Fun and funds raised at annual dance

Daddy-daughter dance at St. John benefits eighth-grade Washington, D.C. trip

By Tim Jagielo

Fenton — On Saturday, 110 screaming girls reached up toward the stage, as DJ Lorenzo Bradford whipped them into an excited frenzy with giveaways provided by local businesses. Also featured were raffles for diamond earrings and a huge stuffed bear.

Unofficially, February is Daddy Daughter Dance month, and this community-wide dance might have been the last opportunity of the year.

The thought of a daddy-daughter dance may conjure images of emotional slow dances between father and daughter. The one at the St. John Activity Center, however, was more like the tail-end of a fun wedding.

At the daddy-daughter dance on Saturday, 110 girls reach for a chance to get free stuff, tossed from the DJ booth as their daddies watch. The annual dance at the St. John Activity Center aids in funding the St. John School eighth-grade Washington, D.C. trip.

New chapter for Jack R. Winegarden Library

Fenton branch re-opened Monday after a three-month interior renovation project

By Sally Rummel

The Jack R. Winegarden Library in Fenton opened its doors on Monday, following a three-month renovation project that sent book lovers to other library branches in the Genesee District Library (GDL) system for a myriad of services.

The $340,000 project included all interior updates, from creating a more positive direction

Many economic indicators point toward strong 2015 in tri-county area and Michigan

By Sally Rummel

Local economy heading in positive direction

If you want to know how well the economy is doing in your area, you might want to count the number of cars at your local pizza restaurants.

See ECONOMY on 8
Fire destroys building housing classic cars

By Yvonne Stegal
ystegal@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

The Fenton Fire Department was dispatched to a fire at 2426 South Long Lake Rd. at 2:59 p.m. on Monday, March 2. Employees were reporting a fire in the business.

Fenton Fire Chief Bob Cairnduff said they arrived on location to find heavy fire in the ceiling and roof area of the building.

All employees were out of the building and they had removed most of the vehicles in the business prior to the arrival of fire crews. Fenton firefighters were assisted on scene by the city of Linden, Fenton Township, Mundy Township, North Oakland County Fire Authority (NOCFA), and Hartland area fire departments.

Cairnduff said, “The fire was difficult to extinguish as there were multiple layers of roof on the building.” He explained that there was an original steel roof, and then a wood roof over that. This made extinguishment challenging as the fire had many concealed areas.

There were no injuries to any of the employees or firefighters on scene.

The road was closed to traffic as the firefighters worked at putting out the fire and any hot spots. The road opened back up at 8 p.m.

The fire is still under investigation.

Event sets goal of $75,000 to help end childhood hunger

By Sally Rummel
news@tctimes.com; 810-629-6828

Everyone can relate to seeing photos of starving children from across the world, in India, Africa, etc., and wondering what they can possibly do to eliminate the suffering.

Many people may not realize, however, that poverty and hunger actually take place much closer to home. In Genesee County, 32 percent of children live in poverty and do not have basic necessities, including food, according to the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan.

A Fenton Township couple, Tony and Margie Shard, has dedicated themselves for the last four years to help change that through Shard Financial Services’ partnership with the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan’s BackPack program.

This program is designed to provide backpacks full of food for kids to take home over the weekend, when schools can’t help provide for them. One backpack of food includes two breakfasts, two lunches, two dinners and several snacks. A donation of $100 will pay for backpacks of food for a child for an entire school year. $150 will fund backpacks and summer nutrition bags.

Since 2011, the BackPack Night Fundraiser has raised more than $113,000 to help support the BackPack program, which now serves 4,300 children in 99 schools from 14 different counties, including Genesee, Saginaw, Lapeer, Sanilac and Midland.

The BackPack Night Fundraiser is set for this Thursday, March 5 from 6 to 10 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Gateway Center in Mundy Township. This sold-out event of 500 participants will help beat this year’s goal of raising $75,000.

Dr. Partha Nandi, of the ‘Ask Dr. Nandi’ medical/lifestyle TV show, will be a speaker. His topic, “How malnutrition affects children,” will also include information on getting involved, asking each individual to be a health advocate for him- or herself, their family and their community.

For more information, visit: shardnancial.com, and find the page under the events tab.

Pain or Numbness in your Arm or Leg?
Told you need spine surgery? Look to us first.

“I am writing this letter of recommendation to express my sincere gratefulness to Dr. Callard and his staff. I have been suffering from tremendous pain from Sciatica. I have tried everything including injections and nothing worked, until I visited Dr. Callard who has been treating me with Spinal Decompression Therapy and this has truly changed my life.”

Nancy

Our Spinal Decompression is proven Safe, Effective and Painless! Free Consultation. Free Financing Available.

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Police & Fire
HOLLY CRASH

A 62-year-old Holly man, driving his 2012 Jeep Cherokee at an excessive speed on westbound Grange Hall Road Monday morning lost control and crashed into a tree and a sign, causing it to overturn and land in the parking lot at Holly Lanes in Holly Township. The North Oakland County Fire Authority (NOCFA) responders used the Jaws of Life to remove the man from the Jeep. Lt. Michael Shaw of the Michigan State Police-Metro Post said the driver was transported to a local hospital with non-life threatening injuries. There were no other injuries.

SPEED A FACTOR IN HOLLY CRASH

JOB FAIR

Monday, March 9th
10:00am - 1:00pm & 5:00pm - 7:00pm
118 W. Shiawassee Ave, Fenton

We will be accepting applications and interviewing for the following positions:

• PREP
• EXPO
• EXPERIENCED BREAKFAST COOK
• LINE COOK/LEAD
• BREAD TEAM
• PASTRY TEAM
• RETAIL TEAM

Exceptional Time Management, Attention to Detail and Customer Service skills required.
Prior experience in Snacking, Baking, Culinary Arts or Retail is helpful.

UNABLE TO ATTEND OUR JOB FAIR?
Find applications on our website: lunchandbeyond.com or crustandbeyond.com

Firefighters work for hours to put flames out

TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELLO

Several fire departments including Fenton City and Fenton and Mundy townships respond to a commercial structure fire on South Long Lake Road in Fenton on Monday.
Finally: new Fenton Community & Cultural Center to debut in spring

$1.8 million dream project nearing completion after 10-year endeavor

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

The Fenton Community & Cultural Center is just weeks away from its debut to the community, following years of planning and months of building and renovations.

This building is one of several projects including the library, Fire Hall restaurant, cornerstone building and streetscape project, that herald a new era for the city of Fenton.

“It will be about six to eight weeks before the building is turned over to us for use,” said Pat Lockwood, chairman of the Fundraising Committee. Bob Burek stepped down as co-chair last summer after most of the fundraising was completed, but said he will work with Lockwood on “tying up any loose ends.”

A donor Open House, followed by a public Open House the next day, have

See CENTER on 8

“I give major credit to the City Council, DDA, Community Center Board and business and individual donors who enabled us to get where we are today with this project.”

Bob Burek
Former co-chair of Fundraising Committee
How Democrats lost white voters

While talking to black and white Republicans recently about the Grand Old Party’s outreach efforts to voters of color, I wondered: What are Democrats doing to reach working-class whites?

More than a simple written—some of it by me—about how desperately Grand Old Party leaders seek to woo voters of color back to the GOP.

The surprisingly robust exodus of Hispanic voters, anxious with young voters, too, in Mitt Romney’s racially lopsided 2012 presidential election loss convinced GOP chairman Reince Priebus and other moderate GOP leaders that, yes, maybe it’s time to spend serious time and dollars on expanding the party’s voting base. After last year’s surprisingly large Republican victories, Democrats are asking themselves a similar question: How can the fabled “party of labor” expand its outreach to its own largest bloc of demographic defects, working-class whites?

What happens to the black vote after President Barack Obama leaves the White House? Will Democratic gains in presidential elections be offset by Republican gains in mid-terms? Hillary Clinton looks strong in national polls but has a history of snatching defeat out of the jaws of victory. Today’s partisan racial divide took shape a half-century ago as the hard-won victories of the civil rights revolution coincided with the decline of high-paying, low-skill industrial jobs. As long-overdue opportunities opened up for women and minorities, they began to dry up for workers who lacked enough education beyond high school. Where, many reasonably asked, were the affirmative action programs for white workers? Many Democrats still ask why so many working-class whites “vote against their economic interests.”

As the Republicans’ post-2012 autopsy found, working-class voters understand their interests. Obama’s victory was helped not only by voters of color but also by working-class white voters who switched to Obama or didn’t vote at all. It is important to ask why voters don’t vote their economic interests. But I think the most important question in politics, regardless of race, creed or color, is simply, “Who’s on my side?”

MORE NBC LIES. Their website quotes Netanyahu as saying “Thank you for your support to President Obama. His actual statement to Obama was “Thank you for THAT support,” in reference to a singular event.

BECAUSE I SIGNED up for Obamacare that I couldn’t even use last year. I know can’t do my income taxes, waiting for their paperwork. Are they going to give me an extension, since it isn’t my fault? No, I’ll just get more fees and penalties I can’t afford. Thanks Obama.

I REMEMBER THE Pink Poodle. What about Haskin’s Restaurant and the Fenton Restaurant? Awesome. Fenton was the good old days.

I LOVE THE stupid remarks in the paper about global warming and climate change. Now their somebody doesn’t even understand what wind chill is.

I’LL MAKE A deal with you, you pay my heating bill and I’ll never burn wood again.

CAN’T YOU PEOPLE figure out that if the schools are closed when it’s sub-zero the school district does not have to keep the schools as warm as they do when the kids are in there. Therefore, the bill goes down.

I’M OVER 80 and Chriiea Clinton turned 50 last month. I would vote for her in a second. That lady is one smart cookie.

UNDER THE OBAMA. Clinton, Kerry foreign policy, our allies no longer trust us and our enemies no longer fear us. They have placed our foreign policies into a very weak position and our national security at risk. He has violated our public trust as commander-in-chief.

YOU’RE WORRIED ABOUT the next presi-dent getting the ISIS war. What about Obama getting the two Bush wars for the last six years.

I PAY A lot of money for homeowner’s insurance to have a wood burner. So how about my neighbor cut their grass outside in freezing weather, then go ahead. Most people aren’t that cruel.

I COULD SPEND $7,000 to install a catalytic combustor in my wood stove, but that would negate the point. It’s about saving money for my family. If you want to pay my natural gas bill, I’d be happy to never burn a piece of wood again. As long as it’s legal, we’ll be burning.

I’D BE HAPPY if someone did 50 on my road. That’s 10 or 20 miles slower than they go any other day.

WHY IS IT they make the tire pressure requirements the smallest thing on the tire, the one thing you need to read.

See HOT LINE throughout Times

The best pricing around

on new, high-efficiency Comfort-Air Furnace

95% efficiency 12 year warranty on parts & labor

D&T Heating and Cooling Co.

810-266-5167

11097 Silver Lake Rd. • Byron, MI 48418

THE BEST PRICING AROUND

FROM THE LEFT

Clarence Page
Nationally syndicated columnist

FROM THE RIGHT

Gal Thomas
Nationally syndicated columnist

Who loves America?

Rudy Giuliani, the former mayor of New York City, is taking some heat—and winning praise in some quarters—for remarks he made at a private dinner last week at which he questioned President Obama’s patriotism.

Speaking at Manhattan’s upscale ‘21 Club’ at a gathering of economic conservatives hosting potential Republican presidential candidates (Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker attended this one), Giuliani said: ‘I do not believe, and I know this is a horrible thing to say, but I do not believe that the president loves America. He wasn’t brought up the way you were brought up and I was brought up through love of this country.’

The White House fired back, agreeing with Giuliani that it was a horrible thing to say.

Giuliani refused to retract his comment in several subsequent TV interviews, but he added that the president seems to spend more time apologizing for America and criticizing the nation than he does praising it. That is legitimate commentary, but questioning the president’s love for America is not.

‘My country, right or wrong’ is a sentiment long attributed to Commodore Stephen Decatur, one of the fathers of the U.S. Navy. In 1804, he led an expedition that succeeded in freeing sailors aboard the USS Philadelphia, which had been seized by Barbary pirates off Tripoli. Decatur later set sail for North Africa in command of nine ships that effectively destroyed the pirates’ operations and resulted in a treaty.

On returning home in 1816, Decatur was celebrated as the Conqueror of Araby. At a banquet in his honor he said, ‘Our country! May she always be in the right, but right or wrong, our country!’

We should have a debate on what has made America great and worth loving and not on whether the president loves the country. Debate the president’s policies, yes. Ascribing motives to him gets us nowhere.

There is — or ought to be — a difference between jingoistic expressions of love for America and the kind of love that can admit error while celebrating the virtues that make people want to come here.

Compiled by Alexis Rose, intern

street talk

What is your favorite book of all time?

“The Giver” by Lois Lowry. It kept my at-tention and interest throughout the whole book.” — Gail Cremer • Linden

“The Tea Rose” by Jennifer Donnelly because the characters are inter-esting and the book is over a 40 year span.” — Emily Kuberski • Fenton Township

“On the Road” by Jack Kerouac because I like where it takes me and it puts me in a place that I like.” — Chuck Cornille • Burns Township

“I enjoy all books, but I really enjoy romance novels.” — Cindy Nicholas • Burns Township

“Of Mice and Men” by John Steinbeck because it just left an impression on me.” — Kris Miller • Fenton

“My favorite books would have to be the murder mysteries.” — Cathy Moore • Fenton
Fenton First Presbyterian celebrates 175 years

A tribute to family and church’s Scottish heritage

By Emily Stocker
news@tctimes.com; 810-629-6282

Fenton — On Saturday, Feb. 28, the Fenton First Presbyterian Church began the celebration of their 175th anniversary. Originally organized as the “First Presbyterian Church of Fentonville,” on Feb. 28, 1840, it was one of oldest houses of worship in Fenton.

The current sanctuary was dedicated in 1863; the original building, which stood at the corner of Adelaide and Rockwell, was destroyed by fire in 1863. Over the last 175 years, Fenton First Presbyterian has had 32 pastors. With the recent retirement of Rev. Dale Swihart Jr., the church had two interim ministers both participating in the weekend’s events.

The celebration’s presentations included William Murray, a bagpipe player, Hodgkin Highland Scottish dancers, the Dibbleville Dolls playing Scottish music, and historical games. A video paying tribute to the church’s history played throughout the afternoon in the sanctuary. Interim minister, Rev. David Eshleman said of the celebration, “You’ll notice the Scottish influences in many areas of our celebration. The bagpipe player, the Hodgkin Highlanders, even the food served today,” he said. “The Presbyterian church has roots in Scotland. Many of our ministers have been of Scottish descent.”

The success of the weekend event was apparent as every seat was sold out during the dedications and presentations. The warm greetings and kindness of the congregation made for smiles on those in attendance.

Rev. David Eshleman
Interim minister

“'You’ll notice the Scottish influences in many areas of our celebration. The bagpipe player, the Hodgkin Highlanders, even the food served.’”

POLICE & FIRE

HOT LINE CONTINUED

NOT ALL the funding currently allocated for Michigan roads is going to fund roads. Why? What is the plan to fund Michigan roads without raising taxes? If passed, families can expect to pay an extra $800 average per year in higher taxes. Can you afford it?

DID MICHIGAN LEGISLATORS have to vote to approve the 1 percent sales tax increase ballot proposal? If so, would the Times please let us know how our local representatives voted? Thank you.

THE DDA IS turning Fenton into what I moved to Fenton to get away from.

HOW CAN WE get more ‘call centers’ brought back to this country? I am so tired of speaking with people in the Philippines, India and Mexico. We need jobs for people who don’t have a lot of education. They certainly could answer a phone and read from a script.

SINCE THE TYRONE Township trustees and officers just approved themselves a nice 5 percent raise, they can pay for the increased cost of the public safety (sewer) tax themselves.

MAN CRASHES VEHICLE, FLEES

A 21-year-old Fenton Township man has an April 13 court date for operating a vehicle while intoxicated, failing to report a crash and possession of marijuana. Lt. Jason Slater of the Fenton Police Department said at 2:35 a.m. on Feb. 27, an officer observed a 2002 GMC Denali that had crashed into a concrete retaining wall near the 1100 block of Toney Road. There were no occupants, however, tracks led to the Georgetown apartment complex and a witness told police they saw a man running in that direction. Fenton police were assisted by deputies with the Genesee County Sheriff’s Department in locating the driver. The driver, who appeared to be highly intoxicated, was located. A preliminary breath test (PBT) revealed a .19 percent blood alcohol content (BAC). Marijuana cigarettes were recovered from the man. Follow-up PBTs at the police station revealed a .20 BAC. The man admitted to driving and crashing the vehicle.

“Fire it Up” FUNDRAISER

New Commercial Stove and Ovens

March 7th • Auction at 7 PM

Fenton VFW • 1148 N. Leroy St. • Fenton

Come In and Browse starting at 3 PM
(Cash, Checks, and MO Accepted)

Auction at 7 PM • Drawing at 8 PM
and a Silent Auction

Food & Munchies
Available

Must have Money
Raffle Ticket to attend
Pre-sold and sold at door!

Any questions contact Bonnie at 810-516-6721

On Sale
1 for $2 or 3 for $5

Our VFW Post and Auxiliaries provide meals for Fish Fry, Double XX, Shriners, Lions dinners, Receptions, Funerals, other Functions and caterings. All our cooking helps us as we work our programs for our Veterans, their families, and the area communities and our members.

FUNDRAISER

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Bake Sales

Continued from Front Page

Schools to offer healthier snack foods for children, while limiting junk food. These standards apply to all foods and beverages, as well as vending machine snacks that are available in the school.

This means no fundraiser foods that are ready-to-eat. According to the rules, things like Girl Scout cookies, frozen pizzas and cookie dough are exempt, because they are not meant for immediate consumption. These standards do not apply to fundraiser foods held during non-school hours, on weekends and off school campuses.

State Rep. Phil Potvin, R-Saradale, is trying to make a change and get school bake sales back in schools. He has introduced House Bill 4230 and a resolution in the Michigan House of Representatives that would make Michigan exempt from the federal Smart Snacks in School standards.

Federal law allows states to pass exemptions to determine if a set amount of in-school food fundraisers will be allowed, but currently Michigan is not one of the 21 states that do allow this.

If the foods at the bake sale fit into the requirements of the Smart Snacks in School guidelines, they can be sold. Some of the standards include being whole grain-rich, no more than 200 calories and contain 10 percent of the recommended daily allowance (RDA) of calcium, vitamin D or dietary fiber.

Assistant Superintendent Julie Williams, at Lake Fenton schools said, “When the new requirements were released for healthy school lunches, it included language about any type of food items available during the school day. We have had to stop bake sales, candy and other fundraisers and had to do some research to change the products we use for popcorn sales in the buildings.”

These are many changes, especially when many school programs rely on the money they make from fundraisers and bake sales for trips and other forms.

Dance

Continued from Front Page

reception or a party where the DJ only catered to kids, who pretty much ran things.

Pop music pounded across the Activity Center of St. John Catholic Church. Dads lined the dance floor facing a wall of black suits as their girls danced, hula hooped and chased each other around.

Many had their faces painted, and they all enjoyed light refreshments when taking breaks from dancing. There were also raffle items, like a pair of diamond-studded earrings and a 7-foot tall stuffed bear.

While held at the campus of St. John’s, the annual dance was open to anyone. It was a fundraiser for the St. John School eighth-grade Washington, D.C. trip.

The dance was parent-driven, with a goal of getting 100 girls to the party. Cathy Myers organized the dance. She said the trip used to be for the Boy Scouts, but the trip to D.C. was getting too expensive. “It almost came to the point where people couldn’t afford to go any more,” she said. The trip became a benefit to get the eighth-grade class to D.C. instead.

Students who would benefit from the fundraiser were on hand to do face painting, clean up and check coats. After the party ended, eighth-grade boys jumped up to retrieve helium-filled balloons, and dispatched them with a stomp. Dads and daughters no-doubt left the party with new, fun memories, and maybe a giant stuffed bear.

Summary

- The daddy-daughter dance at the St. John Activity Center hosted 110 girls and their dads on Saturday. To them, it was a fun party — to the students at St. John School, it was an important fundraiser.

Senate Bill 71: Extend, expand job-training subsidies to some employers

To eliminate the $50 million debt cap in a 2008 law that authorized state job training subsidies for particular employers, provided through community colleges. Other bills in the package would make this program perpetual and prohibit companies granted subsidies under a different program (see next bill) from “double dipping.” By taking subsidies from both programs.

Passed 37 to 0 in the Senate

Sen. Robert Farmer (R-Dist. 14) NO 34 YES 3

Sen. Mike Kowall (R-Dist. 18) YES 35 NO 0

Sen. Joe Hune (R-Dist. 22) YES 35 NO 0

Sen. Jim Ananich (D-Dist. 27) YES 35 NO 0

Sen. Ken Horn (R-Dist. 32) YES 35 NO 0

House Bill 4110: Revise school aid budget

To shift funding sources in the current year school budget to compensate for lower than expected balances in the state general fund. This is due to higher than expected payments to corporations granted tax credits (often cash subsidies) by the previous administration. The unexpected draw-down of some state accounts comes despite revenue collections actually rising faster than spending this year. The bill also reduces spending to reflect lower than expected school enrollment, and suspends payments intended to “catch up” on underfunding of the school pension system.

Passed 23 to 14 in the Senate

Sen. David Robertson (R-Dist. 14) NO 11 YES 22

Sen. Mike Kowall (R-Dist. 18) YES 23 NO 1

Sen. Joe Hune (R-Dist. 22) YES 23 NO 1

Sen. Jim Ananich (D-Dist. 27) NO 1 YES 23

Sen. Ken Horn (R-Dist. 32) NO 1 YES 23

Senate Bill 34: Revise concealed pistol license procedures

To eliminate county concealed pistol licensing boards, and transfer their duties to the State Police and county clerks. Personal protection order provisions that triggered a Governor’s veto of a similar bill last year have been removed.

Passed 76 to 34 in the House

Rep. Joe Graves (R-Dist. 51) YES 76 NO 34

Rep. Hank Vapal (R-Dist. 47) YES 76 NO 34

Hot Line

It’s pretty bad when you can collect a paycheck for doing nothing — you know how to work the system.

The Republicans basically have nine things they want to bring to our country again. They are new jobs, repeating ObamaCare, cutting taxes, securing our borders and reforming immigration, boosting trade, stopping spending, expanding American energy, strengthening our military and protecting our freedoms. These are all things Obama has been against and doing nothing about. It goes to show another look at the Republican Party.

Why do they blow commercials for sex products on TV? Don’t they realize children are watching TV? Sure, they are sending out a good message.

The sales tax hike is just that and nothing else. The roads aren’t going to turn into beautiful highways.
Library
Continued from Front Page
open floor plan to adding new carpeting, paint, new tile downstairs, updated electrical and lighting, upgraded computer lab, new shelving downstairs, new ceiling and tile downstairs, new plumbing fixtures in both the main floor and downstairs restrooms, plus new tile in the upstairs restrooms.

The circulation desk on the main floor is all new, with the project including some new furniture and other pieces that have been reused.

The biggest “wow” factor? “The space is so much more open and functional,” said Librarian Chris Heron. She said that her staff is thrilled with the updates, even though they all worked 250 hours to have all the checkout materials remain to be sorted and re-shelved.

“I think it’s great,” said Library Assistant Jason Bias. “I love the openness, that you can see around everything. I also like how the look has been all updated, while keeping the historical integrity. It still feels like a cool old building.”

The public response was very positive during the library’s “soft opening” on Monday, which gave library staff a chance to get accustomed to the surroundings, while showing off the new interior to visitors. “Isn’t it beautiful?” said Bev Juip of Fenton who stopped into the library while doing some errands.

Some of the first people through the doors on Monday included City Manager Lynn Markland and Assistant City Manager Mike Burns.

“We definitely learned some things during those few weeks that we wish we had known beforehand,” said Burns, referring to the discovery of asbestos and lead paint in the 77-year-old building, which delayed the completion of the project by about six weeks.

Begun on Dec. 1, the project’s tentative completion date was mid-January, but was extended to early March. In spite of these glitches, Burns praised the renovations. “It’s a phenomenal project,” he said.

The updates can be experienced as soon as you walk through the front door. The first wall that used to greet library patrons was knocked down halfway, with openings to create a more open space for the computer lab. “We’ve got 16 computers between both floors, but you’d never know it because they were so spread out,” said Heron.

Turning the bookshelves in a whole new direction also creates the illusion of much more space. “We made our floor plan as functional as possible, to benefit our programming, circulation and computer access,” said Heron. “We totally opened the floor plan on both floors, upstairs in the main library and downstairs in the children’s and teen areas.”

While Monday’s opening was a quiet event, a Grand Opening for the public has been set for Thursday, March 19 from 6 to 8 p.m. “We’ll have tours and refreshments, plus entertainment by Boogie Woogie Piano Man Matthew Ball,” said Heron.

The $340,000 project was funded primarily by the Fenton DDA which supplied $310,000, plus $10,000 from the city’s general fund and $19,000 in donations.

Heron praised the cooperation of all the people who were involved in the project. “It really took a lot of entities to make this happen,” she said. “The Linden Library took on our patrons for three months, even handling ‘holds’ and opening on Fridays for us. It’s nice to have a neighboring community that was very supportive.”

911
Continued from Front Page

to send a text in an emergency situation. Not letting an intruder know your whereabouts, a text message could quietly alert authorities of your need for help. These and others may be cases in which texting ‘911’ would be a better option than a call. The new service will also be helpful for those who are deaf or hearing impaired.

Holly Village Police Chief Michael Story said, “Anything that comes along with the services of Oakland County, our residents will get, and the cost for the changeover was negligible.”

Even a text of “help” will generate a response. Your location will be triangulated with local cell towers, just as phone calls are now. Because of the cooperation with service providers like Verizon wirelessly and AT&T, which already in place, there will be no additional expense to operate text-to-911.

Mel Maier, chief emergency management operations for the Oakland County Sheriff’s Office, said, “There is no extra cost for the county to incur on this.”

Last year, 84 percent of the 911 calls to the Oakland County Sheriff’s Office came through cell phones, Maier said. An increasing number of phones offer video and image transfers. The sheriff’s office is already trying to prepare staff for what’s to be a “huge change” in dispatch, thinking about such changes as whether to put dispatchers face-to-face with people using video-streaming apps for help.

Maier reminds residents to, “Call when you can; text when you can’t.” The text-to-911 service works much like any text-message conversation, with the operator using a web browser to respond within seconds. He emphasizes that it is much more efficient to have a voice conversation whenever possible. Holly’s transition to Oakland County dispatch appears to be heading into the technological future of 911.

Recent history of Holly dispatch

Until the summer of 2013, the Holly Police Department had their own 911 dispatch center for the village of Holly. That spring, the Holly Village Council held several meetings and discussions, considering contracting dispatch services with the Oakland County Communications Center, for $100,000 in annual savings. After much impassioned debate, the Village Council voted to close the local dispatch, which was outdated according to Michigan law, and contract instead with Oakland County.

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Continued from Front Page

Next Generation 911 (NG911)
Next Generation 911 is an Internet protocol-based system that allows digital information for not only voice and text messages, but also photos and videos as well to seamlessly inform the public, through the 911 network and on to emergency responders. While the technology is now available, the implementation is much more involved. The national 9111 program supports efforts of all jurisdictions at all levels of government as they consider the transition to NG911. 911.gov
HOT LINE CONTINUED

RIGHT IS RIGHT; wrong is wrong. God’s law matters more than our personal feelings. These principles are not taught in today’s public institutions. Most people under 50 will not understand them.

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ECONOMY
Continued from Front Page

Pizza sales increase when more people have jobs, according to Patrick Doyle, CEO of Detroit-based Do it Inc., in a recent news story about the economy in The Detroit Free Press.

Locally, Mark Rummel of Mancino’s Pizza & Grinders said that pizza sales are up close to 20 percent this year at his Fenton Township business. “While pizza sales don’t suffer as much in a bad economy because it’s still an affordable dining out choice, sales really increase during good economic times. People just seem to have more money in their pocket, especially with lower gas prices.”

Obviously, pizza isn’t a formal indicator of an area’s strong economy. The state’s lowering unemployment rate, and low gas prices that fuel auto sales and put extra cash in people’s pockets have a lot to say about Michigan’s economic direction in 2015. Real estate is also a strong indicator of the economic health of the tri-county area.

“There are 137 pending sales of residential homes in the Fenton, Lake Fenton and Linden markets,” said Patrak Weitz of Legacy Realty in Fenton. “There’s high demand, but still a lack of inventory. Prices are going in a positive direction and people are willing to pay more to live in our area.”

University of Michigan economists predict nearly 60,000 new jobs for 2015 and another 73,000 in 2016. The state added 39,000 new jobs from November 2013 to November 2014.

Here are five key trends that experts expect for the Michigan economy this year:
• Gas prices will power additional spending and jobs. The Detroit Three automakers, with many products in the bigger vehicle truck and SUV market, are expected to benefit as car buyers head to local showrooms.
• Tourism will fuel job growth. Michigan’s hospitality sector — hotels, resorts and tourist destinations — are flourishing, especially in the northern part of the state. This sector is expected to add about 9,000 jobs this year.
• Manufacturers won’t add many jobs, as the auto industry can handle most of the demand for new cars with its existing plants. The manufacturing sector is expected to add only 6,000 jobs in 2015, according to U-M economists. By comparison, it added 77,000 manufacturing jobs from 2011-13.
• Investors will seek out downtown Detroit. Economic development officials report a renewed interest in professional investors in downtown Detroit, following the resolution of the city’s Chapter 9 bankruptcy. With a plan in place to overhaul city services and drastically reduce blight, Detroit has a much greater appeal to investors. Most investment will concentrate in the central business district, not reaching out to the city’s poor neighborhoods.
• The temporary staffing sector will continue to grow. Temporary jobs and contract positions have represented an estimated 45 percent of Michigan’s job growth since 2009, according to federal figures. Employers are leaning heavily on temporary jobs to create flexible workforces, making it easier for them to shed jobs as the economy shifts. More companies will add temporary jobs in 2015.
Tigers post several records, state times at conference meet

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

It was a good weekend for the Fenton varsity boys swim team. The Tigers posted state-qualifying times.

The team won eight of the 12 conference championships at the Metro League meet on route to winning the event. The squad also clinched its third Metro League championship in the process.

Fenton had quality and quantity at its disposal, resulting in the first-place finish at the Metro League meet with a team score of 567, 58 points ahead of second-place Swartz Creek/Flushing. Saturday’s meet victory at Fenton High School, coupled with Fenton’s undefeated dual season record locked up the outright title for the Tigers for the third straight season.

The best part is Fenton remains very young, making repeat performances seem pretty much inevitable during the near future.

“We are very pleased with the way we swam this weekend,” Fenton boys varsity swim coach Brad Jones said. “We knew at the beginning of the season that it was going to be important for everyone to contribute in order to win the state meet.”

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Bronchos end Metro season perfect 14-0

Holly makes it two straight league championships

By Jordan Clime
dropens@cttimes.com

Holly — A win against Brandon on Friday night would be icing on the cake for the Holly boys basketball team, and the 48-28 victory couldn’t have tasted sweeter.

“It’s for the community and the fans, the ones who come out every game on Tuesdays and Fridays and whenever and support us,” senior guard Parker Rowe said. “It’s really special. It’s a special bond.”

That bond between the team and the fans saw both relish in the victory over the Blackhawks to go 14-0 in the Flint Metro League, the ninth program in the league to ever accomplish an undefeated league season.

For Holly, however, it was the first time in their history that it went undefeated in league play.

According to Rowe, this was a feat waiting to happen.

“It’s a program,” he said. “The coaches and staff here do a great job building raw talent.”

That talent was comprised of seven seniors, three of which were four-year starters for the Bronchos, a group that included Rowe, Morgan Baylis and Isaac Casillas. Jake Daniels is also a four-year starter, with two of those seasons coming at Holly.

Holly head coach Lance Baylis says “the key word is maturity” for this season group.

“Physically, mentally, it’s all there,” he said. “They played together growing up, in AAU, they play together year-round. They know each other.

“They play as a unit, and when you do that, you play as a team.”

Only six players from the Bronchos scored Friday night, but the stat sheet doesn’t tell the whole story. From experienced senior to fresh-on-the-floor sophomore, the Bronchos dominated from end to end, scoring when they felt the need and defending like their life depended on it.

“We knew we could score with anybody,” Baylis said. “At practice, the majority we spend on defense.”

It showed. No Blackhawk reached double-digits in scoring. For the Bronchos, Daniels had 11. But it was junior Ian Hodges that led the game with 14 points, 11 of those coming in the second half.

It was that trickling down of talent that makes the Bronchos deadly, and the seniors know how to make sure they bring out the best in the underclassmen.

“Experience helps tremendously,” Rowe said. “We know what it’s like to be here. We help them.”

For Baylis, it’s all about knowing your role on the team.

“The younger guys understand their role,” he said. “They’re going to get to show it next year.”

But for this season, there’s still a long way to go. Holly has one more regular season, non-league game, and then they step into the playoffs.

BOYS BOWLING

Division 2 regional bowling at Capitol Bowl: Individually, Fenton’s John Craycraft qualified for the state meet, placing fifth at regionals with a six-game series score of 1,148. The top 10 bowlers qualified for the state meet. Craycraft started off the pace with a 174 first game, but followed that game with a 223 and a 219, putting him comfortably within the top 10 at the halfway point. He ended up doing 72 pins better than 11th place.

Fenton’s next best bowler was Drew Garrison who placed 17th with a 1,049 series.

Linden’s top bowler was Trevor Sundria. He took 30th with a 997 series.

In the team competition, Linden placed 12th with a total of 3,201 pins, while Fenton was 14th with 3,003 pins. The top three teams qualified for the state meet.

Division 2 regional at Oak Lanes: Holly had quite a few near-misses in regional competition. The team missed qualifying for the state meet by one place, taking fourth with a team pin total of 3,772. Third-place South Lyon was the last qualifier with a score of 3,893. Individually, two bowlers came close to qualifying. Vladimir Craycraft placed 11th with a pinfall total of 1,139 pins, while Matt Harrison placed 12th with a total of 1,137. The top 10 individuals qualified, and the 10th-place bowler qualified with a six-game series of 1,141. Craycraft started strong with games of 212, 215 and 245, but he averaged just a 155.7 over the final three games, including bowling a 140 in his final game. Harrison had games of 237 and 209 during his six games, but bowled a 139 in his final game to miss qualifying.

GIRLS BOWLING

Division 2 regional bowling at Capitol Bowl: Individually, the area’s best bowler was Linden’s Molly Churches, placing 43rd with a six-game series of 772.

The Fenton Tigers were led by Molly Beck who placed 49th with a 752 series.

In team competition, Fenton took 11th with a team total of 2,395. Linden was 12th with a total of 2,268.

Division 2 regional at Oak Lanes: Holly’s Hannah Babon placed 18th at regionals with a six-game series of 978. The top 10 individuals advanced to the state meet.

In team competition, the Bronchos placed sixth with a total pinfall count of 2,948. The top three teams qualified for the state meet.

COMPETITIVE CHEER

Lake Fenton on Division 3 regional: The Blue Devils saw their season come to an end at the David regional, placing 12th. The team posted a 649.06 team score for the three rounds. The squad’s best performance came in round three. The team’s 277.20 posted 11th among the squads at the regional.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Linden JV 68, Fenton 47: The Eagles outscored Fenton 45-24 in the second half, leading the squad to the victory. Gavin Lund led the Eagles with 17 points, while Josh Bell netted 12. Garrett Strang had 11 points.

TRI-COUNTY TIMES

MARK BOLEN

(Above) Holly’s varsity boys basketball team poses after finishing its 14-0 Metro League season on Friday.

(Right) Adam Tooley attacks the basket in the Bronchos’ 48-20 victory against Brandon.

“We’re right there we think; we have a shot,” Rowe said of Holly’s chances in the postseason. “We take it one day at a time.”

The always-passionate Baylis won’t let them rest on their laurels, and a 14-0 league record is nowhere near the best they can do.

“Our motto is ‘we gotta get better,’” he said. “We have to keep getting better.”

Holly hosted non-league Milford for its final regular season game on Tuesday.
**Fenton defeats Linden Eagles, 59-39**

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

Fenton — The Fenton varsity girls basketball team struggled shooting the ball in a loss to Carman-Ainsworth on Tuesday.

The Lady Tigers struggled with their shooting against Linden on Friday night.

However, the Tigers (10-10) found a way to make up for their shooting woes against the Eagles. They hit the offensive glass, and hit it big time.

The Tigers had 25 offensive rebounds and scored 28 points on those offensive grabs, helping lead Fenton to a 59-39 victory in what was the last game of the regular season for the two area rivals.

“That’s pretty big,” Fenton coach Becki Moore said. “That’s something they take a lot of pride in. That’s effort. We are working through some stuff, too. We talked about how we shot on Tuesday, and when you are coming off of Goodrich, Flushing and Carman, it’s like we had to find a way to stay up. And then we came into this game playing our rivals. … They keep battling, and that’s a testament to them.”

The Tigers only hit on 21 of 58 shots (36 percent), but the offensive boards made up for the low shooting percentage. Emma Ebo grabbed a team-high 15 rebounds, while Sarah Cummings had 12 boards. The pair were able to convert those rebounds into points.

Cummings led all scorers with 18 points, including 12 in the second half. Meanwhile, Ebo had 14 points, with 12 coming in the opening three quarters.

“That really is the game,” Linden coach Ben Varner said. “That’s what I told them. They just killed us rebounding and that at least half of it. If we rebound a few times on their missed free throws in the first half, we are not losing at halftime. We are up two or tied, something like that. And if we are up or tied, you never know what happens in the second half.”

Linden is a short team. It’s expected the Tigers are going to out-rebound the Eagles, but no one would’ve expected the difference seen on Friday. Fenton scored 12 points on 18 offensive boards in the first half. That helped the Tigers take a 24-20 lead into the half. In the second half, things didn’t get much better for the Eagles as Fenton continued to score on second- and third-chances.

“That third quarter they basically played volleyball on their offensive end,” Varner said. “They had four shots, five shots. It was tough.”

It wasn’t until the third quarter that the Tigers, who lost to Linden earlier this season at Linden, blew the game open.

Fenton opened the second half on a 10-1 run. During the spree, Ebo had two put-back hoops for buckets. The final two points of the run came on one of those putbacks. By the time Linden called time the Tigers trailed 34-21 with 1:39 left in the third quarter. For good measure, the Tigers scored four more points off offensive boards before the quarter was over.

See TIGERS’ on 12
**Tigers’**
Continued from Page 11

The first two resulted in Cummings going to the line and netting two free throws. The final second-chance points came when Chloe Foor rebounded a miss. Eventually that board became a Katie Caimballi assist on a Cummings hoop. Carly Granger capped the quarter with a steal and a layup, giving the Tigers a 40-22 lead entering the fourth. Linden (8-13) never seriously threatened the lead in the fourth.

Cummings also had three assists to go with her 18 points and 15 boards. Katie Conroy had seven points and three steals, while Granger had six points. Foor had eight rebounds, while Emma Brant had seven rebounds.

Linden was paced by Taylor Smith, who netted a game-high 20 points. Sterling Degayner had 13 points. No one had more than three rebounds for Linden.

Fenton begins Class A action at Holland against Brandon at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday. Linden lost to Grand Blanc in its district opener on Monday 55-45. Check elsewhere in this edition for more details on the Eagles’ district contest.

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**DEVILS**
Continued from Page 9

court, resulting in a 68-66 loss at Lake Fenton High School.

"We’ve learned a little more about the community and am getting to know the families and the administrators that have been out to support us," VanBuren said. "That’s a big deal to me and the girls because I want to be here for awhile. This isn’t a situation where I’m planning on jumping ship after one, two or three years."

"I think we have kids that ... want to put basketball as their primary sport or their main sport. I think we can build a program that kids will be proud about, and make them see that they are a basketball player and they can be proud about it."

The Blue Devils (5-16) experienced their share of ups and downs during Monday’s contest. Led by Tyesha Bowers, the Lady Knights jumped out to a 12-0 lead. Bowers scored five of those points and forced two of Southwestern’s three steals during the run. Before the Blue Devils knew it, they trailed 21-5 after one quarter.

Lake Fenton settled down after that. After turning the ball over three times and not hitting a field goal in the first quarter, the Blue Devils turned the ball over just five times and hit on an efficient 7-of-12 from the field, helping the Blue Devils cut the gap to 29-20 at the half.

At the start of the third quarter, Lake Fenton took charge of the contest and had its best moments of the game during it. Amanda Beardsley hit two free throws and Sydney Sheyachich assisted a Lauren Oppenheimer jumper, cutting the Southwestern gap to 32-24. The run continued until Lake Fenton’s Sierra Arroyo hit an inside hoop, cutting the Southwestern lead to just 32-27 with 5:51 remaining in the third quarter.

However, that was as close as Lake Fenton came to the lead. Southwestern ended the quarter with a 19-4 run, raising the gap to 51-31 entering the fourth period. Lake Fenton never seriously threatened in the fourth.

Arroyo led the Blue Devils with nine points, while Sheyachich and Oppenheimer had seven points each.

Kim Roe and Autumn Beardsley had six points each. Kaitlyn Begley had five points and six rebounds.

Class A District Victory

**Grand Blanc 55, Linden 45**

It was a good start but a tough ending for the Linden Eagles (8-13).

The Eagles led by as many as 15 late in the second quarter, but Grand Blanc put together a strong second half, leading the Bobcats to the Class A district victory at Linden High School on Monday night.

Linden led 25-16 at halftime. However, Grand Blanc scored 39 second-quarter points to take over control in the second half. It started with a three-pointer at the start of the third quarter, and never ended.

The Eagles were paced by Taylor Smith’s game-high 6 points. Megan Kenney chipped in 10 points and a team-high 10 rebounds. Sterling Degayner was held to just six points and seven rebounds. Alexis Brandt netted five points.

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**Linden**
Continued from Page 9

know when the last time Linden beat Fenton was. “It feels good because we’ve played them the last three times and really played with them. Last year it was a tie game in the fourth here. At our place, we had a chance to win at the buzzer. Earlier this year we had a chance to win. It’s great for my seniors and 12 great for the community for the guys to play like that in front of a lot of people.”

The contest was a back-and-forth affair all night. Fenton jumped to a 10-0 lead to start the game. A driving layup from a dish from Dillon Gardner capped that run. However, by the end of the first, Linden was trailing just 14-10 and was right back into the game.

Fenton’s final decent lead came at 36-30 with 49 seconds left in the third quarter on a nice Ben Hajciar dish to Chris Gilbert for a trey. However, the Eagles responded just 12 seconds later when Kevin Hooberling drove, scored on a layup and converted a free throw after being fouled on the play. Linden trailed just 36-33 entering the fourth.

It didn’t take Linden long to take the lead. The Eagles scored the fourth quarter’s first 13 points. A layup by Gold off a Hooberling dish cut the gap to 36-35. Before the quarter was a minute old, Logan Steiert tied the game up with a free throw.

Linden took the lead for good when Gold hit a putback hoop with 6:32 left in the game. Linden led 38-36. The run continued off another Gold putback hoop, making it a 40-36 lead. A breaking layup by Campbell off his own steal continued the run as did a Hooberling pass to Gold for a breaking layup. The run finally ended with Gold’s dish to Kyle Korman for a layup, making it a 46-36 Linden lead with just 2:44 left.

Fenton (9-5, 10-9) cut the gap as close as 48-42 on a three-pointer by Austin Bossenberger with just under a minute left, but couldn’t get any closer, missing five straight treys to end the game. Fenton struggled mightily from the field, hitting just 14-of-52 shots.

"Offensively we did not execute one single thing we were supposed to," Fenton coach Tim Olszewski said. “We took it upon ourselves to do other things. The few times we actually went a layup, we travelled going for an open layup or had an unforced turnover. The quick threes — that was not in the game plan.”

Gold’s fourth quarter was pivotal. Another big key may have been a victory against Swartz Creek a week earlier. That victory gave Linden (2-12, 3-16) its second win of the season, and some much-needed confidence for the Fenton game.

“It means a lot because if I can do that in the fourth quarter when it’s crunch time, I can do that in every other quarter of the game and help my team to victory,” Gold said. “We definitely know what we are capable of now. This really helps.”

Campbell led the Eagles with 12 points and four rebounds, while Korman had 11 points seven rebounds, two blocks and two assists. Gold followed with his 10 points. Steiert had eight points, five rebounds and two steals. Hooberling had five rebound and four assists.

Fenton was paced by Ebert’s 10 points, eight rebounds and two blocks. Alec Thomas and Gardner chipped in nine points. Beau LePage had six points.
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**COYOTE PRESERVE GOLF CLUB** is hiring for upcoming season: cart attendants, course maintenance, line cooks, dishwasher, waitstaff, bartenders. Experienced preferred. Apply within: 9218 Preserve Dr., Fenton, 810-714-3206.

**THE VILLAGE OF HOLLY** is applying applications for part-time Smart Transportation Bus Drivers. Please apply at the Village of Holly, 300 East St., Karl Richter Center, Holly, MI, 48442 or fill out an application online at www.hollyville.org. Pre-employment testing is required. The Village is an equal opportunity employer.

**PINEHURST APARTMENTS:** Are you compassionate and caring? Do you enjoy working with Senior Citizens? Come to work in our beautiful Long Term Care environment! IMMEDIATE OPENINGS FOR CNA’s! This position is responsible for assisting residents with the activities of daily living. Certification preferred, or must be eligible for certification within 4 months.

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Please apply in person at: 202 S Bridge St, Linden or email resume to hrcaretellinden@gmail.com.

**NEW APARTMENT PROJECT IN LINDEN** starting in April. Interested bidders should email: jbrady@westconstruction.com for details. Section 3 certified, MBE and WBE businesses are encouraged to provide a proposal.

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SYNOPSIS OF ARGENTINE TOWNSHIP REGULAR BOARD MEETING FEBRUARY 23, 2015

Call to order @ 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Supervisor Cole

Present: Cole, Graves, Ciesielski, Hallman and Schmidt. Absent: none

Approved: Minutes as printed of Regular Board Meeting January 26, 2015, minutes of January 26, 2015 Executive Board Session, Approved: Budget Amendments. Approved: Payment of bills. Accepted: Resignation of fire-fighter Michael Reid. Accepted: Resignation of fire-fighter B.J. Ellsworth. Accepted: Resignation due to retirement of Fire Chief James Reid. Issued: 4 Building Permit in the amount of 2,153.40. Authorized; Attorney to obtain court approval to demolish property at 15126 Roach Dr.

FAILED: Motion to join Genesee County Household Hazardous Waste Collection program.

Approved: Clerk to seek bids for McCaslin Lake Canoe Launch.

Adjourned @ 8:08 p.m.

Submitted by Denise Graves
Argentine Township Clerk

NOTICE OF MEETING
2015 BOARD OF REVIEW
CITY OF LINDEN

MONDAY, MARCH 3, 2015
1:30 PM - ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2015
9:00 AM TO 12:00 NOON
1:30 PM TO 4:00 PM

TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2015
6:00 PM TO 9:00 PM

Meetings will be held at the Linden City Hall, 132 E. Broad Street, Linden, Michigan, 48451, for the purpose of reviewing the City of Linden Assessment Rolls. The tentative equalization factors for the City of Linden are; Commercial 1.0284 (ratio 48.62%), Residential 1.1510 (ratio 43.44%), and Industrial 0.9944 (ratio 50.28%). To schedule a meeting with the Board of Review, you may submit your petition to the City Offices prior to the Board of Review. Petition forms are available at the City Hall. Appointments should be made by 12:00 p.m. on Monday, March 16, 2015 by calling the City Offices at 810 735-7980. Written protests must be received at the City Offices by March 16, 2015 at 3 p.m.

Lynn M. Henry, City Clerk

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
IMPROVEMENTS TO EAGLES WOODEN PARK
MARCH 23, 2015

Notice is hereby given to the general public that a public meeting will be held to discuss and take comments on the proposed improvements to Eagles Wooden Park located on West Broad Street just west of North Bridge Street in Linden. The City of Linden is applying for a Land Water Conservation Fund grant from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to make the following improvements:

• construct accessible two-occupant restrooms and drinking fountain adjacent to the gravel parking lot at Eagles Wooden Park
• connect the restrooms via a sidewalk to the sidewalk recently constructed with Community Development Block Grants

The grant application is for $50,000 and the City of Linden is providing matching funds from its General Fund.

The public meeting will be held on March 23, 2015 at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers on the lower level of the City Hall Building at 201 N. Main Street, Linden, Michigan. This is the same time as the normal monthly Council meeting.

For more information, please contact Paul Zelenak, City Manager at (810) 735-7980.

 Posting Date: March 2, 2015
Lynn Henry
City Clerk
**HOROSCOPE**

**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19)

Having second thoughts could be a good thing, even if you're determined to go through with your plans. You might find it worthwhile to take a fresh look at how things have been set up.

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20)

Financial matters could continue to be a problem until you're able to straighten out some of the more pesky situations. Once that happens, the rest should be easier to unravel.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20)

Family matters once again take center stage, and should be dealt with competently and quickly. And, again, insist on others taking on their fair share of the responsibilities.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22)

Your creative pursuits seem to be running into a roadblock. But rather than blame outside factors, look within to see if you might be holding back your efforts for some reason.

**LEO** (July 23 to Aug. 22)

Keep that keen Cat's Eye focused on relevant aspects of this new situation in your life. Don't be distracted by trivial matters. You need the pertinent facts before making a decision.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22)

As much as you prefer doing things on your own, continue to accept help if you still need to resolve the problem affecting your project. Some cheerful news is about to come your way.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)

While you might begrudge the added time it will take to get your project from point A to B to C, etc., you could benefit from the facts that will emerge over this expanded time span.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)

Regarding your workplace suggestions, be prepared to produce the facts to counter reactions from skeptics who feel your approach is unreasonable or even impossible.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)

Savvy Sagittarians will look for work-related answers on their own rather than rely on unproved assumptions. It might take more time to do so, but the payoff is worth it.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19)

Your aspects continue to favor family issues, with special emphasis this week on changes in and around your home. Get everyone to suggest what he or she would like to see done.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18)

While your instincts are usually right when discerning 'twixt truth and deception, you could benefit from doing more research on the new "prospect" that you've been pitched.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19 to March 20)

While your instincts are usually right when discerning 'twixt truth and deception, you could benefit from doing more research on the new "prospect" that you've been pitched.
Maximizing one’s ability to hear well should be part of any smart career strategy. Individual performance in an organization is found to be directly related to listening ability or perceived listening effectiveness. In fact, listening is one of the top skills employers seek in entry-level employees and in those being promoted. People who both hear and listen well are also more likely to establish positive working relationships with bosses, clients, and colleagues.

An alarming new study by the Better Hearing Institute (BHI) reveals a direct correlation between unaddressed hearing loss and earnings. The national survey, entitled “The Efficacy of Hearing Aids in Achieving Compensation Equity in the Workplace,” clearly demonstrates that hearing loss has a significant impact on people’s ability to earn a livelihood. The study underscores how critically important it is for workers to treat hearing loss early in order to maximize their job performance and earning potential.

According to Sergei Kochkin, PhD, author of the study: “The real tragedy in delaying hearing loss treatment is that when left unaddressed, hearing loss negatively affects individuals and their families for the rest of their lives in the form of lost wages, lost promotions, lost opportunities, lost retirement income, and unrealized dreams. But when people with even mild hearing loss use hearing aids, they improve their job performance, increase their earning potential, enhance their communication skills, improve their professional and interpersonal relationships, stave off depression, and improve their quality of life.”

### Key Study Findings
- Use of hearing aids was shown to reduce the risk of income loss by 90%–100% for those with milder hearing loss, and from 65%–77% for those with severe to moderate hearing loss.
- There is a strong relationship between the degree of hearing loss and unemployment for those who do not use hearing aids.

### Why 22 million Americans delay trying a hearing device to solve their hearing problem

**Inadequate Information.** Most people lose hearing gradually and may not realize they have significant loss. Your family and friends adapt by speaking to you more loudly and clearly.

**Stigma and Cosmetics.** Some people reject hearing aids because they are concerned of what others will think. This does not need to be a barrier to improving your hearing.

**Not Realizing the Importance of Hearing.** Another reason for rejection of hearing aids is that people have forgotten how important hearing is to their quality of life. However, untreated hearing loss can lead to anxiety, stress, fatigue, withdrawal from family and friends, impaired memory, reduced alertness and personal safety, reduced job performance and earning power and diminished overall health.

**Cost.** Your hearing solution will be based on your type of loss and lifestyle. Many factors go into your hearing aid purchase and will affect the price. Which type and style is best for you? What features do you need? What’s included in the price? (Warranty, 30-day trial period, Free cleaning and adjustments). Your hearing health care provider should present to you clearly and easily understood pricing options as well as financing options. Be sure to freely ask any questions that will help you make an informed decision.

### The links between hearing loss, Dementia

Seniors who have untreated hearing loss may be at an increased risk for developing dementia, a loss of brain function that can affect memory, thinking, language, judgment and behavior. This is the finding of a study conducted by researchers from the Division of Otology at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

The study included 639 people whose hearing and cognitive abilities were tested over a period of time, starting in 1990 and concluding in 2008. Researchers found that study participants who had hearing loss at the beginning of the study were significantly more likely to develop dementia by the end of the study. How might hearing loss and dementia be connected? Investigators aren’t sure, but they think a common pathology may underlie both conditions, or possibly the strain of decoding sounds over the years may overwhelm the brains of people with hearing loss, leaving them more vulnerable to dementia.

The article concludes that, whatever the cause, these findings may offer a starting point for further research as to whether interventions, even as simple as hearing aids, could delay or prevent dementia by improving patients’ hearing.

### Call and Schedule a FREE Hearing Test**

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**FREE CHARGER WITH PURCHASE** Keep your hearing aids charged all day with no need to keep buying batteries.

**FREE AUDIOMETRIC TESTING** Get a complete hearing test that reveals where you need hearing help. Recommended annually.

**FREE EARBUD CASE** One small, black, reusable case that will charge your rechargeable hearing aid batteries.

**FREE TRAVEL CHARGER** Travel charger to recharge your hearing aids at home or away.

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**&nbsp;** Miracles® ME-1 or ME-2 Hearing Solutions. Not valid with any other discount or offer. Discount does not apply to prior sales. Cash value 1/20 cent. Offer expires 3/13/15.

### Recommended annually.

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*Our hearing test and video otoscopic inspection are always free. Hearing test is an audiometric test to determine proper amplification needs only. These are not medical exams or diagnoses nor are they intended to replace a physician’s care. If you suspect a medical problem, please seek treatment from your doctor.

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