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VOL. 24 NO. 1

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2017

2016 NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

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Weekend Times

SUNDAY EDITION



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

"The Librarian" by James Havens was installed in May on the lawn of the Jack R. Winegarden Library. There is an effort underway to purchase the sculpture for the city.

Library Board hopes to raise \$12,000 to buy popular sculpture

■ Fenton wants 'The Librarian' to be permanent

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

Fenton — There's a woman standing in front of the Fenton Jack R. Winegarden Library, reading a book. She never looks up and she never tells anyone to be quiet.

"The Librarian" is a sculpture made by artist James Havens, and the Fenton City Library Board, a subcommittee of the Downtown Development Authority (DDA), now wants to purchase it for \$12,000 by fundraising community-wide.

"The kids love it," said Bobbie Sweetman of the Library Board. "She's cool and she belongs at our library."

Nancy Draves, a member of the Fenton City Council and the council liaison to the Library Board, said, "We want to use private donations only to purchase the sculpture. We don't want to use any of the taxpayers' money ... the kids love this little librarian out in front."

Draves said kids love to take photos with the sculpture.

See **LIBRARIAN** on 9A



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Following the completed Streetscape Project and subsequent developments, traffic downtown is consistent even during midday hours.

Streetscape Project was well worth the wait

■ Foot traffic has been boon for local shopping and dining

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

"I don't know what Fenton

looked like before, but it is beautiful now. I love coming to the downtown."

That statement was made last week by a Fenton House employee of five months, who had never been to downtown

Fenton before the Streetscape project was completed.

Although it took a few years from conception to completion, the merchants, restaurant owners and the public are very happy with what the Streetscape

project has done for the city. A couple of downtown businesses could not survive the nearly year-long construction, the others held their ground and are now flourishing.

See **DOWNTOWN** on 14A



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

The first two weeks of December are the busiest of the year for postal workers.

Christmas mail deadline

■ Busiest days of the year for USPS are here

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

If you haven't mailed your out-of-town packages yet through the United States Postal Service, you may soon feel like Mr. Scrooge rather than Santa Claus when you head toward the post office.

See **MAIL** on 13A

Condos could come to Lahring Road

■ As many as 90 new units could be built

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

Developer Kal Nemer of Swartz Creek wishes to rezone property he owns at 4486 Lahring Rd. and turn the area into a traditional condo development. The property is west of the Lake Fenton High School, between Fairbanks and Odell roads.

See **CONDOS** on 9A

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“Here's a Christmas tip from my wise grandmother. The most wonderful and glorious mess in the world is the mess created in the living room on Christmas morning. Don't clean it up too quickly.”



“Illegal immigrants are using our resources, taking our jobs, filling our schools, getting free health care at our hospitals, overcrowding our prisons, and we are paying for it all. Now they murder our children and a liberal jury in San Francisco says they are innocent. This is insanity.”



“I see Genesee County Animal Control in Flint is having a few adopting events now through Dec. 23 for cats. Dog are only \$10 for a license. They are hoping to place 100 dogs and cats. Let's empty the shelter. What a gift that would be.”



COMMENT
OF THE WEEK

“My daughter had an abortion when she was very young. I cannot tell you how difficult the holidays have been over the years as I wonder why I am missing out on the joys of being a grandparent due to the liberal lies that promote abortion.”

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Sexual harassment — what is it?

■ Mutual flirtation not considered sexual harassment

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

With dozens of high-profile men losing their jobs after allegations of sexual harassment, many people are questioning what constitutes sexual harassment.

“It’s something that has been going on for a long time, but recently the outpouring of individuals who are discussing it in the news media are making a lot more individuals more comfortable talking about it and reporting it,” said Nancy Chinonis. Chinonis is an attorney with Cline Cline & Griffin in Flint, who regularly handles sexual harassment cases at the 7th Circuit Court in Genesee County.

“Sexual harassment” is illegal sex discrimination that violates Michigan law, the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act, and federal law, the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Under the law, sexual harassment usually pertains to the workplace, and grotesque or threatening comments on the street or in public are prosecutable under harassment laws. (See sidebar.)

Sexual harassment, according to the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act, means “unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct or communication of a sexual nature” as it pertains to employment, public accommodations, public services, housing or education.

Sexual harassment in the workplace can involve someone per-

forming a sexual act in exchange for keeping a job, a condition for an employee to receive a perk, or creating a hostile work environment. This is the situation with many of the sexual harassment allegations against celebrities.

“Usually a stray comment is not enough to have a case ... but if that comment or action is so substantial or pervasive, it may be.”

Nancy Chinonis
Attorney

Former NBC Anchor Matt Lauer reportedly made lewd sexual comments about female colleagues and invited a female employee to his office and showed her his genitals, among other allegations. Many of the 83 women who accused Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein of sexual harassment and assault said he would

ask to meet with them in a hotel room to talk about casting them in a major film.

Technology is another avenue for harassment. Sending sexual images through phone or email, sexting, or emailing crude jokes could be sexual harassment.

A lawsuit normally involves at least two separate instances.

“Usually a stray comment is not enough to have a case ... but if that comment or action is so substantial or pervasive, it may be,” Chinonis said.

There are two types of workplace sexual harassment — quid pro quo and creating a hostile working environment. “Quid pro quo,” mean-

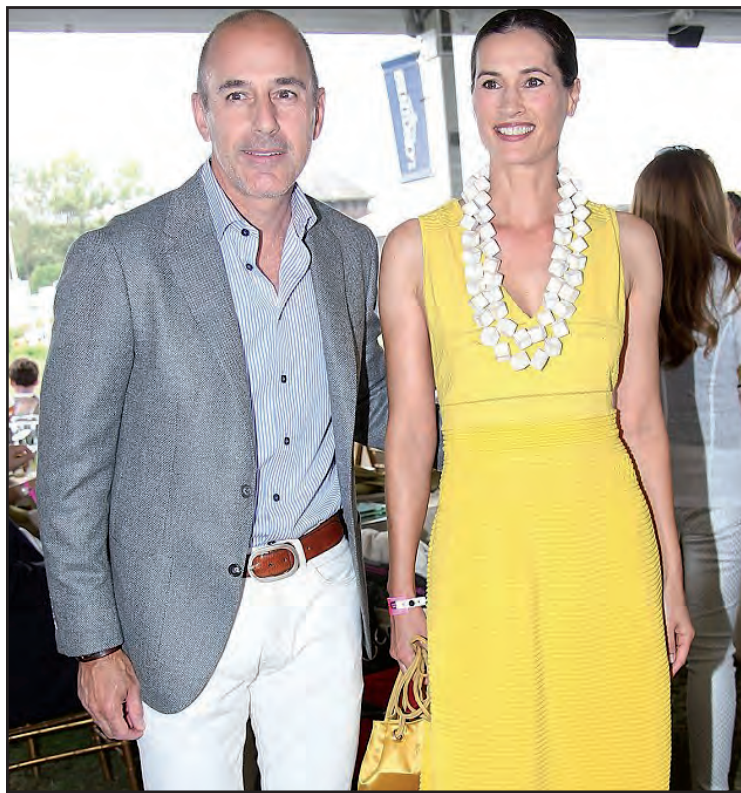


PHOTO: EURWEB.COM

Matt Lauer, the ousted former NBC news anchor, was accused of multiple sexual harassment incidents, and his wife, Annette Roque is reportedly filing for divorce.

ing something for something, is a scenario when sexual favors or advancements are done in exchange for something else, like getting hired, keeping a job, or getting a promotion.

Creating a hostile working environment occurs when someone sexually harasses someone by telling them sexually offensive jokes or comments, or engaging in unwanted sexual contact.

Mutual flirtation, a hug between friends and a compliment on physical appearance between colleagues are generally not considered sexual harassment.

“If you’re going to have a lawsuit, one of the things you have to prove was that it was unwelcome,” Chinonis said. Saying “no” or reporting it to a supervisor or the human resources department will prove that it was unwelcome.

body parts or acts, and are obscene in nature, it could be considered sexual harassment.

“If you’re civil, I don’t think you really have to worry,” Chinonis said.

If an employer knows about the harassment, and fails to do anything to stop it, they could be liable. Chinonis recommends that people being sexually harassed, or employers, call an attorney to discuss the law and what can be done.

Harassment

According to Michigan Penal Code 750.411, harassment is conduct directed toward a victim that includes, but is not limited to, repeated unwanted contact that would cause a reasonable individual to suffer emotional distress and that actually causes the victim to suffer emotional distress.

Stalking is also illegal, along with uncontested contact, which can be approaching or confronting someone in a public or private space, appearing at their residence or workplace, entering into their property owned, leased or occupied by that individual, contacting them via phone, email, or mail, and sending an object to that individual.



PHOTO: MONEY.CNN.COM

Harvey Weinstein, former Hollywood producer, is now dealing with a class-action lawsuit by six women after being accused by 83 women of sexual harassment and assault.

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Andrew Heller

andrewheller@tctimes.com

Come *Heller* high water...

• **Love that Time** made the women of the “Me, Too” movement who spoke up about the Weinsteins, Spaceys, Franken and Moores of the world as its “Person of the Year.” Fitting, too. Sexual harassment, like rape, is about power. And these women spoke truth to power, which is what brave people do.

• **I miss the** days when Time, Newsweek and other print news magazines actually mattered, don’t you?

• **Does knowing that** the mystery company coming into Durand is a coal-powered steel factory change your enthusiasm at all?



Andrew Heller
FEATURED COLUMNIST

It does mine. Jobs, great. Pollution from a carbon fuel that most other industries are moving away from, not so great.

• **The polls in** Alabama show a dead heat more or less. So maybe shame isn’t dead after all in Alabama. But aren’t polls meaningless after they were so very wrong during the presidential election?

• **My beef with** polls is their lack of honesty. Pollsters love to tell us how scientific they are and how the results have a margin of error of three or four points either way. In my mind, since polls measure human sentiment, they have a margin of error of 100 percent, making them more voodoo than science.

• **Putin says he’s** running for re-election. I propose we spend every dollar in the U.S. Treasury buying Facebook and Twitter ads against him. Who’s with me?

• **Was anyone else** not surprised when the Lions couldn’t even knock down their former stadium? Every Lions fan I knew said, “Typical.”

• **Be honest: Don’t** you sometimes feel stupid singing a lot of Christmas tunes? Usually, I’m OK with singing inane songs, but sometimes when it’s Rudolph, Frosty, Santa Baby or 12 Days of Christmas, I think, “This is the best we’ve got?” Yeah, I need to lighten up.

• **The next and** supposedly last Star

Wars movie comes out next week.

My reaction: Meh. The new films are bigger and better than the originals in many ways, but they lack the heart and humor, which is why “The Last Jedi” isn’t on my must-see list for Christmas. It’s on my eventually see when I get around to it list.

• **How was I** the last person on the planet to know about Bitcoin? A year ago it was trading in the \$700 range a share. This week it surpassed \$14,000 a share. A lot of fortunes were made this year. Mine wasn’t one of them. Then again, a lot of fortunes will be lost, too, when the inevitable fall occurs.

• **Don’t know what** a Bitcoin is? Neither did I. I looked it up. It appears to be a made-up currency that almost nobody accepts but now everybody wants. So it’s essentially Monopoly money. But then again, so is “regular” money. By itself, dollar bills have no value. We’ve just collectively chosen to pretend that these bits of metal and paper are worth something so we’re not exchanging chickens, which used to be a form of currency. I’ve now thoroughly confused you, so my work here is done.

• **“An investment in** knowledge pays the best interest.” — Benjamin Franklin

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.

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

SORRY, HELLER, NO trickle up, especially for jobs. Fifteen percent tax cuts for corporations will enable more investment and the two silent monsters — artificial intelligence and robots.

WHEN I READ every year on the bombing of Pearl Harbor, which was tragic, the only person that can be blamed for it happening is FDR. He and his advisor knew that a Japanese attack was probable. The two operators who spotted the aircraft were told not to sound the alarms.

TO CLEAR THE record, no one ever told you that you could not say ‘Merry Christmas.’ The ‘war’ on Christmas is fake news and is more propaganda to make white people believe that they are losing their seat at the ‘societal’ table.

I SAID REAGAN created NAFTA. I did not say he signed it. Learn to read. I am fully aware that Clinton signed it. He was also a bad president. He wasn’t as bad as Reagan but he was close.

I HONESTLY CANNOT believe you people are still whining about the NFL.

THE HISTORIC LINDEN Mills building should be a crown jewel for the town of Linden, not an eyesore. Will the city paint it before it falls down?

THREE SEPARATE TIMES each day for reduced speed limit on Silver Lake Road in front of the high school is a great speed trap. Most schools have a blinking light on a sign to indicate reduced speeds

in effect. Why not here?

HOW IS ADDING one trillion dollars to our already out of control national deficit a good thing?

I AM A member at the Loose Center and I appreciate the fact that the staff cares enough to monitor free items, so that there is enough for all of us. It only takes one person to spoil it for the rest. With more than 6,000 members, common sense should prevail.

ARMY / NAVY FOOTBALL game players took a knee for their brothers and sisters fighting overseas for the right to protest.

TO ROY MOORE supporters, 40 years ago was the ‘70s. It was not OK to have a relationship with a 14-year-old. Once a pedophile, always a pedophile.

JFK’S MOST FAMOUS quote is ‘Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country.’ Today, Democrats are using that quote backwards.

I SECOND THE motion on repaving in front of the Linden post office. How much worse can it get? Another spot is on Hickory just east of Main. Let’s get that DPW to work over there.

I WONDER IF any of you Trump Christian conservatives have ever considered that Jesus would have been a Democrat. Help the poor and the sick. Feed the hungry. Love your neighbor. Maybe you’re on the wrong track.

HOW CAN ALL Democrats and Republicans come together as one as Hot-liner suggests, when the President himself divides us with his unorthodox and mean-spirited tweets?

FOR ALL THE liberals screaming treason, read the U.S. Constitution so you can be informed. Treason is the only crime mentioned in the constitution.

THANK YOU SILVER Lake Road Equestrian Center for your open house on Saturday. It was very informative, educational and entertaining.

TO PUT THE turn signal debate to bed — Michigan MCL 257.648 states that a ticket can be issued for not signaling a turn or lane change.

HOW IS IT that we can’t afford to properly fix our roads/sewers in the city, but we can worry about replacing all the LeRoy Street road signs because the ‘r’ isn’t capitalized?

See **HOT LINE** throughout Times

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How do you feel about the progress in Fenton?

Compiled by Gracie Warda, intern

streettalk



“I think that the new buildings going up are cool, it shows growth in the town. The population, too.”

Tobis Richmond
Fenton Township



“I love it. It’s so much more user-friendly.”

Mary Lou Ackerman
Fenton Township



“It’s scary. So much is happening that it’s overwhelming.”

Ferne Renwick
Tyrone Township



“I think it will crowd us more, but it will create more jobs, too.”

Rebecca Richmond
Fenton Township



“It’s great because we have all kinds of different restaurants.”

Nick Andrukates
Fenton Township

Come in and shop with the hometown 'Sears guys'

■ Jeff and Tim Stone of Sears Hometown Store in Fenton invite you to 'shop in the store with us' this holiday season

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

With Christmas just two weeks away, your best deals in appliances, lawn and garden equipment, snow throwers and tools come when you walk through the doors of the Sears Hometown Store in Fenton.

"Our specialty is being able to help you in person, face-to-face," said Tim Stone, co-owner of the store with his brother, Jeff.

SUMMARY

■ Now is the best time to stop in at Sears Hometown Stores, to get appliances, tools, lawn and garden equipment and more, still in time for Christmas.

"Sure, you can buy all these things online at SearsHometownStores.com, but we specialize in helping you through every aspect of your purchase — from the time you order it

until you are using it at home."

The benefit of coming into the store is that Jeff and Tim can work with you at their computer to see exactly what is available in the store and at the warehouse. They can walk you through the ordering process, while getting you the best possible deal on price.

Many appliances are available for purchase right at the store, although some customers prefer to order special features, colors, finishes, etc. Don't forget that Sears Hometown Stores is the only retailer that carries all top 10 brands of appliances.

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"We can have your order ready for you in just a few days, in plenty of time for Christmas, as long as the product is readily available from our warehouse," Tim said. "We'll have your delivery date right on our computer."

If you've been doing your shopping research online for appliances or other major purchases, you can buy it through Sears Hometown Store and have it shipped right here. You can either pick up your purchase when it is delivered to the store or you can take advantage of a full-service delivery option and basic hook-up.

There are also a number of varieties of tractors, mowers and a large selection of tools ready to buy off the showroom floor at Sears Hometown Store in Fenton.

One popular new program that's making it easier than ever to buy is the store's new leasing service. "It's a no-credit alternative option for your purchase," Tim said. "It's helpful for people in the process of getting a home mortgage, as well as for those who'd prefer not to use credit."



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

The staff at the Sears Hometown Store in Fenton is ready to assist area shoppers with all their questions and purchases. From left are sales associates Mark Coleman, Ryan Edgeworth and Blayne Fowler, and owners Tim Stone and Jeff Stone.

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LF marching band raises more than \$50,000 for new uniforms

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

The Blue Devils will have brand new marching band threads to perform in after raising \$51,250 in just under four months to buy new uniforms.

The Lake Fenton Marching Band accomplished this by fundraising and accepting donations from area businesses and community members. Their goal was to raise the necessary funds by Jan. 1, 2018.

"Of that \$51,000, we raised \$15,000 from donations and pillow sales. We acknowledged every donation on social media and the campaign website," said Ryan Gonder, director of bands.

The current uniforms are 15 years old, according to the band's fundraising website, but have a life expectancy of 10 years. The uniforms have surpassed expectations and are now showing age.

"Our band comprises one-quarter of the Lake Fenton High School population and acts as a national ambassador for our school community," according to the band's fundraising website. The band did not have enough uniforms to meet the needs of its anticipated 2018-2019 enrollment.

The new uniform jackets were designed with lighter weight and brighter color poly fabric that is breathable and treated to wick away stains as well as perspiration.

SUMMARY

■ The Lake Fenton Marching Band raised more than \$50,000 to buy new uniform jackets.




SUBMITTED PHOTO

This photo by David Morey shows off the look of the new Lake Fenton Marching Band uniforms.

The band will purchase 250 uniform jackets with the money raised, and the musicians will continue to use their current pants and hats. Each jacket costs \$205.

Lake Fenton Band Pillows were also offered as a fundraiser. Five dollars from each pillow purchase is being donated to Clara's Hope Orphan Care Ministry. The band pre-sold 200 pillows that will be made out of the existing uniform jackets.

"The Lake Fenton Band Pillows are a wonderful and creative keepsake for current and former band families who would like to own a piece of our band's history," Gonder said.



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Linden teachers raise nearly \$5,000 for area families

■Linden Follies in its 22nd year

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

Linden — Linden teachers and staff raised nearly \$5,000 for Christmas Express and Angel Tree at the 22nd annual Linden Follies at the high school.

One of the most popular at Linden schools, the event features teachers performing for students and their families. Each school created a skit and was introduced by the host and Linden Middle School teacher, Elizabeth Molner.

Teachers of Linden Middle School performed an act based on what it's like to substitute teach, dealing with students on their phones, stumbling through readings and asking to go to the bathroom right after class starts. Hyatt Elementary teachers did a dance to "Harder, Better, Faster Stronger" by Daft Punk with black lights and neon decorations on their clothes.

Laughter filled the auditorium when Santa shook his belly when Linden High School teachers lip synced and danced to Christmas versions of popular songs.

SUMMARY

■ All the money raised from the Linden Follies goes to Christmas Express and Angel Tree, organizations that help feed needy families in Linden and deliver toys for Christmas.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

The Linden Administration Building staff lifts Superintendent Russ Ciesielski as they perform "Monkey Business" before the crowd on Thursday Night, Dec. 7, during the afternoon Linden Follies.

Superintendent Russ Ciesielski did a skit with the administration building staff about how everyone wants your attention when you're superintendent, and he decided to be lazy. They lip synced and danced to Bruno Mar's "The Lazy Song."

The audience loved the bus garage's skit. Drivers and employees walked on stage with items they "found" on the bus, including kids' toys, one ski, a weed wacker, a kitchen sink, a dog, and cupcakes with a bite taken out of each. In between acts, the teachers would

read "mean tweets" about themselves, much to their students' delight. All the money goes to Christmas Express and Angel Tree. Christmas Express gives food to families in the Linden School District, and Angel Tree gifts new toys and clothes to children.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

(Above) Linden Elementary performs to "Freeway of Love" by Aretha Franklin, using racing flags and "Cars" cardboard cutouts. (Top) The Linden Follies is a substantial fundraiser for charities run by Linden Community Schools. Each building in the district performs a sketch before a sold out crowd at Linden High School.

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Team Patterson volunteer Kelly Kenney assists students at the Holiday Shop at Patterson Elementary on Thursday, Nov. 7. Students (from left) are Lyla McCallum, 6, Miles Phifer, 6 and Mason Day, 5.

SANTA SHOPS

Fun gift shop experience for the kids

■ Elementary school students thrilled to shop for mom, dad and siblings

By Tim Jagielo

tjagielo@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795

Holly — The youngest Patterson Elementary students are getting a little help with their first personal shopping experience, buying Christmas presents for family members, and maybe themselves.

Some select trinkets for mom or stepdad, while others scrawl messages on coffee cups for a personalized holiday gift.

Santa shops are an elementary school tradition. Students take their allowance or some spending money from parents, and use it on a micro-holiday shopping experience for their family.

Most local elementary schools, whether this week or next, will see these little shops spring up in their media centers or a spare room.

Kristen Taylor is secretary for Team Patterson, the parent-teacher organization (PTO) for the school. For them, this is one of the largest fundraisers of the year.

As of Wednesday, they had brought in \$3,000 in profit, after paying the vendor, Polar Pals, which supplies items rang-

ing from 50 cents to \$10. These include erasers, model trucks, mini flashlights and notepads.

On Thursday morning, the preschool children, kindergartners and remaining first-graders shopped, assisted by volunteers.

Some of the students are sponsored. The Patterson staff raised \$350 to sponsor 35 students who otherwise wouldn't be able to shop. Team Patterson agreed to match for an additional \$350, or 35 more students. "Our goal is that everyone in the school will leave out of there with something for their family," Taylor said.

At North Road Elementary in Fenton, they also try to help students who come up short for the shopping day, said North Road PTO Vice President Kelli Kniffel.

For her students, it's more about learning how to budget and make

decisions, than fundraising. "Mostly it's just for kids to learn how to budget their money and have fun," she said.

Overall, students bring about \$20, and leave with as many items as they can squeeze out of that amount, and maybe spend a little money on themselves.

Kniffel said anything that lights up, or has a team logo on it, is popular. "And any slime," she said with a laugh.

"Our goal is that everyone in the school will leave out of there with something for their family."

Kristen Taylor
Team Patterson secretary



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Young shoppers can also customize a mug or ornament with paint pens.

LIBRARIAN

Continued from Front Page

"The Librarian," made out of metal, has been previously rented by other communities. Other communities now want to buy the sculpture, but Fenton has "dibs" because the city is currently renting it, said Michael Hart, assistant city manager and DDA director. The Fenton lease ends in April 2018. Hart said they have the right to try to purchase any of the rented sculptures.

"We're under the gun on this. We've got to really know by spring," Draves said.

Havens also created "The Butterfly," which is near the gazebo on LeRoy Street, and "The Airplane," which is installed in Freedom Park along Shiawassee Avenue.

DDA and Library Board member John Strayer, who also is chairman of Sculpture Subcommittee, said the Midwest Sculpture Initiative rents out the

sculptures to different municipalities.

"The Librarian' will add to the business vitality of downtown, and it's in the perfect spot in front of the library," Strayer said. "The silhouette, the side view of this sculpture is identical to the international directional signs for the library. He based the sculpture on that."

There's a sign on Ellen Street with the symbol pointing to the library.

Strayer said once the lease has expired, another community is probably

going to buy the sculpture and they don't want that to happen.

The board plans to fundraise December through March 1. There will be buckets at the library for donations, and informational posters will be placed in the community center, library, Fenton City Hall, and The State Bank. Checks can be sent to the Fenton City Office, 301 S. LeRoy St., Fenton, MI, 48430, with "The Librarian" noted on the checks.

“We want to use private donations only to purchase the sculpture.”

Nancy Draves

Fenton City councilwoman

CONDOS

Continued from Front Page

The property was rezoned to Planned Unit Development (PUD) in 2007 and currently is approved for 90 detached single-family homes, said Tom Broecker, Fenton Township deputy clerk/operations manager. Nemer applied to revise PUD conditions to allow attached and detached units in the area.

During the Nov. 9 Planning Commission meeting, Nemer said they would like to build four basic floor plans that range from 1,200 square feet to 1,600 square feet. The 1,200 square feet and the 1,400 square feet units would have two bedrooms and the 1,600 square feet plans would have three bedrooms.

The entire area is 74 acres total, and the development area is 27.93 acres, leaving 32.4 acres of open space, according to Kim Carlson of Flint Surveying and Engineering.

John Tucker, Fenton Township treasurer and planning commissioner, said the master plan allows for low density residential, and said the maximum number of units allowed under the original PUD would be 90 units.

Developers had planned for 120 units, but Tucker said that was too many. "If they brought the number of units down it shouldn't be that difficult to at least get

the preliminary approval," Tucker said.

Nemer said they are planning to build the units 30 feet from each other.

The units are attached only at the garage, which Nemer said provides privacy and the ability to build one unit at a time. The porches and sidewalks are designed so neighbors walking on the sidewalks can easily interact with people on their porch. Maintenance would be conducted by the developer with a \$70 to \$100 per month homeowner association fee.

Nemer told the board he has developed 1,000 of these units in Swartz Creek, Flint Township and Owosso. Nemer said they market these condos mostly to people 65 years or older, and most have no children.

At the Nov. 9 meeting, a few neighbors spoke about concerns relating to privacy, traffic on Lahring, and drainage of stormwater. Other neighbors raised questions about noise and wildlife.

Tucker said water from the south side of the road travels underneath the road and under the 4486 Lahring Rd. property, where it goes into a county drain.

Tucker expressed concerns about traffic, and said the Genesee County Road Commission could require a study.

A public hearing on the zoning change is scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 14 at the Planning Commission meeting.

SUMMARY

■ The Fenton Township Planning Commission is considering a zoning change pertaining to building condos on Lahring Road.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

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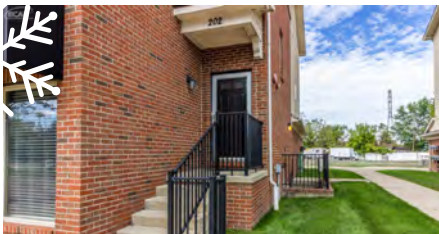


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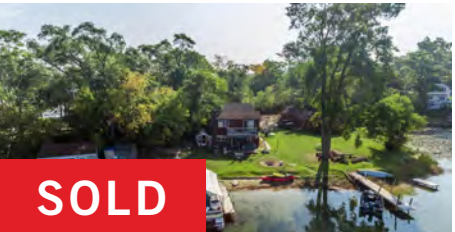
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LINDEN | \$265,000

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BYRON | \$180,000

Group seeing success with pathway idea

■ Trails for cyclists, runners, walkers, wheelers could be complete in 2020

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

In just two short years, you'll likely be able to take your family bike rides right here in the tri-county area, on our own multi-use paved trails.

The summer of 2020 isn't that far away, and it's the target date that organizers of the Linden-Argentine-Fenton-Lake Fenton Pathway Trails steering group (LAFF) have for seeing these trails become a reality.

"It takes a minimum of five years to put a trail on the ground," said Victor Lukasavitz, LAFF founder and past chairperson. "We're already ahead of the game."

The latest completed steps have been:

- Preliminary design engineering on the Fenton-to-Linden section, with monies raised from private donors

- A total of \$440,000 has been raised by Argentine Township through federal, state and local grants, with another \$700,000 pending. The trail has now been extended to Haviland Beach Drive and Lobdell Road, to service the high volume of students in the Linden school district.

- Tremendous citizen support puts this project on top of a "selection pile" for grant money.

- Partnership last fall with Southern Lakes Parks & Recreation

LAFF is a fundraising, non-profit group, but can't place a trail anywhere, said Lukasavitz. "We have no legal standing on our own."

Because SLRP is a recognized park

board, its name can go on easement documents and grant applications. "This partnership will give us another acceleration," said Lukasavitz. "Their involvement opens the opportunity to acquire matching federal and state grant dollars."

Why does a project like this take so long?

Gaining momentum with citizenship support took many months, and provided the foundation for local municipalities to get on board.

Trail routes run through three municipalities, several school districts and require working with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, as well as the Genesee County Road Commission.

All this adds to the complexity of the project, but also makes it more attractive on a state level. The group is interested in a possible connectivity through Seven Lakes State Park and into the village of Holly for a longer regional pathway system.

"The Michigan DNR likes this regional approach," said Ron Stack, LAFF chairperson. "This is the largest regional project of our time."

Fundraising efforts are now at the top of the priority list. The Fenton-to-Linden section of pathway is projected to cost \$2.4 million. Due to matching grant opportunities, the project will require an estimated \$750,000 to be funded locally.

This is the first time that the group has made an organized appeal for year-end funding, partnering with the Community Foundation of Greater Flint. To make a donation, go to LAFFpathways.com, which leads directly to a donation button.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Key of Hope Choir performs "Joy to the World," topping of a brief performance at Divine Yoga Studio in Fenton on Wednesday, Nov. 6.

Community rallies for Key of Hope Choir

■ South African children's choir visits Fenton, touches hearts

By Tim Jagielo

tjagiolo@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795

Fenton —The voices of 25 young choir members vibrated the walls of Divine Yoga Studio for the span of three songs, bringing some of the members of the small audience to tears.

The Key of Hope Choir travels to the tri-county area every other year from their home in Durbin, South Africa.

The choir is essentially ambassadors for their non-profit Christian organization, which

is dedicated to educating and empowering the impoverished youth of South Africa.

"They come and sing from the hope inside them," said John Rigg with Key of Hope, to the small audience after mentioning the impoverished conditions the performers come from. The choir members are mostly teens and they tour to raise awareness for the program, and to raise funds.

They performed on Wednesday, Dec. 6, at the yoga studio as a special thank you to the studio and the community.

See **CHOIR** on 13A

WATCH THE VIDEO



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MAIL

Continued from Front Page

That's because soon you will be running up against the busiest package mailing date of the year.

"It very well could be Monday (Dec. 11)," said Fenton Postmaster Mara Boyle.

"Every day, we're getting a ton more packages. Our package volume in December is two to three times greater than the other months of the year."

The USPS has been delivering giant online retailer Amazon package orders since 2015, making it necessary for the post office to deliver packages, not mail, seven days a week.

You'll also notice during this holiday season that your mail might be delivered later than usual. "We deliver mail all the way up to 8 p.m.," said Boyle.

To avoid the mad holiday rush, Boyle suggests that you mail early, not just early in the month but also earlier in the day. "It gets busier later as the day goes on," she said.

She reminds people to:

- Make sure they are using the proper address
- Update their mailing lists
- Mark mailing boxes on both sides
- Have gifts packaged and ready to mail

You can also save time and ship packages from home. According to USPS.com, you can pay for postage and ship a printing label right from your own printer, and schedule a package pick-up right from your home or office.

You can also buy stamps and other products at USPS.com, saving yourself time standing in line at the post office.

A new service called Informed Delivery allows you to digitally preview your mail and manage your packages scheduled to arrive soon. Residential consumers can use Informed Delivery to receive digital previews of their incoming, letter-sized mail pieces through an online dashboard and email notifications.

Because of this busy holiday mail season, Boyle said the USPS in Fenton is still looking for seasonal help to sort, process and deliver mail. Apply on USPS.com.

Two local package delivery businesses will have the busiest days of the season this coming week.

Kirk Howard, owner of The UPS Store in Fenton, said he anticipates that the busiest days to ship packages will be Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 11 and 12 and Dec. 18 and 19. "Even the 20th and 21st will be busy," Howard said. "The last day to ship for arrival before Christmas will be Dec. 21, using Next Day Air. The sooner people get in to ship their packages, the

cheaper it will be for them to mail."

Nationally, volume is up 5 percent over last year for UPS deliveries, from 712 million packages to more than 750 million. Volume was so heavy after Cyber Monday that UPS packages were delayed between one and one-and-a-half days, Howard said.

The four full weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas helped make this year's heavy volume of packages easier to handle at Goin' Postal in Fenton. "You don't get the mad chaos when it's spread out like this," said co-owner Mike Clabuesch. "The volume has been about the same, but it's been easy to

handle. And now, the biggest volumes are just beginning."

He expects that Dec. 15 to 19 will be the busiest at his store, but he tells customers not to worry. "We're always prepared for it," he said. "You can spend 20 minutes in line at the post office or one minute in line at Goin' Postal. We're just ready for it."

“Our package volume in December is two to three times greater than the other months of the year.”

Mara Boyle
Fenton postmaster

HOT LINE CONTINUED

THE STOCK MARKET is at an all-time high. Consumer confidence is at a 30-year high. Home ownership is up for the first time in 25 years and job growth is a highest even in 16 years. And best of all, GDP is around 3.3 percent. Obama never achieved this level of GDP.

OVER THE LONG Thanksgiving weekend, fans flipped the bird to the NFL because TV ratings were down between 9 and 25 percent across the board. It's sad, but apparently Americans are fed up with the disrespect being shown to our country.

JUST A REMINDER to everyone that Jesus is the reason for the season. Without Him, there is no Christmas, St. Nicholas or salvation. So maybe make an effort to go to church and celebrate His birth. Merry Christmas to everyone.

ORWELL'S '1984' WAS a warning, not a manual.

CHOIR

Continued from Page 12A

Studio owner Sheila Crider and studio patron Tonja Slosar, along with the community, raised enough money six months ago to buy the entire choir clothing for the seven-day tour.

On top of that initial amount, they surprised the choir with an additional "love offering" of \$2,600. "We were blown away at how much was given," said Crider, who gives credit to the community, and to God. "We're just being His vessel. We're just being His hands and feet."

Aside from performing three songs, the audience was able to ask the children how far they have to travel to get to school, and a little about their daily life in South Africa.

They also offered the teens encouragement and thanked them for the performance. In the end, everyone prayed together, and ate pizza.

To learn more, or to donate to the cause, go to www.keyofhope.org.

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UPCOMING HOLIDAY MAIL DEADLINES

These are the send-by dates for expected delivery before Dec. 25: (actual delivery date may vary, based on origin, destination and other conditions)

- Dec. 14:** USPS Retail Ground
Dec. 19: First-class mail
Dec. 20: Priority Mail
Dec. 22: Priority Mail Express

DOWNTOWN

Continued from Front Page

Karen Piacentini, owner of Fenton's Open Book, is one of them.

"We are doing fine and so glad the city did the Streetscape," she said. "I'm on the Beautification Commission, too, and we did a great job on all the flowers."

Piacentini said she has customers from all around, many patrons from out-of-town. "The walkability is great," she said. "It's a beautiful place to be."

"We talk to a lot of people from out of town," she said. "They love coming to Fenton."

Tara Wakeham, owner of The Iron Grate, a long-time gift shop downtown, said, "We definitely see more traffic, people walking especially in spring and summer. It's so nice to see people out enjoying our community. There's definitely a lot more foot traffic."

Asked about downtown parking, Wakeham said parking has always been an issue since few parking spaces were gained as a result of Streetscape.

"I don't think people know they can park on both sides of LeRoy and Adelaide streets," Wakeham said. "It is legal."

Mark Hamel co-owns several restaurants in downtown Fenton, including The Laundry, CRUST, El Topo and Fenton Relief & Resource, a neighborhood speakeasy.

"Business is up overall for us from last year," Hamel said. "I think the Streetscape has helped. There definitely are more people walking around, particularly in the evenings. I think downtown has become more of a destination."



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

More people than ever before came to downtown Fenton for the 2017 Jinglefest celebration. After the parade, local residents and visitors from far and wide stayed to patronize the many shops and dine at restaurants downtown.

People drive downtown to walk their dogs, run or walk, then get back in their cars and go home."

Hamel said he never really thought Fenton has a traffic problem, but said, "Then again we really never have because no one was downtown. That is changing."

"When I first started the Bastille Day Run I would go out on Friday evenings and hang a couple of dozen French flags on the light posts," he said.

Since the flags would come down on Monday, Hamel thought they would be

OK out there until Monday.

"There literally was not a car downtown on Friday night," Hamel said. "I would leave the posts for the banner right in the street at the curb knowing they would be there the next morning undisturbed. It was like this for at least 13 to 14 years."

"It wasn't until the last few years that I noticed other people downtown while I was hanging the flags," he said. "This year I could not find a place to park to drop off the posts, bananas, water, etc. for the following morning."

"That is amazing...and wonderful," he said. "I would never ever complain about that. And the best part is...people will park on the outskirts of town and walk because it is so pleasant to do so."

"The one negative is that with all this new business and activity downtown there are a lot more workers working downtown and people living downtown, which is, of course, what we want. That means a lot more cars parked for a long period of time," Hamel said.

"Today, the entire community center parking lot is full during the day, primarily because of workers at CRUST

STREETSCAPE RECAP

The city of Fenton's "Streetscape" project, which began in the spring of 2015, was completed a year later. It has won several awards for excellence. The awards can be viewed at Fenton City Hall. The \$4.7-million project was paid for by the DDA, with additional federal and state grant dollars.

The plan called for renovating and upgrading the streets, curbs, sidewalks, approaches and equipment like benches and trash receptacles.

The project on LeRoy Street extends from Elizabeth Street to Second Street, with reconstruction on Shiawassee Avenue, Mill and Ellen streets, and some work on Caroline Street.

The total reconstruction work, which involved complete replacement of the road and included infrastructure like storm sewers underneath, took place from Adelaide to LeRoy Street on Shiawassee, and on LeRoy, from Elizabeth to Silver Lake Road.

The streets have been upgraded with everything new from the curb to the storefront, with scalloped pavers, and wider sidewalks designed to bring pedestrians closer to store fronts.

New trees have been planted with lighted planters. The exact positions of the trees will prevent blocking the fronts of any businesses.

Instead of angled parking, there is now parallel parking.

Final touches on the project, such as landscape restoration and additional planting, etc., took place in the spring of 2016.

(150 plus), The State Bank (150), Cornerstone businesses and the other businesses along LeRoy (at least two cars per business — another dozen or two, not including the new restaurant going in). Having said that, we probably are looking at a parking concern and one that needs to be looked at," Hamel said.



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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Everyday Baby on 1545 N. LeRoy Street in Fenton was purchased by Laura Slaughter and her husband Adam on Oct. 1, 2017. They carry children's clothing from preemie to 6X, toys and baby equipment.

Local family takes over children's re-sale store in Fenton

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Everyday Baby has been in business in Fenton for three years and is now under the new ownership of Laura Slaughter and her husband, Adam, of Fenton Township. The store is at 1545 N. LeRoy St., Suite B, next to Travel Brokers in Lake Winds Plaza, Fenton.

What do you specialize in at Everyday Baby?

We are a re-sale shop, not a consignment shop. We buy gently used/like new items, all by appointment. We sell clothing sizes "preemie" to 6X and equipment — everything you need for an infant, toddler and preschooler, except we don't sell cribs or car seats, for safety reasons.

How did you get into re-sale?

We've got lots of experience with kids, with four kids of our own: Trevor,

19, Tyler, 15, Justin, 7, and Layla, 2. I worked for the former owner, Dustie Villareal, one or two days a week, and also had worked at several other re-sale shops along the way. I just got interested in this kind of business.

What's new at the store?

We're just doing small things to make it our own. We've updated the look inside, and have brought in a few new products, including local craft items like wall growth charts, crocheted hats and diaper cover sets for newborn photography. Layla spends lots of time with me at the store.

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WHAT YOU MISSED in the MIDWEEK TIMES

Compiled by Vera Hogan

The following are stories you may have missed in the **Wednesday, Dec. 6, Midweek Times**. To subscribe and receive both the Midweek and Sunday Weekend editions, please call (810) 629-8282.

Linden shooting plot suspect could get prison time

Kody Brewer, 17, one of the defendants in the alleged October 2015 Linden shooting plot, has violated his probation a second time and could now go to prison.



Local father of six a \$1 million Lotto winner

A Tyrone Township father of six played the right numbers to win a \$1 million Powerball game.

Shapiro sentenced to 11 months probation

Actions that occurred over Memorial Day weekend finally make it in front of judge.

Couple robbed, beaten, doused with gasoline during home invasion

A 63-year-old Holly Township man was injured during a home invasion at 1 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 30.

Police&Fire report

TRAFFIC STOP LEADS TO MULTIPLE CHARGES

At 1:30 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 7, a Fenton police officer initiated a traffic stop on a vehicle traveling 46 mph in a 30-mph zone on LeRoy Street. As the officer approached and spoke with the driver, he saw a clear bag filled with marijuana on the front passenger seat. The officer also detected a strong odor of intoxicants. The driver admitted to drinking prior to driving and registered a .11 percent on the Breathalyzer. The driver, a 36-year-old Flint resident, was arrested for operating a vehicle while intoxicated and possession of marijuana. During a search of the vehicle, the officer found a loaded 25-caliber pistol underneath the center console, as well as prescription pills. The driver's CPL was expired and the pistol was not registered. The driver was lodged overnight at the police station and the vehicle was impounded. Police are awaiting multiple warrants against the man.

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MICHIGAN VOTES

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

MichiganVotes.org is a free, non-partisan website created by the Mackinac Center for Public Policy to provide concise, non-partisan, plain-English descriptions of every bill and vote in the Michigan House and Senate. This report was released Friday, Dec. 1.

Senate Bill 478: Ban drivers license renewal if three unpaid parking tickets

To repeal the Jan. 1, 2018 sunset on a 2014 law that reduced from six to three the number of unpaid parking tickets a person can have before the Secretary of State will not renew a drivers license until the tickets are paid along with a \$45 "clearance" fee. The bill would leave the more stringent regime in place permanently.

Passed 26 to 12 in the Senate

Sen. David Robertson (R-Dist. 14) ☒ YES
Sen. Mike Kowall (R-Dist. 15) ☒ YES
Sen. Joe Hune (R-Dist. 22) ☒ YES
Sen. Jim Ananich (D-Dist. 27) ☒ YES
Sen. Ken Horn (R-Dist. 32) ☒ YES

Senate Bill 275: Ban police sex with prostitutes

To repeal an exemption that allows police to have sex with a prostitute as part of an investigation.

Passed 91 to 17 in the House

Rep. Joe Graves (R-Dist. 51) ☒ YES
Rep. Hank Vaupel (R-Dist. 47) ☒ YES

House Bill 4332: Increase animal cruelty penalties

To authorize up to seven years in prison for certain "aggravated" animal cruelty crimes, and up to 10 years for killing or torturing an animal with the intent to impose control over or cause mental suffering to a person.

Passed 92 to 15 in the House

Rep. Joe Graves (R-Dist. 51) ☒ YES
Rep. Hank Vaupel (R-Dist. 47) ☒ YES

House Bill 5071: Require colleges and universities to disclose loan details to students

To require all colleges and universities in the state to provide students with an annual estimate of their total loan balance, the potential total payoff amount, monthly repayment amounts and more.

Passed 93 to 14 in the House

Rep. Joe Graves (R-Dist. 51) ☒ YES
Rep. Hank Vaupel (R-Dist. 47) ☒ YES



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LOOKING BACK *at this week in* NATIONAL HISTORY

COMPILED BY VERA HOGAN

DEC. 10

1963: Frank Sinatra Jr., who was kidnapped in Lake Tahoe, California is allowed to talk to his father briefly. The 19-year-old man, who was trying to follow in his father's footsteps by pursuing a singing career, was abducted at gunpoint from his hotel room at Harrah's Casino and taken to Canoga Park, an area of Southern California's San Fernando Valley. After the brief conversation between father and son, the kidnappers demanded a ransom of \$240,000. Although the crime was originally scheduled for November, JFK's assassination delayed the kidnappers' plan.

DEC. 11

1936: After ruling for less than one year, Edward VIII becomes the first English monarch to voluntarily abdicate the throne. He chose to abdicate after the British government, public, and the Church of England condemned his decision to marry the American divorcee Wallis Warfield Simpson. On Dec. 12, his younger brother, the duke of York, was proclaimed King George VI.

DEC. 12

1980: American oil tycoon Armand Hammer pays just over \$5 million at auction for a notebook containing writings by the legendary artist Leonardo da Vinci. The manuscript, written around 1508, was one of some 30 similar books da Vinci produced during his lifetime on a variety of subjects.

DEC. 13

2000: Seven convicts break out of a maximum-security prison in South

Texas, setting off a massive six-week manhunt. The escapees, dubbed the "Texas Seven" by the media, overpowered civilian employees and prison guards in the maintenance shop where they worked and stole clothing, guns and a vehicle. The men left a note saying: "You haven't heard the last of us yet."

DEC. 14

1863: President Abraham Lincoln announces a grant of amnesty for Emilie Todd Helm, his wife Mary Lincoln's half sister and the widow of a Confederate general. The pardon was one of the first under Lincoln's Proclamation of Amnesty and Reconstruction, which he had announced less than a week before. After her husband was killed, Emilie passed through the Union lines in December 1863, accompanied by her daughter Katherine. They were brought to the White House under the president's direct orders after Emilie had declined to attest to her loyalty to the Union when she was detained at Fort Monroe, Virginia.

DEC. 15

1973: Jean Paul Getty III, the grandson of American billionaire J. Paul Getty, is found alive near Naples, five months after his kidnapping by an Italian gang. J. Paul Getty, who became the richest man in the world in 1957, had initially refused to pay his 16-year-old grandson's \$17 million ransom but finally agreed to cooperate after the boy's severed right ear was sent to a newspaper in Rome.

DEC. 16

1977: "Saturday Night Fever," a movie that ignited the disco dance craze across America, along with the movie career of its star, John Travolta, opens in theaters. Travolta earned a Best Actor Academy Award nomination for his performance as 19-year-old Tony Manero, who during the week toils in a Brooklyn, New York hardware store and on the weekend dons a white suit and becomes king of a discotheque called 2001 Odyssey.

Source: History.com

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Police&Fire report

DON'T FALL FOR PHONE SCAMS

Leon Cross of Linden is warning others about a phone scam. He said approximately two years ago he received a call from an unknown man claiming that Cross' grandson had broken his nose in a car accident in Ohio and that he needed to wire money from Walmart to help. The call scared Cross and he talked to an employee at Walmart who explained that it was a scam. When Cross called the unknown man back as directed, the scammer hung up on him when he would not provide a confirmation number on wiring money. Cross said he received a similar call on Saturday, Dec. 2. Again the caller said Cross' grandson had broken his nose in a car accident Friday night, this time in New York. Since Cross was with his grandson Friday night, he knew immediately that the call was a scam and told the caller that. The caller hung up on Cross. Cross filed a report with the Linden police hoping to prevent anyone else from becoming a victim in this scam.

our town

Meet
**PAM
NICOLL**

- 'Educator of the Year' at Linden Community Schools
- 'Maize and Blue' fan
- Aunt to 36 nieces and nephews

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Pam Nicoll has been a teacher for 22 years and was recently named "Educator of the Year" at Linden Community Schools by the Fenton Regional Chamber of Commerce. She currently teaches third grade at Central Elementary. She grew up on Runyan Lake and then moved to Byron. After graduating from the University of Michigan, she moved to Oklahoma for six years. She earned her master's degree at Marygrove College.

How did you know you wanted to become a teacher?

When I was a student at Byron High School, my parents talked to me about going into engineering because I excelled in math and was taking drafting classes. I always felt teaching was my calling and I've never regretted my decision.

How is teaching today different than it was when you started 22 years ago?

The changes are too numerous to list, even in the past 10 years. I'm teaching my third-graders a curriculum I wasn't exposed to until middle school or later.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Pam Nicoll has been teaching for 22 years, and her classroom is decked out with maize and blue colors to celebrate the University of Michigan.

"Taking care of kids is a common bond that is shared in my family."

Pam Nicoll
Linden Community Schools teacher

The most difficult part is administering the MSTEP (a state test) to 8- and 9-year-olds who have no exposure to a keyboard but are expected to take a high stakes test on the computer. With the use of iPhones, iPads and tablets, students don't have keyboard skills and it takes all year to teach this skill, just so they can perform well on the MSTEP.

How are kids the same, and different, in the last two decades?

For the most part, kids are still the same, they want to please and meet my expectations academically.

What do you wish would remain the same back in "the good 'ole days" when you were a kid?

We all wish kids had the freedom we used to have. I remember being outside, riding bikes, and swimming, going house to house until dark without the fear of anyone approaching us.

What do you think parents should know most about their kids from your perspective as their teacher?

JUST SAYING, UNDER Obama I never got a tax cut. I never got an increase in Social Security. However, he did pay back \$6 trillion for the mortgage loan. Yet, he's saying that we can't afford a tax cut for me. I haven't had a tax cut since Reagan was president. The hypocrisy. Bring on the tax cuts.

WHAT'S HAPPENED TO the nativity scene that's always been in front of the Fenton Community Center for years? It's not there this year. Did a couple people complain? What's next? No Christ in Christmas? This is sad. (Editor's note: According to city officials, the nativity scene is put up after Jinglefest activities.)

Kids just want time and undivided attention. They want you to ask about their day, what they are learning, what are they struggling with at school. I have actually had kids tell me they want their parents to get off their phones and talk with them.

What are your favorite hobbies?

I'm a Michigan fan and do love cheering for U of M any time of the year. My classroom is decked out in all 'Maize and Blue.' I like to cook and bake. I have a very large family and spend most breaks traveling to see them. My favorite hobby is strolling the beaches of Gulf Shores, Alabama.

What's your favorite thing to do on Christmas break?

Traveling to see Gulf Shores to see family. It revives my soul to spend time with them and gets me ready to return in January. I also love not having to check papers or work on lesson plans for a short amount of time. Most of my evenings during the school year are spent working on those things.

What is something about you that most people likely don't know?

I have 36 nieces and nephews. Taking care of kids is a common bond that is shared in my family. I have a brother and sister (and their spouses) who have adopted 10 kids through foster care. Many of my relatives are also in education. My niece, a fourth-grade teacher, was named 'Teacher of the Year' in Waco, Texas.

Ask Andy
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Andy Alger
Keller Williams Realty

Q: I am ready to list my house, but I heard that it is best to wait until spring. Is that true?

A: This is a very popular real estate myth! In reality, winter is one of the best times to sell your home! Buyers tend to be more serious buyers. They aren't "just looking" when they have to brave the wind, snow and cold just to see a house. They need to buy a house quickly. Also, there is typically less inventory for serious buyers to see. That means that if your home is priced right, the chances are high that your house will sell quickly and for top dollar! Houses are often festively decorated and looking their best right before the holidays. Take advantage of the timing and get your home on the market!

Watch Andy answer these questions & more online at www.AndyAlger.com

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HOT LINE CONTINUED

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Summerfield era begins for Linden Eagles

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

So how does a wrestling team with just four seniors and mostly sophomores open their season with a new head coach?

The Linden varsity wrestling team answered that question by competing in an assembly dual against one of the best teams in the state in front of 2,500 John Glenn students on Wednesday.

CONTINUED AT ► **TCTIMES.COM**



Linden's Avery Jacobs (right) competes in a match last season.

Galvin's success symbolizes Fenton wrestling's progress

■ Fenton goes 1-1 during first quad meet

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

Fenton — All Will Galvin's life he had one message he heard from his parents constantly.

TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPENS

Fenton's Brady Triola fights out of a takedown in his win against Montrose.

"When I was two years old, my mom would drill this quote in my head — 'Never give up and have a good attitude.' It literally has carried me to where I am. I try the hardest in practice. I run as heck. Some guys have been wrestling since they were 2-years-old.

I didn't do that. I have wrestled for four years. I started my freshman year and sucked. But I've worked so hard and look where I am now."

Galvin is a senior tri-captain on Fenton's up and rising wrestling squad, a program that's last four years seemingly mirrors his career with the program.

CONTINUED ONLINE AT

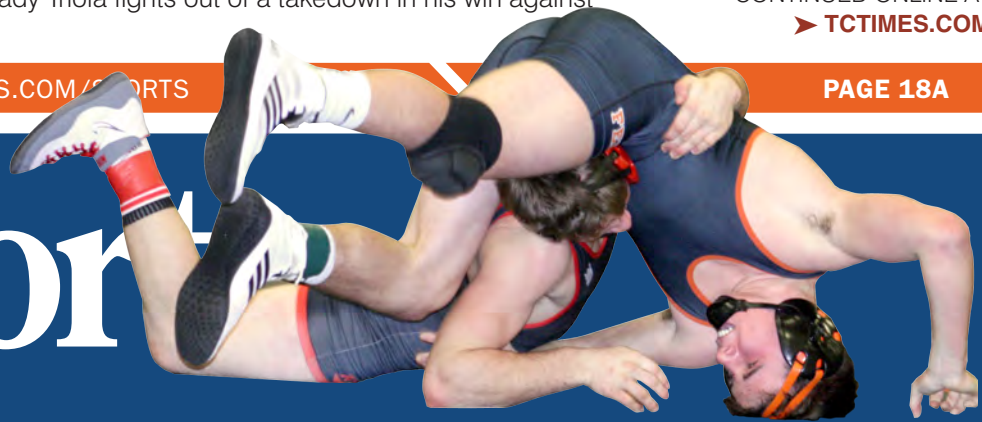
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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2017

WWW.TCTIMES.COM/SPORTS

PAGE 18A

Sports



Boys hoops opens with area rivalry

■ Strong first quarter leads Bronchos past Blue Devils, 57-40

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com

Holly — It was a case of two coaches learning about their inexperienced teams at Holly High School Tuesday.

Holly varsity boys basket-

ball coach Lance Baylis had only three players returning with a great amount of varsity experience, while Lake Fenton's first-year head coach Brian McInerney was adjusting to life with his new Lake Fenton squad, which also has a completely new look to itself after last year's Class B state quarterfinalist team.

TRI-COUNTY TIMES | MARK BOLEN

Lake Fenton's Cody Schramm (left) attempts a shot against Holly's Hunter Jackson during the Bronchos' 57-40 victory against the Blue Devils on Tuesday.

The end results — Holly took control with a strong first quarter and held on for a pretty solid 57-40 home victory against the Blue Devils. Lake Fenton struggled mightily in the first quarter, trailing 17-2 after the first period. However, the Blue Devils were able to work the ball underneath more as the game continued on, giving McInerney reason to feel encouraged by the end of the night as well.

CONTINUED ONLINE AT

► **TCTIMES.COM**

Griffins avenge loss, earn first win, 5-2

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

The Linden/Fenton varsity hockey team started the season by getting blown out a couple of times.

It was understandable due to the team's youth. But as the season has continued, the Griffins have gotten better. Recently, they've battled to some tight contests, including a 5-4 loss to the Bay Area Thunder.

But now the trend has changed once again. The Griffins are now winners. The co-op hockey squad earned its first victory of the season, by avenging the previous loss to the Bay Area Thunder, earning a 5-2 victory on Wednesday.

CONTINUED AT ► **TCTIMES.COM**

Fenton girls record first victory of season

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

The Fenton varsity girls basketball game did good stuff on both sides of the floor in a road game at White Lake Lakeland High School on Tuesday night.

All 11 players scored and the defense held Lakeland to single-digits in every quarter, leading the Tigers (1-1) to an impressive 56-26 victory against the Eagles.

Fenton led just 10-8 after one quarter, but blew the game open during the two middle stanzas. Fenton outscored Lakeland 15-4 and 18-5, in the second and third quarters, respectively.

CONTINUED ONLINE AT

► **TCTIMES.COM**

Blue Devils remain hot, defeat Lady Mavericks, 47-40

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com

The Lake Fenton varsity girls basketball team is off to an outstanding start.

And that start got a little better on Tuesday night.

The Blue Devils defeated Class A Milford on the road by a 47-40 margin. Lake Fenton has won two of its first three games, and its loss came in overtime.

The Blue Devils trailed 10-2 early and 12-7 after one quarter, but then outscored the Lady Mavericks in each of the final three quarters. The Mavericks' lead was cut to 22-20 by halftime. Lake Fenton's 17-point third quarter, sparked

by three 3-pointers, enabled the Blue Devils to take a 37-34 lead into the fourth quarter. The Blue Devils assured themselves of the victory by holding Milford to just six fourth-quarter points.

"With foul trouble and a little sluggish play, we subbed and began to play some solid defense," Lake Fenton varsity girls basketball coach Brian VanBuren said. "We picked up our intensity and from that moment on, we outscored them 45-30. We were able to get some things from our press and we had a lot of contributions from several kids."

CONTINUED ONLINE AT

► **TCTIMES.COM**



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Tri-County's 2016-17 Boys Basketball Preview

HOLLY BRONCHOS

Coach: Lance Baylis
2016-17 Record: 9-12 overall, 6-8 in Metro. Lost to Linden 54-52 in opening round of districts.

Team summary: Last season was a tough one for the Bronchos, who experienced their first losing season since 2006-07. The team is young this season, but appears headed in the right direction. Six players return with sophomore Noah Baylis being the center-piece. He can score from just about anywhere when he's hot. Helping him out will be seniors Andrew Spak and Isaiah Franklin. The other seniors are Kyle Haines, Grant Tooley and Martin Hughes.

Sophomore Dylan Hignite provides size with his 6-foot-5 frame while Austin Pellett is another young sophomore forward

who should either start or remain in the rotation. The rest of the players on the roster are Benjamin Gramer, Kyle Haines and Gavin Ambrose.

Coach Baylis says: "I think this will be one of my best defensive teams. This summer we held teams to very low point totals. Contrary to my other teams when we scored a million points, this team will be one that holds other teams to low points."

Prediction: The Bronchos should be one of the contenders this winter. Baylis says there isn't a game on his schedule that the Bronchos won't have at least a 50 percent chance of winning. We agree with him. Expect a top-three finish in the league.



NOAH BAYLIS

Holly's Baylis should be one of the area's top offensive players this winter.

LAKE FENTON BLUE DEVILS

Coach: Brian McNerney
2016-17 Record: 20-6 overall, Class B district and regional champions. Lost in state quarterfinals to Ludington 69-43.

Team summary: The Blue Devils lost most of the players that made last season's magical 20-6 season possible, so it's fair to say Lake Fenton is in a rebuilding mode. First-year varsity coach Brian McNerney also is new to the program.

First-game starters included guards Cody Schramm, Hunter Schramm and Matt

Tomczyk. Kamren Bailey and Gary Turgeon are the final two starters. Of that group, only Tomczyk ample playing time a year ago. In the team's opener, Dezwan Spicer displayed a nice touch from behind the three-point arc while Matt Turgeon was solid inside the paint. Kyle Pelc and Blake Pelc also saw time on the floor with Kyle scoring six points. Others on the team include Luke Tomczyk, Ethan Dunckel and Mike Rubey.

Coach McNerney says: "I look forward to working with these kids.

They are great kids. ... It's a work in progress, obviously. Ultimately the progress is headed in right way."

Prediction: Lake Fenton should be given a year to adjust under McNerney. Losing so many strong players from a year ago makes this look like a rebuilding season. If the Blue Devils are able to finish .500 this season, that would be an outstanding accomplishment. This is a year for establishing the future more than anything.

LINDEN EAGLES

Coach: Chris Root

2016-17 Record: 9-14 overall overall. Won Class A district. Lost to Stoney Creek in regional semifinal 53-39.

Team summary: Root's first year ended successfully, but now he has his second challenge in as many years. While some players return, there will be some major changes with the squad this winter. Garrett Strang returns which is a nice place to start. Nick Koan is an improved player from a year ago while Noah Giacomantonio, Hayden Mahakian, Corbin Sines and Aidan McCarthy also return. So that's a decent nucleus returning. There are some talented young players being added to the mix. Freshman Blake Lund could be the best basketball player to come through Linden in a long time while Seeger DeGayner and Brendan Miller also have great offensive talent. Travis Klocek and Luke Kinney will play roles on the squad while Andrew Armstrong is another new addition.

Coach Root says: "We have higher expectations as a team this year. We've talked about that as a team. We talked a lot about it during the summer and during scrimmages. The kids are in agreement too. They expect more, and that's good."

Prediction: This year the Eagles should be gunning for a record above .500 this winter, and it seems very doable. The squad impressed last year by capturing a Class A district title, the first in school history. That postseason run has the squad looking at the program in a lot more positive light than in the past.

FENTON TIGERS

Coach: John Gilbert
2016-17 Record: 11-10 overall, 8-6 in Metro. Lost to Grand Blanc in overtime in district semifinal 51-46.

Team summary: The Tigers have seven players returning from a team that won 11 games a season ago, so there should be some room for cautious expectations this winter.

A.J. LePage returns at the point and sophomore Addison McIntosh should be one of the team's top scoring options. Look for Nolan Lawrence, David Petryga, John Sage, Brandon Bossenberger and Edward Farrell to have a chance to get into the rotation.

There will be four new players — Nick Cairnduff, Brock Henson, Logan Brill and Logan Welch. The Tigers should be a bit more athletic than in past years.

Coach Gilbert says: "The kids are working hard. We have a good mix of kids that got minutes and last year and those that will be getting their first minutes this year. I have a good group of guys that know what to expect when it comes to a varsity basketball game."

Prediction: Enough returns to think that the Tigers can compete with the top half of the teams in the Metro. Matching last season's 8-6 Metro mark would be a nice starting point.

Linden boys basketball goes to OT with Howell

Linden's season-opening contest at Howell had a little bit of everything in it.

The Linden varsity boys basketball team overcame an early deficit, took a lead and then had to battle into overtime before dropping a tight 74-68 contest at Howell High School Tuesday night.

CONTINUED AT ► TCTIMES.COM

LF wrestlers lose in dual

The Lake Fenton varsity wrestling team has had its share of great seasons in recent years.

But this winter the squad is headed through a bit of a rebuilding season. The squad opened its season with a 60-22 loss at Rochester on Wednesday.

CONTINUED AT ► TCTIMES.COM

PREP REPORT

BOYS BASKETBALL

► **Lakeland 53, Fenton 36:** The Tigers were outscored 23-6 in the second quarter, resulting in the season-opening loss at White Lake Lakeland on Monday.

Fenton enjoyed a 9-7 lead after the first quarter, but couldn't holding it.

Trailing 30-15 entering halftime, the Tigers cut the deficit to 10 midway through the third quarter, but were unable to get any closer. Addison McIntosh led the Tigers with 14 points.

WRESTLING

► **Holly at Birch Run:** The Bronchos defeated Meridian 51-24 and lost to state-ranked Birch Run 38-24.

Andrew Kolman (103), Nate Young (119), Wyatt Scribner (135) Will Greener (171), Collin Dallwitz (215) and Blake Querio (285) each went 2-0 at the event.

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240 N. FENWAY DR. • FENTON, MI 48430 ♦ 810.750.8291

*Additional Exclusions May Apply | Offer Expires December 20th 2017

CLOSEOUT

— 2017 CHEVY —

NO GM DISCOUNT NEEDED!

2 LEFT!



2017 CHEVROLET CRUZE PREMIER
 WAS \$27,210 • SAVE \$6,522
 Stk# 8142933 **NOW \$20,688**

LAST ONE!



2017 CHEVROLET COLORADO
 WAS \$21,940 • SAVE \$5,877
 Stk# 1319331 **NOW \$28,688**

LAST ONE!



2017 CHEVROLET SUBURBAN
 WAS \$76,445 • SAVE \$13,458
 Stk# 1191631 **NOW \$62,987**



CHEVY

EMPLOYEE

DISCOUNT

FOR EVERYONE

YOU PAY WHAT WE PAY.

NOT A CENT MORE.



\$205

MO

FOR 24 MONTHS

2018 EQUINOX LT

STK# 1161063



\$289

MO

FOR 36 MONTHS

2018 TRAVERSE

STK# 1139751



\$149

MO

FOR 33 MONTHS

2018 TRAX

STK# 1173484



\$229

MO

FOR 24 MONTHS

2018 SILVERADO

4WD DOUBLE CAB

STK #116198



\$231

MO

FOR 36 MONTHS

2018 MALIBU

STK# 6136370T



\$143

MO

FOR 24 MONTHS

2018 COLORADO

4WD CREW CAB

STK# 111685

DISCLAIMER: Lease prices are based on 24 month or 36 month as noted, 10,000 miles/year, gm employee pricing, \$2000 cash or trade down plus normal upfront fees of tax on payment, title doc, and plate fees due at signing. Other terms and pricing available, see dealer for details. Rebates included in lease pricing include GM lease loyalty. Prices valid through 1/2/2018.

CHEVROLET

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CERTIFIED
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Wow!

2016 CHEVROLET MALIBU 1LT 1LT
Stk#180216..... \$15,064

GREAT DEAL!

2015 CHEVROLET EQUINOX LT 2LT
Stk#180210A..... \$16,700

Wow!

2016 CHEVROLET MALIBU LIMITED
Stk#180223..... \$11,900

Sharpi

2014 CHEVROLET CRUZE
Stk#180221..... \$9,900

HUGE SAVINGS!

2014 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 1500 LT
Stk#1276411A..... \$27,500

HUGE SAVINGS!

2015 CHEVROLET EQUINOX
Stk#130012A..... \$13,900

GREAT DEAL!

2014 FORD ESCAPE TITANIUM
Stk#1275558A..... \$12,500

Sharpi

2013 CHEVROLET MALIBU LTZ 2LZ
Stk#6250726A..... \$9,200

GREAT DEAL!

1999 FORD RANGER
Stk#1106421B..... \$1,900

Wow!

2011 CHEVROLET IMPALA LT
Stk#1109262B..... \$5,900

HUGE SAVINGS!

2015 CHEVROLET TRAVERSE LT CLOTH 1LT
Stk#180214..... \$20,685

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SALES HOURS

Mon & Thurs: 8:30am - 8:00pm
Tues: 8:30am - 6:00pm
Wed & Fri: 8:30am - 6:00pm
Saturday: 10:00am - 4:00pm
Sunday: CLOSED

SERVICE HOURS

Monday: 7:00am - 8:00pm
Tues - Fri: 7:00am - 6:00pm
Saturday: 8:00am - 2:00pm
Sunday: CLOSED

**AFFORDABLE,
QUALITY, CERTIFIED
SERVICE!**

“Patrick Sassine is always professional and does whatever it takes to support a good service experience.”

-Rod K. of Fenton

**UP TO
\$100 BACK
ON ANY SERVICE**

Get instantly approved* when you apply for a BuyPower Card® at your dealership. You could qualify for a one-time **statement credit** in the amount of your first dealership purchase, up to \$100††

*Credit Approval required. Terms and conditions apply.
††You must apply via servicecardapply.com. You are eligible to receive this promotion within the first 30 days of application approval. This one-time credit will appear on your 1st, 2nd or 3rd statement and will be in the amount of your first dealership purchase, up to \$100, on service, parts, or accessories. Offer ends 12/31/17

ALWAYS FREE

- SHUTTLE SERVICE
- BATTERY INSPECTION
- WIFI
- COFFEE
- CHECK ENGINE LIGHT SCAN
- ① BRAKE INSPECTIONS
- KID'S PLAY AREA

CHEVROLET

CERTIFIED SERVICE

GENUINE PARTS