

Media, government and business profit from fear-mongering

■ Often incite panic and fear of fictional dangers

By Vera Hogan
vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823
Living in the midst of the information age is a good thing, right? When something happens, the mainstream media makes sure we know about it instantly, with all

the details and photos to prove it. Take the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, for example. Millions watched as two jetliners crashed into the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York. We watched in horror as the buildings crumbled, as terrified people jumped to their deaths from office windows — there was death and destruction everywhere and we saw it all.

Although this was a definite case of “need to know,” some of the images were so horrific that they have created a host of fears that people may not have had they not seen the pictures — specifically, the fear of heights, flying and terrorism. The only images we see of what occurred during Adolph Hitler’s regime, or the attack on Pearl Harbor

See FEAR on 18A

CBSN
The Zika virus and the possible birth defects it could cause has been widely broadcast by the mainstream media. The end result may be millions spent on a vaccine that may or may not be necessary.





PAGE 1B
AREA COUPLE
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2012 - 2013 - 2014 NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

Michigan drivers are seventh best in nation

By Hannah Ball
hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792
Michigan drivers are the seventh best in the nation, according to a report by carinsurancecomparison.com.

Based on numbers from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), the report compared the 50 states and District of Columbia in five categories. They included: amount of fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles traveled, number of incidents caused by not obeying traffic signage, percentage of fatal crashes that involved alcohol, percentage of fatal crashes related to speed, and careless driving statistics. Michigan

See DRIVERS on 21A



Michigan has a poor distracted driving score, but a high score in obeying traffic signage.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO
Lynda Chase of Fenton walks five English Setters through downtown Fenton on Thursday morning. The public has gotten used to seeing Chase and her four-legged friends throughout the Fenton area. **See story on Page 17A**

Elderly caregiving crisis looming

■ As older population increases, so does the need for care and companionship

By Hannah Ball
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Information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the U.S. Census, and other organizations suggest that America will experience an elderly caregiving crisis within the next few decades.

Seniors who have no relatives to help them deal with aging issues and challenges are often called “elder orphans,” and they’re increasing in number. “With baby boomers we will see the need for (a) senior care services increase,” said Erin Ward, social worker at WellBridge of Fenton. The older population is increasing. According to the CDC, the number of Americans older than 100 years old increased approximately 44 percent from 2000 to 2014.

See CAREGIVING on 19A




TRI-COUNTY TIMES | HANNAH BALL
Mark Fisher, pastor at Transfiguration Lutheran Church in Fenton, talks with residents of WellBridge about the Bible.


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“To those who voted for Trump, you lost, too, you just don’t realize it yet.”



“Trump has already accomplished more before he is even sworn in as president than Barack Obama accomplished in eight full years. ‘The buck stops here’ is back.”



“Can someone please tell me how society has allowed pornography to become so accessible that it is universally viewed by 90 percent of our teenagers on a daily basis? The internet is destroying our country, and the world.”



COMMENT OF THE WEEK

“Higher education has done an excellent job of producing a vast population of college graduates able to read, but incapable of being able to distinguish what is worth reading. Signed, unemployed U of M graduate.”



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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

A driver from Flint waits for a tow truck to extract her vehicle from the ditch along Old U.S. 23 in Hartland Township on Thursday. Behind her, U.S. 23 crawls along while semi tractors wait for better conditions to continue on Old U.S. 23.

Icy roads wreak havoc

■ Thursday morning commute is a treacherous one

By Sharon Stone
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Hartland Twp. — Slippery conditions on U.S. 23, and Old U.S. 23 caused a lengthy slowdown in traffic, as well as several vehicles stuck in ditches Thursday morning.

The light dusting of snow created a thin layer of ice on roadways before local road commissions could begin salting.

Just as local fire departments were being called to a 30-car pileup at 10:15 a.m. on southbound U.S. 23 near Clyde Road in Hartland Township, Livingston County, word

was also getting out about another 30-car pileup on I-96 in Fowlerville.

There was some miscommunication with dispatch early on and the 30-car pileup was just on I-96.

U.S. 23 and Old U.S. 23 were, however, experiencing extremely icy road conditions and vehicles sliding. Traffic became congested and slowed to a crawl.

Semi trucks on Old U.S. 23 were sliding down the slight hill at the curve south of Clyde Road, forcing many to stop until there were better driving conditions.

The Hartland Area Fire Department blocked Old U.S. 23 at Clyde Road due to the slippery hills.

Livingston County salt



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Dana Rhodman (left) with Greatway Transportation and Frank Lasslett of Hazen Transport wait with several other drivers at the top of the hill for the road to be salted. They made the best out of the situation by snap-chatting their experience.

trucks were dispatched mid-morning to help with the slick road surfaces.

There were news reports of at least three fatalities in the 30-car

pileup on I-96 near Fowlerville and lanes were closed for clean-up and investigation.

Media Editor Tim Jagielo contributed to this report.

How NOT to overspend this Christmas

■ Last two weeks before the holiday can really put your budget to the test

By Sally Rummel

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You may have already finished much of your Christmas shopping by now, but the two-week countdown before Dec. 25 can really deal the final blow to your budget.

Not only are there last minute Christmas gifts to buy, but also teacher gifts, stocking stuffers, holiday party groceries, entertainment, décor, all the wrapping paper, trimmings and other expenses that go beyond the presents.

Let's start with just the gifts. American shoppers will spend an average of \$949 for gifts this holiday season, up 5 percent from last year's total of \$882, according to the American Research Group, Inc.

How much your family allocates
See OVERSPEND on 19A

SUMMARY

■ Don't let the last two weeks before Christmas ruin your holiday budget. You can control your spending with new traditions and careful shopping.



Look for creative gift ideas on the Holiday Gift pages in our Local Living Section B



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Hail to the nation's first Tweeter-in-Chief

Donald Trump – our president-elect, our president-elect, our president-elect (I have to keep repeating it to myself until it becomes less terrifying) – tweeted out a midnight critique of last week's "Saturday Night Live" while it was still airing.

"Just tried watching Saturday Night Live," he wrote. "Unwatchable! Totally biased, not funny and the Baldwin impersonation just can't get any worse. Sad."

He's actually not far off the mark. SNL is more often than not unwatchable outside of the political skits and Weekend Update. And the music, I haven't recognized or

cared about an act in years, proving beyond a doubt that I am old, old, old. Or have taste. Whatever.

But, still, isn't it weird that a future president is, A) Reviewing a comedy show in the middle of the night, B) Has such

incredibly thin skin, C) Clearly doesn't get that humor, by definition is biased, and, D) Tweets at all?

Maybe it's just me but it just doesn't seem very presidential to issue late night 140-character blurts via a social media app with a silly name instead of through a speech, a brief or a televised address to the nation.

Welcome to the new reality, I guess. Presidents have always used the technology of the day to get their message across – newspapers, radio, TV etc. So maybe if Twitter had been around at the time, other presidents would have used it as well.

Maybe they'd have ended up tweeting Trump-style:

George Washington: "Crybaby Brits still can't get over fact they lost the war. What losers! #USA! USA!"

Thomas Jefferson: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rig ..." (Get it? He hit the 140-character limit and had to abort one of the greatest phrases ever written by man.) (Well, I thought it was funny.)

Abraham Lincoln: "Heading to big play tonight at the Ford. See you there! WOOT!"

Teddy Roosevelt: "Nobody should be allowed to burn the American flag — if they

do, there must be consequences — perhaps loss of citizenship or year in jail!"

(You noticed that was an actual Trump tweet, right? Sounds stupid even under another name, no?)

Franklin D. Roosevelt: "Japs whipped us at Pearl Harbor #dayofinfamy but you watch, USA will defeat them bigly in the end. #bombthecrapoutofthem."

Harry Truman: "Rosie O'Donnell just said she felt 'shame' at being fat — not politically correct! She killed Star Jones for weight loss surgery, just had it!"

(Also, sadly, a direct Trump tweet.)

Dwight D. Eisenhower: "Lying Khrushchev says he will bury us. So sad. Aggressive attitude likely to make up for fact he's bald! LOL! #patheticCommie #hairclubformen."

Richard Nixon: "Failing Washington Post says Watergate is a big deal. Rest of country thinks the Washington Post ISN'T a big deal! #decliningscirculation #goingoutof-business #losers."

George W. Bush: "Hey, Saddam, how you like me now that I invaded Baghdad and knocked down your little statue? Booyah! #micdrop. (middle finger emoticon)"

Barack Obama: "If crazy @megynkelly didn't cover me so much on her terrible show, her ratings would totally tank. She is so average in so many ways!"

(Yes, tragically, also a direct Trump tweet.)

My tweet on this whole Trump tweeting thing: It's going to be an interesting four to eight years. #holdontoyourbutts #canad-aherewelcome



Andrew Heller
FEATURED COLUMNIST

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.

WHY DOES ANYBODY bother reading a columnist who hides from his audience by covering his face with his hand, wears a crown and often includes his signature format — hateful rhetoric. Want an example? Check out his last article in the TCT that leads off with the words, 'Even the left-wing nuts...'

THANKS TO THE Argentine police officer who took care of our wildlife issue. We appreciate all that you do. And to officers everywhere, be safe and enjoy the holiday season with your families.

THE JINGLEFEST PARADE was really annoying. It went right by our house. People need to remember what Christmas is really about.

I AM A resident of Fenton and have to drive through downtown on a daily basis. I enjoy seeing the use of our downtown and the vibrant life of young families as well as the draw it has for others. Fenton real estate market also has been on a continuous growth pattern, more so than any other city in Genesee County.

READERS: GOOGLE 'NARCISSISTIC Personality Disorder' and then remember, 'bad things happen when good people turn their heads.'

OBAMA SPENT EIGHT years attacking American culture and

values. He constantly blamed Bush and of course Fox News for all of his problems. He has been a professional victim, never a leader. The way I look at it, we have spent \$20 million on wasted golf lessons for this man.

PRESIDENT-ELECT TRUMP is assembling an administration of very wealthy people. The rest of us can only hope that they are getting the message that wealth needs to be shared or else the economy will suffer.

OUR PRAYERS MUST go out to the loss of life and family homes in Tennessee. But an investment property? Really?

DONALD TRUMP JUST cancelled a contract with Boeing that ballooned from \$177 million to over \$4 billion for two new Air Force One jets. A contract that Obama was just fine with. This is going to be great fun having an actual businessman in the White House. The Donald rocks.

LAST WEEK we enjoyed dinner at a local restaurant. A couple behind us was leaving and they had a big smile on their faces and wished us a Merry Christmas. After they left, the waiter came over and informed us that our meal had been taken care of by that couple. Whoever you are, we thank you and we will pass it on.

See **HOT LINE** throughout Times

Readers write

Letters, 150 words or less, must be signed and include a phone number. We reserve the right to edit for clarity and liability. Letters must be written exclusively for the Times.

Apartments and kids

Dear Editor,
I moved to beautiful and serene Fenton three years ago, planning to have a baby soon and moved into an apartment complex that accommodated young children. I now have a son who is 1 year old. Now the apartments were sold and the company has no interest in children — only dogs. They took out the children's playground to install a dog playground with an obstacle course. Children living in apartments have little room and even less equipment to help keep them healthy. I understand that this is their property and they can do as they wish, but I have also heard that character is defined by what people do when they can do anything they want. That doesn't say much for the character around our apartments now.

Kerry Cesarz, Fenton

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What do you think about the drivers in the Fenton area?

Compiled by Tess DeGayner, intern

street talk



"I think they're good drivers."

Lynn Westhoff
Fenton



"I feel like Linden has a lower speed limit but I don't notice anything bad here."

Steven Pender
Fenton Township



"Terrible. They're not very polite."

Keith Elliot
Fenton



"Definitely not the greatest. People cut off other drivers a lot."

Jillian Ferry
Fenton



"I think they are very good and cautious but when the snow comes they have to remember to drive slow and that they cannot drive like normal."

Mark Thompson
Fenton



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Spartan

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FREE
with yes



Ground
Fresh Throughout
the Day
Ground Beef
from Chuck
Value Pack

\$2.49 lb.
with yes



Fresh Express
Salad Spinach
or Premium
Garden Salad
Selected Varieties
8 - 11 oz.

2/\$4
with yes

California
Broccoli
Crowns



99¢ lb.
with yes

Variety
Apples
3 lb. bag
(excludes honeycrisp)

open
acres



BUY 1
GET 1
FREE
with yes

Birds Eye
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protein blends, chef blends
and flavor full)



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or Yuban (31 - 37.2 oz.)



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New local ordinances would bring more revenue to township

■ Fenton Township — not the state — would benefit from violation fees

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Fenton Twp. — The Fenton Township Board of Trustees adopted a new vehicle code ordinance in a 5-0 vote that will allow the Genesee County Sheriff's Office to write more tickets under local ordinances and help bring more revenue to the township. The GCSO handles policing in the township.

Board members also discussed a second local ordinance that would affect the local lakes.

Trustee Robert Kesler and Treasurer John Tucker were absent.

Attorney Jack Belzer said the current vehicle code is outdated. The new ordinance includes the Motor Carrier Safety Act and the Pupil Transportation Act. It includes the "super drunk law," which is enacted when a motorist's blood alcohol content is over .17 percent.

Belzer said the new ordinance also increases a few penalties. Adopting the ordinance allows deputies to cite township laws when writing tickets. While this will help bring more revenue to the township, Belzer said it's not a money maker.

“We get nothing right now unless we write it under local ordinance.”

Mark Goupil
Fenton Township trustee

He also suggested a new ordinance numbering system, and that officers need to be reeducated on the system.

Trustee Mark Goupil said if the deputies can't remember the local ordinance, they write the ticket under state law and the state receives the revenue.

“We get nothing right now unless we write it under local ordinance,” Goupil said, adding that the ordinance and new numbering system was an “absolute no brainer.”

Belzer also said there's a cost recovery program for legal fees that could help the township get some money back.

Waterways and Marine Safety Ordinance

Another proposed ordinance, the waterways and marine safety ordinance, would establish more regulations under township law for the lakes.

“At the current time you have nothing under local ordinances to regulate anything on the water,” Belzer said. “If a deputy arrests someone for drunk driving on the lake, it's under state law.”

Goupil said the only two infractions the township has ordinances for on lakes is disorderly conduct and excessive noise.

The township will have a second reading and will vote on this proposed ordinances at the next township meeting, Dec. 19.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

THIS IS IN response to the article on the Tyson murder charge. I really don't care whether or not she's competent to stand trial, she's charged with first-degree, premeditated murder. If found guilty, she should go away for the rest of her life for such a heinous crime.

THANK YOU SO very much to the man who stopped and helped our daughter on Monday night. God truly put you in her path. God bless you, her mom and dad. **Editor's note: The man would be Fenton Police Sgt. David Reinfelder.**

THE TRUTH OF the Cuban missile crisis should be told. Kennedy was forced by Senator Goldwater to acknowledge that Russian missiles were in Cuba. To appease Khrushchev, Kennedy removed our missiles from Turkey and Italy without physically verifying that Russian missiles were removed. Kennedy then guaranteed Communist Castro's safety.

MOST PEOPLE HAVE no idea what goes on 'behind the scenes' of an event like those this weekend in Fenton and Linden. So many volunteers work so hard. I would like to give kudos to all of the committee members, businesses, sponsors, and anyone else who helped.

THANK YOU FOR moving the erector set monstrosity from in front of the community center building. Please do not return it to its original location. Leave it where it is.

MY GRANDPA IS dying. I have never felt so helpless and sad, yet relieved that his suffering will be over. I love you, Grandpa, and I already miss you.

THE RECOUNT OF the presidential ballots reminds me of the old game, 'She loves me she loves me not.' First they start the recount, then it is stopped shortly thereafter. Then there is an appeal. Are we going to see the end of this and save money?

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LOOKING BACK

at this week in
NATIONAL HISTORY

COMPILED BY VERA HOGAN

DEC. 11

1964: In response to a reported shooting, officers of the Los Angeles Police Department were dispatched to the Hacienda Motel, where they found singer Sam Cooke dead on the office floor, shot three times in the chest by the motel's manager, Bertha Franklin. The authorities ruled Cooke's death a case of justifiable homicide, based on the testimony of Ms. Franklin, who claimed that Cooke had threatened her life after attempting to rape a young woman with whom he had earlier checked in. Cooke's big hits include "You Send Me" and "Twistin' the Night Away," among others.

DEC. 12

2000: General Motors declares that it will begin to phase out the 103-year-old Oldsmobile, the oldest automotive brand in the United States. Oldsmobiles were the first to have decorative chrome trim and the first to have fully automatic transmissions.

DEC. 13

2003: After spending nine months on the run, former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein is captured on this day in 2003. On Nov. 5, 2004 he was found guilty of crimes against humanity and sentenced to death by hanging. After an unsuccessful appeal, he was executed on Dec. 30, 2006.

DEC. 14

1799: George Washington, the American revolutionary leader and first president of the United States, dies of acute laryngitis at his estate in Mount Vernon, Virginia. He was 67 years old.

DEC. 15

1978: In one of the most dramatic announcements of the Cold War, President Jimmy Carter states that as of Jan. 1, 1979, the United States will formally recognize the communist People's Republic of China (PRC) and sever relations with Taiwan.

DEC. 16

1960: Two airplanes collide over New York City, killing 134 people on the planes and on the ground. The improbable mid-air collision is the only such accident to have occurred over a major city in U.S. history.

DEC. 17

1843: In 1843, Charles Dickens' classic story "A Christmas Carol" is published. Dickens was born in 1812 and attended school in Portsmouth. His father, a clerk in the navy pay office, was thrown into debtors' prison in 1824, and 12-year-old Charles was sent to work in a factory. The miserable treatment of children and the institution of the debtors' jail became topics of several of Dickens' novels.

Source: history.com

Police warn of fraud for gift card holders

■ Monitor transactions online and report any unauthorized purchases to police

By Sharon Stone

sstone@tctimes.com; 810-433-6786

Fenton police are hoping to educate residents about possible fraud and Walmart Visa debit gift cards after they received a complaint from an 80-year-old Fenton man.

Lt. Jason Slater said the 80-year-old Fenton man filed a fraud complaint on Dec. 2. The man said he had received the \$50 Walmart Visa debit gift card, sealed in a store envelope, from a relative in August.

The man attempted to use the gift card on Saturday, Nov. 26 at an area Kohl's store. The cashier informed the man that there was only \$5.25 available to use on the card.

Frustrated, the man went to police.

Slater said the detective worked with the man and helped to set up an account so that they could see any transactions that

may have occurred on his card. They soon learned that four transactions between Oct. 21 and Nov. 3, totaling \$44.75 took place in California. One transaction was for \$1.79 at a California McDonald's restaurant, another was for a taxi cab.

Someone was able to obtain the numbers on the card for their own use.

The detective made dozens of calls to Walmart in attempt to find out what protection there is on their Visa debit gift cards. Police believed there would have been a process for the victim to get his or her money back, however, Slater said they were eventually told by the company that handles Walmart's gift cards, Green Dot, that the money is just gone.

Slater said the detective was persistent and called the 800 number on the back of the card, which instructed them to hit the #2 key for a lost or stolen card. A recording told them the card could not be replaced since there is no money on it and the call then discontinued.

Monitor gift card transactions online and report any fraudulent transactions to police.

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News briefs

VIETNAM VETERAN LAPEL-PINNING CEREMONY

Michigan Senate Majority Floor Leader Mike Kowall and Sen. Dave Robertson are hosting the second "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans" event at **1 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 16** to thank and honor Vietnam veterans and their families in Holly to give long-overdue recognition to Vietnam War era veterans and their families. They encourage all interested residents and veterans to join them to pay tribute to the men and women who were too often forgotten when they returned home. U.S. Congressman Mike Bishop (Michigan, Dist. 8) and State Rep. Joe Graves (R-Argentine Township) will join Kowall and Robertson. Kowall said the event, made possible in part by the USA Vietnam War Commemoration, will be held at the Holly Area Veterans Resource Center in the Karl Richter Community Center, 300 East St., in Holly. For more information, contact HAVRC Chairman Joe Mishler at (810) 348-9960 or JMM1967@comcast.net. The lawmakers will provide a Vietnam War Commemorative Lapel Pin to U.S. veterans who served on active duty at any time from Nov. 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975, regardless of location. The symbolism attached to the lapel pin is significant, Kowall said.

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Classic children's books make the perfect Christmas gift

■ These are the best-rated children's books of all time

Compiled By Vera Hogan

Watership Down

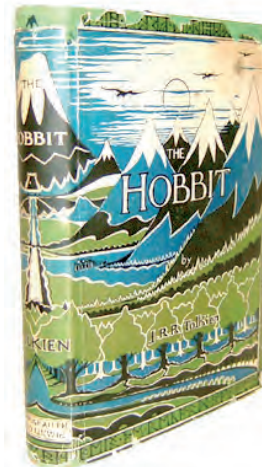
Richard Adams (1972)

The full-scale novel about rabbits finding their promised land has the magic of prophecy, idyllic Hampshire locations and the structure of the Aeneid. Adams enjoys parading his scholarship, and this is a lively introduction to brainy books.

The Hobbit

J R R Tolkien (1937)

Here we meet the characters who will make The Lord of the Rings happen, and on a pre-Peter Jackson scale. If anything, Gollum is even more chilling here, because we see him through the eyes of a hobbit — seldom the calmest of travelers.



The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

C S Lewis (1950)

Welcome to the magical land of Narnia where the White Witch reigns over a snow-girt land peopled by fawns, talking beavers and people eager to put their trust in four kids from Finchley. The Christian allusions come later, but for now, this is pure narrative magic.

Charlotte's Web

E B White (1952)

The New Yorker writer cherished for his elegance of style gives us an altruistic spider with exquisite manners, and a pig to make her proud. There are intimations of mortality, but a plot of fame and legacy thumbs its nose at the inevitable.

The Little Prince

Antoine de Saint-Exupéry (1943)

The Little Prince falls to Earth to meet the author, who has crashed his plane. His quizzical, wise stories of other planets (most of which are inhabited by solitary monomaniacs) lead to the daftest of all — our own.

Pippi Longstocking

Astrid Lindgren (1945)

It's quite something to live as an orphan with just a horse and a monkey for companions. The heroine has a chutzpah that makes her sound at her most adult when she's flouting adult conventions, especially at teatime.



Emil and the Detectives

Erich Kästner (1929)

When Emil is robbed of his mother's hard-earned savings (that were never likely to stretch far), he has help from a scratch squad of child detectives from Berlin. However much this sounds like the best child's game ever, the real world is seldom far away.

James and the Giant Peach

Roald Dahl (1961)

One of Dahl's earliest, best, and most fully developed tales. There is no attempt to make the giant insects or articulate clouds seem natural: this is a world of wonder, more marvellous than Wonka's, even.

Winnie the Pooh

A A Milne (1926)

Characters begin days by visiting one another, and end up shifting houses, learning to fly or surviving floods.

A Little Princess

Frances Hodgson Burnett (1905)

Sara has a privileged background but is now living as a Cinderella figure; and she plays at being a princess. But her response shows that being princess is less a social ranking state of mind.

The Just So Stories

Rudyard Kipling (1902)

How did the leopard get his spots? How was the alphabet made? Why are elephant's trunks so long? Kipling is the model of the patient parent in the face of constant questions. And who cares about evolution? This is much more fun.

A Journey to the Centre of the Earth

Jules Verne (1864)

Verne uses all the tricks that make Anthony Horowitz so successful — the action-packed chapters that end at just the right time and the sense of deepening mystery — but also a knack for convincing us that there really might be creatures down there.

The Wind in the Willows

Kenneth Grahame (1908)

The idyllic, stylized account of life on the river, with anxious glimpses beyond it, is a masterclass in character-driven comedy — alongside the arriviste Toad is the petit bourgeois Mole, and Rat, the gentleman of leisure.

The Doll People

Ann M Martin and Laura Godwin (2000)

The dolls in your dolls' house might look inanimate to you, but you clearly have no idea of what they get up to at night. They're casing the joint, tracking lost relatives and dodging that cruel fate — PDS (Permanent Doll State).

The Child that Books Built

Francis Spufford (2002)

Although this book isn't written for children, the more reflective might enjoy it as a guide on how to grow into reading; it's a wonderfully eloquent take on how growing up happens unexpectedly.

Source: telegraph.co.uk

Looking for a babysitter — You get what you pay for

■ Prepare to shell out at least \$10 an hour for a teen to watch your kids

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

New Year's Eve is the busiest babysitting night of the year for teens. If you haven't lined up a sitter yet for your holiday evening out, you will likely have to pay even more than "the going rate" — about \$10 per hour in the tri-county area.

Yes, today's babysitters command considerably more than Michigan's \$8.50 minimum wage, and without taxes or deductions. This hefty price tag, coupled with a lack of available teen babysitters, is enough to keep most parents home.

"When we have the energy, we rarely have the financial resources to go out," said Jamie Noll of Holly, who is expecting her fifth child in early January. "When I can find a sitter in the morning, it's either a trade or we pay \$10 an hour. Whether one, two, three or four of our kids need childcare, \$10 is our rate. I look at it kind of like minimum wage."

Nichole Bertucci, 38, of Holly, is willing to pay the price for a good babysitter. "I did my research and I found you get what you pay for," said this mother of two. With her two boys almost 10 years apart in age, Bertucci asked her oldest son, Vito, 14, if he'd like a babysitting job watching his 5-year-old brother, Alex.

"I told him I'd treat him like I would any other babysitter, but would also expect the same things," said Bertucci. "That means entertaining your brother



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Babysitters can be hard to find and expensive to pay, especially as holiday office parties and New Year's Eve come up on the calendar.

and playing with him, not sitting there on your cell phone." She also expects babysitters to leave the house the way they found it, toys put away and dishes in the dishwasher.

Vito, a freshman at Holly High School, took a CPR-First Aid class offered through Huron Valley Schools in Milford a year ago, and she happily pays him \$10 an hour to be a responsible babysitter.

Sonja Brooks of Linden also pays \$10

an hour for an evening sitter for her two kids, AnaLeigh, 7 and Malachi, 3. She and her husband, Aaron, recently had their third child, Merik Hawk, so they haven't been out much.

"I expect a sitter to be reliable, follow directions that were left, have a good attitude and be mature enough to handle situations that may arise, including minor 'boo boos,' sibling fights, explosive diapers, etc.," said Brooks.

"They need to clean up after them-

“When we have the energy, we rarely have the financial resources to go out.”

Jamie Noll, mother of four

FROM A BABYSITTER'S VIEWPOINT

Don't assume a sitter has a medical degree. Warn a sitter ahead of time if there are medical issues (lice, medications, etc.) to be taken care of. Make sure you give the sitter a doctor's name and number for emergencies. If you have specific rules of behavior (screen time, snacks, TV, etc.), spell them out in advance.

- **Discuss details of payment** with the babysitter beforehand, so there are no surprises on either end.
- **Make transportation plans** in advance. Not all teens can drive, own cars or have parents willing or able to pick them up late at night.
- **Give the sitter** a heads-up about any special routines that will be necessary to get kids to sleep (i.e., a favorite stuffed animal), eat dinner (i.e. grilled cheese only if it's cut in triangles) or whatever.
- **Don't leave anything** lying around a babysitter might stumble upon that may embarrass you.
- **Stock the fridge** so that there is something simple to prepare for a meal and for a sitter to snack on.
- **Be clear about** what time you expect to be home, and call/text if you will be much later than that.
- **Timing is everything**, so if you can ask in advance for jobs, rather than the last minute, it's helpful to the babysitter in planning a schedule. If you have to cancel the job at the last minute, either provide a token payment or show some level of appreciation for a sitter's time.

Source: Huffington Post



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selves and make the kids clean up after themselves. I want them to have fun with the kids yet discipline them in a loving manner. Respect the children and expect respect in return. Driving is good, too, because of emergencies, but we've had some sitters that we've had to pick up and take home."

With so many kids involved in sports and other extra-curricular activities, it can be hard to find a teenager to babysit. Parents have to be resourceful and persistent, looking around the neighborhoods for kids they trust, and checking out families from church, school or other family friend associations.

"We rely on recommendations from other parents," said Brooks. "I'm also blessed to have family around that's usually available."

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 SUN-WED 10:50 1:30 4:10 5:30 6:50 9:30
 THUR 10:50 1:30 4:10 5:30 6:50 9:30 11:55

***OFFICE CHRISTMAS PARTY (R)**
 FRI-SAT 11:45 2:15 4:45 7:15 8:15 9:45 11:55
 SUN-WED 11:45 2:15 4:45 7:15 8:15 9:45
 THUR 11:45 2:15 4:45 7:15 8:15 9:45 11:55

HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS-FREE (SENSORY FRIENDLY) (PG) FRI-SUN 9:30
HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS-FREE (PG) FRI-SUN 9:30

STARTING THUR DEC 15

***2D ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY (PG13)**
 THUR 8:45 10:50

***@3D ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY: REALD 3D (PG13)**
 THUR NIGHT/FRI MORNING 7:45 12:05

***COLLATERAL BEAUTY (PG13)**
 THUR NIGHT/FRI MORNING 12:05

***MANCHESTER BY THE SEA (R)**
 THUR NIGHT/FRI MORNING 7:00 12:05

***@ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY: AN IMAX 3D EXPERIENCE (PG13) THUR 7:00 10:05**

CONTINUING

***INCARNATE (PG13)**
***BELIEVE (PG)**
BAD SANTA 2 (R)
ALLIED (R)
2D MOANA (PG)
THE EDGE OF SEVENTEEN (R)
***@FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM: AN IMAX EXPERIENCE (PG13)**
2D FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM (PG13)
ARRIVAL (PG13)
ALMOST CHRISTMAS
HACKSAW RIDGE (R)
2D TROLLS (PG)
2D DOCTOR STRANGE (PG13)

*Due to movie company policies no passes are accepted.
 @ No \$5 rate available. • * No \$5 TUES evening rate.

WHAT YOU MISSED in the MIDWEEK TIMES

Compiled by Vera Hogan

The following is what you missed in the **Wednesday, Dec. 7, Midweek Edition** of the Tri-County Times. To subscribe and receive both the Sunday Weekend and Wednesday Midweek editions, please call (810) 629-8282

'I don't know why I'm alive'

Local woman was just 200 yards away from the first bombs dropped on U.S. ships in Pearl Harbor, 75 years ago on Dec. 7, 1941.



Fenton cop stops woman from possible jump off bridge

Uninjured, a 43-year-old area woman was transported to the hospital for observation after a Fenton police officer pulled her to safety from the Owen Road, U.S. 23 overpass.

Accused killer declared incompetent for trial

The woman charged with killing a pregnant Linden woman and her co-worker in Grand Blanc, has been declared incompetent to stand trial.

our town

Meet 'OLD MAN WINTER'

- Comes to life in December
- Works as a blowhard
- Also known as Jack Frost

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

Old Man Winter is the personification of a season that brings us cold weather, snow, ice, and howling winds on the bad side — and joy and laughter with friends and family over the holidays on the good side.

Why do they call you an old man?

Well, you see, I am symbolic of the aging process of a human being. From the time humans are born, their tender young bodies grow, age and change a little more each year. When they get to be my age, an old man if you will, they've lost all of the physical and mental traits and characteristics that made them young.

Others believe it's symbolic of the



last season of the year, when the year is old and everything in nature dies off.

What do you mean by symbolic?

Obviously, I am not really a man. I am a force of nature, bringing the cold temperatures, snow, ice, and blowing wind to certain areas of the planet every winter.

Isn't that kind of depressing?

Not really if you think about it. Have you ever heard the expression 'give it a rest?' Well, that's what I'm doing, giving all the flora and fauna a rest — the big sleep. This makes them all much stronger when they wake up and come back to life in the spring.

What do you like about your job?

The fact that I only have to work four months out of the year is nice. I usually start blowing snow around (the kind that sticks) in about mid-December. I know you people like to have a 'white Christmas' so I usually try to accommodate those wishes. I usually quit around the end of March, or sometimes, if I feel like I have more to give, I'll work through mid-April.

Why does it always seem icy over the New Year's holiday?

For New Year's, I try to make it icy enough that people will stay home or close to home, party with friends, and stay off the roads. I've been observing human drivers for more than 100 years and it seems to me that if they would just stay off the slippery roads, or at least be very careful when they have to drive, they would have a 100 percent better chance of survival. But no, many are careless and take crazy chances. Some take it a dangerous step further and drink too much alcohol before they get behind the wheel, and ... oh well, don't get me going on that.

What if people behave themselves during the holidays?

Then, of course, I reward them with temperatures that are not bitterly cold, but cold enough to enjoy all that beautiful white snow and all the sunny outdoor activities that go along with it — building a snowman, making a snow angel, skiing, snowboarding, sledding and more. Sometimes I'll even kick in a nice week during the first part of January. You've heard of the January thaw, right?

If all this is true, how do you explain Arizona and Florida and the other states that don't have our kind of winters?

That insufferable Mother Nature! She and I had a thing goin' on at one time but after too much time together, I couldn't take it anymore. She is sickening sweet one minute and completely unpredictable and nasty the next. She spreads flowers, sunshine and happiness all over the place, but then gets into one of her moods and blows an entire town away with one tornado or hurricane. (And they call me a blowhard!)

After a long spell of mutual dislike, we decided to break it off and split the world into the places that have a harsh winter for me to manage, and the other places that can deal with her 'mood swings' and lack of good judgment.

What advice do you have for us this winter?

Make sure you have fuel for your snow thrower, or at least a good shovel, or better yet, a teenager! Know where your hats, gloves and boots are. Stock your woodpile. Don't drink and drive. And most of all, 'give it a rest!'

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ORCHARD HILLS - FENTON



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944 Peach Tree Trl. | Fenton
4 Bedrooms, 3(211) Baths, 2049 Sq Ft. Immaculate home nestled on secluded lot perched on a hilltop.
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LINDEN



NEW PRICE
3456 Breeze Point Ct. | Linden
4 bedrooms, 3 baths, 2342 Sq Ft. Lovely home on a quiet cul-de-sac, family room with vaulted ceilings, Master suite, large deck w/fenced yard.
\$240,000

LOBDELL LAKE WATERFRONT



16455 Oak Hill Dr. | Fenton
4 Bedrooms, 3 Baths, 3,000 Finished Sq Ft. Features an outstanding layout with a walk-out basement giving you over 3000 SF of finished living space.
\$475,000

CRANE'S COVE LAKE FENTON WATERFRONT



13185 Torrey Rd. | Fenton
3 Bedrooms, 1 Bath, 1758 Sq Ft
Enjoy Crane's Cove on All Sports Lake Fenton.
\$440,000

HOLLY



12755 Meadow View Cir. | Holly
4 Bedrooms, 4 (311) Baths, 2583 Sq Ft
Beautiful home on 1.2 acre corner lot surrounded by trees.
\$400,000

FENTON



9331 Foley Crossing | Fenton
5 Bedrooms, 4 Baths, 3,000 Sq Ft
Fabulous custom built home with elevated view of nature. Finished walkout basement with rec room and mother-in-law suite.
\$387,000

PINNACLE SHORES - FENTON



4360 Oak Tree Ct. | Fenton
3 bedrooms, 3(211) baths, 2429 Sq Ft.
European Flair, Open kitchen with granite, 25ft ceilings in Living Room, Walk Out Lower Level.
\$379,000

GRAND BLANC



4331 Meadowbrook Ct. | Grand Blanc
4 Bedrooms, 3 (211) Baths, 3100 Sq Ft.
Gorgeous well maintained home in the desirable Sherwood Hills Subdivision.
\$275,000

GRAND BLANC



5419 Fairview Dr. | Grand Blanc
3 Bedrooms, 3(211) Baths, 1615 Sq Ft.
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\$175,000

FENTON



208 Bloomingdale St. | Fenton
3 bedrooms, 1 bath, 1009 Sq Ft. Close to downtown, 3 season room, Solar panel supplements heating.
\$125,000

FENTON



12253 St. Andrews Way | Fenton
2 Bedrooms, 2 Baths, 1079 Sq Ft. Walk-out unit with views of woods and golf course. HOA includes water, insurance, ground maintenance & snow removal.
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5225 Orchard Grove Dr. | Mundy Twp
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PENDING



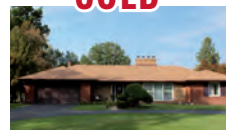
13098 Mohawk Dr • Linden
\$95,000

SOLD



5589 Bridges • Metamora
\$277,000

SOLD



29970 Southbrook • Farm. Hills
\$222,5000

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16451 RED FOX TRL, LINDEN

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15229 MARL DR, LINDEN

SILVER LAKE \$449,900
Beautiful home w/ 50' frontage on private all sports Silver Lake. 2040 SF, 2 BDR and 2 BA. Open floor plan, beautiful hardwood floors, eat in kitchen with granite counter tops, pantry and stainless steel appliances. Great sandy shore line for swimming.

OPEN SUNDAY 1-3
JUST LISTED!!!



900 PLUM TREE LANE, FENTON

ORCHARD HILLS \$214,999
Beautiful home in award winning Fenton Schools. 3014 SF, 5 BDR and 2.5 BA. Open kitchen with tile floors, pantry and breakfast nook. Full finished walkout basement. Beautiful lot, 2 car attached garage, private deck.



6239 CANTER CREEK TRL, GRAND BLANC

PINE HOLLOW ESTATES \$1,199,000
Stunning Pine Hollow Manor 7900+ SF w/Finished Walkout. Built 2002 @ a cost of 2.5+ Million, 5 BDR 7 BA Home Boasts Luxury! Nestled On Lavish Grounds Providing Pure Privacy. Marble Floors, Granite, Cherry, Swarovski Crystal, Enkeboll Trim, 24k Gold Fixtures.

JUST LISTED!!!



1048 GRANGE HALL RD, FENTON

HOLLY SCHOOLS \$74,999
Potential, potential, potential!! 1000 Sq Ft, 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, garage, all on almost 2 acres. Great location close to I-75 and US 23. Enjoy all Fenton and Holly have to offer, close to schools, shopping and more. Don't miss this opportunity!

PRICE REDUCED



2060 GRANGE HALL RD, FENTON

ACREAGE \$750,000
Gorgeous property 140+ acres w/limitless potential. Great for fishing, hunting or horses. Superb water foul hunting habitat, Boone & Crockett hunting potential for deer. Farming & development potential. Farmhouse has 3 BDR, 2 BA & 1871 SF.

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NEW DATE!!!



11320 WIND SONG CT, FENTON

THE HILLS OF TYRONE SUB \$399,999
2680 SF, 4 BDR and 3.5 BA. Great room features fireplace, lots of natural light and soaring ceilings. Beautiful kitchen with granite counter tops, wood floors, pantry and breakfast nook. 3 car attached garage, close to shopping and expressways.



4273 W FOUR LAKES DR, LINDEN

LAKE PONEMAH \$675,000
All brick home w/ 82' frontage on all sports Lake Ponemah. 4680 SF of finished living space, 4 BDR, 3.5 BA, 3 car garage. Open floor plan w/ new kitchen, hardwood floors, granite, built in double oven. Finished walkout basement w/full kitchen & bar.



6208 CANTER CREEK TRL, GRAND BLANC

PINE HOLLOW ESTATES \$899,999
Boasting over 7000 SF of finished living space, 4 BDR, & 4.5 BA. Quality at every turn - beautiful hardwood floors, fantastic natural light, attention to detail & excellent craftsmanship. Chef's dream kitchen, formal dining room w/ butler's pantry, & great room.



9351 THREAD RIVER DR, GOODRICH

ACREAGE \$349,999
10+ acres on the Thread River. 3765 SF, 4 BDR and 4 BA. Open floor plan with large kitchen featuring hardwood floors, breakfast nook, snack bar and pantry. Family room with fireplace, exposed beams and great natural light.



16215 GRAND VIEW RD, FENTON

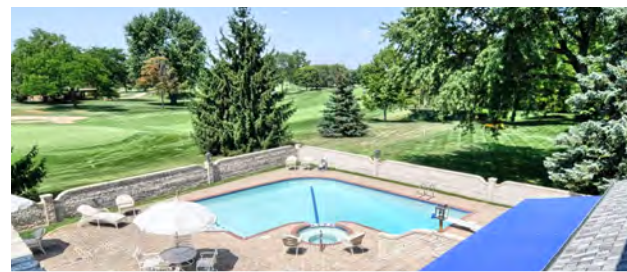
SILVER LAKE \$1,050,000
76' frontage on all sports Silver Lake in private gated Isle of Bordeaux community. 4700+ SF of living space w/stunning views. 5 BDR & 4.5 BA. Maintenance free brick exterior, 4 car attached garage and generator. Finished walkout lower level with full kitchen.

PRICE REDUCED



1500 TRIPLE OAK DR, FENTON

DOLLAR LAKE \$259,999
120' frontage on Dollar Lake (connects to Little Long Lake) 2718 SF of finished living space, 4 BDR and 3 BA. Finished walkout basement w/ large rec room, full bath + sauna, fireplace, office. 1 acre lot with 2 oversized 2.5 car attached garages, plus 3rd garage.



9850 BURNING TREE DR, GRAND BLANC

WARWICK HILLS \$1,199,999
This custom home is nothing less than spectacular. Offering 13,000+ SF of living space. 5 BDR, 9 BA including 2 master suites, 6 fireplaces, marble flooring, gold leaf ceilings and wine cellar. Custom in ground pool and 4 car garage.



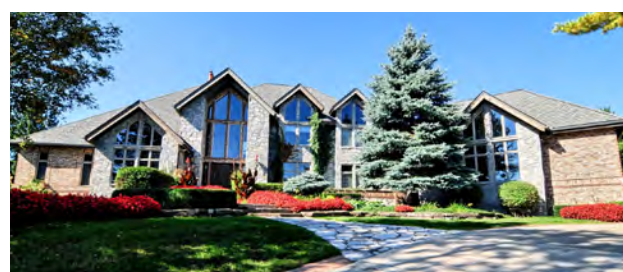
9161 SHINANGUAG DR, GOODRICH

LAKE SHINANGUAG \$549,999
100' frontage on all sports Lake Shinanguag, 4040 SF of finished living space, 4 BDR and 3 BA. Open floor plan, great natural light, hardwood floors, beautiful stone fireplace, gorgeous kitchen features granite, prep sink, & wine fridge. Large deck & patio!



6323 MACK RD, HOWELL

ACREAGE \$274,999
7+ acres with lots of wildlife and room to grow! 2288 SF, 4 BDR & 2 BA. Large kitchen w/ snack bar, pantry, lots of cabinet and counter space. Mother in law suite, finished basement and sunroom. 2 story pole barn, large deck with covered seating area and pool!



6263 CANTER CREEK, GRAND BLANC

PINE HOLLOW ESTATES \$1,750,000
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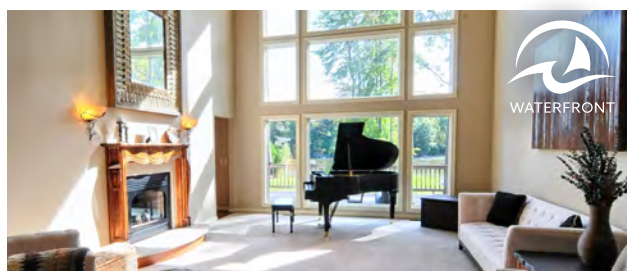
15145 PINWOOD TRL, LINDEN

SILVER LAKE \$1,990,000
150' frontage on all sports Silver Lake. 7000 SF, 5 BDR and 4.5 BA. Stunning gourmet kitchen, completely remodeled w/ beautiful two tone cabinets, quartz counter tops, new flooring and more. Master Bath features SteamRoom/Shower, Gym & 8 person Jacuzzi.



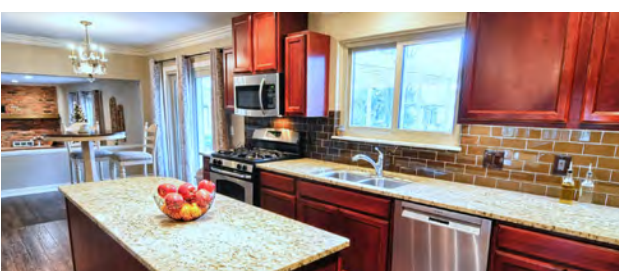
16207 HILLTOP DR, LINDEN

ACREAGE \$209,999
2+ acres, 1900 SF, 3 BDR & 2 BA. Great room features natural light, brick fireplace & soaring ceilings. Bonus room can be used as family room, game room or office. 2 car attached garage & whole house generator included!



4130 WATERLAND DR, METAMORA

LAKE LAPEER \$744,999
179+ frontage on all sports Lake Lapeer w/2.87 acres. 6072 SF of finished living space, 4 BDR & 4.5 BA. Private setting, open floor plan, soaring ceilings, great natural light, crown molding. Finished walkout basement w/ kitchenette, workout room, sauna & pole barn.



1222 VISTA DR, FENTON

FENTON SCHOOLS \$259,999
2712 SF, 3 BDR and 3.5 BA. Granite counter tops, island, tile backsplash, pantry, & breakfast nook. Large great room w/ fireplace and partially finished basement. Indoor pool, new windows in 2014 and much more. Large deck and patio for enjoying the outdoors.



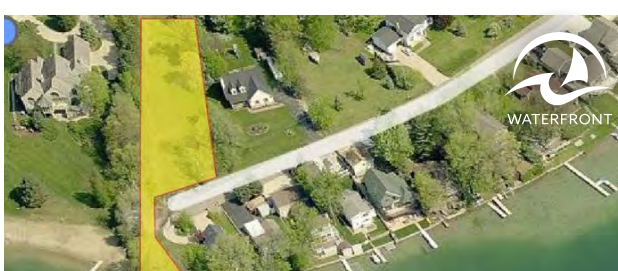
8383 HENDERSON, GOODRICH

ACREAGE \$385,000
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80 CHATEAUX DU LAC, FENTON

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MARL DR, LINDEN

SILVER LAKE \$250,000
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Certified Mechanic

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— Terry

A: Terry, There are a couple of things you need to look at on this vehicle. First, you should check the joints in the steering shaft for binding. This is a common problem. Next, is to remove the power steering pump and drain all of the fluid to check the screen in the reservoir for any kind of restrictions. Clean or replace as necessary. Also, you should flush the power steering fluid with the proper type of fluid for this vehicle. Do not just assume that it takes power steering fluid. Call your local dealer for this or look in the owner's manual.

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Spotlight on:

HOLLY ANTIQUES

Long-time Holly businesswoman and antiques lover steps out of retirement

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Barbara McKay is a well-known "fixture" in Holly, as the former owner of McKay Hardware in the 1960s-'70s in downtown Holly. The building, at 118 S. Saginaw St., has been in the McKay family for almost 50 years and has housed antique shops since the mid-1980s. She's now back at the helm, following the retirement of the previous owner of Main Street Antiques in August. McKay renamed the business Holly Antiques by RBM ("Remembering Beautiful Memories").

How do you like being a business owner again?

I never really left, because the building has been in our family for so long. I do love the people who come in and, of course, I love the antiques. This past summer, when Mark Hay retired, I just



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Barbara McKay said that no one shops for antiques in a bad mood. Often the items bring back happy memories for her visitors. Holly Antiques has 21 dealers with booths in the 7,400-square-foot store.

took over the business with the help of the booth dealers. I've always loved historical objects.

What is it that you love about antiques?

Antiques are relics containing stories waiting to be told. They excite the imagination and unlock doors into the past. Every time we touch an historical object, we add little parts of ourselves to its story. Antiques are imbued with energy, molecules and character of past people and places. Some are even haunted.

What's the most unique antique or item in the shop right now?

You mean besides myself? It changes almost daily. Every room is a museum of curiosities, from Native American folk art to Civil War memorabilia, stained glass windows and more. One

of the oldest things I know for a fact is a piece of sheet music dating back to 1817.

If you could go back in time to any era, what would it be?

The 1920s seem like a happy time, a time of great fashion and hope. The economy was taking off and with it came great inventions. Women were voting and the troubles of war and violence seemed far behind. We could use some of that hope and enthusiasm as we approach 2020.

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HOT LINE CONTINUED

IF YOU THINK Hillary isn't a criminal just because she hasn't been convicted, yet, then you must think OJ didn't murder Nicole Brown and Ron Goldberg because he wasn't convicted.

OVER THE PAST few years, my wife and I would go up to the high school track walking to enjoy the sunset and relax. There'd be this one man having fun, kicking a football 40 yards, 60 yards. Sometime he'd even clear the track. Go Kenny, go.

NO JOBS WERE saved by Trump at Ford Motor Company. Those people are just going to build a different product, that's all.

TO THE PERSON who thinks Livingston County Road Commission or Tyrone Township needs to do something at the intersection of Old U.S. 23 and White Lake Road, why did they need to do anything? How about all the drivers paying attention.

I'D LIKE TO remind you again, in reference to Hillary Clinton, does any reasonable person really believe that Al Capone was only guilty of tax evasion because that's what he was convicted of?

I JUST GOT back from the wonderful Christmas parade, but I am so disappointed that so many parents ignored the safety ropes and let the little ones stand in the street. The road is so narrow downtown and somebody is going to get hurt.

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2016 HOLIDAY GIFT Guide

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Times

Legend of the German Christmas 'gherkin'

■ On a more sour note, it isn't true

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

Meike Blonsky, 33, of Rodenbach, Hessen, Germany, and her father, Manfred, spent two weeks visiting relatives in Fenton in August 2010.

One of their many activities, while here, was to visit Frankenmuth and Bronner's Christmas Wonderland.

While winding their way through the vast aisles of Christmas decorations on display at Bronner's, they finally broke their silence and asked a question about something they thought was amusing, but confusing — "What is with all the pickles?"

They were, of course, referring to the Christmas "gherkin" ornaments thought to be a German tradition.

When it was explained, they said, "It isn't true, that never happened."

According to legend, a very old Christmas Eve tradition in Germany was to hide a pickle (ornament) deep in the branches of the family Christmas tree. The parents hung the pickle last, after all the other ornaments were in place. In the morning, the most observant child would receive an extra gift from St. Nicholas. The first adult who finds the pickle traditionally gets good luck for the whole year.

However, the claim that it's an old German tradition seems to be a total myth. Not many people in Germany have even heard of the Christmas pickle.

Recently, from her office in Frankfort, Meike said, "The first time I heard about the German gherkin was actually at Bronner's. My first thought about it was, what kind of people decorate their trees with mixed pickles?"

"In Germany we decorate the trees with sweets, not vegetables," she said. "When I learned this is a German tradi-



“My first thought about it was, what kind of people decorate their trees with mixed pickles?”

MEIKE BLONSKY
Rodenbach, Hessen,
Germany

tion, and I have never heard of it, I thought it was crazy and absolutely nonsense.

"But do you know what is really funny," Meike said. "Now the German gherkin has become more famous here and I bet it's going to be tradition here some day. But it will not be because it is an old tradition. It will be because they have seen it in the U.S. or somewhere else."



So how did the legend of the German pickle begin?

There are dozens of possible and varied explanations all over the internet. One of them claims that the descendent of a soldier who fought in the American Civil War, John Lower (perhaps his birth name was something like Hans Lauer), born in Bavaria in 1842, wrote in to tell about a family story that had to do with a Christmas pickle.

According to family lore, "John Lower was captured and sent to prison in Andersonville, Georgia. In poor health and starving, he begged a guard for just one pickle before he died. The guard took pity on him and found him a pickle."

According to family legend, John said that the pickle, by the grace of God, gave him the mental and physical strength to live on. Once he was reunited with his family he began a tradition of hiding a pickle on the Christmas tree. The first person who found the pickle on Christmas morning would be blessed with a year of good fortune."

Sources: whychristmas.com; german.about.com

SUMMARY

■ Americans have over the years become convinced that the Christmas pickle (gherkin) is a German tradition. The problem is, most Germans have never heard of it.



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Tradition of handprint Christmas wreaths has ended

■ Collection being sold to buy new kindergarten learning materials

By Sharon Stone

sstone@tctimes.com; 810-433-6786

For the past 28 Christmases, Joanne Purzycki created wreaths with her kindergarten classes at Tomek Eastern Elementary School in Fenton.

She retired in June and so has that tradition.

Now with a collection of 48 wreaths, instead of throwing them away, Purzycki is hoping to sell these wreathes through donations, to parents, former students or anyone who might want to own one. The donation will help pay for new kindergarten learning materials.

Looking back on the tradition, each year, Purzycki had her students press down their handprint with green paint in order to form the paper Christmas wreath. She wrote their name down next to their handprint and even included holly berries made from her thumbprint and red paint.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO

Retired Tomek Eastern Elementary kindergarten teacher Joanne Purzycki is selling off her collection of 48 handmade Christmas wreaths that each of her kindergarten classes created over the past 28 years. Proceeds will go toward new kindergarten learning materials.

The children, parents and staff loved to see the ever-growing collection of wreaths go up in the hallways near Purzycki's classroom each December.

Former students would stop by to find their handprint. "They would hold their hand up to the print to see if their hand had grown," she said. "It melted my heart to

“I never imagined that it would turn into something so magical and bring such joy when I first started making them in 1989.”

Joanne Purzycki

Retired Tomek Eastern Elementary
School kindergarten teacher

see how many children loved to come by and see their wreath from kindergarten.”

Recently, one girl who had not been in Purzycki's class noticed there were 48 wreaths and wondered if she had been teaching for 48 years. Purzycki explained to the young girl that many of those years, she had a morning, and afternoon, kindergarten class.

“Each one (wreath) has a piece of my heart in it,” she said. “Those little handprints represent someone who meant more to me than just a student. They were my kids and will always be my kids.”

The wreaths can be viewed and each can be purchased with a \$25 donation during the school's Santa's Workshop, from 5 to 7 p.m., on Thursday, Dec. 15. They can also be reserved beginning Dec. 12 with a \$30 donation through the Tomek Eastern Elementary PTO Facebook page.

Upcoming Meetings

Fenton City Council will hold a regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 12 at Fenton City Hall.

Linden City Council will hold a regular meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 12 in Council Chambers.

The **Lake Fenton Board of Education** will hold a regular meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 12 in the West Shore Elementary School Media Center.

The **Holly Board of Education** will hold a regular meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 12 in the Board of Education Conference Room at Karl Richter Campus.

The **Holly Township Library Board** will hold a regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 13 at the Holly Township Library.

The **Tyrone Township Planning Commission** will hold a meeting at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 13 at the township hall.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

TRUMP IS NOT draining the swamp, he's filling it full of alligators.

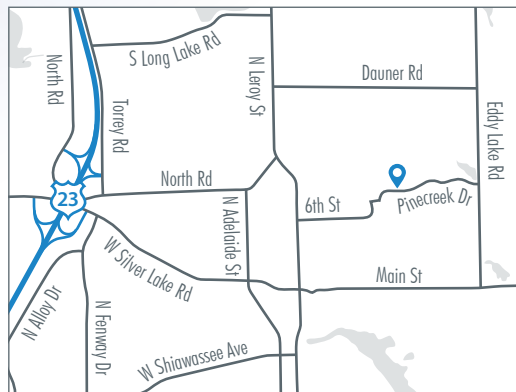
■ ■ ■
I AGREE WITH Trump that our 35-percent tax rate on corporations needs to be lowered to keep the United States competitive with lower taxed countries. It does not follow that taxes should be lowered on wealthy individuals. Trump is packaging two different types of tax cuts.

■ ■ ■
THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON, do not buy things that you don't need, with money that you don't have, only to impress people who don't care.

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Lynda Chase walks several generations of English Setters on their two-mile walk on Thursday morning.

Walkin' the dogs

■ These English Setters are champions but are most well known for their daily strolls

By Sally Rummel
news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

They're a familiar sight around the city of Fenton — a woman and her dogs out for a brisk walk throughout local neighborhoods, whether the weather is hot, cold, snowy or gusty.

These English Setters are the pride of Lynda Chase and her husband, David, and not only are they well recognized in Fenton, they've also earned plenty of awards nationally.

Millie, now 5, was 3 at the time she won the No. 1 spot in the Sporting Dogs category, at the 2014 Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show in New York City, with Lynda as owner/handler/breeder. "I entered that year because I knew I had a really good chance with Millie," said Lynda, 64.

Also that year, Millie earned the title, Best in Breed—Opposite Sex by the English Setter Association of America.

Lynda has always been a dog lover, and moved to Fenton from Brighton three years ago to enjoy acreage and close proximity to town for walking their English Setters. "There isn't a day that goes by that someone doesn't yell out to us, 'Love your dogs!'" said Lynda.

They're all champions; they've all earned hunting titles. "Millie's had her success because she's a really nice, balanced example of her breed," said Lynda. "In her own litter of nine, five are champions. I've showed them all. The title 'Bred by Exhibitor' is their most prestigious win."

Lynda used to show Collies back in her 20s, but got out of the field when she married and had her own child. She came back to showing dogs 12 years ago, after both her parents died within 15 months of each other and she faced her own health issues. "I wanted to get my joy back," she said. "I wanted to start showing dogs again."

She fell in love with English Setters after their own family dog, Riley, which they had for 16½ years. She loves their temperament and their "soft" nature. "They're not hard headed; they get it right away. They want to please you," she said.

That's why she finds it enjoyable to walk the dogs every day, giving them the exercise that this hunting breed requires, and keeping her in shape for running around show rings. "Every day, unless it's raining, we walk, up to five miles," she said. "A well-exercised dog is a well-behaved dog," she said.

People who see this "walking kennel" often stop and wonder how Lynda manages to handle all these dogs at one time.

"They each have a separate leash and their own place," said Lynda. "I always want them ahead of me, and they

know what I mean when I say, 'Up, up, up!' I have tripped, but I rule with an iron fist. You have to teach dogs. I enjoy training them. I train the dogs first, then bring the owners in."

She may be retired from a long career in the mortgage industry, but she's working with dogs every day, in one capacity or another. She's currently the English Setter Association of America Regional Specialty Coordinator, working with clubs all over the United States, and is also treasurer of the Michigamme English Setter Club.

With three English Setter generations of her own, Lynda anticipates a winning future.

"Next year, I might enter Izza and Gabby (Millie's daughters) into Westminster. Millie's AKC (American Kennel Club), UKC (United Kennel Club) and Canadian champions. She's our claim to fame, but they're all champs."

View all stories
online at
tctimes.com



Fenton schools to conduct railroad safety workshops

■ Recent train-pedestrian deaths prompt information sessions

By Vera Hogan
vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

Fenton Area Public Schools (FAPS) Superintendent Adam Hartley and members of the school administration have wasted no time putting together a program to help students and families learn all they can about railroad safety.

The Nov. 14 death of Victoria "Tori" Lane, 15, a sophomore at Fenton High School, and Dale Burkel, 63, two days later, provided another wake-up call that more education is required to help prevent death by train.

Both Lane and Burkel were pedestri-

ans when they were struck by oncoming CN Railroad Trains. Their deaths are among a long list of individuals who have lost their lives while walking or in vehicles on the railroad tracks in the tri-county area over the years.

Hartley said FAPS will be holding a series of Railroad Safety workshops at each building from December to February. The workshops are being conducted by experts from CN Railroad.

The first sessions will be held in December at AGS Middle School. Although these sessions are not open to the public at this time, a parent night will take place after the first of the year.

A safety night also is being planned to address human trafficking, and drugs and alcohol abuse, according to Hartley.

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HOT LINE CONTINUED

■■■
I WAS A social worker for 20 years, and the one place you could get help for clients all year round was the Salvation Army. Please do not walk past the bell ringers.

■■■
THE DEMOCRATS ARE trying to figure out why they lost the presidential election. It might be that while Trump was focused on jobs and the economy, Hillary Clinton was focused on her elitist, out-of-touch attitude and dividing Americans.

■■■
NOT ALL DEMOCRATS believe in free handouts and not all Republicans are racist. Look past the labels, people, and judge people on an individual basis. We all have some common ground.

■■■
SURPRISE. I THOUGHT getting old would take longer. Also, Trump claims surprises are good. Who knows come inauguration time, he may be a Democrat.

■■■
IS THE DEMOCRAT Party tone deaf? Winning Republican candidate Trump has just led this country through a year-long celebration of intolerance. Nerves are raw and tempers flare easily. This is the wrong time for the Democrats to

appoint a Muslim to lead their party.

■■■
I KNOW I'M a little late, but I still want to thank the King for his wonderful column on Thanksgiving. It was so special and I enjoyed it so very very much. Thank you, King. Keep on writing. I love your columns.

■■■
LINDEN IS A perfect small town that honors our history. Keep up the great work, you guys.

■■■
I CANNOT BELIEVE what happened at the park on Margaret Drive last Friday. A fence company was hired to put a fence up on the park's boundary. Workers were verbally assaulted by nearby landowners. The fence company explained they had a permit and they were just doing their job but they continued yelling at these poor guys for an hour before the Genesee County Sheriff showed up to diffuse the situation.

■■■
WHY IS IT wrong for Carrier to build air conditioners in Mexico, but not wrong for Trump to build hotels and golf courses in other countries?

■■■
DIBBLEVILLE HAS TURNED into a compost pile. It is hard to walk down one street without smelling rotting vegetables.

FEAR

Continued from Front Page

and subsequent wars like in Korea and Vietnam are from old news reels rarely seen on television, and movie adaptations of those events. You can almost imagine what fears would come from watching those terrifying events in living color on our TVs every day. The closest thing we've seen to the real deal is when we all watched what was called "shock and awe," the bombing of Baghdad in March of 2003.

It seemed somewhat "creepy" at the time to watch a city get bombed while eating a pizza in the comfort of our living room.

There are some fears though that have been made worse by not only the mainstream media, but the government, its agencies and pharmaceutical companies as well. Specifically, health emergencies including SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome), the bird flu, swine flu and ebola, to name a few.

There was widespread fear, outrage and panic that the diseases would sweep across the U.S., affecting populations from border to border. Calls for experimental drugs and vaccines were made and millions, if not billions, of dollars

were spent.

In most cases, the diseases fizzled out on their own, exacting a far less sensational health toll than the media and, often, the government had people believe. In the case of swine flu, for example, the U.S. government ordered 20 million doses of the drug Tamiflu — costing \$2 billion — to fight the pandemic that never was.

That drug has a shelf life of three years. Now they're proposing another \$1.9 billion to fight Zika.

According to mercola.com, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill earlier this year that would provide \$622 million to fight the Zika virus. Yet, by White House estimates, this is "woefully inadequate." They've recommended directing \$1.9 billion to fight this latest declared public health emergency.

Last year at this time, no one ever heard of Zika virus.

Then the headlines started, just a few months prior to the Olympic Games were to begin in Brazil. Cases of microcephaly, in which babies are born with unusually small heads, in Brazil were said to have surged in numbers.

Although there does not appear to be any evidence prior to 2016 suggesting Zika virus might cause birth defects, the rise in microcephaly was blamed on Zika-carrying mosquitoes.

It may be too soon to rule out Zika virus as a contributing cause, but it's also too soon to declare it a public health emergency and pull out all the stops to wage a very expensive war against it.

According to mercola.com, whenever a new health emergency is announced, someone stands to profit from its creation.

At least 18 companies are racing to develop a vaccine against Zika.

Meanwhile, there is no such uproar over existing (and pharmaceutical-caused) epidemics, like opioid addiction. The U.S. government seeks "treatment" for the opioid epidemic without addressing irresponsible prescribing and drug industry marketing or high-level financial conflicts of interest.

The government has also long allowed rampant overuse and inappropriate use of antibiotics, including in agriculture, which has led to rampant cases of antibiotic-resistant disease.

The government didn't "save us" from any of the other public health emergencies in recent years and it's not likely to change anytime soon, according to mercola.com. What you can bet on, however, is that the government will continue to support the hand that feeds it. And the mainstream media will continue to feed it to the public.

Source: mercola.com

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News briefs

Genesee County Animal Control adopts out 83 animals in one-day event

On Oct. 22, the Bissell Pet Foundation (BPF) sponsored a statewide adoption event for Michigan. They covered the adoption costs for more than 50 shelters and rescues across the state. This was the first time that the Genesee County Animal Control had been invited to apply for participation. Although free adoption events are not without their complications, steps were taken to overcome these issues and make this a successful event. A pre-screening form was used to assure dogs and cats were going to be taken well care of in their new homes. This event broke a statewide record for same day adoptions with over 1,995 animals finding homes. Genesee County Animal Control had the most adoptions from a single facility for the event with 83 animals leaving their shelter. Following the event, GCAC received a check for \$7,990 to cover the cost of the adoptions. In the wake of this event, PetSmart charities (whom partnered with Bissell to cover costs) has contacted the GCAC to partner with them for future adoption events, such as the next Empty the Shelter event in April 2017.

News briefs

Free 'Happy Birthday' Jesus cake

In the spirit of Christmas, Rob Harris of Harris Financial Services is offering up to 100 free "Happy Birthday Jesus" birthday cakes to the first 100 people who call (810) 629-4900. These cakes are the 8-inch, double-layer, white cakes baked and decorated by VG's. Harris said, "My pastor introduced my family to this wonderful tradition of having a birthday cake for Jesus on Christmas Day to remind us of what Christmas is all about. He gave us an actual cake to start this tradition in our family. We would like to share this tradition with others in the community, and encourage them by our buying their first cake. This is a free gift, and a humble reminder of the free gift that Jesus offers to us all. And besides, children love having a birthday cake at a birthday celebration." Call Harris Financial at (810) 629-4900 to reserve your cake before Dec. 15. Supplies are limited to 100, so first time responders will have priority. The reserved cakes will be available for pick up on Dec. 22 and 23 during specified times at the Harris Financial office in Fenton.

OVERSPEND

Continued from Page 3A

toward Christmas shopping will depend on your own budget and your family's values about gift giving. This isn't the time to add to your debt load, especially when you're down to the wire on time and you buy more than you planned to.

You can keep from going overboard by vowing to spend cash for the rest of your holiday spending, giving your credit cards a much needed break.

Know the maximum amount you plan to spend on each gift and stick to it. Don't let desperation drive you to more expensive gifts when it's getting close to Christmas. Keep track of your expenditures and tuck away all your receipts so you can track the gifts you've bought.

Make traditions this year with your family to create more memories than expensive gifts ever will. Visit special Christmas events, pageants and tree-lightings. Spend an evening viewing

Christmas lights in area neighborhoods. Bake cookies from scratch and make your own Christmas candy to share as gifts.

When it comes time to entertain family and friends over the holidays, plan potluck meals so guests can bring their best dishes to the party.

For better financial planning for Christmas 2017, plan now for a "Christmas Club" at an area financial institution, such as a targeted savings plan at The State Bank.

"You can open an account for just \$10 and you can save all year," said Stacey Webb, senior vice president of the retail division of The State Bank. "You can make

your own deposits or do it electronically. You'll get a payout at the end of October that you can use for holiday shopping."

Webb said these accounts have been really popular. "You can set it up weekly, monthly or any combination, and you can also pick the month for disbursement. Typically, people use it for holiday shopping."

“You can open an account for just \$10 and you can save all year.”

Stacey Webb
Senior Vice President,
retail, The State Bank

CAREGIVING

Continued from Front Page

The U.S. Census estimates the 65 and older population will be 83.7 million in 2050, almost double the 2012 estimate of 43.1 million.

With this growing elderly population, there's going to be a growing need for care.

The Population Reference Bureau in Washington, D.C. found that family provides more than 95 percent of informal care for adults not in nursing homes.

However, families are getting smaller. Baby boomers had fewer children than the previous generations, creating smaller families and fewer opportunities for caregivers.

According to Pew Research Center, in 1976, 36 percent of women in their early 40s gave birth to four or more children. In 2014, 35 percent had two children and only 12 percent had four or more. According to the U.S. Census, more elders are living alone, and 22 percent of people over age 65 are, or are at risk of becoming elder orphans.

This is where Adult Protective Services (APS) can help. APS offers assistance to eligible seniors who can no longer live independently, and the Adult Foster Care and Homes for the Aged provides licensing and regulation for adult foster care homes.

At WellBridge, Ward said they use the Valley Area Agency on Aging (VAAA) and disability network, along with a multitude of homecare companies and

durable medical equipment companies to provide care. The VAAA is one of 16 agencies on aging in Michigan established by the Older Americans Act of 1965 and the State Older Michiganians Act in order to meet the needs of the growing aging population.

This organization funds service providers through a bidding process and aims to help those service providers provide the best care.

Mark Fisher, pastor of the Transfiguration Lutheran Church in Fenton, said even when people are able to receive care in a home, sometimes there's no one to visit them.

Because of this, their church started a ministry called Pathways and Compassion, where a few members visit the elderly at area assisted living homes, including

WellBridge.

"There are a lot of people that do not have anyone to see them or to visit them. It is a real issue," he said. "Part of it is our society is very very mobile so families get dispersed. Everyone doesn't stay in the same state."

Earlier this month, AARP, which was formerly the American Association of Retired Persons, launched a campaign to help fend off isolation by improving the social lives of elders.

Fisher said there's going to be a growing need for people to volunteer their time and visit the elderly or the "forgotten." He said if anyone wants to get involved, they can call the Transfiguration Lutheran Church at (810) 629-7332.

“There are a lot of people that do not have anyone to see them or to visit them. It is a real issue.”

Mark Fisher
Transfiguration Lutheran
Church pastor

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HOT LINE CONTINUED

■■■
AS AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES graduate more and more scumbag lawyers each year, what is 'right' or 'wrong' is being superceded by what is 'legal' and 'illegal.' That is the real sickness at the heart of the decline of American culture.

■■■
OFFENDED BY A Trump presidency? Thank Obama. Eight years of antagonistic, divisive, and anti-American rhetoric are the root cause of Trump's victory. Obama's entire legacy summed up in one word: Trump.

■■■
I'VE HEARD THAT 'Smart' people voted for Hillary 'Dumb' people voted for Trump. Hence, 'Smart' people live on the east and west coast. 'Dumb' people live in the middle of the country. The 'Smart' people obviously couldn't figure out the electoral college. The 'Dumb,' people could.

■■■
I WISH THE person who stole the star shower lights from our front lawn after two nights would come and explain to the three kids inside why they did that. It cost \$40. It was something we were happy about. Merry Christmas to all of Fenton. We love this town.

■■■
AT THIS TIME I think it is good to identify the worst Presidents in our lifetime 1) Obama. 2) Carter. 3) Johnson. 4) Nixon. The best ever — 1) Lincoln. 2) Washington. 3) Jefferson. 4) Reagan. 5) Truman. 6) Polk. 7) Kennedy. 8) Eisenhower.

■■■
THANK YOU TO the people who live on Argentine Road for their holiday spirit. They fill their yard with festive lighted inflatable holiday decorations. My kids look forward to seeing the decorations every year.

■■■
HEY, ALL YOU kids with a cell phone crammed in your ear every waking moment. The more time you spend 'connected' the less time you have to develop true friendships.

Chamber of Commerce awards recipients for service to community

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

There are many individuals in the tri-county area deserving of awards for the good works they do throughout the year.

The Fenton Regional Chamber of Commerce is one organization that offers those awards at its annual dinner. This year's event was held Nov. 18 at the Holiday Inn Gateway Centre in Flint.

The 2016 Regional Chamber of Commerce award recipients are:

Enterprise Award

Dave Lamb Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc.

Entrepreneur Award

Dr. Nicole Wax, Dr. Wax Orthodontics

Community Service Award

Dennis Schaefer, Creative Wood Products

Community Hero Award

Lt. Col. Ed Koledo, superintendent of Linden Community Schools. In addition to school responsibilities, he left his wife, children and school family behind when he was deployed twice, the first time to Iraq then last year to the United Arab Emirates.

Educator of the Year

Rachel Solgat — Lake Fenton Community Schools

William Christopher Landrem — Linden Community Schools

Jennifer Snyder — Fenton Area Public Schools

Ambassador of the Year

Toni Dill, Tanglewood Home Care

Outstanding Contribution Award

Mike Scully, Sharp Funeral Homes

Pat Lockwood, Fenton City Council

Linda Hathaway, Brad Hoffman Insurance

In her introduction of the Outstanding Contribution Awards, Chamber President Shelly Day told dinner guests, "The Chamber is successful because of so many that share their time and talents.

These three individuals have also achieved significant levels of income for the chamber through their leadership roles. All three chair their event committees and have been involved in their particular event committee for over 20 years.

The first recipient of this award is Mike Scully. As Chairman of our Annual Golf Committee, year after year, he leads his committee successfully to secure a full golf course of 144 golfers. This is no easy task as there are so many fundraising golf outings to compete with. Through Mike's leadership, this event has reached upwards of \$200,000 over Mike's tenure.

"Our second recipient is Patricia Lock-



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO

Dennis Schaefer (left), shown here with friend and fellow chamber member Will Stiverson, is this year's winner of the Fenton Regional Chamber of Commerce Community Service Award.

wood," said Day. "Pat has chaired the Fenton Freedom Festival for the entire time of its existence — 30 years. Pat also has chaired our Jinglefest Committee for more than five years and has helped bring this event budget back into the black.

"The third outstanding recipient is Linda Hathaway. Linda has participated on the Expo committee every year of its existence, which is 32 years," said Day. "She has chaired it now for 30 and we are hoping to have her commitment to be involved when we celebrated our 50th. The Expo has grown tremendously since it first began in 1984. This is the largest income generating event for the chamber."

Community Service Award

The Community Service Award was given to Dennis Schaefer by Linda Hathaway, long-time chamber member.

"The recipient of this year's community service award has been serving our community since the early '80s," said Hathaway. "He raised his family here, worked for a local lumber yard, and owned his own business for over 25 years.

"This recipient has served as a true role model by balancing all levels of life," Hathaway added. "His giving is so many times behind the scenes and he usually finds a way to turn his moment of appreciation into one that honors others.

"When you drive through our incredible town, you will find well-constructed, beautiful gazebos, a trademark of our recipient and his generosity," she said.

All award winners were lauded for their long-time Chamber membership and active involvement.

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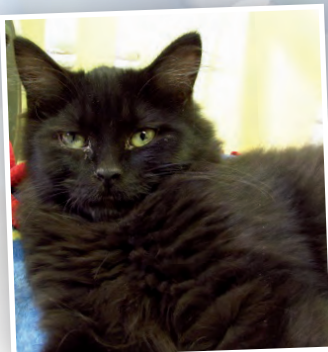
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Michigan State Police Fr. Lt. Michael Shaw said the number of people killed in distracted driving crashes in Michigan doubled from 2014 to 2015, when there were 28 fatalities.

THE HIGHER THE NUMBER, THE BETTER THE RANKING

Where Michigan ranks

• **Michigan ranked 32nd in the number of fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles traveled.** According to the NHTSA, 0.93 people died per 100 million vehicle miles traveled. In Louisiana, which ranked number one in terms of worst drivers, 1.53 people died per 100 million vehicle miles traveled.

• **The state ranked 40th in the percentage of fatal crashes that involved alcohol.** According to the NHTSA, out of the 10,265 crashes that involved alcohol in 2015, 267 people died.

• **The state ranked 34th in the percentage of fatal crashes related to speed.** This number has increased from 219 fatalities in 2006 to 264 in 2015.

• **The state ranked 34th in the percentage of fatal crashes related to speed.** This number has increased from 219 fatalities in 2006 to 264 in 2015.

States with the WORST drivers

- 1 and 2 — Texas and Louisiana tied
- 3 — South Carolina
- 4 — North Dakota
- 5 — Delaware
- 6 — New Mexico
- 7 — Nevada
- 8 and 9 — Arizona and Alabama tied
- 10 — Montana

Source: carinsurancecomparison.com

States with the BEST drivers

- 51 — Minnesota
- 50 — Vermont
- 49 — Virginia
- 48 — Iowa
- 47 — Rhode Island
- 46 — Massachusetts
- 45 — Ohio
- 44 — Michigan
- 43 — New Jersey
- 42, 41 and 40 — Idaho, Kentucky, and Maryland tied

Source: carinsurancecomparison.com

DRIVERS

Continued from Front Page

ranked 44th in terms of terrible drivers, meaning Great Lakes drivers are the seventh best in the U.S.

Genesee County ranks fifth in the state for driving fatalities. In 2015, 32 people died from automobile crashes in Genesee County.

In the state's worst category, Michigan ranked 18th in careless driving numbers.

Michigan has higher numbers of pedestrians and cyclists killed, compared to the rest of the nation.

Michigan State Police Fr. Lt. Michael Shaw said the number of people killed in distracted driving crashes in Michigan doubled from 2014 to 2015, when there

were 28 fatalities.

"In order to try and stop distracted driving, during the weeks of Dec. 5 through 16, the MSP will be deploying unmarked vehicles to look for distracted drivers. These cars will relay the information to marked police cars and they will make the traffic stop on these dangerous drivers," he said.

The campaign will be called "Get your head out of your app! Don't drive distracted!"

In the state's best category, Michigan ranked 46 (fifth best) in failure to obey numbers regarding traffic signals, seat belts, and invalid driver licenses.

Michigan scored in the lower per-

centile for the amount of fatal crashes involving no seat belt usage and invalidly licensed drivers.

Michigan has seen driving improvements with young drivers.

Fred Woodhams, spokesman for the Secretary of State's Office, said "Michigan's driver education program has long been considered one of the nation's best in preparing drivers for the road ahead."

The number of teen/young adult drivers ages 16-20 in all crashes in Michigan has decreased 22.5 percent from 2006 to 2015, he explained.

"Their involvement in fatal crashes has decreased by 14 percent during the same time period," he said.



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Calendar of events

SANTA SLAM DODGEBALL FOR TOYS FOR TOTS

Lake Fenton High School Student Council is hosting Santa Slam Dodgeball and Holiday Raffle at **7 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 13** in the high school gym to benefit Toys for Tots. Obtain tickets by donating cash or toys. One new unwrapped toy equals 10 raffle tickets. One "dollar store" toy equals one raffle ticket. Every dollar equals one raffle ticket. You do not need to be present to win. Entry into the dodgeball event is three tickets. Raffle prizes include a GoPro Hero 5, restaurant gift cards, candy and more.

Coach out sick? No problem for Fenton, defeat Lapeer in OT

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

Becki Moore is being driven crazy this week.

Struck down with a case of pneumonia, the Fenton varsity girls basketball coach finds herself not being able to do the job she loves — coaching her squad.

Still, it looks like the

Tigers, who have plenty of veteran players and a strong support coaching staff, are doing just fine.

The Tigers found a way to capture a tight 61-55 overtime road victory against Lapeer on Tuesday night.

“The kids are pretty resilient and they know what they have to do,” Moore

said from her home a day after the contest still battling her illness. “They are a pretty special group. We have a group of kids who have been together for a long time and work well together. Plus, we have a coaching staff which is more than capable of handling it. We have veterans this year, and they are more

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Fenton's
Taylor Mowery

Times Sports

Eagles begin season with a tough test

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

Linden — The Linden varsity wrestling program can't be yelled at for putting weak squads in its first quad meet of the season.

In fact, Wednesday's quad probably ranked as one of the toughest in the state. In a quad that included state-ranked Oxford and John Glenn, the Eagles finished the night with a 1-1 record. Linden defeated Carleton Airport in its first match 42-36, but lost to sixth-ranked Oxford in the second quad 49-24.

Considering the Eagles, who finished second in the Metro a year ago, are a much younger team than last season it seems they were pleased with their performance.

“We wrestled some tough teams,” Linden senior wrestler Dawson Blank said. “I think we are OK right now. I think we have some work to do, we definitely have some work to do, but we will be all right. The good thing is we came out aggressive and came out pretty hard. I'd like to see a little more endurance strength-wise and cardio-wise, so we have some work to do on that. But all in all, it wasn't too bad.”

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPENS

Linden's Avery Jacobs (right) won two matches during the Eagles' opening wrestling competition of the season against Oxford and Carleton Airport on Wednesday.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | MARK BOLEN

Holly's Paris Partee is the team's only returning starter back this year, but he suffered a knee injury during the first half of the team's victory against Powers on Tuesday.

Young Bronchos overcome adversity, defeat Powers, 55-53

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

Lance Baylis wasn't completely sure how his young varsity boys basketball team would perform in its first game of the season on Tuesday night at Powers High School.

He was confident. He knew they had talent. But, still, would they be ready for varsity competition.

Based on what happened on Tuesday, apparently the Bronchos are ready.

Despite losing their only returning starter during the contest in the first half due to a knee injury, the Bronchos figured a way to leave Powers with a victory, earning a 55-53 win on two converted free throws by Austin Harless with three seconds left. Powers had a half-court shot attempt to win, but missed it.

“It was exciting,” Baylis said. “You'd think after all these years, my senses would be dulled a bit after a game like that, but after the game I stayed up until 1 a.m. just reflecting and smiling about the game. That game got my juices flowing. From a mental standpoint this was one of the biggest games in my 12 years coaching Holly basketball. It was a great first game. And with that win they became part of the program, a part of Holly's winning tradition. When you put on Holly you are expected to win, and these guys did it.”

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | MARK BOLEN

The Lake Fenton Blue Devils are 2-1 after defeating Brandon on Tuesday.

Blue Devils remain hot, defeat Brandon

By David Troppens
dtroppens@tctimes.com

The Lake Fenton varsity girls basketball team is off to a pretty strong start.

The Blue Devils made it two victories in three games with a tight 38-36 non-league home victory against the Brandon

Blackhawks on Tuesday.

Brandon's Alexis Hendershott cut a Late Lake Fenton lead to just one point, but the Blue Devils were able to ice the game just enough with 1-for-2 free throw trips to the line by Haley Whittecar and Katelyn Siebert.

Lake Fenton led most of the contest. Brandon led 7-5 after one quarter, but the Blue Devils scored 18 points in the second quarter, giving Lake Fenton a 23-15 halftime lead.

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Inexperienced Tigers suffer from first-game jitters

■ Miller scores 23 points in loss to Lapeer Lightning

By David Troppens
dtroppens@tctimes.com

Fenton — First-game jitters can hit any team.

They can be particularly hard on a squad with many new faces. They also impact the veterans when you have them stepping up into new roles.

First-game jitters may have played a role in the Fenton varsity boys basketball team's first game of the season against Lapeer on Tuesday night.

Fenton looked a bit nervous, resulting in nine first-quarter turnovers and a 20-7 deficit early. The Tigers made a few strong runs against the Lightning, but were never able to take the lead resulting in a 69-54 victory at Fenton High School.

"We are young and we know that," senior Drew Miller said. "Everyone was a little nervous tonight and you could tell. But we settled in and got after it and we were moving the ball well offensively. Defensively is where we fell a little short, but that's fixable and we'll be back."

"Our youth showed," Fenton varsity boys basketball coach John Gilbert said. "We started

off shaky turning the ball over which I didn't expect. Well, I expected it a little bit, but not with the type of turnovers we made. There were many that weren't pressure turnovers. We just made poor decisions, so that's what we need to fix. I'm glad the way they fought back. We were down 15 or 16 and cut it down to two, but then we had two turnovers in a row.

"They had a lot of second- and third-chance points and we had those turnovers."

Gilbert summarized the first half well. While Fenton turned the ball over nine times in the opening quarter, Lapeer also crushed the Tigers on the boards with eight second-chance points. A steal and a breaking layup up Lapeer's Drew Knickerbocker put Lapeer up 20-7 after one quarter. The lead quickly grew to 23-7 when Lapeer's Carson Butterfield hit a 3-pointer to start the second quarter.

From that point, the Tigers played much better during the opening half. Fenton opened the second quarter with 15 straight possessions of smarter offensive basketball. The Tigers turned it over just twice during that period and attempted smarter shots.

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SCOTT SCHUPBACH

Fenton's Drew Miller (left) scored 23 points in the Tigers' 69-54 loss to Lapeer on Tuesday.

Beverly era begins for Fenton wrestling with split

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

When the varsity wrestling position became open at Fenton High School, Brad Beverly knew he wanted to be involved with the program. He just didn't know how he would become involved.

It quickly became apparent how he would — as the team's new varsity coach.

"I wanted to get involved," Beverly said. "I wanted to make a difference with the program. Things ended up falling into place and I got the position."

On Wednesday, Beverly enjoyed his first actual varsity meet with the program, and the team enjoyed a reasonable positive opener, splitting matches with South Lyon and Walled Lake Central. Fenton defeated South Lyon 39-30, but lost to Central 51-24.

Beverly said he's been pleased with what he's seen out of his team of 25 wrestlers so far.

"I've learned that they will work hard," Beverly said. "They will work extremely hard while they are here. We have a lot of inexperience and a lot of young kids, but they are improving and have a great work ethic."

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Blue Devil wrestlers split vs. foes in first meet

The Lake Fenton varsity wrestling team has opened the season as the second-ranked team in Division 3 according to Michiganrappler.com.

It's easy to see why the Blue Devils are

ranked that high. After all, the squad had two individual state champions returning on a team that qualified for the team state semifinals and won a Genesee Area Conference championship.

LF boys basketball opens with tight loss at Midland

The Lake Fenton varsity boys basketball team is looking to find good competition anywhere they can this winter.

If that means driving over an hour up north to open the season against Midland

High School, then the Blue Devils will do it. And that's what Lake Fenton did.

The Blue Devils played a competitive contest against their Class A foes, but dropped a 64-58 verdict.

Holly wrestlers sweep first meet of the season

The Holly varsity wrestling team isn't large this season, but varsity coach Don Pluta likes what he sees out of his team.

He also liked what he saw in the

squad's first quad of the season, defeating Avondale 43-24 and Royal Oak 68-6 on Wednesday night.

"It was a nice start for us," Pluta said.

PREP REPORT

GIRLS BOWLING

► **Flushing 30, Linden 0:** The Eagles were led by Grace Gergel, who rolled a two-game series of 260.

BOYS BOWLING

► **Flushing 30, Linden 0:** The Eagles were led by Hunter Moses who had games of 175 and 179.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

► **Lake Fenton JV 42, Brandon JV 39:** The Lake Fenton JV team trailed 17-3 after one quarter, but dominated the final three periods to win the non-

league contest. Monrae Prentice had six fourth-quarter points while Savannah Shustock converted five fourth-quarter free throws, locking up the come-from-behind win. Olivia Snyder led the Blue Devils (2-1) with 13 points.

BOYS BASKETBALL

► **Linden 53, Holly 44:** The Eagles raced out to a 15-0 lead and never trailed. Max James led the Eagles with 23 points while Seeger DeGayner had 12 points. Adam Welch led Holly with 11 points while Jackson Terry had 10.

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2016 CHEVROLET SILVERADO LT
Stk# 1260373T
WAS \$43,415 • SAVE \$10,883
NOW \$32,532

LAST IN STOCK



2016 CHEVROLET TAHOE LTZ
Stk# 1285222
WAS \$70,760 • SAVE \$14,351*
NOW \$56,409

ONLY 5 LEFT



2016 CHEVROLET COLORADO EXTENDED CAB
Stk# 1385625
WAS \$32,070 • SAVE \$4,707
NOW \$27,363

NOW THROUGH DECEMBER 12, GET
0% APR FOR 72 MONTHS
FOR QUALIFIED BUYERS ON MOST REMAINING 2016 CHEVY MODELS!

RED TAG SALES EVENT

2017 LEASES HOTTER THAN EVER

\$173
PER MO 36 MONTHS



2017 MALIBU LT
STK#6167273

\$258
PER MO 36 MONTHS



2017 SILVERADO LT
STK#1138657

\$127
PER MO 24 MONTHS



2017 CRUZE LT
STK#8137296

\$56
PER MO 24 MONTHS



2017 EQUINOX LT FIRST PAYMENT WAIVED
STK#1545530

*ALL LEASES ARE BASED ON 2 YEAR, 10,000 MILES PER YEAR UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED. OTHER TERMS AND MILEAGE PROGRAMS AVAILABLE. PAYMENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CREDIT APPROVAL AND MUST QUALIFY FOR GM EMPLOYEE PRICING AND CHEVROLET LEASE LOYALTY OR COMPETITIVE LESSEE. \$2000 DOWN PLUS TAX, TITLE REGISTRATION FEES EXTRA. MUST TAKE DELIVERY FROM DEALER STOCK. PRICES VALID THROUGH 12/30/2016.

CHEVROLET
SHOP AT WWW.CANEVER.COM**FIND NEW ROADS™**

CHECK OUT THESE ROCK BOTTOM PRICES! EVERYTHING MUST GO!



2013 FORD EXPEDITION XLT
Stk# 174137A **\$21,000**



2014 CHEVROLET TRAVERSE LT
Stk# 125594 **\$18,000**



2008 SATURN OUTLOOK XE
Stk# 6197970A **\$6,500**



2015 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 1500
Stk# 1349560A **\$30,000**



2009 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 1500
Stk# 1400363B **\$14,889**



2008 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 1500
Stk# 125606 **\$14,900**



2014 CHEVROLET EQUINOX 1LT
Stk# 174175 **\$16,400**



2013 CADILLAC SRX PREMIUM
Stk# 2120579A **\$23,432**



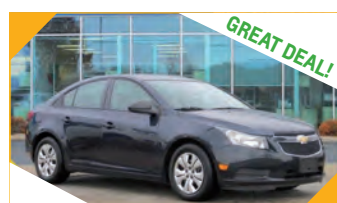
2004 CHEVROLET SUBURBAN 1500
Stk# 1256293B **\$2,772**



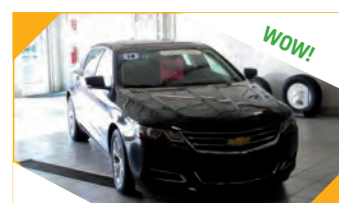
2010 BMW 3 SERIES 328i xDRIVE
Stk# 1376534A **\$11,700**



2009 PONTIAC G6 GT
Stk# 1247805B **\$3,500**



2014 CHEVROLET CRUZE LS
Stk# 174182 **\$11,039**



2014 CHEVROLET IMPALA 2LT
Stk# 180000 **\$18,940**



2015 CHEVROLET CRUZE LTZ
Stk# 180001 **\$14,230**

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FENTON

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CERTIFIED PRE-OWNED



SALES HOURS

Mon & Thurs: 8:30am - 8:00pm
Tues, Wed & Fri: 8:30am - 6:00pm
Saturday: 10:00am - 4:00pm • Sunday: CLOSED

SERVICE HOURS

Monday: 7:00am - 8:00pm
Tues - Fri: 7:00am - 6:00pm
Saturday: 8:00am - 2:00pm • Sunday: CLOSED

