

Local fans in the Sparty spirit

■Remember past championship seasons

By David Troppens

When Fenton resident and Michigan State graduate Steve

Grob watched the Spartans' men's basketball team defeat Duke in the regional championship round of the Division 1 NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament, of course he was thrilled.

He was watching the game at home with his two daughters, Emily and Claire. They probably thought their celebrations would end at home. However, See **SPARTAN FANS on 24A**

Fenton's Mike Bakker poses as Sparty during his MSU student days. Bakker is one of many area tri-county residents excited about the Spartans' current NCAA men's basketball tournament run. Submitted photo



PAGE 3
**COMMUNITY
NEWSPAPER
ICONS LEFT
THEIR MARK**

Weekend Times

VOL. 26 NO. XIV

SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 2019

\$1.00

Argentine Township woman charged with embezzlement

■Police believe she used Linden Little League funds for personal use

By Sharon Stone

Stephanie Suzanne Blackburn, 41, of Argentine Township was arraigned March 21 in Genesee County 67th District Court on one felony count of embezzlement (agent or trustee) of an amount between \$1,000 and \$19,999.

The Linden Police Department was the arresting agency. She was released on personal bond. A probable cause conference has been scheduled for Thursday, April 11 at 1 p.m.

See **EMBEZZLEMENT on 16A**



Joel Herbert accompanies Christian music group Avalon at the Fenton Right to Life Foundation fundraiser Thursday, April 4. Photo: Tim Jagielo

Concert boosts local 'pro-life' organization

■Fenton Right to Life Foundation spreads anti-abortion message, material and aid for families

By Tim Jagielo

Tyrone Twp. — The vocal prowess of Christian music group Avalon washed over the crowd and their banter between songs drew laughter.

On Thursday, April 4, the band performed to a crowd of 210 at the Tyrone Covenant Presbyterian Church as part of the Fenton Right to Life Foundation (FRTLTF) fundraiser dinner.

Avalon has a strong following and a list of accolades including six Dove Awards (music industry awards for Christian artists),

See **CONCERT on 22A**

Jury trial set for Fenton man facing six CSC charges

■Alleged offenses date back to 2012; defendant is husband of daycare owner

By Hannah Ball

The husband of a Linden in-home daycare owner is facing six criminal sexual conduct charges, and is now scheduled for a jury trial on July 24.



Doug Walsh

Douglas Walsh, 62, formerly of Linden, faces these charges in Genesee County Circuit Court. Each count involves a person under the age of 13. Walsh also has a pre-trial hearing scheduled for July 23.

The offenses date back to 2012, according to court records. If convicted, he could face up to 15 years in prison, according to the Michigan Penal Code.

See **JURY TRIAL on 19A**

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“Feel free to chew on what you’ve been fed by Trump’s favorite Attorney General however, rather than be spoon fed, I favor the 75 percent of prudent Americans waiting on Congress to uncover why Attorney General William Barr has manipulated Mueller’s 400-page report after promising transparency?”



“The recent measles outbreak in Oakland County has proven that vaccination reform, especially in public schools, is a necessity.”



“I think township and city boards should be run nonpartisan because rarely do they deal with hot topic, political issues.”



COMMENT
OF THE WEEK
“‘Judged by the public on its own merit’ is just a call for mob rule. No thanks.”



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Community newspaper icons left their mark

Dear Reader,
Please allow me to introduce myself by way of this memo and the column that follows.

You may have read that our independent, locally owned newspaper group acquired The Tri-County Times in January of this year.

The Times is what I refer to as one of Michigan's great, local legacy newspapers. Originally owned and operated by the Rockman family and tracing its roots back more than 63 years, the Times has been named Michigan Press Association's Newspaper of the Year five times by our peers in the industry.

Rick Rockman, Sr. started publishing what would become the Tri-County News in Fenton in 1956. His newspaper and a related printing business prospered as the area grew. A serious illness in his family caused him to sell the paper in the late 1980s. The new owners were not able to keep the community newspaper up to standards. The Rockman family, with their health issues happily behind them, stepped back into the



Wes Smith

newspaper business in 1994 with the launch of the Tri-County Times. The Times quickly regained readers' and advertisers' confidence and Fenton, Linden and Holly once again had a viable, local paper to call their own.

Rockman Sr. passed away in 2011. His sons took on the mantle of publisher and continued the family tradition of solid, local newspapering. We've known the Rockman family for a long time and they sought us out when it came time for them to sell the paper.

It is my hope the following column that I originally wrote for The (Lapeer) County Press on March 10 will give you some insight into the values that View Newspaper Group, our president Rick Burrough, and I hold dear based on the community newspaper icons we revere.



Rick Rockman Sr.

Rick Rockman, Sr. is certainly among them. We are proud to continue his family's legacy of great community newspapering.

Thank you for reading the Tri-County Times.
— Wes Smith, Group Publisher

Their legacies live on

By Wes Smith
Group Publisher, View Newspaper Group

Michigan's weekly newspaper business lost two icons in February. Both will be long remembered for their contributions to their communities and for the newspaper family legacies they each leave behind.

James Sherman, Sr. of Oxford passed away at age 92 on Feb. 16. "Big Jim" and his wife Hazel were the founders of Sherman Publications, Inc., publishers of the weekly newspapers Oxford Leader, Lake Orion Review, Clarkston News, The (Ortonville/Brandon) Citizen, The Ad-Vertiser, Penny Stretcher and the Big Deal magazine.

Gilbert Demers of Grosse Pointe Park passed away at age 89 on Feb. 25. Gil and his wife

See ICONS on 25A

Jim Sherman Sr.

Gil Demers

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October 22, 2019

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Andrew Heller

andrewheller@tctimes.com

Come *Heller* high water...

• **A new survey** says Americans borrowed \$88 billion last year to pay for health care. One in four skipped treatment because they couldn't afford it. And half of all Americans — half! — say bankruptcy is just one health emergency away. This should be the most biggest and most apolitical of all issues. Everyone gets sick or hurt. Everyone needs health care. Even people with good insurance through work worry that one big medical crisis could impoverish them. So why don't we collectively do something about it? The rest of the world has. Why not us? (That's a rhetorical question. The answer is: Nothing changes because somebody is getting rich off the status quo and they don't want anything to change so they pit us against one another. We exist in a state of permanent squabble while they keep hauling in the dough.) Here's an idea: Howzabout we stop doing that?

• **Just saw that** Head East is playing at a casino in Michigan next month. You're probably saying, "Who's that?" Head East is the first rock band I ever saw in concert. It was in a metal pole barn at the U.P. State Fairgrounds in Escanaba back in the '70s. If you're interested in what a rock concert in a pole barn sounds like, crank your

iPhone speaker up to max, stick it in a Maxwell coffee can and place the can over your ear. Head East's biggest and I think only hit was "Never Been Any Reason." I loved it then. I love it now. Great guitar work, ridiculous synthesizer jams, plus a brief but most excellent cow bell solo. Duuude.

• **The headline said**, "Pot-infused edibles ready to flood Michigan." I'm not against Michigan's legalization of pot, so why does the notion of pot edibles at 7-11 bother me?

• **Is saying to someone** "Are you

tired, you look tired?" the worst thing you can say to someone?

• **If I search** for a local business online and visit their website and they don't tell me their prices and instead want me to call or fill out a form, I'm gone. That's the price they pay for wasting my time. If you have to hide your prices, they're too high.

• **You can help** me with a future column. I'm writing about whether

or not families with mixed political beliefs talk about or avoid politics at family gatherings. Shoot me a note at andrewhellercolumn@gmail.com. (Preview: My family begs me not to stir up my brothers. I do anyway.)

• **"There is no** charm equal to tenderness of heart." — Jane Austen



Andrew Heller
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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.

I FOUND OUT today my child had almost all substitute teachers. Why aren't the 'full-time' teachers reprimanded for not showing up to workdays before their 'holiday?' This abuse of the system costs the taxpayers twice as much as normal. It must be difficult working those last days while you knowingly only are required to work 180 days a year. Let's gets some legislation or fire the abusers so tax money is not wasted.

■ ■ ■
I AM SO disappointed that 'The King' will no longer be in the paper. I always looked forward to his column. This makes me very sad.

■ ■ ■
BETWEEN BAD DRIVERS and crazy dogs, Fenton is a stressful and unsafe place to walk. Barely anyone is pulled over or fined for being unsafe. A kid is going to get hurt and people will act surprised.

■ ■ ■
TRUMP IN 2016: 'I've got the greatest replacement for Obamacare but you need to elect me in order to find out the details.' Trump in 2019: 'I've got the greatest replacement for Obamacare but you need to re-elect me in order to find out the details.'

Compiled by Gracie Warda, intern

What's your favorite made-in-Michigan product?

| street talk



"I would probably say Better Made chips, they're so good."

Erin Routowicz
Fenton Township



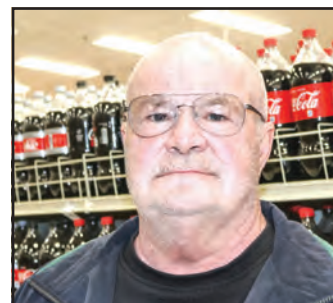
"There are so many, strawberries, first of all. There's also a cherry salsa that I really like."

Lou Coder, Holly



"Michigan wine is pretty good. I drink it quite a bit."

Justin Ebe
Fenton Township



"It used to be Buick cars, when they were actually made in Michigan."

Ralph Light
Fenton Township



"There's a certain Iced Tea that I like, it's made by Lipton."

Cindy Blake
Tyronne Township



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Waterfront



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Waterfront



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319 E Rolston Rd

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Highland • \$529,000
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Linden • \$254,500

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Linden • \$329,900
6024 Marlinton Blvd.

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Coming Soon

Fenton • \$449,900

Beautiful setting for this 3 Bedroom, 2 bath home on private cove on no wake Crooked Lake with 24 acres. Coming to the market on 4/10. Serene views from the deck or the sandy beach. Dock included.



New On Market

Byron • \$209,000

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Sunday
1-3 pm

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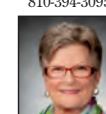
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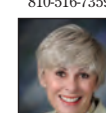
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Bills could change state's FOIA laws

■ Michigan last in nation for government transparency

By Hannah Ball

The Michigan legislature and offices of the governor and lieutenant governor could be subject to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) laws if a package of bills become law.

House Bills 4007 to 4016 create the Legislative Open Records Act (LORA), which would include the legislature, governor and lieutenant governor under the title of "public body." These bills also list certain exemptions.

Rep. Mike Mueller (R-Dist. 51) of Fenton Township was one of the sponsors for the package of bills. They passed in the House on March 19 with

See FOIA LAWS on 19A

“Michigan residents deserve to know how their government operates, how their tax dollars are spent and whether their elected officials are acting in their best interests.”

Mike Mueller

Michigan representative, District 51

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WHAT YOU MISSED IN THE MIDWEEK TIMES

COMPILED BY VERA HOGAN

The following are stories you may have missed in the **Wednesday, April 3, Midweek Times**. To subscribe and receive both the Midweek and Sunday Weekend editions, please call (810) 629-8282.

Questions answered about potential pathway

SLPR applies for \$300,000 grant, voters asked to approve 10-year, 1.2-mill millage May 7.

Adult foster care case proceeds to sentencing

Both suspects face prison time on drug charges, one suspect faces felony firearms charges and more.

Gaines creates 10-year assessment for police

New assessment will be on summer tax bill. (See update on Page 10A.)

Made in Michigan

Handbag designer and artist teams with Gerych's to feature high-end products.



From the Editor

Editor Sharon Stone offers her first Midweek edition column, replacing "If I Were King."

Why can't Michigan have toll roads?

States like Ohio have toll roads and gas taxes to maintain their highway systems.

Our Future

Meet Abigail Fletcher, a senior at Lake Fenton High School.

The Holly Depot, idle since the '70s, could be relocated

Building is landlocked between train tracks, with property owned by railroad.

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Invite You to a Joint Open House

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HURLEY
DIABETES CENTER

HURLEY  FOOD
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HURLEY
Urgen+Care



HOT LINE CONTINUED

TO THE GUY in the dark SUV just before 5 p.m. Tuesday that flat out, and I do mean flat out, ran the red light turning in front of me from North Road on to Adelaide. You then stopped in the middle of the road like you're going to kick my butt because I dared honked at you. Are you kidding me? Seriously?

FUNNY HOW SCIENCE is absolute when it supports climate change

but invalid when it supports axial precession.

HEY REPEATER, INSTEAD of a climatology course, how about you learn basic scientific theory that requires repeated testing and rigorous scrutiny, not abject surrender of independent thought? Scientific theory is the process that debunked the once proven flat earth theory, alchemy, numerology, hollow earth theory, etc.

YES, \$250 BILLION a year to insurance companies to manage

a chaotic system is far superior to \$250 billion a year for government administrators to mismanage a chaotic system.

GREENHOUSE GASSES ARE also caused by plants, wild animals, forest fires and volcanic activity. Blaming mankind isn't science, it's opinion.

TO 4X4 OWNER who doesn't care about potholes. Why is it always the 4x4 drivers who swerve wildly to avoid potholes? They are the worst.

What, no income tax?

■ Seven states have no individual income taxes but use other ways to tax people

By Sally Rummel

With Tax Day approaching on Monday, April 15, taxes are at the top of the news right now.

Do you ever wonder what it would be like to live in a state without individual income taxes? Currently, that includes seven states — Alaska, Florida, Nevada, South Dakota, Texas, Washington and Wyoming. An eighth state, Tennessee, also will be income tax-free by 2021.

The main benefit of eliminating individual income taxes is that these states have a record of creating jobs and keeping a core of young, educated workers from moving to other states, according to Bankrate.com.

So if there is no personal income tax, how do states fund roads, law enforcement and other public services? The funding for these services typically comes from three key areas: property taxes, sales taxes and income taxes, said Stephen Miller, director of the Center for Business and Economic Research at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Gasoline taxes can also add another variable. In Washington, pump prices are among the highest in the country, in part because of a sky-high gas tax.

States without a personal income tax might ask residents and visitors to pay more sales tax on consumer goods, or more on their property tax bills. Here's the story about our income tax-free neighbors:

Alaska

Alaska is one of the most tax-friendly places to live in the U.S. and is the only state with no levied sales tax or state income tax. In addition, senior homeowners over age 65 or a surviving spouse over age 60, are exempt from municipal taxes on the first \$150,000 of assessed value of their home.

But one question remains: can you handle the harsh winters of Alaska or are you healthy enough not to require access to medical care if you don't live near one of Alaska's major cities?

See **INCOME TAX** on 21A

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Townships consider nonpartisan boards

■ By taking no action, Tyrone Township first locally to oppose nonpartisan elected offices

By Vera Hogan

The Michigan Townships Association (MTA) Board of Directors is asking township officials statewide to consider passing a resolution to support legislation that would allow township boards the option of having elected offices appear as nonpartisan on the ballot.

In a March 19 letter to MTA member boards, MTA Executive Director Larry Merrill, said, "Over the years, township officials have suggested to MTA that elective Michigan township offices should be nonpartisan."

Currently, all elected offices in local townships, Argentine, Fenton, Holly, Rose and Tyrone are partisan.

The MTA Board of Directors put the question before the membership at the MTA Annual Meeting in 2012, where it was voted down by the membership in attendance, Merrill said.

Although he did not name the legislator in his letter, Merrill said a state representative intends to introduce and actively promote legislation to make nonpartisan township offices optional to the townships.

Since it has been seven years since the last vote on this issue, Merrill said the perspective of township officials may be different now. "MTA will need to take a position on the optional nonpartisan election bill in the near future, even if that position is neutral," he said.

The issue was not heard at the 2019 Annual Meeting that took place last week.

A sample resolution was included with the letter, which asked that all resolutions be returned to the MTA by April 30.

See **NONPARTISAN** on 16A

PROS AND CONS

To assist Michigan township officials in their discussions regarding partisan vs. nonpartisan elected offices, the MTA included with the letter arguments supporting optional nonpartisan township elections, and arguments opposing them.

A few of the arguments IN SUPPORT OF optional nonpartisan township elections are:

- **Township officials** should be elected on merit, not party affiliation.
- **As some** communities become more politically polarized, party affiliation disadvantages candidates who identify with community's minority party.
- **Township issues** seldom align with political party ideologies.
- **Veteran township** officials (incumbents) are at risk of losing elections as their communities shift political party alignments.

A few of the arguments AGAINST optional nonpartisan township elections are:

- **Partisan elections** are inherent in the culture and traditions of Michigan township government.
- **Party affiliations** help voters know a candidate's values.
- **Township board** composition should change as electors' expectations and ideologies change.
- **Township boards** should change as their electors change. It is not MTA's role to defend incumbents.



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Gaines residents sign petition to stop assessment

■ If petition approved, referendum vote could occur

By Hannah Ball

The Gaines Township police assessment certification is on hold after approximately 100 residents attended the Wednesday, April 3 public hearing.

They handed in a petition with signatures opposing a tax increase to pay for police.

“They brought a petition. We accepted it. It’s under review for accuracy and other things,” said Supervisor Paul Fortino.

The township Board of Trustees planned to create a 10-year assessment and charge each improved parcel \$115 a year to pay for police services. This would cost each assessed property approximately 32 cents a day.

If the petition contains signatures from 10 percent of the acreage in the assessment district, then it will reach the qualifications to have a referendum vote.

“The meeting was stressful but we got through it. There was a vocal few

that were disruptive to the purpose of the meeting,” he said.

There’s no deadline or timeframe the township is adhering to.

“We’re just following the law like we always do. We’ll follow the statute and whatever the statute dictates, that’s what we’ll do,” Fortino said.

Currently, the Gaines Township Police Department has one full-time officer and four part-time officers, who average about 12 to 15 hours a week. One of the officers conducts code enforcement. Including money for large equipment, it costs about \$190,000 to \$200,000 a year to run the police department.

Five years ago, Gaines Township passed a 0.5-mill tax to pay for police, which recently ended. This brought in approximately \$85,000 to \$90,000 a year and wasn’t high enough to pay for police, Fortino said. The township would dip into the general fund to make up the difference.

The department has grown and the general fund cannot completely support it.

“They brought a petition. We accepted it. It’s under review for accuracy and other things.”

Paul Fortino
Gaines Township supervisor

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■■■
IN RESPONSE TO the softball comments. What happened at Linden anyway?

■■■
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■■■
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A lifted Jeep Cherokee flings mud as it claws up a several-story bowl in the "Frozen Mines Run" test event in Groveland Township on Saturday, Feb. 23. **Times file photo**

Long-awaited Holly/Groveland ORV park gets official stamp of approval

Compiled by Tim Jagielo

On Tuesday, April 2, the Oakland County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved a 20-year operating agreement with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), according to an Oakland County news release.

Under the agreement, the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission (OCPRC) will operate the ORV Park, located in Groveland and Holly townships, in partnership with the MDNR.

"ORV" stands for "off road vehicle," and can mean Jeeps, quads, dirt bikes and side-by-side off-road vehicles.

The park, consisting of former (and currently active) sand and gravel mines, is across from Groveland Oaks County Park and Campground on Dixie Highway and will have easy access from I-75 (at Grange Hall) and Dixie Highway.

This project has been in the works since 2008, according to Oakland County. The first test event was held in 2014, and most recently in late February. Each event drew hundreds of off-road enthusiasts.

The closest location for off-road vehicles is The Mounds ORV Park in Genesee Township, 30 miles away. Michigan is home to approximately 200,000 registered ORV drivers.

The current plan is to open the park in July 2020. Approximately 113 acres are expected to be open next summer, with additional acreage becoming available as mining is completed on the remaining property. The full 235 acres is expected to be operational by 2023.



YOUR SMILE MATTERS!

By: Dr. Steven Sulfaro

TOOTHPASTE

I am often asked by patients which toothpaste is best. Toothpaste is used to promote oral health. It serves as an abrasive that aids in removing of dental plaques, food and stains from teeth. Toothpaste also assists in suppressing halitosis (bad breath), and delivers active ingredients such as fluoride to help prevent tooth decay and gum disease. It should be noted that most of the cleaning achieved by the mechanical action of the tooth brush and that other materials such as baking soda and salt work nearly as well in cleaning of the teeth. One of the key ingredients of toothpaste is fluoride. Fluoride toothpaste, I feel, is very important in the prevention of tooth decay. In fact, for those folks in my practice who are struggling in their battle with tooth decay; I sometimes recommend a prescription strength fluoride tooth paste that they get from their pharmacist. Some patients struggle with a lot of tooth sensitivity and there are toothpastes which have desensitizing agents as an active ingredient which give them relief. There are several whitening toothpastes on the market now that can help brighten the smile and I feel these do an OK job of helping to keep the teeth whiter especially for those people who have had teeth whitening. So as you can see there are many options and your choice really depends on your individual situation. So my advice to those interested in buying the best tooth paste; I recommend any brand that has the ADA Seal of Approval, that they like, and they **will use**.

I welcome your questions and comments.
Feel free to e-mail me drsulfaro@comcast.net

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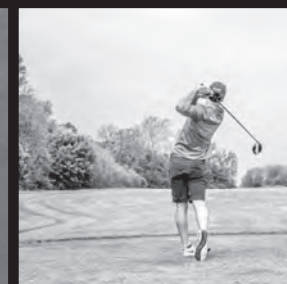
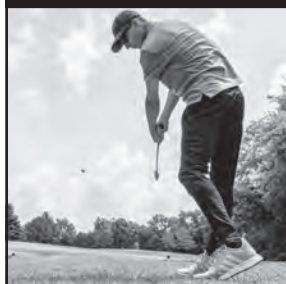


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State test — ‘more of a snap shot’

■ Local school districts roll with the changes to statewide student assessments

By Tim Jagielo

Do local educators teach to the test? Nicole Guiles, a Lake Fenton Middle School (LFMS) teacher, doesn't think so.

"Kids are more than a test score," she said. "One assessment simply can't demonstrate what we as teachers know of our individual students."

Guiles is preparing her eighth-grade students for the English Language Assessment (ELA) portion of their assessment test, which is different from last year.

She's not alone — all eighth-grade students, will take a new test, the PSAT, for ELA and math this year.

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) establishes the assessments that begin in third grade.

Between kindergarten and second grade, there are district-selected benchmarks in English and math, and other district tests though grade 12. There

are four different state assessments this spring alone for most grade levels according to the MDE. These also include Computer Adaptive Tests (CAT) and paper and pencil tests.

Brett Young is the new director of curriculum and instruction at Linden Community Schools after working as a teacher for several years in Fenton. He helps to make sure the curriculum is aligned with state standards, which are defined for all Michigan school districts.

Each district will have someone with similar responsibilities aligning curriculum to state standards.

Young said assessments allow schools to learn where problem areas are and places they've improved. Test results can also reveal gaps in programming that the schools can work to fill.

"Our scores have been right around the top, or well above state and peer district averages," Young said.

Guiles has mixed feelings about the assessments. "The tests have changed pretty frequently, which can sometimes make it difficult to know

how to best prepare our students," she said. "In the past 13 years I've been teaching, the test has changed many times ... each of those tests have had slightly different formats, which can sometimes be confusing to students."

Overall, 20 percent of teacher evaluations are based on state testing alone, and 40 percent of their evaluation is based on student progress. This is up from 25 percent last year.

Young said this pressure runs all the way up the chain from teachers to principals and administrators. "These ac-

countability standards are increasingly becoming high-stakes," he said. Young referenced new "read by three" legislation hitting next year, eighth-grade math benchmarks and college preparedness.

"It's really a measurement of those standards and it's ultimately a measurement of learning," Young said.

There are other benchmark tests the schools administer, and then there are ones for college entry. "This (state test) is more of snap shot," Young said.

Guiles said they spend a little time each day with online sites such as Kaplan.com to prepare students for the assessments. However, instilling a love of reading and writing is her first priority. "We don't believe in teaching to the test. However, we also understand that exposing students to the structure of a test, so they feel comfortable on test day, is important."

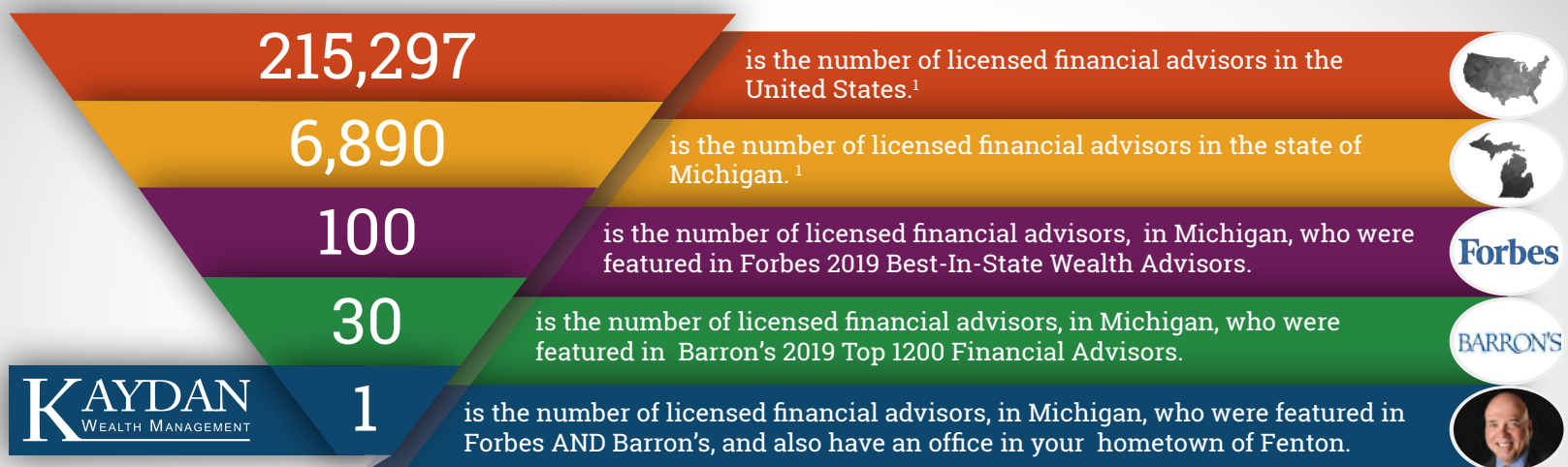
LFMS teacher Caitlin Casarez teaches social studies, which is not affected by the change. She'll still use the MSTEP exam.

See STATE TESTING on 19A

“It’s really a measurement of those standards and it’s ultimately a measurement of learning.”

Brett Young
Linden Community Schools director of curriculum and instruction

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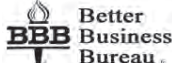
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Mueller reads to local students



State Rep. Mike Mueller (R-Dist. 51) of Fenton Township celebrated March is Reading Month by reading to 315 students at five local schools, including Holly Academy (shown above). "Reading is critical to a child's development," Mueller said. "It is our responsibility to show young people the importance of reading and instill a love for books. When we invest in them this way, we give our young people a head-start to a successful education and future."

Submitted photo

LOOKING BACK at this week in HISTORY

COMPILED BY VERA HOGAN

APRIL 7

2012: Broadcast journalist Mike Wallace, a full-time correspondent for the pioneering TV newsmagazine "60 Minutes" from its debut in 1968 until 2006, dies at age 93. He was well known for his hard-nosed style of questioning.

APRIL 8

1974: Hank Aaron of the Atlanta Braves hits his 715th career home run, breaking Babe Ruth's legendary record of 714 homers. A crowd of 53,775 people was with Aaron that night to cheer when he hit a 4th inning pitch off the Los Angeles Dodgers' Al Downing.

APRIL 9

2005: Nearly eight years after Princess Diana's death in a car crash was mourned the world over, Prince Charles, her widower and heir to the British throne, weds his longtime mistress, Camilla Parker Bowles. The ceremony was originally supposed to take place on April 8, but had to be rescheduled so as not to conflict with the funeral of Pope John Paul II.

APRIL 10

1933: President Franklin D. Roosevelt establishes the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), an innovative federally funded organization that put thousands of Americans to work during the Great Depression on projects with environmental benefits.

APRIL 11

1814: Napoleon Bonaparte, emperor of France and one of the greatest military leaders in history, abdicates the throne, and, in the Treaty of Fontainebleau, is banished to the Mediterranean island of Elba.

APRIL 12

1861: The bloodiest four years in American history begin when Confederate shore batteries under General P.G.T. Beauregard open fire on Union-held Fort Sumter in South Carolina's Charleston Bay. On April 13, U.S. Major Robert Anderson surrendered the fort. Two days later, U.S. President Abraham Lincoln issued a proclamation calling for 75,000 volunteer soldiers to quell the Southern "insurrection."

APRIL 13

1997: Tiger Woods, 21, wins the prestigious Masters Tournament by a record 12 strokes in Augusta, Georgia. It was Woods' first victory in one of golf's four major championships — the U.S. Open, the British Open, the PGA Championship, and the Masters.

Source: *history.com*

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EMBEZZLEMENT

Continued from Front Page

Linden Police Chief Scott Sutter said in October 2018, the Little League of Linden voted in a new executive board to run the Little League. The new executive board requested the financials from the bank and discovered some suspicious financial activity.

Sutter said the suspicious transactions were brought to the Linden Police Department for further investigation. He added that the exact dollar amount suspected missing is unknown at this time.

During the investigation it was found that Blackburn was the president of the Little League of Linden from late 2012 through Oct. 21, 2018.

"During this time it was found that Ms. Blackburn was using Little League of Linden funds for personal use," Sutter said.

NONPARTISAN

Continued from Page 9A

Locally, the Tyrone Township Board of Trustees, at its April 2 meeting, discussed the MTA request. Supervisor Mike Cunningham said the residents have a right to know what side of the aisle their elected officials sit. The potential legislation to allow a nonpartisan office would "allow the wolf to get into the sheep's clothing."

Because Cunningham and the Tyrone Township Board of Trustees are not in favor of supporting nonpartisan elected office, they decided to take no action on the MTA's requested resolution.

The townships of Argentine, Fenton, Holly and Rose expect to discuss the matter at their next scheduled Board of Trustee meetings.



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POLICE & FIRE REPORT

COMPILED BY SHARON STONE

PROPERTY DAMAGED ON EASTVIEW DRIVE

On Sunday, March 24, Genesee County Sheriff's deputies were dispatched to the 14000 block of Eastview Drive in Fenton Township for malicious destruction of property complaint. Items that were damaged included two automobile tires that were slashed. The incident remains under investigation. If anyone has information, call D/Sgt. Curt Harrington at (810) 257-3422.

STATE TESTING

Continued from Page 14A

"I would like to see Michigan commit to consistency in testing," she said. "Our state has seen a lot of changes over the past few years and I think the constant changes not only negatively affect the students but also increase the pressure teachers face in properly preparing our students. The new changes also make it difficult to compare data and growth over a period of time."

JURY TRIAL

Continued from Front Page

The Linden Police Department investigated the allegations and presented its case to the Genesee County Prosecutor's Office for review. The court case began October 2017 in Genesee County District Court. It was bound over to Circuit Court in January 2018.

The license of the daycare, which had been in business since 1994, was suspended July 13, 2017 by the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA), Bureau of Community and Health Systems, after investigators found that it violated the Childcare Organizations Act and administrative rules regarding family and group child care homes.

FOIA LAWS

Continued from Page 6A

substantial bipartisan support.

Mueller said the bills are a "step in the right direction."

"Currently, the Executive Office and the Legislature are exempt from the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), making Michigan one of only two states that still allow this. I find it troubling that Michigan was ranked last in the nation for government transparency, and I believe this bill package will put us in line with other states that have adopted similar legislation.

"We were elected to serve the public, and our citizens and taxpayers deserve every right to know how their hard-earned dollars are being spent. Improving transparency and accountability at the highest level will make our state a better place to live and work, and I am proud to support legislation that accomplishes that."

Michigan is currently one of two states that exempt the governor and legislature from open records laws.

THE BILLS

HB 4008 removes the specific exclusion of governor and lieutenant from "public body," meaning FOIA laws would apply to them. It also subjects legislative agencies, boards, commissions, and councils to LORA laws.

HB 4011 changes the name of part two of the FOIA law to the "Freedom of Information and Legislative Open Records Act."

HB 4007 lists exemptions from new LORA laws such as gubernatorial appointments before they are appointed, decisions relating to suspending or removing a public official under Article V of the State Constitution, the governor's executive residence and more.

HB 4015 names more exemptions including certain private and medical information, communications between a legislator and a constituent, notes within a public body of an advisory nature and more. The entire exemption list can be found at legislative.mi.gov.

Under HB 4010, appeals for FOIA requests would be handled by a LORA coordinator, either for the House or Senate, which issued the denial or the Legislative Council.

The bills would take effect Jan. 1, 2020. Each bill is tie-barred to the other bills, meaning none of them could take effect unless all of them were enacted.

MICHIGAN LAST IN GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY

Bill packages similar to these measures have failed in the Michigan legislature twice before in the 2015-16 and 2017-18 sessions. In both cases, the House passed these bills but the Senate did not vote on them.

The Center for Public Integrity ranked Michigan 50th in government transparency in 2015, receiving an "F" (failing) in 10 of 13 categories. Criteria included public access to information and political financing (both received F grades), executive, legislative and judicial accountability (all three received F grades), as well as lobbying disclosure and ethics enforcement agencies (both received F grades.)

The only three non-F grades were electoral oversight (B-), state budget process (B+) and internal auditing (C+).

DEFINITIONS

"Public record" would mean a writing prepared, owned, used, possessed, or retained by a public body in the performance of an official function that has been in the possession of the public body for 15 days or more.

"Public body" would mean a state officer, legislator, employee, agency, department, division, bureau, board, commission, committee, council, authority, or other body in the legislative branch of state government.

POLICE & FIRE REPORT

COMPILED BY SHARON STONE

COUNTERFEIT \$100 BILL PASSED IN HOLLY

Holly police were dispatched to a retail store in the 15000 block of N. Holly Road on a report of a counterfeit \$100 bill on Tuesday, April 2 at 2:30 p.m. A cashier showed police the fake \$100 bill and said he accepted it for a sale of \$10 in merchandise. The unsuspecting cashier provided the customer with correct change. A pen to verify a counterfeit bill was not used. The suspect was described as a black male, 25 to 30 years of age, with short black hair and no facial hair. The suspect was wearing a black jacket with red stripes. The cashier told police that a nearby store experienced a similar incident at the same time. The counterfeit \$100 bill was secured as evidence. The case remains under investigation.



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INCOME TAX

Continued from Page 8A

Florida

Florida is especially popular for retirees for good reason: there's no state income tax and therefore, no tax on any retirement income. Long-time residents may also take advantage of a homestead exemption of up to \$50,000 on their property, depending on the city or municipality in which they live.

But the state's sometimes volatile weather can be expensive. Florida gets hit by hurricanes more than any other state, leading to the highest home insurance rates in the U.S.

Nevada

Residents of this "lucky" state pay no state income tax, and a relatively low state levied 5.5-percent sales tax. There aren't any exemptions on property tax, but this state's property tax rate is well below the national average. Nevada's main downside is its toasty summer weather, and limited access to specialized medical care.

South Dakota

You can stretch your income a bit in this state that is home to Mount Rushmore. There is no state income tax and its state-levied sales tax is just 4.5 percent. South Dakota also has one of the lowest costs of living in the U.S. Median home prices are lower than the national average, but property tax rates, as a percentage, are slightly higher than the national average.

Texas

The Lone Star State carries no individual income taxes, nor are retirement accounts taxed. Homestead exemptions on property taxes are open to all residents, with extra incentives for seniors over age 65. However, there's a pretty hefty 7-percent sales tax and a high median property tax, relative to the national average.

Washington

Calling the Evergreen State home comes with a sizable perk of no state income tax, nor can the government touch any of your retirement income. Even its temperate climate with four seasons is a plus for many people. However, be prepared for a substantial state and local sales tax burden, as well as reasonably high property bills, thanks to higher property values than the national average.

Wyoming

This state may be the best. In addition to no state income tax and no tax on retirement income, its residents enjoy one of the lowest combined state and local tax levies in the U.S. Even property taxes are well below average, with many relief programs in place. Wyoming's oil- and mineral-rich land provides an ample revenue stream. However, the state's harsh winters and sparse access to specialized medical care may be downsides.

Source: Bankrate.com

Michigan weird "tax fact"

In Michigan, food sold in supermarkets is exempt from the 6 percent sales tax. In contrast, food that you get in a restaurant is not. The fuzzy area is food that is prepared in supermarkets (such as pizza or rotisserie chicken baked in the supermarket itself. Most people who buy such items will usually bring it home. But in many supermarkets you will also have the option of sitting and eating there, because there will be some tables and chairs.) On such food items, most supermarkets do not charge that 6 percent sales tax.

In other state tax news, Michigan is No. 31 in a ranking of low to high incomes with a median income of \$52,005. The tax rate for this median income is 4.25 percent.

Source: Thestate.com

NEWS BRIEFS

COMPILED BY SHARON STONE

New website enables residents to provide ideas to lower auto insurance rates in Michigan

State Rep. Mike Mueller (R-Dist. 51) of Fenton Township said a special website, reducemiratesnow.com, has been created so residents can provide insight and offer suggestions, while staying up-to-date on committee proceedings. "Michigan drivers should not be burdened with the highest car insurance premiums in the nation, yet they are, and it's causing financial problems for many families," Mueller said. "I saw this firsthand as road patrol deputy, crossing paths with many residents who drove without state-mandated insurance because they couldn't afford it."

HOT LINE CONTINUED

■■■■
IF YOU DON'T own property, you should not be allowed to vote on any millage that will raise my taxes.

■■■■
TO THOSE WHO think more money is not needed to improve schools. What do you do when your car needs repairs, lay hands on it and pray, or take it to a repair shop and pay?

■■■■
DOGS ARE BRED to be trained by humans. Dogs expect their people to train them. A happy dog is a dog that always knows what to do. Poorly trained dogs cause trouble because

they don't know what to do. Until your dog is well trained, please leave it home.

■■■■
A MILLAGE HAS been passed three times in as many years and not one dime has gone to roads. It has all gone to social programs of Democrats. The readers forget that Democrats have controlled this state for decades, and they are the ones who have wasted your tax money, mostly on social programs.

■■■■
SO YOU DON'T want businesses or employment in Fenton? Then stop traffic on Fenway. What a ridiculous statement you people have made.

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CONCERT

Continued from Front Page

three Grammy nominations, 22 No. 1 songs and one American Music Award. They have nearly 150,000 likes on Facebook.

This concert is an important annual fundraiser for FRTLFL. Board Member Wendy Laskowski said the Avalon concert in 2018 was so well received that they brought them back.

Profits will pay for a variety of FRTLFL programs. One aspect is spreading their anti-abortion message through billboards, TV and social media ads.

The other is practical support for women and families, like the Crisis Pregnancy Center and Fenton Center of Hope.

Laskowski said the FRTLFL seeks to “raise awareness of abortion and educate the public that it’s a human being, and not a blob of tissue, that life is precious from the moment of conception to natural death.” She said they urge adoption and not abortion.

The foundation has paid rent for women in crisis and filled dressers with formula and diapers.



At left is accompanying musician Joel Herbert. Avalon members (from left) are Greg Long, Dani Herbert, Janna Long and Jody McBrayer. Photo: Tim Jagielo

“We’ll help women who have not chosen life — if they need it.”

Wendy Laskowski

Fenton Right to Life Foundation board member

“We’ll help women who have not chosen life — if they need it,” Laskowski said. She said that woman who choose abortion end up with a different set of problems than ones who have not chosen abortion, and the foundation is there for them as well.

She isn’t sure how much they’ll raise at the concert. They sold 210

tickets at \$35 each for a total of \$7,350. This doesn’t include expenses such as food and paying the band, and any extra donations that come in. “It’s different so much from year to year,” she said, adding that Tyrone Covenant Presbyterian has been very supportive over the years.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Residents of Fenton Township, Montrose Township, Gaines Township, City of Linden, City of Fenton and the Village of Fowlerville

APM Mosquito Control is your local mosquito control contractor. Mosquito season is rapidly approaching and mosquito larvae have been detected within your communities. Aerial spring larvicide operations for Fenton Township is tentatively scheduled to begin mid-April (weather permitting). Evans Aviation of Imlay City, MI will perform the aerial larviciding in Fenton Township. Ground inspection & larviciding for all communities will begin the first week of April. Vectobac G (Bti, 2% Bacillus thuringiensis, var. israelensis) will be used for larviciding. Truck ULV fogging will begin the week of Memorial Day, weather permitting, provided mosquito activity warrants. Biomist 4+4 (4% permethrin, 4% technical piperonyl butoxide) will be used for adulticiding. If you have any questions, concerns, special requests, or would like to be on a notification/shutoff list, please call our office at (810) 766-9423 or toll free at (877) 276-4714.

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SPARTAN FANS**Continued from Front Page**

when he found out that there was going to be a celebration for the team at the Breslin Center when the Spartans returned, there was no doubt where the three were going to go Sunday night. They made the trip to East Lansing.

"We enjoyed the game, of course, and then I was going through Twitter and following the comments," Grob said. "Then someone said there was going to be a welcoming of the team at the Breslin Center and the doors were opening at 11:30 p.m. The team was expected to arrive around midnight. I half-jokingly mentioned it to Claire and her eyes lit up. I knew she wanted to go and we went."

It's easy to see why Michigan State fans are so excited. With the Spartans' 68-67 upset victory of the top-ranked Duke Blue Devils, the Spartans will be making their first Final Four appearance since 2015, and the team is just two victories away from the school's third-ever NCAA championship.

The Spartans' national semifinal

contest will be against Texas Tech at Minneapolis' U.S. Bank Stadium Saturday at approximately 8:49 p.m. If the Spartans win that game they will play in their first NCAA championship game since 2009 when they face either Auburn or Virginia, Monday at approximately 9 p.m.

"I was jumping up and down, pacing during the game and having a blast during the (victory against Duke)," Fenton High School athletic director Mike Bakker said. "I was tempted to drive out to Minneapolis (the location of the Final Four) where I have family, but I decided against it. It's exciting and I'm really enjoying being a part of the run. Beating Duke makes it that much sweeter."

"It feels great," Fenton Township resident Jeff Stone said. "2015 was the last time they were in the Final Four

and you almost get spoiled and forget how hard it is to get there. I'm excited to watch them and see them in the big dance."

Stone and Grob are veterans to the Spartans' championship scene. They were students at Michigan State when Magic Johnson's-led 1979 squad won the school's first-ever NCAA title.

Grob went to about half of the regular-season games in 1979. Of course, the Spartans defeated Larry Bird's Indiana State University squad in the championship game in what is considered one of the most memorable NCAA

title games ever.

"We watched it in the interview room in my dorm and went to downtown East Lansing after the win," Grob said. "People were climbing light poles. ... It was pretty crazy in East Lansing that night."

“I had a Michigan State T-shirt on and people were harassing me saying we didn’t have a chance. Then I got home and watched the final game at home.”

Jeff Stone
Spartan fan

Stone wasn't on campus, but remembers the Final Four games well.

"What I remember most is watching the semifinal game during spring break in Florida," Stone said. "I had a Michigan State T-shirt on and people were harassing me saying we didn't have a chance. Then I got home and watched the final game at home."

Bakker was a student when Michigan State men's basketball coach Tom Izzo led the Spartans to their second-ever NCAA title in 2000. At that time, he occasionally played the role of the Spartan's well-known mascot "Sparty" during the season. He didn't do any of the tournament games, but everyone who donned the Sparty costume during the season joined in the championship parade.

"It was amazing," Bakker said about riding in the parade. "We were on the capitol steps with them with the national championship trophy, and just being part of that celebration was amazing. Izzo is a class act. I've always believed that. For him to invite us even though we were not in costume was great. The whole crew was there. It was a lot of fun."

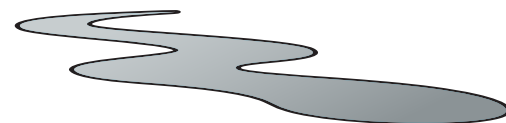
There is a Cure!

Jeremiah 8:22

*Is there no balm in Gilead; is there no physician there?
Why then is not the health of the daughter of my people recovered?*

HEALING SERVICE

April 7th 2019, 5:00PM



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Fenton Community Center | 150 S. Leroy St., Fenton

ICONS

Continued from Page 3A

Charlotte were the founders of C&G Newspapers, a group of 19 weekly newspapers serving communities in Macomb, Oakland and Wayne counties from Grosse Pointe to Farmington Hills including their flagship paper, The Warren Weekly.

The two men came into the newspaper business from different directions. Jim from the journalism side and Gil from the advertising side.

Sherman, who was born in Owosso, served in the Navy after high school and studied journalism at MSU when it was still known as Michigan State College. After college, and stints working at the Gladwin County Record and the Clinton County Republican-News, Sherman and his wife bought the Oxford Leader in 1955. He served as that paper's publisher until his retirement in 1993.

Demers grew up in the neighborhoods on the east side of Detroit. He had a variety of jobs around that area as a boy and young man, always looking for a way to earn money to support his family and himself during and after the Great Depression. By the time he was 18 he was the owner-operator of a small grocery store on McClellan Ave. in Detroit. He sold the store, got married, served in the Army and held a variety of sales jobs until starting his first paper, The Shores Shopper, in 1977.

It was during that era, the late '70s, that I came to know both men.

I was working at Webco Press, the commercial newspaper printing division of The County Press at that time. Gil Demers with his brand new "shopper" was a client. Even though we were of different generations, we immediately hit it off. It was hard not to like Gil. He always had a smile and a funny anecdote. He had a knack for putting people at ease and always showed concern beyond business. He'd always ask, "How's your job going?" and "How's your wife doing?" His questions were not perfunctory business patter. He genuinely cared about what was happening in the lives of the people with whom he worked.

Jim Sherman Sr. and Jim Fitzgerald, editor of The County Press from the mid-'50s until he moved to the Free Press in 1976, were good friends dating back to when they had each entered the

newspaper business and found themselves working just across the county line from each other.

They shared an uncanny ability and love for skewering hapless local politicians in print and each other over cocktails. The Shermans and Fitzgeralds, Jim and his wife Pat, attended annual Michigan Press Association conventions together. I married into Fitz's family in 1978 when I was fortunate to betroth the lovely Christie and we'd tag along with her folks to the convention.

That's how I came to know Big Jim and Hazel Sherman.

Jim Sherman was a mover and shaker within the MPA, serving as both a member of its board of directors and its president. He later served on the MPA Foundation and was instrumental in creating the foundation's scholarship program for aspiring journalists. Back in his community, Big Jim had expanded his newspaper business to include newspapers in Lake Orion, Clarkston and Ortonville. He served on and chaired numerous local committees, was a leader in Oxford's Rotary Club and helped create that community's Lone Ranger festival. (Oxford was home to Brace Beemer, the radio Lone Ranger.) Even as his publishing business grew beyond what might be considered small-town, Sherman embodied the best qualities and characteristics of a small-town publisher and editor — hold local elected and public officials accountable, help promote and grow local business, bring the community together. He did so while maintaining that acerbic sense of humor in his weekly column, Jim's Jottings, applying pressure via the printed word when necessary to move his community forward and rolling up his sleeves at the local charity fundraisers.

Over on the east side, Gil Demers was growing his startup publishing business. Gil was an incredible salesman and I mean that in the most positive sense. Long before "consultative selling" (Google it) was a thing, Gil was a natural master of the art. Because it came from his heart — he really cared about the people he was selling ads to. He asked about their business goals and came up with an advertising plan that would help them achieve those goals and grow their business. He got excellent results for his advertisers and his own business grew from a

single newspaper, to a few, to a dozen and more. Today C&G Newspapers has more than 600,000 copies of their 19 direct-mailed newspapers in print every week. Their tagline is "In Your Mail Every Week." Even though Gil was a natural salesman, he also knew the power that local newspapers have to bring a community together. Although his shopper model worked without news content, as soon as he was able, he began hiring reporters, photographers, copy editors and editors and started covering local governments, schools and organizations in the communities his papers served.

One thing that Sherman and Demers shared was deep commitment to family. Both built their businesses with their wives working at their side, giving those great women full credit for both the success of their business and for making them the men they were. Both the Shermans and the Demers brought their children — all of their children — into the family business. For the Shermans it was Jim Jr., Luan and Susan, all of whom work in the family newspaper business today. Unfortunately, their mother, Hazel, preceded their father in

death by several years. For the Demers it's Karen, Jeff, Gregg, Keith and Suzanne, all of whom work at their family newspaper business today. Their mother, Charlotte, continues to be involved.

Through the years, hundreds of journalists, salespeople, graphic artists and others started their careers, or at some point in their career worked, at either Sherman Publications or C&G Newspapers. It would be unusual to be in a gathering of a dozen or more newspaper people in this state and NOT run into someone who has worked at one place or the other — or both. And most, if not all, of those alums would have a funny or touching or motivational story to tell you about Gil or Big Jim.

Either one of those men could have been hugely successful in any business or field they chose. Our business — the local, community newspaper business — is better off for each of them having chosen the path they did. They will be missed. They will be remembered. And their legacy will live on through their families and through the lives of the many newspaper people they influenced throughout their remarkable careers — including mine.

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Measles cases highest since 1991

■ At least 34 known cases in Michigan of vaccine-preventable disease

Compiled by Sharon Stone

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has confirmed four additional measles cases, bringing the state total to 34 for this year. The newly confirmed cases were all in Oakland County, bringing the case count to 33 in Oakland County and one in Wayne County. Infected individuals range in age from 8 months to 63.

There also was a possible case of measles reported at Davison Community Schools, however, the Genesee County Health Department announced Wednesday that there are currently no measles cases in Genesee County.

This is the highest number of measles in the state since 1991 when 65 cases were reported. So far this year, there have been 387 cases of measles confirmed in 15 states.

MDHHS is working closely with

Oakland and Wayne county health departments to identify possible exposure locations. Known exposure sites in Oakland County are listed at Oakgov.com/health. Additional sites of potential exposures may be identified.

KNOWN MEASLES EXPOSURE SITES

APRIL 1

• **Yeshivas Darchei Torah School**, 21550 W. 12 Mile Rd., Southfield, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. March 29

• **Congregation B'Nai Israel**: 15400 W. 10 Mile Rd., Oak Park, 5:30 – 8 p.m.

• **Bais Haknesses Hagrah**, 14561 W. Lincoln Blvd., Oak Park, 7 – 10 a.m.

• **Beaumont Medical Building, 1st Floor**: 3535 W. 13 Mile Rd.,



This photograph depicts the face of a young boy with measles, which was captured on the third day of its characteristic rash.

Photo: www.cdc.com

Royal Oak, 2:30 – 5 p.m.

• **Yeshivas Darchei**

Torah School, 21550

West 12 Mile Rd.,

Southfield, 9 a.m. – 7 p.m.

March 28

• **Bais Haknesses**

Hagrah: 14561 W. Lincoln Blvd., Oak Park, 7 – 10 a.m.

• **Yeshivas Darchei**

Torah School: 21550 W. 12 Mile Rd., Southfield, 9 a.m. – 7 p.m.

• **Congregation B'Nai**

Israel: 15400 W. 10 Mile Rd., Oak Park, 5:30 – 8 p.m.

The measles vaccine is highly effective and very safe. A single dose of measles vaccine protects about 95 percent of children, but after two doses, almost 100 percent are immune.

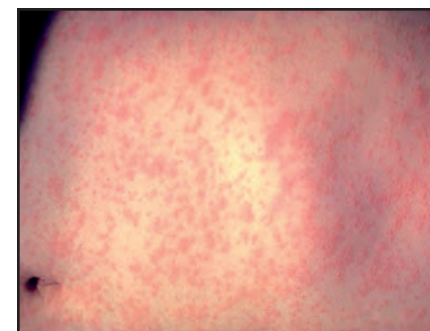
The first of two routine childhood measles vaccine doses is given at 12-15 months of age. A second vaccine dose is given before the start of kindergarten, between ages 4 and 6.

MDHHS follows Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance and does not recommend routine measles vaccinations for children under 12 months of age

unless there is a suspected measles exposure; there is thought to be an imminent measles exposure such as being in areas of known measles; or international travel planned.

For international travel, infants as young as 6 months should be vaccinated against measles. Measles vaccine, or other acceptable documentation of immunity to measles, is recommended for all persons travelling internationally.

You cannot get measles from the vaccine. It is effective when given within 72 hours of exposure to prevent illness. In addition, immune globulin (Ig) treatment is effective within six days of exposure for high-risk individuals. Talk to your healthcare provider to determine if immune globulin is right for you.



This photograph reveals the skin rash on a patient's abdomen three-days after the onset of a measles infection. The image was captured at New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center.

Photo: www.cdc.com

High-risk individuals include those who are unvaccinated or unsure about vaccination status, pregnant women and those who are immune-compromised (have a weakened immune system due to illness and diseases like HIV, malnutrition and/or medications).

The Oakland County Health Division (OCHD) is offering vaccination at their offices in Southfield and

Pontiac on Monday, 8:30 a.m.- 6 p.m. and Tuesday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.- 5 p.m..

For more information, call 800-848-5533. Please note these offices are not testing centers:

• North Oakland

Health Center, 1200 N. Telegraph Rd., Building 34 East, Pontiac

• South Oakland Health Center, 27725 Greenfield Rd., Southfield

OCHD is also offering vaccination clinics April 3 and April 4 at Young Israel of Oak Park, 15140 West 10 Mile Rd., Oak Park, 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

The Genesee County Health Department can be reached at (810) 257-3147 or at www.gchd.us.

Measles is a highly contagious, vaccine-preventable disease that is spread by direct person-to-person contact, and through the air.

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Big senior class assuring fun times with Fenton soccer

By David Troppens

Fenton — When Kirsten Foor looks around while at a Fenton varsity girls practice or game, she sees a lot of faces she's seen all her life.

Foor is a senior on the squad, and is one of 13 seniors the Tigers have on the roster. In short, these girls have been playing soccer to-

gether for a mighty long time.

"I think it's good because we've all grown up playing against and playing with each other, so it's good to be back for our senior year and be back again," Foor said. "We all know each other well."

Fenton varsity girls soccer coach Matt Sullivan knows what having 13 seniors is going to mean to his

squad of 23 varsity players.

"I can tell you we are going to have a lot of fun this year," Sullivan said. "They have been together and I've been coaching them a long time. These seniors are dead set on having fun this year and I'm excited. How that translates on the field — that usually translates into good things. The more fun we

have, the harder we play.

The harder we play, we usually do well. We just have to make breaks for ourselves. It is one of those years where I've been with these girls for so long, we're

**See SENIOR
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Sports Times



Fenton's Kirsten Foor clears a ball during the Tigers' 2-0 victory against Swartz Creek.

Photo: David Troppens

Eagles start season with clean sweep vs. Fowlerville

By David Troppens

Linden — Madison Morse is a sophomore on the Linden varsity softball team just hoping to prove she belongs on the varsity level.

She proved it Thursday in the Eagles' doubleheader sweep against the Fowlerville Gladiators.

Morse provided the game-winning two-run triple in the top of the seventh inning, enabling the Eagles to beat Fowlerville 9-6 in the second game of the twinbill. It was the sophomore's first games on the varsity level.

"I wasn't doing that good

before that at bat," Morse said. "I knew we were tied. I knew I had to just get on base and get a hit. My dad was telling me in between games 'to just hit it', 'I have this' and was cheering me on, so I drilled it. I was keeping my eye on the ball."

In the opener, Linden used a 12-hit attack and Jordyn Hobson pitched five innings of shutout ball, leading the Eagles to a 10-0 victory.

The second game didn't start as though the Eagles were going to earn a victory. Fowlerville scored two runs

See EAGLES on 30A



Linden's Lauren Buerkel slides safely into home during the Linden Eagles' doubleheader sweep against Fowlerville,

Thursday. Photo: David Troppens

Tigers open season with tight games vs. Saline

By David Troppens

It was a pair of pitchers' duel in the Fenton varsity baseball team's season-opening doubleheader against Saline, Thursday.

In the closer, Fenton's Graham Staib won the duel, pitching five innings of three-hit ball in a 1-0 victory.

In the first contest, Brendan Alvord and Ryan Adams combined to pitch a strong game, but the Tigers lost 2-0.

In the second contest, the Tigers scored the game's only run in the top of the first inning. Spencer Rivera walked and stole second.

CONTINUED AT MYFENTON.COM

FLaX Heat open season with 15-5 victory vs. Grand Blanc

By David Troppens

Fenton — The Fenton/Linden girls varsity lacrosse team (FLaX Heat) opened its season against Grand Blanc on Wednesday.

If the team's performance is any indication, it's going to be a fun season to follow the FLA X this spring.

The Heat jumped to an 11-2 lead and crushed Grand Blanc 15-5 in the team's opening match of the season.

The game started as though it may be

a close contest. Sophomore Olivia Szpak scored about 90 seconds into the game, but then the two teams exchanged goals, making it a 2-1 FLA X Heat lead. However, the Heat followed that up that period of play with three unanswered goals, making it a 5-1 lead. Grand Blanc scored the next goal, making it a 5-2 Heat lead, but the area co-op blew the game open before halftime with the final six goals of the second half.

The second half was more competi-

tive, but by that time the Heat had already taken control of the contest, earning their first win of the season. FLA X Heat coach Roger Ellis also mentioned it was the team's first-ever varsity victory against Grand Blanc as well.

Offensively, Lilly McKee had a strong game, scoring a team-high five goals while dishing an assist. Sarah Reushlein led the team with three assists, but also had four goals. Meanwhile, Lara Kemp had three goals and two assists and Szpak had two goals and one assist. Josie Sorum had one goal.

CONTINUED AT MYFENTON.COM



FLaX Heat's Lilly McKee battles for a loose ball during the team's 15-5 victory against Grand Blanc. Photo: Chris Summers

Blue Devils work hard, but fall to larger-school Flushing, 3-1

By David Troppens

With first games, wins and losses aren't always the important thing.

Victories are nice, but coaches usually have other priorities they are looking for during those contests.

That was the case for the Lake Fenton varsity girls soccer team. The Blue Devils travelled to Flushing and played the Raiders to a scoreless tie for

60 minutes. However, Flushing scored three goals during the final 20 minutes, earning a 3-1 non-league victory against the Blue Devils.

"I told them the biggest thing I wanted to see was effort," Lake Fenton varsity girls soccer coach Spencer Quick said. "We haven't had a lot of time outdoors yet and what I wanted to see them do was work, and they left

it all out there.

"I liked the attitude this year. In past years they wanted to win, but they seem to want to win more and succeed. They are willing to put in the work."

The Blue Devils have 19 players and are a veteran group.

"We are junior and senior heavy," Quick said.

CONTINUED AT MYFENTON.COM

Klocek pitches masterful game in loss to Brighton Bulldogs

By David Troppens

Travis Klocek created a memorable pitching performance in Linden varsity baseball coach Tom Derwin's first game of the season, Wednesday.

Klocek pitched seven innings of shut-out ball. However, it wasn't enough as both teams had strong pitching performances, enabling hosts Brighton to earn a 2-1 victory in eight innings. The sec-

ond game wasn't completed due to darkness. The Eagles were trailing 6-4 at the time it was called.

In the opener, Klocek battled with Brighton's Zach Hopman for the first 4 2/3 innings and then with Alex Dupree for the rest of the first seven innings, and Klocek was masterful, with both teams entering the eighth in a 0-0 deadlock.

CONTINUED AT MYFENTON.COM



Fenton's Lauren Murphy scored a goal on this shot in the Tigers' 2-0 victory against Swartz Creek. Photo: Chris Summers

SENIOR Continued from Page 28A

going to embrace the moments we have left with each other."

The Metro League defending champion Tigers were able to embrace a victory together when they faced Swartz Creek in what was a non-league match-up between the two schools. Fenton dominated possession and earned a 2-0 victory against the

Dragons. The Tigers (1-2) liked what they saw.

"I think we were loud as a team and we were all connected," Foor said about the team's performance against Swartz Creek. "I like how we played together. I think that's the main part. If you are having fun, that's the main part."

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Wolves win second straight game

By David Troppens

Linden — Chase Everhard and his Linden/Fenton varsity boys lacrosse teammates are having fun since spring break ended.

The squad opened its season prior to spring break with a loss to Grand Blanc, but since then have won two straight games, with Everhard leading the way offensively.

Everhard scored six goals in a 15-5 victory against Bishop Foley Tuesday and then had three goals and four assists in the Wolves' 10-4 victory against Ovid-Elsie Thursday.

"We're just getting ready for the open guy and waiting, getting ready for every-

body to look up," Everhard said. "It was amazing (scoring six goals in one game). It was a high goal total for me. I have never done it before. I hope I am able to do it again."

"They are shooting," varsity boys lacrosse coach Jeff Jarrad said about the team's improvement since prior to spring break. "They are getting shots on goal and that's what it takes to win games."

The Wolves' defense was pretty impressive as well. The Wolves held Ovid-Elsie scoreless during the first half, and led 5-0 at halftime. Everhard had all three of his goals in the second period, sparking the charge.

CONTINUED AT MYFENTON.COM



The Linden/Fenton co-op varsity boys lacrosse team's Paxton Cowan tries to chase down a loose ball during the squad's 10-4 victory against Ovid-Elsie, Thursday. Photo: David Troppens

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Linden's Emma Mossing slides safely into home plate during the Eagles' doubleheader sweep against Fowlerville, Thursday. Photo: David Troppens

EAGLES

Continued from Page 28A

in the first inning and three in the second, and led 5-1 after two innings. However, Linden kept cutting into the gap, eventually tying it in the top of the sixth with three runs in that stanza. Finally, in the top of the seventh the Eagles earned the lead for the first time

during the contest.

Emma Mossing started the threat with a single and Mikayla Dettman followed with a single, setting up the rally. An out later, Morse hit a flyball down the right-field line, plating both runners. She ended up on third, and eventually scored herself on Hobson's ground out.

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