

# Easter morning Holly fire may have started in the walls

■ Upper-level blaze draws seven local fire departments; two apartments sustain damage

By Tim Jagielo

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**Holly** — It doesn't look like it today, but on Easter Sunday morning just after midnight, the building at

101 N. Saginaw St. was surrounded by fire trucks from seven local fire departments, battling a blaze in the upper level of the building.

According to Holly/Groveland Fire Chief Steve McGee, a resident of an upstairs apartment was roused by a smoke alarm at 12:08 a.m.

Oakland County dispatch automatically called the Holly Fire Department (HFD). Due to the age and  
**See FIRE on 9**



COURTESY OF JOHN LAUVE  
Seven fire departments were called to the scene of the fire at 101 N. Saginaw St. in Holly, which houses Coleman & Sons Garage and four upstairs apartments. No one was injured.

PAGE 3  
**TORNADOES,  
THUNDERSTORMS,  
ANOTHER RITE OF  
SPRING**

VOL. 25 NO. XIV

# Midweek Times

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 2018

2016 **NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR**

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## University reveals Alzheimer's breakthrough

■ Antibody removes plaques in mice

In a report released on Monday, March 26, Washington University School of Medicine has announced some breakthrough science regarding Alzheimer's disease.

Years before people start showing characteristic symptoms of Alzheimer's disease, sticky plaques begin forming in their brains, damaging nearby cells. For decades, doctors have sought ways to clear out these plaques as a way to prevent or treat the disease.

The sticky clumps, known as amyloid plaques, are composed primarily of a brain protein called amyloid beta. But nestled within the plaques are small amounts of another Alzheimer's protein: APOE. Now, researchers at Washington University School of Medicine have shown that an antibody not only targets APOE for removal but sweeps away plaques.

**See ALZHEIMER'S on 10**

## The perpetual patching of potholes



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TIM JAGIELO

James "JJ" McKeny, Fenton Department of Public Works (DPW) laborer, scoops another shovelful of cold patch material, along with skilled laborer Dan Wayne on Monday, April 2. The pair spent the entire shift patching Lemen Street, from Main to Sixth Street. The DPW began filling potholes once the weather became warmer. On Monday they filled hundreds of potholes by hand, using six to eight tons of the asphalt mixture. **See more photos and a video at tctimes.com.**

## Auto insurance rates going up 13 percent per vehicle

■ Owners to pay \$192 per vehicle beginning July 1 due to no-fault claims

By Vera Hogan

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The assessment paid by auto insurance companies to the Michigan Catastrophic Claim Association (MCCA) will be \$192 per insured vehicle for the period July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019. This is an increase of \$22, or 13 percent over the 2017-2018 assessment of \$170.

According to the March 29 media release issued by the MCCA, the increase is due to higher  
**See INSURANCE on 10**

## Linden City discusses potential road millage

■ Suggested road improvement plan does not sit well with all councilors

By Hannah Ball

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**Linden** — Roads in any community is a hot topic, and the city of Linden is no exception.

With potholes, cracked pavements and revenue loss, Linden City councilors are debating the best way to take care of the roads, which could include a millage.

**See MILLAGE on 7**

**“We are all not going to agree on this. We have to look at what's best for the city as a whole.”**

**Danielle Cusson**  
Linden mayor

TEXT  
YOUR  
HOT LINE

810-771-TEXT



**“Just so you know, Saturday Night Live, which spends 90 percent of its air time mocking gun owners, has armed guards protecting its building in New York City. Hypocrites, like most of Hollywood.”**



**“I agree that once you arm the appropriate individuals no one will ever attack a school again. Only a fool would oppose doing this. Quit playing politics and protect the damn kids. Do your (blank)ing job.”**



COMMENT  
OF THE WEEK

**“Does anyone have the recipe for Blackburn's submarines? We used to love them. I would like to make them for the family again.”**





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IMAGE CREDIT: IAN LIVINGSTON

## Tornadoes, thunderstorms, another rite of spring

### ■ Severe Weather Awareness Week is April 8-14

By Vera Hogan

vhogan@tctimes.com; 810-433-6823

We can talk about green grass, flowers, budding trees, birds, sunshine and blue skies all we want now that spring has

finally arrived, but something else will be arriving soon — the potential for severe, dangerous weather.

In Michigan, “Severe Weather Awareness Week” is April 8-14 this year. A statewide tornado drill will take place at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, April 11. The Michigan State Police, Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division are calling on all Michiganders to take action to prepare by participating in the

voluntary statewide tornado drill.

Businesses, organizations, families and individuals are encouraged to be a part of this statewide preparedness activity, but are not required to do so. Nearly all state of Michigan facilities will be participating.

Tornado season has again arrived and as most local people are aware, it can and does happen here.

Although it has been just over 10 years, residents won’t soon forget the F-2 tornado that ripped through Fenton and Holly just after 5:30 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 24, 2007.

Many homes were damaged and some were leveled. In the city of Fenton alone, more than 4,000 trees were destroyed.

About 50 homes in Fenton Township were affected by a May 28, 2013 tornado, also classified as an F-2. Most of the damage was near Jennings Road.

While tornadoes can occur any time of the year, they are especially common during the late spring and early summer months. As one of nature’s most violent storms, they can devastate homes and property in just seconds.

The average lead time for tornadoes to develop is 10 to 15 minutes, which means citizens need to be ready to react quickly when a warning is issued.

**See TORNADOES on 9**

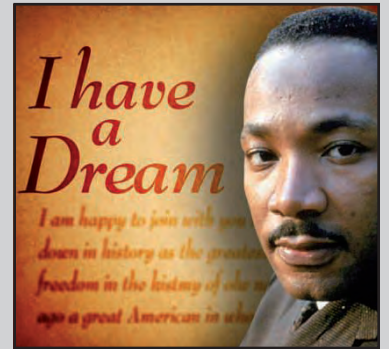


TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

Tornadoes can, and have, wreaked havoc in the tri-county area. This neighborhood sustained damaged homes and trees as a result of the May 2013 tornado.

## A LOOK BACK at 1968

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



## The last day

■ Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is assassinated on April 4, 1968

Compiled By Vera Hogan

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(Parts 1, 2 and 3 in a series about the days leading to the civil rights leader’s assassination were published on Wednesdays, March 7, 14 and 21. This is the final chapter.)

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. spent April 4, 1968 at the Lorraine Motel. He sent Andrew Young down to the federal courthouse to fight the injunction against a second march. He shared a plate of fried Mississippi River catfish with Ralph Abernathy.

In the late afternoon, Young returned from court with news that the Monday march could go forward. King pretended to be upset that Young had failed to call him all day. “He began to sort of playfully fuss with me,” Young says. “He picked up a pillow and threw it at me. And I just threw it back. And all of a sudden everybody picked up pillows. And here we are — middle aged men, almost — and we were having a pillow fight like children.”

**See 1968 on 6**

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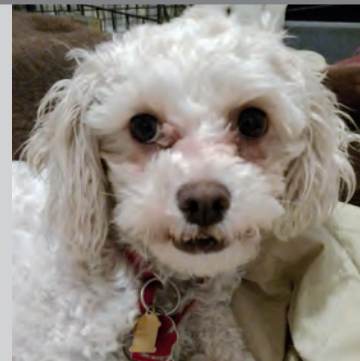
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and another canine pal.

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The Tri-County Times (USPS 018-092) is published weekly (with exceptions) by Rockman Communications, 256 N. Fenway Drive, Fenton, Michigan 48430. Periodical postage paid at Fenton, Michigan 48430-2699 and other post offices. Subscription Rate: 48.00 per year. No non-member subscribers. Postmaster: Send address changes to Tri-County Times, 256 N. Fenway Drive, Fenton, Michigan 48430-2699. We reserve the right to accept or refuse any content and/or advertising submissions.

#### HOURS:

Mon-Thurs: ..... 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Friday: ..... 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Saturday & Sunday ..... Closed



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Classifieds ..... 810-629-8194  
Circulation ..... 810-433-6797  
Hot Line ..... 810-629-9221  
Fax ..... 810-629-9227  
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# If I Were King...

king@tctimes.com

## I have questions

**A**s politics morph from polite differences of opinion into chaos, riots and hate, it's amazing how many important questions don't seem to be asked any more. Whatever happened to assuming that there are actually two legitimate sides to any issue and the solution is to meet in the middle, where all concerned win?

Anyhow, here are some questions that I would like answered:

- **If the government** gives taxpayer funds to support NPR, Planned Parenthood, PBS and other liberal organizations, how could it possibly not be fair for the same government to provide funding to the NRA and other conservative organizations? Of course, the actual reality is that no political-based organizations should ever receive any of our tax dollars.
- **Why do so many women** still believe that men have all the advantages? Life expectancy for American women is 79, but only 72 for men. Men make up 85 percent of the military. Divorce courts are notoriously hostile to men. Only 44 percent of college students are male. Over 78 percent of murder victims are male. Men suffer 93 percent of the workplace fatalities. Clearly, it's not all rainbows and puppy dogs for us.
- **Are the problems** that many black Americans face as a race really caused by racial prejudice or are their problems self-induced due to a culture that chronically produces far more fatherless children than any other demographic? Why do black leaders not address this?
- **Shouldn't we tell** the truth and call out the people who constantly seek out new reasons to be offended and never allow the actual circumstances



- to be factored into solving a problem? Aren't people who are chronically offended by things that most people just shrug off the ones who have the problem, not the rest of us?
- **Why are we** coddling college students, treating them like infants by giving them "safe spaces" so they're never exposed to an opinion they disagree with? We are setting them up for failure in a world that is interested in results, not feelings.
- **If illegal aliens** aren't held responsible for breaking our laws, why in the hell should the rest of us obey the law? Why shouldn't we rationalize that we can break the law any time we think it is beneficial to us? That is the same philosophy of supporters of illegal immigrants.
- **Given that California** is poorly governed, refuses to obey federal laws and is facing certain bankruptcy, wouldn't America be better off if we encouraged California to secede? We could then build a three-sided wall that separates California from the U.S. That, in itself, solves a dozen major problems.
- **Why do we** not require two years of paid government service from every American upon reaching the age of 18, men and women alike. Duties would involve government functions that would teach skills, responsibility and respect for authority. We would also provide valuable college and trade classes at no charge in exchange for their service. Most importantly, if, for any reason, you do not serve you can never be an employee of any governmental entity, nor can you ever run for political office. America would be transformed overnight.

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

## Hotlines

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

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

**JUST HEARD THE** catastrophic part of our vehicle insurance is going up again. How much money do the insurance companies in Michigan need?

**THE LOOSE CENTER** needs yarn. Our barrels are empty and we make our hats for the homeless, veterans, kids and preemies with yarn. If you have any yarn, please bring it there. Thank you.

**I SEE ANOTHER** liberal is saying the second amendment does not refer to military arms. It is the only arms it refers to. That was settled in the loss with the Supreme Court ruling about the 1934 gun act. It only refers to military arms. That is what is protected.

**IF THE SECOND** amendment does not mean military assault-style weapons then I guess the first amendment doesn't mean radio, television, telephone, computers or any high speed printers because they didn't exist at the time of the constitution. Get that hand printing press out because that's all you're going to be able to use.

**I'VE NOTICED EVERY** time the liberals like to bring up the NRA, they also like to bring up the KKK and say how terrible that is. Why don't you bring up Black Lives Matter, the Black Panthers, Sharpton and all the rest of them? It's only the NRA and the KKK that seem to be mentioned.

**GOT TO HAND** it to Trump. He has found a way to get his wall built without the Democrats stopping him. As commander in chief, you can take money from the Defense Bill and build that wall for the United States as national security. That's a great thing. I can see why he'd give up a lot of things that the Democrats wanted because he got his military spending to build the wall.

**TO THE PARENTS** worried about the safety of their children in school. The best thing you could do is get your kids out of the public school system. They lost control of the kids years ago.

**HOW IS IT** that the village of Holly has an extra \$20,000 laying around to purchase a bigger (oversized) building that will require millions to refurbish? They will purchase the building and then say 'oh, by the way, we need \$\$\$ to refurbish' so you can save \$20/year on insurance.

**A HOT LINE** that said Fox News gives both sides. Fox is the worst at showing both points of view. Their hosts constantly interrupt and don't let the more liberal person explain their view.

**I AM VERY** suspicious of the motive of the village of Holly leaders who say they want to spend our tax dollars and say it is for the benefit of the taxpayers. History has told us they do not care about taxpayers and will have to raise taxes to pay for a new fire station so we can save \$20/year on homeowners insurance. Something smells fishy here.

See **HOT LINE** throughout Times

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Compiled by Ellie Bennett, intern

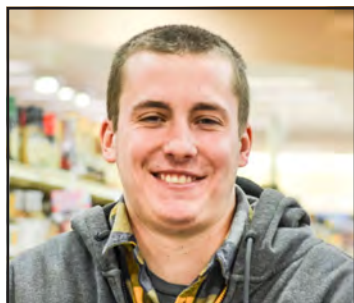
## What do you splurge on when you want to treat yourself?

## streettalk



"When I want to treat myself I'll splurge on shoes. I already have a lot of shoes but I can always have more. I'll splurge on shoes like Adidas sneakers."

**Cece Keech**  
Linden



"When I want to treat myself I'll go and splurge on getting food like a nice cut of steak or some chicken and seafood."

**Mike Kujawa**  
Argentine Township



"I'll splurge and get something sweet. Stuff like chocolate or cake are two of the things that I'll go out and treat myself to."

**Tabitha Devine**  
Argentine Township



"Ice cream is what I treat myself to, more specifically ice cream bars. I like the chocolate covered ones. I get those when I want to splurge and get something for myself."

**Sue Collick**  
Fenton



"When I want to treat myself I'll go to the salon. I'll get my hair and nails done or go and get a facial or massage."

**Kelly Moore**  
Fenton



# County supports Ally Challenge PGA Tour with veterans funds

■ Will be done using \$50,000 of taxpayer dollars

By Vera Hogan

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Big time golf is coming back to Warwick Hills in Grand Blanc Township this year. The Ally Challenge 2018 PGA Tour, Sept. 10-16 will be the first professional tournament played at the course since the Buick Open, which saw its last tourney in August 2009.

On Monday, April 2, the Genesee County Board of Commissioners voted 7-1 to sponsor that tour with \$50,000 from the county-wide veterans millage (November 2012).

According to board documents, the sponsorship will create a "Patriot Pavilion" at the 18th fairway for all active duty, reserve military, military retirees, veterans and their dependents.

County veterans will receive free admission to the week's golf events, which is valued at \$95. They will also receive free entry to the Big & Rich concert taking place during the event. There are approximately 25,000 veterans in Genesee County.

Veterans who attend may also learn from county representatives about programs and services available to them.

Commissioner Drew Shapiro of Fenton (District 6) cast the dissenting vote Monday morning.

"Although I am happy to see this type of event return to the area, I believe the use of the veterans millage is an inappropriate use of taxpayer dollars," Shapiro said. "The millage is intended to help destitute veterans, and to assist with burial claims. It was created to honor our veterans in more important ways than providing free hot dogs, and hamburgers."

Shapiro vowed to use his position as an elected representative of the citizens "to fight against the misappropriation of public funds such as this. Our veterans deserve better."

Homeowners with a taxable value of \$50,000 on their homes pay \$5 per year for the veterans millage. They pay \$10 for a home with \$100,000 taxable value and \$15 for \$150,000 taxable value. In the city of Fenton, for example, it would take 5,000 one-year payments from homeowners with a \$10 millage fee to cover the \$50,000 going toward the Ally Challenge PGA Tour at Warwick Hills.

According to RJ Sharp, funeral director for Sharp Funeral Homes in Fenton, Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly Township provides veterans (and their spouses) the grave, grave opening, marker and grave liner, all paid for by the U.S. Veterans Administration.

"The families are responsible for other fees that include a casket, the professional services of the funeral director and staff and transportation from the funeral home to the cemetery," he said.

The average amount the VA pays is \$1,000 to \$1,200, according to Sharp.

"The additional, depending on the type of funeral that is desired, comes to an average of approximately \$6,000," he said.

## Language for the November 2012 "Support for Veterans" Millage

Shall the limitation on the total amount of taxes which may be imposed against all taxable property by Genesee County be increased by a new additional millage of 0.1 mill (10 cents on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a period of 10 years, Jan. 1, 2012 – Dec. 31, 2021, inclusive, for the purpose of providing support and assistance to veterans of active United States military service and their dependents, and administrative and facility costs involved in providing support and assistance to such veterans and dependents (estimated to provide revenue of \$880,523 in the first year of the authorized levy, subject to the tax capture provisions)?

“It was created to honor our veterans in more important ways than providing free hot dogs and hamburgers.”

Drew Shapiro  
Commissioner of Fenton  
(R-District 6)

## Contest to name official craft beer and wine

■ Ideas can be submitted on Friends of Shiawassee Facebook page

By Hannah Ball

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The Shiawassee River Water Trail Coalition is hosting a contest to name the official beer and wine for the river.

David Lossing, chair of the coalition, said this contest is a fundraiser for the coalition. It's also meant to raise awareness about the effort to name the Shiawassee River a National Water Trail.

Fenton Winery and Brewery (FWB) will produce the beer and wine. Owners of FWB, Matt and Ginny Sherow, agreed to donate 10 percent of the proceeds from the sale of the beer and wine to the coalition.

To enter your submissions, post the name on the Friends of the Shiawassee River Facebook page, or create your own post and add the hashtag #ShiawasseeBeer or #ShiawasseeWine. The group encourages people to be creative and add a photo.

"We are keeping a list of names and we will only put forward those names that are not offensive in nature," he said.

Four finalists will be selected on April 26 at the Shiawassee River Water Trail Coalition meeting. The winner will be announced May 30. The official beer and wine will be released at the RiverFest on June 24.

"The winner of the craft beer will receive a growler while the winner of the wine will receive a bottle of wine,"



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | FILE PHOTO

Kayakers paddle on the river in Linden. Name suggestions are being accepted for a Shiawassee River-themed beer and wine.

Lossing said.

The coalition, made up of 19 organizations from Holly to Chesaning, applied April 2017 to have the Shiawassee River named a National Water Trail by the U.S. National Park Service. The application is currently in the interagency federal review, and the next potential step is official approval by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Lossing said they are also planning a fundraiser for Sunday, Aug. 19 called "Paddle, Pizza, and Pints," where participants will paddle from Holly's Waterworks Park to Strom Park in the city of Fenton. Afterward, everyone may visit Fenton Winery and Brewery for the fundraiser.

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## HOT LINE CONTINUED

**SO YOUR WIFE** was rude, but you know what they say — phones don't call people, people call people.

■■■■  
**TRUMP'S BORDER WALL** is never going to stop incoming traffic of anything. The Mexicans are smarter than Trump and will just fly over it to drop off their stuff or tunnel underneath it to deliver the goods. By the way, why are we paying for the border wall and not Mexico as he said they would?

■■■■  
**FOX NEWS IS** surely a far right station, just like CNN is a far left station. One thing CNN does not have is people like Sean Hannity, now that guy's a Trump fan. I'm just saying we need to separate the crap.

■■■■  
**THE FENTON DEPARTMENT** of Public Works and the DDA must stop concerning themselves with kayak/canoe launches while our roads continue to crumble. Nobody sane will continually drive to a kayak/canoe launch when doing so virtually guarantees they'll blow out a tire by hitting all of these potholes.

■■■■

**THE AUSTIN BOMBER** bought his supplies at The Home Depot. Using progressive, fuzzy thinking, if The Home Depot would stop selling nails, batteries, wiring, batteries, etc., this would stop bombings.

■■■■  
**THE REASON WHY** hosts on Fox want to debate some of the liberal guests is because the left-leaning networks just let them go on and on with their whining without calling out their incorrect facts. Someone has to hold these guests accountable.

■■■■  
**TO 'HEY FAR** right' in the April 1 paper. You might want to look closer at those so-called kids; a lot of the marchers were adults. They advertised in the papers to pay people to march for these protesters just like they do for other protests. Your comment about who allows people to have guns is pathetic. Get your facts straight and then post.

■■■■  
**TO THE 'TELL** me again' in the April 1 issue. If the parent of this 4-year-old had done what they should have done, which is locking up that gun, the 7-month-old would not have been shot, if this is a true story. Children or any age should not know where the gun is or where the ammo is.



## Police&Fire report

### PURSE STOLEN FROM HOLLY HOME

On March 30, a Holly police officer spoke with a 64-year-old Holly woman about a break-in at her home in the 400 block of South Saginaw Street. The woman said she returned to her home at 8:30 p.m. on March 29. She said her husband was out working in a work shop on their property. She went in the home and placed her purse on the kitchen counter and went into another room. Later, she discovered that her purse was missing and at first assumed her husband had moved it. He did not. Her husband said when he entered their home, the exterior doors were ajar. Holly police will continue to investigate.

### TRUCK AND TRAILER STOLEN FROM STORAGE LOT

The Fenton Police Department is investigating a stolen vehicle and trailer complaint. Lt. Jeff Cross said between March 30 and April 2, someone broke the locked gate at a storage facility on Copper Avenue. Once inside the lot, they were able to start a 1994 Chevrolet pickup truck without keys and drive away. Attached to the truck was a 12-foot Haulmark enclosed trailer containing scrap of aluminum gutters and cordless drills. Atop the black and silver ladder truck were several ladders. Cross said the surveillance cameras in the lot were not functional at the time of the theft. The truck and trailer were entered into Law Enforcement Information Network (LEIN) as stolen. If anyone spots this truck and trailer, they are asked to call Fenton police at (810) 629-5311.



THEWEEK.COM

On April 8, 1968, Coretta Scott King, the widow of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and her children led a peaceful march through downtown Memphis.

## 1968

Continued from Page 3

When the rumpus subsided, King and the others got ready to go to dinner at a local minister's house. King stood on the motel balcony as Jesse Jackson and other organizers got out of a car below. King called down to a young musician who would be playing saxophone at a mass meeting planned for that night. He asked him to play a favorite gospel song, "Precious Lord, Take My Hand."

As King wondered aloud whether he needed a topcoat, there was a sharp sound. Some thought it was a firecracker, or a car backfiring. Martin Luther King Jr. had been shot in the face. He died shortly

afterwards at a hospital.

### Aftermath

More than 100 American cities exploded in violence when King was assassinated. Most of the bullets and firebombs fell in urban black neighborhoods. Some 65,000 troops were called for riot duty. Thirty-nine people died and tens of thousands were arrested, most of them African Americans.

On April 8, a second civil rights march was finally held in Memphis. This one was peaceful. It was a memorial march. King's widow, Coretta Scott King, and three of their four children led 20,000 people through downtown Memphis. She later told the crowd that her husband had lived a "redemptive life" and had died for what he believed in — a nation transformed into a society of love, justice, peace and brotherhood.

The funeral for Martin Luther King Jr. was held the next day, April 9, in Atlanta. His old friend, the Rev. Ralph Abernathy, conducted the service at King's home church, Ebenezer Baptist. Civil rights leaders, entertainers, and four presidential candidates attended the service. Some 60,000 people listened on loudspeakers outside, then joined in the funeral procession.

A second service was held at King's alma mater, Morehouse College. School President Benjamin Mays gave the eulogy. He said God had called on King to teach the nation and the world about humanity and nonviolence.

Mays then called on the nation to calm its violent reaction to King's death. "If we love Martin Luther King Jr., and respect him, as this crowd surely testifies, let us see to it that he did not die in vain; let us see to it that we do not dishonor his name by trying to solve our problems through rioting in the streets. Violence was foreign to his nature," Mays said.

King was buried in his Atlanta neighborhood near Ebenezer Baptist Church. A wooden farm wagon, pulled by mules, carried his casket to the cemetery to symbolize King's dedication to the lives and the rights of poor people.

## Goodrich teen's 'American Idol' dream ends

■ Genavieve Linkowski is cut during Hollywood Week's second Solo Round on April 1

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

Genavieve Linkowski, 19, was hopeful she'd be among the top 50 contestants on "American Idol" following her solo audition during Hollywood Week.

The episode featuring Linkowski's performance aired Sunday, April 1 on ABC-TV.

Belting out Kesha's song, "Praying," with a live band behind her, Linkowski was eliminated by celebrity judges Katy Perry, Lionel Richie and Luke Bryan. She was one of 77 contestants chosen to perform in this solo audition, and the field was narrowed to 50.

It was a surprise ending for Linkowski's family and fans, especially after Richie had compared her voice to that of Celine Dion during her first audition in Nashville.

But the 19-year-old doesn't appear to be discouraged by this latest detour in her career. She posted these comments on social media on April 2:

*"I cannot express how amazing of an experience I had on this show, and even though my American Idol journey ended, I believe it's just the beginning for so much more! I just want to thank each of you for all the support you've given to me and continue to give me. It means so much! I won't give up on my dream because I know this is God's call that He has for me, and God's will is better than anything I could ever imagine! I asked Him to take me however far He wanted me to go, and He did! And I couldn't be happier! I came out with a clear conscience and no regrets! And I also came out with so many new beautiful people in my life that I love so much! I will hold this experience in my heart forever. It was just another stepping stone in my walk with Christ and I'm so honored that I got to experience it! Thank you @americanidol for allowing me to be on the show and share what I have with America! The best is yet to come!"*

Linkowski is the oldest of 10 children of Craig and Tamara Linkowski, who reside in Atlas Township, near Goodrich. She was homeschooled throughout her childhood years and now helps homeschool her younger siblings.

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## Calendar of events

### American Legion meeting

The American Legion Fenton Post will hold its meeting at **6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 10** at John's Pizzeria, 1492 N. LeRoy St., Fenton.





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### Amending the United States Constitution

Last week there was an op-ed article in the New York Times by former United States Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens, which talked about the impact of recent demonstrations in Washington, D.C. by schoolchildren for new gun control laws.

He supports this movement but doesn't believe it will be effective in view of the Supreme Court's 2008 holding that there is an individual right to bear arms under the Second Amendment. Instead, he believes that the best way for them to be successful is for the movement to demand that the amendment be repealed. He is not the first person to suggest this.

It is very unlikely that there will be a repeal, which would require a new constitutional amendment.

However if someone wanted to try, how would it be done and how long would it take?

The answers are found in Article Five of the United States Constitution, which provides that constitutional amendments can be enacted in one of two ways with both requiring two separate steps.

The first is when two thirds of both houses of Congress approve the proposed amendment. The second is when two thirds of the state legislatures call for a constitutional convention to consider an amendment.

Thereafter and as to both possibilities, three fourths of the states must ratify the amendment for it to go into effect.

As to time — it all depends. For example, it took over 200 years for the Twenty Seventh Amendment to be ratified.

Statistically, since 1789 Congress has proposed more than 11,000 amendments with only 33 sent to the states, and only 27 were ratified. There has never been a new constitutional convention. The intent of the framers was to make it difficult to amend the Constitution for a variety of reasons.

These include their hope for the Constitution to endure and provide stability for the new nation and not be changed on a political whim.

There was also a desire to protect the numerous compromise agreements that were reached to secure its final approval.

It is clear that our Constitution has endured with only 27 amendments in over 200 years.

This is a testament to the wisdom of the framers for which we should be grateful.

## MILLAGE

Continued from Front Page

At the Monday, March 26 City Council meeting, City Manager Paul Zelenak presented a potential 12-year road improvement plan.

### Current condition of roads

On a scale of one to 10, Linden roads were judged based on the PASER (Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating) scale in 2014. A rating of 10 is the best. Linden roads received an average of 4.9 at the time. Now, in 2018, Zelenak said the roads average a 3.3 rating. There are numerous roads between a 6-10 rating.

With certain roads, crack sealing could extend the life five to 10 years. But when roads have major cracking, they need to be reconstructed.

### Road Improvement Plan

The plan identifies the roads in the worst condition. The first plan is the Bridge Street improvement plan, which costs more than \$1 million and includes fixing the water mains beneath the road. The plan includes studying the infrastructure under the roads before any construction is done to identify any problems that need to be fixed.

The total cost estimate for the 12-year plan is nearly \$12 million, which includes rehabilitation/reconstruction, payments on current bonds and other debt, local and major road repairs and maintenance costs.

### Current funding for roads

There's a slight increase in the amount of funding the city receives for Act 51 revenues, which can only be used for roads, from roughly \$180,000 in 2008 to more than \$340,000 for the fiscal year 2018-2019. Linden also received an additional approximate \$26,000 from the state based on raising fees for registration and gas taxes.

"We talk about everything from wages and salaries for employees, equipment that can be purchased, salting the roads, patching the roads, gravel roads, signs that you see on roads, any of those sort of things," he said.

Over 12 years, Act 51 funds would bring the city a little more than \$5.3 million, Federal TAP (Transportation Alternatives Program) Grant monies would bring in \$960,000 and the city's contribution would be approximately \$1.3 million, bringing the total funded to roughly \$7.6 million.

"We'd be short \$4 million if we decided to do the road program without any additional millage from the city or any additional revenue," he said.

### Lost revenues

Zelenak said the city has lost hundreds of thousands of dollars in revenues over the past decade. Real and personal property tax revenues, which are revenues from buildings and structures within downtown, has decreased from \$1.2 million in the fiscal year 2008-2009 to just more than \$1 million for fiscal year 2018-2019. It has been increasing slowly since 2013.

Zelenak noted the taxes people pay go to the county, schools, parks, and libraries and more, not just the city of Linden.

### Millage option

Zelenak showed how much money a millage could raise. One mill would raise \$104,000 in the first year and 5 mills would raise \$520,000. Over the course of the 10 years, 5 mills would bring in more than \$5.6 million, which would make up the difference between the road improvement plan costs and current road funding.

The idea of a five-year millage did not sit well with all the councilors. Councilor

**Now, in 2018,  
the roads  
average a 3.3  
rating.**



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | HANNAH BALL

Main Street in downtown Linden is littered with big potholes. Residents frequently complain about the condition of the road, especially in front of the post office.

and Mayor Pro Tem Heather MacDermaid spoke against the idea, citing the residents who have paid for special assessment districts for their roads. She said it's not fair to fix everyone's road with a millage when a large portion of the city has already paid for their own roads with a special assessment district. She would prefer a millage that's maintenance-based.

"It's not fair, there's no equality to it," she said. She also took issue with the plan because certain subdivision and roads would be redone before others.

Clerk Lynn Henry said roughly 40 percent of Linden residents have paid for an assessment district. Zelenak said many people who have paid for assessment districts have moved out of the city. He said they can't enter into a bond

agreement because they don't have a total revenue stream.

Mayor Danielle Cusson said, "We are all not going to agree on this. We have to look at what's best for the city as a whole."

Councilor Ray Culbert said he thinks the plan needs to be "fair and equitable," and that they will lose people who will say, "I paid my assessment and now I'm paying his fair share."

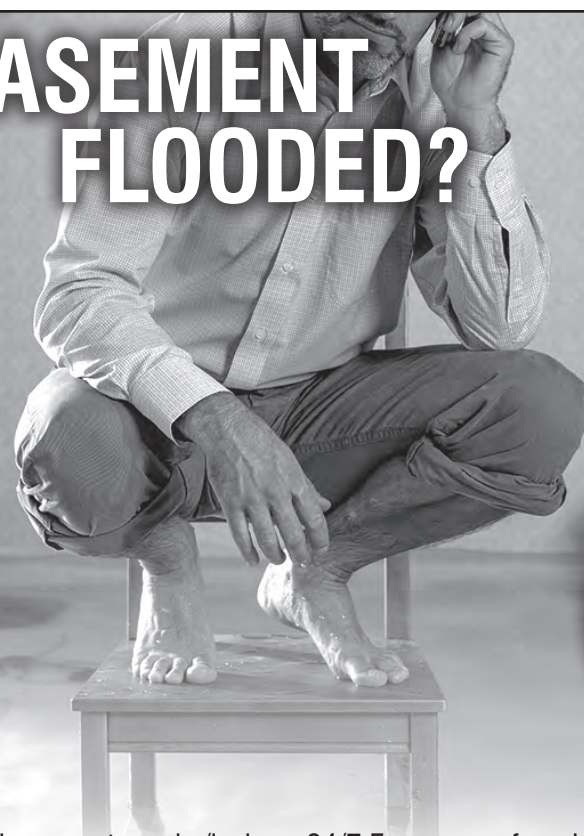
He said Linden hasn't had a millage in 37 years.

"I think 5 mills is going to be a tough nut to crack. I think a lesser rate would be more plausible," he said.

Councilor David Franz agreed with MacDermaid and said residents should have to pay their fair share.

Nothing has been decided or voted on. Zelenak said they will plan to have public hearings for a potential millage in the future.

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## The winter that just won't quit

■ Don't get excited about spring yet; below-average temps just might hold on awhile longer

By Sally Rummel

news@tctimes.com; 810-629-8282

It could be worse.

The first week of April often goes far beyond the "April showers bring May flowers" adage. This week in the tri-county area, we're looking at rain, snow, cold and wind — just about everything except warm and sunny spring-like temperatures.

ABC-TV12 Chief Meteorologist JR Kirtek isn't too surprised.

"We're used to just about everything around here, so I wouldn't call it 'wacky' as much as disappointing," he said. "We may have a few decent days from time to time, but overall, it looks like temperatures will continue to run at below-average levels for a couple more weeks," he said.

Kirtek blames this on La Niña that dominated weather conditions in the winter for the second year in a row, took the winter storm track to the south, where it continues to linger.

La Niña is the direct opposite of El Niño, and occurs when sea surface temperatures in the central Pacific Ocean drop to lower than normal levels.

"Until it moves back to the north and

stays there, we will continue to see shots of chilly air settle in from the northwest," Kirtek said.

There's a chance we'll warm up from April through June, but there's no guarantee. Kirtek said the 90-day temperature outlook for April-June calls for a 40-percent chance of above-average temperatures, a 33-percent chance of normal temperatures and a 27-percent chance that temperatures will stay below the average.

"If the 90-day forecast pans out, we'd have to have decent warming taking place for May and June," Kirtek said. "We will have to wait and see. Personally, I wouldn't be surprised to see below-average temps hold for awhile."

**“We may have a few decent days from time to time, but overall, it looks like temperatures will continue to run at below-average...”**

**JR Kirtek**  
ABC-TV12 chief meteorologist

A look at past early April weather reminds us just how fickle this month can be:

First, let's remember how we felt in March, which brought us below average tem-

peratures for most of the month. The average high is 47 degrees and the average low is 29. Our average temperature for the month was 33 degrees, according to The Weather Channel.

Average annual temperatures for April start out in the upper 40s and climb to the upper 50s in the last half of the month.

See **WINTER** on 10

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## Get your chicks, but check your zoning



**TRI-COUNTY TIMES** | TIM JAGIELO  
Locally, from now until June, there will be baby chickens, turkeys and ducks for sale, which can be used for eggs, poultry, or breeding. These birds are at Family Farm and Home on Silver Parkway in Fenton. They can also be purchased at Great Lakes Ace Hardware, formerly McKay's Do-It Center in Holly and Tractor Supply Co. To find out if backyard poultry is allowed in your neighborhood, contact your city, village or township office to ask about specific zoning and restrictions.



## TORNADOES

Continued from Page 3

To be ready for a tornado, residents should identify the lowest place to take cover during a tornado.

If a basement does not exist, find an interior hallway away from windows, doors and outside walls.

Go under something sturdy, such as a workbench or stairwell when taking shelter in the basement or designated spot.

Conduct regular tornado drills. Make sure each household member knows where to go and what to do in the event of a tornado.

Stay tuned to commercial radio or television broadcasts for news on changing weather conditions or approaching storms.

Know the difference — a Tornado Watch means conditions exist for a tornado to develop; a Tornado Warning means that a tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar.

Do not ignore the tornado sirens. In years prior, the city of Fenton's emergency warning signal would be activated if a tornado siren was sighted anywhere in Genesee County. Today, if the tornado siren in Fenton is activated — it means one has been sighted in or near Fenton, or is heading this way.

There are signs that can indicate an approaching tornado, including a dark, often greenish sky, large hail, a large, dark low-lying cloud, and a loud roar, similar to a freight train.

Develop a 72-hour emergency supply kit with essential items such as a three-day supply of water and food, a NOAA Weather Radio, important family documents and items that satisfy unique family needs, such as medicines, etc.

Also develop a family plan on how to contact one another in the event of a weather emergency.

For more information, contact the Michigan Committee for Severe Weather Awareness (MCSWA) at [www.mcswa.com](http://www.mcswa.com); telephone (517) 371-2880, or email [iim@iiminfo.org](mailto:iim@iiminfo.org).

## Lightning safety

Lightning can provide a spectacular display of light in the nighttime sky, but this awesome show of nature can also cause death and destruction. Lightning is the visible discharge of electrical energy. It is often accompanied by thunder, which is a sonic boom created by the same discharge. It is important to remember that if you hear thunder, a storm is close enough for lightning to strike you, even if the storm seems miles away and the sky is blue.

## Plan your evacuation and safety measures

At the first sign of lightning or thunder, activate your emergency plan. Lightning often precedes rain, so do not wait for the rain to begin before suspending activities. No place is absolutely safe from lightning, however, some places are much safer than others. The safest location during lightning activity is a large enclosed building. The second safest location is an enclosed metal topped vehicle, but not a convertible, bike, or other topless or soft-top vehicle.

If outdoors, get inside a suitable shelter immediately. Your only safe choice is to get to a protected building or vehicle. Avoid seeking shelter under a tree because a tree can attract lightning.

If indoors, avoid water, doors, windows, and using the telephone and headsets. Lightning could strike exterior wires, inducing shocks to inside equipment. Any item plugged into an electrical outlet may cause a hazard.

Do not resume activities until 30 minutes following the last observed lightning or thunder.

Injured persons do not carry an electrical charge and can be handled safely. If you are qualified to do so, apply first aid procedures to a lightning victim. Call 911 or send for help immediately.

Source: Michigan Committee on Severe Weather Awareness, [mcswa.com](http://mcswa.com)

## Regulators cut Consumers Energy rate increase

■ Customers will see their monthly bills decrease by 59 cents

Michigan regulators have approved a nearly \$66 million electric rate increase for Consumers Energy Co. that took effect Sunday, April 1. This is about 38 percent of what the Jackson-based utility originally sought.

The Michigan Public Service Commission said the increase approved Thursday means a residential customer using 500 kilowatt hours of electricity per month will see their monthly bills

increase by \$1.87 compared to previously approved rates.

Since Consumers Energy self-implemented a \$2.46 monthly increase in October 2017, however, customers will see their bills decrease by 59 cents.

The approved rate increase compared with the original \$173 million that Consumers sought on March 31. Consumers later lowered its request to \$148 million and on Oct. 1, 2017, self-implemented a \$130 million rate increase.

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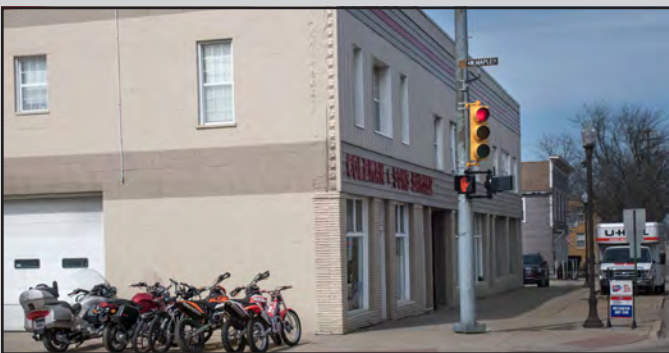
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### TRI-COUNTY TIMES

TIM JAGIELO

The building at 101 N. Saginaw St. in Holly looks unfazed by a fire, but it sustained interior damage in the upper floor.

## FIRE

Continued from Front Page

proximity to other buildings, the HFD box alarm automatically called the North Oakland County Fire Authority (NOCFA), Groveland Township Fire Department, Fenton City, and Fenton, Grand Blanc and Springfield township fire departments.

"Because it's in the commercial area, we have a heavy first response, or box alarm," McGee said. The Brandon Township Fire Department moved into Station 2 of the Groveland Township Fire Department during the operation as backup.

There are four apartment units in the building, and all the residents safely exited the building. Several motorcycles from the Coleman and Sons Garage were

moved out onto the street during the fire.

NOCFA and FFD brought ladder trucks, and were first up onto the roof to cut vent holes, while Holly and Groveland made an aggressive initial attack inside the building, followed by NOCFA and Springfield. The fire was in an apartment, hallway and top of the staircase.

The Holly Department of Public Works was present for water support, and an Oakland County brought an investigator to the scene.

McGee said it took three hours to contain the blaze. He said there is not an obvious cause. "It looked like it started in the walls," he said.

He said two of the apartments are still habitable, while the other two are not. "The crews really did a good job," he said.





New research could lead to a way to halt the brain damage triggered by amyloid plaques while Alzheimer's disease is still in its early stages, perhaps before symptoms appear.

## ALZHEIMER'S

Continued from Front Page

The findings, available in the *Journal of Clinical Investigation*, could lead to a way to halt the brain damage triggered by amyloid plaques while the disease is still in its early stages, perhaps before symptoms appear.

"Many people build up amyloid over many years, and the brain just can't get rid of it," said senior author David Holtzman, MD, the Andrew B. and Gretchen P. Jones Professor and head of the Department of Neurology. "By removing plaques, if we start early enough, we may be able to stop the changes to the brain that result in forgetfulness, confusion and cognitive decline."

The researchers tested several antibodies that recognize human APOE in mice genetically predisposed to develop amyloid plaques. The APOE genes of the mice had been replaced with a human APOE gene. The antibodies were developed in collaboration with Denali Therapeutics.

For six weeks, the mice were given weekly injections of placebo or antibodies against APOE. Then, the researchers measured the amount of plaques in their brains. One antibody—called HAE-4—cut the level of plaques by half.

Moreover, HAE-4 had no effect on APOE levels in the blood. APOE plays an important role in transporting fats and cholesterol in the body, so removing it from the bloodstream could create unwanted side effects. The failure of the antibody to lower levels of APOE in the blood was therefore a good sign. No treatment exists

to prevent or delay onset—or slow the trajectory—of Alzheimer's disease. But a few antibodies that clear plaques by targeting amyloid beta are being evaluated in clinical trials. While such antibodies are promising, they sometimes come with the side effect of inflammation and swelling in the brain.

The researchers are planning further studies to determine whether similar antibodies are safe and might be effective enough to be used in people.

Source: Washington University School of Medicine (edited for size)

**“Many people build up amyloid over many years, and the brain just can't get rid of it.”**

**David Holtzman, MD**

Andrew B. and Gretchen P. Jones professor and Department of Neurology head

## INSURANCE

Continued from Front Page

than expected claim costs, partially offset by better-than-expected investment performance. The assessment per insured vehicle represents \$161 to cover anticipated new claims and expenses, and \$31 to address a \$2.3 billion estimated deficit related to existing claims.

All auto insurance companies operating in Michigan are required to pay the assessment to the MCCA to cover the cost of Personal Injury Protection (PIP) benefits guaranteed under Michigan's no fault insurance law. PIP coverage is mandatory and provides for the payment of unlimited, lifetime medical auto insurance benefits. The cost of these benefits is reflected in the insurance premiums all Michigan policyholders pay.

The MCCA assessment is used to reimburse auto insurance companies for PIP benefits paid in excess of \$555,000 per claim. The majority of catastrophic claims involve brain and spinal cord injuries, multiple fractures, and back and neck injuries.

In 2017, the MCCA paid out \$1.2 billion (\$160 per insured vehicle) for claim costs resulting from catastrophic injuries. An independent actuarial consulting firm analyzes MCCA data and provides the MCCA with an estimate of the MCCA's cost per car for the upcoming fiscal year, as well as an estimate of any deficit or surplus in existing reserves for past claims.

The MCCA claims it currently has assets of \$20.7 billion and liabilities (present value) of \$23.0 billion, which results in an estimated deficit of \$2.3 billion (present value), or \$302 per insured vehicle.

Since its inception in 1978, the MCCA has faced steadily increasing liabilities. Costs have increased largely due to the following:

- **Michigan's unique no fault auto insurance law** provides unlimited lifetime

coverage for medical expenses resulting from auto accidents.

- **Each year an increasing number of individuals** are receiving benefits.
- **Medical care costs** continue to rise more rapidly than general inflation.

Additional information on the MCCA, including claim payment statistics, audit reports, financial statements and answers to frequently asked questions is available at the MCCA's website [www.michigancatastrophic.com](http://www.michigancatastrophic.com), and from the Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Services at <http://www.michigan.gov/difs/>.

State Rep. Joe Graves (R-District 51) said, "Michigan drivers are outraged with yet another fee increase to the Michigan Catastrophic Claims (MCCA) fund and it is time the Michigan Legislature open the books on this association."

"The board is made up of auto insurance companies who manage the fund and we continue to see auto insurance rates rise year after year," Graves said. "There is a complete lack of transparency with the association, as they have continuously refused to open their books or show us any of their assumptions."

"I have previously sponsored bills, including HB 4672 that would establish a balanced fraud authority funded by insurance company assessments and would hold all parties accountable," he said. "I believe it would be a great first step in lowering rates and I have fought for this bill for the last two terms, yet insurance lobbyists have continued to block it. I will continue to push for sensible legislation to keep drivers protected, rates low, and hold insurance companies accountable."

See things vehicle owners can do to keep insurance rates down online with this story

**“There is a complete lack of transparency with the association, as they have continuously refused to open their books or show us any of their assumptions.”**

**State Rep. Joe Graves**

R-District 51

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## Police & Fire report

### HOLLY MAN REPORTS SCRATCHES ON CAR

On March 23, Holly police responded to a home on Crescent Street to investigate a malicious destruction of property complaint, filed by a 35-year-old Holly man. The man showed the police officer scratches on the driver's side door of his Nissan Xterra. The man said he believes that his soon to be ex-wife intentionally caused the damage.

### TEEN TICKETED FOR STEALING ALLERGY PILLS

On March 28, at 10:20 a.m., Linden police responded to a call at Alpine Market in reference to a shoplifter. Store personnel observed a 19-year-old male of Linden, who they knew, walk into an aisle, open a package of allergy pills and empty the contents into his pocket. The suspect then left the store without paying for the pills. Store personnel gave the suspect's name to the officer. The officer proceeded to the suspect's house and arrested him for larceny. The suspect was issued an appearance ticket for simple larceny.

## WINTER

Continued from Page 8

Here are a few examples of April's unpredictability.

- On April 4, 2003, a severe two-day ice storm descended over southeast Michigan, resulting in an inch of accumulated ice in Oakland County, causing \$50 million in damage and half-a million people to be without power.
- On April 5, 1995, Flint experienced a record low of 13 degrees for the second consecutive day.
- On April 6, 1886, the biggest snowfall ever recorded in southeast Michigan walloped the Detroit area with 24.5 inches of wet, heavy snow in a 24-hour period. The next day, temperatures were up to 40 degrees and even climbed into the 50s later in the week.

More recently, on April 6, 2009, a late season snowfall pummeled southeast Michigan, dropping 4 to 8 inches of snow between I-94 and I-69.

The weather last year on April 4 was a high of 47 degrees, 10 mph winds and no precipitation, according to Wunderground.com.



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## Personal Notices

**HOLY SPIRIT**, who solves all problems and lights all roads so I may attain my goals. Who gives me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me. In all instances of my life you are with me. I want, in this short prayer, to thank you for all things and confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you. I wish to be with you in eternal glory. Thank you for your mercy towards me and mine. This person must say this prayer for 3 consecutive days. After 3 days the favor will be granted, even if it appears difficult. This prayer must be published immediately after the favor is granted without mentioning the favor. Only your initials should appear at the bottom. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, thank you. **ST**

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Come and see the place  
where he lay.  
— Matthew 28:6

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# Tri-county baseball teams feeling good about 2018 season

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

When it comes to spring, sports fans have one thing on their mind usually — baseball.

And when baseball and spring are linked together, another word usually is with the other two as well — optimism.

More than any other sport it seems every team has visions of great optimism the first minute the baseball season starts, and for our four area tri-county teams there seems to be reason for all of them to be excited this season.

The Fenton Tigers were Metro League

champions, and the squad does return players like David Pietryga, Logan Benson, Nolan Lawrence and Brock Henson who made that season possible.

“We got the guys to buy in last year and stop worrying about the (record) and instead got them to worry about what they can do to make us better, realizing eventually down the line we will be good.

We have 17 kids that want to build on our success from last year.”

Lake Fenton had a los-

ing record a year ago, but beat some of the GAC powers. And with seven seniors, the Blue Devils look like a team that should contend for a league title this spring.

“With this group, I know we can compete for a league title,” Lake Fenton varsity baseball coach Brad LaRowe said.

Linden has a new head coach, Tony Puente, and a lot of key players graduated, but the Eagles still have talented players like Corbin Sines and Travis Kloxek around.

“Definitely our goal is to win our league,” Puente said. “I still see us as a top two or

three team in the league. Our pitching is going to be very good and I’ll make sure our defense is excellent.”

Holly had a losing record a year ago, but the Bronchos have plenty of experienced players returning.

“I’m really excited and looking forward to this year,” Holly varsity baseball coach Benny Jackson said.

“We have a great group of guys who have been putting in the extra work to help us get right in the FLM (race).”

For more on each area squad, go to page 13 and read our team capsules.



**TRI-COUNTY TIMES** | Submitted photo

Fenton resident and Johns Hopkins women’s swimmer Sara Wujciak finished her college career with honorable mention All-American honors by taking 15th place in the 200 breaststroke in the Division III NCAA Swimming and Diving Championships, recently.

## Fenton’s Wujciak earns HM All-American honors at D3 national swim championships

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

Fenton resident and Johns Hopkins student and women’s swimmer Sara Wujciak ended her collegiate athletic career with some strong performances at the Division III NCAA Swimming and Diving Championships recently.

Wujciak competed in three events and earned a spot in the consolation finals in one of them. Her best event was the 200-breaststroke. Wujciak qualified for the consolation finals during the preliminaries with a 15th-place time of 2:20.02, over three seconds better than her seeded time. In the finals, she improved her placing and time, taking 14th in 2:22.00, earning her Honorable Mention All-America honors. It was her first All-American honor of her collegiate career.

She also competed in the 200 individual medley and in the 100 breaststroke. She came mighty close to qualifying for the 200 individual medley consolation final, taking 21st with a time of 2:05.99. She missed the 16th place position by .21 seconds. She took 24th in the 100 breaststroke preliminaries with a time of 1:04.72. That time was a personal best.

Prior to swimming at Johns Hopkins, Wujciak swam with the Fenton varsity girls swim team and the YMCA Flint Falcons at different times of her prep career.



## Hillger continues to thrive on wrestling circle

### ■LF graduate has a strong first season as a Wisconsin Badger

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

From the moment Trent Hillger entered Lake Fenton High School, his impact on the school’s athletic program was tremendous.

Almost immediately he became the school’s most talented football player and wrestler. His impact was immediate in wrestling, as he earned All-State honors at the individual state wrestling meet.

Ranked the fourth-best heavy-weight in the class of 1018 by Flow-Wrestling and The Open Mat, Hillger has left Lake Fenton for the University of Wisconsin’s wrestling program. Now, he’s starting to make an impact on the Badgers’ wrestling program as well.

Hillger just completed his redshirt freshman season, posting an impressive 21-6 record while wrestling in the 285-pound class. Hillger was pleased with his first season with the Badgers’



**TRI-COUNTY TIMES** | mark bolen

Lake Fenton graduate and current Wisconsin Badgers’ wrestler Trent Hillger (top) competes in his final wrestling match of his Lake Fenton career. He finished his first year at Wisconsin with a 21-6 record while wrestling in the 285-pound class.

Division 1 wrestling program.

“I really enjoy it,” Hillger said. “It’s awesome being around people with the same (athletic) drive I have. For most high school athletes they are kind of forced to be at practices and are there to be with their friends, so it was nice to be around people who want to work and achieve, and be the best they can be.”

Hillger couldn’t have realistically

asked for a better freshman season. He finished the year with a 21-6 record, earning seven pinfall wins. Hillger competed in all 27 matches unattached, which means while he was competing in college events, he wasn’t wrestling with the Wisconsin Badgers’ team. This is a pretty common practice in college wrestling, particularly in the heavier weights,

**See Hil lger on 13**

## Fenton Tigers open season with 4-3 victory vs. Lutheran Northwest



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

Thursday was supposed to be the Detroit Tigers’ season-opening contest.

That didn’t work out, so the Fenton Tigers took over the honor.

Fenton opened its season with a 4-3 victory against Lutheran Northwest on Thursday.

Logan Benson had a big game on the mound and at the plate. He pitched three innings, allowing no

**TRI-COUNTY TIMES** | mark bolen

Fenton’s Logan Benson chases down a ball during a past game. Benson had three hits and three RBI in the Tigers’ 4-3 win against Lutheran Northwest.

runs, three hits and no walks. He struck out two. At the plate, Benson went a perfect 3-for-3 with three RBI and two runs scored. He hit a home run among his three hits.

Spencer Rivera drove in the Tigers’ only other run, earning a hit and a walk. Brock Henson had two hits, with one being a triple. He also scored two runs.

Fenton’s pitchers combined to allow just eight hits. Henson pitched an inning while Logan Welch tossed the final three innings, earning the save.

The Tigers return to action with a doubleheader at Saline High School on April 9, starting at 11 a.m.



## 2018 Baseball previews

### LaKe FeNToN BLue devi Ls

**Coach:** Brad LaRowe

**Last year:** 13-16 overall, lost to Powers in district semifinal.

**graduated all T-C players:** Jack Babbitt.

**summary:** The Blue Devils have seven seniors among their 13 players, so the squad should be reasonably experienced this spring.

Bryson Nugent returns for a third season, and will play third. He'll also pitch. Brenden Carr batted fourth and will play in the outfield. He also pitches. Andy Lyons is another senior with great experience and should pitch and play at first. Junior Hunter Scramm could end up being the team's ace on the mound. When he's not pitching, he'll probably play in the outfield. Cody Schramm is expected to play at shortstop. Also returning is Luke Tomczyk who will play in the outfield. Senior Andrew VanVeelen (infield) and junior Cameron MacNeill (catcher) also return.

Two sophomores will make their debuts on the varsity — Ben Schulze and Cam Williams. Both will be utility players and will pitch.

**Coach LaRowe says:** "We have some really good pitching depth and we have a lot of seniors. This is a close tight-knit group of kids as well."

**Projection:** The Blue Devils should improve on last year's record. Don't be surprised if they contend for a conference title either.

Bryson  
Nugent

### Ho Lly BRo NCHos

**Coach:** Benny Jackson

**Last year:** 9-24 overall, 3-11 in Metro. Lost to Milford in district semifinal.

**summary:** Holly experienced a rebuilding season a year ago, but this year should be different as eight players return. Among those returning is shortstop/pitcher four-year senior player D.J. Tennis. Three-year players JD Landis (pitcher/first base) and Johnny Peck (catcher/third) also return. Two other seniors returning are outfielders Grant Tooley and Daylin McConaughy. Wyatt Scribner returns, but has a shoulder injury.

Juniors Aaron Lochitski (third/catcher/pitcher), Trey Ridgeway (second/outfield/pitcher) and Garrett VanGilder (infield/pitcher) also are returning players. Sophomores Ben Grammer and Brenden Kreft will make their varsity debuts. Others on the team include juniors Jack DeVries, Joe O'Connor, Jacob Bridgewater, Cheyne Perry and Mike Bednarczyk.

**Coach Jackson says:** "I'm really excited and looking forward to this year. We have a great group of guys who have been putting in the extra work to help us get right in the FML. Practices have been going good so far, lots of hard work by all of them."

**Projection:** The Bronchos should be improved. Trying to get on the positive side of .500 would be a solid goal.

### HILLGER

Continued from Page 12

where more mature 22- and 23-year olds typically dominate the national spotlight. Wrestling unattached allowed him to get valuable experience while wrestling college competition his freshman year and still maintaining four years of athletic eligibility.

His college career started reasonably well. He won three of his first four matches at the Michigan State University Open. However, then he hit a rough patch, going 6-5 in his next three tournaments. He ended the 2017 portion of the wrestling season at 9-6, still looking for his first pinfall victory. However, he was wrestling quality competition. Among his losses, one was against two previous national champions at various levels, and two past Division I NCAA national tournament qualifiers.

At the beginning of the season, I want to say I struggled a bit, but I was still happy with my performances," Hillger said. "At the beginning of the year, I was not used to losing, but everyone I wrestled were national champs or people who qualified for nationals last year. In high school, I'd wrestled one to two good athletes a year, but in college everyone is the best of the best in their state. Getting used to wrestling that type of competition seven minutes every match was a change. I had to get used to that skill level."

When the wrestling season turned to 2018, Hillger was ready, never losing another match. He started by earning three victories at the Pat Flanagan Open, earning his first pinfall win against Iowa State's Nick Nolting in 4:30. He fol-



### The Hillger File

Trent Hillger ranks among the greatest wrestlers in Blue Devils' history, and now has had a strong start to his college career. Here's a quick look at his credentials.

#### Lake Fenton Blue devils

- Three time individual state champion
- Four time All-State wrestler
- 241-8 prep record, including three straight undefeated seasons

#### Wisconsin Badgers

- 21-6 record during his freshman season wrestling at 285
- Won his last 12 matches, seven by pinfall

lowed that success with four wins at the Willie Myers Open, earning all four victories with pinfall wins. Three of them were first-round pinfall wins. He capped his season with four more wins at the Blugold Open, earning two pinfall wins at that tournament as well.

### FeNToN Tige Rs

**Coach:** Shawn Lawrence

**Last year:** 27-9 overall, 13-1 in Metro. Metro champs. Lost to Hartland in district final.

**graduated all T-C players:** Troy Smigielski (Player of the Year), Chase Coselman.

**Returning all T-C players:** Logan Benson, David Pietryga.

**summary:** The Tigers had an outstanding Metro League championship season a year ago. Some have graduated, but some really good players remain.

Jared Ryan and Logan Benson will share the catching duties while David Pietryga returns at first. Nolan Lawrence, Logan Welch and Trent Degayner will see time in the middle infield spots. Eythan Fulton will play

third. In the outfield, Brock Henson, Benson and Tommy Adams will get ample playing time.

The pitching staff includes Peitryga, Henson, Brian Casey and Benson. It's a deep staff as there are seven other pitchers on staff including Graham Staib, Ryan Adams, Degayner and Brendan Alvord.

**Coach Lawrence says:** "The kids are very competitive. If you get complacent or relax, someone else is usually there to take your spot on the team, so the competition is good. It's something we haven't had in a couple of years."

**Projection:** The Tigers should be among the teams in the Metro chase again. Who knows. Maybe they'll defend their title.

### LiNde N eag Les

**Coach:** Tony Puente

**Last year:** 23-14 overall, 9-4 in the Metro League. Lost to Goodrich in district semifinal.

**graduated all T-C players:** Lucas Marshall, Aaron Sarkon, Jack Shore, Jamon Link, Brendan Buerkel.

**Returning all T-C players:** Corbin Sines.

**summary:** The Eagles lost a lot of strong seniors and have a new head coach with Tony Puente at the helm.

The Eagles have plenty of pitchers, starting with Travis Klocek. Others poised to pitch many innings are Johnny Miller, Jeff Metzger and Braden Banasiak.

Around the infield, Luke Kenney

and Carson Mabe will catch while Nick Koan will be at first. Zach Horst (second), Parker Mabe (shortstop) and Drake McLaughlin (third) will be good bets to play infield roles. In the outfield, Sines returns while Hunter Babcock, Blake Smiecinski and Richard Linn will see playing time.

**Coach Puente says:** "I think we have an amazing group of talent. I'm pleased with their work ethic and their willingness to learn new things."

**Projection:** The Eagles should be an upper-half Metro squad, but how high they will finish in the standings remains a mystery. There are plenty of new faces, including at the coaching position.

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Do not feel uncomfortable if you or the family member becomes emotional or begins to cry. Allowing the family to grieve is a natural healing process. However, if you find yourself becoming extremely upset, it would be kinder to excuse yourself so as not to increase the strain on the family.

Source: thefuneralsource.org



### William Frederick Butts, Sr.

1954-2018

William Frederick Butts, Sr. - age 63, of Holly, passed away April 1, 2018. William was born in Holly to Glen and Shirley Butts on May 30, 1954. He attended Holly High School and graduated in 1972. He went on to join Grand Trunk Railroad in 1976 where he started out as a switchman, and worked his way through the ranks and held the positions of brakeman, conductor and engineer. He held the position of engineer until retirement in 2014. He loved spending time with his family and working on the family farm, and especially loved his John Deere tractors. He was preceded in death by parents, Glen and Shirley Butts. William, or "Pop" as he was called by all of his kids and grandchildren is survived by wife, Shirley Ann Butts; children, Peggy and Norman Dawson, Jim and Christa Bondeson, Geni Bondeson-Claus and Marc Prevost, Bill Jr. and Vickie Butts, Jason and MariSara Butts, Jeff and Jamie Butts; along with 14 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren; siblings, (Sis) Lynn Echhoff and late husband John Echhoff, Leonard and Lynda Thompson Butts, Joseph and Ruth Marsden-Butts, Jeff Butts, Marjorie VanWagoner, Jody and Dave Piscopink, Melissa Butts, Carrie Miller, Dave and Lesley Butts and numerous nieces and nephews. Visitation will be from 2-5 PM Wednesday, April 4, 2018 at the Dryer Funeral Home, Holly. [www.dryerfuneralhomeholly.com](http://www.dryerfuneralhomeholly.com).

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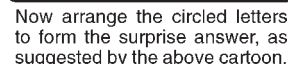
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For the week of  
April 2, 2018

Pisces, don't be afraid to go off on your own this week. Sometimes you need some time to think for yourself to get into a zone.

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



## Level: Intermediate

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# Microchips Bring Major Changes to Hearing Care

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