

# Another new downtown building on tap

► Structure will be located just south of Cornerstone

By Sharon Stone  
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Downtown Fenton is in the midst of a renaissance after having completed two redevelopment projects and the nearly finished expansion of the Fenton Community and Cultural Center. And, accord-

ing to city officials, that's just the beginning of major revitalization on the horizon for Fenton.

Fenton City is interested in the development of the 7,500-square-foot lot south of the Cornerstone building is next on deck for development.

TRI-COUNTY TIMES  
TIM JAGIELO

This lot south of the Cornerstone building is next on deck for development.



PAGE 1B  
**IT'S NEVER  
TOO LATE TO  
LEARN TO  
PLAY AN  
INSTRUMENT**

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



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

Resident Donnie Gilbert talks with the crew that dismantled Frank's Tavern in May 2014. The one-time popular restaurant had become vacant and blighted.

## Nearly 100 area restaurants have come and gone in past 20 years

► How many do you remember?

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

A dream of many Americans is to operate their own restaurant, usually to share "grandma's recipes" or "my world-famous chili" or offer special desserts or other favorites.

But the national average is that about 80 percent of new businesses started by entrepreneurs fail within

the first two years, according to Bloomberg Business, and failures in the food industry are higher than that, experts agree.

Think of restaurants you enjoyed in past years — which ones are still open? Sometimes national chains disappear — Fenton formerly had a Stuckey's Restaurant, Dog & Suds Hot Dog Stand, Hardee's and even a Burger Chef.

See **RESTAURANTS** on 16A

SEE LIST OF  
CLOSED  
RESTAURANTS  
See Page 16A

## Police department provides safe meeting place for online transactions

► Fenton station offers use of parking lot, lobby 24 hours a day

By Sharon Stone  
sstone@tctimes.com; 810-433-6786  
The Fenton Police Department welcomes the use of its lobby and parking lot for transactions arranged through online websites such as Craigslist.

Fenton Police Chief Rick Aro said their goal is to provide a safe environment for these transactions and to reduce the possibility of fraud, robbery and assaults from occurring.

See **MEETING PLACE** on 7A

## Hundreds of area students not vaccinated

► Experts hopeful tightened policies will result in more immunized children

By Sharon Stone  
sstone@tctimes.com

Parents of 247 local students have submitted immunization waivers this school year to their respective school district so that their child does not need to be vaccinated for at least one immunization-preventable disease. This number may seem high, however, it reflects just a small percentage of the entire student body of each district.

SEE COUNTS OF  
UNVACCINATED  
STUDENTS BY  
SCHOOL DISTRICT  
See Page 8A

The state requires all schools, public or private, to submit their immunization numbers to the county for students in kindergarten, seventh grade or any new student to the district.

The four local school districts broke down their numbers by building, but keep in mind these numbers (see sidebar) only reflect students in kindergarten, seventh grade or new to the district.

Mark Valacak, health officer with the Genesee County Health Department, said schools have a Feb. 15 deadline to turn in their numbers.

See **IMMUNIZED** on 8A



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Jackie Bowman of Holly holds son Austin, 17 months, for his round of immunizations by medical assistant Judy Walker on Wednesday. "I hope people start learning that vaccinations are the way to go," said Bowman. "I don't understand why people don't want to do it."

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**TEXT  
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HOT LINE**



“Legislation is pending by Republicans to remove the law that public notices have to be printed in newspapers. The politicians want them on government websites only. Don't let this happen, it's just another weapon for more secrecy. Call Joe Graves (517) 373-1780 and Dave Robertson (517) 373-1636 now or it will be too late.”



“If President Obama was held to the same degree of accountability as Brian Williams from NBC, he would have been impeached in his first term. He has lied, he is still lying and will lie again. Where is the citizen outrage over this betrayal of trust?”



“I cannot fathom why anyone would ever vote to pay more taxes. I would not vote for any tax increase, on any one, at any time, for any reason — ever.”




tctimes.com  
**COMMENT  
OF THE WEEK**

“Regarding the story on high school seniors being required to take a citizenship test in order to graduate, I like the idea. You won't have to get to graduation ceremony two hours early to get a good seat.”



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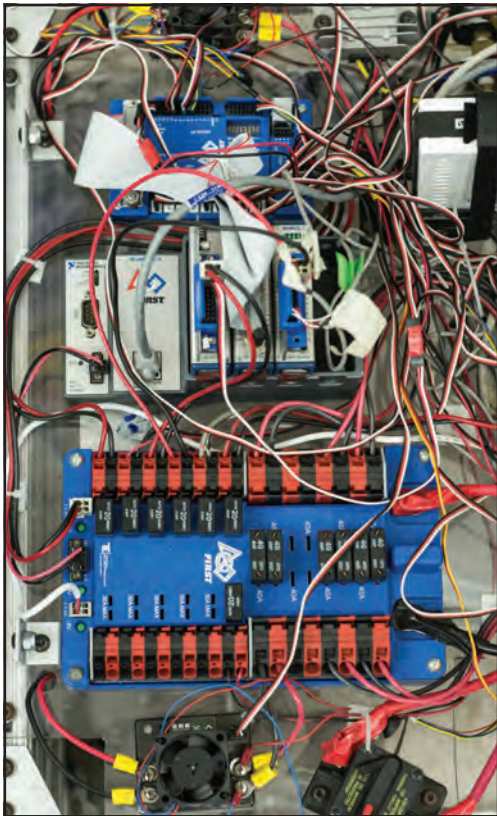


## ROBOTICS PROGRAMS HUGE IN AREA

► Local teams learn problem solving, engineering, can earn varsity letters

By Tim Jagielo

tjagielo@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Engineering skills are taught as complex systems come together for a task all the local teams must complete.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Fenton's robotics team pilots their robot around the Fenton High School Media Center for the first time on Sunday. The work was done on a mock course set up with tape for boundaries, ramps and totes to simulate the competition.

**Fenton** — It was the moment of truth. Time was running out, and the deadline was drawing close for all robots under the F.I.R.S.T. Robotics program to be finished and ready for competition.

A lot of student finagling, gentle ribbing and technical prowess later, the robot moved for the first time.

Dual joysticks controlled on a laptop, via a wireless network and a controller, sent the 6-foot tall "shelf-bot" careening about the media center obstacle course, motors whining with sometimes a little too much speed, sometimes scaring the observers on the fringes of the course.

Fenton's robot looks like a big metal shelf, but all the local teams' robots look different. Fenton, Lake Fenton, Linden and Holly robots have to complete the same task, and every year, however, the task is different.

The 2015 F.I.R.S.T. (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Competition game is called "Recycle Rush." The robot needs to work in teams to stack recycling totes and a garbage can on the field of play, and move it onto a scoring area. Local teams will compete with 40 others.

See **ROBOTICS** on 14A

**“When we compete in Michigan, we really want to compete against the best of the best. You always want the contest.”**

**Nicholas Knoch**  
LFHS robotics team captain



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# Wake up call for all network media?

Let's talk about Brian Williams for a moment.

I have a friend named Terry who was in the U.S. Army in the late '60s. Whenever he is asked if he was in Vietnam, he always answers the same: 'Yes, but I don't want to talk about it.'

When asked if he was in a combat zone, he always answers the same: 'Yes, but I don't want to talk about it.'

As it turns out, Terry was in Vietnam. And he was in a combat zone. En route to Japan on a military transport, his plane stopped for refueling at an American air base in Vietnam. No one left the plane and they were only on



the ground for 30 minutes. Every soldier on the plane received in-country 'combat pay' for that month. Terry never stepped foot in Vietnam again.

But, I digress. Back to Brian Williams.

I don't believe that Brian Williams is a bad guy. I think he is simply a victim of his own success. When people tell you how wonderful you are for 10 straight years, I suspect (not from personal experience) that anyone would get an inflated and unrealistic view of himself.

I don't believe that Brian Williams is a coward. It takes guts for any civilian to ride on a helicopter in any war

zone. Especially when being aware that a similar helicopter on the same flight path was hit by enemy fire just an hour before you. I commend him for that.

But, I do believe that Brian Williams is dishonest. Most don't realize that he is not just the news anchor, he is the Managing Editor of NBC Nightly News. That means he alone decides what, and how, news is presented each evening. I have watched for years as he and his NBC colleagues have shaped their newscasts through misrepresentations, enhanced or misleading data and facts, outright lies and, most egregiously, intentional omission of facts and events in order to promote the liberal agenda.

Consider the fact that Williams was deluded enough to believe he could

chronically tell the same lie over and over on national TV and never get called out by the soldiers and colleagues who were actually there. It was a huge, and very stupid, risk with little or no upside. It's certainly no stretch to assume that the same dishonesty contaminated all NBC news content under his watch.

As I said, I don't believe Brian Williams is a bad guy, but he is dishonest. There is a zero probability that he will ever anchor any newscast again. Hopefully, it's a wake-up call for all network news organizations.

It's unfortunate that we don't hold our presidents and politicians to the same moral standard as we do our newscasters. If we did, they'd be out of a job also.

Oh, and Terry, thank you for your service.

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

## Hot lines

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

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

**IS ANYONE ELSE** sick and tired of hearing every problem we have blamed on Obama? No one person runs the whole mess we seem to be in. Wake up folks, the whole so-called government we have are a bunch of lame ducks!

**THE NATIONAL DEBT** rose \$1.6 trillion in 2014. During Obama's six years, it has risen over \$7 trillion. So I should be ecstatic that Obama's recent budget proposal cuts \$1 trillion over a decade as we will go at least \$10 trillion more in debt through the same decade? Pure liberal ignorance.

**BEFORE YOU EVEN** think about voting for higher taxes, remember that all employees of the state of Michigan were off, with pay, on MLK Jr. Day in January, and President's Day this Monday. Where were you and I? At work, of course.

**FEBRUARY 1, SUNDAY** paper in the Hot lines said not to raise our sales tax and to find the money elsewhere, like the billions wasted on school lunches. Tell me, how would you feel if your kids had no lunch, or possibly breakfast or supper either? Think about it before you start wagging your tongue.

**IT'S EASY TO** see why President Obama doesn't want Netanyahu to speak to congress. They'll see what a great world leader looks like.

**JUST WATCHING TV** and the Michigan sports hall of fame is looking for a home. Why not Fenton? It would bring construction jobs and jobs for local people and it even brings in celebrities. That would be great for Fenton.

**NO, YOU DON'T** understand correctly. God created man with free will and man developed Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and the various forms of Christianity you mentioned.

**EVERYONE IN THE** Linden school district please call the superintendent and contact the school board members and tell them 'NO.' We do not want our elementary schools realigned (ruined). This plan is bad for our children and everyone in the district.

**OBAMA ANNOUNCED THAT** climate change is more dangerous and important than Islamic terrorists. Doesn't he understand that Iran wants atomic weapons, which could create major climate changes that could be immediately and severely damaging to global health, food production and general security?

**I CAN'T THINK** of a single reason why any citizen of Michigan would want to pay higher taxes to a government with a 239 year history of bondage through taxation. Isn't this why we fought for freedom in the first place. Vote no, and vote often.

**REALLY? FENTON PLANNERS** cut down an unforgivable amount of trees downtown

and now they want to turn the rest of remaining green space into paved parking lots. For all the reasons I moved here 20 years ago you have me rethinking to get the heck out of here.

**ON FEB. 26,** the Federal Communications Commission is voting on 'Net Neutrality.' That means the government will control and tax the Internet like landline phones and won't be a free enterprise where all users have equal, unregulated access. If you don't agree, make your voice heard in Washington.

**YES, GOD CREATED** man and everything on Earth. He did not create the many religions. The men and women whom He created chose to create their own religions and denominations through free will choice. What was your point in last Sunday's paper?

**CAN SOMEONE TELL** me why we have rebranded global warming to now be called climate change? Reminds me of how homosexual behavior got rebranded to gay lifestyle. Carefully selected words can alter the whole meaning. Change a label and you can effectively change the product. It's all in the branding.

**GOVERNOR SNYDER NEEDS** to do a complete overhaul of the Michigan Treasury Department. As a citizen and taxpayer, I have found them to be unaccountable bullies. The bureaucrats in these taxation departments threaten and coerce the citizens of our state. They are inept and irresponsible.

See **HOT LINE** throughout Times

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Compiled by Alexei Rose, intern

## What restaurant do you wish was still around?

## streettalk



"Olive Garden, because I love their soup and salad."

Becky Duberville  
Fenton Township



"The Chinese restaurant, because there is a lot of American food in Fenton."

Jule Short  
Fenton



"A good hamburger joint like Wendy's, because sometimes, you want something simple."

Cheryl Cortese  
Fenton



"Giles, because it had great down-home food and had the greatest burger bar."

Doug Crane  
Fenton



"Wendy's, because I liked their burgers."

Carl Monroe  
Argentine Township



"Frank's Tavern, because I used to eat there as a child as a treat."

Craig Senter  
Linden



# Elementary school changes of concern to Linden parents

By Yvonne Stegall

ystegall@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

After the Times heard from a concerned parent in the Linden school district, Superintendent Ed Koledo was asked to clarify the story behind the buzz about changes coming to Linden's three elementary schools.

The biggest concern expressed by the parent was the possibility of a different system being implemented that would break the elementary system up, having K-1 in one building, grades 2 and 3 in another, and 4 and 5 in the third building. Koledo said this is called Grade Level Centers, and the idea behind this concept is to help save money.

"Right now the school district is not in a financial crunch, but it makes sense to prepare for it," Koledo said.

He will be gone next year so he wanted the school board to begin looking at options now. "I just wanted them to start looking into their options and the financial future of the schools."

Koledo is currently a lieutenant colonel in the Army National Guard and his unit is being mobilized sometime in the fall of 2015 for overseas deployment.

Just as many other members of the school faculty and school board, Koledo said, "K-5 is something we all love and fought for in the past. It's the best setup." However, the Grade Level Centers offer ways to save money, even though there is no proof they work any differently educationally. Koledo

said, if they can find a way around the cost savings of Grade Level Centers, they would prefer to stay with K-5.

Right now, all of this is just talk. The superintendent and the school board are not trying to hide anything from parents or teachers.

According to information from Linden Elementary Principal Rob Pouch, there has been some discussion about

cost containment ideas for the future. "Those ideas included: K-5 alignment, secondary class size, going from trimesters to semesters, and employee concessions," he said. "Again, this is about getting in front of the funding challenge and as these topics are discussed at Board meetings, the timeline to implementation also has to be considered."

These decisions won't be happening over night. The ideas outlined during the last school board meeting, on Feb. 4, by the superintendent would have to be voted upon by the school board to be implemented and right now they are in no hurry to make changes over night.

In an email, Pouch said, "Obviously, you can't restructure K-5 or move to semesters over night...these decisions will take input from staff and community."

Look for more information coming out ahead of board meetings as administrators define committee work that would be needed to develop plans to present to the Board. More information is coming.

The next Linden Board of Education meeting is on Wednesday, Feb. 18, at 7 p.m. at the Linden High School library. Parents and community members who want more information are welcome to attend.

**"K-5 is something we all love and fought for in the past. It's the best setup."**

**Ed Koledo**  
Linden Schools  
superintendent

## Summary

►The future of Linden's elementary schools is being talked about, online and in meetings.

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## HOT LINE CONTINUED

**EVERY BUSINESS IN** Fenton has to have a specified number of parking spots to be approved. Why is it that when the DDA gets involved in a project, the rules gets thrown out the window? Put a parking lot where the second Cornerstone building is slated to go. Don't have a double standard.

**ET ROVER PIPELINE** watchers: If you made a call, wrote an email, talked to your neighbors, or attended a meeting on either side of this controversial topic, thank you. Your farming family members and friends are grateful for your attention to this important community issue.

**ALL FUTURE EMINENT** domain projects, like oil and natural gas pipelines, must have U.S. and State of Michigan Congressional level pre-approval. Thank your senators and representatives for their votes that reflect your community's best interests.

**YES, GOD CREATED** us all. He also gave us a will of our own.

**THAT'S ODD, WHEN** I actually look up the facts and don't just make up lies, I find that unemployment when Bush left office was 7.8 percent but is now 5.7 percent. I'm sure you just made a mistake about Obama on this one.

**HAD TO LAUGH** at requiring potential graduates to pass a citizenship quiz in order receive a diploma. Based on my experience, 80 percent would fail the test. Parents, look it up on the Times' website and quiz your kids, you'll be shocked at how ignorant they are.

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**See for yourself! For an actual photo of the debris that is pulled from a typical home's ducts, visit our website [www.callpowervac.com](http://www.callpowervac.com).**

"Cold air returns are also the reason new homeowners experience excessive dust. While work was being done in the home, your cold air returns sucked all the dust through the system. It settled on the bottom of the duct lines and little by little, that debris is being blown back into your home," Keith continued.

"Here's a test. Take a walk down into your basement, and look up at the ceiling for thin sheets of tin nailed between your floor joists. These are your cold air return lines. Give them a good pounding. Do you see puffs of dust seeping out of the edges? That, my friends, is the reason you have uncontrollable dust problems, and this debris cannot be removed without the help of a professional.

"This brings me to my next point: choosing an air duct cleaning company. Most companies use portable units, which are essentially like a Shop-Vac that you would

vacuum your car with. Then there are companies who claim they have a truck-mounted system. In reality, they have a low powered portable system attached inside a van. We have the equipment powerful enough to get the job done right, and that equipment is a Power Vac truck."

Want to see the difference between our equipment and portable or truck-mounted equipment? Visit our website at [www.callpowervac.com](http://www.callpowervac.com)

"The Power Vac truck is the most powerful equipment in the industry," Keith explained. "Simply put, the entire truck is the vacuum, and the truck motor powers the equipment. You'll know

it's a Power Vac truck because it's the size of an ambulance and when engaged, 12 large air bags come out of the roof.

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"You need to beware of companies using cheap equipment and advertising cheap prices. Most of these companies are unlicensed, or they may advertise that they are licensed, but are not. Avoid scams by not falling for cheap, get-you-in-the-door prices. What sets us apart from our competitors is our honest service, and, of course, our equipment. I know the importance of being on time, working with a smile and respecting people's homes and their belongings. There are a lot of duct cleaners around, but rest assured you'll receive the same quality of service I expect in my home."

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**TRI-COUNTY TIMES** | SUBMITTED PHOTO  
April and Keith Meadows help keep indoor air clean with their local business, Power Vac.

— Paid Advertisement —

## Local help for abused animals

### ►Cruelty could result in felony charges

By Yvonne Stegall

ystegall@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Two animal abuse bills are heading to their third reading in the Michigan Senate.

According to the bill(s) summary, "Under the Michigan Penal Code, a person who owns, possesses, is in charge of, or has custody of an animal is sub-

#### Summary

►Senate works through possibility of new animal abuse laws, while locally GCAC does what it can to help with abused and neglected animals.

ject to criminal penalties for acts of animal neglect or cruelty."

Under the new laws, if they were to pass, the worst offenders, being those who abuse 25 or more ani-

mals or who have three or more prior convictions, would face felony charges and up to seven years in prison.

The bills would also amend the Michigan Penal Code to extend current animal neglect or cruelty prohibitions to a breeder or pet shop operator; revise and enhance the penalties for animal neglect or cruelty; and establish three degrees of killing or torturing an animal.

Under this new bill, the first three levels of penalties would be the same. "A person may not knowingly kill, torture, mutilate, maim, or disfigure an animal; commit a reckless act knowing or having reason to know that it will cause an animal to be killed, tortured, mutilated, maimed, or disfigured; or knowingly poison an animal." Under the bill, this violation would be a third-degree killing or torturing of animals. It would be second-degree if the animal was a companion animal. A person would be guilty of a first-degree offense if they killed, tortured, mutilated, maimed, disfigured, or poisoned a companion animal.

Under the pending bill, "first-, second-, and third-degree killing or torturing of animals would be felonies, pun-



**TRI-COUNTY TIMES** | FILE PHOTO

Some animals at the Genesee County Animal Control come in as abused animals. The GCAC will care for them while the offender's court case is pending.

ishable by a maximum fine of \$5,000, up to 500 hours of community service, and a maximum prison term of 10 years for a first-degree offense, seven years for second-degree, and four years for third-degree."

Similar bills have been brought to the legislature in the past and not made it through. However, it is still important that people are knowledgeable about animal abuse and do what they can to prevent it.

Paul Wallace, director at Genesee County Animal Control, said that the GCAC is there to assist in any animal cruelty case.

"Often, we receive the first calls to check the welfare on animals of all types. Where necessary, we will petition the court of jurisdiction to take custody of the animal. The calls may come from the public, police or other governmental agencies, and from animal rescue groups," he said.

Wallace also said that GCAC helps local police departments by actually taking animals into custody under either court or police order, to care for the animal while the court cases proceed.

"Animals brought to the shelter that appear to be abused or neglected are examined by veterinarians, thoroughly documented, and the cases are turned over to the local jurisdiction police department or investigated by the Office of the Sheriff," Wallace added.

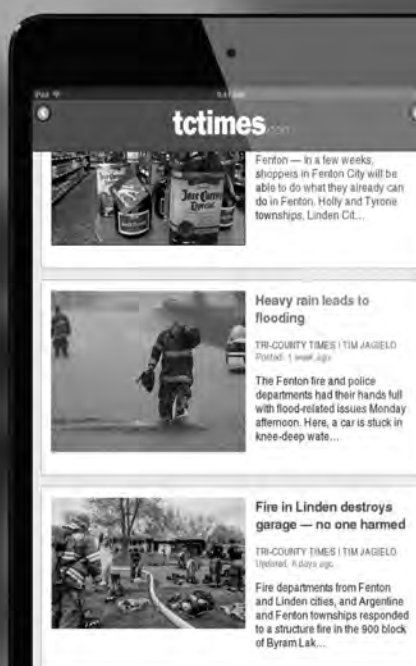
**“We also have a wide network of rescues and shelters, volunteers who help care for and re-home animals. There’s really no end to what we may have to do...”**

**Paul Wallace**  
GCAC director

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## \$46 billion in college scholarships available for students

►Your child is likely eligible for financial assistance

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Vanessa Ferguson, 33, earned her undergraduate degree from University of Michigan-Flint and two master's degrees from Michigan State University and Eastern Michigan University — and it didn't cost her a dime.

Earning \$100,000 in grants and scholarships, she completed her higher education without saddling herself or her family with any student debt. Today, she's an adjunct

professor at Mott Community College and the owner of her own public relations firm, Action Communications.

Ferguson, who lives in Grand Blanc with her husband, Kris, estimates she earned about \$35,000 in scholarships, with the remaining funds coming from grants from the schools she attended.

This strategy of raising money for college is an opposite approach from accruing massive student debt from federal loans that can "strangle" a young person's financial future. According to U.S. News & World Report, the average student loan debt is now approaching \$30,000, with many in highly professional fields like medicine owing an average of \$166,250.

"Student debt has surpassed credit card debt as the largest area of debt in people's lives," said Drew Shapiro, president of the Fenton Board of Education. "It's so difficult to help these people. They can't afford to pay for health insurance, buy a house, or help their kids pay for college in the future. It's a whole domino effect that's running out of control."

Shapiro recently hosted Scholarship Success 2 at the Fenton VFW Hall, using Ferguson and Kelli Hoppe, an experienced financial aid professional, as presenters.

There is \$46 billion in free scholarship money awarded each year by the Department of Education and colleges themselves, according to collegeplanningservices.org.

Approximately \$35 million is available through private companies, foundations and civic groups. One local organization, the Curtis-Wolverton VFW Post, awards a local scholarship and only one person had applied for it, according to Ferguson.

Ferguson said that finding scholarships is easier today thanks to the Internet, which was in its infancy when

she graduated from Valley Christian Academy in Flint in 1999.

"One of the most important things about applying for scholarships is that you have to do it early," she said. "It takes a lot of discipline to fill out all the applications, write essays and provide additional paperwork, but it's worth it. I was able to pay for all my tuition, books, everything, and I had made the decision to live at home to save more money."

According to scholarships.com, high school students should make their scholarship applications by October of their senior year to keep up with many of the deadlines.

How do you know where to find scholarship opportunities? According to Shapiro, a good place to start is your high school counseling office. Shapiro also posts links to scholarship opportunities on his Facebook Page, Drew Shapiro: Fenton School Board.

**“One of the most important things about applying for scholarships is that you have to do it early.”**

**Vanessa Ferguson**  
Adjunct professor  
and business owner

"You can also use helpful scholarship websites, like collegeboard.com, collegeNet.com, fastweb.com and scholarships.com," he said.

Student debt is still an issue at the Ferguson household, with Kris starting out his career after graduation with \$65,000 in debt. "We both had the same amount of education, a bachelor's degree and two master's," she said. "I don't know what we would've done if we both had that kind of debt."

### MEETING PLACE

Continued from Front Page

Those seeking this service should keep in mind that the police department's personnel cannot witness or sign legal documents, mediate, or give legal advice. Officers can give information to anyone concerned about a fraudulent transaction and ensure the safety of all parties involved.

When using the facilities, please take a

### Police&Fire

## report

### BEEF THIEF IDENTIFIED, ARREST WARRANT SOUGHT

After seeing the story "Police want to identify beef thief" in the Times on Wednesday, Feb. 11 as well as the Times' and police department's Facebook pages, Fenton police received numerous calls from people who recognized the suspect. Contact was made with the 26-year-old Fenton Township man and police will be seeking an arrest warrant for retail fraud.

moment, prior to the transaction, to advise the staff of the meeting. The lobby is open 24 hours each day and monitored by video recording equipment.

Aro recalled a time when he was selling a trailer on Craigslist to a man from Flint. He said the unknown man was firm about paying full price for the trailer. When Aro set up the meeting at the police department, the man never called him back. "I wonder if he had an underhanded plan."

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Morgan specializes in working with clients to create custom plans to help people meet their unique goals in collaboration with the team at Acorn Wealth Advisors. It's easy to find a financial advisor—but finding an advisor with your best interests at heart is another matter. Acorn Wealth Advisors was created specifically to provide our clients with the best possible advice and financial solutions, period. As an independent Registered Investment Advisor, we are free from larger firms' pressure

to sell a specific point of view or investment product. In a landscape dominated by enormous financial firms and one-person shops, Acorn Wealth Advisors presents a unique alternative. Our highly dedicated eight-person staff provides world-class expertise along with the personal attention of a boutique. And our commitment to a client-first approach means that each client receives the full attention and expertise of our entire team. With these objectives in mind, Morgan's end goal is to help clients achieve Financial Peace of mind.

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## Immunizations by the numbers

**Students in kindergarten, seventh grade and new to the school district who have waived the required immunizations**

### Fenton Area Public Schools

Ellen Street Campus .....	29
North Road Elementary .....	10
Tomek Eastern Elementary .....	13
State Road Elementary .....	5
AGS Middle School .....	30
Fenton High School .....	8

### Lake Fenton Community Schools

West Shore Elementary .....	16
Torrey Hill Intermediate School .....	3
Lake Fenton Middle School .....	13
Lake Fenton High School .....	9

### Linden Community Schools

Argentine Elementary .....	3
Central Elementary .....	8
Hyatt Elementary .....	9
Linden Elementary .....	10
Linden Middle School .....	2
Linden High School .....	5

### Holly Area Schools

Davisburg Elementary .....	13
Holly Elementary .....	12
Patterson Elementary .....	6
Rose Pioneer Elementary .....	6
Holly Middle School .....	22
Holly High School .....	15

Source: school superintendents



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Austin Jackson, 17 months, cries briefly while he gets his vaccination.

## IMMUNIZED

Continued from Front Page

There are three categories that parents could use to be issued a waiver. Valacak said a child might have a medical condition where the child could have an allergic reaction to a vaccine. He added this is rare. Another reason not to vaccinate is that a child's physician might not agree with the recommended schedule of vaccines (see sidebar). A third reason is when a particular vaccine is given twice, maybe six months apart, and the child is behind only because they have not had the second shot. Those children will be up to date once they have had the second shot.

Valacak said Genesee County has fewer unvaccinated people compared with the state average.

In the past, Valacak said some parents would inform their child's school that they were behind with vaccinations because they could not get a doctor's appointment in time. Waivers used to be handed out for convenience.

A new law that went into effect in January eliminates waivers based on convenience. Parents are being made aware of this and only legitimate medical conditions can be cited as a reason.

Valacak is well aware of the misinformation spread by people who have many followers linking vaccinations to autism. "It was fabricated data," he said. "The science of the matter is that vaccines prevent diseases."

As the recent measles outbreak stays in the news and more people become aware of just how dangerous measles, as well as other diseases can be, more vaccinations are occurring. Valacak said families, doctors and the counties need to work together to make sure everyone is up to date.

Valacak said the health department's goal for next year is to be able to compile a complete list electronically, for every school building, of all students who are not up to date with their vaccinations.

Joe Simmert, D.O., of The Children's Office, a pediatric practice of three board-certified physicians who have assumed the practice of Dr. Chandra Puttagunta in Fenton, is well aware of the vaccination issue.

"We've been tolerant (of the anti-vaccine movement) for a long time. Policies are going to start to tighten, putting more responsibility on the parents. Now, if a school doesn't have proof you've vaccinated your child, you're going to have to go to the health department and watch a video that addresses these issues. There's a lot of misinformation out there."

"I hope that people who decide not to vaccinate their child pick a resource for that information that will be held accountable for any consequences. If you can't hold that resource accountable, then you should probably take the information provided with a grain of salt. I am a tangible resource. I

## When to get shots

**BIRTH**  
Hep B \*

**2 MONTHS**  
DTaP, IPV, Hib, HepB, PCV13, RV

**4 MONTHS**  
DTaP, IPV, Hib, PCV13, RV

**6 MONTHS**  
DTaP, Hib, Hep B, PCV13

**6-18 MONTHS**  
Hep B, IPV

**12-18 MONTHS**  
DTaP, Hib, MMR, VZV, PCV13, Hep A

**4-6 YEARS**  
DTaP, IPV, MMR, VZV

**11-12 YEARS**  
Hep B\*\* (if never received),  
TdTap (repeat every 10 years),  
MMR (if no 2nd dose),  
VZV (if never had disease or 2nd dose),  
MCV4, HPV

\* Each child's schedule may differ  
\*\* Three dose series

Source: Genesee County Health Department

want you to hold me accountable for the health information I give you for your child. That's a more credible source.

"If I tell you it's safe to vaccinate your child, then it's safe for you to vaccinate your child. It's my hope that we can build a trusting relationship where I can be that source of information for you."

Reporter Sally Rummel contributed to this story.

A Harvard University study recently revealed that 62% of all personal bankruptcies filed in the US were due to inability to pay expenses because of a disability.

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# Lasco Ford launches into 2015 with \$5.5 million expansion

## ► Dealership earns Michigan's Ford Dealer of the Year Award

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

One thing you can say for sure about Matt and Jay Lasco — they aren't taking their responsibility at the helm of their long-time family dealership sitting down.

Under their leadership, Lasco Ford has launched into 2015 with a \$5.5 million expansion project that has created not only one of the largest auto dealerships in the tri-county area, but also an unparalleled level of customer service, according to the Lasco brothers.

"We've been here for 32 years and we want to be here for another 30 years," said Matt, 36. "We wanted to give our customers the very best. This is our commitment to them for not only the sale, but after the sale."

The new service department has its own state-of-the-art facility, with about 27,000 square feet devoted to the maintenance and repair of vehicles and the comfort of their owners. This new facility also houses the body shop and parts department.

Customer comfort is key, which begins when each car drives into a heated service area that is 100 percent noise-controlled. After leaving their vehicle inside, customers meet with their service advisor in a private, quiet setting. Once their vehicle has been taken in for maintenance or repair, he or

**“We’ve been here for 32 years and we want to be here for another 30 years.”**

**Matt Lasco**



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Brothers Matt and Jay Lasco of Lasco Ford, stand in their brand new service department on Wednesday. The dealership was recently named Michigan's #1 Ford Dealer of the Year.

she can enjoy an inviting, relaxed lounge area boasting huge TVs for easy viewing, a complementary coffee bar also stocked with bottled water for guests and a nearby children's play area.

In addition to 28 new service bays and tripling their staff of mechanics, this brand new building also offers new equipment that

provides free checks for alignment, battery, tires and an overall vehicle health check, including engine code analysis. "These services are available for free to anyone," said Jay, 33.

Both brothers are excited about the new possibilities

that this facility and these services offer for customers. "We now have the ability to service cars faster than ever," said Jay.

Matt added, "Within the next 90 days, we'll be open from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. (now it's open 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.). You'll never have to miss a day of work with your vehicle."

While it's an exciting new chapter for Lasco Ford, the new service facility is only the beginning of the complete renovation of the business. The original building, now housing used and new vehicle sales, financing and accounting, is in the process of a major overhaul, to be completed by early fall.

"It's as close to being a brand new build as it can be," said Jay. "It will be



**MICHIGAN'S  
#1 FORD DEALER  
OF THE YEAR**

Lasco Ford has another award to display at its dealership, as the #1 Michigan Ford Dealer of the Year.

This award was presented by the National Automobile Dealers Association, and is based on customer response and reviews.

"This is the first time we've ever been in the top spot," said Matt. "It's very exciting. Our staff went to a lot of effort to make this happen for our dealership."

completely renovated inside and out, and will also include a huge addition at the rear of the building."

When the project is completed, it will house a state-of-the-art showroom, as well as all new offices for its various business departments. "Each of the buildings is completely self-sufficient," said Jay. "We'll also have a relaxing wait lounge in this building, as well as a children's play area."

Perhaps the most visible change to the public is the huge number of Ford vehicles lined up in the dealership's new parking area on Owen Road. "We literally have well over 100 new cars out there," said Jay. "Having all this space allows us to have an all-new selection for our customers."

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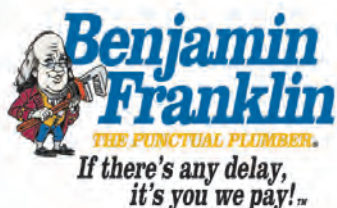
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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

Popular state campgrounds will be increasing their daily fees by \$4 from what they have been charging. Increases at less popular campgrounds will not be as much.

## State campground fees are going up

► Campers at most popular locations will see a \$4 increase in daily fees

By Yvonne Stegall

ystegall@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

It has been a few years since the last time the state-operated campgrounds in Michigan raised their camping fees. According to Ron Olson, chief of parks and recreation for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), they haven't changed since 2007.

Olson said, "The higher fees will help us keep pace with normal operations and improve the infrastructure. The infrastructure, he said, is about \$300 million behind in needed repairs, so this higher fee is much needed.

The amount of the increase depends mainly on the popularity of the campgrounds. Those with 82 percent or greater occupancy over the past year will have a \$4 per day increase. Mid-level campgrounds will go up \$2 per day and low-level, \$1.

The new fees are already imple-

mented into the system. Olson said that most campgrounds start taking reservations for the upcoming season six months in advance, so these prices have been set for a few months.

Many people are showing concerns over the upgrade in charge, according to Olson, but the money goes to a good cause and with changes in the cost of things like electricity, it makes sense that inflation would bring up camping costs, too.

**“The higher fees will help us keep pace with normal operations and improve the infrastructure.”**

**Ron Olson**  
Chief of parks and recreation Michigan DNR

Olson said there are three things that bring money into the campgrounds to keep them running, clean and up to standards. The camping fees are the most important, bringing in the most money. The recreation passport, which is needed in order to enter the park, and costs \$11, is

the second thing bringing money in. The last are mineral and gas royalties.

If you are planning a camping trip this year within the great state of Michigan, consider camping at one of the many state campgrounds, knowing your money goes back into preserving this legacy.

## BUILDING

Continued from Front Page

foot area just south of the Cornerstone building into a multi-story, mixed-use building with retail or restaurant on the first floor and office and/or residential on the upper floors.

The building east of the proposed site, 111 South LeRoy St., is currently vacant and is owned by the City of Fenton Downtown Development Authority (DDA). The city of Fenton owns the property and the city and DDA intend on selling the property through the selection of a developer.

As previously reported, the State of Michigan's Community Revitalization Program has funds to provide financial assistance for economic development projects. When funds become available, the city's plan is to demolish the vacant building that houses the former Home-town Computers and J & J Trophy and transform that space into parking.

A 2011 article in the Times reported that Fenton City officials and the DDA had visions of developing this corridor along

### Summary

► Downtown Fenton continues to transform into a thriving and energetic area as the city is seeking a buyer/developer to construct a mixed-use building just south of the Cornerstone building.

South LeRoy Street to develop downtown with retail, office and residential space.

The request for proposal (RFP) is available for download at [www.cityoffenton.org](http://www.cityoffenton.org). Developers who are interested must provide sealed RFP responses to the City Clerk's Office on or before Monday, March 16, 2015 at 11 a.m.

The RFP responses will be reviewed by the city manager and city personnel. Submissions will be evaluated on viability and attractiveness of concept plan and compatibility with existing development in the city and downtown. The developer's demonstrated capability and experience with similar projects and ability to work with a broad stakeholder group will be a major factor.

Once the evaluation of proposals is completed, selected developers will be asked to present proposals to a committee designated by the city manager. After the interviews, the city will select two to three developers for further due diligence and financial analysis. The city will then select a developer to discuss the project and sale of the property.

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## ROBOTICS

Continued from Page 3A

The make-up, size and experience of the teams are different in each school, and most offer both high school, and middle school team opportunities.

Every local district at least has a high school team of its own. Holly High School has a team, which is combined with Brandon High School, to form Truck Town Thunder Robotics.

Lake Fenton has fewer adult engineer mentors than Fenton. Linden is a slightly newer, smaller team. Some teams have legitimate financial backing — not any local teams, but The Killer Bees Notre Dame Preparatory School has serious auto industry backing, facilities and mentoring.

Schools like Lake Fenton have few mentors, and are largely student run, while there were about six mentors at Fenton High School that afternoon.

Mike Cason is a mentor at Linden High School. His daughter was part of the team, and after she graduated, he stuck around to help. He said their robot wasn't tall like Fenton's, and the policy at LHS is to let the students do much of the work. Their first competition is in March.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

The Fenton High School Robotics team crowds around their 2015 robot, as finishing components are added last Sunday. There are 27 on the team, with one female student, Emma Lane, on the mechanical team.

Like any team sport, it's usually pay to play. Fenton students, for example, have to pay \$100, and then raise \$400. Building a robot from parts and taking it to competition isn't cheap.

The Linden High School team (named Roboeagles) has a budget of \$10,000, which is actually minimal, even compared to Fenton's budget, which is closer to \$25,000.

Teams are responsible for fundraising the dollars necessary to design, test, build, and send their robot to competition.

Several weeks ago, Lake Fenton's HAZMAT robotics team was busy working on the lift arm system for the totes, while the chassee was being built on another table, because certain parts hadn't yet arrived.

Nicholas Knoch, 17, is a senior and is the team captain. He said problem-solving skills are taught by robotics, along with technical aspects like building, and programming.

In just six weeks, each team builds their robot, finishing by Feb. 17. Lake Fenton has a couple old robots hanging out, which are used for training, though old parts are not allowed in the new robot, for the most part.

To foster healthy competition, teams regularly mentor each other, and share component designs online.

Knoch said the team has helped develop a mini-engineering center for the school. Grant funds for equipment to build their robot benefits CAD and engineering classes.

The LFHS team was sponsored by GM for competition entries, which can cost \$5,000. Linden is sponsored by Chrysler.

Each team forms almost a mini-business in order to support their team. Fenton's 27-member team is dominated by boys, though there are three girls on the team. Sara Gadwa, one of the faculty team leaders, said, "Robotics is huge." Gadwa, a math teacher, was on hand Sunday afternoon.

In the end, the robot is completed in the allotted time, by a team that handles design, construction, programming, operating, and business to get their machine to competition. One of the first competitions for local teams is at Kettering University in Flint, on March 5.

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

## F is for fig, G is for grape...

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

Part five of an ongoing series

Just like D and E, there aren't tons of fruits and vegetables in the F and G categories, so to save some time on this series the Times has chosen to combine a couple more letters.

Hopefully, this little list of healthy produce will inspire you to add something new to your diet. While this is not a comprehensive list, it does give you a taste of the fruits and vegetables that are out there, what they can do for your health and how you can fit them into your meals each day.

### FENNEL

Fennel is popular in Mediterranean cuisine, with a crunchy and slightly sweet flavor. The bulb, stalk, leaves and seeds are all edible on this vegetable. It is high in fiber and antioxidants. The bulb is also believed to help lower bad cholesterol levels.

Fennel can be sautéed and added to meals as a side, or it's great sliced up on a sandwich.

### FIG

Fig Newtons are probably the least healthy way to enjoy the benefits of figs. Figs are high in fiber, they are a great source of potassium, and they help with eye health by fighting macular degeneration. While those tasty fig cookies may be the only thing you can think of for getting figs into your diet, fresh figs make a great addition to smoothies and they also taste wonderful chopped up in a fresh salad.

### GRAPE

Grapes have many great benefits, and they are rich in many things. A couple of the great things you'll find in these sweet (or sometimes sour) little fruits are vitamin K (great for your eyes) and copper. It's easy to add grapes into your diet. Munch on them fresh, eat them frozen as a great cool treat, and add them to salads. Grapes aren't just great in fruit salad, but are also amazing added to a fresh garden salad.



### GRAPEFRUIT

Doctors urge caution when it comes to patients on certain medications consuming grapefruit or grapefruit juice. Check with your doctor first if you are on any prescription medications.

Grapefruit, like all citrus fruits, are rich in vitamin C. They make a great alternative to oranges when it comes to a fresh snack. Not only are they immune boosting, they also boost metabolism, which is why they are known as a diet food. Grill slices, eat them fresh and alone, or enjoy in a salad.



### GUAVA

Guava fruit are very rich in protein and contain a lot of fiber. Guava contains more than 628 percent of the daily value of vitamin C, 21 percent of vitamin A and 20 percent of folate. The negative of guava is that they contain fructose, which should be consumed in moderation. Guava can be added to salads and even salsas.



### GREEN BEAN

Even cooked, green beans pack a lot of healthy power. They contain vitamins K, C, A, E and a few different B vitamins. They also contain manganese, fiber, folate, copper, magnesium, chromium, calcium, iron, phosphorus, potassium, choline and protein. They also have omega-3 fatty acids. That's a lot for one bean.

Green beans are easy to introduce in your diet. They make a great side, are delicious fresh, added to salads, and can make a wonderful colored addition to soup.

### GARLIC

Garlic is a vegetable and it deserves an A+. That's because it is an anti-inflammatory, antibacterial and antiviral. That's why garlic is a popular addition to the diet for people suffering a cold or sore throat. Garlic is delicious roasted, but can also easily be added fresh to many meals. Dice a clove up to add to salads, soup, to sauté with meats or vegetables or cook up in some butter for an easy bread topping.



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## RESTAURANTS

### Continued from Front Page

America had national family favorites such as Howard Johnson's, Bill Knapp's, Damon's Steakhouse, TCBY, Bonanza Steakhouse, Chi-Chi's, White Tower hamburgers, Bennigan's, Burger Chef, Sambo's, Steak & Ale and Kenny Rogers Roasters in past years, and now they're gone.

Here's an unofficial list of nearly 100 local eateries in Fenton, Linden and Holly that have closed in the past two decades.

Maybe you have some of your own favorites that closed that aren't mentioned on this list. Please contact the Times at news@tctimes.com to add names to this list.

- A&W Root Beer, downtown Fenton location
- A.C. Classic Pizza
- Across Town Cafe
- Andrico's Family Restaurant
- Argentine Lighthouse
- Austin's Cafe, Holly
- Bear Creek Coffee, Linden
- Big Tony's Pizza, Holly
- Biggby Coffee, Owen Road
- Blackburn's Subs
- Blimpy's Subs
- Bredeaux Pizza
- Brick Oven, The
- Broadstreet Restaurant, Linden
- Burger King (on LeRoy Street)
- Cafe on the Way
- Cardona's Pizza
- Cathy's Patisserie & Bakery
- Choo-Choo BBQ
- CK Cafe
- Classic Restaurant, The
- Coffee Beanery, on Silver Parkway
- Cold Stone Creamery, Fenton

- Common Grounds Cafe
- Corleone's Pizza
- Crossbow Inn, Linden
- Dairy Queen, Fenton
- Del Rey Mexican
- Diner, The (now Shirley's)
- Dolly's Pizza
- Dominic's Donut Shop
- Domino's Pizza
- Dragon Pearl Chinese
- Dwinn's Diner
- Fast Eddie's (in Kmart)
- Fenton Roadhouse
- Flame, The
- Frank's Tavern
- Gatsby Grind
- Giles Family Restaurant
- Graceys Restaurant
- Grainery Pub, The
- Great Fenton Inn
- Great Lakes Family Restaurant
- Happy's Pizza, Holly
- Hardee's of Fenton
- Heritage House
- J.T. Wishbone Chicken
- Janelle's Restaurant, Byron
- Jimmy G's Roadhouse
- Joey's Only Seafood
- Leroy's Gourmet Burgers
- Little Caesar's Pizza (LeRoy Street Fenton location)
- Little Caesar's Pizza (in Kmart)
- Little Dominick's Pizza
- Little Joe's Pizza
- Luigi's on Leroy
- Maple Garden Chinese
- McDonald's, Argentine
- Michaelangelo's Pizza, Holly
- Michigan Bean Company, The
- MoDoggie's
- Navistarz, Lobdell Lake

- New Century Buffet
- NuNu's Asian Kitchen
- Nut Bush, The
- O'Dooley's Tavern
- O'Malley's Galley
- Panda Water Ice
- Papa John's Pizza
- Papa Murphy's Take & Bake Pizza, Fenton
- Perky's Coffee Shop
- Pier, Lobdell Lake, The
- PJ's Place

- Pro Pizza
- Pub, The
- Puerto Nuevo, Holly
- Quizno's Subs, Fenton
- Richard's Roadhouse
- Rocco's Pizza, Fenton and Linden
- Roly Poly Sandwiches/Wraps, Fenton
- Sakura Chinese Buffet
- Sicilian Brothers Pizza
- Soups and More
- Spoonz Tavern
- Sunshine Ice Cream
- Tacos & Treats
- T-Bones Tavern, Fenton
- Time Out Pizza
- Twin Gardens
- Up North Grill
- Uptown Broasted Chicken
- Val's Pizza
- Village Pizza

- Wendy's, Fenton
- Yosemite Steakhouse, Holly

Any others you can remember?

(Editor's note: Mark Rummel is owner of Mancino's Pizza & Grinders in Fenton and has watched the business climate of area eateries since opening his own restaurant in 1998.)

**“About 80 percent of new businesses fail within the first two years, and failures in the food industry are higher than that.”**

**Mark Rummel**  
Owner of Mancino's  
Pizza & Grinders

## HOT LINE CONTINUED

**IN REGARD TO** muslims being a race, they are not. They exist in every race and God loves everyone, but to receive an eternal reward they must give their hearts to Him and obey His will.

■■■■  
**MR. SNYDER, YOU** tax my pension and now you want more money for road repairs. It must be nice to meet your wants by asking others to pay through taxes. I want a '63 navy blue Corvette Coupe. Can you help fund my project?

■■■■  
**STUDENTS, GO ASK** your civics teachers what is the limit for an authorization of war. Is it six months, two years, or maybe it is 11 years? Can our president legally send drones into another country to kill those he sees as a threat without congress's authorization?

■■■■  
**THE MORNING/AFTERNOON** traffic issue on Lahring Road is just one of the impacts from Lake Fenton school board not limiting/shutting down school of choice. It has nothing to do with kids not riding the bus. Wait until they propose a new millage to add on, so they can accommodate all these kids.

■■■■  
**WILL THE FENTON** planners ever get anything right? Now the parking to access the Cornerstone building you will have to walk across railroad tracks and the already congested (screwed-up Serpentine project with dividers destroyed) Silver Lake Road connector from U.S. 23 to I-75. Are you kidding me?

■■■■  
**TO THE PERSON** on State Road that can't plow your sidewalk, I hope the city issues you a ticket.



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► Read Friday night's prep basketball action at [tctimes.com](http://tctimes.com).

## TRIVIA RED WINGS

**Q Who is the only Red Wing ever to score six goals in one game?**

**A** It's not Gordie Howe, but Syd Howe. He scored six goals in a 12-2 victory against the New York Rangers on Feb. 3, 1944.

## REGIONAL SKI ACTION

The Holly/Oxford ski team is headed to the Division 2 state meet as regional champions. Fenton/Linden skier Zoe Weinberg is doing the same. The Holly/Oxford boys ski team captured the regional crown.

Lars Jorgen-Kokate led the Holly/Oxford team by taking second in the slalom (53.68 seconds) and the giant slalom (43.0). Holly's other high placers in the giant slalom were Dillon Sink in ninth (44.46), Zac Felix in 10th (44.52) and Max Ford in 12th (44.57). In the slalom their other top performers were Felix in 11th (57.82), Sink in 15th (58.67) and Ford in 19th (59.19).

Weinberg defended her regional title in the giant slalom with a combined time of 44.85 seconds. She missed repeating as slalom champion by .05 seconds taking second (56.70).

The Fenton/Linden boys were led by Andy Bennett. He placed 20th in the slalom (59.34), while Brendan McInerney took 22nd in the giant slalom (45.25).

The Holly/Oxford girls were paced by Emma Ford who took fifth in the giant slalom (46.27) and 13th in the slalom (1:02.85).



**TRI-COUNTY TIMES** | DAVID TROPPENS  
Dawson Blank (top) and the Linden Eagles won a team district title on Thursday night.

## Eagles are headed to regionals

**By David Troppens**  
[dtroppens@tctimes.com](mailto:dtroppens@tctimes.com)

The Linden varsity wrestling squad had won five team district titles in 15 years, but it had been since 2009 since the squad won its last crown.

That changed on Thursday night. The Eagles made earned their sixth in 16 years by defeating Metro League rivals Holly 55-24 in the Division 2 district final match at Fenton High School. The Eagles opened the tourney by defeating Goodrich 47-24 in the semifinals.

Linden (21-12) hosts a Division 2 regional tournament on Wednesday. The Eagles will take on another Metro foe, Brandon, in the semifinals. The winner of that match will face either Kearsley or

Marysville with the winner earning a spot in the Division 2 team state tournament at Battle Creek's Kellogg Arena.

"We've been in contention ever since our last one, but Holly has had some tough squads and Goodrich has won a few state titles. We are excited," Linden coach Todd Skinner said. "I think it is a

**See EAGLES on 19A**



**TRI-COUNTY TIMES**  
DAVID TROPPENS  
Lake Fenton's Bobbie Kinkaid (back) works on getting a pin. Lake Fenton captured its fifth straight Division 3 team district on Wednesday.

## Five straight titles for Devils

**By David Troppens**

[dtroppens@tctimes.com](mailto:dtroppens@tctimes.com); 810-433-6789

**Lake Fenton** — Over the last five seasons, the Lake Fenton varsity wrestling team has certainly had its share of peak seasons recently.

During that period the team has earned a spot at Battle Creek's Kellogg Arena at the team state tournament twice.

In 2011 the team made it to the state title match.

But even the three seasons when the Blue Devils didn't make it to Battle Creek, they've all had something in common — each of the last five squads have won team district championships.

Lake Fenton's young squad easily clinched its fifth straight

district crown on Wednesday, defeating Flint Powers 62-18 in the opening round and beating Mount Morris 64-12 in the title match to earn the championship.

"It's pretty cool. It means a lot to us," said Tristen Nevadomski, one of just two seniors on the squad. "It's kind

**See DEVILS on 19A**



**TRI-COUNTY TIMES**  
DAVID TROPPENS

Lake Fenton's Andrew Foerster makes a hoop during the Blue Devils' 63-55 win against Mt. Morris on Tuesday.

## LF holds on vs. Panthers

**By David Troppens**

[dtroppens@tctimes.com](mailto:dtroppens@tctimes.com)

**Mt. Morris** — The Lake Fenton varsity boys basketball team's road contest at Mt. Morris was filled with as many ups and downs as a person playing with a yo-yo.

But in the final analysis, as has been the case more often than not

**See LF on 20A**

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**TRI-COUNTY TIMES** | MARK BOLEN  
Holly's Jake Daniels scored 13 of his team-high 24 points in the first quarter in the Broncos' win against Skyline. He's pictured here competing in a past game.

## Bronchos capture 10th straight win, beat Skyline

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

Holly varsity boys basketball coach Lance Baylis doesn't care if teams ended up making runs against his squad when the Broncos at one time had a large lead.

He doesn't care if his team is out-rebounded.

It seems when a team is 13-2 overall and riding a 10-game win streak, people can surface out of nowhere and argue why a team should be concerned despite its success for a variety of reasons.

What matters most to Baylis is if his team won. And for the 10th straight game, the Broncos did just that against non-league Ann Arbor Skyline at home on Tuesday night.

The Broncos outscored Skyline 25-13 and never trailed, eventually earning a 75-71 victory against the Eagles.

"It was a great game for us," Baylis said. "We came out on fire running and

gunning. Jake (Daniels) was shooting great and so was (Adam) Tooley. In the second half, it was a game of runs. Basketball is a game of runs. Coming in the game, they were ranked by Maxpreps as the 23rd best team in Class A. On Friday they lost by single-digits to Ann Arbor Huron, who has votes in the top 10. Skyline lost in the quarterfinals to the eventual state champions last year. Those guys are good, and they made a run. But that's why games are four quarters long. At the end of the day it's did you score more points than them, and we did."

The Broncos were sizzling in the first quarter. Daniels scored 13 of his team-high 24 points in the opening quarter, netting three three-pointers during the first eight minutes. Tooley also had a strong opening, scoring all 11 of his points in the first half. The pair led the Broncos to a 43-30 lead into halftime. As should've been expected, Skyline made a run in the second half. The

Eagles cut Holly gap to 53-44 entering the fourth quarter, and tied it up at 65-all. Holly's Josh Simms and Skyline's Alexander-White each matched treys, keeping the contest tied at 68-all late. However, Daniels scored his final two points, giving the Broncos the lead for good. Simms iced the game by netting free throws in the final seconds.

"This is a signature win," Baylis said. "It's a school of 1,700 students who draws from a good population. This is one we were targeting."

Daniels finished with 24 points and six rebounds, while Simms netted 14 points and nine rebounds. Ian Hodges and Tooley netted 11 points each, while Parker Rowse dished 10 assists. Isaac Casillas netted nine points.

"We have experience," Baylis said. "Maturity for us is huge. We have mental maturity and physical maturity. We are a mature team and we're seeing that now. Out of our top seven, five are seniors."

## Tigers ice game in fourth, defeat Lapeer

►Fenton girls lose in double overtime

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

The Fenton varsity boys basketball team is learning how to close games.

The Tigers displayed their ability to do just that in a home game against Lapeer on Tuesday.

Fenton hit on 10-of-10 free throws in the fourth quarter, earning the Tigers a 64-56 victory.

The Tigers (9-5) jumped to an early 14-2 lead, but Lapeer got back into the contest quickly, cutting the gap to 17-12 entering the second quarter. The contest remained close the rest of the way. Fenton led 31-27 at the half, and trailed 42-41 entering the fourth. However, Fenton netted 23 points in the final period to earn the victory.

Beau LePage has been hot of late, scoring double-digits in each of his last four games. On Tuesday he netted a team-high 20 points. Alec Thomas has also had a nice last two games, scoring double-digits in each. He scored 13 against Lapeer. Five other Fenton players scored, including nine by Ross Eb-

ert. Austin Bossenberger, Dillon Gardner and Ben Hajciar had six points each.

Ebert led the team with nine rebounds, while Thomas had eight boards and two blocks. LePage also dished four assists, while Gardner had four steals.

**Girls Basketball**  
**Lapeer 58, Fenton 56**  
**2OT**

For the fourth time in five games, the Tigers were forced to play an overtime game. But for the first time this season, the contest went into double-overtime and the Tigers lost an extra-session game.

Lapeer scored the only two points of the second OT, earning the win.

Fenton was paced by Sarah Cummings, who netted 23 points. Emma Evo had 19 points, while Maddie Carr netted five points. Ashleigh Garcia led Lapeer with 27 points.

**New Lothrop 34,**  
**Lake Fenton 17**

Sierra Arroyo led the Blue Devils with seven points and three steals, while Kim Roe grabbed a team-best 10 rebounds.



**TRI-COUNTY TIMES** | SCOTT SCHUPBACH  
Fenton's Peyton Coffman (left) tries to find an opening in the Tigers' 64-56 victory against Lapeer on Tuesday.

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THUR 7:00 9:20 12:05

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**\*@JUPITER ASCENDING: AN IMAX 3D EXPERIENCE (PG13)**

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**\*2D SEVENTH SON (PG13)**

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

**THE LOFT (R)**

**PROJECT ALMANAC (PG13)**

**BLACK OR WHITE (PG13)**

**THE BOY NEXT DOOR (R)**

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**PADDINGTON (PG)**

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### PREP REPORT

#### GIRLS BASKETBALL

► **Lake Fenton JV 70, Mt. Morris JV 19:** The Blue Devils (9-1, 10-5) combined strong defense and offense to earn the victory. Lake Fenton had eight three-pointers in the contest. The team had hit only nine in the first 14 games. All nine players scored. Sage Fuller had 16 points, while Taylor Cooper netted 12 points. McKenzie Rampy scored eight.

► **New Lothrop JV 43, Lake Fenton JV 29:** The Blue Devils (10-6) lost a tight contest against an undefeated squad. Sage Fuller led the Blue Devils with seven points, while Renee Shaw and Megan Lynch netted five points each.

Lake Fenton hosts Bridgeport on Wednesday.



# Griffins battle to 3-3 draw with KBH United

By David Troppens  
dtroppens@tctimes.com

It was a contest of at least three different twists.

But after 59 minutes of action, all that the Metro League Griffins and KBH United settled was both teams are pretty even.

In what was a pivotal contest for the Metro League hockey title, KBH United and the Metro League Griffins were forced to settle for a 3-3 tie at Hartland Sports Center on Wednesday night.

KBH United, a co-op team involving players from Kearsley, Brandon and Holly, scored three first-period goals to take the early advantage. However, the Metro League Griffins, a co-op squad involving players from Fenton and Linden, answered back with three goals in the final five minutes of the second period, tying the game at 3-all.

The two teams then played the 17 minutes of the third period and the eight-minute overtime period scoreless, resulting in the tie.

The draw was more important to KBH United, as the tie kept them in the race for at least a tie of the Metro League championship. The draw meant the Fenton-Linden co-op was

eliminated from competing for the title.

Griffins' coach Will Dawson was pleased with his team's fight, coming back from three goals behind.

"They've done it all year long," Dawson said. "In the first game against KBH they scored four goals in the first period, but then we scored a goal late in the first (and made it a competitive game). The kids don't quit. I respect that."

"I was really happy with the game. KBH is a really good team and I am proud to see the guys battle through adversity. We had our opportunities in the first period, but nothing was going in. But once they all saw Connor (Phillips) score, he's been our leader all season long, the guys were ready."

Kross Kenney scored for KBH (3-1-1 in the Metro) with 15:14 left in the first period, and about four minutes later Shawn Larsen scored during a short-handed situation, making it 2-0. KBH made it 3-0 when Larsen scored again with 2:37 left in the first period.

The Griffins' first goal came from Phillips with 4:14 left in the second period. He scored on assists by Mitch O'Lewin and Jonah Lainesse. The lead was cut to 3-1. Then, in a span



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SCOTT SCHUPBACH

The Griffins' Jake Thompson (left) attempts a check during a past game. The Metro League Griffins tied KBH United 3-3 in a key Metro League hockey game on Wednesday.

of 54 seconds, the Griffins scored two more goals. With 1:57 left in the second period, Buck Hudson scored on assists by Phillips and Joe Moran. The game's scoring ended with 1:03 left in the second period on a Jake Thompson goal off assists by Brendan Buerkel and Dylan Miesch.

Dawson felt the Griffins (2-1-2 in the Metro) put some

strong pressure of KBH's net during the third period and the overtime. The squad hit the post twice during the extra session.

"I thought we won the game when Joe Moran put on off the crossbar," Dawson said. Unfortunately, it hit the post."

Manny Vomvolakis made 22 saves for the Griffins, while Connor Martin made 29 saves for KBH.

## EAGLES

Continued from Page 17A  
great building block for such a young squad."

The Eagles proved their strength by winning six of the eight matches on the mat between the two foes. Earning Linden pinfall wins in the title match were Braxton Breedon (130), Bryce Davis (152), Cade Dickson (160), and Austin McNeill (285). Luke Zimmerman (112) earned a major decision victory, while Aaron Steedman (171) won a tight 2-1 verdict against Colin Dallwitz. Justin Cygnar (103), Chandler Monsey (125), Dawson Blank (140) and Patrick Kerr (145) won by forfeit.

Holly's victors were Carson Cuthbert (119) and Trever Hatfield (135), both by pinfall. Jimmy Gray (189) and Wyatt Lupro (215) won by forfeit.

Linden wrestlers winning two matches were Cygnar, Zimmerman, Blank, Kerr, Davis, Dickson and McNeill.

Holly advanced to the finals by defeating Fenton 43-21.

"It went as I thought," Holly wrestling coach Don Pluta said. "We battled hard, but we were giving up way too many points to a quality Linden team. I am very proud of my team with how they fought all year against all odds and all the issues we faced throughout the year."



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPENS  
Lake Fenton's Brenden Carr (top) puts Powers' Collin Tipton in a headlock on Wednesday. The Blue Devils won a Division 3 team district title.

## DEVILS

Continued from Page 17A

of what is expected. We all work hard."

"It's pretty cool," sophomore Hunter Corcoran said. "Having this team that we have is pretty cool. We have a small team and it makes this pretty special."

"That's good stuff. We don't have a whole lot of kids, but the kids we do have coming back are all quality kids," head coach Vance Corcoran said. "They want to learn and want to work hard. It's easy to make this group of kids better. They want to get better. It's fun."

The Blue Devils won all but two matches against the Panthers to capture the district title. The two matches the Blue Devils did lose were voids. Otherwise, every Lake Fenton wrestler who hit the mat won his match against Mount Morris.

Trent Hillger (215), Hunter Corcoran

(119), Devan Melick (125), and Kienan Hagenstein (1450 all won by pinfall. Bobbie Kinkaid (112) and Brendan Carr (140) captured tight decision victories. Meanwhile, A.J. Geyer (103), Jackson Nevadomski (130), Saben Spangler (135), Riley Holtslander (152) and Tristen Nevadomski (160) won by forfeits.

Against Powers, both teams had two void losses, meaning the matches on the mat were going to determine a winner. The Blue Devils proved superior in that respect, winning seven of the eight matches fought on the mat.

Hillger (215), Jackson Nevadomski (130), Spangler (135), Hagenstein (145) and Tristen Nevadomski (160) each won by pinfall. Melick (125) won by technical fall, while Geyer (112) won by a tight 8-6 decision against the No. 2 ranked wrestler in his state weight class, Eric Spidle. Ryan Franks (171) and Kinkaid (103) won their matches by forfeit.

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## PREP REPORT

## COMPETITIVE CHEER

► **Lake Fenton at the GAC Jamboree:** The Blue Devils placed a convincing second at the event with a team score of 652.82. Montrose (679.32) won, while Webberville (611.3) placed third. The Blue Devils were in fourth after scoring a 192.2 in round one, but answered back with a 188.82 in the second round, putting Lake Fenton in second place for good. The Blue Devils finished the competition with a 271.8 in the third round.

## BOYS BOWLING

► **Flushing def. Fenton:** The Tigers lost to Flushing 21.5-8.5. Fenton was paced by Drew Garrison who had a 222-209-431 series. Meanwhile, John Cryderman bowled a 236 and Alex Keith had a 204. Fenton had a 182 baker game.

► **Swartz Creek def. Holly:** Albert Lewellen had a strong 256-266-522 series to pace the Bronchos. The team also recorded a 203 baker game.

► **Linden def. Clio:** Logan Skinner bowled a 202-185-387 to pace the Eagles to the victory. Trevor Sunderla also rolled a 211 game, while Russ Carney bowled one pin better, recording a 211 contest.

## GIRLS BOWLING

► **Flushing def. Fenton:** The Tigers were defeated 29-1. Fenton was led by Rebecca Martin who had a 142-150-292 series.

► **Swartz Creek def. Holly:** Hannah Babon led the Bronchos with a 236 game.

► **Clio def. Linden:** Audrey Bakos rolled a 146-148-294 series to lead the Eagles.

## BOYS BASKETBALL

► **Linden Freshmen 55, Brandon 48:** Nick Koan led Linden (11-4) with 14 points, while Corbine Sines had nine points.

## LF

Continued from Page 17A

during the 2014-15 prep basketball season, the ups are usually strong enough to lead the Blue Devils to a victory. That was the case at Mt. Morris High School on Tuesday, when Lake Fenton never trailed after the first quarter and defeated the Panthers 63-55.

The Blue Devils (6-4, 9-5) led at 10-9 with 2:11 left in the first quarter on a Chris Bell six-foot hoop, and pulled to double-digit leads at least once in each of the last three quarters. However, each time Lake Fenton extended the lead, Mt. Morris found a way to cut the gap back to a manageable gap before the Blue Devils would repeat the process.

The last time the cycle was completed came late in the fourth quarter. Mt. Morris cut Lake Fenton's lead to just 46-41 after a 10-foot jumper by Eric Smith, but Lake Fenton responded with the game's next five points. The first three came on a Jake Zielinski inbound pass to Andrew Foerster for a layin and a foul. Foerster made the free throw and the Blue Devils led 49-41.

About two minutes later, Zielinski made a putback hoop, giving the Blue Devils a 51-41 lead with 4:46 left to play. However, the pesky Panthers made their final push and actually cut the gap to 57-53 with a layup and a converted free throw off a putback hoop by Jarrett Duplanty with 1:15 left in the contest. But that's when Lake Fenton's Jalen Miller saved the day. Miller scored six points in a span of 27 seconds, clinching the Blue Devils' win. First, he converted two free throws with 41.5 seconds left. He then scored on a layup off a nice



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPENS

Lake Fenton's Isaac Golson (center) attempts a shot in the Blue Devils' 63-55 victory against Mt. Morris on Tuesday night. Golson scored eight points in the contest.

dish from Bell with 21.0 seconds left. Finally, he earned a steal just seconds after his layup and scored a breaking layup. As quickly as it suddenly became a game again, Miller blew it back out for Lake Fenton, giving the Blue Devils the GAC Red road win.

"I just don't think we were there mentally," said Lake Fenton coach Jake Erway sounding more like a losing coach than a winning mentor. "I think that's our biggest thing."

"That's been a common tendency this year. We go through stretches where we play great, and it looks like we are going to take care of business. Then we lose our focus, lose our mental toughness and let teams climb back in. I give Mt. Morris credit. I thought they outplayed us the majority of the game. I thought they worked harder than us. I thought they rebounded better than us."

In the second quarter, the Panthers tied it at 15-all after a putback hoop by Duplanty, but after the hoop the Blue Devils dominated again, going on a 13-2 run. It ended with a Zielinski dish to Miller for a two-point perimeter shot, earning Lake Fenton a 28-17 lead. Mt. Morris cut the gap to 28-19 by halftime.

Mt. Morris hit 9-of-11 shots in the third quarter, helping the squad cut Lake Fenton's lead to 36-33 with 3:35 left in

the period. However, Lake Fenton called time and forced steals on Mt. Morris' next three possessions, each resulting in Lake Fenton points. Just when it seemed Mt. Morris was back in the game, Lake Fenton scored 10 straight points, taking a 46-33 lead with 39 seconds left in the third. The run ended with a conventional three-point play by Bell.

Mt. Morris (3-7, 4-9) still trailed 51-41 after a putback hoop by Zielinski with 4:46 left in the fourth, but Mt. Morris had a 12-6 run, establishing its final run at Lake Fenton. However, once that run ended, Miller iced the game with his six last-minute points.

Miller finished with 21 points and nine rebounds. Foerster and Isaac Golston had eight points each, while Zielinski had seven points and four assists. Tyler Browning also provided seven points.

## Girls Basketball

## Mt. Morris 71, Lake Fenton 39

The Blue Devils (3-12) were outscored 20-6 in the first quarter and 25-8 in the fourth, resulting in the loss.

Sierra Arroyo led the Blue Devils with 13 points and four steals, while Sydney Sheyachich had 10 points, Autumn Beardsley netted eight points and swatted four shots. Kim Roe had eight rebounds, while Lauren Oppenheiser had seven.

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# TRI-COUNTY Autos

21A Sunday, February 15, 2015

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## Bigger is better

► Lower gas prices create new market for pickups, vans, SUVs

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Bigger is better when it comes to hot sales numbers for SUVs and trucks during the kick-off automotive sales month of January 2015.

Lower fuel prices means that gas-thirsty vehicles aren't so expensive to fill up, and are driving the higher sales for larger models.

Automakers sold 1.51 million new vehicles last month, according to sales tracker Autodata, 54 percent in the truck category, which includes pickups, vans and SUVs.

That figure is up 13.7 percent from sales in January 2014.

Ford Motor Company reported its sales jumped 15.3 percent, mainly powered by truck sales with its new-design F-150.

According

to Matt Lasco of Lasco Ford in Fenton, the 2015 F-150 is the most exciting vehicle they've had in a decade. "Customer feedback is incredible," he said. "With lower gas prices, customers aren't just heading to vehicles with the highest fuel efficiency; now they're buying what they want to buy."

Truck sales are very strong at Randy Wise GMC Buick in Fenton, reflecting a strong sales trend for the GMC brand nationally, which was up 28.6 percent in January.

Sales Manager Lisa Consiglio said that sales of their luxury, well-equipped brands like Sierra, Yukon and Yukon XL aren't affected much by gas sales. "Our customers who buy trucks are going to buy them regardless of gas prices, because they need them for work or to trailer boats," she said. "We were one of the top dealers in our zone in January and are off to a strong February. I don't think gas prices affect sales in this area as much as in other areas. Incentives are good right now, which is also helping sales."

Jeep is the starring brand for Chrysler, posting its best-ever monthly sales and

See **BIGGER** on 23A



# 54%

The truck category accounted for 54 percent of auto sales in January



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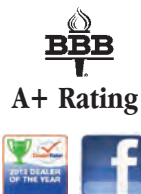
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# Winter car washes

►Clean your vehicle regularly to keep road salt damage at bay

**By Sally Rummel**

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Winter may have its icy grip on Michigan, but you still need to wash and take care of your car or truck to keep up its best performance and value.

Snow, sleet and ice aren't the only enemies a car owner battles in the winter. Road salt can accelerate the rusting process, especially on the undercarriage where salt and snow can be lodged out of sight.

Think of rust-preventive car washing like brushing your teeth, one car expert said. If you do it regularly, you won't get cavities, and even if you do get a cavity, getting it filled will help keep it from getting worse. Rust on metal works the same way.

Here are a few "must-dos" to keep your car well maintained in the winter:

- Wash your car as soon as possible after the salt trucks are out on the roads, keeping in mind that you don't want to freeze up your door locks, trunks or gas caps in frigid weather. To prevent that, lubricate your locks, gas cap and trunk with WD-40 so water can't

penetrate.

- Plan to wash your car once or twice a month at a car wash that has quality equipment to flush the salt and dirt from under the wheel wells, bumpers and rocker panels.

- Once you've washed the vehicle, check it for rust, especially in hard to spot places like inside the doors, around the drain holes in body panels and doors, in the wheel wells and under the car. If you catch rust early and make repairs, it won't become a bigger problem.

- Use rubber or plastic car floor mats to absorb water and any corrosive substances you bring into the car on your shoes or boots.

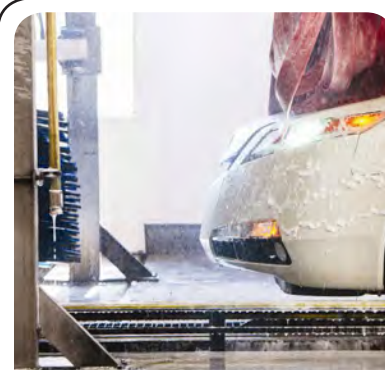
- Replace your windshield wipers for better visibility and to protect your windshield from scratches. When you start to hear a scraping noise across the windshield, it's time to change the wiper blades.

- Apply a water repellent to all glass surfaces on chilly days, to help heavy wet rain, snow, sleet and ice bead up and roll off the windshield.

- Wax your car in either a professional car wash or do-it-yourself in a heated

garage, for added protection against corrosive road salt.

Source: carcare.org



Think of rust-preventive car washing like brushing your teeth. If you do it regularly, you won't get cavities and even if you do get a cavity, getting it filled will help keep it from getting worse.

Rust on metal works the same way.

Source: NYTimes.com

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# Sitting 'idle'

►It's not necessary to 'warm up' the engine before driving, but local mechanics say it's OK

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

We've all heard the idea that your car needs a little time to "warm up" before driving it, especially in the winter. That's why many people across the U.S., especially in cold weather regions, do fire up their engines a few minutes or longer before setting out for the expressway.

Opponents of the practice cite wasting fuel and giving off greenhouse emissions and other types of pollution as reasons not to idle your car.

So, if you have a remote starter or like to go out a few minutes before leaving to "warm up your car," is this a good practice, or will it damage your car in some way?

Nick Schulz, manager at Dewey's Auto Repair in Fenton, said it's better for your vehicle to run a few minutes, especially in bitter cold temperatures. "It gives the fluids a chance to lubricate the engine," he said. "It won't damage your car, as long as your engine has oil pressure."

"You don't score the cylinder walls in the engine if the oil isn't warmed up enough," said Matt Mosier, service advisor at Armstead Automotive in Holly. He recommends idling the car for about 10 minutes "or a little longer if it's below zero. The fluid needs to get up to tem-



perature in the transmission and power steering."

He adds that letting the car idle for a few minutes will allow the alternator to bring up the battery, especially in the case of an older battery. "It's not good to idle for an excessive amount of time, but 10 minutes is good," he said.

Another experienced mechanic, Paul Warman, manager at Linden Complete Auto Repair, lets his car run for five to 10

minutes. "Technically, they say you don't need to do that with the modern technology of cars today, but I do it. It allows the oil to spread all over the engine. I believe it prevents some wear and tear on the engine."

That may not end the controversy over the practice of idling, but car owners who prefer to let their car run for a few minutes before heading out won't pay any consequences other than a few extra dollars for fuel.

## BIGGER

Continued from Page 21A

recording a 44 percent increase by the compact Jeep Cherokee SUV. Rampick-up was up 14 percent. According to an article in USA Today, Chrysler has largely become a truck and SUV company, accounting for 72.5 percent of its sales.

Vic Canever Chevrolet General Sales Manager Matt Stevens says that lower gas prices are making a big difference in truck sales. "Cheaper gas is allowing the truck to fit into more family budgets," he said.

At LaFontaine Used Car King in Fenton, low gas prices have definitely increased the sales of late model trucks like the F-150 and Chevy Silverado. "We're seeing a definite trend toward trucks," said Mieka Winnie, sales associate.

Low gas prices aren't the only reason for escalating auto sales. Buyers have also benefitted from readily available credit, with average interest rates on auto loans at about 4.5 percent. Longer loan terms, now averaging more than 67 months, and a trend toward leasing is making auto sales more affordable.

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Chris Wilkinson,  
Certified Mechanic

**Q:** I have a '84 S10 1/2 ton 2wd pickup 350 with the 350 tranny. It won't shift unless above 2500 rpms, but closer to 3000. It normally shifts by 2000 rpms at about 15 mph but now it won't shift until 35 mph which is a little much. Also, if I go wide open throttle it acts as if I was in neutral until I use a little gas, then it will accelerate again. It down shifts perfect but when shifting up it has to be high rpms. When it does shift, it is a smooth shift. - Jason

**A:** Jason, The first thing that you need to look at is the vacuum modulator on the rear of the transmission. It has a vacuum hose going to it and when you pull the hose off, make sure it does not have any transmission oil in it. Also make sure that it is getting vacuum when the engine is running.

Next thing to check is the governor valve, which is located on the side of the transmission under a small round metal cover. You will need to take the cover off, then the governor will pull out. Next, hold it up and clean it with brake cleaner and shop air while moving the small metal wings on the side in and out. Also make sure the valve in the center moves freely while you are doing this.

Do you have a question that you would like to have answered?

E-mail it to me at:  
askthemechanic@wilkinsonautorepair.com

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