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

Minnesota drivers are seventh best in nation

By Hannah Ball
hbball@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 has a poor distracted driving score, but a high score in obeying traffic signage.

See DRIVERS on 21A

Elderly caregiving crisis looming

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

By Hannah Ball
hbball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

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

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

The ‘walking kennel’

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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

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 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 Jagiello contributed to this report.
Hail to the nation’s first Tweeter-in-Chief

Donald Trump – 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. “I think they’re good drivers.”

“Just tried watching Saturday Night Live,” he wrote. “Unwatchable! Totally 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: “Rossie 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: “Lyin’ Khruush-chev says he will bury us. So sad. Aggressive attitude likely to make up for fact he’s bald! LOL! #atheticCommie #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 #goingoutofbusiness #losers.”

George W. Bush: “Hey, Saddam, how you like me now that I invaded Baghdad and knocked down your little statue? Booya! #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-aboveeverything.

Some Forgets

140-Character Blurts

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 go 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 rights...” (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 assembly of very small people – speech, a brief or a televised address to the nation.”

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 Homed 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

Letters, 150 words or less, must be signed and include a phone number. We reserve the right to edit for clarity and length and liability. Letters must by 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 accommodates children. Now I have a son who is 1 year old. Now the apartments were sold and the company has no interest in children — only dogs. They lock out the children’s playground to install a dog playground with an obstacle course. Children living in apartments have little room and even less opportunity 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

What Do You Think About the Drivers in the Fenton Area?

Compiled by Tess DeGayer, intern
**Holiday GATHERINGS**

- **Spiral Sliced Half Ham Bone-In**: $1.17 lb. limit 2 with yes
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- **Dean’s Country Fresh Ice Cream**: 1.5 qt.
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*WEEKEND TIMES* Sunday, December 11, 2016 5A
New local ordinances would bring more revenue to township

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

By Hannah Ball
hb@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 GCSD handles policing in the township. Board members also discussed a second local ordinance that would affect the local lakes.

Trustee Robert Kessler 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 residents when writing tickets. While this will help bring more revenue to the township, Belzer said it’s not a money maker.

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 monstrously from 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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www.mitiscapesupply.com
Dickens was born into debtors’ prison in 1824, the navy pay office, was thrown into a factory. The miserable treatment of children sent to work in a factory. The improbable mid-air collision on the planes and on the ground. The improbable mid-air collision on the planes and on the ground. The improbable mid-air collision on the planes and on the ground.
You’re a Neighbor, Not a Number.

Brown and Brown’s professional advisors are your neighbors, friends and community members with the resources of the industry’s premier regional and national carriers behind them. Whether for personal, commercial or life insurance, we strive to provide the highest level of service and seek the most effective insurance solutions at a competitive price.

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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 spoofing 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 darkest of all — our own.

Winnie the Pooh
A A Milne (1926)
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 just 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 the same thing,” said Bertucci.

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 themselves 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.”

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.

According to Bertucci, “That means entertaining your brother with a lack of available teen babysitters, is enough to keep most parents home.

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FROM A BABYSITTER’S VIEWPOINT

Don’t assume a sitter has a medical degree. Warn a sitter 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 late or last minute, either provide a token payment or show some level of appreciation for a sitter’s time.

Source: Huffington Post
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.

What advice do you have for us this winter?

Firstly, I would like to warn everyone about the dangers of staying out in the cold and ice during the winter months. Winter is a time when people tend to become careless and take crazy chances. Sometimes a driver gets into one of their moods (I call them ‘snowed in’ers, 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, 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!’
Wishing you many blessings during this Holiday Season.
**FOX CHASE FARMS $249,999**

Fantastic new construction. Ranch home! 1,564 SF, 3 BDR, 2 BA and full basement with daylight windows ready to be finished. 3 car attached garage, maintenance free exterior and more close to shopping, schools and expressways.

**OPEN SATURDAY 1-3**

**LAKE LINDEN $329,999**

12A w/kitchenette, workout room, sauna & pole barn. Light, crown molding. Finished walkout basement setting, open floor plan, soaring ceilings, great natural light, 6072 SF of finished living space, 4 BDR & 4.5 BA. Private garage. Full finished walkout basement. Beautiful lot, 2 car attached garage, private deck.

**JUST LISTED!!**

**HOLLY SCHOOLS $74,999**

Pine Hollow Estates $1,199,000


**JUST LISTED!!**

**ACREAGE $750,000**

Gorgeous property 140+ acres w/limitless potential. Great for fishing, hunting or horses. Superb water front fishing habitat. Boone & Crockett hunting potential for deer. Farming & development potential. Farmhouse has 3 BDR, 2 BA & 1,071 SF.

**NEW DATE!!**

**LAKE PONEMAH $675,000**

All brick ranch w/62’ frontage on an all sports lake Ponemah. 4680 SF of finished living space, 4 BDR, 3.5 BA, 3 car garage. Open floor plan w/ new hardwood floors, granite, built-in double oven. Finished walk-out basement w/full kitchen & bar.

**OPEN SUNDAY 1-3**

**PINE HOLLOW ESTATES $1,199,000**


**JUST LISTED!!**

**ACREAGE $1,050,000**

Over 10,000 SF of Luxury Living! 5 BDR, 7 BA, nestled on 2.25 acres w/250’ frontage on all sports Lake Shinanguag. 4700+ SF of living space w/2 story great room, 5 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, finished basement and sunroom. 2 story pole barn, large deck w/covered seating area and pool.

**JUST LISTED!!**

**PINE HOLLOW ESTATES $1,999,000**


**JUST LISTED!!**

**LAKE SHINANGUAG $549,999**

170’ frontage on all sports Lake Shiangag. 4460 SF of finished living space, 4 BDR, 4.5 BA. Large kitchen w/ snack bar, pantry, lots of cabinet and counter space. Master in claw tubs, finished basement and sunroom. 2 story pole barn, large deck w/covered seating area and pool.

**JUST LISTED!!**

**ACREAGE $274,999**

170+ acres with lots of wildlife and room to grow! 2280 SF, 4 BDR & 3 BA. Large kitchen w/ snack bar, pantry, lots of cabinet and counter space. Master in claw tubs, finished basement and sunroom. 2 story pole barn, large deck w/covered seating area and pool.

**ACREAGE $349,999**

150+ acres on The River. 2700 SF, 4 BDR and 4 BA. Open floor plan w/ large kitchen featuring hardwood floors, breakfast nook, snack bar and pantry. Family room w/fireplace, exposed beams and great natural light. Finished walkout lower level w/full kitchen.

**JUST LISTED!!**

**PINE HOLLOW ESTATES $899,999**

Beauitiful home on award winning Fenton Schools. 4916 SF, 5 BDR and 4.5 BA. Open kitchen with tile floors, pantry and breakfast nook. Full finished walkout basement. Beautiful lot, 2 car attached garage, private deck.

**JUST LISTED!!**

**ACREAGE $1,500,000**

$1,500,000+$75,000 over $1,000,000. This is a rare opportunity. Over 10,000 SF of Luxury Living! Over 100’ frontage on all sports Lake Shinanguag. Over 7,000 SF of living space. 5 BDR, 6.5 BA, slider to sunroom. Great room features fireplace, exposed beams and great natural light.

**JUST LISTED!!**

**PINE HOLLOW ESTATES $1,750,000**

Over 10,000 SF of Luxury Living! 5 BDR, 8 BA, nestled on 2.25 acres w/250’ frontage on all sports Lake Shinanguag. 4700+ SF of living space w/2 story great room, 5 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, finished basement and sunroom. 2 story pole barn, large deck w/covered seating area and pool.

**JUST LISTED!!**

**WARWICK HILLS $1,999,000**

This custom home is nothing less than spectacular! Total 13,000+ SF of living space. 5 BDR, 9 BA including 5 master suites, 6 fireplaces, marble flooring, gold leaf ceilings and wine cellar. 4 car garage, 10,000 SF finished walk-out lower level. Acreage is available.

**JUST LISTED!!**

**ACREAGE $208,999**

3014 SF, 5 BDR and 3 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.

**JUST LISTED!!**

**LAKE LINDEN $1,134,999**

3014 SF, 5 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.

**JUST LISTED!!**

**LAKE LINDEN $1,550,000**

3014 SF, 5 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.

**JUST LISTED!!**

**ACREAGE $259,999**

11205 West on the 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 over sized 2 car attached garages, plus 3rd garage.

**JUST LISTED!!**

**PINE HOLLOW ESTATES $225,000**

4680 SF of finished living space, 4 BDR and 4.5 BA. Open floor plan w/ large kitchen featuring hardwood floors, breakfast nook, snack bar and pantry. Family room w/fireplace, exposed beams and great natural light. Finished walkout lower level w/full kitchen.

**JUST LISTED!!**

**LAKE PONEMAH $269,999**

4680 SF of finished living space, 4 BDR, 3.5 BA, 3 car garage. Open floor plan w/ new hardwood floors, granite, built-in double oven. Finished walk-out basement w/full kitchen & bar.

**JUST LISTED!!**

**ACREAGE $209,999**

2 acres, 1900 SF, 3 BDR & 2 BA. Great room features natural light, brick fireplace & soaring ceilings. Bonus room w/secret enter tall room, game room or office. 2 car attached garage & whole house generator included.

**JUST LISTED!!**

**LAKE PONEMAH $1,999,000**

100’ frontage on all sports Lake Lapeer! 7900 SF! 5 BDR and 4.5 BA. Stunning kitchen gourmet kitchen, completely remodeled w/ beautiful two tone cabinets, quartz counter tops, new flooring and more. Master Bath features DreamRom/Shower/Gym & bathroom. Bonus room. 2 story pole barn.

**JUST LISTED!!**

**ACREAGE $262,999**

New construction! Ranch model in a magnificent gated community where you can enjoy the private clubhouse, in ground pool and tennis courts. All that’s left to do is to start building! The best time to sell is when you are ready!

**JUST LISTED!!**

**LAKE PONEMAH $274,999**

4680 SF of finished living space, 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.

**JUST LISTED!!**

**ACREAGE $274,999**

170+ acres with lots of wildlife and room to grow! 2280 SF, 4 BDR & 3 BA. Large kitchen w/ snack bar, pantry, lots of cabinet and counter space. Master in claw tubs, finished basement and sunroom. 2 story pole barn, large deck w/covered seating area and pool.

**JUST LISTED!!**

**PINE HOLLOW ESTATES $267,999**

4680 SF of finished living space, 4 BDR, 3.5 BA, 3 car garage. Open floor plan w/ new hardwood floors, granite, built-in double oven. Finished walk-out basement w/full kitchen & bar.

**JUST LISTED!!**

**ACREAGE $274,999**

170+ acres with lots of wildlife and room to grow! 2280 SF, 4 BDR & 3 BA. Large kitchen w/ snack bar, pantry, lots of cabinet and counter space. Master in claw tubs, finished basement and sunroom. 2 story pole barn, large deck w/covered seating area and pool.

**JUST LISTED!!**

**ACREAGE $349,999**

150+ acres on The River. 2700 SF, 4 BDR and 4 BA. Open floor plan w/ large kitchen featuring hardwood floors, breakfast nook, snack bar and pantry. Family room w/fireplace, exposed beams and great natural light. Finished walkout lower level w/full kitchen.
Q: Chris, my buddy referred me to you. I have a 2005 Dodge Dakota that at high speeds is really tough. At low speeds this is not an issue. Any ideas on what it could be? Power Steering?

— 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.

By Sally Rummel

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 love the people who come in and, of course, I love the antiques. This past summer, when Mark Hay retired, I just 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.

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.
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 gets good luck for the whole year.

However, the claim that it’s an old German tradition seems to be a total myth.

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

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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 wreaths 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 their handprint with green paint in December, and see the ever-growing collection of wreaths go up in the hallways near Purzycki’s classroom each December.

The children, parents and staff loved to see the ever-growing collection of wreaths, and see their wreath from kindergarten. "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 $30 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.

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.

Former students would stop by to 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."

"I never imagined that it would turn into something so magical and bring such joy when I first started making them in 1989," said Purzycki, retired Tomek Eastern Elementary School kindergarten teacher.

Collection being sold to buy new kindergarten learning materials

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.

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

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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.

—Sally Rummel

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 Michigan 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.”
**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 clams 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 across the border? Calls for experiments have surged in numbers and panic that the diseases would sweep 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 by 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.

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**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 bombled 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.

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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 it 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 1,996 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.

OVERSPEND
Continued from Page 3A

If you are starting to feel like you can’t afford to give any more, stop! 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 each gift and stick to it. Don’t let desperation drive you to buy 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, pages 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, 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.”

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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 Michigamians 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 the 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.

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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 iden-

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 crunching in your ear every waking moment. The more time you spend "connected" the less time you have to develop true friendships.

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• Insomnia  
• Gas/Bloating  
• Chronic Diarrhea  
• Many chronic conditions

“I identify specific foods that make you feel bad...and enjoy the foods that help make you well”  
—Dr. James Callard, D.C.

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 of-
fers 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 Kolode, 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 and last year to the United Arab Emirates.

Educator of the Year  
Rachel Solgat — Lake Fenton Community Schools

Wanda Christopher Landrem — Lin-
den 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

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

“The recipient of this year’s commu-
nity 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 incred-
ible 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.
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 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

**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 percent 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.
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

continued online at TCTIMES.com

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

continued online at TCTIMES.com

Eagles begin season with a tough test

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

Linden — The Linden varsity wrestling program can’t be yelled at for putting weak squads in

continued online at TCTIMES.com

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

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

Blue Devils remain hot, defeat Brandon

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.

continued online at TCTIMES.com

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

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

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

continued online at TCTIMES.com

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Young Bronchos overcome adversity, defeat Powers, 55-53

By David Troppens
droppens@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.”

continued online at TCTIMES.com

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.

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DREAM HOME A REALITY!
Inexperienced Tigers suffer from first-game jitters

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 by Lapeer’s Drew Knickerbocker put Lapeer up 20-7 after one quarter. The lead quickly grew to 23-7 when Lapeer’s Carson Buttefield 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 defensive basketball. The Tigers turned it over just twice during that period and attempted smarter shots.

CONTINUED ONLINE AT TCTIMES.COM

TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SCOTT SCHUPPACH

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.”

CONTINUED ONLINE AT TCTIMES.COM

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 Michiganrushprep.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.

The Lake Fenton varsity boys basketball team is looking to find good competition anywhere the Blue Devils can find it. 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 Ptuta 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,” Ptuta said.

The Eagles were led by Hunter Moses who had games of 175 and 179.

BOYS BOWLING

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

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

GIRLS BOWLING

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

Boys Basketball

垩 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 Steger DeGayner had 12 points. Adam Welch led Holly with 11 points while Jackson Terry had 10.
# Vic Canevery

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## 2017 LEASES HOTTER THAN EVER

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**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  
Tuesday - Fri: 7:00am - 6:00pm  
Saturday: 8:00am - 2:00pm • Sunday: CLOSED