**Does Fenton have a rat problem?**

Neighbors complain about infestation, city could spend up to $12,000 to eradicate

By Sharon Stone
sstone@tctimes.com; 810-433-6786

Residents living on and near Hickory Street in Fenton are very concerned about relatively new unwanted guests in their neighborhood — rats.

A couple of neighbors living on Hickory Street are See RAT on 15A

"I am so grossed out, I want to vomit." — Rochester Drive resident

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**New addition for historic Dibbleville building**

Sweet Variations to get exterior facelift, additional space for office/retail tenants

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

Fenton — Heavy equipment rumbled and yellow tape marked off the demolition area on Thursday. The excavator scraped bits of old insulation, plywood and vinyl siding, depositing the remnants of the storage area off the back of Sweet Variations, to make way for an addition that will better match the historical building.

Located at 101 West Shiaswesee Ave., this building has housed the chocolatier retail business owned by Carol Schuler for more than 30 years. See DIBBLEVILLE on 9A

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**Library grand reopening receives rave reviews**

Event welcomes more than 100 guests and area residents

By Emily Stocker
estocker@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Fenton — Rather than whispers and the sounds of pages turning in old books, the Jack R. Winegarden Library in Fenton was filled with music Thursday evening.

Matthew Ball, Michigan’s premier boogie woogie piano man performed for the library’s grand reopening to an excited audience who were on hand to check out the $340,000 renovation project.

See LIBRARY on 6A

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**Alleged shooter back in court for March 31 trial**

Could face up to life in prison if found guilty

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

Gregory Johnson and attorney Nicholas Robinson expected to be in jury selection Wednesday morning, with a trial set for the first week of April.

But the trial and jury selection were adjourned by Circuit Court Judge Archie Hayman, at the request of Genesee County See SHOOTER on 10A
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It’s spring musical time

Fenton, Holly, Lake Fenton, all have productions next week

By Tim Jagielo

Holly — Tuesday night, the cast of Roger and Hammerstein’s Cinderella rehearsed in costume to the live pit band, the cacophony punctuated with the sounds of set construction from the scene room.

That afternoon, Fenton High School and Lake Fenton High School also had rehearsals for their own live productions, set to begin a week from Thursday.

It’s spring musical season in the tri-county area, and many parents, teachers and students are spending their evenings on stage, or behind the scenes feverously preparing for their big opening nights.

Linden High School does not have a spring production, though they did have fall play, and a student written and directed winter program.

Here is a breakdown of the live entertainment put on by your students next weekend.

Lake Fenton High School:
“A Night of Comedy — the ‘Check Please’ Trilogy.”

Lake Fenton’s program is actually not a musical, but a comedy play. Here’s a quick elevator pitch, sent by Drama Director Brenda LaBonte: One disastrous blind date after another is the humorous subject of Lake Fenton High School’s comedy night coming up next weekend.

What’s more absurd than dating? ‘Not much,’ according to Jonathan Rand’s cute comedies ‘Check Please 1, 2 and 3,’ in which a young man and woman endure an increasingly silly series of blind dates with a cavalcade of, well, freaks. Sure to tickle your funny bone if not bring back a few real life memories, and I really See MUSICAL on 14A.
Downtown matters!

You may wonder why a downtown matters. You may wonder why some flourish while others wither? What is the magic that makes some delightful and others detestable? Clearly, the line between charming and unappealing is thin indeed.

I believe that a downtown is the only feature of a municipality that engages all five of our physical senses — sight, sound, smell, taste and feel — in ways that nothing else does. When you have the fundamental elements that engage these senses, you have the nucleus to create a successful downtown. You can’t buy them. Either you have these fundamentals or you don’t. Fenton does have them, we just haven’t been leveraging them — until now.

Sight: Few things are as reassuring as solid, brick and mortar downtown structures. We have an historic nucleus in the form of Dibbleville and the remaining block of downtown buildings. The churches, the fire hall, State Bank and the Community Center contribute to that. They, along with the Cornerstone, exude a sense of permanence and history that is comforting.

Sound: Children’s cries of delight in the park behind the fire hall take us back to our carefree childhood. Mothers chatting on benches is a soothing drone. And the sound of water rushing over the Millpond dam is Mother Nature at her finest.

Smell: Between The Laundry, the Rough Draught, the Fire Hall, Sagano’s and Crust, the mouth-watering aroma of various foods being prepared permanently permeates the area.

Taste: Including the venerable and timeless Fenton Hotel, we now have half a dozen excellent food venues within walking distance of downtown Fenton.

Feel: This is the most critical element. A pedestrian-friendly downtown must radiate a sense of nostalgia and romance, a sense of security (it feels safe to wander about), a sense of curiosity (the desire to explore), and the most intangible, a sense of home (entry of the citizens fortunate enough to live here). In today’s world, many of us feel victimized by being forced into an ever-faster environment of stress, dominated by a technologically demanding existence. It seems as if there is never enough time. As a source of relief from this pressure, it is only natural that we would desire a brief escape to a simpler, quieter, slower environment — reminiscent of a bygone era — that provides a temporary reprieve from our hectic day-to-day routines.

As the song says, ‘We had it all,’ we just hadn’t been using it — until now. We should be thankful to the volunteer members of the Fenton DDA for their efforts. I, for one, am very grateful to them.

As for the Hot lines, keep them coming. They represent the voice of the complainers as well as the supporters, and often provide valuable input.

We, as residents, own this property. It belongs to us. We should all have a voice in its future.

See you downtown.

— Marianne Griggs

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What are your thoughts of the progress in Fenton?

“I think that people moving in is great for the city. There needs to be more public buildings.” — Mark Willmarth

“Like it. It is a nice place, and everyone here is really friendly.” — Carol Remington

“I am thrilled with it. I love the new Cornerstone building.” — Liz Ladd

“Ours is a city run on good intentions, not good results.” — Marianne Griggs

“Downtown matters!”

I got a big kick out of Cheney on TV the other day when he said Obama was the most inept president in the history of the United States.

Do you really think that Proposal 1 is going to fix our roads? It’s going to pay off Snyder’s Cadillac. Get a grip people! We are going to fix our roads.

They spend billions of dollars in foreign countries, but they can’t fix the roads. Are you kidding me?

If all of our government employees went down to minimum wage, we could fix our roads a hundred times over.

I always find it funny when I hear Obama’s version of something and then you hear the truth a few days later. Very seldom is it the same. Why tell the truth when the lie works just as good?

Anyone in Holly notice how the neighborhoods are looking very unkempt to say the least? Guess what, there isn’t any ordinance enforcement. One of the top officials in Holly said we can’t afford enforcement, what a shame.

The report in your Tri-County on the cost of police protection in our surrounding communities was very informative. I wonder why it is the village of Holly, per person, spends more than all the other communities. Just a thought.
Local rec trails project now in ‘high gear’

Group formed to support bike path project that will connect Linden, Argentine and Fenton

By Sally Rummel

news@times.com; 810-629-8282

The need for local multi-use recreational trails, commonly known as “bike paths,” is spurring toward a resolution with local advocacy group LAF Pathway in high gear.

Linden resident Victor Lukasavitz formed this steering committee in 2014 to bring awareness to the need for local trails in the Linden, Argentine and Fenton areas, with a top priority being a trail on Silver Lake Road between Linden and Fenton to connect these communities.

Other sections in the region slated for possible trails are on Silver Lake Road between Argentine and Linden and on Owen Road between Linden and Lohrell roads.

While the group has no authority for budgeting or funding, it is working with local residents, municipalities and civic groups to raise awareness and support for these trails, which would provide a hard surface, blacktop, 10-foot wide path for bicyclists, roller bladers/skaters, walkers, hikers, strollers and other non-motorized transportation between communities.

“We’re an advocacy group trying to keep the project at the forefront of the county and state’s attention,” said Lukasavitz.

Funding for these trails would come from state recreational development grants, Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), federal monies, other government groups and private donations. Local funding sources would include the Genesee County Metropolitan Planning Commission, Genesee County Parks and municipalities.

On March 17, Gov. Rick Snyder announced $24.7 million in Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grants for 2015, including 69 recreational projects and land purchases.

“The funds for these projects are so competitive,” said Lukasavitz. “The more local support you have, the more likely it is you’ll get the funding. We’re trying to keep the focus down here in southern Genesee County. We want to grab a piece of the grant money from the DNR, MDOT and federal agencies.”

Public meetings were held in local and county municipalities in 2009 and 2014, and the results of the study are now in the hands of the Genesee County Metropolitan Planning Commission. In January, the GCPC approved the Genesee County Non-Motorized Plan.

“Our role is to act as a catalyst and give assistance to local communities,” said Derek Bradshaw, director/coordinator of the GCMPC. “The cool thing is that we’re looking for connections between communities. We’re in the process of prioritizing about $12 million worth of trails.”

The preliminary estimate of constructing the Tier I Priority Trail of Fenton to Linden, before a formal engineering study is done, is between $1.4 and $1.7 million. That would include a trail from Jennings Road, where it meets Silver Lake Road, going west to Ripley Road, connecting two existing sidewalk systems and two communities.

This local project has taken on a new face of the future, thanks to the efforts of Fenton fifth-grade student Mike Crane, who is using his involvement in LAF Pathway for part of his IB (International Baccalaureate) project. He is lending his support to this steering committee by meeting with local government officials to gain their support for the project.

Crane, Lukasavitz and other members of the LAF Pathway steering committee were on hand at the Fenton Community Expo March 7-8, garnering more than 600 signatures of support.

“We’re trying to be advocates and keep the attention focused on this project,” said Lukasavitz.

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HOT LINE CONTINUED

PEOPLE HAVE BEEN using wood stoves since the beginning of time. If you can come up with a different and cheaper way to heat a house, please go ahead. Let me know. I’d be more than happy to do it.

I READ THE police files and I see things about Fenton, Holly, Linden. I never see anything in there about Argentine at all. Remember back in the 60’s they said that Argentine was the safest city in Michigan? That’s why I like living here.

HOW MANY MILLIONS of dollars are spent by these legislators who sit there and keep voting on things every single day? That would pay for our roads; lay them off. There’s nothing that they need to vote on.

I’M ELDERLY and an avid reader of newspapers. For the first time in my life, I just read an article that stated there are 100 federal agencies. That doesn’t account for city, local, state, county. No wonder they seem to never know what they are doing. Why can’t there just be two or three?

YEAH, PEOPLE COMPLAIN about workers waking them up, sorry, we can’t work around your schedule, we have a deadline to meet.

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Cupping massage is one of the oldest forms of traditional Chinese medicine dating back to the early fourth century. This massage can help with immediate relief from migraines and pain, significantly decrease the toxins within one’s system and help treat several diseases without medication.
Gerry Willey, owner of Fenton Home Furnishings, visited the library over a year ago, and immediately noticed it desperately in need of new flooring. “Fenton is an upscale community, a lovely town, great politics with an excellent mayor, the library should convey that feeling as well.” He called the mayor and donated the entire $10,000 in flooring as part of the library’s renovation.

The project was funded primarily by the Fenton Downtown Development Authority (DDA), which supplied $310,000, plus $10,000 from the city’s general fund and $19,000 in donations. Mayor Sue Osborn presented plaques to the donors, which will hang in the updated library, thanking them for their gifts.

The library opened back up for business last week after a three-month renovation, which included interior updates, a new circulation desk, a more open floor plan, new carpeting, paint, tile, just to name a few updates. The removal of some asbestos that was discovered during the renovation was also completed.

The public response was very positive during the library’s soft opening last Monday, which gave library staff a chance to get acclimated to the surroundings, while showing off the new interior to visitors.

Guests Thursday evening raved over the new chairs, flooring, and the more open feel. Rich oak, cool colors and art deco inspired lighting paid respect to the structure of the building and its original details. Children enjoyed the open concept in the lower level and the new furniture in the teen area.

The Linden Library took on Fenton’s patrons for three months, even handling ‘holds’ and opening on Fridays for the Fenton branch.
Spring will be cooler again this year — blame Canada

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

Sorry, everyone.

“What we just had a few days ago isn’t anything we should count on,” said ABC 12 Meteorologist J.R. Kirtek, referring to the 65-degree temperatures from last week.

To understand what spring 2015 will be like, it won’t be hard to imagine — just look back to this time last year, but with less snow. The good news is that a cooler spring doesn’t necessarily mean a cooler summer.

Kirtek said we could expect a spring that is slightly cooler than the average, like last year. The average temperature for March, April and May combined is 56.3 degrees.

This spring will be cooler because of a couple factors.

The first factor is the cold winter we had, which contributed to robust ice coverage on the Great Lakes. He said more ice on the Great Lakes means cooler water temperatures and cooler air temperatures this spring. Ifalso means higher lake levels, because less evaporation occurs as the hemisphere heats up.

The other factor is upper-level winds, which tell where the air is coming from. Winds out of Canada bring cooler temperatures. East/west winds bring warmer temperatures. Guess where the air is coming from this year?

He expects there will still be some bouts of cold and snow, even into April. The other good news is snow and cold won’t stick.

“Having said that, there will be periods when it warms up nicely,” he said. “That’s the way spring goes.”

In March, April and May, there is more moisture in the atmosphere, which can yield more precipitation. However, snow, sleet and rain are the things Kirtek is less sure of. Weather service charts don’t point at a particularly wet or dry spring.

Cinderella takes to the stage in Holly

High school musical set for March 26, 27 and 28

Holly High School Theatre Department is busy preparing to bring a fairy tale to life on the stage. Rodgers and Hammerstein’s “Cinderella” is being presented on March 26, 27 and 28 at 7 p.m., with an additional matinee at 2 p.m. on March 28. “Cinderella” will be performed in the auditorium at Holly High School, 6161 East Holly Rd. in Holly.

This musical includes more than 50 students working on stage and off painting, sewing, singing, dancing, and creating a refreshing and fun-filled musical for the whole family.

Guests attending the Saturday performances are invited to arrive early to be a part of our Princess Parties. These parties will be full of games, activities, photo opportunities, and a snack for all ages of princess-loving audience members. Princess parties begin at 12:30 and 5:30 p.m. on March 28. The $3 tickets for the princess parties are available at the door.

Tickets for all performances are available online at Showtix4u.com or can be purchased at the door. Students ages 18 and under are $8, adults are $10 and senior citizens 55 and older are $8. For more information, contact Director Laura Legant at Laura.Legant@has-k12.org or by calling (810) 610-6403.

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ABC-12 meteorologist J.R. Kirtek

Spring temperatures

March high average: 43.5 degrees

37 degrees, start of month

50 degrees end of month

April high average: 57.3 degrees

51 degrees, start of month

63 degrees, end of month

May high average: 66.5 degrees

64 degrees, start of month

73 degrees, end of month

High school musical set

Holly High School Theatre Department is busy preparing to bring a fairy tale to life on the stage. Rodgers and Hammerstein’s “Cinderella” is being presented on March 26, 27 and 28 at 7 p.m., with an additional matinee at 2 p.m. on March 28. “Cinderella” will be performed in the auditorium at Holly High School, 6161 East Holly Rd. in Holly.

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The news you are reading in this issue is not the whole story.

Examine the stories in this newspaper and you’ll learn that there is a rat infestation problem in one neighborhood in Fenton, a local father who could spend the rest of his life in prison for attempted murder, and that the renovated Fenton library is reopening.

Yet, what you read is not the entire story. A single issue of the Times represents only one set of stories that affect our lives – stories chosen from the dozens that occur in our communities each day. No more and no less.

Our local world isn’t just about vermin, or a father charged with attempted murder, or a renovated library. It’s also about the weary nurse in the checkout line at VGs who saved someone’s life today, the young couple behind you in the bank drive-thru lane who are opening a new business in Fenton, or the meal you are planning for your family tonight. It’s about the geese on the lakes, the pedestrian signage downtown that may save, or take, the life of someone you know – and much more.

Some of the most important stories are yet to be told. A series of random events that shape these stories are occurring right now, as you read this.

They are out there, waiting to be discovered by us so that we can share them with you.

These stories affect you, and are part of your future. They comprise the ever-evolving fabric of our communities. These stories are the reason we exist. We don’t deliver just the information you want – we deliver the information you need.

We are the men and women who bring you the Times each week.

Read. Learn. Subscribe.
DIBBLEVILLE
Continued from Front Page

Kirk Lewandowski and Vito Accetta bought the building last fall, with plans to add a two-story 1,200-square-foot addition, including the basement, to house office or retail tenants. A demolition team was on hand Wednesday to begin the process of tearing off the vinyl-sided addition that had served as a storage area for the business at the side and rear of the building facing Elizabeth Street.

“We’ll end up spending more on the addition than we did on buying the building,” said Lewandowski, who serves as general contractor for the project. “I think the community will be pleased with the results. The addition will match the brick on the rest of the building and we will be making other improvements on the façade of the building to keep its historical character. We’re hoping this will spark everyone else around the building to make improvements.

Lewandowski’s goal is to get the foundation in before the Streetscape project begins. “We don’t want to disturb anything that the city is doing at that time,” he said. “The city has been very helpful with everything.”

Sweet Variations owner Carol Schuler is excited about the new addition and the prospect of office and retail tenants.

Summary
One of Fenton’s most historic buildings, now housing Sweet Variations at 101 West Shiawassee Ave. Is getting a new two-story addition and the prospect of office and retail tenants.

HOT LINE CONTINUED
I WAS THINKING about becoming a Democrat until I realized that they are for increasing taxes on companies and hard-working Americans. They have hurt our health care system, our military and our foreign affairs. And they have increased our debt and deficits. They have used our money to support illegal aliens.

LET’S TRY TO remember facts about Hillary, Whitewater, travel gate, Vince Foster, cattle futures, lost law firm records, Monica and government health care plans held in secret. Now throw in Benghazi, foreign donations and the government email scandal and you can see that Hillary Clinton is scandalous, hypocritical and corrupt. She fits right in to the Democratic Party.

I WOULDN’T GIVE my money to the real IRS. I certainly wouldn’t give it to some Indian-accented, homeboy IRS. I think it’s hilarious people get scammed by that.

C’MON PEOPLE, PICK up after your dog. Be a responsible dog owner, don’t be lazy.

DEAR DRUNK DRIVER who throws his beer cans out in my nice clean trash on the highway and I have your night, it is a $500 fine for throwing trash on the highway and I have your face on clear surveillance video.

Assistant Financial Q&A
Are you getting all your questions answered when you speak to someone regarding your finances?

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However, in dealing with individuals facing: saving for college for their loved ones, approaching retirement, living in retirement or the young professional working to pay down student loans, it seems that with the overabundance of differing opinions you can find on the internet, individual investment advice is hard to come by.

Acorn Wealth Advisors is a team of six advisors that look to provide organization, accountability, objectivity, education and partnership to the community and to our clients. If you have questions we want to hear them, please feel free to submit them to noahmorgan@acornwa.com or call our office.

We want to answer your questions and intend to do so here in the Tri-County Times on a bi-weekly basis.

We look forward to hearing from you and helping you achieve Financial Peace of Mind.

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The trial for this case has been adjourned until we receive the operability report of the gun that was used. It is currently scheduled for trial on March 31st.”

On Tuesday, Robinson was in court attempting to negotiate a plea deal on Johnson’s behalf, which failed.

Johnson, 47, faces a jury trial on three felonies in connection with a shooting that took place in Fenton in May 2014. Johnson could face up to life in prison if he is found guilty as charged. He is being charged with assault with intent to murder, carrying weapons with unlawful intent and felony firearms.

Fenton police and deputies with the Genesee County Sheriff’s Department responded to a home in the 800 block of North LeRoy Street in the afternoon of May 26, 2014 to investigate a possible shooting.

According to a May 2014 Times article, Fenton Police Chief Rick Aro said a dispute between neighbors escalated to where one of the neighbors, Johnson, allegedly shot the other.

Johnson was charged with shooting his 43-year-old neighbor in his own yard over a lawn-mowing dispute. Aro said one shot was fired from Johnson’s registered .380-caliber semi automatic handgun, striking the neighbor in the hip area. Aro added that Johnson carries a concealed pistol license (CPL).

The injured neighbor was transported to Genesys Health Park for medical treatment and police did not believe alcohol played a factor in the incident.

Johnson has remained in the Genesee County Jail since his arraignment on May 28, 2014.

Editor Sharon Stone contributed to this report.
From A-Z...
BENEFITS & CHARACTERISTICS OF FRUITS and VEGETABLES

Q is for Quince and R is for Rutabaga

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

Part 10 of an ongoing series

The quince appears to stand alone when it comes to the produce under the letter Q. That is why it is being combined with the interesting flavors of R fruits and vegetables for your reading pleasure.

Fruits and vegetables have numerous healthy benefits, and the aim of these articles is to share some of those benefits with our readers. This is not a comprehensive list, but it’s a good place to start.

QUINCE

The quince looks similar to a small apple. They are a rich source of vitamin C, zinc, potassium, copper, iron, and dietary fiber. Quince is rich in certain organic compounds like catechin, epicatechin, limonene, and various other phytonutrients. Eat them alone or in jams or jellies.

RADISH

Radishes are a root vegetable that are most commonly seen in salads. They can also be pickled or eaten alone. You can eat their leaves, flowers, pods and seeds. Radishes are a diuretic, as a roughage they help clean the kidneys and urinary tract.

RHUBARB

Rhubarb is delicious boiled down with strawberries and sugar and made into a raspberry rhubarb pie, although that might not be the healthiest way to consume it. Rhubarb is a vegetable that contains vitamins C, K, A and B. While some daring folks may eat it raw, it’s better cooked or sautéed. Enjoy blended with other fruit or as an interest taste added to a meal.

RAISIN

For those of you who don’t know, raisins are dried grapes. The most common health benefits are they are fat and cholesterol free, high in antioxidants, are a good source of potassium, iron and dietary fiber and they are sodium free. Eat raisins as a quick and healthy snack alone or add them to trail mix.

ROSEHIP

Rosehip is the red, cherry-sized fruit of the rose plant. It is commonly used in teas, jams and jellies. It has been used as an herbal remedy for centuries. Once upon a time, it was used as an alternative to citrus fruits because of its high vitamin C content. It is the pulp inside the fruit that you want to get at.

RUTABAGA

Rutabagas, sometimes called yellow turnips, are a cross between a turnip and a cabbage. They are a good source of zinc, vitamin C, and dietary fiber. Rutabaga makes a great substitute for potatoes and are a hearty addition to soups. Most commonly, for Michigan folks, you can find them in pasties.

FRUITS

RAISIN

Of all the wonderful benefits of this little fruit that could be listed, one of the most interesting is that new research shows raspberries may help manage obesity. Raspberry ketone is believed to help metabolism. Raspberries are delicious on their own, but also make great additions to salads and smoothies. You can also use them to top yogurt, ice cream or even oatmeal.

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JUST LISTED!

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PENDING IN 3 DAYS!

PENDING IN 14 DAYS!

PENDING IN 47 DAYS!

PENDING IN 91 DAYS!

PENDING IN 7 DAYS!

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PENDING IN 3 DAYS!
MUSICAL
Continued from Page 3A
wish I hadn’t been through that night”
moments.
When: March 26 through 28, doors open at 6:30 p.m., show at 7 p.m. March 29, doors at 2:30 p.m., show at 3 p.m.
Tickets: $8 for adults, $5 for students/senior citizens. Tickets are available at the door.

Fenton High School:
“Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat”
This musical seemed to use the entire space the Ruby F. Zima Auditorium offers. Built just for this production, is an 8-foot-tall pyramid that spans the entire width of the stage, built by students and teachers. Directed by Lori Thompson, the choreography you’ll see is created by the staff and students. The script, which cost $1,800, doesn’t offer the players guidance.
When: 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 26, Friday, March 27, and Saturday, March 28. Showtime is 2:30 p.m. on Sunday.
Tickets: $12 for adults, $10 for seniors, $6 for students in advance. Tickets are $2 extra each, at the door. Advance tickets can be bought by calling (810) 955-2539, or emailing fentonhstheatre@gmail.com.

Holly High School:
“Cinderella,” by Rodgers and Hammerstein
This musical features live performances by the Holly High School Band, with live vocal performances also. Laura Legant directs the set, and the costume-intensive musical respects the original script and music, while still being colored with the student performances.
When: 7 p.m., Thursday, March 26 and Friday, March 27. Saturday, March 28 performances are at 2 p.m., with a Princess Party at 12:30 p.m. and 7 p.m., performance with a Princess Party at 5:30 p.m.
Where: Holly High School Auditorium, 6414 East Holly Rd., Holly.
Tickets: General admission is $10. Seniors, children and students are $8. Princess Parties on Saturday are $3. Tickets are available at the door, at ShowTix4U.com, or through laura.legant@has-k12.org.

Matt Kessler takes a breather on Tuesday from building the chariot for Holly High School’s play. Kessler also built four other set pieces, spending $1,600 in materials.

Fenton High School sophomore Chase Raymond performs as “Benjamin” for their production.
RAT
Continued from Front Page

Fed up with the rat problem, she contacted the city of Fenton for help. She was told homeowners are responsible for rats on their property. According to her and another Hickory Street woman, who also wished to remain anonymous, these rats aren’t in their homes, they are out in yards and streets.

With rats being able to reproduce every five weeks with up to 10 babies per litter, these rodents, which can spread disease, can multiply quickly. The first woman mentioned in this story said she does everything she can to keep her property rat-free. She keeps everything clean and sets rat traps out to capture any that wander in her direction. She’s trapped at least nine rats and two just this week.

The second neighbor mentioned also keeps a tidy yard. She and her husband spotted a few last November, but didn’t realize how big of a problem the rats were until this week. They learned more when the city approached them this week after hearing complaints from neighbors.

Because of the attention these rats have brought to the neighborhood, city workers were seen walking through yards and taking photos as evidence.

A Worcester Drive resident also believes the city has a rat problem. She said, “It’s not just Hickory Street, it is the whole neighborhood.” She has seen one in her back yard, in her driveway, and in the road.

In January, something chewed on the wires in her car. The mechanic told her it was a mouse, but she believed the droppings near her car were too large for a mouse. “I am so grossed out, I want to vomit,” said the Worcester Drive resident.

“We will continue to keep traps in and around our garage until this problem is solved. We keep our yard clean and clear of garbage. If the city doesn’t do some-

College loans could be less painful

► New bill would allow lower interest rates on outstanding college loans

If a newly introduced bill goes into effect, those who are paying back college loans with a high interest rate may be able to refinance that loan at a lower rate.

On Thursday, U.S. Senator Gary Peters announced that he would work with 28 of his colleagues in introducing the Bank on Students Emergency Loan Refinancing Act to allow borrowers with outstanding student loan debt to refinance at lower interest rates that were approved last year for new borrowers.

“If you can refinance your mortgage, you should be able to refinance your student loans,” said Peters.

“I’m proud to support this commonsense effort to help make sure higher education is a pathway to economic opportunity instead of an overwhelming financial burden for students and families.”

Many borrowers with outstanding student loans have interest rates of nearly 7 percent or higher for undergradu-

Holly Area Community Forums
Group to meet on Tuesday, March 24

The community is invited to hear about how energy costs can be reduced, the opportunity of net zero health care, and what Holly residents have to say about what they’ve noticed. Registration is at 6:30 p.m. at Goodwill Industries of East Lansing.

Saturday, March 21

Varicose Vein Screenings
Wednesday, March 25

• Covered by Most Insurance, Medicare and Medicaid
• 98% of Patients Would Recommend this Procedure
• Back to Normal Activity Usually the Next Day
• Office-Based, Minimally Invasive

By Appointment Only!

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News briefs

STREETSCAPE PREP WORK BEGINS MONDAY
Beginning on Monday, March 23 through Wednesday, March 25, the Fenton City’s construction company Champsagne-Maxx will be onsite to begin placing barriers and placing detour signs in the construction zone south of the Shiawassee River. They will also begin necessary exploratory excavation. Residents will see construction equipment beginning work in the area. They are not to be alarms or detours at this time. The city will provide an update in the next few days as to the schedule of the next step to the project. If anyone has questions please email streetscape2015@cityoffenton.org.

EASTER BASKETS FOR AREA CHILDREN IN NEED
Requests for Easter baskets are still being accepted for local area families in need. If you need or know of a family in need of assistance in Fenton or surrounding communities, please call LOVE, Inc. at (810) 235-4990 (M-F 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.) to request an Easter basket for your child/children (age birth through eighth grade). Easter baskets will be assembled on Wednesday, April 1st at 9 a.m. in the Family Life Center, next to the Fenton United Methodist Church, 119 South LeRoy St. Baskets will be available for pick-up from 1-4 p.m. on Wednesday, April 1. For more information, contact coordinator Carolyn Lynch at lynchcar@aol.com or call the church at (810) 629-2132.

“Why all the household dust?”
For years, Power Vac, Inc. has been implying that our community’s health one household at a time. “Did you know that half of all illnesses come directly from dirty indoor air? In fact, our indoor air is up to 90 percent more polluted than the outside air we breathe. Does that mean you are allergic to dust in your home? Do you want that dust dried with into your lungs?” Keith Meadows, Power Vac Owner and Operator, asks. “More than 90% of the dust that you receive are from dis- tracted people complaining about dust in their homes. They tell me they will dust the house Friday, but by Sunday it needs to be done again, and they’re not sure where these dust piles are coming from. Let me tell you not to be a bad housekeeper. All you need to do is have your ducts cleaned. This simple step will drastically reduce the dust in your household. The reason for the dust is your cold air returns. You see, cold air returns suck in dirty air. Over time it builds up in your ducts until the ducts resemble what you would find in your vacuum bag.”

See for yourself! For an actual photo of the ducts that is pulled from a typi- cal home’s ducts, visit our website www.callpowervac.com.

Cold air returns are also the reason new ho- mewners 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 linted on the vent, that the dust 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 shooting out of the edges? That, my friend, is the reason you have uncontrollable dust problems, and this dust 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 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 equip- ment? Visit our website at www.callpowervac.com.

“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.

“What makes the difference in equip- ment? Power! To put things into perspec- tive, your furnace moves 2,000 cubic feet of air per minute, which is what you feel coming out of your register. Truck mounted equipment moves 4,000 CFM. Well, Power Vac moves over 16,000 cubic feet of air per minute, which is four times the power of most competitors.

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 competi- tors is our honest service, and, of course, our equipment. I know the importance of being on time, working with a smile and respect- ing 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 expected in my home.”

Power Vac is family owned and oper- ated and we are here to help you by offering a 1/2 off sale — free dryer vent cleaning ($25,000, according to the group’s website, LUNGevity.org.

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Team Bono includes the family of Joe Bono, pictured here before his passing on March 5, 2012 with wife Gina and six daughters.

Joe Bono’s life remembered by wife and six daughters

Joe Bono didn’t let his battle with Stage 4 lung cancer define his life or the quality of time he spent with his family. Gina Bono, now living in Grand Blanc, in fact, the cancer was discovered while he was training with his wife, Gina, for the Crim Festival of Races in 2003, and had a cough that wouldn’t quit.

Joe Bono was a youthful 51 when he passed away on March 5, 2012 after battling Stage 4 lung cancer for nine years. He was a family man who loved sports of all kinds, from football to basketball, according to his daughter, Miranda Bono, 23, now living in Grand Blanc. In fact, the cancer was discovered while he was training with his wife, Gina, for the Crim Festival of Races in 2003, and had a cough that wouldn’t quit.

Joe Bono was one of the unlucky 15 percent of lung cancer patients who contracted the dis- ease away.

But it’s the way he lived, not the way he died, that has inspired his family to not only walk, but host the annual LUNGevity Breathe Deep Walk in Ann Arbor this year on April 18.

LUNGevity Breathe Deep Walk in Ann Arbor on April 18.

TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO
April and Keith Meadows help keep their business running with their local Vacuum equipment. We have the equipment powerful enough to get the job done right, and that equipment is a Power Vac truck.”

“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 vacuum. 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.

“What makes the difference in equip- ment? Power! To put things into perspec- tive, your furnace moves 2,000 cubic feet of air per minute, which is what you feel coming out of your register. Truck mounted equipment moves 4,000 CFM. Well, Power Vac moves over 16,000 cubic feet of air per minute, which is four times the power of most competitors.

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They (the triplets) know he’s up in Heaven.
Miranda Bono
One of Joe Bono’s six daughters

Miranda wrote on the website, “Everyone has asked me how I’ve remained so strong these last few years. I’ve come to realize that I got my strength from an unexpected place. I got a lot more from my dad than his brown eyes and curly hair. I got my strength from him. I may not have been able to be the son my dad wanted, but I know I am my father’s daughter.”

To donate toward Team Bono, search “Breathe Deep Ann Arbor” on Google.
Lake Fenton High School spelling bee winners are (from left) Vincent Nagel, Jeremy Besser, Kimberly Roe and Zach Wissing.

‘Champion of Champions’

Lake Fenton High School sweeps county spellers

By Alexei Rose
news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8822

“Your word is Antediluvian.”

Students at Lake Fenton High School encountered this similar experience on Feb. 6. The school-wide spelling bee included 168 students in grades 9 to 12. The top two from each grade went on to compete at the Genesee Intermediate School District (GISD) competition in Flint on Feb. 27 and March 2.

The winners for grade 12 were Zach Wissing — first place and Kimberly Roe — second place. Wissing also took first in the 9-12 spelldown.

For grade 11, Jeremy Besser came in second, and Vincent Nagel came in third.

Wissing, Roe, and Besser placed to move onto the Champion of Champions Bee held on March 16, along with five other students from Genesee County. Wissing received a first-place trophy and plaque. The trophy will stay in the high school until next year’s spelling bee. Besser came in second, receiving a plaque.

“I wanted to do this spelling bee because I won the spelling bee in the eighth-grade at my old school, and I wanted to see how I would do here. It feels pretty good to be the first in the county,” said Wissing. “I wasn’t nervous during it, at all. I just went up there and winged it.”

Wissing’s advice for anyone who wants to compete in the spelling bee, but is afraid, is just to have fun and that is all there is to it.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

TO THE SCIENCE major who theorized that I was an idiot. The law of gravity is a law of nature, which is a generalization or theory that describes recurring facts or events in nature.

DEMOCRATS ARE SAYING that the Hillary Clinton email scandal is politically motivated, which it probably is. But how does that change the fact that she knowingly broke the law?

THE SCIENCE MAJOR who thinks we wiped out diseases is wrong, we didn’t wipe them out. We immunized people so they were no longer susceptible to those diseases. When you stop immunizing people, the disease is still in existence and still hanging around waiting for you to be stupid.

UNFORTUNATELY, HILLARY is very likely unelectable as a presidential candidate now. The polls will surely clarify that and she will drop out of the race. Too bad, she would be better than any other Democratic or Republican candidate that I am aware of.

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY is not going to charge Winston. They’d look stupid if they did because it happened two years ago and they totally ignored it.

Losers pick losers. Tampa Bay will pick Winston as their quarterback and that’s going to be fun to watch.

WITH THEIR POLICY of protecting the transgender person, Planet Fitness has violated the rights to privacy for women who may be changing their clothes or showering in the locker room. This policy is against family values and common. My wife and I will not be back to Planet Fitness.

HILLARY CLINTON is no better or worse than any other of our other self-serving politicians. She is just an easier target due to her high profile as former Secretary of Defense.

A LITTLE DOUBT from an old vet — I’m not sure this great country of ours can survive another two years of President Obama. We slid through the last six by the skin of our teeth. If we go from him to Clinton then we get what we deserve. I know we couldn’t survive four years of her.

I’VE BEEN READING about Tiger Woods, the rumor is that the PGA has banned him for a period of time but are keeping it quiet. He states that he will never rejoin the PGA tour until he is tournament ready. Every time he got 10 behind, he created an injury.

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THIS WEEK’S INSERTS
Holly's the was shots. fit squad back like run, all had a the Parker great. basketball short the made putting left is 6-1 as for loss advancing impressive. the in Metro we I the said. time A guard hear ts in pain We in Vikings Parker hit class. a had just for us with Isaac Class for us fourth entertaining of fourth when Rows e laid and the ties. just In learned Holly They down. realize small the freshmen. first a fi lead over their go on are The by that ,

TRIVIA

Prep Basketball

Q

Prior to this year, when was the last time Holly won a postseason tournament boys basketball game?

A

In 2010 the Bronchos won two games before losing in the district final to Carman-Ainsworth.

Fourth-Annual Tiger Trot Slated for May 16

The fourth-annual Tiger Trot is May 16 at Fenton High School. The 5K walk and run begins at 8:30 a.m. The children's race for ages 3 to 10 will be at 9:30 a.m. and be held exclusively on the Fenton High School track. Each child earns a medal. The 5K course begins at Fenton High School, runs thru the City of Fenton and finishes at the high school track. The cost is $22 with a shirt and $20 without one. For more information or to register go to www.fenton.k12.mi.us.

TC Elite Tryouts Set for Sunday

The TC Elite, formerly the Tri-County Tigers, will be holding tryouts for the 2015 season on March 22. The try-out fee is $16. Seventh- and eighth-graders will try out at 10:30 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. The ninth- through 11th-grade students will try out from 10:30 a.m. until noon. Please arrive 1/2 hour early before your start time to register.

For more information go to tricountytigersusa.com.

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Strong senior class leaving with a lot of strong credentials

By David Troppens
dtroppens@tctimes.com

Holly — When the Holly varsity boys basketball team lost in the Class A Regional championship game by a tight 73-71 verdict on Wednesday night, an era ended.

Four years ago, Morgan Baylis, Parker Rowe and Isaac Casillas played on the Bronchos’ varsity basketball squad for the first time as freshmen. In future years Scott Maki, Jonathan Waltz, Joshua Simms and Jake Daniels joined the senior class.

And as the seasons progressed they became one of the greatest senior classes in Holly basketball history.

Their honors are impressive. The trio who competed on the varsity for all four seasons became the winningest varsity boys basketball players in Holly history, capturing 66 wins. They won back-to-back Metro League crowns the last two seasons and finished a perfect Metro season this year. They helped lead the Bronchos to a school-record 22 wins, going 22-2 this year. They also led Holly to its first Class A district title in school history, and its first district crown since 1982 in any class.

Indeed the senior class has reason to be proud.

“Knowing you made history for the school is something I’m going to be proud of for the rest of my life,” Baylis said. “And knowing the community is super proud of us is great. They are the ones that fueled us to go this far.”

See CLASS on 20A
Freshman gymnast places 10th on the vault at the state meet

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

The first-year Linden/Fenton/Lake Fenton (LFLF) gymnastics team now has its first all-state performer.

That gymnast is Blake Hutchings. Hutchings, a freshman, placed in a tie for 10th at the state meet on the vault, earning the gymnast Division 2 All-State honors.

Hutchings, who spent six weeks of the season rehabilitating a broken foot and spent another two weeks out with pneumonia, overcame those issues to complete an outstanding first season with the LFLF program, posting a vault score of 8.850 at the state meet. Hutchings was the only individual on the team to compete in the individual all-around competition, posting scores of 8.80 on the floor, 8.40 on the bars and 7.60 on the beam.

"Blake getting All-State status on vault as a freshman was very exciting," LFLF coach Nancy Holden said. "With all the setbacks she had at the start of the season, she really had to work hard to get herself to this point. She is definitely a steady and consistent competitor."

The LFLF squad also had two other state qualifiers on the beam. Nicole Haberkamp posted a score of 7.425 on the beam, while Macy Mitchell scored a 7.25.

"I went into this meet with no real expectations," Holden said. "I knew the level of competition was going to be tough and I was just happy to have the girls get this exposure and experience. It was exciting to have this group of three freshmen competing with the best gymnasts in the state."

"Watching the routines and skills that the gymnasts were performing on Saturday was exciting and inspiring. The girls all said they couldn’t wait to get back in the gym and start working for next year’s tricks to upgrade their routines."

The entire team should return next season as the squad was made up of exclusively underclassmen. Most of those underclassmen were freshmen.

"As a coach I couldn’t have asked for a better first-year experience of a finer group of athletes to work with," Holden said.

“This team of freshmen and sophomores are going to be with me for awhile, and we are all looking forward to the next couple of years to see what we can achieve. I am also looking forward to the possibility of any new gymnasts joining us next season to add to this talented team.”

Olsen breaks three state swim records at meet

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

Apparently Grace Olsen is a fast learner.

Olsen, 10, has only been swimming competitively for the Southern Lakes Parks and Recreation-sponsored Fenton Area Swim Team (FAST) for just over two years. Yet, she’s among the elite in the state in her age group.

In fact, she’s the fastest in state history in at least three events as evidenced by her performance at the recent 2015 Michigan 12U State Championships Meet.

Olsen earned five firsts and a second individually, capturing honors as the highest point-getter at the event held at East Kentwood High School from March 13 through the 15.

Olsen was just one area competitor from the FAST program at the meet. Several other competitors earned placings at the meet for the club who uses Fenton High School’s pool as its home base.

Olsen posted state records in the 500 freestyle (5:29.14), the 100 freestyle (57.22) and the 200 freestyle (2:02.96). She also earned firsts in the 200 individual medley (2:25.14) and the 100 individual medley (1:07.70), while earning a second in the 50 freestyle (26.67). She recorded 117 team points, three more than second-place Brady Kendall from Livonia. Olsen was thrilled with her performance.

“I wanted to get some records,” Olsen said. “(The 500 freestyle) was the one I was almost positive I was going to get, and then I ended getting two more. (Getting the 500 state record) built my confidence, knowing I could do it.”

Olsen’s next step is competing at the National Age Group Championships this weekend in Clearwater, Florida.

“I want to get an age group record,” Olsen said.

Others also had strong performances for the FAST program, also known as
MEET
Continued from Page 19A
the Tiger Sharks.
Individually, Luke Con- 
er, 12, qualified for some 
consolation finals in back- 
stroke events. He placed 
13th in the 100 backstroke 
(1:05.07), and 16th in the 50 
backstroke (30.92) and the 
200 backstroke (2:21.09).
Some relays also com- 
peted and did well. For the 
boys, Nicholas Demarey, 
Max Haney, David Rampy 
and Andrew Steele com- 
peted in the 10 and under 
relays, taking 17th in the 
medley relay and 20th in 
a freestyle relay. The girls 
10 and under freestyle re- 
lay team of Olsen, Abby 
Carrigan, Madison Labrie 
and Lauren Gadola teamed 
to place 26th in a freestyle 
relay. Carrigan and Labrie 
also competed in individu- 
al events at the meet.
“All the kids did re- 
ally well,” said FAST head 
coach Stephanie Olsen. 
“We’ve doubled the num- 
ber of kids going to the state meet, which is great.”

The FAST program is a year-round 
competitive swim team offering 
professional coaching and technique 
instruction for all ages and abilities. Cur- 
rently, there are just over 100 children 
ages 6 to 18 in the program.
“We are still growing,” Olsen said. 

CLASS
Continued from Page 18A
“We started out with a pret- 
ty good (freshman) season and 
the fact we made it this far, all 
the credit goes to the coaches 
for grooming us into men,” 
Rowse said. “We were just 
14-year-old boys and they 
made us into men.”

“It was great. I loved it,” 
Casillas said. “Lance (Baylis) 
is a great coach. He’s made me 
a 10 times better player than I 
was. All of the teammates, I’ll 
remember all of them. I’ll es- 
pecially remember this team. 
It’s as special a team as I’ve 
ever been on.”

Casillas comes up big

There was a time Isaac 
Casillas was a starter on the 
Bronchos’ team. But through 
the years he’s had serious 
bouts with illnesses that have 
hampered his progress within 
the team. But for those who 
have witnessed his career, 
they realize Casillas has off- 
ensive talent.

He proved that point in 
the Bronchos loss to Walled 
Lake Central, scoring 14 points. 
When it looked like the Vi- 
kings were on the verge of 
having the game open, Casil- 
as came through with seven 
points in the final three min- 
utes of the second quarter. He 
hit a three-pointer when Cen- 
tral took its first nine-point lead with 
2:53 left in the half, cutting the 
Holly deficit to 36-30. And when the Bronchos 
ended the half with a 6-0 run, Casil- 
as had two layups. He also added five 
points in the fourth quarter, including a 
key three-pointer with 30 seconds left, 
cutting the Holly deficit to 72-71.

“My teammates, they gave me some 
open shots, some easy layups early and 
they just gave me the confidence,” Casillas 
said. “And the crowd was great tonight.”

“I said if we were going to go far we 
are going to need more offense and it 
was up to Isaac,” Holly coach Lance 
Baylis said. “Isaac was great. He’s an 
unorthodox player and he came up with 
some rebounds and crazy steals.”

Taking care of the ball

One stat that kept the Bronchos in the 
contest was how they were able to take 
care of the ball. The Bronchos turned 
the ball over just five times the entire 
contest. Those five miscues were trans- 
lated into just two Central points. Mean- 
while, Central turned it over 14 times, 
with Holly scoring 14 points on those 
attempts.

What was up with those nets?

Anyone who went to the regional 
games at Holly High School may have 
noticed many times when play had to be 
halted due to the nets getting caught on 
the rim after a bucket. Those wonder- 
ing why that was a fairly frequent oc- 
currence probably missed the end of the 
Metro League season when the Bron- 
chos cut the nets down. Consequent- 
ly, newer nets were being used. 
New nets have a tendency to get snagged 
into the rim until they loosen up. 
One-trick Bronchos, or not?

For those who think the Bronchos 
are a one-and-done team when it comes 
to competing for regional titles, they 
may be wrong. Sure, the Bronchos will 
graduate their top scoring weapon (Jake 
Daniels) and other players like scoring 
weapon Joshua Simms, the school’s all- 
time assist leader Parker Rowse and de- 
pendable Isaac Casillas, but there’s still 
plenty of talent remaining.

Kyle Woodruff, who has missed most 
of this season due to a broke collarbone, 
will team with strong guard Ian Hodges. 
It’s likely Woodruff, who was warming 
up on Wednesday, would’ve been healthy 
 enough to play in the state quarterfinal 
game if the Bronchos won the game on 
Wednesday. Also, Paris Partee appears 
poised to give the Bronchos a strong post 
presence they haven’t had in quite awhile.

The Bronchos should be able to compete 
at a high level again next season.
BRONCHOS’
Continued from Page 18A
the Vikings up 70-65 after a layup by Ad- etokunbo Ogundeji with about 51 seconds left in regulation. But the Bronchos put one more run together.
Jake Daniels answered with a three-point shot from the free-throw line and also netted eight of his points in the fourth quarter. Holly fouled Central’s Dylan Hudspeth, who had yet to score a point, with 23.9 seconds left. He made the first free throw, but missed the second. Holly’s Ian Hodges rebounded and the Bronchos had two chances to win the game. The first came on a Daniels’ shot, but he missed. Casillas rebounded the missed ball. Eventually the ball came back out to Tooley who missed the final shot of the game.
“I thought it was going to be like the Flushing game. I thought it was going to be like the Plymouth game,” said Holly coach Lance Baylis, pointing out two games the Bronchos won this season down the stretch. “There was never any doubt in my mind. … I thought it was our game. I thought we were going to hit that. That’s what we do. We had the shooters on the floor and the last shot. And for the first time the last shot didn’t go in for us. But credit Walled Lake Central. … They were sparring just like we were sparring. It was a great heavy-weight match, that’s what it was.”
Holly struggled on the boards in the first half and was trailing 39-30 with 2:25 left in the first half after a converted free throw by Malik Abiola. It was the biggest lead either team had during the contest. However, Hodges dished a pass for a layup to Casillas, sparking a 6-0 run during the final 90 seconds of the half. The pair hooked up for another Casillas layup after a Daniels’ steal, and a Hodges’ steal resulted in him making two free throws right before the end of the half, cutting Central’s lead to 39-36 at the break. It was a tight contest from that point on.
Daniels led Holly with 25 points, while fellow senior Casillas finished with 14 points. Tooley netted 12 points, while Hodges and Paris Partee netted nine points each. Partee finished with six rebounds, while Tooley had five rebounds and four.

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Photos by Scott Schupbach
PLANNING A ROAD TRIP THIS SPRING?

First thing on your ‘to-do’ list should be an appointment with your vehicle’s mechanic.

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**22A Sunday, March 22, 2015 news@tctimes.com, 810-629-8282**

By Sally Rummel

Put your mail on hold . . . check. Arrange for doggy sitter . . . check. Get the car in the shop for a pre-trip checkup . . . check.

The first thing that should be on your checklist before going on a road trip this spring is an appointment with your favorite mechanic to make sure your vehicle is in top shape before the trip.

“Your vehicle should have a general ‘once over’ if you’re planning on a long trip to Florida, the Carolinas, etc . . .,” said Jerry Lesperance, owner of Dewey’s Auto Center in Fenton. “You’re looking for things that need attention before you take off on your trip, so you don’t have a problem when you’re on the road.”

Local car shops and dealerships will often do a free inspection of your vehicle. “We’ll hoist your vehicle up and look underneath for loose components,” said Mike Agnone, service business development center manager at Vic Canever Chevrolet.

Items in your vehicle that should be checked include:

- **Fluids, including oil, coolant, brake and transmission fluid**
  - Make sure you get a high-quality filter, too. Which is cheaper — a $30 oil change or a new engine?

- **Brakes**
  - Are your rotors warped or cracked? Do they have deep grooves or are your pads warn close to their minimum clearance?

- **Front suspension, struts and shocks**
  - A leaking strut or shock absorber should be replaced before a trip.

- **Wheel alignment**
  - Improper wheel alignment can cause handling problems, increased tire wear and the vehicle constantly pulling to one side.

- **Tires**
  - Have your tires been rotated and inspected? “Tires are a huge part of your vehicle’s pre-trip checkup,” said Lesperance. “The last thing you want to do is get into Georgia or Tennessee and have a blowout.” A blowout at interstate speeds can be both frightening and dangerous. Replace any tires that seem suspect. Take a look at tire pressure for better gas mileage and handling.

- **Spare tire**
  - Know where it is and how to use it.

- **Lights**
  - A burnt-out bulb is not only dangerous, but may prompt a visit from a local police department. Bulbs are inexpensive and easy to change.

- **Windshield wipers**
  - If your blades are more than six months old, swap them out for new ones. Bad blades can make driving in the rain in an unfamiliar place a nightmare.

- **Transmission/Four-wheel drive**
  - When towing or hauling, as many people do with vehicles in the spring, get your transmission and four-wheel drive serviced, advises Agnone of Vic Canever Chevrolet.

- **Top-to-bottom cleaning**
  - Last but not least, car experts suggest you give your vehicle a good top-to-bottom cleaning. Pull out any and all unnecessary items from your trunk and backseat, to help with your vehicle’s fuel economy and provide a “clean slate” for your road trip. Make sure your windows are clean for safety and visibility.

**Road trip essentials**

Having these items on hand will help ensure a safe, trouble-free road trip.

- Phone charger
- Maps/GPS
- Blanket
- MP3 Player
- Umbrella
- Sunglasses
- Water/snacks
- Paper towels
- Cash
- AAA membership
- First-aid kit
- Flashlight/batteries
- Jumper cables

Source: Cars.com
‘Where the rubber meets the road’

Choosing quality tires for your vehicle means looking at brands, numbers and reviews

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

It doesn’t pay to skimp on quality when it comes to buying tires that connect your vehicle to the road.

While there are many different choices and brands to select from, it first comes down to purchasing the tire type and size your vehicle calls for, according to Jerry Lesperance of Dewey’s Auto Center in Fenton.

“Your tire is the ‘contact patch’ that meets the road. It’s important that you have a quality tire. You can expect to pay $120 to $160 per tire for a mid-range sedan. The less expensive the tire, the tread compounds aren’t as pliable for gripping the road,” Lesperance also tells customers to buy the correct tire for the application. “If you bought a truck and put a tire on it that can’t carry the weight, you’ll have a tire failure.”

How do you know what kind of tire to buy for your vehicle? The first place to look is a placard found inside the door jam of the driver’s side, or your car manufacturer’s manual.

Selecting a reputable brand is another way to choose a tire. “If the vehicle came from the manufacturer with Goodyear or Michelin tires, for example, and you’ve been satisfied with them, then go with the same brand,” suggested Lesperance.

Kyle Mantecon, service manager at Lasco Ford, says that tires are one of the most crucial parts of a vehicle and should be purchased with care.

“The biggest difference between poor tires and quality tires can be found in the numbers, from its speed rating and traction rating, as well as the hardness of the rubber compound the tire is made from,” said Mantecon. “There are so many different factors that go into choosing a quality tire.”

He advises vehicle owners to go with a name brand tire made of quality materials with ratings appropriate for the application.

“Also check on the tire warranty,” he said. “Most warranties are only for defects in the tire, not for wear.”

In today’s digital age, tire reviews are another way to check on tire quality. “Look at the reviews from a car manufacturer like ford.com,” he said. “You can also check reviews on any tire manufacturer site or a site like tirerack.com.”

Mantecon adds that tires and brakes are two vehicle components that are often priced by quality. “The more they cost, the better quality they usually are,” he said.

Summary

Do you need to buy a $200 tire or will a $100 do for your vehicle? It all depends on the application and performance you’re expecting for your vehicle.

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2015 Buick Regal

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