

# The \$20-million question everyone is asking: 'How could the credit union not know what was going on?'

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

The biggest question local residents might have asked in recent months regarding Michael LaJoice's business dealings has been, "Where did he get his money?"

Now this question may

have been answered with his arraignment on Jan. 6 for allegedly embezzling \$20 million from the Clarkston Brandon Community Credit Union. The next question is, "How could they (the credit union) not know what was



going on?" Aren't there regular audits and 'checks and balances' that take place at every credit union?

Here is some background about Clarkston Brandon Community Credit Union, and credit unions in general. Clarkston Brandon

Community Credit Union (CBCCU) was founded in 1957 and is a state-chartered and federally insured credit union. If a credit union doesn't have the word "federal" as part of its name

**See CREDIT UNION on 5A**



## County Prosecutor expects more charges

Feds also investigating LaJoice, may charge him with additional crimes.

**Page 10A**

## The Clarkston Brandon Community Credit Union was taken over by the state effective Wednesday, Jan. 13 'to protect public interest.'

**See Page 5A**



## Charities scramble to fill commitments made by Michael LaJoice

Chassé owner almost always topped the list of local donors.

**Page 11A**

**PAGE 1B**  
**GET OUTSIDE, GET FIT, GET HEALTHY HAVING FUN**

**Weekend Times** SUNDAY EDITION

**Weekend Times**

**\$1.00**

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 17, 2016**

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

VOL. 23 NO. III

## \$1 million lotto winner bought ticket in Holly

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795

Someone in or around Holly has a little more spending cash this week after winning \$1 million in the largest Powerball game in history.

This lucky individual, whose identity is not yet known, purchased the winning \$1 million ticket from Beacon & Bridge Market, at 820 North Saginaw St. in Holly.

Beacon & Bridge Market operates under the umbrella of Quick-Sav Food Stores.

**See WINNER on 21A**



**TRI-COUNTY TIMES** | TIM JAGIELO

The Beacon and Bridge Market in Holly has attracted much media attention after selling a winning Powerball ticket worth \$1 million.



## 'I asked him to stop and he didn't'

13-year-old alleged victim

## Ryan Stevens facing five felony counts related to child porn video

By Tim Jagielo

tjagiello@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795

**Flint** — The alleged female victim of five counts of child sexually abusive conduct spoke in court Wednesday. From the witness stand, she identified Ryan Stevens of Linden twice.

The preliminary exam for Stevens, 18, of Linden was held at Genesee County 67th District Court in Judge Mark McCabe's courtroom. The five felony counts, related to a child porn video allegedly produced by

**See CHILD PORN on 7A**

**TRI-COUNTY TIMES** | TIM JAGIELO  
Attorney Kenneth Karasick and Ryan Stevens, 18, listen to the charges against Stevens by Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Jan Rundles on Wednesday.

**TEXT YOUR HOT LINE**  
**810-771-TEXT**



**“All you people** who take those wonderful photos with your phones but never take the time to print them are going to be very sorry one day. Any photo not printed, and the memories that accompany them, will eventually disappear.”



**“Most citizens don't** know that the federal government specifically exempts state lottery advertising from FTC regulations that guarantee truth in advertising. Think about that for a moment.”



**“Breaking news! Soon** to be released on motor vehicles is a set of four lights, one on each corner of the vehicle. With the simple flick of a switch, the driver can easily signify their intent to turn, change lanes, etc. It is said to be easier to use than an iPhone. Directions included with each owner's manual.”



**“Only two presidents** over the last 75 years have not served their country through military service — Bill Clinton and Barack Obama. What does that tell you about their character?”



FIRST  ANNUAL

# RESTAURANT

*Week*

FENTON, MI



**Sunday, January 17th**  
*-through-*  
**Saturday, January 23rd**

Sponsored by:



Fenton Regional  
Chamber of Commerce  
Building Business. Building Community.

*Come check out your  
local restaurants!*

Bring in 13 lucky dollars, get two whole meals




Choose any two 9" Half Grinders, two fountain drinks, two bags of chips or slices of Garlic Cheese Bread and two Mancino's Cookies for \$13 complete, including tax



4019 Owen Road,  
across from WalMart,  
Fenton 810-714-2000

FIRST  ANNUAL

## RESTAURANT

*Week*

FENTON, MI



Choose an award-winning 12" Medium Pizza with three toppings, two fountain drinks, two bags of chips or slices of Garlic Cheese Bread and two Mancino's Cookies for \$13 complete, including tax

**All week long  
Jan. 17 thru 23  
Mancino's of Fenton**

1st Annual

# FENTON

## RESTAURANT WEEK

— Fenton Winery & Brewery —



**HALF OFF  
APPETIZERS  
ALL WEEK**

FEATURING  
- Beer Chili Nachos  
- Pistachio Rotolo



FENTON  
Winery & Brewery

1370 N. Long Lake Rd.  
(810) 373-4194  
TUES - THURS 3-9 • FRI & SAT 12-11 • SUN 12-8  
FentonBrewery.com



## Fenton Restaurant Week

January 17 thru 23

<p><b>First Course Appetizer</b> (choice of one)</p> <p><b>Second Course</b></p> <p><b>Third Course</b> (choice of one)</p>	<p><b>Thai Calamari</b> sauteed calamari in sesame oil with peppers, onions and cilantro; tossed in a Hoisin Thai Chili sauce.</p> <p><b>Stuffed Mushrooms</b> with Boursin Cheese. You may choose from one of our homemade desserts instead of appetizer.</p> <p><b>Soup of the Day or House or Caesar Salad</b></p> <p><b>Char Broiled Bone in Pork Chops</b> with a spicy Asian barbeque glaze placed atop roasted apple herb rice stuffing and served with today's vegetable.</p> <p><b>Baked Flounder</b> with Lobster and Crab stuffing; topped with seafood cream sauce, served with asparagus.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>\$19.95</b> per person (no substitutions)</p>
---	--





## Fenton Hotel

tavern & grille

302 N. LEROY ST. • FENTON • [www.fentonhotel.com](http://www.fentonhotel.com)

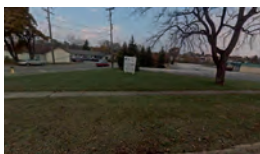


# LaJoice spent nearly \$2.5 million buying properties in Fenton over the past six months

Since June 18, 2015, LaJoice Properties has purchased seven properties in the city of Fenton. These properties were paid for with cash for well over the fair market price.



225 W. Caroline  
Purchased on June 18, 2015 for \$1,200,000.  
Assessed value is \$147,500.  
Taxes owed \$1,687.86



125 S. Adelaide  
Purchased on June 18, 2015 as part of the 225 W. Caroline transaction.  
It is a vacant parcel.  
Taxes owed \$176.57



229 S. Adelaide  
Purchased on July 31, 2015 for \$275,000.  
Assessed value is \$54,800.  
Taxes owed \$625.94



225 S. Adelaide  
Purchased on Aug. 21, 2015 for \$150,000.  
Assessed value is \$55,000.  
Taxes owed \$618.79



219 S. Adelaide  
Purchased on Sept. 11, 2015 for \$375,000.  
Assessed value is \$77,200.  
Taxes owed \$917.15



116 Mill  
Purchased on Sept. 15, 2015 for \$197,000.  
Assessed value is \$61,600.  
Taxes owed \$682.04



108 S. LeRoy  
Purchased on Nov. 4, 2015 for \$269,500.  
Assessed value is \$87,200.  
Taxes owed \$1,008.80

## RIVERVIEW PROJECT

City was not allowed to review finances because it was privately owned and financed

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795

It is still too early to fully know what impact the Michael LaJoice debacle will have on the city of Fenton and surrounding communities.

LaJoice has been charged with embezzling \$20 million from the credit union he served as chief financial officer.

City Manager Lynn Markland says he is not aware of any other investors involved with the Riverview project, which in ad-

dition to LaJoice's dance business Chassé Ballroom & Latin Dance Studio, promised office space, condos, restaurants, a market and additional parking at 225 West Caroline, the site of the former Topps market and Wash King Laundromat.

LaJoice purchased that property in June 2015 for \$1.2 million.

"If there were other investors, I am not aware of them," said Markland. "Mr. LaJoice did not share a lot of information

**“This project was planned for property that was privately owned and privately financed, therefore, we had no opportunity to review Mr. LaJoice's finances, nor did we get to create a development agreement.”**

Lynn Markland  
Fenton City manager

with us. We were not aware of when or what properties were purchased until they were filed with the assessor's office.”

Markland said the city always requires an escrow account be established by developers to pay for consultant fees during site plan reviews.

“Because of the complications of the site, the reviews took more time than usual,” he said. Markland said he is unsure at this time whether all of the consultants involved have com-

pleted billing the city for their work on the Riverview project.

“We received the latest bills on Friday, after we were notified about the problem,” he said.

Since August 2015, the Fenton City Council has approved the payment of \$19,416 to consultants for work on the LaJoice property.

“The (LaJoice) escrow account will be short about \$15,000 and we are checking with the city attorney to see if we can place

**See PROPERTY on 10A**

## PROFESSIONAL VIDEOS

Your business needs a video for your website, presentations, commercials, reception area, employee training, YouTube channel, social media and more.

**REEL★TIMES**  
TRI-COUNTY TIMES VIDEO PRODUCTION

Call 810-433-6822 to get your video started today.

### OUR WORK:

- The Laundry
- The State Bank
- Elections
- Beale Street BBQ
- Osaka Buffet
- McGarry Family Dentistry
- And more!



### TRI-COUNTY TIMES

#### HOURS:

Mon-Thurs: ..... 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Friday: ..... 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Saturday & Sunday ..... Closed



#### CONTACT INFORMATION

General Office ..... 810-629-8282  
Advertising ..... 810-629-8281  
Classifieds ..... 810-629-8194  
Circulation ..... 810-433-6797  
Hot Line ..... 810-629-9221  
Fax ..... 810-629-9227  
Email ..... news@tctimes.com  
Website ..... tctimes.com



The Tri-County Times is published semi-weekly by Rockman Communications, 256 N. Fenway Drive, Fenton, Michigan 48430. We serve the communities of: Fenton, Linden, Lake Fenton, Holly, Hartland, Byron, Gaines, Davisburg, Swartz Creek and Grand Blanc and the townships of: Fenton, Holly, Rose, Tyrone and Argentine. We reserve the right to accept or refuse any content and/or advertising submissions.



# Lottery is predatory

Deceptive advertising.  
Promoting gambling addiction.  
Preying on the young, the uneducated,  
the poor and the ignorant.

No, not the St. John's bingo night, I'm talking about the state lottery.

In 1903, the United States Supreme Court wrote that "...the lottery preys upon the hard earnings of the poor. It plunders the ignorant and simple."

Nothing has changed in the 111 years since that opinion was written except that the lottery has sunk its claws so deeply into the psyche of most state governments that they have become addicted to the teats of these cash cows.

Through lotteries, government exploits the most vulnerable of the

very citizenry it should be protecting — the poor, the young, the old and the ignorant. Over half of all lottery sales are purchased by only 5 percent of the population. And these 5 percent are the poorest members of society.

The highest grossing sales outlets are always located in the poorest neighborhoods. These are people who, through the hopelessness and despair of poverty, have abandoned any hope of prosperity or success through their own efforts, and instead have placed their hopes for a better life on the whims of a...(gasp!) numbered Ping Pong ball. Most have no concept of the odds of winning. The odds on the most recent powerball (I

refuse to capitalize it) were over 292 million to one. That would be about the odds of pulling your name out of a very large hat that contained the name of

every single man, woman and child in America.

There exists no reasonable argument for government-sponsored gambling. And not just sponsored, but aggressively promoted and encouraged. One can hardly open a newspaper, turn on the TV or drive on our highways without being exposed to slick, professionally created advertising campaigns encouraging citizens to gamble by purchasing lottery tickets.

That's absurd. Under that same twisted logic the state of Michigan should also sponsor advertising encouraging us to smoke highly taxed cigarettes and drink highly taxed liquor.

Our legislators are taking the easy way out. It's patently wrong to raise additional taxes through more lotteries as opposed to hard-nosed reduction of

current costs and waste — you know, like you and I have to do.

The paradox is that we are simply borrowing from the future. Habits are ingrained young. Every year we foster a new generation of compulsive gamblers — gamblers whose addiction will cost society far more in resources than any lottery ever generated. And the ever-widening gap represented by the rich getting richer and the poor getting poorer will continue to escalate. Gambling is destructive to society. This does not change simply because lazy legislators give it their dubious moral stamp of approval.

If I were King, I'd get rid of lotteries — all lotteries.

That would make us all winners.

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



**“Through lotteries, government exploits the most vulnerable of the very citizenry it should be protecting — the poor.”**

## Hot lines

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

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

**WE NEED MORE** retailers in Dibbleville and more residents shopping at the existing ones. Small, quaint shops are the life-blood of any successful downtown. The book store, the candy store and the antique store are irreplaceable. Let's support them.

**MY SOUTHERN PAPER'S** headline was '272,000 hires in December keeps the U.S. peaking.' Ever since I was a little guy, everyone hires people in the busy season of December and January. Sixty days later, they're gone. They're all temporary employees.

**WHEN OBAMA OUTLAWS** guns, only Obama will be protected for the rest of his life by men with guns.

**I'M TRYING TO** find the lady who visited Oakwood Cemetery a few years ago looking for the Latorette family. If you're reading this please reply. Thank you.

**I'M CALLING ABOUT** the so-called water poisoning in Flint. Why has it become the precedence of Michigan to straighten out what hasn't been

paid for by the residents of Flint who use the water? Those lines have been in there for probably 900 years. Why in the heck does everyone else have to pay for their problems?

**WHAT AN EMBARRASSMENT.** It's too bad our crying president doesn't shed a tear when our servicemen get killed. I didn't see him shed any tears over that.

**THE UAW COMPLAINS** about China

building a GM car, claiming the company is greedy. Since when are unions not greedy, especially the UAW?

**FREEDOM OF SPEECH** does not include calling for the shooting of police. This is advocating the violent overthrow of our government.

**WITH OVER 40** years working as a cop, firefighter and EMT, I've removed many bodies from cars. Speed caused about 90

percent of the fatalities. Slow down in bad weather. Nothing is important enough to risk your or other's lives.

**WHY CAN'T WE** get an office supply store here? I have to go to either Flint or Brighton to find one.

**YOU THINK OBAMA** did great things for the economy? You state that he 'saved GM from bankruptcy?' You do realize that GM did go through bankruptcy in 2009 and received two installments of TARP money, one from Bush and the second from Obama.

**TO THE EAST** Bay peeping Tom who walks his dog every day, and stops and stares for minutes at a time into the windows of several homes, please get a life. I'm getting sick of it. I will be videotaping you and calling the police.

**I WOULD LIKE** to thank the brave soldier who folded my grandfather's flag. You have nothing but love from us. The ceremony could not have been more perfect. May God bless all of you.

**DEMOCRATS HAVE CRITICIZED** Ted Cruz for his call for carpet-bombing ISIS. Perhaps they have forgotten that Roosevelt and Truman firebombed Dresden, Germany and Tokyo then A-bombed Hiroshima and Nagasaki. These actions killed a quarter million citizens. Sadly, in a war, it requires brutality to end brutality.

See **HOT LINE** throughout Times

Keep your family warm this winter

Let us make sure your furnace is working as efficiently as it should!

Call and schedule your furnace cleaning today!

• Sales & Service Installation • Servicing all makes & models • Heat pumps • Boilers • Furnaces

45th Anniversary 1969-2014

We pride ourselves on giving back to our local community & charitable organizations.

COMFORT COMES NATURALLY

**Dave Lamb**

HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING, INC.

409 E. Caroline, Fenton • 810-629-4946 • www.davelambheating.com

We're here 24/7! We Make House Calls!

EXTENDED WARRANTIES AVAILABLE

PROVIDING QUALITY PRODUCTS & SERVICE YOU CAN TRUST

FREE ESTIMATE & HEATING SYSTEM ANALYSIS

Don't call a salesman—Call a heating & cooling expert

Compiled by Hannah Ball, staff reporter

## What's your favorite winter activity?



"Cross-country skiing. I live on Loon Lake. Typically, I go on my lake. I've been doing it for 20 years. I just do the regular skiing."

— Brad Muehl  
Fenton Township



"I'll go ice skating. I'll try to learn how to snowboard. I like staying home and doing arts and crafts, cooking and making up recipes."

— Melissa Frith  
Madison Heights



"Flying to see my daughter in North Carolina where it's 30 degrees warmer. We just go down for a few days. They hardly ever get snow. When they do, the city closes down."

— Ardel Phillips  
Tyrone Township



"I have none. I tolerate winter. I walk and still go out and do things. I'm a three-season kind of person. I'm not a winter person at all."

— Ray Zavada  
Fenton



"Downhill skiing. I've been doing it forever. I like to go fast. It's the one thing I enjoy that's cold, especially when it's crappy out."

— Celene Howard  
Tyrone Township

## streettalk



## CREDIT UNION

Continued from Front Page

and is not headquartered in Arkansas, Delaware, South Dakota, Wyoming or the District of Columbia, it is likely a state-chartered credit union.

Calls and an email sent to Clarkston Brandon Community Credit Union CEO Donna Bullard were not answered as of press time on Friday.

However, a prepared statement from Bullard said, in part, "During the entirety of LaJoice's employment, Clarkston Brandon Community Credit Union has had

regular examinations and audits that were conducted in accordance with the Michigan Credit Union Act."

She also assured members that their assets were safe. "Membership accounts are insured by the NCUA to \$250,000, so all our members can rest assured that their assets are secure," said part of the prepared statement.

The statement was published in Wednesday's Times and can be seen in its entirety at tctimes.com.

"Generally speaking, the rules are about the same whether a credit union is state or federally chartered," said Tom Alter, chief of marketing for Genisys Credit Union, with a location in Fenton. "Their primary regulator is the Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Services (MDIFS)."

Locally, Dort Federal Credit Union

and Financial Plus Federal Credit Union, with locations in Fenton, and Metro North Federal Credit Union, with a location in Holly, are federal credit unions. The National Credit Union Association is the regulator for all federal credit unions and comes in at about the same time as the MDIFS to annually audit state-chartered credit unions.

In addition, most credit unions also use the services of an independent outside auditor. "They strictly come in to verify the accuracy of the (credit union's) financial statements," said Alter.

At Dort Federal Credit Union, NCUA examiners come in every year. "It's a very large scope exam," said Jenny Ludwigsen, director of marketing. "They look at the independent audit, portfolios, cyber security, etc. "The independent CPA audit focuses on the financial statements."

### SUMMARY

Local credit unions speak out about the safety and security of members' assets through a series of "checks and balances."

scratching our heads regarding how this has all happened. As an industry, this is shocking and not our standard of operation. Credit unions have a long history of being safe, secure and trusted institutions within our communities."

**“We’ve been scratching our heads regarding how this has all happened. As an industry, this is shocking and not our standard of operation.”**

**Jennifer Ludwigsen**  
Director of Marketing at  
Dort Federal Credit Union

## State takes over LaJoice's former credit union

### Conservatorship necessary to protect public interest

To protect membership and to ensure uninterrupted access to funds, the Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Services (DIFS) took action on Wednesday to conserve Clarkston Brandon Community Credit Union (CBCCU).

The credit union has become the focus of a \$20 million embezzlement case, reportedly carried out by Michael LaJoice, its former chief financial officer who had worked at the credit union for nearly 13 years. Following an audit on Jan. 4, LaJoice turned himself in to the Oakland County Sheriff's Office on Jan. 6, admitting to embezzling \$20 million over the past 12 years. He was charged with 14 counts of embezzlement and bond was set at \$1 million.

DIFS Director Patrick M. McPharlin issued an order that placed CBCCU into conservatorship and appointed the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA) as the conservator, effective immediately.

"All of the 9,400 CBCCU members should be assured that all of their deposits are protected and they will have continued, uninterrupted access to their funds," said McPharlin. "All Michigan state-chartered credit unions are insured by the NCUA for up to \$250,000 per depositor and sometimes more. CBCCU will continue regular hours under management of NCUA."

As the appointed conservator, NCUA will assume control of CBCCU in order to ensure its financial stability and safe and sound operation. DIFS and the NCUA will work together to address

issues related to the credit union's operations and financial condition while maintaining member services.

All credit unions with assets of \$5 million or more are subject to annual audits conducted by a certified public accountant or other professionally qualified individual. DIFS is required to examine credit unions at least once every 18 months. Each exam cycle focuses on different operations of a credit union. Operations exams rely on a required outside audit as part of the examination review.

Upon review of the current DIFS examination, the DIFS director determined conservatorship of CBCCU was necessary to protect the public interest.

"We remain focused on continuing our efforts to provide regulatory oversight of the insurance and financial services industries, including state-chartered credit unions. We ensure that the businesses within these industries are safe, sound, and entitled to the public's confidence," said McPharlin.

Members and customers of CBCCU with questions about this conservatorship should contact the Clarkston CBCCU branch office at (248) 625-2923.

Members with questions or concerns about action taken Wednesday are asked to call DIFS toll-free hotline at (877) 999-6442.

NCUA is the federal agency that charters and supervises federal credit unions and insures savings in federal and most state-chartered credit unions across the country through the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund (NCUSIF), a federal fund backed by the full faith and credit of the United States government.



# CATCH A GREAT LOAN RATE!

## AUTO, HOME & PERSONAL LOANS.

Check with us before You get your next loan

- Quick personal service
- Easy to apply
- Low rates, great terms & fewer fees

**Fenton Branch**  
15405 Silver Parkway  
810-714-9431

**Grand Blanc Branch**  
2343 E. Hill Road  
810-694-1301



25 Southeast Michigan branches,  
find more at [www.genisyscu.org](http://www.genisyscu.org).

**GENISYS**  
CREDIT UNION



## Home Again. Independent Again.

Our *Home Again* rehabilitation program combines innovative therapy approaches with expert therapists and hotel-like amenities. Our goal is to get you back home and back to maximum independence as quickly as possible. But, once you experience our homelike environment, chef-prepared meals and beautiful private suites, you may just want to stay! *For more information or to schedule a private tour, please call or stop by today!*

Follow us on your favorite social networks



  
**THE OAKS**  
AT WOODFIELD  
810-606-9950  
5370 E. Baldwin Road  
Grand Blanc, MI 48439  
theoaksatwoodfield.com

## Painless Dental Care

Everyone is welcome at Painless Dental Care. We strive to give everyone a personalized experience and would like to help you with the things that matter most to you about your dental care.



**Best value in the area!**



### New Patient Special

**\$89**

EXAM, NECESSARY X-RAYS AND CLEANING  
Expires 2/29/16, must be presented at time of service. TCT

### Dentures:

**\$799**

Expires 2/29/16, must be presented at time of service. TCT

### Crowns:

**\$599**

(porcelain fused to metal only)  
Expires 2/29/16, must be presented at time of service. TCT

### BRACES:

Traditional or Invisalign

**\$4,500**

Expires 2/29/16, must be presented at time of service. TCT

### In-Office Whitening

**\$249**

Expires 2/29/16, must be presented at time of service. TCT

Accept emergencies and walk-ins. Accepting most insurances.



**Painless Dental Care PLC**

Asma Razzak, DDS  
8305 South Saginaw Rd., Suite 9, Grand Blanc, MI 48439  
McCandlish Pointe South (Back of Building)  
painlessdental@gmail.com

New Hours starting in October!

Mon., Wed., Thurs. 9am - 5pm • Tues. 8am - 4pm • Sat. 9am - 2pm (Flexible Hours)

**810-344-9928**

www.mypainlessdentalcare.com

# School shooting suspects competent to stand trial

## Three teens charged with plot to carry out school shooting in Linden

By Tim Jagielo

tjagiolo@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795

**Flint**—On Wednesday, Ryan Stevens, 18, appeared in Genesee County District Court for the first time. Led in by sheriff's deputies, he was bound in chains to another inmate and wearing an orange jumpsuit.

Defense attorney Kenneth Karasick addressed Judge David Goggins, confirming that Stevens is competent to stand trial for the alleged shooting plot at Linden schools in October 2015.

In November 2015, the court ordered a forensic examination of both Stevens and alleged accomplice Lamarr Dukes, 15, of West Bloomfield. The defense attorney for their co-defendant, Kody Brewer, 15, of Wolverine Lake, did not request a competency exam.

### SUMMARY

■ Ryan Stevens, the 18-year-old suspect in an alleged plot to carry out a shooting at Linden schools appeared in court Wednesday for the first time. The court determined that he is competent to stand trial.

"We are ready to stipulate to the fact that he (Stevens) is indeed competent to stand trial," said Karasick. Dukes' attorney Jodi Hemmingway expressed the same opinion of her client.

Because of their ages, Dukes and Brewer did not appear in court. They remain lodged at the Genesee County Regional Detention Center. Stevens has been lodged in the Genesee County Jail since his arrest in October 2015.

The three teens have been charged with conspiracy to commit first-degree premeditated murder, a felony punishable by up to life in prison and false report or threat of terrorism, a felony punishable by up to 20 years in prison.

The three teens are believed to be responsible for an alleged plot to carry out a shooting at Linden schools at the end of October 2015.

Argentine Township police became aware of the alleged plot on Oct. 28, 2015, when the police department's school

See **TRIAL** on 7A

# ATTENTION HOLLY TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS

## TOWNSHIP CALLS ON RESIDENTS TO HELP CHART THE FUTURE OF HOLLY TOWNSHIP

### Township hosts open house/workshop in preparation for Master Plan update

**Holly Township, MI; January 1, 2015**---As Holly Township continues the process of updating its Master Plan, it is asking community members to participate in an open house/workshop to help clarify and implement the vision for the Township. The workshop will provide residents with the opportunity to make sure their voice is heard in the planning process.

For those who love Holly just as it is or for those who envision it becoming even better---this is your chance to come share your ideas, concerns, questions, and opinions. We want to have as many people participate in the workshop as possible, to make sure our Master Plan reflects the people who live, work, and play here.

The survey will include questions about many elements of life in Holly, including community character, natural feature preservation, trail ways, and economic development. As the guide for the future of Holly, the newly-updated Master Plan will influence future decision-making on development, infrastructure, budgeting, and conservation, among many other topics. Because of the importance of this document to so many facets of community life, public officials are urging residents to participate and voice their opinions.

We believe this will be an engaging and exciting opportunity for community members to participate in this very important process. It's important we plan ahead to address issues facing Holly in the coming years, and our updated Master Plan will be the tool we use to do that in a way that reflects the priorities of our residents. We need to know what they think so that the Plan best represents their vision."

The workshop will be held on February 2, 2016, at the North Oakland County Fire Authority (N.O.C.F.A.). 5051 Grange Hall Road at 6:30 P.M.

Please come and help chart the future of Holly Township.

For more information:

Karin Winchester, Clerk  
248-634-9331 Extension 301  
clerk@hollytownship.org



## CHILD PORN

Continued from Front Page

Stevens last fall, were bound over to circuit court, with Judge Archie Hayman.

The circuit court arraignment date has not been established.

The victim, 14, was 13 years old at the time of the alleged incident, which reportedly took place in October 2015 at the Red Roof Inn on Miller Road in Flint Township. She spoke as a witness for the prosecution.

Stevens was identified as recording the teen in a hotel room having sex with a 15-year-old male who attends Linden schools. "I asked him (Stevens) to stop (recording) and he didn't," said the teen.

As testimony was heard, Stevens sat beside his attorney, head and eyes down.

The courtroom was closed to the public. The prosecution requested that the victim's last name not be used and no recordings be taken in court.

Information about the cellphone video came to light while Argentine Township police were investigating a separate case in which Stevens allegedly made threats against students at Linden High School and Linden Middle School. (See related story on Stevens, Lamarr Dukes and Kody Brewer.)

Special Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Jan Rundles questioned the female victim about what took place. According to the victim, she and four other friends, including Stevens, were driven to a hotel room by a friend's mother. One of the teens, another 13-year-old female from Linden schools, paid for the room.

The alleged victim said she and the 15-year-old male were having sex on one of the two beds, with the others present. Stevens began filming the sexual act with the other 13-year-old female's phone. The victim told the court that she told Stevens to stop recording, but he wouldn't.

Because the victim was a minor, recording the video qualifies as produc-

ing, distributing and possessing child pornography.

Afterward, Stevens allegedly sent the video to his own phone, and forwarded the file to the 15-year-old male's phone as well. According to the victim, Stevens said he would delete the video, but he didn't. The victim was calm and clear while delivering her testimony.



Ryan Stevens

During cross-examination, Stevens' defense attorney Kenneth Karasick asked the victim if she stopped having sex while Stevens was filming. She said she didn't stop. Karasick pointed out that Stevens thought she was 16 at the time instead of 13.

Argentine Township Det. Doug Fulton, who took the initial statement from Stevens in October 2015, confirmed Steven's statement. In that statement, Stevens admitted to filming the sex act, and sending it on.

Fulton said he has seen the video on all three devices, and that it has been downloaded for forensic use. He said Stevens has been cooperative during the investigation.

After testimony from the alleged victim and Fulton concluded, Karasick and Rundles discussed the five counts against Stevens. Karasick agreed with all counts except count number one, which was essentially aiding and abetting in criminal sexual conduct. He argued that the act had begun before filming, and therefore wasn't encouraging the act itself.

Judge McCabe agreed with the prosecution, that Stevens' filming encouraged the illegal activity taking place, and bound Stevens over to circuit court on all five counts.

The 15-year-old male from Linden was arrested and remains lodged at the Genesee County Regional Detention Center. The 13-year-old female has not been charged. An older woman who reportedly booked the motel room for Stevens is not expected to be charged, as there is not sufficient evidence at this time to prove she knew what would happen in the room.

## FELONY COUNTS 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**

## TRIAL

Continued from Page 6A

resource officers received information that revealed a plan through social media to carry out a school shooting at Linden High School and Linden Middle School.

Prosecutors say the teens planned to kill a Linden student and carry out a school shooting after the female student posted something "derogatory" about Stevens on her Instagram account. Texts and instant messages between the three suspects on how to carry out the plot were later discovered by police on Stevens' phone.

Stevens also is facing additional sex-crime charges after prosecutors said they found a video, allegedly taken by Stevens, of a 15-year-old boy having sex with a 13-year-old girl at the Red Roof Inn in Flint Township. (See related story.)

## Fenton man dies in Friday morning crash

A 48-year-old Fenton man is dead after an early morning crash in Flint Township Friday morning. The accident closed I-75 for several hours. According to Lt. David Kaiser of the Michigan State Police-Flint Post, the crash occurred at about 2:50 a.m. The crash occurred on southbound I-75 just north of Maple Road in Flint Township, according to the MSP press release. The name of the victim was not released before press time Friday. A semi-tractor trailer was traveling southbound on I-75 when it was struck from the rear by a Jeep that was also traveling southbound. The Fenton man sustained fatal injuries. The driver of the tractor trailer was uninjured. A MSP traffic crash reconstructionist and motor carrier officer are assisting troopers investigating the crash. Lanes were re-opened shortly before 9 a.m. Visit [www.tctimes.com](http://www.tctimes.com) for further updates.

**TEXT YOUR  
HOT LINE**

**810-771-TEXT (8398)**

**THE COUNTY  
Times**



413 S. Leroy • Dibbleville  
810-629-0661

**TheFentonHouse.com**

Open: Mon-Sat at 11:30am  
Sunday at Noon

BUY ONE MEAL  
AT FULL PRICE,  
**GET SECOND AT  
1/2 PRICE**

Discount taken on lesser priced meal.  
Limit one 1/2 price meal per coupon.  
Expires 1/31/16

2 MEDIUM PIZZAS  
WITH 2 TOPPINGS FOR  
**\$13.99**

CARRY-OUT ONLY  
Sorry, 1/2 items count as 1 item,  
double cheese counts as 2 items.  
Limit one per coupon • Expires 1/31/16

FAMILY DEAL  
**\$2 OFF**  
REGULAR MENU PRICE

Baked Mostaccioli • Baked Lasagna  
"16" Cheese Pizza • "Chicken Dinner

May not be combined with other offers.  
Expires 1/31/16 \*Toppings are additional cost.  
\*\*Baked or BBQ. Includes Full Mostaccioli

**FREE  
BREAD**

WITH \$9 PURCHASE  
Carry-out only

Limit one per coupon • Expires 1/31/16  
May not be combined with other offers



**Dr. Juan Alvarado,**  
O.D., Diplomate,  
American Board of  
Optometry



**Dr. Cynthia L. Cupal,**  
O.D., F.A.A.O., Diplomate,  
American Board of  
Optometry

- MOST INSURANCES ACCEPTED
- LATE EVENING APPOINTMENTS
- WEEKEND APPOINTMENTS

**No Insurance • No Problem!**

**810-629-3070**

**FENTON**  
VISION CENTER

**212 W. Silver Lake Rd. Fenton**

[www.fentonvision.com](http://www.fentonvision.com)



# 3 GREAT COMPANIES ALL UNDER ONE ROOF



## FURNACE & AIR CONDITIONING SERVICE & REPLACEMENT

Over 50% off Normal Service Call

**SERVICE CALL SPECIAL**

**SPECIAL ONLY \$24.95** Normally \$59.00

\*Must mention coupon when scheduling. Offer valid on initial service call. One offer per visit. Cannot be combined with any other discounts. Valid Mon.-Fri 8a.m.-4p.m., Holidays excluded. Offer valid through 1/31/16. TCT

PHONES ANSWERED LIVE 24/7

**810-750-1958**

Licensed & Insured • Locally owned & operated

[www.onehourheatandair.com](http://www.onehourheatandair.com)



## ELECTRICAL PROBLEMS?

- Troubleshooting
- Surge Protection
- Lighting Fixtures
- Circuit Panels
- Home Re-Wiring
- Generator Hook-ups/Emergency Power
- Safety Inspections
- Code Violation Corrections
- Outlet / Plug Installation

- 100% Satisfaction Guaranteed
- Repair Guaranteed for up to 2 years
- Fully Equipped Big Red Trucks

Over 50% off Normal Service Call

**ELECTRICAL SERVICE CALL**

**SPECIAL ONLY \$24.95** Normally \$59.00

\*Must mention coupon when scheduling. Offer valid on initial service call and with repair only. One offer per visit. Cannot be combined with any other discounts. Valid Mon.-Fri 8a.m.-4p.m., Holidays excluded. Offer valid through 1/31/16. TCT

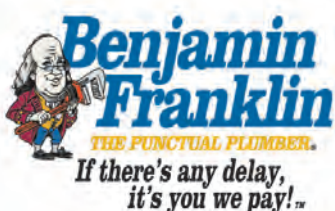
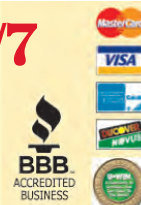
PHONES ANSWERED LIVE 24/7

**1-888-8-SPARKY** (1-888-877-2759)

**810-750-1858 • 810-694-4800 • 810-632-9300**

Licensed & Insured • Locally owned & operated

[www.mistersparky.com](http://www.mistersparky.com)



Water Softeners  
Sales & Service

## PLUMBING PROBLEMS?

- Copper Re-Piping
- Gas Line Installation
- Hose Bibs
- Leaks
- Sump Pumps
- Pressure Tanks
- Tankless Hot Water Heaters
- Video Inspection
- Water Heaters

- 100% Satisfaction Guarantee
- Fully-Equipped Big Blue Trucks for Same-Day Service
- No Surprises We Charge by the Job not by the Hour

Over 50% off Normal Service Call

**PLUMBING SERVICE CALL**

**SPECIAL ONLY \$24.95** Normally \$59.00

\*Must mention coupon when scheduling. Offer valid on initial service call and with repair only. One offer per visit. Cannot be combined with any other discounts. Valid Mon.-Fri 8a.m.-4p.m., Holidays excluded. Offer valid through 1/31/16. TCT

PHONES ANSWERED LIVE 24/7

**1-866-770-7774**

**248-674-7107 • 248-855-1707 • 248-685-7774**

Licensed & Insured • Locally owned & operated

[www.benfranklinplumbing.com](http://www.benfranklinplumbing.com)







TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

At Central Elementary in Linden, third-grade students work through a handwriting activity in November. The school board recently voted on cost saving measures to cover a projected \$1.8 million loss over the next three years.

## \$1.8 million loss forcing changes at Linden schools

■ Losing 253 students is cause of revenue shortage

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Linden High School students will no longer be on a trimester schedule starting with the 2016/2017 school year.

At its January meeting, the Linden Board of Education voted 6-1 to revert to semesters as part of its cost containment plan to help the schools deal with a projected future loss of 253 students, which is a loss of \$1.82 million over the next three years.

Steve Murphy, board vice president, cast the dissenting vote.

"It's cost savings and it's not detrimental to our students' education," said Board President Scott Maker. "It's in line with the vast majority of schools in the state."

The board estimates reverting to semesters could save \$82,000 to \$328,000 over the next six-plus years. Personnel would be reduced by approximately one to four teachers and less money would be spent on curriculum supplies. Students will have fewer academic options.

Maker voted in favor of the change.

"We've got three board members with education backgrounds," he said. "One is working as a teacher right now and they support it. I supported it with what I saw with my kids."

Trustee Jason Rowden teaches personal finance at Howell High School.

Maker said they had to make a quick decision because of the amount of work counselors have to complete with class offerings and scheduling. "Teachers have to adjust their pacing guide. It forces them to do a lot of work to change up their tempo," Maker said.

At public forums, many parents

voiced their objections at switching back to semesters, saying students will have fewer options and the board isn't considering academia when making these decisions.

At the Oct. 21 board meeting, a few parents and educators spoke against moving to semesters. One said she wanted Linden to be more competitive by offering more class options.

### YOUNG FIVES PROGRAM

The board also unanimously voted to allow administration to conduct research on whether parents would be interested in a full-day Young Fives program. Currently, the school receives half of the \$7,391 FTE (full-time equivalent) because it is a half-day program, but a full-day program would allow the school to receive the full amount.

"Moving to a semester schedule and offering Young Five programming options to our students should help in providing some cost containment measures, as well as continued positive educational experiences," said Interim Superintendent Russ Ciesielski in a press release.

**“It's cost savings. It's in line with the vast majority of schools in the state.”**

**Scott Maker**  
Linden Board of  
Education president

### SUMMARY

■ Linden Community Schools is attempting to deal with a projected loss of \$1.82 million over the next three years, due mostly to decreased enrollment. The high school will revert to semesters next year to save money. A full-day Young Fives program could also increase the amount received in state aid per pupil.

Maker said the decision to have the full-day program is ultimately the parents' choice, and many area schools offer a full-day program or both full day and half day.

"We approved the administration to explore the Young Fives offering full day and half day if there's enough parents interested in a full-day program," he said. "If we had enough families interested, we would allow the administration to go forward and have the full-day program."

He said they'd like to provide more education for more students if possible.

The board is still discussing possible elementary school reconfigurations to save more money.

# BUY ONE DINNER ENTRÉE & GET THE SECOND FOR 1/2 OFF

\*MUST BE OF EQUAL OR LESSER VALUE

FIRST ANNUAL  
**RESTAURANT**  
*Week*  
FENTON, MI

Sunday, January 17th  
-through-  
Saturday, January 23rd

PIZZERIA & RESTAURANT  
**Johnny's**

1492 N. Leroy • Fenton  
**(810) 629-5060**  
Sunday Noon - 10pm, Monday - Thursday 11am-10pm  
Friday & Saturday 11am-11pm

## Restaurant Week **SPECIAL**

Sun | January 17th - Sat. | January 23rd

**\$25**  
ANY 2 SANDWICHES OR  
BURGERS ON OUR MENU  
PLUS  
CHOICE OF BARN DIP OR  
SQUARE TAILS

**THE BARN**  
SPORTS • FOOD • SPIRITS

715 Torrey Road | Fenton  
**810-354-8889 | www.thebarnfenton.com**

Hours: Mon.-Wed. 11 a.m. to 12 a.m. | Thurs.-Fri. 11 a.m. to 2 a.m.  
Sat. 9 a.m. to 2 a.m. | Sun. 9 a.m. to 12 a.m.





## ASK THE MECHANIC

Chris Wilkinson,  
Certified Mechanic

**Q:** I have a '09 Chevy Silverado 2500 HD and whenever I open the door with the key in, it pings. I took out a speaker on the driver side door and I still hear it. I know it's in a black box, but I can't find the box any suggestions? — Tyler

**A:** Tyler, I think what you are asking me is how to disable the chime for when the key is left in the ignition. If this is not it, then please write back and give me a better description of what you need help with. As a professional mechanic, I do not tamper with safety devices such as the chime modules unless they are not functioning properly. Even then it is usually something you need time, wiring diagrams and repair info to diagnose properly. These systems are made up of several components on today's vehicles that need to properly communicate with each other and can be very difficult to diagnose even as simple of a function as they may seem.

Do you have a question that you would like to have answered?

E-mail it to me at:

askthemechanic@wilkinsonautorepair.com

### NEW LOCATION!



NOW LOCATED AT  
605 N. SAGINAW  
HOLLY, MI  
NEXT TO CARQUEST  
AUTO PARTS  
(NORTH OF OUR  
OLD LOCATION)

248-634-5730

www.wilkinsonautorepair.com

Hours: Mon-Fri: 8am-6pm, Sat: 9am-3pm

Check our website  
and coupon ads for specials.

# County Prosecutor expects more charges

■ **Feds also investigating LaJoice, may charge him with additional crimes**

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Oakland County Prosecutor Jessica Cooper expects Michael LaJoice will face more charges.

LaJoice of Tyrone Township is currently lodged in the Oakland County Jail on 14 counts of embezzlement, after he turned himself in to authorities on Jan. 6, saying he embezzled \$20 million from the credit union where he worked for nearly 13 years. Bond was set at \$1 million.

"I can't guess in terms of what will be uncovered and what will not be uncovered. It is a long and involved process," she said.

Oakland County has been working with the federal government during the investigation.

"When you're talking about millions of dollars it normally stays in federal system," she said. However, the government gave

Oakland County the case because the county moves more quickly.

"We're required under the statute system to move quickly," she said.

"There's a whole different set of statutes and rules and regulations between federal and state systems. We'll cooperate to get to the bottom of it."

It's an unusual and rare case for the county. "I don't think we have any history of someone confessing to something of this magnitude,"

Cooper said. "I don't think the sheriff's department has had anyone walk in and say 'I've embezzled \$20 million.'"

The fact that he turned himself in does not prove he's guilty.

Even though he walked in and confessed, he has the same rights to a fair trial and to plead guilty or not guilty, Cooper explained.

"It's going to involve a lot of motions and a little bit of complexity. We really don't know the extent of this until all of

the auditors get done with it," she said.

LaJoice could face charges from both the county and the federal government if each system tries him on different crimes,

which is possible because the Oakland County's statute of limitations on this crime go back six years, but the federal government's is longer.

According to 18 U.S. Code 656, the statute of limitations for theft, embezzlement, or misapplication by a bank officer is 10 years, according to

federalcharges.com.

LaJoice admitted to embezzling for the past 12 years.

"There will be so many other charges the federal government will come up with," she said. "There are charges that the federal government could bring that we couldn't bring."

LaJoice's defense attorney Michael Manley petitioned the court on Tuesday to have a forensic evaluation conducted on LaJoice.



Michael LaJoice

## PROPERTY

Continued from Page 3A

the amount owing on the tax bill such as we do with unpaid water and sewer bills," Markland said.

Markland said neither the city nor the DDA was financially involved in this project and it was not planned to built on city-owned property like the Cornerstone building and Fenton Fire Hall Restaurant.

"With both of those projects we had

a financial review of the developers by an independent CPA (certified public accountant)," said Markland.

"We also had development agreements with those developers," he added. "This project was planned for property that was privately owned and privately financed, therefore, we had no opportunity to review Mr. LaJoice's finances nor did we get to create a development agreement."

"As I understand it there are some busi-

ness entities and charities that are owed money," Markland continued. "It's an unfortunate turn of events, however, it's a great location, the former Topps building has been demolished and it is now development ready."

"I would expect that there will be interest in the property once it is available," Markland added. "We have other projects pending in the downtown and we will continue to move forward redeveloping it into a vibrant and walkable area."

## NOW ENROLLING! K-8 and Young 5's



- 17 Years of Excellence
- MDE Reward School (top 5% ranking in the state)
- CMU School of Excellence
- Character education in all grades
- Daily science K-8 and Young 5's
- Music K-8 and Young 5's
- Sports and clubs for all students
- Tuition free
- Tours are available by appointment only during regular school hours

# Make the Choice!



## 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](http://www.hollyacademy.org).) A New Parent Information Meeting will be held at the Academy 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 lottery 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.



# Chassé owner almost always topped list of local donors

■ Many charities scrambling to fill donation commitments made by Michael LaJoyce

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Local charities and non-profit groups are reeling from the sting of hypocrisy, learning that Michael LaJoyce's financial support of their projects and events allegedly came from embezzled funds, rather than his own wallet.

Sharing office space temporarily with the Fenton Regional Chamber of Commerce, LaJoyce Properties sponsored many of the chamber's most popular events through LaJoyce's business, Chassé Ballroom & Latin Dance Studio.

LaJoyce's corporate sponsorship through the chamber amounted to \$5,617 in 2015, according to Lee Mitchell, membership coordinator.

"His last sponsorship was as Main Event Sponsor for Jinglefest in December (2015)," said Mitchell. "He also held sponsorships for Expo, Taste in Fenton, Linden Easter Event and the annual Golf Scramble, and supported the Business & Community Guide with a large ad."

Larger non-profit groups that counted on his support in the past are now scrambling to fill this year's sponsorship lists.

Chamber Executive Director Shelly Day wants to assure everyone in the community that the loss of support through LaJoyce's sponsorships will in no way harm the chamber. "My one message is that we have so many wonderful members who want to step up to help," said Day.

"The chamber is definitely not in any dire straits because of the loss of this revenue," she added. "We have several other very large corporate sponsors, as well as other levels of sponsorship. With 508 members now, we're in a very positive financial position."

From Shard Financial Services' "Back Pack Night" (raising funds to end childhood hunger through the Food Bank of Eastern

Michigan) to "Pink Night" ("Making Strides Against Breast Cancer fund-raiser), LaJoyce was almost always at the top of the list of local donors.

"He (LaJoyce) had committed, but hadn't paid for yet, the Title Sponsor for Back Pack Night," said event organizer Margie Shard. "He also used to match the funds raised by the Silent Auction. Last year, he gave us a total of \$30,000. Those dollars alone financed food to feed 300 kids."

David Burn of DM Burr Heating & Cooling in Flint is the event's new Title Sponsor donating \$10,000. As of this week, many businesses in the community were stepping up to let Shard know that this event, which raised more than \$115,000 last year, will be successful again this year, on Thursday, March 3.

"We, as a community, have a lot of lessons to learn from this," said Shard. "We need to know there are checks and balances in our organizations and businesses. No one would've expected that a credit union (Clarkston Brandon Community Credit Union, where LaJoyce was employed as chief financial officer) wouldn't have checks and balances in place. This

doesn't represent all the great credit unions we have in Genesee County."

Pink Night, hosted by Financial Plus Credit Union and the community-at-large, benefitted from LaJoyce's \$15,000 title sponsorship, which helped the event raise a net of nearly \$70,000 in 2015.

"Pink Night is bigger than the financial support of any single sponsor," said Olga Long, senior vice president of Financial Plus Credit Union. "Although the recent news regarding Michael LaJoyce is unfortunate, the Pink Night Committee's focus will continue to be helping to find a cure. We have many long-time sponsors and supporters and we look forward to hosting another successful Pink Night on Thursday, Oct. 6. We have some exciting new plans in the works and are confident

our supporters will be thrilled with the event enhancements."

Whaley Children's Center in Flint was another recipient of LaJoyce's financial generosity.

LaJoyce's home parish, St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in Fenton, is another group he supported as a member since he was in kindergarten, according to an Our Town interview with LaJoyce in the Times on Feb. 27, 2015. He became well known for buying the first-place pie at Applefest every year, shelling out \$4,000 for the privilege, for the past five years.

"I believe he picked charities to support that meant something to him," added Shard. "Even if it wasn't his money to give.

**"I believe he picked charities to support that meant something to him. Even if it wasn't his money to give."**

**Margie Shard**  
Organizer of Back Pack Night

## CRIMINAL DEFENSE, CIVIL LITIGATION & ESTATE PLANNING



YOUR HOMETOWN ATTORNEY

**FREE**  
First Consultation\*



LAW OFFICES OF  
**K.C. BARAN, P.C.**

508 W. Silver Lake Rd. • Fenton  
**810-936-5211 • 888-505-7851**

We are a debt relief agency.  
We help people file for bankruptcy relief under the bankruptcy code.

**www.kcbaranpc.com**

\*for first 30 minutes.

## YOUR SMILE MATTERS!

By: Dr. Steven Sulfaro

### DENTAL IMPLANTS

Dental implants have revolutionized the world of dentistry. In the past, when a tooth was lost, the only two choices for replacement was either a removable partial denture or a fixed (doesn't come out) three unit bridge. Both options take weeks to complete with the patient often having to suffer the embarrassment of having a missing tooth until treatment is finished. Now thanks to implant technology and minimally invasive surgical techniques, an implant retained crown is often the treatment of choice for tooth replacement. A young lady presented to my office with a badly decayed and abscessed tooth. The tooth was non-restorable and needed to be removed. She was horrified at the prospect of having a missing tooth in her smile. Using minimally invasive implant surgical techniques I was able to painlessly remove the tooth and immediately place an implant with a temporary crown: no missing tooth in her smile! Thanks to minimally invasive implants surgical techniques I can offer my patients an implant retained crown at **LESS COST** than a 3-unit fixed bridge. If you have decayed, missing, or broken teeth contact my office to set up your **FREE** consultation to see if dental implants are right for you.

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



CREATING BEAUTIFUL SMILES FOR OVER 20 YEARS

607 N. Saginaw St. Holly  
Call TODAY For Your Appointment  
248-634-4671  
**www.sulfarofamilydentistry.com**

**COMPARE**  
VISA  
BALANCE  
TRANSFER  
OFFERS

RATE	OTHER VISA OFFERS	FINANCIAL Plus CREDIT UNION PLATINUM VISA
BALANCE TRANSFER FEE	0% APR	1.99% <sup>††</sup> APR
TOTAL	+ 3%	+ 0%
	3%	1.99% <sup>††</sup> APR

**THROUGH 3/31/2017**

**VISA Balance Transfer**

**APPLY TODAY!**  
(800) 748-0451

**HURRY, OFFER EXPIRES 3/31/16**

**AFTER 3/31/2017, APR WILL BE 10.50%, 14.50% OR 18%\***

(800) 748-0451  
[www.financialpluscu.org](http://www.financialpluscu.org)

**FINANCIAL Credit Union Plus**

\*Example above assumes that the balance will be paid off within 12 months of balance transfer. Annual Percentage Rate (APR) is calculated and applied over 12 months and balance transfer fees at competing financial institutions are typically added to the account balance upon transfer. The current promotional APR on balance transfers is fixed at **1.99% APR** on all balance transfers completed by 3/31/16. The promotional APR is good through the billing cycle ending 3/31/17. After that your APR will be 10.50%, 14.50%, or 18.00%, based on your creditworthiness. The current variable Cash Advance APR as of 1/1/16 is **10.50%, 14.50% or 18.00%**. The current variable Annual Percentage Rate for Purchases as of 1/1/16 is **7.50%, 10.50%, or 14.50%**. All APR's are based on your creditworthiness and will vary with the market based on the Prime Rate. International Transaction Fee: 3% of each transaction in U.S. dollars. Penalty fees: Late Payment Fee - up to \$25; Returned Payment Fee - up to \$27. The Penalty APR - 18% if you fail to make a payment within 60 days of the due date, or if your balance exceeds your credit limit and you do not repay the amount by which the balance exceeds your limit within 60 days. Equal opportunity lender. All loans subject to approval.

Fenton  
Right to Life  
is holding a

Please join us  
**Friday, January 22**  
at 7:00 pm

**Candlelight Vigil**

**First Baptist Church of Fenton**  
860 N. Leroy Street, Fenton, MI 48430

For more information please visit [www.FentonRightToLife.org](http://www.FentonRightToLife.org)

This is the anniversary of Roe vs. Wade and organizations throughout the country will be having vigils on this day.  
This is a family friendly service, children are welcome.





# JOHN WENTWORTH

REAL ESTATE GROUP

**#1 RE/MAX Agent**  
**#1 Waterfront Sales**  
**in Genesee County 2011-2015**

Call John today for a Free Market Analysis! (810) 955-6600



3295 W Silver Lake Rd. Fenton

WENTWORTHWATERFRONT.COM

*Sandy Beach*



**15145 Pinewood Trl**  
150' Frontage, 5 Beds, 4.5 Baths, 8,000+ Sq. Ft. w/ W/O & Private Sandy Beach, Backs up to Horse Facilities  
**\$1,990,000**

**SILVER LAKE**



**6189 South Drive**  
3.5 Acres, 80' Frontage, 3 Bedrooms, 1.5 Bathrooms & 1,819 Sq. Ft. with Partially Finished Basement  
**\$289,900**

*Up North Cottage*



**7527 Cedar Lake**  
50' Frontage, 2 Bedrooms, 2 Full Bathrooms, Large Deck & 1,332 Sq. Ft. Perfect Up North Cottage  
**\$149,999**

**CEDAR LAKE**



**17191 Holly Shores Dr**  
Frontage on Shiawassee River, Many New Updates, 3 Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms, 1,500 Sq. Ft. & Fruit Trees  
**\$119,000**

**SHIAWASSEE RIVER**

JOHNWENTWORTHGROUP.COM

*10 Acres*



**8425 Grovemont Court**  
5 Bedrooms, 4 Full, 2 Half Bathrooms, 4,182 Sq. Ft. & Finished Walkout with Wet Bar & Exerise Room  
**\$849,999**

**GRAND BLANC SCHOOLS**



**6333 McCandlish Road**  
10 Acres, 5 Bedrooms, 6 Bathrooms & 8,000+ Sq. Ft., Stunning Landscaping with Pond & Working Greenhouse  
**\$799,999**

**GRAND BLANC SCHOOLS**



**2669 Pineview Trail**  
1.5 Acres, 7 Bedrooms, 6 Bathrooms, 6,200+ Sq. Ft. with Finished Walkout Basement & 2nd Kitchen, 3 Car Garage  
**\$579,999**

**BRIGHTON SCHOOLS**

Price Reduced!

*7+ Acres*



**5240 Warwick Woods Trail**  
Land Contract Available, High Demand Warwick Woods Sub, 4 Beds, 2 Full, 2 Half Baths & 3,660 Sq. Ft.  
**\$399,999**

**GRAND BLANC SCHOOLS**



**3052 S State Road**  
7+ Acres of Land, Circle Driveway, 3 Beds, 2.5 Bathrooms, 4,208 Sq. Ft. w/ Finished Basement & 40x30 Pole Barn  
**\$349,999**

**DAVISON SCHOOLS**



**5056 Harp Drive**  
1.5+ Acres, Beautiful Rustic Interior, 3 Bedrooms, 2.5 Bathrooms, 2,150 Sq. Ft. & Views of Pine Lake  
**\$249,999**

**LINDEN SCHOOLS**



**2475 W Thompson Road**  
Over 1 Acre of Land, Open Floor Plan, Updated Roof, 3 Bedrooms, 2 Baths, 1,300 Sq. Ft. & Storage Shed  
**\$147,900**

**LAKE FENTON SCHOOLS**

CLIENT TESTIMONIAL

*John is an excellent person to work with. He keeps his word and is very responsive on all details and mannerisms. Very expedient and aggressive on selling your home. John knows how to make it happen - now. Staff is very well disciplined and informed. Their process is very well executed and ideal for the homeowner. Would recommend to any and all for Real Estate issues.*

RECENTLY PENDING & SOLD HOMES

**Sold in 3 Days!**



**Linden - \$174,999**

**Pending in 141 Days!**



**Lake Fenton - \$519,000**

**Pending in 18 Days!**



**Fenton - \$275,000**

**Pending in 8 Days!**



**Burton - \$137,000**

**Pending in 28 Days!**



**Fenton - \$169,999**

**Sold in 80 Days!**



**Linden - \$224,999**

**Sold in 39 Days!**



**Fenton - \$474,999**

**Sold in 165 Days!**



**Fenton - \$575,000**

**Pending 2 in Days!**



**Fenton - \$359,000**

**Pending in 25 Days!**



**Lake Fenton - \$399,900**

OPEN HOUSES! SUNDAY 1-3PM

**FENTON SCHOOLS**



**1331 S HOLLY ROAD, FENTON**  
37 Acres, Frontage on 2 Private Lakes - Wilson & Trentor Lake, 5 Bedrooms, 5 Bathrooms & 6,000 Finished Sq. Ft. A Duck Hunter's Dream!  
**\$699,999**

**HOLLY**



**8864 MILFORD ROAD, HOLLY**  
20 Acres, 5 Bedrooms, 4 Bathrooms, 4,805 Sq. Ft. with Finished Walkout & Separate Guest House  
**\$640,000 - with 20 Acres**  
**\$589,000 - with 10 Acres**

CAN'T FIND IT? BUILD IT!



**Silver Lake - \$350,000**  
370' Frontage on Private Peninsula - Chateaux Du Lac



**Silver Lake - \$250,000**  
Silver Lake Waterfront Last Lot! .6 Acres



**Loon Lake - \$125,000**  
130' Frontage on Loon Lake - Corner Lot, .63 Acres



**Walnut Shores - \$46,500**  
2 Lots, Over 2.7 Acres - Build Your Dream Home!



**Timber Creek - \$31,500**  
1.64 Acres to Build Your Dream Home - Beautiful Views

COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES



**4005 Grand Blanc Rd - \$74,999**  
Lease Opportunities - New Carpet & 1,576 Sq. Ft. - Great Business Opportunity!



**8393 Silver Lake Rd - \$115,000**  
Lobdell Lake Frontage, Perfect for Retail or Doctor Office & 1,843 Sq. Ft.

CORNERSTONE CONDOS



1 Penthouse, One 2 Bed & one 1 Bed Unit For Sale  
Call John Wentworth for more information! (810) 955-6600





# Fenton, Holly, Linden leaders make 2016 'forecast'

■ Growth and development continue to be a theme for upcoming year

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

**Fenton** — What a difference five years makes. This new period of growth and development after Michigan's recession was a common theme among tri-county area government leaders at the 2016 Chamber Forecast Breakfast on Wednesday morning.

The Fenton Regional Chamber of Commerce sponsored the event, drawing a record crowd of about 80 to the Fenton Community and Cultural Center.

## FENTON

Fenton City Manager Lynn Markland said many new businesses will be opening this year, including Ulta (cosmetics), Famous Footwear and Maurice's (women's wear) near Target, La Marsa Mediterranean Cuisine, Cancun Mexican Restaurant, and an office building on Silver Lake



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Fenton Township Clerk Bob Krug (lower) hands off the microphone to Will Stiverson after discussing Fenton Township news during the Fenton Regional Chamber of Commerce 2016 Forecast Breakfast. The annual event was held at the Fenton Community and Cultural Center Wednesday morning.

Road, developed by Wilson Lahoud.

These construction projects will be completed or started this year in the city:

- Silver Lake Road bridge repair begins

Monday, Jan. 25 with the replacement of the water main under the Shiawassee River. Completion is expected before July.

- Extension of Caroline Street, opening

to the Jack R. Winegarden Library on Walnut Street.

- Downtown mixed-use building, located north of Fenton United Methodist Church, now is in the process of financial review, then site plan review. "We hope to start the building this year," said Markland.

Other projects include:

- Thanks to an anonymous \$10,000 gift to the city, a dog park is planned within city limits.
- Support of the non-motorized trails project linking Fenton, Linden/Argentine areas. "We're working with LAFF (Linden-Argentine-Fenton-Lake Fenton) Pathways, Ron Stack and Vic Lukasavitz to bring bike trails to the area," said Markland. "The first trail will be between the cities of Fenton and Linden, then a whole system of trails will follow."
- A new Arts and Culture Commission, with the Downtown Development Authority's goal of maximizing the use of the newly renovated and expanded Fenton Community and Cultural Center.
- The re-appointment of a Museum Board for the maintenance and upkeep of the A.J. Phillips Museum.

## LINDEN

Linden Mayor David Lossing presented new projects for the city of Linden in 2016, including:

- The Mill building repair. "We've engaged an architect and we're putting together a planning committee, starting the grant process and fundraisers for the badly-needed repair of this iconic Linden building," said Lossing.
- Working with other communities to support the National Heritage Water Trailway, maximizing the use of the Shiawassee River.
- The second round of Gus Macker (3 on 3 basketball tournaments) will be coming to Linden again this summer.
- Final report coming next month from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) regarding clean up of the gas contamination problem downtown.
- Continued support of the non-motorized trail proposed by LAFF Pathways.
- Opening of art gallery on Broad Street by David and Suzanne Lossing.

## HOLLY

"Five years ago, downtown Holly was half empty and now it's at 100-percent capacity," said Village President Ryan Bladzick, who credited the DDA and its director Andy Potter for the success of business development in Holly.

See **FORECAST** on 16A

# TRUSTWORTHY

FOR 100 YEARS

*trust·wor·thy* adj.  
*'able to be relied on  
 as honest or truthful.*

To Auto-Owners Insurance and your local independent agent, being trustworthy means that we will be there when you need us most - just like we have been for 100 years.

**H**  
**Hartland**  
 INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.  
 Hartland • Highland • Hamburg • Flushing

2532 Old US 23 | P.O. Box 129 | Hartland  
 810-632-5161 | [www.hartlandinsurance.com](http://www.hartlandinsurance.com)

LIFE • HOME • CAR • BUSINESS

**Auto-Owners**  
 INSURANCE

## THIS WEEK'S INSERTS

- READ** • Alpine Marketplace
- CVS Pharmacy
  - D&W Windows & Sunrooms
  - Direct TV
- READ** • Holly Foods
- Rite Aid
  - Sears Hometown Stores
  - Target
- READ** • VG's
- Walmart

To have your insert/flyer viewable online, call Gail Grove at 810-433-6822.



# Keeping the faith

■ Traditional churches use creativity and outreach to keep young people involved

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

One of the challenges that traditional churches have in today's society is keeping young people involved in faith-based activities.

Today's Millennial generation, defined as young people from late teens to early 30s, are less likely to say that religion is very important to them, according to recent statistics from Pew Research Center.

The politics of religion, the growth of the Internet in sharing beliefs and non-belief and a distrust in many mainstream institutions are just a few of the reasons that are cited for this "lack of faith" by young people.

However, many local churches find that today's youth are looking for the same love and acceptance as they always have.

"We're trying to create an environment where relationships and a sense of community are more important than a set of rules, of 'don'ts,'" said Father Jim Rolph, associate pastor at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in Fenton.

He credits the active involvement of 24-year-old youth minister Kyle Ulrich for the growth in youth, college and young adult ministries at St. John's.

Ulrich, who grew up in the St. John's parish, reaches out to youth with the Gospel spoken in modern-day terms so that kids can apply them today.

By moving youth group activities to Sunday night after Mass, it gets them into the doors of the church and allows them to connect what they hear in church with what's happening in the youth ministry, according to Ulrich.

He tries to lead kids by example with acts of service in working with clothing giveaways and soup kitchen work in Flint,

as well as mission trips, where kids can put their faith into action.

Another ministry, led by Dan Medich, focuses on young adults in their 20s and 30s. Called ID 916, its name reflects St. Paul's Letters to the Corinthians, imploring Christians to preach the Gospel out in the world as "intentional disciples."

At Hope Lutheran Church in Linden, youth volunteer Kim Colmer says that

"kids need God more than ever," and hopes to plant the seed of faith through a variety of programs.

Surrounded by three schools in the Linden school district, Hope Lutheran has created mentoring opportunities at the schools, partnering with them to provide relationship mentoring, not evangelizing.

"A trained mentor is

paired one-on-one with a student at Central Elementary, with parental permission, and once a week they spend an hour together talking and building a relationship," said Pastor Jim Rolf of Hope Lutheran Church. The program has now grown to include Linden Middle School, which requested it after seeing the success of the program at Central (Elementary School)."

Behind the scenes, each of these paired mentoring relationships also has a prayer person, who prays every week for these relationships. "They don't ever meet the child," said Colmer. "But it appears to be working."

Colmer also started "Oasis," a group for middle school students, who come to the church every Thursday by the school district's bus to hang out in a fun, safe place. Volleyball, foosball, table tennis, arts and crafts and playing pool are just a few of the activities kids enjoy.

Rolf also visits Linden High School every month, sets up a table with a big bowl of candy and asks a "question of the day." "We have about 300 kids who stop at the table to talk," said Rolf. "We can't evangelize, but we can talk. If the kids bring up the topic of church or faith, I can respond."

**“We’re trying to create an environment where relationships and a sense of community are more important than a set of rules, of ‘don’ts.’”**

**Father Jim Rolph**

Associate Pastor at St. John's in Fenton

## ‘Messy Church’ increases teen attendance



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | HANNAH BALL

Gabriella Pennington, 14 (center) and Arthur Pennington, 12, both Lake Fenton students, paint small boxes at St. Jude's Episcopal Church Sunday night as part of the Messy Church program.

## ■ St. Jude's Episcopal Church creates fun atmosphere for teens at more convenient time

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

**Fenton** — Aside from the usual routine of going to church and listening to the pastor, members of St. Jude's Episcopal Church in Fenton have started to do more involved activities on Sunday night, fostering conversation between the older and younger students, as part of an international program called "Messy Church."

One of the goals of Messy Church is to increase teen attendance, which is exactly what the church aimed to accomplish.

Rev. Heather Barta, interim priest, and Kris Forsyth, director of Christian Formation, started the program at their church because teen attendance was low. "We were having light teen attendance so we decided to try

something else," Forsyth said.

Starting at 5 p.m. on Sunday nights, after having dinner, story time, and singing songs, members participate in activities, such as arts and crafts or scavenger hunts. One Sunday they blessed pets like, dogs, cats, and turtles.

Messy Church started in England and has two requirements: food and stories.

The program started in September at St. Jude's and the church has seen an increase in teen attendance. "Older kids interact with the younger kids and build relationships," she said. "We have students in all different school districts. They get to know each other."

Barta said the 5 p.m. slot was a more convenient time for the younger crowd.

"Teens don't want to get up at 9 on a Sunday," she said. "It really grows the core of the youth."

On average, about 12 to 15 teens attend each Sunday night.

"Pretty overwhelming we have participation. People are happy to come, happy to be here," Barta said. "Teens who weren't participating are happy to be here."

**“Teens don’t want to get up at 9 on a Sunday. It really grows the core of the youth.”**

**Heather Barta**

St. Jude's Episcopal Church  
interim priest

## Big enough to serve all your needs... Small enough to care.



**Sharp Funeral Homes has been serving local families for generations.**

**OUR FAMILY:**  
Michael T. Scully,  
Jennifer Sharp Scully,  
Roger L. Sharp,  
Stephanie Sharp Foster  
and Roger L. Sharp II



sharpfuneralhomes.com

### Fenton Chapel

1000 Silver Lake Rd. • Fenton  
Michael T. Scully, Manager  
**(810) 629-9321**

### Linden Chapel

209 E. Broad St. • Linden  
Stephanie Sharp Foster, Manager  
**(810) 735-7833**

Two additional locations:  
8138 Miller Rd. in Swartz Creek  
and 6063 Fenton Rd.  
in Flint/Grand Blanc Township



## We Make Sure you get it All Back!

**DINATALE ACCOUNTING  
& TAX SERVICE PLC**

**LOCATED IN THE  
GLASS BUILDING  
on Fenton Road**

- Over 35 Years Experience
- Free Consultation
- Electronic Filing
- Hours Customized to fit your Schedule
- Pick-Up and Drop-Off Service
- Affordable Rates
- Personal and Small Business Tax Returns
- Special Emphasis on Construction & Real Estate Activities

**\$25  
DISCOUNT**

for new clients only  
Expires April 15, 2016

**Albert D. DiNatale, EA  
810.714.4302**

North Towne Professional Center • 14165 Fenton Rd., Suite 104-G

**Kindermusik®**  
a good beginning  
never ends

The world leader in music and movement  
for babies and young children.

Winter/Spring classes begin Feb 9th.

**Classes Available**

for children ages 0-6. Please visit our  
website to view the current class schedule.

**Enroll by Jan. 29th and receive up to \$15 off!**

Classes held at:  
**TRANSFIGURATION LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
Located at: 14176 N. FENTON RD. • FENTON

Enroll online: [www.blanchardstudio.net](http://www.blanchardstudio.net)  
Email: [blanchardstudio@aol.com](mailto:blanchardstudio@aol.com)

Or Call **810.813.0036**

**FREE  
PREVIEW CLASSES**  
Jan. 26th at 6:15pm  
Jan. 27th at 10:30am  
Call or email  
to RSVP

## Racked Up Holiday Bills?



**We have a solution.**

**Apply for a Home Equity Loan\* to help pay off those bills today!**

**FAST APPROVAL!**

Talk to one of our dedicated loan officers today!

The **STATE BANK**

[www.thestatebank.com](http://www.thestatebank.com)  
(800) 535-0517



NMLS#401959 \*subject to credit approval, property insurance required.



**TRI-COUNTY TIMES** | TIM JAGIELO

Village of Holly President Ryan Bladzik brings the audience at the Chamber Forecast Breakfast up to speed on village projects Wednesday morning.

## FORECAST

Continued from Page 14A

"Our mantra is 'quality of life' in Holly," said Bladzik. "We built a mile-long sidewalk along Grange Hall Road to promote walkability and safety. The Dickens Festival, which drew 20,000 visitors to Holly in three weekends, had almost folded just two years ago. "It's a big part of Holly's identity," said Bladzik.

Projects for 2016 include:

- Working with Linden, Fenton and Byron on the National Heritage Water Trail, linking Holly with these other communities through the Shiawassee River.
- Revamping and revitalizing the historic downtown district.

### IN OTHER NEWS:

Fenton Township Clerk Bob Krug said that new home builds jumped to 70 in 2015 and the trend is coming back.

"There's also more development coming on Thompson Road, including new headquarters for TMI, a dog park just past Wiggins Road by late April-early May, Dollar General, plus a lot scheduled to be a restaurant, that has yet to be named."

Krug added that there is more construction coming at Thompson Road and U.S.23.

Tyrone Township Supervisor Mike Cunningham noted that Cider Mill Crossings residential development has increased to more than 200 lots in the last four years, and is expecting to add another 130. "A new rental has been approved, south of White Lake Road," he added.

## Tenants struggle to find security deposit funds

■ At least one family has moved out of LaJoice rental home; need their \$975 security deposit back

**By Vera Hogan**

[vhogan@tctimes.com](mailto:vhogan@tctimes.com); 810-433-6823

A few of the homes Michael LaJoice purchased within the past six months have tenants still residing in them.

Keri Garrison was one of them. She lived at 219 South Adelaide St. with her husband and older children. They lived there for three-and-a-half years before moving out on Jan. 4.

"We never really dealt with Michael LaJoice in person," Garrison said. "We received a letter from him, telling us that he had purchased the home and that we would have until March 1, 2016 to move out because it was going to be demolished."

Garrison said the letter contained an apology for the inconvenience and as a result of the inconvenience, she and LaJoice's other tenants would be able to stay in the rental homes rent-free for January and February.

Garrison said the house her family lived in has two other tenants still living there. Two nearby houses also have tenants still living in the homes.

"My husband and I didn't want to wait until the last minute so we moved out right away," Garrison said.

**“He may have stolen \$20 million, but a thousand dollars is a lot of money to me.”**

**Keri Garrison**  
Former tenant of  
Michael LaJoice

Garrison said they turned in their keys on Jan. 4, and on Jan. 6 called LaJoice's secretary to find out about the return of their \$975 security deposit. They paid \$800 per month in rent. The secretary said she had not seen LaJoice yet that day but would get back with her.

"Then on Friday we heard the news that he was in jail for embezzlement," said Garrison.

LaJoice turned himself into the Oakland County Sheriff's Department on Jan. 6, claiming he had embezzled \$20 million from his bank employer.

Garrison said she believes 219 South Adelaide was the only house LaJoice intended to demolish.

Although the Garrisons had a lease, the lease does not contain information on which financial institution is holding the renters' security deposits.

"I called our previous landlord about it and he said he couldn't tell me because he didn't know," Garrison said.

Garrison said she also called Michael Manley's office, the attorney representing LaJoice in the criminal case.

"His office was going to get back with me on who to contact about a civil case, but I haven't heard from anyone," she said.

"He may have stolen \$20 million, but a thousand dollars is a lot of money to me," Garrison said. "That's a lot of money to a lot of people."

Pretty Tile,  
**UGLY  
GROUT?®**  
Expert Tile, Grout and Stone Care!

Call today for your  
**FREE  
IN-HOME EVALUATION!**  
Maintain • Repair • Restore  
Revitalize and Save Money!

**the GROUT DOCTOR**  
Since 1992  
[www.groutdoctor.com](http://www.groutdoctor.com)  
**810-603-1772**





ONLINE EXCLUSIVES

Check out Friday night's basketball action, visit [tctimes.com](http://tctimes.com)



**TRI-COUNTY TIMES** | DAVID TROPPENS  
Linden's Bryce Davis (top) earns a pinfall win in the Eagles' victory against Swartz Creek.

## Linden, Holly earn dual meet split

**By David Troppens**

[dtroppens@tctimes.com](mailto:dtroppens@tctimes.com); 810-433-6789

**Holly** — Losing is one thing. Getting pinned is another.

That was the message Don Pluta and Todd Skinner gave their teams after the Holly and Linden varsity wrestling teams, respectively, lost Metro League dual meets to Kearsley, on Wednesday.

Both squads defeated Swartz  
**See SPLIT on 20A**

## Smith breaks Lady Bronchos' all-time career scoring record

■ Early three-pointer in win vs. Kearsley earns her the mark

**By David Troppens**

[dtroppens@tctimes.com](mailto:dtroppens@tctimes.com); 810-433-6789

**Holly** — Four days earlier, Kaitlyn Smith had an outstanding chance to become the outright all-time career scoring leader in Holly girls varsity basketball history when she was leading a 2-on-1 break in a victory against Swartz Creek.

Instead, the senior dished the pass off to a teammate for the easy bucket.

Due to the play, that meant the senior standout had to wait until Tuesday night's home contest against Kearsley to get the additional point she needed to break the all-time career scoring point tie between her and Molly Hugan.

It didn't take Smith long. Just 26 seconds into the contest, she received a pass from junior Paige Reid and then nailed the three-pointer giving her 1,021 points for her career and also making her the Holly scoring career leader. Before the game was up, Smith had a game-high 16

points, leading the Bronchos to an easy 53-28 victory against the Kearsley Hornets.

"It was tough, but it wasn't that tough," Smith said when asked about having to wait between games to break the record. "I tried not to put that pressure on me. I just tried to come out, play my own game and play for my teammates and for myself."

"It was a relief (getting the record on my first shot). Now I can just play and play for my team."

"She plays to help Holly win," Holly varsity girls basketball coach David Hall said. "The last two or three years she's been the leading scorer, the leader in assists and right up there in steals, too. She does score but she helps the team win. She's a leader. ... She thinks about other people. She is kind of like the mother of our team. She looks out for people. It doesn't matter if it is her or the 12th player — she treats everyone the same."

Reid, who assisted Smith's record  
**See SMITH on 20A**



**TRI-COUNTY TIMES** | MARK BOLEN  
Holly's Kaitlyn Smith converts the three-point shot that made her the all-time leading scorer in Holly history on Tuesday.

**NEW**

# GRAND OPENING!

# Golden Buffet

## WE HAVE THE BEST BUFFET IN TOWN




## ALL YOU CAN EAT BUFFET

Including: Sushi, Snow Crab Leg, Shrimp, Beef, Chicken, Pork Mussels, Lo Mien, Fried Rice, Salad Bar, Fresh Fruit, Appetizers, Soup, Dessert, Oyster, Bar.B.Q. Jell-O, Pudding, Cakes and Much Much More!

**GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE**

**EXPIRES 2/10/16**

### 15% OFF

**LUNCH OR DINNER**  
Dine-in only. Cannot combine with other offers or discounts.  
Up to 5 people.  
**Golden Buffet**

**EXPIRES 2/10/16**

### 15% OFF

**LUNCH OR DINNER**  
Dine-in only. Cannot combine with other offers or discounts.  
Up to 5 people.  
**Golden Buffet**

**EXPIRES 2/10/16**

### 10% OFF

**ANY TAKE-OUT ORDER**  
Cannot combine with other offers or discounts.  
Up to 5 people.  
**Golden Buffet**

**MON-THURS. 11AM-9:30PM | FRI - SAT. 11AM-10:30PM | SUNDAY 11:30AM-9:30PM**

**LUNCH**  
\$7.99 | Children under 10 \$3.99  
11:00 am-3:30 pm

**DINNER**  
\$11.99 | Mon.- Thur. | Child, 3-5yrs \$4.99  
\$12.99 | Fri-Sat. | Child, 6-10yrs \$5.99  
4:00 pm-9:30 pm

**SUNDAY & HOLIDAYS**  
\$11.99 | Children Under 3 Free  
10% Senior Discount (60+)

**CARRY OUT BUFFET**  
Lunch \$3.99/lb | Dinner \$4.99/lb



**1386 N. LEROY | FENTON**  
**TEL: 810-519-8333 FAX: 810-519-8332**

VISIT OUR OTHER LOCATION!  
5630 DIXIE HWY. WATERFORD | 248-623-8585





TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPENS

LFLF gymnast Brie Polehna practices her balance beam routine during Wednesday's practice. The co-op gymnastics team is having a strong second season, recording victories, firsts or seconds in every meet or invitational they've been in this season.

## LFLF gymnasts enjoying strong second season

By David Troppens  
dtroppens@tctimes.com

Last year when the Linden/Lake Fenton and Fenton co-op gymnastics team (LFLF) went to meets, people didn't know who they were.

Heck, the LFLF squad was just learning about themselves and about the prep gymnastics season as well because it was their first season ever.

This year things have changed.

"Our first competition last year no one knew us," sophomore Blake Hutchings said. "But this year they know we are competition for them."

Hutchings' words have proven true. About halfway into the season, the LFLF gymnastics team has won or taken first place at every event they've competed at except one. The one they didn't was last weekend's East Lansing Invitational. They placed second out of nine squads.

"We know more what to expect when we go to competitions," second-year head coach Nancy Holden said. "We started out the season with injuries to girls who were on the team last year, but we are scoring well even with the injuries. We are having a pretty strong season."

One change is evident to anyone who went to a LFLF practice from last year versus this season. The numbers are much higher. Last year's first-season team had only six gymnasts. This year, there are 11 high school-aged gymnasts running, jumping and twisting at the team's practice facility at Hyatt Elementary School.

"I think it's cool because we get to meet new people and grow as a team," Miranda Stephens said. "I like that we are getting along together really well, and that the scores are growing. We are getting

better as a team."

The LFLF team's second season hasn't been without issues, however. Injuries have struck the program, but even that hasn't stopped the squad from performing well.

"We are not quite hitting our high score we reached last year, but we started this season with a higher score than we did last year," Holden said. "So there is still room to grow."

"I didn't see it (us doing this well) because everyone was dropping one-by-one, but we are still doing really good," Hutchings said about the injuries. "We practice really hard and we are doing a lot of new skills."

The team competed at the Jeanne Carrus Invitational on Saturday. The squad's next meet is against Tecumseh and Port Huron on Jan. 19.

Online tickets and showtimes  
**www.NCGmovies.com**  
**NCG TRILLIUM CINEMAS**  
**SHOWTIMES: 810-695-5000**  
 1 Mile N. of I-70 on Holly Rd. in Grand Blanc  
**\$5.00 TICKETS EVERYDAY**  
 Rate valid for most movies. All Day TUES • Mon, Wed and THUR s before 6 • Fri-Sun before noon.  
 \$5.00 rate not valid on Real D 3D, IMAX or 12:00 shows.  
 Real D 3D films additional \$2.00.

**SHOWTIMES VALID**  
**FRI 1/15/16 • THUR 1/21/16**  
**STARTING FRI JAN 15**

**\*13 HOURS: THE SECRET SOLDIERS OF BENGHAZI (R)**  
 FRI-SAT 11:55 3:10 6:15 9:20 11:50  
 SUN-WED 11:55 3:10 6:15 9:20  
 THUR 11:55 3:10 6:15 9:20 11:50  
**\*NORM OF THE NORTH (PG)**  
 FRI-SAT 10:05 12:15 2:25 4:35 6:50 9:20 11:35  
 SUN-THUR 10:05 12:15 2:25 4:35 6:50 9:20  
**\*RIDE ALONG 2 (PG13)**  
 FRI-SAT 10:00 12:20 2:40 5:05 7:30 9:00 9:50 11:35  
 SUN-WED 10:00 12:20 2:40 5:05 7:30 9:00 9:50  
 THUR 10:00 12:20 2:40 5:05 7:30 9:50 11:35

**STARTING THUR JAN 21**

**\*DIRTY GRANDPA (R)**  
 THUR 7:15 9:45 12:05  
**\*\*THE 5TH WAVE (PG13)**  
 THUR 7:00 9:30 12:05



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SCOTT SCHUPBACH

Fenton's Drew Miller attempts a layup during a recent Tigers' contest. Fenton defeated Brandon 54-51 in overtime on Tuesday.

## Fenton boys defeat Brandon in overtime, 54-51

■ Wyrick provides 14 points, 12 rebounds in road victory

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

It seems trips to Brandon High School always present challenging games for the Fenton varsity boys basketball team. That was the case again on Tuesday night.

But as is usually the case, no matter how tough the games end up being, it seems the Tigers find a way to leave Brandon High School with the victory. That was also the case on Tuesday. Fenton captured a tight 54-51 overtime victory against the Blackhawks on Tuesday.

"It was a battle," Fenton varsity boys basketball coach John Gilbert said. "It's tough to play on the road on a snowy cold Tuesday night. We had the day off of school the day before and no matter how much you talk about it, it's tough to get going."

The squads were in a close battle throughout. The Tigers trailed 14-10 after one quarter, by a 24-22 score at halftime and by a 34-30 margin entering the final period. However, Fenton had a six-point lead late in the fourth.

The Tigers saw the Blackhawks battle

back for the tie. Fenton had a five-foot runner shot at the buzzer for the victory in regulation, but missed it.

In the overtime, the Tigers took an early lead and then converted free throws to ice the game. Jake Cairnduff made 3-of-4 free throws in the overtime and Chris Gilbert made two others.

Fenton (3-1, 4-2) also had to play without Peyton Coffman, who was out with the flu. Down the stretch, the Tigers also had to play without Nick Wyrick and Drew Miller who were out due to foul issues. Yet, the Tigers found a way to capture the road victory.

Gilbert led the Tigers' offense with 15 points, while Wyrick was strong in the post with 14 points and a team-high 12 rebounds. Ben Hajciar also chipped in 10 points.

"He's definitely coming into his own," Gilbert said about Wyrick. "His moves are getting better and he's much more confident. That's nice to see."

Brandon's Tyree Gibbs led all scorers with 18 points.

"We needed someone to pick up the slack with Peyton not being there and Ben did that. He did a nice job."

"It was definitely a team effort to get that one."

**ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS**

**INTERNAL MEDICINE**

**ON-SITE LABORATORY**

Physicals  
 Preventative Care  
 Routine Adult Care  
 Acute Illness Care  
 Chronic Health Care  
 Medication Management  
 Coordination of Subspecialty Care

Mehdi Almasi, M.D.  
 Ashok Karnik, M.D.

**PRIMARY CARE MEDICINE**  
**810-714-5100**  
 14272 N. Fenton Road • Fenton  
 Monday - Friday 9 am - 5 pm

### PREP REPORT

#### BOYS BASKETBALL

► **Linden freshmen 42, Brandon 36:** Jacob Klocek led the Eagles with 20 points, while Hayden Mahakian had seven points and Max James netted six points.

► **Swartz Creek Freshmen 41, Linden 36:** Travis Klocek led Linden with 12 points, while Hayden Mahakian and Max James had six points each.

#### GIRLS BASKETBALL

► **Lake Fenton JV vs. Richmond, Montrose:** Hannah Helbuyck led the Blue Devils with nine points in a 21-16 win against Richmond. Kayla Elirsch had six points in a 27-10 win against Montrose.

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



# Bronchos dominate first half, crush Kearsley

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

If the Holly varsity boys basketball team has had one weakness this year, it's been slow first-half starts.

A slow start wasn't an issue on Tuesday.

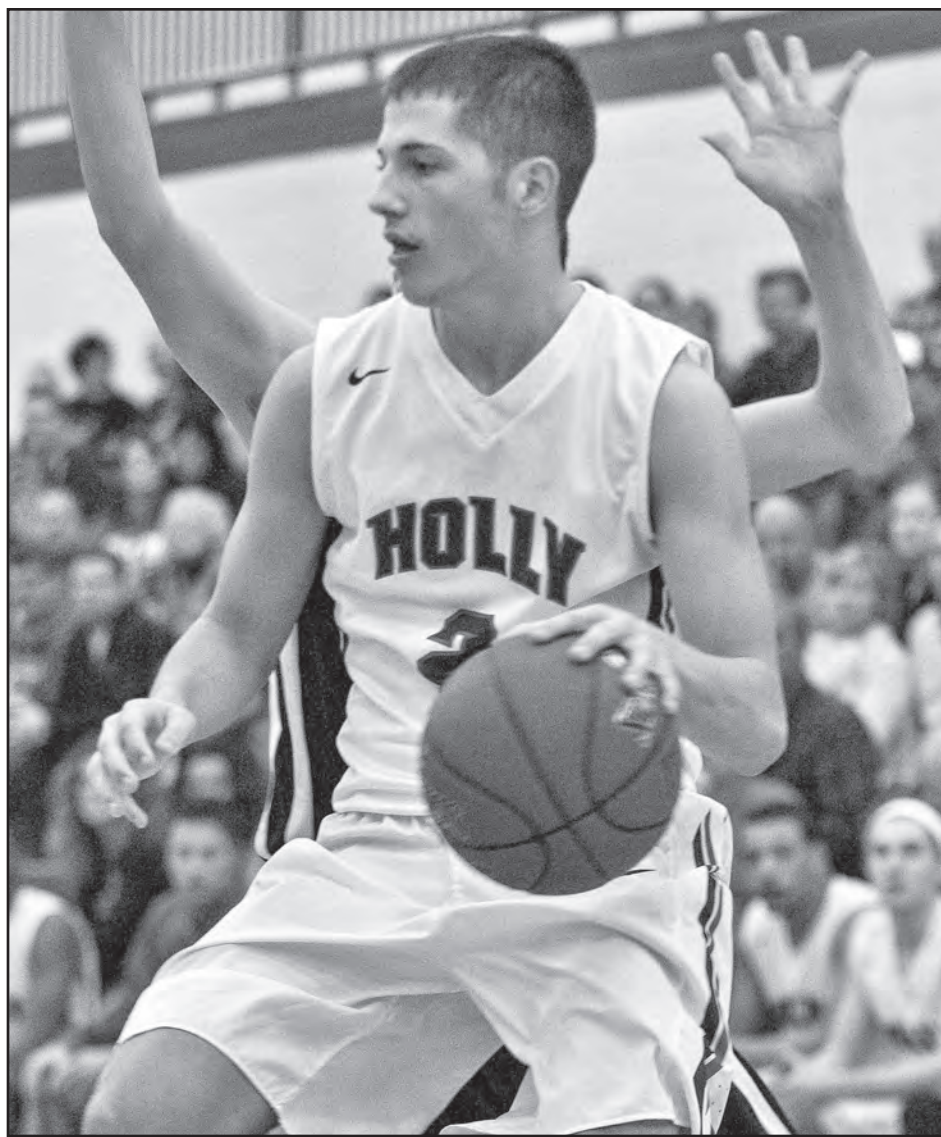
The Bronchos dominated Kearsley, cruising to a 36-5 first-half lead, eventually resulting in a 74-36 road victory against the Hornets.

"We came out with a lot of energy, enthusiasm and intensity," Holly varsity boys basketball coach Lance Baylis said. "They went on an 11-0 run after that, but by that point, the environment had been set. The guys played hard and very unselfishly. Everybody played."

Ian Hodges led the Bronchos (3-0, 6-0) with a game-high 24 points. He also had six rebounds and five assists. Kyle Woodruff finished with 19 points, while Adam Tooley chipped in eight rebounds, six steals and five assists.

"Those were our big contributors, but it was a team victory," Baylis said. "For me the story of the game was the intensity which we played with. We've had games this year where our first halves have not been as intense as we'd like them to be. This time we came out of the gates playing some really good defense, and we kept it up all game. We ran the floor like we are supposed to and passed the ball well."

Blake Staffne came off the bench to score eight points as well. Trevor Bland and Steven Redmond had six points each.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | MARK BOLEN

Holly's Kyle Woodruff netted 19 points in the Bronchos' 74-36 victory against the Kearsley Hornets on Tuesday.

## Lady Tigers bounce back in second half, beat Blackhawks

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

Trailing 26-18 at the half, Fenton varsity girls basketball coach Becki Moore knew her team had to play with more intensity in the final 16 minutes.

The Tigers (3-0 in the Metro entering Friday's first-place battle with Flushing) did just that, eventually earning a 48-44 victory against the Brandon Blackhawks on Tuesday.

"Our intensity wasn't great in the first half, let's put it that way," Moore said. "We came out with a lot more intensity in the second half. Everyone who was on the court and on the bench had more intensity and took more responsibility for themselves in the second half and that was the big thing."

The contest remained close right until the end. A couple of Chloe Idoni free throws gave Fenton a four-point lead in the final seconds of the contest, icing the victory.

Sarah Cummings led the Tigers with a game-high 15 points. Fellow post player Chloe Idoni chipped in 10 points while Aly Lenz netted nine points. Jordan Brady led Brandon with 14 points.

### PREP REPORT

#### GIRLS SLALOM

► **Flushing def. Fenton/Linden:** Zoe Weinberg dominated the Mt. Holly field with a first-place time of 57.08 seconds, but it wasn't enough to keep Flushing from beating the Fenton/Linden co-op. Weinberg was more than seven seconds faster than the rest of the field. Rachel Smith had a total time of 1:13.10, while Madeline Hiscock had a time of 1:22.48.

#### BOYS SLALOM

► **Fenton/Linden def. Flushing:** Tommy Kemp placed first overall with a time of 57.88. Other Fenton/Linden scorers were Noah Martin (1:22.77), Chad Booher (1:23.77) and Braden Lapa (1:25.77).

#### BOYS GIANT SLALOM

► **Flushing def. Fenton/Linden:** The Fenton/Linden co-op lost 18-19. Tommy Kemp took first for Fenton/Linden with a combined time of 57.88 seconds. Noah Martin was fifth (1:22.77).

#### GIRLS GIANT SLALOM

► **Fenton/Linden def. Flushing:** Zoe Weinberg won the giant slalom for the Fenton/Linden co-op, earning a time of 46.13 seconds. Milo Keranen placed second (47.00), while Ashlyn Smith was

third (47.64).

#### WRESTLING

► **Fenton vs. Flushing, Clio:** The Tigers lost to Flushing 46-24 and to Clio 60-12.

Andrew Goodman (285) recorded two wins for Fenton, both by pinfall. Mario Ramirez (112), Jake Church (140), and Tommy Adams (152) each won a match.

► **Lake Fenton vs. Corunna, Saginaw Heritage:** The Blue Devils defeated Corunna 55-10 and Saginaw Heritage 72-6. Double-winners included: A.J. Geyer, Hunter Hypio, Saben Spangler, Devan Melick, Sean Trombley, Jackson Nevadomski, Brendan Carr, Kyle Sanders, Ryan Franks and Trent Hillger.

"We are getting better as each week goes by, and the kids are working harder than ever," Lake Fenton varsity wrestling coach Vance Corcoran said.

#### COMPETITIVE CHEER

► **Flint Metro League jamboree #1:** The Fenton Tigers were the area's top performing squad at the event, posting a fourth-place team score of 692.86. Holly followed in sixth (687.70), while Linden finished in eighth (667.30). In JV action, Fenton's squad recorded a score of 478.36.

### Events at Mt. Holly

## ADULT SKI RACING LEAGUE

In collaboration with New Belgium Brewing  
Began Monday, January 11<sup>th</sup>  
(There's still time to join)



### NASTAR RACING WEEKENDS Every Saturday & Sunday

Registration at 11am | Racing at 1pm

#### MUSIC

Katelyn on Guitar | Fridays | 6 - 8pm  
Bill on Guitar | Saturdays | 2 - 6pm  
Strickler Brothers | Sundays | 2 - 6pm

#### CRAFT BEER TASTING

Wednesday Nights | 7 pm  
January 20<sup>th</sup> & February 17<sup>th</sup> | \$20/Person

13536 Dixie Hwy. • Holly  
248-634-8269 • Ski School 248-634-3249  
www.skimtholly.com



**Mt. Holly**  
...where the north begins!

## PREVENTATIVE & COSMETIC DENTISTRY

FOR THE YOUNG, NOT SO YOUNG, BRAVE AND NOT-SO-BRAVE!



We're always accepting new patients



WE'RE YOUR STATE-OF-THE-ART, HOME  
TOWN DENTAL CARE EXPERTS!

- Preventative
- Periodontal
- Implants
- Restorative
- Prosthodontic
- Orthodontics
- Cosmetics
- Invisalign
- Lumineers

New patients  
only!  
**\$85<sup>00</sup>**

Full mouth series of x-rays, dental  
cleaning & an oral cancer exam  
Not valid with any other offers. Expires 1/31/16.

**Patricia A. McGarry, D.D.S.**  
Family Dentistry

200 Lindenwood Dr. • Linden, • www.drmmcgarry.com • 810-735-9426  
Hours: Mon.-Wed. 11am-7pm • Thurs. 8am-3pm • Occasional Sat. 8am-Noon

## Need a New Roof?

Free Estimates  
Tear-Offs  
Re-Roof

**Nelson Roofing**

Guaranteed quality all year round.

Call today for the  
**BEST PRICE**  
of the **SEASON!**

Charles Nelson

License #2101140011

810-732-7999





## You're a Neighbor, Not a Number.

**B**rown and Brown's professional advisors are your neighbors, friends and community members with the resources of the industry's premier regional and national carriers behind them. Whether for personal, commercial or life insurance, we strive to provide the highest level of service and seek the most effective insurance solutions at a competitive price.

*Each client's risk is unique, so we provide an individual, customized plan designed to fit their needs."*

Doug Shepson, CIC  
Executive Vice President

PERSONAL ■ COMMERCIAL ■ LIFE



810.629.1566 | 800.467.6645 | bbmich.com



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPENS

(Top photo) Holly's Cade Dallwitz (left) tries to record a takedown against a Kearsley foe on Wednesday. Holly defeated Swartz Creek, but lost to Kearsley. (Bottom photo) Linden's Adam Glazar works on recording a key escape in his victory against a Kearsley opponent. The Eagles also defeated Swartz Creek but lost to Kearsley on Wednesday.

### SPLIT

Continued from Page 17A

Creek. Holly opened the double-dual with a 49-17 pounding of the Dragons, while the Linden Eagles beat Swartz Creek 55-19. However, neither was able to do the same with ninth-ranked Kearsley. Linden opened the meet with four straight pinfall losses to Kearsley and lost 38-25. Holly had eight six-point team losses in its match with Kearsley, resulting in a 54-24 loss. Both area Metro League squads are 3-1 in conference action after Wednesday's split.

"I told these guys coming in we can't give up pins," Skinner said. "If we give up pins it would be the difference in the dual meet, and I believe it was. We gave up five pins and four in a row to start. We do have some guys out of the lineup, but every team in the state of Michigan does, so I'm not making any excuses. This lineup we had tonight, we can win with this lineup and we need to win with this lineup."

The Eagles had half of their wrestlers defeat Kearsley grapplers, but the pinfalls cost Linden. Seven Eagles finished with two varsity victories. They were Patrick Kerr (140), Dawson Blank (145/152), Bryce Davis (160), Cade Dickson (171), Jaylin Steedman (215), Skyler Stites (285) and Adam Glazar (103). Justin Cygnar (112) and Koleton Strauss (119) earned wins against Swartz Creek.

The Bronchos had five wrestlers finish the day with 2-0 marks. They were Carsen Cuthbert (130/135), Colton



Cleaver (152), Cade Dallwitz (171), Collin Dallwitz (215) and Jimmy Gray (285). Others winning one match were Dan Stallard (140), William Greer (160), Morgan Hensel (189) and Calvin Curtis (112).

Both teams face each other at Linden on Wednesday. Both hope to rebound and remain in Metro contention.

"The good news is we are basically healthy," Pluta said. "We have five duals this weekend ... and I think we can get mentally and emotionally healthy for next week. I think we are capable of beating everyone in the league, but we are capable of losing to anybody if we don't wrestle our best."

"Hopefully we can rebound and get ready for next week when we host Holly and Clio," Skinner said. "Maybe we can have a shot at the league."

### SMITH

Continued from Page 17A

breaking hoop, was excited for Smith.

"It's awesome. We are all so proud of her," Reid said. "Kaitlyn and I get in the gym a lot together, so she's definitely deserving of it and it's really cool to see her accomplish it."

The Bronchos (3-1, 5-4) accomplished a pretty impressive team win on Tuesday as well. Holly scored the game's first 10 points and Kearsley never threatened the lead, eventually resulting in a team victory that everyone was able to play a lot of minutes in. All but one player scored points for Holly.

"Everyone deserves a little shine," Smith said. "Not everyone gets their name in the paper, but everybody comes

to practice every day and works their butt off at practices. We appreciate every single person on this team, and we wouldn't be the same team if it weren't for all of us. To see all those girls come out, play and score is an honor."

"It's so fun," Reid said. "The girls have been working their butts off in practice this year and it's fun (seeing them all get a chance to play)."

Holly hit a sizzling 17-of-29 shots during the opening three quarters, earning a 44-16 lead entering the final period. Smith also had three assists and three steals to go with her 16 points. Reid also netted 16 points, while grabbing nine rebounds. Taylor Vines had six points and four rebounds while Jenna Pepper had seven assists.



# Trial delayed for man accused of killing, burning wife's body

■ Lawyers waiting on more reviews, evaluations

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

The start of the jury trial for Erich Wilfinger, scheduled to begin on Jan. 12, has been postponed until the end of February.

According to Laurie Jimkoski, clerk for the Montmorency Circuit Court, authorities are waiting for more reviews and evaluations.



Erich Wilfinger

Wilfinger is accused of killing his wife, Marsha (Sargent) Wilfinger, formerly of Argentine Township.

Marsha Wilfinger was found in the back seat of a burning car on June 20,

2015 at the intersection of Sheridan Valley Road and Scenic Rte. 3 in Montmorency County's Briley Township, east of Gaylord.

When Michigan State Police troopers arrived, they found the car burning in a ditch. When the fire was put out, investigators discovered Marsha Wilfinger's burned remains in the back seat.

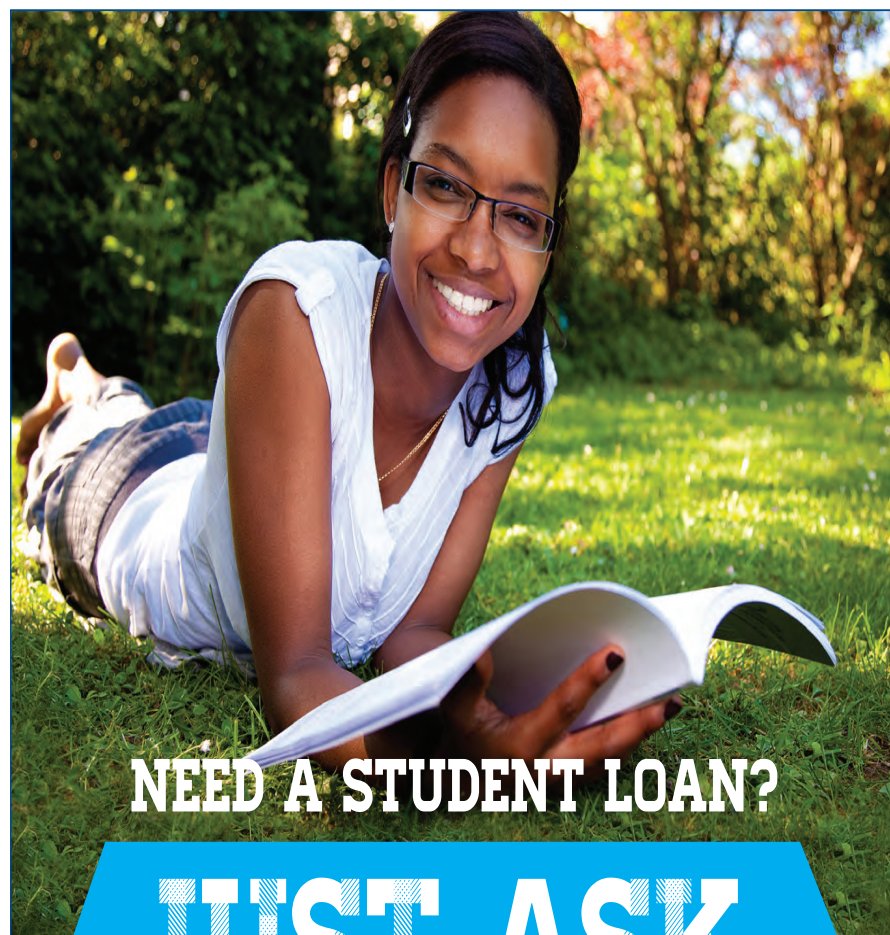
He has been charged with open murder-homicide, possession of weapons and firearms by a felon, and trying to escape from jail

where he continues to remain without bond.

The case is being heard in the Montmorency County Circuit Court.



Marsha Wilfinger



## NEED A STUDENT LOAN? JUST ASK.

- **Competitive Interest Rates** and with good grades, get even lower rates.
- **1% Interest Rate Reduction** once you repay 10% of the loan.
- **No Cosigner Required** for college Juniors and Seniors. Creditworthy students can apply on their own.
- **Apply Online** at [dortonline.org/studentloans](http://dortonline.org/studentloans)



We are awarding five scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each to graduating high school seniors or current students enrolled full-time in a college or university.

For more information, visit [dortonline.org/scholarship](http://dortonline.org/scholarship)

**Dort *df* Federal**  
CREDIT UNION

[DORTONLINE.ORG](http://DORTONLINE.ORG)



## WINNER

Continued from Front Page

Betty Durant, executive assistant for Quick-Sav Food Stores corporate office, said they don't know yet how much money the retailer will receive because of this win.

"We're waiting to hear back from lottery officials," she said. "I do believe it will be a flat fee."

Durant said the Beacon & Bridge Market in Holly will receive their share of whatever is received through their normal commission distribution process.

Tom Asmaro of Merchant Gourmet Wine Shop in Fenton said if their shop had sold the winning \$1.5 billion jackpot, they would have received \$50,000. Had Merchants sold one of the winning \$1 million tickets, they would have received \$2,000.

The drawing for the astronomical \$1.58 billion jacket was drawn Wednesday, Jan. 13. The lucky numbers were 4-8-19-27-34, with 10 as the Powerball number.

Three winners will share the big



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

An employee at Beacon and Bridge in Holly sells Michigan Lotto Powerball tickets Thursday morning. The location sold a \$1 million winning Powerball ticket last week. The winner has not yet been identified.

prize. They hail from California, Tennessee and Florida.

All winning ticket holders have one year to claim their prize.

## Vic Canever goes green, gets award



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Vic Canever Chevrolet of Fenton owner Richard Canever shakes hands with Chuck Gates, zone area sales manager, after a news conference last Thursday. Behind him are zone managers Stacey Summers and John Fitzpatrick. Vic Canever Chevrolet was recognized with a General Motors Green Dealer Award, which acknowledges wide-ranging improvements to practices in recycling, energy conservation and others to create a more sustainable, green business.



# Happy New Year 2016

## NEW YEAR LEASE SPECIALS

2016 BUICK VERANO .....	\$119/MO*
2016 BUICK REGAL PREMIUM II .....	\$138/MO*
2016 BUICK ENCORE .....	\$145/MO*
2016 GMC TERRAIN .....	\$135/MO*
2016 GMC ACADIA SLE .....	\$245/MO*

24 MONTHS, 10K MILES/YEAR WITH GMS COMPETITIVE LEASE.



**2016 GMC SIERRA  
1500 DOUBLE CAB**

39 MONTHS, 10K MILES/YEAR WITH GMS COMPETITIVE LEASE.

**\$269/MO.\***



**2016 BUICK LACROSSE  
WITH LEATHER**

MUST BE A CURRENT '05 OR NEWER LACROSSE OWNER OR LEASEE.  
24 MONTHS, 10K MILES/YEAR WITH GMS COMPETITIVE LEASE.

**\$118/MO.\***

\*TAX, TITLE, LICENSE, DEALER FEE, 1ST PAYMENT AND ACQ. FEE DUE AT SIGNING. PAYMENTS ARE PLUS TAX.

## RECEIVE 16% OFF

BUICK VERANO .....	ONLY 2 LEFT
BUICK LACROSSE .....	ONLY 1 LEFT
BUICK REGAL .....	ONLY 2 LEFT
BUICK ENCLAVE .....	ONLY 2 LEFT
GMC SIERRA .....	ONLY 3 LEFT

### PRE-OWNED VEHICLE

**2009 Jeep Cherokee  
Limited**

**\$17,895**



### SERVICE DEPARTMENT

**WINTER INSPECTION  
INCLUDING COOLANT FLUSH**

**\$115.95**

See stores for further details. Must present  
at time of write-up.  
Offer expires 1-31-16.

**FULL DETAIL SPECIAL**

**\$99.95**

**INTERIOR ONLY**

**\$79.95**

See stores for further details. Must present  
at time of write-up.  
Offer expires 1-31-16.



**SALES HOURS:** Mon, Tues. & Thurs. 8:30am-8pm • Wed. & Fri. 8:30am-6:00pm • Sat. 9am-4pm  
**SERVICE HOURS:** Mon. & Thurs. 7 am-8 pm • Tues. Wed. & Fri. 7 am-6:30 pm • Sat. 8 am-2 pm

**2530 OWEN ROAD • FENTON • 810-629-1551  
WWW.RANDYWISEBUICKGMC.COM**

## Police&Fire report

### MAN SLEEPING IN CAR HAD WARRANT

Just after 2 a.m. on Jan. 8, a Fenton police officer spotted a suspiciously parked vehicle in the 3100 block of Owen Road. The officer checked out the vehicle and made contact with the driver, a 26-year-old Tyrone Township man, who was sleeping. A computer check of the man revealed he had an outstanding arrest warrant from the Michigan State Police-Flint Post. The man was taken into custody and turned over to troopers so that he could take care of his warrant.

### HOMELESS MAN SHOPLIFTS

At 2:40 p.m. on Jan. 5, Fenton police responded to a store on Owen Road to investigate a retail fraud complaint. A male customer had walked out of the store with merchandise that he had not paid for. Police located the man on Silver Parkway. The 26-year-old homeless man, originally from the Fenton area, turned over two video games and a knife he admitted to taking from the store. He said he hoped to sell the items for cash. Police arrested the man and he has a Feb. 29 court date for retail fraud. He was then taken to a shelter in Flint.

### BUSINESS CHECK FORGED

On Jan. 8, a Fenton business owner reported to Fenton police that a business check for \$1,600 was forged and cashed at an area bank. The check was legitimately made out to a vendor in Grand Blanc months ago, but the vendor never received the check. Police have identified the suspect and detectives are trying to locate the Flint area man.

## Notes of thanks

### NAMI GENESEE COUNTY OFFERS MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

NAMI Genesee County has support groups for persons with mental disorders, their relatives and friends. NAMI Connections is for persons with mental disorders and Family Support Group is for relatives and friends. Meetings are 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesdays at the McLaren Behavioral Health Center at the Oak Bridge Center, 4448 Oak Bridge Dr., Flint. The Oak Bridge Center is off the east side of Linden Road between Corunna and Lennon roads. A support group for female veterans with PTSD meets on second and fourth Tuesdays, 1 p.m. at Heart-to-Heart Hospice, 2029 South Elms Rd., Swartz Creek. Family-to-family classes for family members and friends of adults with mental disorders and NAMI Basics classes for parents of children with mental disorders will begin in February. There is no charge for NAMI meetings and classes. Call (810) 232-6498 for details.

### REP. JOE GRAVES TO GIVE TALK ON MENTAL HEALTH AT HOLLY CHURCH

The Holly, Davisburg, Fenton, Linden communities are invited to hear State Rep. Joseph Graves of the 51st district. Graves will be giving a talk on mental health at **1 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 29** at the Holly Presbyterian Church, 207 East Maple St. in Holly. The event is sponsored by "Friends with Needs" of Holly, which meets most Tuesdays through Thursdays, from 12 to 3 p.m., at the Holly Presbyterian Church. More information on Graves can be found at [www.gophouse.org/representatives/southeast/graves](http://www.gophouse.org/representatives/southeast/graves).

## DOCUMENT SHREDDING

**Don't Expose  
Yourself!**

Shred your  
important documents  
**\$1 per pound**

The UPS Store  
17195 Silver Parkway  
810-750-2920



**The UPS Store**

Experience the  
**gentle  
difference**

**Dr. Jeremy M. Grove DDS**  
501 S. Bridge Street  
Linden, MI  
**810-735-7511**  
[www.dentistinlinden.com](http://www.dentistinlinden.com)



Care Credit • Select PPO's • Healthy Kids & other insurance plans • Accepting new patients



our town

# Meet Hassan Rutherford

- Server at The Laundry
- Father of three girls
- Enjoys being active

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795

Meet Hassan Rutherford, 43, a server at The Laundry in Fenton for more than four years.

**Tell us about your family and where you're from:**

I was born in Kalamazoo in December 1970-something. There was this weird star and some wise guys who brought gifts or something ... just kidding. I have three daughters, Carson, 18, Spencer, 15 and Kendall 13. They live in Flushing with their lovely mother.

**How long have you worked at The Laundry?**

I have worked at The Laundry for over four years. My first actual day working was Halloween 2011. I had to relearn everyone's names the next shift, because I didn't recognize them without their costumes.

**What do you like about working at The Laundry?**

I love working at the Laundry for many reasons. I love the hands-on culture of it. The owners are quite accessible and understanding. The food is remarkable. Chef Jody is wonderful. I work at the best bar in the state. I mean by any real metric, literally the best bar in the state. I am continually challenged by our ever-expanding wine menu. I find that to be a joy, though. I am, after all, a wino ... errr I mean oenophile. I think that's the fancy word for it.

**Tell us about your education.**

I graduated from Flint Southwestern High School. My first undergraduate degree was earned at Western Michigan University and University of Michigan. My second undergraduate degree was earned at the University of Michigan-Flint. My education has touched many fields. Initially biological anthropology, with minors in economics, Spanish and Portuguese. Later, research psychology, with minors in advanced mathematics and philosophy. I have applied all of that to my life. Sometimes successfully, sometimes not.

**Where did you work before The Laundry?**

I have worked in everything from real estate to financial middle markets, yet I do this now with love and respect, and with a lot less stress. I do love sales. I have worked at National Real Estate Services, Merrill Lynch, Wachovia, UBS Warburg. Sales is the extension of one's



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Hassan Rutherford, 43, of Fenton doesn't mind his workplace, The Laundry, being a big part of his identity. He enjoys the culture. Rutherford loves comedy, jazz, and has a degree in research psychology.

own values in the attempt to understand the other's needs while simultaneously trying to find the understanding of what they need or want, and then the attempt to fulfill that. In the end, that is a short cycle that I get to see in its most complete, if not simplest form at The Laundry. I do love the idea.

**What do you like to do in your spare time?**

In my spare time, I have been quite athletic in the past. I'm heavily involved in such leisure activities as mountain biking, Wing Chun Kung Fu, Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, soccer, and a few other things. I've since focused on a few other things, especially a more philosophical understanding of martial arts. That brings calm and peace.

I also find joy in the exploration of music and comedy. I say music, but my primary genre is jazz, though closely

followed by hip hop (not rap), folk, punk, and electronic. I also love stand-up comedy. It is what I use on a daily basis to prepare me for the work day ahead. Tragedy plus time equals laughter. All of the best stories have the laughter of time added. I find joy in exploring new foods and culinary ideas as well. Hell, If I could make eating a job, I most certainly would.

**What saddens you or makes you angry?**

The things that anger me, or make me sad involve almost wholly the idea of injustice or unfairness at any point. I think if you think about the concept of anger, you'll find that almost every time you feel a sense of anger, you feel as if you've been treated unfairly.

I'm angry that we as a nation have failed to continue to live up to the standard of social justice, scientific achievement, and scholarly integrity that my grandparents worked so hard for. I'm angry that we allow false ideas, not based in factual information, but more in sound bites guide our thinking. I get upset when I witness the intolerance that we are capable of, when I know that we are more than our baser selves, given to our sad prejudices and anger over minor inconveniences. We can be great again. Let's endeavor to be.

**Where do you see yourself in 10 years?**

Ten years is 10 years. I have no idea, yet. That's a future of a life that I will lead, however, and not be led by. My name is Hassan M. Rutherford, and I approve this message.

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU THOUGHT,  
"MY ACCOUNTANT IS MY HERO?"

At Lewis & Knopf, our clients look to us not just as an advisor, but also their hometown hero. Since 1936, we have been conquering tax and accounting challenges for individuals and businesses in Genesee County. Our clients value our entrepreneurial spirit and look to us to help them achieve the next level of financial success.

Contact Tom Shade, CPA, Managing Principal at Lewis & Knopf to see what financial possibilities await.

Lewis  
& Knopf  
CPAs, PC

Fenton

810-629-1500

Flint

810-238-4617

Brighton

810-225-1808

[www.lewis-knopf.com](http://www.lewis-knopf.com)

TOM SHADE, CPA, CGMA



ONLY 11 - 2015  
VEHICLES REMAINING!  
CHECK OUT WWW.CANEVER.COM

HURRY, THESE VEHICLES  
ARE SELLING FAST!



2015 CHEVROLET  
SILVERADO 2500  
Stk# 1556217  
WAS \$50,155 • SAVE \$11,202  
**NOW \$38,953**



2015 CHEVROLET  
SPARK  
Stk# 9805898  
WAS \$15,920 • SAVE \$2,422  
**NOW \$13,498**



2015 CHEVROLET  
CAMARO ZSS  
Stk# 5109299  
WAS \$42,900 • SAVE \$10,689  
**NOW \$32,211**



2015 CHEVROLET  
IMPALA  
Stk# 2116095  
WAS \$31,320 • SAVE \$10,322  
**NOW \$20,998**



2015 CHEVROLET  
SONIC  
Stk# 3184113  
WAS \$17,060 • SAVE \$2,062  
**NOW \$16,154**



2015 CHEVROLET  
CORVETTE  
Stk# 11124375  
WAS \$69,255 • SAVE \$10,031  
**NOW \$59,224**

AUTO SHOW BONUS CASH

BIG SAVINGS!

UP TO \$1,000



CHEVROLET



2016 CHEVROLET SILVERADO  
1500, DOUBLE CAB, 4 WHEEL DRIVE  
STK#11150321

**\$139**  
PER MONTH  
LEASE

2016 CHEVROLET MALIBU  
DEMO, LIMITED 1LT  
STK#6112296

**\$57**  
PER MONTH  
LEASE

2016 CHEVROLET CRUZE  
LIMITED 1LT  
STK#8184583T

**\$39**  
PER MONTH  
LEASE\*



2016 CHEVROLET TRAX  
STL STK#1558345

**\$87**  
PER MONTH  
LEASE



2016 CHEVROLET TRAVERSE  
STK#1251789

**\$154**  
PER MONTH  
LEASE



2016 CHEVROLET EQUINOX  
STK#1128707

**\$52**  
PER MONTH  
LEASE\*

LEASES ARE 2K DOWN INCLUDES LEASE LOYALTY AND GAS DISCOUNT - PLUS TAX AND DEALER FEES - SEE DEALER FOR DETAILS. \*\$1800 DOWN ON EQUINOX LEASE. \$1800 DOWN ON CRUZE LEASE.

SHOP **24/7**  
WITH JAMIE SMITH

CONTACT JAMIE SMITH WWW.CANEVER.COM

HASSLE-FREE • WORRY-FREE

PRESSURE-FREE

She's your personal internet manager  
for all your online automotive needs!



BEST PRE-OWNED  
VEHICLES. PERIOD.  
SHOP AT WWW.CANEVER.COM



2012 CHEVROLET IMPALA LT  
Stk# 11356534  
**\$8,700**



2012 CHEVROLET MALIBU  
Stk# 6117551A  
**\$9,900**



2013 HONDA CIVIC EX-L  
Stk# 11153028  
**\$15,500**



2010 CHEVROLET EQUINOX LT  
Stk# 1105171A  
**\$9,800**



2009 CHEVROLET SILVERADO  
Stk# 1355130A  
**\$16,900**



2013 DODGE DART LIMITED/GT  
Stk# 13878008  
**\$8,900**



2015 SCION iC  
Stk# 125512  
**\$13,500**



2013 GMC TERRAIN SLE-2  
Stk# 125511  
**\$18,370**



2013 CHEVROLET TRAVERSE  
Stk# 174119  
**\$20,198**



2011 FORD F-250SD LARIAT  
Stk# 1670922A  
**\$36,200**

**VIC Canever**  
FENTON

3000 Owen Rd.  
@ US-23 in Fenton  
www.Canever.com  
Toll Free 1-855-388-0328



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

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

