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.

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

Silver Lake Road closing

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

“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 embesser, 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."

“Frustrated with your cable service? 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

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.

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.

TEXT YOUR HOT LINE
810-771-TEXT
Ultimate Supreme - $10.00
Pepperoni, Sausage, Mushroom, Green Pepper & Onion (8 slices)

Three Meat Treat® - $8.99
Pepperoni, Sausage & Bacon (8 slices)

Hula Hawaiian® - $6.50
Pineapple & Ham (8 slices)

Crazy Combo® - $2.99
Crazy Breads® & Crazy Sauce® (8 piece order)

Italian Cheese Bread - $3.99
(10 piece order)

Caesar Wings (8 piece order) - $5.00
Flavors: BBQ, Buffalo, Garlic Parmesan, Teriyaki, Spicy BBQ, Bacon Honey Mustard, Oven Roasted, Lemon Pepper

Caesar Dips® - 59¢ or 2 for $1.00
Buffalo, BBQ, Ranch, Buttery Garlic, Buffalo Ranch & Cheezy Jalapeno

2-Liter Beverage - $1.99
Pepsi®, Diet Pepsi®, Mountain Dew®, Diet Mountain Dew®, Sierra Mist®, Root Beer or Orange

Includes Original Round Pepperoni Pizza, Crazy Bread® Crazy Sauce®, and a PEPSI® 2-Liter
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
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 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 shout something, 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 covering 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.

Ignore the people that are more dangerous 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 stability to be the president. And, thankfully, deep inside, he knows it.

Opinions are in if you think the author is correct and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Tri-County Times. Email the King at diog@rtimes.com. Some content adapted from the internet.
Which should come first — the house or the shed?

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

By Hannah Ball
hbball@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 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.

— the house or the shed?

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EVENTS AT MT. HOLLY

**RACE THE GATES RACING**
A program for all ages. Race the Gates is a recreational ski & snowboard handicap & medals racing program. This is a great way to get some timed runs & racing experience!
Every Saturday & Sunday | Registration at 11am | Racing at 1pm

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Began Monday, January 11th (There’s still time to join)

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Bill on Guitar | Saturdays | 2 - 6pm
Strickler Brothers | Sundays | 2 - 6pm
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www.skimtholly.com

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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-expense-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.
Inclusion 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 the VFW Auxiliary Post #3243 is Feb. 15.

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**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 MCRO recruit training in San Diego, California on Jan. 15 to become the most recent United States Marines.
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 past 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, performing 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 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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-$15 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.

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lKlepoch@lascoford.com

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Mon - Thurs 9-8pm | Fri 9-7pm | Sat 9-6pm

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.
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CABLE
Continued from Front Page

“The best way now 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 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 need for ‘negotiating’ franchise agreements,” Broecker said.

“Several years ago the state enacted the Uniform Franchise Services Act, which places severe limitations on the municipalities’ rights to negotiate, regulate a cable agreement,” said Fenton City Manager Lynn Markland.

The law was pushed very hard by Fenton Township.

“This new state legislature is doing away with the possibility for ‘negotiating’ franchise agreements,” 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, DirecTV or some other satellite service.”

Prior to AT&T services becoming available in the Fenton area, Charter Communications said they did not 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 Communications Commission (FCC).

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

The only negotiable parts of the standard franchise agreement are the percentage 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) consortium 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 Toto 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 in Fenton Township, Russ Ciesliski and Doug Busch for Linden and Fenton respectively.

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

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CHILDREN’S DENTISTRY
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 be in the state 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. 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 a ruler 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 would not even go to the dentist at all. 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 scared 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 am helping them maintain good dental health and avoid dental fears.

Age 1 dental visit is also a way to give a healthy start for your child.

I welcome your questions and comments. Feel free to e-mail me dsulfaro@comcast.net.
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WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP
I AM SO happy that Mr. LaJoie picked charilies 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?


JUDGING WHEN his wife will turn herself in as an accomplice to the embezzlement.

POSSIBLE SCAM REGARDING DOG LICENSES

Genesee County Animal Control has received information that a person or persons identifying themselves as “Animal Control” are going home to 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) 732-1860.

AUDITIONS FOR “TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD”
Fenton Village Players will hold auditions for the April production, “To Kill a Mockingbird,” on Wednesday, Feb. 4, and Thursday, Feb. 5 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 15, 16, 17 and 22, 23 and 24. For more information, call (810) 750-7700.

5 YEARS

Wednesday, Feb. 2, 2011

White out! Local DPW’s 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


20 YEARS

Sunday, Feb. 4, 1996

Expulsion challenged by student caught drinking. The decision by the Holly Board of Education to expel 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 police Lin- ped by Peter VanDriessche is up on Feb. 18 and he’s hoping to become the permanent chief. Lin Mayor Charles Boway 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 Schuppach saw the Shutt- le Challenger explode into flames. He watched it out of a window of a Piedmont Airlines jet 35,000 feet above ground. Schuppach 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 explosion. Five minutes later, the pilot informed passengers of the bad news.

National

1960:

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, 1962, the United States successfully detonated “Mike,” the world’s first hydrogen bomb, on the Enewetak Atoll in the Pacific Marshall Islands. The 10.4-megaton thermo-nuclear device instantly destroyed 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 observ- ers had written off Nixon’s political career eight years earlier, when he had lost to John F. Kennedy in the 1960 election.

February 2

1987: 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 emerges 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 threaten- ing weather, Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and “J.P.” the Big Bopper’ Richardson were killed in a plane crash. The weather informa- tion, call (810) 629-4846 • www.davelambheating.com

GOvernMENT COMPLIANT BY VERA HOGAN

Local

January 31

1965: The United States successfully launched the Apollo I space capsule, which carried astronauts Gus Grissom, Ed White and Roger Chaffee, the astronauts perished when the capsule exploded 51 seconds into the mission.

February 1

1968: It is reported that Cuban officials have shipped 2,000 guns to the United States for the purpose of arming members of the United States-based National Alliance, a small Black Panthers group.

February 2

1969: Four Black Panthers, all reportedly wearing “black berets,” were taken into custody in Chicago. The Panthers were suspected of being members of the FBI’s Wiretap Unit.

February 3

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, is identified as the group that kidnapped Hearst.

February 4

1988: Two federal grand juries in Florida announce indictments of an American military officer for his alleged involvement in the Iran-Contra Affair, a scandal that involved the illegal sale of American arms to Iran and the use of profits to fund anti-communist Contras in Nicaragua.

February 5

1995: A group of mole men is reported to have been seen by a group of hikers in the mountains of the Black Hills of South Dakota.

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. He was succeeded by his daughter, Princess Elizabeth, who becomes the queen.

February 7

2001: The United States launches a military invasion of Iraq, beginning a conflict that will last more than a decade and result in the deaths of thousands of Americans and hundreds of thousands of Iraqis.

February 8

2016: The United States announces the withdrawal of all of its military forces from Afghanistan, ending the longest war in its history.

News briefs

Sunday, January 31, 2016

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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.

“Thank you to all the citizens of Livingston County who have been supportive of me over the past 12 years,” he added. “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.”

For more information, or to apply, visit dortonline.org
Bronchos back atop the Metro League

By David Troppens
droppens@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 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.

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 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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**TRI-COUNTY SPORTS**

**Linden wrestlers looking for a title**

Easily defeat Fenton in battle of area rivals

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

The Linden varsity wrestling team has easily defeat Fenton in each of its meets this season.

Against Mt. Morris, Kayla Elirch led the Tigers with 90 points. Kyla Elirch and Hanna Hellebuyck had baker game scores of 245 and 180, but fell short against Brandon. Trevor Sundaf led the Eagles with a 245-180-425 series.

Against Holly, the Tigers took a 21-point defeat by the Vikings. The Tigers' victory, with a major decision win by Jonathon Marme (171), Aaron Steedman (160), Jonathon Marme (171), Aaron Steedman (160), and Skyler Stites (285).

In the second jamboree, placing fifth in the Metro League meet, the Fenton Tigers defeated Powers 27-54. The Fenton Tigers had a team score of 653.00.

Boys basketball


Lake Fenton JV vs. Mt. Morris, Beecher:

Dave Scrense (19), Jake Church (140) collected the Tigers' victory, with a major decision win.

The Fenton Tigers captured a tight victory against Holly. Angela Hammers led the Tigers with a 169-170-339 series. The squad also completed a 152-130-282 series.

Girls bowling

Madisyn Fultz led the Bronchos with a 245-180-425 series.

The Fenton Tigers enter the meet in eighth place.

Boys bowling

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 707.66. Holly finished with a team score of 695.42, while Linden had a team score of 653.00.

Boys ski

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Girls ski

Against Mt. Holly, Holly def. Fenton:

By Angela Hammers

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

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
LFLF 130,
St. Johns 88.775

The Linden, Fenton and Lake Fenton co-op girls gymnastics team dominated the event. Jessica Richert took the top spot on the vault. Megan Losey scored an 8.40 on the vault. Jordan Dawson had an 8.725 on the beam with a 9.30, while Sabra Robinson scored a 9.05 on the floor. Holly’s Jenna Pepper scored four points, dished three assists and had three steals in the Bronchos’ 46-41 loss to Flushing on Tuesday.
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.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 Cacallero 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 Barbarella, Perrera, Kyle Ban- ker and John Leske (1:43.42) also earned a first.

LINDEN

Continued from Page 15A

the Metro League season in third place after edging Brandon on Wednesday.
Four Bronchos recorded pinfall victories.

LINDEN

Continued from Page 15A

the Metro League season in third place after edging Brandon on Wednesday.
Four Bronchos recorded pinfall victories.

TIGERS

Continued from Page 15A

bers 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. Pe- yton Coffman netted nine points, while Nick Wyrick and Drew Miller had eight points each. Patrick Conroy netted seven points.

They were Wyatt Szczesny (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.

DEVELO

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 Synmons (215) and Sean Trombley (140) by major decisions and Kyle Sanders by decision.
Against Montrose, Geyer (103), Jarrett Trombley (119) Saben Spehrler (125), Corcoran (130), Melick (135), Jack- son Nevadanski (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 SPORTS

Sunday, January 31, 2016

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 se- nior 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-
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 Bron- chos 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 basket- ball in the community in some sort,” Baylis said. “I’ve given more than 33 percent of my life to basketball in this com- munity and I’ve enjoyed the heck out of it.”
Hodges and Woodruff each chipped in four assists, while Hodges had four steals. Wood- ruff had three. Redmond fin- ished with 10 points, while Adam Tooley netted nine, all from behind the three-point arc.
Brown 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.

I enjoy working with clients to identify their specific insurance needs, then pairing them with the best possible coverage.

Brittany Merryman
Personal Lines Sales

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**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 a while,” 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 doing their water drives for Flint.”

The two local VG’s Grocery stores in Fenton are also participating in a statewide 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 gives 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. 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 another 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.

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

GAS PRICES
Continued from Front Page
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**Leases**
- **2K Down** Includes Lease Loyalty and GMS Discount - Plus Tax and Dealer Fees - See Dealer for Details.
- $1800 Down on Equinox Lease.
- $1,800 Down on Cruze Lease.