

Emagine Theater now open in Hartland

■ Heated power recliners, upscale food and spirits

By Sally Rummel

Emagine Entertainment's newest 10-screen movie theater in Hartland opened to

the public Saturday, Dec. 15, bringing new meaning to the phrase, "movie date night."

With a luxurious lobby and lounge-like bar, you might think you've stepped into a five-star hotel. The concessions area features a brick pizza oven, and dozens of food

and beverage options can be served in the lounge area or at your movie seat. Craft beers, wines and cocktails also are on the menu.

But the real "wow" factor is the movie experience itself. Emagine-Hartland is **See EMAGINE on 16A**

Emagine-Hartland, a 10-screen luxury movie theater owned by Emagine Entertainment, opened its doors to the public Saturday, Dec. 15.

Photo: Tim Jagielo



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Weekend Times

VOL. 25 NO. LI

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2018

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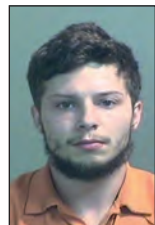
Man who shot friend faces second-degree murder charge

■ Argentine man found competent to stand trial

By Hannah Ball

The 22-year-old Argentine Township man charged with second-degree murder in the shooting death of Christopher Baldwin, 28, has been declared competent to stand trial.

Floyd Bryon Blalock Jr. also faces a felony firearms charge. He was arraigned Sept. 26



Floyd Bryon Blalock Jr.

in Genesee County 67th District Court by Judge Jennifer Manley.

He was back in court Tuesday, Dec. 18 for an examination. During his exam, a

probable cause conference was scheduled for Jan. 10, 2019 at 1 p.m.

Blalock allegedly shot Baldwin in an apartment in the 16000 block of S. Seymour Road in Argentine Township on Saturday, Sept. 22. He was arraigned Wednesday, Sept. 26 and is lodged at the Genesee County Jail.

Argentine Township police responded to the incident shortly after 7:12 p.m., when they received the 911 call. Police Chief Daniel Allen said Baldwin was pronounced dead at the scene.

See MURDER on 10A

The reason for the season



On Sunday, Dec. 16, guests stop at the manger scene of the 2018 Jesus Walk hosted by Tyrone Covenant Presbyterian Church. Joseph and Mary are portrayed by Gerry Durocher II and his wife, Laura. Approximately 1,100 visitors came through for the event held Saturday and Sunday. **See story on Page 8A. Photo: Tim Jagielo**

Police allege Fenton man pulled out gun during road rage incident

■ Victim claims suspect shot at his car while traveling on I-275

By Sharon Stone

A reported road rage situation Wednesday, Dec. 19 resulted in a 46-year-old Fenton Township man being arrested and lodged in the Oakland

County Jail.

Michigan State Police Metro North troopers were alerted to a possible road rage incident at 11:15 a.m., Wednesday. Lt. Calvin Hart said two male drivers were traveling in the southbound lanes of I-275 in Novi, Oakland County when the encounter occurred.

See ROAD RAGE on 17A

State police investigate home invasions

■ Several vehicles and homes broken into in Rose Township early Sunday morning

By Sharon Stone

The Michigan State Police (MSP) is investigating several home invasions and robberies, which occurred in the early morning hours of Sunday, Dec. 16.

Residents in a subdivision south of Academy Road and east of Fish Lake Road in Rose

See INVESTIGATE on 8A

TEXT YOUR HOT LINE 810-771-TEXT



“The baby boomers destroyed our society by not teaching kids the value of hard work, respecting other people and in general by making things too easy for their offspring so that they are incapable of dealing with the rigors of life, thus turning them into takers and not givers.”

“Well done Michigan voters. You have given the state leadership position to a pawn of the bottom-feeding lawyer firm that is doubling our insurance rates with their thousands of ‘First Family of Greed’ groundless lawsuits. They were the money behind her campaign. There’s a name for selling yourself for money.”

“At my advanced age I have found that each year our Christmas list gets smaller and smaller because the things we really want can’t be bought with money. The best gift is the presence of a family wrapped in love.”

COMMENT OF THE WEEK

“Before you laugh at children who believe in Santa Claus, remember that there are adults that still believe that Obama was a good president.”



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Surgeon general calls vaping among teens an 'epidemic'

■ Vice Admiral Jerome Adams says, 'We must take action now...'

By Vera Hogan

The United States surgeon general issued a new warning last week. Vice Admiral (VADM) Jerome Adams said he is emphasizing the importance of protecting children from a lifetime of nicotine addiction and associated health risks by immediately addressing the epidemic of youth e-cigarette use.

"The recent surge in e-cigarette use among youth, which has been fueled by new types of e-cigarettes that have recently entered the market, is cause for great concern," he said. "We must take action now to protect the health of our nation's young people."

Current e-cigarette use increased 78 percent among high school students during the past year, from 11.7 percent in 2017 to 20.8 percent in 2018, Adams reported.

See **VAPING** on 19A



The U.S. surgeon general has warned that vaping among teens has become an epidemic and action must be taken now to protect youth. Photo: www.pixabay.com



There are several adult dogs at Adopt-A-Pet that could use forever homes. These include Columbus (left) several hound mix puppies and Adira, a German shepherd mix. Photo: Tim Jagielo

Giving pets as gifts

■ Adopt-A-Pet finds homes for more than 1,000 pets in 2018

By Hannah Ball

This time of year, videos circulate of kids opening (recently) wrapped presents to find a puppy or kitten climbing out of a box.

It's a surprising gift, and a lasting one, that seems like a great

holiday surprise.

"Adoptions go through the roof this time of year, which is awesome," said Jody Maddock, director of Adopt-A-Pet in Fenton Township. "We just make sure people have thought it through and make sure that they are there for more than just the holiday dog."

When asked if there's an influx of people surrendering dogs after the holidays,

Maddock said that was a misconception.

"Studies show that's not true," she said. Although, there are more people who want to give up their dogs during the holidays. They have the same issue with cats.

"Holidays are coming up. The stress is real around this time of year," she said. Everyone goes through an interview process. Adopt-A-Pet employees

See **PETS** on 6A

“Once they commit, we expect that they continue with their commitment.”

Jody Maddock
Adopt-A-Pet director



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Everyone a Very
Merry Christmas &
Happy New Year

TRI-COUNTY TIMES

The Tri-County Times is published semi-weekly by Rockman Communications, 256 N. Fenway Drive, Fenton, Michigan 48430. We serve the communities of: Fenton, Linden, Lake Fenton, Holly, Hartland, Byron, Gaines, Davisburg, Swartz Creek and Grand Blanc and the townships of: Fenton, Holly, Rose, Tyrone and Argentine. We reserve the right to accept or refuse any content and/or advertising submissions.



HOURS:
Monday-Thursday:
8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday
Closed

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Andrew Heller

andrewheller@tctimes.com

Come *Heller* high water...

A New York Times report this week said internal Facebook documents indicate that Mark Zuckerberg's Frankenstein monster, despite promises to keep our info private, in fact shared and traded it—including our private messages—with other Silicon Valley giants like Amazon, Microsoft and Yahoo, along with media conglomerates and auto companies.

"You are the product," the Times said. When I read that, I was so ticked off I wanted to quit Facebook for good. But I haven't—yet—because, dammit,



Andrew Heller
FEATURED COLUMNIST

Facebook is how I interact with readers ... and also how I keep track of far-flung friends and family members.

Meaning: I want to quit it. But I can't. You may be in the same situation. So what are we to do? How

do we fight back?

Well, I can't speak for you, but if I'm going to be a product that Zuckerberg sells to the world so the world can sell me stuff, I'm at least going to be an interesting product.

For example, I've been noticing that the ads I get on Facebook, Amazon and Yahoo tend to be for products for, you know, SOME guys my age, which is why I get a steady stream (no pun intended) of ads online for Depends, catheters, Viagra, burial insurance and hearing aids.

I used to think this was just a coincidence but maybe it's not. What's likelier is that whatever I post or look at on Facebook is giving the advertising world the impression that I'm an 80-year-old man with world-class prostate and blood circulation problems who is close to kicking the bucket when, in fact, I'm not NEARLY that old. (For the record, I'm 57, near as I can remember, and have none of those problems. That I'll ever tell you about.)

So what if I began seeding my Facebook with posts and messages depicting the Andy I'd rather be than the Andy I actually am? Would that change things?

I'm going to try and find out. Therefore, if you are a Facebook friend of mine, you may start to notice some changes.

For starters, I'm going to replace my photo with one of Brad Pitt or maybe Howie Long (who my dearly departed brother Dan once remarked—out of the blue, while we were watching a football game, is "one good-looking man.")

That alone should get me off of Vi-agra's stupid target list.

I'll probably tweak the description of my profession a bit, too. In Facebook's eyes, self-describing as a mildly sarcastic newspaper columnist is probably a one-way ticket to receiving fiber supplement ads.

But if I were an adventure travel blogger who also dabbles in authoring long, pretentious think pieces about fine Scotch and outrageously expensive cigars, well, that's bound to change Madison Avenue's picture of me, right? Maybe I'll get free samples, too.

I might also post some profoundly altered photos of me shirtless with six-pack abs. People who know me will laugh hysterically, knowing I don't have a one-pack much less six. But what Zuckerberg doesn't know won't hurt him.

Finally, I think I'll delete all references to and photos of the lovely yet formidable Marcia. I mean, I love her and all, and she remains the beautiful woman I married a long, long time ago.

But she's in her mid-50s, too, and, to be honest, I can't have her dragging down my age rating, or whatever metric Facebook, Yahoo and the others use to target me with age-appropriate ads.

No offense, sweetie. It's a digital world, and a guy has to keep up.

Blame Zuckerberg, not me.

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

“...if I'm going to be a product that Zuckerberg sells to the world so the world can sell me stuff, I'm at least going to be an interesting product.”

Hotlines

Submit Hot lines online at myfenton.com or text to 810-771-8398

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

THE LINDEN MAYOR recruits new members for the DDA and then fires one of the few persons that actually contribute to our community. How do you fire the gal that organized the purchase of flags, heads the spring flower planting, fall decorations and Christmas decorations? Small town politics at its best.

HOW CAN YOU say that people who cannot navigate a four-way stop or traffic lighted intersection will more safely navigate a roundabout that has only yield signs? And it will cost \$250,000 for traffic lights, plus maintenance, versus \$650,000 to build a roundabout.

WHAT A JOKE. Roundabouts are outdated and plain dangerous. We have had three vehicles totaled in those stupid roundabouts in the past three years. Look up the statistics on these things.

THIS IS TO the Hot-liner who said they didn't see how the old owner could sleep at night after selling the mobile home park. The old owner is 75 and deserved to retire. He is loving and generous.

I'M AN OLD person who went to college for 11 years and got three degrees. I do think Cortez is a proven idiot and Sarah Palin is 100 times smarter than Cortez.

IF YOU ARE criticizing the pending roundabout agenda then you are likely over the age of 80 or simply a curmudgeon who

doesn't want anything 'new.' Get with it Pops, you had your day in the sun.

DOESN'T MATTER IF it was your father or grandfather, the Republicans or 'the party of the rich,' give more to charity than Democrats. Huge Democratic donors like Soros donate tons of money to be disruptive.

THIS IS FOR the recent message from the King. The reason the sad and pitiful professor is the way he is, is because he's a Democrat. Many studies have shown that Democrats are much unhappier than Republicans.

THE POLITICAL CORRECTNESS that I have a problem with is not being able to talk like we did 40 years ago.

'GOVERNOR' WHITMER WILL never revise our outrageous insurance rates, the highest in the nation. She is totally in the pocket of the lawyers, who flagrantly solicit lawsuits that we pay for through insurance rates. It will never let up until the law is changed.

THERE IS A very old, simple and effective doctrine employed by governments and militaries; divide and conquer. Look at us. Putin is grinning from ear to ear.

HAPPY YULETIDE TCTIMES readers, and have a wonderful New Year.

GUENTHER FAMILY: WE love your decorations. We really appreciate your hard work.

HAVING NOT WORKED a single day as New York's District 14 Representative, Ocasio-Cortez is already so stressed she needs a week's vacation for self-care. Typical millennial.

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Compiled by Hannah Ball, staff reporter

How does Santa get around the world in one night?

Question asked to West Shore Elementary first-grade students

streettalk



"In his sleigh with his reindeer. They have bells that help when they fly."

Mackenzie Thomas
6 years old



"Everybody has to believe in him. It's just magic."

Braylen Molaski
6 years old



"With reindeer. They're super fast at flying."

Jacob Pattison
7 years old



"He flies in his sleigh. It's because of the reindeer and with the golden star on Santa's sleigh."

Claire Shafer
6 years old



"Because he's really fast. The reindeer take him really fast."

Isa Thomas
6 years old



"He's magical. There's a little pocket with glitter in his sleigh and he puts it on the reindeer and then they can fly his sleigh."

Katelyn Reichert
6 years old



"He's magical. His sleigh is magical."

Ava Harman
7 years old



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Average single health insurance cost: \$440 per month

■ Monthly premium based on a variety of factors, age being biggest influence

By Tim Jagielo

Open enrollment for health care plans through groups like Health Alliance Plan (HAP) and the Affordable Care Act (ACA) ended Dec. 15.

This was also the period when insurance carriers were busy enrolling individuals with their own plans.

According to the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF), 56 percent of small firms and 98 percent of large firms offer health benefits to at least some of their workers, with an overall offer rate of 57 percent.

The same group reported that the average cost of insuring an individual through work was \$6,896. Part of the cost was paid for by the employer, and part by the employee.

Average rates for different groups

Policies tend to be divided between group policies, and individual policies.

Group policies are enrolled as part of an employer group. According to peoplekeep.com, the average monthly insurance premium for self-only coverage in 2018 was \$574 per month.

The average monthly premium for family coverage in 2018 was \$1,634.

These numbers are published by the KFF in the 2018 Employee Benefits survey. The cost of the average family premium raised by 5 percent over 2017. The individual cost increased by 3 percent.

Individual policies cost less. The average national monthly premium in 2018 was \$440. Family coverage was \$1,168.

According to eHealth, the individual average has increased by 123 percent since 2008, and the family average has increased 174 percent.

With rates, age matters

When it comes to what insurance costs, there are several variables, but the biggest is age. For businesses seeking group individual employee benefits, they are given a rate sheet.

The local Blue Care Network rate quote sheet breaks down rates in several plans, by age. The local Blue Care Network "gold" program has a \$1,000 deductible, and has rates for ages 0 to 65 or older.

Ages 0 to 14 have a \$174.82 monthly premium. Plans increase in price incrementally up through age 65. For example, a 30-year-old would have a monthly rate of \$265.31. An ACA quote could be lower. A 50-year-old would pay \$417.48 and anyone over 65 has a member rate of \$701.25.

There are other plans, but this is the lowest of the available rates offered by this network.

More on the ACA

If you missed the open enrollment period, a special enrollment period can give those with major life changes a chance to enroll outside this period. Search "special enrollment period" online on healthcare.gov to see if you might qualify for this.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services release regular bulletins on enrollment numbers during the open enrollment period. The most recent update reports that there were 1.1 million new consumers on the ACA marketplace, and 3 million renewing coverage.

Michigan had 126,628 residents select plans between Nov. 1 and Dec. 8. Florida had the most at 999,045 users.

According to Michigan Radio, enrollments are down in Michigan, and nationwide. Possible reasons include a reduced advertising and sign-up assistance budget, and the elimination of the personal penalty.

PETS

Continued from Page 3A

tell adopters about the importance of training and enrichment, and how it's a lifelong commitment.

"Once they commit, we expect that they continue with their commitment. You don't give up on a family member. You work with them," she said.

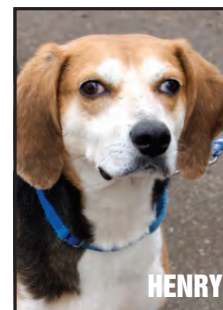
Last week, they had approximately 140 animals in their system. It's a little more than usual, but it is close to numbers compared to the rest of the year. The shelter had 40 adoptions last week, which is a lot for seven days.

As of Wednesday, Dec. 19, they have had 997 adoptions this year. Maddock said they will "absolutely" hit 1,000.

"This time of year, we always ask if they're in the giving mood, that the local animal shelter is a really great resource that's deserving to receive," she said.

Two special cases

At Adopt-A-Pet, Henry is up for adoption. He's a fox-hound mix, estimated to be 4 years old, and is recovering after having a "huge tear" in his muscles around his shoulders. Maddock said he was brought in from Genesee



County Animal Control.

"We found out after he had been with us that he had been attacked by another dog," she said, adding that it must have been a large dog.

Henry had an infection under the skin. When the veterinarian looked at him, she saw he had a tear in his muscles that created a "very large hole," Maddock said. Surgery was needed.

"He's recovering and he's doing fantastic. He needs a home," Maddock said. "He's just the sweetest. He loves attention. He loves being with people."

Another dog, Columbus, is a 6-month-old Anatolian Shepherd mix with a condition that causes seizures. Maddock said they don't know why the puppy has seizures.

"We can't guess how long his life span will be but as of right now, he's a very outgoing, very active, very gorgeous puppy that still needs to spend time with a family, not in a shelter," she said.

The seizures affect his brain, which affects his behavior. Maddock said Columbus is difficult to potty train and needs someone who's home more to help him learn. He takes anticonvulsant medication, which helps, but doesn't completely stop the seizures.

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'Coffee table books' are a perfect gift

■ These larger-than-life books are a statement of your interests and style

By Sally Rummel

Still looking for that perfect gift for someone who's hard to buy for?

Look no further than a beautiful coffee table-style book, which adds a touch of elegance to any home and can be personalized to the interests of your gift recipient.

Here are a few "must haves" for any coffee table:

"The Animal Kingdom: A Collection of Portraits" by Randal Ford (\$40)

These arresting images are both intimate and remote, making this book stand out from the herd, according to USA Today.



"Modern Monarchy: The British Royal Family Today" — Photography and text by Chris Jackson (\$45)

Royal fans will feast on this splendid banquet of a book that showcases the Windsors in their pomp, the circumstance and glamorous new royal, Duchess Meghan, says USA Today.



"Spectacle: Rare and Astonishing Photographs" National Geographic (\$40)

It's a worldwide armchair adventure in photography, all beautifully captured by NatGeo's talented photographers.



"Tasting Italy" National Geographic (\$40)

America's Test Kitchen and National Geographic team up for this spectacularly produced culinary journey through Italy, adding 100 recipes for tempting Italian dishes. So it's really two books in one, a travel guidebook and a cookbook.



"Homebody" by Joanna Gaines (\$40)

This HGTV/Magnolia star brings her low-key, Texas-inspired style to this book, enjoying design tips and rooms on display from the Gaines family's farmhouse in Waco.



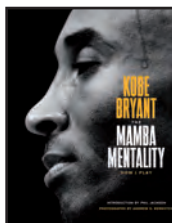
"Bibliophile" by Jane Mount (\$24.95)

Here's a clever, visually appealing love letter to books, complete with reading lists (short stories, cult classics) and snippets with drawings on bookstore cats, iconic covers, even the popular "little free libraries" found around the country. If you're a book lover, you'll find this just plain fun.



"The Mamba Mentality: How I Play" by Kobe Bryant; photographs by Andrew D. Bernstein (\$35)

The retired NBA superstar explains how he got to the top of his game, through words and lots of game-action photos.



"Harry Potter: A History of Magic" by the British Library (\$39.99)

The wonderful wizarding world of Harry Potter comes to life in this companion volume to the British Museum's "History of Magic" exhibit at the New York Historical Society through Jan. 27. Can't make it to New York? This is the next best thing.



"Hindsight & All the Things I Can't See in Front of Me" by Justin Timberlake (\$40)

J.T. gives fans a peek behind the curtain to reveal his creative process in this photo-packed celebration of his mega career — from his musical childhood through his Disney and NSYNC days, his ha-ha moments on SNL and today, as a 37-year-old dad at a crossroads in his life.



Source: USA TODAY

HOT LINE CONTINUED

■ ■ ■
U.S. SURGEON GENERAL warns of teen risks from e-cigarettes. The government's top doctor is taking aim at the best-selling electronic cigarette brand in the U.S., urging swift action to prevent vaping brands from addicting millions of teenagers.

■ ■ ■
IN ADDITION TO the Republican tax plan, the President's ongoing trade war with China has driven up prices for consumer products, including automobiles. Now, Trump is threatening to end electric vehicle tax credits, which will stifle innovation and drive jobs overseas.

■ ■ ■
INSTEAD OF MANAGING the decline of U.S. manufacturing, it is incumbent on the Trump administration to work with Congress to enact policies that not only protect American workers but support them.

REGARDING THE ROUNDABOUT

at Torrey and North. What a waste of money to build something that will ultimately cause more accidents than it will stop. Look at the roundabout at Pontiac Trail and M-5. It had the highest number of accidents in any intersection in the state of Michigan in 2016.

■ ■ ■
TO THE HOT-LINER asking, 'What political correctness do I have a problem with?' All of it. Political correctness is nothing more than political abuse in the form of speech police that target and censor the opinions and views of others. Political correctness is the antithesis of the first amendment.

■ ■ ■
WHAT IS THE agenda of the mayor of Linden? The businesses are non-existent, unable to pass the road millage and now for reasons no one can understand, she has kicked to the curb one of the most dedicated and productive members of the DDA. How much lower can the town go?

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INVESTIGATE

Continued from Front Page

Township woke up Sunday morning to learn that their unlocked vehicles parked in their driveways had been entered and ransacked, and spare keys and garage door openers were used to gain entry into their homes while the residents slept.

One resident, Misty Julian, told WNEM.com, "If they were gutsy enough to do that, then what else?"

Julian told police she had left her purse on the first floor of her home while she slept upstairs. When she went to get her purse in the morning it was missing. Thinking it might still

be in her vehicle, she walked outside to check. This is when she noticed her vehicle had been ransacked and the thief (or thieves) used a spare set of house keys in her vehicle to get into her home while she and her family slept.

Police said they believe Julian's home, as well as others in the subdivision were broken into around 3 a.m.

Items reported stolen included wallets, purses and electronic devices.

MSP continues to investigate. Police urge everyone to keep the doors of their homes and vehicles locked at all times and to remove any valuables while the vehicle is unattended.



Dave Wolf portrays New Testament minor prophet Zechariah, who became the elderly father to John the Baptist. Photos: Tim Jagielo

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More than 1,000 visitors tour annual Jesus Walk

■ Tyrone Covenant Presbyterian has offered unique family friendly event for 32 years

By Tim Jagielo

Tyrone Twp. — The sounds of goats and sheep are heard from the pen near three men dressed as the shepherds from the New Testament.

Small groups of visitors took quiet tours through the woods, led by lantern and moonlight, stopping at various stations for an immersive Christmastime experience.

Visitors who had trouble walking the route were transported by electric golf cart.

The Tyrone Covenant Presbyterian Church enlists the help of dozens of congregation members to bring the story of the birth of Jesus to life.

Members dressed as the prophet Isaiah, and also Zachariah, father of John the Baptist, and Joseph and Mary in the manger with baby Jesus. There were live animals in the manger and near the shepherds.

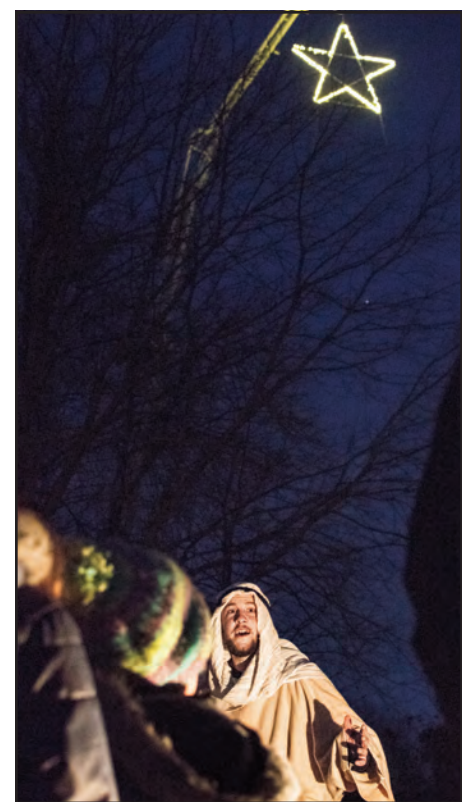
There are 12 stops, which included biblical events leading up to the birth of Jesus. It ended with the modern Christian family, sitting in a home setting talking about what the season means to them.

After a chilly strolling tour, guests were invited into the church sanctuary to warm up with snacks and live music.

There were 454 visitors on Saturday, and 599 Sunday, according to Teri Edgar, who conducted the popular event with her husband William for the first time this year. "It was exciting, but we were nervous. We were really happy with the turnout," she said. "I enjoy seeing people come through, and hear the word, and want to seek the Lord."

There were more than 100 volunteers who helped at the event.

The planning for this event begins in the summer. By September, most of the chair positions are filled and the behind-the-scenes planning is underway, said church secretary Kathy Toonder. She added that last year they had 750 visitors and 950 the year before. This year, 1,053 visited.



Andy Hoffman portrays a shepherd during the 2018 Jesus Walk hosted by Tyrone Covenant Presbyterian Church. The strolling tour took visitors through Old and New Testament scenes leading to the birth of Jesus. In this scene, the shepherds proclaim the birth of Jesus after seeing the star over Bethlehem.

“It was exciting, but we were nervous. We were really happy with the turnout. I enjoy seeing people come through, and hear the word, and want to seek the Lord.”

Teri Edgar
2018 Jesus Walk co-chair



Jesus Walk included live animals in the manger, as well as goats and alpacas in the field.

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Want to save money on your 2018 taxes?

■ There's still time to take advantage of year-end options

By Sally Rummel

It isn't tax day for another three-and-a-half months, but it is time to take advantage of several year-end strategies to help you save money on your 2018 tax bill.

Give to charity

Charitable donations are an easy way to reduce your taxable income, if you itemize your deductions. Consider "bundling" your gifts, i.e., instead of donating \$1,000 for each of five years, perhaps give \$5,000 all at once. If

See **TAXES** on 18A

Where to see live reindeer in Michigan

■ Four farms for family fun

By Sally Rummel

Santa's reindeer are gearing up for their all-night ride around the world on Christmas Eve, but the other days of the year, you can find a few live reindeer far away from the North Pole, here in Michigan.

Here's where you'll find them:

Rooftop Landing Reindeer Farm — Clare

Rooftop Landing Reindeer Farm is family owned and operated, specializing in trained reindeer for holiday and specialty events around Michigan. It has been in operation since 1991, visiting hundreds of businesses, schools, libraries and even private homes. Cost is \$5 per person over age 1.

GG Reindeer Farm — Caledonia

GG Reindeer Farm has friendly and gentle reindeer to rent for any occasion, including birthday parties, community events and holiday exhibits.



Carousel Acres — South Lyon

This pony party and mobile petting farm raises reindeer and features other animals, in addition to reindeer. You'll see Carousel Acres reindeer locally during Jinglefest in Fenton.

Reindeer Ranch — Kalamazoo

Owners Gary and Carol Borton started raising reindeer in 1999 and now offer tours. Learn about reindeer, their native habitats, how they're built for the tundra, then visit live reindeer and the rest of the herd. During the holiday season, you can visit Santa and make a craft.

WHAT YOU MISSED IN THE MIDWEEK TIMES

Compiled by Vera Hogan

The following are stories you may have missed in the **Wednesday, Dec. 19, Midweek Times**. To subscribe and receive both the Midweek and Sunday Weekend editions, please call (810) 629-8282.

Consumers Energy warns of imposters attempting to enter homes

Gas company will always provide advance notice if home entry is required.

Criminal sexual conduct charges in Fenton Township

Flint man jailed in connection with May 27 complaint.

More area townships reacting to new recreational marijuana law

Tyrone Township votes to prohibit pot establishments.

Fenton man charged with OWI-third offense

Preliminary exam set for Wednesday, Dec. 19.

Holly man's name to be honored on plaque 50 years later

Richard Charles Bachert was killed in action in Vietnam Dec. 21, 1968.



A look back at 1968

Apollo 8 Astronauts named 1968 "TIME'S Men of the Year."

Our Future

Meet Rachel Dodds, 18, a senior at Linden High School.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas

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MURDER

Continued from Front Page

The suspected weapon is a 9mm semi-automatic handgun, which police recovered, according to a previous Times article. Allen said police were told that the suspect removed the magazine from the weapon and believed the gun was unloaded when he aimed it at his friend. The police chief said despite pulling out the magazine, a bullet remained in the chamber.

The handgun was registered to Baldwin and that was the only weapon recovered from the apartment that Saturday night.

OMG!
DID YOU HEAR?

WELL, NEITHER DID WE!

Email the Times with interesting news or events happening in your area!
news@tctimes.com

'Baby box' bill could be headed to Snyder's desk

Law aimed at 'safe surrendering' of newborns passes Michigan Senate

By Tim Jagielo

If Gov. Rick Snyder signs the bill into law, Michigan fire departments, police departments and hospitals would be allowed to install "baby boxes" at their facilities.

Named "safe delivery of newborn law," the bill allows for the installation of these units that would safely hold a newborn, providing warmth and oxygen, locking from the outside. It also sends a 911 call to alert authorities to the infant's presence within 30 seconds.

On Tuesday, Dec. 18, the State Senate passed House Bill 5750, which is sponsored by Bronna Kahle (R-Adrian).

An earlier version of the bill was passed by the Michigan House of Representatives in May.

These 2018 bills modify the original 2000 law that allowed face-to-surrendering of newborns.

State Rep. Joe Graves (R-51st district) voted in favor of the House bill in May. "The bill provides a safe and legal method of surrendering a baby, and works to eliminate the stigma of surrendering a newborn baby in person," he said.

He said the Senate bill, which was passed on Tuesday, modifies the May 2018 House bill, to include holding the manufacturer of the device liable for any injury to the child. Now the House bill has to be amended to match, before being sent to Snyder's desk.



There are five "baby boxes" in the country, according to the manufacturer. Photo: Courtesy of Safe Haven Baby Boxes

Since 2001, 200 infants have been surrendered at police and fire stations across Michigan, through the current version of the law. It allows infants less than 72 hours old to be safely and legally surrendered at police stations, and eventually fire stations and hospitals. The idea was that the children would then not be abandoned somewhere far less safe. This will be the law until the new changes make it to Snyder's desk.

“The bill provides a safe and legal method of surrendering a baby, and works to eliminate the stigma of surrendering a newborn baby in person.”

State Rep. Joe Graves
(R-51st district)

Local police departments reported no surrendered infants since the law was enacted in 2000, but also said they'd follow the new law as written. "This has never occurred at the Fenton Police Department," said Chief Jason Slater for a previous article. "If it did, we would contact Child Protective Services and then enlist medical services to ensure the child's well-being."

According to non-profit organization "Safe Haven Baby Boxes," there are five of these units in existence, four in Indiana, and one in Ohio. All but one are at fire departments. One is at a hospital in Columbus, Ohio.

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It's a toilet, not a trash can

■ 'Toilets are only meant for one activity, and you know what we're talking about!'

Compiled by Hannah Ball

With the holidays approaching, family will gather at one house to celebrate, participate in Christmas cheer, eat food and use the bathroom.

The influx of flushes can have a negative effect on your sewers and the entire system if the wrong things are flushed.

The Water Environment Federation (WEF) is an organization dedicated to spreading information about how to maintain water quality, which includes disseminating information about sewer systems. Its catchphrase about which items go in the trash or toilet is "it's a toilet, not a trash can."

Flushing certain items can result in millions of dollars of damage to municipal sewer systems. If you have a septic tank, these items cause it to fill faster.

"Toilets are only meant for one activity, and you know what we're talking about! When the wrong thing is flushed, results can include costly backups on your own property or problems at your local wastewater treatment plant. That's why it's so important to treat toilets properly and flush only your personal contributions to the lo-



cal wastewater treatment plant," according to the WEF.

What not to flush:

- Baby wipes and diapers
- Rags and towels
- Cotton swabs
- Syringes
- Candy and other food wrappers
- Clothing labels
- Cleaning sponges
- Toys
- Plastic items of any description
- Aquarium gravel or kitty litter
- Rubber items such as latex gloves and condoms
- Cigarette butts
- Sanitary napkins
- Hair
- Underwear
- Disposable toilet brushes
- Feminine hygiene products

Other items not to flush include chemicals. These should be sent to your hazardous waste collection drop off because they can harm the environment. Do not flush paint because it stops bacterial action in septic tanks, according to Michigan State University. Flushing medications cause the same reaction, which is why it's better to drop off unwanted pills at a police department.

Sources: Water Environment Federation, Michigan State University

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GUEST VIEWPOINT

By Scott Roper
Holly Area Schools
superintendent



Giving back at Holly Area Schools

At Holly Area Schools, our classrooms celebrate the holidays through parties, musical performances, art projects and more.

But the holidays mean much more to the Broncho students, teachers and staff who give back to help make the holidays a joyous time for those in need across the Holly community.

At Holly Area Schools, giving back to our supportive community is part of our dedication to a culture of kindness, compassion and respect among all Bronchos before, during and after school. Our seemingly endless roster of charitable projects and events helps provide a well-rounded, diverse education that prepares our students for the real world.

This holiday season, our students have covered the gamut, from donating thousands of food items, to creating Christmas cards and coloring books for local children in need, to providing a little companionship to local senior citizens. Our Bronchos are enthusiastic about their charitable projects, and experience firsthand the pride in knowing they've helped bring a glimmer of hope and happiness to others. Our teachers, principals and staff work tirelessly to identify needs across the Holly community and find new and creative ways to help address those needs.

We continuously learn about new opportunities for our students, teachers and staff to give back through partnerships with local nonprofits and other organizations, including the Davisburg Rotary Club and Holly Kiwanis Club. Working together with our community partners, we help blanket our community with support throughout the holidays and year-round.

So far this holiday season, Holly Area Schools students have:

- Collected more than 1,000 food items for local families in need
- Created coloring books for children being treated at Detroit Medical Center
- Collected toy donations for the Jacobson/Quinn Toy Drive
- Visited senior citizens and provided them with goodie bags
- "Adopted" local families, providing them with gifts and daily necessities
- Designed holiday cards for local police
- Donated care packages to military members

I am extremely proud of all Bronchos for giving back both during the holiday season and year-round as they continue to learn, grow and thrive at Holly Area Schools.

On behalf of Holly Area Schools, I'd like to wish the entire Holly community the warmest of holiday wishes and a happy New Year.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

I WANTED TO give a shout-out to Brad at the Fenton library for going above the call of duty. Thanks Brad for helping me with my computer exams, Dave G.

■■■■ **ENOUGH OF THIS** 'buy American' nonsense. Is Fiat Chrysler an 'American' company? Ford and GM get their parts from overseas. Are they truly an American company? Face it, we are in a global economy. That is why what happens outside our borders affects our stock market.

■■■■ **THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION** released an 'action plan' Wednesday against devastating childhood exposure to lead, but critics said it held little new to protect millions of American children living with high levels of the metal.

■■■■ **I LOVE YOU**, but the weight gain is a problem. It affects how you relate to everyone and especially me. You now don't seem to care. You don't discuss it, we can't talk about it. We need help. It is going to destroy our marriage.

Cost of solid waste services increases

■ Rates for Fenton Township will increase to more than \$180 by 2022

By Hannah Ball

On Monday, Dec. 17, the Fenton Township Board of Trustees approved a four-year plan for solid waste services, which includes an increase of nearly \$40 a year by 2022.

In a 3-1 vote, the board approved the bid by Republic Services, the municipality's current solid waste contractor. Currently, Republic charges for solid waste, compostables and recyclables at a rate of \$12.23 per month, or \$146.76 annually, for single-family residential properties.

This is set to increase to more than \$180 by 2022.

At the October meeting when the board recently discussed the matter, Thomas Broecker, operations manager/deputy clerk said, "My understanding is the

biggest reason for the increased cost is the ... change in recycling market. It was explained to me that China has stopped accepting recyclables from the U.S. and it has driven the modern price down significantly. That price has to be factored in their cost. If they are getting less for the materials, they have to charge more to collect it."

“If they are getting less for the materials, they have to charge more to collect it.”

Thomas Broecker
Fenton Township operations
manager/deputy clerk

The rate would rise to \$14.08 monthly or \$168.96 annually in 2019. In 2020, it would increase to \$14.50 per month, or \$174 per year. In 2021, the amount would be \$14.94 per month or \$179.28 per year. For year four, in 2022, it would rise to \$15.39 a month or \$184.68 per year.

The four-year average cost is \$14.73 per year or \$176.73 per year.

The dissenting vote was from Trustee Shaun Shumaker. Absent from the meeting were Supervisor Bonnie Mathis and trustees Vince Lorraine and Robert Kesler.

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LOOKING BACK at this week in HISTORY

COMPILED BY VERA HOGAN

DEC. 23

2009: Richard Heene, who carried out a hoax in which he told authorities his 6-year-old son Falcon had floated off in a runaway, saucer-shaped helium balloon, is sentenced to 90 days in jail in Fort Collins, Colorado. Heene's wife Mayumi received 20 days of jail time for her role in the incident. In November 2009, Richard Heene pleaded guilty to a felony charge of attempting to influence a public official ("to initiate a search-and-rescue mission which in turn would attract media attention," according to an affidavit filed by prosecutors), while Mayumi Heene pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor count of making a false report.

DEC. 24

1865: In Pulaski, Tennessee, a group of Confederate veterans convenes to form a secret society that they christen the "Ku Klux Klan." The KKK rapidly grew from a secret social fraternity to a paramilitary force bent on reversing the federal government's progressive Reconstruction Era-activities in the South, especially policies that elevated the rights of the local African American population.

DEC. 25

1914: Just after midnight on Christmas morning, the majority of German troops engaged in World War I cease firing their guns and artillery and commence to sing Christmas carols. At certain points along the eastern and western fronts, the soldiers of Russia, France, and Britain even heard brass bands joining the Germans in their joyous singing.

DEC. 26:

1972: Former President Harry S. Truman dies in Independence, Missouri. Then-President Richard Nixon called Truman a man of "forthrightness and integrity" who

had a deep respect for the office he held and for the people he served, and who "supported and wisely counseled each of his successors."

DEC. 27

1932: At the height of the Great Depression, thousands turn out for the opening of Radio City Music Hall, a magnificent Art Deco theater in New York City. Radio City Music Hall was designed as a palace for the people, a place of beauty where ordinary people could see high-quality entertainment. Since its 1932 opening, more than 300 million people have gone to Radio City to enjoy movies, stage shows, concerts, and special events.

DEC. 28

1895: The world's first commercial movie screening takes place at the Grand Café in Paris. The film was made by Louis and Auguste Lumiere, two French brothers who developed a camera-projector called the Cinematographe. The Lumiere brothers unveiled their invention to the public in March 1895 with a brief film showing workers leaving the Lumiere factory. On Dec. 28, the entrepreneurial siblings screened a series of short scenes from everyday French life and charged admission for the first time.

DEC. 29

1957: In the mid 1950s, two young white men began their successful musical careers by bringing the sound of black rhythm-and-blues music to predominantly white mainstream-pop audiences. Both were steeped in religion and gospel music as boys, and both were raised in the segregated South, but one important barrier separated them in childhood: a set of railroad tracks. On the "wrong" side of the tracks in Tupelo, Mississippi, lived Elvis Presley, who would go on to become the King of Rock and Roll. On the "right" side in Nashville, Tennessee, lived Pat Boone, who would briefly rival Presley in terms of chart success, though in a style that never strayed from the conservative mainstream. On this day in 1957, Boone earned the second of his three career No. 1 hits when "April Love" topped the Billboard pop chart.

Source: history.com

EMAGINE

Continued from Front Page

the first theater in Michigan to offer all heated power-reclined stadium seats. It also features a front row of "cuddle seats" that are value priced.

Behind the scenes, all of the screening rooms feature laser projectors with high contrast lenses, immersive Dolby Atmos sound systems and wall-to-wall screens. Emagine-Hartland also offers an EMAX large format screen.

It's a new way to watch movies, said Emagine Entertainment owner/founder Paul Glantz. Emagine-Hartland is the group's 20th theater location in Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin and Minnesota.

Glantz is betting that the luxury and comfort of this experience will bring people out of their homes watching Netflix, and into a movie theater.

"The reality is that every business has to evolve and change with the times," he said. "We have to beat your in-home experience. It's got to be so good that people will vote with their wallets."

Emagine-Hartland was off to a strong

start last weekend, with 600 attending a Friday sold out charity event for Gleaners Food Bank and Lacasa of Livingston County. More than 2,800 moviegoers attended the public grand opening Saturday and Sunday.

Glantz is proud to have Fenton roots in his movie background. He started in the movie industry in the late 1980s, buying the Clarkston Cinema from Dean and Diane Kitchen, who also owned the Fenton Cinema.

"My connections to Fenton are closer than you might think," Glantz said. "I used to do the accounting for the Fenton Cinema. They used the proceeds from the Clarkston sale to expand the Fenton theater."

The Fenton Cinema closed Dec. 7, 2008 and was demolished in the fall of 2013.

Emagine-Hartland is at 10495 Hartland Square Dr. in the Hartland Towne Square Shopping Center at the northeast corner of U.S. 23 and M-59.

Advanced ticket sales are available online at emagine-entertainment.com.

“My connections to Fenton are closer than you might think. I used to do the accounting for the Fenton Cinema.”

Paul Glantz
Emagine Entertainment
owner/founder

Remakes of movies are re-disappointing

■ 46 sequels, reboots and remakes released in 2018

By Tim Jagielo

Today, it seems like movies that aren't a reboot or a remake of a previous film are in the minority. According to IMDB.com (Internet Movie Database) there were 46 sequels, reboots and remakes released in 2018.

These included "A Star Is Born," several in the Marvel Cinematic Universe like Avengers, Ant Man and Black Panther, and continuations of classics like "Creed" (Rocky) and "Christopher Robin" (Winnie the Pooh.)

The new Emerge theater in Hartland has 14 films screening currently, and at least 10 are sequels, reboots or remakes.

I'm aging myself in saying that first Batman I knew was portrayed by Michael Keaton. Since him, there have been four others, and I won't be shocked when they announce the next Batman following Ben Affleck.

I won't be surprised but I will probably continue my disinterested superhero fatigue, unless they bring back "The Shadow."

My disinterest for reboots runs deep. My favorite show of all time, "The X-Files" came back for one season with the original cast last year, and I didn't catch a single episode, despite a near life-long appreciation of Gillian Anderson.

So why are there so many familiar stories being remade or repackaged for viewers?

First off, making movies is expensive. When a movie flops, it's an expensive failure. Studios today err on the side of "risk aversion." This means that instead of taking a chance on a new idea they instead go with a sure-fire win. This explains why there are so many comic book movies, and Disney live-action remakes.

ABC News had this: "Risk aversion has really paid off, and studios and production companies have noticed this," said Walt Hickey, a pop culture expert at FiveThirtyEight.

You bank on content where people already have a sense of the characters, they have a sense of what the plot is, what the story is."

Ugh. I understand this, but for me, it's really boring.

This is why I really appreciate streaming services like Netflix, Hulu and Amazon, that can produce more unique, niche-interest movies, and even sometimes release them on a limited theater run.



Tim Jagielo

Netflix original movies I've enjoyed include "Okja," "Apostle," "The Cloverfield Paradox," "The Ritual" and many others.

You'll notice that I prefer horror or science fiction — there's a lot of programming on

the site, however, that isn't weird or horrifying. Netflix has its share of remakes, but plenty of original ideas, too.

I kind of hope that viewers vote with their time and wallets and start reaching remake fatigue like I have.

I'm definitely here for "Us" by Jordan Peele due out in 2019. He directed social horror/thriller "Get Out (2017)," which was based purely on an idea by the director — not a book, or old movie. I'd love to see more of this.

COMING REMAKES/ SEQUELS I'M NOT MAD ABOUT

I admit I'm part of the problem.

"Hellboy" will be released in 2019, directed by Neil Marshall. The comic book was first adapted for film in 2004 and with a sequel in 2008, directed by Guillermo Del Toro. The new movie stars David Harbour, who portrayed the sheriff from popular Netflix series "Stranger Things."

I'm actually excited for this, but not the use of "Mony Mony" as the trailer song, because so many movies lean on the nostalgia of old songs to sell their movies.

"Glass" continues M. Night Shyamalan's plot from "Unbreakable," released in 2000, and "Split," from 2017.

"Men in Black International" is in the same universe as the Will Smith and Tommy Lee Jones alien containing and world saving duo, but this time with stars from "The Avengers" universe.

ROAD RAGE

Continued from Front Page

Police said the suspect allegedly pointed a gun at another vehicle and fired one shot at it, but missed. The victim had a cell phone video of the suspect and suspect vehicle. The license plate was registered to a Fenton Township resident.

At approximately 4 p.m., Wednesday, the Detroit Fugitive Apprehension Team

arrived at the suspect's home and took him into custody without incident. The man was transported to the Oakland County Jail pending authorization of charges by the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office.

Hart said, "During our investigation, detectives had also received information from Plymouth Township Police Department that the suspect was the aggressor in another road rage incident in their city."

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TAXES

Continued from Page 10A

you coordinate it with your other deductions in 2018, you can take advantage of the deduction now.

Schedule last-minute medical procedures

If you itemize, medical expenses remain deductible, allowing you to deduct medical and dental expenses, which exceed 7.5 percent of your adjusted gross income (AGI).

For example, if your AGI is \$40,000 and your medical expenses are \$5,000, if you itemize, you can claim \$2,000 as a deduction, or \$5,000 in expenses less the 7.5 percent (7.5 percent x \$40,000 = \$3,000).

Medical expenses include prescriptions, doctor visits, health insurance premiums, dental procedures or a medically necessary surgery. You can count year-end check-ups, dental or eye exams and routine blood work. If you can't get into the doctor for an appointment yet in 2018, you can still pay the bill and the deduction will count for this year.

On Jan. 1, 2019, the 7.5-percent "floor" moves back to 10 percent, so don't put off a visit to your doctor.

Top up 529 education plans

You can't claim a federal income tax deduction for making a contribution to a 529 education plan, but in 2018, 529 plans were expanded to allow you to use plan distributions to cover more expenses. You could always use the funds for college but now, you can use up to \$10,000 per student for public, private and religious elementary and secondary schools.

SUMMARY

■ You can take advantage of many money-saving tax strategies before the end of 2018.

Contribute to an IRA

When you contribute to a traditional IRA with after-tax money, the contribution is typically deductible on your tax return. Better yet, the money grows tax-deferred until it is withdrawn at retirement.

With a Roth IRA, contributions are still made with after-tax money, but without the advantage of a tax deduction because withdrawals at retirement are generally tax-free.

You can contribute to an IRA through tax day 2019 and still get the benefit of the deduction in 2018, but why wait? The sooner you get started, the better.

Make estimated payments

If you are filing as an individual taxpayer, you generally have to make estimated tax payments if you expect to owe \$1,000 or more on your federal income tax return.

Estimated tax payments are due quar-

terly, with the last 2018 payment due on Jan. 15, 2019. If you haven't been paying your quarterlies, it's better late than never. Penalties are time-based, meaning they are imposed on each underpayment for the number of days the tax remains unpaid. If you miss a payment, all is not lost: simply file and pay as soon as you can.

Get rid of losing investments

If you own stocks or other investments that lost value in 2018, consider dumping them to offset realized gains. But be careful: if you look at your financial statements and see that you've "lost" money, make sure that it's a real loss. Even if your accounts tumbled hundreds or thousands of dollars, it means nothing to Uncle Sam unless you realized a taxable event (a sale of stock or another event that triggers a tax consequence). If that's the case, and you have realized losses, you may want to offset those losses with gains and vice versa.

Go pro

Find a good tax preparer to save you money at tax time, even though expenses related to tax preparation and other legal and tax advice are no longer deductible.

Buy more stuff

Tax reform changes are making some business deductions in your favor, including buying property up to \$1 million, buying vehicles and used equipment for bonus depreciation.

Go into business for yourself

Self-employed persons filing a Schedule C as well as other business entities including corporations, can still take advantage of many deductions not available to unreimbursed employees, following recent tax reforms.

Move

If you live in a state with high income or property tax rates, the cap of \$10,000 (\$5,000 for married taxpayers filing separately) may limit your ability to deduct both in 2018. A move to a different state, if you were already considering it, may save you thousands of dollars.

SOURCE: Forbes.com

View stories at myfenton.com



Synopsis of Argentine Township Regular Board Meeting December 17, 2018

- Call to order @ 7:00 p.m.
- Pledge of Allegiance led by Supervisor Saad
- Present: Graves, Conner, Hallman, Saad and Schmidt. Absent: None.
- Approved: Minutes of Regular Board Meeting November 26, 2018.
- Approved: Payment of bills as printed.
- Presented: Tribute to the Honorable Joseph Graves, State Representative
- Issued: 3 permits that total \$3,795.50.
- Appointed: Dagmar Miller and Gwynne James to the Board of Review.
- Appointed: Member and alternate to Genesee County Metropolitan Planning Commission.
- Accepted: Terms of Aquatic Inc. contract.
- Accepted: Terms of Aquest Services contract.
- Adopted: Resolution 2018-19. Canada Goose Nest Destruction Program.
- Amended: Argentine Township/POAM Agreement dates of wage scale increases.
- Accepted: Renewal terms of employee health care contract.
- Authorized: Treasurer to sign agreement to collect summer taxes.
- Adjourned: 7:40 p.m.

Submitted by Denise Graves
Argentine Township Clerk

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VAPING

Continued from Page 3A

“More than 3.6 million U.S. youth, including 1 in 5 high school students and 1 in 20 middle school students currently use e-cigarettes.”

E-cigarette aerosol is not harmless. Most e-cigarettes contain nicotine, the addictive drug in regular cigarettes, cigars and other tobacco products.

The surgeon general has launched a call to action for parents, teachers, health professionals, states and communities to take action in addressing this public health epidemic.

Local school superintendents were asked to weigh in on this topic. Adam Hartley, superintendent for **Fenton Area Public Schools**, said, “Vaping is included as part of our offenses listed under ‘smoking.’ Vape pens, tobacco, hookah devices and paraphernalia are included in this policy.”

Hartley confirmed that the district’s policy on e-cigarettes and

vaping is as tight as the cigarette smoking policy and said like cigarettes, the use of e-cigarettes and vaping is prohibited on school property by everyone, not just students.

“We as a school district are satisfied with our policy and student handbook, however, policy will not deter students from vaping; educating the dangers and holding our students accountable for their actions will,” Hartley said. “We are always looking for ways to educate both our students and families.

“We look at vaping as the same as using other tobacco or controlled substances in school or on school property,” he said. “There are many substances that are available to use via vaping. We continue to stay educated on the substances and the dangers to better educate our students.”

Scott Roper, superintendent for **Holly Area Schools**, said, “Holly Area Schools will be launching an anti-vaping informational campaign later this winter.

“At Holly Area Schools, we foster a positive, nurturing learning environment that helps all Bronchos achieve a n d suc-

ceed, and that begins with encouraging all students and families to lead healthy lifestyles before, during and after school. Through our efforts, we provide students with tools to stay healthy that will serve them throughout their lives.”

Lake Fenton Community Schools Superintendent Julie Williams said, “We include vaping as part of our offenses listed under ‘smoking.’ This includes vape pens, tobacco, hookah devices and paraphernalia.”

The policy for vaping and cigarette smoking are the same at Lake Fenton Community Schools and vaping is prohibited under school policy.

“We believe we are in a good place with our current policy and handbook language,” Williams said. “We made a significant push during the 2017-2018 school year to educate our students about the dangers of vaping. Because vaping is a newer practice of many people, there is not a lot of research to show how dangerous it truly is. In spite of our efforts to educate students, we know many still believe it is a safe alternative to smoking cigarettes and other tobacco items, but it is not.

“We also held an evening informational session for parents last year, but very few people attended,” Williams said. “We will continue to communicate the dangers to our students and hope they will begin to understand the negative impact it can have on their health.”

Linden Community Schools Superintendent Russ Ciesielski said, “Vaping and/or e-cigarettes are outlined in our Student Handbook and treated the same as tobacco. The district’s policy prohibits the use of tobacco (vaping and/or e-cigarettes) on district premises.”

The Linden policy is the same for cigarette smoking and vaping, and the use of any of these products is prohibited on school grounds.

“We believe that our policy is clear and understandable,” Ciesielski said. “As a district we will continue to offer services, assemblies and communications on the impact vaping and/or tobacco is having on our society. We need to work as a collective whole to offer solutions to present day problems.”

“We look at vaping as the same as using other tobacco or controlled substances in school or on school property.”

Adam Hartley
Fenton Area Public Schools
superintendent

“Nicotine exposure during adolescence can harm the developing brain, which continues to develop until about age 25. Nicotine exposure during adolescence can impact learning, memory and attention. Using nicotine in adolescence can also increase risk for future addiction to other drugs. In addition to nicotine, the aerosol that users

inhale and exhale from e-cigarettes can potentially expose both themselves and bystanders to other harmful substances, including heavy metals, volatile organic compounds and ultrafine particles that can be inhaled deeply into the lungs.”

The surgeon general’s statement can be seen in its entirety at myfenton.com

HOT LINE CONTINUED

A NATION WITHOUT defensible borders is not a nation. There exists no reasoning that would allow undocumented people to enter any nation. The only two entities demented enough to want open borders are the networks and the Democratic party, who will each enrich themselves while endangering the citizenry.

■■■■
DEAR GOVERNOR GRETCHEN, the state average for each car insured in the U.S. is \$1,365 a year. The average cost in Michigan is \$2,239 per vehicle. Never mind the damn roads, fix the damn insurance costs that all you attorneys make millions on.

TYRONE TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given the Tyrone Township Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, January 08, 2019, beginning at 7:30 at the Tyrone Township Hall, 10408 Center Road, Fenton, Michigan 48430. The purpose for the Public Hearing is:

1. To receive public comments regarding a request by Perry & Kristen Green, for a special land use to operate an elopement venue at their primary residence, regulated by Zoning Ordinance #36 Section 21.14, Home Occupations, Section 4.03, Special Land Uses, and Section 22.05.F, Commercial Recreation Areas, located at 8421 Dean Rd, Fenton, Michigan 48430, Tax ID’s 4704-19-100-035, 4704-19-100-044, and 4704-19-100-045. The properties are zoned RE, Rural Estate.

Additional information is available at the Tyrone Township Clerk’s Office, 10408 Center Road, Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Tyrone Township Clerk, at (810) 629-8631, at least seven days prior to the meeting.

Mark Meisel, Chairman
Tyrone Township Planning Commission

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Clint Eastwood's 'The Mule' is based on Michigan man

■ It's a fascinating look at the lure of money, and broken family relationships

By Sally Rummel

Earl Stone is a man near the end of his options. He is in his 80s, broke, alone and losing his florist business to foreclosure when he is offered a job that only requires him to drive.

That sounds easy, but he's just become a drug courier for a Mexican cartel, who appreciate the fact he has no criminal record of any kind and is not a typical drug driver.

Soon, he's handling large amounts of contraband, as his driving income grows massively from his satisfied bosses. But the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) is trying to figure out who is delivering these growing shipments of cocaine, never suspecting anyone off the radar like Earl. They are hot on his trail, while cartel leaders aren't sure they can always trust their new driver, either.

That's the premise for director Clint Eastwood's newest movie "The Mule" from Warner Brothers Pictures, showing in local theaters after its Dec. 14 premiere.

What most people don't realize is that the story is based on a true incident that happened to a Michigan man seven years ago.

Leo Sharp grew up in Detroit and owned a flower farm near Michigan City, Indiana, growing day lilies. Some of his flowers even grew in the White House Rose Garden.

As his business struggled, Sharp actually became a "mule" driving illegal drugs from the West Coast to the Midwest for money to get out of debt. When he was arrested in 2011 by Michigan State Police on I-94 with more than 200 pounds of cocaine in his pickup truck, he was 87 years old.

In all, police estimate he moved more than a ton of cocaine in small batches as a regular guy just driving his pickup truck, and singing along to music on the radio.



Clint Eastwood's "The Mule" opened Dec. 14 at area movie theaters and is an entertaining look at the desperation that drives some people to do what they do in life.

Sharp was sentenced on his 90th birthday to three years in prison after pleading guilty. He told authorities he soon realized what he was doing but worried that the cartel would harm him or his children and grandchildren if he tried to stop. After serving about one year, he was granted early release from prison, but died in 2016 at age 92.

Eastwood's Earl Stone has a poor relationship with his ex-wife and daughter, which he tries to remedy, but decades of hurt are hard to heal even for people who've recently come

into more money. He chooses trying to make amends to his family versus pleasing the cartel, which nearly gets him killed, but soon realizes his drug-driving days are numbered. Viewers often sympathize with Earl Stone because he has few options in repairing family ties, and has limited time due to his age.

"The Mule" is a fascinating look at what some average people might do if given a chance to earn large amounts of money quickly, even if they aren't always honest or honorable ways. It is definitely worth viewing, even as a life lesson of what not to do. Smart people don't want to "be like Earl," but he was only in it for the money.

“‘The Mule’ is a fascinating look at what some average people might do if given a chance to earn large amounts of money quickly...”

Sally Rummel
Who recently viewed 'The Mule'

Good Cheer!

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Our **Town**

Mrs. Claus

- Santa's better half
- Cookie baker extraordinaire
- Caregiver to the elves and reindeer

They say that behind every great man is a great woman, and being the wife of the most beloved elf on earth is both a tremendous honor, and a responsibility. We caught up with Mrs. Claus this week and here's what she had to say about her life with Santa and the North Pole:

Good morning, Mrs. Claus. Some of our readers are wondering, what is your first name?

Why, no one ever asks me that question, even though I am proud to answer. It's Amelia. In Latin it means "industrious" and "striving." I guess that best describes me.

What is your job at the North Pole?

Oh my, it seems I am always busy either baking and cooking, and taking care of the elves and the reindeer. I don't mind though. I love to be busy and I love them all so much. They are my babies!

Does Santa Claus have to be good?

He is always good. Sometimes he has to be strict but he is always fair. He gets really angry when he hears about places in the world where they don't care for the children's well-being.



What does Santa think about the way people celebrate Christmas in different cultures?

Every culture has its own customs and all of them deserve to be respected. We both believe that.

Is it possible for anyone to be an elf even though they don't live and work at the North Pole?

Of course. Taking care of smaller and weaker people is elf work. Making someone who

doesn't have anything to be happy about happy, and giving toys and clothes to children who need them is the best way to be an elf. And those department store and special event Santas, they are all elves.

“Santa and I both are firm believers that deep down, all children are good. Being tired and cranky, or not feeling well has nothing to do with being good.”

**PUBLIC NOTICE
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF FENTON
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING SYNOPSIS
DECEMBER 10, 2018**

The Fenton Township Board held a special meeting on Monday December 10, 2018 at the Fenton Township Civic Community Center, 12060 Mantawauka Drive, Fenton, Michigan and took the following actions.

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m.
2. Recessed the open meeting at 6:10 p.m. to convene a closed session to discuss pending litigation.
3. Reconvened the open meeting at 6:55 p.m.
4. Recessed the open meeting at 7:02 p.m. to convene a closed session to conduct a disciplinary hearing.
5. Reconvened the open meeting at 9:25 p.m.
6. Approved a motion to adjourn the disciplinary hearing to Monday December 10, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.
7. Approved a motion to confirm the suspension already served by Firefighter Paul Bjorklund, with additional training requirements to be completed within 90 days.
8. Adjourned at 9:29 p.m.

A complete copy of the minutes of this meeting and any ordinances adopted at the meeting are on file and available for review at the Fenton Township Office, 12060 Mantawauka Drive, Fenton, Michigan 48430. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Friday. Ordinances, meeting schedules, meeting minutes and other Township information are also available at www.fentontownship.org.

ROBERT E. KRUG
FENTON TOWNSHIP CLERK

Does Santa read all the letters he receives?

The elves and I help him read all the letters. We then make inventories to make sure all Christmas wishes are fulfilled. It's a lot of fun reading what these wonderful children have to say. We are currently working on updating our technology to keep our inventory up with the times.

Do all of the reindeer have names?

No, only the ones he flies with on Christmas Eve. They wear collars with their names so if anything happens or they stray from the sleigh, they can be easily found and identified.

Does Santa Claus have other ways to travel besides his sled?

Of course, he has the sleigh drawn by a team of reindeer. He also has a team of dogs, a truck, an airplane, snowmobile, speedboat and a helicopter. He uses whatever means of transportation necessary to get the job done. Keep that under your hat though, not too many people know that he uses these modes of transportation and volunteer drivers.

How does Santa Claus deliver all of the gifts on time?

He takes advantage of the different time zones. When children in Michigan are awake, for example, the kids in Japan, are asleep and vice-versa. There is also some magic, but I can't tell you about that. Cheech and Chong almost figured it out, but those silly boys didn't get it quite right. Santa will occasionally have the elves dress up like him and deliver presents. As long as the gifts get there on time, that's what's important.

Is it possible to get presents even if you haven't been good?

Santa and I both are firm believers that deep down, all children are good. Being tired and cranky, or not feeling well has nothing to do with being good.

What do you and Santa do for relaxation?

Oh my, those are precious few days. But we love to watch old movies and read books together. We also like to take long walks in the forest and reflect on how lucky we are to be the happiest couple in the world.



Holly's Rebecca Fugate (left) scored 29 points in the Bronchos' 62-56 loss to Kearsley on Tuesday. Photo: Mark Bolen

Hornets' pressure stings Holly

By David Troppens

Holly — The Holly varsity girls basketball team had its moments against the Kearsley Hornets.

In fact, the Bronchos found a way to deal with Kearsley's constant defensive pressure for a half and took a 35-29 lead into halftime. However, the constant pressure eventually got to the Bronchos as Holly lost a 62-56 verdict against the Hornets at Holly High School Tuesday night.

"We had our chances. They are a very good team," Holly varsity girls basketball coach David Hall said. "Obviously, there were some timely things that we had to do like sometimes we had to get a rebound. We had them right where we wanted them in the first half. We had them in foul trouble. We were scoring off of free throws. Maybe we got a little tired from the pressure, trying to handle it. Their effort was outstanding. We just have to play together as a group."

The Hornets tried to keep constant defensive pressure on Holly during the first half, but it didn't work as well as Kearsley probably hoped. Holly was able to manipulate the pressure with constant Kearsley fouls. Rebecca Fugate abused the Kearsley defense the most.

CONTINUED AT MYFENTON.COM

Tigers' defense leads squad past Clio, 44-39

By David Troppens

If teams hold their opponents to just eight buckets in a game, there's a pretty good chance that squad is going to win the contest.

That's what the Fenton varsity boys basketball team did to Clio Tuesday at Fenton High School. And the result ended up being a 44-39 Metro League victory.

"At the four-minute mark (of the fourth

quarter) we talked about being efficient and we were. Defensively, we were in the right spot," Logan said. "As a group, we did a better job keeping them off the paint. They had only 20 points in the final three quarters. That's pretty impressive. They only had eight baskets and were 19-for-23 at the foul line. They were efficient at

the foul line. We gave up only four threes and four baskets. That may have won us the game."

The contest didn't start out well. The Tigers trailed 19-4 after Clio hit three threes and were 6-of-7 at the free throw line, setting up their strong start.

CONTINUED AT MYFENTON.COM



Fenton's Trent DeGayner

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Sports Times

Eagles win defensive slugfest vs. Flushing, 44-39

By Dale M. Smith

Linden — It was a battle for first place in the Flint Metro League as the Linden Eagles boys' basketball team hosted the Flushing Raiders Thursday night. If you are tired of watching the NBA on ESPN where it seems the first team to 140 points wins, you would have loved this game. The Eagles never trailed but had to overcome a very strong defensive effort from Flushing and hold on, 44-39.

Both teams came out a bit sloppy and cold early in the game. The first points of the game did not come until the 4:34 mark of the first quarter when Linden sophomore Eli Beil hit a 3-pointer. Turnovers and poor shooting by both teams kept it close and in the single-digits for most of the first half. Linden led only 8-6 after the first eight minutes.

The Eagles upped the margin to 15-9 with 2:35 left in the half courtesy of a nifty rebound and put back from senior Hayden Mahakian. Linden led 18-11 at the break but could have had a bigger lead with a little more success at the free-throw line as the home team

was only a middling five out of nine at the line. Linden's Brenden Miller had a good first half with seven points, four rebounds and two steals from his guard position.

Things looked to pick up a bit to start the second half as Blake Lund dropped in a three only 15 seconds into the half. Beil quickly followed with his third three of the game to make it 24-14. But, again, the tenacious Raiders' defense kept the Eagles from pulling away.

After a 3-pointer from Flushing's Landen Moore-Pierce, the Raiders had an 8-2 run and quickly closed the gap to 26-22. A steal by Linden's Reichen Lund and an easy bucket on the offensive end by Mahakian made it 32-22 late in the third.

Early in the fourth, Flushing cut the lead to only 34-28 with 6:20 to play but a great hustle play by Mahakian led to two Travis Klocek free throws to put Linden back up at 40-31 with just under two minutes to play. Then, a layup from Mahakian sealed the victory with 1:24 to play.

CONTINUED AT MYFENTON.COM



Linden's Blake Lund drives to the basket in the Eagles' 44-39 victory against Flushing, Thursday. Photo: Mark Bolen

Holly boys compete in another close game, beat Swartz Creek

By David Troppens

The Flint Metro League boys basketball race has already had its share of close contests this winter.

And no team has been in more of those close games than the Holly Bronchos.

Holly opened the season with a 40-38 loss to Flushing, beat Owosso 40-35 and then lost to Swartz Creek 62-55.

On Tuesday, the Bronchos made it four straight close games, defeating Kearsley 56-52 at Kearsley High School.

Holly was pretty consistent on offense, and that's probably why the Bronchos won the game, scoring the most points they have in a Metro game contest this season.

CONTINUED AT MYFENTON.COM



Holly's Ben Gramer drives to the bucket during a recent game. Photo: Monica Bradburn

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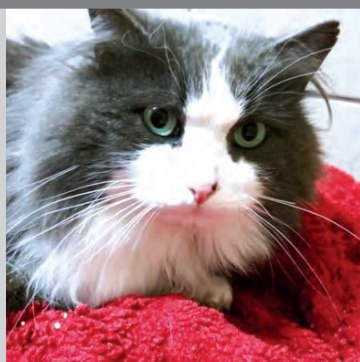


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Pawza

I'm a love bug who wants a home for the holidays (and beyond).

Tigers win again, defeat Mustangs, 50-27

By David Troppens

With each game, the Fenton varsity girls basketball team is seemingly getting a little bit better.

That's not a good thing for the rest of the Metro League, because they still remain undefeated in league play.

The Tigers posted another pretty convincing victory on Tuesday, defeating the Clio Mustangs 50-27 at Clio High School.

After losing their first game to an always strong Hartland squad on the road, the Tigers have won their first four Metro League games, starting with a 45-36 road win at Swartz Creek on Dec. 7. Since then, the Tigers beat Brandon by 43, Kearsley by nine and now Clio by 23. What makes the run even more impressive is that all of the

games have been on the road.

Fenton jumped out to a 25-10 lead after one quarter against Clio. After that, the Tigers never lost control of the game, taking a 34-15 lead into halftime and a 48-21 lead into the fourth quarter. Fenton scored just two points in the fourth quarter, but they also allowed just six, so their lead was left safe anyway.

The Tigers were able to give all their players time on the floor, with Lauren Murphy being the only player to score in double-digits. She had 10 points and three assists. Erin Carter had nine points and six rebounds while Erin Conroy had eight points, four rebounds, four assists and three steals.

CONTINUED AT MYFENTON.COM



Fenton's Erin Carter (front) scored nine points and grabbed six rebounds in the Tigers' 50-27 victory against Clio, Tuesday. Photo: Mark Bolen

Griffins' win streak moves to eight games

By David Troppens

The Fenton/Linden co-op hockey team keeps winning.

In 24 hours, the Griffins collected two more victories.

The squad defeated Oxford 8-0 on Tuesday and then opened the Metro League season with a 6-5 victory against the Flushing/Swartz Creek co-op team on Wednesday.

Winners of their last eight games, the Griffins continue to have multiple goal scorers in each game. Against Oxford, six players earned at least one goal, while against Swartz Creek, five players scored. The balance is making it tough for opponents to defend the squad because there is so much offensive talent on each line.

Against Flushing/Swartz Creek, the Griffins scored three shorthanded goals to jump out to a 6-2 lead. The hosts fought to get back into the game and cut the margin to 6-5 midway through the third period, but the Griffins held on to earn the win.

Josh Appleberg scored two goals, including the goal that made it 6-2 with 4:45 left in the second period. He has 11 goals on the season. Brendan Miles (five



Zach Eakes has scored seven goals so far this season for the Fenton/Linden Griffins.

Photo: Mark Bolen

goals), Dylan Conte (10), Ethan Hutchings (7) and Zach Eakes (7) also scored goals.

In net, Loren Jones made 22 saves before being replaced midway through the third period. Liam Murray made eight saves in his time on ice.

CONTINUED AT MYFENTON.COM

Fenton swimmers win a thriller vs. Milford/Lakeland

By David Troppens

If the Fenton varsity boys swim team wanted to have a competitive dual meet before 2017 ended, they got it against the Milford/Lakeland co-op.

The meet remained close the entire night as Fenton won a 95-90 verdict.

"It was a great way to start our dual season," Fenton varsity boys swimming coach Brad Jones said. "We were very evenly matched as there was never more than six points difference the entire meet. The score was 85-84 going into the last relay."

And during that relay, the 400 freestyle relay team of Zac Jump, Joel Diccion, Josh Kippe and Evan Bartow (3:31.97) won the event, earning the Tigers the win.

"There were 16 races decided by less than a second and one tie in the 500 freestyle," Jones said.

Others who won races were Evan Bartow in the 200 individual medley (2:07.20) and the 500 freestyle (5:00.75); Joe Diccion in the 100 butterfly (56.32) and in the 100 backstroke (59.77); Noah Maier in the 100 breaststroke (1:09.53) and the 200 medley relay team of Diccion, Maier, Bartow and Spencer Gabler (1:47.83). Maier won the 100 backstroke by .05 second earning the Tigers a chance to win the meet.

Other strong swims included Anthony Barnett (53.65) and Kaz Sieja (55.58) who had large time drops in the 100 freestyle.

PREP REPORT

BOYS BASKETBALL

► **Linden 58, Brandon 43:** The Eagles remained undefeated in Metro league play with a pretty convincing victory against Brandon on Tuesday.

The Eagles led just 8-6 after one quarter, but won the middle two quarters by a combined score of 33-19, creating a decent spread between the two teams.

Blake Lund led the Eagles with 18 points while Reichen Lund had 10 points. Travis Klocek and Hayden Mahanian had eight points each.

► **Linden JV 56, Brandon 55:** Lance Barkholz hit a three-pointer with 10 seconds left, leading the Eagles to the win. Barkholz finished with 21 points while Shane Eberhard had 13 points. Aiden Miller netted eight points while Gavin

Wildeman had seven points. Hunter Hall had six points.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

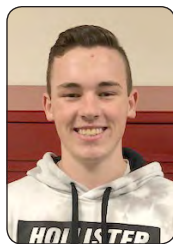
► **Brandon 50, Linden 31:** The Eagles were unable to score in the first quarter, and were never able to dig out of that hole, resulting in the loss.

Trailing 9-0 after one quarter, the Eagles trailed 27-10 by the end of the second quarter. The Eagles cut the gap to 38-22 by the end of the third quarter.

Erin Gillespie had a huge offensive night for the Eagles, scoring 22 points with 15 of those points coming on three-pointers. Eva Darling had three points while Taylor Acox, Grace Pryde and Jordan Dingo had two points each.

December 23, 2018

Athlete Of The Week



BEN GRAMER
Boys Basketball

HOLLY



JUSTIN MALLORY
Boys Bowling

HOLLY



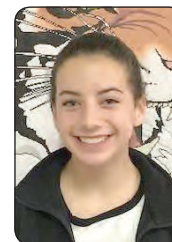
BLAKE QUERIO
Wrestling

HOLLY



ANTHONY BARNETT
Boys Swim/Dive

FENTON



ELLA COX
Gymnastics

FENTON



NIKKI DOMPIERE
Girls Basketball

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