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

44 I am so grossed out, I want to **vomit. 77** Worchester

Drive resident

TRI-COUNTY TIMES SUBMITTED PHOTO Fenton residents in the area of Hickory Street and Worchester Drive are taking photographs of the rats they have trapped in their yards.





PAGE 1B **MICHIGAN VACATION DESTINATIONS** Weekend T MCS

SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2015

2012 - 2013 - 2014 NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

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 Shiawassee Ave., this building has housed the chocolatier retail business owned by Carol Schuler for more than 30 years.

See DIBBLEVILLE on 9A





TRI-COUNTY TIMES | EMILY STOCKER Music performed at the library's grand reopening Thursday is reminiscent of the era when the original

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

Alleged shooter back in court for March 31 trial

► Could face up to life in prison if found guilty

By Tim Jagielo

tiagielo@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 se-

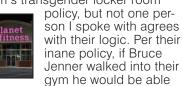
lection were adjourned by Circuit Court Judge Archie Hayman, at the request of Genesee County



structure was built.



Everyone is talking about the gym's transgender locker room



to shower and dress in the ladies locker room. Good bye and good

L It appears that in today's environment, any black man



who resists arrest is automatically presumed to be innocent and a victim of police brutality. This is

a recipe for disaster for all concerned

Would someone

please pass this message



on to the policy makers at Planet Fitness: 'Cuckoo, cuckoo.'



tctimes.com COMMENT **OF THE WEEK**

Gregory

Johnson

LL If companies can get by with paying women 72 cents on the dollar for the same quality of work as men, then why don't we see any firms hiring all female labor forces and pocketing the difference? **""**

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Times News & Features

WWW.TCTIMES.COM SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2015 PAGE 3A

It's spring musical time

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

By Tim Jagielo

tjagielo@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795

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 tricounty 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 a 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







TRI-COUNTY TIMES I TIM JAGIELO

(Top) Fenton High School (FHS) Theater Director Lori Thompson instructs the cast of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat on using the expansive pyramid during the performance. (Lower left) Sadie Kessler rehearses as Cinderella at Holly High School Tuesday night. (Lower right) Students perform the opening song of the FHS musical.

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES



The Tri-County Times is published semi-weekly by Rockman Communications, 256 N. Fenway Drive, Fenton, Michigan 48430. Serving the communities of: Fenton, Linden, Lake Fenton, Holly, Hartland, Byron, Gaines, Davisburg, Swartz Creek and Grand Blanc and the townships of: Fenton, Holly, Rose, Tyrone and Argentine.

HOURS:



CONTACT INFORMATION

owntown 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 also 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.

44 We should

all be thankful

to the volunteer

members of the

Fenton DDA. 77

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

(envy 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 yesteryear — that provides a temporary reprieve from our hectic dayto-day routines.

As the song says, 'We had it all,' we just hadn't been using it — until now. We

should all 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 complimenters as well as the

complainers, and often provide valued input.

We, as residents, are the community. It belongs to us. We should all have a voice in its future.

See you downtown.

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

WHO ELSE KEEPS the 't' silent in of-

ten? Anyone with an education. Do you also pronounce the 't' in soften? Same thing. Look it up.

THIS IS IN response to the person's comment about illegal immigrants and their rights. Illegal immigrants have more rights than a white man in the United States today. And they already are getting our Social Security.

I'VE LIVED IN Fenton for 65 years, do you know how many times I've heard we need to do this, do that, millage this, raise this, for the roads? Sales tax here, gas tax, cigarette tax, liquor tax — 65 years of it and we still have potholes! The holes are fine, cut the taxes so we can buy food.

I'LL ONLY ASK one question, and be honest, have you ever in your life, seen one leader of the United States cause so much turmoil and division in all your life? One individual is dividing this nation and frankly, I think that's his goal. He seems to be succeeding and it scares me.

MY NEIGHBOR ACROSS the street passed away. I just want to say rest in peace sir, you were a good man and you will be missed around the Holly area.

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

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 get screwed, vote 'no' on Proposal 1.

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 village 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

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.

ACCORDING TO LAST week's news, you've seen what took place at Planet Fitness women's restroom in Midland. Well city of Fenton, you recently voted for the same gender-identity non-discrimination policy. So soon, any man can come into any women's restroom. I say no thank you to what the Fenton City Council has done.

HOW MUCH DOES the state pay to run these ads for people to vote for Proposal 1? They could take that money and fix the roads.

■■■
ALL OF YOU Bibi lovers? Really? If you have a problem with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, you need to take a long look in the mirror my friend.

WOOD STOVES ARE a part of life in Michigan. Get used to it. İf you don't like them, go to Florida or maybe California.

■■■
I TOTALLY AGREE with the person that wrote in about Argentine. 75 percent of the people that live in Argentine have lived there their whole lives and have no plans on ever leaving. It is a wonderful

HEY, MAKE SURE your kids go to college and get a good education so they can have all kinds of money to pay outrageous heating bills.

THEY WANT US to spend everything that we have. They want to take money from us. They have the money to fix our roads. They don't want to spend it; they want us to pay for it. Make them spend the money. Vote 'no' on Proposal 1.

See **HOT LINE** throughout Times

street talk



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 Tyrone Township



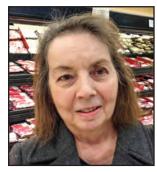
"I love it. There are so many places to go and the town looks better."

> – Ann Hamlin Fenton Township



"The progress is pretty good, but we need better parking for all of the people."

> – Don Walls Rose Township



"I like it. It is a nice place, and everyone here is really friendly."

> — Marilyn Fisher Fenton Township



"I am thrilled with it. I love the new Cornerstone building."

> - Marianne Griggs Fenton Township



"I am concerned about the parking issues. There isn't enough space for all the people."

> – Liz Ladd Tyrone Township

Summary

Non-motorized

recreational trails

for bikers, hikers.

skaters, strollers, etc.

will likely be a reality

within three to five

municipalities.

years, with support

of residents and local

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@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

The need for local multi-use recreational trails, commonly known as "bike paths," is spinning 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 routes in the region slated for possible trails are on Silver Lake Road between Argentine and Linden and on

thing is to get the first one off the ground.
Once you have one built, the others seem to come more easily.

Victor Lukasavitz LAF Pathway nd Linden and on Owen Road between Linden and

Lobdell 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, 10foot 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 Trans-

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 '60s 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.

portation (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 1 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 Tier 2 (Mid Term)
Tier 3 (Long Term)

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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YOUR **SMILE**

By: Dr. Steven Sulfaro

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Dental implants have revolutionized the world of dentistry. In the past, when a tooth was lost, the only two choices for replacement was either a removable partial denture or a fixed (doesn't come out) three unit bridge. Both options take weeks to complete with the patient often having to suffer the embarrassment of having a missing tooth until treatment is finished. Now thanks to implant technology and minimally invasive surgical techniques, an implant retained crown is often the treatment of choice for tooth replacement. A young lady presented to my office with a badly decayed and abscessed tooth. The tooth was non-restorable and needed to be removed. She was horrified at the prospect of having a missing tooth in her smile. Using minimally invasive implant surgical techniques I was able to painlessly remove the tooth and immediately place an implant with a temporary crown: no missing tooth in her smile! Thanks to minimally invasive implants surgical techniques I can offer my patients an implant retained crown at $\mbox{\bf LESS}$ $\mbox{\bf COST}$ than a 3-unit fixed bridge. If you have decayed, missing, or broken teeth contact my office to set up your FREE consultation to see if dental implants are right for you.

I welcome your questions and comments. Feel free to e-mail me drsulfaro@comcast.net



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LIBRARY

Continued from Front Page

Gerry Willey, owner of Fenton Home Furnishings, visited the library over a year ago, and immediately noticed it was 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

them on a daily basis one by one, but when they're all together, the support

support the library. I see is just overwhelming. 77 Jason Bias

44 I'm just overwhelmed,

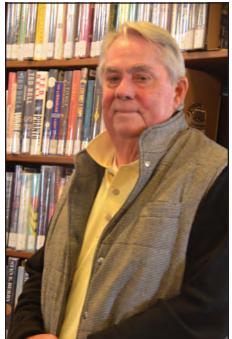
overwhelmed by the

number of people that

Jack R. Winegarden librarian three months, even handling 'holds' and opening on Fridays for the Fenton branch.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES I EMILY STOCKER (Above) Dozens of guests, including Fenton city officials, community members and library patrons were on hand for the grand reopening of the Jack R. Winegarden Library Thursday evening. (Right) Gerry Willey donated the \$10,000 in flooring for the library's renovation.



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 Li-

brary took on Fen-

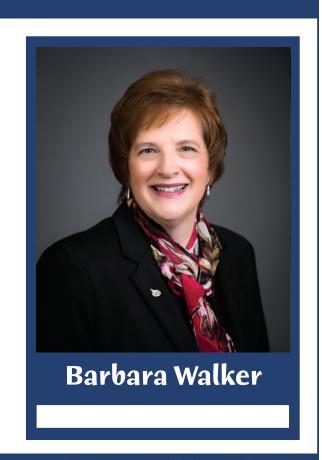
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Spring will be cooler again this year — blame Canada

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 colder 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 tempera-

tures and cooler air temperatures this spring. It also means higher lake levels, because less evaporation occurs as the hemisphere heats up.

The other factor is upperlevel winds, which tell where spring weather the air is coming from. Winds out of Canada bring cooler temperatures. East/west ABC-12 meteorologist

Average high 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: 68.5 degrees

64 degrees, start of month 73 degrees, end of month

winds bring warmer temperatures. Guess

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

where the air is coming from this year?

dry spring.

Cinderella takes to the stage in Holly

44 Water

temperatures

that impacts

especially. 77

J.R. Kirtek

will be cold, and

► 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.







			•
MONDAY 8:00gm	Shaila	*Iron Yoaa	
		*Iron Yoga	
11:00am	Julie	Slow Burn	
5:30pm	Kathy	Vinyasa	
		*Slow Flow	
TUESDAY			
8:00am	Kathv	Short Form	
	,	Ashtanaa	
9:30am	Kathv	Vinyasa	
11:00am	Teresa	Intro to	
1 1.00 UIII	101630	11110 10	

WEDNESDAY	lulio	Hot Vinyasa
		Slow Flov
5:30pm		Hot Vinyasa
		oga/Back to Basic
11:00am	Teresa	Intro to
9:30am	Kathy	Vinyasa
	•	Ashtango
8:00am	Kathy	Short Forn

MEDIALSDA		
6:30am	Julie	Hot Vinyasa
8:00am	Sheila	*Vinýasa
9:30am	Sheila	*Vinýasa
11:00am	Julie	Slow Burn
4:15pm	Jessica	Hatha
		Yin Yoga
		*Iron Yoga

THURSDAY		
8:00am	Kathy	Slow Flow
9:30am	Kathý	Vinyasa
11:00am	Teresa	Slow Burn
5:30pm	Kris	Mat Pilates
6:45pm	Kris	Power Vinyasa
<u>-</u>		

8:00am 9:30am	Sheila Sheila	
9:00am	Anna	Hot Vinyasa Slow Flow

SUNDAY

- Schedule is subject to change *denotes faith filled classes

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES SUBMITTED PHOTO

Fourth-graders at Holly Academy display waterproof mats. The students collected the bags for members at the Loose Senior Center in Linden to crochet strips cut from the bags into waterproof mats.

Fourth-graders collect bags for worthy project

▶ Recyclable plastic store bags crocheted into waterproof mats for homeless

By Sharon Stone

sstone@tctimes.com; 810-433-6786

Fourth-graders at Holly Academy have been collecting plastic bags — thousands of plastic bags. Why, you might ask.

Creative people have discovered that recyclable plastic bags work great for making crocheted mats, which are also waterproof. Numerous other ideas can be found on Pinterest using crocheted plastic bags that have been cut into long strips.

In November and December, during

a challenge between the fourth-grade classes, students collected as many plastic bags as they could. Their project gave recyclable bags another purpose and kept them out of landfills.

By the end of December, the students had collected more than 7,000 bags, which they donated to a group at Loose Senior Center in Linden. It takes 840 bags to make one mat and the Loose Center members crocheted nearly 90 mats out of the Holly Academy donation. These waterproof mats will then be given to the homeless.

Following spring break, the students will once again start collecting bags.

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. Āi s 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. Ā e

series of random events that shape these stories are occurring right now, as you read this. Ā ey are out there, waiting to be discovered by us so that we can share them with you.

Ā ese stories affect you, and are part of your future. Ā ey comprise the ever-evolving fabric of life in our communities. Ā ese 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 is serving as general contractor for the project. "I think the com-

Summary

most historic

buildings, now

housing Sweet

Ave., is getting a new two-story

addition and the

prospect of office

and retail tenants.

Variations at 101

West Shiawassee

One of Fenton's

munity 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 preservation of the building that has housed her business for more than three decades. "I've had to do a lot of 'purging' to get ready for the project," she said. "It's going to look so much better. I've seen the plans. It's nice."

This building boasts a long history of businesses in Fenton. Built in 1867, the building originally housed the Andrews Block Ladies Library and Fenton Independent upstairs, while Judge Daniel LeRoy had his law office in the back, according to records gathered by Ken Seger, curator of the A.J. Phillips Museum.

In its past, 101 West Shiawassee Ave. has been the address of a bean business, grocery and drug store, boots and shoe retailer, Pig and Whistle Restaurant back in



TRI-COUNTY TIMES I TIM JAGIELO

Conley Johnson of National Fence Company grabs a section of fence to cordon off the construction site behind Sweet Variations.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES I TIM JAGIELO A small section of the former storage area covered with vinyl siding came down a few minutes later on Thursday.

the 1930s, heating and supply company, janitorial service, auto parts and arcade, plus several others.

The building has been on the State Historic Register since 1976 and the National Historic Register since 1983.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

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

■■■
I WOULDN'T GIVE my money to the real IRS, I certainly wouldn't give it to some Indian-accent homeboy IRS, I think it's

C'MON PEOPLE, PICK up after your dog. Be a responsible dog owner,

his beer cans out in my nice clean lawn every Friday night or Saturday night, it is a \$500 fine for throwing trash on the highway and I have your

I WAS THINKING about becoming a

to the Democratic Party.

hilarious people get scammed by that.

don't be lazy.

DEAR DRUNK DRIVER who throws face on clear surveillance video.



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Police&Fire report

IRS PHONE SCAMS CONTINUE

Fenton Police Chief Rick Aro said his department has received numerous complaints from residents about IRS phone scams. Residents are receiving calls from someone claiming to work for the IRS. This unknown person tells the resident that there is a problem with their tax return and they must send in a fine or face being arrested. This is a scam. Aro said these calls are hard to trace but may be originating in the U.S. As to the people who have complained to Fenton police, they knew it was a scam and did not lose any money. Go to tctimes.com to listen to an audio recording of one such phone call.

Financial Q&A

Are you getting all your questions answered when you speak to someone regarding your finances?

Do you have a question that you would like to ask an unbiased team of Certified Financial Planners that have a fiduciary duty? As technology and the tools available to investors and clients have improved over the last 20 years, one would think sophisticated investing options and information regarding investment vehicles and financial planning should be more straightforward and more accessible than ever before.

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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Steven C Bliss, CEO, CFP[®] **Todd Tarantino, CFP®** Noah C. Morgan, MBA, CFP°

TRI-COUNTY TIMES I TIM JAGIELO

Attorney Nicholas Robinson was in court on Tuesday, negotiating a plea deal for client Greg Johnson of Fenton. The trial set for Wednesday was adjourned, and negotiations are ongoing.

SHOOTER

Continued from Front Page

Prosecutor David Leyton's office, due to a crime lab test that had not yet been returned.

Robinson said the "operability report" of the .380 pistol allegedly used by Johnson was not back in time. This report confirms whether the gun could be used in the way it was alleged for the case.

Robinson requested that the judge dismiss the case based on this, but was denied. He said they are still preparing for a jury trial, but also in negotiations for a plea deal as well.

Johnson's attorney could not comment on the mental and emotional state of his client at this time.

John Potbury, special sentences above. assistant prosecuting attorney with the Genesee County Prosecutor's Office said, "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."

CHARGES FILED

Count 1: Assault with

Count 2: Dangerous

weapons, carrying with

unlawful intent — pun-

ishable by five years in

firearms — punishable

by two-year mandatory

sentence, served con-

secutively prior to other

Count 3: Weapons felony

in prison.

prison.

intent to commit murder

— punishable by up to life

AGAINST JOHNSON

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.

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events

'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat' March 26-29

Fenton High School Theatre presents 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor



Dreamcoat.' This show features more than 50 FHS students onstage plus more on the crew and in the orchestra. Rehearsals are being held daily. Show dates:

March 26 at 7:30 p.m., March 27 at 7:30 p.m., March 28 at 7:30 p.m., March 29 at 2:30 p.m. Tickets — in advance: \$12 adult, \$10 senior, \$6 student. At the door: \$14 adult, \$12 senior, \$8 student. For advanced ticket, email fentonshtheatre@gmail.com.

American Legion Fenton Post 38 to meet

The American Legion Fenton Post 38 and Auxiliary will hold a meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 24 at John's Riversia Picture 1997.



March 24 at John's Pizzeria in Fenton. For further information, call (810) 629-7092

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

${f Q}$ is for Quince and ${f R}$ 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 O. 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.



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 strawberry 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.

RASPBERRY

Of all of 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.

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.

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.

are a

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.

KUIABAGA

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.

View stories at tctimes.com



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LAKE FENTON - \$525,000 40' FRONTAGE, 3 BEDROOMS, 2.5 BATHROOMS & 1,716 SQ. FT.



LAKE FENTON - \$339,000 80' FRONTAGE ON LAKE FENTON CHANNEL, 4 BEDS, 3 BATHS & 3,000+ SQ. FT. W/ WALKOUT



LOBDELL LAKE - \$210,000 40' FRONTAGE, 2 BEDS, 1.5 BATHS & 1,160 SQ. FT. WITH WALKOUT



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DAVISON - \$279,900 & LOCATED ON 13TH GREEN OF COPPER RIDGE GOLF



\$209,999 ALMOST 3 ACRES, 3 BEDS, 2.5 BATHS & 2,459 SQ. FT. FINISHED BASEMENT



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\$649,999 10 ACRES, 3 BEDROOMS, WINE

CELLAR & 5,987 SQ. FT. WITH

FINISHED BASEMENT



FENTON SCHOOLS - \$169,999 3 BEDROOMS, 1.5 BATHROOMS & 1,809 SQ. FT. & A FLORIDA ROOM



\$139,900 3 BEDS, 2 BATHS, 3,002 SQ. FT. & INSULATED HEATED 2 CAR GARAGE



\$134,900 3 BEDROOMS, 2 BATHROOMS & 1,454 SQ. FT. WITH FINISHED BASEMENT

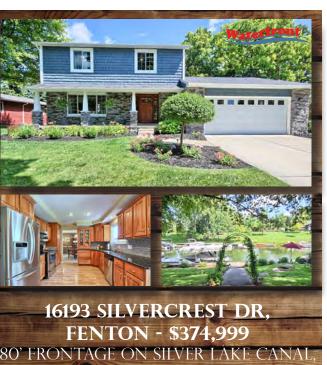
LINDEN SCHOOLS -



SWARTZ CREEK SCHOOLS - \$129,999

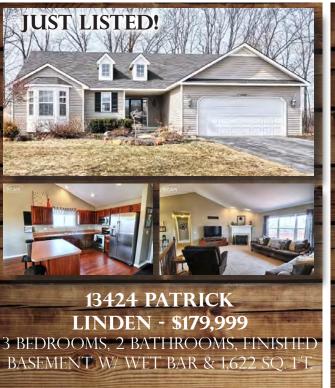
3 BEDROOMS, 1.5 BATHROOMS. 1,660 SQ. FT. & 3/4 ACRES OF LAND

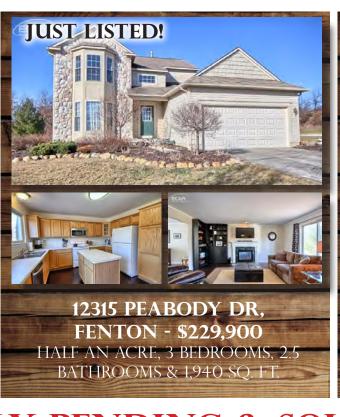
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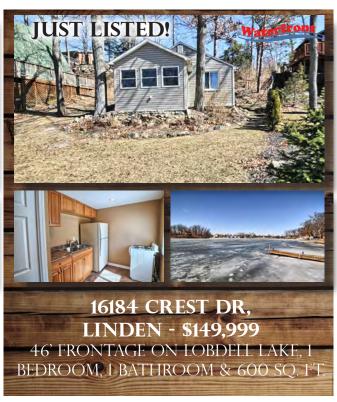












RECENTLY PENDING & SOLD HOMES



















Hi my 2002 Chevy Impala 3400 V6 is making a squealing noise near the front of the engine when i start the car. When I shut the car off, it continues to squeal for about 10-15 seconds before running down and shutting off. I think the sound is coming from the fan, but I'm not sure. - Ridge

Corrected answer from last week:

Ridge, this sounds like you have something caught in the electric fan motor. To check this, you should disconnect the battery negative cable and see if the fan moves freely by hand. Keep in mind there may be more than one cooling fan. The second one could be in front of the radiator and difficult to access. Also, if there is nothing in the fan, it could be a motor going bad or a stripped out fan blade.

Do you have a question that you would like to have answered? E-mail it to me at: askthemechanic@wilkinsonautorepair.com



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MUSICAL

Continued from Page 3A

wish I hadn't been through that night"

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.

Where: Lake Fenton Theatre, Lake Fenton High School, 4070 Lahring Rd., Linden. Tickets: \$8 for adults, \$5 for students/ senior citizens. Tickets are available at

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 on Sunday.

Where: The Ruby F. Zima Auditorium, Fenton High School, 3200 W. Shiawassee

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



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.

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, 6141 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.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO Fenton High School sophomore Chase Raymond performs as "Benjamin" for their production.







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RAT

Continued from Front Page

mad, frustrated, grossed out, etc. when they talk about the rats they have been seeing near their homes beginning last November.

One resident on Hickory, who asked that her name not be used, said she started noticing the rats last fall, near her home as well as elsewhere in the city. She said she, her neighbors and city officials have their own speculations as to where the rats are coming from, but nobody seems to know for sure.

The woman grew up in the Fenton area and has been living on Hickory Street for about a decade. She has never seen this problem before. At first she thought she was hearing field mice, but when she went to inspect, these rodents were no ordinary field mice, they were rats, some several inches long.

Had the rodents been ordinary field mice, she could have lived with that. "We all know it happens," she said. "These were like mice on steroids."

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 Worchester 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 Worchester 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-

News briefs

Holly Area Community Forums to meet on Tues

The community is invited to hear about how everyone can reduce their energy costs and learn more about how Holly area businesses, government facilities, and residents can begin to reduce dependence on fossil fuels. Registration is at 6:30 p.m. David Hollens, president of New Energy Solutions, LLC, in Milford, will speak at 7 p.m. on "Sustainability and Net Zero = Energy Efficiency + Renewable Energy." James Leidel, director of Clean Energy Systems will speak at 7:45 p.m. on "Oakland University Clean Energy Systems and Language Systems Projects, and a Homeowner's Guide to Utility Rebates, Tax Credits and Financing Efficiency and Solar."

thing then the health department needs to be contacted."

Fenton City Manager Lynn Markland said the city has received complaints from a handful of property owners in the area of Hickory Street. He said the city first heard of a rat issue in January, but complaints died down, possibly due to the bitter cold winter. Markland believed the problem might have gone away on its own.

Now that the weather has become more spring-like, complaints have increased. The city has been obtaining prices from pest control companies. Markland said prices, which the city would cover with city council approval, range from \$7,500 to \$12,000. As early as next week, he expects a pest control company to start putting out bait traps, which they will monitor and take care of.

From his research, Markland said the rats need a water and food source. He urges everyone, especially in this area, to use steel trashcans, with secure lids to store their household's garbage. If a pet is kept outside, don't leave their food unsecured and bird feed should be removed.

"We're trying to work with the people," said Markland.

College loans could be less painful

44 If you can

refinance your

mortgage, you

should be able

Gary Peters

to refinance your

student loans. 77

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 joined 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 borrow-

U.S. Senator (D-Michigan) "If you can refinance your mortgage, you should be able to

refinance your student loans, and this bill would benefit nearly 960,000 borrowers across Michigan working to pay off their outstanding student loan debt," said Peters. "I'm proud to support this com-

monsense 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 undergraduate loans, while students who took out

> loans in the 2013-2014 school year pay a rate of 3.86 percent under the Bipartisan Student Loan Certainty Act passed by Congress in 2013.

15A

This bill would allow students and young people to pay back their outstanding loans at the same lower 3.86-percent rate that Congress previ-

ously approved for new borrowers. Nearly a million more borrowers are falling behind on their student loans compared to this time last year. Peters previously cosponsored a version of this legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives.

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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 Champagne-Marx will be onsite to begin placing barrels 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. There will not be lane closures 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.

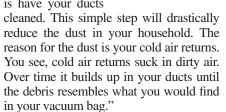
EASTER BASKETS FOR AREA CHILDREN IN NEED

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 1 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?"

improving the 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 times more polluted than the air outdoors," explained Keith Meadows, Power Vac

Owner and Operator. "More than 90% of the phone calls I receive are from distraught 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, you're not a bad housekeeper. All you need to do is have your ducts



See for yourself! For an actual photo of the debris that is pulled from a typical home's ducts, visit our website <u>www.</u> callpowervac.com.

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

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

"This brings me to my next point: choosing an air duct cleaning company. Most companies use portable units, which are essentially like a Shop-Vac that you would 248-656-0600 or visit us online at vacuum your car with. Then there are

For years, Power Vac, Inc. has been companies who claim they have a truckmounted system. In reality, they have a low powered portable system attached inside a van. We have the equipment powerful enough to get the job done right, and that equipment is a Power Vac truck.'

Want to see the difference between

our equipment and portable or truckmounted equipment? Visit our website at www. callpowervac.com

"The Power Vac truck is the most powerfulequipment in the industry," Keith explained. "Simply put, the entire truck is the vacuum, and the truck motor powers the equipment. You'll know it's a Power Vac truck because it's the size

of an ambulance and when engaged, 12 large air bags come out of the roof.

What makes the difference in equipment? Power! To put things into perspective, your furnace moves 2,000 cubic feet of air per minute, which is what you feel coming out of your register. Truckmounted equipment moves 4,000 CFMs. 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 competitors is our honest service, and, of course, our equipment. I know the importance of being on time, working with a smile and respecting people's homes and their belongings. There are a lot of duct cleaners around, but rest assured you'll receive the same quality of service I expect in my home."

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



TRI-COUNTY TIMES I SUBMITTED PHOTO

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

Stage 4 lung cancer

define his life or the

spent with his family

for nine years, as he

lived with and fought

widow, Gina, is now

the organizer for the

LUNGevity Breathe

Deep Walk in Ann

Arbor on April 18.

quality of time he

the disease. His

let his battle with

▶Tyrone Township man battled lung cancer, putting faith and family above all else

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Joe Bono was a youthful 51 when he passed away on March 5, 2012 after battling Stage 4 lung **Summary**

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.

A non-smoker, Bono was one of the unlucky 15 percent of lung cancer patients who contracted the disease anyway.

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.

Bono's widow, Gina, of Fenton and his three eldest daughters, Alyson, Hannah and Miranda, will make up a team of about 20 family

members and friends who will remember Bono, along with the couple's youngest triplet daughters, Madison, Sydney and Caelyn, who were just 2 when their dad died.

The triplets, now in kindergarten, had an opportunity to know their father for less than three years. "They know he's up in Heaven," said Miranda. "They do remember him and recognize his pictures."

The Bono family will participate in the 5K Walk/Fun Run at Ingalls Mall in

> Ann Arbor as Team Bono. Joe himself used to walk for LUN-Gevity, using the group for support as he endured surgery, chemo, radiation and experimental treatments to fight the cancer. Now Gina has taken on the huge responsibility of organizing the LUNGevity Walk in Ann Arbor.

> "It's been three years now since Dad's passing," said Miranda. "We've been the largest group at LUNGevity to walk every year and have

raised the most money." This year's goal for the Ann Arbor walk is to raise a total of \$25,000, according to the group's website, LUNGevity.org.

44 They (the triplets) know

Miranda Bono One of Joe Bono's six daughters

Heaven. 77

he's up in

In a blog, 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.

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES I LINDA ANDRADA

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

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; 810-629-8282

"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.

44 I wasn't nervous during it. I just went up there and winged it. 77

Zach Wissing Lake Fenton senior and Spelling Bee champion

"I wanted to do this spelling bee because I won the spelling bee in the eighthgrade 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

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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 reoccurring 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

HILLARY CLINTON is no better or worse than any other of our other selfserving 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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LFLF GYMNASTICS

Team's state results are featured. See Page 19A



ONLINE EXCLUSIVES

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

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 \$25 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 \$15. Seventh- and eighthgraders will tryout at Fenton High School from 9 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. The ninththrough 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 tricountytigersaau.com.

Holly falls a shot short vs. WL Central, 73-71

▶Bronchos' strong effort not enough to capture first regional crown since 1959

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com

Holly — The game was over and Parker Rowse laid on his knees and his arms with his forehead leaning on the basketball court's floor.

The Bronchos had just lost an entertaining and emotionally draining 73-71 Class A regional final contest against Walled Lake Central when Adam Tooley's final three-pointer fell short. Realizing his career as a four-year starter on Holly's varsity boys basketball team was ending at that moment had probably hit his mind, dropping him to the court not far from where the Central players celebrated its title. But, he may have been on the court just as easily due to pure exhaustion.

The Holly Bronchos had great reason to be tired. The Bronchos fought hard with the taller Vikings all night long in front of an emotional overflow crowd in their home gym, but they fell just two points short of advancing to the state quarterfinals. Holly's historymaking Class A state tournament run ended when Adam Tooley's three-point shot at the buzzer fell short, advancing the Vikings to Tuesday's Class A state quarterfinal contest at Grand Blanc High

"It was such a close game, any team could've won," Rowse said. "We left it all on the floor and came up short. It's tough. We accomplished a lot with the league title and districts, but we wanted so much more. To come up short like this, in a game like that, I don't know what to say. It's emo-



TRI-COUNTY TIMES (Above) Holly's Parker Rowse shows the pain of Wednesday's 73-71 Class A regional final loss as Walled Lake Central celebrates in the background. (Right) The Holly bench begins to realize their magical season is nearing an end.



"We were this close, man, this close," Holly senior guard Jake Daniels said. "They hit some tough shots. Some shots we had didn't go down. We had a couple of good looks at the end. We knocked a few down, but it's just the beginning for us. You are not done hearing about Holly basket-

"Yeah, of course, winning is the main thing we want to do, but the guys couldn't have fought any harder. They poured their hearts out. That's all I can ask."

The Vikings (20-5) learned all they wanted about Holly basketball on Wednesday as the two teams traded back the lead 11 times with six ties. In the fourth quarter alone, there were five lead changes on the first five scores of the period. The final tie of the contest came at 64-all, when Daniels hit two free throws with 4:12 left, however, Central's Walter Kelser responded by netting two free throws himself, giving Central a 66-64 lead. The free throws also sparked a small 6-1 run, putting

"Knowing we 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

See BRONCHOS' on 21A

▶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 Rowse 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 22-3 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.

See CLASS on 20A

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LFLF's Hutchings captures D2 all-state honors

▶Freshman gymnast places 10th on the vault at the state meet

By David Troppens

dtroppens@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

"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."





TRI-COUNTY TIMES I MARK BOLEN

Two of the Linden/Fenton/Lake Fenton co-op gymnasts who competed at the state meet were Blake Hutchings (above) and Macy Mitchell (left). Hutchings earned All-State honors, placing 10th at the event on the vault. The other state performer for the LFLF program was Nicole Haberkamp.

Olsen breaks three state swim records at meet

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

Apparently Grace Olsen is a fast

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 Championsip 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 secondplace 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

See MEET on 20A



MEET

Continued from Page 19A the Tiger Sharks.

Individually, Luke Conner, 12, qualified for some consolation finals in backstroke 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 competed and did well. For the boys, Nicholas Demarey, Max Haney, David Rampy and Andrew Steele competed in the 10 and under relays, taking 17th in the medley relay and 20th in a freestyle relay. The girls 10 and under freestyle relay team of Olsen, Abby Carrigan, Madison Labrie and Lauren Gadola teamed to place 26th in a freestyle relay. Carrigan and Labrie also competed in individual events at the meet.

"All the kids did really 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. Currently, there are just over 100 children ages 6 to 18 in the program.

"We are still growing," Olsen said.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES I DAVID TROPPENSFAST swim program competitor Grace Olsen recently earned five firsts and a second at the 2015

The goal of our team is to provide every member an opportunity to improve swimming skills and achieve success at his or her level of ability, from novice to international competitor.

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Spring sessions are beginning soon. For those who want more information go to teamunify.com/mifast or to slpr.



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CLASS

Continued from Page 18A

"We started out with a pretty 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 especially 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 offensive talent.

He proved that point in the Bronchos loss to Walled Lake Central, scoring 14 points. When it looked like the Vikings were on the verge of blowing the game open, Casillas came through with seven points in the final three minutes 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, Casillas 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 translated into just two Central points. Meanwhile, 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



TRI-COUNTY TIMES I MARK BOLEN

Holly's lan Hodges (left) attempts a shot during Monday's Class A regional semifinal game against Plymouth. Hodges is one of many quality underclassmen who should assure the Bronchos will be a strong team once again next season.

halted due to the nets getting caught on the rim after a bucket. Those wondering why that was a fairly frequent occurrence probably missed the end of the Metro League season when the Bronchos cut the nets down. Consequently, 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 dependable 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.



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Walter Kelser was Walled Lake Central's leading scorer, hitting five three-pointers in the contest.

Anton Lucaj made 7-for-7 at the free-throw line and also netted eight of his 17 points in the fourth quarter.



Paris Partee grabbed seven rebounds, but was forced to play with foul trouble for most of the contest



Class A Regional Final Box

WL CENTRAL VIKINGS vs. HOLLY BRONCHOS

WL Central (20-5)	FG	ETIM	ET/A	Pts	Holly (22-3)	FG	EIIV	ETA	Pts
Dylan Hudspeth	0	1	2	1	Jake Daniels	7	8	9	25
Nate Collins	3	0	0	7	Morgan Baylis	1	0	0	2
Walter Kelser	8	4	4	25	Isaac Casillas	5	0	0	14
Westly Whitner	1	1	5	3	lan Hodges	1	7	8	9 =
Anton Lucaj	4	7	7	17	Adam Tooley	5	0	0	12
Calvin Dado	4	2	2	10	Paris Partee	4	1	2	9
Malik Abioula	1	0	0	2					.
Adetokunbo Ogundeii	4	0	0	8					

Score by quarter					
Walled Lake Central	17	22	16	18	- 73
Holly	21	15	19	16	- 71

Three-point field goals: Central: 8 (Collins, Kelser 5, Lucaj 2. Holly: 7 (Casillas 2, Daniels 3, Tooley 2). Field goal percentage: Central 25-for-51, 49.0 percent. Holly 24-for-59, 40.6 percent. **Turnovers:** Central 14, Holly 5.

Photos by Scott Schupbach

steals. The Vikings, who will play Saginaw Arthur Hill in a Class A state quarterfinal game on Tuesday at Grand Blanc High School, were paced by Walter Kelser's 25

school record 22 wins which included a 19-game winning streak until Wednesday's loss. The team won its first Class A district title in school history, and also had its longest tournament run in Class A in school history.

"It was an incredible game. What a ride, what a season, what guys, what a team," Baylis said. "It's amazing what we did -19 straight wins, 22-3, most wins ever in the history of the school We went farther than any other team in the Class A level for

"I don't know," Casillas said when asked about his emotions. "We expected to be up here, but we wish we could've gone farther.

Casillas' comment was the understate-



TRI-COUNTY TIMES I SCOTT SCHUPBACH Holly's Jake Daniels scored 25 points in the Bronchos' 73-71 Class A regional final loss to Walled Lake Central on Wednesday.

points. Jucaj had 17 points. The Bronchos ended the season with a

Holly. It's just a great bunch of guys."

Overall, it was a good season."

ment of the night. It was a history-breaking

more to attack the paint than usual and led the Bronchos with 25 points.

Jake Daniels looked





Ian Hodges (left) is one the underclassmen returning who should keep Holly competitive next season.





BRONCHOS'

Continued from Page 18A

the Vikings up 70-65 after a layup by Adetokunbo Ogundeji with about 51 seconds left in regulation. But the Bronchos put one more run together.

Jake Daniels answered with a threepointer about nine seconds later, cutting the gap to 70-68. Holly fouled Anton Lucaj with 39 seconds left, and he netted both free throws, putting Central up 72-68. However, Isaac Casillas responded with a three-pointer with about 30.2 seconds left, cutting the gap to 72-71.

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 it was missed. Casillas rebounded the miss. 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'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 heavyweight 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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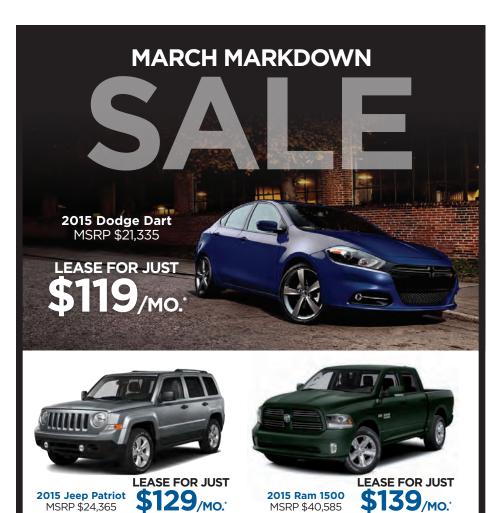
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By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

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

 $Improper\,wheel\,alignment\,can\,cause\,han-$

dling 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 pretrip 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'

Summary

Do you need to

buy a \$300 tire or will a

\$100 do for your vehicle?

It all depends on the

application and perfor-

mance you're expecting

for your vehicle.

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

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.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 midrange 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 trac-

> tion 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.

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