To all who are complaining about car insurance rates, you just voted for a pawn of the Bernstein family by electing Gretchen Whitmer. Hope all you Democrats enjoy paying outrageous car insurance bills for the next four years. Get your heads out of your (blank)."

One of the reasons for an increase in suicide is that we’re not teaching personal responsibility, not teaching young people that life is just one problem after another that has to be dealt with. Get rid of safe spaces and making excuses for failure. We have to learn to fail and learn from failure.

We are our own worst enemy. Quit electing the same corrupt, inept fools to rule over us. They are only interested in power, prestige and pensions. Pelosi is an idiot, McConnell is senile, yet we re-elect them over and over. Wake up and vote intelligently. We are our own worst enemy.

Bills would remove ability to charge 17-year-olds as adults

Includes police chases, SWAT work, shootings and close calls over 19 years as a deputy

Mueller recaps rewarding, but dangerous police career

Proposed roundabout at North and Torrey roads hotly debated

Hundreds of comments posted on Times Facebook

By Vera Hogan

While no one disputes the fact that something needs to be done to improve traffic flow and safety at the North Road and Torrey Road intersection in Fenton — it’s the method of improvement that has come up for public debate. On Monday, Dec. 10, the Fenton City Council voted to adopt a resolution supporting the addition of a roundabout at the North and Torrey roads intersection. The article, “Fenton could see its first roundabout at North and Torrey roads” was posted at myfenton.com and the Times’ Facebook page early Tuesday (Dec. 11) afternoon, and in the Dec. 12 Midweek print edition.

Less than 48 hours after posting it on Facebook, nearly 55,000 people were reached and there were more than 400 comments by people wishing to weigh in on this matter.

Nearly all of those commenting agree that something needs to be done at that intersection, but they are divided over

See ROUNDBOUGHT on 15A

Clark “The Juggler” Lewis balances 10 folding chairs on his face on Sunday, Dec. 9, the last day of the Holly Dickens Festival. See story on Page 7A. Photo: Tim Jagielo

Our area has high profile cases involving teens charged as adults

By Tim Jagielo

The tri-county area has no shortage of teenagers charged with serious crimes.

A 2015 incident included comments on social media that suggested a school shooting could happen in Linden. The case involved several teens.

Abdurrahman “Abdu” Ahmed Akl, 17 has been charged with open murder for the shooting

See 17-YEAR-OLDS on 12A

Abdu Akl, 17, sits with assistant attorney Scott Bigger during a preliminary exam at the 67th District Court in Flint on Monday, May 7. Times video still

Mike Mueller survived a dangerous incident on his last day as a sheriff’s deputy with minor injuries and a dirty uniform, on Wednesday Nov. 28.

Times file photo

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Mike Mueller’s career as a sheriff’s deputy began with violence and ended in violence, but fortunately not tragedy.

Representative-elect Mueller (R-Fenton Township) is retiring after 19 years to become a state representative for the 51st district, replacing term-limited Joe Graves.

His police career began in March

See MUELLER on 14A

Mike Mueller survived a dangerous incident on his last day as a sheriff’s deputy with minor injuries and a dirty uniform, on Wednesday Nov. 28. Times file photo

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"Teachers have nothing to do with kids failing or intentionally hurting themselves. This is all dependent on the parents. Time to grow up and accept your responsibility. You have to be responsible for what you reproduce. No amount of coddling or safe spaces or trained dogs can replace this."

"One of the reasons for an increase in suicide is that we’re not teaching personal responsibility, not teaching young people that life is just one problem after another. Get rid of safe spaces and making excuses for failure. We have to learn to fail and learn from failure."

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Walk-out Ranch in River Oaks Hollow. 1940 sq ft home with 3 bedrooms 3 baths. Attached 3 car garage. MUCH drywalled area, cement floor. Partially finished peaceful setting for you and your family! Enjoy walking around, with beautiful views of the lake from inside.

Great Location! Brick ranch with 3 bedrooms 3 full bathroom. Spending sunny afternoons under the mature shade trees or cozying up next to the fireplace with a good book. This home is move-in ready!

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Call Janie Cary 248-820-8316

Call Jaime Howells 810-429-2942

Call Penny Hall 810-515-6010

5 ACRE LOT!

1 ACRE LOT!
Grocery sticker shock?

U.S. Department of Agriculture: No matter what we put into our grocery carts, we still spend less

By Sally Rummel

Your grocery bags seem to be getting smaller while your grocery bills keep getting larger.

If you’re frustrated by the high price of grocery shopping, especially this time of year when you’re feeding guests at your holiday table, you might be interested to know that some food prices have actually decreased in price in 2018, including fats and oils, pork, non-alcoholic beverages, dairy and processed fruits and vegetables.

Even with prices increasing for beef and veal, poultry, fish and seafood, eggs and fresh fruits and vegetables, overall grocery prices this year are still lower than they were three years ago, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Locally, according to a spokesperson from Spartan-Nash, parent company of VG’s Grocery, food prices follow these national trends, although many of their stores’ grocery department items have gone down in price. SpartanNash has lowered its private label, “Our Family” line, to be more competitive in the local market.

“We are purchasing more food for less money.”

Annette Clauson

Processed fruits and vegetables cost less than in the past. Certain grocery items actually cost less to purchase today. Processed fruits and vegetables cost less than in the past.

By Tim Jagielo

Flags around the country are still at half-staff for President George H.W. Bush, who died Nov. 30. He was 94.

Lowered flags aren’t the only local sign of the 41st President of the United States of America — several framed photographs are hanging at the Holly Hotel from his visit on Sept. 27, 1992.

The memory remains fresh in the mind of owner George Kutlenios, who still speaks with excitement of the 90-minute dinner, and the 10 days of preparation before. “There were so many different facets to that visit,” he said. People still ask him about it, especially lately.

Kutlenios was 40 at the time, and when his manager told him by phone that the Republican National Committee (RNC) Bush re-election campaign train was stopping in Holly for dinner.
Come Heller high water...

- The state House, as part of its ridiculous lame-dukkry flurry of nonsense, just passed a bill giving A-F letter grades to schools, which is stupid (what else would we expect from the House?). Rich districts will get great grades, poor districts will get worse ones, and then politicians will jump all over the poor districts to "reform" them. Honest to gosh, I don’t see why any one puts up with being a teacher these days. Hey, maybe we should grade state government. See how they like it.

- Is there some kind of never-ending super virus going around? I have had the same violent head cold since before Thanksgiving, Me! The guy who never gets sick! Please tell me you have it, too, or I’m going to start feeling … mortal.

- The only good thing to come from this cold is it’s convinced me to get a flu shot. If a cold can be this bad then I sure as heck don’t want the flu. Illnesses these days seem a lot like the weather — much more extreme than they used to be.

- Michael Cohen deserved what he got. But I do feel bad for his kids. They’re adults but it still can’t be easy listening to their dad confess to major crimes. I hope the media leave them alone. Of course they won’t.

- About the only thing that smells better than a real Christmas tree is coffee. Both would be on my list of Best Five Smells, along with baking bread, onions and garlic sautéing and lake breezes.

- I’m surprised anyone who lives around here was surprised by GM’s announcement of plants closing, layoffs and buyouts. This is who they are, who everybody in the car business is: boom, bust, hire a bunch, fire a bunch, rinse and repeat. This is who they are, who everybody in the car business is: boom, bust, hire a bunch, fire a bunch, rinse and repeat.

- I’ve seen the same creepy ads on numerous news websites. They’re the ones on the sidebar that say “sponsored by Taboola” that pretend to be a trashy news story that say a celebrity “lives with his partner in this gorgeous mansion.” Pre-internet, you’d never seen news organizations accepting that kind of trash. I mass standards.

- I get why the HopCat brewpubs are renaming their Crack Fries. But I bet that’s what custom- always call them, anyway. They haven’t announced a new name so I will humbly submit “Irresistifries.” (Hey, I’m not deaf. I hear you scoffing. Let’s hear yours then.)

- My Christmas favorites in no particular order: Song: Elvis’s “Blue Christmas”; Movie: “Christmas Story” (I was the kid whose mom overdressed him so much I couldn’t get up if I fell down); Tree: Scotch pine; Cookie: Gingerbread (c’mon, is there any other?); Moment: Christmas Eve, after everyone’s gone to bed, I sit and stare at the tree lights, intentionally fuzzing my vision so the colors elongate. (It’s weird, I know); Feeling: Watching the kids, even though they’re all in college now, open their gifts; Breakfast: Mom’s egg and potato casserole.

- Pot smoking may be legal in Michigan now but I bet the stigma doesn’t change. “We are better throughout the year for having, in spirit, become a child again at Christmas time.” — Laura Ingalls Wilder

- I drive past the Speedway gas station on Owen Highway in Flint that has gas that is 20-30 cents per gallon cheaper. Why is this?

THE PROBLEM WITH electing a two-term president is that they basically retire when they have less than two years left in their second term. Bush basically quit for the last two years. Never elect a president for two terms — never.

FOR GENERATIONS, THE career path for smart kids was to get a degree and be hired by an automaker or parts supplier. You had a job for life. Now that once-reliable route to prosperity appears to be vanishing, as evidenced by General Motors’ plans to shed 8,000 white-collar jobs on top of 6,000 blue-collar ones.

FOR THE PERSON supporting U of M football because they held MSU scoreless for three quarters is like rewarding someone for getting the highest score of all that failed.

IT SHOULD BE pointed out to people who join in class action lawsuits. Please remember that you may get a tiny fraction of your expense but the lawyers will get millions and there’s a good chance that the company will go bankrupt, even if it is a good company.

TO THE INDIVIDUAL who wants the lame duck Republicans to go home and let the Democrats in control of the house take over. Can we expect them to do something for the people who elected them or are they going to spend all their time trying to obstruct and limit Trump?

I FEEL the problem with the younger generation is they feel entitled, lack of personal responsibility and lack of integrity as well as no work ethic.

NEARLY EVERY DAY I drive past the Speedway gas station on Owen Road to see a Speedway on Dort Highway in Flint that has gas that is 20-30 cents per gallon cheaper. Why is this?

IF THE DEMOCRATS want some of their great intellectuals why don’t they run their super smart Ocasio-Cortez for president? Then we’ll see their true colors.

TO THE INDIVIDUAL who wants me to look after someone else’s offspring if we ban abortion. Do you think that our country was made great by personal responsibility?

I KNOW WHY my immigrant parents were proud Democrats, because it was the party of, and for, the worker. Today it becomes the party of those who think they are entitled.

THAT ‘SHOP WITH A Hero’ program sounds fantastic. How weird it would be if someone be able to donate toward it?

IT ISN’T VERY logical to think that doing away with Michigan’s bottle/can deposit system will make recycling more profitable, since we only recycle 15 percent of recyclables now. The change will result in more materials going into landfills or littering the countryside as before the deposit law.

RIP, MR. REINFELDER. You were my first-grade teacher at West Shore Elementary. You were the best.

What are your thoughts on a roundabout in Fenton?

"They put one in Swartz Creek and everyone over there loves it because it frees up traffic. Four-way stops are time consuming; I think it’s a great idea."

Luane Fickes
Linden

"I don’t like them, I think they would cause more accidents."

Colleen Keller
Holly Township

"If everybody uses them efficiently, they’re really effective."

Paulina Heslanger
Holly

"I use the roundabout in Brighton. I haven’t had any issues with it. It’s nice as long as it’s used correctly."

Karen Whiting
Hartland Township

"I don’t mind it. If it makes traffic go quicker then I love it."

Steve Acton
Fenton Township

Compiled by Gracie Warda, intern
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Safe &
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Stop in today for some great food!

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THE GOURMET PIZZA

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6A Sunday, December 16, 2018 myfenton.com

WHAT YOU MISSED IN THE MIDWEEK TIMES

Compiled by Vera Hogan

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Mayor is only Fenton City Council member not in favor of the concept.

Linden prohibits marijuana establishments
Decision can be reversed on future ballot.

Female deaths involving alcohol almost always cited
Study shows an increase of 85 percent between 2007 and 2017.

Linden Folliks raise more than $5,000
Teachers and staff put on humorous skits to raise money for local charities.

A look back at 1968
Fifty years ago, The Beach Boys recorded one of convicted killer Charles Manson’s songs.

Murder for a good cause
Roaring ’20s murder mystery raises $5,000 for Holly’s Shop with a Cop.

Holiday Happening a big hit in Linden
Annual Christmas event attracts more than 6,000 people to downtown.

Our Future
Meet Samuel Selley, a senior at Lake Fenton High School.

Sections of Hickory and Rolston could be repaved
Linden City Council applies for federal grant money

By Hannah Ball
Linden — Linden voted unanimously to apply for federal funding to pave a portion of Hickory Street and Rolston Road.

At the Monday, Dec. 10 meeting, Interim City Manager Scott Sutter, who’s also the police chief, said the project would rehabilitate E. Hickory Street, from S. Bridge Street to E. Broad Street and E. Rolston Road, from N. Bridge Street to Ripley Road.

The city would pay $265,100, which is 20 percent of the total cost of the project. The rest would be paid for by federal grants.

“This is not a guarantee that these roads will be chosen for this federal grant money. It’s a grant application process,” said Councilor Brad Dick.

GROW with us!
Dort Federal Credit Union is excited to be opening a new branch in your community. To celebrate we’re offering a special Certificate when you visit our new branch!

7% APY* Certificate offer:
- $1,000 minimum/maximum
- One Certificate per Social Security Number*

Certificate dividend rate bumps to 11% APY* if the member opens a Boo$T Checking account along with their certificate!

HOT LINE CONTINUED

THE 1992 PRESIDENTIAL election had three candidates — Bush, Clinton and Perot. Twenty percent of the votes went to Perot, which most likely would have gone to Bush. We ended up with Clinton and Monica. Bush would have won that election if it weren’t for Perot running to help Clinton.

THANK YOU TO whoever found my nice glove in the parking lot at Lucky’s and turned them in to their lost and found basket. I went there the next day and got it back.

A HOT-LINER ALREADY blaming the not-even-in-office Democrats for GM? Re-publicans control everything and have for years, but of course, it’s the Democrats?

THANK YOU TO the nice young lady who let me go in front of her at the Dollar General in Fenton on Monday around 3:30 p.m. I have a bad back and I really appreciate your kindness.

ANYONE WITH HALF a brain would realize that since Chrysler is wholly owned by Fiat, an Italian corporation, Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, and RAM owners send the majority of their money to Italy. Don’t buy Chrysler. Am I right?

A TRAFFIC CIRCLE on North Road is a great idea. If you have trouble using them, you shouldn’t be driving at all.

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Dickens Fest wraps a successful season

Still several holiday events to come

By Tim Jagielo

Holly — Performer Clark Lewis of Freeport can never remember how heavy 10 chairs feel stacked on his face and towering over him. He’s just worried about keeping them all balanced on his chin.

On Sunday, Dec. 9, the 45th annual Holly Dickens Festival ended with the best weather of the three-week festival run.

The first two weekends were rained in. George Kullis, festival director, estimated approximately 12,000 people visited over the three-week period. It’s usually closer to 20,000, but he said the rain suppressed the numbers.

Lewis, known as “The Juggler,” performed during the last few hours of the festival, drawing a large audience circle around him. The chair stunt was his more dramatic act, but also included comedy, sword swallowing and contact juggling.

The festival schedule included stage, and Battle Alley entertainment all day.

Such entertainment is part of the ongoing improvements to the festival. Kullis said that the quality and quantity of the street performers has improved greatly as businesses like The Holly Vault raised funds to support it.

Part of the entertainment was the Holly High School Main Street Show Choir. Kullis said he’d like to attract more school choirs not only from Holly, but also Fenton and Linden to perform at the festival. “I think that’s part of the local flavor that this festival has,” he said.

This is Kullis’ fifth year as director, and 2018 marks the fifth year of his plan, with his 40-person committee to grow the festival. He said the well-meaning but inexperienced community volunteers over the past five years have become experts in their own areas, such as the lighted parade, sound system and entertainment tent.

There hasn’t been a debriefing meeting yet, but planned improvements include better parking, and shuffling employees and volunteers to the event, freeing up space for the up to 20,000 visitors that come through the festival.

He said he has five pages of festival critique notes. “I think we’ve accomplished a lot … we’re still climbing,” he said. “There are areas that need improvement, which we can fine tune and fix. I don’t think you ever stop changing. That’s what keeps people coming back.”

More holiday fun

While the local festivals have concluded, there are several more regional events in which to partake.

Jesus Walk is an annual event, held at the Tyrone Covenant Presbyterian Church at 10235 White Lake Road, Fenton (Tyrone Township).

The Jesus Walk is a lighted stroll through the woods, with various stations with actors portraying Old Testament prophets, the live nativity scene and Christmas in the modern day.

It runs from 5 to 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 15, and Sunday, Dec. 16. It’s free and includes snacks and live Christmas music.

Trail of Lights 2018 is held in Davison Township. This features a quarter-mile walk through the woods on a crushed limestone path. There is Christmas music, and “a crazy amount of lights,” said Corey Clark, Davison Township recreation coordinator.

It costs $1 per person, and runs from 5 to 9 p.m. on each day they’re open. Anyone can walk on Dec. 15, 16 and 21-24 and Dec. 28 and 29. Trail of Lights is located at the R. Williams Nature & Historical Learning Center, 10069 E. Atherton Rd., Davison.

Crossroads Village & Huckleberry Railroad is a holiday staple of Genesee County. It’s open Dec. 14-16, 20-23, 26-30. It’s open from 4 to 9 p.m. on event nights. Tickets are $11 for adults 13-59, with senior and children discounts. Children 2 and under are free. It’s located at 6140 Bray Rd., Flint.

The village is a stroll through history. According to the Genesee County Parks website, “You’ll find costumed villagers, live entertainment, model trains and craft demonstrations, holiday music and, of course, visits with Santa himself.”

Drive-through-only nights are Dec. 17 and 24, at $5 per car, from 5 to 9 p.m.
National charities advertised on TV rate high in accountability and transparency

By Vera Hogan

Why do charities advertising on TV all ask for your donation of $19 a month? There are several opinions involving that magic amount, but according to one National Public Radio (NPR) volunteer (quora.com), Melissa Baker, it’s a classic sales gimmick — $19 sounds better, and is less than $20.

“Most people will balk at being asked right out for $20,” she said. “If approached for $19 and all you have is a 20, will you give just the $19 and ask for the $1 change back? Probably not, as generous people will give the entire 20 and tell them to ‘keep the change.’”

Locally, the TV commercials being repeatedly aired this holiday season are because people are more charitable this time of year. It is, after all, the season for giving. But unless you have unlimited personal resources, one or two $19 a month commitments are about all you can fit into your budget.

All of the TV spots tug at your heartstrings, but which one do you choose? They all offer some sort of token of their appreciation, from a T-shirt to cuddly blankets.

ASPCA

This ad narrated by singer Sarah McLachlan features a host of shivering cats and dogs needing assistance. It’s the big sad eyes that get you every time. Founded in 1866, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) was the first humane organization established in the Americas, and today has more than one million supportersthroughout North America. The ASPCA’s mission is to provide effective means for the prevention of cruelty to animals throughout the United States. The ASPCA provides local and national leadership in animal-assisted therapy, animal behavior, animal poison control, anti-cruelty, humane education, legislative services, and shelter outreach. The New York City headquarters houses a full-service, accredited animal hospital, adoption center, and mobile clinic outreach program. The Humane Law Enforcement department enforces New York’s animal cruelty laws.

According to charitynavigator.org, out of 100, this charity rates 97 for accountability and transparency. For more information, visit www.aspca.org.

ST. JUDE CHILDREN’S RESEARCH HOSPITAL

ST. JUDE’S ALSAC (American Lebanese Syrian Associated Charities) was founded in 1957 and exists for the sole purpose of raising funds to support the operating and maintenance of St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. The mission of St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital is to find cures for children with cancer and other catastrophic diseases through research and treatment. It is supported primarily by donations raised by ALSAC. Research efforts are directed at understanding the molecular, genetic and chemical bases of catastrophic diseases in children; identifying cures for such diseases; and preventing their prevention. Research is focused specifically on cancers, some acquired and inherited immunodeficiencies, sickle cell disease, infectious diseases and genetic disorders. Families never pay for St. Jude’s services and their research is shared around the world.

According to charitynavigator.org, out of 100, this charity rates 100 for accountability and transparency. For more information, visit www.stjude.org.

SHRINERS HOSPITALS FOR CHILDREN

If you’ve seen this TV commercial, you have to love Alex because he is, quite simply “adorable!” Inside Shriners Hospitals for Children, patients and families say thank you to the Shriners International fraternity — the men in the red fezzes. Its model for care was imagined by the Shriners, the fraternal organization that established the hospital system.

The Shriners opened their first hospital in Shreveport, Louisiana in 1922. Polio was reaching epidemic proportions and Shriners Hospitals for Children opened as a place where children suffering from the crippling effects of polio received life-changing medical care. Clubfoot and other orthopedic conditions were also widespread and children could receive state-of-the-art treatment.

Recognized as one of the world’s greatest philanthropies, Shriners Hospitals for Children has evolved into an international hospital system recognized for its devotion to transforming the lives of children through expert care and research. Shriners Hospitals for Children is a destination of choice for parents whose children have orthopedic conditions, burns, spinal cord injuries, cleft lip or palate, or other complex surgical needs. All children receive care regardless of the families’ ability to pay.

According to charitynavigator.org, out of 100, this charity rates 100 for accountability and transparency. For more information visit www.shrinershospitalsforchildren.org.

MORE INFORMATION

Comprehensive information regarding all charities can be found at www.charitynavigator.org.
Abby Rhoades

• Fitness competitor
• Mother of two
• Dog rescuer

By Hannah Ball

Abby Rhoades of Fenton grew up in Kinston, North Carolina and attended North Lenoir High School. She now lives locally and stays active. Rhoades has taught pilates for 17 years, and also teaches Zumba, dance and more. She has three adopted Pit Bulls, who were either abused or neglected.

Tell me about your family.

I have two wonderful boys who are 21 and 20 years old. I believe they both graduated from Fenton High School. My oldest is in the service and is a full-time college student at Central Michigan University. My youngest is busy building homes and working with contractors. In his spare time he does modeling for local businesses. Landis was just in the On The Town Magazine.

What jobs do you have?

I’m a full-time massage therapist and real estate agent. I love helping people every step of the way in regards to their health and finding them their perfect home. I also teach Zumba, Boot Camp, Buti Yoga, pilates, and dance at Genesys Athletic Club.

Tell me about your hobbies.

I love culture, cosmetics and cuisine. I enjoy traveling and eating different healthy cuisine. I have 120 cookbooks. I’m also a book collector. I love to read.

What are you involved in around the community?

I’m involved in the Fenton Rotary and every year I host the Roast Your Rump event in Genesee County. I created this event seven years ago. Every year we have over 150 people who come out and do Zumba for 90 minutes. The cost of the event is a breakfast cereal donation and the donation is then collected by the Eastern Michigan Food Bank. Every year we raise 1,000 pounds of cereal. Local businesses team up with me and together this event always turns out to be a huge success.

I am the proudest of this event because it’s my baby and the founder gives me such a warm and happy feeling to help the children of Genesee County. No greater cause.

What motivated you to become a fitness/bikini competitor?

It is very different from bodybuilding. A bikini competitor works more on her overall fitness rather than lifting weights. Body definition is important but it is more about overall fitness and wellness. Yes, it is also about hair, makeup and presentation.

What kind of comments do you get when people learn you’re a bodybuilder?

When people find out I’m a bikini competitor they think it is cool and amazing. I usually help a lot of women with nutrition and exercise questions immediately after a show.

What’s something about you many people don’t know?

Most people do not know I’m a major homebody and reading books is my favorite pastime. If you wrote an autobiography, what would it be called?

I am working on my first autobiography right now. It is the hardest endeavor ever. The title is tattooed on my right foot, but I can only reveal the title after publication.

What’s your favorite food?

My favorite food is Peanut M&Ms.

Would you live on Mars if you had the chance?

I would not live on Mars if I had the chance.
HOT LINE CONTINUED

REST IN PEACE my little beagle Mylo. At 11 months, some heartless jerk ran you over and stole your life. You were simply ‘beagling.’ And yes, I am so very sorry for not noticing fast enough that you slipped out the gate. God bless you Mylo, love mom and dad.

SO FENTON DOESN’T want tax money from legal marijuana shops but is begging for tax money to fix the roads?! I am very happy I voted against that proposal.

HOPE THE GUY who drives the black Ram on Davison Road every morning is right with the Lord the way he drives and speeds. It’s only a matter of time before your card is punched.

THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION wants to reclassify some radioactive waste left from the production of nuclear weapons to lower its threat level and make disposal cheaper and easier.

READING THE COMMENTS in the Hot line brings this thought to mind. One-half of the world will never understand the other half and it doesn’t matter which half you’re in.

AMERICA NEEDS TO enact a law requiring presidential candidates to disclose their tax returns before they can run for president.

I’M A CASUALTY of GM’s bankruptcy, after 17 years. I now work for American Honda, here in Michigan. With more than 10 plants and 31,000 employees. Corporate Honda profits some, just like GM makes money in other countries too. It doesn’t all go to Japan.

PROPOSED ROUNDBOUDT ON North Road. No, no, no! Would be great if people knew how to use them. Traffic is heavy enough in that area to warrant a light. Roundabouts are great for low flow from certain directions. That doesn’t apply to Torrey/North Road intersection.

WOW, TRUMP TELLS Democrats he will gladly shut down the government if funding isn’t provided by the U.S. for his wall that he said hundreds of times that Mexico was going to pay for.

MICHIGAN VOTES

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

MichiganVotes.org is a free, non-partisan website created by the Mackinac Center for Public Policy to provide concise, non-partisan, plain English descriptions of every bill and vote in the Michigan House and Senate. This report was released Friday, Dec. 7.

House Bill 6269: Take over federal coal ash permit program
To provide for assumption by the state of a federal permit program for coal ash disposal and landfills. The bill proposes many revisions to a comprehensive state environmental regulatory regime to accommodate this proposal. This would align state law and regulations with provisions of a 2015 federal law, and largely resolves an ongoing controversy on addressing this issue. Passed 103 to 3 in the House Rep. Joe Graves (R-Dist. 51) Rep. Hank Vaupel (R-Dist. 47)

House Bill 6465: Adopt Coast Guard ballast water discharge permit standards
To adopt the U.S. Coast Guard standards for ballast water discharges from ocean-going vessels. Michigan adopted its own permit requirement and standards in 2006, which was before the Coast Guard finalized theirs in 2012, and the bill would make compliance with the federal rules sufficient to get the state permit, which would still be required. Passed 80 to 28 in the House Rep. Joe Graves (R-Dist. 51) Rep. Hank Vaupel (R-Dist. 47)

Senate Bill 1175: Initiated paid leave law ‘re-do’
To revise the initiated law enacted in September 2018, which imposed an employee paid leave mandate on employers. The original version of this law was brought to the legislature by a petition drive, and would have granted workers one hour of paid leave for every 30 hours worked, up to a maximum of 72 hours a year. The revised version mandates one hour of leave for every 35 hours worked, with an annual paid leave cap of 40 hours. Firms with 50 or fewer workers would be exempt. The revised version also removes provisions that would impose extensive record keeping requirements on employers, with a potential legal presumption that incomplete records means an employer has violated the law. The Senate has concurred with these changes and sent the bill to the Governor for approval. Passed 60 to 48 in the House Rep. Joe Graves (R-Dist. 51) Rep. Hank Vaupel (R-Dist. 47)

View stories at myfenton.com
By Hannah Ball

With the weather outside cold and snowy, and the sun setting before many get home from work, staying in and watching movies is a favorite holiday season activity.

Whether it’s an action movie or a Christmas movie, viewers have many options when it comes to what to watch.

In theaters

“Mary, Queen of Scots” opened in theaters Friday Dec. 7. Saoirse Ronan plays Mary who tries to overthrow her cousin, Elizabeth I, and is set in the late '80s, when Bumblee is on the run from the government.

On Wednesday, Dec. 19, “Mary Poppins Returns” premieres, starring Emily Blunt and Lin-Manuel Miranda. This sequel follows one of the most iconic movie characters of all time.

On Friday, Dec. 21, movie goers can see “Bumblee,” a spinoff from the Transformers movies. It stars Hailee Steinfeld and is set in the late '80s, when Bumblee is on the run from the government.

On Sunday, Dec. 23, “Christmas Made to Order” will star Hailee Steinfeld as a holiday coordinator recruited by a man to bring the Christmas spirit to his family.

On Tuesday, Dec. 25, viewers can see “When Calls the Heart Christmas,” a Christmas special based on the series “When Calls the Heart,” about a woman who lives in a turn of the century coal town after her husband dies in a mining explosion.

On Saturday, Dec. 29, “A Midnight Kiss” will play. With only one week to prepare, a party planner enlists the help of a stranger to pull off an event. She didn’t plan on falling in love in the process.

On your own TV

Along with around-the-clock Christmas-themed programs, Hallmark is premiering 22 new Christmas movies this holiday season. They started running Oct. 27 with the premiere of “Christmas at Pemberley Manor,” and the last movie, “A Midnight Kiss,” will show Saturday, Dec. 29 at 8 p.m. New movies premiere at 8 p.m.

On Saturday, Dec. 29, “A Midnight Kiss” will play. With only one week to prepare, a party planner enlists the help of a stranger to pull off an event. She didn’t plan on falling in love in the process.

From Christmas movies to big blockbusters, there’s plenty of entertainment

On Sunday, Dec. 23, “Christmas Made to Order” will start at 8 p.m., with the story about a holiday coordinator recruited by a man to bring the Christmas spirit to his family.

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Source: hallmarkchannel.com, esquire.com, moviefone.com

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<th>Highest grossing Christmas movies</th>
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<td>9. <em>Four Christmases</em> (2008): $120.15 million</td>
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The Meeting Place, casual dining for all

Start your weekend off right with The Meeting Place, casual dining for all

Serving Brunch/Lunch/Dinner all day

3600 OWEN RD. FENTON  |  810-354-8881
Continued from Front Page

Death of Brady Alan Morris in March of 2017.

In Michigan, 17-year-olds are automatically charged as adults.

Under a package of 21 bills that just passed the Michigan House Law and Justice Committee, 17-year-olds would not be charged as adults for most offenses, excluding capital offenses, such as murder. They would simply be placed in the juvenile justice system instead.

Akl, 17, of Fenton Township, would still be charged as an adult.

There is no companion Senate bill, and it may not reach a floor vote before this session of congress ends, said Rep. Joe Graves (R-51st district.) The bill would dissipate at the end of the year and have to be restarted.

As a member of the Law and Justice Committee, Graves was one of two who voted “no.” He said after researching similar laws passed in other states, it seemed like a “feel good” solution that actually created more problems where it was enacted.

He spoke with 7th Circuit Court Judge John Gadola about the topic.

Graves said he’d rather focus on the 17-year-olds as having a separate set of needs. He said that if they stay with 18-year-olds, they received better supervision at all times, and wouldn’t be placed with children.

He would rather take a segment of teens, and group 16-, 17- and 18-year-olds together, separated from older adults and children. “The push back for many years has been the funding,” he said.

Graves is pushing back against a floor vote on this package of bills. He said there are 21 bills because so many other laws are impacted by the change.
Pros and cons of senior discounts

Should elderly be able to pay less because they are — elderly?

By Vera Hogan

If you’re 65 or older, the chances of getting a senior discount anywhere you go is highly likely. If you’re lucky, you can find some places that give a discount at 50, and even more of a discount at ages 55 and 60.

As a reward for aging, senior citizens pay less for just about everything. They get discounts generally all over the place — if they remember to ask for it.

If you’re a hardworking young person, you may be wondering — why not me?

The idea that seniors are a group in need of help and protection dates back to the 1930s, when America’s senior citizens were disproportionately poor and affected by the Depression wipping out everyone’s savings. In 1935, President Roosevelt passed the Social Security Act, which gave federal assistance to the elderly. This became the norm. Aid to seniors increased over time, in particular with the creation of Medicare in 1965 and the passage of an amendment indexing Social Security to cost of living increases and creating an additional Supplemental Security Income for seniors in 1972.

Restaurants, in particular, are famous for offering a 10-percent discount to senior citizens, and seniors respond in kind by giving them all their business.

Some people who qualify for senior discounts don’t ask for them. They don’t see the justification for giving a group of people a discount just because they’re still breathing.

Seniors aren’t the poorest among us anymore. According to federal safetynet.net.com, poverty rates as of September of this year are:

- Adults not working — 31 percent
- Single moms — 26 percent
- Adults with a disability — 25 percent
- Adults without a high school diploma — 25 percent
- Black Americans — 21 percent
- Foreign born non-citizens — 19 percent

ASK FIRST, BUT SENIORS CAN USUALLY GET A DISCOUNT ON:
- Shopping (i.e. clothing stores, etc.)
- Mortgage
- Credit card debit payoff plan
- Groceries
- Membership to Senior Discounts Club
- Special mortgage programs
- Home repairs
- Car insurance
- Life insurance
- Medical bills
- Dining out
- Energy bills
- Cruise discounts and perks
- Auto warranty extension
- Hotels
- Movies
- Home security systems
- National parks entry and tours
- Massages
- Amusement parks
- Health insurance
- Public transportation
- Cell phone plans
- Flights
- Museums

According to an article in the Huff-ington Post, “Seniors will tell you how discounts are a way of honoring or showing respect. The reality is, however, that a 10-percent discount does not show a lot of honor and respect, when a better way to do that may be to fund Medicare to the level where it would pay for some of the things most seniors actually need — eyeglasses, hearing assistance, and dental work? And if we really respected their age and the wisdom that presumably comes with it, why aren’t we hiring more of them instead of making them feel unwelcome in the workplace and telling them how they aren’t a good cultural fit?”

See DISCOUNT on 21A
Continued from Front Page

of 2000, as a 25-year-old Washtenaw County sheriff’s deputy. “I’ve always been service-oriented,” he said, adding he’s a Navy veteran. “I always wanted to do something that was different every day, not the monotony of sitting in an office. You’re challenged every day with different scenarios.”

On his first day on the job, he had to draw his service sidearm — something that some officers will never do in their entire career. He said the incident involved a stolen vehicle at an apartment complex. This may have set the tone for his career, which included Washtenaw and Livingston counties and joining elite SWAT teams on both.

He’s seen arsons, tortures, a triple homicide, more than 20 car chases, bank robberies, and he also responded to the Matthew Carrier car crash, which killed five.

Carrier was charged after a traffic crash at M-59 and Argentine Road in Oceola Township on May 9, 2017 that resulted in the deaths of five people and serious injury to two others.

As a deputy, he worked an entire career on second or third shifts. The last shift of his career was noon to midnight in Tyrone Township, where he found himself fighting for his life less than a month ago, Thursday, Nov. 29.

“I don’t want to die the day before I’m supposed to be done,” he thought to himself as he struggled with the driver of a vehicle who had crashed following a police chase.

The scariest thing about a physical altercation is that whether he planned to use his gun, it is still at risk of being taken by the other person.

“I grabbed onto my gun so he couldn’t get it, and took the hits,” Mueller said. “That’s all you can do.” The man left Mueller tried to steal his car. Mueller ended up Tasing him, and received backup from the Michigan State Police.

Mueller’s wife Angi told him, “I was at Hobby Lobby while you were at a fight with Mueller and tried to bite him. Mueller shot him. The man ended up recovering, and even wrote Mueller a letter of apology. He went on to become a social worker.

The incident, however, affected Mueller, and his family. He worked in the courts for a while as he recovered.

“It changes you,” he said. “(The suspect) was a veteran, I was a veteran, it had psychological effects on both of us.” The incident initiated a difficult chapter in his life. It put stress on his family. Through it, he became a big supporter of mental health services, not only for the officers involved, but also their families.

He worked for Livingston County from 2005 until last month. He also worked at Mueller’s Orchard, helping his father, Charlie Mueller.

Mueller has received several specific awards for multiple incidents and was deputy of the year for 2016 and 2017. He also received a police purple heart.

“If you can change one person’s life in your career, you did your job,” he said. For him, it was seeing a 12-year-old girl taken by child protective services from a “challenging” home. Mueller had visited the home for several incidents when she was present, and she didn’t like Mueller at the time.

The girl eventually went on to live with grandparents and is planning to go to a university summer camp for law enforcement. She said her decision was inspired by Mueller. “That means more to me than any award I can possibly get,” he said.

Mueller survived his eventual police career with minor injuries. He said family and friends are relieved he’s transitioning to a safer role as a representative. He’s now preparing for that role by going to conferences and orientations for the legislature.

“Mike’s a people person; he is also one of those people that will listen,” said Livingston County Sheriff Mike Murphy, who worked with Mueller for 13 years.

“The people will have his ear … that’s how he was as a deputy, it’s going to be quite a transition for him,” Murphy said. Mueller agrees that it will be a challenge, but hopes to leverage his mediation experience as a legislator. He will take office on Jan 1, 2019.
Motorists use the intersection of Torrey and North roads, which is crash prone and will likely end up with a roundabout.

about safety at the current intersection also involves access for deliveries along with vehicles towing boats and trailers with the traffic signal option. "Cormier stated a roundabout would be a plus," said Public Works Director Dan Czarnecki in a memo to City Manager Lynn Markland. On Wednesday, Doug Smith, owner of Smitty’s Exit 80, said of the coming roundabout, “I absolutely love it.”

A traffic signal would require the closure of one of Matt & Terry’s entrances and one of Exit 80’s. “Those entrances are where all the delivery trucks go,” he said. “There’s no space to go straight through.” Smith said he is looking forward to the spring startup of the road improvement project, but realizes some underground work needs to be done along North Road first.

“It’s gonna be a lot better than it is now,” Smith said.

Lisa Reading owns Beale Street BBQ with her father Phil Canup. “I’m sure it will be safer but I’m worried about having construction right in front of us,” she said. “I don’t mind them (roundabouts), but I’m not sure if that’s what we need. Just a simple light would work.”

Reading said her father hates roundabouts. “He would totally not want a roundabout right there,” she said.

What is a roundabout?

A roundabout is a circular intersection design. While some people use the term “roundabouts” and “traffic circles” interchangeably, they are not the same thing. Roundabouts are typically smaller than traffic circles, and drivers must yield to vehicles already in the roundabout before entering. According to the Michigan Department of Transportation, roundabouts have been proven to safely decrease traffic delays and congestion. When selected and designed correctly, roundabouts can handle a high volume of traffic, including commercial trucks and large emergency vehicles.

Continued from Front Page

Motorists use the intersection of Torrey and North roads, which is crash prone and will likely end up with a roundabout.
he thought it was a joke from his practical joker staff. During his first meeting with Secret Service, he knew it was real. “It was pretty overwhelming; I had no idea what to do or expect,” he said. “I was a nervous wreck.”

He would close the restaurant down, and feed the entire campaign entourage, which included Bush, his wife Barbara and others including then Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney, Gov. John Engler, the media pool, the Secret Service and White House team. It added up to 40 people, and a lot of time and stress.

One week before that memorable dinner, a Secret Service agent moved into the restaurant, staying there on-site until after the dinner. They also poured over structural records of the building. They vetted the menu, and every one of the staff members he selected to work that day. “It was extremely involved,” he said, but added the Secret Service was great to work with.

They surveyed and inspected the building and maintained 12-hour shifts there for a week before the dinner, to make sure it stayed safe for the event.

The White House staff reviewed the menu, which Kutlenios custom tailored to the event. It was an all-Michigan menu with Michigan wine, asparagus, potatoes, morel mushrooms and beef.

The staff and community volunteers scrubbed the building from top to bottom. They laundered the drapes and rented exquisite China and bought fresh-cut flowers. “We wanted everything to shine,” he said. “My staff was amazing, they didn’t want to leave, they wanted to get everything perfect. The preparation was extremely exciting, the countdown was great.”

Kutlenios researched Barbara Bush’s favorite art, and managed to get original Richard Turner pastel paintings on loan from the Detroit Institute of Art, just for that event, which surprised the first lady. Kutlenios let her know they were on loan. Prior to the president’s arrival, the White House chef checked the menu, and replaced the salt and pepper with the kind Bush was used to, along with his favorite coffee sweetener.

The day of the event, the restaurant was filled with the campaign entourage, White House team, the Secret Service, reporters and the restaurant staff. Downtown Holly was also closed, with a thousand people waiting to watch Bush and company walk from the train to the restaurant.

After 10 full days of preparation, the dinner itself was only about 90 minutes, but the best time might have been the 15-minute face-to-face visit with Mr. and Mrs. Bush.

Kutlenios was nervous, but “within seconds, they made me feel like they’ve known me for years,” he said.

They shared stories with him about people they’ve met, their grandkids and how they sneak out of the White House with one Secret Service agent to enjoy their favorite restaurants. “They were just honest genuine people that made everyone in their presence feel extremely comfortable,” he said.

They went over the allotted time and the Secret Service had to move them along. Before leaving, Barbara Bush wanted to greet and thank each of the kitchen staff members personally, with no press photographers in sight. “These people were beside themselves,” he said.

Kutlenios estimates that he spent up to $8,000 on the meal and preparation, which was not covered in total by the budget the RNC offered. He said the money wasn’t important.
Come to Jesus as you are
Celebrating Christmas Together

Christmas Eve Service
December 24th @ 7:00 P.M.

St. John the Evangelist Catholic Parish
600 N. Adelaide, Fenton

COME SHARE HIS LIGHT!

Christmas Eve Service
December 24th @ 7:00 P.M.

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Fenton
(just north of Chase Bank)
810-629-7332
www.fentonTLC.org

Christmas @ CENTRAL
Christmas EVE CANDLELIGHT Service
DECEMBER 24 @ 6 PM

Central Church
1261 W. Bristle Rd. Flint, MI 48507
centralflintma.com
facebook.com/flintcentralchurch

Join us for our Annual CHRISTMAS CONCERT
featuring Central Church’s Worship Arts Ministry
CHOIR & ORCHESTRA
HANDBELL CHOIR
CHILDREN’S CHOIRS

December 16 @ 6 PM

Merry Christmas

Christmas Eve
GATHERINGS

Lake Fenton High School
NOON | 2PM
Still shopping for the perfect gift?

Here are some gift ideas in every price range to help you wrap up your Christmas

By Sally Rummel

The busiest shopping day of the year is the Saturday before Christmas, which this year is on Saturday, Dec. 22.

The busiest shopping day of the year is the Saturday before Christmas, which this year is on Saturday, Dec. 22.

Under $25

This price range can take you in many different directions, from fun to functional. Think about:

• Christmas ornaments personalized to your family or friend’s interests, hobbies, travel destinations, etc.
• Select a book or a calendar that is thoughtful, personal or humorous.
• Make a print of a favorite photo with you and that special person you’re gifting. Buy a frame and you have a gift that will be a meaningful memory for both of you.
• Buy a double-insulated Tervis Tumbler or water bottle that can easily be personalized by hobbies, colleges, pets, etc.
• For the coffee lover in your life, buy a JOCO 12 oz. glass reusable coffee cup, so he or she can save the planet from another Styrofoam cup.
• Buy a gift certificate for a favorite fast casual restaurant in town, wrapped with a mug, tee or other item that represents the restaurant.
• Buy locally crafted wines, beers or food items for your favorite foodies.
• Scarves, gloves, hats in this year’s popular buffalo plaid or other hot colors are a perfect seasonal gift.

Under $50

• Up your gift recipient’s dining expectations with a $50 or more restaurant gift card.
• Buy a frame and you have a gift that will fit in both of you.
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Online browsing can ruin Christmas surprises

Try these simple steps to stop recently searched gift ideas from popping up on your computer

By Hannah Ball

Online shopping, or even searching online for gift ideas, can ruin the surprise of tearing open a present on Christmas Day.

This is because targeted advertising, which is when your browser remembers what you searched for and then shows you ads based on that. If you’re shopping for new boots for your partner, the surprise could be spoiled if they use the computer after you and see ad after ad for boots.

Targeted advertising has existed on the internet since the late 1990s. It wasn’t until the early 2000s that companies began using information like browsing history to show ads specific to that individual. If you’re planning a vacation and search travel destinations, you’ll see more ads for travel agents, airlines and destination spots on sites unrelated to that subject, like Facebook or a news source.

In 2012, the Pew Internet and American Life Project found that 59 percent of internet users were aware of targeted advertising while online. That number is higher now. While this practice can be helpful, it can also be harmful.

How to stop seeing targeted ads:

Google Support has an information page on blocking certain ads. If you use Google as a browser, the first step is going to the Ad Settings page. You can Google “Ad Settings” and the page should pop up.

It will tell you whether personalization is on or off. On this page, you can scroll down to see what interests Google tagged you with. It will tell you your age, gender, what kind of movies you watch and more. It includes topics like dogs, fashion, comedy films, fitness, education and dozens more.

Instead of turning all of ad personalization off, you can choose to turn off ads from specific advertisers. If you want to hide that you’re getting a specific brand of boots but the brand keeps popping up in ads, you can block that advertiser. If you turn all of ad personalization off, you won’t be able to turn off specific advertisers.

Once you switch the toggle to off, you will not see any more personalized ads. This will affect the sites that partner with Google to show ads. See BROWSEING on 21A

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DEC. 18
1958: The musical film "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang" opens in New York City. The movie featured Dick Van Dyke, who had made a splash four years before in the Disney musical "Mary Poppins," whose eponymous TV show had been a hit since 1961. Its real star, however, was Chitty Chitty Bang Bang herself, a magical flying car that always knew how to save the day.

DEC. 21
1958: Pan Am Flight 103 from London to New York explodes in midair over Lockerbie, Scotland, killing all 243 passengers and 16 crew members aboard, as well as 11 Lockerbie residents on the ground. A bomb hidden inside an audio cassette player detonated in the cargo area when the plane was at an altitude of 31,000 feet. The disaster, which became the subject of Britain's largest criminal investigation, was believed to be an attack against the United States. One hundred eighty nine of the victims were American.

DEC. 22
1958: baby gorilla named Colo enters the world at the Columbus Zoo in Ohio, becoming the first-ever gorilla born in captivity. Weighing in at approximately 4 pounds, Colo, a western lowland gorilla whose name was a combination of Columbus and Ohio, was the daughter of Mike and Mac, two gorillas captured in French Cameroun, Africa, who were brought to the Columbus Zoo in 1951. Source: history.com

GROCERY
Continued from Page 3A
surprised to note that a five-pound bag of flour costs about $2.32, almost the same as it did 10 years ago. Surging up slightly, however, were prices for five pounds compared to $2.65 a decade ago.

You’re likely paying less for chicken breasts, milk and eggs than you did 10 years ago while your ground chuck, sirloin steak and bacon prices are up between 40 and 60 percent in that 10-year period.

The average share of per capita income spent on food fell from 17.5 percent in 1960 to 9.9 percent in 2016. “We are purchasing more food for less money,” said Annette Clau- son, an agricultural economist with the USDA.

Depiction of your food dollar is on the low-right now, amounting to only 1.37 percent for the first 10 months of 2018. Food inflation only rose .9 percent in 2017, compared to its peak at 6.4 percent in 2008.

Between the years 2000 and 2016, the average American household’s annual grocery bill grew less than 40 percent, from $5,158 to $7,203.

Here’s how some other grocery prices stack up from 10, 20 and 30 years ago:

10 years ago - 2008
U.S. retail food prices at the super- market rose 4.6 percent, the larg- est single-year increase since 1984. Food prices skyrocketed worldwide, according to the global financial crisis re- sulting in part, from a subprime mortgage crisis in the U.S. A five-pound bag of flour showed the largest price increase, up 69 cents to $2.39. Other price increases in- cluded: cheddar cheese, up 61 cents to $4.71 per pound; large eggs, up 55 cents to $2.16; white bread, up 16 cents to $1.78; 5-pound bag of Russet potatoes, up 18 cents to $2.74; ground chuck, up 4 cents to $2.73 per pound. Bacon stayed the same in price, at $3.35 per pound.

Items that decreased in price were whole milk, down 10 cents to $3.81 per gallon; pork chops, down 8 cents to $3.31 per pound, 9-ounce box of toasted oat cereal, down 8 cents to $2.97 and sirloin tip roast, down 5 cents to $3.80 per pound.

Other statistics:
Average household income: $52,029
Gas: $3.27 per gallon
Average price of a new house: $320,900
Average price of a new car: $27,704
Average cost of smartphone: Apple iPhone 3G: $199-$299
Average cost of a computer: MacBook Air $1,599

10 years ago - 1998
Looking back at grocery prices from two decades ago may have you long for the goody days, when eggs were just $1.09 a dozen, ground chuck was just $1.82, a loaf of bread cost $1.26 and ground coffee was only $3.70 per pound. Whole milk was $2.86 a gallon.

Other statistics:
Average household income: $38,568
Gas: $1.06 per gallon
Average price of a new house: $152,500
Average price of a new car: $17,700
Average cost of a cell phone: $900
Average cost of a computer: iMac $1,299

30 years ago - 1968
Food inflation caused a rise in prices at the grocery store, including a 6.1 percent increase in milk.

A dozen eggs would cost you about 65 cents, a pound of pork chops would add up to 40 cents. You’d pay about $2.30 for a gallon of milk and about $2.88 per pound for ground beef.

Other statistics:
Average household income: $27,225
Gas: $1.08 per gallon
Average price of a new house: $141,300
Average price of a new car: $7,000
Average cost of a cell phone: $2,300
Motorola DynaTAK
Average cost of a computer: NeXT Cube $6,500

Sources: American Farm Bureau Federation Market Basket Survey, Thaepha/Statist. Com, Census.gov

Looking back at grocery prices from two decades ago may have you long for the good ol’ days, when eggs were just $1.09 a dozen, ground chuck was just $1.82, a loaf of bread cost $1.26 and ground coffee was only $3.70 per pound. Whole milk was $2.86 a gallon.

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Sources: American Farm Bureau Federation Market Basket Survey, Thaepha/Statist. Com, Census.gov
BROWSING
Continued from Page 19A

Turn off cookies or use browser plug-ins

Another way to block these ads are to block cookies, which is what helps collect the information on your internet and browsing habits. In Google Chrome browser, go to the Tools menu and click on clear browsing data. The option you see will let you delete cookies and other site and plug-in data, including information stored on your device by Adobe Flash Player.

This also works for Safari or Internet Explorer. You can also install a browser plug-in that helps you maintain your preferences if you want to see better personalized ads. Mozilla has a Firefox browser called Facebook Container, which helps control how much data the company can see. This isolates your Facebook information from the rest of the web so your actions on Facebook do not affect ads you see elsewhere.

Turn off targeted Facebook ads

If you don’t want to see targeted ads on Facebook or see Facebook ads on other sites, go to “settings” on your page and click “ads.” Click “ads based on my use of websites and apps” and press the “choose setting” button. Turn it off.

You’ll still see ads on Facebook, but not any personalized to you.

Other information

Google records all of your activity online on all of your devices unless you turn it off and delete the history. If you Google “my activity,” the browser will take you to a page that lists all of your activity online for your accounts if you use your Google account on that device.

Source: computerhowstwors.com, support.google.com, globaunews.ca

HOT LINE CONTINUED

FOUR STATES THAT say burning coal will hurt their residents because it makes climate change worse are trying to stop the Trump administration in federal court from selling vast reserves of the fuel that are beneath public lands.

THE STABILITY OF our nation is based on peaceful and lawful transition of power. Today’s political rivalries seem intractable. Neither party is authorized to ignore the will of the people or to change the rules of governing to maintain power.

WITH PFAS CONTAMINATES wide-spread in Michigan’s groundwater and countless species losing their habitat, the governor must veto Sen. Tom Casperson’s bill to remove protections from 70,000 acres of Michigan’s wetlands.

COME ON GOVERNOR, do the right thing. Veto. Think about the will of the electorate as well as your place in Michigan’s history.

TO PROTECT OUR children, our state legislature needs to enact a statewide drinking standard that is based on leading science. The MDEQ is currently using the EPA’s non-enforceable, advisory-only limit of 70 parts per trillion (ppt) to determine whether drinking water is safe for our children. This limit is far too high.

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**Fenton wrestlers push win streak to eight matches**

By David Troppens

The Fenton varsity wrestling team is among the hottest squads in the tri-county area during the early portion of the winter season. The team remained hot on Wednesday, crushing two Lansing-area schools during a double-dual. The Tigers defeated Lansing Sexton 57-16 and then beat East Lansing 66-16. The wins improve the Tigers to 8-1 during the early portion of the wrestling season. The team opened the season with a competitive loss to Montrose but since then have reeled off eight straight wins, pleasing Fenton varsity wrestling coach Brad Beverly.

“We have, in fact, started strong, probably the best since I been here,” Beverly said. “I credit that to the hard work our wrestlers put in everyday led by captains Jayden Rittenbury, Dalton Wagner, and Mario Ramirez. The team comes to work every day and every t’s time to compete, they show up.”

The Tigers certainly showed up on Wednesday. Eight wrestlers earned 2-0 marks on the night with five earning two pinfall victories. No one had a more dominant performance than Rittenbury (145), who pinned his two foes in a combined 38 seconds, including earning a fall in nine seconds against East Lansing’s Anthony Mitchell.

**CONTINUED AT MYFENTON.COM**

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**Eagles soar to top of Metro standings, beat Creek**

By David Troppens

**Miller scores 18, leading team to second Metro victory**

**Linden**

Brenden Miller understands what it takes for a group of players to become a good varsity boys basketball team.

“Honestly, it’s been the practices,” said the Linden junior guard “Every day we think, ‘We are Linden’ and want to be a championship team and to play like that you have to practice and play good basketball. So we focus on that and try to play good basketball.”

The Eagles played outstanding offensive basketball at home against Swartz Creek on Tuesday. Linden hit on 30-58 shots and turned the ball over just six times in a 70-55 victory against the defending co-Metro League champion Swartz Creek Dragons.

“It is a big win because Swartz Creek was a powerhouse last year and we fell short against them,” Miller said. “This year was our revenge. We want to keep going forward and want to win the title.”

The Eagles’ offense was outstanding from the opening minute of the contest. Linden, led by Miller’s eight first-quarter points, hit 10-of-17 shots in the first eight minutes and took a 21-8 lead into the second quarter. From there, the Dragons, who also played reasonably well on offense, had to fight to stay within shouting distance of the Eagles the rest of the game. Typically, the Eagles led by about 10 to 15 points — close enough for the Dragons to feel like they were just a run within the lead, but far enough that the Eagles never let Swartz Creek threaten the lead.

The closest Swartz Creek got in the second quarter was 21-13 on a driving layup by Taquavious Humphries with 6:40 left until halftime, but Blake Lund hit a 15-footer and then a three-pointer, raising the gap back to 26-17. A Lund assist on a driving hoop by Miller at the halftime buzzer gave the Eagles a 36-23 halftime lead.

**CONTINUED AT MYFENTON.COM**

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**LF boys work 2OT to earn first victory**

By David Troppens

Brian McNerney sees that his Lake Fenton boys basketball team is improving.

On Monday the Blue Devils got some concrete evidence of some of that improvement, earning a thrilling 78-74 double-overtime victory against Atherton.

“The team is improving quite a bit,” McNerney said. “They are coming together and are believing in the system. I think they are gaining confidence with their penetration and realizing the inside presence creates everything. Not that we lacked that earlier, but we didn’t know who was going to fulfill that role. Matt Turgeon has been coming on strong.”

The Blue Devils (1-3) were in a tight battle throughout the contest, with neither team ever leading by more than two at a quarter break. Turgeon had a huge offensive game, netting a team-high 21 points. Meanwhile, Cody Schramm had 14 points, Hunter Schramm netted 13 points and sophomore Collin Wade netted 10 points. Ben Schulze hit three three-pointers, netting nine points.

“Ben had three three-pointers at key times, helping put us in a winnable situation,” McNerney said. “It was really nice seeing contributions across the board.”

**CONTINUED AT MYFENTON.COM**

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**Blue Devils heat up offensively, beat Milford**

By David Troppens

The Lake Fenton varsity girls basketball team displayed some pretty good offense against Milford Tuesday night.

The Blue Devils scored at least 14 points in every quarter, cruised to a 63-34 victory against Milford.

The defense also was pretty good, as Milford (0-3) never managed more than 11 points in any quarter. Lake Fenton (2-1) took a quick 15-7 lead in the first quarter, and spent the rest of the game building upon that lead. Lake Fenton won the second quarter 14-11, taking a 29-18 lead at halftime.

The Blue Devils had their best quarter in the third stanza, outscoring Milford 19-10. That put Lake Fenton up 48-28, effectively ending the competitive phase of the contest. The Blue Devils played their best defense in the fourth quarter anyway, allowing just six points during the final eight minutes.

Katelyn Siebert led the Blue Devils with 16 points.

**CONTINUED AT MYFENTON.COM**

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**Fugate scores 1,000th point of career, Holly beats Owosso**

By Dale M. Smith

Holly — Stop the press.

The Holly varsity girls basketball team may need a Presidential pardon. What they did on Tuesday night at the Horse-shoe was nothing less than a felony as they stole their way to any easy win over the visiting Owosso Trojans, 56-31.

Both teams started a little slow and were beset by bad passes and poor looks at the basket. But led by senior sensation Rebecca Fugate, the Lady Bronchos quickly found their way out of the early struggles. Fugate scored Holly’s first seven points as the Bronchos moved out to a 7-2 lead after the first. The Bronchos led 16-5 after the first eight minutes with Fugate notching 12 of those points and helping her teammates garner 10 steals. Holly had 23 steals for the game.

Holly upped its lead to 27-7 less than two minutes into the second quarter as another Fugate basket gave her 1,000 for her Holly career. The Bronchos’ full court press was setting the tone on both ends of the floor. Holly led 36-17 at the break.

Fugate’s long three-pointer made it 43-23 with still 4:52 left in the third quarter. Both teams then substituted freely and Fugate did not play at all in the fourth quarter. She still finished the night with 30 points, five steals and four rebounds.

Talking about her career at Holly, Fugate said, “It’s been awesome. I’ve had great girls to play with. I was really looking forward to playing with this group of girls because it’s all about work hard and hustle. We’re a team.”

The talented guard just signed to play next year with Wayne State. Fugate has good reason to be pleased with her teammates as several Bronchos had good games as well.

**CONTINUED AT MYFENTON.COM**

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**Holly’s Rebecca Fugate drives the bucket to the basket in the Eagles’ 70-55 victory against Swartz Creek, Tuesday. Miller scored a game-high 19 points. Photo: Mark Bolen**

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**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2018 | WWW.MYFENTON.COM/SPORTS**
**Bronchos play stronger, earn win vs. Owosso**

By David Troppens

The Holly varsity boys basketball team has steadily progressed with each game. However, with each contest, the team was still looking for their first win despite their progress.

That trend changed a little bit on Tuesday. The Bronchos improved again against the Owosso Trojans, but this time they got their first victory of the season, earning a 40-35 win.

“I’m just happy for the kids,” said Holly varsity boys basketball coach Joe Merlo. “It’s a big change and cultural change for them, and to get a win by doing the right things is important. It’s important for our kids and important for the program. They deserve it.”

The contest was always defensive in nature. The Bronchos trailed 5-0 early, but scored the final eight points of the first quarter, taking an 8-5 lead into the second period.

Ben Gramer had a four-point play, sparking the run. The run continued into the second half as Holly pushed its lead to 11-5. The Bronchos led at halftime 19-13.

Owosso cut the gap to 29-25 after three quarters and tried to cut into the gap into the fourth. Owosso cut the gap to one when Sam Roose made a three-pointer late in the fourth quarter, but Holly’s Daniel Mathews responded with a trey of his own. From that point, Mathews went 4-for-4 at the charity stripe, icing Holly’s first win.

**CONTINUED AT MYFENTON.COM**

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**Tigers learn fourth-quarter lessons, beat Brandon, 56-54**

By David Troppens

Basketball seasons are full of lessons. Fenton varsity boys basketball coach Chad Logan thinks his team may have learned a few over the last week.

On Dec. 7, the Fenton Tigers played a tight contest at Swartz Creek, but lost 66-63. On Tuesday night, the Tigers were at home against Brandon and Fenton saw themselves in another tight battle. This time the Tigers made enough defensive stops down the stretch, resulting in a 56-54 victory against Brandon.

The key play down the stretch didn’t come on the offensive side. It was a defensive play by Jacob Boulay. Boulay blocked a last-second shot that kept Brandon from tying the game and forcing overtime.

“It was a hard-fought game and I think Friday’s game may have helped us hold off Brandon on Tuesday,” Logan said. “In our first three games we didn’t have a lot of pressure-packed situations and our first was against Swartz Creek. I think we learned a little bit from it. We didn’t execute great, but if we made a mistake on offense or defense, we were clean enough on the other side of the court and didn’t compound our mistakes.

These close games could become the norm in the Metro League. Eight games into the season, five of the games were decided by five points or less with every team but Linden finding themselves in at least one tight game.

“We check scores all the time and it seems like the league could be pretty balanced,” Logan said. “You better be ready to play on a Tuesday night or on the road. Time will tell, but from what I can gather from the scores, it seems to be a balanced league early on.”

**CONTINUED AT MYFENTON.COM**

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**Online Exclusives**

Holly swimmers earn first victory of season

The Holly varsity boys swim team lost a tight dual about a week ago, so apparently the squad wanted to make sure that didn’t happen again against Carman-Ainsworth.

The Bronchos assured that wouldn’t happen by crushing the Cavaliers 120-38, Tuesday.

The Bronchos enjoyed eight first-place finishes with Drew Hignite and Logan Molzahn earning two individual firsts each.
Offers valid date posted through December 23, 2018. Cannot be combined with any other offers. Must mention ad at time of purchase. See dealer for complete details.

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