

Tragedy one year ago today

■ Rose Township mobile home fire claims the life of two adults, two children, on Jan. 16, 2018

By Sally Rummel

Today, Jan. 16, is a somber one-year reminder

of the tragic toll a winter fire can have on a family and community.

A year ago on this date, a deadly Rose Township mobile home fire took the lives of Brittani Rodden, 25, Jonathan (Jon) Taulbee, 24 and their two children, Carter, 5, and Wesley, 2.

See **TRAGEDY** on 10

The Michigan State Police investigates the scene of the fire on Wakewood Court in Rose Township on Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2018, where four people perished.

Times file photo



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**FENTON OFFICIALS
AUTHORIZE WATER
TANK UPGRADES**

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Baker College of Flint will close in 2020

■ Will move operations to Owosso campus

By Sally Rummel

Taeler Smith, 18, thought she had her college plans in place while pursuing her dream of becoming a Department of Natural Resources (DNR) conservation officer.

A freshman at Baker College in Flint Township, she was surprised by last Friday's announcement that the Flint campus would be closing in August 2020 and moving its operations to the Owosso campus.

"I'm a criminal justice major," said Smith of Fenton. "Owosso is a 45-minute drive. I'll either transfer there, or possibly another college. I'm going to try to do online (classes) as much as I can."

Smith's career goal is to work at a Michigan State Park as a DNR conservation officer, first attending a law enforcement academy, then the Michigan State Police Academy's DNR program.

See **BAKER** on 8

Auto show blazing into Detroit



The 2019 Chevy Blazer made its Detroit debut at the North American International Auto Show, as seen on Monday, Jan. 14. This new re-launch of a classic SUV is based on the Chevy Traverse platform.

See story on page 3. Photo: Tim Jagielo

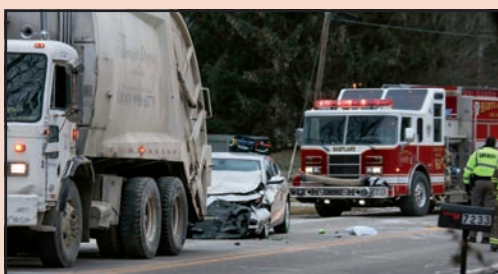
Garbage collector fifth most dangerous job

■ Sanitation worker, 42, recovering from life-threatening injuries

By Hannah Ball

Working as a waste collector, also known as a garbage collector or sanitation worker, is more dangerous than being a police officer, construction worker or a miner, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

See **DANGEROUS JOB** on 2



On Wednesday, Jan. 9, a Fenton man's car hit a garbage collector on Bennett Lake Road in Deerfield Township. The worker sustained life-threatening injuries. Times file photo

Seizing citizen assets without conviction could change

■ Michigan civil forfeiture law is controversial, but can help police departments, communities

By Tim Jagielo

Under current Michigan law, Michigan police can seize properties including cars and/or money from people who are suspected

See **FORFEITURE** on 10

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“I am a retired civics professor. Please don't buy into the Democrats' lie that they are 'saving America from Trump and the GOP' when they're actually and knowingly, misusing the impeachment process against someone for the simple 'crime' of winning an election.”



“I sent emails to Debbie Stabenow, Gary Peters and Dan Kildee on my views of the immigration problem on our southern border. I received no answer from any of them. I guess they only represent some of the people some of the time.”



COMMENT
OF THE WEEK

“Someday us old folks will use cursive writing as a secret code.”

Fenton officials authorize water tank upgrades

■ City will spend \$148,000 on repairs, cleaning and repainting

Compiled By Vera Hogan

Ground Storage Tank 1 at the city of Fenton Water Treatment Facility will be getting \$148,000 in needed repairs. The City Council voted unanimously Monday, Jan. 14, to approve the expense, which was budgeted for this year.

Three different companies were consulted and reviewed a report that was prepared in 2014 by Utility Services when they performed a washout of both ground storage tanks, wrote Water Plant Supervisor Stephen Guy in a memo to City Manager Lynn Markland and Public Works Director Dan Czarnecki.

Pittsburgh Tank and Tower Maintenance, DN Tanks and H2O Towers LLC all came out to look at the tank to



Fenton Water Plant Supervisor Stephen Guy has obtained approval from the City Council to make \$148,000 in improvements to Ground Storage Tank 1 at the Fenton Water Treatment Facility on North Road. *Times file photo*

give an estimate on repairs. The prices quoted by two of those companies include repairing, cleaning and repainting the surface of the tank.

See **WATER TANK** on 7

DANGEROUS JOB

Continued from Front Page

On Wednesday, Jan. 9, a 42-year-old Troy man was critically injured while working as a garbage collector on Bennett Lake Road. He was struck by a car driven by an 86-year-old Fenton man. The garbage collector sustained life-threatening injuries, and had surgery last week after being airlifted by Survival Flight to Hurley Medical Center in Flint.

The Livingston County Sheriff's Office did not release his identity. This Troy man is one of thousands of waste collectors who were or will be injured on the job this year.

Refuse and recyclable material collectors hold the fifth most dangerous job in America, according to BLS. In 2016, the most recent year this data are available, there were 34.1 fatal injuries per 100,000 workers. More than 6,000 injuries were nonfatal.

In November 2018, former Gov. Rick Snyder signed into law (Public Act 349 of 2018) an expansion of the "Move Over

Law," which requires drivers to slow to 10 mph below the posted speed limit and move over to the left as much as can be expected when passing police or emergency vehicles on the side of the road.

The law now includes garbage trucks, tow trucks, maintenance and utility vehicles that have amber lights flashing. Violations are a civil offense subject to a \$400 fine.

On the Times Facebook page, we asked if any garbage collectors would weigh in on this issue.

Darrell Rogers, who works as a garbage collector in Genesee County, said drivers come close to hitting them on a daily basis.

"Our place has had multiple people get injured and our trucks have gotten hit on many occasions as well. I'm so over that fact I can't even go to work and make a living without coming close to losing my life on a daily basis," he said.

Don Rickards, who's been in the business for more than 50 years, said he's seen many close calls when he worked in residential areas.

"One guy who I've known a lot of years lost a leg to someone rear ending his truck in the fog. Never stopped him, though. He's still driving and working a rear loader on a commercial route. Big inspiration to a lot of guys," he said. "Hate to hear when stuff like this happens and pray that the worker involved can make a full recovery."

Gregory Dillay II, a garbage collector, said he's been "very fortunate" but he has been hit twice and "escaped many."

"The families are hurt the worst. I have kids and family that expect me home for dinner each night just like my garbage brothers and sisters," he said. "Tougher laws to keep everyone safe is a must and fines to get them on the same page."

"The families are hurt the worst. I have kids and family that expect me home for dinner each night just like my garbage brothers and sisters," he said. "Tougher laws to keep everyone safe is a must and fines to get them on the same page."

The 15 deadliest jobs in the USA

1. Logging workers
2. Fishers and related fishing workers
3. Aircraft pilots and flight engineers
4. Roofers
5. Refuse and recyclable material collectors
6. Mining machine operators
7. Driver/sales workers and truck drivers
8. Farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural managers
9. Electrical power-line installers and repairers
10. Construction laborers
11. Grounds maintenance workers
12. First-line supervisors of mechanics, installers and repairers
13. Construction laborers
14. Police and sheriff's patrol officers
15. Electrical power-line installers and repairers

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data

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Times



Last year to see wintertime Detroit auto show

■ Popular annual auto reveal will be held in the summer starting on June 8, 2020

By Tim Jagielo

Detroit — At the North American International Auto Show (NAIAS) sometimes things don't go as planned.

On Monday, Jan. 14, following a bright, high-energy introduction before more than 100 journalists and auto industry insiders, the highly anticipated Infiniti's QZ Inspiration electric concept vehicle failed to start and drive on stage during the presentation.

The announcer dutifully carried on, flashy graphics serving as the only visual. Eventually, the QX Inspiration was pushed on stage.

This was one highlight of the first media day of the 2019 NAIAS. This event brings several auto manufacturers under one roof at Cobo Center to give journalists, industry professionals and the public a first look at what's new in the world of automobiles.

(Center) The new Jeep Gladiator truck is featured at the 2019 North American International Auto Show. Other new vehicles include (from upper right) the Kia Tulluride, the Ford Shelby Mustang GT500 and the Auburn Hills-made Roxor off-roader. **Photos: Tim Jagielo**

Public hours start Saturday, Jan. 19 (see sidebar.) While traditionally held in the winter, next year, the NAIAS will be held in the summer, starting on June 8, 2020 according to NAIAS.

The new show will feature outdoor displays and live performances and food vendors.

As possibly the last indoor show, this year's auto show still attracted thousands of journalists, many international, to the Detroit Auto Dealers Association signature event. As a rule, announcements and unveilings draw large crowds of media and industry professionals.

The new ultra high-performance Subaru S209 was unveiled under intense music and white fog. This vehicle line has never been available in the U.S. until now.

While traditionally held in the winter, next year, the NAIAS will be held in the summer, starting June 8, 2020 according to NAIAS.

Ford also unveiled the long-awaited high performance monster in its Shelby GT500, which will boast at least 700 horsepower, though Ford isn't giving a number yet. It's touted as the most powerful Ford ever built.

Brand new for Detroit is the Jeep Gladiator pickup truck. It's basically a late-model Wrangler with a pick-up bed, **See AUTO SHOW on 6**

AN ONGOING SERIES DESCRIBING MUNICIPAL BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS AND THE IMPORTANT WORK THEIR MEMBERS ACCOMPLISH



The sculpture called "The Librarian" was purchased with private donations and support from the Fenton Downtown Development Authority. **Times file photo**

Boards and commissions are critical to success of communities

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

By Vera Hogan

Fenton City Library Board

The city of Fenton Library Board is charged with the operation and development of rules of procedure and use, of the library, buildings, and grounds, subject to any contracts for joint operations with other library systems. The Library Board makes recommendations regarding changes to, and maintenance to the library building, ground, and furnishings.

See BOARDS on 9

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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

Gambling on our future

Deceptive advertising.

Promoting gambling addiction.

Preying on the young, the uneducated, the poor and the ignorant.

No, not the St. John's bingo night, I'm talking about the state lottery.

In 1903, the United States Supreme Court wrote that '...the lottery preys upon the hard earnings of the poor. It plunders the ignorant and simple.'

Nothing has changed in the 111 years since that opinion was written except that the lottery has sunk its claws so deeply into the psyche of most state governments that they have become addicted to the teats of these cash cows.

Through lotteries, government exploits the most vulnerable of the very citizenry it should be protecting — the poor, the young, the old and the ignorant. Over half of all lottery sales are purchased by only 5 percent of the population. And these 5 percent are the poorest members of society. The highest grossing sales outlets are always located in the poorest neighborhoods. These are people who, through the hopelessness and despair of poverty, have abandoned any hope of prosperity or success through their own efforts, and instead have placed their hopes for a better life on the whims of a...(gasp!) numbered ping pong ball. Most have no concept of the odds of winning. The odds on a recent powerball (I refuse to capitalize powerball) were well over three hundred million to one. That would be exactly the odds of pulling your name out of a very large hat that contained the name of every single man, woman and child in America.



The simple truth is that there exists no reasonable argument for government-sponsored gambling. And not just sponsored, but aggressively promoted and encouraged. One can hardly open a newspaper, turn on the TV or drive on our highways without being exposed to slick, professionally created advertising campaigns encouraging citizens to gamble by purchasing lottery tickets.

That's absurd. Under that same twisted logic, the state of Michigan should also be sponsoring advertising encouraging us to smoke highly taxed cigarettes and drink highly taxed liquor.

Our legislators are taking the easy way out. It's cowardly to raise additional taxes through more lotteries as opposed to hard-nosed reduction of current costs and waste... you know, like you and I have to do.

The paradox is that we are simply borrowing from the future. Habits are ingrained young. Every year we foster a new generation of compulsive gamblers — gamblers whose addiction will cost society far more in resources than any lottery ever generated. And the ever-widening gap represented by the rich getting richer and the poor getting poorer will continue to escalate. Gambling is destructive to society. This does not change simply because lazy legislators give it their dubious moral stamp of approval.

If I were King, I'd get rid of lotteries — all lotteries.

That would make us all winners.

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.

“Through lotteries, government exploits the most vulnerable of the very citizenry it should be protecting — the poor.”

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.

AS A RETIRED government employee, government shutdowns are a potential each year. If appropriations for your government department aren't passed by the 535 great Americans in Congress and signed by the President, a shutdown will occur. I lived through four Democratic shutdowns. This is yet another.

FENTON IS BETTER than ever. If you don't like it, move to a different city.

I JUST HEARD that the air traffic controllers plan to sue the President. Ignorant as they are, the target is wrong. By Constitution, 'power of the purse rests with Congress.' Maybe they should all be fired.

THE DEMOCRATIC-CONTROLLED U.S. House of Representatives voted Friday to restore funding for some federal agencies that have been shut down as an estimated 800,000 government workers, from tax collectors to FBI agents, missed their first paycheck.

A PIECE OF property was deemed unbuildable by the city for 20-plus years and yet a home is now being built on it. The conditions that previously prevented building are the same, so what changed?

SEN. KAMALA HARRIS calls President Trump's proposed border wall a 'vanity project.'

DEMOCRATS NOT ONLY hate Trump, they hate America. Democrats now support socialism.

BRING ON GLOBAL warming. If they taught history of the world prior to 1990, students would know that during the Medieval Warming Period grapes for wine were grown in England and Greenland. Vikings came to North America centuries before Columbus. Londoners skated on the Thames during this time and not since.

THE GREATEST THING about the past is that it shows you what not to bring into the future.

TO THE TRICOUNTY Times: Stop printing divisive, sarcastic, snide Hot line comments from disgruntled readers. Print positive comments for a change. **Editor's note:** We would if they were submitted.

THERE ARE SOME things that money just cannot buy. Like manners, morals and integrity.

PEOPLE COMPLAIN ABOUT Michigan roads but has anyone thought of a simple solution like limiting truck weight in the spring thaw?

MONEY DOESN'T CHANGE people; it only reveals their true personality.

IT IS THE common definition of smart. Now, ask a smart person to help you find the original Hot line referring to teenagers. I told a specific person here that teenagers are smarter than her or him. Please learn to read before commenting.



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Compiled by Hannah Ball, staff reporter

What was your first car?



"A '67 Cougar. The best part about it was I only paid \$35 for it. It was full of holes. It was all rusty. There was a big hole in the floorboard."

Kelly Fletcher
Fenton



"Vega station wagon. I think it was a 1976. It was used and it was old. The rust is memorable. I don't know how it held together."

Michael Hart
Fenton



"A Chrysler Newport. It was blue and it was big. It rode really smooth. I probably had it for two years."

Anna Handley
Fenton



"A Pontiac T37. My mom paid for it with the money I had left over in my college fund. It didn't have a radio."

Connie Foley
Fenton Township



"A blue Grand Am, a 1985. It was a pretty good first car. I got hit head on at Torrey Road and I had just put in a new radiator. I was 16. It was totaled. I was so mad."

Jen Macklin
Linden

| street talk

The Generation GAP

Editor's Note: The Generation Gap, a series that is exclusive to the Midweek Times, features opinions from people in our community who are of different generations.

Featured this week are Carl Gabrielson, executive director of the Loose Center in Linden and on the Event Staff for the University of Michigan and Kathy Byers, manager of The UPS Store in Fenton.

By Sally Rummel

How many hours a day do you spend on social media?

Carl Gabrielson, 69

I basically was raised with a pencil and legal pad. That's still my main form of recording information, but I've learned that the biggest form of communication is email and texting. No one calls anyone anymore. I estimate I use technology three hours a day.

My biggest challenge was how to use an iPhone to benefit from all its features. I use it to send and receive emails, too, but mostly for texting. I have a Facebook page to view relatives' and friends' postings and pictures. That's the extent of my technology use.

Loose has a Facebook page and website for community use and communication, plus to post photos of current events. It plays a big role in our success.

Technology has a place in our society, especially in the medical and professional world. It's an instant form of communication and a wonderful educational tool.

Individuals need to find a way to embrace, not abuse, the possibilities of Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube for entertainment, communication, and education.

Don't lose the human needs of face-to-face conversation and relationships. At my age, I need human interaction with friends and family. A limited use of this technology fits my social and private needs.



Carl Gabrielson

“I basically was raised with a pencil and a legal pad.”

Kathy Byers, 29

I spend way too many hours a day on social media. I'd guess about five or six hours. I do run Instagram and Facebook for The UPS Store, but 90 percent of my social media use is personal.

My favorites are Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat. I use Instagram the most because it's really easy to find people who have similar interests and give tips. I like to search for home décor and debt-free communities.

There are definitely pros and cons about the benefits or deficits of social media in society. I spend too much time on social media, but if you're far away from parents and grandparents, it's an awesome way to stay in touch.

My grandma is on Facebook and so are my boyfriend's grandparents. If we forget to tell them about something special we're doing or an event we're going to, they can still see it on Facebook, along with photos.

I've been trying to limit my phone use this year. One of my goals in 2019 is to read more books.



Kathy Byers

“I spend way too many hours on social media.”

View stories at
myfenton.com



Have you thanked a school board member?

■ January events planned to recognize volunteers, celebrate public education

Compiled By Sharon Stone

January is School Board Recognition Month, a time to recognize the work of volunteer school board members and to celebrate public education.

Superintendents Russ Ciesielski, Dr. Adam Hartley, Julie Williams and Scott Roper of Linden Community Schools, Fenton Area Public Schools, Lake Fenton Community Schools and Holly Area Schools, respectively, thank school boards across the state for their commitment.

The four local superintendents acknowledge that board members in Linden, Fenton, Lake Fenton and Holly develop policies and make tough decisions that help shape the future of our education system. They bear responsibility for the annual budget and the welfare of students, employees, and school buildings. They are citizens whose dedication and decisions affect our children and build our communities.

Showing appreciation for the important work of school boards should be a year-round process, but too often, we neglect to recognize the dedication and hard work of these men and women.

This January, the staff and students of our local districts are asking all members of the community to take a moment and thank a school board member. Each

school will be presenting the board with tokens of appreciation during scheduled board meetings.

• **Linden Community Schools:** Jan. 16 at Linden High School starting at 7 p.m.

• **Fenton Area Public Schools:** meeting was held Jan. 7 at FAPS Board Office

• **Lake Fenton Community Schools:** meeting was held Jan. 14 and will be held again on Jan. 28 at the Alberta B. Martin Board Room starting at 6 p.m.

• **Holly Area Schools:** was held Jan. 14, in the Karl Richter Campus.

The superintendents salute the public servants of all districts whose dedication and civic responsibility make local control of public schools in our community possible.

The men and women serving our areas schools are:

Linden Community Schools:

Shari Luck, Scott Maker, Steve Murphy, Mike Murphy, Steve Losey, Jason Rowden, and Michelle Shayna

Fenton Area Public Schools:

Dana Jones, Pam Dickie, Lynn Hopper, Rick Koester, Kristen Harmon, Kim Gruber, Keith Reynolds

Lake Fenton Community Schools:

Larry Godlewski, Mike Cicalo, Heidi Howieson, Chris Fletcher, Katherine Carwell, Bob Hutchins, Michelle Curtain

Holly Area Schools:

Michael Newcomb, Robin Carne, Linda Blair, Peter Deahl, Leigh Jackson, Hilarie McMullen, Amanda Bladzick

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HOT LINE CONTINUED

I'M SICK OF people who don't understand government work. People shouldn't need two jobs to survive.

■■■■
LET ME GET this straight. Democrats want illegal aliens, open borders, legal marijuana and more welfare. Republicans want safe borders, live babies, less drugs, strong police and for citizens to pay their own way. Hmmm, tough choice — if you're brain dead.

■■■■
REPUBLICANS HAVE TAUGHT me that Socialism is bad. I wonder if any Republicans utilize any governmental programs such as military protection, FBI, CIA, Medicare, Social Security, public schools, postal service, highway systems, corporate bailouts, all elected officials, EPA, etc.?

■■■■
I WOULD LIKE more global warming,

more crops can be grown with a longer growing season. Even roads would benefit as freezing causes ice in cracks and joints to expand and puts stress on concrete or asphalt.

■■■■
THERE WERE POPULATION differences between states when the Constitution was written. They did not want a high population state like Pennsylvania, at the time the highest, to dominate over smaller states. They knew exactly what they were doing. Even the appointment of senators was important.

■■■■
CARBON DIOXIDE EMISSIONS rose an estimated 3.4 percent in the United States in 2018, according to new research — a jarring increase that comes as scientists say the world needs to be aggressively cutting its emissions to avoid the most devastating effects of climate change.

AP students to test Shiawassee River

■ Will compare algae growth at Fenton and Linden millponds

By Hannah Ball

AP Chemistry students at Linden High School will conduct testing on the effects of land use on nutrient loading in the Shiawassee River this spring.

This was made possible from winning an environmental education grant for \$1,624 from the Michigan Association of Environmental Professionals (MAEP). AP Chemistry teacher Christy Miller has developed a curriculum for the project.

"I'm very excited about the program because not only is this getting them involved in something local they can have an impact on, it's very important for them to see the real world connections between the things we do in the lab and real world situations," she said.

The grant will be used to buy equipment that allows students to collect samples from the Shiawassee River at the Linden Millpond and the Fenton Millpond. Both locations contain slow-moving water due to the dams and are in the center of the respective cities.

Miller said both millponds are very similar, but "the Fenton Millpond has a huge amount of



Rob Wolosonowich of Fenton drags his canoe to the Fenton Millpond, which was choked with algae and weeds in 2016. The Millpond is part of the Shiawassee River that will be tested. *Times file photo*

algae growth."

"Usually it's a detriment. It depletes the oxygen out of the water, clogs up river systems. They harvest algae out of the Fenton Millpond because it gets so thick," she said.

The students will determine if the surrounding land use affects algal growth, which is caused by phosphorus and nitrogen, and create strategies to mitigate the influence. Students

“It depletes the oxygen out of the water, clogs up river systems. They harvest algae out of the Fenton Millpond because it gets so thick.”

Christy Miller

Linden schools AP Chemistry teacher

will examine watershed maps, use the Insight Marker modeling system of the river, design experiments to test algal growth in response to different chemical compounds and more.

They'll study the change in concentration of phosphorus nitrogen, dissolved oxygen, total dissolved solids and pH in response to algal growth. Then, they will compare these results to a computational model Miller developed over the summer that predicts the levels of sediments in the river based on land use. The students will then develop the best solutions to lessen the impact of land use on the river.

"The various components presented above provide the students with a wide range of real-world experiences, i.e., data analysis, field sampling, laboratory experimentation, research and communication skills as the students will be presenting their findings to other community stakeholders," according to the MAEP.

Linden Community Schools Superintendent Russ Ciesielski said, "This is one of many examples of how Linden teachers are looking for ways to increase the impact they are having on our students and the community. Kudos to Ms. Miller for her hard work and dedication to our students and school."

View stories at
myfenton.com



AUTO SHOW

Continued from Page 3

unveiled at the LA Auto Show this past summer.

The name is reused from a pick-up model built between 1962 and 1988 from various Jeep brand owners from Willys to Chrysler, based on the Wagoneer and Cherokee.

While on the topic of Jeep, India-based Mahindra brought its Roxor brand to the auto show for the first time this year.

Built in Auburn Hills, it looks very much like classic Jeeps of the past 50 years. This company has been manufacturing their Jeep-like SUVs since 1945. They're not street legal, and they will compete directly with other off-road utility vehicles, like the Razor. The base price is \$15,499.

Chevrolet had unveiled its 2019 Blazer in June 2018 in Atlanta, and it met the audience in Detroit for the first time this week. This model shares the same chassis with the Traverse, according to a Chevy spokesperson. It comes in three models, starting at \$28,800. Unlike the true sport utility vehicle of the past, this is a crossover with sleek styling.

Motor Trend Magazine awarded the 2019 Ram 1500 as "Truck of the Year." The Ford F-150 was the 2018 truck of the year.

Absent were several major auto manufacturers — Audi, BMW and Mercedes didn't participate in the auto show this year. Mini and Tesla were not at the auto show either. Nor were Volvo, Porsche, Jaguar or Land Rover.

The Automotive News essentially said that automakers were being more careful on which shows they attended, because they're expensive propositions.

The only German auto manufacturer was Volkswagen. This year is a chance to see the final Volkswagen Beetle model before it's discontinued.

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Sunday, Jan. 27: 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

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Tickets: Adults: \$14; seniors 65 and older, and children 6-12: \$7.

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Mark McCabe

67th District Court

Ask the
judge**Planning and zoning laws**

Last Sunday's Tri-County Times article about our area's expected commercial and residential growth in the coming year was a wonderful reminder of how important it is to have planning and zoning laws.

The reason I say this is that if we didn't have such laws there would be no local control of building and development projects and there could be uncontrolled growth in ways that could be to the satisfaction of few and to the detriment of many.

A frequently cited example of this very scenario is Houston, Texas which is the only major city in the United States with no zoning laws (although there are some land use regulations) and which some have blamed for unchecked "urban sprawl" throughout its 667 square miles.

Zoning laws were first enacted in New York City in 1916. Zoning laws were declared constitutional by the United States Supreme Court in the 1926 case of Village of Euclid v Ambler Realty Co. Michigan's first zoning law was enacted in 1921.

In Michigan, there are local zoning and planning laws under the authority of two statutes — the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act and the Michigan Planning Enabling Act.

The Zoning Act allows local units of government to provide for zoning districts to control where specific land uses are allowed, to limit overcrowding and congestion, to facilitate transportation systems, sewage disposal, water, recreation, and other public service and facility requirements, and to promote public health, safety and welfare.

The Planning Act allows a local unit of government to establish a Planning Commission, which, among its duties, is responsible for preparing and submitting to the unit for its consideration and adoption, a "Master Plan," which addresses land use and infrastructure issues for 20 years or more into the future. It is to include maps, plats, charts and descriptions of the Commission's recommendations for future development of the affected land and take into account various criteria to ensure that the Plan is an appropriate guide.

Master Plans are used by local units of government in considering their zoning ordinances.

Over time our zoning and planning laws have generally been considered as having worked well and have provided for orderly land development for a variety of uses.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

■■■■
THE UNITED STATES of America was born a republic. Unfortunately, it has evolved into a representative democracy. Therein is the problem. The founding fathers warned us about this happening.

■■■■
THIS IS FOR the Hot lines that said Trump is reasonable and compassionate. What planet do you live on? More than 800,099 people are not working and not getting paid. He is doing nothing to make sure they are working and getting paid.

■■■■
HELLER IS BEING political when he says that the government is being shut down by only the President. The Democrats who all stated before that we need a 'wall' bear equal responsibility.

■■■■
THIS COMMENT IS for the 40-something lady at Goodwill in Fenton on Sunday. Boy, you really need to get help; acting like you did in line was disgusting. Talking to that young lady that way all because you thought there were two lines. Glad she was the mature one.

■■■■
UNFORTUNATELY, THE DEMOCRATS have destroyed the virtues of being a citizen, which is responsibility to self and country.

■■■■
TO TRI-COUNTY WRITER. The stock

market may go up and down 1 or 2 percent, but in the last two years it's up over 36 percent.

■■■■
PSALMS 139:14. DAVID says I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Tattooing our bodies disgraces God's human creation.

■■■■
TO THE PERSON who thinks 'Dems are a real classy bunch.' Does this mean you think Donald Trump is classy?

■■■■
JOB IDEAS: WALK some dogs, have a garage sale, become a mystery shopper, and turn your hobby into income. Yes, these ideas will help you make your house and car payment, pay your Consumers bill, put food on the table, and pay all your insurance bills.

■■■■
THE DEMOCRATS ARE showing Trump how government doesn't work.

■■■■
QUITE A WELCOME to my new town on the front page of the Jan. 6 paper. I should have stayed in Mississippi.

■■■■
EVERYONE BELIEVES IN climate change because it's been going on since our planet evolved. What educated people don't go along with is the actual cause and what can be done about it. Before man was on earth, geologists show that the climate had tremendous changes. How was that caused?

WATER TANK

Continued from Page 2

Pittsburgh Tank and Tower quoted a price of \$134,000. DN Tanks, which specializes in repairing and building concrete tanks, quoted a price of \$89,500. A quote was never received from H2O Towers.

Guy wrote that in addition to the repairs and painting of the tank there are safety measures that were not in place when the tank was built but need to be done to bring the tank up to current safety standards.

DN Tanks was the only one to price the safety upgrades and detailed them in a written report. The safety upgrades include an exterior ladder at \$16,500, dome safety cable at \$10,000, and dome handrail at \$11,500. A new entry hatch also is needed for \$16,000, and a new tank ventilator for \$4,500.

The total cost of the extras is \$58,500. With the \$89,500 quoted for tank improvements, the total cost will be \$148,000, which Guy recommended. The amount budgeted for this work was \$150,000.

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BAKER**Continued from Front Page**

In addition to the Flint campus closing, Baker College will also be consolidating its Clinton Township, Auburn Hills and Allen Park campuses to a new state-of-the-art flagship campus proposed in Ferndale, a metro Detroit suburb.

According to a statement from Baker College, brick-and-mortar campuses are not obsolete but evolving, and "The school will be able to combine resources and student bodies, resulting in a more focused, streamlined enterprise for the next century."

These consolidated Baker locations plan to offer classes through August 2020, with scholarship packages available to affected students.

A 2018 graduate of Linden High School, Smith said she plans to "roll with it," when it comes to changing her educational plans with this news from Baker College. "Financially, I have help from my grandparents, so it will work out," she said.

Facts about Baker College

- Founded in 1911
- Started out as Baker Business School founded by Eldon Baker, then merged with Muskegon College
- Current campuses and programs include:
 - Allen Park
 - Auburn Hills
 - Cadillac
 - Clinton Township
 - Flint Township
 - Jackson
 - Owosso
 - Center for Graduate Studies
 - The Culinary Institute of Michigan
 - The Auto/Diesel Institute of Michigan
- Offers 150 degree programs

HOT LINE CONTINUED

■■■■
I HAVE SWAMP land for the person who said the Democrats in the Senate want to help with border security.

■■■■
I FEEL SORRY for the people of Michigan who were stupid enough to vote for Tlaib.

■■■■
SOMEONE THINKS A pulse is important and it is, but check your brain waves for proper function.

■■■■
AFTER READING THE Hot lines this week, it makes me wonder what has happened to America? Everybody accuses this party or that party. We need both parties for checks and balances.

■■■■
HEY, FENTON, IF the city was designed around people and more public transportation there would be less need for parking and more residential and commercial space.

■■■■
IN RESPONSE TO this week's Hot line regarding giving poor people alarm clocks. Let's tax rich people so that they pay their fair share of taxes.

■■■■
THE SOUTHERN BARRIER needs to be high and non-climbable. Not like the present fence that can be climbed, both up and down.

■■■■
PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP said Monday that he has rejected a compromise plan to reopen the government temporarily so that he could continue negotiating a border wall with his Democratic congressional foes.

■■■■
THEY WANT YOU to think that justice is blind. Does that mean it can't hear or speak either? The justice department is a national embarrassment.

Our Future**Meet****Kyle Miller**

- Eagle Scout
- Future serviceman
- Loves to camp

By Hannah Ball

Kyle Miller, 18, is a Linden High School senior considering a career in the U. S. Navy. His dream job would be a telecommunications operator or Navy officer. To become an Eagle Scout, he rehabilitated a playground at the Genesee Intermediate School District Head Start building in Flint throughout July 2018. He made four garden boxes, two water play tables, a play kitchen, a music wall, two benches and more.

Do you think the United States of America is a good nation or bad nation to live in?

The United States of America is one of the greatest nations ever to exist. It treats its citizens with greater respect and gifts its citizens with the greatest freedoms that other free countries don't provide to their citizens. I will always believe in its principles that this nation believes in truth, justice and the American way.

Should all 18- to 22-year-old Americans serve a two-year stint in our military to learn the value of the freedom we enjoy?

I think that doing this would be against American values of freedom. I would not support this idea as legislation in the government but I could see myself joining the military in the future.

What profession do you think will be the most popular when you graduate?

I think that skilled trades will be one of the most popular jobs when I graduate because of how many well paying jobs there are in the industry that need to be filled with capable workers.

Do you want to stay in Michigan? If not where would you like to live?

Staying in Michigan after high school depends on if I am able to work for the military being posted in Michigan. If not, then I will go to live in a different state for as long as I'm required to do so.

What are the things that you worry about the most?

The things I worry about the most would probably be if the United States went to war, or if I forget to do homework the night before. Right now those are the biggest worries, though I would say leaving home is one as well, and being away from home for long periods of time.

If you had to give up your cell phone/internet for a weekend but were able to do anything what would you choose?

I would go camping and cook some Dutch oven food for lunch and hang out with friends around the campfire, making jokes and singing classic songs. Though if I didn't have friends to camp with, I would test myself by making some camp equipment with just rope, knots, and wood.

Do you think it's harder to be a teen today than it used to be? Why or why not?

Sadly, as a teen, I think that it is tough for teens today. Not because school has too much homework or anything like that, but I believe that our school system doesn't fully teach the students what life outside of high school is like. You barely spend time outside unless you make time after school these days.

That is one of the reasons why so many students after high school will probably not be able to understand anything about being an adult unless your parents taught you. The school system could be improved to help teens more rather than teach useless skills they will never use.

What is your favorite hot food at school?

Hands down the chicken nuggets are the best, but the downside is that you pay the same amount for six nuggets as you do for a burger. I think that it's worth it.

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BOARDS

Continued from Page 3

"We have had many successes in recent years," said Chairwoman Roberta "Bobbi" Sweetman. "The DDA along with private donations from citizens and The Friends of the Library completed a renovation of the entire building a few years ago. We were very proud that we were able to maintain the historic integrity of the building while still upgrading the technology available to patrons and refreshing the decor for their pleasure and comfort.

The DDA's contribution for the renovation was \$317,000 and there were also donations from citizens and the Friends.

"Last year, we were happy to be able to purchase 'The Librarian' statue which was done completely with private donations from citizens," Sweetman said. "Along with the community, we did have some support from the DDA in the purchase of the statue.

"We also dedicated the Mrs. Blue Shoes Garden last year. This garden was also provided by private donations in memory of Pamela Hennig, who played Mrs. Blue Shoes for many years as a volunteer reading to Fenton's children.

"As for the future, in 2019, the city is planning to complete a new parking lot on the east side of the building and a new roof will be done this year, also. We also hope to complete an extension of the Blue Shoes garden on the west side of the building this year or, perhaps, next year depending on available funds."

Sweetman said the board is interested in receiving applications for board membership from "library lovers."

Current board members include: Sweetman (chair), Donald Bancroft, Lucille Hotchkiss, Sonia Kelso, Sonja Melrose, Dennis Weinand, John Strayer and Councilwoman Nancy Draves. There is one vacancy on this board. Chris Heron, librarian, also reports on activities and programs presented by and in the library each month, and Kelly Flynn, community relations manager for the Genesee District Library also attends board meetings.

Museum Board

The city of Fenton Museum Board works in cooperation with the Fenton Historical Society, and make recommendations to the City Council regarding establishing the hours of operation, staffing, and rules of procedure for the city's museum. They maintain complete records of all artifacts donated or loaned to the city for display in the museum. They also gather information from local, state and national organizations in the area of museums and museum services and keep the City Council informed about funding opportunities and developments regarding museums.

The Museum Board also makes recommendations to the City Council regarding changes to, and maintenance of the museum building, grounds, and furnishings. The board also serves as liaison between the Fenton Historical Society and the City Council. It works with the Fenton Historical Society, a nonprofit organization, to provide the



Leo Doan was elected June 4, 2017 to be the curator of the A.J. Phillips Museum. He has taken over for Ken Seger, who was curator for 38 years. **Times file photo**

best level and quality of museum services possible to the community.

In discussions with Leo Doan, chairman of the Library Board and one of the curators, Connie Foley, City Councilwoman and board member Tracy Bottecelli said, "We have noted three major accomplishments in recent years.

"Most recently the museum collaborated with Linda Blanco from the Bayview Club. The Club had made a \$200 donation to update the landscape in the front and side yards at the museum. Last spring, the board and Linda updated the landscape per her design work and in the fall planted tulips as well."

Secondly, the attic storage area has been reorganized to better identify acquisitions not currently on display and determined items that may be sold in the future, Bottecelli said.

The project of continuing digitization of acquisitions, utilizing the museum acquisition software purchased from a Fenton Community fund grant the museum received, is ongoing. The project currently includes the donated clothing. This is a huge project, which will better identify the acquisitions in the museum.

The continued work on the digitization project which is a huge undertaking. Also, the city has recently taken bids to purchase "sorely needed" new carpeting, for the front room of the museum.

"The A.J. Phillips Historical Museum is a hidden jewel in our city," Bottecelli said. "The vision of the Museum Board and the volunteers, who put in countless hours, is to create a space that, not only preserves the history of Fenton, but becomes a true history community center through the provisions of a community friendly space. It is a space that encourages more community participation and educates through programs and a rotating display highlighting Fenton's history and accomplishments."

The public is invited to visit the Museum, 301 S. LeRoy, across from the police station on Sundays, from 1 to 4 p.m.

Current board members are Leo Doan (chair), Donna Seger, Kenneth Seger, Matt Adair, Kim Wheeler, April Parillo and Councilwoman Tracy Bottecelli.

“The A.J. Phillips Historical Museum is a hidden jewel in our city.”

Tracy Bottecelli
City councilwoman

‘Captain Chris’ visits Linden

■ Takes break from running fishing company in Guatemala

By Sally Rummel

Christopher Starrs stepped off his flight from Guatemala into Detroit last Wednesday and quickly had to adjust himself from 90 degrees and sunshine to 25 degrees and a howling wind.

Starrs, a Linden native, is used to the warmth and sunshine of Antigua, Guatemala, his home since 2007. He had fallen in love with Patricia Gonzales, a Guatemalan native whom he met while she was attending Michigan State University.

They married and he launched a sport fishing charter company in Guatemala, Blue Bayou Sport Fishing Charter, with his brother-in-law 12 years ago.

This company was the first specialized broker designed for the angler who wants to "fish like a pro" for a fraction of the cost of chartering an expensive yacht on the Pacific coastline. The main attraction is sailfish, though some anglers pursue roostertail or other coastal species.

While the fishing is obviously the area's number one "catch," volcano views and hikes also make this area in Guatemala a destination for travelers.

Known in Guatemala as "Captain Chris," Starrs has updated his fleet to bigger yachts, up to 35 feet. "They're a lot more comfortable, and anglers can even hang out in air conditioning down below," Starrs said.

He has also renovated a waterfront lodge for his guests to stay, "a 24/7 secure and safe complex with a beautiful pool," he added.



Captain Chris Starrs, a Linden native, is now at home in Antigua, Guatemala where he owns his own sport fishing charter company. He is pictured here (left) helping anglers bring in a sailfish. **Photo submitted to the Times**

Starrs estimates he hosts about 400 guests per year with his charter business, taking advantage of the prime fishing season from November through May, "although fishing is good year 'round," he said.

He and his wife, Patricia, now have three children, Gwynne, 7, Marian, 5 and Christina, 2 months old.

Starrs came home to Linden to be a vendor at the Novi Fishing Show last weekend Jan. 10-13, then flew to Dallas, Texas to participate in the coveted Dallas Safari Club annual convention. "This is a huge show and I've been on the waiting list as a vendor for a long time," Starrs said. "The Texas market is really good for us."

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Times





Brittani Rodden and Jonathan Taulbee and their two children, Carter and Wesley, died of smoke inhalation in their Rose Township home on Jan. 16, 2018. *Times file photo*

TRAGEDY

Continued from Front Page

Rodden and Taulbee were originally from Breathitt County, Kentucky and Taulbee recently had moved to Michigan to be with Rodden and the boys.

Two other occupants of the home escaped the blaze with injuries, who were treated at Genesys Regional Medical Center (now called Ascension Genesys Hospital) in Grand Blanc Township. After escaping, Taulbee ran back into the burning home to try to rescue his family.

This fire was a tragic reminder of the life-threatening danger of residential fires.

In 2018, deadly house fires in the state of Michigan increased by 33 percent compared to 2017 numbers, according to a report by the Michigan State Fire Marshal. As of Dec. 20, 2018, 125 people lost their lives in 97 home fires across the state.

Families aren't the only victims in these

tragic events. Firefighters and dispatchers involved in deadly home fires go through a Critical Incident Stress Debriefing (CISD) following a traumatic incident.

"We basically do an initial defusing session with our firefighters and dispatchers, then a week later do a thorough debriefing with follow-ups as needed," said Capt. Timothy Sears, training officer for the North Oakland County Fire Authority (NOCFA), one of five fire departments that battled the deadly Rose Township fire.

The leading causes of home fires in Michigan are cooking equipment (pots and pans left unattended, oven mitts catching fire, etc.), heating equipment (chimney fires and wood-burning stoves) and smoking.

"A lot has to do with the homes burning down faster than they used to because of pre-constructed (synthetic) materials," Sears said.

"Now a home will collapse in 20 min-

utes, compared to a home that used to burn for two hours. In the case of the Rose Township fire, the 10 minutes it took for our paid-on call firefighters to get from their home to the fire station then to the fire was 10 minutes out of the 20 minutes."

This really points to the need for fast fire response, which is made more difficult now with fewer firefighters on many fire department staffs.

"We can't get people to be on the fire department," Sears said. "People are busy and training requirements have doubled. Department shortages are a national epidemic."

Currently, NOCFA has eight full-time firefighters and 33 paid on-call firefighters. "We're down like everybody else, from 39 or 40," Sears said.

Smoke detectors are a huge preventive measure for residential fires. Sears said, "We have a program that works in partnership with the American Red Cross. We'll schedule an appointment with a homeowner to install smoke detectors in the right places and make sure they are working properly. The program is free."

Fire departments also encourage homeowners to use the E-D-I-T-H action plan, or Exit Drill In The Home. "When the smoke detector goes off, everyone has a plan to exit the home, and then meet outside in a centralized location," Sears said.

Preparedness tips

- **Install a smoke alarm** on every level of your home and outside of sleeping areas.
- **Test smoke alarm** batteries every month and change them at least once a year.

FORFEITURE

Continued from Front Page

of committing crimes, even if they have not been convicted.

This is called "civil asset forfeiture," and is different from "criminal asset forfeiture" that allows law enforcement to seize the property of convicted criminals.

Civil asset forfeiture is controversial in that assets can be taken from citizens by law enforcement with no conviction.

State House Speaker Lee Chatfield (R-Levering), however, is seeking to tighten this law with legislation that would require a conviction to forfeit property up to \$50,000, according to Michigan Radio.

State Attorney General Dana Nessel reportedly supports the reforms, though Michigan Radio said similar legislation died last year. There have been reforms in the past. In 2015, the process was made more transparent.

According to the Mackinac Center for Public Policy, there's a difference between seizure and forfeiture. According to a June 2018 article, "The former can be done based on probable cause, while the latter is the actual transfer of ownership of the property."

Holly Police Chief Michael Story said civil asset forfeiture has been used sparingly in the past, mostly for drug-related activities. "Our seizures are few, and all investigations/arrests don't lead to seizure," he said. "You have to prove they are illegitimate sales of narcotics."

Story said the assets are used for the police departments for purchasing equipment, training and anti-drug activities within the schools.

"We have seized two cars since I have been here; our seizures won't likely change as they are few," Story said. "We have not, since I have been here, had an over \$50,000 seizure."

• **Make sure everyone** in your family knows at least two ways to escape from every room of your home.

• **Practice your fire escape plan** at least twice a year. Designate a meeting spot outside and a safe distance from your home. Make sure all family members know the meeting spot.

• **Have your family practice escaping** from your home, practicing low crawling and at different times of the day. Make sure everyone knows how to call 9-1-1.

• **Consider escape ladders** for sleeping areas on the second or third floor. Make sure everyone in your home learns how to use them ahead of time by reading manufacturer instructions.

• **Store escape ladders** near the window where they will be used.

• **Teach your family** to stop, drop to the ground, and roll if their clothes catch on fire.

• **Once you exit** your home, stay out under all circumstances, until a fire official gives you permission to re-enter.

• **Never open doors** that are warm to the touch.

• **If smoke, heat, or flames block** your exit routes, stay in the room with the door closed. If possible, place a towel under the door and call the fire department to alert them to your location in the home. Go to the window and signal for help waving a bright-colored cloth or a flashlight. Do not break the window, but open it from the top and bottom, if possible.

• **Visit www.redcross.org/homefires** for more information on creating home fire escape plans.

Story said in Oakland County, there is always a chance to appeal forfeiture in circuit court, which will lead to a review by a prosecutor. Assets over \$50,000 are required to be reviewed by a prosecutor.

"You don't need to have a prior drug conviction to execute a civil forfeiture proceeding for narcotics," Story said. "Most dealers don't get caught all that much, and to tie the law to prior convictions is a mistake."

According to Genesee County Undersheriff Chris Swanson, all forfeiture proceeds go into a forfeiture account used to fund law enforcement operations and equipment. "We work hand-in-hand with the prosecutor's office, which gets 15 percent of all proceeds to do all legal proceedings," he said.

In the fall of 2018, the sheriff's office completed a 5-month drug investigation on the Fenton Road Tavern in Flint and seized more than \$800,000 in cash.

A forfeiture could help dismantle an entire operation. "Just making the arrest is not always the end," he said. "If we are able to dismantle their operation, that's the answer."

When they seize a vehicle on a sting operation, the return fee is \$900, such as in Wayne County.

2019 House Bill 4002: Require conviction for property forfeiture
Introduced by Rep. David LaGrand (D) on Jan. 9, 2019

To establish procedures, deadlines, burden of proof requirements for civil asset forfeiture legal proceedings in which a government agency (usually police) seek to take ownership of property that has been seized because it is suspected of being the proceeds or an "instrumentality" of a suspected drug-related crime.

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Times

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Times

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Linden's Joey Spencer (left) finishes off Brandon Harder in the second round of their bout Sunday. The fight was broadcast on Fox Sports 1. Photo: Trappfotos

Linden's Spencer records sixth straight KO

By David Troppens

Brandon Harder found out why Joey Spencer was named the Premier Boxing Champions Prospect of the Year, Sunday at the Microsoft Theatre in Los Angeles in front of a national cable audience on Fox Sports 1.

Harder, a part-time boxer and mixed martial arts competitor, became Spencer's sixth early round knock out victim in six professional fights.

Spencer, 18, was patient in the opening round as the 39-year old Harder appeared overwhelmed by the Linden resident hardly ever throwing a punch the entire bout. Harder seemed more

than happy to defend and take whatever shots Spencer sent his way.

At first it looked like that strategy may get Harder to the second round without being knocked out. However, a second before the first round ended, Spencer delivered a head shot, forcing Harder to take an eight-count prior to the end of the first round.

In the second round, Spencer was more aggressive. He provided a few body shots early in the round, but then started attacking Harder's head. A left-right to both sides of Harder's head with about 2:18 left in the second round put him down for a second time in the fight.

Then, with about 1:50 left in the second round, Spencer hit Harder with a right to the front of his face. Harder tried to weather the blow, but about three seconds later went down. That represented the end of Spencer's sixth professional fight — and fifth on one of the Fox networks — with 1:27 left in the bout.

Spencer has never been pushed beyond the second round in any of his four-round bouts. Visually, Spencer overwhelmed Harder from the start, and the statistics proved that to be correct. Spencer delivered 77 total punches to Harder's 11.

CONTINUED AT MYFENTON.COM

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Sports Times

'Bench Mob' leads Eagles past Holly

By David Troppens

Linden — "The Bench Mob" clearly showed up during Linden's varsity boys basketball contest against the Holly Bronchos at Linden High School on Friday night.

That's the self-proclaimed name the Linden reserves have given themselves, and they made a huge impact in the Eagles' 69-45 victory against the Bronchos.

"Bench Mob" freshman Reichen Lund scored a game-high 23 points and Linden's bench combined to score a total of 34 points while grabbing 15 rebounds, helping the Eagles maintain their perfect Metro League record at 6-0, one game ahead of Flushing.

"We call ourselves the 'Bench Mob' and it's fun playing with those guys," Lund said. While making his comment, fellow "mobster" Braden Banasiak was helping show what makes

it fun playing with the reserves by having some healthy banter during the interview. It's apparent the group knows how to have fun. Lund's fun came at the expense of Holly's defense. Lund hit on 6-of-8 three-pointers and also made all five of his free throws he attempted during the game, earning his highest point total of his young varsity career.

"I feel good when my teammates start to cheer out loud and start cheering for me," Lund said. "We have great teammates that can create for me and get me open shots."

Holly jumped to an early 5-0 lead off a layup by Daniel Mathews and a three-pointer by Gavin Ambrose, but Linden's defense stiffened and the Eagles scored the final 13 points of the first quarter. The points didn't come easy.

CONTINUED AT MYFENTON.COM



Linden's Brenden Miller (left) and Holly's Hunter Jackson compete for a loose ball, Friday. Photo: Mark Bolen



Linden's Maddie Smith (right) and Holly's Emma Tooley battle for a ball during Holly's victory against the Eagles, Friday. Photo: Mark Bolen

Linden starts strong, Holly dominates rest of way in 67-27 win

By David Troppens

Linden — Life hasn't been easy on the Linden varsity girls basketball team so far this season.

The squad is still looking for its first Metro League victory, and facing off against Holly (one of the teams that has been a solid squad in the Metro for about at least a decade) wasn't going to be an easy way to find the first on Friday.

The Eagles gave it a good chance and played some of its best basketball of the season in the first quarter, trailing just 15-14 after the first eight minutes. However, the Bronchos took over from there, earning a 67-27 victory at Linden High School.

"Linden played very well," Holly varsity girls basketball coach David Hall said. "We did everything we could to stop them, but they made shots and they played very well. In the second quarter we got on a little bit of a roll and then in the third quarter we got on a roll. We had a lot of kids play well."

Linden kept the game close in the first quarter by utilizing a balance offense. Five players scored at least one bucket with Corryn Reger leading the way with two buckets and four points. Jordan Dingo and Erin Gillseppe had three-pointers while Taylor Acox and Eva Darling had a two-pointer each.

CONTINUED AT MYFENTON.COM

LF girls push ranked Corunna but fall, 68-43

By Dale M. Smith

Lake Fenton — The Lake Fenton varsity girls basketball team fought hard Friday night at home but a combination of height and talent was too much to overcome as the Devils fell to the Corunna Cavaliers, 68-43.

Already playing without junior Sydney Hammis, Lake Fenton faced a state-ranked Corunna squad who effectively used its superior size to wear down the smaller Devils.

Led by a great effort from Lake Fenton junior Katelyn Siebert, the Devils kept it close in the first half, trailing only 17-15 after the first eight minutes and 31-27 at the half. It didn't hurt that Corunna made only one trip to the free-throw line while Lake Fenton notched five out of eight at the char-

ity stripe in the first half.

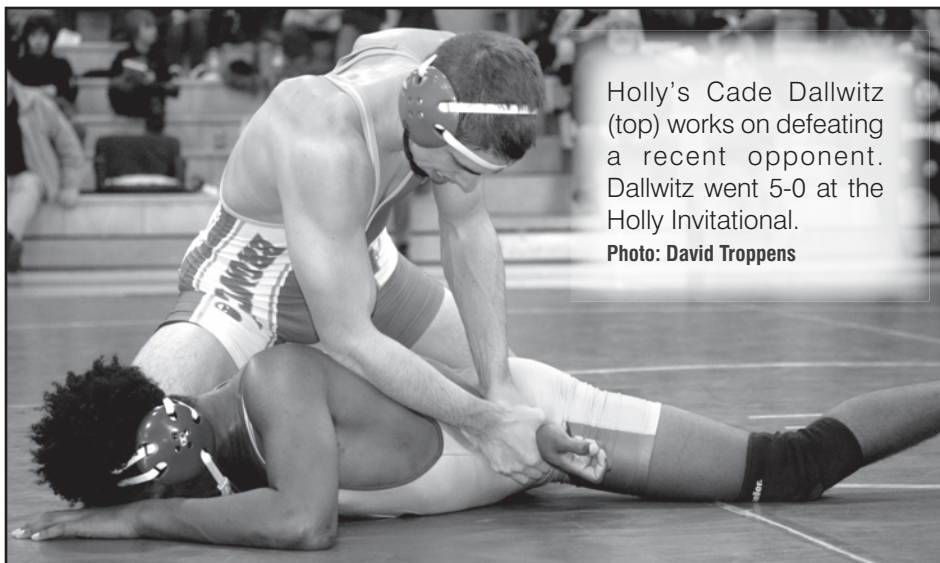
But led by the Cavaliers' senior Mariah Dunkin and freshman Ellie Toney, Corunna was able to dominate the boards throughout the game on both ends of the floor. At one point early in the second quarter, Corunna gathered in four consecutive rebounds which really foretold the difficulties the Devils were having on the low block.

Lake Fenton's Macy Phillips picked up her fourth foul at the 6:24 mark of the third quarter, further dampening the Devils' chances for an upset win.

CONTINUED AT MYFENTON.COM

Lake Fenton's Haley Whittecar (left) drives to the bucket in a recent contest. Photo: Mark Bolen





Holly's Cade Dallwitz (top) works on defeating a recent opponent. Dallwitz went 5-0 at the Holly Invitational.

Photo: David Troppens

Bronchos keep hot streak alive, win own tournament

By David Troppens

There was a time the Holly varsity wrestling team was 0-5.

So what has the team done its last 17 dual matches? The Bronchos have gone 16-1.

Holly won another five matches on Saturday, making the Bronchos 7-0 for the week, winning their own Holly Invitational.

Holly defeated Avondale 63-7, Troy 57-12, Holt 52-16 and Stoney Creek 61-14. The team's closest bout came against Mason in a 35-30 victory. But even that match didn't look like it was going to be very close initially.

After Blake Querio's (285) decision

win, the Bronchos led Mason 35-6 with just five matches remaining. However, Mason was apparently heading to their strength of its lineup after the heavy-weight match and won each of the final five bouts. Two were by pinfall and three were by major decision. The deficit was so great that Mason had to win all five matches by pinfall or win all but one by pinfall and the other by tech fall to have a chance to win. While they were Holly losses, the major decision outcomes assured the Bronchos' victory.

CONTINUED AT
MYFENTON.COM

Linden wrestling captures Chelsea Duals tournament title

By David Troppens

Wrestling in the tri-county area has always been pretty strong.

But if recent performances by area teams are any indication, wrestling may be on an upswing despite its already high status within the athletic arena.

The Linden Eagles are one of the teams helping prove that the sport is getting stronger once again. They added more evidence by winning the Chelsea Duals on Saturday.

The Eagles defeated Melvindale 47-33,

Michigan Center 63-18 and Riverview 54-27 during the round robin portion of the event. The Eagles then beat Fowlerville in the semifinal 58-24 and then beat Chelsea for the title 45-30. The wins improve Linden to 20-5 and gave the team seven wins for the week.

Even the title match wasn't overly close. Trailing 12-6 after three matches, Uzziah Delgado (160) 8-4 decision win started a string of three straight wins.

CONTINUED AT MYFENTON.COM

PREP REPORT

BOYS BOWLING

► **Owosso 28, Fenton 2:** Max Guerra scored two points for Fenton with games of 199 and 153.

► **Flushing 27, Fenton 3:** Nick Hall had a 190-175-365 series while Tate Temrowski had a 331 series.

GIRLS BOWLING

► **Owosso 28, Fenton 2:** Angella Hanners had a 161-176-337 series to pace the Tigers.

► **Flushing 28, Fenton 2:** Ashlyn Bristol scored a point with a 159 game while Angela Hanners also scored a point with a 212 game.

COMPETITIVE CHEER

► **Holly at Battle at the Bay:** The Bronchos competed in Division 2 action and took third place with a score of 653.36. Holly posted a 210.90 round one score and had a 189.46 round two score. The Bronchos recorded a 253.00 Round 3 score.

► **Linden, Lake Fenton at Perry Winter Classic:** The Eagles posted a team score of 636.98 at the event. The Eagles had a 196.40 in round one and a 174.78 in round two. They capped the event with a 277.80 in round three.

Lake Fenton and Linden had a team in the middle school division with the Blue Devils placing first among 11 squads with a team score of 439.74. The middle school division only has two round. Lake Fenton had a 153.94 in round one and a 285.80 in round two. Linden placed 11th with a 75.20 in round one and a 196.10 in round two.

► **Fenton at Troy Athens Invitational:** The Tigers placed third among the six Division 2 schools attending. The Tigers had a 218.80 in round one and a 202.22 in round two. Fenton capped the day with a 282.60 in round three.

Fenton's JV team took fourth out of seven JV squads. The Tigers started with a 190.80 in round one and a 158.70 in round two. Fenton had a 259.70 in round three.

BOYS BASKETBALL

► **Linden JV 68, Holly JV 67:** Gavin Wildeman netted 21 while Shane Eberhard netted 19, leading the Eagles by Holly. Lance Barkholz had 12 while Aiden Miller netted 11.

Holly was paced by Logan Dzendel's 21 points. Ryan Ortiz chipped in 13 points.

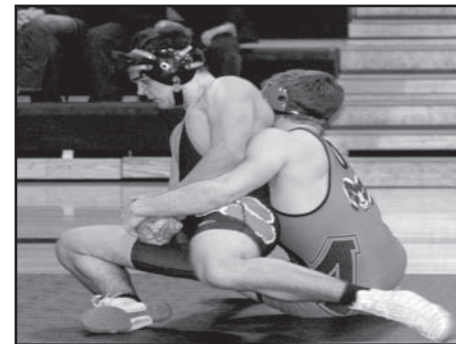
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Fenton wrestlers place third at West Ottawa

The Fenton varsity wrestling team competed in a tough tournament on the west side of the state and did respectably well.

The Tigers took third at the West Ottawa Team Tournament on Saturday.

Fenton edged out Zeeland West 37-33, lost to Caledonia 49-24, but then bounced back to beat the B Squad All-Stars 48-30. In the semifinal Fenton lost to Reeths-Puffer 54-22, but then bounce back to earn third overall by beating Holland 45-35.



LFLF gymnasts take second at invitational

The LFLF gymnastics team lost some solid performers from a year ago, but the squad is proving they still have what it takes to compete at a high level.

The squad posted a season-best score of 140.775 taking second out of 13 teams at the East Lansing Invitational on Saturday.

Griffins capture third straight victory

The Fenton/Linden Griffins are not only winning a lot of games, now they are in first place in their division.

The Griffins put themselves in a

first-place tie in the Mid-Michigan Hockey Conference by defeating Free-land Nouvel Valley (FNV) 3-2 in a tight league battle.

LF struggles in first quarter, falls to Corunna

The Lake Fenton varsity boys basketball team knew they were going against a strong Corunna team at home Friday.

And for a good chunk of the game,

the Blue Devils felt very good about their play against the Cavaliers. Unfortunately, Corunna's hot shooting in the first quarter did the Blue Devils in.

LF wrestlers go 0-5 at own team tournament

The Lake Fenton varsity wrestling team made its own Lake Fenton Team Tournament a challenging one.

By doing so, the Blue Devils finished

it 0-5, losing to Redford, Okemos, Hastings, Brandon and Anchor Bay.

The Blue Devils did have some strong performers, though.

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Obituaries



Beverly Doris Walters

1923-2019
Beverly Doris Walters - age 95, of Alpena passed away Sunday, January 13, 2019 at her home. Beverly Doris Tiffany was born June 22, 1923 to the late Walker and Mamie (Gibson) Tiffany. On August 7, 1943, she married Robert Walters. He preceded her in death on October 29, 2007. Beverly was a member of Davisburg United Methodist Church and Holly United Methodist Church. She enjoyed quilting, painting, and doing crossword puzzles. Surviving are her three children, Cathy King, John (Kim) Walters, James (Sandra) Walters; daughter-in-law, Gail Guigar; four grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren. Mrs. Walters was preceded in death by her two sons, Robert and Steven; son-in-law, James King; brother, Leon Tiffany; and sister, Charlotte Bowers. A graveside service will take place in May. Cremation arrangements have been handled by the Bannan Funeral Home in Alpena. Inurnment: Davisburg Cemetery.



William John Flick

1928-2019

William John Flick - age 90, of Fenton, died Friday, January 11, 2019. Funeral Mass will be celebrated 11 AM Wednesday, January 16, 2019 at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, 600 N. Adelaide St., Fenton. Interment will follow at St. John Cemetery. Visitation was held 12-3 PM and 4-8 PM Tuesday, January 15, 2019 at Sharp Funeral Homes, Fenton Chapel, 1000 W. Silver Lake Rd., Fenton where a rosary service, scripture service and Knights of Columbus service was held at 7 PM Tuesday evening. Visitation will also be held from 10-11 AM Wednesday at the church. Contributions may be made to St. John Outreach, St. Vincent de Paul, or the Parkinson's Foundation. Bill was born December 5, 1928 in South Bend, IN, the son of Albert and Martha (Sittig) Flick. He was a graduate of St. Joseph Seminary, Grand Rapids, Sacred Heart Seminary, Detroit and St. John Major Seminary, Plymouth. Bill was a priest with the Lansing Diocese for 17 years being ordained on June 4, 1955. He served at St. Michael Catholic Church in Flint, St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church in East Lansing, St. Joseph Catholic Church in St. Joseph, started a new parish in Stevensville, MI and had been the pastor at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in

Davison. Being called by God to a new vocation, he left the priesthood and married Patricia Szymula on October 27, 1972. Bill remained very active in ministry and God's work in outreach to the poor. His outreach work included Marian Hall Home of the Aged, Love, Inc., St. Francis Outreach in Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti and was on the Board of Directors for Friends Indeed. Bill was instrumental in bringing God's grace to many people throughout the years from his work as a parish priest, his outreach ministries, as a trained Spiritual Director, counseling couples in pre-marriage preparation and spearheading the Christ Renews His Parish (CRHP) retreat program at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in Fenton. His model for ministry was accompaniment, he walked beside those he served. Surviving are: wife, Patricia Flick of Fenton; daughter, Meghan and husband, Stefan Schmelzer of Fenton; grandchildren, Tessa, William and Sanna; sister, Mary Helen Hoadley of CA; sister-in-law, Betty Flick of Niles; brother-in-law, Robert Irwin of IA; many nieces, nephews and extended family. He was preceded in death by: his parents; his brother, Edward Flick; and sister, Katherine Irwin. Tributes may be shared at www.sharpfuneralhomes.com.



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