## **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 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.

of improvement that has come up for 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 ROUNDABOUT on 15A



PAGE 13A THE PROS **AND CONS OF SENIOR DISCOUNTS** 



# VeekendTimes

### Look ma, no hands...



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

### TEXT YOUR HOT LINE 810-771-TEXT



### **LE 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 respon-

sible for what you reproduce. No amount of coddling or safe spaces or trained dogs can replace this."

**66** 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."

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

■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

### Mueller recaps rewarding, but dangerous police career

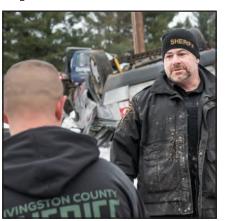
■Includes police chases, SWAT work, shootings and close calls over 19 years as a deputy

### By Tim Jagielo

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



### COMMENT OF THE WEEK

**LL** 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.

**LE 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).

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3 bedroom, 2 full bath home sitting on a beautiful 5 acre lot. Eat in kitchen, large living room and a florida room off the front of the house. 30x48 pole barn for the handy man or for extra

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820 Silver Lake

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#### **FENTON**

10360 Fenton Rd

Nice ranch located in the Lake Fenton School District with almost 4 acres. 44 x 32 Large pole barn with furnace in half with cement floors, two large overhead doors.

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#### **FENTON**

15125 Eddy Lake Rd

Great Location! Brick ranch with 3 bedrooms and 2 full baths on an acre lot. This home features a heated programmable tile floor in main bathroom. Attached 3 car garage. MUCH

\$189,900

Call Tammy Harper 248-459-8688



### **FENTON**

16371 Oak Hill

All sports Lobdell Lake! Great Location! This lake front home will give you endless relaxation all year around, with beautiful views of the lake from inside your home and off the spacious deck. The open floor plan and walk out basement makes this home a must see! Schedule your showing today!

\$339,900 Call Patrik Welty 810-240-0418



### **DEERFIELD TWP**

6431 N Bennett Lake Road N 8 acres with 220 feet on all sports Lobdell Lake. Great opportunity with endless possibilities 1600 sq ft home with walk out basement and garage. Pole barn to store all your lake needs. Attention investors potential to split

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### HOLLY

708 Hartner All Sports Bevins Lake! 3 bedrooms, family room, Kitchen Dining room with great views of the Lake. 2 Car detached garage. Nice large fenced in lot. Pontoon boat, paddle boats, wave runner and accessories all stay! Dock,

and floating raft! \$228,900



### HOLLY

7303 E Holly

Home sitting on 5 beautiful acres offers a peaceful setting for you and your family! Enjoy the amazing views. The 30x50 pole barn has a drywalled area, cement floor . Partially finished basement has plenty of room for in- law quarters or game/rec room.

\$319.000 Call Shelia Rhoades 810-348-7357



### HOLLY

1115 Odessa

Great starter or retirement home! Solid brick ranch home on a corner lot. Freshly painted featuring hardwood floors, updated kitchen and bath. Basement is partially finished. Fenced in private back yard with 2 sheds. Close to schools and expressways. Newer Central air and appliances. \$129,900

Call Laura Pennington 248-245-5351



### GAINES 5448 Duffield Rd

Ranch on 5 acres! Very clean, newly painted, newer roof, updated kitchen. Charming outbuilding and attached 2 car garage. 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!

\$199,900

Call Janie Cary 248-820-8316



SWARTZ CREEK 5177 Oakview Dr

Great 3 bed 1 and 1/2 bath ranch in Winchester Village of Swartz Creek. Swartz Creek schools, 5 minutes from I-69, very convenient location in a nice subdivision. One of the larger floor plans in the subdivision at 1200 sq ft. Large corner lot with a nice back yard and 2 car garage.

\$129,900



### **DAVISON**

10115 Lapeer Rd

Don't miss this cozy starter home located close to shopping, dining, and the expressway. This 3 bedroom 1 bath home has a lot of potential. The .33 acre lot runs deep and gives a lot of privacy to host bonfires & cookouts! Davison school district.

### \$109.900

Call Jaime Howells 810-429-2942



#### **ELBA TOWNSHIP** 1169 Lake Nepessing

Large unique farmhouse with many updates

on approximately 2 acres of beautiful rolling land that is 100 percent private! Features an oversize garage great for storage, a car port, and pole barn. View today!

\$189.900 Call Kevin Usealman 810-965-6552



#### **GRAND BLANC TWP** 5473 Green Bank Drive

Beautiful brick home in great location, close to schools, shopping and Genesys Hospital. Close to Golf Courses throughout Grand

Blanc. Come and see this lovely home. \$339,500

Call Tammy Harper 248-459-8688



#### **GENESEE TWP** 6266 Frances Way

Large home with room to grow on almost 3 acres of wooded land connecting to Genesee County Parks land with a 30x40 pole barn that has a cement floor and is wired for 220! Lots of lawn.

\$159,900

Call Kevin Usealman 810-965-6552



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

# 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.

Why do food prices go up and down? Prices depend on market factors, crop

conditions, subsidy limits, seasonality, fuel and transportation costs.

To give you a better perspective on current food prices, take a look at how grocery costs have gone up and down throughout the decades.

Since you're likely baking this time of year, you may be

See GROCERY on 20A



A frame with a handwritten note by George H.W. Bush is displayed proudly in the Holly Hotel. Photo: Tim Jagielo

### Many don't know that George H.W. Bush ate dinner at Holly Hotel

■ President, First Lady and entourage made tour stop at historic restaurant in 1992

### 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,

See BUSH on 16A



**We are** 

purchasing

more food

for less

money. 77

**Annette Clauson** 

USDA agricultural

TRI-COUNTY TIMES

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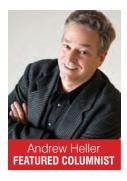
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### **Andrew Heller**

andrewheller@tctimes.com

### Come Heller high water...

• The state House, as part of its ridiculous lame-duck 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 neverending 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 your 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. The problem with Michigan is our economy is built upon their sand. We've diversified but not enough. Michigan will be a great state again when the auto companies pull their usual dog and pony show and everyone shrugs because most have

jobs unrelated to them. We remain a long, long way away from that moment.

• 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 have seen news organizations accepting that kind of trash. I miss standards.

**44** This is

who they

are, who

everybody

in the car

business

is: boom,

a bunch,

rinse and

repeat. 77

bust, hire a

• I get why the HopCat brewpubs are renaming their Crack Fries. But I'll bet that's what customers 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 bunch, fire hear yours then.)

• My Christmas favorites in no particular order: Song: Elvis's "Blue Christ-

mas;" 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.

- By the way, if you're looking for a fun game to play at the holidays, I recommend Telestrations. It's basically the old telephone game with a Pictionary twist. In our house, at least, it's always good for a laugh because no one can draw for beans.
- 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

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

THE PROBLEM WITH electing a twoterm 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 oncereliable 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 fight 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 20-30-40 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's become the party of those who think they are entitled.

THAT 'SHOP WITH a Hero' program sounds fantastic. How would 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.



Compiled by Gracie Warda, intern

### 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."



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



"I love roundabouts. If everyone uses them efficiently, they're really effective."



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



streettalk

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

**Luane Fickes** Linden **Colleen Keller** Holly Township

**Paulina Heslanger** Holly

**Karen Whiting** Hartland Township

**Steve Acton** Fenton Township



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### Sections of Hickory and Rolston could be repayed

# ■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.

### POLICE & FIRE

### **REPORT**

### FENTON WOMAN INJURED IN CRASH

Fenton police responded to a twovehicle crash on Silver Parkway, just north of Owen Road at 5:46 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 11. Lt. Jeff Cross said a 68-year-old Fenton man, driving a 1997 Toyota, was attempting to pull out of the Walmart exit on Silver Parkway and to drive across all lanes to enter the parking lot on the east side of the road. As his car entered the northbound lanes of Silver Parkway, a 59-year-old Fenton woman, driving a 2010 Cadillac, struck the passenger side of the Toyota. The impact spun the Toyota around, which then took out a light pole. The man was cited for failing to yield. The injured woman was transported to an area hospital for medical treatment.

### **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-

### WHAT YOU MISSED IN THE

### MIDWEEK TIMES

Compiled by Vera Hogan

The following are stories you may have missed in the **Wednesday**, **Dec. 12**, **Midweek Times.** To subscribe and receive both the Midweek and Sunday Weekend editions, please call (810) 629-8282.

## Fenton could see its first roundabout at North and Torrey roads

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 double

Study shows an increase of 85 percent between 2007 and 2017.

## Linden Follies 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 5,000 people to downtown.

### **Our Future**

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

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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Clark "The Juggler" Lewis contact juggles a glass sphere before Dickens Festival quests on Sunday, Dec. 9. See more photos at myfenton.com. Photo: Tim Jagielo

**44**There are

areas that need

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**back.** 77

**George Kullis** 

Holly Dickens Festival director



Festival Director and resident Scrooge George Kullis (left) performs the interactive "Charles Dickens a Christmas Carol" play on Sunday, Dec. 9. Photo: Tim Jagielo

# 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 mired in rain. 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

and fire 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,

**Charles Nelson** 

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 meet-

ing yet, but planned improvements include better parking, and shuttling 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

810-732-7999

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.

7A

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.





License #2101140011

# Get the best value for your donations

■ 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



Many television viewers have come to know and love little Alex, the spokesperson for Shriners Hospital for Children. **Photo: youtube.com** 

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 heart strings, 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 supporters throughout 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 promoting 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 got to love Alex because he is, quite simply "adowable!" 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.



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## 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 22 and 20 years old. 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 being 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.



Abby Rhoades (right) stands with friend Angela Creguer at the Roast Your Rump event, which Rhoades created seven years ago. Submitted photo

# 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

**44** Most people

do not know I'm a

major homebody

and being home

and reading books

is my favorite past

time. **77** 

**Abby Rhoades** 

major homebody and being home and reading books is my favorite past time.

# 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. Beach and sunshine only.

**CORRECTION** — In the article, "Brothers in law," published in the Sunday, Dec. 2 Weekend edition, the former Genesee County prosecutor's name was spelled incorrectly. It is Arthur Busch.

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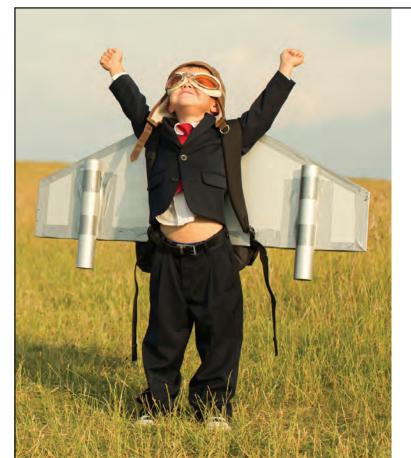




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### **HOT LINE** CONTINUED

**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 Davisburg 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. Onehalf 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 ROUNDABOUT 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.



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)

X YES

X YES

#### House Bill 5939: Repeal preemption of some local fireworks restrictions To revise a 2012 law that restricted

the authority of local governments to regulate fireworks use. Under the bill a local government could not restrict fireworks use on New Year's Eve and from midnight to 1 am on New Year's Day; until 11:30 pm on the Saturday before Memorial Day and on weekend before the Fourth of July; and on the Saturday before Labor Day until 11:30 pm. Also, to add new requirements and restrictions on seasonal licensed fireworks retail operations, and require them to have signs that explain time and place restrictions on fireworks use. A related bill would regulate "sky lanterns" as consumer fireworks.

Passed 92 to 17 in the House

Rep. Joe Graves (R-Dist. 51) Rep. Hank Vaupel (R-Dist. 47)

standards

X YES

X YES

### **House Bill 6465: Adopt Coast Guard** ballast water discharge permit

To adopt the U.S. Coast Guard standards for ballast water discharges from oceangoing 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) X YES

X YES

#### 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) X YES Rep. Hank Vaupel (R-Dist. 47) X YES

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LIFE . HOME . CAR . BUSINESS



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

### 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, played by Margot Robbie.

"Mortal Engines" opened

Friday, Dec. 14. In this post-apocalyptic movie, the city of London is now a giant engine on wheels that devours everything in its path.

"Spider-Man: Into the Spiderverse," opened Dec. 14 is a great movie for the kids. In this animated adventure, teen Miles Morales gets powers from a radioactive spider, and ends up meeting spidermen from different universes.

On Wednesday, Dec. 19, "Mary Pop-

On Wednesday, Dec. 19, "Mary Poppins Returns" premieres, starring Emily Blunt and Lin-Manuel Miranda.

pins Returns" comes out, 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.

Also on Dec. 21, the next DC Cine-

matic Universe blockbuster "Aquaman" comes out. Starring Jason Momoa, this film follows the underwater superhero who tries to save the kingdom of Atlantis from destruction.

### On your own TV

Along with around-theclock 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. 15**, "Entertaining Christmas" will premiere. Hallmark's description of the movie reads, "Small town Vermont gets a surprise visit from the Queen of Crafts — but is she the real thing?"

On **Sunday, Dec. 16**, viewers can watch "A Gingerbread Christmas," about a young architect who enters a contest to design a life-sized gingerbread house.

She teams up with a local chef who shows her that a home for the holidays is where your heart is.

On Saturday,
Dec. 22, "Jingle Around the
Clock" will premiere. An ad executive has a shot to
overhaul a Christmas
campaign as she begins
to plan a special Christmas reunion for her
friends.

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.

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.

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

### Highest grossing Christmas movies and other favorites

11A

- **1. Home Alone** (1990): \$285.76 million
- 2. How the Grinch Stole Christmas (2000): \$260.04 million
- **3. The Polar Express** (2004): \$183.37 million
- **4. Home Alone 2: Lost in New York** (1992): \$173.59 million
- **5. Elf** (2003): \$173.40 million
- **6. The Santa Clause** (1994): \$144.83 million
- **7. The Santa Clause 2** (2002): \$139.24 million
- **8. A Christmas Carol** (2009): \$137.86 million
- **9. Four Christmases** (2008): \$120.15 million
- 10. The Santa Clause 3: the Escape Clause (2006): \$84.5 million
- **14. National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation** (1989): \$71.31 million
- **17. Scrooged** (1988): \$60.33 million
- **24. Krampus** (2015): \$42.72 million

Source: forbes.com





### Frozen crossing



A group of Sandhill Cranes cross frozen Bush Lake in Holly, on Sunday Dec. 9. About 20 crossed in a short period of time. **Photo: Tim Jagielo** 

### 17-YEAR-OLDS

**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 Com-

mittee, 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 with7th 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.

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### **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 wiping 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 federalsafetynet.com, poverty rates as of September of this

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

#### **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
- Hotel
- Movies
- Home security systems
- National parks entry and tours
- Massages
- Amusement parks
- Health insurance
- Public transportation Cell phone plans
- Flights
- Museums

### percent

- Hispanic Americans 18 percent
- All children 18 percent
  Single dads 12 percent
- Seniors 9 percent
- Married couples 5 percent
- · Adults with college degree or higher — 5 percent
- Full time working adults 2 percent

According to an article in the Huffington 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



### **MUELLER**

#### **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

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

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

and 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 for your life."

Mueller was involved in several incidents where shots were fired, and once in 2009, he had to shoot someone during a

The male suspect was drunk and on Xanax and was trying to get into a woman's house. Mueller placed him in the back of the police car. When Muel-



Mike Mueller hugs his wife, Angi, shortly after realizing he would win his election bid to be 51st district representative on Tuesday, Nov. 6. Times file photo

ler tried to cuff him, the man started to 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.

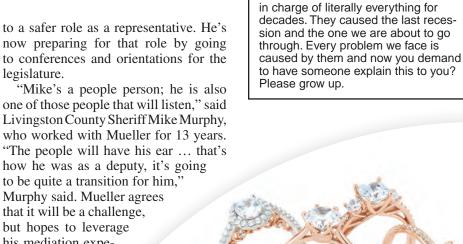
"If you can change one person's life in your career, you did your job," he said. For him, it was

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 eventful 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.



**HOT LINE** CONTINUED

OBAMA FOUND \$150 billion in cash

to give to Iran, the leading supporter

refuse to spend \$5 billion for the wall to protect our borders. Are the Demo-

terrorism than protecting Americans?

HOLLY WIND TURBINES will be too

close, too tall and too loud. Older turbines are not well maintained by energy

companies that are eager to build them,

but slow to repair, replace and remove.

Geothermal energy is cleaner, quieter

THE BABY BOOMERS have been

and abundant year-around.

of terrorism. Now the Democrats

crats more interested in financing





**44** If you can

change one

person's life in

your career, you

did your job. **77** 

**Mike Mueller** 

Retired sheriff's deputy, state

representative-elect, 51st district

### ROUNDABOUT

**Continued from Front Page** 

whether the best solution would be a traffic light, or the roundabout approved by the City Council Monday night. The majority have leaned toward a traffic light. Many said roundabouts are too difficult to navigate and that a traffic signal would be sufficient to solve the problem. Several readers brought up the roundabout at Lee Road in Green Oaks Township, about 20 miles south of Fenton. That roundabout has been the subject of controversy in Livingston County for a few years. In 2017, the road commission spent \$1.1million on corrective improvements.

To read all the comments, go to www. facebook.com/tricountytimes.

The businesses this will really affect are Matt & Terry's Market, Smitty's Exit 80 and Beale Street BBQ.

Matt Cormier of Matt & Terry's Market voiced his concerns at the Dec. 3 meeting. His concern



Motorists use the intersection of Torrey and North roads, which is crash prone and

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

"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.

### Background

Due to concerns the city had received about traffic backing up in this area at certain times of the day, Pete LaMourie of Progressive Engineering was asked, in the fall of 2017, to review the traffic operations at the intersection of North Road and Torrey, and make improvement suggestions. In 2019, the city will be receiving Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) funds to improve North Road, from Oak Park to U.S. 23, which includes the North/Torrey intersection.

LaMourie concluded, based upon the findings, that a traffic signal should be installed at the North/Torrey intersection. His findings were dated January of

During the Dec. 3 work session, Czarnecki explained the pros and cons of a traffic signal versus a roundabout. He said the cost would be approximately \$250,000 for the signal and the intersection construction, and there would be ongoing costs with signal maintenance. "Traffic flow would remain the same," he said.

The second option is a roundabout without a traffic signal. All driveways would remain, though some would need some adjustments. The cost would be about \$650,000 with most of the cost being for the realignment of the streets. There would be no electrical or signal operations or maintenance costs.

At the Monday, Dec. 10 meeting, Czarnecki said he is working with OHM Advisors, the city's engineers, to apply for project funding for a North/Torrey roundabout, which is available. A resolution by the City Council to support the inclusion of the roundabout was required with the application.

The \$650,000 roundabout project cost will require a 20-percent local match (\$130,000) to go with the 80-percent federal funding request (\$520,000).

Although she was unable to attend the Monday night meeting, Mayor Sue Osborn said earlier in the day that she is not in favor of the roundabout. "There's a lot of traffic in that area and I'm not sure it's worth all that money for something that may not work," 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.





### **BUSH**

#### **Continued from Page 3A**

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



Artifacts from the 1992 visit still hang in the Holly Hotel's walls, and still draw attention from patrons. Co-owner George Kutlenios was 40 at the time of the visit, pictured at left. Photo: Tim Jagielo

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.



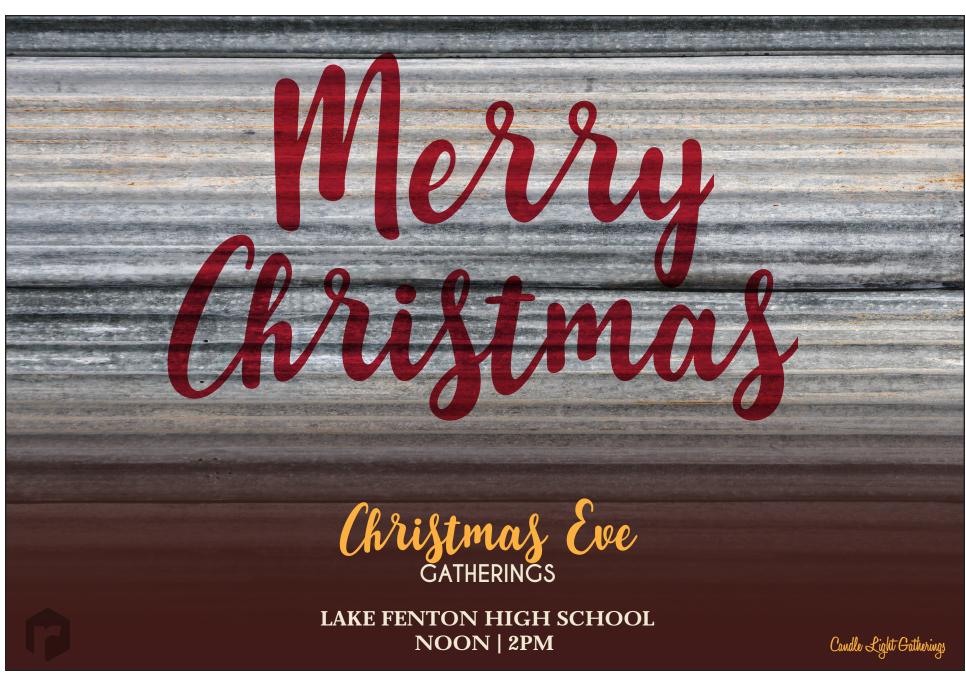


Exit 77 off U.S. 23, just south of Fenton • 1/4 mile west on the right • Look for Jesus Walk sign & parking attendants









# Still shopping for the perfect gift?

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

The busiest

shopping day of

the year is the

Saturday before

Christmas, which

this year is on

Saturday, Dec. 22.

### By Sally Rummel

You've got about a week now to finish your Christmas shopping, before the 2018 holiday is a wrap.

If you still have people on your list to buy gifts for, or if you haven't even started yet, here are a few ideas to get you headed in the right direction.

### 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
- Spa gift cards and spa gifts make a

thoughtful, personal gift.

- There are plenty of electronic gadgets near this price range, from Bluetooth headphones to iPhone chargers, photo printers, bike lights and more.
- Think cozy, with quality fleece blankets, heated blankets, heated car seats, etc.

#### **Under \$100**

- Kitchen gadgets like air fryers, smoothie blenders and gourmet kitchen items make fun gifts. These are all available at local stores.
- Buy cooking classes from Sugar Shack, Feast, Crust, The Laundry, etc. for a winter date when all the holiday hoopla is over.
- For car lovers on your list, FIXD is a device you can carry in your car that diagnoses what your engine light says is wrong with your car (for cars newer than 1996).
- If your loved one is hard to buy for, think about "Bread of the Month," "Pie of the Month," "Flowers of the Month," etc., for gifts that give all year long.
- For reading lovers, how about the new Kindle paperwhite e-reader, the lightest and thinnest Kindle yet, that can also be submerged in water. Does your reading friend like to read in the bathtub or by
- For the traveler in your family, how about a travel gift certificate from one of two travel agencies in Fenton, Travel Brokers and Superior Travel. Wrap with a travel item like a pillow, eye mask,
- Perfume/cologne samplers that allow the gift recipient to choose a favorite, and get it in full size.

### \$100 and up

At this price range, you can choose almost anything, from tools to tech.

- A vacuum for Christmas? Say yes to a robot vacuum for the fun of having a "Rosie the Robot" take over this household chore
- Check out the new airfryer/convection oven/toaster by Cuisinart, for a handy, fun new addition to your kitchen.
- A new "toy" for a new homeowner in your life might be a snow thrower, chain saw, table saw or drill.
- Gadget lovers will love wireless speakers, stereo headphones, wireless security cameras, wireless doorbells, etc.
- Apple still dominates the smart watch craze with its new Series 4. For about half the price, try the Fitbit Versa or a Garmin geared for sports lovers who run, golf, etc.
- FitBit is the number one fitness tracker in North America, so look for the new Fitbit Charge 3 for the latest model.



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SOURCES: prnewswire.com, consumerreports.com, shinynewgadgets.com

## 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.

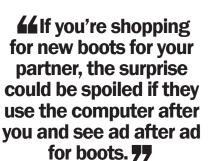
Instead of turning all of ad personaliza-

tion 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 **BROWSING** on 21A



SUMMARY

■ Your browser

records which

show you ads

personalized

to your tastes.

Since this could

surprises, here's

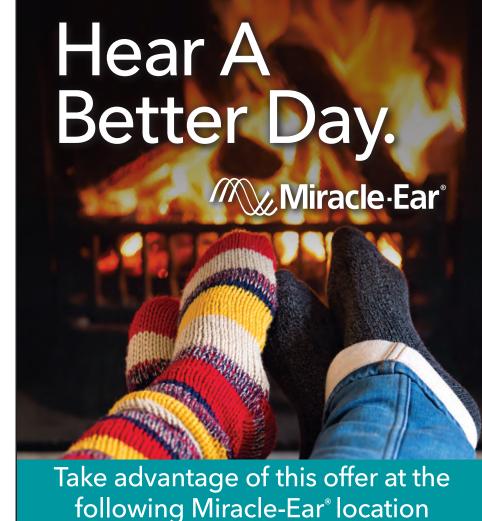
ruin Christmas

how to stop

those ads

web pages

you visit to



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### LOOKING BACK

# at this week in HISTORY

COMPILED BY VERA HOGAN

### **DEC. 16:**

1773: In Boston Harbor, a group of Massachusetts colonists disguised as Mohawk Indians board three British tea ships and dump 342 chests of tea into the harbor. The midnight raid, popularly known as the "Boston Tea Party," was in protest of the British Parliament's Tea Act of 1773, a bill designed to save the faltering East India Company by greatly lowering its tea tax and granting it a virtual monopoly on the American tea trade. The low tax allowed the East India Company to undercut even tea smuggled into America by Dutch traders, and many colonists viewed the act as another example of taxation tyranny.

### **DEC. 17**

1975: A federal jury in Sacramento, California, sentences Lynette Alice Fromme, also known as "Squeaky" Fromme, to life in prison for her attempted assassination of President Gerald R. Ford. On Sept. 5, a Secret Service agent wrested a semi-automatic .45-caliber pistol from Fromme, who brandished the weapon during a public appearance of President Ford in Sacramento. 'Squeaky" Fromme, a follower of incarcerated cult leader Charles Manson, was pointing the loaded gun at the President when the Secret Service agent grabbed it.

(810) 742-8530

### **DEC. 18**

1968: 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" and 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. 19**

1998: After nearly 14 hours of debate, the House of Representatives approves two articles of impeachment against President Bill Clinton, charging him with lying under oath to a federal grand jury and obstructing justice. Clinton, the second president in American history to be impeached, vowed to finish his term. In November 1995, Clinton began an affair with Monica Lewinsky, a 21-year-old unpaid intern. Over the course of a year and a half, the president and Lewinsky had nearly a dozen sexual encounters in the White House.

#### **DEC. 20**

1957: While spending the Christmas holidays at Graceland, his newly purchased Tennessee mansion, rock-and-roll star Elvis Presley receives his draft notice for the United States Army. By the end of 1956, Presley had become a national icon, and the world's first bona fide rock-and-roll star. The following year, at the peak of his career, Presley received his draft notice for a two-year stint in the army. He received one deferment, during which he finished working on his movie King Creole, before being sworn in as an army private in Memphis on March 24, 1958.

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### **DEC, 21**

1988: 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**

1956: A 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 Millie and Mac, two gorillas captured in French Cameroon, Africa, who were brought to the Columbus Zoo in 1951.

Source: history.com

### **HOT LINE** CONTINUED

I HAVE SOME news for you. Please sit down before you read this. WWII ended. It is currently 2018. I am sorry

if this information startled you.

TO THE HOT-LINER asking how baby boomers destroyed anything. I have four names for you: Clinton, Bush, Obama and Trump. After a quarter century of presidential control, baby

including the pending destruction of American democracy.

THE WWII GENERATION definitely created a super power and the 'boomers' definitely destroyed it. I am truly sorry that the truth hurts. I am also

boomers own all current problems

ACCORDING TO THE Nuremberg Laws, George H.W. Bush was a war criminal.

sorry about your calculator.

**BABY IT'S COLD** outside because it's the most wonderful time of the year.

### **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. Sugar is up slightly, about \$3.59 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 Clauson, an agricultural economist with the USDA.

Inflation of your food dollar is on the low end 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 supermarket rose 6.4 percent, the largest single-year increase since 1984. Food prices skyrocketed worldwide, due to the global financial crisis resulting, in part, from the subprime mortgage crisis in the U.S.

A 5-pound bag of flour showed the largest price increase, up 69 cents to \$2.39. Other price increases included: 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 \$2.47; 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: \$301,900

### SUMMARY

■ Your food dollars are stronger than you might think, costing you less as a percentage of your income than in past generations.

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

### **20 years ago - 1998**

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.

### Other statistics:

Average household income: \$38,568 Gas: \$1.06 per gallon

Average price of a new car: \$152,500 Average price of a new car: \$17,200 Average cost of a cell phone: \$900 Nokia

Average cost of a computer: iMac \$1,299

### 30 years ago - 1988

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, and 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: \$10,400 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, Thepeoplehistory.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: computer.howstuffworks.com, support.google.com, globalnews.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 widespread 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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### **DISCOUNT**

Continued from Page 13A

"People in their 60s can't have it both ways: They can't insist they are somehow entitled to pay less to get into the movies and in the next breath ask to be seen as a younger person's equivalent — like in a job interview. We are equal all of the time or none of the time. But not just when it suits us."

Of any age group, senior citizens are the most likely to have a mortgage-free home, a retirement nest egg, Social Security income and a job-related pension. The data is indisputable that seniors have continued to fare better financially than younger generations

A Pew Research Center survey found that from 1984 to 2009 (years that include

the Great Recession), the median net worth for people 65 and older increased 42 percent, while the median net worth of those younger than 35 dropped 68 percent.

According to huffingtonpost.com, some believe discounts should be given to those who carry student debt or still live with their parents.

Across-the-board senior discounts begin as early as age 50. That's about the same time when the top income-producing years kick in for skilled workers and managers.

The question then remains, should seniors get discounts simply because they live? Tell us what you think in our online comment section at myfenton.com.

Sources: Priconomics.com; huffingtonpost.com; seniordiscountsclub.com

# HURLEY WOMEN'S SERVICES NOW IN FENTON

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- Minimally Invasive Surgery
- Menopause





### 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.

They 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

comes to work every day and when it'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.

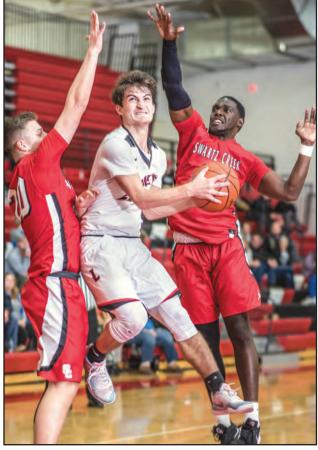
CONTINUED AT MYFENTON.COM

SUNDAY DECEMBER 16 20

# Sports

Fenton's Mario
Ramirez (further left)
is one of the seniors
that has helped the
Tigers to an 8-1
start this winter.

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



Linden's Brenden Miller (middle) drives to the bucket in the Eagles' 70-55 victory against Swartz Creek, Tuesday. Miller scored a game-high 19 points. **Photo: Mark Bolen** 

Miller scores 18, leading team to second Metro victory

#### **By David Troppens**

**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-of-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 on 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 Taquavius 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

### 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 Horseshoe 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 and never looked back. 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 scrappy."

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 MY-FENTON.COM

Holly's Rebecca Fugate

## LF boys work 20T to earn first victory

### By David Troppens

Brian McInerney sees that his Lake Fenton varsity 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," McInerney 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," McInerney said. "It was really nice seeing contributions across the board."

McInerney
said
the edefense
has gotten
better, and
the team did
a solid job on
the boards.

CONTINUED

AT MYFENTON.COM

Hunter Schramm scored 13 points against Atherton.

# 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, cruising to an impressive 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

### 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 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 said. "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 were fired up and it was good. It was a nice bus ride home."

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.



Holly's Daniel Mathews (middle) fights for the ball in a recent contest. Mathews led the Bronchos with 12 points in a victory against Owosso. Photo: Monica Bradburn

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**

### Linden girls improve, but lose to Swartz Creek

#### **By David Troppens**

Swartz Creek, the Linden varsity girls basketball team improved on Tuesday night.

However, the progress wasn't enough as the Eagles lost a road contest to the Drag-

"The girls continue to play With each quarter against with grit and determination," Linden varsity girls basketball coach Patrick Gallemore said. "They continue to be terrific teammates for each other."

The Dragons, who appear to be a much improved squad, jumped to a 21-3 lead after one quarter. The Eagles did a little better in the second quarter, but still lost it 20-8, resulting in a 41-11 halftime deficit.

The Eagles were outscored just 14-9 in the third quarter and finished tied 14-14 in the final period.

### **CONTINUED AT MYFENTON.COM**

### 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



23A

Fenton's Trent DeGayner attempts a layup in a recent game. The Tigers defeated Brandon 56-54, Tuesday. Photo:

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**

## Tigers remain perfect in Metro with league victory vs. Brandon

### **By David Troppens**

The Flint Metro League season is just one week old, but the Fenton varsity girls basketball team is doing everything it needs to in order to establish itself as one of the teams to beat.

The Tigers are the only 2-0 squad at this time, after earning an impressive 58-15 victory at Brandon on Tuesday.

It's easy to see the Tigers' defense was pretty outstanding, as Brandon never scored more than six points in any quarter. Meanwhile, the Tigers scored at least 13 points in at least three of the

The Tigers blew the game open early, taking a 20-3 lead into the second quarter. Fenton only scored eight points in the second quarter, but still led 28-9 at halftime.

CONTINUED AT MYFENTON.COM



Samantha Whaling drives to the basket during a recent game. The Tigers defeated Brandon 58-15. Photo: Mark Bolen

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### 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 firstplace finishes with Drew Hignite and Logan Molzahn earning two individual



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