

The 'boy next door' is moving to NYC

► Local teen lands job with Ford Models; is face of American Eagle clothing store

By Sharon Stone

sstone@tctimes.com; 810-433-6786

If you walk into the American Eagle store at Genesee Valley Mall in Flint Township, you might want to look up from those shelves of

men's jeans and see if you recognize the handsome young model on the poster. You'll also see that same face if you travel to Florida or Paris.

Working as a Ford model, Jacques

See **TEEN** on 10A

TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO

Jacques Pougnet, 17, of Tyrone Township graces the walls of American Eagle stores, worldwide. As a Ford model, he models jeans for the popular clothing store.



PAGE 3A

ARE YOU DREAMING OF A NEW BOAT?



\$1.00

Weekend Times

SUNDAY EDITION

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2015

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

Fenton City serious about more parking

► New lot next to beanery would have 59 parking spaces, cost \$196,000

By Tim Jagielo

sstone@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795

Fenton has had a positive problem as of late — parking in the growing, and increasingly busy downtown. Technically, there are more than 1,200 parking spots downtown, but only about 740 are actually public spaces.

See **PARKING** on 19A



CITY OF FENTON

The city administration will ask the DDA for nearly \$200,000 to finance a new parking lot behind the beanery building.

Make way for newspapers, mail and emergencies

► Carriers not allowed to attempt delivery if there is build up of snow and ice

By Alexei Rose

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Snow, ice, and frigid temperatures all come with Michigan winters. However, not everyone is lucky enough to have a snow day or a day off when the conditions are not suitable for going out.

See **MAKE WAY** on 9A



SERIES: PART 4 OF 4

An in-depth look at Fenton Area Public Schools

► The district with the most students and most sports

By Tim Jagielo

tjagiolo@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795

Fenton — In the main gym of the high school, the girls varsity and junior varsity basketball teams have their afternoon practice. In the auditorium, students try out for Grease, the next theater production.

The girls practice offensive drills with serious focus, while dozens of musical hopefuls throw themselves through a section of "We Go Together" with wide-eyed enthusiasm.

For the final part of the series on local school districts, the Times is looking at Fenton Area Public Schools, the district with the most students, and an equally robust athletics and arts program.

Fenton is the only school in Genesee County to offer opportunities for every Michigan High School Athletics Association (MHSAA) tournament sport, according to athletic director Mike Bakker. They recently added gymnastics and lacrosse to sports offered. "Overall, I think that our athletic department has been and continues to be one of the best programs in Genesee County," he said via email.

See **FENTON** on 21A

Becki Moore, Fenton High School varsity girls basketball head coach, gets her team ready for a drill Wednesday afternoon. The team is 7-6 for the season.

TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

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(8398)

TEXT YOUR HOT LINE



“As a long serving member of a school board, I believe a teacher presence is a good communication vehicle to the teachers union. But, no board should ever be dominated by teacher affiliated members. It is illogical and counterproductive.”



“If the damn fools in the media would refuse to air photos and videos of the animalistic terrorists that kill other humans then it would stop. Once again the media helps to publicize barbaric behavior, for profit. This is simple common sense. Quit watching.”



“Anyone who would vote for additional taxes on any thing, at any time, under any circumstances is a fool. I like Snyder, but am voting a big NO! Can you hear me now?”



tctimes.com
COMMENT OF THE WEEK

“The politicians in New York wouldn't even allow food deliveries or bicycle traffic when a storm was predicted? Since when does the government tell me when and where I can walk in my own city? What sheep the people of NYC are. Baaaa, baaaa.”

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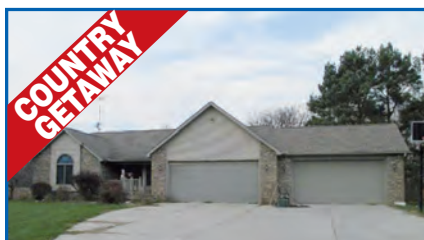
A ten acre paradise with 2 ponds for nature
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Elegant cathedral ceilings. Partially finished
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Enormous basement with 9 ft ceilings!
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additional 4+ car garage!
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hardwood floors in Dining and Living room,
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Fenced in backyard and nice size storage
shed. Located in Grand Blanc schools.
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LINDEN

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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
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LINDEN

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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.
\$129,000
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3187 Ponemah

Solid ranch on wooded
1/2 acre lot near beautiful,
all-sports Lake Ponemah.
Tons of potential but needs
substantial mechanical
and cosmetic renovation.
\$66,500
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FENTON

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
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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.
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utilities, natural gas and public sewer. Great place
to build your dream home! Call Shelia Rhoades
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Property is located in an exclusive development
in the Fenton school district. Build your dream
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beauty of nature all around you.
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1692 Shortline, Mayfield Twp., \$69,900.

Great plot of partially wooded land with build site
perfect for walkout along Shortline Dr. 10 acres of
nature at it's finest to go with your dream home with
road frontage along both Shortline Dr. and Roods
Lake Rd. Call Kevin Usealman 810-965-6552

Hilltop Drive, Linden, \$59,900. Corner lot with
access to Lobdell Lake across the street and at
the end of Waterview land. Lot had previously
been approved for a split but current owner did
not have split completed. Sewer available in area.
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16401 Sleepy Hollow, Fenton, \$30,000. Build
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beautiful, well established neighborhood of
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'Boat loads' OF FUN

Season officially kicks off with the Detroit Boat Show Feb. 14-22

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

The 2015 boating season officially begins in February, with Michigan boat shows narrowing the gap between winter and the much-anticipated summer boating season.

Local fishermen already had their oars in the water at the Ultimate Fishing Show in Novi in January, according to Jim Adams of Freeway Sports Center in Fenton Township. "We do a lot of fishing boat business there," he said. "We'll be going to Novi (the Spring Boating Show), too."

Summary

► It may be mid-winter, but if you live in the tri-county area's "land of lakes," you're likely already thinking or dreaming about being on a boat this summer.

The biggest boat show of the season is the 57th annual Detroit Boat Show, set for Feb. 14-22 at Cobo Center. Locally, more boat dealers will be vendors at the 23rd annual Spring Boating Expo, March 12-15 at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi.

Adams said 2014 was a terrific boating year because of the economy, interest rates and pent-up demand.

"We did real well with Yamaha Sport Boats," he said. "We've been selling them for the last three years. We sell everything. They all have their season. Pontoons start in February with strong sales in April, May

See **BOAT** on 19A



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Chip Trealout with White's Landing assists Keith Skotzky in preparing a \$70,000 Supreme towboat for an upcoming boat show. This boat is 343 horse power and is a new addition to the White's Landing inventory. Boat shows are similar to the Detroit auto show, except visitors can buy boats there.



“The weather’s the variable. Up ‘til then, it’s the anticipation and excitement of summer.”

Jim Adams

Freeway Sports Center

Upcoming boat shows

57th annual Detroit Boat Show

Feb. 14-22 at Cobo Center,
1 Washington Blvd., Detroit
Adults \$12,
kids 12 & under free with adult.
Discount tickets available on line.

Lansing Boat Show 'H2O-15'

Feb. 27-28, March 1
Lansing Center
333 East Michigan Ave., Lansing

23rd annual Spring Boating Expo

March 12-15
Suburban Collection Showplace
46100 Grand River Ave., Novi



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Politicians are predictable, the weather is not

If only the weather were as predictable as the politicians.

Almost exactly a year ago supermarkets in the East were laid bare in eight hours as shoppers, frightened by the politicians, ransacked store shelves in the hope of surviving 'snowmageddon' — breathlessly predicted by nervous network weathermen all up and down the coast. The actual snowstorm that followed in late January 2014 was simply a typical winter snowfall of about 6 inches.

Fast forward one year. Last week the same network weather forecasters again panicked the populace, boldly predicting 2 feet of snow in New York City. 'It could be a matter of life and death, and that's not being overly dramatic,' said New York Governor Mario

Cuomo. 'Most likely it will be one of the largest snowstorms in the history of this city,' beleaguered NYC mayor Bill de Blasio proclaimed. The mayor mobilized over 1,800 snowplows to keep the city's 6,000 miles of interstate highways and roads as clear as possible, even as he and governor Cuomo inexplicably closed those same 6,000 miles of interstate highways and roads, as well as the entire subway system 'in the interest of public safety.'

When the predicted 2 feet of snow actually turned out to be less than a 6-inch snowfall in New York City, the predictable finally did happen. The same politicians who breathlessly warned New Yorkers to prepare for the 'the storm of the century,' now explained to New Yorkers that the

weather is 'unpredictable' and, despite tens of millions of dollars in computers, and a 150-year history, weather forecasting is still a 'guessing game.'

Then the political talking heads played their trump card, attributing forecasting flops to 'climate change,' (it's what the rest of us call 'weather'). Why? Because a weak and fearful public is much easier to manipulate and manage than a strong and confident public. A fearful citizenry will look to its 'leaders' for solutions to the imminent and imaginary dangers posed by... well, anything. Saving us from all varieties of non-existent dangers is standard operating procedure for any politician who wants to get re-elected. And they

all want to get re-elected.

Keep in mind that these are the same people who can't even balance their budgets — driving us deeper into debt each year by spending money we don't actually have.

That's not to say they're entirely feeble-minded though.

They were savvy enough to put the yoke of Obamacare on the backs of 316 million U.S. citizens, while exempting themselves from it.

My question is, why do we believe anything that comes out of mouths of the blustering, politicians who spend their lives creating imaginary

crises that they solve with imaginary solutions?

Do you remember Y2K?

I rest my case.

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.



“Most likely it will be one of the largest snowstorms in the history of this city.”

NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio

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.

FENTON TIGERS 8U Baseball team is looking for two more players. Visit www.fttbaseball.com for details.

ON MONDAY, FENTON closed their schools and cancelled the school board meeting due to bad roads. But, your swim team had to go to practice. What were you thinking? Oh, yeah, you weren't.

THE GAS TAX is dedicated to our roads, but the legislature spends it wherever they want. They'll do the same with a sales tax increase. Vote no on the sales tax increase. As for Gov. Snyder, he seems to be running for national office.

IN 2000, MEASLES were reported as gone from the U.S. Now that Obama has extended our borders to include all of Central America, this is what you get when you will do anything for a Democratic vote.

IT IS ESTIMATED that the Reverend Al Sharpton may owe as much as \$1.3 million to the IRS. It appears that if you visit the White House on a regular basis, you are exempt of any charges. MSNBC still lets him keep his show. Is there no shame?

I JUST DON'T understand where you people get your information. Obama's

budget cuts taxes for the middle class and cuts over a trillion dollars in debt in the next decade. Try reading the actual facts before you spew lies.

CAN ANYONE INVESTIGATE where the bond money for the Fenton schools went this time? I thought it was for new technology in the classrooms like laptops and iPads in every room. Where are the iPads? We need accountability on what was promised and what is actually being done.

GAS PRICES HAVE dropped despite Obama because determined American corporations have found a way to track the abundant oil from the ground and get around him and his cronies at the EPA.

Thank God his reign of terror on America is almost over. I am counting the days.

AS A NON-smoker, my sense of smell is pretty good. Did you know that I can smell the scent of your lit cigarette and pot when I am driving behind your car? I bet police can smell it, too.

IN A SPEECH to University of Michigan students, President Obama said, 'We can't just keep on subsidizing skyrocketing tuitions.' In the same speech said this, 'My administration is increasing federal student aid so more students can afford college.' Obama's solution to putting out the fire? Pour gas on it.

See **HOT LINE** throughout Times

Readers write

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

'Vote no' to more taxes

Dear fellow taxpayers,

On May 5, voters will be asked to approve a \$1.9 billion tax increase of which only \$1.2 billion will actually be used for road repairs. Please consider this increase will place Michigan in the second highest sales taxation, behind California. Also, it places us sixth highest in gas tax but 32nd in road quality! It also will be a permanent change in our constitution. In 2005, Michigan median income was \$54,900, now it is \$48,200! In four years, revenues increased by \$2.7 billion in taxes and fees, yet spending has increased by a whopping \$4.7! This must stop! Send Lansing a message that they must stop taxing their way out of problems and start cutting in every area, just as we the Michigan taxpayers have had to. Please VOTE NO on more taxes and changing the constitution on May 5. We have had enough! Thank you.

— MaryAnn Sharp, Fenton

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Compiled by Alexei Rose, intern

What kind of boat would you like to have?

streettalk



"I would have a Ski Nautique because they are the best boats out there."

— Robert Graham
Deerfield Township



"I love Chris-Craft boats. They are the most beautiful vintage boat and they have a classy look."

— Sue Grandy
Argentine Township



"A pontoon, because I like the social aspect and how you can have a lot of people on them at one time."

— Cecilia Sugg
Fenton



"I would have a pontoon because they are comfortable."

— Glenn Dcamp
Fenton Township



"I would definitely have a pontoon because I could sit back and relax."

— Lou Coder
Holly



"A wakeboard boat because they can do so much more and I like surfing."

— Ken Ryneason
Rose Township



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

Sam Jawhari, father of Briona Jawhari, who died of a heroin overdose in 2011, uses his family story to educate others, like here at Lake Fenton High School in 2011.

Grieving dad continues to speak out about addiction

► More than 50,000 students have heard his message

By Yvonne Stegall

ystegall@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Four years ago, on Valentine's Day 2011, Sam Jawhari lost his 17-year-old daughter, Briona, to heroin. Two days later, her best friend, Erika Schlosser, also OD'd.

Since then, Jawhari has spoken to more than 50,000 students, mainly in Genesee County. He is working to end the stigma that surrounds drug addiction. He has been to more than 12 middle schools and 28 high schools.

After Jawhari found Briona's lifeless body in her bedroom, he made it his life's mission to teach people about the disease of drug addiction. He does this through the "Chasing the Dragon" presentation, which was originally produced by Community Parent, Inc., but will now be known as "Briona's Legacy."

The term 'chasing the dragon' was coined to express how heroin users would chase the dragon, at any cost, in an attempt to copy that first-time high.

Jawhari believes that a small percentage of the population, about 10 percent, have an addiction, a brain disease, to drugs.

“The stigma has got to stop.”

Sam Jawhari
Briona's father

In the years he has been speaking about drugs and addiction, Jawhari said, "I've gotten as much as 'You're my hero,' to 'This is happening to my family,'" when he speaks out at Chasing the Dragon presentations.

He also said he is working on expanding the message. It isn't just about drugs; it's about bullying, depression and other mental health issues. "It's all intertwined," he said. "The stigma has got to stop."

People blame the person, not the illness. They blame the parents. Jawhari said, "In court, they made me feel like I did something wrong." He turned to the system that was supposed to help him, and it didn't.

In an effort to gain knowledge on addiction, Jawhari said that he attends any conferences about addiction that he comes across.

"We need to tackle it head on, not sweep it under the rug," Jawhari said. He pointed out that the government keeps its eyes closed when it comes to drug addiction, but it creates an Ebola czar and opens special hospitals when other diseases come to the U.S.

Although Community Parent, Inc. will be known as Briona's Legacy, you can search them out under the original name on Facebook or go to communityparent.org. Jawhari's contact information is also available there.

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911 texting launched in Oakland County

►Call when you can, text when you cannot

By Yvonne Stegall

ystegall@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

In a Feb. 4 press release, Oakland County Sheriff Michael Bouchard announced that the new text to 911 was fully implemented as of Feb. 1.

This comes after Sheriff Bouchard's 2014 plan to make sure that his Operations Center offered equal access to 911 services throughout Oakland County for those in the hearing and speech impaired communities, and for those who are in a situation that does not allow them to safely dial 911.

"With the emergence of new technologies including SMS messaging or 'texting,' traditional 911 services need

to continually be updated and integrated with the digital capabilities of smart phones," the sheriff said in his release.

This technology is now available throughout Oakland County to all residents, business owners, and visitors.

"We are encouraging residents to call when they can and text when they can't," said Sheriff Bouchard. "With the rapidly changing technology on the market, we want to ensure that Oakland County has the capabilities to offer the most current

service to keep our communities safe, especially in cases where it may be prohibitive to dial 911."

It is important to remember that when calling, or texting 911, dispatchers need valuable information, such as your location. The text service does not currently have the ability to accurately identify a person's location.

It is also important to point out that at this time only Verizon Wireless, AT&T, T-Mobile, and Sprint customers can text to 911. In addition, only cell phones with data plans that allow for texting can use this service. It will be another two to three years before text to 911 will be more widely available, with the next generation of text to 911.

Just like dialing 911, texting to 911 should only be used for emergencies.

Currently, Genesee County does not have text to 911. Fenton Police Chief Rick Aro said, "We are currently working on our Next Generation 911 upgrade, which will be completed sometime this summer."

Aro added, "We are working with Genesee Central on the project and both PSAPS (Public Service Answering Points) will become operational about the same time."

“We are encouraging residents to call when they can and text when they can’t.”

Michael Bouchard
Oakland County sheriff

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FARR and Loose Center join forces

►New one-stop satellite location in Linden to provide assistance to area residents

By Yvonne Stegall

ystegall@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Fenton Area Resource and Referral (FARR) has a new beginning, with a partnership with Loose Senior Center in Linden. According to Carl Gabrielson, executive director at Loose Center and FARR Board member, the initial cornerstone of their new beginning is bringing Resource Genesee to the south end of Genesee County.

As a partner with One Stop Genesee, a program of Resource Genesee, FARR is able to offer a wider array of help to those in need.

Originally formed in 1989, FARR is a nonprofit organization that helps those in need of shelter, food and clothing in the tri-county area. FARR's thrift store used to help contribute funding to FARR, however, they closed the store, formerly located in Fenton, early last year.

At this time, FARR is being housed at Loose Center and is staffed on Mondays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Gabrielson said, "I was placed on the FARR Board to help redevelop the future and purpose of this organization." The Board includes professionals,

education and civic leaders, ministers, original members with a story to tell and Gabrielson.

"We have made the decision to sell the house (FARR thrift store) and properties and direct our efforts and time into the needs of the community," said Gabrielson. He said the program's next challenge is to identify and reach out to those in our communities of all ages.

They are planning a benefit dinner to have people come and learn what FARR is and what it means to our community.

He said, "We also need to communicate to those in need to put our mission in action."

In the past, the Times has covered much of the FARR history and what they do for the community. Currently, the services offered at their satellite location at Loose Center

“We also need to communicate to those in need to put our mission in action.”

Carl Gabrielson
Executive Director at Loose Center

in Linden are:

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Funeral set for former Fenton school board member

By Sharon Stone

sstone@tctimes.com; 810-433-6786

Sandra Mathews-Barnes, a former Fenton Board of Education member died on Tuesday, Feb. 3.

Mathews-Barnes was elected to the school board in May 2008. She ran for a seat on the board again in November 2012, however, was not reelected to a second term.



Sandra Mathews-Barnes

She taught at Flushing Community Schools for 37 years. Mathews-Barnes was also a member of the Fenton United Methodist Church.

Visitation will be at Sharp Funeral Homes, Fenton Chapel on Monday, Feb. 9 and at Fenton United Methodist Church on Tuesday, Feb. 10. Services will be held at the church. For details, go to www.sharpfuneralhomes.com.

Credit scores are confusing, but important

►Your score will affect your car insurance costs, interest rate on loans

By Yvonne Stegall

ystegall@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Anyone who has ever applied for a credit card or loan has a credit score. What's confusing about it is that you don't just have one, just like you don't only have one credit report.

One free and easy place to get a couple of your credit scores is Credit Karma. This website offers your scores free, you just sign up with no credit card needed. They share your scores from Equifax and TransUnion.

You may notice a difference between your two scores. That would be because they are each based on a different credit report and different reports often say different things about spending habits, along with open and delinquent accounts.

There are three major credit bureaus, Equifax, Experian and TransUnion. Each uses a different scoring model and they don't always get all the same information. One might be missing a major account

that could have given you a higher or lower score. You can get your actual credit report free once a year from annualcreditreport.com, and compare which has what.

Some credit cards and lenders will also keep you updated on changes with your score, just like Credit Karma. This allows you to know immediately when changes are happening, and you can find out why.

The scores range from 300 to 850, for all of the possible credit scores. The higher your score, the better your chances of getting a loan, buying a home, or paying less for your car insurance. These are all things that your credit score can affect.

Scores can change when you open a new credit account, use your cards, pay your bills and more. They can even fluctuate just because you've applied for a loan or credit card, even if you aren't approved.

The bottom line remains that credit scores are confusing, but they are also important. Take a moment today to get online, get your free credit score, and see where you stand on future loans.

Where to get your
free credit score

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lendingtree.com/FreeCreditScore

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Holly Police Department to host 'Winterfest'

►Feb. 15 event coincides with Michigan's Free Fishing Weekend

By Sharon Stone

sstone@tctimes.com; 810-433-6786

The Holly Police Department is hosting its inaugural "Winterfest" from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 15 at Bush Lake-Lakeside Park in Holly. The event coincides with Michigan's Free Fishing Weekend, when fishing licenses are not required.

There is a registration fee of \$10 for adults to participate in the Fishing Derby/Auger-Off. Children ages 12 and under are free. Proceeds will benefit the Holly Police Department's "Protect and Serve" summer event.

A participating angler who catches the tagged fish will win \$1,000.

Ice golf begins at 10 a.m. and there will be a fire and ice warming station for attendees. At 10:30 a.m., guests might want to take part in the Snow Snake Throw Contest. At 11:30, chili and hot dogs will be available.

From 12 to 3 p.m. the Holly Fire Department will demonstrate its "Man Down" ice and water rescue.

At 3 p.m., winners of the Ice Auger "Auger-Off" competition will be announced. First place wins an Extreme two-man ice shanty. Second and third place wins a 6-inch ice auger.

At 4 p.m., the police department will host its "Ask a Cop" event.

At 5 p.m., awards will be given out for most legal caught fish, largest legal fish and most time on the ice.

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

Residents of Fenton, Fenton Township, Linden and Argentine Township use the 67th district court, located on Silver Parkway in Fenton.

County's court merger won't affect local residents

► Fenton City drafts resolution opposing merger, changes to Fenton courthouse

By Tim Jagielo

tjagielo@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795

On Monday, Fenton City Council passed a resolution, officially opposing the merger of Genesee County's 67th and 68th district courts. The 68th district court handles Flint City cases, while the 67th district court handles the rest of the county.

The main concern is closing the local court buildings, and forcing residents to go to the county building in Flint. The other was the cost to Fenton police with increased travel to court as part of their job. Fortunately, the courts aren't going anywhere, at least not now.

Locally, residents of Fenton, Fenton Township, Argentine Township and Linden are all served by the 67th District Court, under Judge Mark McCabe, with a court building on Silver

Parkway in Fenton.

The merger has been in the works for more than a year. The legislature approved it in March 2014, and the Genesee County commissioners approved it in December.

Fenton City Council's resolution is an official letter of opposition to any change with the current court system in Fenton, though it would have no binding authority.

Commissioner Tony Brown of the 6th District said that the merger is currently more about consolidating courts located in Flint into the McCree Building in downtown Flint. He said there are currently no plans to move any outlying courts, such as the one in Fenton, Davison or Flushing to Flint.

"I will oppose the merger of the court system, if it came to that," he said. Brown added that sort of merger is unlikely to be supported by county commissioners who hail from those outlying court communities.

"I will oppose the merger of the court system, if it came to that."

Tony Brown
County Commissioner, District 6

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MAKE WAY

Continued from Front Page

Mail delivery is highly important to everyone. Imagine what it would be like if the Consumer's bill was not delivered during this time of year. "Mail delivery during the winter months can be quite challenging," said Elizabeth Najdich, a USPS communications program specialist for the Detroit District.

How can people ensure that they get their newspaper, mail and any deliveries on time? The solution is simple; make sure that walkways are shoveled so the carriers and delivery people can deliver your items safely.

"This is very important," said Najdich. "Carriers are the most susceptible to injuries and they are the most vulnerable. We need people to shovel walkways to prevent accidents, and we don't want these accidents to be costly to homeowners. They are not allowed to attempt delivery if there is heavy build up of snow and ice."

Najdich also mentioned how it would be helpful if residents who live near a blue collection box clear a path to those as well. If



FENTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Fenton Fire Department asks that citizens who have a fire hydrant near or on their property clear a path to the hydrant.

people own a curbside mailbox, it would be appreciated if there were a clear path to those so the delivery trucks do not get stuck.

Najdich wanted to emphasize that they know how important delivering mail is, and the carriers will continue to come back, but they will not deliver the mail until it is safe.

Along with clearing walkways for mail carriers, the Fenton Fire Department is also asking if residents would clear a path to any fire hydrants located near or on their property.

In the city of Fenton, there are more than 600 hydrants. If you use a contractor, make sure to tell them to keep them clear of piles of snow and keep them unobstructed. The Fenton Police Department posted this information on its Facebook page. If you have any questions, contact the fire department at (810) 629-8595.

Clearing a path takes just a few extra minutes and it will ensure that all of your mail, newspaper and deliveries will be delivered on time. In case of an emergency or fire, the necessary equipment will be accessible, and save precious time.

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Stranger wants in apartment

At 7 p.m. on Jan. 27, Fenton police responded to an apartment off Torrey Road. A female resident reported to police that about 6:30 p.m. a woman knocked on her apartment door and asked to come in. The unknown woman, in her 20s, wearing jeans, Ugg boots and a hoodie told the resident that she once lived there and wanted to see the apartment again. The resident looked out the window and saw three men sitting in a nearby four-door white sedan and one of the men had a bandana over his face. The resident refused to let the unknown woman in her apartment and called police instead. Lt. Jason Slater cautions people never to let unknown people into their homes.

Break-in on North Horrell Road

On Feb. 4, the Genesee County Sheriff's Department responded to a home in the 13000 block of North Horrell Road in Fenton Township to investigate a home break-in. Dep. Geno Gaticka said the residents had just returned home from vacation and discovered that their home had been broken into sometime during

the past few weeks. The suspect(s) used a pry bar to force open the exterior service door to the attached garage. Once inside the garage they kicked in the door to the house. The homeowners continue to put a list together of stolen items, however, it was apparent that jewelry and coins were stolen. The sheriff's department has been investigating two previous break-ins, which are possibly related.

Tips to keep thieves out of your home

With a string of Fenton Township break-ins, which occurred while the residents were out of town, Dep. Geno Gaticka of the Genesee County Sheriff's Department offers several tips to help keep thieves out.

- Use timers to have interior/exterior lights go on and off each day.
- Tell only trusted people of your plans.
- Make sure all doors and windows are locked.
- Stop your mail and newspaper from being delivered.
- Arrange to have your driveway and sidewalk shoveled if snow falls while you are out of town.
- Do not tell any unknown callers that you are out of town.
- Do not post on social media that you will be out of town. If you must post something, do so after you return.

Times launches 'Lost and Found' Facebook page

►Free service to quickly reunite pets and items with their owners

By Sharon Stone
sstone@tctimes.com

When you've lost something precious, you want to find it as quickly as possible. This can include your family's pet, a diamond engagement ring, a set of car keys, or just about anything that has a special meaning to you.

The Times recently launched its new Lost

**Summary**

►Did you lose something? Do you have a Facebook page? If you answered "yes" to both of those questions, you can post your own lost and found feature on the Times' new "Lost and Found" Facebook page.

and Found Facebook page. Here, people who have lost something and people who have found something can post their information. The intent of this new free service is reuniting lost items and their rightful owners.

Numerous people with their own Facebook profiles have already discovered this Lost and Found page and some have posted photos of their missing belongings.

To check out this page, go to www.facebook.com/tricountylostfound.

TEEN**Continued from Front Page**

Pouget, 17, of Tyrone Township has been selected as one of the newest faces of men's jeans at American Eagle, a worldwide account.

Since the spring of 2013, the athletic teen has been balancing his modeling work with school academics and sports. Jacques is a senior at Powers High School, where he played varsity football.

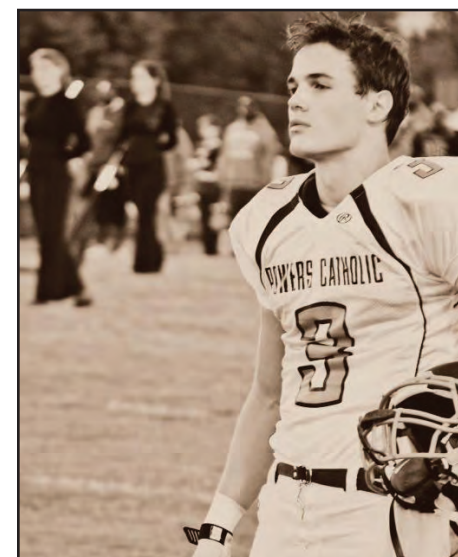
Looking back to how his modeling career began, Jacques said he and his dad, Thomas Pouget, were in Chicago for a football tournament. While visiting a shopping mall, he was approached by a woman, who happened to be a former Ford Models agent. "It was not planned," said Jacques. "She asked if I modeled. I said 'no.'"

The former Ford Models agent called a current agent who then contacted the Pougets. Jacques and his mother, Ursula, traveled to Chicago the next week and the agent signed Jacques on the spot. "It was surreal," said Jacques.

In the beginning, Jacques was not working too much, however, work has picked up and he began making trips to Milwaukee, Chicago and Pittsburgh. He signed on to the American Eagle account this past summer and photo shoots for that were done over a couple of weeks in Pittsburgh.

“She asked if I modeled. I said no.”

Jacques Pouget
Ford Models



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO

Jacques Pouget, a senior at Powers was a four-year starter for the school's varsity football team. He has put an offer to play for Grand Valley on hold to pursue a modeling career.

Putting an opportunity on hold to play football at Grand Valley State University, where his brother Garrett plays, Jacques will see how his modeling career progresses. He said, oftentimes models have contracts with multiple modeling agencies for more work.

With work picking up and the support of his three older brothers and parents, Jacques plans to move to New York City after graduation. He expects that his mother will stay with him for a month to help him settle in. "She knows I'll be fine," Jacques said. "She'll probably fly out often."

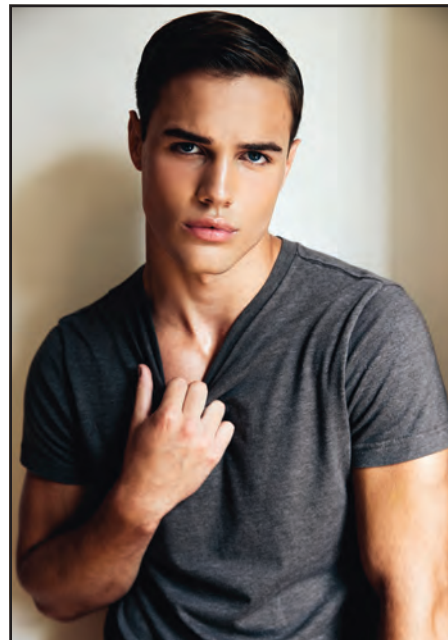
As one of Ford's up and coming models, Jacques finds himself occasionally being recognized. "I get a few looks and they ask me, but I don't talk about it a lot."

He said most everyone at his school knows that he is modeling and thinks it's pretty cool. He added that another Powers grad, Connor Tuohy, is also modeling.

When asked if he's experienced any difficulties yet with modeling, Jacques said it has come naturally and he's pretty comfortable with the job. "I like meeting all the people," he said.

As a high school athlete, he believes he is in good shape, but knows he will have to continue working out to get in really good shape.

If anyone else has dreams of being a model, Jacques suggests they just be themselves and if they have their parents' support to go for it. "Have fun with it," he said.



Jacques Pouget of Tyrone Township will turn 18 next month and after high school graduation, he will move to New York City to concentrate on a full-time modeling career.

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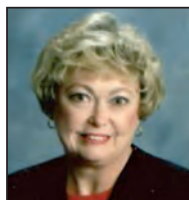
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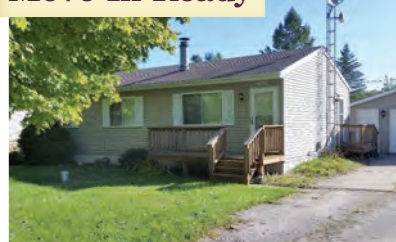
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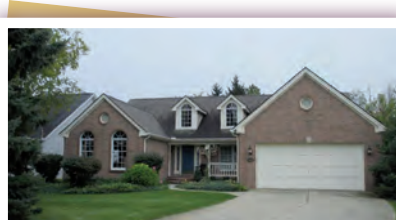
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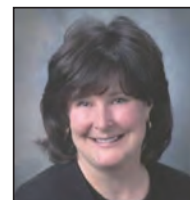
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TRIVIA BASKETBALL

Q Who owns the NBA record for most free throws attempted in a game without making one?

A Shaquille O'Neal missed 11 straight in a game on Dec. 8, 2000.

Cryderman reaches bowling perfection

► Fenton bowler tosses 300 in recent meet

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

Fenton junior John Cryderman is a pretty good bowler. But on Wednesday at Flint's Bs Bowling Center, he was more than good — he was perfect.

Cryderman tossed the first perfect 300 game during the Flint Metro League bowling season, and his second one of his four-year career.

"I thought I was going to do bad because I thought (the lanes) were going to be dry," Cryderman said. "But it ended up working good."

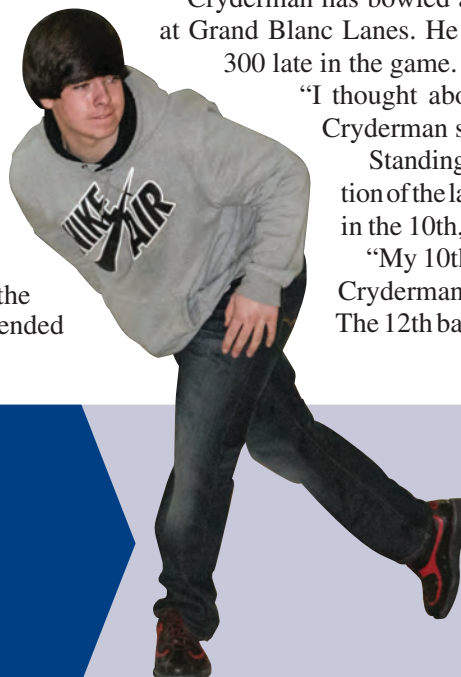
Cryderman has bowled a 300 before, in a city tournament held at Grand Blanc Lanes. He admitted he started thinking about the 300 late in the game.

"I thought about it in the seventh or eighth frame," Cryderman said. "That's when it kicked in."

Standing at nine strikes, Cryderman was the attention of the lanes in the 10th frame. It takes three strikes in the 10th, and 12 strikes in a game, to bowl a 300.

"My 10th ball I wasn't bad. I was pretty normal," Cryderman said. "My 11th ball, I was a little shaky. The 12th ball, I was a little nervous, but when I threw

See **CRYDERMAN** on 18A



**JOHN
CRYDERMAN**

The Fenton junior tossed the first 300 game of his prep career on Wednesday against Holly.

Times

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FEBRUARY 8, 2015
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Sports

ONLINE EXCLUSIVES

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

FENTON SWIMMERS KEEP ON WINNING

The Fenton varsity boys swimming and diving team captured another victory, earning firsts in nine of 12 events in a 112-74 victory against Owosso.

Zac Miceli and Austin Landis each took part in four firsts. Both were part of the 200 medley relay squad (1:50.68) which earned a first. They teamed with Noah Sizemore and Michael Fabatz. The pair also teamed with Kyle Banner and Fabatz to take the top spot in the 400 freestyle relay (3:35.43).

Individually, Landis earned the top spot in the 100 freestyle (51.15) and the 100 backstroke (58.45), while Miceli won the 200 individual medley (2:12.56) and the 100 butterfly (57.55).

Banner also won two individual events, taking care of the distance freestyle competitions, earning a first in the 200 freestyle (1:58.01) and a first in the 500 freestyle (5:23.39). Fenton's final first was earned by diver Adam Kildow. He won with a score of 183.55.

The Tigers return to action at Pinckney High School on Tuesday.

Tigers dispose of Mustangs

► Second-half offense sparks 69-57 victory

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

Fenton — For just little over a half, the Fenton varsity boys basketball team struggled trying to find its offensive rhythm against the Clio Mustangs on Tuesday night.

Trailing 26-20 at halftime, the Tigers fell behind 29-20 after Clio's Matt Patton netted a three-pointer 30 seconds into the second half. At the time it looked like Fenton (7-3, 7-5) was going to be in a serious battle if they were going to come back and earn the victory.

That's when the Tigers' offense woke up. A minute later Alec Thomas netted a three-pointer. That trey started an incredible stretch where Fenton scored 39 points in 21 possessions, eventually leading the Tigers to a 69-57 Metro victory at Fenton High School.

Fenton scored 49 second-half points, and did so by hitting 13-of-22 shot attempts (59 percent). Four of those field goals were three-pointers. When the Tigers needed to ice the game



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SCOTT SCHUPBACH

Fenton's Evan Welch (left) fights for a loose ball in the Tigers' 69-57 victory against Clio on Tuesday.

late in the fourth, they had no issues doing that either, netting on 15-of-16 free throws in the final eight minutes. In short, the Tigers' offense was deadly efficient in the second half.

"We just kept our heads up and stayed confident," Fenton guard Dillon Gardner said. "There is

never a time when we aren't working hard so the shots are going to come. We got some turnovers, some easy layups and got this rolling. It's a snowball effect.

"We scored 49 points in the second half, so that's pretty good. We've also had troubles in the

See **VICTORY** on 18A

LF wrestlers fall to tough New Lothtop squad

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com

Lake Fenton — When one has a young team and is facing the top-ranked wrestling squad in Division 4, and the 10th best regardless of division, chances are the youth is going to find it a tough meet.

That was the case for the Lake Fenton varsity wrestling team. The squad fields a team of just two seniors, and one of them were out

See **WRESTLERS** on 18A



TRI-COUNTY TIMES
DAVID TROPPEPENS

Lake Fenton's Jackson Nevadomski (above) works on a Bentley foe on Wednesday.

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Bronchos edge Flushing in final seconds, 70-69

By David Troppens
dtroppens@tctimes.com

Champions find a way to win the games that look doomed to be a loss.

The Holly varsity boys basketball team, sparked by four-year varsity player Isaac Casillas, resurrected one of those types of contests on Tuesday.

Trailing by eight with less than two minutes to go, the Bronchos made an improbable comeback and won the game on Casillas' three-pointer, earning the Bronchos a 70-69 victory at home against the Flushing Raiders.

"I have never seen an ending like that in 10 years, maybe never in my life," Holly coach Lance Baylis said. "Down eight with less than two minutes to go and we win the game, I don't even know how."

"No one was really playing well and then we started pressing and denying. They had a hard time getting the ball in and we started playing Holly basketball."

Jake Daniels began the comeback with a conventional hoop and free throw three-point play, cutting the gap to 69-64. Ian Hodges

See **BRONCHOS** on 17A

Tigers dominate OT, defeat Clio 59-49

By David Troppens
dtroppens@tctimes.com

Apparently the Fenton varsity girls basketball team enjoys close contests.

The Tigers have had their share of them recently.

The Tigers competed in their fourth straight close game on Tuesday, defeating the Clio Lady Mustangs 59-49 on the road.

Fenton enjoyed a 42-35 lead entering the fourth quarter. However, the Tigers scored just three points in the fourth quarter, allowing the Mustangs to tie the game at 45-all at the end of regulation. Once the contest went into overtime, the Tigers retook control of the contest, scoring 14 points, or just one point less than they scored in the second half during regulation. Fenton opened the extra session by winning the jump and scoring on an Emma Evo assist on a Chloe Foor bucket inside. Katie Conroy then scored, hitting a three-pointer off an inbound play. After jumping to the early lead, the Tigers iced the game by hitting 7-of-8 free throws.

"That appears to be our ammo," Fenton coach Becki Moore said about the recent close games. "I think in overtime it was our execution that won it. We were doing what we wanted to do and not what they wanted us to do."

In regulation, the Tigers executed well in the first three quarters, resulting in seven-point lead

entering the fourth. Moore said the team executed, getting the shots they wanted in the fourth, but the buckets just didn't fall. Evo hit two free throws late to give Fenton a one-point lead. Clio hit a free throw with six seconds left to tie it at 45-all. Fenton had two chances to win it in regulation, but the first layup attempt was blocked and the final shot didn't hit net either. So the Tigers went into overtime and won it during the extra session.

The Tigers (7-3, 7-6) recently played in an overtime game against Brandon, and also dominated the OT session in that contest. Tied at 61-all at the end of regulation, the Tigers outscored the Blackhawks 9-2 in the extra four-minute session.

Emma Evo completed her fourth straight game with double-digit points, scoring a game-high 22 points. She also had 11 rebounds and three blocks. Sarah Cummings followed Evo with 13 points. Katie Conroy and Chloe Foor had seven points each. Conroy also had three steals, including two key ones in the overtime. Maddie Carr had six rebounds, while Katey Cairnduff had three steals. Emma Brant had three assists and Granger had four assists and three blocks. Madison Shegos had three rebounds and two assists.

"We had a ton of kids contribute," Moore said.



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Fenton's Madeline Carr (right) drives to the basket in a recent contest against Holly. The Tigers defeated Clio 59-49 in overtime on Tuesday.

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Lady Blue Devils end losing streak, defeat Montrose 45-39

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

The Lake Fenton girls basketball team (2-6, 3-10) broke a seven-game losing streak with the victory against Montrose 45-39.

The Blue Devils scored 18 points in the second quarter, earning Lake Fenton a 27-15 lead at halftime. The Blue Devils pushed the lead to 37-19 entering the fourth quarter. The large gap was needed as Montrose scored 20 points in the fourth quarter to make the margin of victory respectable.

"We were able to mix up our defenses pretty well with good intensity and it seemed to cause confusion for the first three quarters," Lake Fenton coach Brian VanBuren said.

Lake Fenton's Autumn Beardsley had a big game, scoring 16 points, blocking five shots and earning two steals. Sierra Arroyo had 14 points, three assists and three steals.

"Both took opportunities well," VanBuren said. "They paced us in scoring and carried us for three quarters. I thought Sydney (Sheyachich) rebounded the ball well and played tough. Also, Cam (Williams) gave us a calming influence."

Hannah Garty scored seven points. Sheyachich had eight rebounds, while Kaitlyn Begley had three steals.

Linden 60, Kearsley 32

The Eagles led just 27-21 at halftime, but scored 21 points in the third period to blow the game open. Kearsley couldn't do much against Linden's de-



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SCOTT SCHUPBACH

Lake Fenton's Sierra Arroyo attempts a shot in a recent contest. Arroyo scored 14 points in the Blue Devils' 45-39 victory against Montrose on Tuesday.

fense in the second half, scoring just 11 points during the final two periods.

Linden (4-6, 6-9) was paced by Sterling DeGayner's 21 points. She was one of seven Linden scorers. Taylor Smith added 14 points, eight assists and eight steals. Megan Kenney recorded 10 points and 13 rebounds.

PREP REPORT

HOCKEY

► **Notre Dame Prep 8, Fenton/Linden 3:** Notre Dame Prep scored five unanswered goals during the final two periods, resulting in the win. Brendan Buerkel tied the game at 3-all at one time, but that was the last occasion the Griffins were tied. Tyler Bourassa and Connor Phillips each scored goals. Ian Crampton had two assists, while Bourassa, Dylan Miesch, Jake Thompson, and Buck Hudson had assists.

BOYS BOWLING

► **Holly def. Fenton:** Fenton's John Cryderman posted a perfect 12-strike 300 game, but it wasn't enough to eclipse the Tigers past Holly. Cryderman, who held a 207 average for the season entering the meet, also bowled a 234 second game. Holly's Matt Harrison rolled a 238-249-487 series to pace the Broncos to the win.

► **Fenton def. Clio:** The Tigers earned their first victory of the season, 19-11. Fenton won both baker games 160-128 and 187-183. John Cryderman paced the squad with a 205 game, while Drew Garrison had a 181. Alex Keith bowled a 177.

► **Clio def. Holly:** The Broncos were paced by Hunter Wilson, who bowled a 193-224-417 series. Matt Harrison had a 214-194-408 series, while Vladi Craycraft rolled a 221 game. The squad also had a 203 baker game.

► **Flushing def. Linden:** Russell Carney led the Eagles with a 215-220-435 series. The squad also rolled a 178 baker game.

► **Kearsley def. Fenton:** The Tigers' Alex Keith led the squad with a 225-185-410 series, while John Cryderman wasn't too far behind with a 224-181-405 series. Brandon Muma also rolled a 205 game.

► **Kearsley def. Linden:** The Eagles were led by Russell Carney's 213-194-407 series. Cameron Fraser rolled a 223 game, while Logan Skinner rolled a 211 contest.

GIRLS BOWLING

► **Clio def. Holly:** Hannah Babon led the Lady Broncos with a 130-210-340 series. The squad also rolled a 186 baker contest.

► **Flushing def. Linden:** Megan Oda led the Eagles with a 162 game. The team also had a 161 baker game.

► **Kearsley def. Fenton:** The Tigers were paced by Kasey Walsh's 149-139-288 series.

► **Kearsley def. Linden:** Molly Churches led the Eagles with a 167 game. Amber Prise rolled a 165.

► **Holly def. Fenton:** Holly was led by Audrey Currier's 193-192-385 series, while Hannah Babon rolled a 203 game. Fenton's top performer was Rebecca Martin with a 161-204-365 series.

BOYS BASKETBALL

► **Linden freshmen 51, Kearsley 40:** The Eagles had nine players score and led by as many as 17 points in the second half. Corbin Sines paced Linden with 15 points, while Noah Giacomantonio had 10 points. Blake Knox and Zach Horst chipped in six points each.

► **Holly freshmen 45, Linden 34:** Holly (12-1) avenged its only loss of the season as Parker Munday led Holly with 16 points. Andrew Burns led the Eagles (9-4) with 10 points.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

► **Lake Fenton JV 55, Beecher 13:** Renee Shaw led the Blue Devils (8-1 in the GAC) with 15 points, while Sage Fuller netted 12 points. Taylor Cooper chipped in nine points.

► **Lake Fenton JV 49, Montrose 8:** Sage Fuller scored 10 points to lead Lake Fenton to the victory. Renee Shaw had eight points, while Kaya Elrich and Erin Ezell had seven points each. Elrich also had 12 rebounds.

Miller sparks Blue Devils to victory

By David Troppens

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Jalen Miller has had some big games for the Lake Fenton varsity boys basketball team this season.

He had another one on Tuesday night. The sophomore scored a team-high 21 points in the Blue Devils' 60-49 Genesee Area Conference Red Division contest at Montrose.

Miller is no rookie when it comes to scoring at least 20 points in a contest. He's done it four times in the Blue Devils' 12 games, including netting a season-high 25 points against Mt. Morris earlier this year. The first time the Blue Devils (5-3, 8-4) faced the Rams he also came close to scoring 20, netting a team-high 18 points in a 55-39 victory on Dec. 16.

Lake Fenton (5-3, 8-4) gradually pulled away in the contest, taking a 14-9 lead into the second quarter. A 20-point second quarter, upped the Blue Devils' lead to 34-23 at halftime. By the start of the fourth, Lake Fenton led by a comfortable 49-32 margin.

"I thought we did a great job offensively as far as being consistent," Lake Fenton coach Jake Erway said. "I thought we did a great job of running our offense and finding the open guy. We had success against their 1-3-1 zone and were fortunate enough to get them out of it right away. ... We found a way to win on the road in a tough gym, so I'm proud of our guys."

Jake Zielinski netted 10 points for the Blue Devils. Erway also applauded

his defensive effort. Chris Bell had six points and a team-best seven assists. Andrew Foerster netted six points. Miller also led the team with nine rebounds. The Blue Devils won the board war by 12 rebounds.

"Right now I think we are at our best when we are out and running in transition," Erway said. "We have gotten better each game at that. When we are focused I think we have the capability of being great defensively, which is a huge emphasis for us. We have done a great job rebounding with a couple of exceptions to this point."

Kearsley 62, Linden 29

The Eagles were tied 9-all after one quarter, but the Hornets scored 21 second-quarter points, helping spark Kearsley to the Metro League victory.

No Eagles (0-9, 1-12) scored double-digits. Mike Gold led the squad with eight points, while Logan Steiert netted six points. Linden scored just two fourth-quarter points.

**Girls Basketball
Flushing 55, Holly 23**

The Raiders showed Holly why they are undefeated this season, holding the Broncos' offense to no more than eight points in any quarter.

Holly (7-3, 9-7) was led by Kaitlyn Smith's 10 points, while Paige Reid netted eight points.

The Broncos entered Friday night tied for second in the Metro standings.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SCOTT SCHUPBACH
Lake Fenton's Jalen Miller scored a team-high 21 points in the Blue Devils' 60-49 victory against Montrose on Tuesday.

BRONCHOS

Continued from Page 16A

responded defensively with two steals down the stretch, helping Holly cut the gap to 69-67. The second steal set up Holly's final possession, and the Casillas three-pointer.

Casillas has had his share of ups and downs during his Broncos' career, spending a great deal of his career dealing with illness. However, this year he's been healthy and for those that know about him, they realize he's a threat from the perimeter. The hoop was his only bucket of the night.

"We didn't play good for the first 3 1/2 quarters," Baylis said. "Everyone struggled. Isaac did not play well. He was out of it. ... But Parker found Isaac on the wing and he buried that shot with 10 seconds to go. ... I've been coaching Isaac since the first grade. We all knew if anybody can make that shot it was Isaac. ... We call him the Iceman. It was fitting to have Isaac hit that shot. ... Isaac has something special about him and it came out."

The win raises Holly (11-2 overall) to 10-0 in the Metro League with just four games to play entering Friday night's contest with Linden. The Broncos entered Friday three games ahead of Fenton and Flushing in the loss column, meaning the Broncos can assure a share of the crown at Linden. Baylis said he was full of so many emotions he ran on the court.

Daniels finished the game with 26 points, while Josh Simms netted 20 points, his third straight game of over 20 points off the bench. He also had six rebounds. Ian Hodges netted 12 points and five steals. Rowe had just three points, but he did have six assists, including the dish on the game-winning hoop.

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VICTORY

Continued from Page 15A

past closing out games so we've been working on it. It's good growth for us to show we can close out a game well, get turnovers and make free throws. That's what we need to do to win games later on down the road."

"I felt really good about (our offense)," Fenton coach Tim Olszewski said. "I thought we came out a little bit sluggish to start. I thought we turned the ball over a little bit. ... We spotted them nine and then in the second half we picked it up. The shots started falling, the guys' intensity picked up and we got in the post a little more. It was a good game."

When the Tigers started their run it was a team effort. The Tigers got some points on the break, some from the perimeter and some from the post. They mixed in some good unselfish play, resulting in many nice assists during the stretch as well.

Thomas' trey early in the third quarter sparked a Fenton run where the Tigers scored during 11 of 14 possessions. Fenton took the lead for good on a drive by Beau LePage which ended in a foul. LePage made both free throws, and the Tigers led 41-40. LePage also ended the quarter's scoring with a layup with about 25 seconds left. Fenton led 43-40 entering the fourth period.

Clio quickly cut the Fenton lead to

43-42 with a layup by Kolton Langdon, but Ross Ebert responded with a hoop and two converted free throws on the Tigers' next two possessions. Those scores started a run of five straight Fenton possessions with points, eventually capped by Gardner's dish to Austin Bossenberger for a three-pointer with 5:30 left in the game. Clio called time out and the Tigers led by a 56-45 margin. Fenton ended its 21-possession run with a LePage steal and breaking layup. Fenton had its biggest lead of the game at 58-45 with 5:20 remaining.




From there it was just a matter of the Tigers proving they could hold the lead, and they did just that. Clio never

got any closer than nine points. Fenton hit nine free throws down the stretch.

"Instead of letting the other team back in, we were able to expand the lead," Olszewski said. "I think we saw significant growth in our players in that area."

LePage had a game-high 22 points, and also recorded six rebounds, five steals and four assists. Gardner had 19 points and six rebounds while Bossenberger netted 11 points. Ebert managed seven points, nine rebounds and five assists. The Tigers shot 42 percent from the field for the contest. They also netted eight three-pointers.

Langdon led the Mustangs with 17 points, while Matt Patton and James Ziobro had 12 points each.

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***2D THE SPONGEBOB MOVIE: SPONGE OUT OF WATER (PG)**
 FRI-SAT 10:05 2:45 9:35 11:50
 SUN-THUR 10:05 2:45 9:35

***@3D JUPITER ASCENDING REALD 3D (PG13)**
 FRI-THUR 1:10 7:05 9:55

***@3D SEVENTH SON REALD 3D (PG13)**
 FRI-SAT 12:45 6:10 11:00
 SUN-WED 12:45 6:10
 THUR 12:45 6:10 11:00

***@3D THE SPONGEBOB MOVIE: SPONGE OUT OF WATER REALD 3D (PG)**
 FRI-THUR 12:25 5:05 7:20

***@JUPITER ASCENDING: AN IMAX 3D EXPERIENCE (PG13)**
 FRI-SAT 10:55 3:50 6:30 11:30
 SUN-WED 10:55 3:50 6:30
 THUR 10:55 3:50 6:30 11:30

***@SEVENTH SON: AN IMAX 3D EXPERIENCE (PG13)**
 FRI-THUR 1:35 9:15

STARTING THUR FEB 12

***FIFTY SHADES OF GREY (R)**
 THUR 8:00 9:55 11:00 12:05

***KINGSMAN: THE SECRET SERVICE (R)**
 THUR 8:00 9:55 10:50 12:05

***OLD FASHIONED (PG13)**
 THUR 7:00 9:35 12:05

CONTINUING

***THE LOFT (R)**

***PROJECT ALMANAC (PG13)**

***BLACK OR WHITE (PG13)**

THE BOY NEXT DOOR (R)

STRANGE MAGIC (PG)

***THE WEDDING RINGER (R)**

PADDINGTON (PG)

AMERICAN SNIPER (R)

TAKEN 3 (PG13)

SELMA (PG13)

INTO THE WOODS (PG)

NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM: SECRET OF THE TOMB (PG)

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

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

WRESTLERS

Continued from Page 15A

due to medical reasons in the dual against New Lothrop. And with four voids dotting the lineup, the Blue Devils dropped a 56-18 verdict to the GAC favorites.

The Blue Devils also defeated Bentley 52-15.

"Overall, we are young and everyone wrestled hard," Lake Fenton coach Vance Corcoran said. "The kids didn't go out and lay an egg. Everyone of them wrestled hard. The score was pretty bad, but they wrestled hard and I was proud of them."

"We are young, really young," said Bobbie Kinkaid, the only Lake Fenton senior who wrestled on Wednesday night. "Our team last year was older and they were more serious, but this young team is surprisingly mature. Being young, it just shows how much we can improve."

With four voids in the lineup, the Blue Devils knew they weren't going to be able to win the dual with the Hornets, so getting in strong efforts was the key.

Lake Fenton did have two individuals win matches on the mat. Jackson Nevadomski (125) won his match by



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPENS

Lake Fenton's Ryan Franks (top) attempts a pin against a New Lothrop foe on Wednesday night.

a first-round pinfall, posting one of the Blue Devils' most impressive efforts of the night. The final Lake Fenton win was earned by sophomore Trent Hillger (215), who recorded his 100th victory of his young career with a pinfall of Caleb Stankowicz. Lake Fenton's other victory was recorded by Hunter Corcoran (119) by void.

"He's a phenom," Vance Corcoran said about Hillger.

"You can't ask for a better kid either.

He's a captain, super matcher and a super hard worker. This is what he likes to do and it shows."

There were some other strong efforts. A. J. Geyer (103) lost a tight match in overtime to end the night, while Ryan Franks (171) was leading at one time 7-0 before losing by pinfall. Saben Spangler (135) lost by a tight 9-6 decision and Kevin Hagenstein (152) lost by a 13-7 decision. Kinkaid (112) battled hard with Connor Krupp before losing as well. Devan Melick (130) and Reece Anguish (160) lost by pin.

Against Bentley, Nevadomski (125) won by major decision and Hillger (215)

won by pinfall in 21 seconds. Those winning by forfeit were Kinkaid (112), Hunter Corcoran (119), Spangler (135), Hagenstein (145), Anguish (160), Franks (171) and Geyer (103).

The Blue Devils have won four straight team district titles. The team district meet is Wednesday at Lake Fenton High School, starting at 5 p.m.

"I think we can definitely make it out of districts and make it out of regionals," Kinkaid said.



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CRYDERMAN

Continued from Page 15A

it, it looked good, so I was happy with it."

His strike sent the team in celebration.

"Everybody (on Fenton's bowling team) huddled together and we all got loud after it."

First-year bowling coach Lisa Keith was equally excited. Keith has thrown a 297 and a 296 during her 29 years of bowling.

"John is capable of shooting really good scores," Keith said. "By the eighth frame I was thinking, 'He's got it.' I had a feeling he was going to get it, and sure enough he did.

"It was exciting having a kid on my team during my first year bowl a 300."

Coming close twice herself, Keith understood the pressure Cryderman was feeling.

"I've been there and I was literally shaking," Keith said. "I had tears coming out of my eyes. It's so distracting. It's the most stressful thing you can do as a bowler."

Cryderman is Fenton's top bowler on the varsity boys team, averaging 212 for the season. He followed up his 300 with a 234 in his second game.

PARKING

Continued from Front Page

The new lot at the Cornerstone building is still partially filled by construction equipment, and the Times regularly receives Hot lines about parking, once residents move into Cornerstone.

According to a memo to Fenton City Council, the city administration, city planner, police department and Department of Public Works (DPW) have been exploring additional parking to prepare for when the Cornerstone building is fully occupied. While the businesses are up and running downstairs, the condos on the upper three floors are under construction.

At this week's Fenton City Council work session, the city took up additional parking for downtown, namely the grass lot next to the beanery building at Main Street and North LeRoy Street, which the city owns.

The city asked engineering firm OHM to create a conceptual design at that location. The firm came up with a design for 59 new parking spaces, vehicle covers for Cornerstone residents and sidewalks steering foot traffic away from crossing the train tracks in the wrong spot.

The OHM estimate comes to \$196,835, including \$19,500 for their services. The Downtown Development Authority (DDA) would be asked to finance the project. The project does not include lighting, aesthetic enhancements or irrigation repair.

The general goal would be to have the lot done in conjunction with the Streetscape project, which is set to begin in the spring.

Existing parking downtown

There are 1,273 parking spaces, as of a September 2014 Fenton Police survey. Of that amount, 743 are actually public.

From Silver Lake Road to Shiawassee Avenue and from Adelaide Street to East Street

- The State Bank lot, 90 Private, not posted
- West Caroline Street, 22 Public
- River Park Center, 49 Private, not posted
- River Street/Community Center lot, 149 Public, not posted
- River Street, 13 Public
- South LeRoy Street, 77 Public
- Mill Street, 8 Public
- Post Office, 17 Public, not posted
- FARR area businesses, 25 Private, posted "FARR Parking Only"
- Fenton Museum, 15 Public, not posted
- Vek's lot, 10 Private, posted "Customer Parking Only - Will Be Towed"
- West Shiawassee Avenue, 9 Public
- Dr. Schumaker, 9 Private "Patient Parking Only"
- Police/Millpond Manor, 199 Public & Private, Millpond posted "Residents Only - Will Be Towed"
- Ellen Street, 11 Public
- Fire Hall Restaurant, 43 Public, not posted
- United Methodist Church, 48 Private, not posted
- J & J Trophy lot, 73 Public, not posted
- Cornerstone building, 69 Parking spaces, not yet available
- Walnut Street, 10 Public
- East Caroline Street, 16 Public
- Fire Department area, 62 Public, some areas posted "Firefighters Only"
- First Merit Bank, 64 Private, not posted
- Quest Diagnostics, 41 Private, not posted
- Roberts Street, 19 Public
- Café Aroma lot, 17 Private, not posted
- Fenton Medical Center lot, 108 Private, not posted

BOAT

Continued from Page 3A

and June. Fishing boats sell well from January through April. Fishermen want to have their boats ready by then. Weather's the variable. Up until then, it's the anticipation and excitement of summer."

Jonathan Hamel of White's Landing in Fenton and Linden will be a vendor at both the Detroit and Novi shows this year. "It's our first time to be in the Cobo show in a couple of years," he said.

He's looking forward to exhibiting two new boat lines for his marina, Supreme and Centurion, both wake surfing boats to expand onto his main line of Bennington pontoons. "Wake surfing is the fastest growing segment of recreational boating," said Hamel.

The Supreme line is a more entry level, affordable boat, while the Centurion is the Cadillac line, ranging in price from \$50,000 to more than \$100,000. "These boats have a deep V hull, which makes a great wave for surfing, while also being a smooth ride," said Hamel.

The new Bennington pontoon models are sporting new colors and interiors, with less emphasis on carpeting and more on soft vinyl flooring. "It's virtually maintenance free," said Hamel.

Mary Rising of Action Water Sports in Tyrone Township is a vendor at the Novi show and opens up her showroom for an in-house show on Feb. 20-22.

She's excited about the MasterCraft NXT, the new X20 and X23, all still building momentum for 2014 sales. "We had a very strong 2014," she said. "We're already having a really good start in 2015."

In Action Water Sport's Cobalt line, a new Platform series Marker 1 pontoon is offering boaters a new way to pontoon, according to Rising. "It's very, very elegant. It sounds and feels like a boat, not a pontoon."

While summer is still months away, people interested in ordering custom fit boats need to think about ordering them very soon. "Since the economy turned around, boat manufacturers have kept a tight hold on inventory, so there's not much excess production," said Rising. "People who buy at the boat show are looking at delivery by July 4. You need to order early."

Dana Ceresia, owner of Lake Ponemah Marina in Fenton Township with her husband Joe, said even though they will not be participating at any boat shows this spring, they still anticipate an exciting boating season.

Ceresia said they will also be offering a new line of Avalon pontoons that have a width of 8-feet, compared with the 8-foot, 6-inch wide pontoons. The narrower, and lower sitting design will be easier to navi-

gate through the tubes connecting Marl and Silver Lake. Wider pontoons, which typically can handle more horsepower, are still a favorite with many.

As many look forward to seeing their lake without a layer of ice covering it, Lake Ponemah Marina remains open during the winter months for ATV and snowmobile repairs. Ceresia said, "We hope for a phenomenal season and outstanding pontoon sales."

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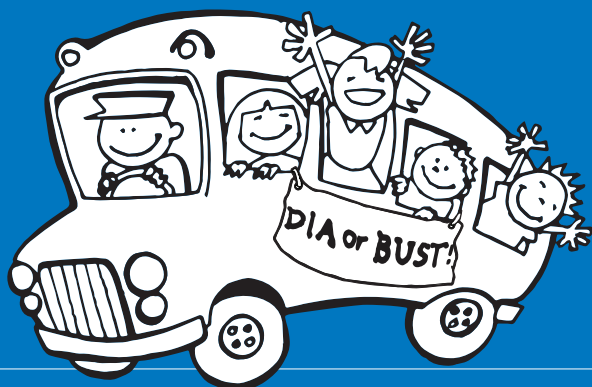
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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SALLY RUMMEL

Lisa Jensen, PhD and Dianne Sache, MS Ed., relax in a counseling room at Therapy Support Centers in Fenton.

Women combine professional passions into Therapy Support Centers

► Counseling, therapy and
other family support services
all under one roof in Fenton

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Lisa Jensen, PhD was a school psychologist at the same school where Dianne Sache, MS Ed. was working as the special education director.

They'd often collaborate to find resources for children with complicated diagnoses, knowing the hardship families would endure in travel and time constraints as they tried to care for other children in their family.

These professional women have taken their experiences and opened Therapy Support Centers in Fenton last September, providing a variety of counseling and therapy services for children and adults in one facility. Their multi-disciplinary, holistic approach to pediatric and family-centered services makes them unique in their field.

"There's such a need in this area," said Sache, who personally understands a family's dilemma, as her own adult son, now 26, grew up with learning disabilities. "First, you go to your pediatrician feeling something's not quite right, then you start the process of trying to find resources in Detroit, Pontiac, Ann Arbor, all while trying to raise your other children."

Therapy Support Centers specializes in counseling services for children, adults and families dealing with ADHD, Autism Spectrum Disorder, anxiety, depression, brain injury, caregiver issues, eating disorders, parenting issues, developmental delays, family and relationship issues, including couples, marital and post-marital, self-esteem, trauma, grief and more.

The center also offers psychological and neuropsychological evaluations, diagnostic testing, independent educational evaluations, speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, dyslexia screening,



Dianne Sache, MS Ed. and Lisa Jensen, PhD, show some of the equipment used for children's therapy sessions at Therapy Support Centers in Fenton.

help with learning disabilities, social skills classes and academic tutoring. Most therapies are covered by insurance.

"Our philosophy with children is to partner with their school and any other agency involved with the family, getting their teacher's input, even going on-site to get the most accurate diagnosis of a child's situation," said Jensen.

She admits to always having had a passion for working with kids, which led to a 17-year career as a school psychologist, plus work in a clinical setting. She provided crisis intervention for families on 9/11, watching one of the Twin Towers filling with smoke and

then reaching out to help families in need.

The staff of Therapy Support Centers includes licensed psychologists, education specialists, certified teachers, registered occupational therapists and speech and language therapists. The center is moving toward the addition of physical therapy services. Saturday hours are tailored to help busy families find time in their schedules.

"Our hearts are really into helping families," said Sache. "It's more than just a business."

**“Our hearts
are really
into helping
families.”**

Dianne Sache, MS Ed.
Therapy Support Centers

Therapy Support Centers

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Fenton School Board

School Board President **Drew Shapiro** has lived in the district his entire life, other than his time at CMU where he graduated in the spring of 2011. He's been on the board for two years, and works in the financial services industry for New York Life. Shapiro graduated from FHS in 2006 and has no children. He is engaged and plans to have a family in the future.

Vice President **Rick Koester** has lived in the district his entire life, 38 years. Koester was first elected in 2003, and was reelected in November 2014. He is a local business owner, and has two children in the district, one in the high school and one in the middle school.

Treasurer **Tammy Valley** has lived in the district 14 years. Valley has served about four years on the school board and has been a financial analyst, a systems engineer and currently works for a CPA firm. She and her husband have two daughters. One graduated from Fenton schools in 2013, the other is currently in AGS Middle School.

Secretary **Daniel Carter** has been in the district for 17 years, and involved in FAPS through the International Baccalaureate (IB) Committee, and the athletic foundation. Carter is employed by General Motors and coached soccer, and currently coaches basketball. He is four years into his six-year term, and has two daughters in the school system currently.

Trustee **Lynn Hopper** has lived in the district since the 1970s, when he met his wife, Kathryn. He's served on the board since 1998. Though he's a trustee currently, he recently ended serving as school board president for five years. Hopper's career has been in management and sales, and he owns three different businesses. Currently, he has two grandchildren in the district, and had two daughters graduate from the school system. Kathryn taught for 40 years in the Huron Valley School District, and one daughter is employed by the Genesee Intermediate School District.

Trustee **Elizabeth Geib** has been part of the Fenton district for the last 16 years. She was elected to the board for the first time this past November. Geib runs two doggie daycares, one in Fenton and one in the Grand Blanc area. Before going back to work, she volunteered in the school system in Fenton and was a stay-at-home mom. This spring, she will have had two children graduate from the school district.

Trustee **Dana Jones** has been in the district for 28 years. Jones was elected in November to her first term, and has children in the district. Jones is married to Brad Jones, swim coach and teacher for Fenton High School.

FENTON

Continued from Front Page

Superintendent Timothy Jalkanen said, "We have a very talented and dedicated staff that does whatever it takes for our students to be successful. Our state assessment results are above the state averages and are among the highest in the county."

FAPS ranked highest among Lake Fenton schools and Linden schools on the 2014 Academic State Champs tables put together by Bridge Magazine. Holly Area Schools was not listed in the results.

The academic, athletic and artistic standards are maintained by staff despite a strained budget. "This decrease in enrollment, along with increased operating expenses, has been a challenge," said Jalkanen, via email.

In 2015, FAPS planned on a \$29.3 million budget. Meanwhile, the city of Fenton's 2014-15 budget is \$17.5 million.

Fenton schools was walloped by the loss of 50 students, resulting in \$356,300 less in revenue. FAPS receives the base-level foundation grant from the state of

\$7,126 per pupil. Jalkanen said that they have not filled vacant positions this year in an effort to reduce their budget. "We have had to spend into our fund balance to maintain the quality educational programs we offer."

For the 2014-15 school year, Fenton counted 3,404 students in October, the most students of any local district. Holly was closest with 3,357 students.

Doug Busch is executive director of finance and personnel for the Fenton Area Public Schools. He said that 87 percent of their budget is spent on staff.

Like all local districts, teacher salaries are on a stepped scale. Fenton's goes from 0 to 11, with half steps in pay between.

A teacher starting out in the district will be paid \$37,079. The most experienced teacher with a master's degree will be paid \$75,442. Jalkanen, the district's top administrator, makes \$130,000.

FAPS levies 6.94 mils, which pays the debt on bond projects from 1998, 2006 and 2014, according to Busch. He said, "Recently, the 1998 and 2006 bond debts were

“Overall, I think that our athletic department has been and continues to be one of the best programs in Genesee County.”

Mike Bakker
District Athletic
Director, FAPS

STRAIGHT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Q Why should residents be concerned over what the school district is doing, if they don't have students in the system?

A The quality of life in a community is important for everybody, whether you have children in the schools or not. One of the things that makes a community a great place to live and work is the quality of the local school district. Fenton schools is a quality school district. Every generation wants to provide a better quality of life for the following generation. The Fenton community is doing exactly that by the continued support of FAPS.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Frisco Alvarado auditions for a part in "Grease" Wednesday afternoon. Excitement, enthusiasm and expression are keys to standing out.

refinanced at a lower interest rate, resulting in a savings of several million dollars for our taxpayers through the life of the debt. We also levy a 1 mil for site and sinking fund." This levy generates approximately \$650,000 to \$700,000 per year for capital projects and building needs.

"We are deeply involved in implementing the bond projects recently approved by our community," said Jalkanen. "Our technology department has been extremely busy installing new computers in every school and classroom in the district. We are also installing additional safety and secure upgrades in all schools."

FAPS has six school buildings. Andrew G. Schmidt Middle School is the newest,

having been built in 2000. Fenton High School is second newest, built in 1969. The Ellen Street Campus is the oldest, and was built in 1937. Several of these buildings have had additions and renovations throughout the years.

In all, FAPS maintains 6.4 million square feet of school buildings, not including the administration building or any sports facilities.

Fenton's busing district is 37 miles. FAPS is not the largest district by far, but drivers safely transport approximately 2,400 students on a daily basis.

While Jalkanen is top administrator, he answers to the community-elected board of education.

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Because you asked...

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

Q. What is 'sweeps time'?

A. Not too long ago, the Times covered the Nielsen ratings system and its purpose. Readers may recall the mention of 'sweeps' in that article. In case you don't know what 'sweeps' are when it comes to watching television, this article is here to guide you through, since we are in the midst of one of the four yearly sweeps times.

First, we are in the February sweeps, which started Jan. 29 and runs until Feb. 25. There is also a May sweeps, a July sweeps and a sweeps in November.

It is during sweeps time that Nielsen families are enlisted to track their TV watching habits. It's also the time when television stations work to ramp up their viewership. It's the time when many television shows return from their mid-season breaks, like The Walking Dead, which returns this weekend. A two-minute sneak preview of the show's fifth season opener is available online now to get fans excited.

The show writers work to give you cliffhangers and questions you can't wait to get answers to, during sweeps. This is also a time when many new movies suddenly start being aired on TV.

More viewers during sweeps times mean more money for TV ads. That's what sweeps is all about. It's gimmick time to get viewers hooked so that stations can sell more advertising. Nevertheless, you are rewarded with exciting new movies and new situations for your favorite TV characters.

Editor's note: If you have a question related to the tri-county area, send your question to sstone@tctimes. We will try to answer your question in a future issue.

MICHIGAN VOTES

WHAT YOUR LEGISLATORS
RECENTLY INTRODUCED

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. Since the January 15 opening day, members of the new 98th Legislature have introduced 196 bills and proposed 12 amendments to the state constitution. It will be several weeks before any bills get a vote so this report describes some new bills of interest.

House Bill 4081: Create new online "stalking" offender registry

Introduced by Rep. Fred Durhal, III (D), to create an online public registry of individuals convicted of "stalking" crimes, similar to the existing sex offenders registry. The bill prescribes registration requirements, procedures, fees, penalties and more. Referred to committee, no further action at this time.

House Bill 4083: Revise youth gang offense criteria

Introduced by Rep. Clint Kesto (R), to revise the penalties and the criteria in a 2008 law that authorizes enhanced sentences for a felony that is committed by a youth gang member. Under current law, the criteria for determining gang association is whether the gang provides the "motive, means, or opportunity" to commit the crime. The bill would change this to the presence of much more specific factors, and would change the maximum penalty to 10 years and \$10,000, in addition to the penalty for the underlying or "predicate" crime. Referred to committee, no further action at this time.

House Bill 4122: Repeal film producer subsidies

Introduced by Rep. Dan Lauwers (R), to repeal the program that gives Michigan tax dollars to film producers, as of Oct. 1. In the current fiscal year, \$50 million in subsidies to film producers have been authorized. Since 2008, some \$500 million in taxes collected by the state have been distributed to producers. The bill is cosponsored by Reps. Johnson, Somerville, Leutheuser, Rendon, Kelly, Bumstead, Chatfield, Barrett, Howrylak, Glenn and Victory. Referred to committee, no further action at this time.

House Bill 4118: Authorize student loan tax credits

Introduced by Rep. Andy Schor (D), to authorize an income tax credit equal to 50 percent of the amount of student loan debt payments made by a resident (subject to some caps) who earned a degree from a college or university in Michigan and is employed in this state. The credit would not be "refundable," but would reduce an individual's tax liability on a dollar-for-dollar basis. Also, to give a tax credit to an employer who pays up to half of an employee's student debt, subject to the same provisions. Referred to committee, no further action at this time.

House Joint Resolution F: Equalize school funding

Introduced by Rep. Tom Barrett (R), to place before voters in the next general election a constitutional amendment to require that all school districts get the same amount of state and local tax revenue for school operating purposes. Current funding levels are the product of a complex formula enacted by the 1994 Proposal A tax limitation and school finance measure, and are based in part on the ability of richer or poorer communities to pay higher or lower property taxes, and the level of local school taxes before 1994. (Proposal A essentially established a minimum per student funding level statewide.) The measure does not specify whether equalization would come from lowering high-spending districts' revenue or increasing it for low-spending districts, and if the latter, where the new money would come from. Referred to committee, no further action at this time.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

SNYDER CAN FIND \$10.4 billion of our tax dollars for his corporate welfare friends, but cannot find \$1.2 billion to fix our roads?

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■■■■ **LORETTA LYNCH, OBAMA'S** pick to replace Eric Holder as Attorney General sees no difference in U.S. citizens, legal aliens, or illegal aliens' right to work in America. Since when did breaking the laws in America not have consequences?

■■■■ **AS PRESIDENT OBAMA** has taken a lot of criticism for using a teleprompter, it was hilarious to see Sarah Palin stumble through her Iowa Freedom Summit speech when her teleprompter malfunctioned half way through it. Her nonsensical ad libbed tirades revealed her for what she is — an idiot.

■■■■ **MINIMUM WAGES GOES** up, grocery store merges, employees lose benefits — time for a union.

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Meet

Jennifer Fisch-Ferguson

- Published author
- College English teacher
- Book coach/cover designer

By Yvonne Stegall

ystegall@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Jennifer Fisch-Ferguson, 43, lives in Fenton with her husband, two sons, ages 5 and 11½, and two cats. While she has bounced around from different homes in Michigan, and even living in Florida with a job at Disney for a while, she is a graduate of Holly High School. She also lived in California, after getting her degree in Michigan. Michigan is where she has settled down to start a family, and begin her career as a self-published author, college teacher and book coach/cover designer.

When did you start writing? I got into writing in second grade. My mom still has the very first little book I ever made. I would get my work done early in school so I could take the time to write short stories. Writing was a constant, and it was calming. It wasn't until about five years ago that I decided to get into publishing though. I had written several stories and hadn't seen anything out there like them. I started to shop and the offers I got were terrible. I decided to self-publish, which allowed me to keep artistic control.

How successful have your books been? I am happy with my sales, and I am selling every month. Some months are great where I sell 100, and some are not so great where I only sell 10. Nevertheless, the sales mean that people like my book and they're reading it. Mostly sales are in the U.S., but my blog has a decent following in Brazil. I have done signings with the Genesee District Library over the last few years. I have my books at Past Tense in Holly and am talking with Open Book in Fenton. My books are also at Off the Beaten Path in Farmington. I currently have two published, and the third coming out in December. They are in the new adult urban fantasy genre. The content matter is more for 16 and older.

Do you get a lot of support from your friends and family? Yes. My husband is my sounding board. He saves me hours in rewrites because I brainstorm out loud with him. My mom buys my books and actually reads them. My first honest critique came from my step dad when he told me I didn't know how to make a seven and seven. I don't drink them and in the book, I made them with gin.

When did you start teaching? I have a degree in English, and am working toward my doctorate. I teach writing and first-year composition at Michigan State and I've taught at Mott, but not



"My husband is my sounding board. He saves me hours in rewrites because I brainstorm out loud with him."

Jennifer Fisch-Ferguson
Local author

in a while. I also do some online teaching for colleges during the summer. I did a lot of after-school literacy programs with AmeriCorps, and it just seemed to be a natural extension after I finished my Masters. I love it, which is weird since I tend to be more of an introvert. It's a different platform, and I'm talking about something I love, so it comes naturally.

What is a book coach? Book coaching is when people come up to you and say 'I have a great idea for this book and I don't know how to write it.' I help them strategize how to get their book done. I have worked with people who haven't even written a word yet, and we've created a book. That takes about a year, depending on the person. I also have ones who come to me with a bunch of things they've written and I help them structure the story and keep them on track. I also help them with tools that get them through writer's block.

How did you get into cover design, and what does that entail? My husband is a photographer and uses Photoshop, so I started playing with it. When I started looking for covers for my novels, I was surprised at the prices people were charging, for something I could do myself. Because I am married to a photographer I have a great stock of photos I have access to. It's great when

TRI-COUNTY TIMES

YVONNE STEGALL

Jennifer Fisch-Ferguson currently has two books available, that she self-published, and a third coming out in December.

I put a cover together for an author and they tell me that is exactly what they pictured.

What is something that most people don't know about you? I'm a musician. Some people know that, but not most. I play the piano, the flute, the piccolo, the oboe, those are my primaries. I started piano lessons in fifth or sixth grade. I play by ear, and have perfect pitch. I've always started out teaching myself.

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