Business continues to boom in the tri-county area

From large mega-projects like Riverview to new restaurants and retailers and business openings planned in Fenton, Linden and Holly during the coming months.

City of Fenton
Several high profile projects are still making news. The Riverview project proposed by Michael and Ashleigh LaJoice of LaJoice Properties, will be starting in 2016, according to Mike Reilly, Fenton building and zoning administrator. “Plans and corrected documents are expected to be back to the See BUSINESS on 9A

Law adds 98 cents to Consumers Energy bill each month
When you pay your utility bill, you are also contributing to Low-Income Energy Assistance Fund. Page 10A

Who you give your money to often depends on personal experience

’Tis the season for charitable giving
By Vera Hogan
vhogan@ctimes.com; 810-433-6823
The need for charitable dollars may be great, but the number of charities wanting and needing those dollars is even greater.
There are so many global, national and local charities, a college course could be taught on their philosophy, financial practices, distribution methods, fundraising efforts, leadership and more. See CHARITY on 8A

I like to give to the Michigan Parkinson’s Association in memory and honor of my dad, Fenton’s former police chief, Jerry Cattaneo.
Tracy Bundy
Fenton Township resident

TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO
University of Michigan-Flint nursing student, Steven Moon (right), was one of 20 student volunteers sorting food at the new Food Bank of Eastern Michigan building on Howard Avenue in Flint on Thursday. Volunteers sorted 30,000 pounds of food items that day. They make up the lifeblood of the organization which only spends 2 cents of every dollar on overhead.

Law adds 98 cents to Consumers Energy bill each month
When you pay your utility bill, you are also contributing to Low-Income Energy Assistance Fund.
Page 10A

Riverview update
The Riverview project, planned by Michael and Ashley LaJoice through LaJoice Properties, is one of Fenton’s largest development projects ever. It is expected to break ground in April. Page 23A

‘I blame the doctors for a lot of Social Security disability fraud. My son, who has always worked, has two 33-year-old friends who are in perfect condition and are able to work but are on disability. They seem to be able to do everything else, including sports.”

“Glad to see Fenton’s downtown thriving again. Let’s not forget about Holly’s downtown, which is richly vibrant with shops and restaurants galore. I always take my out-of-town friends over there when they visit. It’s the first place they want to go to.”

Thank you, Fenton, for the wonderful Jinglefest family event. Our new downtown is now officially the heartbeat of Fenton. Let’s all help sustain it by shopping local, from food to furniture and everything in between. The future of Fenton is determined by our shopping habits.

TEXT YOUR HOT LINE
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My family freezes every winter because we have to keep the temperature low in order to keep the gas bill down. If my bill was paid for by others I would certainly keep my home much warmer. So the people who get their bill paid are warmer than the people who are paying the bill. Utter nonsense.”

‘Tis the season for charitable giving
By Vera Hogan
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The need for charitable dollars may be great, but the number of charities wanting and needing those dollars is even greater.

There are so many global, national and local charities, a college course could be taught on their philosophy, financial practices, distribution methods, fundraising efforts, leadership and more.
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#MOTT4ME
Mt. Holly Ski Manager Mark Tibbitts hasn't done his “snow dance” yet, but this week’s 50-plus degree temperatures may have him changing his mind soon.

This popular local ski resort had an exciting early opening before Thanksgiving weekend when the tri-county area got an early blast of about 11 inches of snow on Nov. 21. After that, the balmy temperatures just haven’t been conducive to natural snow or even making snow. “It needs to be 28 degrees or below with lower humidity,” said Tibbitts. “When we make snow, we only have 30 feet of cold air to make it cold. We’re looking for days where temperatures are 32 to 33 degrees and the lows are 28 and below.”

He says he’s not as nervous as a lot of people might think, because his 38-year career as manager at Mt. Holly has taken him through all the cycles of “ups and downs” in Michigan weather. “This is actually about the average time for us to open right now,” he said. “The last two years have been exceptionally early. In the last 10 years, it’s usually been about Dec. 15-19 when we’ve opened. There have been two years when we weren’t able to open ‘til after the first of the year.”

He says he’d certainly like to be open right now. “After all, that’s what we wait for the other nine months of the year,” he said. “After Dec. 15, I’ll start getting a little fidgety.”

A ski resort isn’t the only business waiting for cold and snowy weather. Dan Shannon of Shannon Auto Collision in Fenton is certainly feeling the pain of a winterless winter thus far. “When the wrecker drivers aren’t busy, we aren’t busy,” he said. “Our business is always feast or famine. We can’t predict anything.”

He did say that his deer-hit season was “gangbusters.” “We were so busy, that’s just slowing down,” he said. “I didn’t even have time to put fenders up on my buck pole.”

Duane Bartlett of Bartlett Lawn Care and Snow Removal in Fenton is finding more time to do maintenance, tire repair and other chores with his eight-man crew, since the snow hasn’t fallen again since Nov. 21. “When it happens, it happens,” said Bartlett. “I’ve been plowing snow for 10 years; it’s the weather and you can’t control it. We just need to be ready when it comes.”

The lack of snow and cold so far this season even affects retailers, especially those who sell shovels and snow throwers.

Jeff Stone, owner of the Sears Hometown Store in Fenton said although sales on snow throwers seem to be a bit sluggish right now, they are comparable to last year. Winter doesn’t officially arrive until Dec. 21 and according to the Weather Channel, temperatures will start dipping into the 30s on Dec. 17.

Mt. Holly Ski & Snowboard Resort manager

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**After Dec. 15, I’ll start getting a little fidgety.**

Mark Tibbitts

Mt. Holly Ski & Snowboard Resort manager

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Immigration is a privilege, not a right

I am not a Donald Trump fan. But the media backlash resulting from his statement about temporarily (a word the mainstream media forget to include) denying Muslims immigrant status is just another example of mainstream media mind-control through journalistic deception via omission and distortion. First off, America has absolute authority to decide who gets to immigrate here. Immigration is a privilege, not a right. No one reading this would let strangers move into their homes without vetting them thoroughly. Why would our country be any different? A mere 14 years ago, Muslim radicals murdered over 3,000 Americans in a single day. Since Sept. 11, 2001, this country has graciously admitted another 1.5 million Muslims. Among them was the father of Syed Rizwan Farook, the San Bernardino terrorist who, with his wife, cold-bloodedly murdered 14 unarmed American citizens. Here’s a question. Can anyone tell me how many of those 1.5 million people have made our country better? Their massive welfare use? Refusing to learn our language? Michigan welfare callers have three language choices when signing up for benefits: English, Spanish and Arabic. Overburdening our schools and hospitals? The terrorist attacks? It’s a legitimate question.

We all know that other countries don’t send their scientists and innovators to America. Quite the opposite actually. The mother of terrorist Syed Farook described Syed’s father to the media this way: “My husband is mentally ill and is on medication, but is also an alcoholic and drinks with the medicine.” Dysfunctional fathers are a huge factor in promoting anti-social behavior by their sons. How many more of those 1.5 million are fostering the next-gen of terrorists? Look at the devastation and havoc wreaked by just two Muslims in San Bernardino, eight Muslims in Paris, two at the Boston Marathon, one at a Chattanooga military recruitment center, one at Fort Hood, etc. The common denominator of every terrorist attack on U.S. soil (with the exception of Timothy McVeigh), is that all of them were Muslims. It’s not government profiling, it is government doing its job to protect its citizens, which includes the millions of Muslims that are law-abiding, tax-paying, valued citizens of the United States.

If I didn’t know them I would likely believe that all Muslims are bad people. These individuals are proud Americans through and through. Thank you.

LOVE HIM OR hate him, Trump sure is stirring things up — things that need stirring. He’s a successful businessman and father, and he loves this country. He might come across as brash, but listen to all of what he is saying, not just edited sound clips — it makes sense.

MUSLIMS ARE NOT exempt from Obamacare. Fact check via Snopes.com. Please note, nearly all of the mass shootings in the U.S. were committed by so-called Christians. Quit spreading hate by spreading lies.

MY FAMILY GENEROUSLY supports those less fortunate. But I don’t understand how the state government can require us to ‘donate’ a dollar every month to pay utility bills for others when we struggle also.

I DON’T KNOW how many people out there got a phone call saying they have a glitch in their computer. It was from somebody who can’t even speak English. As soon as I told him I was giving his number to the police, he hung up on me. I’ve never owned a computer my entire life.

I HOPE EVERYONE has a wonderful shopping season and remembers to be nice and respectful during the rush. God bless everyone.

LOVE THE CHRISTMAS tree that the city puts up every year at Silver Parkway and Silver Lake Road. It always looks so nice.

WHILE DRIVING to work in the heavy fog on Monday, I noticed easily 20 to 25 percent of drivers did not have their lights on. That’s driver’s education 101 people.

FRANCE HAS SOME of the strictest gun control in the world and California has some of the strictest gun control in the U.S.

THE MAN AND wife shooter were doing exactly what the Qur’an tells them to do: killing nonbelievers and killing infidels.

I JUST HAD my faith in humanity restored by one simple kind act at a local drive-thru. I was told the gentleman ahead of me had paid for my order. My reaction went from great surprise to gratefulness to the desire to return the same surprise for the next car. When I did this, the clerk told me I was the fourth person in a row to share the joy. Merry Christmas everyone.

See HOT LINE throughout Times

When do you do your Christmas shopping?

“Actually start early because there will not be a lot of available during Christmas. My wife likes clothes so I’ll figure out the places that have a 90-day return policy.”

David Trappena, Fenton

“Thanksgiving weekend. The day after Black Friday. Too crowded the first day. There are scary people.”

Bill White
Fenton Township

“Usually a couple weeks before. It used to be about a day before. Just prioritizing one full day is the best way to do it.”

Josh Milkin
Fenton Township

“Usually before the rush. I try to be prepared but there’s always that one I get on the day. It’s a mad dash to find someone open on that day.”

Jason Rowden
Tyrone Township

“Usually don’t wait but this year we are because we bought a house. This year will be a little bit more last minute.”

Tom Vander Meulen
Linden

Compiled by Hannah Ball, staff reporter

We reserve the right to edit for clarity, length and liability.

Submit at: tctimes.com, call 810-629-9221
Police & Fire Report

WALLET STOLEN FROM UNLOCKED VEHICLE
On Dec. 4, Fenton police received a larceny from automobile (LFA) complaint from a 17-year-old, whose car was parked in the 700 block of Eagles Drive. Sometime overnight, between Dec. 3 and 4, someone entered his unlocked car and stole his wallet from the center console.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS STOLEN
On Dec. 4, a 35-year-old resident living in the 900 block of South Howard reported to Fenton police. That sometime over the previous night, someone stole an outdoor Christmas decoration from her lawn. It was a projector that shines lights onto her home. The new light was $40.

WHITE LAKE MAN SHOPLIFTS LIQUOR IN STOLEN BACKPACK
At 6 p.m. on Dec. 7, Fenton police responded to a store on Owen Road to investigate a shoplifting complaint. An employee had a 27-year-old White Lake male in custody on suspicion of stealing 10 bottles of liquor, valued at $391, concealed in a stolen Detroit Tigers backpack. The employee had suspected this man of doing this same thing two previous times and was watching out for him. Police arrested the man and while being questioned, the suspect told police that he stole the items to either drink or sell to fund his drug habit. Police will present their case to the prosecutor for review. The Dec. 7 offense is a one-year misdemeanor. If police have enough evidence for the two prior incidents, they will seek an enhanced felony warrant.

CRAIGSLIST AD UNDER INVESTIGATION
Fenton police are investigating a Craigslist ad, which may be fraudulent. A woman called police and said she had seen a Fenton home for rent on Craigslist. She contacted the representative from California who posted the ad and was told to go over and check out the house. After she looked at the house, she inquired about a rental agreement. The representative indicated she would need to send back the agreement and money. Noticing some discrepancies with the agreement, she contacted Fenton officials. It turns out that the representative may not be the owner of the home. Fenton police are attempting to contact the current homeowner to see if the California company is allowed to list the home.

UNAUTHORIZED TRANSACTIONS ON DEBIT CARD
On Dec. 10, a 27-year-old Fenton man reported credit card fraud to Fenton police. Lt. Jason Slater said the man saw unauthorized charges on his VISA debit card account, one to Charter Communications and another for items purchased in California. Total charges were $233.07. The man called his bank to report the fraud and they advised him to file a police report.

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Make her heart dance
Give her what she really wants for Christmas…
Disability has become a type of ‘welfare program’

By Vera Hogan
vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

This is part 2 on Social Security Disability. Part 1 of the article on Social Security Disability was published on Sunday, Dec. 6. It was reported that in Part II, an interview with a Social Security Administration representative, a representative from the medical community, and local statistics could be included. The information was not available before press time. A third article will be published in the future once it can be obtained.

A number of people collecting Social Security Disability Insurance benefits in this country may be surprised to learn that SSDI was slated to exhaust its trust fund at the end of 2016, triggering automatic 20 percent cuts across the board to current beneficiaries.

According to forbes.com, a budget deal signed into law by President Barack Obama earlier this fall relaxes previously agreed upon bipartisan spending limits and fails to address long-term spending problems.

Another failure, according to Forbes, is “The decision to kick the can down the road on reforming the troubled Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) program.”

Unlike old age and survivors insurance, SSDI is intended to replace income for those who have become disabled and can no longer work. But a surge in use and abuse of the program is threatening to turn it into something taxpayers cannot afford to sustain.

Although SSDI was slated to exhaust its trust fund at the end of next year, not more than 10 years ago that fund was intended to be solvent through 2027.

Because of numerous economic and structural problems, and a spike in applications and fraud, the trust fund situation is more dire than originally projected.

The majority of people accepted into the SSDI program never return to work. Many who lost their jobs or had their hours reduced during the recession and weak recovery have looked to SSDI to make up for lost wages, whether they were prevented from working due to an injury or not.

But the weak economy isn’t the only factor. Poor management at SSDI has also contributed to the program’s looming insolvency. A recent report from the Social Security Inspector General found troubling issues with payments from the SSDI program.

The report revealed that from October 2003 to February 2014, Social Security overpaid nearly half of all program recipients by a total of $17 billion.

Worse, the overpayments included expenditures to those who were no longer disabled, overpayments to beneficiaries, and even payments to people who were incarcerated or dead.

Most American taxpayers are more than willing to fund a social safety net for those truly in need, but overpaying by billions of dollars because of bureaucratic ineptitude at the Social Security Administration is unacceptable.

With the trust fund running dry, Congress had a prime opportunity to enact reforms to preserve the program for those who truly need it and crack down on those who are abusing it, according to Forbes. Unfortunately, Congress opted for a bailout by simply redirecting payments from the Social Security retirement system to SSDI instead. As a result, SSDI will be solvent through 2022.
Local church lifts spirits of nursing home residents

By Vera Hogan
vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

TLC, the acronym stands for “tender loving care,” and that’s exactly what members of the Transfiguration Lutheran Church (TLC) want to see nursing home-bound members of the church and community receive on a regular basis.

Previously, Dr. Mark Fisher, minister to Transfiguration Lutheran Church in Fenton, was for 25 years a corporate consultant to more than 200 charities.

“During that time I have had the privilege of working with countless dedicated staff and volunteers who have met the needs of thousands of hurting people,” he said.

“In working as a consultant with these organizations, I have frequently been involved in discussions related to growth and financial sustainability,” he added. “At the board level, it is often ‘what we do.’ Without a focus on growth and finances, many would argue that the survival of an agency is at great risk. If, however, over a period of time there is an over-emphasis on issues related to income and expense, the attention of the board may unintentionally drift away from mission fulfillment.”

In an effort to explore this more fully, Fisher said he studied the board of directors for a Christian ministry, serving adults with mental disabilities and examined compassion. He said he designed a tool which was inspired by the parable of “The Good Samaritan.”

Fisher said he noticed within this context that if people are regularly visited the care is somewhat better than if they are not.

As a result of these observations, Transfiguration Lutheran Church now has a group of volunteers, who felt called to this new ministry, and have made regular visits to people in area nursing homes their mission, with the hope that the care will be better than if they were not visited.

TLC volunteers want nursing home staff to be aware that there are “visiting eyes and ears” there to provide companionship to residents and observe the care they are receiving.

“We also want to uplift the caregivers,” said Fisher. “We need to show them how important we know they are and how hard they work.”

Some of these nursing homes are understaffed, resulting in aides and other employees working longer than normal hours, often for low wages.

“We need to pray for them and treat them as heroes,” said Fisher.

TLC wants the community to know they are doing this, and hope other churches and organizations will follow suit. And other nursing home visitors who see abuse or neglect should not be afraid to get involved.
**CHARITY**

Continued from Front Page

Determining where your charitable dollars are spent, therefore, is likely based on a personal experience or interest, and perhaps, a desire to “pay it forward.”

When it comes to giving, for example, animal lovers will likely give to a nonprofit organization like the local Adopt-A-Pet, a charity of national humane society, or the ASPCA (American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals).

Someone who has suffered a past loss, such as fire to their home or other catastrophe, may have been helped by the St. Vincent DePaul Society, a Catholic charity, or the Salvation Army to help with their basic needs of shelter, clothing and more.

Military families often lean toward spending their giving dollars on a charity like the Wounded Warrior Project, a nonprofit organization that helps severely injured soldiers rebuild their lives upon returning home.

Families who have suffered loss through illness will likely spend their charitable dollars on one of the numerous organizations that will give others suffering from cancer and other life-threatening ailments treatment and hope, such as the American Cancer Society, St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital, or the March of Dimes … for example.

Tracy Bundy of Fenton Township is one of them and said, “I like to give to the Michigan Parkinson’s Association in memory and honor of my dad, Fenton’s former police chief, Jerry Cattaneo.”

Hunger in America tugs at the hearts of most people. Area churches and food banks, the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan, along with missions such as Carriagetown Ministries in Flint, that offer food and shelter to those in need, are always in need of donations of money and food items. Domestic violence and sexual abuse continue to be a big problem in this country, so local places like the YWCA of Greater Flint and the Haven in Pontiac, which offer shelter, counseling and more to victims, is a charitable passion for those who have or know someone who has experienced abuse.

Every single local church will always be happy to accept charitable donations in order to carry out their mission to serve the needs of all people, or civic groups and other organizations that routinely provide one-time assistance or regular assistance to the specific groups they’ve chosen to help.

Bundy said she also likes giving to her church, St. John Catholic. “I believe in Catholic education for our youth,” she said.

Denise Ketchmark of Fenton Township said she donates $50 to police charities and $50 to veterans causes.

Ketchmark said this year she and her two sons. “We have been thanked numerous times for taking the time to call back, even when we do not have funds available just to say ‘we care, and everything will be fine.’ We give people strength and that helps them through the tough times.”

Sandra Kleven, owner of the French Flamingo in Holly said, “We give to HAYA (Holly Area Youth Assistance) because we know the money stays local.”

Marlo Davidson of Holly said, “I’m blessed that I have never felt the need to have money, and so I don’t have much of it,” she said.

“I believe in ‘giving out of your need,’ and I need to be wanted and useful,” she added.

“So my giving is in service performed. There is real joy in giving yourself whether it be working the food program, sitting on boards, working village festivals or visiting lonely people.

“The feeling of being unwanted or not needed is a partial cause of our hysterical standards are met, not met or if information could not be verified.

**Do your homework**

There is so much information in print and online about charities that are local, national and worldwide, it is difficult to know what is factual and what is not. We have all seen reports about CEOs of national charities earning outrageous sums of money. Determining which report is true or not, is difficult to say the least. Most of them, like the Salvation Army, American Red Cross, and more their annual reports online.

Companies like Forbes (www.forbes.com) produce lists of charities, providing information on their revenues, expenses and percentage of charitable dollars that are actually spent on the needs of those they serve.

Another site, www.give.org, the BBB Wise Giving Alliance lists all charities, A-Z. Subcategories provide information on governance, finances, fundraising and information and measuring effectiveness, for example. The subject of each of the categories is rated and show if the alliance’s standards are met, not met or if information could not be verified.

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**Business**

Continued from Front Page

Planning Commission in time for the Dec. 17 meeting,” he said. The site, located along the Shiawassee River at the former Topps location, includes a new location for Chasse Ballroom & Latin Dance studio, offices, daycare and locker facilities for employees and customers, plus a food market, café, restaurants, four to six retail tenants, 10 condominiums and parking deck.

Development of the former Fenton Collision land parcel at 102 West Silver Lake Rd., purchased by Phil and Jocelyn Hagerman last April through SkyPoint Ventures, was “tabled for the moment,” according to Reilly.

“We do not have active plans for Silver Lake Road,” said Phil Hagerman. “We plan to grass it over and when able, will remove the silt fence to maintain an attractive corner until the right opportunity develops.”

Not enough time was left on the change of plans. “Iseems like they’re concentrating their efforts now on the re-opening of Caroline Street downtown,” said Reilly. “All the tenants have been relocated and discussion is now taking place about where to fence off the property and clear off the site, expected to take place within 30 to 60 days, depending on utility disconnects.”

Hagerman said he couldn’t commit to the exact timeline, “but all is as planned to move forward this winter and spring.”

Several other new businesses are opening including:

**City of Fenton**


- **Cancun Mexican Restaurant**, located in the former Classic Diner at 1204 North LeRoy St. (near Lovegrove’s) will serve authentic Mexican food when it tentatively opens in February.

- **LaMarsa Mediterranean Cuisine** will open its Fenton restaurant “as soon as possible,” said Reilly. “They’re a little behind schedule. They wanted to be open by now.” This eatery will be located in the former site of Sakura Buffet at the north end of Silver Lake Village (near Ortho Michigan). Other locations are in Troy, Farmington Hills, Brighton and Waterford.

- **Bon Vivant**, a deli and market featuring upscale produce and meats, with a small café inside, is still in the active planning stages in the former Luigi’s location at 1243 North LeRoy Street. “A zoning appraisal will run out pretty quick,” said Reilly. “She (the owner) has changed the interior design numerous times.”

- **ULTA** (cosmetic store), Maurice’s (fashion clothing for women) and Famous Footwear are still active building projects, planned for the land parcel between Target and Tractor Supply Company (TSC). “They’re (the Detroit Development Corporation) getting permits from Genesee County for soil erosion before they can apply for permits from the city,” said Reilly. “Kay Jewelers was going to come in, but of yet, we haven’t heard anything from them.”

- **A two-story office building** is being developed by developer Wilson Lahoud, located between REMAX Platinum and Silver Arbor Apartments on Silver Lake Road. “They haven’t broken ground yet,” said Reilly. “They’re looking at opening in summer 2016.”

The new building will feature a rooftop terrace and possible lower level fitness center.

**Fenton Township**

- **L. George’s Cony Island** plan to open in February in the former Spoono Tavern location east of Lake Ponemah Marina on Silver Lake Road. “They’ll have to get a business license,” said Tom Broecker, operations manager and deputy clerk. “I’m not aware of the proposed timing of their opening.”

- **Dollar General** is planning to build a 9,000-square-foot store on Thompson Road east of U.S. 23 and is in the stages of preliminary and final site plan approval from the township planning commission.

- **Performance Fabricating** is building a new facility on Thompson Road, in the same development as Dollar General. “They’re currently leasing a building,” said Broecker.

**Linden**

- **Dollar General** has met with city officials and tentatively plan to build a store on a commercial parcel of land on West Broad Street, just west of town.

- **Quality Tax Service** will be moving in downtown at 119 South Bridge St.

- **An art gallery and studio** is tentatively planned to move into 802 North Broucker St., by Linden Mayor Andy Potter, operations manager and deputy clerk. “I’m not aware of the proposed timing of their opening.”

- **Famous Footwear** is being built by developer Wilson Lahoud, located between REMAX Platinum and Silver Arbor Apartments on Silver Lake Road. “They haven’t broken ground yet,” said Reilly. “They’re looking at opening in summer 2016.”

**Holly Village**

- **Cupcakes & Kisses**, North Holly Rd. will be opening soon.

**Holly Downtown Development Authority**

- **Oakland Brewing Company** has met with city officials and tentatively plan to build a store on a commercial parcel of land on West Broad Street, just west of town.

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**Holly Village**

- **We’re going the way of Rochester.**

Andy Potter
Holly Downtown Development Authority director
Gov. Rick Snyder signed a bill to raise up to $50 million per year through customer surcharges for the Low-Income Energy Assistance Fund.

When you pay your utility bill, you are also contributing to Low-Income Energy Assistance Fund

Law adds 98 cents to your Consumer bill each month

By Vera Hogan
vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

Some area residents have been asking who authorized the 98-cent surcharge on their Consumers Energy electric bill.

Gov. Rick Snyder authorized it on July 1, 2013 when he signed into law the Low-Income Energy Assistance Fund (2013 Public Act 95).

According to Consumers Energy customer service, the surcharge applies to all electric customers of participating utility services per meter, per month.

The Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) determines the fund amount. Funds collected are forwarded to the Department of Human Services (DHS), where assistance will then be dispersed throughout the state, upon their decision.

On July 23 of this year, the MPSC adopted a funding factor of 98 cents per meter per month for all Michigan electric utilities that have opted to participate in the funding of the Low-Income Energy Assistance Fund.

The 98-cent surcharge began appearing on Consumers energy in September.

Because this surcharge is required by law, Consumers Energy customers do not have the option of opting out of this fee.

The MPSC has determined the surcharge amount, which is not to exceed $1 per month and not subject to sales tax. PA 95 allows the MPSC to annually approve a low-income energy assistance funding factor, not to exceed $50,000,000 statewide.

For more information on the Low-Income Energy Assistance Fund, visit www.michigan.gov/mpsc/0,4639,7-159-52493-268875--,00.html, or www.consumersenergy.com.

Senator Dave Robertson said he voted in favor of the bill. “The bill was passed in response to a court decision that required us to amend the law to clarify a fee that’s been around for decades,” he said.

The bill was originally amended in 2008, and later corrected to establish statutory justification for the fee to be used for emergency need, Robertson added.

According to Forbes, one change lawmakers should consider is closing a loophole that allows individuals to simultaneously “double dip” from both SSDI and unemployment insurance (UI).

In 2013 alone, approximately 117,000 individuals received $850 million in cash payments from both programs. But SSDI and UI were created to serve two different groups — SSDI for those hurt and unable to ever return to work, and UI for those who are temporarily unemployed due to downturns or structural factors.

According to Forbes, Congress should look at ways to allow individuals with partial disability to keep working or encourage workers who were once disabled, but have recovered, to rejoin the labor force.

SSDI is currently an “all or nothing program,” a one-size fits all system where an individual is unable to qualify for any benefits if they continue to work, something that doesn’t appear to make sense given the changes taking place in the workforce. One example is technological advances that have allowed for telecommuting.

Medical technology has also advanced since SSDI was created, and ailments that were once considered untreatable may now be treated and corrected with new medical approaches.

Now that SSDI will be solvent until 2022, the federal government has the time to look for innovative solutions to modernize the SSDI program.
Students with disabilities learn valuable skills on the job

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

Logan, an 18-year-old senior at Fenton High School, loves to work outdoors where he can feel useful and enjoy interacting with people.

When he’s not in the classroom, he is out working on maintenance jobs at Lockwood Assisted Living or Fairfield Apartments. In the summer, he performs many outdoor chores for Southern Lakes Parks & Recreation.

What sets apart Logan (who asked to not use his last name) from other kids his age is the “Transition” program he attends at FHS, which pairs students with disabilities with local employers.

Through this program, students like Logan, who are on the high functioning end of the autism spectrum, or others with cognitive impairment or learning disabilities, can learn employable skills and gain real life work experience out in the community.

The three school districts of Fenton, Lake Fenton and Linden all run special education consortium programs, each with their own special emphasis drawing kids from all three districts. Fenton runs a K-12 program for students with autism, while Lake Fenton offers a program for emotionally impaired and Linden for students with cognitive impairment.

For FHS special education teacher Tracy Skene, it’s a win-win situation. “When kids enter Transition II as a junior, that’s when local businesses come into play. Our students will spend four days a week out working during the second half of the school day. These kids actually have an edge on many other students who have never had any work experience in high school.”

Fenton High School’s consortium program works primarily with Lockwood Assistant Living in Fenton; Burgaflex, on Copper Avenue in Fenton, which manufactures hoses and tubing for semi-trucks and agricultural equipment, and Culver’s of Fenton.

A state of Michigan summer program, Workforce and Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA), offers other opportunities in their three-week summer school program.

The school provides transportation and support through five paraprofessionals for the student employment opportunities.

The Transitions program’s ends five students to Lockwood every day, where they do dishes, serve in the dining hall, interact with residents, handle light maintenance chores, etc. They are paid a “bonus” quarterly, according to Skene.

At Burgaflex, students do light assembly work and come home every week with a paycheck, earning $8.50 an hour.

Students working at Culver’s perform cleaning tasks and run orders between the kitchen and dining room, earning their own minimum wage paycheck.

“It’s more of a learning experience for these kids,” said Caroline Allen, first assistant manager at Culver’s. “They learn about expectations in the workplace. We also have kids from the programs in Linden and Lake Fenton. We’re very community-oriented.”

Tristen Ainsworth, 18, a junior in the Transitions program, said that working at Culver’s has really helped with the stress in his life. Diagnosed with Asperger Syndrome (high level functioning on the Autism Spectrum) at birth, he has struggled with academics like math and science. “If I don’t like something, I tend to not do it and that puts me behind in school,” he said. “I feel like I’m at home at Culver’s, like it’s one big happy family.”

Burgaflex Human Resource Manager Teresa Sprague said, “We definitely enjoy working with the kids from Fenton High School. Once they get used to the real life work experience of being on time, handing a routine and schedule and learn to perform specific duties, you can really see their self confidence grow.”

For a student like Logan, this real work experience is providing him with his first glimpse into adulthood and independence. “I’d like to work maybe as a mover (for a moving company) someday, or in waste management,” he said.
### Recent Pending & Sold Homes

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Address</th>
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<tr>
<td>150 Fronette, 5 Beds, 4.5 Baths, 8,000 sq. ft. w/ Walkout &amp; In-law</td>
<td>$449,999</td>
<td>3.5 Bathrooms, 4,208 sq. ft. with Finished Walkout Basement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1405 Eden Gardens Dr, 3.5 Baths, 4,000 sq. ft. w/ Finished Walkout Basement &amp; Hot Tub</td>
<td>$374,999</td>
<td>4 Bedrooms, 2,150 sq. ft. &amp; Views of Pine Lake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11452 Skyline Drive, 5.5 Acres, Beautiful Rustic Interior</td>
<td>$349,999</td>
<td>3 Beds, 2 Bathrooms, 1,780 sq. ft. Plus Finished Basement, Heated Floors, Large Yard &amp; Newer Roof!</td>
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### Client Testimonial

John is awesome to work with. He is very professional, honest, and willing to do whatever it takes to get the job done. He sold my home in 9 days. I would highly recommend him. I was extremely satisfied with him and his whole team!

### Recent Pending & Sold Homes

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<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>15455 Pinewood Tl, 150 Frontage, 5 Beds, 4.5 Baths</td>
<td>$700,000</td>
<td>3 Full Bathrooms, 4 Seasons Room with Fireplace &amp; 3,000 sq. ft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9126 Pinewview Lake, 1.5 Acres, 4 Bedrooms, 5 Full Bathrooms Heated</td>
<td>$249,999</td>
<td>4 Seasons Room with Fireplace &amp; 8,000 sq. ft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2454 Cranewood Drive, 80 Frontage, 4 Bedrooms. 2 Baths, 4,200 sq. ft. w/ Walkout &amp; In-law Apartment above Garage &amp; New Roof</td>
<td>$249,999</td>
<td>3 Car Garage, Beautiful Views</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12406 Windsor Beach Dr, 97 Frontage, 4 Bedrooms, 2.5 Bathrooms, 4,000 sq. ft. w/ Walkout &amp; Handicap Accessible!</td>
<td>$599,999</td>
<td>3 Bed, 2 Bath Rooms, 3,660 sq. ft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5056 Harp Drive, 1.5 Acres, Beautiful Rustic Interior, 3 Bedrooms, 2.5 Bathrooms, 2,150 sq. ft. &amp; Views of Pine Lake</td>
<td>$249,999</td>
<td>3 Bed, 2 Bath Rooms, 2,224 sq. ft. Plus Finished Basement</td>
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### Commercial Properties

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Silver Lake Rd - $115,000</td>
<td>Lease Opportunities - New Carpet &amp; Beautiful Views</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timber Creek - $69,999</td>
<td>Timber Creek - $35,999</td>
<td>8 Acres to Build Your Dream Home - Beautiful Views</td>
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###分析

#### 最近待售及售出的房屋

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### 客户推荐

John工作非常出色。他是非常专业的，诚实的，并且愿意做任何事情来完成工作。他在我家9天内就卖掉了。我会非常推荐他。我对与他及其团队的合作非常满意！

### 最近待售及售出的房屋

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Men earn the stereotype of ‘last minute’ shoppers

Nine percent of shoppers wait ‘til Christmas Eve to buy holiday gifts — and most of them are men

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

Local businessmen Jeri Stiles and Denny Dunfield used to be the “dynamic duo” of last minute Christmas shopping.

They’d hit the stores after getting out of work, “sometimes the evening before Christmas Eve and sometimes on Christmas Eve,” recalled Stiles, now 69. “It was a whirlwind excursion to downtown Fenton. ‘Men, in general, tend to be last minute shoppers. Sometimes the day before Christmas Eve or the day before, just because of the camaraderie and the Christmas spirit. ’

Age and experience has taught both these men that “late isn’t always great” no matter what the weather.”

Dunfield says that this year he’s actually ahead of the game for his wife, Terry, seven kids and nine grandkids in their blended family. “She always says she doesn’t need anything,” said Dunfield. “Then we talk about it and figure out what it is we both could use.”

He admits he still likes to go out on Christmas Eve or the day before, just because of the camaraderie and the Christmas spirit.

“You’ll find both of those in large quantities at local retailers who cater to last minute male shoppers.

According to the National Retail Federation, nine percent of shoppers plan to wait until Christmas Eve to buy their gifts, and more of these shoppers are men than women.

“It’s a stereotype but it’s usually true,” said Chip Beltinck of Sawyer Jewelers in downtown Fenton. “Men, in general, tend to be last minute shoppers. Sometimes they just don’t know what to get their wives. Women tend to be the ones who go out and do the shopping. We’re here to help.”

Jewelry is a popular “last minute” gift because it is both personal and sentimental. “It’s a ‘safe’ gift for most women,” said Beltinck.

He sees a huge influx of men coming in to shop just days before Christmas, all the way up to 4 p.m. closing time on Christmas Eve. “That’s why we always have our Men’s Panic Party so close to Christmas,” said Beltinck. “This year, it’s Dec. 19, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.”

One shopper Beltinck always enjoys waiting on is Jim Pushman, 61, of Fenton. “He absolutely adores his wife, and it’s very important to him that he gets a gift that’s special just for her.”

Pushman said he was raised to believe that the wife of the household should be put on a pedestal. “Gifts should come from the heart,” he said. “I try to listen to what Karen likes. I cheat at this a little and find a guy like Chip (at Sawyer’s), who helps me a lot. I try to keep a theme going each year.”

He always buys a special gift for Karen, two daughters-in-law, Kelly and Janelle, and two granddaughters, Sawyer and McKenna, age 3, all in a similar theme, with the most elaborate gift going to his wife.

“Karen does the same thing with our sons, Jimi, Scott and Addam and grandsons, J.P., 5 and Jack, 2,” said Pushman. “They like the same things as I do, sports and tools.”

The most important lesson that Beltinck learns from waiting on Pushman every year at the jewelry counter is how much his wife means to him and how he expresses that love with a thoughtful gift for her but also all the women/girls in his family. “More guys should be like him,” he said.
Senate Bill 618: Exempt “Internet data center” companies from personal property tax
To exempt the owners of internet data center companies from having to pay “personal property taxes” levied on business tools and equipment for the next 15 years. The bill originally applied only to the developers of proposed data center in the vacant “Pyramid” building near Grand Rapids, but was expanded to all companies in this particular business.
Passed 21 to 15 in the Senate
Sen. David Robertson (R-Dist. 14) ☑ YES
Sen. Mike Kowall (R-Dist. 15) ☑ YES
Sen. Joe Hune (R-Dist. 22) ☑ NO
Sen. Jim Ananich (D-Dist. 27) ☑ NO
Sen. Ken Horn (R-Dist. 32) ☑ YES

Senate Bill 616: Exempt “Internet data center” companies from most sales tax
To exempt from sales tax the purchases of most business equipment made by internet data centers. The bill originally applied only to the developers of proposed data center in the vacant “Pyramid” building near Grand Rapids, but was expanded to all companies in this particular business. For the next 15 years these firms would only have to pay 2 percent sales tax on most equipment and construction materials, rather than the full 6 percent paid by others.
Passed 21 to 15 in the Senate
Sen. David Robertson (R-Dist. 14) ☑ YES
Sen. Mike Kowall (R-Dist. 15) ☑ YES
Sen. Joe Hune (R-Dist. 22) ☑ NO
Sen. Jim Ananich (D-Dist. 27) ☑ NO
Sen. Ken Horn (R-Dist. 32) ☑ YES

Senate Bill 556: Extend “commercial rehab” tax breaks for developers
To extend for another five years a “commercial rehabilitation act” that authorizes property tax breaks for owners of commercial property selected by local government officials. The law was originally created with the developer of a moribund Oakland County mall in mind, and has been used to give these indirect subsidies to other developers as well.
Passed 87 to 19 in the House
Rep. Hank Vaupel (R-Dist. 47) ☑ YES
Rep. Joe Graves (R-Argentine Twp.) ☑ YES

Traffic engineer to study
downtown truck issue
The discussion of truck traffic in downtown Fenton is not over. The Fenton City Council decided Monday to consult with the city’s traffic engineer, Pete LaMore of Progressive Engineering in Grand Rapids, and go over his findings at the January 6 work session.
Fenton epicenter of
daytime activities
As in previous years, thousands converge downtown Fenton for Jinglefest activities, which included a tree-lighting ceremony, parade and fireworks.

Gun sales, CPL requests spike after mass shootings
The Genesee County Clerk’s office gave out more than 200 Concealed Pistol License applications the first week of December, which is more than the usual amount. It is believed to be because of the Dec. 2 San Bernardino, California shootings that left 14 people dead and many others injured.

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To: Mr. Romantic
From: Your Personal Jewel Place: Sawyer Jewellers
HOT LINE CONTINUED
I’VE DECIDED TO take a page from Mayor Osborn and since I live in Fenton Township I will no longer spend my money in her city. There are many fine businesses in the surrounding area to shop and eat. Her rhetoric reminds me of growing up in Detroit listening to Coleman Young.

TO JUST WONDERING, you missed the point about St. John’s sign. Pray to end ‘Gun violence’ vs. ‘All violence’ is irrelevant. It is the call to pray that is important.

I UNDERSTAND THE mayor of Fenton’s intent to award the truck contract to a local high bidder. However, it is the duty of every elected official to get the best price possible for taxpayers.

ANYONE KNOW WHY they put a traffic light in at Collins and Grant? I live on Grant and this seems unnecessary. Neither of these streets gets much traffic, and a four-way stop was more than sufficient. It’s a waste of taxpayer dollars if you ask me.

I DON’T KNOW if anyone else has this problem. My recycle bin fills up in a week, which forces me to put my recyclables in the regular garbage bin.

MUSLIMS AREN’T THE problem, and neither is their religion. Extremist behavior is what caused the 14 killings in California, not the Quran. It’s not the religion that’s the problem. It’s the way people interpret it.

WHEN ARE WE going to get some snow? Got a new snow blower and snowboards for the kids. We’re ready, bring it on.

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What’s in your wallet?

Woman’s trip turns to nightmare when credit cards, license, cash is stolen

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

A Fenton area woman was driving from Fenton to Florida with her son a couple of weeks ago. While grabbing a bite to eat in the breakfast room at 6 a.m., at a hotel just south of Atlanta, another woman walked past their table and stole her purse. The incident was caught on the hotel’s security video camera.

In a matter of seconds, the victim lost so much more than just her purse and cash. Everything essential was in that purse, including the victim’s cell phone, driver’s license, credit cards, ATM card, Social Security card, prescription medication, photos of her kids and cash.

Would you know what to do if your purse or wallet was stolen? Do you know exactly what is in your purse or wallet? In a matter of minutes, those stolen credit cards could be used on large purchases that could wipe out anyone’s balance.

An arrest warrant has been issued for the suspect in this case, however, the victim’s purse has not been located. Employees were able to recover the stolen cellphone from the suspect’s hotel room, as she had been staying there for a few weeks. The case remains under investigation since the suspect has not returned to her room.

With holiday get-togethers in high gear this month, travel is likely. Paying attention to one’s surroundings, keeping vehicles locked at all times, not setting a purse down for even a second can prevent a fun trip from becoming a nightmare.

Fenton Police Chief Rick Aro advises someone in this situation to contact his or her bank, Secretary of State’s office and the Social Security office right away. Report stolen cards immediately so that the accounts can be shut down and new cards can be issued.

Aro added that victims should run a credit report right away and then every few months to see if anyone has tried to open an account in their name or tried to change their address. He also added that at tax time, check with the IRS to make sure no one has tried to file a tax return with their information.

A review of everything in a wallet is crucial. Compile a list (or photocopy) with their information.

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A review of everything in a wallet is crucial. Compile a list (or photocopy) of all of the cards, account numbers, emergency contact phone numbers and secure in a safe, but accessible location. In the event of theft, this information could hasten the reporting to law enforcement and financial institutions.

Important tips to fight identity theft

• Filing a police report is the first step in protecting against identity theft. Request a copy of the police report for future inquiries, according to Identity Theft Resource Center.
• Contact the three major credit-reporting agencies: Equifax (800) 525-6285, Experian (888) 374-372, Trans Union: (800) 680-7289. Ask for a fraud alert and a free report as a potential victim of identity theft.
• Contact the state agency that issues driver’s licenses. Place a stolen/lost card warning on your file. At this time, request a replacement. If you discover that a theft is using your license, you can request a license number change if your vehicle registration papers are missing, notify your state agency of this as well.
• Contact credit card issuers. The Fair Credit Reporting Act requires credit grantors to furnish copies of any fraudulent transactions for that account. Monitor your mail for collection notices, missing statements or bills. Check bills for evidence of new fraudulent activity and report any problems immediately to credit grantors.
• If you have lost checking account numbers, savings account numbers, checks, ATM cards, or debit cards, contact the bank immediately and close the account.
• In the case of a lost or stolen passport, it is important to notify the U.S. Department of State immediately and fill out Form DS-64.
• DO NOT CARRY your Social Security card in your wallet. This card should be kept in a secure location and brought out only when necessary.
• DO NOT CARRY a list of passwords in your purse or wallet.
• For detailed information about these tips, and other tips, go to www.idtheftcenter.org.
**TRIVIA**

**BASEBALL**

Q  Who owns the record for most walks in a no-hitter in a MLB contest?

A  On Aug. 19, 1965, Cincinnati Reds’ pitcher Jim Maloney tossed a no-hitter, but he did allow a whopping 10 walks.

**BOWLING REPORT**

Here is a list of some recent prep bowling results.

**BOYS BOWLING**

- Holly def. Clio: The Bronchos were led by Braden Wilson’s 181-205-386 two-game series in the victory against the Mustangs. Vladi Craycraft bowled a 222 game.

- Fenton def. Linden: John Cryderman bowled a 202 game.

**GIRLS BOWLING**

- Holly def. Clio: Kaitlyn Meier and Hannah Fultz each had two-game series scores of 251-235-486 series, leading the Tigers to a 30-0 win against the Eagles. Alex Keith had a 213 game as well. Fenton also had a baker game score of 223.

**Too much Tooley for Powers**

**Senior’s defense leads Bronchos past Chargers, 78-54**

By David Troppens
droppens@tctimes.com

Holly — Adam Tooley was frustrated.

The senior was in the locker room with his Holly varsity boys basketball teammates and asked the squad if the team had accomplished its pregame goals during the first 16 minutes.

“Our two goals before the game were to have fun and to just run and get fastbreak points,” Tooley said. “I asked them if we accomplished either of those two goals. Everyone answered ‘no.’”

Single-handedly, Tooley made sure that changed in the second half. The senior defensive stalwart had six steals in the third quarter, with four being converted into fastbreak buckets off either Tooley assists or layups, changing what was a very ugly first half for the Bronchos into what was a much better and more characteristic second half.

The Bronchos run and gun style was, once again, dominating play as Tooley helped lead the Bronchos to a 78-54 season-opening home victory against the Flint Powers Chargers on Tuesday.

“I just went out there and I was going to have fun myself because I didn’t have fun in the first half,” Tooley said. “We were going to get transition points whether it was off of steals, rebounds or outlet (passes).

In the locker room we were pretty disgusted with the game in a 3-2 road victory against the Swartz Creek/Clion/Flushing co-op team on Wednesday.

The Griffins enjoyed a 2-0 lead entering the third period, but Swartz Creek’s... See TIGERS on 18A

**Griffins continue hot streak, 3-2**

By David Troppens
droppens@tctimes.com

One of the Metro League Griffins’ goals this season is to capture the Flint Metro League title.

A year ago, the Linden and Fenton varsity hockey co-op squad came one point short of that mission. On Wednesday, the Griffins made the first step toward completing it this year. The Griffins (5-1-0) posted the game-winning goal with just 20 seconds left in regulation when Bobby Temple scored his second goal of the game in a 3-2 road victory against the Swartz Creek/Clion/Flushing co-op team on Wednesday.

The Griffins enjoyed a 2-0 lead entering the third period, but Swartz Creek’s... See TIGERS on 18A

**Gilbert’s 31 leads Tigers past Lapeer**

**Lady Tigers fall on last-second shot**

By David Troppens
droppens@tctimes.com

If one congratulates John Gilbert on his team’s victory during the Fenton varsity boys basketball squad’s first game of the season on Tuesday he will make sure to give you a sense who he thinks deserves the most credit.

“I just sat and watched,” Gilbert said, hinting it was the players who deserved the credit for the victory.

The Griffins enjoyed a 2-0 lead entering the third period, but Swartz Creek’s... See TIGERS on 18A

**MEET Chester**

I’m a fun, energetic Jack Russell/Australian Cattle Dog.

**MEET Sterling**

I’m a gorgeous silver tabby. I’m a super special boy who had to have my leg amputated.

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A Friend for Life!

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KERDON LUMBER CO.
Area wrestling teams open with impressive performances

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

Linden varsity wrestling coach Todd Skinner is optimistic about his team’s upcoming season.

The Eagles’ opening double-dual only solidified those thoughts.

The Eagles opened the season with a 55-11 victory against Carelton Airport and a 36-29 win with a 55-11 victory against Royal Oak 53-15 and Avondale 42-24.

“I thought we wrestled well for it being opening night,” Holly varsity wrestling coach Don Pluta said. “Our conditioning needs to improve, but it is early. Obviously we are happy with our performance, but bigger challenges await.”

See WRESTLING on 20A

Fenton swimmers collect high placings at own relay event

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

The Fenton varsity boys swim team has quietly become one of the area’s top Metro League squads in just about any sport, as evidenced by the Tigers’ three straight league championships.

Considering this was just the first meet of the season and so many of the relays are events that are not regular events, it’s hard to take the results too seriously. This event is more of a fun competition among teams. The Tigers are a squad with some nice youth and some solid returning performers.

“We added four new freshmen that will make it into our starting lineup right away — Evan Barton, Jake Eddings, Noah Maier and Zac Jump,” Fenton swimming and diving coach Brad Jones said. “Our returning state qualifiers are Zac Miceli, Michael Fabatz and Kyle Banner. They will lead the way for us this year. Looking to jump into that state-qualifying group are Joey Pejera, Justin Beemer and Noah Szumore.

Fenton hosts Grand Blanc and Powers on Tuesday.

“That will be a big test to see where we are,” Jones said.

TIGERS

Continued from Page 17A

Continued from Page 17A

alley settled us in. With our offense anybody on any day can get open and hit some shots when they have to.”

Fenton led 19-15 after one quarter, but Lapeer bounced back to take the lead during the second quarter before the Tigers answered back to tie it at 30-all entering the half. Fenton gave itself a nice lead with a 15-6 run in the third quarter, pulling to a 45-36 lead. Lapeer cut the gap to as little as three, but the Tigers were able to increase the lead down the stretch and hold on to the relatively comfortable eight-point victory.

Tigers coach Will Dawson said, "It was impressive to watch him play. He never lost his cool. He kept his head up the entire game even after all of those shots.”

GRIFINTS

Continued from Page 17A

op team rebounded with two third-period goals, tying the contest. However, the Griffins responded with the exciting end. Mitch O’Lewin and Brandon Buerkel assisted Temple’s goal.

In the opening period, Temple scored a power-play goal during the final minute of the session with Buerkel and Brandon Diener getting assists. The squad went into the intermission leading 1-0. In the second period, Buerkel, scored the goal off of assists from Temple’s Ian Crampton, making it 2-0 lead entering the second intermission.

Swartz Creek pounded 23 third-period shots at Griffins’ goalie Collin LaVoie. He finished the game with 42 saves.

“He played out of his mind,” Fenton coach Will Dawson said. “It was impressive to watch him play. He never lost his cool. He kept his head up the entire game even after all of those shots.”

Girls Basketball

LaPeer 38, Fenton 36

LaPeer’s Tori Trips scored the game-winning layup at time expired, earning the visiting squad the thrilling non-league win against the Tigers on Monday.

Taylor Moweray led the Tigers with eight points, even rebounds and two blocks, while Chloe Idoni had eight points and six rebounds. Sarah Cumnings netted eight points, seven rebound and three steals. Maddie Carr had four steals.
Tri-County’s 2015-16 Wrestling Previews

LAKES FENTON BLUE DEVILS

Coach: Vance Corcoran
2014-15 Record: 5-2 Metro record, fourth at meet and fourth in final standings. Team district champions. Lost in regional semifinals to Brandon.

Returning state wrestlers: None.

Overview: The Eagles have reason for optimism starting this season. The squad only has two seniors, but there is a lot of experience within the underclass wrestlers as well. Luke Zimmerman is one of those returning seniors, while the other is Bryce Davis (152/160), who was a regional qualifier a year ago. Other returning regional qualifiers are Steve Burrow, Patrick Kerr (145/145), Dawson Blank (145), Aaron Steedman (189) and Caleb Dickson (171). Others returning who will be key wrestlers this year include Justin Cygner (112), Koleten Strauss (119), Austin Monsen (130/135), Avery Jacobs (160), Jaylin Steedman (280) and Stojan Prusek (215). The Eagles have a group of freshmen the squad is pretty optimistic about as well. That group includes Caleb White (125/130), Mitchell Kerr (145/152) and Adam Glazier (160).

Coach Corcoran says: “We have all the weights filled and still have kids coming out, ... The kids we have are battling and have done things over the summer. ... They are advanced, very advanced and very driven. They know how close we were to making it to team states last year and that is the goal. They want to compete.”

Prediction: The Eagles should be a strong squad and be one of the league’s top squads. Don’t be shocked if Linden makes a nice run in the team state tournament.

LINDEN EAGLES

Coach: Todd Skinner
2014-15 Record: 5-2 Metro record, sixth at meet, tied for sixth in final standings. Lost to Linden in Team district final.

Returning state wrestlers: None.

Overview: Last year the Bronchos were in a serious rebuilding mode and had one of their toughest seasons in recent memory. But the sun is starting to shine once again this year. Holly has just about doubled its wrestlers this season to about 30 grapplers. The squad has just six seniors, so it’s a group that should be together for a long time. Colton Cleaver (145/152) has qualified for state in the past, but missed most of last year with a broken foot. Clarkson transfer Mitch Nelson (125/130) and Carson Cuthbert were regional qualifiers last year as has been Jimmy Gray (215/285) in the past. Other athletes return after injury-filled seasons last year. They include Jon Accorsi (135) and Josh Gonzalez (140). Expect Wyatt Scribner (125), Collin Dahlitz, Dan Stallard, Justin Williams, Morgan Henzel, Calvin Curtis and Bruce Burke will see varsity time this winter.

Coach Pluta says: “As you can see we are experienced but young. It reminds me of the Holly teams of the 1990s, not the favorites but we are working hard and have the talent to surprise people.”

Prediction: The Bronchos are going to be an improved product over last season’s squad. Injuries really hurt the team last year. This season expecting to get back to the upper half of the Metro seems a likely goal.

FENTON TIGERS

Coach: Bruce Burwitz
2014-15 Record: 0-7 Metro record, eighth at meet, eighth in final standings. Lost to Holly in district tournament.

Returning state wrestlers: None.

Overview: The Tigers enter the season with about 18 wrestlers, including 10 with varsity experience and nine with starting experience. The squad’s potentially strongest wrestlers should be Tommy Adams, David Foster, Andrew Goodman and Jake Church. “All are looking very strong this year,” Fenton coach Bruce Burwitz said. However, with the limited numbers it will be hard for the Tigers to capture a lot of victories since they will have troubles filling the entire varsity lineup.

Coach Burwitz says: “They are hard working and have a great attitude. We want to win the matches in which we have a wrestler. If we win more than the other team, we will consider it a victory.”

Prediction: The Tigers will find it tough to get out of the lower division in the always challenging Metro League. Individual success will have to be the theme of the season as it’s going to be tough for the squad to earn a lot of victories and advance in the team state tourney.
**TOOLEY**

**Continued from Page 17A**

way with the way we played in the first half. I’m the spark guy. That’s just me. So I went out there, knew if I played hard, got on the floor and did all of the dirty work, I knew it would turn around.”

Tooley’s assessment was right. Tooley was one of many players on both sides plagued with foul troubles in the first half. The two teams combined for an unbelievable 33 first-half turnovers, resulting in what was a downright ugly first-half performance on both sides. The one positive for Holly out of it was the Bronchos had a 30-23 lead despite 16 first-half turnovers.

Tooley made sure the first half didn’t happen again in the second half. Holly opened the third quarter with eight straight points. Kyle Woodruff started the run with a jump shot, but after that, Tooley orchestrated the run. He earned a steal, sent a fastbreak pass to Ian Hodges for the layup. “I put a lot of pressure on myself being a three-sport guy,” Tooley said. “I like to think of every team being my team. That’s just the way I am. That’s just the way I think. I feel if I play hard, I’m in the juice — I get everyone to play hard. It’s that simple.”

Another face Bronchos’ fans remember, but lost to both foes, dropping a 60-30 verdict to Imlay City and to Yale 54-10. Fenton won five of the six matches wrestled against Imlay City with all of the victories being pinfall wins. They were earned by Jake Church (140), Tatum Foster (152), Jaythan Wright (160), Joseph Williams (171) and Andrew Goodman (285). Against Yale, Church (140) and Williams (171) earned victories.
**LOCAL**

**5 YEARS**
Sunday, Dec. 19, 2010

Linden man stranded for 26 hours on snowy Canadian highway. A one-day trip to Guelph, Ontario, Canada for a Scrabble tournament on Sunday turned into a three-day adventure for Jeff Clark, a volunteer firefighter for the Linden Fire Department. He and hundreds of other motorists were stranded on the way for 26 hours because of heavy snow.

**10 YEARS**
Sunday, Dec. 18, 2005

Pontiac chief hired for Holly’s top job. Rolie Gackstetter, 50, has been hired to serve the village as its next chief of police. He currently serves as assistant chief for the Pontiac Police Department. According to Village Manager Aaron Oppenheimer, Gackstetter’s credentials stood out from among the eight candidates selected for interviews.

**15 YEARS**
Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2000

Nativity scene has seen its last days. Some people are asking what happened to the nativity scene that’s usually placed in front of the Community Center each year. The nativity scene was received by the city 20 to 30 years prior and is in very bad shape, no longer fixable. City officials will likely not purchase a new nativity scene because of the separation of church and state issues, and the “perceived inappropriateness” of such a purchase.

**20 YEARS**
Sunday, Dec. 17, 1995

Former Argentine Township trustee launches write-in campaign. Argentine residents will have another candidate to consider for the position of township trustee in the Jan. 11 special election to replace board members recalled in November. Local business owner and 18-year Argentine resident, Sue McWen, is actively seeking a trustee seat on the board, a position she held for nine years, from 1983 through 1992.

**25 YEARS**
Sunday, Dec. 16, 1990

Big B &E ring out of business. Several tri-county area business owners and residents got an early Christmas present last week. Police took some burglars off the street by breaking a major local breaking and entering ring. “By the time we’re finished, I’m sure a lot of area departments will be able to clear out some files with these guys,” said Det. Scott Fischer of the Holly Police Department.

“arvez was the way Lake Fenton High School senior female fell asleep at the wheel of a stray car which helped police crack the case.

**30 YEARS**
Sunday, Dec. 15, 1985

Surprise! Unappointed, Will fill Hammond’s two-year vacancy. Welcome to the fray was the way Carl Hammond, Fenton’s newly elected mayor, greeted the newest member of the council, Sue Suszek, who was appointed to fill Hammond’s old council seat. (Sue Suszek is today long-time Mayor Sue Osborn.)

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**NATIONAL**

**DEC. 13**
2003: After spending nine months on the run, former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein is captured. Saddam Hussein’s downfall began on March 20, 2003, when the United States led an invasion into Iraq to topple his government, which had controlled the country for more than 20 years.

**DEC. 14**
2012: A 20-year-old Adam Lanza shoots and kills his mother at their Newtown, Connecticut, home then drives to nearby Sandy Hook Elementary School, where he kills 20 first-graders and six school employees before turning a gun on himself.

**DEC. 15**
1998: The U.S. House of Representatives’ Committee on the Judiciary releases a 265-page report recommending the impeachment of President Bill Clinton for high crimes and misdemeanors. The subsequent impeachment proceedings were the culmination of a slew of scandals involving the president and first lady Hillary Clinton.

**DEC. 16**
1977: “Saturday Night Fever,” a movie that ignited the disco dance craze across America, along with the movie career of its star, John Travolta, opened in theaters. Travolta earned a Best Actor Academy Award nomination for his performance as 19-year-old Tony Manero, who during the week toils in a Brooklyn, New York warehouse and on the weekend dons a white suit and becomes king of a discothèque called 2001 Odyssey.

**DEC. 17**
1843: Charles Dickens’ classic story “A Christmas Carol” is published. Dickens was born in 1812 and attended school in Portsmouth. His father, a clerk in the navy pay office, was thrown into debtors’ prison in 1824, and 12-year-old Charles was sent to work in a factory. The miserable treatment of children and the institution of the debtors’ jail became topics of several of Dickens’ novels.

**DEC. 18**
1620: The British ship Mayflower docked at modern-day Plymouth, Massachusetts, and its passengers, dubbed Pilgrims by William Bradford, a passenger who would become the first governor, prepared to begin their new settlement, Plymouth Colony.

**DEC. 19**
1941: On this day, in a major shake-up of the military high command, Adolf Hitler assumes the position of commander in chief of the German army.

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**LOOKING BACK at this week IN HISTORY**

**COMPILLED BY VERA HOGAN**

**5 YEARS**

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**Talking Book Center is free for blind, visually impaired**

One of Genesee County’s oldest, ‘best kept secrets’ provides narrated books

By Hannah Ball
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One of the best kept secrets in Genesee County isn’t a secret get-a-way, or a hidden restaurant. It’s a repertoire of books for people who can’t see the words.

Genesee County’s Talking Book Center offers hundreds of thousands of titles and voice they prefer. It can suggest titles and narrators.

Sometimes the books can be automatically selected, which can include which type of narrators they like. If they like a certain narrator, they can listen to that narrator,” he said.

Once their choices are made, the item is sent directly to them for free. The center shows users how to use the equipment, like digital players, which also are free.

The library was established by the Pratt-Smoot Federal Act in 1931, which provided a system to give people who are blind access to books.

It was the Genesee County Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped in 1974, six years before the library became part of a district.

“It was originally just for adults, then they made it to include kids,” Conklin said.

What started as a Braille and record collection, evolved into a four-track cassette tape collection. It eventually expanded to audio books. “More recently they switched to a digital format so they can play things on a digital player, which is much easier,” he said.

Now, they utilize online delivery. The National Library Service, which stores all the books, uses BARD (Braille and Audio Reading Download), a service that allows someone to directly download a book.

“Because this came from the federal government, when the books are put into copyright, they ask for two copies. The National Library Service has the right to provide that book for free with that service,” he said.

Nearly 450 people in Genesee County used the center last year, and 11,950 used it statewide.

“It’s hard to get the word out because not everyone knows someone who would use it,” he said, adding that many optometrists don’t know about it even though they interact with people who have vision problems the most. “We try to get the word out there.”

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One of Fenton’s largest development projects to break ground in April

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

The landscape of Fenton is about to be changed by one of the largest development projects to be undertaken in the city of Fenton.

Michael LaJoice of LaJoice Properties “wowed” the community with his announcement in October of development plans for the 3.35 parcel of land he bought last June — the former Topps Fruit Market location along the Shiawassee River in Fenton.

The Riverview project is expected to break ground next April and will take approximately 18 months to complete.

“I can’t comment on the cost yet,” said LaJoice, who is still working with the city of Fenton Planning Commission for pending approval of site plans. “The project won’t be completed until 2017, but you’ll be seeing and hearing a lot about it in 2016.”

Schonscheck, Inc. of Wixom will handle the construction phase of this project. “It’s definitely a step above some of the nicer projects we’ve done,” said Nick Mendenhall, business development manager for Schonscheck, Inc. “Working with Nick (architect) has set the design to a whole new level.”

Mendenhall said he is excited about the project, especially bringing modern-style architecture as a new element in the city of Fenton. “I think diversity is good for the city,” he said.

The Riverview project includes:

- Chassé Ballroom & Latin Dance Studio
- This two-story restaurant, with an interior concept based on fire and oak, will face the river across from the Fenton Community & Cultural Center.
- “The kitchen will be seen behind a glass wall and the first floor will feature two private dining areas off the kitchen for groups to discuss the menu with the chef,” said LaJoice. “The first floor will also have a large waiting area with a bar.”
- Other concepts include walls of bottled wine reaching up to the second floor, a dueling piano bar and outside seating along the river for both floors. At this time, the restaurant plans to serve both lunch and dinner.
- Other retail
- The Riverview project also has four to six retail spaces along Caroline Street. “We are currently working on securing one more quick service food,” LaJoice said. “Other concepts include walls of bottled wine reaching up to the second floor, a dueling piano bar and outside seating along the river for both floors. At this time, the restaurant plans to serve both lunch and dinner.”

Condominiums

Fifty-three condominiums will be built on the fourth, fifth and sixth floors, overlooking the Shiawassee River. Studio, one-, two- and three-bedroom condominiums will be available.

Parking deck

A three-story parking deck with 284 parking spaces is also planned.

Community & Cultural Center

In October, Michael LaJoice, owner of Chassé Ballroom and Latin Dance Studio made public his development plans for the former Topps property.

In November, Wilson Lahoud, owner of Wilson Lahoud Construction, had his first party in the new Wilson Building.

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