

## **Retailers geared up for busy shopping season**

TRI-COUNTY TIMES FILE PHOTO

Many area residents are looking forward to taking advantage of shopping locally on Black Friday and **Small Business** Saturday this weekend.

## The women on your gift-giving list will be especially happy with local store options

## **By Vera Hogan**

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823 It's been a banner year for the women in the Fenton area, who have for years been looking for more shopping options when it comes to women's wear.

One of the first lady's boutiques to come to Fenton was Eclections, located in the plaza at Silver Lake

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2016

Road and Fenway Drive.

Eclections brings the latest trends in women's fashion, footwear, jewelry and accessories to Fenton. They have recently added a section for men.

From athleisure wear and denim to casual career pieces, Eclections carries brands including Bobeau, Nordstrom's number one fashion

PAGE 1B

**TOP 15 BEST** SELLING **TOYS IN** HISTORY

line, as well as an eclectic mix of junior/missy styles from Lucky Brand, Karen Kane, Tribal, Lisette, Columbia, Blu Pepper, Umgee, Ryu and more.

"We're proud to be the exclusive area Bobeau retailer," said Eclections owner Nicole McCurdy in a recent interview.

See SHOPPING on 17A

Midweek \* mes

VOL. 23 NO. XLVII



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO Michael LaJoice is scheduled to be sentenced on March 21, 2017. He is expected to receive at least 10 years in prison.

# LaJoice saga coming to an end — finally

# Likely to get10 years in prison

## By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823 Earlier this month, a plea agreement was reached in United States District (federal) Court with Michael LaJoice pleading guilty to embezzling more than \$18 million from the credit union, at which he was chief financial officer.

His Oakland County Circuit Court case is pending.

The saga of Michael LaJoice began in October of 2015, when during a press conference at the Fenton Community & Cultural Center, he revealed plans for a multi-million dollar, multi-use project dubbed "Riverview."

#### See LAJOICE on 11A



provided therapy dogs and help for students. U of M has a room for students who are too stressed to go to class and can't

handle the election. And they have coloring books and Play-Doh. Heaven forbid these same students can go out into the real world."

to Debra Dodd, Consumers Energy spokesperson. Jackson County was the customers lost power between only other county in Michi-Friday, Nov. 18 and Monday gan with more customers See STORM on 14A

> **L**It's obvious that the Times doesn't care about having

biased articles, Hot lines of the week,

and columns veered toward the right. I

thought the news was supposed to be unbiased. I feel like we're not getting the whole side of the story. Anyone else feel that way?"



**L** If you told someone 100 years ago that in the future, children would sit idle and communicate using only their thumbs you would have been called mad.



Matt Cooper carves a turkey ice sculpture in his freezer work area in Fenton Township Saturday evening. He started with a 400-pound block and then sawed, chiseled and drilled the ice into shape over a three-hour period. This sculpture will be displayed at an upscale restaurant in Dearborn. See video online at tctimes.com and story on Page 19A.

TRI-COUNTY TIMES TIM JAGIELO

pine tree came

crashing down in

Linden's Fairview

Cemetery during

the unexpected

storm last Friday.

This large

**C** If any teacher is

actually behaving like the

Hot line stated, sobbing

and scaring the students

with dire predictions about

Trump, he or she should be

immediately removed from

being mentally unstable and

Do your job, administrators."

the school system due to

a viable threat to the kids.

## Surprise storm wreaks havoc in area

Genesee County second highest in state with more than 4,000 outages

**By Tim Jagielo** tjagielo@tctimes.com;810-433-6795 In Genesee County, 4,000

morning, Nov. 21, according

**C**So campus universities have



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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

With Christmas almost here it is time to visit Crossroads Village in Flint. In this November 2014 photo, the engine for the Huckleberry Railroad roars into the station to meet the waiting crowd. It is highly recommended that train tickets are purchased ahead of time by calling (810) 736-7100, ext. 6.

# Lots to do locally to create CHRISTMAS MEMORIES

## ■Holiday fun and entertainment abounds for young and old

### **By Sally Rummel**

WWW.TCTIMES.COM

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

You'll find lots of holiday fun in the tricounty area and if your "sleigh" doesn't mind a slight jaunt, you'll enjoy many special events that will be worth the trip.

## **Christmas at Crossroads Holiday Magic in Flint**

Bundle up your family and visit during this special time, beginning Friday, Nov. 25-27 and continuing on weekends Dec. 2-4, 9-11, 16-18, 20-23 and 27-30. Thousands of

sparkling lights will take you back to yesteryear, with vintage crafts, old-fashioned shops and a festive nighttime ride on Huckleberry Railroad. It is highly recommended that train tickets are purchased ahead of time by calling (810) 736-7100, ext. 6.

For more details, visit: geneseecountyparks.org/pages/Christmas

## **Holiday Nights in Greenfield Village in** Dearborn

Step into a Christmas card from the past with a visit during December weekends (Dec. 2-4, 9-11, 16-18, 20-23, 26-30), from 6:30 to 10 p.m. Take a lantern-lit journey into a living snow globe filled with live music, skating, fireworks and winter wonder, including Santa and his reindeer. For more

information, visit: thehenryford.org. **30th annual Jesus Walk** at Tyrone Covenant **Presbyterian Church** 

A tri-county hometown Christmas tradition is the Jesus Walk at Tyrone Covenant Presbyterian Church. The event will be Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 17 and 18, from 5 to 8 p.m., journeying through the live production of the true meaning of Christmas - from the prophecy of God's promise of a savior, through the events leading up to the birth of Jesus Christ.

The church calls this "their Christmas gift to the community," and welcomes people to make it an annual tradition. Tyrone Covenant Presbyterian Church is at 10235 White Lake Rd., telephone (810) 629-1261.

See MEMORIES on 20A



METRO CREATIVE GRAPHICS Eating a small snack before arriving at a holiday potluck dinner can prevent partygoers from overeating.

## Worried about gaining a few pounds this holiday?

Feast all you want on Thanksgiving and Christmas, but watch yourself on the days in between

## **By Sally Rummel**

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282 It's not your Thanksgiving dinner or your feast on Christmas day that causes the dreaded holiday weight gain between

Thanksgiving and New Year's. It's all those days in between that provide unlimited opportunities for snacking on office Christmas cookies, parties and drinks and a "'tis the season all-or-nothing" holiday binge attitude.

Cooking Light magazine suggests some easy ways to savor the season without totally blowing your healthy eating lifestyle.

• Have a small snack before you party. If you skip eating, that strategy will likely backfire. Reach for a snack that supplies satisfying protein, fiber and healthy fat, like yogurt with granola and fruit, so you won't likely go wild at the office party buffet.

See GAINING on 13A





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CONTACT INFORMATION

## If I Were King...

## Thanksgiving never changes — thankfully!

olidays, like most things in life, are constantly evolving to reflect the subtle changes brought about by the culture of the current generation. That's why Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday. Thanksgiving has somehow escaped the evolutionary process of commercialization and exploitation that is so prevalent in today's profit-and-loss driven world.

Most other holidays are not so fortunate. Christmas has

evolved from a religious holiday to an embarrassingly over-hyped, commercial event that is the basis for generating far more heartbreak (needy children, alcohol-related trauma, holiday

stress) than good cheer.

New Year's Eve and day are more about football, overeating and booze than selfimprovement or personal reflection.

FOSTER CHILDS

Easter Sunday has managed to maintain much of its religious dignity but is in constant peril of being overrun by bunnies, colored eggs, bonnets and baskets.

I'm personally thankful that no legislator has introduced a bill to celebrate Thanksgiving on Monday in order to give everyone a three-day weekend.

I'm very thankful that Thanksgiving is pretty much the same as it was when I was a child — a time for families to gather and celebrate the fact that they are alive and living in the most bountiful country in the world.

I'm thankful for winter, where the cold weather is a welcome change and makes me all the more appreciative of spring and summer.

I'm thankful for the early darkness and long nights, which provide me with a period of relaxation not possible during the hectic days of summer.

I'm thankful for the decades of selective breeding of turkeys that makes them practically idiot-proof to cook. I expect that in just a few more years, they will be hatched already equipped with a cooking bag and that little, pop-up thermometer.

I'm thankful that I don't have everything I desire in life. If I did, there would be nothing to look forward to.

I'm thankful for the setbacks in my life that teach me how to deal with adversity.

king@tctimes.com

I'm thankful for having to arise out of bed early each morning, because it means I have a job and am needed.

I'm thankful for the survival and proliferation of the Tri-County Times in this electronic, dot com world.

I'm thankful for the tiny new faces that will grace our Thanksgiving table this year, and also for the timeworn old faces that are still around to celebrate with us.

I'm thankful for the responsibility of caring for the elderly, as it sets an example that my own children will hopefully follow.

I'm thankful for the challenges and obstacles I face each day - they make me stronger and keep me from becoming bored.

I'm thankful for the many things I learn each day, because being reminded of how ignorant I am helps to keep me humble.

It seems to me that most of us find it convenient to be thankful for all the good things in our lives. Our blessings are easy to recognize and even easier to give thanks for.

Someone once said, 'Be thankful for what you have and you'll always have more. Focus on what you don't have and you'll never have enough.'

I agree. Hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving Day with family and friends.

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

ns, if approved for publication, must be 50 word o not necessarily reflect the views of the Tri-Count serve the right to edit for clarity, length and liability.

THE TRI-COUNTY Times ought to be congratulated on printing both sides of the comments on Trump and Clinton. It must have been a task sorting those out and figuring out which ones to print.

SEVENTY-EIGHT PEOPLE a day dying from heroin overdoses. I'd be interested in knowing how many people were dying of heroin overdoses before Obamacare went into effect.

I WOULD LIKE to thank an off-duty Genesee County officer for helping me get my keys out of a storm drain. I really appreciate it. I had other keys on there. Thank you so much and God bless you.

AFTER THE ELECTION, I'm watching the actions of some political groups. I noticed the tactics of the brown shirts. Attack the people, scream at the people, don't allow them to have any speech. It all seems to be coming from the all-inclusive liberals.

#### I'M LIKE A racist. Either you agree with

or a homophobe. STOP YOUR WHINING. Impeach Donald Trump.

us or we'll scream you're a bigot, a racist,

TRUMP TOLD LIE after lie during the campaign. Now the vindictive Hot-liners want Trump to punish Hillary Clinton because he convinced his supporters that she was lying. Give it a rest for Pete's



sake, the campaign is over.

YOU'RE DENSE. THE popular vote is not percentages. The popular vote is the total vote of the country. Right now Clinton is up 1.7 million and growing. Get the facts.

## WITH ALL THE protests going on,

I don't recall any protests going on when Obama won and I sure didn't like him winning.

### 

**I WATCHED THE** total disrespect that the inclusive liberals showed to Mike Pence. It's embarrassing to be booed and lectured from the stage. 

## IT'S KIND OF weird that a whole

bunch of Evangelicals voted for Trump, a major adulterer and a disgrace when it comes to family values. But I guess adultery is OK if you're Republican.

I AM THANKFUL for many things as we approach the holidays. But mainly I am thankful for a new president, a new administration, and a new direction for our country. Maybe the United States can be great again.

THE UNAMERICAN MUSIC awards were all about bashing Trump. The cast of Hamilton excoriated Pence who was in the audience. To cap the weekend off, four police officers were shot. You can see that the Democrats had a very busy weekend. 

IF I HEAR the word 'pivot' on the news one more time, I'm going to throw up. It's just like 15 years ago when every single person in the world kept saying 'proactive.'

**OUR FRIENDS SAW** the Broadway play Hamilton a few weeks ago in New York City and said it was horrible. With that information and with the information of how rudely they treated Pence, my wife and I have decided to sell our tickets for next May.

TO THE HOT-liner who's amazed that right-wing Christians could vote for somebody with such a lack of moral fiber, doesn't that speak volumes to you about Hillary Clinton?

LIBERALS HAVE BEEN attacking Republicans in theatres since 1865. Remember Abraham Lincoln anyone?

OBAMA HAS 66 days left in office. I'm hoping he goes to Hawaii again and goes golfing a lot and goes to many Democratic fundraisers because that will be fewer days for him to hurt our country.

See **HOT LINE** throughout Times

## What are you thankful for?



"At my age, 72, I'm thankful for an awful lot. I have great kids, grandkids, and friends. I've had a wonderful life." Les Hotchkiss Fenton



"Just having turkey together with my family and a friend. I'm thankful for just getting together."

> **Pat Crlencic** Fenton



"Health and family. My son got hired in at General Motors. I'm very happy about that."

**Connie Lennox** Fenton Township



"I'm just happy my health is OK."

> Paul Lennox Fenton Township

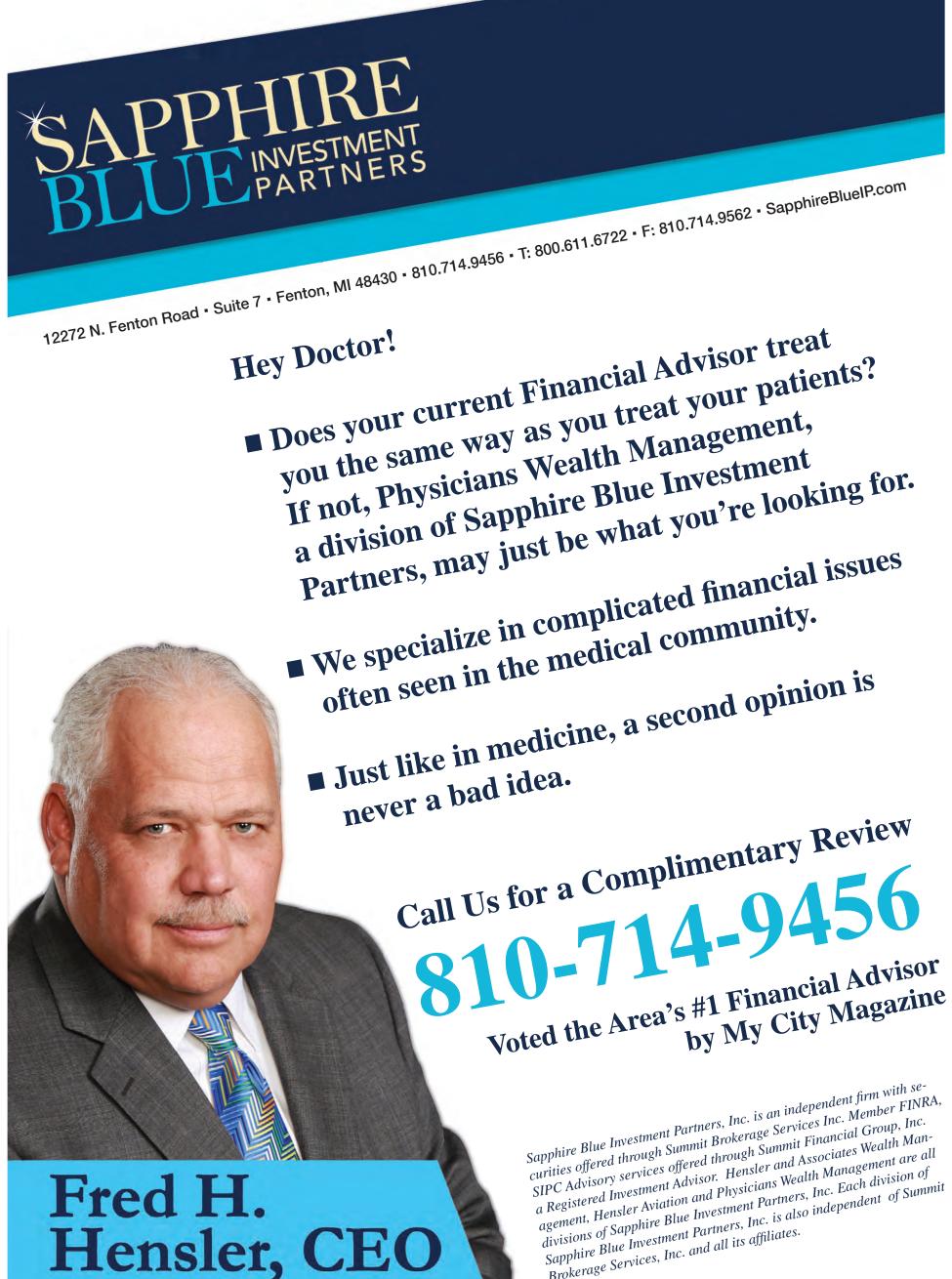
## street talk



"My family. I'm thankful for family. I'd say I'm thankful for my job."

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Compiled by Hannah Ball, staff reporter



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# **Looking for a great Christmas gift?**

## ■These are the best-rated children's books for 2016

#### **Compiled By Vera Hogan**

There is no doubt about it, reading to and with your child will reap positive lifelong benefits.

Reading with your children helps prepare their minds to succeed in school and reading with your child can enrich family ties and intimacy.





According to Parenting Magazine, the following are the top children's books for 2016:

## Big Fish Little Fish by Jonathan Litton, illustrated by Fhiona Galloway Ages: Birth-3

In this tale about how eels, hammerheads, tiddlers, and other sea creatures spend their day, fish-shaped cutouts will help hold the attention of toddlers. Basic opposites, like slow and fast, sad and happy, and big and little, make this book relevant into preschool.

## **TouchThinkLearn:ABC** by Xavier Deneux

Ages: 2-5

While the word choices for each letter are clever — U stands for universe — the design is what makes this book stand out. The raised die-cut letters encourage toddlers and preschoolers to trace them with their fingers.

## **Goodnight Everyone** by Chris Haughton **Ages: 3-6**

Parents appreciate the calming, repetitive phrasing like "ahhhh" and "we're too tired" while kids related to the plot — all the animals are sleepy except Little Bear. The book feels substantial, but it can be finished in 10 minutes.

## The Cookie Fiasco

by Mo Willems and Dan Santat Ages: 4-7

A relatable problem, not having enough cookies to share, familiar faces and simple yet funny dialogue made this title the category's runaway winner. One mom said seeing characters Elephant and Piggie again helped her boys, ages 4 and 6, transition to the new characters, and they were able to read most of the words themselves.

## Hedgehugs and the Hattiepillar by Steve Wilson and Lucy Tapper Ages: 3-7

In this follow-up to Hedgehugs — a tale of two hedgehog friends who try to find a comfy way to hug despite their spikiness — the besties notice a wriggly, stripy thing under a leaf. Kids marvel over its transformation from caterpillar to butterfly, and how the pair of hedgehogs get into the act.

There's a Giraffe in My Soup by Ross Burach

## Ages: 3-7

Kids will roar when they hear this silly story about a restaurant that mistakenly put zoo animals inside a boy's bowl of soup.

## Whoosh! Lonnie Johnson's Super-Soaking Stream of Inventions by Chris Barton, illustrated by Don Tate

Ages: 6+

This biography of Johnson, an African-American NASA scientist and the inventor of the Super Soaker, begins when he is in grade school. Science-related vocabulary, like prototype, propulsion, and formulated, will lead to discussion beyond the story.

## **Inspector Flytrap**

by Tom Angleberger and Cece Bell Ages: 6-9

A Venus flytrap and a goat team up to solve big deal mysteries, like the case of Mimi Kiwi's missing rose plant. Children will love the cartoonish illustrations and the fact that most of the chapters are fewer than five pages.

The Wild Robot

## by Peter Brown

Ages: 8+

Plot twists and turns in this tale of a robot who washes up on an island inhabited only by animals will keep kids in suspense.

Ghosts

by Raina Telgemeier

## Ages: 8+

The story about sisters (one of whom has cystic fibrosis) who are new to a seaside town offers more depth and less spookiness than it would seem.

Sources: parents.com; scilearn.com

# 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.

# Become a Non-Smoker 90.0%\*

\*Stop Smoking Program Success Rate based on completion of the Tomlinson Hypnotherapy 4 week program.

Compare that to other smoking cessation methods: Cold turkey has a 3.5%, Gums & patches average a 7%, and Chantix a 14% success rate Hypnosis is by far #1 for smoking cessation.

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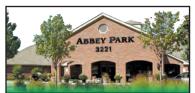
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## Parades kick off the Christmas holiday season

■Thanksgiving Day parades in New York and Detroit began in 1924

#### By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

Nothing is more synonymous with Thanksgiving Day than the two big parades that have stepped off in two major cities since 1924 — the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade on Herald Square in New York City, and America's Thanksgiving Day Parade on Woodward Avenue in Detroit.

## Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade

Every year more than 3.5 million New Yorkers line the route of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade while 50 million television viewers tune in to watch the holiday pageant of giant character balloons, floats, celebrities and marching bands, according to history.com.

The first Macy's parade on Thanksgiving morning of 1924 was a much more humble affair that bore the name of an altogether different holiday.

As the United States prospered during the Roaring Twenties, so did New York City's iconic department store — Macy's. After going public in 1922, R. H. Macy & Co. started to acquire competitors and open regional locations. Macy's flagship store in Manhattan's Herald Square did such a brisk business that it expanded in 1924 to cover an entire city block stretching from Broadway to Seventh Avenue along 34th Street.



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Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade on Herald Square in New York City has been delighting audiences of all ages since 1924.

To showcase the opening of the "World's Largest Store" and its 1 million square feet of retail space at the start of the busy holiday shopping season, Macy's decided to throw New York a parade on Thanksgiving morning.

In spite of its timing, the parade was not actually about Thanksgiving at all but the next major holiday on the calendar — Christmas. Macy's hoped its "Christmas Parade" would whet the appetites of consumers for a holiday shopping feast.

At 9 a.m. on the sunlit morning of Nov. 27, 1924, Macy's gave the children of New York a particularly special Thanksgiving treat as a police escort led the start of the parade from the intersection of 145th Street and Convent Avenue.

Bringing up the rear of the parade was a float bearing the guest of honor — Santa Claus — sitting in his reindeer-driven sleigh on top of a mountain of ice.

By noontime, the parade finally arrived at its end in front of Macy's Herald Square store where 10,000 people cheered Santa as he descended from his sleigh. Macy's Christmas Parade quickly became a New York holiday. Although it is now called the "Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade," Santa Claus remains the show-stopper, and his arrival in Herald Square still heralds in the Christmas season in New York.

### America's Thanksgiving Day Parade

The Thanksgiving parade has been a holiday tradition in Detroit for more than 80 years, according to the Detroit Historical Society. Founded by J.L. Hudson's, downtown Detroit's legendary department store, the parade first rolled down Woodward Avenue in 1924.

For generations of Michigan families, the official holiday season did not start until "the real Santa Claus" stepped from the parade's final float onto the Woodward marquee of Hudson's to accept the key to both the city "and the hearts of good children everywhere."

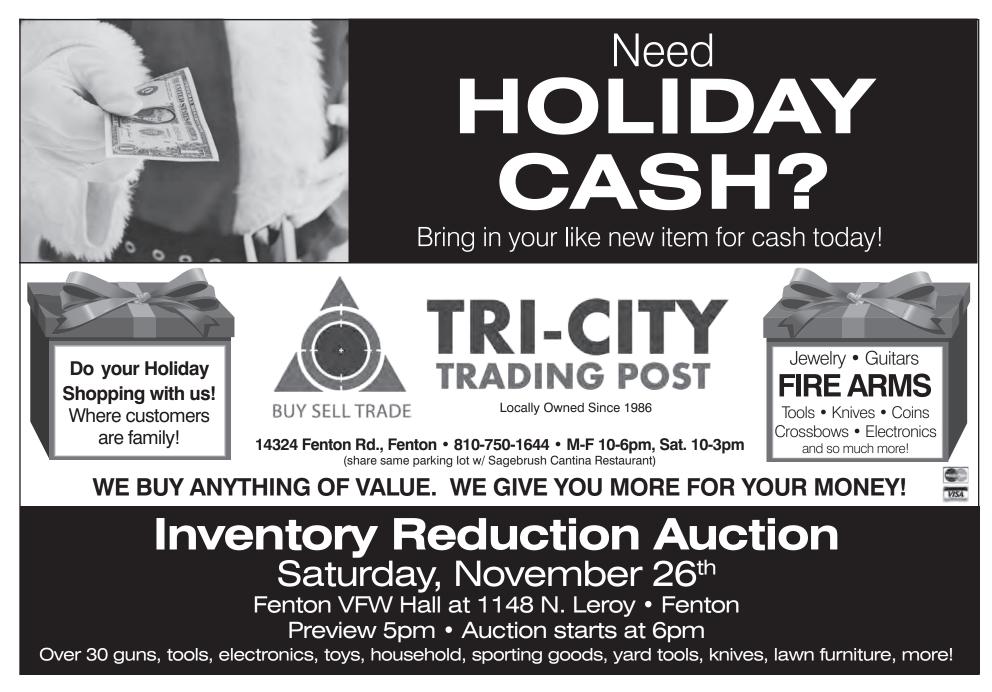
The next day, elevators whisked throngs of parents and children up to the store's magnificently-decorated toyland for a personal visit with the man in red velvet.

Detroit's first Thanksgiving parade featured horses pulling a float decorated with Mother Goose, four papier-mâché heads and seven marching bands. Over the years, the parade's size and scope has grown significantly, as it has entertained millions of bundled-up fans along its twomile route down Woodward with giant balloons, floats, marching bands, cartoon characters, celebrities and more.

First televised locally in 1948, the parade is now broadcast nationally to more than 100 million viewers.

Hudson's stopped sponsoring the parade in 1979, four years before closing its mammoth downtown store for good. But if the Hudson's name is gone (along with its flagship downtown store), the event lives on as America's Thanksgiving Parade.

(Sources: Macy's; Detroit Historical Society)





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## LAJOICE

**Continued from Front Page** It would, had it become a reality have been built at Adelaide and Caroline streets. It was to have featured restaurants, offices, living spaces and Chasse Ballroom & Dance Studio, which was owned by LaJoice and his wife, Ashleigh.

A couple of months later, the proverbial rug was pulled out from under everyone when LaJoice walked into the Oakland County Sheriff's Office on Jan. 6, and admitted to embezzling \$20 million from his employer.

Since then, a flurry of activities has taken place. The following is a timeline of what has occurred so far. LaJoice is scheduled to be sentenced for his crimes on March 21, 2017.

# Michael LaJoice

**Compiled By Vera Hogan** 

## WOW!

**Oct. 29, 2015** There were audible gasps and cheers each time Michael LaJoice revealed a new part of his and his wife Ashleigh's plans for the property at 225 West Caroline St.



## **Riverview...at a glance** Dec. 11, 2015

The landscape of Fenton is about to be changed by one of the largest development projects to be undertaken in the city of Fenton.

#### **'Riverview' final site plans unanimously approved** Dec. 23, 2015

The "Riverview" project is one step closer to becoming a reality now that the Fenton Planning Commission has unanimously approved final site plans.

## **Riverview project developer jailed** Jan. 8, 2016

In what will likely be a shocking turn of events for the Fenton community, the massive Riverview project slated to go where the old Topps produce market was located could be a bust.

#### Michael LaJoice charged with embezzling \$20 million Jan. 8, 2016

LaJoice sat quietly, staring blankly at the camera, while Oakland County Magistrate Daniel Shouman read the 14 counts of embezzlement, which allegedly took place from October 2015 to December 2015.



## LaJoice remains in jail Jan. 13, 2016

Rather than showing up for work as a chief financial officer at the Brandon-Clarkston Community Credit Union, or tending to duties associated with running LaJoice Properties and Chassé Ballroom and Latin Dance Studio in Fenton, Michael LaJoice has been spending his days and nights in the Oakland County Jail.

#### **Credit union issues statement about LaJoice embezzlement** Jan. 13, 2016

"Clarkston Brandon Community Credit Union leadership wants to first and foremost convey to our members that our branches are open and fully functional, and our full staff remains ready to meet members' financial service needs.

#### LaJoice spent nearly \$2.5 million buying Fenton properties in last six months

#### Jan. 13, 2016

A check of the city of Fenton's property records reveal that Michael LaJoice purchased seven properties since June 2015, for a total of \$2,466,500.



## State takes over LaJoice's former credit union

Jan. 15, 2016 To protect membership and to ensure uninterrupted access to funds, the Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Services (DIFS) took action on Wednesday to conserve Clarkston Brandon Community Credit Union (CBCCU).

### Chassé owner almost always topped list of local donors

Jan. 15, 2016 Local charities and non-profit groups are reeling from the sting of hypocrisy, learning that Michael LaJoice's financial support of their projects and events allegedly came from embezzled funds, rather than his own wallet.

#### **County prosecutor expects more charges** Jan. 15, 2016

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

#### **Tenants struggle to find security deposit funds** Jan. 15, 2016

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

## **Riverview project**

Jan. 15, 2016 It is still too early to fully know what impact the Michael LaJoice debacle will have on the city of Fenton and surrounding communities.

#### The \$20-million question everyone is asking: 'How could the credit union not know what was going on?' Jan. 15, 2016

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

#### Treasurer's quick action protects over \$1 million Jan. 20, 2016

**MIDWEEK TIMES** 

It was a case of the Groveland Township treasurer being in the right place at the right time. Upon hearing the news of the LaJoice embezzlement, he took quick action to protect township funds.



#### LaJoice to be evaluated for competency Jan. 20, 2016

Michael LaJoice, the owner of the now closed Chassé Ballroom and Latin Dance Studio in Fenton, will be sent to the Center for Forensic Psychiatry for a competency evaluation. He is facing 14 felony counts of embezzlement after he turned himself in to the Oakland County Sheriff's Office on Jan. 6, and admitting to embezzling \$20 million.

#### **\$20** million embezzlement case could be dismissed Feb. 3, 2016

Michael LaJoice spent his 37th birthday in the Oakland County Jail on Feb. 1. The former CFO of the Brandon Clarkston Community Credit Union, is facing 14 counts of embezzlement, each of more than \$1 million. If a judge determines that a defendant is competent after a hearing, the case proceeds. If after 15 months an incompetent defendant is not made to be competent after treatment, the case is dismissed.

## LaJoice competent to assist in defense

March 2, 2016 Michael LaJoice has been declared competent to assist in his own defense.

## Court finds LaJoice competent to stand trial

**March 4, 2016** Michael LaJoice, the 37-year-old Tyrone Township man who admitted to embezzling \$20 million from the Clarkston Brandon Credit Union, has

been declared competent to stand trial.

#### **Someone is going to pay** March 18, 2016

The list of questions people are asking about the Michael LaJoice case is endless. How did he do it ... How did he get away with it for so long ... Did his wife know ... Why didn't the bank auditors catch this ...? David Walker, owner of Hartland Insurance Agency, Inc. and IIABA (Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America) chairman, said he finds the insurance ramifications of this very interesting.

## Preliminary exam waived for Michael LaJoice

## March 22, 2016

Michael LaJoice, the Tyrone Township man charged with embezzling \$20 million from his former credit union employer, Clarkston Brandon Community Credit Union, waived his right to a preliminary examination on Tuesday.

See TIMELINE on 17A



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## **OUR EXPERTS**



REJUV

SKIN





Jen

Brittany







Nina



1

Landra

#### Wednesday, November 23, 2016 13A ing Mr. Trump everything that liberals repre-

sent. I always wondered why Archie Bunker called him 'Meat Head?' Now I know.

HILLARY'S HYPOCRISY CONTINUES.

together,' yet she encourages anti-Trump

protesters to 'persevere,' which is divisive.

The election is over. Now it's time to be

A HEART-FELT thank you to the 2016

What a great group of girls who came

together to record the finest season in

school history (46-6-3), and a berth in the

state semi-finals. You have all made your

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excellent coaching job, Coach Jerry.

Pretty Tile

Fenton Lady Tigers Volleyball team.

Her campaign slogan was 'stronger

civil and work together.

## **Family food favorites** come out on Thanksgiving

**L** This was from my

childhood neighbor who

was from the south.

Without failure, everyone

loves this casserole and

requests it for holidays. 77

Cherie Smith, Fenton resident

#### **By Vera Hogan**

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823 Thanksgiving is a time when fam-

ily and friends gather to celebrate each other and the many wonderful people and things for which they are thankful.

Part of that celebration, of course, is the big Thanksgiving feast, which normally includes a succulent roast turkey with all the trimmings, including mashed potatoes and gravy, dressing (or stuffing) which can be made hundreds of ways depending on the family, cranberries, vegetables of all description, decadent desserts and much much more.

Almost every family has a favorite they bring to the table, some of which are handed

down from generation to generation. The following are a couple of family favorites from community members.

#### **Bacon and Brussels Sprouts**

Cherie Smith is a city of Fenton resident and member of the Fenton City Council. She shares her Bacon and Brussels Sprouts recipe.

The ingredients include four slices of thick-cut bacon, four sprigs of fresh thyme, one pound of fingerling potatoes (split down the middle), two cups of Brussels sprouts (cut into thick slices). one-half pound red pearl onions (peeled), one-half cup low-sodium chicken broth, two tablespoons balsamic vinegar, onequarter bunch of flat-leaf parsley (roughly chopped), kosher salt and fresh ground pepper.

To prepare, set a large sauté pan over medium heat and add two or three tablespoons of olive oil. Cut bacon into long strips and add to pan together with thyme. Cook for five to seven minutes to render the fat. Then drain and set aside.

Discard half the fat in the pan then add Brussels sprouts, potatoes and pearl onions. Season with salt and pepper and cook until slightly browned. Add chicken stock and steam for three to five minutes until liquid has evaporated and vegetables are tender. Add balsamic vinegar and toss to coat. Cook until balsamic has reduced then fold in fresh parsley and bacon.

Total prep time is 15 minutes and cook time 30 minutes. This serves four to six people.

#### **Sweet Potato Casserole**

"Here's a recipe I've made ever since I got married in 1972," said Smith. "This was from my childhood neighbor who was from the south. Without failure, everyone loves this casserole and requests it for holidays," Smith added. "I like to use fresh sweet potatoes, but a five-pound can (big can) of sweet potatoes from the shelf works just as well. Reduce sugar to one-third cup if you use the canned spuds.

The ingredients are three cups of mashed sweet potatoes, one-half cup sugar, two beaten eggs, one-quarter cup margarine, one-quarter cup milk and one teaspoon vanilla.

Mix all ingredients well and pour into buttered casserole dish.

For the topping, combine one cup of brown sugar, onehalf cup margarine, one-half cup flour and one cup chopped pecans.

Mix well and sprinkle over potato mixture. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes.

#### Marshmallow salad

The following recipe comes from Veronica Pheasant of Argentine Township.

"Our family always has the traditional turkey, potatoes gravy, assuring cranberries and all the snacks and side dishes, but one of our favorite is my mom's Mandarin salad," said Pheasant. "It's not a green salad with almonds and stuff. It's the old-fashioned Mandarin salad from mom's Betty Crocker cookbook.

"Some of the little kids knew it as marshmallow salad," Pheasant said.

The recipe calls for a whole bag of mini-marshmallows, a can of Mandarin oranges, a can of chunk pineapple and a jar of maraschino cherries, all drained.

"Mom also put in a half a cup coconut and a half cup of chopped walnuts, and a 16-ounce can of sour cream. "That's right, the first time I helped her make it I couldn't believe after all these years that it was made with sour cream," Pheasant said.

"You mix all the wet ingredients together with the nuts and coconut then mix in the sour cream and the marshmallows. It can be a side dish or dessert," said Pheasant. "It was always served in a huge bowl and the leftovers were divided up after dinner. Since mom passed everyone's tried making it but only I knew the real recipe."

## GAINING

#### Continued from Page 3A

• One trip, one plate, no "tower" is the it on the plate. buffet rule that one dietician lives by. Make one pass at the buffet using one salad plate and no stacking up foods. Then step away. • When contributing a dish to an office potluck, bring something healthy and delicious so you know you have at least one good option.

• Watch the liquid calories — your drinks can add up to more than a meal. Try to the old trick of alternating cocktails with water.

• Be choosy. Holiday indulgences should merit their calories. If a cookie is warm and gooey just out of the oven, have one. But if it's a store-bought leftover, leave

• Take treats to go. When you find your self eating out of obligation because a treat is offered to you by a family member or even your boss, just say "Thanks" and take it to go. You can take it home, put it in your freezer and enjoy it later.

• Shift your perspective. Remember that the holidays are about connecting with people. It's not just about eating. Take your time to talk to people and listen. That will force you to put your fork down. That's why you're at the party or get-together in the first place, right?

## **HOT LINE** CONTINUED

**REGARDING THE LIST** of favorite presidents, I was taken back by the fact that LBJ was number one. This president got us immersed in the Vietnam War and with no plans to get us out. He is responsible for 58,000 American GI deaths.

## DID YOU KNOW that it will take Greece

over 2,000 years to repay their national debt? Just think that Obama and Hillary wanted to do the same thing to the United States.

#### 

I MOVED TO Fenton in 1965. I've gotten your paper since then. But the last year I have decided not to renew. I'm tired of being insulted.

I HAVE A group of friends who are liberals. The day after the election, we were talking and we said that we've got to do something. We decided to do something for those less fortunate than ourselves. So we decided to donate to our church and help families.

TO LILY FROM Linden High who paid for my lunch at Panera. You added a bright spot to my awful day. It really

## helped me. Thanks so much.

ABSOLUTELY LOVE THE flag in front of Alpine in Linden. If you haven't seen it you need to drive by. 

FOR THOSE WHO complain about the choice to bring Steve Bannon into the White House. Get over it. I just put up with eight years of Valerie Jarrett and AI Sharpton in the White House.

## 

you are going to be so tired of winning you're going to say 'Mr. President, we are so tired of winning,' and he is going to say, 'I don't care, we are going to keep winning.'

I MISTAKENLY TURNED on the Chris Matthews show and Rob Reiner was call-



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## THIS WEEK'S INSERTS

- Fenton's Open Book
- Glik's
- R Hometown Christmas Featured Section
  - Rite Aid
  - Sears Hometown Stores
  - Target
  - Walmart

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





## Linden scouts pack 'Miracle Boxes' for troops

Desert Angels program sends care packages to soldiers stationed overseas

## By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792 Argentine Twp. — A year after Linden Superintendent Ed Koledo received a "Miracle Box" while deployed on active duty, he helped pack them for other soldiers.

As part of the Desert Angels program, at Linden Middle School on Thursday, Nov. 17, approximately 50 scouts from Linden Troop 111, and their families, helped pack care packages, called "Miracle Boxes," to send to soldiers on active duty.

Koledo said the feeling that a service member gets from receiving one of the boxes is "priceless."

"When I was deployed, the boxes I received from the Desert Angels represented a grateful nation and a lot of love and appreciation from individuals. The effort it takes to put all that together is tremendous and much appreciated," he said. "Sometimes there would be personal letters and/or cards from kids as well as adults. Some were so cute they were passed around, hung up in the dining facility and enjoyed in stories for days. They are a fresh breath of home, like the smell of fresh cut grass, or autumn leaves."

The boxes were filled with candy, deodorant, food, magazines, and many other things.

"There are so many things our troops

## STORM

**Continued from Front Page** whose power was interrupted.

The outages were caused by a storm that whipped through the Midwest on Friday night Nov. 18, bringing a maximum of 79 mph gusts of wind in Jackson, according to weather.com. It caused interrupted electrical service for 60,000 Michigan homes, and brought dry, cold weather with it.

ABC 12 Meteorologist J.R. Kirtek said Genesee County withstood estimated 69 mph wind gusts. Temperatures changed from the 70s to the lower 30s in a 24-hour period. He said that that drastic change "explains the intensity of the storms that moved across Lower Michigan."

The winds took down trees in the area, which also brought down nearby power lines.

Hundreds lost power in the tri-county area, with pockets in Fenton Township, Holly and Linden.

Throngs of residents without power headed to local restaurants as they opened Saturday morning, creating a steady flow of diners.

On Friday night, public works crews for both the city of Fenton and Fenton Township were out

clearing limbs from roadways. downed power lines. 77 Acrossing gate was

broken at the railroad crossing in downtown Fenton, which CN Rail Company repaired. Some hanging flower baskets are missing.

While a far cry from the winter storm of December 2013, there was debris in the roadways on Saturday morning. In



TRI-COUNTY TIMES I HANNAH BALL Linden Cub Scout Troop 111 helps pack 118 "Miracle Boxes" containing items like candy, socks, and deodorant for soldiers stationed overseas.

desperately need that they don't have," said Louise Blain, founder of Desert Angels. "We're a ministry. We believe in God, country and freedom. Every box has a rosary or Bible, an American flag, a prayer cloth, a letter from somebody." All the items are donated.

Assistant Cub Master Rick Boulis said the event went great and all the scouts brought something to pack.

"I think it instills a sense of civic pride," he said. "It gets them thinking about our troops overseas, gives them a broader sense of a worldwide picture."

Candy Petty, who has two Cub Scouts and a fourth-grader leader, said the event makes a difference with both her kids.

"Both my kids are oriented toward the service because a lot my family is in the service so they like to see that we're giving back to the community," she said.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO A 110-foot tall Tri-County Wireless tower that services nearly 500 customers was destroyed during the storm on Friday,

Linden, a large pine tree was toppled over in Fairview Cemetery

Nov. 18.

**We had hundreds of** 

Debra Dodd

Consumers Energy spokesperson

The BP/McDonald's sign on Thompson Road in Fenton Township was bent slightly due to the wind.

"We had hundreds

of downed power lines," said Dodd. She reminded residents that there still could be downed power lines, and they should stay 25 feet away, and call 911 to report them.

f



www.tctimes.com



## **TIMELINE** Continued from Page 11A

## LaJoice's embezzlement case heads to trial

March 25, 2016 Michael LaJoice of Tyrone Township waived his right to a preliminary exam in Oakland County's 52-2 District Court on Tuesday.

## Swindled credit union merger announced

March 29, 2016

Michael LaJoice's former employer, Clarkston Brandon Community Credit Union, is getting a new name and backing from a much larger financial institution, the Michigan State University Federal Credit Union.

#### **Offers made to buy LaJoice properties** April 1, 2016

While Michael LaJoice spends his days in the Oakland County Jail, his defense attorney Michael Manley spends much of his time sorting through discovery related to his client's \$20 million embezzlement case, and paperwork regarding multiple properties owned by LaJoice.

#### **Defense waives arraignment, court enters 'not guilty' plea** April 5, 2016

An Oakland County Circuit Court arraignment on Monday, April 4 for Michael LaJoice was adjourned. Neither LaJoice nor his defense attorney Michael Manley attended the court hearing.

## Fate of LaJoice properties still unresolved

May 6, 2016 While the defense and prosecution attorneys continue "negotiations" regarding the \$20 million, criminal embezzlement charges, the disposition of Michael LaJoice's properties and the method with which they will be disposed of, remains unknown.

#### Michael LaJoice charged with bank fraud in federal court June 7, 2016

On June 7, one felony count of bank fraud was filed against LaJoice in United States District Court-Eastern District of Michigan Southern Division.

## LaJoice properties sold

July 6, 2016 The downtown Fenton area properties purchased by Michael LaJoice last spring have been sold to SkyPoint Ventures, the organization owned by Phil and Jocelyn Hagerman.

## **No plea deal, LaJoice headed to trial** Sept. 16, 2016

Nearly nine months after turning himself in to authorities, the Tyrone Township man who admitted to embezzling \$20 million from his employer will stand trial on Dec. 12.

#### LaJoice pleads guilty to embezzling more than \$18 million Nov. 4. 2016

A plea agreement was reached Thursday, Nov. 3 in United States District (federal) Court with Michael LaJoice pleading guilty to embezzling more than \$18 million from the credit union at which he was chief financial officer. His Oakland County Circuit Court case is pending. Sentencing is scheduled for March 21, 2017. All of these articles can be read in their entirety at tctimes.com.

## SHOPPING

**Continued from Front Page** Denim continues to be a huge seller, from upscale brands by Cookie Johnson, Big Star and Miss Me, to an affordable line of Lee Jeans. "We have a fit and price point for just about anyone," said McCurdy.

**MIDWEEK TIMES** 

What makes Eclections such a popular shopping destination for women is more than just what they sell; it's the experience of personal service and interaction with customers that creates a dynamic relationship.

"We always have something going on that draws our customers in," said McCurdy. "There's always a reason for customers to stop in."

Customers would be wise to stop in at Eclections on Black Friday, (Nov. 25) and take advantage of the holiday's first big shopping day of the year.

Maurice's of Fenton opened its doors to the public on Oct. 7 of this year.

Store Manager Emily Whitt, a graduate of Holly High School, said the store will be open from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Black Friday.

"I think we'll be pretty busy, especially

with all the special deals we're planning," she said.

November is typically a great month for all retailers, but especially Maurice's.

Having grown up in Holly, Whitt said she is well aware of the some of the challenges women once faced finding choices of clothing stores.

"We're happy to be open and happy to be part of this community," she said. "We are holding a food drive through Dec. 15. All the food we collect will be donated to the food pantry at St. John's," she said.

For every three cans of food brought to Maurice's, customers will get a 20-percent off discount coupon.

Maurice's offers the latest trends in women's tops, "an amazing denim selection," dresses for every occasion, trendy plus size clothing, shoes, accessories and more.

The store is at 3259 Owen Road, in the Target plaza.

Northern Country Chic, new in downtown Fenton is fast becoming a popular stop for people of all ages. They opened on May 20, on Fenton's Ladies Night Out. The boutique carries a variety of clothing

for ladies and girls, size toddler through

3X. She carries Corral brand women's cowboy boots, and a men's T-shirt line called Nine Line.

"Eighty percent of the items in my store are USA made," Lenoir said.

Northern Country Chic carries jewelry as well. Another popular item among customers is the ladies T-shirt that says, "Y'all need Jesus" on the front. There are also jeans (size 0 to 13) and leggings for women.

Holiday gift shoppers will also find a variety of knick-knacks, coffee mugs and home décor and handmade candles. Greeting cards and gift bags are also available.

"We're looking forward to having a great holiday season," said Sandra Kleven, who owns French Flamingo in downtown Holly with her husband, Bob.

"Dicken's Festival has added new attractions this year so it continues to get bigger. As always we are the place for stocking stuffers, secret Santa gifts and something for yourself. A large selection of items for not a lot of money."

Others, like Creative Fashions will be ready and waiting for the busy holiday rush, especially on Black Friday.

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Nature what to do. 77

**Matt Cooper** 

Ice sculpton

## **HOT LINE** CONTINUED

EIGHT YEARS AGO, Obama filled hundreds of positions with lobbyists in his administration. In other words, those who came from the Washington, D.C. swamp. Trump is taking his time and is eliminating many names who are lobbyists.

I'M SO SICK of hearing the word 'African American,' there is no such thing. My grandmother came from Hungary. Am I a Hungarian American? No such thing.

YEAH LIBERALS, STOP your childish whining, just like the conservatives did the last time that Obama was elected twice, just like Congress did over the past eight years by doing nothing.

STOP YOUR CHILDISH whining? What about 'I want to see his birth certificate?

## NAFTA BILL WAS through Con-

gress already when Clinton took office. All he did was sign it. Again, it was negotiated by the Bush administration so whatever is in there is on Republican shoulders.

#### 

BEFORE THE FIRST vote was cast, I heard right-wingers on television complaining that the election was rigged and that if Trump didn't win, they were going to take up arms. 

I'D JUST LIKE to thank Alpine grocery store in Linden for their brand new flagpole in the parking lot. Very nice.

#### I BELIEVE THAT the problems

facing us today is the printing of \$6 trillion to cover the banks' losses. They printed up this money, bought all these slice and dice mortgages that the big banks were stuck with, and now the American people are stuck with them as part of our national debt.

YOU MIGHT NOT like Hillary but at least she wouldn't have brought a racist and white supremacist into her cabinet like Donald has.

IF YOU OR I did a quarter of the things Hillary Clinton did, we would be in prison for the rest of our lives, not running for president.

## Local ice artist begins his busiest season this week

## **By Sally Rummel**

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282 Matt Cooper is one person in the tri-

county area who is glad to see Michigan's cold wintry weather finally arrive.

As an ice sculptor creating artwork out of 300-pound blocks of ice, Cooper's work is totally dependent upon Mother Nature's frigid temperatures and gray, dreary days this time of year.

That's because most of his art is displayed outdoors during winter events, like the upcoming Jinglefest in Fenton on Dec. 3.

The weather alone will determine whether his art will melt in just a few hours of time under warm temperatures and strong sunshine, or remain a frozen, unyielding seasonal display for several weeks.

"The best weather for ice sculptures is overcast and under 32

degrees," said Cooper, owner of Icon Ice. ice sculptures is overcast "But you can't tell Mother Nature what to do." His Fenton But you can't tell Mother Township company creates ice sculptures for country clubs,

resorts, sports/entertainment complexes, weddings and community events.

Some of his clients include the Red Wings at Cobo Hall, Detroit Auto Show, The Palace of Auburn Hills, Zehnders in Frankenmuth, Spring Meadows Country Club, Warwick Hills Country Club, DTE Energy Music Theater and Comerica Park, to name a few.

He not only carves for corporate clients but also for competition, and is proud to be in the Ice Carvers' Hall of Fame in Fairbanks, Alaska.

This week is just the beginning of Cooper's busiest time of year, as he creates turkey ice sculptures for many Thanksgiving celebrations, then turns into holiday and winter mode for dozens of upcoming winter events. One of his favorites is Crossroads Holiday Magic in Flint, where he'll dem-



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO Matt Cooper cuts lines into the ice block based on a stencil he drew onto a sheet of paper to guide his carving.

onstrate ice carving every Saturday from Thanksgiving until Christmas.

"I love Crossroads, it's beautiful," said Cooper, 56. "I also love community events like in Fenton, where

I know the people and can interact with the kids."

Cooper's workplace is his freezer and his tools are chainsaws, chisels and sanders. Whether it's summer or winter.

he's wearing a warm jacket and gloves inside his 22 degree workspace in his company warehouse, but admits that his hard work keeps him warm.

He can work on no more than two or three sculptures at once, trying to get them done at approximately the same time for a

special event. "It's just like cooking," said Cooper, who's also an executive chef, Food Network competitor and a culinary instructor at Mott Community College.

Each sculpture starts with a 20- by 40inch block of ice that's 12 inches thick. "We face it off with a chainsaw rig and take it down to 10 inches thick," said Cooper.

Then whatever the design, Cooper will make a drawing or template, then create the design with a chainsaw.

The next step is shaping or rounding. "It's the opposite of drawing a picture," said Cooper. "You have to visualize removing everything you don't need. It's pretty non-forgiving."

Cooper can freeze logos in the ice for corporate customers, then carve around it. He'll do a number of these types of carvings for local businesses in Fenton, who pay for an ice sculpture in front of their business during Jinglefest.

This year, there will be 20 ice sculptures in Fenton, from Dibbleville and downtown to the North LeRoy Business District and Silver Parkway. On the same day as Jinglefest on Dec. 3, Cooper has eight other special events going on in different community.

"This is my crunch time of year," said Cooper.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES I TIM JAGIELO Cooper uses an electric chainsaw to cut detail into the tail of his turkey ice sculpture on Saturday.



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## MEMORIES

Continued from Page 3A
North Pole

## Express in Owosso

Take a four-hour excursion by train to experience the magic of Christmas. The train departs from Owosso and travels to the Village of Ashley's Country Christmas for a horse-drawn carriage ride, reindeer, Santa's Village and more. Friday through Sunday dates continue now through Dec. 18 with many dates already sold out. Put this on your calendar early to buy tickets for 2017.

For details, visit: michigansteamtrain.com.

## Wild Lights at the Detroit Zoo

For 29 nights, more than five million LED lights will illuminate trees, buildings and more than 200 animal sculptures throughout the front half of the zoo. Dates are Nov. 25-27, Dec. 1-4, 8-11, 15-23 and 26-31 from 5:30 to 9 p.m.

Enjoy live entertainment, arts and crafts, ice carving, holiday train displays and more. Please note, the Polk Penguin Conservation Center is not open for this event.

For more details, visit: detroitzoo.org.

## Meadowbrook's Annual Holiday Walk

The 45th annual Holiday Walk will guide you through this 110room Tudor-revival style mansion filled with historic and holiday treasure. Dates are Nov. 25 through Dec. 22.

Self-guided Holiday Walk tours are offered daily, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Meadowbrook Estate is at 480 S. Adams Rd. in Rochester, telephone (248) 364-6200. For more information, visit http://meadow-brookhall.org/tours/holiday-walk-tours/

## Elsewhere

Other holiday entertainment options include special musicals, plays and concerts at venues like the Whiting, Meadowbrook Theater, the Fox Theater, Palace of Auburn Hills. One of the holiday's most celebrated events is the annual appearance of the Tran-Siberian Orchestra, coming to The Palace of Auburn Hills on Dec. 30.



## Statutory interpretation and the meaning of words

We live in a world where we want certainty especially when it comes to the law and its meaning.

In the vast majority of cases, the words of a statute or law have previously been defined either in the law itself or by an appellate court, and the requirements of the law are clear.

But what of situations where certain words haven't been defined?

When this occurs, our courts engage in what we call 'statutory interpretation' and determine what the legislature meant when the statute or law was passed.

How this is done is through a logical process and, believe it or not, the starting point for undefined terms is the dictionary.

In almost all cases, the dictionary definition tells the court what the word or words at issue mean and thereafter when combined with other previously defined words the law is then interpreted and implemented.

An excellent example of this analytic procedure is found in the Nov. 10, 2016, Michigan Court of Appeals case decision in Weaver v Giffels.

In Weaver, the issue was whether under Michigan's Child Support Statute, Giffels would be required to continue to pay child support for his daughter after she reached 18 years old and up to the time she was  $19\frac{1}{2}$ years old when she still was in high school and completing sufficient credits to have a reasonable expectation of graduation.

The requirements of the statute include that the child is 'residing' on a 'full-time' basis with the recipient of support.

The child in this case was residing four days a week with the mother and three days a week with Giffels.

Even though the statute had been enacted in 1990, the term 'full-time' had never been interpreted by the court but the term 'reside' had.

Using the dictionary definition analysis the court found that 'full-time' meant 'completely.' When this term was combined with the word reside, defined as where a person both physically lives and where they intend their permanent residence to be, the answer became clear.

In the Weaver case since these facts weren't determined by the trial court, the appeals court sent the case back for a hearing. This is but one example of how the pro-

cess of statutory interpretation works and works well.





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# Sports

## **Fenton's title run ends in state semis**

**By David Troppens** 

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789 **Battle Creek** — For Jessica Warford, it wasn't about winning or losing.

Certainly, the Fenton varsity volleyball team wanted to defeat Novi in the Tigers' Class A state semifinal contest held at Battle Creek's Kellogg Arena, but the Fenton senior outside hitter realized there was something more important than that. It was the opportunity to play the match.

Fenton had that opportunity on Friday night, and in the process made school history, becoming the first Fenton volleyball team to play in a Class A state semifinal contest. Unfortunately, the result ended up being a 25-14, 25-12, 25-15 loss to the top-ranked team in the state.

"Of course we wanted to win, but we had the opportunity to play in this match and make school history," Warford said. "It's all about the opportunity."

Fenton showed the same typical fight it has shown all postseason long. That fight has earned five-set victories against area rival Linden, 10th-ranked Eisenhower and second-ranked Clarkston. That same fight resulted in a final overall season record of 46-6-3, one that included another outright Flint Metro League championship and



**TRI-COUNTY TIMES** I DAVID TROPPENS The Fenton Tigers experienced a season high by competing in the Class A state semifinals on Friday. However, exceeding season expectations wasn't enough to hide the pain once the Tigers lost to Novi in three sets at Battle Creek's Kellogg Arena (right). Seniors Jess Warford (left) and Taylor Mowery console each other after the loss.

weekend tournament championships in all but one tourney the Tigers attended. However, this time the Novi Wildcats ended up being a little bit too tall and See SEMIS on 23A



## David's **Dabblings** A few thoughts about

A few thoughts about the area's sports scene and others not dealing with sports at all.

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LIONS AND THANKSGIVING

There was a time when there was only

one thing on my mind on Thanksgiving. It was Detroit Lions' football. For years I didn't miss the Thanksgiving game. It didn't matter if I lived in Illinois at the time, or if the Lions were lousy or for whatever reason, Thanksgiving meant I was headed to either the Pontiac Silverdome or Ford Field to watch my beloved team on the holiday that seemed to exist for them. I don't hold that passionate view of Thanksgiving any more. It's been about five years since I've been to a Lions' game on the holiday.

However, all that said, I still think it's cool that the Lions are one of just two teams that always play on Thanksgiving. A Thanksgiving game has a different feeling of any regular-season game. There's kind of a family festive feeling to it, but there's also a little "raw tribal sports" intensity added to the holiday cheer that lets you know you are at a professional football game.

Also, for me, the season doesn't get serious until this week. By this time, the Lions have played enough games to know exactly where they stand in terms of the standings. A lot of times, their playoff hopes are already dead, which makes the Thanksgiving game kind of our playoff game. In other seasons, like this year, you realize the Lions are in first place with a legit shot at making the playoffs as we hit the home stretch. One way or the other Thursday's game is going to matter, especially considering the Vikings are in town. So, while it isn't quite as magical as maybe 10 years ago, Thanksgiving Day and Lions' football remains as one of the

great days of the year.



## Shegos leads Tigers at state meet Fenton diver finishes second in her event; Tigers make history qualifying relays to event's second day

## By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789 Taylor Shegos had lofty goals entering the Division 2 State Swimming and Diving State Championships last weekend.

It would be fair to say Shegos pretty much accomplished those goals at Eastern Michigan University on Friday and Saturday.

The Fenton junior competed with Forest Hills Central's Anna Hansen for the top spot in the one-meter diving competition during the state meet. However, Shegos was just edged out after the final dive, earning her the runner-up finish at the state meet.

"I'm very happy with myself and very proud after suffering a concussion earlier in the season," Shegos said. "I'm very proud of what I did.

"It was a very close meet which was nice because we were both diving our best and that meant it went right to the very last dive."

See SHEGOS on 23A

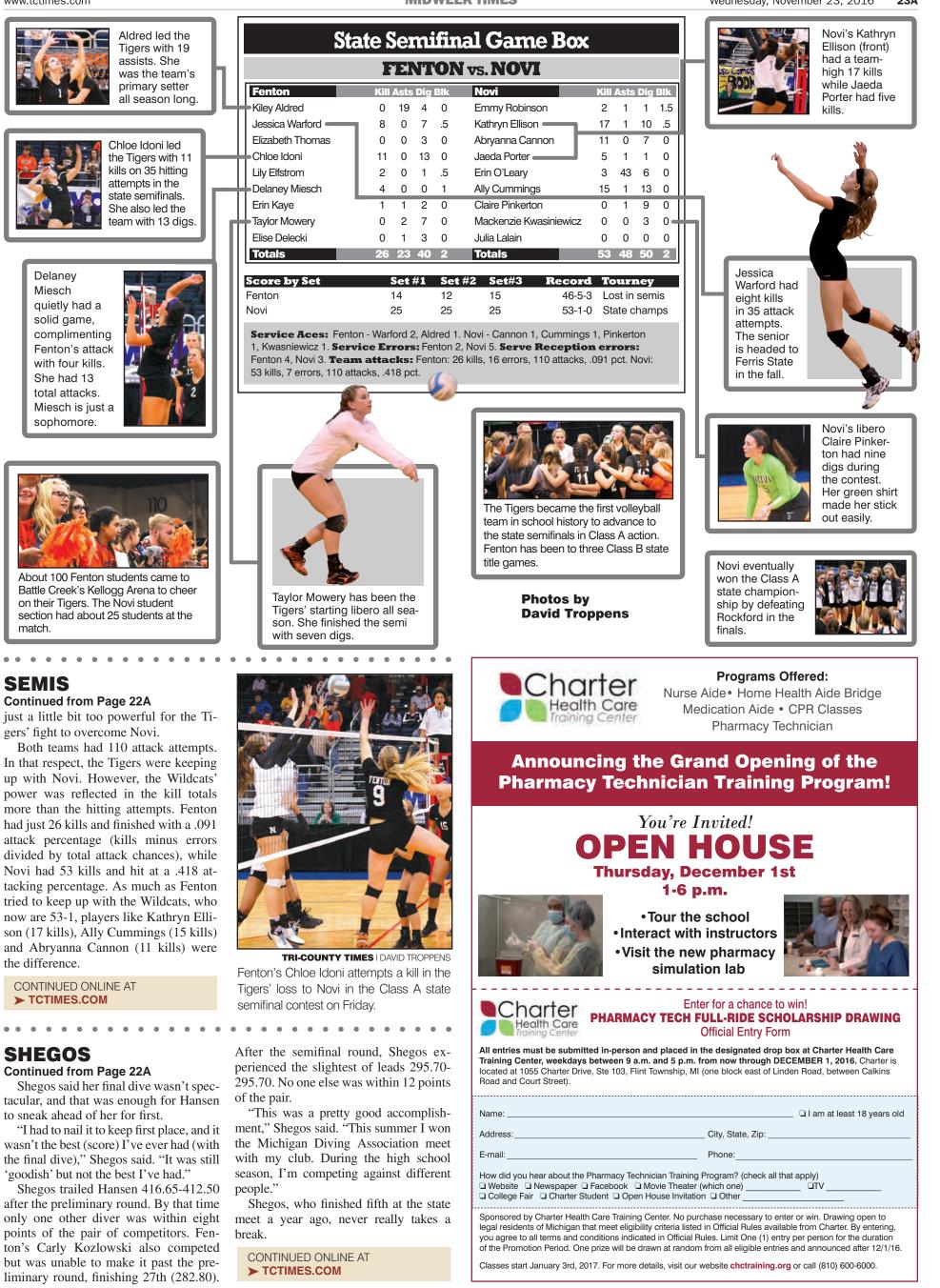


TRI-COUNTY TIMES I SUBMITTED PHOTOS

The Fenton swimmers and divers (above) relax together during the state simming and diving meet. Fenton's top performer (far left) was Taylor Shegos who finished as the state runner-up in diving.



**MIDWEEK TIMES** 





Wednesday, November 23, 2016

HEY KIDS! Enter our Christmas Coloring Contest See Page 7B

**CLASSIFIEDS** 

# best selling toys in history

COMPILED BY VERA HOGAN

purchased the business from Flores just one year later, and the"Duncan Yo-Yo" was born.

## **3. EASY-BAKE OVEN**

In 1963, inspired by street vendors, the Easy-Bake oven was born to give children a chance to cook their own creations. Hasbro reported more than 30 million ovens had been sold as of their 50th anniversary, along with another 150 million-plus mix refills. The core product shows no signs of slowing down

## 4. RADIO FLYER

When Italian immigrant Antonio Pasin arrived in the U.S. at the age of 16, he had no way of knowing that he would one day create a toy that still sells steadily close to a century later. Radio Flyer, based in Chicago, came into existence in 1917. Since then, it's sold more than 100 million wagons and was inducted into the National Toy Hall of Fame.

## **5. SILLY PUTTY**

In 1943, Scottish engineer James Wright, while working at General Electric's laboratory in New Haven, Connecticut, combined boric acid and silicone oil in a test tube. He then shipped it around to a number of engineers, See TOYS IN **HISTORY** on 3B

## 1. BARBIE

A Barbie doll is easily one of the most recognizable and best-selling toys in history. With more than a billion dolls sold, Barbie has staying power that other dolls could only dream of. The pint-sized princess has been a mainstay in popular culture for more than 50 years.

## 2. THE YO-YO

It really is impossible to tell how many yo-yos have been produced since their invention around 2,500 years ago, but anything with that kind of staying power has to be considered one of the best-selling toys in history. On the commercial U.S. market, they've been around since Pedro Flores opened the Yo-yo Manufacturing Company in Santa Barbara, California, circa 1928. Donald F. Duncan knew a good thing when he saw it and

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# The National Toy Hall of Fame established in 1998

## **Compiled By Vera Hogan**

The National Toy Hall of Fame at The Strong, established in 1998, recognizes toys that have inspired creative play and enjoyed popularity over a sustained period.

Each year, the prestigious hall inducts new honorees and showcases both new and historic versions of classic toys beloved by generations.

Anyone can nominate a toy to the National Toy Hall of Fame. Final selections are made on the advice of historians, educators, and other individuals who exemplify learning, creativity, and discovery through their lives and careers.

The following are the very first toys inducted into the National Toy Hall of Fame in 1998. To see the toys inducted in subsequent years, visit toyhalloffame.org.

## TOYS IN HISTORY Continued from Page 1B

hoping there might be some use for his creation. By 1955, kids in the 6 to 12 demographic were in love with the stuff. More than 300 million eggs of Silly Putty have been sold since its inception.

## **6. TRANSFORMERS**

The shape-shifting robots would have to go on any list of best selling toys despite the fact that they've only been around since the 1980s. Excluding the hugely popular international toy line, the property has earned more than \$3.7 billion in profits from just the five films.

## 7. G.I. JOE

The greatest American hero was introduced in 1964 by Hasbro as an 11½-inch male figure that wore uniforms representing the U.S. military and featured 21 moving parts. In just one year of sales, G.I. Joe made up over 75 percent of Hasbro's sales.

## 8. HOT WHEELS

Hot Wheels, the classic die-cast toy from Mattel, was introduced in 1968. The company has gone on to produce more than 4 billion cars featuring 11,000 variations and over 800 models.

## 9. ETCH-A-SKETCH

In 1955, a 30-year-old electrician named Andre Cassagnes was installing a factory light switch plate and made some pencil markings on its translucent decal. After peeling the decal from the switch plate, he saw the image had transferred to the other side. This was the origin point for his idea that would become the children's drawing toy. More than 175 million of the devices have been sold since 1960, the year it first went to market.

## **10. LEGOS**

LEGOs, derived from the Danish words for "play well," was invented by carpenter Ole Christiansen in 1949. The LEGO company patented the idea just nine years later. The original LEGOs were just red-and-white bricks that interlocked in a way that allowed children to build things without limits. Today, the company has produced more than 320 billion blocks.



## Barbie

- Crayola Crayons
- Erector Set
- Etch A Sketch
- Frisbee
- LEGO
- MarblesMonopoly
- Play-Doh
- Teddy Bear
- Tinkertoy

## **11. MR. POTATO HEAD** Mr. Potato Head was a

groundbreaking toy in many ways. For one, it was the first toy with a dedicated TV commercial. Secondly, it earned more than \$4 million in just a few months (in the 1950s). And most amazing of all, it actually got kids to touch their vegetables. Created with that specific purpose in mind, by George Learner, no one foresaw what a huge success it would become (and continues to be).

## **12. HULA HOOP**

The Hula Hoop is considered the first major fad toy in the sense that when sales were good, they were unheard-of-good, but once the public tired of the product, they plummeted. During that period (1958), the company sold more than 100 million Hula Hoops for \$1.98 each. Now they're back up to a respectable level.

## 13. STAR WARS ACTION FIGURES

Never mind the huge resurgence in popularity of Star Wars action figures. If you take just the Kenner line from 1978 to 1985, you're dealing with a product that easily deserves consideration as one of the best selling toys of all time. In a sevenyear period, Kenner sold more than 300-million action figures.

## 14. RUBIK'S CUBE

Created in 1974 but not licensed for sale until 1980, the Rubik's Cube hasn't had as long of a shelf life as many of the toys on this list. In its abbreviated lifespan, it's still managed to sell more than 350 million cubes. Hungarian inventor Ernö Rubik's invention continues to give most people fits, too, so consider this a mainstay for the foreseeable future.

## 15. SUPER SOAKER

Former NASA engineer Lonnie Johnson invented the Super Soaker in 1993. The gun was a reinvention of the classic water gun and was the summer-fun equivalent of bringing a bazooka to a gunfight. The Soaker shot distances of up to 50 feet and completely changed the face of backyard water warfare. It has gone on to sell 250 million units with the number continuing to

Source: nowblitz.com

Member

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## HOLLY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES NOVEMBER 16, 2016 REGULAR MEETING SYNOPSIS

#### Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:	Supervisor Smith, Clerk Winchester, Trustee Ruth, Trustee Ruth and Trustee Cornwell.
Approved:	Consent Agenda.
Public Hearing:	2017 Community Development Block Grant Application.
Postponed:	Proposed Amendments to Outdoor Gatherings Ordinance.
Postponed:	Consumers Energy Easement Request.
Approved:	NOCFA Funding Request.
Approved:	Proposed Master Plan Amendments.
Approved:	Resolution of Support for National Water Trail on the
	Shiawassee River Proposed Resolution 2016-15.
Approved:	2017 CDBG Application – Proposed Resolution 2016-16.
Approved:	Building Fee Schedule – Proposed Resolution 2016-17.
Approved:	Proposed Code of Ordinance Amendment – Section 2-83
	Current and Future Employees and Officials.
No Action:	Proposed Code of Ordinance Amendment – Chapter 32
	Zoning, Section 32-144 Essential Services.
Approved:	Code Enforcement Officer - Proposed Resolution 2016-18.
Approved:	Project Coordinator - Proposed Resolution 2016-19.
Approved:	Planning Commission Request for Ordinance Proposal Funding.
No Action:	New Medical Marijuana Legislation
Approved:	Township Owned Property Parcel Combinations.
Approved:	Consider Closed Session to Discuss Attorney Client Privileged Information.
Approved:	Motion Regarding Appraisal.
Approved:	Motion Regarding Disciplinary Action.
Approved:	Motion Regarding Enforcement of Consent Judgment.

The minutes of all regular and special Holly Township Board of Trustees meetings are on file 8 business days after a meeting and may be reviewed at the Holly Township Clerk's Office, Holly Township Hall, 102 Civic Drive, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. except holidays. The next regular meeting of the Holly Township Board of Trustees will be held on Wednesday, December 21, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. or as soon as possible thereafter at the Holly Township Hall.

Karin S. Winchester, MMC Holly Township Clerk Dale M. Smith Holly Township Supervisor

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## **HOT LINE** CONTINUED

TEACHERS HAVE NO right to ask fifthgraders who they are voting for. That is just a sneaky way of seeing who their parents are going to vote for.

IF IT'S TRUE that Donald Trump wants only \$1 per year, then I think the federal government should put the rest of the presidential salary toward the deficits and get the country out of the hole at least in some ways.

THE WOMAN IN the yellow Camaro at the North Road bus stop. Slow down, there are children.

## RAILROAD, THE CITY or property owners

should be responsible for clearing obstructions at the crossings. As a bus driver I'm telling you

that we can't see. We complain and nothing is done. They just pass the blame.

ports the Black Lives Matter movement and gay rights. I'd be interested in hearing how my fellow Fenton residents feel about the second amendment now.

TO THE PERSON that would rather have Clinton's characteristics than Trump's -I'm glad I don't know you because I hate visiting people in jail.

### WONDER HOW THOSE parents will feel

when the teacher predictions about Trump come true?

going to do a good job or not. All I know is that Hillary is a proven liar, and an actual criminal. I would never vote for someone who has literally spent the last 30 years lying to the citizenry.

MY 17-YEAR-old daughter pointed out a Hot line in this week's paper stating how much fun a person had back in 1970 because they smoked marijuana. I'm disappointed in the Times for publishing such a thing. Why would anyone want their teenager to read about how fun it is to smoke that garbage?

focusing on decent, moral values; aborthe womb. There are plenty of free ways to prevent pregnancy. One that comes to mind is responsibility.

TRUMP CALLING THE cast of Hamilton's address to Mike Pence 'harassment' is both chilling and pathetic. Trump is going to have to thicken up his skin if he's going to last four years.

I HAVE TO say that I agree with Trump and his supporters about the election being rigged and when he said that the electoral was 'a disaster for democracy.'

EVER SINCE TRUMP'S monumental and divisive victory last week, I cannot stop smiling. My face is actually starting to hurt. 

EVEN IF YOU have a mother and father down here, you will always have a powerful God up there. He's waiting every moment for your prayers of thanksgiving and forgiveness. No matter what you've done He forgives you.

YO. MEXICO YOU'RE fired. Eh!

I'M AN OPEN carry advocate who sup-

## 

I VOTED FOR Trump. I'm not sure if he's

PUTTING RELIGION ASIDE and just tion is murder. A fetus is a child growing in



# **WISH**Wednesday

## Wednesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> - ALL DAY

Donate <sup>\$5</sup> or more to Make-A-Wish<sup>®</sup> to take advantage of our **Thanksgiving Doorbusters early!** Skip the long lines on Thanksgiving and help make wishes come true!

November 2<sup>nd</sup> - December 31<sup>st</sup> Customers can donate any dollar amount this holiday season to help make wishes come true!

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Between November 2 - December 31, 2016, Sears Hometown & Outlet Stores will donate 100% of customer donations to Make-A-Wish, with a minimum guarantee of \$150,000 from all in-store holiday promotions. For more information, visit wish.org.

# Classifieds

Miscellaneous Wanted

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heaters, furnaces,

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Taylor Rd. 248-875-3757.

#### CLASSIFIED DEPARTMENT: 810-629-8194

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\* imes

**ALL REAL ESTATE** 

PAGE 5B

\* imes

## www.tctimes.com

WEDNESDAY SUDOKU

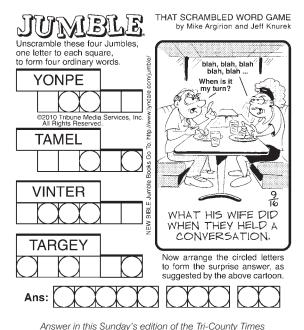
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DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: \* \* ★ Moderate ★★ Challenging ★★★ HOO BOY!

Answer in this Sunday's edition of the Tri-County Times

## WEDNESDAY JUMBLE



# Job Openings

## Help Wanted

#### **CONTROLS ENGINEER** MANAGER

Controls Manager wanted. Produces electric controls engineering designs and modifications by identifying project objectives and issues; verifying and validating designs. Machine Tool, Hardware Design, Eplan, AutoCAD, Software Design, PLC, HMI, Project Manager, Air Logic System. 5 years experience. Email wanda@spentechusa.com.

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## To advertise your JOB OPENING call 810-629-8282

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#### **DIRECT CARE STAFF** needed in Holly, Ortonville,

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Help Wanted

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in Fenton MI, starting pay at \$10.00 per hour, Monday-Friday 7:30am-4:00pm (part-time shifts may be available). Must be able to stand for long hours. Some heavy lifting may be necessary. Email resume to warehouselaborfenton@ gmail.com.

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## Service Directory Times



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iunday's edition of the Tri-County Times

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# **Obituaries**

## **FUNERAL** ETIQUETTE

## What should I say to the bereaved?

Using your own words, express your sympathy. A kind word about the person who has died is always appropriate. If the family wants to talk, they usually simply need to express their feelings; they aren't necessarily looking for a response from you. The kindest response is usually a warm hug and to simply say, "I understand". While you don't want to offer only clichés, there are some commonly used expressions that you can rely on if you don't know what to say. You want to keep your remarks simple, direct and honest.

Source: thefuneralsource.org



KING FEATURES

# HOROSCOPES

## ARIES

(March 21 to April 19) This is a good time to let that intrepid Aries temperament take charge. Your strong leadership will help settle those still-unresolved situations. Support comes from a surprising source.

## TAURUS

(April 20 to May 20) Your problem-solving talents shine as you move to cool down heated emotions. You also inspire trust in all parties when you act with careful consideration of their feelings.

## GEMINI

(May 21 to June 20) That long-delayed commitment begins to look better to you. But there's still a crucial fact or two you need to know about it. A health problem needs to be taken care of.

## CANCER

(June 21 to July 22) Don't waste time trying to learn why someone you relied on is wavering in his or her support of your stand on a workplace issue. Move on with the help of more steadfast allies.

## LEO

(July 23 to Aug. 22) Relationships enter a brighter period, both at home and in the workplace. Prospects also look good for single Leos and Leonas, who can expect a welcome visit from Cupid.

## Sandra Mary Armbruster 1947-2016

Sandra Mary Armbruster - age 69, of Fenton, died Friday, November 18, 2016 at Genesys Health Park. Services were held Monday, November 21, 2016 at Sharp Funeral Homes, Fenton Chapel, 1000 W. Silver Lake Rd., Fenton. Sandra was born June 6, 1947 in Grosse Pointe, the daughter of Paul N. and Laura (DiBacco) DuBrico. She was a reporter and editor for the Observer Eccentric Newspapers for over 40 years. Sandra enjoyed traveling, loved fishing and was very devoted to her family. Surviving are: son, Peter (Sharon) Armbruster of Fenton; two grandchildren, Alexandra and Megan Armbruster; sister, Anne (Michael) Pramstaller of Virginia; many extended family members and dear friends also survive. Friends may share an online tribute on the obituary page of www. sharpfuneralhomes.com.



#### VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22)

Those mixed signals that were complicating your life are giving way now to clear, definitive guidelines. This makes it easier for you to weigh your options and make decisions.

## LIBRA

(Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Ask your partner for an explanation of what seems to be a sign of strain in your relationship. The sooner you understand the problem, the sooner you can both act to resolve it.

#### SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)

A new challenge in the workplace holds an exciting promise for the future. But be aware of the fact that you haven't been told about all the demands you might have to meet.

## SAGITTARIUS

(Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Your financial picture brightens as you get into sorting out realistic goals and those that are not reachable at this time. 'Caution" remains your fiscal watchword.

#### CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19)

You're deep into your new project, and that's just fine. But don't neglect your family and friends. Spending time with people you care for is always a wise investment.

## Times

### **Lois Jean** (Anderson) Callard 1933-2016

Lois Jean (Anderson) Callard - age 83, of Fenton, died November 18, 2016.



Funeral services will be held 11 AM Saturday, November 26, 2016 at Sharp

Funeral Homes, Fenton Chapel, 1000 Silver Lake Rd., Fenton. Burial will follow in St. John Cemetery. Visitation will be held 2-4 and 6-8 PM Friday, November 25, 2016. Lois was born May 26, 1933 in Detroit, the daughter of Harold and Hally (Beauregard) Cameron. She was a veteran of the U.S. Army and worked as a bookkeeper at Security First Insurance. She was married to Roger Anderson on July 7, 1953; he preceded her in death on April 13, 1974. She then married John (Welcome) Callard on August 27, 1976 and he preceded her in death on March 17, 1977 Mrs. Callard was a member of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church and Fenton VFW Post #3243 Women's Auxiliary. She is survived by her children, Roger (Patsy) Anderson, Kathy (Joe Fox) Anderson, Chris (Donna) Anderson, Michelle (Randy) Austin, Dawn (Jeff) Konarske; 17 grandchildren; 11 greatgrandchildren; sister, Lori Cameron (Sandy); several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents; sisters, Opal, Lillian, Alberta and Maxine; long time companion, Yves Bothorel. Lois enjoyed reading, listening to country music and spending time with her family. She will be remembered for her sense of humor and mischievous playfulness. Those desiring may make contributions to the Alzheimer's Association (alz.org) .Online condolences may be posted on the obituaries page of www. sharpfuneralhomes.com.



## AQUARIUS

(Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) Past feelings are suddenly reawakened. This could make you emotionally vulnerable. Be careful about decisions you might be asked to make at this time.

## PISCES

(Feb. 19 to Mar. 20) You've come to a place where you'll be facing important decisions that can affect your future. Rely on your strong moral compass to guide you toward making the right choices.



Parents: Please handwrite your child's name above (for legibility) as it will appear in the newspaper

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

One winner per age group. These winners will receive a Christmas bag filled with treats and age appropriate surprises. Drop off your entry at the Tri-County Times or mail it to: Tri-County Times Christmas Coloring Contest, 256 N. Fenway Drive, Fenton, MI 48430 By Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 4p.m.

City\_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

**COLORING CONTEST RULES:** Children must be 3-11 years old to enter. Winners will be contacted on Monday, Dec. 12th, prize pickup no later than Thursday, Dec. 15th. Winners will be published in the Sunday, Dec. 18th edition. Tri-County Times, Alliedmedia.net and Rockman and Sons Publishing employees and their relatives are not eligible.

