

Beware! Don't cash that check

■Police say survey letter with check is yet another scam

By Vera Hogan

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Imagine opening your mail and getting a letter from a survey company along with a legitimate-looking check for \$2,920.

That's what happened to a local Fenton woman last week. She received a letter in the mail from Nettle Survey, Inc. in Rocklin, California.

The instructions in the letter ask the recipient to call a toll-free number with 24 hours to activate the check. Once activated, the money (if a bank actually cashes the check) is to be used to purchase Green-Dot, Vanilla and Netspend

See **SCAM** on 11A



This legitimate-looking Capital One check was received by a Fenton woman, along with instructions to purchase prepaid cards at local retailers.

PAGE 1B
And the Oscar goes to...

Weekend Times

SUNDAY EDITION

\$1.00

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2016

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

VOL. 23 NO. VIII

Linden reconfigures elementary schools

■Board compelled to make move to offset expected \$1.82 million loss

By Hannah Ball

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Linden — Linden elementary schools will undergo a district-wide reconfiguration to implement grade level centers starting next year. At its meeting Wednesday, the Linden Board of Education made the decision with a 6-1 vote. Students will no longer attend K-5 in one building.



Jason Rowden
Trustee

Starting in the 2016-2017 school year, two of the elementary buildings will house kindergarten through third grade, and one building will house fourth and fifth grade, which the board estimates will save \$492,000 and meet class size targets.

The administration at Central Elementary will decide the building-to-building specifics.

See **LINDEN** on 16A

“We must either accept and welcome the change and the challenges that come with it or we face our fate which is most likely a broke district.”

Jason Rowden

Linden Board of Education trustee

Silver Lake Road Bridge closed until mid-summer



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Davis Construction is handling the bridge demolition work on Silver Lake Road. The pile of asphalt is from the surface being removed to do utility work. **See story on Page 6A**



Holly aims to **improve its image**

Streetscape-style projects on North Saginaw Street to be discussed publicly on Tuesday.

Page 8A



Fire protection, tainted wells led to city's first **water works**

Until 1890, Fenton residents got their drinking water from wells.

Page 23A

TEXT YOUR HOT LINE
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“I just think it is pretty sneaky of the newspaper to put the King column in the midweek edition so that people have to subscribe to the Times to read it.”



“Remember this, George Washington was the only president in history who didn't blame all his troubles on the previous administration.”



“When you think about it, most votes are not cast for somebody, but rather against somebody. This is a sad statement on the quality of the leaders we elect or, more accurately, un-elect.”



COMMENT OF THE WEEK

“Fellow citizens, let's be sure to patronize the businesses in downtown during the six months the Silver Lake Bridge will be closed. They are all locally owned and operated and will need our patronage in order to survive another downtown construction closing. They need us, and we need them.”



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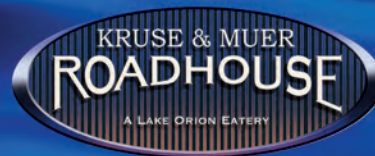
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travel

— THIS IS PART OF A TRAVEL SERIES BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE TRI-COUNTY TIMES —
NEXT STOP: OUT WEST



'Off the beaten path'

■ Look further than Orlando and Miami

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

If your warm weather destination is Florida and your goal is to relax and get away from it all, you won't likely find that among the busy beaches of Miami, or the swarms of families visiting theme parks in Orlando.

But with 1,350 miles of mostly sandy coastline, Florida boasts a number of other "sun and sand" destinations where you'll feel comfortable almost anywhere in flip flops and beach shorts.

At these less crowded beach destinations, there are still waves to be ridden and small beachside towns to explore.

Here are a few Florida beach destinations that will provide the relaxation part of your vacation:

Vero Beach

Halfway between Cape Canaveral and West Palm Beach sits the most formidable gem on Atlantic Florida's Treasure Coast — Vero Beach.

Its location in the heart of the Indian River Lagoon makes it home to some phenomenal flat-water kayaking.

Visit Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge at the north end of the barrier island. It adjoins

See **FLORIDA** on 15A



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Jacksonville Beach in Jacksonville, Florida, offers 22 miles of wide, white sand and saltwater.

A different kind of heat in Jacksonville

■ Biggest city in the U.S. offers variety of fun; visits to my mom

By Tim Jagielo

tjagiello@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795

Jacksonville, Florida —

Here, the weather changes quicker than in Michigan, and with a vengeance.

My stepdad, Scott Kuhl, a competitive sailor in his past, can sense these abrupt changes coming.

My mom, Anne Kuhl, Scott and I were relaxing under the umbrella on the beach on the Atlantic Ocean on a Saturday afternoon in August 2015 when he picked up his head and asked me to look at the sky behind us, to the south.

Sure enough, we had about five minutes to pack up and scramble to the convertible before the dense, soaking rain thundered through. Chances are, it will rain, and then blow over.

An 80-degree day feels far more intense and aggressive than an 80-degree day in Michigan, due to the angle of the sun's rays. Jacksonville

See **JACKSONVILLE** on 14A



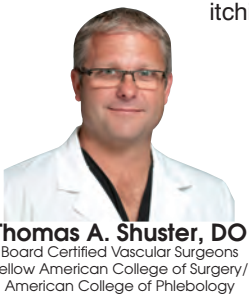
Tim Jagielo



Think varicose veins are just a cosmetic issue?

Varicose veins are a sign of vein (venous) disease.

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Come *Heller* high water

By Andrew Heller
aheller@tctimes.com

February frustrations — TV commercials and airlines

February is the worst month. I'm sick of winter. Spring seems an eternity away. Everything puts me in a bad mood.

Especially TV commercials. I don't know why. They just do. I find myself talking back to the TV saying things like 'Good grief, lady, I don't want to hear about your leakage problem.'

No commercial, though, has bugged me more than the one for Emirates



Andrew Heller
FEATURED COLUMNIST

Airline — the one with Jennifer Aniston wandering around the plane in a robe holding a loofah looking for the shower.

Have you seen this thing? It's annoying beyond belief. C'mon, no airline I fly has a shower. I'm lucky the airlines I fly have a bathroom. The last trip I was on was the worst. The bathroom floor had a hole in it with a red arrow pointing to it, 'Aim here!' You could see clouds, it was terrifying. Although I do think I hit a bird last time. That was an enjoyable switch.

And how good could the shower be? Have you seen the trickle that comes out of the faucet when you're just trying to wash your hands? A shower would take three days.

What about the jostling? I have to brace myself between two walls now just so I can finish my business. Can you imagine trying to stand in a shower washing your hair? You'd be flying all over the place. Maybe they let you buzz the captain from a little intercom in there, 'Hey, I'm trying to shampoo here, could you hold her steady for a minute?'

And how filthy rich do you have to be to fly on an airline with a shower? Trump rich, at least, I suspect. Jealous? Of course. Like I said, I don't fly airlines with showers. The airlines I fly:

- Are one step away from putting in straps and poles for you to hold onto subway-

style. 'Seats? Yeah, those'll cost extra.'

- Charge you for a cup of ice. That's not even a joke. They really do. These are cheap, cheap airlines.

- I'm waiting for the day when they start charging for life jackets and oxygen masks. 'Ladies and gentlemen, we've had a loss of cabin pressure. Please put the oxygen mask over your face and pull the cord gently to begin the flow of complimentary oxygen, which will expire in 15 seconds, which should give

“The bathroom floor had a hole in it with a red arrow pointing to it, ‘Aim here!’”

you plenty of time to swipe your credit card for more.'

- Clearly employ sadists. What else explains why they put the rows so close together? The last row I sat in was obviously designed for people without thighs. If my knees came directly out of my abdomen, I'd have fit fine.

But they don't, so I was screwed. By the time the flight was over I couldn't walk. They had to wheel me off.

By the way, in that same commercial, Jen-Jen is also looking for the walk-up bar they apparently have on Emirates flights, complete with bartender.

Now that's an idea I can get behind. I'd use an airline bar.

Hotlines

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.

I DON'T NEED to make a lot of money to know that Donald Trump is an arrogant, conceited clown. He insults everyone who gets in his way. Yes, he is a successful businessman but he has no experience in politics. I don't want a rookie running this country.

WHAT HAPPENED TO Foster Childs? Love the King — he is priceless.

I WISH THE King would have stayed in the weekend edition. We are a conservative town and I'm disappointed in the trade for a left-leaning columnist.

THE COST OF health care was skyrocketing before the Affordable Care Act. Now it is just going up.

GOOD TRADE, HELLER for the King. His right-wing commentary made me see red more often than not. Welcome Andy, we already love you.

HEY QUOTE JUNKIE, 'Government is like a fire ...' was falsely attributed to Washington in 'The Christian Science Journal' in 1902, over 100 years after his death. And socialism doesn't mean what you think it means.

NOT ONLY DOES Obamacare affect people, so does Medicaid, it's all combined. My daughter works five days a week, makes \$10 an hour and has to pay \$464 premium a month for every month she goes to a doctor. She no

longer can afford to go due to high premiums nobody can afford.

THANK GOD FOR the Internet. It's the only way I can actually get any real news. The major networks for TV and radio are all in alliance with special interest and money groups.

DEMOCRATS (UNIONS) HAVE been running and ruining Flint for years and years. Now suddenly it's all the Republicans' fault?

PEDESTRIANS ONLY HAVE the right-of-way when crossing the street where there is a traffic control device (e.g. stop sign, crosswalk). Look up Michigan law. I see most adults not looking both ways when crossing the street or in parking lots. Would you let your kids do this?

I'M RESPONDING TO the individual who wrote about what wonderful seven years we've had under Obama. Obama is not responsible for the triple in the stock market. Americans acquire healthcare. The people paying cannot afford health care. The only ones who think it's a good deal are ones who get it for nothing. Unemployment. It's probably double than what the national average says.

FENTON DOES HAVE wonderful water but I do wish they would quit feeding fluoride into it. There are many studies that feel it's dangerous. It would also save the city a lot of money.

DID ANYONE ELSE watch ABC's mini-series Madoff and see a resemblance between Bernie Madoff and Donald Trump? Not just physical looks, but mannerisms, ways of thinking, personal life, dialogue and they're both scam artists.

PLEASE LET THE snowmobilers know that just because there's a few inches of snow doesn't mean they can trespass on your property.

WATCH OUT, FENTON, with Andrew Heller on the Tri-County staff, things might change. We could well see a return of the Rick Rockman era of journalism. Everything won't be nicey nicey. Heller will take a hard look at things.

HILLARY OWES 100 percent of her political existence to her man. She is a horrible example of feminism. But since the Democrats' primary is rigged, she will get their nomination. Her campaign for president is an historic first; it's also an historic worst. Anybody but Hillary.

See **HOT LINE** throughout Times

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Question asked at NCG Trillium

What movie or actor do you think should win an Oscar?

street talk

Compiled by Hannah Ball, staff reporter



"I haven't seen a lot of the new ones, but I think 'Star Wars: The Force Awakens.' The girl was pretty good. In the second one I heard she'll have a bigger part."

Jacob Adres
Holly



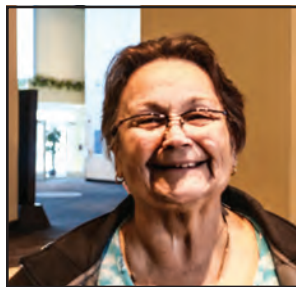
"I would think the winner should be Leonardo DiCaprio for 'The Revenant.' It was very good. You know what else was good? The 'Finest Hours.' But Leo should win."

Alice Bond
Grand Blanc Township



"'The Hateful Eight.' M. Night Shyamalan. It was so well executed and it was just thrilling and kept your attention."

Sue Grandy
Linden



"I like Leonardo. We're going to see 'The Revenant.' I like Sandra Bullock but I haven't seen her lately. I like Halle Berry. She's built good and she's a good mother."

Linda Cole
Byron



"We just saw 'Star Wars,' so I would say that. We've seen them all when we were growing up."

Linda Presson
Flint



"Spielberg, he's always been good. 'The Hunger Games,' 'Insurgent,' all of them are my favorite. The 'Hunger Games' movie deserves an Oscar."

Bobby Bingley
Davison

All children can be at-risk

■Community invited to attend one-hour program that sheds light on human trafficking

By Sharon Stone

sstone@tctimes.com; 810-433-6786

Whether anyone sees it, human trafficking exists and the greater Fenton area is not immune to it.

During the past year, law enforcement agencies, community partners and school leaders have been working collaboratively to increase awareness about human trafficking.

Human trafficking includes both sex trafficking and labor trafficking. Last year, agents from the FBI presented startling information to Genesee County school board members about the sex trafficking industry in Michigan. In fact, the sex trafficking industry is one of the fastest growing enterprises in the world, and it has reached this area.

Julie Williams, assistant superintendent at Lake Fenton Community Schools is asking for an hour of everyone's time. She added that the FBI investigated a human trafficking case involving a young person from Fenton approximately a year ago, which shows that human trafficking can happen anywhere.

On Wednesday, Feb. 24, Officer Amy Belenger of the Human Trafficking Task Force will be at Lake Fenton High School to provide parents, community members and local law enforcement officers with information about this business.

Whether their children are 2 or 22, Williams encourages any parent to attend. Please know, this business preys on all young people, it does not discriminate based on race, economic standing, religion, etc. All children can be at-risk.

"The information you walk away with, may help you save the life of young person," said Williams.

The program will be held in the Lake Fenton High School auditorium, beginning at 6:30 p.m. That same morning, a presentation will be given to students.



EXCLUSIVE.MULTIBRIEFS.COM

Parents and community members are invited to attend a one-hour program on Feb. 24 at Lake Fenton High School that will shed light on human trafficking. The program will provide information on how to spot human trafficking and how to report suspicious activity.

What is human trafficking?

Human trafficking is considered a modern day form of slavery and a crime against humanity. According to the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime, human trafficking is the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability, for the purpose of exploiting them.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

LOVE READING THE King in my Wednesday issue. It certainly breaks up the week and gives our card club something to talk about on Friday afternoons.

HERE IS A quote that the teacher's union is obviously familiar with: 'Let me control the textbooks and I will control the state.' Adolph Hitler.

I HOPE THAT all you parents gave your high-schoolers the history test from the King column. My sophomore daughter did not know who the Vice President of the U.S. was. Teachers, how is that possible?

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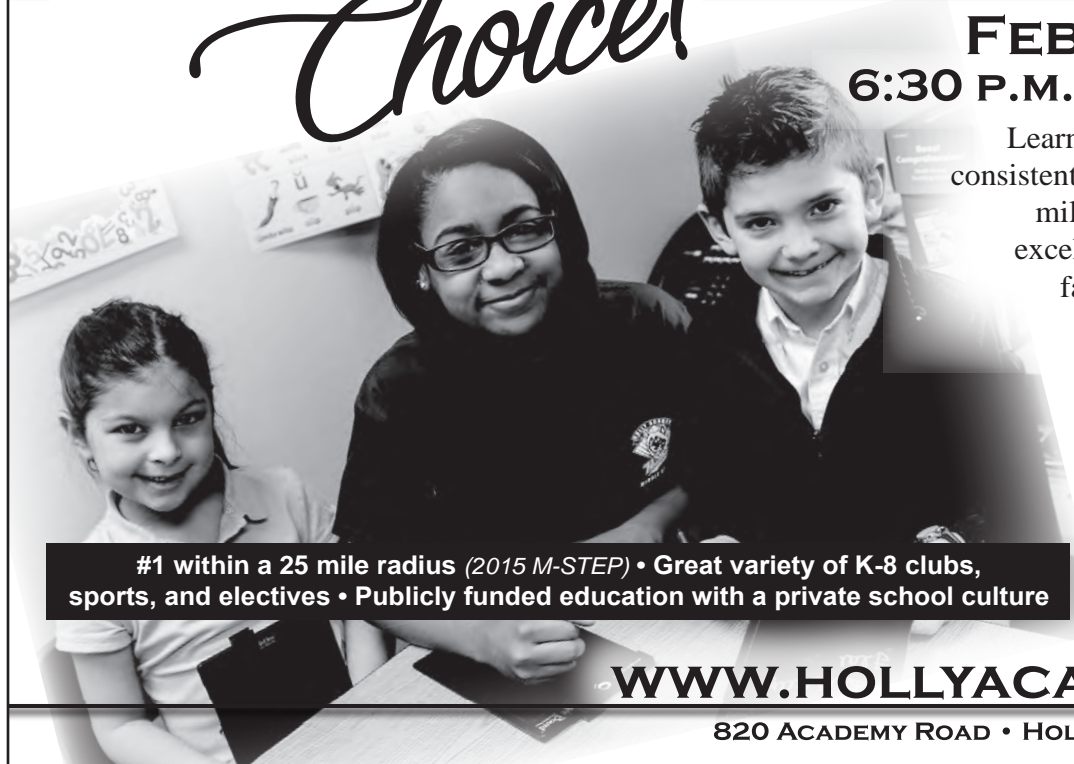
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Linden Mills building to undergo repairs

■ Includes repairing roof, outside stairs, concrete foundation, exterior paint

By Hannah Ball

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As one of the most historic buildings in the area, the Linden Mills building has been a cultural marker since it was built in the 1850s.

But, its age is starting to show.

Sidewalks are cracking, paint is chipping, and the roof has visual evidence of mold under the overhang.

The building was remodeled around 1960 and repainted in 1995, and the city believes it is time for more repairs.

"Since this building is owned by the city of Linden, it is our responsibility to make sure the building is preserved for public use," said Linden City Manager Paul Zelenak.

Last year, the Linden City Council hired John Dziurman Architects Ltd. to assess the building and outline the work that needed to be completed.

The projects the architects recommended completing in six months include restoring the east and west foundation walls and the ramp/stair access to the river, which was classified as being in "poor condition and a safety hazard" in the report.

They also recommended restoring the deteriorating masonry block retaining wall.

The report shows that the north concrete

"Since this building is owned by the city of Linden, it is our responsibility to make sure the building is preserved for public use."

Paul Zelenak
Linden City manager



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

As one of the oldest and most historic buildings in the area, the Linden Mills building needs repairs, and the Linden City Council has set up a committee to oversee the process.

foundation wall on the water is deteriorating and needs patchwork or replacement, and the wood stairs need to be patched or replaced.

According to the report, the wrong ice melt was applied to the decades-old concrete porch, causing it to weaken, and it too will need repairs.

A majority of the paint on the exterior walls is peeling because of damaging conditions and harsh sunlight.

The architects also recommend replacing the handicap entrance.

The roof, which was replaced in 2009, is in good condition and there's no evidence of leakage, but the report did find evidence of mold under the roof overhang and it needs some repairs and repainting.

All exterior windows require some type of repair and repainting. The indoor windows are in good condition.

The report said the Linden Grist Mill lacks the building systems needed for condensation control, indoor air quality, mold, and energy efficiency.

John Dziurman Architects Ltd. estimates the total preliminary construction cost for everything combined is approximately \$183,500 to \$288,500, depending on what the city plans to repair.

The city doesn't plan to fix everything at once and city planners don't have a completion date for the repairs.

"It is a short-term and long-term process where there will be continual maintenance and repairs on the building," Zelenak said. The city is in the process of organizing a committee that will oversee the short-term and long-term operations for the repairs of the Linden Mills building.

"There will need to be funds allocated, raised through public and private donations, grants, etc. in order to get the work started and completed," he said.

History of the Linden Mills building

According to the report, this three-level building operated as a grist mill until 1956. The village purchased it and used it for municipal offices and a library. About four years later, the municipal offices were moved to the current city hall and the first floor was remodeled for a meeting room. The second floor was remodeled for the library. In 1961, the mill reopened as the community center, and in 1976, the Linden Mills Historical Society Museum opened.

Silver Lake Road Bridge closed until mid-summer

■ Utility work is first priority for \$1 million project; water main to be installed early next week

By Tim Jagielo

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Fenton — After nearly a month-long delay, the Silver Lake Road bridge over the Shiawassee River was closed on Monday, and it's staying closed.

By Thursday, the surface of the road had been torn up, with an 8-foot pile of asphalt blocking the road, along with at least one excavator, work trucks and several contractors.

On Thursday morning, drivers approached the closure signs, many of them taking River Street to head west. More semi traffic is to be expected along North Road, LeRoy Street and Poplar.

Ninety-five percent of the \$1,013,063 project is being funded via a bridge replacement grant from the state of Michigan. Fenton City will be responsible for paying about \$50,653, plus engineering fees. OHM, the city's engineers, will perform the construction engineering work for \$251,350.

The work consists of replacement of the bridge, replacement of the water main that travels beneath the bridge and beneath the Shiawassee River, new curbs, sidewalks and street surface.

Originally, the city hoped to have the road open by July 1, and Department of Public Works Director Dan Czarnecki said they're sticking to that plan, though cleanup and restoration work will likely take until September, he said.

The project, scheduled originally to begin on Jan. 25, was delayed because of mismarked underground phone and gas lines, which have been corrected.

Gas line work occurred this week. Next week, a new water main will be installed. "As of now their plan is to fuse the plastic water main together on Saturday and then install the new water main next week," said Czarnecki via email.

During construction, every business nearby is open. "For motorists that need to visit businesses near the bridge, there is access to everyone," said Czarnecki. "When they are installing the watermain there could be some issues with driveways, but the engineer and contractor are working through the issues and will do their best to have some type of access available to all the businesses."

According to the contractor, Davis Construction, the bridge won't actually be removed until possibly the first week of March.

"The cleanup and restoration work may take until September, but should not have a huge effect on traffic."

Dan Czarnecki
Fenton DPW director



Dr. Juan Alvarado,
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HOT LINE CONTINUED

CONGRATULATIONS TO FENTON on revitalizing downtown and updating infrastructure. How about doing the same for the neighborhoods?

SO, ANYONE PRAISING Obama on the 5-percent unemployment rate, here's a question for you. Which would you chose, 95 percent of 8,000, or 92 percent of 8,500? Liberals are praising 5 percent unemployment as if it's a great accomplishment. Here's a fact, the labor participation rate is at a 38-year low, so get a clue already.

WE WOULD LIKE to thank the person or persons who paid for our breakfast at the Fenton Big Boy last week. What a wonderful surprise and generous thing to do. We will definitely pass on this beautiful act of kindness. God bless.

DOES ANYBODY ELSE have an issue with the food being served at the high school?

IN THE 'GUIDE to Subversive Organizations,' page 123, Coleman Young was cited by congress as a Communist, in 1952, '54 and '56. Young's job was to create racial strife. He succeeded and destroyed Detroit. Obama is following the same formula and achieving the same result on a national basis.

VERY DISAPPOINTED IN the Linden school board's decision on elementary realignment. They already made changes affecting the middle and high school students (trimester to semester), now they are disrupting elementary grades despite concerns from elementary staff and parents.

Village aims to improve its image

■ Streetscape-style projects on North Saginaw Street to be discussed publicly on Tuesday

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

While downtown Fenton was undergoing its multi-million dollar Streetscape project last year, the village of Holly has been busy planning its own makeover roadmap.

On Tuesday, Feb. 23, the Holly Village Council will hold a public hearing, during its regular meeting, on the "Imagine Midtown" report and recommendations. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. in the Board of Education room at the Karl Richter Community Center.

The 62-page report was produced by Main Street Oakland County and Oakland County Economic Development, following public input sessions held during the summer of 2015.

To date, the report has been presented to the Holly Village Council, Holly Township Board of Trustees, the village Planning Commission, historic district commissions and the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Each has agreed to recommend action on the report's proposals.

The North Saginaw Street corridor, from Oakland Street to Grange Hall Road was the focus of the project. Eight strategies for beautification and economic development are outlined in the report.

Among those strategies are what has been coined the "Saginaw Street Road Diet," aimed at reducing the number of lanes on Saginaw Street from four to three, creating two travel lanes and a center turn lane.

The road diet is what Holly Village President Ryan Bladzick said officials will entertain first.

According to the report, the road diet includes the installation of two five-foot bike lanes on either side of the roadway.

"These modifications will help create a multi-modal transportation network that increases non-motorized connectivity and safety, while maintaining efficiency for automobile traffic," according to the report.

"An interconnected system of side-walks, trails and bike lanes will greatly improve pedestrian connectivity throughout the village."

The report also claims the public input and visioning sessions suggested the main priority from the community's perspective is to maintain a good level

of service along Saginaw Street so that traffic congestion does not increase.

"Therefore, the goal for the corridor redesign is to create a transportation network focused on balancing a variety of transportation modes."

According to the report, the road diet can be accomplished without any major roadway construction.

According to Bladzick, there is no timeline attached to the overall Imagine Midtown report, and no costs have been determined.

"The point of the recommendations was to provide a structure/framework to guide the village, property owners and future investors/developers to mold the Midtown/Lake District to our community vision," he said.

"It's not necessarily a prescriptive 'to do' list of public works and projects. It's a 'vision' of what the future of that corridor should look like and a roadmap on how to get there."

"The public projects that we are focused on is the road diet and Ganshaw Park. We expect the road diet to be considered by the Village Council within the next month or so," Bladzick said. "The cost of that is only nominally more than our usual restriping that we do in the spring."

In future years, as budgets allow, Bladzick said the village may consider adding median islands or landscaping, but there are no set plans for that at this time.

"Likewise with Ganshaw Park, there were recommendations made to reconfigure the pedestrian path and add a long-proposed boardwalk," Bladzick said. "I know the Parks Commission is researching grants and other funding resources for those projects, as it's unlikely that the village budget can absorb a project like that on its own."

Future considerations

Attracting new businesses to the Saginaw Street corridor are among the eight strategies listed in the Midtown Holly report.

Retail gaps currently exist along the Saginaw Street corridor, according to report.

The area lacks places to shop or frequent for office supplies, stationary and gifts, limited and full-service restaurants, used merchandise resale shop, boutique, general store, grocery store and florist, for example.

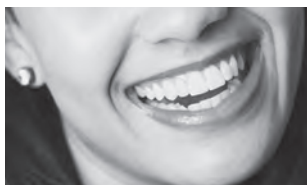
The absence of these types of businesses cause local shoppers and patrons to leave the trade area for their goods and services.

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News briefs

FISH LAKE ROAD IS OPEN IN HOLLY TOWNSHIP

The Road Commission for Oakland County opened Fish Lake Road to traffic on Feb. 18 between Mitchell and Kurtz roads in Holly Township. This section of road had been closed since the spring of 2014 due to a culvert failure. The culvert replacement began in mid-September and is now complete.

The \$1 million project, funded by the Road Commission, included replacement of the old culvert with an aluminum box culvert, guardrail replacement, gravel road restoration, installation of a \$400,000 fish ladder in the stream that flows through the culvert (mandated by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality; paid for by RCOC), and stream restoration.

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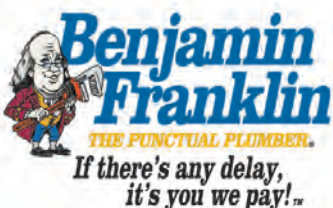
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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO

Two pipers with the Flint Scottish and Roane are (far left) George Murray and (far right) Bob Droppelman. The other musicians are Luke Stearns, Grace Gottler, Nora McCabe, Mary Lynn Gottler and Bruce Macartney Jr.

Flint Scottish Pipe Band celebrates 100 years

■ Celtic party is set for Feb. 27

The Flint Scottish Pipe Band, established in 1916, is celebrating its 100th anniversary Ceilidh (Celtic party) on Saturday, Feb. 27 in Davison.

The public is invited to celebrate the Flint Scottish Pipe Band's 100th anniversary at its annual Ceilidh on Feb. 27 at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 8428 Davison Rd. in Davison. Doors open at 6 p.m., and entertainment runs from 6:30 p.m. to 12 a.m. Traditional Scottish foods and a cash bar will be available throughout the evening.

Six bagpipe bands and massed bands will perform along with Scottish and Irish dancers. The popular Roane Celtic/American Folk Band will also provide musical entertainment throughout the evening.

Advance tickets are \$18 for adults,

and \$16 for seniors and children. Tickets at the door are \$20 for adults and \$18 for seniors and children. For details, visit www.flintscottish.com and click on Ceilidh, or contact Tom at (989) 928-4687, dillardmd@hotmail.com, or Rob at (313) 550-3652, robetripp@gmail.com.

The Scotch Whisky Tasting Event with fish and chips and live music will be on Friday, Feb. 26, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., also at the Davison K of C Hall; cost is \$45. For details, go to www.flintscottish.com or contact Bill at William.r.murray@comcast.net.

The Flint Scottish Band was established in 1916 by Scottish immigrants' intent on preserving their Highland heritage, and it's one of the oldest bagpipe bands in North America. It is a registered non-profit organization with an elected governing board. Visit them at www.flintscottish.com.

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VILLAGE OF HOLLY NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING IMAGINE MIDTOWN HOLLY DESIGN CHARETTE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Village Council of the Village of Holly will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, February 23, 2015 at 7:00 PM or as soon thereafter as possible, in the Karl Richter Center Board of Education Meeting Room located at 920 E. Baird Street, Holly, MI.

THE PURPOSE OF THE HEARING is to provide an opportunity for property owners, business owners and interested parties to comment on the Main Street Oakland County Imagine Midtown Holly Report regarding the future vision and improvement of the Saginaw Street Corridor that runs north from E. Maple Street through Grange Hall Road.

AN OWNER OR PARTY IN INTEREST, or his or her agent, may appear in person at the hearing or shall be permitted to file his or her appearance by written correspondence and his or her personal appearance shall not be required. Comments should be mailed to the Village of Holly Clerk-Treasurer, 300 East Street, Karl Richter Center, Holly, MI 48442-1694. A copy of the Main Street Oakland County Imagine Midtown Holly Report is available for review at Village Offices during regular business hours.

QUESTIONS CONCERNING THIS HEARING should be directed to the Village Offices at (248) 634-9571. Handicapped or other persons needing assistance to attend or participate in the hearing are asked to contact the Village Office 48 hours prior to the hearing.

Cathrene A. Behrens
 Clerk/Treasurer
 Village of Holly

Police&Fire report



HOLLY POLICE HOPE TO IDENTIFY BREAK-IN SUSPECT CAUGHT ON VIDEO

The Holly Police Department is attempting to identify a breaking and entering suspect. Police Chief Michael Story hopes that someone recognizes the person caught on the homeowner's surveillance video camera. On Feb. 4, at approximately 8 p.m., an unknown white male broke into a residence in the village of Holly. The same individual also broke into this same residence on Feb. 9. Personal items, worth several thousands of dollars were taken from the home during the first break-in. Nothing was taken during the second break-in. The break-in occurred off Grange Hall Road, between North Holly Road and the village limits. There was no one home at the time of either incident, which occurred between 8 and 9 p.m. The homeowner provided a copy of the surveillance video to help with the investigation. If anyone can identify this person, they are asked to call Det. Heather Wolkow of the Holly Police Department at (248) 634-8221 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.

COUNTERFEIT CREDIT CARDS BEING USED TO BUY GIFT CARDS

Reacting on gut instinct, a local business owner deactivated several gift cards he had sold, which resulted in keeping residents in Indiana from becoming victims of credit card fraud. The owner of the store said a woman came into the store and purchased several store gift cards, using three different credit cards. The credit cards matched her driver's license. The cards would not swipe, however, and the account numbers and three-digit code on the back had to be manually entered into the cash register. Suspicious of the incident, the owner spoke with others with the business shortly afterward and decided to deactivate the entire transaction. Within the next few days, two residents from Indiana called the store and said there were unauthorized purchases on their credit cards made at his store. Those "pending" transactions were halted when the store owner deactivated the gift card transaction. The credit cards used locally were counterfeit cards. Businesses are advised to be on the lookout for counterfeit credit cards being used to buy gift cards.

LARCENIES ON SUNFLOWER

On Feb. 9, the Linden Police Department received two larceny from auto complaints. One was from a resident in the 200 block of Sunflower and the other was from a resident in the 600 block of Sunflower. An unknown person entered an unlocked 2004 Ford pickup truck in the 200 block and stole a Garmin GPS. An unknown suspect also entered an unlocked 2010 Ford Flex in the 600 block and rummaged through the vehicle. Nothing seemed to be missing, however, the suspect used the garage door opener to open the garage door. Linden Police Chief Scott Sutter reminds residents always to lock their vehicle doors when left unattended and to remove any valuables.



SCAM

Continued from Front Page

prepaid cards from Walmart, CVS, Dollar General, Walgreens or Dollar Tree stores.

The recipient is instructed to purchase five of these cards in the amount of \$450 each for a total of \$2,250. The balance of \$670 is for training, service charges for the prepaid cards and mailing fees and costs.

Apparently, this is the first assignment and the start of a three-month probationary period.

Police say don't do it!

Fenton Police Chief Rick Aro said it is definitely a scam.

"The check is counterfeit," he said. "I haven't heard anything specific to this company, but it's similar in method to several others."

"Many times the perpetrators ask for Green-Dot cards or other cards that can be redeemed with just a serial number on the card. They don't have to physically

have the card in hand to cash it. I have actually received similar checks at the police department addressed to me."

The survey letter and check, drawn on Capital One, came in an envelope with a return address in Madison, Wisconsin. A googlemaps.com search of that address show it is on a vacant piece of land.

The address on the check is one of what appears to be a vacant office building in New Orleans, Louisiana. Nettle Survey, Inc. has a website and appears to be a real company.

To be safe, the best thing recipients can do if they receive mail like this is contact the police department.

"Typically the suspects are outside of our jurisdiction and many times located outside of the United States, but it's better for an officer to look at each situation to determine if there is any investigation that can be done to prosecute the case," Aro said.

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404 Lydia Lane - \$174,999
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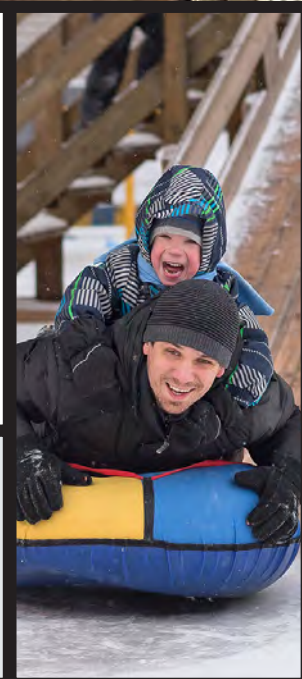
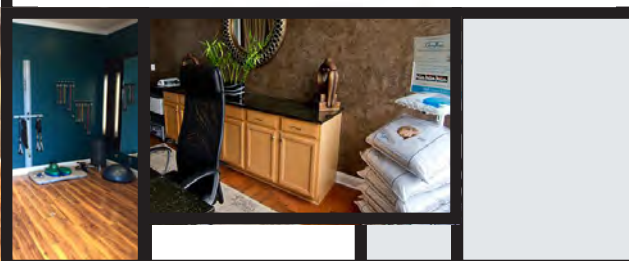
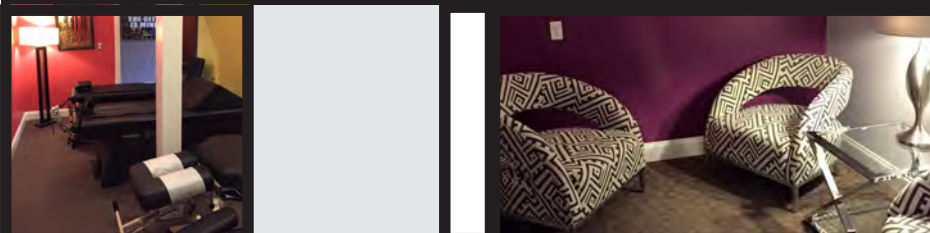
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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

This Jacksonville Beach pier is more than 1,300 feet long and popular among fishermen and tourists.

JACKSONVILLE
Continued from Page 3A

is where my mom decided to make her home last year. My stepdad and I were visiting her the first weekend in August. He was still living in Michigan to finish some work.

Jacksonville is 747 square miles, making it the largest city by land mass, in the contiguous United States, according to the official city website. The city is divided into “neighborhoods,” each with its own name and personality.

All that space leaves lots of variety for travel and exploration. My mom and stepdad prefer “Jax Beach” pier for proximity and easy parking, which gives access to fun spots right on the water to grab a Corona with a lime.

Local restaurants play island music, and a cool breeze wafts relief from the heat through the window. If you love seafood, you can dine at riverside restaurants that pull shrimp right from the water. For \$4 you can fish from the 1,320-foot pier, which is big enough to form its own micro-community.

Jacksonville is a bit of a crossroads, with affluent travelers making up a sizable part of the population, while labor can come from Georgia adding to the pool of accents.

Condo communities reflect their areas, which include names like “Sea Breeze,” and “Marsh Sound.” Most lawns are of harsh, stiff grass that holds its color in the heat.

While you may live off a tributary of the Jacksonville River, you can’t take a dive off the dock like you would at Lake



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Fresh seafood is pulled from the water at riverside dining spots.

Fenton — while there are dolphins in the water, there are also alligators and potentially jellyfish.

The land, animals and water are all thoroughly protected. Sea turtles come up on shore to lay their eggs. The nests will be marked off by fencing, and tampering with them comes with serious fines, if not jail time.

While I shouldn’t need an excuse to visit my mom and stepdad, the fact that they live in a such a fun area certainly helps.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Damien Watkins of Fort Rucker, Alabama plays volleyball with friends and family in August 2015.

“The Panhandle (northwest Florida) is often overlooked, and it has beautiful beaches, close proximity to airports and is very affordable.”

John Schmitt
Superior Travel

FLORIDA

Continued from Page 3A

Treasure Beach State Park, with lots of parking and an undeveloped beachfront.

Delray Beach

Between Palm Beach's riches and the yacht culture of Fort Lauderdale lies Delray Beach for those in search of a true South Florida coastal experience.

The dunes here are largely preserved with beautiful wide beaches accessible through tangled arches of sea grapes, according to the Travel Channel. The town boasts cool boutiques and European-style sidewalk bistros along Atlantic Avenue.

Fort De Soto Park

Located near Tampa in west Florida, Fort De Soto is considered by locals to be the best beach around, although few tourists know about it. As you drive in, the island park conjures up images of old Florida, and you could get lost exploring the 900 acres of bike trails, beaches and nature walks.

Leave the parking area at North Beach you'll find yourself in a completely natural beach prime for shelling, strolling or swimming in warm, shallow waters.

Pass-a-Grille Beach

Officially incorporated into the city of St. Petersburg Beach, this broad, white sand beach remains a world apart from the high rise crowded resorts of "St. Pete."

Stroll south of Eighth Street for Pass-a-Grille's quaint boutiques and cafés and enjoy historic homes and art studios when you're off the beach.

Santa Rosa Beach

It may look like the Bahamas, with turquoise swells courtesy of Northwest Florida's Emerald Coast. Worth a visit is also Santa Rosa's upscale artists' enclave of Gulf Place.

Anna Maria Beach

The white sands of Anna Maria in Manatee County are worlds away from popular destinations like nearby Siesta Key. You won't find a volleyball net or parasail in sight; bring a cooler and a book, and plant yourself on the beach for the day.

Tigertail Beach

Naples and Marco Island locals would like this beach to stay a best-kept secret, with its isolation, unspoiled beauty and two beaches in one. Visitors can enjoy the lagoon or make their way across to the beach for gorgeous Gulf access.

The Panhandle

"The Panhandle (northwest Florida) is often overlooked, and it has beautiful beaches, close proximity to airports and is very affordable," said John Schmitt of Superior Travel. "If you visit after March or April, you're likely to enjoy warmer weather. The Jacksonville-St. Augustine area in northern Florida is also a great place to visit, especially if you enjoy cultural and historical sites, as well as beaches. St. Augustine is the oldest city in the U.S."

Thirty-six hours changed local man's life

■ St. John's spiritual renewal weekends result in closer relationships

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

Will Stiverson, 33, of Fenton Township is no stranger to the Fenton community. In addition to being a talented entertainer, he volunteers his time and talents to many worthwhile community organizations.

He is a divorced father of a son, Logan, 10, to whom he is devoted.

People who know Stiverson well have noticed a positive transformation in him of late.

When asked about it, he said, "Thirty-six hours changed my life."

Those 36 hours are the result of his participation in CRHP (pronounced Chirp), which stands for Christ Renews His Parish. Through CRHP, Stiverson said members become better citizens,



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | VERA HOGAN

Will Stiverson, 33, of Fenton says his participation in CRHP (Christ Renews His Parish) changed his life in 36 hours.

“We think we're the only ones going through bad times and have issues, but we're not.”

Will Stiverson
*CRHP (Christ Renews His Parish)
team leader*

better spouses and parents, and better Christians.

CRHP is a personal and parish spiritual renewal process, which allows Catholics to witness to one another "the amazing things God has done for us," said Stiverson.

The CRHP process allows Catholic men and women to take a break from their busy lives, share their faith with others and get to know God through His works.

Stiverson was invited to participate in his parish's CRHP group a few years ago but said he "put it off for a few years."

He was able to attend his first weekend retreat in April of 2013.

See **RENEWAL** on 21A

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Times wins 21 awards in the MPA's Better Newspaper Contest

By Sharon Stone

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The Tri-County Times won an impressive 21 awards in the Michigan Press Association's Better Newspaper Contest. Your local newspaper competes against newspapers of comparable size across Michigan.

This year, the Pennsylvania News Media Association judged all of the entries. Results of the contest were announced in January and an awards dinner was held at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids.

One of the highlights from the contest was that the Times won first place for its website, tctimes.com.



Sharon Stone

We are constantly improving and adding features for the convenience and enjoyment of our readers. I am thrilled that Features Writer Sally Rummel won first place for her story "A new year, a changing McDonald's," and honorable mention for her story "Who the heck is Dewey?" Tim Jagielo, our associate editor/photographer/videographer won first, second and third place in the "news photo" category for his expertise in details. Judges noted that Jagielo had a knack for capturing emotion in his photos.

Longtime Sports Editor David Troppens once again walked away with numerous awards, including first place for his sports writing and second- and third-place for his columns, among other awards. Judges commented that Troppens' photos were eye-catching and he too caught emotion in his subjects.

The Times' composition department led by Jennifer Ward won second place for "Best Newspaper Design." This is in addition to the "Best Website" award.

The Times' advertising department led by Director Gail Grove also took home seven awards in a very competitive field of submissions. Judges made comments, such as "Great ad! Very subtle and straight to the point," "The design is clean and the ad flows nicely," and "Great layout."

As editor, I am so proud of the entire staff at the Times. We look forward to creating the best newspaper and website for our valued readers and advertisers.

LINDEN

Continued from Front Page

Elementary reconfiguration, which has been talked about for over a year, is in response to the projected loss of 253 of students over the next three years, resulting in a loss of \$1.82 million and less than 1-percent fund balance by the end of 2016-2017.

Trustee Jason Rowden made the motion.

"It's been a long and difficult process and I wish that we weren't in this position, but I feel that we can't wait any longer," Rowden said. "We must either accept and welcome the change and the challenges that come with it or we face our fate which is most likely a broke district. I also believe that our staff and other stakeholders have the courtesy of having this decision happen sooner rather than later."

Michael Murphy cast the dissenting vote. "The K-3, 4-5 is a compromise. It's still not the most efficient way to go," he said.

The K-1, 2-3, 4-5 option allows for smaller class sizes, and Murphy said that is the most efficient option.

Scott Maker, board president, said, "I would like to thank everyone who's put in time.

There may be some concerns that more action could have been taken. The point being that we've been down this road two times now and a decision had to be made. I have the greatest of confidence in our administration and our staff to take this situation and make the most of it."

At previous board meetings, grade level centers were opposed by many parents and staff members. Parents cited concerns about having to drive to three different elementary schools if they had children at different schools, and the extra transitions their children would experience going from building to building.

The school board has implemented other changes to save money. At the January meeting, the board voted to revert Linden High School to semesters from trimesters for the 2016-2017 school year, saving the district approximately \$82,000 to \$328,000.

The district will also offer a full-day Young Fives Program, which will receive all of the FTE (full-time equivalent) in state aid, which is \$7,391 per student in the program.

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

Past options
One option explored last year was to move 31 students from Linden Elementary to Hyatt or Central Elementary, which would have solved unequal class sizes and helped fix budgetary issues. However, since parents opposed the idea, the school board decided to come up with other plans.

Because the plan did not go through, Board President Scott Maker said they had to hire two additional staff members, something he said the district cannot keep doing.

Clarification:

In the article, "Fenton, Holly and Linden water quality reports show low levels of lead in municipal water," results reported for Holly were from the 2013 Water Quality Report. The 2014 Water Quality Report for Holly shows lead levels at 4 parts per billion.

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FENTON WINS

Fenton swimmers are perfect in Metro play.
See Page 18A



ONLINE EXCLUSIVES

► For Friday night's basketball action, visit tctimes.com



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | MARK BOLEN
Linden's Garrett Strang (left) attempts a shot against Lake Fenton's Isaac Golson in the Blue Devils' 53-48 win on Tuesday.

Strong second half leads LF by Linden

By David Troppens

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Lake Fenton — The Lake Fenton varsity boys basketball team doesn't always have the greatest of starts.

However, if there is one

See LF on 20A

Blue Devil wrestlers are state-bound

■ Quarterfinals begin at CMU on Friday

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com

Ithaca — Ryan Franks wasn't supposed to beat state-ranked Luke Tromp in the Lake Fenton varsity wrestling team's Division 3 regional at Ithaca High School on Wednesday. After all, Franks had lost to Tromp just a few days ago.

But Franks (215) didn't let that bother him and he went on to defeat Tromp by a 6-4 decision. And it seemed Franks' match established the trend of the night. The Blue Devils wrestled well throughout the night, capturing the D3 regional championship with a decisive 56-18 victory against Lakewood in the semifinals and then an even more convincing 69-7 thumping of Co-runna in the championship match.

The title means the Blue Dev-

ils will be one of the eight quarterfinalists competing for a possible team state title at Central Michigan University starting at 4 p.m. on Friday. Friday's quarterfinal winners will advance to Saturday's noon semifinal round followed by the D3 state championship match at 3:30 p.m.

Franks not only established the pattern that many of his teammates followed on Wednesday, he also ended the night, earning a forfeit victory in the last match against Co-runna. Minutes later, the Blue Devils were busy taking turns biting their regional championship trophy.

"When you have an un-ranked kid beating a ranked kid, that gets people excited," Franks said. "It's just awesome because we have a great group of guys who are so close together. We love wrestling with each other and love having fun

See STATE-BOUND on 19A



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPEPENS

Lake Fenton's Sean Trombley (right) earned two victories during the Division 3 team regionals held at Ithaca High School on Wednesday. Lake Fenton won the team regional title.



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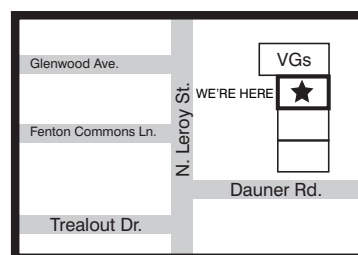
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Fenton, Holly swim teams win recent meets

By David Troppens

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The Fenton varsity boys swimming and diving team will enter the Flint Metro League swim meet in first place.

The Tigers earned that right by defeating the Swartz Creek/Flushing co-op 104-82 at Fenton High School on Tuesday. The Tigers also defeated Pinckney 108-72.

The Tigers recorded five outright firsts at the three-team meet and also had three others earn firsts against the Swartz Creek/Flushing co-op.

The Tigers' biggest event was the 500 freestyle where they swept the top three spots against both teams. Kyle Banner won the event (5:21.89) and was followed by teammates Andrew Gabler (5:33.23) and Evan

Bartow (5:35.65). Other overall individual firsts were earned by Zac Miceli in the 200 individual medley (2:08.37) and by Ethan Krantz in diving (155.05). Two relays won firsts. The 200 freestyle relay of Miceli, Justin Beemer, Joe Perrera and Banner (1:32.57) did with a state-qualifying time. Meanwhile, Banner, Beemer, Evan Bartow and Michael Fabatz won the 400 freestyle relay (3:37.75).

Event winners against Swartz Creek included Banner in the 200 freestyle (1:52.92), Miceli in the 100 butterfly (55.99) and Fabatz in the 100 backstroke (1:03.57). Miceli posted a state-qualifying time in the 100 butterfly.

"It was a great team effort," Fenton varsity swim and dive coach Brad

Jones said. "We had great swims for Andrew Gabler. Ethan Krantz earned his first first place, finishing in diving and putting us ahead going into the second half of the meet."

Holly 105, Kearsley 43

Holly recorded its first Metro victory by defeating Kearsley.

Tanner Graverette won the 200 freestyle and 100 freestyle individually, while teaming with Michael Butler, Bryce Nichols and Emilio Rodriguez to win the 200 freestyle relay. Ryan Prast earned a first in the 500 freestyle and a second in the 200 individual medley, while Michael Butler placed first in diving and second in the 50 freestyle. Nichols posted seconds in the 100 butterfly and the 100 breaststroke.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | MARK BOLEN

Holly's Tanner Graverette competes in the breaststroke in a recent meet. He won the 100 and 200 freestyles against Kearsley.

Fenton basketball programs sweep Clio

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

The Fenton varsity girls basketball team has set up a chance to get back into a share of first place in the Metro League against first-place Flushing on Friday.

The Tigers set up that scenario by defeating Clio 53-48 on Tuesday night.

Despite different players battling the flu every day, the Tigers were able to muster the energy to earn the home victory. The Tigers jumped to a 19-9 lead after one quarter, but Clio didn't

go away, cutting the gap to 38-37 entering the final period. Fenton (11-1, 12-5) held on down the stretch to get the victory. The Tigers trailed Flushing by one game in league contests entering Friday night's battle between the two foes. Chloe Idoni had a big game, netting 25 points. Sarah Cummings added 13 points while Maddie Carr netted five points.

Thaiya Christensen led Clio's offense with 11 points, but no other Lady Mustang netted more than single-digits.

Boys Basketball Fenton 51, Clio 40

The Fenton varsity boys basketball team took a 17-8 lead after one quarter and never lost control of the contest.

"We played really well at the beginning," Fenton coach John Gilbert said. "We played like we are trying to play — moving the ball and being patient. We've not always had great starts, so it was nice to have one. We had times when we got away from what we were doing and they'd get back, but then we'd get it back and take the lead. ... I felt we pretty much controlled the game the whole way."

The Tigers (8-4, 10-5) increased its head to 27-17 at halftime and led 37-21 after three quarters.

Chris Gilbert led the Tigers with 15 points and six assists, while five others scored at least six points.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SCOTT SCHUPBACH

Fenton's Chloe Idoni scored a game-high 25 points in the Tigers' 53-48 victory against the Clio Mustangs on Tuesday. She's pictured here during a past contest driving to the basket.

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STATE-BOUND

Continued from Page 17A

with each other.”

“That kid beat him on Saturday,” Lake Fenton varsity coach Vance Corcoran said about Franks’ victory against Tromp. “At 112, Hunter Hypio beat a kid who pinned him in the second period (in individual districts). We are peaking at the right time. You see us wrestling as a team. These are solid teams we wrestled today. Lakewood was ranked and we beat them pretty bad. We stayed off our backs. We didn’t give up many points and our studs got their pins. How else do you throw 69 points against Corunna?”

Lakewood never had a chance once Franks began the match with the decision win. It took Trent Hillger (285) just 17 seconds to win his match and then A.J. Geyer (103) followed with a pinfall in 3:24 against Cole Jackson, a wrestler who also is ranked. Hypio (112) made it three victories against three of Lakewood’s ranked wrestlers when he beat Jon Maag by technical fall. Lake Fenton already led 18-0 and the eventual semifinal victor was fairly obvious. Before the match was over, Hunter Corcoran (125), Saben Spangler (130), Devan Melick (135) and Jackson Nevadomski (152) had pinfall victories against Lakewood foes. Leo Shustock (189) and Sean Trombley (140) earned major decision wins while Jarrett Trombley (119) was a forfeit victor.

Against Corunna, the Blue Devils were equally impressive. Hillger (285), Corcoran (125), Melick (135), Sean Trombley (140) and Shustock (189) won pinfall matches while Hypio (112) won by technical fall. Jarrett Trombley (119) also won by decision.

Trombley may have enjoyed the re-



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPENS

(Top) Lake Fenton’s Ryan Franks works on pinning an opponent during the Blue Devils’ team regional championship meet on Wednesday. (Immediately above) Leo Shustock works on a pin of his own during the same meet.

gional title a bit more than most considering he had to miss the first half of the season due to transferring from Corunna, the school Lake Fenton defeated to earn their third team state trip in six seasons.

“It feels good. It’s what we’ve been working on the entire year,” Trombley said. “(Beating Corunna) is a feeling like none other. It shows that I definitely made the right decision.”

The Blue Devils now get ready for the team state meet. Lake Fenton lost to Dundee in the quarterfinals two years ago. The squad lost to Richmond 33-22 in the Division 3 team state championship in 2011.

“Everyone has to wrestle their hardest, but have to make sure you are having fun,” Franks said. “If you are having fun, then you’ll win.”

“We’ve been No. 2 all year. We have a target on our back, but we also aren’t No. 1,” Jarrett Trombley said. “We want to be No. 1 so that’s our goal.”

Holly adopting the 4-2-1 game plan, defeat Swartz Creek

By David Troppens

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Lance Baylis has a motto for the final weeks of the season, and it involves three numbers.

“Our goals have shrunk down to seven games — four regular season games, two district games and a regional game,” Baylis said. “Our focus is much clearer and that is nice for these seniors. The standards we’ve created are high for this team. We’ve won 32 of our last 36 games but to be 13-3 on the face of things is not good for us. But we lost those games by 10 points. We feel like we’ve done OK, but now we have room to grow from here and we are excited about that.”

The Broncos were given a challenge on Tuesday night. Playing with just eight players because of suspensions due to a minor altercation during Friday’s Swartz Creek contest, the Broncos figured a way to lead from start to end in a 61-58 road victory against the Lapeer Lightning. Holly led just 9-7 after one quarter,

but outscored Lapeer 23-12 in the second period, taking a 32-19 lead into the break.

Holly (13-3) had to hold off a late Lapeer rally in the fourth quarter. Lapeer cut the Holly lead to 57-55 with 44.9 seconds left in the contest, but Kyle Woodruff and Austin Harless locked up the victory with each converting two free throws down the stretch.

“It was a good win for us,” Baylis said. “I saw some things that indicated to me we are trending upwards. Kyle Woodruff is trending upwards. I see him finishing his senior year on a high note. I feel good about the team.”

Woodruff finished with 21 points and four rebounds. Ian Hodges led the Broncos with 23 points. Trevor Bland chipped in eight points while Steven Redmond had four points and three steals. Adam Tooley had six rebounds and three steals while Luke Copley played in his first varsity game, collecting four rebounds and two blocks.

Fenton football to open 2016 season in Gridiron Classic High School Kickoff

By David Troppens

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The Fenton varsity football team will begin its 2016 season in a little bit different fashion than most years.

The Tigers are going to open the season on Saturday, Aug. 27 at 7 p.m. during the Second-Annual Gridiron Classic

High School Football Kickoff being held at Grand Valley State University.

The Tigers will play at Lubbers Stadium against Caledonia, a member of the Ottawa-Kent Conference Red Division.

“We are excited about it, to be one of the east side schools to play in that event,”

See **FOOTBALL** on 20A

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Continued from Page 17A

thing the Blue Devils are really good at it knows how to close out a contest.

Winners of eight straight contests since the team's 66-56 loss to Beecher, the Blue Devils have had to bounce back from sub-par first-half performances with impressively strong second halves to collect victories during the win streak. That was the case again on Tuesday.

Trailing for most of the game including by a 36-29 margin at halftime, Lake Fenton turned its game up several notches in the second half, eventually earning a 53-48 home victory against area rivals Linden.

It was on defense where the Blue Devils (13-2) really upped their game in the second half. After allowing 36 first-half points to Linden in the first 16 minutes, the Eagles managed just 12 second-half points, enabling the Blue Devils to eventually take the lead. Lake Fenton's first lead of the second half came with 2:50 remaining when Isaac Golson hit a three-pointer near the top of the key, giving the Blue Devils a 48-46 lead.

Linden responded with a driving layup by Logan Steiert with 2:10 left, tying the game at 48-all. However, a pass from Andrew Foerster to Chris Bell for a layup with 1:43 left in regulation put the Blue Devils ahead for good at 50-48. Linden had two attempts to either tie it or take the lead when down 50-48, but one possession ended in a missed layup. The other possession became a Linden turnover with 38.9 seconds left. Bell was fouled after the turnover and made 1-of-2 free throws, giving Lake Fenton a 51-48 lead with 24.6 seconds left. The Eagles had one more



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | MARK BOLEN

Linden's Tyler Hoerberling (center) attempts to drive to the basket against Lake Fenton's defense. The Blue Devils won the contest 53-48.

possession with a chance to tie it with a trey, but Cole Sarkon, who hit four first-half treys, missed the three-point attempt.

With possession, Lake Fenton had to stave off a near-disaster with a wild pass underneath the hoop they were defending, but Jake Zielinski came up with the collection of the saved pass. He was fouled and iced the victory with two converted free throws.

In recent weeks, Lake Fenton had to overcome a 14-point halftime deficit before defeating Clio. Also, in the team's signature road victory against Goodrich, the Blue Devils trailed by nine entering the fourth quarter before making their historical comeback victory. It's good in that the team knows it can come back. However, the squad wants to see if they can bottle up what happens in the fourth earlier in the contest.

"We don't always come up with great starts," Bell said. "Once it's an intense game, we step up our game and play well. We have to go out ready to play in the first half and not rely on our comeback.

Because when Beecher comes in here, we can't mess up. We just don't want to rely (on being able to take the lead) in the fourth quarter."

Also, credit Linden with some strong play in the first half. Sarkon netted four treys in the opening half, helping lead the Eagles to the 36-29 halftime lead. The squad combined to hit 14-of-24 shots from the field. However, shots came by much tougher in the second half, resulting in just five Linden field goals in the final half.

"It comes down to some possessions where we didn't attack well," Linden varsity boys basketball coach Anthony Wright said. "We also had some possessions where we had open shots, but we didn't make them. We went 0-for-8 from the three-point line in the second half, and some of those were open shots."

Bell finished with a team-high 16 points, while Golson netted 15 points. Jalen Miller also had a strong game with 12 points. Sarkon led Linden with 12 points while Tyler Hoerberling finished with seven points.

FOOTBALL

Continued from Page 19A

Fenton varsity football coach Jeff Setzke said.

"It's pretty cool, not to mention the game is at Grand Valley and we got the prime time game at 7 p.m."

"I think it's a great opportunity for the kids on a couple of fronts," Fenton athletic director Michael Bakker said. "They are a team from the west side of the state we don't typically get to play and we get the opportunity to play on a college campus. It's a pretty neat endeavor for them."

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PREP REPORT

SKIING

► Regional meet at Pine Knob:

Fenton's Zoe Weinberg showed why she's a contender to win one or more individual state titles this season by dominating the girls field and earning two individual regional titles. Weinberg posted a time of 36.23 seconds to win the giant slalom and a time of 40.71 second in the slalom. She beat the field by 2.73 seconds in the slalom.

The Fenton/Linden girls finished sixth overall while the Fenton/Linden boys placed ninth. The Holly/Oxford boys placed seventh while the girls took 10th.

Brendan McInerney also qualified for the state meet as an individual, placing fifth in the giant slalom (36.21). Teammate Tommy Kemp was 24th in the slalom (48.66).

Ashlyn Smith placed 27th in the giant slalom (39.31) for the Fenton/Linden girls, while Rachel Smith took 30th (39.46).

BOYS BOWLING

► **Clio def. Fenton:** John Cryderman rolled a 231-195-426 series, but the Tigers still fell to Clio. Alex Keith had a 194 game.

► **Flushing def. Holly:** Braden Wilson led the Bronchos with a 192-203-395 series. The squad also posted a 202 baker game.

► **Swartz Creek def. Linden:** Bradley Hetes rolled a 170-155-325 series to pace the Eagles. Hunter Moses also had a 170 game.

GIRLS BOWLING

► **Clio def. Fenton:** Angela Hanners led the Tigers with a 160-163-323 series. Kylaisha Tietema had a high game of 176.

► **Holly def. Flushing:** Jenna Royle led the Bronchos with a 163-201-364 series, helping Holly defeated Flushing.

► **Swartz Creek def. Linden:** Molly Churches led the Eagles with a 175-187-362 series.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

► **Flushing 51, Holly 30:** Kaitlyn Smith scored 17 points and grabbed seven rebounds in the Bronchos' loss. She also had three assists and three blocked shots. Jenna Pepper chipped in seven points and five rebounds.

HOCKEY

► **Metro League Griffins 4, Team Alliance 3:** Brendan Buerkel scored the game-winning goal on a Dylan Miesch assist late in the third period. Mitch O'Lewin, Jake Thompson and Miesch also scored goals. Bobby Temple had two assists. In net, Collin LaVoie made several outstanding saves.

BOYS BASKETBALL

► **Linden freshmen 52, Swartz Creek 33:** The Eagles outscored the Dragons in every quarter, avenging a loss earlier this season.

Travis Klocek led the Eagles with 24 points, netting 12 on three-pointers. Hayden Mahakian netted 11 points, while Jeff Metzger and Luke Kenney netted five points each.

► **Lake Fenton freshmen 43, Linden 38:** Hunter Schramm led Lake Fenton with 18 points, while Kyle Pelc had nine points. Travis Klocek led the Indians with 26 points, while Hayden Mahakian netted eight points.

► **Linden JV 44, Swartz Creek 30:** The Eagles outscored Swartz Creek 12-1 in the first quarter and cruised to the win. Blake Knox led Linden with 17 points and 10 rebounds, while Corbin Sines had 10 points, eight steals, four rebounds and two assists.

GYMNASTICS

► **LFLF at Jackson Lumen Christi Invitational:** The LFLF gymnastics team posted its highest score of the season (139.1), earning first at the event.



ASK THE MECHANIC

Chris Wilkinson,
Certified Mechanic

Q: I am purchasing a 1988 Camaro IROC-Z and the heater fan is not working on any speed at all. Could you give me an idea as to what the cause may be and the cost? The fuses for the heater look good. Thank you

— John

A: John, This system uses a relay for high speed fan and a resistor for all other speeds. There are two fuses that operate this system. One is a 25 amp fuse labeled heater-a/c fuse in the fuse block inside the car. The other is a fusible link that is rust colored and could be near the battery or starter. You should check for power on the purple wire at the blower motor for 12 volts and ground on the black wire. If there is power and ground then you have a bad blower motor. If not, the relay for high speed is located near the blower motor and the resistor is located under the hood on the passenger side in the heater box.

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Railroad of another kind

■ Two Fenton homes documented as Underground Railroad stops

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

While the city of Fenton is virtually cut in half by railroad tracks and daily train traffic, there was another active railroad locally in the 1800s — the Underground Railroad.

The Underground Railroad was neither underground nor was it an actual railroad. The Underground Railroad, which operated from about 1780 to 1862, was the term used to describe a network of meeting places, secret routes, passageways and safe houses used by slaves in the U.S. to escape slave holding states to northern states and Canada.

Two of those safe houses were located in the city of Fenton.

In 2002, the Michigan Historical Center Foundation received a \$32,000 grant from the Ruth Mott Foundation for the Flint Underground Railroad Heritage Project.

During a 2002 interview with the Times, Kathryn Williams, researcher and community liaison for the project said there are two homes in Fenton documented as being part of the Underground Railroad.

The barn behind the home located at 204 West Shiawassee Ave. (now gone) was utilized for this purpose. It was located on the now empty lot next to Rockwell Assisted Living.

It was originally the home of Judge Daniel LeRoy, father of one of Fenton's founders, Robert LeRoy, and a prominent Michigan territorial judge.

In later years, the house was split in half, and a section was moved to West Street, where it remains.

When the outbuilding was used for this purpose, the saying "don't go out to the barn" was commonly used.

Another home near downtown Fenton is the second home Williams said was documented as being on the Underground Railroad. Due to privacy issues, as the home is privately owned and occupied, the address will remain undisclosed.

A previous owner of the house said it has two separate basements. The one basement could only be entered from the outside. There was no access to the other side of the basement or upstairs from outside the basement.

The house has a star in the gable, said the previous owner. "That iron star was said to be a friendly sign to slaves," she said.

Various routes were lines, stopping places were called stations, those who aided along the way were conductors and their charges were known as packages or freight.

By one estimate, 100,000 slaves escaped from bondage in the South between 1810 and 1850. Aiding them in their flight violated state laws and the United States Constitution.

The practice involved more spontaneity than the railroad analogy suggests. By the time escapees reached areas where sympathetic persons might assist them, they had already completed the most difficult part of their journey.

A successful escape was usually less the product of coordinated assistance and more a matter of the runaways' resourcefulness and a great deal of luck.

Escaped slave Harriet Tubman was the most famous "conductor," and reportedly made 19 return trips to the South. She is said to have helped some 300 slaves escape.

Sources: history.com; historynet.com

RENEWAL

Continued from Page 15A

At the time, he was divorced and in his words, "financially ruined."

"The markets wiped me out," he said. "I lost my dad and had a bad few years."

CRHP is a fellowship for men and women, Stiverson said. Men and women attend retreats separately.

"We think we're the only ones going through bad times and have issues, but we're not," he said. "We're not the only ones in the universe. We aren't told what to do in life, what to expect. There is no agenda. We're on God's time."

"Most people go their entire lives without making significant relationships," he said. "Through CRHP, members share celebrations, are there for each other through sickness, through deaths — all sorts of things."

"All of that after becoming involved with a CRHP weekend," Stiverson added. "We're a family. If you see a couple of guys hugging in church, odds are they are CRHP brothers."

CRHP is a spiritual renewal weekend designed to help individuals grow in their personal relationship with Jesus Christ and with others in their faith community.

According to stjohnfenton.com, "It is an excellent opportunity for Catholics to renew their understanding of the basic

beliefs and traditions of their faith."

Like Stiverson, participants in CRHP are so inspired, so renewed and uplifted that they are eager to share their faith experience with others from their parish.

Those who have participated in retreats have the opportunity to begin planning the next renewal weekend soon after they complete their own. They become the "new team."

SUMMARY

■ Since 1969, CRHP (Christ Renews His Parish) has impacted more than 1,400 parishes throughout the United States. Today, CRHP is the primary program for both personal and parish spiritual renewal in more than 100 Catholic dioceses and 40 states across America. CRHP has been in place at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in Fenton since the 1970s.

During this formation time, even greater spiritual growth occurs. The time between attending a weekend retreat and leading one takes place over a six-month period.

Since his first few team experiences, Stiverson has himself become a team leader.

"I have been fortunate and blessed to be able to serve in many capacities in this community and other than being a father, CRHP has been the most significant organization that I have been able to serve in my life," he said.

"The biggest thing, with as much as I thought I lost, I have gained so much more. I'm happier and more at peace than I ever have been, my business is exploding, and I have more influence than I ever have in a positive way and it keeps getting better every day," Stiverson said. "None of that would be possible if I hadn't taken the time for that weekend to allow God to take over my heart."

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Book 'em

On Tuesday, The UPS Store in Fenton delivered 1,100 books to the North Road Elementary School Media Center. The books came after the school raised approximately \$2,000 for the Toys for Tots Literacy Program. Here, Alisyn Miner, 9, helps sort the books with her classmates for a photo.

PHOTOS BY TIM JAGIELO

MICHIGAN VOTES

WHAT YOUR LEGISLATORS VOTED ON RECENTLY

MichiganVotes.org is a free, non-partisan website created by the Mackinac Center for Public Policy to provide concise, non-partisan, plain-English descriptions of every bill and vote in the Michigan House and Senate. With one click, you can approve or disapprove of key votes by your legislators using the VoteSpotter smart phone app. This report was released Friday, Feb. 12.

Senate Bill 302: Impose ban on nude entertainment in bars

To ban fully nude performers at topless bars, or bars showing videos that depict this. This relates to a 2007 federal appeals court ruling that struck down Michigan's previous law banning fully nude performers in bars, holding it was a violation of the First Amendment. The bill would specifically ban a performance that "exposes to public view the pubic region, anus, or genitals."

Passed 27 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

House Bill 5070: "Push back" against Obama NLRB franchise unionization rule

To establish that under state occupational safety and health regulations, the actual owner of a business franchise rather than the franchisor is considered the sole employer of the local company's workers. This is part of a package of bills responding to a 2015 action by National Labor Relations Board appointees to make it easier to

unionize fast-food franchises by declaring the franchisor is the employer.

Passed 26 to 11 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

House Bill 4353: Mandate pet adoption criminal background check

To mandate that animal shelters must check a government criminal records database before letting person adopt an animal, and prohibit adoptions if the records show a person committed an animal cruelty offense in the past five years.

Passed 88 to 17 in the House

Sen. David Robertson (R-Dist. 14) ☒ YES
 Sen. Mike Kowall (R-Dist. 15) ☒ YES

House Bill 4344: Codify into law auto repair shop regulatory regime

To codify into law a comprehensive regulatory regime that is currently imposed on vehicle repair facilities through administrative regulations, including a state registration mandate.

Passed 84 to 22 in the House

Sen. David Robertson (R-Dist. 14) ☒ NO
 Sen. Mike Kowall (R-Dist. 15) ☒ YES

Senate Bill 292: Disclose cost of unfunded pension liabilities in state budget

To require the executive budget the governor must submit each year to include an accounting by department of how much is needed pay the annual "catch up" costs on unfunded liabilities incurred to pay future pension and post-retirement health benefits promised to retired state employees.

Passed 37 to 0 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

Fire protection, tainted wells led to city's first water works

■ Until 1890, Fenton residents got their drinking water from wells

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

The need for municipal water in Fenton during the late 1800s was two-fold — numerous fires and contaminated wells.

On Sept. 12, 1889, the Village Council finally put a water works question to the voters. By a vote of 459 for and 53 against, a new water system would be installed, according to Fenton Fire Department history.

Work started about a month later and the system was completed and tested in April 1890. The fire department now had water at nearly every place in town to help during a fire.

Prior to that, in 1884, Fenton residents like those of other small villages, got their drinking water from wells in their own backyards. Most people had a cistern or a rain barrel for collecting rainwater and providing soft water for the family washing.

Sanitary conditions were such that these wells were sometimes contaminated. Typhoid fever and dysentery were common afflictions among the townspeople.

As for sanitary plumbing, there was none unless you counted the little wooden building in the backyard far corner — the outhouse.

By 1886, many villages the size of Fenton or smaller were putting in a water works system. Pumps and pipes for many of these systems were made in Fenton and purchased from the proprietor of the Iron Works.

After several years of talk and rumors of some wells being too polluted to provide safe drinking water, plans for a village system of water works began to develop. As soon as plans were drawn and costs were estimated, opposition was immediate. The principal argument being that it was an improvement for the benefit of the rich for which the poor must pay.

This ultimately led to the Sept. 12, 1889 vote of the people. The municipal water works was built and in April of 1890, the water was flowing. Rates were soon established.

The rate for one year for a house with

one bathtub and one water closet (bathroom with toilet) was \$2 per year. Each additional bathtub or water closet cost 50 cents extra.

Saloons, rooming houses and hotels paid the highest rates — up to the \$10 per year minimum.

Today, city of Fenton water customers pay \$5.20 per thousand gallons metered — which, considering the plight of Flint residents, may still be a small price to pay for high quality, clean drinking water.

TODAY'S WATER PLANT

In 2004, the city of Fenton began pumping clean drinking water to its citizens from a brand new, state-of-the-art water plant on North Road.

The water running through taps in city households is municipally softened with split lime, making the need for water softeners unnecessary.

This came after years of gentle “prodding” by citizen Edward Angeluski, who at every Fenton City Council meeting in the mid-1990s, spoke during public comment about the need for water plant

upgrades and the need for safe, clean drinking water.

Having said that he would “put his money where his mouth is,” Angeluski ran for a seat on the Fenton City Council in 1999 at the age of 79. He won.

He continued championing the water issue and in the early 2000s, city officials agreed, with the end result being the new water plant, paid for by Downtown Development Authority (DDA) dollars.

Angeluski served two, four-year terms in office, losing the election by a slim margin in 2007, at the age of 87.

After losing the election, friends Leo and Teresa Doan wrote in a 2007 letter to the editor, “He has a heart for people and was loyal to serving the citizens of Fenton,” the Doans wrote. “He put in hours upon hours championing the construction of our new state-of-the-art water plant. He was a bulldog about making sure we would have the highest quality, safe drinking water.”

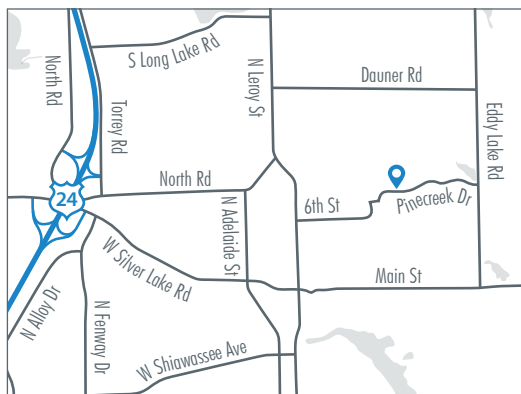
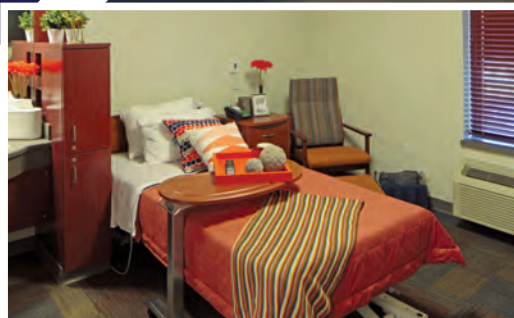
Doan retired after 36 years working for the Fenton Water Department. Angeluski died on Aug. 7, 2009 at the age of 89.

News briefs

Former professional boxer Thomas Hearns to visit Fenton for C.O.P.S. fundraiser

Thomas “Hitman” Hearns, former professional boxer also known as the “Motor City Cobra,” will make a special appearance in Fenton this **Monday, Feb. 29 from 4 to 7 p.m.** at the Fenton Community & Cultural Center. Hearns, a Detroit Police Reservist, will be here to help raise money for C.O.P.S. (Concerns Over Police Safety), a non-profit organization formed by local resident Herman Ferguson to promote awareness about police safety and training. Half of the proceeds raised will go to C.O.P.S. and the other half to a charity spoken for by Hearns. Beale St. Smokehouse will cater the event. Tickets are \$35 and will be sold at the door. Prior to his appearance in Fenton, Hearns will be meeting Monday morning with members of the Genesee County Resource Officers at the Flint Township Hall.

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