

# Local cash registers ‘jingling’

■ Area retailers appreciate hometown shoppers’ loyalty

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

This last week before Christmas is not only a busy time for shoppers, it’s also a race to the finish line for local retailers who are counting on strong end-of-the-year sales.

Depending upon the type of retailer, holiday sales can represent as much as 30 percent of annual sales, with jewelry stores reporting the highest percent, according to the National Retail Federation.

Ronny Medawar of **Medawar Jewelers** in Fenton is very pleased so far with holiday sales.

See **RETAILERS** on 17A

## SUMMARY

■ Local retailers are hoping for strong sales during the final week before Christmas. Some businesses do up to 30 percent of their annual sales during the holiday season.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Mike Zelley of Grand Blanc Township would likely have an easier time shopping online. Instead, he navigates the sidewalk snow with his wheelchair because the assistance he gets from Eclections sales associate Debbie Renshaw makes it worthwhile. Also, “you’re supporting local jobs and the economy,” he said. Zelley has shopped for his wife at Eclections for years, and gets clothing and jewelry all at once.



INSIDE  
B SECTION  
LAST  
MINUTE  
GIFT IDEAS

VOL. 24 NO. 11

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2016 NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

\$1.00

# Weekend Times

SUNDAY EDITION



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | HANNAH BALL

Linden City Council is planning to replace the stairway outside the Linden Mill Building, and upgrade the HVAC system.

## Linden Mill Building in dire need of improvements

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

**Linden** — On Monday, Dec. 11, the Linden City Council accepted two bids to make different improvements to the Linden Mill Building.

These upgrades are a precursor to larger rehabilitation projects the city is planning for the building. “It’s the safety issues that we’re addressing first,”

See **LINDEN MILL** on 20A



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | HANNAH BALL

Dr. Nicole Wax addresses the Linden City Council on Monday, Dec. 11 to discuss the Union Block property.

## Owner presents Union Block property plans

■ Developer seeks financial support from city for possible three-story, mixed-use structure

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

**Linden** — At the Monday, Dec. 11 Linden City Council meeting, Nicole Wax spoke to the councilors about her plan to develop the Union Block property.

See **UNION BLOCK** on 19A



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FENTON POLICE DEPT.

A Fenton couple’s disabled Saturn four-door car was struck by a train in downtown Fenton Thursday morning. They were able to abandon the car just before impact.

## Train hits car at downtown crossing

■ Couple watch helplessly as car thrown off tracks, into light post

By Sharon Stone

sstone@tctimes.com; 810-433-6786

A Fenton couple escaped injury Thursday morning after their car was struck by a train.

See **TRAIN** on 11A

TEXT  
YOUR  
HOT LINE  
810-771-TEXT



“Army/Navy football did not ‘kneel’ at their game in any form of protest or demonstration. Was your comment based on facts or a picture you saw on Facebook? They knelt in prayer before the game. Big difference. This is how fake news happens.”



“I’m reading the Wednesday Times and it says Fenton schools are selling the land between the stores and the football stadium to a developer? Why? That intersection is already a disaster for parents and students. Please provide more info on this horrible idea.”



“Why is anyone surprised at the crude sexual behavior of so many celebrities when Hollywood has been promoting this behavior for the last 40 years? We are just reaping what the liberal media has been sowing in our children through movies and TV.”



## COMMENT OF THE WEEK

“As a small business owner in Fenton I would like to share my gratitude to all area residents who chose to shop locally. Also, a big thank you to the Tri-County Times for their constant promotion. Many of the new local customers are now my new friends. Thank you, residents. Fenton rocks.”

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And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them,  
Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

And this shall be a sign unto you;  
Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

*Luke 2:8-14*

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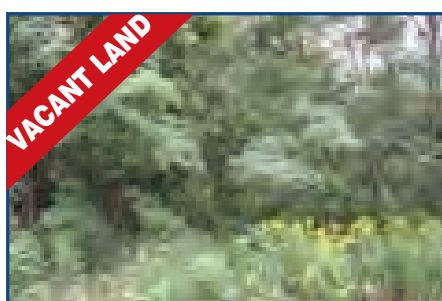
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# Is a new car or truck on your Christmas list?

■ Local dealerships offer best incentives, lowest prices of the year

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

A new car might not fit under your Christmas tree, but it certainly can fit into your garage.

That's why you may want to go shopping for a new car or truck sometime between now and the New Year, to take advantage of some of the best deals of the year. Local car dealerships are gearing up for their very biggest week of the year—the week between Christmas and New Year.

It's a win-win for the dealerships, which are able to move out their current year models while working to meet their end-of-the-year sales goals. Buyers win because they're in the best position to negotiate and take advantage of some of the best incentives around.

"The week after Christmas is our busiest week of the year," said Jeff Canever, general sales manager at Vic Canever Chevrolet in Fenton. "People have time off after the

holidays and we try to finish off the year with strong sales."

Crossover SUVs are their most popular vehicles, including the Trax, Equinox and Traverse, plus their best-selling crew cab Silverado.

General Motors employee discounts on select 2018 models and all remaining 2017 models are now available for everyone.

"Lease prices are great right now," he added. "You can take advantage of our Holiday Lease Loyalty Cash if you're in a current lease right now."

Employees at Szott Ford in Holly know they're going to be busy that week, so Chris Boan, new car sales manager, has already increased staff to be prepared. "It's our busiest week of the year and we're ready for it,"

Boan said. "We're shifting our focus now to 2018, so there are great deals on our 2017 models."

Buyers can take advantage of Ford Conquest money, an extra \$1,500 off a lease or purchase of a Ford Escape, Explorer or Edge, for anyone who currently has a non-Ford product. "That can mean up to \$65 a month in savings," Boan said.

He adds there are also some great lease

**“People have time off after the holidays, and we try to finish off the year with strong sales.”**

**Jeff Canever**  
General sales manager at Vic Canever Chevrolet



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Vic Canever Sales Manager Jeff Canever sits in a 2018 Chevy Silverado at the Fenton showroom on Thursday, Dec. 14. Vic Canever offers incentives for buying and leasing new 2018 vehicles like the Silverado at the end of the year.

deals on the 2018 Ford Escape, as well as earlybird programs where Ford will pay your remaining lease payments for up to six months.

Sales manager Lisa Consiglio and her staff at Randy Wise Buick GMC in Fenton are working hard this month to clear out the 2017 models. "We'll be open every evening until 8, on the week between Christmas and New Year's," Consiglio said. "On Saturday, Dec. 30, we'll be open until 5. We want to close out our year and hit our numbers."

**See NEW CAR on 10A**

## TOP SELLING VEHICLES IN FIRST HALF OF 2017 BY U.S. CAR COMPANIES

Ford F-Series  
Ford Focus  
Dodge Ram pickup  
Ford Escape  
Chevrolet Silverado

Source: JATO Dynamics

## CAR SALES IN 2016:

A record 17.6 million vehicles sold in the U.S.

Source: Cars.usnews.com

## The U.S. 23 'Flex Route' explained

■ New system utilizes shoulder lane in times of emergencies, heavy traffic

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

To some, it's innovative. To others, it's confusing.

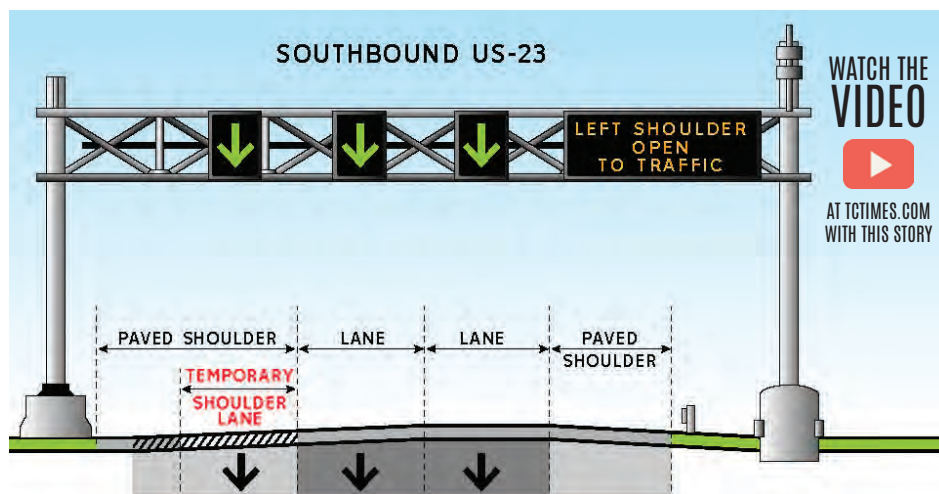
In November, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) rolled out its new Flex Route system on U.S. 23, just north of Ann Arbor.

The goal is to ease highway congestion at peak times, or during a crash. The nine-mile route runs between Whitmore Lake to just north of Ann Arbor.

**See FLEX ROUTE on 21A**

### MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

The Flex Route system opened on U.S. 23 north of Ann Arbor. The cost-efficient system utilizes the existing shoulder and a new communication and monitoring system to open and close the lane during peak times and emergencies.



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Mon-Thurs: ..... 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
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Andrew Heller

aheller@tctimes.com

Come *Heller* high water

The lovely yet formidable Marcia and I celebrated our 34th wedding anniversary recently. That sounds like a long time but it's really only slightly more than three decades, which, when you think about it, is only a blip in time when compared to glaciers, the stars and, you know, rocks and stuff.

So, OK, we've been around the block 6,537 times or so.

When you're married this long, you tend to not make a big deal about anniversaries.



Andrew Heller  
FEATURED COLUMNIST

We used to do gifts and cards and long, candlelit dinners, even the occasional romantic overnight at a hotel somewhere. Then we figured out that's how

you get kids.

So these days, we're more like, "Hey, is it our anniversary today?" "I think so." "So you wanna celebrate?" "I'm too tired. Did you pick up dog food on the way home like I asked?" "No, I forgot." "You always forget." "And you always remember that I forget."

Very romantic. This year, we did, however, post loving tributes to one another on Facebook along with a few photos of us back in the day and now. It saved us a few bucks on greeting cards to one another, which I never understood anyway. Nothing says I love you more than a card that somebody else wrote.

Many, many people offered a simple "Congratulations!" which

was truly touching. But more than a few added an additional comment. Here's a sampling. See if you detect a theme.

"34 years and she still looks sane and healthy."

"34 years with you? She must be a saint."

"Andy, you must have accidentally done something right to earn enough good Karma to snag Marcia."

"Andrew got himself a trophy wife."

"She doesn't look like she's aged a minute. But what happened to you?"

"Andy, you lucked out."

"Andy, you're a lucky man."

"Wow, are you lucky. Her, not so much."

"Better luck next time, Marcia."

"At least she got the incredible kids out of it. Kids are worth any suffering you have to endure."

"Marcia, I feel your pain." (That one was from my sister.)

"No doubt she rues the day, lol!"

"Andy, hold on to her like grim death, my friend. Grim. Death." I'm not too bright, but I think people are trying to tell me that I married way, way, way up. I have news for them, though: I knew that already. I knew she was out of my league when I spotted her across the room at a floor meeting in Barnard Hall at Central Michigan University. I knew she was out of my league when we got married. (I kept waiting for the whole congregation to stand as one and object.) And I know it now.

That said, would it have been too much to ask for just one of our friends to write, "Wow, was Marcia lucky to have snagged you!"

Guess I can't blame them, though. No one likes to lie.

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

**Hotlines**

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

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

**I HEAR NOW** that Al Franken, now that he's resigned as Senator from Minnesota, he's going to run for Alabama seat. I think he has a better chance there.

■■■

**FENTON SCHOOLS WANT** to sell off the land behind the football stadium? That is where hundreds of young kids have played at every single football game for over 40 years. It's a buffer between kids and traffic. And the last thing we need are more stores and traffic in the Target complex. Not gonna happen!

■■■

**A LIBERAL SAN** Francisco jury acquitting an immigrant. Kind of like the Mississippi white jury acquitting the Ku Klux Klansmen.

■■■

**PEOPLE AREN'T TUNING** out the NFL because of patriotism. It's just that it's so boring watching them replay every play, it just gets old.

■■■

**TRUMP'S OWN WORDS** — embrace our values. And he's supporting Roy Moore. The tobacco spit just flows.

■■■

**SOME REAL PATRIOTS** put on a real football game this past weekend. Thank you Army and Navy.

■■■

See **HOT LINE** throughout Times

**Readers write**

Letters, 150 words or less, must be signed and include a phone number. We reserve the right to edit for clarity and liability. Letters must be written exclusively for the Times.

**Sexual harassment**

Dear Editor,

Fenton is my hometown and it has been almost 50 years since my last letter to the editor during my college days. I just wanted to commend Hannah Ball for her article on Sunday, Dec. 10 on sexual harassment. I spent many years as an HR executive and to add to Hannah's words on what is and is not acceptable in the workplace, I would offer the following which I always used at the end of my training sessions. 'Behave at work as if your mother was looking over one shoulder and your spouse/significant other over the other shoulder and anything you do or say will be on the 6 o'clock news.' Unfortunately, this is a real problem that still exists in workplaces and it's good to see the current attention being paid to the problem. The sooner it is eliminated, the better it will be for all of us.

Bob Foley  
Jackson, California,  
formerly of Fenton

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Compiled by Gracie Warda, intern

What is your favorite vehicle that you have owned? | **streettalk**



"Probably a '74 Monte Carlo, because it looked cool, but I wanted a '68 GTO."

Sally J. Bright  
Fenton Township



"My Pontiac G6. I drive a lot for work, and it has good gas mileage."

Dave Wallen  
Fenton Township



"My Avalanche, because it would go through anything, including Michigan winters."

Nic Thompson  
Argentine Township



"Anything Volvo, because in the 1970s, their commercials were great."

Tracy Dunlop  
Fenton Township



"Probably my '99 Chevy Blazer, because it had four-wheel drive and I was very attached to it. It had sentimental value."

Georgie Cornwell  
Argentine Township



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## FENTON



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**SOLD**



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**SOLD**



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**SOLD**



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**SOLD**



8454 Parkside Dr. • Grand Blanc  
\$2520,000

**SOLD**



9315 Hillcrest • Clarkston  
\$140,000

## Tyrone's open burning ordinance revised

■ Will reduce locations, acreage for burning of leaves and grass

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6786

The Tyrone Township Board of Trustees amended the open burning ordinance (No. 44) at its Dec. 5 meeting. The revisions involve three changes that will become effective on Monday, Jan. 8, 2018.

The first change is that open burning will now be allowed through Nov. 30, as opposed to the previous mid-month deadline of Nov. 15.

Secondly, no open burning will be allowed in the township when sustained winds reach 9 miles per hour or more.

The biggest change involves areas where grass clippings and leaves can be burned. The newly revised ordinance prohibits the open burning of grass clippings and leaves in the areas zoned R-2 (Single Family Residential), LK-1 (Lake Front Residential) and MHP (Manufactured Home Park).

The R-2 zoning covers a small area in the northeast section of the township. LK-1 covers the entire area around Run-

yan Lake, and MHP covers Tyrone Woods Manufactured Housing Community on Hogan Road.

Open burning will be allowed in several zoning classifications, but only on parcels of three acres or more. They are R-1 (Single Family Residential), PUD (Planned Unit Development), FR (Farming Residential), and RE (Rural Estate).

The majority of the township is zoned FR and RE. The R-1 zoning spans the northern edge of the township. A zoning map can be found on the township's website (www.tyronetwp.us), under Departments, then Planning and Zoning. Some residents have questioned whether this applies to recreational, wood-burning fire pits. According to Tyrone Township Supervisor Mike Cunningham, it does not.

"You can still have recreational fires. Only the open burning of leaves and grass clippings in R-1 PUD and LK-1 is prohibited," Cunningham said. "The state does not want us to allow it and the EPA is not in favor of it. It poses health and environmental issues as well."

**"The state does not want us to allow it and the EPA is not in favor of it. It poses health and environmental issues as well."**

**Mike Cunningham**  
Tyrone Township supervisor

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## New evidence coming in Akl case

**Alleged shooter's probable cause conference adjourned until January**

By Tim Jagielo

tjagiello@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795

**Flint** — The probable cause conference for Abdurrahman (Abdu) Ahmed Akl set for Thursday, Dec. 14 was adjourned until Jan. 18, 2018.

Akl, 16, did not appear in court on Thursday, but is jailed for the March 4, 2017 shooting death of his friend, Brady Alan Morris, 18, who had been living at the Akl home for a short time.

The adjournment was granted by 67th District Court Judge David Guinn and agreed upon by Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Lia Perryman.

Akl's attorney Frank Manley said the adjournment was due to continued discovery of evidence.

Akl has yet to stand for any pre-trial hearings, such as the probable cause conference. He underwent three competency exams, and was declared competent to stand trial in October.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

In October, Abdurrahman (Abdu) Ahmed Akl, 16, of Fenton Township, was found competent to stand trial for the March 4 shooting death of his friend Brady Alan Morris, 18. Akl stood in court with defense attorney Frank Manley.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Genesee County 67th District Court Judge David Guinn is now presiding over the pre-trial motions of the Akl case.

### BACKGROUND

According to investigative reports from the Genesee County Sheriff's Office, at approximately 11 p.m. on March 4, Genesee County Sheriff's deputies and the Fenton Police Department were dispatched to 14170 Moffett Dr. in Fenton Township in response to a 911 call regarding a male with a gunshot wound to the head.

Akl was immediately taken into custody and a semi-automatic pistol was found on the front porch and secured by police.

The two teens, who were reportedly friends, were alone on the first floor of the residence when the shooting occurred. Other members of Akl's family and one other guest were on the second and third floors.

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

With bond denied, Akl has remained in custody at the Genesee Valley Regional Center since his arrest.

## HOT LINE CONTINUED

**THANK YOU FOR** putting in the story about the problem I was having with my grandson and the phone scams, twice in about two years. God bless you and Merry Christmas.

■■■■  
**WHEN THE LAST** tree is gone, when the last fish is eaten, when the last river is polluted, let's see how well everyone can eat money.

■■■■  
**TO THE FENTON** Democrat who claims Jesus was a Democrat, I beg to differ. Jesus believed in the sanctity of life, loved children and would not tolerate abortion. Jesus was pro-life. He would also not tolerate the over-taxing of the masses and he would be for low taxes and pro-family.

■■■■  
**PRESIDENT OBAMA WAS** the most divisive president ever. He pitted the rich vs. poor, black vs. white, straight vs. gay. He ignored our illegal immigration situation and allowed it to happen. He was the most anti-corporate and anti-business president the U.S. has ever known.

■■■■  
**IF YOU LIKE** detective fiction, obscure author, Rex Stout (Nero Wolfe) offers stories with many plot twists. After these, try James Patterson, John Sandford, Michel Creighton, Stephen Coontz and Vince Flynn (for espionage). Use a used bookstore to keep costs low and have the ability to expand your author list. I do.

**TO EVERYONE WHO** actually believes Trump will make America great again, that kind of 'great' is not coming back. Gay marriage will remain legal, Christianity is not dominating anymore, coal jobs are not coming back, and racism is still a major issue in this country. You need to adapt.

■■■■  
**I JUST WANT** to respond to the person who made a comment about the all-you-can-eat buffet. Some people don't get to eat those kinds of food. Sometimes I have shrimp, sometimes I have vegetables. I'm a senior citizen. I can't afford a lot of those foods, but sometimes they are a luxury for me.

■■■■  
**I REALLY WANT** to thank you for stopping everyone fishing at the Argentine bridge. That was really nice of you for thinking of us.

■■■■  
**ENOUGH WITH THE** turn signals. You aren't going to change anyone and make them use them. Week after week after week. Stop.

■■■■  
**MANY THANKS FOR** the couple who paid for our meal at Leo's on Saturday. Your gift allowed us to give our waitress a generous tip. Merry Christmas.

■■■■  
**ISN'T IT GREAT** how fast our President responded to help California needs during these fires? Too bad that state can't give the same support to him. Maybe they should have all the illegals in their sanctuary state fight their battles.

# Village 'vindicated' over water fee lawsuit

## ■ Circuit Court Judge declares case 'without merit'

By Tim Jagielo

tjagielo@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795

**Holly** — It was cause for celebration, and lamentation.

Last week, the village of Holly caught a big break in the water and sewer fee lawsuit brought against them this year.

Oakland County Circuit Court Judge Hala Jarbou granted a summary disposition, essentially declaring the case (see sidebar for details) against the village brought by village residents Heidi Gumbleton and attorney Dale Smith to be “without merit.”

While there is an appeal period for Gumbleton and Smith's case, the village believes it is currently in the clear. Smith said via prepared statement that the possibility of an appeal is being discussed.

Smith also shared a list of the documents he requested in order to prove his client's case, but they were not provided by the village. “Since we had virtually no documentation to be reviewed by our expert, Jennifer Watkins of Yeo and Yeo, the court then granted the village's motion to dismiss the amended complaint,” Smith said. “Without the requested documents, we could not prove our case.”

The village council and administration say they feel “vindicated” in the decision, but also regret the cost of the lawsuit. To date, the village has spent approximately \$190,000 in legal fees. Village Manager Jerry Walker said as the final invoices roll in, the tally could be approximately \$210,000.

This means that it could cost each of the 3,000 water and sewer users approximately \$70. “They did nothing more than sue their neighbors,” said Walker during his impassioned manager's report at the Tuesday, Dec. 12 meeting.

Smith said that because the judge wouldn't force the village to send records, it was impossible to prove if the fees were applied properly.

“Every person I talked to during this litigation was supportive of what we were doing,” Smith said. “I have no problem with charges being collected if

done properly and applied properly.”

During discussion on the suit, council members showed their emotion on the matter — happy to be vindicated, and frustrated at the money spent on legal fees, and disappointment at Smith, a former Holly Township supervisor, for representing the plaintiff.

“Now we have to shell out \$200,000 to prove that we were doing the right thing,” said Council Member Dave Cruickshank. He said the plaintiffs didn't come to the office beforehand to ask about the user fees.

“I wish we could bill our \$200,000 legal fees directly to Mr. Dale Smith,” said Council Member Suzanne Heiple.

### Background and case summary

In June of 2009, the village adopted a \$5 monthly usage fee per parcel, and a

**“Since we had virtually no documentation to be reviewed by our expert ... the court then granted the Village's motion to dismiss the amended complaint.”**

**Dale Smith**

*Attorney for plaintiff*

\$5 monthly sewer fee. This is in addition to the actual usage rates. It was a contentious issue when adopted.

The fees were adopted in response to escalating bond payments, which were used to fund the water and sewer expansion project

of 2003. The project was to be paid for by new tap-in fees from new homes built in the Silverman-Pulte development in Holly Township, but the recession hit, and new builds stalled.

In response, the village instituted the fees.

Gumbleton filed her complaint on March 9, 2017, seeking damages of \$1 million. The initial complaint was that these usage fees are “impermissible taxes,” relying on the Headlee Amendment as the legal basis.

According to the case summary, the village passed the fees based on the Revenue

Bond Act, MCL 141.121.

On Aug. 10, the court dismissed this first claim against the village.

Gumbleton amended her complaint, adding additional claims on Aug. 23. Eventually, the case came down to one final complaint

— that fee monies had been used to pay for village expenses other than the bonds related to the water and sewer system. Said Smith, “Village President Jim Perkins, testified in his deposition that he believed this to be the case.”

Walker said that the yield from the “base rate” wasn't enough to provide funding for expenditures like buying a new ambulance or a new public works building, as alleged.

**“Now we have to shell out \$200,000 to prove that we were doing the right thing.”**

**Dave Cruickshank**

*Holly Village Council member*

## What you missed in the Midweek Times



## Notes of thanks

Six of us elderly ladies went out for the evening to see the presentation of the Christmas pageant put on by the Fenton Village Players. After the show, we ladies decided to treat ourselves to hot tea and dessert at Villagers Restaurant in Holly. A man sitting at the next table came over to us before he left and told us how much he enjoyed seeing us and hearing our conversations. He said it reminded him of his mother who had recently passed away. After he left, the waitress came over and told us the gentleman, by the name of John, had paid our entire bill. What a warm feeling that left us and we would all like to thank John with all our old hearts. I'm one of the six ladies who uses a cane to walk with.

Sincerely, Beverly Filka,  
Holly

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## Remember the record snowfall in 2013-14?

■ Historically, Michigan snowfall totals are about evenly split between heavy and average

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

If you aren't a huge fan of a true Michigan winter, you might not want to live in Houghton in the Upper Peninsula, where the average snowfall is 207.7 inches, and a record snowfall 30 years ago totaled 355.9 inches.

That makes our annual snowfall average of 47.4 inches in the tri-county area (using Flint data) seem tame by comparison. But it still doesn't stop us from whining and complaining about our cold, snowy winter months.

With winter just settling in across the tri-county area, it's anyone's guess whether we'll have more snow this winter than we did last year.

Meteorologists are predicting a wetter winter than average, with normal to colder temperatures, which may mean more snow than we had last year. Last winter, our snowfall totaled 39.4 inches, well under the average, according to Wunderground.com.

Looking back at the past 10 years, the only pattern you might notice follows the adage: You don't like Michigan weather? Just wait a few hours (or maybe a year) and it will change.

- Winter of **2016-17**: 39.4 inches
- Winter of **2015-16**: 70 inches of snow, even though it was our second warmest winter ever recorded.
- Winter of **2014-15**: 45.3 inches
- Winter of **2013-14**: 83.9 inches. This was one for the record books. This winter was officially the snowiest on record in both Flint and Detroit areas.
- Winter of **2012-13**: 43.6 inches
- Winter of **2011-12**: 33.2 inches
- Winter of **2010-11**: 72.1 inches
- Winter of **2009-10**: 45.1 inches
- Winter of **2008-09**: 72.8 inches
- Winter of **2007-08**: 82.8 inches

Will we have a white Christmas this year? That takes at least 1 inch of snow on the ground to qualify, according to a report on the historical odds of such an occurrence from WNEM-TV5. If you live in the western U.P., your odds are 91 to 100 percent. However, the farther south Santa's sleigh travels, the least likely the chances he'll be traveling through snow. Near the I-69 corridor, which includes Flint, chances are usually about 50/50.

### Another snowy day remembered

Although it was more than 10 years ago, on Dec. 11, 2000 to be exact, area residents won't soon forget one of the biggest snowstorms in local history.

According to the National Weather Service, Flint Bishop International Airport closed the afternoon of Dec. 11, 2000, ending the day with 14 inches of snow, the third largest snowfall on record. Up to 200 cars were stranded on I-75 just south of Flint during the storm. It was the first time in its 124-year history that The Flint Journal did not publish due to a weather event.

Meanwhile, here in Fenton, the Tri-County Times management mobilized quickly, securing three vehicles worthy of traversing any amount of snow on

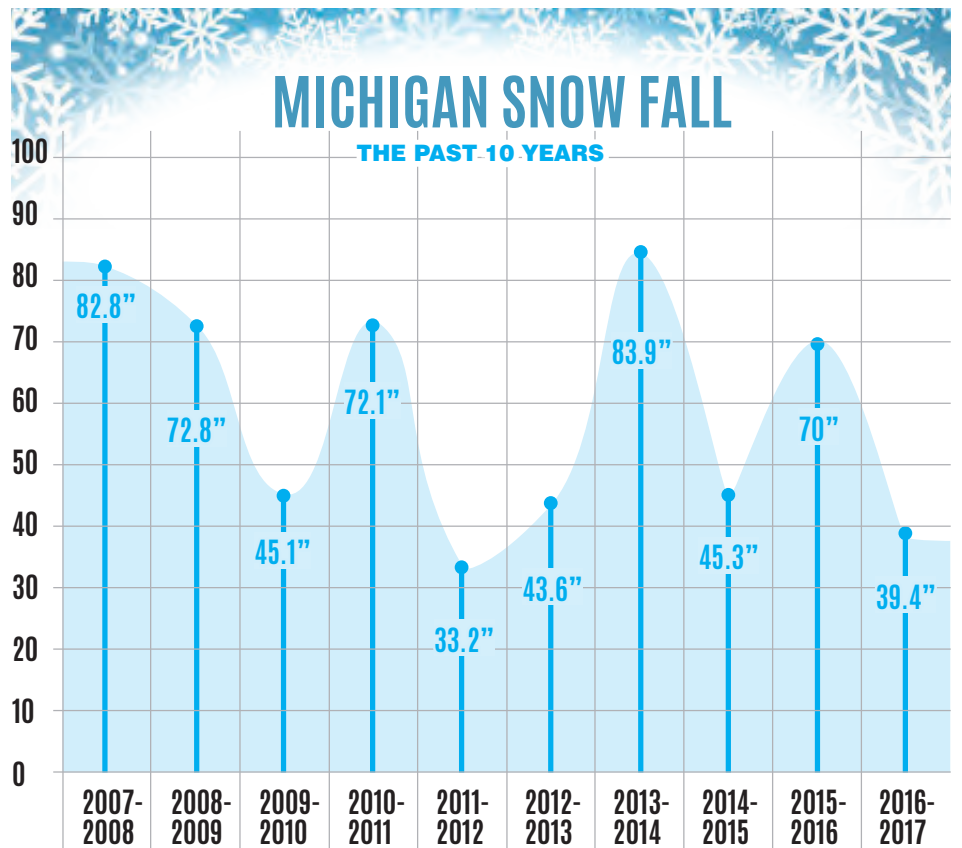
the roads. All but two employees were picked up from their homes, brought to the office, and delivered back home once the newspaper was out and to the printer.

We live in Michigan, and the folks at your hometown newspaper remain committed to providing the best service to its readers, regardless of the weather.

### TOP 10 SNOWIEST WINTERS IN TRI-COUNTY AREA HISTORY:

2013-14:	83.9 inches
1974-75:	82.9 inches
2007-08:	82.8 inches
1966-67:	78.6 inches
1975-76:	76.6 inches
1951-52:	75.3 inches
2004-05:	73 inches
1964-65:	72.9 inches
2008-09:	72.8 inches
2010-11:	72.1 inches

Source: Weather.gov



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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

The 2018 Chevy Equinox is another vehicle with special incentives during the busy holiday car shopping season.

## NEW CAR

Continued from Page 3A

Right now, all remaining 2017 Envisions and Encores are on sale at 25 percent off. "That kind of pricing is unheard of, it's a great deal," she added. "There are also a lot of leasing programs that close at the end of the year. Leases on the Yukon, Terrain, Sierra and Denali vehicles are really good."

If you can't get in to buy a car until after the holidays, the end of the month for most 2017 car sales will be Jan. 2, 2018.

## Police&Fire report

### CRASH ON U.S. 23 SLOWS TRAFFIC

A multi-car crash on northbound U.S. 23 south of Lahring Road slowed traffic for motorists the morning of Thursday, Dec. 14. The Genesee County Sheriff's Office responded to the scene just before 9 a.m. Vehicles were towed from the area, and traffic was diverted around the crash. Multiple crashes were reported on U.S. 23 around Lahring Road and Thompson Road. Motorists were advised to drive with caution.

TRI-COUNTY TIMES | HANNAH BALL



## LOOKING BACK *at this week in* NATIONAL HISTORY

COMPILED BY VERA HOGAN

### DEC. 17

**1903:** Near Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, brothers Orville and Wilbur Wright make the first successful flight in history of a self-propelled, heavier-than-air aircraft. Orville piloted the gasoline-powered, propeller-driven biplane, which stayed aloft for 12 seconds and covered 120 feet on its inaugural flight.

### DEC. 18

**1620:** The British ship Mayflower docked at modern-day Plymouth, Massachusetts, and its passengers prepared to begin their new settlement, Plymouth Colony.

### DEC. 19

**1998:** After nearly 14 hours of debate, the House of Representatives approves two articles of impeachment against President Bill Clinton, charging him with

lying under oath to a federal grand jury and obstructing justice. Clinton, the second president in American history to be impeached, vowed to finish his term. In November 1995, Clinton began an affair with Monica Lewinsky, a 21-year-old unpaid intern. Over the course of a year and a half, the president and Lewinsky had nearly a dozen sexual encounters in the White House. In April 1996, Lewinsky was transferred to the Pentagon. That summer, she first confided in Pentagon co-worker Linda Tripp about her sexual relationship with the president. In 1997, with the relationship over, Tripp began secretly to record conversations with Lewinsky, in which Lewinsky gave Tripp details about the affair.

### DEC. 20

**1989:** The United States invades Panama in an attempt to overthrow military dictator Manuel Noriega, who had been indicted in the United States on drug trafficking charges and was accused of suppressing democracy in Panama and endangering U.S. nationals. Noriega's Panamanian Defense Forces (PDF) were promptly crushed, forcing the dictator to seek asylum with the Vatican in Panama City, where he surrendered on Jan. 3, 1990.

### DEC. 21

**1988:** Pan Am Flight 103 from London to New York explodes in midair over Lockerbie, Scotland, killing all 243 passengers and 16 crew members aboard, as well as 11 Lockerbie residents on the ground. A bomb hidden inside an audio cassette player detonated in the cargo area when the plane was at an altitude of 31,000 feet. The disaster, which became the subject of Britain's largest criminal investigation, was believed to be an attack against the United States. One hundred eighty nine of the victims were American.

### DEC. 22

**1968:** Julie Nixon and David Eisenhower, both progeny of United States presidents, tie the knot in New York City. Julie is the daughter of Richard M. Nixon, who was running for president at the time of the wedding. Her groom was the grandson of Dwight D. Eisenhower, who served as America's 34th president from 1953 to 1961. Julie and David met at the Republican National Convention in San Francisco, California, in 1956 while his grandfather was campaigning for re-election.

### DEC. 23

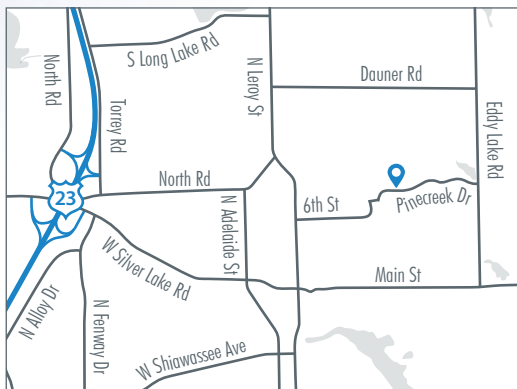
**1888:** Dutch painter Vincent van Gogh, suffering from severe depression, cuts off the lower part of his left ear with a razor while staying in Arles, France. He later documented the event in a painting titled Self-Portrait with Bandaged Ear. Today, Van Gogh is regarded as an artistic genius and his masterpieces sell for record-breaking prices; however, during his lifetime, he was a poster boy for tortured starving artists and sold only one painting.

Source: history.com

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO

(Left) Josh and Ashlee Latimer are Fenton natives but lived in Costa Rica for more than a year. They have five children. (Right) From left are Tucker, 9, Sawyer, 7, Finnley, 2, Maverick, 10, and in front is Judah, who is 3 months old.

## Is 'first-time mom syndrome' real?

### ■ Mother of five offers advice for new parents

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

A lot of anxiety comes with being first-time parents. By the time parents have a second child, they know how to pack the diaper bag, can change a diaper in record time and know what their baby needs by the sound of their cry.

Ashlee Latimer, who has five kids with and her husband, Josh, said the first-time mom worries are a real thing.

"When I had my first baby I was so nervous I read every book I possibly could, thought I needed every gadget they made for babies. I did everything by the book," she said. "I thought if I messed up one thing my kids would be ruined for life. Every time Maverick would sneeze I would take him to the (doctor)."

Their children are Maverick, 10, Tucker, 9, Sawyer, 7, Finnley, 2, and Judah, 3-months-old. The Latimers were Fenton residents for decades, until they moved to Costa Rica in July 2015. They moved back to the states and now live in Ludington and visit Fenton frequently.

When she first had children, Latimer said she used to sanitize everything twice. She really wanted to be a good mom, and felt a lot of pressure from society to do it the right way.

"As I had more kids I realized the only right way, was my way, for my kids. Yes, I still want to be the best mom ever but it isn't in gadgets or toys, organic vs. non organic, trendy baby clothes. It's the way you love them and train them that counts," she said.

Preparing for baby number one was a full-time job, and Latimer had everything ready within the first few months. When she was pregnant with her fifth, she didn't have a car seat until a few days before Judah was born.

"I didn't have my bags packed, baby diapers or even clothes. I would imagine most moms of big families would hang on to all their stuff but I didn't because I moved back and forth from Costa Rica," she said. Her first-born had all new clothes, and her other kids have

hand-me-downs.

With Maverick, the nursery had to be perfect.

"But guess what? Your baby doesn't care if the room is done or Pinterest perfect and after sleepless nights you won't either," she said. Latimer learned what baby gear was helpful and what wasn't. She said companies are always coming out with a new baby product they say mothers have to have.

"I don't trust gimmicks. I do trust friends and I think that's why mommy groups are so big right now," she said.

With Judah, Latimer experienced postpartum depression, which she said was "super hard and super real. No one can prepare you for that. Even being an experienced mother, it was horrible," she said.

When it comes to cleaning, Latimer said she doesn't clean as much as she used to, and she doesn't make people wash their hands before holding Judah. "I have done the 'stick the pacifier in my mouth to clean it first' trick. My daughter may have licked the store floor before more than once, and we eat more unhealthy snacks than my first born ever did," she said.

"Your kids are gonna' get sick, weird things are gonna' happen. I put Maverick in a bubble and things still happen. The stress of doing everything a certain way can be so much that it isn't healthy. If I worry about every detail I miss every important detail," she said.

After you change a million diapers, you become a professional and can do it in your sleep, Latimer said, and you learn how to bounce them the right way to make them stop fussing.

"Practice does make perfect," she said. "You learn to be brave at every milestone you conquer. It gives you more confidence to take on the next hurdle. I also have my mom and mother-in-law on speed dial because even a veteran mother needs back up."

### SUMMARY

■ As parents have more children, they become more experienced and less worried about little things.

## TRAIN

Continued from Front Page

Fenton Police Chief Jason Slater said the police department received a call from Fenton Express Towing at 7:26 a.m. The towing company had just been called by a phone company, which had been notified by a 78-year-old Fenton woman saying her vehicle was stuck on the tracks near Silver Lake Road. The towing company asked police to help them quickly locate the vehicle.

Slater said the woman and the driver, a 78-year-old Fenton man, were traveling eastbound on Silver Lake Road. The 2008 four-door Saturn struck the curb, causing the car to become disabled. It came to rest on the railroad tracks with just the back end of the car on the tracks. This is when they called for towing assistance.

A passerby attempted to push the car off the tracks, however, an eastbound train was in view and the passerby and the 78-year-old couple abandoned the car to get out of the way of the impending crash.

The train struck the car, spinning it around. The car knocked down a light pole and hit a "do not stop on railroad tracks" sign, said Slater.

The train stopped, causing nearby railroad crossings to be blocked. Crossings between Poplar and Howard were blocked and motorists sought alternative routes to get through town.

After checking the tracks and condition of the train, the train was back moving again at approximately 9:15 a.m.

## News briefs

### LINDEN CITY COUNCIL RECOGNIZES BOY SCOUT

Linden City Council recognized Nicholas S. Mammel at the Monday, Dec. 11 meeting for becoming an Eagle Scout. Mammel has served as senior patrol leader, assistant patrol leader and librarian as a Boy Scout, is a member of the National Honor Society, has served on the Mackinac Island Governor's Honor Guard, and received the Presidential Active Lifestyle Award among other awards.



Nicholas Mammel

For his Eagle Scout service project, he built a Gaga Ball Pit, which is an octagon-shaped ball pit that children use to play a version of dodge ball, at St. John School. He fundraised for this project and directed 34 individuals who came out to work on his project. He is the son of Linden Mayor Danielle Cusson.

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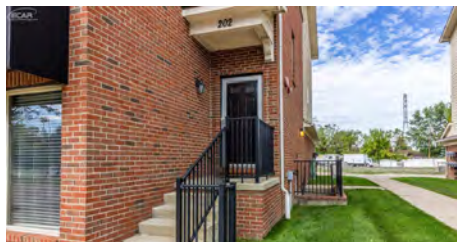


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# Shop local!

■ Mom and pop store owners are friends and neighbors, who donate goods, time and money to many local causes

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

There are only a few more days until Christmas. But not to worry, if you have not yet finished your holiday shopping, there is still time to take advantage of what your local merchants and service providers have to offer.

Whether it's a gift certificate or two at a favorite downtown restaurant, some fun and interesting items from local specialty shops, books, cooking lessons, chic women and menswear, sporting goods of all description, printing and photographic services, wine, specialty beers and more ... the list is endless and you don't have to drive far from home.

With so many major retailers struggling to stay afloat, one might think smaller, mom and pop stores are doing even worse, or might be largely fading away. The recent demise of retail giants, however, has left a brick-and-mortar vacuum for local stores to fill. Look at our own Kmart store, vacant for more than a year.

Many experts say it might be best to stay small. Being a small business isn't protection against big-box retailers or online competitors, but being a small business that's an integral part of a local community can help build a loyal customer base.

The vast majority of mom and pop

businesses are either neighborhood retail businesses or small service providers. As neighborhood businesses, they play a significant role in neighborhood stabilization, providing convenience for people living close by.

That stabilization comes in the form of convenience. People living close by don't have to drive long distances to get a manicure or find specialty foods or have an intimate dinner.

Also, consumers are increasingly interested in artisanal and locally produced items that are often perceived as higher quality. They are also seeking more authentic experiences from unique store environments small shops can offer. Mom and pop stores have been part of the American landscape since the country was founded. In 2016, the smallest employment gains among small businesses were in firms employing five to nine employees, according to the Small Business Association.

It is interesting to note that it was World War II that began that process. Before the transportation revolution, people shopped where they could walk. After World War II, there was an expansion of the highway system, and middle America moved into the suburbs.

That's when local mom and pops were really hurt the first time, because the neighborhoods began to empty out, and at the same time as they were emptying out,



people began to find out about the larger chains that were able to provide less-expensive goods by buying in quantity.

The good news for businesses with one to four employees today is that most of them are quite content to remain that mom and pop size. For them it's not about taking over the world or beating the big chains. It's more about just making sure their needs — and those of their families — are met.

The owners of these local merchants, restaurants and other service providers are your friends and neighbors. They often employ family members on a full- or part-time basis. They are the people who donate generously when approached relentlessly by those fundraising for a variety of local charitable and other worthy causes. They give and give through their donations, their sponsorships and their time.

If you can, be sure to support them with your holiday shopping business, and your routine business throughout the year.

Yes, it is easy to shop through Amazon or some other online giant — but have you ever seen Amazon donate to a local golf outing to raise funds for a scholarship or in memory of a loved one? Have you ever seen Amazon donate to a spaghetti dinner to raise money for a sick child or firefighter battling cancer? Have you ever seen Amazon's name on a giant banner showing they sponsored a major local event? No, you never have and likely never will.

Shop local!

Source: cnbc.com

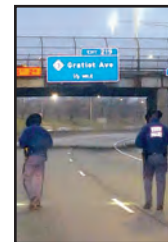
## WHAT YOU MISSED in the MIDWEEK TIMES

Compiled by Vera Hogan

The following are stories you may have missed in the **Wednesday, Dec. 13, Midweek Times**. To subscribe and receive both the Midweek and Sunday Weekend editions, please call (810) 629-8282.

### Fourth highway shooting has motorists nervous

Suspect pulls alongside vehicles and shoots at unsuspecting motorists on I-94 and I-96.



### 'Schoolhouse Project' includes hotel, banquet room, pub

Holly developers hope to open the new businesses in the former Holly schools administration building in late 2018.

### School property on Owen Road could be on the market

Grassy hill west of Fenton High School football field rezoned to accommodate commercial uses.

View stories at  
[tctimes.com](http://tctimes.com)



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# The Fenton House

■ Landmark Fenton restaurant celebrates 30 years with new updates, menu and full bar

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

Steve Kizy has owned The Fenton House since January, continuing the long history of this restaurant, which has served local residents since 1987. He has committed himself to making many updates to the interior, as well as adding new menu items and services. The restaurant is in downtown Fenton at 413 Leroy St.

**Q. What has changed inside The Fenton House since you took over?** We've done a complete remodel of the interior, making it warmer and more inviting. We've also expanded the game room to make it a more family friendly dining destination. We added a walk-up Hershey ice cream service, which is open all year.

**Q. What about your menu and bar service?** We now have a liquor license and offer full bar service for in-house dining. Carryout orders can include beer and wine take-home purchases.

We've also revamped our menu, adding items like filet mignon with Detroit-style zip sauce, Chilean salmon, eggplant Parmesan and for pizza lovers, square



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Steve Kizy, Fenton House managing partner, stands amongst the 20 arcade games in the restaurant party room. On the adult side, cold beer is now available with take-out orders.

deep dish pizza. We've kept our customer favorites, too, including our famous Greek Salad, hand-rolled breadsticks, ribs and pizza.

**Q. You recently won an award from the Fenton Regional Chamber of Commerce.** Yes, we're very proud to have received the Brick Award from the Ambassadors, nominating and awarding us for the renovations made in our restaurant.

(810) 629-0661

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Sun.: 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.  
Thefentonhouse.com

## HOT LINE CONTINUED

■ ■ ■  
**OH THE POOR** delivery people, USPS, UPS, FEDEX, and others. Make sure you keep your sidewalks clear, greet them if you are able and offer a 'Merry Christmas' or 'God Bless,' anything to brighten their day.

■ ■ ■  
**TO THE WOMAN** I gave a fright to when I overshot the stop sign entering LeRoy, on the night of the snowstorm. I'm sorry. I'll be looking into snow tires tomorrow.

■ ■ ■  
**BERT: 'ANOTHER FAKE** snow day? Shouldn't our teachers be teaching?' Ernie: 'They are. They're teaching your children that if you join a union, the taxpayers will pay you not to work.'

■ ■ ■  
**DO YOU THINK** the Democrats and Republicans got the message? They need to run better candidates. If Hillary ran against Judge Moore, Moore would have won.

■ ■ ■  
**PRESIDENT TRUMP SUGGESTED** resuming manned missions to the moon, and then to Mars. Great idea. He should be on the first rocket.

■ ■ ■  
**PRESIDENT REAGAN LOWERED** tax brackets and eliminated some deductions, like credit card interest. The Democrats increased the debt by getting more spending passed than taxes brought in. President Reagan tried to 'work with' Democrats who screwed him.

■ ■ ■  
**LADIES AND CONSTRUCTION** workers — get off your cell phones, and use your turn signals, it's state law.

■ ■ ■  
**I WANT TO** thank the kind gentleman who saw me dragging the snow from my driveway on Ripley Road on Wednesday night and hope he enjoyed the cookies in exchange for him clearing my driveway with his snowplow.

■ ■ ■  
**WITH ALL THE** sex and violence people pay to see in movies and TV, isn't it amazing how they are offended by a politician's actions years ago?

■ ■ ■  
**SO YOU THINK** if Jesus were here today, he'd be a Democrat. I don't think he would be involved in a party that supports the killing of one million babies a year.

■ ■ ■  
**JUST WONDERING IF** anyone else attending Lake Fenton Theatre production of 'Anything Goes' was surprised at the content of drinking, suggestive behavior and language that was included. The messages to the young teens performing are also contradictory to what most try to teach.

■ ■ ■  
**SHAME ON VILLAGE** of Holly. A pub, hotel, banquet hall? You screwed the homeowners on College. Shame on you money-grubbers. You're sacrificing the taxpayers' quiet neighborhood for a business in a historical residential neighborhood.

■ ■ ■  
**THANK YOU, ALABAMA.** The world feels a little less weird today.

■ ■ ■  
**HERE'S A GREAT** suggestion. Let's all wear Christmas pajamas to the next Jinglefest. How fun this could be?

■ ■ ■  
**I LOVE HOW** the Democrats are suddenly concerned about the deficit, especially after how after the past eight years, Obama more than doubled our national debt.

■ ■ ■  
**ONLY LIBERALS AND** black lives matter continue to support the NFL kneeling and this is continuing to divide our country. These players are unpatriotic, anti-police, anti-military and now anti-white. Five million Americans have stopped watching NFL football games.



Merry Christmas



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### YOUR SMILE MATTERS!

By: Dr. Steven Sulfaro

#### 6 MONTH DENTAL VISIT

Regular dental visits every 6 months is very important to help ensure the health of your teeth and gums. There are two parts to a regular dental visit. One part is the check-up (examination) which includes any recommended x-rays and the other is the dental cleaning. During the examination I assess the condition of each tooth checking for decay, defective and worn-out restorations, enamel defects and fractures then evaluate the fit and functioning of any dental appliances (dentures or partials). As part of the examination process I also carefully evaluate the soft tissues of the mouth. Soft tissues include the lips, cheeks, gums, palate, floor of the mouth, throat, and tongue. This very important step is considered an oral cancer screening examination where early detection can be life saving. I carefully read and review any x-rays that are taken to evaluate and ensure the internal health of the teeth and jaws. The other important part of the 6 month dental visit is the dental cleaning, also called the prophylaxis. Brushing and flossing help clean plaque from your teeth, but you can't remove tarter, also called calculus at home. During the dental cleaning the dental hygienist uses an assortment of special instruments to carefully remove the deposits of tarter that have built up on the teeth over time. If not removed, plaque and calculus can lead to the development of gum disease which is the number one cause of tooth loss in adults. The teeth are then polished which helps to remove built up and stains on the teeth. Finally, the hygienist flosses all the teeth and goes over any special home-care advice and instructions to help better maintain the teeth between 6 month dental visits.

Your teeth are meant to last your whole life. Regular 6 month dental visits are an important, key element in helping you to have a beautiful and healthy smile that lasts a life-time.

**I welcome your questions and comments.**  
Feel free to e-mail me [drsulfaro@comcast.net](mailto:drsulfaro@comcast.net)

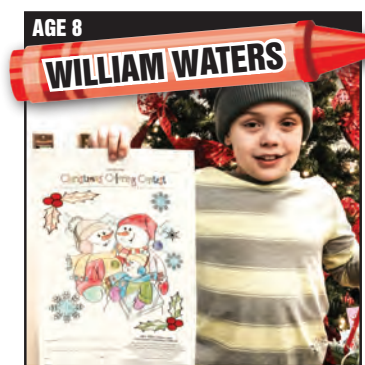
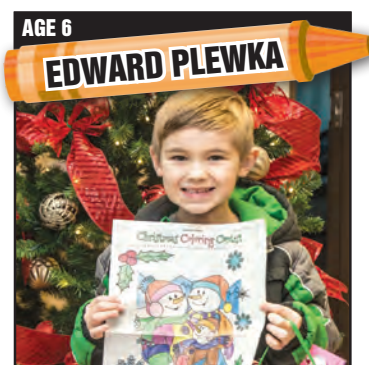


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# Christmas Coloring Contest WINNERS



The Times thanks all of the parents and their children who stopped by the office to submit their coloring contest entries and to have their photograph taken. The staff enjoyed looking at all of the works of art.

## Coloring Contest Entrants

#### AGE 3

**Hadleigh Spurgeon (Fenton)**

#### AGE 4

**Jaylynn Church-Bergeron (Fenton)**  
Addison Howe (Fenton)

#### AGE 5

**Izzy Kopczyk (Holly)**  
Roya Gregory (Fenton)  
Kellyn Conley (Fenton)  
Molly McDermott (Royal Oak)  
Max Menard (Fenton)  
Max Thibodeau (Fenton)

#### AGE 6

**Edward Plewka (Gaines)**  
Ava Green (Bay City)  
Ella Gundry (Linden)  
Sydney Jabre (Milford)  
Autumn Mattheis (Byron)  
Berkley Hanczaryk (Grand Blanc)  
Finley Bordner (Linden)  
Giuliana Meehan (Fenton)  
Abbie Kahn (Fenton)  
Matthew Waters (Fenton)  
Kylie Kelly (Fenton)  
Mason Reinfelder (Linden)

#### AGE 7

**Savannah Hoezee (Holly)**  
Davis Metcalfe (Fenton)  
Evee Brendel (Holly)  
Nolan Howe (Fenton)  
Elijah Medford (Waterford)  
Lennon Paxton (Holly)  
Leighton Armbruster (Fenton)  
Pailyn Watson (Linden)  
Lilly Ciesielski (Linden)  
Lillie Laskowski (Fenton)  
Maxx Stump (Fenton)  
Juliana Fraser (Linden)  
Zoey Baran (Fenton)

#### AGE 8

**William Waters (Fenton)**  
Danielle Ramsey (Holly)  
Kaitlyn Bowles (Fenton)  
Jillian Bowles (Fenton)  
Bailey Allen (Grand Blanc)  
Madalene Reinfelder (Linden)  
Ashton Slater (Fenton)  
James Croley (Fenton)  
Ella Rex (Fenton)  
Addison Brazel (Holly)  
Samantha Yant (Fenton)

#### AGE 9

**Megan Thomas-Opp (Fenton)**  
Gabrielle DeMasi (Fenton)

Sofia Bologna (Holly)  
Evie Metcalfe (Fenton)  
Addie Quinn (Fenton)  
Emily Grace Shalf (Linden)  
Katie Kuptz (Linden)  
Dakota Chavis (Holly)  
Haley Day (Holly)  
Claire Norton (Clio)  
Claire Wier (Fenton)  
Mia Kirklin  
Bailee Roths (Chesterfield)  
Kiera Workman (Fenton)

#### AGE 10

**Payton LaRowe (Fenton)**  
Makenzie Harp (Holly)  
Alexis Jabre (Milford)  
Brooke Waters  
Dylan Pampreen (Fenton)  
Aubrey Fraser (Linden)  
Megan Gornick (Fenton)  
Vincent Loria (Fenton)

#### AGE 11

**Emma LaPointe (Fenton)**  
Clarissa Bidleman (Holly)  
Emily Medford (Waterford)  
Lauren Start (Fenton)  
Samantha Luther (Holly)  
Evan Pampreen (Fenton)  
Elizabeth Sloan (Fenton)

## 2017 HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

SEE PAGES 6-10B

## RETAILERS

Continued from Front Page

"We're very proud to be climbing (in sales) every year," said Medawar, who also owns stores in Flint Township and five other locations.

"We're doing very well with our diamond fashion jewelry that we make right here in Fenton. It's something different; you won't see the same piece everywhere. We're giving great deals on beautiful pieces, diamond stud earrings, diamond everything."

Medawar expects to be extremely busy on the Saturday right before Christmas. "As years go by, people tend to shop later and later," he said. "The smartest thing to do is to not wait, because it's hard for us to give the full 'Medawar experience' when there are 30 people in line. That is very important to us, and we'll still do our very best."

Shopping for the men in your life is easier now with several local stores geared to men's clothing and accessories.

**Nic + Crew**, a men's store connected to Elections in Fenton, opened last year to make it easy for women to pick up clothing and gifts for the men in their lives.

"Grooming kits, multi-tools, Cork-cicle products are just a few things that are easy to pick up," said owner Nicole Medich. "We've also got tees for every age group and casual outdoor wear by Kuhl for a fashion look with a technical aspect. Don't forget, we offer free gift wrapping, too."

**Bridge Street Exchange** in Linden is anticipating that Saturdays, Dec. 16 and 23 will be their biggest shopping days at this gentlemen's emporium.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

This pair walks through Dibbleville during the snowstorm on Wednesday, Dec. 13.

"It gives last-minute shoppers a full Saturday to shop," said owner Kevin Begola.

Popular gifts include Stormy Kromer hats, mitts and shirts. "People really like to feel connected to a brand," said Begola. "Other favorites have been socks, grooming supplies and hand-crafted soups made in Plymouth."

Begola added that his number one gift for women has been a stainless steel wine glass. Another last-minute idea is a Michigan-themed glass filled with cocktail-flavored jelly beans. "They're at a great price point," said Begola.

**Pigeon in the Parlour** has been a landmark in downtown Holly since 1991, and owner Emily Rath has seen many cycles

of business in that time. "Business has been great," she said. "There's no place you're going to get the charm, customer service and diversity of merchandise. I can't tell you how excited I am to see this town prospering."

This unique boutique is actually eight shops in one, each with individual owners. "The biggest seller is clothes and chalk paint by Annie Sloan," Rath said. "Each boutique has its own flavor, but we're a unified team."

Pigeon in the Parlour will be open on Christmas Eve until 3 p.m.

Everyone likes a gift of pampering products, and there's a local business that offers an alternative to national chain stores. **Natures Bath & Body** opened

its Fenton location in June and has operated its Battle Alley store in Holly for five years.

"We've got lots of 'grab and go' gift sets for men and women, all under \$30," said owner Jennifer Justus. "Our products are made locally in Fenton and that means a lot to people. We've been doing very well in both stores." Natures Body & Bath will be closed on Christmas Eve.

Christmas also means a busy floral season for new owner Larisa Sloan at **Fenton Flowers & Gifts**. While the construction on Caroline Street slowed down Sloan's first fall as owner, business has certainly picked up with the holidays. "It's mostly floral, like centerpieces and fresh arrangements," said Sloan. "We also have a lot of gift items, including a new Christmas village, lighted canvas art, statuary and lots more."

While Christmas is not **Kerton Lumber** of Holly's busiest season, it is a time for shoppers to pick up tools, ladders, etc., either for gifts or necessities. "We do sell a lot of O'Keeffe's Hand Crème," said Nicole (Kerton) Ryan. "We also have paint for winter home projects."

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### NOTICE OF OPEN ENROLLMENT

Holly Academy, a Public School Academy, will be holding open student enrollment for the 2018-2019 school year beginning January 4, 2018 through March 1, 2018. Applications may be picked up at any time from the office during regular school hours 8:00am to 4:00pm weekdays or you may access forms online at ([www.hollyacademy.org](http://www.hollyacademy.org).) A New Parent Information Meeting will be held at the Academy on Tuesday, February 20, 2018 from 6:30pm until 8:00pm. If there are more applicants to enroll in a specific grade than there are spaces available, pupils shall be selected using a random public lottery process.

The lottery, if necessary, is scheduled to occur on Friday, March 9, 2018 at 9:00am.

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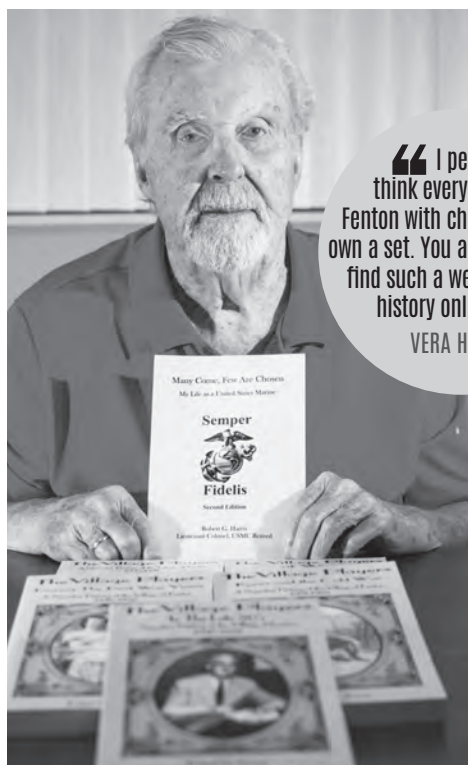
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## Read about the History of Fenton!

By Robert "Bob" Harris



Bob is the author of five "The Village Players ..." books depicting Fenton's history throughout the decades starting from 1937.

"I personally think every family in Fenton with children should own a set. You are not going to find such a wealth of local history online."

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## Other Books Bob has written

The First 20 Years. History of Fenton Rotary Club\*

Semper Fidelis – Bob's Life as a Marine\*  
(available at the bookstore)

But that's Another Story – Autobiography

\*available to be checked out at the Fenton Library along with The Village Players...book set.

# Scammers are out to hack your computer

■ Tips from the pros to keep your online accounts safe

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

A report by the Better Business Bureau (BBB) says it's not a matter of if you will become a target of computer technical support scammers, but when these scammers will try to victimize you.

Thieves, most of whom are located in India, are using sophisticated advertising and carefully crafted sales techniques to scare consumers into buying phony fixes for their home and business computers.

The BBB warns consumers to remain on guard so they can combat these fraudsters.

The report — "Pop-Ups and Imposers: A Better Business Bureau Study of the Growing Worldwide Problem of Computer Tech Support Scams" — says that anyone who owns or uses a computer is a potential target.

Complaints about the fraud continue to mount as Microsoft, a software company whose name is routinely used by the scammers, reports it receives more than 12,000 complaints worldwide every month.

The report recommends a tougher, more-coordinated effort by U.S. law enforcement, including the filing of civil and criminal cases against the scammers. It urges law enforcement in India and other foreign countries where the scammers originate to make computer tech fraud a high priority. It also asks search engine companies to carefully vet, set strict standards and consider eliminating sponsored links for tech support firms that do not meet standards.

"Computer scams have continued to advance," said Melanie Duquesnel, president and CEO of BBB serving Eastern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula. "These criminals are very savvy and target your electronics in many different ways. It is important to know what to look out for so that you may protect your pertinent information."

### Among the report's key findings:

Consumers typically are lured into the scheme by four ways — by either a pop-up ad on their computer; an unsolicited phone call from a "technician" claiming to have detected problems with the user's computer; via ransomware attached to an email; or by internet searches for technical support on sponsored links.

Most people lose money through use of credit cards or debit cards (55 percent). Checks (36 percent) are the second most common form of payment.

The problem is worldwide with U.S. residents accounting for 33.6 percent of victims. The scam also is popular in Australia (25.4 percent of victims) and Singapore (22.4 percent).

Studies show that 85.4 percent of the scammers come from India. Less than 10 percent of the scammers operate inside the U.S.

According to the FBI, U.S. consumers lost more than \$21 million to the scheme in the first nine months of 2017.



Studies show that 85.4 percent of the scammers come from India. Less than 10 percent of the scammers operate inside the U.S, according to the BBB.

### BBB OFFERS TIPS FOR CONSUMERS TO AVOID BEING CAUGHT IN A COMPUTER TECH SUPPORT SCAM:

- **Research tech support** companies before you decide to do business with them. Go to bbb.org to search for BBB Business Profiles.

- **Double-check all** the details. If you're directed to an official company website, make sure that it's the real company's site by double-checking the spelling of the company's name in the website address. Anything that claims to be from "Microsoft," for example, is a scam.

- **If a caller** claims to work for a reputable company, ask them to tell you their name or their employee ID, and in which department they work. Then look up and call that company's official customer service line and ask to be directed to that employee. Do not use a phone number provided to you by the caller.

- **If your computer** has been compromised, don't panic. You may still be able to get your machine fixed. Scammers are relying on you to make hasty decisions, you'll be better able to avoid their traps if you slow down and don't rush.

- **Make sure you're** using a quality, up-to-date antivirus software. Make sure you are running the latest version of the software.

- **Change your passwords.** First change the password to any account or machine the scammer has or could access. Then change the passwords on any account that you were logged in to on your machine, as well as any accounts for which you use the same or very similar login credentials.

- **Call your credit** card company. If you made a payment by using your credit card, the company will help you to appeal any unauthorized charges and to get a new card.

- **Victims can report** it to BBB's Scam Tracker.

## UNION BLOCK

Continued from Front Page

Wax bought the property in 2016, which has been vacant since 2007 when the Union Block was destroyed by fire.

"I want this to be an amazing building. I don't want a good building. I always try for great with whatever I do, so I want this to be great," she said.

Marilyn Crowley of Kincaid Henry, a company that provides development services and construction management, gave the presentation. With the design, Crowley said Wax is aiming for a look that represents the historic downtown, and they're not trying to be "fake historic."

Originally, Wax wanted a two-story building with her business and a restaurant on the first floor, with condos on the second floor. With city support and financial assistance, she's hoping to plan a three-story building.

"In my head, it's a three-story building, two floors commercial, one of these suites is mine and the third floor is condos. I don't want to do something that the city or community is not excited about," Wax said.

Conceptual plans include a restaurant on the first floor, Dr. Wax Orthodontics on the second, and four or five condos on the third. Wax said she wants an open concept with large living spaces for families, along with covered parking.

"If you as a council are extremely interested ... in having more density, residents downtown, then I think there are ways you can support the project to make it more financially feasible for her to do three floors," Crowley said.

They're planning to seek financial help from the Michigan Development Economics Corporation through its revitalization program.

"The whole point of their program is to encourage projects like Nicole's," Crowley said. "They want to see the community is invested as much as they can so that the they can see this is not only a project that's important to Linden, it should also be important to the region and to the state."

They are hoping to have full construc-

tion documents done in March 2018 and start construction in April 2018, which is anticipated to take 10 months, weather permitting. If significant changes must be made to the site plan, they will submit it in January 2018. She said Wax is prioritizing local contractors.

Crowley said the site is eligible for tax abatements.

**“My original vision was always to provide condos and commercial because that’s what makes for a thriving downtown.”**

**Nicole Wax**  
Dr. Wax Orthodontics

years on the first two floors and then you'd still be able to collect taxes on code uncapped for the duration of the abatement. It would make financial sense for her to do the condos," Crowley said.

She said the only way they would pursue doing condos was if there was a tax incentive offer for the first two stories.

### SUMMARY

■ The Linden City Council heard a presentation for potential development plans of the Union Block property at the Monday, Dec. 11 meeting.

The Commercial Rehabilitation Act, Public Act 210, allows municipalities to give tax incentives for the rehabilitation of commercial property for the primary purpose and use of a commercial business or multi-family residential facility.

"Essentially, it would freeze the taxes at their current value for 10 years on the first two floors and then you'd still be able to collect taxes on code uncapped for the duration of the abatement. It would make financial sense for her to do the condos," Crowley said.

If the city didn't want to do an abatement, Crowley said the city could help by paying for the water main underneath the site, paying for the building to tap into the sewers, completing sidewalks around the site, or waiving a liquor license fee for the proposed restaurant.

"It would show the MDEC that you're (city) supportive of the project," she said.

According to city records, Wax bought the property in 2016 for \$175,000 from the LaFontaine family.

"I have received a lot of positive feedback," Wax said. She found a building a few hours away that she loved and chose the architect, Dixon Architecture, who designed it. "We're working through design now ... My original vision was always to provide condos and commercial because that's what makes for a thriving downtown. I want this to be walkable downtown," she said.

## HOT LINE CONTINUED

**PRESIDENT TRUMP** signed a sweeping defense bill this week of \$700 billion. This will increase pay for our soldiers, buy ships, jets, weapons and increase our missile defense system, which

Obama had cut by one half. Under Obama our defense system was nearly decimated and added to the low morale in the military.

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**LINDEN MILL****Continued from Front Page**

said Linden Mayor Danielle Cusson.

Councilors unanimously voted to accept the bid from Chapple Electric for \$9,353 to upgrade the electrical system in the mill building, and a bid from Reeves Builders for \$10,000 in Linden to repair the outside stairs from the second floor to the third floor.

"We ultimately selected the lowest bidder," said Linden City Manager Paul Zelenak.

Chapple Electric, which is in Fenton, will replace outlets, panels and address critical items throughout the building. Reeves Builders, in Linden, will replace the staircase.

Last month, the council accepted a bid

from Dave Lamb Heating and Cooling for \$11,070 to upgrade the HVAC system by replacing the furnaces and air handlers.

Councilor Heather McDermaid said she wants to make sure that they're not wasting money if future projects will take care of these upgrades.

Zelenak said they are not wasting money.

"Based upon that 80-page architectural report that we had done, they recommended several safety issues within the building that be done," Zelenak said.

**“Based upon that 80-page architectural report that we had done, they recommended several safety issues within the building that be done.”**

**Paul Zelenak**  
Linden city manager

"This year, we budgeted \$50,000 to do those items."

In the spring, the city aims to replace the sidewalks and driveway near the mill building. The next phases are working on the exterior and cosmetic issues.

"But the safety items need to be addressed first within the building, the air handler work, the electrical work, the panels, some of those things that make the building safe. Then we start to work on the cosmetic items," he said.

Zelenak said

they're also putting together a capital improvement plan to identify projects that have been completed and projects that will be completed throughout the city.

"Obviously this is one of the biggest projects for capital improvements," he said.

The first Linden Mill Building was built between 1845-1850, and the current one was built in 1871, after the first two were destroyed by fires. It was the first structure in Genesee County to be placed on the national register of historic places in 1972.

**SUMMARY**

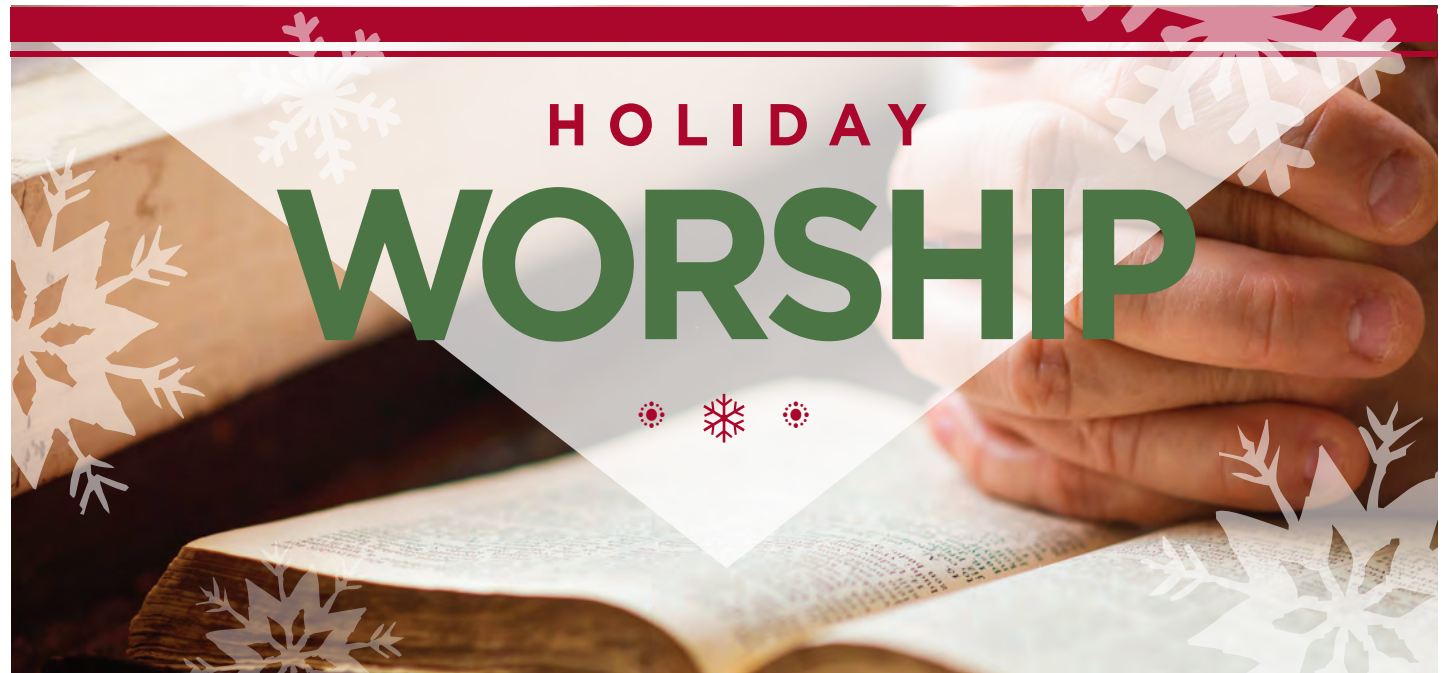
■ The Linden City Council has been accepting bids to improve the Linden Mill Building, which includes making improvements to the outside stairs.



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GATHERINGS

LAKE FENTON HIGH SCHOOL 9a & 11a

**FLEX ROUTE****Continued from Page 3A**

The system is comprised of the existing shoulder lane, overhead signs, cameras and electronic message boards, according to MDOT.

"We have heard a lot of positive comments," said MDOT spokesperson Kari Arend. She has heard reports of 20 minutes shaved off commutes.

"I drive from Fenton to Saline three days a week during peak rush hour times and since it's been operable, it has made my drive an absolute breeze," Shelby Flannery said.

Some motorists are confused as to why the lane isn't just open all the time. "It's not a true third lane," Arend said. She said a legitimate third lane requires

a full-length shoulder, which would cost an estimated \$200 million to build.

Instead, the overhead electronics to monitor and activate the system cost \$20 million.

Flex Route utilizes the existing inside median shoulder lane during peak traffic times, or following a crash on the right-hand median.

It is commonly open during peak traffic times in the morning and afternoon. This is signified with a green arrow over the lane. During off hours, a red "X" appears over the lane.

The southbound Flex Route is open for three hours in the morning, and the northbound lane is open three hours in the afternoon and evening.

While the lane is closed, it is still treated as a shoulder, meaning vehicles can be pulled over in the lane if needed. "We won't open it until it is safe to do so," Arend said. The lanes are monitored by camera, and also checked by the police and MDOT courtesy vehicles.

If someone drives in the shoulder when it

isn't open, they can be ticketed and receive points on their license.

Flex Route drivers look up to see digital gantries, which operate much like the overhead signs informing motorists about fixed lane changes ahead. These new signs can list speed limits, whether the flex lane is open, and whether traffic should merge due to a crash.

If there is a crash, the Flex Route could be opened to traffic.

U.S. 23 was chosen because of the existing wide inside media shoulder. According to a video on the project, it saves the state money to use existing shoulder lanes, instead of adding an entire new lane.

So far, Arend said the system is working, and it will be tweaked continually as it is used.

**"I drive from Fenton to Saline three days a week during peak rush hour times, and since it's been operable it has made my drive an absolute breeze."**

**Shelby Flannery**  
Local resident, Flex Route user

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# Fenton's chemistry leads squad to third straight win

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

Rebecca Moore notices one thing about her Fenton varsity girls basketball team more than maybe anything else right now.

She notices the team chemistry — it has been outstanding.

The Tigers (2-0, 3-1) have used that chemistry to earn a third straight victory on Tuesday when Fenton defeated Brandon 54-22.

"Honestly, I thought it would

take a little more time with their chemistry, but we are further ahead than I thought we would probably be," varsity girls basketball coach Moore said. "It's probably because Erin and Chloe are united with their original (junior) group. The juniors played together for a long time and are back together. The seniors — Aly (Lenz), Margaret (Berry) and Maddie (Carr) — are easy kids to get along with and everyone is meshing. We don't

have kids that have to have all of the attention drawn on themselves. We are just further ahead from a chemistry standpoint."

That's not good news for the rest of the Flint Metro League, and the Tigers proved that point for the second time this conference season with the easy victory against Brandon. The Tigers started a little slow on offense, but their defense enabled Fenton to take a 9-0 lead into the second quarter. A 14-5

run in the second quarter put the Tigers up 23-5 entering halftime. Any chance Brandon had of getting back into the game ended when the Tigers scored 18 third-quarter points.

**CONTINUED  
ONLINE AT  
TCTIMES.  
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Fenton's Madeline Carr scored eight points in the Tigers' win against Swartz Brandon.



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2017

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PAGE 22A

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**TRI-COUNTY Times Sports**

## Eagles lose thriller vs. Swartz Creek, 62-56

■ Linden's 12 treys not enough to beat the Dragons

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

**Swartz Creek** — It's hard to say how the Linden varsity boys basketball team's season is going to end this winter, but there's one thing that's apparent — the Eagles are going to be a fun team to watch play.

Led by their outstanding freshman shooter Blake Lund, the Eagles constantly overcame double-digit deficits against the Swartz Creek Dragons, eventually getting its first lead since the first quarter with two minutes remaining in the contest. However, two inbound three-point buckets by Swartz Creek's Ian Johnson sealed the Eagles' fate in a thoroughly entertaining 62-56 loss at Swartz Creek High School on Tuesday.

"I told them in the locker room that winning is not easy," Linden's varsity boys basketball coach Chris Root said. "This was the kind of game that we had to battle, scratch and claw the entire night. We just couldn't make a play to get us over the hump."

"Those were the only two threes that kid hit all night long, and you have to give him credit. They made a couple of more plays than we did at the end."

It was the case of the good and the bad for the Eagles. The good was Linden's perimeter shooting. It was mighty



Linden's Noah Giacomantonio attacks the basket during the Eagles' 62-56 loss to Swartz Creek on Tuesday.

good, and probably the biggest reason why Linden had a chance to post the upset victory on the road against the Dragons. Led by Lund's seven three-pointers, the Eagles made 12 out of 27 three-point

shots during the contest. Frequently, they came at the most critical times, helping put the Eagles back within striking distance of the Dragons.

**See EAGLES on 23A**

## Tigers start slow, gradually capture 57-46 Metro League victory vs. Brandon

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

Apparently Fenton varsity boys basketball coach John Gilbert got hold of some videos concerning the Brandon Blackhawks.

He watched it and didn't think a couple of the players could hit from the perimeter. He found out he was wrong and the Tigers quickly fell behind 20-7 in the first quarter. But, being a smart coach, Gilbert scrapped what he saw on video, changed the Tigers' defense and the

game slowly came into Fenton's favor, resulting in a 57-46 road victory for the Tigers against the Blackhawks on Tuesday.

"They just hit every shot they took early," Gilbert said. "They made their first six threes. They were only taking three and made them. The first couple shots were by a guy we didn't think was a very good shooter. But he knocked them in and we had to adjust our defense."

**CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM**



Fenton's Addison McIntosh (right) scored nine points in the Tigers' 57-46 victory against Brandon on Tuesday.

## David's Dabblings

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



### TRAMMELL AND MORRIS IN HOF, WHO SHOULD BE NEXT?

Sunday was a great day for those like me who grew up watching the Detroit Tigers during the late 1970s and the 1980s.

For most of that era, being a kid and a Detroit sports fan was tough. The Red Wings and Lions were largely irrelevant during that era. At the start of it, the Pistons remained the laughing stock of an organization they always had been, but by the end of the 1980s they had the Bad Boys. However, the team most of us could bond behind was the Detroit Tigers.

In the late 1970s, the Tigers put together an outstanding group of talented young players that grew to baseball maturation as we were growing, giving us our own generation of players we could embrace beyond the names we always heard our parents talk about. The names started with Mark Fidrych, Ron LeFore and Jason Thompson as we started collecting baseball cards in the first and second grade.

In 1977, Steve Kemp (my twin brother's favorite player), Lance Parrish (my favorite player), Alan Trammell and Lou Whitaker quickly started becoming our Detroit sports heroes of our generation. Later, others like Dan Petry and Kirk Gibson joined the party. And by the early 1980s, it looked like the Tigers were on to something, with the first whiff coming in 1981 during the second half of the strike-shortened season when the squad came within a weekend of the postseason.

Some of the players we loved weren't Tigers by the time the franchise became World Champions in 1984, but the ones that did remained in our hearts and became a part of our childhood. It still gives me chills to think that the final season that Whitaker and Trammell were turning double plays for the Tigers happened in 1996, when I was 27 years old. Virtually my entire life, all I had known was Trammell and Lou patrolling the middle infield spots for the Tigers. Morris was our ace that entire decade, and was the guy we

**See DABBLINGS on 23A**

# Lady Bronchos improve to 3-1, defeat Owosso, 56-34

**By David Troppens**  
dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

The Holly varsity girls basketball team's offense was strong throughout its game against the Owosso Lady Trojans.

But it may have been the team's third-quarter defense that won Holly its contest at Owosso on Tuesday.

Holly held Owosso scoreless in the third quarter, resulting in a 56-34 Bronchos' win.

Holly led just 13-12 after one quarter but outscored the Bronchos 17-9 in the second quarter, resulting in a 30-21 halftime lead. Owosso needed a big third quarter to get back into

the contest, but it didn't happen for the Trojans. Instead, Holly outscored Owosso 17-0 in the third quarter, raising Holly's lead to 47-21.

Rebecca Fugate paced Holly with 21 points, four rebounds, four steals and two assists while Sami Hild had 11 points, five rebounds and four steals. Taylor Vines netted eight points to go with her seven rebounds and two blocks while Payton Price had eight points, five rebounds, five assists and four steals. Riane Ochodnicki led Owosso with 11 points with nine coming on three-pointers.

## Online Exclusives STORIES ONLINE AT TCTIMES.COM

### Holly boys start slow, fall to Trojans, 49-42

The defense was fine, but the offense struggled for the Holly varsity boys basketball team.

The Bronchos were outscored 12-2 in the first quarter, and spent the rest of the game trying to get out of that hole. Holly never did, resulting in a 49-42 loss at Owosso High School on Tuesday.

"Got off to a slow, slow start. We couldn't buy a bucket in the first quarter," Holly varsity boys basketball coach Lance Baylis said. "We couldn't find a bucket and Owosso played very good. They shot the ball really well. We held another opponent under 50 points. We just have to score."

### Blue Devils trail early, lose to Atherton

Lake Fenton got its offense going.

Unfortunately, the Blue Devils' varsity boys basketball team was unable to slow down Atherton's offense, resulting in the 93-61 loss on Tuesday.

Lake Fenton trailed 21-11 after one quarter and was down 47-26 by halftime.

"On the positive side, we scored the most points we have this season. That was nice to see," Lake Fenton's first-year varsity boys basketball coach Brian McNerney said. "We tried to slow them down but they hit a few big jump shots early and it became their style of play, more than we liked."

### DABBLINGS

**Continued from Page 22A**

wanted to see on the mound. So when Alan Trammell and Jack Morris were elected into baseball's Hall of Fame by the Modern Era Ballot, in some silly ways that vote almost legitimized my childhood, and my era of Tiger baseball. We now our Hall of Famers to go with our own World Championship.

I think it's fair that it took so long for them to make it. I thought of Trammell as a 'borderline yes' vote objectively but always hoped he got in. I always looked at Morris as a 'borderline no' candidate, but I certainly was never going to be upset if he was inducted. And when they were inducted, I was thrilled to hear it. Trammell bridged the gap when shortstops went from being just all-field and no-hit players to being the best all-around players on just about every team, and his career personified that. He was always a reasonable hitter, but by the mid 1980s, he provided an outstanding bat to go with his glove. And none of us growing up will ever forget him going to the cleanup spot in 1987 and posting one of the greatest Tigers' seasons of all time while leading the Tigers to the playoffs. How he wasn't named American League MVP in 1987 is a complete crime.

With Morris, I'll never forget his no-hitter against the White Sox. Back then, not all games were on TV and this one happened to be the NBC Game of the Week. Morris' attitude could be his downfall, but it also could inspire him to some outstanding performances. It will be a great day this summer when they are both included in the Hall.

**So who's next?**

If I had my way three more long-time Tigers would be in the Hall of Fame (not looking at players from the 2000s).

Out of the 1980s Tigers, I think Lou Whitaker has the best credentials of any player, including Trammell. I hope he gets included in.

The two others I know will never get in but each represent a great era of Tiger history. Bill Freehan was the American League's top catcher for a decade. How many players were the top player in their league for a decade and not in the Hall? He should be in.

Finally, Tommy Bridges was the ace starter for the Tigers' championship era from 1934 to the mid 1940s. His numbers were hurt by two years during World War II. Give him back those two years and I think he would've been an automatic selection. Heck, he should've still been automatic anyway.

### EAGLES

**Continued from Page 22A**

However, the reason the Eagles usually trailed in the contest had to do with their biggest issue during the game — dealing with Swartz Creek's press. Swartz Creek forced Linden into 26 turnovers, with the majority of those coming off steals that set off Dragons' transition hoops. They set off 22 points, in fact, more than one-third of the team's point production during the contest.

Linden jumped out to a 9-5 early when Lund hit the first of his seven treys. In fact, he hit only one bucket that wasn't a trey, collecting a game-high 23 points. Lund has scored at least 20 points in each of Linden's three varsity contests this season.

"(The varsity players) are a lot stronger than I expected," Lund said. "I have to box out, play smarter. They are faster and I have to adjust to that. (Varsity basketball) has been about what I expected. (To prepare for it) I trained hard. I got in the gym to get shots up. I went into the weight room and continued to get stronger."

However about the time the Eagles took the 9-5 lead is about the time the Dragons' press started hurting the Eagles. Linden turned the ball over during three of its next four possessions, helping the Dragons take a 12-9 lead entering the second quarter.

Linden tied it at 12-all on a trey by Lund to start the second quarter, but Creek's press forced four steals during Linden's next six possessions, resulting in eight straight transition points.

By the time Linden took a time out, the Eagles trailed 23-12. From this



**TRI-COUNTY TIMES | MARK BOLEN**  
Linden's Blake Lund scored a game-high 23 points in the Eagles' 62-56 loss against the Swartz Creek Dragons.

point on, the game followed a constant theme. There were times the Eagles had spurts they survived against the Dragons' press. When they did, they were able to get good shots, score and cut into the lead.

**CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM**



## ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

December 17th, 2017



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