

Argentine man sentenced to six years for shooting friend

■Police chief: Defendant didn't know there was one bullet left in chamber

By Hannah Ball

The 22-year-old Argentine Township man who shot and killed Christopher Baldwin, 28, was sentenced to six years in jail Monday, March 4.

Floyd Blalock, 22, accepted a guilty plea on a manslaughter charge and felony firearms charge in Genesee County 67th District Court last month for the Sept. 22, 2018 shooting.

A felony firearms conviction requires two years in jail preceding another sentence, said Matthew Norwood, defense attorney for

Blalock. The last four years of the sentence are for manslaughter.

"It started off as a murder case with potentially life in prison. When someone is looking at life in prison and ends up with six years, it was the best outcome we were going to end

See **SENTENCED** on 6

“I don't know if he'll ever forgive himself because of this.”

Matthew Norwood
Defense attorney



PAGE 3
**EXPO
2019 WAS
ANOTHER
BIG HIT**

Midweek Times

VOL. 26 NO. X

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 2019

\$1.00

Fenton man charged with assaulting cops

■Allegedly tried to grab officer's gun during early morning struggle

By Sharon Stone

Charles Elmore Jones III, 23, of Fenton is being held in the Genesee County Jail on a cash surety bond of \$75,000 after an incident at 2 a.m., Wednesday, Feb. 27.

Lt. Jeff Cross of the Fenton Police Department said a police officer and ambulance were dispatched to a residence in the 1000 block of Outer Drive at 2 a.m., on a report of an individual who was possibly under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs making self-harm statements.

After talking with the individual, identified as Jones, the ambulance left after Jones said he did not want to go anywhere. With standard procedure, a second police officer arrived for backup and at this time, Jones became argumentative and combative, Cross said. The ambulance was requested back to the residence.

See **ASSAULT** on 8

Bakery preps for busy Fat Tuesday



CRUST Production Manager Whitney Nimmo adds powdered sugar to paczki Monday, March 4, while Night Operations Manager Justin Lawson prepares paczek dough for proofing behind her. The bakery produced 7,000 paczki in eight flavors for "Fat Tuesday." See video at myfenton.com. Photo: Tim Jagielo

Save the red oaks — don't trim this spring

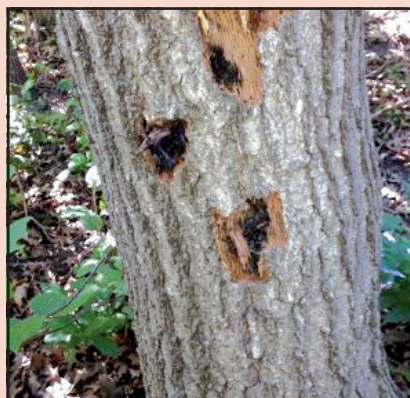
■Oak wilt is fatal to red oak trees; experts urge against trimming during warm weather

By Tim Jagielo

This fungal disease can kill a red oak tree in one month, and there is no treatment once it's infected.

The disease is oak wilt, and because of it the Michigan Department of Natural Resources

See **OAK WILT** on 10



Oak wilt is transferred when the tree is cut, whether from pruning or nailing signs to the trunk. Photo: actreesnews.org

Linden grad delivers 50-year-old telegram to grateful recipient

By Sharon Stone

Christina (Tyler) Zaske, a 1998 Linden High School graduate, may have delivered the last Western Union telegram when she delivered one in January. Western Union ended its paper telegram service in 2006.

While working in Ann Arbor last December, she found some old papers that had fallen

See **TELEGRAM** on 7

TEXT
YOUR
HOT LINE

810-771-TEXT



“Why are real people photographed and identified in ‘Street Talk’ while the ‘Hot line’ is anonymous? I feel like many of the Hot-liners are just people venting or whiners that don't want to have civil discourse. Maybe a name or phone number at the end will kill most useless comments.”



“About Fenton's famous card game and the empty chair. There was another player that night. He wore no top hat, but wore suspenders and a wool shirt. His name is known widely throughout the Midwest. North Road was named after him. His name was Paul Bunyan.”



COMMENT
OF THE WEEK

“Really, your solution to the road problem is to raise our taxes? That's the best you've got? Spoken like a true Democrat, just burden us with more taxation so that people from Ohio can drive up north on a smooth road.”

Chimney fire damages Fenton home

■ Three fire departments assist at Saturday fire on South LeRoy Street

By Sally Rummel

Residents at 704 S. LeRoy St. in Fenton had just moved into their home the day before and were using the fireplace in their new home.

On Saturday evening, March 2, they smelled smoke and called 911 at 8:15 p.m. The first unit from the Fenton City Fire Department arrived in six minutes, at 8:21 p.m., said Fenton City Fire Chief Bob Cairnduff. They were assisted by the Linden City and Fenton Township fire departments. The North Oakland County Fire Authority (NOCFA) was on standby at the Fenton fire station.

"The fire appears to have started from the use of the fireplace," Cairnduff said. "The fire started in the walls of the first floor and spread to the walls around the chimney and on up



A fire started in the chimney and spread to the walls of this Fenton home on Saturday, March 2.
Photo submitted to the Times

to the second floor. Our crews had to open up the walls to stop the spread of the fire."

There were no injuries to residents or fire personnel. However, the home sustained serious smoke and fire damage. The fire remains under investigation.

Daylight saving time begins Sunday

■ More risk for heart attacks and car accidents the Monday after 'spring forward'

By Sally Rummel

Spring forward, fall back.

Daylight saving time officially begins 2 a.m. this Sunday, March 10. Plan to set clocks that do not automatically change ahead before going to bed Saturday night and get ready to lose one hour of sleep.

For many people, this spring tradition causes more issues than just the loss of sleep. In fact, the number of heart attacks increases about 24 percent on the Monday following the "spring forward" switch to daylight saving time every March, according to a University of Michigan (Michigan Medicine) health study.

Interestingly, researchers found a 21-percent drop in the number of heart attacks after returning to standard time in the fall, when we gain that "lost" hour back.

There is also an increase in fatal car accidents on the Monday after daylight saving time, according to U.S. News & World Report. This 6.3 percent increase

might be because you're focusing your brain on driving to work Monday morning when it's used to being asleep. It also takes drivers nearly a week to adjust to the darker morning commutes.

Interrupted sleep may be the culprit for more heart attacks and accidents, including the stress of starting a new workweek and inherent changes in peoples' sleep-wake cycle.

This coming week, Sunday, March 10 through Saturday, March 16, is also Sleep Awareness Week by the National Sleep Foundation, which offers tips about how to make the daylight saving time transition smoother.

With four days to prepare ahead of time for "spring forward, fall back," give your body a chance to adjust ahead of time by going to bed and waking up 15 minutes earlier starting two to three days before the time change.

Avoid caffeine after 1 p.m. and avoid exercise and heavy foods within four hours of bedtime. Turn off electronics at least two hours before bedtime.

Create a sleep-friendly environment, including ear plugs, a white-noise machine (or smartphone app) and a comfortable bedroom temperature on the cool side (between 60 and 75 degrees)

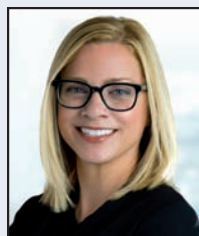
If you feel sleepy after the time change, take a short nap (20 minutes) in the afternoon, not too close to bedtime.

Try to keep regular sleep hours, even on the weekend. That makes Monday morning a lot easier to handle.

Sources: Michigan Medicine, W edMD.com, U.S News & World Report

Neuropathy Treatment Breakthrough

■ By Erica Rainer



If YOU suffer from Neuropathy, Pain and Numbness in your Hands and or Feet, we have some news, though Drugs, Surgeries and Injections are Failing, there is now hope for you, and anyone

suffering with this life altering condition.

Neuropathy is a term used to describe damage to the peripheral nerves—the motor, sensory and autonomic system. "Patients experience loss of feeling or even **no feeling in their hands and/or feet** along with muscles spasms, pain, weakness, numbness, tingling and burning sensations and have a very hard time with balance" says Dr. James Ide, clinic director at Painless Chiropractic of Fenton. Other symptoms associated with the condition are problems with urination, bladder and bowel control, sexual dysfunction, vomiting, nausea and dizziness among others. **This condition can eventually lead to further nerve damage causing complete loss of leg and/or arm use along with organ failure in some cases.**

Are you or someone you love suffering with weakness, numbness and pain from Nerve Damage in your hands and/ or feet? You are not alone. More than 20 Million people across the United States are dealing with some form of Neuropathy. Most commonly noticed first in the hands and feet, causing weakness, numbness and tingling pain and most debilitating... balance problems. "Most people find themselves feeling frustrated with no place to turn and no hope of recovery. By the time they come see us, they feel like they have tried everything. Their primary care doctor put them on Anti-Seizure or Epilepsy medications like Gabapentin, Neurotin, Cymbalta or Lyrica and told them they will just have to live with the pain." said Dr. Ide.

That is until now. With recent advancements in nerve regeneration technology and treatment options, clinics all over the world are seeing larger success rates and faster results for their neuropathy patients. "This new technology paired with a multifaceted approach has been life altering for our clinic and our patients. The development and success of the Painless Neuropathy Protocol by Dr. James Ide and his care team at Painless Chiropractic in Fenton has been the talk of the town in recent months. "We have seen an increase in Neuropathy

patients and the results that they are getting in such a short amount of time is truly amazing" said Kaitlin Johnson, the Patient Advocate & Coordinator at the Fenton clinic.

"I suffered with neuropathy in my feet along with back and shoulder pain. Walking was very difficult and I had to use a cane. After starting on the Painless Neuropathy Program, I feel 100% better. Each day I can tell a difference in my foot and am just so thankful that I will be able to fully walk again".

Becky H. - Grand Blanc MI

There are some things people can do at home to aide in the healing process of their neuropathy. Eat an anti-inflammatory diet, cut out sugars, artificial sweeteners, gluten and getting regular exercises such as walking can help to slow and control their neuropathy symptoms. Though regular exercise and walking may be difficult for some patients due to extreme balance issues, Dr. Ide expressed that it is vital to continue to build and maintain muscle mass and keep motion in the body and joints regardless how far your neuropathy has progressed.

Your invitation for a comprehensive consultation and examination to determine the level of progression your neuropathy is at and if you are a candidate for treatment...

The Times has teamed up with Dr. Ide once again to help our readers learn about new options for getting the healthcare and relief they deserve! All you have to do to receive a thorough diagnostic examination with the most advanced Electrodiagnostic testing and an comprehensive easy to -understand report of findings is call 810-618-6380.

Mention this article (Code: NEURO319) and the team will happily reduce the usual consultation and exam fee of \$195 to just \$37. But hurry, due to the number of patients the office is able to see, this is a limited time offer with only 30 appointments available and they will be on a first come first serve basis at this exclusively discounted rate.

My advice, don't wait around suffering a moment longer...

If you or your loved one is experiencing pain, numbness, tingling, pins and needle sensations, cramps and spasms of your legs, hands or feet, along with the many other bodily symptoms this horrible condition pelages people with, take action.

Find out if the Painless Neuropathy Protocol can help you regain the feeling in your hands and/or feet and start living your life again!

The program is effective and lasting because it actually treats the nerves at the root cause of the problem.

"The Painless Neuropathy Protocol is a multi-faceted approach to decrease neuropathy symptoms by nurturing the nervous system from the inside out, increasing circulation, blood & oxygen flow, working to rebuild, strengthen and better balance the body as a whole while stimulating the damaged nerves. Engage and revitalize the damaged nerve areas of the body, enabling them to reactivate and function at an increasingly higher rate over time while also increasing the patient's quality of life".

Over the years, they have treated thousands of patients with chronic conditions like Neuropathy, Sciatica, Back and Neck problems, Whiplash Injuries along with Vertigo and childhood illnesses and sports injuries. The office is well known and has a good reputation. The vast majority of their patients enjoy superior, lasting relief. In fact, many who have suffered have tried other treatment options with no luck and have been told that they are just stuck with their pain and discomfort, yet have credited the care team at Painless Chiropractic for giving them their lives back!

Call them now and get a full and thorough consultation with the doctor and examination at \$37 (saving you \$158) to determine the severity of your neuropathy and learn if and how, Dr. Ide and his team can help you recover, just as they have helped so many others.

CALL NOW 810-618-6380 and be sure to mention the Code: NEURO319, don't delay as spaces are limited. The office is very busy however you can even call on the weekend or after hours and if you receive the machine, be sure to leave a message with all of your information and the code and they promise to mark your space and call you back during normal business hours.



Dr. James Ide, D.C.



— Compiled by Sharon Stone —

MichiganVotes.org is a free, non-partisan website created by the Mackinac Center for Public Policy to provide concise, non-partisan, plain-English descriptions of every bill and vote in the Michigan House and Senate. This report was released Friday, March 1.

Senate Bill 23: Authorize prison for "porch pirates"

To make stealing mail or packages left in or near a person's mailbox a crime, with penalties of up to one year in jail and a \$500 fine for a first offense, up to five years in prison and \$1,000 for a second offense, and 10 years and \$2,000 for subsequent convictions.

Passed 38 to 0 in the Senate

Sen. Ruth Johnson (R-Dist. 14)	☒ YES
Sen. Jim Runestad (R-Dist. 15)	☒ YES
Sen. Lana Theis (R-Dist. 22)	☒ YES
Sen. Jim Ananich (D-Dist. 27)	☒ YES
Sen. Ken Horn (R-Dist. 32)	☒ YES

House Bill 4001: Require conviction for property forfeiture

To establish that property seized from a person because it may be associated with a suspected drug-related crime is not subject to "civil asset forfeiture" unless the individual is actually convicted or accepts a plea bargain. This would not apply to police seizures of property worth \$50,000 or more. Forfeiture is a legal process by which a government agency (usually police or prosecutors) acquires permanent ownership of property seized by police. House Bill 4002 prescribes specific procedures, notice requirements, deadlines and more.

Passed 107 to 3 in the House

Rep. Hank Vaupel (R-Dist. 47)	☒ YES
Rep. Mike Mueller (R-Dist. 51)	☒ YES

Expo 2019 was another big hit

■ 2020 event will celebrate Fenton Regional Chamber's 100th anniversary

By Sally Rummel

Kids won bikes and learned to scuba dive while other visitors enjoyed musical performances, dance and martial arts demos and a Spring Fashion Show — all through the doors of the Community Expo last weekend at Fenton High School.

Sponsored by the Fenton Regional Chamber of Commerce, this Expo was another success, said Chairperson Linda Hathaway and Chamber Executive Director Shelly Day.

The Expo is the chamber's largest fundraiser. "It makes up 40 percent of our event income for the entire year," Day said. "Next year's event will be huge as we celebrate 100 years of the chamber."

Both organizers agreed that crowds were very much in line with past years, about 5,000 on Saturday and Sunday, March 2 and 3.

"I'm pleased," Hathaway said. "The weather can make or break you. If it's



Jada Conrady, 8, selects a temporary tattoo at the Fenton Community Expo on Saturday, March 2. Photo: Tim Jagielo

too nasty, people won't come out and if it's too nice, they don't want to leave their homes."

Dozens of booth exhibitors and thousands of visitors were pleased overall with the event, Day said. "I really didn't get any negative feedback. Some of our vendors even wanted to secure a booth for next year," she said.

Patrik Welty's staff at the Legacy Realty booth handed out 1,250 bags of popcorn — 200 more than last year, he said.

Christopher White of Fenton Farms Golf Club hadn't participated in the Expo since 2006, and he was pleased with the results.

"We wanted to do the Expo to re-interject our brand name into the community and second, to use our booth as a job fair among visitors and volunteers,"

White said. "We thought it was a great way to put our name out there and it was very successful."

Fenton Farms Golf Club's theme was, "Have you seen Fenton Farms lately?" which allowed White and staff to interact with booth visitors. They invited guests to play "Putterski" and guess the number of golf balls in a jar for \$500 in free golf.

Lucky bike winners were Ethan Westfall and Bayle Ann McDougal, both students at Lake Fenton schools. The bikes were donated by Faith City Church, which sponsored Kids Zone, assisted by the FHS National Honor Society.

Both Day and Hathaway can't say enough about the partnership they appreciate between the Expo and Fenton High School.

See **EXPO** on 10

“The high school kids did an awesome job for us.”

Shelly Day
Fenton Regional Chamber
executive director



Entertainment included live music, and karate and dance demonstrations.

Photo: Tim Jagielo

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



Hundreds of people came out for the Sept. 8, 2018 Oakwood Cemetery History Walk. Here, Oakwood Cemetery Board Chairman Doug Tebo addresses visitors. Times file photo

Oakwood Cemetery Board takes care of final resting grounds

By Vera Hogan

This is the fifth 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.

Fenton, originally known as Dibleville, was founded in 1834 and was a part of Fenton Township until 1964. The portion of Oakwood Cemetery, known as "Old Prospect Hill, was the original burial grounds of the early settlers, according to cityoffenton.org.

The village of Fenton was incorporated in 1863 and the old township cemetery was within the boundaries of the new village, but continued to be operated by Fenton Township. In 1869, a private cemetery association, the Oakwood Cemetery Association,

See **OAKWOOD** on 10

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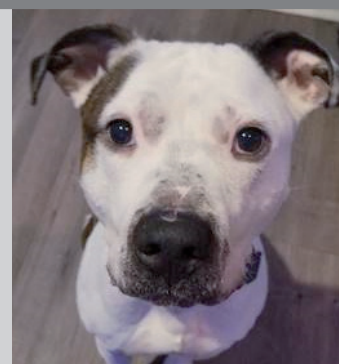
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The Tri-County Times (USPS 018-092) is published weekly (with exceptions) by JAMS Media, LLC, 256 N. Fenway Drive, Fenton, Michigan 48430. Periodical postage paid at Fenton, Michigan 48430-2699 and other post offices. Subscription Rate: 48.00 per year. No non-member subscribers. Postmaster: Send address changes to Tri-County Times, 256 N. Fenway Drive, Fenton, Michigan 48430-2699. We reserve the right to accept or refuse any content and/or advertising submissions.



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

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If I Were King...

king@tctimes.com

No more damn taxes!

Our newly elected governor has already come up with an innovative and unique solution to “fix the damn roads.” She is increasing the gas tax by 45¢ per gallon, which will eventually cost each Michigan driver about \$400 per year.

Wow, what a ground-breaking, innovative and original concept.

I am at a loss for words. Wait, no I'm not ... I

am outraged and infuriated at Whitmer's “solution.” I'm also wondering why there was no effort put forth to raise the money needed to fix our roads by eliminating outdated Michigan programs that cavalierly waste millions of our hard-earned tax dollars. Example:

The difference between the average state employee pay rate and what the state of Michigan currently pays state employees is ridiculous. On average, the total compensation for a state worker, including salary and benefits, was \$118,860 in 2017. If Michigan employees were benchmarked to the average Michigan private sector employee, the state would save an estimated \$5.7 billion annually. That would fix all the roads — three times over — in just one year.

Clearly, the governor does not realize that her decision to create additional tax burdens on the populace will actually increase our cost of living in pretty much every way possible. When you increase the gas tax, you also automatically increase the cost of nearly every product and service we require to live our lives.

Do you like food? Me too. Unfortunately, most of our food is now grown and produced in far-away locations. That means most of our food must be trucked thousands of miles across the U.S.A. to the hundreds of Michigan grocery stores that sell them to us, at a higher cost due to the higher fuel costs.

Nearly everything we purchase is delivered to merchants by trucks. Trucks use millions of gallons of gas. Who do you think will end up paying more for everything? The answer is you ... and me, and every other Michigan resident.

The economic ripple of Whitmer's increased taxation plan will be devastating. Sales of SUVs and trucks, which accounted for over 50 percent of U.S. market share in 2017, will plummet. A 45-cent per gallon gas tax increase will kill that market and result in thousands of autoworkers losing their jobs.

According to a study by JPMorgan Chase, it is estimated that consumers spent 80 cents of every dollar saved on gas on personal consumption. However, when gas prices surge, consumer sentiment always takes a hit. Consumers stop spending and businesses suffer, with many closing their doors.

Home sales are dramatically affected by the unease created by rising gas costs. Consumer spending will plummet in all discretionary areas, especially in the entertainment and restaurant industries.

Tens of thousands of Michigan workers will lose their jobs, creating more welfare recipients being dependent on state programs for food and housing. Many will turn to the state for financial assistance in the form of unemployment checks — creating another financial burden for the state.

Here's an idea for Governor Whitmer. Get rid of the hundreds of wasteful programs that already exist. Do what we, the citizens, would have to do in a financial crisis: Cut costs. There are more than enough wasteful programs in our state to fix the roads, you just need to have the courage to do it.

Stop being a politician and start being a leader.

And, most importantly, NO MORE DAMN TAXES!

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.



“Stop being a politician and start being a leader.”

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.

ONCE AGAIN, IT looks like the city found money to fix every road, except the roads where we taxpayers live. Residential roads need to be fixed. We pay the taxes and we elect these officials.

I HOPE THERE is global warming. We are just coming out of an ice age so it should be warming. How can man change significantly the climate if you have various countries' need for energy capacity increasing and couldn't care less about climate change? The best way for improvements is technology and technology needs lots of energy.

TO THE PEOPLE who worry about the great evil of too large packaging. Get a life. Is the number of pills in the bottle listed on the bottle? Is the weight of food listed on the package? Have you ever heard of standardized packaging? It is cheaper to make millions of bottles the same size than making them of different sizes.

AS WE CAREEN toward irreversible environmental tipping points, we have no time to waste debating alternative facts only to invest years more re-establishing trust in the real ones.

OKLAHOMA RESIDENTS WILL be able to openly carry firearms without a background check or training under a bill given final legislative approval Wednesday that quickly became the first signed into law by the new Republican governor.

MASSIVE CUTS TO Social Security — this is the ‘wall’ Americans should worry about.

BLUE CROSS CEO paid record \$19.2 million for running a ‘non-profit’ insurance organization?

OPPONENTS OF CHARTER schools and vouchers argue that they steer money away from traditional public schools. But, DeVos contends the proposal would spark new funding that could be used for a range of education options.

THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY is the party of ‘No.’ No wall, borders, ICE, DHS, God, second amendment, protection for babies, free speech, freedom of religion, immigration laws, and lowering of taxes. The Dems have ‘No’ message, ‘No’ values, and ‘No’ morals.

HAS THE KING never heard of an invisible disability? I have two relatives with fibromyalgia and lupus who get disability. If you saw them you wouldn't know that they had such a debilitating disability. Then again, Foster Childs has always been on a high horse so tall you'd need a spaceship to get to the top.

A LIVING WAGE is not a gift; it is not a right. When you take a job, you are fully aware of what your wage will be. It is up to you to produce for your employer whatever was agreed upon when you were hired. You earn your wage. If it is not enough, improve your skills or acquire new ones and get a better paying job.

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Compiled by Hannah Ball, staff reporter

Why did you go to the Expo?



“For the local businesses. It's fantastic. At the Times booth, we've won free subscriptions twice in the past. I love the paper.”

Sandi Hoffman
Fenton



“To meet all the businesses I've come to know and enjoy, and pick up some new businesses.”

Richard Hoffman
Fenton



“Something for the kids to do and to see what the community offers. It's something to do on a Saturday.”

Antoinette Moran
Argentine Township



“My kids and I want to see all the businesses here, and to see if the business I work for wants to come next year.”

Kaylee Stanis
Argentine Township



“I thought it sounded fun. It's been really great. I've gotten a water bottle, shoe shiner, oven mitt, beach ball, mask and a candy bar.”

Barbara Fletcher
Fenton

streettalk

HOT LINE CONTINUED

SECRETARY DEVOS KEEPS pushing her anti-public-school agenda despite a clear lack of support from parents, students, teachers, and even within her own party.

■■■
NO ONE WANTS to be called a loser, especially by Donald Trump Jr. And the notion that teachers are breeding generations of liberal puppets, while a popular talking point among the radical right-wing ideologues, has no basis in reality.

■■■
MEASLES: HIGHLY CONTAGIOUS if you are not vaccinated. More than 100 cases reported already this year in the U.S.

■■■
UNVACCINATED CHILDREN UNDER age 5 are the most common victims of measles and its potentially fatal complications, along with non-vaccinated pregnant women.

■■■
TO THE PERSON Sunday regarding the Green New Deal. You stated what you thought this would bring us, but unfortunately, you did not state at what cost this would be. There is the reason that it is not worthwhile. I personally cannot afford the \$93 trillion expense. Can you?

■■■
IF GREENHOUSE GASSES caused by humans are heating up the planet, what caused the planet to heat up before humans existed? Just asking.

■■■
TO THE HOT-LINER complaining about Socialism failing in Venezuela. You failed to mention the success of Socialism in Sweden and Norway.

■■■
WHAT A GREAT event at the art gallery in Fenton last night. Cause & Affect Gallery knocked it out of the park. The art is fantastic. I highly recommend a visit.

■■■
RENEWABLE ENERGY IS something we should grasp as an opportunity. We should start investing in it today. Protecting the environment shouldn't be something that you have to do but something you should do.



YMCA Camp Copneconic in Fenton Township hosts day camps and overnight camps throughout the summer. Some camps are for children with specific medical challenges, such as diabetes. *Times file photo*

YMCA Camp Copneconic offers summer camps — and more

■ **Camp is hosting open house Sunday, March 10, from 2 to 5 p.m.**

Compiled By Sharon Stone

There's more to YMCA Camp Copneconic than just summer camps. Nestled among 700 acres of wooded lakefront property in Fenton Township, the facility operates year round hosting school and scout groups, church retreats, conferences and trainings, holiday parties and teambuilding events — in addition to its popular lineup of summer day and overnight camps.

School programs include day and overnight options, which can be customized to complement existing classroom curriculum. The staff is committed to helping teachers educate their students through building an appreciation for the natural world and strengthening group interaction skills. Students will be immersed in hands-on activities that incorporate the fun of outdoor recreation and promote a greater sense of independence and respect.

Scouts, church groups and other non-profit organizations will also find exciting, educational and adventurous activities through a Camp Copneconic experience. With a variety of facility options to choose from, event organizers can hold small group discussions in one of many intimate breakout spaces, or host large group gatherings in the Copneconic Lodge.

Beyond the modern ranch-style lodges and rustic cabins, Camp Copneconic offers a long list of unique outdoor experiences that can be incorporated into a customized group adventure. Activities may include the high ropes course, zip line, rock climbing wall and waterfront activities on 125-acre Lake Copneconic.

The public is invited to attend a free Community Open House on Sunday, March 10, from 2 to 5 p.m. Camp staff will be on hand to provide tours, answer questions and offer scheduling assistance to those interested school programs and

group adventures. Parents can also register their children for summer day and overnight camps during the event at the lowest prices of the season.

To learn more, visit campcopneconic.org. For additional information on school programs and retreats, contact Thomas Bawden at (810) 629-9622 or thomasb@flintymca.org.

Let there be light!

■ **DPW to get new generator and light pole for night jobs**

By Vera Hogan

How tough is it to dig a big hole after dark? Ask any Department of Public Works employee who's been called out to repair a water main break after the sun goes down.

Fenton Public Works Director Dan Czarnecki has remedied that however. At his request, the City Council has approved the purchase of a \$10,790 light tower/generator to be used to provide emergency lighting and power at after-hours work sites.

"The equipment can also be utilized to supply lighting and power at other city functions such as downtown festivals," Czarnecki said.

The light tower has a 6,000 kilowatt diesel-powered generator with a 23-foot mast height and four adjustable 240 watt LED lighting heads.

The equipment will be purchased from Frederickson Supply of Grand Rapids.

Officials unanimously approved the request to purchase.

View stories at
myfenton.com



POLICE & FIRE REPORT

COMPILED BY SHARON STONE

HARASSMENT ON LAKE SHORE DRIVE

On Saturday, March 2, Genesee County Sheriff's deputies were dispatched to the 13000 block of Lake Shore Drive for harassment complaint. The incident remains under investigation.

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SENTENCED

Continued from Front Page up with," Norwood said. "Two families are destroyed in this. My client, he hasn't had the opportunity to grieve. His best friend died. I don't know if he'll ever forgive himself because of this."

Blalock reportedly shot Baldwin in an apartment in the 16000 block of S. Seymour Road in Argentine Township on Saturday, Sept. 22, 2018. He was arraigned Wednesday, Sept. 26, 2018 and has been lodged at the Genesee County Jail.

Baldwin was pronounced dead at the scene. Argentine Police Chief Daniel Allen said police were told that Blalock removed the magazine from the weapon and believed the gun was unloaded when he aimed it at his friend.

The police chief said, despite pulling out the magazine, a bullet remained in the chamber.

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

Norwood said his client is "traumatized."

"I think he's hoping that someday it'll be a nightmare and he'll wake up but he knows it's not," he said.

Blalock wrote a letter to the judge, saying that it's so sad a mother had to bury her son, that a little girl isn't going to have a dad to go to a daddy-daughter dance with, that his sister isn't going to have a brother.

"I do a lot of these cases and very rarely do I have a client who understands this," Norwood said.



Christopher Baldwin



Floyd Blalock

Our Future



Meet

Christian Parker

- Lake Fenton High School senior
- Likes to help others succeed
- Hoping to serve others in career

By Sally Rummel

Christian Parker, 17, is a drum major in the Lake Fenton High School Marching Band and has been involved in 10 theatre productions since his freshman year. Vice president of the LFHS Executive Council, Parker is interested in service and politics. He is the son of Camille Kimble and Allen Parker and the stepson of Corey Kimble. His sisters are Cadence Kimble, Natalia Parker and Zachariah Aleman. He has a brother, Cameron.

What has been your favorite role you've played in theatre?

Although I have had a lot of fun roles, my favorite was probably "The Little Mermaid" during my freshman year. I was cast as Jetsam the Eel, a rather hefty role for my first musical.

I had so much fun in that role because the character was so abnormal.

As someone who cannot sing and the only freshman cast in a large role, I was pleasantly surprised. That role catalyzed a love for theatre and my role as Jetsam was where it all started.

What are your future plans after graduation?

I'm considering majoring in business or English. I would like to move to California, New York, or Chicago. I also would like to continue to perform, whether through theatre or band, or in any other variation thereof.

What subjects interest you in school?

I like English because it is interesting to see the different capacities that thoughts could be conveyed and I would try to weave those tactics into my own writing. This year, I have gravitated toward history. I have learned so much about where I came from and what my predecessors went through. It honestly amazes me. I actually took AP English and AP U.S. History this year. I also learn as much from after-school activities as I do in a classroom. Such clubs can instill leadership, dependability, work ethic and more.

What advice do you have for younger students?

Stay organized and network. Organization is imperative to your success. There were many times I forgot about homework or lost it, and that negatively affected my grades. I now use Google calendar to organize my schedule and it is truly a lifesaver. Moreover, make friends. Not just anyone; mingle with people who are seeking success passionately because that does rub off. Also, make friends with your teachers and parents from your area. That support system will honestly carry you further than you could ever know.

What type of career excites you?

As cliché as it may be, I am interested in a career in service because it accurately represents my ideology. I like helping people, and I like to see others succeed. Honestly, seeing your peers succeed makes you feel like you succeed with them.

What have you learned from your parents?

My mom and stepdad have the most incredible work ethic; it truly inspires me. They have fought so hard to give me better opportunities than they had, so I'm pushing myself to do the same for my children. Also, they effectively balance work and home life, so although they are dedicated to their work, they also show the importance of intangible things.

What qualities do you look for in a friend?

I look for friends who are likeminded; not that we agree on everything, but in the way that we fight for what we want. I try to create a well-rounded friend group, and even though we all seek different results, greatness is ultimately the end goal.

Snow birds

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Mark McCabe
67th District Court
Ask the
judge

The Excessive Fines Clause of the Eighth Amendment – Part II

The Timbs opinion was written by Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

She traced the history of the clause back to the Magna Carta in 1215 when certain rights were given to the English people by King John.

These included a requirement that economic sanctions “Be proportioned to the wrong” and “Not be so large as to deprive an offender of his livelihood.”

These rights continued in the 1689 English Bill of Rights, which actually provided the same rights as our Eighth Amendment.

When the colonies and then the states were established, the idea of excessive fines being prohibited continued.

Today, all 50 states have a Constitutional provision forbidding excessive fines either directly by or requiring proportionality.

Based on this history, logic, and case law, the Court found that the Excessive Fines Clause applies to the states and always has.

This means that the clause is a federal constitutional right and the standard of proportionality applies.

The Court also reaffirmed previous case law, which held that civil forfeitures are within the clause’s protection when they are at least partially punitive.

The Timbs case was sent back to the Indiana courts for further proceedings to be evaluated consistent with the opinion.

As to how this decision could affect Michigan, currently Michigan has a civil forfeiture law.

The question now to be answered by the Michigan courts is when and how much property can legally be forfeited under the proportionality rule?

Additionally, Michigan’s law does not require a criminal conviction before a forfeiture can be ordered.

The holding in Timbs doesn’t directly affect this part of the law. However, last month the State Senate passed a bill requiring a conviction in drug cases before a forfeiture can be ordered if the property is valued at \$50,000 or less.

The bill is now pending in the House.

All states have either civil or criminal forfeiture statutes and 15 states require convictions for most or all forfeitures.

Property forfeitures have become the topic of much discussion nationally and there have been calls to universally require convictions before a forfeiture or to even eliminate forfeiture cases altogether.

As to all of the above, we will simply have to wait and see what happens.

The Excessive Fines Clause of the Eighth Amendment – Part I was published Wednesday, Feb. 27.

TELEGRAM

Continued from Front Page

to the bottom of an old filing cabinet her company had recently purchased second-hand from the University of Michigan.

Browsing through the old papers, she found a Western Union telegram dated May 2, 1969. It was addressed to Robert Fink, 316 E. Madison St., Ann Arbor. The telegram said, “Sorry we cannot be there to applaud when you get your diploma but our hearts and best wishes are with you. Love, Dr. and Mrs. Fischman.”

The address on the telegram was the off-campus apartment Fink had been living at while attending the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

Zaske said had she not dropped a piece of paper back behind the filing cabinet drawer she would never have found the telegram. She pulled the drawer out and found even more papers that had fallen down over the years.

She said it turned out to be very easy to find Fink with the help of Google. “I hoped he was in the area. I just thought I’d give it a try,” she said. “I thought it was strange that he never knew.”

Fink is now an associate professor in the Department of Counseling at Oakland University in Rochester.

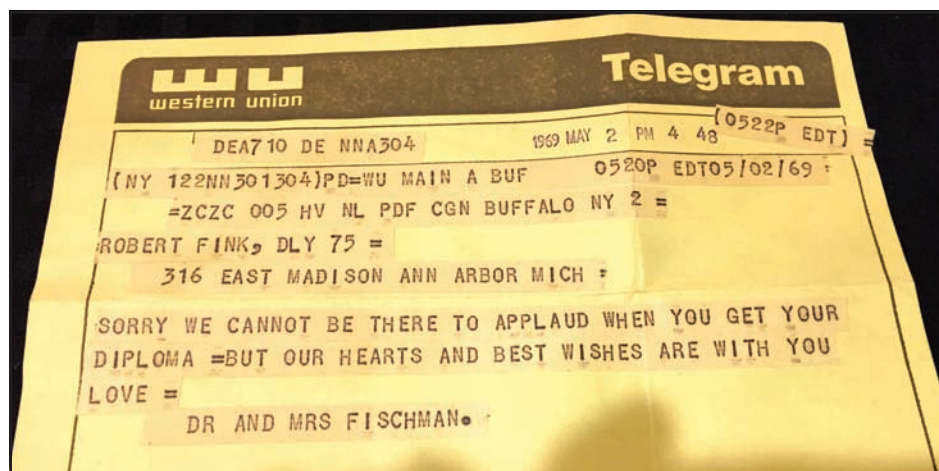
On Wednesday, Feb. 27, Fink spoke about receiving the long lost telegram. “It’s really crazy,” he said. “I could hardly believe it. I thought it was a scam of some sort.” He asked that Zaske send it to his office instead of his home as a precaution.

Fink thinks it is wonderful that Zaske cared enough to look for him. “Bless her heart,” he said. “It’s very much appreciated.”

In addition to the telegram itself being interesting, he also found it very interesting on who sent it. He said the Fischmans were friends of his parents

“I hoped he was in the area. I just thought I’d give it a try.”

Christina (Tyler) Zaske
Linden High School graduate



This is the 50-year-old Western Union telegram addressed to Robert Fink that Christina Zaske recently found in an old filing cabinet. Photo submitted to the Times

when they all lived in Buffalo, New York. When he was a sophomore in high school, his family moved to the suburbs and somewhat lost contact with the Fischmans, including their son, Arnie Fischman, who Fink had been good friends with.

Fink appreciates the fact that the

Fischmans thought enough of him to send him a telegram. They would have had to send it from a Western Union office.

Fink regrets that he didn’t get the telegram, never knew about it and never thanked the Fischmans.

Fink’s parents and the

Fischmans have since passed away.

For closure, Fink has been doing some searching online and he hopes to locate and talk to his old friend Arnie Fischman to tell him about this story. “It would close

the circle,” he said.

Remembering when he graduated from college and the date on the telegram, he figured out that it was delivered one day after he moved out of his apartment. Either the landlord or the next tenants took the telegram over to the university. There, the telegram must have gotten misplaced and eventually ended up in the filing cabinet.

Since he had applied to several grad schools, Fink was relieved this telegram wasn’t from one of those grad schools. “What if it was something I had been waiting for,” he said.

A friend of Fink’s, who is a museum curator, pointed out to him that because the telegram was tucked away in the filing cabinet, it was in very good condition.

Fink said he wrote Zaske thanking her for taking the time to find him and send him the telegram, which brought back many memories.

POLICE & FIRE REPORT

COMPILED BY SHARON STONE

FRAUD ON SILVER LAKE ROAD

On Monday, Feb. 25, Genesee County Sheriff’s deputies were dispatched to the 6000 block of Silver Lake Road in Fenton Township for a fraud complaint. The incident remains under investigation.

FRAUD COMPLAINT ON MARGARET DRIVE

On Tuesday, Feb. 26, Genesee County Sheriff’s deputies were dispatched to the 12000 block of Margaret Drive in Fenton Township for a fraud complaint. The incident remains under investigation.

THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS WORTH OF TOOLS STOLEN ON NORTH ROAD

On Thursday, Feb. 28, Genesee County Sheriff’s deputies were dispatched to the 14000 block of North Road in Fenton Township for a larceny from auto complaint. Thousands of dollars worth of tools were reported stolen. The incident remains under investigation.

DOMESTIC ASSAULT ON THOMPSON ROAD

On Friday, March 1, Genesee County Sheriff’s deputies were dispatched to the 4000 block of Thompson Road for a domestic assault and battery. One male was arrested and lodged at the Genesee County Jail. The incident remains under investigation.

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32 million adults in U.S. can't read

■ Local schools embrace 'Reading Month' with family literacy night

By Hannah Ball

March is reading month, and Hyatt Elementary celebrated with a literacy night on Thursday, Feb. 28.

Principal Cheryl Thomas said, "This month, our aim is to increase the motivation for students to read. We connect to our students' parents with a take home reading log to record their reading minutes."

Activities at the literacy night included listening to a storyteller, going to Sloan/Longway Planetarium Literacy Science Stations, a book swap with parents, a parent resource station, reading fluency karaoke, bookmark and craft station, a puppet station and more.

More than 100 students and their fami-

lies attended.

To celebrate the reading month, some classrooms have a "read-a-thon" and kids can win bikes and other prizes.

Literacy in America

Approximately 32 million adults in the United States can't read, according to the U.S. Department of Education and the National Institute of Literacy. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development found that 50 percent of U.S. adults can't read a book written at an eighth-grade level.

Low literacy was found to be connected to more than \$230 billion a year in health care costs be-

cause many Americans cannot read well enough to understand health information, which incurs high costs.

The NCES measured Basic Prose Literacy Skills (BPLS) among adults

“This month, our aim is to increase the motivation for students to read.”

Cheryl Thomas
Hyatt Elementary principal



Becky McCormick, second-grade teacher at Hyatt Elementary, reads to students Thursday, Feb. 28 for literacy night. Photo submitted to the Times

and compared them by state. The earliest data available is from 2003. The NCES found that 8 percent of Michigan adults lacked basic prose literacy skills

in 2003, which is down from 12 percent in 1992.

In 2003, 10 percent of adults in Genesee County lacked these skills, which were down from 12 percent in 1992.

While this is a problem with adults, it starts young, which is why schools emphasize reading every day. In the 2016/2017 school year, only 44 percent of third-graders in Michigan were proficient in reading, which is down from 50 percent in 2014-2015 school year. However, area schools are above state average, according to a report by The Education Trust-Midwest.

Sources: Concordia University-Portland, National Center for Education Statistics, American Journal of Public Health



Becky McCormick, second-grade teacher at Hyatt Elementary, acts out the story she's reading. Hyatt Elementary Principal Cheryl Thomas called McCormick a "master storyteller."

Photo submitted to the Times



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ASSAULT

Continued from Front Page

While police were talking with Jones, Cross said he became more irate and allegedly assaulted the officers. He said a struggle ensued with the two officers for several minutes before additional backup arrived. Cross said the delay was due to the weather.

During the struggle, Jones allegedly attempted to grab the firearm of one of the officers.

Officers subdued Jones and he was transported to the hospital for treatment and then taken to the Genesee County Jail.

He was arraigned Friday, March 1 on two counts of assaulting, resisting, and obstructing a police officer causing injury, a four-year felony. He also was charged with one count of attempting to disarm a police officer, a five-year felony.

Cross said one of the injured officers was treated immediately following the incident and has returned to work. The second injured officer is still recovering from his injuries.

"They (the officers) did a fantastic job keeping him at bay although they did take some blows until help arrived," Cross said, regarding the officers struggle with Jones.

A probable cause conference has been scheduled for March 14 at 8:30 a.m.

View stories at
myfenton.com



Get your toys out

■ Many items you bought for your kids could be worth a small fortune today

By Vera Hogan

Spring cleaning projects will be underway very soon, or if you have a bad case of cabin fever, you may have already begun.

As you do your planning — think seriously about what you can sell for cash — especially the things your kids had throughout their growing up years and have left in the basement, attic or garage for you to store.

Don't feel guilty. You paid for the stuff to begin with. Consider it storage fees.

Comic books

Comic books are still a very popular collector's item — and the more vintage and rare your comic book is, the more it's worth. Just because your comic book collection might contain some rare and vintage copies, however, doesn't guarantee it's worth \$1 million. Comics with classic covers or first appearances are typically more valuable, according to ComicsPriceGuide.com.



Coins

Remember when you and your kids collected the state coins? Today, the 2005 Wisconsin quarter can fetch up to \$300, if it is one that has the extra leaf on it, according to mashable.com. "The 2005 Kansas quarter can get you about \$100 if the "T" in "In God We Trust" is missing. Due to grease preventing a clean pressing, the "T" is out and it says "In God We Rust."

Dolls

Vintage Cabbage Patch Kids can drum up a lot of interest — and cash. On eBay, you can find several listings for Cabbage Patch dolls from the 1970s and '80s, ranging from \$3,500 to \$5,500. Barbie is also among high-demand collectibles — the 1959 version can sell for thousands on eBay.



Action figures

The category of valuable action figures is wide and deep. Figures that are virtually untouched and in pristine condition will have the highest values. For example, the 1963 G.I. Joe sold for \$200,000 in 2003 in a private sale, according to CBS News. Vintage Ideal Comics super heroines from the 1960s, such as Super Girl or Wonder Woman, can net you thousands, according to MSN.

Board games

Although it's unlikely you have a \$2 million board game collecting dust in your garage or attic, a large collection of vintage board games could certainly add up. A quick search on eBay will reveal some board game sets are worth \$1,000 or more. For example, a pre-owned, slightly damaged War of the Ring: Collector's Edition game is selling for almost \$1,500 on eBay.



'Star Wars' collectibles

"Star Wars" is a cultural phenomenon with its own holiday — and branded items are hot. The franchise's toys are popular collectibles that are gaining in value. If your "Star Wars" collection has a lot of items from the original trilogy, you could have a nice nest egg worth close to \$1 million.

One fan got \$505,202 for his "Star Wars" collection of 600 items, according to CNN. A pristine multipack of seven "Star Wars" action figures from "The Empire Strikes Back" sold for more than \$30,000 — three times its estimate. And a recalled Luke Skywalker toy sold for \$25,000. Meanwhile, Yak Face, a creature from "Return of the Jedi," sold for \$7,250 and a "Return of the Jedi" Anakin Skywalker figurine sold for \$3,000.

Books

Hardcover first editions of "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone" can fetch up to \$45,000 and "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets" can go for around \$7,000, according to Sotheby's.

Other Toys

Having a few of the right items in the old toy chest could be worth loads of cash. Think back to those toys that everyone wanted, such as Teddy Ruxpin, Strawberry Shortcake, Transformers and My Little Pony. Lite-Brite, an illuminated art board you stick plastic pegs into to create glowing art, could sell for more than \$100. My Little Pony dolls could sell for \$900. Transformers from the 1980s can go for \$750, and a 1985 Teddy Ruxpin toy could also net you hundreds.

Video Game Collectibles

Although it's not uncommon for classic games to be reissued digitally, collectors still desire the original versions, according to Time. And the better the condition of the game, the higher the value. If you have a sealed copy of any collectible game, you can anticipate getting more. For example, sealed copies of Nintendo's "Castlevania" are going for thousands on eBay. The same is also true for vintage video games featuring the popular Sonic the Hedgehog.

Legos

If you happen to own certain Lego sets, you could rake in a load of cash. "Star Wars"-themed merchandise is highly collectible and often worth more than what you originally paid, and that also holds true with Legos. The Lego Millennium Falcon sets can go for hundreds or more on eBay — and first-edition sets of the space-ship routinely sell for thousands. The 1985 High-Speed City

Express Passenger Train in new condition is listed on eBay for nearly \$3,000. And a Diesel Freight Train from 1980 can be worth more than \$2,000 if the package is sealed, according to eBay.

Source: obankingrates.com

HOT LINE CONTINUED

■■■
IT'S A SHAME and a total waste of taxpayers' money by the Democrats with ongoing Trump investigations. It appears to be strictly political games. What happened to common sense within the Democratic Party? Vote the clowns out.

■■■
RECENT DISCUSSIONS FOR how government can provide reparations for slavery are misguided. Reparations in the form of welfare, education spending and other social programs that primarily benefit minorities and blacks with no appreciable improvement. Self-reliance and mutual respect work better than anything government can offer.

■■■
HAS A CLIMATE denier ever bothered to listen to facts or logic? No, they haven't. If they did, they would understand climate change. Here's NASA's findings <https://climate.nasa.gov/evidence/>.

■■■
PLEASE CONSIDER DONATIONS to the Young America's Foundation to combat university silencing of pro-America free speech.

■■■
FENTON AND LINDEN citizens. If you can't vote 'yes' on a road improvement millage, please vote 'no' on a non-motorized pathway. Put your money toward road improvement.

■■■
AT LAST, SOME intelligent comments about the reality of climate change. It's

a relief to see people take seriously this proven fact from experts and scientists. Watch some fabulous PBS programs about climate change and see for yourself.

■■■
WHAT BOTHERS ME is the whining conservatives who say liberals don't support cops. I'm a liberal and I support police. Such generalizations in no way help your cause, whatever that is, except to divide people.

■■■
TO THE COMMENTER about Jesus who thinks Democrats are the ones who help the poor and sick, feed the hungry, love thy neighbor. Look around next time you are at the soup kitchen, fundraiser and every charity event. You might be surprised where you find the spirit of Jesus living.

■■■
I'M SURE THERE'S a lot I don't know about the food industry, but why would you consume anything labeled as artificial? Let's forget the word 'organic' or the misused and abused word 'natural,' and consume real food.

■■■
MICHIGAN GOVERNOR GRETCHEN Whitmer just announced a \$0.45 per gallon gas tax that would phase in over time.

■■■
TWO MICHIGAN LAWS taking effect this month will steepen penalties for animal abuse 4 to 10 years. Second law is for those convicted of emotional abuse of another person by harming or killing an animal up to 10 years. These were signed into law by Governor Rick Snyder before ending his second term.

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OAKWOOD

Continued from Page 3

was formed. A cemetery composed of 23 acres of ground immediately southwest of the old cemetery was laid out and, according to historical accounts, explain the existence of many burials in that portion of the cemetery. These burials date much earlier than 1870, which indicates the area was being used for cemetery purposes prior to the formation of the Oakwood Cemetery Association.

The Oakwood Cemetery Association was dissolved in 1948 and the cemetery was turned over to the village of Fenton. In 1964, the village of Fenton incorporated as the city of Fenton. In the division of assets between the new city and Fenton Township, the old township cemetery (Prospect Hill) was turned over to the city.

Today, Oakwood Cemetery consists of 40-plus acres and includes Old Prospect Hill. The Cemetery Board of the city of Fenton oversees the operation and maintenance of Oakwood Cemetery.

Today, Doug Tebo chairs the Oakwood Cemetery Board. He is joined in his volunteer work by members Paul Overmyer, John Hillis, Patti Halligan and City Council liaison member, Cherie Smith. Public Works Director Dan Czarnecki is the administration liaison.

"The thing we've been concentrating on most over the past couple of years is clearing more land in there," Tebo said.

"We are cleaning it out and clearing more areas so we have access from fence line to fence line. We have some open areas that we have not platted yet."

Much of the clearing has to do with trees. "Believe it or not we are still recovering from the tornado (of August 2007)," Tebo said. "Fifty five giant oaks were lost and tons more were damaged. It's an ongoing process to keep them growing."

Once all of the areas get platted, there will be space for about 400 more graves, Tebo said. "We want it to be a viable place for years to come," he said.

The other thing the board has been doing is trying to get broken and/or weathered graves in the older parts of the cemetery repaired and in some cases replaced. "Some of them are weathered so bad that we can't read the inscriptions on them," he said.

With a limited budget, Tebo said they mainly repair if they can. One headstone was even crushed by a tree.

The website, findagrave.com, has been helpful in that they have photos of headstones, which enables them to recreate a new stone.

Last September, Fenton residents and visitors were able to enjoy the Oakwood Cemetery History Walk. Tebo said it was the largest one they've held. Sponsored by the Fenton Historical Society,

Fenton Memorials and the city of Fenton, the Fenton Village Players portrayed some of the city's more interesting and notable residents.

"We were able to locate family members who were able to be at some of the stops along the walk," Tebo said. There won't be a history walk this year, but Tebo hopes there will be more in the future.

The Oakwood Cemetery Board meets at 6:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of odd months (January, March, May, etc.). Meetings are held in Fenton City Hall.

“Believe it or not we are still recovering from the tornado (of August 2007).”

Doug Tebo
Oakwood Cemetery
Board chairman



David Tanner with Carousel Farms holds an alpaca to be petted by an Expo visitor on Saturday, March 2. Photo: Tim Jagielo

EXPO

Continued from Page 3

"We had an excellent group of volunteers from the FHS baseball team," Hathaway said. "Our pipe and drape company had a vehicle incident on their way here on Friday and couldn't get started with set-up until noon. Usually they're here by 9:30. We couldn't have pulled things off without the team's help. Even with the late start, they hustled after school and got vendors in by 5."

"The high school kids did an awesome job for us," Day said. "They helped set up during the show in the kids' area, the bunny booth and Gus

Macker booth. A large group also showed up for cleanup."

Hathaway added that Fenton schools is such an incredible resource. "It's an opportunity to showcase the schools. The janitors pay attention to all the details. A lot of people pay taxes and never see the inside of the school."

Winning the 2019 Expo Booth Contest was Financial Plus Credit Union with their interactive Connect 4 game that took booth visitors on a scavenger hunt to different business booths. They will win a \$200 lunch from a chamber member restaurant, delivered by the Expo committee.

OAK WILT

Continued from Front Page

(DNR) is recommending property owners avoid trimming or cutting oak trees in any way or moving firewood.

Art Vance and David Petts of Branching Out Nursery in Fenton recommend not trimming during the warm weather at all.

Oak wilt is a fungal infestation that was first reported in Michigan in the 1970s. It has appeared in 24 U.S. states, according to the Michigan State University Extension (MSU-E). It has killed millions of red oak trees in the U.S.

Oak wilt can infect all oak trees, but happens to be fatal to red oaks. Oak wilt is a fungus that is transported by the "sap-feeding" or "picnic" beetle. According to the Michigan Oak Wilt Coalition, the specific species believed to transport the fungus is the Nitidulidae beetle.

This beetle is attracted to sweet-smelling substances. Vance said the fungus emits such an odor, which attracts the beetle.

When an oak tree is trimmed, the open cut begins healing itself by secreting sap. The beetle is attracted to the sap and inadvertently leaves the fungus on that open cut. The fungus then spreads slowly through the tree's vascular system, damaging and killing branches as it goes.

A white oak can defend itself by shutting down the particular vascular system that detects the fungus.

The red oak doesn't handle the infection this way, Vance said. A red oak shuts its entire system down, effectively killing the whole tree, not just a few branches. "I've never heard of one surviving it," Vance said.

Once the host is dead, the fungus can still live in the tree and spread through the root systems.

Vance runs the nursery with owner David Petts. "You see trees turn brown in the middle of summer," Petts said. The browning means it's likely infected with the fungus because the insects are active.

Branching Out Nursery sells red oaks, but none of theirs have been infected. Vance suggests planting white oak trees or a hybrid oak tree instead of a red oak.

Christopher Ridley, owner of A&R Tree Service follows the advice of MSU-E and won't trim during these active times because of the insects.

He has removed trees that have been killed due to oak wilt. He said trimmers used to use "prune paint" to "band-aid" the wound, but he said that offers no guarantees.

Michiganders are used to "don't move firewood" notices. They've dealt with the emerald ash borer and Dutch elm disease in the past.

Ridley said that while bad, oak wilt doesn't compare to Dutch elm disease or the emerald ash borer, because with oak wilt, there is at least one way to protect trees — by not trimming them.

Property owners are urged to trim oak trees only in the colder months while the tree is dormant. During this time, the bugs that transport oak wilt aren't active.



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LFLF gymnasts headed to state meet

By David Troppens

The LFLF co-op gymnastics team is headed to the state meet once again this season.

The squad involving athletes from Linden, Fenton and Lake Fenton earned a spot in the team state gymnastics meet by placing third in the team all-around at

the regional meet held at Grand Ledge High School, Saturday.

Fowlerville won the meet (143.075) while Howell was second (142.15) and Linden was third (141.625), beating fourth-place

Hartland by .3 points.

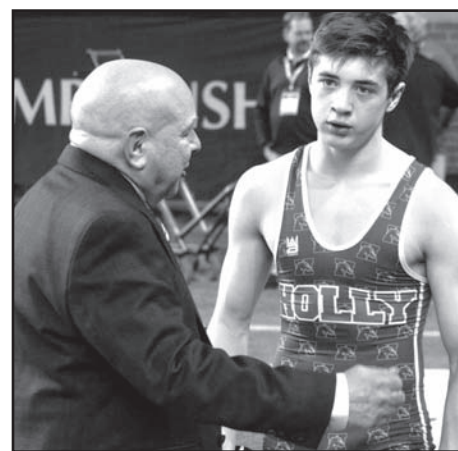
The LFLF team also had an all-around regional champion. In Division 2 action, Lauren Hayden posted an all-around score of 35.675, earning the regional crown.

See **STATE MEET** on 13

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 2019 | PAGE 12 | WWW.MYFENTON.COM

Sports Times

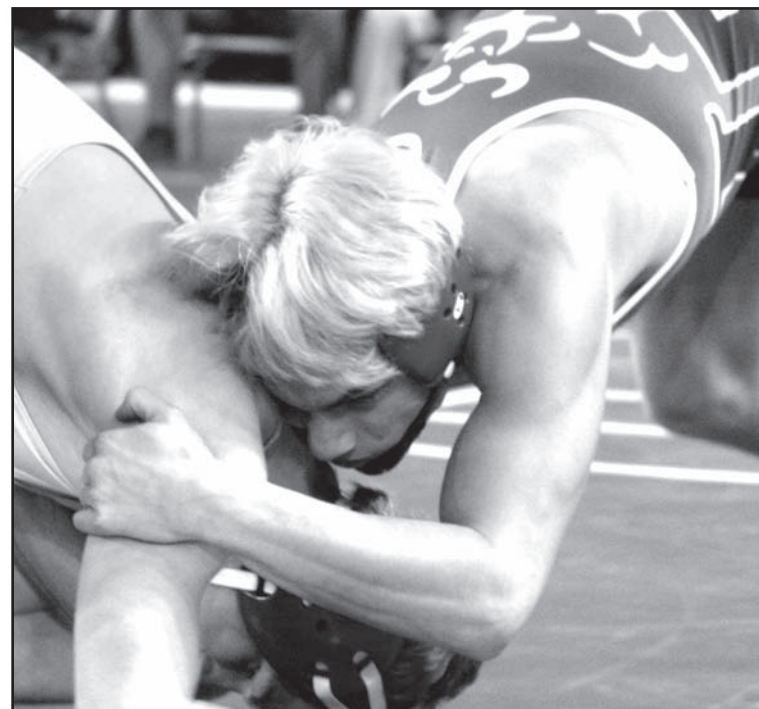
Apryl Smith



Holly varsity wrestling coach Don Pluta (left) talks to Nate Young at the state meet. The match was Pluta's last as Holly varsity wrestling coach. He is retiring at the end of this season.

Photo: David Troppens

LF's Trombley caps career with third finalist finish



Lake Fenton's Sean Trombley (right) took second in his weight class at the state wrestling meet, Saturday. He capped his career with 200 wins and four All-State seasons.

Photo: David Troppens

By David Troppens

Detroit — Sean Trombley finished his career as a three-time individual state runner-up and a four-time all-state performer as a Lake Fenton wrestler.

He also picked up his 200th career win at Detroit's Ford Field, Friday, solidifying him as one of the Lake Fenton greats from the wrestling program.

When it comes to Trombley, he accomplished so many outstanding feats during his four seasons with the Blue Devils, it's easy to be impressed with his career performances.

The only thing Trombley wasn't able to do during his career was capture an individual state wrestling championship.

For the third straight season, Trombley came mighty

close. He was in Saturday's Division 3 152-pound final against a defending state champion, Dundee's Stoney Buell. The two battled to a tight match. In fact, only one point was scored between the two foes. However, that point was earned by Buell when he earned an escape about 24 seconds into the third period. From there, Trombley continued to battle, trying to get a two-point takedown, but was unable to get it, resulting in his third straight runner-up finish.

However, Trombley was able to take the performance in stride.

"He's a returning state champion. I had nothing to lose," Trombley said. "I prepared well through today."

CONTINUED AT MYFENTON.COM

Six other wrestlers place at state meet; Pluta coaches his last match

By David Troppens

Detroit — The big stories from the tri-county area at the MHSAA's Individual Wrestling Championships were the performances of Lake Fenton's Sean Trombley (152) and Holly's Nate Young (130) who each earned state runner-up finishes at Detroit's Ford Field.

However, plenty of other area wrestlers had strong days, and one legendary area wrestling coach's career came to an end during the weekend as well.

In fact, six other wrestlers placed and earned All-State honors. Meanwhile, Holly coach Don Pluta decided to retire the position after this season, meaning the state meet was his last official meet of his coaching career.

The Lake Fenton Blue Devils were a perfect 3-for-3 when it came to getting wrestlers to place. After Trombley, Logan Julian (189) and Zolen Marron (215) also earned Division 3 All-State honors at the meet.

All three made it to the semifinal round, but Julian and Marron lost their semi bouts, forcing them to settle with very solid fourth-place and third-place efforts, respectively.

Marron placed third. He won his first two matches by decision, but then lost to Birch Run's Brockton Cook by decision in the semifinal round. Marron bounced back to win his next match by pinfall, and then won the third-place match by beating Williamston's Zach Painter by pinfall.

Julian also earned a spot in the third-place match, but lost to Mt. Morris's Gavin Morgan by a 3-1 decision in it. Prior to that, Julian won his first round match by major decision and his quarterfinal bout by sudden victory. He lost in the semifinal by decision, but then beat Lake Odessa Lakewood's Jon Clack by pinfall, earning himself a spot in the third-place bout.

"We came here with three kids and each had a legit chance of winning," Lake Fenton varsity wrestling coach Vance Corcoran said. "All three made it into the semifinal which is pretty good. We wrestled great in the semi."

CONTINUED AT MYFENTON.COM

Holly's Young captures state runner-up performance

By David Troppens

Detroit — The individual state wrestling meet can be a funny event.

All weight classes have their favorites and all teams have their list of wrestlers they feel have the best chance of winning an individual state championship, making it to the finals or placing.

With all respect to Holly's Nate Young, when one may have made a list of Bronchos most likely to leave Detroit's Ford Field with an individual state wrestling title, the junior probably ranked fourth out of the Holly six wrestlers to make it in Saturday's final Division 2 130-pound bout at the MHSAA Individual State Wrestling Championships.

After all, three other teammates had better season records than Young, and Young also placed "just" third at the regional meet when he qualified for the state meet a couple of weeks ago. While he's been at the state meet twice, he didn't place last season as a sophomore and was seventh as a freshman. Other teammates had stronger resumes. But guess what happened? It was Young that made it to the championship bout at the state meet.

Young (130) wasn't able to leave with an individual state championship, but he performed well once in the title match, losing to St. Johns's Kaleob Whitford by a 6-0 decision.

"It is a really good feeling. I made it to the finals. I didn't win and that sucks, but it was still a good season and a fun year," Young said. "Everyone wants to win it. I came out with the same attitude. I came into the semis and I didn't want to lose to (Gaylord's John) Sosa again, so I just came to win. I just didn't win in the finals."



Holly's Nate Young (left) competes in his state championship match at Ford Field, Saturday. Young lost the match and became a state runner-up. Photo: David Troppens

Young (51-7) opened the tournament with a pinfall win of Tecumseh's Victor Coscarelli, and followed it up with a 4-0 decision victory against Mason's Tanner Miller. In the semifinal, Young earned his revenge against Sosa, beating him 8-2, earning Young the spot in the title match.

During the title match, Young battled evenly with Whitford until Whitford earned a takedown with 10 seconds left in the first period. Whitford earned a two-point near fall early in the second quarter, making it a 4-0 lead after two period.

CONTINUED AT MYFENTON.COM

Eagles fall in district final vs. Howell

By David Troppens
Hartland — They finished with an 18-3 record.

The Linden Eagles also captured their first Flint Metro League boys basketball title since 1996, coming within one game of a perfect Metro League season.

They defeated their biggest area rivals, Fenton, three times, and have changed the view of what people think when they hear the words “Linden varsity boys basketball.”

For those reasons, it was hard to look at the Linden Eagles’ 55-49 Division 1 district championship game loss to the Howell Highlanders as terribly upsetting. After all, it wasn’t like the Eagles played a bad game. Linden turned the ball over just seven times and were bouncing back-and-forth with the lead for most of the game against the Highlanders. But the Eagles missed a few key layups which made them fall slightly behind in the process. From there, Howell was able to hold off the Eagles at the free-throw line, earning the Highlanders the district title at Hartland High School.

The Eagles (18-3) never gave up. With just 30.9 seconds left and trailing 52-46, the Eagles showed fight. After a missed three-pointer, Linden’s Travis Klocek chased the loose ball be-



Linden’s Brenden Miller (right) tries to drive to the basket in the Eagles’ district championship loss to Howell, Friday.
Photo: Mark Bolen

fore it went out of bounds, threw it inbounds to teammate Eli Beil who nailed a three-pointer, closing the gap to 52-49. However, Howell’s biggest star, Josh Palo, nailed two free throws with 11.3 seconds left effectively ending the Eagles’ chances at a victory.

After the game, it was time for

the senior class — and the rest of the team — to reflect on a great season.

“There’s a lot of pride in it,” said senior Hayden Mahakian about the team’s recent upswing during his varsity career.

CONTINUED AT MYFENTON.COM



Fenton’s state qualifiers are (from left starting with the front row) Anthony Barnett, Alec Maddock, Gavin Crews, Joel Diccion, Jake Iddings, Josh Kippe, Zac Jump, Noah Maier, Spencer Gabler, Evan Bartow and Jack Killian.
Photo: David Troppens

12 area participants headed to D2 state swim meet

By David Troppens

When Josh Kippe joined the Fenton varsity boys swimming and diving team, he wasn’t one of the best swimmers on the squad. In fact, he was more on the other side of the spectrum.

“I was not a very good swimmer my freshman and sophomore year,” Kippe said. “I didn’t consider myself a good swimmer at all.”

But he kept working at it and working, and eventually he got better. Now, as he caps his career with the Fenton program, he’s on the top half of the spectrum. He’s one of 11 Fenton par-

ticipants headed to the Division 2 state meet being held at Eastern Michigan University on Friday and Saturday.

Actually, the tri-county area has 12 competitors. Holly’s Logan Molzahn is also making a repeat appearance at the state meet.

Fenton’s participation numbers steadily increase. Last year the Tigers had eight competitors going to the event. This year, seven are seniors and many have state experience. Kippe, who is making his second straight state appearance, is happy with how his career has gone.

CONTINUED AT MYFENTON.COM

Fenton’s Hanners competes at state

By David Troppens

Fenton’s Angella Hanners had two strong games during the first half of the Division 2 Singles Qualifying Girls Bowling State Meet, but it wasn’t enough to get her to the final 16 at the tourney.

Hanners opened with a 156 game, but followed that contest with a 192 and a 196, placing her in the middle of the

pack of the 60-bowler field at Centry Bowl in Waterford, but she wasn’t able to keep up that pace. The Fenton senior finished the event with games of 158, 148 and 145, earning her a six-game pinfall total of 995, placing her 45th in the field of 60.

CONTINUED AT MYFENTON.COM

STATE MEET

Continued from Page 12

Teammate Apryl Smith also finished third with a 35.525.

Hayden earned an event regional championship, taking first on the balance beam (9.30). Her closest competi-



Lauren Hayden

tion was teammate Ella Cox (9.15) who took second. Smith placed in a tie for seventh (8.85).

The LFLF team earned several other top-eight individual performances. Hayden also placed fourth in the vault (9.05) while Smith was fifth in the uneven bars (8.725). Sabra Robinson placed sixth on the vault (9.0), while Cox placed seventh on the floor (9.15).

CONTINUED AT MYFENTON.COM

PREP REPORT

GIRLS BASKETBALL

► **Hartland 70, Linden 20 at Division 1 Hartland district:** Hartland jumped to a 24-4 lead in the first quarter and eventually earned the opening game win in the Hartland district. Erin Gillespie led the Eagles with 10 points while Jordan Dingo netted seven. Taylor Acox had two points and Jordan Peterson collected one point.

► **DeWitt 60, Fenton 26:** The Tigers prepared for this week’s district games by facing fifth-ranked DeWitt on the road last week, and struggled to find their offense. DeWitt led 19-6 after one quarter

and 36-10 at halftime. The Tigers played better in the second half, scoring 16 points during the final two quarters.

Chloe Idoni led the Tigers with 16 points while Erin Carter grabbed seven rebounds. Erin Conroy had three assists.

BOYS BASKETBALL

► **Fenton JV 47, Linden JV 25:** Brennan Alvord led the Tigers with 10 points while Landon Sahouri netted nine points. Connor Luck chipped in eight points. Linden (13-6) was paced by Lance Bakholz’s 14 points while Gavin Wildman netted seven points.

Ask the Doctor



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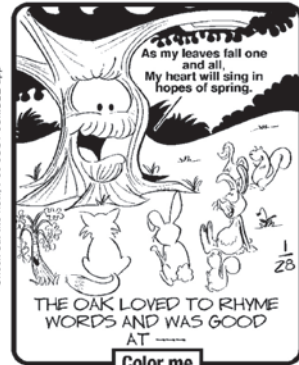
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Obituaries

Times



Ken Jesse 1936-2019

Ken Jesse - age 82, of Swartz Creek died in the presence and comfort of his family on March 2, 2019. Ken was born on December 27, 1936 to Clifford and Alice Jesse. He married Sarah Jesse on May 1st, 1964 in Caro, MI. Ken served in the US Army Chemical Core Division. He was a member of Phoenix United Methodist Church. He was employed at General Motors, retiring in 1989. Ken enjoyed hunting, fishing, and trapping throughout his life. He was blessed by his children Neale and Julie, with many years spent traveling and camping throughout the US. In his later years, his life was lit up with arrival of his two grandchildren Abby and Adam Jesse. These years were spent attending scholastic and athletic events for them, including memorable vacations with his family. Surviving are his wife, Sarah; son, Neal; daughter, Julie; grandchildren, Adam and Abby; their mother, Lesley; sisters, Myrtle, Mary (Arnold); brother, Bob (Carol), and many nieces and nephews. Ken was preceded in death by his brothers, Roger, Bill, Fran, Earl Jesse, and Bill Cunningham. Ken recently celebrated his 35th year of being a member of A.A. where he received exponential support. Memorial services will be held at Phoenix United Methodist church by Pastor Sang Chun at 12 PM Friday, March 8, 2019. Burial will be at Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly. Those desiring may make contributions to Phoenix United Methodist church or Muscular Dystrophy. www.dryerfuneralhomeholly.com.



Thomas Inglis Tagg III 1951-2019

Thomas Inglis Tagg III - age 68, of Linden, died March 2, 2019. Funeral services will be held 11 AM Friday, March 8, 2019 at Sharp Funeral Homes, Linden Chapel, 209 E. Broad St., Linden. Visitation will be held 2-8 PM Thursday, March 7, 2019 with a Masonic Memorial Service at 7 PM. Burial will take place at a later date at Great Lakes National Cemetery. Those desiring may make contributions to Ronald McDonald House, Make-A-Wish Foundation or Hurley Burn Unit. Thomas was born January 30, 1951 in Highland Park. He was a veteran of the US Army and retired from General Motors on January 1, 2006 after 32 years of service. Thomas was a member of the Linden Masonic Lodge and Linden Sportsmen Club. He was a volunteer for Linden Christmas Express and participated in Biking for Burns for many years. He loved riding his Harley, camping and spending time with his grandchildren. Surviving are: wife, Deloris; children, Karen Tagg, Steven Tagg, Brandi (Rob) Doster, Alex (Mary) Eder, John (Tina) Elliott; grandchildren, Cheyenne, Kaleigh, Emma, LeRoy, Nathan, Tony and Trina; brothers, Edward, Burt, Paul and Wayne; special cousins, Patrick and Cheryl Norris of Canada; special friends, Curly and Gretta Dotson, Mike and Jackie Wilding, John and Nena Koutravidas, Ed and Brenda Morrison, Grant and Lynn Crisp, Glenn Mallory, John and Debbie Strickert; beloved dog, Bandit and his cat, Little Miss Sassy Pants. He was preceded in death by his son, Thomas Inglis Tagg IV; father, Thomas Inglis Tagg Jr.; mother, Suzanne Ritz; sister, Suzanne Tagg, step-brother, Virgil Fogal; step-sister, Cheryl Fogal. Tributes may be shared at www.sharpfuneralhomes.com.



Dale Lawrence Schober 1928-2019

Dale Lawrence Schober - age 90, of Curtis, died Saturday Morning March 2, 2019. Born December 24, 1928 in Flint, son of the late Joseph and Stella (Oles) Schober. Dale served in the United States Army at the age of 17, as an infantryman in Europe during WWII. A resident of Curtis, MI for the past 28 years, Dale graduated from Western Michigan University with a Bachelor's Degree in Secondary Education, the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor with a Masters in Geography, and from Eastern Michigan University with a Masters in Vocational Education. Dale taught for 33 years in public and parochial schools and was the Instructor of Autobody Repair at the Genesee Area Skill Center. Dale was a member of the American Federation of Teachers, was a past President of the Lions Club in Curtis, and was a dedicated member of the Catholic Church. Along with his late wife, Winifred, they owned the Curiosity Shoppe in Curtis. His many hobbies included auto body repair, fishing, woodworking, golf, cooking, traveling, and was an avid Detroit sports fan. Above all, Dale was very devoted to his family. In addition to his parents, Dale is preceded in death by his wife, Winifred (Saum) Schober; daughter, Anne Liedel; sister, Barbara Schober; brothers, Kenneth and Richard Schober. Survivors include son, Dale (Julie) Schober of Virginia Beach, VA, and daughters, Mary (Gary) Allen of Fenton and Lisa Reiser of Marquette; grandchildren, Jon (Angie) Foley, Erin (Adam) Turner, Anthony (Lily) Schober, Lauren Foley, Scott (Emily) Reiser, Mary Reiser, and Ashley (Hunter) Schober; great-grandchildren, Stella Turner and Peggy Foley. Visitation for Dale will be on Wednesday, March 6, 2019 from 1-2 PM at the Beaulieu Funeral Home in Newberry. Services will begin at 2 PM with Father Marty Flynn officiating. The family suggests memorial contributions to the American Brain Tumor Association. Condolences may be left on line at www.beaulieufh.com.

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Obituaries updated daily online

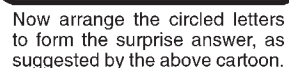
For the week of
March 4, 2019

The image that you project can be much more important than the work you actually do, Cancer. Have a good public relations team in your corner.

Take a step back from the rush and pressure that has surrounded you lately, Scorpio. You can use the rest to clear your mind. This break will help you tackle new things.

Psychic feelings are pronounced this week, Pisces. Try to hone in on what these sensations are attempting to tell you.

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



Level: Intermediate

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