

# Perry found safe and sound

■Times' Facebook 'lost and found' reunites many pets with their owners

By Vera Hogan

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Scores of volunteers searched for six days, flyers were distributed, a reward was offered, a helicopter was commissioned and drones were sent into the air — but at the end of the day it was the Mt. Holly Ski Patrol that spotted the elusive pooch.

According to Sandy Cohen, a volunteer with Compass Dog Rescue in Royal Oak, Perry was found Friday, Jan. 8, around 1 p.m.

"He was spotted by the ski patrol at Mt. Holly," Cohen said. "Somebody saw him running up the hill and chased him to one of the ski lifts, under which he apparently had been hiding and staying out of the cold," she added.

See **PERRY** on 5



PAGE 3  
THE MAGIC  
OF MAGIC

## Midweek Times

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

## Why nobody is winning the lottery

■Powerball number structure changed due to slumping sales

By Vera Hogan

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Tonight's Powerball jackpot is an astronomical \$1.5 billion!

This, after no one hit the winning numbers in the Saturday, Jan. 9 jackpot, which reached \$800 million.

Never in U.S. history has a lottery jackpot climbed that high — and there is a reason for it.

According to powerball.com, starting with the Oct. 7, 2015 game, the number of white balls went up from 59 to 69, while the number of

See **POWERBALL** on 7



## LaJoice spent nearly \$2.5 million buying Fenton properties in last six months

By Vera Hogan

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A check of the city of Fenton's property records reveal that Michael LaJoice purchased seven properties since June 2015, for a total of \$2,466,500.

In addition to the proposed Riverview site, the other properties are adjacent to or very near the Riverview site at 225 West Caroline.

Perhaps the most well-known house on Adelaide now owned by LaJoice, is the home once owned and occupied by the

late Nancy Stockham, who was the social worker for the city of Fenton for decades. That house and property at 229 South Adelaide St. was purchased by LaJoice for \$275,000. The assessed value for the property is \$54,800, making a reasonable sale of that home approximately \$109,000.

It is unlikely that the former Stockham home would appraise today for a \$275,000 bank loan, leaving some to speculate that LaJoice purchased it to tear down.

The other properties he purchased include

the intended Riverview site at 225 West Caroline, which he purchased for \$1.2 million. They also include 125 South Adelaide (vacant land), which was part of the 225 West Caroline purchase. The rest are 219 South Adelaide for \$375,000, 116 Mill for \$197,000, 108 South LeRoy for \$269,500, and 225 South Adelaide for \$150,000.

All of the purchases far exceed the assessed values, according to the city's website. Winter taxes are owed on all of the properties.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Ahead of the expansive Riverview project, LaJoice Properties, LLC purchased several homes around the site of the future project, many of which are occupied. With owner Michael LaJoice charged with embezzlement, the future status of the ownership is unclear. The home above, purchased by LaJoice Properties, was previously owned by the late Nancy Stockham, who was a social worker in Fenton for decades.

## LaJoice remains in jail

■Local attorney Michael Manley takes on \$20 million embezzlement case

By Sharon Stone

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Rather than showing up for work as a chief financial officer at the Brandon-Clarkston Community Credit Union, or tending to duties associated with running LaJoice Properties and Chassé Ballroom

and Latin Dance Studio in Fenton, Michael LaJoice has been spending his days and nights in the Oakland County Jail.

LaJoice, 36, of Tyrone Township turned himself in at the jail on Wednesday, Jan. 6, following an audit at the credit union on Monday. LaJoice reportedly told law enforcement that he embezzled approximately \$20 million from this credit union over the past 12 years.

According to the credit union, he had been chief financial officer (CFO) there since June 2015.

On Friday, Jan. 8, LaJoice was arraigned on 14 felony counts of embezzlement, each count in excess of \$100,000. Magistrate Dan-

iel Schouman set a \$1 million cash bond and ordered an electronic tether if bond is posted. In the event that he is released, the court also ordered that he surrender his driver's license and passport and to have no contact with the credit union where he was employed.

With no attorney present during his video arraignment from the jail, a "not guilty" plea was made on LaJoice's behalf.

See **LAJOICE** on 6

“...we plan on vigorously defending Mr. LaJoice.”

**Michael Manley**  
Michael LaJoice's  
defense attorney

TEXT  
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HOT LINE  
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“Why would anyone want to listen to the political views of their favorite actor any more than they would want to hear the political views of my favorite plumber?”



“Seems to me that all the candidates for president in the 2016 election are liars, cheats and thieves. If this is the best that America can offer as presidential candidates we are in real trouble. Where are candidates of morality and honor?”



COMMENT  
OF THE WEEK

“Am I the only reader who thought the Riverview project smelled badly from the beginning? The financials were alarmingly suspect for such an ambitious undertaking.”

# Martial arts a confidence builder

■ Improves self-esteem and creates a sense of security

By Hannah Ball

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At Anderson's Karate in Fenton, competition trophies won by students fill the walls, decorating the space around the blue mats where the instructor leads the "gups," or students through exercises.

Owner Master Chris Anderson, a fifth-degree black belt, has about 50 students at his studio on Owen Road.

"You're learning a true skill set that can save your life. We teach stuff that's very practical. You see flashy stuff on television that would never work in the real world," he said, adding that they focus on street-smart self-defense. "Stuff that kids learn here, they'll actually be able to take care of themselves."

Anderson first started a karate program out of his basement in Linden. He has

been a martial arts instructor for 37 years, and has focused on Tang Soo Do for the past 20 years. He originally started doing karate to get in shape.

"It started out with the focus on exercise. As I trained I immediately realized there's so much more to it than kicking and punching," he said. "There was also a lot of history and philosophy involved."

At his studio, he stresses family and being nurturing and open. "A lot of people watch the karate movies and think we're a bunch of tough guys and try to beat each other up. Some people get lost in MMA," he said. "Our philosophy is we want to nurture people and become better people. There's always something new to learn."

Anderson said he has young and older students, who are all capable of learning. Kids pick up the motor skills easily, but adults understand the nuances of the technical side easier.

"Everybody finds something in it, but they all gain physical fitness, mental alert-

**“Everyone starts out as that white belt on the mat, and you’re scared and you’re nervous. That first step, getting on the mat, and continuing is a big hurdle.”**

**Master Chris Anderson**  
Anderson's Karate founder



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

At Fenton Karate, certified instructor and second-degree black belt John Wermuth guides red belts Denice Lustig and Lisa Smith (right) of Tyrone Township through one-step sparring combinations Monday night.

ness and self-confidence," he said. "I try to remind them all you're not in competition with anybody else out there. It's not a race, it really is a journey."

People also gain self-awareness, confidence, respect, discipline, self-control, and physical fitness from doing martial arts.

"The level of physical fitness is tailored to the person's individual ability. We help them get back into whatever shape and condition they're looking to achieve," Anderson said. "Whenever you can instill self-confidence and self-respect in someone they're going to do better in life."

He said, in turn, being physically fit helps improve people's mental attitudes.

No matter the age, "Everyone starts out as that white belt on the mat, and you're scared and you're nervous," he said. "That first step, getting on the mat, and continuing is a big hurdle."

Master Anthony Husted, a fifth-degree black belt, has been practicing karate for 20 years. At Fenton Karate, Husted trains his

students in the traditional Korean martial art of Tang Soo Do, under guidelines set by the International Tang Soo Do Federation (ITF) Headquarters. He offers classes for all ages.

"The main thing in martial arts is self-improvement. It's one thing that everybody can do if they want to and it's all about benefiting the individual," he said.

Husted sees first-hand how beneficial martial arts is for people of all ages, and how children with ADHD or autism excel at the activity.

"It benefits them for their focus and their attention," he said. "Our class is structured so we work on focusing on a task and we stay on it then become more proficient."

The main reason parents enroll their children in his classes is because they want them to gain confidence.

"We build that confidence level. It comes with training," he said. "They develop that self-esteem."

It's not only children who gain self-esteem; his adult students also receive compliments on their physical fitness and improved self-confidence.

Husted said martial arts also gives people a sense of security amidst the many reports of shootings and other tragedies in the media.

"That really makes others glad that they're in a program like this because it makes them more aware of surroundings and possibilities of things that they can do," Husted said. "Giving children knowledge is huge. They can possibly take care of themselves."

## Tang Soo Do

- "Gup" is student in Korean.
- There are 10 levels between starting student and earning a black belt. There are two levels within each color: White, orange, green, brown, red, cho don bow (pre black belt)
- Within the World Tang Soo Do Association, the highest degree black belt is 9th, said Master Chris Anderson. He said no one is a 10th degree black belt because it's considered to be perfect and no human can reach perfection.

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# The magic of Magic

■ Fun fantasy card game attracts hundreds for weekly tournaments; fosters face-to-face gaming

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Almost every day of the week spells are cast, creatures attack, and opponents die at BC Comix & Games in Fenton.

People flock to the store to play tournaments of Magic: The Gathering, a fantasy card game, every night of the week except Tuesday, where they compete in battles of skill and luck.

"It's a fantasy setting which is really popular nowadays and there's skill involved," said owner of BC Comix Bob Huffman. "The artwork is really appealing."

These tournaments attract groups of people every day throughout the week, and Friday competitions attract around 100 to 120.

"I have been very excited to see the growth of the games and see how many people want to participate," he said.

"The idea behind the game is that you're trying to bring your opponent's life total to zero," said Scott Matlock, who



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

John Hillis, 18, of Fenton shuffles his deck during last week's Wednesday night Magic: The Gathering Tournament at BC Comix in Fenton. He passed his turn to Kyle Teagan, 21, of Milford, who ended up beating him at the tournament, a best of five-round game. **See more photos at tctimes.com.**

grew up in Gaines and is a second year, pharmaceuticals major at Ferris State University. He participates in these tournaments when he's home from school.

Participants win by battling with creatures, using special skill cards, attacking the players, and ultimately depleting their opponent's life total.

"I like the strategic aspect and how much I need to think," Matlock said. "The social part of it is great, too. You need other people to play so you begin to make friends

and you find you have a lot in common with them."

Matlock started playing in late February in 2014 and it took him about two-and-a-half weeks to learn. He met his current roommate, who became one of his best friends, through the card game.

It's not a cheap game. Players buy their own cards, easily spending hundreds of dollars to build a deck.

"The game is really hard to completely understand because no two

**"I think people like to get away from their console and play something face-to-face. We have a passion for it."**

**Bob Huffman**

BC Comix & Games owner

## Get your house in order this winter

■ When it's too cold to go outside, de-clutter and organize inside

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795

Where to begin ...

That's the dilemma many people face when it comes to figuring out where to start the overwhelming project of de-cluttering and organizing their homes.

The early winter months are the best time to tackle this kind of task, however, when inclement weather often has us "stuck in the house" with not much else to do.

Kathy Williams, 67, considers herself

a very organized person. Retired for 12 years, Williams served as the city of Fenton's water billing clerk and deputy treasurer for 27 years.

Williams was also in charge of "Attic Treasures" for 15 years. One of the most popular components of the annual St. John Applefest, Williams spent months in advance of the festival collecting, sorting and organizing donations for display and sale at the Attic Treasures tent.

Today, Williams and a friend operate "You're Gonna Love Us" an estate ser-

vice, which also helps people with their garage and yard sales, and de-cluttering and organizing their homes.

"I tend to live by the old saying, 'a place for everything and everything in its place,'" said Williams. "I go by the rule of keep, donate or discard."

For those who are unsure of how to get started in organizing their homes, she suggests tackling one room a week. Completely clean, organize and move out anything no longer needed.

**See DE-CLUTTER on 7**

MEET

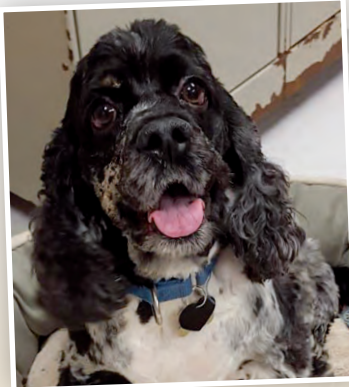
Alibi

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MEET

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FROM THE LEFT  
NATIONALLY SYNDICATED

**Bill Press**

### Action on guns long overdue

Real presidents don't cry. But this one did, and with good reason.

On January 5, while announcing in the East Room of the White House the executive actions he was taking on gun safety, President Obama ticked off the examples of gun violence this nation has suffered in the last few years. When he got to Sandy Hook, he suddenly stopped mid-sentence and paused to take a breath, while tears flowed down his cheeks.

The memory of those 20 first-graders, mowed down in their classroom, is enough to make anyone weep. Finally, Obama gave up on Congress and decided to do whatever he could under his own executive authority to keep guns out of the hands of those who have no business having them.

In the end, there wasn't much he could do, but even that little bit goes in the right direction. Obama's efforts are aimed at fixing today's broken background check process, principally in clarifying existing law by expanding the definition of gun dealers.

The real question is: By refusing to take any action on gun safety, whom does Congress represent? Certainly not the American people. In the latest Pew Research survey, 85 percent of Americans — including 88 percent of Democrats and 79 percent of Republicans — support universal background checks. Seventy percent support creation of a federal database, and 57 percent favor banning the sale of assault weapons.

Why won't Congress act? Because too many of them are afraid of the NRA, operating under the ancient mythology that it's impossible for anybody to take on the NRA and survive politically.

Given their refusal to take any action on gun control, most Americans have given up on Congress. But not the Brady Campaign's Dan Gross. Appearing on my radio show this week, Gross argued that, with every great cause, there's a moment where the tide starts to turn. As it did with civil rights. And he sees President Obama's executive actions as the turning point on gun safety. When public outrage grows to the point when Congress must act. We can only hope he's right.

**I DON'T KNOW** what all the fuss is about, the Supreme Court has twice protected the second amendment. You cannot purchase a weapon in the United States without a background check. Criminals and nuts will always have guns.

**I HOPE THEY** quit paying actors and anybody working in TV at half the rate they are. Three minutes of show and four minutes of commercial is ridiculous. Charter, you really suck.

**I CAN'T BELIEVE** they are putting another Dollar General in the area. You already have one in Argentine and one in Fenton and they are putting one on Thompson. They are popping up like drug dealers.

**IT GOES TO** show how much people have to say about what happens in their life. We all voted 'no' for Proposal I and they go around and put it in anyway.

**IT'S THURSDAY 9:30.** I'm at Rolston and Bridge Street in Linden. Come upon the intersection and I look up. Big beautiful bald eagle. Fly, baby, fly.

**AS AN AMERICAN** citizen, I am tired of having 40 percent of my check go for taxes toward illegal immigrants. We are paying for their housing, their food, and their medical needs. It's not right. We as Americans are facing a terrible dilemma with our local and federal government. Thank you.

**IF DEMOCRATS SPREAD** half-truths and hate, I suppose that Ted Cruz and Trump are the epitome of love and

## Hot lines

Submit at: [tctimes.com](http://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.

companionship, and inclusiveness. What do they have to say about Obama's gun control law? They're saying he wants to take your guns away, even though there's nothing in there about taking your guns away.

**THIS IS A** big 'thank you' to the person who called 911 the morning of Jan. 6 to report a chimney fire on Lahring. You saved the house. A big 'thank you' to the Argentine Fire Department for the speedy action to this call.

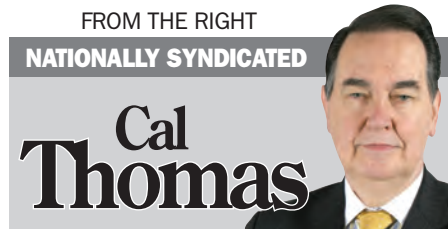
**HILLARY CLINTON LIED** about her email server, under oath, to the family of Benghazi victims and to Americans to explain all this. Is it any wonder in a recent poll 65 percent of Americans say they don't trust her?

**ARROGANCE, THY NAME** is Donald Trump. That puffed-up rooster couldn't run a hen house. Vote for Bernie for president.

**YESTERDAY, IRAQI REFUGEES** in Sacramento and in Houston were arrested on terror charges. They wanted to bring harm to American people. We know also that an Islamic extremist ambushed a police officer in Philadelphia. What next?

**WASHINGTON, D.C. SOURCES** are saying there will be an indictment by the FBI for Hillary Clinton within the next 60 days based on two to three charges. The Democrats have two choices. A corrupt Hillary or a Communist Bernie.

See **HOT LINE** throughout Times



FROM THE RIGHT  
NATIONALLY SYNDICATED

**Cal Thomas**

### Out of (gun) control

I'm still waiting; waiting for someone to show me how laws stop a person intent on breaking them.

Daily on the roads, I see people breaking speed limits despite the possibility that cameras will catch them and send a ticket in the mail.

In one of his last gasp efforts to 'fundamentally change' America, President Obama is taking executive action — because he knows he never would get Congress to agree — to keep guns out of the hands of people he claims should not have them.

Stiffer background checks are supposed to achieve his goal of reducing 'gun violence,' but 2015 saw a record number of background checks — and a large upsurge in gun sales — and yet people intent on breaking the law were undeterred. The two terrorists who murdered 14 people in San Bernardino did not have criminal backgrounds until they started shooting. The massacre at a school in Newtown, Connecticut was committed by a man whose mother had legally obtained the guns.

Bloomberg reports, 'A study by the Department of Justice found that just 0.7 percent of state prison inmates in 1997 had purchased their weapons at a gun show.'

'By contrast,' notes the study, 'nearly 40 percent of inmates said they obtained the firearm used in their crime from family or friends, and 39 percent said they got the weapon from an illegal street source.'

As noted by many other commentators, American states and cities with the most restrictive laws are also places with some of the highest levels of crimes involving firearms. A side note: these jurisdictions are run by Democratic politicians, though the major media rarely note the connection.

It is also another display of what is at the heart of liberalism and that is that intent trumps results. Liberals are never held accountable for their failed policies, but are praised for having the right attitude, or worthy goals.

As the saying goes, the road to Hell is paved with good intentions. For the left, they have built a multi-lane highway and the rest of us have to pay the tolls.

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Compiled by Hannah Ball, staff reporter

## What home improvement project do you want to do next?

## streettalk



"I think my mom wants to paint our kitchen and I'm going to help her with that. It's a pretty light yellow. I think she wants to paint the living room, too."

— Molly Green  
Fenton Township



"I plan on buying a house and I'm definitely going to paint it. Depending on my furniture theme, I would go with an off-white eggshell color or a light burgundy."

— Heidi Solomon  
Fenton Township



"I would like to put down wood floor or tiles that look like wood flooring, and throw rugs, in the entire house."

— Linda Foren  
Argentine Township



"I just built a house in Holly. We moved in last November. We've still got stuff to do outside with the landscaping. We're going to put up a barn."

— Mike Harris  
Holly



"Indoor painting and upgrades. Some light remodeling, probably in the bathrooms, and then just general trim work before we paint. The lighter pallets, nothing bold."

— Marc Blissett  
Fenton

**PERRY****Continued from Front Page**

Cohen, who was searching in the Groveland Oaks parks at the time Perry was found, said the dog was very hungry. Someone ran and got him a sandwich, she said. He still wouldn't come out of his hiding spot so they kept feeding him treats.

But it was the Michigan Koegel hot dog that lured this dog rescued from Texas (see sidebar) out from under the ski lift.

"I think the Koegel hotdog is what got him out," said Cohen.

Once he was out, Perry was tobogganed down the hill to the ski patrol building.

Cohen and another volunteer drove Perry to a veterinarian in Royal Oak, who gave the dog a clean bill of health. He did not have frostbite, nor was he dehydrated. "We didn't let go of his leash all the way to Royal Oak," Cohen said. "He was looking out of the window, getting petted, wagging his tail and eating treats. He was as happy as can be."

Cohen said they found Perry's nylon slip lead on the ground in the little "cubby" area under the ski lift. "He probably sat or laid on that to keep warm," she said. The Christmas scarf he was wearing around his neck when he ran off was wrapped around his leg and probably slowed him down, Cohen added.

Today Perry is in his "forever home" in a small town up north near Traverse City.

Cohen said there was a core group of 20 who searched for Perry on a regular basis. Many others came out for an hour or two whenever they could. The Michigan State Police and Groveland Fire Department on Dixie Highway were a great help, she said.

"The state police accompanied us into areas where trespassing was prohibited," she said.

**"I think the Koegel hotdog is what got him out."**

**Sandy Cohen**  
Compass Dog Rescue  
volunteer

Businesses in the area of I-75 and Grange Hall Road also helped in various ways.

The total cost of finding Perry involved a \$300 helicopter search, Cohen said, and the price of flyers and posters. The volunteers handled much of the expense.

Cohen said the Tri-County Times article posted on its Facebook page, combined with the lost and found page and many phone calls contributed to finding Perry.

"The biggest expense was a stuck truck and two broken cellphones," Sandy laughed.

**Perry's journey — a recap**

Perry, the 3-year-old Shepherd mix escaped from his transporter on Jan. 3 around 11:30 a.m. on northbound I-75, near Grange Hall Road in Holly. Although several paw prints were spotted, Perry eluded searchers for six long cold days and nights.

Perry, rescued from San Antonio, Texas, has only one eye. Sandy Cohen of Compass Dog Rescue of Royal Oak said they don't know how the dog lost his eye. He was also heartworm positive when they picked him up. He is a neutered male and is micro-chipped. He was last seen wearing a green Christmas scarf and there was a slip lead on him.

The president of Compass Dog Rescue, Beth Holbrook, saw Perry in San Antonio and the police there helped her save the dog. "She figured who else is going to save him," said Cohen. "He has a better chance of getting adopted in Michigan."

Perry's status was posted on the Times' Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/tricountytimes](http://www.facebook.com/tricountytimes)) and a Facebook page created for the search called "Finding Perry."

**Read about more dogs being found with this story at [tctimes.com](http://tctimes.com).**

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**HOT LINE CONTINUED**

**WHAT'S THE POINT** of a congress? Obama does whatever he wants. He vetoes defunding Planned Parenthood. Can't wait to get our country back.

**YES, WE NEVER** have to see or hear Chassé Ballroom advertising ever again.

**WHEN THE CLINTONS** were in the White House, Bill had around 20 marital affairs. Why would we let Hillary

run the country when she can't even run her household?

**GOVERNOR SNYDER'S DECISION** not to wait for the Huron Water Supply to Flint is now going to cost lives, disabilities, and up to \$1.5 billion in damages. I thought he was a businessman.

**FENTON, YOU HAVE** been had. What a disappointment.

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**LAJOICE****Continued from Front Page**

Michael Manley is now his attorney. On Monday, Manley said the probable cause hearing on Jan. 20 is to ensure that he has all of the discovery materials, such as police reports, etc. He said he cannot imagine the courts would be done gathering discovery by Jan. 20. Future court dates will also be set.

Manley said, "I have not received discovery from the prosecution. When I do receive discovery, we will conduct our own investigation to make sure the statements attributed to Mr. LaJoyce by law enforcement are, in fact, true.

"Irrespective to the allegations, we plan on vigorously defending Mr. LaJoyce for his due process rights."

As his defense lawyer, Manley said his team will take their time to go through everything that happened. With other cases this extensive, "It could take over a year," he said.

Although there has been speculation of additional charges, Manley said that has not been confirmed.

In a February 2015 Times interview, LaJoyce, a 1997 Linden High School graduate, described himself as "an accountant by day and a dance studio owner by night." He said his days are spent crunching numbers, and his evenings are spent running the dance studio and spending time with his wife and their three children.



Michael LaJoyce

Fenton Police Chief Rick Aro said that LaJoyce's wife, Ashleigh LaJoyce, came to the Fenton police station at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 6 asking for help in locating her missing husband. He said, "She was upset."

Aro said that the dispatcher on duty Wednesday morning ran a check through Law Enforcement Information Network (LEIN) to see if any other police agency ran his name through the system. It turned out that the Oakland County Sheriff's Department had just run a check inquiring if there were any arrest warrants on LaJoyce.

Aro said an employee of the credit union also called Wednesday inquiring about Michael LaJoyce since he did not show up for work on Wednesday.

The city of Fenton is now left wondering what will happen to the Riverview project, a \$31 million retail/residential development at the site of the old Topps produce store. LaJoyce purchased the property for \$1.2 million and had announced last fall that he expected to break ground this spring.

Members of Chassé Ballroom and Latin Dance Studio are wondering about classes they have paid for, and numerous charities that counted on contribution from LaJoyce Properties are waiting to see what happens. A few yoga and Zumba businesses in the area have stepped up to help those disenfranchised clients.

Oakland County Assistant Prosecutor Robert Hovy said LaJoyce's \$1.3 million, 5,800-square-foot home just south of Fenton City was unsupported by his salary of \$65,000. While authorities froze \$800,000 in cash located in several bank accounts, someone reportedly withdrew \$40,000 on Thursday, Jan. 7.

The investigation is ongoing and the Oakland County Sheriff's Office is working in conjunction with federal regulators (NCUA) and the FBI.



## Credit union issues statement about LaJoyce embezzlement

"Clarkston Brandon Community Credit Union leadership wants to first and foremost convey to our members that our branches are open and fully functional, and our full staff remains ready to meet members' financial service needs.

"During the week of January 4, Clarkston Brandon Community Credit Union leadership was made

**“We are appalled and dismayed by this news.”**

**Clarkston Brandon Community Credit Union**

aware of potentially serious accounting irregularities during a routine visit from the Department of Insurance and Financial Services. After Michael LaJoyce was confronted about the errors, he failed to show

up for work the following day and was immediately terminated as chief financial officer, a position that he held since June 2015.

"On Wednesday, January 6, LaJoyce turned himself in to Oakland County authorities, admitting to embezzling from the credit union over the course of his employment.

"We are appalled and dismayed by this news. Our first and most important priority is expressing our profound regret to our members and the community that this crime occurred and was not uncovered sooner. During the entirety of LaJoyce's employment, Clarkston Brandon Community Credit Union has had regular examinations and audits that were conducted in accordance with the Michigan Credit Union Act.

"An investigation is underway by the Oakland County Sheriff, state regulators and the National Credit Union Association to learn the full extent of the crime and how it remained undetected. We are working around the clock in full cooperation with authorities to see that every detail of this egregious situation is revealed, and justice is served.

"We remain focused on continuing to provide the quality of services our members are accustomed to. There has been no change in hours or services. Membership accounts are insured by the NCUA to \$250,000, and all of our members can rest assured that their assets are secure.

"We will share more as the investigation unfolds."

The credit union includes two branches and 9,300 members.



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## DE-CLUTTER

Continued from Page 3

"Use hooks and baskets in closets and under cabinets to store like items," she said. "Simplify."

Williams said an abundance of "stuff" that is no longer needed or used should be dealt with by grabbing three boxes or trash bags. Label each box or bag with the words "Discard," "Donate," "Keep or store" and then start filling them up.

"If you are able, hold a garage or an estate sale and make yourself some money on all of the items you no longer need or want," she said. "Or, take them to a consignment store and let them sell your items for you."

Williams said she recently helped a friend get started de-cluttering her home. "She could just not see her way to even begin," she said. "By the end of one day, we had at least 12 bags for charity and the same amount for trash. She was amazed at everything she had held onto and no longer had use for."

"I suggest you begin by doing a little each week, and in no time, your home will reflect your efforts," Williams said.

Marie Kondo, the author of a #1 New York Times best-selling book called "The life-changing magic of tidying up; the Japanese art of de-cluttering and organizing," takes a slightly different approach.

Kondo says in order to de-clutter and organize your home and keep it organized, is to "sort by category, not location."

The root of the problem, she said, is that people often store the same type of item in more than one place.

"When we tidy each place separately, we fail to see that we're repeating the

same work in many locations and become locked into a vicious circle of tidying," she said.

To avoid this, Kondo recommends tidying by category. For example, instead of deciding that today you'll tidy a particular room, set goals like "clothes today, books tomorrow."

Discarding should come first. "Do not even think of putting your things away until you have finished the process of discarding," Kondo says in her book.

When deciding what to discard, she recommends with each item asking yourself if "it brings you joy."

Once you've rid yourself of clothing that should be discarded (either by throwing away or donating), storing what you keep properly will save tons of space. Take socks and T-shirts for example.

Instead of tossing all of your socks in one drawer, match them by color, folding the ends to hold them together, and stack them neatly, side by side, in the drawer. The same holds true for T-shirts. Instead of folding them and stacking one on top of the other, roll the T-shirts so that any logos are visible and place them side by side in the drawer. You'll be able to store many more T-shirts and you'll be able to see the one you want to wear quickly without rifling through a stack of shirts.

Don't let de-cluttering and organizing consume your life. Set aside a few hours each week and stick to the "discard, donate or sell" plan.

Williams said people often tell her they need to de-clutter and organize before they sell their homes in a couple of years.

Her response is, "Why wouldn't they want to live that way now?"

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## POWERBALL

Continued from Front Page

red balls dropped from 35 to 26. This change means higher average jackpot wins and more overall winners.

The rule changes were aimed at boosting jackpots as sales have slumped since 2013, the last huge payout, according to the New York State Gaming Commission. Overall, the chances of winning a prize will improve from about 1 in 32 to 1 in 25.

According to usatoday.com, at a Gaming Commission meeting early last fall, they approved the changes, saying the modifications will make the game more sustainable. So the percentage of money that goes to the top prize will drop from 68 percent to 64 percent, while the percentage going to smaller prizes will increase.

Robert Williams, executive director of the New York Gaming Commission, said, "The proposed rule is intended to increase the odds of winning any prize while decreasing the odds to win the jackpot."

"Without these rule changes, the (Lottery) Division would need to remove the Powerball game from its portfolio of offerings and aid to education would be negatively affected, the Gaming Commission said in a memo to board members."

"The rules change is intended to increase the odds of winning any prize, while making it more difficult to win the jackpot prize."

In Powerball, players select five numbers from one set and one number from a second set. A ticket costs \$2. The

smallest winning prize is \$4.

Powerball sales declined nationally by 19 percent last year because there was no huge jackpot. The same was true for the drop in Mega Millions sales, the other multi-state lottery.

Powerball sales also have declined due to competition from casinos and instant scratch-off games — as well as a phenomenon industry insiders call "jackpot fatigue," in which players ignore lotteries until the prize grows astronomically.

The odds of winning the \$1.5 billion jackpot have climbed to over 1 in 293 million million. Despite the odds for winning the big jackpot, your odds for winning a smaller prize has climbed with the new rule changes.

### You're more likely to:

- die or kill someone while driving two miles to buy your Powerball ticket. The odds are 1 in close to 34 million.
- be attacked by a shark. The odds are 1 in close to 12 million.
- die in an airplane crash. The odds are 1 in close to 7,200.
- get struck by lightning. The odds are 1 in close to 135,000.
- die from a hornet, wasp or other bee sting. The odds are 1 in close to 80,000.
- become the U.S. president. The odds are 1 in 10 million.
- become a movie star. The odds are 1 in 1.5 million.

Sources: usnews.com; usatoday.com

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67th District Court  
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### The quality of mercy and second chances

Hopefully as we go through life there have been times when we've been given a 'second chance' to do it right when we've made a mistake or didn't do as well as we should have.

The concept of being given a second chance goes back to biblical times at least and is really premised on the concepts of forgiveness and mercy.

On occasion in this column, I have quoted William Shakespeare, and I will now refer to one of his most widely quoted passages 'The Quality of Mercy' from his play 'The Merchant of Venice.' I won't repeat the entire passage here, but simply indicate that it talks about how it is important to have mercy on people who have made mistakes and to have 'mercy season justice.' I assure you that it's worth looking up and reading in its entirety.

In our system of justice, we too have various forms of forgiveness and mercy when a law is violated and a Judge has to decide on the consequences by way of a judgment of sentence.

One of the options is probation, in lieu of jail or prison, thus giving the offender a second chance. However there is still a public record of a conviction.

Over the years in Michigan, the state legislature has recognized that in certain situations even more of a second chance should be considered for a violation of the law.

This is seen in nine different categories of offenses, which by statute allow a defendant to plead guilty, but instead of accepting the plea, the Court is allowed to defer the judgment of guilt, and place the defendant on a period of probation. At the end of the probationary period, and if the probation was successfully completed, the case is dismissed and a nonpublic record is kept.

The possible deferral statutes are the Controlled Substances Act, Human Trafficking Victim, Practicing Under the Influence, Spouse Abuse Act, Youthful Trainee Status, Drug Treatment Court, Mental Health Court, Veteran's Court, and Minor in Possession.

Most of the statutes are available only to first offenders and certain types of crimes (such as traffic offenses) do not qualify.

A second chance is a wonderful thing and the law certainly agrees.

## Are microbeads an environmental menace?

■ Popular exfoliating product banned by new law

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Microbeads, which are the little plastic beads commonly found in face washes, toothpastes, and exfoliates that supply scrubbing power, have been banned in the U.S. by the Microbead-Free Waters Act of 2015 because of reports finding that they're hurting the environment.

President Barack Obama signed it into law last week.

These tiny pieces of plastic range in size from 1 millimeter, the size of a pinhead, to 1 micrometer, which is too small to be seen by naked eye, according to Forbes.

The United Nations Environment Program estimates the amount of plastic microbeads in a typical shower gel is equal to the amount of plastic in the container.

When these microbeads go down the drain, they're too small for wastewater

treatment plants to filter out so they end up in rivers and oceans. The fish and other aquatic life think they are food, ingest them, and are harmed by the polluting chemicals.

The International Campaign Against Microbeads in Cosmetics compiled a list of products around the world that contain microbeads, like exfoliating products by Clean and Clear, Aveeno, Clinique and many other popular brands. The list can be viewed at [beat-themicrobead.org](http://beat-themicrobead.org).

To get rid of products that contain microbeads, you can donate them to 5Gyres Institute, a research and education group that studies plastic garbage.

You can also filter out the microbeads yourself by using a coffee filter and normal filtering technique.

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## News briefs

### Local shipping, office services stores open for MLK Day

The UPS Store, 17195 Silver Parkway, Fenton, and Goin' Postal, 1219 N. LeRoy St., Fenton, will both be open on Martin Luther King Day, Monday, Jan. 18. On the day when banks and other financial institutions, and government agencies including post offices are closed to commemorate Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, both stores will be open to handle the packing, shipping, printing and other needs of individuals and small businesses. The UPS Store will be open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Goin' Postal will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. For more information, call The UPS Store at (810) 750-2920. Goin' Postal can be reached by calling (810) 208-7155.

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# TRIVIA

## BASEBALL

**Q** Name the MLB player who died during his attempted airplane hijack.

It was the Brooklyn Dodgers' Len Koe-neckel on Sept. 17, 1935 when he tried to take control of a small plane. The actual pilot killed him.

**A**

# Holly's Smith ties school's career scoring record

■ Leads Lady Bronchos by the Dragons, 54-34

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

No one has scored more points in Holly girls varsity basketball history than Kaitlyn Smith.

Only one other person is tied with her.

Smith became only the third person in Holly girls basketball history to score 1,000 points but

also tied Molly Hulan on the Lady Bronchos' all-time leading scorer list with 1,018 points when she scored a game-high 27 points in a 54-34 home victory against Swartz Creek.

Smith, a senior, has plenty of time to score that one extra point to become the all-time Holly career leading scorer. Her next

chance came in a Tuesday home game against Kearsley.

Hulan played from 1991 to 1994. Allyssa Copley is the other Holly player to ever score 1,000 points. She scored 1,005 points from 2010 to 2014.

Holly dominated its road contest against Swartz Creek, outscoring

the Dragons 19-4 in the first quarter. Holly led 37-9 at halftime and 48-18 after three quarters.

After Smith's 27 points, Paige Reid netted 10 points and three steals. Jenna Pepper chipped in six points and three assists.

**Lake Fenton 46, Montrose 27**

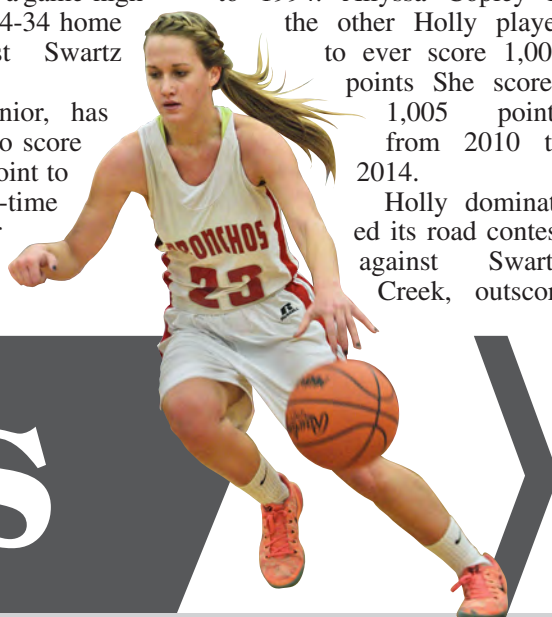
The Lady Blue Devils won their second game of the week, easily defeating the Lady Rams.

See **SMITH** on 12

Times

WEDNESDAY,  
JANUARY 13, 2016  
PAGE 10

# Sports



**KAITLYN SMITH**

Holly standout ties school's career scoring record against Swartz Creek.

ONLINE EXCLUSIVES

► Look for periodic weekday sports updates, visit [tctimes.com](http://tctimes.com)

## LFLF GYMNASTICS TEAM TAKES SECOND AT WEEKEND MEET

The Linden, Fenton and Lake Fenton co-op girls gymnastics team (LFLF) continued its strong season on Saturday, capturing second at the nine-team East Lansing Invitational on Saturday.

The squad posted a team score of 136.85.

Miranda Stephens and Blake Hutchings had big days, earning all-around medals. Hutchings took first in the all-around with a four-event combined score of 36.025, while Stephens was second with a score of 35.575. Stephens had two first-place event performances. She took the top spot in the beam (9.40) and on the bars (8.925). Meanwhile, Hutchings won the vault (9.15) and finished runner-up on the beam (9.35). She also finished third on the bars (8.70).

The LFLF team returns to action on Saturday at the Jeanne Carrus Invitational.

## Strong offense paces Fenton

■ Tigers sting Hornets, 60-40

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com

**Fenton** — Chris Gilbert is feeling comfortable.

It took until his senior year before the guard finally got a chance to get a lot of playing time on the Fenton varsity boys basketball team. Now that he is starting, he's making the most of it.

Gilbert scored a game-high 22 points, leading the Tigers to a pretty convincing 60-40 home Metro League victory against the Kearsley Hornets on Friday.

Gilbert netted six treys, most of them coming closer to National Basketball Association range than from the high school arc. Most also came off of quality assisted passes from teammates, typically freeing Gilbert for an open shot. And for the most part, Gilbert made those open jump shots.

"It just comes to me," Gilbert said. "I'm shooting in the gym every day so I learned to shoot from that far out every day, every



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SCOTT SCHUPBACH

Fenton's Nick Wyrick (left) works on getting to the hoop in the Tigers' 60-40 victory against Kearsley on Friday.

game. I'm just used to it now. I'm getting open, coming off screens and getting ready to shoot them when I'm open.

"I grew a lot over the summer, so I got a lot faster. I worked out every day. Even in the fall during

football season I went into the gym and worked on my game. It really helped get my confidence up going into my senior year."

The entire team's confidence was pretty high on Friday. Fenton was pretty high on Friday. Fenton was pretty high on Friday. Fenton was pretty high on Friday.

See **FENTON** on 12

## Lady Tigers remain tied in first, defeat Kearsley, 51-34

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com

**Fenton** — The Fenton varsity girls basketball team took control from the beginning and never lost control against the Kearsley Lady Hornets, capturing a relatively easy 51-34 victory Friday at Fenton High School.

The Tigers quickly See **TIGERS** on 12



TRI-COUNTY TIMES  
SCOTT SCHUPBACH

Fenton's Sarah Cummings drives to the bucket in the Tigers' 51-34 victory against Kearsley.

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# Bronchos capture 20th straight Metro League victory

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

Make it 20 straight Metro League victories for the Holly varsity boys basketball team.

The Bronchos won their 20th straight Metro contest, outscoring Swartz Creek 51-19 during the second half in the Dragons' own gym. It enabled Holly (3-0, 5-0) to earn an 87-51 victory Friday.

Holly actually trailed 18-15 after one quarter and led just 36-32 at the half. But there was no fear as the Bronchos outscored the Dragons 25-12 in the third quarter to blow the game open.

Ian Hodges led the offense with 23 points, five assists and four steals, while Adam Tooley netted 15 points, all on three-point shots. Kyle Woodruff netted 13 points and five rebounds, while Paris Partee had 11 points and five rebounds.

## Lake Fenton 61, Montrose 42

The Blue Devils played a strong team game and defeated Montrose in a league game, 61-42 on Friday.

"Isaac Golson set the tone for us all game long on both ends of the floor," coach Jake Erway said. "He gave us great energy throughout the game."

Golson finished with a team-high 14 points and also had seven rebounds. Andrew Foerster and Jalen Miller had 13 points each. Foerster had eight rebounds, while Miller had three steals. Chris Bell finished with 10 points, six assists, six steals and five rebounds.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | MARK BOLEN

Holly's Paris Partee scored 11 points in the Bronchos' 87-51 victory against Swartz Creek on Friday.

## Brandon 62, Linden 60

The Eagles' Cole Sarkon hit a three-pointer, putting the game into overtime, but the Eagles lost in the extra session.

Linden trailed 30-20 at halftime, but cut the deficit to 43-40 entering the fourth period.

Sarkon hit six three-pointers for the Blue Devils. Tyree Gibbs led the Black-hawks with 21 points.

# Linden, Lake Fenton wrestling teams capture weekend tournament titles

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

The Linden varsity wrestling team is on a hot streak.

The Eagles won five matches to win the Stevenson Team Tournament on Saturday.

Linden beat its five opponents — Chippewa Valley, Dearborn Edsel Ford, Ypsilanti, Grand Rapids Forest Hills Central and Thurston High School — by

a combined score of 221-116. The closest match was a 49-30 Linden victory against Forest Hills Central.

Four Eagles came home with 5-0 records. Bryce Davis (152/160), Cade Dickson (171/189) and Patrick Kerr (140) were those wrestlers. Kerr was the most impressive of the group, earning all of his victories with pinfall wins, includ-

See **WRESTLING** on 12

## PREP REPORT

### GIRLS BOWLING

► **Kearsley def. Fenton:** Laura Albrant bowled a 151-146-297 series, while Molly Beck had the team's best game of the match posting a 155 score.

► **Swartz Creek def. Holly:** Jenna Royle had a strong showing with a 168-214-382 series for the Bronchos. Meanwhile, Madisyn Fultz rolled a 185 game.

► **Flushing def. Linden:** Grace Gergel led the Eagles with a 166-121-287 series.

► **Swartz Creek def. Linden:** Grace Gergel led the Eagles with a 135-186-321 series.

► **Clio def. Fenton:** Angela Hanners paced Fenton with a 161-132-293 series.

► **Flushing def. Holly:** Jenna Royle led the Bronchos with a 196-192-388 series. Terin Cooley also had a high game of 179.

### BOYS BOWLING

► **Kearsley def. Fenton:** John Cryderman led the Tigers with a 214-208-422 series, while Alex Keith rolled a 234-180-414 performance in the tough loss.

► **Swartz Creek def. Holly:** Vladi Craycraft led the Bronchos with a 225-174-399 series in the losing effort. Also bowling 200 games were Eddie Sanner (209) and Hunter Wilson (205).

► **Flushing def. Linden:** Trevor Sundrla led the Eagles with a 152-203-355 series.

► **Swartz Creek def. Linden:** Trevor Sundrla led Linden with a 170-170-340 effort.

► **Flushing def. Holly:** Eddie Sanner led the Bronchos with a 189-202-391 series. The team also bowled a 237 baker game, winning both baker contests.

► **Clio def. Fenton:** John Cryderman had a big day, bowling a 206-256-462 series. Alex Keith also bowled a 195 game.

### HOCKEY

► **Swartz Creek/Clio/Flushing 7, Metro League Griffins 6:** The Swartz Creek co-op team scored the game-winning goal with 17 seconds remaining to earn the Metro League victory against the Fenton/Linden co-op squad.

Tyler Bourassa and Mitch O'Lewin had two goals each, while Kevin Bates and Jake Thompson had a goal each. Brendan Buerkel had two assists.

Both goalies played in the game. Manny Vomvallis made 20 saves out of 26 shots, while Collin LaVoie allowed one goal out of 16 shots faced.

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPE

Lake Fenton's Hunter Corcoran (left) takes down an opponent during a recent match. Corcoran went 5-0 at the South Lyon Duals on Saturday. The team won the tourney title.

## WRESTLING

**Continued from Page 11**  
ing one in just 10 seconds.

Noah Quesnelle (130/135) went 3-0, while Mitchell Kerr (152) and Jaylin Steedman (285) each went 2-0. Dawson Blank (145) posted a 4-1 record, while Koletton Strauss went 3-2.

Linden travels to Holly for a Metro League double-dual on Wednesday starting at 5 p.m.

### Lake Fenton at South Lyon Team Duals

The second-ranked Blue Devils crushed five opponents at the weekend tourney by a combined score of 218-

52 resulting in the tourney title.

The closest match Lake Fenton had was a 54-24 victory against Chelsea in the team's opening match. The Blue Devils also defeated Grand Blanc, South Lyon East, South Lyon and Sylva Southview.

Hunter Corcoran (125), Devan Melick (130/135), Sean Trombley (140), Jackson Nevadomski (140/145), Ryan Franks (215) and Trent Hillger (285) had perfect 5-0 records, while Saben Spanger (130) had a 4-0 record. A.J. Geyer (112), Hunter Hypio (119), Brenden Carr (145/152) and Kyle Sanders (171) posted 4-1 marks.

## FENTON

**Continued from Page 10**

ton hit on 25-of-49 shots (51 percent) from the field, and was particularly hot in the opening half, connecting on 60 percent (15-of-25) during the first 16 minutes. That hot shooting gave the Tigers a 38-23 halftime lead. In the second half, the Hornets were unsuccessful trying to cut into the lead. In fact, the Tigers threatened to increase the lead to well over 20 points more than Kearsley really ever cut into the Fenton lead.

"We were moving the ball better. We worked on that in practice," Fenton varsity coach John Gilbert said. "We lost to Hartland and we didn't move the ball well. We didn't screen well. We didn't do a lot of things well. That was kind of our focus the last couple of days. The kids are working hard. They were doing what I asked of them the last two days

and we got better at it."

Drew Miller was big, netting 13 points. Miller also had five rebounds and three steals. Nick Wyrick also had a strong showing scoring eight points. The 6-foot-9 post player also had four rebounds and at least four blocked shots.

"Drew Miller had one of his best games. He was really active," Gilbert said. "Nick had another really solid game. Christopher shot the ball really well. So those things start to add up, and when the ball starts going in, you do well."

Gilbert went deep into his bench in both halves resulting in a lot of players contributing in different ways. Gilbert, Kobe Lokebill and Ben Hajciar each had four rebounds, while Peyton Coffman chipped in six points, three rebounds and two steals. Fenton's defense was strong all night, holding Kearsley to just 12-of-35 shooting while forcing 20 Hornets' turnovers.

## TIGERS

**Continued from Page 10**

jumped to a 12-4 lead after one quarter and then typically held a double-digit lead during the rest of the contest. The Fenton lead grew to as many as 23. That lead came at 49-26 on a post hoop by Sarah Cummings with 2:30 left. Kearsley cut into the gap with what was a harmless 8-2 run during the final 150 seconds. The Tigers were able to maintain the lead throughout the second half playing deep into their bench.

"We played pretty well," Fenton coach Becki Moore said. "Everybody made good contributions. .... We have a lot of kids that can contribute. We are working in getting confidence in our other kids. We are going to see a lot of people doubling Sarah (Cummings) and Chloe (Idoni). We are going to need other kids to be ready to step up and open it up for them a little bit. Sarah and Chloe are still going to do their thing,

but that's what we have other kids that can do it as well."

Idoni did her thing on Friday night. She led the Tigers with 23 points, scoring at least four points in every quarter. She was particularly effective in the third quarter, netting eight points. She helped the Tigers increase the lead to 16 points by the end of the third quarter. She also had six rebounds and three steals.

Cummings finished with 10 points, six rebounds, four assists and three steals. Madison Shegos had six rebounds, while Maddie Carr, Logan Carter and Chloe Foor had four rebounds and two assists each.

The win keeps the Tigers tied with Flushing atop the Metro League standings at 3-0.

"It was a total team effort," Moore said. "I liked our second half a little bit better than our first half based on our intensity coming out."

## SMITH

**Continued from Page 12**

Lake Fenton led 20-6 after one quarter and pretty much held that lead the rest of the contest.

Eight Lady Blue Devils scored points with Autumn Beardsley and Sydney Sheyachich chipping in with nine points each. Haley Whittecar, Hannah Garty and Sierra Arroyo had seven points each. Sheyachich also had 11 rebounds and six steals, while Whittecar collected 10 rebounds, four blocks and three steals. Beardsley had seven rebounds, four steals and three blocks, while Renee Shaw and Garty had six rebounds each. Garty also

had three assists and three steals.

### Brandon 51, Linden 44

The Blackhawks limited Linden to just 12 first-half points, setting up the home team's victory.

Linden made a spirited comeback. Two Sterling DeGayner three-pointers to start the fourth quarter helped cut into the league. Cam Williams hit a bucket and cut the gap to one. Later Bridget Adams hit two free throws bringing it back to 1. However, the Eagles were unable to ever take the lead.

DeGayner finished with 17 points, while Madison Maxheimer netted 10 points.



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PAGE 13

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## Obituaries

Times

Michael Vincent  
"Mike" Adams  
1949-2015

Michael Vincent "Mike" Adams - age 66, passed away from COPD on December 18, 2015 in Peoria, AZ. Mike was an avid golfer and loved all sports, but did favor Michigan teams. He enjoyed keeping up with all the latest news, and was referred to as a news junkie by his family. Mike was born in Flint, on November 2, 1949 and his hometown was Holly. He attended school in Holly, graduating in 1967. Mike continued his education on a full golf scholarship at Flint Community College. Mike leaves behind his wife, Jennifer (nee Perry) Adams; his 4 children, Michael J. Clark II, Phillip P. Clark, Amy-Renee (nee Clark) Rangel and Kristen K. Adams; his 6 grandchildren; his sisters, Janie Armstrong and Jude Pittenger (Jim). Mike was preceded in death by his parents, William R. Adams and Dorothy J. (nee Valek) Adams. Mike chose not to have services, but his family and friends gathered at his home in celebration of his life. If you wish to show your respect, Mike would have asked you to make a donation to the Jr. Golf Association in his name. Mike was a wonderful husband and an awesome father, also a great friend. Mike and Jennifer shared their married life journey for 43 years of deep commitment and love.

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Gary L. Williams  
1939-2016

Gary L. Williams - age 77, of Linden, died Saturday, January 9, 2016. A memorial gathering will be held 2-8 PM Saturday, January 16, 2016 at Sharp Funeral Homes, Fenton Chapel, 1000



Silver Lake Road, Fenton. Cremation has taken place. Those desiring may make contributions to American Cancer Society or U of M Cancer Center. Gary was born January 3, 1939 in Fenton, the son of Clare and Vivian (Reedy) Williams. Gary was married to Linda J. Rice on June 4, 1960 in Fenton. He retired from General Motors in 1992. Gary was an active member of Church on the Street and was an avid hunter and fisherman. Gary is survived by his wife, Linda; children, Greg Williams, Tim (Wendy) Williams, Chris Williams and Andrea (Ty) Smith; grandchildren, Alyssa, Brittney, Nickolas, Gabrielle and Meghan; brother, Clare Williams; many friends including his lifelong friends, Ward Smith and Duncan Moore. He was preceded in death by his parents; step-mother, Billy Williams; sisters, Margaret, Joanne and Ellen; brother, Donnie. Tributes may be posted on the obituaries page of www.sharpfuneralhomes.com.

Craig R. Yeakel  
1969-2016

Craig R. Yeakel - age 46, of Montrose, died Thursday, January 7, 2016. Funeral services will be held at 1 PM Tuesday, January 19, 2016 at the Dryer Funeral Home, Holly. Military



honors and burial will be in Great National Cemetery, Holly. Visitation will be from 2-6 PM Monday, January 18, 2016. Craig was born in Flint on March 27, 1969. He was a US Army veteran. Surviving his wife, Holly; 5 children, Erica, Matthew, Caden, Conner, and Bentley; father, Kenneth (Sharon) Yeakel of Gladwin; mother, Barbara (Jim) Suchovsky of Linden; step-father, Roger Conn of Fenton; sister, Jennifer (Chad) Richards of Fenton; brother, Jason (Karen) Conn of Linden; father-in-law, Karl Hawks; aunts and uncles, Martin Cates, Roberta Cates, Lillian Cates, Ronald Gates, Veronica Pheasant, William Cates, Carol Wright, Joyce Lyon, Judy Erickson, Diane Damito, and Marilyn Carr; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his granddaughter, Danilyn Baldwin; and mother-in-law Tamara Hawks. Craig was mechanically inclined and loved to work on machinery. He was looking forward to spending time on his new property with the woods and ponds. Memorial donations may be made to the Disabled American Veterans. **www.dryerfuneralhomeholly.com.**

Rhoda Schmedlen  
1921-2016

Rhoda Schmedlen - age 94, formerly of Oxford, went to be with the Lord peacefully surrounded by her



family on January 7, 2016 at her home in Georgia. She was the daughter of Earl and Mary Taylor of Holly. She was known as TT by many family members and their friends. She was preceded in death by her husband Eugene Schmedlen, son Douglas (surviving Rose) Schmedlen, grandson Nathan Schmedlen, sister Revona (Lee) Paddison, and brothers Victor (Lillian) Taylor and Wilbur (Devota) Taylor. She was the owner and operator of the Oxford Beauty Salon and retired from the Oxford Bank. She was a long time member of the First Baptist Church of Oxford before moving to Georgia where she enjoyed playing cards, Scrabble and spending time with her grandchildren and her great-grandchildren. She will be remembered for her warm smiling face, kind heart, and sharp wit which she maintained her full 94 years. She is survived by her children, Dennis Schmedlen and Mary Lee (late Thomas) Thrasher; grandchildren, Melissa (Amador) Monroy, Jeffrey (MaryAnn) Thrasher, Dr. Rachael Schmedlen, Stacey (Shane) Bowen, Tracey (Josh) Thrasher, and Renee (Justin) Hires. 14 great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; and many nieces and nephews. Memorial service was held Sunday, January 10, 2016, at 2 PM at Dryer Funeral Home, Holly. Visitation was from 12-2 PM Sunday. The burial will be at Lakeside Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, please donate in her memory to your favorite charity. **www.dryerfuneralhomeholly.com.**

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