

# Will area teen be the next American Idol?

■ 'I can't wait to see where this takes me'

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

The next star of the popular returning ABC-TV national talent show "American Idol," just may hail from our neighboring community of Atlas

Township, near Goodrich.

Genavieve Linkowski, 19, will make her national singing debut this Monday, March 19 on "American Idol" at 8 p.m. She'll be featured auditioning in Nashville, Tennessee with her version of Jason Mraz's "I Won't Give Up" in front of judges Katy Perry, Luke Bryan and Lionel Richie.

See **AMERICAN IDOL** on 13A

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**Goodrich**

Genavieve Linkowski, 19, of Atlas Township will be making her national singing debut with an audition in front of American Idol judges.



GENAVIEVE LINKOWSKI'S FACEBOOK



PAGE 5A  
**WANT TO LISTEN TO FROGS AND TOADS?**

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SUNDAY, MARCH 18, 2018

2016 NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

# Weekend Times

\$1.00

## Fenton man charged with threatening to shoot workers

■ Threat deemed not credible but could still face 20 years in prison

By Tim Jagielo

tjagielo@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795

**Flint** — Genesee County Prosecutor David Leyton announced criminal charges against a Fenton man, who they believe made threats via email to shoot and kill employees at Nexteer Automotive in Auburn Hills.



Stephen Challis

Stephen Anthony Challis, 57, is facing four felonies. He was arraigned Thursday, March 15 and released on \$60,000 personal

See **THREAT** on 16A



**TRI-COUNTY TIMES** | TIM JAGIELO  
Genesee County Prosecutor David Leyton outlines the case against Stephen Challis during a press conference on March 15.



**NOVI BOAT SHOW**

**TRI-COUNTY TIMES** | TIM JAGIELO

Troy Rising (right) of Action Water Sports chats with guests beside a Cobalt CS23 23-foot speed boat at the Novi Boat Show, Thursday March 15. This is the last boat show of the season and brings 110 vendors and nearly 600 watercraft under one roof. See story on 7A.

## Radon is a serious risk to your health

■ EPA, CDC, DEQ and more say all homes should be tested

Compiled By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

The seriousness of radon exposure is summed up by the American Lung Association, which states that every home should be tested for radon.

See **RADON** on 11A



A home radon gas test can be purchased from most hardware stores for less than \$20.

## Holly schools choose new superintendent

■ Scott Roper has been with district since 2013

By Tim Jagielo

tjagielo@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795

The Holly Board of Education voted 6-0 to make Scott Roper the new superintendent for Holly Area Schools (HAS). He was the



Scott Roper

See **ROPER** on 9A

**TEXT YOUR HOT LINE**  
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“I was once told that you can judge a community by its local newspaper. Having been here for just two years and falling in love with both the Fenton community and the Times, we just want to say that Fenton residents truly have it all.”



“Fourteen states presently arm teachers; no school shootings in Alabama, Arkansas, Idaho, Indiana, Missouri, Montana, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, and Washington. Not a coincidence.”



“Tomek-Eastern parents have got to learn some manners and driving skills during pick-up and drop-off. Quit texting, speeding, and acting like fools in the parking lot. We all see you, and so do the kids.”



**COMMENT OF THE WEEK**

“If the Florida shooter had been yelling 'Allahu Akbar,' we wouldn't be saying anything. If he had been a LGBT member, we wouldn't be saying anything. If he was a liberal, like the one who shot the congressmen, they wouldn't be yelling anything. Double standards.”



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# Diabetes cases continue to rise

■ Experts predict if worsening trend continues, 1 in 3 will have diabetes by 2050

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

The diagnosis is in — you have diabetes. Immediately your heart sinks and you begin thinking about a lifetime of insulin and other meds, and needles, giving up the foods (junk) you love, no more sugar or salt, no more cocktails and no more smoking.

Ugh, what's the point!

The point is you were feeling very badly before you finally went to see a physician. You know in your heart that the things that have to happen now will only improve and extend

See **DIABETES** on 10A

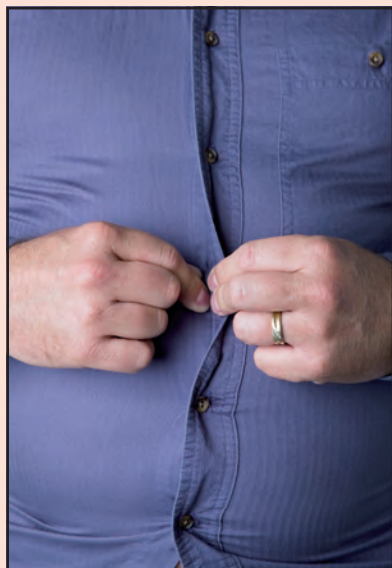


PHOTO: METRO CREATIVE GRAPHICS

Exercise and taking off those extra pounds will help in your fight to keep diabetes in check.

## TOP 9 U.S. AIRLINES

Ranked from BEST to WORST



- 1 Alaska
- 2 Southwest
- 3 DELTA
- 4 UNITED
- 5 FRONTIER AIRLINES
- 6 American Airlines
- 7 spirit
- 8 jetBlue
- 9 HAWAIIAN AIRLINES

### RANKED BY CATEGORY THE WINNERS & THE LOSERS

Below, you'll find the best-ranked airline - and the worst - for each of the 10 weighted criteria that The Points Guy considered. Airlines were evaluated on the below categories based on public statistics that each is mandated to report to the Department of Transportation, along with other publicly available data.

	BEST	WORST
<b>PRICE</b>		
Airfare	Spirit	Hawaiian
Baggage/Change Fees	Southwest	Spirit
<b>CONVENIENCE</b>		
Size of Route Network	Southwest	Hawaiian
On-Time Arrivals	Hawaiian	JetBlue
Cabin Comfort	Alaska	Spirit
<b>HEADACHES</b>		
Customer Satisfaction	Southwest	Spirit
Lost Baggage	Spirit	American
Involuntary Bumps	Delta	Spirit
<b>EXTRA</b>		
Frequent Flyer Program	Alaska	Spirit
Lounges	Delta	Southwest Frontier Spirit JetBlue



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

A traveler receives her boarding pass at Bishop Airport in Flint in October 2016.

## The 'best' and 'worst' of the airlines

■ Rating the quality of domestic airlines can be a confusing business

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Some airlines make the experience more pleasant than others but the days of “flying the friendly skies” are pretty much a relic of the past.

Between shrinking airline seats and expanding baggage fees, most flying customers consider their time in the air a necessary hassle from getting from point A to point B.

But you can make a better choice the next time you're a flying customer. Check domestic airline ratings provided by different watchdog groups and media that allow you to pick and choose what criteria are the most important to you, whether it's airfare, no baggage fees or cabin comfort.

What is confusing for the consumer is how different various lists are, in rating the largest U.S. domestic carriers.

See **AIRLINES** on 8A

“Most people hate Spirit (Airlines) but they do buy it and endure it.”

**Diane Roberts**  
Superior Travel's  
Fenton office manager

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## Andrew Heller

andrewheller@tctimes.com

# Come *Heller* high water...

If I were a college student in America today, I would never consider becoming a public school teacher. Those who do deserve everlasting respect as well as huge salaries and perhaps a bouquet of flowers and a thank you note delivered to class every Friday for making it through another week without tearing out their hair or quitting in a huff.

I mean, seriously, could we treat them any worse?

We talk about how important they are then — just as we do with first



Andrew Heller  
FEATURED COLUMNIST

responders and military — we pay them like crap and then say they're paid too much.

We blame them for the U.S. "falling behind" the rest of the world, as if it's their fault.

We expect them to work 10- to 14-hour days when you add in the regular school day, grading homework, before and after work meetings, after school activities, incessant paperwork and emails with parents.

We blame all of society's ills on them, as if they're the ones who raised our kids. As if they're the ones who didn't read to them when they were young. As if they're the ones who send them to school hungry, sick, tired or unmotivated. As if they're responsible for letting our kids be raised on Nintendo, Xbox and PS4 instead of Hemingway, Thoreau and Twain.

We gripe bitterly about them getting "summers off," when in fact most teachers aren't sitting around in July and August eating bonbons and sipping sherry. They're more often working a summer job to help make ends meet or studying to pass certification tests.

We require them to spend their days teaching to standardized tests instead of adapting their teaching

techniques to the students at hand. (Educational bureaucrats, of course, know best.)

We treat them like political footballs and demonize their unions. The GOP, in particular, does this under the guise of "caring about kids," but the truth is their longstanding goal is to kill off unions because union members often vote for Democrats.

We gripe about their benefits, and yet have you ever once heard someone outside of teaching gripe about the benefits they get at their jobs? Hypocritical much?

We pay the bare minimum for education, to the point that most teachers have to buy their own classroom supplies, and we know this, but we do nothing about it. Of course we don't reimburse them. How'd you like to buy your own work tools?

Then there's all the recent nonsense. Did you catch Michigan's own Betsy DeVos, the U.S. Secretary of Education, on "60 Minutes" last week? If her vapid, clueless, disinterested, uncaring comments didn't make you weep for the fate of the nation's public school children, nothing will. She's there to kill public education, not save it.

Then there's the final straw: guns. Only in America would we confront the problem of madmen slaughtering our children in the public schools by doing nothing about the guns that are most often used in those slaughters. Instead we say, "Arm teachers!" as if that'll solve the problem.

Yes, maybe a few will want to take on the task of being both teacher and SWAT team leader for their school. But I'll bet the majority think, "Uh, that's not what I got into teaching for."

But who cares what they think. They're just teachers.

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.

**“But who cares what they think. They’re just teachers.”**

## Hotlines

Submit at: [tctimes.com](http://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.

**MY WIFE AND** I enjoyed the Tri-County Time's coverage of Jodi Brunori's Food Network appearance. We were both rooting for her. We wouldn't have known about it without your story. Thanks.

**I SEE PEOPLE** like to claim there is no second amendment. At the time the Constitution was written there was no electronic media, no telephone, no TV, no radio. There were hand operated printing presses and personal face-to-face meetings. Let's go back to that for the liberals who want to deny me my rights.

**THERE IS A** ban on assault weapons on school grounds. Are you really that big of an idiot?

**THANK YOU FOR** the Times Source Book. I often refer to it for local businesses, anything from A to Z. I have always found what I need and have never been disappointed. Oh, and it's easy to read.

**IF EVERYONE WOULD** homeschool their children, they'd all be safe. Just think about it.

**THIS IS TO** the person who...oops, I forgot.

**YOU DON'T THINK** someone is crazy enough to go into a school even if a few teachers have handguns? What are a few teachers going to do if a guy goes

in there with AR-15 and five or six banana clips? Talk about a turkey shoot.

**HOW MANY TIMES** is Fenton Township going to want to fix Torrey Beach Drive? You guys are welcome to for the 3,000<sup>th</sup> time.

**DON'T BLAME OUR** president for the mass shootings. He's trying to do something about it. No one will let him do what he wants to do. His idea is a very good one.

**WHAT HAS THIS** world come to. My child is safer in Afghanistan than he is in Linden High School.

**THANK YOU DICK'S**, Walmart, Meijer, and anyone that goes up against the NRA. Get on board or get out of the way.

**IF YOU'RE GOING** to quote Buffalo Springfield, at least get the lyrics right.

**I'D LIKE TO** say I only watch Fox News and occasionally Fox Business now. It's the most professional, balanced and unbiased news of all of them. Keep in mind, they generate more viewership than the rest of the mainstream media combined.

**IT'S ABOUT TIME** that Hollywood and the entertainment industry take some blame for the 'entertainment' they put out. Kids see extreme violence, someone get shot. That's fun. Also, parents need to monitor what their kids are watching. I hope this can go along with mental health and gun control.

See **HOT LINE** throughout Times

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## How did you learn how to cook?

Compiled by Ellie Bennett, intern

## streettalk



"I never had anyone properly teach me. My wife does the cooking and she wishes I was better at it so I could help her."

Jason Stahl  
Fenton



"My parents taught me when I was in elementary school. I still to this day enjoy cooking. A recipe that I'm good at making is shrimp and lobster sauce."

Kendra Stritch  
Minneapolis, Minnesota



"My mother taught me how to cook and a lot of trial and error as well. I learned in college how to cook. I bake with my mom more than cook."

Stephanie Clayborn  
Fenton



"My mother and father both taught me how to cook. I've been single for 30 years and I've done just fine cooking for myself. I love barbecuing like most people."

Jay Hoffman  
Fenton



"When I was young, about a preteen, my mother taught me how to cook. I now like cooking food like chicken parmesan, which is one dish that I have mastered."

Brian Allen  
Fenton



# Volunteers needed to listen for frogs and toads

## ■ DNR monitoring territories of amphibians

By Gracie Warda

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

With spring right around the corner, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is searching for volunteers for its annual frog and toad survey. To keep track of the different amphibians in the state, volunteers are asked to follow a route of 10 stops to track the frog calls they hear.

"It's a calling survey," Wildlife Biologist Lori Sargent said. "Frogs call at night, like birds do, for mates or territory. We try to get an idea of what species are in the state of Michigan and where they're located."

The DNR has been doing the frog and toad survey since the '90s. Several organizations and individuals are volunteering with their own routes.

Among one group of volunteers is the Saginaw Children's Zoo. "I am the main contact for the zoo," Conservation Conservator Robin Carey said. "This year I am actively recruiting four new volunteers who are interested in these types of projects. We have some that will be continuing from last year, and then we will have some new volunteers as well."

All of the information needed will be provided once a volunteer registers. Each person can choose to participate with an organization or they can get their own route.



### Frogs vs. toads

Most **frogs** have long legs and smooth skins covered in mucus. **Toads** generally have shorter legs and rougher, thicker skins.

"This is a really great project," Carey said. "If anyone thinks they're interested in Michigan's annual frog and toad survey either on their own route or through the zoo, I would definitely encourage it."

The DNR administers several projects involving amphibious wildlife, and works toward tracking wildlife trends in the state. The annual frog and toad survey is just one way that they collect data to keep the environment safe.

"We also have the Michigan Herp Atlas project," Sargent said. This began approximately six years ago. Enthusiasts can go to [miherpatlas.org](http://miherpatlas.org) or use a mobile

app to submit observations of any reptile or amphibian.

Anyone interested in volunteering for the annual frog and toad survey should contact Sargent at [sargentl@michigan.gov](mailto:sargentl@michigan.gov).

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## HOT LINE CONTINUED

■■■  
**COME ON, PEOPLE**, it's time to hug somebody. Hug your child, hug your husband, hug your neighbor, this is silly. Mostly hug your kids because they don't seem to know how to communicate. Everybody get together, try to love one another right now. I believe in a lot of things, but I'm really sad about what's happening in our country now.

■■■  
**OAKLAND COUNTY ROAD** Commission is an organization that adheres to and respects every word and title of their organization. Thank you.

■■■  
**THEY TALK ABOUT** potholes. It's not potholes. Did you know that on Silver Lake Road in front of the bank in Argentine, if you leave the pavement right there, you

are going to buy the farm. It's been like that all winter long. Nobody's got hurt yet.

■■■  
**FIRST IT IS** Joy Behar insulting Christians, and now it's Hillary Clinton calling middle America backwards. Is it politically incorrect to say that big mouths should just go away or be quiet?

■■■  
**I SAW IN** the Sunday, March 11 issue the comment about instead of having outcasts and excluded people and neglected children and bullied children that we might be able to overcome some of this if we taught children to enjoy each other and include each other. I think that was very well said.

■■■  
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# 'National School Walkout' goes local

## Linden High School students are calling for more positive atmosphere at school

By Tim Jagielo

tjagiolo@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795

**Linden** — "I shouldn't have to be afraid to go to school."

This is the first line of a letter that Lilly Sturgis, a 16-year-old Linden High School junior, drafted in pencil to Sen. Debbie Stabenow.

Sturgis was one of the Linden students to take part in the planned protests against school gun violence that took place across the country on Wednesday, March 14, exactly one month after the deadly school shooting in Parkland, Florida where an expelled 19-year-old former student fatally shot 17 students and staff members.

See **STUDENTS** on 15A



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Approximately 200 students at Linden High School participated in the "walk-in" on Wednesday, March 14.

## Fenton High School remembers Florida students with peaceful memorial

By Gracie Warda

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

**Fenton** — Fenton High School students hang their heads in silence as the ring of a bell echoes through the gym. The bell rings 17 times to represent each one of the lives lost in the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting in Parkland, Florida.

"I'm very passionate about the topic of gun control and I've always been outspoken about it," said Ellie Bennett, 16, junior and master of ceremonies. "The opportunity to be emcee was offered to a group of students, and I decided to volunteer for it."

A group of students were approached by Principal Mark Suchowski to speak at the event. Each activist read the name of one victim, gave a brief description of him or her, and rang the bell.

"It felt really great to be supporting the victims and representing my beliefs in front of the school," senior Vivian Huynh, 17, said.

Students from the Young Democrats Club and Conservative American Student Association (CASA) spoke at the event. Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (JROTC) students also spoke in honor of their fellow fallen soldiers at the high school in Parkland, Florida.

"Everyone came together as one to support a common cause," Huynh said. "It was really amazing to see."

The assembly was created in place of a previously organized "walk-out." Students were asked to keep the assembly peaceful and avoid political intervention, as the assembly was strictly to honor the victims.

"I hope that people at the assembly got a true sense of our efforts to respect the 17 lives lost," Huynh said.

Other schools across the country held similar events in order to pay respects to those 17 lives lost in the Florida shooting.



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | GRACIE WARD

Student activists at Fenton High School ring the bell once for each life lost in the Parkland, Florida school shooting.

### SUMMARY

■ Fenton High School held a school-wide memorial assembly in honor of those lives lost in the Parkland, Florida school shooting.

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | GRACIE WARD

Student activists and Principal Mark Suchowski reflect on the event and discuss upcoming meetings.



# NOVI BOAT SHOW

■ Everything you need to know about boats is just 36 miles away

By Tim Jagielo

tjagiolo@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795

**Novi** — Michigan is home to the Great Lakes, small inland lakes as well as rivers and streams. This diversity in bodies of water creates a diverse boating market, which is available in one place at the Novi Boat Show.

“We’re bringing all the best dealers together under one roof,” said Nicki Polan, executive director for the Michigan Boating Industries Association, and boat show manager. This is the 26th annual show and it runs Thursday, March 15 through Sunday, March 18.

Visitors can see boat styles including fishing and paddle craft and everything up to large boats and the accessories, beachwear, and services like dock removal and maintenance companies.

Polan said there are approximately 100 exhibitors and nearly 600 boats of all kinds, ranging in size from 8 feet to 33 feet, and in price from an \$800 stand-up paddleboard to a Formula Cruiser for more than \$300,000.

Polan expects 10,000 to 15,000 guests this year. She said the industry has been growing since 2010, and that Michigan is the third largest marine market in the country.

While the industry is healthy and growing today, it suffered an economic low during the recession of 2008 and 2009. “We’ve recovered better than ever,” she said. “Every segment is doing well right now.” She said it’s another indicator of a better economy.

“That’s what having a boat is all about — family, and getting people closer together.”

Derek DeLong  
Action Water Sports



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Dave and Jennifer Goodman of Troy, along with their children, Rachel, 17, and Joe, 14, are aboard a 25-foot Bennington pontoon at the Novi Boat Show Thursday,

## LOCAL DEALERS ON THE BOAT SHOW EXPERIENCE

### Wilson Marine, Brighton

“Jet boats are huge and fun this year,” said Sales Manager Tom Hicks. He said that boat shows are a great way to get a lot of boats in front of a lot of people who can see it, touch it, and then purchase it. He said Wilson Marine brought 35 boats to the show, and that they expect to sell 100 boats at the show.

### Silver Spray Sports, Fenton

Whitney Burnash, pro shop manager, said shows are about getting out and letting public know they’re here. “We’re just getting out and socializing with people we don’t usually run into,” she said. Visitors can learn new things, such as less familiar boating styles. Silver Spray Sports only sells boats by Nautique for water skiing and wake boarding. The have an entire pro shop of related accessories to the Novi Boat Show.

See **NOVI BOAT SHOW** on 17A

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## NOVI BOAT SHOW

### WHERE:

The Novi Suburban Show Place  
46100 Grand River Ave., Novi

### WHEN:

Thursday and Friday, 2 to 9 p.m.  
Saturday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

### COST:

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Go to [NoviBoatShow.com](http://NoviBoatShow.com)  
for more information.



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## AIRLINES

Continued from Page 3A

The Points Guy is an airline travel website with 2018 U.S. airlines ratings recently published on Forbes.com. It has very different ratings from Times.com, which used pricing, fees, customer experience and flight performance, with data provided by Airfarewatchdog, FlightStats, JD Power, Rome2rio, SkyTrax, Travel + Leisure and the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Still another rating system, the Airline Quality Rating (AQR), offers a whole different set of ratings.

One thing they all agree on: **Alaska Airlines**, which flies out of DTW in Detroit, is the top domestic carrier. This Seattle-based airline is highly popular with West Coast travelers and flies out of DTW to Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota; Portland, Oregon and Seattle, Washington.

It's now the fifth-largest airline in the U.S. after acquiring Virgin America in late 2016.

After the top spot, the ratings get tricky.

**Southwest Airlines** earned #2, #3 and #5 spots from The Points Guy, Time.com and AQR, respectively. **Southwest** earned points for "best baggage and change fees," "best size of route network" and "best customer satisfaction" from The Points Guy.

**Hawaiian Airlines** earned the #2 spot from Times.com, the #4 spot from AQR and The Points Guy put them in last place for "worst airfare," "worst size of route network," but "best on-time arrivals."

**Delta Airlines** earned the #2 spot from AQR, #3 from The Points Guy with points for "best in involuntary bumps" and "best lounge." Time.com gave **Delta** a #5 rating out of nine. The #3 spot from AQR was **JetBlue**.

**United Airlines**, **Frontier Airlines** and **American Airlines** were rated #4, #5 and #6, respectively, by The Points Guy, with **American Airlines** cited for "worst in lost luggage."

**JetBlue**, **Delta** and **Frontier** earned #4, #5 and #6, respectively, by Time.com.

**Hawaiian**, **Southwest** and **United** earned the #4, #5 and #6 spots by AQR.

**Spirit Airlines**, an ultra-low cost carrier, continually earns poor customer service reviews on travel sites like TripAdvisor, SkyTrax and even ConsumerAffairs.com, but it didn't come in last place in any of the ratings.

**Spirit** was #7 on Times.com and on Forbes.com, likely jumping to that spot because of its "best airfare" and "best in lost luggage" points. This carrier also earned "worst baggage and change fees," "worst involuntary bumps," "worst customer satisfaction" and "worst frequent flyer program."

Randy Church of Travel Brokers in Fenton said his agency gets the most complaints about Spirit Airlines. "But there are advantages," Church said. "It's less expensive, but it's not as cheap as people think because everything is paid for a la carte."

"But it does serve a purpose, especially for people making quick trips to Florida, that don't have any luggage to check."

Most of Church's clients go with Delta, mostly because of a huge amount of service and backup flights, if ever there's a delay. People can usually get to their destination close to when they planned on.

"Southwest rates really high, too, but the downside is there are fewer flights available, which can be an issue if there's a delay," Church said. "But their service is excellent and they are very friendly also."

**“But their (Southwest) service is excellent and they are very friendly also.”**

**Randy Church**

*Travel Brokers in Fenton owner*

**JetBlue** was #8 on The Points Guy, Spirit was #8 on AQR and **American Airlines** was #8 on Times.com. Coming in last place was **United Airlines** on Times.com and **Frontier Airlines** on AQR.

Recent news about dogs, one of which died in an overhead compartment, and another that landed in Japan instead of Kansas, probably won't help United Airlines."

Local travel agent Diane Roberts, manager of Superior Travel's Fenton office, said, "Most people hate Spirit (Airlines) but they do buy it and endure it. Probably

80 percent have a negative feeling, but they still book it."

**Delta Airlines** seems to be popular with local flyers. "It's hard to know if people get much better service, or if there are just more flights available," Roberts said. "Personally, I like Delta." She also had high praise for Southwest with no baggage fees, but knows they'll be stopping their flights out of Bishop in Flint in June.

### Airlines that fly out of

## FLINT

**Bishop International Airport  
in Flint (FNT) offers flights from  
these domestic airlines:**

**allegiant**

**American Airlines**

**DELTA**

**Southwest**

**UNITED**

### Airlines that fly out of

## DETROIT

**Detroit Metro Airport  
(DTW) offers flights from these  
domestic carriers:**

**Alaska**

**American Airlines**

**DELTA**

**FRONTIER  
AIRLINES**

**jetBlue**

**spirit**

**Southwest**

**UNITED**

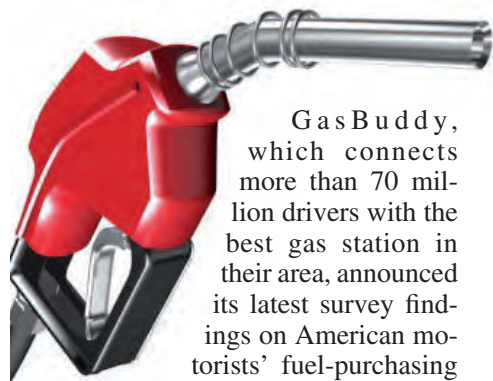


### AIRLINE REVIEWS

ThePointsGuy.com  
Airfarewatchdog.com  
FlightStats.com  
JDPower.com  
Rome2rio.com  
SkyTraxratings.com  
TravelandLeisure.com  
Transportation.gov  
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# Tips to save money at the pump



**Gas Buddy**, which connects more than 70 million drivers with the best gas station in their area, announced its latest survey findings on American motorists' fuel-purchasing habits. The survey reveals that drivers are prone to overpaying by at least 20 cents per gallon at the pump due to factors, such as laziness and procrastination.

GasBuddy conducted the study to collect insights on how consumers decide where and when to stop for fuel, and explain how these decisions could be costing drivers.

These are the five things drivers are doing that are costing them at the pump:

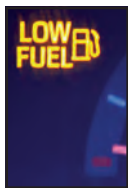
## Being creatures of habit

Nearly 80 percent of respondents have a gas station they regularly go to. When choosing a regular station, almost 38 percent of drivers say it's because the station's location is convenient. "Drivers are getting lazier, and going to the same station because it's convenient can cost you," said Patrick DeHaan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy. "The station two blocks away could be 20 to 40 cents per gallon lower in price, and while that's only a few dollars' difference per fill-up, it amounts to the hundreds of dollars per year."



## Running on empty

Only 19 percent of people decide to fill up when they see a station with a good price, with most (37 percent) waiting until they only have



a quarter tank left of gas, while 28 percent wait until the gas light comes on. Even worse: over one-third (35 percent) of those surveyed have run out of gas. "If you're waiting until the last second to get gas, there's a big chance you're going to panic and pull into the first station you see without checking a price and risk filling up at an expensive station," DeHaan said.

## Choosing the easy route

Consumers are paying for convenience by not planning ahead; 50 percent of respondents choose a gas station based on location, while 16 percent choose a station depending on ease of entrance.



## Paying with plastic or cash

When it comes to payment preferences, 69 percent of drivers use a credit or debit card instead of opting for cash. "This is an interesting trend, because while stations do offer a cash discount, credit and debit cards now offer discounts on gasoline as well," DeHaan said.



## Mistaking your grades

Gas prices have been inching up the past few months and in turn, consumers are filling up with regular instead of more expensive grades like mid-grade or premium fuel. Even so, 8 percent of consumers still fill-up with premium and 5 percent with mid-grade. "For those who are still filling up with premium, it's important to note that you only have to use premium if your car manual says it's required, not if it's just recommended," DeHaan said.



## HOT LINE CONTINUED

THE FBI, POLICE and school officials wouldn't have had a ball to drop if we had sane gun control laws like other first world nations and didn't allow the sale or possession of semi-automatic weapons under any circumstance. Problem solved. Australia did it in the '90s.

WHILE VISITING AN out-of-state 'urgent care' facility, where the flu was the worst

in the nation, the following sign was posted: 'If you are suffering with a cough please use our free nose and mouth mask while waiting.' This should be posted in every waiting room.

I JUST WANT to understand. If a gun is illegal then 'poof' it is gone? If my child were in danger in a school then I could only pray that the person next to them had the right to bear arms, whether it is a teacher or someone else.

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Daniel Lebovic, M.D.,  
St. John Hospital and  
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## ROPER

Continued from Front Page

district's assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction since 2013.

Board Vice President Robin Carne was excused from the meeting.

Roper will take over for retiring Superintendent Dave Nuss, whose 32-year career in the district ends June 30.

"I am very excited and honored to be the next superintendent of Holly Area Schools," said Roper. "Holly is a wonderful community that continues to grow and thrive, along with our schools. Our district has outstanding students and a very dedicated staff."

Roper's contract is for three years, with a salary of \$135,000, with 4 percent additional remuneration and \$5,000 in tax-sheltered annuity (TSA.)

His first goal will be to work with Nuss on promoting the upcoming bond proposal and long-term master plan.

"A successful bond will help to address essential infrastructure upgrades and repairs to provide our students with a safe, secure, and appropriate learning environment," he said.

Before HAS, Roper was a high school principal in Lapeer and Brown City, and has spent 13 years in administration. Prior to that, he was a teacher and basketball coach at Schoolcraft Community Schools.

Aside from his career, Roper and his wife, Jennifer, enjoy spending time with friends and family. "With our two dogs, we are often hiking and engaging in a variety of outdoor activities."

He has a degree in English Education from Illinois State University, a Master of Arts degree in Educational Leadership from Western Michigan University, and he will be completing an Education Specialist in Educational Leadership degree from Oakland University this summer.

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## DIABETES

Continued from Page 3A

your life. And, you will likely look and feel much better in the long run.

According to medicalnews.com, a 2014 report from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) shows that the number of Americans with diabetes continues to rise, with over 12 percent of the adult population estimated to have the disease, and more than a third of those aged 20 and over in the U.S. now thought to have prediabetes.

Describing the new figures as “alarming,” Dr. Ann Allbright, director of the federal agency’s Division of Diabetes Translation, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, said, “Diabetes is costly in both human and economic terms. It’s urgent that we take swift action to effectively treat and prevent this serious disease.”

If the numbers continue to rise, then 1 in 5 Americans will have diabetes by 2025, and 1 in 3 by 2050.

Allbright says we already know that the most effective way to prevent type 2 diabetes is to adopt a healthier lifestyle, and it also improves health in those already with the disease.

“The sooner people find out they have prediabetes and take action, the better their chances of preventing type 2 diabetes,” she adds, and suggests the CDC’s

National Diabetes Prevention Program is a good example of how to help people change their lifestyle for the benefit of their health.

## THE TYPES OF DIABETES

### TYPE 1 DIABETES

Type 1 diabetes is also called insulin-dependent diabetes. It used to be called juvenile-onset diabetes, because it often begins in childhood.

Type 1 diabetes is caused by the body attacking its own pancreas with antibodies. In people with type 1 diabetes, the damaged pancreas doesn’t make insulin.

Treatment for type 1 diabetes involves taking insulin, which needs to be injected through the skin into the fatty tissue below.

Having type 1 diabetes does require significant lifestyle changes that include frequent testing of your blood sugar levels, careful meal planning, daily exercise, taking insulin and other medications as needed

### TYPE 2 DIABETES

By far, the most common form of diabetes is type 2 diabetes. It used to be called adult-onset diabetes, but with the epidemic of obese and overweight kids, more teenagers are now developing type 2 diabetes. Type 2 diabetes was also called non-insulin-dependent diabetes.

**“The sooner people find out they have prediabetes and take action, the better their chances of preventing type 2 diabetes.”**

**Dr. Ann Allbright**  
CDC Division of Diabetes  
Translation, National Center for  
Chronic Disease Prevention and  
Health Promotion director



PHOTO: WWW.DIABETESCARECOMMUNITY.CA  
Treatment for type 1 diabetes involves taking insulin, which needs to be injected through the skin into the fatty tissue below.

With type 2 diabetes, the pancreas usually produces some insulin. But either the amount produced is not enough for the body’s needs, or the body’s cells are resistant to it.

### GESTATIONAL DIABETES

Diabetes that’s triggered by pregnancy is called gestational diabetes (pregnancy, to some degree, leads to insulin resistance). It is often diagnosed in middle or late pregnancy. Because high blood sugar levels in a mother are circulated through the placenta to the baby, gestational diabetes must be controlled to protect the baby’s growth and development.

## RISK FACTORS

**According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the following are risk factors for diabetes complications:**

- Smoking
- Overweight and obesity
- Physical inactivity
- High blood pressure
- High cholesterol
- High blood glucose (hyperglycemia)

## HOT LINE CONTINUED

■ ■ ■  
**I BELIEVE THAT** Obama, unless his own kids were in danger, would have fled to Kenya before he would have tried to save any other child. But, Donald Trump would have tried to protect any child in danger. Obama wanted to disarm our military. Trump wants to rebuild it.

■ ■ ■  
**MDOT AND OAKLAND** County should consider in the future either installing traffic signals or constructing roundabouts at the Grange Hall Road ramps for I-75.

■ ■ ■  
**ALL YOU HOT-LINERS** are bunch of whining complainers. I would like to read the Hot lines one time and see positive comments instead of constant negativity.

When all you concentrate on is negative, that’s what returns to you. No wonder you’re all miserable.

■ ■ ■  
**SECOND AMENDMENT DEFINITIONS:** Militia — all willing civilians. Well regulated — well equipped with their privately owned firearms.

■ ■ ■  
**JUSTICE ANTONIN SCALIA’S** Supreme Court’s opinion supports gun ownership, but was emphatic that the second amendment ‘is not unlimited.’ In all cases since, the federal courts have banned automatic guns known as assault weapons. Who’s Steve Scalise?

■ ■ ■  
**YES THE BIBLE** is right. But it doesn’t say we are doomed. If you read it you can learn how to live forever.

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RADON

Continued from Front Page

“Radon has been found at elevated levels in homes in every state. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that nearly one out of every 15 homes in the United States has unsafe indoor radon levels. Therefore, every home should be tested for radon.

Your home can have elevated levels of radon while your neighbor’s home does not. According to the EPA, testing is the only way to determine if you have a problem. Radon testing is easy and inexpensive and it could save your life. According to the Michigan DEQ, the only known health effect of radon is an increased risk of lung cancer, and exposure to elevated radon levels does not result in any warning symptoms like headaches, nausea, fatigue, or skin rashes. The only way to know whether you are being exposed to elevated radon levels is to test your home, and other indoor environments.

If you find that your home has dangerous levels of radon, there is a solution. High levels of radon indoors can be lowered through a variety of repairs. From sealing cracks in floors and walls to changing the flow of air into the building, you can protect your family. Repairs to decrease radon levels should be made by a U.S. EPA- or state-certified contractor.

S.W.A.T. Environmental of Fenton is one of those contractors. They can be reached at (810) 694-6149.

MAJOR AGENCIES  
CONFIRM THE HEALTH RISK

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) already has a wealth of scientific data on the relationship between radon exposure and the development of lung cancer. The scientific experts agree that the occupational miner data is a very solid base from which to estimate risk of lung cancer deaths annually.

While residential radon epidemiology studies will improve what we know about radon, they will not supersede the occupational data.

Health authorities like the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Surgeon General, the American Lung Association, the American Medical Association, and others agree that we know enough now to recommend radon testing and to encourage public action when levels are above 4 pCi/L. The most comprehensive of these efforts has been the National Academy of Science’s Biological Effects of Ionizing Radiation (BEIR VI) Report (see [www.epa.gov/radon/health-risk-radon#beir](http://www.epa.gov/radon/health-risk-radon#beir)).

This report reinforces that radon is the second-leading cause of lung cancer and is a serious public health problem. As in the case of cigarette smoking, it would probably take many years and rigorous scientific research to produce the composite data needed to make an even more definitive conclusion.

What is radon?

According to S.W.A.T. of Fenton, radon is a colorless, irradiated vapor that is formed by the decomposition of radium. Radiation, in its natural form, is found in most soils and groundwater in Fenton, but it can be a serious health threat if it is inhaled.

Because radon is found in the ground, it can seep into your home through gaps and cracks in the foundation. In addition, radon can also contaminate well water, which may contribute to development of cancer in the digestive organs. Airborne radon is known as a common contributor to pulmonary carcinoma for Fenton residents.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

**YOU HAVE A** right to own a legal weapon and I have a right to be safe wherever there’s a crowd.

**NASTY SCAM CALLING** tactic. Phone rang. Caller ID had a neighbor’s name so I answered. Vanessa from some ‘health’ company had a great deal for me.

**GOD IS GOOD.** However you understand God. Trust in the power of the universe and live life in the present moment. Love and you will be loved. And the world will change.

**IT IS SAID** that the reason the Japanese did not attack the U.S. mainland was that most citizens were armed.

**TO THE PERSON** who wrote saying that a woman is nothing without her man. My man passed away but I don’t feel I am nothing now. I have had to be a stronger person now due to the change in my life. Please think before you write.

**IT’S VERY RUDE** for strangers to go door to door spreading their religious message of ‘copy us.’ If they truly respected other people’s beliefs, they would not be at our front doors.

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# Gun laws: simple, yet controversial

■ No background check, purchase permit required for rifles sold by individuals

By Tim Jagielo

tjagielo@tctimes.com; 810-433-6795

Gun laws have been a hot point of contention in the news since the Feb. 14 tragedy in Parkland Florida, where 17 students lost their lives to a gunman carrying a legally obtainable AR-15 rifle.

One of the major calls to action has been to change the way guns may be purchased.

Handguns and long guns (rifles and shotguns) are sold differently in Michigan than elsewhere in the U.S. Here is a breakdown of how guns laws in Michigan work today.

## Buying a handgun (from private individual)

According to USGunClasses.com, if someone doesn't have a CPL (concealed pistol license) they must be 18 years of age or older, to be eligible to own a firearm, be a resident of Michigan and have a purchase permit. Anyone who is a felon is not eligible to buy a handgun in Michigan.

The first step in the process is to obtain a purchase permit (RI-010) from a local police department. Permit seekers will take a short test and submit to a background check.

If the applicant is eligible, police will issue a permit, valid for 30 days.

This permit needs to be taken to wherever the sale of the handgun takes place. The form has areas for both the seller and buyer to fill in, and once completed, both parties keep a copy. The buyer has 10 days to take the form back to the police department of origin.

If someone already has a valid CPL, they can bypass the background check and the test by visiting their local police department first, and then bring their signed R-010 form to the sale.

**“The only change I would like to see is a process for checking the background on a private party sale of a long gun.”**

Jason Slater  
Fenton police chief

## Buying a 'long gun' from an individual (rifle or shotgun)

In Michigan, it doesn't matter if someone has a CPL, and a background check is not required. 'Long guns' include shotguns and rifles, as well as the now well-known AR-15. If the seller believes the buyer is eligible to own a long gun then they may legally sell it to the buyer. There is no purchase permit needed, nor a background check nor is a record required between private sellers.

## Buying a handgun or long gun from a federally licensed dealer

The requirements are the same for non-CPL carriers, except that a purchase permit is not obtained from a police department, and the buyer must be at least 21 years old.

The buyer will first find a dealer and a handgun they want to purchase. The dealer will have the buyer fill out form 4473, which will be used to check the buyer's background with the FBI. If approved, the buyer and seller fill out an RI-060 form. The buyer will take a copy to the local police department within 10 days.

## The take from Fenton police

“The only change I would like to see is a process for checking the background on a private party sale of a long gun (rifle or shotgun),” Fenton Police Chief Jason Slater said.

Slater said this is an area within the firearms laws where someone normally prohibited from obtaining a firearm, could “slip through the cracks” and obtain a rifle or shotgun. “We also need a better way of reporting someone who is having a mental crisis for a determination regarding firearms rights,” he said.

If a crime is committed by someone with psychological instability, a judge can decide whether this person can legally own firearms — but a crime must be committed first.

Slater said the problem becomes more difficult where no crime is committed. Police officers often have contact with individuals who see a person's mental state first-hand. “A streamlined process for having someone whom we feel is not mentally stable, to be evaluated quickly and a decision on firearms rights, would be beneficial,” Slater said.

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Linda Smith of the Holly Historical Society displays one of the patriotic "Miracle Quilts" that will be on display during the Hadley House Museum Quilt Show on Saturday, March 24.

## Handmade quilts go to veterans hospitals and care facilities

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

Fifty handmade "Miracle Quilts" will be on display at the Hadley House Museum, 306 S. Saginaw, Holly on Saturday, March 24, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The quilt show is a fundraiser for the museum and Miracle Quilts; admission is by donation.

According to Linda Smith of the Holly Historical Society, these patriotic quilts are given to injured veterans at veterans hospitals and care facilities.

Carole Carroll of Oxford, a quilter for more than 30 years, is the founder and co-ordinator of Miracle Quilts, a quilt-making group that serves as a division of Desert Angels in Linden.

According to a Detroit News article, Carroll was contacted by Louise Blaine of Desert Angels, about a veteran who suffered a facial injury while serving his country.

"I was able to contact his dad, and I made and sent him a quilt," she told the Detroit News. "His son was critically injured and still in the hospital, and I started thinking about all the wounded soldiers in the hospital and their sacrifices. "I approached Blaine and asked if Miracle Quilts could be a division of Desert Angels," Carroll said. "She said 'yes,' so, we started Miracle Quilts to thank troops, who are injured and in the hospital, for their services and our freedom."

Miracle Quilts had its first meeting in 2009 with Carroll and just two other quilters. Membership has grown to about 35 quilters.

Each quilt costs about \$100 to \$125 to make, but Carroll, who has what she calls a "Ph.D. in shopping" knows how to get the most out of a craft store's super sale.

One hundred percent cotton fabric is used for the quilt tops and backings, while the batting is 80 percent cotton and 20 percent polyester. They also make a matching pillowcase for each quilt, and a "thank you" letter is included with the quilt.

## News briefs

### Calling all artists

The Linden Arts Council is inviting artists to participate in Art it Up, Up and Away on Saturday, May 19, at Horizon Air Park, Price's Airport in Linden. The art show will be from 8 a. m. to noon. It is held in conjunction with the park's Fly In and Pancake Breakfast. For details, contact Carol Severn at artist-caroljosephine@gmail.com.

## WHAT YOU MISSED in the MIDWEEK TIMES

Compiled by Vera Hogan

The following is what you missed in the **Wednesday, March 14, Midweek Edition** of the Tri-County Times. To subscribe and receive both the Sunday Weekend and Wednesday Midweek editions, please call (810) 629-8282

### Help is not that FARR away

Fenton Area Resource and Referral Network, Inc. is a non-profit human services organization that works with churches, schools and community leaders to help people with immediate needs.

### It's a whole new world at animal control

Genesee County Animal Control is now a "no kill" facility. The mammoth incinerator once used to cremate animals was destroyed last week.



### It's time for March Madness!

Sports Editor David Troppens takes a look at the history of bracketology.

### Local high schools to hold events to honor Florida shooting victims

Local high schools will join with more than 2,000 schools across the country in demonstrating support for school shooting victims and the need for change.

### A look back at 1968

Part 2 of "King's last March," regarding events that led up to the civil rights leader's assassination in early April of 1968.

## AMERICAN IDOL

Continued from Front Page

Linkowski told her social media fans on Facebook that she can't reveal how far she made it after her audition. She has, however, converted her family's garage into a music studio, which may hint that a big career is coming. Linkowski has nine siblings, from her at 19, down to 6 months. All of her family, including her parents, Craig and Tamara Linkowski, and one set of grandparents, accompanied her to Nashville.

"American Idol" producers actually found Linkowski, rather than the other way around. One of the producers saw a video of her last May in a spur-of-the-moment performance at a thrift shop in Flint, while her mother was shopping. She noticed a piano and started playing while singing songs, as an audience gathered around her. A Facebook Live video went viral with more than 300,000 views, and an "American Idol" producer reached out to her. "The whole thing was God," Linkowski said. "We weren't even planning to stop at that particular thrift store."

The next thing she knew, a Skype audition was arranged, then she flew to Dallas for her call-back audition and she wowed the judges enough to make the next round for filming in Nashville.

**“On Monday, everyone will find out whether or not I get the ‘Golden Ticket’ to go to Hollywood.”**

**Genavieve Linkowski**

Possible contestant on  
"American Idol"

"On Monday, everyone will find out whether or not I get the 'Golden Ticket' to go to Hollywood," Linkowski said.

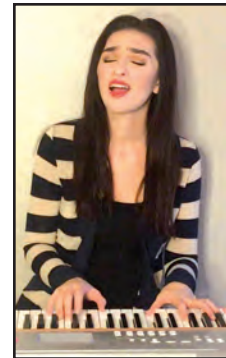
Linkowski has been singing her entire life, but began to take it seriously when she was 14. Now she'd like to take her career to the next level. "I'd love to have my own music out there," she said. She added she's a huge fan of contemporary Christian singer Chris Tomlin and Tori Kelly, who also auditioned for "American Idol."

"American Idol" just made its return to national TV on Sunday, March 11 with its debut 2018 show on ABC-TV, after a two-year hiatus.

Prior to that, it had been a TV ratings powerhouse on FOX during its 15-year history.

She'll be watching the show with several family members, friends, plus reporters, at her home, when her audition airs Monday.

"I can't wait to see where this takes me," Linkowski wrote on her Facebook page.



### SUMMARY

■ Genavieve Linkowski, 19, will be appearing on an audition on ABC-TV's "American Idol" this Monday, March 19 at 8 p.m. She and her family live in Atlas Township, near Goodrich.

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## Measles case confirmed at Detroit Metro's North Terminal

Travelers who were in customs or baggage claim on March 6 were exposed

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

People who visited the North Terminal at Detroit Metropolitan Airport on the afternoon of March 6 were likely exposed to the highly contagious measles virus, according to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Service (MDHHS).

MDHHS has confirmed a case of measles in Washtenaw County; the first case in the state in 2018. The individual was hospitalized, and is currently recovering.

The individual returned from travel abroad March 6 at Detroit Metropolitan Airport, and was contagious upon returning to Michigan. Anyone who was in customs or baggage claim in the airport's North Terminal between 2 and 5 p.m. that day should seek medical attention from their primary care provider if they develop symptoms of the disease.

Measles is a vaccine-preventable respiratory infection that can result in hospitalization, pneumonia, encephalitis and death. The illness has a 10- to 12-day incubation period and initially presents with a high fever, red eyes, cough, runny nose, photophobia (extreme sensitivity to light), and is followed by a red, raised body rash starting on the head and face that then progresses to the rest of the body. Individuals may be contagious for a few days before they present with symptoms, which increases the potential of exposing others to the infection.



PHOTO: WWW.WENY.COM

People who were in the baggage claim area of the North Terminal the afternoon of March 6, were exposed to the measles virus.

"This case underscores the importance of following vaccine recommendations and being up-to-date on vaccines," said Dr. Eden Wells, MDHHS chief medical executive. "Immunizations are the best way to protect our families and communities from the harmful, sometimes deadly consequences of vaccine-preventable diseases like measles. If you have questions about a child's vaccination status or your own vaccination history, talk to your doctor right away to ensure your family has optimal protection."

Because measles is easily spread, vaccination is the best protection against the disease. Successful prevention and control of measles requires high levels of immunity in all communities.

From 2001 through 2012, the average number of measles cases reported nationally per year was about 60. But in recent years there have been more, which is of great concern to public health authorities. In 2017, there were 118 cases in the U.S. including two cases in Michigan; the majority of people who got measles were not vaccinated.

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TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

Lilly Sturgis, 16, drafts a letter to Sen. Debbie Stabenow during the final part of the Wednesday, March 14 event at Linden High School. Students had the option of writing a letter to an elected official on school safety.

## STUDENTS

Continued from Page 6A

Local school districts took part in the national movement to draw attention to gun violence in schools — and the perceived lack of action of elected officials to do something about it.

There were reportedly 2,500 schools across the county that took part in the protest. Even children's TV station Nickelodeon went off the air for 17 minutes in support of student protests.

At Linden High School, students observed a moment of silence at approximately 9:50 a.m. Then, student council members read prepared statements over the public address system, asking for students to be inclusive and work toward a more positive environment.

Reading statements were Isabel Wright, 17, Julia Otman, 18, and Emily Buckley, 17.

"We're trying to focus on the positives of fostering a better school culture," said Wright, senior class vice president. She said she found it empowering, important and exciting.

Buckley, student council president, saw the other schools across the country getting involved, and she wanted to join them. Her response dealt with being kind to others and unifying the student body.

Otman, who is senior class president, believes that students need to "focus less on school violence and building up each other."

Overall, they encourage students to reach out to others and start new relationships, and encourage "walking up" to others.

After the moment of silence and words from the council members and Principal Darin Dreasky, students had the option to leave their classrooms at 10 a.m. for 10 minutes and stay in the hallways as their form of "walking in."

The approximately 200 students chatted and some seemed unsure of what to do with the time. At 10:10, students returned to class, where they had the option to draft letters to elected officials.

Sturgis wrote, "Although everyone knows that school violence should not even exist, no one wishes to make major

changes."

She believes that buying a gun, should be like obtaining a driver's license, which includes testing for a license and witnesses to vouch for one's ability to operate a vehicle. "Not just take away all guns, just make sure people who are getting them are stable," she said.

The overall plan for the event was developed with student council, and teacher/student council advisor Robyn Durant.

"It's been on a lot of kids' minds," she said, since the Florida incident. "I think they understand that this can happen anywhere, and

that's the sad part of it... it's a national issue."

Even her young children know what a "shooter" is, as a safety threat. "Never in my life did I imagine I'd have to talk about if there's an active shooter," Durant said.

**“We’re trying to focus on the positives of fostering a better school culture.”**

**Isabel Wright**  
Linden Student Council  
senior vice president

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## HOT LINE CONTINUED

**POSSIBLY ASK YOUR** friend, again, what the reason is for her not talking. Usually a person goes to a memorial to honor the relatives of the deceased. If she is still hesitant, maybe you can discreetly attend the event, and keep your distance. Good luck.

**RUSSIANS MEDDLING IN** our elections? Russians have been trying to overthrow our form of government for 100 years. Vladimir Lenin, Stalin and Khrushchev all wanted a 'world socialist government' and they hated capitalism. They were called Communists. Today we call them Progressives.

**OK HELLER, YOUR** article on fast food was entertaining. My pressing question is why Democrats want to raise the minimum wage for fast food restaurant workers to pay them \$15 an hour (more than what Heller paid for his son's meal) while you are still expected to bus your table?

**SO DICK'S SPORTING** Goods lost you as a customer because of their political views, well they just gained one in me. I would be willing to bet more people will be walking through their doors.

**I WAS SADDENED** to see how a group of concerned parents were treated by some Linden High School teachers at the Linden school board meeting Wednesday. Parents have the right to say what books and movies they feel are appropriate for their children when they contain explicit content. They are still under 18.

**I AM AN** adult man and I have been to Planned Parenthood for healthcare quite a few times. It is pitiful how you've been fooled by propaganda.

**WOW, FENTON TOWNSHIP,** we love to go to the public access to see beautiful Lake Ponemah and then head down Ponemah Road to see it at the dead end. Shame on you for allowing these high taxed lake property owners to have such a horrible road to drive on. Shame.

**I WOULD LOVE** it if DST was stopped. We live in a 24/7 world anyway. My migraines are at their worse after each change.

## Police&Fire

# report

### GLOCK HANDGUN STOLEN FROM HOLLY APARTMENT

Holly police are investigating a stolen handgun complaint. On March 10, an officer was dispatched to an apartment in the 3500 block of Grange Hall Road to check out a larceny of a firearm complaint. The 27-year-old resident told the officer that he had planned to go to the gun range that day and when he went to retrieve his Glock 23 pistol from his closet, it was missing. The case, ammunition and magazines were all accounted for. The last time the man handled the firearm was late December 2017 when he moved into the apartment. He said there have been no visitors to his apartment. Police entered the Generation 4 Glock 23, .40 caliber semi-automatic pistol into Law Enforcement Information Network (LEIN) as stolen.

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## THREAT

**Continued from Front Page**

recognizance bond and placed on a tether at his home.

Challis works for Flex Live Smarter Corp (a.k.a. Flextronics and perhaps other names) and was involved with a contracted project with Nexteer Automotive.

According to the Genesee County 67th District Court, Challis was charged with two counts of false report or threat of terrorism, and two counts of using a computer to commit a crime. Using the computer to commit a crime carries a maximum prison time of 20 years to life.

At the press conference, Leyton said that Challis was triggered to send the threatening email after he read a report that he believed would set back his project with Nexteer by eight weeks. Frustrated that he hadn't seen the report, which he felt he should have, he sent the email on Friday, March 9.

Leyton said from his home in Fenton, Challis sent a threatening email to 34 workers, some of whom he never met.

Leyton went on the read sections of the email verbatim.

"I'm sorry to report, that I'll be forced to kill one of you, just to send a message



**TRI-COUNTY TIMES** | TIM JAGIELO

Genesee County Prosecutor David Leyton answers questions about Stephen Challis' case in his conference room in Flint on Thursday, March 15.

to others. You pick and tell me who it is. You can vote on it and decide on Monday. Any of you who do NOT take the time to read this carefully to the end, will make the short list."

The email included detailing current problems with the project, before it came back to the threat against employees. "As for the first part, execution of one of you, whomever it turns out to be, don't worry you won't feel it. See second attachment, one of my team building tools."

Leyton showed the attachment Challis had sent, which was a photo of a shotgun with shells.

Some employees became frightened and contacted the police after reading the email. Fenton police became involved along with the FBI and Michigan State police (MSP). The MSP took over the investigation as part of the Safe Streets Task Force.

Police determined it was a false report after interviewing Challis. He doesn't own the weapon depicted in the email at-

tachments, though two rifles were taken recovered. Challis has no prior convictions or history of known mental health issues.

Leyton said the same law that encompasses false school shooting threats is the same as he is using for Challis. Leyton said that since the Feb. 14 shooting in Florida, he has prosecuted four similar school threat cases. He believes that an increase in such cases is due to both copycat offenders, and the office taking these threats more seriously since the Florida shooting.

"Adults apparently need to get this message, too — saying you're 'just joking around' is not a defense against this law," he said. The prosecutor added that they have to take threats seriously. "In 2018, we

cannot take that chance."

In all, the Auburn Hills, Farmington Hills, Fenton police department, and MSP were involved.

Editor Sharon Stone contributed to this article.

**“Adults apparently need to get this message too – saying you’re ‘just joking around’ is not a defense against this law... In 2018, we cannot take that chance.”**

**David Leyton**  
Genesee County Prosecuting Attorney

## HOT LINE CONTINUED

**DIANNE FEINSTEIN IS 84**, Maxine Waters is 79, Nancy Pelosi is 78, and Bernie Sanders is 77. It's time for these old people to step aside to allow the next generation of liberal socialistic Democrats to take their place and help to ruin our country.

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**NOVI BOAT SHOW**  
Continued from Page 7A

**Aqua Sports Marine, Fenton Township**

Jeff Nichols, owner of Aqua Sports Marine, said shows are about getting exposure as people are getting excited for the season. He said Surfboats are a popular trend right now. Boat shows become more important as manufactures release new models every year, instead of every four years, he said. His business only uses the Novi and Detroit boat shows. “This one’s a little more close to home, so we feel at home here,” he said. Half his sales come from shows.

**Action Water Sports, Tyrone Township**

Derek DeLong of Action Water Sports said they are there to answer questions about all the different boats for different sports that go along with them. Guests can see related accessories and gear at their pro shop. “There’s skiing, wakeboarding, surfing,” he said. For him, it’s all about family, getting out and enjoying the show. “That’s what having a boat is all about — family, and getting people closer together,” he said.



**TRI-COUNTY TIMES** | TIM JAGIELO  
The Novi Boat Show runs through Sunday, March 18. Nearly 600 watercraft are available to view under one roof. Small kayaks, stand-up paddleboards, personal watercraft and 33-foot cruisers, and all the accessories and services to go with them, are also at the boat show.



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# Fenton's Crews, Berry heading to Division 1 college homes in fall

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

Sophie Crews and Margaret Berry began their high school careers together as freshmen on Fenton's State finalist Division 2 soccer team in 2015.

The pair have enjoyed many great soccer memories during their Fenton careers. And now both will have something in common when they start their college careers — both will be Division 1 athletes.

Crews is headed to Indiana University-

Purdue University Indianapolis while Berry is going to Boston University next fall. The two seniors are excited about starting their college careers.

"This means a lot," Crews said. "This means all the hard work and dedication paid off. I can enjoy my last year playing high school soccer. There's not a lot of people that get to the next level so there is a sense of accomplishment."

"It's super exciting. I've always dreamed about playing college soccer, so it's a dream coming true, knowing

I'm going," Berry said. "It's definitely a sense of relief but the journey has just started. Now I have to crack down and start preparing myself for both on the field and physically. It's becoming so much more real since I have to start preparing."

Berry, who was a second-team All-State selection a year ago, was looking at Northwestern, Central Michigan, Colorado College, the University

of New Hampshire and Grand Valley State. She verbally committed during July 2016, but had to wait until the recent signing period to make it official.

"The reason I chose Boston University is when I went on my visit during the summer," Berry said. "I loved the campus's atmosphere and the coaches were a main part of it. I had this feeling this is where I need to go when I got on the campus."

**See COLLEGE on 19A**



Fenton's Margaret Berry

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**Sports times**

THE TRI-COUNTY



**TRI-COUNTY TIMES** | SUBMITTED PHOTO

Linden graduate and current Algoma University wrestler Bryce Davis recently captured the bronze medal at the 2018 U Sports Wrestling Championships, the national championship meet in Canadian collegiate wrestling.

## Linden's Davis captures bronze at national Canadian wrestling meet

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

Bryce Davis thought his wrestling career was finished when he left Linden's varsity team at the end of his career.

He was going to Eastern Michigan and not wrestling.

But a twist of fate landed him at Algoma University in Canada, and now he's thriving on the mat once again, and getting bronze medals.

**CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM**

## LFLF gymnasts leap to No. 1 in Super 6 Poll

■ Holly wrestlers, Fenton boys swim team rank high in our annual survey as well

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

The sports staff won't sugarcoat it. The winter sports season wasn't the greatest of all time when we look at tri-county athletics.

In the Flint Metro League, area teams won just two of the seven winter sports titles. And on the Genesee Area Conference side, Lake Fenton collected just one league crown.

On the team district level, we didn't see much success either. Only one team won a district title, and there were no area teams that made it to regional title games, much less winning one. We did have a team win a regional meet, however.

But all that said, it's not like the winter sports season was completely barren. We had our share of quality teams that did compete for league championships. We had several outstanding individual athletes that entertained us every time they competed on a court, mat, rink or pool. Some athletes finished as All-State athletes or state champions. Lake Fenton wrestler Jarrett Trombley finished his career as a four-time state champion. So while the 2017-18 Winter Sports Season Super Six may not be as strong as season's past, it's still a pretty nice list.

**No. 6 – Linden boys basketball:** Under the helm of their second-year head coach Chris Root, the Eagles made serious strides toward making Eagles' basketball a program of pride this winter. The squad posted its first winning season in a long time, finishing in third place in the Metro League at 12-4, and 13-8 overall. The squad started slow, with a 2-3 beginning, but proved to be an entertaining and balanced squad down the stretch. Losing in the opening round of the district tournament to Grand Blanc was the only real damper to the season.

**basketball:** As Chloe Idoni was working her way up Fenton's all-time scoring list, the Tigers were winning their share

**See SUPER 6 on 19A**



**No. 5 – Fenton girls**



**TRI-COUNTY TIMES** | FILE PHOTOS

The LFLF gymnastics team (top) is our No. 1 team in the Tri-County Super Six Winter Poll. The Holly varsity wrestling team placed second (just above).

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## David's Dabblings

Some thoughts about sports and others not dealing with sports at all



### JUST A FEW MORE RANDOM, THOUGHTS

I enjoy when we get in between sports seasons for one major reason — I get to write more columns.

During the busy periods of the prep year, there are so many activities going on that I don't like to "litter" the section with my idiotic opinions. However, the odd thing is whenever I write a couple of columns, I hear stuff like "Say, I didn't know you curled" in Target or "That toenail column was pretty gross." The toenail column was about 10 years ago, and I still get comments about it. My favorite comment came when a guy was bike riding with his family. He saw me, immediately stopped and said, "Hey, you are David Troppens. You're a funny guy." My wife agrees, but not quite in the same way as that cyclist.

### The Lions release Eric Ebron

I don't know how releasing Ebron makes the Lions a better team today. I don't know if it will eventually make them better team tomorrow. But I know one thing — it will help Ebron's career.

If someone looks at Ebron's stats and sees he had 186 receptions during his first four years of his career with the Lions, that sounds pretty impressive. However, the Lions signed him as a 10th pick in the draft, and it was a signing that was puzzling at the time. One of my major theories when it comes to the NFL draft is not to select a tight end in the first round unless you have every other need addressed and this guy is a game-changer. Why? Because quality tight ends seem to be available all over the draft. And in my opinion a quality tight end is a luxury selection more than one of necessity. So Ebron had to be all-world in my opinion to make him worthy of the draft pick and money he earned. Even with all the drops, he was solid. But it seemed he never had a desire to be great either.

A change of scenery will be great for Ebron, and it may fire up his desire to want to be better. I don't think that was ever going to happen in Detroit.

### Something you never want to buy at a second-hand store

A bathroom reader. I suggest always buying one new.

### Hope you listened to me

In Wednesday's publication I wrote a story suggesting a good Cinderella pick (No. 10 seed or higher) for our readers. My pick was Illinois (Chicago). I hope you followed my advice. If you did, you are mighty happy right now.

## SUPER 6

Continued from Page 18A

of games, finishing in a tie for second in the Metro League, posting a 13-3 record. The Tigers handed Flushing its first-ever Metro League loss during the season and finished with a 14-7 record overall. The only damper was losing to Flushing 49-47 in overtime in the opening round of the district tournament. One positive out of their battles with Flushing this season is it seems the Tigers have created another fun Metro League rival.

**No. 4 – Lake Fenton competitive cheer:** The Blue Devils have a proud history in competitive cheer, but the program has fallen a few notches since winning state championships in 2003 and 2004 in Michigan Cheerleading Coaches Association Sideline Cheer action. However, the program had a strong season this year, winning the GAC championship. The squad followed up that success by qualifying for the regional round by taking second at the district tournament. The Blue Devils' tournament run, however, ended at regionals after taking 13th place.

**No. 3 – Fenton boys swimming and diving:** The Tigers keep on winning Metro League titles, earning their eight in a row this season. And, of course, they did it in dominant fashion, cruising to a perfect dual meet season record. They also crushed the rest of the competition at the Metro League Meet, scoring 241 more points than the second-place squad at the meet. The Tigers had state qualifiers in six events, and had Evan Bartow make it to the second day in two of them as well. Every state qualifying swimmer was an underclassmen, so the Tigers could be setting up for a pretty

.....



**TRI-COUNTY TIMES** | KLARI FREDERICK  
Fenton's Sophie Crews (right) will play her college soccer at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis in the fall.

## COLLEGE

Continued from Page 18A

The Terriers finished last season with a 10-8-3 overall record and a 6-2-1 record in the Patriot League. It's expected Berry will play on defense.

"Margaret is a mobile and athletic outside back," Boston University women's soccer coach Nancy Feldman said in the signing period's press release. "She is a natural leader and is committed to enhancing any team environment she is a part of. Her competitive spirit, poise and confidence are special qualities that will serve her well as a Terrier."

"I'll probably be playing outside back, but I'm not really sure," Berry said.

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM



**TRI-COUNTY TIMES** | FILE PHOTO

Fenton's varsity boys swimming and diving team captured an eighth straight Metro League championship this winter, by crushing the opposition by 241 points at the league meet. The Tigers are No. 3 on our winter poll.

magical season next year.

**No. 2 – Holly wrestling:** What would a winter list be without a wrestling team? The Bronchos ended up being our area's toughest wrestling program, capturing a Metro League championship. The Bronchos finished the dual portion of the season with a perfect 8-0 mark, and took second at the league tournament, earning the squad the outright league championship. The Bronchos also became the winter sport season's only district championship team among the tri-county squads by beating Brandon and Linden in team district action.

Individually, the Bronchos had success as well, earning five wrestlers at the individual state meet. Cade Dallwitz came close to winning a state championship, losing in the title match and settling

for second place. Carsen Cuthbert and Blake Querio also placed.

**No. 1 – LFLF gymnastics:** The co-op gymnastics team involving athletes from Linden, Fenton and Lake Fenton turned 4 years old this season, and had a breakthrough year. The squad captured a league title, won a regional championship (the only regional championship by any winter sports team). That earned the squad its first-ever team trip to the state meet. While there, the squad placed 10th. At the individual state meet, many of the gymnasts placed, while Blake Hutchings captured All-State in all four events and in the all-around, placing third.

This was the year the co-op gymnastics team truly showed it plans on being one of the tri-county area's best winter athletic teams for a long time to come.



## ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

March 18, 2018



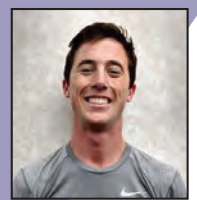
**ETHAN KRANTZ**  
Boys Swim/Dive

**FENTON**



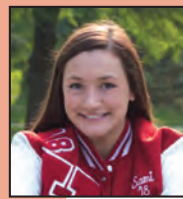
**JUSTIN CYGNAR**  
Wrestling

**LINDEN**



**LUKE TOMCZYK**  
Boys Basketball

**LAKE FENTON**



**SAMI HILD**  
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