

Tyrone Township pedestrian struck twice, killed

■Police: alcohol may have been a factor

A Tyrone Township man is dead after being struck by two vehicles on White Lake Road, just east of Hartland Road, Thursday morning. The accident occurred at approximately 6:57 a.m.

According to the Michigan State Police-Brighton Post, the male pedestrian, Clair Hopkins,

58, of Fenton was pronounced dead at the scene.

The drivers of the two vehicles are a 59-year-old woman driving a 2004 Volvo and a 16-year-old male driving a 2003 Lincoln station wagon, both of Holly. Neither drugs nor alcohol appear to be factors with the vehicle operators. Neither of the drivers were injured.

Alcohol may have been a factor with the pedestrian walking in the

roadway, according to a MSP press release.

The crash remains under investigation with a MSP crash reconstructionist. The Livingston County medical examiner's office also will be conducting an investigation.

MSP troopers were assisted by Livingston County Sheriff's deputies, Livingston County EMS personnel, the Fenton City Fire Department and Woody's Towing.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Clair Hopkins, 58, of Fenton, was struck and killed just east of this intersection Thursday morning in Tyrone Township.

PAGE 1B
**MORE DEATHS
IN JANUARY
THAN ANY
OTHER MONTH**

Weekend Times

SUNDAY EDITION

\$1.00

VOL. 23 NO. V

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 2016

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

Low gas prices a boon for consumers — for now

■Today's low prices could have future consequences

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Doug Smith of Smitty's Exit 80 Sunoco in Fenton is all smiles as gas prices continue to fall for the third consecutive week in the U.S.

"I love it because my customers are happy," said Smith. "Anytime they can fill up their tank for \$20, it's a good thing."

For his own business operations, it's been easier for Smith to handle the minor fluctuations in prices, compared to the bigger

See **GAS PRICES** on 19A

“I don’t see prices going up a lot in the near future, but I do think gas will be about \$2.50 by the end of this year.”

Doug “Smitty” Smith

Owner of Smitty's Exit 80 Sunoco in Fenton



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

This oil well in Hartland Township was dismantled in January 2015. It was closed in part as low oil prices made it unprofitable. Recently, oil dipped to \$33.22 per barrel.

Silver Lake Road closing



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

On Thursday, Tyler Waters (above) and Shan Wolcott of City Services install a new water main valve on Silver Lake Road under the supervision of the Fenton Department of Public Works. The work is in preparation for the new bridge project beginning soon. The contractor is checking underground utilities before closing the roads and dismantling the old bridge.

Frustrated with your cable service?

■Too bad — State no longer has franchise oversight

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795

Since the Michigan Legislature took no action to extend the Video Franchise Act (P.S. 480 of 2006) when it reached the Dec. 15, 2015 sunset, cable customers are now on their own when they experience questionable or poor service.

According to Thomas Broecker, operations manager and deputy clerk for Fenton Township, this means consumers no longer have the ability to file complaints with the MPSC regarding cable service.

See **CABLE** on 9A

“I don’t believe it’s cost effective for a new company to provide service in a market where there is an existing cable provider.”

Thomas Broecker

Fenton Township operations manager and deputy clerk



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Customers who experience problems with their cable service can no longer lodge complaints with the state. Their only option is to complain directly to their cable provider.

**TEXT
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HOT LINE**

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“Just got my new rate health insurance for my family of three.



It more than doubled to over \$1,750. Before Obamacare it was less than \$600. I am paying over \$21,000 for health care for my family and some other family I have never met due to Obamacare. This is theft, not compassion.”

“I believe in my heart that Mr. LaJoyce, while quite likely an embezzler, did truly have the best interests of the community in mind.



Look at all the charities and causes he gave much of the money to.”

“The King is wrong. Flint is rebuilding, revitalizing and renewing as you read this. Multiple downtown buildings are being renovated and the colleges, restaurants and businesses are thriving. The water issue is bad but is only a temporary setback. Thank you for your past, and future, support of Flint.”



**COMMENT
OF THE WEEK**

“If we all stop buying Cottonelle bathroom tissue maybe they will remove their very inappropriate and graphic ‘no underwear’ television commercials. What happens in the bathroom should stay in the bathroom, not our living rooms. So gross and so inappropriate by any measurement.”

HOT-N-READY**\$5**

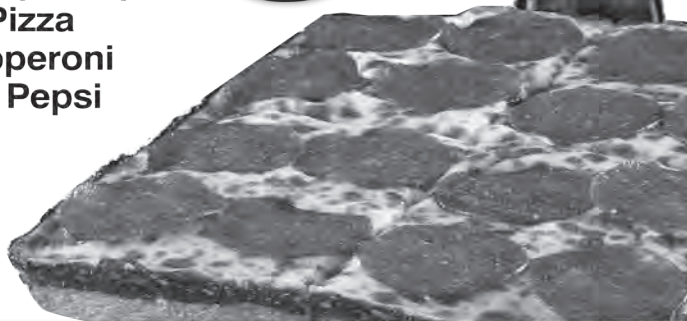
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Local businesses step up to help Flint

TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Rod Williams moves pallets of water into rows at the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan (FBEM) in Flint on Wednesday. This entire row was donated by Alpine Marketplace in Linden. The FBEM has channeled 1.3 million bottles for Flint residents since Jan. 7. On Wednesday, there were approximately 80 pallets of water — normally there is one. **See more photos at tctimes.com.**

Alpine Marketplace donates entire semi-truck load of water

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Flint — At the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan (FBEM), a pair of weary dock associates handle the constant flow of donated water into the facility and pallets are shuffled to make room for more.

Wednesday marked the busiest day so far at the FBEM for water contributions since the crisis in drinking water came to light.

Locally, Alpine Marketplace in Linden donated 18 pallets, or 31,200 bottles of water.

Marvin Yono is the father of three young children ages 2, 5 and 7 and is extremely upset about the Flint water crisis.

"I just sympathize with these families," said Yono, owner of Alpine Marketplace. Being in the grocery business, he felt he was in a unique position to make a difference, so he mobilized his store and one of his suppliers, making a purchase of more than 1,300 cases of water.

This donation filled an entire semi-truck, which was delivered Wednesday

to the FBEM.

"This (Flint water crisis) should have been handled better," said Yono, who was clearly frustrated. "More care should have been taken before these changes (in the water system) were made. If that was me and my family, I'd be very upset. Kids are going to have issues for years to come."

Yono has also invited Flint residents to come to his store and fill up gallon jugs using Alpine's water machine. "We've

See WATER on 18A

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES



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Trump will quit race soon

OK, I'm going out on a limb here but it won't be the first time. So, here goes:

I believe that Donald Trump will quit the presidential race in the very near future.

He will quit under some fabricated reasoning process that will be based on his health, his safety or, more likely, his family.

Why, you ask, would Trump quit just when it appears that he has a viable chance to be the Republican candidate for president of the United States?

The answer is the same as the question: it appears that he has a viable chance to be the Republican candidate for president of the United States.

In his heart Trump has no desire to

take on the job. His entire 'campaign' was based on the assumption that he would never actually be in the running for the nomination by the Republican Party. He assumed, as did I, that at some point prior to January 2016, his campaign would be derailed by any one of the outrageous statements he utters on such a regular basis.

That is/was his exit strategy. The problem is that his outrageous statements are doing just the opposite. His comment that 'I could stand in the middle of Fifth Avenue and shoot somebody, and I wouldn't lose any voters' should have been the end of his run. It certainly would be for any other candidate.



Because behind all that blustering arrogance and audacity, Trump knows in his heart that he is not the man for the job. He knows that he's in way over his head and he's more surprised than anyone that he's doing so well in the polls.

Trump jumped into the race as a lark, a publicity stunt to feed his ego, and his campaign took off far beyond his own expectations. He's milking it now because he loves the attention. But he's starting to panic as he realizes that he might actually win the GOP nomination. At that point, his false bravado and his ignorance regarding politics will be even more exposed than it is now. The presidency requires much more effort than shouting orders to cowering underlings all day. Daily decisions that could start or stop a world war require far more intelligence, insight and acuity than bloodless business decisions.

Worse, if Trump ever got to the point where he had to debate crafty, seasoned politicians like Hillary Clinton or Bernie Sanders the world would immediately see that 'the emperor has no clothes' and his worst nightmare would come true — he would become the laughing stock of the world.

Ignorance and arrogance are dangerous sisters in any situation, but especially so when you are the leader of the most powerful country in the world. How do we know that? Because we have just endured over seven years of it.

I highly doubt we can endure four more.

Donald Trump doesn't have the knowledge, temperament, self-discipline or intelligence necessary to be president. And, thankfully, deep inside, he knows it.

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

Hot lines

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

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

DRIVERS WHO STOP at the hotel for traffic lights that are a half block up the road are going to get rear-ended. What's even more ridiculous is people turning left onto Main Street stop for that light.

WHEN I SEE Trump on TV, I see my six little boys and their friends arguing about sports they are playing, stomping their feet, yelling they are right. But they did grow up and learn how to behave. When I hear Trump talk I no longer wonder why he is divorced two or three times. I would be ashamed if he acted like that as the president of the USA.

TO THE PERSON wondering how Hillary Clinton sleeps at night, I'm going to assume she sleeps very well. Most people void of a conscience do.

I TOTALLY AGREE with the Hot-liner on the 'shame' Hot line. That mother ought to be charged, that little 13-year-old girl ought to be charged, just as well as those boys

WHEN ARE WE going to hear, as Paul Harvey used to say, the rest of the story on the Flint water disaster? As sad as it is, the real sad truth is Democrats who ran that city into the ground are the ones who decided to switch the water source.

And Democrats who ran the water system decided to cut them off three years before they were ready.

BEWARE IN HOLLY. Someone vandalized a car over the weekend with anti-Semitic slurs and symbols. Only a coward and a bully does that. I love my town but this makes me very sad.

END OF MERIT, beginning of quotas.

BERNIE CAN BEAT Trump, Hillary can't. It really is that simple according to all polls. If we can get the White House for just four more years we can finish what we have started.

AGAIN, WE ALL will end up paying for the gross mismanagement of liberal Democrats. Flint leaders made that decision to save money, not the rest of us. But guess who will foot the endless bill for fixing it? That's right, us.

THE STATE WASN'T responsible for the residents of Flint not paying taxes, the officials not upgrading infrastructure or the city offering pensions and benefits with money that should have gone to infrastructure and maintenance. If I can afford McDonald's, should I expect someone else to buy me steak instead?

WHEN AMERICA WAS discovered, the Pilgrims split up the crops equally to all. They soon discovered the hardest workers

decided to work less since everyone received the same amount of food anyway. It's time for me to work a little less. Look out slackers, one-half of nothing is still nothing.

TO THE HOT-liner complaining that President Obama doesn't cry for dead servicemen. On Oct. 29, 2009, the President received, and shed tears over 15 returning KIA (killed in action) at Dover Air Force Base. I don't like him either but our criticism needs to be honest.

LIVINGSTON COUNTY ROAD Commission and Tyrone Township need to put in a four-way stop at White Lake Road and Old U.S. 23, as well as Linden and Bennett Lake roads.

'THANK YOU' TO the mayor, Sue Osborn and esteemed members of the City Council for allowing Fenton's Cub Scouts Pack 270, wolf den to open for Monday's City Council meeting. And a personal 'thank you' for taking the time to come over and introduce yourself to my son. It was an unexpected surprise that we very much enjoyed.

WHY ISN'T THE press going after the 'committee' that told the emergency manager everything was OK to switch to the river water? Looks like the 'committee' disappeared.

YOU HAVE MORE than I do, therefore it's only common sense that you give me more of your cash and material goods so that I can become equal to you.

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See **HOT LINE** throughout Times

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Compiled by Hannah Ball, staff reporter

What's one thing you want to do before you die?

streettalk



"If money was no object, I would love to travel anywhere. I've never been to Hawaii. Of course, I'd love to go to Italy. I want to make a difference and help people."

— Shelley Wilson
Fenton Township



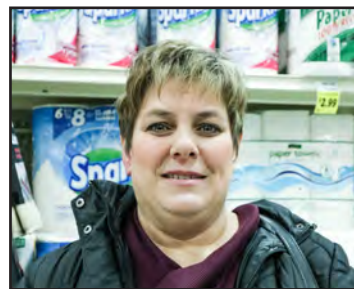
"I'd love to see my grandchildren grow up and graduate from high school and get married. I'd love to get married to Greg and enjoy the new house."

— Margaret Hernandez
Linden



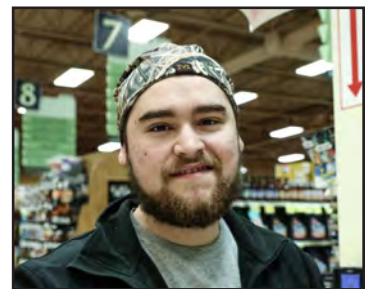
"Travel. I would love to go to Australia. Why not? It's always intrigued me. I'd like to travel to all of the baseball parks and go to one game at each."

— Brian Dewald
Durand



"There's lots of things I want to do before I die. I would just like to travel and have my husband retired so we can travel together. The Caribbean is perfect for me."

— Janel Briggs
Linden



"Probably visit every big league ballpark. I just love baseball. Fenway and Wrigley because they're some of the oldest ones. I've already been to the old Yankees stadium."

— Chase Hope
Fenton

Which should come first — the house or the shed?

■ Board considering unpopular proposal that would prohibit sheds being built before home

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Fenton Twp. — Residents in Fenton Township might not be allowed to build accessory structures, such as a shed, before building the principal structure if a proposed amendment is approved.

The Fenton Township Board of Trustees held the first reading Monday for the proposed zoning ordinance amendment, which would prohibit the issuance of a building permit for an accessory structure until the principal structure on the property is built.

Treasurer John Tucker said, "I think what cemented the notion that this may not be a good idea is that if we say you can't build the accessory structure until the house is done, what we're forcing people to do is stockpile building materials onsite unsecured."

The township has received reports of people stealing building materials that are unprotected on land under development.

"What it says is you can't build an accessory structure until the principal structure is built. Period," said Tucker, who serves on the Planning Commission.

"There doesn't seem to be a good solution to this problem."

However, the board discussed whether it's worth making a legislative change.

Tucker said the Planning Commission talked extensively about this issue and member Andy Marko was the only member who voted in favor to recommend the change.

Tucker said most of the Planning Commission recommended not adopting the change because it may not be a legal-worthy problem.

Marko said he voted for the change because of his experience on the Zoning Board of Appeals.

"We've had experiences, not a lot of them, but we've had experiences where people have gone in and built the accessory building and never really intended, as best we can determine, to build a primary residence," he said.

He said there are various reasons why someone might not build the primary residence, but he doesn't "want those types of problems to face the Zoning Board of Appeals."

In about 30 years, there have only been four instances in the township where an accessory structure was built before a principal structure. Three of those four times the principal structure was built.

The second reading is scheduled for Feb. 8.

“...if we say you can’t build the accessory structure until the house is done, what we’re forcing people to do is stockpile building materials on site unsecured.”

John Tucker

*Fenton Township treasurer,
planning commission member*

HOT LINE CONTINUED

■■■■ **PRESIDENT OBAMA CAN** fly to Detroit to the auto show but he cannot go 50 more miles to Flint to see the water mess.

■■■■ **HILLARY CLINTON REPRESENTS** all that is wrong with Washington, D.C. She is dishonest, untrustworthy, unlawful, and totally nontransparent. She is hungry for money and power only.

■■■■ **CAN ANYONE TELL** me what the penalty is for being charged with driving with a suspended license and a warrant? A kid over here in Linden thinks it is OK.

■■■■ **HILLARY CLINTON IS** being smeared by everyone without a shred of actual evidence against her. Typical tactics by the

right-wing masters of media manipulation and mistruths.

■■■■ **HOW MANY PEOPLE** in Fenton know that America has the highest corporate tax rate in the industrialized world? Not just in North America or in the western hemisphere, but in the industrialized world. That's why businesses are leaving America.

■■■■ **LAJOICE IS VERY** remorseful? Right, everyone's remorseful when they get caught. Competent? He sure was competent while spending that money for 12 years.

■■■■ **I HAVE TO** agree with the Hot-liner about the mother taking her 13-year-old daughter to a motel room. What were you thinking?

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News **briefs**

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TEACHER AWARD

VFW and Auxiliary have a slate of programs dedicated to helping America's educators. The VFW wants to identify and recognize America's best educators who instill a sense of national pride in students. They offer cash awards, commemorative plaques and all-expenses-paid trip to the VFW National Convention for these worthy teachers. They are searching for the top classroom elementary, junior high and high school teachers who teach citizenship education topics regularly and promote America's history. They are looking for a teacher who plans field trips to city hall, or organizes community volunteer projects, or one who invites veterans into the classroom to discuss their military experiences. They are looking for one who fosters the development of democratic values and beliefs through special projects. If anyone knows of such a teacher, honor him or her today with the VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award. Nominate the teacher by writing a description in 350 words or less why you feel they should be selected for the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award. Complete the information listed below and send the nomination and information to the VFW Auxiliary #3243, 1148 N. Leroy St., Fenton, 48430, Attn: Bonnie Pray, Chairman. For details, contact Pray at (810) 516-6721. Include with your nomination letter:

- Nominated teacher
- Teacher email
- Subject and grade taught
- Current school and address
- School phone
- Person nominating teacher
- Address
- Phone
- Date submitted:
- Signature

Deadline to have the information to VFW Auxiliary Post #3243 is Feb. 15.

THIS WEEK'S INSERTS



• Alpine Marketplace

• Arby's

• CVS Pharmacy



• Holly Foods

• Rite Aid

• Sears Hometown Stores

• Target



• VG's

• Walmart

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Police&Fire

report

PHONE SCAM

A Springfield Township resident reported a phone scam to the Oakland County Sheriff's Office on Jan. 27. The resident said they received a phone call from someone claiming to be "Capt. Watson" from the warrants/citations division of the sheriff's office. "Capt. Watson" told the resident that they owed money for missing jury duty. The resident had never received jury duty notification and found the call to be suspicious. Detectives learned that the resident had no warrant for their arrest and there is no Capt. Watson. The call was deemed a scam.

SUSPICIOUS DRIVER ON SINCLAIR STREET

On Wednesday evening, police responded to Sinclair Street to investigate a suspicious situation involving a car. The responding officer spotted the car, based on the description provided by the caller, parked in a driveway on Sinclair. The officer approached the car and saw the driver of the car standing next to it and speaking to a woman inside the car. As the officer and man spoke, the man began to walk away. The officer followed him around the car and then the man took off running, jumping a few fences to flee. The officer apprehended the man and a computer check revealed he had an outstanding arrest warrant. The man, a 38-year-old Fenton resident, told the officer he fled because he did not want to spend the night in jail. The man was arrested and will face additional charges of resisting and obstructing police.

Military milestones



FRIENDS COMPLETE BASIC TRAINING

Three local families are proud to announce their son's successful completion of the United States Marine Corp basic training. Shown above are (from left) Matthew Flowers, son of Bill and Sheryl Flowers, Joshua Brophy, son of Chris and Cheryl Brophy, and Bryce Roney, son of Ray and Donna Roney. Flowers and Roney are 2015 graduates of Fenton High School and Brophy is a 2015 graduate of Lake Fenton High School. The three friends graduated from MCRD recruit training in San Diego, California on Jan. 15 to become the most recent United States Marines.

View stories at
tctimes.com



Close vote keeps constable on the job

■ Rose Township Board votes 3-2 to save position

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795

People in Rose Township will continue to have an elected constable now that the Board of Trustees has voted 3 to 2 to keep the position.

Every four years, the board must decide what to do about the constable position, which was the purpose of the special meeting Wednesday night.

Emile Bair has held the position for the last 28 years. His duties include working as an officer of the peace, and handling all code enforcement activities.

Bair often has been credited with intervening and helping to resolve situations that may otherwise have involved the need to summon law enforcement.

The position currently pays \$10,000 a year for constable duties, and \$6,000 per year for code enforcement activities.

Supervisor Paul Gambka and Treasurer Trish Lumley voted against keeping the constable position in Rose Township.

During board discussions, Lumley made it clear that while she appreciates the work Bair has done, she has concerns over the wrong person being elected, and the board being powerless to do anything until the four-year term is up.

Gambka said he wasn't sure if the move would save money or not — it would take a six-month trial period with whomever they contract with to know if money would be saved.

At the meeting, Craig Strong, director of Code Enforcement Services, gave a presentation on services Carlisle/Wortman Associates, Inc. could provide.

Carlisle/Wortman currently provides building department services for the township.

The general code enforcement duties outlined included responding to complaints as assigned by township staff, perform systematic inspections to identify violations and issue notices and tickets for same, make court appearances as required, and more.

The meeting drew at least six public comments, and testy back-and-forth exchanges between the board and residents in the audience. Generally, the crowd was in favor of keeping the elected system as is.

While Gambka assured residents that



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Rose Township resident Tom Willwerth asks the Township Board how a contracted code enforcer would respond to residents' needs. The board voted 3 to 2 to keep an elected constable. **See more photos at tctimes.com.**

no decision was to be made that night, confused audience members pointed out the resolution on the agenda — to decide whether to keep an elected constable at all.

If the Rose Township Board had agreed to contract services with Carlisle/Wortman, the company would charge a fee of \$60 an hour for enforcement and \$75 per hour for court appearances in 2016. In 2017, those rates would go up to \$62.50 an hour for enforcement and \$77 an hour for court appearances. The following year, in 2018, the rates would go up to \$65 an hour for enforcement and \$80 for court appearances.

Additionally, because Carlisle/Wortman personnel would use their personal vehicles, the township would also have been charged 52 cents per mile for enforcement within the township.

According to the proposal submitted by Carlisle/Wortman, they normally charge \$75 for code enforcement, but were willing to reduce that rate as outlined in the proposal if provided with a three-year agreement.

Associate Editor Tim Jagielo contributed to this article.

SUMMARY

■ The Rose Township Board of Trustees voted to keep the elected position of constable in the township vs. contracting the position to an outside company. The current constable, Emile Bair, has been on the job for 28 years.

News briefs

FENTON FRATERNAL ORDER OF EAGLES AUXILIARY SEEKS NEW MADAM VICE PRESIDENT

Due to a vacancy in the office of madam vice president, the Fenton Eagle Auxiliary #2460 will be accepting nominations for this position at their regular meeting on Feb. 10 at 7 p.m. Elections will be held at the following meeting on Feb. 24. In order to be elected, candidates must be present at the meeting.

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JOB FAIR



Rose Hill Center, in Holly MI, is having a job fair.
TUESDAY FEBRUARY 2, 2016
1 P.M. UNTIL 4 P.M.

Interviews will be held at:
Rose Hill Center, Visitor Center,
5130 Rose Hill Blvd, Holly MI 48442

- Bring your resumes and be prepared to interview.
- You must have a valid driver's license, with a good driving record.
- If an offer is made an FBI background check and drug screening will be conducted.

We are interviewing for the following positions:

DIRECT CARE WORKER

- Full-time and Part-time positions for 2nd and 3rd shifts.
- 2nd Shift is 4 pm – 12:30 am. 3rd shift is Midnight until 8:30 am.
- Starting salary is \$10 per hour and does include working weekends and holidays. Benefits are available for full-time positions after 60 days of employment

HOUSE COORDINATOR

- Full-time positions 1st and 3rd shifts.
- Starting salary is \$12-\$13 per hour depending on experience does include working weekends and holidays. Benefits are available for full-time positions after 60 days of employment.
- Knowledge of substance abuse is a plus.

If you are unable to make it to the Job Fair, you can e-mail your resume and cover letter indicating which position you are applying for to **hr@rosehillcenter.org**

We regret that we are unable to acknowledge every resume we receive, and therefore we will contact only those with whom we would like to schedule an interview.

Rose Hill Center, located in Holly, Michigan, is a non-profit residential rehabilitation and treatment center designed to assist adults with major psychiatric disorders, primarily serving those with a diagnosis of schizophrenia or bi-polar.

Recognizing that mental illness is treatable and manageable, Rose Hill's professional mental health team directs programs aimed at helping people successfully achieve and maintain independent living.

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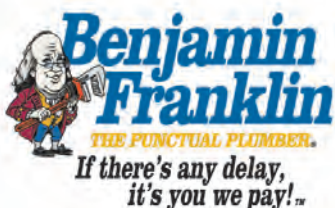
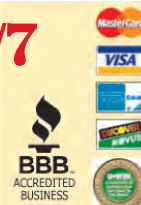
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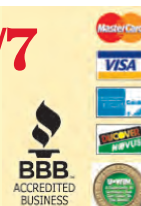
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CABLE

Continued from Front Page

"They must now deal directly with the service provider," Broecker said. "The local municipalities have no authority to resolve complaints or compel service providers to resolve them."

A consortium called FACT (Fenton Area Cable Television) is in charge of cable operations locally. The FACT consortium was originally created to jointly negotiate cable franchise agreements, Broecker said.

With the enactment of PA 480 in 2006, however, local municipalities could no longer "negotiate" these franchise agreements.

A standard franchise agreement form had to be used throughout Michigan.

The MPSC getting out of the video business only eliminates a "watchdog" agency for cable providers, he added. "It does not change in any way the method for 'negotiating' franchise agreements," Broecker said.

"Several years ago the state enacted the Uniform Franchise Cable Act that puts severe limitations on the municipalities' rights to negotiate, regulate a cable agreement," said Fenton City Manager Lynn Markland. "This new law was pushed very hard by the telecommunications and cable companies. The municipalities strongly opposed this legislation, but in the end the companies were able to get the legislation passed and signed into law."

The municipality can no longer require a new cable/video service provider to offer service throughout the municipality. The company can pick and choose which area to serve, Markland said.

"So some residents in the community may have choices while others may not and because of the state law we can do nothing about it," he said.

"I can't speak for the others but Fenton Township would welcome another service provider, such as Comcast, but it is very unlikely to occur," said Broecker. "I don't believe it's cost effective for a new company to provide service in a market where there is an existing cable provider," he added.

"Even though it may seem like a large number of customers are unhappy, only a certain percentage of the customers would switch to the new service and would not likely offset the cost of providing that service, such as running cable throughout the township," Broecker said.

The Cable Franchise Agreement with Charter is a non-exclusive agreement, meaning that they do not have an exclusive right to offer video or cable service to residents, said Markland.

"Many residents have service other than Charter Communications," he added. "Some have AT&T U-Verse, Direct TV or some other satellite service."

Prior to AT&T services becoming available in the Fenton area, Charter Communications said they don't mind competition as long as all companies follow the same rules. But competition does not necessarily mean rates will be lower.

The price customers pay for cable service is directly related to what cable companies are charged to provide networks like Fox, ESPN, etc. Competing companies would have to pay the same

costs so it is doubtful rates would be lower.

As far as customers not getting certain channels to view, Charter has said the programs and channels cable providers are allowed to offer are restricted to designated market areas that are controlled by the Federal Communication Commission (FCC).

The grant funding process and managing the PEG (Public, Education & Government) channel (Charter Channel 191) are the primary responsibilities of the FACT, Broecker said.

The only negotiable parts of the standard franchise agreement are the percentages for franchise and PEG fees, he added.

Today, local municipalities still receive both franchise fees and PEG fees as a part of their individual franchise agreements.

Franchise fees are a set percentage (5 percent), and as rates increase the municipalities collect more money as well. PEG fees of 2 percent also are included in franchise agreements. These are the maximum amounts allowed by law, Broecker said.

"The consortium has been, and continues to be, responsible for overseeing the use of PEG funds by reviewing and approving grant requests, primarily for the local school districts," said Markland.

"In the past few years, the (FACT) committee has provided thousands of dollars in grants to Fenton, Lake Fenton and Linden schools for the purchase of equipment so that their classes can provide video content for the public access channel."

Last year, the committee purchased new broadcast equipment for the access channel, he added.

FACT MEMBERSHIP

Members of the FACT (Fenton Area Cable Television) consortium are Mayor Sue Osborn and City Manager Lynn Markland in Fenton; Councilman Ray Culbert and City Manager Paul Zelenak in Linden; Treasurer Marna Smith in Tyrone Township, and Tom Broecker, operations manager and deputy clerk in Fenton Township.

"All three school districts are now non-voting members of the consortium, with the school superintendents serving as their representatives," Broecker said.

Currently they are Superintendent Wayne Wright in Lake Fenton, and interim superintendents Russ Ciesielski and Doug Busch for Linden and Fenton respectively.

"We meet approximately six to eight times per year, rotating sites among the members," said Broecker.

SUMMARY

■ Michigan's Public Act 480 of 2006, which made the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) responsible for video and cable franchise activities, expired on Dec. 31, 2015. The law was allowed to sunset when legislators took no action to renew it. Now, customers no longer have the ability to file complaints with the MPSC about cable services.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

AS ANY CARD player will tell you, when you have the Trump, you have the winner. I am really happy for Trump. He has more common sense than anybody in the capitol building.

■■■■
ABOUT THE FLINT water problem. If the Flint City Council had told the emergency manager, 'we can't switch over to the Flint river because it's polluted,' that would have stopped it. Seems Dan Kildee wants to blame the state.

■■■■
I'D LIKE TO know why the 'right tighties' are so intense over Benghazi, yet they're willing to give Bush and Cheney a free pass on 9/11.

■■■■
SET THE RECORD straight. NAFTA was set up by George H. W. Bush and his administration and it was just a formality when Bill Clinton signed it. He had nothing to do with setting it up.

■■■■
MOST OF THE problems we have now can be laid at the feet of John Engler. He underfunded or defunded state police, mental health, education and our infrastructure and where do we have problems now? In all four of those areas.

■■■■
DO NOT VOTE for Hillary Clinton. U.S. government and the rich have killed or maimed enough American soldiers because of her greed.

■■■■
CHASSÉ SWING STUDIO dancers can come to Great Lakes Swing Dance on Wednesday nights at Roll-haven in Flushing. Thank you.

■■■■
EACH STATE SHOULD pass a law that says 'no law passed can be over 10 pages long'. President Obama signs the executive orders and makes laws and they're 1,000 pages long and nobody on earth is going to read.

YOUR SMILE MATTERS!

By: Dr. Steven Sulfaro

CHILDREN'S DENTISTRY FIRST DENTAL VISIT

Parents of young children often ask me at what age they should bring their son or daughter into the dental office for the first time. When I was in dental school at the University of Michigan we were taught the best time to see kids for the first time was age 3. By age 3 the child was usually mature enough to "cooperate" with the dental team and he or she could have regular preventative dental cleaning. The problem has always been that sometimes by age 3 major dental problems have already developed necessitating major dental treatment. With this in mind, The American Pediatric Dental Association recently came out with new recommendations. The new recommended age for a child's first dental visit is **age 1**. An age 1 dental visit, what we like to call in our office "well-baby check-ups", are very important. Realistically, we are not going to be able to do a full dental cleaning with x-rays on a 1 year old but I am able to determine that all the teeth are developing normally and catch problems very early well before any major trouble. Just as importantly, this gives me and my team an opportunity to educate mom and dad about proper dental care for their child. Dental office fears and phobias in adults are very common and can be so extreme that a person will avoid going to the dentist all together. This can lead to major dental problems and poor oral and overall health. When I question these people about their dental fears they almost always relate some traumatic childhood experience that has scarred them for life. I am committed to ensure that the children I see will not suffer this same fate. By seeing kids early in their life before major dental problems; I'm helping them maintain good dental health and avoid dental fears. Age 1 dental visits are key to a long and healthy life with good teeth.

I welcome your questions and comments.
Feel free to e-mail me drsulfaro@comcast.net



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Bedrooms, 5 Bathrooms & 6,000 Sq. Ft.



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Walkout & Separate Guest House - \$589,000 with 10 Acres



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HOT LINE CONTINUED

■■■
I AM SO happy that Mr. LaJoyce picked charities that meant something to him. That statement was a classic.

■■■
TRUMP AND PALIN are at the top of the GOP. Even if you are a Democrat, you know that is wrong for the country.

■■■
THE WREATHS THAT so many people worked to place at every grave have all been removed at the military cemetery in Holly. This was a big event and waste of money. I'm very disappointed in those who run the cemetery.

■■■
I LIVE IN Fenton Township on Torrey Beach and my cable provider is AT&T U-Verse. Their customer service is A-plus. If they cannot fix a problem over the phone, they're at your home the next day. Any faulty equipment or remote controls are replaced free. It's sad they're not everywhere in Fenton.

■■■
WITH THE BIG spike in gun sales, it will be interesting to check in a couple of months to see if we have a big spike in gun accidents.

■■■
YOU THINK HILLARY Clinton is honest? She is the most disingenuous, dishonest candidate on either side, period. And Bernie Sanders will bankrupt America if elected. He's a Socialist, remember?

■■■
PENTAGON MAY DEMOTE David Petraeus. What will the Obama administration do to Hillary? Witness the delays in the Bergdahl court martial.

■■■
JUST WONDERING WHEN his wife will turn herself in as an accomplice to the embezzlement.

News **briefs**

POSSIBLE SCAM REGARDING DOG LICENSES

Genesee County Animal Control has received information that a person or persons identifying themselves as "Animal Control" are going to homes in the Fenton area asking about animal licenses. These suspicious individuals are reportedly dressed in professional clothing (shirt and tie) and showed a lanyard with identification. Residents are advised that these are not Animal Control employees. A census will be conducted some time after May 1, when Animal Control officers will go house to house, but the employees will show identification and will be wearing mandated Animal Control uniforms. If prior to May 1, someone approaches your home inquiring about dog licenses, call 911 to report it, or Animal control at (810) 732-1660.

AUDITIONS FOR 'TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD'

Fenton Village Players will hold auditions for the April production, "To Kill a Mockingbird," on Wednesday, Feb. 3 and Thursday, Feb. 4 at 6:30 p.m. at the Fenton Village Playhouse, 14197 Torrey Rd., Fenton. Young people ages 8 to 19 and adults of all ages are welcome to audition, with no preparation needed, according to Director Mary Powers. Show dates are April 14, 15, 16, 17 and 22, 23 and 24. For more information, call (810) 750-7700.

LOOKING BACK
at this week IN HISTORY

COMPILED BY VERA HOGAN

LOCAL

5 YEARS

Wednesday, Feb. 2, 2011
White out! Local DPWs put to the test battling predicted 'blizzard conditions.' The National Weather Service issued a winter storm warning for southeast Michigan, including the tri-county areas of Fenton, Linden and Holly, predicting possible "near blizzard" conditions the following evening.

10 YEARS

Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2006
New law requires background checks, fingerprinting. New state legislation went into effect Jan. 1, which will now require all school employees, coaches, maintenance workers, and those under contract with any school district to be electronically fingerprinted by the Michigan State Police.

15 YEARS

Sunday, Feb. 4, 2001
Astronaut coming home. Lt. Col. Michael J. Bloomfield to talk with area children. Lt. Col. Michael J. Bloomfield, a 1977 graduate of Lake Fenton High School, talked to students and the public about piloting the space shuttle Endeavor during a 10-day mission in November 2000.

20 YEARS

Sunday, Feb. 4, 1996
Expulsion challenged by student caught drinking. The decision by the Holly Board of Education to expel for one semester a 15-year-old student, who had become ill from alcohol use at a school sporting event, is being challenged in court. The father wants his daughter back at Holly High School to complete her sophomore year. He agrees his daughter deserves punishment, but not expulsion.

25 YEARS

Sunday, Feb. 3, 1991
A 'permanent' title. Acting police chief hoping for job. The 90-day evaluation period for acting Linden Police Chief Pete VanDriessche is up on Feb. 18 and he's hoping to become the permanent chief. Linden Mayor Charles Bobay told the Tri-County News that he also feels VanDriessche should be given the police chief job.

30 YEARS

Sunday, Feb. 2, 1986
Watched shuttle explode. Flight 20 out of Orlando, Florida will be etched in the mind of one Fenton resident forever. Curt Schupbach saw the Shuttle Challenger explode into flames. He watched it out of a window of a Piedmont Airlines jet 35,000 feet above land. Schupbach got a good glance at the liftoff, too. No one was sitting next to him so he leaned across three seats and looked down as the pilot banked over to let passengers take a look at the liftoff. Five minutes later, the pilot informed passengers of the bad news.

NATIONAL

JANUARY 31

1950: U.S. President Harry S. Truman publicly announces his decision to support the development of the hydrogen bomb, a weapon theorized to be hundreds of times more powerful than the atomic bombs dropped on Japan during World War II. On Nov. 1, 1952, the United States successfully detonated "Mike," the world's first hydrogen bomb, on the Elugelab Atoll in the Pacific Marshall Islands. The 10.4-megaton thermonuclear device instantly vaporized an entire island and left behind a crater more than a mile wide.

FEBRUARY 1

1968: Richard M. Nixon announces his candidacy for the presidency. Most observers had written off Nixon's political career eight years earlier, when he had lost to John F. Kennedy in the 1960 election.

FEBRUARY 2

1887: Groundhog Day, featuring a rodent meteorologist, is celebrated for the first time at Gobbler's Knob in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. According to tradition, if a groundhog comes out of its hole on this day and sees its shadow, there will be six more weeks of winter weather; no shadow means an early spring.

FEBRUARY 3

1959: Despite reports of seriously threatening weather, Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and J.P. "the Big Bopper" Richardson were killed in a plane crash. The weather information was available to 21-year-old pilot Roger Peterson, if only he had asked for it. Instead, he relied on an incomplete weather report and on the self-confidence of youth in making the decision to take off from Clear Lake, Iowa, shortly after midnight on February 3, 1959.

FEBRUARY 4

1974: Patty Hearst, the 19-year-old daughter of newspaper publisher Randolph Hearst, is kidnapped from her apartment in Berkeley, California, by two black men and a white woman, all three of whom are armed. Three days later, the Symbionese Liberation Army (SLA), a small U.S. leftist group, announced in a letter to a Berkeley radio station that it was holding Hearst as a "prisoner of war."

FEBRUARY 5

1988: Two federal grand juries in Florida announce indictments of Panama military strongman General Manuel Antonio Noriega and 16 associates on drug smuggling and money laundering charges. The Panamanian leader denied the charges and threatened expulsion of the 10,000 U.S. service personnel and their families stationed around the Panama Canal.

FEBRUARY 6

1952: On this day in 1952, after a long illness, King George VI of Great Britain and Northern Ireland dies in his sleep. Princess Elizabeth, the oldest of the king's two daughters and next in line to succeed him, was in Kenya at the time of her father's death; she was crowned Queen Elizabeth II on June 2, 1953, at age 27.

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New postmaster takes over in Fenton



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

(Top) Sid Thompson, manager of post office operations for the Detroit District, says a few words Thursday morning before Mara Boyle is sworn in as postmaster in Fenton. (Bottom) Outgoing Postmaster Brenda Hendrix embraces a friend on Thursday prior to a ceremony to swear in the new postmaster. Hendrix served for 15 years in Fenton and is now the postmaster of the Flint post office. **See more photos at tctimes.com.**

Livingston County Sheriff not seeking re-election

■Endorses Undersheriff Mike Murphy for top job

Livingston County Sheriff Robert J. Bezotte announced that he will not seek re-election this fall. In a press release issued Jan. 22, he said, “In August of 2004, the voters of Livingston County placed a great deal of trust in me by electing me to the Office of Sheriff. Serving as your sheriff from 2005 thru 2016 has been one of the greatest accomplishments in my life and I am grateful for the opportunity.” Bezotte said after much thought and consideration, he made the decision not to seek a fourth term and to conclude his 43-year law enforcement career.

“The time has come for my beautiful wife, Shelia, and me to relax and spend more time with our family,” he said. “Thank you to all the citizens of Livingston County who have been

supportive of me over the past 12 years,” he added.



Bob Bezotte



Mike Murphy

“Thank you to the men and women of the Livingston County Sheriff’s Office. Their teamwork and dedication provides all of us with the opportunity to live and work in a safe and protected community and their efforts every day make it a better place to live.” Bezotte said he has not always seen eye to eye with the Livingston County Board of Commissioners, adding, “My intent has always been to do what is right for our employees and our citizens.” In his press release, Bezotte also asks the citizens of Livingston County to support Undersheriff Mike Murphy for the sheriff’s position. “It is time for a new generation to move the Sheriff’s Office forward and Mike has the experience and leadership to make this happen,” he said. “Mike’s dedication to community and his unsullied integrity make him the obvious choice for your next sheriff.”



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ONLINE EXCLUSIVES

► Read about Friday night's basketball game results. Visit tctimes.com

Devils make history vs. New Lothrop

By David Troppens
dtroppens@tctimes.com

It was a historic night for the Lake Fenton varsity wrestling team.

The third-ranked team in Division 3 Blue Devils defeated New Lothrop for the first time, beating them by a 42-22 score. Lake Fenton also defeated Montrose 67-10.

Lake Fenton led just 23-22, but won each of the final four matches to earn the win. Jarrett Trombley (119) started the run with a pinfall victory, followed by a Hunter Corcoran (125) forfeit win. Saben Spangler (130) followed up those wins with a major decision victory, while

See **DEVILS** on 17A

Bronchos back atop the Metro League

■ Holly plays complete game, crushes stunned Flushing Raiders, 72-42

By David Troppens
dtroppens@tctimes.com

Holly — For the first time entering a Metro League game this season, the Holly varsity boys basketball team's usually unquestioned status as the conference's elite team was up for grabs on Tuesday night.

After the Bronchos' shocking upset loss to Brandon on Jan. 22, Holly entered its next game facing the Metro's first-place squad, Flushing. Considering a loss would've dropped Holly to two games behind the Raiders in the Metro standings, the contest was as close to a must-win game the Bronchos could expect in late January.

The Bronchos answered the challenge successfully. By pushing out its offense beyond the three-point arc and forcing

ing Flushing's zone defense to have to defend larger areas of the floor, the Holly Bronchos had one of their finest offensive contests in coach Lance Baylis' tenure, capturing an overwhelming 72-42 victory against the Raiders.

The visiting Raiders never had a chance. Holly hit a crisp 8-of-15, including five treys, from the field in the opening quarter and led 23-10 entering the second period. The Bronchos' offense never cooled off. Forcing Flushing's defense into unfamiliar territory. Holly kept punishing the Raiders with open perimeter jumpers usually set up by some slight penetration or through solid ball reversal.

Holly finished the contest hitting 60 percent (26-for-43) from the field, with nine of those hoops being three-pointers. While Holly's offense sizzled, the Bronchos' defense was equally effective against Flushing, forcing the Raiders to just 14 field goals



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | MARK BOLEN

Holly's Kyle Woodruff (right) scored a game-high 22 points in the Bronchos' 72-42 victory against Flushing on Tuesday.

for the entire contest. When the game ended, while the two teams still remained tied at 7-1 atop the Metro standings, it was apparent

the old sheriff in town still holds office.

"We've been preparing for the
See **BRONCHOS** on 17A



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PREP REPORT

COMPETITIVE CHEER

► **Metro League competitive cheer meet #2:** The Fenton Tigers led the three area teams at the second jamboree, placing fifth in the eight-team event. Holly placed sixth while Linden took eighth.

The Tigers made their jump by posting the third-best round three score of the meet, recording a 286.90. That gave Fenton a total score of 707.06. Holly finished with a team score of 695.42, while Linden had a team score of 653.00.

BOYS SKI

► **Fenton vs. Powers:** The Tigers won the meet by a combined score of 37-38. The Fenton Tigers defeated Powers 18-19 in the slalom portion of their dual meet on Wednesday. Brendan McNerney led the Tigers with a time of 54.76 seconds. Also scoring for Fenton were Tommy Kemp (57.44), Carson Lowell (1:00.41), and Chad Booher (1:03.92).

The teams tied 18-18 on Thursday during giant slalom action. McNerney and Kemp placed first and second, respectively with times of 44.43 and 44.49 seconds. Lowell was sixth (46.84), while Braden Lapa was 10th (48.97).

GIRLS SKI

► **Fenton vs. Powers:** Fenton defeated Powers 27-54. The Fenton Tigers defeated Powers 13-29 in the slalom version of their competition on Wednesday with Zoe Weinberg displaying why she is among the strongest skier in the Mt. Holly Division. She placed first among all competitors with a combined time of 55.79. Weinberg has yet to lose a race this year at Mt. Holly. Also scoring were Milo Keranen (1:03.13), Ashlyn Smith (1:07.23) and Rachel Smith (1:08.06).

During Thursday's giant slalom event, Smith placed second (46.27), while Keranen was third (46.86). Rachel Smith (47.96) was fourth and Natalie Guenther was fifth (50.36).

GIRLS BASKETBALL

► **Lake Fenton JV vs. Mt. Morris, Beecher:** Lake Fenton defeated Mt. Morris 33-11 and Beecher 48-18. Against Mt. Morris, Kayla Elirch led the Blue Devils with nine points, while Savannah Shustock netted eight points. Sophia Clements, Morgan Reitano and Hanna Hellebuyck had seven points each against Beecher.

BOYS BASKETBALL

► **Fenton freshmen 36, Linden 27:** Nicholas Cairnduff led Fenton with 13 points, while Brock Henson chipped in 10 points. Linden was paced by Travis Klocek and Hayden Mahakian with nine points each.

BOYS BOWLING

► **Holly def. Fenton:** Vladi Craycraft bowled games of 200 and 222, recording a 422 series in the Bronchos' win against Fenton. Eddie Sanner also rolled a 209 game, while the squad combined for a 188 baker contest. Fenton was led by John Cryderman's 182-188-370 series.

► **Brandon def. Linden:** Linden had baker game scores of 245 and 180, but fell short against Brandon. Trevor Sundrla led the Eagles with a 245-180-425 series.

GIRLS BOWLING

► **Fenton def. Holly:** Fenton's Angela Hanners led the Tigers with a 199-178-377 series, as Fenton captured a tight victory against Holly. Madisyn Fultz led the Bronchos with a 152-130-282 series.

► **Brandon def. Linden:** Molly Churches led the Eagles with a 169-170-339 series. The squad also combined for a 154 baker game victory.

Linden wrestlers looking for a title

■ Easily defeat Fenton in battle of area rivals

By David Troppens

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The Linden varsity wrestling team has put itself in position to capture at least a share of the Metro League championship on Wednesday.

And while doing so, the Eagles also beat their biggest rivals.

Second-place Linden won 13 of the 14 matches, recording a decisive 76-4 victory against the Fenton Tigers.

The Eagles had seven wrestlers capture pinfall victories during the match, including collecting six in a row at one point. The pinfall wins were earned by Patrick Kerr (135), Dawson Blank (145), Bryce Davis (152), Avery Jacobs (160), Jonathon Marme (171), Aaron Steedman (189) and Jaylin Steedman (215). Justin Cygnar (112) also won his match by major decision.

The rest of Linden's victories were by forfeit. They were recorded by Adam Glazar (103), Koleton Strauss (119), Caleb White (125), Chandler Monsey (130) and Skyler Stites (285).

Jake Church (140) collected the Tigers' victory, with a major decision win.

Linden's last Metro League crown



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | MARK BOLEN

Linden's Koleton Strauss takes down a foe in a recent match. Linden defeated Fenton on Wednesday.

came in 2006. The Eagles need to capture first place at the Metro League meet to assure at least a co-championship with first-place Kearsley. The Metro Meet is Saturday at Fenton High School.

Fenton enters the meet in eighth place.

Holly 41, Brandon 37

Holly completed the dual portion of
See **LINDEN** on 17A

Tigers take care of Clio, earn easy 58-44 Metro victory

By David Troppens

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If there ever was a game the Fenton varsity boys basketball team could've taken lightly this season, it would've been Tuesday's home game against the Clio Mustangs.

Sandwiched in between games against area rivals Linden and Holly, the Fenton players were also battling with exam week in school. Compounding matters, the Tigers had to use all their energy reserves to overcome a 21-point deficit against the

Eagles to earn a victory last Friday.

However, the Tigers held strong. Fenton took a 15-10 lead after one quarter and allowed the lead to gradually grow after each quarter break, earning a 58-44 home victory against Clio.

"We played pretty well," Fenton varsity boys basketball coach John Gilbert said. "Our first group kept extending the lead. Our second group struggled a bit with some concepts and we made some mistakes, ... but when we'd have our start-

See **TIGERS** on 17A

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Tigers overcome exam week, beat Clio, 46-37

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

It was the students' exam week. Coach Becki Moore was run down with illness.

Tuesday wasn't a good day to play a girls varsity basketball game for the Fenton Tigers. And yet, the Tigers came out on top, earning a 46-37 victory at Clio High School.

"We struggled a bit," Moore said.

"We had two exams yesterday, another two today and we were on the road. We were just tired. Clio took it at us and we got in foul trouble. Sarah (Cummings) and Chloe (Idoni) had to deal with first-half foul troubles. Sara had two fouls four minutes into the game and sat pretty much the whole first half and Chloe sat out the last two minutes. She ended up fouling out."

Still, Fenton was able to prevail, mainly due to others having to step up when needed. While Idoni led the team with 14 points despite fouling out of the contest, Taylor Mowery had seven points and Aly Lenz netted six. Madison Shegos and Chloe Foor had five points each.

Holly girls play near-perfect, still lose to Flushing

By David Troppens

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David Hall realized his Holly varsity girls basketball squad would need to play a near-perfect game to defeat the Flushing Lady Raiders.

The Bronchos (5-2, 7-5) almost accomplished the task.

Holly pushed the defending Metro League champions to the wire in Flushing's own gym before losing a 46-41 verdict on Tuesday. The loss represents the closest any team came to catching the Lady Raiders during the first round of Metro League action.

"We played really well," Hall said. "We hung tough. We just made sure we didn't do things to hurt ourselves. We wanted to maximize our opportunities more than anything. They are a talented team and they feed of your mistakes. We made a few, but we played really well. We played under control and didn't do things in a hurry."

Holly never led at a quarter break, but never trailed by many either. Flushing led 10-6 after one quarter and just 22-19 at halftime. Entering the fourth quarter Holly trailed 33-26, but the Bronchos did cut the gap to two a few times with the ball. However, a couple of key turnovers cost them. At another juncture late in the game, Kaitlyn Smith converted a layup, cutting the gap to two once again,

but the layup was waived off due to a travel call.

Smith, Holly's all-time leading scorer, led the Bronchos with 19 points. She was followed by Paige Reid's 14 points. Jenna Pepper chipped in four points, three assists and three steals, while Sami Hild (five rebounds) and Taylor Vines (five rebounds) played strong defense in the paint against Flushing's offensive weapons. Becca Fugate also had five rebounds.

"We did just about everything we could but we came up short," Hall said. "It wasn't because of lack of effort or execution. We had to play pretty close to perfect and we almost did. Our girls were gutsy. They played extremely hard."

Girls Gymnastics

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The Linden, Fenton and Lake Fenton co-op girls gymnastics team dominated the event.


Jessica Richert took the top spot on the beam with a 9.30, while Sabra Robinson scored a 9.05 on vault. Jordan Dawson had an 8.725 on the floor and an 8.55 on the vault. Carly Kozlowski scored an 8.575 on the vault and an 8.025 on bars. Megan Losey scored an 8.40 on the vault.

The squad hosts its last home meet of the season on Thursday at 6 p.m. at Hyatt Elementary School.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | MARK BOLEN

Holly's Jenna Pepper scored four points, dished three assists and had three steals in the Bronchos' 46-41 loss to Flushing on Tuesday.




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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | MARK BOLEN

Zac Miceli competes in the 200 individual medley during a recent meet. The Tigers defeated the Lapeer swim team 148-35 on Tuesday.

Tigers post clean sweep against Lapeer, 148-35

By David Troppens
dtroppens@tctimes.com

Winning a dual swim meet by over 100 points symbolizes complete domination of an opponent.

The same is true when a team takes first in all 12 events.

The Fenton varsity boys swim team accomplished both tasks against Lapeer. Fenton crushed Lapeer 148-35 on Tuesday.

Fenton swept the top three positions in seven of the nine individual events.

Zac Miceli was one of two Tigers to win two individual events. He took the top spot in the 500 freestyle (5:16.68) and in the 200 freestyle (1:52.48). Miceli competed on the winning 400 freestyle relay with Jake Iddings, Emilio Ca-

ballero and Andrew Gabler (3:47.96) as well. The other was Michael Fabatz who won the 100 freestyle (54.12) and the 100 backstroke (1:06.36).

Other individual winners for Fenton were: Iddings in the 200 individual medley (2:21.04), Joe Perrera in the 50 freestyle (24.60), Jacob Vickers in diving (193.45), Evan Bartow in the 100 butterfly (1:01.47) and Noah Sizemore in the 100 breaststroke (1:09.19).

The Tigers opened the meet, with the 200 medley relay squad of Fabatz, Bartow, Iddings and Justin Beemer earning a first (1:57.34). The 200 freestyle relay team of Vincent Barbaretta, Perrera, Kyle Banner and John Leske (1:43.42) also earned a first.

BRONCHOS

Continued from Page 14A

past week-and-a-half from them," Holly senior guard Steven Redmond said. "We knew this was a big game after dropping the last two (games). We had to come out and win it."

"We knew they were going to be in a zone. We wanted to move them around and get them tired," Holly senior guard Ian Hodges said. "We had two bad shooting nights last week, and the one against Brandon was atrocious. We went back to the drawing board and we got a lot of shots up over the days off. ... We focused on defense because defense was key tonight. We studied them and scouted them."

Kyle Woodruff had a huge contest, netting a game-high 22 points. He scored 11 in the opening quarter including nine from behind the three-point arc. Hodges had 21 points, including two treys.

"We've been working on that for the past week-and-a-half, our zone offense," Woodruff said. "We knew they run that 1-2-2 zone and we know we were going to have to be ready for it. That's what we worked on."

Trailing already by 13 af-



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | MARK BOLEN

Holly's Trevor Bland (middle) drives to the basket during the Broncos' win against Flushing on Tuesday.

ter one quarter, Flushing cut the Holly lead to 26-17 midway through the second quarter, before a conventional three-point play by Woodruff – a layup and a converted free throw – started a 15-2 run which put the Broncos up 41-19 at the half. The Raiders never flirted with getting back into the contest again.

Holly (8-2 overall) forced 16 Flushing turnovers. Conversely, Holly had just eight, and just one in the entire first half.

The victory was Baylis' school-tying 148th victory. Baylis will be going for record-breaking win No. 149 on

Friday against Fenton.

"It means a lot because this is my 11th year as a coach and my 19th year coaching basketball in the community in some sort," Baylis said. "I've given more than 33 percent of my life to basketball in this community and I've enjoyed the heck out of it."

Hodges and Woodruff each chipped in four assists, while Hodges had four steals. Woodruff had three. Redmond finished with 10 points, while Adam Tooley netted nine, all from behind the three-point arc.

TIGERS

Continued from Page 15A

ers starters stretch it back. ... Everyone got to play. We worked on a few things we need for the next couple of games.

"It was a nice win. Coming off the Linden one which was an emotional one, regardless how you say it, it's tough to let it go for the next game."

Fenton's offense scored at least 11 points each quarter. The Tigers' best offensive quarter was the second period

when Fenton scored 18 points, establishing a 33-22 halftime lead.

The Tigers (5-2 in the Metro, 7-3 overall) were pretty balanced with their offense. Chris Gilbert led the Tigers with 19 points and seven assists, while four others scored at least seven points. Peyton Coffman netted nine points, while Nick Wyrick and Drew Miller had eight points each. Patrick Conroy netted seven points.

LINDEN

Continued from Page 15A

the Metro League season in third place after edging Brandon on Wednesday.

Four Broncos recorded pinfall victories.

They were Wyatt Scribner (125), Colton Cleaver (152), Cade Dallwitz (189) and Jimmy Gray (285). Collin Dallwitz (215) recorded a tech fall victory, while Carsen Cuthbert (135) and Dylan Lupro (171) had forfeit wins.

DEVILS

Continued from Page 14A

Devan Melick recorded a decision win.

Early on, Lake Fenton trailed 19-11, but back-to-back first-round pin wins by Trent Hillger (285) and A.J. Geyer (103) gave the Blue Devils the team for good. Other Lake Fenton winners were Caleb Symons (215) and Sean Trombley (140) by major decisions and Kyle Sanders by decision.

Against Montrose, Geyer (103), Jarrett Trombley (119) Saben Spangler (125), Corcoran (130), Melick (135), Jackson Nevadomski (145), Jared Hatherhill (160), Kyle Sanders (171), Leo Shustock (189) and Hillger (285) won matches by pinfall or forfeit. Brendan Carr won a major decision verdict, while Sean Trombley (140) won a match by decision.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPENS

Lake Fenton's Kyle Sanders (left) remains on top of a recent foe. Lake Fenton defeated New Lothrop and Montrose on Wednesday.

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Senate Bill 434: Authorize highway drug testing pilot program

To authorize a one-year pilot program in five counties for roadside drug testing, to determine whether drivers are operating vehicles while under the influence of a controlled substance (marijuana in particular) by means of "oral fluid analysis" (saliva test). After the first year, the State Police could continue the pilot programs in other counties.

Passed 28 to 10 in the Senate

Sen. David Robertson (R-Dist. 14)	☒ YES
Sen. Mike Kowall (R-Dist. 15)	☒ YES
Sen. Joe Hune (R-Dist. 22)	☒ YES
Sen. Jim Ananich (D-Dist. 27)	☒ NO
Sen. Ken Horn (R-Dist. 32)	☒ YES

Senate Bill 233: Expand new car purchase tax break

To revise a 2013 law that exempts from sales tax the value of a trade-in when buying a motor vehicle, boat or RV, so it also applies to purchases made from dealers in other states. Under the 2013 law, the tax exemption is supposed to be phased in over 24 years.

Passed 37 to 1 in the Senate

Sen. David Robertson (R-Dist. 14)	☒ YES
Sen. Mike Kowall (R-Dist. 15)	☒ YES
Sen. Joe Hune (R-Dist. 22)	☒ YES
Sen. Jim Ananich (D-Dist. 27)	☒ YES
Sen. Ken Horn (R-Dist. 32)	☒ YES

House Bill 4535: Exempt police from pistol purchase red tape

To exempt law enforcement officers from the law that prohibits purchasing a pistol from an individual unless a person gets a "purchase permit" from local police. A 2012 law repealed this requirement for pistols bought by civilians from a federally licensed firearms dealer.

Passed 32 to 3 in the Senate

Sen. David Robertson (R-Dist. 14)	☒ YES
Sen. Mike Kowall (R-Dist. 15)	☒ YES
Sen. Joe Hune (R-Dist. 22)	☒ YES
Sen. Jim Ananich (D-Dist. 27)	☒ YES
Sen. Ken Horn (R-Dist. 32)	☒ YES

House Bill 4187: Authorize jail for vandalizing road signs, lights, etc.

To authorize criminal penalties of up to 93 days in jail and a \$500 fine for vandalizing or removing a traffic control device, light post, sign, etc. on a road or highway. For a third or subsequent offense, the penalty would be one year in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

Passed 88 to 18 in the House

Rep. Hank Vaupel (R-Dist. 47)	☒ YES
Rep. Joe Graves (R-Argentine Twp.)	☒ YES

House Bill 5220: Appropriate money for Flint water contamination response

To appropriate \$28 million to pay for response activities related to the contamination of the Flint water supply, of which \$2.8 million is federal money.

Passed 106 to 0 in the House

Rep. Hank Vaupel (R-Dist. 47)	☒ YES
Rep. Joe Graves (R-Argentine Twp.)	☒ YES

WATER

Continued from Page 3A

had a few people do this so far," he said.

Other stores and organizations are also trying to help.

"We've been donating water now for quite awhile," said Chris Palmer, assistant manager at VG's Grocery on Silver Parkway in Fenton. "We donated three pallets of water following the Linden and Fenton high school football game in October, when the high schools were

"I just sympathize with these families. If that was me and my family, I'd be very upset."

Marvin Yono
Father of three and owner of Alpine Marketplace

doing their water drives for Flint."

The two local VG's Grocery stores in Fenton are also participating in a state-wide campaign which began last Saturday, Jan. 23 at all 91 SpartanNash stores in Michigan, which includes 10 VG's Grocery locations.

Customers can make a cash

register donation of \$2.99 toward a 24-pack case of Spartan bottled water, which will be delivered to the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan.

"We've been working since last fall to help our neighbors in Flint," said Meredith Gremel, vice president, corporate affairs and communications for SpartanNash. "We make it easy and even do the heavy lifting."

This campaign at the cash register will end Saturday, Feb. 13.

"We've had a lot of customers willing to help," said Palmer. "On our first day, we had 77 cases donated just at our Silver Parkway store. It creates a domino effect every day, between all our stores in Michigan."

Churches have also stepped up to help. Transfiguration Lutheran Church in Fenton Township donated more than 100 cases and 100 gallons of water to Salem Lutheran Church in Flint, its sister congregation. Salem Lutheran is working to become a "filling station" where people can bring in empty containers and re-fill them with fresh, clean water from their water feeding line. This initial donation from Transfiguration Lutheran in Fenton provides a starting point to getting fresh water into Salem's neighborhood in Flint.

ABOUT THE FLINT WATER CRISIS

In mid 2014, the city of Flint switched over to the Flint River for its water source, after the city of Detroit declared it would no longer sell water to Flint. After the switch to the Flint River, residents complained of foul-smelling water. Elevated levels of lead were detected in September 2015. Flint River water although not toxic, is more corrosive than the water from Detroit. The water stripped away a biofilm that stopped lead from pipes and pipe soldering from getting into the water. The county, state and federal governments have declared states of emergency, urging residents to not cook with, or drink city water. Amid the crisis, Detroit offered to reconnect to Flint.

GAS PRICES

Continued from Front Page

"highs and lows" of the past, when gas was \$4 a gallon and rack prices would go up 10 cents at a time.

"Whatever the price, it doesn't affect my bottom line, it's just easier to manage without the big fluctuations," he said.

As of Friday morning, Michigan drivers woke up to prices averaging

\$1.59 per gallon, due to the continued drop in international crude oil prices to below \$30 a barrel.

SUMMARY

Low gas prices are easy on the wallet today, but may have other consequences in the stock market and job market in the future.

Oil prices have bottomed out because of the large supply, including U.S. producers, which

have added more oil to the global market than the total production of any other OPEC nation than Saudi Arabia, according to the Associated Press. Now the lifting of international sanctions against Iran could send more oil flowing into markets that are already awash in crude.

While these low prices are good for the consumer, there are negative consequences, too.

Stock prices have had their worst start to a year in history, with oil company profits plummeting and dragging down the whole market. Exxon Mobil, for example, is predicted to see revenues fall 31 percent, from \$83 billion to \$57 billion, according to bizjournals.com.

With many Michigan residents employed by some of the new high-tech explorative and drilling companies both in-state and at other refineries, their jobs could be in jeopardy in the future. Nationally, nearly 70,000 oil production and support workers have lost jobs in Texas, North Dakota, Louisiana and Oklahoma.

Smith foresees that gas prices will continue to stay low because of what's happening globally in the oil market, and with the presidential election looming. "I don't see prices going up a lot in the near future, but I do think gas will be about \$2.50 by the end of this year," he said.

News briefs

GRAVES AND HORN TO HOLD FEBRUARY OFFICE HOURS IN FLUSHING

State Rep. Joseph Graves (R-Argentine Township) will be hosting February office hours in the Flushing area for residents of the 51st state House district, which includes the Fenton area. The event will be jointly held with Sen. Kenneth Horn (R-Frankenmuth). Graves will hold hours on **Friday, Feb. 19 from 8 to 9:45 a.m.** at Duffy's of Flushing at 125 East Main St., and from **10 a.m. to 12 p.m.** at Flushing Township Offices at 6524 North Seymour Rd., "I invite all residents to attend so that they may share their thoughts and ideas regarding state government," Graves said. "It's my job to represent the people of the 51st district and let your voices be heard in Lansing." No appointment is necessary. Residents unable to attend office hours are encouraged to contact Graves by phone at (517) 373-1780 or by email at JosephGraves@house.mi.gov.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

TO COMPLETE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE LEXINGTON OAKS SUBDIVISION IN FENTON, MICHIGAN

The City of Fenton, Michigan will receive sealed Request for Proposal's at the City Clerk's Office, 301 South LeRoy Street, Fenton, Michigan 48430-2196 to complete the development of the Lexington Oaks Subdivision until 11:00 AM on Tuesday March 8, 2016.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at that time in the conference room of the Fenton City Office, 301 South LeRoy Street, Fenton, Michigan. Bids should be submitted in sealed envelopes.

Bids are being solicited only from responsible and established bidders known to be experienced and regularly engaged in residential development. Satisfactory evidence that the bidder has the necessary capital, equipment, performance bond and personnel to do the work may be required.

Proposal forms and specifications are on file for the inspection of bidders at the Fenton City Offices, 301 South LeRoy Street and copies may be obtained by qualified bidders. Bidders can also go to www.cityoffenton.org/rfp to receive a copy of the bid.

The City Council reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to accept any bid, or portion thereof, which, in their opinion, is most advantageous to the City.

Michael T. Burns
Assistant City Manager

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