

# **Pizza Hut, Big Boy razed for 'Owen Shoppes'**

■New site to feature two strip-mall buildings with new Pizza Hut and Starbucks

### By Tim Jagielo

tjagielo@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795 **Fenton** — It took a few days in the drizzly gray weather, but by Thanksgiving, both Pizza Hut and Big Boy restaurants on Owen Road were demolished by D & V Excavating.

The site will be redeveloped for the new "Owen Shoppes," according to plans by CMP Real Estate Group, which is marketing the site.

According to the online marketing brochure, Pizza Hut will return as part of a five-unit 10,029-square-foot building along with a new Starbucks. See STRIP-MALL on 21A

TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO D & V Excavating picks apart the former Big Boy restaurant on Owen Road in Fenton on Wednesday, Nov. 22. By early afternoon, the building was reduced to rubble. This site could be the location of a new twobuilding strip mall, which will include a Pizza Hut and Starbucks.

### No jail time for man who failed to report girlfriend's death

■Judge sentences three months of drug/alcohol treatment instead

### **By Sharon Stone**

sstone@tctimes.com; 810-433-6786 The Fenton Township man who failed to report a dead body in his trailer at the Lake Ponemah Mobile Home Park has been ordered to undergo three months of treatment at



Odyssey House, a drug and alcohol treatment center in Flint. John Curtis Osborne, 46, was arraigned on Oct. 4 in Genesee County 67th District Court on one count of

failing to report a dead body. The remains belonged to his sometimes girlfriend, Julie Persons, 47, who was See TREATMENT on 15A

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your silence, were you thinking about the sisterhood then and bringing awareness to the problem? That's what I thought."



# The changing drug culture of heroin

■Local police chief says certain clothing brands, logos indicate drugs

### **By Hannah Ball**

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792 Overdosing is the second-leading cause of injury death nationwide, and the

leading cause of injury death for people aged 35-54, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Argentine Township Police Chief Daniel Allen said he's seen an increase in opioid overdoses in the past 18 months, with three taking place since the summer. One of the people who overdosed was 21 years old. See HEROIN on 14A



Police investigate a heroin overdose in Fenton Township on Sept. 29.

# **G** Folks, please remember our lo-

OPEN

cal merchants when Christmas shopping. They provide thousands of jobs and pay millions in taxes. Shopping online will ultimately mean no jobs, even if you

are buying online from a brand with a physical store in Fenton. If we don't shop local, there will be no stores left to shop local.'

**C** If the Fenton police were to sit at any of the intersec-

tions in Fenton and give tickets

for running stop

signs, red lights, or not using turn signals or speeding, we wouldn't need a millage. The fines would more than cover the cost."

### **Police identify** 20-year-old found dead in Rolston **Road home**

### ■Lethal drug overdose suspected

### By Sharon Stone

sstone@tctimes.com; 810-433-6786 The Genesee County Sheriff's Office released the name of the 20-year-old man who was found dead in his home on Sunday,



Nov. 19 as Tyler Sadler of Fenton Township. The sheriff's office, as well as Fenton and Linden police, were dispatched to a home in the 3500 block of

Tyler Sadler

Rolston Road for a DOA (dead on arrival), possibly due to an overdose of a yet-to-be disclosed substance.

See OVERDOSE on 15A

### COMMENT OF THE WEEK

**L** If I bought a piece of property and I paid taxes on it, there is no one short of God that would have the right to tell me where I can or cannot park a working, functional vehicle on my own property."



# Whatever happened to a 'speedy trial?'

Schedules, admitting new evidence, waiting for test results can cause delays

### By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

The Michael LaJoice case took nearly 18 months to conclude, from his first court appearance in January 2016 to when he was sentenced to seven to 20 years in Oakland County Circuit Court in May 2017.

The alleged Linden school shooting plot case took more than a year and a half. The Times broke the story November 2015, and the case concluded this past July when the last defendant, Kody Brewer, was sen-

SUMMARY Criminal court cases can sometimes take years to come to a conclusion. However, prosecutors and defense attorneys work on things behind the scenes that often cause delays.

tenced to five years probation.

The U.S. Constitution guarantees residents the right to a speedy trial, yet, criminal court cases can seem like anything but.

Attorney Michael Manley, who was LaJoice's attorney, said, "It's not always that justice delayed is justice denied. We have an imperfect system of justice. However, in my opinion, it's still the best in the world."

LaJoice's cases took nearly 18 months because of the number of courts involved. Manley dealt with three civil cases and



**TRI-COUNTY TIMES** I FILE PHOTO Michael LaJoice will spend 11 to 20 years in jail. His multiple court cases took 18 months to reach a conclusion.

two criminal cases.

"There were a lot of things going on behind the scenes to come up with a restitution that certainly resulted in justice," he said, adding that the public isn't always aware of the complexities going on behind the scenes.

Manley said it may take time for a defendant to understand that a plea deal may be in their best interest, or sometimes it takes time for the prosecutor to realize their case isn't as strong as they thought.

"Each case has to be

determined on its own set of facts and sometimes you know that you can get to a resolution, it's just the timing of it. A lot of factors go into successful negotiations," he said. "Prosecution also has to deal with victims who go through a litany



**TRI-COUNTY TIMES** I FILE PHOTO Abdurrahman (Abdu) Ahmed Akl, 17, was arraigned in connection to the shooting death of Brady Allan Morris in March. Seven months later, on Oct. 18, he was found competent to stand trial.

of emotions."

**L**It's not always

that justice

delayed is justice

denied. 77

**Michael Manley** 

Local attorney

Either side may request that the defendant undergo a competency evaluation, which takes time, and they have the right to an independent evaluation.

When it comes to trials, people in jail take precedence.

"You may get bumped back because they can only try one case at a time," he said. "People in jail have to go first so they have the absolute right to a speedy trial."

In the interest of justice, sometimes it's bet-

ter to delay cases or not go to trial at all. Manley said the system is not set up to try every case, and sometimes people get upset with plea bargains.

"But that process is a necessity in our system," he said. The discovery of new facts or DNA, and waiting on witness statements can also cause delays. Manley said lab testing takes a lot of time.

Occasionally, non-violent cases will be postponed because there are too many cases scheduled on one day. Manley said this is the exception, not the rule.

"I think judges do a very good job of managing their caseloads," he said. "We're always working together to move cases as quickly as we can without compromising speed for fairness."

### **SPECIALTY COURTS**

Specialty courts have helped cases move faster. Genesee County implemented specialty courts, such as drug court, sobriety court, mental health court and veteran's court, in the past decade to improve the flow of the court systems.

"With all the courts that we have now, cases are moving faster," Manley said. "We have more diversion programs and specialty courts. We can take these vets who have come back from war and are suffering from PTSD. We can get them into veteran's court and get them the help they need instead of putting them in prison."

Manley said these cases have also helped get to the root of why the crime was committed, like mental health and addiction. It helps save taxpayer money because it speeds up the court process, puts fewer people in jail, and makes more room in county court for violent offenders.

"It's been very effective," he said. "I believe this is the wave of the future."





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# Having a ball for Dickens Fest 2017

■Fezziwig's Ball raises funds for downtown Holly festival

### By Tim Jagielo

tjagielo@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795

**Holly** — This weekend, thousands of visitors will have descended upon downtown Holly for the 2017 Holly Dickens Festival, enjoying everything the quaint and historic district has to offer.

But last Friday, Nov. 17, 40 people took part in the rather unique fundraiser of Fezziwig's Ball, hosted this year at the Holly Hotel.

This is the fourth year of the event, which was inspired by the ball in the Dickens Classic "A Christmas Carol."

The evening included a warm holiday atmosphere, period and holiday clothing, warm bread pudding, food, drink and a silent auction.

The English Country Dancing Club from the Saint Dominic Chapel in Highland led brave guests to dance the "Sir Roger DeCoverly," an energetic party dance often featured in these movies.

This is the first year the event was held at the Holly Hotel. Previously, it was hosted at The Holly VFW and the Karl



TRI-COUNTY TIMES I TIM JAGIELO Guests at Fezziwig's Ball were encouraged to wear Dickens-era or holiday-themed clothing to the Friday, Nov. 17 party at the Holly Hotel.

Richter Community Center.

The fundraiser is one of a few held throughout the year to support the volunteer and sponsor-run Dickens Festival, which spans three weekends.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES I TIM JAGIELO

Lucia Tomasi and Ray vonBerge help lead a group of Fezziwig's Ball guests in dancing the "Sir Roger DeCoverly." The pair is with the English Country Dancing Club from the Saint Dominic Chapel in Highland, which provided the entertainment for the evening.

TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO Fenton firefighter Casey McLaughlin-Smith (left) and Assistant Chief Charlie Koan hand boxes of groceries down the line on Tuesday, Nov. 21. The Fenton Fire Department and various community groups, including local National Honor Society chapters, emptied the

bus of 1,300 pounds of food for the 2017 Stuff the

**44** It's everyone's event; it's a community action program. 77

> **CARLA JUAREZ** Stuff the Bus project organizer

# Ten years and a thousand families

■ Fenton 'Stuff the Bus' marks decade of helping local families in need

### **By Tim Jagielo**

Bus campaign.

tjagielo@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795

Fenton — While the bus was stuffed over a period of about three weeks, it was emptied by the dozen or so volunteers in less than 30 minutes on Tuesday, Nov. 21.

This is the 10th anniversary of the successful community action program, "Stuff the Bus," hosted at the Fenton United Methodist Church, and run by volunteers with Fenton High School (FHS), Linden High School, Fenton Area Resource and Referral (FARR), the Loose Center and Fenton firefighters.

Carla Juarez, president of the FHS Alumni Association, organized the event. She estimates that approximately 1,300 pounds of food were gathered during the Stuff the Bus campaign. "It's everyone's event; it's a community action program," said Juarez.

The canned and boxed food was then sorted into 100 boxes for local families in need.

The families came for their boxes later that day, and the Fenton Fire Department delivered boxes to those who could not come in.

Juarez said over the 10-year program, the number of requested Thanksgiving boxes has not changed. "That's a good thing, that we don't have more families in need, but I hope that we're reaching everyone who does need help," she said. "If it goes higher, we would make more."

Families are referred by local schools, or FARR.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO Fenton High School National Honor Society members (from center) Ariana Mansour, 18, and Molly Anderson, 17, hand boxes off to other volunteers to start the chain into the building.

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# **Andrew Heller**

andrewheller@tctimes.com

# **Come** *Heller* high water

ast week I got my annual "What I'm Not Thankful For" list out of my system. Sorry. It had to happen. You ever try holding that

Imany gripes and whines inside? Not easy or healthy. This week it's time for a few utterly random things and people I'm thankful for. Such as: • Newspaper readers. I know this sounds like pandering, but I think the root cause of many of our problems today is ignorance. And I use the word in the dictionary sense — a lack of knowledge or information. Newspapers



are a known antidote to ignorance. In my view, people who read newspapers are sexy because knowledge is sexy. Wanna give someone the ultimate compliment this Christmas, give

them a newspaper subscription. It's you saying, "I know you value knowledge because you're smart. Here's more of it." (Side point: Print papers impart knowledge better than computer screens. It's a proven fact. So read and give the print edition.)

• I love dogs. My dogs, anyway. Your dogs are, frankly, a little out of control and smelly. Maybe you oughta do something about that.

• I haven't had a teacher in decades. But I appreciate teachers more each passing year. These days they're society's punching bags, but they soldier on. The day we start paying them what they're truly worth is the day we get stronger as a nation. Cops, firefighters, ambulance workers and military, as well. It baffles me why we revere these people but pay them jackyou-know-what.

• Whoever invented baseball. I love baseball because I grew up playing baseball. And I mean real baseball with a bunch of friends on a made-up diamond with bats held together with screws, ghost runners and automatic outs for hitting the ball to right field. That's the best baseball of all.

Organized baseball is also fine, but organized baseball means adults are involved and adults inevitably suck the fun out of everything.

• Williams hot pepper cheese, produced in Linwood near Bay City. Love it. Best cheese ever. And while I'm on food, I won't eat eggs (and many other things) unless there's a bottle of Frank's hot sauce handy. I used to be a Tabasco guy but Frank's is better.

• My friends, including the casual ones, the besties, readers and social media pals. You're all the same to me - I loves ya. Again, I know that sounds like pandering. And I guess it is. But I am fully aware that as a ridiculously opinionated human and incessant wise-acre, I can be difficult to be around. More and more, I appreciate those few who aren't smart enough to realize there are easier people to be pals with. For that flaw in your character, I thank you.

• My family. Of course. Every annoying, wonderful one of them. And for the same reason as above. They stick with me despite my gaping flaws and my seeming inability to do anything about them, and for that I'm eternally puzzled, but grateful.

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@tclimes.com.

not necessarily reflect the views of the Tri-Co ve the right to edit for clarity, length and liabil

TO REDUCE GOVERNMENT spending, Trump wants to privatize the veteran's administration, releasing more funds for corporate tax cuts.

I CAN'T BELIEVE how rude people are. I was at Goodwill this week, waiting in line to drop some donations off, and this guy gets right in front of me. How rude.

WHEN YOU DRIVE through someone's yard, I hope you do great damage to your vehicle.

YOU PEOPLE ARE destroying my country because you can't seem to agree on anything. Nothing matters but politics and the perverts that are coming out of the woodwork. I don't care if you're a Republican or Democrat, just quit it now.

THE HOT LINE of the year has got to be the new Amazon slogan about Roy Moore.

WE SAW THE memory tree in Oakwood Cemetery last night and it is beautiful. It must 14 or 15 feet tall. We lost two family members this year and plan to hang an ornament for each one. Hey Tri-County, how many years have they been doing this? *Editors note: See story on Page 16A.* 

THE RAINBOW IS a sign that God will not flood the earth again. We should not



so especially in snow and ice, it's very dangerous. WHAT'S WRONG WITH a president speaking his mind? Or, would you rather have a president that feeds you

lifestyle.

that you believe as fact. WHAT ARE YOU thankful for? I'm thankful for Trump and the fact that Obama is almost gone.

sheep the lies and political half-truths

disrespect the American flag nor use

the rainbow to symbolize our chosen

I WISH I were a police officer in the

breaking every law on the road.

city of Fenton. All day long, I would be pulling people over right and left for

I AGREE WITH the person who com-

plained about mail arriving after dark.

It will get worse closer to Christmas.

Where I live we have no streetlights,

SO, COUNTY COMMISSIONERS fired the head of the road commission, over politics, for rightfully acknowledging Republican legislators. Wow. Petty. Recall Mark Young and Ted Henry.

# TO THE OLDER woman complaining about leaves and young people being

lazy: I am sure I am much younger than you and I cleaned up all the leaves in my yard. Why is the older generation so whiny?

**REAGAN CREATED NAFTA.** You should look into taking some courses at Mott or at least have someone explain Google to you.

### THANK YOU TO the wonderful

person ahead of me who bought my coffee at McDonald's last week early in the morning. You made my day and I will be sure to pay it forward.

THANK YOU LOCAL businesses that closed on Thanksgiving so their employees could be with their families. I kept the TCT list — and I will remember your kindness to them. It shows me a place I want to do business with. Bless you.

TO THE LADY walking her dog along Pine Street. We do see that you are not picking up your dog's poop every day.

WHY IS IT that the less than attractive men in politics and show business are being charged with sexual harassment? Oh that's right, if it were Denzel Washington or Brad Pitt or George Clooney to name a few, no one would be complaining.

See **HOT LINE** throughout Times

# o you prefer real or artificial Christmas trees?



Compiled by Gracie Warda, intern

"I'm torn because I love a real Christmas tree, but I feel like I'm destroying the environment every time I get one." **Kat Widmark** 

Fenton Township



"I prefer a real one, however, I have an artificial one at home for the convenience."

**Gordon Ellis** Tyrone Township



"Fake, because I am allergic to real ones."

**Elisa Fixler** 

Fenton Township



"I prefer artificial ones because I have cats that would climb a real one."

**Eileen Adair** Linden Township





"I've got a fake one at home, but I prefer a real one. It's all about the expense, for me."

Stan Nelson Fenton Township





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# **Gasoline leak in Linden getting cleaned up**

**44** I am

disappointed

in how long the

process has been.

I will be happy

when I know the

remediation is

done. 77

**Danielle Cusson** 

Linden mayor

DEQ: Traces of petroleum contaminant detected in Shiawassee River

### By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792 Nearly three-and-a-half years after an underground gasoline leak was discovered in downtown Linden, the gas station responsible, Beacon and

Bridge, is negotiating with the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for activity costs incurred by the state.

Linden Mayor Danielle Cusson said, "I am disappointed in how long the process has been. I will be happy when I know the remediation is done."

There was concern over the gasoline leak reaching the Shiawas-

see River, and David LaBrecque of the DEQ confirmed that the leak did reach the body of water

"Through the storm sewer there was some petroleum contaminant that was detected," he said, adding that the levels of contaminant were below the DEQs criteria and it wasn't cause for concern.

The DEQ agreed not to seek enforcement action against Quick-Sav, which owns the Beacon and Bridge in Linden, to compel compliance with state law if a final assessment report and corrective action plan (FAR/CAP) was submitted by Oct. 31, 2017. In a letter to Beacon and Bridge, the DEQ states that Quick-Sav has been seeking access to Linden's right of way, which is needed to evaluate releases from the location of the leak.

The DEQ granted Quick-Sav an extension on the FAR/CAP. It is now due Jan. 31, 2018

Quick-Sav Food Stores, Ltd., is responsible for cleaning up the leak. According to a May 15 letter from the DEQ to Quick-Sav, the DEQ will clean up the leak if Quick-Sav fails to, and the DEQ can bill Quick-Sav for the costs involved.

> The DEQ installed a groundwater management system at a nearby business at 109 N. Bridge St. over the summer. This system prevents the infiltration

of contaminated groundwater and vapor intrusion into area businesses, which has been a problem since the leak was discovered.

As of Sept. 15, Quick-Sav took over the management of the groundwater treatment system.

LaBrecque said the state has spent a little more than \$800,000 for response activities in regards to the leak and the treatment system, and the DEQ has requested payment from Quick-Sav pending the revised CAP.



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TRI-COUNTY TIMES I SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Roger Sharp family will be grand marshals for the 2017 Linden Holiday Happening Lighted Parade on Dec. 1 at 6 p.m.

# **Roger Sharp and family lead Linden parade**

Local family/benefactors chosen as grand marshals for Dec. 1 Linden holiday event

### By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282 Sue Turpen graduated with Roger Sharp from Linden High School in 1962 and 55 years later, is pleased to

announce that Sharp and his family will be grand marshals of the 2017 Linden Holiday Happening Lighted Parade.

"He's a hometown boy," said Turpen, spokesperson and fundraising chairman for the Linden Holiday Happening this year. "He does a great deal for our community. He's an 'unsung angel,' doing many things babind the sear

things behind the scenes that a lot of people don't know about," she said.

Roger Sharp and his family are the owners of Sharp Funeral Homes, serving the families of Fenton, Linden, Swartz Creek and Grand Blanc Township.

His family includes his wife, Judy; daughters Jennifer (Mike) Scully and their two children, Paige and Samuel; Stephanie (Brendan) Foster and their two sons, Preston and Bennett; son R.J. and his three daughters, Remy, Mason and Parker.

The Sharp family will ride in a horsedrawn carriage throughout the parade route, stepping out at 6 p.m. Roger Sharp will be joined by as many family members as are able to attend.

For Sharp, it's the first time he has been honored as grand marshal in Linden, and

he's pleased to bring his family along for the ride.

"I've been honored with so many things, it's a pleasure to share it with my entire family," he said. "We set out every year to help people, and serve those who don't have the means, and also veterans and churches. We've grown from being the smallest funeral home in Genesee the largest."

County in 1970, to the largest."

The first grand marshal of the Linden Holiday Happening Lighted Parade in 2015 was Cathy North, athletic director for Linden High School, now retired. The second grand marshal in 2016 was Marge Kimble, former businesswoman known as the "matriarch" of Linden.

"Ever since the parade has been held at night, it has just gone gangbusters," Turpen said. "It's so big now in Linden."



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I be<br/>the<br/>day<br/>day<br/>ited**¼ He (Roger Sharp)**<br/>does a great deal for<br/>our community. He's<br/>an 'unsung angel,'<br/>doing many things<br/>behind the scenes that<br/>a lot of people don't<br/>know about. **77** 

**Sue Turpen** Linden Holiday Happening planning committee WEEKEND TIMES



















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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

The Waterworks Park building in Holly is an unsafe structure the Village Council voted to demolish in August. A grassroots effort to figure out how to save the building has compelled the village to hold off demolition until April 2018.

# Water Works demolition postponed

I'd like to see

what their vision

is, if they could

bring something

new to the table

we haven't

considered

before. 77

**Suzanne Heiple** 

Holly Village Council

Holly Village may get fresh ideas for crumbling site from local engineering students

### **By Tim Jagielo**

tjagielo@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795 At one point, the fate of the Water Works Park facility originally constructed before 1890 was all but sealed — it

was to be demolished as soon as it was feasible. Now, new ideas for a

plan are in the works and the Holly Village Council has extended the demolition into April 2018.

In August, the Holly Village Council voted to demolish the structure due to its instability. Then, at the Sept. 27 meeting, Oakland County Commissioner Bob Hoffman (Dist. 2), who owns

property around the village, asked that the council give him a chance to come up with a plan for the embattled structure.

On Tuesday Nov. 14, the Holly Village Council voted to suspend demolition for another six months, according to Councilmember Suzanne Heiple. This was due to the second plea from Hoffman, this time aided by Holly Township Supervisor George Kullis, at the 11th hour beyond the first demolition extension.

"There was significant history attached to mechanisms inside the building," Heiple said. The equipment inside is what's historic; not the building itself, she said. The new idea is to involve engineering students from local colleges to see if

they have new ideas to save the structure. Recently, Kullis sent letters out to the University of Michigan-Flint, Kettering University, Eastern Michigan University, the Oakland County Planning Commission and Oakland County Parks.

The idea to ask engineering students

came from resident Timm Smith at a recent township meeting, said Kullis. The letter is inviting

these groups to a stakeholders meeting to discuss the future of the building and site. Kullis believes that it could be a welcome center for the Shiawassee River water trail.

"We do want progress reports intermittently," said Heiple, who is keeping an open mind about

the ideas. "I'd like to see what their vision is, if they could bring something new to the table we haven't considered before."

Council member Dave Cruickshank cast the dissenting vote against postponing the demolition. "We have quotes from \$90,000-plus just to restore," he said, not considering the long-term maintenance of the building. "The Parks Commission would love to spend that money in beautifying that park and display the important internals and make access to the river easier."



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# Where is 'Gabe' a decade later?

■Gabrielle Ford, of 'Gabe & Izzv' fame, now lives in upstate New York, and recalls her years growing up in Fenton

### By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Many people remember Gabrielle "Gabe" Ford and her companion dog, Izzy, who spent years working in local schools and throughout the country with an anti-bullying message.

She was born and raised in Fenton and graduated from Lake Fenton High School in 1998. Both she and Izzy had rare neuromuscular diseases that provided a bond and helped Ford come to terms with her own disease.

Ford had been diagnosed with Friedreich's ataxia, a rare genetic disease, when she was 12 years old. Eventually, she would require a wheelchair as her muscles weakened. Izzy suffered from muscular dystrophy.

The disease caused Ford to slur her words and she began to be bullied in the eighth grade, all the way through high school graduation. But her bond with Izzy eased her depression and isolation

and gave her a strength that empowered her to accomplish goals in her life that she would have never dreamed possible - even physical feats like parasailing, bungee jumping and whitewater rafting.

Gabe and Izzy were guests on Discovery Channel's "Animal Planet" and "The Today Show" and won numerous awards for their anti-bullying programs held



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO Gabe and her dog, Izzy, shared a unique bond, both suffering from neuromuscular diseases. Izzy passed away in 2009.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO Gabe and Izzy were inseparable friends, sharing leisure time as well as time spent on the road in the mid-2000s giving antibullying messages across the U.S.

throughout the U.S. Her mom, Rhonda Hillman, was her biggest fan and accompanied her to programs from California to New York.

In 2008, she and Izzy were recognized with the Community Hero

Award from the Fenton Regional Chamber of Commerce for their work in spreading the antibullying message. She also earned a USA TV Award in 2012.

a memoir and resource for parents, educators, victims and bullies. It was released at Christmas 2009.

other difficult milestone in Ford's life. Since Izzy's death, Ford had other dogs, including ILO (Izzy Lives On), but Ford had to re-home her because she was no longer able to care for her in her living arrangement at the time.

In 2013, Ford signed a book deal with Penguin Group, the second largest trade book publisher in the world, and penned "Gabe and Izzy: America's Voice for the Bullied." The book was published in March 2014.

to move to Florida with her mom, stepdad, Richard and her sister, Madeline. "My disease is progressive," said Ford, in a phone interview with the Times. "It was hard to get around in the snow in a

On Father's Day 2016, her stepdad passed away from cancer, and she and her mom moved to upstate New York to be near family. Ford has recently moved into her own apartment with a roommate, and her mother lives in the same complex.

"I do physical therapy twice a week and I eat healthy," said Ford. "I do what I can to keep myself going. I also have a caretaker who comes in a couple of days a week, and she helps me do errands, shop, etc."

She's no longer able to write, but she can use her iPad. "I also enjoy reading, listening to music and watching movies,' she said.

While Ford doesn't do her anti-bullying programs anymore, she still does hear from people who read her book and they share with her how much they enjoyed it and how it helped them in their own lives. "It was a busy time, it was an adventure," Ford said as she looks back at those years. "It was a lot of fun."

She and her mother still have friends and family who live in or near Fenton and they come back occasionally to visit. "It was a nice place to grow up," she said.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO Gabrielle "Gabe" Ford is pictured here at Miners Cabin campsite in Westwater Canyon on the Colorado River in eastern Utah, taken this past August.





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### **L**It was a busy time, it was an adventure. 77 **Gabrielle "Gabe" Ford** Anti-bullying advocate, author and former resident

Network Characters Unite Ford authored a book, "Still Dancing,"

Izzy passed away that same year, an-

Where is she today?

Ford, 37, left the Fenton area in 2012 wheelchair."





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In 2015, members of the McKay family poses for a photo in front of their store at 15146 North Holly Rd. in Holly.

# McKay's Do it Center acquired by Great Lakes Ace Hardware

New company president says they are committed to retaining local associates

### Compiled By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823 Great Lakes Ace Hardware has announced that it has entered into an agreement to acquire McKay's Do it Center in Holly, owned and operated by Ken and Cathy McKay, who are retiring.

The acquisition will be finalized in December.

"The McKay family has been serving customers in Holly for 50 plus years. Ken and I have worked with our team for many years to ensure that McKay's Do it Center supports and serves the Holly community, we are proud of the accomplishments," said Cathy McKay.

"Handing over the reins to Great Lakes Ace Hardware at this point in our history makes a lot of sense as their excellent reputation, shared values and focus on continuity reassures us that our team and community will be well served," she said.

McKay's Hardware has been in business since April 1, 1967 after Ken's father Ralph purchased it from Eby Paint & Wallpaper in Fenton in 1965. Eby bought the downtown Holly hardware store owned by P.A. Wright & Son when its Fenton location came down.

Prior to its sale to Eby, P.A. Wright & Son operated the downtown Holly hardware store for more than 75 years.

Ralph purchased the store from Eby, and operated McKay's Hardware there (now Holly Antiques on Main) for many years. Ken and Cathy bought it from Ken's mother, Barb, in 1987. The store remained in its downtown location until 1994, when they opened their new facility on North Holly Road

According to Mark VandenBerg, president of Great Lakes Ace, "We are committed to retaining the associates who are familiar faces to customers in Holly. There will be a transition to some new, exciting products offered under the Ace brand and recognized national brands. However, customers should expect to experience the same exceptional service to which they have been accustomed.

"We are thrilled to expand into the Holly area and look forward to continuing McKay's outstanding tradition of customer service and community involvement," VandenBerg said. "Our company vision is to improve lives and communities and we do that by going above and beyond to serve our customers. In a time when consumers have more options than ever before, this is the bedrock fueling our growth."

Great Lakes Ace Hardware is a Michigan based chain of 47 hardware stores. The company began operation in Dearborn in 1946 and has a history steeped in the traditional American tale of hard work and reinvention. The company provides local neighborhoods with access to national brands such as Craftsman, Scotts, Valspar, Toro, Weber and others, while providing customers with a localized product mix and a friendly neighborhood hardware store experience. It has been part of the Ace Hardware Cooperative since 2014.

For more information about Great Lakes Ace Hardware visit www.great-lakesace.com.

# **Quarterly sewer fees to remain \$255**

**As of Dec. 31**,

2017 we have six

outstanding sewer

bond issues with

a total current

balance of \$18.28

million. 77

**Tom Broecker** 

Fenton Township operations

manager/deputy clerk

First chance to reduce rates in Fenton Township will likely be 2025

### By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792 Fenton Township residents who tap into the sanitary sewer system currently pay \$255 each quarter,

which went into effect in 2007.

According to a spring 2016 report by Fenton Township, residents will pay that for at least 10 more years.

Fenton Township Operations Manager/Deputy Clerk Tom Broecker said, "There are no plans to change the sewer user rate in the near future. The first opportunity to

significantly reduce the sewer rates is likely to be in 2025, after two large bond issues are paid off in 2024."

At the Monday, Nov. 20 Township Board meeting, the trustees passed a resolution relating to a bond issued through Genesee County, with a current balance of \$645,000, to pay for the sewers. The township needs to pay Genesee County \$343,713 in 2018 to meet the principal and interest requirements on all bond obligations for sewer facilities. The township plans to pay the amount by collecting \$200,000 with tap-in fees and \$143,713.61 in funds from monthly rates for services.

This is one bond out of six.

"As of Dec. 31, 2017 we have six out-

standing sewer bond issues with a total current balance of \$18.28 million," Broecker said. "The remainder of the bonds were issued directly by Fenton Township."

### Background

In 2002, the township entered into an Administrative Consent Order (ACO) with the Michigan Department of Envi-

ronmental Quality, which mandated that the township improve the sanitary sewer system, which was installed in the 1960s and '70s, to decrease sewage spills and overflows.

A total of \$13.6 million was issued in bonds. Fenton Township spent approximately \$24 million on the sewer system from 2002-2010, with most of the spending taking place in 2007 after

the fee increased to \$255 per quarter, according to the report. The money was spent on inventory, cleaning, inspections, maintenance, and replacement of six miles of sewer pipes.

### Why are the payments so high?

In April 2016, Treasurer John Tucker gave a few reasons. One is that because the township spent little to nothing to maintain the sewers, and there were multiple failures. The market crash years ago also affected how many people tapped into the sewers and paid the fees. The more people who tap in, the faster the bonds are paid off.

Additionally, the cost of processing raw sewage has increased \$1,225,000 per year since 2006 to the present.

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16380 HILLTOP DR, LINDEN





\$224,900 14421 HESS RD, HOLLY













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\$584,999 2427 DAVIS RD, FENTON



\$324,999 5572 MABLEY HILL RD, FENTON

### HEROIN

**Continued from Front Page** 

Overdosing is now more deadly than firearm fatalities and vehicle crashes, according to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. The number of people in Michigan who have overdosed on opioids, including heroin, reached 1,275 people in 2015, compared to 1,164 firearm deaths and 840 traffic fatalities.

To help combat this, Argentine Township police will have a dropbox in the police department for people to drop off unused or unwanted prescription drugs to help prevent addiction and abuse of opioids. This is in conjunction with the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), which will pick up the pills every few months.

However, Allen said drug culture is evolving. "There's a whole new emerging culture of drugs out there," he said. Many overdoses are from fentanyl, an opioid pain medication. Carfentanil, which is an elephant tranquilizer that is 100 times stronger than fentanyl, is found in more and more batches of heroin.

"Just the smallest dose, almost a needle head of it. could kill you ... When someone ... deals a stash and two people die, that makes that batch of heroin very popular. They

**4** A lot of times when EMT paramedics are helping people with Narcan, they're angry because they ruined their high. 77 **Daniel Allen** Argentine Township police chief

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want that good of a high," he said. This is why when officers raid drug houses, they often find Narcan as well as opiates, so

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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Q. Do I need an appointment?

A. 810-750-1320 or 810-629-3350

appointment?

appointment.

ing increases in confiscating these fake "There's a huge increase in pill stamp-

**4** You can go to big chain

stores and find these

clothes because even

they don't know what

they mean. 77

**Daniel Allen** 

Argentine Township police chief

someone else can save the other person

are helping people with Narcan, they're

angry because they ruined their high,"

"A lot of times when EMT paramedics

One new way police are discover-

ing people dealing

fentanyl is little

pills that might

resemble Tylenol,

with the stamp

"Xanex" on them,

but are actually

fentanyl. Allen

said they're called

"Xaney bars," and

the DEA is report-

if they overdose.

he said.

pills at the border.

ing presses across the border," he said, adding these presses are used in medical practices, but anyone can buy a pill press machine online for around \$70.

WEEKEND TIMES

hypebeast.co

Another form of heroin, called "pink" or "pink heroin," known by chemists as U-47700, is circulating. It's a deadly synthetic opioid much stronger than heroin. Police also are finding that heroin is often laced with synthetic drugs, making it more potent. Most of the synthetic drugs come from China.

Allen said these hard drugs found in the township mainly come from Flint, Detroit or Ypsilanti.

Part of the changing culture deals with clothes and logos. One of these logos is "710," which is "oil" upside down. Oil is an extract from marijuana.

Allen said certain clothing items from companies, such as Diamond, Cookies, and Supra, may contain hidden compartments in a hat or shoe to hide drugs.

"You can go to big chain stores and find these clothes because even they don't know what they mean," he said.

Police are also looking for certain logos on the backs of cars. One logo is a double Styrofoam cup with purple liquid being poured

into it. Allen said this SUMMARY is a symbol that indi-As opioid cates cough syrup, or overdosecodeine, being mixed related deaths with a drink. It's called continue to rise "lean," or "purple," or throughout the "purple stuff," and it nation, police are learning could alert police that new symbols of the driver takes part in drug culture. those activities.

### **Misleading numbers**

Numbers from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) show that the number of deaths from opioids or heroin decreased from 2010 to 2014, then increased in 2015. According to these numbers, 83 people died from opioid or heroin in 2010, compared to 34 in 2014, and then 54 in 2015.

However, these numbers are only from death certificates that specify opioid or heroin as a factor. Not all death certificates list opioids as a factor even when the person died from injuries related to the drug.

### **Hospitalizations**

The number of opioid-related hospitalizations has increased 120 percent in Michigan between 2000 and 2011, from 9,157 to 20,191 hospitalizations.

### Prescriptions

Michigan physicians wrote more prescriptions for opioid drugs in 2015 and 2016 than there are residents in Michigan. According to state data, physicians wrote 11 million prescriptions for opioids in 2015, another million in 2016, yet the Michigan population was 9.9 million in 2016 according to the United States Census Bureau.



MICHIGAN STATE POLICE TIP LINES

www.tctimes.com

The following are toll-free phone numbers provided by the Michigan State Police to report information on various crimes and illegal activities.

### America's Waterway Watch

(report suspicious activity on the waterways): 1-877-249-2824

**Auto theft:** 

1-800-242-4328

### Arson:

1-800-442-7766

### **Crime Stoppers of Michigan:**

1-800-773-2587

### **Drug Tip Lines:**

**BAY AREA NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT TEAM:** 1-888-286-2814

**COUNTY OF MACOMB ENFORCEMENT TEAM:** 1-586-790-3990

**FLINT AREA NARCOTICS GROUP:** 

1-810-233-3689 (Leave a message if the office is closed)

**REGION OF THE IRISH HILLS** NARCOTICS OFFICE: 1-517-265-5787

**SOUTHWEST ENFORCEMENT TEAM:** 

1-269-982-8664 (Leave a message if the office is closed)

**STATE, SHERIFFS, CHIEFS ENFORCEMENT NARCOTICS TEAM** (NORTHWEST MICHIGAN): 1-800-994-8477

**STRAITS AREA NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT TEAM:** 1-800-621-8651

**THUMB AREA NARCOTICS UNIT:** 1-810-358-3029

**TRAVERSE NARCOTICS TEAM:** 1-231-922-0993

**TRI-COUNTY DRUG TIP LINE:** 1-866-662-3784

**UPPER PENINSULA SUBSTANCE ENFORCEMENT TEAM:** 1-906-228-1002

HEMP HOTLINE (HELP ELIMINATE **MARIJUANA PLANTING):** 1-800-235-4367

**REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY** (MICHTIP):

1-855-642-4847 (1-855-MICHTIP) **METHAMPHETAMINE:** 

1-866-638-4847

**MICHIGAN'S MOST WANTED:** 1-877-445-8477

> **MISSING CHILDREN:** 1-855-642-4847

SCHOOL SAFETY THREATS (OK2SAY program): 1-855-565-2729 (8-555-OK2SAY)

**TOBACCO TAX VIOLATIONS:** 1-855-648-622



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FIND NEW ROADS

### TREATMENT

**Continued from Front Page** likely dead for approximately 10 days, according to the Genesee County Sheriff's

Office. Detectives with the sheriff's office reported that a male friend discovered her body in her trailer on Oct. 1.

According to court records, Osborne was released to the Odyssey House on Nov. 17.

### Background

The 911 Center informed deputies the 47-year-old victim, Persons, was a known drug user and had not been seen in over a week. Deputies arrived and found Persons, who appeared to have died several days earlier, in the bathroom.

As previously reported, Lt. William Lanning said Osborne and Persons lived at lot 50, and other trailers in the park. The couple was behind on rent and were in the process of moving out. They would stay in other available trailers when they could.

The sheriff's office continues to investigate and are working on leads to find the source of the heroin.

# **Police&Fire** report

### **HOLLY TOWNSHIP MAN ARRESTED FOR POSSESSION OF HEROIN**

An Oakland County Sheriff's deputy observed a suspicious individual, later identified as a 42-year-old Holly Township man, walking northbound on Wixom Road in Commerce Township at 11:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 21. The deputy made contact with the man. The man had several outstanding warrants for his arrest. While he was being searched, the deputy located a syringe in his pants pocket and two small packets of white powder concealed in a pack of cigarettes. Upon finding the substance, the man pulled away from the deputy and attempted to flee on foot. The

deputy pursued and was able to apprehend him a short distance away. The white powder field-tested positive for heroin. The suspect was transported to the Oakland County Jail where he was lodged pending the issuance of criminal charges. The heroin was placed

### **HUNTING EQUIPMENT STOLEN**

Fenton police received a burglary complaint from a resident on Center Street. The resident said that sometime between Nov. 8 and 18, someone stole \$1,100 worth of hunting equipment from the bed of his Ford pickup truck. The truck has a cab over the bed and the resident was unsure as to when the theft occurred.

### **APARTMENT SIGN DESTROYED**

Fenton police took a malicious destruction of property complaint from an apartment complex on Trealout Drive. An employee reported that sometime between

Nov. 17 and 20, someone intentionally ran over a sign at the apartments. Police observed tire tracks in the grass indicating the vehicle drove over the sign and then backed over it to damage it further. Estimated cost of damage is \$500. If anyone has information, they are asked to call Fenton police at (810) 629-5311.

### **SPEEDER HAS MARIJUANA IN CAR**

At 9:15 p.m. on Nov. 20, a Fenton police officer observed a vehicle speeding on North Road. A traffic stop was initiated. The officer detected a strong odor of marijuana from inside the car. The driver said he did not have a medical marijuana card. During a search of the vehicle, the officer recovered a large bag of marijuana. The driver, a 21-year-old Linden man, was arrested and taken to the police station for processing. He was later released with a citation for possession of marijuana.

810-732-7999

### OVERDOSE

**Continued from Front Page** 

Deputies and police arrived at the home at approximately 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 19. Investigators were on site for several hours as they investigated the man's death.

An autopsy was conducted and toxicology testing has been ordered to determine the exact cause of death.

According to Sadler's obituary, he graduated from Lake Fenton in 2016 and attended U of M-Flint. He was on the Ski Patrol team for Mt. Holly and enjoyed all outdoor activities: camping, hunting, wakeboarding and snowboarding.

Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home in Clarkston is handling Sadler's funeral arrangements. (See page 14B)



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WEEKEND TIMES





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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

The memory tree just inside Oakwood Cemetery in Fenton is decorated with various ornaments placed by visitors. Cemetery Chair Doug Tebo saves the ornaments for next year.

# Memory tree welcomes loved ones

Adorned with 2,500 twinkling lights, hundreds of Christmas ornaments hung by families

### By Sharon Stone

sstone@tctimes.com; 810-433-6786 For anyone wishing to remember a loved one, whether they are resting at Oakwood Cemetery in Fenton or not, they

Oakwood Cemetery in Fenton or not, they have an opportunity to hang a Christmas ornament on the cemetery's memory tree. Doug Tebo, chair of the Oakwood Cem-

etery Board said he and his good friend, Harry Bidelman, started the memory tree tradition after hearing about a similar tradition at another cemetery. This is the eighth year a freshly cut tree has been brought in to be on display near the front entrance off Davis Street.

Tebo said this year's 15-foot-tall memory tree is adorned with 2,500 twinkling lights. It also has hundreds of Christmas ornaments, hung by visitors remembering their loved ones. Tebo removes the ornaments each year, stores them and hangs them again the next year on the new tree. Weather resistant ornaments are advised.

Now and through the holidays, the entry gate at Davis Street has been programmed to remain open 24/7. Tebo said they do this so that visitors can see the beautifully lit memory tree at night.



### our town

# Meet HUGHES

- Holly Downtown **Development Authority director**
- Concert enthusiast
- Former Oakland County 4-H Queen

### **By Sally Rummel**

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282 Katy Hughes, 39, graduated from Holly High School in 1996 and has lived the majority of her life in the Holly area, currently in Rose Township. A graduate of Saginaw Valley State University with a bachelor's degree in communication, she spent 11<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> years working for Enterprise Rent-A-Car and five years working for the Michigan Department of State. Her most recent career move has been into the position of Holly DDA Director. She and her husband, Jason, have one daughter, *Olivia*, 11.

### The Dickens Festival in Holly kicks off this weekend. What is your favorite part of the festival?

I love the nighttime lighted parade which ends in the historic downtown area, in front of the big Christmas tree. The marching band plays, there's a community sing-along and everyone gets excited for Santa's arrival and the ceremonial lighting of the Christmas tree. The Dickens Festival is wonderfully magical, kind of like a Norman Rockwell painting coming alive. I'll be more of a spectator this year with

"I've always

wanted to own a

similar to Dyke's,

**Mac's Pharmacy or** 

someday."

**Katy Hughes** 

Holly DDA director and

community booster

scape, the people and the history. I'm excited to visit again someday.

### If you could own your own busi-

ness, what would it be? I've always wanted to own a good oldfashioned soda fountain, something similar to Dyke's, Mac's Pharmacy or Brummeler's. Perhaps someday...

I understand that you love concerts. What's your last great concert and who would you see if you could? I like all kinds of music and love to attend concerts. I just saw the infamous Stringdusters at St. Andrews Hall in Detroit last week. Some of my favorite shows were the Hollywood Vampires, Lilith Fair and the Electronica Music Festival. If I could see anyone, it would be the original members of the Grateful Dead. I took the train from Durand and saw "Dead & Company" perform at Wrigley Field in Chicago this past sum-

mer. It was an epic birthday experience!

What is something about you that most people probably don't know? Actually, there are a few. I grew up in the country and raised rabbits, chickens, beef cattle and more; I won the title of Oakland County 4-H Queen in 1994. I'm the great-granddaughter (seven generations back) of Samuel Chase, who signed the Declaration of Independence. I've traveled to the top and gone underneath the Mackinac Bridge and took some amazing pictures during the experience. Also, I'm hearingimpaired and wear hearing aids, but I'm a lip-reader.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES SUBMITTED PHOTO

Katy Hughes is

pictured on La-

dies Night Out

in Holly, shop-

ping at Holly Hills

Primitives.

In addition to Holly, I

think Mackinac Island

is a great getaway. My

mother, daughter and I did that

a few years ago, staying at the Grand

Hotel and doing all the fun touristy

things. As far as other travel, my fa-

vorite getaway is Ireland — the land-

my family, and I'm good old-fashioned soda proud to admit that foundation, something my father and I brought the sport of frozen turkey bowling to the fes-**Brummeler's.** Perhaps tival a few years ago, and it's still a fun part of the festivities.

### What's your favorite part of your job as the Holly DDA director?

My job is about promoting our community and I absolutely love Holly. I take on new tasks every day. I really enjoy interacting with the business owners, residents and visitors. We just had a very successful Ladies Night Out Fall Wrap Up a few weeks ago, and I'm excited for this weekend's Small Business Saturday event.

### Holly's a great destination for getaway weekends. What is your dream place to get away?

I know a lot of women who come to Holly for a girl's getaway weekend shopping dining, strolling and chatting.



www.tctimes.com



Community Plan



Parking is Limited in the Downtown Area; Public and Private Lots fill up Quickly. Parking and Shuttle Service is available from the Loose Center. Linden Elementary and from our Triangle Park Property (near the airport). The Triangle Lot is not paved, you will be parking on grass with a short walk to the shuttle. Parking is also available at Hyatt Elementary. Shuttles will not pick up at Hyatt Elementary, but they will be dropping off at the schools after the Parade. <u>www.lindenholidayhappening.com</u> or **f**@FrostyFireworks

	VFW Restrooms inside VFW Mill St Horse & Wagon Rides after the Parade (Located in front of VFW)	CITY II LINDEN SUB SUB
	Fireworks on the Mill Pond at 7:30pm	
r St	Meet Santa in the Gazebo 7:30pm - 8:30 pm Tickner St Linden Mill Bldg. Museum & Kids Crafts Tickner	STRENGTH EXCELLENCE CHARACTER
	Coast Mexican Fare Portable Restroom Portable Coast Mexican Fare Coast Mexican Fare	STER SEARCH EARLING
		JEL JEL   BANDS
	DJ- Youngs Entertainment Rooftop Reindeer in front of Fire Dept. Freeze Frame Photo Lounge. Get your Photo Taken with our characters. Located inside the Fire Dept.	WASTE MANAGEMENT

# Residential mental health facility helps clients achieve stability and independence for 25 years

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

In 1986, Dan and Rosemary Kelly of West Bloomfield searched for months for a place in Michigan to treat their only son, John, who had been diagnosed as a paranoid schizophrenic.

Without any success and no desire to institutionalize their son, the Kellys decided to build their own facility for John and others who face medical issues like schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, schizoaffective disorder and major depression.

Rose Hill Center in Holly Township opened in 1992 and today is one of the nation's leading long-term mental health facilities, offering comprehensive psychiatric treatment and residential rehabilitation on a 400-acre campus.

It has been awarded a Gold Seal of Approval by the Joint Commission, which accredits and certifies more than 17,000 health care organizations and programs in the U.S.

The Kelly family celebrated Rose Hill Center's 25th anniversary on Oct. 19 at the Townsend Hotel in Birmingham. Academy Award-nominated actress and

# SHOPPING SPREE SHOPPING SPREE ORGANIZED BY: SHOPPING SPREE ORGANIZED BY: SHOPPING SPREE Chamber of Commerce SHOPPING SPREE

The Jinglefest committee and the Fenton Regional Chamber of Commerce are excited to announce the 9th annual area Shopping Spree where two people have a chance to win gift cards from local North Leroy St. and Silver Parkway Business District businesses totaling \$500.

To be entered in the drawing, conduct business with one or more shopping spree sponsors listed below from November 27th - December 3rd. Each business will have a drawing container and slips to fill out. The winners of the shopping spree will be notified on Monday, December 4th.

# What a great way to begin your holiday shopping!





**TRI-COUNTY TIMES** I SUBMITTED PHOTO Dan and Rosemary Kelly, who founded Rose Hill Center in Holly 25 years ago, are pictured with actress/mental health advocate Mariel Hemingway when she visited Rose Hill Center on the facility's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary Oct. 19.

mental health advocate Mariel Hemingway delivered the keynote address.

Rose Hill Center is at 5130 Rose Hill Blvd., Holly, telephone (248) 634-5530.



# News briefs

### DUFFIELD ROAD TO CLOSE FOR CULVERT REPAIRS

The Genesee County Road Commission will close Duffield Road between Reid and Hill roads in Gaines Township starting Tuesday, Nov. 28 for replacement of the culvert at Terry Drain. The suggested detour route is Reid Road, Seymour Road and Miller Road. The proposed open-totraffic date is Saturday, Dec. 23. The anticipated completion date for paving and final restoration is June 22, 2018. Motorists are advised to allow additional time to reach their destination.

### Tri-county fundraisers

### **COOKIE SALE/BAZAAR**

Transfiguration Lutheran Church in Fenton will host its 12<sup>th</sup> annual Cookie Sale/Bazaar on **Saturday, Dec. 9, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.** This festive event features a selection of more than 50 different kinds of Christmas cookies with visitors able to select their own varieties for \$6 per dozen. A Christmas bazaar and quilt raffle will also be at the church at 14176 N. Fenton Rd. Santa and his elves will be there to greet everyone. For more information, call (810) 629-7332.

# News briefs

### LINDEN HOLIDAY LIGHTING CONTEST

All homes within the city of Linden limits are invited to join in a decorating contest with Christmas lights. Residents can decorate their homes with lights to participate. Prizes will be given out for first, second and third best lighting decorations. Entry forms are due by Dec. 20 and prizes will be awarded on Dec. 21 by the Holiday Happening Committee. Call the city of Linden at (810) 735-7980 for more information.



### LOOKING BACK at this week in NATIONAL HISTORY

COMPILED BY VERA HOGAN

### NOV. 26

**1941**: President Franklin D. Roosevelt signs a bill officially establishing the fourth Thursday in November as Thanksgiving Day. The tradition of celebrating the holiday on Thursday dates back to the early history of the Plymouth and Massachusetts Bay colonies, when post-harvest holidays were celebrated on the weekday regularly set aside as "Lecture Day," a midweek church meeting where topical sermons were presented.

### NOV. 27

**2005**: In exchange for a multimilliondollar fee, 50 Cent took to the stage at New York City's famous Rainbow Room in the early morning hours of this day in 2005, joining Steven Tyler and Joe Perry of Aerosmith as headline performers at the \$10 million bat mitzvah of Long Island 13-year-old, Elizabeth Brooks.

### NOV. 28

**1520**: After sailing through the dangerous straits below South America that now bear his name, Portuguese navigator Ferdinand Magellan enters the Pacific Ocean with three ships, becoming the first European explorer to reach the Pacific from the Atlantic.

### NOV. 29

**2011**: Conrad Murray, the physician convicted of involuntary manslaughter in the 2009 death of singer Michael Jackson, is sentenced in a Los Angeles County courtroom to four years behind bars. The iconic pop star died at age 50 at his California home after suffering cardiac arrest while under the influence of propofol, a surgical anesthetic given to him by Murray as a sleep aid.

### NOV. 30

**1989**: Richard Mallory, a storeowner in Palm Harbor, Florida, is last seen taking a ride with Aileen Wuornos. The following day, his car — containing his wallet, some condoms, and an empty vodka bottle — was found abandoned in a remote area of Ormond Beach. Nearly two weeks later, his body turned up in a Daytona Beach junkyard with three bullets in his chest. Mallory's murder was the first of seven committed by Aileen Wuornos over the next year. Her case was heavily publicized through television talk show appearances and a documentary, "The Selling of a Serial Killer."

### **DEC.1**

**1955**: In Montgomery, Alabama, Rosa Parks is jailed for refusing to give up her seat on a public bus to a white man, a violation of the city's racial segregation laws. Parks became known as "The mother of the civil rights movement."

### **DEC. 2**

**1777**: Legend has it that Philadelphia housewife and nurse Lydia Darragh single-handedly saves the lives of General George Washington and his Continental Army when she overhears the British planning a surprise attack on Washington's army for the following day. Although uncorroborated, family legend holds that Darragh would eavesdrop and take notes on the British meetings from an adjoining room and would conceal the notes by sewing them into her coat before passing them onto American troops stationed outside the city.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Recyclable materials were salvaged from Pizza Hut and Big Boy before they were demolished.

### **STRIP-MALL** Continued from Front Page

The brochure illustrates two proposed buildings — Building 'A,' which houses these two businesses, and building 'B,' a smaller 8,343-square-

foot building. In addition to parking surrounding the buildings, a 32-space parking lot is also proposed, east of the buildings and behind the existing Sunoco gas station.

The spaces are expected to be available for tenants by summer 2018.



The city of Fenton has to approve any site plans proposed by the developer, before any ground can be broken.

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# Fenton girls swim team's future looks bright with youthful squad

### **By David Troppens**

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

The Fenton varsity girls swimming and diving team lost a good senior class a year ago.

The senior class helped the Tigers accomplish some amazing things. For example, the team had all three of its relays qualify for the second day at the state meet for the first time in school

history, as the Tigers placed 21st at the state meet.

With that senior class gone, most wouldn't have blamed the Tigers if they took a step down in production this fall. Certainly the squad would continue its Metro League dominance, but when it came to state production, the Tigers may take a step down.

That didn't happen. Despite fielding a

state squad that included just one senior nal heat. And when it came to overall (Taylor Shegos) and the rest underclass athletes, the Tigers not only maintained what Fenton accomplished a year ago at the state meet, in some ways they surpassed those accomplishments.

For the second straight season, all three relays qualified for the state meet's second day, finishing from 13th to 16th place in the consolation fiteam performance, the Tigers scored 34 points and finished in 18th place at the

meet overall. Their placing was three better than last season's performance and their point total was just one less point.

### See FENTON on 23A



# Football teams fill three of the first six spots in the Tri-County Top 12 Teams of the Fall

### **By David Troppens**

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789 Why do we do these silly polls

we do at the end of each sports season and at the end of the school year.

These things seemed like harmless, fun stories when the sports staff first started doing them about 10 years ago. Those first years, it seemed making the top team lists was pretty easy. One or two squads stuck out while there may be a handful of other reasonable selections to fill out a list of top five or six teams of a season.

That's not true anymore. Gosh, it seems with each new poll this

TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPENS

Lake Fenton's first-year head coach

Brian McInerney helps his team run a drill

during a recent boys basketball practice.

gets harder and harder selecting not only who should be No. 1, but who should be No. 5 and even No. 12. In this edition we'll list the bottom six of our top dozen. In a future edition we'll conclude with the top six.

No. 12 – Lake Fenton football: For the second straight season the Lake Fenton varsity football team captured a perfect Genesee Area Conference Red Division crown, but this one may have been a tad more surprising than the one in 2016, considering the graduation of several strong players. It also didn't help that the Blue Devils lost their season-opener at New Lothrop. But

after that setback, the Blue Devils strung together eight straight victories, including more lopsided victories than SEC teams have against non-league foes in November. Lake Fenton was impressive. However, the squad lost to Williamston in the first round of the playoffs after beating the same team during the final week of the regular season. That's why the Blue Devils are No. 12.

No. 11 – Linden football: Very few teams in the state of Michigan have a longer playoff streak than the Linden Eagles, and the streak grew one more season to 16 this season. See TOP 12 on 23A



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPENS

The Fenton football team is our highest ranked football team on our Tri-County Top 12 Teams of the Fall. Read our story to find out where they finished.

# Blue Devils preparing for a new season under McInerney

### **By David Troppens**

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789 When the prep boys basketball season began on Nov. 13, there was no area team that had more new faces than the Lake

Fenton Blue Devils. Last season's team made school history, advancing to the Class B state quarterfinal round for the first time ever. But the kids that made that possible - players like Cameron Parker, Isaac Golson, Andrew Foerster, Kyle Steffey, Parker Mitchell, Liam King, Dalon Earnest and Jalen Miller — have graduated. Heck, even last season's head coach, Jake Erway, has departed and has been replaced by Brian

### McInerney.

So as practices go, the team will be learning about each other and its new head coach. So far, McInerney says the process has gone just fine.

"Everything is going great," McInerney said. "I couldn't be more excited. The kids are fully invested. We have better than 10 players for every team in the program and they are all working hard."

McInerney knows the Flint area basketball scene. He's coached at various levels at Flushing, Powers, Mt. Morris and Grand Blanc. However, this season will be the first year he's the varsity coach of a program. And by observing one of his

practices, it's apparent he's a high-energy guy. As the team practices, McInerney rarely stops. He's in constant motion, and quite frequently a key member in helping with one of the drills the team may be running.

Not too many faces return from last season. Two key members returning are the Tomczyk twins - Luke and Matt. However, that doesn't bother McInerney, who already sees a close group.

"They are a really tight-knit group, even throughout the grade levels, and it's fun to see," McInerney said. "They are a tightknit group of kids who want to give back to the process."



### TOP 12 Continued from Page 22A

The Eagles started the season with a nice 27-22 victory against Flushing and capped the regular season with a 53-7 victory against Owosso. In between the Eagles won five other games, but did lose the two contests most expected they would before the season began - games against Fenton and DeWitt. A 7-2 regular season record isn't what put Linden in the poll. It took earning a district title by beating Bay City Central and Brandon to do that. The Eagles ended up losing to Farmington Hills Harrison in the regional championship round but still managed one of its nicest seasons in a long while, recording nine wins for the first time since 2012.

No. 10 – Fenton football: The Tigers were overwhelmingly dominant en route to capturing their eighth straight Metro League title this fall. The closest any Metro squad came to Fenton was Flushing's 52-35 loss to the Tigers. However, the regular season ended with a loss to Waterford Mott, tempering some of the endof-the-regular season enthusiasm. It seemed to build up again with a crushing 42-16 win against Carman-Ainsworth in the opening round of the districts, but then Fenton lost to Metro foe Flushing 28-21 in the district title. We placed Fenton No. 10 ahead of Linden due to the headto-head match up.

No. 9 – Lake Fenton boys cross country: This is where the tough selections begin. We have teams that didn't win league titles but had strong postseasons and vice versa. Rarely did a team combine the two, making our task to determine this list a challenge indeed. Lake Fenton boys cross country is the first of these teams that fit the above description. The Blue Devils were never really expected to win its league title considering the state runner-up in Division 2 Corunna were their competition in the GAC, but the squad didn't let that phase them too much when the postseason came. Lake Fenton qualified for the Division 2 state meet for the second straight season by taking third at regionals and then placed 15th at the state meet.

No. 8 – Linden girls cross country: As the poll continues, it will become pretty obvious why cross country probably deserves to be considered the best sport in the tri-county area (with our apologies to contenders wrestling and girls soccer). The Lady Eagles are the second of five area cross country teams that will be included in our list. The Linden girls only finished third in the Metro League, but made a splash once again during the postseason. Linden placed second at the regional meet and then took 13th overall at the D2 state meet. With a better showing in the Metro, the Eagles would've ranked higher.



### HOCKEY

Bay Area Thunder
 5, Fenton/Linden 4:

The Griffins were tied 4-4 until the Thunder scored a power-play goal with 6:56 remaining in the contest, earning the Bay Area Thunder their first lead of the game and the victory overall. The Griffins led 1-0, 2-1 and 3-2 and each time the Thunder came back to tie the game. The Griffins got goals from Josh Appleberg, Paxton Cowan, Jake Thompson and Dylan Conte. Goalie Loren Jones made 24 saves in net. The Griffins (0-3) enjoyed a 34-29 shots-on-goal edge.

Bay Area Thunder 8, United 3: The Holly, Lake Fenton, Kearsley and Brandon co-op hockey team (0-2) got single goals from Gerald Balcer, Alec Copeland and Dru Sweers in the loss to the Bay Area Thunder. Aiden Fick and Landon Kash had assists.

In net, Tyler Keller made 18 saves.

**TRI-COUNTY TIMES** I FILE PHOTOS Linden girls cross country team (above) placed eighth in our fall poll while the Lake Fenton boys cross country team ranked ninth.

**No. 7 – Holly boys tennis:** The Holly varsity boys tennis team ranks right there among the most dominant teams in Metro League history, right next to the Holly girls tennis team and the Fenton girls swim team.

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM



**TRI-COUNTY TIMES** I SUBMITTED PHOTO Fenton's varsity girls swimmers take some time in between days of the Division 2 state swim meet to go to Lake Michigan and enjoy a cool dip in the cold November waters.

### FENTON

Continued from Page 22A

Take into consideration that all but Shegos, who was the state runner-up in diving for a second straight season, returns next year, and it's easy to see why the Tigers are excited about their future.

"Getting all three relays back for the second day is an evolution of our goals," Fenton varsity girls swimming and diving coach Brad Jones said. "The goal next year is to stay and make it in the top eight. A lot of the girls have never been here and to compete that second day was a great experience. Now they know where we can be next year, the year after that and that sort of thing."

One of the underclassmen state team members competed in an individual event during the second day. That was diver Carly Kozlowski, who placed 14th with a score of 388.75. Two other underclassmen competed in individual events as well but were unable to make it to the second day. Junior Caitlyn Dailey took 27th in the 100 butterfly prelims (1:01.83) while sophomore Lillie Kromer placed 29th in the 100 freestyle (55.31). The other underclass state performers were juniors Sabrina Hall and Megan Mallard; and freshman Abigail Dolliver.

Next year's goal will be trying to get the time standards needed to qualify for the state meet earlier, so the squad can train based on the fact they have already qualified. What this means is the team can train harder longer and then rest only for the state meet, or what swimmers call the taper.

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM





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