Video made in Flint hotel room involved 15-year-old male and 13-year-old female

By Sharon Stone
sstone@tctimes.com; 810-433-6766

Flint — Ryan Stevens, 18, of Linden is facing five more felony charges. Genesee County Prosecutor David Leyton announced the charges from his office Monday morning.

Leyton said these new charges against Stevens are based on a “very disturbing incident” involving pornography and minors that was uncovered when See CHILD PORN on 16A

NEW CHARGES AGAINST RYAN STEVENS

Count 1: Criminal Sexual Conduct – third degree (person 13-15) – 15-year felony
Count 2: Child Sexually Abusive Activity – 20-year felony
Count 3: Computers – using to commit a crime – 10- to 20-year felony
Count 4: Child sexually abusive activity – distributing or promoting – seven-year felony
Count 5: Child sexually abusive material – possession – four-year felony

Newsworthy crimes

From vehicle break-ins to murder, area police agencies had a busy 2015

By Sharon Stone
sstone@tctimes.com; 810-433-6766

The Times stays in constant contact with all area police agencies. This information enables readers to learn what crimes are happening near their homes or workplaces. Oftentimes, arrests lead to criminal cases and prison sentences. Below are summaries of some crimes reported during 2015.

Lewis Smith and Kashia Spaulding-Smith

A Rose Township couple charged with multiple drug offenses in August are due back in Oakland County Circuit Court on Jan. 28, 2016 for their trial.

Lewis Lee Smith, 61, and his wife, Keshia Spaulding-Smith, 34, were arrested Aug. 20 at their See CRIMES on 10A

Never to be forgotten

Family and friends remember loved ones they lost this year

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

Whether it was due to illness, an accident, a crime or because it was just their time to go, the tri-county area once again lost too many of its citizens in 2015. This, of course, is not the entire list of people who left us in 2015, who are just as important as everyone else, but rather those whose deaths resulted in a news story.

They are in date order of their deaths:

Isabella “Bella” Ward

March 9, 2015

Isabella “Bella” Ward, 3, passed away on Monday, March 9, 2015 in the arms of her parents, Scott and Andrea (Stars) Ward, at the Linden home they’ve shared with Bella’s maternal grandparents since Bella’s cancer was diagnosed 2½ years ago. Her family brought her home to be with her before her death from C.S. Mott Children’s Hospital in Ann Arbor with no medical options See LOVED ONES on 15A
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Linden 810-735-3383 Located in the Alpine Plaza
Four businesses talk about their first year in an exclusive video at tctimes.com

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

One year has gone by since four business tenants moved into the street level of Fenton’s four-story Cornerstone building, offering a new shopping, dining and pampering experience for residents and visitors downtown.

These four tenants — Sawyer Jewelers, Sagano Bistro & Japanese Steakhouse, Salon 416 and The Rough Draught, also are starring in a new ReelTimes Video created and produced by Times Videographer Tim Jagielo. You can view this new video at tctimes.com, and click on Featured Video.

Chip and Mary Ann Beltinck of Sawyer Jewelers were the first to sign in on the $4.7-million project featuring retail businesses on the first floor. They were the last to move in on Jan. 15 of this year, committing to customers that they would stay in their former location on Adelaide Street to complete the entire 2014 Christmas shopping season in one place.

“It has been a fantastic move for us,” said Chip. “If someone would have told me that moving two blocks would offer such a magnitude of change in our business, I wouldn’t have believed it.”

The amount of walk-by traffic is one of the biggest changes. “There have been a lot of new faces in our store,” he said. “People are coming downtown for the new dining and shopping experiences. All of us together as one are better than each of us as an individual.”

Even in the midst of Fenton’s Streetscape Project, business was still good at Sawyer’s, according to Chip. “This next year will tell us how things are going to go.”

His customers and business peers have welcomed “the new” Sawyer Jewelers with open arms, he said. “People are happy and excited for us. We outgrew our other store years ago.”

See CORNERSTONE on 20A

The $4.7-million, 47,000-square-foot project was first unveiled in 2011. At four stories, the building is the tallest in the city. The first floor is comprised of businesses, and the top three floors are condominiums. All four businesses report that the move to the Cornerstone building has been expensive, but worth it, joining the excitement of a developing city.

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A special thank you from the Sawyer Jewelers family for making our business shine!

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

The Tri-County Times is published semi-weekly by Rockman Communications, 206 N. Fenway Drive, Fenton, Michigan 48430. We reserve the communities of: Fenton, Linden, Lake Fenton, Holly, Hartland, Byron, Genesee, Davison, Swartz Creek and Grand Blanc and the Townships of: Fenton, Holly, Tyrone and Argentia. We reserve the right to accept or refuse any content and/or advertising submissions.
Let's all go to the movies

You’re sitting in a large, dimly lit room with friends or family. An air of anticipation is palpable throughout the packed room. You’re chatting with your spouse or friend when suddenly the lights dim and booming music reverberates throughout the room. You turn to face the big screen with a satisfied smile across your face and prepare for a journey. For the next few hours you will be absent from your own life and present in another’s.

Welcome to the movie theater. If nothing else, movies are resilient. The experience has basically been the same for four generations, yet TV didn’t kill them, cable didn’t kill them, videos didn’t kill them and the Internet didn’t kill them. They truly are the most durable form of entertainment ever conceived.

Never mind the petty annoyances from the inevitable idiots around you (cell phone users, talkers, hat-wearers), the experience of watching a story unfold on the big screen transports us to other worlds — cops, criminals, the past, the future, hygone eras and even outer space — worlds most of would never visit, much less inhabit, and they’re all available to us at the movies.

So why do we go to the movies anyway? If we simply wanted a couple hours, we could watch the same movie in our living room for six dollars, instead of $35-$40.

I think the secret sauce is simply the theater experience. The moment you enter the theater all outside problems and distractions are blocked out. No phones. No knocks on the door. No cell phones. No letting the dog out. It’s an escape for two hours into a world different from the one we inhabit daily. There is a camaraderie factor also. Comedies are funnier when 150 people are laughing with you. Scary movies are scarier when the entire audience gasps and screams.

When else do we ever have the opportunity to block out reality — and its accompanying distractions — and sit quietly for two full hours? Never. Except at a theater.

In the theater you block out all the outside distractions and simply sit.

Watching a movie uninterrupted allows you to be more fully transported into its world. That’s what movies are all about — escaping from reality for two hours. It only makes sense to give yourself the freedom of forgetting about all the other stuff for a while. Heck, you’ve earned it.

So the next time you’re looking for something to do, or are in need of way to let off some steam, take a trip to a theater and catch a movie on the big screen.

I promise you won’t regret it.

Submit all submissions, if approved for publication, must be 50 words or less. We reserve the right to edit for clarity, length and liability.

— Carey Clark

Holly

“Getting engaged on March 8. Getting my house this past weekend. My boyfriend and me buying a house together was my highlight. We just moved to Fenton. He grew up here.”

— Thea Bacon, Fenton

“This was my first job. I work from home. We sell Christmas trees and I drive to deliver them.”

— Jeremy McCoy

Milford

“What have we become when she and but only because of party loyalty. I WILL BE voting for Hillary Clinton but only because of party loyalty.”

— Dave H., Fenton

“My highlight was probably my son’s first birthday party. We just had a party with our family, having everyone together in one place. Lots of presents and fun stuff for him.”

— Katie Stone, Holly

“Our family, having everyone present and fun stuff for him.”

— John Clark

Linden, thank you very much for a very nice Christmas. I recently layaway out for Christmas. I was wondering how I was going to get my secret Santa in the Fenton area. I was surprised to report a Secret Santa for Christmas.”

— Hope Brown, Linden

“I was just looking for my Seu Santa in the Fenton area. I was surprised to report a Secret Santa in the Fenton area. I was surprised to report a Secret Santa in the Fenton area.”

— Debra Clark

“Your husband moved me out here to the country. I got married at 51. His name is John Clark.”

— Corey Clark

Holly

My husband moved me out here to the country. I got married at 51. His name is John Clark.”

— Corey Clark

Holly

“Getting my house this past weekend. My boyfriend and me buying a house together was my highlight. We just moved to Fenton. He grew up here.”

— Thea Bacon, Fenton

“I’d say my house that I just moved into at Lobdell Lake. Love it. Just moved here from Westland.”

— Jeff Granger

Deerfield Township

“What I would love to do is take a road trip to Magic Rock in Michigan. I have always wanted to go there.”

— Jackie Johnson, Fenton

“The moment you enter the theater all outside problems and distractions are blocked out.”

— Jimmy Carpenter when he kept Irani ans from coming over here.

IS IT JUST me, or is it that everything we do to protect ourselves against terrorists, the Democrats tell us is a recruiting tool for ISIS.

I ALWAYS TRY to remember how much better the country would be if people running for president had to serve their country first in the military. THERE ARE CURRENTLY four million refugees in the Middle East, thousands of Christians being killed, terrorists in the U.S. and immigrants coming across our borders. Yet despite it all, our president said that climate control and gun control are at the top of this list.

THE PRESIDENT is disconnected from the presidency and is going to cruise through the last year of his presidency using executive power to pass controversial legislation, such as gun control, against the will of Congress and the citizenry. That is a dictator, not a president.

THE NEW PAVEMENT downtown was very slick with ice last Friday night. Was that just because it is new and smooth? I saw a vehicle take out one of the new benches, then he ended up on the lawn of the police station.

I WILL BE voting for Hillary Clinton but only because of party loyalty. What have we become when she and Donald Trump are the candidates for the highest office in the land? Sad, sad, sad.

See HOT LINE throughout Times
The lighter side of 2015

News features about interesting people

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

People are what make the news interesting to read about in the tri-county area. That continues to be true in 2015, when local people made headlines by living, working and accomplishing big and small things, making them newsworthy over the past year.

Here are a few stories and people who made the news in 2015:

Lake Fenton grads just minutes from Paris terrorist attacks: Caitlin Nelson and Evan Korchnak were just four miles away from the bombing of the Charlie Hebdo building (published Jan. 11).

Children from Ukraine and Tanzania making their way to families in tri-county area: Pat and Theresa Brady of Argentine Township, Jim and Heather Idoni of Deerfield Township and Ben and Kim Green of Rose Township were all welcoming new adopted kids this year from across the world (published Sunday, Jan. 18).

‘Boy next door’ moving to NYC: Jacques Pougnet, 17, of Tyrone Township, lands job with Ford Models; is face of American Eagle clothing store (published Feb. 8).

See LIGHTER SIDE on 22A

The Nelson quadruplets celebrate 16 years of being a unique local family. The 16-year-old quads have a bright future, much academic success and are part of a tight-knit family. From left are Karly, Alan, Kayla and Kylie.
Private mailboxes provide a safe, secure place to receive mail, packages

The UPS Store sends e-mail and text alerts to mailbox customers

Have you ever wondered who would pay to have private mailbox services when mail delivery is free? With personal mailbox services from The UPS Store, there’s no need to wait at home (or anywhere else for that matter) for a package delivery or risk having valuable shipments left on your doorstep.

The UPS Store can receive packages from any carrier and hold them in a secure location for pick-up at your convenience. As an additional advantage, mailbox holders have the option to receive notifications, via e-mail or text, alerting them that their packages have been received, eliminating unnecessary trips to the center. For small-business owners, The UPS Store provides an actual street address for their businesses, which conveys a more professional touch, and if they’re running a business out of their home, they don’t have to give out their home address.

“Our 24-hour access mailbox services are a convenience that more general and small-business consumers are discovering,” said Les Beare, The UPS Store owner. “They like the fact that we provide them with a street address, not a P.O. box number, as well as the option to receive an e-mail or a text alert when they have a package waiting,” he added.

The UPS Store also provides a package-only option for customers. “Package only is a great service. We can receive most packages a customer is expecting one-time or on a regular basis, without the need to purchase a mailbox,” says Beare.

Other mailbox service options include mail holding and forwarding for snow birds or travelers—The UPS Store will hold your packages in a secure location for pick-up at your convenience or forward them to you whenever you are.

In addition to domestic and international shipping, The UPS Store offers full-service packaging; digital printing and online printing; black-and-white and color copies; document finishing (bind- ing, laminating, etc.); printing services (business cards, letterhead, rubber stamps, etc.); notary; custom crating and shipping for large items (furniture, artwork, motor cycles, etc.); mailbox and postal services; office and packaging supplies; and more.

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with a 3 month mailbox agreement

(see both sides only, with this ad)

Private mailbox services are a convenience that more general and small-business consumers are discovering—"One of the biggest trends in our area is the demand for mailbox services," Beare said. "People are looking for a place to receive their mail, and they want it to be secure and convenient. Our mailbox services offer that security and convenience."
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Many projects started and completed in 2015, from Streetscape to the expansion of the Fenton Community Center

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

The biggest news in Fenton for 2015 has been the huge growth and development of major projects — from Streetscape downtown to large land purchases by the Hagerman and LaJoice families for upscale retail and lifestyle projects.

The $4.7-million Streetscape project began in April and was completed by Nov. 20, bringing new roads, infrastructure, sidewalk, parking, lighting, benches and trees to the downtown area. The cost was handled through federal and state grants, as well as monies from the Fenton Downtown Development Authority. Final plantings and accessories will be installed in Spring 2016.

Phil and Joyce Hagerman purchased three parcels of land on Silver Lake Road last spring through Sky Point Ventures: one is the former Fenton Bean Company, which was renovated with historic detail into Red Fox Outfitters. This upscale outdoor apparel and equipment retailer opened Nov. 27 in time for the busy Christmas shopping season.

The second site, 102 West Silver Lake Rd., is the former Fenton Collision location, now waiting for just the right development opportunity, according to Phil Hagerman. The third site is at 132 Caroline St., where the road will be extended toward the Jack R. Winegardener Library. The building south of that, closest to the Fenton United Methodist Church, will be the site of Phase II of the Cornerstone project, a mixed-use building tentatively planned to be built in 2016, according to Michael Burns, assistant city manager for the city of Fenton.

The Jack R. Winegardener Library, which was closed for three months last winter for renovations, re-opened March 2 with brand new interior updates and re-furnishings totaling $340,000.

As part of Fenton’s Master Plan, the Fenton Community & Cultural Center underwent a major expansion and renovation project totaling more than $2 million, with donor and public open houses held in May.

Michael and Ashleigh LaJoice of LaJoice Properties announced one of the largest development projects in the city this past summer, Riverview — a multi-use complex of offices, retailers, condos and parking.

Last June, LaJoice Properties purchased the 3.3-acre parcel of land that once housed the former Topps fruit market along the Shiawassee River, and made the announcement of development plans in October. The project is expected to begin in 2016 and take approximately 18 months to complete.

Local developer Wilson Lahoud has announced plans to build a brick, two-story commercial building for mixed use with offices, retail and possible restaurants on a 1.23-acre parcel of land on Silver Lake Road, adjacent to Silver Arbor Apartments. He has also purchased the former 6-acre parcel of land on Silver Lake Road, adjacent to Silver Arbor Apartments. He has also purchased the former 6-acre Nagy Excavation site on Silver Lake Road and two other adjacent properties for future development.

During the same period, 21 closed their doors

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

The business landscape in every community is always changing, with new businesses opening their doors and others closing. It’s the same story in the tri-county area, as we look back at 2015 and see which businesses have opened and closed in the last 12 months.

**FENTON**

**OPENED IN 2015**

- ABC Supply Co.
- Advanced IPhone Repair
- Corner Bar & Grill
- Divine Yoga
- Farmers Insurance – John Gatz, agent
- Fenton Oil Exchange
- Fun With Frosting
- Golden Buffet
- Lauren Marie Photography
- Lovely Lashes by Dana
- Mirror Image Consignment
- Painting With A Twist
- Phoenix Hair Studio
- Primary Care Medicine
- Red Fox Outfitters
- Rust to Roses
- Florist & Home Decor
- RX Care Pharmacy
- VAE Life Coaching
- WellBridge of Fenton
- The Yoga Retreat & Boutique

**CLOSED IN 2015**

- 14K Pawn
- Charlie Kae Formals
- Cobblestone Old & New
- Elle Marie Hair Studio
- Howard’s Hidden Treasures
- Iacobelli Medical Center
- Oil Experts
- Rayno’s Dining & Entertainment
- Rex Todd Rodgers Design Studio
- The Steak & Hoagie Factory
- Village Cleaners
- Vintage Row
- The Well Yoga

**LINDEN/ARGENTINE**

**OPENED IN 2015**

- 1-2-3 Resale
- Art is In
- Broad Street Insurance
- Legacy Coin Shop
- MaidYou
- Quality Tax Service

**CLOSED IN 2015**

- Planters on the Lake Bar & Grill

**HOLLY**

**OPENED IN 2015**

- 14K Exchange
- Cupcakes & Kisses
- Good Wood
- Jacob-N-Diane’s Juice Box
- N. Reding & Sons
- Northern Oak Brewery
- RePurpose
- Stronghold & Associates

**CLOSED IN 2015**

- Earthly Origins
- Fabulous Finds
- Great Lakes Market Place
- Holly Candle Shoppe
- Holly Tree
- Star Struck Dance Studio
- Water Tower Antiques
Published on March 6, the Times revealed that SkyPoint Ventures, LLC, a company owned by Phil and Jocelyn Hagerman, bought the property located at 234 North LeRoy St. in downtown Fenton.

The article revealing the plan of the old beanery building, published on May 27, received 11,108 page views and 9,729 unique page views.

The Times revealed the Hagerman’s plans to turn the old beanery building into a Red Fox Outfitters, to the excitement of outdoor enthusiasts.

“Roof of Fenton Fire Hall catches fire” received 10,918 page views and 10,122 unique page views as of Dec. 22.

When it was published on Feb. 19, the Times reported that Fenton, Fenton Township, and Linden firefighters responded to a fire at the Fenton Fire Hall restaurant when a fire erupted in the ventilation ducts between the cooking area and the roof, and a building of that ignited ventilation materials.

“Search ends for Argentine Township man” received 9,499 page views and 8,728 unique page views in 2015.

The Times revealed on Aug. 3 that Thomas Kelley, 47, was found in 17½ feet of water in the east side of Lobell Lake after he dove into the water the day before to save two small children who had been thrown from a tube.

Linden couple charged with felony child abuse, published on April 10, received 9,468 page views and 8,230 unique page views.

Eric and Angela Corcoran, both 43, were charged with second-degree felony child abuse of their 16-year-old adopted son.
CRIMES
Continued from Front Page
North Hill Drive home. They were
arraigned on multiple felonies, including
manufacturing and delivering marijuana
and possession of controlled substances.

During the search of their home,
detectives discovered and seized a
number of items as evidence, including
520 grams of marijuana, 800 OxyContin,
Hydrocodone and Xanax pills, a digital
scale, drug packaging and documents.

Keshia is already serving four to 20
years on a drunk driving offense, which
took place on June. She was convicted of
fleeing the scene of a crash and causing
injuries to two passengers in her truck.
She pleaded no contest on July 31 and
was sentenced in September.

Damien Lee Henry, 31, of Holly
Township, is on probation until 2020. He
was responsible for a hit-and-run accident
in Holly Village
that killed 54-year-
old Valarie Owen
in October 2014.
Owen had recently
moved from Lake
Orion to Holly and
was out on a walk.

The trial for
Mary Bigford, 52,
the woman accused
of shooting her
granddaughter’s
father, Lawrence
Howard, Jr., 39, of
Fenton, six times
while he sat in his
car in Mt. Pleasant
on April 18, has been
postponed until Jan.
11, 2016. She has
been charged with one count of open
murder, one count of first-degree murder,
one count of carrying a dangerous
weapon with unlawful intent, felonious
assault, and felony firearm violation.
Her case is being heard in the Isabella County
courts. She remains jailed without bond.

Erich Willfinger, 66, the man accused
of killing his wife, Marsha (Sargent)
Willfinger, formerly of Argentine Township,
will see the beginning of his
jury trial between Jan. 12 and 15,
2016. He has been charged with open
murder-homicide, possession of
weapons and firearms by a felon,
and trying to escape from jail where he
continues to remain without bond.

Marsha Willfinger was found in the
back seat of a burning car on June 20 in
Montmorency County. When Michigan
State Police troopers arrived, they found
the car burning in a ditch. When the fire
was put out, investigators discovered
Marsha Willfinger’s burned remains in the
back seat.

Gregory Johnson, 47, of Fenton is
serving 19 months to 10 years in prison for
a assault with intent to do great bodily harm
less than murder and felony firearms.

Johnson was found guilty of
shooting his 43-year-
old neighbor over a lawn mowing
dispute in May 2014.
He was sentenced in
May 2015.

Eric and Angela
Corcoran, both 43,
have been charged
with second-degree child abuse after being
accused of mentally and emotionally abusing
their adopted son, who has since been
placed in foster care.
The alleged abuse
started in 2012 and
continued through
February of this year.
A trial date has been
scheduled for Jan. 11, 2016.

Brian Lamar
Jackson, 33, of
Holly was arraigned on one count of
assault and battery because of a domestic
violence situation at an apartment in
Holly in April. Jackson pleaded guilty
on April 23 in Oakland County District
Court and was sentenced to 60 days in
the county jail.

Mark Evans Landback, 51, of
Holly was charged with one count of
aggravated felonious assault with a gun
—a four-year felony, possession of a
controlled substance (marijuana)
with intent to deliver —
a four-year felony, manufacuring
of marijuana, and two
counts of possession of a firearm in
commission of a felony—two-year felony.

Charges came after he barricaded
himself inside his Holly mobile home in
May for several hours. Police recovered
the weapon used for the alleged assault,
a loaded 12-gage shotgun. Additionally,
a loaded AR15 rifle, a .22 rifle and a
20-gauge shotgun were taken from the
scene, along with a large amount of
ammunition for those firearms.
On Oct. 20, he was sentenced to two years in state
prison for felony firearms.

After serving 111 days in the Oakland
County Jail, James Dill, 29, of Holly
is on probation for five years, stemming
from an incident on March 28 in Holly.

Holly Police
Chief Michael Story
said officers were
dispatched to a home
on Grange Hall
Road to investigate a
complaint. The 29-year-old female victim
who had called police was a victim of an
attempted criminal sexual conduct (CSC).

When the officers tried to make contact
with Dill, he emerged from his bedroom
with a machete. Dill allegedly raised the
machete to the officers despite being
desired to stop and drop it.

Norman Guy, 43, of Flint pleaded
guilty to attempted fourth-degree arson
on Sept. 15 in Genesee County. Fenton
police had arrested him on Aug. 26 for
setting a car owned by his estranged
wife on fire. Police located Guy in his
Continued on
next page

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NOTICE OF OPEN ENROLLMENT

Holly Academy, a Public School Academy, will be
holding open student enrollment for the 2016-2017
school year beginning January 4, 2016 through
March 1, 2016. Applications may be picked up at
any time from the office during regular school hours
8:00am to 4:00pm weekdays or you may access
forms online at (www.hollyacademy.org.) A New
Parent Information Meeting will be held at the Acad-
emy on Monday, February 22, 2016 from 6:30pm
until 8:00pm. If there are more applicants to enroll
in a specific grade than there are spaces available,
pupils shall be selected using a random public lot-
tery process.

The lottery, if necessary, is scheduled to occur on
Friday, March 11, 2016 at 9:00am.

Holly Academy
820 Academy Road, Holly, MI 48442
248-634-5554 248-634-5564-fax

Holly Academy does not discriminate
based on race, color, age, religion,
national or ethnic origin, disability or sex.
car and during a search they recovered a one-gallon can of gasoline and a lighter. He was also intoxicated.

Guy pleaded guilty to attempted fourth-degree arson and received a sentence of 24 months probation. He also pleaded guilty to drunk driving, third offense and received a sentence on Dec. 21 of 60 days in jail and five years probation.

Melissa Marquez, 36, of Linden pleaded no contest in March to reduced charges related to an animal cruelty incident on June 26, 2014 in Argentine Township. In May, she was sentenced to 90 days in the county jail, fines and two years probation.

Matthew Hibbard, 34, and his girlfriend, Jamie Leach, 37, both of Argentine Township, were charged with multiple offenses related to nine reported car break-ins during the summer. One of the break-ins resulted in the theft of an Arizona state trooper’s firearm.

Hibbard was originally arraigned on three counts of larceny from an automobile (LFA), larceny of property, larceny of firearms, breaking and entering of a vehicle to steal property and larceny from a building. He pleaded no contest to three counts of LFA and the other charges were dismissed. He was sentenced to 365 days in the county jail and 36 months probation.

Leach was arraigned Oct. 1 on charges of receiving and concealing firearms, and breaking and entering of a vehicle. On Nov. 18, she was sentenced to 12 months probation and restitution.

Charles Raymond Warren, Jr., 69, of Waterford has been charged with reckless driving resulting in death and leaving the scene of an accident when at fault – resulting in death. He is suspected of causing the traffic crash that killed Michigan State Police Trooper Chad Wolf of Fenton on Aug. 28. If convicted as charged, Warren faces a maximum of 15 years on each count. Out on bond, Warren is due back in Oakland County District Court on Jan. 13, 2016 for his next hearing.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

OBAMA HAS FINALLY turned his attention to Trump. Trump is saying what 80 percent of the country is thinking. Half of them don’t say what they think but they’re thinking it.

THE SOCIAL SECURITY Administration has a list of recognized religions exempt from the A.C.A., aka Obamacare. It includes the Amish, Mennonite and Hutterite’s. Muslims are not exempt. So please keep your bigoted opinions to yourself.

Wishing you a very HAPPY NEW YEAR

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LOVED ONES
Continued from Front Page
left to fight the cancer that had metastasized to her brain and spine, but to hold onto her peacefully at home under hospice care.

George Davis Pellett
March 16, 2015

George Davis Pellett, age 91, of Fenton and Naples, Florida, died March 16, 2015. George was a proud veteran of the U.S. Army, serving in the Pacific Theatre during World War II. He was an owner of Pellett’s Department Store, a store his father built in downtown Fenton. He also served as director of The State Bank for many years.

Lawrence Howard, Jr.
April 18, 2015

Lawrence Howard, Jr., 39, of Fenton, was shot to death on April 18, while he was sitting in his car at the Chase Run Apartments in Mt. Pleasant. He was waiting to exercise his parental right to visit his daughter, who lived in the apartment community with her mother, when he was shot six times. His daughter’s grandmother, Mary Lou Bigford remains in jail until her trial begins in January 2016. She is charged with pre-meditated, first-degree murder.

Ricky Hughes
April 29, 2015

A former Fenton postal employee was found dead in his home the afternoon of Wednesday, April 29, following a police situation that lasted several hours. Det. Mike Neering of the Mundy Township Police Department said Ricky Hughes, 65, was found dead with a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Just after noon on April 29, Mundy Township police officers responded to Hughes’ home on Hill Road, between Linden and Jennings roads. A postal inspector asked the police department to check on Hughes, as they had not heard from him as scheduled. While the officers were on Hughes’ front porch and knocking on the front door, they heard a single gunshot.

Gerald Durocher
May 21, 2015

Gerald Durocher, owner of Formspec, Inc. and GDBuilders, Inc. in Fenton, died suddenly on Thursday, May 21, at the age of 67. He and his wife, Nancy, were very involved with the Silver Lake Ski Club for 25 years. He had served as the club’s president, boat driver and show director.

Shirley Campbell
June 6, 2015

Former Holly Village Councilwoman Shirley Campbell died Saturday, June 6 at the age of 80. She was a 20-year member of the Holly Village Council. In that role, she worked tirelessly on matters that protected the health and safety of community residents. Often described as “tenacious,” if Campbell didn’t know something, she went searching for it until she got it right. She fought for what she believed in. Campbell also was a longstanding member of Holly Area Youth Assistance, serving many years as treasurer.

Marsha (Sargent) Willfinger
June 20, 2015

The burned remains of Marsha Willfinger, 54, of Mundy Township (formerly Marsha Sargent of Linden) were found in the back seat of a car in Montmorency County the night of Friday, June 20. Her husband Erich Willfinger has been charged with open murder-homicide and remains jailed until his trial begins in January 2016.

Thomas Kelley
August 3, 2015

At about 1:15 p.m., Monday, Aug. 3, the county dive team located the body of Thomas Kelley, 47, of the Lapeer Township in Lobdell Lake. Kelley had gone missing at approximately 7 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 2, while in a dive to help two small children who had been thrown from a tube that he was pulling behind his boat. A police investigation revealed that Kelley was driving an older ski boat and pulling a tube carrying a 6- and 7-year-old. Accompanying Kelley in the boat was a female friend, who dove into the water when one of the children fell in. He then also dove in. Witnesses helped pull the woman and two children from the water. Kelley, in the meantime, had gone underwater and had not resurfaced.

Delbert (Bert) Arthur Loomis
August 14, 2015

Delbert (Bert) Arthur Loomis of Gaines, who was involved in a hit and run crash in Hartland Township on Wednesday, Aug. 12 died from his injuries on Friday, Aug. 14 at the University of Michigan Hospital in Ann Arbor. He was the operator of the 2014 Harley Davidson motorcycle involved in a two-vehicle crash at 3:30 p.m. on northbound U.S. 23 near Clyde Road.

Trooper Chad Wolf
August 28, 2015

On Friday, Aug. 28, 38 of Fenton, the state trooper who was dragged several miles on I-75 after his motorcycle was struck by a car and trailer Friday morning died. Aug. 28 from injuries he sustained in the crash. He was taken to Genesys Health Park in Grand Blanc Township and died during the evening hours. Wolf was on patrol on a motorcycle that Friday morning when a 72-year-old motorist was changing lanes and hit Wolf on northbound I-75 near Dixie Highway, trapping him beneath the car or trailer sometime between 6:30 a.m.

Kellie Riggs
September 8, 2015 (discovered)

28, was discovered slumped over and possibly deceased in a stairwell by a Georgetown Apartments maintenance worker on Tuesday, Sept. 8. There were no obvious signs of what caused her death. The results of an autopsy were inconclusive. Police said there were no signs of foul play. They said Riggs at one time lived in the apartment complex, but did not reside there at the time of her death.

Michael and Carolyn Wyatt
September 13, 2015 (discovered)

A Springfield Township couple found shot to death in their home Sept. 8 has been ruled a murder-suicide, according to the Oakland County Sheriff’s Office. Killed were Carolyn Wyatt, 64, and her husband, Michael Wyatt, 66. Deputies with the sheriff’s Office went to the couple’s home on Shaffer Road, for a welfare check on Carolyn. When they arrived, deputies saw two vehicles parked in the driveway blocking access to the home. A window was broken a window and saw the two deceased individuals lying on the floor.

Douglas ‘Dewey’ Johnson
September 20, 2015

Douglas Leonard Johnson, better known to the Fenton community as “Dewey,” owner of Dewey’s Automotive Center died on Sept. 20. He was 85 years old. Dewey, a Fenton resident since 1953, was born on June 17, 1930 in Flint. He was a 1948 graduate of Holly High School, and a veteran of the Korean War, serving in the U.S. Army. In the 1950s, he realized his dream of becoming successful gas stations and auto repair businesses in Fenton.

Mack Fuller
October 4, 2015

Mack Fuller, 40, of Holly was killed when the car he was driving struck a tree in Holly Township early Sunday morning, Oct. 4. The investigation revealed that the driver, identified as Fuller, in a 2006 Buick Allure, was travelling north on Holly Road when he lost control in a curve and the left the roadway, striking a tree and rolling over. Fuller, who was alone in the car was trapped inside. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Joshua Francis and Amy Gil
October 11, 2015

Joshua Francis, 25, and his girlfriend of seven years, Amy Gil, 31, died early Sunday morning, Oct. 11 as a result of a vehicle accident. According to Michigan State Police, the couple’s vehicle struck a tree on Hill Road in Gaines. Francis, a Lennon resident and 2008 graduate of Linden High School was pronounced dead at the scene. Gil, also of Lennon, who attended Linden and Fenton schools, was taken to the hospital where she later died from her injuries.

Gary Richard Buys
October 16, 2015 (discovered)

A 69-year-old Gary Richard Buys were discovered in his Tyrove Township home on Friday, Oct. 15, after a concerned neighbor called the Livingston County Sheriff’s Department to conduct a welfare check on Buys. It is believed Buys died more than a year earlier, but because he was somewhat of a recluse, living alone with no family nearby, and all of his bills were being paid, no one suspected anything was wrong. There were no signs of foul play.

Claude M. Cranston
December 11, 2015

Claude M. Cranston, age 95, of Linden, died Friday, December 11, 2015. Claude was the Sahuratigator of the Linden High School Class of 1937. He graduated from Kalamazoo College and the University of Michigan. He retired from Linden Schools in 1979 with 38 years of service. Claude was one of four that were the initial inductees into the Linden High School Athletic Hall of Fame. He was also a member of the Genessee County Coaches and Officials Association. He was very active in local and state athletics. Claude was a founding member of the Linden Sportsmen’s Club. He was a charter member of the Linden Kiwanis and Linden Mills Historical Society. Claude was a life member of the American Trap Shooting Association.

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WEEKEND TIMES
Sunday, December 27, 2015 15A
BREAKING AND ENTERING

lodged overnight. The passenger, also
session of marijuana. The driver was
the driver was also arrested for pos-
found marijuana during a search and
While impounding the truck, police
breath test and was arrested for OWI.

driver blew a .207 on the preliminary

driver from Linden. There was also a
and made contact with the 21-year-old

After seeing the truck swerve, the offi-
suspect truck and noticed that the

a caller reported a black Dodge Ram

At 12:27 a.m. on Dec. 18, Fenton

off the culprit.

A suspect truck and noticed that the

the front door of a business in the 3100
block of Silver Lake Road had been
smashed with an unknown object. The
officer could see that someone gained
entry into the business, however,
nothing was reported missing. Police
believe that the business alarm scared
off the culprit.

LINDEN WOMAN
ARRESTED FOR OWI

At 12:27 a.m. on Dec. 18, Fenton
police responded to the area of Owen
Road and a fast-food restaurant after
a caller reported a black Dodge Ram
pickup truck weaving all over the road.
The responding officer located the
suspect truck and noticed that the
driver pulled out of the restaurant park-
ing lot onto to Owen without stopping
first. The officer then followed the truck
to observe the driver’s skill at driving.
After seeing the truck swerve, the offi-
cer initiated a traffic stop on Alley Drive
and made contact with the 21-year-old
driver from Linden. There was also a
passenger from Texas in the truck. The
driver blew a .207 on the preliminary
breath test and was arrested for OWI.
While impounding the truck, police
found marijuana during a search and
the driver was also arrested for pos-
session of marijuana. The driver was
lodged overnight. The passenger, also
intoxicated, was released.
Holly’s boys basketball tourney trip finishes No. 2

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

Every season if we wanted to, the sports staff could list 50 things that were great highlights from the past year. But what fun is there in listing everything? So, the sports staff would rather be a bit daring and select what we consider the elite eight things that happened in 2015. Some great moments were left off.

Fenton girls soccer team’s run to state finals is top story of 2015

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

When the season started, the Fenton varsity girls soccer team beat Fenton was on Dec. 19, 2003. That was until Feb. 27 of this year came around. Linden shocked the Tigers 62-52 in Fenton’s own gym, capping the Metro League season.

Tigers edge Dragons

By David Troppens
droppens@tctimes.com

Linden’s Garrett Strang (right) tries to dribble by Holly’s Steven Redmond in the Bronchos’ 65-46 victory against the Eagles.

Bronchos declaw Eagles

By David Troppens
droppens@tctimes.com

No. 8 - The creation of new varsity teams: Lake Fenton, Linden and Fenton combined to create a varsity gymnastics team. Linden and Fenton combined to create a boys and a girls lacrosse team. And, from all accounts both teams were successful. We’ll see more lacrosse teams this spring as it’s almost a lock that in 10 years lacrosse will be a major sport during the spring sports season in the state of Michigan.

No. 7 - Linden boys basketball upsets Fenton: The last time the Linden varsity boys basketball team beat Fenton was on Dec. 19, 2003. That was until Feb. 27 of this year came around. Linden shocked the Tigers 62-52 in Fenton’s own gym, capping the Metro League season.

Linden had lost 22 straight to the Tigers prior to the victory.

No. 6 - Fenton football finishes undefeated in Metro: The Tigers were selected the preseason favorites by the Metro coaches, and they didn’t disappoint posting a second straight Metro League perfect season. The Tigers ran to the state championship game is our top story of 2015.

No. 5 -桦ton combines to create a boys and a girls gymnastics team. Linden and the Metro teams:

Fenton's Nick Wyrick scored 16 points in the Tigers' win against Swartz Creek on Friday.

Tri-County Times, page 17, December 27, 2015

Follow Friday night’s prep basketball action, visit tctimes.com.
Blue Devils take second at Geneseo county meet

**Area programs** record three individual champs

By David Troppe

dtroppen@ctctimes.com

Things couldn’t have gone any better for the Lake Fenton varsity wrestling team. After taking their share of bruises in earlier matches, the second-ranked Division 3 team in the state proved why they deserve that lofty ranking by taking second at the Geneseo County Wrestling Championships on Saturday.

The Blue Devils had two champions — A.J. Geyer (103) and Trent Hillger (285). Hillger competed in what could possibly be the best match-up for the young season when two defending state champions battled in the 285 title match. Hillger earned the first points against Lapeer’s Dan Perry, and it ended up being key. The two wrestlers went into a fourth overtime period where Hillger started on the bottom. That meant all he needed was to earn an escape during the 30-second period. He earned it and won the match.

“They made it the feature match of the night,” Lake Fenton wrestling coach Vance Corcoran said. “They are ranked 1-2 in the state in all divisions and it was an outstanding match.”

The second Lake Fenton champion was Geiger, who captured his first county title in the championship match.

The Linden Eagles also left the meet with a county champion. Dawson Black won his weight class title. He beat a state placer to win his title. The Blue Devils had five wrestlers who made it to the finals. Those who had to settle for runner-up championships included Saben Spangler (130), Devan Melick (135) and Jackson Nevadomski (140). Spangler was tied 1-1 with 10 seconds remaining when he was taken down, resulting in the second-place finish in the title match. Nevadomski lost his title match in overtime.

“Five guys in the finals — that’s comparable to the 2010 team,” Corcoran said. “That’s the last time we took second. We gave Davison a good run.”

Other Lake Fenton wrestlers to place were Hunter Corcoran (125) in third, Hunter Hypko (126) in fifth, Jimmy Gray (285) and Cade Adams (145). Adams (145) led the Tigers with a fifth-place performance, while Mario Ramirez (112) and Christian Frazier (171) each placed seventh. David Foster (189) took eighth.

**Holly at Oakland County Meet**

The Bronchos placed ninth at the Oakland County meet, recording five placers.

Jimmy Gray (285) and Cade Dallwitz (171) were the team’s top performers, each earning fourth-place finishes. Meanwhile, Colton Cleaver (152) and Coltin Dallwitz (215) placed sixth. The final Broncho to place was Dan Stallard (140), who placed seventh.

The Lake Fenton varsity wrestling team celebrates its second-place team finish at the Geneseo County meet moments after the tournament is completed.
TIGERS

Continued from Page 17A

“Andrew Foerster did a great job batting for us tonight,” said Mahoney. “He was unstoppable at the plate.”

The Tigers’ roster contains several top performers, including 6-6 senior guard Kaitlyn Smith and 6-7 junior center Kyle Adams. They are both expected to play a key role in determining the team’s success this season.

Smith leads the team in scoring with an average of 15 points per game, while Adams averages 12 points per game. Their ability to dominate the boards will be crucial in securing victory over their opponents.

Lake Fenton 69, Corunna 47

The Blue Devils won the game, 65-46. Lake Fenton’s Kaitlyn Smith scored a game-high 24 points, while Corunna’s Jenna Pepper added 16 points.

Lake Fenton’s Tyler Hoeberling (right) tries to drive into the lane against Holly’s Paris Partee (left) and Kyle Woodruff (behind). The Bronchos won the game, 65-46.
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CORNERSTONE
Continued from Page 3A

He and Mary Ann still own their former Adelaide Street store. “I have a sentimental attachment to that corner,” he said. “We’re in no hurry. It will make a nice business for someone else some day.”

Anchoring the busy business corridor of Silver Lake Parkway and LeRoy Street is the newest Sagano Japanese Bistro & Steakhouse, now with four locations in Fenton, Brighton, Clarkston and Flint Township.

“It’s been very good,” said owner Shiro Inoue. “We have lots of support here.”

Jim Teuber, business manager for Sagano Properties, said that from their perspective, things are going very well at Sagano’s of Fenton. “It has exceeded our expectations,” he said. “It was more expensive going into the project than we had originally planned, so we are pleased with where things are now. Even with Streetscape, our summer was very good.”

One of the reasons he feels Sagano has done well is because of the popularity of the restaurant with kids. “We’re one of the few ‘fine dining’ places that kids love as much as their parents do,” said Teuber. “They can always find something to eat that they enjoy and they love the table chef experience. We generate a lot of (family dining) frequency through this.

He said that Sagano will pursue outdoor seating in 2016.

Toni Widing of Salon 416 never owned a salon until she opened the doors of this new upscale salon at Cornerstone on Dec. 2. “I’m just glad I waited for the building and didn’t give up,” she said. “It’s been wonderful. I haven’t had an empty chair since I opened. Everyone tells me how happy they are with the salon.”

The only thing Widing says she would change is to have more square footage. “We’re really using every bit of our space,” she said. “We’ve got 15 chairs and 29 employees.”

Salon 416 is also becoming a destination for meetings and continuing education. “We’re hosting a four-day Goldwell Master Colorist class for metro Detroit area salons, as well as a motivational class in February.”

“We knew we wanted to make the Cornerstone our new home as soon as we saw the sign that it was being built,” said Stephanie Evans, owner of The Rough Draught Coffee and Barroom and formerly Cafe’ Aroma. Referring to the concept of the building, Evans said, “We knew it would be great for the downtown district. I believe it’s something that Fenton needs, and that we can support as a community.”

Evans added that they have received a lot of great feedback about the building. “A lot of people enjoy the comfort and the coziness.”

SUMMARY

After their first year of business in the Cornerstone building, four retail tenants speak out about their experience here in the Times and on a new video presented on tctimes.com.
A.J. Phillips Museum to get needed attention

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

After 115 years, the building that houses the Fenton Historical Society’s most priceless, irreplaceable historical documents, photographs and artifacts, will be getting a new lease on life.

Ken Seger, curator of the museum since 1979, and his wife, Donna, said they are very pleased that the Fenton City Council will proceed with the process of dealing with the museum’s issues.

“We are very happy that it’s moving forward,” said Ken.

Now that the city has completed its multi-million dollar Streetscape project, the Segers are happy that the A.J. Phillips Museum will get the attention it deserves.

Outside, the building needs a new paint job. Because it bears the original, lead-based paint, it can’t be scraped off, but rather needs to be removed in accordance with Michigan Department of Environmental Quality regulations.

The building also needs a new furnace. “The furnace has already gone out twice this year,” said Donna.

In addition to a few other incidentals, the electrical system in the building needs work as well, said the Segers.

At the Monday, Dec. 14 City Council meeting, several people were in attendance and expressed their interest in serving on the city’s Museum Board, which has been inactive for a couple of years.

Additionally, Building and Zoning Administrator Mike Reilly will, after the first of the year, do a “walk through” of the building with three members of the Fenton Historical Society, and note the items that need attention.

Built in 1900 by Fenton businessman A.J. Phillips, the building served as his private offices. He had a factory on the next block that made wooden snow shovels, ironing boards, screen windows and doors. His intent was to have the building become home to a permanent public library for the then-village of Fenton, according to “A Time to Remember.”

His intention was carried out in full in his bequest before his death in June 1904. There were, however, certain conditions that had to be met.

First, the premises were to be kept in good repair and painted, the grounds and lawn to be well taken care of and the grass kept cut.

The building was to be used for library purposes and no meetings allowed in the building unless such meetings were held directly in the interest of the library. This excluded Women’s Christian Temperance Union (WCTU).

The third condition was that the library was to be kept under the supervision and control of a board of trustees appointed by the village council. When choosing books for the library, there were to be no political or religious prejudices to influence the selection. Phillips also bequeathed $500 to be used to purchase books for the new library.

According to the Dave Manuel inflation calculator, $500 would be worth $13,513.51 today.

The village accepted the bequest, but in order to maintain the conditions and to give a public library proper support, an election was scheduled for a half-mill library tax to be voted on.

When they voted in March 1905, 683 citizens turned out and of that number, 442 favored the tax while only 70 opposed it. This vote was the first attempt by the people of Fenton to maintain a library with public funds.

Previous to this, there had been library associations, but they were mainly “membership” affairs, such as the first Ladies’ Library Association.

Crowded conditions and the constant use of the library facilities were realized as early as 1939 and a building fund was started later. With the accumulation of savings, an addition was built in 1962 at the rear of the library to house most of the books.

Other improvements, such as carpeting, additional shelving, improved lighting, and air-conditioning also were added.

The building, located at 310 South LeRoy St., is across from the Fenton Police Department and City Hall.

In 1987 when the library needed a bigger building, they moved over to the old Post Office building on Caroline Street, and the museum then moved in and was renamed the A.J. Phillips Fenton Museum.

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For years, Power Vac, Inc. has been improving the community’s health one household at a time. “Did you know that half of all illnesses come directly from dirty indoor air?” explained Keith Meadows, Power Vac Owner and Operator. “More than 90% of the phone calls we receive are from distraught people complaining about dust in their homes. They tell me they will dust the house Friday, but by Sunday it needs to be done again, and they’re not sure where those dust piles are coming from. Let me tell you, you’re not a bad housekeeper. All you need to do is have your ducts cleaned. This simple step will drastically reduce the dust in your household. The reason for the dust is your cold air returns. You see, cold air returns suck in dirty air. Over time it builds up in your ducts until the debris resembles what you would find in your vacuum bag.”

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Cold air returns are also the reason new homeowners experience excessive dust. While work was being done in the home, your cold air returns sucked all the dust through the system. It settled on the bottom of the duct lines and little by little, that debris is being blown back into your home,” Keith continued. “Here’s a test. Take a walk down into your basement, and look up at the ceiling for thin sheets of tin nailed between your floor joists. These are your cold air return lines. Give them a good pounding. Do you feel puffs of dust coming out of the edges? That, my friends, is the reason you have uncontrollable dust problems, and this debris cannot be removed without the help of a professional.”

“This brings me to my next point: choosing an air duct cleaning company. Most companies use portable units, which are essentially like a Shop-Vac that you would vacuum your car with. Then there are companies who claim they have a truck-mounted system. In reality, they have a low powered portable system attached inside a van. We have the equipment powerful enough to get the job done right, and that equipment is a Power Vac truck.”

Want to see the difference between our equipment and portable or track-mounted equipment? Visit our website at www.callpowervac.com.

“The Power Vac truck is the most powerful equipment in the industry,” Keith explained. “Simply put, the entire truck is the vacuum, and the truck motor powers the equipment. You’ll know it’s a Power Vac truck because it’s the size of an ambulance and when engaged, 12 large air bags come out of the roof.

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

“You need to beware of companies using cheap equipment and advertising cheap prices. Most of these companies are unlicensed, or they may advertise that they are licensed, but are not. Avoid scams by not falling for cheap, get-you-in-the-door prices. What sets us apart from our competitors is our honest service, and, of course, our equipment. I know the importance of being on time, working with a smile and respecting people’s homes and their belongings. There are a lot of dust cleaners around, but rest assured you’ll receive the same quality of service I expect in my home.”

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Senate Bill 638: Revise campaign finance law
To establish a new type of campaign finance committee called an “independent expenditure committee,” and more clearly define “independent expenditures” and the rules that prohibit committees like these from coordinating with a candidate (which wouldn’t be independent). These committees could contribute to ballot initiatives but not to candidates; contributions would not be subject to limits and could come from corporations and unions.
Passed 25 to 13 in the Senate
Sen. David Robertson (R-Dist. 14) YES
Sen. Mike Kowall (R-Dist. 15) YES
Sen. Joe Hune (R-Dist. 22) YES
Sen. Jim Ananich (D-Dist. 27) NO
Sen. Ken Horn (R-Dist. 32) YES

Senate Bill 187: Accommodate and regulate the “millionaire party” business
To revise the law governing charitable “millionaire party” gambling events that include casino games, to accommodate charities contracting out operation of these gambling events to services that operate them for multiple charities at a single location, one event after another. The bill would establish a licensing regime covering both the charities and the companies that provide the service, which would recognize a system that that evolved in which a person can gamble on casino-like games at a single location, with the proceeds going to different charities at different times.
Passed 34 to 4 in the Senate
Sen. David Robertson (R-Dist. 14) YES
Sen. Mike Kowall (R-Dist. 15) YES
Sen. Joe Hune (R-Dist. 22) YES
Sen. Jim Ananich (D-Dist. 27) YES
Sen. Ken Horn (R-Dist. 32) YES

Senate Bill 151: Repeal deadline on prisoner DNA evidence appeals
To repeal a Jan. 1, 2016 deadline for a prisoner to appeal his or her conviction on the basis evidence generated by new DNA testing technology.
Passed 106 to 0 in the House
Rep. Hank Vaupel (R-Dist. 47) YES
Rep. Joe Graves (R-Argentine Twp.) YES

House Bill 4990: Expand local government “energy efficiency” financing schemes
To expand the things cities can spend money on under a scheme that lets them contract with vendors for energy efficiency projects and pay for them with money the projects are supposed to save (or from regular tax revenue if savings don’t appear). The bill would allow locals to spend on information technology and utility projects they assert are related to the energy saving scheme, and would also expand the types of deals they can make with vendors to include “lease-purchase” agreements described in the bill.
Passed 102 to 4 in the House
Rep. Hank Vaupel (R-Dist. 47) YES
Rep. Joe Graves (R-Argentine Twp.) YES

Senate Bill 552: Increase groundwater discharge permit fees
To increase groundwater discharge permit fees, and revise some details of this regulatory regime on enterprises that discharge wastewater onto the ground or into groundwater. The bill would authorize a different fee category for car washes, laundromats, seasonal RV parks and certain other small commercial facilities.
Passed 55 to 51 in the House
Rep. Hank Vaupel (R-Dist. 47) YES
Rep. Joe Graves (R-Argentine Twp.) YES

House Bill 4724: Allow no-reason absentee voting
To eliminate the requirement that a person give a specific reason for requesting an absentee ballot, and require an individual who applies in person for an absentee ballot to show a picture ID.
Passed 59 to 46 in the House
Rep. Hank Vaupel (R-Dist. 47) YES
Rep. Joe Graves (R-Argentine Twp.) YES

Senate Bill 13: Eliminate straight ticket ballot option
To eliminate the straight party ticket option from election ballots. The bill also contains a modest appropriation that exempts it from the possibility of opponents petitioning for a referendum on whether it should go into law if enacted.
Passed 54 to 51 in the House
Rep. Hank Vaupel (R-Dist. 47) YES
Rep. Joe Graves (R-Argentine Twp.) YES

Senate Bill 559: Allow sales tax on amusement ride tickets
To repeal a prohibition against the sale of tax-exempt amusement ride tickets.
Passed 57 to 48 in the House
Rep. Hank Vaupel (R-Dist. 47) YES
Rep. Joe Graves (R-Argentine Twp.) YES

Senate Bill 4686: Revise city sidewalk liability
To establish that a municipality being sued for an injury related to a sidewalk “discontinuity” may use any common law defense available to regular people, not just that the condition was “open and obvious.” Current law limits local government defenses in these suits.
Passed 55 to 51 in the House
Rep. Hank Vaupel (R-Dist. 47) NO
WRAP UP THE DEALS, WRAP UP THE YEAR.

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