

Sisters make Tigers spring training a family tradition

■Ketchmark, Koch have been going to Lakeland since 1986

By David Troppens

Baseball is known for its traditions. One of the biggest for the Detroit Tigers is their spring training destination. Minus the World War II years, the Tigers have been going to Lakeland, Florida for spring training since 1934.

Tri-county sisters Denise Ketchmark and Debi Koch know about this tradition well. In fact, they've been a part of it since 1986 when the siblings went to their grandparents' during college spring break to experience the Tigers' spring training. The experience hooked them immediately. Since then, they've gone every year. They'll be making their annual trek on March 21.

See **SPRING TRAINING** on 20A

Sisters Denise Ketchmark (left) and Debi Koch (right) take a photo with Lou Whitaker sometime in the 1980s at the Detroit Tigers' spring training facility in Lakeland, Florida.

Submitted photo



PAGE 1B
Part four of a series
on skilled trade
opportunities:
CULINARY ARTS

Weekend Times

VOL. 26 NO. X

SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 2019

\$1.00

Area woman involved in solicitation for murder

■Could get five years for her part in scheme to kill two men for jailed boyfriend

By Sharon Stone

Matthea Spicer, 20, of Hartland Township pleaded guilty Friday, March 1 in Livingston County to her involvement in a scheme to have two men killed (solicitation for murder).

Spicer was the girlfriend of James Bonam, 23, of Brighton who was jailed on a May 2018 larceny case in Brighton Township, where he was arrested for stealing a skid loader (bobcat) from a residential construction site. Bonam was on parole at the time of his arrest.

While jailed, awaiting trial, Michigan State Police (MSP) detectives said Bonam had asked another jail inmate to kill two people, his co-defendant and the victim. The co-defendant, who had not been in trouble with police before, had confessed to the crime and his information led to Bonam's arrest.

See **SCHEME** on 21A



Matthea Spicer



James Bonam

Ash Wednesday heralds the beginning of Lent



Ash Wednesday was March 6. The 8:30 a.m. Mass at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in Fenton drew 500 churchgoers to be anointed with ash on their foreheads. This is a symbol of repentance and the start of Lent for Christians. Here, Fr. Robert Copeland (right) anoints the forehead of St. John School student Lauren Harrold, 14, while Deacon Dan Medich anoints the forehead of another student. Photo: Tim Jagielo

State suspends builder license of road rage suspect

■Fenton Township man due back in court Friday, March 8 for pre-exam conference

By Sharon Stone

The state of Michigan's Licensing and Regulatory Affairs'

(LARA) Bureau of Construction Codes issued an order of summary suspension Tuesday, March 5 against Bruce Charles Holder of Fenton Township, under the residential builder

See **ROAD RAGE** on 10A



Bruce Holder

'He's demanding his jury trial'

■Fenton Township CSC case set to begin March 12

By Tim Jagielo

Derek Watson's jury trial is set to begin Tuesday, March

12 with Genesee County 7th Circuit Court Judge Kay Behm presiding.

"We're prepared for trial and we're looking forward to trial. All plea offers See **TRIAL** on 10A

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Weapon-free signs?

Yeah, that's a brilliant idea. Because what potential shooter would want to violate that rule."



Whenever a new source

of taxation is created it never means that the old source is abandoned. It merely means that the politicians have implemented two ways of milking the taxpayer where they had one before."



Gov. Whitmer is a typical

Democrat. The solution to every problem is to raise taxes, not reduce costs. If we ran our households the way politicians run the states and the country, we'd all be bankrupt."



COMMENT
OF THE WEEK

“\$48,000 for a light pole, \$65,000 for a butterfly and \$14 million for a non-motorized trail? Zero for neighborhood streets and roads. Vote the nuts out of Fenton.”



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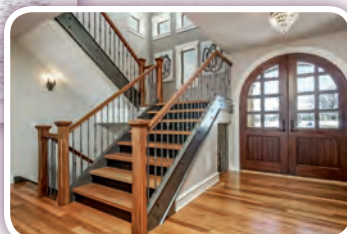
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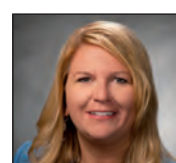
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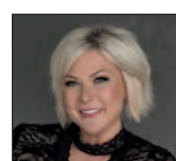
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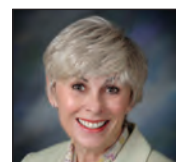
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The state of newspapers in Michigan

■ Newspapers large and small survive — and thrive — by keeping the focus on hyper-local coverage

By Tim Jagielo

Michigan has been home to hundreds of newspapers of varying sizes.

The most current list of past and present newspapers in Michigan includes large dailies, mom-and-pop community papers, college papers and shoppers.

The Michigan Press Association (MPA) is a non-profit group that works to promote the interests of member newspapers and individual journalists. There are currently 197 MPA newspaper members, which is down from 245 weekly papers in 2008.

One of the smallest community papers in Michigan is the Climax

Crescent, located 25 miles east of Kalamazoo.

It's owned and operated by Bruce and Crystal Rolfe out of their home. Their newspaper and house share an answering machine.

"I think there's a large segment of our population, whether online or in print, that want their local news," Bruce said. "Whether it's 100

“I think there’s a large segment of our population whether online or in print, that want their local news. Whether it’s 100 or 100,000, there’s always something interesting in a town, village or city.”

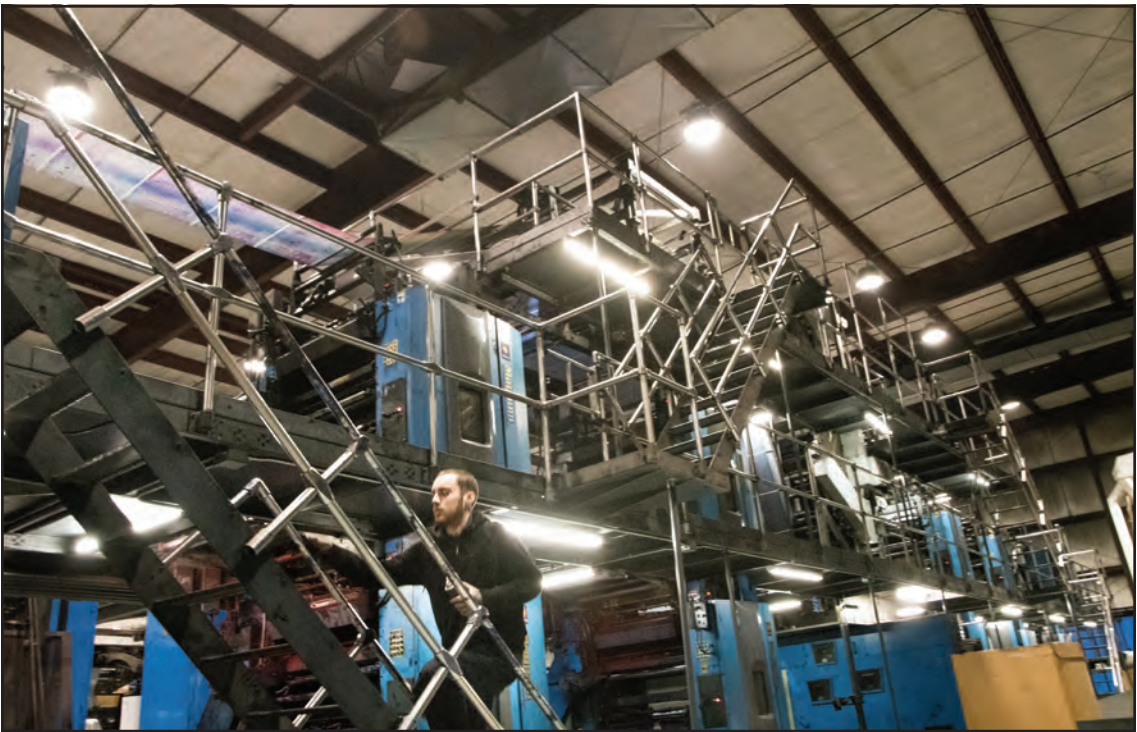
Bruce Rolfe
Climax Crescent
newspaper co-owner

or 100,000 (population), there's always something interesting in a town, village or city."

Locally focused coverage is valued at this two-person paper and all the way up to the 100 editorial staff members of the Detroit News.

"I think they are still doing what they've always done, which is to provide a snapshot of the local community, and accountability for local governments, which people look for in their community newspapers," said Lisa McGraw with the MPA.

See **NEWSPAPERS** on 21A



Michigan Web Press in Davisburg prints 120 daily, weekly and monthly newspaper and periodical titles, including the Tri-County Times and The View Newspaper Group. Photo: Tim Jagielo



Aaron Ortiz moves a ream of paper into position between print jobs Thursday, March 7. The cost of paper has recently increased, adding a burden to print publications. Photo: Tim Jagielo



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Andrew Heller

andrewheller@tctimes.com

Come *Heller* high water...

• **It's amazing to me** (and I'll bet Gov. Whitmer, too) how everyone has better solutions to fixing Michigan's Third World roads the second anyone (in this case, Whitmer) dares to put forward a plan. Look, I don't want to pay .45 extra cents per gallon. I'd prefer to keep every *shekel* I ever made and not give away a cent of it. But that's not the real world. In the real world, roads and other nice things cost money.

Michigan hasn't spent that money for decades because we were too cheap, too short-sighted and our politicians

were more interested in campaign donations than our best interests. And now, because of it, we're stuck with goat paths.

And for the same reasons, Flint has been stuck without a safe water

supply for four years now. Four. They won't be the last. It won't be long before other cities face the same issue. This is Michigan. This is our house. And our house, frankly, is a mess. It's the worst one on the block, in fact. If your house looked as bad as Michigan's, wouldn't you fix it? Of course you would. So, stop griping about paying for the roads we all benefit from. Stop waiting for a perfect solution. There is no perfect solution. Roads cost money. If you want good roads, you have to pay for them. Period.

• **If I had a mic**, I'd drop it right about now. Seriously, though, we all wonder why nothing gets done in society on ... name an issue. It's because we literally pick everything to death. Over and over we let perfect be the enemy of the good. Dose of reality: Good is far better than perfect because perfect doesn't exist.

• **A study published** in Couple Family Psychology says Ishpeming, up in the U.P., is the divorce capital of Michigan. A lack of commitment, the journal says, is the most common reason for divorce. It didn't cite "too much time togedduh over da long,

unending winters, eh?" as a reason. But I figure that's a leading one in Ishpeming or anywhere else north of the 45th parallel.

• **I promised I** was going to shut up about my irritation that the Detroit Tigers aren't even trying to compete again this year. Then I saw a headline that said, "Detroit Tigers' Christopher Ilitch: Discipline the key in team's rebuilding process." That sounds almost reasonable until you consider the Ilitches just spent \$1.4 billion on their 50-block District Den project surrounding the new stadium in Detroit.

Think that might have something to do with letting the Tigers wither on the vine while still asking fans to support them? I'd respect them if they said

"Sorry, fans, we just spent a billion on an empty Field of Dreams neighborhood so we're feeling too tapped out to spend what it takes to compete." Instead, they're fibbing to fans about how it takes five years to rebuild. Baloney. There are dozens of good, cheap free agents without teams willing to sign short term deals. The Tigers are missing an opportunity.

• **Words I Love:** cataclysmic, rumbled, polygon.

• **Ever wonder why** glasses are suddenly so expensive. An L.A. Times story says it's good old-fashioned gouging. A company called Luxottica owns most of the brands you know, meaning they can charge whatever they want. And they do, selling glasses at a 1,000 percent markup. That should make you see red. Blurry red, if you don't have your overpriced glasses on.

• **"Yesterday I was** clever, so I wanted to change the world. Today I am wise, so I am changing myself." — Rumi

“This is Michigan. This is our house. And our house, frankly, is a mess. It's the worst one on the block, in fact.”

Opinions offered in Come Heller High Water are the author's alone and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Tri-County Times or its staff. Email the Andrew at andrewheller@tctimes.com.



Andrew Heller
FEATURED COLUMNIST

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.

■■■ **LEADING SCIENTISTS ARE** now saying we are in approximately year 24,500 years into a 26,000 cycle in which the Earth's axis is tilted toward the northern hemisphere. Liberals think taking your tax money and throwing it at the problem will fix it. It's a scam. Thanks Democrats.

■■■ **WHEN IS RUNYAN** Lake Road going to be repaired and repaved? The area from White Lake Road to the high school is full of large potholes and is a hazard. Help.

■■■ **HEY 'SOCIAL JUSTICE** Warrior.' By your definition of hate groups, the Methodist Church is now a hate group because they voted to reject gay marriage. This type of nonsense is where the SPLC (Southern Poverty Law Center) finds a growth in the number of hate groups.

■■■ **TO 'TRAIN NUT.'** if you want rail service in Michigan, there is nothing preventing you from sending a check to the state to pay for it.

■■■ **I, FOR ONE,** support nearly everything the King writes. It is refreshing to read him as opposed to the junk Heller spews.

■■■ **EVEN NON-SCIENTIFIC** observers immediately recognize that the sun is the single greatest variable affecting Earth's climate. Any scientist claiming human activity as the cause of climate change without first proving solar stability is not engaging in scientific activity. They are purely spouting opinion.

SALEM WITCH HUNTS, nuke war, litter, acid rain, ozone depletion, space alien invasion, toxic smog, AIDS, Y2K, global warming, Ebola and Mayan calendar end of time were all mass hysteria events predicting global death and destruction. Add climate change to the list.

■■■ **WHAT A GREAT** unobstructed view of the Loose Center now that the old house has been demolished in front of it. Loose is such a gem. I'm happy to see it be more visible.

■■■ **BY DEFINITION, CLIMATE** is variability of weather over time. So-called climate experts point to changes in climate as proof of climate change. It is a nonsensical, self-reinforcing, circular argument. What is the goal climate hysterics want? Climate stability?

■■■ **WHILE NOT KNOWING** what 'obstructing justice' means, Trump's sure he didn't do it.

■■■ **VENEZUELA IS NOT** a Democratic Socialist country. It is a dictatorship. Sweden, Norway and Denmark are. Not that they don't have problems. Other countries are partial democracies. Almost every nation but ours has universal health care. If they can have it, why can't the 'greatest country'?

■■■ **THE SCIENTISTS THAT** have high confidence in global warming are the same ones that told Al Gore that we'd be under water two years ago.

■■■ **IF HELLER IS** complaining about Walmart profits, just point him to the hundreds of millions of people who shop there and save lots of money because of their prices. I know; I've compared.

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Compiled by Gracie Warda, intern

What do you think about daylight saving time?

| streettalk



"I always love getting the extra hour in the fall, but I hate losing it in the spring. I like the idea because it's safer for kids."

Diane Shaltis
Deerfield



"I'm looking forward to it because the nights have been so long and it will be nice to see day light."

Lynn Mullins
Fenton



"I kind of like it for the longer summers, because I like to golf."

Charles Hankins
Fenton



"I don't see why it's beneficial, but I like the idea of it being lighter later at night."

Paula Kruszk
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"I don't like it; it throws my inner clock off."

Deb Christman
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SUBSTANCE USE TREATMENT AND INTERVENTION

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Flint is a hub of entrepreneurial energy. UM-Flint's School of Management has been at the forefront of this movement, serving as the home of the Hagerman Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation and establishing a bachelor's of business administration degree with the same focus. Ideally situated to leverage other key resources and partnerships, such as the University Center for Community and Economic Development and University Outreach's two Innovation Incubator locations, UM-Flint's globally recognized business educators have created a program perfect for those with big dreams and ideas.

Harsher animal abuse laws take effect

■ 'Aggravated' animal cruelty crimes now have longer prison sentence

By Hannah Ball

Harsher animal abuse laws take effect in Michigan this month.

With House Bill 4332, a judge can sentence someone who harms or kills animals with the purpose of causing emotional distress to another person up to 10 years in prison. The legislation also increases the maximum penalty for "aggravated" animal cruelty crimes, including killing or torturing an animal, from four years to 10 years in prison.

Former Gov. Rick Snyder signed the legislation into law last year.

"This legislation demonstrates how seriously we take animal cruelty in this state and that Michiganders won't tolerate it," Snyder said in a statement.

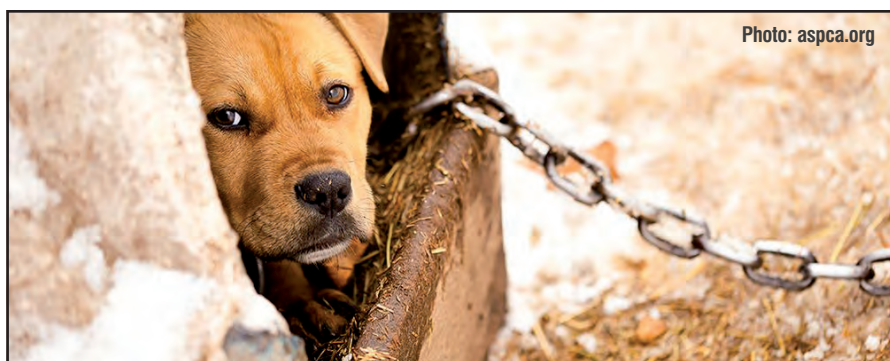
The bill is now Public Act 452 of 2018.

Republican State Rep. Tommy Brann of the city of Wyoming sponsored the bills. He told The Detroit News that he overheard a conversation in a restaurant in which a woman said the way to get "even" with someone is to kill their dog.

According to Michigan's Senate Fiscal Agency, many animal abusers avoid any jail time or very light sentences. Lawanda Alford, who cut six of her boyfriend's geckos in half and stabbed his pit bull to death, was sentenced this past January to 60 days in jail and three years of probation.

Timothy Crow was convicted of animal abuse in December 2018 after beating his mother's dog to death. He was sentenced to six months in jail.

Sources: The Detroit News, fox17online.com, legal



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AGS Middle School students Rebecca Blunden, 12, and Cameron Ranilovich, 12, sort through donations from sixth-grade students that will benefit Snuggle Snacks, a local organization that gives supplies to the homeless. Photo: Hannah Ball

Fenton schools hold 'Make a Difference Day'

■ Students collected goods for charities, businesses donated funds for sensory room at AGS

By Hannah Ball

Fenton — One year ago on Wednesday, March 6, 11-year-old McKenna Schummer of Grand Blanc died after a 20-month battle with osteosarcoma.

On the one-year anniversary of her death, Fenton schools honored her memory by donating to three local charities. The day is now titled "Make a Difference Day, The McKennaSquad Way."

McKenna's mother, Melissa, is a teacher at State Road Elementary. McKenna attended Grand Blanc East Middle School.

"McKenna influenced all who knew her. She was very impactful. Even through the time that she was ill, she continued to think about others to the point where she had the McKenna Squad Beauty Bar," said Eric Rettenmund, principal of Andrew G. Schmidt (AGS) Middle School.

The Beauty Bar brings boxes of makeup to children at area hospitals.

"That was her passion and she paid it forward," he said. "This is what brings us all together right now."

AGS Middle School donated to three organizations.

The sixth-grade students collected items for Snuggle Sacks, which makes bags for homeless people. The seventh-grade

See **SENSORY ROOM on 16A**

“The shout-out needs to go to our kids and our families because within a week, we collected over 1,500 items for all three organizations.”

Jill Smigielski
AGS Middle School teacher

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MILITARY MILESTONE

COMPILED BY SHARON STONE



Mineman 3rd Class Blake Johnson of Holly signals to engage the break for the anchor aboard the Avenger class mine countermeasures ship USS Chief (MCM 14)

as the ship transits to Jakarta, Indonesia. Chief is visiting Jakarta while operating in U.S. 7th Fleet to work with their Indonesian Navy (TNI-AL) counterparts to strengthen regional security and stability, and enhance interoperability.

Photo courtesy of U.S. Navy and Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jordan Crouch

NEWS BRIEFS

COMPILED BY SHARON STONE

GENESEE HEALTH PLAN ESSAY CONTESTS OPEN TO GENESEE COUNTY STUDENTS

Genesee Health Plan has partnered with the Delta Dental Foundation of Michigan to co-sponsor two essay contests. First, the fourth annual Genesee Health Plan **Health Heritage Essay Contest** is open to students in grades six through 12 in Genesee County. Students are encouraged to speak with their family members to learn about their family health history. Their essay should address the student's family health history, with a focus on oral health and its impact on their overall health and wellbeing. Second, the second annual **Health Career Scholarship Contest** is open to high school seniors in Genesee County who plan to pursue a career on oral health. Their essay must include the oral health career chosen and why; the importance of oral health and its effect on physical health, and how oral health shapes future success. Essays must be emailed to healthheritage@countyhealthplans.org.

For essay contest details

go to geneseehealthplan.org/2019essaycontests. Winners will be honored at the Genesee Health Plan Awards Dinner Friday, April 12.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

A LIVING WAGE is not a right.

THE ONLY ALLEGIANCE any of our representatives should have is an allegiance to The United States of America — not a foreign land.

CONGRESS CALLS FOR over 80 documents from Trump's administrators compared to a 1,200-document request made by the GOP during 'White Water.' And Trump cries witch hunt?

BEWARE: AIRBNB, VRBO and HomeAway have serious flaws in their formats especially for condos and townhouses. You're never told the exact location until you pay a huge non-refundable deposit. My advice is to go with a local well-established Realtor.

SNYDER SAT ON his fat (blank) for eight years as our roads crumbled. At least Gretchen Whitmer is proposing a solution. Let's give her a chance before running her out of town for trying to fix the damn roads.

FREE SPEECH IS not free. It comes with the responsibility to not incite hate or harm.

FOR THOSE OF you who come to the Loose Center to play cards in the afternoon, why not come a bit early and enjoy a healthy, affordable lunch and great fellowship with the other card players prior to your games.

EVER WONDER HOW Democrats became known as 'tax and spend'? Look at our new governor.

MICHIGAN LEGISLATORS, WHY not 'designate' the 6-percent sales tax we already pay on fuel for the roads, instead of putting it in the slush fund. This tax will cause an extreme hardship for many Michigan citizens and will be \$.71 per gallon tax forever because it will never be repealed.

SOCIALISM UNDER THE guise of Capitalism. GE never paid taxes for 20 years. It's a total disaster financed on the backs of taxpayers and stockholders while its CEOs were paid millions.

SINCE 'HOT LINES' make such a great comic strip why kill it by requesting artist signatures?

ARE YOU SERIOUS Gretchen? Now you want to tax our small businesses? These businesses have been vital to Michigan's economic comeback. We should be rewarding them, not punishing them. This woman has to be stopped.

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Locally, SKYWARN tornado spotter classes will be held Monday, April 8, from 7 to 8 p.m. in the Groveland Township Fire Department, Station 1, 14645 Dixie Hwy., Holly. Photo: WIBW Doug Meyers

Become a tornado spotter

■ Free training starting soon

By Vera Hogan

Are you one of those people who senses when the weather is about to change? Do you notice when the sky takes on a weird greenish look? Do you feel it when the wind suddenly dies down and the air becomes very still?

If so, you may be looking at the first signs of an oncoming tornado.

SKYWARN is a volunteer program with between 350,000 and 400,000 trained severe weather spotters throughout the country. These volunteers help keep their local communities safe by providing timely and accurate reports of severe weather to the National Weather Service (NWS).

SKYWARN is an effort to save lives during severe weather emergencies by expanding networks of spotters and by encouraging the widest possible participation in tornado warning programs.

There is no way to stop tornadoes, and not all tornadoes show up on radar, but they can be seen. Lives can be saved. Only one instrument can detect a tornado or funnel with complete certainty, the human eye.

SKYWARN training sessions are held to teach individuals on how to accurately observe such weather phenomena as floods,

hail, wind and its associated damage, cloud features that lead to tornadoes, and those cloud features that do not lead to tornadoes.

The class covers what information to report and how to report it. Basic severe weather safety is also covered. Classes are free and last one-and-a-half hours. While new technological and scientific tools have advanced the NWS capability to predict severe weather, the trained spotter remains essential to the NWS warning process. In a statement by SKYWARN, "The more trained 'eyes' we have in the field during a severe weather event, the better our service to you and the public will be. More concern, more spotters, more eyes are needed."

Classes started March 5 at various Oakland County locations from 7 to 8 p.m. and end locally Monday, April 8 in the Groveland Township Fire Department, Station 1, 14645 Dixie Hwy., Holly.

All interested parties including fire, police, EMS, security volunteers and citizens are encouraged to attend. Limited space is available, however, so early registration is encouraged.

To register and for a complete list of class locations, go to oakgov.com/homelandsecurity and click on the SKYWARN logo or call (248) 858-5300.

“The more trained ‘eyes’ we have in the field during a severe weather event, the better our service to you and the public will be.”

SKYWARN

NOTES OF THANKS

House fire

The Premo family would like to thank the Fenton, Linden and Fenton Township firefighters for putting out the chimney fire that started Saturday in our new home in downtown Fenton. Also, thank you to all the local neighbors for coming out and checking on us and offering support. We are very lucky no one was hurt and no personal items were lost in the fire. There was just smoke and fire damage. Thanks to the fast response of the fire department, they were able to save our home.

— Kurt Premo, Fenton



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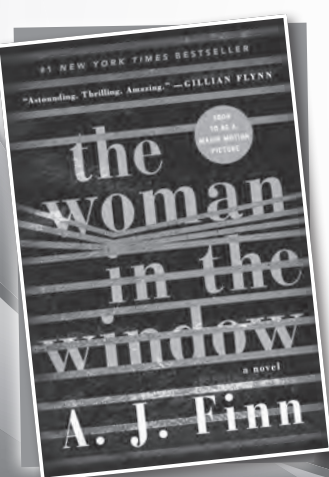
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by A. J. Finn

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TRIAL

Continued from Front Page

have been rejected," said defense attorney Nick Robinson. "He's demanding his jury trial."

Robinson said there have been discussions throughout the case, but there will be no resolution short of a jury trial.

Watson, 63, is facing four felony counts of first-degree criminal sexual conduct (CSC) with a victim under the age of 13, one count of second-degree CSC with a victim under the age of 13, child abuse and possession of sexually abusive material. Two original weapons charges have been dismissed.

Watson's district court preliminary exams began in March 2018 when the alleged 15-year-old victim testified that Watson sexually abused her when she was 12 years old.

"We trust that the just verdict will be reached by the jury," Robinson said.

The jury selection will begin at 9 a.m., March 12. Once selected, both sides will begin opening statements and interview

witnesses.

Robinson said Watson is doing well, and is looking forward to the trial after being involved in this case for nearly one year.

Robinson expects the case to last four to five days.

Case background

Before the described incidents, the alleged victim was friends with Watson's son, and admitted that Watson was somewhat of a father figure to her. She visited the house most days, and Watson would buy them all food. She said Watson bought her first smartphone for her.

Eventually she told her mother, her boyfriend and a school counselor about the alleged incidents. The school counselor learned about the situation in November 2017.

The Genesee County Sheriff's Office executed a search warrant at Watson's Hogan Road home in Fenton Township on Dec. 5, 2017 and investigators removed several undisclosed items.

Watson's case was bound over to Genesee County Circuit Court in April 2018.

ROAD RAGE

Continued from Front Page

company license of Empire Today, LLC, in Belleville.

LARA alleges in a press release that Holder brandished a handgun Wednesday, Dec. 19, 2018 and pointed it at another motorist while driving down the expressway; fired the handgun from his vehicle in the direction of the other motorist, and then sped off.

On Dec. 21, 2018, Holder was charged with five criminal offenses: discharge of a firearm from a motor vehicle; possession of a firearm in the commission of a felony; carrying a concealed weapon; assault with a dangerous weapon; and possession of a firearm in the commission of a felony.

According to LARA, Holder's alleged conduct constitutes a lack of good moral character in violation of section 604(d) of the Code.

The Michigan Occupational Code provides for summary suspension of licenses when the public health, safety, or welfare requires emergency action. An order of summary suspension is a temporary measure to protect the public and not a final determination that a licensee has violated the Occupational Code.

LARA also served an accompanying formal complaint against Holder detailing

revocation of his individual builder license, a subsequent formal complaint against his revoked individual builder license, and the five criminal offenses charged against him.

Holder has 15 days to respond to the formal complaint or the case will be forwarded to the Michigan Administrative Hearing System for a contested case hearing before an administrative law judge.

The incident

As previously reported in the Times, Michigan State Police Metro North troopers were alerted to a possible road rage incident at 11:15 a.m., Wednesday, Dec. 19, 2018. Lt. Calvin Hart said two male drivers were traveling in the southbound lanes of I-275 in Novi, Oakland County when the encounter occurred.

Police said the suspect, Holder, allegedly pointed a gun at another vehicle and fired one shot at it, but missed. The victim had a cell phone video of the suspect and suspect's vehicle. The license plate was registered to Holder.

At approximately 4 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 19, 2018 the Detroit Fugitive Apprehension Team arrived at Holder's home and took him into custody without incident.

A cash bond of \$100,000 was ordered. Holder is expected back in Oakland County 47th District Court Friday, March 8 for a pre-exam conference.



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WHAT YOU MISSED IN THE
MIDWEEK TIMES

Compiled by Vera Hogan

The following are stories you may have missed in the **Wednesday, March 6, Midweek Times**. To subscribe and receive both the Midweek and Sunday Weekend editions, please call (810) 629-8282.

Argentine man sentenced to six years for shooting friend
Police chief: Defendant didn't know there was one bullet in the chamber.

Fenton man charged with assaulting cops
Allegedly tried to grab officer's gun during early morning struggle.

Save the red oaks — don't trim this spring
Oak wilt is fatal to red oak trees; experts urge against trimming during warm weather.

Linden grad delivers 50-year-old telegram to grateful recipient
A 1998 Linden High School grad discovered a 50-year-old Western Union telegram in one of her file drawers at work and found the recipient.

Chimney fire damages Fenton home
Three fire departments assist at Saturday night, March 2 fire on N. LeRoy Street.

Expo 2019 was another big hit
The Fenton Regional Chamber of Commerce will celebrate 100 years in 2020.

Oakwood Cemetery Board takes care of final resting grounds
This is the fifth in a series about the city of Fenton's boards and commissions and the many volunteers who handle critical tasks around the city.



Our Future
Meet Christian Parker, 17, a senior at Lake Fenton High School.

32 million adults in U.S. can't read
Local schools embrace "Reading Month" with family literacy night.

Get your toys out
Many items you bought for your kids several years ago could be worth a small fortune today.

MILITARY
MILESTONE

COMPILED BY SHARON STONE



U.S. Air Force Airman Devon J. Jackson graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas. He completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills. Airmen who complete basic training also earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force. Jackson is the son of Faith Arrand of Fenton. He is a 2018 graduate of Fenton High School.

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HOT LINE CONTINUED

TO THE LIBERAL who supports police — it's not you but the far left that are acting stupid.

WHITMER IS A classic liberal who, instead of cutting out useless out-dated programs, would rather raise taxes. It's a sorry state we're thrown into. Let's predict her to be a failure like her female predecessors.

I'M ALWAYS SPEECHLESS with the amount of negativity and combativeness I read in these comments. Do we really not like our fellow neighbors that much? I propose inviting one another out for coffee or beer and see how much we really have in common. We're probably distant cousins.

I AGREE WITH King about the gas tax. We legalized pot. Cut the red tape and get dispensaries licensed and growers growing and fix the damn roads without

taxing us out of being able to afford gas for work and commerce.

PLEASE LET ME reiterate that there are no facts to predict the future as far as climate is concerned. You are listening to a prediction from Nos-tradamus.

HEY CLIMATE HYSTERIC. Thanks for providing NASA's findings at <https://climate.nasa.gov/evidence>. Did you notice the third sentence? 'Most climate change is attributed to very small variations in Earth's orbit that changes the amount of solar energy our planet receives.'

TO HOT-LINER CLAMORING for civil discourse, name a time, date, place and topic.

THERE IS NOT a single public university in Michigan that doesn't intentionally indoctrinate liberal views.

NEWS

BRIEFS

COMPILED BY VERA HOGAN

NEW CARPETING APPROVED FOR FENTON MUSEUM

The east room of the A.J. Phillips Museum in Fenton will be getting a fresh new look, at least as far as the floor is concerned. On Monday, March 4, the City Council approved a \$3,000 bid from Lil House of Carpet in Fenton to replace the east room carpeting. Although it was the only bid received, City Manager Lynn Markland said he reviewed the bid documents and believes the selection made by the Museum Board is a commercial grade and should provide extended wear life. He therefore recommended approval and said this was a budgeted item.



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CHIP WATT

GRAFF DURAND CHEVROLET

Easy meatless meals the kids will love

■ Friday night dinner during Lent can be a challenge when you run out of fun things to prepare

By Vera Hogan

It's Friday night, you're Catholic, it's the Lenten season and meatless Friday meals are the order until Easter Sunday. While the local VFW halls and area Catholic churches offer fabulous Friday fish fries, that may become a bit pricey if you have a family to feed.

The following are some fun, easy and inexpensive recipes to prepare on Fridays during Lent. Your kids and even your spouse will love them.



Vegetarian chili (delish.com)

Ingredients

1 Tablespoon olive oil
1 onion, chopped
1 red bell pepper, chopped
2 carrots, peeled and finely chopped
3 cloves garlic, minced
1 jalapeño, finely chopped
1 Tablespoon tomato paste
1 (15.5-oz) can pinto beans, drained and rinsed
1 (15.5-oz) can black beans, drained and rinsed
1 (15.5-oz) can kidney beans, drained and rinsed
1 (28-oz.) can fire roasted tomatoes
3 c. vegetable broth
2 Tablespoon chili powder
1 Tablespoon cumin
2 teaspoon oregano
kosher salt
Freshly ground black pepper
Shredded cheddar, for serving
Sour cream, for serving
Cilantro, for serving

Directions

In a large pot over medium heat, heat olive oil then add onion, bell pepper, and carrots. Sauté until soft about 5 minutes. Add garlic and jalapeño and cook until fragrant, 1 minute. Add tomato paste and stir to coat vegetables. Add tomatoes, beans, broth, and seasonings. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Bring to a boil then reduce heat and let simmer, 30 minutes. Serve with cheese, sour cream, and cilantro.



Vegan Cauliflower Meatballs (thissavoryvegan.com)

These Vegan Cauliflower Meatballs are perfect for an easy dinner and packed full of healthy ingredients. Serve over pasta with a classic marinara. Yields 14 meatballs.

Ingredients

1/2 head cauliflower cut in florets
3 teaspoon olive oil separated plus more for frying
1/4 red onion roughly chopped
2-4 cloves garlic peeled and roughly chopped
1 cup oats
1/2 cup bread crumbs
2 Tablespoon Italian seasoning
salt and pepper to taste

Directions

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. and line a baking sheet with parchment paper (or foil). Spread cauliflower florets on baking sheet and drizzle 1 teaspoon of olive oil on top. Mix to spread oil evenly. Place in the oven and bake for 20 minutes. While cauliflower is cooking, heat 1 teaspoon of olive oil in a pan over medium heat. Add onion and garlic. Saute until onion is translucent (about 5-7 minutes). Remove from heat and set aside. Remove cauliflower from the oven. Add cauliflower, oats and garlic and onion mixture to a food processor. Pulse until combined. Transfer to a bowl. Add bread crumbs, Italian seasoning, salt and pepper and remaining teaspoon of olive oil. Stir to combine. Take 2 tablespoons of mixture in your hand and roll into a ball.* Place finished balls on a parchment lined baking sheet.** Once all of the balls have been formed, place them in the freezer for 10-15 minutes.*** Add enough olive oil to coat the bottom of the same pan and place on the stove over medium-high heat. Place meatballs in the pan and cook for 10-15 minutes, or until browned on all sides and warmed through. Lower heat to medium if they begin to brown too quickly. Serve with warm marinara, fresh basil and parmesan or vegan parmesan.

Recipe Notes

*If mixture isn't sticking together, place in the fridge for 10 minutes to firm everything up.

**Be sure to press meatballs firmly together so they don't break apart while cooking.

***If you plan on using these at a later time, freeze them for the 10-15 minutes and then place them in a parchment lined tupperware. Place back in the freezer until ready to use. Follow remaining instructions as stated.



Southwest Veggie Nachos (epicurious.com)

Ingredients

Vegetable oil cooking spray
6 ounces baked tortilla chips
1 can (15 ounces) low-sodium black beans, rinsed and drained
1 green bell pepper, diced
1/2 cup frozen corn, thawed
1/4 teaspoon ground cumin
1/4 cup sliced black olives
3 tablespoons pickled jalapeño slices
1 1/2 cups reduced-fat shredded Mexican blend cheese
4 large plum tomatoes (about 12 ounces), chopped
1/2 cup chopped red onion
1/4 cup cilantro, chopped
1 teaspoon fresh lime juice
1/2 avocado, diced

Directions

Heat oven to 425 degrees F. Coat a baking sheet with cooking spray; spread chips evenly on sheet. In a bowl, combine beans, pepper, corn and cumin; spoon over chips. Top with olives, jalapeños and cheese; bake until cheese melts, 5 to 6 minutes. In same bowl, combine tomato, onion, cilantro and juice; gently mix in avocado. Serve nachos topped with salsa.



Dilly Veggie Pizza (tasteofhome.com)

Ingredients

1 tube (8 ounces) refrigerated crescent rolls
1-1/2 cups vegetable dill dip
2 medium carrots, chopped
1 cup finely chopped fresh broccoli
1 cup chopped seeded tomatoes
4 green onions, sliced
1 can (2-1/4 ounces) sliced ripe olives, drained

Directions

Unroll crescent dough into one long rectangle. Press onto the bottom of a greased 13x9-inch baking pan; seal seams. Bake at 375 degrees F. until golden brown, 10-12 minutes. Cool completely on a wire rack. Spread dip over crust; sprinkle with the carrots, broccoli, tomatoes, onions and olives. Cut into squares.

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NORTHERN OAK BREWERY

How many pills do Americans consume?

■ Number of prescriptions for Americans rose 85 percent between 1997 and 2016

By Tim Jagielo

Some headlines about American prescription drug use can be alarming.

A 2017 survey by Consumer Reports showed that Americans are taking more prescription drugs than ever before. According to the study, 55 percent regularly take prescription medicine and many drugs may not even be necessary.

According to WebMD, the number of prescriptions filled for American adults and children rose 85 percent between 1997 and 2016. This is from 2.4 billion prescriptions to 4.5 billion a year. During that time, the U.S. population rose 21 percent.

Data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) indicates that between 2011 and 2014, 49 percent of Americans reported using at least one prescription medication in the

past 30 days. Nearly 12 percent reported using four or more prescription drugs.

On average, 3.7 billion drugs are ordered or provided at office visits, but most, 76 percent, are for drug therapy. These include analgesics for relieving pain, antidiabetic agents and medication for reducing cholesterol in the blood (antihyperlipidemic agents).

The good news is that people tend to lessen their use when possible.

According to the same Consumer Reports survey, nearly half of the respondents to the survey asked their doctors if they could stop taking a drug, and 71 percent of those were able to eliminate at least one medication.

According to a Journal of American Medicine Network (JAMA) study, the 2,392 patients in the study only used 27 percent of their opioids prescribed to them.

The JAMA study makes the point that opioids are over-prescribed.

Lessening these drugs has become a focus for Dr. Chad Brummett, director of the Division of Pain Research at the University of Michigan. He spoke to Michigan Radio in November 2017 about cutting prescriptions in half.

The same story suggests that 90 people die from opioids everyday.

"Sadly, in 2017, we still don't know how

many pills you need after I send you home," said Dr. Brummett in the story. "Some of that over-prescribing has been through lack of understanding, lack of guidelines, but also a want to keep people happy."

His group focuses on preventative medicine to reduce opioid use.

On average, 3.7 billion drugs are ordered or provided at office visits, but most, 76 percent, are for drug therapy.

5G — is it harmful?

■ Future wireless network is faster, connects with more devices at once

By Hannah Ball

Fifth generation wireless broadband technology. 1G, 2G, 3G, 4G and now 5G describes the wireless capabilities that a phone provider offers. Each generation comes with improved technology and better service.

Currently, most phones operate off a 4G network, but Verizon and AT&T launched preliminary 5G services in late 2018. In certain parts of Houston, Indianapolis, Los Angeles and Sacramento Verizon has installed "fiber-like" home internet speeds with wireless devices, according to pcmag.com.

AT&T put out user trials with mobile hotspots in 12 cities. Most experts are saying both these efforts are preliminary testing phases. The majority of Americans don't have access to 5G hotspots.

Pcmag.com estimates 5G will be more widespread around 2022.

The fifth generation wireless technology has greater speed, is more responsive and has the capability to connect with many more devices at once. While Verizon's 5G test sites currently aren't standalone, most are projected to be in the future. This means they don't require 4G coverage to work.

Health concerns over 5G

A number of scientists are concerned about the effects of non-ionizing electromagnetic fields (EMF) generated by electric and wireless devices. This includes radiofrequency radiation (RFR) emitting devices, such as cellular and cordless phones, Wi-Fi, broadcast antennas, smart meters and baby monitors.

With a wider use of 5G, more cell phone towers will be built.

See 5G on 15A

POLICE & FIRE REPORT

COMPILED BY SHARON STONE

WALLET SNATCHED FROM SHOPPER'S PURSE

At 1:15 p.m., Saturday, March 2, Fenton police responded to a retail store in the 3700 block of Owen Road on a larceny complaint. A 54-year-old Fenton woman reported that her wallet containing \$160 in cash, credit cards, birth certificate and Social Security card had been stolen from her purse while she was shopping. Loss prevention reviewed surveillance video footage, which showed an unknown black male walk past the woman's cart and snatch the wallet from her purse while she was facing a store shelf. Fenton police said video footage showed the woman's open purse was in the child seat area of the cart. The loss prevention employee told police they were suspicious of the suspect, as well as an unknown black female who was observed shopping with him. The two unknown shoppers were observed earlier pushing a shopping cart containing expensive liquor. Upon review, video footage showed the couple abandoning their cart, the man grabbing the victim's wallet and then immediately exiting the store. The unknown couple left in a burgundy minivan toward U.S. 23. The case remains under investigation. Police will release a photo of the suspect if one becomes available. Lt. Jeff Cross advises women never to place their purse in the seat area of the shopping cart and never carry a Social Security card or birth certificate. This can lead to identity theft.

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Recipients of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Clarkston's Sashabaw Plains Chapter Good Citizen award are (from left) Jamie Elrod of Fenton High School, Olivia Stoddard of Linden High School, Justine Bicego of Lake Fenton High School, Abbygale Hoffman-Wiegand of Our Lady of the Lakes Parish School and Amy Coomer of Clarkston High School. Photo courtesy of DAR

Area students earn Good Citizen Award

■ Fenton, Lake Fenton and Linden students have strong showing with essays and more

Compiled By Sharon Stone

Sashabaw Plains Chapter of Daughters of American Revolution (D.A.R.) honored five high school seniors, including one each from Fenton, Lake Fenton and Linden high schools, with their Good Citizen award. To receive the award, students wrote an essay, "What challenges will America face as we move forward into the future?" and provided information about activities with leadership, dependability, service and patriotism.

Jamie Elrod is a senior at Fenton High School. She is a member of the KEY Club, Student Council, National Honor Society and the high school Adrenaline Dance Team. She volunteers at area soup kitchens, Hurley Hospital, voter registration drives and was the Fenton Freedom Festival Queen. Elrod's plans are to major in physics and study environmental science at University of Washington.

Lake Fenton senior recipient Jus-

tine Bicego is active in softball, cross country, band and theatre and has won several awards including a varsity letter in Academics. Bicego has devoted many hours to the Young Life organization. Her career interests for the future are studying criminal justice or fashion design.

Linden High School's Olivia Stoddard is active in Student Council and has served as Class President in her junior and senior years. She is a member of Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD), Link Crew, Battle of the Books, Varsity Track team and was the elected Homecoming Queen. She enjoys leadership roles, helping others and plans to continue her studies at Mott Community College and Michigan State University.

Our Lady of the Lakes' senior Abbygale Hoffman-Wiegand has a love of history, politics and math and hopes to use those studies to make the world a better place.

Clarkston High School's Good Citizen was Amy Coomer. She hopes to attend Eastern Michigan University and study social work.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

TO NORDIC SOCIALISM lover. Norway and Sweden are not socialist countries. They are parliamentary constitutional monarchies with free-market capitalist economies. The only socialist aspect of either country is Norway's state-controlled petroleum industry. (Source: CIA Factbook)

I VOTED TRUMP for my president, not my pastor.

■■■■ **GOOD THINKIN' GRETCH.** If you tax the crap out of our small businesses, it will scare people away from working and providing jobs. Fewer jobs means fewer people driving around on our roads. Less traffic means fewer road repairs. Fewer repairs means less taxation. Problem solved.



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5G

Continued from Page 14A

In one case, a headline circulated stating that hundreds of birds dropped dead during a 5G experiment in The Netherlands. Snopes found this to be false.

One study done by the National Toxicology Program, a division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, found that rats exposed to RFR for nine hours a day grew malignant tumors. However, the study was designed in the late 1990s, when 2G was the standard and 3G was up and coming. 4G technology does use RFR, but the signals are modulated differently.

Vox.com, which did a comprehensive review of data and studies on RFR, said, "...the radio frequency radiation they emit doesn't increase the risk of brain tumors, and that the data is too poor to know that for sure. Separately, there is compelling evidence that cellphone radiation affects sperm levels in men — though we're far from a good understanding of what that means for fertility."

Fred Moses, chief technology officer for the Tri-County Times, said 5G is not radioactive, and it will take a while for the system to come to this area.

"They are still working on the standards of 5G," he said.

Sources: pcmags.com, ehtrust.org, inverse.com



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HOT LINE CONTINUED

THE WAY LANSING is going we will no longer be known as the Great Lakes State. We will be known as the 'Tax Again State.' Time for an audit.

WOULD ANYONE WITH a freshly graduated college student and recent bartender living at their home let them run the household? Probably not, but Democrats are letting a congressman with the same credentials try to run the country.

SOME PEOPLE THINK that those of us who oppose abortion should 'mind our own business.' If people had 'minded their own business' years ago, we'd still have slavery.

THE GLOBAL WARMING scientists are being paid to promote global warming and if they don't support it, they don't get the grant money. Remember the science that told Al Gore that our country would be under water two years ago? Yet, seaside property keeps increasing in value.

I DON'T THINK it is the 'radical' right that think the majority of schools are trying to turn out liberal puppets but the normal people are saying that. Being left is not normal.

LET'S BE CLEAR — neither Sweden nor Norway are socialist countries. They have more social policies than we do, but both are definitely capitalist countries.

WHAT ARE THE facts of climate change? Earth has gone through eras of heating and cooling before man existed as is proven by geological surveys. That is proven. It's more proof than listening to paid climatologists espouse for money.

SENSORY ROOM

Continued from Page 6A

students donated to Delivering Hope, which helps lower income students get food. The eighth-grade students donated items to the Center of Hope food pantry, which also collects items for new mothers and young kids.

A handful of students helped pack and load the boxes into vehicles. Items ranged from toothpaste to food.

"The shout-out needs to go to our kids and our families because within a week, we collected over 1,500 items for all three organizations. There is a ton of stuff here," said Jill Smigielski, special education teacher at AGS.

Along with the family donations, Dr. Wax Orthodontics and Advanced Care Chiropractic each donated \$500 for the new Give it Back grant. Funds will go to constructing a sensory room at AGS. Rettenmund said they're hoping to have it completed in a year.

The grant was the idea of Dr. Misty White, co-owner of Advanced Care Chiropractic. She had the idea after hearing McKenna's story.

"I thought her story was just phenomenal. Her heart was so big, I couldn't stop thinking about it. I wanted to do something to give back like she was trying to give back but in a different way," White said.

Sisters Elizabeth "Libby" and Meg Maier, who are both ninth-grade students at Fenton High School, are recipients of the grant. Meg was out sick on Wednesday.

"I was entirely on board with the sensory room. I understand how hard school can be and how you need a break



James Strauss, 16, a junior at Fenton High School, helps load donations into a truck for the Center of Hope, of which Strauss is a student volunteer. Co-creator of Center of Hope, Jennifer Strygulec, brings more donations. Photo: Hannah Ball

sometimes. I thought it was a really cool idea," Libby said.

Kristen Sobanski, president of Delivering Hope, said she's very happy to be a part of this day.

"This is great to be able to do and the schools and the community are all getting on board," she said.

Jennifer and Bob Strygulec, creators of Center of Hope were present. Bob said the number of families they serve increased from 100 families a month last year to about 190 a month currently.

"We're constantly looking for ideas for funding and food drives," Bob said. The center also has multiple life skill classes.

"We're starting to see the success," he said. "We want to get them the skills and get them out of our place."



AGS Middle School students Rebecca Blunden, 12, and Grant Murray, 11, carry donations to be transported to Delivering Hope, an organization that helps lower income students get food. Photo: Hannah Ball



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Dolly Parton reads the 100 millionth book donated by her nonprofit to children in the Library of Congress on Feb. 27, 2018. Photo: Shawn Miller, Washington Post

Celebrities who donate to charities

By Hannah Ball

They're often called the "Hollywood elites," who sit on their riches and are out of touch with middle class America. Celebrities who hit it big may not struggle with paying health insurance, but the U.S. has many celebrities who do a lot of good with their money and name.

Actress Jami Gertz and her husband, Antony Ressler, are not too well known, but they topped Forbes list for most charitable celebrities in 2012 for donating more than \$10 million to the Ressler-Gertz Foundation, one of the biggest celebrity donations.

More recently and more well known is Oprah Winfrey, who regularly uses her fame to do charity work. She donated \$10 million to Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. Winfrey lobbied for the National Child Protection Act, which established a national database of convicted child abusers. She donated \$50.2 million to education, health care and work for women and children worldwide just in 2007.

Elton John topped the lists in 2016 after he donated an estimated \$38 million to various charities over his lifetime. Most of the money went to causes that fight HIV/AIDS, including his own Elton John AIDS Foundation.

J.K. Rowling, author of the famous Harry Potter books, used to be a billionaire. She was the first author on the Forbes billionaires list, but was knocked off after she donated an estimated \$160 million to charity.

George and Amal Clooney created the Clooney Foundation for Justice, which fights for the rights of individuals targeted by oppressive governments. Angelina Jolie is the co-creator of the Jolie-Pitt Foundation, which aids humanitarian causes around the world. Jolie was also appointed Special Convoy to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in 2012.

Chance the Rapper launched the New Chance Arts & Literature Fund, and raised more than \$3.2 million for Chicago Public Schools in 2017. Colin Kaepernick may be a controversial figure, but he donated more than \$1 million to dozens of charities that help poor communities. The famous Oscar

selfie by Ellen DeGeneres raised \$3 million, half of which was donated to St. Jude's Children's Hospital and The Humane Society.

Barbra Streisand donated \$10 million to the cardiovascular system at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, after she raised an additional \$20 million for the program. The Streisand Foundation regularly gives grants to environmental causes, voter education, the protection of civil liberties and rights, women's issues and more, according to the foundation.

It's not always about money.

Dolly Parton recently donated her 100 millionth book from her Imagination Library to the Library of Congress. The goal of the country singer's Imagination Library is to send free books to children.

Ashton Kutcher created a nonprofit called Thorn, which has helped more than 6,000 children and 12,000 adults who are victims of sex abuse. The actor became an activist and now uses innovative technology to help identify victims and perpetrators of sexual exploitation on the internet.

Presidents

Even those who achieve fame through politics can be philanthropic. When former President Barack Obama was in the White House, the Obamas donated over \$1 million to various charities, and 54 percent of that money went to causes for children. According to Insider, they gave \$392,000 over the course of six years to the Fisher House Foundation, which supports families of veterans.

When he received the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize and was awarded \$1.4 million, Obama donated all of it to various charities and causes.

President Donald Trump pledged to donate his entire salary while he was in office, and Snopes has verified he has stayed true to his word. He's donated to the National Park Service, Department of Education, and more.

Before he was elected, the Donald J. Trump Foundation gave away around \$10.9 million to more than 400 different charities from 2001 to 2014, according to Forbes.

Sources: thisinsider.com, forbes.com, snopes.com



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Our Town

Gary Tomlin

- Holly firefighter for 22 years
- Fisherman and turkey hunter
- U.S. Marine

By Sally Rummel

Gary Tomlin, 65, hasn't gone very far in the last 45 years; he still lives at the same address in Holly as he did when he first moved to town in 1974. Retired from General Motors, he and his wife, Sharon, have two sons, 42 and 44; three grandchildren, 27, 18 and 21, and one great-granddaughter, 3.

Now that you're retired, how do you like to spend your time?

I spend most of my time fighting with my dogs, sharpening blades of all kinds, helping our kids out, giving people a hard time and trying to get my naps in. I love turkey hunting and fishing when I can. I like to go to Saginaw Bay and be in my boat with my kids and family.

How did you meet your wife, Sharon?

I met Sharon when I was fresh out



Gary Tomlin has lived at the same address in Holly for 45 years. Submitted photo.

of the Marine Corps in 1970. Basically, our parents introduced us. We got married in 1972 and in '74, she saw an ad in the paper for a home in Holly. Never heard of it. We didn't even know where Holly was. The third time we came to Holly we had friends with us to see the house. While we were sitting at the DQ (Dairy Queen), a tornado went down parts of Grange Hall Road. It was pretty scary. We moved to Holly when our son, Lee, was 4 weeks old.

“We're still here because we like the town and the people, plus my kids and family are here.”

Gary Tomlin
Holly resident

says that Barnum and Bailey kept their elephants chained there. That's all I know. The Barnum house was sold to the Bates family. She was a teacher here and owned this house for many, many years. It became known as the Bates house.

You were a Boy Scout leader also. Tell us about that.

When the kids were young, they were in Boy Scouts. Sharon was den leader and council member. They reached the Webelo years at age 10, and I became a Webelo leader for four years. We enjoyed a lot of camping and learning during those years, including camping in storms, tornado warnings, wind — we had it all, all in between classes for scouts and working.

When did you become a firefighter?

I joined the fire department in 1989. I became a firefighter and did lots more schooling to become a lieutenant and safety officer. I remember the large fire for the diesel place in town and tornado runs, medicals, car-train, personal injuries and on and on during my 22 years of service. I left NOCFA (North Oakland County Fire Authority) when we started the village of Holly Fire Department. I helped get it started. As a safety officer, my main responsibility was taking care of all my firefighters and keeping them safe. I was also responsible for the health and safety of the fire hall.

Firefighting became a tradition in your family. How so?

My youngest joined the village of Holly Fire Department for a few years. My oldest son joined NOCFA. He was there many years.

What is it that you like about Holly?

We wanted to raise our kids in a small town. Then we built a new home here in front of the old house and tore down the old one in 1984 instead of moving out of town. We liked our location and liked the railroad behind us. We were both raised around trains being close to home and we liked it. We're still here because we like the town and the people, plus my kids and family are here.

Since you live nearby, what do you know about the Barnum & Bailey house in Holly?

Barnum built the house for his brother, Bailey. Rumor says there was an elephant buried in the back yard. And I saw concrete pillars that were buried on the old piano factory property and they had big rings attached. Rumor

What's the farthest you have traveled away from home?

We don't travel a lot. The farthest I've been is Oregon, California and Louisiana. I did a lot of traveling with my grandparents when I was a child.

We like going to our property in Kalkaska.

What's on your bucket list?

I'd like to visit Lake Shasta in California, where Merle Haggard spent a lot of his time. He's my all time favorite singer. I'd also like to go to the Outback, you know in Australia. And to do this I need to hit the lottery...my main bucket list.

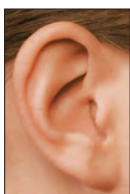
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Allison Middleton, doctor of optometry (O.D) and fellow of the American Academy of Optometry (F.A.A.O.), stands among the stylish and functional frames available at Holly Vision Clinic. Some frames are made in Spain and Germany. Photo: Tim Jagielo

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: Holly Vision Clinic remodels

By Sally Rummel

Holly Vision Clinic has been open at 1121 N. Saginaw St. in Holly since November 2018.

This office is an expansion of Grand Blanc Vision Clinic, which has been a landmark optometry practice in Grand Blanc for more than 50 years.

Doctors on staff at the Grand Blanc Vision Clinic and Holly Vision Clinic include Eric L. Schwehofer, doctor of optometry (O.D) and fellow of the American Academy of Optometry (F.A.A.O.), Daniel Markley, O.D., Jessica Bearer, O.D., F.A.A.O. and Allison Middleton, O.D., F.A.A.O.

“We’ve undergone a complete interior remodel in Holly,” said Middleton, a graduate of Michigan State University and the Michigan College of Optometry, with distinction. She also pursued a residency in ocular disease at the veteran’s hospital in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Middleton said the clinic’s first priority is always to provide comprehensive dilated eye health exams, checking for cataracts, macular degeneration, glaucoma, diabetic eye disease and many other eye conditions.

“Safeguarding your vision is always our priority,” Middleton said.

Then there’s the fashion end of optometry that makes the practice fun for staff and patients.

“We have a large array of frames to choose from and some of the most unique frame lines in the area,” Middleton said. “We use the best ophthalmic lenses available to provide the clearest high-definition vision. With custom-made frame displays by a master

craftsman and a fresh new look, you will get a true boutique optical experience right here in Holly.”

Middleton, a Grand Blanc native, looks forward to becoming part of the Holly community. “I’m very familiar with Holly and the people who live here,” she said.

She is residency-trained in the treatment and management of ocular disease. “You can trust me with your eyes,” she said. “We have two to three staff members on any given day, and for patient convenience, we have expanded the hours of operation at Holly Vision Clinic.”

Holly Vision Clinic is in the plaza across from Kerton Lumber.

“We have a large array of frames to choose from and some of the most unique frame lines in the area.”

Allison Middleton, O.D., F.A.A.O.
Holly Vision Clinic

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SPRING TRAINING

Continued from Front Page

"We'd get up at 6:30 in the morning and we'd be at the ball park to greet the Tigers," said Ketchmark, who now lives in Fenton Township. "We've done it ever since 1986."

"We'd go down with the sole purpose to get a photo of each player and their autograph," said Koch, also of Fenton Township. "That was the goal."

Spring training has changed since 1986. The players aren't nearly as accessible as they were in the '80s, but the sisters still make their annual trek anyway. It remains a great time for the siblings.

"Back in 1986, we had total access to the players," Ketchmark said. "You could walk up to them and they were nice and polite. In the 1990s, it became more commercialized and Joker Marchant Stadium (the stadium the Tigers use for their spring training games) created bleachers and it became less friendly. In the mid- to late-'90s, they put up a wrought iron gate that blocked off where the players parked and it made it tougher to get signatures. You had to try to get them through what were basically jail bars, and most would walk on by you. It was very personable in the '80s, but now they are making money hand over fist with it."

Over the years, however, they were still able to get photos with and autographs from some of the greatest Tigers of all



Fenton Township resident Denise Ketchmark poses for a photo with Detroit Tigers' player from the 1980s Larry Herndon during one of the many spring training trips she's taken since 1986.

Submitted photo



Holly's Debi Koch got this photo with Detroit Tiger slugger Cecil Fielder during one of her spring training trips to Lakeland, Florida. Cecil Fielder was one of the Tigers' biggest superstars from 1990 to 1996.

Submitted photo



Legendary Detroit Tigers' second baseman Lou Whitaker takes a photo with Denise Ketchmark during one of her many trips to spring training since 1986.

Submitted photo

“She didn’t have Chet Lemon’s autograph so she ran on to the team bus to get his autograph. She chased him down.”

Denise Ketchmark
Detroit Tigers fan

time. Lou Whitaker was Ketchmark's favorite player, while Lance Parrish was Koch's favorite player. Of course, those players are included in their photograph/autograph conquests, and so are most of the 1984 Tigers. The hardest to get of the 1984 Tigers was Kirk Gibson. Of course, they could get lucky any time of the day.

For instance, Koch remembers one dinner trip paid off during one of their spring training vacations. "One time we went (to a place) where Willie Hernandez was eating oysters at the bar," Koch said. "We were able to sit down

and eat oysters with him."

Their photos expand beyond the 1984 era Tigers, though. They have photos with

Al Kaline and with players who didn't join the team until after most of the '84 squad was already gone. One notable player is Cecil Fielder.

"Our goal was to get everyone's autograph," Ketchmark said. "We had recipe cards, have them sign it and on the back sides and we'd write their names so we could remember who's signature it was. We had three or four photo albums."

They also met with the Tigers' radio announcers of the time, Ernie Harwell and Paul Carey.

"We went up and came in the booth one at a time," Koch said. "Ernie was very nice and we have pictures with him. Though he was a big star, he never made you feel as though he was."

One of their favorite stories about an autograph/photo grab involved their other sister, Lynn.

"It was her first time at spring training in 1989 and we were trying to get hold of

the players," Ketchmark said. "She didn't have Chet Lemon's autograph so she ran on to the team bus to get his autograph. She chased him down."

All of their Tigers memories aren't about spring training. For anyone growing up in the Detroit area in 1984, the World Championship squad is a big part of their memories. Ketchmark had several outstanding memories of that season at Tiger Stadium.

"I was there when they clinched the American League East title, at the American League Championship clinching game and at the game that won them the World Series," Ketchmark said.

Will the sisters ever be able to witness another Tigers' World Series appearance? That's up in the air. The Tigers appear in a major rebuilding mode currently. However, they'll always be able to maintain their spring training tradition.

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NEWSPAPERS

Continued from Page 3A

McGraw said the biggest change in her 16 years is the emergence of digital products, while the ability to cover communities has remained.

Many newspapers are beginning to charge for their online content. "If you want the quality of the information, you'll have to pay for it," she said.

The Climax Crescent has a simple but clear website, which shares the headline, and chunk of the story. Subscribers get to read the entire story with a subscription.

Bruce does the reporting, while Crystal handles the business. Their publication reaches 925 customers every week.

"We are small, but we kind of feel like we're an important part of the community," he said.

Bruce covers as many meetings as he can in the eight municipalities they serve. He also serves as president on the Climax Village Council. "In a small town, you don't get a lot of people trying to be on a council or a board," he said. "I just try to do it straightforward."

The Rolfes have expanded into social media with regular posts that include photos, videos, story teasers and even humorous contests.

Kevin Hardy is the local news editor for the Detroit News. He said that newspapers in Michigan are entering a new chapter — moving from a print-focused environment to a digital-focused environment.

The Detroit News reaches 3.4 mil-



As a staff of two, Bruce and Crystal Rolfe are the owners, reporters, editors, photographers, salespeople and bookkeepers for their newspaper, The Climax Crescent near Kalamazoo. Submitted photo.

lion unique users each month with its digital products. The majority are from Michigan. He estimates they have 100 employees on the editorial staff.

He said that newspapers have settled here, where digital will be the main product moving forward and organizations will work on monetizing these platforms. For the Detroit News, this includes website and mobile apps.

In a world where everyone can get news instantly from many sources, he said larger papers like his stand out and remain relevant by focusing on their core communities. This is a strategy that resonates with newspapers large and small.

Hardy has been at the 'News since 2004. In that time, it changed from a newspaper that "regurgitated" its print edition online to working online first. They are updating sometimes hundreds of times on big important stories at a "speed never seen before in journalism."

He said that despite the national "fake news" mantra, Michigan readers seem to appreciate and value good journalism.



Comic inserts are assembled at Michigan Web Press on Thursday, March 7. Photo: Tim Jagielo

SCHEME

Continued from Front Page

Det. Sgt. Pat Gallagher said Bonam's cellmate at the county jail told police that Bonam approached him about helping make a co-defendant and the victim in Bonam's 2018 larceny case disappear, figuring that if there were no victim and witness, his case would go away.

Gallagher said the other inmate testified that Bonam told him the witness and victim in the case could not show up to testify, by any means. He added that the other inmate got in touch with a corrections officer at the jail who then contacted the MSP detective.

Wearing a recording device, the other inmate returned to the jail in June 2018 on a fake violation to confirm Bonam's arrangement. "He (Bonam) cooked up a scheme to take care of the victim of the larceny case," Gallagher said. "We got good recordings. Made him think

the murder would be carried out. He was surprised that it took place."

Police then communicated with Spicer through a fake social media account saying the other inmate would need to be paid for his services. Police arrested Spicer when she dropped off a truck at a gas station in Hartland Township as partial payment to the inmate for his services.

Gallagher said Bonam pleaded guilty after the charge was reduced from solicitation of murder, which carries a life sentence, to witness intimidation. He was sentenced to 7 to 25 years in prison.

Spicer pleaded guilty to one count of accessory after the fact to a felony and prosecutors agreed to recommend Holmes Youthful Trainee Act (HYTA) status, which would keep her criminal record clean. Spicer is to be sentenced in April. She faces up to five years in jail and/or a \$10,000 fine.

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Blue Devils trail early, lose to Haslett, 65-46

By Dale M. Smith

Perry — It was just one of those nights when the proverbial train got derailed and was never able to find its way back on track for the Lake Fenton varsity girls basketball team in its district opener Wednesday night.

The Blue Devils fell to a tall and talented Haslett Vikings' team, 65-46.

Lake Fenton got in a hole early, down 5-0 before a Morgan Furey 3-pointer got the Devils on the board at the 4:10 mark of the first quarter. Then, things got dicey when the Devils picked up a

technical foul for an illegal substitution for a numbering issue in the official scorebook. The Vikings hit both of the technical free throws and retained possession of the ball. This led to a 10-3 lead for Haslett that was quickly upped to 14-3 late in the first.

An "and one" from Devils' junior Kaitlyn Siebert cut it to 18-10 early in the second quarter but the taller Haslett girls domi-

nated the boards on both ends of the floor. The Vikings started two 6-footers in Imania Baker and Brooke Bradley.

Haslett then went on a 11-2 run to make it 29-12 before a late first half free throw from Furey ended the Devils' long drought.

A plus for the Devils was the play of sophomore Christina Lamb who came off the bench and

See DEVILS on 23A



Lake Fenton's Katelyn Siebert scored 11 points in the Blue Devils' 65-46 district semifinal loss to the Haslett Vikings, Wednesday.

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Sports Time

Tigers' league title season ends in district semis

By David Troppens

Hartland — The Fenton varsity girls basketball team couldn't be upset with their effort.

The Tigers played 32 gruelling minutes against the Hartland Eagles during their Division 1 district semifinal contest at Hartland High School, Wednesday.

The Tigers also had to be really pleased with their defense. No Hartland player had more than eight points as Fenton's defense made sure no Eagle player ever got into a comfortable offensive rhythm during the contest.

However, Hartland played some mighty good defense of its own and kept the Tigers to just 8-for-36 field goal shooting, resulting in a 43-22 Hartland win.

It was a challenge for anyone to get into any offensive rhythm for either team. The closest person who did that was Fenton's Chloe Idoni. She led all scorers with 13 points, but it took 4-for-13 shooting to earn those points. Meanwhile, the rest of the Tigers struggled mightily on offense, hitting on just 4-of-23 shots from the field. Hartland also opened the season against the Tigers, defeating Fenton 61-39.

"We are both really good teams and I'm glad I had this experience to play against them," Idoni said about Hartland. "(Fenton basketball) is a part of me. It's been a part of me for four years, so it's like who I am. It means more than basketball and a basketball team. (Fenton varsity girls basketball coach Rebecca Moore) applies life lessons that we can use our whole life, and we created bonds that we will never break."

"A couple of bounces here or a couple bounces there it could've been a different result," Moore said. "It's a special group. I'm sorry I didn't do a little bit more to counteract (Hartland)."

There probably wasn't much Moore could do. The Eagles are a strong squad, as evidenced by their 19-3 record. Of course the Tigers (17-4) had a strong record as well and are the Metro League champions, but the Tigers were also without Korryn Smith, who has emerged as one of Fenton's most potent scoring threats in recent contests.

Hartland did get off to a good start, scoring the game's first eight points. The final two of those points came on a driv-



(Above) Fenton's Chloe Idoni (middle) tries to navigate Hartland's defense in the Tigers' 43-22 district semifinal loss, Wednesday. (Right) Fenton's Erin Carter blocks a shot during the contest.

Photos: Mark Bolen

ing six-footer by Madi Moyer, the only player on either team to score at least a field goal in each quarter.

Fenton never made a field goal in the first quarter, scoring its only two points on 1-for-2 free-throw trips by Erin Carter and Idoni. Fenton trailed 12-2 after one quarter.

Idoni cut the gap to 12-5 with a quick three-pointer to start the second quarter, but the tigers had turnovers on five of their next eight possessions, enabling the Eagles to slowly increase the lead. It grew to 22-7 on a six-footer by Gracey Metz, but Fenton's Idoni hit a driving hoop with 40 seconds left in the half, cutting the gap to 22-9 at halftime.

See TIGERS' on 23A



David's Dabblings

Some thoughts about sports and others not dealing with sports at all



GOODBYE DON PLUTA

During the nearly 30 years I've been a prep sports reporter times have clearly changed how we receive our information.

Back in the day (that's the early 1990s for me) when we wanted information for a sporting event we were unable to attend, there was one easy way to get that information — the home phone.

Back then, we weren't talking on cell phones. Heck, some people didn't even have answering machines on their home phones. Quite often I would get to know the wife/husband and kids of the coach I was trying to contact because they'd be the ones to answer the phone most of the time.

That has changed quite a bit. So much of what I gather comes from emails and texts. It's nice at times because it's quicker and, quite frequently, a more accurate way to get information.

But sometimes I miss the phone calls, especially with coaches I've known for a long time. Enter, Holly varsity wrestling coach Don Pluta. In my 16 years at this publication, it's fair to say I've probably spent close to 100 hours on the phone with Pluta. Most of those hours we talked about Holly wrestling. But many others we talked about coaching philosophies, about other sports and about, yes, my curling 'career.' With Pluta's recent retirement of the Holly varsity wrestling program, I'm going to miss these talks.

However, I'm going to miss more than that. I'm going to miss seeing Pluta on the sidelines during matches. I'm going to miss his smiles of accomplishment when one of his wrestlers earn a goal, or when his team captures a key victory. I remember seeing Pluta and his team when they qualified for the team state meet for the first time ever during one of the greatest matches I've ever witnessed when John Aikens won a critical bout against Anchor Bay. I'll miss watching Pluta's celebration with his individual state championship wrestlers. But mostly, I'll miss how he approached his coaching position — he always thought about his kids first.

Life will go on, but life will be a little different when I go to cover Holly wrestling next season. Goodbye, Don. I'll miss you.

Howell's defense stifles Bronchos in district loss

By David Troppens

Hartland — In short, nothing came easy for the Holly varsity girls basketball team in its Division I district semifinal contest against the Howell Highlanders at Hartland High School, Wednesday.

Meanwhile, the Highlanders were able to make 50 percent of their shots while turning the ball over just 10 times against the Bronchos. The result was a 58-27 loss for the Holly Bronchos.

The loss ended the Bronchos' season at 11-10 overall. It also marked the end of an era — Holly's all-time leading basketball scorer regardless of gender, Rebecca Fugate, saw her career come to a close. Fugate scored a hard-earned 18 points against Howell, giving her 1,433 points for her career, just six fewer than the Flint Metro League's all-time leading scorer, Fenton's Christina Rivette.

Fugate knew she was close to the scoring mark, but didn't know how close. Fugate played most of the contest and was the game's leading scorer. However, Hartland made life challenging on Fugate and her teammates. With 3:58 and the Bronchos trailing 52-23, Fugate left the court for her final time as a Broncho.

CONTINUED AT MYFENTON.COM



Holly's Payton Price drives to the bucket in the Bronchos' 58-27 loss to Hartland, Wednesday. Photo: David Troppens



Fenton's Lauren Murphy attempts a shot during the Tigers' 43-22 loss to Hartland, Wednesday. Photo: Mark Bolen

TIGERS'

Continued from Page 22A

Any chance of a Fenton comeback probably ended when Hartland scored the first five points of the third quarter, increasing their lead to 27-9. The closest Fenton ever got after that was 29-15 which was the score entering the fourth quarter.

The Eagles cut the gap to 15 a few times in the fourth quarter. The final time came on a converted free throw by Idoni with 3:03 left in the contest, making it a 37-22 deficit. However, the Tigers never scored again.

The loss couldn't erase the 17-4 record which included a Metro League crown.

"It's so special to me (being with this program)," Idoni said. "It was everything and more than I could ask for. The important thing is we loved each other. We got so close over the year, and I couldn't have gone out with a better team. My coach, she does everything she can for us."

CONTINUED AT MYFENTON.COM

DEVILS

Continued from Page 22A

scored six quick points before the break. She finished with 10 points, two rebounds and two steals.

Lake Fenton's bad luck continued in the second half as senior Haley Whittecar was injured and had to be helped off the floor. She did return late in the game but by then the lead had become

insurmountable for the Devils.

Haslett moved out to a 46-18 lead in the third quarter before both coaches cleared their benches for the rest of the game.

Furey had 10 points, nine of those coming from behind the arc. Siebert added 11 points, three steals and two rebounds.

CONTINUED AT MYFENTON.COM

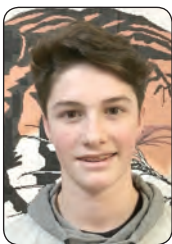
March 10, 2019

Athlete Of The Week



TANNER CULVER
Wrestling

HARTLAND



NATE DYMOND
Boys Bowling

FENTON



SAVANNA GREGORY
Girls Bowling

HARTLAND



PARKER BUNDY
Boys Ski

FENTON



ZAC JUMP
Boys Swim/Dive

FENTON



GRACE RECK
Competitive Cheer

HARTLAND



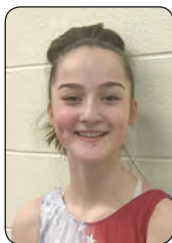
LAUREN MURPHY
Girls Basketball

FENTON



ISABELLA HOOSE
Girls Ski

HARTLAND



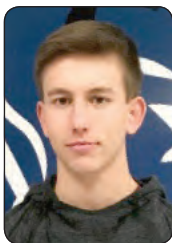
AVERY MILLER
Gymnastics

LINDEN



REECE POTTER
Wrestling

HARTLAND



HUNTER SCRAMM
Boys Basketball

LAKE FENTON



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Girls 9th, 10th & 11th.....

11am-12:30pm

Boys 9th, 10th & 11th.....

1:00-2:30pm

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Grade:

Time:

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