Become a self-published author with variety of helpful websites

By Yvonne Stegall

ystegall@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Whether you already have your book written, or you've just thought about it, now is the time to get your work in print. With the Internet and all of the technology available today, anyone can become a published author. It's as easy as typing up your book, turning it into a PDF and creating your cover. From there, someone else does the work and, for a few bucks, you can have a copy of your own book in your hands.

Some writers feel they are just born to write, others are inspired by something. Sara Mack, a self-published author from Fenton, said via email, "During the summer of 2012, my friend and I (we're avid readers) were reading a popular series at the same time. We knew the author started out by self-publishing and thought if she could do it, maybe we could, too.

We decided to try and started on our own separate stories."

After getting compliments from friends, Mack decided to get published, and now her books are available online and locally at Open Book in Fenton.

The first step in becoming a self-published author isn't writing the book; you should already have that done before you even think of publishing. The first step is actually determining how much money you have to put your book into print. Yes, if you are self-publishing you will need some money to get the book out there. This isn't traditional publishing where someone pays you ahead of time for your next great novel.

There are some websites where you can do on-demand self-publishing, meaning your books are only printed when an order is placed, free. The only cost to you is the copies you want to have on hand. The length of your book determines your sales price, if it's black & white or color, and where you want them

See **BOOK** on 18A

“One of the most rewarding things is talking with people who have read the work and enjoyed it!”

Jennifer Frisch-Ferguson
Self-published author



CAREERPLANNING.ABOUT.COM

Working with a temp agency can be beneficial for men and women looking to use or expand their skills while searching for a full-time job and an employer needing to fill a temporary position.

'Temp' jobs on the rise

► Experience can lead to full-time careers

By Yvonne Stegall

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The economy is still growing, but for employers, it's a safer bet to hire temps, which is why the temp job market is expanding. This gives employers a chance to test out new employees and offers them options if the economy stops its growth spurt.

The boom in temporary jobs also shows the new emerging trend of folks who live on temporary, contract work. About 36 percent of Michigan's job gains from 2009 through 2013 came from temp staffing and self-employment, according to a review of federal jobs data completed by University of Michigan economist Don Grimes.

For some, temporary "temp" employment may seem like a bad thing, but there are many reasons why temp employment is losing its bad rap these days. According to Amy Cell, senior vice president for talent enhancement at Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC), "A

temp job allows you to get on-the-job experience, try out skill sets and more."

Cell said that for employers, offering temporary positions give employers a chance to find out if a worker is going to work out for the company before moving them to full-time status. For workers, they get that same thing; a chance to see if this job will work for them. It offers more flexibility, too.

While only 6.8 percent of temp workers usually get a permanent job, Cell says it helps to impress your colleagues, show initiative and be friendly. Just because the job you are currently doing is temporary doesn't mean you might not win yourself a full-time position in another department if one were to become available.

If you want to win at being a temp worker, Cell suggests always showing up early for work, dressing appropriately, showing interest in the work and the business, and going above and beyond what is expected of you.

In addition, since the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, employees no longer have to stick with a job they don't love just because they don't want to lose their health insurance.

“A temp job allows you to get on-the-job experience, try out skill sets and more.”

Amy Cell
Senior VP for talent enhancement, MEDC

Temporary job statistics

• Number of temp agency jobs in Michigan in 2013	113,666
• Increase in temp agency jobs since 2009	66 percent
• Average annual salary of Michigan temp jobs	\$25,872
• Average length of U.S. temp positions	66 days
• Percent of U.S. temp positions that lead to a permanent job	6.8 percent
• Average hourly wages of temp jobs	
Light industrial manufacturing	\$9.53
Electronic assembly workers	\$10.39
Office workers	\$12.19
Accounting and finance	\$19.62
Scientific positions	\$20.91
Health care professionals	\$23.90
Information technology workers	\$24.20
Engineers	\$27.15
Overall average	\$11.40

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

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SHOPPING

Continued from Front Page

Glik's in Fenton had a "fabulous" holiday season, according to store manager Sara DeBord. The North Face and UGG boots are just a couple of the most popular brands that brought customers in. "A lot of trendy women are looking for stylish clothing and accessories, and that's what we're known for," said DeBord. "We're family-owned and small, so what we have is more unique."

The Iron Grate has been a shopping staple in Fenton for 35 years and owner Elizabeth Dickens, along with her daughters, Tara and Kirsty, said they had a very good season.

"Our return customers are so supportive and we keep getting new customers coming in," said Dickens. "There seems to be a new awareness about shopping local, plus the revitalization of downtown Fenton brings more people out walking." She also credits a strong association with The Laundry for their store's success. "The logistics of it all is falling into place."

This was Susan's Hallmark of Fenton's first holiday season at their new location next to VG's Grocery on Silver Parkway, and sales consultant Katie Berlin noticed much more foot traffic here. "We sold a lot of Elf on the Shelf and its accessory clothing, Frozen-themed ornaments, First Christmas ornaments and boxed cards," she said.

Kit Maloney, owner of Thimbleberry Antiques in Linden, had a "very good" Christmas season. "A lot of new people came in and said they'd be back," said Maloney. "We also had a very strong Shop Small Saturday, and shoppers mentioned they were trying to keep their purchases local."

She added that Fenton people are discovering her shop and that new businesses in Linden are also bringing in more people. "Clothing was our biggest seller, especially tunic tops for leggings."

Stephanie Stutts, owner of Village Ace Hardware in Linden, said the unseasonable warm temperatures in December slowed down sales of typical winter items like shovels and snow throwers, especially compared to the December figures from 2013. But she sees more people shopping locally, especially as more businesses come into Linden.

"One of our most unusual and popular items was a Yeti cooler for hunters and boaters," said Stutts. "We've also

branched out into more gift items."

Fun, flirty items like scarves, gloves and hats were big sellers for Christmas at The French Flamingo in downtown Holly. "We exceeded our expectations this year," said owner Sandra Kleven. "Women loved our texting gloves and we sold every one of our funky little hats. Scarves were popular, too. We are very happy for the support of our local people."

Gift certificates and stocking stuffers were the biggest sellers at Elements Day Spa in downtown Holly, according to owner Jenny Stilwell. "Our Christmas season went really well," she said. "Most people bought gift certificates for massages, facials and pedicures. Christmas and Mother's Day are our high-volume times for gift certificates."

Stilwell believes that her success follows the vibrancy of Holly's downtown in the last few years. "Our communities now have a lot more places to shop."

Nicole Purdy of Elections in Fenton said, "We have a lot of local support and repeat business from loyal customers. We are very thankful that residents of our communities are supporting local businesses."

Her store was awarded a "Member Favorite" from American Express' Small Business Saturday, recognizing Elections as one of the small local businesses with the most repeat business all year long. "Our customers tend to shop local and return often," she added.

Holiday sales were up for the 10th year in a row at Serendipity Day Spa in Linden. "Our Gift Cards were extremely busy this season and the most popular gift seemed to be a massage and pedicure. This doesn't surprise me as these are our top requested and booked services," said owner Jessica Skop.

"We had an overwhelming response this season with our new pedicures, the Sugar Cookie Martini and the Almond Champagne," she added. "Both are paired with a seasonal beverage with the same name. Due to the response, it has catapulted our future plans of creating a Pedicure Bar with a full menu of pedicures to choose from that are also paired with a specialty drink. The Pedicure Bar will also allow our guests to 'create their own' pedicure. We're very excited!"

Skop also said customers would make comments like, "I like to support our local businesses and I'm glad we have a day spa like yours. You can't find anything like this, even in the Detroit area!"

“Our return customers are so supportive and we keep getting new customers coming in.”

Elizabeth Dickens
The Iron Grate in
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Local oil well part of Michigan's \$4 billion oil industry

► Effects of price drop are being seen locally

By Yvonne Stegall

ystegall@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Hartland Twp. — Men in hardhats and coveralls worked beneath a 60-foot oil rig to the sounds of a rumbling diesel motor and the smell of crude oil on Thursday.

There were fears that the low oil prices would affect the industry in Michigan. At least here, it has. "You're seeing it right here, this is it," said an employee for Merit Energy, overseeing the plugging of an oil site off M-59 and U.S. 23.

The company decided it was not economical to run the rig anymore, which only put out 20 barrels per day at best. Another similar rig a couple miles away is also being shut down. The company will remove the equipment, and be responsible for remediation.

Michigan is ranked 17th in the country for oil production. Rumor has it that if crude oil prices stay low, it may lead to many smaller Michigan oil companies merging, or at least slowing down on the exploration for new oil in our state.

According to Erin McDonough, with the Michigan Oil and Gas Association (MOGA), much of the cost to produce oil and gas is in the initial drilling of the well. Once that is completed, the cost of operating the well is relatively minimal. Lower oil and gas prices will not change much about wells currently in operation, but what it could slow down is new exploration.

McDonough added that Michigan



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Workers for Merit Energy lower equipment by cable into the oil well, which is being plugged and shut down by the company.

is not a state that has historically experienced high peaks and valleys in production like some of the other states that produce much higher volumes of natural gas and oil. The industry here has had consistent, stable production for more than 80 years and that trend is expected to continue.

According to the fact sheet supplied by MOGA, Michigan's oil industry is a

\$4 billion industry that supports nearly 38,000 Michigan jobs. That includes more than 8,000 Michigan workers who are employed directly in Michigan's oil and natural gas exploration and production industry and 37,848 Michigan jobs that are provided by production-related activities.

If Michigan's oil industry is lucky enough to remain relatively unaffected by the dropping crude oil prices, it is projected that by 2035 there will be more than 63,000 Michigan jobs supported by the industry.

MOGA is the association that represents the exploration, drilling, production, transportation, processing and

“Lower oil and gas prices will not change much about wells currently in operation, but what it could slow down is new exploration.”

Erin McDonough, MOGA

storage of crude oil and natural gas in Michigan. They have nearly 1,000 members that include independent oil companies, major oil compa-

nies, and the exploration arms of various utility companies. MOGA is the collective voice of the petroleum industry in Michigan. They are the people to go to in order to learn about any problems and issues facing the various companies involved in Michigan's crude oil and natural gas business.

Associate Editor Tim Jagielo contributed to this story.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

This oil rig is off Lone Pine Road in Hartland Township. Most rigs are on private property, which the company leases from the owner.

Facts on Michigan oil and gas

- **80 percent** of Michigan homeowners use natural gas to heat their homes
- **11 percent** of Michigan's electricity is produced from natural gas
- **Michigan produces approximately 23 percent** of the natural gas our state uses each year; the remainder is imported from other states or Canada
- **Michigan currently has 18 CNG** stations (compressed natural gas) to serve drivers of environmentally friendly, fuel efficient, and low emissions vehicles
- **Michigan is #1** in the nation for underground natural gas storage
- **59 of 83** Michigan counties have oil and/or natural gas production taking place
- **Michigan has produced** oil and natural gas since the early 1900s
- **Approximately 15,000 private** landowners receive more than \$120 million in production royalty payments annually
- **Total annual volume** of natural gas and oil produced in Michigan: 129 billion cubic feet of natural gas and 7.8 million barrels of crude oil, condensate, and natural gas liquids

Source: mogpef.org



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JUICING RECIPES

Cold-fighting juice

- INGREDIENTS:**
2 oranges
1 large carrot
1 orange bell pepper
1 lemon
1 in. piece of turmeric
1 in. piece of ginger

PREPARATION:
Wash all produce. Peel the oranges and lemon and remove the stem and seeds from the pepper. Add all ingredients through the juicer and enjoy!

All-vegetable juice

- INGREDIENTS:**
4 tomatoes
2 celery stalks
8 romaine lettuce leaves
2 Swiss chard leaves and stems
2 rainbow chard leaves and stems
1 large handful of parsley
dash of Tabasco, to taste (optional)
pinch of sea salt and pepper

PREPARATION:
Wash all produce well. Chop produce to fit through juicer chute. Add all ingredients through juicer, top with a dash of hot sauce and a sprinkle of salt and pepper.

SMOOTHIE RECIPES

Vitamin C smoothie

- INGREDIENTS:**
1 1/2 cups coconut water
2 kiwi
1 1/2 cups frozen strawberries
1/2 frozen banana
1/4 avocado
1 tbsp. fresh lime juice
1 tbsp. maple syrup (optional for added sweetness)

PREPARATION:
Wash all produce well. Peel kiwi and remove stem from strawberries. Add all ingredients to blender and blend on high for 45 to 60 seconds until smooth.

Green smoothie

- INGREDIENTS:**
1/4 pineapple (about 1 cup diced) — I like using frozen!
1/2 banana
1 celery stalk
1 – 2 kale leaves
1/2 cucumber
1 handful of mint
1 cup coconut water

PREPARATION:
Wash all produce well. Remove rind and woody core from pineapple. Add all ingredients into a high-powered blender and blend on high for at least 1 minute until all greens are blended well and you reach a smooth consistency.

Source: rebootwithjoe.com

Benefits of juicing and blending

►Popular trend brings more vegetables and fruits into your diet

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

Smoothies have become a drink for health nuts over the past decade, and with all of the news of America being obese, it makes sense that people will be looking toward healthier ways of living, especially now that the new year is here.

Juicing and blending (making smoothies) are both great, but as someone who has tried/done both, this writer prefers smoothies. My biggest issue with juicing though is just the waste that it makes. Juicing removes the pulp from foods. This leaves a gloppy mess of fruit muck that you end up throwing away (however, my husband uses it for some of his trapping baits).

By blending, making smoothies, you are using pulp and all else in your nice, thick drink. Both ways provide fiber and nutrients that are naturally found in fruit and vegetables, but blending gives you more since you aren't throwing away some of that pulp fiber.

However, according to Joe Cross' website, rebootwithjoe.com, when you juice you are removing the insoluble fiber — the pulp. While fiber is good for you, it also slows down the absorption of nutrients and some nutrients stay in the fiber. When you juice, you are extracting up to 70 percent of the nutrition right into your glass, and without the insoluble fiber, your body absorbs 100 percent of these nutrients.

Joe Cross was in the documentary 'Fat, Sick and Nearly Dead,' which is all about the benefits of juicing and how eating a healthier diet rich in fruits and vegetables can help with weight loss and overall health.

Both juicing and blending allow you to add a lot more produce into your diet. It also gives you a chance to consume a wider variety of them. If you look at the ingredients in the smoothies or juices you make, you will see that you get a lot more than you would sitting down and eating a salad.

If you want to juice, it's as simple as going to the store and buying a juicer.

Summary

►Both juicing and blending are great ways to get added vitamins and minerals in your diet.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Smoothies can be compiled of many ingredients, not just limited to fruits, vegetables, nuts and some form of liquid.

There are many great brands. Some last longer than others and some pull more juice from your fruits and vegetables than others do.

Blenders are a whole other story though. While you may think your normal kitchen blender can do the job, you will probably find out that it doesn't make your smoothies as smooth as they should be. That's why it is better to buy a 'nutrition extractor' type blender, like a NutriBullet or Nutri Ninja. Both get great reviews, and have different versions available. If you have some extra cash to spend, you can get a professional-grade Vitamix blender for a few hundred dollars.

ASK THE MECHANIC
Chris Wilkinson, Certified Mechanic

Q: I just hit a huge pot hole in the road. I blew out my tire and bent my rim. Where should I look for other damage that may have been done to my vehicle that may not be so obvious?

A: I would start by looking for broken springs, leaking shocks or struts, other than that my best advise is to have a repair shop do a thorough inspection as well as a front alignment. Most technicians can spot damage that may not look like damage to the untrained eye. We look for fresh flaking rust and bushings that may be out of place that could indicate problems. A front end alignment is very important after this type of damage, as it will show items that are out of adjustment or may have been damaged beyond the range of adjustment and should be replaced or sent to a frame shop.

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Social News

ANNIVERSARY



DOYLES TO CELEBRATE 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Joseph and Betty Doyle of Fenton will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary January 16th. Doyle, and the former Betty Maciejewski of Alpena were married at St. Agnes Catholic Church in Flint on January 16, 1965. They have three children: Sean (Joy) Doyle of Swartz Creek, Michelle Doyle of Petoskey and Steven (Jennifer) Doyle of Commerce Township. They also have seven grandchildren: Kyle, Cassandra, Kristian, Kaleb, Joshua, Kaitlyn and Colin. They will be celebrating their vow renewal at St. Rita Catholic Church on January 17, 2015 with their children. They will then have a celebration with extended family and friends in April 2015.

Keep up with the Times

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inBusiness

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

Red Fox Footwear is 'up and running'

Young owners bring new demographic and enthusiasm for styles, custom fitting

Jesse Anderson and Nick Brown aren't your typical 24-year-olds who aren't yet sure what they want to do with their lives.

Friends in Fenton since they were 4 years old, this hardworking duo 'hit the ground running' last year with a business plan to open a retail shoe store in Fenton, based on their years of experience with both the sport of running and the retail shoe business.

Red Fox Footwear was born from that dream, opening its doors in downtown Fenton on April 30, 2014 after four months of building renovations and gaining the confidence of potential suppliers. "One of the biggest compliments we've gotten is when someone asked, 'who designed the store for you?' and we were able to answer, 'we did,'" said Brown, who admits to being the handy one of the two.

Even the name came quickly. "We knew we wanted to keep it general and Nick mentioned 'Red Fox,' not even knowing those are my favorite animals," said Anderson. "It was a two-minute conversation."

Their love of running was the tie that bound them both to their goal. "We both ran track and cross country at Fenton High School and I still run today," said Anderson. "Our biggest push was working at Bauman's (running store in Flint) during high school and college and learning the importance of custom-fitting people for their shoes, whether they were runners or not."

Learning how to custom-fit people's shoes, whether they're buying athletic wear, casual shoes or outdoor/work boots, has been the key to these business partners' success in a competitive marketplace. "We analyze how a customer walks and can narrow down for them the shoes that will be most beneficial for their particular gait or foot



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIMJAGIELO

Red Fox Footwear owners Jesse Anderson (right) and Nick Brown have operated the store at the site of the former Kirkey Shoes since April.

issue," said Anderson.

Their unique selection of footwear — and willingness to listen to suggestions from customers — has also been a boon for business. "We try to get shoes that reflect the demographics of our customers and former Kirkey's customers," said Anderson. Red Fox Footwear has come in on the heels of Kirkey Shoes & Repair, which was in business in this same retail space for more than 50 years.

In fact, Kirkey's biggest sellers are now Red Fox Footwear's most popular brands: Red Wing and New Balance. Other brands in casual wear apparel and shoes include Adidas, Merrell, Patagonia, Sperry, Timberland, Altra, On Running, Smartwool, Wigwam and more.

For Anderson and Brown, the biggest challenge in business was turning their dreams of a store into the physical reality of a retail business. "It was tough to get the brands we wanted, but we did it 100 percent," said Anderson. They've both been amazed by the shopping support of the Fenton community, bolstered, they feel, by the new business developments downtown.

"It's beginning to feel like a 'walking downtown,' with people coming in after having a drink somewhere," said Anderson. "We're coming to downtown Fenton at a good time. We're here for the long haul."



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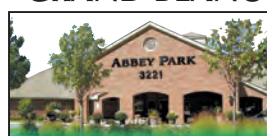


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Business briefs

GUENTER BEHOLZ JEWELERS IS MOVING TO A LARGER LOCATION IN DOWNTOWN FENTON

Guenter Beholz Jewelers, a European style jewelry shop, which has been located next to The Laundry/The Laundry Room on Shiawassee Avenue for years is moving Wednesday, Jan. 14 to a larger location at 102 North LeRoy Street, Suite B. This location is just south of the new Cornerstone building. The Laundry Room is expanding and Guenter Beholz Jewelers wants to stay involved in the Fenton community. The shop will continue to be known for old-world quality and workmanship with their custom jewelry design, bridal sets, as well as their specialty in watch repair. They also have their own line of private label GB watches with Swiss movements. Stop by for cake and refreshments at their Grand Opening on Friday, Jan. 16 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Police&Fire
report

LINDEN WOMAN ATTEMPTS TO SHOPLIFT, IS ARRESTED

At 5:30 p.m. on Jan. 3, Fenton police responded to a grocery store in the 18000 block of Silver Parkway for an attempted shoplifting incident. Lt. Jason Slater said a loss prevention employee had a 59-year-old Linden woman in custody for attempting to steal \$27 worth of merchandise. Apparently, the woman completed a transaction at check-out, however, she failed to pay for the \$27 worth of items she concealed in her purse. The employee confronted her once outside and called police. The woman has a Feb. 9 court date for attempted retail fraud. She told police that medication she is currently on is responsible for her making poor decisions.

DRINKING AND ARGUING OVER WOMAN LEADS TO ASSAULT

A 44-year-old Linden man was issued a court appearance ticket for assault and battery on Jan. 5. Linden Police Chief Scott Sutter said police responded to a home in the 500 block of East Broad Street at 3:24 a.m. to investigate a complaint. Reportedly, a 56-year-old Linden resident who lives at the home had the 44-year-old Linden man over and they were drinking. An argument over a woman ensued and the younger man left. The friend returned and knocked on the front door. When the homeowner opened the door, the male friend punched him in the face several times and then left on a snowmobile. The victim told police he drank between 10 and 15 beers and the suspect had been drinking vodka. The suspect turned himself in to police later that day.

FAKE \$20 BILLS

The Fenton Police Department is investigating a counterfeit \$20 bill. Lt. Jason Slater said police responded to a store in the 1000 block of North LeRoy Street on Jan. 8 after learning that a 21-year-old shopper passed two fake \$20 bills. Police spoke with the shopper who said she had received those bills as part of her tip while working at her job in Auburn Hills. She was unaware that they were counterfeit. As standard procedure, the bills will be turned over the Secret Service for investigation.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

PRESIDENT OBAMA HANDLED the Paris terrorist attacks typically. The mass killing was the result of an act of violence by a few lone wolves. Isn't the term lone wolves itself a contradiction? He is a talking points shill for Islam. It's disgraceful.

IT'S JUST A nightmare trying to pick a child up at West Shore and Torrey Hill after school!


THE PROBLEM WITH calling the U.S. a Christian nation is that even the Christians don't agree with what that is. Religion and politics are uneasy soulmates. They definitely should not be sleeping in the same bed.

HAVE YOU EVER noticed that we jail the petty criminals and elect the really bad ones to public office.


A LEADER IN the Democratic party is a boss. In the Republican party he or she is a leader.

IT WOULDN'T TAKE much these days to become a vegetarian with the high price of meat, like beef. With the gas prices being down food prices should be going down too.

FOX NEWS BASHERS need to cite their sources when offering fact check percentages. After watching all the major news outlets on TV, I find Fox to be the most balanced when presenting news stories. At least they do not censor by omission and allow the viewer to draw their own conclusion.




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Calendar of
events

FENTON FILM SERIES PRESENTS 'LE CHEF'

The Fenton Film Series (FFS) will present a free event, showing the French film, "Le Chef," at the Fenton Community and Cultural Center on **Wednesday, Jan. 14 at 7 p.m.** This comedy, "as airy as a soufflé," is a feel-good movie for food lovers. Now in its fifth year, the FFS continues with its mission of showing free, high-quality movies every month. The movies are presented free, thanks to the generous donations from sponsors.


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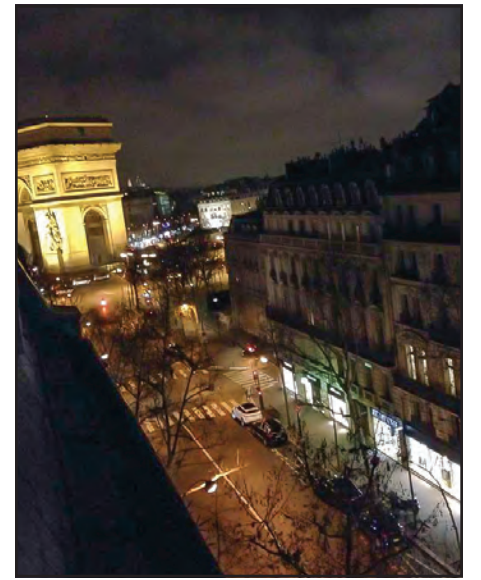
Continued from Front Page

Jennie is receiving updates from Caitlin and Evan using his international cell phone.

At about 11:30 a.m. Paris time, (5:30 a.m. local time) three gunmen stormed the offices of the French weekly publication, Charlie Hebdo, which published images depicting Mulsim Prophet Muhammed. The gunmen, who claimed to be from Al-Qaida in Yemen, killed 12 people, including Charlie Hebdo's editor and three political cartoonists during an editorial meeting. Paris police officer also fatally shot outside the building.

The deadly incident in Paris has been deemed a terrorist attack and the assailants have been identified. The suspects were killed by Paris police on Friday.

Caitlin graduated from Hillsdale College in December. Since she had some free time while searching for a job, she felt now was a good time to visit Korchnak, who attends Oklahoma University and is completing a year-long, study-abroad program in Paris at Université Paris Dauphine.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO

Evan Korchnak's apartment overlooks the 16th arrondissement district of Paris. Looking out his window, he and Caitlin Nelson have a view of the Arc de Triomphe.

"I arrived January 2 and we have been absolutely enjoying our time here together and being able to see the wonderful sights Paris has to offer," said Caitlin through Facebook. "This attack will definitely not hinder that."

"We plan on visiting Notre Dame and St. Chapelle tomorrow. While the attack has Paris life on high alert, we are not grounded. We went shopping today, got groceries and resumed our normal daily activities. I hope the suspects will be apprehended soon, but it will definitely not stop us from enjoying our time here!"

From his apartment, which is about four miles from the attack, Evan said via Facebook, "We heard about it on the news and decided to postpone the plans we had for today."

In lieu of that, we chose to stay local, do some shopping, and get groceries. For most, life goes on as normal. Some have chosen to show their support in a public square called Place de la République.

"We have chosen to stay in tonight and will certainly be attentive to our surroundings when we go out tomorrow."

In addition to hearing about the attack on his computer, Evan said he received a text message from his mother, Claudia Korchnak, an employee of Lake Fenton schools. Evan said, "It is concerning that the assailants have not been apprehended, but we do not feel personally threatened. We are being cautious, although we do not think any further attacks are likely in the immediate future."

When asked if he'd heard much of Charlie Hebdo while living in Paris, Evan said, "I was familiar with the previous incidents that occurred regarding their publication of cartoons and the firebombing of their offices in 2011. I don't read Charlie Hebdo, and neither of us were aware that they were currently receiving threats."

Putting her thoughts together about her visit, Caitlin said, "I don't think that I ever imagined I would be this close to such an attack, but it is definitely something that is possible in today's turmoil, especially residing in a large city such as Paris."

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO
Blythe Avenue in Linden was named after a person named Blythe Sleeman.

ROAD

Continued from Page 3A
street names in the U.S., and the most popular street name is “Second” or “2nd,” because “First Street” is often replaced with “Main Street.”

When it comes to Linden area roads, according to Barbara Kincaid, curator at Linden Museum, “Our museum has a map dated 1873 of Genesee County and Linden with property owners listed in both North and South Linden. Though the Rolston and Lahring names are not on that map, those families did own land in the Linden outlying areas.” She added that, “What is now West Rolston Road was once Railroad Street, as it ran parallel to the Detroit & Milwaukee railroad tracks.”

Pete Maas, a member of the Linden Historical Society, said in an email, “Nearly all roads and streets in the Linden area are named for former residents. There are probably over a hundred streets and roads named for individuals, many are just a first name, e.g. Margaret Drive, Jeffrey Court, Eleanor, Darcy, Heather Court, etc. Fenton also has a

history of giving first names to roads, such as Adelaide, which is named after William M. Fenton’s wife (where Fenton Road and the city’s name came from).

Many of these roads still have family members living on them, like Lahring and McCaslin Roads, according to Bethany Carr, president of the Argentine Historical Society. Carr is a descendent of the Cole family and the McCaslin family, both of which have roads named after them.

“Nearly all roads and streets in the Linden area are named for former residents.”

Pete Maas
Linden Historical Society member

In Fenton Township, Torrey Road got its name from the big Torrey farm located on the road, thus another family name.

Ken Seger, curator of the Fenton A.J. Phillips Museum, said that Grange Hall Road is named after the actual Grange Hall building, which was located on the road. He also said that North Road was

originally Remington Road, a family name. He was unsure why it was changed.

Seger said that Owen Road is also named after a family farm that was located on that roadway. The name was originally Owens, but for some reason unknown to him they dropped the “s” when naming the road.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO
Local lore states that Battle Alley in Holly was named such because of the bar brawls that took place there.



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Better ways to waste time online

► Mind-expanding
websites are fun to use

By Yvonne Stegall

ystegall@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

It's probably not a lie to say that a high percentage of people, of all ages, spend far too much time on social media sites, like Facebook and Twitter. With smartphones and tablets, it's even easier for people to spend more time connected, even before they get out of bed in the morning.

You could be doing far more productive things with your online time though. You can learn something new, peruse the news, train your brain, and so much more.

Learn something new

Many, many places online offer free courses. You can learn about history, art, science, and even communications. Some of these sites offer paid courses too, which allow you a certificate of completion. However, if you just want to learn and don't care about having proof, you can take free courses.

The courses usually involve watching videos of real professors talk about the topic of choice, and sometimes include a test or two to make sure you are actually learning the information. Some of these sites include Coursera, OpenLearn, iVersity and Academic Earth.

Peruse the news

If you're a news buff, try learning the news from somewhere other than your Facebook feed. Flipboard is an amazing app where you can collect news and lifestyle stories and share them with your friends. Ever read something in the paper and wanted to refer to it again later but struggled to find it? This app helps with that.

TED.com is another place to spend some quality online time where you can learn a thing or two, listen to speeches by innovative people, and maybe even be inspired to change your own little world for the better.

Train your brain

If you are one of the people who are addicted to the many games that Facebook has to offer, you can actually go play games elsewhere online that will help improve your brain function and memory. Lumosity, which you may have seen or heard commercials for, offers fun games that help improve recall and memory. Games that can make you smarter are most likely a better waste of time than Candy Crush.

There are websites that offer free yoga videos and free meditation tracks. These both help your brain and body. If yoga is your thing, Learning Yoga and Do Yoga



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Instead of wasting time on Facebook or Twitter, find some better ways to waste time online and maybe learn something new in the process.

Other places to productively waste time online

- **www.vocabulary.com** — The quickest, most intelligent and fun way to improve your vocabulary.
- **www.spreader.com** — It's a free online speed reading software designed to improve your reading speed and comprehension.
- **www.howtodothings.com** or **www.wikihow.com/Main-Page** — Learn how to do anything with step-by-step instructions.
- **www.howstuffworks.com** — A wholly owned subsidiary of Discovery Communications is the award-winning source of credible, unbiased, and easy-to-understand explanations of how certain things actually work. From car engines to search engines, from cell phones to stem cells, and thousands of subjects in between, HowStuffWorks has it covered.
- **www.todayifoundout.com** — Learn some new and amazing facts every day.

Source: lifehack.org

With Me are both great websites with free videos and instruction for the beginner and the pro. If you want to learn to relax your brain with meditation, look up Learn Meditation.

Find a new hobby

There are also many websites that share how-to's, for those who want to learn something new. Pinterest isn't the only place to find DIY projects. Look into other sites like Do it Yourself, Howcast and Instructables.

You can spend productive time online and maybe even learn a thing or two. You just need to get a little creative and step out of that social media comfort zone.

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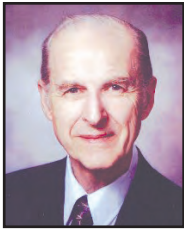


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Featured columnist

By Roger Campbell



Enjoy the sound of silence

How much noise can you pump into your head before you begin to drown out God's voice? This question introduces an article by Joseph Benz, which appeared in the daily devotional booklet 'In Touch,' titled 'This Noisy Life.'

Benz, the author of 'Silent God: Finding Him When You Can't Hear His Voice,' observes that it's not hard to spend every waking (and sleeping) moment connected to some sort of device that injects information into our brains, writing: 'From morning till night, we're bombarded by 24-hour news channels, billboards, Websites, email, and other potential mental clamor.'

The Psalmist advised those going through great trials to be still and know that God is in control (Psalm 46:10). But how can our hearts be stilled when our minds are filled with unnerving news?

At one time, I was so hooked on being in touch with every late breaking headline that the tuning buttons on my car radio were set to enable me to hear the latest news reported as quickly as possible by those whom I felt were most able to keep me informed.

Then, while passing through a period of great stress, I suddenly realized that part of my trouble was of my own making. I was feeding my fears by always reaching out for all the trouble I could grasp. As a result, I reset my radio buttons and started tuning out much of what I had been inviting into my mind. The positive results of this move proved to be pleasantly surprising. The silence silenced my fears and increased personal peace.

Benz warns that the real danger of being ruled by a noisy life is that all these distractions can lure us away from God, adding that another result of this continual clatter filling our brains may cause Him to be just one more item to multitask. In his words: 'The addictive quality of this perpetual din is what makes it so tough to get under control. We may move from not being able to escape it to not really wanting to. Take away our email or cell phones, even for a short time, and we feel deprived, maybe even panicky.'

How then can we break this desire for noise and bondage to our toys? An important resource for achieving such freedom has for many been having a daily appointment in a quiet place for prayer and Bible reading.

Our Lord frequently took His disciples away from the crowds that followed them so He could teach them without being disturbed. Isaiah, the prophet, was told he could find strength for his many responsibilities and trials through quietness and confidence (Isaiah 30:15).

Times of quietness and prayer that work well for some may be impractical for others, but the basic ingredients for achieving a quiet heart in the midst of this commercial clatter are the same: a desire to break the bondages that monopolize our lives and steal the sweet sounds of silence we need to build our faith.

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

Because you asked...

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

Should I report scam emails to authorities?

Q. I get scam, or fraudulent, emails often, most of the time telling me about some large sum of money owed to me if I just email them my full name, address, phone number and birth date. I know that these are scams, and I often just delete the email, but I wondered if there was something more proactive I could be doing with them, like forwarding them on to someone to look into them.

A. First, there is a technical term for this fraud, it is called "phishing." According to the United States Computer Emergency Readiness Team (US-CERT), "phishing is an attempt by an individual or group to solicit personal information from unsuspecting users by employing social engineering techniques.

These fraud emails are crafted to appear as if they have been sent from a legitimate organization or known individual. These emails often attempt to entice users to click on a link that will take the user to a fraudulent website that appears legitimate, or ask them to respond with certain items of personal information, like their full name, address and telephone number.

You can report phishing emails by forwarding them to phishing-report@us-cert.gov. If you cannot forward the email message, US-CERT suggests that at a minimum, send the URL of the phishing website.

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Notes of thanks

We would like to express our profound appreciation to Drs. Walton, Osmun and Bishop of Companion Animal Hospital for providing such excellent care for our border collie, Flye, over the years and allowing her to pass away with dignity at the end.

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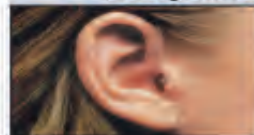
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***TAKEN 3 (PG13)**

FRI-SAT 10:00 1:40 4:25 7:10 9:50 11:55

SUN-WED 10:00 1:40 4:25 7:10 9:50

THUR 10:00 1:40 4:25 7:10 9:50 11:55

STARTING THUR JAN 15

***AMERICAN SNIPER (R)**

THUR 7:00 9:50 12:05

***BLACKHAT (R)**

THUR 8:00 10:45 12:05

***PADDINGTON (PG)**

THUR 7:00 9:20 12:05

****THE WEDDING RINGER (R)**

THUR 7:15 9:45 12:05

CONTINUING

***THE WOMAN IN BLACK 2**

ANGEL OF DEATH (PG13)

UNBROKEN (PG13)

THE GAMBLER (R)

INTO THE WOODS (PG)

BIG EYES (PG13)

WILD (R)

NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM:

SECRET OF THE TOMB (PG)

***ANNIE (PG)**

***@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)

2D EXODUS: GODS AND KINGS (PG13)

HORRIBLE BOSSES 2 (R)

2D PENGUINS OF MADAGASCAR (PG)

THE HUNGER GAMES:

MOCKINGJAY PART 1 (PG13)

2D BIG HERO 6 (PG)

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BOOK

Continued from Page 6A

to be available. You can also opt for publishing an eBook, which can be done through Kindle and other online outlets.

As a self-published author, this reporter has looked into Lulu.com and createspace.com. I opted with the latter because I liked that I could set my full-color children's picture book prices lower with them. They



don't have as many binding options as Lulu does; in fact, they only have one choice when it comes to binding. I found that they work best for me though.

If you have some money to

put into your book, both of these sites offer different options for people who have some kind of funding, including many editing packages. There are other publishers with upfront costs, like Xlibris, which have publishing packages that start around \$500.

The downfall of self-publishing is that you need to do your own promoting. That means letting people know about your book, setting up a website, contacting local news, and finding any opportunity you can to get out there and sell and sign autographs.

Brenda Hasse, a self-published author from Fenton said, "The most difficult part is marketing my self-published books. It can be expensive and takes a lot of time. With many authors turning to self-publishing, there are many books to compete against." It helps that she has gotten her books out at local venues, such as Fenton's Open Book.

There are also rewards to self-publishing. Another local Fenton author, Jennifer Frisch-Ferguson, said, "One of the most rewarding things is talking with people who have read the work and enjoyed it! It's nice to have others enjoy the world I have created."

W.C. Hoffman, also from Fenton, said his favorite part is the review.



**Michigan
wolves are
returned
to the
endangered
list,** removing
property owners'
rights to protect farm
animals and pets.

State's wolves returned to endangered list

►Big win for Humane Society is perceived as a loss for U.P.

By Yvonne Stegall

ystegall@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Michigan wolves are back on the endangered list. A federal court judge has ordered the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to immediately return wolves in the Great Lakes region to the federal endangered species list.

While many people may find this to be a win, it also makes it illegal for Michigan citizens to kill wolves attacking livestock, dogs, and other pets. The only legal time a wolf can be shot is when a human life is in immediate danger.

Dan Eichinger, executive director of Michigan United Conservation Club (MUCC) issued the following statement. "We are extremely disappointed by the DC District Court's ruling, which effectively moves wolves back under federal management. It is an irrefutable fact that wolves have exceeded biological recovery goals in Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota and no longer require the protections of the federal Endangered Species Act."

Eichinger added, "This ruling, in no way, undermines the Scientific Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act (SFWCA), a citizen-initiated law that was passed by the Legislature in August and which will take effect in March. Whenever wolves

are no longer a political and fundraising prisoner of anti-science organizations like the Humane Society of the United States, Michigan's professional wildlife managers will be able to capably manage wolves because of SFWCA."

While the MUCC and the DNR see this as a loss, Eichinger said, "We will be evaluating our legal and legislative options for moving forward." While this is loss for wildlife control, hunters and landowners within the areas the wolves roam, it is also a win for some, like the Humane Society of the U.S. (HSUS), which has been fighting this since the beginning.

Jill Fritz, Michigan senior state director

of HSUS, said, "We are pleased that the court has recognized that the basis for the delisting decision was flawed and would impede wolf recovery in its tracks."

In November, Michigan voters had the opportunity to cast their votes on a couple of proposals about the wolf hunt. The referendum to reject wolf hunting had the support of 55 percent of Michigan voters, and the referendum to reject the authority of the Natural Resources Commission to establish a

wolf-hunting season had the support of 64 percent of voters.

Many believe that this vote should have only gone to those in counties in which the wolves actually live. Let those who deal with them on a daily basis be the ones to determine what should be done.

**“We are
extremely
disappointed
by the DC
District Court’s
ruling, which
effectively moves
wolves back
under federal
management.”**

Dan Eichinger

Executive director of Michigan
United Conservation Club

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ONLINE EXCLUSIVES

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TRIVIA PRO FOOTBALL

Q How many interceptions did Bobby Layne throw in the 1954 NFL Championship game?

A He threw six of them in the Lions' 56-10 loss to the Cleveland Browns. The Lions had nine turnovers overall.

LAKE FENTON WINTER CLASSIC CANCELLED

When Lake Fenton Winter Classic coordinator Sean Lapham moved to South Carolina for a job transfer, he knew it would be tough to keep the pond hockey tourney alive.

It proved harder than he thought.

In a prepared statement, Lapham wrote that the annual pond hockey event held at Barnum Lake will be cancelled.

"We made a decision that the tournament was not ready to happen," Lapham wrote. "I am not going to risk the safety or the experience that so many of you have learned to love and expect."

This year's event would've been the fourth-annual, and the event was the brainchild of Lapham.

"Along the years I have made a lot of great friends because of the tournament," Lapham wrote. "The tournament is something I used to pull together my family, friends and teammates once a year for a great weekend. There are many memories that will always live on from the Lake Fenton Winter Classic"

Ebert's prediction proves correct

► Fenton's senior QB is our 2014 Football Player of the Year

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

Ross Ebert wasn't expecting to make some pronounced comment that would stick through the entire Fenton varsity football season.

When asked what his expectations for the upcoming football season at the Metro League's first media day, he simply explained what he felt.

"I want to win the Metro, but I want to win it outright," Ebert said with certainty. "I don't want to share it with anyone."

The comment resonated through the entire varsity football season. And when it ended, the Tigers, in fact, did capture at least a share of their fourth straight Metro League crown. And they also did what Ebert said would happen — the Tigers won it outright.

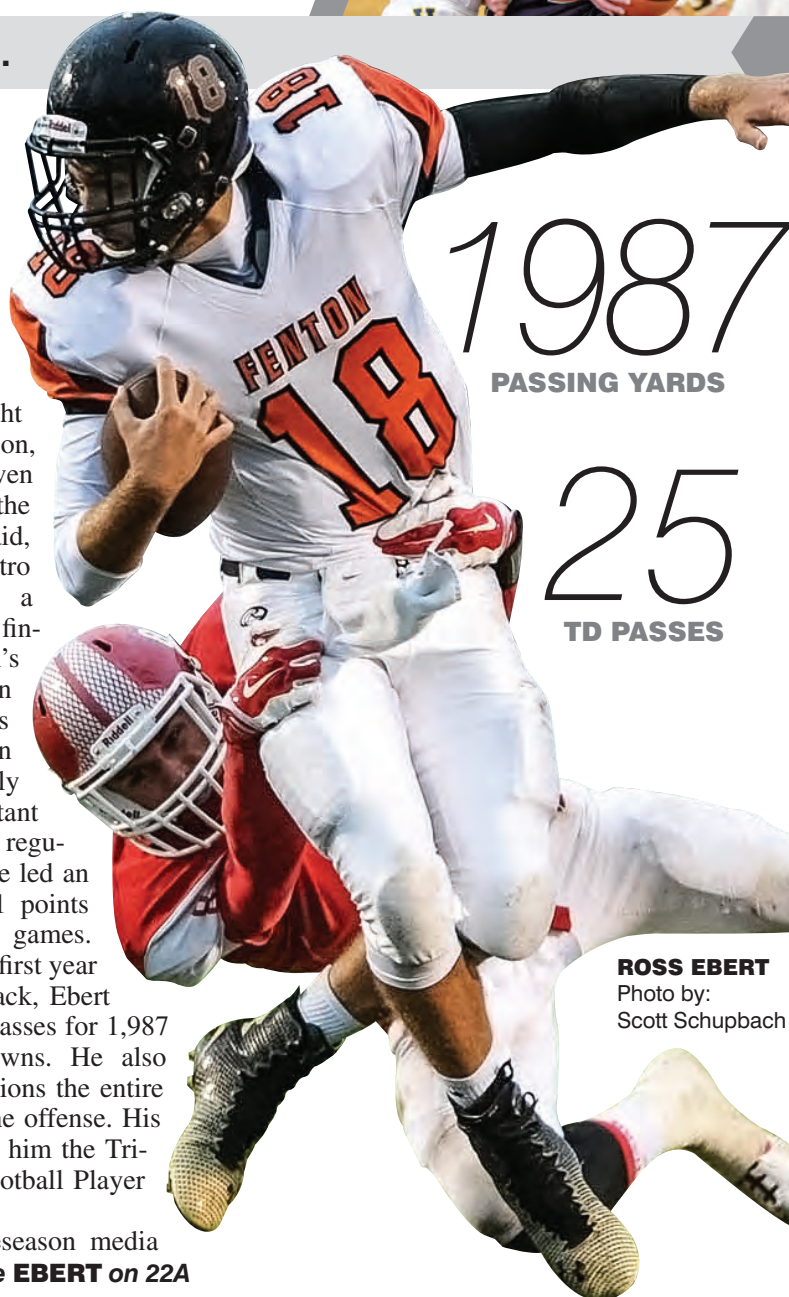
"To be honest, I was not expecting that comment to turn out the way it did," Ebert said recently. "And then it was brought back up week nine of the season. It's pretty cool, looking back on it and thinking I can't believe I said that. I was confident when I said it and it eventually happened."

The Tigers cruised right through the regular season, with only a few games even being competitive. Like the senior quarterback said, the Tigers won the Metro League outright with a perfect 7-0 mark while finishing with the team's first 9-0 regular season since 1985. And Ebert's words were more than talk. There was probably no player more important in Fenton's undefeated regular football season, as he led an offense that scored 331 points in nine regular-season games. Despite it being just his first year as the starting quarterback, Ebert completed 140-of-224 passes for 1,987 yards and 25 touchdowns. He also threw only six interceptions the entire season, helping spark the offense. His performance has earned him the Tri-County Times' 2014 Football Player of the Year award.

"He went to the preseason media
See **EBERT** on 22A

1987
PASSING YARDS

25
TD PASSES



ROSS EBERT
Photo by:
Scott Schupbach

Holly hoops defeats Lapeer

By David Troppens
dtroppens@tctimes.com

Even strong shooting teams are going to have cold nights occasionally.

The Bronchos' starters had one for a good chunk of its game against Lapeer, but the bench heated up just in time to capture a 49-38 victory.

Jake Daniels scored nine
See **HOLLY** on 21A

Linden wrestlers upset Brandon

► Lake Fenton also sweeps recent dual

By David Troppens
dtroppens@tctimes.com

Those who have described the Linden varsity wrestling team as young, should use another word to describe the team.

How about "talented?"

The Eagles came back from behind to defeat ninth-ranked Brandon, 39-31. They

also defeated Flushing 45-25 to improve to 2-0 during the Metro League season.

"This was an amazing atmosphere," Linden wrestling coach Todd Skinner said. "The team really came together tonight because everyone had a role to play, and I couldn't be more proud of them. We have really been breaking things down in our practices and working on the

finer details and our conditioning. This team has common goals and they are slowly coming together."

Linden trailed 25-18 with five matches left, but Jaylin Steedman (189), Austin McNeill (215) and Justin Cygnar (103) earned pinfall wins during the final stretch, earning the Eagles the team victory against Brandon. Aaron
See **WRESTLERS** on 21A



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Fenton swimmers making progress

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

The Fenton varsity boys swim team is right where the squad needs to be according to coach Brad Jones.

The winter break ended for the Tigers with a dual meet against Grand Blanc and Fenton had a respectable showing, losing 111-74 against the Bobcats.

Fenton finished with four firsts. The 400 freestyle relay team of Zac Miceli, Kyle Banner, Ian MacPhail-Fausey and Austin Landis capped the meet with a first-place time of 3:35.64. There were three other individual firsts. Diver Adam Kildow earned one in diving (184.30), while Landis posted one in the 100 freestyle (51.89). Finally, Miceli earned a first in the 200 individual medley (2:12.73).

The Tigers had four individual seconds, including two by Banner. He finished runner-up in the 200 freestyle (1:58.58) and in the 500 freestyle (5:25.67). Miceli took second in the 100 butterfly (58.21) and Austin Landis was runner-up in the 100 backstroke (1:00.17).

"I was pleased with our times coming out of the break," Jones said.

"We are where I was hoping to be after Christmas."

Tigers struggle vs. Hartland, 64-34

►Eagles figure out Fenton's press to earn easy victory

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

Hartland — The Fenton varsity boys basketball team probably wishes the holiday break lasted a couple of more days.

It probably would've been in the Tigers' interest to have Tuesday's game against Hartland never happen at all.

Hartland broke Fenton's press and it resulted in numerous easy layups, resulting in a 64-34 Eagles' victory at Hartland High School.

It seemed every time the Eagles broke Fenton's press, not only did it result in a layup, but it became an unmolested layup with no one near the blocks to defend the shot. And when Hartland was forced to play in the halfcourt, the Eagles were pretty good too. They passed the ball to find the open man and earned a slew of open shots with their ball distribution. The end result was Hartland nailed a sizzling 57 percent of its shots (27-for-47) with five of their hoops being three-pointers.

Conversely, the Tigers' offense struggled all night long, using individualistic play to try to create points. It didn't work as Fenton hit on just 25 percent of its shots (13-for-52).

"We definitely didn't put our best foot forward, that's for certain," Fenton coach Tim Olszewski said. "Our team was almost unrecognizable compared to the



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | MARK BOLEN

Fenton's Dillon Gardner attempts a shot during the Tigers' loss to Hartland on Tuesday. Gardner scored 11 points in the contest.

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other games we've played. You have to give Hartland a lot of credit too. They are strong with the basketball. They didn't get rattled. They took care of the basketball. They found the open man. They took advantage of all the things that can be exposed when you play this way, and I thought they executed really well. Conversely, I didn't think we fully committed to what we are trying to do. ... There's no magic potions to anything. It's you either do it or you don't, and we have to do a better job of executing our plan like Hartland did."

The Eagles jumped on Fenton quickly. Fenton's Beau LePage opened the contest's scoring with a layup, but Hartland scored the game's next eight points after it. The final six of those points came on three-pointers by Eric Mundinger-Smith. Fenton cut the cap to 11-8 on two converted free throws by LePage with 2:33 left, but Hartland broke Fenton's press for two layups on its next two possessions, and ended the half with a three-pointer by Paul Konlan. Fenton trailed 18-9 after one quarter.

The second quarter was Fenton's worst of the game. Hartland had no less than three easy layups created by breaking the Tigers' press and Fenton managed just two field goals during the eight-minute period.

Fenton was as close as 22-15 after a conventional three-point play by Dillon Gardner, but Hartland capped the quarter by scoring the final 20 points of the half. The Eagles led 42-15 at the break. Fenton never got back into the game after that.

Hartland's Nathan Huerta was the primary beneficiary of the Eagles' ability to break the press, scoring a game-high 19 points. Most of those came on layups. Meanwhile, the only quarter Fenton even scored double-digits was the fourth and it took a pretty amazing jumper by Greg Lukas with 57.6 seconds left to do that. LePage finished with 11 points, while Gardner had 10. Fenton turned the ball over 16 times.

"This was not a very pleasant experience for us," Olszewski said. "It's a long season yet. I know what we've done earlier against other teams and I know we will find our way again. It's just what we have to do."

PREP REPORT

HOCKEY

► **KBH United 6, Metro League Griffins 4:** The Kearsley, Brandon and Holly co-op squad got four goals from Shawn Larsen and earned the victory. KBH United led 4-1 after one period, but the Griffins cut the lead to 5-4 in the third period. It was a Kirk Wells empty-net goal that ended the game. Kross Kenny also scored for KBH.

The Metro League Griffins were paced by Conor Phillips' two goals, while Brandon Diener and Buck Hudson had a goal each.

BOYS BASKETBALL

► **Linden freshmen 31, Brandon 25:** The Eagles won a defensive battle, holding Brandon to just two first-quarter points. Nick Koan led all scorers with 11 points, while Zach Horst had five points. Noah Giacomantonio, Blake Knox and Seth Mousing had four points each.

► **Linden JV 66, Brandon 44:** The Eagles were paced by Garrett Strang and Jamon Link with 11 points each, while Cole Sarkon had nine points. Cameron Ruscoe and Conor Faught had eight each.

HOLLY

Continued from Page 19A

of his game-high 14 points in the fourth quarter and Isaac Casillas netted 10 points, leading the Bronchos to the non-league victory at home.

Lapeer tried to slow the game down, and the Lighting were able to keep it competitive for most of the contest. Lapeer trailed just 9-7 after one quarter using their stall tactics. However, the Bronchos' bench came in and helped Holly outscore Lapeer 15-6 in the second period. Holly (4-2) led 24-13 entering halftime.

The same pattern followed in the second half. Holly was outscored 19-8 in the third period, allowing Lapeer to tie the contest at 32-all entering the final period. However, the Bronchos' offense, sparked by the bench players, heated up, scoring 17 points in the fourth quarter. The defense also held Lapeer to just six points in the final stanza. The Bronchos opened up the period with a Casillas three-pointer and a Redmond bucket, helping spark the victory. Daniels made six free throws in the fourth, icing it.

"We've seen everything in the book right now. They were intentionally fouling people when we had fast breaks to

keep us from going down the court. They grabbed people without the ball," Holly coach Lance Baylis said. "We are going to see a lot of different gimmicks and ultimately if we want to be a good basketball team we have to figure them out and have to win.

"Our first unit did not play well for the second game in a row and for the second game in a row our second unit gave us a nice halftime lead. ... We have a lot of guys and if someone doesn't play well then we will insert someone else who is."

After Daniels and Casillas, Scott Maki had six points, netting two treys. Paris Partee, Steven Redmond and Morgan Baylis had four points each. Adam Tooley led the team with seven rebounds, while Partee had six.

Girls Basketball

Linden 61, Owosso 40

The Eagles had their most consistent offensive game of the season, scoring at least 12 points in every quarter en route to the non-league win.

Linden jumped out to a 19-8 lead after one quarter, and the Eagles (2-5) never were in trouble of losing that lead. By halftime the edge was 34-19. The Eagles won the second half 27-22.

The Eagles had three players

score in double-digits. Megan Kenney led all scorers with 18 points and a team-high 14 rebounds. Sterling DeGayner netted 15 points, while Taylor Smith had 13. No one for Owosso scored more than eight.

Clio 51,

Lake Fenton 40

The Blue Devils (2-4) were outscored 17-7 in the first quarter and 12-4 in the third period, setting up the loss.

The Blue Devils shot just 28 percent from the field and turned the ball over 19 times, setting up the loss. Lake Fenton also made just 10-of-27 free throws.

Kaitlyn Begley led the Blue Devils with 11 points, while Hannah Garty had 10 points. Lauren Oppenheiser had eight points and four rebounds. Autumn Beardsley had eight rebounds and three blocks before fouling out. Kimberly Roe had five rebounds and three steals.

Lapeer 43,

Holly 33

Trailing 31-27 after three quarters, Holly was held to six fourth-quarter points, resulting in the loss.

Jenna Pepper and Kaitlyn Smith led Holly with 10 points each, while Paige Reid netted nine points.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | MARK BOLEN

Holly's Scott Maki (left) drives against Linden's Nick Russow in a recent contest. Holly defeated Lapeer 49-38 on Tuesday.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPENS

Linden's Aaron Steedman (face seen) won a key match in the Eagles' victory against Brandon on Wednesday.

WRESTLERS

Continued from Page 19A

Steedman (171) started the successful run with a decision victory.

"It was great to see our 103-pound freshman Justin Cygnar win the dual for us," Skinner said. "We were up 33-31 but if he loses, we lose. He just happened to be the last match and boy did he deliver.

... He got a pin and the place went wild."

Also earning pinfall wins against Brandon were Luke Zimmerman (112) and Jaylin Matney (145). Koleton Strauss (119) and Avery Jacobs (152) also won.

Against Flushing, Cygnar (103) and Patrick Kerr (140) earned pinfall wins while Jaylin Steedman (189), McNeill (215) Stojan Prusac (285) won by forfeit. Zimmerman (112) won by technical fall, while Strauss (119) won by major decision. Jacobs (152) and Cade Dickson (160) won by decision.

"We have the utmost respect for Brandon as they were the defending Metro Champions with a 35-3 record last year. They started out the season ranked ninth," Skinner said.

"They entered the dual meet undefeated so we really had to claw for that win. We celebrate tonight, but get back to work tomorrow."

Lake Fenton wrestling vs. Goodrich, Durand

The Blue Devils dominated rivals Goodrich 51-21 and also defeated Durand 56-23 on Tuesday night.

Wrestlers who went 2-0 were A.J. Geyer, Hunter Corcoran, Jackson Nevandowski, Devan Melick, Kienan Hagenstein, Tristen Nevandowski, Trent Hillger and Tyler Ryan.

Lake Fenton travels to Montrose for a GAC battle on Wednesday.

Holly, Fenton wrestling at Swartz Creek

Holly finished the day 1-1, while the Tigers lost both matches.

Holly lost to Clio 48-18, and defeated Fenton 48-18. Fenton also lost to Swartz Creek 60-21.

Holly's winners against Fenton were Wyatt Lupro (215) and Carsen Cuthbert (119) by pin; Trevor Hatfield (135) by major decision and William Greer (152) by decision. Dylan Lupro (160), Bruce Burke (171), Nick Michels (285) and Wy-

att Scribner (112) won by void. Fenton victors were Scott Becker (189) by pinfall, Connor Putman (130) by decision and Anna Hart (140) by void.

The Bronchos also had victories against Clio earned by Jimmy Gray (189) by decision, Lupro (215) by pin, Cuthbert (119) by decision and Danny Stallard (130) by void.

Fenton's victors against Swartz Creek were Becker and Jake Curch by pin and Tommy Adams by decision.

Holly travels to Kearsley for Metro action on Wednesday, while Fenton travels to Brandon.

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EBERT

Continued from Page 19A

meeting and announced he had no intention of sharing the title and our goal was to win it all. That's his type of personality. He's not shy and he's not worried about individual statistics," Fenton head football coach Jeff Setzke said. "All he wants to do is win. That's the way he comes across. He's very emotional. When something good happens, he's into it. Kids can rally behind his personality. Coming to that meeting and saying his intentions to win the title outright takes guts, but he backed it up. That's what Ross is all about."

A first-year senior starting quarterback

It seems with each passing season the Tigers have a senior who will be starting his first season as the quarterback. This year was no exception. Ebert had to wait his time to become the head signal-caller.

"It's tough waiting, but it's tough on all of us," Ebert said. "We always get a fair shot in the preseason. I don't want to create the misconception the senior always gets it. We all work to get that spot, but having that extra year as a junior — learning and watching the quarterback before you — you learn what to do and what not to do. And I think that's why I think we continue to produce quarterbacks every year."

"James Claborn was starting last year and James was in the same boat as Ross, and so was Connor Davidson. He had Houston Shaw ahead of him, and they all ended up becoming All-league kids," Setzke said. "They all had to patiently wait their turn. They all did their work with the scout team. Like the quarter-

backs before him, Ross did his best work in practice, knowing he was not going to get much of a chance to play (at quarterback). But it prepared him when he went into his senior year. He had all the tools."

Ebert said it took a few games to make the position comfortably his. He started the season conservative, but eventually felt more comfortable to attack the field more.

"In my first varsity start against Davison, I tried to play conservatively — make the wide open pass and make the easy pass. I didn't want to try to force anything," Ebert said. "I did that probably for the first three to four games. I actually threw a pick in my first four games, but then after that didn't throw another one until Linden. I had a stretch from week five to week eight where I didn't throw any because I felt comfortable, realized I could take more chances and not be so worried about screwing things up, but making things happen."

Ebert did that with regularity. Ebert and the offense did so much damage to the opposition that the first string rarely played in the fourth quarter. During those four weeks when Ebert didn't throw a pick he completed 48-of-71 passes for 682 yards and 10 touchdowns. In most of those games, Ebert's day was done early in the second half.

But his crowning game was Fenton's 35-29 victory against Linden. With a chance to make his preseason prediction true, Ebert completed 22-of-32 passes for 334 yards and four scores.

"That was easily the No. 1 highlight of the year," Ebert said. "That's one of the top moments in my life. That was absolutely huge. I have not seen a game with more emotion than that one on both sides of the ball."

The season ended quicker than the



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SCOTT SCHUPBACH

Fenton's Ross Ebert (left) threw for 1,987 yards and 25 touchdowns this fall during the Tigers' 9-0 regular season.

Tigers hoped, with a playoff loss to Harrison. However, there was no doubt during the fall that the Tigers were the top football story in the tri-county area.

The future

Ebert would love to play at the collegiate level. His dad was a walk-on for Notre Dame's 1988 championship season, and he'd like to add a little college history to his generation in the family.

"I feel like I need to live up to that legacy," Ebert said.

Ebert is looking at John Carroll University and Sienna Heights. However, it's unclear if he'll play football next year just yet.

"If I can play at the next level, it's a blessing," Ebert said. "But my No. 1 goal is to find a school to go to for four years to get a good education. If I can play football along the way, I'll consider it a bonus."

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Additional Guest Speakers include: Mayor Sue Osborne & Fenton City Manager Lynn Markland, City of Linden Mayor David Lossing, Fenton Township Board Trustee Bob Krug, Tyrone Township Supervisor Mike Cunningham and Jerry Walker & Andy Potter representing the Village of Holly. All will be presenting their community information forecasting 2015.

For more information visit

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2014 ALL TRI-COUNTY
FOOTBALL TEAM

Player of the Year

Ross Ebert

Position

Quarterback

School

Fenton

All-State

Honorable

Comment: Ross Ebert made headlines before he threw his first pass as the starting quarterback for the Fenton Tigers. At the Metro League's media day he proclaimed that Fenton wasn't interested in sharing a league title, but wanted to win it outright. Well, the senior made sure it happened. He completed 140-of-224 passes for 1,987 yards and 25 touchdowns. His numbers would've been even better if not for Fenton's ability to blow teams out and create a continuous clock in the second half. Ebert hardly ever played in the fourth quarter. He only threw six interceptions, and never more than one in a game. In the contest that iced the league title outright, a 35-29 victory against Linden, he completed 22-of-32 passes for 334 yards and four scores. He beat out teammate Alec Thomas and Linden lineman Kyle Korman for the honor.

Rest of first team

Kyle Korman	Offensive line
Kobe Lokebill	Offensive line
Anderson Muenzer	Offensive line
Austin McNeill	Offensive line
Andy Roberts	Offensive line
Ryan Young	Running back
Trent Hillger	Running back
Bryce Roney	Receiver/back
Alec Thomas	Receiver
Jake Marshall	Receiver
Kyle Korman	Defensive line
Evan Welch	Defensive line
Scott Becker	Defensive line
Chase Lynch	Defensive line
Peyton Coffman	Linebacker
Andrew Foerster	Linebacker
Paul Idoni	Linebacker
Marshael Ryan	Linebacker
Alec Thomas	Secondary
Bailey Davis	Secondary
Ryker Rivera	Secondary
Mitchell Arens	Secondary
Austin Chmura	Kicker

School

Linden
Fenton
Lake Fenton
Linden
Linden
Linden
Lake Fenton
Fenton
Linden
Linden
Fenton
Fenton
Lake Fenton
Fenton
Linden
Linden
Linden
Lake Fenton
Holly

All-State

First Team
Honorable
First Team
First Team
Honorable

Note: The players on the team and the Player of the Year were selected by the sports staff, with the aid of the all-league teams.

BUDGETS

Continued from Front Page

School boards have a big job — they guide the use of the biggest local budget around. For example, the budget to run the city of Fenton for the 2014-15 fiscal year is \$17.5 million — but the Fenton Area Public Schools (FAPS) budget is \$29.3 million this year. Holly Area Schools' budget for the same period is \$34 million.

Those dollars are carefully monitored and significant chunks of it are linked to student performance. The standards for that student performance are a moving target.

Having the biggest budget doesn't mean that the budget isn't tight. In any business or in this case, school districts, personnel, not buildings or equipment are the biggest expense.

Out of FAPS' \$29.3 million budget, \$19 million is for instruction; \$2 million goes into instructional support.

The Fenton Board of Education costs the district \$69,000 each year, and executive administration (superintendent and assistants) \$519,514. With all other personnel costs included, the district has about \$3 million to keep up programs and six buildings.

Holly Area Schools (HAS) is geographically the biggest district, covering a sprawling 124 square miles, compared to Linden's 48 square miles.

In November, school board elections were held, reshuffling the mix of community members who make up the seven-member boards for each district. Many new members are taking their seats this week.

Each board has a president, vice president, secretary, treasurer and three trustees. It is not a salary job, though board members might be paid \$30 per meeting and training session for members.

During the November 2014 election, all local districts except Fenton were also short one candidate, which were filled by write-ins.

School boards meet semi-monthly, with seats filled by a variety of community members. A fair amount have a connection to the education field, while others come from business and many other professions.

Scott Maker, Linden Board of Education president, is a colonel in the Marines, and works in the security industry. Soon the board will have three professionals in, or formerly of, the education field.

"I think having a mix of backgrounds is very good," he said.

“I truly believe every board member believes they can help make a difference in the education of the children and young people in our district and community.”

Lynn Hopper

Fenton Board of Education trustee

Maker said the number of teaching professionals can go in cycles. There are ethical concerns if a topic of discussion can benefit a board member directly or a family member directly. Should that occur, they will excuse themselves from the discussion and decision making. They also discourage any current district employees also sitting on the board of education.

"I personally think being a teacher from another district, or having the spouse of an education professional such as a teacher is a plus to a board of education," said Lynn Hopper, former school board president for FAPS. "The teacher is a critical player in the educational arena, with the information (and) suggestions they can provide through conversation or actual hands-on experience."

Hopper said Fenton does not permit any board member to vote on action items that affects salaries, vacations, contracts, etc.

A Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB) FAQ sheet warns that new members may not be able to be involved in certain activities because of potential conflicts.

Watch the next several editions to learn about your local school districts, and the board members who govern them.

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PUBLIC NOTICE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF FENTON

PUBLIC HEARING – 2015 LOCAL ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

The Fenton Township Board has scheduled a public hearing to discuss local road improvement projects for 2015. Citizens are invited to provide input regarding potential projects, which may include improvements to paved or unpaved local roads. The hearing will be held in conjunction with the board's regular meeting on Monday January 19, 2015 beginning at 7:30 p.m.

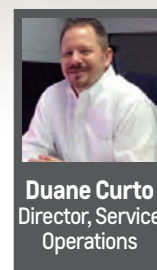
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