

Murders attributed to Craigslist climb above the 100 mark

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

Craigslist has reached a new high — 101 — and we’re not talking cute puppies with spots here. We’re talking about murder!

That’s how many homicides have been attributed so far to craigslist.org transactions, according to a January 2016

Washington Post article.

The concerns about using Craigslist continue to grow. The site, far from just a good place to sell your stuff or find a job, is also a platform for dangerous criminals to find their prey.

In fact, according to the Advanced Interactive Media Group, an industry watchdog and analyst, Craigslist reached

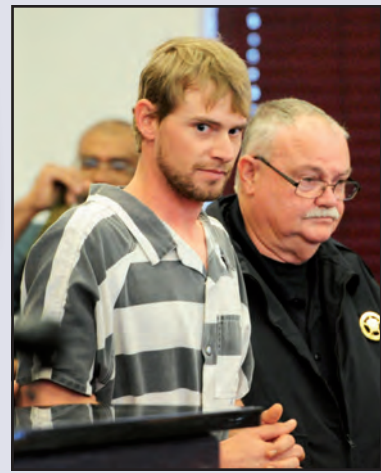
the 101-murder mark just before Christmas in 2015, when a 22-year-old man from Gary, Indiana, attempted to rob the middle-aged couple who had arranged to buy his car.

Craigslist has long maintained that the vast majority of its millions of transactions are legitimate. There are two things, **See CRAIGSLIST on 19A**

EIGHT OF THE
 WORST CRIMES
 COMMITTED USING
 CRAIGSLIST
 PAGE 3B

DAILYMAIL.CO

Ronnie Adrian “Jay” Towns, is guilty of killing an Atlanta-area couple who he lured to south Georgia after the couple posted a Craigslist ad seeking a vintage Ford Mustang.



PAGE 5B
 HEALTHY
 LIVING
 FEATURED
 PAGES

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SUNDAY EDITION

Weekend Times

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 2017

2012 - 2013 - 2014 NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

Sheriff accused of racketeering and corruption

■ Pickell says lawsuit is a lie and he plans to countersue, ask for quick dismissal

By Sharon Stone
 sstone@tctimes.com; 810-433-6786

Eight process servers filed a federal complaint in United States



Sheriff Robert Pickell, District Court-Eastern District of Michigan Southern Division against Genesee County Sheriff Robert Pickell, Scott Hope, and Allen & Hope Process Serving Management Co., Inc.

See PICKELL on 10A

“This lawsuit is about money, not the truth.”

Sheriff Robert Pickell



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FRED MOSES

This photo of downtown Fenton was captured by Times staffer Fred Moses on Sept. 22, 2016 with his DJI Phantom 3 Professional Drone. **See story on Page 3A.**

It’s a bird, it’s a plane, IT’S A DRONE!

Popular ‘toy’ sparks debate over privacy issues

Smoking age to be raised to 21 in Genesee County?

The Genesee County Board of Commissioners will be voting on whether to raise the smoking age from 18 to 21 at its Monday, Jan. 30 meeting. The meeting begins at 9 a.m. at the Genesee County Administration Building, 1101 Beach St., Flint.

See SMOKING AGE on 16A

Crime Stoppers — here’s how it works

■ Cash rewards for tips leading to arrest are always paid anonymously

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

Crime Stoppers is one of the tools used by law enforcement to help

catch criminals.

Locally, they are currently offering up to \$5,000 for information leading to the arrest of the person or persons responsible for the murder of Alexandra “Ally” Brueger on July 30, 2016.

See CRIME STOPPERS on 20A

CRIME STOPPERS
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ALEXANDRA BRUEGER- MURDERED
 ... Brueger, a.k.a. Alex was murdered on ...

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“I have only one question about President Obama granting commutations to 1,715 convicted criminals; will the liberal media actually track and report all the murders that result from Obama’s action?”



“The level of pure hate for President Trump exhibited by many liberals is further evidence of the immaturity they demonstrate when they don’t get their way. They remind me of spoiled children throwing a tantrum. Grow up and act like an American. The world is watching.”



“Don’t ignore the government of Michigan trying to get rid of Public Notices in the newspaper. There’s already enough things that government at all levels tries to hide. You have to have Public Notices in order to keep informed. All government is corrupt, including local. Call your rep today.”



COMMENT
 OF THE WEEK

“I want to see Donald Trump’s birth certificate.”



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Beautiful rustic contemporary situated on one acre. Not only is this home located in Fenton schools but it is one of 13 homes that share a private 5 acre park on pristine Taylor Lake! Almost 2000 sf with 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths plus a partially finished basement, deck and above ground pool. What more could you ask for??

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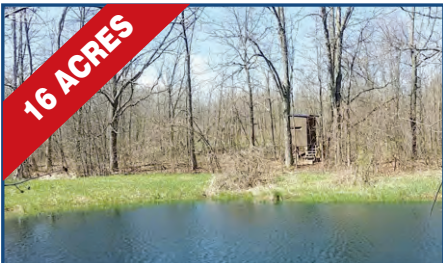


FENTON
19107 Hickory Ridge

Contemporary home on 10 heavily wooded acres. Home has gorgeous wood floors throughout the living area. Open floor plan is great for entertaining. 3 bedrooms and 2 full baths on main level with an additional bedroom in the walkout basement. 16x24 Pole barn and 2 car attached garage.

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Call Kelsey Kerr 810-210-4155



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Carole Ln.

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Call Donna Fraidenburg 810-845-1971



OTISVILLE
9480 E Mount Morris

Almost 1800 square ranch close to fair-grounds (but not TOO close), Buttercup Beach and Wolverine Campground. Pretty property almost totally surrounded by trees gives great privacy. 2 car detached garage has large usable storage space above. Home is well cared for with a brand new furnace.

\$107,900

Call Kevin Usealman 810-965-6552



FENTON
511 Beach

Large parcel with many commercial and/or light industrial possibilities! Property is over 8 acres and in the city of Fenton. The building is actively being used for storage and boat maintenance; however it does need substantial repairs.

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Call Patrik Welty 810-750-2300



FLINT

3409 N. Jennings

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

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FENTON
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\$299,900

Call Patrik Welty 810-750-2300

If it's too cold for you...it's too cold for them

It's a crime to leave a pet outdoors in the cold without adequate shelter, food, water

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Temperatures are on the downward trend and if you are feeling cold outside, you can be sure that your pets are, too.

A recent If I Were King column in the Times entitled "Ten Commandments for dog owners" really struck a chord with animal lovers, especially when the columnist wrote about driving by a home and seeing a "poor and miserable dog that spent 24 hours, day and night, in a cold, drafty, ramshackle dog house."

Dozens of Hot lines responded that the person who witnessed this situation should've done something about it.

That's the question. What should a person do when they feel an animal is being abused by being left outside in the cold?

First of all, it's not against the law to have a dog chained in the yard. "But it is against the law **See PET OUTDOORS on 17A**

“What one person considers abuse may be perfectly lawful, even though we may not like it.”

Paul Wallace

Director of Genesee County
Animal Control



It's a bird, it's a plane, IT'S A DRONE!

■ Popular 'toy' sparks debate over privacy issues

By Hannah Ball

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That thing you see in the sky isn't a bird or a plane, or Superman — it's a drone. And they're beginning to fill the sky and spark debates over

privacy.

Drones are remote-controlled devices that fly. Larger and advanced models have camera and visual capabilities that allow users to see and record what the drone flies over. The cheaper, small drones are only made to fly around the house or outdoors.

The consumer market for drones is growing at a rapid pace. According to a Tractica report, approximately 6.4

million drones were shipped in 2015, and this number is expected to reach 67.9 million drones annually by 2021.

Drones are used by the military to collect intelligence, videographers to take video and photos, geologists to scope out dangerous sites, and filmmakers while filming movies.

See DRONE on 14A



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TRI-COUNTY TIMES



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If I Were King...

king@tctimes.com

Citizenship is a two-way street

These days it seems you hear a lot about 'rights' in America. You have the right to an attorney. You have the right to remain silent. You have the right to free speech. You have the right to bear arms.

Cruel and unusual punishment? Unreasonable search and seizure? Being tried twice for the same crime? Each would be a violation of your rights. All these, and many more, are rights automatically conferred on us the moment we become citizens. And nearly all Americans are familiar with these rights.

But there is also a flip side to being an American — a side we don't hear so much about in these days of 'rights.'

That flip side is 'responsibilities.' Responsibilities are the twin sister of rights. Ask any citizen what their rights are and they can spew them out like an auctioneer on steroids. Yet, ask the average citizen what the responsibilities of being an American citizen are and you'll likely be met with a stare as empty as a politician's campaign promises.

Here are a few reminders of the responsibilities that all Americans share as citizens of the greatest country on the planet.

- **Pay your own way**, nobody owes you a living and that includes other taxpayers. You have a responsibility to get a job, pay your bills and pay your taxes.
- **Take care of your own children.** Feed, clothe and house them. Raise them, teach them right from wrong, and instill an appreciation in them for their country. Yes, this seems simple, but apparently a lot of people still don't get it.
- **Secure the future of America.** Whether you think of America as 'the land of opportunity,' or the 'the land of the free and the home of the brave,' we all have a duty to preserve what's great about this nation so that future generations of Americans can experience the same love and patriotism as we do.
- **Defend your country.** This includes

defending it with your life if called upon.

• **Become an informed and educated voter.** In recent years, there has been a big push to get all Americans to vote. It would be wonderful if people took the time to become well-informed about the basic political landscape instead of voting based on party affiliation or TV ads.

• **Defend our Constitution.** For God's sake, almost all of the 'rights' we enjoy are defined and guaranteed by the Constitution. Yet, it is under attack daily by radicals and liberals who want to 'fundamentally change America.' Get in the game and defend it!

• **Make America first.** The rest of the world doesn't really care whether you or I live or die — only our fellow Americans do. At the end of the day, all citizens enjoy a special level of kinship — we are all family by the simple, but fortunate, virtue of being Americans.

America has survived and thrived for 241 years because those who went before us valued their responsibilities as much as they did their rights.

I'm not certain that is still true today.

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



FOSTER CHILDS

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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.

BEWARE: DTE AND Consumers Energy scam is going around. They just called me from (313) 349-5000.

ALL TRUMP PROTESTORS should be drafted to the front lines against ISIS for their phenomenal efforts. Make America great again.

I USED TO think the Republican Party was the party of Christians. Not anymore.

NEVER UNDERESTIMATE THE stupidity of people in large numbers. There's not a single thought in their head that is their own.

FOR THE CONSTITUTIONALIST, please remember that all people are created equal at birth — after that, equality depends on your responsibility as a productive citizen.

TO ALL MY conservative friends, if Romney or McCain or Kasich or Rubio had been the president inaugurated, there would not have been these protests. We don't trust Trump. It's him, not the party.

I THINK MADONNA needs a visit from the FBI.

VERA HOGAN. YOU'RE way out of line. Using a 10-year-old child to get to his father is just wrong on so many levels. You are despicable.

'I DON'T CARE how people think. I care how people behave.' — Dennis Prager

'FACTS DON'T CARE about your feelings.' — Ben Shapiro

WE'RE GOING TO shut those Obama phones off, and trade them in for alarm clocks. No more wasting tax money.

THANK YOU PARIS, Berlin, Lisbon and the rest of the world for showing your support as Putin and his Republican Party plunge America into darkness.

TRUMP: THE HYPOCRISY of Christian values.

STATE SCHOOLS OF Choice may not increase my taxes but it sure increases the traffic flow on Torrey Road. What a nightmare for those of us who live here.

THANK YOU TO the Gerych's delivery driver for retrieving the flags off the ground at the corner of Lahring and Torrey Road.

WONDER WHY THE progressive liberal, diversity-is-key people find it so hard to accept another's point of view? Check the definition of diversity again. It's not only those who agree with you.

VERA HOGAN IS a very brilliant woman and her articles are very true. I guess most people today don't want to be normal. She said she accepted Trump and so do I.

I REMEMBER WHEN Hillary was the first lady and people were picking on her child. My heart broke for her. It was wrong then to pick on a child, and it is wrong now. Children should be off limits.

GUN CONTROL ADVOCATES, pay attention. According to the FBI, 44 airports permit 'gun carry' in their open areas (baggage claim). Florida does not, hence a soft target is created. The shooter was inspired by Islamic terrorism and targeted the Florida airport. Why else fly from Alaska to Florida?

CORRECTION, IN HIS usual excellent commentary, Foster Childs indicated that Trump is the 46th president. He is the 45th. Mike Pence is the 46th president.

INTERESTING THAT 574 of the 2,079 students in Lake Fenton are from other districts. That's nearly 28 percent. I thought that my tax dollars were being used to educate our district's kids, not everyone else's. If parents want to send their children to our schools, let them move here and pay the same sewer bills that we're paying.

See **HOT LINE** throughout Times

Compiled by Hannah Ball, staff reporter

What are your thoughts on sites like eBay, Craigslist and Amazon? | street talk



"I don't use eBay and very seldom Craigslist. I shop on Amazon a lot. I sold a car on Craigslist once."

Carol Carpenter
Fenton Township



"Amazon is nice. I'll look up name brands and you can find them for cheap. I don't like Craigslist."

Paige Andrews
Fenton



"Every time I've used eBay, I've had great experiences with the people that I deal with. You couldn't get me to use Craigslist."

Bill Borges
Tyrone Township



"I order on Amazon and I appreciate the prime shipping. Sometimes I'll prefer to buy stuff online because it's cheaper."

Jannah Garback
Fenton



"I've sold on Amazon and it's very easy. It's very convenient. The nice thing is that shipping is usually free, and it's free tracking."

Timothy Garback
Fenton

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GRAND BLANC



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\$675,000

FLUSHING



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5 Bedrooms, 6(4,2) Baths, 3738 Sq Ft.
Beautiful custom home in wooded picturesque setting!
\$650,000



LOBDELL LAKE WATERFRONT



16455 Oak Hill Dr. • Fenton
4 Bedrooms, 3 Baths, 1602 Sq Ft.
Waterfront Beauty, Walk Out LL, over 3,000 Finished Sq Ft.
\$475,000



LAKE FENTON WATERFRONT



14189 Swanee Beach Dr. • Fenton
3 Bedrooms, 2(1,1) Baths, 1348 Sq Ft.
Amazing lot on the Open Water!
\$470,000

HOLLY



12755 Meadow View Circle • Holly
4 Bedrooms, 4(3,1) Baths, 2583 Sq Ft.
Beautiful Home with Amazing Finished Lower Level!
\$390,000

FENTON- 3.5 ACRES



9331 Foley Crossing • Fenton
5 Bedrooms, 4 Baths, 3,000 Sq Ft.
Amazing Home with over 3 Acres, Finished Walk Out!
\$367,000



LOON LAKE WATERFRONT



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HOLLY- 4 ACRES



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**SOLD
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\$118,000



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Lake Fenton Access
11450 Moffett Ct. • Fenton
\$205,000



SOLD
12253 St. Andrews Way • Fenton
\$80,000



JohnTremaine.com





YOUR SMILE MATTERS!

By: Dr. Steven Sulfaro

CHILDREN'S DENTISTRY FIRST DENTAL VISIT

Parents of young children often ask me at what age they should bring their son or daughter into the dental office for the first time. When I was in dental school at the University of Michigan we were taught that the best time to see kids for the first time was age 3. By age 3 the child was usually mature enough to "cooperate" with the dental team and he or she could have regular preventative dental cleaning. The problem has always been that sometimes by age 3 major dental problems have already developed necessitating major dental treatment. With this in mind, The American Pediatric Dental Association recently came out with new recommendations. The new recommended age for a child's first dental visit is age 1. Age 1 dental visits are what we in our office like to call "well-baby check-ups", and are very important. Realistically, we are not going to be able to do a full dental cleaning with x-rays on a 1 year old. But I'm able to determine that all the teeth are developing normally and can catch problems very early well before any major trouble. Just as importantly, this gives me and my team an opportunity to educate mom and dad about proper dental care for their child. Dental office fears and phobias in adults are very common and can be so extreme that a person will avoid going to the dentist all together. This can lead to major dental problems and poor oral and overall health. When I question these people about their dental fears they almost always relate some traumatic childhood experience that has scarred them for life. I am committed to ensure that the children I see will not suffer this same fate. By seeing kids early in their life before major dental problems; I am helping them to maintain good dental health and avoid dental fears. Age 1 dental visits are key to a long and healthy life with good teeth.

I welcome your questions and comments.
Feel free to e-mail me drsulfaro@comcast.net



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Aching eyes likely caused by computer

■ Many experiencing blurred vision, irritation, headaches and more

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

If you're reading this on the Times mobile site, your eyes may need a break from staring at the screen.

According to Time magazine, because frequently using a computer or any other screen puts a strain on your eyes, it's important to follow the 20-20-20 rule—look away from your screen every 20 minutes at something 20 feet away for at least 20 seconds. This gives your eyes a much needed break.

Constantly staring at a screen causes users to develop computer vision syndrome (CVS). Symptoms of CVS include blurred vision, double vision, dry, red eyes, eye irritation, headaches, and neck pain, according to WebMD.com.

Between 50 and 90 percent of people who work at a computer screen have symptoms. This includes children who regularly stare at tablets or other screens.

"Everyone 'knows' computers are bad for our eyes but science hasn't yet been able to find a one-size-fits-all solution for the eye symptoms computers create," said Dr. Scott McDowell of McDowell Eye Care in Fenton.

Constantly having to change your eyes' focus from your computer screen, to a piece of paper, back to your computer, to your keyboard and to other places on your desks causes eye strain.



Between 50 and 90 percent of people who work at a computer screen have symptoms of computer vision syndrome. This includes children who regularly stare at tablets or other screens.

McDowell said some people's vision is not optimally corrected for focusing at a computer distance, which also causes eye strain. For others, it's the continuous use of the eyes' convergence muscles, which are required for a task within arm's reach, that causes eye strain, soreness, and even redness.

"Some studies show that we don't blink as often while we are engaged in computer work and our symptoms may be due to an insufficient coating of tears on our eyes. Newer research is suggesting the light emitted by computer screens may be physically harmful to our eyes and, in addition, may even disrupt our sleep cycles," McDowell said.

This problem gets worse with age. According to WebMD.com, the ability to focus on near and far objects will diminish around age 40.

These problems may worsen over time, but the need to use computers and phones is consistent.

"Nearly everyone will tell you they have problems with their eyes after prolonged computer use and, in my practice, I observe the trend of worsening symptoms as more time is spent using computers," he said.

“Some studies show that we don't blink as often while we are engaged in computer work and our symptoms may be due to an insufficient coating of tears on our eyes.”

Scott McDowell

McDowell Eye Care optometrist

REDUCING SYMPTOMS OF COMPUTER VISION SYNDROME

Juan Alvarado, optometrist at Fenton Vision Center, said, "The main thing with computer vision syndrome is it's really hard to avoid. You have people who make a living on a computer."

Here are ways to reduce eye strain from Alvarado and WebMD.com.

Visit your doctor.

Alvarado said the best thing for adults who stare at a computer screen all day is for them to wear glasses made for computer work.

"Anti-reflective lenses that we sell are great for everybody. They specially block the high energy blue light," he said, adding that this light comes out of computer terminals, tablets and phones.

For adults, there are blue tech computer lenses.

"The lens tint is the exact map color as the lens that's inside your eyes that are designed to block the light from hitting your retinas," he said. "It gives them a very slight yellow hue to the lens."

Because staring at a screen increases the chance of having dry eyes, ask your doctor to prescribe or recommend hydrating eye drops. You also may need a new prescription for glasses or contact lenses. A single, bifocal, or tinted lens might work better for your eyes.

Position your screen effectively. Your monitor should be slightly below eye level, about 20 to 28 inches away from your face.

"Your monitor should be 13 degrees below eye level," Alvarado said. "Eyes are not designed to look up for a long time. Eyes hate looking up."

If you have to strain your neck or eyes to see what's on the screen, it needs to be adjusted.

Reduce the glare. If light from a window creates a glare on your screen, angle your computer away from the window or use the blinds.

Use the 20-20-20 rule. Look away from your screen every 20 minutes at something 20 feet away for at least 20 seconds.

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Seminary property may be sold this year

■ Grounds maintenance by Fenton DPW will continue in the meantime

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

It looks like another spring will come before something is done with the property at High Street and State Road where the historic Old Baptist Ministers' home once stood.

"We will likely be selling the property sometime in the future, perhaps this year," said Fenton City Manager Lynn Markland.

"There is another parcel adjacent to the seminary property that could be added together for a development. That property owner has expressed a desire to work with the city on selling the properties together, he said"

Until the property is sold, the city will continue to maintain the property, which would include mowing, said Markland.

The building was demolished in September 2015. The decision to tear down the 147-year-old structure was made earlier in the spring of 2015 due to its deteriorated condition.

In November 2013, the building sustained significant damage during a rainstorm with high winds. The subsequent harsh winters of 2013-2015 resulted in further destruction of the deteriorating building, which was near ruins when it was torn



down. The structure had collapsed completely on the east side, with rooms and debris on all three floors exposed.

An engineering study in early 2015 resulted in a recommendation to demolish the building, salvaging as much of the ornate items and materials that can be repurposed as possible.

The 10,000-square-foot building, built in 1868, had been listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1983.

Part of the building lives on, however.

In May of 2016, a piece of Fenton history was repurposed into its new and final home at Oakwood Cemetery via a monument comprised of the actual cornerstone from the seminary. This is housed in new concrete, and a carved stone bench with a rendering of the building, circa 1895. The bench was donated by Fenton Memorials. The monument can be viewed in Section B of the cemetery, where 42 Baptist ministers and their wives are buried.

VR virtually accessible to all

■ The most immersive video viewing experience starts at \$15

By Tim Jagielo

tjagielo@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795

Imagine you are 4 inches tall, and sitting behind the wheel of a radio-controlled car. You set up an obstacle course around your home, and blast through it with ease, through a virtual reality (VR) headset.

This is an experiment Terry Green, Billmeier Camera owner, and all-things-visual enthusiast, assisted a local student with recently. The student was able to run the course faster with the VR, instead of simply watching the car run the obstacle course.

The concept of virtual reality is simple — you wear goggles or a head covering of some kind that blocks your view of the real environment, and instead are fed images from two small lenses via goggles or head set. For an image to be 3-D, the single image needs to be split into two, or recorded as two, and fed to each eye individually.

Game systems, computers and smart devices provide the image for the experience.

VR as a technology isn't new. For example, Nintendo tried to take VR mainstream with the Virtual Boy game system in 1995. Only recently has the concept regained steam.

The VR experience can be powered by a video game, or a 3-D movie. The range of

equipment is like anything else with technology — you can spend as much as you want. Unlike groundbreaking high-tech gadgets of the past, VR is likely affordable to most people who own a smartphone.

With Google Cardboard, you can use your android phone to watch 3-D videos for \$15. The headset is literally just cardboard, with two lenses that feed the image to you. According to Cnet.com, it's a nice cheap introduction to VR, but the experience will only be as good as your phone.

A step up from Cardboard, is the Samsung Gear VR. It also garnered positive reviews on Cnet, and costs \$52 to \$99. Of course, you have to have a Samsung Galaxy smartphone and the right app to use it.

Green owns the Oculus Gear VR viewer for Samsung Galaxy S7, which he said was "mind blowing" to experience. He's an infrequent user, but his 13-year-old stepson uses it often.

Both of these examples are stand-alone units, with no external cables or cords or controls.

The Oculus Rift headset is for gaming, and requires at least an Xbox One controller for the experience, and a powerful computer to run the game.

The next step up is the HTC Vive, which includes the headset, and also requires a computer and controller, but includes motion trackers set up in the room, to track your body's motion.

Playstation 4's system is almost like a virtual reality Nintendo Wii.



Tim Jagielo

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Planning to travel in 2017?

■ You'll find lower air fares, stable room rates and exciting new destinations

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

This time of year, there are two things on everyone's mind — travel and taxes. Since you can't do much about taxes, "getting away from it all" is a much more exciting topic to think about during the middle of winter.

If travel is on your agenda in 2017, there's good news. Airfares are down because of lower oil prices, according to a recent story in USA Today. Hotel rates are stable, unless you're traveling in California, where you can expect a bigger bill, as much as a 9 percent increase in San Francisco.

Baggage fees are turning 10 years old this year, and have become a fact of life for

today's travelers, adding about \$4 billion to the price passengers pay.

Your best bet to save money on these fees is to thoroughly read your airline's policy before booking your flight, so you're comparing "apples to apples" between ticket prices and fees.

This would be a good time to seek the services of an experienced travel agent, who can help you navigate the complex world of airfare pricing and scheduling. You'll likely save money, because travel agents have the earliest access to travel deals and information. They can also help you cross the "bumps in the road" of travel, from missed connecting flights to lost passports.

Fenton is home to two travel agencies with decades of experience and many miles traveled, including Travel Brokers and Superior Travel. Their services can be especially helpful when you're dealing with international travel, cruises, special-

ized trips, group travel and they can guide you through all the hoops of a Disney vacation - from Princess Breakfasts to Fast Passes and more.

Also, check out TripAdvisor's flight search tool, which has a fee estimator that lists fares in junction with airline baggage fees, based on how many pieces of luggage you plan to travel with. Be aware that many airlines also charge now for carry-on bags. Keep in mind that Southwest Airlines doesn't charge for the first two bags, or for carry-ons.

Travelers in 2017 can expect better Wi-Fi connectivity, as airlines switch to satellite systems, which are as much as 20 times faster than older technology.

Security lines may be faster this year, at least on American and Delta airlines, which are implementing automated bag screening that allows five larger bins at a time.

Don't expect a full-course meal to return to airline dining this year, but you can still expect snacks on United, American, Southwest and Delta.

Another travel trend this year has been dubbed "bleisure" — mixing business and leisure travel, by adding a few days on either end of a business trip.

Where are travelers going this year? Havana, Cuba; Cape Town, South Africa; Merida, Mexico; Denver, Colorado and Vancouver, Canada are a few of the 'hot spot' destinations in 2017, according to forbes.com.

'SWEET SPOT' FOR BUYING AN AIRLINE TICKET

Between three months and six weeks in advance, unless you're buying an always-popular destination like Orlando, Florida, when buying earlier will give you best prices and seating. Don't wait until the last week, when prices shoot up by about 25 percent.

Source: travelandleisure.com

How to find cheap air flights

- **Be flexible.** The most expensive days to travel are when everyone else does (i.e.: holidays, Fridays, Sundays, Mondays).
- **Consider the time of day.** Most expensive times to travel are business travel hours, 8 to 10 a.m. and 5 to 7 p.m. Leaving early in the morning also offers few chances for delays.
- **Be flexible** with airports, too. In Florida, that means checking out Fort Lauderdale or West Palm Beach rather than Miami.
- **Consider making** a stop, as opposed to flying non-stop, only if it will save you hundreds of dollars. Avoid making connections in airports with poor on-time track records, including San Francisco, Chicago O'Hare or all of New York's airports.
- **Sign up** for airlines' deals and newsletters and subscribe to third party sites like AirFareWatchDog.com.
- **Talk to a travel agent** or airline representative.
- **Use frequent flyer miles.** Warning: Do not sign up for a travel rewards card if you can't pay the balance in full each month.

Source: johnnyjet.com

Shooting plot defendant asks to be sentenced as adult

■ Court case should be finished by June

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Flint — The third and last defendant involved in the alleged Linden school shooting plot from October 2015 asked the court to be sentenced as an adult instead of receiving juvenile treatment.

Kody Brewer, 16, appeared in court Tuesday, Jan. 24, where Judge Joseph Farah described it as an "unusual" situation.

Farah said the department of corrections recommended Brewer be sentenced as a juvenile and be housed in a juvenile facility. "The oddity here though is that the defendant doesn't want that. The defendant wants to be sentenced as an adult," Farah said. "The 'people' are marching to a different drum than usual. They're saying they want him to be sentenced as a juvenile."

Farah said the situation is usually reversed.

Brewer faces the charge of attempted false report of threat of terrorism, a five-year felony.

This came after Argentine Twp. police discovered messages exchanged between Brewer, and his co-defendants Ryan Stevens, 19, and Lamarr Dukes, 16, which indicated the planning of a school shooting. The alleged incident occurred Oct. 27, 2015.

To sway the court to have Brewer sentenced as an adult, Brewer's attorney Elbert Hatchett would have to argue that he is not amenable to juvenile treatment and should be sentenced as an adult. The people would have to argue the opposite. Brewer will live with his parents until his 17th birthday in June to give him a chance, Farah said.

"A lot hangs in the balance here...I'm willing to give him a chance at Mr. Hatchett's request, to be at home and to try to reach a favorable resolution when we come back.

"If he can't handle being at home successfully, it tells me he's not amenable

to treatment as a juvenile and his situation is not conducive for probation as an adult. So where does that leave me? Further incarceration," Farah said. "If he can't get along at home for the next five months, how am I going to put him on probation in the home of his parents for five years?"

Hatchett asked the judge to extend some consideration to Brewer for getting a job, attending school, and participating in their athletic programs.

Farah asked Brewer to look at his parents, who were in audience.

“He wanted nothing to do with this.”

Susan Brewer
Kody Brewer's mother

to your 17th birthday, I have no hesitation putting you in the county jail. You screw up, you're getting locked up."

Brewer was previously on a bond tether, and will now be on a different tether for adults. This will allow the court to better monitor his schedule.

Brewer is scheduled to be sentenced June 26, when he will be 17.

"He wanted nothing to do with this," said Kody's mother, Susan Brewer. She said her son is a wonderful young man, who's been involved in school and sports, and the situation has almost screwed up his life.

"When this happened, he came up to us and said 'what should I say?' He texts back, 'I don't want nothing to do with this,'" she said.

Susan said he had a problem with an animation he saw on TV by a news station, showing her son, Dukes, and Stevens walking up to the school they were supposedly planning to blow up.

"The court system puts it out there and it's not true. Half of what you see on TV is not true," she said.

The adult charges against Dukes were dropped Sept. 26, 2016 and he was sent to a yearlong rehabilitation program in Grove City, Pennsylvania. Stevens received a sentence of five years probation.

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PICKELL

Continued from Front Page

The eight plaintiffs filed the two-count complaint against Pickell and the process serving company on Jan. 25 alleging racketeering and corruption. Plaintiffs include, William Trier of Swartz Creek, Jeffrey McKinsey of Swartz Creek, Harold Daniel of Grand Blanc, John Austin Harrington of Mt. Morris, Richard Sparks of Flushing, Jacob Trier of Swartz Creek, Crystal Baker of Mt. Morris and Joel Mata of Genesee County.

The plaintiffs were employed as process servers in Genesee County.

Hope was deputized as a Genesee County deputy and had authority to act as an agent of Pickell and the county.

According to the complaint, beginning in 2006 at the latest and continuing up until December 2016, the process servers were deputized by Pickell or Hope to act as a deputy, which would allow them to receive various assignments and be paid by Genesee County.

In exchange for being deputized, the plaintiffs claim Pickell charged them between \$65 and \$300 per year. They were required to submit checks made payable to Pickell personally, The Committee to Retain Sheriff Pickell or a charity selected by Pickell or Hope.

In the complaint, the plaintiffs allege that after receiving the payments, Pickell and Hope endorsed the checks and deposited them into a bank account for the personal financial gain of the defendants.

The plaintiffs claim the defendants would take and receive money not due

to them under the pretense that they were entitled to the money by virtue of Pickell's political office.

The act of charging the process servers to be appointed and deputized to act as deputies in exchange for monetary gain is comparable to a public officer accepting a bribe, according to the complaint.

Between 2006 and 2016, Pickell sought re-election multiple times in Genesee County.

According to the complaint, in 2016, Pickell learned that the group of process servers did not support him in his bid for re-election and they did not engage in political activities on behalf of Pickell and in fact supported Pickell's opponent in the sheriff's race.

The complaint alleges that in retaliation for their support of Pickell's opponent, Pickell and Hope refused to deputize the process servers, thereby costing them the ability to receive future assignments.

In December 2016, the plaintiffs claimed they received letters from Pickell advising them that the sheriff's office was going exclusively to use the firm of Allen-Hope & Associates to serve orders for seizure, evictions, claims and delivery and foreclosures.

Each count was asking for in excess of \$75,000 in damages.

On Jan. 25, the court issued a summons to the defendants to appear for arraignment. As of Thursday, Jan. 26, no new court dates have been scheduled.

Pickell, who has been sheriff since 1999, was re-elected to another term as

sheriff in the November 2016 general election.

While the media received press releases on Wednesday, Pickell said he received notice of the lawsuit on Thursday.

Pickell said plaintiff William Trier, who worked for the county for 20 years and is now retired, told Pickell that he had no intentions of suing the sheriff and he did not want to be part of this lawsuit, as well as another listed plaintiff. Pickell said he was told that the attorney wanted retainer fees from all of the plaintiffs to increase the amount.

"This lawsuit is about money, not the truth," said Pickell. "The lawsuit is a lie."

With two people not wanting to be listed as a plaintiff, Pickell is convinced that the whole lawsuit is in question.

With claims that Pickell benefitted personally from the fees process servers paid to be deputized, he said, "I never got a penny at all." He added, however, that at one of his political fundraisers, one of the plaintiffs made a donation. "The money went to charities — none to me."

"This is nothing more than a personal vendetta," said Pickell.

In response to the allegations, Pickell said, "I will countersue for slander, libel and defamation." He also plans to ask the judge that this complaint be dismissed quickly.

After reading this story online at tctimes.com on Thursday, William Trier said on Friday that Pickell's statement about him not wanting to be listed in this lawsuit is an "outright lie. It's all lies."

Trier, who is not retired, has been a process server since 1986 and said, "I never had a problem until they pulled this crap on all of us. I haven't talked to Pickell since a year ago December when I said 'hi.' It's all fabricated lies."

WHAT YOU MISSED

in the

MIDWEEK TIMES

Compiled by Vera Hogan

The following are stories you may have missed in the **Wednesday, Jan. 25**, Midweek Times. To subscribe and receive both the Midweek and Sunday Weekend editions, please call (810) 629-8282.

Former city manager takes part in inauguration

Former City Manager Michael Senyko, now the chief of staff for Secretary of State Ruth Johnson, traveled to Washington, D.C. last week with the SOS crew.



'Greatest Show on Earth' has local ties

Fenton train depot and home in Holly have history connected to Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey Circus.

Fenton Board of Ed visits every school district in one day

The Fenton Board of Education visited all six Fenton schools on Monday, Jan. 23, a shift from their normal routine to get in the classrooms more often.

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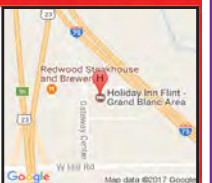
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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Circulation Coordinator Jill Breitling shows off the brand new edition of the Times' popular Source Book. More than 55,000 area readers will receive their 2017 edition this weekend.

Hot off the presses

■Look for your Times' 2017 Source Book — included with this issue

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

From Abbey Park, an independent senior living community to The Zen at Work, a home and building repair business, and everything in between, it's all included in the 2017 Source Book being delivered to the tri-county area this weekend.

The Source Book is a reference guide, packed cover to cover with vital, useful and unique information about our area. Everything from contact numbers for any of our four school districts, to acreage and depths of our area's 47 lakes is included, along with every area business, listed both by category, and alphabetically.

To make this year's Source Book even better and user friendly, it is also in a digital format for those who tend to look for information with their computer or smartphone.

The Source Book is a valuable source of information whether at home, work or on the road. Putting together this reference book in print and digital is a yearlong effort by many members of the Times' staff.

"People who see it for the first time are always amazed at the wealth of information it contains," said Gail Grove, advertising director for the Times.

The printed version of the Source Book

has become so popular over the years, that many Times readers request additional copies for their vehicles, additional rooms or second homes.

For those using a laptop or desktop computer, go to tctimes.com and hover over the red EZ Read tab near the top of the home page and scroll down to either of the two Source Book links.

The "Source Book EZ Read" link allows viewers to virtually flip through every page of the book. The "Source Book Website"

link will take a viewer to a very user-friendly 2017 Source Book website.

For those using their smartphones, go to tctimes.com and click on the orange navigation icon in the upper right corner. This sub menu listing allows readers to choose from several categories, including Source Book, breaking news, features, sports, business list-

ings, Hot lines, obituaries, classifieds, garage sales, videos and much more.

Digital versions of the Source Book will include everything the print version has including a detailed listing of area businesses.

Homes in the tri-county area will receive the 2017 Source Book with this issue of their Tri-County Times. Additional copies may be picked up at the Tri-County offices, 256 N. Fenway Drive, Fenton, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Editor Sharon Stone contributed to this article.

“People who see it for the first time are always amazed at the wealth of information it contains.”

Gail Grove
Times advertising director

HOT LINE CONTINUED

THE CLINTON FOUNDATION is being investigated thoroughly. They will go down in history as one of the biggest criminal enterprises in history.

HEY DONALD. YOU won. Get over it.

THE TRUMP YEARS are going to go down history as the dark ages of America.

WHAT IF, JUST what if, Trump is right?

I GREW UP in a small town near a large city. The school districts were separate. Now, after schools of choice, that small town not only shrunk, but they're on the watch list now by the state. Not a good situation for my hometown.

I HAD FAMILY in from out of town over the holidays and I thought it'd be fun to try out a new restaurant. We went to the 'Be Closer' webpage and saw a list of a lot of restaurants closed and I thought of a lot that weren't on the list.

I SAW ON the television there was controversy about attendance for the presidential inauguration comparing photographs from previous inaugurations to the current one. Is it possible some people left to go smash buildings and limos and stuff?

WITH THE MILD weather and not having to have the public employees plowing snow and salting streets, it's been good to see them out clearing out gutters and storm drains to keep all this water moving. Good job, everybody.

OVERHEARD FROM A millennial generation person that they couldn't make a contribution because there was no place for them to swipe their card.

OUR ELECTION WAS not decided by

the popular vote, it was decided by the Electoral College, which is not new this year. You didn't like it, it should have been changed. Apparently, the Democrats were so sure that Hillary would win that they weren't concerned about that.

VERA HOGAN IS a thoughtful, thorough, and intelligent reporter. For years, I look for her article first when picking up the newspaper. Keep up the good work, Vera.

THE ONLY REASON why they want to get rid of public notices in our newspapers is so we won't have a clue about what those greedy little devils are spending our money on.

WHAT IT MEANS when DJT says 'Drain the Swamp' — weeding out politicians who are more concerned with their next election than with America and American citizens.

TO THE HOT-liner who mentioned gasoline prices in the area, a strong local economy is critical to the livelihood to the people who live here. If it's close and convenient, it's worth a few pennies more. I always stay local.

I READ WITH interest Wednesday's story about the speed limit changes in Dibbleville but does the city realize those signs changed over a month ago back in December? I've been driving here, looking at it every day.

JEEZ FOSTER, YOU'VE outdone yourself. I don't know which is the greater irony — you describing a two-way street, or our tough new Commander-in-Chief's response to serve and defend our country when called upon. It was only five deferments, you say?

IF YOU LOST a piece of jewelry in a black mesh bag in the VG's Silver Parkway lot, it is at the Fenton police station.

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4447 PEBBLE CREEK BLVD, GRAND BLANC

PEBBLE CREEK \$184,999

This home is only 1 year old! Spaciously open floor plan on upper level with an eat-in kitchen that has granite countertops and tile backsplash, lower level has 2 large bedrooms, 1 full bathroom, family room and laundry room.

OPEN SUNDAY 1-3
JUST LISTED!!!

452 OTTER RUN RD, HOLLY

THE PRESERVE OF RIVERSIDE \$179,999

This wonderful home is move-in ready! Perfect family home with 1,823 SF, 4 BDR, 2.5 BA. Firelit living room, spacious kitchen with glowing hardwood floors. Full basement, large deck and backyard with private view.

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.

PRICE REDUCED



1048 GRANGE HALL RD, FENTON

HOLLY SCHOOLS \$69,900

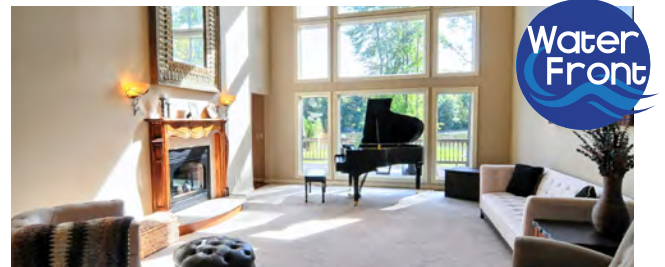
Potential, potential, potential!! 1000 SF, 2 BDR, 1 BA and garage, all on almost 2 acres. Great location, close to I-75 and US 23. Enjoy all Fenton and Holly have to offer. Close to schools, shopping and more. Don't miss this opportunity!



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.



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



900 PLUMTREE LN, FENTON

ORCHARD HILLS \$214,999

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



1274 S HOLLY RD, FENTON

ACREAGE \$575,000

Charming Farmhouse in Fenton Schools on 69+ Acres. 2685 SF spacious home, 5 BDR, 2 BA, 1 car garage, barn, and shed. Fire-lit living room, large kitchen, wood burning stove and 1st floor laundry. 23 farmed acres, 2 parcels and 2 ponds on the property.



633 SHORELINE DR, FENTON

WATERS EDGE VILLAGE \$189,999

Wonderful Waters Edge Ranch Condo in Fenton Schools, within walking distance to Downtown. 2563 SF of finished living space, 3 BDR & 3 BA. Spacious kitchen with dining area and fire-lit living room. 1st Floor master suite, 1st floor laundry.

PRICE REDUCED



1500 TRIPLE OAK DR, FENTON

DOLLAR LAKE \$249,999

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.



2393 DAVIS RD, FENTON

LAKE FENTON \$765,000

72' frontage on all sports Lake Fenton, 5400 SF, 4 BDR and 3.5 BA. Open floor plan w/ fantastic views. Kitchen features breakfast nook, granite counters, snack bar, lots of cabinet and counter space. Crown molding, exposed beams, finished walkout and so much more.



4273 W FOUR LAKES DR, LINDEN

LAKE PONEMAH \$675,000

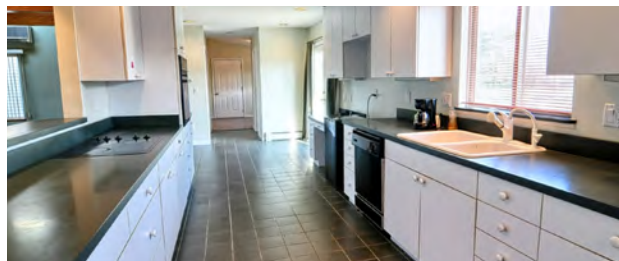
All brick home w/ 82' frontage on all sports Lake Ponemah. 4680 SF of finished living space, 4 BDR, 3.5 BA, 3 car garage. Open floor plan w/ new kitchen, hardwood floors, granite, built in double oven. Finished walkout basement w/full kitchen & bar.



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.



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.



16207 HILLTOP DR, LINDEN

ACREAGE \$207,499

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



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.

The WENTWORTH GROUP

Zach Boros
Realtor

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Favorite Restaurant: **The Barn**
Favorite Sports Team: **Detroit Red Wings**
Favorite Thing About Michigan: **I get to see all four seasons at their best.**
Fun Fact: **I was attacked by a VERY strong deer!**

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DRONE

Continued from Page 3A

Amazon announced they will begin delivering products via drones, and other delivery services may follow suit in the future. Even people on the popular A&E show "Storage Wars" have used drones to see what's inside a storage locker before buying it.

Linden graduate Kevin George received two drones for Christmas—one is a Parrot Bebop Drone that has live video capability, and a mini drone that fits in his hand.

"I feel like the majority of drone owners are courteous about where they fly, but I understand citizens' fear of violations," he said. "I do worry that they will eventually be limited on public land. The area where I live limits when and where they can be used in the parks."

SUMMARY

■ The rules for using drones are different depending on if the operator is using for recreational purposes or for commercial purposes.

As these devices increase in popularity, so does the debate over privacy issues. Local law enforcement is taking note.

Fenton Police Chief Rick Aro said they've had a few complaints of drones from residents regarding where the drone was being flown.

Police enforce statutes that may involve drones, including violations regarding noise, disturbance, and privacy.

"Statutes specific to drones would be reckless use, failing to correctly register a drone used for commercial purposes, operation in a restricted area too close to an airport, other aircraft or in controlled airspace," Aro said.

Police have issued violations when people fly drones in a neighbor's yard, too close to the house.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), which released a set of rules for drones in June 2016, regulates the classification and use of drones used for all reasons besides hobby or recreational use, according to Aro. (See sidebar)

However, you don't need FAA approval to fly a drone for fun. According to the FAA, before flying a drone, you must register the drone if it weighs more than .55 pounds and less than 55 pounds, and label it with a registration number.

Operators must be a U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident, and at least 13 years of age to register it.

For recreational use, drones must fly not above 400 feet and they must stay within the operator's sight. Drones are not allowed near other aircraft, within five miles of airports without the airport's permission, and they cannot fly over groups of people.

They are not allowed to fly over

“Statutes specific to drones would be ‘reckless use,’ ‘failing to correctly register a drone used for commercial purposes,’ ‘operation in a restricted area too close to an airport, other aircraft or in controlled airspace.’”

Rick Aro
Fenton police chief

stadiums or sporting events, near emergency response efforts such as fires, and operators are not allowed to fly their drone while under the influence.

Drones are also not allowed to fly near the Michigan Capitol, as of July 2015. Washington, D.C. is the most restricted drone area than any other part of the country, according to the FAA. The Special Flight Rules Area only allows drones within 15 to 30 miles from Washington, D.C. under special circumstances.

Federal Aviation Administration rules for commercial drones

• **According to the FAA**, pilots must hold a "remote pilot airman certificate" issued by the FAA for commercial use of a drone.

• **Unmanned aircraft must** weigh less than 55 pounds, and the machine must remain close enough for the pilot to see it. Small, unmanned aircraft may not operate over any persons not directly participating in the operation, not under a covered structure, and not inside a covered stationary vehicle.

• **Drones may only** be operated during daylight hours, or 30 minutes before official twilight to 30 minutes after sunset. They cannot get in the way of other aircraft.

• **Operators are allowed** to fly drones at a maximum ground speed of 100 mph with an altitude of 400 feet above ground. They cannot be flown from a moving aircraft or from a moving car unless the area is sparsely populated.

• Operators **cannot drive** them recklessly, and the drone cannot carry hazardous materials.

• **Drones are allowed** to carry packages as long as the package is securely attached and does not adversely affect the flight characteristics of the aircraft. If the drone is being used for hire, the aircraft and cargo cannot weigh more than 55 pounds total.

These rules do not apply to drone delivery operations using autonomous technology because they don't use human pilots, according to theverge.com.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

■■■
SPIT OUT THOSE sour grapes, you liberals. Make nice like the Republicans did for the last eight years. How can you be so sure that a liberal smashed windows and burned up vehicles?

■■■
IF YOU WANT to read delusional, go back and read your Wednesday edition of the Times. That's delusional.

■■■
YOU SAY HE'S draining the swamp, I say he's filling it with sharks, alligators, and piranhas.

■■■
MOST U.S. CITIZENS believe in putting the U.S. first but our new president is implementing that principle in such an

abrasive manner that he seems to be declaring war on the world. When the next big war starts, the U.S. may find itself without allies.

■■■
I HAVE RAISED three daughters, all college educated, all very successful. I would have been extremely embarrassed if they would have marched in Washington, D.C.

■■■
THE WOMEN'S MARCH in Washington was all about rights. The right to abort babies, the rights of gays, lesbians and transgenders, the rights of immigrants to come here and steal jobs and kill people, and the rights of Muslim terrorists to come here and kill people.

■■■

our town

Meet
CHAR
COMBS

- Mother of two sets of twin girls and two stepsons
- Newlywed
- Occupational therapist

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

Please tell us about your twins.

I am a mother of two sets of identical twin girls. I have been blessed to have such a unique and wonderful situation. My daughters are now 20, the older set are Gabrielle and Abigail. The younger set, Arianna and Alaina are 15. They are all very close. In fact, my older daughters are studying the same major in college and they plan to be in business together when they graduate. They are attending Michigan State University. My younger two are also very connected and they, too, are inseparable. They are sophomores at Fenton High School. I remember the second time around requesting the ultrasound technician's credentials, because I was certain she had made a mistake. Tell us about the rest of your family.

I was widowed in 2007, when my husband unexpectedly passed away from a brain hemorrhage. I have essentially single-parented these girls since then. Believe me, my life has not been easy, but it has been blessed. I truly have the opinion that 'everything happens for a reason.' My daughters and I are very close and we have an amazing bond. We learned to work as a team and support each other during these times. However, the only thing that got me through was my faith in God. I am recently remarried to a wonderful man who served our country in the military



“Life for me is truly about living in the moment and being grateful for the gifts you have.”
Char Combs

for 14 years. He has two sons, so now we have six children and I finally got my boys. Our lives are very fun especially around the holiday time.

Describe some of your happiest times.

Some of the best things I can recall when the girls were growing up is how funny and silly they are. Laughter in the car on the way home from school.

Often, I was the odd man out because each set truly has their own language. They finish each other's sentences, have the same dreams and tell me the same stories one right after the other. They laugh at things just by looking at each other because they truly can 'read each other's thoughts.'

Some recent happy moments are watching all six of the kids (girls and boys) play cards around the table during the holidays, watch movies, play in the snow together. These are the things that truly matter.

What are some of the challenges with this family dynamic?

There have been challenges raising the girls and working a full-time job. Balance is so important and I have been blessed to be able to have flexibility in my work schedule to be able to attend school events, sporting events. I have also relied on my supportive parents. Although raising the girls had its challenges, they are very good, smart, kind and loving children.

The biggest challenge for me was disciplining the girls. I always had two against one. If one told on the other,

TRI-COUNTY TIMES
TIM JAGIELO
Char Combs is passionate about her family, her work and God. She believes all things happen for a reason.

and I punished the one twin, the other twin would be angry at me for punishing her and then they would literally 'gang' up on me. It still happens to this day.

What do you do for a living?

I love what I do. I am an occupational therapist. I work with children and adults who have sustained traumatic brain injuries and spinal cord injuries

because of automobile accidents. I have worked in many settings, however, this is truly my passion. I love being able to make a difference and to serve. I truly believe that my gift is to serve and provide counsel, understanding and support to families and individuals whose lives have truly changed.

These are people who get up in the morning just like you and me, and then end up in a coma due to an accident. Their lives change in an instant.

Is this a paid or volunteer career?

I now have a private therapy practice and I do get paid to perform therapy for these individuals. However, I also volunteer at the Brain Injury Association of Michigan and sit on the Michigan Brain Injury Provider Council Board. So, although I get paid for direct therapy, all the advocacy that I do is voluntary.

One of the things that I have done on a few occasions is to reach out to individuals in the community that are going through a tragedy with a family member or friend. This is something I love to do for others without being paid. My payment is truly being able to see the family and their loved one get the services that they need.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I love to travel and spend time with my girls, my boys and my husband. I do enjoy going for walks, boating and watching a good movie. Life for me is truly about living in the moment and being grateful for the gifts you have. One of my favorite quotes 'Life is a gift. That is why we call it the present.'



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ASK THE MECHANIC

Chris Wilkinson,
Certified Mechanic

Q: I have a 1990 Grand Prix 3.1 (non-turbo). When my engine is started I get this extra loud whistle from the engine. It seems to be around the EGR valve. I thought it was busted so I changed it. I put the new one on and still a whistle. I'm not sure if it is a bad vacuum leak or not, but it seems like that is the only thing that it could be since I've already changed the EGR valve. Could the EGR hose have a leak or PVC? The noise is literally unbearable. I've also noticed that my heat barely comes out of the defrost. It's a light breeze and when switched to vent nothing comes out. Any suggestions or tips would help a lot!! Thanks.- Thomas

A: Thomas, This definitely sounds like a vacuum leak to me and should be an easy find. Try pouring some water over the suspected area while the car is running. When you get to the leak you will notice that the sound changes and you should see it pulling the water in. Do not over do the water because if the vacuum leak is large enough it could pull in too much water and hydro-lock the engine! As far as the heat problem, this could be caused by the vacuum leak as well and fixing one may cure both.

E-mail questions to:
askthemicanic@wilkinsonautorepair.com

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MICHIGAN VOTES

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

MichiganVotes.org is a free, non-partisan website created by the Mackinac Center for Public Policy to provide concise, non-partisan, plain-English descriptions of every bill and vote in the Michigan House and Senate. This report was released Friday, Jan. 20.

The 99th Michigan Legislature met for the first time on Jan. 11. New officers were selected for the House, which has 42 new members. Senators are half-way through their four-year terms, and the Senate retained the same leadership.

House Resolution 2: Select House officers for the 99th Legislature

To elect House leaders for the 99th Michigan Legislature, including Rep. Tom Leonard, R-Dewitt, to be Speaker of the House. Democrats selected Rep. Sam Singh of East Lansing to be the House Minority leader. Minority Leader Singh seconded the motion to make Rep. Leonard the Speaker.

Passed unanimously by all members present

Rep. Hank Vaupel (R-Dist. 47)

☒ YES

Rep. Joseph Graves (R-Dist. 51)

☒ YES

Senate Resolution SR: Senators of the 99th Michigan Legislature

Names of the state senator or senators who represent districts in this area.

Sen. David Robertson (R-Dist. 14)

☒ YES

Sen. Mike Kowall (R-Dist. 15)

☒ YES

Sen. Joe Hune (R-Dist. 22)

☒ YES

Sen. Jim Ananich (D-Dist. 27)

☒ YES

Sen. Ken Horn (R-Dist. 32)

☒ YES



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | HANNAH BALL

Three vehicles were involved in a crash on Fenton Road, about a half mile south of Thomson Road, Wednesday, Jan. 25.

Three-vehicle crash on Fenton Road

■ One driver taken to hospital with ankle injuries

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Fenton Twp. — Emergency responders were at the scene of a three-vehicle crash just before 4 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 25 on North Fenton Road, approximately a half mile south of Thompson Road in Fenton Township.

Fenton Township Fire Department, Genesee County Sheriff's deputies and STAT EMS responded to the accident. The section of the road was temporarily blocked off. Two of the three vehicles were on the road, surrounded by debris. The third vehicle was in the grass, yards away. All three vehicles sustained damage.

Fenton Township Fire Chief Ryan Volz said the vehicle on the grass was "destroyed" in the accident, and firefighters had to extract the driver from her vehicle. She was the only person in the vehicle and suffered minor injuries to her ankle.

"That's our biggest injury," Volz said.

The cause of the crash is unknown at this time. The Times will update this story as more information is available.

MILD WEATHER MEANS FEWER CRASHES IN GENESEE COUNTY

If it seems like there are fewer crashes this winter, you're right. "Absolutely," said Genesee County Undersheriff Chris Swanson. "We've not had one pile up in the county, and that is refreshing."

He attributes this to better weather, and drivers getting better as the winter goes on. He said U.S. 23 is the most dangerous stretch of interstate — especially south of Hill Road. While lower in numbers, fatal crashes still happen. There was a multi-car fatal crash last week in Mundy Township.

City of Fenton Police Chief Rick Aro said that crashes in Fenton are down 25-percent from 2016.

Holly has experienced the exact same number of crashes to date in December to January 26, which is 19.

Media Editor Tim Jagielo contributed to this story.

HOME TO The Entrepreneurial Spirit



GENESEE
FLINT

Flint is **home to the entrepreneurial spirit** that prevails within the region. It has a lot to offer entrepreneurs interested in working in an innovative and diverse city that can meet the demands of a competitive, 21st-century urban center.

Through great resources such as the Hagerman Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation, Mott College Fab Lab, and the Co+Work entrepreneur hub, Flint continues to help aspiring entrepreneurs.

Through collaboration and partnerships, we continue to transform the city's challenges into opportunities, and maximize the region's economic and community growth.

Flint is a vibrant urban center.

#FlintFwd

FlintandGenesee.org

HOT LINE CONTINUED

VERA HOGAN'S ARTICLE about Barron Trump was disgusting. Telling him how to avoid being bullied was bullying him herself. Shame on her for attacking President Trump by attacking his young son.

WHY DOES EVERYONE have a problem with Putin? It's an island in Lake Erie. I've been there. It's called Putin Bay.

REPUBLICANS COOPERATED WITH Obama? They stood against him on almost everything, intentionally. Whether they agreed with him or not, they stood against him.

I BELIEVE IN what the Bible tells me just the way it says. 'If you want God to receive your prayer, pray in the powerful name of Jesus. He will answer in his perfect time.'

I JUST RETURED from the inauguration in Washington. It just shows what U.S. citizens are really capable of doing. Had a wonderful time.

I THINK THAT Linden has so much on the ball with planning a two-story building downtown that will fit in. It will be nice that they will honor their history, unlike Fenton with their big four-story monstrosity.

SMOKING AGE

Continued from Front Page

Commissioners also will be voting on whether to place the proposed 911 surcharge increase on the May 2 ballot. If approved by voters, the 911 surcharge fee will increase from \$1.26 to \$1.84 on monthly phone bills.

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PET OUTDOORS

Continued from Page 3A

if there is not adequate shelter, food or water for an extended period of time in extreme weather conditions," said Fenton Police Chief Rick Aro.

Proper shelter includes a dry, draft-free structure large enough to allow comfortable movement, but small enough to hold in body heat.

The floor should be raised a few inches off the ground and covered with cedar shavings or straw. The doorway should be covered with waterproof burlap or heavy plastic.

"Different owners care for pets in varying degrees," said Aro.

He said that if there are obvious signs of abuse, such as injury, deplorable conditions, etc., call Genesee County Animal Control at (810) 732-1660 or local law enforcement. "We would then call Animal Control," said Aro. "It's important to remember that the abuse and/or poor conditions must be apparent."

In Fenton Township, the minute there is animal abuse complaint, Tom Hosie, code enforcement officer, is on it.

"Our ordinance requires that an animal has shelter and warm and dry bedding. If we have a complaint, we'll go out and do an inspection at the home. I'll go out and talk to the owners. I'll investigate how often the dog is left outside, what is the shelter and is there a warm and dry bed? It's not against the law to have a dog chained, as long as it has shelter and bedding."

According to Paul Wallace, director of Genesee County Animal Control, they get a lot of calls, especially this time of year.

"We send Animal Control Officer teams out to investigate. The law says animals have to have food, water and shelter, and their tether needs to be a

minimum of three times their body length. That leaves quite a bit of 'wiggle room' as to what is adequate shelter, and 'abuse' is a finding in a court of law."

"We look at the animal and its living conditions and can tell quite a bit about how it's really doing and go from there. We will seize animals where it's indicated, but we also carry straw bedding

in the vans and will try to work with the owners, depending on what we find. It's a pretty liquid definition and every situation is unique. What one person considers abuse may be perfectly lawful, even though we may not like it."

The Humane Society of Genesee County also has a part-time cruelty investigator to check on reports of neglect and cruelty to animals within the county. To

file a complaint, you can email: cruelty@geneseehumane.org or call (810) 744-0511.

"We work together frequently," said Wallace. "In the cases we've done together, Animal Control has taken the lead and we usually turn them over to the sheriff's office for actual criminal complaints. It's working well."

Here's how you can help

- **Report what you see.** Take note of the date, time, exact location and type of animals involved. Write down as many details as possible. Video and photographic documentation of the animal, location, surrounding area (even a cell phone photo) will help bolster the case.
- **Contact your local law enforcement.** Genesee County Animal Control or Humane Society of Genesee County and present your complaint and evidence. Take detailed notes about whom you spoke with, dates, etc. Follow up in a few days if situation has not been remedied.

Source: The Humane Society of the United States

ANIMAL ABUSE IS A CRIME

It's a misdemeanor crime, punishable by a fine of up to \$500, plus the cost of prosecution and/or imprisonment in jail for up to 90 days.

SUMMARY

■ In freezing cold weather, dogs and cats need to be protected from the harsh elements, meaning they should spend most of their time indoors. If you suspect abuse, speak up by calling law enforcement or other county agencies.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

I THINK IT'S kind of hilarious the way the Republicans are accusing the Democrats of doing the same things they've all been doing for the past eight years.

■ ■ ■ IF YOU'VE HAD a heart attack and you're taken to the hospital, make sure the plates on your car are current because Argentine Township will impound you.

■ ■ ■ THE DUMP TRUMP movement is understandable. But without Trump, the Vice President Mike Pence would be in charge. Pence has been against women's rights and gay rights for decades. Be careful what you wish for.

■ ■ ■ I CAN SEE and read your paper is changing. Vera thinks highly of her opinion and needs to tread softly. Mr. Rockman would be rolling in his grave.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Guests who attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony for Mission Point Nursing & Rehabilitation Center in Holly head to their cars following the new 35,000-square-foot facility's open house.

Mission Point Nursing & Physical Rehabilitation Center opens in Holly

Mission Point Management Services, LLC, a full-service healthcare and property management company, has invested nearly \$12 million into its newest facility, Mission Point Nursing & Physical Rehabilitation Center of Holly, a short-term transitional rehabilitation center, located in the village of Holly.

According to the owner, Roger Mali, the 35,000-square-foot center will create 75 local jobs and accommodate patients of all ages with both short and longer-term nursing and rehabilitation needs.

Focusing on physical and occupational therapy, Mission Point Nursing & Physical Rehabilitation Center will

serve patients in their transition between the hospital and home.

The new 66-bed nursing and physical rehabilitation center is at 313 Sherwood, just three miles west of I-75. It is the former site of Holly Convalescent Center. Mission Point purchased the former nursing home in 2015 and tore it down to make way for the new center.

"We know that we can never replace home," said Mali. "But that has been our target. We know that the more comfortable we can make a patient, the quicker we can help them recover."

For more information, call (248) 577-2632.

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THEWHITING.COM

What's the Best Thing for Back Pain and Sciatica

Are you suffering from back pain or sciatica? Then it's likely your biggest problem is pain. But there's another major problem: bad information.

To end back pain and sciatica misery you must have the right information. Pay close attention because I'm going to destroy MYTHS and give you the FACTS.

MYTH: Back pain and sciatica will just "go away" with some rest.

FACT: If you are dealing with back pain, buttock pain or leg pain, then you must seek help from a specialist immediately. Left untreated, back pain and sciatica can lead to permanent nerve damage - and lifelong pain.

MYTH: Pain is the only problem associated with back pain and sciatica.

FACT: In severe cases, the nerve damage can lead to the inability to control your bowels or bladder - leading to embarrassing situations.

MYTH: You must take pain medications to deal with back pain and sciatica.

FACT: Drugs like muscle relaxants, pain killers, narcotics, antidepressants, and anti-seizure medications have serious potential side-effects and do not cure the root cause of the problem.

MYTH: "I must have done something wrong to get this pain."

FACT: Physical work or simply sitting at a desk for long periods can lead to back pain and sciatica. Accidents and trauma can also be the culprits. Pregnancy can be a cause. It can affect anyone including super fit celebrities like Tiger Woods, Sylvester Stallone, and British Olympic medalist Ian Wynne.

MYTH: Stop exercising and get several weeks of bed rest to overcome the pain.

FACT: Staying active can help to relieve back or sciatic pain and prevent the pain getting worse.

Staying inactive in bed could be the worst advice - based on a recent study in the Netherlands. **MYTH: Back pain & sciatica require surgery.**

FACT: NO! There's been a huge breakthrough in the treatment of sciatica and lower back pain. It's a new procedure called Non-Surgical Re-Constructive Spinal Care. The excellent results from this treatment have been published in major medical journals. Success rates are up to 88% on average.

MYTH: "There's nothing anyone can really do. I'm just stuck with this for the rest of my life."

FACT: With the correct treatment from a healthcare professional who specializes in the problem, you can find relief from the root cause - and the symptoms.

MYTH: Getting back pain & sciatica properly diagnosed is expensive.

FACT: Not true. Dr. James Ide who is a specialist in Back Pain & Sciatica is right here locally in Fenton MI. Dr. Ide has agreed to offer our readers an initial consultation for **Just \$37, the normal cost of such an exam is \$195 so you will save \$158!**

The spine specialist at Painless Chiropractic have teamed up with the local news to help readers find relief from their persistent back and sciatic

pain. in or near Genesee County. Dr. James Ide is one of Michigans leading back pain and sciatica specialist. His team of fully-trained spinal care specialists have helped thousands of patients find relief from agonising back pain and sciatica. It's

one of the few specialty medical offices in the US to use and be certified in Non-Surgical Re-Constructive Spinal Care.

This procedure does not require a hospital stay. The focus is on finding - and correcting - the original cause of the back pain and/or sciatica.

According to Dr. Ide, the clinical leader of Painless Chiropractic "We use a combination of ultra-advanced technology, for precisely diagnosing the cause of your low back pain and sciatica and work to correct it.

This means superior long-term results for most people."

Almost Immediate Improvements

Because the treatment is non-surgical, safe, and easy, most patients report an almost immediately improvement from their back pain.

Patient Jeff P. from Flushing wrote, "My back pain was

unbearable but the worst thing was the searing burning pain I felt in my buttock and leg... my wife insisted I see Dr. Ide. I'm 95% better in just a couple of weeks."

End your suffering call now and mention the code TCT0217 and Dr. Ide will happily reduce his usual consultation and exam fee of \$195 to just \$37.

The team of spine therapy specialists at Painless Chiropractic are making a big effort to help readers find relief from their persistent back and sciatic pain.

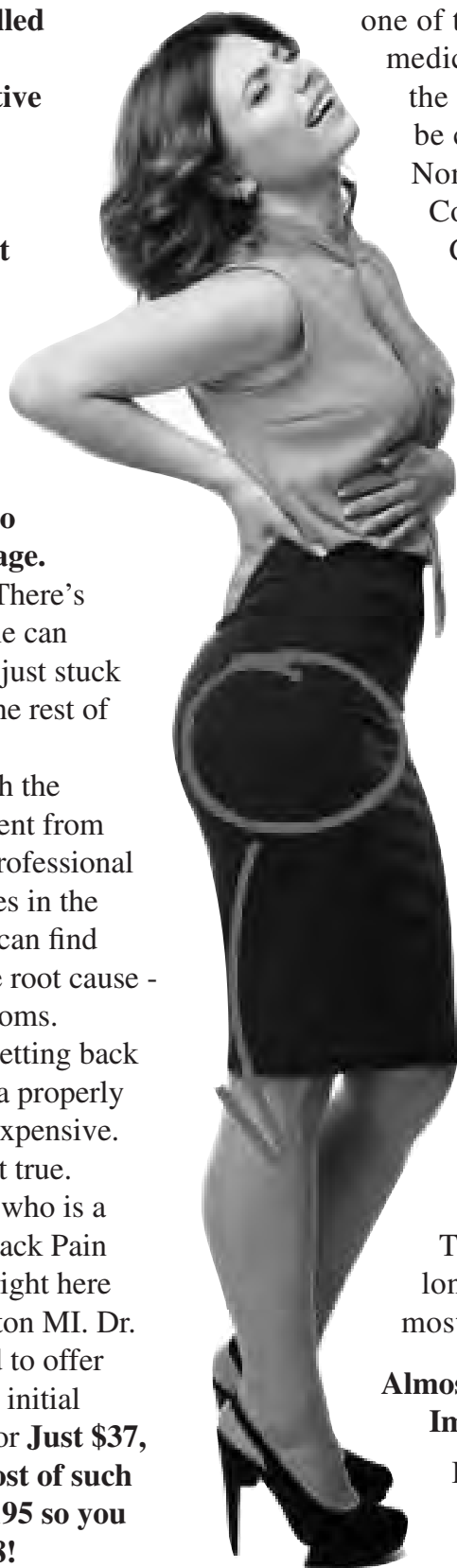
Your first step is a thorough examination with Dr. Ide at his Fenton clinic where you will find out the root cause of your pain.

Call **810-618-6380** to schedule your appointment. Mention this article (CODE: TCT0217) and the clinic will happily reduce the usual consultation fee to just \$37.

Only 100 reader consultations are available at this exclusively discounted rate. When asked why he was offering such a discount Dr. Ide replied "No one deserves to live in pain, it affects not only their lives but the lives of everyone they come into contact with". **Call now for your full and thorough examination to pinpoint the cause of your problem for just \$37 at 810-618-6380** mention this ad and cut out or tear off this valuable article and take it to your appointment. You'll be on your way to safe, lasting relief!

You can even call on the weekend and leave a message on their answering machine to secure your spot and they promise to return all calls. During the week staff can be very busy helping patients so if they don't pick up be sure to leave a message.

Call **810-618-6380** NOW. and quote this special discount code: TCT0217



LOOKING BACK

at this week in

NATIONAL HISTORY

COMPILED BY VERA HOGAN

JAN. 29

1979: Brenda Spencer, 16, kills two men and wounds nine children as they enter the Grover Cleveland Elementary School in San Diego. Spencer blazed away with rifle shots from her home directly across the street from the school. After 20 minutes of shooting, police surrounded Spencer's home for six hours before she surrendered. Asked for some explanation for the attack, Spencer allegedly said, "I just don't like Mondays. I did this because it's a way to cheer up the day."

JAN. 30

1948: Mohandas Gandhi, the world's chief advocate of non-violence, is assassinated in New Delhi by a terrorist sponsored by a right-wing Hindu militia group. The murder came only 10 days after a failed attempt on Gandhi's life. Nathuram Godse, 39, shot the great Indian leader as he made his way through a small crowd to lead a prayer session.

JAN. 31

1990: The Soviet Union's first McDonald's fast food restaurant opens in Moscow. Throngs of people line up to pay the equivalent of several days' wages for Big Macs, shakes, and French fries. The appearance of this notorious symbol of capitalism and the enthusiastic reception it received from the Russian people were signs that times were changing in the Soviet Union.

FEB. 1

2003: The space shuttle Columbia breaks up while entering the atmosphere over Texas, killing all seven crew members on board.

FEB. 2

1887: Groundhog Day, featuring a rodent meteorologist, is celebrated for the first time at Gobbler's Knob in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. According to tradition, if a groundhog comes out of its hole on this day and sees its shadow, there will be six more weeks of winter weather; no shadow means an early spring.

FEB. 3

1959: Rising American rock stars Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and J.P. "The Big Bopper" Richardson are killed when their chartered Beechcraft Bonanza plane crashes in Iowa a few minutes after takeoff from Mason City on a flight headed for Moorehead, Minnesota. Investigators blamed the crash on bad weather and pilot error. Holly and his band, the Crickets, had just scored a No. 1 hit with "That'll Be the Day."

FEB. 4

1974: Patty Hearst, the 19-year-old daughter of newspaper publisher Randolph Hearst, is kidnapped from her apartment in Berkeley, California, by two black men and a white woman, all three of whom are armed. Her fiancé, Stephen Weed, was beaten and tied up along with a neighbor who tried to help. Three days later, the Symbionese Liberation Army (SLA), a small U.S. leftist group, announced in a letter to a Berkeley radio station that it was holding Hearst as a "prisoner of war." Four days later, the SLA demanded that the Hearst family give \$70 in foodstuffs to every needy person from Santa Rosa to Los Angeles.

Source: history.com

CRAIGSLIST

Continued from Front Page

however, that make Craigslist a particularly attractive platform to would-be killers and other criminals.

First, Craigslist allows users to operate in total or near-total anonymity, meaning that they can both pretend to be just about anyone and can expect to meet a range of potential victims.

Second, unlike newspaper ads, Craigslist postings don't require leaving a phone number — or even a name.

Craigslist also is seen as having a "legitimate commercial purpose" that causes users to be willing to take more risks, and tolerate suspicious behavior because there's money on the table.

Categories on Craigslist cover

just about every product or service out there, from housing to job postings, items for sale, services and personals. Its main premise is that transactions can take place between buyers and sellers on a one-on-one basis, making an initial contact via e-mail, and then followed up by a phone call and a meeting time to make the sale.

While its origins were noble when founder Craig Newmark set out to create a "community," matching buyers and sellers in a noncommercial, nontraditional way, today's Craigslist has a "love/hate" relationship with its users, mostly because of the negative aspects of doing business with a non-secure entity.

One thing many worry about when dealing with Craigslist is 'scams.' Most of

the scams blamed on Craigslist are far less serious than murder or sexually deviant behavior, but they are still annoying and potentially harmful.

Some of the scams include fake money or checks passed onto sellers, bait-and-switch schemes, "phishing" schemes to obtain personal information, as well as identity theft.

There are safer, more secure ways to advertise goods and services. Classified advertising in newspapers provides a secure environment for both the buyer and seller, because the person placing the ad has been screened before the ad ever gets into the newspaper.

The Tri-County Times, for example, investigates phone numbers and addresses to make sure an ad is coming from a trusted source. They turn away almost as many ads as they accept.

The incidences of scamming have skyrocketed in the past several years, but Times' readers are protected from these scams before they ever reach the pages of the newspaper.

Some of the more popular scams that classified ad departments like the Tri-County Times face everyday are from work-at-home scams, bogus bulldog ads for sale from unscrupulous breeders, motorcycle sale scams, etc.

The Times receives up-to-date information on scams from trade organizations like the Michigan Press Association on a regular basis. They are able to avoid these scams so that you don't have to.

“...investigates the phone numbers and addresses ...they turn away almost as many ads as they accept.”

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The Times is offering a February special for classified ad liners.

For just \$5, you can get your liner in two issues, Sunday and Wednesday, or Wednesday and Sunday with 15 words. Any additional words will be 10 cents each. To take advantage of this generous offer, call (810) 629-8194.

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STARTING FRI JAN 27

##2D RESIDENT EVIL: THE FINAL CHAPTER (R)

FRI-SAT 10:35 3:40 8:50 11:20

SUN-WED 10:35 3:40 8:50

THUR 10:35 3:40 8:50 11:20

@*3D RESIDENT EVIL: THE FINAL CHAPTER: REALD 3D (R)

FRI-THUR 1:10 6:15

***A DOGS PURPOSE (PG)**

FRI-SAT 10:25 11:40 2:00 4:25

6:50 9:15 11:40

SUN-WED 10:25 11:40 2:00

4:25 6:50 9:15

THUR 10:25 11:40 2:00 4:25

6:50 9:10 11:40

***GOLD (R)**

FRI-SAT 10:50 1:35 4:20 7:05

9:50 11:55

SUN-WED 10:50 1:35 4:20 7:05 9:50

THUR 10:50 1:35 4:20 7:05

9:50 11:55

@*RESIDENT EVIL: THE FINAL CHAPTER: AN IMAX 3D EXPERIENCE (R)

FRI-SAT 11:30 2:05 4:35

7:10 9:40 11:55

SUN-WED 11:30 2:05 4:35 7:10 9:40

THUR 11:30 2:05 4:35 7:10 9:40 11:55

2D MOANA (SING-A-LONG) (PG)

FRIDAY - THUR 12:15 05:05

STARTING THUR FEB 2

***RINGS (PG13)**

THUR 7:20 9:45 12:05

***THE SPACE BETWEEN US (PG13)**

THUR 7:00 9:40 12:05

CONTINUING

***SPLIT (PG13)**

@*3D XXX: THE RETURN OF XANDER CAGE: REALD 3D (PG13)

***2D XXX: THE RETURN OF XANDER CAGE (PG13)**

THE BYE BYE MAN (PG13)

SLEEPLESS (R)

PATRIOTS DAY (R)

LIVE BY NIGHT (R)

2D MONSTER TRUCKS (PG)

HIDDEN FIGURES (PG)

#2D UNDERWORLD:

BLOOD WARS (R)

LA LA LAND (PG13)

FENCES (PG13)

WHY HIM (R)

2D SING (PG)

#2D PASSENGERS (PG13)

2D ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY (PG13)

2D MOANA (PG)

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

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(With parts of equal value)
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YOU SPEND THIS: YOU SAVE THIS:

\$50.00-\$99.99	\$5.00
\$100.00-\$199.99	\$10.00
\$200.00-\$299.99	\$20.00
\$300.00-\$399.99	\$30.00
\$400.00-\$499.99	\$40.00

Please present at write up. Expires 2-28-17. FPTCT

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— Gary H. of Byron

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— Daniel T. of Fenton

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— Nichelle C. of Linden



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CRIME STOPPERS

Continued from Front Page

Brueger, who was 31 at the time, was shot four times in the back while she was jogging on Fish Lake Road in Rose Township. An avid runner, Brueger was on one of her daily 10-mile jogs that day.

Her killer remains at large, even though a \$5,000 reward has been offered by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), and \$5,000 through Crime Stoppers for information leading to an arrest.

According to Shirley Schuler, communications manager for Crime Stoppers of Michigan, the \$5,000 is given for information that leads to an arrest, not an arrest and conviction.

"A conviction could take years," Schuler said. Crime Stoppers wants anonymous tipsters to get their cash reward faster than that.

Schuler said that if a tip leads to an arrest in a hit and run, missing person or homicide case, Crime Stoppers will be up to \$2,500. Tips leading to an arrest on other, less severe crimes, will pay out up to \$1,000, she said.

Crime Stoppers takes donations from the public, too. "What we can do is take dollars donated and create a joint rewards contract with that person," Schuler said. "They can designate the crime they want their money to help solve."

This means donors can designate their dollars toward the reward money for information leading to an arrest in the Brueger case.

"With a joint rewards contract, if the case isn't solved in a year, the donor can take his or her money back out or donate it to Crime Stoppers.

"When you see a Crime Stoppers TV commercial and it says the reward is up to \$50,000, for example, that extra money is coming from other sources and joint rewards contract donors," said Schuler.

While not all tips result in an arrest, the public can provide tips that may get a local crime solved and a dangerous person off the streets.

And, it's all done anonymously. Anyone with a tip they think may lead to the arrest of someone responsible for committing a crime, need only to call 1 (800) SPEAKUP, or visit the Crime Stoppers website at 1800speakup.org.

When you submit a tip through Crime Stoppers, you and your information is always 100 percent anonymous. When you call their tip line, it goes to their Call Center in Canada. They do this to ensure that your voice will not be recognized.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

I WAS HAPPY to see Rick Koester voted as president of the school board. When he was in high school, he volunteered to help Big Brothers and Big Sisters. I was his caseworker and I was so impressed that a teenager had such a great heart for helping others in need. Go Rick.

I WATCH AN hour of news a day, and I go between the channels to see what outlets are reporting. If you are only watching Fox News, you are not getting a full view of our world. They gloss over so much and give such few facts, that I'm afraid for viewers who don't question things and don't think for themselves.

FOR THE LIFE of me I can't recall a

There is no caller ID and no recording.

When you call, you do not give your name, or any other personal information. You are given a pin number, and that is your identity. After you have given the operator your tip, you will be instructed to call back to see if your tip leads to an arrest. Crime Stoppers can't contact you because they don't have your name or number.

When Crime Stoppers receive tips, they process them and send them to the law enforcement officers who are involved in that case, who will then investigate those tips. If the tips lead to an arrest, the officers or detectives will inform Crime Stoppers, and the tipster will be eligible for a cash reward.

Again, in order to find out if your tip led to an arrest, you must call back with the right tip number because there is no way for them to contact you.

After you call back with your tip number and find out that you are entitled to a cash reward, you will be told where to go

and who to ask for to pick up your cash reward. These places are normally banks, which partner with Crime Stoppers. This way you look like everyone else, and the bank will respect Crime Stoppers' procedures to keep you anonymous.

In order to receive your cash reward, you must have the correct ID number, and know the correct amount of cash that you are entitled to. Once you ask for the right person, give them the right information, you will be given an envelope filled with cash — that's it.

Television isn't Crime Stoppers' only avenue for finding tipsters. When a crime is particularly localized, they may put up a billboard in that area or post flyers.

Crime Stoppers processes all tips, whether the case is promoted on TV or not.

Nikki Brueger, Ally's mother, said she and her sisters delivered Crime Stoppers posters regarding her daughter's murder to businesses and public places in and around Holly.

Because that took place around Christmas 2016, some places took down the poster to put up holiday decorations.

"I understand that, I really do," said Nikki. "But it is Crime Stoppers' hope that posters stay up until the crime is solved. I am politely asking anyone who took down my daughter's poster to please put it back up so we can find her killer."

To submit a tip about a local felony crime, call your local police department or call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-SPEAKUP or online at www.1800speakup.org.

single conservative behaving anything like the wild-eyed, shrieky women freaking out over Trump's election when Obama won. The vast majority are women who simply won't accept that their candidate lost. Perfect example of the difference between conservatives and liberals. How sad.

I AGREE THAT we Republicans have had sad, stern faces for eight years because we watched the debacle that Obama and Democrats created, which was destroying what we knew as America.

SO DISAPPOINTED IN Trump. On his first full day as president, he tries to lie to the American people. Please don't take his word as fact. Check multiple media outlets for the entire story.

".. I am politely asking anyone who took down my daughter's poster to please put it back up so we can find her killer."

Nikki Brueger
Mother of murder victim Alexandra Brueger



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | VIDEO STILL

To view the All Season Covers video about RV storage, go to tctimes.com and click on the video tab.

All Season Covers can protect your RV

■ New video explains how to use reusable, sturdy, eco-friendly covers for at-home storage

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

All Season Covers will show you how to save money and wear and tear on your RV storage whenever your recreational vehicle is not in use.

Owner Greg Hoover has developed his own revolutionary pontoon/boat/RV cover system, manufactured right here in Fenton.

"It's the same material we use for pontoon and boat storage, only with a different application," he said. "You can put the

cover on your RV and take it off in less than 10 minutes, with no tools needed."

This new cover system gives RV owners an opportunity to park their RV outdoors in their yard, rather than paying expensive storage fees or taking up valuable space in the garage.

Hoover has recently worked with ReelTimes Video, a division of the Tri-County Times, to present potential customers with the benefits and ease of his cover system in a new video.

To view the video, go to tctimes.com and click on the video tab.

Hoover explains how the covers are designed to withstand snow loads, spring rains, summer heat and fall leaves that may pile up on your parked RV.

For more information, visit allseasoncovers.com, or call (810) 221-1840.

WATCH THE VIDEO



AT TCTIMES.COM WITH THIS STORY

HOT LINE CONTINUED

EXECUTIVE ORDERS ISSUED by various presidents: Nixon-346, Gerald Ford-169, Carter-320, Reagan-381, George H. W.-166, Clinton-364, George W.-291, Obama- 276.

■ ■ ■
ON DAY ONE, Donald Trump signed three executive orders already.

■ ■ ■
'WAR IS PEACE. Freedom is slavery. Ignorance is strength.' Really pushing that last one, aren't you Mr. President? Stop trying to make America like '1984.'

■ ■ ■
VERA HOGAN'S COLUMN in the Sunday paper was disappointing. She was really attacking Donald Trump under the guise of speaking to his son. Did she criticize Obama's daughters, tell them to be normal kids? There have been children in the White House since JFK.

■ ■ ■
I BET THE restaurants and hotels in D.C. are really raking in the money. They don't want these protests to end because their hotels and restaurants are full.

■ ■ ■
HEY VERA, I'M just saying. Leave Barron Trump alone. Everyone knows presidential children are off limits. We've known that since the Carter administration.

■ ■ ■
RIGHT ON, HELLER. I, too, have the ability to spot a shyster at first glance.

■ ■ ■
BEING A GOOD person does not depend on your religion, status in life, race, skin color, political views or culture. It depends on how you treat others.

■ ■ ■
THE REAL REASON Donald Trump was elected is in the Bible. It says 'and my people who are called by our name will

humble himself and call on me. I will be in their midst.'

■ ■ ■
AS A FORMER teacher, I am angry and appalled that the teachers union would use students in their protests against DeVos for the education head. If they want to protest, that's fine, but students were standing outside the school because teachers took the day off school.

■ ■ ■
IT'S REFRESHING TO read that Heller is aging in dog years. Perhaps that will serve to accelerate his departure.

■ ■ ■
WELL, I GUESS that womanizing, adulterating, promiscuity, and having multiple wives are OK if you're Republican.

■ ■ ■
PALM SPRINGS, ISN'T that where all the old mobsters go to die when they retire?

■ ■ ■
THE TRUMP ERA begins today and there is a new sense of hope and a spirit of patriotism.

■ ■ ■
AS OF YESTERDAY, Obama commuted or pardoned sentences for 1,815 criminals. He pardoned a Puerto Rican revolutionary who murdered four businessmen in New York City. He pardoned Chelsea Manning who divulged 700,000 military secrets putting our military operations at risk.

■ ■ ■
DONALD TRUMP DID not raise FHA rates. He did not allow the decrease because it was inflationary and it was a last ditch political move by Obama to disrupt the FHA department.

■ ■ ■
I CAN'T BELIEVE you Republicans are so sensitive. Vera Hogan wrote a charming article, wishing that Barron Trump would have a good childhood. Nothing about it was offensive.

TRUSTWORTHY
FOR 100 YEARS

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Third-season LFLF gymnastics keeps on growing, gaining confidence

By David Troppens

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Linden — There is no question the Linden/Fenton/Lake Fenton co-op gymnastics team is a tight group.

Go to one of their meets and that becomes obvious.

The squad is always grouped together, cheering on their teammates during the rou-

tines. And when someone is competing on the floor exercise, it almost looks like a team exercise during some of the dance portions of the performances. That's because it's not uncommon to see the girls watching doing the routine from the sidelines right with their performing teammate.

They are not only a close group, but they are a talented team as well. The group has

won and placed high in many weekend meets and are routinely capturing victories in smaller dual or three-team competitions.

On Tuesday, the squad continued those trends, breaking their record for best score of all time in a triangular meet with a score of 142.10. The co-op team is on its third year

and it's only getting better.

"We spend a lot of hours in the gym with each other, so we all learn a lot of each other's routines," third-year LFLF gymnast Miranda Stephens said. "We all get along well. It means a lot because we've been working hard to get where we are now the past few years."

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Sports



Jordan Dawson

Eagles getting healthier, defeat Fenton

■ Tigers' improvement adds fuel back to the area wrestling rivalry

By David Troppens

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Linden — Jaylin Steedman has never been on a Linden wrestling squad that has lost to Fenton.

The Linden senior didn't that streak to end on Wednesday, and it didn't.

While the Fenton varsity wrestling team has shown tremendous improvement during its first season with Brad Beverly at the helm, Steedman and his teammates had what was probably their best Metro League dual match of the season, defeating the Fenton Tigers 48-25.

"It felt pretty good to beat Fenton," Steedman said. "They are our rivals

and they haven't beaten us my entire career. We expected a little more fight, but we came ready to wrestle and you can't ask for anything more than that. I would say (it was our best Metro dual of the season)."

Fenton actually entered the dual ahead of Linden in the standings, but after Linden's victory both teams will enter the Metro League meet tied with a 3-4 record. One of the keys to the match is Linden's health. The Eagles have had several key injuries throughout the season, probably holding back their record more than most would've guessed at the start of the year. But now they are starting to get some of those wrestlers back into their lineup and

others healthier.

"We are 10-10 right now but we are working and people are getting healthier," Linden varsity wrestling coach Todd Skinner said. "We are coming together at the right time."

"I expected to win this. We are a tough team and when we have everyone in the lineup we are a tough team. We didn't have everyone in the lineup yet. We hope it happens soon. I was pleased."

The Fenton-Linden rivalry is a big matchup in any sport, but in recent seasons the Tigers haven't been competitive enough to really make the wrestling dual have that rivalry feel. That wasn't the case on Wednesday at Linden High School. There was a large crowd and there was an intensity one would expect for a conference championship dual. And that feel is a credit to Fenton's recent rise in the wrestling ranks.

"We are doing some good things," first-year coach Brad Beverly said. "We are much closer than we've been in the past. They are a good Linden team and they've been missing a lot of kids all year. But they got them back tonight."

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | MARK BOLEN

Lake Fenton's Hannah Garty attempts an off-balanced shot in a recent game. The Blue Devils defeated fourth-ranked Hamady 53-51 on Friday.

Lady Blue Devils shock fourth-ranked Hamady

By David Troppens

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The last time the Lake Fenton varsity girls basketball team faced off against the fourth-ranked Hamady Hawks, the Blue Devils weren't very competitive.

The Blue Devils were crushed 81-27.

The last time Lake Fenton played a Genesee Area Conference Red Division game, the results weren't very pretty. The Blue Devils lost to Corunna 69-29 on Friday night. In fact, the Blue Devils entered Tuesday night's game against conference leaders Hamady without a GAC Red Division victory while the Hawks were undefeated.

This one was over before it started, right? Well, maybe not.

The Blue Devils pulled off their biggest upset victory in recent memory capturing a thrilling 53-51 victory against Hamady at Lake Fenton High School.

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photo by
David Troppens

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LF finishes GAC dual season perfect

By David Troppens

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One would think it would be hard for the Lake Fenton varsity wrestling team to make history this season due to the fact the team has two weight class voids.

But it seems the Blue Devils thrive on adversity.

Despite the fact they gave up 12 points before the match started due to the fact Lake Fenton doesn't have wrestlers at 103 or 112, the Blue Devils defeated three-time Division 4 defending state champions New Lothrop for the second time this season, earning a 45-21 victory. The last time the two teams faced off, the Blue Devils won just 42-37.

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPENS

Lake Fenton's A.J. Geyer (right) competes against a Brighton foe in a recent match. The Blue Devils swept New Lothrop and Montrose on Wednesday, giving the team an undefeated Genesee Area Conference season.

Tigers end first half of Metro season above .500, beat Clio

By David Troppens

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The Fenton varsity boys basketball team's season has had its ups and downs.

But through all of the peaks and valleys, the Tigers are right in the mix for at least a second-place finish in the Metro League as the squads head into the second half of the season.

The Tigers finished the Metro with a 4-3 mark and tied for second with three other teams, after capturing a 42-32 victory against Clio on Tuesday.

The Mustangs are one of the teams the Tigers are tied at 4-3 with. Swartz Creek is the other. Flushing is in first at 7-0.

Fenton's defense sparked the victory, particularly in the opening

half. Fenton enjoyed a 10-4 lead after one quarter, but blew the lead open to 22-4 by halftime when the Mustangs were unable to score in the second stanza. Clio did cut the gap to six with four minutes to go, but that's as close as they came to threatening the Tigers' lead.

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPENS

Holly's Wyatt Scribner works on getting a pin in a recent match. The Bronchos defeated Brandon 39-27 on Wednesday.

Bronchos finish Metro dual season in second, beat Brandon

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

Don Pluta knew he liked his team when the wrestling season began in November.

Now the rest of the Metro League knows why.

The Holly varsity wrestling team (5-2) completed the dual portion of the Metro League season by beating Brandon 39-27 on Wednesday, earning second place outright.

"We are pleased. We are still disappointed with the

loss to Flushing, but they out-wrestled us that night," said Holly's varsity wrestling coach Pluta.

"Obviously we recovered from that with what we did last weekend and what we did against Brandon. ... It's been a solid year and it's been a fun year to coach. These kids are very unselfish and this is one of my favorite groups I've ever coached."

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Fenton girls on a hot streak, defeat Lady Mustangs

The days of Fenton's early-season struggles seem well in the past.

The Tigers are now at midseason and playing their basketball of the season.

The Tigers are on a five-game Metro League winning streak after defeating Clio 60-50 on Tuesday night.

Holly girls win balanced effort vs. Kearsley, 48-37

The Lady Bronchos were as balanced offensively as they have been all season long on Tuesday, defeating Kearsley 48-37.

Four Holly players scored at least eight points.

Holly boys basketball wins third straight contest

That's three in a row for the Holly varsity boys basketball team.

For a good chunk of the first third of the season, the Holly Bronchos found themselves competitive in contests, having second-half leads only to eventually lose the contests. It seems that trend is over. Holly captured its third straight win, earning a 56-48 victory against Kearsley on Tuesday.

Linden boys lose to Flushing

The Eagles played better than they did during their road contest at Fenton, but the Linden varsity boys basketball team still lost a 64-46 verdict to the Flushing Raiders.

PREP REPORT

COMPETITIVE CHEER

► **Metro League jamboree at Swartz Creek:** The Tigers were the top placers among the tri-county area squads, placing fourth with a team score of 654.14. Holly was fifth (625.08) while Linden was sixth (604.56). The Tigers had a 208.10 in round one and a 176.64 in round two. They finished with a 269.40 in round three. Holly had a 206.10 in its first round and followed that with a 184.88 in round two. Holly had a 234.10 in round three. Linden's best performance came in round three where the Eagles recorded a 257.50. They had a 189.20 and a 157.86 in round one and round two, respectively.

HOCKEY

► **Fenton-Linden Griffins 9, Swartz Creek 0:** Ian Crampton scored four goals as the Griffins blew out Swartz Creek 9-0. Heyden Justus had two goals while Dyland Meisch, Kyle Chowning and Jake Thompson had a goal each.

BOYS BASKETBALL

► **Flushing JV 55, Linden 51:** The Eagles pushed undefeated Flushing to overtime but eventually lost in the extra session. Travis Klocek hit a bucket with under 30 seconds left in regulation to force overtime. Seeger DeGayner led all scorers with 18 points while Koczek ended with 13 points. Brendan Miller had eight points and Max James netted six.

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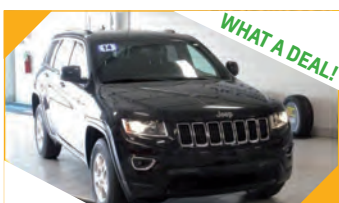
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