

Five big law changes possible in 2017

■ Drug policies, marijuana, and congressional term limits could change

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

A new year brings many new laws. Some laws will change while many others stay the same. Here are five issues with growing controversy that could undergo policy changes in 2017.

See **LAW CHANGES** on 18A



MARIJUANAPOLITICS.COM

New lawmakers are setting plans for the new year. Medical marijuana revenue is one of several issues that could experience policy change in 2017.

CONTROVERSIAL LAWS

- Opioid addiction laws
- Marijuana revenue
- Daylight Saving Time
- Health care
- Congressional term limits



PAGE 21A
**E-CIGS ARE
'MAJOR PUBLIC
HEALTH CONCERN'**

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2012 - 2013 - 2014 NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

Ally Brueger murder remains unsolved, shooter still at large

■ Nearly six months later, fearful neighbors remain cautious

By Vera Hogan

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It has been nearly six months since Alexandra "Ally" Brueger was gunned down while jogging along Fish Lake Road in Rose Township.

She was on her daily 10-mile run, something she had done for the past dozen years.

On July 30, 2016, she was shot to death, four times in the back. Her murder remains unsolved, and her murderer remains at large.

See **UNSOLVED** on 11A

“We must keep talking about Ally and what happened to her. Someone knows something.”

C. Kelly

Concerned neighbor of Ally Brueger



Police are still looking for tips that will help them convict the person that murdered Alexandra "Ally" Brueger.

Discover the Dinosaurs: Unleashed



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Families observe the dinosaur displays at the "Discover the Dinosaurs: Unleashed" event held last weekend at the Birch Run Expo Center. The weekend brought 9,000 visitors through for several dinosaur-related activities. See story on Page 15A

The high cost of living longer

■ Increasing life expectancy means longer retirement and more health-related costs

By Hannah Ball

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Even though American life expectancy dipped for the first time in more than two decades, Americans are living longer than they ever have.

In the last century, the average American's life expectancy rose from 47 to 78, according to Forbes Magazine.

Living longer means more time with loved ones, but it also brings financial ramifications.

Chris Douglas, economics professor for the University of Michigan-Flint, said, "The main point in people living longer is they're going to have to save more to pay more for a longer retirement," he said. "Most people aren't saving enough."

See **COST OF LIVING** on 7A

SUMMARY

■ People may be living longer, but most Americans are not prepared for the costs associated with retirement and health care they face later in life.



People often underestimate how long they'll live, and don't save enough money throughout their life.

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“The King column in Wednesday's paper just broke my heart.



Anyone who would do that to their pet should be left alone out in the cold every night themselves, like he was. If they don't want him my husband and I will gladly take him and give him a wonderful, warm, loving indoor home.”

“In just a few days we will welcome a new president, one who offers us a new beginning and a new opportunity to work toward a better America. I believe we are all united by a deep, abiding love of our country. Let's show it by working together to make it even better. God bless America.”



“2016 set a new and appalling record. According to CNN, citing figures released by the Chicago Police Department, Chicago experienced 762 murders, 3,550 shooting incidents and 4,331 shooting victims for the year 2016. It's important to note that this is the city with the strictest gun laws in America.”



COMMENT OF THE WEEK

“Sometimes you need to use your common sense. Who do you really think the Russians would rather see in office — an Obama clone that they can push around or someone who has vowed to strengthen our military and add more nuclear weapons?”

Celebrities do it - 'Y' not you?

The Y Lift™ is your fastest, safest (non-surgical), technique for a natural look

By Sally Rummel
news@tctimes.com

Every time you look in the mirror, you may begin to notice that each advancing year has diminished your high cheekbones, defined jawline and nice, taut neck.

You're still confident in your appearance and have never even considered plastic surgery or a traditional facelift. But if you can instantly turn back the clock and achieve a very natural, more youthful look over your lunch hour, wouldn't you want to do it?

The Y Lift™ is the newest technique in today's generation of non-surgical facial contouring procedures, pioneered by Dr. Yan Trokel, a New York cosmetic surgeon.

Y Lift trained, Dr. Eric Seiger, Medical Director of the Skin & Vein Centers (in Fenton, Sterling Heights and Garden City) performs the procedure locally and is one of only 17 surgeons in the U.S. to do so.

As a highly-skilled cosmetic surgeon for more than 25 years, Dr. Seiger has earned a national reputation for using cutting-edge technology and science. He pioneered The Hour Lift (a mini-facelift technique) more than 15 years ago, and considers the Y Lift™ the most amazing non-

surgical, facial/neck procedure he has ever seen. Many patients elect Seiger's "Total Lift," which combines both the Y Lift and Hour Lift techniques to achieve a desired look.

The Y Lift™ itself, re-volumizes the facial structure from the hollowness under your eyes, to your cheekbones, jawline and neckline. It can literally be done during your lunch hour, with no incision, stitches or general anesthesia. You can resume your daily activities immediately after the procedure.

How does it work?

Basically, it's a molding and sculpting technique, according to Seiger. "As we age, our skin isn't looser because of gravity, but because we lose volume in our bone structure. This technique is based on 'structured volumizing,' replenishing

lost volume and restoring youthful facial contours. Suitable for men and women of all skin types, The Y Lift™ accentuates the cheekbone region, revives the under eye area and defines the jawline and upper neck instantly.

The Y Lift™ is customized to each patient and uses FDA-approved fillers. This technique is suitable for adults, ages 25 to 80. Results last between one and three years,



BEFORE

AFTER

depending on the product used.

"The Y-Lift utilizes a specific technique and instruments to inject filler in order to achieve these amazing results without surgery," states Seiger. "Physicians who use fillers in their practice cannot achieve the same result as a Y Lift. Standard filler injection technique is completely different to the Y Lift."



Thinking about having The Y Lift™?

Here's what to expect:

Q. What happens during the procedure?

A. The Y Lift™ is performed, first using novocaine to numb the area. Then, a specialized titanium instrument is inserted beneath the skin and maneuvered throughout designated parts of the facial region to instantly lift and contour the muscles, fascia and fat underlying the skin.

Once lifted, naturally occurring hyaluronic acid is then added to hold the new position of the facial features, at which point the titanium instrument is removed. The rejuvenated face is then "sculpted" by Dr. Seiger to accent and highlight each individual's facial features highlighting their natural beauty.

Q. How long will the Y Lift™ procedure take?

A. The entire procedure itself takes 30 minutes. Include some time for a consultation beforehand and a brief follow-up afterward.

Q. Is the procedure painful?

A. The Y Lift™ doesn't involve any painful surgery, sutures or anesthesia. A local anesthesia is applied to manage any discomfort.

Q. What can I expect during recovery?

A. There is no recovery time with the Y Lift™ and you can resume normal activity right away. However, you may have

some slight swelling and soreness for a couple of days.

Q. How much does the Y Lift™ cost?

A. The cost can be determined at a free consultation and is based on each patient's own particular age and facial structure and the type and amount of fillers used.

Q. Can I talk to anyone from The Skin & Vein Center who has had the Y Lift™ done?

A. The Skin & Vein Center can arrange for a contact with someone who has had the procedure and agrees to speak to prospective patients.



BEFORE

AFTER



BEFORE

AFTER

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Clueless about casinos?

■ Whether you're a newbie or a regular, here are a few things to know before you go

By Sally Rummel

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Move over, Las Vegas. Michigan is making a name for itself in the high-stakes world of casino gambling.

Our state is No. 11 nationwide in casino revenues through Detroit's big-three casinos: Greektown, MGM Grand and MotorCity, not including unregulated revenues from the many tribal casinos that blanket the state.

Michigan is also home to No. 7 of the Top 10 casinos in gaming floor space, with Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort in Mt. Pleasant boasting more than 210,000 square feet.

Even if you're a casino newbie, you'll have fun with the ambiance of the experience, including many five-star restaurants, live shows and people-watching. The bet is on that you'll find something you'll enjoy playing, whether it's slots, blackjack, roulette, craps or poker.

Today's casinos are open 365 days a year, 24 hours a day and are one of the few places smokers can also enjoy their vice, as the gaming rooms are exempt from Michigan's non-smoking laws.

Whether it's the thrill of the lights, the sounds of the slots or the exhilarating nightlife, a visit to one of Michigan's more than two dozen casinos can bring some excitement to your winter doldrums.

See CASINOS on 14A

SUMMARY

■ Enjoy a day trip to a local casino or a family weekend to enjoy all that a casino resort and/or hotel has to offer, especially during this long, cold winter months.



According to gamblingsites.com, slot machines now make up 85 percent of an average casino's revenues.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

There are plenty of special events coming up during the winter months to whet your appetite for your favorite hobby or interest. Shown here is the petting zoo at last year's Fenton Expo held in March 2016 at Fenton High School.

Mark your calendar for upcoming events

■ From bridal shows to boat shows, the winter months are filled with special shows/expos

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Whether you're a bride, boater, home remodeler or fly fisherman, there's an upcoming event in the next few months to whet your appetite for the excitement to come.

Michigan is home to hundreds of events that cater to these special interests, and many of them are held during the cold winter months when it's more enjoyable to be indoors.

Here are a few upcoming dates to mark on your calendar:

Community Expo

• March 4-5: Fenton Community Expo, Fenton High School

See EVENTS on 19A

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Come *Heller* high water

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Fans weren't fair to Mariah

Many people are having a great time making fun of Mariah Carey, the pop diva whose New Year's Eve performance went kerplow when technical difficulties made it clear her performance was lip-synced.

Every news show on the planet delighted in replaying the disaster. And, of course, social media exploded with snarky comments like "With 15 minutes remaining before the New Year, 2016 claimed its final victim: Mariah Carey's career" and "Breaking news: Mariah



Andrew Heller
FEATURED COLUMNIST

Carey has just been invited to sing at Trump's inauguration."

There was even a popular Facebook meme with photos of an actual train wreck next to a photo of Carey's New Year's Eve performance.

I thought all of it was grossly unfair, and not because I'm a fan of Carey's. I'm not. I think she has a great voice, but like most singers these days she prefers showing off her vocal range more than delivering a great song. I don't like that style of singing. I think if you're going to sing the word 'love' it shouldn't come out "LooOOOooooOOOoooOOOoooOOOve" and cover three quarters of the known human vocal range. But that's just me.

No, I object to the tittering about Carey's kerploppery on grounds that it's a violation of the unspoken contract between modern performers and audiences.

Everyone watching knew she was going to lip sync. Human beings simply can't dance around the way modern performers do and still sound great singing. It's just not possible. That's why most singers throughout history have stood stock still when they perform, with their only movements being maybe a dramatic hand gesture, a hair flip or a hey-baby-you-know-what-I'm-singing-about leer.

That all changed back in the '80s with the advent of music videos. Suddenly, people wanted live performances

to match what they saw in the videos, which meant dancing, flipping, flying, sprinting and tumbling, which meant lip syncing because without it songs would sound like this: 'Oooh baby (pant, pant), I really want you (huff puff), I want you so bad ... whoo boy, hold on a sec, everybody, I gotta catch my breath.'

That's not very sexy.

Personally, I think lip syncing is silly, and I imagine performers feel pretty silly doing it. I know I'd feel pretty goofy giving a PowerPoint presentation by mouthing the words.

But the fact remains that modern audiences and performers have tacitly agreed that it's OK for performers to lip sync their songs while zipping around the stage.

So when something goes wrong at a performance, I think it's wrong for people to say, 'See, she's a fake!' because of course she's a fake. That's what we asked her to be. So we can hardly blame or make fun of her for being what we demanded she be.

So to you, Mariah Carey, I say 'You have nothing to feel bad or embarrassed about. In fact, you have every right to be mad at the people who are making fun of you.'

Of course, I'm not really saying that out loud. I'm just mouthing the words. But you get the idea.

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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.

■■■■ **HOLLY'S BIKE LANE** cost \$3,000 more for signs. The news missed this part of the story.

■■■■ **OK, I'M SORRY** I called you 'delusional.' Now let's all hold hands and sing Kum-baya.

■■■■ **BEFORE YOU MAKE** any more contributions, you might want to look up thinkbeforeyoudonate.com. It might shock you to find out how much is collected and how much the charity gives. Some give it all, some give hardly anything, and some give nothing.

■■■■ **FIRST YOU BLOW** through the fact that your next president has a criminal record then you ask the whereabouts of the criminal record of a has-been. And this makes your day?

■■■■ **HEY FENTON AND Hartland**, wake up. Fenton and Hartland have the high gas prices. Overnight on New Year's Eve, gas prices raised 35 to 40 cents a gallon just in our area. It was a gas tax at 7-and-a-half cents.

■■■■ **THREE MILLION MORE** people voted for Clinton and that was just in New York and California alone. So the votes that Trump got in the other 50 states don't mean anything. Come on. She lost.

■■■■ **I'D LIKE TO** thank the Lake Fenton

eighth-grade class of 2021 for giving back to their community with random acts of kindness for the nice flow-ers and their candy. Thank you very much.

■■■■ **TUESDAY HAD A** dense fog advisory. Yet when we went out, many cars didn't even have their lights on. Fog, rain, snow and darkness — lights need to be on for us to see you safely. This includes police cars too.

■■■■ **THERE ARE TIMES** when I disagree with Foster Child's column. There are times when his columns make it hard to distinguish who is who.

■■■■ **AM I THE** only one who is sick and tired of telemarketers? They call you all hours of the night to try to scam you out of your hard earned money. It should be illegal.

■■■■ **THE OBAMA LOVER** that called in saying 'if you don't have a job you just don't want one' is talking about himself. He is living with his mother. He doesn't have anything to complain about, he doesn't have any responsibilities.

■■■■ **I JUST WANT** to thank the woman and her granddaughter while we were in a store here in Fenton, who gave us a candy cane and a gift card. I could have cashed it to use, but instead I paid it forward to Adopt-a-Pet. I just wanted to let them know that we thank you very much and that we paid it forward too.

■■■■ **A LOT OF** southern Genesee County roads have been ignored by the Commission for not years, but decades. Silver Lake Road is bad. State Road down to Hartland Road is probably dating back to ancient times, it's so bad.

■■■■ **HOW MANY READ** Wednesday's paper, the column by the King, and at the end, shed a tear?

■■■■ **IT'S JUST LIKE** politicians to try to get rid of their ethical watchdog on the first day they could. No matter what party you belong to, that is the sleaziest thing lawmakers could do. Thank God it didn't work.

■■■■ **NOT ALL WEALTHY** people stop being greedy when they're rich. Others always want more and they will lie, cheat and steal to get it. Those individuals compete to see who can accumulate the most wealth. It's a high-stakes game with them.

■■■■ **UNDER OBAMA, AMERICANS** are less free, less prosperous, less safe, and trillions more in debt. He will be known as an utter failure.

See **HOT LINE** throughout Times

Compiled by Tess DeGayner, intern

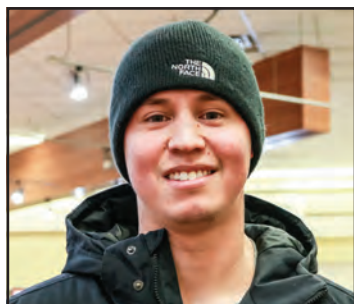
If you won \$1 million at a casino, what would you do with the winnings?

street talk



"I would share it with everyone and then buy a new car. But I would definitely help people who need it."

Marcelline Robinson
Byron



"Pay off my student loan debt and my parents as well."

Justin Jay
Linden



"I'd expect I'd pay off everything and give the grandkids a new car. I would hope I would then have some left."

Robert Groom
Byron



"I would retire and move someplace warm."

Kris Kussro
Fenton



"I would make so many people happy. I would make sure it was used well. There are so many people who are hungry. I would make sure that I was happy, too."

Casey Rogers
Fenton

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OPEN SUNDAY 1-3 FLINT



NEW LISTING

4494 Old Colony • Flint

3 Bedrooms, 1 Bath, 1000 Sq Ft. Beautiful Ranch with hardwood floors, new Kitchen with granite, finished walk-out basement with a gas fireplace.

\$125,000

OPEN SUNDAY 1-3 ROYAL OAK



322 E. Harrison Ave • Royal Oak

2 Bedroom, 3(2,1) Baths, 3033 Sq Ft. Amazing 3-Story Penthouse Granite Countertops & Stainless Appliances. Large Master Suite with His and Hers closets, Outdoor Roof Terraces & Balconies On Each Level Total 2102 Sq Ft. & feature built in Grill and Hot Tub.

\$775,000

OPEN SUNDAY 1-3 ORCHARD HILLS - FENTON



944 Peach Tree Trl • Fenton

4 Bedrooms, 3(2,1) Baths, 2049 Sq Ft. Fresh paint, finished wood floors, new S/S appliances, new fixtures, new water heater/furnace, first floor master bedroom/bath/laundry.

\$258,750

GRAND BLANC



NEW LISTING

4443 Maplewood Meadows • Grand Blanc

4 Bedrooms, 3(2,1) baths, 1918 Sq Ft. Immaculate Home with large Master Suite, tons of room, partially finished basement with rec room and another bedroom.

\$200,000

DAVISON



NEW LISTING

9396 Sycamore Ct. • Davison

2 bedrooms, 3 baths, 1214 Sq Ft. Newly updated home with hardwood flooring, beautiful kitchen and finished basement with a full bath and gas fire place.

\$150,000



CRANE'S COVE LAKE FENTON



NEW PRICE

13185 Torrey Rd. • Fenton

3 Bedrooms, 1 Bath, 1758 Sq Ft. Enjoy Crane's Cove on All Sports Lake Fenton.

\$400,000

FENTON- 3.5 ACRES



NEW PRICE

9331 Foley Crossing • Fenton

5 Bedrooms, 4 Baths, 3,000 Sq Ft. Fabulous custom built home with elevated view, Finished walkout with rec room.

\$367,000



WARWICK LAKE WATERFRONT



6490 Carriage Hill Dr • Grand Blanc

4 Bedrooms, 7 (6,1) Baths, 5932 Sq Ft. Beautiful Lake Front home, supersized granite island in the kitchen, top of the line, Custom wood cabinetry throughout, main floor master suite plus three more upstairs,

\$950,000

FLUSHING



711 Shady Brook Ln. • Flushing

5 Bedrooms, 6 (4,2) Baths, 3738 Sq Ft. Beautiful custom home in a wooded picturesque setting, large main floor master suite, complete with fire place and private bath, finished basement has large family room with fireplace, 5th bedroom, wet bar and work out room.

\$717,000

FENTON 20 ACRES



10166 N Fenton Rd. • Fenton

4 Bedrooms, 5 (4,1) Baths, 3750 Sq Ft. Beautiful estate, In-ground Pool, 10,000 Sq Ft. Pole Barn and amazing house!

\$675,000



LAKE FENTON WATERFRONT



14189 Swanee Beach Dr. • Fenton

3 Bedrooms, 2(1,1) Baths, 1348 Sq Ft. Quad Level home ready for updating with over 1/2 acre on All Sports Lake Fenton.

\$479,000



LOBDELL LAKE WATERFRONT



16455 Oak Hill Dr. • Fenton

4 Bedrooms, 3 Baths, 1602 Sq Ft. Over 3000 Sq Ft. of finished living space, full kitchen on the lower level, two large decks, tiki hut, sandy beach and brick patio by the water. 176 ft of frontage.

\$475,000

GRAND BLANC



8390 N. Oaks Ct • Grand Blanc

4 Bedrooms, 4 (3,1) Baths 3500 Sq Ft. Amazing home has a Gourmet kitchen custom cabinets, Breakfast nook & granite countertops. Luxury master suite Hardwood floor & Lots of custom woodwork. Walkout basement & 3 Car Garage.

\$425,000

PINNACLE SHORES - FENTON



4360 Oak Tree Ct. • Fenton

3 bedrooms, 3(2,1) baths, 2429 Sq Ft. European Flair, Open kitchen with granite, 25ft ceilings in Living Room, Walk Out Lower Level, Perennials and fruit trees.

\$379,000

GRAND BLANC



8092 Dungarvin Dr. Grand Blanc

3 Bedrooms, 2 (1,1) Baths, 1471 Sq Ft.. Huge fire lit living room big 3 season room w/ gas fire place. Partially finished basement with potential additional bedroom. Backs up to nature with fenced yard.

\$130,000

MUNDY TOWNSHIP



5225 Orchard Grove Dr. • Mundy Twp

2 Bedrooms, 2(1,1) Bath, 968 Sq Ft. Near Grand Blanc, 2 story condo new carpet and paint, kitchen appliances included. HOA includes H2O, ground maintenance and snow removal.

\$45,000

PENDING & SOLD PROPERTIES



PENDING

2330 Cherry Tree Ln. | Grand Blanc
\$259,000



PENDING

302 Pauline Pass | Linden
\$164,900



PENDING

212 N. Pineview Dr. | Fenton
\$155,000



PENDING

425 W. Caroline St. | Fenton
\$144,900



SOLD

6365 Moonstone Dr. | Grand Blanc
\$295,000



SOLD

3197 Autumn View | Metamora
\$275,000



SOLD

11450 Moffett Ct. | Fenton
\$205,000



SOLD

13098 Mohawk | Linden
\$92,000



JohnTremaine.com





ASK THE MECHANIC

Chris Wilkinson,
Certified Mechanic

Q: I have a 2009 impala and the heater will not stay hot when the car is idling. When I touch the accelerator pedal it gets hot almost instantly. It makes it very hard to melt ice on the windshield.

- Marty

A: Marty, this problem is most commonly caused by a restricted heater core. A good flushing should fix it. To check this when the car is warm and idling: feel both heater hoses. If one is considerably cooler than the other than you have most likely found your problem. Other things to look for are proper coolant level and circulation. If you need to flush the cooling system and heater core, do so by first draining as much of your old coolant as possible, then take off both heater hoses and flush the heater core back and forth from one hose to the other. You should see when the debris comes out and the water should flow free and clear. Next flush the radiator and block from the other end of the heater hose where they hook to the engine and also from your upper and lower radiator hoses in both directions on all hoses. When finished drain as much water out as you can and start by filling the system with straight antifreeze for the first gallon. Then use a 50/50 mix and make sure to bleed the system. On this car, I leave the top heater hose off while filling. Use a small funnel into the heater hose and fill until it comes out the heater pipe at the engine, then reconnect the hose, top off the system and run until hot. Now after it cools down again you will need to check for the proper coolant water mix with an antifreeze tester. It should be good to -34. If not, you may need to adjust this by draining some out then adding more coolant or water to adjust the mix. Don't forget to take your old coolant to a parts store or repair shop that accepts it for recycling purposes as this should not be put down the drain or left outside. Pets seem to like drinking it and it is poison!

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The simplest of evidence can solve crimes

■ Right down to cigarette butts in the bushes, it could be important

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

There are countless cases in U.S. history where crimes, once thought to be unsolvable, were in fact solved, sometimes with the unlikely of evidence.

Here are a few of them:

Bite marks

In the summer of 1978, the body of a young woman was found partially submerged in a large drum of water in the small town of Wood River, Illinois. Her name was Karla Brown, and she had been brutally beaten, raped, and murdered.

There seemed to be no evidence pointing toward a suspect. After two years, investigators noticed a set of bite marks on Brown's shoulder. Even this breakthrough was useless without a set of teeth for comparison.

They caught a break in 1982, when a woman reported that she overheard a man named John Prante mention the bite on Brown's shoulder. Since even the police had only recently discovered this detail, it was all but impossible for an innocent member of the public to know about it.

Police exhumed Brown's body to create a mold of the skin where she had been bitten, and another mold was taken from Prante's mouth. After they matched, Prante was convicted of murder and sentenced to 75 years in prison.

Tossed butts

Randal Comeaux was a longtime member of the sheriff's department in Lafayette, Louisiana, having worked there for more than 20 years. What no one knew was that he was also a serial rapist, terrorizing the women of his town for 13 of those years.

The attacks started in the early 1980s and continued through 1995.

All that was known was that Lafayette and a neighboring town had been struck by a series of unsolved rapes that all appeared to have been committed by the same man. He never left any physical evidence and always covered his face with a ski mask, leaving him unidentifiable.

Comeaux, however, made one simple mistake. He had a tendency to leave cigarette butts at the victims' houses, and the epithelial cells from the saliva on the cigarettes were matched to a sample taken from Comeaux.

Faced with that evidence, he first pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity but later entered a simple guilty plea. He was given three life sentences.

Paint specks

The abduction of Vicki Lynne Hoskinson gripped the Tucson, Arizona area in the mid-1980s. The 8-year-old girl had left her house on her bike one day and was never seen again. The only evidence left at the scene of her abduction was her bike, which was abandoned just a few blocks away from her house.

A local gym teacher who worked at the school only a block away from the site of Vicki's abduction noticed a suspicious-looking sports car near the school and wrote down the license plate number. Police traced it to Frank Jarvis Atwood, a

California man on parole for molesting an 8-year-old boy.

The only evidence that was found at Atwood's home linking him to the abduction was a dent and traces of pink paint on the car's bumper. This turned out to be enough, though, as further testing matched the paint to Vicki's bike, and an accident reconstructionist matched the bike pedal to the dent. After Vicki's body was finally found, Atwood was convicted of her murder and sentenced to death in 1987.

Seed pods

On May 2, 1992, Denise Johnson was murdered. Her strangled body was discovered the next day in the remote wilderness outside of Phoenix, Arizona.

A pager belonging to the father of a man named Mark Bogan was found near the body, and an eyewitness reported a truck similar to Bogan's at the scene around the time Johnson was killed.

However, Bogan claimed that Johnson,

who he said was a hitchhiker, had stolen his pager. Given that there was virtually no physical evidence tying him to the crime, police were stuck.

That is, until one of the detectives noticed a small abrasion on a nearby tree and remembered that two small seed pods from that species of tree had been found

in the back of Bogan's truck. Since the tree was fairly common in the area, that wouldn't have been enough to tie Bogan to the crime without the work of a professor of molecular genetics from the University of Arizona who matched the DNA of the tree at the scene to the pods found in the truck.

As a result, Bogan was convicted and sentenced to life in prison in the first murder case in the U.S. that involved plant DNA.

Source: listverse.com



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HOT LINE CONTINUED

WE HAVE TWO types of Democrats. One tries to do for people in need and cares for America. The other is the new left Democratic Party, which is self-serving, spreads lies, promotes hate and violence. Scott Baio, when picking up his 9-year-old daughter was verbally and physically attacked because he supported Trump.

■■■
KNIFE-WIELDING ATTACKER stabs 11 kids at Chinese kindergarten; sixth such attack. America must act to protect our kids. Regulate ownership of knives, institute background checks, mandate citizens register all knives, outlaw 'military style' knives, outlaw knives longer than 2 inches and blame the National Knife Association.

■■■
PEOPLE IN FENTON: Stop whining about economic development in the city. I bet homeowners in the Flint area wish their property values were similar to yours.

■■■
TURNING ONTO SILVER Lake from northbound U.S. 23 is difficult at any time, even worse during rush hour. With more development planned, traffic will likely get worse. Over-development has spoiled Fenton as a place to live.

■■■
A HOT-LINER WROTE that he had to move to Louisiana eight years ago to

Police&Fire report

OUT OF CONTROL DRUNK

Just before 10 p.m. on Dec. 31, Fenton police responded to a home in the 800 block of Silver Lake Road after receiving a call about an intoxicated male who was described as "out of control," according to Lt. Jason Slater. Upon arrival, police made contact with the intoxicated male. Police learned that the man, identified as a 46-year-old Fenton resident, had multiple outstanding arrest warrants. He was taken into custody and transported to the Flint City Jail so that he could take care of those warrants.

find a job but now jobs are easy to find. Democrats controlled congress eight years ago. Now, Republicans control congress. Michigan had a Democratic governor (Granholtz) in 2008 while Louisiana elected a Republican governor.

■■■
BARACK OBAMA, WHILE a gifted orator, never had a clue about actual governing. Can anyone provide me with examples of anything he accomplished? We are fortunate we survived it. Can't wait for an adult to retake the White House on January 20th.

COST OF LIVING

Continued from Front Page

People born in 1950 had a life expectancy of 68.2, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). People born in 2013 are expected to live to 78.8 years old.

"It's not a guarantee that life expectancy is always going to go up," Douglas said.

People can start collecting Social Security at age 62, the age many people retire. However, people often underestimate how long they'll live and don't save enough for retirement, according to USA Today.com.

"One of the costs we are already paying for the gift of longevity is the placement of elderly citizens and their families in degrading and difficult situations that simply were not possible in earlier times," according to a report on aging for The President's Council on Bioethics.

To counteract this, people are starting to work longer. "There's not a whole lot you can do to prolong retirement indefinitely. There's a limit to how long you can work," Douglas said.

It's estimated that young people will have to work longer and save more for retirement to pay for the older, retired generation.

According to Forbes, the ideal ratio for a healthy economy is four workers to every one retired person. This has dropped to three-and-half workers to every retired

person, and is nearing three to one. This puts a strain on a government to take care of more people by using fewer resources.

"Living longer really exacerbates that problem of people not saving enough," he said. "Not only do you have to save for retirement but you have to save for health care and that's astronomically expensive."

The demand for nursing homes and assisted living facilities is going to increase.

"The longer you live, the more medical technology you consume," he said. "At some point there needs to be some policy change to get some health care costs under control. Otherwise a lot of your money will go to paying for those health care costs. There won't be much

left for anything else."

According to money.cnn.com, the Social Security trust fund is projected to run dry by 2034. This means the program won't have enough revenue to pay 79 percent of promised benefits.

Medicare revenue is projected to run dry sooner, by 2028, when the trust will only be able to pay approximately 87 percent of expected benefits.

These programs could possibly run dry sooner due to the growing older population.

Douglas said there's going to have to be policy change to get people to save more money for retirement and future health care costs.

"Living longer is just really expensive," he said.

"Living longer really exacerbates that problem of people not saving enough. Not only do you have to save for retirement but you have to save for health care and that's astronomically expensive."

Chris Douglas

University of Michigan-Flint economist

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Rules snowmobilers need to know

■ Popular wintertime toy prohibited on public streets and most public highways

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

With snow in the extended forecast, the loud sounds of snowmobilers zipping past your house, sometimes over your lawn and onto your neighbor's, is also a likely scenario.

What many snowmobilers might not know is that they are not allowed on public roads or the shoulders of public roads.

According to the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (NREPA) 324.82119, "A person shall not operate a snowmobile upon a public highway, land used as an airport or street, or on a public or private

parking lot not specifically designated for the use of snowmobiles..."

According to Genesee County Under-sheriff Chris Swanson, "Snowmobiles are Off Road Vehicles (ORVs). They need to be registered and if they go on state land, they also need a trail pass.

"They are allowed to go on private roads."

“Snowmobiles are Off Road Vehicles. They need to be registered and if they go on state land, they also need a trail pass. They are allowed to go on private roads.”

Chris Swanson
Genesee County undersheriff

Swanson said the most common violations with snowmobilers are speed and driving while intoxicated. Violations are misdemeanors.

There are exceptions to the NREPA in regards to where snowmobiles can legally operate.

Snowmobilers are allowed to be operated on the right-of-way of a public highway, except a limited-access highway, only if it is operated at the extreme right of the open portion and with the flow of traffic.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO

Brook Smith of Tyrone Township enjoys snowmobiling with his wife, Kathleen, during their visits to the Gaylord area. They have witnessed some snowmobilers trespassing on property, driving too fast and leaving litter along the trails.

They must travel in a single file line, except when passing another snowmobiler, according to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

They are not allowed on frozen surfaces of public waters within 100 feet of a person or fishing shanty.

Snowmobilers are also not allowed in a forest nursery, planting area or public lands identifiable as a forest reproduction area, or any designated wild, wilderness or natural area in the state.

The law also states, "A snowmobile may be operated on a highway or street for a special event of limited duration conducted according to a prearranged schedule only under permit from the governmental unit having jurisdiction. The event may be conducted on the frozen surface of public waters only under permit from the department."

A city or village can adopt an ordinance to designate one or more specific public highways or streets within its jurisdiction for the use of snowmobiles.

Swanson said they receive fewer than five reports of snowmobile accidents a year, but when they do, "they are usually really bad."

While operating a snowmobile, Swanson said to do the following:

- 1) Always be aware of your surroundings.
- 2) Drive defensively.
- 3) Slow down.
- 4) Watch for trees, vehicles and low hanging branches, they always win.
- 5) Wear a helmet.
- 6) You must be 12 years of age with a snowmobile certificate or directly supervised by someone 21 or over in order to drive a snowmobile.

Brook and Kathleen Smith of Tyrone Township are avid snowmobilers and mainly enjoy the activity near Gaylord. They see snowmobilers riding illegally on public roads and see them riding in the wrong direction, which is opposite of the flow of traffic.

SUMMARY

■ Many snowmobilers are unaware of where they can and cannot operate their machines. They are allowed on private land, some public highways, and land specifically marked for snowmobiles or off road vehicles (ORVs).

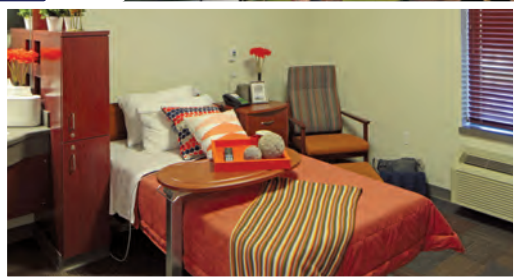
Brook said they also see trespassing. "One of my biggest pet peeves is seeing tracks coming and going from property that is clearly marked as 'no trespassing,'" said Brook.

said Brook.

Speeding is also a common problem, especially in congested and populated area. "That's one of the main reasons why we ride the 'back country,'" he said. Brook added that they see some going too fast for the conditions and not allowing enough time to react/respond to a potential dangerous situation. "Alcohol, speed, middle-aged men, failure to negotiate a turn and hitting a solid object are the most common causes of snowmobile accidents and fatalities," he said.

Littering is another concern of the Smiths. Brook said they see a lot of garbage on the trails. Most of what they ride on is private land that the DNR has negotiated leases with private landowners to allow them to use that property for designated snowmobile trails. "When we lose the use of this property it is usually because of littering and/or not staying on the 'marked' trail," he said.

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

A dog is photographed at Genesee County Animal Control in February 2016. Animal shelters can now conduct background checks on people wishing to adopt animals.

Animal protection bills become law

■ Shelters can now access criminal database to vet adopters

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Michigan animal shelters can now conduct background checks to determine if someone is suitable to adopt an animal, thanks to a package of bills signed by Lt. Gov. Brian Calley on Dec. 28 2016.

Under this new law, shelters can use the Internet Criminal History Access Tool (ICHAT) to search for someone who wishes to adopt an animal. The search will tell the shelter if that person has a history of animal abuse.

The shelter then “may choose not to allow an individual who has been convicted of an animal abuse offense to adopt an animal unless a period of at least five years has elapsed since the date of his or her conviction,” according to House Bill 4353.

This law applies to animal control shelters or animal protection shelters. Earlier versions of this bill made the background checks a requirement before allowing someone to adopt.

The bill passed in the House Feb. 9 2016 and passed in the Senate Dec. 15, 2016.

Sen. Jim Ananich (D-Flushing) and Sen. Dave Robertson (R-Grand Blanc) both voted in favor of the bill.

Ananich said, “Every pet deserves a safe home. Performing background checks on people looking to adopt is the least shelters can do to make sure animals go home to a good environment. I was happy to support legislation that protects those who can’t speak for themselves.”

While this new law appears like it will benefit animals by keeping them out of

the hands of abusers, in February 2016 after the bill passed in the House, Paul Wallace, director of Genesee County Animal Control, said it looks like “feel-good legislature without a lot of teeth.”

Only Michigan convictions are recorded in the ICHAT system, Wallace said, and if an offender is from another state, or charged but not convicted, “an all too common occurrence,” their name will not appear in the system as an abuser.

If someone is charged but pleaded out to a lesser charge, which is more common, Wallace said, their name also wouldn’t be listed as an offender.

SUMMARY

■ Lt. Gov. Brian Calley signed into law a package of bills that will help Michigan animal shelters vet potential adopters using a criminal database that will tell them if that person has a history of animal abuse in Michigan.

arm purchases, but will have little impact at street level,” he said.

Someone with mental health issues could also avoid being listed as an abuser because those records are protected under Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA) laws.

In a previous Times article, Jody Maddock, director of Adopt-A-Pet in Fenton, said the bill is a good idea, but she has concerns over breeders not being included in the bill.

“If they’re going to do it, they need to do it across the board,” Maddock said. She said if someone can’t adopt from an animal shelter because of their criminal history, they could still go to a breeder.



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Police&Fire report

FENTON POLICE INVESTIGATE MULTIPLE FAKE \$20 BILLS

The Fenton Police Department is trying to identify the individual(s) who passed two counterfeit \$20 bills in the cafeteria at Fenton High School on Tuesday, Jan. 3. The kitchen manager told police that sometime between 7 a.m. and 1 p.m. two fake \$20 bills were inadvertently accepted by kitchen staff. The fake bills were turned over to police. Later that same day, Fenton police responded to a fast food restaurant in the 3200 block of Owen Road after employees reported that a white male teenager tried to use a counterfeit \$20 bill. Employees described the male as skinny, wearing a white baseball hat, a grey hooded sweatshirt and jeans. They saw him enter a white SUV to leave. Restaurant employees told police that they too inadvertently accepted a fake \$20 bill at the drive-thru window sometime between 5 and 7 p.m. on Jan. 2. If anyone has information, they are to call Fenton police at (810) 629-5311. Possession, manufacture and passing counterfeit money is a felony with up to seven years imprisonment.

Make America great again?

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

I've heard the phrase "make America great again" hundreds of times on TV, online, on shirts, and even on an old classmate's Facebook page. It's everywhere.

This overreaching phrase is too ambiguous for me. One, it implies that America was great at some point in time, and two, that we as a country have lost said greatness. I don't believe it is definitive nor does it define "greatness."

It's been more than 50 days since the election, and I'm disappointed in the American people. I don't see greatness in this country right now. I see division.

I see older Republicans running away from discussion about issues dealing with race, sexuality, and



Hannah Ball

gender, and I see a huge slew of people that are unaware of the definition of "xenophobia," while acting out the term.

I see young liberals boycott the electoral college and protest our election system just because this election didn't turn out in their favor.

I see people on both sides of the political spectrum fighting for the same things, just in different ways. I see the right ignoring facts about police brutality, and I see the left using the same kind of hateful rhetoric that they fight against.

I saw the Republican Party struggle with, but ultimately support, a loose cannon this past election. Now I'm seeing an increase in hate crimes because of that loose cannon, and what I'm not seeing are people on the right condemning those hate crimes.

I see Republicans saying "get over it" to fellow Americans who have to put up with said crimes.

I see the Democratic Party unfairly supporting one candidate who's broken the law, while pushing down the one clean candidate who I believe truly cares about Americans.

Now I see Democrats calling all Republicans "racist" because they voted for someone who has encouraged xenophobia. People on both sides care more about winning fights on Facebook rather than establishing effective communication.

This is why I loved Trevor Noah's segment with Tomi Lahren on The Daily Show. Those two represent the extremes of both sides, and were able to have a civil conversation.

People talk big, but most everyone falls in the middle — and that's where we have to meet. It's not black and white. It's every color of gray you can imagine.

What's going to help this country finally achieve greatness is effective communication and compromise. It's not going to matter how right you are or how staunch you are in your beliefs — if you're not initiating effective, progressive dialogue that leads to solutions for everyone, you are part of the problem, not the solution.

Picking fights with people online solves nothing. I see people of all ages fall prey to fake news that's easily identifiable. Don't be the sheep — the thing you're always accusing the other side of being — by only reading headlines. Do the work to get the entire story.

To 'make America great again' we need to make America educated. We need to empathize with people who don't look like us, talk like us or worship like us. We need to do more listening instead of soapboxing. We need to realize that someone else's struggle isn't invalid just because we haven't experienced it.

Make America great again? It's up to us.

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UNSOLVED**Continued from Front Page**

Although a \$10,000 reward is being offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for this homicide, no one has come forward.

The Times asked readers on its Facebook page, especially people who live in the area of the murder, to share their thoughts.

"We live a mile from there, it has changed our feelings of safety for sure," said J. Keiser. "We don't let our children run alone. I don't feel like I used to feel when running or walking alone. Someone does know something. I hope her family will get answers someday soon."

C. Kelly said, "I am glad you are asking. We must keep talking about Ally and what happened to her. Someone knows something!"

"I was just thinking about her the other day," said J. Perkins. "I hope they find her murderer."

A. Aldrich expressed her feelings by saying, "I don't go for walks alone anymore. I am an avid birder and I am not a happy camper."

B. Williams said, "As with most news stories, they are a highlight for a month or so and then fade away. I feel like this happened with this case too. It was everywhere and then nowhere. I've heard about no leads. Has it truly gone cold?"

K. Mertz expressed concern for the family. "I sure hope her family gets some answers and closure," "We, too, live about a mile away," said L. Jorgensen. "I now worry every morning going out in the morning (dark) to my car. And I never let my middle-schooler stand at her bus stop now by herself even though it's literally at the end of our driveway."

"I agree, somebody saw something,"

Jorgensen added. "Somebody knows something."

K. Rogers said, "My daughter and grandbabies live by there and she will no longer walk those roads. So sad."

"I live about six miles away," said S. Drouin. "My parents live right down the road where it happened, and shortly after this murder occurred, I bought a new treadmill so I could run indoors now. I used to love running outdoors in rural parks and pass so many scenic roads that I would have loved to venture down, but I will not for fear of my safety."

"I used to be only concerned about possibly getting struck by a driver, but this tragic incident reminded me that abduction and murder are very real dangers for a young small female running alone and that no community is safe from random violent crime," Drouin added. "This was such a tragedy, and my prayers are with Ally and her family."

Last week, F/Lt. Michael Shaw was asked if any new information was

available on this case.

"I can tell you that this is still a very active investigation," said Shaw. "Every tip we get is investigated as soon as we receive it."

"We are still looking for any information that may help us solve the murder of Alexandra Brueger. They can call Crime Stoppers at 800 SPEAK UP or MSP at 855 MICH-TIP. Someone out there knows what happened and we need this missing piece to solve this investigation," said Shaw.

As far as the reward money, the ATF has partnered with Crime Stoppers. MSP is not responsible for the reward process. Shaw said anyone wishing to contribute by starting a gofundme account, for example, should know there is much more to the process, such as determining who actually gets the reward, what happens to the money if no one becomes eligible to receive it, etc.

"I used to be only concerned about possibly getting struck by a driver, but this tragic incident reminded me that abduction and murder are very real dangers..."

S. Drouin
Concerned neighbor of Ally Brueger

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Schools of Choice applications will be available January 16, 2017 through January 27, 2017 at the Administration Building.

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- To apply, complete the application and return to Jennifer Bentley, Schools of Choice Coordinator, Linden Community Schools, by January 27, 2017, no later than 12:00 p.m.
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2086 CAMBRIAN DR, FLINT

WESTCHESTER \$79,999
1000 SF, 3 BDR and 1 BA. Cute all brick ranch home. Kitchen features all appliances, breakfast nook, lots of cabinet and counter space. Beautiful hardwood floors, partially finished basement, covered patio, 2 car attached garage, large fenced yard and much more.



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.



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.



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.

OPEN SUNDAY 1-3



16451 RED FOX TRL, LINDEN

FOX CHASE FARMS \$249,999
Fantastic new construction ranch home! 1566 SF, 3 BDR, 2 BA and full basement with daylight windows ready to be finished. 3 car attached garage, maintenance free exterior and more. Close to shopping, schools and expressways.

OPEN SUNDAY 1-3



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.



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.



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.



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, great storage and mud area. Beautiful patio, in ground pool, plus large pole barn.



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.



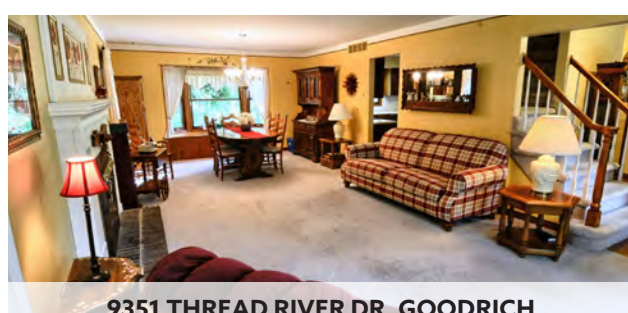
4273 W FOUR LAKES DR, LINDEN

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.



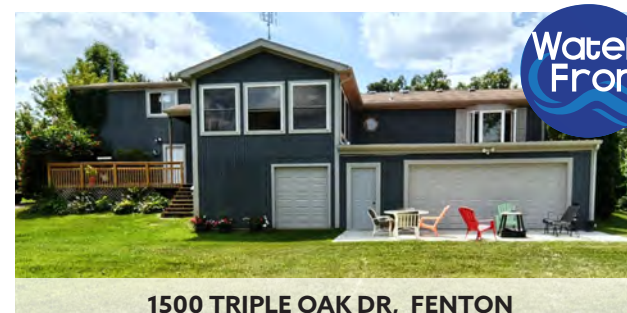
9161 SHINANGUAG DR, GOODRICH

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!



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.



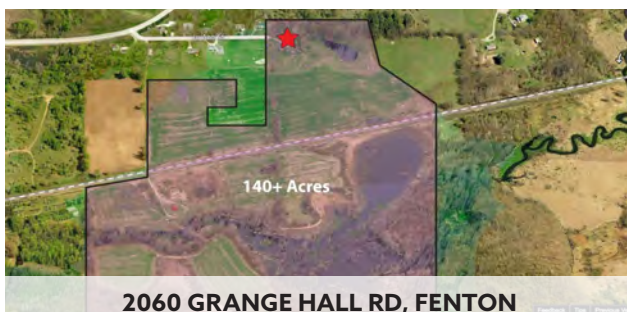
1500 TRIPLE OAK DR, FENTON

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



7450 MCGUIRE RD, FENTON

LAKE SHANNON \$57,500
Over an acre of beautiful buildable lot with access to all sports Lake Shannon. Active association and sportsman club which sponsors many events throughout the year. Backs up to a permanent open space wooded wildlife ravine for added privacy.



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.



13353 HADDON ST, FENTON

LAKE FENTON \$559,900
100' frontage on all sports Lake Fenton. Great opportunity to build your dream home. 2 car garage with storage already there, across the street. Gorgeous views!



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!



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!



7410 MCGUIRE RD, FENTON

LAKE SHANNON \$47,500
Beautiful build-able lot, almost 1 acre with access to private Lake Shannon. Private all sports lake community located west of US-23 and North of M-59 between Ann Arbor and Flint

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♠	Bay Mills Resort & Casino	Brimley
♥	FireKeepers Casino and Hotel	Battle Creek
♣	Four Winds Dowagiac	.....	Dowagiac
♦	Four Winds New Buffalo	.....	New Buffalo
♠	Greektown Casino-Hotel	.....	Detroit
♥	Gun Lake Casino	.....	Wayland
♣	Island Resort & Casino	.....	Harris
♥	Jackpotts	.....	Sterling Heights
♠	Kewadin Casino-Christmas	.....	Christmas
♦	Kewadin Casino-Hessel	.....	Hessel
♣	Kewadin Casino-Manistique	.....	Manistique
♥	Kewadin Casino, Hotel and Convent Center	.....	Sault Sainte Marie
♠	Kewadin Shores Casino & Hotel	.....	Saint Ignace
♦	Kings Club Casino	.....	Brimley
♣	LacVieux Desert Resort Casino & Golf Course	.....	Watersmeet
♥	Leelanau Sands Casino	.....	Suttons Bay
♠	Little River Casino Resort	.....	Manistee
♦	MGM Grand Detroit	.....	Detroit
♣	Motor City Casino Hotel	.....	Detroit
♥	Odawa Casino	.....	Petoskey
♠	Ojibwa Casino-Marquette	.....	Marquette
♦	Ojibwa Casino Resort-Baraga	.....	Baraga
♣	Saganing Eagles Landing Casino	.....	Standish
♥	Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort	.....	Mt. Pleasant
♠	Turtle Creek Casino & Hotel	.....	Williamsburg

For detailed information on these casinos, visit michigan.org

CASINOS

Continued from Page 3A

Are you old enough to gamble?

Michigan's official gambling age is 21, but you'll find the minimum gambling age varies when you leave the Detroit area casino market.

Caesars Windsor, across the Detroit River in Ontario, allows gambling at age 19, and is one of the most popular casino destinations in southeast Michigan.

Tribal casinos can choose their own minimum gambling age: 18 at Soaring Eagle in Mt. Pleasant, Leelanau Sands in Suttons Bay, Turtle Creek in Williamsburg, Island Resort, Ojibwa in Marquette, Ojibwa II in Baraga, and LacVieux in Watersmeet; 19 at all five Kewadin casinos, plus the Odawa Casino Resort in Petoskey; 21 at all other tribal casinos.

Are minors allowed in the casino?

Minors are not permitted in gaming areas, although they may be able to walk through with an adult. Many casinos offer child care programs for younger children and supervised arcades for older kids.

Can you bring in personal electronics?

Electronics are frowned upon at most casinos, including the use of cell phones, according to nytimes.com. Most casinos resist photos taken on the gaming floor, but ask a nearby security guard what the rules are at a particular venue.

What's your spending limit?

You already go into the casino knowing that the odds aren't in your favor. So it pays to know the exact amount you're willing to spend, with the mindset you probably won't see that money again, advises travelzoo.com.

Understanding table limits is also key to not blowing your budget. The table minimum is the lowest amount of money you can bet for each round — this number is usually clearly posted on a sign by the table. You can often find lower table minimums during non-peak hours, like mornings.

Which games should you start with?

Travelzoo.com suggests you start with games of pure chance, such as slots. But when you tire of that, head toward an easy initiation game like a roulette wheel. Like slots, there's no skill required; you just place some chips anywhere on the board and hope the ball lands where you picked.

Then try your hand at more intimidating tables games that require some knowledge of rules and strategy, such as blackjack and craps.

When you're ready to hit the tables, pick one that's not too crowded, and don't be afraid to ask the dealer questions about the rules. Some casinos offer free gaming lessons and you can also find free tutorials online, or ask a knowledgeable friend to explain the rules.

It may help to watch a few hands being played before jumping into the game.

How do you turn your cash into chips?

To buy chips, never hand the dealer cash; lay it on the table in front of you as you sit down, according to travelzoo.com. The change person will catch sight of this and change your money into chips,

WHERE DOES MICHIGAN'S CASINO REVENUE GO?

MGM Grand, MotorCity and Greektown casinos in Detroit are each privately owned and operated. The operators are regulated by the Michigan Gaming Control Board.

Michigan has two wagering taxes. The first is 18 percent of Adjusted Gross Revenues with 8.1 percent going to the state school aid fund and 9.9 percent going to the city where the casino is located. An additional 6 percent tax was levied in 2004, with one-third going to the city in which the casino is located, 7/12 to the general fund and one half to the Michigan agricultural equine industry development fund.

Source: *National Conference of State Legislatures: ncsl.com*

The Tribal-State Gaming Compact requires payment of 2 percent of the net win be returned to the local governments in the immediate vicinity of the established tribal community. Between 1994 and 2013, Native American tribes have made total payment of \$350.1 million to local units of government.

Source: *Michigan.gov*

announcing the amount as he does so.

At a roulette table, the dealer will give you different colored chips from everyone else's. Remember your color and learn where the chips have to be placed correctly for a bet. Never move, or remove, chips during a spin of the roulette or hand of blackjack, and don't touch other players' chips.

The croupier (or dealer) will place winning chips on top of your bets on the table and leave them. It's your job then to remove the chips if you want or "let it ride" on the next bet.

What casino etiquette should I know about?

- Seats are for players only
- No cell phone use at the tables
- Wait until the hand in progress is over before jumping in.
- If you win, don't grab your winnings until the dealer pushes them toward you.

Should I tip the dealer?

Dealers are usually paid minimum wage, so they expect to be tipped with you're winnings, although it's up to your discretion. Slipping a dealer or change person a chip is like any other tip: a small gratuity for services rendered.

Tip with chips, not cash, perhaps \$1 on every small win or \$5 to \$10 when you leave the table. You can also tip your dealers by placing a bet for them.

Speaking of tips . . .

Don't forget to tip the server who is bringing you drinks — at least \$1 per drink. While valet parking is free at all casinos, tip your valet parking attendant \$2 or \$3.

Most importantly, have fun on your trip to the casino. Check out day trips from local tour companies and also from Loose Senior Center for "gambler wannabees" who are 50 and up.

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Discover the Dinosaurs: Unleashed, a dinosaur exhibit that features more than 20 dinosaurs, came to the Birch Run Expo Center last weeked. (Top left) Visitors gather around one of the most recognizable types of dinosaur, the Stegosaurus. It is identified by its double row of spikes that rise vertically down its back. (Top right) Kayden Platt, 9, and his father Aaron, sift through sand and dig for fossils. (Bottom) Dave Selden of Reese takes a photo with his grandson, James Patterson, 2.

Dino show sparks the imagination

■ More than 9,000 visited Dinosaur show in Birch Run

By Tim Jagielo • tjagielo@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795

Birch Run — In the dim light, children pointed and stared at the dinosaurs, which stood partially frozen in time in the middle of a battle for survival, or just grazing in a field.

As epic music plays quietly behind the roars of the giant reptiles, parents and family took pictures of their excited children.

Last weekend, “Discover the Dinosaurs: Unleashed”




took over the Birch Run Expo Center, bringing in more than 9,000 visitors for several days of dinosaur-related activities.

In the main area of the event, there were 10 separate dinosaur displays, and 20 dinosaurs. Many were moving and roaring and all colorfully lit with neon yellow and orange lights.

Dinosaur factoids accompanied each display, and every surface and stitch of employee clothing was set in the key of “adventure.”

The overall din was that of a neon-bathed children’s natural history museum.

See **DINOSAUR SHOW** on 20A



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Police&Fire report



STATE POLICE SEEK TO ID DIRT BIKE THIEF IN ROSE TOWNSHIP

The Michigan State Police-Metro Post is investigating a breaking and entering and theft of five dirt bikes, which occurred in Rose Township. On Jan. 4, at approximately 12:30 p.m., troopers responded to the 11000 block of Williamson in Rose Township to investigate a breaking and entering complaint. Preliminary investigation revealed at approximately 11 a.m., the owner entered his workshop and observed the window was open and five dirt bikes were missing. The building was secured the night before and the theft was believed to have taken place at 2:17 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 4. Surveillance photos were obtained from the scene, which show the suspect. The suspect(s) had to have used a truck big enough to hold all five dirt bikes. Anyone with information is asked to contact Trooper Robertson at (248) 584-5740.

WHAT YOU MISSED in the MIDWEEK TIMES

Compiled by Vera Hogan

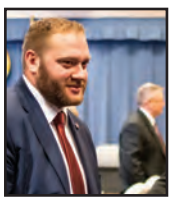
The following are stories you may have missed in the **Wednesday, Jan. 4, Midweek Times**. To subscribe and receive both the Midweek and Sunday Weekend editions, please call (810) 629-8282.

Communities focus on year of improvements

City managers and village manager share goals for 2017. Fenton plans year of construction, Holly Village to focus on economics and Linden plans host of improvements.

Shapiro brings strong voice to sixth district

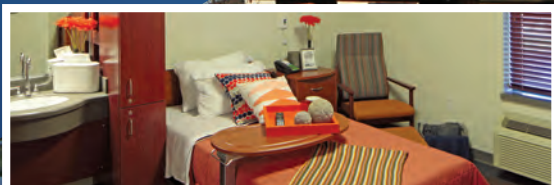
Drew Shapiro, 28, of Fenton is sworn in as Genesee County commissioner for the sixth district. He also was voted vice chair and appointed to the finance committee, which he will also chair.



Ouch! New tax jacks up gas price

Michigan's new fuel tax went up on Jan. 1. Revenue will be used to fix state's crumbling roads.

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LOOKING BACK

at this week in

NATIONAL HISTORY

COMPILED BY VERA HOGAN

JAN. 8

2011: Gabrielle Giffords, a U.S. congresswoman from Arizona, is critically injured when a man goes on a shooting spree during a constituents meeting held by the congresswoman outside a Tucson-area supermarket. Six people died in the attack and another 13, including Giffords, were wounded. The gunman, 22-year-old Jared Lee Loughner, was taken into custody at the scene.

JAN. 9

1493: Italian explorer Christopher Columbus, sailing near the Dominican Republic, sees three "mermaids" (in reality manatees) and describes them as "not half as beautiful as they are painted." Six months earlier, Columbus (1451-1506) set off from Spain across the Atlantic Ocean with the Niña, Pinta and Santa Maria, hoping to find a western trade route to Asia. Instead, his voyage, the first of four he would make, led him to the Americas, or "New World."

JAN. 10

1976: "Convoy" — It was a song that celebrated the exploits of a rebellious trucker with a reckless disregard for human life and highway safety codes. It gave the gravelly-voiced C.W. McCall his biggest pop hit on this day in 1976, except that technically, "C.W. McCall" was a figment of the imagination. The genius behind "Convoy" was, in reality, an Omaha advertising executive named Bill Fries.

JAN. 11

2010: Miep Gies, the last survivor of a small group of people who helped hide a Jewish girl, Anne Frank, and her family from the Nazis during World War II, dies at age 100 in the Netherlands. After the Franks were discovered in 1944 and sent to concentration camps, Gies rescued the notebooks that Anne Frank left behind describing her two years in hiding. These writings were later published as "Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl," which became one of the most widely read accounts of the Holocaust.

JAN. 12

1926: The two-man comedy series "Sam 'n' Henry" debuts on Chicago's WGN radio station. Two years later, after changing its name to "Amos 'n' Andy," the show became one of the most popular radio programs in American history.

JAN. 13

1929: Nearly 50 years after the famous gunfight at the O.K. Corral, Wyatt Earp dies quietly in Los Angeles at the age of 80.

JAN. 14

1954: The tall, handsome hero of the country's national pastime captures the heart of the beautiful, glamorous Hollywood star. But the brief, volatile marriage of Marilyn Monroe and Joe DiMaggio — the couple wed on this day in 1954 — barely got past the honeymoon before cracks began to show in its brilliant veneer.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

■■■■
'IF I WERE King' really disappointed me. When I read his article about the dog and him seeing the same dog in the same yard all the time, why didn't he rescue the dog? Instead he wrote a damn article in the paper. The dog can't read.

■■■■
TO DATE, OBAMA has issued 78 pardons and more than 1,150 commuted sentences. Many of these were federal inmates and many were hardened criminals. Keep in mind that the rate of recidivism is high and most of these criminals will return to a life of crime.

■■■■
TYRONE TOWNSHIP IS wanting to have a millage increase in order to fix our roads. Isn't that what we're paying with the over 7 cents a gallon and 20 percent registration increase to fix our roads?

■■■■
JUDICIAL WATCH HAS reported that Obama's travel and vacation costs over the past eight years have exceeded \$97 million. This includes Hawaii, Michelle's trip to Spain, and fundraising and campaigning trips for Hillary.

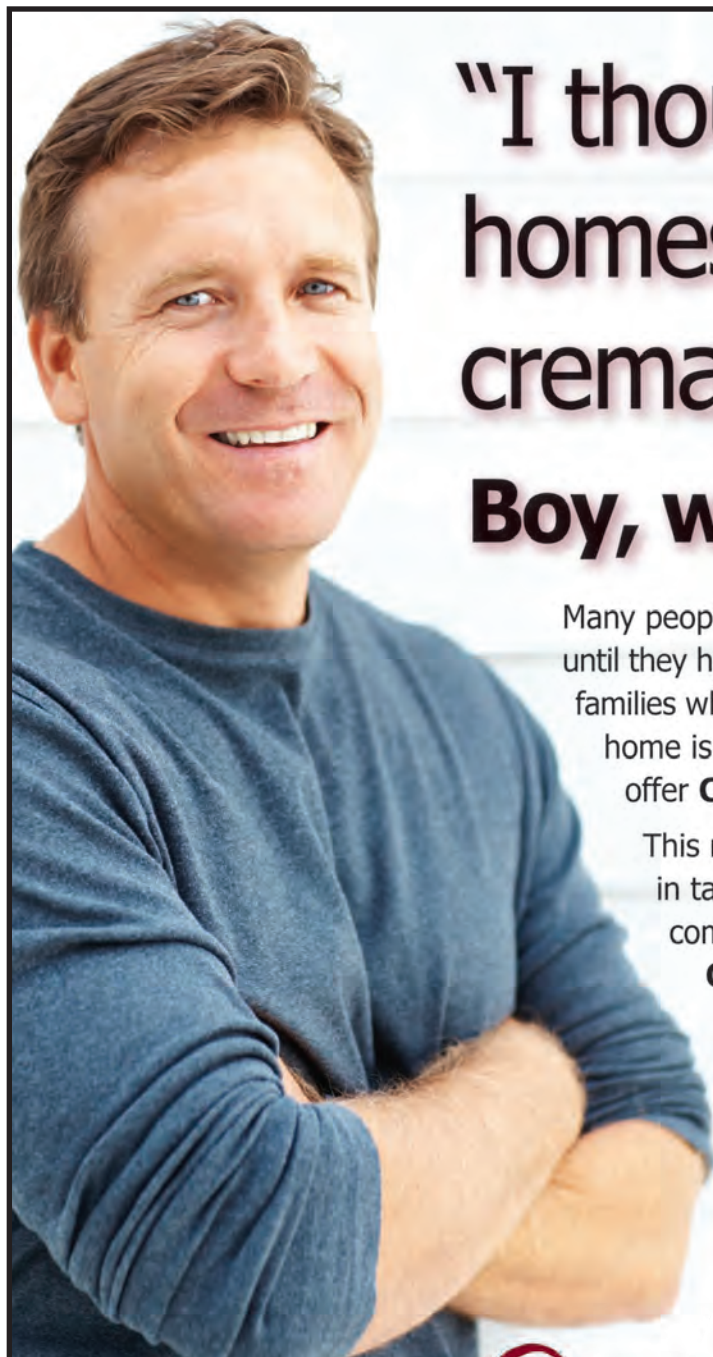
■■■■
WHAT A DIFFERENT world it would be if we could pry into the government's business like they pry into ours. Back in the day, it was all the same. Now it's just us and them.

Business briefs

Fentura Financial, Incorporated completes acquisition of Community Bancorp, Inc.

Fentura Financial, Inc., the holding company for The State Bank, announced Jan. 3 that it has completed its previously announced acquisition with St. Charles based Community Bancorp, Inc., the holding company for Community State Bank, and began operating as one company effective Dec. 31, 2016. "Fentura's acquisition of Community Bancorp will allow the combined company to promote community banking in a larger market area by expanding The State Bank product line and exceptional customer service reputation into the Community State Bank market," said Ronald L. Justice, president and CEO of Fentura Financial, Inc. and The State Bank. "We are excited to continue the great work that Community State Bank has

done locally as we welcome new customers and clients to The State Bank." Approved by both boards of directors on March 24, 2016, The State Bank's acquisition of Community State Bank will grow the company to approximately \$680 million in assets, \$535 million in loans and \$580 million in deposits. The State Bank's branch offices will double to 16 locations, predominately serving mid-Michigan markets. The transaction will strengthen The State Bank's foothold as the largest Bank headquartered in Genesee County. Justice will continue to serve as president and CEO of Fentura Financial, Inc. and The State Bank. John C. Wendling, Community's President and CEO will serve as an Officer of The State Bank. Both The State Bank and Community State Bank customer relationships will continue business as usual until the system conversion. Customers will be kept informed of account conversions and timing on a regular basis.



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News briefs

Trash/recycling rates go up according to contract

City of Fenton garbage and recycling rates increased from \$32.17 per quarter to \$33.43 per quarter, according to City Manager Lynn Markland. On the recent utility bill, the increase was to \$32.99 because only one month of the new rate was on the bill, so it was pro-rated. Future utility bills will reflect the new price of \$33.43 per quarter. The rates are all in the contract that was approved by the Fenton City Council when the new system was agreed to by the city in late 2015, Markland said.

Southern Lakes Parks & Recreation begins fitness programs Jan. 9

Southern Lakes Parks & Recreation begins its 2017 fitness season on Monday, Jan. 9 with a number of six-week sessions, including Pilates and Zumba, Chair Yoga, Pound (weighted drumsticks), On the Ball Core Stability Classes and a 30-Minute Ab Class. A new punch card allows participants to save money on Pilates and Zumba classes, with 24 different class opportunities on Mondays and Wednesdays. For more information, visit slpr.net or call (810) 714-2011.

LAW CHANGES

Continued from Front Page

Opioid addiction laws

As opioid prescriptions and overdoses have increased drastically, law enforcement across the nation has started to change how they deal with addicts.

The Michigan State Police is beginning to send addicts to rehab instead of arresting them as part of the Angel program with the Police Assisted Addiction and Recovery Initiative, which has seen promising results.

Michigan Lt. Gov. Brian Calley recently signed legislation that allows life-saving overdose reversal drugs to be purchased without a prescription. This will allow schools and other organizations to have drugs, such as Narcan on hand, which has been proven to reverse the effects of an opioid overdose.

With these new programs regarding drugs and addicts, residents can expect some significant changes in the law regarding drug policy.

Marijuana revenue

With more and more states legalizing medicinal and recreational marijuana, sellers are having a difficult time finding places to save their money. Banks cannot legally accept drug money per federal law.

However, this problem is going to become worse with each new dispensary that opens, and the law will eventually have to change.

Daylight Saving Time

Numerous states have opted out of this practice, and Michigan could eventually be one of them.

Michigan Democrat Rep. Jeff Irwin introduced a bill in 2015 that would make the state permanently observe standard time, opting Michigan out of changing our clocks

twice a year.

Daylight Saving Time typically begins in March and ends in November, with the goal of people starting their day when the sun comes up to save on energy costs. However, Irwin pointed out that people in Indiana used more energy with Daylight Saving Time, not less.

If there is change, it will take place at the state level.

Healthcare

Healthcare is likely to change drastically in 2017 and the following year.

Throughout his presidential campaign, President-elect Donald Trump promised many times to repeal the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare.

Trump has since revealed he wants to keep certain parts of the law, like allowing people to be on their parents' health insurance for additional years and not allowing health insurance companies to deny someone based on pre-existing conditions, according to foxnews.com.

Trump and Republicans in Congress are expected to repeal major parts of the law, changing the country's healthcare system and affecting millions of people.

Congressional term limits

Another talking point of Trump's campaign was setting term limits for the members of Congress. Sen. Ted Cruz and Florida Republican Don DeSantis introduced a constitutional amendment Tuesday that would limit senators to two terms, which is 12 years total, and representatives to three terms, which is six years total, according to washingtonexaminer.com.

With Trump's support and the Republican-controlled Congress, the amendment has a chance of passing.

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EVENTS

Continued from Page 3A

Bridal shows

- **Jan. 7:** Zehnder's Bridal Extravaganza in Frankenmuth
- **Jan. 7-8:** Novi Bridal Show at the Suburban Collection Showplace
- **Jan. 8:** The Bridal Show at Holiday Inn Gateway Center in Flint
- **Jan. 8:** Winter Bridal Celebrations at The Palace of Auburn Hills
- **Jan. 15:** Here Comes the Brides Bridal Show at Brighton High School
- **Jan. 29:** Genesee County Bridal Alliance 6th Annual Wedding Marketplace, The Captain's Club at Woodfield, Grand Blanc
- **Feb. 12:** Michigan Wedding Info Valentine's Bridal Show at Chemung Hills Golf Club, Howell
- **Feb. 19:** Bridal University at Ford Field in downtown Detroit

For a complete list of bridal shows in Michigan, visit www.michiganweddingslavin.com.

Boat shows

- **Jan. 13-15:** Lansing Boat Show, Lansing Center
- **Feb. 11-19:** MBIA Detroit Boat Show, Cobo Center
- **March 16-19:** Spring Boating Expo, Suburban Collection Showplace, Novi

Fishing/outdoor shows

- **Jan. 12-15:** Ultimate Fishing Show, Suburban Collection Showplace, Novi
- **Jan. 21-22/March 18-19:** Mid-Michigan Gun & Knife Show, Birch Run Expo Center
- **Feb. 10-12:** Hunting & Fishing Expo, Birch Run Expo Center
- **Feb. 23-26:** Outdoorama, Suburban Collection Showplace, Novi
- **March 10-12:** Fishing & Outdoor Show, Birch Run Expo Center
- **March 11-12:** Midwest Fly Fishing Expo, Macomb Community College Sports & Expo Center, Warren

Camper/RV shows

- **Feb. 10-14:** Camper & RV Show, Suburban Collection Showplace, Novi
- **Feb. 23-26:** RV & Camper Show, Birch Run Expo Center
- **March 16-19:** Camper & RV Show, Dort Federal Credit Union Event Center, Flint

Home shows

- **Jan. 27-29:** The Novi Home Show, Suburban Collection Showplace
- **Feb. 23-26:** Cottage & Lakefront Living, Suburban Collection Showplace, Novi

Upcoming Meetings

The Lake Fenton Board of Education will hold a organizational and committee of the whole meeting on **Monday, Jan. 9 at 7 p.m.** in the Alberta B. Martin Board Room.

The Fenton Board of Education will hold a regular meeting on **Monday, Jan. 9 at 6 p.m.** in the Administrative Building.

The Holly Board of Education will hold a regular meeting on **Monday, Jan. 9 at 7 p.m.** in the Karl Richter Campus.

Fenton City Council will hold a regular meeting on **Monday, Jan. 9 at 7:30 p.m.** at Fenton City Hall.

Fenton Township Board of Trustees will hold a regular meeting on **Monday, Jan. 9 at 7:30 p.m.** at the Fenton Township Civic Community Center.

Linden City Council will hold a regular City Council meeting on **Monday, Jan. 9 at 7 p.m.** in Council Chambers.

The Holly Downtown Development Authority will hold a regular meeting on **Monday, Jan. 9 at 6 p.m.** in the Holly Police Department meeting room.

Holly Village will hold a regular Holly Village Council meeting on **Tuesday, Jan. 10 at 7 p.m.** at the Karl Richter Community Center.

The Tyrone Township Planning Commission will hold a regular meeting on **Tuesday, Jan. 10 at 7 p.m.** in the township hall.

The Linden Board of Education will hold a meeting on **Wednesday, Jan. 11 at 6 p.m.** in the Linden High School media center.

Rose Township will hold a regular meeting on **Wednesday, Jan. 11 at 7:30 p.m.** in the township hall, 9080 Mason St. Holly.

Fenton Township Planning Commission will hold a regular meeting on **Thursday, Jan. 12 at 7 p.m.** at the Fenton Township Civic Community Center.

- **March 18-19:** Home, Garden & Lifestyle Show, Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, Ann Arbor
- **March 31-April 1:** Spring Home & Garden Show, Dort Federal Credit Union Event Center, Flint
- **March 31-April 2:** Novi Home & Garden Show, Suburban Collection Showplace

Golf

- **March 10-12:** Michigan Golf Show, Suburban Collection Showplace, Novi

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HOT LINE CONTINUED

■■■■
IF ANYONE FOUND a small note card envelope with Walmart gift cards in it around Christmas somewhere in Fenton, these gift cards were going to a family in need.

■■■■
THE REPUBLICAN NEWS conference regarding Obamacare was hilarious. Each of those powerful Republicans chanted the same ‘I hate Obama’ mantra and proceeded to tell how they would destroy the president’s legacy, no matter who it hurts and even if it is political suicide for the GOP.

■■■■
I’M HAPPY TRUMP spoke out against Republicans trying to shut down the Ethics Committee. Even Paul Ryan was against the move. If Trump really wants to ‘drain the swamp,’ he would strengthen the Ethics Committee to better weed out the corrupt politicians.

■■■■
FUNNY HOW DEMOCRATS berate

Trump’s ‘blasé’ attitude toward alleged Russian hacking but remain silent on the fact that Clinton aided and abetted the hacking through her intentional violation of cyber-security protocols. Hypocrites.

■■■■
SIX HUNDRED AND nineteen blacks killed in Chicago in 2016. Black Lives Matters (BLM) must have been protesting every day. But there were none because victims of black-on-black murder don’t matter to BLM. It is simply a racist organization created to protest white police.

■■■■
WHERE CAN I go to find a restaurant that serves smaller meals for older adults? At 80, I don’t need so much to eat but still would like a balanced meal. Any help is appreciated.

■■■■
TRUMP WON THE country popular vote. California is irrelevant. Eliminate their electoral votes and their popular vote and that is a countrywide win.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO
Visitors observe a Dilophosaurus near the entrance of the dinosaur exhibit held last weekend at the Birch Run Expo Center. The Dilophosaurus was among the largest carnivores of its time.

DINOSAUR SHOW
Continued from Page 15A

While the animatronic displays were non-interactive, there were dinosaur rides, archeological digs, temporary tattoo paintings, face painting, a dinosaur bounce house area, food, photos and a gift shop.

Michael Vasquez, the company manager for VStar Entertainment Group, which runs the tour said, “We hope they get some knowledge of the dinosaurs... We have a lot of kids that leave, and say they want to be paleontologists. It kind of sparks their interest.”

Discover the Dinosaurs: Unleashed is not a cheap day for parents, but Vasquez said the value lies in bringing a dinosaur-related event to families, where normally there is none. There are currently three dinosaur shows on the road around Michigan. Soon dinosaurs will be unleashed on other areas of the U.S.

Parking cost \$5 per car. Adults and children’s tickets cost \$15, and \$12 for seniors.

“We have a lot of kids that leave, and say they want to be paleontologists. It kind of sparks their interest.”

Michael Vasquez
Manager, VStar Entertainment Group

IF YOU MISSED THE DINOSAURS...

The University of Michigan Museum of Natural History holds its own free Dinosaur Tours most days of the week. Go on a 30-minute guided tour on Saturday, and Sunday at 2 p.m. Go to lsa.umich.edu and search “dinosaur,” and check out the events.

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO
Families take photos of the dinosaurs in the main exhibit area. Green screen photos were available as well.

E-cigs are 'major public health concern'

■Local expert: 'They're truly not as safe as the marketing makes them out to be'

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

E-cigarette use, or vaping, is a "major public health concern" among young people, according to a report by the U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy.

This report was put together by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Office of the U.S. Surgeon General, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and can be seen in full on e-cigarettes. surgeongeneral.com.

E-cigarettes are known as a healthier alternative to traditional cigarettes. Also called e-hookahs, tank systems, and vape pens, these devices heat a liquid into an aerosol inhaled by the user.

According to the report, the nicotine in e-cigarettes is addictive and harmful, containing diacetyl, a chemical linked to serious lung disease, other volatile organic compounds, and heavy metals like nickel, tin and lead.

Val McLeod, manager of Pulmonary Rehabilitation and Tobacco Treatment Specialist at McLaren Flint said she is in full agreement with the Surgeon General.

"They're truly not as safe as the marketing makes them out to be," she said.

Vaping use is on the rise with middle school students, she said, and while they may be a safer alternative to smoking cigarettes, they're still harmful.

E-cigarettes are the most commonly used form of tobacco by youth, and the CDC found that young people are vaping now more than ever. In 2015, approximately three million teenagers used e-cigarettes, 13 percent of girls and 19 percent of boys, which is a ten-fold increase over four years. According to the report, one in six high school students reported using e-cigarettes

in one month.

The report said the brain is still developing until age 25. "Nicotine exposure during adolescence and young adulthood can cause addiction and harm the developing brain" the report states.

"People think it's just water vapor," McLeod said.

She said e-cigarettes have only been on the market since 2008, which hasn't allowed for enough research.

"Give it 20 years. Now when they're in their 30s, they're going to end up having some significant health problems," she said.

She also doesn't believe it's true that e-cigarettes help people

not smoke cigarettes, especially with young people.

The report states that there isn't strong evidence proving that these devices help people quit smoking cigarettes. It also concluded that vaping is "strongly as-

"You're just substituting a cigarette for the vaping, which still has carcinogens. Not nearly as many but all you need is one cancer-causing agent to cause cancer. It's not safe."

Val McLeod

McLaren manager of Pulmonary Rehabilitation and tobacco treatment specialist



COLLECTIVE-EVOLUTION.COM

The U.S. Surgeon General has released a report stating that vaping or e-cigarettes are a "major public health concern" among young people. One local tobacco specialist agrees.

sociated" with the use of other tobacco products, like regular cigarettes, cigars, hookah, and smokeless tobacco.

"With middle school students...I think it's a gateway to people trying real cigarettes," she said. "It's not healthy in itself. You're just substituting a cigarette for the vaping, which still has carcinogens. Not nearly as many but all you need is one cancer-causing

agent to cause cancer. It's not safe."

They're also a fire risk. Police have received reports of the lithium batteries in the devices exploding.

"They're not made in the U.S. The insulation around the lithium battery is not built well and can catch fire and that's a pretty big risk," she said. This is why vaping devices are not allowed on planes.

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Tranquility Estates is giving back to the community this season.

The residents of Grand Blanc's premier senior living facility, Tranquility Estates, are certainly feeling the spirit of the holiday season. In November they raised money by selling refreshments at their Fall Craft Fair. When faced with the daunting decision of where their profits should go, instead of buying something for themselves, they decided to help two young Cub Scouts raise money for Pack 133. Tranquility Estates agreed to match what the residents had made to help sponsor the Cub Scouts. The boys, Aiden and Evan, were invited to come to Tranquility Estates to receive their donation. The boys' mother, Cheryl Smith, who is also their Cub Scout den leader, told the residents how their experiences in the scouts have helped the boys develop confidence and taught them the importance of integrity. The boys introduced themselves to everyone and visited for a few minutes. Resident, Judy Potter, presented the check to the boys on behalf of Tranquility Estates and its residents. The boys were genuinely delighted with the gift. They explained that this money would help their pack with expenses for upcoming activities such as camping, archery, bowling, and hiking. The residents received a huge basket of gourmet popcorns and goodies from the Cub Scouts for their generous donation.

The residents then decided to donate the basket of goodies to the Whaley's Children Center in Flint. Plans were then set to deliver the holiday basket to the children at the Whaley Children's Center. The residents boarded the Tranquility bus and set out to Flint. Once there, they were given a tour of the facility and met the children who would be enjoying the gift basket this holiday season. It was a moving experience for both the children and the residents. The residents came away from this experience with a profound humility and a knowing that they made a difference in the lives of some deserving young people this Christmas!



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E-CIGARETTE REGULATIONS

Use and/or possession of tobacco simulation products is prohibited at local schools.

Linden Superintendent Ed Koledo said it's not really been an issue at the schools, and he hopes it remains that way.

Lake Fenton Superintendent Wayne Wright said, "We have had issues with students bringing and using e-cigarettes to school. I believe the problem is increasing."

At Fenton, Superintendent Adam Hartley said they've only had four or five incidents in the last two years of students being caught with e-cigarettes. "I know that it is a growing issue through my parenting networks and observations of kids (not specifically Fenton) out and about," he said.

Earlier this year, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration banned the sale of e-cigarettes to people under 18, and require ingredients in the products to be approved.

The report recommends stronger regulations, a sales ban for people under 18, higher taxes on e-cigarettes, and restrictions on marketing that target a younger audience.

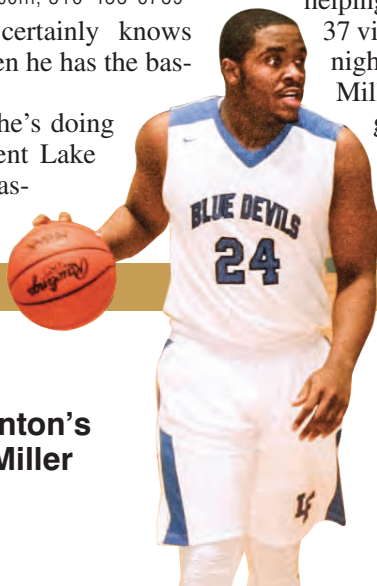
Miller, Golson lead Blue Devils to 55-37 victory vs. Owosso

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

Jalen Miller certainly knows how to score when he has the basketball.

And it seems he's doing that a lot in recent Lake Fenton boys basketball games.



Lake Fenton's Jalen Miller

Miller scored a game-high 29 points, helping lead Lake Fenton (4-2) to a 55-37 victory against Owosso on Tuesday night.

Miller has been the Blue Devils' biggest scoring threat of the season for certain, but in recent contests he's become even hotter, netting 81 points in his last three

games. Within that span he also scored 34 points in an 80-76 victory against Hamady.

While Miller was doing a lot of scoring, Isaac Golson was making sure his teammates were getting good offensive looks, dishing off eight assists and scoring eight points himself.

"Isaac Golson and Jalen Miller both

had very good games for us with what they brought," Lake Fenton varsity boys basketball coach Jake Erway said. "Isaac was great seeing the floor and finding the open guy in transition, and Jalen did a great job of getting rebounds for us and getting himself to the free-throw line."

CONTINUED ONLINE AT

➤ TCTIMES.COM

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 2017 | PAGE 22A | WWW.TCTIMES.COM/SPORTS

Sports

Devils drop state-ranked New Lothrop

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com

It was a battle of Genesee Area Conference heavyweights when Lake Fenton and New Lothrop met on the wrestling mat on Tuesday night.

Both have state-ranked teams with state-ranked wrestlers looking for individual state championships once March hits the calendar.

So, there is no question that getting a victory in this dual would be pivotal if the

Lake Fenton Blue Devils want to repeat as GAC champions. The Blue Devils got the pivotal victory, earning only pinfall or forfeit victories in every win Lake Fenton had against the fourth-ranked team in Division 4 in the state. The decisive individual wins resulted in a 42-37 tight victory for the Blue Devils on Wednesday night. Lake Fenton also wrestled Perry and defeated them 54-21.

CONTINUED ONLINE AT

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPENS

Lake Fenton's Ryan Franks pinned his foe in the Blue Devils' victory against New Lothrop.

LF girls tie last year's win total

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

The season is only seven games old, but the Lake Fenton varsity girls basketball team has matched last year's win total.

The Blue Devils improved to 4-3 overall with their biggest offensive contest of the season, defeating Madison Academy 76-31 at home on Tuesday night.

Lake Fenton's offense was consistent throughout the contest and reasonably well balanced as well. Ten players scored for



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | MARK BOLEN
Saige Fuller had four steals in the Blue Devils' 76-31 win against Madison Academy.

Lake Fenton, while one player stuck out more than anyone else. That player was Hannah Garty. Garty scored a game-high 20 points, netting nine of those points behind the 3-point line.

CONTINUED ONLINE AT

➤ TCTIMES.COM

Bronchos make early statement in first Metro League dual of the season

■ Holly sweeps Clio, Fenton; Tigers lose two

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

Holly — So far, it's been a season of positives when the Holly and Fenton varsity wrestling seasons look at what they've accomplished this year.

The Holly Bronchos are off to an 8-2 start and placed third at the Oakland County meet prior to the winter break. Meanwhile, for the first time in years,

the Fenton Tigers look to have a sizeable team that has found ways to win matches and do well. They won a tournament earlier this season and one can see the enthusiasm within the squad.

Holly's enthusiasm continued after Tuesday's opening Metro League dual meet of the season capturing a sweep. The Bronchos defeated Clio 39-29 and then followed that victory with a 43-30 win against area rivals Fenton at Holly High School. The Tigers still remain enthusiastic, but that enthusiasm was dampened a tiny bit after

being swept. Fenton also lost to Swartz Creek 39-32.

"Things are going good," Holly wrestler Collin Dallwitz said. "We are working hard, work hard every day. Our coaches push us hard. ... We want to get better every day."

"The new coaches are definitely doing well," Fenton wrestler Tommy Adams said. "We have been doing really well. The kids are working a lot harder. We feel like we can do really well this season and win a lot of matches. We feel like we have a chance. It feels great."

CONTINUED ONLINE AT

➤ TCTIMES.COM



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPENS

Holly's Wyatt Scribner (wrestler in red) battles Fenton's Mario Ramirez during Holly's 43-30 victory against the Tigers on Wednesday.

MEET

Bijou

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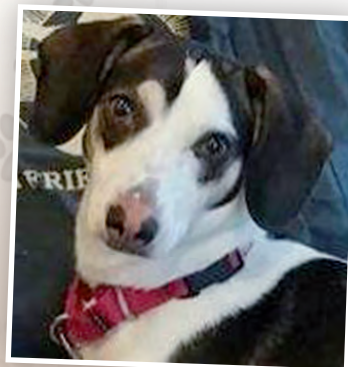
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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPENS
Linden's Dawson Blank (top) won both of his matches against Flushing and Ortonville-Brandon on Tuesday.

Eagles split first two Metro matches

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

The Linden varsity wrestling team had two of its state-ranked wrestlers out of the lineup when the Metro League dual season began on Tuesday.

That made it more challenging when the Eagles faced Flushing and Ortonville-Brandon. The Eagles were able defeat Flushing by a 45-35 margin, but lost to the Blackhawks 48-31.

Dawson Blank, Jacob Kitowski, Justin Cygnar and Koleton Strauss each won both of their matches, while Avery Jacobs won his only match of the night. Colby Kohmescher, Caleb White, Colton Powell, Uziah Delgado and John Marme each won a single varsity match.

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Bronchos still searching for an identity

Holly falls to Flint Northwestern, 77-66

By David Troppens

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Holly — The Holly varsity boys basketball team is still trying to find an identity for the season.

Playing a roster of five new starters from a year ago, the Bronchos have struggled to get victories. They have been competitive in just about every game they've played, but the Bronchos haven't won a contest since defeating Flint Powers in their opener.

The squad was competitive once again on Tuesday, trailing by just one with about five minutes remaining, but ended up struggling down the stretch in what was a 77-66 loss to Flint Northwestern.

"Three of our four losses we've either had the lead or it was a one-point game sometime in the fourth quarter," Holly varsity boys basketball coach Lance Baylis said.

"That's a silver lining. At one point good luck will come our way and we will finish. We have not been able to finish. We have been poor decision makers or poor shot makers under pressure."

Austin Harless, one of the few

players on the team with solid varsity experience, scored 12 points in the first quarter, allowing Holly to be tied 16-16 after one period.

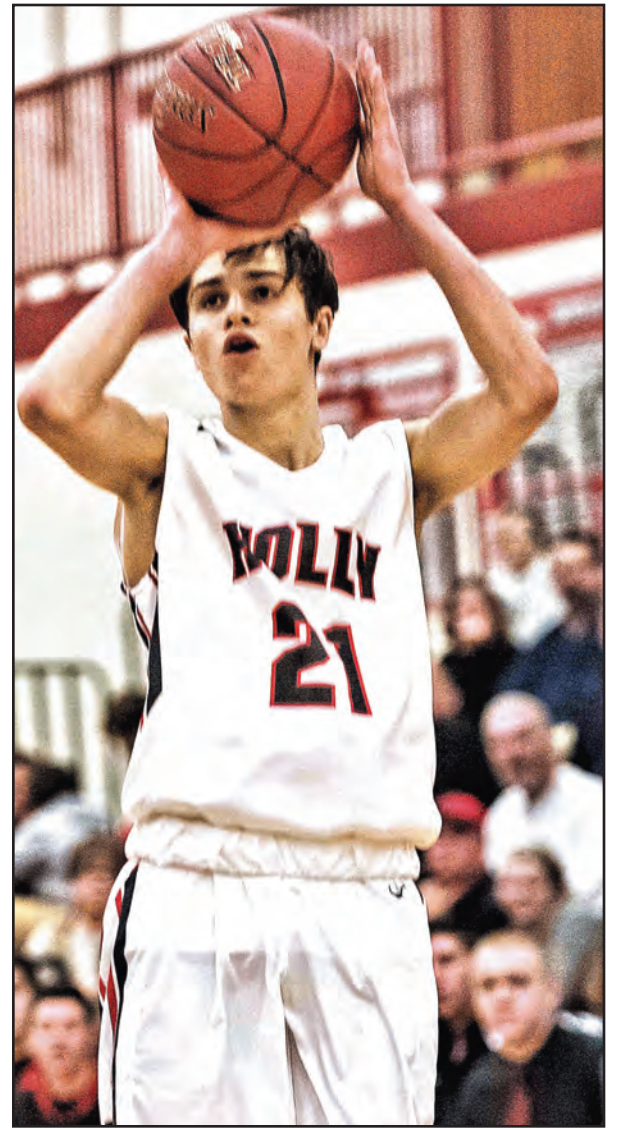
In the second quarter, Kevin Williams scored nine points and Harless hit a 3-pointer at the buzzer, putting Holly down just 35-32 at the half. In the third quarter, Williams remained hot, scoring seven points in the period, but the Bronchos trailed 55-47 entering the fourth quarter. In the final period, Noah Baylis scored seven early points on two 3-pointers and a free throw, helping the Bronchos cut the Flint Northwestern lead to just 61-60 with about five minutes remaining, but that's as close as Holly would get. Northwestern had a couple of breaking layups to take a lead and extended it down the stretch.

Harless led the Bronchos with 25 points, helping him to maintain his 19.5 points a game average. Williams finished with 16 points while Baylis had nine points and five assists. Baylis wasn't the only freshman playing ample playing time. Austin Pellett performed well in the fourth quarter, finishing with five points and five rebounds.

"He plays a very high-level court IQ game," Lance Baylis said about Pellett.

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | MARK BOLEN

Noah Baylis scored nine points and dished five assists in Holly's 77-66 loss to Flint Northwestern on Tuesday.

Lady Bronchos lose first game of the season vs. Hartland, 42-23

By David Troppens

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The Holly varsity girls basketball team started the season with four straight victories, which included a tournament championship and two Metro League victories.

But on Tuesday, the Bronchos faced their toughest foe of the season so far, eventually losing to Hartland 43-23.

The Bronchos tried to stay close with the Hartland Eagles with a strong defensive effort early on. Holly allowed just four first-quarter points, but the Bronchos actually trailed 4-2 due to netting just two first-quarter points. In the second quarter, Hartland got its offense going a bit while the Bronchos still struggled, resulting in a 17-6 halftime deficit. Holly was unable to get any closer than eight points in the second half.

Rebecca Fugate and Paige Reid have been Holly's biggest scoring threats all season long, and remained the team's top scorers against Hartland. However, both were held to single-digits. Fugate scored nine points while Reid had eight points.

Hartland freshman Whitney Sollom was the game's high scorer with 17 points. Lexey Tobel added 16 points.

Hartland opened the season with a 62-36 victory against Fenton and followed it with a 69-26 win against Linden. Of the Eagles' four victories, Holly's margin of defeat was the closest of any foe. Hartland's only loss came against



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | MARK BOLEN

Holly's Rebecca Fugate scored nine points in the Bronchos' 42-23 loss against Hartland on Tuesday.

Detroit Martin Luther King in a 55-42 verdict.

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