



## Area seniors recall where they were on Dec. 7, 1941

■ **Japanese attack Pearl Harbor — ‘A day that will live in infamy’**

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

Seventy-four years ago, on Dec. 7, 1941, the United States was attacked when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor in Hawaii.

A few local residents remember the day well and share their stories.

See **PEARL HARBOR** on 15A

USS West Virginia was one of the first battleships to sink during the attack at Pearl Harbor. The Japanese successfully damaged all eight battleships.

U.S. NAVY PHOTO



PAGE 9B  
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# Weekend Times

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2015

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

## ‘Stand Your Ground’ law could be shot down

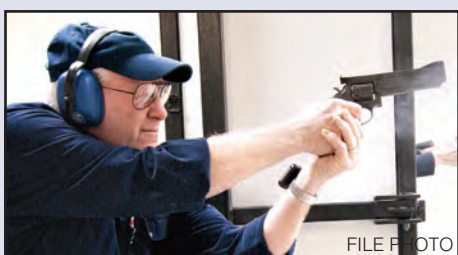
■ Lawmakers introduce bill to repeal right to use deadly force

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

The right to use deadly force by an individual not engaged in a crime in self-defense would not be allowed in Michigan if Senate Bill 611 becomes law.

See **LAW** on 7A



FILE PHOTO

## CPLs now more accessible in Michigan

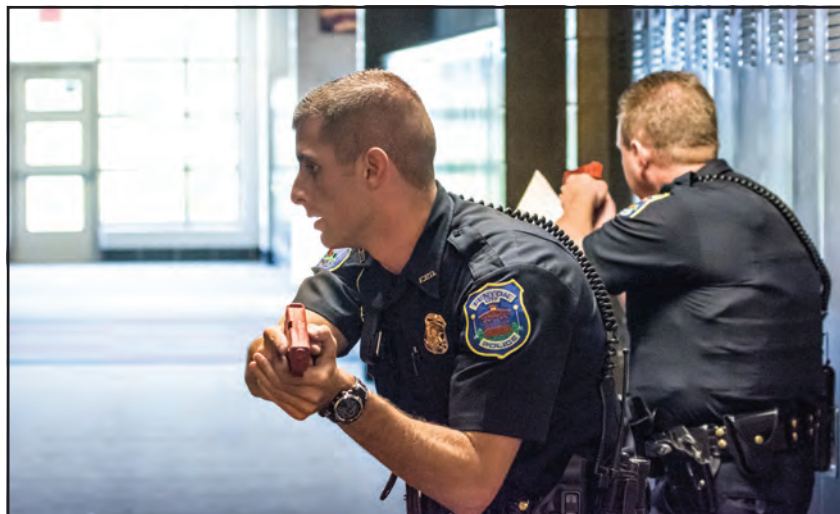
■ County clerks to issue Concealed Pistol Licenses

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Two newly enacted laws that took effect Dec. 1 make it easier to obtain a Concealed Pistol License (CPL) in Michigan.

These laws, Public Acts 3 and 4 of 2015, See **CPL** on 6A



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

Fenton police officer Nick Jones (left) and Lt. Jason Slater move toward the person portraying the active shooter in this 2013 training exercise at AGS Middle School in Fenton.

## ACTS OF TERRORISM

## It can happen here — but don't panic, have a plan

■ Police: preparing for emergency helps maintain sense of control

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

Until recently, people in the tri-county area have felt relatively safe as mass shootings and terrorist attacks have

always taken place “somewhere else.”

The most recent shootings in Colorado Springs, Colorado and San Bernardino, California now have people wondering, “could it happen here?”

According to Fenton Police Chief Rick Aro, the most recent shooting incident in California is a “terrible tragedy.”

See **TERRORISM** on 20A

## PART 1 IN 2-PART SERIES

## Disability has become a type of ‘welfare program’

■ Abuse of the system costs millions in taxpayer dollars

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

We’ve all seen it at least one time in our lives — that family member, friend, acquaintance, or even coworker, who is collecting Social Security disability benefits — despite the visible absence of any disability.

How did they get the benefits to begin with? According to one retired Social

See **FRAUD** on 9A



The federal government spends more money each year on disability payments than it does on food stamps and welfare combined.

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“Political correctness is killing America. A neighbor woman who observed the flagrantly suspicious behavior of the two terrorists said she was afraid to call authorities because the media would brand her as a racist. Result? Fourteen dead Americans.”



“Fenton’s downtown is absolutely beautiful, especially in the evening. The Christmas, (yes Christmas, not holiday) decorations are subtle and striking on the new light posts. I love driving through downtown with my family now, especially in the evening when it is all lit up. Job well done, Fenton.”



“How can it be legal for the state to add a specific amount of money to our already outrageous Consumers bills that subsidizes low income households energy bills? We already pay taxes that are used for welfare programs. Isn't taking someone else's earned money called stealing?”



## COMMENT OF THE WEEK

“The Lions will break your heart every time. They are jinxed and the officials across the league always make the calls against them and for the higher profile teams. How many times do they have to have a game stolen by the officials before they get (blank)ed off?”



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# Salvation Army bell ringers 'ring in' the season

■ Red kettles are just one way the Salvation Army funds Christmas and year-round programs for the less fortunate

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

**Fenton** — You can't possibly miss the "jumping bell ringer" as you walk in and out of VG's Grocery in the Silver Lake Village Plaza in Fenton.

Every time a person drops a coin or folds a bill into the bright red Salvation Army kettle manned by Luane Fickes of Mundy Township, she jumps up and down with a hearty "God bless you!" Almost always, that smile is returned by the giver, along with a chuckle and a "Merry Christmas" in return.

Fickes has been ringing bells for the Salvation Army for 21 years, remembering years ago when she was pregnant with her first son. Her husband had lost his job and help came from the Salvation Army until they could get back on their feet again. When that same son joined the Marines in 1994, she saw an ad for Salvation Army bell ringers and she signed up.

Now 63, Fickes said she won't stop ringing the bells for the Salvation Army. "This is why I'm driven night and day," said Fickes, now a widow with two grown sons and eight granddaughters. "I do it out of the love for God and his people. I think Jesus' will for me is to help others feed the poor and the hungry."

While this Christmas holiday has been unseasonably warm, many years have been extremely cold, challenging the hardest of bell ringers. "In the last 15 years I've been able to conquer the cold," said Fickes. "I wear size 8, 10 and 12 clothes all layered on top of each other. I do the same with socks and boots."

See **BELL RINGERS** on 11A



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Salvation Army Bell ringer Luane Fickes works at the VG's on Silver Parkway in Fenton Wednesday afternoon. Her enthusiasm for the work draws in donations, and is infectious in the dreary weather.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Jim Alber plays Christmas tunes on his keyboard as a Salvation Army bell ringer Thursday morning at VG's. He said he uses the keys instead of the bell, because he thinks it brings in more donations, and he enjoys doing it.

## DONATING TO SALVATION ARMY IN THE TRI-COUNTY AREA:

The Salvation Army's ringing bells in Fenton are a constant reminder that the need for food, clothing and toys is real for those who are less fortunate in the tri-county area.

### Red Kettle locations:

- VG's Grocery on Silver Parkway
- VG's Grocery on North LeRoy Street
- Walgreen's Pharmacy on Silver Lake Road
- Walmart on Owen Road
- Kmart on Silver Lake Road

"All of the monies raised in Genesee County stay here in Genesee County," said Bill Goodwill, business manager for Salvation Army of Genesee County.

"The money raised is used not only for our Christmas programs, but also our year 'round social services."

Programs include Coats for Kids, Toy Shop, Pathway of Hope, Emergency Disaster Service, Emergency Assistance, Picnics in The Park, Music Program, After School Program and Food Reclamation Program.

In addition to placing donations into the red kettles, here are other ways you can donate:

- New this year is an opportunity for people to text in their donation. Give online at [www.donate.salvationarmy-usa.org](http://www.donate.salvationarmy-usa.org). You can also specify a location for your donation to go.
- Donate clothing, furniture, household goods at [www.satruck.org](http://www.satruck.org) or call 1-800-728-7825.
- Donate by phone with a live operator by calling 1-800-SAL-ARMY (725-2769).
- Make your own online red kettle at [www.onlineredkettle.org](http://www.onlineredkettle.org).

**"I do it out of the love for God and his people. I think Jesus' will for me is to help others feed the poor and the hungry."**

**Luane Fickes**  
Salvation Army bell ringer for 21 years

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ONLINE WITH THIS STORY

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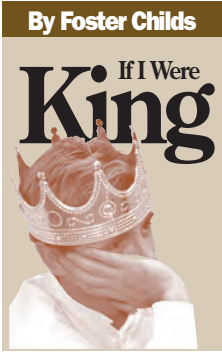


# How to spot a terrorist at an airport

I don't know about you, but when I fly I generally look at my fellow sheep and wonder if any of them are terrorists. A little research provided me with some 'confidential' criteria that TSA-trained airport screeners use to identify potential terrorists. I found the information interesting, as well as useful, as I am generally the one in the crowd that undergoes 'enhanced' screening. Based on the info below, maybe I can avoid the inevitable and humiliating full body scans of the past.

But, I digress. The SPOT (Screening of Passengers by Observation Techniques) criteria used by TSA staff to root out potential terrorists lists a total of 14 'stress factors' to look for in passengers, each of which are worth one point. There are

also 13 'fear factors' worth two points. If a traveler scores four or more points, they are designated for intensified screening methods.



**The 14 STRESS factors are:**

- Arrives late for flight
- Avoids eye contact with security personnel
- Exaggerated yawning
- Excessive fidgeting, clock watching, head-turning
- Excessive perspiration inconsistent with the environment
- Face pale from recent shaving of beard
- Facial flushing

- Faster eye blink rate when ordered to submit to additional screening procedures
- Increased breathing rate, panting
- Protruding or beating neck arteries
- Repetitive touching of face
- Rubbing or wringing of hands

- Strong body odor
- Sweaty palms
- The 13 FEAR factors are:**
- Luggage inconsistent with the individual's appearance
- Bulges in clothing
- Cold penetrating stare
- Constantly looking at other travelers or associates
- Inappropriate behavior such as excessive laughter or chatter
- Exaggerated, repetitive grooming gestures
- Hesitation/indecision on entering checkpoint
- Individuals appear unrelated but display identical dress or luggage
- Rigid posture, minimal body movements with arms close to side
- Scans area, appearing to look for security personnel
- Shows unusual interest in security officers and their work routine
- Displays arrogance, expresses contempt for the process
- Wearing improper attire for location

The primary observations that make an individual less likely to be a terrorist, in the opinion of the TSA, include being an 'apparent married couple with both spouses over 55 years old,' a female over 55 years old, or a male over 65 years old. On a final note, quit worrying about dying in a plane crash. As a former private pilot, I can assure you that it just feels that way because you're flying through the middle of the open sky, five miles above the earth, in a metal tube with wings. It's illogical, improbable and wreaks havoc on human's innate sense of logic. Statistically we each have a 1 in 11 million chance of not reaching the destination printed on our ticket if we are on one of the 102,465 flying that day. Now, picture yourself sitting in a stadium that seats eleven million people. Now picture something bad happening to just one of those 11 million people.

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

## Hot lines

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

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

**EVERY DAY MY** grade school child comes home from school with a new social agenda. Our children are being indoctrinated, not taught. Math and science scores are pathetic but teachers have time to 'raise awareness' of dozens of social issues.

**I WANT TO** thank the city council for the new trash container, which will not fit into our garage, recycle container is permanently stored under our deck, and the recycle items will all go out in the trash. Another wise decision.

**WHY IRAQ? TO** move U.S. heavy forces, you need a seaport. Afghanistan does not have one, it's landlocked. Kuwait does have one but to get to Afghanistan you must pass through Iraq. Hence, they needed to be defeated. Another seaport was Turkey but we were denied. Hence, a single more difficult course of action.

**MY TWO CENTS** added to the series about cell phone rudeness. The parents who drop off and pick up their kids from school while on the phone. Don't they know this time is precious and life is short? And people wonder why teens are rude and removed from their parents.

**THANKS TO LINDEN** City and DPW for your hard work. Reported water

main leak in April and still no sidewalk or shut off for my home. What happened to pride in workmanship? Thanks for nothing city council.

**JUST READ DANCER** the reindeer. Vera Hogan, you've done a beautiful job. We loved it. Thank you.

**REGARDING THE LOW-income** assist fund charge on Consumers Energy bills — please do a front-page article on this maddening fee. I wrote to my congressman and got the runaround and Consumers Energy could not refund my money as demanded. I resent this fee. It's also on DTE bills.

**DR. EDWARD C. Murray** passed away Nov. 25. He was the best E.N.T. surgeon in Genesee County and he helped many patients over 45 years of practicing medicine. He will be sadly missed. Rest in peace, Doc.

**THIS WEEK IT** was announced that Pfizer is buying Allergan in Ireland and moving corporate headquarters to Ireland in an effort to cut their corporate savings in half. This savings will amount to billions. And you can't blame them as the Democrats have created this situation of high taxes.

**PRESIDENT OBAMA HAD** nothing to do with the gas prices going down. The reason is the storage tanks in the underground bunkers are now full. It's the same reason

there's food back on the shelves and ammunition in the stores and many other things. If you knew what was going on in this world, you'd know that.

**HOW IS IT** that the majority of Americans do not even know that Muslims are exempt from Obamacare. My wife and I paid \$940 a month in 2013. Just heard from my agent that I will be paying \$1,944 a month in 2016. All out of pocket.

**CLIMATE AND EARTH'S** temperatures change naturally over a wide range and appear to be beyond human control. But we should prepare for such changes by having the best energy technology we can build.

**LINDEN MAINTENANCE, IT** would be nice to have West Rolston Road repaired. We are all tired of dodging potholes.

**I HAVE CHILDREN** and grandchildren who have teaching degrees. Why should they receive a bonus for doing a job that they were hired to do in the first place? I worked all my life and nobody ever gave me a bonus.

**'ISIS IS CONTAINED.'** 'You can keep your doctor and your hospital, too.' 'You didn't build that.' 'There are 57 states.' 'If I had a son, he would look like Trayvon Martin.' These are just some of the inane comments made by our president over the last seven years.

**SPEEDING AND PASSING** over the double yellow in your Caddy will eventually net you the handicapped tag you evidently already require.

See **HOT LINE** throughout Times

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Compiled by Hannah Ball, staff reporter

## If Mars could sustain life, would you go?

## streettalk



"If Mars could sustain life, I would go in a heartbeat because it's another world. It's an unexplored frontier."

Ryan Hay Fenton



"I'm not going to Mars. I'm too old. If I was younger I might, but that'd be iffy. I like to be safe."

Karin Verhelle Fenton Township



"I'm thinking of the Arnold Schwarzenegger movie 'Total Recall.' That would deter me from going. I'm also scared of heights so the flight up would be very scary for me."

Jacob Schaudt, Fenton



"If I could go to Mars, I would. Why not? I've only ever been on Earth. Maybe I'll make some friends."

Jayde Hart Fenton



"I'll go to Mars, because if it can sustain life, why not go?"

Jacob Hart Fenton



## Cousins charged with assault

■ Fenton police arrest Flint man and his cousin after spotting car on North LeRoy Street

By Sharon Stone

sstone@tctimes.com; 810-433-6786

A 41-year-old Flint man and his 30-year-old female cousin from Milwaukee,



Michael Avery



Venus Nelson

Wisconsin have been charged with multiple offenses involving a 25-year-old Flint woman.

Fenton police arrested the cousins in the early morning hours of Saturday, Nov. 21 during a felony traffic stop (guns drawn) on North LeRoy Street.

Michael Avery was arraigned on one count of aggravated assault and one count of assault with a dangerous weapon (felonious assault). He remains in the

Genesee County Jail in lieu of posting the \$60,000 bond.

Avery's cousin, Venus Nelson, was arraigned on one count of aggravated assault. She was released on a \$10,000 cash bond. She has been ordered to stay in Michigan for future court hearings.

Lt. Jason Slater of the Fenton Police Department said officers responded to a gas station in the 1400 block of North LeRoy Street to investigate a suspicious situation at 5 a.m. on Nov. 21. An injured woman had entered the store, claiming that people were trying to kill her.

The victim told police that her boyfriend, Avery, had become upset and assaulted her at a bar in Flint Township earlier that night. The victim, Avery and Nelson, who was in town visiting family, then got into the car. During their drive, Avery and Nelson allegedly assaulted the Flint woman.

The car struck a curb and caused a flat tire. In an attempt to fix the flat tire, the man pulled into the gas station in Fenton. This was when the victim was able to unlock and open a back door, flee and seek safety in the Fenton gas station.

Avery and Nelson were turned over to Flint Township police since the alleged assault started in that jurisdiction.

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## CPL

Continued from Front Page

eliminate the county concealed weapon licensing boards, and give the power of granting CPLs to the county clerk with the help of the Michigan State Police, who will run background checks on applicants.

"It helps streamline the process," said House State Rep. Joe Graves (R-Argentine Township), who voted in favor of the legislation. State Sen. Dave Robertson (R-Grand Blanc) also voted in favor of the bills.

From his own experience in getting a CPL, Graves said Genesee County's process wasn't difficult, but lengthy.

"Some legislatures thought the counties were very slow and had no consistency of who got the permit and who didn't. This just makes it a common template," Graves said. "It was something needed by the state."

Supporters say these laws eliminate long waiting lists and help people get the protection they need sooner.

Proponents of the newly enacted law say city officials know residents better than county clerks, and officials could miss important information on background checks.

Genesee County Clerk John Gleason said the biggest change is getting rid of the three-person gun boards, which used to consist of the state police, prosecutor, and the sheriff.

"There are too many political favors with sheriffs and police giving out unrestricted licenses. They would give their friends unrestricted licenses. They

could carry anywhere," he said.

Gleason said the new system will make it easier to obtain a CPL, but he has a few concerns.

Clerks have to accept or deny a CPL application within 45 days. If the deadline isn't met, the application receipt can qualify as a temporary permit.

**“There are too many political favors with sheriffs and police giving out unrestricted licenses.”**

**John Gleason**  
Genesee County clerk

"In the old days you had up to eight weeks. The trouble is if you're in the middle of an investigation in some of these applicants, they may be determined not to qualify," Gleason said. "They can carry that receipt with them and tell people this is my permit to carry."

People aren't going to throw away the receipt if they're not compliant with the law.

The clerks are also tasked with issuing notices of statutory disqualification, suspensions, and revocations.

Under the new law, an application for a five-year permit will be \$100 instead of \$105, but renewal application fees will increase from \$105 to \$115.

Gleason said the county does the majority of the work but doesn't receive the bulk of the fee.

The county files and goes through the applications, and it receives \$26. The sheriff will receive \$15 for taking fingerprints and the state of Michigan will receive \$74. "They should give the money where the expense is occurring," he said.

One important component is people will receive automatic renewal if they haven't hindered compliance,

which Gleason said is a good thing. References on the applications are no longer needed.

"We are never concerned with the public that has applied. Most of the crime and the shootings occur from people who would never comply because they would never qualify to begin with. Too many shootings occur with stolen guns," he said. "If you're going to break the law, you're going to break the law."

Gleason encourages the instructors of CPL classes to give their students the applications at their class.

"That way they won't be impeding our lines. We get a lot of questions about CPLs," he said.

## Local CPL classes

### Fenton Lakes Sportsman's Club

offers CPL classes for \$125 for non-members and \$75 for members. In this 10-hour class students will learn basic defensive handgun skills, laws on firearms, strategies for home safety and responding in a violent situation, choosing handguns, and sport shooting activities. Students need to bring a handgun in good working order, or arrange to borrow one from the club. The recommended minimum caliber is 38 special or .9 millimeter and no magnum ammo is allowed. Students should also bring two speed loaders for revolvers, or a minimum of two magazines for semi-automatics, 125 rounds of Factory New Ammo, ear and eye protection, ball cap, and a notepad and pencil. For more information, call Daniel DiRienzo Jr. at (248)-760-4964 or email [gunteacher@comcast.net](mailto:gunteacher@comcast.net).

**Linden Sportsman Club** is offering a CPL class on June 13 for \$100. Participants must bring a handgun, three magazines or speed loaders, side holster, eye and hearing protection, a hat, and 200 rounds of ammunition. For more information, contact Steve Raslich at (810)-691-9275.

## CPLs in Genesee County

The Genesee County Clerk's office receives between 500 and 600 requests for CPLs every two weeks. Officials say there's an increase in CPL applications after a shooting tragedy. For example, after the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in December 2012, 821 people were approved for CPLs between Jan. 9 and 30 of 2013.

## Obtaining a CPL

- **To find out if you qualify** for a CPL, go to [Michigan.gov/MSP](http://Michigan.gov/MSP).
- **To obtain a CPL**, someone must fill out an application with the county clerk, include a certificate of completion of pistol safety training course, and a passport quality photo.
- **The MSP will run background checks** and verify eligibility to exclude people with criminal backgrounds, people who are mentally unstable and people who have domestic violence convictions.
- **Applicants pay the fee**, receive a receipt, and have fingerprints taken by officials, which are sent to the MSP for processing, according to [michigan.gov](http://michigan.gov).

Source: [detroitarms.com](http://detroitarms.com)

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## Township reminds residents not to flush certain items down the toilet

### ■ Can cause damage to pump stations

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

**Fenton Twp.** — During the Fenton Township board meeting on Monday, Supervisor Bonnie Mathis urged residents not to flush wipes and other items down the toilet because they clog the pipes and cause thousands of dollars worth of damage a year.

Mathis showed samples of the wipes, which are the ones that come in a sealed package and are labeled “flushable.”

“On the container, these cleaning cloths say they’re flushable,” she said. “Our pump stations are really bad and they say the second flush will help chew them up. It doesn’t.”

She said flushing items such as cloths, wipes, diaper wipes, and even turkey grease clogs the pipes and causes serious damage to the pump system.

Clerk Bob Krug said they have even found towels in the pipes.

## LAW

Continued from Front Page

The legislation, which would repeal Michigan’s Stand Your Ground Law, was introduced on Nov. 10 by Michigan Sen. Rebekah Warren (D-Ann Arbor).

The “castle doctrine,” the right to use deadly force against someone who has broken into their home, would not be repealed.

According to Michigan Radio, Warren said the Stand Your Ground law “provides too many protections for people who engage in gun violence.”

Warren cited the Trayvon Martin case, where an unarmed black teenager was killed by a neighborhood watchman, George Zimmerman, in Florida in February of 2012. Zimmerman claimed self defense and was found not guilty.

Warren said this case is a reason to repeal the Stand Your Ground law in Michigan.

Fenton Police Chief Rick Aro said, “I think any law, or elimination of a law in this case, that inhibits an innocent victim from protecting or defending themselves is a bad thing.”

However, Michael Manley, a Flint criminal defense lawyer, said this new bill wouldn’t significantly affect self-defense cases.

“The main issue of this bill is as a society, do we want people to have a duty to retreat if they can safely do so before using deadly force,” he said.

Manley explained that individuals have a duty to retreat if they can do it safely, otherwise using deadly force, if their belief was honest and reasonable, would be permitted.

“A person has the right to use force, including deadly force, if he/she honestly and reasonably believes they may suffer death, great bodily harm or sexual assault

from an aggressor,” he said.

“A defendant does not have to prove he/she acted in self defense. It is the prosecution’s burden to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that a defendant did not act in self defense.”

Manley said in cases involving murder, juries focus on if the killing happened under reasonable circumstances by putting themselves in the defendant’s shoes and questioning what they would have done.

“In most cases ‘stand your ground’ is irrelevant because the situation happens so quickly,” he said. “Stand your ground law could allow situations to escalate by having an individual stay in a potentially explosive or violent situation when they could have just walked away.

“In my opinion, no matter what the letter of the law is regarding self-defense, juries will look at whether a person’s

actions were reasonable under the circumstances,” he said.

Manley said the outcome of each self-defense is different because of the facts and each juror’s personal experiences.

“A juror from Fenton may have different opinions, fears and experiences than a juror from Flint,” he said. “If a Trayvon Martin type case occurred in our area, I believe the makeup of the jury and those jurors’ experiences would determine what was reasonable no matter the state of the law.” Manley said the Stand Your Ground law does

not protect killings that are not reasonable under the circumstances.

“What was reasonable to those jurors in Florida in the Martin case may not have been reasonable to 12 citizens of Genesee County,” he said.

The bill was referred to the Judiciary Committee on Nov. 10.

**“The main issue of this bill is as a society, do we want people to have a duty to retreat if they can safely do so before using deadly force.”**

**Michael Manley**  
Flint criminal defense lawyer

### SUMMARY

■ New legislation introduced into the Michigan Senate could repeal the state’s Stand Your Ground law, which allows for the use of deadly force in a self-defense situation.

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**Stunning Home** with lovely wrap-around porch. Traditional Colonial floor plan offering an expansive first floor great room, breakfast room and great room open to a large deck overlooking the tree-lined yard. 3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, finished lower level. 3.5 car garage. Private, country setting yet close to freeways for easy commuting.

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#### DAVISBURG

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**Spacious ranch** on beautifully treed corner lot near downtown davisburg and within walking distance to park.

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**Lovely Farmhouse Style home**

with private setting backing to the Shiawassee River. Beautiful views from the wrap-around porch & deck. Great room with stone fireplace, 1st floor Master Bedroom suite. Hickory kitchen w/hardwood flooring opening to Dining Room, snack bar & sitting area.

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#### GENESEE

3042 Lanning

**In area of nice homes** in Genesee Township. This brick ranch which has only had one owner includes all appliances, pool table in basement, two fireplaces and fenced in backyard. Andersen windows throughout the home, this home has been very well maintained. Great size yard for a garden or families to play.

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## FRAUD

Continued from Front Page

Security Administration (SSA) employee, who asked to remain anonymous, they may have been disabled at one time.

"But sometimes they get better," she said, adding, "They don't call and say 'I'm better now.'"

While redeterminations are always taking place, abuse of the disability program is very difficult to detect, she added.

According to npr.org, (National Public Radio) the number of people on disability has skyrocketed. The rise has come even as medical advances have allowed many more people to remain on the job, and new laws have banned workplace discrimination against the disabled. Every month, 14 million people get a disability check from the government.

The federal government spends more money each year on cash payments for disabled former workers than it spends on food stamps and welfare combined. The vast majority of people on federal disability do not work. Yet because they are not technically part of the labor force, they are not considered unemployed.

Therefore, people on disability don't show up on anything, such as the regularly released Unemployment Insurance statistics, we consult to see how the economy is doing.

Obtaining Social Security Disability benefits is not an easy process. Applicants are required to provide considerable documentation to prove that they do, in fact, have a disability that prevents them from working or

getting a job.

Who gets to decide whether someone is disabled? Sometimes the decision on which applicants receive benefits is taken away from the SSA by the physicians asked to provide proof of a disability.

As far as the federal government is concerned, a person is disabled if they have a medical condition that makes it impossible to work. In practice, it's a judgment call made in doctors' offices and courtrooms around the country.

The health problems with the most latitude for judgment — back pain and mental illness — are among the fastest growing causes of disability.

In one Alabama County, according to npr.org, there is a doctor who could be suspected of some sort of disability scam, referring tons of people into the program.

It turned out that he is a well-meaning physician working in a very poor part of the country, where nearly every person who comes into his office tells him they are in pain.

He said he talks to his patients about pain but then asks what grade they finished in school, according to npr.org. That is obviously not a medical question, but this doctor believes he needs this information in disability cases because people with only a high school education aren't going to be able to get a desk job. He is making a judgment call that if you have a particular back problem and a college degree, you're not disabled. Without the degree, you are.

Part of the rise in the number of people on disability is simply driven by the fact that the workforce is getting older, and older people tend to have more health problems.

But disability has also become a type of welfare program for people without a lot of education or job skills. Once people go onto disability, they almost never go back to work. Fewer than 1 percent of those who were on the federal program for disabled workers at the beginning of 2011 have returned to the workforce.

People who leave the workforce and go on disability qualify for Medicare, the government health care program that also covers the elderly. They also get disability payments from the government of about \$13,000 a year. This isn't great. But if your

alternative is a minimum wage job that will pay you at most \$15,000 a year, and probably does not include health insurance, disability may be a better option.

The number of children on a program called Supplemental Security Income, a program for children and adults who are both poor and disabled, is almost seven times higher than it was 30 years ago.

**“They don't call and say 'I'm better now.'”**

*Retired Social Security Administration (SSA) employee*

*Part II of this article, which will be published on Sunday, Dec. 13, will feature an interview with a Social Security Administration representative, a physician, and include local disability program statistics.*

## Office of Inspector General is on mission to prevent waste, abuse

The Social Security Administration (SSA) Office of Inspector General (OIG) published a press release in November, which states it is on a mission to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse in Social Security's programs and operations.

SSA's OIG was created to conduct independent oversight of Social Security, and report its findings to the Commissioner and the U.S. Congress.

It does this by investigating allegations of wrongdoing related to SSA's programs and beneficiaries.

OIG has on staff investigators, auditors, attorneys, and other specialists who evaluate and pursue a variety of fraud allegations.

According to the release, in fiscal year 2015, OIG received more than 89,000 allegations through its Fraud Hotline. Criminal investigators took direct action on about 7,600 Hotline allegations, and referred nearly 25,000 more to SSA for further development. Of the nearly 25,000 referred to SSA, the agency identified over \$3.4 million in overpayments.

OIG may take action on an allegation that checks were cashed after a beneficiary's death, or a representative payee is receiving benefits for a child who is not in his or her care, or that a disability beneficiary is concealing work. Investigative efforts can lead to criminal convictions, court-ordered restitution, administrative sanctions, or civil monetary penalties.

There are several ways to report someone suspected of committing fraud. A report can be submitted online at [www.oig.ssa.gov/report](http://www.oig.ssa.gov/report), or go to [www.ssa.gov/antifraudfacts](http://www.ssa.gov/antifraudfacts) and click report fraud; write to the Social Security Fraud Hotline, P. O. Box 17785, Baltimore, MD 21235; fax 410-597-0118, or phone (800) 269-0271. Those who are deaf or hearing-impaired may call (866) 501-2101.



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**BELL RINGERS**  
Continued from Page 3A

Does she ever get bored during her six-hour shift? “No, I always stay busy,” she said. I never stand still. I just pray a lot. A lot of miracles happen.”

Retailers that allow Salvation Army bell ringers on their property can choose whether to allow them to come into an interior lobby to escape the cold.

Most do not, but VG’s Grocery Assistant Manager Chris Palmer said he’s never had a problem with bell ringers in all the years he can remember, and he will invite them into the lobby for temporary respite from extreme cold.

In fact, one common site at VG’s is bell ringer James Alber, who spends most of his shift in the VG’s lobby playing Christmas songs on his electric organ while collecting donations in the red kettle.

Fickes and Alber are just two of approximately 100 Salvation Army bell ringers throughout Genesee County, ringing their bells and filling their kettles at 58 sites from Nov. 6 through Dec. 24. About 30 percent of the bell ringers are volunteers, with a higher percentage on weekends. The others are paid minimum wage, \$8.15 per hour.

“We try to use as many volunteers as we can, but we have so many locations that we have to use paid bell ringers as well,” said Bill Goodwill, business manager for Salvation Army of Genesee County.

Salvation Army’s goal in Genesee County this year is \$815,000. “We’re having a little struggle right now,” said Goodwill. “As of our latest count on Nov. 28, we were at \$192,171. We’ve got a long way to go.”

The busiest day so far has been Black Friday, according to Goodwill. “As Christmas gets closer and we have snow, it gets busier,” he said. “Our busiest week will be Dec. 21-24. On Christmas Eve, we’ll pull out our kettles at 3.”

The one day of the week you won’t find Salvation Army bell ringers out in front of businesses is Sunday. “We don’t ring on Sundays,” said Goodwill. “We hope people will go to the church of their choice that day.”

**HOT LINE CONTINUED**

**THERE IS A** special place in hell for anyone who would abuse any child, but especially someone who would further abuse a child who is adopted.

REMEMBER IN THE November election that the huge financial burden of Obamacare was forced on us by the politicians who exempted themselves. How was that not in the mainstream media at the time? I’m voting Republican for the first time in my life.

JUST FROM YOUR inane comment, I would definitely consider you an undesirable.

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- Walmart

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**TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO**  
Marjorie Hull has been a bell ringer for 15 years. On Thursday she was at Kmart in Fenton. “I love to help people,” she said. “I know there’s a lot of needy people out there.”

**‘FILL THE TRUCK FOR LOCAL KIDS’ BY FENTON FIREFIGHTERS ON DEC. 9 AND 14**

City of Fenton firefighters will volunteer as Salvation Army bell ringers on Wednesday, Dec. 9 and Monday, Dec. 14, from 5 to 9 p.m. in front of Walmart in Fenton, as part of the “Fill the Truck for Local Kids” program, sponsored by the Salvation Army.

“We’ll have a fire truck out there, too, so people can bring donations of new, unwrapped toys and coats,” said Fenton Fire Chief Bob Cairnduff.

Cairnduff is a big believer in the Salvation Army, watching first-hand how they support local emergency services. “They put out a canteen for coffee, snacks, etc.,” said Cairnduff. “They help support us, so we want to support them. All the funds and items raised here will stay here in our community.”

People can also text a donation for this project by texting SMOKE to 41444.



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## 'A date which will live in infamy'

On Dec. 7, 1941, at 7:55 a.m. Hawaii time, a Japanese dive-bomber bearing the red symbol of the Rising Sun of Japan on its wings appears out of the clouds above the island of Oahu.

A swarm of 360 Japanese war-planes followed, descending on the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor in a ferocious assault. The surprise attack struck a critical blow against the U.S. Pacific fleet and drew the United States irrevocably into World War II.

With diplomatic negotiations with Japan breaking down, President Franklin D. Roosevelt and his advisers knew that an imminent Japanese attack was probable, but nothing had been done to increase security at the important naval base at Pearl Harbor. It was Sunday morning, and many military personnel had been given passes to attend religious services off base.

At 7:02 a.m., two radar operators spotted large groups of aircraft in flight toward the island from the north, but, with a flight of B-17s expected from the United States at the time, they were told to sound no alarm. Thus, the Japanese air assault came as a devastating surprise to the naval base.

Much of the Pacific fleet was rendered useless. Five of eight battle-ships, three destroyers, and seven other ships were sunk or severely damaged, and more than 200 aircraft were destroyed. A total of 2,400 Americans were killed and 1,200 were wounded, many while valiantly attempting to repulse the attack.

Japan's losses were some 30 planes, five midget submarines, and fewer than 100 men.

Fortunately for the United States, all three Pacific fleet carriers were out at sea on training maneuvers. These giant aircraft carriers would have their revenge against Japan six months later at the Battle of Midway, reversing the tide against the previously invincible Japanese navy in a spectacular victory.

The day after Pearl Harbor was bombed, Roosevelt appeared before a joint session of Congress and declared, "Yesterday, December 7, 1941 — a date which will live in infamy — the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan."

After a brief and forceful speech, he asked Congress to approve a resolution recognizing the state of war between the United States and Japan.

Source: history.com

## PEARL HARBOR

Continued from Front Page

Barbara Richey, 85, of Fenton Township was an 11-year-old living with her family in Royal Oak when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor.

"It was Sunday and the news boys out on the street were yelling about the attack," she said. "We didn't have a TV, so we all gathered around the radio to listen to (President Franklin D.) Roosevelt."

Richey said the family stayed glued to the radio. "We couldn't believe what was happening."

Robert Harris, 92, of Fenton remembers the day very well and wrote about it in his first book, "But, That's Another Story."

Harris was 18 at the time and recalls that Dec. 7, 1941 in Fenton was a cold day with clear, sunny skies. Only a couple months before, he had started his college career at Michigan State College in East Lansing and was home for the weekend.

"My girlfriend, my high school 'sweetheart,' and I had attended the matinee showing at Fenton's only movie theatre, the Rowena," he said. "The movie was 'Yanks in the RAF,' starring Ronald Reagan."

After the show, Harris and his girlfriend (who became his wife in June 1944) returned to his parents' Fenton home (where he still resides today) and as they entered the house, it soon became obvious that something big was happening, he said.

"My folks were listening to the radio in our kitchen and they started to tell us that the 'Japs had bombed Pearl Harbor' above the din of the voices on the radio," he said. "I had always considered myself to be an excellent student of geography, but I admit I had no idea of where or what was Pearl Harbor. However, it didn't take long to understand we had been attacked and the United States was at war."

"We had previously made arrangements with high school friends to come by in the late afternoon, pick us up and drive me back to my rooming house in East Lansing," he added.

There was no radio in the car, but they brought along a battery powered portable radio.

"We had the radio on and the four of us listened to the news reports as we traveled the 60 miles or so to East Lansing," Harris said.

"It was after dark, when we arrived at the house where eight of us, all students at Michigan State, resided," he said. "Upon entering the house, it was obvious, that no studying was going on that evening. My housemates were all standing around listening to the radio, talking excitedly and exchanging opinions on what we should do next."

"None of us had had any military experience, except for a couple who were in the advanced Army R.O.T.C. unit at the college," Harris said. "There was much speculation as to what was going to happen in the following days and weeks. We all expected to be called for military service and all were anxious to serve."

On the following day, Harris said many of the college students went to the Lansing Post Office, the location of the recruiting stations at that time, to enlist in one of the military services.

"Everyone was struggling with the idea of 'signing up' but didn't know much about how to do it," he said.

After some thought and consideration,

Harris settled on the U.S. Marines.

"I remember hitchhiking back to Fenton to obtain the signatures of my parents on some required document," he said.

That done, Lt. William L. Batchelor administered the oath in a room in the Union Building, said Harris.

"He wore the Marine Corps blue uniform with the 'Sam Browne' belt and he looked mighty fine. I knew that was the uniform I wanted to wear. It was so distinctive and beat the hell out of the Army khaki."

Harris was called to active duty on July 1, 1943.

Lillian Kateman, 84, of Fenton celebrated her 10th birthday a week before the attack on Pearl Harbor. "We lived on Dakota Street in Flint at the time," she said.

Kateman said she remembers the event happening but none of the other details of the day. Later, as an adult she visited her sister, a nurse stationed at Hickam Field, located at the mouth of Pearl Harbor.

"We went past the airplane hangar and saw all the bullet holes that were still there," Kateman said. "You could still see the oil coming up out of the Arizona. It was very sad."

Ev Kohler, 89, of Fenton said she was



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Rescuing survivors near the USS West Virginia after the attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941.

at home that day. "It was Sunday and we all hovered around the radio," she said. "My mother, of course, was very upset because my brother was over there."

Kohler said her brother and a friend had hitchhiked to California previously, but couldn't find work. They joined the Army and he was shipped to Pearl Harbor. His friend joined later and was sent to Pearl Harbor as well. They were there when the bombs hit, but both survived the attack and came home, she said.

"I was working at Mickey's Dairy when he came home. My mother called and told my boss that I had to come home right away," Kohler said. "I was scared and thought something had happened. My brother was there and hiding in the closet to surprise me."

**“It was Sunday and the news boys out on the street were yelling about the attack.”**

**Barbara Richey**  
Fenton Township resident



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## TRIVIA HOCKEY

**Q** What player has scored more goals for the Red Wings in franchise history?

**A** I'm sure most people would guess one of two people. Gordie Howe scored 786 goals for the Wings.

# O'Mara wins the ultimate of all beer runs

■ Linden resident breaks record in Beer Mile running event

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

Erin O'Mara loves running. The Linden resident also enjoys beer.

She put the two passions together into one event on Tues-

day and captured a world record in the process.

O'Mara competed in the Second-Annual Flo Track Beer Mile World Championships held in Austin, Texas on Monday and became the female women's record holder, capturing the title with a time of 6:08.

"It was an awesome

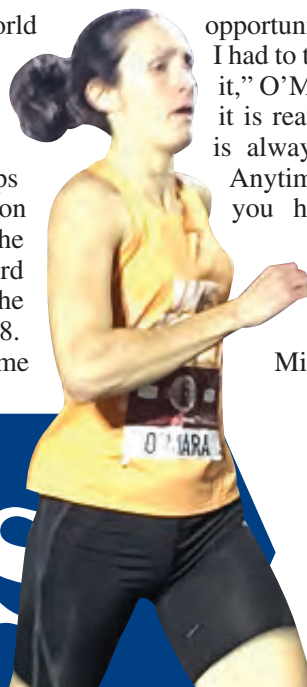
opportunity and I thought I had to take advantage of it," O'Mara said. "I think it is really fun. My goal is always to run a PR. Anytime you run a PR, you have to be happy.

I hoped to improve my time of 6:40 at the Michigan Beer Mile. I really was

surprised (with my time). I did not know how it would go. I really didn't."

It went perfectly for O'Mara. The event begins with each competitor drinking a 12-ounce beer as quickly as possible. Once the beer is done, they run around a one-quarter mile path. The competitors then drink another beer, and once that beer is

**See O'MARA on 19A**



## ERIN O'MARA

Broke a World Record at the Beer Mile World Championships.

Times

SUNDAY,  
DECEMBER 6, 2015  
PAGE 17A

# Sports

COMING UP

► In Wednesday's edition the sports staff will preview the area's four varsity boys basketball teams.

## Holly's strong third paves way to victory

■ Fugate impresses in her Bronchos' debut, visitors beat Lake Fenton 60-45

By David Troppens

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**Lake Fenton** — A year ago Becca Fugate was playing eighth-grade girls basketball.

On Monday, the Holly freshman made her varsity girls basketball debut in incredibly promising fashion. Fugate scored 14 points, collected five steals and grabbed four rebounds in the Lady Bronchos' 60-45 victory at Lake Fenton High School in what was both team's opening contest of the season.

"I was a little nervous but I think we all played really well and it was fun," Fugate said. "The speed is a lot different (than eighth grade) and I'm playing with a group of girls that really know what they are doing instead of first-year people. Eighth-grade is good, but I like playing with the high school girls."

The Lady Bronchos agree. Kaitlyn Smith, who knows how

it feels to play on the varsity as a freshman, began her senior year by scoring a game-high 27 points, while also collecting seven rebounds, seven assists and five steals. She was impressed with Fugate's play.

"I knew she was good and would be a huge help to our team. She definitely stepped up out there and helped us out," Smith said. "The first game after your eighth-grade year — the varsity is a whole different world. It's not the same as in middle school and being in that first game is huge. She came out and played hard. She gave her best and did really good. I'm really proud of her."

So was Holly coach David Hall.

"She's a player," Hall said. "She puts a lot of time in it. She works on her game. She was in the gym Sunday night because she didn't think she shot the ball very well in the scrimmage. ... She understands how to compete. You saw her hit the floor, doing a lot of good things. She's a competitor and if you can compete, you can play in high school."

The Blue Devils, who also fielded a roster including two



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | MARK BOLEN

Lake Fenton's Hannah Garty (center) tries to dribble in between Holly's Taylor Vines (left) and Becca Fugate (left) in the Bronchos' 60-45 victory on Monday.

freshmen, gave the Bronchos an outstanding battle in the first half. Holly jumped out to a 20-16 lead during the opening minute of the second quarter on a

runner hoop by Smith. However, that was Holly's biggest lead of the period as Lake Fenton answered back with a Sierra Ar-

**See VICTORY on 18A**

## Griffins' depth impressive in 4-2 victory

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com

**Hartland** — When one looks at the Metro League Griffins' roster, one notices a lot of the old names from the past. People like Brendan Buerkel, Bobby Temple and Tyler Bourassa, among others, who have grizzled veteran experience when it comes to prep hockey exposure.

There are the new names that also pop up, like senior goalie Collin LaVoie, who

**See GRIFFINS' on 19A**



TRI-COUNTY TIMES

MARK BOLEN

Metro League Griffins' players Bobby Temple (face seen) and Jake Thompson celebrate a goal in a 4-2 victory vs. Oxford United.

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# Lady Tigers learning lessons for future, fall to Highlanders

■Eagles drop season opener versus Lake Orion, 65-50

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

Becki Moore saw some good stuff and some bad stuff.

But what she saw negatively is pretty correctable. So chalk up the Fenton varsity girls basketball team's first game of the season, a 46-29 loss, against a talented Howell squad as a pretty good learning experience.

The Lady Highlanders, now coached by Fenton's ex-varsity boys basketball coach Tim Olszewski, took a 14-6 lead after one quarter and then held the Tigers to just two buckets in the second quarter. From there, the Tigers trailed and tried to cut the gap into single digits a few times, but never was able to do so.

"Howell is a good team," Moore said. "Tim coaches there so they are well coached. We did some good things, but those things were overshadowed because we were playing catch-up most of the game. We'd make a little bit of a run but we were not able to get it under double-digits."

"We have always had a loaded non-league schedule. (Ex-Fenton varsity girls coach) Brad (DeWitt) had it and it's carried over. The kids know what they are going to see and now we know what we have to work on. We know we have to fix things before league so we can make a league, and, hopefully, a decent tournament run. We want to win every game, but Howell is a good team and we got to learn some things right away."

Sarah Cummings led the Tigers with

10 points, while Chloe Idoni made her varsity girls basketball debut by scoring eight points and grabbing eight rebounds. Taylor Mowery had five steals.

Alexis Miller led Howell with 13 points and eight steals, while Erin Hokala had 12 points, seven rebounds, seven steals and four blocks.

**Lake Orion 65,  
Linden 50**

The Eagles trailed 15-3 after one quarter and were forced to play catch-up the rest of the night.

The Eagles' offense was much stronger during the final three quarters, scoring at least 15 points in each period after the first quarter. Linden had the Lake Orion lead trimmed to 42-34 entering the fourth quarter, but the visitors scored 23 points in the final period, icing the victory.

Sterling DeGayner led the Eagles with 13 points, while Bridget Adams, Karley Kraus and Cam Williams had seven points each.

**Underclassmen report  
Lake Fenton JV, 37,  
Holly JV 17**

Lake Fenton's Mackenzie Rampy led all scorers with 12 points in the opening game win. Savannah Shustock chipped in eight points.

Sidney Grady and Madeline Chitwood had six points each for the Bronchos.

**Howell JV 27,  
Fenton JV 24**

The Tigers were paced by Erin Carter who finished with 12 points.

In freshman action, the Lady Tigers took a 13-3 lead in the opening quarter and ended beating Howell 47-34.




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## VICTORY

Continued from Page 17A

royo trey and a nice underhand scoop driving layup by Hannah Garty. The Blue Devils led 21-20 with 6:07 left in the half.

The period had five lead changes and one tie the rest of the way. Holly led 24-23 after two converted free throws by Smith, but the Blue Devils answered with a string of seven straight points, taking their biggest lead of the game at 30-24 on two converted free throws by freshman Haley Whittecar.

However, the Bronchos re-established themselves and forced three straight Lake Fenton turnovers down the stretch, enabling Holly to a run of six straight points of their own. A driving layup by Fugate off a Smith assist gave Holly a 31-30 halftime lead.

The start of the third quarter keyed the Bronchos' eventual road victory. Holly turned up its defense during the third quarter, forcing 12 Lake Fenton turnovers. Meanwhile, the Bronchos were scoring hoops off those turnovers, scoring the first 11 points of the second half. Paige Reid ended the run with a steal and

a breaking layup after the steal. Holly led 42-30. Holly still led 47-35 entering the fourth quarter. Lake Fenton trailed by as many as 19 in the fourth quarter.

Lake Fenton coach Brian VanBuren had mixed thoughts on his team's performance.

"In the first half as good as we did some things or as bad as we may have done some things, we kept pushing, kept pushing and kept pushing," VanBuren said. "One of these guys (assistant coaches) said we have to punch first. I don't know if we punched first, but we definitely kept punching in the first half. The third quarter, that was the knockout blow. I give his kids' credit. They kept coming and kept going. But I thought we could've given them a little better of a game. ... We were down one at the half and then we go down 12 in the third quarter. We walked out the start of the fourth quarter like we were down 30 and we really weren't. That's the part that hurts."

Still, the Blue Devils showed promise against a team that is expected to be one of the top squads in the Metro League this winter, and did so with a combination of



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | MARK BOLEN

Lake Fenton's Sierra Arroyo (right) dribbles against Holly's Becca Fugate in the Bronchos' 60-45 victory.

new and old faces. Autumn Beardsley led the Blue Devils with 11 points and six rebounds. She did most of her damage in the second half, scoring all but two of her points in the final 16 minutes. Garty netted eight points and six boards. Lake Fenton had a freshman who started and played well. Haley Whittecar had nine points and three rebounds. Another freshman, Madison Hobson, came off the bench and scored four points while grabbing five rebounds.

"I'm encouraged based on the fact we played hard 65 percent of the game," VanBuren said. "Last year in game one we opened up with Linden and we didn't give an effort. So for us to be a little bit younger than last year, I'm encouraged."

Holly's Reid also had a strong start to the season, netting 13 points, seven steals and five rebounds. The Bronchos had ups and downs in the game as well.

"I love how every single player on this team wants to play hard and wants to compete," Smith said. "We have girls stepping up like Sami Hild, Taylor Vines and Beca Fugate. All of them are stepping up, playing hard and doing their role."

"I liked that we boxed out and we moved the ball around a lot, looking for open shots," Fugate said. "(What we can work on more) is slowing it down a little more. Late in the game, maybe holding the ball a little more and getting good shots."



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## GRIFFINS'

Continued from Page 17A

is going to help give the squad a strong two-man goalie rotation this season. And there are others like Kevin Bates, who haven't played hockey until this season. There's also traditional newcomers who are freshmen like Kyle Chowning and Paxton Cowan.

But maybe the best part of looking at the Griffins' roster is this — the names already listed don't even make up half of the roster. The co-op prep hockey team which includes athletes from Linden and Fenton high schools seem to have some talent this year. But more importantly have a deep roster of 18 players meaning the Griffins are going to be able to run three lines in most games, and rely on a large group of players to create great effort, to create scoring chances, to forecheck and to kill penalties, among other things. Those numbers should correlate into a pretty good regular season.

They already have. The Griffins improved to 2-1 on the young season with a 4-2 victory against Oxford United at Hartland Sports Center on Wednesday.

"I'm loving it," Temple, a junior, said. "We started as a young team when we were all freshman and most of us are juniors now. I'm loving every minute of it — hanging with the boys, loving the energy, our love and our presence on the ice."

"The large numbers give us a little bit of rest, but we are all competitive and want to be out there so in practice we are working really hard to earn our ice time."

"It's amazing. We have a big roster and it helps out a lot," junior captain Brendan Buerkel said. "I love the energy they all bring to the table. We are all working our butts off."

The Griffins started out a little sluggish as the Hornets attempted the game's first five shots. Then two quick penalties were whistled on the Fenton/Linden co-op squad, putting them down two men for 1:45. It ended up being no problem. The Griffins killed off both penalties and seemingly created some momentum off of the kills, generating 10 of the last 15 shots of the first period.

Oxford actually scored first with 4:25 left in the opening period, but the Griffins scored three goals before the period was over, taking clear control of the game. The first came off a face-off, scored by Brandon Diener off assists by Temple and Tristan Deniau with 3:30 left in the period. The next one came just 20 seconds later when Bates assisted Jake Thompson's goal on a 2-on-1 break. Finally, with 1:16 left in the period, Thompson centered a puck to Temple who scored his fifth goal in three games. Fenton/Linden led 3-1 entering the intermission.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | MARK BOLEN

Metro League Griffins player Tristan Deniau (left) skates with the puck during the squad's 4-2 victory against Oxford United.

"I guess I'm reading the plays well," Temple said about his scoring hot streak. "I'm getting good break outs of the zone. During the tournament it was a lot of good breakout passes, and the guys are feeding me the puck and I'm breaking them down."

The squad said killing the early penalties got the team back into the game.

"Killing them gave us momentum," Buerkel said. "Killing those penalties and not allowing them to score helps out a lot."

The Griffins' final goal of the contest came with 6:21 left in the period on the power play. Dylan Miesch scored on assists by Buerkel and Mitch O'Lewin. From there, the Griffins held on

reasonably well. Oxford cut the gap to 4-2 with a goal with 10:09 remaining in regulation, and also had to kill off two penalties after it. It ended up being no problem as the co-op squad's penalty kill kept the puck in Oxford's defensive zone for most of both penalty kills.

Lavoie was solid in net, earning making 27 saves.

"The team work we have is outstanding," coach Will Dawson said. "We have (first-year players like Kevin Bates) to (Jake Thompson) to Bobby Temple and everyone has an input on this team. That's going to be crucial moving forward. We have no key players. There is just a team working together."

## Boys basketball season starts on Tuesday

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com

The wait is over.

For those who can't wait to see if the Holly Bronchos can defend their Flint Metro League title, want to see what Fenton will look like under a new coaching staff or are curious how Lake Fenton or Linden will do, those questions start getting answered this week.

The Linden Eagles will kick off the season first. Linden travels to Lake Orion for a non-league battle at 7 p.m. on Monday.

About 24 hours later Holly and Fenton will begin their seasons. Holly will host Flint Powers Catholic at the Horseshoe, while the Fenton boys will travel to Lapeer for John Gilbert's first game back as varsity coach.

Finally, Lake Fenton fans will have to wait until Friday for the Blue Devils' first game. Lake Fenton hosts Durand for GAC Red slated to start at 7 p.m.

The sports staff will have its annual season previews in Wednesday's publication.

## O'MARA

Continued from Page 17A

done run another quarter-mile. They repeat the pattern until the runners finish the final quarter mile. The atmosphere is festive yet competitive. There are many fans that watch the race as it's happening.

"I really didn't know. It's kind of a blur," O'Mara said about the ending of the race. "I did hear it was close (to a record) but sometimes they say that kind of stuff for crowd excitement. I never saw the clock when I ran through. I never took a look at it. I knew I was running well. I knew what the other girls were capable of and if I was in the mix, I'd do OK."

O'Mara was in a group of four leaders early in the race. O'Mara eventually took command of the event with her proficient beer chugging, typically finishing her beers in about 12 seconds. O'Mara, who usually runs long distances like marathons, finished her fourth beer about the time other contenders were preparing to start their final beers, giving her an insurmountable lead entering the final quarter-mile. She cruised to the victory after that. O'Mara said she hasn't raced anything around a mile distance since high school.

"I was in shock," O'Mara said. "I was definitely happy."

O'Mara ran her first Beer mile when a friend of hers, Lex Williams, hosted a

Michigan beer mile race at the Boogahonk Events on Nov. 14. O'Mara won the women's overall title with a time of 6:40.5, earning her a spot in the national race. Entering it as an unknown underdog, O'Mara proved she was the elite performer of the field beating

the rest of the field by 18 seconds. Her fastest chug was the one to start the race, completing the beer in 8.98 seconds. It was at the third chug she become dominant, leading the field by four seconds. The lead only grew from there.

"I actually felt pretty good (during the fourth lap)," O'Mara said. "I was running as hard as I could, not leaving anything out there."

For her efforts, O'Mara won \$5,000. O'Mara said Fenton resident Sue Larsen helped her prepare for

the event. She said she plans on running more beer miles in the future, and said the close-knit running family within the Fenton/Flint area has supported her.

"Everyone has been really supportive of it," O'Mara said. "I have great friends I have made through running. I've always felt well supported by the runners in the area whatever I'm going after."

O'Mara plans on competing in the Beer Mile World Classic hosted in the San Francisco area.

"I'll probably do that in August," O'Mara said. "It'll be a great opportunity to run there."

**"I actually felt pretty good (during the fourth lap). I was running as hard as I could, not leaving anything out there."**

**Erin O'Mara**

Linden resident who is the current World Champion in the Beer Mile Run

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## TERRORISM

Continued from Front Page

"I can't imagine what the families of the victims must be going through," Aro said.

Although the investigation is continuing and a final determination has not been made, it is looking more and more like an act of terrorism, he added.

"I thought the San Bernardino Police Department did a great job and the employees of the County Health Department seemed to have some training and a plan in place for an incident like this," Aro said. "The military equipment the police had at their disposal was critical to their success. I hope the current administration recognizes that and reverses their current policy of removing armored vehicles, etc. from police departments."

Can it happen here?

"Sure it could," Aro said. "None of us want that, of course, but the reality is it could happen anywhere. We can't however, let that change our day to day lives. We just have to be aware of our surroundings, and be prepared if something should happen and vigilant of suspicious or threatening behavior."

Aro said Fenton police are already working with the schools and have been for some time.

"Last fall we (police, fire, school administrators) participated in a tabletop exercise facilitated by Tom Mynsberge, an expert in the field," said Aro. "The tabletop involved this type of incident and prompted important conversations and planning. Prior to that, we have worked with the schools on full-scale scenarios, school staff training and police training in the school buildings."

Businesses, churches, etc. can also develop an emergency plan for fires, weather emergencies and incidents like this, Aro said.

"I have met with some and provided input," he added. "The police department is available for this type of service and can also recommend outside sources for help. It's important to have a plan in place that employees are familiar with. The plan doesn't have to be elaborate, in fact simple is better, but it should be well thought out and tactically safe."

Residents also should discuss a plan for the same type of situations, including fire, weather and man-made emergencies. Children, depending on their age and maturity, should know what to do in an emergency.

"When in a public place, large crowd, even shopping at the mall you should be aware of your surroundings, where the nearest exits are and aware of the behavior of the people around you," Aro said.

Having a plan allows a person's brain to solve other problems in an emergency and not to have to come up with an initial plan, he added.

"Under stress we typically lose some ability to think at a higher level, solve problems and reason," said Aro. "As stress continues to increase we also experience physiological changes like tunnel vision, impaired fine motor skills and reduced hearing, among others). Preparing for an emergency helps maintain a sense of control, which will reduce these effects and prevent panic."

Aro said neither he nor anyone can provide answers that will fit each and every situation.

## Police&Fire report

### WALLET STOLEN FROM HOLLY MAN

Holly police received a larceny report from a 21-year-old Holly man at 11 p.m. on Nov. 26. According to the police report, the man was intoxicated and had passed out in the bedroom of his home in the 4000 block of Grange Hall Road about 7 p.m. When he awoke, he discovered that his wallet, containing more than \$100 and his medical marijuana card, was missing from his pants pocket. The man provided police with the names of his roommates. The case remains under investigation.

### HOLLY MAN OVERDOSES IN FENTON, CALLS FOR HELP

On Nov. 30, Fenton police responded to a hotel in Fenton to assist with a medical emergency. Lt. Jason Slater said a 21-year-old Holly man staying at the hotel had possibly overdosed in his room and called 911. When police arrived, the emergency medical responders were already caring for the man. Hotel employees were made aware of the situation and let the responders into the room. The man was transported to an area hospital for further medical treatment. Officers observed what appeared to be cocaine in the room. The substance was seized and is being analyzed by the Michigan State Police crime lab. Pending the results of the substance, a report will be presented to the county prosecutor for possible charges.

"Very generally, however, when faced with an active shooter my advice would be to move, take cover, and create distance

**“Preparing for an emergency helps maintain a sense of control, which will reduce these effects and prevent panic.”**

Chief Rick Aro  
Fenton Police Department

from the threat as soon as possible," he said. "Secure your position, barricade doors, etc. When the threat is too close and those options are gone, and severe injury or death seems imminent, then fight."

Aro said the Fenton police have trained to respond to these situations.

"Although our resources are much more limited than a large department like San Bernardino, we have plans in place, county wide and state wide to provide a unified response to an emergency," he said.

Aro offered the following links for more information: [www.michigan.gov/msp](http://www.michigan.gov/msp) and [www.dhs.gov](http://www.dhs.gov).

### More shootings than days in the year

According to the "Washington Post," which has been updating numbers on mass shootings as compiled by a Reddit community, this year, there have been more shootings than days. As of Dec. 2, the 336th day of the year, there have been 352 shootings. Reddit counts a mass shooting as "any event in which four or more people, including the gunman, are killed or injured by gunfire."



# our town

## Meet Wilson Lahoud

- Real estate broker
- Investor
- Developer

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

Wilson Lahoud, 49, is a real estate broker, investor and developer. He has lived in the Fenton area for nine years, and currently resides on Lake Fenton.

**Tell us about your family.** I have three daughters, ages 13, 16 and 17. My 13-year-old is an eighth-grader at St. John School, and the older girls are a junior and senior at Powers Catholic High School. My life revolves around my daughters.

**Tell us about your background.**

When I was 24 years old, I left my home in Beirut, Lebanon. I wanted a better way of life and future for my children and came to the United States. I was not yet married or a father. I stayed in New York with my sister for about six months. There was too much commotion there so I came to Lansing, where I lived with a Lebanese family and attended Lansing Community College. I then moved to Flint, where I attended the University of Michigan and obtained a bachelor's degree in Management and Marketing. After graduation, I went to work for Lanier, selling copiers and fax machines. I eventually became the sales manager. I worked there for six years, but the office was in Troy and it was a long commute. In the late 1990s, I invested in some property in Flint. I veered toward a career in real estate for a long time. I obtained my license and went to work for RE/MAX on Hill Road in 2001. After seven years there, I went out of my own and opened Inca Realty on Miller Road. Rather than working just with other Realtors, I branched out and began targeting banks and their foreclosed properties.

**Tell us about your business and investment projects.** In addition to Inca Realty, which is now in Grand Blanc, I have been a real estate investor with my financial advisor of 16 years, Gary Holvick, Jr. We have been clearing the site for our new office building on Silver Lake Road. Gary is going to be the first tenant in the building. People don't realize there is a large demand for office space in Fenton. Our building is going to be very trendy, with a terrace on the roof,



**TRI-COUNTY TIMES** I SUBMITTED PHOTO  
Wilson Lahoud is a successful Realtor and investor, who is excited to be investing and developing properties in Fenton, the community he calls home.

where tenants and their employees can enjoy their lunch. We are also playing with the idea of a fitness center on the lower level, where tenants can take 30 minutes or so and enjoy a good workout. Depending on the weather, the project should be done by fall of 2016. We have also purchased the Nagy property on Silver Lake Road, across from Poplar and the Stevens Furniture complex. We haven't decided fully what we will do with that property, but we envision a mixed use of retail shops, small food services. Fenton needs more healthier food options, food that is healthier and convenient to obtain. We're still considering the possibilities. It's a 4.6-acre site. We may even wish to expand on that. I am always looking for investment opportunities in Fenton. Investing in real estate is my passion. I wake up in the middle of the night thinking about real estate.

**"I am so proud to be a U.S. citizen and the opportunities I have to build a successful career and provide a better future for myself and my children."**

Wilson Lahoud

**Why Fenton?** Fenton has been very good to me; I feel like I belong here. There is a great sense of community, which I like. I am a member of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church and I belong to the Knights of Columbus. Just the sense of community that is shown at the Applefest speaks volumes. People of all ages volunteer their time for a great cause. I love

Fenton and I love my church. From a business standpoint, I can't say enough about the city administrators I have had the pleasure to work with — Lynn (Markland, city manager), Mike Reilly (building and zoning administrator) and Carmine Avantini (planning consultant). I feel as though we are all working on one team. They have been very helpful in facilitating the development of Fenton. It's phenomenal that they give so much help and support. I never could have done what I've done so far without the whole team.

**What motivates you every day?** I cannot slow down. Every day I am looking for new opportunities. I always have a vision for the future. Making the right decisions is key. I firmly believe in not burning bridges, but instead building long-term relationships. I am so proud to be a U.S. citizen and the opportunities I have to build a successful career and provide a better future for myself and my children.

**What do you like to do in your spare time?** I love hunting and am an avid fisherman — anything outdoors. I go for the relaxation. I don't have to answer the phones and can enjoy nature.

**What don't people know about you?** I have an older brother who is a Baptist minister in Charlotte, North Carolina. He caters to the Arab-speaking parishioners. I also love to cook and enjoy cooking for my kids. One of my specialties is tabouli. But my pancakes are the best. When my kids come over with their friends, they always want my pancakes. I have a secret recipe that I refuse to share.



## YOUR SMILE MATTERS!

By: Dr. Steven Sulfaro

### XEROSTOMIA

Xerostomia is the technical term for dry mouth. Everyone experiences dry mouth once in a while and occasional dry mouth is considered normal. But if dry mouth is experienced all the time, it can be uncomfortable and can lead to serious health problems. Xerostomia can cause difficulties in tasting, chewing, swallowing and speaking. Dry mouth can be very challenging and frustrating for dentists and their patients. One of the primary functions of saliva is the protection of the teeth from dental decay. Normal saliva is loaded with calcium ions that work to repair, remineralize and restore the teeth enamel from the constant attack of plaque bacteria. If the mouth is dry, then there is insufficient saliva making the teeth much more susceptible to decay. Saliva also helps digest food, prevents infections by controlling bacteria and fungi in the mouth and makes it possible to chew and swallow. Causes of dry mouth include side effects of some medications, disease, cancer treatments and nerve damage. If medications are causing dry mouth, your physician might change your medication or adjust the dosage to help improve saliva production. Sometimes medications can be prescribed that help treat dry mouth in certain disease conditions. Also, artificial saliva can help to improve the symptoms of dry mouth. Remember, if you have dry mouth, you need to be extra careful to keep your teeth healthy through regular, daily careful brushing and flossing in addition to the use of fluoride tooth pastes and mouth rinses. Eating a healthy, non-sugar diet is also vitally important along with visiting your dentist at least twice yearly for check-ups. Your teeth will be glad you did.

I welcome your questions and comments.  
Feel free to e-mail me [drsulfaro@comcast.net](mailto:drsulfaro@comcast.net)



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## WHAT YOU MISSED in the MIDWEEK TIMES

Wednesday, December 2, 2015



### Holly family stars on 'House Hunters'

Realtor Ann Hernandez-Gabler of Legacy Realty in Fenton got a phone call this fall that any Realtor would dream of – from a casting director at HGTV's popular hit show "House Hunters."

### Why residents can't recycle Styrofoam, plastic bags and more

Gary Hicks from Republic Waste Services gives update on new trash and recycling collection system to Fenton Township Board of Trustees, and explains what can and cannot be recycled.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | HANNAH BALL

David Lossing and his wife, Suzanne, are seeking to have the property of the former Blue Chip Painting rezoned in order for them to put in an art gallery and studio.

## Art gallery and studio could be coming to Linden

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

A new art gallery and studio could open in the city of Linden.

Linden Mayor David Lossing and wife, Suzanne, are interested in opening an art gallery and studio in Linden.

They are in the process of seeking rezoning of the parcel from residential to local services with conditions. Lossing said Adam Young, the city planner and zoning administrator, supports the language for the building.

"My wife is a very talented artist in both glass and ceramics and has had her work on display in various art galleries in the area, and a past participant in the annual Art Prize 2014 event in Grand Rapids," Lossing said.

The business would be located in the former Blue Chip Painting building on North Bridge Street, across from the Loose Senior Citizen Center. It went out of business on the late 2000s, Lossing said, and in 2012 the Genesee County Land Bank acquired the property through tax foreclosure.

"For the past three years, it's been empty and has become a blighted property in the community," he said. "My wife and I are interested in opening a business in the city and we have entered into a purchase agreement with the (Genesee County) Land Bank to acquire the building to open an art gallery/studio."

"The studio will take up the most space to hold both a workspace as well as a room for the kilns (glass and ceramic) and

pottery wheels we expect to purchase," he said.

With rezoning the property to local services, the Lossings are agreeing to give up potential permissible uses to ensure that future use does not have any negative impacts on the neighborhood.

"A rezoning stays with the property — not the intended use of the property," he said.

The Lossings have a conditional agreement assuming the property is rezoned and they have submitted the application and paid the fee to the city of Linden. If the rezoning is approved, they will submit site plans sometime in 2016.

"While we don't anticipate expanding the building footprint, we will have to provide for onsite parking, thus

the required site plan and engineering stamped drawings," he said. "The interior of the building will have to be redone, new electrical, heating/cooling, plumbing, windows, doors, etc."

After that, they will collect equipment for the art studio. "Our goal is to create an art studio first, followed by the gallery second, and art classes," he said.

All the neighbors around the property have been supportive. "If it's favorable, then we can close on the purchase and begin the renovations," he said.

Lossing will sit in the audience during the discussion and voting on this item. "I will be abstaining from the discussion and the vote since I have a conflict of interest," he said.

**“Our goal is to create an art studio first, followed by the gallery second, and art classes.”**

**David Lossing**  
Linden mayor

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### LINDEN Friday evening

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- Lighting of the Luminaries
- Horse drawn carriage rides
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- Linden Mills Museum
- Tree contest
- Live nativity
- Community sing-a-long
- Shopping in the Moon Light
- Lighted parade
- Pictures with Santa and much more!

### FENTON Saturday morning & afternoon

#### Saturday Morning:

- Cookie Sale – 9 a.m. at Transfiguration Lutheran Church (Fenton Rd) and 10 a.m. at Fenton United Methodist Church Family Life Center
- Holiday Shopping – begins at 10 a.m. Visit the Jinglefest webpage to view discounts and specials
- Rotary Christmas Tree decorating – begins at 10 a.m. at Bush Park
- Lunch with Santa – Fenton Kiwanis Session 1: 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Session 2: 1 p.m. – 2 p.m. at the Community Center

#### Saturday Afternoon

(beginning at 3 p.m.):

- JingleJog 5K – registration at Fenton United Methodist Church - Family Life Center
- Music – Bob Steel
- Horse drawn wagon rides
- Ice Sculptures
- Santa Paws pictures – Animal Health Clinic
- Live Nativity and children's games at FUMC
- Jinglelam Tent – entertainment from 3 – 6 p.m. (on Community Center lawn)
- Bake Sale – Linden Fenton MOMS Club

- Chili, hotdogs and refreshments – Boy Scout Troop 212
- Dibbleville Music – WHMI
- Shopping Spree Drawing
- Holiday Lighted Parade at 6 p.m.
- Christmas Tree lighting following parade
- Fireworks
- Pictures with Santa – N. Leroy Business District
- Refreshments – Fenton Beautification Committee

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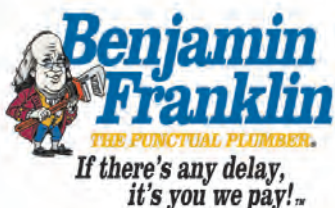
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