

# Business continues to boom in the tri-county area

■ From large mega-projects like Riverview to new restaurants and retailers

By Sally Rummel

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The year 2015 will likely be remembered as a time when “business was booming” in the tri-county area.

That momentum continues with more building projects

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 LaJoyce, of LaJoyce 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

TRI-COUNTY TIMES  
TIM JAGIELO

The former Sakura Buffet location on Silver Parkway will become La Marsa Mediterranean Cuisine, opening in February.





**\$\$\$ SAVE HUNDREDS WITH THE YES! COUPON BOOK INSIDE THIS EDITION**

# Weekend Times

SUNDAY EDITION

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2015

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

## Who you give your money to often depends on personal experience

### ■ '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.

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.



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Account Information	Account: _____
Bill Month: November	Invoice: _____
Service Dates: 10/23/2015 - 11/24/2015	
Days Billed: 33	
Portion: 20 11/15	
<b>Rate Information</b>	
Electric Residential Service	Rate Code: 1000W
Gas Residential Service	Rate Code: 250
<b>Meter Information</b>	
Your most relevant meter info	
Date last meter received: 12/08/2015	
<b>Electric Service: Smart Meter</b>	
Meter Number: 30525229	
POD Number: 0000001329609	
Beginning Read Date: 10-23	
Ending Read Date: 11-23	
Beginning Read: 139	
Ending Read: 776 (Actual)	
Usage: 637 kWh	
Total Metered Energy Use: 637 kWh	

<b>November Energy Bill</b>	
<b>Account Summary</b>	
Last Month's Account Balance	\$310.27
Payment on November 06, 2015	\$150.00
Payment on November 15, 2015	\$160.27
Balance Forward	\$9.00
<b>Electric Charges</b>	
Electricity applied after Nov. 1st, 2015 (see schedule)	
Electricity	\$53.37
PSCL	\$2.87
System Access	\$1.00
Distribution	\$27.90
Electricity Seasonal Charge	\$2.38
Energy Efficiency	\$1.81
Power Plant Investment	\$0.80
Low-Income Assist Fund	\$0.38
Total Electric	\$95.73
<b>Natural Gas Charges</b>	
Customer Charge	\$1.36
Gas Distribution	\$22.15
Energy Efficiency	\$4.07
Gas Cost Recovery	\$92.35
Total Natural Gas	\$120.93
<b>Total Electric and Natural Gas Charges</b>	
Based on Nov. Use	
Total Electric and Natural Gas Charges	
\$216.66	

### Law adds 98 cents to Consumers Energy bill each month

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Page 10A

### Riverview update

The Riverview project, planned by Michael and Ashley LaJoyce through LaJoyce Properties, is one of Fenton's largest development projects ever. It is expected to break ground in April.

Page 23A



TEXT  
YOUR  
HOT LINE

810-771-TEXT



“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.”



“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.”



COMMENT  
OF THE WEEK

“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.”



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# Let it SNOW, PLEASE!

## Some local businesses depend on snow and cold for their livelihoods

**TRI-COUNTY TIMES** | FILE PHOTO  
In 2014, Mt. Holly enjoyed natural snowfall, but must create artificial snow when necessary.



**By Sally Rummel**

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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.

### SUMMARY

■ This year's balmy December has left some cold-weather businesses wanting more snow and cold.

"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. 18 or 21 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.

**See SNOW on 14A**

**“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 forgot 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 any 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 medica-

tion, 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 nex-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.

**“We all know that other countries don't send their scientists and innovators to America.”**

Let us not forget that Americans are the most generous and caring people in the world. We roam the globe saving other countries from dictators, tsunamis, floods, earthquakes, disease, starvation, bankruptcies and even pirates. We are the first one they call. And the last one they thank.

The bottom line is not whether we institute a ban on Muslim immigrants. It is how do we best protect our citizenry from those we know would hurt them. Whatever the answer to that question is, that's what we should do.

Are we willing to risk our lives and the lives of our children in order to foster an image that may be outdated in today's world?

That's the question we'll be answering on November 8, 2016.

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.

**PEOPLE, IF SOMEONE** is kind enough to buy your meal/pay it forward, you should leave a tip anyway. After all, you still received service right?

**IF THIS KEEPS** up we're going to have to drag our lawn mowers out again.

**PLEASE TELL ME** why the majority party in Congress hasn't sent a bill to the President on tax reform. I guess that's the President's fault also.

**I WANT TO** say thank you to everyone who made Jinglefest happen. Also, no thank you to everyone who was responsible for destroying the ice sculptures for Sunday morning. What bums. Shame on you.

**AFTER HEARING ABOUT** the shooting Monday evening near Genesee Valley mall, I'm sure glad that we have nice stores down here in Fenton, Holly and Linden. Our family will no longer go up there to shop; it's just too dangerous.

**MY NEIGHBOR IS** a practicing Muslim and he and his family are great people and great Americans.

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 Quran 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

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Compiled by Hannah Ball, staff reporter

## When do you do your Christmas shopping?

## streettalk



"I actually start early because a lot of the things will not be available during Christmas. My wife likes clothes so I'll figure out the places that have a 90-day return policy."

David Troppens, Fenton



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

Bill White  
Fenton Township



"I try to do it early but it almost always ends up being in the last week, but this year is better I just got it done."

Nathan Loersch  
Fenton



"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 Millikin  
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



"I 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



## 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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## Part 2

## Disability has become a type of 'welfare program'

■ Double-dipping from SSDI and Unemployment Insurance is part of the problem

By Vera Hogan

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*This is part 2 on Social Security Disability. Part I 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 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.



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

### 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/antifraud-facts](http://www.ssa.gov/antifraud-facts) 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.**

See **DISABILITY** on 10A



# Local church lifts spirits of nursing home residents

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

TLC, of course, 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 for 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 called “The Four Stages of Compassion,” which was inspired by the parable of “The Good Samaritan.”

The first stage involves recognition of need. Stage two is making a move to help. Stage three is actually being there in the physical presence of the people who need help. Stage four is providing service to those in need.

This, along with a parishioner in need at a local nursing home, led Fisher to consider having the church provide a visitation ministry in nursing homes.

“In my role as minister at Transfiguration Lutheran Church, I have had the privilege of visiting members in a variety of nursing home settings,” he said. “In some situations I have found compassionate care and in others I have witnessed deplorable conditions.”

Fisher said he has witnessed care in sites that seem like nothing more than warehouses for people who have been all but abandoned for a variety of reasons.

“For the past few years, I have visited someone in a home that is overcrowded, not well cleaned and understaffed,” he said. “I have noticed within this context that if people are regularly visited the case 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.

**“We need to pray for them and treat them as heroes.”**

**Dr. Mark Fisher**  
Transfiguration Lutheran Church minister



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## 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 county or 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



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

Adopt-A-Pet in Fenton is one of the many organizations that benefit from donations, typically collected from the events they hold throughout the year.

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 children are donating a \$100 each to help a local family in need.

“I also donated two toys to Toys for Tots,” she said.

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 society today,” Davidson said.

Cheryl Stewart, who started “One-by-1” earlier this year, said she is still going strong.

“We continuously help as many as we are able to that contact us. Since we began we have assisted with rent, utility bills and

## 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](http://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](http://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.

shut off notices, as well as food, gas cards and clothes for children,” Stewart said. “We also offer moral support.”

Stewart started the charity, which can be reached via [facebook.com/one.by.1bl](https://www.facebook.com/one.by.1bl), with her two sons. “We have been thanked many 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.”

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## BUSINESS

### Continued from Front Page

Planning Commission in time for the Dec. 17 meeting," he said.

This development, located along the Shiawassee River at the former Topps location, includes a new location for Chassé Ballroom & Latin Dance studio, offices, daycare and locker facilities for employees and customers, plus a food market, café, restaurants, four to six retail tenants, 53 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."

No reason was given for the change of plans. "It seems 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

• **Golden Buffet**, 1386 North LeRoy St., opened Dec. 11, next to VG's Grocery. "There's seating for about 160 for Asian buffet-style and take-out," said Reilly.

• **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 as of yet, we haven't heard anything from them."

• **A two-story office building** is being built by developer Wilson Lahoud, located

between RE/MAX 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 Coney Island** plan to open in February in the former Spoonz 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 Bridge St., by Linden Mayor David Lossing and his wife, Suzanne, a local artist.

#### HOLLY VILLAGE

"We're going the way of Rochester," said Holly Downtown Development

## HOT LINE CONTINUED

**THE FEELINGS THAT** liberals have toward Donald Trump are the same as those that conservatives feel toward Hillary Clinton. Extreme right is as bad as extreme left. We need someone in the middle.

■ ■ ■  
**OUR MUSLIM ALLIES** from Turkey are fighting on the ground against ISIS. We have had many Muslims serving in our armed forces for centuries. President Bush and Obama have both told Americans our fight is not with the Muslim religion. Please stop the ignorant rhetoric trying to start a Christian war against Islam.

■ ■ ■  
**TRUTH IS YOUR** medical premiums keep going up because patients and doctors abuse insurance. They have been going up for 50 years. Insurance is for the most part a for-profit business.

■ ■ ■  
**IT IS VERY** American not to find fault in yourself or runaway medical costs affect-

ing American society. We are the world's pill-popping kings. Plus a diet of instantly gratifying, scientifically created to be addicting processed food loaded with sugar and fat. Take a number, America.

■ ■ ■  
**WHEN THEY DELIVERED** the new trash cans there was a packet taped to the handle with information that I am guessing many people did not read, such as where to put the cans, recyclables are every other week, and so on. Educate yourselves folks.

■ ■ ■  
**THANK YOU TO** our Linden city manager and all who participated in the evening parade. I had the opportunity to stand in my front yard as the parade passed. The lights, floats, dogs, horses, big boat, antique car, band and the Merry Christmas greetings from everyone made for a truly magical evening.

■ ■ ■  
**DROVE BY THE** seminary. I see it is business as usual for Fenton. A one-week job drags out for months.

Authority Director Andy Potter, regarding the success of Holly's business district. "Three businesses right now are looking for existing businesses and properties."

This past year saw the very successful addition of three very community-oriented businesses in Holly: Cupcakes & Kisses, North Oakland Brewing Company and the RePurpose Shop (owned by Cari Cucksey of HGTV fame). "They're all mega-involved in the community and its events and festivals," said Potter. "They're not here just to make a dollar. They're experiencing Holly at the street level."

#### HOLLY:

• **Davisburg Bread Company**, artisan breadmakers, plans to open in downtown Holly in mid-January. "They're 65 percent done with their renovation," according to Potter.

• **O'Reilly's Auto Parts** at the northwest corner of Saginaw and Grange Hall roads, is just beginning their interior remodeling. "This is huge for Holly," said Potter.

• **ATI Physical Therapy** at 15201 North Holly Rd. will be opening soon.

• **Strongrich & Associates**, at 611 North Saginaw St., offers property and casualty insurance.

## “We’re going the way of Rochester.”

**Andy Potter**  
Holly Downtown  
Development Authority  
director

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<b>Total Electric</b>		<b>\$91.57</b>
Natural Gas Charge		
Customer Charge		\$11.50
Gas Distribution		\$52.15
Energy Efficiency		\$4.07
Gas Cost Recovery		\$62.56
<b>Total Natural Gas</b>		<b>\$130.28</b>
<b>Total Electric and Natural Gas Charges</b>		<b>\$221.85</b>
State Sales Tax		\$8.83
<b>Total Energy Charges</b>		<b>\$230.68</b>

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](http://www.michigan.gov/mpsc/0,4639,7-159-52493-268875--,00.html), or [www.consumersenergy.com](http://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.

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## DISABILITY

Continued from Page 6A

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

■ 'Transitions' program at Fenton High School pairs students with employers

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 the emotionally impaired and Linden for students with cognitive impairment.

For FHS special education teacher Tracy Skene, it's a win-win situation. The students learn valuable job skills and employers benefit by having good, dependable employees who have a

support system through the school.

"We spend the first two years of the program at school learning job and communication skills," said Skene. "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 hosing 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 summerschool program.

The school provides transportation and support through five paraprofessionals

for these student employment opportunities.

The Transitions program sends 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

“There are lots of ‘safety nets’ in place to really help these kids succeed.”

Tracy Skene  
Fenton High School  
special education teacher



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Tristen Ainsworth, 18, thrives in the Culver's team atmosphere. He checks on guests, works as a server and does odd jobs around the restaurant.

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.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Austen Batteese, 18, washes dishes at Lockwood Assisted Living in Fenton.

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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 Flint, Grand Blanc, no matter what the weather."

Age and experience has taught both these men that "late isn't always great" when it comes to holiday shopping.

"Now I start making a list during the year, sometimes even in August or September," said Stiles. "But I officially start at Thanksgiving. I have a very small group of people to buy for. I've already gotten my wife, Jan's gift."

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



Men often earn the stereotype of being "last minute" Christmas shoppers.

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 for Christmas 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 not only her, but also all the women/girls in his family. "More guys should be like him," he said.

## SNOW

Continued from Page 3A

"We have several models to choose from and always have great specials," said Stone. "Just come in and see what we have. My staff is ready to help you."

The weather also affects fashion retailers who sell boots and cold-weather apparel. Glik's of Fenton, well-known for The North Face apparel and UGG boots, has sold a lot for Christmas gifts. But manager Sara DeBord thinks they'd be selling better if there was snow. "It's been steady; our North Face is selling. But I do think if it was colder, we'd be selling more."

The city of Fenton isn't complaining too much about the lack of snow so far this season. "In November we used 6,000 tons of salt because of the big snowstorm on Nov. 21," said Department of Public Works Director Dan Czarnecki. "Last November 2014, we used three times that amount. So far in December, we haven't used any. Last December, we used 7,000 tons."

Czarnecki sees this time as the "calm before the storm." "It's nice to be on the low end at the start of the season. Call me in April and ask me again," he added.

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# MICHIGAN VOTES

WHAT YOUR LEGISLATORS VOTED ON RECENTLY

MichiganVotes.org is a free, non-partisan website created by the Mackinac Center for Public Policy to provide concise, non-partisan, plain-English descriptions of every bill and vote in the Michigan House and Senate. With one click, you can approve or disapprove of key votes by your legislators using the VoteSpotter smart phone app. This report was released Friday, Dec. 4.

## 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

## THIS WEEK'S INSERTS

- READ Alpine Marketplace
- CVS Pharmacy
- Gerych's Distinctive Flowers
- READ Holiday Gift Guide 2015
- READ Holly Foods
- Kmart
- Rite Aid
- Sears Hometown Stores
- Southern Lakes Parks & Rec
- Target
- READ VG's
- Walmart
- READ Yes! Coupon Book

# WHAT YOU MISSED

in the

## MIDWEEK TIMES

Wednesday, June 3, 2015 edition



### 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 LaMorie of Progressive Engineering in Grand Rapids, and go over his findings at the January 2016 work session.

### Fenton epicenter of holiday activities

As in previous years, thousands converge on 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 Bernadino, California shootings that left 14 people dead and many others injured.

## 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 Colfax 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.



James Huff of Fenton shows off two bucks that he recently shot. On Nov. 25, he shot a 6-point while hunting on state land in Lapeer County. On Nov. 26, he shot a 9-point while hunting on private land in Genesee County. On both hunts, he was accompanied by his brother, Zach Huff, and father, Brad Huff.

## News briefs

### AMERICAN LEGION HOSTS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER

American Legion Post 38 in Fenton is hosting its annual Christmas dinner at John's Pizzeria Restaurant on Tuesday, Dec. 15, starting at 6 p.m. John's is at 1492 North LeRoy St., Fenton. According to Jerry Palmer, reservations are not required.

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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) 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) 397-3742, 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 thief 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.ldtheftcenter.org](http://www.ldtheftcenter.org).

## News briefs

### FENTON SEEKING APPLICANTS FOR BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Mayor Sue Osborn announced Monday that the city of Fenton is seeking applications from citizens wishing to serve on one of the many boards and commissions. The boards and commissions are: Beautification Commission, Board of Review, Brownfield Redevelopment Authority, Compensation Commission, Development Area Citizens Council, Downtown Development Authority, Library Board, Local Development Finance Authority, Museum Board, Oakwood Cemetery Board, Park and Recreation Board, Planning Commission and Zoning Board. Applications may be picked up at Fenton City Hall, 301 S. LeRoy St., Fenton. For more information on the following boards and commissions, visit [www.cityof-fenton.org](http://www.cityof-fenton.org).

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## TRIVIA BASEBALL

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

On Aug. 19, 1965 Cincinnati Reds' pitcher Jim Maloney tossed a no-hitter, but he did allow a whopping 10 walks. He went to a 3-2 count to 13 hitters as the Cubs left 10 men on base. The Reds won 1-0 in 10 innings.

## 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 202 game.

► **Fenton def. Linden:** John Cryderman bowled a 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. Linden was led by Trevor Sundra's 224-192-416 series.

### GIRLS BOWLING

► **Holly def. Clio:** Kaitlyn Meier and Hannah Fultz each had two-game series scores of 243, leading the Bronchos to the victory. The team's high game was a 129 by Terin Cooley.

► **Fenton def. Linden:** Kyla Tietma bowled a 142-154-296 series, leading the Tigers to the victory. Laura Albrant also bowled a 136 game. Linden was led by the match's top performer, Molly Churches. Churches bowled a 167-139-306 series.



## Griffins continue hot streak, 3-2

By David Troppens  
[dtroppens@tctimes.com](mailto:dtroppens@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/Clio/Flushing co-op team on Wednesday.

The Griffins enjoyed a 2-0 lead entering the third period, but Swartz Creek's co-  
**See GRIFFINS on 18A**

**TRI-COUNTY TIMES** | MARK BOLEN  
Metro League Griffin goalie Collin LaVoie makes a save during a recent contest. He made 42 saves in a 3-2 victory against the Swartz Creek co-op hockey program.

## Too much Tooley for Powers

■ Senior's defense leads Bronchos past Chargers, 78-54

By David Troppens  
[dtroppens@tctimes.com](mailto:dtroppens@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



**TRI-COUNTY TIMES** | SCOTT SCHUBACH

Holly's Adam Tooley (right) defends Powers' Noah Sargent in the Bronchos' 78-54 victory at Holly High School on Tuesday.

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  
**See TOOLEY on 20A**

## Gilbert's 31 leads Tigers past Lapeer

■ Lady Tigers fall on last-second shot

By David Troppens  
[dtroppens@tctimes.com](mailto:dtroppens@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 Tigers are off to a solid start, capturing a road victory at Lapeer by a 55-47 margin on Tuesday. And the player who is off to the best start is Chris Gilbert, who netted a game-best 31 points.

"He got his points within the flow of what happened," John Gilbert said of his son. "He got some shots and knocked them in. It is his best high school game he's ever had scoring-wise, but in general he took care of the basketball and made some really nice passes. He re-  
**See TIGERS on 18A**

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# 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 victory against New Boston Huron, enabling the squad to leave the meet a perfect 2-0.

"I thought we looked pretty good," Skinner said. "It was our first competition and it's always good to get the nerves out. We only gave up two pins the whole night in two duals, so that was

good. We have a lot of stuff we need to work on, and last night definitely gave us a good look at what we need to build on."

Six wrestlers went 2-0 during the night's festivities. They were Koleton Strauss, Luke Zimmerman, Patrick Kerr, Dawson Blank, Bryce Davis and Stojan Prusac. John Marme also won his only match of the night, which also was his first varsity match of his career. Freshman Mitchell Kerr also earned his first varsity victory of his career. In fact, all of the freshmen who wrestled on Wednesday night (Caleb White, Kerr and Marme) earned team points.

Linden returns to action on Saturday when the squad hosts

the Linden Duals.

## Holly vs. Avondale, Royal Oak

The Holly Bronchos want to prove their program is back on the upswing.

One day into the season, they've taken their first step toward proving just that.

Holly opened the season by defeating 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**



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

Holly's Jimmy Gray (top) works on getting a pinfall during a match last season. Gray earned two pinfall wins on Wednesday.

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THUR 11:40 2:25 7:15 9:05

**\*@3D IN THE HEART OF THE SEA: REALD 3D** (PG13)  
FRI-WED 4:35 9:55  
THUR 4:35 6:30 9:55

**\*@IN THE HEART OF THE SEA: AN IMAX 2D EXPERIENCE** (PG13)  
FRI-WED 10:45 3:55 9:05  
THUR 10:45 3:55

**\*@IN THE HEART OF THE SEA: AN IMAX 3D EXPERIENCE** (PG13)  
FRI-SAT 1:20 6:30 11:40  
SUN-WED 1:20 6:30 THUR 1:20

**\*SPOTLIGHT (R)**  
FRI-SAT 10:05 12:50 3:40 6:35 9:20 11:50  
SUN-THUR 10:05 12:50 3:40 6:35 9:20

**STARTING THUR DEC 17**

**\*2D STAR WARS: EPISODE VII - THE FORCE AWAKENS** (PG13)  
THUR NIGHT/FRI MORNING 10:30 12:05

**\*@3D STAR WARS: EPISODE VII - THE FORCE AWAKENS: REALD 3D** (PG13)  
THUR 7:30 8:45 11:30 12:05

**\*@STAR WARS MARATHON EVENT** (PG13) THUR 4:00 AM

**\*@STAR WARS: EP. VII-THE FORCE AWAKENS: AN IMAX 3D EXPERIENCE** (PG13)  
THUR 7:00 9:55 12:45

**CONTINUING**

**\*THE LETTERS** (PG)  
**\*KRAMPUS** (PG13)  
**CREED** (PG13)  
**BROOKLYN** (PG13)  
**2D THE GOOD DINOSAUR** (PG)  
**THE SECRET IN THEIR EYES** (PG13)  
**\*THE NIGHT BEFORE** (R)  
**THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY PART 2** (PG13)  
**LOVE THE COOPERS** (PG13)  
**\*SPECTRE** (PG13)  
**2D THE PEANUTS MOVIE** (G)  
**BRIDGE OF SPIES** (PG13)

\*Due to movie company policies no passes are accepted.  
© No \$5 rate available. • \* No \$5 TUES evening rate.

## 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.

What used to be a sport that struggled with numbers, now has 35 performers on the squad and appears to be poised to make another spirited Metro run for the fourth straight year.

The Tigers had three relay teams earn top-four efforts, earning a seventh-place finish at the Tigers' annual relay meet.

Fenton's top performing team was the 4X100 individual medley relay team of Evan Bartow, Noah Maier, Trent Eaton and Noah Sizemore who placed second (4:30.97). Two Fenton teams placed fourth. The 850 crescendo relay squad of Joe Perrera, Michael Fabatz, Zac Miceli and Kyle Banner (8:39.80), as did the 400 freestyle squad of Banner, Fabatz,

Justin Beemer and Miceli (3:34.72).

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 Bartow, Jake Iddings, 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 Perera, Justin Beemer and Noah Sizemore.

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

ally settled us in. With our offense anyone 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.

Peyton Coffman netted 10 points, while Jake Cairnduff had six rebounds and five assists.

### Girls Basketball Lapeer 38, Fenton 36

Lapeer's Tori Trip scored the game-winning layup as time expired, earning the visiting squad the thrilling non-league win against the Tigers on Monday.

Taylor Mowery led the Tigers with eight points, even rebounds and two blocks, while Chloe Idoni had eight points and six rebounds. Sarah Cummings netted eight points, seven rebound and three steals. Maddie Carr had four steals.

## GRIFFINS

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 Brendan 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 an Ian Crampton, making it a 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."

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## Tri-County's 2015-16 Wrestling Previews

### LAKE FENTON BLUE DEVILS

**Coach:** Vance Corcoran

**2014-15 Record:** Third place in GAC. Won fifth straight district title. Lost to Birch Run in regional final.

**Returning state wrestlers:** A.J. Geyer (103), Hunter Corcoran (125), Devan Melick (130), Saben Spangler (135), Jackson Nevadomski (145) and Trent Hillger (285).

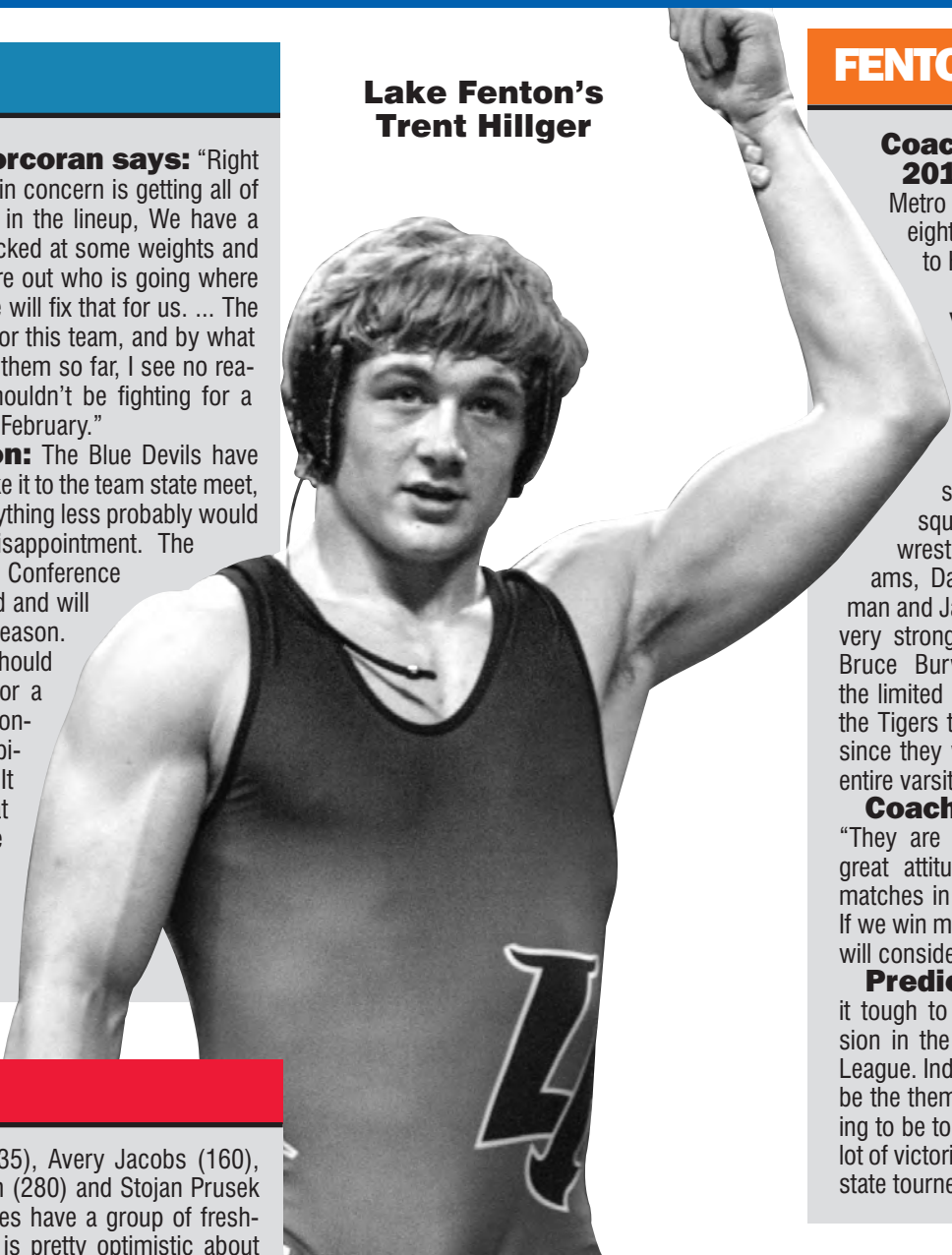
**Top wrestlers:** The Blue Devils have 11 starters back so saying expectations are high may be an understatement. The squad lost only two seniors and all the wrestlers who are returning state competitors (listed above) are ranked in their weight classes to start this season. The team has two returning defending state champions. Hillger (285) won his first at Lake Fenton last year, while Jarrett Trombley won one at 112 at Owosso High School. This year Trombley will wrestle at 119 for Lake Fenton. His brother Sean Trombley (135) is another strong newcomer to watch out for. Others who will help fill the starting lineup include Kyle Sanders (171), Leo Shustock (189), Ryan Franks (215) and Keinan Hagenstein (160).

**Coach Corcoran says:** "Right

now our my main concern is getting all of these monsters in the lineup, We have a few that are stacked at some weights and we need to figure out who is going where exactly, but time will fix that for us. ... The key is the limit for this team, and by what I've seen out of them so far, I see no reason why we shouldn't be fighting for a state title in late February."

**Prediction:** The Blue Devils have the talent to make it to the team state meet, and finishing anything less probably would qualify as a disappointment. The Genesee Area Conference is always loaded and will be again this season. Lake Fenton should be in the mix for a Genesee Area Conference championship as well. It is one honor that has eluded the squad. It should be another exciting year for Lake Fenton.

Lake Fenton's  
Trent Hillger



### 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 filing 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.

### LINDEN EAGLES

**Coach:** Todd Skinner

**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:** Luke Zimmerman (125/130).

**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 (140/145), Dawson Blank (145), Aaron Steedman (189) and Cade Dickson (171). Others returning who will be key wrestlers this year include Justin Cygnar (112), Koleton Strauss (119), Austin

Monsey (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 (103).

**Coach Skinner 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.

### HOLLY BRONCHOS

**Coach:** Don Pluta

**2014-15 Record:** 1-6 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 on the Bronchos 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. Clarkston transfer Mitch Nelson (125/130) and Carsen 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 Dallwitz, 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 into the upper half of the Metro seems a likely goal.

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**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. After a Powers, time out, another Tooley swipe resulted in another breaking layup for Hodges. About 30 seconds later, the duo teamed up again when Tooley had his third steal and second breaking assist dish to Hodges for a layup. Holly, led 38-23 with 6:30 left in the third quarter, and the first-half miseries were now well behind the Bronchos. The Bronchos scored 48 second-half

points, and turned the ball over just five times in the final 16 minutes.

"That's what I said in the locker room. If we don't have Adam Tooley, we don't win that game," Holly varsity boys basketball coach Lance Baylis said. "He changes momentum."

"He's a leader. He's just not a hustler, but he's a skilled player. He's a true team player. He's unbelievable with every facet of the game of basketball. When everybody comes to our games they come away asking who is number 25 (Tooley's jersey number)."

For a bit people may have been asking that question on Tuesday night, but by the end of the game Tooley's imprint was so deeply imbedded into the Bronchos' victory, it's doubtful anyone didn't know who the guy wearing 25 was.

"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 the juice — I get everyone to play hard. It's that simple."

Another face Bronchos' fans were happy to see was that of Woodruff. Woodruff missed the second half of last season due to a broken collarbone, but is now completely healthy and ready to terrorize area defenders. After a slow start with his shot, Woodruff capped the contest with a game-

**TRI-COUNTY TIMES** | SCOTT SCHUBACH

Holly's Kyle Woodruff (right) attacks the basket in the Bronchos' 78-54 victory at Holly High School on Tuesday.

high 25 points.

"It felt great to be out there again," Woodruff said. "There's no better feeling than wearing Holly across your chest."

"We were running and kind of spazzing out there (in the first half). I think we learned that if we play basketball within ourselves, we are really good, but when we get outside of that, we are not very good. We turn the ball over and not do so well."

"In the second half we didn't play to our full potential, but we played better than in the first half. We started playing Holly basketball and we got the lead."

"It's a blessing having him back," Tooley said about Woodruff. "He was playing his best basketball of his career when he broke his collarbone. Having him back is amazing. It brings our team up. He gives us another scorer and another great player."

Ian Hodges netted 21 points, while Paris Partee had 10 points and seven rebounds. Tooley also had six assists and four points to go with his impressive defensive work.

Noah Sargent and Tommy Beaubien netted nine points each for Powers.

**WRESTLING****Continued from Page 18A**

Holly had seven double-winners, including one wrestler who earned two pinfall wins. Jim Gray (285) earned that honor. Cade Dallwitz (171) also had a pinfall and a technical fall victory. Others who won two matches were Wyatt Scribner (125), Carsen Cuthbert (130), Dan Stallard (140), Colton Cleaver (152) and Callin Dallwitz (215).

**Fenton vs. Imlay City, Yale**

The Tigers had some strong performances during the double-dual opener, 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.

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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.** Rollie Gackstetter, 50, has been hired to serve the village as its next chief of police. He currently serves as the police 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 McEwen, 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 clean out some files with these guys," said Det. Scott Fischer of the Holly Police Department. "The good guys won one," joked Linden Acting Police Chief Peter VanDriessche when announcing that as many as 10 arrests could be made in the case. A well-known former Lake Fenton High School teenage female fell asleep at the wheel of a getaway car, which helped police crack the case.

30 YEARS

*Sunday, Dec. 15, 1985*  
**Suszek appointed. 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.)

NATIONAL

DEC. 13

**2003:** After spending nine months on the run, former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein is captured. Saddam's downfall began on March 20, 2003, when the United States led an invasion force 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 hardware store and on the weekend dons a white suit and becomes king of a disco-theque 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.

Talking Book Center is free for blind, visually impaired

■ One of Genesee County's oldest, 'best kept secrets' provides narrated books

By Hannah Ball  
hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

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 to people throughout Michigan who are blind or have trouble seeing.

The service is free.

"Absolutely this is a great program. It's one of the best kept secrets," said Genesee County District Library Director David Conklin.

People who need the service can call the Talking Book Center at (810) 732-1120 to sign up, or go to the branch at 4195 Pasadena Ave. in Flint.

"For Genesee County, we estimate the rate is about 1.5 percent of population is blind or needs this type of service, maybe 5,000 to 10,000," he said.

The center helps users create profiles where they choose what kinds of books 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 Handicap 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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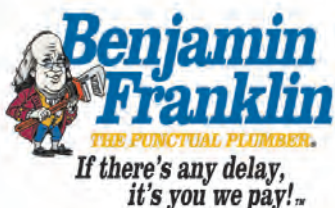
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# Riverview...at a glance

■ 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 Noor (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

In addition to housing Chassé Ballroom & Latin Dance Studio on floors one and two, the fitness portion of the business will grow beyond Zumba to include group fitness classes from Yoga to Pilates, among several others. The facility will include staff training and lounge area with staff showers, main ballroom area featuring a competition-sized dance floor, kitchen and bar and bath/showers for customers.

### LaJoice Enterprises

The third floor will be corporate offices for LaJoice Enterprises, including marketing, accounting, IT, HR, property development staff and upper management offices.

### Fenton Fresh Market & Café

This market will be located on floors one and two at the corner of Adelaide and Caroline, focusing on organic, non-GMO foods, gluten-free products, and grass-fed meats, when possible.

The second-floor café will feature a create-your-own salad and soup bar, made-to-order Napoleon-style pizza station and sandwich/deli section, along with outside seating.

### Oak Fire Grille

This two-story restaurant, with an interior concept based on fire and oak, will face the river across from the Fenton

## RIVERVIEW BY THE NUMBERS

- 6-story multi-use commercial building
- 3-story parking deck
- 53 condominiums
- 4 to 6 retail spaces
- 188,174 square feet in building
- 100,000 square feet in parking deck
- 284 parking spaces
- 250-300 new jobs

### 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,” said LaJoice. “Once that is official, we will move on to

fill the rest of the spaces.”

LaJoice’s goal is to have all locally owned and operated businesses. “No national chains if I can avoid it,” he said.

### 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.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

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

## HOT LINE CONTINUED

■■■  
**WE WATCH GMA** every morning and there are very often segments on girls, empowering them, telling them body image doesn’t matter, stop the bullying etc. Then in the same hour they talk about Hollywood A-listers. Doesn’t that imply that there’s a group of people better than everyone else?

■■■  
**PEOPLE ON SHIAWASSEE** and Owen Road, please put your big blue bins away after your trash is picked up. Those of us trying to pull out onto those roads from side streets can’t see oncoming traffic.

■■■  
**HAS ANYONE TRIED** ‘Uber’ in the Fenton area yet? How did that work out? Have some holiday parties coming up

and am thinking of giving it a try.

■■■  
**THE JINGLEFEST FIREWORKS** may have been great, but it sure took a toll on our dog’s ears. Poor little guy howled throughout the entire display, and we were at home a mile away.

■■■  
**HOPEFULLY MANY MEMBERS** of the military will be able to come home for the holidays. That would make many families happy, happy, happy. Ours will be home for the first time in two years. We can’t wait.

■■■  
**THANKS FOR THE** article about Wilson Lahoud. It is always nice to see someone willing to invest their hard-earned money in our city. Can’t wait to see what he does with the old Nagy property on Silver Lake Road.

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# WRAP UP THE DEALS, WRAP UP THE YEAR.

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Stk# 1445576B.....**\$15,200**



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Stk# 174116.....**\$14,500**



## 2012 CHEVROLET SILVERADO LT

Stk# 1103457A.....**\$24,400**



## 2011 CHEVROLET MALIBU LS

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Stk# 125508.....**\$22,100**



## 2010 CHEVROLET IMPALA LTZ

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## 2003 DODGE RAM 2500 SLT

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## SALES HOURS

Mon & Thurs: 8:30am - 8pm  
Tues, Wed & Fri: 8:30am - 6pm  
Saturday: 10am - 4pm • Sunday: CLOSED

## SERVICE HOURS

Monday: 7:00am - 8pm  
Tues - Fri: 7:00am - 6pm  
Saturday: 8am - 2pm • Sunday: CLOSED

