

# Local retailers ready for last-minute shoppers

■ Expect to be very busy due to Christmas Eve being a Saturday

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Chip Beltinck of Sawyer Jewelers in Fenton is already expecting Saturday, Dec. 24,

to be one of the busiest days of this holiday season, because it's Christmas Eve, and a Saturday.

"Saturday is always a shopping day, so we expect to be busy," said Beltinck. "Technically, we'll be open 'til 4, but we'll play it by ear because it's Christmas Eve."

He said that the last two weeks before

See **RETAILERS** on 21A

VIDEO STILL

Local retailers expect to be very busy this last week before Christmas, even on Christmas Eve because it falls on Saturday, a busy shopping day.



PAGE 1B  
TODAY'S  
CAR SALESMEN  
NO LONGER FIT  
THE STEREOTYPE

# Weekend Times

\$1.00

SUNDAY EDITION

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2012 - 2013 - 2014 NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

# Help!

■ The Salvation Army is only at 36 percent of its \$800,000 goal to help area families

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

The weather outside is frightful, but the unseasonably warm weather of November may be a factor in fewer donations in The Salvation Army Red Kettle campaign so far this Christmas season.

"We're at 36 percent of our goal," said Joy Martinbianco, development director for The Salvation Army serving Genesee County. "Our goal for all of Genesee County is \$800,000, to help families throughout the 2016-2017 year."

See **HELP!** on 21A

“The recent closing of Kmart has impacted this community's donations. People who shopped there were very generous.”

Joy Martinbianco  
Development director for  
The Salvation Army, Genesee County



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Sharon Hacker of Fenton volunteers at the Salvation Army Christmas Toy Shop on Wednesday Dec. 14 in Flint. Through the event more than 450 families were able to go home with brand new gifts for their children that they would have otherwise been unable to afford. Volunteers, including Antonio Bunch (right) of Flint, act as shopping assistants to the families. Hacker said she likes the process because it treats people with dignity.

# 'It does happen to you'

■ State police warn Linden boys that they too can be targets of human traffickers

By Hannah Ball

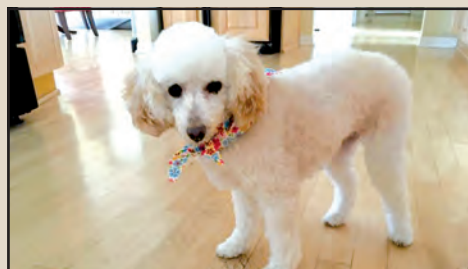
hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Linden — Michigan State Trooper Steven Kramer had a difficult job Thursday at Linden High School— convincing teenage boys that they could become victims of human trafficking.

"Guys, there's always somebody tougher, there's always somebody bigger, there's always somebody smarter than you," he told the audience of male students.

Throughout the week, troopers from the Michigan State Police-Flint Post, Kramer and Trooper Amy Belanger, gave presentations at LHS and Linden Middle School on human trafficking. They did the presentation for the girls earlier in the week.

See **HUMAN TRAFFICKERS** on 9A



## Little dog has big impact

Because of one poodle, one local family is donating a new driveway and concrete pad to Adopt-A-Pet in Fenton.

Page 9A

## Who's more distracted when driving — men or women?

■ MSP: Michigan had more than 5,000 distracted crashes in 2014

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

While most drivers engage in some distracted driving behaviors when on the road, some studies suggest women engage in those behaviors more than men do, and

See **DISTRACTED** on 14A

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“When you see the commercials for bottom-feeding injury lawyers on TV soliciting fake injury claims, you are seeing the reason why our insurance rates are skyrocketing each year. I hope they enjoy their days on earth because they will all surely burn in hell on judgement day.”



“Foreign policy, economy, health care, immigration. I predict that if anyone gets in Trump's way over these issues there will be hell to pay.”



“It is funny that two of the worst presidents in recent history, Obama and Carter, both got Nobel prizes.”

“The Salvation Army is way down on their contributions this year, primarily because many national chain stores don't let them solicit anymore. Come on Fenton, Holly and Linden, let's all give generously and help them with a big push on this final week. Thank you.”



COMMENT  
OF THE WEEK

“Obama created 12 million jobs, took stock market to record highs, gave 17 million Americans health insurance and saved GM. But you voted for Trump because he will let you have guns.”



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### FENTON

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**Gorgeous** all brick home on 1.7 acres. Beautiful hardwood floors throughout the kitchen, great room, and firelit sitting room. 4 bedrooms including first floor master. Finished walk out basement with second fire place. 3 car garage with huge loft. Walking distance to all downtown Fenton has to offer.

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**Great opportunity** for your business to have high visibility on the N. Leroy corridor. This building is just a couple of blocks from the Cornerstone Building and charming downtown Fenton. Beautiful setting as the property backs up to the Shiawassee River. And there is plenty of parking space.

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### OXFORD

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### FLINT

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**Great opportunity!** Come see this wonderful commercial property. Currently used for lumber processing, this 4 acre property with large parking lot and new office add-on is perfect for any business. Plenty of room for machinery on the lot. Spacious facility includes two separate workshops and a loft!

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### FLINT TOWNSHIP

4283 Carmanwood

**Same owner since the 1960's** giving this property pride of ownership. An extensive lists of updates including roof 2012, AC in 2010 as well as full update of home's electrical system. 4 bedrooms make this an incredible deal on a well-cared for family home that even includes a whole house generator!

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### CLIO

615 N. Mill

**Fabulous opportunity** to renovate this huge historic home!! Enclosed porch, hardwood floors, huge kitchen, attached wooden garage and additional outbuilding plus a very large almost half acre city lot with an almost fully fenced back yard! House needs TLC but roof is new in the last 2 years!

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### BANCROFT

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### CORUNNA

4602 Hibbard - **BANK OWNED**

**Solid ranch** in rural setting with a lovely yard and stunning views. This home has 3 bedrooms, kitchen, dining, and living room on the main level plus a second kitchen, family room and 4th bedroom in the finished lower level walk-out.

**\$124,900**

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### DEARBORN

22732 Outer Drive

**3 Bedroom 2 Bath Home** with Basement on Oversized Lot. Basement Is Partially Finished With Fireplace. Hardwood Floors in Living Room And Bedrooms. New Roof in 2015 With 30 Year Warranty. New Pella Crank Out Easy Clean Windows With Shades. Kitchen Updated In 1990s. Nice Fenced Yard With 2 Car Garage.

**\$119,000**

Call Laura Pennington 248-245-5351





TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Lizz Henderson has owned a bookstore since 2001. Lizz's Used Books is located in the shopping plaza across from Sears Hometown Store on N. Fenton Rd.

## Small town bookstores, big time service

### ■ Social media helping to grow a loyal customer base

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

**Fenton** — Every book offers a new, different adventure, similar to how it feels walking into any area book store.

Residents of Linden, Fenton and Holly areas don't have to travel far to find new or used books, thanks to the variety of independent book stores in the area.

This is an impressive feat considering a decade ago, the number of independent book stores was decreasing.

However, this changed around 2009 when Borders started closing stores. Between 2009 and 2014, Borders closed more than 60 locations, according to the Wall Street Journal, leaving towns

and cities without a bookstore.

Borders finished liquidating at the end of 2011, according to publisher-sweekly.com.

Independent bookstores jumped in. According to *bustle.com*, the number of independent book stores in the United States increased by 27 percent since 2009.

Currently, area residents have the option of going to Lizz's Books or Fenton's Open Book in Fenton, Past Tense Books in Holly, and the new Beloved Books in Linden.

A few years ago, Barnes & Noble pushed Nook, their e-reading device. According to *pcworld.com*, the sales on these devices flopped around 2014.

Lizz Henderson, owner of Lizz's Books, a secondhand bookstore in Fenton, said, "I have a lot of customers

who don't like it (Kindles) either. They want a real book to hold onto, not just another tablet that you have to plug in and charge all the time. A book's a book."

See **BOOKSTORES** on 15A

### Local bookstores

#### Fenton's Open Book

105 W. Shiawassee Ave., Fenton

#### Lizz's Books

14280 N. Fenton Rd., Fenton

#### Beloved Books

208 N. Bridge St., Linden

#### Past Tense Books

109 S. Saginaw St., Holly

## Time for a new fridge?

■ Here's what you should know before shopping for your hardest working appliance

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Your refrigerator is your family's hardest working kitchen appliance, on duty 24 hours every day.

You might not even notice a need for a new refrigerator, unless yours suddenly stops working.

"It's usually an emergency when people come in for a refrigerator," said Jeff Stone, co-owner of Sears Hometown Stores in Fenton and Howell.

You may also be in the market for a new refrigerator if yours is getting older or you're undergoing a kitchen renovation that requires all new appliances. "Today's models are so much more energy efficient, you might want to consider buying a new one if yours is 10 years old or more," said Stone.

Here's what to ask yourself before you go refrigerator shopping:

See **FRIDGE** on 19A

### SUMMARY

■ Before shopping for a refrigerator, you need to be prepared with answers for the questions an appliance store sales consultant will be asking.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Top of the line refrigerators come in several different finishes, including stainless, which is shown in the photo above.



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## Come *Heller* high water

andrewheller@tctimes.com

### Worst tune of all time

**W**hen you are a columnist, sometimes you have to take a stand on the ‘big issues,’ no matter how controversial. So, here’s today’s bold stance: ‘Wonderful Christmastime’ is the worst Christmas song of all time.

There. I said it. Actually, I’ve said it before — in columns and to anyone who is in earshot when the damn thing comes on. The lovely yet formidable Marcia is so sick of me saying it that before the second note plays she’s jabbing a pointer finger at me and saying, ‘Don’t!’



Andrew Heller  
FEATURED COLUMNIST

I wouldn’t bring it up now if it weren’t for a column in Salon.com that people forwarded to me because they knew it would annoy me. The piece was titled ‘In defense of Paul McCartney’s ‘Wonderful

Christmastime.’” In it, writer Annie Zaleski says, basically, yes, the song sucks, but it’s really not that bad.

‘Sure, the song’s certainly not as emotional or epic as ‘Hey Jude,’ ‘Yesterday’ and ‘Live and Let Die.’ (But) it sounds like a 1979 single, from the slightly foggy production to the soft-glow keyboards. Those are hardly fatal flaws.’

She then blurbles on in music criticism about how the song ‘takes its cues from ... the minimalist synthpop bubbling up from the U.K. underground at the time’ and how its vocals are ‘malleable instrumental color to enhance overall sonic expression and convey feelings such as alienation or fear of modernity’ before concluding with this: ‘But it’s perhaps more precise to say that ‘Wonderful Christmastime’ represents one of McCartney’s biggest post-Beatles pivot points — a low-pressure song where he reasserted his independence and started a metamorphosis that would linger for years.’

Clearly, I cannot let this dangerous nonsense go unchallenged. What if impressionable people believe her? What if several of those impressionable people

are radio DJs, who then play the song even more than it already is? Think of the children.

So, let me counter Ms. Zaleski’s critique with one of my own: ‘Wonderful Christmastime’ is not only the worst Christmas tune of all-time, it’s the worst song of any kind ever made, with the possible exception of ‘Ebony and Ivory,’ also by Sir Paul, which was so bad and so treacly that, according to a medical study I just made up, any time it plays on the radio 1,500 people go into insulin shock. (To be fair, I could also go for ‘Muskrat Love’ as the worst ever, which, if you’re too young to have heard it yet, let me just say you are in for a treat. Here’s just one line: ‘Muskrat Suzie, Muskrat Sam, do the jitterbug out in Muskrat Land.’ Had enough? I thought so.)

To understand why ‘Wonderful Christmastime’ surpasses them all in terms of wretchedness, however, all you have to do is read the pivotal lyrics, which are, and I quote:

*The choir of children sing their song  
They practiced all year long  
Ding dong, ding dong  
Ding dong, ding dong  
Ding dong, ding dong, dong, dong,  
dong, dong*

My God, people, what else do you need?

And by the way, those must have been really stupid children in that choir.

## 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.

**FUNNY HOW LIBERALS** want Obama to pardon Clinton while at the exact same time claiming she committed no crimes.

**VERY DISAPPOINTED THE** Linden Follies brought politics into the program.

**TO THE PERSON** who thinks Trump should not build hotels and golf courses around the world. A businessman has to make money to stay in business. How long would he stay in business if he built in Flint? And how many people would get jobs?

**IT IS IMPORTANT** that we realize we have 80 to 90 percent of the world’s lawyers and the vast majority prey on people and companies. It would be nice if Trump could reverse this.

**IF YOUR’E A U** of M grad without a job, I would guess you’re probably some liberal arts major who took history or sociology or psychology or some other useless programs that don’t lead to a job even in good times.

**WHY IS IT** wrong for Carrier to build air conditioners in Mexico, but not wrong for Trump to build hotels and golf? Hey fruitcake, think about that for a minute.

**PAT ON THE** back to all the local business owners who work and live in the area. Proud to be part of the group.

**SO COMRADE PUTIN** worked with comrade Trump to rig the U.S. election and have his puppet installed in the White House. Sounds like treason. Impeach Trump.

**TO THE PERSON** rating presidents. I agree that Obama and Carter were the worst ever, though they won Nobel prizes. But, the more I read about Kennedy, he should be a close third.

**ONCE AGAIN, THE** people around Silver Ridge are walking to the mailbox with a flashlight. What is going on?

**CHRISTMAS LIGHTS TO** music are going again on Wyndham Place. Thanks for doing this. It’s really cool and our family really enjoys seeing this.

**SOME NEW FACTS.** Trump won 2,626 counties in the U.S. compared to Clinton’s 487. He won more of the U.S.’s geography.

**I’D LIKE TO** propose to the United States Congress to build a wall around liberals and we’ll make them pay for it. Or, we could get the money by deducting it from the welfare we’ve paid to illegal aliens.

**REST IN PEACE,** Jimmy Spees. You were my friend.

**I FINALLY FIGURED** out what the Green Party is all about. Green as in spending my green tax dollars on frivolous recounts.

**MAKE IT A** habit of reading a chapter a day from your Bible. It’s the best thing you could ever do for you and your family.

**WHY IS IT** when someone says something you don’t agree with, you call it hateful rhetoric? When the King says ‘left-wing nuts’ that’s not hateful rhetoric, he’s merely giving his opinion, as do most people, including yourself.

**I AGREE WITH** Hillary Clinton that fake news needs to be discouraged. This is news that is fixed, biased or twisted to fit a certain narrative.

**HONORING SENATOR HARRY** Reid is almost like giving Ted Bundy the medal of freedom. Reid has done more to block job-creating bills, and has hurt our country than any single person in modern history.

**TRUMP IS PROVIDING** me with so much Hot line material, that I might need a Midweek Times’ subscription.

See **HOT LINE** throughout Times

## 6 MORE SHOPPING DAYS UNTIL CHRISTMAS



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## What is your favorite book?

Compiled by Tess DeGayner, intern



“‘The Giver’ is because it told a really nice and important story.”

**Isabelle Negratte**  
Fenton



“‘The Shack’ is just one of my many favorites.”

**Nancy Toth**  
Fenton



“‘The Fault in Our Stars.’ I like the story of how she survived through cancer.”

**Loran Odell**  
Fenton



“I would probably say ‘The Great Gatsby.’”

**Dan Elsholz**  
Fenton

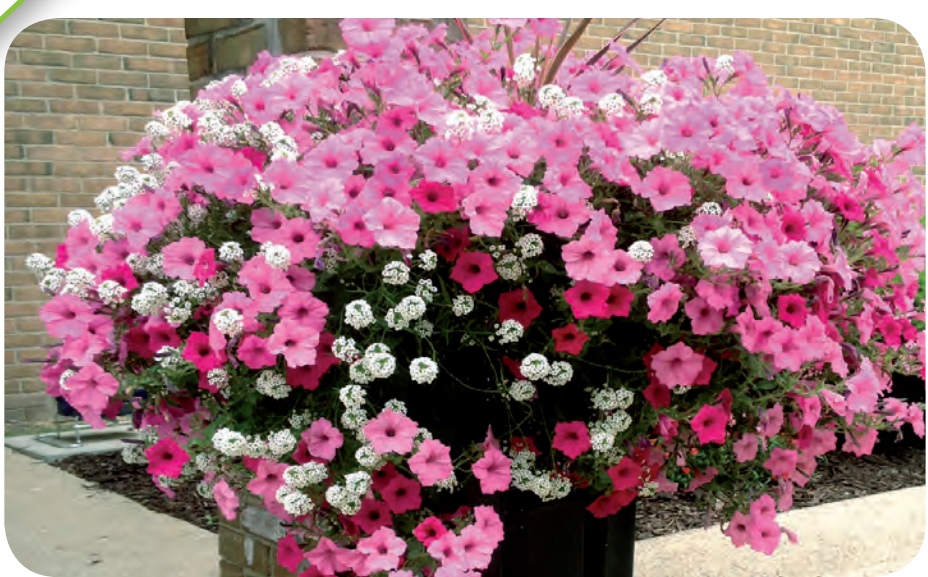


“‘To Kill a Mockingbird.’ I liked the theme and symbolism throughout it.”

**Lauren Elsholz**  
Fenton

## | streettalk





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3456 Breeze Point Ct. | Linden  
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**ORCHARD HILLS - FENTON**



944 Peach Tree Trl. | Fenton  
\$264,400

**LINDEN - 16 ACRES**



15339 Silver Ridge Rd. | Linden  
\$300,000

**PINNACLE SHORES - FENTON**



4360 Oak Tree Ct. | Fenton  
\$379,000

**FENTON**



9331 Foley Crossing | Fenton  
\$387,000

**HOLLY**



12755 Meadow View Cir. | Holly  
\$400,000

**FLUSHING**



711 Shady Brook Ln | Flushing  
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**LAKE FENTON**



14189 Swanee Beach | Lake Fenton  
\$479,000

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**PENDING**



8523 Pineview Lake Dr. • Linden  
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\$200,000

**PENDING**



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\$215,000

**SOLD**



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\$350,000

**SOLD**



3197 Autumn View • Metamora  
\$275,000

**SOLD**



2350 Pero Lake Rd • Lapeer  
\$185,000



JohnTremaine.com





## About Drew Shapiro

Drew Shapiro, who will be sworn in as the new Genesee County Commissioner for the 6<sup>th</sup> district on Jan. 3, 2017, is 28 years old.

He most recently served as the president of the Fenton Area Public Schools Board of Education (2012 to 2016). He presided over his last meeting on Dec. 5.

Shapiro's family moved to Fenton when he was 4 years old. He grew up in a home off White Lake Road. He attended State Road Elementary School through fifth grade.



Drew Shapiro

"I loved all my elementary school teachers, especially Mrs. (Toadie) Middleton, Mrs. (Lois) Sporer, Mrs. (Maggie) Miller and Mrs. (Kathy) Anderson," he said. "They were the greatest, phenomenal teachers."

Melody Strang, who is now the director of Instructional Technology & Curriculum, was Shapiro's fifth-grade teacher, he said.

"It was Mrs. Strang's 'stock market game' that got me seriously interested in finances," he said.

Today, Shapiro works as a managing associate for Mass Mutual Financial Group.

After State Road, Shapiro attended sixth and seventh grade at Valley School in Flint, a private school housed in the old Michigan School for the Deaf building. His parents thought he may have better opportunities there.

He returned, however, to attend school in Fenton — eighth grade at AGS Middle School, and graduating from Fenton High School in 2006. Shapiro graduated with a bachelor's degree in Political Science from Central Michigan University. He minored in entrepreneurship.

Shapiro's father, Dr. Steven Shapiro is a family practice physician. His mother, Dawn, is an X-ray technician. He has three older sisters and a brother, all of whom work in professional positions.

In his spare time, Shapiro enjoys hunting, fishing and boating. He has a dog named "Midas" that he rescued from the Genesee County Humane Society.

He also loves football, Tigers baseball and golf, although he admits he's not very good at the latter.

"I also read a lot," he said. "I'm a big history buff, especially presidential history."

At the age of 23, Shapiro ran for a seat on the Fenton school board and won. "I felt the school system needed to do a better job preparing students for the real world," he said.

"We were always taught that if we go to school and get good grades, the world's gonna knock down our doors," Shapiro said. "That's not how it worked out."

# 28-year-old is new county commissioner

## ■Fenton's Drew Shapiro vows to improve communication with county residents

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

Drew Shapiro of Fenton is going places... and the next place he's going is the Genesee County administration building.

Shapiro, 28, a Republican, was elected to serve on the Genesee County Board of Commissioners, for the 6<sup>th</sup> district. District 6 serves the townships of Argentine, Fenton, Grand Blanc and Mundy, as well as the cities of Fenton and Linden.

He unseated incumbent Republican Tony Brown in the Aug. 2 Primary Elections, and he defeated Democrat Pete Ponzetti in the Nov. 8 General Elections.

Upon winning the election, Shapiro said, "Southern Genesee County deserves a strong voice and I won't let them down. I plan to give the constituents the representation they deserve, and I will pride myself on always being accessible to residents. People recognized that we deserved better, and I wouldn't dream of letting them down."

One of the first things Shapiro said he would like to work on as a new county commissioner is to improve transparency and communication. He said Board of Commissioner meetings are held on Monday mornings — when most people are at work.

"So, there are two ways to find out what happens at those meetings," said Shapiro. "Either attend, or drive to downtown Flint, pay to park, enter the clerk's office and wait in line for a copy of the minutes. There is no way it should be this difficult for people to find out what their elected officials are doing."

Shapiro said again this week that the fix is very simple. "Post the minutes online. Right now, only the agendas are posted online," he said.

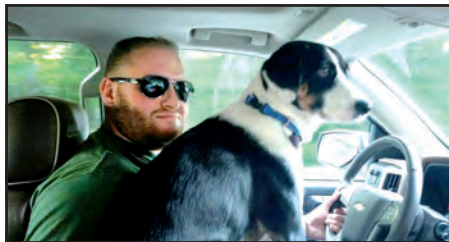
"My number one priority is constituent service," he said. "I want people to know I'm available, an issue that has been lacking in the past."

Another thing important to Shapiro is attracting new, talented people into the community. "New business will increase our tax base and keep our community vibrant," he said.

"It used to be that people would get a new job and then look for a place in that community," Shapiro said. "Now people are looking for a great place to live and then look for a job. It's called place-making, something supported by Gov. Rick Snyder."

"The LAFF Pathway is one example of place-making," Shapiro said.

Although he won't be officially sworn in until Jan. 3, 2017, Shapiro has already



**TRI-COUNTY TIMES** | SUBMITTED PHOTOS  
(Top) Shapiro spent a busy summer campaigning for the county commissioner seat. (Bottom) Midas, rescued from the Genesee County Humane Society, enjoys a ride with his owner.

hit the ground running. He has spoken with all of the other commissioners on the board. "The hope is that we will all work well together," he said. "Even though we have differences as Democrats and Republicans, we have similar goals, but different ideas on how best to get there."

Shapiro has also met with leadership in all county offices.

"I'm in the process of forming a Public Safety Advisory Committee for Genesee County," said Shapiro. "The committee would be charged with addressing response times and safety concerns unique to this (6<sup>th</sup>) district."

This committee will be made up of 10 people, seven of whom have already committed to the task.

"I want a mix of people in leadership positions, people who are out there every day," he said. "I want to be able to announce the full roster right after I'm sworn in."

Shapiro said he will provide quarterly updates to every municipality in the 6<sup>th</sup> district. They will be in elected officials' packets. He will also provide regular updates on his Facebook page.

When asked if the county commissioner position was a stepping stone for him, Shapiro said, "I get asked that a lot. No one ever became governor or president by thinking they couldn't do it."

For now, Shapiro said he is 100 percent committed to being the best commissioner he can be. "One thing that is frustrating to me is people want to get involved in politics because they like the idea of being involved in politics — not because they are passionate about an issue or are passionate about helping."

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## Police&Fire report

### RASH OF THEFTS FROM UNLOCKED VEHICLES IN HOLLY

The Holly Police Department has received multiple complaints of thefts from unlocked vehicles. Police Chief Mike Story urges everyone always to remove or conceal any valuables and to lock the doors to their vehicles to deter thieves.

Police responded to a home in the 100 block of College Street to investigate a complaint on Dec. 2. Two pairs of Oakley sunglasses valued at \$300 were stolen from the resident's Dodge Ram pickup truck. The owner thought he had locked the doors, but must have forgotten this time.

With the next complaint, Holly

police were sent to a home in the 400 block of E. Maple Street. on Dec. 2 to investigate a complaint. Stolen from her vehicle were her laptop computer and a deactivated cell phone. Police recovered someone else's cell phone from the woman's vehicle and it is being stored at the police station as evidence.

On Dec. 2, a Holly man reported that sometime overnight, someone entered his vehicle, which was parked in the 500 block of E. Maple Street. He noticed that someone had entered his Pontiac G6 and stole a pair of RayBan sunglasses and some loose change.

On Dec. 4, Holly police were dispatched to a home in the 1100 block of Bay Court. The victim said sometime overnight someone entered her car and rummaged through her belongings. She noticed the door was partially open. Her laptop computer was missing.

### HOT LINE CONTINUED

■ ■ ■  
**YOU MIGHT THINK** Obama was an ineffective president, however, we're certainly a lot better off than we were eight years ago. Our automobile industry is strong, our building industry is strong, people aren't getting thrown out of their homes, the Dow is in the 19,000s versus 6,000 under Bush.

■ ■ ■  
**NO MATTER WHERE** Ford, General Motors, or Chrysler build their cars, the profits on the sales of those cars comes back to the United States. Hyundai, Toyota, and any other Japanese and Korean companies, all of those profits go back to their native land, not benefiting us at all.

■ ■ ■  
**I GUESS THE** only place you'd get political rhetoric in college is in some kind of liberal arts class, like sociology, psychology, history, something like that. You won't find it in any of the technical classes like physics and math.

■ ■ ■  
**IF YOU THINK** a liberal arts degree is worthless, then you must also think books, movies, music, television shows, art, and theatre is worthless. Art is everywhere, and it's certainly not useless to study it.

■ ■ ■  
**THE WANNA-BE** King has never sounded more like a conspiracy theorist than he did in his last column about college classes. Happy Holidays, King, from a local, Jewish family.

## Former LF schools superintendent dies at 76

■ Gerald Laskey's love of learning led to life of service in education

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

Former Lake Fenton Superintendent Gerald R. Laskey died on Sunday, Dec. 11, at home with his family. He was 76 years old.

Laskey wrote something in a letter announcing his retirement in 2000 that may be comforting to friends and family today. He said, "I prefer to embrace the belief that every exit is an entry somewhere else."

Born in Grosse Pointe Farms, Laskey grew up attending Holy Rosary School, then graduated from Glen Lake High School. He continued his education with degrees from Northwestern Michigan College, Ferris State University and Eastern Michigan University.

According to his obituary, "His love of learning led to a fulfilling and lifelong career in education as a teacher and varsity coach of basketball, baseball and track. He continued more than 30 years of service to Lake Fenton Community Schools as principal and retired as superintendent of schools."

Laskey also was active in his community. He served as president of the Genesee County Superintendent's As-

sociation, was a member of the Three District Southern Lakes Co-op Organization, the Fenton Moose Lodge, Lake Fenton PTO, Lake Fenton Booster Club, Fenton Regional Chamber of Commerce, and Fenton Businessman's Golf League, to name a few.

"Gerry's family will always remember that he truly loved and appreciated life," according to his obituary.

"Laughing with family and friends was a priority, as was singing loudly. He spent time with those he loved enjoying sports, hunting, fishing, and boating.

"He showed kindness and respect to everyone he knew and expressed gratitude for the blessings in his life. Gerry truly

led by example to his students, athletes, children, and grandchildren."

Laskey is survived by his wife of 51 years, Ginny, three children and three grandchildren.

Visitation will be held from 4 to 8 p.m. with the Rosary to be prayed at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 15, at the Holy Rosary Parish of Isadore. Mass will be celebrated at 11 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 16, with the family greeting friends one hour prior to the Mass, also at the Holy

Rosary Parish. Burial will be held in the Spring in Mount Calvary Cemetery. Arrangements are with the Martinson Funeral Home and Cremation Services of Leelanau.



Gerald Laskey

“I prefer to embrace the belief that every exit is an entry somewhere else.”

Gerald R. Laskey

In his February 2000 letter announcing his retirement as superintendent of Lake Fenton Community Schools

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# Little dog has big impact

■ Adopt-A-Pet receiving new driveway and concrete pad because of one poodle

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

The story of one little poodle has touched the lives of a Fenton family, and all the lives at Adopt-A-Pet.

When Dana Beagle agreed to foster Gloria the poodle, no one expected her to live very long.

Gloria was picked up on the side of the street in Pennsylvania last August. Beagle said the first veterinarian that saw the dog recommended she be put down, but the woman who found her refused.

Jody Maddock, the director of Adopt-A-Pet, said when they took in Gloria, who was over 10 years old at the time, from the county pound, her fur was so badly matted that her teeth were falling out because fur was stuck in her mouth. All her teeth had to be pulled.

After taking her to the vet and having some tests done, they found out she had two types of cancer and "was not long for this world," Maddock said. She needed multiple surgeries to remove mammary tumors.

"An amazing person stepped forward to care for Gloria knowing her heart would soon be broken," she said.

That person was Dana Beagle, along with her husband, Duncan.

"Literally, the first 24 or 48 hours I just held her. She was just shaking and scared," Beagle said. "Gloria was a tough case. She was one of the more gut wrenching ones because you knew what the outcome was going to be."

After some time, Gloria started to get better and warmed up to the family. "She ended up being a part of the family. Everyone loved her," she said.

Gloria loved to go for walks, be outside, run and play. Beagle said she had an excellent quality of life, and touched her own life as much as her own dogs have. She was glad the vets



and Adopt-A-Pet let her be a part of the decision making even though she was only fostering Gloria.

Gloria lived 11 more months, dying in early July. Beagle said it's miraculous that she lived that long.

Toward the end of her life, Gloria was so comfortable at their house, Beagle didn't want to upset her by placing her with another family.

In memory of Gloria, Beagles' mother and father donated money to have the asphalt on the Adopt-A-Pet

driveway redone because they loved Gloria so much.

"That was the last thing I ever expected. I just made a comment about how they needed a new driveway," Beagle said. "What are the chances that some little dog picked up on the side of the road can have the ability to make such a difference?"

Maddock said every animal comes to them for a reason, and that they were honored to spend those last 11 months with Gloria.

"Through all of this, this little poodle touched the lives of so many people and showed that what someone else discarded became someone else's joy," Maddock said. "All along, we thought we were giving Gloria a gift and in the end, with all her love and fight she taught us a lesson of compassion and gave all the animals, our customers and volunteers an amazing gift."

**“What are the chances that some little dog picked up on the side of the road can have the ability to make such a difference?”**

**Dana Beagle**  
Fenton resident

## HUMAN TRAFFICKERS

Continued from Front Page

In his presentation, Kramer said in 2012, there was an average of 20.9 million human trafficking victims worldwide. Of that 20.9 million, 5.5 million were children around the ages of 12 and 13.

In the United States, more than 100,000 children are forced into prostitution every year, Kramer said, and many are young boys. Many girls are taken at the age of 13, and many boys are taken when they're 12. He said 20 to 25 percent of those children victims are boys.

"It could be anybody's daughter, sister, classmate, neighbor, mother, best friend, doesn't matter. It could also be you. Don't think it doesn't happen to you. As soon as that's what you start to believe, you make yourself open up to become a victim."

Kramer said the most common situation is pimps acting like older boy-friends to young girls. They use false promises like lying about creating a better life, preying off the victims' desperation and naivety, and will buy the victims expensive clothing as gifts.

"The reality is, nobody would choose this lifestyle," he said. "In order to understand the issue, you have to understand the victims."

Kramer said boys are often trapped into this life because they'll start talking to someone whom they believe to be a girl online, when in reality it's a 60-year-old man. He said these people will trick boys into sending indecent photos to use as blackmail.

At this, the audience of boys laughed.

"I wish I could make this up, I wish it was funny, guys," he said. "The shame of it alone will be enough for you guys to

continue doing whatever he wants, just so he can't out you. That's the fact of it. It does happen to you."

Once the person is forced into prostitution, Kramer said these people use blackmail to keep someone there.

Many pimps record their victims performing sexual acts or working in a strip club, and threaten to show their school or family if the person ever tries to leave. They'll use physical violence and threats against their family to get people to stay.

"The reality is you all, including me, we treat our dogs better than these girls are treated. Our dogs are eating better, our dogs are better cared for. We care more about our dogs than these pimps care about you guys," Kramer said.

Human trafficking happens locally at malls, coffee shops, restaurants and other places where young people like to hang out. Kramer said they've had hundreds of human trafficking cases at Great Lakes Crossing.

Victims live an average of seven years after entering the lifestyle. They die

from suicide, overdose, or disease, Kramer said.

"If you start at 12, you're not even 21 and you're dead," he said. "You haven't even lived before you died."

He urged the boys to look out for themselves and their girl classmates, and look for warning signs. He said not to use the app Kick, a free text messaging application, because they were more likely to be stalked, abused or turned into a victim on Kick than any other web application.

"Be the protectors," he said, adding that they can't forget that human trafficking happens to boys, too.

**“Don't think it doesn't happen to you. As soon as that's what you start to believe, you make yourself open up to become a victim.”**

**Steven Kramer**  
Michigan State Police trooper



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## our town

# Meet PRESTON ENGLISH

- Fenton High School senior
- Local history buff
- Antique typewriter collector/repairman

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-629-6823

*Preston D.T. English grew up in the township of Redford for about 14 years until moving to Fenton in 2013. He's*



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELLO

Preston English is not only a local history buff, but a collector of vintage typewriters that are on display at the A.J. Phillips Museum in downtown Fenton.

currently 17, and a senior at Fenton High School.

**Tell us about your family.**

My parents are Mark and Alana English. I have one dog named Morgan.

**Are you involved with any community or civic groups?**

I work closely with the Fenton Historical Society to organize exhibits and progress forward our general endeavors.

**Why are you so passionate about Fenton history?**

I've been passionate about saving what is left of the past in general. We have so little left today because of situations like Urban Renewal, so it is in our best interest to save what we have. That's why I didn't take kindly to the (Fenton) Downtown Development Authority's plan to demolish 106 W. Shiawassee, and likewise started a movement with other supporters trying to save the house.

**Is it just Fenton history, or all history?**

All history in general, but certainly I have a passion for ours the most.

**We understand that you are an expert with typewriters. Tell us about your collection, how old, where you acquire them.**

I currently have six machines myself. My oldest is from 1901 and my newest is from 1977. I've gotten the majority of them from antique stores in the area, but was given the 1977 by my grandparents and the 1901 by Mrs. Wheeler at the Historical Society. I found my 1948 Royal KMM at the flea market on Silver Lake Road in August of 2014.

**How do you get parts to repair older models?**

Interestingly, I really haven't had any major issues yet. This is, perhaps, because I only purchase working or semi-working models. The only parts I've had to replace are, so far, drawbands which I make out of string.

**Do you do this as a hobby, or do people pay you to repair their old ones?**

I do this as a hobby. I wish I could get paid to do this, but that's why I fix Apple devices on the side.

**What else do you like to do in your spare time?**

Writing, photography — the real photography with film — and, of course, listening to records.

**Where in the world would you like to travel that you haven't been to?**

Atlanta (Georgia) and England. I always wanted to go to the Coca-Cola Museum in Atlanta, and love the atmosphere of the U.K. Otherwise, I'd want to attend an WWDC (Worldwide Developers Conference) at the Apple Campus in California.

**Why is history important?**

Not only do we learn from history but it provides insight to our posterity, the future inhabitants of the world.

## Correction:

In the article "Walking the dogs," published on Sunday, Dec. 11, English Setter Millie's accomplishments were incorrectly stated. It should have said that in 2014, Millie and her owner, Lynda Chase, were the #1 English Setter & Sporting Dog Owner/Handler/Breeder in the American Kennel Club. The same year, Chase received an Award of Merit at Westminster Kennel Club.

**H**

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# Former Fenton Township attorney dies peacefully

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

Richard "Dick" Cooley of Grand Blanc died peacefully, with his family by his side on Dec. 14 at Genesys Regional Medical Center in Grand Blanc. He was 81 years old.

Cooley, best known locally as Fenton Township's attorney for 45 years before retiring earlier this year, was a graduate of Fenton High School, Albion College and Duke University School of Law.

He practiced law for 56 years in Flint, serving as president of the Genesee County Bar Association, president of the Flint Estate Planning Council, Flint president of Child and Family Services of Michigan, and Fenton Township attorney.

At his final Fenton Township Board of Trustees meeting in February of this year, Cooley said,

"As you know, I have very much enjoyed doing the township's legal work and thank you and the board for the privilege of serving the township for these many years.

"Fenton Township has quality resi-

dents. As a result, the quality of the board members is very high, really top quality people," he said. "I enjoy very much my interactions with those folks. I was never treated as an outsider. I was always treated as one of the team."

Cooley said he would miss practicing law and it has never felt like work to him.

"I've enjoyed it so much," he said.



Dick Cooley

In his free time, Cooley enjoyed sailing and skiing. He cruised extensively in the Great Lakes and raced in the Saginaw Bay Yacht Racing Association. He was a member of the 70-plus Ski Club Midwest Division, and most recently, at age 80, skied down his favorite run, Outback Jack, at Nub's Nob in Harbor Springs with his grandsons.

Cooley is survived by his wife, Wanda, of 51 years, a son and daughter, and two grandsons.

Memorial visitation 9:30 a.m. and Memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Monday, Dec. 19, at First Presbyterian Church, 746 S. Saginaw St. in Flint.

Interment will take place at Oakwood Cemetery in Fenton, Michigan, on Monday afternoon.

## HOT LINE CONTINUED

**THE CHRISTMAS TREE** on Silver Lake Road and Silver Parkway is the most beautiful piece of art in Fenton. Wish it could stay there all year.

**I'VE LIVED IN** three of the largest cities in this country with unbelievably bad traffic but I've never experienced the rudeness of drivers that I've seen in the small town of Fenton. And there's a lady driving a newer model red pick-up truck that really needs to lose her license.

**LOVE THESE NEW** trashcans that don't empty everything. Mine is still half-full. Way to go city council.

**LAKE VALLEY DRIVE** residents had to buy their new street. Now it looks like they want us to pay for our plowing too. Must not be paying enough property taxes.

**TO THE PERSON** explaining that too large a roll of toilet paper won't work — compare this to a government getting too big.

**TO THE PERSON** supporting 'scumbag lawyers,' saying that they're doing some good. Are you suggesting that large

money awards will bring someone back from the dead or did you mean that while lawyers collect the large contingency fees, the fact that everyone else insurance rates going up is beneficial?

**TO THE IDIOT** who thinks Trump and Castro think the same. First, Castro thinks all government control whereas Trump thinks minimal federal government control. Also, your great hero, Michael Moore is in love with Castro but hates Trump.

**A BOY AT** Linden schools got in trouble for wearing a confederate battle flag coat to school. But its OK to wear Black Lives Matters shirts and rainbow flag shirts? If you want to cry about a confederate flag coat, OK. But, be fair across the board, don't pick and choose.

**TRUMP SAID THE** election was rigged. Now, the U.S. intelligence community is saying Russia interfered with the U.S. election. Guess Trump was right.

**PRESIDENT OBAMA WAS** accused of eight years of antagonistic, divisive, and anti-American rhetoric. What really occurred was eight years of the conservatives being antagonistic, divisive, and anti-American in an attempt to win at any cost.

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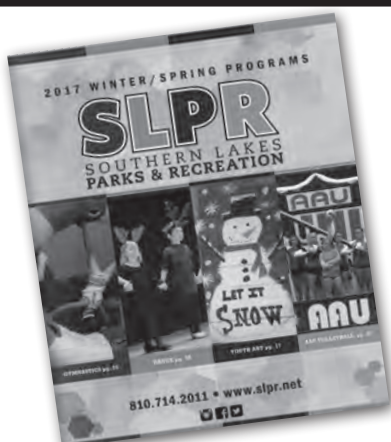
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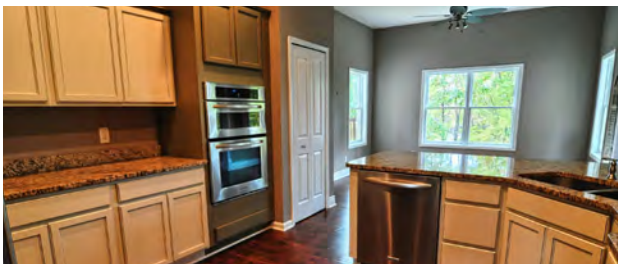
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900 PLUM TREE LANE, FENTON

**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.

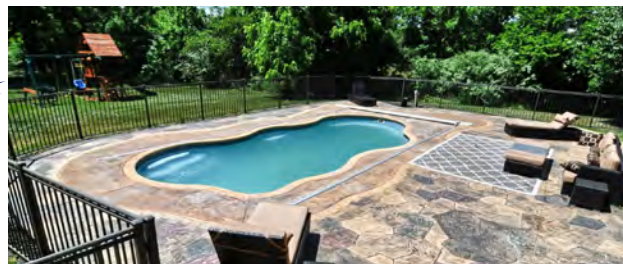
15229 MARL DR, LINDEN

**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.

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.

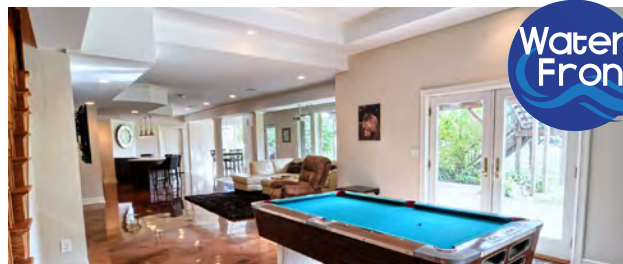
6208 CANTER CREEK TRL, GRAND BLANC

**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.

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!

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**  
Beautiful home in Goodrich Schools. 2577 SF, 4 BDR, 2.5 BA and all on 10 acres. Open floor plan, nice kitchen w/ tile floors, dining and living room w/ hardwood floors, and great storage and mud area. Beautiful patio, in ground pool, plus large pole barn.

3496 PONEMAH DR, FENTON

**LAKE PONEMAH \$100,000**  
Beautiful buildable lot in Cottage Cove development. Deeded dock on All Sports Lake Ponemah. Great fishing, boating and ice skating in the winter. Close to shopping and expressways. Land contract available-buy now, enjoy the lake, build later!

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.

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.

6263 CANTER CREEK, GRAND BLANC

**PINE HOLLOW ESTATES \$1,750,000**  
Over 10,000 SF of Luxury Living! 5 BDR, 8 BA, nestled on 2.25 acres w/large pond and beautiful water views. 2 gourmet kitchens, 3 spiral staircases, theater room, wine cellar, 2 laundry rooms, 2 master suites, dog bath, heated floors, heated drive way.

80 CHATEAUX DU LAC, FENTON

**SILVER LAKE \$225,000**  
370' frontage w/ private peninsula & sandbar on this exclusive Silver Lake waterfront lot. Chateaux Du Lac is a prestigious gated community where you can enjoy the private clubhouse, in ground pool and tennis courts. All that's left to do is start building!

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!

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.

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!

MARL DR, LINDEN

**SILVER LAKE \$250,000**  
Beautiful lot on All Sports Silver Lake! Wooded, peaceful and last lot on Marl Dr. Great Opportunity to Build Your Dream Home.

2060 GRANGE HALL RD, FENTON

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

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.The  
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3295 W Silver Lake Rd. Fenton



## TIPS FROM THE MICHIGAN STATE POLICE ON STAYING FOCUSED WHILE DRIVING

- **Be familiar** with vehicle features and equipment before pulling out into traffic.
- **Preset radio** stations, MP3 devices, and climate control.
- **Secure items** that may move around when the car is in motion. Do not reach down or behind the seat to pick up items.
- **Do not text**, access the Internet, watch videos, play video games, search MP3 devices, or use any other distracting technology while driving.
- **Avoid smoking**, eating, drinking, and reading while driving.
- **Pull safely** off the road and out of traffic to deal with children.
- **Do personal** grooming at home, not in the vehicle.
- **Review maps** and driving directions before hitting the road.
- **Monitor traffic** conditions before engaging in activities that could divert attention.
- **Ask a passenger** to help with activities that may be distracting.
- **Schedule regular** stops if driving long distances, every 100 miles or two hours.
- **Travel at times** when you are normally awake and stay overnight rather than driving straight through.
- **Avoid alcohol** and medications that may make you drowsy.

## DISTRACTED

Continued from Front Page

other studies show that men and women are both distracted at about the same rate. It's a toss up, depending on which study you read.

According to Fenton Police Chief Rick Aro, there are three main types of distraction: visual, like taking your eyes off the road; manual, taking your hands off the wheel; and cognitive, which is when a driver isn't paying attention to what they're doing.

Distracted driving includes using a cell phone, eating or drinking, talking to passengers, grooming, reading, which includes maps, using any devices or navigation system, watching a video, or changing the radio station, CD or MP3 player.

A 2015 Erie Insurance report on distracted driving found that drivers will do many dangerous things while driving, like change clothes or brush their teeth.

Because texting involves all three types of distraction, it's considered the most alarming distraction, according to distraction.gov, the official U.S. government website for distracted driving.

Linden Police Chief Scott Sutter said the first offense for distracted driving is a civil fine of \$100 and the second and

subsequent fine is \$200.

Being distracted while driving causes thousands of deaths yearly.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Association (NHTSA) found that

3,179 people were killed and 421,000 were injured in traffic crashes in 2014 involving distracted drivers. Shaw said in Michigan in 2014, 14 people died and 2,429 were injured in more than 5,000 crashes involving a distracted driver or a driver using a cell phone.

The percentage of drivers text-messaging or visibly manipulating handheld devices increased from 1.7 percent in

2013 to 2.2 percent in 2014, according to the NHTSA.

It's been proven that young drivers (age 16-24) are more likely to use electronic devices than older drivers, but who's more distracted—men or women?

According to hallenlawfirm.com, a study conducted in Pennsylvania found that men are more likely to disregard or downplay the risks associated with texting and driving than women.

The Pew Research Center found that male drivers are more likely to report reading or sending texts while at the wheel, and they're also more likely to talk on the phone.

**Distracted driving includes using a cell phone, eating or drinking, talking to passengers, grooming, reading, which includes maps, using any devices or navigation system, watching a video, or changing the radio station, CD, or MP3 player.**

## News briefs

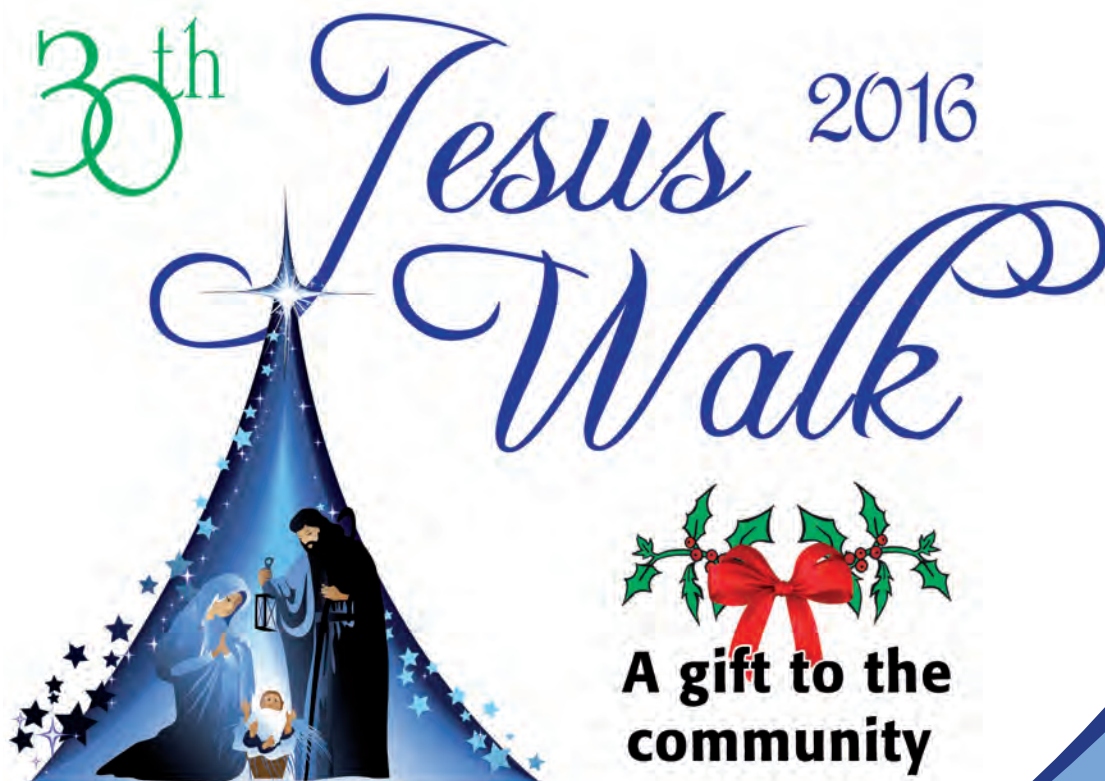
### SANTA SLAM DODGEBALL AND HOLIDAY RAFFLE IS A SUCCESS

Lake Fenton High School Student Council announced that it raised \$676, and 400 toys during its annual Santa Slam Dodgeball and Holiday Raffle, which it hosted on Dec. 13. Approximately 400 guests attended the fun, family event at Lake Fenton High School. According to Darren Dildin of the Student Council, the toys and donations will benefit Toys for Tots.

However, in a 2011 survey by the General Motors Acceptance Corporation (GMAC) Insurance National Drivers Test, it was found that 52 percent of women drivers said they eat while driving, as opposed to 44 percent of male drivers. The survey found that 83 percent of female drivers admit to texting while stopped at a red light, as opposed to 71 percent of male drivers.

In the study, male drivers admitted to engaging in more distracted driving behaviors more than women.

Another survey done by Saga Car Insurance in Britain, found that in a pool of 11,211 drivers aged 50 and older, one fourth (25 percent) of the drivers who admitted engaging in distracted behaviors were distracted by attractive women.



**A gift to the community**

**A 20-minute walk through the events that foretold and preceded Christ's birth.**

**Saturday • December 17th**  
**Sunday • December 18th**  
**5:00 - 8:00 PM**

*Warm up with music and refreshments inside after your walk!*

**Tyrone Covenant Presbyterian Church**  
**10235 White Lake Road • Fenton • 810.629.1261 • www.tyronepca.org**

*Exit 77 off U.S. 23, just south of Fenton • 1/4 mile west on the right • Look for Jesus Walk sign & parking attendants*





TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELLO

Lizz's Books has approximately 40,000 used paperback and hard cover books.

## BOOKSTORES

Continued from Page 3A

She said many books go out of print, and secondhand bookstores help people find these books.

"Throwing a book in the trash, it just seems like sacrilegious. It allows people to recycle. If you like the book, you're passing it on to somebody else," she said.

Henderson said she's making an effort to post more about the store on Facebook because people are always on their phones.

"If you want to communicate with people you sort of have to," Henderson said, adding that she'll promote certain books online, like a pile of Civil War books that would make good presents for fathers and

grandfathers who are history buffs.

Karen Piacentini, owner of Fenton's Open Book, said competing with Amazon and big booksellers like Barnes & Noble can be tough, but people come into her store for the experience and feel of a small-town bookstore.

She also said that because they're an independent store, they aren't bound by corporation rules to not carry certain titles or certain authors. "We can do whatever we want—we're independent," she said.

People also shop at local bookstores because they're more personal and customers receive better help.

"You get in-store help. We give out recommendations," she said. "It's fun to talk about books with the people."

**“They want a real book to hold onto, not just another tablet that you have to plug in and charge all the time. A book’s a book.”**

**Lizz Henderson**  
Lizz's Books owner

## “Why all the household dust?”

For years, Power Vac, Inc. has been improving the community's health one household at a time. "Did you know that half of all illnesses come directly from dirty indoor air? In fact, our indoor air is up to 90 times more polluted than the air outdoors," explained Keith Meadows, Power Vac Owner and Operator. "More than 90% of the phone calls I receive are from distraught people complaining about dust in their homes. They tell me they will dust the house Friday, but by Sunday it needs to be done again, and they're not sure where these dust piles are coming from. Let me tell you, you're not a bad housekeeper. All you need to do is have your ducts cleaned. This simple step will drastically reduce the dust in your household. The reason for the dust is your cold air returns. You see, cold air returns suck in dirty air. Over time it builds up in your ducts until the debris resembles what you would find in your vacuum bag."

**See for yourself! For an actual photo of the debris that is pulled from a typical home's ducts, visit our website [www.callpowervac.com](http://www.callpowervac.com).**

"Cold air returns are also the reason new homeowners experience excessive dust. While work was being done in the home, your cold air returns sucked all the dust through the system. It settled on the bottom of the duct lines and little by little, that debris is being blown back into your home," Keith continued.

"Here's a test. Take a walk down into your basement, and look up at the ceiling for thin sheets of tin nailed between your floor joists. These are your cold air return lines. Give them a good pounding. Do you see puffs of dust seeping out of the edges? That, my friends, is the reason you have uncontrollable dust problems, and this debris cannot be removed without the help of a professional.

"This brings me to my next point: choosing an air duct cleaning company. Most companies use portable units, which are essentially like a Shop-Vac that you would vacuum your car with. Then there are companies who claim they have a truck-mounted

system. In reality, they have a low powered portable system attached inside a van. We have the equipment powerful enough to get the job done right, and that equipment is a Power Vac truck."

Want to see the difference between our equipment and portable or truck-mounted equipment? Visit our website at [www.callpowervac.com](http://www.callpowervac.com)

"The Power Vac truck is the most powerful equipment in the industry," Keith explained. "Simply put, the entire truck is the vacuum, and the truck motor powers the equipment. You'll know it's a Power Vac truck because it's the size of an ambulance and when engaged, 12 large air bags come out of the roof."

"What makes the difference in equipment? Power! To put things into perspective, your furnace moves 2,000 cubic feet of air per minute, which is what you feel coming out of your register. Truck-mounted equipment moves 4,000 CFMs. Well, Power Vac moves over 16,000 cubic feet of air per minute, which is four times the power of most competitors."

"You need to beware of companies using cheap equipment and advertising cheap prices. Most of these companies are unlicensed, or they may advertise that they are licensed, but are not. Avoid scams by not falling for cheap, get-you-in-the-door prices. What sets us apart from our competitors is our honest service, and, of course, our equipment. I know the importance of being on time, working with a smile and respecting people's homes and their belongings. There are a lot of duct cleaners around, but rest assured you'll receive the same quality of service I expect in my home."

**Power Vac is family owned and operated and we are here to help you by offering a 1/2 Off special with dryer vent. This week only! Restrictions may apply.**

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## News briefs

### SOS announces holiday hours

Secretary of State Ruth Johnson reminds residents that all branch offices and the Office of the Great Seal will be closed in observance of the Christmas and New Year's holidays. The closures are: Friday, Dec. 23, and SUPER!Centers will be closed on Saturday, Dec. 24 and Monday, Dec. 26 for Christmas. Friday, Dec. 30, and SUPER!Centers will be closed on Saturday, Dec. 31 and Monday, Jan. 2 for New Year's. The Secretary of State's Office mails notices to motorists 45 days before their driver's license or license plates expire to give them ample time to renew. Licenses and plates that expire on a day when state offices are closed, such as a holiday or weekend, can be renewed the following day without penalty. Most people renewing license plates, driver's licenses and ID cards can do business online at [www.ExpressSOS.com](http://www.ExpressSOS.com) or by mail. Online users renewing their tabs, driver's license or ID card will find the system's "Print 'N Go feature" beneficial. It allows them to complete their transaction, print off a receipt and carry the receipt until their tabs, license or ID card arrive in the mail. Easy to follow instructions can be found with the renewal notice.



## ASK THE MECHANIC

Chris Wilkinson,  
Certified Mechanic

**Q:** I have a 1996 Chevrolet Impala SS. My problem is it won't allow me to put gas into it. Every time that I try, it spits the gasoline back out. - Yung

**A:** Yung, There are a few possibilities on this car that can cause this. Most likely it is a bad evaporative vent valve, but could also be a clogged or collapsed line to the charcoal canister or a plugged canister. One last possible cause is a check valve in the fuel tank where you fill it at. That prevents fuel from poring out in the case of a roll over, but this is the least most likely cause. You may want to let a repair shop handle this one for you. It takes some specialty equipment and knowledge of how this system functions to diagnose and repair it properly without replacing parts that may be working properly.

Do you have a question that you would like to have answered?  
E-mail it to me at:  
[askthemicanic@wilkinsonautorepair.com](mailto:askthemicanic@wilkinsonautorepair.com)

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OLD LOCATION)

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THAN ANY COMPETITOR**



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News **briefs**

**ST. RITA HOSTS CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

The St. Rita Choir invites the public for a peaceful hour of uplifting, inspirational Christmas music at **4 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 18.** St. Rita's is at 309 E. Maple St. in Holly. Any donation will be appreciated.

**HOT LINE** CONTINUED

**DONALD TRUMP IS** not draining the swamp, he's filling it with alligators and piranhas.

**FOR ALL YOU** right-wing buzzards who were mad when you didn't get a cost of living increase in your Social Security under Obama. Wait until you see what Donald Trump's going to do. You're going to be lucky if you have any benefits left at all.

**LIBERAL LOGIC,** you can't cut down trees because a rare yellow bellied sapsucker bird might live in them, but you can kill near-term babies because it is inconvenient to the mother.

**THE KING CONFUSES** me. All his past columns are about how greedy poor people are, and how they're poor because of their own decisions and they don't deserve any help, but then he writes about being charitable? Sounds like he cares about how good that makes him

look and not the actual people.

**DOES ANYBODY ELSE** wonder how many Hot lines calls the Times receives every week, and is one time of year busier than any other?

**WE HEAR BETSY** DeVos, now that she's going to be education secretary, is going to require all high school students to take Russian with our new Secretary of State who seems to be buddy-buddy with Mr. Putin.



**NOW ACCEPTING  
HOLIDAY RESERVATIONS**

**Christmas Eve • 4 to 7pm  
New Years Eve • 4 to 10pm**

Call for Reservations 810-750-9463

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**Times**

**Dining  
GUIDE**

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THURSDAY 5:30PM-8PM  
FREE BALLOON ANIMALS  
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with "Silly Me" the clown

**TCT COUPON EXPIRES 12/31/16**

**SENIOR BREAKFAST**  
**\$2.99**  
Monday-Friday until 11am  
Saturday & Sunday until 9am  
1 EGG ANY STYLE,  
1 PIECE TOAST,  
2 PIECES OF MEAT &  
SIDE OF HASH BROWN  
Must have coupon.  
Fenton location only.  
Not valid any other offer.  
Limit 1 per table.

**TCT COUPON EXPIRES 12/31/16**

**LUNCH SPECIAL**  
**\$6.99**  
HAMBURGER,  
FRIES & POP  
-OR-  
CHICKEN GYRO,  
FRIES & POP  
Must have coupon.  
Fenton location only.  
Not valid on breakfast  
or with any other offer.  
Limit 1 per table.

**TCT COUPON EXPIRES 12/31/16**

**EARLY BIRD SPECIAL**  
MON - FRI 3 TO 5 ONLY  
**BUY  
ONE MEAL  
GET ONE  
HALF OFF**  
W/PURCHASE OF DRINK  
Must have coupon.  
Fenton location only.  
Not valid on breakfast  
or with any other offer.  
Limit 1 per table.

**15010 Silver Parkway Fenton • 810-620-8400**



**HOT LINE** CONTINUED

**I'D JUST LIKE** to say God bless you neighbor for doing my driveway after this storm. Thank you so much.

**THANK YOU TO** the house on Lobdell Road, right after Hilltop, with the beautiful Christmas tree on their lawn. It always puts me into the Christmas spirit when I drive by. Thank you.

**CHARTER'S ONLINE TV** guide is

ridiculous. Everything I tried to watch this weekend was not on the channel listed in the guide. Totally unreliable.

**THANKS FENTON DPW** for once again having our streets cleared during and after the Sunday/Monday snowstorm that dumped several inches on us. Great job. It's nice to know we can always count on you.

**IF EVER** I feel the need for grandchildren, a quick trip to one of the big stores in

Fenton is the cure for that. Why do people bring all of their crying, screaming kids to the store? And then ignore them when they're acting up.

**I JUST WANT** to thank the wonderful person who cleared the sidewalk on Forest Drive Monday. So thank you very much and I hope you have a very blessed holiday season.

**THE KING NOW** gets offended at 'Happy Holidays?' You must be fun at parties. Also,

I thought it was the liberals who got offended at everything, not the right, but the King surprises us all.

**WITH ALL THESE** black squirrels around here, the next thing you know the right-tighties are going to want to build a wall around them or have them exported out of the country.

**HOORAY FOR THE King.** Tell it like it is about the liberal left. I wish all a very Merry Christmas and God bless us all.

# Times Dining GUIDE

**Happy Holidays!**  
**Holiday Hours**

Christmas Eve • 7am-1pm  
Christmas Day • Closed  
Monday December 26 • Closed  
New Year's Eve • 7am - 2pm  
New Year's Day • Closed

**Shirley's Cafe & Grill**

522 W. Broad St. • Linden • 810-735-6861  
Sun. 8am-2pm • M-F 7am-3pm • Sat 7am-2pm

**Beer** TUESDAY  
BOTTLES 1/2 OFF & DRAFT \$2.00 OFF WITH DINNER

**Wine** WEDNESDAY  
1/2 OFF BOTTLES OF WINE WITH DINNER

**Live Music** THURSDAY  
VARIETY OF MUSICAL ARTISTS ON THURSDAY EVENINGS. 7-10PM

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LUNCH HOURS Mon-Sat 11am-4pm  
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Now Offering a **DINNER BUFFET**  
Last Tuesday of the Month  
Tuesday, Dec. 27 • 5-8PM  
14 Items; 4 Soups; Plus Dessert with Hot Pita & Garlic – Of Course!

**Adults: \$13<sup>99</sup>**  
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# SUFFERING?

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Bloating?

Constipation?

IBS?

Headaches?

Congestion?

Anxiety?

Sleeplessness?

Nausea?

Overweight?

Chronic pain?

## HEMOCODE SYSTEM may be the answer!

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INTOLERANCE  
SYSTEM

**HEMOCODE is a blood test** for 250 common foods and additives that indicate food intolerances/sensitivities which may potentially inhibit personal wellness. So, if you think you're eating healthy, you probably aren't. Find out for certain!

### CONDITIONS ASSOCIATED WITH FOOD INTOLERANCE:

- HEADACHES
- FIBROMYALGIA
- CONSTIPATION
- INSOMNIA
- GAS/BLOATING
- CHRONIC DIARRHEA
- MANY CHRONIC CONDITIONS

HEMOCODE is part of nutrition therapy at:

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*"Identify specific foods that make you feel bad...and enjoy the foods that help make you well"*

*-Dr. James Callard, D.C.*

# 'Ohhhh fuuudge!'

## ■ Famous, humorous quotes from classic Christmas movies

Compiled By Vera Hogan

The following are some of the most famous and funniest lines in popular Christmas movies. Can you guess the name of the movie and who said it? (See Page 5B for answers.)



**1** — "I want you to get married. I want you to have nine children. And if you only spend five minutes a day with each kid, that's 45 minutes, and I'd at least have time to go out and get a massage or something."

**2** — "You guys are nothing but a bunch of sleazy commies in red suits."

**3** — "Well, isn't that a pretty picture, Santa rolling down the block in a PANZER! Well kids, I... I certainly hope you have been good this year, cause it looks like Santa just took out the Pearson home. Incoming!"

**4** — "Nothing would thrill me more greatly than to shoot you. Knocking off a youngster ain't gonna mean all that much to me. But since we're in a hurry ..."

**5** — "Ohhhh fuuudge!"

"Only I didn't say 'Fudge.' I said THE word, the big one, the queen mother of dirty words, the 'F-dash-dash-dash' word!"

**6** — "Can I refill your eggnog for you? Get you something to eat? Drive you out to the middle of nowhere and leave you for dead?"

**7** — "A lovely cheese pizza, just for me."

**8** — "Damn. How can you give Kris Kringle a parking ticket on Christmas Eve? What's next, rabies shots for the Easter Bunny?"

**9** — "What kind of idiots do you have working here?"

"The finest in New York."

**10** — "If I woke up tomorrow

"Only I didn't say fudge. I said the word! The big one! The Queen Mother of all dirty words! The F-dash-dash-dash word!" said young Ralphie's older self in his reflective, adulthood narrative of the flat-tire changing scene from the movie A Christmas Story.

with my head sewn to the carpet, I wouldn't be more surprised than I am now."

**11** — "I believe... I believe... It's silly, but I believe."

**12** — "You can mess with a lot of things, but you can't mess with kids on Christmas."

**13** — "You call this a happy family? Why do we have to have all these kids?"

**14** — "The Jews taught me this great word: Schmuck. I was a schmuck, and now I'm not a schmuck!"

**15** — "Get outta here, you nosy little pervert, or I'm gonna slap you silly!"

**16** — "I want an official Red Ryder, carbine action, 200-shot range model air rifle!"

"No, you'll shoot your eye out!"

**17** — "Look, Daddy. Teacher says, every time a bell rings an angel gets his wings."

**18** — "It's just nice to meet another human that shares my affinity for elf culture."

## HOT LINE CONTINUED

**I LOVED VERA** Hogan's thoughtful article on spousal abuse. I worked for years at the Safe House Shelter for Women and Children at the YWCA in Flint. If you need a safe place to stay, call (810) 238-7621. They will do all they can to help you stay safe and help you get on your feet again.

**I LOVE HOW** the Republicans in this town make up their false facts and false news and they swallow it.

**WHEN YOU GET** all done taking out the people who weren't going to be going down to Mexico with Carrier, Donald Trump only saved about 300 jobs. More lies from the right wing.

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## FRIDGE

Continued from Page 3A

### What size space do we have?

Once you've decided to buy a new refrigerator, you need to know the space you have available in your kitchen.

"Most people come in without having an idea how much actual space they have for a new refrigerator," said Jessica Hebda, sales associate at Sears Hometown Store.

Because some people have custom-built kitchens from 20 years ago, they are limited on space and choices. "Refrigerators no longer come in standard sizes," she added.

Stone suggests you measure the opening accurately from the floor up to the cupboard. "They can go in snug," he said.

Consumer Reports also advises consumers to check that a refrigerator can fit through doorways. Allow room for the refrigerator's doors to swing open, and for enough clearance around the sides and back for adequate airflow.

For capacity, if you have a family, you may want a 25-cubic-foot refrigerator or larger, depending on whether you also have a separate freezer or an extra refrigerator in your basement or garage. If you buy many of your groceries in bulk, you may want to go larger.

### What style will fit our kitchen and our lifestyle?

There's a configuration to suit every household — from the very popular French door style to top freezer, bottom freezer, side-by-side and built-ins. Many consumers like the convenience of bottom freezers, but top freezers and side-by-sides can be more efficient in a smaller kitchen, according to Consumer Reports.

For a custom look, consider a counter-depth refrigerator, which will be flush to your cabinets. "You lose a little space, but it's a nice clean look," said Stone. "It also gives you more room to navigate around an island."

You can buy custom panels that will match your refrigerator to your cabinetry for the ultimate custom look.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Sears of Fenton Sales Associate Jessica Hebda said that black stainless steel is the latest hot color in refrigerators.

### What features are we looking for?

Today's refrigerator options go way beyond a water and ice dispenser on the front door, although that is the most requested feature, according to Stone.

New models may include door-in-door storage access, for grabbing snacks and beverages without opening the entire refrigerator.

Other features include freshness technology to keep foods fresh longer, temperature controls and better shelves and drawers to re-configure the interior.

For high-end luxury, you can also buy a "smart" refrigerator with a built-in wi-fi-enabled touchscreen as its focal point, allowing you to leave messages for family, coordinate schedules, look up recipes, watch

TV, even order groceries. Built-in cameras take photos of the refrigerator's interior every time the door closes so you can monitor what you need and access these photos from your smartphone when you're grocery shopping. The refrigerator can also notify you when food is about to expire.

### How much can we afford to spend?

Generally, top freezers are the most af-

fordable, priced between \$450 and \$1,100, according to Stone. Bottom freezers are priced between \$750 and \$1,700. Expect to pay \$800 to \$2,300 for side-by-sides and \$1,100 to \$3,400 for French-style doors.

### How energy-efficient is it?

Start with the EPA Energy Star rating on the label; it means that a product is in the top 25 percent in the market. Efficiency does vary by model, i.e., an unlabeled top freezer might be more efficient than an Energy Star-approved French door model.

For an apples-to-apples comparison of efficiency, check out the EnergyGuide labels of your favorite refrigerators, and compare the annual operating costs and kilowatt-hours used per year.

*Editor's note:* this is the beginning of a series by Features Writer Sally Rummel on what consumers need to know and ask to buy the best appliance for their needs.

**“Today's models are so much more energy efficient, you might want to consider buying a new one if yours is 10 years old or more.”**

**Jeff Stone**  
Co-owner of Sears  
Hometown Store in Fenton

## WHAT YOU MISSED in the MIDWEEK TIMES

Compiled by Vera Hogan

The following is what you missed in the **Wednesday, Dec. 14, Midweek Edition** of the Tri-County Times. To subscribe and receive both the Sunday Weekend and Wednesday Midweek editions, please call (810) 629-8282

### Linden to save \$20,000 on health care

City of Linden opts out of 80/20 health care option for employees.

### Fenton eye doctor dies suddenly

Doran Kasper was DDA member and former Fenton City councilman.



### Fatal accident on Torrey road claims life of Flint woman

A 34-year-old Flint woman was killed in a crash on Torrey Road in Mundy Township at about 11 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 10.

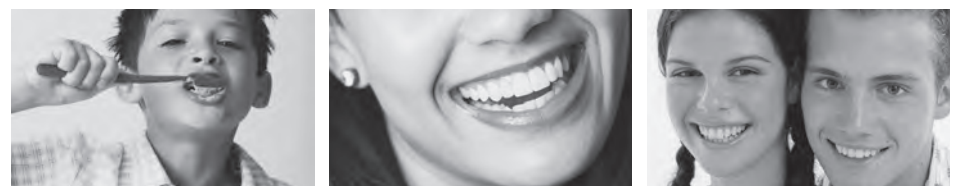
### Linden Follies raises more than \$7,200

Teachers and staff perform silly skits to raise money for local charity.

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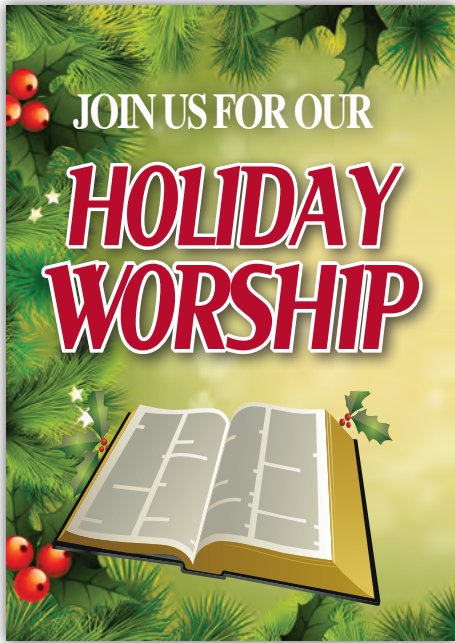
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**CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE**  
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Service of Lessons and Carols .....11:00 p.m.

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

April Bailey (left) of Flint, who has been out of work, was brought to tears to be able to provide Christmas gifts for her 10-year-old daughter. Salvation Army worker Bethany Augestine (right) stocks and sorts donated toys.

## HELP!

Continued from Front Page

The traditional red kettles are the most visual work of The Salvation Army Christmas season, which began Nov. 9 and continues through Dec. 24. Volunteer ringers are still being sought for some locations, according to Martinbianco.

Red kettles are at both VG's Grocery locations on North LeRoy Street and Silver Parkway and Walmart on Owen Road. "The recent closing of Kmart has impacted this community's donations," she added. "People who shopped there were very generous."

Even though donations are behind last year's numbers, Martinbianco is confident that donations will increase as it gets closer to Christmas.

"Super Saturday" on Dec. 17 will provide matching opportunities for donations given that day at Walmart and Kroger stores, according to Martinbianco.

Thanks to The Jennings Memorial Foundation, all donations at Walmart and Sam's Club locations will be matched up to \$10,000 on Saturday only. The Flint Independent Automobile Dealers Association will match donations up to \$10,000 at area Kroger stores, also on Saturday.

For donors who can't be at one of those red kettle locations on Saturday, they can use their mobile device and text SEASON to 91999. "This is our second year to offer giving through our Mobile phone application," said Martinbianco. "Many people don't carry cash anymore."

Donors can also drop cash or checks into red kettles or can donate online to [www.salarmygenesees.org](http://www.salarmygenesees.org).

The Salvation Army continues to be one of the most trusted human service organizations, with 87

cents of every dollar going directly to programming and services. The Salvation Army feeds, shelters, clothes and rehabilitates people in need all year long.

Last year, the Salvation Army provided basic needs and emergency financial assistance for more than 4,247 residents. Funds

helped families keep utilities on, and provided financial support to avoid homelessness by helping them remain in their homes without the worry of eviction or foreclosure.

Their food distribution program provided 10,300 food orders and 2,400 meals to children through their Kids' Café and Picnics in The Park.

For more information about donations or to volunteer, call Martinbianco at (810) 231-1684.

## SUMMARY

■ The bright red kettles of the Salvation Army need your help more than ever this year, to meet Genesee County's goal of raising \$800,000. Their campaign runs through Christmas Eve, Dec. 24.

## RETAILERS

Continued from Front Page

Christmas are the busiest for jewelers, because shoppers know they can come in and find what they're looking for.

"This year, we have really focused on carrying one-of-a-kind pieces that you won't find at any other store," said Beltinck. "We have the best selection of jewelry in the history of Sawyer Jewelers."

Beltinck is grateful for every last one of those Christmas Eve customers and all who have shopped loyally in their store this holiday.

Last minute shoppers are the "icing on the cake" for local retailers, who depend on their hometown residents for a successful holiday season.

"We've already sold a lot of women's apparel, home décor, gifts and floral, and have had a great year for home entertaining and corporate events," said Jon Gerych of Gerych Flowers & Distinctive Gifts in Fenton.

Gerych is wrapping up the best year his store has had in 10 years, attributing much of this year's success to more confident consumers. "Everyone's upbeat," he said.

This coming week, he's expecting to be busy with last minute shoppers. "If you order a holiday basket or gourmet basket, we'll get it there the same day or the next day," said Gerych.

"So far, so good," is how Kevin Begola of Bridge Street Exchange in Linden characterizes the 2016 holiday shopping season.

"We've been really busy, especially last Saturday during our special Stormy Kromer event," said Begola.

He expects this last week before Christmas

to be busy because shoppers still have a few things to get. "I think this weekend will be crazy," he said. "A lot of people tell me they don't want to go to malls; they want to shop local if they can."

At The Iron Grate in downtown Fenton, co-owner Tara Wakeham was so busy on Thursday afternoon that she hardly had a moment between customers. Local shoppers are coming in for gift items for others (and often a little something for themselves), and their homes, with accessories and décor, clothing, bedding and linens, jewelry and more.

While many shoppers did shop online this year, traditional stores have continued to be in their shopping mix. Many people in the tri-county area enjoy shopping in their hometowns for the convenience and loyalty to their communities.

They know there are many benefits to keeping their dollars at home, where they benefit their local economy. Hometown retailers recirculate 51.1 percent of revenue back into their communities, while national chains recirculate less than 14 percent.

Shopping in local stores also creates jobs in your community. Local businesses employ residents who live in your same hometown.

You'll also find a more unique selection of gifts at local stores than you will on the shelves of national retailers. Business owners hand-select their own items to sell and they are often one-of-a-kind.

Shoppers will find a local shopping experience to be far more enjoyable — connecting with business owners whom you know and getting unparalleled customer service, from wish lists, to gift wrapping and returns.

“Saturday  
(Christmas  
Eve) is always a  
shopping day, so  
we expect to be  
busy.”

Chip Beltinck  
Sawyer Jewelers owners

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Anna Diehl (right) of Davison, is shopping for her granddaughters, assisted by Myrna Rasmussen of Grand Blanc. "It's a wonderful thing," she said of the Toy Shop program.



# LFLF gymnastics team continues its winning ways

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

The Linden, Fenton and Lake Fenton co-op gymnastics team (LFLF) is off to an outstanding start.

The team won its first invitational and quad meet earlier this season.

On Tuesday, the squad won its first dual meet of the year, defeating Saline 139.65-132.275 at Wyatt Elementary

School.

"So far we have had three meets and we are 3-0," LFLF gymnastics coach Nancy Holden said. "Our scores are coming in quite high for this early in the season, and I am pleased with the solid performances we have had. Right now my goal is to get consistency with the skills we are performing so we can be flawless going into regional competition."

The squad has plenty of time to perfect their performances considering regionals aren't until March 4, and that's a good thing because two girls on the 12-player squad are hurt.

**CONTINUED ONLINE  
AT TCTIMES.COM**

SUNDAY DECEMBER 18, 2016 | PAGE 22 | WWW.TCTIMES.COM/SPORTS

## Sports

Blake Hutchings

photo by Mark Bolen

# Fenton swimmers gunning for another big season

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

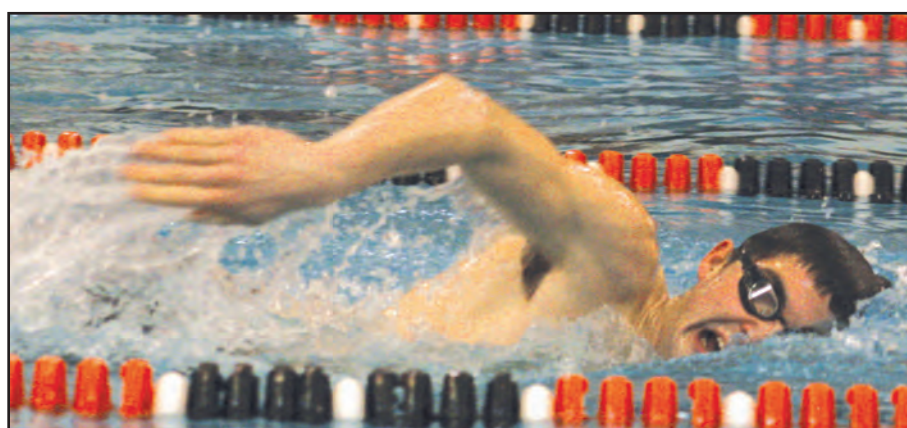
**Fenton** — Justin Beemer is just one swimmer on a large Fenton varsity boys swim team roster.

It's a roster which includes many seniors, but also many strong performers from just about every class.

It can be argued that Beemer is one of the better swimmers on the team. After all, his name is on the school record board for one of the relay events. However, that said, it's not like he's a flat out superstar in the pool either.

Beemer is a pretty good representation of the type of athlete that Fenton's boys swim team seems to have in abundance every year in recent seasons. And it's the reason why the Tigers are the Metro League's top power, winning every conference crown since 2012. It's a team full of many quality swimmers, giving the squad the strength up top and the strength with the depth points to capture victories.

However, outside the league the squad



**TRI-COUNTY TIMES** | DAVID TROPPENS

Two of Fenton's varsity boys swimmers this winter are Kyle Banner (above) and Mitchell Chabot (right). The team are the Metro favorites once again this season.

can still find great competition. The Tigers found some of that great competition on Tuesday when they hosted Grand Blanc and Powers.

**CONTINUED ONLINE AT TCTIMES.COM**



# Linden girls basketball captures first win of season vs. Rochester

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

It's been a tough start to the season for the Linden varsity girls basketball team.

But that start got a little better on Tuesday night. The Eagles captured their first win of the season, defeating Rochester 42-28.

"We played really well," Linden varsity girls basketball coach Ben Varner said. "We had more than just one person score, and I'm telling you, what a difference that makes. We rebounded in the second half really well and that was huge also."

The Eagles (1-4) had strong offensive quarters in the first and fourth periods. They played strong defense all four quarters.

**CONTINUED ONLINE AT  
TCTIMES.COM**



**TRI-COUNTY TIMES** | DAVID TROPPENS

Jarrett Trombley (above) and Sean Trombley (right) work on pinfall attempts.

# LF wrestlers narrowly edged by D1 state-ranked Brighton Bulldogs

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

**Lake Fenton** — It's a scenario the Lake Fenton varsity wrestling team is already getting used to this season.

The Blue Devils are lacking a few key pieces from their wrestling squad that they expected to have at the start of this season about six months ago. Some are out due to injury while others are out due to deciding not to come out on the squad this winter.

Despite those departures, the Blue Devils have a mighty impressive roster of wrestlers, starting with past state champions Jarrett Trombley and Trent Hillger.

However, the departures are costing Lake Fenton in one area, collecting

quality team wins. Due to having voids at 103 and 112 and inexperienced wrestlers another weight class, the Blue Devils are basically giving other state-ranked teams 18 free points before their matches begin.

**CONTINUED ONLINE  
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# Fenton teams finish 1-2-3 in our Tri-County Top 12 poll

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

Sorry everyone. This wasn't done on purpose.

We didn't publish our first half of the Tri-County Fall Top 12 Teams poll over a week ago with the impression of waiting so long to put in the top half of the list. We weren't trying to stretch out the suspense. Honestly, winter sports happened. So we've put finishing the top 12 on the backburner.

But no worries, we haven't forgotten about the poll. Here are the top six teams.

**No. 6 – Fenton girls swimming and diving:** The Tigers blew out the other four teams in duals and then crushed the field at the league meet by winning the league championship in all 12 events. Fenton's point total of 772 points was more than double that of the second-place team. What really dictates the Tigers' position every season, though, is their state performance. Fenton had a relatively strong showing. First off, they had a state champion diver, Taylor Shegos. That's a nice place to start. Also, every swimmer that went to the state meet, came back to swim during the second day of the meet. However, Fenton still only finished 21st at the meet. That made it hard to list them any higher than a very respectable sixth.

**No. 5 – Linden girls cross**

**country:** The tri-county area's top cross country team in this season's poll are the Eagles. How did they do so well when they only finished third in the Metro, including behind league champions Fenton, who placed only 10th? Easy, they had the postseason credentials. Once they started competing against their other peers in D2, the Eagles dominated by winning a regional championship and by placing 12th at the state meet. Two runners earned All-State honors — Audrey Steiert and Alia Frederick. Their postseason made it easy to place them as our top harrier squad out of an eye-popping five that made our top 12 list.

**No. 4 – Holly boys tennis:** The Bronchos may have been the toughest team to place in this poll. Once again, they dominated the Metro League competition, not only winning all six duals, but doing so by a combined 46-2 score.

The Bronchos also won their regional championship, beating Fenton in the process. However, this is where things get sticky. Area tennis is getting better, but it remains relatively weak. That means the Bronchos' biggest argument to a high placing comes at the state meet where holly finished just tied for 17th (with Fenton) with just one flight victory.

CONTINUED ONLINE AT  
➤ [TCTIMES.COM](http://TCTIMES.COM)



TRI-COUNTY TIMES  
DAVID TROPPENS

Fenton varsity volleyball (above) and Fenton varsity boys soccer (left) finished in the top two spots in our fall poll. For those wanting to know who finished No. 1 and who finished No. 2, check out [tctimes.com](http://tctimes.com). Also find out what Fenton team placed third at [tctimes.com](http://tctimes.com).

## Holly boys basketball falls to Groves, 86-70

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com

Holly varsity boys basketball coach Lance Baylis knows that Birmingham Groves has a talented team.

After Tuesday night's game against the squad, he knows why.

"Groves has one of the longest teams I've ever seen," Baylis said. "They have four guys with wingspans of 6-feet-10. I've never seen that in my 12 years. They are just long and very athletic."

Groves' length bothered the Bronchos all night long, eventually resulting in an 86-70 loss at Groves High School.

"We started off great. We led 16-10 in the first quarter and only trailed 21-18 at the end of the first quarter," Baylis said. "It was the wrong game to be missing Paris Partee. They pounded the ball and played patty cake on the boards. They had a lot of second-chance points."

CONTINUED ONLINE AT  
➤ [TCTIMES.COM](http://TCTIMES.COM)

## Eagles' offense struggles vs. Rochester, falls 57-37 in non-league contest

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

The Linden varsity boys basketball program had a nice start to the season last week when the squad defeated Holly. The offense sparked the victory as the Eagles hit on seven 3-pointers in the 59-55 victory.

The offense wasn't quite as impressive in the team's second game against Rochester, however.

Linden was tied 22-all at the half, but scored just 15 second-half points in what ended up being a 57-37 non-league loss. "We just struggled offensively all night," Linden varsity boys basketball coach

Chris Root said. "We couldn't get anything going."

While the Eagles struggled offensively, Rochester's Hunter Schlatter had a huge game, netting nine treys and scoring a game-high 34 points.

The Eagles were paced by Cole Sarkon who had 12 points. Nick Koan and Aaron Sarkon had eight points each.

The Eagles hosted Ortonville-Branden for the squad's first home game on Friday. The team also had an unusual Sunday contest, playing Marine City Cardinal Mooney at Waterford Mott High School today at 2:45 p.m.

### PREP REPORT

#### WRESTLING

► **Fenton at Carman-Ainsworth quad:** The Tigers lost to Grand Blanc 45-31, but defeated Carman-Ainsworth 55-21.

Jayden (125), Tommy Adams (145) Connor Putman (160) and Will Galvin (171) each went 2-0 at the event.

#### GIRLS BASKETBALL

► **Detroit Country Day 73, Fenton 35:** The Tigers were outscored 25-7 in the opening quarter, eventually resulting in the non-league loss.

Chloe Idoni led the Tigers with eight points while Aly Lenz had six points. Keegan Miller had eight rebounds while Emma Evo had five points. Ms. Basketball candidate Destiny Pitts led Country Day with 26 points.

#### BOYS BOWLING

► **Flushing 28, Fenton 2:** Alex Keith

bowled a strong 243-232-475 series to earn both of his points and lead the Tigers.

#### GIRLS BOWLING

► **Flushing 30, Fenton 0:** Angela Hanners led the Tigers with a strong 155-157-312 series. Laura Albrant had a 145-154-299 series.

#### BOYS BASKETBALL

► **Lake Fenton JV 52, Beecher 50:** The Blue Devils' Parker Brady hit the game-winning layup at the final buzzer in overtime, giving the Blue Devils (3-0) the win. Cody Schramm led Lake Fenton with 17 points, while Brady had 15 points. Ethan Dunckle had 13 points.

► **Rochester JV 39, Linden JV 28:** Rochester was led by Seeger deGayner with 13 points while Max James scored four.

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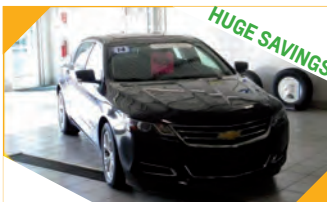
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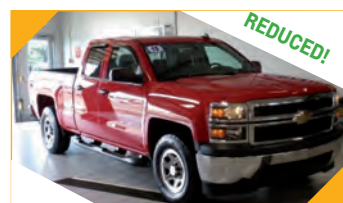
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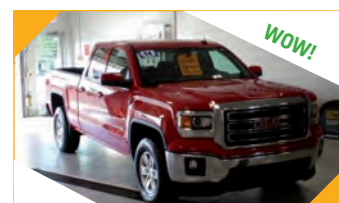
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