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

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

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

“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.”

“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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Learn More About Hurley’s Award-Winning Services Now Available in Fenton:

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• Hurley Midwifery- Certified Nurse Midwives are specially trained to offer general healthcare over the entire course of a woman’s life.

• Hurley OB/GYN- Dr. Young’s areas of expertise include: uterine fibroids, pelvic pain endometriosis, minimally invasive surgery and menopause.
Volunteers are critical to success of communities

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,” 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.

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-Boofer. Fifty children were engaged in a two-week camp learning the fundamentals of drawing, painting, clay, and paper mache. “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
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

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 UNCo co-ed stated, ‘I like a man to be a man — like a lumberjack. Liberal guys are really feminine.’ Interesting.
Flu

Continued from Front Page

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) calls the 2017-2018 flu season “high activity.” It emphasizes the 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 flu during 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 also 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 individuals to infect others 1 to 2 days before symptoms begin, and five to seven days after getting sick.

“That means that you may be able to pass the flu on 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 at all. 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 cases. The virus can cause vomiting, diarrhea, nausea and stomach cramping, as well as potential fevers, headaches, weakness and muscle aches.

While the flu is a mild illness that may cause fever, cough, chills, headaches and more, it is 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.

Home germ spread

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention say that the flu spreads 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 also can 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 Salmonella bacteria on ATM keyboards in Manhattan.

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 buttock and move through to the leg and foot. The leg area, 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 moves down to the leg and at times appears in 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 people more stiff, 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, referred to your back, arms 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 that their doctors gave them or they may be referred 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. The surgery can resort 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. Research of how the symptoms were 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 even tingling down the leg. Ido, eventually sexual dysfunction and even loss of bladder/ bowel control. Untreated, Norovirus can rapidly spread 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 she loved 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 back/pain have led to new groundbreaking treatment and huge success of Non-Surgical Re-Constructive Spinal Care. The excellent results of this treatment have been presented 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 a local medical doctor and chiropractic specialist Dr. James Ide D.C.

Sciatica Relief Expert James Ide

The fully trained spinal care team has helped countless patients find relief from their annoying back and sciatic pain.

“We use a combination of ultra-advanced technology not utilized elsewhere in the area that is designed to give you complete pain relief. Our team of chiropractic and physical therapy experts have helped thousands of patients with posture correction and provide,” says Dr. Ide. “We have a team of chiropractors and physical therapists who work closely together to treat patients with a variety of conditions.”

The center offers a range of services, including:

- Spinal decompression
- Physical therapy
- Acupuncture
- Massage therapy
- Diet and nutrition counseling

The team at Painless Chiropractic of Fenton MI is dedicated to helping patients achieve pain relief and improve their overall health. They provide a comprehensive approach to treatment that addresses the root cause of pain rather than just treating the symptoms. This approach often leads to faster recovery times and long-term solutions.

The center has received positive reviews from patients who have seen significant improvement in their pain levels after beginning treatment with the team at Painless Chiropractic of Fenton MI. Patients have reported feeling relief from their sciatica pain, and many have been able to return to their normal activities without pain.

If you are ready to get to the bottom of your debilitating back and sciatic nerve pain, call 810-618-6380  Mention the code JAN2019 to claim your special offer.

Call and set up your appointment now. Call 810-618-6380  Mention the code JAN2019 to claim your special offer.
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.

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 goal 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.**
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 head counts 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 Tarkelson 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

Tarkelson, who designs and constructs 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.

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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)

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.

Contingent on the hot line. I call showing leadership.

doing 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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MIDWEEK TIMES
Wednesday, January 9, 2019
myfenton.com

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.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF FENTON
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
APPLICATION FOR INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES EXEMPTION 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
Fenton Township Clerk

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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 — enables 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 (TIGTA). 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 coming 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. They 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. 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.

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 recipients to a website designed to look like Social Security’s site so people could “update their information” — valuable information to identify 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 the 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.

This is an increase from seven LLCAs and six assualts 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.

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It's your way. It's your insurance.
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 a part of it. I always pictured 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 leadership, for his work ethic, for his passion for the game. His efforts did not go unnoticed.

“Even being so young, I had two older brothers who wanted to be on varsity and I couldn’t wait for those times. On the field, Mercord didn’t know what it was like to be in the locker room with the players, what it was like to be in the huddle with the coaches, what it was like to be in the stands with the fans. But Mercord did know what it was like to be on the field, and that’s where he excelled.”

Fenton’s Kendra Ryan has been wrestling off and on since preschool. Her father and brother wrestled at Fenton, so 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 Women’s Wrestling Association (MWA) will host the Michigan High School Girls Wrestling Finals, which will award champions in 14 different weight classes Feb. 3 at Adrian College’s Merrill 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 happening at the beginning of the season and I was excited. I think it’s a good opportunity for us to try.”

The event was something women’s wrestling advocate and coach Brent Harvey embraced until he died Oct. 17, 2017 in a motorcycle accident. Wagner was one of his wrestlers, and is excited to compete at the event.

“It means a lot to me,” Wagner said. “My old coach passed away and he was the biggest advocate in Michigan for that tournament. I wear his name on my shoes now.”

By David Troppens

Fenton’s Chloe Wagner is one of three female wrestlers on the Tigers’ squad. Photo: David Troppens

Photo: Mark Bolen

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

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

By David Troppens

Photo: Mark Bolen

Fenton’s women wrestlers excited about girls state tourney

Fenton’s Mercord leads our area football team

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 contest, the two juniors came up with the biggest points of the game.

“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).”

“Even being so young, I had two older brothers who wanted to be 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.

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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

By David Troppens

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

By David Troppens

Joeys 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 enduring a 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.

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**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 Carter 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.”

**Contiuned at myfenton.com**

**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.

**Contiuned at myfenton.com**
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 Greenview 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 wrestlers finish the day with perfect 4-0 marks. Three of them went 4-0 with four pinfall wins. They were Michael Lesceulius, 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 continuing to grow as a team."

The Holly Bronchos’ closest 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 4-0 for Linden.

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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.

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Area ski teams place third at Boyne Mountain

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**Horoscopes**

**ARIES**
Mar 21/Apr 20
Look forward to solid and passionate 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
After some recent turbulence, 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. If you have been waiting to make a move, now is the time to do so. You may notice an increase in your popularity.

**CANCER**
Jun 22/Jul 22
Surprises are in store for Cancerians who are willing to take some risks. If you resign from your job, you just may find a dream position shortly after. Monetize and share your gifts.

**LEO**
Jul 23/Aug 22
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 23/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 22
Libra, some pivotal changes may come into your life shortly. You may find that your family is increasing or learn that a career change is in the works. Start counting your blessings because you deserve them.

**SCORPIO**
Oct 23/Nov 21
A talent that you used to feel insecure about can be an avenue to earn a significant amount of money, Scorpio. Don’t hesitate to monetize and share your gifts.

**SAGITTARIUS**
Nov 22/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
You, Venus, the ruler of your career sector, will point your professional efforts in the right direction. Capricorn, your professional outlook may turn completely around.

**AQUARIUS**
Jan 21/Feb 19
You may notice people in your social life are more friendly and accommodating lately, Aquarius. In fact, friends have always been there for you because they believe in you.

**PISCES**
Feb 19/Mar 20
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You may find out your family is increasing or learn that a career change is in the works. Start counting your blessings because you deserve them.

**SCORPIO**
Oct 23/Nov 21
A talent that you used to feel insecure about can be an avenue to earn a significant amount of money, Scorpio. Don’t hesitate to monetize and share your gifts.

**SAGITTARIUS**
Nov 22/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**
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You, Venus, the ruler of your career sector, will point your professional efforts in the right direction. Capricorn, your professional outlook may turn completely around.

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

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Hiring Fair
Grand Blanc Location
Tuesday, January 15th
10am to NOON

Bordine's is now hiring for our 2019 season!
Now hiring for seasonal production positions at our Grand Blanc location. Applicants must be at least 18 years old & be available to work WEEKDAYS 7:30am to 4pm. Join us Tuesday, January 15th!

- Will be conducting interviews & tours of the production operations

To advertise your JOB OPENING call 810-629-8282

Weekend Paper
HELP WANTED DEADLINES
Display Ads: Wednesday 3 p.m.
Line Ads: Noon Thursday

Midweek Paper
HELP WANTED DEADLINES
Display Ads: Monday 3 p.m.
Line Ads: Noon Tuesday

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 which makes it illegal to advertise preference, limitation, or discrimination based on race, color, religion or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.
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 temperatures.

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.**
  - People exposed early on to animals tend to become less allergic. According to a study by pediatrician James E. Gern that was published in the Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology, kids to be responsible through routine care, exercise and feeding of the animal.

- **Pets can 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 can handle stress.**
  - Talking 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 offer unconditional love.**
  - Pets can be a 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 help lower blood pressure.**
  - Pets can be trained to perform tasks that can lower blood pressure, an important factor in reducing the risk of heart disease and stroke.

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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)
- 2 cans (4.5 ounces) chopped green chilies, 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

**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 chilies 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.

**Baked Egg Casserole**

**INGREDIENTS:**
- 1 cup chunky mild salsa
- 4 ounces (1 small haas) avocado, sliced
- 1 jalapeno, sliced thin
- 12 large eggs
- 2 cups shredded Colby-Monterey Jack cheese
- 2 cans (4.5 ounces) chopped green chilies, undrained
- 14.5 ounce can diced potatoes
- 2 links cooked chorizo sausage, diced
- 1 jalapeno, sliced thin
- 4 ounces (1 small haas) avocado, sliced
- 1 cup chunky mild salsa

**DIRECTIONS:**
1. Pre-heat the oven to 325°F.
2. When ready to bake, remove from the refrigerator and let it come to room temperature.
3. Blend the eggs, salsa, cheese and other ingredients.
4. Pour over potato mixture.
5. Bake uncovered 55 to 60 minutes or until knife inserted near center comes out clean.
6. Remove from the oven, top with the remaining 1 cup of cheese and jalapeno slices.
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**Service Directory**

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Meal #1 $5.50
2 Liter Pop & Crazy Bread with Sauce

Meal #2 $8.50
2 Liter Pop & Wings

Meal #3 $6.00
2 Liter Pop & Cheese Bread

Home of the
Hot-N-Ready

✓ Extra Most Bestest® | $6.00
Extra Pepperoni & Extra Cheese (8 slices)

✓ Extra Most Supreme | $11.00
Deep Dish | $13.00
Extra Pepperoni, Sausage, Mushroom, Green Pepper & Onion (8 slices)

✓ Extra Most Three Meat Treat® | $9.00
Extra Pepperoni, Sausage & Bacon (8 slices)

✓ Extra Most Hula Hawaiian® | $7.75
Extra Pineapple & Ham (8 slices)

✓ Lunch Combo | $5.00
11am-2pm - 4 slice Deep!Deep!™ Dish Pepperoni Pizza with 20 oz. Pepsi®

✓ Crazy Combo® | $3.50
Crazy Breads® & Crazy Sauce® (8 piece order)

✓ Italian Cheese Bread | $4.50

✓ Caesar Wings | $6.50

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*All prices subject to change.