

LifeStyles

THE TOWNSHIP
Times

Sunday, December 30, 2018



The story titled 'Armed robbery at Kay Jewelers' had more than 51,000 page views on tctimes.com

Most popular stories of the year

By Hannah Ball

Tctimes.com, or myfenton.com, received more than 3.3 million page views in 2018.

From robberies to car chases to deaths, here are our most read stories of the year.

10. Lake Fenton grad featured in revealing Netflix series 'Flint Town'

Page views: 17,964

Flint Police Officer Bridgette Balasko, 29, a 2007 graduate of Lake Fenton High School, is featured in an eight-part Netflix documentary called "Flint Town," which was filmed in the wake of the Flint Water Crisis.



9. Police standoff on Hickory Street ends in death

Page views: 18,838

In what was thought to be a standoff on Hickory Street on June 12, the Michigan State Police were called in to deal with a man who police thought had barricaded himself inside his house and was preparing to fire back at police. The 35-year-old died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head. Following stories on this received more than 18,000 views.

See **MOST READ** on 11B



2018 YEAR IN REVIEW

Notable criminal cases

By Sharon Stone

The Times routinely follows criminal cases involving residents in the tri-county area. This year is no different. The following is a recap of newsworthy cases that we have written about in 2018.

Matthew Carrier, 23, of Fenton, was sentenced to 32.5 to 60 years in prison on the five second-degree murder, and operating a vehicle while intoxicated charges. Those sentences will be served concurrently, with credit for 464 days already served. His earliest release date is Jan. 11, 2050.

Carrier was charged after a traffic crash at M-59 and Argentine Road in Ocoila Township on May 9, 2017 that resulted in the deaths of five people and serious injury to two others. He pleaded no contest Aug. 24, to 19 counts, including five counts each of second-degree

See
**CRIMINAL
CASES**
on 12B



Matthew Carrier



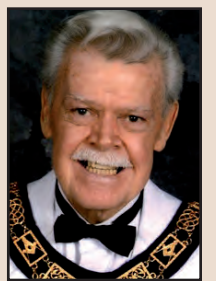
Duane "Fuzzy" Walden



Wade Pyles



Nick Popa



Joel "Joe" Florida

Gone, but never to be forgotten

Lives lost during 2018

By Vera Hogan

Each year, the Times publishes the names of people who died if their deaths resulted in a news story. This year, 24 lives were lost as opposed to 35 in 2017.

They are, in order of the date of their deaths:

John (Jay) Clay Cook IV, 32, died Dec. 31, 2017 as a result of a snowmobiling accident in Gaines Township. Because the Times 2017 article on lives lost went to press before Cook's death, the details are being published in this article.

David Lazar of Fenton died of natural causes at the age of 78 on Jan. 6. He was a long-time teacher and coach for Fenton High School.

See **LIVES LOST** on 5B

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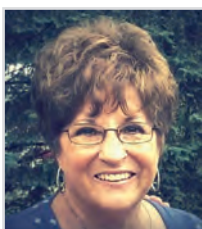
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Prince Charming, the 1-year-old Shepherd mix, who has a deformed spinal column, was adopted by Len and Josephine Adams from Adopt-A-Pet on Aug. 10. While he can move around using his front legs, Prince Charming uses a special cart to go outside. **Times file photo**

The lighter side of 2018

■ Some of the more light-hearted stories that filled Times pages this year

By Sally Rummel

Some of the best stories this year were about people you know, pets you'd like to take home and places you might like to visit.

Here's a look at the lighter side of the Times from 2018:

Jan. 10 — Go to Hell

Hell, Michigan, that is, as well as many other uniquely names town in our state. There's only one Eaton Rapids in the entire U.S., and it's near Lansing. What about Christmas, Paradise, Bliss, Bath, Temperance and Maybee?

See **LIGHTER SIDE** on 9B



Pierrette and George LaMarche have been married 60 years as of Thursday, Feb. 8. They are great-grandparents. Before they were married, George was away at sea in the Navy for two years. The couple wrote and saved more than 50 letters to each other in 1956 and 1957. **Times file photo**

CITY OF FENTON



The sculpture "The Game," donated by Phil and Jocelyn Hagerman symbolizes the story of the infamous poker game that named the town.

City of Fenton continues to grow, attract development

By Vera Hogan

Today, the popularity of the city of Fenton as a place to live, do business, enjoy an amazing meal and just have a lot of fun is evidenced by the booming growth that has taken place in just a few short years.

See **CITY OF FENTON** on 5B

FENTON TOWNSHIP



The annual 2018 Polar Plunge in Fenton Township raised more than \$95,000 for Special Olympics.

Township struggled with lawsuits, home to successful Polar Plunge fundraiser

By Hannah Ball

Some of the biggest news stories from Fenton Township in 2018 include lawsuits, a broken bridge, the Polar Plunge, and an outgoing trustee.

See **FENTON TOWNSHIP** on 6B

HOLLY AREA



The three-year Holly Township gravel roads project started in 2018, and will cost the township \$88,000.

Holly Village and surrounding townships strive for efficiency and growth

By Tim Jagielo

In 2018, old buildings were demolished, lawsuits were fought and big projects continued through their own challenges.

See **HOLLY** on 11B

LINDEN



The old Texaco gas station, which was turned into a Marathon, in downtown Linden was demolished in 2018.

Linden sees many changes, events in 2018

By Hannah Ball

In 2018, the city of Linden accomplished numerous projects that improved the lives of residents, experienced a change in City Council, hosted successful events and more.

See **LINDEN** on 6B

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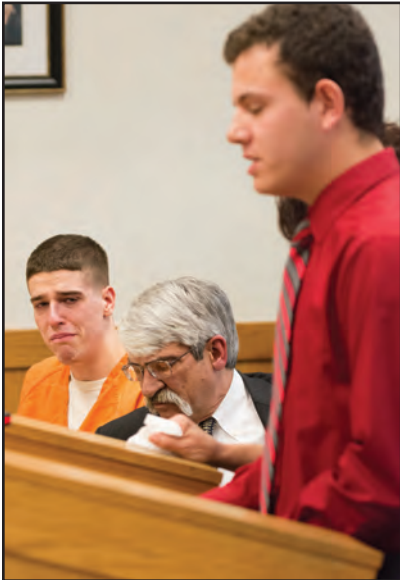
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2018 MEMORABLE PHOTOS

PUBLISHED IN THE
TRI-COUNTY TIMES

News and feature photos should “show” the viewer the events, news, color and emotions of their own community. This year was filled with events, new and familiar, as well as a fair share of tragedy.



LIVES LOST

Continued from Page 1B

Brittani Rodden, 25, died in the Rose Township house fire Jan. 16 with **Jonathan (JonJon) Taulbee**, 24, and the couple’s two young sons, **Carter**, 5, and 2-year-old **Wesley**.

Jeff Miller, 70, of Holly, died of natural causes Feb. 9. He was the former Holly Village president.

Harry Bidelman, 88, of Fenton, died March 6 of natural causes. He was an active board member of the Fenton Historical Society serving as assistant curator for many years at the A.J. Phillips Fenton Museum, and a member of Oakwood Cemetery Friends of the Cemetery. Bidelman was also a former member and chairman of the City of Fenton Cemetery Board.

Joel “Joe” Florida, 74, died April 4 of natural causes. He was an active mem-

ber of the Old Flint Newsboys and was known for playing Santa Claus at many community events.

John “Jack” Orrico, 22, of Hartland died April 26 after being run over by two vehicles. He was a pedestrian on M-59 at Cullen Road.

Ron Rummel, 61, of Fenton, died as a result of cancer April 30. He was a member of Central Michigan University’s 1974 Division II national championship team and one of the greatest prep quarterbacks in Michigan football history while at Saginaw Arthur Hill.

Bruce Leslie Pitman, 64, of Fenton, died as a result of injuries he sustained in a car crash May 13.

Brian Swink, 45, of Linden, died of natural causes May 17. He was a two-time American Motorcyclist Association pro racing champion.

Kelly Marie Davis, 55, of Fenton died June 1 as a result of a head-on collision with a semi-truck in Oscoda.

Kyle Smith, 35, of Fenton, died June 12 as a result of a self-inflicted gunshot before what was a presumed standoff with police.

Duane “Fuzzy” Walden, 76, of Fenton died of illness June 22. He was a long-time co-owner of Walden’s Lounge in Fenton.

Malvin Walden, 43, died in his sleep of unknown causes Aug. 5.

Aaron Steedman, 19, of Byron, a Linden High School student, died Aug. 12 as a result of a car accident.

Camilo “Cam” Gonzalez, 82, of Tyrone Township, died Aug. 18 after a brief illness. He was a Tyrone Township official and local Realtor.

Tyler Jelinek, 19, of Fenton, died as a result of a car accident Aug. 20.

Wade Pyles, 49, of Fenton Township, a local Realtor who was very involved with the community and many charitable causes, died Sept. 8 of a massive heart attack.

Christopher Baldwin, 28, of Argentine Township, died in an apartment shooting Sept. 22.

Nicholas “Nick” Popa, 89, of Fenton died of natural causes Oct. 13. He was the former owner of Epic Machine and one of the founders of the Fenton Business & Technology Park.

Joseph “Joe” Reinfelder, 47, of Flushing, died from a sudden illness Dec. 6. He was a former teacher and principal in the Lake Fenton Community Schools district.

CITY OF FENTON

Continued from Page 3B

As planned by an active city administration and Downtown Development Authority (DDA), the city has become a true destination for visitors from throughout the state of Michigan and the Midwest. And the growth just keeps on coming.

The Horizon Building in downtown Fenton was completed this year. It is a three-story structure that features second- and third-floor offices. Residents and visitors are eagerly awaiting the opening of Andiamo’s, a popular Italian restaurant that features several eateries in and around the Detroit area. It is set to open in February 2019.

Also downtown is the new Ciao Italian Bistro and Wine Bar, another popular Italian Restaurant brought to the city by the folks that own Ciao Amici’s in Brighton.

The owner of The Barn, a sports bar and restaurant at Torrey and North roads, has invested more of his resources into the downtown by opening The Fenton Pub, right next to Ciao.

Construction on the Cornerstone II building, called 111 Leroy Place, is expected to begin in the spring of 2019. It will take about a year to build and be ready for occupancy in 2020. The four-story building will feature a total of about 41,000 square feet. The first floor of the second building will feature five retail spaces. The second floor will be offices, and the third and fourth floors will feature condominiums.

ReJuv Ave. has outgrown its current location in Dibbleville. But owners are committed to staying in the downtown and a brand new, state-of-the-art building is under construction at the corner of Adelaide and Mill streets.

Dr. Erica Peabody has invested her resources into the downtown as well, buying and moving her practice into what has affectionately come to be known as “Big Blue,” the former Rockwell Assisted Living facility.

Art continues to be a major focal point in the city of Fenton. Sculptures of all description continue to dot the landscape in various downtown locations. The most exciting of those sculptures is called “The Game,” depicting Fenton’s forefathers engaged in the card game that named the town.

A new and unique butterfly garden was started in 2018. The garden is expected to be completed in the spring with some

beautiful winged creatures to follow.

Some excitement is brewing on the west side of the city as well. The Kmart building has been purchased and is currently under extensive renovations to accommodate five retailers. Those retailers include T.J. Maxx, Michaels and Five Below. The remaining two retailers have not yet been revealed.

The former Bob Evans Restaurant on Owen Road at Silver Parkway, is now home to The Meeting Place (TMP), a great new dining experience.

Where Pizza Hut and Big Boy once stood is a brand new strip mall featuring retail spaces currently available. Two are occupied, one by Starbucks, which is anchoring the east end of the building and Verizon right next to it.

The Fenton Area Public Schools district sold 3.3 acres of its land on Owen Road which is expected to be the future home of an unidentified grocer and a couple of other retailers.

The north end of town also is growing with new businesses and eateries locating in existing retail spaces.

Growing pains

While the rapid growth taking place in the city of Fenton has been a boon for the local economy, the additional traffic generated by a growing population and visitors continues to take a toll on crumbling roadways. After two failed millage elections, city leaders will be busy researching ways to fund much-needed road improvements throughout the city.

It’s no secret that something needs to be done to improve traffic flow and safety at the North Road and Torrey Road intersection in Fenton — it’s the method of improvement that has come up for public debate.

In early December, the Fenton City Council voted to adopt a resolution supporting the addition of a roundabout at the North and Torrey roads intersection.

New law

Michigan voters made recreational marijuana legal in 2018, with the new law taking effect Dec. 6. As a result, the city of Fenton enacted a new ordinance prohibiting marijuana establishments from locating in the city. Officials, who say the new law is ambiguous, are waiting until the state comes up with solid rules and regulations before they review the matter again.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ROLL FOR THE DARTMOUTH DRIVE STREET IMPROVEMENT SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF FENTON, GENESEE COUNTY, MICHIGAN

TO THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF FENTON TOWNSHIP, GENESEE COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THE OWNERS OF LAND WITHIN THE DARTMOUTH DRIVE STREET IMPROVEMENT SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT, AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Supervisor and assessing officer of the township has reported to the township board and filed in the office of the Township Clerk for public examination a special assessment roll prepared by her covering all properties within the Dartmouth Drive Street Improvement Special Assessment District benefited by the proposed street improvement project. Said assessment roll has been prepared for the purpose of assessing the costs of asphalt resurfacing Dartmouth Drive from Darts Drive to approximately 30 feet from the northerly end of Dartmouth Drive and work incidental thereto within the aforesaid special assessment district as more particularly shown on the plans on file with the Township Clerk at 12060 Mantawauka Drive, Fenton, Michigan within the township, which assessment is in the total amount of \$141,689.19.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the assessing officer has further reported that the assessment against each parcel of land within said district is such relative portion of the whole sum levied against all parcels of land in said district as the benefit to such parcels bears to the total benefit to all parcels of land in said district.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the township board will meet at the Fenton Township Civic Community Center, 12060 Mantawauka Drive, Fenton, Michigan on Monday January 7, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. for the purpose of reviewing said special assessment roll and hearing any objections thereto. Said roll may be examined at the office of the Township Clerk during regular working hours of regular working days until the time of said hearing and may further be examined at said hearing. Appearance and protest at the hearing held to confirm the special assessment roll is required in order to appeal the amount of the special assessment to the Michigan Tax Tribunal.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT, because the revised costs exceed the previous estimated costs by 10% or more, the public hearing shall also be an opportunity for property owners in the special assessment district to provide comment regarding the continuation of the project in light of the increase in costs.

An owner, or party in interest, or his or her agent may appear in person at the hearing to protest the special assessment, or shall be permitted to file his or her appearance or protest by letter and his or her personal appearance shall not be required. (The owner or any person having an interest in the real property who protests in person or in writing at the hearing may file a written appeal of the special assessment with the Michigan Tax Tribunal within 35 days after the confirmation of the special assessment roll.)

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FENTON TOWNSHIP

Continued from Page 3B

Former Trustee Shaun Shumaker stepped down from the Board of Trustees after winning the 6th district Genesee County commissioner seat in the November election. Shumaker, a Republican, defeated Democratic challenger Greg Curtiss for the seat.

Former Commissioner Drew Shapiro vacated the seat at the end of 2018, and Shumaker starts his new term Jan. 1, 2019.

Fenton Township saw a high voter turnout in the November midterms, with 64.5 percent of registered voters casting a ballot.

This past year was a year for safety

improvements for the Fenton Township Fire Department. The Board of Trustees approved certain security upgrades for the two stations, which includes video surveillance and swipe-card access. At Shop With a Hero in December, the Fenton Township Firefighters Association helped 55 children buy gifts for their families for Christmas.

In July, Fire Chief Ryan Volz and firefighter Paul Bjorklund were accused of sexual harassment. Volz, and the township, are facing a lawsuit for alleged sexual harassment and retaliation after a firefighter, Kristy Polidan, and Cpt. Kirk Stephens brought forth the allegations. Volz faced disciplinary action, including

a suspension until Oct. 1 without pay. The civil lawsuit is ongoing.

The case involving a Fenton Township couple and their chickens came to a close in May. After two years of keeping chickens and one year in court, Andrew and Jen Charlesworth found a solution to keep their chickens even though their property is not properly zoned for farm animals. The chickens now roost under their household like any other pet, which brought them into compliance.

Also in farm news, in April the township lost a court case in which it was found that Micah's Meadow in the Lakeview Farm subdivision was allowed to use horse

manure as fertilizer. After proceeding through the courts for two years, it was found that the farm is protected by the Right to Farm Act and can spread manure.

In April, after one lane of the Hogan Road bridge was deemed unsafe to drive on, the Fenton Township Board of Trustees approved a project to replace the bridge by 2021. The total cost of the project is \$1,601,250, to be paid by the township, the Genesee County Road Commission and grant money.

In February, the annual Polar Plunge event, where people raise money to jump into a frozen lake, raised more than \$95,000 for the Special Olympics.

LINDEN

Continued from Page 3B

Streets
Federal grants mainly funded the repaving of Bridge Street from the bridge over the Shiawassee River and south to city limits. The City Council is working on finding a solution to redo the city's roads after a road millage failed in the November election.

Changes to City Council

Linden residents voted in a new councilor, Pamela Howd, after Charlie Ross stepped down. In the Nov. 6 elections, Linden saw a voter turnout of 65.8 percent. Former Clerk Lyn Henry left Linden and Deputy Clerk Erica Armstrong took over the position in August.

Paul Zelenak departed the position of city manager after serving in the role since

February 2013. Police Chief Scott Sutter stepped up and, along with his duties as chief, became interim city manager while the Council searches for someone to fill the position.

Development

Nicole Wax, owner of Dr. Wax Orthodontics, is working on developing the old Union Block site with a two-story,

mixed-use building. The area has been vacant since the Union Block building was destroyed by fire in 2007.

The old Marathon gas station on W. Broad Street, owned by the Fairbanks family, was torn down in October.

The Linden Mill building received electrical upgrades, and improvements to the furnaces and air conditioning system. The council is searching for ways to plan future improvements for the building.

Events

Holiday Happening, Linden's Christmas event, saw a record turnout with approximately 5,000 attendees watching the parade, fireworks and participating in the event. Local pro boxer Joey Spencer, whose record was 5-0 at the time, was the grand marshal of the parade.

Other successful events included Riverfest, National Night Out, the Zombie Walk, Back to the Bricks, and the Gus Macker Basketball Tournament.

The Shiawassee River Water Trail Coalition partnered with Fenton Winery and Brewery to create the official beer and wine of the river, called "Shiawassee Shandy" and "Winding River Wine."

Linden Community Schools

The alleged Linden shooting threat case came to a close with the sentencing of the third person involved. District personnel participated in ALICE (active shooter) training to prepare for a potential school shooting situation.

Ongoing projects/cases

Ongoing projects include the construction of the public bathroom at Eagle's Wooden Park. At the end of 2018, construction began on the complex containing Alpine Marketplace, Little Caesars, Snap Fitness 24-7, China Garden, Edward Jones, Rite Aid Pharmacy and more.

City Council is also keeping track of a lawsuit against the city and Genesee County Road Commission that could go to the Michigan Supreme Court. The case involves a bicycle rider who sustained serious injuries after crashing on Ripley Road.

Argentine Township

In Argentine Township, a shooting on Sept. 22 ended the life of Christopher Baldwin, 28, of Argentine Township. He was allegedly shot by a 22-year-old friend, Floyd Blalock Jr., in an apartment off Seymour Road. The case is ongoing.

In November, two police officers and one former officer received life-saving awards.

In May, the police department decided to designate its parking lot a safe location for people to exchange things bought on the internet. The department also underwent renovations, which included redoing tile floors, painting the inside, creating a holding room, a new outside sign and more.

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Times top videos for 2018

■ Everything from fun events to tragedy covered by the Times in live or produced videos

By Tim Jagielo

Weekly fish fries, auto crashes, family struggles, big parades and hard-hitting court cases are covered at the Times with not only stories and photos, but also videos.

At the Times, we produce news and feature videos, which are then attached to stories online. We also share these videos on Facebook as individual posts.

Watching fun event videos allows the viewer to experience something they missed, or re-live something they miss.

We also go “live” on Facebook, recording videos from the scene of an event, which exist solely on Facebook, and not our website, myfenton.com.

The video with the most plays overall on Facebook is of a meteor captured by moses.bz webcams overlooking U.S. 23. The untitled video was viewed 152,000 times and shared 2,600 times. The scene high above U.S. 23 at Thompson Road was lit briefly by what appeared to be a meteor, and is by far the most viewed video of 2018.

The video with the second highest views was a live video of what at the time was thought to be a standoff with a barricaded gunman in June. The story was tragic. The man in question took his own life before police arrived. The live Facebook video had 28,000 views and was shared 256 times.

The third most viewed video was watched 10,000 times. The Dec. 4 multi-vehicle crash on U.S. 23 at Owen Road was shared 121 times.

There were also demolition, crash and fire videos that always draw thousands of views.

Overall, live videos or videos of already popular topics have more views.

The video produced by the Times with the most views was the video of the same “standoff” from before, titled “Police standoff on Hickory Street ends in death.” This video was cut after-the-fact and attracted 4,100 views.

“Matthew Carrier sentencing and impact statements” had the most visceral emotional content, and had 3,800 views.

“Would you live in a ‘tiny house’” had 3,700 views, and detailed how a local tiny house was built, giving a (very short) tour.

The “Abdu Akl probable cause conference,” had 3,000 views.

Watching fun event videos allows the viewer to experience something they missed, or re-live something they miss.

Media Editor's choice

The videos that I was most excited to make don't necessarily get the most views.

I was most proud of “There's trouble in dairy land,” a video about a family owned Mundy Township dairy farm struggling with staying afloat amid low fluid milk prices and increasing costs. It was also used by Bridge Magazine.

The most unexpected and from-the-hip video featured Rebecca Garnett of Holly, who opened up about her experience of being assaulted by her husband. She showed her skin grafts from a fire attack and how she escaped in the video called, “Domestic violence victim shares her story.”

A story we had been following for a while came to a slight crescendo with “Fenton man, former marathon runner crosses Crim finish line in wheelchair.” Mike Ruggirello suffered a stroke in 2015. Since then, he has been undergoing rehab under the direct care of his wife, Janet. We first met the resilient couple in 2016 when Janet was pushing Mike by wheelchair along Silver Parkway.

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Posts with most Facebook engagement

■ Meteors, armed robberies and more

By Hannah Ball

Facebook is an important medium to connect our readers with the news on our website. Here are the five top Facebook posts of 2018:

1. Meteor sighting video

- 252,081 people reached
- 152,901 video views
- 11,672 reactions, comments and shares

On Tuesday, Jan. 16, the Times posted a video of a light flash that was from a meteor at 8:08 p.m. over the Fenton area. This camera is located near Thompson Road at U.S. 23 and aimed toward the south. Video credit to Moses.bz.

2. Winter crash at U.S. 23 at Silver Lake Road

- 99,788 people reached
- 13,629 post clicks
- 3,040 reactions,

comments and shares

On Feb. 9, northbound U.S. 23 was shut down at Silver Lake Road in Fenton due to a multiple vehicle crash, involving at least four semis and other vehicles just north of that location. There was one confirmed fatality. Traffic was detoured off the highway at Silver Lake Road. Police reported white out conditions.

3. U.S. 23 Owen Road crash

- 88,514 people reached
 - 47,963 post clicks
 - 3,433 reactions, comments and shares
- On Dec. 4, emergency personnel responded to five crashes involving 10 vehicles and six injured motorists on U.S. 23 near Owen Road.

4. Roundabout

- 57,195 people reached
 - 11,845 post clicks
 - 2,892 reactions, comments and shares
- On Dec. 11, the Times posted the story about Fenton City Council approving plans for a roundabout at the intersection of North and Torrey roads, sparking hundreds of comments and debate.

5. Armed robbery at Kay Jewelers

- 49,021 people reached
- 12,448 post clicks
- 1,856 reactions, comments and shares

On May 18, police responded to an armed robbery at Kay Jewelers in Fenton near Target. The store was closed while Fenton police investigated.



NOW ENROLLING! Young 5's - 8th



Dare to Be Remarkable



NOTICE OF OPEN ENROLLMENT

Holly Academy, a Public School Academy, will be holding open student enrollment for the 2019-2020 school year beginning January 7, 2019 through March 1, 2019. Applications may be picked up at any time from the office during regular school hours 8:00am to 4:00pm weekdays or you may access forms online at (www.hollyacademy.org). Learn about the power of the pack at our New Family Expo, which will be held at the Academy on Monday, February 25, 2019 from 6:00pm until 7:30pm. If there are more applicants to enroll in a specific grade than there are spaces available, students shall be selected using a public lottery process.

The lottery, if necessary, is scheduled to occur on Friday, March 15, 2019 at 9:00am.

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LIGHTER SIDE

Continued from Page 3B

Feb. 11 — Shhh ... love letters

A Tyrone Township couple, George and Pierrette La-Marche, have been married 60 years, transcending war and a language barrier of her French and his English, with more than 50 love letters sent while he was at sea in the Navy.

March 4 — Commencement comes early for Fenton High School student battling cancer

Fenton High School held its first ceremony for 2018 graduates on March 1, honoring senior Kyle Gauer, who is battling acute myeloid leukemia. Kyle's twin sister, Katie, is also a FHS graduate in 2018. Their parents are Kevin and Kimberly Gauer.

April 1 — 'An Easter miracle'

Flu-like symptoms in February led to a heart transplant at University of Michigan Hospital for 13-year-old Aiden Saunders, son of Bill and Lori Saunders of Deerfield Township.

April 29 — Fenton grad is still 'Naked and Afraid'

Fenton High School graduate Melissa Miller participated in (and survived) an encore survival challenge in the extreme version of Discovery Channel's reality TV show, "Naked and Afraid XL." The episode aired May 5.

April 29 — Horses and humans create bonds for healing

Local equine trainer and horse whisperer Tim Scarberry of Wind Walker Farms brings home to people facing hardships through an organization he founded, Horses Heal Hearts of Michigan. This non-profit group brings horses on site to visit veterans, hospitals and children in need.

May 18 — DDA approves \$35,000 'Butterfly Garden' project

The city of Fenton got a new "Butterfly Garden," following its DDA approval at the May 15 meeting. It was placed near the butterfly sculpture on South LeRoy Street, just north of city hall. The butterfly sculpture was paid for last year by Gerald and Kay Willey, who donated \$17,000 so that the city, through the DDA, could acquire the sculpture.



Janet Ruggirello of Fenton pushes her husband, Mike, across the Crim starting line at 7:32 a.m., Saturday, Aug. 25. Times file photo

May 27 — Disney fairytale for Fenton couple

Former Walt Disney World "cast members" Garret Davies and Allison Ezell met while working at Disney in Orlando, Florida and he proposed to her there. They now spend most of their vacation time at Disney, when they're away from his career at Travel Brokers and her career at General Optical.

June 24 — Who's Walt and where does he get all those crawlers?

Bright yellow bait signs are a staple at gas stations and convenience stores across the state and the country. Walt's Crawlers is headquartered in Vanderbilt, Michigan, 10 miles north of Gaylord.

July 8 — Frank's Tavern: Amazing fish 'n' chips, frog legs and more

It was just a little hole in the wall in Fenton Township, but it has been described as "one of the most celebrated restaurants in the tri-county area." Frank's Tavern was the place to be, especially on Friday and Saturday night. Known for serving "some of the best seafood around" when it opened in the 1930s, it was demolished in May of 2014, four years after it was shut down.

July 8 — 'I want to be the boss'

Cameron "Cam" Zoll, a Fenton teen with Down syndrome, works the weekend shift at Smitty's Exit 80 in Fenton, and has become a favorite of owner Doug

"Smitty" Smith who hired him, as well as other staff and customers.

Aug. 19 — Puppy with deformed spinal column finds 'forever' home

Prince Charming, a furry resident of Adopt-a-Pet in Fenton Township, can't move his back legs and uses a cart to get around. But he found a permanent home with new adoptive parents Len and Josephine Adams.

Aug. 29 — Fenton resident, former marathon runner, crosses CRIM finish line in wheelchair

Mike Ruggirello, a former Air Force mechanic and global marathon runner, was the victim of a stroke in 2015, but finished his first-ever CRIM 10-miler in a wheelchair. His team of fellow runners was led by his wife, Janet, and other family members and friends.

Sept. 5 — Iconic Dixie Cleaners to close Sept. 29

Tom and Candy Moleski closed the doors Sept. 29, after running a family-owned and operated business in Fenton since 1968.

Oct. 7 — What it takes to be the next Michigan rep

Mike Mueller, Republican candidate and David Lossing, Democratic candidate, faced off to win the 51st District state representative seat, to be vacated by Joe Graves, who is term limited. Both candidates spent countless hours, thousands of dollars and sacrificed family time to try to win the nomination for the November election. Mueller won the seat.

Nov. 11— Making beautiful music

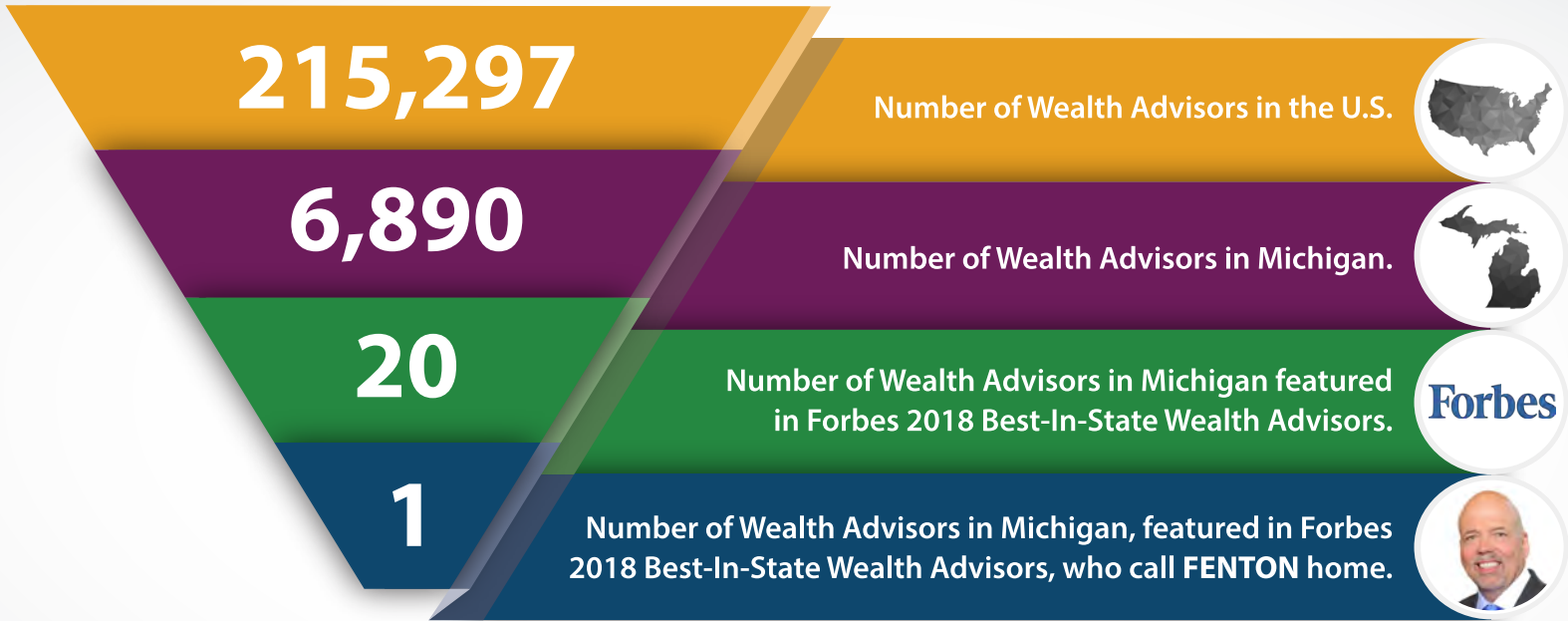
Lake Fenton High School 1965 graduate Bruce Carlson spent his entire career restoring and repairing violins in Cremona, Italy, "the stringed instrument capital of Europe."

Dec. 9 — Survival Flight team befriends local cancer patient

Ray Lemon, 80, peered out of his window at the University of Michigan Hospital, and was in awe of the Survival Flight team that he saw leave daily from the helicopter pad to pick up critically injured and ill patients.

The team heard about Lemon's interest and began daily visits and invited him on a tour of Survival Flight. He is now at home in Deerfield Township with his daughter, Missy Vincent, and family, recovering from treatment for acute myeloid leukemia.

Hey Fenton, did you know...?



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MOST READ

Continued from Page 1B

8. Linden grad arrested for Texas robberies

Page views: 20,346

A 21-year-old Linden High School graduate, and an accomplice, were arrested May 15 in connection with three Texas hotel robberies and a police chase that ended with a head-on crash.

7. Tyrone Township blaze destroys new buildings under construction

Page views: 20,381

On Jan. 26, multiple fire departments dealt with a fire that nearly destroyed a home, which was near completion.

6. Man shot dead in apartment off Seymour Road in Argentine

Page views: 20,405

On Sept. 22, Argentine Township police were called to an apartment complex on Seymour Road after a 22-year-old man allegedly shot and killed a 28-year-old man.

5. Deputy injured on last day of career

Page views: 20,909

On Nov. 28, Mike Mueller, outgoing Livingston County sheriff's deputy, was injured on the last day of his law enforcement career. He will serve as the next 51st district state representative in Michigan.

4. Don't become the victim of shark tank scam on Facebook

Page views: 24,961

In May, the Times warned readers about a scam claiming to have information on a product from Fenton backed by "Shark Tank" judges.

3. "The community is going to suffer greatly from this loss"

Page views: 25,559

Wade Pyles, a local Realtor and community advocate, died Sept. 8. The unexpected death shocked area residents.

2. U.S. 23 near Owen Road the scene of multiple crashes

Page views: 25,756

On Dec. 4, first responders were on U.S. 23 at Owen Road to deal with five crashes involving 10 vehicles.

1. Armed robbery at Kay Jewelers

Page views: 51,526

On May 18, three people entered the Fenton Kay Jewelers store and used hammers to smash the glass jewelry cases. Forty-two pieces of jewelry worth more than \$50,000 were stolen. The subsequent story on Fenton police releasing the surveillance footage received more than 47,000 page views.

HOLLY

Continued from Page 3B

The Holly area experienced changes and growth driven by practical concerns for efficiency and an eye on growth.

This year, the village of Holly initiated the relocation of its fire hall. Tom McKenney, village president, said it was to "improve capacity and functionality for the department and improve Saginaw Street's profile and landscape."

The project will be completed in 2019, with the old building to be sold privately.

The village also demolished the old Waterworks Park building, but preserved the pump equipment for future display.

The village continued to defend litigation challenging its water and sewer rate structure. "Unfortunately though at considerable public expense," McKenney said. Council member Chris Rankin said that so far, this case involving a resident as plaintiff against the village has cost more than \$200,000.

"I feel like we've made a lot of progress in 2018. Most of it could be described as catching up, though."

Chris Rankin
Holly Village
Council member

"I feel like we've made a lot of progress in 2018," Rankin said. "Most of it could be described as catching up, though."

Civic groups went through changes also, such as the Holly Masons selling the building on 105 Washington St., which they've used for nearly 100 years. They're currently renting the

Holly American Legion hall for meetings, according to member Dave Cruickshank.

Holly Township engaged in several public projects, such as initiating gravel road resurfacing, which will continue for three years, dumping 300,000 tons of gravel. The project will cost \$250,000 overall, and will be split between the township general fund, Oakland County, and road commission funds. Holly Township's portion will be approximately \$88,000, due

to extra work completed prior to this part of the project.

The project to revitalize and develop the Holly Heritage Farmstead site is ongoing. The foundation for the barn was

replaced in 2017, and a master plan is being created to turn it into an educational site.

The project did run into a snag late summer 2018, related to the new and old structure lining up to provide proper support. Without it, the floor of the barn won't be able to support visitors, which it is redesigned to do.

In Rose Township, Supervisor Diane Scheib-Snyder said the five-year master plan and parks plan were both updated.

The township completed several projects like new approaches on Munger Road and a new 8-inch well for fire suppression.

An invasive species committee to educate the public on handling invasive species was formed.

The township is working with a historical preservation architect to renovate the old township hall located on Franklin Street to meet fire safety, and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements.

The North Oakland County Fire Authority (NOCFA) and Holly Fire Department earned an upgraded ISO rating, which can lower home insurance rates in the area.

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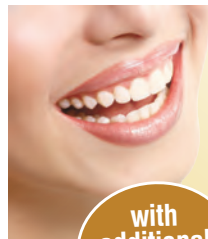
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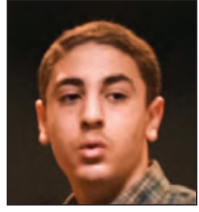
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CRIMINAL CASES

Continued from Page 1B

murder and operating a vehicle while intoxicated causing death.

Abdurrahman "Abdu" Ahmed Akl, 17, of Fenton Township, has been in custody since his arrest March 4, 2017. He has been charged with the shooting death of his friend,



Abdurrahman
"Abdu"
Ahmed Akl

Brady Alan Morris, who was living with Akl's family in their Moffett Drive home.

Akl's jury trial in Genesee County Circuit Court is scheduled to begin March 12, 2019 at 8:30 a.m.

David John Garnett, 56, of Holly, was sentenced April 29 to 11 to 50 years in prison for first-degree arson and assault with intent to commit murder Feb. 5, 2018.



David John
Garnett

The charges came after Holly police responded to the mobile home Garnett shared with his wife, Rebecca, in the Holly Village mobile home community in Holly at 6:45 p.m., Monday, Feb. 5. According to Holly police, officers responded to the couple's home on a report that a woman had been set on fire.

Holly Police Chief Michael Story said the woman reported that Garnett doused her with gasoline and with the flick of a cigarette lighter, set her on fire. She told

police that they had been having ongoing domestic disputes.

After months of recovery and numerous donations to furnish and repair her home, Rebecca is doing much better.

In May, two criminal sexual cases (CSC) against **Michael Sackrider**, 54, of Fenton Township were bound over to Genesee County Circuit Court.

On the initial case, Genesee County Sheriff's detectives were alerted in January to a CSC complaint involving Sackrider. Detectives interviewed the victim, who claimed she was sexually assaulted by Sackrider several times when she was between the ages of 11 and 16 years old. She told detectives that the alleged assaults took place at Sackrider's Linden Road

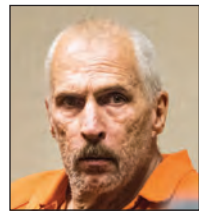


Michael Todd
Sackrider

home in Fenton Township. The young victim said Sackrider was her mom's ex-boyfriend.

In April, another individual made CSC allegations, which they claim occurred in July 2017.

The court case is ongoing and Sackrider is expected back in court Jan. 7, 2019 for a motion hearing.



Derek Watson

The CSC case against **Derek Watson**, 62, of Fenton Township, has been bound over to Genesee County Circuit Court for a jury trial.

Watson is facing

four felony counts of first-degree CSC with a victim under the age of 13, one count of second-degree CSC with a victim under the age of 13, child abuse and possession of sexually abusive material. Two original weapons charges were dismissed. He was released on bond.

Watson is expected back in Genesee County Circuit Court for a pre-trial hearing Jan. 3, 2019 at 8:30 a.m.

Douglas Walsh, the husband of a Linden in-home daycare owner is facing six CSC charges in Genesee County Circuit Court. The offenses date back to 2012, according to court records. If convicted, he could face up to 15 years



Douglas Walsh

in prison, according to the Michigan Penal Code.

As previously reported, Linden Police Chief Scott Sutter said his department investigated the allegations and presented its case to the Genesee County Prosecutor's Office for review.

Released on bond, Walsh is expected back in court Feb. 4, 2019 for a motion hearing.

Kenneth Dane Parks, 17, of Holly was sentenced to two years of probation after he pleaded guilty to making threats to his Snapchat followers in March. He was also ordered to pay more than \$2,000 in fines.



Kenneth Dane
Parks

According to Holly police, students reported the incident to the school resource officer because the photo he posted on Snapchat had a title of "I feel like shooting up a school today."

The investigation was turned over to the Oakland County prosecutor's office for review. Parks was charged with malicious use of a telecommunications device.

John Tomlinson, 57, of Flint is facing six charges of CSC related to three women coming forward and alleging that Tomlinson took advantage of them at his hypnotherapy office in Grand Blanc.



John
Tomlinson

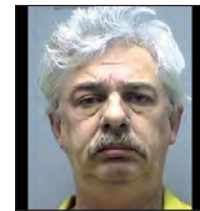
Tomlinson was arraigned on one count of first-degree criminal sexual con-

duct, one count of unlawful imprisonment, and one count of assault by strangulation for an alleged incident that took place on April 17, 2017.

He was arraigned June 8, 2017 in two cases. According to Deputy Chief Assistant Prosecutor John Potbury, additional charges were filed, including four counts of CSC second-degree, involving two new alleged female victims who came forward after news broke of the first case. Those incidents were alleged to have occurred between March 2013 and August 2015.

Tomlinson has a pre-trial hearing Jan. 18, 2019 at 8:15 a.m.

Stephen Challis, 59, of Fenton pleaded guilty in August to two reduced counts of unauthorized access to a computer, a five-year felony. He was sentenced to five years probation.



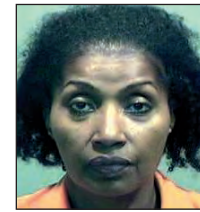
Stephen Challis

Challis was originally charged with two counts of false report or threat of terrorism, and two counts of using a computer to commit a crime. Using the computer to commit a crime carries a maximum

prison time of 20 years to life.

He reportedly made "joke" threats via email in March to shoot and kill employees at Nexteer Automotive in Auburn Hills. He was involved with a contracted project with Nexteer Automotive.

The 56-year-old woman charged with fatally shooting a pregnant Linden woman and her co-worker rejected a plea deal Monday, Nov. 19. **Jacquelyne Faye Tyson** could have pleaded guilty as



Jacquelyne
Faye Tyson

mentally ill with two counts of second-degree murder, one for each victim. The sentencing agreement would mean a prison sentence of 20 to 50 years.

Tyson is charged with first-degree premeditated murder, assault with intent to murder and two counts of felony firearm after shooting Lyric Work, 20, and Tamara Johnson, 45, of Mt. Morris, at the leasing office of Grand Oaks Apartments on July 26, 2016.

With her rejection of the offer, a pre-trial hearing has been set for Jan. 29, 2019. A jury trial has been set for Jan. 30, 2019.

A felony case involving **Elena Danishevskaya**, a former Holly police chief,

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was bound over to Van Buren County Circuit Court for a jury trial. She was chief of police in Bangor for just seven months, but she is facing 15 felony counts from her time there.



Elena Danishevskaya

Each is punishable for up to 14 years, according to a news release by the Michigan Attorney General's office.

Danishevskaya is expected back in Van Buren County Circuit Court on March 1, 2019 for a final pre-trial hearing.

Frederick Daniel Clark, 29, Christian Lee Lover, 24, and Mataya Delores Shaw, 23, all of Owosso, are charged with premeditated, first-degree homicide and conspiracy to commit murder in the death of Austin Culkins, 20, on April 21.



Frederick Daniel Clark



Christian Lee Lover



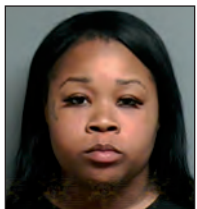
Mataya Delores Shaw

A pre-trial hearing for the trio is scheduled for Jan. 22, 2019 and jury trial is scheduled for March 5, 2019.

Three Detroit residents were charged with unarmed robbery and larceny of the Kay Jewelry store in Fenton on May 18. **KK Lavon McGilary, 28,** of Detroit pleaded guilty to unarmed robbery and larceny of more than \$20,000. He will be sentenced Jan. 11, 2019 at 9 a.m.



KK Lavon McGilary



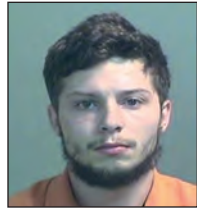
Chanell Lana Fleming



Marquis Raekwon Boykins

Chanell Lana Fleming, 30, of Detroit pleaded not guilty and has a pre-trial scheduled for Jan. 22, 2019 and a jury trial beginning Feb. 26, 2019. **Marquis Raekwon Boykins, 18,** of Detroit, pleaded guilty to an amended charge of unarmed robbery. Sentencing for Boykins is scheduled for Jan. 25, 2019 at 9 a.m. He will remain jailed until that time.

The 22-year-old Argentine Township man, **Floyd Bryon Blalock Jr.,** charged with second-degree murder in the shooting death of Christopher Baldwin, 28, has been declared competent to stand trial. He also faces a felony firearms charge. He was in court Dec. 18 for a preliminary examination where a probable cause conference was scheduled for Jan. 10, 2019 at 1 p.m.

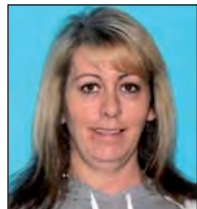


Floyd Bryon Blalock, Jr.

Blalock, 22, allegedly shot Christopher Baldwin, 28, Sept. 22, in an apartment on S. Seymour Road in Argentine Township. Argentine Township Police Chief Daniel Allen said Baldwin was shot and was pronounced dead at the scene.

The suspected weapon is a 9mm semi-automatic handgun, which police recovered. Allen said police were told that Blalock 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.

Angela Cockerham, 46, of Highland Township, who was running an adult foster care home for disabled adults just south of the Rose Township border, has been charged with possession of a controlled substance under 25 grams.



Angela Cockerham

Angela Cockerham, 46, was bound over to Oakland County Circuit Court and has a pretrial hearing Feb. 19, 2019.

Her husband, **Russell Cockerham, 48,** was arrested and is facing several more charges, including delivery and manufacture of the controlled substance, delivery and manufacture of the controlled a narcotic or cocaine, less than 50 grams, the delivery and manufacture of marijuana, and six weapons-felony firearm charges.



Russell Cockerham

The case started in January 2018 when deputies assigned to the Oakland County Sheriff's Office Narcotics Enforcement Team received complaints of the sale of cocaine by Russell Cockerham from the home.

Russell Cockerham, 48, also was bound over to Oakland County Circuit Court and has a pretrial hearing Feb. 19, 2019. Both are free on bond.

Randal Scott Canavan, 45, of Argentine Township, was sentenced Sept. 4 to five to 20 years in prison after being convicted of breaking into a home in the 13000 block of Jennings Road in Fenton Township on Dec. 27, 2017. He was on parole when arrested. Canavan pleaded no contest to several charges including felony firearms, assault/resist police, first-degree home invasion, second-degree home invasion.

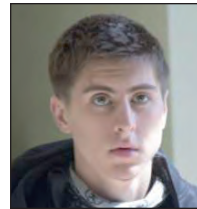


Randal Scott Canavan

Genesee County Sheriff's deputies, as well as three other police departments, responded to the home in an effort to

apprehend the suspect. Shortly after the break-in, the suspect, Canavan, was located, caught and taken into custody outside of a home on Torrey Road, just south of North Long Lake Road. Multiple police units converged on the area to apprehend the suspect.

Zachary Kentish, a Linden High School graduate and a female accomplice, Gabriela Richie, were arrested early Tuesday morning, May 15, in connection with three Texas hotel robberies and a police chase that ended with a head-on crash.



Zachary Kentish

According to my-sanantonio.com, police said the duo went on a "mini crime spree," going from hotel to hotel in San Antonio and reportedly committing robberies. The robbery location included a Holiday Inn, a La Quinta, and a third hotel.

They are awaiting trial, which is scheduled to begin Jan. 4, 2019. Kentish's charges include aggravated assault against a public servant, robbery, and aggravated robbery.

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Trombley's fourth state title is our No. 2 story of 2018

By David Troppens

When it comes to wrestling, the tri-county area has a proud tradition of outstanding wrestlers.

Jarrett Trombley earned himself near the top of that history in 2018.

The Lake Fenton senior captured his fourth individual state championship at Detroit's Ford Field, when he beat Dundee's Chrstian Killion by an 8-2 decision in the 130-pound weight class D3

championship bout. He won state titles at 112 his freshman season, 119 his sophomore year and at 130 pounds his junior year. When he won his fourth title at Ford Field, he ran to the crowd, leapt the wall and got hugs from his family.

"I feel like I'm on top of Ford Field," Trombley said. "I feel great. I brought my fan base with me which makes this experience 10 times greater."

He wasn't the area's only champion.

In fact, he wasn't the only one from Lake Fenton to win a title. Jackson Nevadomski capped his wrestling career by earning his first individual state championship at 160 pounds.

Nevadomski, also a senior, defeated Dundee's Tylor Orrison in his championship match.

CONTINUED AT MYFENTON.COM



Lake Fenton 2018 graduate Jarrett Trombley earned a fourth state title at the state wrestling meet in March.

Sports Times

Spencer's sizzling start is our top story of 2018

■ Linden's pro boxer spends year perfect in ring while fighting on television

By David Troppens

For those who followed Joey Spencer's boxing career as an amateur, his talent was unquestionably elite.

The Linden native, who started sparring when he was 7, finally had a chance to let the entire tri-county area watch him shine in 2018 — but this time as a professional on national television broadcasts.

Spencer, who still is only 18, became must-watch TV for area sports fans when four of his first five professional bouts were televised on FOX's different networks. And Spencer didn't disappoint. He won all four of those televised bouts by knock out, proving why he's one of the true top young up-and-coming stars in the boxing world.

His first bout wasn't on television, but it was at the Mandalay Bay Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas on Feb. 17. The super welterweight earned a quick second-round knock out of Uriel Gonzalez. That victory was Spencer's only fight that wasn't televised in 2018. He followed his first victory with a 51-second knock out of Ousmane Sylla during a bout televised on Fox Sports 1 on April 13. Spencer needed just about four punches to earn three knock outs in the less-than-a-minute bout.

On June 10, Spencer fought Thomas Howard and beat him by knock out in



Linden resident Joey Spencer (right) gives a beating to one of his five opponents in 2018. At the age of 18, Spencer began his professional boxing career with five knock outs during the year, earning four of them in front of a national television audience.

Photo: Trappfotos

one round during a Fox Sports 1 broadcast. Howard entered the fight with 15 professional bouts under his belt, but it was Spencer who proved to be the class athlete, retiring Howard with 12 seconds left in the first round.

By then, those who didn't know who Spencer was in January did now. Area establishments started televising his fights. On Aug. 8, Spencer improved his record to 4-0 with a second-round

knock out of Bruce Lutchmedial under the watchful eye of boxing icon Floyd Mayweather yelling advice to Spencer from the stands during a FOX national broadcast.

Finally, on Sept. 30 Spencer had his final fight of the season, disposing of Cory Macon by knock out in just 1:37 during a bout televised on Fox Sports 1. So what's up for Spencer in 2019?

CONTINUED AT MYFENTON.COM

Many other stories made 2018 memorable

By David Troppens

Memorable stories mean something a bit different to everyone. And how they should be rated vary from person to person.

There are a lot of factors that come into play when creating our top eight stories of 2018. We have detailed the top three subjects with their own separate stories. The sports staff will detail stories No. 4 through No. 8 of 2018 here.

Honorable Mention: Byron's Erik Jones has made a name for himself his entire racing career, but he earned his biggest moment of his young career when Jones won his first-ever race on NASCAR's Monster Energy Cup series. He won on NASCAR's most famous track, Daytona International Speedway during the 2018 Coke Zero Sugar 400 on July 7. **Linden High School** debuted its new football field's turf field, vastly improving the conditions of the athletic program's practices and events held at the track. In only its fourth season ever, the **Lake Fenton, Linden and Fenton co-op gymnastics team** captured a regional championship, qualifying for the state meet. It was announced in 2018 that **Lake Fenton Blue Devils will be joining the Flint Metro League** as well during the 2019-20 school year.

No. 8 - Fenton's sports dominance in the tri-county area: The year 2018 was the year of the Fenton Tigers. A look at our annual season top team polls would show

See 2018 on 15B

Olsen's 1-2 finishes at state earns her the No. 3 spot in our top eight poll of 2018

By David Troppens

The Fenton varsity girls swimming and diving team has a proud history.

The program has won state championships before, but it has been awhile, 18 years to be exact. And when it happened again this fall at Oakland University, the state champion was a freshman.

Gracie Olsen made an impact on Fenton's program as much as anyone has in 20 years, earning her first state championship

in the Division 2 200-yard individual medley relay in November. Olsen dominated the championship race. Her time of 2:03.1 beat the field by a little more than three seconds.

"Going into the IM I was really nervous because I know I did have a lot of competition," Olsen said. "Even if my time may have been a few seconds faster, I knew they were going to give it their all, and they did."

Olsen almost made it two

state championships at the same meet. She ended up taking second in the 100 butterfly (55.69), finishing runner-up to Clarice Fisher (54.86).

The last time any Fenton swimmers won a state championship was in 2000 when Amber Shalla and Liz Korsedal each won an event championship at the Class B state meet. Korsedal won the 100 butterfly for the second straight season that year, while Shalla won the 500 freestyle event.



Fenton's Gracie Olsen won her first Division 2 individual state championship when she won the 200-yard individual medley with a time of 2:03.1. Photo: David Troppens

Blue Devils move to 4-1, defeat Beecher

By David Troppens

The 2018 portion of Lake Fenton's varsity girls basketball season has been pretty memorable.

With one game remaining on the 2018 docket, the Blue Devils are now 4-1 after posting an impressive 56-49 victory against Beecher Dec. 21.

Beecher tried to defeat the Blue Devils by using its swarming pressure, but for large periods of time, it didn't work against Lake Fenton. In the opening period, the Blue Devils did a fine job against the pressure, scoring 19 points. Katelyn Siebert scored 14 of those first-quarter points, leading the Lake Fenton to a 19-14 lead after eight minutes.

"We shot well early," Lake Fenton varsity girls basketball coach Brian VanBuren said. "We moved the ball really well in the quarter and established a lead."

From that point on, the Blue Devils were able to keep their lead. The edge was just 29-25 at halftime, but Lake Fenton outscored Beecher 8-4 in the third stanza, extending the lead to 37-29 entering the final quarter. The Blue Devils iced the game by nailing 15-of-21 free throws during the fourth quarter.

"In the second half we didn't score a bunch, our defense was better and we ended up winning the middle quarters 18-15," VanBuren said. "Although we lost the fourth quarter in scoring, we shot 15-for-21 on the free-throw line to pull it out."

Siebert had an outstanding game, scoring 22 points. Aubrey Fray added 10 points and made 5-of-6 free throws in the fourth quarter. Morgan Furey netted seven points making all four of her free-throw attempts. Morgan Furey is averaging nearly nine points a game while collecting nearly four steals a contest as well.

The Blue Devils also were strong on the bench, outscoring Beecher 16-10 in the battle between the reserves.

Lake Fenton (4-1 overall and 2-1 in league play) are off to a strong start with Siebert leading the way. She's averaging 16 points, six rebounds and four steals a contest. The Blue Devils have plenty of players contributing on the boards with Christina Lamb, Haley Whittecar and Sydney Hammis all averaging 4.8 or more rebounds. Siebert, Furey, Whittecar, Fray and Hammis are each averaging at least one assist a contest.



Lake Fenton's Aubrey Fray drives to the basket during a recent game. Fray scored 10 points in a 56-49 victory against Beecher. Photo: Mark Bolen

Bronchos place fourth at Oakland County meet

By David Troppens

The Holly varsity wrestling team started the season losing its first five matches.

But something has changed. Since then, the Bronchos have gone 4-1 in their next five duals and have continued that positive trend at the Oakland County Tournament.

The Bronchos had three county championships and had 11 of 12 wrestlers score points, leading Holly to a fourth-place finish at the large competition.

"I think there was a combination of things that impacted our start," Holly varsity wrestling coach Don Pluta said. "We probably did a disservice (to our younger wrestlers) by wrestling the competition we did to start with, but by doing so we made them mentally tougher. They know they were going against some of the top kids in the state and doing so has given them the confidence they can compete with anybody. It started clicking in the wrestling room and it started coming together (at the meet)."

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2018

Continued from Page 14B

that Fenton teams captured 12 of those 22 spots.

The 2018-19 academic school year is off to a great start for Fenton as well. The Tigers won five of the eight Metro League titles during the fall.

No. 7 - Area football teams struggle: It was a weird fall for area football programs. After winning or earning a share of each of the last seven Metro League titles, the Fenton varsity football team (7-3) finished in just a tie for third place. The Linden Eagles saw their run of playoff bids that started in 2002 end in 2018. In fact, the Eagles (4-5) finished below .500 for the first time since 2001. Lake Fenton (4-5) and Holly (3-6) also finished below .500.

Only Fenton made the playoffs, and once there, the Tigers lost in the opening round to Walled Lake Western 24-9.

No. 6 - Area cross country teams at the state meet: Sometimes the state cross country meet at Michigan International Speedway feels more like an area invitational with the number of area teams that qualify for the event.

The fall saw four teams earn spots at MIS. The Linden boys team qualified for the state meet for the 13th season in a row, taking 23rd. The Lake Fenton boys were the highest ranking area boys D2 team at the meet, placing 14th. The Blue Devils also won a regional championship.

The Fenton cross country teams were the other two to make it to MIS, competing in D1 action. The boys placed 11th, while the girls finished ninth.

No. 5 - The Holly varsity girls tennis team makes history at the state meet:



Holly's Andrew Anderson's won the Chris Schenkel PBA Player of the Year Award in 2018 after winning two tour events. Photo: ABF-online.org

It seems every time the Holly girls tennis team goes to the state meet in recent years, they make history. They did this season by earning their first-ever flight state champion when Nicole Johnson took the D2 title at No. 2 singles. Johnson defeated Birmingham Seaholm's Sofia Gryzenia 6-4, 6-4 for the title.

"It feels really good," Johnson said about her flight championship. "It was a big goal of mine to accomplish it."

No. 4 - Holly's Andrew Anderson's successful season on the PBA Tour: Holly's Andrew Anderson had a season he won't forget in 2018. He won one of bowling's majors, the USBC Masters for his first PBA Tour title. A couple of months later he won the PBA Xtra Frame Greater Jonesboro Open as well. He earned seven top-five finishes overall, won more than \$96,000 in prize money and also was named 2018's Chris Schenkel PBA Player of the Year, recently.

December 30, 2018

Athlete Of The Week



JACOB BOULAY
Boys Basketball

FENTON



JAKE WARNER
Boys Bowling

HOLLY



JACK KILLIAN
Boys Swim/Dive

FENTON



BROOKE BANNON
Competitive Cheer

HARTLAND



REBECCA FUGATE
Girls Basketball

HOLLY



KYLE KANTOLA
Wrestling

HARTLAND



JOE LARSON
Hockey

HARTLAND



MORGAN MALISZEWSKI
Girls Bowling

HARTLAND

PREP REPORT

BOYS BASKETBALL

► **Beecher 80, Lake Fenton 28:** The Blue Devils trailed 22-10 after one quarter and 44-18 by halftime due to Beecher's press that created too many Lake Fenton turnovers. Cody Schramm led the Blue Devils with eight points.

HOCKEY

► **Saginaw Swan Valley 4, Fenton/**

Linden 0: The Griffins had their eight-game winning streak snapped, as the Fenton and Linden co-op squad were unable to score a goal. Liam Murray made 23 saves in the losing effort.

The Griffins return to game action Jan. 2 against state-ranked Davison at Hartland Sports Center at 6 p.m.

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