

Osborn will serve another term as Fenton mayor

■ Defeats Cheryl King by a vote of 943 to 650

By Vera Hogan

City of Fenton voters have spoken and soundly re-elected Mayor Sue Osborn to another two-year term in office. She defeated Cheryl King in a vote of 943 to 650.



Sue Osborn

Osborn, 71, has served city government for 34 years, the last 21 as mayor. King previously served on the City Council for 24 years.

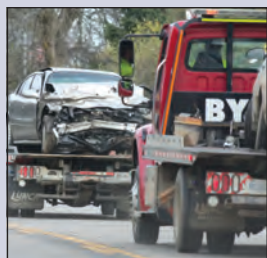
Osborn said her most important reason for seeking re-election to the office of Mayor of Fenton is that she wants to see downtown completed and

See FENTON MAYOR on 12A

Creating the gift of mobility



Several volunteers gather weekly at this new woodworking shop at Price's Airport in Fenton Township to help build pull carts for the non-profit Mobility Worldwide, which provides carts for disabled people in third world countries. (Right) Ed Powell of Fenton works on a piece of the body of a pull cart Wednesday, Nov. 6. Also working (from left) are Ken Ermer, Ric Noll and Jim McEwan. **See story on page 28A. Photo: Tim Jagielo**



Icy Hickory Ridge Road results in fatal car crash

Flint man killed, Fenton woman seriously injured in head-on collision

Page 14A



Eric Andrews Jr.

Bathroom 'peeper' will plead guilty to three of 26 felonies

Will be sentenced Nov. 22; to serve a minimum of three years in prison

Page 15A



Chris Swanson

Undersheriff will run for the office of sheriff in 2020

Retired MSP command officer also joins the race

Page 22-23A

TEXT
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“We are so happy that the Fenton schools sinking fund passed and want to thank the district administrators for sharpening their pencils and coming up with a different plan after the August vote failed. There is only so much a family can afford, but we've already been paying this. It's all good.”



“I am so glad the roundabout at Torrey and North roads is complete. That used to be such a dangerous intersection. It looks great now and traffic seems to be flowing nicely. I bet the businesses there are relieved.”

“I have never loved cooking, but since moving to Fenton I no longer feel guilty about my lack of culinary skills. The number of amazing restaurants in our community means my husband and I have a great, fresh meal every night!”

COMMENT OF THE WEEK

“Now that the cold and snow have arrived, I hope people will remember that their pets need special attention, too. Keep them safe, warm, well-fed and inside this winter.”



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Linden • \$274,000

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kitchen, partially finished basement
and spacious yard.



Grand Blanc • \$649,900

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boasting over 6,000 SF.
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including a huge finished basement.
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Brighton • \$399,500

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backing up to wooded common areas. Two
story foyer opens into the living room with
picture windows overlooking a mature treed
yard. Finished LL W/O, and multi-level
deck great for entertaining.



Fenton • \$189,900

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16'X24' she shed/man cave.



Hills of Tyrone

Open
Sunday
1-3 pm

Fenton • \$364,900

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New on Market

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Fenton man shares details about military career

■ Served 22 years in the U.S. Army

By Vera Hogan

This Veterans Day, it would be wise to remember not only the millions of soldiers who fought courageously for our freedoms in foreign wars, but also the countless brave people who chose to make the military their careers.

Damien Siwik of Fenton is one of them. Siwik, who is now 52, joined the U.S. Army on March 5, 1991 and served for 22 years, retiring in March of 2013. He has lived in Fenton with his wife and family ever since.

"I enlisted as a Private First Class (E-1) and retired a Sergeant First Class (E-7)," he said. "One highlight of my career was serving as a Company First Sergeant for a Forward Support Medical company at Fort Wainwright, Alaska. The opportunity to lead, train and look after 80 young men and women was a very rewarding experience."

Siwik went on two combat deployments. "The first was to Iraq for all of 2007 during 'The Surge' and to Afghanistan in 2011," he said.



Damien Siwik went on two combat deployments. The first was to Iraq for all of 2007 during "The Surge" and to Afghanistan in 2011. Photo submitted

"I've also served overseas in Korea (three times), Egypt, Honduras and Germany.

"In Iraq I was on the streets of Baghdad for most of my deployment," Siwik said. "My team was under constant threat of attack by groups of fighters, snipers, sophisticated IED and mortars.

"Another highlight of my military career was during the second tour in Korea, serving at the United Nations Command Security Battalion-Joint Security Area right on the border with North Korea," Siwik said. "The experience of patrolling in the DMZ and constant state of heightened readiness served me well later in my career. Every time I meet a veteran from America's forgotten war, the Korean War, I tell them they should take great pride in their service as South Korea has become a truly amazing country."

Siwik said if there is one adjective that best describes a typical day in Iraq, it is "long."

"My typical day began at 5 a.m. and proceeded with these tasks — maintain vehicles and equipment, prepare for the

See MILITARY CAREER on 26A

Three related veterans to be buried side-by-side

■ Relative works to have motorcade, full military honors at Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly Township

By Sharon Stone

Robert Armstead, the son of Robert E. Armstead, a WWII veteran, is close to raising enough money to have his father and two other relatives, also veterans, buried side-by-side with full military honors at the Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly Township.

The date for this service has not been finalized.

In addition to Robert E. Armstead, the other family members are Peter Armstead from the Civil War and Earl Armstead from WWI. These three veterans all came from poor rural farms in Michigan.

All three men were honorably discharged and proud to have served their country.

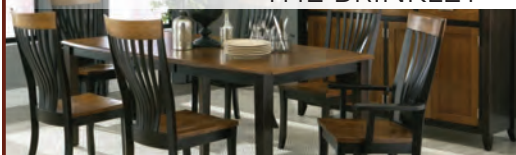
See THREE VETERANS on 19A

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Mark my words

By Mark Rummel



Mark Rummel

It started with an error

Life was very different in America 50 years ago. That's because the beginnings of the internet happened by mistake in California on Oct. 29, 1969.

A UCLA professor and his graduate student wanted to send a transmission from one computer to one at Stanford. Those were two of only four universities that even had computers in 1969. By the time they typed the first two letters of their message, the system crashed. It took them an hour to send the entire first word, which was "login."

America — and the world — would never be the same.

Two years later, a full email message was sent, using the "@" sign for the first time. That meant each transmission could be sent to one specific recipient — or a million people. The World Wide Web wasn't invented until 1989, when a British scientist figured out how to access, create and share web pages — but he didn't publish the first web page until 1991.

This isn't a dry history lesson with facts, figures and dates. It's a reminder that one tiny event can completely change the whole world when we least expect it.

Amazon's founders didn't figure

out how to launch their company until 1995 — and today it's the largest online "store" on earth. The search engine Google didn't launch until 1997 and Facebook didn't begin until 2004, but today it has 1.5 billion users worldwide. All within the past 15 years.

The easy availability of using the internet has turned the world upside down. Think of how your music listening, TV and movie watching, book and newspaper reading habits have changed.

Wikipedia answers questions instead of dictionaries. Students get tab-

lets instead of books. We take digital pictures instead of using real cameras with film. We hail ride-sharing apps like Uber instead of calling taxis — and we pay our bills or reserve hotel rooms with a few finger taps on our phones.

More than 95 percent of Americans have cell phones to handle all this activity. No problem if we don't have time to cook — food (and toilet paper) can arrive at our door from grocery stores or restaurants in minutes.

And it's all because a professor wanted his computer to talk to another one 50 years ago. What in the world can top that in the next 50 years?

Opinions offered in this column are the author's alone and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Tri-County Times or its staff. Email Mark Rummel at news@tctimes.com.



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FREE HAUNTED HALLOWEEN
barn on Sharp Road was awesome again this year. Also the vortex tunnel and treats were, too. Wet weather but they all still did it. Great job.

■■■■
EMPATHY ENTERS THIS world with most individuals at birth. Studies have shown that babies as young as 9 months innately demonstrate empathy. It is the ability to put yourself in others shoes and sympathize with their suffering.

■■■■
ACCORDING TO MONEY
Magazine, Barack Obama came to the White House with a little under a million dollars. He left eight years later having accumulated almost \$40 million. And there's no issues with the emoluments clause? I guess it depends on who you are.

■■■■
DUMP THE ELECTORAL
College? You are clueless if you think that's a good idea.

■■■■
ELIMINATING THE DDA would not result in better roads. Stop talking about the DDA. You have no clue what it is or how it works.

Compiled by Hannah Ball, staff reporter and Tim Jagielo, media editor

What do you think about the impeachment inquiry into the president? | street talk



"I think they're late getting to it. I did a lot of union work. My family has been in the military. So we definitely haven't been liking the way the government has been running."

Gordon Burwell
Fenton



"I think they need to do it. He's not very forthcoming or honest."

Frances Sweeney
Fenton



"It's a constitutional process. If there's evidence then impeachment is appropriate."

— **Marilyn Neil**
Fenton



"I think it's a witch hunt. He's different. He's not a politician. I think it's an excuse for the Democrats to not talk about roads or the economy or health. I haven't heard them talk about anything else."

Bill Schlicklin
Fenton Township



"I think it's a waste of taxpayer money, because even if the House votes to impeach, the Senate will not. It seems like political posturing."

Scott Sherman
Deerfield Township

Fenton schools sinking fund renewal passes by wide margin

■ District property owners will continue paying .8999 mills for three more years

By Vera Hogan

Voters in the Fenton Area Public Schools (FAPS) district said “yes” to a sinking fund renewal proposal Tuesday, Nov. 5. Voters have agreed to renew the current .8999 mills for another three years (2020, 2021 and 2022).

The vote was 1,298 “yes” to 691 “no.”

On Wednesday, Superintendent Adam Hartley said, “We are appreciative for our community and their continued support of Fenton Area Public Schools. Many people, including the school board, our FAPS staff, community leaders and our wonderful families, worked hard at educating our community on how important this renewal is for not only our school district but for the Fenton community as a whole.

“We are excited to continue our Sinking Fund projects and maintain the high expectations we have for our facilities and grounds to foster a safe and quality learn-

ing environment,” he said.

The current sinking fund millage expires Dec. 31. Revenue collected in 2020 is expected to be approximately \$820,000.

Hartley has said, “Sinking Fund dollars are used to cover many projects within the school district’s six school buildings and other facilities, such as our board office, operations department and athletic complexes.

“Sinking Fund dollars are earmarked for both short-term needs that arise each year such as parking lot upgrades and repairs and district wide long-term projects such as roofing upgrades (ongoing), flooring upgrades (i.e. all of AGS Middle School next summer) and the replacement of the FHS track and turf field (very near future).

Hartley also said, “With over 650,000 square feet of facilities, we continue to repair and upgrade necessities, for example electrical infrastructure, classroom and exterior lighting, heating and ventilation, plumbing, and other costly repairs and upgrades that arise each year.”

This is not a tax increase as the renewal is a continuation of what the Fenton community has supported over many years.

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Fenton community mourns loss of Ron Lockwood

■ Suffered a brief bout with cancer before his death Tuesday night, Nov. 5

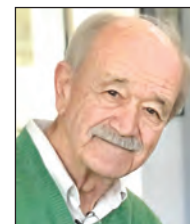
By Vera Hogan

He had smiling eyes and an infectious smile, but what most people will miss about Ronald "Ron" Lockwood of Fenton is his tireless community service, quietly working side by side with his wife of 52 years, Pat Lockwood.

Ron, 77, suffered from a brief bout with cancer before leaving this life at his home on Tuesday, Nov. 5. On Wednesday, Pat, who was re-elected to the Fenton City Council on Tuesday night, before his death said, "It's a bit overwhelming but he was my biggest supporter and campaign advisor and I know he waited until the results were in last night before he left us."

The Lockwoods' daughter, Brooke Lockwood Page, shared the sentiment she and her siblings feel on Pat's Facebook page. She said, "It is with such sadness to announce the passing of my amazing dad following the election for my mom last night ... I am heartbroken he is gone."

"Dad, you are my hero and raised a really great family and should be so proud because I am so proud of you," Brooke said. "Until we meet again I know you will be looking down on all of us."



Ron Lockwood

Originally from Detroit, Ron and Pat were married Jan. 28, 1967. According to his obituary, he served in the U.S. Navy for seven years on the following nuclear powered submarines — James Madison, Trumpetfish and the USS Lapon, where he was plank owner. He spent his career in sales, service management, and electrical engineering.

He moved to Fenton in 1970 and was actively involved in his community and the parish of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church. He served as the St. John Applefest finance chair for 15 years and was a member of the Fenton VFW Post 3243.

In addition to Pat, Ron is survived by their three children, 10 grandchildren, and several beloved family members and friends.

According to his obituary, "Ron devoted his entire life to his wife, children, and grandchildren, spending time traveling up north Michigan, and annual vacations to Disney with the family. He enjoyed St. Patrick's Day with his Irish Heritage and his love of Guinness."

Funeral Mass was celebrated Saturday Nov. 9 at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, Fenton. Interment was at Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly. Those desiring may make contributions to Fenton Area Public Schools Educational Foundation.

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The state of dams in Michigan

■Linden dam has 'high hazard potential,' Fenton and Argentine have 'significant hazard potential'

By Hannah Ball

Michigan is home to more than 2,615 dams.

About a week ago, one of those dams failed in Argentine Township. A broken gate resulted in Lobdell and Bennett lakes losing approximately 11 inches of water over the course of about five days.

Dams are monitored by the Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. While EGLE has 2,615 dams in its database, there are likely more dams in the state that have not been discovered or inventoried.

Lucas Trumble, representative of the hydrologic studies and dam safety unit of the Water Resources Division in EGLE, said the state of Michigan owns 288 of these dams.

Michigan dams fall under three categories based on potential downstream impacts should a dam fail.

Low hazard potential means the impact resulting from failure would be limited to vacant lands, local roads and environmental impacts would be less significant.

Significant hazard potential means that failure would result in significant environmental, economic and public safety risks, and loss of life is not expected.

"High hazard potential" means that significant environmental, economic, and public safety risk exists, including potential for loss of life should the dam fail," Trumble said.

The Linden dam has a high hazard potential, one of 140 in Michigan.

“High hazard potential means that significant environmental, economic, and public safety risk exists, including potential for loss of life should the dam fail.”

Lucas Trumble

*Department of Environment,
Great Lakes and Energy Water
Resources Division representative*

Argentine Township and Fenton dams have a significant hazard potential, and Parshallville Pond and Lake Shannon are classified as low.

Locally, the Argentine dam is owned by Argentine Township, which has a maintenance agreement with the Genesee County Road Commission. The Parshallville Pond dam is owned by the Livingston County Road Commission.

The Linden and Fenton dams are owned by the municipalities.

In 2018, the American Society of Civil Engineers gave Michigan dams a C-minus.

"According to condition assessment data in the National Inventory of Dams, the state's high hazard dams have an average rating of 'fair,' scoring about

79 on a 100-point scale. While some improvement in the overall condition of Michigan dams has been made in recent years, mostly through the removal of dams, the state must make more progress, particularly as dams across the state continue to age.

"According to the 21st Century Infrastructure Commission Report, \$225 million is needed in additional state funding over the next 20 years to manage our aging dams in Michigan," according to the 2018 Infrastructure report card.

Money and budgeting

Trumble said a typical design lifespan of dams is around 50 years. The number is used as an indicator for dam owners when it comes to planning and budgeting.

"Proper operation and maintenance of a dam can extend that life expectancy, while on the other hand, improper operation and maintenance could shorten the life expectancy of a dam," he said.

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Superintendent on Lake Fenton sinking fund failure

■ Voters shoot down increase in millage 870-620

By Hannah Ball

Residents in the Lake Fenton Community Schools district voted down a 10-year 1.25-mill sinking fund on Tuesday, Nov. 5.

The millage failed by a vote of 870 to 620.

Superintendent Julie Williams said, "We are obviously disappointed with the outcome of the election, but our community has been very supportive the last two years and we are very appreciative. We have been able to make some amazing upgrades throughout the district with the bond extension they approved in 2017."

Sinking fund dollars can be used for

renovation, repair, and construction of buildings, and recent legislation has allowed it to cover some expenses related to safety, security, and technology. In the past, the district has used these dollars for renovations, updated parking lots, new boilers, roofs, sidewalks and more.

"Our current 1-mill sinking fund was approved by voters in 2009 and expires Dec. 31, 2019. This is approximately \$600,000 in annual revenue the district will not receive to use for facility needs, improvement to grounds, security items and technology. At a future meeting, the Board of Education and I will be discussing a plan for moving forward," Williams said.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

PLEASE CONTACT YOUR senators and reps to support reductions in federal spending. Rand Paul's 2-percent 'penny plan' reduction bill was just defeated by both Democrats and Republicans. You and I have to cut costs to meet our budgets.

WE ARE IN a civil war. This war isn't Republican against Democrat but a war of the elitist globalists of both political parties against our national sovereignty. Trump is fighting against the globalists

to preserve our independence as a nation. If Trump is removed, our American independence will be lost.

EVERY U.S. CITIZEN is personally financially responsible to cover paying off the federal deficit if the feds can't get it done through taxes and spending control. Right now, each of us would owe \$67,000, even my 1-year-old.

SO YOU WANTED \$15 an hour. Now we have machines taking your jobs. Smart move, Millennials.

Oakland Community College millage renewal passes

■ Final tally is 133,425 'yes' votes to 51,281 'no' votes

By Vera Hogan

Voters in Oakland County, which locally includes the village of Holly, Holly and Rose townships, and 16 voters in the city of Fenton (Water's Edge homes), have decided to continue paying .7545 mills for Oakland Community College (OCC) operating purposes for 10 years.

The final vote was 133,425 in favor of continuing the millage and 52,281 against.

A homeowner with a taxable value of \$100,000 pays \$75.45 per year.

According to the college's website

(oaklandcc.edu), voters established funding for the Oakland Community College District on June 8, 1964. The district encompasses roughly 900 square miles and has an assessed property value exceeding \$25 billion.

There are currently 28 public school districts with 45 public high schools and 37 private high schools within OCC boundaries. The college opened in September 1965.

Across its five campuses, OCC has served one million students and become a source for community development and engagement since opening its doors.

Source: oaklandcc.edu

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The image shows a screenshot of the myfenton.com website. At the top, there are navigation links for NEWS, SPORTS, LIVING, CLASSIFIEDS, and BUSINESS/COUPONS. Below these, there are several featured coupons, including one for a \$9 meal deal and another for a \$85 patient special. A large orange banner in the center reads "PRINTABLE COUPONS!". At the bottom, there are images of various household products like Lay's chips, Coca-Cola, and Wisk cleaner.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

COMPILED BY SHARON STONE

Green Parrot Superstore now open in Holly

Green Parrot Superstore is now open at 507 N. Saginaw St., Holly. The owners have a passion for birds, especially parrots. They hand-feed and hand-raise companion parrots. They are not here just to sell parrots, but to match a companion parrot to your lifestyle. The shop also features reptiles and small animals. Green Parrot Superstore offers cages, food, toys, education and a lifetime of companionship. The store is open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Thursday, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call (248) 328-6300.

FENTON MAYOR

Continued from Front Page

business development. She said she also wants to see the repair and replacement of local streets and an increase in shared services.

"I love this city and the people and want to continue moving Fenton forward," she said.

Osborn said she understands the budget and operations of the city. "I led the city through a tornado and repaired the damage, the recession a few years back and kept our budget stable, built a new fire hall, new DPW garage, new downtown award-winning Streetscape, a new water plant, restored the library,

all without a tax increase," she said.

After the results were in Tuesday night, Osborn said, "I'm very humbled by the results and honored to serve the community for another two years."

King said, "I want to congratulate the mayor on her election. I'm glad we had a clean race and I wish her well and the council, and I hope we move forward and make sure that the Planning Commission and things are set in place so residents and commercial businesses have the same type of process. I want to thank the residents that came out and supported me and I just hope we move forward. Thank you very much."

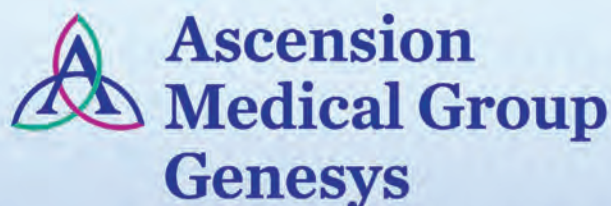
HOT LINE CONTINUED

TO THE PERSON who said there are 40 Republicans involved in investigation to ask questions. You mean the questions that Schiff determines can be asked. You are definitely a liberal and only listen to one side. What are the actual charges in this charade? Grow up. We are not all dumb and do not plan to be subjected to their lies in 2020.

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We are not a pure democracy like Athens of ancient Greece, we are a representative democracy. One person, one vote elects electors for the Electoral College. The electors of the Electoral College elect the President.

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Two incumbents ousted in Fenton City Council race

■ Sean Sage and Brad Jacob will replace Cherie Smith and Nancy Draves

By Vera Hogan

With 896 votes, incumbent Pat Lockwood was the top vote getter in the Tuesday, Nov. 5 race to retain her seat on the Fenton City Council.

Sean Sage and Brad Jacob will join her for the next four years on council. Sage received 857 votes and Jacob, 732 votes.

Incumbent Cherie Smith trailed with a vote of 653 and Nancy Draves with a vote of 642. Newcomer Damien Siwik received 450 votes.

After the results were in, Lockwood, 74, said, "Thank you to the Fenton community for their ongoing support and I look forward to continue to work on the issues that positively impact this amazing city and its residents."

Lockwood previously said she wishes to continue to be the voice of the residents and businesses as the council addresses numerous issues the city is facing, such as declining revenues, increased demands on public safety, aging infrastructure in which priorities should be placed on deteriorating neighborhood roads and sidewalks.

Lockwood has 28 years of public service, which includes local, county and state elected offices.

Sage, 43 said he believes that he has

a skill set that is under-represented on the board and would be valuable to the city. "And, because my family is from Fenton, because I live here, and because my children are growing up here and call it home, I feel a responsibility to play any part I can in its continued success.

On Tuesday, Sage said, "I am very proud to be elected to City Council. All six candidates are quality people and it means a lot to me to be chosen from that group. I will work hard to make the most of this opportunity and live up to the confidence the voters have shown me."

Jacob, 47, said, "I'm very grateful for the opportunity to serve Fenton again. I appreciate everyone that ran for office, and all who voted. We're in this together.

"Congratulations to all of the winners," he said. "I look forward to working with the mayor and council to keep moving Fenton forward."

Jacob said previously that he wants to see Fenton streets fixed. "Clearly, this is the number one concern for our residents and businesses," he said. "I favor a comprehensive yet realistic approach that is fair to everyone. Piecemeal repairs are inefficient and expensive,

and I am willing to have the tough conversations about how we get there. I will continue to help raise awareness about the seriousness of our predicament," he said.

Jacob served on City Council for two terms, from 2009 to 2017.



Pat Lockwood



Sean Sage



Brad Jacob

HOT LINE CONTINUED

NEW YORK AND California need to continue doing what they do best, provide the United States with entertainment. When they wander into politics, they advocate strange things like popular vote, negating the vote-thinking Americans.

■■■■ **CAN WE ALL** agree to remove the right lane on westbound Owen Road just west of the Walmart entrance? I'm tired of all the terrible drivers that buzz by

everyone and cut into the lane before the neighborhood and nearly run others off the road.

■■■■ **THE DEMOCRATS PASSED** their own impeachment inquiry rules this week. Not one of the Republicans' 17 amendments were approved by Democrats. Only Democrats voted for their new rules, which require Schiff to approve any actions by Republicans.

■■■■ **HEALTH IS NOT** everything, but without health, everything else is nothing.

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Icy road results in fatal car crash

■ Flint man killed, Fenton woman seriously injured in head-on collision

By Tim Jagielo

Rose Twp. — A 40-year-old Flint man was killed and a 45-year-old Fenton woman is hospitalized in serious condition following an automobile crash Thursday, Nov. 7.

North Oakland County Fire Authority (NOCFA) Chief Jeremy Lintz said the fatal car crash was the result of icy road conditions. The names of the victims have not been released.

NOCFA was dispatched to Hickory Ridge Road near Pellet Drive in Rose Township at 7:20 a.m. to a head-on collision between two cars. Upon arrival, first responders found two vehicles both with heavy front-end damage.

Each vehicle was occupied with drivers only. The vehicle traveling northbound was driven by a 40-year-old man from Flint. The vehicle



A 40-year-old Flint man was killed Thursday morning when his car collided head-on with another car on Hickory Ridge Road in Rose Township. Submitted photo

traveling southbound was driven by a 45-year-old woman from Fenton.

Both drivers were trapped in their vehicles. NOCFA crews extricated each driver with the Jaws of Life and transported them to Ascension Genesys Hospital in Grand Blanc Township. Both drivers sustained multiple traumatic injuries.

Lintz said the Flint man died shortly after arrival to the hospital. The Fenton woman is in serious condition.

The cause of the accident appears to be the result of the driver northbound on Hickory Ridge road losing control of the vehicle on an icy patch of roadway and crossing over into the southbound lane.

The Michigan State Police was in charge of investigating the crash. The road was closed until 11 a.m., when both vehicles were loaded onto flat bed trucks and taken away.

Editor Sharon Stone contributed to this story.



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Bathroom 'peeper' will plead guilty to three of 26 felony charges

■ Will be sentenced Nov. 22; to serve a minimum of three years in prison

By Vera Hogan

Eric Andrews Jr., the 21-year-old Grand Blanc man charged earlier this year with recording five coworkers in the Fenton Tim Hortons bathroom, will plead guilty to three of the 26 felony charges against him for six different crimes.

The plea deal is in exchange for the remaining 23 charges being dropped.

The Michigan State Police said Andrews illegally videotaped coworkers in the Silver Lake Road Tim Hortons in Fenton. He also videotaped his best friend and her boyfriend in the

bathroom at Andrews' grandparents' home in Grand Blanc Township without their knowledge. This happened between 2017 and 2018, when three of the victims were under 18.

On Tuesday, Oct. 29, he pleaded guilty to child sexually abusive activity, using a computer to commit a crime and distributing images of an unclothed person. The remaining 23 charges, including child sexually abusive activity, will be dismissed at his sentencing, which is set for Nov. 22. Court records show he will serve a minimum of three years in prison.

The Michigan State Police Computer Crimes Unit launched the investigation into Andrews. Searches of his electronic devices brought up recordings dating back to 2016.

Early childhood programs receive grant

■ Supports importance of reading to infants, toddlers and preschoolers

Compiled by Sharon Stone

Fenton Area Public Schools World of Wonder Early Learning Programs and Linden Community Schools Early Childhood programs received a \$6,000 grant from the Community Foundation of Greater Flint to support the campaign, "Read early. Read often. Your child's success depends on it."

The campaign will "raise awareness about the importance of reading to infants, toddlers, and preschoolers ... every day, everything, everywhere!" said Linda Mora, director/principal at Fenton Area Public Schools World of Wonder (WoW) Early Learning Programs.

The program will engage people across the community to share the message, connect community resources to the cause, and support the work to:

Read every day: Babies and toddlers who are read to often will have heard as many as 30 million more words than children who aren't read to.

Read everything: Read billboards, cards, cereal boxes, ads, newspapers, and websites.

Read everywhere: Read aloud to babies and toddlers at home, in the car, at the park, at the library, in waiting rooms, in the yard, at the homes of friends and family, at the grocery store, at the beach, at the doctor's office, at the gas station, at restaurants, at the laundromat and everywhere else we go.

It is the plan for Fenton and Linden to join forces to launch and support this campaign urging parents to take on their roles as parents as teachers and know that there is nothing a parent can do that is more impactful to children's future success than reading to their child.

Both districts have early childhood programs that include tuition preschool for 3- and 4-year-olds, state funded, Great Start Readiness Programs for children who are 4 years old and from families that meet income requirements, and parent-child playgroups for families with children birth to 5 years that are funded through the United Way of Genesee County.

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Robert J. MacDonald has represented thousands of injured and disabled workers in Genesee County and throughout Michigan over the past twenty years.

He has been recognized by his fellow attorneys as a Super Lawyer and as a Leading Lawyer in disability benefit law, and is the current President of the Michigan Association for Justice. Attorneys in the MacDonald family have assisted injured and disabled workers in the Flint area since 1938.

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

COMPILED BY SHARON STONE

Balance Life Counseling welcomes therapist

Balance Life Counseling, 110 Trealout Dr., Fenton, welcomes Neil Bedell, LPC (licensed professional counselor) to its counseling practice. His areas of focus include anxiety, depression, self-esteem, self harm, grief and loss, divorce, and life transitions. Bedell specializes in working with middle- and high-school students in regard to 504 plans, IEPs, learning disabilities, college planning, and bullying issues. Practice includes clients 10 years old through adulthood. Major insurance is accepted. Call (810) 354-5925 for a free consultation.

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Just sayin'...

vhogan@tctimes.com

California dreamin'

It made me very sad the last couple of weeks to watch the news and see California burning. I love California and am happy the fires are finally under control.

About eight years ago, my husband and I flew to Los Angeles to visit with our son and his fiancée. It was St. Patrick's Day week and there was no way our boy was going to celebrate his 21st year on this Irish holiday without us.

While we were enjoying the sights and sounds of Hollywood, we saw a man standing on the corner of Hollywood and Sunset Boulevard. He was carrying a big sign with large letters crudely printed in black marker that said, "LOUSY ADVICE, \$1 DOLLAR!" Not only was he talking to someone and making his point by gesturing wildly with his hands, there were people lined up waiting for their turn.

We also visited the Santa Monica pier on that trip. If you've ever been there, many street performers do their thing in exchange for donations. We watched a little Asian man, dressed in colorful tights and Spandex T-shirt, performing Michael Jackson's song, "Billie Jean." Flawlessly, he did the moonwalk for which Jackson was famous, but also injected some martial arts moves and kicks into his performance. Yeah, that was worth a couple bucks.

We ate lunch on the Santa Monica

pier at Bubba Gump Shrimp. I was delighted to know there really are Bubba Gump Shrimp restaurants. Not only were they in California, but all over the United States. I don't know what it is about sitting in a crowded Bubba Gump restaurant, but it seems the patrons can't help but quote Forrest Gump lines from the movie of the same name.

At a nearby table, the server forgot to bring a glass of water (more than once). The man leaned over to his

companion and said, "Stupid is as stupid does."

During lunch, we were talking with our son about his classes at Los Angeles Valley College and telling him how proud we were of him. My husband suddenly couldn't help himself — "Your momma sure does care about your schoolin,' son."

At the end of our lunch when our server brought our bill, she said we had to answer a trivia question before we go. The question was, "When Forrest and Jenny got married, what kind of shoes was Jenny wearing?" My hand shot up immediately like a second-grader, "I KNOW, I KNOW! She wasn't wearing shoes, she was barefoot." That correct answer earned me a free drink so, of course, we had to stay a little longer.

I would love to visit California again someday — that is unless we get a Bubba Gump Shrimp here. Just sayin'!

Opinions offered in Just Sayin' are the author's alone and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Tri-County Times or its staff. Email Vera at vhogan@tctimes.com.



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Sharp Shooting Pain Down the Leg?

■ By Erica Rainer



Sciatica is leg pain caused by a pinched nerve in the lower back. Pains begin in the nerve roots, located on either side of the lower spine and move through the sciatic nerve, which runs the length of each leg from the buttocks, down to the foot. The leg agony, called radiculopathy, "is often worse than the back pain," says Dr. James Ide, DC, clinic director at Painless Chiropractic of Fenton MI. "It's very common for patients to come in describing an agonizing, shooting, burning pain that starts in the buttocks and flows down to the leg and at times into the foot with numbness, tingling and cramps in the leg." The sensation "can be intolerable," says Dr. Ide. "Some people describe it to be similar to the nerve pain you experience if you have a toothache."

For home care options visit PainlessDC.com/sciatica

After reviewing many different treatment options we have found that typically the average person who suffers from Sciatic pain usually experiences the same frustration when seeking help. They tend to start off going to their doctor who prescribes them one or more of the following; Muscle Relaxers, Pain Pills or Steroid Based Anti-Inflammatory Drugs.

The Muscle Relaxers tend to make patients tired but do relax the muscles. The Pain Pills mask the pain while on them but tend to make many people tense, nauseous, constipated and unable to

focus. The Steroid Based Anti-Inflammatory Drugs give some people weakness, moon face, weight gain, insomnia and mood swings. All in all the pain usually comes back once the drugs are gone because nothing was ever corrected just masked. These drugs all focus on the symptoms and not the problem.

This is often the case with most pain related to the spine and nerves, regardless if your issue is in your neck, resulting in headaches or pain, numbness, tingling and/or muscle weakness in the arms and hands or down in the low back and buttocks, resulting in Sciatic Pain.

Once the patient goes to their MD, takes their prescriptions and then goes back, still in pain, they are usually referred to physical therapy,

pain management or a surgeon. Most patients respond to physical therapy however, once the program has finished many report the pain returns.

When they visit pain management, they may be prescribed the same types of drugs their MD gave them or they may jump right to the steroid epidural shots into your spinal

column which may not be FDA approved so please be advised to do plenty of research if you ever find yourself in this situation.

As for having surgery... well we all know that surgery should always be a last resort because once you make the decision to have surgery, there is no going back and undoing it and many other options are off the table after surgery.

Regardless of how the symptoms are treated, the number one problem with finding relief through these treatments is that they only focus on treating the symptoms not the underlying issue. **This condition will eventually lead to muscle wasting, numbness, and constant tingling down to the toes and eventually**

sexual dysfunction and even loss of bladder/ bowel control. Left untreated, the intense pain can rapidly wear you down and drain the joy out of life. People lose hope and have no idea where to turn. That is until now.

Chiropractic Corrective Care for Sciatic Pain Relief

"I was beginning to think surgery was my only option and then my neighbor told me about Painless Chiropractic and how much they had helped his brother. I made an appointment the next day. I was skeptical but I was out of options. It was the best decision I ever made I only wish I would have tried it sooner. My pain is gone and I feel better than I have in years!"

- Louis K., Grand Blanc

Recent advances in the treatment of sciatica and lower back pain have led to the development and huge success of Non-Surgical Re-Constructive Spinal Care. The excellent results of this treatment have been published in major medical journals. With success rates as high as 90% many back surgeons are recommending their patients try this treatment first before having surgery. Right here in Fenton MI, at Painless Chiropractic you can try Non-Surgical Reconstructive Spinal care under the direct supervision of low back and sciatica specialist Dr. James Ide D.C. The fully trained spinal care team have helped countless patients find relief from their agonizing back and sciatica problems. "We use a combination of ultra-advanced technology not utilized elsewhere in the area for precisely diagnosing the cause of your pain; and a unique program for reconstructing the damaged area causing the pain; this means superior long-term results for most people" said Dr. Ide.

Because the treatment is non-surgical, safe and easy, most patients report an almost immediate relief from their pain. However, as Dr. Ide



Sciatica Relief Expert James Ide, says: In 7 years of practice, I've never seen a treatment as effective as Non-Surgical Re-Constructive Spinal Care for patients with sciatica or lower back pain.

says "we are happy patients experience less pain but the pain is just a symptom, our goal is to correct the underlying problem which is structural. The pain is usually the last thing to show itself and the first thing to disappear and if not properly treated and maintained, will show up again in the future."

If you are ready to get to the bottom of your debilitating shooting, stabbing and burning pain stemming from your low back, buttocks and sciatic nerve, Painless Chiropractic is ready to deliver the same positive results to you as they have to so many others. That is why the Times has teamed up with the clinic to spread the news and showcase the offer they put together for our readers. Call them now and get a full and thorough consultation and examination to pinpoint the cause of your problem for just \$47!

The normal cost of such an exam is \$195 so you will save \$148! Don't suffer from the pain and immobility any longer. Discover the natural treatment that can eliminate the cause of your problem and give you the safe, lasting relief you deserve. Call and set up your appointment now. Call 810-202-2608. Mention the code SCIATICA1119 to claim your special offer.

THREE VETERANS

Continued from Page 3A

The burial of Peter, Earl and Robert will make history in the state of Michigan as well as the United States, said Robert Armstead. "We cannot find other family members with Civil War, WWI and WWII family linkage that are all buried side-by-side at a National Veterans Cemetery," he said.

The young Armstead is hoping to raise \$15,000 for final burial costs. He is near that amount with his gofundme page, "Paying Tribute to Three Family War Veterans." Funds will be used for disinterment/reinternment, transportation, funeral home, and other related burial costs.

A motorcade will escort Peter, Earl, and Robert from a local funeral home to the Great Lakes National Cemetery.

Robert Armstead said Peter, Earl and Robert E. served in combat positions in the wars and all developed PTSD (post traumatic stress disorder) in various forms, suffering the rest of their lives after the war with other war-related conditions as well. For many veterans, the pain and suffering of going to war doesn't stop after the war stops; it painfully lingers on with them for the rest of their lives. Their families suffered as well, as they endured the pain and suffering of watching their loved ones suffer after the wars.

Peter Armistead fought in the Civil War from 1861 to 1864. He was captured and placed in a Confederate prisoner of war camp along with other Union prisoners, who survived on nothing more than water and eat-

ing tobacco to stay alive. He was discharged for war-related disabilities and suffered from these war related disabilities and laid bed-ridden until he died at the of age 49, leaving behind six children and a wife. Peter married later in life, with his oldest child 14 and his youngest child 9 months at the time of his death. Peter was a farmer prior to the war.

Robert Earl Armstead, referred to as **Earl Armstead** by his family, fought in World War I in France. He developed emphysema as a result of the war and had a steady cough for the rest of his life. He died earlier than his other family members. Prior to the war, Earl worked as a farmer and a lumberman in Northern Michigan. He was a kind-hearted man who loved his wife, Alberta, and adored his nephew Robert E. Armstead, who would become a WWII veteran.

Robert E. Armstead fought in the European Theater of War during WWII. He served in the armored division (M-4 Sherman Tank) and earned the rank of sergeant. He had hearing loss and developed other conditions as a result of being in the war, which he dealt with the rest of his life. He was born in 1926 on a poor rural farm in Northern Michigan in one of the worst snowstorms. He was born a blue baby (a baby with a blue complexion from lack of oxygen in the blood due to a congenital defect of the heart or major blood vessels) and had come very close to death. He barely survived the Great Depression. After the war he started his own construction company and hired veterans.

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Robert Armstead, a relative of the above veterans, is working to have all three men buried side-by-side at the Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly Township. **Submitted Photos**

Robert Armstead, a relative of the above veterans, is working to have all three men buried side-by-side at the Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly Township. **Submitted Photos**

NEWS BRIEFS

COMPILED BY SHARON STONE

Public information meeting to discuss Barron Road in Groveland Township

The Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) will host a public information meeting **Tuesday, Nov. 12, from 4 to 7 p.m.** on the planned 2020/2021 paving of Barron Road

from Grange Hall Road to Groveland Road in Groveland Township. The meeting will be held at the Groveland Township Hall, 4695 Grange Hall Rd., Holly. The meeting will be an open-house format — there will be no formal presentation. RCOC staff will be present to answer questions and review the project plans throughout the public meeting. The approximately \$6.2-million project is mostly federally funded, with the remaining portion shared by RCOC, Groveland Township and Oakland County general government (through the tri-party

program). The project is expected to start in the winter of 2020 with tree removal and utility relocation. The road work is expected to begin in April of 2021 and be completed in November of 2021. **The project includes:**

- Paving this two-mile section of gravel road with asphalt
- Placing concrete curbs and gutters
- Installing storm sewers to improve drainage
- Improving the driving sight distance

To learn more about the project, visit rocweb.org, then select "Barron Road."

WHAT YOU MISSED IN THE MIDWEEK TIMES

COMPILED BY VERA HOGAN

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

'It's just been really overwhelming'

Linden couple loses two cats in house fire.



Know which police cover you in emergency

Local woman's call transferred twice during break-in due to confusion over address.

Fenton Township allows digital billboards

Outfront Media proposes to convert a U.S. 23 billboard to digital

Argentine dam broken

Bennett and Lobdell lake water levels down about a foot; gate is now closed

Myths about credit scores debunked

Common misconceptions offer both good and bad news.

Ask the Judge

Judge Mark McCabe talks about maritime law on the anniversary of the sinking of the Edmund Fitzgerald.

The name 'Cole' is synonymous with Lake Shannon

Though couple did not complete life's journey together, they made the upscale lakefront community what it is today.

View stories at
myfenton.com



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Jingle Jog 2019

5K RUN • WALK

SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 7, 2019
3:00 PM

Race begins and ends behind the Fenton United Methodist Church Family Life Center, 119 S. Leroy St. Fenton, MI

ENTRY FEE

Before November 22 Deadline - \$20
After Deadline - \$25

PACKET PICK-UP

December 6th - 4pm-7pm
Genisys Credit Union

Race Day – 1:00pm – 2:45pm
Fenton United Methodist Church Family Life Center

NEW COURSE

Mostly flat, fast and well-marked on paved streets in downtown Fenton. Roads are open to vehicle traffic, but are monitored by volunteers and police.

FACILITIES

- ▶ Restrooms and shelter are available.
- ▶ No non-service dogs allowed in Family Life Center.

RUNNER & WALKER AWARDS

Awards to 1st Place Male & Female,
1st Place Masters Male & Female,
1st – 3rd Place Male & Female age groups.

- ▶ The first 200 registered will receive a Jingle Jog mug. Soup, bread, hot chocolate & cookies for all participants.
- ▶ **Wear a Santa costume or ugly sweater and you will receive a \$5 dollar refund at registration.**
- ▶ Jingle Jog is one of the main events during the Jinglefest celebration. Enjoy shopping, ice sculptures, horse & carriage rides & lighted parade at 6:00 pm.

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When a four-year degree is not for you

■ There are other ways to have lucrative careers without college

Compiled By Vera Hogan

Earning a bachelor’s degree from a four-year college or university isn’t the only way to launch a successful career, especially when considering the cost of tuition (see sidebar).

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, only 33 percent of adults 25 and older have earned a bachelor’s degree or higher. If you’re a member of the 67 percent without a four-year degree, don’t worry. If a traditional four-year college isn’t the right path for you, check out these eight alternatives, according to careerbuilder.com:

Start a business.

There are 27.9 million small business owners in the U.S. and the barriers to starting your own business have never been lower. A storefront with expensive rent, utilities and employees is no longer necessary to sell goods or provide

a service. A computer and an internet connection are all you need to start a business from home.

Attend community college.

Community college is emerging as not only a good value, but also a promising way to land a job. The programs offered are often a direct response to the needs of the current job market. In just two years, students can earn an associate degree or a certification as a veterinary technician, a dental hygienist, web designer or even a winemaker.

Community college also affords you the option of transferring to a four-year college after receiving your associate degree.

Enroll in technical, vocational or trade school.

Technical schools specialize in career-driven courses that teach skills that apply to specific careers, such as carpentry or electrical work. Unlike a four-year college, you aren’t required to take classes that aren’t related to your

career focus. This option is great if you already have a career in mind and want to go directly into it.

In addition, there is a growing demand for high-precision skills. Skilled trade workers are a disproportionately older population. As they begin to retire, there will be a large number of jobs to fill. Technical college will prepare you to take on those roles.

Try an apprenticeship.

Apprenticeships offer the opportunity to learn a trade in an in-demand field. And unlike many internships, you get paid. Programs offer on-the-job training from experienced professionals. If you go this route, you’ll likely be working with your hands. The construction industry currently makes up two-thirds of apprenticeship programs in the U.S.

Join the military.

There are many practical benefits to joining a branch of the military. In addition to a competitive salary, free

See CAREERS on 24A

Annual 2019-2020 tuition for state colleges and universities

The following are estimated annual 2019-2020 tuition rates for some of Michigan’s popular four-year colleges and universities. These figures do not include housing or other fees. From high to low, they are:

Kettering	\$41,878
Lawrence Tech	\$35,020
U of M	**\$17,522
MSU	\$15,737
U of M	*\$15,558
Wayne State	\$14,175
Oakland University	\$13,916
Grand Valley SU	\$13,306
Western Michigan	\$13,047
Eastern Michigan	\$12,508
Central Michigan	\$12,510
Ferris State	\$12,419
Saginaw Valley SU	\$10,821
Baker College	\$10,052
Oakland Community	\$ 4,570
Mott Community	\$ 3,265

(** annual tuition for juniors and seniors; *annual tuition for freshmen and sophomores)

Source: collegetuitioncompare.com

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Undersheriff will run for the office of sheriff in 2020

■ Fenton Township resident, Christopher Swanson, has served the Genesee County Sheriff's Office for 26 years

By Vera Hogan

Genesee County Undersheriff Christopher R. Swanson has decided to run for the office of sheriff in the November 2020 election.

Sheriff Robert Pickell recently announced that he will retire after nearly 50 years in law enforcement. His last day on

the job will be Jan. 5, 2020.

When asked why he wants to serve as the county sheriff, Swanson said, "I've dedicated my entire adult life to the people of Genesee County. I've saved people as a paramedic, investigated the most violent crimes, commanded 265 employees as the ninth biggest police agency in the state.

"I've made it my life's mission to be the voice for the speechless and to defend the weak and vulnerable regardless of my personal safety," he said. "This is what public servants are to do. I'm very

proud of that.

"I'm well prepared and encouraged that my efforts over the last 26 years will be recognized by my community and they will support my desire to lead as their Genesee County sheriff," Swanson said.

He also was asked to share what he feels qualifies him for the job.

"All public servants need to love people. Additionally, the qualities to be a sheriff are for those who have a proven record of servant leadership and selfless defense of the vulnerable," Swanson said. "A sheriff is a 'people's sheriff.' They represent the community as a whole regardless of color, lifestyle, status or position. All people have the right to be protected and live with dignity.

"I've served for many years proving this to all of Genesee County," he said. "It's been a privilege to have worked so hard for the people at every level within the Sheriff's Office and the only opportunity to expand my level of influence is to continue doing what I've always done — serve."

Swanson was asked what law enforcement related-issue needs to be more thoroughly addressed in Genesee County.

"During my career I have seen more than I had ever imagined as a child. Even as a young student in elementary school, I developed a strong disdain for bullies or anyone who preys on the weak and vulnerable," Swanson said. "I've never backed down from a fight then, nor will I for the remainder of my natural life. That said, the sheriff's office has been the beacon of protection for the exploited elderly, the mentally ill, addicts and victims of human trafficking.

See **SHERIFF** on 23A

Christopher R. Swanson

Age: 47

Residency:

Fenton Township for eight years; Genesee County for 46 years

Family: Married to Jamie for 25 years. Two sons: Riley, 21 and Jordan, 18

Occupation: Office of Genesee County Sheriff with 26 years total years of service. He is currently the undersheriff and the chief of staff for all operations to include a \$31-million budget. Served as marine deputy, corrections deputy, paramedic deputy, patrol deputy, patrol sergeant, detective sergeant, detective lieutenant and captain; University of Michigan-Flint adjunct faculty for 22 years; business owner and two-time author

Education: Master's degree from the University of Michigan, Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies, Public Administration; Bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan-Flint, Applied Science; Mott Community College, Associate's degree in Criminal Justice; certified police officer and licensed paramedic



Christopher R. Swanson

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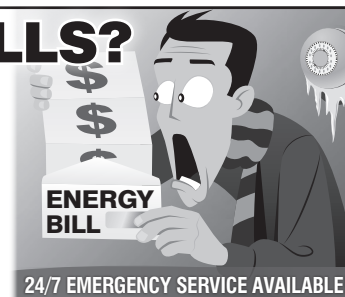
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LASTS AND LASTS AND LASTS.

Retired MSP command officer joins the race for sheriff

■ Phil Hart of Flint says transparency and open lines of communication are key to lowering crime rates

By Vera Hogan

Phil Hart, 59, a city of Flint resident and retired Michigan State Police command officer, will seek to become the next sheriff of Genesee County in the November 2020 election.

Current Sheriff Robert Pickell has recently announced that he will retire and not seek re-election.

Hart says he wants to serve as the Genesee County Sheriff in order to serve and protect the residents and visitors of the county. "The need for a feeling of safety and security is normally listed within the top three to five aspects desired by citizens when asked," Hart said. "It is my desire to ensure this feeling to everyone in Genesee County on a daily basis."

Hart said his 36 years of law enforcement experience spanning local, county, state and federal law enforcement quali-

Phil Hart

Age: 59

Residency: City of Flint for the last 29 years

Family: Married to Kim for 33 years

Occupation: Retired Michigan State Police Command Officer and candidate for Genesee County Sheriff

Education: Bachelor's degree in Management and Organizational Development, Spring Arbor University; School of Police Staff and Command- Northwestern Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy

View stories at
myfenton.com



Phil Hart

fies him for the job. "I retired from the Michigan State Police (MSP) after just over 26 years as the commander of the Flint Post. I have worked as a jail administrator and undersheriff as well. I was also assigned for over two years with the FBI as a task force agent on a Public Corruption Task Force in Flint," he said. "I have numerous assignments throughout my career with the MSP and have held various responsibilities and rank. I have a unique law enforcement background, which is not standard or possessed by many, if any others."

When asked what law enforcement related-issue needs to be more thoroughly addressed in Genesee County, Hart said, "Crime rates need to be addressed, which will only happen if all law enforcement works together and it is done with transparency. Without this transparency, there is no trust from the citizens being served. This lack of trust contributes to the crime rates."

"Cooperation with all other law enforcement agencies will advance trust

among agencies causing for an open line of communication which will in turn eliminate duplication of efforts and assist in crime reduction," he said. "All of this will start to heal the mistrust between law enforcement and the citizens which is necessary for effective law enforcement for our county."

SHERIFF

Continued from Page 22A

"The team of professionals I've led thus far has gone above and beyond to fulfill their oath to protect and serve," he said. "I will continue these initiatives and seek to expand their reach. Specifically, I will involve more police partners and the community to fight human trafficking and the opiate crisis on multiple levels. Awareness, education, enforcement and after care — all of which are vital. We have made great strides, but it's time to run faster."

Fenton Community Fund Presents Great Grants

Argentine Township Police Department

A \$9,000 grant from the Fenton Community Fund helped bring K-9 officer Trinity, a male Czech shepherd, to the Argentine Township Police Department. The department has had K-9 officers in the past, however, most K-9s are located in the northern part of the county and not readily available to agencies in the southern part of Genesee County. Officer Tony Matthews is Trinity's handler.

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Chad Robinson
Tom Rupp
Ron Stack



Gaines police assessment fails

■ 73 percent of voters say 'no'

By Hannah Ball

On Tuesday, Nov. 5, Gaines Township residents overwhelmingly shot down a 10-year special assessment for police services.

The vote on the ballot resulted in 1,276 (73.63 percent) "no" votes and 457 (26.37 percent) "yes" votes. Had it passed, each parcel would have been assessed \$115 annually for police services for a period of 10 years.

On Wednesday, Supervisor Paul Fortino told local media that there will be cuts to services and manpower.

In the past, Fortino said the assessment was needed because it was taking too much money from the general fund to pay for police services.

Voter turnout for all local races

• **Fenton mayor and Fenton City Council:** 1,705 ballots cast out of 9,560 registered voters — **17.83 percent**

• **Fenton Area Public Schools Sinking Fund:** 2,028 ballots cast out of 11,075 registered voters — **18.31 percent**

• **Lake Fenton Community Schools Sinking Fund:** 1,494 ballots cast out of 10,266 registered voters — **14.55 percent**

• **Gaines Township Police Assessment:** 1,733 ballots cast out of 5,237 registered voters — **33.09 percent**

HOT LINE CONTINUED

■■■■
TO NATIONAL SECURITY and Democracy at stake under Trump, and putting his needs first: I am willing to learn — please provide a couple of reasons. Thanks.

■■■■
TO THE PERSON wondering if the people of California and New York should elect our president, in other words, get rid of the Electoral College. All you need to do is look at the condition of LA, Sacramento and San Francisco as well as New York. Also look at their taxes. Now tell me they're smart enough to run a country.

■■■■
YOU ARE WORRIED about national security? Trump is the leader you describe, the Democrats and leftists are the dividers and obstructionist. Build that wall.

■■■■
WHY IS IT that I drive a 49-year-old truck that has zero rust on it but they cannot make a car that will last the life of the loan that is not full of rust. Sounds like it is on purpose to me.

CAREERS

Continued from Page 21A

health care and little-to-no living costs, the military will pay your tuition while in service. Soldiers have access to a variety of online learning options and there are satellite classrooms on many bases. Once your service is complete, you can also use the GI Bill to pay for part of your tuition. The military also offers retirement with benefits after 20 years of service.

Volunteer.

Volunteering isn't just a way to support your community. It builds character and gives you access to experiences outside of a formal educational setting that will be useful when you enter the workforce.

Consider a gap year.

If you don't have to make a decision about your future right away, consider traveling and dedicating yourself to finding your passion. Making a career choice is a big decision. It doesn't have to be rushed.

Source: careerbuilders.com

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LOOKING BACK at this week in HISTORY

COMPILED BY VERA HOGAN

NOV. 10

1969: "Sesame Street," a pioneering TV show that would teach generations of young children the alphabet and how to count, makes its broadcast debut. "Sesame Street" went on to become the most widely viewed children's program in the world. It has aired in more than 120 countries.

NOV. 11

1918: At the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918, the Great War ends. At 5 a.m. that morning, Germany, bereft of manpower and supplies and faced with imminent invasion, signed an armistice agreement with the Allies in a railroad car outside Compiègne, France. The First World War left nine million soldiers dead and 21 million wounded, with Germany, Russia, Austria-Hungary, France, and Great Britain

each losing nearly a million or more lives. In addition, at least five million civilians died from disease, starvation or exposure.

NOV. 12

1954: Ellis Island, the gateway to America, shuts its doors after processing more than 12 million immigrants since opening in 1892. Today, an estimated 40 percent of all Americans can trace their roots through Ellis Island, located in New York Harbor off the New Jersey coast and named for merchant Samuel Ellis, who owned the land in the 1770s.

NOV. 13

1953: In an example of the absurd lengths to which the "Red Scare" in America is going, Mrs. Thomas J. White of the Indiana Textbook Commission, calls for the removal of references to the book Robin Hood from textbooks used by the state's schools. Young claimed that there was "a Communist directive in education now to stress the story of Robin Hood because he robbed the rich and gave it to the poor. That's the Communist line. It's just a smearing of law and order and anything that disrupts law and order is their meat."

NOV. 14

1970: A chartered jet carrying most of the Marshall University football team clips a stand of trees and crashes into a hillside just two miles from the Tri-State Airport in Kenova, West Virginia. Thirty-seven Marshall football players were aboard the plane, along with the team's coach, its doctors, the university athletic director and 25 team boosters. For Huntington, West Virginia. The town immediately went into mourning. Shops and government offices closed; businesses on the town's main street draped their windows in black bunting. The university held a memorial service in the stadium the next day and cancelled Monday's classes. There were so many funerals that they had to be spread out over several weeks.

NOV. 15

2001: Microsoft releases the Xbox gaming console on this day in 2001, dramatically influencing the history of consumer entertainment technology. Microsoft CEO Bill Gates first decided to venture into the video game market because he feared that gaming consoles would soon compete with personal computers. At the time, Japanese companies Sony and

Nintendo dominated the field, and no American company had challenged them since Atari ceased selling its Jaguar console in 1996.

NOV. 16

1999: For nearly a century, students at Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas, created a massive bonfire — self-proclaimed to be "the world's largest" — prior to their school's annual football game against their archrival, the University of Texas. The beloved pre-game tradition had been canceled only once, in 1963 following the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Over the years, the bonfire grew so big that its construction became an elaborate project requiring days of work by teams of student volunteers.

Source: history.com

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SFC Siwik and SSG Highsmith rehydrate a malnourished baby, Fatima, in Baghdad, Iraq on July 26, 2007.

Photo submitted



MILITARY CAREER

Continued from Page 3A

day's mission, quick breakfast, mission briefing, roll out and conduct operations until complete, lunch on the go, return to base, if we are lucky, we are back in time for dinner, debrief the mission and plan for the next day, re-set personal gear, write/call home and be in bed about midnight," he said.

Asked if he was ever afraid, Siwik said, "Just as every soldier, sailor, airman and marine experiences fear at some point of a combat deployment, I did, too," he said. "To persevere in those moments, I focused on the task at hand, looked after my men and relied on my training so see me through.

Service as a U.S. Army Medic

"Unlike civilian first responders, Army medics and Navy corpsmen are much more likely to know and become friends with the people they treat," Siwik said. "That makes it tough to relive those cases."

One of Siwik's more rewarding experiences involved a baby he treated in Iraq. "Due to the trust and cooperation my team had developed with our local Iraqi partners, they brought to me a baby they found in a pile of garbage near where the baby's mother had been killed," he said. "I was one of the first Americans to treat Fatima Jabouri.

"My treatment for her was for expo-

sure," he said. "She spent a full night in 95-plus heat in the trash pile. She was listless, limp and unresponsive. After examining her for trauma (there was none) and vital signs, the goal was to get fluids into her. After a little banana milk fed by dropper, she revived a bit and was evacuated to a U.S. Army hospital. More extensive interventions were not needed at our level."

Today

Today, Siwik is an administrator with the University of Michigan. He is married to Pornsiri Siwik and the couple has three daughters — Elizabeth, Catherine and Marita. He says he will continue to transition from a career of national service in the U.S. military and carry on that legacy as a Fenton resident through community service. Last week, he lost his first-time bid for a seat on the Fenton City Council, but he continues to serve on the city's Zoning Board of Appeals.

What people at home can do to help troops

Siwik said the most important thing people at home can do for deployed military personnel is "Remember! The connection to the world back home is important to forward deployed service members. Whatever people at home can do, letters, postcards, photos, care packaged, emails and social media to show support will be appreciated."

Who gets a tip and for how much?

■ Many industries outside of restaurants also rely on tipping

By Tim Jagielo

When it comes to tipping, America is unique in that many service workers rely on tips for their income. There are few service industries where a tip wouldn't be welcome.

The current Michigan minimum wage is \$9.45 per hour and restaurant servers are paid about \$4 per hour.

The Times reached out to various businesses to see what their workers experience.

At the restaurant/bar

Jason Warda, who owns The Barn, Fenton Pub and Ponemah Lakeside Lodge, said servers are tipped at 15 to 18 percent. Hosts are tipped out at 3 percent. He said bartenders handle take-out orders and are usually tipped at 5 to 10 percent.

It's not expected, but always appreciated, especially since these food orders take time away from their bar customers. He feels that the tipping system works in the U.S. and that raising wages would mean less staff, so therefore less service.

Mark Hamel, co-owner of The Laundry, CRUST and El Topo, said servers typically get 18 to 20 percent. Of that, 5 percent of alcohol sales go to the bartender who made the drinks. Other tip outs include 2 percent for the food

expediter, the barista and host.

He said most also tip at the coffee counter, and 75 percent offer a tip when prompted at the service counter at CRUST. "As a restaurateur, I don't feel like I can stop it," Hamel said of the tipping culture. "Customers want to tip. The other reason would be that I would

lose all my wait staff. It is simply too lucrative for servers. They would immediately move to a restaurant that works on tips no matter how much I paid per hour."

The salon/barber shop

Jennifer Littrell, manager of Sports Clips in Fenton, said their employees are paid more than servers, but still rely on tips. She feels it's just as standard as tipping servers in restaurants.

She said they usually tip 15 to 25 percent, or between \$7 and \$10, or nothing at all. This can happen with customers from other countries who aren't used to tipping.

At her business, haircuts are \$19 and "MVP" cuts are \$24, which includes shampoo, hot towel and a shoulder scalp and facial massage.

Littrell said she's satisfied with tipping culture in the U.S. "I think people are very generous and take care of us," she said.

The car wash

Dave Carlson, manager at Fenton Kar Wash, said tip amounts vary. "We

“It is simply too lucrative for servers. They would immediately move to a restaurant that works on tips no matter how much I paid per hour.”

Mark Hamel
The Laundry, CRUST,
El Topo co-owner



CRUST restaurant expeditors like Jacob Newblatt are given a percentage from the tip pool paid by customers.

Times file photo

don't expect them, but they're greatly appreciated when we do get them," he said. Tips go into a pool to be split. A worker can receive \$3 to more than \$100 on a busy day. Tips and business increase in the winter. Carlson said he left one Christmas Eve with \$126. "A tip always seems to put a smile on someone's face which is nice to see," he said.

They also have a detailing service, but he said no one really tips. These services cost more than \$150 for an SUV with a third row seat, and take two workers five hours or more.

Sanitation workers

Republic Services said that its workers can accept "nominal tips" from customers during the holidays. "Tipping is an individual decision and is never expected," a media representative said. "A wave 'hello' or wishing our drivers a 'happy holidays' or 'Merry Christmas' is always appreciated."

Other tipping opportunities

Times readers offered their input in how they tip other industries.

Jessica said she tips half of minimum wage for pizza delivery.

Jean said she tips \$2 to \$5 per night for hotel cleaning crews. She tips hairdressers and pedicurists 20 percent. "I was in customer service for 30 years and I appreciate great service," Jean wrote.

Sara urged others to tip their Uber and Lyft drivers.

Drivers who deliver food from other restaurants or groceries also receive tips, even though a delivery charge is part of their bill. Other readers posted that they don't pay if they know someone is making minimum wage.

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Creating the gift of mobility

■ International organization has local workshop making carts for the disabled in Africa, Asia

By Tim Jagielo

Fenton Twp. — What looks like a regular woodshop with retired men routing, drilling and painting wood pieces is part of a multi-city “assembly line” that will change lives in Africa, Asia and the Caribbean.

On Wednesday Nov. 6, volunteers from Fenton, Clarkston and other local areas settled in to work on what will eventually become the body of mobility pull carts for disabled people in third world countries.

This workshop at Price’s Airport is one of five locations that make these carts for Mobility Worldwide East Michigan.

While they make the wood pieces in Fenton Township and Flushing, the metal frame is fabricated in Ypsilanti and White Lake Township. The final assembly happens in Marshall. Fundraising pies for this non-profit are baked in Goodrich.

Over the past decade or so, they’ve shipped 1,000 carts to 28 countries. These include Haiti, Vietnam, Ghana, Swaziland, Liberia and Zimbabwe.

President Jim McEwan said about 70 carts have been completed this year, and 28 are sitting waiting to be shipped.

The organization’s ranks are filled with mostly members of the United Methodist Church. “A need was found and people found a way how to meet it,” McEwan said when asked why the Methodist Church tackled this issue. “We rely on the

“A need was found and people found a way how to meet it. We rely on the idea of getting them from point A to point B and making it as easy as possible.”

Jim McEwan

Mobility Worldwide East Michigan



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Several volunteers gather weekly at this new woodworking shop at Price’s Airport in Fenton Township to help build pull carts for the non-profit Mobility Worldwide, which provides carts for disabled people in third world countries. Here, Ray Winkelman (right) delivers assembled seats to site manager Ric Noll Wednesday, Nov. 6. **Photo: Tim Jagielo**

idea of getting them from point A to point B and making it as easy as possible.”

This workshop started in Hadley with Ed Noll, who started the East Michigan affiliate. At age 94 after more than a decade of volunteering, he sold his property. His son Ric Noll and other volunteers sought a new workshop location.

Members of the Horizon Lakes Airpark including Cody Welch donated space at Price’s Airport along with material to renovate the space. Volunteers did the extensive renovation and repairs.

Ric Noll is site manager, and he helped keep things moving Wednesday. Some volunteers painted pieces while others contributed to the body or seat of the cart.

These carts are three-wheeled and are built for people who have survived polio, birth defects or losing limbs. The goal is to give these people dignity, an opportunity to work and a place in social life.

Noll said the international parent organization identifies recipients of these carts. The volunteers’ job is to build them, prep them for shipping and get the disassembled cart to the right port.

The other affiliates of the organization build carts for children and carts with a hand pedal system for those who are able to crank it themselves.

The carts are made with a steel frame and body of painted and sanded wood with a foam-padded seat, along with a handle and room for storage.

“A lot of people are living in very, very



This cart is similar to the ones volunteers work on every week. This is an older commemorative Michigan State green model. **Photo: Tim Jagielo**

rough conditions,” Noll said. “These are made to withstand a lot of abuse.”

This is an all-volunteer non-profit organization. He said they can always use more help, more money for supplies and woodworking equipment. It costs approximately \$300 to make each cart and it’s donated to the recipient.

If you’d like to help, you can call Noll at (810) 516-9828.



A volunteer uses a router on a piece of wood Wednesday. **Photo: Tim Jagielo**



Fenton's Brook Herbstreit was named to the Division 2 All-State Girls Golf game. Submitted photo

Herbstreit earns All-State honors

By David Troppens

A year ago Brook Herbstreit had a new sister in her family.

The Herbstreit family hosted foreign exchange student Charlotte Cunaud who eventually became an All-State golfer while earning a spot on Michigan's Super Team.

That's when Herbstreit, a pretty solid golfer already, realized she could accomplish some great goals. And some of those goals are happening. Herbstreit was her team's top golfer and the Metro League champion this fall. She placed third at the regional meet and ended the season tied for sixth at the D2 state meet. She accomplished another outstanding goal, earning a spot on the Division 2 All-State Girls Golf Team.

"It was a goal of mine since last season when Charlotte was on the Super Team," Herbstreit said. "I was

See **HERBSTREIT on 31A**

Blue Devils conclude rebuilding year with loss in district

By David Troppens

It was a year of transition for the Lake Fenton varsity volleyball team.

That year of transition ended Wednesday night in a three-set loss to North Branch.

Wednesday's match in the Lake Fenton district was a good symbolic

representation of what the Blue Devils had to deal with this season. Lake Fenton found itself playing this season in a new league which included new larger enrollment schools and some of the best programs

that were in the GAC a year ago with them. Meanwhile, the Blue Devils were in a rebuilding season making the move into the Metro League.

North Branch is a well established program that won the Blue Water Area Conference title

See **DEVILS on 31A**

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Sport



Tigers defeat Linden in district semifinals

■ Fenton falls in D1 district title match vs. Grand Blanc in four sets on Thursday

By David Troppens

Davison — Lydia Podlesak said there is one theme for the Fenton varsity volleyball team this season.

"We have a board in our gym and the words on top of the board are 'mental toughness,'" Podlesak said. "Our coaches emphasize that more than anything this season. If you saw us at the beginning of the year, it's not comparable to where we are now. That's our biggest factor to make us more successful, that is mental toughness."

The Tigers used their talent and a little mental toughness in the second set to defeat the Linden Eagles 25-20, 25-14, 25-20 at a Division 1 district semifinal contest at Davison High School Wednesday. Unfortunately, the Tigers were unable to keep the run going, los-

ing a challenging four-set match to Grand Blanc in the district final Thursday night. Fenton lost to the Bobcats 25-19, 21-25, 25-23, 25-21.

Wednesday's win against Linden marked the Tigers' third against the Eagles this season.

"It's fun. It's a big deal," Podlesak said after the Linden match. "It's (my) senior year and (the seniors)

want to go out with a bang. We want to make it last as long as we can because after this, it's done. Linden is our big rival and we play with a lot of these girls on our travel team. That makes the



Fenton players celebrate after defeating the Linden Eagles in the district semifinals Wednesday. Photo: Christopher Summers

competition that much more important. We love those girls that we play against. It's all in good spirit. They always give us a good game because they are your

See **DISTRICT on 30A**

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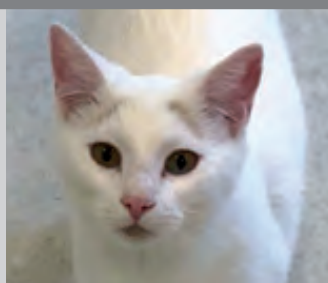


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Holly's Pluta headed to Michigan Wrestling Hall of Fame

By David Troppens

Since 1983, Don Pluta's Novembers have been the beginning of a new Holly varsity wrestling season.

After retiring at the individual state wrestling meet last March, this will be the first season Pluta isn't getting ready for a season.

"It's strange," Pluta said. "I plan on being around helping with meets and stuff like that."

He'll also be busy with something else. Pluta is headed to Ann Arbor this weekend so he can be inducted into the Michigan Wrestling Hall of Fame.

Former Holly athletic director Deb VanKuiken nominated Pluta and many letters of recommendation were included in his

nomination. He was voted in this year's class along with Fowlerville coach Dan Coon and Lincoln Park coach David Winger.

Pluta, who while a Holly school student realized he wanted to teach and coach at Holly, lived his dream. He began coaching in 1983 and won seven Metro League titles, 11 district titles and three regional titles. He coached nine individuals to state championships, including two by Josh Houldsworth. From 2010 to 2013, the Bronchos ranked as one of the state's stronger programs, earning three straight league crowns. He led the team to the team state wrestling meet in 2011 and 2012. Winner of more than 600 dual meets, Pluta

is also a member of Holly's Hall of Fame.

"It's amazing to think about all of the people that made this happen," Pluta said. "This is not just a Don Pluta thing. Parents drive the kids around and the athletes bust their butts helping build this program. It's going to be an emotional night for me. It's taken a lot of hard work by a lot of people."

Pluta loved the life he lived at Holly High School.

"As I was getting closer to retiring five to six years ago, I realized I was able to live my dream," Pluta said. "That's what I wanted to do was to teach and coach at Holly."

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM



Holly's Don Pluta retired from his wrestling position at the end of the 2018-19 wrestling season. He is being inducted into the Michigan Wrestling Hall of Fame this weekend. File photo

November 10, 2019

Athlete Of The Week



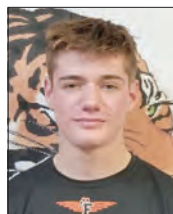
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DISTRICT

Continued from Page 29A

friends and teammates. At the end of the day we love them."

The match started as a pretty competitive affair. The two rivals battled to five tied scores and three lead changes during the first set. Linden enjoyed its largest lead at two points four times. The last time came at 10-8 on a kill by Makenna O'Keefe. However, a Linden service error was followed by a Podlesak kill and a Katelyn Beverly ace, giving Fenton the 12-10 lead. From there, the Tigers (17-21-10) always led, but the Eagles remained reasonably close. However, the lead grew to 23-18 after a kill by Podlesak.

Linden tried to make one more run for the first-set victory, getting back-to-back kills by Linnea Wittbrodt, but Podlesak responded with a kill of her own, setting up set point. Adrie Staib responded with an ace, giving the Tigers the 25-20 win.

The Eagles jumped to an 8-1 lead in the second set, mostly on the strength of Wittbrodt's serves. She had three consecutive aces. Eventually, a kill by O'Keefe built the lead to 8-1. It was a 10-2 lead after an ace by Avery Koan. However, the lead quickly fell. Sydney Acho served six straight points while Lilly O'Brien had four kills during a seven-point Fenton run.

Later, back-to-back Linden hitting er-



Linden's Makenna O'Keefe attacks a ball during the Eagles loss to Fenton in the district semifinal.

Photo: Christopher Summers

rors enabled Fenton to tie the set at 12 and take a 13-12 lead. Linden was able to tie it back at 13-13 on a Katie Strickert kill, but two consecutive hitting errors gave Fenton a 15-13 lead. With Beverly at the service line, the Tigers scored 10 straight points with many coming on Beverly aces or Fenton overpass kills. Fenton led 24-13 when the run ended.

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM

Bronchos cap outstanding season in district semis

By David Troppens

The Holly varsity volleyball team had an outstanding season, and accomplished some things that haven't been done in a long time.

The Bronchos won 32 matches, just one victory short of the school record. The squad won its division of the Metro League title, the first since the 1993-94 school year. However, the team came short in one area — the district.

Facing a tough district, the Bronchos lost to Lake Orion 25-14, 25-15, 25-16 in semifinal action, Wednesday.

"We didn't have the outcome we hoped for," Holly varsity volleyball coach Deena Maher said. "We didn't give our best and as a result we were

not competitive. But the season as a whole was a great season, one of the best Holly has ever had and we can hold our hats on that. It's not the step I wanted to take, but it still is a step and it's something to celebrate."

Lake Orion began its district title run with a victory against state-ranked Clarkston. An honorable mention squad themselves, Lake Orion was going to be a tough battle for the Bronchos, but it wasn't the loss that bothered Maher. It's how the match was lost.

"I want the program that can look much further than the Metro League," Maher said. "Yes, we have a tough district, but we have the talent to compete with these teams."



Holly's Delaney Jenkinson digs a ball while teammate Sarah Jewell watches the play. Photo: Christopher Summers



Lake Fenton's Christina Lamb attacks a ball. Photo: David Roe

DEVILS

Continued from Page 29A

with an undefeated league record. The squad also won more than 30 matches, so it was going to be mighty tough for the Blue Devils to win the match.

"It was a tough year," Lake Fenton varsity volleyball coach Allison von Daggenhausen said. "We played a lot of very good teams. Joining the Metro was tough and we didn't know what to expect. But now we do. We can only get better from here."

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM

HERBSTREIT

Continued from Page 29A

super-excited when I found out that I was selected for the All-State Team. I worked hard and played a ton this year and it was nice to know that others recognized my improvements."

The Fenton squad has had four All-State performers during Fenton varsity girls golf coach Kurt Herbstreit's era. Along with Brook Herbstreit and Cunaud, Lauren Campbell and Samantha Moss also were All-State selections in the past.

"She had a very good summer and made a significant amount of growth," also Brook's father Kurt Herbstreit said. "When school started she backslid a bit, shot a couple low 90s, which bumped up her average, but that is typical at the start of the school year. The biggest area of growth was in her short game. Chipping around the green and her consistency of putting has been much better. She is beginning to get better touch on the green, especially with the speed of her putts."

Herbstreit's nine-hole average was 39.7 this fall, while her 18-hole average

was 84.0.

"I really think the key improvements were in the mental part of the game," Brook Herbstreit said. "I have gotten much better at letting the bad shots/holes not control my thinking. I still get frustrated, but I also know that I can do it and I did a better job recovering from those misses. I think this also helped me to have few misses overall and they weren't as bad either. Very few (triple-bogeys) or worse this year. As far as my play, it was definitely my short game. My approach is getting much closer to the pin and reducing my putts."

Herbstreit still has one more season left with Fenton.

"It was a great season, but I think I have more in me," Herbstreit said. "After this year, I want to do it again. I would like to get my 18-hole average down in the 70s so that will really mean working on my short game. Also, I want a Metro championship and we really want to win regionals. We have never been able to. A top 10 finish at states and another All-State selection (are our team goals). Who knows maybe Super Team next year."

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