

Newspapers essential for healthy, vibrant communities

■ Newspapers are critical to maintaining economically healthy and civically active communities

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

Have you ever asked yourself what life would be like without your hometown newspaper? If not, maybe you should.

It's true that technology has

advanced beyond some of our wildest imaginations, making it possible to get news and information from a wide variety of electronic sources.

But it's not the same.

It's not the same

as grabbing that newspaper out of your mailbox when you get home from work Wednesday afternoon, or fetching it from your front porch or driveway Saturday afternoon, and spending some

See **NEWSPAPER** on 14A

TRI-COUNTY
TIMES
FILE PHOTO

Some Times delivery routes are still best done on foot, like this route along East Ellen Street in Fenton.



PAGE 3B
**POPULAR
DOG BREEDS
FOR 2018**

Weekend Times

\$1.00

VOL. 25 NO. VI

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2018

2016 NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

Holly man could face up to life in prison for setting wife on fire

By Sharon Stone

sstone@tctimes.com; 810-433-6786

David John Garnett, 55, of Holly, was charged Feb. 7 with assault with intent to murder and first-degree arson in Oakland County 52-2 District



David John Garnett

Court during a video arraignment. A cash bond was set at \$1 million. He is lodged at the Oakland County Jail.

Each felony count is punishable by up

to life in prison.

The felony charges come after Holly police responded to the mobile home Garnett shares with his wife in the Holly Village mobile home community on Grange Hall Road in Holly Village at 6:45 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 5.

According to Holly police, officers responded to the couple's home on a report that a woman had been set on fire.

When officers arrived, they

See **HOLLY MAN** on 13A

Whiteout conditions cause fatal, multi-vehicle crash



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

The Fenton fire and police departments, along with the Genesee County Sheriff's Office, handle a fatal crash that occurred at 11:40 a.m. on northbound U.S. 23 near the Torrey Road exit on Friday, Feb. 9. As of press time, the victim had not been identified. This crash was one of several around the same time, forcing traffic onto Torrey Road. Additional photos are available at tctimes.com and more information will be posted as it becomes available.

Veteran TV journalist to interview parents of Ally Brueger

■ Jogger's murder captures attention of Chris Hansen

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com

The brutal slaying of Alexandra "Ally" Brueger has reached

the attention of a major crime show host.

On Thursday, Feb. 15, Ally's parents, Franz and Nikki Brueger, will be interviewed by Chris Hansen of Crime Watch Daily on Thursday, Feb. 15, regarding the brutal July 2016 murder of their daughter, Ally.

HTTP://EW.COM/TV/

Chris Hansen of Crime Watch Daily will be interviewing Franz and Nikki Brueger on Thursday, Feb. 15, regarding the brutal July 2016 murder of their daughter, Ally.



Another chapter in the challenging chicken conflict

■ Defense cries 'fowl,' argues that chickens are common household pets

By Hannah Ball
hball@tctimes.com

The court battle for one Fenton Township couple to keep their chickens is ongoing, and could result in an entire ordinance being declared unconstitutional.

See **CHICKEN** on 13A

TEXT
YOUR
HOT LINE
810-771-TEXT



“Please don't push your kids to go to college if they don't want to. The world needs construction workers, plumbers, electricians, and more trade work people. Teach them that those are viable options. College isn't the only path.”



“Can the Times publish a story on the history of Fenton winters with the most snow for that year? I'm in the bar arguing with my friends about it.”



“I will never understand why so many people never touch their dogs. Your dog or cat is called a 'pet' for a reason.”



“The difference between Republicans and Democrats is that Republicans believe that every day should be the Fourth of July and Democrats believe that every day should be April 15th.”

COMMENT
OF THE WEEK

“Winter snowstorms are the time for comfort, for different food, for warmth and for family discussions or board games gathered around the fireplace. Quit complaining and embrace it, you might just be surprised.”



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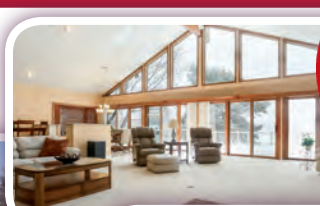


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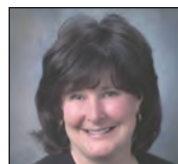
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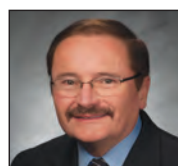
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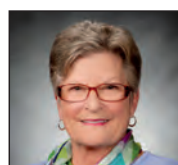
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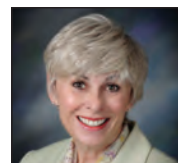
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Beautiful 5BR, 3 Full and 2 Half Bath Home Offers An Elegant Updated Kitchen, Formal Living Rm and Dining Rm, Great Rm w/FP And Soaring Ceiling, Finished LL w/Family Rm, Bonus Rm And Bar.

OPEN
HOUSE
Sunday
1-3pm



Fenton • \$310,000

13419 Pomona

Great 3 Bed, 3 Bath Home On The Channel Of Crooked Lake w/Nice View. HW Floors In Kitchen, Dining Room And Bedrooms. Dual Fireplaces. Sea Wall w/Dock Facilities. Many Updated Features. Lake Fenton Schools.

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Updated 4 Bed, 2.5 Bath, Home On 5 Acres. 2,600+ SF Of Living Space w/Fin. LL. Updated Kitchen w/ HW Flr, Custom Cabinets, And Granite. Two Pole Barns w/Lots Of Features.

New On Market



Ortonville • \$269,000

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OPEN
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1-3pm



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Holly • \$349,000

Million Dollar Views Of The 60 Acre All Sports Lake. Over 200 ft On Water, 2.3 Acres, Pole Barn, Private Setting, Total Remodel Of Kitchen And Main Bath w/Granite. Lots Of Updates!

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Love Letters



■ She spoke French, he spoke English — couple celebrating 60 years of marriage

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

George LaMarche, 20, was in the U.S. Navy, stationed in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba at the end of the Korean War when he got a letter from his girlfriend, Pierrette Robertson.

It was a struggle for him to read it because she wrote to him in her native French, and he had to painstakingly look up each word in the dictionary.

The young couple grew up in the same town of Lachute, Quebec, Canada, but his family spoke English, while her family spoke French. They knew each other as kids, but didn't become close friends until they were both 19. George enlisted in the Navy and admits he was lonely being so far from home.

See **LOVE LETTERS** on 16A

“As soon as I read it, I went to Havana and bought an engagement ring, strapped it on my pants around the bottom of my right leg.”

George LaMarche
Married to Pierrette for 60 years



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Pierrette and George LaMarche have been married 60 years as of Thursday, Feb. 8. They are great-grandparents. Before they were married, George was away at sea in the Navy for two years. The couple wrote and saved more than 50 letters to each other in 1956 and 1957.

HOLY HOLIDAYS!

Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day fall on the same date this year; as does Easter and April Fool's Day

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Hearts and ashes will be sharing the limelight on Wednesday, Feb. 14, when Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day fall on the same date.

Two other upcoming holidays will make an interesting mix when the Christian holiday of Easter falls on the same date as the frivolous celebration of April Fool's Day on April 1.

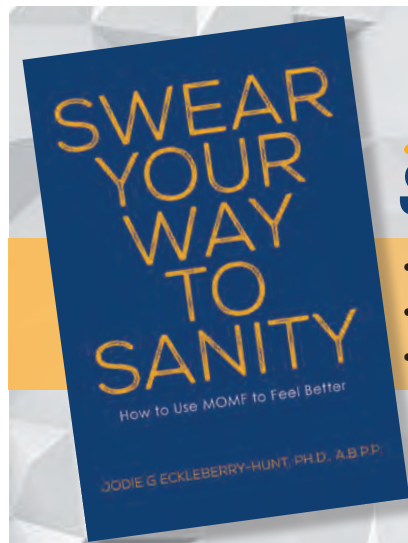
This is the first time since 1945 that there has been a rare meeting of these dates, as reported in a Detroit Free Press article.

See **HOLIDAYS** on 17A

“For people of faith, it's kind of a funny coincidence. It doesn't really pose any real changes.”

Fr. Robert Copeland

Senior pastor at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in Fenton



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TRI-COUNTY TIMES

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Andrew Heller

andrewheller@tctimes.com

Come *Heller* high water...

I know many adults are struggling to understand why teenagers across the country are chewing on laundry detergent pods.

I believe I can bring some clarity to this question:

It's because they're morons.

I do not say that to be insulting. I say it because: A) I was a teenage boy once, and B) I have raised three teenagers, two of them boys.

So I know whereof I speak.

In my experience, boys are far dumber than girls, who tend to reserve their



Andrew Heller
FEATURED COLUMNIST

teenage stupidity for random acts of meanness against other girls they feel competitive with. (Ladies, correct me here if I have that wrong. But the worst I can remember my daughter Annie

doing was gossiping darkly about the girls on the cheerleading squad.)

Boys, on the other hand, tend to do intentionally stupid stuff to get attention or because they think it's going to be funny. You can always tell a boy is going to do something totally idiotic when it's preceded by the words, "Watch this ...!"

In my case, I once got caught pegging crab apples at cars with my pals Mike, Pat, and Jig. We were quite the gang of thugs. As I recall, I hid in tall grass about 20 yards back from the road with Pat while Mike and Jig were in the branches of a tree overhanging the road. The idea was to hit the car from the side and the top, which seemed like absolute genius to us at the time — I mean, the side AND the top, can you imagine how cool?

Anyway, we nailed a couple of cars before the entire city police force showed up, this being a major, major event in a town like Escanaba, a veritable crime wave. I ended up getting a stern lecture at the police station about

how lobbing crab apples was a gateway to a life of crime.

I honestly don't remember why we decided denting cars with crab apples would be a great and adventurous way to kill an afternoon. And from the perch of adulthood I am damned sure I'd view an apple attack on my car as evidence that society is falling apart.

But the truth is it just seemed like the thing to do at the moment. Teenagers do stupid stuff. That's really all there is to it.

The type and degree of stupidity, I think, varies by generation. For instance, when I was a kid we wouldn't have eaten laundry detergent because our parents (aka "homicidal Nazis") intentionally made us eat soap if we swore or lied. It was called "cleaning your mouth out." My parents favored Zest. I still can't use it to this day.

I do think today's teens and young adults have drifted toward more self-destructive stupidity, and that's rightly got people concerned. We can search all we want for the deep, dark, so-psychological reasons behind the Tide pod phenomenon. And the cinnamon craze before that. And the gallon challenge (where someone tries to chug a gallon of water or milk) before that. (What is it with this generation and ingesting stuff?) But in the end, teens do stupid things because teenagers are stupid. It's kinda that simple.

You just gotta hope they survive to become adults who shake their head at the dumb things teenagers do.

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

“...when I was a kid we wouldn't have eaten laundry detergent because our parents (aka 'homicidal Nazis') intentionally made us eat soap if we swore or lied.”

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.

PLEASE BE KIND to us newspaper carriers and mail carriers and clear your sidewalks and mailbox area. Our deepest thanks.

CITY OF FENTON plow guys, thank you for staying on the road on East Street when you plowed and not tearing up my yard. You must have read the hotlines.

HERE'S A THOUGHT, carry out a random act of kindness, with no expectation of reward, safe in the knowledge that one day someone might do the same for you.

COME ON, YOU chose to live in Michigan. Embrace the snow, take your kids outside and away from so-called 'devices' to enjoy time with nature. You might be surprised.

REALLY ENJOYED YOUR story on the Downtown Girl. Have seen her often sweeping downtown and always wondered who she was. Now I feel like I know her. Nice job Times.

THOUGHT THE OLYMPICS would be boring but watched them anyway and was very pleasantly surprised at how quickly my innate patriotism kicked in and had me rooting for American athletes. Go USA!

ARE THE CANDIDATES for governor I see on TV for real, or is this a bad joke?

They can hardly speak English and don't seem very 'take charge' to me. Am I missing something?

NOTHING IS MORE ridiculous than people who hate other people that they have never even met.

AS A LIFELONG Democrat I am absolutely shocked at the behavior I saw during Trump's speech. Did the Republicans do that to Obama?

A SNOWSTORM IS not a natural catastrophe. Someone should explain this to the TV weather people who do their best to paint natural weather occurrences as emergency situations that scare everyone. Knock it off already.

WHY? 'COMFORT ANIMALS' are needed in schools because most children haven't learned acceptable 'social behavior/skills' and schools' policies are dictated by Washington bureaucrats not our state and local boards.

I DISAGREE WITH the comment of the week about our President Trump. His State of the Union speech was the best, and I watched it with my 13-year-old son, nothing inappropriate at all for children. Thank you.

WE'RE TAKING CARE of all these illegal immigrants, giving them cell phones and food stamps, Obama was welcoming in millions and he didn't want to raise a border wall. We're giving billions to countries overseas that hate us and vote against us every chance they get, and now they're saying we've got to cut Medicare.

See **HOT LINE** throughout Times

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Compiled by Gracie Warda, intern

If money were no object, how would you spend your time?

| streettalk



"Traveling. I would like to take care of my family and take them on vacation and see things I've never seen before."

MaryAnn Pietrzyk
Fenton Township



"I would spend my time on a beach, and go a long way to get there."

David Carter
Linden



"I would travel to Hawaii again. I went there once. I would probably go to Europe, too."

Angela Creguer
Rose Township



"Fishing. I like to go to the Saginaw Bay, Lake Erie and the Detroit River, anywhere I can."

Bruce Niswonger
Sparta Township



"I would probably go to Scotland because I went there once before and I loved it, it's beautiful."

John Locke
Fenton Township

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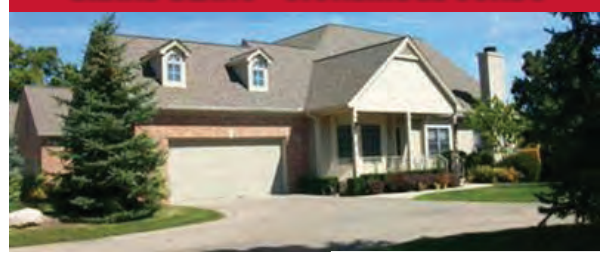
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12006 Bowles St. • Fenton
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carpet! Finished walkout.



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3 Beds, 6 Baths(3/3), 2240 Sq Ft
Beautiful updated ranch with walk-
out, granite, detached garage.



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GAINES



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GRAND BLANC CONDO



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and community pool.



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YOUR SMILE MATTERS!

By: Dr. Steven Sulfaro

WISDOM TEETH

The third molar teeth are last teeth to develop and erupt into the mouth. This usually occurs when a person is around 18 or 19 years of age. They are called Wisdom Teeth because these teeth appear in the mouth once the person has reached the "age of wisdom." I think most would agree that this is a misnomer as I personally can't think of any 18 year olds exhibiting much wisdom. Few people have adequate room in their mouth for their third molars to erupt into full position. For those that do, my philosophy, in their case, is if they can keep their wisdom teeth healthy then they can keep them. Most wisdom teeth, however, are problem teeth. Few people have enough space for their developing third molars. This lack of adequate room causes most wisdom teeth to become impacted. An impacted tooth is trouble. Impacted Wisdom Teeth create pressure which can cause damage to the other teeth and can cause crowding of the other teeth. Impacted third molars can become infected and can sometimes develop cysts or develop periodontal disease which can spread throughout the mouth. It is best to have impacted wisdom teeth removed before any serious trouble develops which involves surgery. It's best to have wisdom teeth surgery at ages 18-20. At this stage in their life the person is young and healthy, the third molar teeth and bone are not fully developed, and there is no active infection in the area. Third molar surgery in this situation is usually considered minor surgery and recovery is fast and easy. Conversely, the impacted third molar surgery on a 50+ year old is often considered a more major surgery with a much prolonged and difficult recovery with a great chance of post-operative complications. Because of this, I recommend removal of Wisdom Teeth for my young adult patients.

I welcome your questions and comments.
Feel free to e-mail me drsulfaro@comcast.net



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'When someone overdoses it's not pretty'

■ Veteran fire chief gets real with what really happens during overdose

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-629-6823

This is the third and final article in a three-part series about the growing, and deadly, drug abuse crisis raging across America.

The first two parts of this series addressed the opioid epidemic, which can be the prelude to heroin abuse and worse drugs, such as fentanyl and those that are making their way to Michigan — bromodal and "Rizzy."

What some people may not realize is what happens to someone's body when they overdose on heroin or worse.

Fenton Fire Chief Bob Cairnduff said, "Obviously this is a touchy subject and describing what it's like can be difficult,

“People vomit, urinate, and defecate on themselves. It is not something I would wish on anyone.”

Bob Cairnduff
Fenton City fire chief

but I am a proponent of telling kids what to really expect. It's no different than vehicle accidents, guns, and suicide.

"The thing kids, or adults, need to realize it's not like on TV. When someone overdoses it's not pretty," Cairnduff said. "It's not you simply pass out and someone gives you some medication and you're all better."

"It's sad, disgusting, and pathetic. People can die instantly or it can be a

long drawn out death. Sometimes people die instantly from the overdose, so quick that help can't get to them in time," he said. "It's not uncommon to find people with the needle still in their arm. That's how fast it can affect you and kill you."

"We can in fact revive people with Narcan, but it typically isn't pretty," Cairnduff said. "The medication Narcan, how it works, is that it

instantly stops the effect of the opiate and puts the user into a state of withdrawal. At that point, people can become very violent. In fact, we have safety protocols in place for when we administer it. People vomit, urinate, and defecate on themselves. It is not something I would wish on anyone."

"Then there are the family and friends that may see them. It is something they will never forget seeing," Cairnduff said. "We are responders that live in the community we protect, and it really is hurtful and sad when we encounter someone we know and to see the grief of those around them."

Unfortunately, television glorifies things and makes it seem better than it is, he added. This goes for most things. That is something people need to realize.

"I hate to see TV shows that show people dying in a peaceful and almost graceful way. That is not reality. Death is not pretty especially when it's from trauma or from things like an overdose," Cairnduff said.



In 2016, Ohio police posted this photo of a couple that overdosed on heroin while a little 4-year-old boy sat in the backseat. NBC News reported the two passed out were the boy's grandmother and her friend. The Ohio authorities that posted the image online said they did it to send a message. The post was seen by millions of people within 24 hours. Narcan, a drug used to reverse the effects of a heroin overdose, was administered and both were taken to the hospital. Both faced charges that included endangering a child.

Getting help and support

There are a number of ways kids and adults who are addicted to drugs can get help and support. Locally, people who think they have an addiction problem, whether its drugs or alcohol, can go to the Argentine Township Police Department or Holly Village Police Department, both of which participate in the "Hope Not Handcuffs" program. There they will be assisted with getting the help they need without facing charges. Seeking treatment centers and support groups is as close as finding their websites on the internet.

During the Thursday, Feb. 8 Good Morning America broadcast, however, a Facebook support group was revealed that is intended to help addicts, and their family and friends. They reported that the rate of drug overdoses in America increased by 137 percent between 2000 and 2014, and that drug addiction is a family disease — it affects everyone.

The secret Facebook support group is called "Affected by Addiction," which can be accessed from your Facebook search bar at the top. Once on the page, you can join the group for free. They currently have more than 57,000 members. The group is said to have helped thousands of individuals overcome their addictions, even after several trips to treatment centers and other means have failed. It allows people to vent, get information, offer support, get support and more, without judgment.

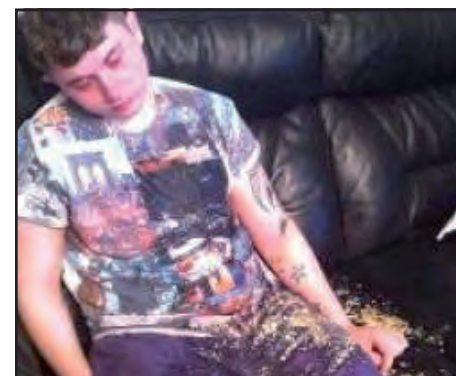


PHOTO: PBS.TWIMG.COM/MEDIA

Sad, disgusting and pathetic is how a drug overdose victim is perceived, especially when they're covered in their own vomit, urine and feces.

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | HANNAH BALL

Here is the intersection of Thompson and Torrey roads, facing north to the bowling alley, in 2002 compared to 2018. The area has seen more development, such as Miller Industries behind the sign.

Thompson Road corridor 16 years later

■Corridor study — what was hoped for vs. what happened

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Imagine a Trader Joe's on Thompson Road, or a senior care facility next to a boutique and an office building on the corner of Thompson and Torrey roads. On the south side of the road, there are condos and houses, and more retail west of the highway.

That was a glimpse of what township planners and community members had in mind 16 years

ago when the 2002 Thompson Road Corridor study was done by Rowe Incorporated, which is now Rowe Professional Services Company.

Instead, Thompson Road is home to the manufacturing company, Miller Industries, and a few commercial developments, including Freeway Sports Center Inc, McDonald's, Fenton Lanes and other businesses.

Treasurer and Planning Commissioner John Tucker said, "The general consensus was that folks preferred a walkable retail area with things like restaurants, movie theaters and retail areas up front near Thompson Road and big box retail back behind," he said.

On the south side of Thompson Road, people envisioned a high-density residential area. On the northeast corner of Thompson and Torrey roads, they discussed planning for a grocery store, like Trader Joe's, senior care facilities, office and some retail spaces.

"That was all well and good and reflected what was asked of people but none of what was desired by the citizen planners has yet to materialize," Tucker said.

Jim Adams, owner of Freeway Sports Center Inc. on Thompson Road, said the plans discussed during the meeting 16 years ago seemed unrealistic.

"We don't have water out here ... we're at the end of the phone system and sewer system," he said. "Everything has to come together for them to get the kind of development that they want."

Redoing the road and adding a middle turn lane makes traffic flow easier, he said, but until the overpass is expanded, it'll be hard to support more development.

"Obviously, the Miller Industries development was nice, but I think their (the township's) vision was more a retail corridor and it's really not going to be now. It's really going to be more of manufacturing corridor," he said. "I don't ever see it being Owen Road."

There are a few issues facing development on Thompson Road. Tucker said,

"I think the single biggest impediment to the planned development in that area is a lack of public

water, which is a prerequisite for many of the types of commercial development identified in the (Master) Plan."

Another issue is that during the conversations for previous planning, the township didn't look at what types of development were already approved for the area, and if there was a market demand for certain types of developments people wanted to see.

"It was simply a 'wish-list.' For example, nobody was made aware of the fact that the area that now houses Miller Industries was already approved for a major development of that type. Had that been known to the participants, they may have come up with a different 'vision' for what would happen in that area," he said.

When the site plan was to be approved for Miller Industries, there was no way to implement what was desired from the corridor study because the zoning for that development had been approved before the study even existed. Tucker said this is why development has not matched the "wish list."

Now, 16 years after the study, the area between U.S. 23 and Torrey Road has a much more industrial feel.

"Personally, I don't think the 'vision' under the corridor study for that area is realistic in light of actual development that has occurred in the area. Consequently, it may be necessary to move the envisioned retail areas east of Torrey Road where the land is still relatively undeveloped," Tucker said, adding that these are issues they're looking at when updating the Master Plan.

“I think the single biggest impediment to the planned development in that area is a lack of public water...”

John Tucker

Fenton Township treasurer, planning commissioner

Deadly flu virus can live on all these everyday items

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

The spread of the flu in Michigan is considered "widespread," according to a report by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

In the state, doctors are dealing with 535 positive influenza-related hospitalizations since Oct. 1, 2017. Those affected include 30 children and 505 adults. The report stated that many of these outbreaks occur in assisted living facilities and schools.

Across the nation, 37 children have died so far this winter season of the flu, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). While a vaccine is advised, there are other preventative measures possible to take, such as cleaning.

Chuck Gerba, Ph.D., who is a microbiology professor at the University of Arizona, told WebMD that 80 percent of cell phones in homes that have a child with the flu have the flu virus on them.

Other places that carry the virus include the TV remote control, bathroom faucets, tables, computers, stuffed animals, and sheets and blankets.

WHAT TO WASH TO AVOID THE FLU:

Toys — if you have kids in the house make sure to wash or wipe down all of their toys. If they have play dates with other kids, they might be carrying the flu virus and the germ could be spread if they share toys. Stuffed animals can be thrown into a washing machine. Small, hard-surfaced toys may be dishwasher

safe and can be washed with the dishes.

Flat surfaces — Table tops, shelves, the tops of books and any other place that can be wiped down, should be. Make sure to clean things that are touched often, such as books, railings, drawer handles, the on and off switches to lamps and lights, and door handles.

Electronic devices — Cell phones, laptops, keyboards, iPads, TV remotes and any other electronic devices people regularly touch need to be cleaned to stop the spread of germs. Use cleaning wipes or disinfectant spray.

Wastebaskets

Garbage cans and lids come in contact with our waste and are often forgotten about when cleaning. Clean the lid and the entirety of the can to kill the germs.

Kitchen — If someone in your house is sick, keep them out of the kitchen as much as possible.

Germs spread easily in a kitchen and they could infect the entire house if left unchecked. Clean countertops, the stovetop, refrigerator door, the coffee pot handle, the salt and pepper shakers, the drawer handles, and anything that people touch.

The sink and surrounding areas carry numerous germs, as well, and make sure to wash any dishcloths and throw away any sponges that are old.

Vehicles — Your home isn't the only place the flu virus can infect someone. Your car can carry germs on the seats, on the door handles, on the knobs to change

See **FLU VIRUS** on 17A



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Schools of Choice — some schools win, some schools lose

■ Local family shares why they chose Linden schools over their home district

By Tim Jagielo

tjagiolo@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795

Abigail Zayan, 16, is from Gaines Township, but she only knows Linden Community Schools. "I've enjoyed making friends and memories at Linden schools," she said. "My schedule is a little crazy sometimes because school starts so early."

It takes her a little longer to get to Linden High School, but she wouldn't have it any other way. Under the optional Schools of Choice (SOC) program, her family opted for Linden Community Schools (LCS) instead of Swartz Creek Schools (see sidebar).

All Michigan school districts have the option to open their schools and programs to students outside their residential coverage area, as allowed under the State School Aid Act. With SOC, public school districts have a chance to attract more students — though they run the risk of losing students as well.

Every student attending a local district is worth more than \$7,500 in state funding every year to the district they attend. While Zayan is not just a number at LCS, her family's choice to go to Linden brought \$7,511 in 2017. These funds pay for all activities and personnel in the district. Losing 10 students means losing \$75,000 for the school year.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Amy Golomski takes a photo of her daughter, Chelsea, 8, at her first day back to Linden Elementary School on Tuesday, Sept. 5, 2017. Parents who send their children out of district are still responsible for home-district millages.

SOC can mean flexibility to change districts, or change schools within a district, providing the local board of education has opted in to SOC.

Depending on the SOC program, the home district or school may have to approve a release of records to allow a student to leave the district, or school. When utilizing SOC, districts aren't required to transport students.

Districts can limit the number of students, programs, grade levels or buildings that are accessible by SOC. The only

grounds for refusal are previous expulsions or suspensions or current felonies by students.

Some may only allow students to go to different buildings. Others may limit the amount of students that may change to their district.

Brian Ciloski, a specialist with the Michigan office of State Aid and School Finance, said that statewide, approximately 1 to 2 percent of students enter a district under SOC.

Local districts and Schools of Choice

Each year, the student count for each district changes slightly. For example, sometimes a district will lose local students because they move away, but gain the difference through SOC. The following enrollment numbers are based on the most recent available data. According to local superintendents, these are representative of the average enrollment trends. Districts must draft their budgets based on previous enrollment figures.

Fenton Area Public Schools (FAPS)

FAPS gained 100 students through Schools of Choice. Superintendent Adam Hartley said that the district brings in 550 non-resident students, and loses 450 through various other places.

Hartley said students may attend parochial schools, be homeschooled, or leave the area for another district. "I view SOC as just that — a choice," said Hartley. "Families have the ability to choose which school their child attends based on want or need and not based on their address."

Hartley said that SOC has made districts more competitive, and more communicative about their "points of pride," so that families better understand prospective districts.

Lake Fenton Community Schools

Lake Fenton gained 286 students through SOC. On average, 547 students are non-residents, according to Superintendent Julie Williams. "We feel fortunate that so many families want to be a part of our Lake Fenton family," she said.

Many enter the district their kindergarten year.

Inversely, there are 261 district residents who attend school elsewhere. "This year our student count was actually down a few students," she said. "Without Schools of Choice, we probably would

have been down more than 40 students which would have impacted our budget significantly."

Linden Community Schools (LCS)

LCS lost 267 students through SOC. Linden Superintendent Russ Ciesielski said there are 259 students entering LCS through Schools of Choice. This includes new students and continuing students.

There are 526 students who opted out of the district. Ciesielski said

his district tracks students for enrollment purposes, and that the numbers have been consistent, allowing for budget planning.

Holly Area Schools (HAS)

According to Superintendent Dave Nuss, his district has 183 SOC students, hailing from 17 other districts.

HAS has no restrictions on SOC student enrollment, save for severe disciplinary issues from the student's home district. "We believe in choice, and we attempt to off-set students who might leave HAS for a closer district by allowing students to attend HAS if they believe we are the best fit for their education," he said via email.

One family's perspective

Madeleine Zayan, 18, and Abigail Zayan, 16, live in Gaines Township, and technically reside in the Swartz Creek school district, but have always attended Linden Community Schools. Their mother, Heidi Zayan, said this was due to their actual proximity to Linden schools. "The girls were in daycare in Linden and my husband and I worked south of Linden so it was on the way to work. We live in Gaines/Swartz Creek school district but the schools were north and out of our way... Great academic support, student programs and athletics have made their experiences positive," she said. Madeleine graduated in 2017 and Abigail is a junior at Linden High School.

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HOT LINE CONTINUED

REPUBLICANS NEVER SWORE at Obama? They treated him with respect at his speeches? What planet are you on? They called him all kinds of names and questioned his citizenship.

WITNESS THE LIBERALS in MSU leadership that allowed female abuse for decades. When a conservative is placed in charge, they complain, tough.

I AM TOTALLY against using my hard-earned tax dollars for a military parade. If we are going to spend that kind of money, use it to help our veterans.

WHAT'S WITH FOSTER Childs; obsession with gambling? And where is he getting his information that Tom Brady is 'faithless'?

TO THE PERSON who plowed the Springfield Hills subdivision on Monday, Feb. 5. Outstanding work. Thank you very much for a job well done

FALCON HEAVY SPACEX rocket, Tesla, Rocket Man in orbit, awesome.

WANT TO HONOR veterans? Skip the parade and give that money to the VA.

MY HUSBAND AND I would like to thank the young mom who paid for our meal at the Golden Buffet. We will do the same for someone else. God bless you, young mom.

I LOVE MY Tri-County Times because it is very interesting to read, has great articles, and of course the Hot lines.

I'M CALLING IN regards to the students at Michigan State University, where they are paying to attend, while they are protesting the appointment of

the person in charge. I don't think they should have a voice and they should never have a voice in what is going on. They are paying students.

JUST OPENED MY paycheck and I got a few extra crumbs in there this week. Not sure whether to go to dinner or donate it to whoever is running against Stabenow on the Republican side.

IN CASE OF a threat to our satellites, we need to have a ground-based GPS back-up system (like Russia has). Otherwise, we may lose internet and other stuff.

HANNAH, THANK YOU for the article on straws. Restaurants should step up and use paper straws.

THOSE WHO COMPLAIN about Genesee County road plowing, compared to Oakland County, should remember that Genesee is run by Democrats and Oakland by Republicans. Democrats promise, but Republicans deliver.

A BIG SHOUT-out to the second-grade teachers at Patterson Elementary in Holly. They both have large class sizes (32) but they meet each child with a smile each day.

TO THE PERSON asking if anyone cares about celebrities' political opinions because they have no political experience. You do realize that '45' was on a reality TV show and has no political experience right?

NOW THAT AUTO workers are getting \$11,750 profit checks, they can start paying back the \$10 billion they still owe all of us for saving their jobs. Make the check out to Uncle Sam.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO

Kelly Meade of Tyrone Township is competing in the Ms. Veteran America pageant. Winning will enable her to further her efforts to helping homeless women veterans.

Local woman in running for Ms. Veteran America

■ Served in U.S. Army for four years

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

Everyone who has ever watched a Miss America competition knows that at least one of the remaining finalists will cite "world peace" as the number one item on her wish list. It has become a running joke.

There is one local woman, however, who is working at accomplishing just that in her own way. Her name is Kelly Meade and she is seeking the crown of "Ms. Veteran America."

Meade, a Tyrone Township resident, has reached the semifinals of the contest. In June, she will be competing in Arlington, Virginia with the hopes of making the finals to be held in Washington, D.C. in October.

She served in the U.S. Army from 1985 through 1989. She said she "Served Like a Girl," which is a 2017 documentary about the lives of female veterans as they compete for the crown of Ms. Veteran America. "The title has since become a catch phrase," Meade said.

During her four-year stint in the Army, Meade first trained at Ft. Dix, New Jersey. She served the remainder of her enlistment at Ft. Carson, Colorado for the 4th Infantry Division.

"I was a truck driver and drove fuel tankers," she said.

Meade said the best part of serving in the military was the camaraderie and lifelong friendships she made, and the education she received that benefitted her both personally and professionally.

"The challenge was being the minority," Meade said. "I was the only female in my company. I had to work hard to prove myself and gain respect."

Today, Meade is a manager at a local collection agency. "I entered the collections business shortly after departing the military, starting out as a secretary," she said. "I have been a state licensed collection manager for 25 years."

Meade's fiancé is Mike Cunningham, supervisor for Tyrone Township. They live on Lake Tyrone with their two dogs. In a recent interview with Cunningham, he referred to Meade as his wife, Kelly, and said they have a son, Cody.

She laughed and clarified, "We are not officially married — although we've been together for so long everyone thinks

we are so I never correct them. To keep things factual, I am his fiancée. Mike has a son that lives in Oregon now. I have been his only mother figure since he was 11 years old."

In a press release issued by the Ms. Veteran America Awareness Movement, Meade has continued to serve her fellow veterans by giving her time, energy and resources to bring awareness to the epidemic of homeless women veterans. She is helping bring to light "The Woman Beyond the Uniform." The Ms. Veteran America competition highlights more than the strength, courage, and sacrifice of our nation's military women, but also reminds us that these women are mothers, daughters, sisters and wives.

Women veterans are two to three times more likely to be homeless than any other group in the U.S. adult population and 70 percent of these women veterans are single mothers. All proceeds from this event support the national nonprofit Final Salute Inc., which provides homeless women veterans with safe and suitable housing.

IF SHE WINS...

If Kelly Meade takes home the Ms. Veteran America crown, she will receive the following grand prizes:

- Official Ms. Veteran America crown
- Official Ms. Veteran America sash
- \$15,000 toward the purchase of a vehicle or scholarship toward education (theirs or their children or grandchildren) or student loan repayment (must be in good standing) or starting their own business or down payment toward a home purchase or home repairs
- Featured on Ms. Veteran America competition nationwide advertising campaign
- Round trip airfare and accommodations for two to the 2019 Ms. Veteran America competition
- Gown to the 2019 Ms. Veteran America competition and more

TO HELP

People can help Meade in her efforts to become Ms. Veteran America 2018 by liking her page on Facebook KellyM4MVA2018, follow her on twitter @KellyM4MVA2018 or make a tax-deductible donation at www.crowdrise.com/o/en/campaign/kellym4mva2018.

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Beat the winter blues with indoor swimming

■ Local residents have options in Hartland, Fenton and Milford schools

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Do you miss summertime swimming?

You may think swim time is put on hold when the lakes are frozen over, but local residents have a few options if they want to swim some laps or have fun in a pool.

Hartland Caroselli Aquatic Center

The Hartland Caroselli Aquatic Center, which is roughly 20 minutes south of Fenton, offers adult open swim, splash and play, lap swim, a play area, and more.

Fenton resident Penny Abner said she takes her grandkids to the center as often as she can.

"They love it and get exercise. I use the hot tub and the lazy river," she said. It's a nice, clean area, she said, and all the pools are "wonderful." The center also has a large pool with a diving board for older swimmers.

"They accommodate the real small children with a small slide and a place to play. The only thing I am afraid of is we are revealing our gem," she said.

On Facebook, Fenton resident Lauren Denton said, "I teach first grade in Hartland and I take my

first-graders there every spring. They love it there and stay busy for the full two hours. Plus, the staff and lifeguards there are very organized and alert so I feel like all my kids are very safe even when I can't personally watch every single one of them."

Fenton High School

Through Southern Lakes Parks and Recreation, there are open swim times at Fenton High School throughout the year. Lap swim is normally available Monday through Thursday, from 8-9 p.m., but from Jan. 2 through March 16, there is no evening lap swim. In February, seniors can go to Senior Splash at 11 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and there are swim lessons on Saturday at 9:30 a.m., except for Feb. 24 when swim lessons start at 4 p.m.

Huron Valley Pools and Fitness in Milford

While a little farther away than Fenton High School and Hartland at 30 minutes south, Lakeland High School Pool and Milford High School pools offer lap swim and leisure pool time. Visitors can also take fitness classes, such as yoga, spin, water aerobics and more.

On Facebook, local resident Casey Coon said she prefers the Milford pools over the Hartland pools.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

When the splash pad and family swimming area is open there is usually lap swim as well, providing activities for everyone.

“They accommodate the real small children with a small slide and a place to play.”

Penny Abner
Fenton resident

"They have much longer open swim hours and more for the kids to do. It also tends to be a lot less crowded and the hot tub is for ages 16 and up which is more pleasant for parents," she said.

TIMES AND COST

Hartland Caroselli Aquatic Center

From Jan. 3 to March 24, lap swim is open from 6 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Adult open swim is available from 6 a.m. to 1:30 a.m. Splash and play is open from 10:30 to 11:25 a.m. Adult open swim and

See **SWIMMING on 15A**



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

The Hartland Caroselli Aquatic Center at Hartland High School offers a break from the snow and cold of this Michigan winter. Here, a child plays with a fountain, flanked by a pool and lazy river on Thursday, Feb. 8.

WATCH THE VIDEO



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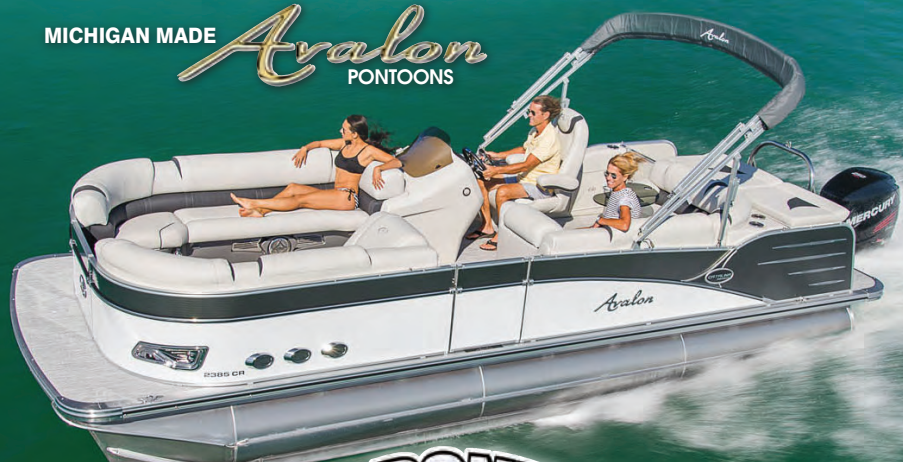
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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | HANNAH BALL

Kyle Kurtz (center) was named Firefighter of the Year at the Monday, Jan. 29 Argentine Township board meeting. Fire Chief Matt Lafferty (left) and Kurtz' father, Lt. Jeremy Kurtz (right), stand with him.

Argentine Township honors firefighters

■ Quick thinking saved the life of a 29-year-old

By Hannah Ball

hball@tctimes.com; 810-433-6792

Argentine Twp. — Argentine Township Fire Chief Matt Lafferty honored four firefighters with a Merit Award at the Monday, Jan. 29 Board of Trustees meeting.

"Their quick thinking, dedication, and their actions during an incident on Sept. 2, 2017 were essential in saving the life of a 29-year-old resident," he said.

Firefighters Kyle Kurtz, BJ Ellsworth, Justin McCormick and Jeremy Hatton were given awards. On Sept. 2, 2017, firefighters responded to a medical incident.

"Luckily, we were standing by in the area for the fireworks on the lake," Lafferty said. "Without that crew's actions and quick response, the patient's outcome would have been much worse." For privacy reasons, Lafferty was not at liberty to reveal more details on the incident or patient.

Kurtz was also awarded Firefighter of the Year. His father, Lt. Jeremy Kurtz, presented him with the award. Kyle also won this award in 2015.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

MORE AND MORE businesses, even local, are opting to take debit cards, transfers, PayPal and other electronic means. But I prefer cash.

■■■■
WE'VE HEARD THAT eight years of hard work by Obama has produced a robust economy. And we've heard that Trump's leadership has created a robust economy. How about this? Combined and coordinated efforts by all of our elected officials and their hard work are finally producing results that benefit all of the citizens that elected them.

■■■■
I DON'T CARE about a status. If you've lived in America for years, if you work and pay taxes and help this economy and this country than you should be able to stay. Citizenship for those people should be easier.

■■■■
THANK YOU FOR hearing, Fenton City. Last Monday it was a miserable drive on the roads and plows that hadn't been seen in days. This Monday, early in the morning, the plow came through and I was able to get out on a freshly plowed road.

■■■■
I WANT TO thank the James family for using their signs in Linden for putting some uplifting messages on them. We need more of those around the area. Thank you so much.

WHAT YOU MISSED in the MIDWEEK TIMES

Compiled by Vera Hogan

The following are stories you may have missed in the **Wednesday, Feb. 7, Midweek Times**. To subscribe and receive both the Midweek and Sunday Weekend editions, please call (810) 629-8282.

First digital billboard coming to Fenton Township?

Billboard company hopes township will amend ordinance to allow digital displays understate law.

Polar Plunge raises over \$95,000

Annual event on Lake Fenton sees record number of plungers and donations.



Woman claims husband set her on fire

Holly police are investigating a possible attempted murder after a man allegedly set his wife on fire.

Strong ice, great chili attract big crowd

More than 2,000 people attend the annual Lobdell Lake Chili Cook Off.

A look back at 1968

"Laugh-In" first aired in January of 1968. The weekly TV show was a pop-culture phenomenon.

Did Robert Wagner kill his wife, Natalie Wood?

Homicide investigators held a press conference in Los Angeles on Monday; are calling Wagner a "person of interest."

News briefs

FENTON TOWNSHIP TO SPEND \$21,600 TO REPAIR CATCH BASINS

The Fenton Township Board of Trustees approved spending \$21,600 to repair four catch basins. The four locations are Cussewago Beach Street at Front Street, Cussewago Beach Street at Oak Street, 12260 Water Green Ct., and 12275 Water Green Ct. Each repair costs \$5,400. The township will share the cost with the Genesee County Road Commission. The township will pay \$2,700 to repair each basin. Supervisor Bonnie Mathis said, "This is definitely something we have to take care of. With all this snow, we're going to have a lot of water." The vote was 6-0. Trustee Vince Lorraine was absent.

View all stories
online at
tctimes.com



CHICKEN

Continued from Front Page

Andrew Charlesworth, 28, is facing a misdemeanor charge for the illegal possession of chickens at his Grove Park Road home. He appeared in front of Genesee County District Court Judge Mark McCabe in July 2017 when he pleaded not guilty. He and his wife, Jen, have kept chickens for nearly two years because they believed they could.

The couple's defense attorney, Michael Manley, filed a brief and asked the judge to dismiss the case.

On March 2, the Charlesworths will be in court where Manley will argue that the zoning ordinance is too vague and that the judge should declare it unconstitutional.

Here are the arguments in the brief submitted by Manley:

1. The township's ordinances do permit chicken keeping, or are not clear enough to allow a reasonable citizen to come to that conclusion, according to the brief.

Manley argues that if a law is not "sufficiently clear" enough for an average citizen to understand, then that law is void for vagueness. According to the brief, the Charlesworths looked through the township's ordinances to see if chickens were allowed. Chickens and poultry are not mentioned in the general

ordinances. Poultry is mentioned in the definitions of the zoning ordinances in regards to agriculture and intensive feedlot operations.

2. The brief argues that chickens are common household pets, and therefore, allowed in R-4 residential zoning.

According to the brief, "The Township defines pets as 'such animals as may commonly be housed within domestic living quarters' and household pets, keeping of as the 'keeping of common household pets in a residence.'" However, a "common household pet" is not defined and is open to any judge's interpretation.

3. The brief argues that even if chickens are not household pets, they are still allowed. The township does not expressly ban the keeping of chickens.

"...one ordinance specifically criminalizes the keeping of wild, dangerous, and vicious animals and explicitly states that 'farm animals' are not considered 'wild.' A hen is the quintessential farm animal, and not one that may reasonably be categorized as 'dangerous' or 'vicious,'" according to the brief.

4. Chicken-keeping should not be treated as a criminal matter. The brief states that the township does not have the power to prosecute zoning issues as criminal matters, but the legislature allows for misdemeanor prosecutions.

SUMMARY

■ A Fenton Township couple hoping to keep their chickens, which they keep as pets, will be in court on March 2.

HOLLY MAN

Continued from Front Page

learned that an injured 57-year-old woman had jumped from a back window to escape the home and was found by neighbors. The woman told officers that her husband set her on fire.

Holly Police Chief Michael Story said the woman reported that her husband doused her with gasoline and with the flick of a cigarette lighter, set her on fire. She told police that they had been having ongoing domestic disputes.

Holly EMS was called and they transported the woman to Genesys Health Park in Grand Blanc Township. She was treated for injuries, which included burns to her leg and cuts to her hand, which she sustained while climbing from the back bedroom window. Ten stitches were required on her hand, said Story. She was released from the hospital on Wednesday, Feb. 7.

"She was so lucky, damn lucky, with

the amount of gas that was expended," Story said.

The Oakland County Sheriff's Office Special Response Team (SRT) was requested while Holly officers and Michigan State Police troopers secured the scene. SRT fire investigators also responded.

SUMMARY

■ A 55-year-old Holly man faces up to life in prison after being charged with dousing his 57-year-old wife with gasoline and lighting her on fire.

Story said Garnett had locked himself inside the home and did not respond to orders to come out. An officer obtained a phone number for Garnett and eventually convinced him to open the front door where officers made entry.

The suspect was taken into custody and placed in an awaiting EMS unit for evaluation. He

was released to the custody of Holly police.

Story said the couple's home will need to be aired out to get rid of the remaining gas fumes and some clothes and furniture items will need to be cleaned of fire damage.

Garnett is expected to be in court on Feb. 15 before Oakland County District Court Judge Joseph G. Fabrizio.

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NEWSPAPER

Continued from Front Page

quiet time catching up on the multitude of in-depth news and events in your community.

And there's so much more. Newspapers are critical to maintaining economically healthy and civically active communities, especially vibrant and growing communities such as Fenton, Holly and Linden.

Rowland Thompson, executive director for Washington's Allied Daily Newspapers, told a story last year that best explains the critical importance of small town newspapers.

He could have been talking about the Tri-County Times or any other small, hometown newspaper across the United States.

Thompson told the story of a family friend who passed away and he traveled to his hometown to attend the memorial service. His parents once owned the town's weekly newspaper.

As is the case with the Tri-County Times today, the Thompson family newspaper served a steady and varied diet of public notices, news, sports, police reports, large ads, classified ads, meetings,

deaths, graduations, military enlistments, fires, accidents, civic improvements, awards, elections and so much more.

"Clippings of great events both large and small were saved in scrapbooks, Bibles and wallets," Thompson said. "Our newspaper went to subscribers all over the county and to our town's sons and daughters all over the world."

"Now, it no longer does," he said.

While attending the funeral in his hometown, Thompson said he had an experience similar to the one at the heart of the popular Christmas film, "It's a Wonderful Life."

Much like Jimmy Stewart's character in the film, he got a chance to see what his little "Bedford Falls" would be like if the little newspaper wasn't there for the community.

His first clue was that people he thought would be in attendance at the funeral service were not there. It was harder to get the word out about funerals and other important events without a local newspaper.

After the service, Thompson said he continued to get an earful from his old friends about the decline of community institutions because of a lack of publicity, reporting and interest.

School events and board of education meetings are poorly attended, and bond elections are more difficult to pass. City council meetings are more sparsely attended and vacancies on the council and other public boards and commissions are more difficult to fill.

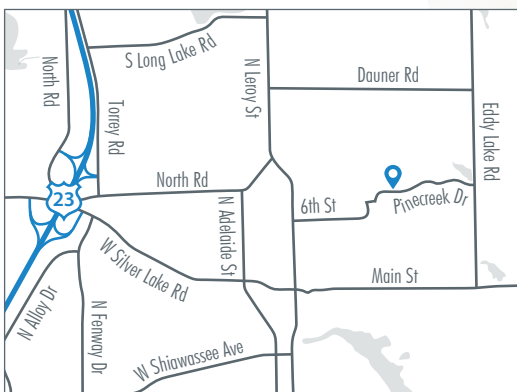
Attendance at school sporting events has thinned. The organization of fundraisers and volunteer activities is hampered by the inability to publicize. The most important, however, is the steady decline in the small town's business community because of the lack of inexpensive local advertising to promote local trade.

Giant retailers have the resources to buy expensive TV ads and mail out fancy, colorful flyers. Most "Mom and Pop" operations do not.

“One of the fingers in the dike protecting the life of small communities is the newspaper.”

Rowland Thompson
executive director for Washington's
Allied Daily

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"One of the fingers in the dike protecting the life of small communities is the newspaper," Thompson said. The paper connects people to each other and their community. It shows them they and their families are important, not just to themselves, but to their neighbors and friends.

Small hometown newspapers, like the Tri-County Times, praise good judgment. They vent complaints and provide a forum for citizens to voice opinions through its Letters to the Editor and the wildly popular Hot lines.

The newspaper is the place where calls for action are published. It draws volunteers and it brings donations. It educates voters and informs the electorate. It is the only venue that serves as a watchdog for every resident in our communities.

The Tri-County Times, like Thompson's former family hometown newspaper, encourages commerce and it creates markets. It exposes misdeeds and it validates effort. It focuses on grief and it applauds achievement, but most importantly, it breathes life into a community.

The Tri-County Times is a family affair. The late Richard "Rick" Rockman, Sr. has been providing the tri-county area with weekly news for the past 63 years. During that time, this third-generation newspaper has published through the terms of 11 U.S. presidents, starting with Dwight D. Eisenhower and now through the new term of current president, Donald J. Trump.

The newspaper has published through more than 13 wars and conflicts involving the United States, other countries and our local troops, and Rockman's newspapers have published through nine economic recessions.

The Tri-County News/Times has survived when other publications have long gone, including the Fenton Independent, which after publishing for more than 130 years as a weekly newspaper, met its demise in mid-2009, only a few short years after being purchased and subsequently dissolved by the Flint daily newspaper.

That's not going to happen to the Tri-County Times, your hometown newspaper. The Rockman family and their family of employees, some of whom have been with the company for more than 30 years, will continue publishing two weekly editions for as long as our readers and advertisers continue to support us.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

IF DREAMERS ARE given a path to citizenship, it should start upon completion of the wall, repayment of any government aide and back taxes, and prosecution or deportation of those who brought them here illegally.

DEAR SALT TRUCK and plow drivers. Thank you for keeping our roads safe. When I am driving to and from work, I am so grateful to see you on the road.

WHY ARE WE wasting all this money saving people who overdosed two, three to four times? Put that money to sending kids to college and in five, 10, 20 years, we'll be much further ahead.

BEFORE YOU BERATE the Democrats over dissing a Republican president, go back and look at the last eight years of how they treated President Obama.

WELL, HE SPENT another three or four million dollars down there in Florida once again.

WITNESS 'CHICAGO POLITICS' at work.

HANSEN

Continued from Front Page

and Nikki Brueger will be interviewed by Chris Hansen of Crime Watch Daily. The interview will be broadcast at a date and time yet to be determined.

Crime Watch Daily is a syndicated investigative news magazine series that premiered in September 2015. The program is currently hosted by Hansen, a veteran TV journalist. The show features a mix of investigative reports and true crime stories. The program showcases current and ongoing crime stories, including those that are unsolved.

Last September, Hansen also launched the third season of Investigation Discovery show *Killer Instinct*, a series that centers on finding the truth behind America's most headline-worthy murders.

SUMMARY

■ Franz and Nikki Brueger, the parents of slain jogger Alexandra "Ally" Brueger, will be interviewed by Chris Hansen of Crime Watch Daily on Thursday, Feb. 15. The interview will be broadcast at a date and time yet to be determined.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

The brutal slaying of Alexandra "Ally" Brueger in July 2016 has captured the attention of a veteran TV journalist.

The story

Shortly after 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, July 30, 2016, Alexandra "Ally" Brueger, 31, of Rose Township, was shot while jogging along Fish Lake Road. She was shot in the back four times before collapsing in the yard of a private residence.

The homeowner found her bleeding in his front yard. He called 911 and tried to resuscitate her. She died later at Genesys

Regional Medical Center in Grand Blanc Township.

Brueger ran 10 miles every day for the past 10 years, until that deadly Saturday afternoon. She was a nurse at the time and on her way to becoming a successful writer.

Her killer has not yet been caught.

Brueger was small in stature at 4-feet, 9-inches tall, weighing 98 pounds. Despite her small size, her parents said she was mighty in presence.

Her mother has often said that from the back, her daughter resembled a 12-year-old child. "Who would shoot a child in the back?" she asked.

Keep the tips coming

Anyone with information leading to the arrest of the person(s) responsible for the murder of Alexandra "Ally" Brueger is asked to call 1-855-MICH-TIP (642-4847) or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-SPEAK-UP (773-2587). The current reward, offered by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (\$5,000) and Crime Stoppers (\$8,500) is \$13,500.

Crime Stoppers pays for information that leads to an arrest, not a conviction.

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SWIMMING

Continued from Page 11A

laps (six lanes) is open from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

On Saturday, adult open swim and laps (six lanes) is open from 7:30 to 9 a.m. Open swim and laps (three lanes) is open from 2:30 to 4 p.m. and from 7:30 to 9 p.m.

Open swim is \$5 for children and free for children 2 and under. Visitors can buy a frequency card for \$80, which encompasses 20 visits, or pay \$4 a visit. Splash and play is \$6 per adult and one child. Each additional child is \$1.50 and each additional adult is \$2.50. A frequency card for \$50 gets someone 10 visits, or pay \$5.

Laps cost \$4.50 per walk-in. An \$80 frequency card entails 20 visits, or it's \$4 per visit. For adult open swim, a walk-in is \$4, seniors pay \$3.50. A frequency card costs \$68 for 20 visits, or \$3.40 per visit.

Source: slpr.net, hartlandschools.us

Fenton High School

There are two different forms of payment. Residents can pay \$60, and non-residents can pay \$70, for a punch card that is good for 20 lap swim visits. You can also pay \$4 at the door for each session. For more information on classes, go to slpr.net.

Milford

At Lakeland High School pools, the lap pool and leisure pools are open Monday through Friday, 5 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 3 to 8:30 p.m. On Saturday, they're open from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., and on Sunday, they're open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Throughout the week, Milford High School lap and leisure pools open at 5 a.m. and close at 6 or 8:30 p.m., depending on the day. Day passes cost \$6, \$5 for seniors, and children 3 and under are free. A 20-visit pass costs \$80, \$4 per visit. Check www.hvs.org for more information.

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

"There's highs and lows in a marriage, and you gotta stick it out," George LaMarche said. He added that as long as the elements of faith, family and friends are treated with importance, the marriage will work.

LOVE LETTERS

Continued from Page 3A

"She told me in the letter she was going to have surgery to remove an ovary," said George, now 81. "As soon as I read it, I went to Havana and bought an engagement ring and strapped it on my pants around the bottom of my right leg. I took a plane out of Florida, flew to New York, took a bus to Montreal, and then a train to go see her.

"We sat in a swing set in the backyard at her house, and I gave her the ring and asked her to marry me and she said, 'Yes!' We went inside and I asked her parents for permission to marry their daughter, and then I called my parents to get their permission."

With just a long weekend and many miles to cover by bus, train and automobile, George was only with Pierrette in their hometown of Lachute for less than 24 hours. "But I can remember all the details of that day 60 years later," he said.

On a harrowing trip back to the ship, which included being stranded at the Atlanta, Georgia airport for hours, George was on board three hours late and was considered AWOL by the Navy. "I had to go to the brig (prison aboard the ship) as soon as I got back and had to stay there until my division officer came and released me," George said. He was sentenced to working 14 extra hours of duty cleaning grease traps on the ship.

Several weeks later, Pierrette had a successful surgery and the couple continued to write letters to each other, even though she couldn't read English and George couldn't read French.

On a snowy day in February 1958, George LaMarche and Pierrette Robertson stood at the altar of the Eglise de l'Immaculee-Conception in Lachute and began a love story that has spanned 60 years.

They have kept all their love letters tucked away during all the moves that eventually brought the LaMarche family to Holly, and then Tyrone Township, where they've lived the past 40 years.

"My mom didn't speak a word of English when she married my dad and moved to the U.S.," said the couple's oldest daughter, Suzanne Heiple, 59, of Holly. They only spoke French at home and she remembers on her first day of kindergarten, wondering why the kids were speaking English, not French.

Heiple, who now serves on the Holly



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Pierrette Robertson is from Montreal, Canada and wrote only in French during that time. George had to seek help translating some of her letters, and use a dictionary.

Village Council, also recalls her dad's years as Holly village manager in the 1960s and early '70s, when she was growing up.

It was tougher for her mother, Pierrette, to adjust to life in a new country where she didn't know the language.

She learned English on her own by watching game shows and doing crossword puzzles. "It took about three years," said Pierrette, who spent most of her time raising their three children, Suzanne, Gisele and Paul, while working part time and tutoring students in French.

The couple has been active all these years at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in Fenton, where George is a Past Grand Knight in the Knights of Columbus.

The LaMarches celebrated their 60th anniversary with a family party at their home on Feb. 8, which brought together many relatives from Canada and other parts of the U.S.

On another happy note, their son, Paul is marrying Heather Rice-Burroughs on Saturday, Feb. 10, adding another LaMarche to the couple's family tree, which also includes six grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

SUMMARY

■ The language of love transcended all else when George LaMarche and Pierrette Robertson fell in love at the end of the Korean War and began a courtship of letters.

FLU VIRUS

Continued from Page 7A

the temperature, the steering wheel, and other surfaces. Give the car a good cleaning if you're worried about the flu, especially if you carpool with other families and regularly drive other kids around.

AFTER SOMEONE IN YOUR HOUSE HAS THE FLU:

Bedding — When the sick person is feeling better, wash the bedding to get rid of any lingering germs. People sweat more when they're sick and can spread the illness to others. Make sure to wash sheets, comforters, throw blankets and pillows, and don't forget to wash the couch cushions. Mattress covers are advised since they can be washed and disinfected.

Clothes — Wash all clothes that the sick person came in contact with. If there are clothes on the floor or on a nearby chair, wash those too. Germs travel through the air and can land on all surfaces of a room. Most people never think to wipe down their belts with a disinfecting cloth, yet they are one of the most bacteria laden items you own. Just think about it for a moment.

Bathroom — The entire bathroom needs a deep clean after a sick person spends time in there. Clean the toilet, sink, the handles, the countertop, the floors, rugs, shower, everything. The towels should all be cleaned.

New toothbrush — it's recommended that after you get over an illness, to get a new toothbrush.

Source: [cleanandscentible.com](#), [webmd.com](#)

HOLIDAYS

Continued from Page 3A

"It's the first time I ever remember this happening," said Fr. Robert Copeland, senior pastor at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in Fenton. "I've been a priest for over 20 years."

Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day

Christians will observe Ash Wednesday on Feb. 14, signaling the period of 40 days before Easter, called Lent, when Jesus Christ journeyed into the desert praying and fasting after he was baptized.

Many people fast during Lent as a form of spiritual self-denial, starting on Ash Wednesday.



Fr. Robert Copeland

Lent ends on Holy Thursday on March 29, which commemorates Jesus' last supper, before his crucifixion on Good Friday, March 30 and Easter, April 1, when he rose from the dead, according to Christian doctrine.

Since Ash Wednesday kicks off Lent, its date is always exactly 46 days before Easter, so it is directly affected by what date Easter falls on that year.

That's why Ash Wednesday's date changes with the date of Easter, while the observance of the romantic holiday, Valentine's Day, is always held on the same date, Feb. 14.

"I tell people I've been practicing putting a heart on foreheads instead of the cross," Copeland joked. He is referring to the Christian practice of placing ashes on the foreheads of congregants, evoking the biblical passage, "For you are dust,

and to dust you shall return." "But it takes two hands and I'm not very good at that," he added.

Copeland said that people can still meet the church guidelines for fasting on Ash Wednesday, while enjoying a Valentine's Day meal with loved ones.

These guidelines include one meatless meal (no chicken, cows, sheep, pigs or birds, but fish is allowed), plus two small meals with no foods eaten in-between.

"Last year, we were as full as Christmas during our two Ash Wednesday services, so this year, we added another one at 6:30 a.m.," Copeland said. Other services are at 8:45 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Easter and April Fool's Day

Easter usually occurs between March 22 and April 25, coinciding with the March Equinox, a day when the sun shines directly on the equator and the majority of earth experiences nearly equal hours of sunlight and nighttime.

Because Christ's death and resurrection happened after the Jewish Passover (celebrated on the first full moon after the equinox), early Christians wanted Easter to always take place following Passover, according to [countryliving.com](#). Easter falls on a different date because this holiday, like Passover, is tied to solar and lunar cycles.

Locally, Copeland doesn't see any

SUMMARY

■ Mark your calendars carefully because several upcoming holidays, including Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day will share the same date on Feb. 14, as will Easter and April Fool's Day on April 1. This is the first time this has happened since 1945.

EASTER DATES FOR THE NEXT 10 YEARS:

2019 — April 21	2024 — March 31
2020 — April 12	2025 — April 20
2021 — April 4	2026 — April 5
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Blue Devils' team district championship string ends at seven, fall to Byron

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

Durand — Yes, Vance Corcoran knew all season long his Lake Fenton varsity wrestling team has been going through a rebuilding season.

He knew earning trophies was going to be tough. That included understanding that keeping the team's seven-year team district championship string alive was going to be mighty tough.

But, once Wednesday came up, the date of this year's team district meet, what he knew what he was thinking in his head and what his body was saying were probably two different thoughts

"I haven't really been nervous all year," Corcoran said. "I don't have a kid wrestling this year and as a dad, every day every week I was fighting those nerves (in the past). But I really haven't had that this year until today. Today meant something."

The Blue Devils challenged Byron as well as they could, but the seven-year string of team district titles came to an end when Lake Fenton lost to the Eagles 45-33.

"I knew it was going to be an uphill battle with all of our voids and because we had some kids hurt," Corcoran said. "But overall, it is what it is and

congratulations to Byron. ... It's nice to see their head coach, a good friend of mine, have some success."

The championship match had six voids, but the Blue Devils had four of them, meaning they had to make up the deficit created by the voids, but it was hard to do.

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Lake Fenton's Jackson Nevadomski



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | SUBMITTED PHOTO
Joey Spencer proudly displays one of his belts he earned as an amateur boxer. The Linden resident makes his professional debut on Saturday.

Linden's Spencer making his pro boxing debut on Saturday

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

For as long as Joey Spencer can remember, he's wanted to be a professional boxer. And at just 17-years old, the Linden resident is less than two weeks away from making his dream come true, at the Las Vegas' Mandalay Bay Hotel and Casino Events Center no less.

According to boxrec.com, Spencer is slated as the opening bout on the Feb. 17 card. He'll box in the super welterweight division against Uriel Gonzalez (2-2-1). The headliner for the night is a welterweight bout between Danny Garcia (33-1) and Brandon Rios (34-3-1)

"It's very special," Spencer said. "Not many people turn pro at 17, especially turn pro at 17 and have their first bout at Mandalay Bay in Las Vegas. This is a dream come true."

"I've been accomplishing little goals one-by-one. My first ones were my championships as an amateur, and now I'm starting my professional goals. I'm glad it's all coming together."

Spencer has been busy making sure this bout happens on Feb. 17.

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM

Bronchos headed to team regional tourney

■ Holly sweeps Fenton, Linden for second time in eight days; Eagles shock Tigers in semis

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

Fenton — Don Pluta knew he had a young team going into the 2017-18 prep wrestling season.

He knew the key to Holly's wrestling season was going to be how his young wrestlers adapted to the varsity level.

Apparently, the young wrestlers have adapted pretty well.

Eight days after beating Fenton and Linden to finish the Metro League dual season undefeated, the Bronchos won a Division 2 team district title in a four-team bracket that included both of those teams once again on Thursday at Fenton High School.

Holly defeated Brandon 42-24 in its semifinal match, while Linden avenged a previous loss to Fenton 39-39 based on a tiebreaker, setting up a final against Linden. The Bronchos dominated that team district championship match 55-11, earning a spot in the D2 team regional tournament to be held at Goodrich High School on Wednesday. Holly will open in the semifinals against

the Martians.

"It's been quite a surprise for me how well we've done overall this season," Pluta said. "I have these freshmen that keep battling. They are getting wins and not getting pinned for the most part. It's been quite a surprise for me how well we've done overall, but those freshmen and some of the sophomores have been the key."

The Bronchos (32-6), whose 32 dual wins are one short of the of the school record set in 2005, were dominant in the championship match against upset-minded Linden, winning all but three of the 14 matches against the Eagles. Five Holly wrestlers — Jared Callahan (119/125), Wyatt Scribner (130/135), Carsen Cuthbert (152), Cade Dallwitz (171) and Blake Querio (285) — each had 2-0 days.

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | DAVID TROPPENS
Holly won the D2 team wrestling district title at Fenton on Thursday. (Top photo) Holly's Nate Young wins a match. (Immediately above) Linden's Jonathan Marme beats Thomas Conlon in the final Fenton vs. Linden match.

Tigers keep on a hot streak, defeat Trojans, 58-52

By David Troppens
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Owosso may be one of the best representatives of just how competitive Metro League boys basketball play is this season.

Perhaps the Fenton Tigers are another good squad to look at for that as well.

At one time the Trojans were battling near the top of the standings, but Owosso has hit hard times in recent contests, losing four straight Metro League games entering Tuesday's contest against Fenton.

The Tigers also have had their good runs and bad runs, but appear to be on a nice high lately, winning four of its last five Metro League contests entering Tuesday night.

The Tigers (8-5 in the Metro) contin-

ued their recent strong trend by earning a 58-52 victory at Owosso on Tuesday night.

"We played pretty well. They've been struggling but they are a good team," Fenton varsity boys basketball coach John Gilbert said. "Our defense was really solid. We mixed it up and got some hands on some loose balls, got some steals and layups and they got us ahead in the game."

In the first half, the Tigers gradually increased their lead. Fenton led 12-9 after one quarter and 26-18 at halftime. The lead hit its biggest point at a quarter break at the end of the third quarter when Fenton led 40-30.

"We played solid the whole way," Gilbert



said. "The only thing we didn't do great was miss a couple of free throws that let them back in it. We played four quarters minus a couple of guys who are usually good free throw shooters missing some."

Offensively, Addison McIntosh and David Pietryga continued their strong seasons. McIntosh netted a team-high 20 points while Pietryga had 19 points. Carson Bornefeld scored 20 points when Owosso (7-6 in the Metro) defeated Fenton earlier in the season, but had just 10 points this game. Jordan Klapko had 13 points while Nick Prater netted 12 points. It was Prater's first game in eight contests.

Fenton
David Pietryga

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | MARK BOLEN
Fenton's Chloe Idoni has scored 973 points during her Tigers' career.

Idoni closing in on 1,000 points; Tigers beat Owosso

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

The Chloe Idoni 1,000-point watch is on for the Fenton varsity girls basketball team.

Idoni is just 27 points away from 1,000 points during her prep basketball career after scoring 17 points in the Tigers' 76-40 home victory against Owosso on Tuesday.

Only three Fenton players have ever reached 1,000 points dur-

ing their career. Christina Rivette leads all scorers with 1,439 points, followed by Dru Bishop (1,182) and Gabrielle Rivette (1,140).

Owosso tried to stick with the Tigers for awhile, but the Tigers outscored Owosso 21-6 in the second quarter, resulting in a 36-21 halftime lead. Any chance of an Owosso comeback ended in the third quarter when the Tigers outscored Owosso 24-7.

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM

Strong second half sparks Bronchos past Mustangs

By David Troppens

dtroppens@tctimes.com; 810-433-6789

Trailing by nine in the second half, the Holly varsity boys basketball team needed a little bit of a flurry to defeat the Clio Mustangs on Tuesday.

The Bronchos got what they needed.

Sparked by their full-court defense, Noah Baylis finished the second half with 16 points, leading the Bronchos

to a 51-48 victory against the Mustangs.

"It happened so fast and furiously, I can't remember exactly how it all happened," Holly varsity boys basketball coach Lance Baylis said. "All I saw was Noah with a look in his yes, shooting, scoring and finishing. Before I knew it, we had the lead."

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Lady Bronchos post strong win vs. Clio, 54-23

Defense has always been the Holly varsity girls basketball team's calling card this season. It was once again on Tuesday.

The Bronchos held Clio to just two first-quarter points and to just 13 points through three quarters.

LF girls struggle early, lose to New Lothrop, 66-44

It's been a tough run for the Lake Fenton varsity girls basketball team in recent weeks.

The tough run continued on Tuesday as the Blue Devils lost a 66-44 contest against New Lothrop.

Eagles pull away in second half, defeat Kearsley

No victory comes easy during this Flint Metro League boys basketball season.

It really doesn't matter who anyone plays in the standings, pretty much anyone can give any team a good battle.

Linden girls basketball still looking for first victory

The Linden varsity girls basketball team knew it had a tough task during Tuesday's home contest against Kearsley.

The Eagles lost a tough 65-25 verdict against the Hornets. Kearsley jumped to a 20-4 lead after one quarter and always led.

Fenton cheer team places fourth at final Metro meet

The Fenton varsity competitive cheer team ended the Metro League season in fourth place.

The Tigers took fourth at the final Metro League competitive cheer meet of the season.

Fenton swimmers defeat St. Johns in dual

Finding competitive meets in the Metro League doesn't happen very often for the Fenton varsity boys swimming and

diving team. The Tigers have captured each of the last six Metro crowns, and have rarely been challenged.

PREP REPORT

BOYS SWIMMING

► **Holly 116, Kearsley 61:** Tanner Graveratte took firsts in the 100 and 200 freestyle while Logan Molzahn took firsts in the 50 freestyle and the 100 backstroke, leading the Bronchos to the Metro League win. Others earning firsts were Drew Hignite in the 500 freestyle, Gavin Nareski in the 100 breaststroke and Bryce Nichols in the 100 butterfly.

HOCKEY

► **United 11, Lapeer 3:** Drew Hobson scored three goals and had three assists in the victory. Logan Henry (two assists), Colby Polutanovich (two assists) and Dru Sweers (four assists) had two goals each while Alec Copeland and Lochlan Hepburn had a goal each. Macgregor Hepburn had two assists while Aidan Flick and Trevor Keller had an assist each. Tyler Keller made 16 saves in net.

BOYS SKIING

► **Fenton/Linden 20, Flushing 63:** The Fenton/Linden squad dominated the meet, taking the top four places in each event. In the slalom Braden Lapa took first with a time of 56.98 seconds. He was followed by Parker Bundy in second (57.61), Devon Mann in third (1:00.38) and Nathan Klump in fourth (1:00.51).

In the giant slalom, Bundy won (45.83) followed by Lapa in second

(46.38), Chad Booher in third (46.84) and Mann in fourth (47.90).

GIRLS SKIING

► **Flushing 34, Fenton/Linden 39:** The Fenton/Linden girls ski team won the slalom 18-19, but lost in giant slalom (GS) action 15-21.

In the slalom, Lilah Dagenais placed second (48.44) while Emma Hiscock was third (48.72). Rachel Smith took sixth (50.08) and Annie Koester was seventh (50.91).

In GS action, Rachel Smith took third (1:05.93) while Dagenais took fourth (1:06.32). Koeseter placed sixth (1:07.66) while Julia Young took eighth (1:09.23).

BOYS BASKETBALL

► **Linden JV 53, Kearsley JV 46:** The Eagles moved their current winning streak to five games, by scoring at least 12 points in each of the four quarters. The big quarter was the second stanza when Linden outscored Kearsley 12-4. Eli Beil led Linden with 13 points while Chad Williams Isaiah Vorheis, Ryan Gillespie and Mike Cemazar had eight points each.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

► **Lake Fenton JV 38, New Lothrop JV 15:** The Blue Devils were paced by Christina Lamb who scored 12 points. Macy Phillips netted 11 points, nine rebounds and eight steals while Aubrey Fray had seven points. Tori Stewart netted six points.

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

February 10, 2018



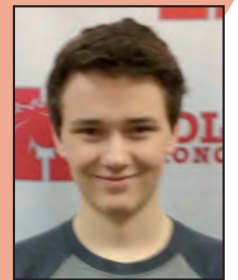
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FENTON



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HOLLY



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LINDEN



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LINDEN

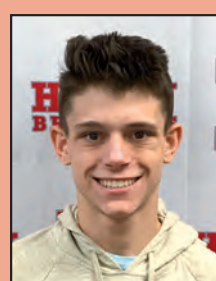
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