

# Hot line fuels flames on Koran rumor

► HAS not indoctrinating students; class researches many religions, political ideals

By Yvonne Stegall

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In light of some recent Hot lines the Times has received about students at Holly High School learning the Koran, the Times reached out to the school administration to find out what the real story is.

The original Hot line that came

in and sparked numerous other Hot lines, and calls to HAS, said, "So, my daughter at Holly High is required to memorize the pillars of Islam and other parts of the Koran so she can pass a class and graduate. They cannot

See **KORAN** on 15A

THEEID.COM  
Rumors fly in the Hot lines that Holly Area Schools are indoctrinating students into Islam.



PAGE 1B  
**SOFAS KEEP THE FAMILY TOGETHER**

# Weekend Times

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

SERIES: PART 2 OF 4

## An in-depth look at Linden Community Schools

► The 50-square-mile district with a small-town feel

By Tim Jagielo

tjagiello@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795

Part II of the Times' four-part series on our four area school districts.

**Linden** — With a district like Linden, smaller is better. "There's a hometown atmosphere here that permeates everything we do," said Superintendent Ed Koledo. "We really are all about a community."

He said the staff at Linden Community Schools (LCS) has meaningful relationships with students in the district, who also participate in their community.

When the Loose Senior Center building burned down, Linden students raised \$5,000 to support its rebuilding. In turn, when LCS needed facilities to hold professional development, Loose let them use their new activities building.

See **SCHOOL** on 16A

## First Class mail, one day late



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

U.S. Postal Service Clerk Jodi Thornberg scans packages at the Holly Post Office Thursday morning. She's checking packages in and sending them to the right bins for the Holly postal carriers. All local mail comes from the sorting facility in Pontiac, which survived this round of closures.

See story on Page 10A



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

The municipal lot in downtown Linden is close to full on Thursday, with six new shopping/eating possibilities established in the last year.

## Downtown Linden, alive and thriving

“We continuously hear how excited the community is to have us back.”

**Erika Swanson**  
Owner/partner  
French Confection

► New businesses move in and boost shopping, dining and more

By Yvonne Stegall  
ystegall@tctimes.com

The downtown district of Linden is alive and thriving after numerous businesses of all kinds opened their doors over the last year. There are new treasures for shoppers, places to relax and even new places to eat.

See **LINDEN** on 6A

## Woman could face four years for torture killing of chicken

► Additional charges include providing alcohol to minors, destruction of property

By Sharon Stone

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Since last June, the Argentine Township Police Department has been investigating a case that involved four teenage girls, a parent, alcohol, a fatally tortured chicken and destruction of property.

During her Genesee County District Court arraignment on Tuesday, Jan. 20, Melissa Chavez-Marquez, 35, of Linden

See **WOMAN** on 11A

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(8398)  
**TEXT YOUR HOT LINE**



“Where are 23 Cornerstone residents, with likely two vehicles each, going to park? Am I missing something? There is not enough parking right now and not one resident has moved in.”



“Studying the Koran is an elective class at Holly that my daughter wanted nothing to do with. What she would have enjoyed is a Bible or Christian class, but there were none available. I want to know who is behind this agenda?”



“Criticizing our president from the comfort of your home is your right. But maybe you should consider the demands of the job and the 24/7 role as a world leader. It wears you down, much like it did Bush and Clinton. I don't know why anyone would want to be president.”



tctimes.com  
**COMMENT OF THE WEEK**

“Would the Times please clarify what is going on in Holly schools with regard to the Muslim Bible, the Koran. What in the hell is going on here?”

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**Adorable home on a cozy corner lot** near downtown Fenton. Neat and clean and ready to move into. Close to shopping and the Fenton Hotel with great access to US 23 and I 75.  
**\$89,500**  
Call Mark Goldsworthy 810-955-3736



#### LINDEN

1205 Ripley Road  
**Wonderful Home on #18 Green Spring Meadows Golf Course.** 3 huge bedrooms, 2.5 baths. Enjoy your firelit great room on those chilly fall nights. Custom designed with spacious rooms. Open loft area adds to the character of this home. Workshop off of garage, great for home business. Full basement. Must See to appreciate.  
**\$197,900**  
Call Donna Mynatt 810-397-5779



#### LINDEN

358 Sweet Briar Ridge  
**Spacious 3 bedroom, 2 bath home** located in high demand Chestnut Grove Subdivision. Home has been repainted throughout, all new carpeting and new flooring. Nice size yard but not too much to maintain. 2 car garage offers extra storage. Nice open floor plan and tons of cabinet space in the kitchen. All brand new appliances stay including washer and dryer.  
**\$142,900**  
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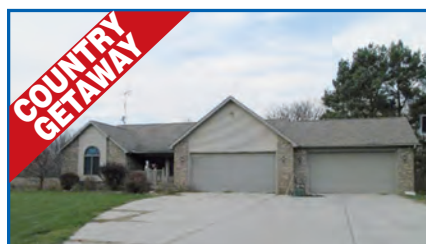
#### FENTON • BANK OWNED

9401 White Lake Road  
**Solid vinyl and brick home** sits on almost 3/4's of an acre in Tyrone Township. Deck overlooking large fenced in back yard. Large kitchen with center island allows plenty of room for cooking and gathering. Large bright and cheery living room as well as roomy fire-lit family room. 3 bedrooms and attached 2 car garage round out this family friendly home.  
**\$139,900**  
Call Sue Fleming 989-627-0481



#### HIGHLAND

342 Clyde Road  
**Wow! 11 acres, 2 barns, main house, guest house and 175 feet of frontage on private, all sports Knoblock Lake!** Cute farmhouse with 3 bedrooms, over 1600 sf of living space with a full basement. In addition there is an adorable 1 bedroom guest cottage on the property. Fishing, boating, water skiing, horseback riding, nature watching. You can do it all from the privacy of your new home.  
**\$400,000**  
Call Patrik Welty 810-750-2300



#### GAINES

11508 Duffield  
**Make this your country getaway!** Private setting on 27+ acres complete with pond. Spacious ranch with up north lodge feel. Great room with cathedral ceilings and stone fireplace. Master suite with generous walk-in closet and spacious bath. Enormous basement with 9 ft ceilings! 4 car attached garage plus an additional 4+ car garage!  
**\$319,000**  
Call Shelia Rhoades 810-348-7357



#### BYRON

15353 Longfellow Drive  
**This large 3 bedroom, 3 bath ranch** sits on over 1.5 acres. Enjoy boating and swimming in Myers Lake during the day and beautiful sunsets in the evening. Lower level walkout comes with a full bath and kitchenette; great for entertaining.  
**\$259,900**  
Call Patrik Welty 810-750-2300



#### FENTON

859 W. Silver Lake Road  
2 acres of commercially zoned property with excellent access to US 23. Structure currently has 2 residential rentals and one commercial rental. Lots of possibilities with some work.  
**\$159,900**  
Call Patrik Welty 810-750-2300

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#### GRAND BLANC

5133 Spinning Wheel  
**Beautifully maintained home** with hardwood floors in Dining and Living room. Kitchen and baths have ceramic tile. 4 bedrooms or room to have an office. All appliances included, also features natural fireplace in Family room. Add carpeted three season room and you have plenty of space. Fenced in backyard and nice size storage shed. Located in Grand Blanc schools.  
**\$129,900**  
Call Donna Fraidenburg 810-845-1971



#### FENTON • BANK OWNED

14464 Eddy Lake Road  
**3 bedroom, 2 bath ranch** on nice country lot. Hardwood floors in living room and dining room as well as bedrooms. Beautiful bay window in living, cozy brick fireplace in family room. 1 car attached garage. Home needs some cosmetic work but has the potential to be really cute.  
**\$94,900**  
Call Patrik Welty 810-750-2300



#### LINDEN

119 S. Bridge Street  
**Historic home in downtown Linden.** Home has 2 apartments - one up and one down. one unit over garage and a commercial unit. 2 large car garage. All units are occupied.  
**\$139,000**  
Call Donna Fraidenburg 810-845-1971



#### FENTON

613 S. Adelaide Street  
**This home has great location** within walking distance to downtown. Home currently being used as rental property, but it could be made back into single home very easily. Home features very large living area and kitchen on main floor with tall ceilings.  
**\$133,900**  
Call Donna Fraidenburg 810-845-1971.



#### FENTON • BANK OWNED

404 N. Adelaide Street  
**Lots of square footage** in this turn of the century home; over 2000 sf with a 1st floor bedroom, full bath, and laundry. 2nd floor has 3 large bedrooms. Home is centrally located to US 23, I 75, shopping and schools. It is walking distance to quaint downtown Fenton.  
**\$67,500**  
Call Patrik Welty 810-750-2300



#### FENTON

201 Center Street  
**Three bedroom ranch** located on corner lot. Nice backyard completely fenced in. Beautiful stone fireplace in living room, walkout basement and attached 1 car garage. Home is conveniently located to schools and shopping.  
**\$59,900**  
Call Patrik Welty 810-750-2300



#### GRAND BLANC

6097 Wilderness Pointe  
**New carpet and fresh paint** throughout this beautiful ranch home located in the Maple Pointe sub in the Grand Blanc school district. Bright & welcoming open floor plan with lots of windows. 3 bedrooms and 2 full baths on main level. You will find a large family room, 4th bedroom and 3rd full bath in the walkout basement giving you a total of 2200 sq ft of space!!  
**\$149,900**  
Call Patrik Welty 810-750-2300



#### BYRON

11685 Silver Lake Road  
**If you want a private getaway, this is it!** Home is nestled in the middle of 8+ acres with frontage on Shiawassee River. Nice deck down by the water front will make for some relaxing times. Awesome 3 bedroom house with beautiful views. 3700 square feet is perfect for a large family or for someone who just likes a lot of space. No smoking or pets please! One year lease.  
**LEASE \$1300**  
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## BUY *or* BUILD?

► Here's what a \$225,000-\$250,000 budget will buy you when you make that decision

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

New construction is happening all around the tri-county area in 2015. Subdivisions that have been dormant since the housing bubble burst in Michigan in the late 2000s are coming to life again as people make a move to upsize their homes.

In Fenton Township for example, 49 residential construction permits were issued in 2014, climbing back up from a low of nine permits issued in 2009 — but still not even close to reaching the height of new residential construction in 1999 when 276 residential construction permits were issued.

“That was when all the subdivisions were going up, like Pinnacle Shores, Pine Lake Forest, Fenton Orchards, etc.,” said Julie Lewis, building and code enforcer for Fenton Township. “We began to start edging up every year since 2010 and we’re expecting to be busy again this year.”

Wade Pyles, a Realtor with Berkshire Hathaway Home Services Michigan, sells existing homes in the area, and also markets building sites for new construction. “Right now we’ve got 25 building sites in the city of Fenton and Fenton

### Summary

► Whether you have your home built or buy an existing home, you can get many features you desire for your family.

Township. Each of the developments works with a particular builder, or some let buyers bring in their own contractor for the project.”

With interest rates at record lows and qualifying construction loans at 5 percent down, mortgage lenders are busier than ever keeping up with the demand.

“For anyone who is ready or able to buy, this is a great time,” said Roger Laethem, branch manager of Huron Valley Financial in Fenton. “Rates are really good right now

after trending down the last couple of weeks. Right now, a conventional 30-year fixed mortgage rate is about 4 percent. Government rates are really good now, too. I don’t believe they’ll stay this low for long.”

The biggest factors to affect the buying decision for families are school districts and price, according to Pyles.

What will \$225,000-\$250,000 buy you in either a new home or an existing home on the market?

“You can get more ‘house’ for the money, based on square foot value, when you buy an existing home for \$225,000,” said Pyles. “You can also move in more

quickly, with a window of 30 to 45 days to closing. A realistic time frame for a new build is five to seven months.”

A new build for \$225,000 in the one-quarter to one-half acre lots Pyles is marketing will be a good-size three bedroom ranch in the 1,650- to 2,100-square-foot range, with one full bath and two half-baths. Features will include granite countertops, stainless steel appliances, hardwood floors, a basement plumbed for an additional bathroom and a master suite. For larger homes up to 2,100 square feet, the price will move toward \$250,000.

See **BUILD** on 14A


“Mortgage rates are really good right now, after trending down the last couple of weeks.”

Roger Laethem  
Huron Valley Financial




TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

Habitat for Humanity Construction Supervisor George MacEachern grabs the gable to tie it into the structure for the Habitat house at 703 Main Street in Fenton last summer.



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# There is no such thing as 'free'

I'm not a fan of State of the Union speeches, by either party. Last Tuesday's SOTU was especially distressing. It left me with a vague and persistent unease that I couldn't shake.

What I found to be most disturbing was the very strangely scripted story that President Obama presented at the beginning of his speech. It chronicled the struggles of Rebekah and Ben Erler — a young married couple that overcame financial hardship through hard work, living within their means, and prudent decision-making. Due to their own efforts, they triumphed over adversity. It's the classic American dream with a classic happy ending.

But, as it turned out, that wasn't the

ending. The president simply couldn't accept the premise that Rebekah and Ben, or any American family, could attain success without assistance from the government. Here's what he said next: 'Families like Rebekah's still need our help, she and Ben are working as hard as ever but have had to forego vacations and a new car so they can pay off student loans and save for retirement.'

Hmmm — let me get this straight. You can't take a vacation? You have to drive a used car? You have to pay off a student loan? You have to save for retirement? There is a name for all this — it's called life. Life is that thing where you learn the lessons that stand you in good stead for the rest of ...well, your

life. Listening to a president promote the concept that Rebekah and Ben should be rewarded by the government so they can take a vacation, buy a new car, pay off their loans and save for retirement is ... well, utter madness.

Community College should be 'free'? Are the schools agreeing to waive tuition? Have the professors unilaterally agreed to teach for no salary? Who will pay for utilities, maintenance and taxes? The government sure as hell shouldn't. The government is \$18 trillion in debt. The debt increases by \$3 million every minute of every day. The government needs to cut spending, not increase it with more vote-buying giveaways!

By the way, here's a newsflash to all politicians: There is no such thing as 'free.' There is no 'free' college. There is no 'free' child care. There is no 'free' cell

phones, 'free' rent, 'free' health care or 'free' food stamps. No politician should ever use the word 'free.' If it comes from the government, it's not 'free.' Someone — most likely you and me — is paying for it.

What's most frightening to me is the fact that Barack Obama and his handlers believed that this totally weird and bizarre 'let's reward Rebekah and Ben' narrative would be an inspiring example of a sound fiscal model for securing the future of our country. This is beyond astonishing. It smacks of early onset dementia by all involved.

No nation, no matter how strong, can stand indefinitely when the people elected to lead it are the same people determined to destroy it.

And there is no such thing as 'free.'

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](mailto:king@tctimes.com). Some content adapted from the internet.



## Hot lines

Submit at: [tctimes.com](http://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 I READ** the story correctly, four of the seven people on the Lake Fenton school board are teachers, former teachers or spouses of teachers. This is the same board that negotiates the over-the-top benefits, hours and wages of the teachers. The reality is that the teachers union is negotiating with itself. Good deal, for them.

**IT SHOULD BE** a requirement that you have to serve in the military in order to become president.

**HOW DOES THE** city think it has attained the power to deny my civil liberties that the state has granted? Leslie Bland is rushing this medicinal ordinance. Obstructionists.

**I REMEMBER THE** civil rights movement of the mid-60s. I remember seeing businesses burned to the ground, looting, and people running down the street with TVs under their arms. Thank you, but I think I will pass on the whitewashed version of the civil rights movement with the movie Selma.

**CLIMATE CHANGE HAS** two opposing views. One has to wonder why the term global warming has been politically corrected to 'climate change.' If it is based on so-called fact, why do proponents of global warming need the snake oil advertising to sell it?

**COULD SOMEONE PLEASE** explain why there are several white crosses lining both sides of North Holly Road near Lahring? Usually you'll see a wreath or cross to mark the scene of an accident, but I've never seen so many in one place.

**EVERY TIME I** hear the line, 'We do not negotiate with terrorists,' in a movie, I have to laugh, because lately we do, and often.

**IF YOU FABRICATE** a story and tell it over and over, you begin to believe it is true. That was the result of Obama's tragic State of the Union speech last night. He actually believes that his socialistic policies are helping this country.

**SO, AS THE** taxpayer, I am supposed to fund daycare so you can continue to produce children faster than Ford produces cars. Let's get on track, if you don't have the money to take care of your children, quit producing them or deal with the consequences.

**SEEING THE MOVIE** 'Selma' does not fan the flames of racial tension. Communication, education and openness to discuss history and current issues regarding race helps, not hurts, race relations.

**GOVERNOR SNYDER SEEMS** to have a clear concept of what his role is: to represent the people and interests of Michigan residents to the best of his ability. His State

of the State address was encouraging and straight forward as his plans were laid out in concrete terms and timelines.

**HOTLINER WHO STATED**, homosexual marriage laws were voted on by a small portion of people in our state, missed the point. All Michigan voters had the chance to vote. The people did speak and they did reject homosexual marriage. No judge has the right to overturn the will of the people.

**PRESIDENT OBAMA'S SOTU** address proves his vision of the world is not based on reality. He also said he wanted to reach across the aisle and work with Republicans, then threatens to use his veto power. He'll do what he does best, blame others, then do what he wants.

**INSTEAD OF PRINTING** all the Obama 'is a bad man Hot lines,' why don't you print all the good things Republican leaders are doing. I don't think I have read any. How come?

**I LOVE THE** paper this morning. Boehner has defied the emperor. He's invited Netanyahu to speak before congress.

**EVERY REGISTERED VOTER** had an opportunity to vote the same-sex marriage ban. Seventy-five percent of the voters that chose to vote voted 'NO.' That's all that counts. People who don't vote lose their say in the matter.

**HOW HAS YOUR** experience been with the Affordable Care Act? The Times would like to hear about your experiences for an upcoming story. Please call 810-433-6795 or email [tjagiello@tctimes.com](mailto:tjagiello@tctimes.com).

See **HOT LINE** throughout Times

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Compiled by Alexei Rose, intern

## What is your pet, and where did you get it?

## streettalk



"I have a Cairn Terrier. A family was moving and couldn't take her, so I took her in."

— Marilyn Reibel  
Fenton Township



"I have a cat, and I rescued it from a shopping cart in the Walmart parking lot."

— Linda Quigley-Rawson  
Fenton Township



"I got my black lab from my neighbors, because they were giving them away."

— Katy Blanchard  
Tyrone Township



"I have two cats, and they were litter mates. I got them from MSU, because their mother died when they were 2 weeks old."

— RuthAnn Simpson  
Deerfield Township



"I have a Chihuahua that I got from Mexican Town, Detroit."

— Brandy Robinson  
Fenton Township



"I have a Lhasa Apso. I got it from a pet store in Novi."

— Tom Deakins  
Howell



**TRI-COUNTY TIMES** | SUBMITTED PHOTO

Attendees of the Birch Run Gun and Knife Show will likely see Zachary Gilmour's table as he is debuting his new company "Zach's Backwoods Bows."

## Local fifth-grader to debut company, bows this weekend

► Young entrepreneur will be selling his bows at Birch Run Gun and Knife Show

Zachary Gilmour, a fifth-grade student at St. John School in Fenton will debut his new company, "Zach's Backwoods Bows" at the Birch Run Gun and Knife Show this weekend. His bows will be available for purchase on Saturday and Sunday.

According to Zach's mother, Holly Gilmore, he is forever inventing, building and then modifying something. He's constantly asking to go to the home improvement store for supplies for whatever he is inventing that week.

Zach is excited to take his bows a step further and put his product on the market. He said, "I've tested my bows and they shoot straight. They really work."

## News briefs

### WINTER STORY HOUR AT HOLLY TOWNSHIP LIBRARY

A nine-week session of story hour at the Holly Township Library is scheduled for Tuesdays, Jan. 27 through March 24, Thursdays, Jan. 29 through March 26, and Fridays, Jan. 30 through March 27 from 10 to 11:00 a.m. Children must be pre-schoolers of ages 3 and 4. This is a great opportunity to introduce children to the library with stories, finger plays, games and crafts. Sessions last approximately one hour and are a good opportunity for parents to congregate and make new friends. For registration, call the library at (248) 634-1754.

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**Times**

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## LINDEN

Continued from Front Page

The newest businesses to the area are Ciaravellas Pizza, Linden Day Spa, Memories and More Antiques, French Confection, Earthworks Florist, Dr. Wax Orthodontist, and Bridge 117 Café and Market. The newest of all of them is Bridge 117 Café and Market, which is located at 117 North Bridge St. They offer local food items on a menu of pastries, sandwiches, soup and more.

Other new food offerings in downtown Linden include pizza and cakes. Ciaravellas Pizza, located behind the gas station at 111 South Bridge St., offers brick oven pizza. Co-owner Jack Furry said, "We've got the best pizza around." Their business has been going well since opening six months ago. They also offer other

menu items, including a more traditional Italian flair.

If you have a sweet tooth, check out the French Confection. While they have been around for over 20 years, they only recently moved to the Linden area. Under new ownership, owner/partner Erika Swanson said, "It was a no-brainer when we bought the bakery from the previous owner about a year ago. We continuously hear how excited the community is to have us back." While they are typically known for wedding and specialty cakes, the future plans are to have a more "walk-in" style and become a community bakery.

For some shopping fun, travel a little north of town on Bridge, to 918 North

Bridge St., to enjoy a step back in time at Memories and More Antiques. Their name tells you just what you will find inside. Owner Scott Binkley said, "We are filled with memories from younger days. When people step into our store, they are

stepping back in time." For the future, Memories and More will be expanding into online auctions, traditional auctions and estate sales.

Downtown also offers a florist for all of your floral needs, located at 114 South Broad St.


Dr. Wax Orthodontist just moved in next to the Coney Café, offering orthodontic care for children and adults, by Dr. Nicole Wax.

When you are ready to relax, check out the newest spa in the downtown area, Linden Day Spa & Wellness, located at 114 South Bridge St. Kim Varana said, "We are a health and wellness spa offering massage therapy from around the world, facials, waxing and spa packages."

Just because there are new businesses doesn't mean the older ones aren't worth reminding you about. Downtown Linden offers so much, a little bit for everyone. Enjoy some relaxation at Serendipity Day Spa, shopping at Thimbleberry Antiques, find great men's stuff at Bridge Street Exchange, and much more. Downtown Linden also has a museum and a library.

### Summary

► Downtown Linden is alive and well offering many new businesses and some old favorites.



# 1/2 OFF PIZZA

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Auto-Owners Insurance received the highest numerical score among auto insurance providers in the North Central Region in the proprietary J.D. Power 2014 U.S. Auto Insurance Study<sup>SM</sup>. Study based on 44,661 total responses measuring 17 providers in the North Central Region (IL, IN, MI, OH, WI) and measures opinions of consumers with their auto insurance provider. Proprietary study results are based on experiences and perceptions of consumers surveyed March-April 2014. Your experiences may vary. Visit [jdpower.com](http://jdpower.com).



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO

Fenton Township residents Phil and Jocelyn Hagerman have made a \$2 million endowment to the UM-Flint School of Management through the newly-formed Hagerman Foundation.

## Fenton Township couple donates \$2 million to UM-Flint

► Largest gift ever given to School of Management was given by Hagerman Foundation

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Phil Hagerman, chairman and CEO of Diplomat Specialty Pharmacy in Flint, dreams big — beyond the doors of the global company he created from the roots of Ideal Pharmacy, his dad Dale Hagerman, founded in 1975.

Hagerman and his wife, Jocelyn, of Fenton Township have announced plans to give a \$2 million endowment to the University of Michigan-Flint's School of Management.

The donation comes from the recently formed Hagerman Foundation, which was founded by the Hagermans to give back to the community in a way, they say, will have an opportunity to have long-lasting effects on the Flint community. The focus of the foundation is on education, women, children and families.

These funds will provide the resources to create the Hagerman Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, which will be the basis of a new business major at the university, beginning next fall. The donation will also fund a scholarship program to attract college-age entrepreneurs who will hopefully use their talents in the local Flint area.

"This gift is about people," said Hagerman. "It goes beyond 'check-book philanthropy.' With the mix of the right people and the right education, we hope to really make a difference for a long-term impact in Flint. It goes beyond business; it's about finding new, creative ways for problem-solving and attracting bright, young entrepreneurs who want to create something on their own or change things in corporate America."

This donation is the largest gift thus far to the UM-Flint School of Management. "I have the greatest confidence in UM-Flint," said Hagerman. "They're going to be a great conduit for changes to take place around them."

### Linden part of Michigan Main Street Associate Level program

Linden was named one of the 12 Michigan communities to be selected to take part in the Michigan Main Street Associate Level program. The purpose of this program is to create opportunities for redevelopment, placemaking and economic growth in downtowns across our state. According to their website, "The communities will receive training over the next year on the basics of the Main Street Four-Point Approach, including organization, promotion, economic restructuring and design." City Manager Paul Zelenak said, "For the city of Linden, receiving training in this approach is something that is going to be very beneficial to us. This has been used all over the U.S. successfully, even in small areas." The idea is to preserve the history of downtown Linden, while enhancing the community. This is a volunteer-driven program, and Zelenak asks that anyone interested in being part of this program contact him.

Source: [www.michiganmainstreetcenter.com](http://www.michiganmainstreetcenter.com)

### HOT LINE CONTINUED

**I FIGURED OUT** how we can get the roads repaired. Let the government employees work for minimum wage. That would raise billions.

■■■  
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■■■  
**ANYONE WHO CONSIDERS** low-paying and part-time jobs with a lower average income for American workers and lower interest rates for loans that people cannot qualify to borrow as an economy roaring is misguided. Why should the struggling taxpayer have their hard-earned money pay millions for Obama's vacations?

# Fenton Vision Center

## ►Leads the way in local optometry

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Keep your eyes on the Fenton Vision Center. They continue to be the leader in style, technology and medical advances in the practice of optometry in the tri-county area.

The Fenton Vision Center offices of Dr. Juan Alvarado, O.D., Diplomate, American Board of Optometry and Dr. Cynthia L. Cupal, O.D., F.A.A.O., Diplomate, American Board of Optometry, are located at 212 W. Silver Lake Rd., in the heart of downtown Fenton. "Our patients and staff love our location," said Alvarado. "We're in the cultural area of the city with shopping and coffee shops. We also have lots of convenient parking."

Their building includes a fashion optical boutique, spacious exam rooms, an on-site optical lab, a conference room for staff training and families of young patients – plus lots of large windows to enjoy the downtown area while waiting for appointments, etc.

Their offices offer not only the latest in technology, but also one of the largest inventories of frames in the tri-county area. Patients will appreciate their high fashion optical area designed after upscale optical boutiques in metro areas. "Rather than having all of our frame selections out on a counter, they are narrowed down by design and kept in easy access optical drawers," said Alvarado. "Patients coming in to select frames can easily narrow down their frame choice with our system."

Some of the most in-demand frames include styles by Oakley, Coach, Dolce & Gabbana, Prada, Ed Hardy, Harley-Davidson, Juicy Couture and



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SALLY RUMMEL

Fenton Vision Center continues to create a positive energy within this local optometry practice.

Rayban. There are frame styles to suit just about every taste and budget.

Fenton Vision Center is pleased to have on staff the services of licensed optician Cherie Campbell. "She has been with us for more than 14 years and brings her skill in dispensing glasses and contact lenses as a licensed optician to our patients," said Cupal. "It's rare for a practice to have a licensed professional in this area, and we are very happy that she's part of our team." The staff of Fenton Vision Center includes seven employees, in addition to Cupal and Alvarado.

Together, they bring to their patients a high level of practice and specialization. "We're a full service optometry practice for all ages," said Alvarado. "We see patients under age 1 at no cost, so we can test their vision and eye development. Our patients then go through their senior years under our care, treating them for glaucoma, macular degeneration, diabetes-related vision issues and more."

Cupal's specialization in the diagnosis and treatment of glaucoma brings many patients from the Kellogg Eye Institute at University of Michigan for close monitoring at Fenton Vision Center. "We get referrals from the Kellogg Eye Institute at U-M Hospital to monitor the surgical success of patients who live in our area. We take this work very seriously." Cupal had practiced for five years at Bascom-Palmer Eye Institute in Miami, Florida and five years at the Kellogg Eye Institute before coming home to the Fenton area to open the practice in 2001.

Fenton Vision Center is also proud to specialize in vision therapy and low vision, offering vision help to all ages. They're committed to providing the latest in technology so that vision impairment, eye injuries and diseases of the eye can be detected and treated early.

**“Our patients and staff love our downtown location. We're in the cultural area of the city with shopping and coffee shops. We also have lots of convenient parking.”**

— Dr. Juan Alvarado, O.D., Diplomate,  
American Board of Optometry  
Fenton Vision Center

Their latest equipment is a new Visual Evoked Potential (VEP) machine, which helps the doctors see how well the eye is communicating with the brain — in patients as young as 6 months. "It's like an EEG that measures the nerves in the brain that control the eye," said Alvarado. "We also have an Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT) which is like an MRI of the eye without the need for radiation nor magnetic resonance."

Both Cupal and Alvarado are passionate about the importance of nutrition and eye health and are pleased to have been accepted as members of the Ocular Nutrition Society — a very strict group of doctors of optometry and ophthalmology that study nutrition as it relates to the eyes. "Your eyes tell a lot about your overall health," said Cupal.

For more information, call (810) 629-3070 or visit [fentonvision.com](http://fentonvision.com).



**Dr. Juan Alvarado,  
O.D., Diplomate,  
American Board of  
Optometry**



**Dr. Cynthia L. Cupal,  
O.D., F.A.A.O., Diplomate,  
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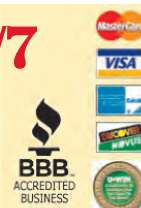
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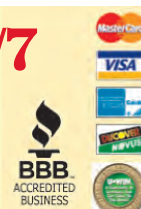
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## Genesee County Jail guards to get body cams

### ►Some inmates claiming abuse by deputies

By Yvonne Stegall

ystegall@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

The Genesee County Jail may soon have an extra set of eyes, or lenses, for every deputy, with the potential addition of body cams. Sheriff Robert Pickell said, "I really think it will be a good thing."

One of the reasons for the body cams, Pickell said, "We've had a number of inmates claim abuse by deputies and it's just our word against theirs." He said that many of the inmates will swear and spit at deputies, which can cause some of them to get frustrated. "It will keep the deputies from letting their frustrations take over," he said.

The sheriff also mentioned that they already lost one case in which an inmate claimed abuse from deputies. "Body cams will allow for more protection of both our deputies and the inmates," Pickell said.

The body cams would give a complete record of both deputy and inmate actions. Pickell is hoping to purchase 66 body cameras. What he is waiting for is federal funding that may be coming available, about \$75 million for communities to get body cameras, which would allow a grant to cover the costs. He estimates that the cost will be between \$600 and \$1,000

for each body cam, not including batteries and chargers.

Since Flint is one of the most violent cities in America, it would make sense that the jail would be a violent place, too. Aside from the fact that crime

has come down in the last few years, Flint still has some work to do. In his State of the State address Tuesday night, Gov. Rick Snyder said, Saginaw has seen a 26.7-percent decrease in violent crime over that time span (since 2011), Detroit saw a 20-percent decrease and both Flint and Pontiac experienced a 28-percent decrease.

Even with all the positives of body cams, they still have their limitations. According to a special report from the Force Science Institute, there are 10 basic limitations to the use of body cams.

The camera doesn't follow your eyes or see as they see, which means that some things can be missed without them having a more distinct and less broad view. Some important danger cues can't be recorded and the camera allows no way of knowing the history of an inmate's reactions to deputies. These are just a couple of the things that could go wrong, which also include obstruction of view by the body and the fact that there is no time stamp.

Even with the issues, it seems they still offer a more protective possibility than no body cam at all.

### Summary

► Genesee County Jail looking to implement body cameras for its deputies as soon as possible.

**“Body cams will allow for more protection of both our deputies and the inmates.”**

**Sheriff Robert Pickell**  
Genesee County

## Holly Academy receives \$10,000 anonymously

### ►Extra dollars to go directly to classroom use

Holly Academy recently received a \$10,000 anonymous donation. This donation was given to them to be used as a match for donations to the Holly Academy Education Foundation (HAEF).

Holly Academy is a non-profit charter school in Holly and is among the first charter schools in the state to open an endowment, which is a permanent source of revenue for non-profit organizations. According to their news release, all contributions toward HAEF will be used for academic opportunities at Holly Academy, beyond what the general fund provides.

In the news release, Director Julie Kildee said, "I am thrilled to have a parent group that started the Holly Academy Education Foundation for the students of

today and tomorrow. The contributions will provide those extra dollars for our classrooms that can push our students' learning even higher."

Annual distributions will be granted to staff members for innovative projects in the classroom, which may include class-

room technology, science lab materials, library resources, or curriculum enhancements.


Diane Wujciak, Holly Academy Education Foundation president, said in the news release, "The Foundation is proud to receive this generous gift. It is a wonderful way to encourage others to consider HAEF in their charitable contribution list. Holly Academy has been providing excellence to students for over 15 years, we now have

a way for families to give back."

Visit the HAEF at [www.hollyacademy.org/education-foundation](http://www.hollyacademy.org/education-foundation) to learn more about its efforts and to support the Foundation with a tax-deductible contribution.

**“The Foundation is proud to receive this generous gift.”**

**Diane Wujciak**  
Holly Academy  
Education Foundation  
President



## LIFT LOUNGE UPCOMING EVENTS:

Friday's from 6:00-8:30pm...**Katelyn on the Guitar**

### Malted Beverage Appreciation Gathering

Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup> • 7:00 pm  
The Mt. Holly Lift Lounge will host its 2nd Beer Appreciation Night on Wednesday, February 18th with beer selections paired with local Chocolates. Selections will be beers on the darker side (scotch ales, porters, doppelbocks, and stouts).


The event starts at 7:00 pm and includes hors d'oeuvres, a draught serving of choice, and sample tasting of selections for the month. Our resident beer expert will direct the evening with explanations of taste experience. Cost is \$18 per person. A non-alcohol DD price is available. Reservations not required.

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Holly post office carrier John Hansen loads his truck on Thursday morning. He walks for 5.5 hours of his shift, and drives for 30 minutes.

## First Class mail might take extra day to arrive

►USPS closing three more processing centers in state

By Yvonne Stegall

ystegall@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Even since Christmas passed and what is normally the time for late mail has ended, you might have noticed that First Class mail is not showing up as quickly as it once did. Along with the closing of three more processing centers in Michigan, the postal service has also slowed down the delivery of First Class mail.

Have no fear, Elizabeth Najdich, communications program specialist for the USPS, said, "Because of declining mail volume, for single piece mailing, First Class is changing from a one-day turnaround to two, for local mail." She added that if you were mailing to California or other places around the U.S. it would be a three-day turnaround.

Alan Miettinen, supervisor at Holly Post Office said, "So far we haven't had

any complaints from customers about the change in First Class mail." Just because First Class mail is a little delayed, it hasn't affected any other mail delivery systems, including Priority Mail, medications and other packaged items.

Some might worry that the closing of the three processing centers, leaving just three processing centers for the entire state, might have an effect on mail delivery times. For this area, it won't. Miettinen said, "Mail has been moving pretty good here. The Metroplex is a huge facility and they do an excellent job."

The Michigan Metroplex in Pontiac sorts the mail that comes to the tri-county area. Miettinen mentioned that they were concerned when the Flint processing center closed in 2012, but even then, they didn't notice any effect on mail delivery times. Miettinen said that even with the closings, the employees are offered jobs elsewhere, so it also doesn't affect employment in Michigan.

The processing centers that are closing are located in Kalamazoo, Lansing and Iron Mountain.

**“The Metroplex is a huge facility and they do an excellent job.”**

Alan Miettinen  
Supervisor, Holly post office

### Summary

►USPS processing centers that were closed in Michigan are not going to affect the tri-county area.

# FREE

## Varicose Vein Screenings

### Wednesday, January 28

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### Police&Fire

## report

#### LARCENY SUSPECT CAUGHT

Michigan State Police troopers, Oakland County Sheriff's deputies and Fenton police worked together to apprehend a larceny suspect. At about 2:30 a.m. on Jan. 16, MSP troopers were called to assist deputies in stopping a vehicle fleeing from the scene of a larceny in Holly Township. The fleeing vehicle crashed on a dead-end road and the driver fled on foot into the woods. MSP helped to establish a perimeter for the Oakland County K9 team. The suspect was located about three miles southwest of the crash by Fenton police. The Oakland County Sheriff's Office is following up on the investigation.

#### FENTON POLICE HAVE WOMAN'S RING

On Jan. 18, an employee from Boston's restaurant turned in a woman's ring to the Fenton Police Department. A customer had found the ring in the parking lot and turned it in to the restaurant. Lt. Jason Slater said a few days prior, an unknown woman had called the restaurant inquiring about a ring she had lost. She did not leave her name. Fenton police are attempting to contact this woman to see if the ring belongs to her. She is asked to call Fenton police at (810) 629-5311.

#### LARCENY ON WORCHESTER DRIVE

At 5:15 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 23, Fenton police were dispatched to the 700 block of Worcester Drive to investigate a larceny from auto complaint. A 56-year-old woman told police that overnight someone had entered her Ford Escape and stole a business laptop, an undisclosed amount of cash and business checks. Police observed shoe prints around several vehicles parked in the area. The scene was processed for evidence. About 10 a.m. Friday, another Worcester Drive resident found and turned in a bag of business documents and business checks, that the woman reported stolen earlier. The cash and laptop are still missing. The victim believed her vehicle was locked, however, police observed no signs of forced entry. Police would like to hear from anyone who might have witnessed any suspicious behavior on Worcester late Thursday night or early Friday morning.

# From A-Z... BENEFITS & CHARACTERISTICS OF FRUITS and VEGETABLES

## B is for broccoli...

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

Welcome to part two of the Times series on healthy fruits and vegetables from A to Z. Unfortunately, there was no way to get bacon included on this list, but most people will probably agree that bacon makes everything taste better.

This is not a full list of every possible fruit or vegetable that is in existence that begins with the letter B, but it is a list of some more common ones, and maybe one you've forgotten about, like boysenberries.

### BROCCOLI

Broccoli may not be a popular side dish in many homes, but it should be. This amazing vegetable that has florets that look like little trees is packed full



of goodness. Broccoli has been proven to reduce bad cholesterol, it is a wonderful source of vitamin D, and contains vitamins A and K.

If you want to add more broccoli to your diet, it isn't that difficult. Broccoli makes a great addition to stir-fry, rice dishes, and even as a topping on pizza. Try making a tasty new lasagna dish, using chicken instead of burger, Alfredo instead of marinara, and broccoli in place of the ricotta cheese.

### BRUSSELS SPROUTS

Brussels sprouts are an excellent source of vitamins C and K. They are a great source of nutrients including folate, manganese, vitamins B6 and B1, copper, potassium, phosphorus, and omega-3 fatty acids, just to name a few.



These vegetables, akin to a mini cabbage, aren't for everyone. Those

who like them can enjoy them as a side dish or in a pasta salad.

### BEETS

Beets are another vegetable that probably don't top everyone's list of favorites, but they too are full of health benefits.



Some studies show that they are better the less they are heated, as heat seems to reduce some of their health benefits. Beets are rich in Lutein, which helps with eyesight. Some

of the other strangely named nutrients in them work as antioxidants, anti-inflammatory and detoxification.

The most popular place to use beets is atop a tasty Greek salad.



### BANANAS

Bananas are an excellent source of potassium. In fact, one medium banana contains 450mg. However, they also contain many natural sugars, 19g. They are great for heart health, help with mood issues and work great for digestion issues.



Bananas are great alone or in a fruit salad. They also make a wonderful alternative to ice cream. Just dice one up, freeze it, and then blend it up in a blender with

a small amount of milk. They also work great as a frozen base for smoothies.

### BLUEBERRIES

The number one reason to eat blueberries is that they contain a wide array of antioxidants. While there are many fruits that contain these free radical fighting nutrients, the more the merrier when it comes to living healthy. Free radicals are linked to the development of cancer, cardiovascular disease, and other negative health conditions.



Add blueberries to your salad or breakfast cereal (hot or cold). Blueberries also make a great treat on their own, fresh or frozen.

### BOYSENBERRIES

Boysenberries go bad fast, which is why it's not likely for you to see them on the fresh shelf in the produce section of your grocery store. You're more likely to find them in the freezer section. Even frozen, this beautiful fruit is packed full of at least 5 percent of



your recommended daily allowance of magnesium, iron and vitamins C, E and K.

Rudolph Boysen created the boysenberry by crossing a raspberry, blackberry and loganberry. They make a great substitute for blackberries and blueberries in baking and taste great in smoothies.

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## WOMAN

Continued from Front Page

pleaded not guilty to three misdemeanors and one felony related to an alleged incident on June 27, 2014. Accompanied by her lawyer, she turned herself in on Tuesday and was later released on \$100,000 personal bond — \$25,000 for each of the four counts.

If found guilty as charged, Chavez-Marquez could face one four-year felony of torturing/killing of an animal, a chicken according to authorities. She could also be facing two 93-day misdemeanor counts of malicious destruction of property and one 30-day misdemeanor count of furnishing alcohol to minors.

According to Police Chief Dan Allen, officers were dispatched to a home on Knob Hill Drive in Argentine Township to investigate a property destruction complaint. When police arrived, they met with the homeowners, who showed them damage they discovered when they awoke that morning.

Police observed "keyed" scratch marks on vehicles, including a threatening message. Officers also observed urine and feces on the home's porch, a damaged mailbox, and the mirror on the side of a vehicle that had been torn off.

In addition to the destruction of those items, police also observed a dead chicken on the hood of a car

belonging to a male member of the household. Allen said it appeared the chicken had been drowned and then stabbed several times before it was placed on the car.

A few days later, shortly after detectives began their investigation, three area 15-year-old females showed up at the Argentine Police Department to turn themselves in for their part in the June 27, 2014 incident. They were interviewed by police, prosecuted in probate court and have already received their sentencing. Because of their age, the outcome of their cases remains sealed.

As a result of the statements from the three female teenagers, police allege that Chavez-Marquez, and another 15-year-old female, along with the three teenagers mentioned previously, consumed alcohol provided by Chavez-Marquez. The group then went to a store and bought toilet paper, which police observed littering the victim's property on Knob Hill Drive.

The fourth 15-year-old female is also facing charges of torturing/killing of an animal and destruction of property in probate court.

The police chief said his department was aware of prior issues involving Chavez-Marquez's family and the victim's family.

Chavez-Marquez's preliminary hearing has not yet been scheduled.

### Summary

► A 35-year-old Linden woman has been charged with torturing/killing of an animal, malicious destruction of property and providing alcohol to minors, stemming from an incident last June in Argentine Township.

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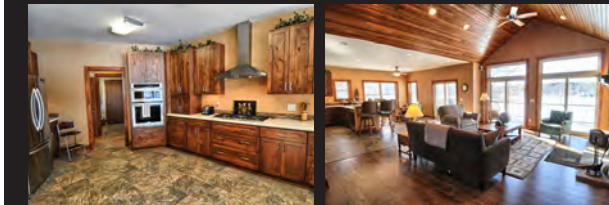
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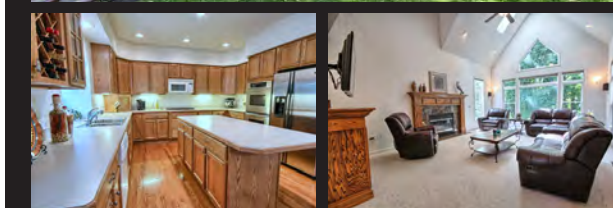
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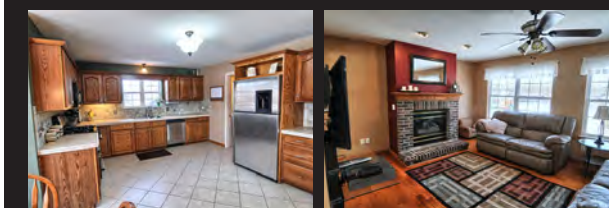
**16286 SUNSET WAY, LINDEN**  
\$614,900 - LOBDELL LAKE  
91' FRONTAGE, 4 BEDS,  
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SERVICE BARN



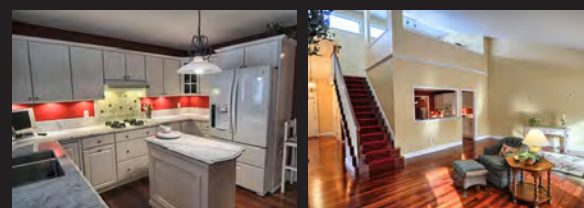
**13171 TORREY RD, FENTON**  
\$359,900 - LAKE FENTON  
62' FRONTAGE, 3  
BEDROOMS, 3 BATHROOMS,  
1,808 SQ. FT. WITH  
LOWER LEVEL WALKOUT &  
OPEN FLOOR PLAN



**13044 ALYSSA CT, LINDEN**  
\$287,999 - LINDEN SCHOOLS  
4 BEDROOMS, 2.5  
BATHROOMS & 3,054 SQ.  
FT., 3 CAR GARAGE WITH  
1,100 SQ. FT. MECHANIC'S  
DREAM



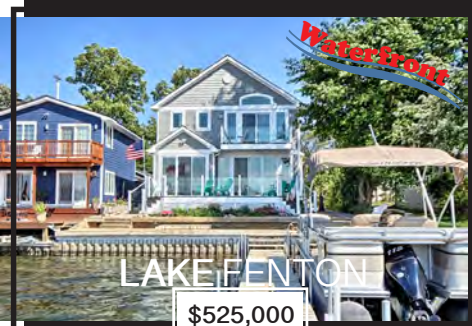
**483 N ELMS RD, FLUSHING**  
\$229,000 - FLUSHING SCHOOLS  
ON ALMOST 3 ACRES  
OF LAND, 3 BEDS, 2.5  
BATHS, 2,459 SQ. FT.,  
FINISHED LOWER LEVEL W/  
WET BAR & STORAGE SHED



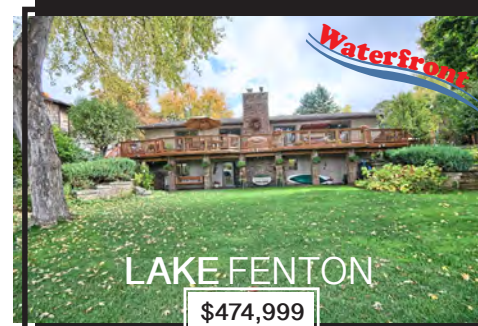
**5374 WARWICK TRL, GRAND BLANC**  
\$209,900 - GRAND BLANC SCHOOLS  
PRESTIGIOUS WARWICK  
HILLS CONDO, 3  
BEDROOMS, 2.5 BATHS,  
1,664 SQ. FT. & FINISHED  
LOWER LEVEL



**SILVER LAKE**  
\$574,999  
103' FRONTAGE, 4 BEDS,  
2.5 BATHS & 2,000+ SQ.  
FT. WITH WALKOUT



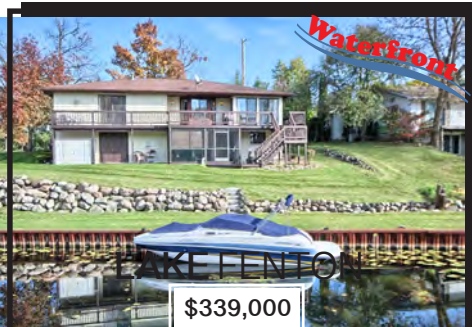
**LAKE FENTON**  
\$525,000  
40' FRONTAGE, 3  
BEDROOMS, 2.5 BATHROOMS  
& 1,716 SQ. FT.



**LAKE FENTON**  
\$474,999  
80' FRONTAGE, 4 BEDS,  
3.5 BATS & 3,000+ SQ. FT.  
WITH WALKOUT



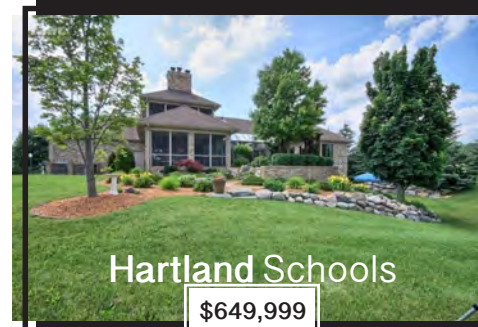
**LAKE FENTON**  
\$374,999  
43' FRONTAGE, 2 BEDS, 2  
BATHROOMS & 2,900+ SQ.  
FT. WITH WALKOUT



**LAKE FENTON**  
\$339,000  
80' FRONTAGE ON CHANNEL,  
4 BEDS, 3 BATHS & 3,000+  
SQ. FT. W/ WALKOUT



**LOBDELL LAKE**  
\$210,000  
40' FRONTAGE, 2 BEDS, 1.5  
BATHS & 1,160 SQ. FT. W/  
LOWER LEVEL WALKOUT



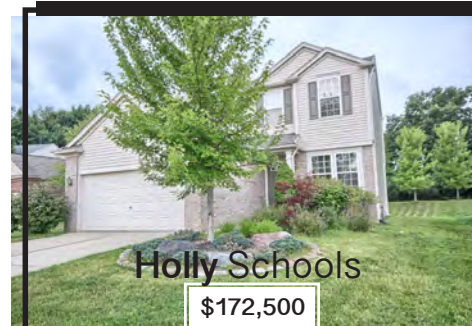
**Hartland Schools**  
\$649,999  
10 ACRES, 3 BEDROOMS,  
WINE CELLAR & 5,987 SQ.  
FT.



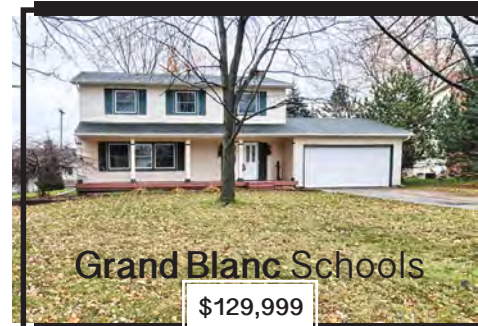
**Fenton Schools**  
\$359,000  
3 BEDROOMS, 3.5  
BATHROOMS & OVER 5,000  
FINISHED SQ. FT.



**Fenton Schools**  
\$274,900  
5 BEDROOMS, 4 BATHROOMS  
& 3,102 SQ. FT.



**Holly Schools**  
\$172,500  
4 BEDROOMS, 2.5  
BATHROOMS & 1,832 SQ.  
FT.



**Grand Blanc Schools**  
\$129,999  
5 BEDROOMS, 2.5  
BATHROOMS & 2,016 SQ.  
FT.



**Fenton Schools**  
\$39,999  
2 BEDROOMS, 1 BATHROOM &  
648 SQ. FT.

## VACANT LAND FOR SALE



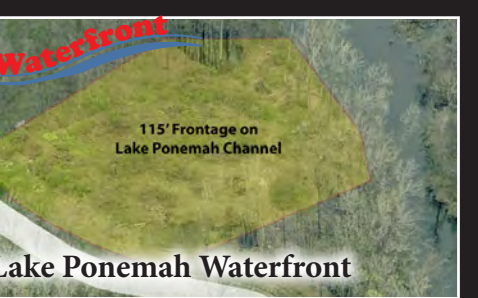
**Lake Ponemah Waterfront**  
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**Lake Ponemah Waterfront**  
4 Emerald Pointe - \$84,900  
115' Frontage on Lake  
Ponemah Channel



**Lake Fenton - \$1,549,999**

## PENDING HOMES



**Silver Lake - \$349,999**



**Davison Schools - \$199,999**

**BUILD**

Continued from Page 3A

Popular amenities prospective homebuyers ask for are USB port plugs and energy efficiency, according to Pyles.

"It's still cheaper to buy a house than to build a house, but that gap is narrowing," said John Tremaine of Tremaine Real Estate in Fenton. "You're going to pay about \$110 per square foot for an existing house or about \$150 per square foot to build."

People who bought land inexpensively in 2010, 2011 and 2012 now have a great opportunity to build, according to Tremaine. For people who want to build but don't have land to build on, land rates are still down and so are interest rates. It's the 'perfect storm' for a phenomenal selling year," he said.

Patrick Widing of Patrick Widing Custom Homes said that business is strong right now for both new builds and renovations. Known for his custom work, Widing has built 72 homes in 21 years, only duplicating two of those homes.

While most of his custom homes have larger price tags, Widing also can build a custom home in the \$250,000 price range with features appropriate



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

This home under construction is on South Long Lake Road in Fenton, directly across from an existing home for sale.

to that price point.

"Most of the expense of a custom home comes down to the finishing touches, and that's what usually adds on to the price," he said. "If a home buyer has a budget of \$250,000, he or she will

be able to buy a home in the 1,600- to 1,800-square-foot range. They'll still get the same quality build and the same craftsmanship. They'll just have to scale down their appliances, lighting, trim packages, etc."

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# MICHIGAN VOTES

WHAT YOUR LEGISLATORS  
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*MichiganVotes.org is a free, non-partisan website created by the Mackinac Center for Public Policy to provide concise, non-partisan, plain-English descriptions of every bill and vote in the Michigan House and Senate.*

As required by the state Constitution, Michigan's 98th Legislature opened on the second Wednesday in January, which was Jan. 14. It will be several weeks before any substantive non-procedural votes are taken, so this report describes some bills of interest introduced during the first week.

### House Bill 4021: Authorize 5-mill property tax for school buses

Introduced by Rep. Robert Kosowski (D), to allow school districts to use a "sinking fund" property tax to buy school buses. Under current law, schools may levy up to 5 mills for 20 years for a "sinking fund," which is a permanent fund that may only be used only for land purchases and the construction or (major) repair of school buildings. Referred to committee, no further action at this time.

### House Bill 4023: Ban child care for more than 11 consecutive hours

Introduced by Rep. Robert Kosowski (D), to prohibit a parent or guardian from leaving a child in the care of a child care center, group child care home, or family child care home for longer than 11 consecutive hours, unless the parent works longer than that. Referred to committee, no further action at this time.

### House Joint Resolution A: Repeal constitutional prohibition on graduated state income tax

Introduced by Rep. Jeff Irwin (D), to place before voters in the next general election a constitutional amendment to repeal an existing prohibition on a graduated income tax (as opposed to Michigan's current flat tax). The measure does not specify a rate structure, which would be left to future legislatures. Referred to committee, no further action at this time.

### House Joint Resolution C: Lengthen term limits

Introduced by Rep. Jeff Farrington (R), to place before voters in the next general election a Constitutional amendment to extend the term limits of state representatives and senators, allowing the former up to six terms of two-years each, and the latter up to three terms of four years each. Currently, representatives may only have three two-year terms, and senators two four-year terms. Term limits on legislators and state officers were adopted by a 59-41 percent vote of the people in 1992. Referred to committee, no further action at this time.

## THIS WEEK'S INSERTS



- Alpine Marketplace
- Arbys
- CVS Pharmacy



- Holly Foods
- Rite Aid
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- VG's
- Walmart

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# Monarch butterflies

## Are they really endangered?



Reasons for decline unknown, local expert says lack of milkweed may be a factor

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

According to a news release from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the end of last year, monarch butterfly numbers are declining, which is leading them to conduct a status review of the butterfly under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service decided to conduct this survey because of a petition from the Center for Biological Diversity, the Center for Food Safety, the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation and Dr. Lincoln Brower asking them to list a subspecies of monarch (*Danaus plexippus plexippus*) as threatened due to substantial information indicating that listing may be warranted.

One of the things many Michiganders look for each spring is the return of the monarch. Monarch butterflies are found throughout the U.S. and many of them winter in Mexico. In fact, many monarchs make a 3,000-mile journey between the U.S., Mexico and Canada. Already a long trip for little wings, now there have been additional threats added with habitat loss, milkweed loss and higher mortality rates due to pesticide use.

According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service website, the status review to determine whether listing is warranted will include a 60-day public information period where they will be looking for information on the subspecies' biology, range and population trends, habitat requirements, genetics and taxonomy, as well as a historical and current range, including distribution patterns and historical and current population levels and current and projected trends. That's just part of it.

According to Howard Russell, an entomologist for MSU, they don't know for sure why the numbers are declining. "It's easy to blame Round-Up and other herbicides, but they can't always be to blame," he said. Russell believes there are many factors involved, including the habitat loss in Mexico.

One of the reported reasons for the declining numbers that Russell isn't convinced of is the loss of host plants. Milkweed is the only food source for the monarch caterpillar and many say that there is not as much milkweed growing in the wild as there once was. Russell said, "Milkweed has always been cultivated out of fields, growers don't like it." However, most who drive by a ditch in Michigan are sure to see an abundance of these plants.

Russell suggests people work to keep milkweed growing and not to weed it out of small home gardens, hedges or flowerbeds. "There are lots of bugs that develop on milkweed. It's an interesting plant to have around," he said.



## About the monarch BUTTERFLY

Often called the Milkweed Butterfly, this large, black-veined orange-winged butterfly can be observed feeding on milkweed. During its mating behavior, the adult male monarch will display a "courtship dance." Perching on the tips of the milkweed, it will fly to other large butterflies to see if one is a female monarch; if it is, they will fly together in a fast, darting flight, lasting up to a minute and covering many yards and to a height of 100 feet. As fall approaches, the monarchs can be seen in large numbers migrating along the Great Lakes shorelines en route to Mexico and Central America.

Source: [www.michigan.gov](http://www.michigan.gov)

## KORAN

Continued from Front Page

discuss anything negative about it or the terrorists' attacks that it causes. This is not learning, it is indoctrination."

Superintendent David Nuss responded to the Times to straighten up any confusion and get the facts out to concerned parents and citizens.

Nuss said, "In our Global Issues course, teachers and students discuss many factors that influence human behavior—including tenets of major religions of the world—Islam, Christianity, Hinduism, Judaism, etc. Major beliefs are discussed as an overview with how these beliefs influenced history and continue to impact the world and human behavior, especially in the Eastern Hemisphere."

Nuss went on to say, "Religion, and other cultural issues, are studied to explain how divisions among people are often created despite efforts for peace. For example, Islam played a role in the war between India and Pakistan upon the independence of Great Britain. Of course, religion continues to play a role in the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. Stu-

dents are asked to be familiar with and understand beliefs of major religions only to the extent of how they impact the world."

Contrary to the claims made in the original Hot line, Nuss said, "Students are not asked to memorize, recite or write the pillars of Islam. The pillars of Islam are a small part of a much larger unit on world cultures and what influences human behavior."

Students learn about the world and different cultures, as well as different political parties. Nuss said, "Our students often study various perspectives of human thought. For example, students learn fundamental beliefs of the Republican, Democratic, Independent, and other political parties in government class. This does not mean we promote

one belief system over the other. We encourage exploration, discourse, and independent thinking to understand and evaluate what motivates human behavior."

According to the superintendent, this situation with the Hot line was all just some misinformation that was easily cleared up once parents spoke with the school.

“Students are not asked to memorize, recite or write the pillars of Islam.”

Dave Nuss  
HAS superintendent

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## HOT LINE CONTINUED

**THIS IS UNBELIEVABLE.** I was typing a Hot line to submit in Microsoft Word. When I typed Koran the program automatically capitalized it. So, I typed in 'bible'—nothing happened. Can someone explain this insanity?

**AFTER WATCHING THE** State of Union address, it is obvious to me that our president seems to be a legend in his own mind. I think he sees his god every morning in the mirror when he shaves.

**I WOULD LIKE** somebody to prove to me that the world is really warming? I heard that there were palm trees in the arctic many years ago.

**PLEASE SHOW ME** the girl that was forced to memorize the Koran. She's a genius because that is a fairly large book.

**PEDESTRIANS HAVE THE** right-of-way, even when removing snow, so if you'd like to run your M-Van at 50 in a 40-mph zone some more in the dark, come on back, I appreciate some more target practice opportunities out in the countryside.

**NOTE TO FENTON** school board. You promised computer upgrades for the journalism class at the high school if the bond passed. The bond passed, but no upgrades. Were you just telling us anything to get your bond passed? This teaches us not to believe you. — A concerned parent.

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## SCHOOL

Continued from Front Page

Linden schools is also in a spot to have strong police support if needed. Aside from having two local police forces, Linden City and Argentine Township police, they also have a liaison officer from Argentine Police right in the high school.

The school district is actually "headquartered" in Argentine Township, with two elementary schools technically located in Linden City limits. LCS covers approximately 50 square miles in Genesee and Livingston counties. Lake Fenton Community Schools by comparison, covers about 27 square miles.

LCS draws students from the city of Linden, but also the village of Gaines, and Argentine, Deerfield and Fenton townships.

Koledo said that finances got a lot tougher in 2007. Add the declining enrollment and an increase in health care costs, and Linden schools have had a challenging time, financially.

Linden schools receives the minimum \$7,126 per pupil from the state, like Fenton Area Public Schools, and Holly Area Schools. Lake Fenton Community Schools receives \$7,307 per pupil.

In the 2014-15 school year, Linden had the added challenge of \$180,000 less in funding than they expected. The administration budgeted for 2,902 students, or a loss of 25 students, but lost 58 instead, or \$7,126 in state aid for each.

In 2013-14, LCS had an enrollment of 2,935, but counted 2,877 officially. Linden was alongside Fenton Area Public Schools and Holly Area Schools in losing students this school year. "We do not see large influxes of Schools of Choice students and the significant birth-rate drop beginning in 2008 seems to play a factor," Koledo said via email. "Student withdrawal survey information indicates the vast majority are happy with their experience within LCS, but moving away from the district."

Despite this, Linden schools have had



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Noah Pearce, 15, chats about sports while his table in art class works on perspective drawings on Thursday. To his left is Emily Waltrip, 16, to his right is Trevor Wolford, 16.

a balanced budget the last two years, due to staff cuts and concessions. Koledo expects the budget to continue to be tight.

For the 2014-15 operating budget, Linden budgeted for \$25,051,793 in revenue. For comparison, the city of Linden's budget is \$4 million for all city expenses, like police, fire and infrastructure. Linden City Manager Paul Zelenak cautioned against comparing school and city budgets. "They aren't the same type of budgets," he said via email.

LCS has an ongoing plan, containing strategies and tactics to help the district grow in the future.

For 2014-15, LCS will spend \$19.3 million on personnel, or 76 percent of the operating budget. In all they have 290 employees, with the most working in the high school.

Like all local districts, teacher salaries are negotiated on a scale taking experience and years in the district into account. An entry-level teacher with a bachelor's degree can expect \$36,318. A teacher with a master's degree and 40 years of experience will make approximately \$73,630.

LCS has six school buildings, totaling 488,521 square feet of space. Most buildings are in Argentine Township. Linden Middle School, Linden High School, Central Elementary and Argentine Elementary are outside city limits in Argentine Township. Hyatt Elementary and Linden Elementary are located in the city.

Argentine Elementary is the oldest, be-

ing built in 1916, but received additions in 1921, 1946, 1956 and 1970. The newest school is Linden Middle School, built in 2004. The other buildings were built in the 1950s, '60s and '70s.

Linden's long-term sinking fund aids heavily with maintaining and upgrading buildings. The fund provided \$714,882 in the 2014-15 school year. Koledo said these funds have been used to retrofit buildings with more energy-efficient windows, and interior lighting, among a myriad of other projects they've been able to tackle.

This year, the biggest chunk to be spent is \$200,000 on the high school gymnasium.

Better insulation and new boilers across the district have also been purchased with sinking fund dollars. Koledo said that the district has saved \$290,000 in general fund expenses due to efficiency improvements over the last nine years.

Koledo is proud of the district's academics, and is confident that Linden students will perform well with new tests coming. "I am sure Linden students will remain in excellent standing when compared to their peers across the county and state."

He said many students find success in advanced placement and dual enrollment courses. Students behind in reading or math can catch up with their Response to Intervention programming.

"Trimesters has allowed our secondary students more course offerings than we were able to provide with a six-period semester program," Koledo said.

**Q** Why should residents in the district be concerned about what the district does, even if they don't have students in the schools?

**A** In Linden, I think the old adage 'it takes a village to raise a child' still holds true in so many ways. Whether residents have children in school, there is a deep sense of loyalty and community spirit in Linden. It's a small-town atmosphere where everyone knows most everyone and Linden schools are at the center, a place many residents attended and still have that home-town loyalty toward. As a part of Linden, I think people want their schools to do well, be a positive mark in the community and be noted academically and athletically for student excellence in both. Linden Community Schools truly enjoys working hard every day to accomplish this.

## Linden School Board

School districts compensate their board members differently, but most aren't paid a living salary. Linden School Board members are completely voluntary, receiving no pay for meetings or training.

- President **Scott Maker** was elected to the Board in May 2008 and is serving for the third year in his current role. A resident of the district for 13 years, he and his wife Jennifer have two children who are Linden graduates currently pursuing degrees at Grand Valley State University. Scott is a colonel in the U.S. Marine Corps with 29 years of service and also has worked in the private security industry. His current term on the Board expires in December 2018.

- Vice President **Steve Murphy** is a lifelong resident of the Linden school district. He was elected to the board in 2002, and currently serves as vice president and has served in every board position through the years. Murphy has worked at Tyrone Hills Golf Course as Greens superintendent for 32 years. His wife Dalynn is a first-grade teacher at Cook elementary in Grand Blanc. His oldest daughter Heather Josephson, a LHS graduate, is a kindergarten teacher at Central elementary in Linden. Shannon Murphy-Billings, a 2007 LHS graduate is an admission coordinator and Head Volleyball Coach at Rochester College.

- Treasurer **Mike Murphy** has lived in the Linden community all his life, and has been on the Linden Board of Education for 12 years, elected in 2002. Murphy has worked at Delphi in Flint and then in 2006 went to work for Richfield Industries. Murphy has three children. No one in his family is employed by Linden or another district.

- Secretary **Steve Losey** has lived in the district since 2002, and was elected in 2010 as a write-in candidate. Losey is currently a special education teacher for Redford Schools in Wayne County in his 20th year of teaching. He is also into his 13th year as president of the Redford Union Education Association. Losey and wife Laura have three children, and all have attended, or are attending, Linden Schools. Laura currently works as a substitute teacher.

- Trustee **Michele Shayna** has been in the district for almost eight years. Her oldest son is in sixth-grade at the middle school and her youngest son is in fourth-grade at Hyatt. Shayna works at Genesys in Pediatric Urgent Care and has for the last year and four months. Before that she worked for a non-profit called Priority Children and Green and Healthy Homes. She's going into her third year on the board.

- Trustee **Jason Rowden** has been living in the Linden school district for the past 12 years. He was elected to a six-year term on the board in the November 2014 election. He has been a high school math teacher for Howell Public Schools for the past 12 years and worked in the commercial banking industry prior to becoming a teacher. He has a fourth-grader at Linden Elementary and a seventh-grader at Linden Middle School. His wife Amy is a preschool teacher for the district in Argentine.

- Trustee **Peter Ponzetti** has been in the district for 30 months, and was sworn in, Jan. 7. Ponzetti was a public school teacher from 2005 to 2010, and has worked with DM Burr Group since 2011. His main area of concern at the present time is student enrollment. He said that declines have myriad negative consequences for the community.

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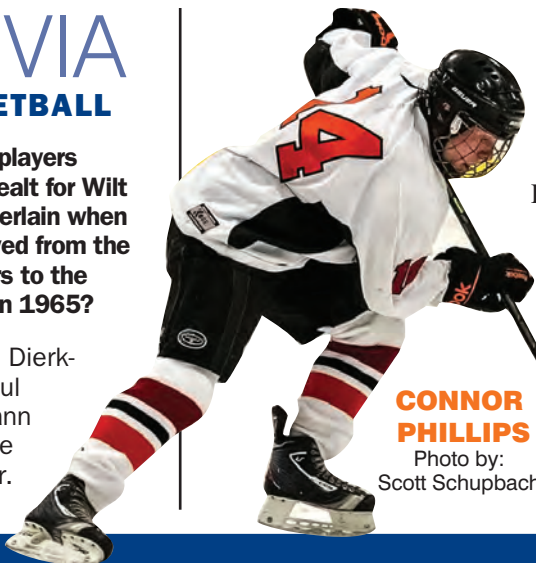
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## TRIVIA BASKETBALL

**Q** Which players were dealt for Wilt Chamberlain when he moved from the Warriors to the 76ers in 1965?

**A** Connie Dierking, Paul Neumann and Lee Shaffer.



**CONNOR PHILLIPS**

Photo by: Scott Schubach

## Griffins win third straight contest, 4-3

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

The Fenton/Linden Metro League Griffins struggled during the 2014 portion of their prep hockey season.

But since the start of the new year, the squad has elevated its play.

The Griffins extended their unbeaten streak to four games and also won their third game in a row

in a 4-3 victory against the Grand Ledge Comets on Wednesday.

The co-op hockey squad comprised of Linden and Fenton students took the lead late in the second period on a power-play goal by Jonah Laines and made it hold, resulting in their third straight victory.

Laines's goal was assisted by Jake Thompson and Connor Phillips at the 14:38 mark of the second period. Manny Vomvaolakis played in net and preserved the victory in the third period.

The Griffins fell behind 1-0 quickly when Grand Ledge scored a short-handed goal in the first period. However, Fenton/Linden responded quickly, scoring before the power play was over on a goal by Tyler Bourassa off assists by Brendan Buerkel and Phillips. Just 30 seconds later, Tristan Deniau scored his first goal of the season off assists by Buerkel and Phillips, giving the Griffins a 2-1 lead.

See **GRIFFINS** on 18A

**Times**

SUNDAY,  
JANUARY 25, 2015  
PAGE 17A

# Sports

## METRO BATTLE

**PATRICK KERR**

The Linden Eagles split Metro dual  
See Page 19A



ONLINE EXCLUSIVES

Read about Friday night's Fenton at Linden basketball games at [tctimes.com](http://tctimes.com).

## GYMNASTICS SQUAD CONTINUES STRONG FIRST SEASON

The Linden/Fenton/Lake Fenton gymnastics team is off to a strong start during its first season.

The squad's success continued on Thursday as the co-op squad defeated Vassar and Cass City. The area co-op team posted a score of 132.125 while Vassar had a 123.35 and Cass City recorded a 118.25.

Miranda Stephens paced the Linden/Fenton/Lake Fenton squad by placing first all-around. She also took first on the bar, the beam and the floor. She placed second on the vault. Jessica Richert took second all-around. She was second on bar, beams and floor and third on vault. Jordan Dawson placed fifth in the all-around and was fourth on bars, fifth on vault, fifth on beam and sixth on floor. Nicole Haberkamp placed third on floor and fifth on bars, while Macy Mitchell placed fifth on the floor.

The gymnastics team travels to Haslett on Monday.

## Young Devils doing well

►Lake Fenton wrestlers sweep recent GAC dual

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

**Mt. Morris** — When a team has three captains and two are sophomores, it's fair to say that squad is young.

That statement does a pretty good job of describing the Lake Fenton varsity wrestling team. However, while the Blue Devils may be young, don't mistake that comment as meaning they aren't talented. Indeed, Lake Fenton has great youthful talent.

The Blue Devils have three wrestlers ranked in Division 3 in the state in their weight class who are freshmen or sophomores. The youthful team is currently 5-1 in the Genesee Area Conference (GAC). Lake Fenton posted two more easy victories on Wednesday, defeating Byron 59-21 and Hammady 65-18.

"We are young," said sophomore Trent Hillger, who is ranked No. 1 in Division 3 in his weight class. "We are getting better every single dual meet. Every single weekend we



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPENS

Lake Fenton's A.J. Geyer (top) pounds his opponent to the mat during the Blue Devils' double-dual sweep against Byron and Hammady.

are getting better. It's a learning process of the new kids. It's going better than I thought it would. These young kids have really stepped up."

"It's just different because there are a lot of freshmen," said

sophomore Hunter Corcoran.

"I thought we were going to do a little worse than we are doing, but we've been doing a lot better than I expected. I think that's

See **DEVILS** on 20A

## Eagles capture first victory

By David Troppens  
dtroppens@tctimes.com

The Linden varsity boys basketball team has come close to earning victories this winter.

But they have always come on the wrong side of the ledger.

That is true up until Tuesday.

Kevin Hoeberling hit the game-tying three-pointer and followed it with the game-winning free throws with 15.1 seconds left, earning the Eagles a 55-53

See **EAGLES** on 20A



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | MARK BOLEN  
Kevin Hoeberling (left) scored the game-winning free throws in Linden's win against Mt. Morris.

## GET FRIDAY NIGHT BASKETBALL RESULTS IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE GAME

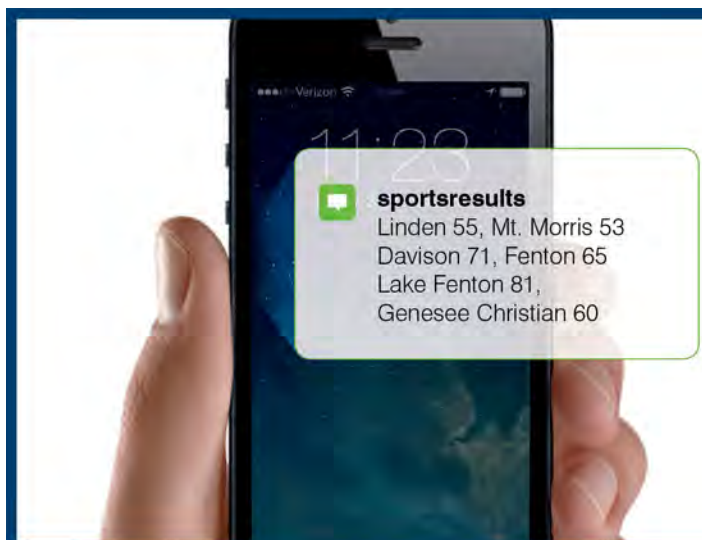
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## GRIFFINS

Continued from Page 17A

However, Grand Ledge scored during the final minute of the period, tying it up.

The game remained tight in the second period, as neither team ever led by more than a goal.

Joe Moran put the Griffins back up 3:43 into the second period with his second goal of the season, assisted by Phillips and Buerkel. About 90 seconds later, Grand Ledge responded with its third goal of the game. However, Laines's goal broke the 3-3 tie for good. The Griffins made life easier on themselves, taking only two penalties during the contest. Conversely, the Comets were whistled for five infractions for 10 minutes.

After a 2-8-1 start, the Griffins are playing stronger hockey of late. Fenton/Linden's greatest improvement has been on defense. After allowing 59 goals in the team's first 10 games, the Griffins have allowed only eight goals during the four-game unbeaten streak. The offense has also improved a bit, averaging 4.25 goals a contest during the streak. Prior to it, Fenton/Linden was averaging just 3.00 goals a game.

The squad's next home game is Wednesday at 6 p.m. against the Alliance at Hartland Sports Center.

# Tigers play well despite loss to Davison

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

The Fenton varsity boys basketball team wanted to get back to what they do well.

Fenton varsity boys basketball coach Tim Olszewski thinks the Tigers did just that despite losing a 71-65 verdict to a talented Davison squad on Tuesday.

"We made a decision on Tuesday to get back with what we originally started with because we feel it's the best opportunity for us as a program," Olszewski said. "Although we didn't win, we got back to what we wanted to.

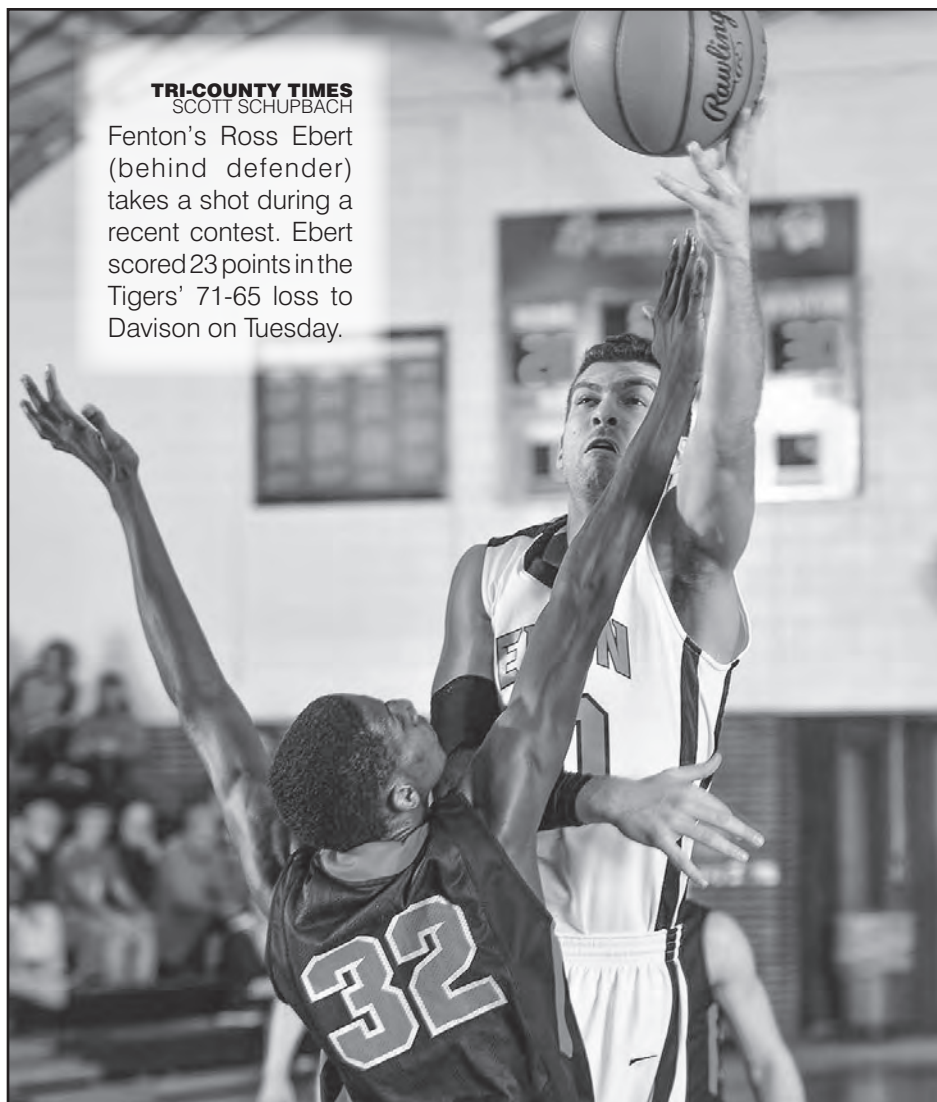
"We want to push the ball, execute our rebounding techniques and wanted to be more efficient but not slower how we distributed the ball. I thought we accomplished a lot of those things yesterday. We accomplished them all but it didn't equate to a win."

Getting a win against the Cardinals was going to be tough considering the team's 9-1 record. However, the Tigers (4-4) gave victory a solid run. The Tigers only trailed 35-30 at the half, but did fall behind 56-42 at the end of three quarters. Fenton scored 23 points in the final quarter. It wasn't enough to earn the victory, though.

One area that killed the Tigers was the free-throw line. Davison hit 25-of-

TRI-COUNTY TIMES  
SCOTT SCHUPBACH

Fenton's Ross Ebert (behind defender) takes a shot during a recent contest. Ebert scored 23 points in the Tigers' 71-65 loss to Davison on Tuesday.



34 free throws, while Fenton hit on just 8-of-14.

Ross Ebert had a huge game, scoring a team-high 23 points, grabbing eight rebounds and earning three steals.

Chris Gilbert had eight points, while Nick Wyrick had six points and eight rebounds. Austin Bossenberger had five assists, while Alec Thomas had five rebounds and four assists.

## Lady Eagles struggle early, drop verdict to Railroaders, 60-40

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

**Linden** — It may have had something to do with a rivalry game against Fenton coming up on Friday.

It may have had something to do with Durand being a pretty strong team, only losing three games to state-ranked foes so far this year.

Whatever it was, Linden varsity girls coach Ben Varner wishes he knew exactly why his team didn't play with the energy he hoped for in the squad's 60-40 loss to Durand Tuesday night.

"It felt like we were a step slow to-

night," Varner said. "We didn't get to loose balls. We didn't rebound. It was blah and I don't know why. It was absolutely blah. But if we would've played like we did the last quarter and a half, we would've been all right. We got it back to nine and got some pep in our step, but the whole game just felt blah."

Linden's last lead came at 4-3 after a short jumper by Alexis Brandt. After that, Durand went on a 13-0 run and never looked back as the Lady Railroaders cruised to the victory at Linden High School.

See **LADY** on 19A

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## PREP REPORT

### WRESTLING

#### ► Holly hosts Varner Invitational:

Holly went 1-4, earning a victory against Avondale. Wyatt Scribner, Carsen Cuthbert, Trevor Hatfield and Jimmy Gray went 4-1 for the Bronchos.

### HOCKEY

► **KBH United 7, Bishop Foley 1:** The Kearsley/Brandon/Holly co-op squad had Shawn Larsen score three goals and four others score in the victory. Nate Flanagan, Evan Flood, Kross Kenny and Jesse Zorn had a goal each. Connor Martin was the winning goalie.

### BOYS BOWLING

► **Linden def. Fenton:** Logan Skinner rolled a 222-248-470 two-game series, while Trevor Sundria rolled a 205-226-431 series, leading the Eagles. Linden's Russell Carney also bowled a 204. The squad also had a 201 baker game.

Fenton was led by John Cryderman's 208-205-413 series. Spencer Baughman rolled a 212 game.

► **Brandon def. Holly:** The Bronchos were paced by Aladi Craycraft's 260-160-420 series. Matt Rakowski also bowled a 205 game.

### GIRLS BOWLING

► **Fenton def. Linden:** Rebecca Martin led the Tigers to the victory with a 160-180-340 series. Audrey Bakos paced Linden with a 145-147-292 series.

► **Holly def. Brandon:** Hannah Babon posted a 218-187-405 series, leading the Bronchos to the victory. Jenna Royle also had a 176 game.

### BOYS BASKETBALL

► **Mt. Morris freshmen 48, Linden 40:** The Eagles were paced by Nick Koan and Blake Knox who had 16 points each.

# Linden splits Metro dual meet with Holly, Clio

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

It has been a long time since the Linden varsity wrestling team has defeated Holly's program.

But the seven-year drought came to an end on Wednesday as the Eagles defeated Holly 45-33. Linden ended the day losing to Clio by a tight 43-36 score, while Holly lost to Flushing 52-25.

"It was a good dual and the first time we have defeated Holly in seven years," Linden wrestling coach Todd Skinner said.

"We knew we were in a battle with Clio, and at this point they are just more experienced than we are at a lot of weights. I'm very pleased with how we competed and managed to keep it very close, all the way to the last match."

For Holly, limited numbers has been a big culprit all year and was again on Wednesday.

"It's the same story with four voids," Holly coach Don Pluta said. "But, again, I feel we are making progress and competing throughout the lineup."

Linden (4-2) remains in second place in the Metro. Going 2-0 during the night

were Justin Cygnar, Chandler Monsey, Patrick Kerr, Cade Dickson and Austin McNeill. Luke Zimmerman, Bryce Davis and Stojan Prusac each won a match.

"We still have a shot heading into the conference meet, but we have to take out Fenton next week," Skinner said. "At this point it's about getting healthy and getting prepared for the final push that begins in a few weeks. We will make sure that this team is prepared."

Holly's double-winners were Carsen Cuthbert (119), Trevor Hatfield (130), Jimmy Gray (189) and Wyatt Lupro (215/285).

Pluta said the team's biggest highlight was Hatfield defeating Flushing's Connor Boike 5-3 in a 130-pound match. Boike was ranked sixth in the state in his weight class in Division 2.

## Fenton vs. Brandon, Kearsley

The Tigers lost to Kearsley 64-7 and lost to Brandon 72-8.

Against Kearsley, Tommy Adams (145) won by major decision, while Scott Becker (189) won by decision.

Adams and Becker also won matches against Brandon.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPENS

Linden's Patrick Kerr (back) won matches against Clio and Holly on Wednesday. Linden split the two team matches.

## LADY

Continued from Page 18A

The Eagles cut the deficit back under single-digits a few times after falling behind 16-4. Sterling DeGayner created one of those times with a three-pointer, cutting the gap to 16-7 entering the second quarter. However, Durand opened the second quarter by scoring seven straight points, upping the edge to 23-7 with 6:39 left in the opening half.

During the second half, the Eagles made two runs at getting back into the game. A three-pointer by DeGayner cut the gap to 29-19 just 55 seconds into the third quarter. However, the Railroaders got a layup from Alexis Ayala and consecutive three-point buckets from Sarah Dunavant, raising the gap back to 37-19 with 4:52 left in the third. Then in the fourth quarter, the Eagles fell behind by as many as 47-30 before a run of eight straight points — six of them coming on converted free throws by Taylor Smith — cut the gap to 47-38 with 5:10 left in regulation. Once again, Durand responded putting together a seven-point run of its own, raising the gap to 54-38 with just 3:36 left. By then, the game's final result was pretty much not in doubt.

Linden was paced by DeGayner's 15 points, while Smith added 13 points four steals and three assists. Megan Kenney collected 12 rebounds. Ayala led Durand with 26 points.

## Davison 34, Fenton 30

The teams were locked up into a mighty defensive battle until the fourth quarter. The Tigers led 16-14 entering the final quarter, but were outscored 20-14 in it, resulting in the tough loss.

The Tigers were paced by Sarah Cummings, who netted seven points, Emma Evo scored six points, while Madison Shegos and Carly Granger had five points each.

## Oxford 66, Lake Fenton 26

The Blue Devils (2-8) were outscored 31-6 in the opening quarter and lost to Class A Oxford.

Sierra Arroyo led the Blue Devils with eight points, while Kaitlyn Begley had six points. Kimberly Roe had three steals and Sydney Sheyachich had three rebounds.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPENS

Linden's Madison Maxheimer (left) tries to defend Durand's Cassie Podulka in the Eagles' 60-40 loss on Tuesday night.

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 THUR 11:50 2:20 4:50 7:20 9:50 11:55

**\*STRANGE MAGIC (PG)**  
 FRI-THUR 11:35 2:05 4:35 7:10 9:35

**\*THE BOY NEXT DOOR (R)**  
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**\*@GAME OF THRONES: THE IMAX EXPERIENCE (R)**  
 THUR 10:00

**\*PROJECT ALMANAC (PG13)**  
 THUR 7:00 9:30 12:05

**\*THE LOFT (R)**  
 THUR 8:00 10:30 12:05

**CONTINUING**

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**\*PADDINGTON (PG)**  
**\*BLACKHAT (R)**  
**\*@AMERICAN SNIPER: AN IMAX EXPERIENCE (R)**  
**\*AMERICAN SNIPER (R)**  
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# TRI-COUNTY Autos

21A Sunday, January 25, 2015

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

## Don't forget about insurance when buying a new car

► Safety, and likelihood of theft, are key insurance factors to consider with new car purchase

By Sally Rummel

[news@tctimes.com](mailto:news@tctimes.com); 810-629-8282

If you're in the market for a new car, your budget needs to include not only the vehicle, but also the insurance policy that the state of Michigan requires before you can drive it off the dealership lot.

Your rate of insurance is influenced by many factors, but one of them is the vehicle itself. Owning a vehicle with a high safety rating means there is a lower risk for needing to pay for medical bills for yourself or your passengers, so your rate will be lower, according to the Department of Motor Vehicles website, [dmv.org](http://dmv.org). Owning a car with a lower safety rate will have the opposite effect.

### Summary

► It pays to shop around for the best insurance prices, based not only on the vehicle you're buying but also personal factors about where you live, and your driving record, etc.

ing to the Department of Motor Vehicles website, [dmv.org](http://dmv.org). Owning a car with a lower safety rate will have the opposite effect.

"The cars that are the best to insure are the ones that have the most safety features," said Teresa Mills, customer service representative for Brad Hoffman Insurance in Fenton. "The ones that are harder to insure are those that are smaller, less expensive and have more accidents because they are often driven by a younger driver."

The safety rating is based on several factors, including the car owner's likelihood of getting into an accident and how likely a passenger is to be injured in an accident. Safety features such as airbags, automatic seatbelts and traction control all contribute to safety and accident prevention.

Size matters with insurance, too. Larger cars are generally safer than smaller cars in an accident. However, cars with larger engines relative to body size tend to have higher rates, i.e., a sports car with a V8 engine costs more than a small car with a V4 engine.

The age of the car also counts. Though the repair costs of an older vehicle are similar to the costs of a newer vehicle, an older car is more likely to be "totaled" in an accident. This is because the cost of significant repairs needed for an older car can often be higher than the vehicle's entire worth.

Newer cars are not considered to be "totaled" as often as older cars, and generally have much higher collision coverage



rates. The higher coverage translates to a higher premium for a newer car.

Likelihood of theft is another when choosing insurance coverage. Some cars are more attractive to thieves than others and a car model listed on the Top 10 of most stolen vehicles is likely to come with a higher insurance rate than a less likely target. Having a car alarm or other anti-theft device can help lower the premium.

In addition to car features, your own personal driving habits, gender and age, marital status, where you live, your insurance score (based on information from your credit report), profession, how often you drive impact your car insurance.

Many people with past financial issues or a poor driving record may be interested in learning a little-known fact about car insurance. "One of

the questions we ask prospective clients is who resides in their household with them," said Kristen Short, owner of The Steelman Agency in Linden, a locally owned AAA office. "At AAA, we'll use the highest insurance score of anyone in that household, as long as we can document that they are insured. This can be really helpful to some people, and it's one of our unique features as an agency."

**“The cars that are best to insure are the ones that have the most safety features.”**

**Teresa Mills**  
Brad Hoffman Insurance

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## 10 MOST STOLEN VEHICLES

Last year, approximately 700,000 vehicles were stolen in the U.S., compared to 1,661,738 in 1991. These figures are continuing to decline, according to statistics from the National Insurance Crime Bureau. The much larger majority of stolen cars are older cars from the 1990s before anti-theft technology became standard equipment.

The Honda Accord continues to be the most stolen car in the U.S., with 53,995 reported stolen in 2013. The most stolen are from 1990-1997 model years.

If you're driving a new car off the lot, here are the late-model vehicles that have attracted the most thieves.

1. Nissan Altima
2. Ford Fusion
3. Ford pickup full-size
4. Toyota Corolla
5. Chevrolet Impala
6. Hyundai Elantra
7. Dodge Charger
8. Chevrolet Malibu
9. Chevrolet Cruze
10. Ford Focus

### Safest 2015 vehicles

These vehicles earned the highest possible rating in crash worthiness testing through the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety:

1. Hyundai Genesis
2. Subaru Impreza WRX
3. Hyundai Sonata
4. Volkswagen Golf/GTI
5. Chrysler 200
6. Subaru Legacy (and Outback)
7. Hyundai Genesis



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# Taking it on 'the open road'

►RV travel offers flexibility and an economical way to vacation

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Spring and summer are still a few months away, but it's not too early to begin planning for the call of the open road.

The recreational vehicle (RV) market grew steadily in 2014 and is expected to continue its growth and popularity in 2015, according to the Recreational Vehicle Industry Association.

While the term "recreational vehicle" often calls to mind a luxurious mo-

torhome, there are actually many types of RVs to suit just about every family's travel goal and budget.

There are many RVs to choose from, including:

## Class A motorhomes

This is what people often think of when they use the term "motorhomes" — it's like a house on wheels with just about any amenity you could imagine, and is ideal for long distance travel and a sizeable family. Many include living rooms, complete kitchens and baths, even a washer and dryer. There may even be room for a master bedroom with a queen-size bed and plenty of closet space.

Cost: \$60,000 for a basic model to custom motorhomes with a price tag of more than \$1 million.

## Class B motorhomes

More commonly known as camper vans, these offer many of the features and craftsmanship of Class A models, in a smaller, more maneuverable package. Using a full-size van as its foundation, a Class B motorhome can provide many of the comforts of home, but more ideal for two to three travelers and multi-week trips.

Cost: \$40,000 to \$80,000 for standard model to \$90,000 to \$125,000 for luxury model.

## Class C motorhomes

A cross between class As and class Bs, class C motorhomes are popular for summer trips, as they are easy units to rent. They are generally easy to drive, with enough room for a family to sleep. The C class can range from 20 to 40 feet.

Cost: \$50,000 to \$80,000 for a standard model and \$85,000 to \$145,000 for a luxury model.

## Travel trailers

A big advantage of travel trailers is that their lightweight but sturdy construction makes them towable by standard pickup trucks, SUVs and even some minivans. Ranging in size from mini "teardrop" units of about 12 feet, to 33-foot triple axle giants, they offer many designer-grade interiors, and can sleep up to six. Its big advantage is that you can leave it at a campsite and take the tow vehicle out to explore your destination.

Cost: \$7,000 to \$70,000, depending on amenities.

## Fifth-wheel trailer

This RV gets its name from the large hitch pin that attaches the trailer to a special mount in the bed of a heavy-duty pickup truck. This makes it more stable to pull than a comparably sized travel trailer. It's also easier to back up into a campsite than a conventional travel trailer. Ranging in size from 18 to 40 feet long, a fifth-wheel is excellent for long distance travel including mountain roads.

Cost: \$15,000 to \$50,000 for a standard model and \$50,000 to \$150,000 for a luxury model.

## Pop-up trailer

At the opposite end of the spectrum from class A motorhomes is a pop-up or folding trailer. It's the smallest, lightest and most economical unit in the trailer family. They are a great way to try out an RV lifestyle without spending a lot of money. They also travel well for week-end trips and occasional longer forays. Amenities can include a small kitchen, shower and toilet.

Cost: \$3,000 to \$7,000.

## Sport utility RV

This is the newest member of the RV family and is referred to as a "Toy Hauler" because of the garage area built into the rear. This space can be used for hauling motorcycles, quad runners and personal watercraft, and is separated from the rest of the trailer by a solid wall and an access door. Once your "toys" have been unloaded at their destination, the garage can be used for storage or extra sleeping space.

Cost: \$3,000 to \$7,000 for a standard model or \$8,000 to \$20,000 for more features and amenities.

## Truck camper

It's the ultimate in mobility for travel where motorhomes and trailers can't go. A truck camper slides into the bed of a standard pickup, yet offers many comforts of home at an economical price. Some even have a bedroom over the truck cab, plus a small kitchen, toilet and shower.

Cost: \$3,000 to \$15,000 for basic model, or \$20,000 to \$50,000 for a larger model with special features and slide-outs.



Class A



Class B



Class C

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By Sally Rummel

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If you own a car or truck, you've likely experienced the flashing of a warning light or dashboard symbol, signaling that something is going on with your vehicle. It's normal for the lights to illuminate briefly when the vehicle is started, but if they stay on or begin to flash, you may want to take your car or truck into a repair shop.

Sometimes it's as simple as a parking brake warning light flashing or perhaps your vehicle's rear door is ajar. However, warning lights can be serious, resulting in performance and/or safety issues.

It's important for you to know whether a warning light requires immediate attention or whether you can continue to drive and check it out with a repair shop later. Many warning lights are specific to the car make or model, so the owner's manual

should give a detailed explanation of the meaning of the warning light and what action to take.

"Usually when your check engine light comes on, it's something serious that needs to be looked at," said Gill McCann, master technician at Muffler & Go in Fenton. "Most small repair shops will only charge for the time spent to check it out, but not for just scanning it to see what it means."

The most common warning lights, according to McCann, are the check engine light, the ABS light (anti-lock braking system) and the tire monitor light.

"The check engine light should always be checked out, in case it's something serious. The ABS light is the second most tripped light. Typically, it disables the anti-lock braking system, but your brakes will still work. You should have it

checked out, though, it could potentially be a problem with the hydraulic system.

A tire monitor light usually detects that tire pressure is low. "That's an easy fix," said McCann.

**“Usually, when your check engine light comes on, it's something serious that needs to be looked at.”**

Gill McCann

Master Technician at Muffler & Go



#### Rear Fog Light

It is activated and remains on once the driver turns on the fog beams.



#### Seat Belt Reminder

Active as long as vehicle is moving and belt is unfastened.



#### Brake System Alert

Indicates low brake fluid level. Seek professional to rectify any issues or leaks.



#### Temperature Warning Light

Warns of possible engine overheating, stop vehicle.



#### Front Airbag

Amber light informs driver when passenger air bag has been switched off manually.



#### Battery Warning

Indicates the battery recharging system has failed or low battery level.



#### Open Doors

One or more doors are closed incorrectly. Check all doors and shut properly.



#### Hazard Warning Lights

Activated by driver to indicate a problem to other motorists.



#### Oil Pressure Warning

Sensor detects low oil pressure, switch engine off immediately.



#### ABS Warning Light

Indicates fault in ABS braking system. This will not result in losing your brakes.



#### Engine Management Light

Usually related to emissions or running concerns.



#### Warning Light

Illuminates with other lights and is usually accompanied by error message.



#### Tire Pressure Monitor

Inflate tires to correct pressure, displayed in owners manual.



#### Bulb Failure

Indicates a problem with one or more of the vehicle bulbs. Check and replace.



#### Rear Window Defrost

On once the driver presses the rear window defrost button.



#### Child Safety Lock

Shows you that the child safety lock has been activated. Switch off when done.



#### Cruise Control

Indicates the cruise control system is activated. May differ by brand and car model.



#### Windshield Defrost

Activated by the driver to clear the front windshield. Turn off when windshield is clear.



#### Traction Control Light

Will flash to warn driver of hazardous conditions.



#### Electronic Throttle Control Light

Indicates malfunction in the electronic throttle control system.



#### Overdrive Indicator

Shows driver that the overdrive system has been turned off.



#### All-Wheel Drive

This light indicates that the all-wheel drive system is activated.



#### Low Fuel Light

This panel is switched on if fuel level gets very low. Refueling required.



#### Glow Plus Warning

Used on diesel vehicles, do not attempt to start vehicle until light is extinguished.

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## DEVILS

Continued from Page 17A

pretty much how we all felt.”

Lake Fenton coach Vance Corcoran understood his team would be young entering the season, but he's excited about the team's future, which apparently includes a pretty decent season this year.

“The way the kids are coming along, we're right on track,” Corcoran said. “They are getting after it in practice. We have a lot of freshmen, but as the year progresses you can see them getting better and better. They are getting out of the youth wrestling habits and more into the high school and maybe to the next level after that. But they are getting better and it's fun to watch.”

On Wednesday, the Blue Devils were a lot of fun to watch. They were expected to cruise to the two victories but the squad was impressive in doing so anyway. Lake Fenton won 10 of the 12 matches that took place on the mat, including going 7-2 against Byron. The match started with one of Lake Fenton's few seniors on the team winning the opening match. Bobbie Kinkaid (112) defeated her foe by technical fall 16-0.

“She's doing well,” Corcoran said. “She's tough. She's probably one of our most brutal

wrestlers on our team as far as going out there and being aggressive. She's very aggressive and fun to watch.”

The rest of Lake Fenton's victories on the mat against Byron were pinfall victories. They were earned by Jackson Nevadomski (125), Brenden Carr (135), Keinan Hagenstein (145), Tristan Nevadomski (160), Ryan Franks (171) and Hillger (215). Other winners by forfeit were Hunter Corcoran (119) and Devan Melick (130).

The Blue Devils were going to be the clear winners against Hammady, considering the Hawks' low numbers. However, the Blue Devils did win all three matches that took part on the mat anyway. They were pinfall wins by Melick (130) and Franks (171) and a technical fall win by A.J. Geyer (103).

Vance Corcoran is having fun coaching the squad.

“These are all Lake Fenton kids that have worked through our program,” Corcoran said. “We've watched them grow and have a good hand in them. ... We have one of the best coaching staffs in the state. We have six guys and every one of them have been in the state finals before themselves. We take our time and work with every kid in the room. As a head coach this makes our job much easier and that's why you can see these guys coming through

and progressing so well. It's because of the guys we have in this room.”

The Blue Devils are excited about their future, but they are still looking toward some big goals this year.

“Making it to team states would be nice,” Hillger said. “We are going to have to wrestle really well at team regionals to get there.”

**TRI-COUNTY TIMES** | DAVID TROPPENS (Right) One of Lake Fenton's few seniors on its wrestling team is Bobbie Kinkaid (top). She won two matches on Wednesday. Also winning two matches was undefeated sophomore Trent Hillger (below, on top).



**TRI-COUNTY TIMES**  
SCOTT SCHUPBACH  
Lake Fenton's Chris Bell (right) scored 18 points in the Blue Devils' win against Genesee Christian.

## EAGLES

Continued from Page 17A

road victory at Mt. Morris on Tuesday night.

“It means a lot to the kids' morale,” Linden coach Anthony Wright said. “Five or six times we've come within one possession of closing out wins and getting that big stop or bucket in the fourth quarter.”

At one time the Eagles led by seven in the third, but a 17-2 Mt. Morris run gave the Panthers the lead. From there, the Eagles (1-8) got back in the game with some hoops by Logan Steiert and Tyler Hoeberling. Kyle Korman anchored the defense, and the Eagles got back into the contest.

Linden still trailed 53-50

with about two minutes remaining when Hoeberling hit a three-pointer, tying the contest at 53-all.

“We called a time out and told the guys we win if we get stops and great offensive possessions,” Wright said. “We got great defensive plays down the stretch by Devon Cota and rebounds from Kyle Korman.”

The strong defense allowed Hoeberling to go to the line and give Linden the victory with the two free throws.

Linden was paced by Tyler Hoeberling's 15 points, while Kevin Hoeberling finished with 10 points, five of those points being the Eagles' final five of the contest. Johnny Campbell had seven points, while Mike Gold netted six

points.

“They battle and they're tough,” Wright said about his team. “They are getting better every day and are changing the culture of the program.”

### Lake Fenton 81, Genesee Christian 60

The Blue Devils outscored Genesee Christian 21-8 in the fourth quarter, helping spark the easy non-conference victory.

Jalen Miller continued his recent string of strong games, scoring 21 points and grabbing 15 rebounds.

Chris Bell added 18 points and seven assists to Lake Fenton's cause. Isaac Golson played in his first game of the season with the Blue Devils and scored 16 points. Tyler Browning netted 10 points.

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