

# Fenton Township teen charged with open murder

## ■Prosecutor vows justice for 18-year-old shot in head by friend

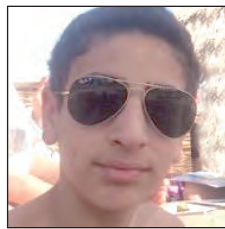
By Sharon Stone

sstone@tctimes.com; 810-433-6786

Genesee County Prosecutor David Leyton announced Friday morning that he has filed charges against a Fenton teenager who is

accused of shooting and killing his friend last weekend.

Leyton has charged Abdurrahman (Abdu) Ahmed Akl, 16, with open murder, receiving and concealing a stolen firearm, and two counts of



Abdurrahman (Abdu) Ahmed Akl

felony firearm in the shooting death of Brady Alan Morris, 18.

Akl is being charged as an adult. According to investigative reports from the Genesee County Sheriff's Office, at approximately 11 p.m., on March 4, law enforcement personnel from the sheriff's office and Fenton Police Department

**See MURDER on 21A**

**“This is obviously a very tragic event that has stunned the community and resulted in the loss of life of a young man.”**

**David Leyton**  
Genesee County prosecutor



**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME**  
Don't forget to spring forward one hour before you go to bed  
See Page 16A

## Weekend Times

SUNDAY EDITION

\$1.00

VOL. 24 NO. XI

SUNDAY, MARCH 12, 2017

2016 NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

## Teen sister saves 4-year-old from abduction

■Pulls her from arms of intruder during home invasion

By Sharon Stone

sstone@tctimes.com; 810-433-6786

The teenage sister of a 4-year-old girl is being credited for saving the young girl from being abducted from her Fenton home Wednesday afternoon, March 8.

**See ABDUCTION on 17A**



**Police are looking for a white male, around 30 years old, nearly 6-feet tall, thin build, with dark hair, dark thin beard, and has teardrop tattoos under his right eye.**

## SCIENCE, CRAFT AND CREATION COLLIDE AT 'MAKER CLUB'



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

The children's area of the Jack R. Winegarden Library in Fenton was busy on Tuesday, March 7, with participants in the brand new "Maker Club," which brings science, arts and crafts into one space. Tuesday, March 14 at 3:30 p.m., is the last class to be held in Fenton. The free program will resume at the Grand Blanc-McFarlane Library on Wednesday, March 22 at 3:30 p.m. The program was first tested in Fenton, and will spread to other Genesee District Libraries.



## Wind gusts damage Community Center roof

TRI-COUNTY TIMES  
TIM JAGIELO

Fenton firefighters cut the rubber roof membrane loose atop the Fenton Community & Cultural Center on Wednesday, March 8.

■Nearly entire rubber membrane torn off by wind

By Tim Jagielo  
tjagielo@tctimes.com

**Fenton** — It's rare that all city departments show up to an incident scene, but this was the

case on Wednesday afternoon, March 8.

The Fenton Fire Department, Police Department, Department

**See WIND on 20A**

## Rash of fake \$100 bills used in Fenton

■Police arrest one suspect after failed attempt at local store

By Sharon Stone

sstone@tctimes.com; 810-433-6786

The Fenton Police Department is investigating a rash of counterfeit \$100 bills that were passed at multiple stores

**See FAKE BILLS on 18A**

**TEXT YOUR HOT LINE**  
810-771-TEXT



**“Like most conservatives,** I don't want anyone entering this country illegally. And I sure as hell don't want them to be rewarded with housing, food and medical care just because they weren't caught. They should be sent back from wherever they came from as quickly as is possible.”



**“This is a direct quote from Nancy Pelosi,** the Minority Leader for the House of Representatives from California: 'We should only deport illegal aliens if they do something illegal.'”



**“I'm a physician.** The biggest issue with Obamacare is that it drove hundreds of thousands of doctors to early retirement, while at the same time drastically reducing the number of medical school students and grads. All of this happened while our aging baby boomer demographic is desperately in need of more doctors. The worst is yet to come.”



**COMMENT OF THE WEEK**

**“ONLY THE IDIOTS** and fools that populate the government would believe that cutting a foot off the top of a piece of plywood and gluing it back on to the bottom would result in a longer piece of plywood.”



# LEGACY REALTY

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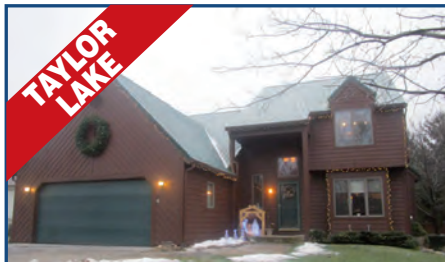
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TAYLOR  
LAKE

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2012 Bone

**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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**\$259,900**

Call Donna Fraidenburg 810-845-1971



NEW LISTING

### GENESEE TOWNSHIP

3039 N. Genesee

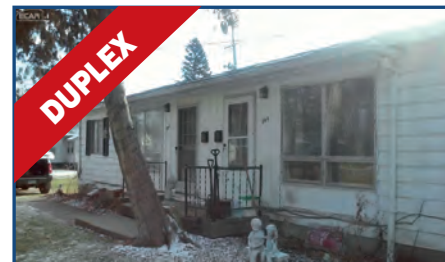
**Great starter** or downsized home with room to add bedrooms in the attic space or on the spacious property. Two lots included for total of 2.5 acres.

A slice of nature in town!

Also close to For-Mar Nature Preserve and Mott Lake. Great location!

**\$69,900**

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#### Duplex In Village Of Holly!

Great Investment Or Living Opportunity! Close To Shops, Festivities, Bush Lake Beach And Park, Nature Preserve And Expressways. 2 Unit Duplex. Both Units Have 2 Bedrooms 1 Bath. Many Updates. Fenced Yard. Holly Schools. Under 100,000.

**\$99,900**

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REDUCED

PENDING

### MUNDY TOWNSHIP

7162 Brittwood

**Charming and move in ready.** Located in quiet neighborhood, yet close to expressways. Gorgeous hickory cabinets in the kitchen. Natural stone shower in the master. Brand new concrete driveway. Landscape is low maintenance perennials with tons of curb appeal. Large fenced in back yard with a new pool and huge deck.

**\$163,000**

Call Alicia Faille 810-247-2293



NEW LISTING

PENDING

### LINDEN

16161 Knobhill

**Immaculate 2 story home** features 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, and central air. Enjoy the beautiful views of Lobdell Lake from your deck. Basement with 9 ft ceilings is just waiting for your finishing touches. Pella windows, gorgeous hardwood floors and 2.5 car garage.

**\$138,500**

Call Mark Goldsworthy 810-955-3736



AFFORDABLE

PENDING

### LINDEN

222 Chestnut Way

#### Affordable, move-in ready,

three bedroom bilevel in high demand Chestnut Grove. Open floor plan with large vaulted family room. Kitchen appliances included. Two bedrooms and full bath on main level with a 3rd bedroom and full bath on the ground floor. New carpet, paint and updates throughout!

**\$168,900**

Call Shelia Rhoades 810-348-7357



SUPER SPACIOUS

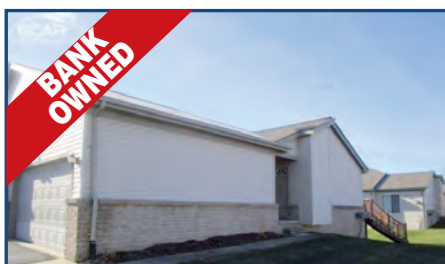
### FENTON

9170 Bennett Lake

**Spacious home** on just over an acre. Gorgeous updated kitchen w/granite, double oven, stainless appliances & breakfast nook. Master suite has its own balcony & huge master bath. Great home for a large family; 5 bedrooms, 3 baths, finished walkout w/ fireplace & kitchenette. 2 car attached garage plus pole barn!

**\$349,900**

Call Patrik Welty 810-750-2300



BANK OWNED

### GRAND BLANC

12010 Murray

**This condo in popular Sleep Hollow** is the perfect location near retail, restaurants and the expressway. No worries about stairs as everything you need is on the first floor. 2 bedroom and 2 bath. Also has a 2 car attached garage. Basement with daylight windows is just waiting for your finishing touches.

**\$127,900**

Call Patrik Welty 810-750-2300



LARGE RANCH

### OTISVILLE

9480 E. Mount Morris

**Almost 1800 square foot ranch** close to fairgrounds (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



DREAM SITE

### LENOX TOWNSHIP

59314 New Haven

**Looking To Build Your Dream Home** Or Property To Develop Check Out This Beautiful 70 Acre Parcel. This Property Offers Woods Great For Hunting And A 20 Acre Lake That Has Great Fishing. You Could Even Look In To Developing The Property, Which Has 3 Separate Tax I.D's.

**\$385,000**

Call Donna Fraidenburg 810-845-1971



GREAT OPPORTUNITY

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3409 N. Jennings

**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!

**\$150,000**

Call Kelsey Kerr 810-210-4155



LIBERTY SHORES

### LINDEN

4331 McCormick

**Don't miss this opportunity** to build your dream home. The lot is located in upscale Liberty Shores subdivision in Linden. The baseball lovers can take advantage of The Cartwright Field complex right in the neighborhood. Sub is just around the corner from Spring Meadow Golf Club & downtown Linden.

**\$14,900**

Call Mark Goldsworthy 810-955-3739



MCCASLIN LAKE

### LINDEN

15042 Longfield

#### 100 feet of sandy shoreline

on peaceful McCaslin Lake. Contemporary 5 bedroom home offers lots of living space. Functional kitchen with plenty of cabinets and counter space. Roomy living room with great views or sit outside on your large deck and soak in the tranquility of living on the water.

**\$199,000**

Call Patrik Welty 810-750-2300



PRIVATE ACREAGE

### 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.

**\$360,000**

Call Patrik Welty 810-750-2300



FOUR UNITS

### WHITE LAKE

8586 Pontiac Lake

#### A great opportunity for

income property on Pontiac Lake. A 4 unit apartment bldg. at 8565, a separate 1028 sq.ft. 3 bedroom ranch with 26x24 att. garage at 8563 and a wonderful 70' lot on Pontiac Lake with paved boat launch at water and dock.

Breathtaking views across the lake.

**\$259,900**

Call Diana Beckemeyer 810-877-21567





PHOTO: WWW.HIREMELAW.COM

The Breath Alcohol Ignition Interlock Device (BAIID), also referred to as "blow and go," is a device that only lets drivers operate their cars if they prove they're not drunk by requiring them to blow less than a .025. Judges issue these devices to people who have numerous drunk driving offenses.

## 'Blow and go' stops drunks from driving

■ Operating under the influence arrests up in Fenton, down in Holly and Argentine

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

On St. Patrick's Day, one of the most popular drinking holidays, police will be patrolling the streets to stop drunk drivers from hurting themselves and others.

One device is making sure repeat offenders don't drink and drive.

The Breath Alcohol Ignition Interlock Device (BAIID), commonly referred to as a "blow and go," analyzes someone's breath to determine his or her blood-alcohol content (BAC). Before the driver can start the car, the driver must use the BAIID, and if they blow a .025 BAC or higher, the car won't start, according to the Secretary of State's office. These are issued by judges for people who have numerous drunk driving offenses.

As of 2015, which is the latest year information is available, there are 10,186 installed in cars in Michigan, according to Secretary of State's Office Spokesperson Fred Woodhams. They are installed into a car by a mechanic and they can monitor a driver's BAC while they're driving. The device will require the driver to take random breath tests while driving.

The law states that someone is a habitual offender if they have three or more convictions within seven years, or have three or more convictions within 10 years.

The Secretary of State is required to revoke the licenses of habitual offenders and deny their application for another license.

After the minimum period of revocation/denial, a habitual driver may be eligible for a driver's license appeal hearing. If this person is granted a restricted license, they must submit to using the BAIID.

Woodhams said the device also monitors violations, such as failing to take the random tests when required. Other violations include tampering with it or removing it without having another device installed within seven days.

"If there is a violation, the system will send that violation to the department," he said. "Then there would be a follow up depending on what the possible issue was."

**“If there is a violation the system will send that violation to the department.”**

**Fred Woodhams**  
Secretary of State spokesperson

### Local statistics

In Fenton, Interim Police Chief Jason Slater said so far this year, there have been 11 arrests for operating while under the influence (OWI). There was an increase in OWI arrests, with 84 arrests in 2015 and 89 in 2016.

In Argentine Township, there has been one OWI arrest this year. Police had 28 reports of OWI in 2015, and seven in 2016.

Linden Police Chief Scott Sutter said there were four arrests for OWI in both 2015 and 2016.

According to Holly Police Chief Michael Story, there were 15 arrests in Holly for OWI in 2015, and eight in 2016. Police have arrested two people for OWI so far this year.

## Township approves mute swan program

■ Egg and nest destruction program allowed on Marl and Silver lakes

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

**Fenton Twp.** — Many homeowners on lakes enjoy seeing swans for their beauty, but a certain species poses a threat to human and animal life.

At the Feb. 20 Fenton Township meeting, the Board of Trustees approved the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Mute

### SUMMARY

■ The Fenton Township Board of Trustees voted 4-1 to support a Michigan Department of Natural Resources program to destroy mute swan nests.

Swan Egg and Nest Destruction Program for Marl and Silver lakes. The Silver and Marl Lakes Homeowners' Association brought the resolution to the board.

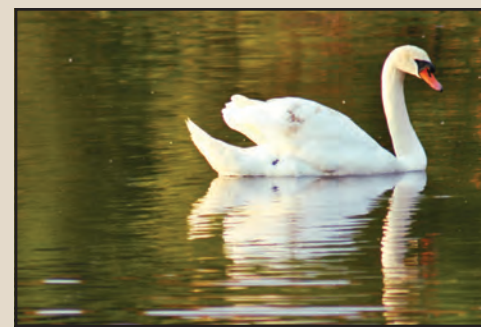
The resolution states, if people find mute swan egg nests around those lakes, they can call the DNR to destroy them.

Dick Sandell, who is a member of Silver and Marl Lakes Homeowners' Association and was on its board for 19 years,

said the population of mute swans, which are easily identifiable by their orange beaks, has been increasing on the lakes every summer.

"We've gotten some complaints from residents about the aggressiveness," he said. "The DNR wants them gone."

**See MUTE SWAN on 15A**



Invasive mute swans are easily identifiable by their orange beaks. Trumpeter swans have black beaks.



## St. Patrick's Day at Your Brewery

**St. Gin's Imperial Whiskey Stout Release at Noon**  
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### TRI-COUNTY TIMES



The Tri-County Times is published semi-weekly by Rockman Communications, 256 N. Fenway Drive, Fenton, Michigan 48430. We serve the communities of: Fenton, Linden, Lake Fenton, Holly, Hartland, Byron, Gaines, Davisburg, Swartz Creek and Grand Blanc and the townships of: Fenton, Holly, Rose, Tyrone and Argentine. We reserve the right to accept or refuse any content and/or advertising submissions.

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Circulation ..... 810-433-6797  
Hot Line ..... 810-629-9221  
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Come *Heller* high water

andrewheller@tctimes.com

Carpe diem

In his State of the State address last month, Gov. Snyder offered a million bucks (really) to whoever comes up with the best idea to stop the dreaded Asian carp that are headed for the Great Lakes via Chicago's waterways.

Once they make it — gulp, gulp, gulp — there goes the \$7 billion sport fishing industry, according to the experts.

That would be terrible, of course. And I could use a million dollars, so here goes:



Andrew Heller  
FEATURED COLUMNIST

1) Create an ad campaign in Chicago that convinces kids all over the Windy City that Asian carp are perfect for aquariums. Parents will hate it because aquariums are filthy and the

kids never feed the fish like they say they will. I speak from experience. But it's a small price to pay in the end. The only problem is I'm not sure Asian carp are small enough to flush down the toilet after they go belly up.

2) Grizzlies. I saw a nature show the other day where a family of bears was in a stream swatting salmon out of the air like soap bubbles. Stick a bunch of grizzlies at the mouth of whatever river empties into Lake Michigan and problem solved. Grizzlies eat people, too, of course, which could be a problem in a densely populated city like Chicago. But the bears will probably be too full to bother. Probably.

3) Chicago has some great restaurants, right? Ask the city's best chefs — as a public service — to create dishes to die for out of Asian carp. Food snobs will consume the entire population in weeks. (Hey, eating carp isn't any grosser than eating snails.)

4) Convince McDonald's they can get 10 Asian carp fillets for what it costs them for one of whatever fish they make their fish sandwich out of. They'll empty the rivers. And customers either won't know or won't mind. You put enough tartar sauce on it, it all tastes the same.

5) Capture one Asian carp, tag it with a tiny microchip then have a contest like Willy Wonka's golden ticket campaign. You catch the fish, you win a million bucks. Boom. Problem solved.

6) I know, I know, on that last one you're thinking, 'But what if the golden fish gets caught the first day or something?'

Easy. You keep the fish safe in a secret aquarium somewhere for a year or so without telling anyone. It's unethical, yes, but, y'know, morals, schmorals. We have an ecosystem to protect. (I'm fairly sure the PowerBall folks do kinda the same thing on occasion, by the way. That's why you get those trillion dollar pots from time to time.)

7) Or here's an idea. Since the Great Lakes are a precious, irreplaceable resource, maybe we, as good and civilized people, do two things: A) Elect people to high office, at the state and national levels, who will vote to use public resources to protect one of the true wonders of the world, and B) Throw out the bums who won't.

Nah, you're right. Too crazy. Let's go with the grizzlies instead.

Opinions offered in Come Heller High Water are the author's alone and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Tri-County Times or its staff. Email the Andrew at andrewheller@tctimes.com.

“You put enough tartar sauce on it, it all tastes the same.”

Hotlines

Submit at: tctimes.com, call 810-629-9221 or text to 810-771-8398

All submissions, if approved for publication, must be 50 words or less and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Tri-County Times. We reserve the right to edit for clarity, length and liability.

**WE PAID INTO** Social Security our whole working lives. The government took the money out of Social Security once to balance the budget. It was never paid back. The interest we earn on that money, plus the money paid in by us, is ours, not the government's.

**IF DEMOCRATS THOUGHT** that there was any chance that illegal immigrants would vote Republican, the wall between us and Mexico would have been built 20 years ago.

**DOES ANYONE KNOW** what a stop sign is? Apparently nobody does because they don't use them.

**NEVER FORGET THAT** all politicians, mayors, trustees, council members, U.S. congress people, and all presidents work for the people. They are public servants and the people are their bosses. Hold them accountable.

**WE SHOULD ALL** be wary of a president who believes conspiracy theories and tweets about them like they're facts. Looking at you, Trump.

**FENTON POLICE, HAVE** you ever given a single ticket to the thousands of Fenton women who text while driving daily?

**IT'S A SHAME** people in this world don't understand the Jewish people. They go out and destroy their gravesites and their temples. The Jewish people are one nation of people that have survived attacks for thousands of years by many different groups of people that are now vanished from the face of the earth.

**PARTY OVER COUNTRY?** That's treason.

**THE WASHINGTON EXAMINER** recently reported facts that prove 87 percent of all illegal immigrant families in the United States get welfare, and 72 percent of legal immigrants are on some form of welfare in the United States. Trump is right on this issue.

**TRUMP HAS DONE** more in 45 days, than Obama has done in eight years. From immigration policy reform, hiring 10,000 more border guards, securing our ports and getting more money for NATO, and unveiling plans to build the wall and repeal Obamacare. His efforts are heroic.

**I'M 58 YEARS** old, grew up with guns every since I was 4 years old. Started with a Daisy BB gun. I don't know of any 16-year-old kid on the face of this earth, that occasionally shoots a .45 Glock, inside the house.

**YESTERDAY EXXON MOBILE** announced that they were going to hire 45,000 new employees over the next four years, all involved in oil and gas exploration in the Gulf of Mexico. These will be high-paying jobs. Thank you, President Trump, for supporting this initiative. Instead of killing jobs, you are creating jobs.

**IF THE LARGE** national and multinational stores and restaurants have difficulty competing and making money, they could be replaced by small, regional locally owned businesses and restaurants that are thriving. Isn't that what the president's been talking about?

**ALL YOU RIGHT** wingers don't really know what's in the Affordable Care Act. You've never gone in and tried to take advantage of what it gives you.

**HEY BROTHER, YOU** said it, Momma's Hot Spot had the best tacos I've ever had in my life. I can almost taste them.

**THE FAILURE OF** schools, universities, theaters, churches, and nightclubs to properly secure their facilities is not a legitimate justification to infringe upon constitutionally protected rights. If the NFL can secure events with over 80,000 spectators, surely we can protect smaller venues.

**CONGRATS TO SPENCER** Irwin for stealing the State Road Elementary Talent Show. Your Michael Jackson moves were amazing.

**THERE EXISTS IN** the world absolutely no one who can give us a clear and compelling reasoning process whereby we observe the ridiculous practice of daylight saving time.

See **HOT LINE** throughout Times

Mystic Creek Golf Course & Banquet Center

# BRIDAL SHOW

Sunday, April 2, 2017 | Noon - 4:00pm

**FREE ADMISSION**  
with non-perishable food donation. See our website for details

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What activities do you look forward to in the spring?

Compiled by Tess DeGayner, intern

street talk



"Playing outside with my grandchildren."

Les Hotchkiss  
Fenton



"Hanging out with friends, throwing the baseball around or just going for walks."

Kevin Stinde  
Fenton Township



"I look forward to golfing."

Doug Schultz  
Fenton



"Walks in the park."

Kaylin Eichhorn  
Fenton



"Putting the boat in the water and getting ready for summer."

Jeremy Juhl  
Fenton





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**NEW LISTING**

### OPEN SUNDAY 1-3 DAVISON - 1.77 ACRES



**4050 N. Henderson Rd. • Davison**  
3 Bedrooms, 3 Baths, 1248 Sq Ft. Completely updated,  
Granite, Tile, Finished Lower Level and Heated Pole Barn.  
**\$259,000**

**NEW LISTING**

### DAVISON



**9396 Sycamore Ct. • Davison**  
2 Bedrooms, 3 Baths, 1214 Sq Ft. Open floor plan with cathedral  
ceilings, finished basement with fireplace and full bath.  
**\$150,000**

**NEW LISTING**

### GRAND BLANC

**PENDING! MULTIPLE OFFERS**



**5452 Chatham Ln. • Grand Blanc**  
3 Bedrooms, 3 (2,1) Baths, 1673 Sq Ft. Fantastic home with  
open floor plan, hardwood floors, and lots of natural light.  
**\$190,000**

**NEW LISTING**

### GRAND BLANC



**2170 Lost Oak Ct. • Grand Blanc**  
4 Bedrooms, 3 (2,1) Baths, 3096 Sq Ft. Perfect home in Hidden Oaks, Vaulted  
Ceilings, Main Floor Master, Custom Cabinetry, Granite, Tile, 3 Car Garage.  
**\$385,000**



### LAKE FENTON WATERFRONT



**2300 N. Long Lake Rd. • Fenton**  
3 Bedrooms, 4 (3,1) Baths, 2424 Sq Ft. 100 Ft of Amazing  
Open Water Views & Perfect Sandy Beach!  
**\$630,000**



### LOBDELL LAKE WATERFRONT

**NEW PRICE**



**16455 Oak Hill Dr. • Fenton**  
4 Bedrooms, 3 Baths, 1602 Sq Ft.  
Waterfront Beauty, Walk Out LL, over 3,000 Finished Sq Ft.  
**\$464,900**



### LAKE FENTON WATERFRONT



**14189 Swanee Beach Dr. • Fenton**  
3 Bedrooms, 2(1,1) Baths, 1348 Sq Ft.  
Amazing lot on the Open Water!  
**\$450,000**



### LAKE FENTON WATERFRONT



**13185 Torrey Rd. • Fenton**  
3 Bedrooms, 1 Bath, 1758 Sq Ft.  
Beautiful views of Lake Fenton's Crane's Cove.  
**\$400,000**

### PINNACLE SHORES - FENTON



**4360 Oak Tree Ct. • Fenton**  
4 Bedrooms, 3 (2,1) Baths, 2429 Sq Ft.  
Gorgeous Home with Lower-Level Walk Out!  
**\$349,000**

### FENTON - OVER 2 ACRES



**425 Jayne Rd. • Fenton**  
3 Bedrooms, 3 full Baths, 2285 sq ft.  
Inground pool, Pole Barn, 2.2 Acres  
**\$300,000**

### FENTON - ORCHARD HILLS



**944 Peach Tree Trl. • Fenton**  
4 Bedrooms, 3 (2,1) Baths, 2049 Sq Ft.  
Tons of updates!  
**\$254,900**



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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TESS DEGAYNER

Fentonian staff members, including graphic designers, writers and photographers, work during and after school to create Fenton High School's award-winning yearbook.

## Fentonian yearbook is 'Like No Other'

■ Fenton High School's 2016 yearbook continues reputation of award-winning publication

By Tess DeGayner

sstone@tctimes.com; 810-433-6786

**Fenton** — The Fentonian yearbook is a finalist for the National Scholastic Press Association's (NSPA) Pacemaker Award. There were 420 entries critiqued across the nation and of those, 70 entries were chosen as finalists for a Pacemaker. Only one of the finalists was from Michigan — the Fentonian.

Along with the finalist nomination, the school sent the 2016 yearbook to be critiqued by the Michigan Interscholastic Press Association (MIPA). The Fentonian received the highest award in the state, the Spartan Award. The judges' feedback stated that the book, Like No Other, presented verbal and visual presentation throughout, relaying the concept of the theme and structure.

"The awards in and of themselves are not as important as the validation and feedback the staff receive in the process," Fentonian adviser Pam Bunka said. "These honors are dependent upon achieving specific journalism standards, which are more important now than ever before. They also speak to the dedication and drive of the staff."

"Achieving this level of excellence is not easy and there are not many opportunities for the designers, writers and photographers to receive accolades. Finally, the awards and honors add to the credibility of the publications. Fenton High School is known in the state and country as having outstanding student publications."

The staff has won 26 awards in the state from MIPA and 16 nationally by NSPA. "A lot of this accomplishment had to do with the passion and skills of the editors," said Michael Fabatz. "The whole staff showed a lot of enthusiasm



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TESS DEGAYNER

Fenton High School's yearbook has been recognized for its longstanding history of excellence.

and dedication to their work. We tried to foster the ideals of yearbook in a positive, engaging way that allowed people to be creative and open, but also very aware of the expectations we had for them and the book."

Bunka said the staff worked to achieve this nomination by exercising their creative minds that are important in order to produce the award-winning publication.

"They were constantly working their hardest to create the best product possible," Fabatz said. "Even on hard days it was easy to stay focused because we all knew the end goal but also knew how to take time and make it a family feeling environment where we would joke around, have parties and have a lot of fun when we could."

The Fentonian at FHS was inducted into the MIPA Hall of Fame in 2002 for recognition of its longstanding history of excellence in scholastic journalism. Since this time, members have continued the success, making each subsequent yearbook an award-winning publication.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TESS DEGAYNER

Fenton High School is known for having outstanding student publications.

## News briefs

### HOLLY TOWNSHIP MEETINGS TO BE HELD AT KARL RICHTER CAMPUS STARTING THIS MAY

According to Supervisor George Kullis, the Holly Township Board of Trustees voted recently to move all township meetings to the Karl Richter Campus at 920 Baird St. The meetings will be held in the same location as the Holly Area Schools Board of Education and the Holly Village Council meetings. The meetings will begin in this location on May 1, 2017. Kullis said it was a 4-1 vote with Treasurer Mark Freeman casting the dissenting vote.

### HOT LINE CONTINUED

**IS IT POSSIBLE** we've got a little Washington, D.C. going on here in Fenton? Businesses take risks and their rewards come when they succeed. The rich focus on the rich getting richer. But so much resources from the DDA tax dollar to your own property taxes. My road hasn't been paved in 26 years but we've got nice new brick pavers downtown.

■■■  
**AIDING AND ABETTING** criminals is a crime. So sanctuary cities are engaged in criminal enterprise. I would like to see federal funds withheld from all sanctuary cities and travel advisories posted to not go and vacation in these spots, including San Francisco and the state of Hawaii.

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5:30 - 7:30 pm

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Parents of students who will be 5 years of age on or before September 1, 2017.

## REQUIRED DOCUMENTS TO REGISTER:

- State Issued Birth Certificate
- Immunization Record
- Proofs of residency:

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## OK2SAY tip line deemed a success

■ Nearly 3,400 tips received in 2016 involved issues that schools, law enforcement were unaware of

On March 8, Attorney General Bill Schuette announced that the OK2SAY student safety program received 3,359 tips in 2016—up nearly 55 percent from 2015.

Tips were received in 30 categories including:

- 800 tips on bullying
- 569 tips on suicide threats
- 480 tips related to depression, stress, and mental health
- 307 tips on self-harm
- 279 tips on cyberbullying

OK2SAY has already received almost 700 tips in the first two months of 2017. Technicians received 275 tips in January and 416 tips in February across all 30 categories.

“Students from around the state who previously did not know where to go are turning to OK2SAY for help,” said Schuette.

“Our specially trained technicians take every tip they receive very seriously,” said Col. Kriste Kibbey Etue of the Michigan State Police (MSP). “This program is working and we want to remind students that nothing is too small or insignificant to report. You could save a life.”

### What is the OK2SAY Program

OK2SAY is a student safety program that acts as an early warning system in Michigan schools to prevent tragedies before they occur. Launched in 2014, the program encourages students to submit confidential tips to trained technicians regarding potential harm or threats 24/7.

Through the 3,359 tips received in 2016, OK2SAY has saved lives. Submitted tips have prevented school violence, thwarted suicide attempts and provided help to many Michigan students in need of mental health or social services.



OK2SAY is effective in combating the culture of silence that permeates Michigan schools. In reports filled out after a tip is received and acted upon, 67 percent of schools, law enforcement and mental health professionals who received the tip from OK2SAY line said they were previously unaware of the problem. OK2SAY has proven to be immensely successful in saving lives and preventing tragedies.

State law protects the confidentiality of the reporter's identity. The identity of the reporting party will not be disclosed to local law enforcement, school officials, or the person about whom a tip is offered, unless the reporter voluntarily chooses to disclose his or her identity. If the reporter is a minor, the parent or guardian must also consent.

Anyone can confidentially submit tips 24/7 using any of the five tip methods detailed below. Multi-media attachments like photos, videos, and links to additional information are encouraged.

Tips can be submitted through the following ways:

- Call: 8-555-OK2SAY, 855-565-2729
- Text: 652729 (OK2SAY)
- Email: ok2say@mi.gov
- Web: www.ok2say.com
- OK2SAY Mobile App: Available for download in app stores for iPhone and Android

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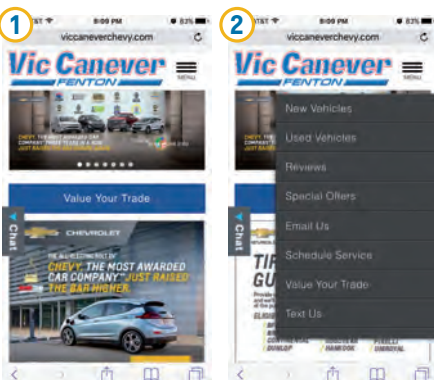
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The Holly Kiwanis organization raises funds to support our community programs that include: Scholarship funds, holiday baskets, financial assistance with heating, fuel bills, medical expenses and other community-based projects.



## Police&Fire report

### FRAUD ALERT

The Holly Police Department is investigating a fraud complaint. The McDonald's in Holly received a call from someone stating they were with Consumer's Energy collection department. The unknown caller claimed the business had a balance that needed to be paid and if the balance was not paid within 30 minutes their power would be shut off. When questioned about the balance, the caller transferred him to a digital voice recording. When the local owner called back again and was questioning the balance, the unknown caller hung up on him. Research was done on the phone number, which revealed that the number was from Alton, Kansas. The phone number was (888) 252-1168. Please be aware of this number and the fraudulent activity.

## Tri-county fundraisers

### BYRON FIREWORKS FUNDRAISER

The Byron Fireworks Fundraiser is scheduled for Saturday, March 18 at 5 p.m. at Byron High School. Items available include a five-night Myers Lake campsite, Splash Universe, Firekeepers, Potter's Park Zoo, Henry Ford-Greenfield Village, restaurant certificates and more. For details, email kim@narhiauuctions.com.

## HOT LINE CONTINUED

■■■  
**WHEN I PUT** my trash can out to the road, I put the wheels facing the house. I space the trash cans 3 feet apart, like they ask us to do. It just makes their job easier. It's the right thing to do.

■■■  
**TREAT ALL SOCIAL** programs like they were banks. When they need a bail-out, forget the budget and charge the national debt. Then pay bonuses to all the managers.

■■■  
**THE GOP'S NEW** health care plan is a huge slap in the face to the elderly. Insurance companies will be able to charge older people five times more than younger people, and everything will have to be paid out of pocket.

## News briefs

### SHAMROCK POLAR PLUNGE

The Holly Education Foundation is hosting its Shamrock Polar Plunge on Saturday, March 25, from 12 to 2 p.m., at the Springfield Township Hart Community Center millpond park, at 495 Broadway, Davisburg. Costumes are welcome, however, not required. Entry fees are (cash or check) \$35 per individual or \$140 for a team of five plungers. Entry fee includes a T-shirt. For more information contact Bill Walters at (248) 634-4593 or go their Holly Education Foundation Facebook page.

## Holly Area Schools earn 'badge of approval'

During the last week of February, Holly Area Schools was visited by a team of educators from Michigan and other parts of the country as part of an external review process. The team observed instruction in numerous classrooms throughout the district, interviewed school leaders, teachers, administrators, school board members, and stakeholders including parents, students, and community members.

At the end of the site visit, a special board meeting was held to review the external review exit report.

Superintendent Dave Nuss announced that Holly Area Schools earned Systems Accreditation from the AdvancED Accreditation Commission, the national commission that confers the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI) accreditation seal. This means that the system and all of its schools are accredited, and that Holly Area Schools is recognized across the nation as a quality school system.

Nuss praised the systems planning team and thanked staff, students, parents, and school board members for their efforts in making Holly Area Schools a wonderful place to learn.

"Accreditation demonstrates to our students, parents and community that we are focused on raising student achievement, providing a safe and enriching learning environment, and maintaining an efficient and effective operation staffed by highly qualified educators," said Scott Roper, assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction.

Roper, who headed up the Holly Systems Planning Team, added that this is a very proud moment for Holly Area Schools and it reflects the ongoing commitment of their staff to school improvement initiatives they support each day ultimately to improve the impact of teaching and learning for their students.

Nuss said that in a time when parents have choices to send their kids to a traditional public school or charter, study online via cyber school, attend a school outside the district, or choose a private school, having the AdvancED stamp of approval is not only a "badge of distinction," but also validates to the community that Holly Area Schools is a great school system and that students are getting the education necessary to be successful in college, career, and life.

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## New planets discovered have potential for life

## Local science teachers discuss implications of finding habitable planets

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

In the wake of the discovery of seven planets in a nearby solar system, a few local teachers are planning to discuss the find with their students.

Rachael Hubbard, science teacher at Holly Middle School, said, "This discovery is very important. It is a stepping stone to proving that other Earth-like planets are not only a possibility but are a reality."

In late February, NASA released information on the Spitzer Space Telescope revealing the first known system of seven Earth-size planets around a single star, called The Transiting Planets and Planetesimals Small Telescope, or TRAPPIST-1.

According to NASA, three planets are located in the habitable zone, meaning they could have water because of their position to their parent star.

The planets are located about 40 light-years, which is 235 trillion miles, from Earth, in the constellation Aquarius. This is relatively close to Earth.

This is a record for the most habitable-zone planets found around a single star outside our solar system. All seven planets could have water, which is the key to developing life.

Scientists have discovered that all of these planets are likely to be rocky, and further observations will reveal if they have water. All seven of these planets are closer to their host star than Mercury is to our sun.

Hubbard said, "The discovery itself will serve as a 'hook,' something to get the students interested and thinking. For most students, eighth-grade astronomy is their first time of really thinking about and exploring the universe, so they generate a lot of questions and what ifs," she said.

Michele Little, seventh-grade science teacher at Lake Fenton Middle School, discussed it briefly with her class soon after the news broke.

"We talked about the idea that it could mean we discover other variations of life

but that it was not a viable option for us to inhabit if our Earth were to no longer be livable," Little said. "Students had questions like if we could travel there, how did we find them if they are so far away, and if I think we will ever have the technology to travel that far."

Hubbard plans to tie in this discovery into their upcoming astronomy unit.

"Then we will look at the articles regarding the discovery, watch videos and tie it to the launch of the new telescope. I actually have an activity that allows them to see the data used by NASA that shows how they detect these planets this far away," she said.

The new telescope is the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST), which will launch in October 2018. Unlike the Hubble telescope, Hubbard said, which orbits the Earth, the JWST will orbit 1.5 million kilometers away from Earth and will orbit the sun.

"It has a massive mirror and will view the universe in infrared. Because of this, we will be able to see further than we ever have, viewing the infancy of our universe, evolution of galaxies, and formation of solar systems," she said.

The activity they will do in class is focus on data from the Kepler Telescope, which looks for Earth-like planets. Her students will analyze data and compare light emitted from stars.

"When the light Kepler sees is disrupted, it could mean a planet is orbiting it. You have to look at the size of the disruption, how long it lasts, and how often it happens," she said.

With this information, it's possible to determine the size of the planet and its distance from the star it orbits. That data can be compared to our planet to determine if it could support life. Hubbard is also trying to acquire a 3-D

printer to design and print model rockets that they could assemble and launch, as well as print planets to determine the difference in sizes.

"While we haven't developed the technology to travel interstellar distances, I still think just knowing these planets are out there is amazing. I like to tell my students that nothing is impossible and to keep their minds open," she said. "So while we will calculate the current travel time to those planets and find that traveling there would be improbable, you never know what new technology will make possible."

## SUMMARY

■ The NASA Spitzer Space Telescope discovered seven Earth-like planets orbiting a nearby star that could support life.

“While we haven’t developed the technology to travel interstellar distances, I still think just knowing these planets are out there is amazing.”

Rachael Hubbard  
Holly Middle School teacher



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# 'Don't let the bed bugs bite'

■ This pesky, blood-sucking nuisance bug is making a comeback in the U.S.

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Once just a catchy bedtime phrase, "Don't let the bed bugs bite" is taking on a new urgency as this pesky blood-sucking nighttime bug is making a comeback in the U.S.

According to reports from [www.michigan.gov](http://www.michigan.gov), pest control company Orkin says more people are now being affected by bed bugs in the U.S. than ever before. Nearly all pest professionals nationwide have treated bed bugs in the past year.

You're also more likely to find bed bugs at home than at a hotel. The top three places where pest professionals report finding bed bugs are apartments and condominiums (95 percent), single-family homes (93 percent) and hotels/motels (75 percent). They're also found in nursing homes, college dorms, offices, schools and daycare centers, hospitals, public transportation and more.

"It's a major problem for multi-family housing and hotels and motels," said Gary Offenbacher, a property manager in southeast Michigan, who was part of a Bed Bug Task Force for the state of Michigan.

Detroit has been named No. 7 on the most bed bug infested city in the U.S. list, along with Grand Rapids-Battle Creek-Kalamazoo at No. 29.

That's the bad news. The good news is that bed bugs don't carry diseases, and they are very treatable, according to Offenbacher.

Bed bugs are small, brownish, flattened insects that feed on the blood of people where they sleep. "All they eat is blood," said Offenbacher. "Getting rid of them is all about isolating them from their host."

Normally they are brought into a home or facility in furniture, household objects or luggage. Once they have established themselves in a home, they can be difficult and costly to get rid of.

They're not known to transmit diseases, but are considered a "nuisance" or "vermin," and therefore a public health concern, according to Michigan. [gov/emergingdiseases](http://gov/emergingdiseases).

"They're like head lice," said Offenbacher. "People freak out about it, but it's very treatable. There's no need to be embarrassed. Being sanitary has nothing to do with it."

Bed bugs can be difficult to detect because of their small size and ability to survive up to a year without feeding. They're about the size of an apple seed when fully grown and can easily hide around the seams of a mattress, behind headboards and in cracks and crevices, usually within a 5-foot radius of the bed.

The first signs of a bed bug infestation are often the bed bugs themselves, or small



More people are being affected by bed bugs now than ever before.

**“Most hotels are very proactive. They don't bring them (bed bugs) in; their guests do.”**

**Gary Offenbacher**  
Member of a Michigan task force about bed bugs

dark stains bed bugs can leave behind.

It's important to check for signs of bed bugs regularly, and make this check part of your regular sheet-changing routine.

If you find or suspect you have bed bugs in your home or on your mattress, it is recommended that

you call a pest management professional. For do-it-yourself eradication methods, check [Michigan.gov/emergingdiseases](http://Michigan.gov/emergingdiseases).

## TO HELP DETECT AND PREVENT BED BUGS...

- **Inspect your home** for signs of bed bugs regularly. Check where they hide during the day, including mattress seams and behind baseboards, headboards, electrical outlets and picture frames.
- **Decrease clutter** around your home to make bed bug inspections and detection much easier.
- **Inspect all secondhand** furniture before bringing it inside your home.
- **Dry potentially infested** bed linens, curtains and stuffed animals on the hottest temperature allowed for the fabric.

## WHEN YOU TRAVEL, REMEMBER THE ACRONYM, SLEEP:

**S** – Survey the hotel room for signs of an infestation. Look for black or brown spots on any furniture.

**L** – Lift and look in bed bug hiding spots: the mattress, box spring, bed skirt and other furniture, as well as behind baseboards, pictures and even torn wallpaper.

**E** – Elevate luggage away from the bed and wall. The safest place is in the bathroom.

**E** – Examine your luggage while repacking and once you return home from a trip.

**P** – Place all dryer-safe clothing from your luggage into the dryer for at least 15 minutes at the highest setting after you return home.

Source: Orkin

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**ACREAGE \$750,000**  
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This custom home is nothing less than spectacular. Offering 13,000+ SF of living space. 5 BDR, 9 BA including 2 master suites, 6 fireplaces, marble flooring, gold leaf ceilings and wine cellar. Custom in ground pool and 4 car garage.



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.



1274 S HOLLY RD, FENTON

**ACREAGE \$575,000**  
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6239 CANTER CREEK, GRAND BLANC

**PINE HOLLOW ESTATES \$1,199,000**  
Stunning Pine Hollow Manor 7900+ SF w/ finished walkout. Built 2002 at a cost of 2.5+ million, 5 BDR and 7 BA, home boasts luxury! Nestled on lavish grounds providing pure privacy. Marble floors, granite, cherry, Swarovski Crystal, Enkeboll trim, 24k Gold fixtures.



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.

## Horses & Happiness Contest

John Wentworth has a love of horses & to celebrate International Happiness Day on March 20th, we will be sponsoring ONE CHILD for a Boots-N-Saddles Day Camp this summer at Camp Copneconic! We invite you to nominate a child going into 3rd - 8th grades this summer by submitting a photo, your contact information & why this child would love to go to horse camp.

Please submit your nomination by 5pm on March 15th, 2017.  
[www.JohnWentworthGroup.com/Happiness](http://www.JohnWentworthGroup.com/Happiness)

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## MUTE SWAN

Continued from Page 3A

According to the DNR, mute swans are invasive to Michigan and pose a threat to humans as well as wildlife. They're known to attack people on personal watercraft, tubes, kayaks, paddleboats and other watercraft. They will also attack small children and dogs.

Each year, the DNR gets reports of mute swan attacks on people in watercraft and on shore. These situations all pose potentially dangerous results, and as the mute swan population grows, so do the conflicts, according to the DNR.

One mute swan attacked and killed a man who was kayaking in a Chicago pond in April 2012. The man worked for a company who used swans and dogs to keep geese off the property. When he was checking on the animals, a swan approached him and he fell into the water. The swan continued to attack the man until he stopped trying to resurface.

### Mute swans vs. Trumpeter swans

- **Mute swans** have orange beaks, while trumpeter swans have black beaks.
- **Trumpeter swans** are native and rare, and mute swans are more aggressive and plentiful.
- **The necks** of mute swans are more "S" shaped, compared to the "C" shape of the trumpeter swans.
- **Mute swans** are louder.

Source: Michigan DNR

### “The DNR wants them gone.”

**Dick Sandell**  
Silver and Marl Lakes  
Homeowners' Association member

Mute swans are one of the world's most aggressive waterfowl species, especially when they're nesting and humans come too close to their territory, according to the DNR. These swans will also attack other waterfowl like trumpeter swans, whose population is threatened, Canada geese, ducks, loons, and other birds.

"The trumpeter swan is native to Michigan, and is on our state's threatened species list. It has been on the road to recovery; however, the increasing presence of the invasive mute swan is threatening the breeding success of this native bird," according to the DNR.

Sandell said he's witnessed the swans attacking geese outside his house on the lake.

"If we start now with the nest destruction, we can keep the population limited," he said. "We're trying to do our best to keep the lakes clean and safe."

The resolution passed in a 4-1 vote, with Clerk Bob Krug dissenting. Trustees Robert Kesler and Vince Lorraine were absent.

## HOT LINE CONTINUED

**THE SEVEN-YEAR** disaster known as Obamacare is officially coming to an end. This plan, which was rammed down the throat of Americans, has harmed millions of Americans and families with higher premiums, higher deductibles, and has hurt the medical industry in America.

**COULD SOMEONE PLEASE** enlighten me on why transfer state revenues to big developers in Senate bill 111 and Senate bill 113, lets some big developers keep the sale tax they collect. Why would that benefit Michigan and the people that live here?

**GREAT JOB, TRUMP** voters. Ninety-seven percent cut in Great Lakes funding looking from \$300 million to \$10 million. How do you like him now?

**YOU KNOW YOU** have a good neighbor and a lot of friends if you have three vehicles and all 12 tires are slashed and nobody saw anything and nobody heard anything.

**OUR COUNTRY IS** in way over its head in debt.

**A NATIONAL HISTORIAN** said this morning that Obama's legacy will be one of the most failed presidencies in history. He abused the presidency like we haven't seen since Nixon.

**A DAY WITHOUT** women. Wow, can we do this once a week? No cooking, no shopping, no driving, no talking, no bickering peace and quiet. I say a day without women — every week.

**CONSERVATIVES SHOWING GRACE** and class for Obama. What planet are you from? Have you been sniffing glue? They berated him, they called him nasty words, they claimed he wasn't from the United States. You must live on a different planet.

**WITH REGARD TO** immigrants, difficulties incurred while breaking our laws do not make exempt you from those laws, nor should you be rewarded for enduring them.

**IF MY MEMORY** is correct, weren't the Tsarnaev brothers, the Boston Marathon bombers, both refugees with a history of being radical muslims?

**WEBSTER'S DEFINITION OF** liberal: Open to new ideas; Caring. I think some protestors need to know this.

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# Despite controversy, Daylight Saving Time still here

■ Local representative would not favor making Michigan only state in Eastern zone to abolish it

By Vera Hogan • [vhogan@tctimes.com](mailto:vhogan@tctimes.com)

Last March, Judge Mark McCabe, who writes the Ask the Judge column for the Times, summed up Daylight Saving Time (DST) very nicely.

It has also been fodder for many a column in local and national newspapers.

According to McCabe's research, DST is when we all lose an hour of sleep. It all began with its original inventor, an Englishman named William Willett. Willett authored a pamphlet in 1907 titled 'Waste of Daylight,' which suggested a possible way to have more daylight by advancing clocks one hour and got the proverbial ball rolling.

Germany was the first country to have DST, followed by Great Britain and then the United States. This occurred during World War I. The stated reason for the change was to conserve energy. It was ended here in 1919.

McCabe said, "After the war, a few individual cities and states decided to



continue with it and during World War II, it came back until the war ended.

"Again depending on where one lived some cities and states still used it.

"In 1966, Congress passed the Uniform Time Act making DST national again starting the last Sunday in April and ending the last Sunday in October.

"Since then there have been various changes in the law as to when the start and end dates would be. The law that is presently in effect is the Energy Policy Act of 2005 setting the start of daylight saving as the second Sunday of March with the end being the first Sunday in November.

"Individual states are allowed an

exemption, with Hawaii and most of Arizona remaining on standard time."

Monika Butzbach, a Chicago area native, moved to Phoenix, Arizona for nearly 21 years ago. She is an admissions counselor with the University of Phoenix.

"We change our early shift an hour earlier," Butzbach said of DST.

For example, the 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. shift moves to 5 a.m. to 2 p.m., or the 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. shift will go to 6 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"All other shifts remain the same to cover our students," said Butzbach. "We have shift bids with employees to see who prefers these times."

With regard to not having to change the time twice a year, she said, "I love it. Glad we do not change the time as it gets warm here, and there really is no need to change it. We do not want the sun hanging out longer than we need to in the heat of the summer."

The main reason for DST has always been to save energy, but studies appear to show that there isn't a significant savings. And, the elimination of DST does not seem to have any legs when it gets to the Michigan legislature.

McCabe said in 2015, a state representative from Ann Arbor introduced a bill to exempt Michigan from the law, which has made little progress toward passage.

It was introduced again in January of this year, according to State Rep. Joe Graves, serving citizens locally in District 51.

"Rep. Pete Lucido (District 36) has introduced legislation to eliminate Daylight Savings for the state," Graves said. "It was referred to the House Policy on Commerce and Trade on Jan. 11. I do not serve on that committee, but would guess it will not have support even for a hearing.

Graves said he would not vote in favor of abolishing DST in Michigan if it were the only state in the Eastern time zone to do so.

"I think it would only make sense if the entire Eastern time did so," he said.

## TIPS TO MAKE IT THROUGH THE TIME CHANGE

Daylight Saving Time brings brighter evenings and a reminder that spring and warmer weather are within reach. However, it comes with the potential to wreak havoc on a family's sleep routine. To help families get through this time change adjustment, the following tips and tricks may help ease into the transition and get the best night's sleep possible:

### Stay consistent.

Develop a nightly routine to help regulate your body's sleep and wake schedule. Aim to go to bed and wake up around the same time every day, even on weekends. This can help support your body's natural sleep cycle.

### Limit nighttime screen time.

Unwinding with your favorite TV shows or reading the latest news on your smartphone or tablet can seem like a nice way to ease into falling asleep once the kids are in bed, but it can hinder your sleep if you do it within an hour of bedtime.

### Step outside.

Use that extra daylight to spend some quality time outside with your family. Research suggests a correlation between exercise and a good night's rest. Challenge your family to be more active and your whole family will be getting more sleep.

### Create an environment for sleep.

A perfect sleep environment should be dark, quiet and cool so you can fall asleep faster and stay asleep. If you have challenges with any of these factors, invest in some blackout curtains, ear plugs or a fan. (BPT)

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

Freeway Sports Sales Associate Dominic Melton stands aboard a 19-foot Yamaha AR195. Visit local dealers at the Novi Boat Show beginning March 16.

## Boating season just days away

■ Check out the latest boats, PWCs, pontoons, accessories at the Novi Boat Show

By Sharon Stone

sstone@tctimes.com; 810-433-6786

With no ice left on area lakes, many boat and water enthusiasts are counting down the days until they can get their boats back into the water.

To further the excitement of spring, boat owners, or potential boat owners, will want to plan an outing to the Novi Boat Show, which runs from March 16 to 19 at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi.

Show management expects boat sales to increase at the Novi Boat Show. Recreational boating is seeing some of its healthiest gains in nearly a decade, a trajectory that the National Marine Manufacturers Association expects to continue through 2018.

"With thriving economic indicators and reports of new boaters entering the market from our dealers, all signs lead to continued growth," said Novi Boat Show Manager and MBIA Executive Director Nicki Polan. "Our recent Detroit Boat Show saw an attendance increase, and exhibitors reported some of the best sales ever seen at that show, we're expecting the trend to continue in Novi."

Visitors to the boat show will have an opportunity to check out hundreds of new 2017 and new overstocked non-current model boats, motors and trailers, all priced to sell. There will be more than 100 exhibitors under one roof, showing boats for skiing, fishing and cruising, up to 30 feet in length. Plus, personal watercraft, accessories, dockage, hoists and much, much more will be available.

Many of the dealers will be offering bargain prices, low interest rates and financing.

Local residents will want to check out the local boat dealers that have a booth at the show. C & C Sports, Inc. will be showing off their inventory in booths B7, B9 and B11. Look for their ad on Page 3B in this issue, as well. Their SeaDoo package includes two 2017 jet skis, four life vests, and trailer for \$199/mo.

Although they are not participating at the Novi Boat Show, White's Landing and Lake Ponemah Marina are promoting their own boat show pricing at their local showrooms. Check out their ads on pages 16 and 17A. Boaters also will want to check out Freeway Sports Center's ad on page 1B.

Area boat dealers participating at the Novi Boat Show are Action Water Sports (Booths 405, 550), Aqua Sports

Marine, Inc. (Booth 630), C & C Sports, Inc. (Booths B7, B9, B11), Silver Spray Sports (Booth 650), Skipper Buds on Lake Fenton (Booths 350, 450) and Wilson Marine (Booths 740, 940).

### Did you know ...

Michigan is the third largest marine market in the country with \$842.5 million in sales of new powerboat, engine, trailer and accessories in 2015, behind only Florida and Texas (with year-round boating).

There are nearly one million boats registered in Michigan, and an estimated four million boaters. That is more than 40 percent of the state's population.

### NOVI BOAT SHOW

March 16-19, 2017

[noviboatshow.net](http://noviboatshow.net)

### Suburban Collection Showplace

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Sunday 11am – 6pm

## ABDUCTION

Continued from Front Page

Fenton Interim Police Chief Jason Slater said just before 3 p.m. on Wednesday, March 8, police responded to a home in the 400 block of E. Ellen St. on a reported home invasion and attempted child abduction.

The preliminary investigation has revealed that a white male, around 30 years old, approximately 6-feet tall, thin build, with dark hair and a dark thin beard, and having a small tattoo under his right eye, wearing a grey hooded sweatshirt, walked into the home through rear door of the house. He picked up the 4-year-old girl and started to walk outdoors with her.

The older sister heard the commotion and immediately grabbed her little sister and pulled her from the man's arms. The man fled the house and drove away.

The car, last seen heading east on E. Ellen St., was described as a silver/grey four-door passenger car. The front windows were tinted, but the back windows were not, according to

the older sister.

After talking with the family, Slater said police learned that this same man has been at their home twice before. On Feb. 27, the man arrived at the house and asked if a particular person lived there. Once the older sister said that person lived there, the man left.

On March 1, the same man arrived at the house and attempted to assault the teenage daughter. She told police that he appeared to be highly intoxicated at that incident.

Slater said police are attempting to identify this man and find out why he has returned to this house multiple times. The family does not know him.

As part of their investigation, Slater said they would like to speak with a fisherman who was fishing at the park across from this home. The fisherman had a blue pickup truck. The teenaged sister said this fisherman heard all of the commotion and it appeared that he may have driven away to follow the silver car. Police would like this fisherman to call police at (810) 629-5311.

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## FAKE BILLS

Continued from Front Page

in Fenton on Monday, March 6.

Interim Police Chief Jason Slater said they received a call from a store in the 18000 block of Silver Parkway at 1:30 p.m. on March 6. An employee reported that a female had attempted to make a small purchase using a \$100 bill. After a swipe with their counterfeit pen, the employee determined that the bill was fake and did not accept the bill. The customer left with the bill and without making the purchase.

Responding police observed a woman matching the suspect's description coming out of a store just north of the first store. The woman was carrying a store bag.

Police made contact with the woman and identified her as a 45-year-old Detroit resident. She had bought a \$10 package of socks. She admitted to police that she used a fake \$100 bill. She was arrested and taken into custody.

During her interview, she told

police that a former housekeeper of hers paid her \$40 to pass the fake \$100 bills.

Slater believes these counterfeit bills are coming out of the Detroit area. He said they are very good, but felt waxy to the touch. He said you could tell they were fake by holding them up to the light. The counterfeit pens could detect they were fake. The U.S. Secret Service, which has jurisdiction over counterfeit currency, has been contacted and the bills have been forwarded to them.

On March 7, a Fenton bank reported to Fenton police that they received several of these fake \$100 bills from the previous night's deposits. They all had the same serial number on them. A total of five stores in Fenton accepted seven fake \$100 bills, which were deposited into that one bank. Slater said they have not heard from any other banks on this particular issue.

Police are continuing to investigate and they will be reviewing surveillance tapes to determine who else passed these fake \$100 bills.

Spotlight on:

## VALE ROYAL BARN & INN

• Historic barn in Tyrone Township now open for 'wedding weekend experience'

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Valerie Johnson shopped for nine years before finding the perfect, picturesque historic wedding barn setting for her new business. She found it here in Tyrone Township. The Vale Royal Barn & Inn is at 11009 Old U.S. 23.

**How did you happen to get in the wedding business by opening up your own wedding barn and inn?**

My sister, Diane Johnson, has been a wedding photographer for 20 years and she told me I should look into getting a barn and commercial license for a wedding venue. We shopped around for nine years. We wanted to do all the proper zoning and special use permit. We worked with Tyrone Township for one-and-a-half years. We had to rezone the entire property.

**What is the history of the barn?**

The barn was built by one of Fenton's first pioneers in 1867, Frederick Riggs. It was going to be torn down, so we had a barn specialist, Dave Ciolet, take the barn down in sections and re-build it on the property. That's my favorite part of the project, that we were able to save the barn built by one of Fenton's original pioneers.

**What exactly do you offer at Vale Royal Barn & Inn?**

It's a prairie-style wedding venue with a historic barn on an eight-acre estate. It's very picturesque for a wedding with lots of trees, water from Runyan Lake and wildflowers. It's ideal for wedding photography, too.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO

Brides and grooms are discovering Vale Royal Barn & Inn as the perfect location for a picturesque barn wedding.

**What makes your venue unique?**

We provide a whole weekend experience for the bride and groom with a three-bedroom inn that they can use to get ready in and spend the weekend. It's a much slower pace than other venues that require "lights out" at midnight and all the décor removed. The newlyweds can enjoy breakfast the morning after the wedding and have until noon to clean up.

We also provide tables, chairs, linens and décor items like wood slabs, mason jars, old doors, whiskey barrels, etc.

We can give clients a preferred vendor list using local vendors, if they'd like help in their wedding planning.

**Are you booked already for 2017?**

We're fully booked this year and are taking dates for 2018 and beyond. Six dates out of 26 in 2018 are already booked. Our busiest months are June, September and October, then spring.

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# Local eighth-graders advance in essay contest

■ Awards include \$1,000, meeting state government leaders and riverboat cruise

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

One Linden Middle School student and one Holly Middle School student have a chance of winning a statewide essay contest based on the theme “My Personal Michigan Hero.”

Gabriel Hay of Linden Middle School wrote about his grandfather, who helped raise him after Hay’s dad stepped out of the picture.

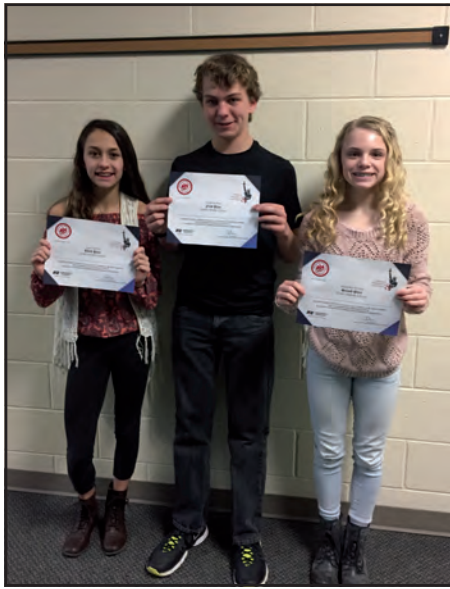
Andrea Ruiz of Holly Middle School also submitted an essay.

“The main reason I wrote it was just to show that I really appreciate what he’s done,” Hay said. “He made a lot of sacrifices for me and my family just so that we could be successful in life. I just really wanted to acknowledge him for that.”

Farm Bureau hosts and sponsors this writing contest, called “America and Me,” for eighth-grade students in Michigan every year. Students must write an essay based on the theme “My Michigan Hero.”

Catherine Bogie, reading intervention teacher and eighth-grade language arts teacher at LMS, encouraged her students to enter. She said, “Students must write about someone that lives in our state and has impacted their lives through encouragement, important lessons or helping them pursue their dreams. They wrote about the qualities that makes this person a hero to them.”

The students entered in November, and the Farm Bureau chose the top three students from each school. The top 10 finalists receive certificates, plaques, medallions, and cash rewards of \$1,000. They also earn a trip to the State Capitol to visit with govern-



TRI-COUNTY TIMES I SUBMITTED PHOTO

From left is Apryl Smith, Gabe Hay, Melanea Strauss, the top three winners at Linden Middle School who entered a statewide essay-writing competition.

ment leaders, and be featured guests at a Lansing Lugnuts minor league baseball game, as well as a cruise on the Michigan Princess Riverboat on the Grand River.

Hay, Melanea Strauss, and Apryl Smith won first, second and third place respectively at Linden Middle School.

“I didn’t really write it for the reward, I just really wrote it because I wanted to acknowledge all the effort that my grandfather is putting into helping me become who I am.”

Gabriel Hay  
Linden Middle School student

“I didn’t really write it for the reward, I just really wrote it because I wanted to acknowledge all the effort that my grandfather is putting into helping me become who I am,” he said.

The essays by Hay and Ruiz will now be judged by a team of judges that includes a top Michigan government official, who

hasn’t been announced, and the sponsoring teachers of last year’s top two statewide winners. They’ll hear the results in April.

## WHAT YOU MISSED in the MIDWEEK TIMES

Compiled by Vera Hogan

The following is what you missed in the **Wednesday, March 8, Midweek Edition** of the Tri-County Times. To subscribe and receive both the Sunday Weekend and Wednesday Midweek editions, please call (810) 629-8282

### Sheriff reveals details of fatal shooting of 18-year-old

The two teenagers involved in the Fenton Township shooting Saturday, March 4 that left 18-year-old Brady Morris dead, had a history of playing Russian Roulette, but Genesee County Sheriff Robert Pickell doesn’t suspect they were playing the game that night.



### Controversial Owen Road plans resubmitted

Fenton Building and Zoning Administrator Mike Reilly explains the development process.

### Red Lobster, Olive Garden — not likely in Fenton

Popular eateries either don’t franchise or are subject to exclusive territories.



## YOUR SMILE MATTERS!

By: Dr. Steven Sulfaro

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## HOT LINE CONTINUED

**ANYONE WHO HAS** AT&T and a landline phone and tries to get credit for 12 days of lost service in February, like I had, and tries to get a refund, I wish them well.

**WITH ALL OF** the available retail space in Fenton, a retail strip mall on Own Road is totally unnecessary. I hope our city council scrutinizes these plans as it will only increase the traffic problems that exist already. By losing five restaurants in such a short period of time, Fenton has taken a giant step backward.

**MOST ALL HIGHLY** educated women with good jobs, families and responsibilities were at work today. The protests going on were organized by leftist liberal groups including socialists.

**OBAMACARE FIX? CUT** health care for the poor by \$6,000 a year and a huge tax cut for those earning over \$200,000 a year.

**IT WOULD BE** great if the news media would report some real news for a change instead of following President Trump down every mole hole he digs for himself on Twitter.



Dr. Juan Alvarado  
O.D.  
Diplomate, American Board of Optometry



Dr. Cynthia L. Cupal  
O.D., F.A.A.O.  
Diplomate, American Board of Optometry



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**TRI-COUNTY TIMES** | TIM JAGIELO  
Fenton firefighter Frank Carpenter, along with the Fenton DPW carries large pieces of roofing foam away from the scene on Wednesday. Wind gusts up to 60 mph tore the rubber roof membrane from the Fenton Community & Cultural Center on Wednesday.



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**WIND**  
**Continued from Front Page**  
of Public Works, city administration and the building department were all on hand after the roof blew off the community center Wednesday noon.  
The rubber membrane with foam covering the roof and sealing it to the elements could be seen billowing in the wind, scattering squares of foam about the immediate area of downtown.  
The fire department cut the rubber membrane loose, allowing it to settle out of the wind. Fire and DPW members picked up the foam pieces.  
City Manager Lynn Markland said the roof was last replaced after the tornado of 2007. It will sit as-is until it’s safe to replace the membrane, foam and attached roof vents.  
This incident was one of several caused by the windy conditions on Wednesday. Downed power lines caused power outages and a brush fire erupted near Linden and Lobdell roads in Fenton Township.  
According to Consumers Energy, sustained high winds of up to 60 mph caused power outages for 140,000 customers on Wednesday, March 8.

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# '...my brother was murdered'

## ■ Brother of shooting victim speaks out

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Rusty Morris, 22, the brother of 18-year-old Brady Morris who was shot and killed Saturday evening, March 4, in Fenton Township, is speaking out about the death of his brother.

Morris was allegedly shot by a 16-year-old friend in a home in the 14000 block of Moffett Drive. The shooter is in custody and the Genesee County Sheriff's Office is expected to send information to the prosecutor's office.

"First and foremost my baby brother, Brady, was not just a brother to me but also to my brothers and sisters. He was a son, an uncle, a cousin to many, and a friend. He was loved, very loved, and he loved us back just as much. He made everyone around him smile. He was a joker, self-proclaimed comedian if you will and always had everyone around him laughing," he said.

At a Monday, March 6, press conference, Genesee County Sheriff Robert Pickell said they believe Morris came from an "troubled family." Morris had been staying with the 16-year-old for the last two months, according to Pickell.

"The fact someone said he comes from an unstable family baffles me. There is obviously some confusion here. He comes from a very loving family who has been through trials just as much as any other family," he said. "An unstable family, I think, let's a 16 year-old have a weapon. Not only a weapon but ammunition. And not only did a 16-year-old have a weapon but he shot it off multiple times in his parents' home and no one thought to get control of this situation."

The sheriff said the teens would play Russian Roulette together in the past. Police found at least four bullet holes in each piece of furniture in the bedroom.

Pickell said the 16-year-old was familiar with the gun, a 45-Glock, which normally holds 10 rounds in a magazine. The 16-year-old took the gun into the bathroom and loaded a round into the magazine. According to Pickell, he then entered the room and shot Morris in the head.

"As far as my brother playing Russian Roulette with 45 caliber semi-automatic — it's absurd. You can't play Russian Roulette with a semi-automatic weapon. A semi-automatic weapon fires a round every time it is fired. This was clearly thought out and my brother was murdered. If you're old enough to go into the bathroom, load a gun, put it to my brothers head, and kill him — you can be tried as an adult," he said.

"The killer took a son away from his parents, a brother away from his siblings, and an uncle away from his nieces and nephews who loved him immensely. He killed my baby brother who had a whole life to still live," he said. "Please respect our privacy during this time. We appreciate all the support and kind words.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO

Rusty Morris (left) in a Facebook selfie with his brother, Brady, who was shot and killed on Saturday, March 4.

We hope and pray for justice. Justice is what my sister and I fight for and believe in. Thank you."

At a morning press conference on March 6, Pickell said 911 received a call from a 16-year-old saying "he killed his friend and that there's matter all over the wall." The Genesee County Sheriff's Office and Fenton City Police Department responded to the call, and the 16-year-old was taken into custody.

He is being held at the Genesee Valley Regional Detention Center. Due to his age, and no charges filed yet, police have not released the alleged shooter's name.

Nine people were in the house at the time of the shooting. The mother and father of the 16-year-old and his four siblings were on the second floor of the three-story house on Lake Fenton, and a friend was on the third floor. The two male teenagers were alone in the 16-year-old's bedroom on the first floor.

After calling 911, the 16-year-old placed the gun on the porch for the arrival of the police. Police found a crawl space near the bedroom where they retrieved hundreds of rounds of shell casings. They also found a bong, normally used to smoke marijuana, with blood on it. Police are awaiting toxicology reports, and Pickell did not comment further on whether or not they were using drugs or if any were present.

## MURDER

Continued from Front Page

ment were dispatched to a home at 14170 Moffett Drive in Fenton Township in response to a 911 call report of a male with a gunshot wound to the head.

Upon arrival, police were met by Akl outside the home and he was immediately taken into custody without incident. At the same time, a semiautomatic pistol was found on the front porch and secured by police.

Upon entering the residence, a sheriff's deputy discovered an 18-year-old male, later identified as Morris, in a first floor bedroom unresponsive with a gunshot wound to his head.

Emergency medical personnel arrived and began treating Morris, who was then transported by ambulance to Genesys Regional Medical Center in Grand Blanc Township where he was declared deceased at 1:18 a.m. on March 5.

Further evidence from the police investigation indicates that Akl and Morris, who were friends, were alone on the first floor of the residence when the shooting occurred and other members of Akl's family and one other guest were on the second and third floors.

According to the autopsy report, it appears that Morris was shot from behind at point blank range on the top left side of his head.

"This is obviously a very tragic event that has stunned the community and resulted in the loss of life of a young man," said Leyton. "We will do everything we can to see that justice is carried through in the criminal judicial system," he said.

Akl is expected to be arraigned later today in 67th District Court.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO

Brady Morris, 18, was shot in the head the night of Saturday, March 4. The alleged 16-year-old shooter is in custody.

## FRIENDS OF MORRIS LEFT MESSAGES ON HIS FACEBOOK PAGE AFTER THE INCIDENT:

Kayla Mueller said, "In complete disbelief, rest in peace my little love. This was way too soon for you! May your spirit live with us forever."

Chase Mood said, "Lots of love for you my man."

Destiny Flood said, "Rest in peace Brady. You didn't deserve to go so soon, you're in a better place now."

Nicholas Cotton posted "The world lost a good kid last night. Brady Morris, I will miss you. He was very much like a young version of myself. Such a good heart and it is so tragic that he is gone. Rest in peace, you will be missed."

Sara Bouf said, "RIP, you were one of the greatest kids I knew, Brady Morris. You never failed to crack me up, I'll miss you forever."



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## ASK THE MECHANIC

Chris Wilkinson,  
Certified Mechanic

**Q:** I have a 1998 Grand Am that has a p0301 misfire. I have paid a mechanic for a fuel injector, a pcm coding, fuel pump and code. I told him that I had poor acceleration, sluggish and sometime hard to start. Plus it has stalled out numerous times at a stop. Cruise will speed up to get to it set speed. Really pathetic gas mileage and the chugging continues. He claims he took a coil housing from a known Grand Am that was running and swapped it but the code and engine analysis shows the misfire still happens. What do I do next, since I keep paying for engine analysis that don't fix anything? Camshaft sensor and vacuum leaks and the idle air control valve are all I can think of as possible causes. Thanks for your help much appreciated. This car is a mechanics dream for experience and test case, but an owners nightmare for costs. —Kevin

**A:** Kevin, First off if you have paid to have this car fixed for this same problem more than one time, then you need to question the shop that is charging you and not repairing it properly. If they are not able to repair it, then you should not be paying, especially more than once. I would start with a compression test of that cylinder, both running and cranking compression. Compare it to the other cylinders. There are many other things that could be the cause like a vacuum leak, wiring to the fuel or spark control on that cylinder or a restricted fuel rail. You may need to go to a different repair shop to have this checked, but ask if the shop is sure that the quoted repair will definitely fix the problem.

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# Tigers fall in OT vs. Grand Blanc in district semis

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

**Holly** — The Fenton Tigers looked poised to gather a semifinal round victory against the Grand Blanc Bobcats at Holly's Class A district game on Wednesday.

While the contest remained close throughout the fourth quarter, the Fenton varsity boys basketball team never trailed during the final period. At one time, the Tigers led 37-31 after a post layin by Nick

Wyrick with 5:50 remaining in regulation. However, the Bobcats forced Fenton into three straight turnovers during the final 1:17 of regulation, enabling Grand Blanc to tie the game up at 43-all. Once the overtime period began, it was all Grand Blanc, as the Bobcats left Holly High School with a 51-46 overtime victory.

"We had our chances," Fenton varsity boys basketball coach John Gilbert said.

"We played the way we wanted to in

the first half. It went the way we wanted it to. It was 19-19 at the half, so we were in good position. We worked our lead, but then we didn't take care of the ball. You can't turn the ball over and expect to win.

**CONTINUED ONLINE AT  
TCTIMES.COM**



Fenton's  
Drew Miller

SUNDAY, MARCH 12, 2017 | PAGE 22 | WWW.TCTIMES.COM/SPORTS

## Sports

# Lady Tigers fall in regional title game, 63-51

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com

**Port Huron** — Win or lose the Fenton varsity girls basketball team wanted to display one constant in its Class A regional championship contest against the Dakota Cougars.

They wanted to show the same fight that defines the program.

The Tigers did that. However, the end result didn't go their way. The Tigers lost their star post player Chloe Idoni to a right foot injury about midway through the second half and Dakota's Emily Langolf was on fire all night long despite dealing with foul troubles, resulting in Dakota's 63-51 victory against the Tigers in the Class A regional title game held at Port Huron Northern High School Wednesday night.

The loss marked the second straight season the Tigers (17-7) made it to the regional championship contest. Unfortunately, it also marked the second straight time the team's season lost in the title game as well. Despite the loss, the girls were pleased with their performance.

"I'm proud of my team," said senior starter Taylor Mowery. "We wanted to win and we played hard. We never gave up. We played hard until the

end. Losing Chloe was a tough one, but we came together as a team and we never gave up. We played as a team."

"We've all come so close this season and we have each other's backs," fellow senior Kiley Aldred said. "We can count on everyone to do their jobs and step up when we need them to take on other roles even if they may not be used to them when we need them to do it. We can throw in anyone at any given time at any position and we count on them, and that's not what you usually have on a team. Usually you have your set players, but we can move around."

Fenton's varsity girls basketball coach Becki Moore was noticeably sad after the contest, but it had nothing to do with the loss. As is the case each season, she becomes invested in her squad. The season's end means seeing those bonds created over the last three months end.

"These kids never cease to amaze me," Moore said. "They just keep fighting and kept doing the things we thought they would do."

"They kept fighting, kept scrapping, always to the end because that's kind of their thing. They always stayed together. They always believed. They have been a pleasure to



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPENS

Emma Evo (left) scored 10 points in the Tigers' 63-51 Class A regional title loss to Dakota on Thursday.

coach. It's really tough to let them go as a group, as a unit."

The Tigers trailed just 28-24 entering the second half, but the loss of Idoni ended up being a big dent in the Tigers' plans on both sides of the floor. Fenton's offense struggled in the third quarter, resulting in just 3-of-13 shooting from the field in the period. Conversely, the Cougars jumped out of the locker room, scoring on six of their first eight possessions of the third quarter. By the time two converted free throws by

Cameron Grant ended the run, Dakota led 41-31 with 3:45 left in the third quarter.

Fenton spent the rest of the contest trying to dig out of that hole, and never were able to do so. Dakota's lead grew to as many as 51-35 on a hoop by J'may Simons about halfway through the final quarter, and Fenton never got the deficit any closer than 10 during the final eight minutes.

**CONTINUED ONLINE AT  
TCTIMES.COM**



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | MARK BOLEN

Lake Fenton's Jalen Miller attempts a slam dunk in the Blue Devils' 75-62 Class B district semifinal victory against Chesaning on Wednesday.

# Blue Devils headed to district finals, defeat Chesaning

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

History is repeating itself for the Lake Fenton varsity boys basketball team.

A year after capturing the school's first-ever Class B district title, the Blue Devils seemingly want to make a habit of winning these things, earning a spot in the Class B district championship game at Perry High School on Friday. The Blue Devils earned that spot by defeating Chesaning 75-62 in Wednesday night's semifinal contest.

The Blue Devils trailed 28-27 at halftime, but rebounded in the second half, outscoring Chesaning 48-34 during the final 16 minutes.

"I thought we played championship level basketball in the second half, which was not the case in the first 48 minutes of our postseason," Erway said. "I'm believing that halftime of tonight's game was our wake-up call of how we need to play."

"Defensively we still need to do a better job of keeping the ball out of the paint and staying in front of guys in general, but offensively I thought we did a good job of moving the basketball and attacking the basketball throughout tonight's game."

Jalen Miller had another outstanding contest, netting a game-high 33 points. He also had five rebounds and five assists. Isaac Golson chipped in 22 points. Andrew Foerster had eight points and eight rebounds while Dalon Earnest dished off six assists.



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# Sarkon's shot puts Eagles in district title game

By David Troppens

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**Holly** — During last summer's Linden Gus Macker tournament, Cole Sarkon hit a somewhat memorable shot when he converted a free throw, enabling his four-person squad to win a game by a point in the final second of the contest.

It was a nice memory.

On Wednesday, Sarkon created a new one that may make him forget about Gus Macker shot entirely.

With the game tied at 52-all, Linden's Gavin Lund drove the lane during a fast break attempt, but kicked it out to Sarkon who was located near the Linden bench on the baseline. Sarkon received the ball, took a 3-point shot and nailed the hoop, putting the Eagles up 55-52 against the Brandon Blackhawks. Brandon was unable to make a 3-point shot of its own which would've tied the game, earning the Linden varsity boys basketball team's first-ever Class A trip to a district championship game. Linden will play Grand Blanc in the Class A Holly High School district on Friday at 7 p.m.

"Oh yes, this was 100 times better," Sarkon said about Wednesday's shot versus the Gus Macker hoop, realizing the question was more of a joke than anything. "I was bad the whole game. I couldn't get my stroke going, but my teammates trusted me. I was lucky with that. Gavin drove it and passed it to me, and I got lucky and hit the shot."

"I didn't want to call a time out because I thought we had a chance to attack and we did," Linden varsity boys basketball coach Chris Root said. "Cole is a good shooter.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPENS

The Linden varsity boys basketball team celebrates with Cole Sarkon just seconds after his game-winning shot against Brandon on Wednesday.

He was open and he knocked it down."

Linden has not won a district title since capturing one in 1998, also collecting a class B regional title that same season. This week's victories against Holly and Brandon represent the senior class's first district victories ever. In fact, prior to this season, the last time Linden won a district game was in 2009 in a 71-35 Class B district victory against Durand.

"I think it's all of the seniors, we are coming together," Sarkon said. "We've

been through a tough time. We didn't win many games those first three years, but we are coming together and finding a way to win games, being strong and resilient. It feels great. Everybody counted us out and we are just proving them wrong."

It's been an up and down season for the Linden varsity boys basketball team. The Eagles opened the season with a nice string of success before going on a long losing streak in the middle of the season.

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



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | USTA/MARK HALL

Lake Fenton native and graduate Sam McKee died on Tuesday due to complications after a stroke he suffered a month ago. McKee was a Hall-of Fame horse racing announcer, known worldwide.

## Nationally known horse racing announcer, LF grad McKee, 54, dies

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

In horseracing circuits, Sam McKee was known as one of the greatest horse racing announcers of all time.

To Lake Fenton graduate and area resident Danny Lozon, McKee, who passed away on Tuesday just a little over a month after suffering a major stroke, is better known as just a great person.

A tri-county native and a Lake Fenton graduate, McKee, 55, grew up with a passion for wanting to call horse races. So much so, he began calling races into a tape recorder when he was a child as his family raced horses at area tracks.

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

# Evo leads Tigers past Adams in regional semifinals, 53-48

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

**Port Huron** — Emma Evo has every right to be having fun right now.

After missing almost all of last season due to reconstructive surgery on her shoulder, it took time for the senior to get back into her regular routine on the basketball court. During the second half of the season, it's fair to say Evo has made considerable strides of progress with each game she plays.

She's also a big reason why the Tigers are in a Class A regional championship game for the second straight season.

The Fenton varsity girls basketball team took an early lead and then held on the rest of the contest, earning a 53-48 victory against Rochester Adams in a Class A regional semifinal contest played at Port Huron Northern High school on Tuesday. Fenton played Macomb Dakota in a regional title game on Thursday. The results of that game can be found elsewhere in this publication.

Evo played a huge role in a variety of ways in Fenton's semifinal victory. She scored 13 points, grabbed five rebounds, collected four steals and dished off at least two assists. When Adams started threatening the Tigers' lead down the stretch, some of the key points down the stretch were provided by Evo.

The Tigers looked comfortably ahead when Ally Lenz dished an assist to Evo for a bucket inside the paint, opening the final quarter. The Tigers led 40-28 and



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPENS

Fenton's Chloe Idoni (left) looks for an open teammate during the Tigers' Class A regional semifinal 53-48 victory against Rochester Adams on Tuesday.

seemingly had the game in total control. However, Adams started pressing and it did create some chaos with Fenton's offense for periods during the fourth quarter. At one time Adams scored back-to-back buckets — a 2-point hoop by Hannah Simard followed by a 3-pointer by Rylan Owusu — cutting the Tigers' lead to 45-39. The lead was cut even closer after a converted free throw by Adams's Maggie Rogers. Fenton led just 45-40 with 3:09 left.

However, that's when Evo came up with some clutch possessions.

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