

Community debates proposed Muslim-run cemetery

■ Concerned that Muslims are buried in shrouds, not vaults — could affect groundwater

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

Tyrone Twp. — Despite the tensions that can sometimes come up at public hearings, the sense of community was never lost at the Tyrone Township Planning Commission meeting on

“Once it’s contaminated it’s done, the township is done.”

Scott Adams
Tyrone Township resident

Tuesday, Nov. 14.
“Young man, it has nothing to do with you being Muslim,” said resident Carol Roeder near the end of the meeting. “It’s our concern over water.”

That night the Planning Commission had its hands full with a room of 34 residents concerned with a proposed development on Germany Road near Denton Hill Road. See **CEMETERY on 20A**

TRI-COUNTY TIMES
TIM JAGIELO
Hasan Siddiqui of Tyrone Township addresses residents at the Nov. 14 Planning Commission meeting. Siddiqui’s family will operate the cemetery on property they own. Aside from his family, the community is welcome to be buried there.



PAGE 11A
MEET JAMES COGGINS, AREA BARTENDER

Weekend Times

SUNDAY EDITION

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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2017

2017 NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

It’s beginning to look a lot like Christmas

■ Local stores offer a more relaxed approach to shopping

By Sally Rummel
news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Before the last of your Thanksgiving Day dishes are done, some die-hard Christmas shoppers in your family may be spending their holiday evening in a store, rather than on a couch after their big holiday meal.

Many national retailers will be open again on Thanksgiving Day this Thursday, Nov. 23, to catch the earliest shoppers before Black Friday on Nov. 24.

You’ll find Target, Walmart, Dollar General and Michaels open at varying hours on Thanksgiving Day, but this is the first See **SHOPPING on 21A**



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

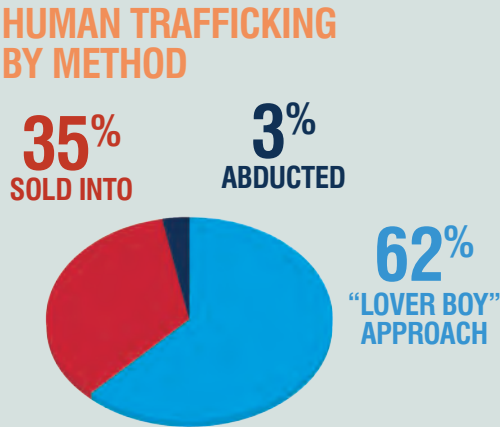
Shoppers stand in unusually long lines on Sunday afternoon, Nov. 12, at the Fenton Walmart. Nearly every lane was open for shoppers including staffed, and self-scan lanes.

How sex trafficking actually happens

■ Sixty-two percent of victims fall prey to what police call the ‘lover boy’ approach

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

On Tuesday, Nov. 15, a post circulated on Facebook from a mom who thought a man was trying to abduct her kids. She wrote that a suspicious man followed her and her kids around the Meijer store in Swartz Creek on Nov. 13. She wrote that the man was watching her and See **TRAFFICKING on 19A**



Local man could get 20 years in prison

■ Charged with stealing thousands of dollars from clients facing mortgage foreclosures

Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette’s Homeowner Protection Unit filed 15 felony charges, including conducting a criminal enterprise, and 15 misdemeanors against Lawrence Adell Sefa, 54, of Tyrone Township.

Investigators allege Sefa stole tens of thousands of dollars from Michigan residents who were facing mortgage foreclosures. Sefa operated his alleged scam through his company, LAS Loan Assistance Centers.

See **CHARGED on 15A**



Lawrence Adell Sefa

TEXT YOUR HOT LINE
810-771-TEXT



“Can’t help but point out that the whole Hollywood sex scandals and outings of high-profile stars and players for their predatory criminal sexual abuse is predictably low-profile news because they are all liberals and Democrats. Can you imagine the uproar if they were conservative Republicans?”

“What level of stupidity does it take for privileged college basketball players to disgrace themselves, their families and their country by shoplifting when visiting another country as representatives of America? Sad, sad, sad.”

“Those of you who voted down the city road millage will be the first ones to whine and complain about the roads when they deteriorate. I applaud the city manager for his forward thinking and for doing his job.”

COMMENT OF THE WEEK
“You know what’s better than Thanksgiving? Thanks-living. Be thankful every day for what you have and you’ll always be completely happy. If you focus on what you don’t have, you will never have enough. Happy Thanksgiving to all.”

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HOLLY

3448 Grange Hall
Lovely family home!

Well maintained with Koi pond in the back yard with sprinkler and peaceful rock garden with raised fire pit to enjoy summer and fall evening interior is warm and cozy and just large enough for a small family or empty nesters. Don't miss this one with privacy fence.

\$134,999.

Call Cam Gonzalez
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FENTON

13280 North Rd.

Spacious! 1606 sq. ft. Brick Ranch on 8.76 acres, with extra 20x30 2 story garage. Must See this beautiful setting. Fireplace in Family room and Large Kitchen. Located close to schools and shopping in area of several lakes. Recent updates include roof, furnace, central air, water softener. Don't hesitate show today!

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Call Frank Cramer 810-869-5701



GRAND BLANC

2375 Gibson Rd.

Grand Blanc schools. Modular Ranch home on 1.18 acres. Wildlife right outside your window. Beautiful yard. Home has Many updates. New roof 2016, New kitchen 2016, 4 bedrooms 2 and 1/2 baths, spacious 2014 sq ft home close to shopping, and expressways. 2 car detached garage. Unfinished huge basement. Schedule a showing today.

\$165,000.

Call Tammy Harper 248-459-8688



FENTON

1104 McCormick Dr.

Great Find in City of Fenton!

Single family home currently being used as a duplex. Great investment opportunity! 2 Bedroom 2 bath home with 1 car garage and basement under 100K in Fenton.

Call Patrik Welty
810-240-0418



FENTON

15210 Charlueene

Many updates! 4 Bedrooms 2 full bath home on .55 acres. Master bedroom and bath on 1st floor. Open Kitchen, Family room with fireplace. A Huge deck off the Family room and Master bedroom to above ground pool. Stamped concrete patio leading to over sized 2 car garage.

\$179,900

Laura Pennington
248-245-5351.



FENTON

14437 Swannee Beach Dr.

GREAT LOCATION!

High demand Fenton

Orchards Sub with beach access to Lake Fenton. Brick Ranch with 3 Bedrooms and 1 and 1/2 baths. 2 car attached garage, full basement, and a huge fenced back yard. Fireplace in Living room.

Great find in Fenton! Hurry!

Only \$149,000 .

Call Dawn Placek
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WATERFORD

7876 Jennifer Agnes

Clarkston School. Lake privileges for Maceday Lake, walkout family room, fenced yard, great family home located on dead end street. Hardwood floors, oak kitchen cabinets. Extra refrigerator in garage stays Sold as is due to roof and driveway replacement. Seller has estimates.

\$167,000

Call Judy Wright
810-845-4414



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837 Westwood

Adorable, well maintained home in the city of Fenton.

3 bedrooms 1.5 bath home with partially finished basement and a fenced back yard. Newer roof, furnace, water heater, and paint inside and out. Lovely hardwood floors on main level. Ready to move into for the holiday.

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FENTON

677 Shoreline

Sought after ranch condo in high demand Water's Edge. Home has 2 bedrooms and 2 full baths with quite a large dining/living room that is perfect for family gatherings or entertaining friends. Full basement could be finished for additional living space. But no need to go downstairs with your first floor laundry. 2 car attached garage. Many walking trails close by as well as quaint downtown Fenton

\$199,900

Call Dean Turkowski 810-845-3770



HOLLY

209 Locke St.

Great family home with lots of original woodwork.

Large great room with natural fireplace. Large master bedroom on main floor and first floor laundry. The upper level offers a large bedroom.

Nice landscaping, and an up-north feel all near downtown.

\$127,900

Call Shelia Rhoades
810-348-7357



LINDEN

6311 Silver Lake Rd.

Come see this cute, clean, and adorable home on Byram Lake. There is not one thing that needs to be done with this house. Beautiful hardwood floors, updated kitchen and baths, brand new stainless appliances that stay. The full basement has a full bath and is super clean just waiting to be finished. Beautiful piece of land over an acre and waterfront.

Call Laura Pennington
248-245-5351



MILFORD

4141 Milford Ponds Lane

3500 Sq ft of "LIKE NEW" living space is found in this beautiful country home on 4.6 acres in Milford Twp. New bridge spans creek to access additional 13 wooded acres shared by just a few others. RIR zoning allows multiple horses & farm animals. Easy access to Kensington Park, 196 & downtown Milford. Just move in & enjoy country living at its best!

\$465,000

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810-877-2167



FENTON

5086 Lakewood

Come see what this home has to offer! Master suite with master bath, skylights and a wall of bay windows! A Family room, Living room and Great room with cathedral ceilings and natural Fireplace!

\$189,900 Call Legacy Realty Professionals 810-629-1511



FENTON

436 Lemen

Home features 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, basement and 1 car garage. Large corner lot. Covered front porch. 2 Story home with lots of possibilities. Walking distance to downtown.

\$109,900

Call Patrik Welty
810-240-0418



FENTON

2511 Thompson Rd

Located in Nice Area Of Newer Ones.

Almost 1500 Square Feet Of Great Living Area. Clean Ranch, well maintained, 3 Bedrooms. Master bedroom w/master bath. Unfinished Basement, Inground pool, w/privacy fence & nicely landscape yard.

\$154,000

Call Tammy Harper 248-459-8688

Happy Thanksgiving
from
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Professionals





TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

Shoppers browse merchandise at The Battle Alley Arcade Antiques Mall during the 2017 Holly Ladies Night Out on Friday, Nov. 10.

'Buyer beware'

■ Shopping online may be easy and convenient, but it's not without risk

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

You may be comfortable shopping online at 9 p.m. while relaxing in your pajamas and slippers, but that may be the best part of your shopping experience.

It just might go downhill from there.

Not only do you have to wait for the item to arrive (hopefully that will be before Christmas), you're also unsure until you open it whether it fits or meets the expectations you had when you ordered it.

That's because on-screen

images don't always match what the item looks like in person, and you didn't have an opportunity to see it, touch it or inspect it before you bought it. And good luck trying to contact the next level of management if you have a complaint or concern about your online purchase.

Yes, the term "buyer beware" is especially appropriate when you're shopping online.

Online shopping has become the most popular shopping destination for many consumers, but it's not without its disadvantages.

Many new shopping sites pop up while you're browsing on Facebook, and you have no idea whether the online site is legitimate or not, without first checking with the Better Business Bureau.

See **SHOPPING ONLINE** on 18A

“We staff higher hours for the first two weeks of January because there are a lot of returns.”

Kathy Byers
The UPS Store
in Fenton manager



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO

This cheap plastic birdbath with a sticker is what Tyrone Township resident Lori Ross received in a package for her \$200 online purchase. She was expecting a mosaic hammered silver piece and was hugely disappointed.

Want to know what homes in your neighborhood sold for?

■ Almost all info is easily accessible through your municipality's website

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

"How did you know that?"

It's a question often asked by people, who want to know how certain information — information they thought was private — was obtained.

If you live in the city of Fenton, for example, nothing about your home, your taxes, your utility (water and sewer) bill, or even your payment history are private.

Go to www.cityoffenton.org. At the menu bar on the top of the homepage, second to the right, it says Departments. Click on Departments and a drop-down menu will appear. You will see that a number of departments can be accessed from this menu. But for the purpose of finding your home, click on Department of the Treasurer.

See **WEBSITE** on 16A

LOCAL MUNICIPAL WEBSITES

Argentine Township

Arginetownship.com

Fenton City

Cityoffenton.org

Fenton Township

Fentontownship.org

Holly Township

Hollytownship.org

Holly Village

Hollyvillage.org

Linden City

Lindenmi.us

Rose Township

Rosetownship.com

Tyrone Township

Tyronetownship.us

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Andrew Heller

andrewheller@tctimes.com

Come *Heller* high water...

Before we all humbly give thanks next week, I'd like to get a few things off my chest. Here are a few things I'm not thankful for:

• **Whose genius idea** is behind the open/close buttons on elevators? Am I the only one who isn't mentally quick enough to pick the right one when someone says, "Hold the elevator!" I'm always a beat late too because my little pea brain has to process which set of arrows means open vs. closed, and then the person misses



Andrew Heller
FEATURED COLUMNIST

the elevator and they think I'm to blame. I try to explain through the closing crack, "It's not me! It's the arrows! The arrows!" But I suspect they think I did it on purpose.

• **Why are people** who pay cash for gas punished? Oh, you credit users just pop in your card and out comes the gas. Easy-peasy. I'm a cash guy. I set a weekly budget of cash. That much cash goes in my wallet, and when it's gone I know to stop spending. It keeps me out of trouble.

When I use cash at the gas station, I end up playing this little game of guessing how much gas I need, which is annoying because I like a full tank. Is that so wrong? A full tank just seems right and proper, like a job well done. A tank where the gauge says it's only three quarters full seems like a little failure.

And another thing, gas stations, if your policy is going to be that cash people have to come inside first, then maybe you should say that right on the pump. That way I won't hate you for making me fuss with the pump, jab buttons, and do the annoyed "what gives" gesture in your direction before stomping inside to pre-pay and ask you why you don't have a pre-pay

warning on your stupid pump. Is that too much to ask? I don't think so.

• **Why is it** so hard to find good shoelaces, the round, thick kind that come with the shoes when you buy them? The kind you buy a convenience or drug store are the thin, cheap ones that are hard to grasp much less tie with. I hate that. Plus, how am I supposed to remember that my shoes have eight eyelets vs. 10 when I'm standing at the shoelace rack? I don't keep a shoelace chart on me. So I end up guessing. And I always choose wrong. Always. I know you smug prepared people are thinking, "Why don't you just go to the shoe store or order some online?" And my equally smug reply is "Because I have a life and I don't plan my shoelace needs in advance, OK?" If I had my way there'd be a chain of stores called Shoelaces R Us. One on every corner.

I have plenty more gripes, but I'm out of space, which I'm not thankful for, either. Life's hard. You have no idea.

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.

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.

■ ■ ■
IT IS THE city manager who misunderstands the election results. The 1,140 well-educated voters who voted 'no' knew very well what they were doing. They were voting against a proposal that would be used to suck more money from the citizens when the next millage was put on the ballot.

■ ■ ■
GRAVES MUST GO. He votes for the insurance companies instead of for the consumer. He sold out to the insurance companies.

■ ■ ■
WE'VE BEEN FORTUNATE all these years to have prescription coverage but my employer is changing the plan next year and we'll be paying out of pocket. It's unbelievable what the price differences are for out-of-pocket cash prescriptions. Please remember to shop around.

■ ■ ■
IT IS YOUR prerogative to attend and watch the NFL football games. However, I choose to take a stand by respecting the flag, our country, our police, military and our veterans. The new byline is 'be a man and take a stand.'

■ ■ ■
I'D LIKE TO know who designed the entrance to the new Taco Bell in Linden. There are going to be a lot of messed up

tires. Why would you put a little island in the middle of your entrance?

■ ■ ■
TO THE PERSON who thinks there's no gun problem, when was the last mass killing with knives, fists or hammers?

■ ■ ■
'THE DANGEROUS CASE of Donald Trump' by Brandy Lee presents a well-documented argument that our president could use nuclear force.

■ ■ ■
NOT SURPRISING, BUT you missed my point entirely about comparing hammers and blunt objects killing more people ever than guns and there's nothing funny about it.

■ ■ ■
UNLESS THE DEPARTMENT of Energy approves otherwise, 20 percent of our uranium mined in our country must be sold to a U.S. power plant.

■ ■ ■
NICE OF YOU to call me a progressive. You know what progressive means, don't you? It means moving forward and getting better.

■ ■ ■
IF YOU'RE ONLY going to allow me a musket because that was all there was when the constitution was written, then you have no first amendment rights on the radio, television, internet and social media. They didn't exist either. Why do you liberals hate freedom?

■ ■ ■
BASED SOLELY UPON the masses of cars I see lined up each morning at these schools, it is time to do away with these school buses. The routing for these buses is ridiculous and most of them are half-empty. Do away with them.

■ ■ ■
THANKS TO THE Linden City Council for passing the no-lawn parking ordinance. That is not the kind of image we should project in such a nice clean small town.

■ ■ ■
TO THE PERSON complaining that someone knows viewership percentage on NFL games so that they can tell us they still go to games and still watch them. Who cares what you do? Is it because you are trying to sweep your guilt away on somebody else because you are not a patriot? Sure seems that way.

■ ■ ■
BREAK OUT THE champagne. I wish you a bon voyage for moving out of town, and a 'sorry about your luck' to your new neighbors. May you have many, many things to complain about in your new town, which I have no doubt you will.

■ ■ ■
See **HOT LINE** throughout Times

Are the holidays difficult for you?

Are you missing someone special?
Do you feel like the only one without peace & joy this Christmas?

God understands, and we want to help.

Fenton Area Clergy Association invites you to a

BLUE CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday • December 3rd • 5pm

Fenton United Methodist Church
119 Leroy Street • Fenton

Compiled by Gracie Warda, intern

Should police have the right to cheek swab drivers to test for drugs?

| streettalk



"If they have a reason to pull you over then it's OK, but if they're pulling you over just for a drug check, then no."

Paul Smith
Linden



"If they think that they're impaired then it makes sense to pull them over, drugs do a lot to your brain when you're driving."

Rosalie Paciocco
Tyrone Township



"Absolutely not. It's an invasion of your privacy."

Wendy Hosea
Deerfield Township



"Yeah, it could kill someone if they're driving dangerously."

Chase Sperry
Fenton



"Yes, because it's not safe."

Justin Koslowski
Fenton



"They have every right to check for it because they're not only putting their own lives in danger, but other people, too."

Ryan Page
Fenton

RealLiving
TremaineRealEstate.com
John Tremaine.com
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Thanksgiving!*
from our family to yours



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4 Beds, 2.5 Baths, 2236 sq ft
\$300,000

NEW PRICE! **FENTON**

201 Adelaide St. • Fenton
3 Bedroom, 2 Baths, 1754 Sq. Ft.
Heart of Dibbleville **\$175,000**

 **LAKE FENTON WATERFRONT**




12006 Bowles St. • Fenton
4 Beds, 3.5 Baths, 2539 Sq. Ft.
Gorgeous Condo, finished basement
\$540,000

 **LOON LAKE WATERFRONT**




4223 Cahokia • Linden
5 Beds, 3 Baths, 4000 Sq Ft finished
& possible 6th bedroom, on 1 Acre.
\$529,900

FENTON - 10 ACRES




8171 Hartland Rd. • Fenton
4 Beds, 2.5 Baths, 3915 Sq. Ft.
2,500 sq foot pole barn & pool
\$475,000

FENTON




1535 Log Cabin Point • Fenton
4 Beds, 2.5 Baths, 2000 Sq. Ft.
\$290,000

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7424 Lahring Rd. • Gaines
3 Beds, 2 Baths, 1580 Sq. Ft.
Beautiful new construction!
\$259,000

GAINES




7440 Lahring Rd. • Gaines
3 Beds, 2 Baths, 1508 Sq. Ft.
Beautiful new construction!
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HOLLY




997 River Rock • Holly
3 Beds, 2.5 Baths, 2066 Sq. Ft.
First floor master suite
\$215,000

FENTON




1304 Cristina Dr. • Fenton
4 Beds, 2 Baths, 2022 Sq. Ft.
Inground pool, private backyard
\$200,000

PENDING



11324 White Lake Rd. • Fenton
\$180,000

PENDING



10 ACRES
12025 Jennings Rd. • Linden
\$319,000

PENDING



Lake Fenton
2424 Cranewood Dr. • Fenton
\$430,000

SOLD



7147 Mabley Hill Rd. • Fenton
\$199,900

SOLD



Lake Fenton
13185 Torrey Rd. • Fenton
\$400,000

SOLD



13145 Torrey Rd. • Fenton
\$550,000

SOLD



6300 Silver Lake Rd. • Linden
\$200,000



WaterfrontKing.com

Fenton City, Fenton Township — what's the difference?

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

Based on the number of Hot lines, Facebook comments and numerous phone calls, it has been noted that several area residents are not familiar with the difference between the city of Fenton and Fenton Township.

The geographical differences are likely the most obvious. The city of Fenton is surrounded by the charter township of Fenton to the north with Lake Fenton being the starting point for Fenton Township, and on the west by Jennings Road.

There are also jurisdictional differences. The city of Fenton is what is called a city manager/council government. The City Council is made up of seven elected officials, the mayor and six city council members. All seven have equal voting power. The mayor presides over meetings and duties, serves as the city's lead representative at civic and ceremonial functions and recommends appointments to boards and commissions.

According to the Michigan Townships Association (MTA), a significant difference between townships and cities and villages in Michigan is the general lack of authority in townships to perform maintenance and construction on roads.

Townships do not receive gas and weight tax distributions as cities, villages and counties do. It is the county's statutory responsibility to keep roads in a safe condition, but township boards recognize that counties do not have sufficient resources to take care of all the road needs. As a result, townships collectively spent in excess of \$160 million on roads in 2010, even though they were not required by law to do so.

In townships, an elected body called the Board of Trustees governs. It is made up of the supervisor, clerk and treasurer and four board members. The supervisor, clerk and treasurer have more administrative duties, and as a result are paid more than their city counterparts. In the city, the clerk and treasurer are hired, paid employees.

ADDITIONAL DIFFERENCES

Police and fire: The city of Fenton has its own police and fire departments. The charter township of Fenton, too, has its own fire department, but is policed by the county sheriff's department.

Additionally, the city of Fenton is the only community in Genesee County with its own emergency 911 system.

Water and sewer: The city of Fenton offers water and sewer service to its residents and are billed four times a year. In the township, most water comes from private wells, but homeowners do pay a special sewer assessment in a specific section of the township.

Ordinances: The city of Fenton is guided by its charter and a code of ordinances. The charter township of Fenton has a code of ordinances as well. Neither of the two communities are bound by the other's ordinances.

GOVERNMENT

Fenton City

The city of Fenton is a city manager/council government. The city manager is a paid employee and serves as the city's chief executive officer to oversee day-to-day municipal operations, to draft a budget, and to implement and enforce the council's policy and legislative initiatives. The Fenton City Council is made up of a mayor and six council members. Currently, the mayor is paid \$75 per council meeting and work session, and receives a one-time annual lump sum of \$1,748. Council members are paid the same for meetings, but receive a one-time yearly payment of \$1,073.

Charter Township of Fenton

Fenton Township's day-to-day operations are managed by an operations manager, who in this case is also the deputy clerk. The operations manager is a paid employee.

The supervisor, clerk and treasurer are elected by the voters and have more hands-on duties in the township.

Currently, the supervisor earns \$33,333 annually, plus a \$5,414 vehicle allowance. The clerk and treasurer each receive \$12,100 annually and a \$1,452 annual vehicle allowance. The remaining four board members are paid \$110 per month, plus \$66 per meeting.

Source: michigantownships.org

To all men

■ A different take on reducing sexual harassment and assault

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Men — when you walk to your car in a dark parking lot, do you have your keys in hand, eyes roaming the area non-stop? Do you smile at creepy guys making disgusting comments at you because you don't want them to get mad and possibly assault you?



Hannah Ball

If you answered no, then rethink how you talk about sexual harassment and assault. You haven't lived your whole life knowing that most men, due to biology, could seriously hurt you if they chose to. That fear drives us to trust our instincts. By the time we're in our 20s, we're experts.

Sexual harassment and assault are realities for young girls and women. I've heard men dismiss them as women's issues, that if a woman doesn't want to be harassed or raped, she should be careful, she shouldn't walk alone at night, she should wear appropriate clothing.

If that's true, then why are fully clothed women in burqas raped? Why are women harassed in their place of work, wearing khakis and a polo? Why do old men make disgusting comments to preteen girls?

All these things happen because sexual harassment and assault are not simply a women's issue — they're men's issues.

Men, if you actually want to help reduce sexual harassment and assault, talk to your sons and daughters about consent and respect, and talk to your male friends about these issues. Stop using the phrase "men are pigs" as a scapegoat for crappy behavior. Men know right from wrong.

In Nairobi, Kenya, hundreds and thousands of children have taken "consent classes," where they learn self-defense, consent, and boys learn a healthy view on masculinity. Since the classes started in 2009, rape has

See **MEN** on 11A

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It's true — some fast-food locations now able to sell alcohol

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Would you order a beer with your McNuggets if you could?

More and more fast-food restaurants are opting to sell alcohol along with food.

As construction workers near the end of rebuilding the McDonald's on Owen Road, some could wonder if the iconic fast food chain would ever sell alcohol.

Mark Pfau, owner of a dozen McDonald's restaurants including the ones on Owen Road, North LeRoy Street, and one in Linden, said, "I do not see that happening (at McDonald's) in the U.S. because of our focus on the families."

These restaurants' corporations would have to give the 'OK' to put alcohol on the menu. Pfau said McDonald's in other countries, like Germany and France, might sell beer, but he doesn't think it will happen in the U.S.

"It's a little more accepted in other parts of the world," he said. "But in the U.S. with our family focus, I cannot see that happening, at least not in my lifetime."

Taco Bell and Chipotle Mexican Grill in various locations across the nation are adding adult drinks to their menus. Taco Bell has plans to open approximately 150 new locations in the U.S. that will include beer and frozen mixed drinks on the menu, according to usatoday.com. They will offer tequila, rum, vodka, and whiskey.

Approximately half of the 2,300 Chipotle restaurants in the U.S. serve alcohol. The chain is planning to test a frozen margarita at a few locations. Burger King developed the Whopper Bar, where customers can order drinks. There used to be six in the nation, but now there are only three.

Even Starbucks has sold alcoholic drinks. Starting in 2010, there were 340 locations that carried Starbucks Evenings wine and craft beer menu. These locations are now only found in a few airport cafes.

Some restaurants might be considering selling alcohol to make up for stag-



PHOTO: GOODHOUSEKEEPING.COM

Taco Bell is opening a few locations in the U.S. that will serve alcohol.

nant sales. According to research firm NPD Group, fast food restaurant chains saw no increase in customer traffic from September 2016 to September 2017.

However, there are potential issues. Young people are frequent customers of fast food restaurants, and adding alcohol to popular hangout spots could be problematic.

There is the issue of who works at these establishments. Employees must be at least 18 to serve alcohol to a customer, and many workers at fast food restaurants are minors. There would have to be someone over 18 working during the hours

alcohol is served.

Pfau said the age of employees wouldn't be an issue.

"We always have adults in the stores. You cannot legally have just underage people in the stores," he said. In his McDonald's stores, about 80 percent of the employees are adults.

Liquor licenses might cost more than what owners are willing to pay. According to the Michigan Liquor Control Commission, liquor licenses can range from \$250 a year to nearly \$1,000 a year. These fees vary state by state.

“But in the U.S. with our family focus, I cannot see that happening, at least not in my lifetime.”

Mark Pfau
McDonald's owner

SUMMARY

■ Adding alcohol to the menu at fast-food restaurants could cause issues with the large younger crowds the businesses attract.

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THE TIMES

Funding for 80-year-old bridge unlikely

■ Only one lane is open due to deterioration

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

While motorists driving on the Hogan Road bridge in Fenton

Township can only use one lane, residents are wondering when, or if, the bridge will be repaired.

The Genesee County Road Commission (GCRC) closed the east side of the bridge Wednesday, Nov. 1 after a 2-foot-wide hole was discovered near the middle of the bridge a few days prior. The commission placed a steel plate over the hole.

The bridge was constructed in 1937, which makes it 80 years old.

Alex Patsy, civil engineer for the GCRC, said the load limit for the bridge, which is how much weight can be carried over the bridge, keeps dropping. In

the '30s, the concrete decks for the west and east side of the bridge were poured separately. The west side is holding up well, but the eastern deck has issues and some of the beams are deteriorating as well.

"Instead of doing repairs, we decided to use the good half of the deck," he said.

Patsy said the bridge will remain that way until one of two things happen. "The condition of the bridge deteriorates to the point where we close it, or funding for replacement can happen," he said.

Securing funding to repair or replace the bridge is difficult.

"The GCRC has actively sought funding through the state of Michigan but comes up empty," he said.

"When it competes with bridges across the region, it (Hogan Road bridge) doesn't fair well because it is low volume because it is on a gravel road. It has trouble scoring," he said. "If it needs to be totally replaced it's going to be expensive."

The GCRC will continue to apply for funding for the bridge.

"It's rationing resources in the state of Michigan that's the problem," Patsy said.

“The GCRC has actively sought funding through the state of Michigan but comes up empty”

Alex Patsy
Genesee County Road
Commission civil engineer

SUMMARY

■ The Hogan Road bridge in Fenton Township will remain one-lane use only until the Genesee County Road Commission can secure funding, or the bridge becomes a hazard and will be closed.



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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

A portion of Silver Lake Road near the Argentine dam will be reduced to one lane while the Genesee County Road Commission repairs the railings.

Argentine dam repairs underway

■ \$70,000 project closes one lane on Silver Lake Road through end of month

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Motorists driving on Silver Lake Road through Argentine Township will have to share one lane between Sunset Way and the fire department property while the Genesee County Road Commission (GCRC) performs repairs on the Argentine dam.

Construction began on Monday, Nov. 13 and the GCRC anticipates it will be done by Dec. 1. Traffic will be restricted to one lane intermittently.

The project is a maintenance procedure mandated by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ),

said Alex Patsy, civil engineer with the GCRC. He said the old parapet railing is an outdated design.

"They are maintenance hazards per DEQ regulations. Dams have to go through routine inspections and every year that was something that they flagged," he said.

The concrete the rails are currently on was placed in the 1920s, and is not repairable now. The GCRC will replace the old concrete and install a new brush block, or a cap, and then install a black chain link fence on top.

The entire project costs the GCRC \$70,000.

The dam, which was built in the 1920s, is nearly 90 years old and will be closed off to pedestrians as well during construction.

Roadside drug test rolls out in five counties

■ Cheek swab will detect drug use immediately

By Tim Jagielo

tjagiolo@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795

Last week, Michigan State Police (MSP) in five Michigan counties began an experimental program aimed at curbing impaired driving, caused by drugs.

Berrien, Delta, Kent, St. Clair and Washtenaw counties rolled out a one-year preliminary oral fluid analysis pilot, which according to an MSP news release, was established under Public Acts 242 and 243.

Genesee County was not chosen for evaluation.

Genesee County Undersheriff Chris Swanson likes the idea if it can help keep citizens safe. He said his department has dealt with drug-impaired drivers.

"As legislation has gone through all the proper channels of vetting and approvals, it could prove to be useful for law enforcement," he said.

Counties were chosen based on elevated impaired driving stats, and the number

of police officers who are trained as drug recognition experts (DRE) in the county.

In 2016, the MSP reported 236 drug-related traffic fatalities, which was an increase of 32 percent over 2015.

"With drugged driving on the rise, law enforcement officers need an effective tool to assist in making these determinations during a traffic stop," said Col. Kriste Kibbey Etue, director of the MSP in a news release.

While the MSP is facilitating the program, any local and county DREs can also be involved in the program.

When an officer conducts a traffic stop while suspecting impaired driving, a driver may be required

to submit to the cheek swap test as part of the existing drug recognition 12-step evaluation process. If the motorist refuses, it is a civil infraction.

According to forensicsfluids.com, a swab can detect recent drug use immediately.

A variety of mouth swab drug tests are available for purchase online.



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This 10-panel mouth swab drug test immediately screens for recent drug use.

“It could prove to be useful for law enforcement.”

Chris Swanson
Genesee County undersheriff

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Meet JAMES COGGINS

- Bartender
- People person
- Avid reader

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

James Coggins, 34, has been bartending for 12 years. While earning his degrees in English and sociology at Kansas State University, he started bartending and loved it. He's lived in Kansas, Las Vegas, New York and Austin, Texas. Coggins was hired at CRUST in July during the expansion, and now works as a bartender at the restaurant/bakery and The Rough Draught Coffee & Barroom where he talks to every customer he can.

Why did you move from Kansas?

I have some really good friends I met in my bar travels. They live in Clarkston, Fenton and Brighton. They mailed me a plane ticket and they said 'Are you coming up?' and I said yes. I liked adventure, I like to travel.

I landed on a Sunday and I got hired at The Rough Draught the next day on the spot. I was working there and then Crust picked me up. My bosses Jon Foley and Megan Gerald have taken my skills to a whole new level.

How do you like Fenton?

I love it; it's really no different from Kansas. There's more trees, a few more hills but for the most part, it's been the same. People are like 'wait until you see the winter.' In Kansas, when the wind picks up it goes from 0 to negative 30 real fast. I'm not worried about it. I lived in New York for a while. I've seen snow.

What's your favorite drink to make?

Personally, I'll have anything with bourbon but it's never a bad time for a margarita.

What's the hardest drink you've ever made?

Someone brought me a zombie recipe. It was a busy bar time and there were 12 ingredients.

Do you like talking with customers?

I love it, it's one of the reasons I do what I do. I like to meet people, I like to hear their stories. It's fun to say hi. Maybe I made that person's day, you don't know.



"I'll have anything with bourbon but it's never a bad time for a margarita."

James Coggins
CRUST and The Rough
Draught bartender

How do customers like the expansion?

They really love the expansion, it's so open. You can actually mingle with customers, say hi to the person next to you. It's not white tablecloths so it's not intimidating and people really seem to like that.

Do you work the day before Thanksgiving?

Wednesday before Thanksgiving is statistically the busiest bar night of the year. Families are back together, kids come home from college, people celebrate. I don't know yet how crazy they are in Fenton. College towns are like war, it's so busy. I'm expecting everyone to come see me. Put me to work.

How do you handle really drunk people? Any tips?

Patience. You don't know what they're going through, maybe they're going through a bad day, maybe they're a bad person. But just be patient.

What do you do when you're not working?

I love movies, videos games, I like going to other restaurants. I love eating out and I love trying new cocktails.

What's your favorite movie genre?

I like the sci-fi genre 100 percent.

Star Wars or Star Trek?

Star Wars. One hundred percent, all the way. I already got my tickets for Star Wars. I'm seeing Justice League tonight (Thursday).

Do you like to read?

I do. The Dune series by Frank Herbert is pretty fantastic. My favorite author is Philip K. Dick. Anything he writes, I'm down for. He wrote Blade Runner.

What's your favorite TV show?

Rick and Morty. Any cartoons, really.

What planet, besides earth, would you like to inhabit?
I don't know. Mars maybe because it might be habitable? I don't want to live on a planet with no ground. Let's go with Mars.

TRI-COUNTY TIMES

TIM JAGIELO

CRUST bartender James Coggins has a high-energy approach to his job as bartender and server. He also is into music, art, drawing and painting.

Do you like sports?

Not necessarily. I like my alma mater, Kansas State football, but other than that is whatever.

What's something most people don't know about you?

I can draw and paint. I can play a couple instruments. I enjoy reading. Compared to my serious face, I'm a lot happier than I appear to be at work.

MEN

Continued from Page 6A

decreased by 51 percent in the area.

Teach your sons that it's not OK to touch a girl without her permission, or slap her butt in the school hallway, or to talk about any woman in derogatory terms.

Stop joking about domestic abuse and violating women. Potential harassers or rapists could be listening (or they could even be your friends). If they hear their male friends joking about rape, that person will feel validated when he rapes a girl because his buddies joked about it, or worse, stayed silent.

Teaching females to defend themselves isn't going to stop these men. If a woman gets away from an attacker, he's going to attempt an assault on a different female until he's successful. Women being able to defend themselves will not stop these crimes, it only deflects them.

Of course, you should teach your daughters to protect themselves. If a man is determined to assault a woman, then reading this column won't change that. Enroll your kids in a self-defense program. You will never regret it.

To the men who are offended by this column, I ask you to adopt a test to determine if a comment or action is inappropriate. Ask yourself, "How would I feel if a muscular man said this to me in a prison shower?"

If it would make you uncomfortable, don't say it.

Opinions offered in this column are the author's alone and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Tri-County Times or its staff. Email Hannah at hball@tctimes.com.



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CHARGED

Continued from Front Page

"These types of scam artists continue to take advantage of Michigan residents during an extremely vulnerable time in their lives, and we continue to hold them accountable for their actions," Schuette said in a press release on Wednesday, Nov. 15. "I want to thank my team for their dedication to finding these individuals, and I hope this serves as warning to others that we will continue to do what we can to protect Michigan residents."

Schuette filed the following charges against Sefa on Nov. 9 in Livingston County 53B District Court:

- One count of conducting a criminal enterprise, a felony punishable by up to 20 years in prison;
- One count of false pretenses \$20,000 or more but less than \$50,000, a felony punishable by up to 15 years in prison;
- 13 counts of false pretenses \$1,000 or more but less than \$20,000, a felony punishable by up to five years in prison on each; and
- 15 counts of Credit Services Protection Act violations, a misdemeanor punishable by up to 90 days in jail on each.

SUMMARY

■ Lawrence Adell Sefa of Tyrone Township is facing 15 felonies and 15 misdemeanors for allegedly stealing tens of thousands of dollars from unsuspecting clients of his company, LAS Loan Assistance Centers.

Sefa was arraigned before Magistrate Jerry D. Sherwood on Tuesday, Nov. 14. Bond was set at \$25,000, 10 percent cash/surety. Sefa has made bond. He is prohibited from conducting business relating to credit services or mortgage services and cannot contact victims while the criminal proceedings are ongoing.

A probable cause hearing has been set for Nov. 29 at 1 p.m. before 53rd District Court Judge Suzanne Geddis, and a preliminary examination is scheduled for Dec. 5 at 1 p.m.

Case background

The Department of Attorney General received multiple complaints that Sefa and his company LAS took money from clients up front for mortgage assistance and/or debt settlement but allegedly never provided the services. Sefa and LAS allegedly guaranteed specific outcomes, such as lower monthly mortgage payments, which is impossible to do.

Following the investigation, it was determined a large portion of Sefa's clients, in addition to those who already filed complaints, allegedly did not receive the promised services from Sefa or LAS.

Sefa also allegedly withheld his clients' personal financial documents when asked to return them.

WOW takes strolling field trip



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Fenton Area Public Schools World of Wonder Young-5s students stroll from the Ellen Street Campus to the Fenton Fire Department on Thursday, Nov. 16. The group is led by Natalie Napier (right) along with other teachers and several parents.

Business briefs

Superior Travel Service to receive award

Superior Travel Service, Inc will be receiving the Crystal Award at the Best of MichBusiness 2017 Awards and Gala on Nov. 30 at the MGM Grand Hotel in Detroit. More than 100 honorees representing the elite, unique, innovative, and successful companies in Michigan, and their supporters are set to attend. Ingrid (Schmitt) Ream, serves as president of Superior Travel, with locations in Fenton, Davison and Lapeer.

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Social News

WEDDING

**Beaulieu-Lunn**

Andrea Suzanne Beaulieu of Fenton and Scott Corey Lunn of Fenton were married on September 23, 2017 in St. George Island, Florida. The bride's parents are Curtis and Anita Beaulieu of Fenton and the groom's parents are Bill and Joan Lunn of Linden. Sharné Mead stood as the maid of honor and Jason Warczinsky was the best man.

WHAT YOU MISSED *in the* MIDWEEK TIMES

Compiled by Vera Hogan

The following are stories you may have missed in the **Wednesday, Nov. 15, Midweek Times**. To subscribe and receive both the Midweek and Sunday Weekend editions, please call (810) 629-8282.

Fenton man charged with child porn

Ray Matthew Moore II is accused of posing as high school student to lure girls to send him nude photographs.



Semi vs. SUV ends in fatality

A South Lyon man, Michael Joseph Martus, 67, died from injuries he sustained in an accident on U.S. 23 in Tyrone Township Monday morning.

Linden outlaws front-yard parking

The Linden City Council passed an ordinance that will prohibit front-yard parking in the city.

WEBSITE

Continued from Page 3A

Another drop-down menu will appear, on the left this time, and you can see the number of things you can do from here — like pay your taxes or utility bills online. What you want though is Tax Info Lookup. Once you click on that, a different page (blue) will appear.

At the top, under City of Fenton/Genesee County/MI you will find a search line. You can search for your home either by address, your name or parcel number. If you choose your address, don't bother with words like Street, Road, Drive, etc. Just enter the house number and the street name.

Once you find your name or address, however you chose to search, a page will appear with all kinds of interesting data. There will be a photo of your home at the top left. To the right it will give its age, number of bathrooms and bedrooms and the square footage. It will also give your assessed value and taxable value.

Scroll down a bit, just below the photo of your house, and you will find three menu bars — Property Info, Tax Info and Utility Info. Each one of these pages contains another wealth of information.

Under Property Info you will learn what the zoning classification is for your property and let you know the neighborhood name and how much

acreage you have and the dimensions of your lot.

This page also shows the complete sale history of your property. You will be able to see how much your home sold for during what year. Below that is more information about your property, such as the square footage of your garage if you have one, what type of heat you use (i.e. forced air) and the style of your home, whether it's one story or two, or other style.

This particular page provides valuable information for every person looking at buying and/or selling a home.

Back to the top of the page, click on the Tax Info menu bar. A page will appear that shows how much in winter and summer taxes were paid for each year. Most of the city's online history goes back to 2004.

It also gives the legal description of your home on that page.

Back to the menu bar at the top, click on Utility Info. There you will find your current utility bill information and history of usage. You also have the option of paying your utility bill from this page. Beware, however, for each \$300 you pay, there is a \$2.95 service charge. So, if your bill is \$302, you're going to pay \$2.95 for the first \$300 and \$2.95 for the balance of \$2.

Back on the city of Fenton's homepage, you can find just about everything you need to know by clicking on the menu bars at the top and paying attention to drop-down menus. You can get current agendas for the City Council, Planning Commission and the DDA (Downtown Development Authority). You can also get meeting minutes.

Under the Government menu bar, you can click on the complete City Charter and complete Code of Ordinances. It's there that people who don't know if they are allowed to have chickens or goats or whatnot can find what they're looking for.

Nearly all local municipalities have their own websites with all of the aforementioned information for their communities. You just need to take the time to look it up.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

WHY IS IT that some school districts have their school busses pull over so traffic can go by, while others don't? I travel Fenton Road and am constantly stopping.

ANDREW HELLER'S SECTION should be called 'Random Negativity.'

I'M SO EXCITED for Christmas this year. I can't wait to see the lights and decorations downtown. Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow.

QUESTION. WHAT IS the point in having health insurance if it doesn't cover anything?

I JUST LEARNED that the alphabet song is really Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star. How could I have missed that for 40 years?

SOMEONE JUST TOLD me that I'm ridiculous for allowing my son to take three days off of school for deer hunting. Allowing my child to bond with his father and carry out a 65-year family tradition is ridiculous? I have an idea — you worry about the education of your child and I will worry about the education of mine.

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Fenton students go all out on 'Purple Out' day

■ Goal is to create awareness about pancreatic cancer, often called the 'silent killer'

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

The students at Fenton Area Public Schools are helping to educate themselves and the community about pancreatic cancer by wearing purple on Thursday, Nov. 16 in their fifth annual Purple Out day.

This is the second year that the school district has been involved in Purple Out. In every building, students and staff wore purple and most of the schools were involved in fundraising efforts. The staff also contributed to funds by paying money to wear jeans that day.

Last year, almost \$800 was collected and this year, the schools are hoping to raise more than \$1,000. People in the community who want to donate can do so by check, in an envelope marked with teacher Jill Smigielski's name, and drop it off at AGS Middle School, 3255 Donaldson Dr., Fenton. Deadline for donations will be Nov. 30.

Purple Out is part of Project Purple, a non-profit group that raises funds for pancreatic cancer research and helps families financially after a diagnosis of this deadly disease.

This battle to create awareness locally is personal for Smigielski, who



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

A group of Andrew G. Schmidt sixth- and eighth-grade students show their Purple Out support on Thursday, Nov. 16, before lunch. Of the more than 800 students and staff, an estimated 70 to 80 percent took part in the awareness campaign for pancreatic cancer.

lost her father eight years ago to pancreatic cancer.

It's a disease with sobering statistics, including, a one-year relative survival rate of 20 percent and a five-year relative survival rate of 7 percent, according to the American Cancer Society.

It can be difficult to diagnose pancreatic cancer early because patients often have vague, non-specific symptoms, if any at all (see sidebar).

“I want purple in November to mean what pink in October means.”

Jill Smigielski
AGS Middle School teacher
who lost her father to
pancreatic cancer



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Printed bags and T-shirts were available to be raffled.

Pancreatic cancer is on track to become the second deadliest cancer in the U.S. by 2030, new research predicts, second only to lung cancer, and bypassing deaths from breast, prostate and colorectal cancers.

While there is no sure way to prevent pancreatic cancer, there are things you can do to lower your risk:

- Don't smoke
- Stay at a healthy weight and eat a diet with an emphasis on plant foods
- Limit alcohol use
- Limit exposure to certain chemicals in the workplace

Other risk factors, such as age, gender, race and family history, can't be controlled.

SYMPTOMS YOU MAY HAVE PANCREATIC CANCER

Symptoms of pancreatic cancer can be very vague and are often signs of other conditions that are less serious. That's why it's difficult to get early detection of this disease.

Here are a few symptoms to watch for and ask your doctor.

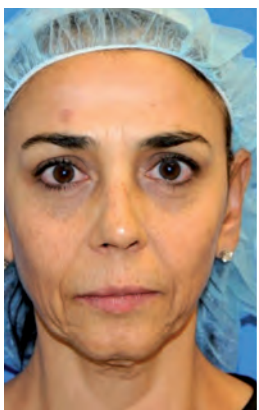
- Jaundice (yellowing of the eyes and skin). A build up of bilirubin (as part of a liquid called bile) may also result in dark urine, greasy stools or itchy skin.
- Belly or back pain
- Weight loss and poor appetite
- Nausea and vomiting
- Gallbladder or liver enlargement
- Blood clots
- Fatty tissue abnormalities
- Diabetes

See **PURPLE** on 21A

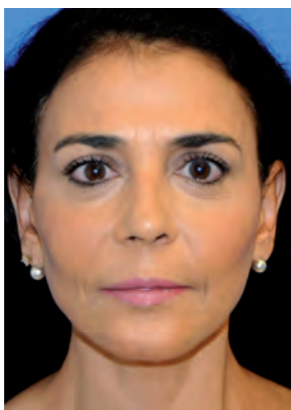


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SHOPPING ONLINE

Continued from Page 3A

"Anything coming from China is ridiculously past its due date, or doesn't come," commented Deb Ortwine of Argentine Township on Facebook. "If it does come, clothing is sure to be way too small and very poorly made. Look-alikes that are selling on Facebook are cheaply made also and fall apart easily. Don't buy things that are coming directly from China."

Many times, online items are on back-order, but the customer doesn't realize it until it's too late to try to replace

the item with another purchase. This can be especially problematic when buying gifts during the holidays.

One of the biggest issues with online shopping is the return process, when your package arrives and not everything is perfect.

Estimates of the return rate for online purchases are close to 30 percent, compared to about 8 percent for all U.S. merchandise sales, according to the National Retail Federation. The return rate for apparel is closer to 40 percent.

Even if retailers offer free shipping, there's often a minimum dollar amount that is designed to tempt you into buying more just to get the free shipping.

The problem is worse over the holidays, resulting in an early flurry of activity in January for shipping companies. Last year, United Parcel Service (UPS) shipped about 5.8 million returns the first month of the year.

It's not as good news for customers who have to make extra trips to ship return packages, paying for many of those returns out-of-pocket, often with restocking fees added.

Multiply that times the hundreds of thousands of returns that will be taking

place before and after the holiday. You thought you were avoiding the crowds by shopping online; now the crowds at the post office or in the return line at a physical store are busier than ever.

SUMMARY

■ Shopping online can be tempting, but the downsides of returns can more than make up for that "convenience," especially during the holidays.

Even worse, you may decide to keep the item that you're not really happy with, to avoid the hassle of the return. It turns out that many consumers do just that to avoid packing an item and printing out a return shipping label.

"We staff higher hours for the first two weeks of January because there are a lot of returns," said Kathy Byers, store manager at The UPS Store in Fenton. "It's not as busy as our Christmas rush, but it's still busy."

You might find that convenient shopping and returns at your local stores are far less of a hassle than an online purchase, and you'll get a smile from a grateful retailer you've supported rather than a nameless entity that doesn't support your local community.

Woman tells tales of several online purchases gone bad

"My issues have been not getting things for weeks, and sometimes months," said Lori Ross of Tyrone Township. "The issue that stands out most to me was when I ordered a poster. The dimensions weren't given, but it was only \$12. For \$12, I was expecting an 8x10, which would have been perfect for what I wanted it for."

"I had to repeatedly contact the company, which reassured me it was on its way. Even the tracking site said it was shipped, but they kept extending the date for when I could expect it. Finally after three months, I told them I wanted a refund and to cancel the order."

"Again, they told me it would be here soon. I eventually got it, but it took several times of me demanding my refund before I did receive it. It came from China and must have come on a makeshift raft as it took six months to get it."

"As it turned out, it is actually a large poster size and I have nowhere to hang it."

"This summer, I ordered a mosaic birdbath with a hammered silver bowl. The price was close to \$200 and it was beautiful — expensive, but I thought it was worth it. Nothing about the price would ever give me the idea that this would be actually be plastic ... with a sticker. For \$200, I very much expected it to be at least mosaic pieces of acrylic."

"When it was delivered, the box was almost weightless. I thought they had forgotten to put the item in the box. Imagine my huge disappointment."

"I did contact the company that actually sold it for a third party. I asked for a refund and return ship information and they were extremely kind. They told me the price of shipping it back wouldn't be worth it. They said for me to keep it, gift it or donate it."

"I did keep it because I figured 'free' was worth the money. The company actually was great because they immediately refunded my money, and even told me to write a review of the product, even if it was negative, so that others would know what the item was made of. I merely said in my review that the company made it right with me. I don't want people ordering things and complaining, to get something free."



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TRAFFICKING

Continued from Front Page

her kids, and he approached them at one point. Meijer security was called and the family was put in a private room while the man was escorted out.

Many people who shared and commented on the now-deleted post said the mother did a good job avoiding a potential human trafficking, or sex trafficking, situation.

Community Service trooper, Steve Kramer, of the Michigan State Police, said this is not generally how human trafficking works. Kramer regularly gives presentations in local schools about human trafficking (see sidebar).

"Lots of people are calling situations something that they're not," he said. "It could have been something as simple as 'hey, do you know where Bed Bath and Beyond is?'" Then you get a parent who says someone tried to kidnap their kid when that's not the case, and they blow it out of proportion."

Kramer said they always look into situations where a stranger approaches young children, but with situations like the one in the Facebook post, where a stranger is following a family around, most likely have nothing to do with human trafficking.

"Are there always going to be strange people in the world? Yes. But generally speaking these traffickers approaching them are not the creepy old men that most people think of," Kramer said. "A 60-year-old man with teeth missing is not going to attract the attention of a 13-year-old."

Approximately 62 percent of sex trafficking victims fell prey to what police call the "lover boy" approach. This is when an older boy makes friends with a younger girl, usually around age 12 or 13, and buys them things.

"They earn their trust, admiration. They buy them gifts," Kramer said. This can lead to the young girl wanting to do anything to stay with that older boy.

The "lover boy" approach is the most common sex trafficking technique.

Approximately 35 percent of sex trafficking involves friends and family "letting things happen" in exchange for something else.

Kramer said with one case, a mother who was addicted to drugs would allow drug dealers to do sexual things to her daughter in exchange for drugs.

"When drugs are involved, people do

a lot of nasty things to feed that habit," he said. This is the second most popular way sex trafficking occurs.

Approximately 3 percent of sex trafficking involves kidnapping, and this is where public perception can be incorrect and harmful.

"Less than 3 percent are actually kidnapped. That's just not how it works," he said

He said human traffickers can be men, women, young people, old people, anyone, and sharing the Facebook posts like the one about Meijer isn't a good idea.

"It does more harm than good. Report it to police and then we'll post it once we can verify that it was what it was," he said. "Lots of people are calling it something it's not."

Kramer said there's a lot of misinformation about human trafficking in Michigan. He said someone spread a story claiming that Michigan was number two in the nation for human trafficking.

"I'm still combating that," he said. "It's just fallacy and it causes

concern and alarm."

Kramer said he believes Michigan was once number two in victim recovery, but not in human trafficking numbers.

"I don't want people to be afraid to live their lives based on false narratives," he said.

ACTUAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING STATISTICS

According to Steve Kramer, community service trooper with the Michigan State Police...

- **Between 100,000 and 200,000** kids are brought into the human trafficking business in America each year.
- **Approximately 90 percent** of victims of human trafficking in the country are American.
- **Kids around age 12-13** are targeted more than other ages. The average age for girls brought into human trafficking is 13, and 12 for boys.
- **Approximately 2.8 million** kids run away from home each year, and become huge targets for traffickers.
- **Within 48 hours** of being on the streets, one in three kids is approached by a trafficker.
- **Approximately 91 percent** of victims experienced some kind of neglect at home. Kramer said this makes the kids vulnerable and more likely to runaway.
- **Approximately 57 percent** of girls have been raped by someone outside of the family, and 30 percent have been raped by someone in the family.

"I don't want people to be afraid to live their lives based on false narratives."

Steve Kramer

Michigan State Police community service trooper

SUMMARY

Facebook posts about suspicious men following people around in stores are usually not potential human trafficking situations.

EZREAD

VIEW FULL COLOR, DIGITAL VERSIONS OF THE PAPER AT TCTIMES.COM



tctimes.com

HOT LINE CONTINUED

THERE IS PROBABLY less chance of being shot while walking in the woods during deer hunting season than being in a school or attending a church service. I pray for your safety.

WHY IS IT that when I have a major appliance breakdown I pay for my problem. How about the oil companies do the same instead of raising gas prices on us? They should repair equipment with their money. They make billions.

IT'S ALMOST HOURLY now that men who have sexually harassed or sexually assaulted women are being exposed by their victims. Aren't there any decent men out there? Pretty soon, the music and movie award shows and legislature floors won't have any men left.

THE FENTON CHILD porn creep is a definite freak — but what alarms me most about this story is that these young girls do not know about self-respect and morality. How many of your kids are sending nude photos to other kids?

EMBARRASSED MINORITY HERE again. Your political opinions on immigration, religion, economics, and many other things influence how your kids treat those who look differently from them. I'm embarrassed that your children are intolerant bullies because of your opinions. I grew up here, which means I didn't choose to move here.

I HOPE THE people on Quail Ridge Court are not going to have to go to their mailbox with the flashlight again this winter. It is dangerous when it is slippery outside.



YOUR SMILE MATTERS!

By: Dr. Steven Sulfaro

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



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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO
Donita Sanders' concerns over well water contamination due to a nearby cemetery were not relieved by the meeting.

CEMETERY

Continued from Front Page

Cemetery Director Hasan Siddiqui tried to relieve concerns over his proposed 10-acre cemetery development.

His company, Yasin LLC, has turned in preliminary application documents for a 10-acre privately owned cemetery, within the boundaries of property already owned by his family.

Siddiqui of Tyrone Township attended the meeting with his engineer Blake Strozier. "We're not doing this to fill up 4,000 graves," he said. "All we want is a place for our family, our loved ones, our



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO
Resident Gary Crandell was one of the more than dozen residents who spoke up during the informational hearing on Tuesday, Nov. 14. Most of the residents, like Crandell, live near the intersection of Denton Hill and Germany roads.

friends, their families, to rest in peace, next to each other."

Because every property in the surrounding area is on a well, concerns over ground water contamination due to the

cemetery was the biggest point of contention. "Once it's contaminated it's done, the township is done," Scott Adams said.

Donita Sanders said her well is closest to the proposed site. She voiced concern



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO
Tyrone Township Planning Commission Chairman Mark Meisel (center) fields questions during the hearing on Nov. 14.

over water quality. Part of the issue is the traditional way Muslims are buried — in a shroud, with no burial vault.

Another resident was concerned about decomposing corpses adding to the micro bacterial count of the soil.

Siddiqui said the cemetery would need to be fully compliant with all local, county and state regulations. Large soil boring samples have already been submitted.

While Siddiqui's family is Muslim, he said that the cemetery would be open to anyone.

Other concerns raised included negatively affected property values and excessive noise.

Commission Chairman Mark Meisel presided over the hearing, and attempted to answer most of the questions. "I'm not here to support this; I'm not here to not support this," he said.

While Muslims will bury their dead as soon as possible, large equipment can't be operated 24/7. It would have to follow approved hours of operation.

Township planner Brian Keesey said there is no definitive evidence of positive or negative effect of cemeteries on property values.

Meisel illustrated the layers of oversight that are laid upon cemetery developments and explained the track for the project.

Yasin LLC has not submitted its final site plan application. After this hearing, the plan will likely be modified and be resubmitted. Then if the plan meets local, county and state requirements, the commission will give a recommendation to the Tyrone Township Board of Trustees, which will eventually vote on the development. Meisel estimates any development could be six months away. No vote was taken on Nov. 14.

“All we want is a place for our family, our loved ones, our friends, their families, to rest in peace, next to each other.”

Hasan Siddiqui
Proposed cemetery development director



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO
Residents came prepared with questions, concerns and materials regarding the proposed, privately owned cemetery.





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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO
Scott and Julie Hatt of Byron are hoping their family can get into a routine again once Scott returns to work and life settles down as he battles stage 3 pancreatic cancer, now in remission.

PURPLE

Continued from Page 17A

LIVING WITH PANCREATIC CANCER

Scott Hatt, 44, of Byron, was diagnosed with stage 3 pancreatic cancer in December 2016. "My only symptom was back pain between the shoulder blades for about eight months," he said.

He ended up in the emergency room where doctors found cancer in the pancreas, after first treating him for a small stone in the gall bladder. He has been undergoing chemotherapy and radiation at the Genesys-Hurley Cancer Institute in Flint.

A CT scan two weeks ago showed that the tumor is still there, but the cancer in the pancreas is gone. "The doctors were shocked that it's gone," said Hatt. "There's a chance it will come back even harder, but I'm in remission right now."

Hatt and his wife, Julie, have two teenage daughters. He is on disability from his job as regional service manager for Roche Diagnostics, but hopes to go back to work soon.

"I'm trying to live my life the best I can," he said. "My biggest turn around has been my faith in God, which has been taken to a new level."

Rebecca Thompson, 47, of Fenton, was diagnosed with stage 4 pancreatic cancer exactly one year ago on Thanksgiving weekend. This 1988 graduate of Linden High School is currently on a clinical trial through St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ypsilanti.

"I had pain in the abdomen and back," she said. "Doctors thought it was my gall bladder. They took it out and I still had pain. A CT scan found the tumors on the pancreas."

Thompson is undergoing chemotherapy with a focus on palliative care, which is pain relief and providing physical, emotional and spiritual support for an improved quality of life. "Most people live for six months to two years after diagnosis," she said. "I've responded well to treatment; I'm still here."

She still works full-time as an executive assistant for a company CEO. "My boss has been wonderful. I do get to work from home when I need to," she said. Her sons are 23 and 14 years old. "They want to believe I'm going to beat this. I want to believe. Their hope gives me hope and keeps me going."

National retailers that will be OPEN on Thanksgiving Day:

(Red denotes local businesses)

- Bass Pro Shops
- Best Buy
- Big Lots
- Cabela's
- Carson's
- **CVS Pharmacy**
- Dick's Sporting Goods
- **Dollar General**
- Elder-Beerman
- Five Below
- **GameStop**
- JCPenney
- Kohl's
- Kmart
- Macy's
- Meijer
- **Michaels**
- Rite Aid
- Sears (corporate mall stores, not Sears Hometown Stores)
- **Target**
- Toys R Us
- **Walgreens**
- **Walmart**
- Younker's

National retailers that will be CLOSED on Thanksgiving Day:

- **Ace Hardware**
- Babies R Us
- Burlington
- Cost Plus World Market
- Costco
- Crate and Barrel
- Dressbarn
- DSW – Designer Shoe Warehouse
- Ethan Allen
- Gardner-White Furniture
- H&M
- Half Price Books
- Harbor Freight
- Hobby Lobby
- **Home Depot**
- HomeGoods
- IKEA
- JOANN Fabric and Craft Stores
- Jos. A. Bank
- La-Z-Boy (all corporately owned stores)
- Lowe's
- Marshalls
- Neiman Marcus
- Nordstrom
- Nordstrom Rack
- Office Depot and OfficeMax
- Party City
- Patagonia
- Petco
- PetSmart
- **Pier 1 Imports**
- REI (closed Black Friday too)
- Sam's Club
- **Sears Hometown Stores**
- Sears Outlet
- Shoe Carnival
- **Sprint (Corporate and dealer-owned stores; mall kiosks may open)**
- Staples
- Stein Mart
- Sur La Table
- The Container Store
- TJ Maxx
- **Tractor Supply Company**
- Von Maur

Source: Bestblackfriday.com

SHOPPING

Continued from Front Page

time in five years that Sears Hometown Store in Fenton will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday, opening at 7 a.m. on Black Friday.

"We have Black Friday pricing on many of our items now," said Tim Stone, co-owner. "We'll also have a Wish Week event Nov. 19 through 22. Your \$5 donation to Make-A-Wish will get you early Black Friday prices. You can also shop on Thanksgiving Day on our website, Searshometownstores.com with Black Friday specials. We'll be open from 7 to 7 on Black Friday, and we'll have great prices, many half-off on appliances, tools."

You'll also have to wait until Black Friday to shop at Pier 1 Imports and The Home Depot.

All of your hometown local stores will be rolling out their red and green carpets for your Christmas shopping this year, anticipating strong sales on Black Friday, and then again, on Small Business Saturday, Nov. 25. With the theme, "Think Big, Shop Small," independent retailers will welcome holiday shoppers who return to their local shops for unique gifts for everyone on their list.

Many shoppers are spreading out their holiday purchases beyond the frenzy of Black Friday. Retailers are encouraging earlier spending by offering many of their best deals throughout the months of November and December.

However, there will always be a number of last-minute shoppers. Black Friday used to be the busiest shopping day of the year, but for the past three years, the Saturday before Christmas, known as Super Saturday, has surpassed Black Friday in sales, according to MSN.com.

What you may notice more than anything this year is a strong push toward customer service in retail stores of all sizes. With an onslaught of online shopping expected this holiday, merchants are trying to provide events and services that make it worthwhile for customers to visit a retail store.

Consumers are expected to spend about 6 percent more this Christmas season compared to last year, according to MSN.com. With Thanksgiving Day, Black Friday, Small Business Saturday and Cyber Monday, it's a full five-day official kickoff to the 2017 holiday season.

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▶ Wear a Santa costume or ugly Christmas sweater and you will receive a \$5 dollar refund at registration.

▶ Jingle Jog kicks off the Jinglefest celebration, shopping, ice sculptures, horse & carriage rides & lighted parade at 6:00 pm.

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CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____ PHONE: _____

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EVENT ENTERING: ☐ 5K RUN ☐ 5K WALK TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____

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Fenton-Linden Griffins facing a youth movement with new head coach

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

Kyle Marchand earned a promotion this summer. An assistant coach in recent seasons, when the head coaching position became open for the Fenton-Linden varsity hockey

TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

One of the Fenton-Linden Griffins players returning this winter is last season's leading scorer Justin Thompson. The Griffins had 24 players on the roster.

coach position, he decided to go for the position. Marchand got it, enabling him to go from Fenton varsity hockey player in 2002, to assistant coach for the co-op program the last two seasons to the current head coach.

And now, Marchand is ready to take on the challenge. There are some pluses. The squad has 22 active members on the roster and a couple of others who are also on the roster but currently injured. The one issue he's run into can be viewed from a glass half full or empty theory as well — it's a young team.

After eight seniors graduated from last year's team, the Fenton-Linden varsity hockey team, named the Griffins, have 11 new faces on this season's roster.

"We graduated eight seniors so we have a pretty new crop coming up this year," Marchand said. "We are a bit younger than we've been in the past, so we'll be relying on a lot of underclassmen in key areas. It's a good thing because it means we are growing as a program as a whole."

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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2017

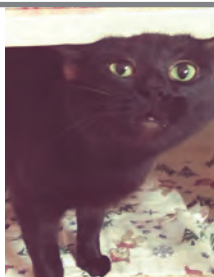
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PAGE 22A

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Sports TRI-COUNTY Times

LF's DeRidder is Michigan State-bound

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

Drew DeRidder has worked hard on improving his hockey resume.

The Fenton resident has spent the last two-plus seasons making an impression on the college hockey programs around the nation.

In 2016, he played for Team USA in the Winter Youth Olympic Games, helping the team earn a gold medal. Last season he had the opportunity to play with the Cedar Rapids RoughRiders as one of the youngest goalies in the USHL, one of the top junior hockey leagues in the United States. He did so admirably well playing in 41 games and recording a 3.27 goals against average while saving 89 percent of the shots he faced.

This season, he's playing with Team USA, winning all three games he's played in league action so far this season with a 1.57 goals against average. He's also recorded a shutout among those contests and has a save percentage of 94.2 percent.

So it should come as a surprise to see DeRidder was on Michigan State's radar when it came to college recruits. DeRidder made what he has always considered one of his top college hockey destinations his home by signing a National Letter of Intent to play for the Michigan State Spartans starting with the 2017-18 season.

"I had a lot of options, but I made my decision quick," DeRidder said. "In the end, I wanted to be close to home. I've



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO

Fenton resident Drew DeRidder signed a National Letter of Intent to play hockey at Michigan State University. He's currently playing junior hockey for Team USA in the United States Hockey League, one of the top junior hockey leagues in the nation.

been at Michigan State all my life watching basketball and hockey, so it was definitely a place I wanted to be. It feels like home. It's only 45 minutes away."

Playing with the U.S. National Under 18 Team, DeRidder is getting a great experience playing hockey against a variety of competitors. Of course, he plays

against the junior hockey competition in the USHL, but that's just the start. The team also plays games against many college teams, helping the players learn how to play against the older collegiate competition at a young age.

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

Fenton graduate and Mott Community College basketball player Cassidy Curtis (right) proudly displays her MVP award she earned at the district tournament. She's pictured with Mott volleyball coach Katie Naves.

Mott's national volleyball team has tri-county ties

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

Whenever successful Mott Community College athletics are brought up, women's volleyball isn't the sport that comes to mind.

But the Mott volleyball team is doing something about that this fall.

Led by first-year head coach Katie Naves, and with the help
See MOTT'S on 23A

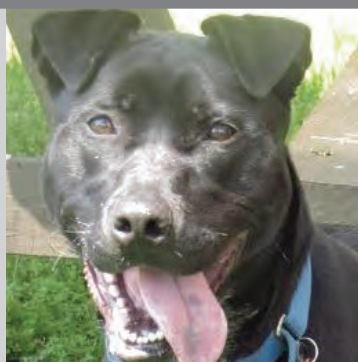
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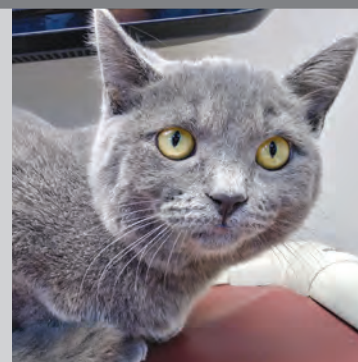
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David's Dabblings

A few thoughts about the area's sports scene and others not dealing with sports at all.



A FEW MORE RANDOM THOUGHTS

Thanksgiving his finally here.

There are a few things I associate with Thanksgiving.

A major one of course, is Detroit Lions' football. For me, there is no better holiday tradition than Lions' football on Thanksgiving. There was a time when I used to spend my holiday at either the Silverdome or Ford Field, but while I haven't actually been in attendance of a Lions' game on Thanksgiving Day for awhile now, if the National Football League ever dropped the Lions from one of the Thanksgiving Day slots, I would be pretty angry. Thankfully, the Lions are a decent team this year, so the 'The NFL should drop the Lions from Thanksgiving' talk shouldn't be around on Thursday.

One thing you should never buy at a garage sale or used: A bathroom reader book.

One question I will always ask when I purchase something on ebay: Always ask if the person is a smoker. There is nothing worse than purchasing something and it reeking of smoke.

What if I forget to ask and get an item that smells like smoke: Earlier this year, I purchased a sports game involving a lot of papers and they all smelled of smoke. I knew I didn't want to return the hard-to-find game but I also knew in its current status I was never going to look at it, much less play it. Well, I found a solution to the smell. I placed dryer sheets in a box mixed in within the sheets and cards. A week later, about half of the smell was gone. I moved the dryer sheets into different positions, and checked it a week later. I couldn't believe the difference. I did this for about a month and now there is no smoke odor at all. It took some time, but my patience was rewarded.

Pumpkin products: Why does it seem every food item that is converted to a pumpkin product includes something else like cream cheese or frosting. Gosh, I just want some basic pumpkin muffins. It's been hard to find them this year.

Waffles: I NEVER make waffles at home. But if we are staying in a motel that has that has one of those waffle makers, my body will always wake myself up at about 6 a.m. so I can go to the lobby and make some of those free warm waffles.

Talking about waffles: The Waffle House is overpriced and has terrible waffles.

Waffle House bet: When driving through Ohio and Kentucky, make this bet. Every expressway exit you can't see a Waffle House, you owe \$4. For every exit you can see one, you get \$1. I promise if you do this and travel all day, you'll make some extra travelling money.

Rhinos comes home with silver medals

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

Duane Weber has one rule in life when it comes to baseball.

If Fenton resident and longtime baseball/softball player and manager Harold Krueger asks him to play, the Fenton native and current Arizona resident, he'll come.

Krueger recently asked Weber to play on his Rhino Baseball Club squad that competed in the recent Roy Hobbs World Series in Florida, and it paid off for both individuals and the team overall.

Krueger said Weber was probably his team's Most Valuable Player in the team's World Series Masters Division, helping the squad earn a spot in the championship game, eventually coming home with silver medals.

The Rhino Baseball Club included players from all around the United States, but included some players with local ties. Webber is a 1986 Fenton graduate who Krueger watched play while in high school. He batted .450 in the tournament, providing "many clutch hits" according to Krueger.

"I called him and he said, 'If you are coming, then I'm coming,'" Krueger said. "He was the catalyst of the team. He hit well, played great defense and stole bases. He's 49 years old and he still runs great."

"You know Harold is always looking for players whether it is softball or baseball," Weber said. "He knows everybody. This year came around and I said the only way I was going is if Harold goes. And to be honest my wife would've not let me

.....

MOTT'S

Continued from Page 22A

of many tri-county area athletes, the Bears qualified for the National Junior College Athletic Association District II National Championships for the first time since 1998 this fall by capturing the NJCAA District F Tournament title recently.

The squad went 3-1 at the double-elimination tournament, having to defeat Lakeland two out of three matches to eventually earn the championship and earn the bid to the national tournament being held in Charleston, West Virginia this weekend.

The squad includes many past tri-county athletes. That list includes Fenton graduates Cassidy Curtis and Myla Wolosonowich; Lake Fenton graduate Allison von Daggenhausen and Linden graduate Emily Pearce. The squad posted just a 12-17 record a year ago, but under Naves had confidence the squad could turn the program around as quick as this season. It worked. Mott holds a 29-7 record entering the national tournament.

"I thought we were capable of being a top-five nationally ranked team," Wolosonowich said. "Going into the season we all listed our team goals — short-term and long-term goals — and my team go was to make it to nationals, and that's what we did."

"At the very beginning of the season I knew there was a lot of talent and a lot of potential," Naves said.

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Rhinos Baseball Club took second at the Roy Hobbs World Series in the Masters Division. The team had many tri-county ties on it, including manager Harold Krueger and player Duane Weber (right), who played baseball at Fenton.

go if it wasn't for Harold."

Linden resident Charlie Rice pitched in a couple of contests, including the championship game. Meanwhile, Linden's Steve Sarkon pitched and played second base.

The team cruised to easy wins in the Masters Division (45 and older) in its first three games, but then lost to the Orlando Blazers. However, they bounced back with three more wins, earning a spot in the final. Two of those games were routine wins, but one of the elimination tournament games against the Chicago North Red Hawks didn't come as easy.

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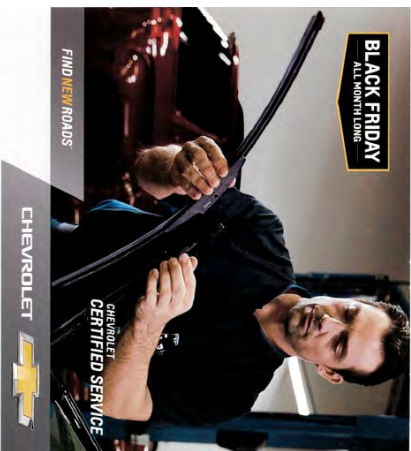


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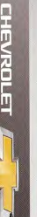
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