

2018 crime report

■Retail fraud is Fenton’s biggest crime, while larceny from autos is tops in Linden

By Hannah Ball

In 2018, the most common crimes in the tri-county area were retail fraud, larceny and

assault. Police chiefs reported fewer incidents with certain crimes, and an increase in others. Here are local crime statistics for 2018.

City of Fenton

In 2018, Fenton police responded to 100 shoplifting (retail fraud) incidents, the same

See **CRIME REPORT** on 9

One crime Fenton police responded to in 2018 was the robbery at Kay Jewelers off Owen Road in May. Police also dealt with 71 incidents of fraud in 2018, among other crimes.

Times file photo



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**VOLUNTEERS ARE
CRITICAL TO
SUCCESS
OF COMMUNITIES**

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Flu and norovirus spreading in Michigan

■Dirty fast-food kiosks and ATMs shown to pass germs from one person to the next

By Hannah Ball

The spread of the influenza, or flu, in Michigan is now classified as “regional” as of Friday, Jan. 4.

The classification was upgraded from “local” due to the increases of the flu in the southeast and southwest regions of the state, and new in parts of the central region.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) publishes the Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report with flu information. For the 2018-2019 season, the report shows 93 cases of hospitalization due to the flu in the counties of Genesee, Clinton, Eaton and Ingham. Of those 93 cases, 17 were pediatric and 76 were adults.

See **FLU** on 5

Builders keeping busy

Carpenters Tim Horton and Daren Brown work on framing a home in Fenton on Monday, Jan. 7. Demand for skilled labor remains high. See story on page 7.

Photo: Tim Jagielo



Fenton Township approves projects

■More than \$82,000 to be spent on repaving, ditching, culverts and scholarships

By Hannah Ball

Fenton Twp. — The Board of Trustees unanimously approved four projects to be completed with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds.

See **PROJECTS** on 8



Photo: simplemost.com

Don't fall for these Social Security scams

■AARP Fraud Watch Network sees staggering number of new complaints from seniors

By Vera Hogan

The crooks are out in full force again. Much like the IRS scam going around last year, this one involves those impersonating a Social Security Administration (SSA) representative.

See **SCAMS** on 9

TEXT
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HOT LINE

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“I have to laugh when I read Gen Y and Z talking about how the Gen X and baby boomers ruined the country. Is this what your teachers have been telling you? Put down the cell phone, open an actual history book, and do some research.”



“Anyone calling for the elimination of the Electoral College has absolutely no idea how our political process works. Thankfully, a bunch of old white men understood the problem with a popular vote. Ignorance is bliss and there are many blissful people in Fenton.”



COMMENT
OF THE WEEK

“After decades of steady increases, U.S. life expectancy has been declining since 2014. A government report released last month said the trend continued last year, driven in part by suicides and drug overdoses.”

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Volunteers are critical to success of communities

An ongoing series
DESCRIBING MUNICIPAL BOARDS
AND COMMISSIONS, AND THE
IMPORTANT WORK THEIR
MEMBERS ACCOMPLISH

By Vera Hogan

Municipalities in the tri-county area have a variety of boards and commissions that are manned by volunteer citizens sharing their expertise and talents in specific areas.

These volunteers are critical to ensure that all the bases are covered when it comes to making recommendations to the elected body regarding building and zoning, the arts, museums, libraries and much more.

This is the first in a series of articles aimed at defining these boards and commissions, learning the names of their hard-working volunteers, their major past accomplishments and what they have planned for the near future.

We begin with the city of Fenton, where there are 14 boards and commissions, with more than 75 volunteer members.

Arts & Culture Commission

The Arts and Culture Commission is the most recent commission added to the city's roster. It hit the ground running after it was first established in 2016.

“The mission of this commission is the support, the initiation and promotion of art and cultural opportunities in the Fenton area.”

Chair Pat Lockwood
City Council member

“The mission of this commission is the support, the initiation and promotion of art and cultural opportunities in the Fenton area,” said Chair Pat Lockwood, who also is a City Council member.

So far, the major accomplishments of this commission include the dedication of the sculpture “The Game,” donated by the Hagerman Foundation, designed by Oleg Kedria of Ukraine and produced by

Ben Cassell, owner of a fine arts sculpture center in Clarkston.

In May, June and July of 2018, the commission was host to the Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA) Inside/Out program, bringing reproductions of 11 masterpieces of art and displaying them throughout the downtown area for viewing. Organized weekly tours of the display were led by members of the cultural committee, Lockwood said.

The commission hosted an opening reception of the DIA program at the cultural center and organized two bus trips to the DIA, one for the senior art class at Fenton High School and one for general public.



Participants and their parents at the July 2018 Children's Art Camp take down their art at the conclusion of the camp. The camps were held at the Fenton Community and Cultural Center and were sponsored by the city of Fenton Arts & Cultural Commission. (Above) The Fenton Arts & Culture Commission will be part of the 2019 Fenton Art Walk, which is held in the summer. **Times file photos**



During the summer of 2018, two children's art camps were held, and led by professional artist and past president of the National Watercolor Society, Denise Willing-Booher. Fifty children were engaged in a two-week camp learning the fundamentals of drawing, painting, clay, and paper maché. “Denise will be instructing this camp again in 2019,” Lockwood said.

Members of this commission participated in the planning and organization of Art Walk 2018, and organized the first “Cabin Fever” winter music concert series to be held on Feb. 7, March 14 and March 21 at the community/cultural center.

In the future, the commission will continue to plan cultural events, programs and classes that will have a positive impact on the arts in the Fenton area. It will work with the Fenton schools in the promotion and support of art classes and events, support the summer camp for children, be a part of Art Walk 2019, and interact with the DIA on programming that may be available for this area.

They also would like to seek a partnership with the Flint Cultural Center to showcase exhibits, concerts and classes in Fenton.

“The city of Fenton Arts & Cultural Commission is an exciting opportunity to showcase and encourage the numerous art and cultural venues that exist right here in our community and to seek

See VOLUNTEERS on 9

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love a job.

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CONTACT INFORMATION
General Office 810-629-8282
Advertising 810-629-8281
Classifieds 810-433-6787
Circulation 810-433-6797
Hot Line myfenton.com
Fax 810-629-9227
Email news@tctimes.com

EDITORIAL STAFF

Editor Sharon Stone 810-433-6786 sstone@tctimes.com
Associate Editor Vera Hogan 810-433-6823 vhogan@tctimes.com
Media Editor Tim Jagielo 810-433-6795 tjagiello@tctimes.com
Staff Reporter Hannah Ball 810-433-6792 hball@tctimes.com
Features Writer Sally Rummel news@tctimes.com
Sports Editor David Troppens 810-433-6789 dtroppens@tctimes.com

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If I Were King...

king@tctimes.com

Citizenship is a two-way street

We hear a lot about “rights” in America. We have the right to an attorney. We have the right to remain silent. We have the right to free speech, the right to privacy and the right to bear arms.

Cruel and unusual punishment? Unreasonable search and seizure? Being tried twice for the same crime? All are violations of your rights. All these, and many more, are rights automatically conferred on you the moment you become an American citizen.

But there is also a flip side to being an American — a side we don’t like to hear about so much in these days of “rights.”

The flip side is “responsibilities.” Responsibility is the twin sister of rights. Ask any citizen what their rights are and they can spew them out like an auctioneer on steroids. Yet, ask the average citizen what the responsibilities of being an American citizen are and you’ll likely be met with a stare as empty as Nancy Pelosi’s campaign promises.

Ergo, here are a few reminders of the responsibilities that all Americans share as citizens of the greatest country on the planet.

- **Pay your own way**, nobody owes you a living and that includes other taxpayers. You have a responsibility to get a job, pay your bills and pay your taxes.

- **Respect and obey** all federal, state and local laws.

- **Defend your country** when called upon.

- **Take care of your own children.** If you breed them, then clothe, house and feed them. Raise them, teach them right from wrong, and instill an appreciation in them for their

country. Yes, this seems simple, but it’s obvious that a lot of Americans are not familiar with it.

- **Secure the future of America.** We all have a duty to preserve what’s great about this nation so that future generations of Americans can experience the same love and patriotism as we do. Be prepared to defend your home and your country at all times.

- **Become an informed and educated voter.**

In recent years, there has been a big push to get all Americans to vote. Not everyone has to be a political junkie, but it would be wonderful if people took the time to become well informed about the basic political landscape instead of voting on who has the best TV ads.

- **Defend our Constitution.** The Constitution contains the fundamental rules that we live under. Almost all of the “rights” we enjoy are defined and guaranteed by the Constitution. Yet, the Constitution is under attack daily by radical leftists and billionaires who want to “fundamentally change America.” It’s a cause that is literally worth fighting for because it is the core document that protects the rights enjoyed by all Americans.

- **Make America first.** The rest of the world doesn’t really care whether you or I live or die — only our fellow Americans do, even during these politically challenging times. At the end of the day all citizens enjoy a special level of kinship — we are all family by the simple, and wonderful, virtue of being Americans.

“America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves.”

— Abraham Lincoln, 1864

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



FOSTER CHILDS

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.

TODAY I SAW an orange work van traveling 50 to 60 mph down Fifth Street. I called the company and complained about their driver. I hope they hold the driver accountable. I urge everyone on their street to notify someone when they see someone driving too fast.

WHEN WILL THE Democrats defend America the same way they did Vietnam at \$2 billion a month?

BY ALL MEANS, buy your new truck. Some 782,000 are being recalled for airbag actuators that can explode and hurl shrapnel at you. Americans buy what they choose.

THE ‘FEDERAL RESERVE’ is not a government agency and in no way is beholden to the president.

THE USA IS a Republic that is controlled by a document, our Constitution, not a Democracy that has no such document. The Electoral College ensures every region in the country was given fair representation. Without it, California and New York would have decided the presidency.

GREATEST THREAT TO America is insider Democrat terrorist Nancy Pelosi and the Democrats. Just added \$54 billion to foreign aid but won’t add \$5 billion to protect this country.

ACTUALLY, I SAID ‘teenagers are smarter than you,’ which I stand by. Also, I am not a teenager. Work on your reading skills and stop jumping to conclusions.

IT IS TOO bad that in your 72 years, you never grew up.

ELECTION DAY REGISTRATION doesn’t overwhelm the system or promote cheating. It exists and works in other states.

THE UNIONS BUILT Flint but the baby boomers turned on the unions after they benefited from them.

NO, IT IS very fair to say baby boomers destroyed the country. You don’t understand politics.

YOU’RE BLAMING DR. Benjamin Spock for society’s ills? Seriously? Take some responsibility for your actions for once in your life.

YES, YOU ARE whining about socialism. You did not learn what it is in school and you still do not have a clue what it is.

‘I WAS BORN, raised and remained a Flint resident for 45 years.’ Yup, you helped destroy it.

SEVENTY PERCENT OF Venezuela’s economy is privately owned. You have no idea what is going on there and you have no idea what socialism is. You just think and say what you are told to by your TV.

A 19-YEAR-old UNC co-ed stated, ‘I like a man to be a man — like a lumberjack. Liberal guys are really feminine.’ Interesting.

Something to *Smile* about

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Compiled by Tim Jagielo, media editor

Where do you volunteer?



“I volunteered for many years at Genesys. Now I’m very active at St. John parish with the funding and the needs of the parish. I like the good feeling of helping others”

— **Kathy Williams**
Fenton



“In the past, I spent a lot of time with Habitat for Humanity. Now, we strive to make the block beautiful with flowers and plants. We want our block to be a showcase for Fenton.”

— **Howard Melrose**
Fenton



“In college I developed an outreach program in the Appalachian Mountains to help girls get their high school diplomas.”

— **Nicole Chapman**
Tyrone Township



“I volunteer at St. Rita’s food pantry. I do it because there are so many people in need and I can really help them. I help with financial assistance and with the food.”

— **Gerrie Buccellato**
Holly Township



“I have volunteered at a soup kitchen in Pontiac. I’m a nurse, so I’d probably volunteer somewhere they help with nurses.”

— **Bill Hall**
Holly

street talk

POLICE & FIRE
REPORT

OBSCEINITY SPOTTED ON LIBRARY

The Fenton Police Department is investigating a malicious destruction of property complaint. Sometime between 5 p.m., Friday, Jan. 4 and Saturday, Jan. 6, someone spray painted an obscenity on the south side of the Fenton library on Caroline Street.

LARCENY FROM AUTO ON SILVER LAKE ROAD

An employee at a business in the 1000 block of Silver Lake Road reported to Fenton police that sometime between 7 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 5, someone entered their vehicle and stole a spare key fob, a pair of Oakley sunglasses and miscellaneous papers. There were no signs of forced entry. Police have no suspects.

DRUNK DRIVING ARRESTS INCREASE IN FENTON

Lt. Jeff Cross said the Fenton Police Department has seen an increase in drunk driving arrests, mostly with the midnight shift. Officers are responding to as many as one or two each night.

TWO DRUNK DRIVERS AT SAME DRIVE-THRU LANE

At 2:19 a.m., Tuesday, Jan. 1, a Fenton police officer was alerted to a possible drunk driver at a fast-food restaurant on Owen Road. The officer, who was nearby, spotted the suspected vehicle and saw the vehicle pull into a gas station. The officer suspected that the driver, later identified as a 24-year-old Fenton man, was highly intoxicated. Contact was made with the driver. He was arrested for operating a vehicle while intoxicated (OWI) and for having open intoxicants in his vehicle. A second police officer on scene impounded the vehicle while the driver was transported to the Fenton police station for processing. He was lodged overnight and issued a court appearance ticket. Approximately 20 minutes later, at 2:43 a.m., the officer, who was finishing the impound paperwork, was alerted to another possible drunk driver in the drive-thru lane. The officer conducted a traffic stop to that vehicle for a traffic violation on Owen Road. Contact was made with the driver, a 22-year-old Fenton man. The driver admitted to drinking. He was arrested for OWI and transported to the police station for processing. He was issued a court appearance ticket for OWI.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

■■■
WHAT KIND OF fool would spray paint ‘(blank) You’ on the back of the library?

■■■
YOU’RE WRONG, THE Democratic House has proposed and passed a budget and sent it on to the Senate where Mitch McConnell won’t even present it to the assembly. I’d say the Republicans are the one’s responsible for the shutdown.

■■■
A WRITER, UNAWARE of U.S. history, fears that the Electoral College might destroy our Democracy. Our founders didn’t want a Democracy (majority rule). The founders wanted representation for all Americans. Article 4, of the Constitution provides for representative government, which is the reason for the Electoral College and U.S. Senate.

■■■
I’D LIKE TO know what will become of the now-former Huntington Bank building in Holly.

■■■

FLU

Continued from Front Page

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) calls the 2017-2018 flu season “high severity” with “high levels of outpatient clinic and emergency department visits,” for either the flu or a flu-like illness (ILI).

More than 80,000 Americans died from the flu in the 2017-2018 winter season, according to the CDC. Approximately 90 percent of those deaths were people over 65.

Flu vaccines

According to a previous Times article, the current flu vaccine has four different strains for people under age 65, and three different strains for those over 65. According to the CDC, the flu vaccines have been updated to match circulating viruses. The B/Victoria component was changed and the influenza A (H3N2) component was updated.

Residents can get the flu vaccine at a

local pharmacy or their doctor’s office.

Those with the flu are most contagious within the first three to four days after their illness begins. It’s possible for seemingly healthy adults to infect others one day before symptoms begin, and five to seven days after getting sick.

“That means that you may be able to pass on the flu to someone else before

you know you are sick, as well as while you are sick. Some people can be infected with the flu virus but have no symptoms. During this time, those people may still spread the virus to others,” according to the CDC.

Norovirus

The MDHHS also is warning residents that the state is experiencing an increase in norovirus activity. This virus can cause vomiting, diarrhea, nausea and stomach cramping, as well as potential fevers, headaches, weakness and muscle aches. While the flu is a respiratory illness that causes fever, cough, chills, headaches and more, it is

“...you may be able to pass on the flu to someone else before you know you are sick, as well as while you are sick.”

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

New Treatment for Back & Sciatic Nerve Pain

■ By Erica Rainer



Sciatica is leg pain caused by a pinched nerve in the lower back. Pains begin in the nerve roots, located on either side of the lower spine and move through the sciatic nerve, which runs the length of each leg

from the buttocks, down to the foot. The leg agony, called radiculopathy, “is often worse than the back pain,” says Dr. James Ide, DC, clinic director at Painless Chiropractic of Fenton MI. “It’s very common for patients to come in describing an agonizing, shooting, burning pain that starts in the buttocks and flows down to the leg and at times into the foot with numbness, tingling and cramps in the leg.” The sensation “can be intolerable,” says Dr. James Ide, DC, head adjusting chiropractor at the Fenton Clinic. “Some people describe it to be similar to the nerve pain you experience if you have a toothache.”

For home care options visit PainlessDC.com/sciatica

After reviewing many different treatment options we have found that typically the average person who suffers from Sciatic pain usually experiences the same frustration when seeking help. They tend to start off going to their doctor who prescribes them one or more of the following; Muscle Relaxers, Pain Pills or Steroid Based Anti-Inflammatory Drugs.

The Muscle Relaxers tend to make patients tired but do relax the muscles. The Pain Pills mask the pain while on them but tend to make many people tense, nauseous, constipated and unable to focus. The Steroid Based Anti-Inflammatory Drugs give some people weakness, moon face, weight gain, insomnia and mood swings. All in all the pain usually comes back once the drugs are gone because nothing was ever corrected just masked. These drugs all focus on the symptoms and not the problem.

This is often the case with most pain related to the spine and nerves, regardless if your issue is in your neck, resulting in headaches or pain, numbness, tingling and/or muscle weakness in the arms and hands or down in the low back and buttocks, resulting in Sciatic Pain.

Once the patient goes to their MD, takes

their prescriptions and then goes back, still in pain, they are usually referred to physical therapy, pain management or a surgeon. Most patients respond to physical therapy however, once the program has finished many report the pain returns.

When they visit pain management, they may be prescribed the same types of drugs their MD gave them or they may jump right to the steroid epidural shots into your spinal column which may not be FDA approved so please be advised to do plenty of research if you ever find yourself in this situation. As for having surgery... well we all know that surgery should always be a last resort because once you make the decision to have surgery, there is no going back and undoing it and many other options are off the table after surgery.

Regardless of how the symptoms are treated, the number one problem with finding relief through these treatments is that they only focus on treating the symptoms not the underlying issue. **In severe cases, this condition can lead to muscle wasting, numbness, and constant tingling down to the toes and eventually sexual dysfunction and even loss of bladder/ bowel control. Left untreated, the intense pain can rapidly wear you down and drain the joy out of life.** People lose hope and have no idea where to turn.

That is until now.

Chiropractic Corrective Care for Sciatic Pain Relief

“I was beginning to think surgery was my only option and then my neighbor told me about Painless Chiropractic and how much they had helped his brother. I made an appointment the next day. I was skeptical but I was out of options. It was the best decision I ever made I only wish I would have tried it sooner. My pain is gone and I feel better than I have in years!”

- Louis K., Grand Blanc

Recent advances in the treatment of sciatica and lower back pain have led to the development and huge success of Non-Surgical Re-Constructive Spinal Care. The excellent results of this treatment have been published in major medical journals. With success rates as high as 90% many back surgeons are recommending their patients try this treatment first before having surgery. Right here in Fenton MI, at Painless Chiropractic you can try Non-Surgical Reconstructive Spinal care under the direct supervision of low back and sciatica specialist Dr. James Ide D.C.

not related to the norovirus.

Those with norovirus are at a higher risk of dehydration. MDHHS is urging people to frequently wash their hands for at least 20 seconds using soap and warm water, and making sure to clean under the fingernails.

How germs spread

The flu virus can spread person to person up to about 6 feet away. Experts believe the virus is transferred mainly by droplets that spread in the air when people with the flu cough, sneeze or talk. The droplets may land in the mouths or noses of people nearby, according to the CDC.

People can also come down with the flu from touching a surface that the virus is found on, and then touching their mouth, nose or eyes. This is a less common means of spreading germs.

Kiosks and ATMs can also add to the spread of germs. Multiple studies have shown that self-serve kiosks in fast food restaurants, airports and more, as well as ATMs are not washed frequently and contain many germs.

One 2016 study found particles from a food-borne mold and bacteria on ATM keyboards in Manhattan.



Sciatica Relief Expert James Ide

The fully trained spinal care team have helped countless patients find relief from their agonizing back and sciatica problems. “We use a combination of ultra-advanced technology not utilized elsewhere in the area for precisely diagnosing the cause of your pain; and a unique program for reconstructing the damaged area causing the pain; this means superior long-term results for most people” said Dr. Ide.

Because the treatment is non-surgical, safe and easy, most patients report an almost immediate relief from their pain. However, as Dr. Ide says “we are happy patients experience less pain but the pain is just a symptom, our goal is to correct the underlying problem which is structural. The pain is usually the last thing to show itself and the first thing to disappear and if not properly treated and maintained, will show up again in the future.

If you are ready to get to the bottom of your debilitating shooting, stabbing and burning pain stemming from your low back, buttocks and sciatic nerve, Painless Chiropractic is ready to deliver the same positive results to you as they have to so many others. That is why the Times has teamed up with the clinic to spread the news and showcase the offer they put together for our readers. Call them now and get a full and thorough consultation and examination to pinpoint the cause of your problem for just \$37!

The normal cost of such an exam is \$195 so you will save \$168! Don’t suffer from the pain and immobility any longer. Discover the natural treatment that can eliminate the cause of your problem and give you the safe, lasting relief you deserve. Call and set up your appointment now. Call 810-618-6380 Mention the code JAN2019 to claim your special offer.

NEWS
BRIEFS

Life Line Screening coming to Linden

Residents living in and around Linden can learn about their risk for cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, diabetes, and other chronic, serious conditions with affordable screenings by Life Line Screening. Loose Senior Center, 707 N. Bridge St. in Linden, will host this community event Wednesday, Jan. 23.

Screenings can check for:

- The level of plaque buildup in your arteries, related to risk for heart disease, stroke and overall vascular health
- HDL and LDL cholesterol levels
- Diabetes risk
- Bone density as a risk for possible osteoporosis
- Kidney and thyroid function, and more

Screenings are affordable, convenient and accessible for those in wheelchairs or have trouble walking. Free parking also is available. Consultants will work with you to create a package that is right for you based on your age and risk factors. Also ask about our Wellness Gold Membership Program. Call 1-877-237-1287 or visit lifelinescreening.com. Pre-registration is required.

Our Future



Meet

Thomas Hufton

- State finals 'Top 30' runner
- Goal-oriented
- Sees business or film career in future

By Sally Rummel

Thomas Hufton, 17, is a senior at Lake Fenton High School and the son of Tom and Carrie Hufton. He is a member of the National Honor Society and Key Club, a student-led service organization. After graduation,

Hufton plans to attend college for a business or film studies program.

What has been the accomplishment you're most proud of in high school?

I finished in the 'Top 30' runners at state finals for cross-country. It was my main goal for the whole season and after being injured early on, it seemed like that goal was pushed a lot farther away. I ended up working my way up to it in the end.

What sets you apart from most students your age?

I'd say it's my determination to attain the goals I set for myself. If there's something I really want to do, I will constantly think about it and work in it 'til it's done.

What person has influenced you the most in your life?

My parents and my coaches have all taught me countless life lessons.

A big influence recently is Kyle Smith, one of my coaches in both cross-country and track. He has dedicated so much time to help my teammates and does so without any expectation of getting anything back. He sees the potential in everyone. He's the one who taught me that running is a whole lot more than running from point A to point B.

He taught me that the only one who can do the work is me, and I will always be grateful he was a part of my life.

What's the most exciting part of your future?

I'm excited to see where I can end up on the running side of things. I plan to run track and cross-country in college. Running is something I don't get tired of because I can constantly see myself improve. I'm excited about college, too, because it will give me a chance to find out what I'm truly passionate about.

Are you in favor of the traditional school calendar with summers off, or a balanced school year all year long?

I can see how a shorter break can help students retain information, but I'd want to stick with our current schedule. I've always looked forward to summer break. It's unfortunate that it's a good possibility kids won't get to look forward to three months in the summer that they can choose to spend their way.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

HOW MANY TIMES do you have to be told that we are a Republic? The framers did not consider the electoral college a flaw but an essential part for the election of a president. No tyranny of high population states over smaller states.

THERE ARE ONLY seven states in our nation that have more population than Los Angeles County alone. That is why we need the Electoral College.'

THE PEOPLE RESPONDING to my comments regarding the city opting out of marijuana sales completely missed my point. 1. The city will miss out on tax revenue that could be used for roads. 2. They went against the will of the voters.

WITH ITS NEW Democratic governor and a Republican - controlled legislature, Michigan is back to looking for topics of bipartisan agreement, which is potentially bad news for everyone in the state who doesn't cash economic development subsidy checks.

THAT'S A REAL classy bunch you Dems elected.

BIPARTISANSHIP IS ALL well and good, but it's time for the people of Michigan to tell our leaders that we don't want bipartisan corporate welfare programs.

THIS PROCESS OF reverse-aging, scientists say, is all headed to a crucial moment, when all of the ice in the Arctic will be thin and a year old or less. When that happens, the day of maximum youth, we will be on the verge of a much-feared milestone — an entirely ice-free Arctic ocean in summer.

ELIMINATING THE ELECTORAL college would allow the most densely populated areas of the country to decide our national elections. Do you really want the folks on the east and west coast determining who becomes president while ignoring the will of the majority of people in states with smaller populations? Wake up America. Listen to all the facts.

BOTH BUSH (READ my lips no new taxes) and Reagan's trickle-down economics failed and he also raised taxes. Trump won't because he's Trump and ego won't allow it. The country will suffer with trillion dollar deficits. Don't believe it? Look it up.

I MISS RICK'S 'Straight From The Shoulder' column. I'd sometimes claim it wasn't coming from his shoulder but straight from his behind. We had fun.

DEMOCRATS, VIETNAM, \$2 billion a month. Democrats no wall, no defense of United States.

TO THE HOT-LINER who thinks 'antithesis' is a big word. Thanks for giving me a good chuckle.

MICHIGAN IS ENJOYING a balmy 50 degrees in January. I'm loving this climate change. More please.

REPUBLICANS CONTROLLED THE White House, Senate and House. They did not need one vote from Democrats to avoid shutdown. However a shut down we have. I hope Democrats give Republicans the same level of cooperation Republicans gave Obama in 2010.

MOST HOLLY RESIDENTS would rather have a police department than a self-serving village manager.

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Mark McCabe
67th District Court
Ask the
judge

Bullying and the law

Unfortunately, in recent times we are hearing more and more about “bullying” in schools and other places.

Bullying has a number of definitions with one of the best coming from the American Psychological Association, which defines it as a form of aggressive behavior in which someone intentionally and repeatedly causes another person injury or discomfort. Bullying can take the form of physical contact, words, or more subtle actions.

Although adults can be bullied, the vast majority of such incidents occur in schools when students are victims. Government and private studies show that at least one out of five students have been bullied at school, 30 percent of young people admit bullying others and 70 percent of youth and school staff have witnessed bullying.

There is also what is known as “cyberbullying” when a person is bullied by use of online accounts, social media or other electronic media. A majority of teenagers have been cyberbullied in one way or another.

I could add much more about how bad all of this is but will simply sum it up by saying that there is nothing good that comes from this for anyone involved. The law takes the same position.

There are no specific federal laws on bullying, but depending on what the bullying involves, there could be a federal civil rights violation.

At the state level, all 50 states have anti-bullying laws.

Michigan has a number of laws, which address bullying or bullying like behavior including:

- A 1993 statute requiring school boards to adopt and implement a sexual harassment policy prohibiting harassment by or toward board members, employees and pupils and specifying penalties for violations

- A 2004 statute making the “hazing” of a person at an educational institution, when being initiated into a fraternity or sorority or other organization, a misdemeanor or felony depending on the severity of the harm caused

- A 2011 statute requiring school boards of public schools and board directors of public school academies to adopt and implement a policy prohibiting bullying at school

- A 2018 statute making cyberbullying a misdemeanor or felony depending on the severity of the harm caused

Education to prevent bullying is key. For more information, a good online starting point is Pacer’s National Bullying Prevention Center at pacer.org/bullying.

Skilled labor not meeting construction demands

■ More than 70 percent of general contractors want to hire, but can’t find workers

By Tim Jagielo

Fenton — On Monday, Jan. 7, Carpenters Daren Brown and Tim Horton work on rough framing the exterior wall of a 3,000-square-foot home just south of downtown. They have three home builds going at once. “We’re swamped,” Horton said.

According to the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC), 77 percent of construction firms expect to add to their head count of laborers, reported in a Jan. 2 survey. However, construction firms also admit they’re having trouble finding people to hire.

Michigan is following suit, with 74 percent expecting to add to their headcounts with more skilled labor this year (see sidebar.) Some, 8 percent, expected to add more than 25 positions this year.

The same survey reports that 79 percent are having trouble filling some or all positions, which is similar to problems last year.

Michael Reilly, Fenton building and zoning administrator said his department also is “swamped” with project permits. In 2018, his department handled 1,112 permits that included building, electrical, mechanical, plumbing and zoning-related permits. These projects amounted to \$21.8 million as reported by contractors who would be doing the work.

Reilly doesn’t expect it to slow down in 2019. His department has permit applications for parking lots and retail spaces this week.

In 2017, his department issued just under 1,000 permits.

All these projects mean contractors need more workers. To combat this, 62-percent reported increasing base pay, per the survey. These challenges have led to increased construction costs and late project completion dates, according to the survey.

The results are consistent across all the regions of the U.S. Hawaii wasn’t included in the survey.

The mild winter so far has let construction continue on various local projects. “There’s still a lot going on,” said Scott Tarkleson of Fenton Lakes Building & Design. “I think we’re going to have another very good summer, on the new-build end.”

His experience is consistent with the survey results — crews need more workers, and they’re having trouble finding them. This can lead to project delays.



Several homes are under construction in the McCully Lake Estates subdivision in Fenton Township. Photo: Tim Jagielo

Tarkleson, who designs and contracts homes to be built, said he has three projects underway.

In Fenton Township, the McCully Lake Estates subdivision is developing after being idle for a long time. Along the street, Blue Capital Custom Homes banners flap in the breeze as several two-story homes are under construction.

In downtown Fenton, a two-story building is growing before the eyes of residents and

visitors, which will house Rejuv Ave. Skin Spa when completed.

There are several other projects also happening in Fenton and Fenton Township.

To learn about local vocational training opportunities, check out the Feb. 3 edition for the first in a series on career training in various fields.

See Sidebar with this story online.

Check the Feb. 3 edition for the first in a series on vocational career training opportunities available to tri-county residents.

“I think we’re going to have another very good summer, on the new-build end.”

Scott Tarkleson
Fenton Lakes Building & Design
owner

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Times

PROJECTS

Continued from Front Page

This includes paving intersections at Old Linden and Thompson roads, crack sealing on Jennings Road, ditching and culvert replacement and scholarships. Fenton Township received \$82,164 in CDBG funds for 2019-2021.

While the board approved these projects, they must receive final approval by the Genesee County Community Development staff.

Old Linden Road

Sections of unpaved roads near intersections with paved roads tend to be more difficult to maintain because of the amount of braking and accelerating by drivers. This intersection is in a low-moderate income area and is eligible for funding.

Recommended cost: \$28,000

Jennings Road

Between Thompson and Lahring roads, Jennings Road receives high-volume traffic and needs to be crack sealed. It was last paved in 2010.

Recommended cost: \$15,000

Ditching and culvert replacement

Ditching and culvert replacement was approved by the board for the following

roads: Odell, Fairbanks, Jennings (north of Thompson Road), and the south side of Ray Road (Linden Road to U.S. 23). The roads are in the low-moderate income area.

Recommended cost: \$29,164

Scholarships

Southern Lakes Parks and Recreation will receive funds to cover the cost of program fees for income-eligible residents.

Recommended cost: \$10,000

In November 2018, the board approved the submission of pre-applications for eight projects to be sent to the Genesee County Community Development staff for review. Five were approved, including a senior safety program, in which smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors and fire extinguishers were given to seniors. Thomas Broecker, operations manager/deputy clerk, said he did not recommend this project go forward this year because the board did a similar project in 2012 and the safety devices are expected to last 10 years. Broecker recommended submitting that project again in 2022.

(Source: Fenton Township meeting informational packet)



Jennings Road between Lahring and Thompson roads will receive \$15,000 in funding to cover the cost of chip sealing in 2019. Photo: Tim Jagielo

HOT LINE CONTINUED

NO ONE COULD predict the actions the Russians undertook. What you call being 'played,' I call showing leadership. In each instance, Russia backed down. Kennedy took office late January 1961, Gagarin's space flight was April 12, 1961, and Kennedy again showed leadership committing to win the space race.

■■■

SO WHAT IF millennials want 'adulting' classes. Seeking knowledge is a good thing. Stop being so judgmental.

■■■

THE FIRST AMENDMENT guarantees all of us the right to voice our opinions. I am thrilled to read that so many of you are exercising that privilege.

■■■

WITH THE GOVERNMENT shut down, thousands of government employees are going without a paycheck and struggling

to make ends meet. I wonder how long the shutdown would last if Congress had to miss a paycheck? Oh, I forgot, they're all millionaires.

■■■

TO THE HOT-LINER opining about two presidential elections decided by electoral vote. That is exactly what the Constitution provided for so that populous states like California and New York are not the only voters able to elect our president.

■■■

NASA 2018 BUDGET \$19.1 billion? And we have a government shut down over a \$5 billion wall that's needed? Wow. Make the auto companies pay for it; they love Mexico so much. Build the damn wall and move forward.

■■■

DO THINGS FOR people not because of whom they are or what they do in return, but because of who you are. Spread kindness.

■■■

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF FENTON NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING APPLICATION FOR INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES EX- EMPTION CERTIFICATE

Please be advised that the Fenton Township Board will conduct a public hearing at their regular meeting of Monday January 21, 2019 to consider the application of Domico Med-Device, LLC to transfer an existing Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate from CFI Medical Solutions. This tax abatement pertains to equipment in their facility located at 14241 Fenton Road.

Any comments or concerns regarding this application for Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate transfer may be submitted in writing prior to the hearing or presented verbally or in writing at the hearing.

Robert E. Krug
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Times

VOLUNTEERS

Continued from Page 3

out and support new and creative art opportunities” Lockwood said.

Current commission members, according to Lockwood, include: Toadie Middleton, Kristen Archambeau, Eric Szczepanski, Susan Carter, Linda Dyball, John Strayer, Bev Tippet, Vince Paris,

Andrew Perkins, and city of Fenton representatives that include Mayor Sue Osborn, Councilwoman Pat Lockwood (chair), Councilwoman Nancy Draves, Assistant City Manager Michael Hart and City Manager Lynn Markland.

Read about the **Fenton City Library Board and Museum Board** in next Wednesday’s Midweek Times.

SCAMS

Continued from Front Page

These callers are impersonating an official from the SSA, making harassing calls similar to the annoying fake Internal Revenue Service (IRS) calls.

According to freep.com, the AARP Fraud Watch Network now has had more complaints to its helpline in the past few months from consumers targeted by Social Security impostors than the old IRS scam, according to Amy Nofziger, AARP fraud expert.

The IRS impostor scam — which began heating up in late 2013 — enabled scammers to steal more than \$73.6 million from 14,958 victims over time through late November 2018, according to the office of the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration.

Nearly half of all calls to mobile phones are expected to be fraudulent in one way or another in 2019, according to First Orion, a provider of phone call and data transparency solutions.

Now, retirees and others need to be aware that fake phone calls could be from someone pretending to be from Social Security, too.

Scammers are getting ahead for two reasons — technology and tactics.

Crooks have the ability to spoof caller IDs to make it look like you’re being contacted by a legitimate source. In addition, they have access to robocall technology to make millions of calls. They can just keep calling and calling until they get someone to pay up or hand over personal information.

In the Social Security scam, they’re spoofing the 800 number for the Social Security Administration.

In some cases, con artists have demanded that the consumer put hundreds of dollars on gift cards in order to obtain a new Medicare card, which is free.

In other cases, crooks suggest that somehow you’re going to lose Social Security benefits and demand personal information in order to keep those benefits.

These scammers know how to take advantage of vulnerable citizens.

Seniors may face memory problems or feel uncertain about their abilities to handle important things, like taxes or Social Security. Fear plays a big role in many pitches.

Everyone — ranging from college students to retirees — can be tricked into thinking that somehow they made some big mistake with their taxes.

The criminals may threaten arrest or deportation or to revoke their driver’s license if they don’t get payment.

About 63 million Americans received \$1 trillion in Social Security benefits in 2018.

Among the elderly receiving benefits, Social Security represents half or more

of the monthly income of 48 percent of married couples and 69 percent of unmarried persons.

For some retirees, the Social Security check is the main source of monthly income.

Some clues to the Social Security scams:

Sometimes, the number on your caller ID can show up as (800) 772-1213. It’s a legitimate number but that doesn’t mean the call isn’t from a scammer.

If someone asks for information in order to make sure that you get a bigger Social Security check each month, it’s a fraud.

Social Security isn’t going to call and threaten that your benefits will be terminated.

Some callers claim that the Social Security computers are down and they need you to help to provide some information. A huge red flag — Social Security already has your Social Security number and won’t be calling to ask you to hand over that number to them.

If you receive a suspicious call from someone alleging to be from the Social Security Administration (SSA), you should report that information to the Office of the Inspector General for Social Security at (800) 269-0271 for the Social Security fraud hotline. Or you can make a fraud report online at oig.ssa.gov/report.

SSA provides scam examples

According to the SSA, another scam used an email that was designed to look like it came from Social Security. It provided information about the annual cost-of-living-adjustment and directed readers to a website designed to look like Social Security’s site so people could “update their information” — valuable information to identity thieves and criminals.

“In an effort to combat such scams, we want to make one thing perfectly clear. Social Security will not send you an email asking you to give us your personal information, such as your Social Security number, date of birth, or other private information. If someone saying they are from Social Security does email you requesting information, don’t respond to the message.

“Social Security and the Office of Inspector General (OIG) take these scams very seriously. We do everything we can to stop the perpetrators and educate the public,” according to the SSA website.

You will always receive prior notification from SSA by mail or telephone before a personal visit is made. The Federal Bureau of Investigation offers a significant amount of information on Scams and Safety. Their website is www.fbi.gov/scams-safety.

Source: freep.com; ssa.gov

CRIME REPORT

Continued from Front Page

number as 2017. For 2018, this was the most common crime in Fenton. For other types of fraud, police reported 71 incidents in 2018 compared to 59 in 2017.

The city had 13 criminal sexual conduct incidents, compared to seven in 2017, which is nearly a 100 percent increase. Breaking and entering incidents decreased from 25 in 2017 to 23 in 2018. Assaults, aggravated and non-aggravated, also decreased from 93 in 2017 to 61 in 2018.

In car-related crimes, larceny from auto (LFA) reports decreased from 40 in 2017 to 28 in 2018. Car thefts dropped from 13 to 11. Police responded to 71 operating while under the influence incidents in 2018 compared to 77 in 2017.

In more drug related offenses, Fenton police reported 49 marijuana incidents in 2018 compared to 56 in 2017, and 13 “all other drug” offenses in 2018 compared to 16 in 2017.

Linden

In 2018, the two most common crimes in Linden were larceny from automobiles (LFAs) and assaults with nine each, according to Police Chief and Interim City Manager Scott Sutter.

This is an increase from seven LFAs and six assaults in 2017. Police responded to one breaking and entering incident in 2017 and four in 2018.

Sutter reported zero cases of homicides or retail fraud.

Holly

According to Police Chief Michael Story, Holly police dealt with four cases of criminal sexual conduct in 2018, compared to one in 2017. Story reports one robbery in both 2017 and 2018, eight cases of felonious/aggravated assault in 2018 compared to three in 2017.

There were five arson-related incidents in 2018, and zero in 2017.

Police responded to 28 reports of assault and battery last year, and 25 reports in 2017. Reports of stalking went up from two in 2017 to three in 2018.

Breaking and entering decreased from 23 in 2017 to 10 in 2018. In vehicle-related crimes, Story reports nine incidents of operating while under the influence in 2018, compared to three in 2017. Holly experienced two car thefts in both 2017 and 2018.

Larceny incidents decreased by nearly 50 percent with 62 offenses in 2017 and 36 in 2018. The number of retail fraud offenses increased from three in 2017 to 11 in 2018.

The buck stays here!

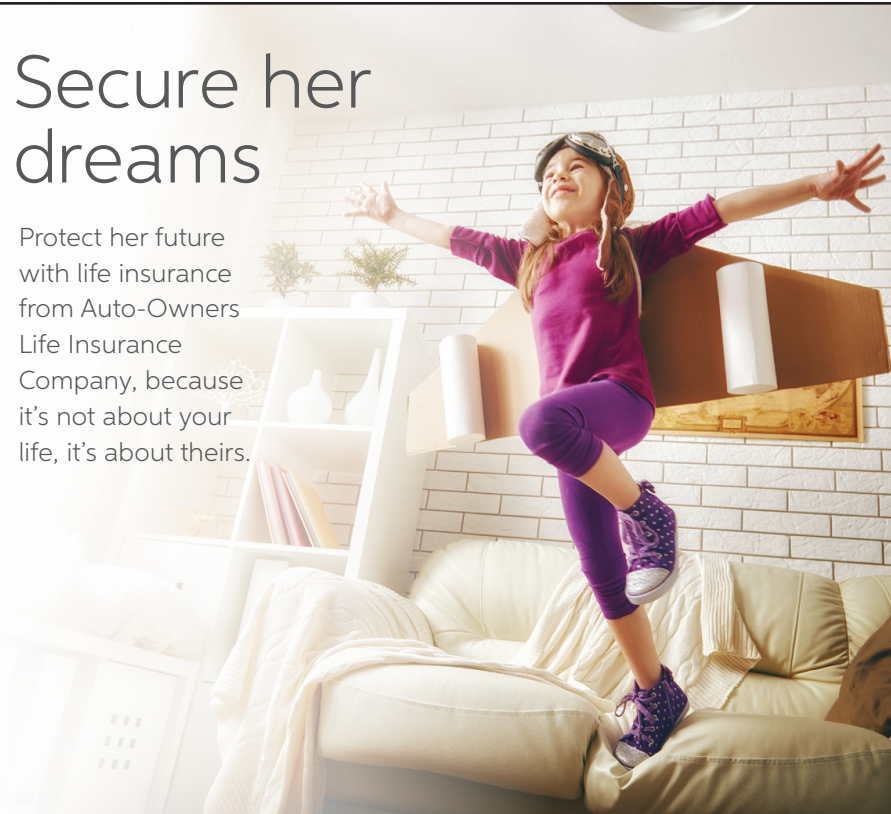
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Fenton's Mercord leads our area football team

By David Troppens

Lance Mercord has been a part of the Fenton football family for a long time.

It started before he was a freshman at Fenton High School. It started when his older brothers played at Fenton. That's when he was a ball boy.

"I had two older brothers who played for Fenton and I always liked being on the field," Mercord said. "If I was a ball boy I was able to get on the field and watch the game."

"Even being so young, I looked forward to being part of it. I always picture

being on varsity and I couldn't wait for those times."

Those dreams eventually became true, but maybe what Mercord didn't know at the time was he would eventually become one of the great leaders on the varsity squad on both sides of the ball. He became a Michigan High School Coaches Association

All-State football player at linebacker while finding time to carry the ball on offense.

His efforts earned him another honor. He's the Tri-County's 2018 Football Player of the Year. Fenton varsity football coach Jeff Setzke remembers Mercord's ball boy days.

"He was there all the time and wanted to be on the field, so we thought 'Let's give this lad something to do,'" Setzke said. "He loved football and wanted to be a part of it. ... A lot of them are connected to the program through their brothers or father and they just want to be there on Friday."

Mercord earned this honor for his

See MERCORD on 12



photo by Mark Bolen

Fenton's Lance Mercord (right) is our Tri-County Football Player of the Year.

Sports Times

Tigers work overtime to defeat Holly

By David Troppens

Fenton — Alec Kussro and Jacob Boulay each had a reason to be frustrated during Friday night's home Metro League boys basketball contest against the Holly Bronchos.

The two Fenton High School juniors found themselves having trouble getting in the flow of the game because of foul troubles. However, when given a chance to step up late in a low-scoring defensive contest, the two juniors came up with the biggest points of the game.

Leading 30-14 at halftime, the Tigers saw Holly respond and take a 40-37 lead on a driving layup by Gavin Ambrose with 5:47 left. There would be only one more bucket in regulation between the two rivals. It was Kussro's three-pointer with 3:12 remaining in regulation, forcing overtime.

Once in overtime, the Tigers' defense kept Holly scoreless for the entire extra session (and actually the last 9:47 of the contest) and the offense did just enough to provide the Tigers the victory. First, Boulay hit a 15-foot jumper with 1:05 remaining in the overtime, giving the Tigers a 42-40 lead. Then, with 17 seconds left, Kussro hit two clutch free throws, raising the lead to 44-40 and icing Fenton's victory, a contest that was the Tigers' first Friday night home game of the season.

"It was very frustrating for me because I was looking forward to this game. It was our first Friday home game and I couldn't get in a rhythm," Kussro said. "But my teammates stepped up and we got a 16-point lead in the first half. They helped me out. It was nice to (score those late-game points)."

CONTINUED AT MYFENTON.COM



Fenton's Alec Kussro (middle) attempts a shot against the Holly defense in the Tigers' 44-40 overtime victory against the Bronchos, Friday. Photo: Mark Bolen

Fenton's women wrestlers excited about girls state tourney

By David Troppens

Fenton's Kendra Ryan has been wrestling off and on since preschool.

Her father and brother wrestled at one time, so it was just natural for her to give the sport a shot.

But just like every girl in the state of Michigan, when it came to the high school level, wrestling meant competing with the boys.

That is still the case. Most of Ryan's wrestling at the prep level still comes against the guys. That's also the case for her Fenton teammates Chloe Wagner and Ella Turnblom. However, for one day, women's prep wrestling will

shine on its own stage this winter.

For the first time ever, the Michigan Wrestling Association (MWA) will be host the Michigan High School Girls Wrestling Finals, which will award champions in 14 different weight classes Feb. 3 at Adrian College's Merrilat Sport and Fitness Center.

Women competing on their high school teams are eligible to participate, exciting Fenton's roster of three women grapplers.

"I think it's really cool because it shows how much the sport is growing for women's wrestling," Ryan said. "Coach told us that it may be happen-



TRI-COUNTY TIMES | TRAPPFOTOS.COM

Joey Spencer (left) stands proudly with his father/trainer Jason Spencer after one of his victories during 2018.

Spencer's 2019 starts Sunday on FS1

By David Troppens

Joey Spencer's professional boxing career has brought a lot of firsts in 2018.

He experienced another one recently — his first as a professional boxer trying to train while enjoying the holiday season.

"It was a great (holiday season). I spent it training for this fight, but it was good," Spencer said. "I trained for the fight and at the same time I had a good time with my family and enjoyed the holidays. I had to be in bed early and I had to watch what I ate. That was the big difference."

The Linden resident is ready for his sixth professional fight — a four-round bout with Brandon Harder on Sunday night. As has been the case with his last four matches, the contest will be on television, this time boxing starts at 8 p.m. on Fox Sports 1 at the Microsoft Theatre in Los Angeles. Spencer also said he expects his next fight to be in April, possibly in New York.

"I'm going to be busy," Spencer said. "I have a fight, and I'm pretty sure the next one will be in New York City and there will be another one about 10 weeks after that fight," Spencer said. "I hope to fight five more times this year. I plan on moving to six round fights at some point. This may be my last four-rounder."

Harder is a southpaw from Mississippi. This will be the 39-year old's fourth professional bout of his career.

CONTINUED AT MYFENTON.COM



Fenton's Chloe Wagner is one of three female wrestlers on the Tigers' squad.

Photo: David Troppens

CONTINUED AT MYFENTON.COM

Tigers remain perfect in Metro, beat Holly

By Dale M. Smith

Fenton — In a battle between long-time rivals Holly and Fenton, you know that both teams will bring their best.

During Friday's contest in the Jungle, the Fenton girls basketball team used the "three-ball" to defeat the Lady Bronchos, 48-45.

The Tigers set the tone early with two 3-pointers in the first 1:40 of the game and added another barely halfway through the first period. The Bronchos held serve, however, and led 16-13 at the end of the first.

The Tigers struggled in the second quarter while senior standout Chloe Idoni was on the bench the whole quarter courtesy of picking up two fouls in the first eight minutes. The Bronchos took advantage, led by the stellar play of their own senior star, Rebecca Fugate. Combined with Fenton's difficulty with Holly's full-court press and resulting turnovers, the Bronchos held a five-point lead at the half 22-17.

Fenton quickly responded to start the second half as Fenton sophomore Korryn Smith made a nice drive to the basket for two points. Senior Erin Conroy followed that move with a three and the game was tied at 22 when many of the fans had barely settled back in their seats. The Bronchos battled back to take a 28-22 lead before a 3-pointer from Erin Cart-

er and a bucket from Conroy cut it to one at 30-29. The Tigers used these points to springboard to a 20-11 margin in the third quarter. A late three from Fugate made it 37-33 heading into the last stanza.

Conroy had two quick steals in the fourth and another bucket from the lanky senior made it 41-35 Fenton. Fenton added another basket before Fugate followed with one of her five 3-pointers for the night to make it 43-38. Smith hit a three for the Tigers that ended up being just enough has Fenton held on despite a late three from Fugate.

Despite the loss, Fugate had a monster game for the visitors. She finished her night with 29 points, six rebounds and five steals.

"It's the first game back (after the Christmas break) so we were a little rusty," Fugate said. "We came out hard and set the tone. With (Idoni) out we were able to worry not so much about the post and concentrate on their guards."

Holly coach David Hall echoed his girls' effort.

"We had some possessions we would like to have back, but when you play good teams you don't always make a lot of good decisions," Hall said. "We got some turnovers, but Fenton is a really good team."

**CONTINUED AT
MYFENTON.COM**



Fenton's Chloe Idoni (top photo, right) attacks the hoop against Holly's Abigail Johnston in the Tigers' 48-45 Flint Metro League victory against the Bronchos. Idoni finished the game with 14 points, eight rebounds and two assists. (Right photo) Rebecca Fugate scored a game-high 29 points for Holly in the losing effort.

Photos: Mark Bolen



Griffins return to winning ways, crush Kettering, 8-0

By David Troppens

The Fenton/Linden varsity hockey team didn't have to worry about carrying its recent losing streak for a terribly long time.

The skid ended at two games as the Griffins returned to their old form, defeating Waterford Kettering 8-0 on Saturday at Hartland Sports Center.

The Griffins (9-3) took a 3-0 lead in the first period and cruised to a mercy-shortened victory.

Senior Zach Eakes provided a three-goal hat trick, leading the Griffins' six different goal scorers.

Nick Temple scored the team's first goal at the six-minute mark on the power play in the first period. Eakes and Brandon Baker added goals before the period was over. In the second period, Eakes completed his hat trick with two more goals, while sophomore Ken Sorum also added a goal.

Seniors Dylan Conte and Josh Appleberg scored goals in the third period.

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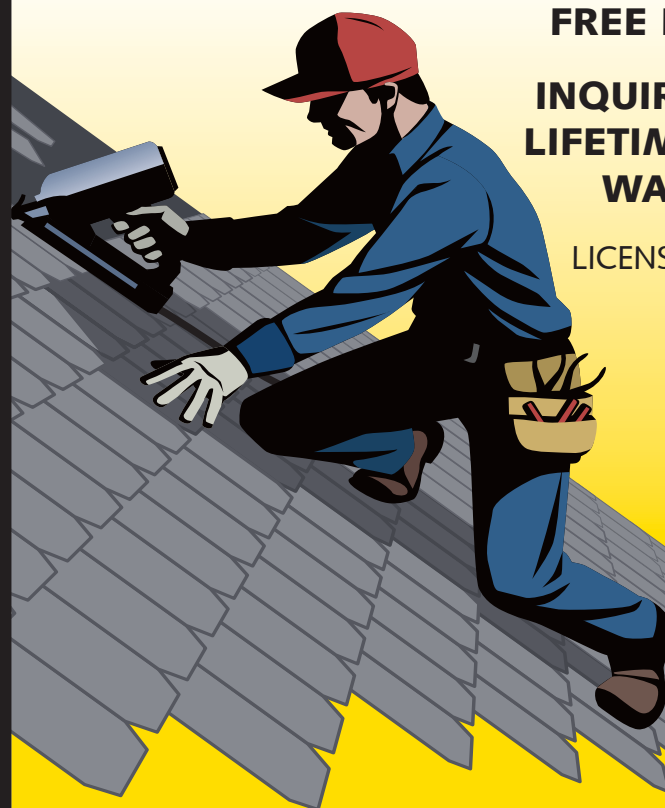
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Linden, Holly wrestlers win tourneys

By David Troppens

It's always nice to start the new year with great sources for optimism.

Two area wrestling teams did just that on Saturday

The Linden Eagles won the Linden Duals while the Holly Bronchos won the Vassar Duals, earning both area squads some great confidence entering Wednesday's first Metro League matches.

The Holly wrestlers went 5-0, defeating Vassar 60-16, Hemlock 67-6, Breckenridge 62-18, Garber 20-30 and Lakeville 37-30. The Linden Eagles went 4-0, earning victories against Pinckney 54-27, Durand 45-29, Canton 66-12 and Greenville 36-21.

"It was a great weekend, but more importantly the team effort this week was outstanding," Linden varsity wrestling coach Kyle Summerfield said.

The Eagles had five wres-



Linden's wrestling team took first at its own Linden Duals on Saturday. Photo submitted

tlers finish the day with perfect 4-0 marks. Three of them went 4-0 with four pinfall wins. They were Michael Lescelius, Uziah Delgado and Preston Parker. Caleb White had three pinfalls to go with his four wins while Mitchell Kerr had two pinfall wins among his four victories.

"We are excited for the second phase of our season. Now is where things start to intensify. We are looking forward to Metro competition and continu-

ing to grow as a team."

The Holly Bronchos' toughest win came against Lakeville where it took a Jared Callahan 13-4 major decision victory during the last match to ice the victory.

Cade Dallwitz, Kolten Steele, and Blake Querio each went 5-0 while Jacob Gonzales went 4-0. Nate Young, Garrett VanGilder, Andrew Kolman and Jared Callahan went 4-1 each.

CONTINUED AT MYFENTON.COM

Area ski teams place third at Boyne Mountain

By David Troppens

The Fenton/Linden/Lake Fenton varsity ski teams opened their seasons at the Northville Invitational on Saturday and came back home with two third-place team finishes at Boyne Mountain.

The boys co-op team placed

third with 73 points while the girls co-op squad scored 83 points.

Emma Hiscock had the strongest individual performances taking second in the girls slalom (1:40.79) and the girls giant slalom (1:02.59). Julia Young also performed well, taking fourth in

the GS (1:08.91) and fifth in the slalom (1:51.98).

Fenton's top male finisher was Parker Bundy. He earned sixth in both events with times of 1:38.26 in the slalom and 1:02.86 in the GS.

CONTINUED AT MYFENTON.COM

PREP REPORT

GYMNASTICS

► Huron Valley United def.

LFLF gymnastics: LFLF gymnastics had a team score of 134.375 at the event. The highest individual scores for LFLF were provided by Apryl Smith and Ella Cox. Smith posted a 9.025 on the beam, while Cox posted the same score on the floor. Smith led the team with an 8.85 on the vault. Cox had a team-qualifying score in all four events. Others with top-four scores for LFLF in each event were Lauren Hayden in all four events, Morgan Smith (vault and floor), Emma Jump (bars) and Maty Temrowski (beam).

GIRLS BOWLING

► Linden 18, Brandon 12:

Paige Sundra bowled a 131-136-267 series to score two points, leading the Eagles to the win. The Eagles won both baker games with scores of 160 and 165, earning 10 points before the individual matches took place. Kaitlyn Rice had a 145 and earned a point in one match while Cassie Most also earned a point with a 133 game.

► Swartz Creek 29, Linden 1:

Kaitlyn Rice bowled a 160, earning the Eagles their only point of the match. Cassie Most bowled a 153-149-302 series. The Eagles came just three pins away from winning a baker game as well, losing 146-144.

WRESTLING

► Fenton places eighth at Wyandotte Roosevelt:

The Tigers took eighth out of 17

teams with Jayden Rittenbury earning the only championship by going 3-0 at 145 pounds. Rittenbury (18-1 for the season) beat Saline's Elliott Hill in the title match.

Lucas Zywicki (189) took third place while Kendra Ryan (103) placed fourth. Dalton Wagner (171) placed sixth.

The Tigers are at home in their first Metro League dual against Brandon and Clio.

COMPETITIVE CHEER

► Fenton, Linden & Lake Fenton at Midland Chemic

Invitational: Fenton's varsity team placed third among the 10-team event, posting a score of 654.50. The Tigers had a 217.90 score in round one, a 187.40 in round two and a 249.20 in round three.

The Linden Eagles placed eighth with a 599.84. The Eagles had a 190.30 in round one and a 172.64 in round two. They finished the event with a 254.90 in round three.

Fenton's JV team also competed and posted a 494.10 team score. They had a 276.40 in round two and a 225.70 in round three.

Lake Fenton had a team compete in the Middle School division, taking first with a 406.20. They capped the two-round event with a 266.00 score in round two.

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MERCORD

Continued from Page 10

strong two-way play. Defensively, the linebacker had 27 solo tackles and 76 assisted tackles. He was one of two Tigers to earn over 100 total tackles with 103. He also had four tackles for loss, an interception and forced three fumbles. He

also recovered a fumble. The defense allowed the second-fewest points in Metro League games, allowing 110 points.

On offense, the ground game was relied upon heavier than in recent seasons and Mercord was one of the players that made it effective.

CONTINUED AT MYFENTON.COM

2018 TRI-COUNTY FOOTBALL TEAM

| Player of the Year | Position | School | All-State |
|--|-------------------------|-------------|------------|
| Lance Mercord | Linebacker/Running back | Fenton | First - FC |
| Comment: Mercord is a true definition of a two-way player, running for 384 yards and six touchdowns on offense and making 103 total tackles on defense. He also made four tackles for loss, an interception, three forced fumbles and a fumble recovery. He was a First Team selection by the Michigan High School Coaches Association. | | | |
| Rest of first team | Position | School | All-State |
| Zolen Marron | Defensive line | Lake Fenton | |
| James Hamilton | Defensive line | Lake Fenton | |
| Austin Henard | Defensive line | Lake Fenton | |
| Parker Brady | Defensive line | Fenton | First - FC |
| Noah Quesnelle | Linebacker | Linden | HMen - AP |
| Ethan Duncel | Linebacker | Lake Fenton | |
| Joe O'Connor | Linebacker | Holly | |
| Luke Kenney | Secondary | Linden | First - FC |
| Zack Pierson | Secondary | Fenton | |
| Brady Triola | Secondary | Fenton | |
| Cody Schramm | Secondary | Lake Fenton | |
| Garrett Durkac | Offensive line | Linden | First -FC |
| Logan Prater | Offensive line | Fenton | |
| Ben Muenzer | Offensive line | Lake Fenton | |
| Riely Novak | Offensive line | Lake Fenton | |
| Josh Thompson | Offensive line | Fenton | |
| George Walterhouse | Quarterback | Linden | |
| Spencer Rivera | Running back | Fenton | |
| Sean Trombley | Running back | Lake Fenton | |
| Ryan Miller | Receiver | Fenton | First FC |
| Michael O'Brien | Receiver | Lake Fenton | |
| Travis Klocek | Receiver | Linden | |
| Dylan Hillger | Punter/kicker | Lake Fenton | |

Note: The players on the team and the Player of the Year were selected by the sports staff, with the aid of the all-league teams. Two All-State teams are recognized here — The Associated Press (AP) and the Michigan High School Coaches Association (FC).

Horoscopes

For the week of
January 7, 2019

ARIES

Mar 21/Apr 20

Look forward to solid and pas-
sionate developments in the
days to come, Aries. If you're
seeking love, then sparks may
soon fly. Be on the lookout.

TAURUS

Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, after some recent turbu-
lence, rest easy knowing that
calmer waters are ahead. Some
tranquility and stability are just
what the doctor ordered.

GEMINI

May 22/Jun 21

Gemini, expect some big
changes in your love life in the
weeks to come. Count your
blessings because you deserve
all the good news that's com-
ing your way.

CANCER

Jun 22/Jul 22

Surprises are in store for
Cancers who are willing to take
some risks. If you resign from
your job, you just may find a
dream position shortly after -
things can be that dramatic.

LEO

Jul 23/Aug 23

Some cosmic goodness is in
store for you, Leo. Be excited
about your prospects. This
year can start out on the right
foot, especially as it pertains to
domestic matters.

VIRGO

Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, things in your domestic
sector are bound to settle down
in a few days. If you planned
improvements at home, you'll
sail through those in no time
with some help from friends.

LIBRA

Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, some pivotal changes
may come into your life shortly.
You may find out your family is
increasing or learn that a career
change is in the works. Start
counting good fortune.

SCORPIO

Oct 24/Nov 22

A talent that you used to feel in-
secure about can be an avenue
to earn a significant amount of
money, Scorpio. Don't hesitate to
monetize and share your gifts.

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23/Dec 21

While you have been in a stable
relationship for some time now,
both parties may be looking to
shake things up. It can go two
ways: A breakup or newfound
depth.

CAPRICORN

Dec 22/Jan 20

Venus, the ruler of your career
sector, will point your profes-
sional efforts in the right direc-
tion, Capricorn. Your profession-
al outlook might turn completely
around.

AQUARIUS

Jan 21/Feb 18

You may notice people in your
social life are more friendly and
accommodating lately, Aquari-
us. In fact, friends have always
been there for you because they
believe in you.

PISCES

Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, if you've been waiting for
seed money to start a venture,
then your patience will pay off.
Expect some good news to
come.

DVD RELEASES

66%

liked it

(Audience score on rottentomatoes.com)

FIRST MAN

of NASA's mission to land a man on the
moon, focusing on Neil Armstrong and
the years 1961-1969. A visceral, first-
person account, based on the book by
James R. Hansen, the movie will explore
the sacrifices and the cost on Armstrong
and on the nation of one of the most
dangerous missions in history.
PG-13, 2 hr. 18 min. Drama

THE RIDER

finds himself wondering what he has to
live for when he can no longer do what
gives him a sense of purpose: to ride and
compete. In an attempt to regain control
of his fate, Brady undertakes a search
for new identity and tries to redefine his
idea of what it means to be a man in the
heartland of America.
R, 1 hr. 44 min. Drama

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Midweek Sudoku

Place a number in the
empty boxes in such a way
that each row across,
each column down and
each small 9-box square
contains all of the
numbers from one to nine.

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| 2 | 5 | | | | 1 | 6 | | 8 |
| | | 8 | 5 | 3 | 7 | | | 2 |
| | | | | | | 1 | | |
| | 3 | | 1 | | | | 4 | |

Level: Intermediate

Midweek Jumble

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to form the surprise answer, as
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A:

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

KING
FEATURES

Midweek Crossword

ACROSS

1 Lather

5 Diner order,
for short

8 Unwanted
email

12 On

13 Always, in
verse

14 Patriot Nathan

15 Irrational sus-
piciousness

17 Artillery

18 Follow relent-
lessly

19 1984 Tom
Hanks movie

21 Flightless bird

22 Knoll

23 Energy

26 North Pole
staffer

28 Surveys

31 Leading man?

33 A mere hand-
ful

35 Cry

36 Sweat outlets

40 Meadow

41 Commotions

43 Actor Diesel

45 Walk like a
duck

47 Bursts forth

51 Satanic

52 Pet bird, often

54 Got up

55 --de-France

DOWN

7 Garbage

8 Not deep

9 Like some
lines

10 Charitable
donations

11 Netting

16 City in Alaska

20 4-Down, e.g.

23 Tase

24 Altar affirma-
tive

25 Eden

27 "30 Rock"
cast member

29 Shelter

30 Hot tub

32 Busybody

34 Fluctuated

37 Scale mem-
ber

39 Actress
Sorvino

42 Old photo
tint

44 Microwaved,
slangily

45 Existed

46 Acknowledge

48 Lima's land

49 Sawbucks

50 Undo a dele

53 -- Baba

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How you can benefit from having a pet

Pets' affable nature and loving looks are enough for many people to welcome them into their homes, but the benefits of having a pet extends beyond their appearances and temperaments.

Pets have been kept for centuries. Statistics from various sources indicate North Americans own millions of dogs, cats, birds, small mammals, and reptiles.

• **Pets can help prevent loneliness.** Loneliness affects people of all ages, but it is particularly problematic among seniors. Older adults who may be isolated can benefit from having a pet around. According to a study published in *Aging & Mental Health*, older adults who owned pets were 36 percent less likely to say they were lonely compared to those who didn't have an animal companion.

• **Pets can save lives.** Pets can be trained to perform various tasks around the house and in the community. Rescue animals assist in finding people after natural disasters. Medical alert pets can help people with debilitating illnesses and assist physically impaired people with everyday tasks.

• **Pets help lower allergy risks.** Keeping pets around can reduce a child's likelihood of developing allergies by as much as 33 percent, according to a study by pediatrician James E. Gern that was published in the *Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology*. People exposed early on to animals tend to develop stronger immune systems overall.

• **Pets provide socialization opportunities.** A pet can be the common denominator to strike up new friendships and connect with others. Whether walking around the neighborhood or being part of a pet obedience class or interest group, pets can help their owners expand their social circles.

• **Pets can help combat stress.** Talking to or stroking a pet can make stress easier to handle. A study from researchers at the State



University of New York at Buffalo found that, when conducting a stressful task, people experienced less stress when their pets were with them. Various other studies and data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have found having a pet around can lower blood pressure, ease anxiety and may even help to lessen aches and pains. Pets provide unconditional love, which can be beneficial to someone facing depression or post traumatic stress disorder.

• **Pets help teach responsibility.** Taking care of a pet can help children and adults become more responsible. According to the American Pet Product Association's 2011-2012 National Pet Owners Survey, 58 percent of pet owners say their pets help teach their kids to be responsible through routine care, exercise and feeding of the animal.

Pets are more than mere companions. In fact, pets can offer numerous health and well-being benefits to people of all ages.

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TEX MEX Breakfast CASSEROLE

INGREDIENTS:

- 14.5 ounce can diced potatoes (or 1 3/4 cups diced cooked potatoes)
- 2 links cooked chorizo sausage, diced (3 1/2 ounces) I used Goya
- 2 cans (4.5 ounces) chopped green chiles, undrained
- 2 cups shredded Colby-Monterey Jack cheese
- 12 large eggs
- 1/2 cup chopped scallions
- 1/2 teaspoon seasoned salt such as Adobo
- 1 jalapeno, sliced thin
- 4 ounces (1 small haas) avocado, sliced
- 1 cup chunky mild salsa



This easy Tex Mex breakfast casserole has all the makings of a delicious breakfast — potatoes, chorizo, green chiles and cheese. Topped with salsa and avocado, this is perfect to feed a crowd!

skinny
taste.com

| Prep Time: | Cook Time: | Total Time: |
|---------------------|------------|--------------|
| 20 mins | 60 mins | 1 hr 20 mins |
| Serves: 10 servings | | |

DIRECTIONS:

1. Spray a 3-qt (9" x 13") oblong glass Pyrex baking dish with cooking spray.
2. Place the potatoes in the baking dish. Top with chorizo, green chiles and 1 cup of the cheese.
3. In medium bowl, beat eggs, scallions and seasoning salt with a whisk until well blended. Pour over potato mixture.
4. Cover with lid and refrigerate overnight, if preparing the night before.
5. When ready to bake, remove from the refrigerator and let it come to room temperature.
6. Pre-heat the oven to 325°F.
7. Bake uncovered 55 to 60 minutes or until knife inserted near center comes out clean.
8. Remove from the oven, top with the remaining 1 cup of cheese and jalapeno slices.
9. Bake 2 more minutes, until the cheese melts. To serve, cut into 10 squares and serve with salsa and avocado.



OUTRAGEOUSLY TOPPED EXTRA MOST BESTEST™ PIZZAS



Meal #1 **\$5⁵⁰**

2 Liter Pop & Crazy Bread with Sauce

Meal #2 **\$8⁵⁰**

2 Liter Pop & Wings

Meal #3 **\$6⁰⁰**

2 Liter Pop & Cheese Bread

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*All prices subject to change.



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