

She's been to every restaurant in Genesee County

►Linden resident has 20-year career of food/health inspections

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

Cathy Roeper has walked through the doors of every restaurant in Fenton and Linden, but not as a paying customer.

She's an environmental sanitarian, i.e., a restaurant inspector, for the Genesee County

Health Department, Environmental Health Division. Her job takes her into about 140 different eating establishments twice a year in the city of Fenton, Fenton Township, city of

See **RESTAURANT on 19A**

TRI-COUNTY TIMES
TIM JAGIELO

Cathy Roeper is responsible for inspecting the restaurants in Fenton Township. As a health inspector, her responsibility is consumer safety.



PAGE 1B
**ARE YOU
A BINGE
WATCHER?**

Weekend Times SUNDAY EDITION

VOL. 22 NO. V SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2015 2012 - 2013 - 2014 **NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR**

\$1.00

SERIES: PART 3 OF 4

An in-depth look at Holly Area Schools

►Biggest district at seven buildings, 124 square miles

By Tim Jagielo
tjagiello@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795

Holly — Phil Godin, 12, tosses fish food into the 500-gallon tank in his first-period ecology class at Holly Middle School Wednesday morning.

The tilapia grab at the bits of food, dotting anyone near the tanks with water. "Smells like dog food," he said.

The tilapia are part of the impressive aquaponics system, with two brightly lit grow beds

See **SCHOOL on 13A**



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Holly Elementary second- and third-grade students enjoy their Jump Rope for Heart event Wednesday morning, which has raised about \$20,000 over the past 10 years. Students in this class, taught by Jason McLaughlin, raised \$1,879 for the American Heart Association this year.

Asbestos delays library reopening



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

Contractors work on the Jack R. Winegarden Library in December. Without the asbestos issue, it most likely would be open by now.

►Protective wrap failing, exposes dangerous fibers

By Tim Jagielo
tjagiello@tctimes.com

There's a problem with the Fenton Jack R. Winegarden Library — it's not open yet.

If all had gone well with upgrades and renovations, the library would have been open by now. All of the planned improvements have been completed, with just a final cleaning needed, according to Library

See **LIBRARY on 18A**

Runyan Lake Food Center robbed — again

►Livingston County Sheriff's Department hopes to ID suspects in security video

The Livingston County Sheriff's Department is investigating a break-in and robbery that took place at Runyan Lake Food Center in Tyrone Township during the early morning hours of Wednesday, Jan. 28.

According to the sheriff's department, deputies were dispatched to the store at 10005 Hartland Road at 1:42 a.m. for an activation of the business alarm. The store was closed at the time of the incident.

When deputies arrived, they discovered that the front door had been pried open with

See **ROBBED on 18A**



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Although the image is blurred, the Livingston County Sheriff's Department is hoping someone will recognize this robbery suspect.

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TEXT YOUR HOT LINE

“Please do not vote for an increase in sales tax. We are taxed enough already. Find the money elsewhere, like the billions wasted on free school lunches. There are dozens of Michigan giveaways that should be eliminated. No new taxes.”

“Since when is it the responsibility of any school system to require study of any religion? This is simply another step in the creep toward Islamic domination of the world. Parents should demand that Holly schools stop this nonsense.”

“Very much enjoying your series on area school districts. Couldn't help but note that of the two you've done, both school boards are ruled by a majority that consists of teacher affiliated members. Thus, the teachers union now controls the schools. Not good.”

tctimes.com
COMMENT OF THE WEEK

“Michael Moore is a disgrace to America. This is the guy who has amassed a multi-million dollar fortune by criticizing capitalism. He is a disgusting example of hypocrisy.”

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Lower interest rates a boon for home buyers

►Families can save thousands with lower mortgage payments

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

With mortgage rates lower than they've been in 20 months, you now have more home buying power in your budget than you've had since May 2013.

Before Christmas 2014, 30-year fixed mortgage rates were topping out at 4.25 percent. Today, rates have fallen to 3.65 percent.

Adding to the market excitement of lower rates is the lowering of the FHA mortgage insurance premium to .85 percent, down from 1.35 percent, announced Jan. 9 at President Obama's State of the Union address. It went into affect on Monday, Jan. 26.

"This drop in rates is a great thing for people who want to buy or refinance," said John Ottney of Star Mortgage in Fenton. "Not only can existing FHA buyers benefit by the dramatically lower interest rates, but also the cut in monthly mortgage insurance. A typical family could save up about to \$900 a year, and not many people know about it."

Ottney added that the refinancing process has been streamlined, with no



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The timing of these new rates is just right if you're buying or refinancing a home this year.

appraisal or upfront costs required. "You just submit it like a new closing, but it's paid for by an interest rate credit," he said.

The lowering of the FHA monthly mortgage insurance premium was geared toward spurring the market on to increase volume, according to Lori Rock, mortgage manager at Dort Federal Credit Union, with an office in Fenton Township. "Two years ago, the feds increased this premium based on loans, and the market

for FHA loans closed up."

Realtors are cautiously optimistic that these new rates will have a positive effect on local real estate transactions. "Lower interest rates are always great," said John Wentworth of Re/MAX Platinum. "No one knows how long we'll have these rates, so take advantage of them. But don't make that the sole reason you buy."

"The more tools we have, the more we can sell," said Michael Wagner, associate

broker for Coldwell Banker Professionals in Fenton. "Anytime there's a drop in rates and mortgage insurance, it creates more buying power. If a homebuyer was set on a particular budget, these new

"This drop in rates is a great thing for people who want to buy or refinance."

John Ottney
Star Mortgage in Fenton

rates will help them purchase more of a home. If they were looking in the \$120,000 range, they may now be able to step up to \$130,000."

Patrik Wely of Legacy Realty in Fenton sees the demand being already

strong in the area for new home purchases. "Homebuyers are going to feel fortunate to be in the market when rates are this low," he said. "Where it makes a difference is how much you're going to buy, not whether or not you're going to buy. It will make a difference in the amount of money a buyer will qualify for."

"It's going to be phenomenal for buyers and sellers," said John Tremaine of Tremaine Real Estate in Fenton. "One thing you can count on is change. Seize the day. These rates aren't going to be around forever."

Not all birds fly south for the winter

►Bird watching is a favorite pastime for many, even during cold, snowy months

By Yvonne Stegall

ystegall@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Anyone looking outside this time of year can easily see that not all birds migrate south for the winter. A few die-hard Michigander birds stick it out in the cold

and snowy months.

Winter can be a little harder for birds when it comes to finding food, so you can help them out by having bird feeders in your yard and keeping them stocked. The birds that come to visit them will repay you with their beauty and whimsy.

Katy Hughes of Rose Township is a local bird watcher. She said "I'm an avid

See **BIRDS** on 10A

PHOTOS BY SCOTT SCHUPBACH



Common winter birds in Michigan and what they like to eat

See Page 10A

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HOURS:

Mon-Thurs: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Friday: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday Closed



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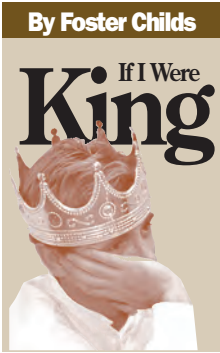
General Office 810-629-8282	Hot Line 810-629-9221
Advertising 810-629-8281	Fax 810-629-9227
Classifieds 810-629-8194	Email news@tctimes.com
Circulation 810-433-6797	Website tctimes.com

Thank you for your service

Despite, or maybe because of, negative commentary by Hollywood leftist sissies like Michael Moore, Seth Rogen and Bill Maher, American Sniper has been the top movie in America for the last two weeks. It will likely take in \$300 million before it runs its course.

I urge you to see it at your first opportunity. No movie that I've ever seen has done a better job of giving America a peek behind the curtain of modern war — and the soldiers who wage it — better than American Sniper.

Clint Eastwood has captured on film the tragedy that, for many soldiers, the war doesn't end just because they return to America — it's



often just starting. The psychological struggles they face are something almost all civilians fail to even consider, much less grasp. I got the sense that for Chris Kyle, the sniper the movie was based on, the call to duty to protect his country and his fellow soldiers was so physically and psychologically powerful that in civilian life he felt like he was betraying them, despite his four tours of duty.

But, I digress. Here is why every adult should see this film. I believe the biggest failure to our returning troops is the lack of even a simple acknowledgement of their service by an indifferent citizenry. Battle-scarred soldiers who watch

the news after returning home quickly realize that no one cares about their sacrifice — it's simply not interesting to Americans. We are far more captivated by the latest details of the sordid lives of the celebrities who benefit the most from that freedom, yet who despise and disparage the soldiers who provide it. Sorry Sarge, but there's no news window left to educate Americans about the unpleasant business of fighting a war. We're too busy providing in-depth coverage of Miley, Meril and Michael Moore.

In a couple of weeks millions of Americans will be glued to their TVs watching the Oscars, including the annual tearful and reverent tribute to celebrities who died over the last 12 months. I can't help but wonder

“Maybe Clint Eastwood made a movie that is supposed to be a wakeup call to us. Maybe it's our call to duty.”

what a soldier, who saw his friends die anonymously in a foreign country, feels sitting in front of the TV listening to glowing tributes of the ‘accomplishments’ of the likes of Robin Williams, a comedian who committed suicide, and Philip Seymour Hoffman, a junkie who overdosed on heroin. How do the families of the dead soldiers feel? Betrayed, bewildered and disgusted would be my guess.

Maybe Clint Eastwood made a movie that is supposed to be a wakeup call to us, as opposed to our military members. Maybe it's our call to duty.

To any veterans reading this —
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE.

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

Hot lines

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

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

THANKS TO THE paper for printing the story about Holly and the Koran. It must be terrible to live in fear of different religions and cultures than your own. That was the melting pot that made this country what it is.

WOULDN'T IT BE much better to wait until we run out of fossil fuels or when they get too expensive to worry about what we will do to replace them? It's not like there has even been spills or pollution from them causing billions of dollars in damage.

WHO DOES THE President think he is? He acts like he was elected by the majority of the people on the issues he ran on and is now trying to make good on his campaign promises. What nerve.

WHEN IT IS all said and done, the party that put the Supreme Court Justices on the court that keep voting for unlimited, undisclosed campaign donations, selling out the people to corporations will be responsible for the demise of the USA.

ALL YOU PEOPLE who keep calling in to complain about the president, do you think he has an easy job? Why don't you try it once and see how you would do.

I WONDER IF the 'king' was as vocal when Reagan was tripling (200 percent) the national debt, or when Bush was doubling (100 percent) it as he is now that the debt has gone up 75 percent under Obama. Let's hear it 'king.'

TIRED OF DAILY murders? Reinstate capital punishment. It won't stop senseless killings, but might cut it by 50 percent or so.

I'M WONDERING HOW raising money for our government is going to help me. They're deep enough in our pocket already.

AT BASKETBALL PRACTICE, a player grabs a teammate and throws him to the

floor so hard it breaks his shoulder bone in two. This boy gets a one-game suspension and the injured player is out for the season. I guess when it comes to sports there is no punishment.

JUDGES, ESPECIALLY THE Supreme Court, absolutely have the right to overrule the will of the people. How do you think Jim Crow laws were overturned? Magic? Judges are highly educated on the constitution, and have a duty to strike down unjust laws.

I AM CONFUSED about the 'Bergdahl' Hot line, since the facts have not been released. Was this soldier worthless to you before or after he was released / traded? Were the

GITMO prisoners who have never been charged with anything actually guilty? I guess you have secret powers of opinion.

R.I.P. JUDY NELSON. You were a good person and a good woman. The world's a little worse off now that you are not here. God bless.

MICHAEL MOORE HAS never been anything but a piece of dog doo, as we'll put it. He has never been in the service. I am a Korean veteran and I despise everything about this so called person. He has no idea what it is like to be a veteran.

I AGREE THAT the president should have been a member of the military. Back in the day a real leader led his men into battle. He didn't hide behind a desk.

NEW LEGISLATION PENDING in congress is called 'Protecting Seniors Access to Medicare Act.' It would repeal Obamacare's dangerous Medicare Rationing Board. It is made up of 15 unelected and unaccountable bureaucrats. They decide what health care seniors can have and if Medicare will pay for it. Chilling, huh?

HERE ARE OBAMA'S strategies for 2015: Pretend that Islamic terrorism does not exist, refuse to protect U.S. borders, exempt immigrants from U.S. laws and taxes, increase taxes that hurt hard-working Americans, promote racism and isolate Israel, which is one of our allies.

See **HOT LINE** throughout Times

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Compiled by Alexei Rose, intern

Who do you think will win the Super Bowl?

Asked at
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streettalk



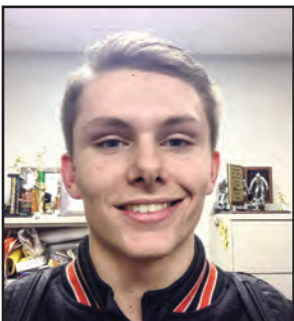
“Seattle, because the Patriots are cheaters.”

— Chase Lynch
Junior



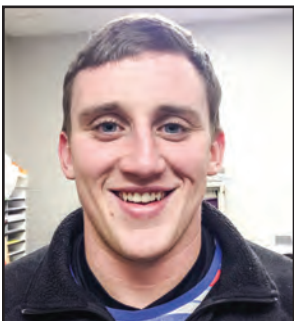
“Seahawks, because I like Russell Wilson and Richard Sherman.”

— Matt Myers
Junior



“Patriots, because Tom Brady is from U of M and the best quarterback every year.”

— Ben Hajciar
Junior



“Seahawks, because I like how the team plays.”

— Scott Becker
Senior



“Seattle, because Marshawn Lynch is the best running back.”

— Shane Kolinski
Junior



“Seahawks, because I love their defense and I love the way they play.”

— Evan Welch
Senior

SECURITY EXPERT: Beware of Craigslist dangers

► Deal with local people at safe, public places

When Daniel Zeitz posted his Play Station 4 for sale on Craigslist, the young Georgia man had no idea what would befall him.

The 28-year-old was shot and killed last September while meeting a potential buyer in a parking lot of an apartment complex, allegedly by a 16-year-old girl who, along with her boyfriend, sought to steal the video gaming system.

Twenty-year-old Nathaniel Vivian and the teenage girl, whose name has not been released, met Zeitz at about 9:30 p.m. outside an apartment in Sandy Springs, Georgia. When Vivian tried to rob Zeitz of his PS4, a struggle ensued during which the girl fired a shot from a .25 caliber handgun that passed through Vivian's hand and struck Zeitz in the chest, killing him, police say — all while her 16-month-old baby looked on.

Zeitz's murder is part of a long string of crimes associated with Craigslist — from murder and theft to prostitution and scams of all varieties.

While buyers and sellers must enter the popular online marketplace at their own peril, security experts say certain precautions can be taken to ensure safe and lawful transactions.

"The biggest deal is to meet in a place that's safe," said Raymond Foster, a retired LAPD lieutenant who is an expert in police technology. "You're essentially going on a blind date. There's been no referral. I would pick a place I was very comfortable with."

A Missouri father shielded his family from gunfire as they were robbed in July while trying to buy their teenage son his first car — a 2007 Hyundai Sonata — from an individual posing as a seller on Craigslist. Last February, federal authorities busted a ring of diamond thieves victimizing sellers across the country under the direction of a state prison inmate who was using Craigslist to set up "robberies by appointment," according to the FBI.

"All traditional crime has migrated to the Internet — robbery is robbery

See CRAIGSLIST on 8A



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

Donning a striped jailbird costume, Fenton Township resident and trustee Rob Kesler jumps into Lake Fenton for the 2014 Polar Plunge. Kesler is accompanied by his nephew Joey Riker.

Don't forget to take the plunge

► Moose Lodge's 'Polar Plunge' is an icy splash, fundraiser for Special Olympics

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

The Fenton Polar Plunge will take place on Saturday, Feb. 7 at the Fenton Moose Lodge, 2245 Sonora Drive in Fenton Township.

For anyone who has attended this highly popular event, arriving early or parking at a friend's home near the lodge can be helpful. In response to the many guests for this annual fundraiser, there will be a shuttle running from the Lake Fenton Middle School to the Moose Lodge throughout the event to leave room for safety vehicles to get through.

Registration will begin at 11 a.m. at the Fenton Township Civic Community Center, located next door to the Moose Lodge. The parade of costumes will start at 1 p.m., with the plunge immediately following. The Awards and After Splash Bash will begin immediately following the last plunger, at the Fenton Moose Lodge.

Event organizer Pat Peters said the goal for this year is \$60,000. "The state set their goal at \$50,000, so I set ours higher because we brought in \$62,000 last year." If the goal is reached, Peters said she will be having her head shaved, on stage, before giving out the awards.

More than 170 jumpers have already registered. Peters said the dive team is always a wonderful help each year. "We always have an ambulance on hand, but we've never needed them," she said. There is currently 12 to 14 inches of ice on the lake and the jump

hole will be cut the morning of the jump.

Michigan will be having 29 Polar Plunges this winter season. Polar Plunges are a Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) event. LETR is one of the largest grassroots fundraisers for Special Olympics globally and the Polar Plunge helps to raise funds for more than 21,000 athletes who participate in Special Olympics Michigan.

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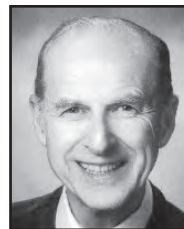
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By Roger Campbell



Looking forward to trophy times

December and early January featured the annual college football bowl games, nearly all of them ending with trophy presentations. The last few weeks have brought trophies to deserving professional teams as they eliminated lesser squads. Now, all eyes are on the Super Bowl.

What makes a champion? A desire to win, natural talent, dedication, discipline and, in football lingo, a willingness to leave it all on the field. In other words, being willing to sell out for the cause, to hold nothing back, or to pay the price required to claim the trophy.

Sometimes the most exciting time in these championship games occurs during the final few minutes. There's even a provision in the rules of football to help make this happen called 'the two-minute warning.'

The two-minute warning often does wonders. After this break in the action, each tick of the clock becomes more important. Players plunge, pass and perform with new vigor and breathtaking efficiency, forgetting former blunders and making the most of the moments that remain. These end-time revivals have rescued teams that seemed hopelessly behind and bound for defeat. Games have been won or lost depending on how well teams used their final two minutes.

Life's like that. Many who had considered themselves losers have snatched victory from the jaws of defeat during

their remaining moments and for them the best is yet come. Trophy time is ahead and they'll not be left out on presentation day.

These last-minute winners realized they didn't have time to look back and mourn over past mistakes or gloat over old accomplishments. Past sins are forgiven when they are confessed to the Lord and there isn't time to allow them to hold us back anymore (1 John 1:9). Former victories can only be enjoyed to the point that they build faith for greater ones. They must never be allowed to make us feel we've arrived or done enough to retire from serving God and helping people.

I often carry and frequently read a newspaper clipping about a man who held nothing back in his effort to make a difference:

'John Wesley traveled an estimated 250,000 miles in 40 years; preached 4,000 sermons; produced 400 books, knew 10 languages. At 83, he was annoyed that he could not write for more than 15 hours a day without hurting his eyes and at 86 he was ashamed that he couldn't preach more than twice a day. He complained in his diary that there was an increasing tendency to lie in bed until 5:30 in the morning. Imagine what trophy time will mean to those who serve like him.

Paul recognized the talent and discipline of athletes in their efforts to win prizes but reminded his readers that these trophies were all temporary, saying he had chosen to invest his life earning trophies that would last.

A woman told me she had retired from the job she had held at her church but later returned to serve again. She wanted a timeless trophy. How about you?

Roger Campbell was an author, broadcaster and columnist who was a pastor for 22 years. Contact him at rcministry@ameritech.net.

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Film noir coming to Fenton Film Series this month

The Fenton Film Series announces a new film presentation on Wednesday, Feb. 11 at the Fenton Community & Cultural Center when we celebrate Valentine's Day with the classic film noir, "Double Indemnity." The movie starts at 7 p.m. and as always, admission is free. Double Indemnity is a 1944 American film noir, directed by Billy Wilder.

The film stars Fred MacMurray as an

insurance salesman, Barbara Stanwyck as a provocative housewife who wishes her husband were dead, and Edward G. Robinson as a claims adjuster whose job is to find phony claims.

The term "double indemnity" refers to a clause in certain life insurance policies that double the payout in cases when death is caused by certain accidental means.

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BREAK-IN ON ROLSTON ROAD

On Wednesday, Jan. 28, the Genesee County Sheriff's Department responded to a home in the 3300 block of East Rolston Road to investigate a breaking and entering complaint. The suspect(s) forced their way in through a window at the rear of the house. Jewelry and coins were stolen.

WATERFORD MAN STEALS TOOLS TO
SELL FOR CASH

At 7:24 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 25, Fenton police responded to the 3000 block of Foley Glen Drive for a suspicious person. The caller said a man was entering a building under construction and walking out with tools. Upon arrival, police blocked the suspect's vehicle and made contact with him, a 30-year-old Waterford resident. While the man was in custody, police recovered a couple thousand dollars worth of tools from his Ford Explorer. Police also recovered an unknown substance, which is being tested by the state lab. The man told police he had not been making much money lately and stole the tools to sell. Police will seek a warrant for breaking and entering with intent to steal. Additional charges are pending the lab results of the unknown substance. Lt. Jason Slater said the man's 15-month-old son was in the vehicle at the time of the incident. The child was turned over to his mother and child protective services was notified.

BOOT STUCK ON ACCELERATOR
CAUSES FIVE-CAR CRASH

At about 11:40 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 24, Fenton police responded to a business parking lot on Owen Road for an accident involving five vehicles and unknown injuries. Lt. Jason Slater said an 83-year-old Tyrone Township woman was backing out of a parking space in her Ford Focus. While in reverse, her boot became stuck on the accelerator. Her car struck a 55-year-old Argentine Township man walking by and the car pinned him against another vehicle. The Focus continued

in a backward circular motion, striking four more vehicles, one car with two occupants and three that were unoccupied and parked. The injured man refused transportation to the hospital but said he would take himself there. Police will ask the state to reevaluate the woman's driving privileges.

BREAK-IN ON SOUTH LINDEN ROAD

At 4 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 24, deputies with the Genesee County Sheriff's Department responded to a break-in at a home in the 11000 block of South Linden Road in Fenton Township. Dep. Geno Gaticka said domestic and rare coins were stolen, as well as costume, gold and diamond jewelry. Deputies discovered the suspect(s) made entry into the home by forcing their way through a window. The break-in remains under investigation. The homeowner said they had received a random phone call from someone claiming to be with their insurance company prior to the break-in.

This unknown person was trying to set up an appointment at the house and possibly used information as to when it would be best to break in.

TWO RETAIL FRAUD
SUSPECTS ARRESTED

At 6:40 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 23, Fenton police responded to a store on Owen Road for a possible retail fraud in progress. A loss prevention employee told police that they recognized a couple of men from prior retail incidents. Police made contact with the two Jackson area men, one 26, one 28. Police learned that the men had left the TV they were suspected of attempting to steal and exited the store and drove away in a 2003 Chevy Venture van. Police saw that the van had no license plate on it and initiated a traffic stop on Silver Parkway. Both men had multiple arrest warrants from other jurisdictions. The 26-year-old suspect was arrested for retail fraud, lodged overnight and

picked up the next morning by Pittsfield Township police. The 28-year-old was arrested for possession of marijuana and retail fraud. Police believe the men are responsible for other retail frauds and other police agencies have been contacted.

BEWARE, PHONE SCAMS CONTINUE

The Genesee County Sheriff's Department has received multiple complaints from Fenton Township residents regarding IRS scams, as well as other phone scams. Dep. Geno Gaticka urges anyone who receives a random phone call from someone claiming to be with the IRS, an insurance company, organization, etc. not to give out any personal information, including whether they are home. These unknown callers might use unsuspecting victims' personal information to gain access to their financial accounts or to find out when their home is unoccupied and possibly be broken into.

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HOT LINE CONTINUED

YOU HAVEN'T READ about too many of the good things Republican leaders have done in Washington through the last six years because it has all been stopped on Harry Reid's desk. Now the president will have to deal with it and you'll hear about it, as long as the mainstream media reports it.

■■■■
IN RESPONSE TO the juniors in Sunday's Times with the question about what's been in the news that concerns you, they stated that police murdering people instead of protecting them concerned them. Police aren't hired snipers and deserve respect. If anyone attacks an officer with a weapon, they may be shot.

■■■■
WHY IS IT the word 'God' can't be mentioned in schools, but they are studying other religions? I don't understand it.

■■■■
I'D BE WILLING to bet that when Michael Moore steps out of his house on a windy day his head whistles.

■■■■
I HOPE MY children and grandchildren are paying attention. The U.S. used to be the strongest nation on the face of the earth.

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SEARS HOMETOWN PREMIER DEALER

CRAIGSLIST

Continued from Page 5A

and scams are scams,” Foster said. “The Internet allows criminals to cast a wider net and allows them anonymity.”

Craigslist tells its users that if they, “deal locally, face-to-face,” they will avoid 99 percent of scam attempts. The site advises buyers and sellers to ignore emails and texts from non-local persons and to “deal with locals you can meet in person.”

“Never wire funds,” the site cautions. “Don’t accept cashier checks or money orders. Never give out financial information (bank account, Social Security, Paypal account, etc). Do not rent or purchase sight-unseen. Refuse background/credit checks until you have met landlord/employer in person.”

The site also lists ways in which users can identify a potential scammer, such as “an email or text from someone that is not local to your area” or “a vague initial inquiry, e.g. asking about ‘the item.’”

“I’m constantly on Craigslist,” said Robert Siciliano, a security expert with bestHomeSecurity.com, who recently bought a boat on Craigslist.

“As a Craigslist consumer, there’s always a chance you’re going to be dealing with someone who is desperate. And desperate

people do desperate things.”

“Because there is that chance, you need to exercise as much caution as possible,” he said. “Whenever I invite someone to my property, I find out as much as I can about that person before they get there. They text me and I call them so I have their number. Then I Google their number and find out what their name is. I look them up on Facebook to see who they are.”

“Those tools are available to everyone,” he said, noting that many people are under the false assumption that Craigslist users are already vetted. Foster noted that by Googling an email, you can see if it shows up on any scam boards.

He urged that people use “common sense” when making transactions.

“Don’t go to a parking lot. Meet them in the mall. They’re much less likely to pull out a gun in the food court. Don’t go into someone’s basement to check out a pair of skis,” he said.

Both Foster and Siciliano agreed that perhaps the best place for buyers and sellers to meet is in front of a police station.

“We’re programmed from a very young age that if we read it, it must be true,” said Foster. “But just remember what your grandfather said: ‘If it’s too good to be true, it probably isn’t true.’”

TRUE or FALSE?**Kraft cheese won’t melt****►Setting viral food post rumors straight**

By Yvonne Stegall

ystegall@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

It’s likely that at some time or another you’ve seen one of those posts going viral on your social media account about a cheese that wouldn’t melt or a burger that wouldn’t mold. Most of these food myths have been debunked, but not all of them. Here are a few of the most recently popular ones and what some bloggers and ‘experts’ found out about them.

Kraft cheese won’t melt

Recently, claims were flying that Kraft cheese slices don’t melt and are similar to plastic. People making videos of them melting the famous cheese slices with their lighters quickly and easily dispelled this rumor.

Anyone who has ever bought this cheese-product and used it



Despite rumors abounding on social media, Kraft cheese does melt and makes a tasty grilled cheese sandwich.

for a delicious grilled cheese sandwich knows that Kraft cheese does in fact melt, just like any other cheese slice.

McDonald’s burgers won’t mold

Many bloggers have taken the challenge over the past few years to prove that McDonald’s burgers and fries are made out of some mystery ingredients that won’t mold. Non-molding food is the least of the reasons why many folks pass on fast food, mainly because it’s high in calories.

While you can seemingly find proof online showing that the burgers stay mold free for weeks on end, you can find studies that explain this phenomenon also. Mold needs certain atmospheric conditions in order to grow. If you are keeping your burger in a dry environment, it is less likely for the mold to appear.

Walmart ice cream sandwiches won’t melt

While people still aren’t exactly sure why, the Walmart-brand ice cream sandwiches just don’t melt as most ice cream does.

A radio station employee out of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, was one of many people to test this theory and concluded that this seemingly normal snack does not actually melt.

Instead, after over an hour in 80 degree Fahrenheit temperatures it just has a watery-like substance that separates from it, somewhat.

McDonald’s nuggets ingredients

Grant Imahara, formerly of the show MythBusters, took a trip through a factory that makes McDonald’s chicken nuggets to see what exactly goes into them. This happened after videos were posted online of strange fibers inside these little McNuggets. People wondered, ‘What are those nuggets made out of?’ Some rumored it was pink slime; others thought maybe it was beaks and other unwanted chicken parts. Imahara, on his tour, found out that real chicken, cut from whole chickens, and actually the good parts, are what is ground up and made into those world famous nuggets.

The lesson here is that you should not always believe what you read or see online.

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BIRDS
Continued from Page 3A
bird watcher. I have four feeders and a suet cage outside my window at work.”

Hughes sees many different types of birds at her feeders. Some of the ones she sees during the winter are the northern cardinal, blue jay, white-breasted nuthatch, tufted titmouse, house sparrow, black-capped chickadee, purple and yellow finch, downy woodpecker, red-bellied woodpecker, red-winged blackbird, mourning dove and many others.

Hughes said, “We also have a flock of about 25 wild turkeys that

come to the bird feeder area on occasion and eat the seeds that have fallen on the ground.”

Hughes grew up watching birds; her mother was an avid birdwatcher. “I also took an elective Ornithology class in middle school in 1990 (Holly Area Schools) taught by Ben Blazier and learned a lot,” she said. Ornithology is the scientific study of birds.

“Watching the birds is a calming activity,” said Hughes. “I enjoy seeing them come and go at the feeders

and watching all the different kinds of birds interacting.” For anyone who has

ever been a bird watcher, you know you have a favorite. Hughes said, “I love to see the red-bellied woodpeckers. Their feathers are beautiful. And I like to see how they eat the sunflower seeds nearly upside down.”

Different birds are attracted to different seeds and items. While observing birds, Hughes said that she notices that the woodpeckers and nuthatches enjoy suet cakes the most. Cardinals and blue jays seem to like the black oil sunflower seeds. Finches flock to the thistle feeder. Sparrows and chickadees go for the smaller seeds.

“I have four feeders and a suet cage outside my window at work.”

Katy Hughes
Rose Township

News briefs

‘GIVE KIDS A SMILE DAY’ IS FEB. 13

February is Children’s Dental Health Month and the office of Sulfaro Family Dentistry is again participating in the American Dental Association’s “Give Kids A Smile Day.” On Friday, Feb. 13, they will be providing cleanings, exams, X-rays, and fluorides for children without dental insurance at no charge. Last year, the dental office donated more than \$6,000 in free dental care for the kids. Sulfaro Family Dentistry is located at 607 North Saginaw St., Holly. For more information, call the office at (248) 634-4671.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

IF LINDEN CITY Hall can do the small town snow plowing and salting, they can do the cleaning of the sidewalks. Why do they not do the one over by the ice cream place? What happens when I break my hip? Clean it up.

ON THE SUBJECT of climate change, I don’t think many people are arguing that the climate is changing. All of us know the climate is changing. The argument is whether man is having an influence on the climate change, and he is not. The people arguing that man is responsible are only trying to penalize the countries with more technology. It’s a money grab.

SO OBAMA DOESN’T want Netanyahu to talk to our congress, which is easily understood. It burns him to see a great leader talk to our congress.

TAKE A CLEAR glass and fill it with as much ice as you can without going above the rim. Fill empty spaces with water up to the rim and stand on the counter until the ice melts. If it overflows, Obama is right about flooding oceans. If it is lower, Obama lied, or is stupid and ignorant. If you want the truth about climate change, do the experiment.

ALL YOU PEOPLE who don’t own any weapons better get some to protect yourself from our government and all the criminals they pay to be here.

OUR GOVERNMENT IS hell bent to give our money to foreign entities when we have U.S. legal citizens going hungry. Something’s not right here.

I’M THE GUY going five under. I left early, I’m taking my time.

99.99 PERCENT OF all people who own some kind of weapon will not commit any sort of a crime. I have no control over the nuts who fill that less than one percent, but I can protect my family from them.

TO THE PERSON who called in and said Obama is a bad man. Why don’t you mention some of the good things he has done? This country is actually coming back.

I DIDN’T SEE the movie ‘Selma’ yet, but as I remember watching my TV back in 1963 there were no violent acts during any of the marches. The city of Detroit riots had nothing to do with civil rights.

I GET A kick out of all these articles about the Secret Service failing to protect the WH. Why would terrorists harm the most inept president the U.S. has ever seen?

Common winter birds in Michigan and what they like to eat

• **House Sparrow** - oil sunflower seed

• **Black-capped chickadee** - shelled peanuts, oil sunflower seed, thistle, suet, striped sunflower seed

• **Northern cardinal** - oil sunflower seed, shelled peanuts, striped sunflower seed

• **Downy woodpecker** - peanuts, oil sunflower seed, suet

• **White-breasted nuthatch** - peanuts, oil sunflower seed, suet, striped sunflower seed

• **Mourning dove** - oil sunflower seed, peanuts, millet, thistle

• **Red-bellied woodpecker** - peanuts, oil sunflower seed, suet, striped sunflower seed

• **Northern flicker** - peanuts, oil sunflower seed, suet, striped sunflower seed

• **Dark-eyed junco** - oil sunflower seed, thistle

• **American goldfinch** - thistle, oil sunflower seed

• **Blue jay** - peanuts in the shell, nuts, oil sunflower seed, suet, striped sunflower seed

• **Tufted titmouse** - shelled peanuts, oil sunflower seed, suet, striped sunflower seed

• **House finch** - thistle, oil sunflower seed

• **European starling** - shelled peanuts, oil sunflower seed, suet, striped sunflower seed

• **American crow** - peanuts, oil sunflower seed

• **Carolina wren** - shelled peanuts, suet

• **Eastern bluebird** - shelled peanuts, suet

• **American robin** - shelled peanuts, suet

• **Cedar waxwing** - berries

Source: www.lansingwbu.blogspot.com

MICHIGAN VOTES

WHAT YOUR LEGISLATORS RECENTLY INTRODUCED

House Bill 4057: Mandate “disparate impact” study for new industrial facilities

Introduced by Rep. Stephanie Chang (D), to require an applicant for an air quality emissions permit to submit a study of the “increased and cumulative risks” of discharges for a project in a “likely disparate impact” area, and require the Department of Environmental Quality to hold a hearing and consider this before issuing a permit. Referred to committee, no further action at this time.

Senate Bill 4: Enact a “religious freedom restoration act”

Introduced by Sen. Mike Shirkey (R), to establish that the state or a local government “shall not substantially burden a person’s exercise of religion, even if the burden results from a rule of general applicability,” unless this is done “in furtherance of a compelling governmental interest” and uses “the least restrictive means” to further that interest. Referred to committee, no further action at this time.

Senate Bill 5: Increase Earned Income Tax Credit

Introduced by Sen. David Knezek (D), to increase the state earned income tax credit from an amount equal to 6 percent of the federal EITC, to 20 percent. This is a “refundable” credit for low-income workers (meaning that a check is sent to the taxpayer for the balance of the credit exceeding taxes owed). Note: A bill requiring this was enacted in December but is contingent on voters approving a sales tax increase in a May 5 election. Referred to committee, no further action at this time.

Senate Bill 15: Assert immunity of “Michigan-made” firearms from federal gun bans

Introduced by Sen. Phil Pavlov (R), to establish that firearms, which are completely made in Michigan may be possessed and sold in this state, notwithstanding any potential federal gun bans claiming authority based on the U.S. constitution’s interstate commerce clause. Referred to committee, no further action at this time.

Senate Bill 20: Require that criminal offenders know act was unlawful for conviction

Introduced by Sen. Mike Shirkey (R), to establish that in any new law creating a criminal offense, if the law does not indicate whether a “culpable mental state” (“mens rea”) is required to establish guilt, the presumption will be that this is required, meaning that prosecutors must show that the defendant violated the law “purposely, knowingly or recklessly.” Under current law, many complex “administrative” offenses authorize criminal penalties for actions that a regular person would not know are illegal. Referred to committee, no further action at this time.

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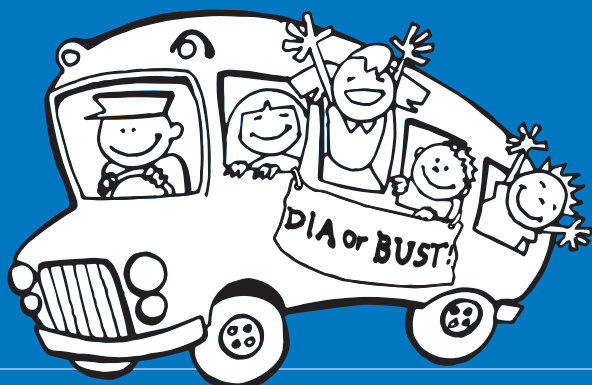
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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Fire departments from Fenton Township, Fenton City, Mundy Township and Hartland Township battle a house fire in the 8400 block of Bella View Drive, south of Center Road in Tyrone Township. Heavy smoke was observed coming from the house at 9:43 a.m.

Tyrone Township home destroyed by fire

►Four fire departments
battle blaze, freezing
weather, lack of hydrants

By Sharon Stone

ssstone@tctimes.com; 810-433-6786

A two-story Cape Cod-style home in Tyrone Township was destroyed by fire Wednesday morning. Fenton Township, which services this area of Tyrone Township west of U.S. 23, was assisted by Fenton City, and Mundy and Hartland townships.

Fenton Township Fire Chief Ryan Volz said the homeowner drove her son to school and returned home as she normally does. When she pulled up to the garage, she couldn't get the garage door to open. He said she walked around to the kitchen window and noticed some light smoke. When she opened a door, the backdraft knocked her back a bit, at which time she called 911.

Fenton's fire chief, Bob Cairnduff, heard the 911 call and arrived quickly. Fenton Township began arriving within minutes and Volz said the home was already about 50 percent engulfed in flames.

Portable tanks and tanker trucks were used and the fire departments were forced to go off site to hydrants in the city of Fenton to obtain more water for their tanker trucks.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Firefighters from four area fire departments battle a house fire in Tyrone Township Wednesday morning.

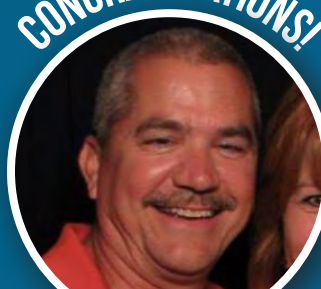
Volz said the home is a total loss and the family's two cats were not located. Fenton Township firefighters cleared the scene about 3 p.m. The cause of the fire is still under investigation. While Fenton Township's fire department was on scene, Linden City Fire Department was on call for any medical runs.

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STRAIGHT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

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

Schools re-enforce the values of the parents and community. All community members should take comfort (and pride) in knowing HAS promotes students who are kind, compassionate, talented, productive members of society. HAS students and residents band together during times of adversity to assist those in need — this is the type of young adult I'd want walking around my neighborhood.

Holly School Board

President **Michael Newcomb** is serving his third term on Holly Area Schools, and has been in the district for 20 years. He is employed by the Worldwide Corporation, and has had three children in the HAS system.

Vice President **Robin Carne** is a lifelong Holly resident. She is serving her third term for the Holly school board. Carne is the mother of two sons; both graduated from Holly High School. Carne has been employed by General Motors Corporation for 33 years.

Secretary **Peter Deahl** is serving his first term on the school board, and his first term as secretary. His current term ends in 2016.

Treasurer **Leon Sharpe** is serving his first term with the Holly school board. Sharpe has been married to Linda and has been a resident of the school district for more than 38 years. His two children graduated from Holly schools. Sharpe taught in Holly for 30 years, retiring in 2005. Linda taught in Huron Valley Schools for 33 years. He worked with students from young fives through eighth-grade.

Trustee **Sue Julian** is serving her fourth term with the Holly school board. Julian is the mother of two sons, both of whom graduated from Holly schools. She is an avid volunteer in and around the Holly community.

Trustee **Linda Blair** is serving her second term, after being first elected in 2008. Blair retired after 40 years as an elementary teacher at Patterson Elementary. She has four children who all graduated from HAS.

Trustee **Tara Peters** is serving her first term on the HAS board of education. Peters serves as board reporter before being elected to a seat.

SCHOOL

Continued from Front Page

of loose rock, sprouting an array of green vegetables via a trickling water system. The fish and the plants are part of a symbiotic system that the students maintain. They've already harvested more vegetables than they could eat, and will harvest the tilapia this year also.

Teacher Dan Hughes said the administration was supportive of the project, which includes the hand-built 8-foot-tall structure, water system and lighting ballasts.

This is the same school district that endured pay freezes for six years, and supply cuts across the board this year. Teachers finally got back one furlough day of the four they've taken, and a half-percent pay increase. The administration took a 2-percent pay cut for this school year.

But Holly Area Schools (HAS) Superintendent Dave Nuss said, "That's business, that's administrative stuff."

While administrators wrestle with budgetary issues, students are learning exciting issues on a daily basis, unaware of financial problems, Nuss said.

The school district counted 3,357 students this year, 47 fewer than Fenton schools. Otherwise, HAS is the biggest local district. It has the most buildings, and the biggest bussing area at 124 square miles.

While it's the biggest, it does not have the benefit of a sinking fund like Linden or Lake Fenton schools, and receives the base foundation grant from the state of \$7,126 per student. They lost 40 students this year, or \$285,000 of a \$35.7 million budget. Holly schools receive 7 mills for debt, and 18 mills for non-homestead.

Of that budget, personnel takes up \$27,459,306, or almost 77 percent, which is on par with most local districts. Of that amount, \$22 million goes to teachers. Like all districts, the pay scales are based on experience, education, and years in the district.

A new teacher with no prior experience and a bachelor's degree will be paid \$36,578. A teacher with a master's degree and more than 30 years of experience will be paid \$76,923. Of the HAS school teachers, approximately 65 percent have more than 10 years of experience.

The plan is for teachers to ascend in pay each year along 16 "steps," but HAS teachers have been on a pay freeze for six years, along with four unpaid furlough days per year. As mentioned before, teachers reclaimed one furlough day and a half-percent raise for the current school year.

“That’s a dream world for any educator. They (Holly students) rise to challenges, they’re humble.”

Dave Nuss
Superintendent, Holly Area Schools



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Ryan Ramboer, 12, demonstrates how to pollinate a cucumber plant using a soft brush during his ecology class on Wednesday at Holly Middle School.

Usually, the superintendent is the highest paid employee of the district.

Nuss' salary is \$131,000, after a 2-percent reduction.

HAS maintains seven buildings, totaling 7.4 million square feet. Holly High School is the newest, built in 1999. Davisburg Elementary is the oldest, built in 1949.

The village of Holly offices are now located in the Karl Richter Campus, which brings \$12,000 to the district each year.

Nuss describes Holly students as wonderful, genuine, kind and caring, coming from hard-working families, and supportive parents. "That's a dream world for any educator," he said. "They rise to challenges, they're humble."

Nuss said students perform well on tests. HAS receives a composite score above a 20 of 36 on the ACT. Nuss is proud of the figure, because Holly readily welcomes a healthy population of special needs, and at-risk students, whose scores are lumped together with the general student population. "We have a true mix of society," he said. "We embrace all of them."

While Nuss runs the district as an administrator, the school board oversees the budget and charts a general direction, while taking guidance from the administration's suggestions. Nuss is grateful for the supportive board of education Holly has.

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TRIVIA SUPER BOWL

Q How many shut-outs have there been in Super Bowl history?

A A team has never been shut out in the Super Bowl. Miami lost to Dallas 24-3 in Super Bowl VI.

SUPER TRIVIA ABOUT THE SUPER BOWL

Since it is Super Bowl weekend, the sports staff thought it would be nice to add a few trivia questions to ask to test your Super Bowl knowledge.

1) Who was the first AFC team to win the Super Bowl?

A: Old-timers should find this one easy. In Super Bowl III the Joe Namath-led New York Jets became the first AFC team to win a Super Bowl.

2) What Super Bowl game was played at the Pontiac Silverdome?

A: The San Francisco 49ers beat the Cincinnati Bengals in Super Bowl XVI on Jan. 24, 1982.

3) Name the current NFL franchises never to appear in a Super Bowl.

A: The Detroit Lions, Cleveland Browns, Houston Texans and Jacksonville Jaguars.

4) What Super Bowl has no network footage of it remaining?

A: Super Bowl I. Back then it was common not to retain such tapes.

5) How many rings does the NFL supply the winning team of the Super Bowl?

A: Up to 150 rings.



TRICOUNTY TIMES | SCOTT SCHUPBACH
Emma Evo (right) had 22 points in a win versus Brandon.

Tigers get hot in fourth, beat Brandon

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

The Fenton varsity girls basketball team was coming off of three straight losses.

A win was needed.

The Tigers got that victory, but it didn't come easy.

Fenton (5-2, 6-5) overcame a 51-39 deficit entering the fourth quarter to capture a 70-63 overtime victory at Fenton

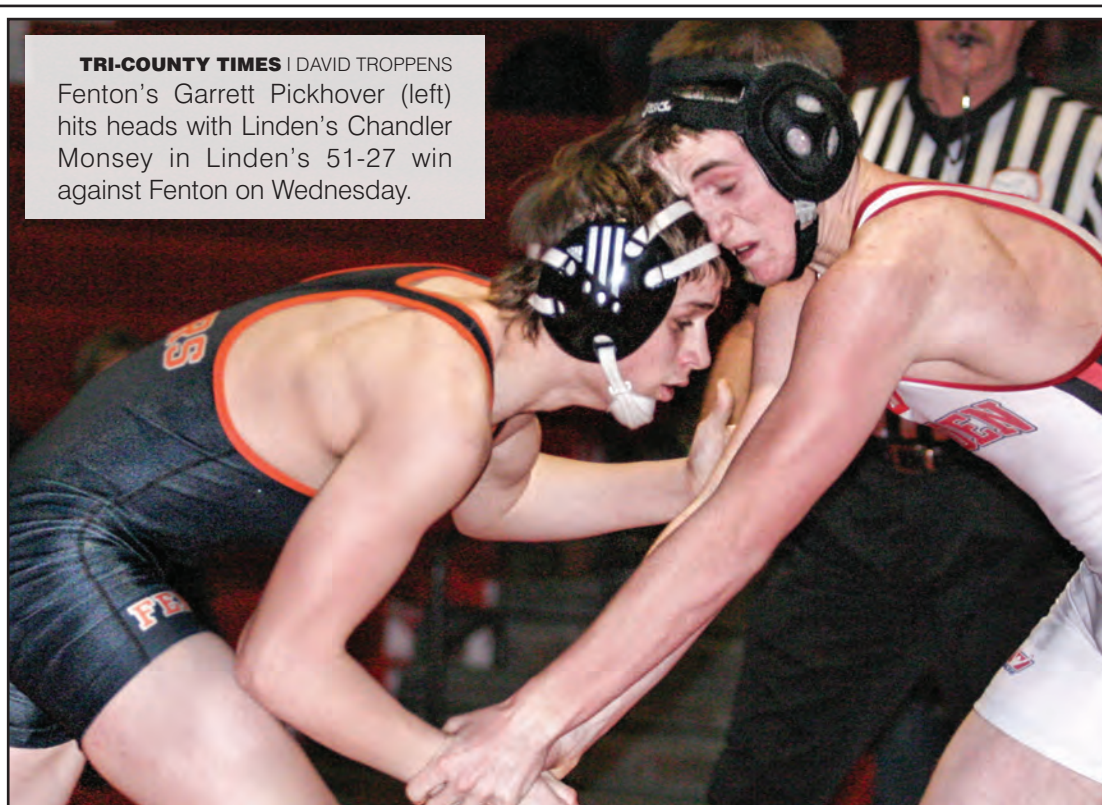
High School on Tuesday night.

"The kids kept their composure and kind of chopped away at the lead," Fenton varsity girls basketball coach Becki Moore said. "Brandon came out on fire. They shot really well. They had six threes in the first half. One of their best players (Katie Hendershot) came back from an ACL and led them with

18 points. They are definitely better with her."

The Tigers are pretty good themselves when they have some of their weapons working, and on Tuesday night Hannah Evo, Sarah Cummings and Carly Granger were having strong offensive nights. Their contributions were needed.

See **TIGERS** on 16A



TRICOUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPENS
Fenton's Garrett Pickhover (left) hits heads with Linden's Chandler Monsey in Linden's 51-27 win against Fenton on Wednesday.

Eagles declaw Fenton Tigers

► Linden posts six pin victories vs. area rivals

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

Linden — Both are young teams.

Knowing that to be the case, both squads realize their best days are ahead of them.

Yet, when it's Fenton vs. Linden, thinking ahead to the future doesn't matter much when the event begins. What does is what's happening now. And for the Linden varsity wrestling team, that meant a victory against their rivals, Fenton, on Wednesday at Linden High School.

The Eagles earned pinfall wins in six matches and won 10 of the 14 matches against the Tigers, recording a relatively easy 57-21 victory versus Fenton.

The win places the Eagles (5-2, 19-12) still within screaming shout of at least a

See **EAGLES** on 16A



TRICOUNTY TIMES | MARK BOLEN

Holly's Ian Hodges scored 18 points in the Bronchos' 77-74 win against Kearsley.

Hodges shows he belongs with Bronchos

► Scores 18 in Holly's 77-74 victory vs. Hornets

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com

Flint — Ian Hodges had to wait for his time.

A transfer from Carman-Ainsworth, Hodges was unable to play for the Holly varsity boys basketball program until after Jan. 19.

Playing in only his second game with the Holly Bronchos,

See **TEAM** on 17A



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Tigers hold off Brandon in fourth, earn 46-44 win

►Coffman, Ebert score 10 in Fenton's victory

By David Troppens
dtroppens@tctimes.com

Ever since Tim Olszewski took over as head varsity boys basketball coach at Fenton High School, the Tigers have struggled in games at Brandon High School.

"It's a consistent battle to go to Brandon ever since I've been here," Olszewski said. "It's just a different place. It's a very large venue, has lots of bleacher space and they sit far from the court. And the scene is a consistent thing that never changes. If you practice there every day it probably helps a little."

Well, the Tigers had another tough contest at Brandon on Tuesday, but got out with a 46-44 victory.

The Tigers led by 10 with about three minutes left, but had to stave off a final shot by Brandon to earn the win. Brandon's final shot was missed.

"It was the Linden game all over again," Olszewski said. "We had missed free throws, some untimely turnovers and didn't box out on their missed free throws. The next thing you know it's a two-point game and their ball with eight seconds to go."

"We played really good defense on the last possession. They took a low percentage shot, but it was more excite-

ment than what I was hoping for. Let's put it that way."

The Tigers (6-2, 6-4) trailed at one point 12-2 in the first quarter, but ended the period with a 14-4 run, actually taking a 16-13 lead into the second quarter.

"Christopher Gilbert played exceptionally well. I thought Austin Bossenberger played well for us. Peyton Coffman played well. We fed off the things they were doing," Olszewski said. "We were able to increase the tempo and that helped us. Some guys took care of the ball when we needed to."

Coffman and Ross Ebert led the Tigers with 10 points each. Ebert also had a team-high six rebounds and three blocks. Coffman grabbed four boards. Gilbert finished with nine points and five assists. He also earned three steals.

Evan Welch finished with six points, while Nick Wyrick had four points.

Flushing 67, Linden 35

The Eagles were outscored 41-10 in the opening half, resulting in the loss against the Raiders.

Flushing scored 31 points in the second quarter.

Trent Strang, Mike Gold and Tyler Hoerberling led the Eagles with six points each, while Johnny Campbell netted five points.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | MARK BOLEN

Fenton's Nick Wyrick grabs a rebound in a recent contest against the Linden Eagles. Wyrick scored four points in the Tigers' 46-44 victory against Brandon on Tuesday.

Reid continues hot streak, leads Holly to 57-31 win

By David Troppens
dtroppens@tctimes.com

Paige Reid has been hot as of late for the Holly varsity girls basketball team.

Her scoring streak continued on Tuesday.

Reid scored a team-high 15 points in the Bronchos' 57-31 victory at home against Flint Kearsley.

The Bronchos (6-2, 8-6) outscored Kearsley 40-16 in the opening half and cruised to victory after that in the Metro League contest.

Paige Reid has been hot as of late. In the team's previous contest, a victory against Ortonville-Brandon, she scored a season-best 21 points. In fact, Reid has scored double-digits in each of the last three Holly games, averaging 16 points in those contests. Meanwhile, Kaitlyn Smith remains the Bronchos' definition of scoring consistency. She has scored double-digits in all but one game this season, netting 14 points in this contest. She's averaging 16.5 points a game against Metro League foes this season.

Shayla Lipischak had 10
See REID on 17A

Buerkel's OT goal leads Griffins to 4-3 victory

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

Life has been good for Brendan Buerkel and the Metro League Griffins lately.

Winners of four of their last five games, the Griffins have enjoyed their finest period of the season lately, and Buerkel's offense has helped spearhead that run.

On Wednesday, Buerkel either scored or assisted on all four Griffins' goals, leading the squad to a 4-3 overtime victory against the Goodrich/Lakeville co-op squad.

Buerkel provided the game-winning goal in overtime with assists coming from Buck Hudson and Jake Thompson.

Early on, it looked like the Griffins, a co-op squad made up of Fenton and Linden students, was going to struggle. They trailed 3-1 entering the third period. However, Buerkel scored a power-play goal in the third period, cutting the gap to 3-2. Then, Connor Phillips responded with the game-tying goal off assists from Hudson and Buerkel.

The Griffins (6-9-1) tied it at 1-all in the first

period on a Phillips goal, coming off a Buerkel assist. However, Goodrich/Lakeville responded with the next two goals, resulting in the Griffins' two-goal deficit entering the third.

Buerkel and Phillips have each scored 15 goals this season. During the team's recent five-game hotstreak Buerkel has scored eight goals and dished eight assists.

In net, Manny Vomvolakis earned the victory, making 26 saves.

Fenton/Linden returns to action on Saturday at the Troy Sports Center for a 7 p.m. contest against non-league foe Bishop Foley.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SCOTT SCHUPBACH

Brendan Buerkel (center) scored two goals in the Metro League Griffins' 4-3 overtime victory against Goodrich/Lakeville on Wednesday.

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Blue Devils face tough teams at own tournament

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

The Lake Fenton varsity wrestling team wanted to face some tough competition at the Lake Fenton Team Duals recently.

The Blue Devils got their wish.

In a field that included 26 ranked wrestlers among the six squads there and two of the top 10 teams in Division 1, Lake Fenton finished the event with a 1-4 record. Lake Fenton defeated Grand Blanc 35-34, but lost other matches to No. 4 Hartland 59-14, No. 8 Dakota 49-24, Marysville 46-24 and Tecumseh 46-27.

"It was a brutal tournament with exceptional wrestling," Vance Corcoran said. "We are a very young team that wrestled tough against some of the best teams in the state. We were right there with Tecumseh, who ended up taking second place to Hartland."

Trent Hillger defeated two ranked wrestlers in the state. He defeated two of the top five ranked wrestlers in his weight class in the state. His victories in the 215 weight class came from Tecumseh's third-ranked Landon Pelham and from Dakota's Antonio Balabani.

Devan Melick and Tristen Nevadomski went 4-1 during the day, while Hunter Corcoran went 3-1. Jackson Nevadomski went 3-2.

"We have a week off from competi-

See **DEVILS** on 17A

EAGLES

Continued from Page 14A

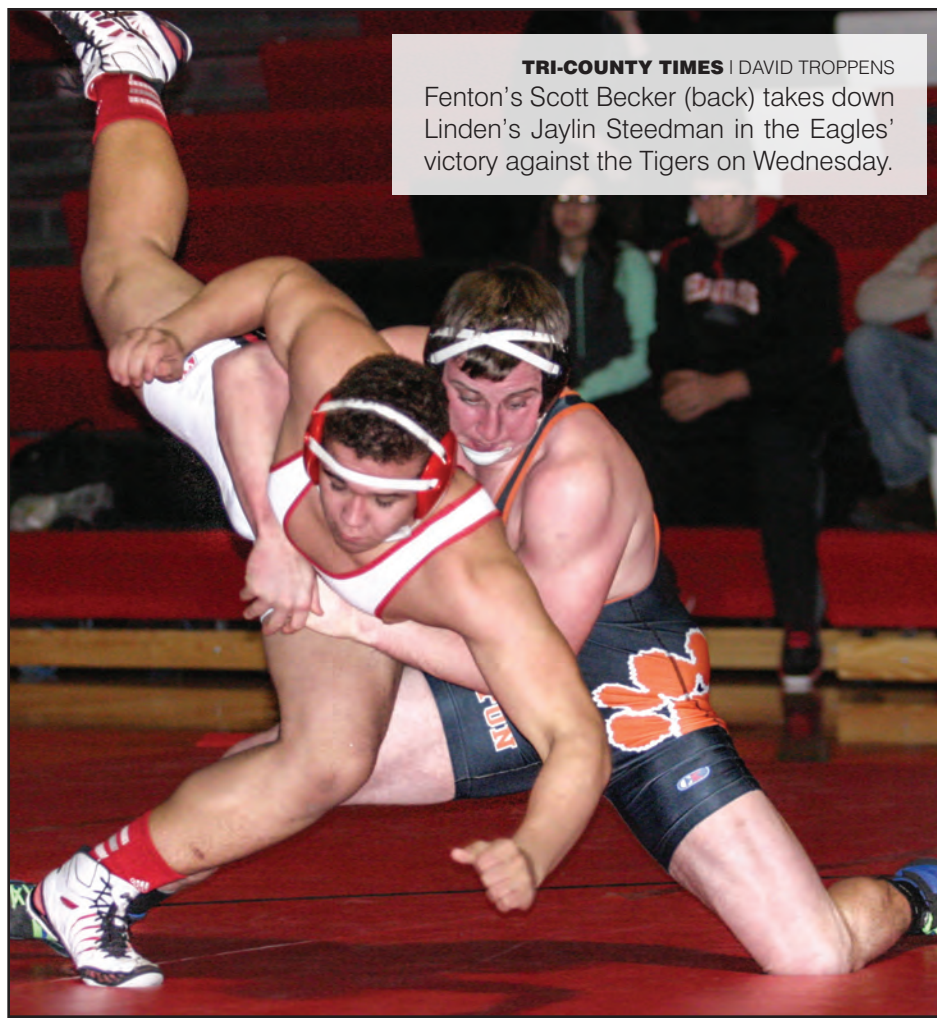
co-Metro League title entering the Metro meet.

"We still have an outside shot," Linden coach Todd Skinner said. "We are going into the conference meet having to wrestle really good to have a shot, but I think we can."

Entering the rivalry event, the eventual victor was pretty much known. The Tigers have struggled fielding a full lineup this year and have seen most of their success in JV events. On Wednesday, the Tigers were in a bit stronger shape than they have been for most of the season, able to field a team of 12 wrestlers. However, even with the larger numbers — Fenton roster listed a squad including 10 freshmen and just two seniors — beating Linden was going to be a serious challenge. But, to the Tigers' credit they may have done a tad better than most would've thought prior to the event, winning four of the 11 matches that were actually battled on the mat.

"We are a young team. We have only two seniors out there wrestling," Fenton coach Bruce Burwitz said. "We are trying to improve each week and go from there. It's getting toward the end of the season, so hopefully by leagues and districts we can push a couple of people through and get one or two of them to the state meet."

"I think our young guys are definitely improving. They are where they should be. We go to these JV meets and our guys are doing well, and that's where most of them should be. Most of them are JV wrestlers right now. ... In these types of matches you wrestle people who really don't belong (on varsity) just so you have a team out there."



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPENS
Fenton's Scott Becker (back) takes down Linden's Jaylin Steedman in the Eagles' victory against the Tigers on Wednesday.

Linden opened with three forfeit victories. Consequently, the Eagles led throughout the match. Six Eagles earned pinfall wins. They were Chandler Monsey (125), Patrick Kerr (140), Bryce Davis (145), Aaron Steedman (171) and Austin McNeill (285). Fenton had two pinfall wins of their own. They were posted in two of the final three matches. Scott Becker (189) earned the first and David Frost (215) followed with the final one.

Beyond the pinfall wins were some tight matches. The first competitive bout was between Fenton's Tommy Adams and Linden's Dawson Blank at 135. Adams trailed early in the opening round, but took the lead and held on for a 6-4 decision win. At 160, Linden's Cade Dickson captured a tight 7-5 decision victory against Fenton's David Church.

Linden's forfeit victors were Justin Cygnar (103), Luke Zimmerman (112) and Koleton Strauss (119).

"They got a little more than I wanted them to, I'm not going to lie," Skinner said. "There were a couple of matches

that could've gone either way. We did some things. We juggled the lineup just a little bit and this was the first time getting people all healthy and back in."

The next Flint Metro action for both teams will be the league tournament being held at Clio High School on Feb. 7.

**Brandon 45,
Holly 25**

The Bronchos' biggest highlight was provided by Trevor Hatfield (130) who defeated state-ranked Brenden Ladd. Ladd defeated Hatfield at the Oakland County tournament earlier this season. Other Holly winners were Wyatt Scribner (112), Carsen Cuthbert (119), Will Greer (152), Jimmy Gray (189) and Watt Lupro (215).

"We continue to improve as individuals," Holly coach Don Pluta said. "Cuthbert is 21-4 and Scribner is 15-4. Both are freshmen. Jimmy Gray is 19-5 and Trevor Hatfield is 20-5. The point is we are having some individual success and are growing as a team."

Holly concludes Metro action at the Metro meet on Feb. 7.

TIGERS

Continued from Page 14A

Granger and Cummings each provided six points in Fenton's 22-point fourth quarter, while Evo hit a key three-point play with 2:55 left, cutting the Brandon margin down to one. Cummings converted a free throw during the final 20 seconds to tie the game at 61-all. Granger kept Brandon from having a chance to win it by earning a steal. Her desperation shot to win before overtime wasn't successful. In the overtime, it was all Fenton, with Evo scoring six of her team-high 22 points in the session. She hit a big three-pointer and then helped ice the game with 3-of-4 free throws in the extra session.

Evo chipped in five rebounds, two assists and two blocks to go with her 22 points. Cummings had 21 points, 10 rebounds, two steals and a blocked

shot, while Granger finished with 12 points and four assists. Madison Shegos netted six points, five rebounds and four steals, while Katie Conroy had five rebounds.

Fenton netted 20-for-27 shots from the free-throw line, helping aid the win.

"Carly had a season-high 12 points and was 4-for-4 from the line. Madison Shegos also was 4-for-4 from the line. That's something we've been working on," Moore said about the free throws. We've struggled on the line as of late and we are working on them in practice, but now the focus is on how important they are. We are not going to overlook the free points. (Hitting 20-of-27) is moving in the right direction."

Holly hosted Fenton on Friday for a pivotal Metro contest between teams tied for second in league action. For more information on the game go to www.tctimes.com.

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TEAM

Continued from Page 14A

and only his second varsity contest of his career, Hodges is proving he was worth the wait.

Just three days after leading the Bronchos to a victory against Brandon with a game-high 17 points in his debut, the junior proved he had staying power providing 18 points, four rebounds and two assists in the Bronchos' 77-74 road victory against the Flint Kearsley Hornets on Tuesday.

"It was extremely hard," Hodges said about waiting to be eligible due to the transfer guidelines. "It was killing me, honestly. Watching everybody get up and down and I just wanted to be out there with the team."

"It's really easy having guys like Jake (Daniels), Parker (Rowse) and Steven (Redmond) — just great guys who are able to control the game and make my job a lot easier."

Hodges, who never played varsity ball at Carman-Ainsworth, is helping make life easier for his teammates as well.

"He definitely adds points and intensity," said senior Josh Simms, who scored a team-high 21 points. "He's a great guy to play with."

Holly's Hodges, Daniels and Sims played big roles in a contest Holly never trailed. Less than four minutes into the contest, the Bronchos led 15-5 after Hodges dished to Paris Partee for a layup. Kearsley settled down and finished with quarter with a 10-5 run, but Holly still led 20-15 after one quarter.

After the opening quarter, the game continued on a pretty consistent pattern. It seemed whenever the Bronchos were on the verge of blowing out the Hornets, Kearsley was able to answer back making it a contest once again. In the second quarter, Holly led by as many as 38-29 with just under two minutes left in the half on a putback hoop by Partee, but Kearsley was able to keep the gap at 40-33 at the break.

The Bronchos (8-0, 9-2) began the second half on fire. Started by a Hodges' trey, the Bronchos outscored Kearsley 21-10 in the third quarter, establishing what looked to be an overwhelming 61-43 lead after three quarters. However, The Hornets battled back. The first Kearsley run saw the Hornets cut the gap to 61-55 on a putback hoop by Kearsley Anton Webster. However, back-to-back three-pointers from Simms and Daniels raised the gap right back up to 67-44 with 4:47 left.

REID

Continued from Page 15A

points, four rebounds and four steals, while Brooke Jackman had seven rebounds and four assists. Eight players scored for the Bronchos.

Meanwhile, Holly's defense remained strong as well, never allowing Kearsley more than nine points in a quarter.

Holly hosted Fenton for a key Metro League contest on Friday. For more on that game go to www.tctimes.com.

Flushing 46, Linden 25

The Eagles (3-5, 5-8) were outscored 16-2 in the opening quarter, resulting in the loss. Sterling DeGayner led the Eagles with 14 points, while Megan Kenney had seven points and eight rebounds. Taylor Smith chipped in four points, three steals and two assists.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | MARK BOLEN

Holly's Jake Daniels scored 20 points in the Bronchos' 77-74 victory against the Kearsley Hornets on Tuesday.

Kearsley had one more run left in them. Aided by eight Holly fourth-quarter turnovers and two consecutive missed front ends of one-and-one free throw opportunities, Kearsley was able to cut the Holly lead to 71-67 with 1:06 left on a short baseline jumper by Deitrick Young. However, the Bronchos did just enough to ice the game at the charity stripe during their final three possessions. Hodges made two free throws and Simms was a perfect 4-for-4 during the final 24 seconds at the line, leading Holly to the victory. A buzzer-beating three-pointer by Kearsley's Jalen Gallery made the final score sound closer than the game actually was in the final seconds.

"We practice free throws every day after practice and before practice," Simms said. "You have to practice them so when it comes down to the game, you can make it."

Holly finished the contest shooting a sizzling 51 percent (28-for-55) which included nine converted three-pointers in

the mix. However, Holly kept Kearsley close by turning the ball over 18 times. Also, Jenkins proved unstoppable, scoring a game-high 27 points. Webster also helped Kearsley's cause scoring 10 of his 16 points in the fourth quarter.

The Bronchos knew there was good and bad to take out of the victory.

"I liked the energy from the bench. We played with a lot of energy," Hodges said. "(We need to improve getting) defensive stops. We just can't give up (close to) 80 points. Against a good team, if we let up 80 points, we are going to end up losing against a good team. We can't keep going back-and-forth, back-and-forth. We know we can score too, but defense wins games."

The Bronchos had plenty of offense with Simms, Hodges and Daniels. Daniels had his typically strong night, netting 20 points, seven rebounds, three assists and three steals. Partee and Tooley chipped in six points each with Tooley earning three rebounds and four assists.

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DEVILS

Continued from Page 16A

tion to heal up a little, and really work on what needs to be done to get our team and individuals as far into the state tournament as possible," Lake Fenton coach Vance Corcoran said. "I'm very excited how our young guys are performing."

Fenton hosts team tournament

Jake Church (140) and Connor Putnam (130) paced the Tigers with 4-1 records, while Josh Tousley (145) went 3-1. Tommy Adams (135) and Scott Becker (189) went 3-2. David Foster (215) and David Church (160) had two wins each.



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STARTING FRI JAN 30

***BLACK OR WHITE (PG13)**

FRI-SAT 10:20 1:05 3:50 6:35 9:20 11:55

SUN-WED 10:20 1:05 3:50 6:35 9:20

THUR 10:20 1:05 3:50 6:35 9:20 11:55

***@GAME OF THRONES: THE**

IMAX EXPERIENCE (R)

FRI-SAT 10:00 12:45 3:30 6:20 9:10 11:50

SUN-WED 10:00 12:45 3:30 6:20 9:10

THUR 10:00 12:45 3:30

***PROJECT ALMANAC (PG13)**

FRI-SAT 10:05 12:30 3:00 5:30

6:50 9:25 11:50

SUN-WED 10:05 12:30 3:00 5:30 6:50 9:25

THUR 10:05 12:30 3:00 5:30 6:50

9:25 11:50

***THE LOFT (R)**

FRI-SAT 10:15 12:10 2:35 5:00

7:25 9:50 11:55

SUN-WED 10:15 12:10 2:35 5:00 7:25 9:50

THUR 10:15 12:10 2:35 5:00 7:25

9:50 11:55

STARTING THUR FEB 5

***2D JUPITER ASCENDING (PG13)**

THUR 11:05

***2D THE SPONGEBOB MOVIE:**

SPONGE OUT OF WATER (PG)

THUR 9:30

***@3D JUPITER ASCENDING**

REALD 3D (PG13) THUR 9:15

***@3D SEVENTH SON REALD 3D (PG13)**

THUR NIGHT/FRI MORNING 7:10 12:05

***@3D THE SPONGEBOB MOVIE:**

SPONGE OUT OF WATER

REALD 3D (PG)

THUR NIGHT/FRI MORNING 7:00 12:05

***@JUPITER ASCENDING: AN**

IMAX 3D EXPERIENCE (PG13)

THUR NIGHT/FRI MORNING 7:00 12:05

***@SEVENTH SON: AN IMAX**

3D EXPERIENCE (PG13)

THUR 9:50

CONTINUING

***THE BOY NEXT DOOR (R)**

***STRANGE MAGIC (PG)**

***MORTDECAI (R)**

***THE WEDDING RINGER (R)**

PADDINGTON (PG)

AMERICAN SNIPER (R)

TAKEN 3 (PG13)

SELMA (PG13)

UNBROKEN (PG13)

INTO THE WOODS (PG)

NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM: SECRET

OF THE TOMB (PG)

2D THE HOBBIT: THE BATTLE

OF FIVE ARMIES (PG13)

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LIBRARY

Continued from Front Page
Board Chair Bobbie Sweetman.

But on Monday, Assistant City Manager Mike Burns presented to council the situation with the library. The issue is that there is 586 linear feet of plumbing that is still wrapped in asbestos insulation. That insulation was encapsulated when the library was converted from a post office, but today, that encapsulating wrap around the asbestos has begun to deteriorate. The problem was discovered a few weeks ago.

Burns asked for up to \$30,000 to remove the wrap, the asbestos, and rewrap the plumbing. The council agreed unanimously.

Burns guesses the library will be open in late February or early March. The city still has to find contractors for the job, and work with Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

For safety, Sweetman said, "The council did exactly the right thing. The library board is very pleased at how the council responded to the issue."

“It’s a hidden issue, but it’s an important issue.”

Bobbie Sweetman
Fenton Library board chair

She'd rather see the building open to the public again, but is glad they're thoroughly fixing the problem, instead of just re-wrapping the asbestos pipes. She said once the library is open, residents will love it. "It's breathtaking to walk in there now. It's friendlier, it's very, very clean and bright."

About the overall project

The library received new paint, plumbing, electrical, shelving and tiling. The overall renovation is being done in two phases, costing \$310,000 total before the asbestos issue, and financed by the Downtown Development Authority (DDA).

Patrons and employees will be able to see the original terrazzo floor at the entrance, new plaster overhead, and all will appreciate upgraded bathrooms and electrical service and new carpeting.

Two new study rooms will be added, and the children's library area will be modernized. Shelves are already going up in the children's area, which also has new paint and carpet.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Although the images are blurred, the Livingston County Sheriff's Department is hoping someone will recognize these robbery suspects.

ROBBED

Continued from Front Page

a blue pry bar. The safe, containing an unknown amount of cash, was missing.

The store's video surveillance recorded three suspects entering the store after they pried open the front door. Once inside, the suspects stole the safe, cash, loose change and a bottle of Sky vodka. The suspects appeared to be wearing masks during their crime spree.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Det. Curt Novara of the sheriff's department at (517) 540-7942 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-SPEAKUP.

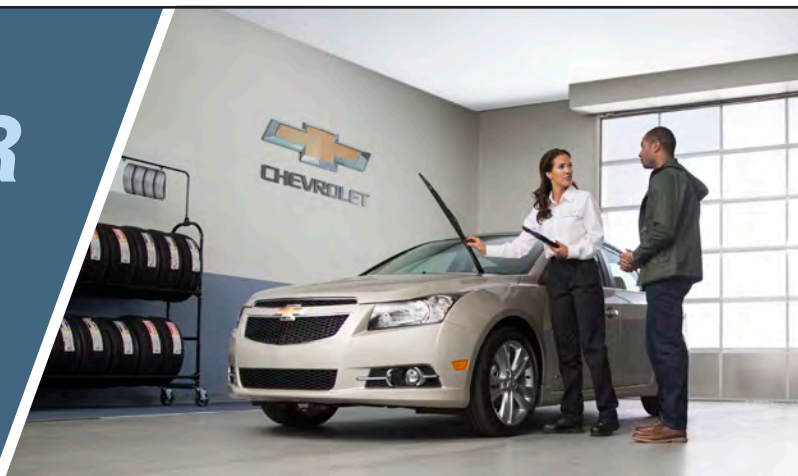
This same store was held up at knifepoint on Nov. 14, 2014. The 20-year-old Holly suspect's case is pending in Livingston County.

THIS WEEK'S INSERTS

- Alpine Marketplace**
- CVS Pharmacy**
- Holly Foods**
- Kmart**
- Life Line Screening**
- Rite Aid**
- Sears Hometown Stores**
- Target**
- VG's**
- Walmart**

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Times

RESTAURANT

Continued from Front Page

Linden, village of Goodrich and a portion of Flint to license and regulate their food safety practices.

Her list of clients includes restaurants, bars, schools, concessions, catering kitchens, rental halls and private organizations that serve the public.

Roeper's primary job is to visit an eating establishment every six months with an unannounced visit, spending about one to one-and-a-half hours in a small restaurant and three to four hours in a larger facility, checking food temperatures, hand washing practices, maintenance and repair issues.

"The biggest thing I'm looking for is that hot foods are kept hot and cold foods are kept cold, at the right temperatures for food safety," said Roeper. "That is one of the biggest contributors to food-borne illness (food poisoning). I'll meet with the restaurant manager or person-in-charge, we'll review menus, check thermometers, test strips, make sure all food is date marked and that at least one person on staff is current with their food service manager certification. My major emphasis is that food is safe for the public."

The worst thing she's ever seen in a restaurant in her thousands of inspections since 1996 has been live rodents. "I once went with a supervisor to close down a place that had a roach infestation," she said. "I've seen it all."

How do most restaurants react when she walks through the door for their twice-a-year inspection?

Some people panic, some people take it in stride, according to Roeper. "It can be amusing. You can see people rush back into the kitchen to do something. We want to see what people are scrambling to do." Shirley's Café manager Becky VanDriessche has been in the restaurant business for 30 years, the last 10 with her family's own eatery in Linden. "I usually know when it's time for Cathy's visit. It's a little nerve-wracking, but we never have anything major. We're clean freaks."

Each restaurant is given an evaluation report via email immediately after the visit. "We try to have priority issues corrected right on-site when I'm there, such as cleaning of dirty surfaces or cross-contamination



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

After inspecting The Fireplace Bar and Grill in Fenton Township Wednesday, Cathy Roeper (right) goes over results with owner Mardell Landis. There were no real issues, and none related to food.

of raw meats, for example," she said. "If it's a maintenance issue like minor plumbing or a missing floor tile, we expect it to be fixed by our next visit. If there are a lot of violations that we want to be sure are done, we'll set an exact date for two weeks to come back for a return visit."

Evaluations are available online at gchd.us under Environmental Health.

Roeper's biggest frustration is repeat offenders, those who don't correct the problem. If a problem becomes severe, and endangers the public, she has the right to close a restaurant down.

"People always ask me what the best restaurants are in town, but I honestly

don't know about the quality of different menu items," said Roeper, a veteran of the Genesee County Health Department for 20 years. "We're not allowed to taste the food while doing an inspection, but we are allowed to have a beverage, if we're offered one."

Perhaps her biggest compliment to a local restaurant is when this Linden resident shows up to dine at a local eatery during her "off" hours. "My family knows where I'll go and where I won't go," she said. "Even when I'm not working, if I can peek in the kitchen, I usually do."

"I once went with a supervisor to close down a place that had a roach infestation. I've seen it all."

Cathy Roeper
Environmental sanitarian

CITY OF FENTON ORDINANCE NO. 688

Ordinance No. 688, which amends Chapter 32 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Fenton, to regulate parking on streets and in public lots, to provide the City the authority to designate public-parking areas as permit-parking areas and to repeal all ordinances or parts thereof in conflict therewith, was enacted by the Fenton City Council.

Ordinance No. 688 was adopted at a regular meeting of the Fenton City Council held on January 26, 2015. This Ordinance will take effect thirty (30) days after publication.

The complete text of Ordinance No. 688 is on file in the office of the City Clerk and available for review by the general public during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

ADOPTED: January 26, 2015
EFFECTIVE: February 25, 2015
PUBLISHED: February 1, 2015

Renee Wilson
City Clerk



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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

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