School wants to raise $8,000 to buy therapy dog

Goldendoodle would be present in different classes every day

By Hannah Ball
hballetctimes.com; 810-433-6792

State Road Elementary School in Fenton is looking to hire a specific kind of school employee — one with four legs, a wet nose, and floppy ears.

The school is fundraising to buy a therapy dog. Principal Barry Tiemann had the idea a few years ago and did research on the therapy dog at Brighton schools.

“I think the students will be super excited, probably just as much as the staff when they found out. They can see the benefits of what the therapy dog will bring to the school,” he said.

See THERAPY DOG on 7

A day at the Children’s Museum

The Flint Children’s Museum hosted several birthday parties on Saturday, Jan. 20. Visitors from around the county can enjoy a multitude of safe and educational activities, like the “Big Blue Block” room pictured above. A busy Saturday will attract nearly 1,000 visitors.

See story on Page 6.

Fenton police catch wrong suspect

Individual unrelated to initial 911 call flees area because of outstanding arrest warrants

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

Despite chasing the wrong suspect, Fenton police were still successful in arresting a Fenton man with multiple arrest warrants.

At 11:46 a.m. on Monday, Jan. 22, Fenton police responded to a home in the 900 block of Worchester Drive on a report of a man who was using a tool to puncture a tire of a vehicle parked in the driveway.

The juvenile caller told police dispatch the man was wearing a beanie cap, dark sweatshirt and jeans.

The family’s dog, a pit bull/German shepherd mix, jumped the fence and began chasing the man. When police arrived to the area, they spotted a man matching the description that was provided and attempted to make contact.

When the man saw police, he ran, prompting a foot chase by police in the area of Poplar, North Road and U.S. 23. The man was apprehended in a bushy area near U.S. 23 and North Road behind Exit 80 gas station.

See SUSPECT on 7

Crop circle in Fenton City

It happened 20 years ago — does anyone else recall seeing it?

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

In my combined 16 years working for the Tri-County Times, we have never, to my knowledge, buried a story that many of our readers would find fascinating — except one.

See CROP CIRCLE on 10

Every immigrant who comes here should be required within five years to learn English or leave the country. — President Theodore Roosevelt
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Local mom recalls going into labor during one of Michigan’s biggest blizzards 40 years ago

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

Christine Kinyon of Linden will never forget her son’s birthday on Jan. 27, 1978.

Not only is her son, Christopher, celebrating his 40th birthday this year, but she also remembers marking that date with a special event that will be remembered by many residents of the southeast part of the state.

Stormy weather, caused by the Great Blizzard of 1978, made many people stay indoors. The storm began on Jan. 24 and lasted for four days, shutting down schools and many businesses.

In Michigan, snow began falling over the southern half of the Lower Peninsula, and many businesses began to close. The storm was so severe that many people were stranded on Michigan highways, most of them in the southeast part of the state.

Source: National Weather Service

Great Blizzard of 1978

Local mom’s memory

The Great Blizzard of 1978 struck the Great Lakes, including the tri-county area, and the Upper Ohio Valley and Ontario, Canada, during the period of Jan. 25-27, 1978. This winter storm shut down major roads for several days, closed schools and many businesses.

The storm began brewing as early as Tuesday night, Jan. 24, 1978 for the southern half of the Lower Peninsula, and winter storm warnings were issued for Wednesday night into Thursday, according to William Deedler, weather historian for the National Weather Service.

In Michigan, snow began falling over much of the Lower Peninsula on Jan. 25. However, it was raining, not snowing, at Detroit Metro Airport, with the temperature comfortably above freezing at 36 degrees. But farther north in Flint, sleet and freezing rain were falling as the temperature hovered around freezing.

Blizzard conditions blasted in during the pre-dawn hours of Jan. 26. Wind gusts higher than 35 mph whipped the snow into huge drifts across much of southeast Lower Michigan. All land and air traffic came to a standstill and several major roads were closed for at least two or three days, if not longer.

Michigan Governor William Milliken declared a state of emergency and called for exposure, mostly from homes that lost power and heat.

approximately 100,000 cars were abandoned on Michigan highways, most of them in the southeast part of the state.

Great Blizzard of 1978

by the numbers

… approximately 20 people died as a direct or indirect result of the storm, most due to heart attacks or traffic accidents.

… at least one person died of exposure in a stranded automobile.

… many people were hospitalized for exposure, mostly from homes that lost power and heat.

… approximately 100,000 cars were abandoned on Michigan highways, most of them in the southeast part of the state.

Source: National Weather Service

FLINT’S HEAVIEST SNOW STORMS

Source: weather.gov

1968 Winter Olympics

First Winter Olympic Games to be broadcast in color

The Winter Olympic Games were held in Grenoble, France from Feb. 6 to 18, 1968. These games marked the 10th time the Winter Olympics took place and were the first Winter Games to be broadcast in color on television.

There were 1,158 athletes representing 37 nations competing in 35 events.

The 1968 Winter Olympics also marked the first time they did gender testing and doping tests during the winter games.

Gender determination tests at the Olympics were compulsory for female athletes due to fears that they might beManipulating their testosterone levels to enhance their performance.

A look back at 1968

“An Olympic milestone”

“A look back at 1968” is a series that will be published throughout this year in the Wednesday Midweek edition exclusively. To subscribe to the Midweek edition, please call (810) 629-8282.

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Trump’s biggest wins in just 12 months

OK, let’s take a deep breath and disregard President Trump’s tweeting skills and his crabby personality for a moment. When you factor in the Democratic party’s agenda to resist any and all of his initiatives, and the media’s agenda of hate and misrepresentation, it is amazing how much he’s been able to get done in just one year, most of which benefits all Americans, regardless of party. Read on:

• He appointed Judge Neil Gorsuch to the U.S. Supreme Court to maintain the conservative majority in the court. He’s the only president to ever have 12 judicial appointments confirmed in his first year.

• The Dow has plowed through the 26,000 mark for the first time ever. The U.S. has seen a $6 trillion gain in financial asset wealth since Election Day.

• He worked with the Senate and Congress to pass the largest tax cut in decades, cutting the corporate tax rate from 35 to 21 percent, cutting individual rates for all income tax levels, doubling the child tax credit to $2,000, and dramatically increasing the standard deduction. Can you say “TAX CUT!”?

• With the prime minister of Iraq declaring victory over ISIS, Trump has been effective in working with allies to destroy the ISIS goal of domination.

• According to the Washington Examiner, the Trump administration has “canceled more than 1,500 regulations in the first 11 months” and “ultimately cut 22 regulations for each new one enacted (last year),” saving taxpayers billions of dollars over the coming years.

• Recognizing the unfairness of America supplying 20 percent of the UN’s total budget, Trump reduced America’s $3.3 billion per year contribution by $285 million — with more cutsbacks coming soon.

• He withdrew us from the Paris Climate agreement, which would have increased the cost of energy and required America to pay out trillions of $$$ to pay for energy changes required in other developing countries.

• In order to show support for his business policy changes, more than 125 companies have already announced bonuses and pay hikes for their workers as a result of the tax cut. (Unfortunately, mine wasn’t one of them).

• He’s solidified our support for Iraq, our only true ally in the Middle East, by approving the 2018 move of the U.S. embassy to Israel’s capital, Jerusalem, ending Palestinian dreams of Israel ever returning to pre-1967 borders.

• This is big! While less than 30 percent of Obama Cabinet appointments had ever worked in the private sector, 90 percent of Trump appointees have actually worked for private companies that consistently earned profits.

• Double the child tax credit
• Doubling the child tax credit

What are your thoughts on the government shutdown?

“I think that we need a new President. I believe that Congress could have figured it out without the President. In my personal opinion the President is the problem.”

Dwight Murphy
Fenton

“I don’t really care about the shutdown. This sort of thing always happens this time of year and has for years. I normally don’t get into politics that much.”

Debbie Davenport
Holly

“I normally don’t get into politics but with the shutdown it hurt businesses. It had a negative impact on my job and I’m glad that it’s over.”

Dan Lee
Linden

“I think that we as a government, as a whole, need to work together and not fight with the other side. We need to quit behaving like children.”

Michelle Sepanak
Linden

“It’s unfortunate that it came to this, the government shutting down. There are three Sundays coming up; the left, right and middle. We need to listen to all of them.”

Jennifer Maker
Fenton
Could you get away from an attacker?

By Hannah Ball

“We’ve all gotten the call. Your significant other is at home and hungry but there’s no food in the house. You run to Walmart, and you try to be quick because you know what you need.”

“You’re not paying attention to everything that’s going on, but somebody is and it’s this bad person,” said police officer of 18 years, Thomas Cole, who’s the head instructor of Colemine Muscle. When he teaches this scenario in his self-defense classes, the situation ends with that bad person attacking you in the parking lot and putting you in a bear hug.

“That’s where we start the program,” he said.

Cole has been teaching self-defense classes with his wife, Amy, who’s the assistant instructor, for seven years. Students learn the mental aspect, which is becoming more self-aware, and the physical aspect of being able to get out of these bad situations.

“We do teach moves on how to survive and get away but we also teach life experiences. What to be aware of when you’re shopping, or when you’re going to class,” he said.

Students learn how to escape from the bear hug, escape from a wrist hold, how to deliver distractionary strikes, how to block and push and pull more.

“Our main goal is one, keeping you safe and getting away as soon as possible,” he said. They also teach you what to do if you’re in a no-win situation and you can’t get out.

The Coles started these classes because of the number of abductions and stranger danger situations. “Everything that’s going on in the news with the abduction attempts and the stranger danger with the kids… we kind of looked at each other and said we can do something so we should,” he said.

Most people who attend are teenagers and women. Classes are about two hours long. Amy said classes range from 10 to 30 people, and the average is about 20 people.

They usually try to keep it 12 years and up, but there was a 10-year-old girl in the last class. They hold kids classes, and basic, intermediate and advanced classes for women.

“The feedback we get so much is the empowerment it gives them. Because as a society nowadays and I see it every day in my line of work, we’re numbing our senses,” he said.

A lot of people will allow people to invade their space, he said, even if every sense is screaming at them to get away. They don’t say anything because they don’t want to hurt their feelings.

“You can speak up. If you hurt their feelings, it’s OK. They’re strangers,” he said.

“The most important part is you being safe.”

Amy said they teach kids about what a “bad person” looks like.

“Everybody has this idea of it being a man, a certain age, a certain ethnicity, and that’s not the case anymore. People use women and they use children. To draw somebody away from a certain area where there’s a whole bunch of people around.”

Then you become more vulnerable,” she said.

The Coles are having a difficult time finding space to hold their classes. “That’s what we really look for, a donation of the rooms. That way we can keep the costs down,” he said.

They’re hosting a women’s class at the Hartland Area Fire Department off Hartland Road on Jan. 27, from 6 to 8 p.m.

“We just want to make sure, even if you can only afford a dollar, you still get to the class. That’s why it’s so important that we have facilities that can donate space. That way we can keep the costs down so everyone can come,” he said.

The only space they have a rate for is Logan Road on Jan. 27, from 6 to 8 p.m.

“If they can’t afford it, don’t not come,” he said.

Hail to the UM football team — not. Just saw the final rankings for 2017, the Wolverines finished 39th in the country behind such powerhouse programs as Appalachian State, Troy, Fresno State, Memphis, Army, Toledo, CMU, SC, Iowa State, South Florida, etc. Great job, Harbaugh, you really earned that $9 million.

Why are our kids paying federal workers’ healthcare and pensions when they can’t pay their own? We need to freeze all federal workers, including and most importantly, elected officials’ pensions, and cut all their healthcare.

The Fenton Township Board of Trustees presented the suggested street improvements for the upcoming public hearing for local road improvement projects.

Operations Manager/Deputy Clerk Tom Broecker said the roads were chosen from discussions with the Genesee County Road Commission and the township’s engineer.

For limestone/gravel resurfacing, the list includes:

- Hogan Road, between Rolston and Lahring roads
- Fairbanks Road, between Lahring and Thompson roads
- Old Linden Road, from Thompson Road to the end
- Ray Road, between Torrey and Fenton roads
- Whitaker Road, from Lobell Road to the pavement

For crack sealing, the list includes:

- Jennings Road, between Lahring and Rolston roads
- Wenwood Drive
- Silver Landings subdivision

No one from the public spoke at the public hearing.

Hail to the UM football team — not. Just saw the final rankings for 2017, the Wolverines finished 39th in the country behind such powerhouse programs as Appalachian State, Troy, Fresno State, Memphis, Army, Toledo, CMU, SC, Iowa State, South Florida, etc. Great job, Harbaugh, you really earned that $9 million.
Healthy, happy place to play, learn and grow

Flint Children’s Museum a unique place for hands-on educational experience

By Tim Jagielo

Flint — There are very few places where children can experience the sight of sleeping dragons, stomping on musical floors and building with Legos on a towering pyramid.

It’s a colorful world inside the Flint Children’s Museum (FCM), which is essentially an education-focused play place. Exhibits are meant to be touched and climbed on, in most cases.

The FCM on a busy day, will attract nearly 1,000 visitors. Between the FCM building and outreach activities, 66,607 visitors were served last year, according to FCM Executive Director Kimberly Roddy.

On Saturday, Jan. 20, there were four birthday parties, giving the children a variety of safe, educational activities.

“Children come here to have an experience they can’t get anywhere else, or anywhere in the museum. It’s a healthy and happy place for children and adults to grow and learn together."

There are eight exhibits. These include “How Things Work,” “Performing Arts” and several others.

Aside from semi-permanent exhibits, there are also temporary featured exhibits that change quarterly in “The Discovery Zone.” The Discovery Zone currently features “Big Blue Blocks,” which are a system of large interlocking building blocks, which allow children to create ramps, buildings and even pathways to roll a ball through.

Roddy said the space will change in February to “Solids and Liquids and Gases, Oh MY!” This will allow children to make their own slime and explore different states of matter.

Dustin Lucius of Fenton took his children, Vada, 3, and Andrew, 6, in early January during a snow day. “It is a great way to watch your kids learn outside of a school atmosphere and watch their creativity,” he said.

They can play instruments, like steel drums with mallets and a space-age Theremin instrument, and participate in dress-up and then perform under stage lights and be televised to a small captive audience of parents and other visiting children.

“The children lead all of the activities as they explore and learn at their own pace and in their own way,” Roddy said. “Parents can play with the kids in the grocery store, on stage, on the rock climbing wall, or anywhere else in the museum. It’s a healthy and happy place for children and adults to grow and learn together.”

The big blue blocks were his son’s highlight. His daughter liked the dress-up area the best, where she became a chef, firefighter and police officer. He liked seeing his children play in the mini-grocery store, which is another exhibit simulating a grocery shopping experience.

“It’s funny to see the things your kids choose to put in their cart and ‘purchase,’” Lucius said. He said it reflected what he bought at the grocery store himself. “It just goes to show that they really do pay attention to us and what we do as parents. “I think the value of the museum is that kids get to use their imagination in so many different aspects. It’s 100-percent hands-on and the kids can explore how things work, whether it has to do with building, or light or sound, even the human body or anything else scientific,” Lucius said. “The kids get to explore their creativity using science and hands-on play.”

Take your kids (or grandkids) to the museum

• Sunday, Feb. 4 is a free day at The Flint Children’s Museum, from 12 to 5 p.m.
• The Flint Children’s Museum is at 1602 W. University Ave., on the campus of Kettering University
• The FCM is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

Hours:
• Tuesday through Saturday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
• Sunday: 12 to 4 p.m.
• Monday: Closed but group availability upon special requests.
• Admission is $6 for adults and children, with group rates available. Go to FlintChildrensMuseum.org for more information.

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Appeals Courts rendered their judgments on June 23, 1971, Supreme Court briefs were filed and a hearing held on June 26, 1971, with the final Supreme Court decision being rendered on June 30, 1971.

This scheduling was due to the acknowledged importance of the cases. In a six to three decision, the Court held that any system of prior restraints comes to the court bearing a heavy presumption against its constitutional validity and the government carries a heavy burden of showing justification for the imposition of such restraints.

The Court determined that the government had not met that burden and allowed publication.

All nine justices wrote separate opinions and the six who voted to sustain the newspapers' position had some common themes.

These included that the First Amendment must be read as written and Congress shall make no law abridging the freedom of speech or of the press. Additionally under the separation of powers doctrine, the president does not have the power to stop this type of publication.

The three dissenting justices all felt that there hadn’t been sufficient time to properly decide the case.

One of the issues raised in these cases was whether publication could be halted under the provisions of the Federal Criminal Espionage Act. The ruling was no, but some of the majority justices indicated that there could be future federal criminal prosecutions. In fact, such a case was brought against Mr. Ellsberg and an alleged accomplice Anthony Russo.

Ultimately the case was dismissed when the trial judge learned that in an unsuccessful attempt to discredit Mr. Ellsberg, his psychiatrist’s office had been broken into by government agents to try to steal files and there had been illegal wiretapping of private phone conversations.

Judicial prior restraint orders as to the press, publishers and others are very difficult to obtain with few exceptions.

In 1786, Thomas Jefferson said, “Our liberty cannot be guarded but by the freedom of the press nor that be limited without danger of losing it.”

President Jefferson was a very wise man.

(First appeared in the Wednesday, Jan. 17 Midweek edition)
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BLIZZARD
Continued from Page 3
out the Michigan National Guard. The Michigan State Police warned residents to stay home, and classes at the University of Michigan were canceled for the first time in its 140-year history.

This was the same day that Kinyon went into labor with her son, Christopher. Since the labor with her daughter, Michelle, three years before had only been three hours total, she was concerned about getting to the hospital in time. Local police advised her to go to one of the convalescent centers in Fenton, since there would be medical staff there.

“I really didn’t want to do that,” Kinyon said. “We decided to try to make it to the hospital.”
Kinyon, her husband, Ray, and a neighbor loaded into a full-size van and started the courageous trek to Flint Osteopathic Hospital, taking the expressway from Silver Lake Road.

“We let the police know what we were doing and they monitored our progress via CB radio as we made our way north,” Kinyon said. “There were no other cars on the road. It was slow going and a little nerve wracking in spots, but we made it in safely. My son was born a few hours later, the morning of the 27th.”

The storm also kept new moms stranded in the hospital maternity ward, because they couldn’t get out to go home. “There were lots of beds in the hall for a few days,” Kinyon said.

Ironically, Kinyon’s daughter, Michelle, who was 3 at the time, had been born on March 30, 1975, and Kinyon was “snowed in” with her at the hospital due to a freak storm that hit in early April that year.

Another memorable birth took place during the Great Blizzard of 1978, when JoAnn Allen recalled that her husband, the late Tom Allen, Jr., delivered a baby in an ambulance on their way to the hospital, not quite getting there on time. “He delivered 13 babies in all in the ambulance, but this was the most memorable,” she said.

Record snowfall totals were recorded during the Great Blizzard of 1978, included a whopping 30 inches at Muskegon (enhanced by Lake Michigan), 19.3 inches at Lansing and 19.2 at Grand Rapids. Snowfall totals were less over southeast Lower Michigan, mostly because of the rain that fell during part of that period and included 9.2 inches in Flint and 8.2 inches in Detroit.

The dig-out after the storm didn’t happen overnight. Most of Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio had 24 hours of 50-plus mph winds and several locations reported 70 to 100 mph winds. All that wind, combined with a fluffy snow, resulted in drifts climbing up the side of some buildings.

One resident, Julie Hassar, lived in Fenton Township at the time and recalled her husband, Mike, having to drive to work from Lapeer during the blizzard.

“It took him almost six hours to make the 40-mile trip,” said Hassar, who was at home with her 1-month-old son. “When he finally got within 100 feet of the driveway, he couldn’t get past the huge drift across the road. The neighbor came with his farm tractor and cleared enough of a path for Mike to get through.”
Blizzard conditions or not, Hassar still had to get to the barn to feed her horses and chickens. “I had to roll across the top of the 5-foot-deep drift with a small tractor and get in the barn,” she said. “Fun stuff. I’m glad we had a wood stove to heat the house, because the electricity was off.”

That wasn’t the end of Michigan’s suffering from one of this state’s worst blizzards. Most of the state didn’t warm above freezing for almost a month, making it one of the coldest winters in our history — Flint’s fifth coldest on record.

Condos
Continued from Front Page
by Kal Nemer of Woodside Builders in Swartz Creek, who thanked the board members for their decision.

At the Jan. 8 meeting, Nemer told the board he’s developed similar properties in Michigan.

The Planning Commission recommended approval for the zoning change. During the Nov. 9, 2017 Planning Commission meeting, Nemer said they would like to build four basic floor plans that range from 1,200 square feet to 1,600 square feet. The 1,200 square feet and the 1,400 square feet units would have two bedrooms and the 1,600 square feet plans would have three bedrooms.

Nemer said most of their residents are age 60 and older.

At the Jan. 8 meeting during the first reading, Treasurer and Planning Commissioner John Tucker said the biggest issue is the storm water drainage system. He said it’s true that a nearby retention pond is not working well, but that developers know about the issue and could fix it during development.

During the Jan. 8 meeting, property owner Ghassan Saab said, “We definitely hear all the concerns of the neighbors. We wouldn’t want to make a bad situation worse. Our goal would be to improve everything around us. No point in doing something if you’re just going to hurt everyone around you.”

To authorize Gov. Rick Snyder’s veto of a bill that accelerates the 24-year phase-in of a 20-cent-per-gallon tax that exempted from sales tax the value of a trade-in when buying a new vehicle, RV or boat.

Passed 37 to 0 in the Senate
Sen. David Robertson (R-Dist. 14) • YES
Sen. Mike Kowall (R-Dist. 15) • YES
Sen. Joe Hune (R-Dist. 22) • YES
Sen. Jim Ananich (D-Dist. 27) • YES
Sen. Ken Horn (R-Dist. 32) • YES

Passed 85 to 23 in the House
Rep. Joe Graves (R-Dist. 51) • YES
Rep. Hank Vaupel (R-Dist. 47) • YES

Senate Bill 409: Facilitate private home Great Lakes harbor leases
To authorize 50-year “bottomland” leases for owners of single-family homes on Great Lakes shorelines who want to create a private, non-commercial recreational harbor formed by a breakwater. Owners would have to pay 1 percent of their home’s state equalized property value in an up-front lump sum payment every 25 years. The money would go into a segregated account that pays for parts of the Department of Environmental Quality’s operations.
Passed 59 to 48 in the House
Rep. Joe Graves (R-Dist. 51) • YES
Rep. Hank Vaupel (R-Dist. 47) • YES

Passed 55 to 52 in the House
Rep. Joe Graves (R-Dist. 51) • YES
Rep. Hank Vaupel (R-Dist. 47) • YES

Senate Bill 574: Let charter schools get some ISD enhancement millage money
To require revenue extracted by future regional enhancement property taxes that are levied by Intermediate School Districts and distributed to conventional public school districts to also be shared with public charter schools within the ISD’s territory.

Senate Bill 748: Increase Michigan income tax personal exemption
To increase the personal exemption that is currently allowed under the Michigan state income tax. The bill would immediately increase it to $4,500, or when gradually to $4,700 by 2020, which with inflation adjustments is projected to be worth around $5,000 by then. Taxpayers can claim a personal exemption for themselves, their spouse and each dependent, and these are subtracted from the amount of income that is subject to income tax.
Passed 37 to 0 in the Senate
Sen. David Robertson (R-Dist. 14) • YES
Sen. Mike Kowall (R-Dist. 15) • YES
Sen. Joe Hune (R-Dist. 22) • YES
Sen. Jim Ananich (D-Dist. 27) • YES
Sen. Ken Horn (R-Dist. 32) • YES

Passed 85 to 23 in the House
Rep. Joe Graves (R-Dist. 51) • YES
Rep. Hank Vaupel (R-Dist. 47) • YES

Senate Bill 660: Prohibit state agencies, local governments and their employees from assisting or providing material support to a federal agency in collecting electronic data or metadata concerning any person, except with a warrant (or under a legally recognized exception to a warrant) or with an individual’s informed consent.
Passed 107 to 1 in the House
Rep. Joe Graves (R-Dist. 51) • YES
Rep. Hank Vaupel (R-Dist. 47) • YES

House Bill 4430: Ban state and local agencies collecting “metadata” for Feds
To prohibit state agencies, local governments and their employees from assisting or providing material support to a federal agency in collecting electronic data or metadata concerning any person, except with a warrant (or under a legally recognized exception to a warrant) or with an individual’s informed consent.
Passed 107 to 1 in the House
Rep. Joe Graves (R-Dist. 51) • YES
Rep. Hank Vaupel (R-Dist. 47) • YES

Plain-English descriptions of every bill and vote
MichiganVotes.org is a free, non-partisan website created by the Mackinac Center for Public Policy to provide concise, non-partisan, plain-English descriptions of every bill and vote in the Michigan House and Senate. This report was released Friday, Jan. 19.
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CROP CIRCLE
Continued from Front Page

This story involved something that was not only witnessed by myself, but three other employees who all went to the scene of the activity together, the existence of which remains unexplained. Those three coworkers left the company many years ago.

What I am talking about occurred 20 years ago, in 1998. I don’t remember if it was in the spring or the fall. We were all wearing light jackets when we witnessed the scene, but there was no snow at all on the wet ground and the foliage was brown and green. I am fairly certain it was in the very early spring, late March perhaps.

We received an anonymous tip from one of our readers that there was a crop circle in the backyard of a home on West Street, just south of the Ellen Street school building, before W. Shiawassee.

Intrigued, we drove out there and parked on the street. We had to walk up the driveway of the little house and through the backyard. At the northwest corner of that backyard was a little opening that led to another parcel of land, about a third of an acre in size.

It was there that we saw a perfectly formed circle. Green and brown weeds had been woven into the circle that took up the majority of the parcel. It was huge.

This did not appear to be a natural occurrence, where a big wind gust or main tornado flattened the weeds down into a circle. These weeds were actually woven together, braided like an old-fashioned rug or hot pad for the stove. I bent down to touch it and the woven weeds were tight and tied together.

I personally do not have the dexterity to braid a little girl’s hair, let alone something as elaborate as this.

Even more odd, the weeds in the circle were woven into a counter clockwise direction. There were no breaks in the circle, no heavy equipment in sight, and no other footprints.

We all stood there for a long time in disbelief. Who or what could have done this? One of my coworkers, who was a tiny girl, took the camera and climbed a nearby tree to take pictures. Of course, those photos are long gone.

I called Fenton police and was connected with an officer who thought this was all a joke and said no one was available to come out and take a look.

The officer, who has since left the department, suggested we call some “UFO people.”

We made a few other calls but were unsuccessful in getting anyone to take us seriously enough to come out and take a look for themselves.

So, the decision was made to bury the story. The fear was that readers would think we were crazy, and that the poor homeowner’s property would be overrun with the curious, and those who believe in UFOs and that aliens are afoot.

Since the initial call we received was anonymous, we had no way of knowing if it was the homeowner, or a neighbor.

We do know that the homeowner at the time sold the house in the fall of that same year, 1998.

Crop circles became a phenomenon of the 1980s in this country. Tales of the crop circles as a hoax. Just Google crop circles and you’ll find countless informational sites.

While I am absolutely not suggesting that aliens created the West Street crop circle as a hoax. Just Google crop circles and you’ll find countless informational sites.

Finding a photo online of a crop circle that shows the intricacy of the weave in the one we saw 20 years ago is near impossible. This one of an old-fashioned braided rug is more like it.

“other worldly” was involved.

There have been cases where pranksters have admitted they created the crop circles as a hoax. Just Google crop circles and you’ll find countless informational sites.

While I am absolutely not suggesting that aliens created the West Street crop circle as a sign. I do continue to wonder who would take the time to weave together the weeds on a big parcel. It had to have taken hours, yet we were told it appeared overnight. But if it did happen that way, my next question is why? Why spend hours creating a crop circle on a back parcel of land, one that could not be seen from West Street or the side streets before and after it.

Now that it’s out in the open though, I can ask, does anyone else in Fenton remember this? If it was a hoax, do you know who did it? If you did it, please let us know. I’m pretty sure the statute of limitations on creating crop circles has passed (I think).

POLICE STATION replacement furnace approved

Nineteen-year-old unit was replaced on Jan. 12

On Monday, Jan. 22, the Fenton City Council approved a request to pay for the replacement of the furnace and air-conditioning unit at the police station.

According to a memo from Chief Jason Slater to City Manager Lynn Markland, the furnace stopped working earlier this month. It included the public lobby, detective and sergeant’s offices and the chief’s office.

The problem was repaired but when the furnace was evaluated, Slater said the repair costs were estimated to be between $600 to $700 to replace a failing blower motor.

After consulting with Markland, Slater said the decision was made to replace the furnace and air-conditioning system. The unit was 19 years old and already slated to be replaced in the police department’s approved 2018 budget.

Three quotes were obtained and Dee Cramer was chosen to complete the removal and installation of the new furnace and air-conditioning system for $4,735. The new equipment was installed on Jan. 12.

BROKEN TAIL LIGHT LEADS TO ARREST

At 9:11 a.m. on Jan. 18, a Fenton police officer on patrol observed a van on Silver Lake Road with a broken tail light. A traffic stop was conducted. The driver, a 36-year-old Ferndale resident, was driving on a suspended license. He exited the vehicle and during a weapons check, the officer recovered marijuana from the man’s pocket. He was arrested for possession of marijuana and driving on a suspended license.

A computer check revealed he also had outstanding warrants out of Warren, Macomb County Sheriff’s Office and Oakland County Sheriff’s Office. His vehicle was impounded and he was turned over to Macomb County, Fenton police will seek charges.

PSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATION

At 9:51 a.m. on Monday, Jan. 22, Fenton police were called to an apartment in the Pier 38 apartments on Silver Lake Road to check on an individual. The caller told police that a man in his late 30s was telling people in the parking lot that he had chopped up someone but it was not his fault. The caller said the man was stumbling and trying to get into vehicles. Genesee County Sheriff’s deputies assisted and a STAT ambulance was requested. A search of the man’s apartment turned up nothing. He was transported to Hurley Medical Center in Flint for a psychological evaluation.

111 TREALOUT DRIVE • FENTON • 810-629-4105
INVITATION TO BID
LAWN CARE SERVICES BID

The City of Fenton, Michigan will receive sealed bids at the City Clerk’s Office, 301 South Leroy Street, Fenton, Michigan 48430-2196 for lawn care services within the City of Fenton until Friday, February 23, 2018 at 11:00am.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at that time in the conference room of the Fenton City Office, 301 South Leroy Street, Fenton, Michigan. Bids should be submitted in sealed envelopes plainly marked “LAWN CARE SERVICES - CITY OF FENTON.”

Bids are being solicited only from responsible and established bidders known to be experienced and regularly engaged in municipal or commercial lawn care work. Satisfactory evidence that the bidder has that necessary capital, equipment and personnel to do the work may be required.

Proposal forms and specifications are on file for the inspection of bidders at the Fenton City Office, 301 South Leroy Street and copies may be obtained by qualified bidders. Bidders can also go to www.cityoffenton.org to receive a copy of the bid.

The City Council reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to accept any bid, or portion thereof, which, in their opinion, is most advantageous to the City.

Michael A. Hart
Assistant City Manager
**By David Troppens**
droppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

**Fenton** — Two weeks ago Alec Kusso and Trent Degayner were typical sophomores playing basketball on Fenton’s JV boys basketball squad.

The duo had no thoughts about playing varsity ball at the time.

But that’s exactly what the pair were doing on Friday night in their first-ever Fenton-Linden varsity rivalry game. And not only were they playing, the two ended up scoring Fenton’s final nine points, leading the Tigers to a thrilling 36-35 victory against the Eagles.

Kusso made the most dramatic shot, nailing the game-winning six-foot baseline jumper with about five seconds remaining, earning the Tigers the 36-35 lead. Linden had one final shot to win the game, but Garrett Strang’s shot was off.

“I just saw the open lane to my left and just got that floater going,” Kusso said. “It was my third varsity game. It’s been a little nerve-racking the first couple of games for sure, but me and my teammates pulled together and it’s been good.”

It was a contest that had its ugly moments. One expects some ugliness in a rivalry game where emotions are always high.

By integrating the extracted text, the story reads:

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

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It was a contest that had its ugly moments. One expects some ugliness in a rivalry game where emotions sometimes get the better of the combatants. But the beauty was the struggling offenses made sure the game remained close through- out, only adding to the intensity of the game’s final moments.

Linden led 28-22 entering the final quarter, and still led 32-27 after a putback hoop by Noah Garcia-tamontio with 5:47 remaining. However, that’s when Degayner made his mark, netting his first three-pointer and cutting the Lin- den lead to just 32-30 with 5:05 remaining.

Linden was unable to score on its next possession, and Degayner responded with his second straight three, nailing it with 4:04 remaining. Fenton led 33-27. That lead grew to 34-32 with 3:18 left on a converted free throw by Kusso, but the game wasn’t over just yet.

Linden made its final run of the game when Brenden Miller earned a steal, drove to the bas- ket and was fouled. He made the free throw, cutting Fenton’s lead to 34-33 with 26.8 seconds left. On Fenton’s next possession, Garrett Strang recorded a steal and dished a breaking layup hoop to Nicklas Koon, giving Linden a 35-34 lead with 15.3 seconds left.

**Communication improves, Lady Tigers defeat Linden**

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

Fenton — Aly Lenz knows what the key is to a successful second half of the Fenton var- sity girls basketball season is going to involve.

It’s going to involve good communication. She liked how the Tigers talked during their almest against Linden, resulting in a 67-32 Metro League victory at Fenton High School on Friday night.

Fenton’s Chloe Idoni drives to the basket against Linden’s Samantha Whaling in the Tigers’ 67-32 win on Friday.

“I think communication is the biggest thing — communicating on the floor, communi- cating about screens, communicating by picking up your team and helping get them up,” Lenz said. “We know we can get stronger if we communicate.”

Fenton varsity girls basketball coach Re- becca Moore agrees.

“The big thing for this game is the stuff they were doing on the court was the stuff we’ve been talking about,” Moore said. “Stuff like offensive rebounding, or being in a certain spot when we are doing cer- tain things.”

The Blue Devils also played a home contest against the Goodrich Martians on Saturday, losing that contest 74-45.

Due to recent poor weather, the Blue Devils hadn’t played a game since Dec. 29, so if Lake Fenton was a little rusty, that could’ve been forgiven.

“It was a hard fought game,” Lake Fen- ton varsity boys basketball coach Brian Mcdermey said. “It was a close game. We just lost it in the final minutes. The kids played awfully tough, and it’s been a long time since we played a game.”

**Blue Devils fall to Corunna, Goodrich over weekend**

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

Lake Fenton’s varsity boys basketball team finally played its first game of 2018 on Friday, losing a 46-36 verdict to Co- runna.

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**Fenton swimmers make a splash at county meet**

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

Realistically, the county meet didn’t have any game better for the Fenton var- sity boys swimming and diving team.

The squad posted many personal-best times, MISCA-qualifying times and even two state-qualifying times while taking second place at the weekend meet. The Holly Broncos also com- peted and took eighth out of 12 teams at the event.

“I don’t think we could’ve done bet- ter with what we came up with based on what our goals were coming into the meet,” Fenton varsity boys swim coach Brad Jones said. “We had best times pretty much across the board. We had good swims with top guys. We had some new guys with some good swims. This is kind of our halfway point and we are very happy with where we are at.”

The Tigers had one county champion. That was Evan Bartow who posted a state-qualifying time of 4:53.81 in the 500 freestyle. But that was just one part of the story in the event. Fenton went 1-2-3 in it, with Zac Jump taking second (5:08.04) and Josh Kippe placing third (5:08.82).

“That was a lot of fun for those guys,” Jones said. “We anticipated to do well in the 500 but not finish 1-2-3... That was a pleasant surprise for us.”

**Brockons pull away from Brandon in fourth quarter, 62-51**

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

Noah Baylis had just two points at half-time in the Holly varsity boys basketball team’s contest at Brandon on Friday night.

That was the good news for Holly’s var- sity boys basketball coach Lance Baylis. “I thought that was a positive because we were winning 28-23 and Noah had just two points,” Baylis said. “One thing that Noah is known for is never having two bad halves.”

Noah didn’t have another bad half. In fact, he scored 15 second-half points, lead- ing the Brockons to a 62-51 road victory against the Blackjacks.

“It was a great team victory,” Baylis said. “Everybody played and every- body contributed. I’m happy.”

A road win is a must for this team against Linden’s Samantha Whaling in the Tigers’ 67-32 win on Friday.

A road win is a must for this team against Linden’s Samantha Whaling in the Tigers’ 67-32 win on Friday.
Holly girls keep on winning games

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

Holly girls keep on winning games. That’s the way it has been this season and it’s not going to change.

The Holly varsity ski team finished eighth at the Frye’s Winter Classic at Salem Hills.

Eddie Sanner led the Bronchos with a 238 while Zach Miller bowled a 202 game. The Tigers are 18-5 overall and remain undefeated in league competition. It also looks like they can’t keep from winning all of their meets.

It appears the Linden varsity wrestling team can’t keep from winning tournament championships this winter. The Eagles won their fourth tournament of the season on Saturday, winning the Fighting Irish Duals at Notre Dame Prep.

The Eagles defeated Milan 64-18, St. Clair 56-18 and Dearborn 59-12 in pool play. They then faced Notre Dame Prep in the tournament championship match, beating the tourney hosts 63-18.

It was a great rebound performance from Wednesday’s

Fenton wrestlers take second at own tournament

Just how good is the Fenton varsity wrestling team this winter? The Tigers are 18-5 overall and remain undefeated in league competition. It also looks like they can’t keep from winning all of their meets.

That was the case on Saturday when Fenton took second at its own Fenton Varsity Invitational on Saturday.

Holly wrestlers struggle at weekend tourney

Sometimes a tough day can shake a team up a little bit. That’s what Holly varsity wrestling coach Don Pluta hopes happen after his team struggled to a 10th-place finish at the Lowell Tournament.

Linden grapplers earn fourth tourney title, take crown at Notre Dame Prep

Linden’s Jaylon Berry (top) works on pinning a recent foe.

Senior/Summit night at Linden," Lindy varsity wrestling coach Kyle Summerville said.

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM
Mr. Carl Dean Winn - age 88, of Fenton, went to be with the Lord on January 19, 2018. He is the beloved husband of Veronica for over 59 years; dear father of Geno Winn and Joy Hobbs; loving grandpa of Reid (Carrie) Winn, Craig (Ashley) Hobbs Jr. and the late Devon Winn; great-grandpa of Hunter, Jordan, Devon, Chloe, Bentley, Drake and Riley. Carl also leaves many brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews and loving friends. A funeral Mass will be held on Thursday, January 25, 2018, 11 AM at St. John’s Catholic Church, 600 North Adelaide St., Fenton. Friends may visit on Wednesday, January 24, 2018 from 4-8 PM at Temrowski Family Funeral Home, 500 Main St., Fenton and 10 AM until the time of service at the church. The Rosary will be prayed Wednesday evening, 5 PM. Share memories at www.temrowskifamilyfuneralhome.com.
ARIES
Mar 21/Apr 20
Plans to get together with friends this week could be delayed by other responsibilities, Aries. Do not feel the need to cancel; just reschedule your plans.

TAURUS
Apr 21/May 21
Taurus, financial issues may force you to work a little harder right now to make some extra money. Make a concerted effort to save more and take care of your financial obligations.

GEMINI
May 22/Jun 21
 Gemini, you may need to wait a little longer to receive some news you have been anticipating. Don’t let this get you down.

CANCER
Jun 22/Jul 22
Cancer, treat yourself to a brief respite from the daily grind. Don’t do anything without taking care of yourself.

LEO
Jul 23/Aug 22
Leo, make a concerted effort to open a line of communication with someone who means a lot to you. He or she may need a helping hand, and you are just the person to provide that assistance.

VIRGO
Aug 23/Sept 22
Virgo, a nice dinner, an unexpected luxury or even a spa treatment is the kind of pampering that can go a long way.

LIBRA
Sept 23/Oct 22
Libra, make an effort to lift the spirits of a loved one this week. Responsibilities may be weighing on them, and you can lighten their mood just by being there for them.

SCORPIO
Oct 23/Nov 22
Scorpio, sometimes you may feel as if you are the only person getting things done. Just keep up your hard work and the rewards will come. Others are taking notice.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov 22/Dec 21
Sagittarius, if your patience is wearing thin, try to embrace distractions that can help you pass the time. This can make things less stressful.

CAPRICORN
Dec 22/Jan 20
Capricorn, you have been doing well financially, but you still hope to do better. Speak with a planner or a knowledgeable relative on how to make your money work harder.

AQUARIUS
Jan 21/Feb 18
Engage in activities that make you feel good and boost your self-confidence. Aquarius, this may be as simple as hitting the gym for a workout.

PISCES
Feb 19/Mar 20
Phone a friend and set up a workout. Simple as hitting the gym for a little extra exercise.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE
Thank You For Your Service follows a group of U.S. soldiers returning from Iraq who struggle to integrate back into family and civilian life, while living with the memory of a war that threatens to destroy them long after they’ve left the battlefield.

ACROSS
1 "Mamamia Milt" group
2 Apprehend
3 Colorful fish
4 Clay-rich soil
5 Blunder
6 Portrait
7 Democratic or Republican
8 Radiate
9 Faucet
10 Arouse
11 Fireworks reaction
12 Delay or Carvey
13 Venomous viper
14 Zodiac cat
15 Passenger
16 Prosperous time
17 Knock
18 Pepsi competitor
19 Soothe
20 Tatter
21 Actor Danson
22 A long time
23 Bugging device
24 Swiss peaks
25 Tropical island
26 Card game
27 Lawn mowing
28 Pop
29 Oklahoma city
30 Untouchable
31 Eliot
32 Bikini pattern
33 Curved path
34 Rowing need
35 Sweaty
36 Nappy
37 Wide
38 Occurring naturally
39 Bikini pattern
40 Lotion additive
41 11 Chopped
42 Implement
43 Game for two
44 Heathen
45 Back talk
46 World’s fair
47 One
48 Wise.
49 Ostriches’ kin
50 Delicatessen
51 Edwln Land’s company
52 Light bulb
53 On years
54 Expectorate

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5 Multiple marriage
6 "— a borrow-er..."
7 Swiss peaks
8 Scroll
9 Scale member
10 Edwln Land’s company
11 Chihuahua
12 Lawyer’s org.
13 Computer language
14 Otter
15 Scale member
16 Implement
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18 Game for two
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Wednesday Sudoku

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.
Our Menu

- **Ultimate Supreme** | $10.00
  Pepperoni, Sausage, Mushroom, Green Pepper & Onion (8 slices)

- **Three Meat Treat** | $8.00
  Pepperoni, Sausage & Bacon (8 slices)

- **Hula Hawaiian** | $6.50
  Pineapple & Ham (8 slices)

- **Box Set** | $8.00
  Deep Deep Dish Pizza & Italian Cheese Bread

- **Crazy Combo** | $3.00
  Crazy Breads® & Crazy Sauce® (8 piece order)

- **Italian Cheese Bread** | $4.00
  (10 piece order)

- **Caesar Dips** | 59¢ or 2 for $1.00
  Buffalo, BBQ, Ranch, Buttery Garlic, Buffalo Ranch & Cheesy Jalapeno

- **2-Liter Beverage** | $2.25
  Pepsi® Products

We use 100% Real Cheese!

**PARTY STARTER HOT & READY**
2 Pepperoni Pizzas
Crazy Bread® & sauce
2-Liter Pepsi® Product

**LUNCH COMBO**
EVERY DAY
Available 11am-2pm
4 slice Deep Deep Dish Pepperoni Pizza with 20oz. Pepsi®

**HOT-N-READY**
$5

**DEEP DISH**
$8

**MEAL DEAL**
$9

**CAESAR WINGS**
$6

**Little Caesars**

LINDEN (810)735-9481
612 W. BROAD ST. (ALPINE PLAZA)

FENTON (810)750-0551
1437 N. LEROY ST. (ACROSS FROM VG’S)