

# Watson's fate in jury's hands



Derek Watson sits in Genesee County Circuit Court Wednesday, March 13. Watson is on trial for alleged criminal sexual conduct with a minor.

Photo: Tim Jagielo

By Tim Jagielo

**Flint** — On Wednesday, March 13, the jury trial of Derek Watson of Fenton Township began.

By Friday afternoon, the jury had heard testimony from the alleged victim, her mother and police.

The videotaped police interview of Watson, which lasted five hours over two days, also

was played for the jury.

The jury verdict could be reached on Friday afternoon. Because it was after press time, the Times did not have full updated information for print.

Go to [myfenton.com](http://myfenton.com) for a full updated story once all the information is available.

Watson, 63, is was 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 did not accept a plea deal and instead opted for a jury trial. Judge Kay Behm of the 7th Circuit Court is presiding over his case.

## WeekendTimes

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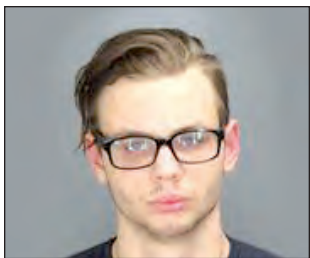
## Linden teen jailed on weapons charges

■Oakland and Genesee counties seeking charges after student allegedly steals parents' guns

By Sharon Stone

David Christopher Rollins, 17, of Linden was arraigned Thursday, March 14 in Oakland County 52-2 District Court on one count of carrying a concealed weapon and other weapons

See **CHARGES** on 18A



David Christopher Rollins

## Science of sounds and lights at Longway



Fenton Tomek-Eastern third-graders, including Aiden Pescarolo, play with instruments they made at the Longway Planetarium in Flint on Monday, March 11. These devices made from a straw, rubber glove and cardboard cylinder make silly noises but also teach the students about the science of sound. Another group learned about light. See story on page 13A. Photo: Tim Jagielo

## Public hearing set for potential pathway grant

■Non-motorized pathway organizers seeking 10-year, 1.2-mill millage in May

By Hannah Ball

The community is invited to attend a public hearing March 28 to give input about Southern Lakes Parks and

Recreation (SLPR) considering to apply for a \$300,000 grant to fund the Silver Lake Road Connector Trail.

See **PATHWAY** on 21A

Nancy Muffley, program administrator and event planner of SLPR, stands with Vince Paris, executive director of SLPR, along Silver Lake where the non-motorized pathway would be built. Photo: Hannah Ball



## Quick detective work leads to recovery of stolen vehicles

By Sharon Stone

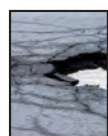
The Fenton Police Department has been busy over the past week investigating stolen vehicle complaints. Lt. Jeff Cross said because of good detective work, the two stolen vehicles were recovered undamaged and returned to

See **DETECTIVE** on 16A

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“Republicans controlled Michigan



politics for eight years and did nothing to fix the roads or schools. Michigan roads are near bottom nationwide. Schools rank 50 out of 50 states. A Democrat offers a solution and you criticize? What is the Republican solution? Wait, I know, 'do nothing.'”

“Michigan weight limits are the highest in the USA.



The limit of 250,000 pounds is three times the federal limit. Our governor should cut crush loads before a tax hike on cars.”

“Would you bet your paycheck on the weather forecast for tomorrow? If not, then why would this country bet tens of billions of dollars on global warming predictions that have far less foundation?”



COMMENT  
OF THE WEEK

“If any place needs a wall to stop illegals, it's Yale, Harvard and Princeton.”



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# Teen heart transplant — one year later

■ Aiden Saunders, now 14, is back at school and re-building his life after acute heart failure

By Sally Rummel

What a difference a year makes.

Exactly one year ago, on March 16, 2018, Aiden Saunders, 13, was undergoing an 11-hour surgery at C.S. Mott Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor to replace his diseased, enlarged heart with a donor heart, literally saving his life.

The miraculous story of Aiden's return from near-death to health actually began in February 2018. Due to flu-like symptoms and stomach issues for six weeks, Aiden was in and out of his eighth grade classes at Cheryl Stockwell Preparatory Academy in Brighton.

His parents, Bill and Lori Saunders of Deerfield Township, took him to the

University of Michigan Hospital emergency room Feb. 25 when his symptoms really escalated.

The Saunders had no idea just how sick Aiden was until doctors noticed his enlarged heart and liver, signs that his heart wasn't supplying enough blood to all his major organs.

The only hope to save his life was a heart transplant. Miraculously, a donor heart became available the night Aiden's name went on the transplant list March 14. By early morning Friday, March 16, a new heart was beating in Aiden's chest, literally saving his life.

One year later, Aiden is back at school as a high school freshman, after having missed most of the year from February until summer. He is also back practicing with his competitive swim team, the Hartland Hurricanes, and is once again feeling almost like a normal teenager.

See **HEART** on 15A

“We're happy to have 2018 behind us.”

**Bill Saunders**  
Father of teen heart transplant recipient



On Wednesday, March 13, Aiden Saunders, 14, swims with his team, the Hartland Hurricanes, during their evening practice. The Deerfield Township teen underwent a heart transplant one year ago. Photo: Tim Jagielo

## ‘The Dibbleville Dolls’ will perform St. Patrick’s Day show

■ Three retired teachers bring their all-Irish show to The Fenton Hotel this Sunday

By Sally Rummel

Sharing a love of music, especially Irish folk tunes, is just one of the reasons that three local

retired teachers spend every St. Patrick's Day on stage at The Fenton Hotel Tavern & Grille.

Patti Nelson, Peggy Fulcher and Peggy Fowler are known as “The Dibbleville Dolls,” named after the historic Fenton downtown and the trio's Fenton roots. They've been practicing and performing together for 30 years and are good friends on and off the stage.

“The Dibbleville Dolls” will perform at the hotel from 2 to 5 p.m., expecting a full house as usual.

“We always do a special gig on St. Patrick's Day at the (Fenton) Hotel,” said Nelson, the trio's “unofficial” public relations person. “It's an all-

See **DIBBLEVILLE DOLLS** on 12A

The Dibbleville Dolls rehearse in Holly Township on Monday, Feb. 18. (From left) Peggy Fowler of Fenton, Peggy Fulcher of Fenton and Patti Nelson of Holly Township will play an Irish-themed set this weekend for St. Patrick's Day. Photo: Tim Jagielo



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## Andrew Heller

andrewheller@tctimes.com

# Come *Heller* high water...

• **Are you shocked** by the college admissions scandal? If so, why? What's new here? The wealthy and famous have always used their money and fame to get their kids to the front of the line. This is only big news now because of the 1 percent conversation we've been having in this country. This doesn't suddenly mean the playing field will suddenly be even for all. It simply means the wealthy will go back to greasing their kids' way into college the old-fashioned way: by donating to the football program or building a wing



Andrew Heller  
FEATURED COLUMNIST

on the science building. Trust me, Muffy and Biff will be fine.

• **At least the parents** were doing it on behalf of their kids. What's the excuse on the college end? It's pretty clear they believe

whatever students tell them on admission forms, as long as the check clears. It's also clear some were just filling slots. I now regret not having the kids list themselves as left-handed, or synchronized swimmers who are saddled with too much Yooper DNA. They could have gotten into Stanford.

• **Felicity Huffman** I can see doing this. But Lori Loughlin from "Full House?" She's in the "America's sweetheart" class of stars. Lori, how could you? What would Jesse say? I'll bet Joey put her up to it.

• **A far bigger college issue** that needs fixing is student debt. Forget the rich kids. I'm worried about generations of kids owing the equivalent of a home mortgage when they graduate. And it's not just Ivy League schools that are charging an arm and leg, it's mid-size state colleges, as well. We're close to pricing the dwindling middle class out of four-year college degrees. But then that's nothing new. We've already priced them out of new vehicles (new cars and trucks now cost more than my first house), sports,

concerts and more. Clearly, it doesn't pay to not be wealthy in America.

• **The FBI's code** name for the operation that broke the scam was "Operation Varsity Blues." If they were going for a high school movie name, I'd have gone with "Pretty in Pink" or perhaps X-Men: First Class." Much better movies.

• **Here's what I** learned at the South by Southwest festival this week, It won't be long before private cars are banned from the biggest cities. Robots write a lot of routine business news. The best ads evoke empathy (which is true, but once you realize that's what advertisers are doing, you're on the lookout for it). Twice as many women contribute to crowd-funding campaigns as men. People from countries that drive on the left also walk on the left, which leads to a lot of near collisions; no matter what festival you attend, there's always a guy who brings his pet python.

• **I loved South** by Southwest. But I'll tell you what, ArtPrize in Grand Rapids is damn near as good. Why is it we tend to overvalue things elsewhere and undervalue what we have right here in Michigan?

• **My pet peeve** at events is people on the street who want to have a "conversation" with you about their cause. I politely declined to talk to one of these people and she called after me "I love you!" I wasn't sure how to respond: "Um, I love you, too?"

• **If you haven't** been to a big city in the last six months, the first thing you'll notice is that rental scooters are everywhere. And Uber, Lyft and cab drivers hate them, not because they're stealing fares but because the scooters are fast and scooterers have no idea what they're doing. Every driver I talked to was afraid of running one over.

• **"Here is a lesson** in creative writing. First rule: Do not use semicolons. They are transvestite hermaphrodites representing absolutely nothing. All they do is show you've been to college." - Kurt Vonnegut

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.

## 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.

**HEY TRUMP HATERS**, let the guy do his job. Remember our last president, the guy who would talk for an hour and say nothing?

**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 damned roads without taxing us out of being able to afford gas for work and commerce.

**ARE LINDEN SCHOOLS** for sale? It seems i you provide enough equipment or money to a sport only your organization will have access to that area of the gym, unless you approve someone else to use it. Public schools?

**MARL DRIVE AT** it again.

**THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION** on Monday revealed details of its \$4.7 trillion spending proposal for the next fiscal year and it included cutting \$270 million from the \$300 million Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

**IN A PERFECT** demonstration of Socialist Democracy, North Korean elections saw 99.99-percent voter turnout to re-elect their dear leader Kim Jong Un.

**COURT REJECTS DEVOS'** effort to delay special education rule. A federal court has ruled that an Obama-era regulation designed to ensure children of color are

not disproportionately punished or sent to special education classrooms must take effect immediately.

**WHOLE FOODS IN Fenton 2020.** Now that's exciting.

**KYLIE JENNER NAMED** youngest 'self-made' billionaire. And, if her name was Kylie Johnson and her parents were not rich and famous she still would have had just as much success.

**LOTS OF NEW** homes being built in town. I feel bad for the neighbors of these sites. The construction traffic, equipment noise, damage to neighboring property and garbage must be a constant pain to those who live nearby.

**THE WEALTHY ENJOY** the privilege of opportunity. The biggest failure of American society at the moment is a shortage of opportunity. Too many Americans are stuck in lousy schools and limiting circumstances without the resources to succeed.

**COLLEGE ADMISSIONS SCANDAL.** This is just like politics. Money buys the world; the rest of us just live in it. The whole sad part is their money will buy their way out of it. The rich never get what they have coming.

**IF YOU KNOW** of anyone who attended Harvard, Stanford, UCLA, or several schools ask them who were bribed that allowed them to attend?

**I REALLY TRIED** to watch an entire episode on CNN with Chris Cuomo just to see what he was really like. If you are only watching that station, I feel really sorry for you.

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Compiled by Gracie Warda, intern

## If you could tour with any band, what band would you choose?

## | streettalk



"Aerosmith," because I love Steven Tyler; I've always wanted to meet him."

Lori Poirier  
Fenton



"I'm torn between 'Reba McEntire' and 'Ozzy Osbourne.' I like Ozzy's older music, and I relate to Reba because I'm from the country."

Rhonda Brooks  
Fenton



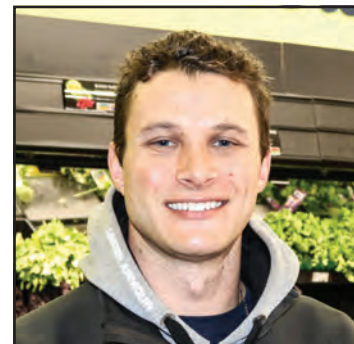
"Led Zeppelin." It would be ridiculous, but in a good way. The parties would be crazy."

Tim French  
Fenton



"Diana Krall," because I like her and her drummers."

Nancy Draves  
Fenton



"Red Hot Chili Peppers." They've always been my favorite band; I've been following them since I was growing up."

Nick Fedirko  
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# Disarming a police officer could have stiffer penalty

■ Local state rep introduces bills to lengthen prison sentences for disarming or attempting to disarm a police officer

Compiled by Sharon Stone

State Rep. Mike Mueller (R-51st District) introduced a bipartisan plan Tuesday, March 12, to increase the penalty for criminals who disarm — or attempt to disarm — a police officer.

Mueller said a criminal who commits an unarmed robbery would currently be punished more severely than an individual who attempts to disarm a police officer.

His legislation would change that.

“I find it troubling that someone faces a stiffer penalty for committing an unarmed robbery than using force or violence to take possession of an officer’s duty weapon,” Mueller said. “Punishments must fit the crime.”

Mueller, who recently retired after 19 years as a Livingston County sheriff’s deputy, speaks from experience. Suspects attempted to disarm him on two separate occasions during the course of his career.

The legislation was inspired by the death of Oak Park police officer Mason Samborski of Howell who was killed Dec. 28, 2008, by a suspect who took his firearm and executed him after he had become incapacitated during a struggle with the suspect.

House Bills 4315-16 would increase the maximum sentence for attempting to disarm a police officer from a five-year felony to a 10-year felony and increases the penalty for disarming a police officer from a 10-year felony to a 20-year felony.

Mueller introduced the bills with Democratic Rep. David LaGrand, a former prosecutor from Grand Rapids.

“This is a common sense plan that we can all support, regardless of which side of the aisle we sit on,” Mueller said.

LaGrand agreed. “Police officers must know that legislators have their backs,” LaGrand said.

The bills have been referred to the House Judiciary Committee for consideration.

**“I find it troubling that someone faces a stiffer penalty for committing an unarmed robbery than using force or violence to take possession of an officer’s duty weapon.”**

**Mike Mueller**  
State Representative

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# Michigan drivers info automatically put into police database

■ Secretary of State required by law to give info to MSP but not required to tell residents

By Hannah Ball

The Michigan State Police (MSP) has your photo and information even if you’ve never been arrested.

If you have a driver’s license or state ID card, MSP most likely has your photo.

The law enforcement agency uses the Statewide Network of Agency Photos (SNAP) database said F/Lt. Michael A. Shaw of the MSP. Combined with facial recognition software, this database helps law enforcement identify suspects.

The database could also include your Facebook profile or more information from your social media if police researched you in connection with an investigation, according to the Detroit Free Press. Approximately eight million adults in the system are Michigan adults, with nearly 50 million facial images in the extensive database.

Shaw said they work with neighboring state police agencies to share information when crimes cross state lines or someone under investigation traveled to another state.

“It is updated daily,” he said. “Facial recognition software uses algorithms to identify and compare various facial features to match photos in a database with images of criminal suspects.”

The MSP added about 2.7 million photos to the database last year.

Shawn Starkey, a spokesperson for the Michigan Secretary of State, said the SOS Office is required by law under a 1998 amendment to the Michigan Vehicle Code to share these images with law enforcement.



Your name and photo are in this police database even if you’ve never been arrested. Photo: dmhvhours.info

“We began doing so in 1998, which is when we started capturing images digitally after this law was passed by the Legislature,” he said.

Many Michiganders would be surprised to learn that their name

and photo are on a police database even if they’ve never been arrested. Starkey said residents haven’t been notified previously that their information is shared.

“However, Secretary (Joselyn) Benson agrees that it’s important for Michiganders to be aware of our legal requirement to share data, including photos, with law

enforcement. She is exploring ways to ensure residents are meaningfully informed about this requirement when they receive their license or state ID,” he said.

## The cost

SNAP costs approximately \$300,000 a year to maintain, Shaw said. Gov. Gretchen Whitmer proposed her 2020 budget to lawmakers March 5, which gives the MSP \$562,000 to enhance the software used for the database and replace the six-year-old algorithm currently used.

**“However, Secretary (Joselyn) Benson agrees that it’s important for Michiganders to be aware of our legal requirement to share data, including photos, with law enforcement.”**

**Shawn Starkey**  
Michigan Secretary of State spokesperson

## HOT LINE CONTINUED

■ ■ ■  
**THE OSCARS AND Golden Globes** are awards shows where those pretending to be other people are presented awards from people who pretend to be other people. These same people use their money to bribe schools to admit their children. This is enough reason not to support any political candidates from the west coast.

■ ■ ■  
**THE RECENT TAX** law, the shrinking of the IRS and the Republican anti-tax advances are all clearly intended to kill the remaining progressivity in the U.S. tax system.

■ ■ ■  
**THOSE WHO GAIN** the most in income and wealth from the American society and economic infrastructure not only have the greatest ability to pay, they also derive far and away the greatest benefits.

■ ■ ■  
**THE AMERICAN TAX** burden provides far more than the usual and obvious benefits that all Americans enjoy — national defense, police protection, roads and

highways. It also sustains an elaborate, orderly, stable and subsidized U.S. economy. Wall Street works because property interests are protected and regulated.

■ ■ ■  
**I WARNED BACK** when Governor Snyder’s proposal of cancelling corporation’s capitol equipment tax that nuisance taxes would sky rocket. However, the ill-informed bought his promise of great job increases. One more time, ‘there’s no free lunch.’

■ ■ ■  
**WHY IS IT** that liberals like Heller believe that higher taxes is always the answer? Did it ever occur to them that government stupidly misspends, misallocates, and otherwise wastes money?

■ ■ ■  
**DO SOMETHING KIND** for someone you know, but normally don’t get along with. Do it before the end of the week. Keep it a secret from that person and those around you. Watch the reaction.

■ ■ ■  
**HMM, I WONDER** why Gov. Whitmer didn’t choose ‘Tax The Damn Voters’ as her campaign slogan.



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# All in the (Fenton) family

## City welcomes descendents of Col. William Fenton

By Vera Hogan

A recent visit from the ancestors of Col. William Fenton could have changed the course of history — and a part of LeRoy Street could have been renamed Fenton Street, if only temporarily.

Cathy Landers of Niantic, Connecticut, her husband Donald Landers, and cousin Don McCall of Atlanta, Georgia, were in town Thursday, March 7 to participate in the Fenton Education Foundation's (FEF) annual poker tournament.

The tourney commemorates the poker game played nearly two centuries ago by ancestors Fenton and Robert LeRoy. The winner of that game had the honor of naming the town, and the loser got to name the main street through town after himself, and side streets after his family members.

The FEF's annual poker tourney, one of the foundation's annual fundraisers, is held in March each year.

The winner gets to name part of LeRoy Street downtown after his family.

McCall called Cathy an accomplished poker player, but she did not win the FEF tourney. Cathy said she and her husband played but only made it about half way through the game.

"It was a thrill to meet the mayor pro tem (Pat Lockwood), city manager (Lynn Markland) and the schools superintendent (Adam Hartley)," McCall said. They are members of the FEF Board of Directors.

How did they find out about the game? McCall said he has a friend in Pentwater, where his family has a vacation home, that he plays music with and she told him about it.

"In February I got a call from Cathy and she said, 'let's go,'" McCall said.

While they were in town, both the Landers and McCall visited the statue called "The Game" in front of the Fenton Cultural & Community Center.

"I was totally amazed by its beauty," Cathy said. "It was so well done."

McCall echoed her sentiments. "It is breathtaking," he said. "The detail is superlative."

Cathy said, "It is so cool for the town to have this as a legacy. We love the story about the game."

McCall and the Landers also were able to visit the A.J. Phillips Museum on Friday afternoon, March 8.

"We spent an entire afternoon with Tracy going over all the books and materials," McCall said. Tracy is Fenton City Councilwoman Tracy Bottecelli.

"We had a wonderful time," he said. "We are going to come back next year."

Bottecelli said of the museum visit, "What fun we had. We spent over two hours talking with Cathy Landers, her husband Don and Don McCall."

Cathy said she reached out to friends and family before coming to Fenton and



Cathy Landers and Don McCall, descendants of Col. William Fenton, visit the A.J. Phillips Museum while in town on March 7 and 8. Here they are holding the sword that belonged to Fenton during the Civil War. Submitted photo

was able to raise \$900 to donate to the foundation.

"Cathy is an account executive with publishers Houghton Mifflin Harcourt and will be donating text books to the Fenton Area Public Schools," Bottecelli said.

See FENTON on 10A

### HOT LINE CONTINUED

■■■  
**IF RAISING TAXES** would fix the roads there would be no reason to send this Hot line.

■■■  
**WOW YOU GET** up to 10 years in prison for killing or harming an animal but you can kill a baby right after it's born. Maybe we need to start calling newborns puppies.

■■■  
**SHOUT OUT TO** Principal Peggy Kraemer and her amazing staff at Patterson Elementary. From the moment one steps in the building, you feel welcome. Their love for children and their strong educational practices are evident in everything they do. Way to go.

■■■  
**TWICE, MICHIGAN TAXPAYERS** voted 'no' to increased taxes for roads. The gas tax and registration fee increases go into the general fund. Designate a 'roads fund' at the state level. Cut all other wasteful spending and add it to the road fund. Reduce auto insurance rates. After all of the above, then and only then, ask the taxpayers for more.

■■■  
**GOV. WHITMER IS** proposing a 41-percent tax increase on over 100,000 small businesses in Michigan. This would cripple Michigan's economy and massively affect the cost of living in our state. We, too, might have to move to Florida, along with AOC's mom. Different state, similar problem.

■■■  
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Davisburg Bread Company owner Doug Scovill holds a tray of sunflower-seasoned sourdough bread. In the foreground is Asiago rosemary ciabatta. Scovill makes 12 varieties of bread by hand at his shop. Photo: Tim Jagielo

## BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: Davisburg Bread Company 'on the rise' for three years

■ Self-taught baker Doug Scovill opened Holly business in 2016

By Sally Rummel

Doug Scovill knows how to take a few simple ingredients and raise them into a successful recipe of business success.

He opened his downtown Holly business, Davisburg Bread Company, in April 2016, after baking bread at his home and selling it at farmers markets and at an outdoor stand in Davisburg.

Scovill expanded his bread-making vision into downtown Holly, buying a building at 204 S. Saginaw St. and renovating it into a bakery.

"It was a crazy idea since I was self-taught and had never worked in or for any other bakery," Scovill said. "I had no experience making bread on a larger scale, but here we are three years later,

growing and going strong."

Scovill opened a lunch café within his bakery a year and a half ago, serving sandwiches made on his homemade bread. "Our full-time chef, Carly, makes amazing soups in-house, and now we have four salad offerings, too," Scovill said.

Sandwiches range from "The Best Grilled Cheese Ever on Sourdough Bread" to a huge Italian sub or a classic Philly Cheese Steak.

But bread is still Scoville's main "bread and butter," making 12 different varieties. "Our Golden Flaxseed and Honey and Rustic Italian sell the most," Scovill said. "The Sourdough and Rosemary Asiago Ciabatta aren't far behind."

Business hours are Tuesday through Friday, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., closed Sunday and Monday. For more details, call (248) 382-5307.

**"It was a crazy idea since I was self-taught and have never worked in or for any other bakery."**

**Doug Scovill**

*Davisburg Bread Company owner*

## HOT LINE CONTINUED

■■■  
**THE GUN DEATH** number means nothing. It is sad for those who died but there is no context for that number. How many committed suicide, criminals were shot, how many defended themselves from a criminal, etc.? Just say you want to ban guns and be done with it; the Second Amendment means nothing to you.

■■■  
**IF YOU DON'T** think we don't affect our environment look up photographs of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Wheeling, W. Virginia, Cleveland, Ohio in the 1950s and compare them to photos taken recently. Or Beijing China in the '50s and again recent photos.

■■■  
**MIKE MUELLER REALLY** thinks increasing the penalty for trying to disarm a cop is going to stop a lunatic from trying to do so? What nonsense.

■■■  
**MICHIGAN'S NEW GOVERNOR** has

inherited a troubled child welfare system that has failed to protect foster kids from abuse and operates with a faulty computer network that might need to be scrapped after just five years,

■■■  
**TO STABENOW. SURE** would be nice if you voted what your constituents wish, instead of sending me a form letter stating you will vote what is best for me, then you vote with the 'Schumer herd.' You work for your constituents, aka (taxpayers), not Schumer.

■■■  
**CLIMATE CHANGE, A** global major extinction of animals and plants, a human population soaring toward 10 billion, degraded land, polluted air, and plastics, pesticides and hormone-changing chemicals in the water are making the planet an increasing unhealthy place for people.

■■■  
**CONCERNING SCHOOL SHOP** classes. I'm happy to report that Byron schools still offers both woodshop and metal shop classes in high school. They also offer advanced metal shop classes.

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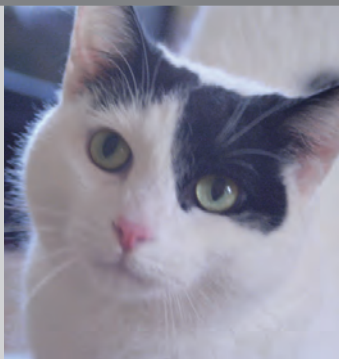
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The Michigan Department of Transportation and local agencies are enacting additional annual spring weight restrictions to protect roads, including U.S. 23. *Times file photo*

## Spring weight restrictions cover entire Lower Peninsula

■ Restrictions enforced on all state trunkline highways, including U.S. 23 and I-75

Compiled by Sharon Stone

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and local agencies are enacting additional annual spring weight restrictions to protect roads.

Effective 6 a.m. Friday, March 15, weight restrictions will be imposed and enforced on all state trunkline highways from the Michigan/Indiana and Michigan/Ohio state lines north to and including the Mackinac Bridge.

State routes typically carry M, I or U.S. designations.

In the restricted areas, the following will apply:

- On routes designated as “all-season” (designated in green and gold on the MDOT Truck Operators Map), there will be no reduction in legal axle weights.

- On routes designated as “seasonal” (designated in solid or dashed red on the MDOT Truck Operators Map), there will be a posted weight reduction of 25 percent for rigid (concrete) pavements and 35 percent for flexible (asphalt) pavements. The MDOT Truck Operators Map can be found at [www.michigan.gov/mdot/](http://www.michigan.gov/mdot/)

- All extended permits will be valid for oversize loads in the weight-restricted area on the restricted routes. Single-trip permits will not be issued for any overweight loads or loads exceeding 14 feet in width, 11 axles and 150 feet in overall length on the restricted routes.

County road commissions and city public works departments put in place their own seasonal weight restrictions, which usually, but not always, coincide with state highway weight restrictions. Signs are generally posted to indicate which routes have weight restrictions in effect.

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## GUEST VIEWPOINT

By Scott Roper  
Holly Area Schools  
superintendent



### Internet safety is more important than ever

Bob Dylan said it best: “The times they are a-changin’.”

These days, it's the internet and readily available online content that can change on a daily basis. The internet has become an invaluable educational tool in our classrooms as we continue providing cutting-edge technology that helps prepare Holly Area Schools students for the jobs of the future.

Unfortunately, the internet has also become a haven for bullying, inappropriate content, threats and even violence, making online safety more important than ever. We take internet safety seriously at Holly Area Schools, as the safety of our Broncho students, staff and families is our top priority.

I wanted to take a moment to briefly update readers on our ongoing efforts to make the internet a safe learning tool that helps our students learn, grow and thrive.

At Holly Area Schools, we have taken extra steps to ensure internet safety in all of our classrooms. We utilize content filters to prevent students from accessing inappropriate websites, and our teachers prescreen online materials before presenting them in class.

As a proactive measure, we are working with the Oakland Schools Technology Department to ensure we have the most current content filters in place on all instructional technology across the district. Teachers and staff continue to review online safety

protocols and discuss internet safety with all students. In addition, our technology integrator is currently working with leaders on the launch of a digital citizenship curriculum that will be integrated into classrooms next school year.

These efforts will continue in the weeks and months ahead at Holly Area Schools, and we're ready to adapt as needed to address any potential new online concerns.

We also encourage internet safety at home.

Parents are the best safeguard when it comes to safe use of the internet, social media and other online platforms. I encourage all parents to monitor which websites and online content their children view, and to continually talk with them about safe internet use.

### Internet safety tips for students include:

- Never give out personal information online without a parent's permission.
- Notify a parent when they view something online that makes them uncomfortable.
- Never agree to meet in-person with someone they meet online without a parent's permission.
- Check with a parent before posting photos online.
- Never respond to a message that is mean or makes them uncomfortable.

Many more online safety tips can be found at [safekids.com/kids-rules-for-online-safety](http://safekids.com/kids-rules-for-online-safety) and [nationalonline-safety.com](http://nationalonline-safety.com). I encourage all readers to review these online safety tips and implement them at home.

At Holly Area Schools, we will continue to act proactively to ensure all students have the necessary tools to use the internet safely before, during and after school. Our students and families deserve no less.

## FENTON

Continued from Page 8A

Hartley will work with the curriculum director to determine where the new text books would be put to best use.

Bottecelli said new information about the Fenton family was shared. Connie Foley, curator and Leo Doan, museum director were a great help to the family members, she said. Doug and Shelley Tebo also stopped by to talk about the cemetery.

“It was so fun, I learned a lot just being in the room,” Bottecelli said.

Cathy and McCall donated a letter to the museum. It is dated 1850 and written by J. Brush Fenton, while he was at Hamilton College, to his father, Col. William Fenton. (See sidebar)

“Our visit was wonderful,” Cathy said. “We appreciate everyone taking the time to make us feel so welcome. We fell in love with Fenton and the sense of community is overwhelming.”

### Family lineup

Col. William Fenton had a child named J. Brush Fenton.

J. Brush married Mary Thayer. One of their children was named Mary Louise Fenton.

Mary Louise married Donald McCall and their son, William Thayer McCall, is Don McCall's father. Don has four siblings.

Donald Fenton was another of J. Brush and Mary's children and they are Cathy Landers' grandparents. The Donald Fentons had three children.

Neither Don McCall nor Cathy Landers were aware of the Fenton relatives who visited the city two years ago, and are eager to reach out and connect with them. They are James Fenton, Peter Fenton and Gus Fenton and their families who were in town for their 2016 Fenton family reunion, which happened to take place over the Fourth of July holiday

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# Can you identify these invasive species?

■ Spotted knapweed, phragmites, autumn olive and glossy buckthorn harm southeast Michigan

By Hannah Ball

*This is the second article in a series on invasive species in southeast Michigan.*

Some species help feed other animals and plants, and help an environment thrive. Other species do the opposite.

Spotted knapweed, phragmites, autumn olive and glossy buckthorn are four invasive species that cause harm where they grow.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) work together to track and handle invasive species in the state. If you see an invasive species in the woods, on your lake or anywhere else, you can contact the Midwest Invasive Species Information Network at michigan.gov. You can also download the app to report from your phone.

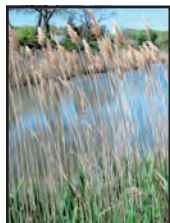


### Spotted knapweed

This herbaceous, bushy perennial plant grows about 2 to 3 feet in length, and has elongated, blue, gray or green leaves that divide into lance-shaped lobes. They're identifiable

by their pinkish-purple flowers, which resemble thistles. They bloom from July through September.

This species originates in Eurasia and is often found in open fields or scrub-shrub areas, as well as hay fields and pastures. The DNR is concerned with the spotted knapweed because it is poisonous to other plants and creates barren areas where only knapweed grows. It's also considered a threat to pastures and dry ecosystems, such as prairies and dunes, and can irritate skin.



### Phragmites (also called common reed)

This perennial grass grows in the warmer seasons with a rigid, hollow stem and ranges in height from 6 to 13 feet. The leaves are flat,

smooth and green and grayish. Flowers grow on the tips that are often pink or orange, and feathery when mature. They're found in ditches, wetlands and on the banks of streams and ponds.

A strain of phragmites is native to North America, but another strain has been quickly replacing the native strain in many areas. This species can be difficult to walk through and it limits visibility. The exotic strain can reduce native fish and wildlife populations, block native salt marsh vegetation and can be a fire danger for those who live near it.



### Autumn olive

Autumn olive is a green leaf species with small white or yellow flowers that grow red berries. The flowers are arranged in spikes near the end of the stem, and the flowers bloom

in August and September. This plant is found in old fields, open woods, along forest edges, roadsides, sand dunes and more disturbed areas.

According to the DNR, autumn olive poses a particular threat to prairies, savannas and open woods. This species is native to Asia, but is not widespread throughout Michigan and east U.S. This plant is highly aggressive and shades out desirable native plants. It fixes nitrogen in the soil, which can then degrade other plant communities that need low-nutrient soils.



### Glossy buckthorn

Glossy buckthorn is a green leaf tree or shrub that can grow to be 18 feet tall. The leaves are shiny and un-toothed, with tiny flowers that contain five greenish-white petals clustered at

the base of the leaves. They bloom from late May to September. Pea-sized fruits ripen on the plant, going from green to dark purple in June and September.

This species is native to Europe and Asia and is now found throughout the Midwest, along wetlands, prairies, fence rows, roadsides and more.

The DNR is concerned about glossy buckthorn because it is a threat to native plants in prairies and other wetland communities. It acts as a host for alfalfa mosaic virus and crown fungus, and may be a possible host for the soybean aphid.

## HOT LINE CONTINUED

■■■  
**COME ON FOLKS.** Isn't there anybody who can solve that darn Rubik's Cube?

■■■  
**WE NEED TO** slow the fast-track recruitment between term-limited elected officials and the lobbying corporations by instituting a mandatory two-year 'cooling off' period between leaving office as a legislator and working as a lobbyist.

■■■  
**THE REPUBLICANS ARE** against the gas tax because it will be hard on the people's budget. What about former Gov. Rick Snyder giving that huge tax break to the rich corporations when he came into office? It put a higher tax burden on the whole state.

■■■  
**MICHIGANDERS ALREADY PAY** among some of the highest prices for gas, which is absurd considering the state of our roads and our almost non-existent public transit options.

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Tri-County Times General Manager Jennifer Ward (right) and her team comprised of (from left) Ashleigh Nordstrom, Cassandra Campbell, Allison Bush, Taylor Rabanus, Leah DaDrew and Sydney Hammis won first place for "Best Presentation" in the marketing activity at the annual Girls & Business Conference. Photo: Emily Caswell

## 'Girls & Business Conference' a success

Compiled by Sharon Stone

The Fenton Regional Chamber's annual Girls & Business Conference brought together 12 facilitators and 70 junior and senior female students from Fenton, Lake Fenton and Linden high schools Tuesday, March 12.

Tri-County Times General Manager Jennifer Ward was one of 12 facilitators to participate at the conference held at John's Pizzeria in Fenton.

Students had an opportunity to interact with area professionals and learn about different career paths. The conference also included a talk from Keynote Speaker Joanie O'Sullivan-Butler, owner and

president of J.P. O'Sullivan Distributing, as well as tips for interviewing, budgeting, personal branding and more.

Former Linden Superintendent Ed Koledo also spoke to the young women about the effects of social media and personal branding.

Ward's team, which included Ashleigh Nordstrom, Cassandra Campbell, Allison Bush, Taylor Rabanus, Leah DaDrew and Sydney Hammis, won first place for best presentation in the marketing activity, which tasked the students with a business plan and to develop a product out of a box of random items and present the product in the form of a live commercial to the attendees.

## DIBBLEVILLE DOLLS

Continued from Page 3A

Irish show with modern and traditional songs. It's really a collection."

She compares their style to the Andrew Sisters, "although we sing mostly Irish music," she said. "We sing three-part harmony and play guitar, drums and a hammered dulcimer. The dulcimer adds a special touch."

The group is especially proud of its devotion to Irish music. "It makes us unique among folk singers," Nelson said. "We have a lot of fun on St. Pat's Day." Nelson grew up in a musical family as sister to Michael Hough of folk group "Mustard's Retreat." "As kids, we all sang. My brother told me I had to learn to play the guitar so I did, in my 20s."

She also played with her first husband, Dusty Rhodes, for many years, performing as folk singers "Pat & Dusty Rhodes" in the Detroit, Flint and Ann Arbor areas. "We were at the Fenton Hotel every Wednesday through Saturday for three years," Nelson said. "It was an amazing gig."

Fulcher, 70, who performs vocals and percussion, used to come watch them perform. Fowler, 67, who performs vocals recorder, acoustic guitar, mandolin and hammered dulcimer, worked with the Fenton Village Players and would watch



Peggy Fulcher sings and plays percussion with the Dibbleville Dolls. Photo: Tim Jagielo

Patti and Dusty after rehearsal.

Now 65 and newly retired, Nelson and her musical friends practice together once or twice a week at each other's homes and still play at community events, senior centers and for private groups and parties. They used to perform easy listening music at the Fenton gazebo.

All three also belong to First Presbyterian Church in Fenton and they'll rehearse along with the choir

every week.

"Beyond that, we sometimes gather at someone's house and someone will just start playing music and we'll all play together," Nelson said.

## “We always do a special gig on St. Patrick’s Day at the (Fenton) Hotel.”

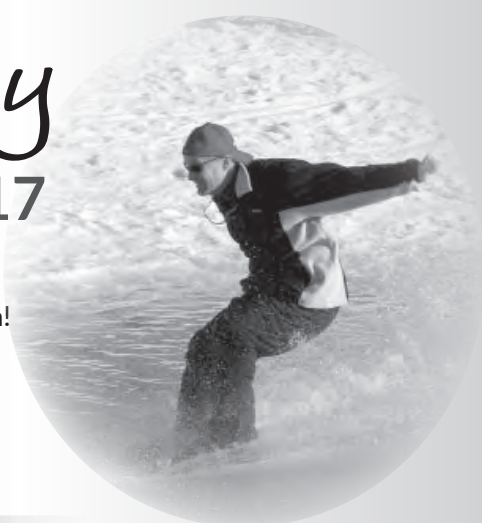
**Patti Nelson**  
“The Dibbleville Dolls”  
spokesperson

## MT. HOLLY EVENTS

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## Linden Cleanup Day is April 27

■Volunteers will meet at Eagles Wooden Park

By Hannah Ball

Grab your rakes, clippers and gloves.

The annual Linden Community Cleanup Day is scheduled for Saturday, April 27, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The public is invited to help members of the City Council, Parks and Recreation Commission and the Linden Beautification Committee clean up Linden.

Mike Dietz, chairperson of the Linden Parks and Recreation Commission, said they try to align community cleanup day with Earth Day, which is Monday, April 22.

"This is an opportunity for area residents to help the environment and care for the parks in Linden," he said. "We pick up trash, clear downed branches and trees, and trim back growth along walkways. The idea is to give our city parks a spring cleaning, to clear away the detritus of a long winter. Think spring."

He's expecting approximately 75 people to participate. Volunteers will meet at Eagle's Wooden Park and will be dispersed among the wooden park and the boardwalk behind it, Linden Mills Park, Triangle Park and Fairview Cemetery.

"Interested people can learn more and sign up at the Volunteer Linden Facebook page. We welcome groups and individuals who want to spend a few hours in our great community for a worthwhile cause. It's fun and rewarding to see the results. Come join us," he said.

# The science of light and sound

■Fenton third-graders take field trip to Flint planetarium to learn about light, sound and planets

By Tim Jagielo

**Flint** — A din of excited chatter fills the darkened room. Lights twinkle from the children's desks, highlighting their faces as they attempt to reflect light with two mirrors and a flashlight.

In the other room, students build instruments that make silly noises to learn about how sound works.

On Monday, March 11, 78 third-grade Tomek-Eastern students took a field trip to the Longway Planetarium in Flint for a day filled with science and fun.

Teachers Yvonne Duncan, Amanda Lepler and Jennie Turner brought their classes that day. Students learned about sound in one classroom and light in the other. They learned about what makes sound work — namely creating vibrations in the air.

They learned that light energy travels in a straight line, but can be reflected with objects, such as mirrors. They learned the difference between transparent, translucent and opaque objects. They experimented with reflecting light from a flashlight with several mirrors onto a white background on their desk.

"The value for our students is that this trip allows them to have access to hands-on materials that are not as readily available in the classroom," said Turner. "Our students are exposed to new ideas with instructors who are experts in their fields and hold very well-run classes."

Longway Planetarium Educator Aiesha Lewis walked around the classroom shaking a mystery object inside a plastic vial, and asked the students to guess



Tomek-Eastern teacher Yvonne Duncan works with student Natalie Rowles during an experiment with light on Monday, March 11. Photo: Tim Jagielo

what it is. One object was a seashell, the other, a cotton ball.

To show the power of sound, Lewis used a tuning fork, demonstrating how sound travels through objects and how dolphins used sound to communicate through the water.

They constructed two instruments, one comprised of a rubber glove, toilet paper roll and a straw. The other

used a red Solo cup, string and a small wet sponge.

After classroom activities, the students ate lunch and then watched a planetarium demonstration.

"As an organization, they work with us to keep the trip affordable, while giving us a great experience in a location that isn't too far from home," Turner said.

**“Our students are exposed to new ideas with instructors who are experts in their fields and hold very well-run classes.”**

**Jennie Turner**  
Tomek-Eastern Elementary  
school teacher

## HOT LINE CONTINUED

■ ■ ■  
**WHEN HUMANS ARE** accused of abuse, who represents the dogs and cats? Lawmakers in Michigan, New Jersey and New York hope to pass laws that would make sure the pet's voice is heard in court.

■ ■ ■  
**YOU'RE JUST MAD** that AOC is half your age and, unlike you, was actually smart enough to go to college. You're far too old to be projecting your failures on others. Grow up.

■ ■ ■  
**TO THE HATER** claiming former Gov. Snyder 'sat on his fat ass for eight years and let's give Whitmer's plan a chance.' Take note: Whitmer's plan is simply to raise and invest more money into Snyder's plan.

■ ■ ■  
**TO ALL YOU** learned climatologists. I agree this is a cycle Earth goes through. You are however omitting one very important fact — carbon emissions. Previous cycles did not include mankind polluting and poisoning the atmosphere. If we destroy our world, where will we live?

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Our Town

The Leprechaun

- Symbol of St. Patty's Day
- Drunk, smelly and vulgar
- Merciless trickster

By Vera Hogan  
Today is St. Patrick's Day and as luck would have it, we caught up with a Leprechaun. Even though his kind has a terrible reputation for being vulgar, smelly troublemakers, he promised to behave himself — at least long enough for this interview.

You have a reputation for being nasty and mean. Why did you agree to this interview?  
Aye, I heard the same about you, but since your company appears to be green-friendly, it seemed like a natural thing to do.

What exactly are you? A little person, a pixie or a gnome?  
I ain't no stinkin' gnome. Well, maybe I stink a little bit but I am not a gnome. Gnomes are those little German-looking statues hiding in yards and gardens. A gnome! Please, am I wearing lederhosen? Do I look like a Hans or Franz?

Why do people say you're a fairy?  
You're asking for it, sister! But you're



right, we're degenerate fairies who make shoes, play jokes on humans and hoard gold. Happy now?

According to lore, if I catch you and squeeze you tight, you have to give me your riches.  
Go ahead and try. I've been drinking all day and smell like the green beer some fool barfed all over me earlier. It doesn't bother me a bit but I know you'll toss your lunch. Ha! Ha! Ha!

What did you do to that guy?  
After he passed out, I tied his shoelaces to his wrists. Then I made his face and hair up to look like a yeti. You don't mess with a leprechaun!

Let's talk about your pipe. What's in it?  
What do you think is in it?

Why do you play tricks on people?  
Because it's fun to mess with humans. They're so serious and full of

themselves. When we play tricks on them, they're forced to see the futility of trying to control things. It keeps them humble and on their toes, basically.

So what's the best way for people to celebrate St. Patrick's Day?  
The drunks have really taken over this holiday, which is very unfortunate, because they're so annoying. If you can get past these boozers, go listen to some Irish music, have a grand boiled dinner (that has corned beef in it if you didn't know) and just have fun pretending to be Irish for the day. And don't forget to wear green lest you get a pinch somewhere.

We understand you're a cobbler, a shoemaker, but are kind of suspicious about all that gold. Where did you get it? Do you really earn that much?  
You really are a nosy woman. Come along and I'll show you how it's done ...

Uh, no thanks, with your reputation of being a trickster, and the ability to vanish and reappear at will, I don't think so.  
Alrighty then, and with a wink and a snort, the crusty redhead disappeared into the night. Phew! Thank goodness.

NEWS BRIEFS

COMPILED BY SHARON STONE

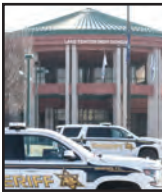
UPS DRIVERS RECOGNIZED FOR SAFE DRIVING  
UPS adds to its prestigious "Circle of Honor" each year to recognize employees who have delivered packages for a quarter of a century without an accident. Michael Callard of Linden and 52 other elite UPS drivers from Michigan were among 1,436 newly inducted drivers into the company's elite organization. Globally, 10,364 active UPS drivers are members of the Circle of Honor. Collectively they've racked up 298,957 years and 14 billion safe miles during their careers.

WHAT YOU MISSED IN THE MIDWEEK TIMES

Compiled by Vera Hogan

The following are stories you may have missed in the Wednesday, March 13, Midweek Times. To subscribe and receive both the Midweek and Sunday Weekend editions, please call (810) 629-8282.

17-year-old with stolen gun arrested in Holly  
Student allegedly took four weapons from his home and failed to show up Tuesday for school.



Accused shooter: 'I'm not here for you'  
The trial of Jacquelyne Tyson has begun. Witnesses describe what they saw and heard the day Grand Oaks Apartments employees were gunned down.

Proposed gas tax increase receives pushback  
The 45-cent increase proposed by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer would raise approximately \$2.1 billion.

Fenton officials approve purchases  
Total cost of new utility trailer and 2019 pursuit-rated Tahoe is \$50,179.

Most schools don't offer woodshop class, home economics  
Life skill classes get left behind with requirements set by Michigan Merit Curriculum.

Beautification Commission is more than just flowers  
The sixth in a series highlighting the city of Fenton's boards and commissions and the many volunteers who sit on those boards.

Sheriff warns of newest phone scam  
Suspects claiming to be with sheriff's office tell residents to use pre-paid gift cards to pay off warrants.

Holly Fire Department awaits new station  
Centrally located facility will be 7,500 square feet and house all equipment and staff.

Our Future  
Meet Cambria Tiemann, 17, a senior at Fenton High School.



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## HEART

Continued from Page 3A

However, there have been plenty of health ups and downs since last summer, as Aiden's body gets used to the rhythm of a new heart and fights post-transplant rejection.

The first five months post-transplant were almost too good to be true, admits his parents.

Aiden was feeling well enough to ski last summer with the Lake Shannon Ski Club, a sport he has enjoyed since he was 2 years old. After months of chaos and physical and emotional exhaustion, it gave Lori and Bill a sense that life would once again turn completely back to normal for Aiden and his three younger sisters, Kiera, 11, Carli, 8 and Sarah, 6.

But by mid-August, that dream was shattered.

"We noticed Aiden was much more lethargic," Bill said. "He had a regular doctor's appointment, did a blood test, checked on his scoliosis and the radiologist noticed some spots on his left lung. The doctor got back with Aiden's transplant team, and we had to bring Aiden back to U of M that evening."

He was diagnosed last Labor Day weekend with Post Transplant Lymphoproliferative Disorder (PTLD), a rare but well-known cancer that is a transplant complication. PTLD is related to the Epstein-Barr virus and immunosuppression therapy.

Aiden was hospitalized for about 10 days and was started on a mild chemotherapy treatment that continued into December. "He had to be taken off one of his immune suppression drugs, which makes him more susceptible to rejection," Bill said. "It's a fine balance."

Aiden was able to go to school when he felt well enough or wasn't undergoing chemotherapy, yet he struggled to keep

up with schoolwork, Lori said.

Then on March 6, Aiden became dehydrated and was hospitalized and put on IV fluids for two days. He bounced back quickly and returned to school and swimming.

This year has seen other changes for the Saunders family. After losing their 16-year-old dog Cosmo last May, they got a new dog, Zeus, a fawn Doberman, last September. Bill lost his father a month ago at 87 from congestive heart failure.

They've also begun thinking about writing a letter to Aiden's donor family through his transplant coordinator at UNOS (United Network for Organ Sharing). Correspondence is primarily anonymous, unless both parties agree to meet. "Most families have told us not to expect a response," Lori said.

Aiden gets checked every three months for cancer and every six months for his heart. He will likely need a re-transplant in about 15 years, the average lifespan of a transplanted heart.

But for now, the Saunders are grateful that Aiden is one year post-transplant and that spring and summer are coming. "We're happy to have 2018 behind us," Bill said.



Aiden Saunders, 14, listens to instructions along with his team during swim practice Wednesday, March 13. Photo: Tim Jagielo

## POLICE & FIRE REPORT

COMPILED BY SHARON STONE

### POLICE CITE WOMAN AFTER SCREAMING AT EMPLOYEES

At 4:38 p.m. on Wednesday, March 13, Fenton police responded to a business in the 400 block of South LeRoy Street to investigate a report of a woman screaming at employees. Upon arrival, police spoke with the woman who reportedly had been screaming random things at workers. Police escorted the woman out of the building and advised her never to trespass at the business again. At 5:07 p.m., police responded to the same business on a report that the woman had returned and was screaming at employees again. Police cited the Fenton woman for trespassing and arranged for her to go to Hurley Medical Center for a psychological evaluation.

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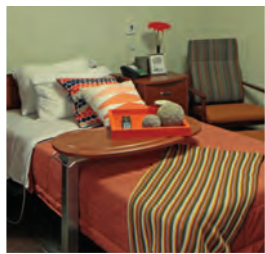
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## HOT LINE CONTINUED

**SINCE TAKING OFFICE**, Whitmer has made it clear that she intends to make public education a priority. More importantly, she has taken the time to ask us, and many others in the school community, what it would take to put Michigan's schools back on top.

■■■■  
**GREAT ARTICLE KING!** Manage the house before we ask for more taxes. Stop being a politician and start being a leader.

■■■■  
**LET US BEAR** in mind, we do not lose or gain anything due to daylight saving time. The sun neither rises or sets due to the way we set our clocks.

■■■■  
**YOU WANT A** living wage? Don't let your boss find out; he can get along without you.

■■■■  
**END GOVERNMENT GRANTS** and climate change will go away.

■■■■  
**IT'S OBVIOUS** 99 percent of comments here are old people. You will not listen to science. I didn't realize there were so many billionaires in our area. Thank God the younger people are voting now.

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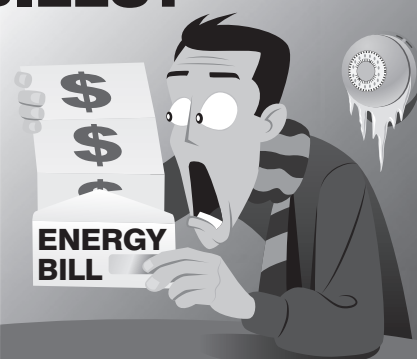
**Times**



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## National Puppy Day is March 23

■ Send in photos of your super-cute puppies

By Hannah Ball

Wiggly butts, wet noses and excitement that just won't quit.

National Puppy Day is Saturday, March 23 and we're celebrating by urging our readers to send in photos of their puppies.

We will post a Facebook status Monday, March 18 and readers can post the photos in the comments. Please include the puppy's age, name and a tip for first-time puppy owners.

Our favorite entrees will appear in the Sunday, March 24 Weekend Times.

### About National Puppy Day

This day was created in 2006 by Colleen Page, a celebrity pet and home lifestyle expert and author. She also founded National Dog Day and National Cat Day, as a way to urge people to save orphaned puppies across the globe and spread education about the "horrors of puppy mills," according to [nationalpuppyday.com](http://nationalpuppyday.com).

A few ways to celebrate, from [nationalpuppyday.com](http://nationalpuppyday.com), include:

- Adopt a puppy from your local shelter, rescue or pure breed rescue organization.



Photo: akc.org

- Are you prepared for puppy parenting? Start off on the right paw! Hire a professional that can help you.

- Donate money, food and toys to your local shelter.

- Organize a peaceful demonstration in front of your community pet store that sells puppies.

- Write your congressman and ask that he/she support the ban of puppy mills in your state.

- Assist an ill or elderly neighbor by walking their puppy.

## DETECTIVE

Continued from Front Page

their rightful owners, and two suspects have been arrested.

### First stolen vehicle

On Friday, March 8 at 6:21 a.m. Fenton police responded to a home in the 800 block of North LeRoy Street. The homeowner reported that she had started her 2008 Ford Edge to warm it up and went back into her home for about five minutes. When she walked back outside, she saw that her vehicle was missing. The keys were in the ignition and the doors were unlocked.

Police entered the vehicle into LEIN (Law Enforcement Information Network) as stolen.

At 7:30 a.m., police were dispatched to a home on Elmwood Drive to investigate a larceny complaint. The homeowner reported that someone had stolen his leather jacket, beer, whiskey and pop from his detached garage. Someone had also tried to clear off his dusty motorcycle.

Tampering of his motorcycle happened once before and the homeowner provided a name of a possible suspect.

A quick check in LEIN revealed that the possible suspect living at a Flint address had a valid warrant for auto theft. Cross said Det. Scott Townsend headed to Flint to see if the woman's Ford Edge might be there. It was. Townsend soon

observed the 62-year-old suspect exit his house, with the Ford Edge keys in his hands. The man was arrested. Cross added that the Elmwood Drive man's leather coat was also recovered.

Charges against the Flint man are pending and the undamaged Ford Edge was returned to the Fenton woman.

### Second stolen vehicle

At 2:12 p.m. on Monday, March 11, Fenton police were dispatched to a business in the 400 block of Fenway Drive to investigate a stolen vehicle complaint. An employee reported that her purple 2005 Dodge Durango was missing from the parking lot.

Cross said the victim and co-workers suspected that a client who had just been at the business had taken the victim's car keys from a table and stole her Durango. The victim provided the name of a possible suspect. A check in LEIN provided police with an address of the possible suspect, a 22-year-old Flint Township resident, formerly of the Fenton area.

Townsend was en route to Flint for an unrelated court hearing when he heard about the auto theft. He told dispatch he would alter his route and check out the Flint Township address. While he was traveling on Court Street in Flint, Townsend noticed a purple Dodge Durango traveling right behind him. He slowed and let the Durango pass in order to check the license plate.

Confirming that it was the same vehicle, Townsend called for backup and followed the man to his home where he was taken into custody. Flint Township police assisted at the scene.

Cross said from the time police were alerted to the theft and the time the suspect was arrested was approximately 15 minutes. The undamaged vehicle was returned to the victim in Fenton and charges are pending against the Flint Township man.

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U2 ranked the highest paid musicians of 2018 at \$118 million. Photo: u2.com



The Beatles were ranked the top musicians of all times. Ranked in units, they came in at 183. Photo: express.co.uk

# The richest musicians of 2018 (and the best selling of all time)

■Eminem beats Bob Seger, Garth Brooks beats Michael Jackson

By Tim Jagielo

At the end of last year, Forbes published a list of the top earning musicians of 2018. Forbes used pre-tax earnings from June 2017 to June 2018 to compile the data, before deducting fees for agents, managers and lawyers. Forbes used Nielsen SoundScan, NPD Bookscan, insider interviews and its own estimates.

The genre variety of the top earners with pop, electronic, hip-hop and rock all represented.

Everyone in the top 30 earned more than \$38 million. Musicians like Rihanna didn't quite make it. Forbes pointed out the genre variety of the top earners with pop, electronic, hip-hop and rock all represented.

Six of the top 30 are women, with Katy Perry at the top, earning \$83 million, who according to Forbes played 80 dates during that year period. Right behind her is Taylor Swift.

## Best selling musicians of all time

This list is compiled by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA).

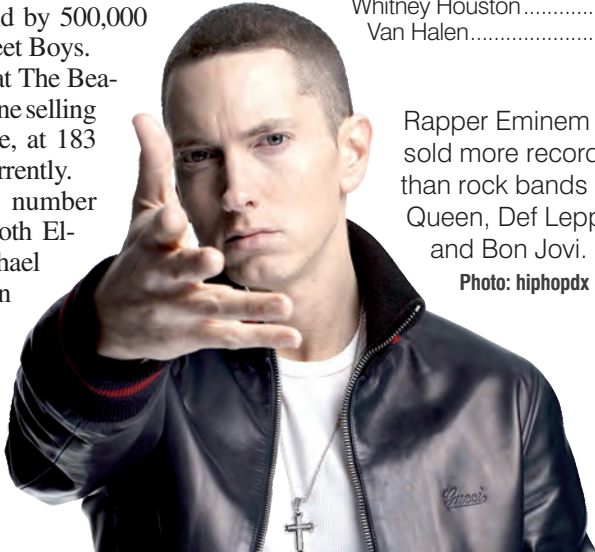
It contains mostly legacy acts — the largest acts of the past few decades. The most "current" musician to crack the list is Eminem, at number 32, or 46 million units or albums sold. Eminem is just over Bob Seger and the Silver Bullet Band.

Prince was outsold by 500,000 units by the Backstreet Boys.

It's no surprise that The Beatles are the number-one selling music act of all time, at 183 million units sold currently.

Garth Brooks is number two, and out sold both Elvis Presley and Michael Jackson at 148 million albums sold.

The top 50 musicians include Fleetwood Mac, Bob Seger, Guns N' Roses, 2 Pac and Britney Spears.



Rapper Eminem has sold more records than rock bands Queen, Def Leppard and Bon Jovi.

Photo: hiphopdx

## Highest paid musicians of 2018

1. U2 (\$118 million)
2. Coldplay (\$115.5 million)
3. Ed Sheeran (\$110 million)
4. Bruno Mars (\$100 million)
5. Katy Perry (\$83 million)
6. Taylor Swift (\$80 million)
7. Jay-Z (\$76.5 million)
8. Guns N' Roses (\$71 million)
9. Roger Waters (\$68 million)
10. Diddy (\$64 million)
11. Beyoncé (\$60 million)
12. Kendrick Lamar (\$58 million)
13. The Weeknd (\$57 million)
14. The Eagles (\$56 million)
15. Depeche Mode (\$53 million)
16. Pink (\$52 million, tie)
16. Luke Bryan (\$52 million, tie)
18. Jimmy Buffett (\$51 million)
19. Lady Gaga (\$50 million)
20. Calvin Harris (\$48 million)
21. Paul McCartney (\$47.5 million)
22. Drake (\$47 million, tie)
22. Jennifer Lopez (\$47 million, tie)
22. Foo Fighters (\$47 million, tie)
25. Elton John (\$46 million, tie)
25. Metallica (\$46 million, tie)
27. Garth Brooks (\$45.5 million, tie)
27. The Chainsmokers (\$45.5 million, tie)
29. Billy Joel (\$43.5 million)
30. Rolling Stones (\$39 million)

Source: Forbes.com

## Top 20 best selling musicians of all time, in millions of units

- |                    |       |
|--------------------|-------|
| The Beatles        | 183   |
| Garth Brooks       | 148   |
| Elvis Presley      | 146.5 |
| Eagles             | 120   |
| Led Zeppelin       | 111.5 |
| Billy Joel         | 84.5  |
| Michael Jackson    | 84    |
| Elton John         | 78.5  |
| Pink Floyd         | 75    |
| AC/DC              | 72    |
| George Strait      | 69    |
| Barbara Streisand  | 68.5  |
| The Rolling Stones | 66.5  |
| Aerosmith          | 66.5  |
| Bruce Springsteen  | 65.5  |
| Madonna            | 64.5  |
| Mariah Carrey      | 64    |
| Metallica          | 63    |
| Whitney Houston    | 58.5  |
| Van Halen          | 56.5  |

# Powers High School senior is Miss Hibernia

■St. John Church member of Irish descent to receive \$1,500 scholarship

Compiled by Sharon Stone

Fiona Caughley, 18, a senior at Powers Catholic High School and a member of St. John the Evangelist Church in Fenton, was selected as Miss Hibernia of 2019. The daughter of Erin and Conor Caughley, she will receive a \$1,500 cash scholarship.

"We had nine wonderful contestants representing various Catholic parishes through Genesee County compete in the Miss Hibernia contest," said John Potbury, selection committee chairman. "We are pleased to have them represent the Ancient Order of Hibernians at area events in coming months."

In addition to Caughley, first runner-up in the contest is Shannon McAuliffe, 20, a graduate of Swartz Creek High School and now attending Oakland University. Second runner-up is Brigid Cassidy, 18, a senior at St. Thomas More Academy, Burton.

Miss Hibernia candidates must be of Irish descent, between the ages of 16 and 22, single and never married. They are judged for poise, personality, appearance and an interview by a screening committee.

The local chapter of the Ancient Order of Hibernians is planning multiple activities to celebrate St. Patrick's Day on Sunday, March 17, with the top selections for Miss Hibernia all coming from suburban Catholic parishes.

The Hibernians, America's oldest Irish



Fiona Caughley, 18, a senior at Powers Catholic High School and a member of St. John the Evangelist Church in Fenton, is the 2019 Miss Hibernia. Submitted photo

Catholic fraternal organization, will kick off its annual celebration at St. Michael Roman Catholic Church, Fifth Avenue at N. Saginaw Street in Flint, at 11:30 a.m. March 17. That will be followed at 12:02 p.m. with Mass presided over by Bishop Earl Boyea of the Diocese of Lansing, a wreath-laying ceremony at McFarlan Park in downtown Flint, a four-mile road race starting and finishing at Masonic Temple, 755 S. Saginaw St., and an afternoon party at St. Matthew Catholic Church parish hall.


Caughley and her mother will be vocalists at the Mass and sing Irish songs at the party to follow the service. Traditional bagpipe music also will be provided at the Mass.

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## LOOKING BACK at this week in HISTORY

COMPILED BY VERA HOGAN

### MARCH 17

**2000:** With the movie "Erin Brockovich" released on this day in 2000, Julia Roberts becomes the first actress ever to command \$20 million per movie. By that time, \$20 million had become the standard paycheck for Hollywood's A-list male movie stars, including Mel Gibson, Tom Hanks, Tom Cruise and Sylvester Stallone, among others. Roberts was the first female performer to command this amount.

### MARCH 18

**1925:** The worst tornado in U.S. history passes through eastern Missouri, southern Illinois, and southern Indiana, killing 695 people, injuring some 13,000 people, and causing \$17 million in property damage. Known as the "Tri-State Tornado," the deadly twister began its northeast track in Ellington, Missouri, but southern Illinois was the hardest hit.

### MARCH 19

**1931:** In an attempt to lift the state out of the hard times of the Great Depression, the Nevada state legislature votes to legalize gambling. Established in 1905, Las Vegas, Nevada, has since become the gambling and entertainment capital of the world, famous for its casinos, nightclubs, and sporting events. In the first few decades after the legalization of gambling, organized crime flourished in Las Vegas. Today, state gambling taxes account for the lion's share of Nevada's overall tax revenues.

### MARCH 20

**1854:** In Ripon, Wisconsin, former members of the Whig Party meet to establish a new party to oppose the spread of slavery into the western territories. The Whig Party, which was formed in 1834 to oppose the "tyranny" of President Andrew Jackson, had shown itself incapable of coping with the national crisis over slavery. By February 1854, anti-slavery Whigs had begun meeting in the upper midwestern states to discuss the formation of a new party. One such meeting, in Wisconsin on March 20, 1854, is generally remembered as the founding meeting of the Republican Party.

### MARCH 21

**1965:** In the name of African-American

voting rights, 3,200 civil rights demonstrators in Alabama, led by Martin Luther King Jr., begin a historic march from Selma to Montgomery, the state's capital. Federalized Alabama National Guardsmen and FBI agents were on hand to provide safe passage for the march, which twice had been turned back by Alabama state police at Selma's Edmund Pettus Bridge.

### MARCH 22

**1947:** James Patterson, one of the world's top-selling novelists, is born. Best known for his thrillers, Patterson, the creator of the Alex Cross detective series and the Women's Murder Club series, among others, has written books in a variety of genres, from historical fiction to young adult. His novels have sold an estimated 220 million copies around the world.

### MARCH 23

**1994:** Wayne Gretzky scores his 802nd goal, breaking his childhood idol Gordie Howe's National Hockey League record for most goals scored in a career. Gretzky, known to hockey fans as "The Great One," broke a total of 61 offensive records in his NHL career, including many previously held by "Mr. Hockey" Gordie Howe.

Source: history.com

## CHARGES

Continued from Front Page

charges. Bond was set at \$10,000. He is lodged at the Oakland County Jail.

Rollins is facing possible charges in Genesee County as well after allegedly stealing two handguns and two rifles from his family's Linden City home. His parents notified authorities when they discovered the guns missing and learned their son had not shown up for school Tuesday.

Area schools were placed on secure mode Tuesday morning, March 12, while several police departments investigated a report of an unaccounted Linden teen, Rollins, and four stolen weapons. Rollins was taken into custody and arrested several hours later in Holly.

Not knowing what Rollins' intentions were, area law enforcement agencies were contacted and the local school districts were advised to go into secure mode.

Lake Fenton Superintendent Julie Williams sent out an all-call voice-mail to parents in the district Tuesday morning announcing the decision to go into secure mode. She said the district had received information from the Genesee County Sheriff's Office regarding a "person of interest" in the area and a "potential threat."

Genesee County Undersheriff Chris Swanson said the Lake Fenton student from Linden has shown signs of instability and did not show up for school. "Because of that, we increased our presence until he is located," he said.

At 11:45 a.m. the schools lifted their secure modes after learning that the student was in police custody.

Linden Police Chief Scott Sutter said Linden police and the Genesee County Sheriff's Office investigated the situation and interviewed students at Lake Fenton High School. Police followed leads to Holly, at which time the Holly Police Department became involved.

Holly police were dispatched to an apartment where Rollins was said to be visiting a friend. Linden police officers went to Holly to assist. While Linden police were en route, Holly police observed Rollins walk out of an apartment and arrested him. Holly police reported Rollins had a 9mm handgun in his waistband. That handgun was recovered, as well as another handgun found in the apartment.

Upon further investigation, Argentine Township police were dispatched to a home on Lahring Road in Argentine Township where a friend of the teen suspect lives. The two stolen rifles were recovered from the home.

Sutter said all four guns reported stolen from the Linden City home have been recovered.

"The Genesee County Sheriff's Office did a great job interviewing the kids, which led to Holly and the home on Lahring Road," Sutter said. "There was never any threat made to any of the schools."

A probable cause conference has been scheduled for March 28 at 1:35 p.m.

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## SOME YU(CK)MMY RECIPES

If you encounter any road kill in your mid-Michigan travels, it will likely be an opossum or squirrel. If you don't mutilate them completely, you might get enough to make a nice stew. Here from deadfood.com a couple of recipes to try.

Photo: [bubblesundaysuppers.blogspot.com](http://bubblesundaysuppers.blogspot.com)



### Opossum Stew

**INGREDIENTS:**  
1 opossum; skinned and cut into pieces  
2 onions; chopped  
potatoes; chopped or sliced  
other vegetables; chopped or sliced  
1 can mushroom soup  
2 cans beef gravy  
1 can water  
1 tbsp. pepper  
1 tbsp. garlic salt

**PREPARATION:**  
Boil the opossum meat in a large pot of water with a half cup of salt for about half a day. Pour the water out and add all the stuff to it. Bring to a boil, then simmer covered 4 to 8 hours. Gravy is good sopped up with week-old bread. You can eat other stuff with it, too. Drink beer. (TIP: three-day old road kill is more tender and easier to skin.)

Yield: 8 servings.

AFR photo by Michele Kayal



### Squirrel Pot Pie

**INGREDIENTS:**  
4 squirrels  
6 medium potatoes  
1 tbsp. parsley flakes  
Dough  
2 cups flour  
2/3 cup shortening  
3/4 tsp. Salt  
5 tbsp. water  
1 egg

**PREPARATION:**  
Cook squirrels in large pan, using enough water to cover. Salt to taste (about 1 tsp). Cook 2 to 3 hours or until tender. Remove squirrels from pan, cut up, roll in flour, and fry in shortening over medium heat until browned. To the broth add 6 potatoes, sliced and diced. Mix together all ingredients for dough, using fork to cut flour through other ingredients. Work gently 1 minute with hands. Roll out dough on floured surface to about 1/8 inch thickness. Cut in 1 inch or bite size pieces and add to boiling water and potatoes. Add parsley flakes and salt (if not enough salt is added, pot pie will taste bland). Cook 30 minutes on low heat.

# 'I seen it first!'

■ From the road to the table, meat is meat — if you can stomach that sort of fare

By Vera Hogan

There is a scene in the 1993 Beverly Hillsbillies movie where “Granny” leans out of the dilapidated old truck they brought to Beverly Hills from the hills of Kentucky. In her hand is a bucket and a shovel. She lifts the shovel over her heard and warns other drivers away from what she wants on the freeway.

“I seen it first!” she yells before picking up the prized road kill.

Some folks think road kill can make a decent meal if it’s salvaged legally. In September 2014, road kill became fair game for pickup in Michigan.

The bill amended Part 401 (Wildlife Conservation) of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (NREPA) to allow an individual to possess game killed because of a motor vehicle collision. It grants the vehicle driver first priority to take possession of killed wildlife.

The Michigan DNR says, “The driver of the vehicle has first choice to take possession of the game. If the driver leaves it, another individual may take it for salvage.”

Using your vehicle to intentionally hit animals is not allowed.

Wildlife killed by vehicles can only be claimed with a valid permit. The salvage permit is free and you can apply online at [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr).

The permit cannot be used to possess badger, bobcat, brant, coot, crow, bear cub, duck, eagle, elk, fisher, Florida gallinule, geese, marten, moose, otter, snipe, sora rail, spotted fawn deer, Virginia rail, wild turkey, wolf, or woodcock.

Deer and bear may also be picked up. The new laws have made it easier than it used to be, but there are still steps that need to be taken.

For deer, the bill requires an individual who takes possession to obtain a salvage tag, by notifying the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) or a local law enforcement agency via telephone or website, or when reporting the accident to 9-1-1 in case of a collision with vehicle or personal damage.

For small game, the bill requires

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## Eating roadkill is healthier

According to People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. If people must eat animal carcasses, roadkill is a superior option to the neatly shrink-wrapped plastic packages of meat in the supermarket.

Eating roadkill is healthier for the consumer than meat laden with antibiotics, hormones, and growth stimulants, as most meat is today.

It is also more humane in that animals killed on the road were not castrated, dehorned, or debeaked without anesthesia, did not suffer the trauma and misery of transportation in a crowded truck in all weather extremes, and did not hear the screams and smell the fear of the animals ahead of them on the slaughter line. Perhaps the animals never knew what hit them.

Source: [peta.org](http://peta.org)



Wildlife killed by vehicles can only be claimed with a valid permit.  
Photo: [dgrnewsservice.org/civilization/ecocide/](http://dgrnewsservice.org/civilization/ecocide/)

an individual who takes possession of small game to prepare a written record and show it to a law enforcement officer upon request. The record must include the date, time and location of possession, the type of game, whether or not a salvage tag will be requested (which isn’t needed for small game), the individual’s name, date of birth, mailing address, telephone number, driver’s license number, and intended purpose.

There are many uses for road kill, not the least of which being for human consumption (see road kill recipes in the sidebar). Taxidermists use road kill for practice, trappers use road kill for bait, and there are many other uses.

There are laws on certain animals that cannot be claimed, such as migratory birds, without special licensing. There are also laws pertaining to the proper disposal of dead wildlife. The Michigan DNR is in charge of keeping track of this new law, and can be contacted for more information on proper disposal and what wildlife can and cannot be collected.

Source: [myfenton.com/archives](http://myfenton.com/archives)

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**PATHWAY**  
**Continued from Front Page**

The public hearing will take place at 6 p.m. in the clubroom of the Fenton Community and Cultural Center.

The two-mile non-motorized pathway is one section of a system that trail way organizers are working to secure funding for and develop. The Silver Lake Road Connector runs along the south side of Silver Lake Road from Jennings Road to East Broad Street.

Vince Paris, executive director of SLPR, said they want to make Triangle Park in Linden a trailhead for the path, with places to park and unload bicycles.

SLPR is considering applying for a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) grant from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) for \$300,000.

According to a public notice released by SLPR, “The proposed pathway benefits the Southern Lakes area communities of the city of Linden, the city of Fenton, and Fenton Township by providing alternate transportation, recreational opportunities, and regional connectivity.”

The Silver Lake pathway was identified as a Tier 1: Short Term Priority trail in the Genesee County Regional Non-Motorized Long-Range Transportation Plan. Tier 1 pathways have “strong public support and are the highest priority for development,” according to the notice.

“Once complete, this preferred pathway segment will provide safe non-motorized connection to many schools, parks, recreational, cultural, commercial and residential facilities and area that these communities offer,” according to the notice.

**Matching funds**

Instead of one single non-motorized pathway, SLPR and Southern Lakes Pathway Initiative are working toward a trail way system. This includes the Silver Lake Road Connector, a non-motorized

pathway from Fenton Road within the city to the Thompson Road Regional Dog Park, and a pathway on Owen Road to the Linden County Park.

The municipalities of Fenton, Linden and Fenton Township have all committed to supplying monies for matching funds in order to apply for grants. Organizers also are hoping another source of funding for matching funds and the trail way system will be a millage in May.

**Millage**

The May 7 ballot question will ask voters to amend the SLPR charter to include a levy and collection 1.2 mills for 10 years, from 2019 to 2028, to provide funds for non-motorized recreational paths and

“The proposed pathway benefits the Southern Lakes area communities of the city of Linden, the city of Fenton, and Fenton Township by providing alternate transportation, recreational opportunities, and regional connectivity.”

**Southern Lakes Parks and Recreation**

facilities.

For example, a homeowner whose house has a taxable value of \$50,000 will pay \$60 per year, if the vote passes.

Residents in the cities of Fenton and Linden and Fenton Township will see the question on the ballot. The three municipalities are considered one district in the SLPR charter. If the millage receives more “yes” votes, it will pass.

The millage is expected to raise just more than \$1.4 million in the first year. The estimated cost of the pathways is almost \$14 million. If it passes, SLPR will use millage funds to levy more grants to pay for the pathway system.

The Southern Lakes Pathway Initiative

is the volunteer committee spearheading the millage. SLPR is not legally allowed to fundraise or sway voters.

**State support**

On March 7, State Rep. Mike Mueller (R- Dist. 51) voted in favor of House Bill 4244, which appropriates \$300,000 for Argentine Township in order to build a multi-use trail in the municipality. This is part of the Linden, Argentine Township, Fenton and Fenton Township (LAFF) pathway efforts to connect municipalities in Genesee County to Oakland County and beyond with non-motorized trails.

The money will help build a 2.1-mile trail system in Argentine Township to “improve safety and accessibility for citizens and visitors to the area,” according to a press release by Mueller.

House Bill 4244 includes \$26 million for 34 recreational development projects and 30 land acquisition projects statewide. These projects were recommended by the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF), which is where the money comes from.

SCHOOL  
**NEWS**

COMPILED BY SHARON STONE

**St. John school presents ‘Twinderella’**

Everyone knows the tale of Cinderella and her evil stepmother and stepsisters. But what about Bob, her long lost twin brother? St. John School in Fenton presents “Twinderella the Musical” on Tuesday, March 19 at the Fr. Harvey Activity Center. “Living in the same kingdom with different wicked step families, Cinderella’s cruel stepmother and evil stepsisters make her rotate tires and polish bowling trophies while Bob’s evil stepfather and cruel stepbrothers force him to make dried herb wreaths and organize the sock drawer,” the press release states. “This hilarious musical fractured fairytale will delight actors and audiences alike, as Cinderella and her long lost twin brother are reunited.” Performances will take place at 1:30 and 6:30 p.m., featuring students in grades four through eight. Melanie McPeake is the director of the drama club.

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# Pedersen earns spot on USA's show ski team

By David Troppens

Whitney Pedersen has always loved show skiing. She began show skiing with the Lake Shannon Ski Club, and eventually moved to the Silver Lake Ski Club in 2008. "I was 16 when I joined. I was allowed to join (Silver Lake Ski Club) when I could

drive myself there," Pedersen said. She loved every bit of the sport, but she quickly started realizing something as she advanced through her career. "I realized I was not a great skier and that I took a lot longer than some of my friends to learn tricks," Pedersen said. "I was not advancing and not doing a lot of

Whitney Pedersen applauds during a show she directed for the Silver Lake Ski Club. She will be on Team USA, running sound for the national show ski team's world performance. Photo submitted

acts, but I loved the sport." Pedersen knew she wanted to stay in the sport, but realized she needed to find a way to impact the team, without necessarily competing on skis. She quickly found her niche when she became a show director in 2011 for the first time. About eight years later, it's obvious Pedersen's transition has paid off. She recently was named to be a part of the United States

See PEDERSEN on 23A

SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 2019 | PAGE 22A | WWW.MYFENTON.COM/SPORTS

## Sports Times

### Fenton girls basketball leads first half of Super Seven list

Fenton has a tie to every squad from No. 7 to No. 5 on winter poll

By David Troppens

The winter prep season was a pretty strange one in the state of Michigan. Bad weather changed schedules on a daily basis. There were times when it seemed teams didn't play games or matches for over a week, only to find themselves competing three or four times in a four- or five-day span.

Through all the crazy schedule changes the seasons were completed. Unfortunately, the postseasons weren't as shining for most squads, as it seemed most teams saw their postseason end quickly. Yet, the teams that did make waves in the postseason were sports that have very few competing teams in the state. For example, there were 38 Division 1 state ski teams and 51 gymnastics teams. How in the world do you compare teams with smaller fields like that with sports like basketball that field about 180 teams in each division? We don't know either, but the sports staff will try our best. Here's the first of two stories about our 2018-19 Tri-County Super Seven Winter Teams.

**Honorable Mention - The Lake Fenton competitive cheer team** captured a GAC crown, but were unable to make it through the district meet. If the Blue Devils did, they would've been in our top seven. The **Lake Fenton girls basketball team** also had a nice 15-7 overall mark, but were unable to truly contend in a super-tough Genesee Area Conference Red race, keeping them just out.

**No. 7 - Fenton/Linden hockey** - Fig-



The Fenton varsity girls basketball team is No. 5 on our 2018-19 Tri-County Super Seven Winter Team list. The Tigers won a league title. The Fenton/Linden varsity hockey team recorded 15 wins to earn the No. 7 position.

Photos: Mark Bolen

uring out No. 7 was tough. The Fenton/Linden hockey team had times when the squad was dominant, but also had times when they struggled. However, the good certainly outweighed the bad as the Griffins finished the season with a solid 15-9-1 record overall and a 6-2 league mark, good enough for a second-place finish in the Mid-Michigan Hockey Conference.

The team averaged five goals a game and had eight players score at least seven goals. Josh Appleberg also earned honorable mention All-State honors after leading the team with 25 goals, 21 assists and 46 total points.

**No. 6 - FLLF girls ski** - The Fenton/Linden/Lake Fenton co-op squad may be the toughest team to rate. They won the title at Mt. Holly and qualified for the state meet by taking second at the regional meet. Those are all strong performances. However, it's really easy to make the case that the squad comes from the weakest regional from the state, so for the team to rank high, the squad better perform at the state meet. They took eighth with 289 points. Compounding matters, the team only placed eighth at SEMSL as well.

**No. 5 - Fenton girls basketball** - The



Tigers were another tough team to place. They were a fun team to watch play. They were unselfish and deep. The Tigers were impressive, going through the Metro season with a 15-1 mark and earning a league title. Going 3-1 against Kearsley and Flushing was a fine feat. However, what probably keeps the Eagles from getting higher is that they struggled against the stronger competition outside the Metro League. A win against Hartland in the district tournament would've lifted the squad probably to a spot in the top three.

### David's Dabblings

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



#### JUST A COUPLE OF THOUGHTS

I got the shock of my life Tuesday night when I was told who won a Division 1 prep boys basketball state quarter final contest, earning them a spot in the state semifinal.

It's Linden's district championship foe, the Howell Highlanders.

Wow, that got my attention. Howell didn't look particularly strong against Holly in the district tournament. When the Linden Eagles faced the Highlanders in the district final, I thought Linden had a very good chance of beating Howell, and avenging a previous loss during the season even without their top player, Blake Lund. It was a good game to watch. Howell eventually stretched the lead late and iced the game at the free-throw line, winning 55-49. It ended up being a good game between two pretty good teams, but no one was thinking 'These teams are so good, the winner of this game is going to the state semifinal.' Guess what's happening though? That's where Howell is Friday night.

It makes me wonder what would've happened if Lund was completely healthy and the Eagles were able to win that game this season. Ifs don't really matter that much because they are scenarios that didn't happen, but in this case I'm sure it's opening the eyes of Linden basketball players who return next season. If Howell can do it, why can't Linden become next year's Howell? I'm not saying the Linden team is a favorite to win a regional title, next year, but you never know. Howell did it and eventually made it to the semifinals. Linden players certainly have to

See DABBLINGS on 23A

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# OLY Swimming making strides within tri-county area

By David Troppens

There have been a lot of changes in the club swimming world in the tri-county area in recent years.

For a long time, the two major players were the YMCA Flint Falcons led by coach Adam Cooper and the Fenton Area Swim Team (FAST) based out of the Fenton High School pool.

That changed about two years ago when Cooper's Falcons and the FAST program merged creating a partnership between one of the area's most successful club coaches and one of the area's most successful prep coaches.

And while the Flint Falcons still exist, another change has taken place this season. Many of the swimmers who competed in the combined program are now members of the OLY Swimming program, one of the state's most successful club programs in the state. OLY serves swimmers from the tri-county area as well as from Rochester, Clarkston and other greater Flint communities. Cooper is joining his brother Jeff Cooper as a head coach of the program. OLY Swimming has been a part of the club swimming landscape since 1962.

The club dedicates practice sessions at many area pools throughout its target area, including practices at Fenton High School and Flint's Kettering University during the weekdays. Practices are held at Oakland University on Saturday and Sundays for those who choose to attend them as well. The program is trying to embrace both the traditional club swimmer's and the high



The OLY Swimming program includes many athletes from the tri-county area. Many of them are pictured above during a Wednesday practice at Kettering University. Photo submitted

school swimmer's needs all within one program. That has been one of the key motivations with each of the transitions.

"What I wanted to accomplish and what (Fenton High School swim coach) Brad Jones wanted to accomplish, it was at our best interests to make a move," Cooper said about transitioning to OLY. "Our first year working together with the Falcons went extremely well but it had reached the time where it was to our best interest to make a move."

"We are trying to create and are still moving forward with creating a bond between high school and club swimming. We see so many coaches butt heads and not work together. If someone is primarily a high school swimmer, they can use OLY as a way to stay in shape. We also serve those kids who are dead serious about swimming 11 1/2 months of the year."

The club is for students at any level of ability. For example, there is a swim school for those under 10 years old, where the children are introduced to all of the swimming strokes. There are competitive age swim programs at every level as well, encouraging athletes to strive to the best of their abilities through training and competitions.

For example, the club is hitting one of its biggest competition stretches of the season right now. The club has about 70 swimmers competing in events during the 2019 Michigan 13&Over State Championships at Eastern Michigan University and at Michigan's Canham Natatorium. The event started Thursday and continues through Sunday. Many of the swimmers competing are from the tri-county area.

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## DABBLINGS

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be paying attention.

Friday date night with Anna

With the early departure of all of the tri-county area's boys basketball and girls basketball teams in postseason play, I found myself in a situation I never expected last weekend — I didn't have a sporting event to cover Friday night in very early March.

Initially I didn't know what to do, but realizing how rare it was for a sports writer to have a Friday night off this time of year, the answer seemed obvious — let's have a date night with Anna. I let her pick the date, which was a mistake. I thought she'd say a movie, but instead she wanted to go to the mall.

Who goes to the mall any more anyway? The older any guy gets, a trip to the mall has less meaning. There is NOTHING for a 50-year old guy at a mall.

It ended up working out. Getting out of work later than usual, Anna took a nap before we went out to dinner. Once dinner was over, the mall was going to close in less than 90 minutes. Yes, even I could survive that amount of time. While there my purchase of a Central Michigan sweatshirt ended up being more than what Anna purchased during the entire trip. Anna's biggest purchase was six award ribbons. She plans on giving them to her nieces after they compete in runs this summer. She had another one — a best husband ribbon. Maybe this Friday mall date night actually paid off.

## PEDERSEN

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National Ski Team when she was selected to be part of a 40-person team competing at the 2020 World Show Ski Tournament in Australia. The event is basically the Olympics for show skiing.

Pedersen, who lives in Holly, was selected to run sound for the Team USA at the event. While doing so, she is creating history. She is the first Silver Lake Ski Club performer to ever compete on Team USA. In fact, she's the first Michigander to ever represent the squad. She found out she was going to be on the team during a recent broadcast of the 40-person crew while watching it at The Barn in Fenton. Immediately when hearing she made the team, she smiled and cried while friends cheered on her nomination on the team.

"Honestly, I'm blown away," Pedersen said. "The way I described it to a few people was when I think of little me back in the 1990s I would've been blown away to know I'd be representing the United States with the 40 best skiers in the country. It's a huge accomplishment. This is essentially the Olympics for show skiing, so if this was the Olympics I'd be an Olympian. It's a big deal and I'm proud of it."

Pedersen had to apply to make the team, and was one of about 200 people who applied to be on the 40-person squad. She wasn't sure of her chances of making the team when the squad was announced.

"I assumed whoever Team USA selected as the announcer, they would pick their own sound person," Pedersen said. "The sound person needs to be able to work with (the announcer so) they need to feel comfortable knowing cues will be hit so they



Whitney Pedersen will be on Team USA, running sound for the national show ski team's world performance in Australia in 2020. She is a member of the Silver Lake Ski Club. Photo submitted

are not embarrassed on stage."

Team USA has won every world tournament but with it being in Australia in 2020, there is concern that the United States has some serious competition versus the event hosts.

"What Australia does better is theatrics," Pedersen said. "This year they are going to focus on the theatrical part of the show ... and they announced they were looking for a sound person, and they reached out to me. ... That's why I applied."

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March 17, 2019

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