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# Weekend★Times

VOL. 26 NO. XVI

SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 2019

\$1.00

## Public reacts to Fenton schools sinking fund proposal

■ Officials asking for 2.25 mills instead of current 1 mill on Aug. 6 ballot

By Vera Hogan

Public reaction has been swift to the

announcement that Fenton Area Public Schools will be asking voters in August for another sinking fund. The current fund expires Dec. 31.

If voters approve the sinking fund on the Aug. 6 ballot, the next 10-year collection period will start Jan. 1, 2020.

School officials also are asking to increase the sinking fund millage amount from 1 mill to 2.25 mills. In the city of Fenton alone, the amount collected from July 1, 2018 to Feb. 28 of this year was \$335,519, according to Jon Satkowiak,

See **SINKING FUND** on 12A

**With voter approval, an increase to 2.25 mills will bring the annual amount collected to about \$1,132,380.**

## Airport attacker sentenced to life in prison

■ Testifies at sentencing that he has 'no regrets' and would do it again

By Sharon Stone

Amor M. Ftouhi, 51, of Quebec, Canada since 2007 and a native of Tunisia, was sentenced Thursday, April 18 to life in U.S. federal prison. He was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Matthew Leitman.

See **ATTACKER** on 15A



Amor M. Ftouhi

## EASTER under the TENT



Crews with American Rentals Inc. hoist two 28-foot poles in tandem to support the tent The Rock Church is using for Easter Under the Tent this weekend. Church officials estimate there could be 4,500 attendees between the three services. See **Story** on page 17A. Photo: Tim Jagielo

## Trustees have mixed opinions on nonpartisan elections

■ Potential legislation could give municipalities options

By Hannah Ball

**Fenton Twp.** — The Fenton Township Board of Trustees has mixed opinions on potentially having the option to conduct nonpartisan elections.

The Michigan Townships Association (MTA) Board of Directors is asking township officials statewide to consider passing a resolution that would allow township boards the option of having elected

See **NONPARTISAN** on 20A

TEXT  
YOUR  
HOT LINE

810-771-TEXT



“I’m getting scared to get my paper anymore. Every time I open it up, there’s more requests for our money. Taxes for the culture center, then the roads, now the bike paths and soon the school. The joke about taxes will soon come true: ‘how much do you make? Send it all in.’”



“We wonder why nations can’t get along but sadly we see two neighbors duking it out in the Hot lines. Shame on you for calling DNR on your neighbor and then being glad they got in trouble. You seriously want government telling us whether we can feed birds in our yard or not?”



“Earth Day Is Monday, April 22. Celebrate by cleaning up the trash where you live, whether you are a guest, renter or homeowner. If everyone did this, our community would be a better place.”



COMMENT  
OF THE WEEK

“Holly man beats girlfriend, great bodily harm less than murder \$5,000 bond. Tim Hortons’ employee videotaping the bathroom \$150,000 bond? What?”

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# Cleaning your community — and your home

■ Cleanup days a good way to beautify your town and recycling is a good way to make extra cash


**By Tim Jagielo**  
**Fenton** — Eric Dixon of Scrap Dog Recycling and Salvage claws a Dodge minivan with his excavator, hoisting it into the air to drop it into an 80-yard dumpster.  
He'll sandwich four vehicles around loose scrap steel adding up to approximately 30,000 pounds.  
Inside the facility, a pile of electronics waits to be recycled.  
Owner Jim DiMarco said his business will process 5 million pounds of metal annually. One million of that is from electronics. They'll also process one million pounds of cardboard and paper.

See **CLEANUP DAYS** on 22A



Eric Dixon of Scrap Dog Recycling uses an excavator to move steel including scrap and entire vehicles on Wednesday, April 17. Photo: Tim Jagielo

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Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Saturday & Sunday  
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## Andrew Heller

andrewheller@tctimes.com

# Come *Heller* high water...

• **I spent the** last week in Napa Valley, California, and I am here to report that they have this thing out there they call “the sun.” It’s this big, orange ball that hangs in the sky where the clouds should be, and it radiates this stuff called “heat.” I asked the locals and they said it’s a common occurrence, if you can believe it. Californians appear to enjoy it. Maybe Michigan should give it a try.

• **Napa Valley was** lovely, of course. But it wasn’t any lovelier than Michigan’s wine region in Grand Traverse and Leelanau counties. In fact, I would contend that ours are prettier because of the lakes.

• **Oddest thing I** saw in Napa: a winery with a full-size Italian castle (Castello di Amorosa, in Calistoga), complete with turrets, a drawbridge, a moat and a torture chamber. The owner always wanted to build a castle and own a winery. So, he did. I always think it’s cool when someone actually pursues and reaches a dream. So few of us do.

• **Every time I** fly I wonder why airlines don’t board the back of the plane first. Wouldn’t that make more sense? I know the first-class people like to board first, but is it any fun for them to wait longer for the plane to take off because of the stupidly inefficient boarding process? Or do they enjoy watching the coach people file glumly back to the no-

knee-room zone while they sip on Chardonnay? And is coach the new steerage?

• **Every year, I** wonder what the rest of the world thinks of our Easter Bunny? Do they think, as they should, “What the heck does a giant rabbit have to do with the resurrection of Jesus Christ, and, in any event, why would a rabbit deliver eggs?” It’s no wonder half the world thinks we’re nuts.

• **I’m not Catholic** but I think the criticism of the money flowing in to restore Notre Dame is unfair. Yes, it’d be nice if people cared that much for their fellow man, too. But places like



Andrew Heller  
FEATURED COLUMNIST

Notre Dame matter. Giving isn’t a zero-sum game.

• **I can’t take** Time magazine’s 100 most influential list seriously when it includes so many actors and sports stars. (The Rock? Really?) Also, shouldn’t they split it into good and bad influencers? I saw more than a few people who are terrible human beings.

• **Why am I** sort of ashamed that I ponied up for HBO so I could watch the conclusion of “Game of Thrones?” I can’t help it. I want to know who wins. My bet is on Arya Stark because she’s tough and smart.

• **“Life is really** simple, but we insist on making it complicated.” — Confucius

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

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## Hotlines

Submit Hot lines online at [myfenton.com](http://myfenton.com)  
or text to 810-771-8398

All submissions, if approved for publication, must be 50 words or less and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Tri-County Times. We reserve the right to edit for clarity, length and liability.

**TRUMP DOES PICK** the attorney general, not the Senate. The Senate confirms his pick.

■■■  
**FROM WHAT I** read the new bike path will make absolutely no improvements in the city of Fenton. It will only build paths outside the city. No sidewalks or anything within the city will be built or fixed. So as a city resident, why would I want my taxes increased for something that offers me about zero benefit? It only benefits those outside the city.

■■■  
**WE SHOULD LET** states and localities see whether they can make schools work better. The grandiose fix-it national plans are mostly exercises in political marketing. We need solutions, not slogans.

■■■  
**IN REGARDS TO** the Genesee District Library. I can do all of those things in the convenience of my home for less than I pay per year in the library millage added to my property taxes.

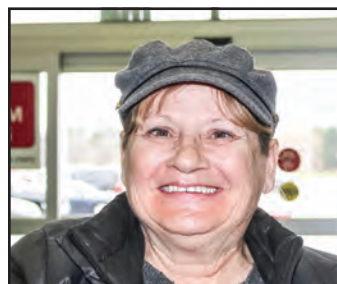
■■■  
**HEY PROFESSOR, STILL** believe that ‘teens are the smartest?’

■■■  
**THE CITY OF Fenton** should install parking meters downtown to raise revenue.

## How are you spending your Easter?

Compiled by Gracie Warda, intern

## street talk



“I’m going up north with my family. It’s a yearly thing. We can spend the whole weekend up there because the kids have Good Friday off.”

**Lori Christopher**  
Fenton



“I’m cooking and having family over. We usually have all of the holidays at my house.”

**Donna McKneelen**  
Fenton



“With family. We’re cooking and eating at my house.”

**Bonnie Calvin**  
Fenton



“I’m having all the kids over and cooking prime rib. I always make them baskets with candy and snacks; they love them.”

**Val Butts**  
Fenton



“With my family. We’re going to cook out and spend time with each other.”

**Candis Fowler**  
Fenton



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## VG's and Goodwill partner for Earth Week



Photo: Tim Jagielo

SpartanNash, parent company of VG's Grocery, and Goodwill Industries of Mid-Michigan, have celebrated a unique partnership for Earth Week for nine years. Here, Larry Allen (left), store director of VG's Silver Parkway and Joe Mounger, president/CEO of Goodwill Industries of Mid-Michigan, stand together in the Fenton Goodwill store. Customers were invited to bring donations to participating Goodwill stores, including Fenton, on April 19 and 20, receiving a VG's discount coupon in return. The goal is to keep materials out of landfills by supporting Goodwill. "It really is a win-win for everyone," said Meredith Gremel of SpartanNash. **By Features Writer Sally Rummel**

## HOT LINE CONTINUED

**TO BRITISH HISTORIAN.** Your rant against BREXIT makes no sense.

**WE ARE PAYING** a millage for Genesee County Parks and Recreation that already has a plan to bring a bike and walking path to southern Genesee County. Please vote 'no' on this May 7. We are taxed 'to death' already. Besides, we live on a road, Ponemah Drive off North Road that is literally 'falling apart.'

**WHY IS THE** village of Holly Smart Bus program eliminating rides to banks, library, post office, Secretary of State, food banks, churches, Social Security, just to name a few? This creates a hardship on elderly and people with special needs.

**SAW A KID** skateboarding down Fifth Street. I see it all the time. We have an active neighborhood. It's great, except when I see three cars go past him traveling 40 mph. Please, slow down.

**THE BORDER IS** in crisis, now, a humanitarian one. The threat of 'the wall,' no asylum, child separations, has driven asylum seekers to not miss out before there is no sanctuary.

**AG BARR SHOULD** focus on Russian election interference.

**TO YOU ESPOUSING** your 'ism' knowledge. Wondering why you'd remain in a country so doomed to fail? Or why so many who suffer under repressive socialism are trying so desperately to get into this country? Or more simply, why don't you 'get it' — that our success as a capitalist system should be proof enough. You may have just proven ignorance thrives even in an educated man.

**RICK SNYDER SHOULD** be in jail. If you think he was good for Michigan, you should just be quiet and sit down.

**FOUR HUNDRED DOLLARS** more for schools and \$100 more for a bike path that's barely even in the city? Fix the roads first. Too many nickel and dime millages and none of them go to fix the roads.

**I WORK TWO** jobs to afford my Fenton home, so I cannot afford to pay for the luxury of wealthy Fentonites to ride their pretty bicycles on a frivolous bike path. Vote 'no' May 7 for yet another tax increase. We citizens are not a bottomless pit of money.

**GIVEN THE STEELE** dossier and the lies told to the FISA court, the Chicago influence at the national level is evident. Democrats beware.



# Sefa pleads guilty in mortgage foreclosure scam

■Admits involvement in scheme in which he stole thousands of dollars from residents statewide

Compiled By Vera Hogan

Lawrence Adell Sefa of Tyrone Township, 56, appeared in Livingston County Circuit Court on Friday, April 12 and pleaded guilty to one count of conducting criminal enterprises.

In exchange for his plea, the Michigan Attorney General's Office agreed to dismiss the 29 remaining charges against him and will recommend no more and no less than one year in the Michigan Department of Corrections if Sefa makes full restitution at \$116,615 within 90 days, according to whmi.com.

If he pays half of the restitution in that time frame, the attorney general will agree to a 12- to 40-month sen-

tence. If he pays no restitution, 36 to 60 months will be requested at Sefa's sentencing Aug. 2.

"At his hearing, the court directed attorneys to submit an order with the names and addresses of Sefa's victims for distribution of restitution," according to whmi.com.

## Background

In November 2017, Michigan's then-Attorney General Bill Schuette's Homeowner Protection Unit filed 15 felony charges, including conducting a criminal enterprise, and 15 misdemeanors against Sefa.

Investigators alleged Sefa stole tens of thousands of dollars from Michigan residents who were facing mortgage foreclosures. Sefa operated his alleged scam through his company, LAS Loan Assistance Centers.

"These types of scam artists continue to take advantage of Michigan residents during an extremely vul-

nerable time in their lives, and we continue to hold them accountable for their actions," Schuette said in a Nov. 15, 2017 press release.

Schuette filed the following charges against Sefa on Nov. 9, 2017 in Livingston County 53B District Court:

- One count of conducting a criminal enterprise, a felony punishable by up to 20 years in prison;
- One count of false pretenses \$20,000 or more but less than \$50,000, a felony punishable by up to 15 years in prison;
- 13 counts of false pretenses \$1,000 or more but less than \$20,000, a felony punishable by up to five years in prison; and
- 15 counts of Credit Services Protection Act violations, a misdemeanor punishable by up to 90 days in jail.

Sefa was arraigned Nov. 14, 2017. He posted bond and was prohibited from conducting business relating to credit services or mortgage services and could not contact victims while the criminal proceedings were ongoing.



Lawrence Sefa

## HOT LINE CONTINUED

■■■ WHEN PEOPLE CHOOSE doctors they often talk about their experience, where they work (e.g., Mayo Clinic), how many of a particular type of operation they've done, etc. I don't ever remember somebody saying they would not trust a doctor because he/she was in it for the money.

■■■ ONLY A POLITICAL hack thinks politicians have standards.

■■■ TO MCCAIN DEFENDER. His wartime record doesn't earn him a free pass. If you think he had integrity, look up 'The Keating Five.' McCain's vain, personal vendetta against Trump was the reason he passed along the bogus dossier. Subverting an election for personal ego is treasonous.

■■■ IT NEEDS TO be pointed out that skeptical climate change studies are also carried out and it can be equally argued that some of their authors may be in it for the money, and given they are remunerated by wealthy fossil fuel companies, they may be more in it for the money than other scientists.



Nancy Cutler, MD

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LASTS AND LASTS AND LASTS.

# What is blight?

■ Junk cars, machine parts, unused appliances can be considered blight

By Hannah Ball

**Fenton Twp.** — “During the first quarter, blight and junk vehicles were the most popular topics in Ordinance Enforcement,” reads a report submitted by Patrick Shaw, ordinance enforcement officer to the Fenton Township Board of Trustees.

Supervisor Bonnie Mathis read the letter at the April 15 meeting, detailing what the township is doing to handle blight. In the first three months of 2019, Shaw has dealt with eight cases of blight, making it the most popular violation in ordinance enforcement. He expects that number to rise with the warming weather.

“Blight” is when a yard contains junk, trash, or refuse of any kind without a permit, unless the refuse is stored in a manner that does not create a nuisance for longer than 15 days. According to



Blight can be considered junk vehicles, machinery parts, unused appliances and more. This photo, taken in Fenton Township, is one example of blight. Photo: Hannah Ball

Fenton Township ordinances, “junk” can include machinery parts, vehicles, unused stoves or other appliances, remnants of wood, metal or other material or cast-off material.

Shaw said it’s a complaint-driven ordinance that targets items that have been on someone’s yard for an extended length of time.

“I just don’t go driving around, looking for things,” he said. Once he receives a formal complaint, he drives to the address and takes photos of the situation. He attempts to make contact with owners of the property.

Shaw tells them of the complaint and gives them information on blight. He then tells them they have a certain amount of days to work on the issue. If someone is given 30 days to get rid of 10 junk vehicles and Shaw comes back after those 30 days to see three cars gone, he considers that progress.

“As long as we see progress. We’re just looking for compliance. Our goal is not to write a ticket if we don’t have to,” he said.

**See BLIGHT on 19A**

**“We’re just looking for compliance. Our goal is not to write a ticket if we don’t have to.”**

**Patrick Shaw**

*Fenton Township ordinance enforcement officer*

## Jewelry store thieves in prison

■ Two men, one woman sentenced for unarmed smash-and-grab in May 2018

By Sharon Stone

The three suspects who were charged with unarmed robbery of a Fenton jewelry store May 23, 2018 are in prison.

Chanell Flemming, 30, of Detroit, accepted a plea deal in Genesee County Circuit Court and was sentenced

April 12. She will serve up to two years for her part in a smash-and-grab robbery that occurred at Kay Jewelers. She had similar but unrelated charges in Macomb County, where she was sentenced to up to three years in prison.

KK Lavon McGilary, 29, of Detroit, accepted a plea deal and was sentenced in Genesee County Circuit Court on Feb. 1. He will serve three to 15 years in prison for his part in the smash-and-grab. He, too, had similar but unrelated

charges in Macomb County, where had already been sentenced to three to 15 years in prison.

Marquis Raekwon Boykins, 19, of Detroit, was sentenced Feb. 15 in Genesee County Circuit Court. He accepted a plea deal and was sentenced to two to 15 years in prison.



Chanell Flemming



KK Lavon McGilary



Marquis Boykins

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## LOOKING BACK at this week in HISTORY

COMPILED BY VERA HOGAN

### APRIL 21

**2016:** Prince, the musician who created more than 30 albums and won seven Grammy Awards over a 40-year career, is found dead in Paisley Park, his Minnesota home and recording studio. The cause of death was an accidental overdose of the opioid fentanyl. He was 57 years old.

### APRIL 22

**2004:** Pat Tillman, who gave up his pro football career to enlist in the U.S. Army after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, is killed by friendly fire while serving in Afghanistan. The news that Tillman, age 27, was mistakenly gunned down by his fellow Rangers, rather than enemy forces, was initially covered up by the U.S. military.

### APRIL 23

**1975:** At a speech at Tulane University, President Gerald Ford says the Viet-

nam War is finished as far as America is concerned. This was devastating news to the South Vietnamese, who were desperately pleading for U.S. support as the North Vietnamese surrounded Saigon for the final assault on the capital city.

### APRIL 24

**1996:** The Pittsburgh Penguins beat the Washington Capitals, 3-2, in 139 minutes and 15 seconds of total game play, making it the fifth-longest match in the history of the National Hockey League. A regulation hockey game lasts 60 minutes. According to NHL rules, playoff matches aren't al-

lowed to end in a tie, so teams must keep going in sudden death, 20-minute periods until someone wins.

### APRIL 25

**1983:** The Soviet Union releases a letter that Russian leader Yuri Andropov wrote to Samantha Smith, an American fifth-grader from Manchester, Maine, inviting her to visit his country. Andropov's letter came in response to a note Smith had sent him in December 1982, asking if the Soviets were planning to start a nuclear war. At the time, the United States and Soviet Union were Cold War enemies.

### APRIL 26

**1984:** President Ronald Reagan arrives in China for a diplomatic meeting with Chinese President Li Xiannian. The trip marked the third time a U.S. president had traveled to China since President Richard Nixon's historic trip in 1972 (Gerald Ford visited in 1975).

### APRIL 27

**4977 B.C.:** The universe is created, according to German mathematician and astronomer Johannes Kepler, born 1571, considered a founder of modern science. Kepler is best known for his theories explaining the motion of planets.

Source: history.com

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## Independent Bookstore Day

Saturday, April 27th,  
10am – 6pm

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Authors on hand  
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Erin Bartels of *We Hope For Better Things* and prize-winning author Brenda Hasse

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## NEWS BRIEFS

COMPILED BY SHARON STONE

### McLaren Flint offers free seminar on treatment for leaky heart valves

Area residents are invited to join McLaren Flint's cardiac experts for a discussion on leaky heart valves and their treatment options **Wednesday, May 8, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.** Featured speakers are Sanjay Batra, MD, board certified cardiothoracic surgeon and Ahmad Munir, MD, board certified interventional cardiologist. This seminar is free, and refreshments will be served. Registration is required and can be made by calling (810) 342-4473 or go to leakyheartvalve.eventbrite.com. The event will be held at Hospitality House at McLaren, G-3170 Beecher Road, Flint. Call (810) 342-4473 or visit leakyheartvalve.eventbrite.com to register.

## Independent Bookstore day is Saturday, April 27

### Fenton's Open Book celebrates with author signings, games, prizes

By Hannah Ball

If you step into Fenton's Open Book, you'll feel like you've entered a wonderland with an always-late rabbit, a tea set display, a vanishing cat with a sly smile and shelves of books.

Independent Bookstore Day is Saturday, April 27 and Fenton's Open Book is celebrating with an Alice in Wonderland theme, including food, contests, and two author signings, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

"It's a big day for independent bookstores. We're more than Barnes and Noble or Amazon. It's supporting your local, independent bookstore," said owner Karen Piacentini. "We have prizes and giveaways. It's special merchandise just for independent day. Some people will line up just to get this stuff."

Attendees can play Alice in Wonderland games, such as counting the number of white rabbits placed around the store. If you guess how many, you win a prize. Adopt-A-Pet will also be there promoting the shelter.

Libro.fm, which is a service that provides you audiobooks through your local bookstore, will offer discounts and free books on the day.

Local author Brenda Hasse of Tyrone Township will be signing from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. She's written multiple books such as "The Freelancer," "On The Third Day," and "A Lady's Destiny." All of her books will be available

for purchase.

"The Freelancer" was the 2015 bronze medal winner in the Moonbeam Children's Book Awards for Young Adult Fiction in the historical/cultural category. "On The Third Day" was a 2018 Midwest Book Awards finalist for religion/philosophy/spirituality books, and it was also a 2018 International Book Awards finalist.

"I am always excited about a book signing. It gives me a chance to connect with readers, learn what they like to read, and receive feedback about my books

they have read," Hasse said. "It is important to support a local independent bookstore because they are a vital component to any community and surrounding communities. Dollars spent in an independent bookstore helps support the business owner and many times is returned back into the community by supporting charities, schools, and other activities."

Author Erin Bartels will be at the store from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. signing and selling her latest novel, "We Hope for Better Things," which takes place in different timelines, including the Detroit riots and the Underground Railroad. It follows journalist Elizabeth Balsam as she returns photos of the 1967 Detroit riot to a relative she didn't know existed.

This is the fifth year Fenton's Open Book has celebrated Independent Bookstore Day. They choose a different theme for every year. One year was "Pirates."

"It's just a fun day that we have. Enjoy being in a bookstore," Piacentini said.

**It's a big day for independent bookstores.**

**Karen Piacentini**  
Fenton's Open Book owner

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## HOT LINE CONTINUED

THE ENTIRE INVESTIGATION by the Democrats was paid for with public funds and therefore should be released, in its entirety, to the public.

THE RUSSIAN 'INTERFERENCE' of the election was the release of Clinton's

emails that she tried to destroy except she was too stupid to realize that all electronic communications sent over the airwaves are public domain.

THE DEMOCRATS SUPPORT illegal aliens and people from other countries in every instance instead of American citizens.



# How taxes and assessments are enacted

■ Pay for police, fire, sewer through assessments; private roads through special assessments

By Hannah Ball

The government and private citizens have a few avenues of enacting taxes, assessments or raising funds for services like water, sewer, police, roads, fire, education and other government services.

## Millages

“Millage” means a rate per thousand. A millage rate is “a multiplier that is applied on a property’s rate per thousand dollars of taxable valuation,” according to the Michigan Townships Association (MTA). Millages assess people’s property taxes. A millage rate is the amount per \$1,000 of a property’s taxable value. If a property’s taxable value is \$50,000, 1 mill would be \$50.

This could be the most controversial means of enacting a tax, even though citizens vote to enact millages. In local communities, Fenton City, Fenton Township and Linden residents will see a ballot question in the May 7 elections asking if they want to amend the Southern Lakes Parks and Recreation charter to include a millage for non-motorized pathways at the rate of 1.2 mills for 10 years.

While there’s excitement about the prospect of such pathways, many residents have expressed displeasure over the potential millage because this past November, residents voted down millages in Fenton City and Linden that would have funded road improvements.

## Resident petitions to create special assessment districts

Public money cannot be used for private interest, which is why townships and cities cannot use public money to pay for private roads. If residents in a private subdivision want to improve their roads, they can create a petition, collect signatures from at least 50 percent of the acreage, bring it to their municipality governing body and have a special assessment district created.

The percentage of signatures required depends on what special assessment is for. Locally, residents have used this form of financing to fix private roads or hire weed

removal services for a lake.

The MTA uses the following language: “A special assessment is a charge against property for a public improvement that confers a special benefit to that property that is different from the benefit enjoyed by the general public (Fluckey v City of Plymouth, 358 Mich. 447, 1960).”

## Municipality enacts an assessment

Most municipalities enact an assessment onto residents to pay for and maintain capital improvements such as water and sewer mains, garbage collection, and emergency services such as police and fire departments. Public Act 81 of 1989 gives municipalities this power.

They also can contract with another municipality for mutual aid. Tyrone Township contracts with Fenton Township and the city of Fenton for fire protection.

Fenton Township created an assessment to pay for the sewer system. This is why township residents pay \$255 per quarter.

Earlier this year, the Gaines Township Board of Trustees approved a 10-year assessment on all township properties at the rate of \$115 per year to pay for police services. However, the process was halted when residents brought a petition to the board with signatures to stop the assessment.

Residents have the power to stop a board- or council-enacted assessment by circulating and signing a petition. If it gains signatures from more than 10 percent of acreage in the assessment district, the process stops and it qualifies for a referendum vote.

## NEWS

# BRIEFS

COMPILED BY HANNAH BALL

## Can you burn leaves in Fenton Township?

At the Monday, April 15 Fenton Township Board of Trustees meeting, Fire Chief Ryan Volz reminded residents that it’s illegal to burn leaves, plastics, garbage and building materials in Fenton Township. “You can, however, have a 3x3x3 fire for recreational use. The only problem with that is that smoke is blowing into your neighbor’s window,” he said. The fire has to be harmless by sight, sound and smell.

Would you like to learn the secrets of understanding and communicating with the opposite sex?

## Do you want to improve your relationships?



**Dr. Emerson Eggerichs** is an internationally known public speaker on the topic of male-female relationships. Based on over three decades of counseling as well as scientific and biblical research, Dr.

Eggerichs and his wife Sarah developed the Love and Respect Conference which they present to live audiences around the country.

Come to the “**Love and Respect**” relationship seminar for singles and couples, presented by Dr. Emerson Eggerichs! This seminar includes 8 nights of Eggerichs’ recorded presentations and live interactive discussion time with the host and other participants. A special banquet and a “How well do you know each other?”/ “Newlywed Game” will conclude the seminar.

An optional seminar workbook will be made available for \$10.00.



Don’t miss this opportunity to learn the secrets of lasting male-female relationships!

Admission is free!

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Sec 105 - within Oakland County and Sec 105 (C) - contiguous counties

## SINKING FUND

Continued from Front Page

treasurer. On March 1, the county takes over collection of taxes. At \$41,940 per month, the total amount to be collected at 1 mill for a full 12 months (through June 30), would be about \$503,280. With voter approval, an increase to 2.25 mills will bring the annual amount collected to about \$1,132,380.

These do not include the figures from Fenton Area Public Schools households located in Holly, Rose and Tyrone townships.

In less than 48 hours, more than 80 comments were posted on the Times Facebook page. Reaction was divided.

Heidi W. discussed to the upcoming May 6 vote on the Southern Lakes Parks & Recreation proposal regarding non-motorized recreational paths and facilities. "Will anyone vote yes for 1.2 mills for this pathway for 10 years? That will add up nicely on top of this school deal," she said.

Blain B. said, "Whatever happened to the Michigan lotteries funding schools? Millions on millions is spent by Michigan residents on Michigan lotteries every year. Where is the percentage of that money?"

Grant K. answered by saying, "It goes to the schools, but it's still a drop in the bucket compared to what it takes to maintain or improve the roads and infrastructure."

Jonathon E. said, "Yep. They figure they'll sneak it through in an under-publicized, odd-year, summer election. This way they don't have to try very hard and your rate will more than double. Because, why make a case and ask permission when you can just barely honor the letter of the law and do as you please?"

Jim F. said, "No, how about 1.25 (mills). Greedy will get them nothing."

Amanda C. posted, "Wondering how many here who are 'voting no' have children in the district ... Seems that a few who are most against it on this thread don't have any children, let alone kids in the district. And I'm not saying that those without children shouldn't get a vote. I'm just wonder-

ing if they would feel differently about school security when their 7-year-old is in a lockdown in elementary school because of a threat."

Jessica W.H. responded, "I thought the same. How much cash did we drop at Andiamo the other night? And we can't afford a few bucks to help our kids ... Yes. I'll vote yes for my kids' education."

Mark P. said, "That's a big bag of nope from me."

## Background

At its April 8 meeting, the Fenton Board of Education approved a resolution to, on the Aug. 6 ballot, seek renewal on the 10-year sinking fund that expires Dec. 31.

"Our sinking fund has been critical to our community in the past when it comes to repairing and maintaining our school buildings, along with other items such as our athletic complexes, boilers and parking lots," said Superintendent Adam Hartley in a letter to the Fenton Area Public Schools (FAPS) community.

Hartley said FAPS will ask the community to increase the expiring 10-year sinking fund millage of 1 mill to a new 10-year sinking fund millage of 2.25 mills.

"The reason for this increase stems from new legislation that allows school districts to leverage sinking fund dollars for not only repairs and construction, but also for security and technology," Hartley said.

He said the district can move forward with devices and programs to keep students up to date with current and changing technology.

More details will be forthcoming during informational sessions that will be held before the Aug. 6 election.

Hartley said in the near future, he will be visiting each building to inform staff and parent groups of how the new sinking fund will allow the district to move forward in the areas of facilities, security, HVAC climate control and technology. He also will hold school community informational meetings throughout the months of May and June.

View stories at  
myfenton.com





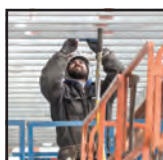
## WHAT YOU MISSED IN THE MIDWEEK TIMES

COMPILED BY VERA HOGAN

The following are stories you may have missed in the **Wednesday, April 17, Midweek Times**. To subscribe and receive both the Midweek and Sunday Weekend editions, please call (810) 629-8282.

### Developer of Kmart property shoots for Oct. 1 grand opening

Skechers revealed as another tenant to join T J Maxx, Michaels and Five Below. Two more retailers unidentified.



### Fenton schools look to renew sinking fund in August election

Asking for another 10 years and to increase rate from 1 mill to 2.25 mills.

### Lahring Meadows rezoning approved

Subdivision would be on north side of Lahring Road, between Lake Fenton High School and U.S. 23.

### Local woman stars in her third 'Naked & Afraid' TV episode

This 21-day challenge takes place in the Florida Everglades and airs Sunday, April 21.

### Bark for Life hosts dozens of dogs

Event raises \$745 for American Cancer Society; attracts new visitors to dog park.

### Part II of 82-year-old triple murder remains unsolved

Part I of this story was published in the Sunday, April 14 edition of the Times about a triple murder that took place in Tyrone Township in 1937.

### Our Future

Meet Jared Callahan, 18, a senior at Holly High School.

# From breast cancer to recovery

■ New breast reconstruction process eases transition for Fenton Township woman

By Sally Rummel

Jessica Linders, 42, of Fenton Township, is very thankful to be alive and regaining her health more than a year after her diagnosis of breast cancer, subsequent double mastectomy and breast reconstruction surgery.

She is one of 100,000 women each year in the U.S. who has surgery to remove one or both breasts after a breast cancer diagnosis.

See **RECOVERY** on 18A

Jessica Linders of Fenton Township had photos taken after her breast reconstruction surgery using the new technology of AeroForm Tissue Expanders at the Henry Ford Cancer Institute. Submitted photo



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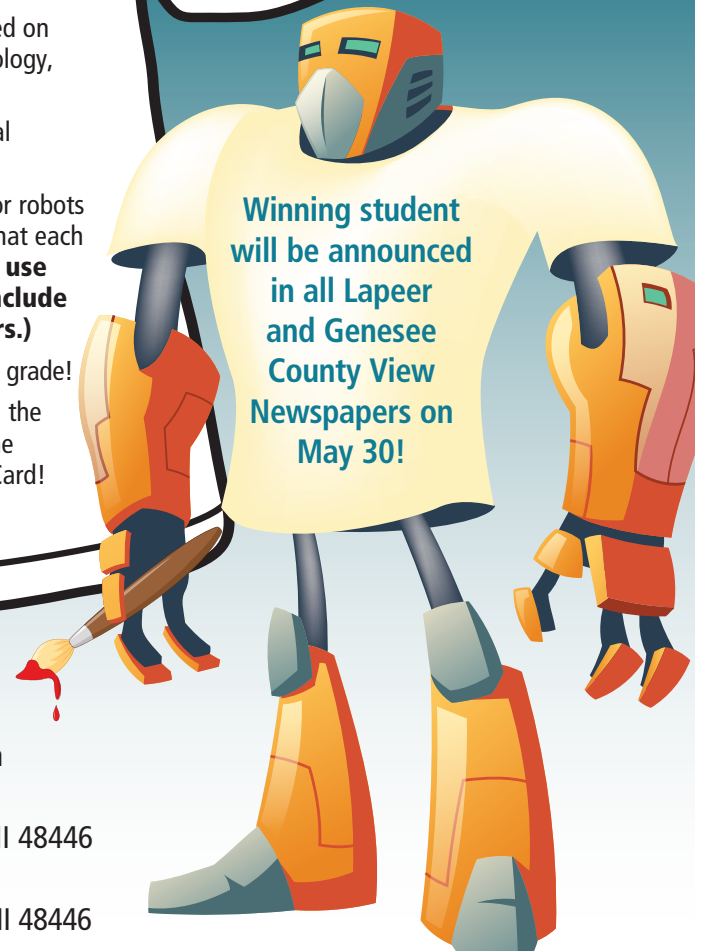
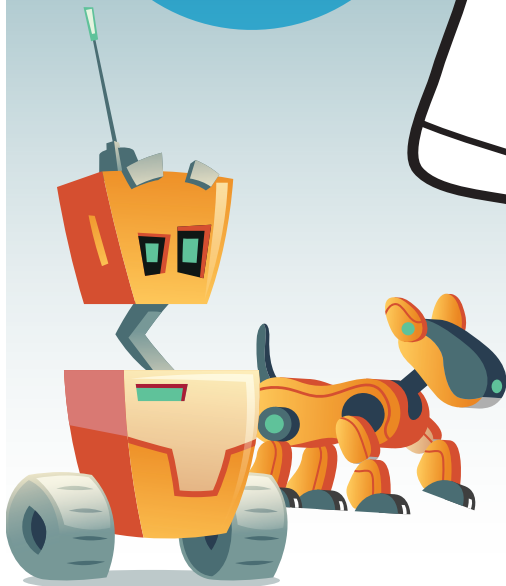
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## Linden Masons announce scholarship winners



Linden Masonic Lodge honored its 2018 scholarship recipients recently at the annual Mason of the Year/Awards Night ceremonies at Linden Lodge. (From left) Andrea Kinloch was awarded the Linden Lodge Scholarship and attends Western Michigan University. Kayla Nelson was awarded the Mary Huyck Scholarship and currently attends Northern Michigan University. Kayla Sugg was also awarded the Mary Huyck Scholarship and attends Saginaw Valley State University. Nelson and Sugg are 2018 graduates of Linden High School. Kinloch is a 2018 graduate of Grand Ledge High School. Linden Lodge scholarship co-coordinators are Scott Wogen, PM (left) and Dr. Scott Nyman, PM. **Submitted photo**

## ATTACKER

Continued from Front Page

Prosecutors had asked that Ftouhi get life while his defense attorneys asked for 25 years with some of that time in solitary confinement. Ftouhi is married and has three children.

According to usnews.com, Ftouhi testified during his sentencing Thursday that he had “no regrets” and would do it again if given the chance, adding that “Jihad is in his heart.”

A jury found Ftouhi guilty on all counts involving a terrorist attack at Bishop International Airport in Flint Township on June 21, 2017. Charges included committing an act of terrorism transcending national boundaries.

Ftouhi was charged with stabbing Lt. Jeff Neville, a police officer at Flint’s Bishop International Airport, in the neck with a large hunting knife. Neville fought back and he, along with other officers, took Ftouhi into custody.

The airport was evacuated and closed for several hours for the investigation. No other injuries were reported and all airport travelers were safe.

Neville was rushed to Hurley Medical Center in Flint in critical condition. He

has since recovered from his injuries.

The FBI, which handled the investigation, reported that Ftouhi unlawfully used a knife to perform an act of violence at the airport. His actions were to endanger safety at that airport and were likely to cause death or serious bodily injury and extreme physical pain.

FBI Special Agent Thomas M. Sonderoth reported that Ftouhi walked up to a fully uniformed police officer (Neville) at a publicly accessible area of the airport, yelled “Allahu Akbar,” pulled out a knife and stabbed the officer in the neck. After stabbing Neville, Ftouhi continued to yell “Allah” several times.

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CHIP WATT

# GRAFF DURAND CHEVROLET



# 'Easter Under The Tent' could draw thousands

■ The Rock Church to host three outdoor Easter weekend services for up to 4,500 people

By Tim Jagielo

**Tyrone Twp.** — On Thursday, April 18, crews with American Rentals worked to erect a tent capable of seating 2,500 people on the grounds of The Rock Church at the corner of Linden and Bennett Lake roads.

This tent will house worshippers for the three Easter Under The Tent services this weekend. Friday and Saturday services are at 6 p.m. and Sunday is at 10 a.m.

Combining Friday, Saturday and Sunday attendance, the church could draw a total of 4,500 people, making it not only possibly the biggest church event of the year, but one of the bigger events around in general.

This isn't the point of these services, however, said Pastor Wes Morris. "For us, it's not really about the number of people that will show up this weekend," he said. "Instead, it's about the number of people that will hear the Gospel and respond to it. If only one person does that, all the work will have been worth it."

The Rock Church holds the outdoor services because its current facilities are too small for the number of people it attracts, and its new building breaks ground in May.

Because Easter falls at the end of April this year, the church could hold an outdoor service and organizers have rented heaters just in case.

Morris said the services will last one hour each, starting with music followed by a different message each service. There will be an opportunity for baptisms.

The Rock Church has grown from its current location with about 75 members



The Easter Under The Tent seats 2,500, and will feature a large stage and space heaters for the three services. Photo: Tim Jagielo

starting in 2008 to 1,500 each weekend, regularly, Morris said.

"The Lord has done amazing work at The Rock and we have seen tremendous growth over the years," Morris said. "But

our focus has never been 'how big can we get,' instead, it's always about how many people are professing faith in Christ and following Him. We believe that will change our community."



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## HOT LINE CONTINUED

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■■■  
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■■■  
**TURN OFF ALL** national cable news including CBS, ABC and NBC. They have taken you for fools. Wake up, and start acting like proud U.S. citizens, defend our country from enemies foreign and domestic, and make your parents and grandparents proud of you.

■■■  
**I AM HAPPY** to pay into the millage that funds the cultural center in Flint. Hopefully it will help educate people.

■■■  
**PLEASE ENLIGHTEN ME.** What exactly is the agenda of the climatologists? I will assume no answer means you have absolutely no idea what you are talking about.



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## RECOVERY

Continued from Page 13A

Because Linders had a genetic mutation known as BRCA2, she opted for a double mastectomy after her diagnosis of an invasive and aggressive lobular breast cancer that had metastasized to the lymph nodes in her armpit.

But her recovery from breast cancer is only part of the story. What has made her recovery unique is that she was able to take advantage of a new, FDA-approved breast reconstruction procedure through the Henry Ford Cancer Institute, the first of its kind in Michigan.

The new AeroForm Tissue Expanders is a needle-free, patient-controlled tissue expansion system for breast reconstruction after a mastectomy. These expanders eliminate the need for weekly saline injections at the physician's office, improve patient comfort and may decrease the rate of infections from expanders, according to Henry Ford Health Systems.

"It can feel tortuous if a doctor gives 75 cc's or more of saline during one office visit," said Dunya Atisha, M.D., director of breast reconstruction

and microsurgery at Henry Ford Health Systems. "But if the patient controls the process, it's less painful. The patient can regulate how much air is used and what days it is used."

When Linders was given a choice of air-expander technology compared with saline expanders, Linders chose the air expanders. "Just knowing I didn't have to have another needle stuck in my chest helped me make the decision," she said.

In Linders' case, a temporary expander was inserted under the chest muscle to stretch the skin and the muscle, in preparation for an eventual permanent implant.

This system fills temporary implants with small doses of carbon dioxide triggered by a mechanical wand that patients can control at their own rate and comfort.

Linders' double mastectomy with AirXpanders took place on Jan. 30, 2018. Her surgery from AirXpanders to permanent implants was Dec. 26, 2018. "My recovery is going excellent," she said. "I couldn't ask for a better outcome."

She is back to her normal routines of caring for her husband, Chad, daughter Alaina, 12, and returning to work at the Genesee Intermediate School District as a transition coordinator.

Atisha said that this new needle-free technology is the first major change in breast tissue expansion in more than 40 years and revolutionizes the process. Not only does it offer a patient more comfort, convenience and a sense of control as she navigates toward recovery, it also completes tissue expansion in less time.

Results from a clinical trial show patients using the air expanders took an average of 21 days compared to 46 days with saline expansion and also progressed a patient's time to breast implantation one month sooner, on average, than the saline group. Results vary depending on the size of the woman, the amount of volume needed and the patient's comfort level.

"I would recommend this device to anyone undergoing breast reconstruction," Linders said.

**“Gratitude  
was my motto  
throughout my  
cancer journey  
and still is to  
this day.”**

**Jessica Linders**  
Breast cancer survivor

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## PUBLIC NOTICE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF FENTON BOARD MEETING SYNOPSIS APRIL 15, 2019

The Fenton Township Board held a regular meeting on Monday April 15, 2019 at the Fenton Township Civic Community Center, 12060 Mantawauka Drive, Fenton, Michigan and took the following actions.

1. Trustee Goupil offered the opening prayer.
2. Supervisor Mathis led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.
3. Received a presentation regarding the Southern Lakes Pathway Initiative from Ed Koledo.
4. Approved invoices and expenditures for payment in the total amount of \$506,670.93.
5. Conducted a public hearing on, and first reading of, a proposed Zoning Ordinance amendment to rezone parcel 06-10-300-014 from R-3 to PUD.
6. Received the first quarter report from Fire Chief Ryan Volz.
7. Received the first quarter report from Ordinance Enforcement Officer Pat Shaw.
8. Approved a building inspection services agreement with STSA Construction, LLC.
9. Adopted Resolution No. 2019-07, confirming the special assessment roll for the North Shore Drive Improvement Special Assessment District.
10. Approved an agreement with the Genesee County Road Commission for the completion of the North Shore Drive improvement project.
11. Awarded the construction contract for the North Shore Drive improvement project to Eastern Asphalt Company, Inc.
12. Adopted Resolution No. 2019-08, declining ownership of, and maintenance responsibilities for, the water supply system in the Byram Ridge Subdivision.
13. Recessed the open meeting at 9:37 p.m. for the purpose of convening a closed session to discuss pending litigation in the matter of Hochkins vs. Fenton Township Zoning Board of Appeals.
14. Reconvened the open meeting at 9:47 p.m.
15. Adjourned at 9:48 p.m.

A complete copy of the minutes of this meeting and any ordinances adopted at the meeting are on file and available for review at the Fenton Township Office, 12060 Mantawauka Drive, Fenton, Michigan 48430. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Friday. Ordinances, meeting schedules, meeting minutes and other Township information are also available at [www.fentontownship.org](http://www.fentontownship.org).

ROBERT E. KRUG  
FENTON TOWNSHIP CLERK

## BLIGHT

Continued from Page 8A

If there is no progress, he writes a ticket and the owner receives a court date in the 67th Genesee County District Court in Judge Mark McCabe's courtroom.

Currently, the township is dealing with one blight case in Genesee County Circuit Court. Shaw said it's rare these cases make it to circuit court. They're usually handled as misdemeanors. In circuit court, the judge can allow the township to send a company to the blighted property to fix the issue. The bill is then put on the property owner's tax bill.

At the Monday meeting, Mathis said a few people have gone to jail for the offense.

"The longest time I think was 10 days. I actually felt bad to ... put her in jail. But I kept asking her and asking her and asking her," Mathis said. "We have two neighbors who have been fighting for years over tresses in their front yard. I've never seen anything like it, it's so bad. We are on it."

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## NONPARTISAN

Continued from Front Page

offices appear as nonpartisan on the ballot.

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

The letter from the MTA states that a state legislator plans to introduce legislation to allow local municipalities the option of having nonpartisan offices.

Municipalities could say they supported it, opposed it or were indifferent.

Trustee Mark Goupil said this potential change would not reduce voter turnout.

"I see no cost savings for this. I just see another level of bureaucracy. It's more paperwork than we already have. I don't think the process is broken at the moment. For that reason alone, I am opposed to this just because I don't see an issue with this," he said.

Treasurer John Tucker said he

would be in favor of having the option to run nonpartisan.

"I am just simply not a big fan of party politics. I don't think the issues that are raised at the party level translate well down to the local level," he said. "We deal with much more basic, grassroots kinds of things."

"Partisan politics over the last two and a half years haven't been helping people get along with each other," he said. "I would be in favor of having the option because I don't like party politics."

Trustee Christine Reid said there's no meat to the MTA resolution. "I'm not opposed to it, but it's basically asking our opinion as to in the future, do we want the option? So it's not very sticky," she said. "It's not really committing us to anything."

The board said they had mixed opinions on the topic and decided to do nothing with the resolution.

**“I don’t think the process is broken at the moment.”**

**Mark Goupil**

*Fenton Township trustee*

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## NOTICE TO ALL OWNERS, AGENTS OR OCCUPANTS OF LAND IN THE TOWNSHIP OF HOLLY:

Notice is hereby given that after May 15 of this year the provisions of Holly Townships Code of Ordinances, Chapter 10, Article VI, Noxious Weed Ordinance will be enforced.

No owner of any parcel of land within the township or the occupant or agent of such owner shall permit on such parcel of land or upon any sidewalk abutting the same, or upon that portion of any street or alley adjacent to the same between the property line and the curb or traveled portion of such street or alley, any growth of weeds, grass or other rank vegetation to a greater height than six inches on the average, or any accumulation of dead weeds, grass or brush. No such owner or agent shall permit on such land poison ivy, ragweed or any other poisonous, noxious or unhealthful growths.

If after May 1st an owner, agent or occupant has failed to cut or cause such noxious weeds to be destroyed it shall be the duty of the commissioner to abate the nuisance, either utilizing township employees or private contractors which may enter upon such land and destroy by cutting, with or without mechanical equipment, any such weeds and all expenses incurred in such destruction shall be paid by the owner of such land. The township shall have a lien upon land for such expense, to be enforced in the manner prescribed by the general laws of the state providing for the enforcement of tax liens.

### (d) Means of abatement.

If an owner, agent or occupant has failed to cut or cause such noxious weeds to be destroyed after receiving notice as hereinbefore provided in subsection 6(b), it shall be the duty of the commissioner to abate the nuisance, either utilizing township employees or private contractors which may enter upon such land and destroy by cutting, with or without mechanical equipment, any such weeds and all expenses incurred in such destruction shall be paid by the owner of such land. The township shall have a lien upon land for such expense, to be enforced in the manner prescribed by the general laws of the state providing for the enforcement of tax liens.

(e) Exclusions. This Article does not apply to weeds in unimproved lands, designated open space, open fields or fields devoted to growing small crops such as wheat, oats, barley, or rye. In the case of an easement or public property such as a forest preserve, and all other land as to which definite ownership is not known to the commissioner and cannot be established the county board of commissioners shall cause the destruction of noxious weeds in accordance with Public Act 359 of 1941.

Karin S. Winchester  
Holly Township Clerk

## HOT LINE CONTINUED

■■■■  
**SENATOR STABENOW INTRODUCED** bipartisan legislation last week to make it easier for consumers to buy electric and hydrogen vehicles. The Driving America Forward Act expands the number of vehicles eligible to receive the electric vehicle tax credit by an additional 400,000 vehicles per manufacturer.

■■■■  
**THE DEMOCRATS HAVE** been in the national house for over 100 days. Name one item they have solved.

■■■■  
**CONCERNS ABOUT WATER** quality

are linked to cattle farming, commercial logging, mining, runoff from road salt, illegal dumping, industrial discharge, septic systems and lawn chemicals.

■■■■  
**WHERE CAN I** find an itemized breakdown of how the \$14 million bike path millage would be used?

■■■■  
**I WANT A** pathway so my teen can safely ride her bike to work so I don't have to take her.

■■■■  
**THURSDAY MORNING AG** Barr released his version of the 'Mueller Report' hoping to limit its impact on the public heading into Good Friday.



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## CLEANUP DAYS

Continued from Page 3A

He estimates that households throw out up to one-half of the items that could be recycled — and sometimes for money. He said if something has a cord, electric motor, batteries or is majority metal content, it can be recycled, and for cash.

But there are items he doesn't recycle, such as plastic and hazardous waste.

"In a lot of cases, specific items are hazardous waste, and the only way to get rid of them sometimes are on cleanup days," he said. His business does not take TVs or computer monitors because components are considered hazardous waste.

Spring is here, and there are several community cleanup days ahead. These are great ways to get rid of trash that cannot be recycled or disposed of safely at your normal trash pickup day.

View all stories  
online at  
myfenton.com



Republic Services residential driver Steven Gaddy (right) and Holly Township resident Curtis Knight unload Knight's truck bed during the cleanup day held in May 2018. *Times file photo*

## Community cleanup days in 2019

### Genesee County

Genesee County residents including Fenton City, Linden, Fenton Township and Argentine Township can utilize a countywide cleanup day. Search "Genesee County Recycle Day" online for complete dates and instructions.

**Date and time:** Saturday, June 8, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Location:** Fenton High School, 3200 W. Shiawassee Ave., Fenton

### Examples of items accepted:

aerosols, automotive fluids, batteries, paints, passenger car tires

### Examples of items not accepted:

55-gallon drums of waste, ammunition, commercial tires and waste, tires on the rim, explosives

### City of Linden Community Cleanup

This is a volunteer-driven effort to beautify Eagle's Wooden Park and Fairview Cemetery. If you'd like to help, organizers are meeting at Eagle's Wooden Park on Walmer Street on Saturday, April 27. Time: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

### Loose Center plastic bag drop off

Volunteers with the Loose Center accept plastic grocery-sized bags, which are cut and crocheted into 6-foot mats for the homeless. Loose Center is at 707 N. Bridge St. in Linden.

### Holly Township

Spring Clean Up Day is Saturday, May 18, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

This event is for township and

village residents to clean their properties. They are also encouraged to clean up township roads. It also includes document shredding from 12 to 2 p.m.

Go to [hollytownship.org](http://hollytownship.org), click "services" at the top and select "garbage, recycling ..." tab for full details on what is accepted.

### Rose Township

The annual Spring Roadside Clean Up Day encourages residents to clean the roads, but also their own properties.

Go to [Rosetownship.com](http://Rosetownship.com) for complete information on acceptable items. There is no roadside pickup, and more tires than four are \$4 each. Addresses will be verified and North Oakland County Fire Authority staff members will be helping to load dumpsters.

**Date and time:** Saturday, May 11, 2019, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Dumpster location:** Rose Township Civic Park, 550 W. Rose Center Road.

### Livingston County

Tyrone Township residents can partake in one of the two remaining Hazardous Waste Collection Events.

These are by appointment, and the May 4 event is already full. The next event is June 29 in Green Oak Township. Go to [livgov.com](http://livgov.com), and click "DPW/Solid Waste" under the "residents" tab at upper left to schedule your time.



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## Our Town

# Linda Ray

- Domestic abuse survivor
- Retired ABC-TV account executive
- Loose Center volunteer

**By Sally Rummel**

*Linda Ray, 74, chooses to wake up every day and "be fabulous." She started her career as a cosmetologist and after divorcing her first husband, she went back to school to study broadcasting. She and her second husband, Danny, a retired classical ballet dancer, have been married for 26 years and live on Lake Ponemah in Fenton Township. She has two adult sons from her first marriage. She volunteers at Loose Center in Linden, and any place where they need her.*



Linda and Danny Ray enjoy boating on Lake Ponemah. Submitted photo

## How did you meet Danny?

We met in Hawaii when we were both there for a work conference. I wasn't supposed to be there; I had taken someone else's place. He saw me from a distance and said to himself, 'If there is a God, I'm going to meet this woman and marry her.' I went to the beach and asked

him to go on a helicopter ride with me. He said, 'There IS a God!' and I answered 'I know!' And now it's 26 years later. He's a retired classical ballet dancer who's 15 years younger than me. Now, he's selling used cars for a living and loves it. Age doesn't matter to me.

**“Age doesn't matter to me. I still feel like I'm 35.”**

I still feel like I'm 35.

## What job in your life have you enjoyed the most?

I liked everything I've done. My first career was as a hair stylist, mentoring under Evelyn Angel at Point Beauty Academy in downtown Flint. I had the privilege of helping her out before her passing a couple of years ago, so we came full circle.

After I divorced my first husband and had two young sons, I moved back home with my parents and studied broadcasting at Delta College. I loved broadcasting. At ABC-12, I got to produce, write copy, sell airtime and do voice-overs, and won several Addys (American Advertising Awards) for my work.

I was even a Disney employee at one time when the station was bought by Disney back in the '90s. One of my best memories was giving my tickets away for free to a big family, like the one I came from, when I saw them in line to buy tickets.

## What caused you to volunteer for domestic violence issues?

I was emotionally abused in my first marriage. I tried to leave several times and was even kidnapped

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**HOT LINE** CONTINUED

■■■■  
**THE SINKING FUND** millage is very important and necessary. If you lunatics weren't so obsessed with guns, the money from the school property sale wouldn't have to be wasted on security.

■■■■  
**BERNIE WOULD'VE WON** in 2016. The DNC is trash.

■■■■  
**I HAVE BEEN** to the cultural center in Flint many times and have enjoyed what that millage provided.

## NEWS BRIEFS

COMPILED BY SHARON STONE

### Lake Fenton High School students are winners in Greater Flint Arts Council art competition

On April 17, the Greater Flint Arts Council (GFAC) announced the winners of its 2019 Young Artists Today competition, which was sponsored by Mott Community

College Studio Art and Graphic Design programs. Students from 15 high schools participated.

**Meghan Powell** of Lake Fenton High School won second place with her watercolor and ink artwork titled "Downward Spiral." **Madison Hopkins** of Lake Fenton High School received honorable mention with her colored pencil artwork titled "Twin Dragons." "We are amazed at the broad range of talent among our mid-Michigan high school art students," said Greg Fiedler, president and CEO

of Greater Flint Arts Council. "The quality of work keeps increasing each year, making this a very difficult show to judge," said Tim Kranz, Mott Community College art instructor. The exhibit continues through Friday, May 3. GFAC gallery hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. GFAC is at 816 S. Saginaw Street, Flint.

View stories at  
[myfenton.com](http://myfenton.com)



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"Everyone cared for me so much!"  
 – WB Grand Blanc



"I have been here two times now, it's fantastic!"  
 – WB Fenton



"Everybody was so kind and thoughtful."  
 – WB Grand Blanc



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## OUR TOWN

Continued from Page 23A

once by my husband, and he also kidnapped our youngest son once. You have to understand it's not your fault, but you must take responsibility for not allowing it to continue. Otherwise, you give him permission to keep doing it. Never let fear keep you from protecting yourself, your family, kids and self-esteem. I have volunteered regularly on Sundays at the YWCA Safe House in Flint.

### What do you like to do in your spare time?

I like to stay very active. I take fitness classes every day, plus yard work and gardening. I volunteer at Loose, prepping in the kitchen or doing anything else that needs to be done.

### Have you ever met anyone famous?

My kids have both made names for themselves in the music business. My one son, Ger Hoffman, plays bass with the Joe Diffie Band in Nashville. My other son, Eric, is a trombone player and "crooner" vocalist in New York City. I met singer Bobby Rydell once.

### What is something most people probably don't know about you?

I do a Marilyn Monroe Tribute for special events, and I'm also writing an autobiography about my life. I've won a couple of pageants back in the day — I was Winter Queen in the Michigan Beauty Pageant, doing a song and dance routine. I was also runner-up for Miss Professional Cosmetology. That was a long time ago.

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Joey Spencer celebrates his most recent victory. Photo provided

## Spencer learns lessons in first six-round bout

By David Troppens

Joey Spencer experienced a lot of firsts in his six-round unanimous decision bout against Osias Vazquez.

It was the longest match of his entire career and for those reasons the Linden super welterweight prospect, learned his share of lessons.

"I've never been beyond three rounds in an organized contest," Spencer said. "It felt good. I was happy to go the distance because now I have that experience behind me. It was important that I got rounds in. It wasn't my plan to go the full six. It just happened to go that way."

Spencer dominated his fight that was April 30 at the Minneapolis Armory. It was the first time in his professional career one of his bouts didn't end in a first- or second-round knockout. Spencer said it was a learning experience.

CONTINUED AT  
MYFENTON.COM

## Eagles bounce back in Metro League play, defeat Clio Mustangs, 3-0

By David Troppens

The Linden varsity girls soccer team's offense struggled in its opening Metro League game of the season, losing a 1-0 verdict against Flushing.

On Wednesday, the offense turned it around. The Eagles scored a goal in the first half and two more in the second half, beating the Clio Mustangs 3-0 Wednesday.

Three different players

were able to score goals. Lauren Gocha, Shelby Holscher and Aubre Moffatt had the goals. Meanwhile, Hannah Wabel and Alicia Otman had assists.

CONTINUED AT MYFENTON.COM

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Linden's  
Molly James



# Sports Times

## Holly girls, Linden boys open Metro track season with sweep

By David Troppens

**Holly** — The Flint Metro League track season began on Wednesday with two area teams earning sweeps at the three-meet event at Holly High School.

The Holly girls defended its track by beating Linden 79.5-57.5 while also beating Brandon 88-49. Meanwhile, the Linden boys had a strong start to the league slate by defeating Holly 69-59 and Brandon 73-59. The Linden girls also beat Brandon 83-54 while the Holly boys lost to Brandon by a tight 70-67 score.

The Holly girls had the most dominating day among the six teams, earning 12 overall firsts, including the top spot in all four relays. Among the Holly athletes, only two finished with four firsts — Gabrielle St Andre and Andrea Ruiz. St Andre won the 100-meter dash (13.43)

and the 200 (27.71) individually, while helping two relays to firsts. She teamed with Annah Charles, Josephine Tschirhart and Jolie Monty to win the 800 relay (1:59.31) and also with Alyssa Johnson, Aniya Semer and Monty to win the 400 relay (54.15).

Andrea Ruiz took the top spot in the 1,600 (5:54.82) and the 3,200 (12:12.13). She also teamed with Ally Blodgett, Monica Ruiz and Jaime Drouin to win the 3,200 relay (11:09.1) and the 1,600 relay (4:38.22).

Charles was an individual double-winner. She took the top spot in the 100 hurdles (18.98) and the 300 hurdles (53.98). The other Holly performers to earn individual firsts were Drouin in the 800 (2:42.64) and Abigail Johnston in the discus (89-7).

CONTINUED AT MYFENTON.COM



(Above) Linden's Tyler Buchanan battles Holly's Peter Bisset, Brad Baxter and Griffin Rose in the 1,600-meter run. (Left) Linden's Nicole Palmer (right) and Andrea Ruiz (left) compete in the 1,600. Photo: David Troppens

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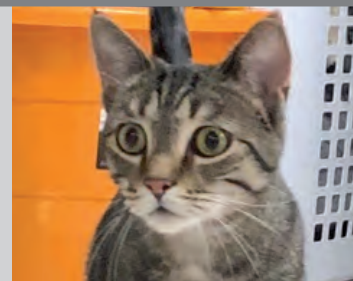
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Lake Fenton's 800-meter run competitors start the race during the Blue Devils' sweep of Hamady on Tuesday. Photo: David Troppens

## Blue Devils cap home season with sweep vs. Hamady Hawks

By David Troppens

**Lake Fenton** — It's still only mid-April, but an end already happened for the Lake Fenton varsity track program.

The varsity squads have already competed in their last home meet of the season.

Due to the eventual construction of the turf football field, teams won't be using the area soon. That means the Blue Devils' double-victory against Hamady was the last time a track meet will be

held at a grass football field. The boys won by an 81-43 score while the girls won by a 74-42 margin.

The girls had eight firsts, including three relay firsts. The boys had 11 firsts, including three relay wins as well.

Tom Hufton finished his high school career on the track by earning four firsts. He teamed with Eric Niestroy, Sam Selly and Joey Gilbert to win the 3,200-meter relay (9:20).

**CONTINUED AT MYFENTON.COM**

## FLaX Heat enjoying fine start; Holly/Brandon working on improving

By David Troppens

**Fenton** — The Fenton/Linden varsity girls lacrosse team is off to a nice start this spring.

The team is 3-1 and has beaten all three of its foes by at least 10 goals. The team's only loss has come against the Flint Powers Chargers who traditionally have a strong squad.

The team's strong season continued Tuesday when the FLA X Heat (the name adopted by the co-op squad) defeated the Holly/Brandon Redhawks, 18-0.

The two teams are on different plateaus as the score would suggest. While the Heat have more than 40 players in its program ranging from JV to the varsity and have plenty of quality player with



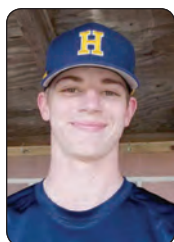
Players on both sides battle for a loose ball during the FLA X Heat team's victory against the Holly/Brandon Redhawks. Photo: David Troppens

ample lacrosse experience, the Redhawks are a squad with 19 new players.

**CONTINUED AT MYFENTON.COM**

April 21, 2019

## Atlete Of The Week



**BRENDAN TOME**  
Baseball

**HARTLAND**



**TYLER BUCHANAN**  
Boys Track and Field

**LINDEN**



**TAYLOR BARRETT**  
Tennis

**HARTLAND**



**TAYLOR ACOX**  
Girls Track and Field

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## Online Stories



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## Fenton soccer improves to 2-0 in Metro League

The Fenton varsity girls soccer team is off to a good start in Metro action.

The Tigers crushed Kearsley 8-0,

improving to 2-0 in league play.

The Tigers beat their two Metro foes 14-1 during the opening week.

## Wolves capture 12-11 OT victory vs. Davison

The Linden/Fenton co-op varsity boys lacrosse team found themselves in a battle with Davison on Tuesday.

Both teams had their moments, resulting in a contest that was tied at 11-11 after four quarters.

## Holly soccer remains perfect in Metro action

The Holly varsity girls soccer team is 2-0 in Metro League action.

The Bronchos are just one of three Metro squads still undefeated after

beating Owosso 8-0 on Thursday.

"It was a great game for the Holly girls tonight," Holly varsity girls soccer coach Jolie Gregory said.



# Heat sneak past Lake Fenton/Goodrich co-op

By David Troppens

**Fenton** — In between the rainy conditions Thursday night, two area girls lacrosse teams got together for what was an entertaining and competitive contest at Fenton High School.

The Fenton/Linden varsity girls co-op lacrosse squad (FLaX Heat) typically led in its game against the Lake Fenton/Goodrich co-op team, but had to hold on down the stretch to earn an 8-7 verdict in a contest that could be looked at as a semi-rivalry game.

“It kind of is,” Heat player Minna Ramirez said. “Usually Linden would be (our rival) but in this case they are. It’s always a good game against them. Whether we win or lose, it’s always a fight.”

“It’s definitely a rivalry,” Lake Fenton/Goodrich varsity girls lacrosse coach Katie Dolehanty said. “They are always good and always tough competition for us.”

The teams played a tight defensive first half, with neither squad scoring during the first 14 minutes.

**CONTINUED AT MYFENTON.COM**



Lake Fenton/Goodrich co-op player Sam Miller works on trying to get by FLA X Heat opponent Lilly McKee. The Fenton/Linden co-op program won a thriller against the Lake Fenton/Goodrich squad 8-7 on Thursday. Photo: David Troppens

## Fenton track sweeps first Metro meet of season

By David Troppens

The home of the two defending Flint Metro League track champions began their conference season with two wins on Wednesday.

The Fenton girls crushed Swartz Creek 106.5-30.5 and also beat Flushing 74-63 to earn a 2-0 start for the season. The boys did the same, beating Swartz Creek 79.5-57.5 and Flushing 74-63.

The Fenton girls came home with eight overall firsts with Cassandra Campbell earning three. She won the 200-meter dash (27.37), the 100 hurdles (15.10) and the 300 hurdles (47.30). While Campbell dominated those events, Alexa Keiser dominated the distance events, winning the 1,600 (5:18.88) and the 3,200 (11:52.78). She also teamed with Kaitlin Bayer, Abbey Lee and Cambria Tiemann to win the 3,200 relay (10:13.81).

**CONTINUED AT MYFENTON.COM**

## LF soccer improving, beat Genesee Christian

By David Troppens

The Lake Fenton varsity girls soccer team is slowly improving.

The Blue Devils had what was probably their best performance of the season, defeating Genesee Christian by a 3-1 margin on Tuesday.

The Blue Devils (3-3) trailed early, but scored the final three goals to earn the win.

“Yeah, it was definitely one of our better games,” Lake Fenton varsity

girls soccer coach Spencer Quick said. “We controlled the ball really well. We had possession most of the game and kept it away from them. We had many more chances that we didn’t convert on.”

The Blue Devils tied it up before halftime, when Sydney Hammis scored the team’s first goal. In the second half, Avery Carr and Bella Reitano provided goals.

**CONTINUED AT MYFENTON.COM**

### PREP REPORT

#### GIRLS SOCCER

► **Midland 1, Linden 0:** The Eagles gave the 2018 Division 1 state semi-finalists a challenge, but Midland edged Linden with a goal late in the second half on a header. Ashtyn Gocha was strong in net. She’s allowed just two goals in seven games.

#### BOYS GOLF

► **Fenton 163, Brandon 218:** The Tigers were paced by match medalist Braden Lapa, who carded a one-over-par 37. Logan Lake shot a 41 while

Grant Carr carded a 42. Dylan Conte shot a 43.

► **Flushing 169, Linden 189:** The Eagles were paced by freshman Andrew Skellenger’s 40, but Flushing had two golfers score sub-40 rounds, earning the Raiders the victory.

Flushing’s Mike Lum and Andrew Nester shot 38s to share medalist honors. Devin Hubbard shot a 44 while Brendan Johnson recorded a 47 for the Eagles. Drew Krueger carded a 53.

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