

Team of liquor bandits hit area stores

■ One distracts clerk while others load their pockets

By Sharon Stone

sstone@tctimes.com; 810-433-6786

Fenton police are investigating a rash of thefts at local liquor stores.

Lt. Jeff Cross said the latest one occurred at 1:15 p.m. on Dec. 28, 2017 at a store in the

1000 block of North LeRoy Street.

The store manager told police that a black male, wearing a red hooded sweatshirt, entered the store, selected several bottles of liquor, concealed them under his clothing and headed toward the exit.

The manager made contact as the man was attempting to exit the store. The man gave

See **BANDITS** on 5



TRI-COUNTY TIMES

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Fenton police believe these two individuals are part of a team of suspects who have been stealing liquor from area liquor stores. Suspects were seen driving away in a gray, four-door sedan (see page 5).

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EMBRACING THE GRAY
fab **50**
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VOL. 25 NO. 1

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2018

2016 **NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR**

Slow down!

■ Drivers going too fast for icy conditions

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com

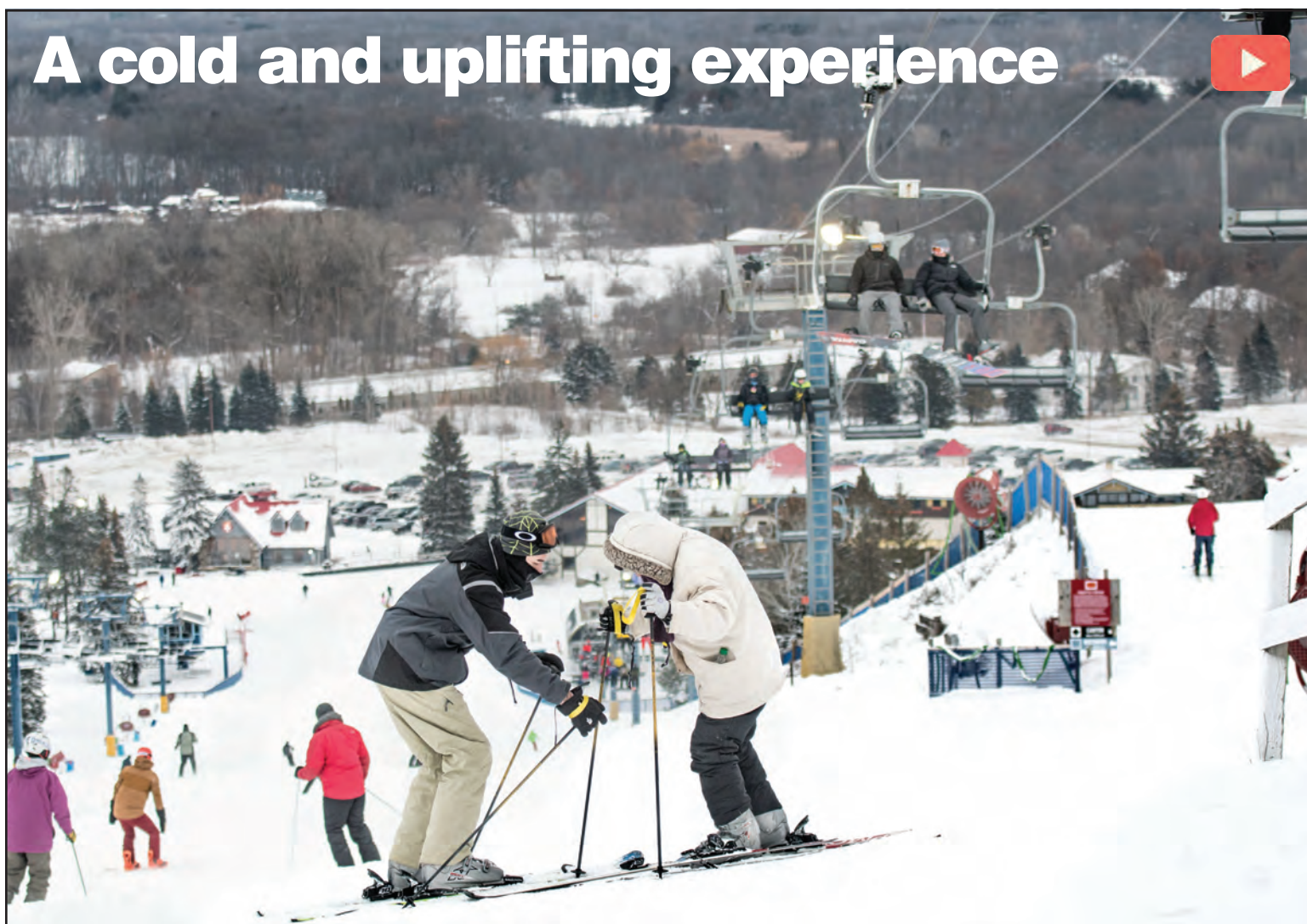
Pick any winter day at the Tri-County Times offices and the police scanner in the Editorial Department will invariably go off. The tones for the Fenton Police Department are very familiar to us. Once the dispatcher reports that a vehicle has slid off the roadway — usually on U.S. 23 — we know what's coming next.

You can hear the frustration in the responding officers' voices when the first crash or slide-off results in several subsequent incidents similar in nature.

When this happens, it is usually because people are driving too fast for conditions, and they're not paying attention to what's in front of them.

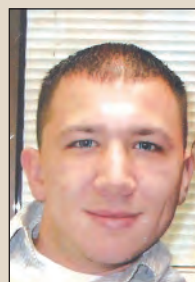
See **SLOW** on 6

A cold and uplifting experience



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Dean Borso (left) of Clarkston helps his mother, Kathie Borso, 61, of Brooklyn back onto her skis after taking a fall on her first day skiing at Mt. Holly Ski and Snowboard Resort on Thursday, Dec. 28. Approximately 1,000 people visited that day, but this is fewer than the usual 2,000 or more, due to the bitter cold. See **story on Page 3**



John (Jay)
Clay Cook IV

Area man killed in snowmobile accident

By Sharon Stone

sstone@tctimes.com; 810-433-6786

John (Jay) Clay Cook IV, 32, of Gains Township died early Dec. 31, 2017 from injuries he sustained in a snowmobiling accident at 11:30 p.m. on Dec. 30, 2017.

According to Argentine Township police, Cook and a couple of his friends were out on

See **SNOWMOBILE** on 7

Liquor license violations 2017

■ Six of 87 local licensees cited

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

At its Tuesday, Jan. 2 work session, the Fenton City Council discussed a request to support a Resort SDD (Specially

Designated Distributors) liquor license for Mr. J's Petroleum, Inc. (76 gas station) at 436 N. LeRoy St. The gas station is adjacent to the self-serve car wash.

The license will allow the owner to sell packaged alcohol/liquor for consumption off

See **VIOLATIONS** on 7

TEXT
YOUR
HOT LINE
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“The legislature has approved lowering the college hour requirement to substitute teach from 90 to 60 hours.



Does that make for a qualified substitute? Seems to me all they want is a babysitter. I, as a licensed teacher, will receive the same pay as an unqualified individual.”

“The goal of the Democrats for a 2018 victory is to create hate for police, males, wealth, Fox News, Trump, conservative speech, guns, right to life, lower taxes, American independence and the Constitution. Their only hope is to divide the country. They have nothing positive to offer Americans.”



COMMENT
OF THE WEEK

“Why would anyone wait until January 1 to make positive changes in their life? That's a cop-out and a sure road to failure. If you want to change something, do it now, today. Do you hear me? Do it now.”

It's Holiday Bowl time!

■ Area graduates performed with MSU Spartan Marching Band in San Diego, California

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Three Fenton High School graduates spent time Thursday on the football field as part of Holiday Bowl half-time festivities in San Diego, California.

The Holiday Bowl brought No. 16 Michigan State University against No. 18 Washington State University at the San Diego County Credit Union Stadium. The Spartans won 42 to 17.

Max Herzog, Nick Mansour and Jonathon Fleck are all members of the Michigan State University Spartan Marching Band. Herzog, 19, a sophomore, plays the alto sax. Nick Mansour, 19, plays the trombone and Jonathon Fleck, 19, is part of the drum line. The trio all played together in the FHS Marching Band, under the direction of Andrew Perkins, graduating in 2016.

"Max, Jon and Nick are just fantastic musicians," Perkins said. "They're just the kind of young guys you want to see go into college band programs. It's particularly special to me that it's at my alma mater, MSU, where I was in the marching band from 1997 to 2001. My absolute best time for making music was in those years. There's just something magical about that age group."

These young men also are former members of the Fenton Community



COURTESY OF PC MARK HANSEN PHOTOGRAPHY
Eric Ropeta, a Linden High School graduate, played his trumpet for the MSU Spartan Marching Band at the Holiday Bowl.

Orchestra, and still help out when their schedules permit. "It's not a small thing to have talent and be able to combine it with hard work, dedication and passion to achieve success," said Jennifer Fleck, executive director of the Fenton Community Orchestra.

Three other local graduates marched with the MSU Spartans at the Holiday Bowl as well: Eric Ropeta, a graduate of Linden High School in the trumpet section, Kimberly Roe, a graduate of Lake Fenton High School in the trombone section, and Katie Olkowski, a graduate of Holly High School, playing alto sax.

The MSU Spartans split the pre-game performance with the Washington State Cougars, as well as a Big Band Classic Tunes half-time show. The annual Holiday Bowl Parade took place along San Diego's waterfront.



Mark McCabe

67th District Court

Ask the

judge

The New Year and the MIP laws

It doesn't seem possible but 2017 has ended and 2018 is already in its third day.

Indeed, there is a theory that as one ages the days and years seem to go by faster. I won't say that this is a scientific fact, but I will say as I grow older Judy Collins' song, "The Circle Game" rings truer and truer. If you don't know the song, please look it up.

As to the law, 2017 also flew by and 2018 has already started quickly including a number of new laws, which took effect Jan. 1.

One example of this is the latest amended version of Michigan's Minor in Possession (MIP) statute.

Historically, Michigan has had laws as to minors and alcohol since the 19th century. Before I detail the latest iteration, the following is a very brief modern history.

In 1933, Michigan enacted The Liquor Control Act, which, as to minors, made it a misdemeanor for a licensed establishment to sell alcohol to a person under 21 years old.

This law was updated in 1969 to include minors being prohibited from buying or consuming alcohol in a licensed establishment or possessing it.

In 1978, the law was again amended to decriminalize violations with only civil infraction fines.

The year 1995 saw another change with alcohol offenses, again being classified as misdemeanors but with fines only and driver's license suspensions for repeat offenders.

A hybrid version of the statute went into effect in 2004 making a first offense punishable by a fine only. Second and subsequent offenses became subject to both a fine and the possibility of jail. First offenders became eligible for a deferred conviction wherein there is a dismissal upon successfully completing probation, and a nonpublic record.

The 2018 amendment leaves the 2004 statute largely intact with certain exceptions.

A first offense is now a civil infraction with second and subsequent convictions misdemeanors with possible incarceration. Second offenses are eligible for deferrals, and a nonpublic record.

Police officers can no longer require, but can request, a preliminary breath test (PBT) from a minor. If one is given, the results can be used in a prosecution. There is no penalty for a refusal.

A complete analysis of all of the 2018 amendments is available at the legislature's website.

Happy New Year!

Police&Fire

report

NEW YEAR'S EVE SPENT IN JAIL

A 56-year-old Linden man spent New Year's Eve lodged at the Fenton police station. Lt. Jeff Cross said Fenton police responded to a restaurant on Silver Parkway at 6:50 p.m. on a report of a highly intoxicated man making unwanted advances toward women. Police made contact with the man and as they were escorting him out, he became combative. He appeared to make a clenched fist to strike an officer, at which time he was handcuffed. He was arrested for disorderly intoxication and transported to the police station. He remained in custody until he was sober.

CHRISTMAS DAY JOGGER STRUCK BY CAR

A 15-year-old out-of-state male, visiting family in Argentine Township, was struck by a car while jogging on Christmas Day, Dec. 25, in Argentine Township. According to Argentine Township police, the teen and three other family members went out for a jog just after noon. There were whiteout conditions and the family members were jogging down the middle of the road when the teen was struck. He sustained non life-threatening injuries and was transported to Genesys Health Park in Grand Blanc Township. He was treated and released. The 18-year-old driver of the car was not at-fault and she was not ticketed. Passersby who left blankets at the scene to keep the victim warm may pick up those blankets at the Argentine Township Police Department.

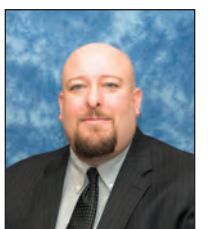
News briefs

THE STATE BANK ANNOUNCES STAFF ADDITION, PROMOTION

Aaron Wirsing has been named the new senior vice president chief financial officer at The State Bank. He will be responsible for fiscal record-keeping, monitoring and analyzing financial data and assimilating and maintaining data necessary to analyze the financial position and soundness of the bank as a whole, as well as its departments and customers. Chris Dickinson has been promoted to the position of senior credit analyst. A credit analyst at the bank for nearly two years, Dickinson's new position is to support the bank's lending group with a variety of credit analysis functions, and assisting in the preparation of financial/credit information reports for loan officers and committees.



Aaron Wirsing



Chris Dickinson

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tctimes.com



Including a video
on a landing page can
increase conversion rates by
80%

(Source: Forbes.com)



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It's cold out — you may as well ski

■ Robust winter offering pristine snow conditions for hardy souls

By Tim Jagielo

tjagielo@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795

Groveland Twp. — The air is cold, and the snow is fast.

On the Woodward trail, Dean Borso is

steadying his mother, Kathie Borso, 61, after she took a spill on her first day ever out skiing on Wednesday, Dec. 28. "I love it," she said. "I'm a little afraid to go down this hill."

The Woodward trail is a little more advanced — she'd already gained confidence on the bunny hills and took a shot at the middle-difficulty slope.

In the holiday period between Christ-

mas and New Year's Day, Mt. Holly Ski and Snowboard Resort could draw 2,000 to 3,000 skiers during the week.

General Manager Mark Tibbitts estimated 1,000 skiers were on the hills that day. "Cold weather's definitely had an effect on it this week," he said.

Still, the precipitation and consistent cold has graced the resort with pristine snow at a full season's depth of 3 to 4 feet. In 2016, Tibbitts celebrated the 60th anniversary of the resort, in unfortunate and unseasonably warm weather.

"This is everything a Michigan winter should be, it really is," he said. Though this bitter cold isn't common in recent years, he said this is how the season typically began throughout his 40-year career.

Tibbitts said the cold kept the crowds away at first. However, people can only hunker down against the cold so long, so they've begun returning to the hills. "We'll all get used to winter. We live in Michigan, it's what we do," he said.

On that day, the resort was busy with skiers and snowboarders using the bigger and more difficult slopes, but on any given day, between 20 and 25 percent will be skiing for the first time.

Kathie Borso was one of approximately



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Temperatures lately have ranged from subzero to approximately 15 degrees.

250 new skiers on Wednesday, Dec. 28.

Tibbitts said the gently escalating difficulty of the slopes makes Mt. Holly a great place to learn, and he recommends a first lesson from a professional.

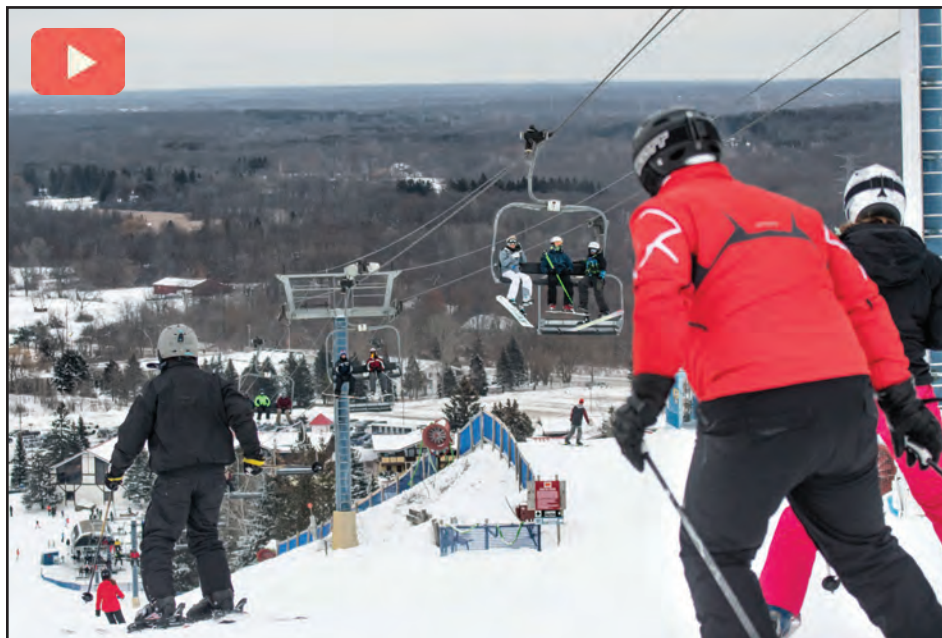
GETTING STARTED WITH SKIING

For the most detailed rate, rental and special information, go to skimhollly.com. Assuming there are no specials or group rates, a

beginning skier on a weekday evening can expect to spend approximately \$107 total for a lift ticket, access to beginner hills, ski/snowboard rental and a rental helmet.

“This is everything a Michigan winter should be, it really is.”

Mark Tibbitts
General Manager, Mt. Holly Ski and Snowboard Resort



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

The Woodward trail on Mt. Holly is a busy place on Thursday, Dec. 28.

Bitcoin — what is it?

■ Mysterious crypto-currency is gaining traction in the online world

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Bitcoin is not a bite-sized coin, nor is it a coin that you bite.

Bitcoin is a digital currency, also called "cryptocurrency," created in 2009 by someone anonymous who calls himself Satoshi Nakamoto.

Gavin Cloutier, a Fenton High School graduate and a Realtor in Holly who has

invested in Bitcoin, said, "It's decentralized currency, that's the best way to describe it."

As of Tuesday, one bitcoin equals approximately \$14,850 U.S. dollars (USD).

What is Bitcoin?

This currency does not exist in physical form. Bitcoins exist in a digital wallet in the cloud or on a user's computer, which the owner can access to pay for things. These accounts are not insured. This currency does not require a bank, and payments with Bitcoin can be made anonymously. No organization regulates



“It's decentralized currency, that's the best way to describe it.”

Gavin Cloutier
Holly Realtor and bitcoin investor

bitcoin and there are no fees, like with credit cards.

Cloutier invested in Bitcoin because "It was another opportunity to hedge against the United States dollar," he said. "There isn't attachment to any government, that's

why I find it so attractive."

The coin is gaining value because people are using them, Cloutier said. People can use bitcoins on overstock.com to buy items, on [Expedia](http://Expedia.com) to buy flights

See **BITCOIN** on 6

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CONTACT INFORMATION

General Office 810-629-8282
Advertising 810-629-8281
Classifieds 810-629-8194
Circulation 810-433-6797
Hot Line 810-629-9221
Fax 810-629-9227
Email news@tctimes.com

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If I Were King...

king@tctimes.com

Random New Year thoughts

■ **My favorite drink?** Wine that belongs to others.

■ **Does Ryan Seacrest** really think that everyone is so drunk at midnight that we need him to help us count backwards from 10?

■ **Vow this year** to identify something you are scared of doing, and do it. About 10 years ago, some friends and I parachuted from 3,000 feet just because it was the most frightening and challenging thing we could think of doing. Jumping from an aircraft is counter to every ingrained sense on our body.

■ **My New Year's** resolution is to stop being so condescending (that means talking down to other people).

■ **If you haven't** used it in one year, get rid of it so someone else can use it or wear it.

■ **If your birthday** is in late September, it's pretty safe to assume that your parents started off the new year with a bang.

■ **Instead of worrying** about what we eat between Christmas and New Year, we would be far better served to worry about what we eat between New Year and Christmas.

■ **I am glad** that I am not Meghan Markle's father. How would you like to pay for a wedding reception at Buckingham Palace?

■ **My New Year's** resolution is to, for once, actually finish something.

■ **New Years' tip:** Never take laxatives and sleeping pills on the same night.

■ **If you really** think about it, the two most destructive groups in America are the news media and the politicians. Each is hell-bent on



destroying the other at any cost — including America's safety.

■ **My New Year's** resolution is to ignore my OCD my New Year's resolution is to ignore my OCD my New Year's resolution is to ignore my OCD my New Year's resolution is to ignore my OCD my ...

■ **Definition of a New Year's** resolution: Something that goes in one year and out the other.

■ **Whoever once said,** "You love your children, but you are in love with your grandchildren," was a wise person indeed.

■ **I have a** good laugh every time I think of anyone who displays the slightest interest in the

“If your birthday is in late September it's pretty safe to assume that your parents started off the New Year with a bang.”

thoughts, actions or opinions of any Hollywood celebrity. These immoral beasts are truly the slum of all humanity.

■ **Since I always** break my New Year's resolutions, I think that this year I will resolve to be fatter, stupider and uglier.

■ **Maybe, this new year,** instead of walking through our homes looking at cracks that need to be patched and paint that needs to be touched-up, we should walk through our lives, room by room and do the same.

■ **Here is a great** New Year's resolution. Instead of calling your bathroom 'the John,' start calling it 'the Jim.' That way you can honestly tell your friends that you start every day by going to 'the Jim.'

Opinions offered in If I Were King are the author's alone and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Tri-County Times or its staff. Email the King at king@tctimes.com. Some content adapted from the internet.

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.

■ **DONALD TRUMP HAS** spent 87 days playing golf at Trump-owned properties.

■ **THANK YOU TO** the kind gentlemen who helped me Christmas Day afternoon when I was stuck on Silver Parkway.

■ **I WONDER WHY** the side and back roads do not get any attention after the snow is done falling, cars swerving almost hitting our vehicles after turning onto Elizabeth Street off LeRoy. All side roads are thick and slippery still.

■ **WE'D LIKE TO** thank the couple who paid for our meal at the coney restaurant. It was very thoughtful and appreciated. We'll pass it on. God bless.

■ **TO THOSE WHO** wanted a white Christmas, hope you're happy.

■ **I DRIVE THE** streets of Fenton every day and I don't see a problem with anyone and their turn signals. It's enough. Get over it.

■ **IT WAS REPORTED** by the Pentagon that ISIS has been largely detained if not eliminated in Syria, Iraq, and other parts of the Middle East. This is all due to President Trump and General Mattis taking control of the situation. This also comes after years of micromanagement and mismanagement by the Obama

Administration.

■ **HILLARY TOOK FIVE** hours to concede. Right-wingers were horrified. Now Moore, after two and a half weeks, still hasn't. After a judge's final verdict, he still hasn't. Talk about hypocrisy.

■ **HELP. I'M SENDING** out a search and rescue. I've fallen through the black hole leaving the Linden Post Office again this year. Help, I'm lost in this hole.

■ **TAX CUT MY** a\$. I make \$70,000 and it'll be a tax cut of \$9 a week. What a farce.

■ **NAME ONE THING** positive that Obama, Hillary or Rosie O'Donnell has done for America. Health care is not a positive. Anything that you must buy or be subjected to a cash penalty at tax time is un-American, certainly not positive.

■ **THANK YOU MR.** Trump and GOP. I think I'm going to Hawaii with my tax cut or maybe buy a new Cadillac. Big decision. By the way, how is your massive voter fraud investigation going? Haven't heard much.

■ **WE ARE SO** grateful to all those who stopped on Christmas to help when our son was injured on Lobdell Road. This caring nature is what makes the Linden-Argentine area so special. Thankfully, he has only minor injuries. Blankets that were left are at the Argentine Township Police Department.

See **HOT LINE** throughout Times

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What's your New Year's resolution?

Compiled by Ellie Bennett, intern

streettalk



"To stay more positive and do more for others is my New Year's resolution. Past years I've done it for a while then stop but this year I'm pretty confident that I'm going to keep with it."

—**Rachel Fleming**
Grand Blanc



"My goal is to live a healthier lifestyle and to maybe lose a little bit of weight. I'm confident that I will do this. I know for sure that I will."

—**Kathy Hamilton**
Fenton



"This year I want to live a clearer life. I want to live with clarity, acceptance and love. I want to celebrate life to its fullest. I'm very confident that I will keep with this resolution."

—**Nichola Freeland**
Taylor



"I'm rebuilding an airplane. This year, my resolution is to finish it. I've had the plane for five years now and started working on it last year. I want to start working on my hobbies."

—**Don Bunka**
Fenton



"My resolution is to take things as they come and to not worry about them. I'm going to try my hardest; I've gotten better this last year and want to continue to get better at it."

—**Margaret Beste**
Linden

Just ignore 'spoofing' calls

■ Seemingly familiar phone numbers are phishing for data, or scamming

By Tim Jagielo
tjagiolo@tctimes.com

You know it's happened to you. You get a call on your mobile phone from a familiar looking number. It has your area code, and even your phone number prefix.

It's clearly not an out-of-state call, so you answer it.

But instead of a real person, it's silence on the other end, or maybe it's a telemarketer informing you that you've won something.

On the other hand, maybe you got a random call from a real person claiming you had just called them, when you're sure you didn't.

This practice is called "neighbor spoofing."

"Spoofing," according to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is the practice of deliberately falsifying "the information transmitted to your caller ID display to disguise their identity."

"Neighbor" refers to the familiar and local area code and phone prefix, as spammers are using the internet to make the call look legitimate.

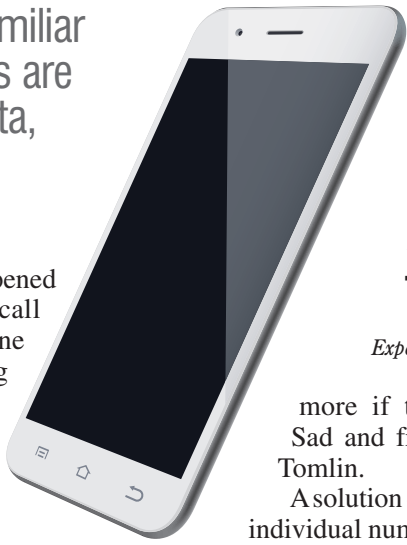
According to the FCC, "unwanted calls" make up 98 percent of the phone-related complaints it receives. Other issues include unauthorized cell phone charges and billing.

The Times received dozens of Facebook comments from readers. Readers resoundingly reported that they'd received these kinds of calls, and several a day.

Christa Irons said she gets these calls "All the time. They are trying to consolidate student loans I don't have."

Mary Ann Butka said she received two just last Tuesday morning.

"I tend not to answer the phone any-



“I tend not to answer the phone anymore if the number isn't saved. Sad and frustrating.”

Jill Ann Tomlin
Experiences "neighbor spoofing"

more if the number isn't saved. Sad and frustrating," said Jill Ann Tomlin.

A solution of the past is to block these individual numbers, and put yourself on the "do not call" registry (see sidebar).

But blocking these calls could result in blocking legitimate users. Again, your own number likely has been used on one of these calls, and the calls will probably continue from different numbers.

The issue was explored in July on National Public Radio, where FCC Chairman Ajit Pai admitted even his work phone was scammed.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Current FCC rules allow phone carriers to block scam phone numbers. FCC Chairman Ajit Pai said that a new system could be put into place, where each phone number has a unique digital fingerprint. Until this idea is a reality, they are applying stiff penalties against perpetrators of these calls.

Users are encouraged not to answer any unfamiliar phone calls, and the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) urged anyone who receives these calls not to engage with the phone system by pressing any buttons, or to speak with anyone on the line. Avoid using your phone number for any online forms.

To get on the do-not-call registry, go to donotcall.gov. It may not stop these calls, but it can help stop other telemarketers. On this site you can report unwanted calls, verify your registration, or register your phone on the do not call national list.

BANDITS

Continued from Front Page

back one liquor bottle and took off running in a southward direction.

Fenton police believe this man is connected to a group of suspects who work as a team to steal from liquor stores. Suspects include two black men, one black woman and one white woman.

Typically, one of the women will walk in, ask for a job application and while the clerk is distracted, the others are concealing liquor in their pants and coats. Police believe they are driving an older, gray four-door sedan.

Cross said police have received some leads and continue to investigate.



Baby, it's cold outside

■ Watch out for frozen pipes during this frigid Michigan winter

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

Cherie Smith was washing her teacups and kettle in the kitchen of her 147-year-old Fenton home on the day after Christmas, when she noticed there was no hot water running out of her faucet.

It wasn't a huge surprise, as there had been a steady stream of frigid temperatures, and Smith's kitchen hot water pipe freezes when it gets below minus 3 degrees. Luckily, she was able to thaw the pipe with a small heater before there was any damage.

Having frozen pipes is not uncommon in these frigid temperatures, but it can be every homeowner's nightmare, resulting in not only a mess, but serious damage.

"For the most part, it's an insulation issue," said Greg Staley of Staley's Plumbing, Heating & Air Conditioning in Fenton and Flushing. They have had more than the normal number of service calls so far because of the extreme low

temperatures. "The biggest thing is the wind chill when it gets below 20 degrees. We haven't had a lot of wind this winter, so that's been helpful," he said.

Staley says that insulation is the best preventer of frozen pipes. "You've got to make sure that insulation is done properly," he said. "Even in some newer construction, water lines are in the walls and aren't insulated properly. People need to check out places like their crawl spaces. They tend to forget

about insulation until there's a problem."

Water damage from bursting pipes is one of the most common homeowners insurance claims, with an average claim cost of about \$5,000.

How to know if your pipes are frozen

If your faucets won't flow and your toilets won't refill following a flush, that's a good sign your pipes are frozen.

How to safely thaw a frozen pipe

First, shut off the water supply to that section of plumbing (or the entire house if that's the only option), because the real problems begin after the thaw.

Use a space heater, heat lamp or hair dryer to thaw the frozen length of pipe, **See COLD on 6**

“For the most part, it's an insulation issue.”

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HOT LINE CONTINUED

■ **SURE TRUMP GAVE** up his pay, but when a dozen Secret Service people stay at his \$1,000-a-night property every weekend and longer that's pretty good profit.

■ **TRUMP DID IT.** He reversed global warming.

■ **THE NEW 'MAGA'** for Donald Trump. 'Mueller ain't going away.'

■ **TO YOU IN** the jacked up red truck traveling on Owen Road Friday. I saw you earlier in the day driving like an idiot, but when you got behind me that evening there were six cars ahead of me and you seemed to think you could speed me up by riding my bumper and revving your motor. Well just so you know, I had a baby in a car seat back there, and if I would have had to hit my brakes you would have been on her. I wish the paper could print what I would like to call you.

■ ■ ■

SLOW

Continued from Front Page

According to experts at AAA, the number one thing to do on an icy road is to reduce your speed. High speeds make it both easy to lose control and difficult to stop. You should never be driving faster than 45 mph in any vehicle when roads are icy — not even on highways. In many cases, much slower speeds are necessary. You can slide off the road on certain types of more treacherous icing, like black ice, at 10 mph or less. If you're fishtailing or sliding at all, it means you are going too fast for the conditions.

A factor in many of the serious and fatal crashes is overconfidence in one's abilities and/or equipment (traction control, antilock brakes, stability control, winter tires). Some believe that they have sufficient experience in winter driving, and can therefore continue normally, at or above the speed limit. But a fishtail on ice that occurs at highway speeds is usually unrecoverable by even the most quick-acting and experienced drivers.

Go easy on your brakes

Brake application is a common trigger of slides that result in a loss of vehicle control. ABS (antilock brakes) do not always work well on ice and snow, and can lock up your wheels regardless. Sliding wheels are uncontrollable, that is, steering input will not change the vehicle's direction if the wheels are sliding.

Turn into a slide. If you're caught off guard and begin sliding, turn your wheels in the direction that the rear of your car is sliding. It helps to look with your eyes where you want the car to go, and turn the steering wheel in that direction. It is easy to steer too far, causing the car to slide in the other direction. If this happens (called overcorrecting), you'll need to turn in the opposite direction.

Icy road accidents happen in multiples

Your own accident is sometimes not the greatest threat to you — additional out-of-control vehicles often are.

Being a Good Samaritan is a noble thing, but on an icy road, it can cause more problems than it solves. Parking on the side of an icy highway can cause passing drivers to brake and lose control, putting the lives of everyone involved in danger. Unless the stranded driver is in immediate danger, the best thing you can do is contact the authorities (call 911), who are equipped to safely block the road or divert traffic while a tow truck can do the job properly.

If you are involved in an accident on an icy road:

- Keep going until you arrive at a safe place to pull well off the road. Not only are you at risk from additional out-of-control vehicles, you may actually cause additional accidents by remaining on the road. If your accident involved other vehicles that are all still drivable, and if there are no injuries, encourage everyone to move to the nearest safe location, off of the road.
- If your car is disabled, stay in your vehicle if traffic is approaching. You have a better chance surviving another car or truck crashing into you if you are inside of your car, rather than standing outside in the open.
- If possible, get away from the road as quickly as you can. Once you are sure that no traffic is approaching, exit your vehicle and immediately get as far off the road as you can. Be careful, as the icy pavement will be tricky to walk on. Climb up an embankment, get behind a guardrail or Jersey barrier — anything that will get you out of the way of additional sliding vehicles.
- If it is not possible to get off the road, stay in your car. If you are in the middle of a bridge with no way to escape, stay in your vehicle.

Source: icyroadsafety.com; exchange.aaa.com

BITCOIN

Continued from Page 3

for trips, on eGifter to buy gift cards and many other places.

"People are buying mansions with bitcoins now," and some people "prefer to only be paid only in bitcoin. That's pretty interesting," he said.

The hype surrounding this online currency surrounds its value and the way the it's acquired. The price of one Bitcoin has increased more than 1,000 percent since the beginning of 2017, and the currency was on track to break \$20,000 in mid December. However, Bitcoin prices fell to below \$14,000 on Dec. 22 and below \$13,000 on Dec. 30, according to coindesk.com. As of Tuesday morning, Jan. 2, it was valued at \$13,963.

This drop was a stark contrast to Bitcoin's past success.

How to get bitcoins

Bitcoins are created by computers solving complex math puzzles, called "mining." These miners run certain programs that aim to find bitcoins. People and businesses have taken advantage of this and continuously run these programs to get as many bitcoins as they can.

However, according to Bitcoin protocol, only 21 million bitcoins can ever be created by miners. They can be divided into smaller parts, and the smallest divisible amount is one hundred millionth of a bitcoin, called a "Satoshi."

Online exchange websites like Bitstamp, Bitfinex and Coinbase facilitate people buying or selling bitcoins. These sites let you track a coin and see what they're used for.

Mobile apps on phones and computers let people exchange them digitally.

Bitcoin and drugs

Bitcoin's anonymity is attractive to users, but it's not as transparent as people think. According to Forbes, using bitcoins to buy drugs is becoming more popular on the black market. However, a user conducted an experiment by buying marijuana from three different bitcoin-based online black markets to see if one bitcoin user's actions could be traced. They discovered that bitcoin transactions are trackable.

Sources: money.cnn.com, coindesk.com, Forbes

COLD

Continued from Page 5

starting at the faucet end and working your way to the blockage. Wrapping freezing pipes with thermostatically controlled heat tape is also an effective way to quickly thaw a trouble spot.

Do not thaw pipes with a propane torch, which represents a fire risk.

If your pipes do burst . . .

Shut off your home's main water supply and immediately call your plumber.

Dry out as much as possible by removing water with mops, towels and a wet-dry vacuum. To minimize moisture-related problems, run a dehumidifier in the space until it dries out completely.

For huge messes, call your insurance agent. Most policies do cover burst pipes and the resulting water damage.

How to prevent frozen pipes in the first place

In newer homes, most pipes are placed in protected areas that won't cause exposure to extreme temperatures. However, if you have an older home, you may need to wrap pipes with insulation or add insulation to areas like crawl spaces, basements, attics, etc.

Also:

- Keep garage doors closed if there are water supply lines in the garage
- Open kitchen and bathroom cabinet doors to allow warmer air to circulate around the plumbing. Remove any harmful cleaners and household chemicals that could endanger children or pets
- When weather is very cold, let the cold water drip from the faucet served by exposed pipes
- Keep the thermostat set to the same temperature both during the day and at night

HOT LINE CONTINUED

TRUMP'S GREATEST MOVE in 2017 to 'Make America Great Again,' was to back us away from global government. This is why Globalists like Bush, Clinton, Romney, Biden and McCain want him out of office.

■■■
DEMOCRATS ARE NOT against prosperity. Democrats are against taking out a \$1.5 trillion loan and using the majority of the proceeds to line the pockets of millionaires and billionaires. Why does basic arithmetic evade Republicans? Why do Republicans think it's OK to steal from future generations? It's disgusting.

■■■
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VIOLATIONS

Continued from Front Page

the licensed premises. Mr. J.'s already holds an SDM (Specially Designated Merchant) liquor license, which he obtained in January of 2017.

If ultimately approved by the Michigan Liquor Control Commission, this license will become the 57th active liquor license in Fenton and Fenton Township.

Currently, there are nine active liquor licenses in Holly and 22 in Linden.

Prior to offering their support for businesses requesting liquor licenses, local municipal bodies normally ask their respective police chiefs to conduct background checks on the owners of these businesses and any managers responsible for the operation of the business.

Fenton Police Chief Jason Slater conducted a background check on the owner of Mr. J's Petroleum, Inc. and found him to have a clean record. He has had an SDM license since January of 2017 and received no violations from the state.

Once a liquor license is granted, it is unknown whether local municipalities follow up on any license violations issued by LARA, the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs.

During the year 2017, six of the 87 local liquor license holders were fined for violations. They are:

The **Fraternal Order of Eagles (2460)** of Fenton, which on Feb. 4, 2017, sold alcoholic beverages to a woman and a man who were not a bonafide members of the club. A hearing was held on May 8, 2017, and on June 13, 2017, an administrative law judge ordered the club pay a fine of \$100 for each violation, or \$200.

Sagebrush Cantina received violations for selling alcohol to two minors under the age of 21 on March 25, 2017. A hearing was held on Aug. 24, 2017, and on Sept. 12, 2017, a negotiated settlement agreement was reached and the restaurant received a \$500 fine for each incident for a total of \$1,000.

On May 9, 2017, Guillermo G. Valadez, member of **Cancun Mexican Restaurant and Cantina**, an LLC (Limited Liability Corporation) was found guilty of a crime involving the excessive use of alcoholic liquor, specifically DWI (Driving While Intoxicated).

According to Genesee County court records, the DWI occurred in October of 2016. Guillermo was arraigned on Jan. 9, 2017. He spent two days in jail. He has since completed probation, his court-ordered classes and paid \$1,185 in court-ordered

fines.

This case is still active as far as the liquor license is concerned; a decision has not yet been rendered by LARA.

On Feb. 21, 2017, **Andy's Place** in Holly received two violations for selling alcohol to minors, under the age of 21. A hearing was held on May 15, 2017, and on June 21, 2017, a penalty of \$300 was issued for each case, for a total fine of \$600.

Bittersweet Café in downtown Holly was also charged with selling alcoholic beverages to minors under the age of 21 on Feb. 21, 2017. A hearing was held on March 28, 2017, and on May 11, 2017, a penalty of \$300 was issued for each case, for a total of \$600.

On Nov. 5, 2016, it was reported to LARA that at the **Linden Hotel** on Broad Street in Linden, a male dancer, agent, or employee of the licensee, engaged in an illegal occupation or illegal act upon the licensed premises, specifically: full nudity and masturbation. It also was reported that a female manager allowed the annoying and/or molesting of an unidentified female by an employee or agent of the employee, a male dancer.

On May 8, 2017, a hearing was held but was adjourned as Linden Police Chief Scott Sutter who wrote the report did not appear. According to LARA, "He later called back after the hearings were over, and said he did not understand that he had to attend the hearing."

On Aug. 24, 2017 a second hearing was held and a \$200 fine was imposed on the Linden Hotel, \$150 for the first charge and \$50 for the second. The Linden Hotel also had to pay \$19.38 for witness fees involved in connection with the hearing.

In all afore-mentioned violations, the liquor licenses could have been suspended if the fines had not been paid with 10 to 30 to 45 days, depending on the violation. Since there are no further entries indicating suspensions, it is presumed the fines were all paid in the time allotted.

The state of Michigan has been issuing and monitoring liquor licenses for decades. More than half of the 87 local licensees have been issued a violation or two at one time or another since the mid-1970s. Those violations range from illegal gambling activities to bouncing checks (to the state) to serving alcohol to minors under 21, with the latter being the most prevalent.

Thirty-five of the 87 local liquor licensees have never received a violation from the state — 25 in Fenton, three in Linden and seven in Holly.

For more information, visit www.michigan.gov/lara.

View this story online at tctimes.com

Horoscopes

For the week of January 1, 2018

ARIES

Mar 21/Apr 20

Expressing yourself authentically is proving difficult, Aries. But this will pass shortly. Eventually, your persistence will pay off, and others will see that your intentions are genuine.

TAURUS

Apr 21/May 21

If your dreams are within reason, there is no reason why they can't come to fruition, Taurus. You just may need a few friends in your corner to help make things happen.

GEMINI

May 22/Jun 21

Gemini, don't obsess about a specific approach to working through a problem. Seek feedback from a number of people and explore all of your options.

CANCER

Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, it may take an intense effort to concentrate on your work this week because your thoughts keep drifting elsewhere. You must rein in your wandering mind.

LEO

Jul 23/Aug 23

It may be challenging to separate your fantasies from reality right now, Leo. Even though things are vivid in your mind, others may help clarify things for you.

VIRGO

Aug 24/Sept 22

Surprising news leaves you a little bit frazzled, Virgo. However, once you work your way through the surprise, you'll see that this news bodes well for you.

LIBRA

Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, others feel like you have everything figured out this week and are as sensible as can be. But there's a fun side of you that is just waiting to pop out.

SCORPIO

Oct 24/Nov 22

Something in your life is causing you undue stress, Scorpio. Find a way to let it all go by focusing on thoughts and things that bring you happiness.

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, it may seem like your time in the spotlight has come and gone, but that isn't the case. You have plenty of time to show what you can accomplish.

CAPRICORN

Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, your vision of the future may be set right now, but there is always room for some modifications. Embrace some of the uncertainty that can lead to greatness.

AQUARIUS

Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, no career goal is out of reach right now. Therefore, if you've been thinking of a career move, now is a great time to put those plans in motion.

PISCES

Feb 19/Mar 20

The search for the truth could lead you on a bit of a wild adventure, Pisces. Eventually, you can get to the bottom of the situation.

SNOWMOBILE

Continued from Front Page

their snowmobiles and traveling across some cornfields near the 10000 block of Ray Road, east of Nichols Road in Argentine Township. Cook was crossing the road to go from one cornfield to another. His snowmobile struck the embankment near the road, causing him to be thrown from the snowmobile. He was wearing a helmet.

Cook was transported to Genesys

Health Park in Grand Blanc Township, where he was pronounced deceased.

Argentine Township police were assisted by Gaines Township police and fire departments as well as Michigan State Police.

Police do not believe alcohol was a factor in the crash, however, speed and the uneven terrain were.

Cook's funeral arrangements have been made through Sharp Funeral Homes.

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Fenton wrestlers continuing their climb to the top

■ Tigers take fifth at Tournament of Champions event

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

The Tournament of Champions has been known as one of the quality wrestling tournaments during the regular season.

For the first time ever, the Fenton Tigers competed

in it. And the Tigers made a pretty impressive performance in their debut effort. Fenton placed fifth out of 18 teams, with 119 points.

The Tigers had two individual champions — Tommy Adams and Luke Thornton. Adams (152) won

all three of his matches by either decision or major decision en route to his title. He defeated Brenton Polk 9-2 to earn first in the championship match. He also defeated Gaylord's Kenny Smith 11-7 and DeWitt's Tyler Brandt 11-2.

Thornton (103) won his first match by pinfall, defeated Catholic Central's Caleb White by a 3-0 decision and then defeated DeWitt's Nick Elbright by pinfall in 3:38

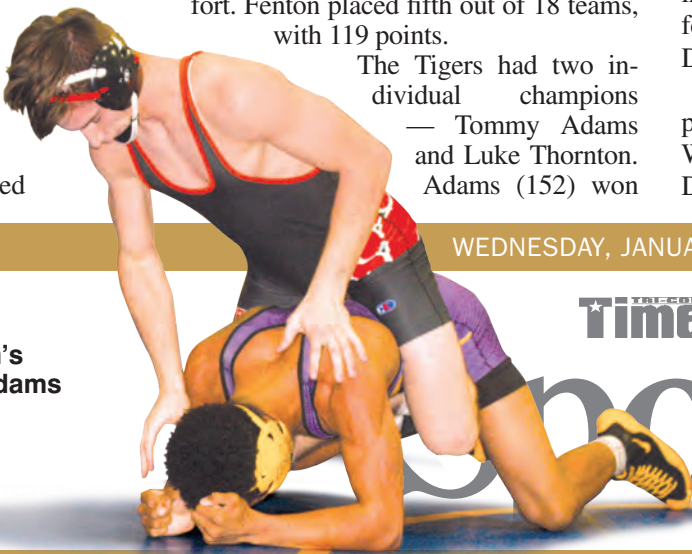
to win his title.

Two other Fenton wrestlers took home third-place finishes. Jayden Rittenbury (135) was one of them, beating New Boston's Cameron Arnold by pinfall in 58 seconds in the third-place match. Meanwhile, Devin Fuller (285) earned his third-place finish by beating Addison's Luke Yackee 6-0 in the third-place match.

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2018 | PAGE 8 | WWW.TCTIMES.COM/SPORTS

Fenton's Tommy Adams



Times

Sports

Allen's CFL stint is tri-county's top story of 2017

■ LF wrestlers' state championship runs finish No. 2 in our 2017 year-end poll

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

The sports staff presented a lot of exciting highlights in 2017's final edition of the Tri-County Times, awarding the 12th through seventh most exciting stories of the year.

In the first edition of 2018, we'll complete the list. Here we go!

No. 6 – Lake Fenton football captures its second straight Genesee Area Conference Red Division perfect championship season: A lot of people probably didn't know what to expect out of the Lake Fenton football team during the fall of 2017. The squad was coming off a GAC Red Division championship season, one that saw the Blue Devils go undefeated against their conference foes. But with a lot of strong seniors graduating, it was tough to expect it to happen again. But that's exactly what happened. Lake Fenton lost its opener but followed that with seven straight GAC Red victories, earning a second straight perfect GAC championship season. The Blue Devils dominated the league, shutting out four teams and not allowing any more than one touch-

down against the other three. The Blue Devils outscored league foes 267-19. Now that's domination. The Blue Devils' (8-2) postseason run didn't last long as Lake Fenton lost to Williamston in the opening round of the playoffs.

No. 5 – Holly softball wins a Metro League title: The Bronchos' league championship has to rank as the most unlikely Metro crown of the century so far. Before the 2017 season, the Holly varsity softball team has a combined 15-129 Metro League record in the last nine seasons of league play. For the century, the Bronchos held a 48-204 Metro record; never doing better than 2000's 6-8 mark. It had been 40 seasons since the Bronchos won a league title in softball, but in 2017, that streak came to an end. With a split against Clio during the final day of the season, the Bronchos ended up in a three-way tie for the league championship. And with the title,

the Bronchos may have changed the image of the softball team.

No. 4 – Fenton football wins its seventh straight Metro League championship: What a run it has been for the Fenton Tigers. The Tigers captured their seventh straight Metro League title this fall, making it four straight perfect conference seasons in a row. The Tigers entered the season as the Metro's favorite to capture a league title, and

See 2017 on 9



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTOS

The Tri-County's top sport story involved Fenton's Kenny Allen (top left) and Mitchell Shegos and their quest to play in the National Football League. Both fell short, but Allen did play for the Canadian Football League's Hamilton TigerCats this fall. (Top) Holly softball shocked the Metro League by winning a share of the league crown, while Fenton football (immediately above) won its seventh straight Metro title. Lake Fenton football (left) won its second straight GAC Red Division crown.

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2017

Continued from Page 8

didn't disappoint. Fenton opened the season with a 46-21 victory against Brandon at Michigan Stadium, and went on to beat Metro foes by an average of 31 points. The wins included a 48-13 victory against Linden and a 42-6 victory against Holly. Unfortunately, the Tigers' postseason ended quicker than the squad hoped, losing to flushing 28-21 in the district title game.

No. 3 – Lake Fenton boys basketball advances to the Class B State Quarter-finals: The Lake Fenton boys basketball team's season was three years in the making when a freshman class came into the high school and changed the mindset of the program. Led by players like Jalen Miller, Andrew Foerster and Isaac Golson, the Blue Devils had a senior class of nine players that took the squad to its first-ever Class B regional championship and state quarter-final contest. After a 15-5 regular season, the Blue Devils won a tight 53-50 verdict against Ovid-Elsie in the opening round of districts and then went on to defeat Chesaning and Corunna to win a district title. At regionals, Lake Fenton snuck by Freeland 55-52 and then crushed Frankenmuth 68-52 to win a regional championship. The run ended against Ludington when the Blue Devils lost a 69-43 contest to the eventual state runner-ups. Lake Fenton ended the season with a 20-6 mark.

No. 2 – Lake Fenton's Trent Hillger and Jarrett Trombley capture their third straight individual wrestling championships: Trent Hillger capped his outstanding prep wrestling career by earning his third straight state championship, capturing the D3 285 championship with a 15-0 technical fall victory against Lake Odessa Lake-

wood's Luke Tromp in the finals. The win capped his career with a 241-8 record overall, earning a 215 state title his sophomore year and two state championships at 285 his final two seasons. Hillger is now wrestling at the University of Wisconsin. Trombley earned his third championship defeating Brooklyn Columbia central's Keenan Gunnells at 130 pounds. Trombley won his first state championship at 112 pounds as a freshman at Corunna. He transferred to Lake Fenton his sophomore season and won a state title at 119. Trombley (136-1 overall enering the season) is looking for his fourth individual state wrestling title this winter.

No. 1 – Kenny Allen and Mitchell Shegos pursue NFL dreams, Allen plays in the CFL: When it comes to popularity, no sport beats prep football in the tri-county area. And over the last decade the area has produced its share of collegiate talent ranging from the Division I to the Division III level. But during the summer something happened that the tri-county area isn't used to seeing — two past players were invited to National Football League training camps. Ex-Fenton players Kenny Allen and Mitchell Shegos were given chances to continue their NFL dreams. Neither had their names mentioned during the NFL draft, but both were invited to camps immediately after the draft. Michigan Wolverine punter/placekicker Kenny Allen competed with the Baltimore Ravens while Shegos, who played his college football at Division II Notre Dame (Ohio), was given a tryout as a wide receiver with the Cleveland Browns.

Shegos' venture ended quicker than Allen's did, but neither was able to remain with their NFL teams. Despite catching 75 passes for 1,097 yards and 12 TDs during his senior season with Notre Dame, Shegos

was unable to make the Browns.

Allen capped his career at Michigan as the team's starting punter and place kicker, earning him a free agent spot with the Baltimore Ravens. While at training camp, Allen averaged 45.6 yards a punt and made a 40-yard field goal. He also did some of the kickoff duties. While it didn't land him a job with the Ravens, it eventually earned him a kicking job with the Canadian Football League Hamilton Tiger Cats in October. Playing in the team's final four games of the season, Allen averaged 43.7 yards a punt and nailed 11-of-12 field goals.

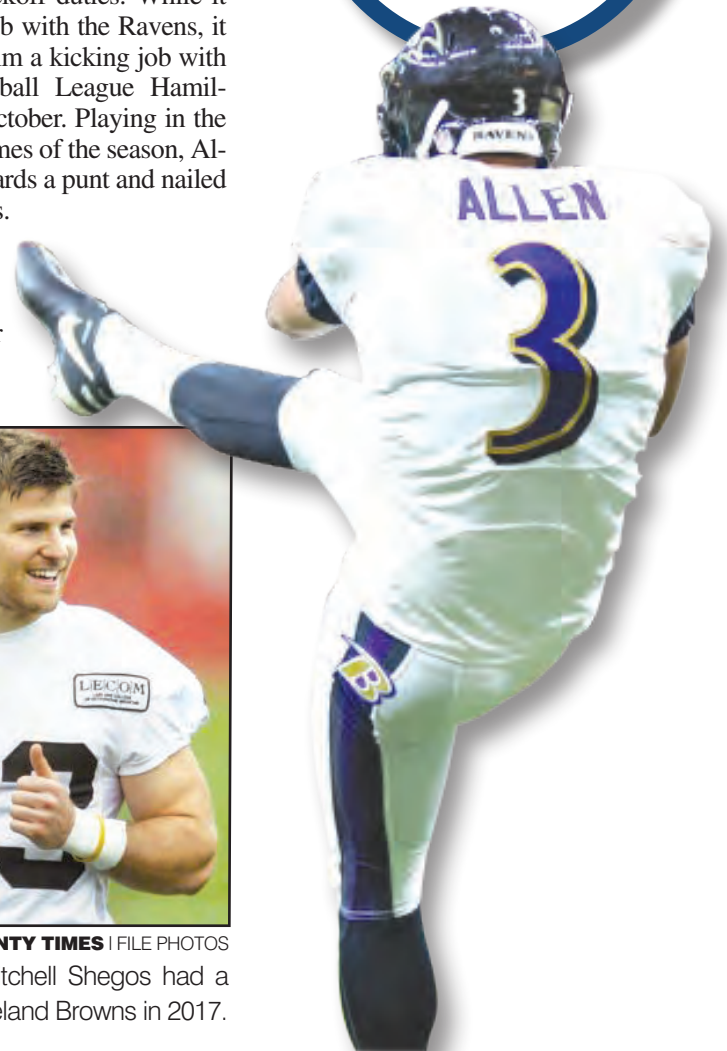
Allen's professional football debut in the world's second-best league represents our top story of 2017.

Fenton's Kenny Allen competed during the NFL preseason with the Baltimore Ravens last summer. He played with the Canadian Football League's Hamilton TigerCats.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTOS

Fenton graduate Mitchell Shegos had a try out with the Cleveland Browns in 2017.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTOS

The No. 3 sports story in the tri-county area in 2017 involved the Lake Fenton boys basketball team (top right) winning a Class B regional title and competing in a state quarterfinal game for the first time in school history. Ranking No. 2 were Lake Fenton's three-time individual state champion wrestlers, Jarrett Trombley (immediately above) and Trent Hillger (top left).

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TRI-COUNTY
Times



Keiser, Buchanan lead our cross country packs

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

Ever since Alexa Keiser entered Fenton High School's doors, she's been the leader of the pack when it comes to cross country running.

The Fenton sophomore won her first Metro League jamboree and hasn't lost one since.

It didn't take Tyler Buchanan long to find his way to the front of the pack either. The Linden sophomore was one of the ar-

ea's top runners his freshman year as well, earning a spot on our 2016 All-Tri-County Cross Country Team.

This season the two sophomores continue to prove despite their youth they have what it takes to dominate their sports. For the second straight season Keiser is our Female Cross Country Runner of the Year. Meanwhile, Buchanan is earning his first honor as Male Cross Country Runner of the

Year this season.

The runner of the year awards and the teams themselves are figured based on a mathematical equation using the final league meets, the regional meets and the state meets (when applicable) results. For the second straight year, Keiser was the easy women's winner.

In two years she has won six straight Metro races and won 13 events overall. Last fall she won her first six races before finally having to settle for ninth at the prestigious Portage Invitational. She bounced back by winning the Metro League Championship meet, and then taking sixth at the regional event, individually qualifying for the state meet. The Tigers qualified as a team as well, and Keiser helped the team place 19th at the meet, while earning sixth place and All-State honors with a time of 18:07.5, just .4 seconds off her personal best for the season.

Buchanan also won all three Metro races this season, and started an eight-meet win streak starting at the Duane Raffin Festival of Races. Buchanan won the Metro title by over 12 seconds against the rest of the field, and also won his first-ever regional meet championship with a time of 16:32.0. He saved his best performance for the last meet of the season, earning D2 All-State honors with a sixth-place time of 15:42.4. He led the Eagles to a seventh-place team finish.



Fenton's Alexa Keiser (above) is our Female Cross Country Runner of the Year, while Linden's Tyler Buchanan (above right) earned our Male Cross Country Runner of the Year award.

ALL TRI-COUNTY CROSS COUNTRY TEAMS

Boys team

Names	Grade	School
Tyler Buchanan - Male of the Year	Sophomore	Linden
Adam Jesse	Sophomore	Fenton
Sam Deardorff	Senior	Fenton
Thomas Hufton	Junior	Lake Fenton
Eric Niestroy	Junior	Lake Fenton
Tanner Blaney	Senior	Linden
Samuel Schneider	Senior	Holly

Girls team

Names	Grade	School
Alexa Keiser - Female of the Year	Sophomore	Fenton
Andrea Ruiz	Freshman	Holly
Cambria Tiemann	Junior	Fenton
Hannah Wabel	Sophomore	Linden
Abbey Lee	Junior	Fenton
Kaitlin Bayer	Freshman	Fenton
Zoe Brown	Freshman	Linden

Note: The teams, and Runner of the Year, were selected by the sports staff using two equations that are based on the three biggest meets of each season - the final league meet, regionals and the state meet for those who competed at the event.

Blue Devils gain valuable experience at Bendle Winter Classic

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

Burton — Lake Fenton varsity boys basketball coach Brian McNerney saw a three-week gap between games and also saw that the Blue Devils had just 19 of their 20 dates filled for the season.

So when he was given the chance to have the Blue Devils join the Bendle Winter Classic, he jumped on the opportunity. The Blue Devils began their two-day venture in the tournament with a competitive 43-38 loss to Ferndale University on Thursday at Bendle High School.

After losing their first three games by an average of nearly 31 points, the Blue Devils are starting to improve. Right before the winter break, the Blue Devils captured their first victory of the season with a 74-49 road win against Mt. Morris. And now they have followed that win with the competitive battle against Ferndale University. The Blue Devils also lost their final game of the tournament, losing to Bendle 69-50.

"I think we've been working together better," Luke Tomczyk said. "I think we are getting closer through the year. Our defense has definitely improved. Our offense is too. All of our guys are getting better."

The Blue Devils (1-4) trailed for most of the contest against Ferndale, but were seemingly always within a couple of buckets of taking the lead.

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM

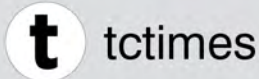


TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPENS

Lake Fenton's Luke Tomczyk attempts a layup during the Bendle Winter Classic against Ferndale.



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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2018

PAGE 11

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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

Answers in this Sunday's edition of the Tri-County Times

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	2							6
5		1			7			4
	6		5			9	2	
1				9				
							8	
9		5				1		
					8	3		7
	7	6			2			
4			1					

Level: Intermediate

Wednesday Crossword

KING FEATURES

ACROSS

- Winter woe
- Movie fragment
- Restaurant employee
- Deteriorate
- Stash
- Head light?
- Formed rust
- Too
- Felon's flight
- Tasted
- Miss Muffet's bugaboo
- Prune
- Candy in a dispenser
- Deli buy
- Rid of frost
- Sandwich cookie
- Yuletide quaff
- Crucial time
- Re ebb and flow
- Existed
- Individual
- In medias —
- Libra symbol
- Sweet girl in an old song
- Yale student
- Poi base
- Worried greatly
- Ear-related
- Links warning
- Detergent brand

DOWN

- To and —
- Bagel topping
- Worked with
- Doorbells, often
- Claiborne of fashion
- Mid-month date
- Accelerator, e.g.
- In need of balm, maybe
- Corridor
- Differently
- Comestibles
- Father
- Chic, in the '60s
- Location
- Actress Gilpin
- Take off
- Violinist's need
- Put on a pedestal
- Chaplin prop
- Spud's buds
- U-shaped part of a row-boat
- Petrol
- Hawaiian souvenir
- Parts of an act
- Big glitch
- Baba
- Teeny bit
- Piece of info on an invitation
- Great Lake
- Ids' counter-parts
- Raw rock
- Before
- Beavers' construct

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Obituaries

Times



**Mrs. Dawn
Lenell McAberns**
1947-2017

Mrs. Dawn Lenell McAberns - age 70, known for her love of animals and holidays, passed away peacefully after a long battle with cancer at her home in Florence, KY on the morning of December 16, 2017 with her sons at her side. She was a loving wife of 12 years to the late Samuel McAberns. Dawn was born to John and Raylene Boren in Sturgis, MI. Surviving family members include two sons, Rick and Scott (Kimberly) Dabbs; two brothers, John (Carolyn) and Doug Boren; step-children, Wendy, Tony and Tim McAberns; grandchildren, Ariel, Alyssa, Colby, Nickolas, Caleb; great-grandchild, Camden and nieces and nephews John, Kimberly, Kyle, Dana, Kim, Amanda, Sarah and Ashley. Her light and love for life will be missed. In lieu of flowers contributions can be made in Dawn's name to the ASPCA at ASPCA.org or your local animal shelter.

Obituaries
updated
daily online



Gary Eugene Hall
1938-2018

Gary Eugene Hall - age 79, of Linden, died Monday, January 1, 2018. Funeral services will be held 11 AM Friday, January 5, 2018 at Sharp Funeral Homes, Linden Chapel, 209 E. Broad St., Linden. Visitation will be held at the funeral home Thursday, January 4, 2018 from 5-8 PM and Friday from 10 AM until the time of the service. Those desiring may make contributions to the Medical Team Hospice, 4400 Saginaw St., Suite 1300, Flint, MI 48507. Gary was born May 24, 1938 in Clio. He was a 1956 graduate of Linden High School. He was a veteran of the United States Marine Corps. He married Nancy Rose Martin on May 24, 1975. Gary was a member of the Linden V.F.W. Post #4642. He was a volunteer for the Linden Fire Department where he served as the Fire Chief, and was a volunteer for the Linden Police Department. Surviving are: his wife, Nancy; children, Randy Hall, Dana Hall, Tammy (Roger) Matter, Tracey Howard, Vance (Tia) Hall, Terry (Julie) Steffey, Tim (Stacey) Steffey, and Tami (Mike) Csapo; 21 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren; brother, Kent (Cheryl) Hall; sister, Kim Annis; and several nieces and nephews. Gary was preceded in death by his parents, Bob and Fern Annis; brother, Donald Hall. Online tributes may be posted on the obituaries page at www.sharpfuneralhomes.com.



**Melvin Curtis
"Curt" Foguth**
1947-2017

Melvin Curtis "Curt" Foguth - age 70, of Linden, passed away surrounded by his family on December 29, 2017. Curt was born in Detroit to Melvin and Lucy Foguth on March 30, 1947. The first child of 13, he did his job as a big brother very well. Curt loved the outdoors and enjoyed hunting and fishing. He was a jack of all trades and was very handy with automobiles and welding. He loved to tinker and though he was a sheet metal worker by trade, his real passion was in designing and building food trucks. He built his own taco truck and operated it in and around town. He was always on the move and would help his family and friends with anything. His spunk, spark and humor will be deeply missed by his entire family and network of good friends. He is the beloved father of James (Elaine) Foguth, the late Loopy Foguth and the late Dexter Callihan Foguth; dear grandpa of Madeline; big brother of Christine Cole, Sharon (Paul) Moggach, Beverly Foguth, Catherine Brouwers, John (Shari) Foguth, Mary Smith, Paul (Karen) Foguth, Michael (Marie) Foguth, Thomas (Sandra) Foguth, Robert Foguth, Dave (Jaimee) Foguth and Keith (Natalie) Foguth. Curt also leaves many nieces, nephews and loving friends. He was preceded in death by his sons, Loopy and Dexter; parents, Melvin and Lucy Foguth; spouse, Paula Callihan; nephew, Spencer Foguth and his sister-in-law, Joanna Foguth. We will celebrate Curt's life on Thursday, January 4, 2018 11 AM at The Freedom Center, 2473 W. Shiawassee Ave., Fenton. Friends may visit on Wednesday, January 3, 2018 3-8 PM at Temrowski Family Funeral Home, 500 Main St., Fenton and Thursday 10 AM until the time of service at the church. The rosary will be prayed on Wednesday afternoon at 4 PM. Donations may be made to his family C/O Jim Foguth. Share memories at www.temrowskifamilyfuneralhome.com.

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TOWNSHIP OF HOLLY NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, in accordance with the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) requirements a public hearing will be held by the Holly Township Board at its regular meeting on January 17, 2018 at 6:30 p.m., or shortly thereafter, at the Holly Area Schools Board Room, Karl Richter Community Center, 920 E. Baird St., Holly, MI 48442 to receive written and verbal comment regarding the reprogramming of federal CDBG Funds as follows:

FROM:

- PY 2016: 730571 Emergency Services \$4,576
- PY 2016: 730345 Clearance and Demolition – Village of Holly Project \$4,576

TO:

- PY 2017: 730898 O.C. Home Improvement \$10,680
- PY 2017: 730345 Clearance and Demolition – Village of Holly Project \$10,680

The Holly Township Hall is handicap accessible. Arrangements to reasonably accommodate special needs will be made upon receiving a seven (7) day advance notice. Contact Holly Township Clerk at the number above for special services.

Karin S. Winchester
Holly Township Clerk

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by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

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Are you happy?

■ People 65 and older are reportedly in the happiest age group, with more time and fewer stresses

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

Dick Wilson of Fenton Township is 72 years young, and has never been happier.

Well, actually he says he has been happy all of his life, because that's just the way he is, but his age has definitely not

changed his optimistic outlook on life. He's not alone.

If you're between the ages of 65 and 79, you likely are answering "Yes!" to the question, "Are you happy?" Studies show that many adults in this age group find it to be the happiest time in their lives.

You're still young enough to be in (mostly) good health, and no longer have the stresses of work and raising kids.



Dick Wilson

See HAPPY on 23

PG 16

Tame the Beast

Keep your gray hair looking healthy



FIT after 50

■ Fenton woman reverses her own physical aging through her commitment to exercise

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

Anna Handley of Fenton isn't taking her mid-50s sitting down.

She is one of the few people who made a commitment to work out four times a week

at the gym in 2017, and has diligently stuck to her routine.

That makes her last year's New Year resolution a rarity, because a recent story in U.S. News & World Report said about 80 percent of resolutions to lose weight and get fit fail.

Failure was not an option for this 55-year-old who was committed to improving her health, after back surgery left her inactive and with 15 extra pounds on her small frame.

"You can actually reverse the physical age

of your body through exercise," said Handley, who works out at TruFit in Fenton.

"Personally, I'm not looking to live forever," she added. "I just want to be healthy and active for the time I am alive. It seems like so many folks in their 50s gather and talk about their doctor appointments, tests, medicine and limitations.

It's depressing. Sickness and disease has become the identity of many." Handley does a cardio workout of many different exercises, from full-body movements like burpees (a squat thrust) to kettle bells, weights and battle ropes. "Every workout is different," she said.

She wants to encourage people of all ages and abilities to exercise, even if they think they can't do it. "You can modify any exercise," she said.

With six screws and pins in her back from back surgery, she is one who really doubted

See FIT on 18

“Personally, I’m not looking to live forever. I just want to be healthy and active for the time I am alive.”

ANNA HANDLEY
Active 55-year-old
Fenton resident

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO

Ralph and Kim Jackson of Fenton adopted four of their grandchildren, pictured here in 2011, when their parents weren't able to provide a proper home.

'I didn't sign up for this'

■ 'Grandfamilies' are becoming a societal norm as more grandparents raise grandkids

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Ralph and Kim Jackson of Fenton never expected to raise four more kids, in addition to their own two sons and two daughters.

But when Michigan Child Protective Services stepped in to take their grandkids away from their oldest daughter and her husband, the choice was clear. Their home was deemed unfit to live in, and the parents' rights were finally terminated

after the state charged them with environmental neglect.

The Jacksons formally adopted their grandchildren, two in 2007 and one in 2009, after years of going back and forth between the parents and grandparents.

"There was never a doubt that we would take them," said Kim, 56. "Either we would, as their family, or someone else would."

The kids are now teens and tweens, and one has passed away. "Bubba got really sick with a brain tumor in 2011 and passed away a month before his 10th birthday," Kim said. Altogether, she and Ralph have 11 grandchildren.

See **GRANDFAMILIES** on 21

Your journey back to wellness

■ How to maximize your experience in a rehabilitation facility after an injury or fall

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

You tell your friends that you fell off your grandson's skateboard, but let's face it, it's more likely you tripped over a throw rug in the hallway and took a nasty fall. You've had surgery to repair the injury, but now it's time to recover completely by going to rehab.

Here's what to look for in choosing a facility:

• **Facility staff** — when touring, talk to the staff. A caring, dedicated staff will work hard to make your rehab successful.

• **Prior successful rehab** — your own experience in a facility and your familiarity will increase your comfort level and make this transition easier for you and your family.



• **Location, location, location** — is it close to home and convenient for family and other visitors?

• **Personal referral** — get a recommendation from a family or friend who has had a successful rehab there.

• **Facility specialty** — you may want to choose a facility that focuses on the type of rehab you need, such as brain injury, stroke or trauma.

• **Equipment available** — make sure the facility has what you need for your particular health condition.

See **JOURNEY** on 20

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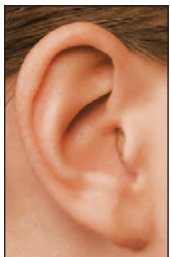
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Embracing THE GRAY



■ How to tame it and make it your own statement of style and experience

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

If you're tired of coloring your hair and leaning toward embracing your age by "going gray," you're not alone. More and more women are deciding to embrace, rather than cover up, their signs of maturity and experience, which include gray hairs and fine lines.

Letting your hair go natural to gray is certainly easier than tending to hair coloring touch-ups every four to six weeks, and maybe you're one of the lucky ones with a stunning shade of gray.

Either way, you'll want to pull off this new look without looking frumpy and older than your years. That means you

may have to pay more attention to your make-up, glasses and clothing styles, to keep your youthful appearance.

You'll also want to change your hair products and beauty routine to enhance your new look, especially when gray hair tends to be wiry. That's because the cuticles of gray hair are rougher than hair that has pigment (color). Gray hair also tends to be dry.

First things first — you have to go through the process of growing out your gray hair. This may mean enduring a six to 12 month "awkward" stage as your new natural hair grows in. You can cut your hair short or slowly cut off as much of the previously colored hair as possible, so the new growth blends in more quickly.

Another option is to add in highlights and lowlights to blend in your gray hair, done professionally for the best results.

Once your hair is all gray

- **Brighten your gray** hair with a purple-tinted shampoo, designed specifically for this purpose.

- **To tame your** new gray, smooth it out using serums, glosses and products containing silicone and conditioners. Look on product labels for the word "silicone," which helps temper those stubborn, wiry hairs.

- **A professional glossing** treatment every six to eight weeks will provide dramatic results in smoothing out your wiry hair and enhancing its natural color.

- **Brush your hair** nightly to distribute oil from the scalp to the ends. New York City stylist Eva Scrivo recommends daily brushing with a boar's hair bristle brush.

- **Remove hair product** build-up by shampooing once a week with a clarifying shampoo or mixing apple cider vinegar into the shampoo.

- **Protect your hair** from sun damage by wearing a scarf, or damage from chlorine by wearing a swim cap, or from the mineral deposits in your water by installing a filter.

like hair, then soften the look by layering in a powdered shadow. Aim for the same color as the brow pencil and/or your hair.

Keep your brows in place by spraying hairspray on your finger and brushing your finger over your brows. Sometimes an older, dried out light brown mascara can provide just enough coverage when applied very lightly to the brows.

Looking for hair in 'all the wrong places?'

Chances are, at the same time you're finding less hair on the top of your head, you're finding additional hair in places you're not used to.

MEN

More hair in your nose, ears and on your back is usually an issue for men more than women. According to Scientific American, as men age, the hair follicles in the nose and ear become more sensitive to testosterone and also become bigger, producing larger hairs. It's time to pull out the shaver and hair trimmer.

WOMEN

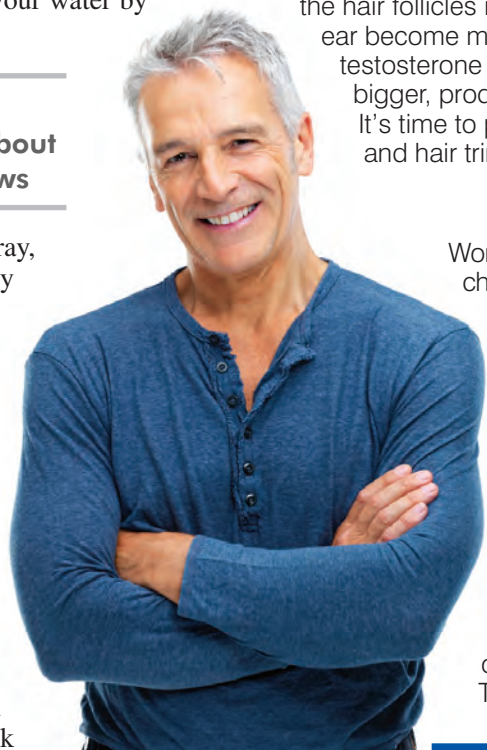
Women experience changes in hair growth, too, as a result of hormonal changes as they get older. After years of shaving, some are happy to find they have less hair on their legs and underarms. Others have more hair, especially on their face. Ugh. Tweezers, anyone?

TIP:

Don't forget about your eyebrows

If they've gone gray, you can professionally dye them lighter or darker. Be sure to choose a cool tone for the eyebrow dye. You'll want to match the tone of your hair.

For a non-dye solution, use an eyebrow pencil to fill in sparse areas and darken a light brow. For the most natural look draw in short lines that look



Wear this



NOT THAT



Wear this



NOT THAT



Wear this, NOT THAT

■ Tips on style and comfort when you're an older guy with a bit of a 'gut'

Compiled By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

Let's face it, not all men have a GQ body, and as they get older the gut sometimes gets a little bigger than they like.

According to Antonio Centeno, the founder of "Real Men Real Style," there are six things a man with extra weight around the middle can do to be both stylish and comfortable.

Get comfortable wearing a jacket

The first item of clothing you should

pay attention to is a jacket, says Centeno in his video at rmrs.com. It helps to distribute your body image so that people aren't focused on the gut. Wear a blazer, a sports coat, or an overcoat — any well-fitted jacket that accentuates the shoulders and creates the illusion of a slimmer frame.

Make sure you get the right fit

A lot of big guys try to fit into clothes that are designed to fit and flatter smaller body types. Skip the latest trends and find some quality, classic and practical clothes that make you feel confident.

When you have something to hide, don't call attention to it. Loose clothing makes you look bigger and tight clothing

hugs your body in the wrong places. Get the right fit — slim, not overly tight nor overly loose. The common mistake is to cover your protruding belly with loose, baggy clothing. Unfortunately, this trick has the reverse effect — making you look even bigger.

It's easier to find clothes that fit the largest part of your body and then have them altered by a tailor. If the pants fit in the waist, but are busting at the seams around your thighs, buy the next size up that fits your thighs and have the trousers taken in at the waist.

Don't tuck your shirt in. Casual shirts with a curved hem gently fall over the stomach flab while pulling up on the sides. They need to be long enough to

prevent exposed flesh when stretching or bending.

Only wear long-sleeved shirts. These shirts create a more proportioned look of your body.

Lightweight fabric is your friend

Clothing made from heavy or thick fabrics emphasizes your bulky stature. Switch to clothing made from lighter materials. Learn the differences between the fabrics available to you. Understand the difference between lightweight cotton and thicker cotton.

Avoid baggy chunky sweaters. Instead, go for cashmere V-neck sweaters as they won't add bulk to your body.

See WEAR THIS on 23

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO
Anna Handley and her husband, Steve, work out on Thursday, Dec. 28.

Benefits of exercise as we age

Physical health

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- Enhances mobility, flexibility and balance

Mental health

- Improves sleep
- Boosts mood and self-confidence
- Helps brain function, possibly even slowing the progression of brain disorders such as Alzheimer's disease

Source: Helpguide.org

FIT

Continued from Page 13

that she'd be able to do all the movements. "At first, I had to use sliders when doing burpees, but a year later, I'm a lot stronger and don't even need them," she said. She's also back to work as an equine podiatrist, providing shoeless hoof care for horses.

Handley urges people to overcome their defeating thoughts and allow exercise to do its magic on keeping one's body and spirit much more youthful.

"We are a spirit with a soul living in a body. If you don't take care of it, your life will likely be shorter, and so will the quality of your life and your own enjoyment," she said.



Don't be that 'Sunday driver'

■ Signs that your elderly parent shouldn't be driving on Sunday or any other day of the week

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Are you wondering at what point you might have to have a conversation about your aging parent still driving?

This decision would be much more straightforward if there was a specific age when people could no longer legally drive, but it would also be unfair to the many

seniors who drive very safely. They've got years of experience behind the wheel, and as a whole, they drive more safely than their younger counterparts, according to AAA.

Although drivers in their 60s have the same crash rates as drivers in their 30s, drivers in their mid-to-late 80s have a car crash rate sharply lower than teens and 20-somethings, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

In fact, the number of fatal senior driving accidents has declined more than 40 percent in the last three decades, and technology to prevent senior car accidents is growing.

AAA recommends a number of safety features for elderly drivers, including a grip steering wheel for drivers with arthritis, controls that easily raise and lower the seat, big dashboard buttons and a backup camera. Smart headlights, emergency response systems and reverse monitoring features rank among the highest rated features, according to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) AgeLab.

Here are items to consider when deciding if it's safe for your loved one to take the wheel, according to Care.com:

• Health status

Various medical conditions can decrease a person's ability to drive safely, including arthritis and dementia. If you're getting concerned, schedule an appointment for your family member and a trusted physician and let the doctor know ahead of time what you're concerned about.

• Medications

Some medications have side effects that make it unsafe for a senior to drive. Ask the doctor about these side effects before he or she begins taking the medication.

• Recent driving record

Have there been fender-benders, near-misses or unexplained bumps and scratches on the car? If so, these could be warning signs you need to heed.

• Observable differences

Arrange to be in the car while your senior family member is driving. Look for errors with signaling, difficulty turning, driving at inappropriate speeds, increased agitation or irritation, failure to stop at a stop sign or red light and delayed response to unanticipated situations.

• Arranging for driving evaluation

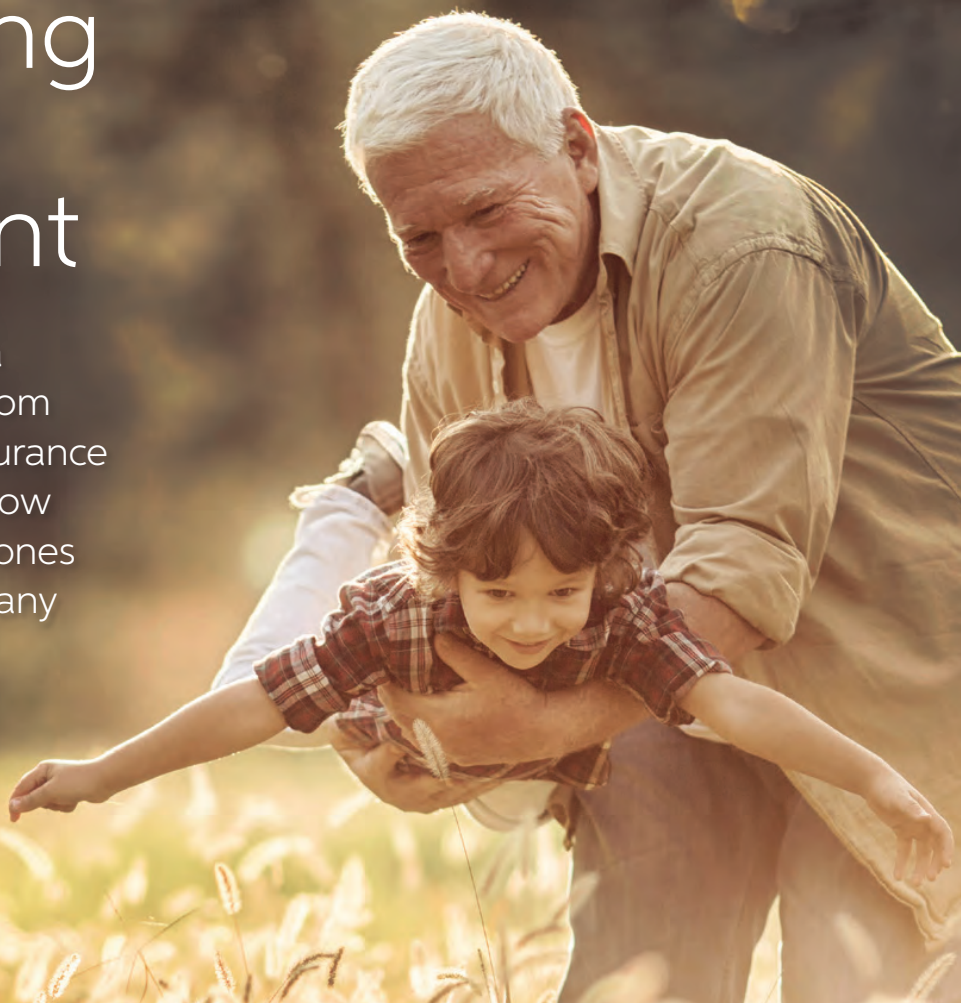
A driving assessment may be available at your local Department of Motor Vehicles, Veterans Administration medical center or hospital. These evaluations usually cost between \$200 and \$500 and are rarely covered by insurance, but it may be well worth the expense.

TIP: Your senior doesn't have to take an all-or-nothing approach. It is possible to safely drive on local roads at speeds under 45 mph, while avoiding long distances on the highway. This is an example of self-regulating one's driving.

HINT: If you do not want your senior driver driving grandchildren, it is probably time to have a conversation about their future driving abilities.

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Want to look 10 years younger?

■ Take years off your smile with new teeth whitening techniques

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

What could you do to immediately look 10 years or more younger and not have to undergo any kind of surgery or procedure to get there?

That's the power of teeth whitening — it's that effective in taking years off your appearance.

If you're older than 50, you've had years to accumulate stains on your teeth, especially if you're a smoker, or a fan of coffee, tea and wine. Combine that with the inevitable thinning of your tooth enamel, and your teeth can display obvious signs of aging, even if you have a beautiful smile.

Here are a few whitening techniques to whiten and brighten your smile:

Use a whitening toothpaste

Opalescence Whitening, **Crest 3D White**, **Tom's of Maine** Antiplaque & Whitening, **Sensodyne** Extra Whitening and **Arm & Hammer** Extreme Whitening are the top five whitening toothpastes named in a Business Insider article in 2017.

These products won't penetrate deep into the tooth for a dramatic whitening effect, but they do contain an abrasive element that removes superficial surface stains.

In-office light-activated bleaching

These whitening treatments use peroxide and a bleaching gel applied to the teeth, activated under a blue light for about an hour.

This procedure is best for people who want instant results and who have sensitive teeth. Results last several years if you brush and floss regularly.

Cost: \$300 to \$600

Tray bleaching

The dentist makes a mold of your teeth to create thin plastic trays that fit like mouth guards. You fill the trays with bleaching gel and wear them for three days, an hour a day, every three months. This procedure is best for maintenance after an in-office whitening treatment.

Cost: \$400 to \$800

Drugstore whitening kits

These are over-the-counter clear strips

coated with peroxide gel that you apply to your teeth for five to 30 minutes, depending on the intensity of the peroxide on the strip.

These strips are best for people with mild staining and plenty of tooth enamel. At-home kits will lighten your teeth, but they do take several weeks or more of daily applications, and your teeth may become temporarily sensitive in the process.

Look for **Crest 3D White Whitestrips Professional Effects Teeth Whitening Kit** (\$44.99) or other brands like **Plus White 5 Minute Dental Whitening Kit** (\$11.49), **Walgreens Extreme Whitening Wraps** (\$14.99)

Composite bonding

The composite material is reinforced plastic that can repair chips, cracks and small gaps between the teeth, as well as cover white spots caused by calcium deposits that become more apparent as teeth wear down with age.

The dentist sculpts the plastic onto the tooth and hardens it with a special light. Once it has hardened, it is sanded and polished so the surface appears seamless with the natural tooth.

It's best for small fixes and works very well, lasting for five to 15 years, depending on the quality of the dentist's work and whether you grind your teeth.

Cost \$200 to \$500 per tooth, depending on the complexity of the restoration.

Porcelain veneers

A very thin layer of porcelain is bonded onto the entire front of the tooth. To prepare teeth for veneers, the dentist may have to reduce the enamel surface from 0.7 to 1 millimeter or slightly more, depending on the position and shape of the teeth and how crowded they are.

A dental lab makes the veneer, working closely with the dentist on the shape and color. When the veneer is ready, the dentist etches the tooth surface, which allows a bonding agent to be absorbed, attaches the veneer and hardens the bonding agent with a light.

This procedure is best for improving crooked, widely gapped or badly stained teeth. Veneers can make a dramatic difference in a smile, last about 20 years, don't stain or chip and require no maintenance.

Cost \$1,000 to \$2,000 per tooth.

Source: Oprah.com, Businessinsider.com

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■ How to discuss care options and finances with your aging parents

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Nobody wants to have “The Talk” — you did it with your kids about the “birds

and the bees” and now it’s time to have an entirely different conversation with the older parents in your life.

No time seems like a good time, but the new year is actually an appropriate time to have this kind of conversation with your folks. It’s time to be honest in assessing your parents’ needs — from health and wellness concerns to legal and financial

considerations.

It’s clear that many families avoid this conversation altogether.

Nearly half of those in a recent survey have not discussed the topic at all. With the number of seniors projected to double over the next two decades — making up about 22 percent of the population by the year 2040 — the need for elder care may move beyond your family’s boundaries to a new sense of national urgency.

Talking it through

Families often wait too long to make tough decisions about their aging parents. It’s very important to have this discussion before you’re in crisis mode. Gather information ahead of time and keep a regular, watchful eye on your parents’ needs to avoid panic and poor decisions.

Start the conversation early

Put a plan in place that your family can follow when your parents can no longer make decisions on their own. Understand their preferences and the choices available that are custom-fit to their needs. There are many, from in-home assistance to adult day care, independent and assisted living facilities to memory care.

Get legal paperwork in order

Make sure your parents have an advance directive and a durable power of attorney. Advance directives are important tools for anyone, but especially when there’s a life-threatening illness.

A living will spells out your preferences about certain life-sustaining procedures, such as tube feeding, mechanical respiration, etc. A power of attorney names someone you trust to act as your agent if you are unable to speak for yourself. You can do separate financial and health care powers of attorney.

Start with smaller issues and build up to bigger ones

When you get into the habit of discussing difficult topics regularly, it makes everyone more comfortable than when you spring it on your parents, having never discussed issues like these before.

It’s important for your parents to feel like they have some kind of control over the outcome. One example would be about your older parent still driving. You could ask questions like, “How do you feel when you’re driving?” or “Do you feel safe?”

As you get into the rhythm of talking about what’s really going on in your parents’ day-to-day lives, you can gradually lead up to a discussion about the long-term picture.

If you assure your parents that your goal is to maintain their way of life and that you need their help in making the right decision with them, that will go along way in de-stressing the situation.

A proactive approach with both generations navigating the future together is the best way to have a positive outcome from “The Talk.”

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JOURNEY

Continued from Page 15

• **Facility tour** — taken an unannounced tour and get a feel for the physical surroundings, staff and atmosphere.

• **Physician referral** — your doctor may make recommendations based on their experience with certain facilities. A good working relationship between your physician and the facility may offer you a smoother continuum of care.

• **Reputation** — many facilities have earned excellent reputations for great care and results. This is something to consider in your decision, but should not be the only consideration.

• **Provider networks** — make sure the places you are considering are fully covered by your insurance to maximize your benefits.

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Friends with 'benefits'

■ Millennials aren't the only ones looking to 'hook up' apart from rings, commitment and romance

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

You are on the "mature" side of divorce or widowhood and have no real interest in turning your world upside down with a re-marriage or another deep relationship.

Been there, done that.

Maybe you don't want to shake up your financial situation or answer to your adult kids, who worry about their own status in your life, if you cozy up with someone else.

But let's face it, you're not a hermit and you'd certainly like someone to talk and laugh with, and maybe, even a little bit more.

Taking a more casual approach to dating, commitment and sex isn't just for the Millennial generation. The over-50 crowd that has experienced love and loss throughout a lifetime may also have a mindset of taking relationships a little less seriously than in the past.

Maybe there would be a chance to reconnect with someone from your past, or spend a wonderful weekend away with someone you're "in like with" rather than "in love with."

What do you have to lose? For many people from more traditional generations



who equate intimacy with commitment, the emotional toll of a casual hookup may be more than what they would want to handle.

But for others, they might be getting exactly what they need and all that they would want in what one 60-something sexologist called "gray hookups." She said that the people involved must be emotionally capable of handling a non-committed status, and they must protect themselves against sexually transmitted diseases.

It really comes down to this: every person in any age group might want a chance to relieve their loneliness and have a chance again to express their sexuality without bonds that may add more layers of stress in their lives.



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GRANDFAMILIES

Continued from Page 15

The Jacksons aren't the only grandparents dealing with issues with extended family, causing grandparents to step into a parenting role, the second time around.

Today, many grandparents are raising their grandchildren because of the opioid epidemic, according to a recent story on Today.com. It has become so common that for every child in foster care, 20 are being raised by a family member.

In Michigan, 8.2 percent of children under age 18 live in homes where the household consists of grandparents or other relatives, according to Grandfamilies.org. Six-and-a-half percent of these children live with their grandparents, totaling 66,378 grandparents who are responsible for their live-in grandchildren. More than half of these grandparents still

have jobs in the workforce.

Even though it's a huge sacrifice for most grandparents to take in their grandchildren, children fare better when taken in by relatives, and are more likely to be kept together with siblings than if sent to foster care, according to Today.com. If kids are cared for by grandparents, they are more connected to their history and roots and tend to feel more loved and accepted.

For grandparents facing this new role, there are many resources for help and support on Grandfamilies.org.

The Jacksons now have just one grandchild living in their home, and the good news is that the relationship with their daughter has much improved in the last year.

Her advice to other grandparents: "You've just got to love them, no matter what. It's one day at a time."

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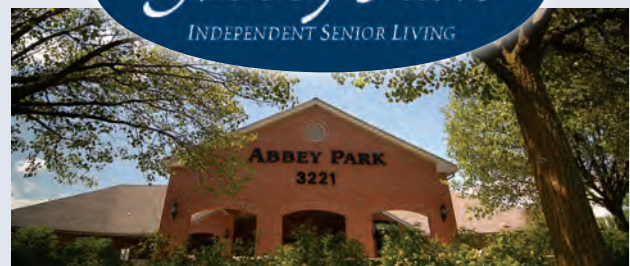
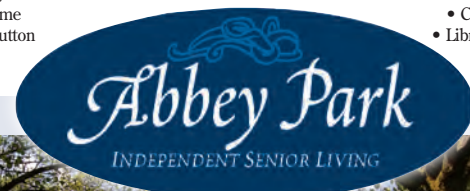
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Surviving MENopause

■ How men and women both can cope with hormonal changes that cause depression, dysfunction and anger

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Women, you aren't the only ones who experience hot flashes and mood swings.

If you think that only women are affected by mid-life hormonal changes, just take a good look at your spouse — if he's between the ages of 40 and 55, he is undergoing life changes of his own.

Men, like women, experience complex hormonal rhythms that affect their mood, their physical well-being and their sexuality, according to Jed Diamond, PhD, author and founder of MenAlive.com.

Male menopause causes emotional symptoms like irritability, worry, indecisiveness and depression. Physical symptoms include fatigue, weight gain, short-term memory loss and sleep disturbances.

Sexual symptoms include reduced li-

bido (desire), fear of sexual failure and increased need to prove his ability to perform by seeking a younger partner.

Male menopause is often preceded by life changes, including:

- **The disability or death** of parents, friends or colleagues
- **Empty nest** after children leave home
- **Job changes or fear of job loss**
- **Changes in energy** and activity levels
- **Sexual changes and** worries about virility
- **Financial worries**
- **Concerns about aging**
- **Feeling trapped or tied down** and a desire for more freedom

"Male menopause is like puberty the second time around, where a man must face issues of identity, sexuality, dependence and independence," Diamond said. "When a man is going through male

“If menopause is the silent passage (for women), male menopause is the unspeakable passage. It is fraught with secrecy, shame and denial...”

GAIL SHEEHY, AUTHOR
Quoted by Jed Diamond
of MenAlive.com



menopause, everyone in the family is affected.”

But because men don't go through as well-defined a period referred to as menopause, some doctors refer to this problem as androgen (testosterone) decline in the aging male, or what some people call low testosterone. Testosterone decline in men is a slower process. The testes, unlike the ovaries, don't run out of the substance it needs to make testosterone — a healthy

man may be able to make sperm well into his 80s or later.

However, diseases like diabetes, obesity, pituitary tumors, etc. can cause subtle changes in the function of the testes that may occur as early as age 45 to 50 and more dramatically after age 70 in some men, according to WebMd.com.

So how can men and the women who love them cope with these changes?

A visit to the doctor is your first line of defense, to determine whether you are experiencing male menopause symptoms. If testosterone levels are low, testosterone replacement therapy may help relieve some of the symptoms, but as in all therapies, there are pros and cons.

Your doctor may also recommend certain lifestyle changes like diet and exercise, or a medication such as an anti-depressant, to relieve some of the symptoms.

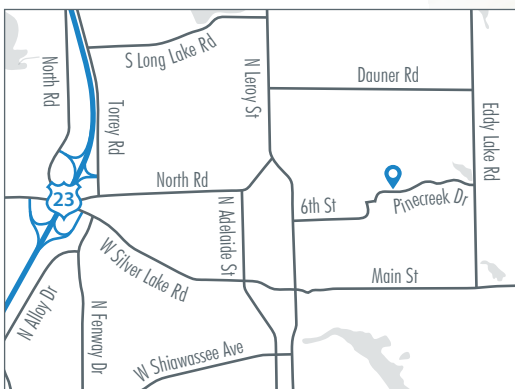
Other avenues for help are counseling and psychotherapy; marriage and family counseling; decreasing alcohol consumption, which raises testosterone levels and losing belly fat, which also raises testosterone levels.

Other statistics about male menopause:

- **More than 25** million men in the U.S. are now going through male menopause (or andropause, the more scientifically accurate term)
- **Male menopause generally** begins between age 40 and 55, but can start as early as 35 or as late as 65.
- **A total of 52 percent** of men between age 40 and 70 suffer from some degree of erectile dysfunction

Source: WebMd.com

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HAPPY

Continued from Page 13

Back in your young adult years, many of you were married with children in their early 20s, and never had time to pursue your own interests.

Now, you're making up for lost time. Many people spend these early retirement years traveling with friends, sometimes on group vacations, traveling cross-country in RVs, spending cold winter months in warmer climates, etc.

For Wilson, his new-found time means he has become more involved in things outside of himself, like helping with a nursing home ministry at his church, Transfiguration Lutheran Church. He visits residents at WellBridge of Fenton for a Bible study there, and also explores his faith with several very close friends at regular get-togethers.

"That's something I definitely wouldn't have done when I was younger," Wilson said.

He also continues to be an active golfer and now has more time to explore his creative side in art, "something I haven't done in a very long time," Wilson said. He retired at age 68 from a long career as a dental lab technician, even though he had gone to college to be an art teacher.

Of course, grandkids are one of his primary joys, along with his wife, Janet, of 48 years, and their two grown children,

What's your "happy" score?

- ☐ women are happier than men
- ☐ people with annual income between \$50,000 and \$74,999 are happier than those who earn between \$75,000 and \$99,999
- ☐ people with college degrees are happier than those without
- ☐ those who live in the south live in the happiest region in the U.S.
- ☐ 65-plus is the happiest age group
- ☐ married people are happier than unmarried people
- ☐ people who are registered to vote are happier than average
- ☐ people who live in suburbs are happier than average

Source: Harris Poll

Ryan, 34 and Amie, 31. "They're the loves of my life," said Wilson, of Maxwell, 4, and Charlie, 1.

Wilson looks at his cup as half full, never empty, at all times. "I've had a great life, my whole life," he said.

will add some pop to your ensembles. Pair a contrasting color to highlight the complexion of your face. Wear a maroon shirt with a pair of navy blue trousers, for example.

Choose smart accessories to balance your frame

Suspenders are a practical alternative to belts. They create a vertical, unobstructed line for the viewer, instead of breaking with a horizontally placed belt that draws attention to your midsection. They also force your pants to sit up on your waist and prevents your belly from hanging over the waistband.

Your tie needs to be wider than average. When you tie it, the tip should reach the upper line of your belt, not any higher, not any lower. A stylish hat that suits your personality makes you look more confident.

Learn to control your image and minimize sending negative signals that you are fat and sloppy. Instead, be confident with your size and show that you have style and that you care about the details.

Source: rmrs.com

WEAR THIS

Continued from Page 17

Add some clothing with a stretch fabric

Stretch fabric technology has made some huge advancements over the last couple of years. The idea is to wear proportionate clothing that tends to have a bit of a give. This will give you much more comfort when you're moving around in the office, reaching over to grab the phone, or bending down to pick something up, the stretch fabric will move with you rather than pull back.

Simple dark colors

Lighter colors attract attention while darker shades detract. If your midsection is larger than your bottom half, dark clothing on top and light on the bottom half can create a more proportionate look. Dark, solid colors hide the blemishes that your clothes cannot. The extra folds where the fabric is unable to drape your body are not visible when the cloth is a darker shade.

Colors like navy blue, blue-black, midnight blue, slate blue and gunmetal



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Bruce Gordon Dryer, Manager

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DON'T BUY A HEARING AID UNTIL YOU'VE HEARD THE *Hearing Aid Facts*

- **Hearing aids are not an over-the-counter purchase**

In order for the hearing aids to work properly, they need to be fit professionally, based on individual needs and preferences.

- **Hearing changes over time**

A hearing care professional will guide you as your needs change.

To reach optimum hearing potential, proper adjustments need to be made throughout the lifetime of the hearing aid.

- **Results may vary depending on severity of hearing loss**

Realistic expectations must be explained by a hearing care professional to reach full benefit with amplification.

- **Hearing aids need to be professionally cleaned**

Proper maintenance, including cleanings every three months, will ensure the longevity and performance of your devices.



Why Beltone:

There's a good reason Beltone has been around since 1940. As times and technology change, so do we. But one thing never changes – our commitment to our patients.

You always get more with Beltone:

- ✓ BelCare™ exclusive lifetime care on our hearing aids.
- ✓ Dedicated and highly-trained hearing care professionals.
- ✓ Cutting-edge technology for every lifestyle and budget.
- ✓ Most trusted name in hearing care among adults over 50.
- ✓ 76 years of experience and 95% patient satisfaction rating.

Beltone is the brand you can trust.

Call today for your FREE hearing screening!

We accept most insurance & discount programs including: Medicare Advantage, Prescription Drug Plans, Health Care & Silver Programs. We will provide, meet and exceed their pricing structure.



www.beltonehearing.com

Is it hearing loss or maybe just ear wax?

FREE

Video Ear Inspection

If there is any amount of wax blockage, you'll know immediately.

Expires 1/21/18

Beltone

FREE

Hearing Evaluation

Find out what you're hearing and what you're not.

Expires 1/21/18

Beltone

\$995*

Custom Digital Hearing Aids

Expires 1/21/18

Beltone

FINANCING OPTIONS AVAILABLE

Flint

4080 Miller Rd.

810-275-1473

M/TH/F 9-5, T 9-7, W 9-3,
1st Sat of every month 9-1

Owosso

120 W. Exchange St. Suite 102

989-945-0251

M/TH 9-5, T 9-7
1st Sat of every month 9-1

Fenton

2809 W Silver Lake Rd.

810-471-4253

M/TH 9-5, T 9-7, W 9-3,
1st Sat of every month 9-1

Clio

3296 W. Vienna Rd.

810-471-4558

WED & FRI 9-5

Davison

407 W Flint St. Suite A

810-208-2123

WED & FRI 9-5

Benefits of hearing instruments vary by type and degree of hearing loss, noise environment, accuracy of hearing, evaluation and proper fit. Beltone Hearing Centers are independently owned and operated. Participation may vary by location. ©2018 Beltone

*Valid on single instrument. Cannot be combined with any other offer or coupon. Not valid on previous purchases. Expires 1-21-18.

Hearing tests are given for the purpose of selection and adjustment of hearing instrumentation. Results may vary related to duration and severity of impairment. Early detection is important.