There are a lot of scams out there. I feel bad for how many people are getting their money taken because of a refund scam. A refund scam — no one will ever call you and want to give you money. Think before you act.”

Foster Childs, I will miss your column. You are a man of intelligence, wit, common sense and an innate understanding of how the government should function. You have a love and respect for family values and those who know you personally will be better for that. Enjoy your retirement.”

“A couple at Meadow Pointe condominiums are celebrating their 55th wedding anniversary April 11. I would like to give them a very big happy anniversary — Happy 55th.”

Hartland woman gets probation

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

On Thursday, April 4, she was sentenced to six months probation.

Spencer enjoys a warm welcome

Pro boxer and Linden graduate Joey Spencer (right) greets Phil Senter and dozens of other family members and friends Monday, April 8, at the Fenton Buffalo Wild Wings. Spencer held an open workout to prepare for his next professional bout, and to celebrate his new partnership with the restaurant chain. He mingled with his fans but also held a workout, which included shadow boxing, sparring and jumping rope. See story on page 12 and video at myfenton.com.

It’s really an indication about how neglectful Genesee County has been in implementing policy and investing in new technology.”

John Gleason
Genesee County clerk

County attacked by ransomware

“This attack was widespread and complex’’

By Hannah Ball

Genesee County municipal offices are still dealing with a ransomware attack on its computer systems that caused technological issues and setbacks.

The county discovered the attack Tuesday, April 2 and it persists to this day.

“The attack held hostage our files and demanded payment for their release,” said the Genesee County Board of Commissioners in an official Facebook post on April 2. “Genesee County has paid no fee for the release of information and no information has been compromised.”

Norton, an internet security center, describes ransomware as a type of malware or malicious software. Hackers use it to encrypt someone’s entire computer system.

See RANSOMWARE on 11

Flint women charged with retail fraud

Fenton police officer spots them pushing loaded shopping cart across street

By Sharon Stone

Fenton police arrested two Flint women for first-degree retail fraud Wednesday, April 3. On April 5, the two women, Margaret Erin Miller, 35, and Trelcia Ennette Abrams, 52, were arraigned in Genesee County 67th District Court on felony retail fraud.

Lt. Jeff Cross said police believe the women may be connected to organized retail fraud, where store merchandise is stolen, sold to make money, and then resold.

See FRAUD on 9
Fenton council authorizes $648,499 to buy new truck and additional equipment

By Vera Hogan

The city of Fenton will have a brand new fire truck in about a year.

On Monday, April 8, the Fenton City Council voted to allow Fire Chief Bob Cairnduff to replace the 2001 fire engine with a brand new one for $648,499. That includes the truck at $628,818 and additional equipment for $19,681.

Cairnduff reminded officials at the 2018 budget session his discussion regarding the need to replace the 18-year-old engine.

“I explained the reasons why we needed to replace it (increased maintenance) and the anticipated cost for its replacement,” Cairnduff said. “The replacement was approved and planned for in the 2019 fiscal year budget.”

Cairnduff said a truck committee of six fire personnel was formed and months were spent conducting research on the replacement of the vehicle.

“We visited many fire stations around the region and have met numerous times with different vendors,” he said.

The committee completed a list of custom specifications and in March sent out for sealed bids. Two were received back.

Cairnduff said the bids came back higher than he anticipated but said the truck fund is able to handle it.

The new truck will be purchased from Payette Sales and Service. The company building it is KME in Pennsylvania. It will take about a year to deliver it, or around May of 2020, Cairnduff said.

Once the new truck is delivered, the current vehicle will be put up for sale.

“The used fire truck market has been fluctuating for the last few years and we should anticipate a sale price anywhere from $30,000 to $75,000,” Cairnduff said. “Those funds would then be put back into the truck fund to assist with the purchase.”
Now is the perfect time to prepare your vegetable garden

By Tim Jagielo

**Fenton** — A library card can provide you books, music and movies and in case you didn’t know, vegetables and plants.

Kelly Stack, Fenton library assistant, started the seed library three years ago. It’s a catalogue of seeds with packets you can check out. She said it has a little bit of everything. “Every year we get something different,” she said.

On Tuesday, April 2, Stack led a beginners gardening class, flanked by shelves of...
Building Brands

Change is challenging, even if you love it

I’ve always considered myself a person who loves change, but after doing a bit of research for this column I realized that “love” may be too strong of a word.

My research led me to an online quiz offered by Leadership IQ, founded by New York Times bestselling author and weekly Forbes contributor Mark Murphy, titled “How Do You Personally Feel About Change” (find it online at leadershipiq.com). My results found that I am an “Investigator” when it comes to change. Here’s what that means:

“Investigators like to critically evaluate potential changes and look for opportunities with a high probability for success. You don’t inherently dislike most changes but neither do you jump at every opportunity to make a change … Investigators are typically the embodiment of the phrase ‘look before you leap’ … You will likely thrive in an environment where there are some changes, so long as they’re methodical and logical with a prudent amount of risk.”

While I was surprised to find my results weren’t more along the lines of “Loves Change,” I realized they were spot on.

So, why all this talk on change?

Hopefully, all of you read the exciting news at the beginning of the year that View Newspaper Group acquired the award-winning paper you are reading right now.

When I first heard the news I was beyond excited for many reasons, most of which our publisher Wes Smith summed up perfectly in the news piece published back in January. “The addition of the Tri-County Times to our group is exciting on many levels. One, it’s further proof that local, community newspapers are important to the communities we serve. Two, we are now able to offer a broader reach to our advertising clients. Three, it means bringing together two talented teams of dedicated newspaper professionals. Four, our VIEW Group brand department, which, among other tasks, creates signature events that allow our readers to connect with each other and us, will work with the Times team to create events for the Fenton, Holly and Linden communities to enjoy.”

I now understand that I was excited by the change, because I know it has a high probability of success. It also doesn’t hurt that Fenton is my adopted hometown since my husband and I have lived in its beautiful downtown for four years.

That said, the change is only a few months old and as my change profile states, I still have some investigating to do.

See BUILDING BRANDS on 9

Compiled by Tim Jagielo, media editor

What spring projects are you working on?

“My deck. Redoing it, rebuilding it, basically. It’s 8- by 10-foot, and I’m using wood.”

— Mike Halt
Roseville

“Actually, I’m moving this spring to an apartment in Fenton. I’m too old to be doing lawn work and shoveling.”

— Gary Askins
Fenton

“Spirituality and expanding my outlook, because what you focus on expands.”

— Mary Allen
Southfield

“The garden — flowers and vegetables. We’re also looking at re-doing our kitchen.”

— Jessica Watkins
Davisburg

“We just had a baby, so getting the house ready for that, and normal lawn care and getting the house spring ready.”

— Seth Conklin
Grand Blanc

WE REGARD GUN violence like earthquakes and windstorms, acts of God we cannot prevent, but only learn to live with. But gun violence is no act of God. And we can’t live with it. That’s the whole point.

HOW MANY TRUMPeteers realize that this guy has flipped party affiliations at least five times? He’s also cost us taxpayers over $60 million so far with his weekend excursions to Mar-a-Lago. Who needs a paycheck when everyone pays your way.

THERE’S A LOT we still don’t know about the contents of special counsel Robert Mueller’s report on his two-year investigation into possible collusion between President Donald Trump’s 2016 campaign and Russia’s Putin regime or its affiliates.

TO OUR ‘NEIGHBOR’ lacking courtesy by contacting DNR. If you’d asked, you would’ve learned: we feed birds; the deer were here first; other neighbors feed birds; deer like bird food; other neighbors feed birds; it’s legal to feed birds; the deer were here first; they’ve visited the neighborhood for years. You might be happier living away from wildlife.

A JUDGE SAID former Gov. Rick Snyder can be sued by residents in the Flint water scandal, reversing a decision from last summer.
There’s an open spot

Fenton library parking lot construction set to begin

By Vera Hogan

Driving around the block to find a parking spot may not be necessary after the new lot adjacent to the Fenton Jack R. Winegarden Library is completed.

Construction on the new parking lot is set to begin in May, according to Michael Hart, assistant city manager and DDA executive director.

“Completion will be approximately one month out, subject to not running into any unusual site issues or problems,” Hart said.

The Fenton City Council voted to authorize administration to accept the lowest qualified bidder, Allied Construction of Clarkston, which bid $249,751.25 for the project.

Allied Construction has been in operation for nearly 50 years and has completed similar projects with the city of Fenton in the past, according to Andy Harris of OHM Advisors, the city’s engineering consulting firm.

The new parking lot will feature 20 new parking spots.

The city of Fenton has committed to investing money for library infrastructure improvements, said Hart. As part of this, the library has recently undergone substantial upgrades in the library building. It also acquired the property to the east of the building for the purpose of building a public parking lot. This will service the needs of library patrons and free up parking on E. Caroline Street.

Plans also are to refurbish the existing library parking lot, which is deteriorating. There will be surface and drainage improvements to the existing lot where there will be three handicap parking spaces and three for employees.
Vocational skills teach independence to students

‘…we’re really working to transition them from high school to jobs’

By Hannah Ball

Linden — On Thursday, April 4, Emma Egan, Linden High School junior, counts different amounts of change using nickels and pennies.

Egan is in the Practical Assessment Exploration System (PAES) Lab in which about 20 special needs students from Linden, Fenton and Lake Fenton have an opportunity to gain job skills.

“This program is for kids to find out what job skills they’re interested in,” said teacher Cheryl Heiss, who oversees the program.

The PAES lab is the first in Genesee County. The cost was a one-time fee of $28,000, which came out of the three-district consortium budget.

This curriculum simulates a work environment where students are employees and teachers become supervisors. Students “work” in various vocation areas including business/marketing, construction/industrial, consumer/service, processing/production and computer/technology.

Each category provides different tasks the students must perform. The lab allows for hands-on experience while learning important adult skills.

There are 263 jobs total for students to accomplish.

“In the old days, we used to have shop and it used to be more for only boys, but it did finally change to be for both sexes,” Heiss said.

One of Heiss’ students is solely interested in construction and has been building a bookcase. On Thursday, another junior, Hope Webster, worked on visual perception jobs in the processing field. Another student learned how to use a cash register in the business and marketing field.

Linden High School junior Emma Egan works on counting different amounts of change for a job in the Practical Assessment Exploration System (PAES) Lab on Thursday, April 4.

Photo: Hannah Ball

“Vocational skills teach independence to students,” Heiss said.

The goal of the lab is to help students become independent. Students learn what tasks they’re capable of completing, if they need special assistance, what skills they need to work on and more.

If they have a question or need help, Heiss has them wait a few moments to teach them that they might have to wait on their boss for an answer.

“I am their manager. I am not their teacher in here,” Heiss said.

The students are timed and scored. If they can’t figure out the task, they try again another day. Once the computer scores the students, it creates a summary of their strengths and weaknesses.
Your wallet may be disappearing

New ‘mobile wallets’ offer convenient pay at checkout and may make traditional wallets obsolete

By Sally Rummel

Just about everything is going mobile, and that includes your wallet.

Rather than fumbling through your purse or billfold to find the appropriate credit or debit card to pay at the checkout line, you might just flash your smart phone or watch to make the transaction.

Mobile wallets come in different digital platforms, including device-specific platforms such as Apple Pay and Samsung Pay, which are compatible with these respective devices. Google Pay works with multiple platforms, including Android devices.

The State Bank has been offering these mobile wallet services for a year now. “It’s like having a mobile checking account,” said Stacey Webb, senior vice president of retail banking. “You can link your credit or debit card through your phone, and it connects with your fingerprint or passcode to validate. It’s really secure. We knew when we signed up for the platform that we needed to be offering what our customers want.”

It’s a simple process to sign up, Webb said. “You can either come into The State Bank and we’ll walk it through with you or you can do it online with instructions from our website.”

You’ll also find merchant apps, such as those from major retailers like Walmart and Starbucks, which can only be used at their specific stores.

Mobile wallets are beneficial to shoppers who don’t want to be weighed down with plastic credit cards, or who are afraid of losing a physical card. Shoppers who want an easier way to track store rewards may also like the convenience of using a mobile wallet.

To get started using a mobile wallet, you’ll need to load your bank information onto your preferred mobile wallet device. That generally means entering a credit card or debit card number and security code, and accepting the terms and conditions in the mobile app.

When it’s time to make a payment, just show your device at the checkout line. Typically, you complete the transaction by placing the device near the terminal and scan a barcode or using a biometric reader that may scan your fingerprint to sign off on the purchase.

See WALLET on 10
Meet

Cameron Finnegan

- Future electrician
- Would vacation in Fiji
- Praises parents on their hard work

By Hannah Ball

Cameron Finnegan, 17, is a senior at Linden High School who’s planning to go to trade school to become an electrician. Finnegan said, “I have the grades for a four-year university but have chosen to head into the trades and not be in debt. There is a huge shortage to head into the trades and not be in debt. There is a huge shortage.

In what ways do you feel that you’ve matured over the last year?

Over the last year I have matured in many ways, but some may include, getting a job, figuring where I want to start my career and what career I want to start.

Which historical figure would you want to be for a day and why?

If I could be one historical figure for a day it would be Bo Jackson. He was a phenomenal athlete and could seemingly do anything he put his mind to.

Tell me three things you remember from kindergarten.

Three things I remember from kindergarten were, of course, nap time, getting stabbed in the hand with a pencil, and my mean teacher who wouldn’t let me have more chocolate milk.

If you could eat just three foods the rest of your life, what would they be?

Three things I would eat forever would have to be something you could make in different ways, such as eggs, fish, or maybe a peanut butter and jelly sandwich.

Where would you vacation if money were no object?

If I could go anywhere in the world on vacation I would go somewhere where I could not only be on the water but have fun doing other activities, like Fiji. It’s warm and tropical and there are many tourist attractions that sound like a lot of fun.

Would you rather live in the past or future, why?

I would rather live in the past. I think it would be cool to experience the development of technology, also to live in a simpler time where people can let their kids run around outside without any worry at all.

What’s one thing you look forward to when you wake up?

One thing I look forward to when I wake up is breakfast, even if it’s a granola bar in the morning it seems to always make the day smoother and you are in a good mood.

If you see news happening, or if you just want us to know about something going on...

email news@tctimes.com or text 810-771-TEXT (8398)
The 2019 measles outbreak and the law

Before vaccinations were started nationally in 1963, three to four million people per year contracted the measles.

These numbers steadily decreased to the point that in 2000 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) declared that measles had been eliminated in the United States. Credit was given to high vaccination rates in children and a strong public health system.

Since then, the number of cases has fluctuated with more cases being reported in some years than others. For example, in 2004, there were 37 cases nationally and in 2014, there were 667.

This year Michigan has already seen 41 cases. This is the highest number since 1991 when there were 65. As of yesterday, there were over 465 cases nationally.

Why are there still measles outbreaks?

Health professionals believe it is primarily due to unvaccinated foreign travelers bringing the disease into the United States and then spreading it to unvaccinated people here.

A large segment of these individuals are children.

The primary reason that children aren’t vaccinated (immunized) involves what is commonly called an immunization waiver or exemption.

All states have laws that require proof of immunization for a wide variety of diseases before a child may enroll in school.

However, all states also have laws, which provide for immunization waivers, with all states allowing medical waivers, 47 allowing waivers for religious reasons, and 18 allowing waivers for philosophical reasons.

See JUDGE on 11

Building Brands

Continued from Page 4

I know I’m not alone in needing the extra time to investigate. The talented team members who underwent an even bigger change (new ownership) still have some “looking before leaping” to do as well.

The key to making any change a success is understanding that everyone has their own reaction to change. Murphy says to help understand why individuals react differently to change use the FIRE (Facts, Interpretations, Reactions, Ends) Model, which can help us understand how “life history, previous experiences and personality predispositions” affect how people see change.

Murphy says you can use that same model to help change become a positive. He writes, “When you start to have negative feelings about a change, remind yourself that this emotional reaction didn’t just appear out of nowhere; it’s a result of your interpretations. Just by recognizing how your emotions are driven by your personal interpretation of an independent fact will help unskew your worldview and allow you to view the situation more objectively.”

Emily Caswell is the Brand Manager for VIEW Group, the branding division of View Newspaper Group, which acquired the Tri-County Times in January. A graduate of Michigan State University’s Journalism School, she lives in downtown Fenton with her husband Matt and their rescue pup, Yeti.

PLANNED PARENTHOOD, REALLY?

Every year federal, state and local governments give hundreds of billions of dollars to for-profit businesses in the form of grants, subsidies and property tax abatements and you worry about funding of Planned Parenthood. Admit it, your objection to Planned Parenthood is the abortion issue.

Hey Hater, You don’t speak for 75 percent of Americans.

Hot Line continued

LINDEN COUNCILOR RAY Culbert, and chairperson for SLPR, wants to raise $14 million via property tax increases to pay for a non-motorized pathway. It seems that he and the mayor of Fenton, an SLPR commissioner, are working harder to build a road for bicycles than they are to build the roads we drive on.

ARE YOU SMART enough to realize that the people telling you that man’s environmental pollution is not the cause of climate change are the very people who are benefiting financially and are responsible for that pollution? Well, are you?

IF JOHN MCCAIN was alive, he would take Lindsay Graham out behind the woodshed.

The Hot-Liner Grousing

about the Mueller report wants the Republican appointed attorney general to violate the law. By law, certain redactions of the report must be made.

Fraud

Continued from Front Page

Cross said just after 2 p.m., April 3, a Fenton police officer was traveling southbound on Silver Parkway when he observed two women pushing a shopping cart eastbound from the Walmart parking lot toward the Burger King parking lot. The shopping cart was full of merchandise, however, nothing was bagged.

Thinking this appeared suspicious, the officer decided to investigate and called for backup. He made contact with the women and learned through the Law Enforcement Information Network (LEIN) that both women had multiple arrest warrants, including organized retail fraud.

The women were placed under arrest for retail fraud and taken into custody. Found inside the shopping cart was $504.92 worth of store merchandise, including an airbed, air fryer, lampshades, scented wax warmer, several rugs and rose bushes, among other items.

Cross pushed the full shopping cart across Silver Parkway and back to Walmart, and advised the store manager about the theft.

Bond was set at $5,000. Both women have probable cause conferences Thursday, April 18.

New Patient Special

$85

Includes: Cleaning, Exam & complete set of x-rays (original value of $360)
GREEN THUMB
Continued from Page 3
book and DVDs at the Jack R. Wn-egarden Library.
If you’re new to gardening and
considering starting this year, the
Times reached out to local gardeners
to talk about how to start.
Vince Paris is the executive di -
rector of Southern Lakes Parks and
Recreation (SLPR) — and he’s also
been gardening for more than 45
years. He’s still fascinated each time
he sees the plants grow. “The plants
know what to do, you just have to
help them,” he said.
Paris said he currently has a 40- by
40-foot garden at his Davison home.
He grows berries and red currants
on jam.

Why garden?
Stack said gardening is important be
cause people are losing food diversity
due to factory farming. “Large farms
monocrop and breed their crops for
uniformity of size, shape, color ability
to last through shipping and all at the
expense of taste,” she said. “Keeping
a home garden helps preserve these
heirloom varieties that may have been
around for hundreds of years.”
She said store-bought vegetables
dangel pale in comparison to what
comes out of a home garden, regarding taste.
“A tomato from your
garden will amaze you
with its intense flavor.
Many of which are very
very sweet,” she said.
“It’s one of my phys-
ical activities,” said
Paris, of gardening. “I
like to go out and sweat
in the garden, I enjoy
the quiet time, watching
the plants grow” He also
likes knowing where his
food comes from.

Garden size
Gardens require care. “Your own
schedule should influence the size and
type of garden you start. Paris suggests
starting small and conservative.

What vegetable are good for
beginners?
Paris suggests tomatoes, cucumbers,
onions and leafy lettuce. He also sug-
gests easy herbs, such as oregano,
tarragon and thyme.
Stack suggests beginning garden-
ers grow what they know they’ll use.
“For me, I would suggest tomatoes,
peas, and zucchini.
All three are very easy
to grow and are deli-
cious,” she said.

An absolute be -
ginner will have to
start with a sprouting
plant. Paris said
tomatoes would take
120 days to grow from
seeds. More experi-
enced growers would
be growing inside
already through the
winter. “He’ll keep his
plants inside and plant them until the
middle of May to avoid the frost.
Each plant will have its own care
instructions, including the amount of
sun and water it needs. Paris waters his
garden daily and fertilizes regularly.
Plants will need a lot of sunlight and
water — but not enough to drown or
leave standing water. The soil also im-
pacts the health of the plant. Compost
and moss can help.

What about tools?
Paris suggests the essentials — a
shovel, rake and a hoe.
“The most basic tool would be just
your hands, but after that a pair
of gloves, a trowel and some sort of
watering can or
hose.”

Kelly Stack
Gardener, library assistant

The most basic
tool would be just
your hands, but
after that a pair
gloves, a trowel
and some sort of
watering can or
hose.”

WALLET
Continued from Page 7
Currently, less than half of all
smartphone owners use mobile wal-
et technology, according to Merca-
tor Advisory Group, a payments
and consulting research firm. Some
people might not find it that much
more convenient than using a regular
credit or debit card, and others might
worry about the security of mobile
wallet payments.
Those fears appear to be un -
found. Mobile wallets rely on
near-field communication, or NFC,
which uses a chip in the mobile
device to wirelessly communicate
with the merchant’s payment ter-
minal. The devices communicate
using special short-term codes to
verify customers’ identities and
don’t reveal actual credit card
numbers.
Along with NFC technology,
smartphones typically add their own
layer of security. You likely need to
use a fingerprint reader or passcode
to unlock a screen, for example,
to access the device and its digital
wallet. With a physical card, a thief
could steal it and make fraudulent
purchases before a person even knew
the card was gone.

SOURCE: Nerdwallet.com

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SOURCE: Nerdwallet.com

The buck stays here!
Spend it here. Keep it here.
Invest In Your Community.
RANSOMWARE
Continued from Front Page

hard drive, which locks the user out the system. Ransomware can also encrypt specific information on a computer, such as word documents, photos and more.

Hackers will demand the owner of the computer pay a fee to get their computer unencrypted.

“It’s really an indication about how neglectful Genesee County has been in implementing policy and investing in new technology,” said John Gleason, Genesee County clerk. “Now there’s a terrible consequence to pay.”

He said the hackers demanded $4 million. Hundreds of thousands of documents have been affected, and Gleason said there’s talk about the potential that not all of them will be recovered.

The clerk’s system, which includes vital documents such as birth and death records, are still shut down.

“That’s really critical. We know there’s been hacks all over the country,” he said.

This past fall, the Register of Deeds office received new software. This system has been unaffected by the hack. But the clerk’s system, including other county systems, was more vulnerable to hacks because it hasn’t been updated since 2000.

“Almost two decades. That’s how antiquated that process is,” he said. “We need to establish a policy for upgrades and put a firewall behind these public records. There’s a lot of personal information out there.”

The Michigan State Police is investigating.

Starting Tuesday, April 9, the county expected regular operations to be working in the treasurer’s office and equalization department, according to a Monday April 8, Facebook post by the Board of Commissioners.

“We continue to work on restoring regular operations in all other departments. Please call ahead prior to coming to our offices for service.

“This attack was widespread and complex. This continues to be a very fluid situation with constant changes. We will continue to give updates on this page as they become available.”

Residents were unable to pay their taxes at the treasurer’s office for a few days, and email services were out among other issues. Court records for the 67th District Court and 7th Circuit Court are available along with certain property information, public deeds and more.

In 2013, Gleason filed a lawsuit against the county and claimed that the commissioners were “acting in bad faith by cutting (his) budget to a point that will impact the services he needs to provide ...” This case was settled.

He filed another lawsuit in 2016 with claims that the county misspent $6.5 million it was legally required to give Gleason’s office for technology upgrades. He rejected an offer to the settle.
Hillger earns All-American status at D1 NCAA national meet

By David Troppens

Trent Hillger recently spent three days wrestling some of the 32 toughest wrestlers in the country.

And by the time he finished the 2019 NCAA Division I wrestling championships, the Lake Fenton graduate and University of Wisconsin redshirt freshman was an All-American.

Hillger went 3-3 at the national meet, earning him All-American status as one of the top eight wrestlers in his weight class (heavyweight).

“Oh, by far it was the toughest bunch of matches I’ve ever had,” Hillger said. “Our coach’s training prepares us for multiple matches at this level, but nothing compares to wrestling the top 32 wrestlers in the country. Each match gets tougher and tougher as you get closer to All-American status. It mentally wears on you.”

Hillger’s first season competing with Wisconsin’s actual varsity wrestling team should be looked upon as a huge success. He recorded a 24-9 record overall, and a 10-7 record within the Big Ten. He had an 8-8 record against ranked wrestlers. The wrestler known as Thor among his teammates because of his physique, won his first two matches at the NCAA nationals, putting him just one win away from becoming an All-American.

CONTINUED AT MYFENTON.COM

Linden’s Spencer gives area fans, Wright a thrill before leaving for Saturday’s next professional bout

By David Troppens

Fenton — To Joey Spencer, boxing means a lot of things.

However, maybe one word represents the sport better than any other. That word is “opportunity.”

Spencer knows how to create positive opportunities through it as well as most seasoned championship boxers.

He proved that once again Monday. Just five days before his next bout at the Minneapolis Armory, Spencer spent Monday with about 60 area fans while hosting his final open workout at Fenton’s Buffalo Wild Wings. While preparing for Saturday’s fight with Osias Vasquez (4-2), he’s also opened the door to promoting the Children’s Miracle Network, supporting 11-year-old cancer survivor Dei’On Wagner.

Dei’On has spent the last couple of weeks with Spencer training, and will be at Spencer’s side when he fights Vasquez on Fox Sports 1’s Premier Boxing Champions. The prelims start at 8 p.m. on Fox Sports 2 with the main card starting at 10 p.m. on Fox Sports 1.

This is Spencer’s first scheduled six-round bout of his career. However, he understands Dei’On is the true fighter. He was diagnosed with a form of kidney cancer when he was 6-months old. His father, Moe Wright, said doctors gave him a 50-50 chance of surviving. But, 10 years later, Dei’On is cancer-free and was one of the many Spencer fans at Buffalo Wild Wings. He’ll be leaving to Spencer’s fight later this week.

“It means a lot to me,” Dei’On said.

See Spencer on 13
Eagles soar vs. Blue Devils to 7-0 victory

By David Troppens

Linden — It has been a good start to the season for the Linden varsity girls soccer team.

In back-to-back games on consecutive days, the young squad was able to outscore their first two opponents by a combined score of 15-0.

The Eagles opened their season with an 8-0 road victory at Perry on Thursday, and followed that performance with a 7-0 victory against neighborhood rival Lake Fenton at Linden High School Friday.

“I like how we kept the passes short and we had a lot of good combination passes, so it was easier to get it in,” Linden senior Taylor Acox said. “We also worked together as a team. I thought we worked really good together tonight.”

“I wasn’t too pleased with them (against Perry) but I think the cold had a lot to do with that,” Linden varsity girls soccer coach Kevin Fiebernitz said. “I thought we were better on the ball tonight (against Lake Fenton). We still have a lot of work to do, but the thought was there. We just have to settle in and see what we are going to be able to do here, what our rotations are going to be. We have some good people here, so that’s good.”

It was a tough loss for Lake Fenton, who fell to 0-2.

“They did a really good job of taking advantage of the countless mistakes we made tonight,” Lake Fenton varsity girls soccer coach Spencer See

See EAGLES on 14

LF softball opens season with DH split vs. Kearsley

By David Troppens

Lake Fenton’s varsity softball team opened its season with a split against the Kearsley Hornets on Monday.

The Blue Devils’ Taylor Godlewski pitched a strong first game, leading Lake Fenton to a 2-1 victory. However, in the second game, the Kearsley bats came alive, earning an 8-1 victory, earning a doubleheader split.

In the opener, Godlewski pitched seven innings of eight-hit ball, walking none and striking out six. The Blue Devils jumped to a 2-0 lead in the top of the fifth inning when Kaylee Terburgh hit a one-out single and scored on Olivia Tanner’s double. Haley Whittecar followed with an RBI-single.

Kearsley scored its only run in the top of the sixth, with the Hornets scoring with the aide of a catcher’s interference play.

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Tigers’ bats post impressive performance in DH split vs. Davison

By David Troppens

The Fenton varsity softball team’s offense looked pretty good in its first doubleheader of the 2019 season.

The Tigers collected a combined 22 hits in two games against Davison, but were only able to manage a double header split against the Cardinals.

Fenton (1-1) lost the first game 9-7, but dominated the nightcap with a 9-3 victory.

In the second game, the Tigers had 11 hits. Hailee Prater led the team with three hits, including the team’s only extra-base hit, a double. Cadyn Reger and Coral Lefever had two hits and two runs scored each while Erin Carter scored three runs and had one hit. Angela Hanners, Addy Taylor and Natalie Thomas had a hit each as well. Fenton batters made strong contact, striking out just once during the game.

CONTINUED AT MYFENTON.COM

SPENCER

Continued from Page 12

“I like boxing. I like all sports but I’ve never been on a plane before so I don’t know what that is like.”

Dei’On, who lives in Flint, has enjoyed his time with his new friend. He’s been at Spencer’s gym and had a fun sparring session with him. He’s excited to walk down to the ring with Spencer for his seventh professional bout.

“I thought he was good, but when I saw the video of him I knew he was really good,” Dei’On said. “I told my dad I want him to fight (boxing legend) Floyd Mayweather.”

The experience has been great not only for Dei’On, but also his dad who was put in contact with Spencer for the wish by the Children’s Miracle Network.

CONTINUED AT MYFENTON.COM
Blue Devils capture first win of season, beat Kearsley

By David Troppens
Lake Fenton — Lake Fenton’s varsity girls soccer team has been a busy squad since spring break ended.

The Blue Devils played their third game of the season and earned their first victory of the season, crushing Metro League foe Kearsley 8-0 on Monday.

The win came after two losses to Metro League foes last week, and served as a big positive entering Tuesday’s league contest against Goodrich.

“It was a lot better,” Lake Fenton varsity girls soccer coach Spencer Quick said. “We are starting to put the pieces together.”

Bella Reitano had a huge game, scoring five goals.

“It wasn’t like she was putting her head down, just dribbling and trying to score every time. She did it the right way,” Quick said. “She made nice passes and then made a good run. You get rewarded when you make a nice pass and they got her the pass on the run. That’s how she scored all of her goals.”

Morgan Reitano, Madeline Sheroski and Sydney Hammis had a goal each as well.

Lake Fenton had a 5-0 lead at halftime and the game ended due to the eight-minute mercy rule with about 15 minutes left. That was probably a positive because the Blue Devils have its game against Goodrich today at home at 4:30 p.m. It helped give the team at least a little rest before the contest with the Martians.

“It was a good result,” Quick said.

CONTINUED AT MYFENTON.COM

Lake Fenton’s Morgan Reitano dribbles the ball downfield during the Blue Devils’ 8-0 victory against the Kearsley Hornets. Photo: Chris Summers

Linden baseball splits vs. Corunna

By David Troppens

The Linden varsity baseball team hasn’t wasted any time playing games under recently hired varsity head coach Tom Derwin.

Derwin officially held his first practice the Monday after spring break, and since then the Eagles have already played four games.

The Eagles returned to action Saturday, splitting a doubleheader against non-league Corunna. The Eagles beat Corunna 7-0 in the first game, but lost the second game 7-5.

In the opener, Jeff Metzger pitched an outstanding game, tossing a seven-inning two-hit shutout. Metzger fell behind the hitters frequently, tossing first-pitch balls to 16 of the 26 batters he faced, but he didn’t keep those numbers from allowing him to strike out seven and walk just four. He needed 96 pitches to toss the shutout, getting 10 batters out on ground outs and just one with a fly out.

CONTINUED AT MYFENTON.COM

EAGLES

Continued from Page 13

Quick said, “They capitalized on all those small things. There are too many small areas of the game that we are just missing out on. This is one of the toughest losses I’ve had to deal with as a coach, and it’s harder on them because they are the ones out there.”

Linden controlled the game from the start, but it did take the Eagles about 14 minutes to score the game’s first goal on a rebound shot by Hannah Wabel. It was the first of seven different goal scorers the Eagles would have in the game. About six minutes later, Acox had a breakaway on a pass by Kaitlin Garvey, making it a 2-0 Linden lead. The Eagles took that lead into the second half.

In the second half, the Eagles blew the game open relatively quickly, scoring two more goals in the first eight minutes.

Melanea Strauss scored on a 20-yard shot with 33:39 left in the half, and just 1:30 later, Aubre Moffatt took a rebound and scored the Eagles’ fourth goal.

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### Horoscopes

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<th>Sign</th>
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<th>Advice</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARIES</td>
<td>Mar 21/Apr 20</td>
<td>Curiosity is a useful tool, Aries. Keep a handle on it this week. Do not go delving into situations that do not involve you, or you could end up in trouble.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TAURUS</td>
<td>Apr 21/May 21</td>
<td>Taurus, if a certain person’s boastfulness is causing concern, you may need to speak up or simply avoid that person for the time being. He or she may just be blowing off steam.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEMINI</td>
<td>May 22/June 21</td>
<td>Gemini, save yourself a lot of frustration and accept the way things are right now. Focus on the positives in your life and count your many blessings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CANCER</td>
<td>June 22/July 22</td>
<td>The universe has an important lesson to teach you, Cancer. It involves giving up a little bit of control so you can benefit in unknown ways. This is challenging, but worth it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEO</td>
<td>July 23/Aug 23</td>
<td>Leo, think twice before you commit to any projects or confirm appointments with others. You have to have all of the details worked out in advance before you can proceed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIRGO</td>
<td>Aug 24/Sept 22</td>
<td>Virgo, if relationship issues are confusing you, it might be the right time to distance yourself and go it alone for a little while. This will help you get your bearings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIBRA</td>
<td>Sept 23/Oct 23</td>
<td>Reach out to your friends this week and ask them for advice on your current situation, Libra. They know you well enough and may have some important insight.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCORPIO</td>
<td>Oct 24/Nov 22</td>
<td>Scorpio your creativity is easily channeled this week and you are bound to surround yourself with others who are eager to brainstorm ideas. This can prove beneficial.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAGITTARIUS</td>
<td>Nov 23/Dec 21</td>
<td>You have set goals and your feet are firmly planted on the ground. These are assets that will serve you well, and others will soon look to you for inspiration.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Jerry Donald Laatsch 1938-2019
Jerry Donald Laatsch - age 80 of Holly, MI died Saturday, April 6, 2019. The funeral service will be held on Wednesday, April 10, 2019 at 12 noon at The Dryer Funeral Home, Holly with burial at All Saints Cemetery, Waterford Twp. Visitation was held on Tuesday, April 9, 2019 from 1-3 PM and 5-7 PM. Jerry was a loving father and husband of 60 years. He was married to Roberta Luanna Travis on January 24, 1959. They met at a once famous spot on Woodward Ave. called Ted's where he would cruise up and down Woodward in his convertible black 1958 Impala with a continental wheel. Jerry was the father of three children, Daniel, James and David; grandfather of three, Tyler, Chelsea and Victoria and he is survived by his siblings, Mary Lee, David, Jeff and Dawn. Jerry was born in Waupaca, WI on May 17, 1938 to his father, Clarence Laatsch and mother, Evelyn Laatsch (Roloff) who died when Jerry was only three years old. He was raised on his grandfather Shultz’s farm in Clintonville, WI where the “farm bug” was planted. He worked early in the morning and at night tending milk cows. The milk was sold to the local cheese factory in Bel Plaine, WI. Jerry graduated high school a year early at the age of 17 then came to Michigan in 1955 and worked in his father’s radio and television store. He went to the Electronics Institute in Detroit at night time to earn a certificate in electronics technology. Jerry went on to become part owner of Obel TV in Pontiac and later went on to open his own store with his wife Roberta in Holly named Village Electronics, where he sold and serviced TVs, radios and other electronics for 56 years before retiring. Farming was entrenched in him from his days in Wisconsin and in 1976 they moved to Holly (Rose Township) where they purchased 10 acres of land and built their house, of course farm house style and with plenty of land to grow many different types of crops. At times us kids were less than thrilled with his enthusiasm to plant SO much at times, but it provided plenty for the family and really instilled a work ethic. He loved to travel back to his roots in Wisconsin to visit family members and he liked motor homes so he bought a 1974 Winnebago where we had many days of fun going nearly everywhere. www.dryerfuneralhomeholly.com.

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14 — Major
15 Medieval entertainer
17 Anger
18 “— lazy river"
19 Extreme
21 Assault
24 Heavy weight
25 Hawaiian neckwear
26 With it
28 Complete range
32 Exam format
34 Illustrations
36 Soybean paste
37 Eastern potentate (Var.)
39 Lummox
41 Profit
42 Needlefish
44 Aplenty
46 Graham of "Monty Python"
50 Bay State sch.
51 Humdinger
52 Alternatives to station wagons

DOWN
56 Israeli airline
57 Carbon compound
58 Where (Lat.)
59 Roll up
60 Almost black
61 Knock
62 Needlefish
44 Aplenty
46 Graham of "Monty Python"
50 Bay State sch.
51 Humdinger
52 Alternatives to station wagons

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