

DDA to hear citizens' concerns about demolition of 'historic' house

■ Meeting tonight at 6 p.m., at Fenton City Hall

By Vera Hogan
vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823
A significant number of people are expected to attend tonight's (April 20) Down - town Development Author -

ity (DDA) meeting to share their thoughts and opinions on the possible demolition of 106 W. Shiawassee St. in Fenton. The meeting is scheduled to take place at 6 p.m. at Fenton City Hall. Since it became public that the DDA intends to demolish the house, most recently oc - cupied by Rex Todd Rogers

Design Studio, to make way for redevelopment of an unknown nature, commu - nity members have spoken against the plan. They want to preserve the house and what's left of the history of downtown Fenton. The age of the home and its historic nature has come into question and become a

topic of controversy . It was originally believed that it was a hotel built by Judge Daniel LeRoy and W illiam Fenton in 1837. It was later revealed that the house, after being dismantled and changed over the years, may have been torn down in 1901 and a short time later rebuilt to what it is today
See HOUSE on 10



PAGE 11
**LINDEN
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Midweek Times

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 2016

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

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VOL. 23 NO. XVI

CRUST expansion could result in land swap

■ Owner says this is 'last ditch effort' to keep business in downtown Fenton

By Vera Hogan
vhogan@tctimes.com
Fenton — In order to keep CRUST from leaving the downtown Fenton area, the Fenton City Council is willing to do some "horse trading" for land to use for parking. At a special 5:30 p.m. meeting held Monday night, Assistant City Manager Mike Burns said the administration has been working with the owners of CRUST on the expansion of their business. Burns said CRUST would like to purchase property adjacent to their business, property that is owned by the city and currently being leased by The State Bank for bank customer parking.
See CRUST on 6



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO
Robert "Bob" Thornton, Citizens Disposal director of operations, describes the next phases of the landfill he manages. The landfill, which can be seen (and smelled) along U.S. 23 and Grand Blanc Road, is state of the art. The odor is methane, which is turned into energy and sold to utility companies. **See story on Page 3.**



School shooting plot suspects headed to trial

The three attorneys for the alleged Linden school shooting plot asked Judge David Goggins to dismiss charges and pleaded on behalf of their clients, but the cases of the three teens have been bound over to circuit court for trial.

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Linden police looking for suspicious man

■ Reports say man tried to lure student into his car

By Sharon Stone
sstone@tctimes.com; 810-433-6786
The Linden Police Department is investigating a reported "stranger danger" incident, which occurred on Monday , April 18 in downtown Linden.
See SUSPICIOUS on 10

TEXT YOUR HOT LINE

810-771-TEXT



“Why doesn't the DDA sell that property to Sweet Variations? Otherwise we will end up with another bar, restaurant or parking lot in Dibbleville. Something doesn't smell right about this whole deal.”



“Ladies 'stand up' for your rights. Trans-gender bathrooms are shared with some who may not have great aim. Sit on that?”



COMMENT OF THE WEEK

“I had a wonderful tour of the Linden museum today. Everybody should take a look, it's absolutely beautiful. I'm so impressed with how Linden honors its history, unlike Fenton.”



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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Bob Thornton, director of operations for Citizens Disposal, Inc. in Grand Blanc Township says the main contributors to the landfill are commercial and industrial waste haulers, as well as private citizens who come with trailers filled with debris. Since 2004, more than 10 million tons of trash has been dumped at this landfill.

TALKIN' TRASH

Grand Blanc landfill collects waste while producing renewable energy

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

Traveling north on U.S. 23 toward Flint, it's kind of hard to miss the growing "mountain" near the Grand Blanc Road exit. That mountain, which is actually a landfill, belongs to Citizens Disposal, Inc., which has been in operation since 1989.

Since 2014, 10 million tons of waste has been dumped there.

According to Robert "Bob" Thornton, the operations manager for Citizens Disposal said the main contributors to the landfill are commercial

and industrial waste haulers, and private citizens who come with trailers filled with trash.

Those hoping the landfill will eventually become the next Mt. Holly Ski Resort will have to wait a long time.

The 109-acre facility is expected to be in operation for approximately 25 more years. Energy production, which is handled through Granger Energy Services, is projected to continue for an additional 20 to 30 years after it is closed.

Thornton, a 30-year employee of Citizens Disposal, See TRASH on 7

“Anything that you buy at the store in some way or form will end up in the landfill.”

Robert "Bob" Thornton
Citizens Disposal, Inc.
operations manager



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Several gas wells dot the landfill, which collect the naturally occurring methane, and delivers it to two power plants on site.

Local middle schools mostly above state average

■ M-STEP results show students' test scores; principals weigh in

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Middle school students are preparing to take the Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress (M-STEP), the recently implemented computerized standardized test. The M-STEP has been in place since the 2014-2015 school year, after the Michigan Department of Education decided to stop administering the Michigan Education Assessment Program (MEAP) after 44 years.

Grades three through eight and 11 are taking standardized tests throughout April. The M-STEP for grades three to eight, is online and adaptive, and educators now have a chance to look at last year's results and see how their students scored.

See the full results in sidebar.

See M-STEP on 8

“Do I think a test accurately measures a student's intelligence level? No.”

Heidie Ciesielski

Fenton A.G.S. Middle School principal

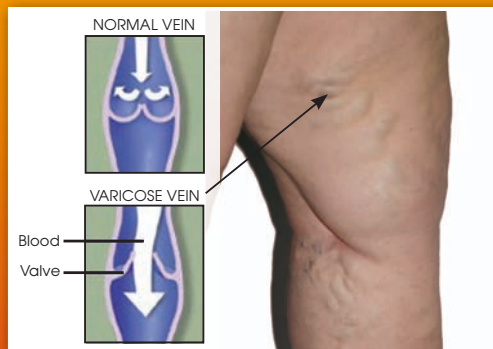
M-STEP

Grades three through eight and 11 will take the M-STEP, or a form of standardized testing based on Common Core teaching methods. English and math are assessed in grades three to eight, science is assessed in grades four, seven and 11, and social studies in grades five, eight and 11. Students in grade 11 take the Michigan Merit Examination.

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES



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Random royal thoughts

■ **They say that** during sex you burn as many calories as running five miles. Who the heck can r un five miles in less than a minute?

■ **In my lifetime**, the total number of Americans killed or injured on U.S. soil by terrorism is less than 5,000. There are more than 330 million Americans alive and my life is more than half-over, so my future risk of injury or death from a terrorist attack should be less than 1/66,000.

■ **Am I the only** one who sees the innate humor in the term 'self-help group.'

■ **It's official.** Kids today are, by and large, stupider than any previous generation. No surprise there. Our public school systems are failing. Our universities are

more interested in creating activists than scientists. Additionally, many parents themselves set poor examples for their kids. If America were a commodity, I would sell it.



■ **Just once I'd** like to see a yard with the sign 'Nice Dog.'

■ **Help someone** who is in trouble, and they will remember you when they get in trouble again.

■ **In any argument** between a husband and a wife, the one who is wrong is the one who does the most talking.

■ **Chinese proverb:** May your life someday be as awesome as you pretend it is on Facebook.

■ **I like to initiate** an argument with a schizophrenic and then say, "Who do you think you are?"

■ **If I had it all** to do over again, I would become a consultant that specializes in hindsight.

■ **Whenever I visit** the elephant display at the zoo I have to resist shouting out, "Is no one going to talk about the elephant in the room?"

■ **If, as reported,** 'I am' is the shortest sentence in the English language, could it be that 'I do' is the longest sentence?

■ **Any product being** cut to an exact length will be too short.

■ **When writing, never** use a big word when diminutive terminology will be sufficiently acceptable.

■ **The term 'It's** none of my business' will always be followed with... 'but,'

■ **It takes seven** seconds for food to go from mouth to stomach. The length of a penis is three times the length of the thumb. The femur bone is harder than

concrete. A woman's heart beats faster than a man's. We use 300 muscles just to stand. A human hair can hold about 10 pounds. All women have read this entire text. All men are still looking at their thumb.

■ **Each time someone** shuffles a deck of playing cards, it is the only time ever that ANY deck of cards has been in that exact order.

■ **OK, we have** all this big debate about making owning a gun illegal because

people are getting killed by guns. Using that same logic, if we would simply make murder illegal, then people would stop getting killed. Problem solved.

■ **Ban already-shredded** cheese. Make America grate again.

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

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.

WITH ALL THE controversial issues with who is using my bathroom, I have decided that I am going to pee in the woods.

BOY, OH BOY, you Republicans don't have much to choose from — a bigot and a far right whack job. Better move left where it is safe for normal Americans.

HAPPY TO SEE that someone with quality experience, integrity and a care for the community has put her hat in the ring for mayor of Linden. Good luck Danielle Cusson.

WHAT IS UP with EMS? Is there not a building they could park and use until being alarmed? They just sit in those vehicles 24/7. It has to be extremely uncomfortable.

HEY HELLER, I'M glad your friend got to finish his grilled cheese, maybe if the person with the AR15 wasn't there he may not have?

IF THAT OLD house is really in your way then why tear it down? Why can't you just take that money and move it to another location?

IF YOU ARE interested in preserving Dibbleville, please help us and attend the DDA meeting April 20 at 6 p.m. at City Hall.

SWEET VARIATIONS, THANK you. I'm glad you're coming down to our area of town. I don't have a car, I walk. It'd be nice to have you out in our area. Yes, you will get the business, you'll be surprised at what will happen. I know it's hard to leave a place you've been in for so long, but you'll make it.

I'M SERIOUSLY THINKING about putting a railroad tie on the front of my car. That way when the next impatient yahoo pulls out in front of me, I won't have to hit my brakes.

I JUST FINISHED reading Andrew Heller's column, and I figured it out. The Times hired him instead of putting in a comic strip; I laughed so hard. Thanks Andrew, but you

should really call it something different, so people don't think he's serious.

MR. HELLER'S VIEWPOINTS are like a breath of fresh air to those of us with common sense and 20/20 vision. And thank you for getting rid of that arrogant ass, Foster Childs. Now your newspaper is perfect.

I AM GETTING really sick of politics. I am an independent voter and vote for who I think is worthy of my vote. Of the five running now, the only one I would vote for is John Kasich. Yes, I voted for Barack Obama four years ago, but I thought he was the best man for the job. If John Kasich isn't nominated I won't vote.

THE FENTON VILLAGE Players' 'To Kill a Mockingbird' is a play that should not be missed. This production has some of the best actors I have seen, especially the young ones. This is a really moving story of American history and how one person can change perceptions.

COMPLIMENTS TO THE parents who started the Linden Youth Football League. It's been a long time coming. Also, thanks to the Linden school district leadership for their support. Grow Linden and go Eagles.

A PARKING STRUCTURE in Dibbleville? DDA, you have lost your mind. Preserve the history of Fenton, not destroy it.

WHY DOESN'T SWEET Variations move into the house the DDA wants to destroy on Shiawassee?

DDA, PERHAPS THE citizens of Fenton should vote on your 'vision' for the city. I think you may find that many do not agree with it — 1970s, here we go again.

WHOM DO I call regarding the trash flying out of the trash and recycling trucks driving down the roads? Just look at the debris flying around on trash days. Look at U.S. 23 while heading to the dumpsite. There is trash flying everywhere.

IF THE DDA wants additional parking, why don't they build a structure adjacent to the Community Center/tennis courts? At least they wouldn't have to tear down historical buildings.

See **HOT LINE** throughout Times

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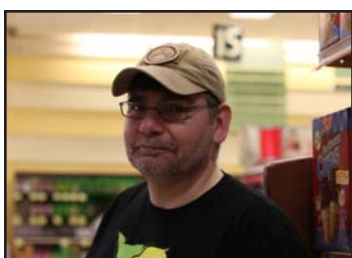
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What's the worst intersection around here?

street talk

Compiled by Hannah Ball, staff reporter



"The one coming off of U.S. 23 northbound on Silver Lake Road. You can't get across, especially during rush hour."

Brian Doty
Fenton



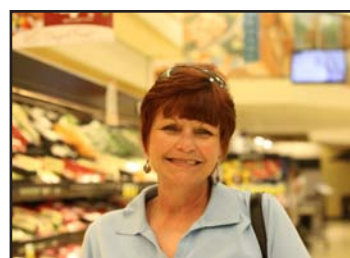
"The one turning left onto Silver Parkway. There are always people coming at you."

Lauren Keyandwy
Fenton Township



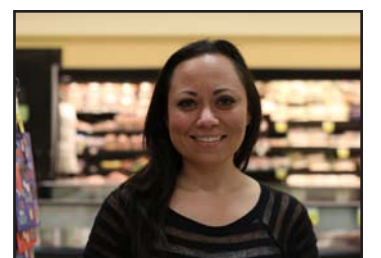
"The intersection right by Silver Parkway on Owen Road. Seems like a lot of people make up their minds at the last minute."

Jeff Downes
Linden



"I think Owen and U.S. 23, just the intersection right by Speedway, Owen Road and Silver Parkway."

Becky Jones
Fenton



"Right now it's on Jennings Road and Thompson Road as you go over the overpass when I'm going to pick up my girls. On Georgetown Parkway when you turn onto Torrey."

Melissa Reyes, Fenton

School shooting plot suspects headed to trial

Attorneys say there was no real threat

By Hannah Ball

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Flint — The three teens involved in the alleged Linden school shooting plot are heading to trial in Genesee County Circuit Court.

Ryan Stevens, 18, of Linden, Kody Brewer, 15, of Wolverine Lake (formerly of Linden), and Lamarr Dukes, 15, of Bloomfield, were back in district court on Monday where the prosecution and three defense attorneys made their cases before Judge David Goggins.

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

All three attorneys asked the judge to dismiss certain charges and release their clients. Judge Goggins bound the case over to circuit court with all charges.

The Argentine Police Department has been handling the case with assistance from the FBI.

Prosecution

Genesee County Assistant Prosecutor David Guinn went over their findings and evidence, starting with the Instagram post made by Stevens about the 17-year-old witness who alerted the police to the threat.

Stevens and the witness fought on line, and Dukes jumped in to defend Stevens. The witness said she felt threatened by Dukes and that's why she went to the police.

Guinn said that the boys sent messages about raping, beating, and decapitating her.

After discovering the whereabouts of the witness, Guinn said Stevens said in a message, "school shooting in 5, 4, 3, 2, 1," while Brewer posted a stock image of children around a fire with the caption, "summoning the demon of a school shooter."

Guinn told Judge Goggins that the boys were communicating with someone in Detroit about buying MAC-10s, which are compact submachine guns, and Glock handguns to use on Oct. 30.

Guinn cited the pictures of Dukes and Brewer holding guns that were sent by phone between the three, which is what prompted police to take the threat seriously. They even briefly discussed transportation.

"They had a backup plan," Guinn said. "They were going through great details."

Guinn went through more messages exchanged between Stevens and Dukes about how to "catch bodies" and how Dukes said he "aims to kill."

The prosecutor gave the example of a bank robbery, and said everyone who helped out is accountable.

"They were all in this plan, they were all in this plot together," he said.

Kody Brewer's defense

Brewer's attorney, Elbert Hatchett, told Judge Goggins that the case is all about a schoolyard fight between teenage boys.

He said the shooting plot is completely devoid of Brewer's involvement, and he

didn't have the means to carry out such a threat.

Brewer sent messages about fighting another boy involved in a different gang. Hatchett said Brewer had no knowledge about any plans to shoot anyone, and denied involvement before the police were involved, only learning of the plan when police started contacting the parents of the three suspects.

"This was nothing but a high school boy having a schoolyard fight," Hatchett said.

Ryan Stevens' defense

Stevens' attorney, Marc Hart, said the prosecution failed to develop a reasonable lead that Stevens is guilty of the charges. Specific intent and intent to carry out the threat must be proven, but Hart said these haven't been proven.

Hart said all the exchanges online and over text messages were just high school boys trying to act tough and talk big.

He also said the FBI failed to include the context in which the messages were sent, leaving out contextual clues like smiley faces and emoticons from their report.

Hart said you cannot distinguish between actual intent and making a joke over messages.

He also cited the statutes for terrorism, telling Goggins that the case did not meet the requirements to be considered a threatened act of terrorism.

FBI Special Agent Henrik Impola testified that the suspects did not contact any of the schools to communicate a threat of terrorism, according to Hart, and that they made a threat to one individual, not to a group or population of people.

He said the 17-year-old witness testified that she didn't feel threatened by Stevens, only by Dukes.

"She knew Ryan Stevens didn't mean anything by that," Hart said.

He said without meeting these requirements, the case could not be considered a threat of terrorism.

Lamarr Dukes' defense

Dukes' attorney, Gwendolyn Gordon, spoke about social media and how messages can be misinterpreted by unintended recipients.

She said the suspects were joking, and the decapitation comment was a metaphor for wanting someone's head on a plate.

She also said the suspects didn't plan a specific time, place, or date for the alleged shooting. The suspects were surprised when police started contacting them about the alleged school shooting. The only people who started talking about a school shooting were police, Gordon said.

She said the murder threats are not supported by the evidence provided, and asked the judge to dismiss the charges.

No new court dates have yet been scheduled.

“This was nothing but a high school boy having a schoolyard fight.”

Elbert Hatchett
Kody Brewer's attorney

“They had a backup plan.”

David Guinn
Genesee County assistant prosecutor

SUMMARY

■ The three attorneys for the alleged Linden school shooting plot asked Judge David Goggins to dismiss charges and pleaded on behalf of their clients, but the cases of the three teens have been bound over to circuit court for trial.

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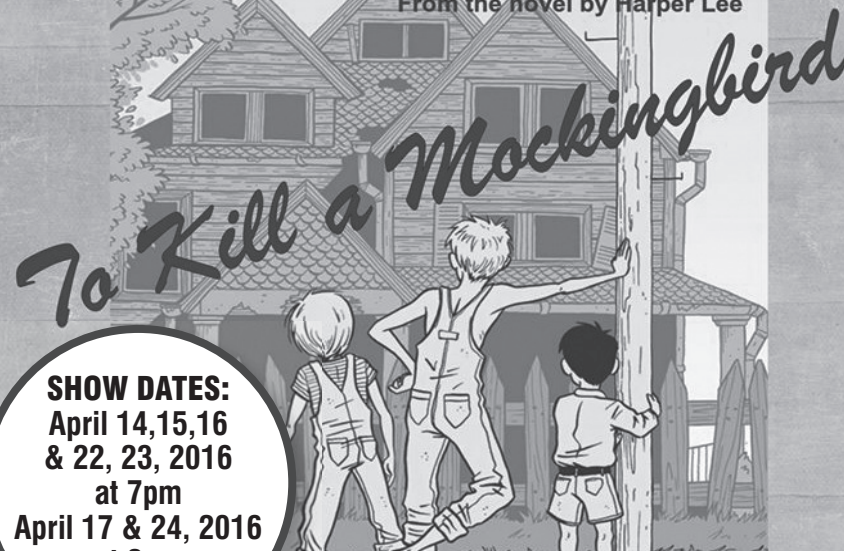
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PG-13 PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED
Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13

HOT LINE CONTINUED

THE TWISTING OF truth by Heller is nothing short of amazing. A majority of mass shootings occur in gun-free zones, and law-abiding gun owners do not carry there so how are we supposed to stop mass shootings. By the way, there is no 'right' not to feel 'creepy' as I do when reading your column.

IF YOU ARE tired of what happens in Fenton Township and you think it's time for change, run for a position on the board. Many of the positions are seldom contested. Now is the time to get the necessary signatures to run for a spot. Exercise your right to bring change within your own neighborhood.

APPARENTLY, HELLER DOESN'T understand there is a big difference between the right to bear arms given to us in the U.S. constitution and the desire to feel comfortable. He also fails to mention that the majority of the mass shootings have happened in gun-free zones. Gun free for the law-abiding citizens that is.

THE HOT LINER who stated 'United Health Care is the 13th exchange to file for bankruptcy,' needs to check their facts. UHC did not file for bankruptcy in the exchange market. They are leaving a few states where they are not making money.

ANDREW HELLER, YOU are an idiot. Your story about a 'Wild West mythos causing gun troubles' is typical liberal twisting of facts to fit a flawed ideology. Pure nonsense. America does not have more gun violence than other countries. Your position is based on corrupt, agenda-driven research.

ALTHOUGH NOT A feminist, I can appreciate the desire to 'get a woman in the White House.' My only question is why support a woman who owes her entire professional and political career to her husband. Desperation shouldn't lower feminist standards. Hold out for a self-made, successful woman.

CRUST

Continued from Front Page

Rather than a money transfer however, they would like to do a land transfer , where CRUST owners get the city-owned property they want, and in return, they will give the city property they own on Mill Street, land across from the Fenton Post Office and adjacent to where the old F.A.R.R. building once stood.

Burns said administration is working on a purchase agreement.

City Manager L ynn Markland reiterated Burns' comments, adding that CRUST has outgrown its current location. He further stated that Ron Justice, president and CEO of The State Bank, agreed to release the city from the lease agreement.

"He has indicated they are receptive to allowing the swap of property for CRUST's purposes," Markland said.

Mayor Sue Osborn asked to have that in writing from The State Bank.

Mark Hamel, co-owner of CRUST and The Laundry, said they have been working for a year and a half to try to find a solution to CRUST's expansion. He said they want to remain in Fenton.

"This seems to be our last ditch effort to stay downtown," Hamel said.

He further explained plans to expand CRUST by another 8,500 square feet, bringing total square footage to 12,500. Once the building expansion is completed, another 50 employees will be hired over a two-year period.

Currently CRUST employs 70 people,

according to Hamel. The majority of the expansion will accommodate the production area. The café area also will be expanded some, he said.

On the Mill Street property , Markland said the DDA (Downtown Development Authority) will be looking at building a parking lot there in the near future.

Councilwoman Cherie Smith questioned the very tight turns in the area and how CRUST deliveries would be made.

Smith also mentioned the barbershop Hamel is currently building on Mill Street where the old F.A.R.R. building once stood.

"If we take Mill Street and build a parking lot, it will benefit your business," she said. "I don't think that's fair."

Although it has not come before the Planning Commission yet, Hamel and his partners are also planning the construction of another business on Mill Street.

"To me, it doesn't seem fiscally equitable

to build you a parking lot," Smith said.

"I think the biggest thing is keeping CRUST downtown," said Osborn.

Councilman Brad Jacob said he thinks it's a great plan. "Whenever we can put property back on the tax roll, and employ 50 more people, it's a win-win for the city. I will throw my support behind it," he said.

The City Council will vote on the matter at its Monday , April 25 meeting, however, Osborn asked for a straw poll vote.

Everyone on the council said they will vote in favor of the land swap. Smith said she will vote yes, "with reservations."

“This seems to be our last ditch effort to stay downtown.”

Mark Hamel

CRUST and The Laundry co-owner



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The best way to stop smoking

The Surgeon General says 90 percent of smokers start between the ages of 12 and 19. They start for reasons of defiance.

Rigidly over-controlled teens get sick of being told what to do and take a stand. They do this by adopting one or more of six defiant behaviors they're told never to do — smoking, drinking, drugs, sex, crime and overeating.

Medical professionals, as wonderful as they are, just don't get it. Telling smokers to stop doing the very thing they started doing to prove no one can tell them what

to do doesn't work. The more they feel pressured, the more they'll subconsciously dig in their heels.

According to published reports, going cold turkey has a 3.5 percent success rate, the patch/gum has a 7 percent success rate and Chantex has a 14 percent success rate. Nationally, four sessions of hypnosis has a 74 percent success rate.

Even better, Tomlinson Medical Hypnotherapy has a 90 percent success rate. Dr. Tomlinson is successful because he helps win the war in their head. The problem isn't that you lack willpower — it's because you're way too stubborn. With hypnosis, smokers can win the war and save a significant amount of money in the process.

Bottom line — if you want to stop, you can. Einstein said, "The definition of insanity is doing the same thing the same way over and over and expecting a different result." The old ways just don't work. Hypnosis is not perfect, but it's the best there is. Remember, the patch can't help win the war in your head.



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TRASH

Continued from Page 3

said in 25 years or so, the landfill will get wider and another 60 to 80 feet higher.

“The landfill is designed and built to grow a section at a time,” he said.

The outside slopes will be made up of one vertical and four horizontal. The primary concern is to maintain long-term soil erosion control.

Thornton said some of the material the landfill does not accept includes liquid or hazardous waste.

“We don’t accept automotive tires unless they have been cut in a certain way” he said. “We don’t accept automotive acid batteries.”

Who polices what goes into the landfill? Thornton said staff at the gate and operators at the fill spot are trained on what is prohibited.

“When any truck comes in, there is a short, very precise interview to go over things with the driver,” said Thornton. “We ask what county they’re coming from, what’s in the haul, etc.”

Industrial waste coming in is pre-screened and subject to a chemical analysis before it can be accepted. Example of industrial waste is paint sludges, or contaminated soil from gas station cleanups.

“Anything that you buy at the store in some way or form will end up in the landfill,” Thornton said. “It may be reused, but eventually ends up in the landfill. That’s kind of daunting when you think of all the things people get at retail stores.”

When the landfill closes many years from now, Thornton said there is a whole closure and post closure procedure to protect the environment from waste, and to protect water and groundwater from contamination.

“More recently, we have taken measures to protecting air quality,” Thornton said.

Producing renewable energy

Thornton said he and his company are very proud of their relationship with Granger Energy Services, which generates renewable energy from the Citizens Disposal landfill.

Waste at the landfill produces methane gas. All of the gas coming of the landfill is pumped to Granger.

“We started in 1993 with three engines, and as biomasses increased, our companies (Citizens and Granger) added more gas wells and more engines,” said Thornton. “Right now we are operating six engines so this process has grown significantly. We provide the gas to Granger they convert it electricity and sell it to



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

After garbage trucks dump their loads, excavators are used to push the refuse into piles, and pack it down.

Consumers Energy, which delivers it to their customers.”

Currently, nearly 5,000 Grand Blanc customers are powered through the energy production process at the landfill.

Citizens Disposal and Granger are also partnered with Michigan Public Power Agency (MPPA) and Republic Services.

Historically those gases that now produce renewable energy were wasted, going up in the air, Thornton said.

Even when the landfill is closed in about 2041 or so nevermind, the waste is going to remain there for long time and the companies will continue to pull gas from it, he added.

At the same time, the companies also will continue measures to protect the environment.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Doug Hine, with Granger, is one of the operations technicians who keep the two on-site power plants running. The plants are operated by Granger, but the landfill provides the methane gas.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

The power plants generate 6.5 megawatts combined, creating enough power for nearly 5,000 homes, 24/7.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

DREW SHAPIRO LOST my vote. Anyone who says that they want to improve public transportation in our community is really saying: I want to bring thugs and drug dealers from the north side of Flint by the busload.

EARTH DAY IS April 22. Why? The Communist Party USA (CPUSA) was having trouble recruiting because of the cold war. The CPUSA decided to infiltrate the environmental movement. In 1970 they established this date because it was the 100th birthday of Vladimir Lenin, father of the Communist Party.

IS IT REALLY about using bathrooms or is it about a perversion of normality? No one ever heard of the word transgender until 10 years ago and now we have to reroute the normalcy of men’s and women’s bathrooms. Personally I choose to identify as a dog. Is it OK if I use the front yard for my business?

HAD THE SAME problem with the Genesee County Road Commission. They don’t respond to phone calls or email. But, after I contacted my county commissioner, John Daly got very responsive. Try that route to get action.

THINK ABOUT IT. Given females are now permitted in combat, do you really think two different latrines will be created? No, they will be unisex like they were in Desert Storm. Get over the bathroom drama.

I REALLY TRIED to give Andy Heller a fair chance, but after the last couple of weeks, it has become painfully clear what I had suspected from the start — another liberal fool.



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M-STEP

Continued from Page 3

Linden Middle School students consistently scored above average compared to statewide results.

"I think for the first time ever using the system, our students scored well," said Linden Middle School Principal Julie Brown. "However, as educators, we are always looking for the A+, so we continue to work with curriculum and instruction to give our students the opportunity to score even better this time around."

Brown likes that the students are measured with the same assessment, but she thinks the length of the test causes students to lose concentration.

"I believe the scores, loosely, tell us where students are not retaining information," she said.

Brown said they adjust their curriculum from that information.

From last year's results, they were able to discern that their students have a difficult time making inferences when reading.

"We took that information, analyzed the standards specific to inferences, and then went to our curriculum to adjust our instruction," she said.

Holly Middle School students were above the state average in science, but below average in all other subjects.

"Last year's M-STEP was the first experience for students taking an online

state assessment. The test was an all new design and much more rigorous than any prior state test," said Principal Elise Schmidt. "We will continue to align our curriculum with the Michigan Academic Standards and develop reliable local assessments for more immediate feedback on student progress."

Schmidt said they plan to increase the amount of opportunities students have to work on computers, so they can practice online test-taking skills.

Fenton A.G.S. Middle School students tested above average in English, science, and social studies, and below average in math compared to statewide results.

Principal Heidie Ciesielski said she was "a little surprised. I was a little taken back."

Ciesielski said they compare Fenton to the county's scores and the state's scores, and she said there were a few areas where they should have done better.

"I'm not a big fan of standardized testing to begin with in the lower grades," she said. "It is definitely something we have to pay attention to because that's how the state is measuring our success. It's something we like to do well on."

To prepare for this year's test, Ciesielski said they're focusing on motivating students who were almost proficient last year, and focusing more on subjects that tested poorly.

"This year we're hoping that kids who

"I think for the first time ever using the system, our students scored well... However, as educators, we are always looking for the A+."

Julie Brown

Linden Middle School principal

were so close to being proficient will do better," she said.

The schools weren't able to adjust plans to prepare for the test last year because they didn't have any data to do with the implementation of the new test.

"Do I think a test accurately measures a student's intelligence level? No," Ciesielski said. "I don't believe one test could do that."

M-STEP results

FENTON

Sixth grade: 33 percent proficient in math, 59 percent proficient in English
Seventh grade: 33 percent proficient in math, 52 percent proficient in English, 32 percent proficient science
Eighth grade: 24 percent proficient in math, 57 percent proficient in English, 36 percent proficient in social studies

HOLLY

Sixth grade: 14 percent proficient in math, and 42 percent were proficient on English
Seventh grade: 32 percent were proficient in math, 49 percent in English, and 23 percent in science
Eighth grade: 13 percent were proficient in math, 40 percent in English, and 29 percent in social studies

LAKE FENTON

Sixth grade: 34 percent proficient in math, and 64 percent were proficient in English
Seventh grade: 35 percent were proficient in math, 61 percent in English, and 34 percent in science
Eighth grade: 35 percent tested at proficiency level in math, 56 percent were proficient in English, and 44 percent were proficient in social studies

LINDEN

Sixth grade: 37 percent proficient in math and 56 percent in English
Seventh grade: 37 percent were proficient in math, 54 percent were proficient in English, and 25 percent were proficient in science
Eighth graders: 28 percent were proficient in math, 61 percent in English, and 33 percent in social studies.

Source: mischooldata.com

STATE AVERAGES

Less than half of all students in Michigan schools were found to be proficient in the four subjects — math, science, social studies, and writing with the Common Core State Standards. Of all the students in the state, who take the test in grades three through eight, 48 percent of students scored proficient or above on the English portion of the test, 36 percent were considered proficient in math, 32 percent in social studies and only 21 percent were considered proficient in science.

Source: mischooldata.com



Mark McCabe

67th District Court

Ask the

judge

The towing ball case

On or before our birthdays each year all of us have a duty to renew the license plates for our vehicles.

In all probability after this has been accomplished, many people don't think about license plates until it is again time for renewal. However, what shouldn't be forgotten is that under Michigan statute there is a specific way that the plate itself is to be cared for and displayed.

This statute is MCLA 257.225 and reads in pertinent part that:

'A registration plate shall at all times be securely fastened in a horizontal position to the vehicle for which the plate is issued so as to prevent the plate from swinging. The plate shall be... in a place and position that is **clearly visible. The plate shall be maintained free from foreign materials that obscure or partially obscure the registration information and in a clearly legible condition.'**

The importance of this statute was recently shown in the March 29, 2016 Michigan Supreme Court case of *People v Dunbar* where a criminal defendant was stopped by the Muskegon County Sheriff's Department because the towing ball on the bumper of his pickup truck partially obstructed the deputy's view of the truck's license plate. When the defendant was stopped, it was discovered that he had in his possession a variety of contraband including marijuana, cocaine, and a concealed handgun.

The defendant moved that the case be dismissed claiming the statute hadn't been violated, the stop was therefore invalid, and the resulting contraband evidence was inadmissible. The trial court disagreed with the defendant and thereafter the Court of Appeals reversed the trial court.

In a unanimous opinion, the Supreme Court held that the license plate statute requires both that a plate be 'free from foreign materials' and 'clearly visible.' Despite the fact that the plate in question was clean, since the view of the plate was partially blocked by the ball, the stop was valid and the defendant could stand trial.

Of further interest is the Supreme Court's recognition that trailer hitches and bicycle racks could also be a violation and the statute could have harsh consequences. This last statement should be words to the wise.

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If less than 800 tickets are sold, the drawing may revert to a 50/50 raffle with a minimum prize of \$10,000 and a maximum prize of \$30,000 to winning ticket.

SUSPICIOUS
Continued from Front Page

Linden Community Schools Interim Superintendent Russ Ciesielski sent out a letter Monday to parents to inform them of the suspicious situation.

School officials learned at 4 p.m. Monday that a high school student reported to Linden police that as she was walking away from Eagle Park in downtown Linden, when a man in a black four-door sedan approached her and asked if she wanted a ride.

The 16-yearold girl said she told the driver of the car “no” and continued to walk away from the car. The car followed the student for a distance and eventually drove away. Linden police said the car was last seen on Murphy Street in Linden.

The car was described as a black four-door passenger car. The driver was described as a white male, in his 60s, with white hair.

A Facebook page, “Linden, MI Community Schools Parent’s Group,” posted that a suspicious incident occurred in downtown Linden on Monday, involving an a 12-year-old girl being approached by an unknown man, described as in his 60s, with grey hair.

The post indicated that police towed the man’s car and that the man fled the area on foot.

Linden Police Chief Scott Sutter said Tuesday that he heard about the Facebook post, but said the post was not accurate to what actually happened. He said there was a car parked near the park that appeared to be suspicious. Police did tow the car as a precaution. Police checked out the owner of the car and determined that he had no involvement with the report filed with police. No arrests were made.

Ciesielski is urging parents to talk with their children again about the importance of not speaking with people they do not know, along with having a plan if they are ever approached by a stranger. Residents are reminded to call 911 immediately if they see any suspicious activity.

Linden schools have a link on the home page of their website, linden-schools.org, which has important information about “stranger danger,” situations. It includes an article by Nancy A. McBride, national safety director with the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, www.missingkids.com.

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House Bill 4481: Expand denial of rapist father’s parental rights

To expand a law that prohibits granting custody or parenting time to the father of a child who was conceived as the result of a rape for which he was convicted. Under the bill, the ban would also apply if there was no conviction but a court fact-finding hearing discovers “clear and convincing” evidence that a rape had occurred. Also, to expand the criteria to cases where the rape and conviction was in another state. A mother could waive the ban, and it would not apply if the parents “cohabit and establish a mutual custodial environment.”

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

House Bill 4476: Restrict imposing mediation in some domestic relations disputes

To prohibit a court from ordering the parties in a domestic relations dispute to enter mediation against either’s will if there is a personal protection or “no contact” order restraining one of them, or if either is involved in a child abuse or neglect proceeding.

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

House Bill 4695: Authorize load limit exceptions for potable water haulers

To allow an exception to seasonal road weight limit restrictions for trucks hauling drinking water.

Passed 57 to 51 in the House

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

Senate Bill 508: Criminalize “cyber revenge porn”

To make it a crime to post on the internet any sexually explicit pictures or videos of a person without his or her consent and with the intent to threaten, coerce or intimidate, if the material was obtained under circumstances a reasonable person would know were meant to remain private.

Passed 109 to 0 in the House

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

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News briefs

The UPS Store of Fenton offers recycling solution

In celebration of Earth Day, on April 22, The UPS Store of Fenton encourages consumers to help protect the environment by bringing in clean, foam packing peanuts of all sizes, shapes and colors for reuse/recycling. According to the Plastic Loose Fill Council, an organization founded in 1991 to promote the reuse of polystyrene loose-fill, more than 30 percent of plastic loose-fill is used again. For business centers, such as The UPS Store, that reuse rate can be as high as 50 percent. For more information about peanut recycling, visit www.loosefillpackaging.com, or The UPS Store at theupsstorelocal.com/3351.

HOUSE

Continued from Front Page

According to the November 2015 DDA meeting minutes, City Manager Lynn Markland said RFPs (Requests for Proposals) would go out after the first of the year so that people interested in purchasing and developing the property could present their proposals.

Those RFPs were never sent.

Brad Hawks, owner of Hicks Studio in Fenton, was one of the several parties interested in the property. Hawks said he was waiting to make his presentation for months before receiving an email indicating the house was not going to be sold, but instead demolished.

Throughout last week, some downtown business owners collected signatures on a petition to spare the house. On Sunday, April 17, people flocked to the A.J. Phillips Museum, to also sign petitions.

Those petitions are expected to be presented to the DDA tonight.

City officials maintain that the plan to demolish that building, and eventually others in the area, is part of the DDA’s Master Plan, which has been in place for 10 years, since 2006.

After the special City Council meeting held Monday night, council members planned to tour 106 W. Shiawassee, which is within walking distance of City Hall. Audience members present were invited to join them.

Before leaving for that tour, Mayor Sue Osborn was asked why the RFPs Markland said he would send out were not sent. She said, “Because that’s the way the DDA wants it.”

FENTON DDA MEMBERS

- Douglas James
- Tom Bertschy
- Terry Green
- James Saule (vice-chair)
- Craig Schmidt (chairman)
- Gary Henderson
- Mark Hamel
- Sue Osborn (mayor of Fenton)
- Doran Kasper
- Christopher Bayer
- Jeff Canever
- John Strayer
- Roberta Sweetman

Sports

JACK SHORE

The Linden hurler tossed a two-hit shutout against Swartz Creek on Monday. It was his second league shutout in a row.

Area golf teams finish 2-3-4 at pre-Metro League Meet



Fenton's Chris Gilbert shot an 85 at the preseason Metro League meet on Monday.

■ Tigers finish one stroke out of first place

By David Troppens
dtroppens@tctimes.com

It was a pretty solid start to the Metro League season for the tri-county area's three varsity boys golf teams.

Fenton finished second, followed by Holly in third and Linden in fourth at the Metro league preseason Metro League Meet on Monday.

Flushing won the meet with a score of 343, just one stroke better than Fenton's 344. Holly shot a 348 while Linden carded a 360 at Fenton Farms.

Fenton wasled by Nick Campbell's 80 while Chris Gilbert followed with an 85. Brandon Diener carded an 87 and Braden Lapa shot a 92.

CONTINUED ONLINE AT
➤ TCTIMES.COM

• Linden baseball improves to 6-0 • Pitching sparks sweep of Dragons

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

The Linden varsity baseball team keeps on rolling.

The Eagles improved to 6-0 overall and to 4-0 in the Metro League with a pair of victories against Swartz Creek on Monday. Linden won the first 9-2 and earned the sweep with a 3-0 victory in the second contest.

In the nightcap, Jack Shore tossed his second consecutive Metro League complete-game shutout victory, striking out three batters and allowing just two hits and two walks. Aaron Sarkon's sacrifice fly in the third gave the Eagles a 1-0 lead. Sarkon also had a two-run double in the fifth.

The Eagles' Ryker Rivera and Trey Link drove in four runs in the opening contest, leading Linden to victory.

CONTINUED ONLINE AT
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photo by David Troppens

Linden/Fenton co-op boys lacrosse team off to solid start in program's second season

■ Squad is 2-2 after its first four spring contests

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

Life isn't always easy when you are a member of the Linden/Fenton varsity boys lacrosse team.

For instance, practice can be quite a challenge.

The squad practices in an area close to the entrance of Linden Middle School and has spent most of the spring in a state of constant water and mud.

"We call it the swamp," head coach Stan Orzell affectionately said.

Despite their battles with their field's draining, the second-year squad is off to a pretty decent

start this year. The team has 27 kids, which is close to the number needed to have two teams. The squad also has a respectable 2-2 mark.

That record included a tough 8-1 loss against Lapeer on Saturday, but also a pretty impressive 9-2 victory against Bay City Central. Despite the loss, what may have been nice about Saturday was where the game was played. They played on Fenton High School's clean turf football field.

"We were just about getting our team together at this time last year," Orzell said. "This year we had them right away on March 14. We didn't have this time with them last year. We have 27 kids this year."

CONTINUED ONLINE AT ➤ TCTIMES.COM



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | MARK BOLEN
(Above) Derek DeLong attempts to score a goal. (Far right) Tyler Bourassa runs downfield with the ball.

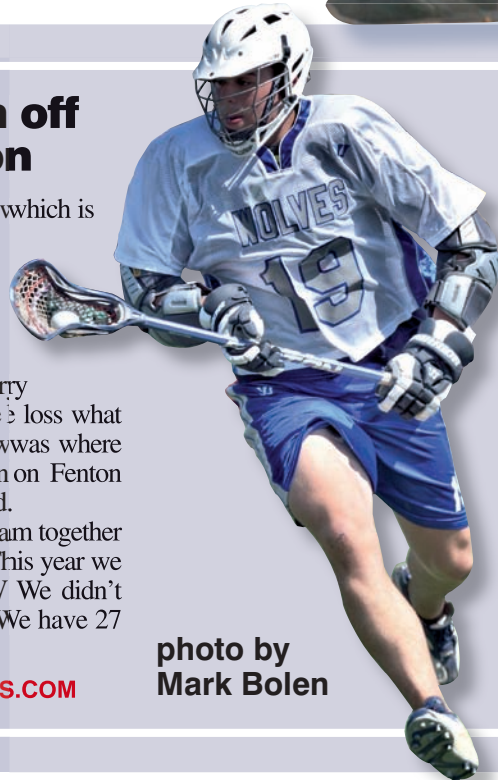


photo by Mark Bolen

MEET

Lucy

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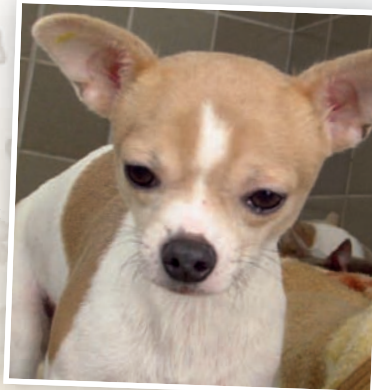
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sports **briefs**

FLAX HEAT FALL TO GRAND BLANC, 16-3

► The Fenton/Linden co-op girls varsity lacrosse team trailed 12-0 at half and lost a 16-3 verdict to Grand Blanc on Friday.

Ally Bilodeau scored her first goal of the season, while Maddie Withers and Kelly Kemp each had goals as well. Madeliene Albrecht made 13 saves in net.

FENTON GOLFERS PLACE FIFTH AT LAPEER TOURNAMENT

► The Tigers shot a 349 team score at Metamora Country Club, leading the squad to a fifth-place finish out of 20 teams.

Chris Gilbert led the Tigers with an 83, finishing eighth individually. Nick Campbell shot an 86 while Dylan Conte carded an 89. Brandon Diener shot a 91.

HOLLY SOFTBALL SWEEP BY KEARSLEY

► The Holly softball squad was swept by the Hornets 15-3 and 15-1. "We are progressing well," Holly coach Matt Kessler said. "We continue to work hard and we will continue to move forward in the right direction."

HOLLY BASEBALL CAPTURES DOUBLEHEADER SWEEP VS. KEARSLEY

► The Bronchos defeated Kearsley 8-3 and 10-3, improving to 3-1 in the Metro League.

In the opener, D.J. Tennis tossed six innings of three-run ball to get the win. Jared Halteman pitched the seventh in relief. Adam Tooley, Chet Wyant and Peyton Bilbia led the offense.

In the second game, Luke Copley, J.D. Lannon and Tennis led the offense.

Linden soccer wins Chelsea invite

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

It appears as though there is nothing that can stop the Linden varsity girls soccer team.

The Eagles improved to 7-0 on the young season, capturing three wins en route to the Chelsea Invitational title on Saturday.

The Eagles outscored their three foes 9-2 at the tourney. Linden opened by beating New Boston 3-1, and followed that effort with a 4-0 victory against Chelsea. The Eagles won the tourney title by beating South Lyon East 2-1 in their final game.

Goals by Katie Wilkowski and Maddie Zayan of four assists from Audrey Steiert provided Linden with the offense needed to defeat South Lyon East.

In the tournament opener, Wilkowski, Erica Breitling and Zayan scored goals, while Zayan, Taylor Jones and Breitling had assists.

CONTINUED ONLINE AT
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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | KLARI FREDERICK
Maddie Zayan was a potent offensive player for the Eagles in Saturday's Chelsea Invitational.

Griffins notch many postseason Flint Metro League honors

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

The Fenton/Linden co-op hockey team, the Metro League Griffins, finished the season with a solid 14-11 mark overall.

The squad also had a strong number of players earn All-Metro honors. Forward Jake Thompson and defenseman Tyler Bourassa earned first-team All-Metro honors for their efforts during the 2015-16 hockey season.

Thompson led the Griffins with 52 points and 33 assists. He also was second on the team with 19 goals. Bourassa was a strong defensive player but still found time to score 10 goals and record 10 assists.

Second team honors went to Brendan Buerkel, Bobby Temple, Brandon Diener and Collin LaVoie.

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► **TCTIMES.COM**

Tigers split doubleheader with Blackhawks

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

The Fenton varsity baseball team came home from Brandon High School with a twinbill split on Monday.

Fenton lost the opening contest 2-1 despite a well-pitched game by John Leaske.

In the nightcap, the Tigers' offense came to life and led the team to a 7-2 victory.

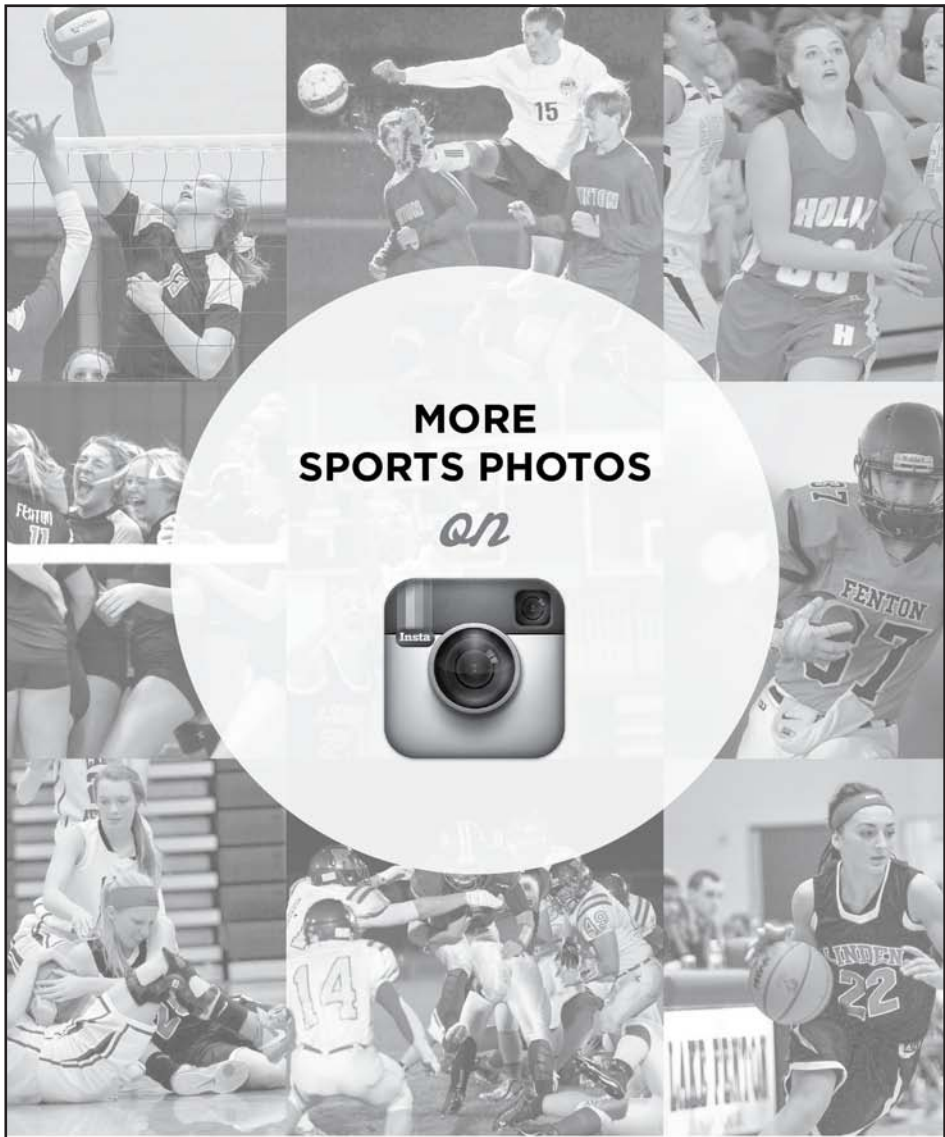
In the opener, Leaske scattered seven hits and two walks, striking out seven. Fenton led 1-0 after Blake Garrison's sacrifice fly in the fourth. However, it wouldn't hold as Brandon scored two in the bottom of the seventh, on the strength of three singles.

Chase Coselman and Nolan Lawrence led Fenton's offense with two hits each.

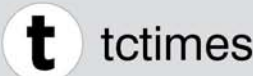
In the nightcap, the Tigers scored three runs in the second and fourth innings, sparking the 7-2 victory.

Coselman had two hits, two walks and an RBI offensively. He also started and recorded the win, allowing four hits over five innings.

Leaske, Jon Gillman, Tanner Tallman and Lawrence had a hit each.



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Linden softball sweeps Swartz Creek Dragons

Liz Rakowski hit a two-run home run in the ninth inning of the second game assuring the Eagles' split against Swartz Creek.



Holly, Lake Fenton split Saturday contests

Lake Fenton won the first game 9-4, but the Bronchos bounced back to win the second contest 8-5.

Fenton softball opens league season with two sweeps

The Fenton varsity softball team is off to a hot start in Metro League action.

The Tigers improved to 4-0 in Metro contests, sweeping Brandon 9-1 and 6-2

on Monday night.

Fenton began the Metro season with a pair of wins against the Swartz Creek Dragons last week.

Lake Fenton softball opens with strong sweep vs. Holly

The Lake Fenton softball team's bats were potent in this 10-0, 17-7 double-

header sweep against the Holly Bronchos on Saturday.

Holly track program performs well at Brandon Invitational

The Holly boys and girls track and field programs had several first- and second-

place performances at Saturday's Brandon Invitational.

HOROSCOPES

(Audience score on [rottentomatoes.com](https://www.rottentomatoes.com))

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 2016

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HOLLY TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Holly Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on:

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TIME: 6:30 PM or as soon as possible thereafter
PLACE: HOLLY TOWNSHIP HALL
102 CIVIC DRIVE
HOLLY, MI 48442
PHONE: 248-634-9331 Ext. 301

The purpose of the public hearing will be to consider the proposed text amendments to the Township of Holly Code of Ordinances to:

Chapter 32 Zoning, Article X Signs, Section 32-384 Highway Commercial Freestanding Signs.

Any person having an interest is encouraged to attend the scheduled public hearing. Written comments addressed to the Holly Township Zoning Administrator may be mailed to Holly Township, 102 Civic Drive, Holly, MI 48442 prior to the scheduled meeting.

A copy of the proposed ordinance revisions may be reviewed at the Clerk's office at the above-mentioned address during regular business hours Monday through Friday 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. except holidays.

Handicap persons needing assistance to attend or participate in this hearing are asked to contact the Township Clerk at 248-634-9331 x 301 or by writing to the above-mentioned address at least 5 business days prior to the meeting.

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