



AROUND THE WORLD This is the 35th story in a series about popular travel destinations.

DISTANCE FROM FENTON TO CHICAGO 27766NILES - 4-1/2 hours by vehicle - 4-1/2 hours by vehicle - 4-1/2 hours by Amtrak train from Ann Arbor or Durand - Just over 1 hour if flying from Bishop

Visit the third largest city in the U.S. for an amazing time during the holiday season

By Vera Hogan

There are countless things to see and do in the city of Chicago yearround. In the spring, river cruises set sail, Cubs and White Sox fans pack the bleachers and thousands gather to watch the river turn green for St. Patrick's Day. In the summer, visitors can enjoy live music at a street fest, sip craft beer by the water, watch a movie under the stars or spend sun-soaked days on the shores of Lake Michigan. Autumn in Chicago brings gourmet food fests, major art fairs, spooky parades and, of course, "da Bears." Winter, however, is a magical time to visit Chicago. According to choosechicago.com, when the temperature dips, the city stays warm with parades, holiday markets, culinary celebrations, shopping, dining and more.

See CHICAGO on 28



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WEEKEND TIMES

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Fenton Hotel tavern & grille 302 N. LEROY ST. · FENTON · www.fentonhotel.com Don't throw that away — get crafty with useful deer parts



FROM SINEW

The sinew is probably the most useful part on a deer. It's like duct tape. You can use it for pretty much anything. Shredding the tendons of a deer, you will find there are thicker sinews and thinner ones.

Tools

When sinew is wet, it is malleable and can be wrapped around an arrowhead and adhered to an arrow shaft. When it dries it becomes hard, making a very strong weapon.

A bow string

Thicker tendons can be put to use to make a strong string for a bow. Find yourself a great piece of wood, notch out the top and bottom and you've got yourself a homemade bow.

Sewing

Using thinner sinew found on muscles, you can sew buckskin together for moccasins, or even suture a wound using a small bone from the leg of your deer as a needle.

Jewelry

Braid sinew together and you can make an amazing arrowhead necklace for your significant other.

Compiled By Vera Hogan

In 2018, about 367,652 deer were harvested statewide (all seasons). Also in 2018, hunters donated deer that resulted in more than 50,000 pounds of ground venison, which is estimated to have provided about 200,000 meals, according to Michigan Sportsmen Against Hunger. Venison is a lean meat that contains more protein and less fat than beef. Last year there were 53,464 vehicle-deer crashes, up 5 percent from 2017. Regardless of how you bagged your deer — by bow, by firearm or by Chevy — there are uses for your deer, besides the meat, that shouldn't go to waste.

> Source: wideopenspaces.com;

bowhunting.net

FROM "TRASH" ANTLERS...

Decoration

Go to any crafty website and find that antlers are all the rage, but expensive. Boil your old antlers in water, clean off any flesh, bleach the skull, and you have your own European mount. Spray paint them gold and hang necklaces off them. Mount a single antler by your window and you have a curtain tie back.

Buttons

With a bone saw, carefully cut the antler at the base, about 1/4-inch thickness to form a perfectly strong button. Punch out a couple of holes and you can use your sinew to mount these buttons to your favorite coat.

Knife handle 🧹

Take your sturdiest looking "trash" antler and put it to great use by sliding in a blade to make a beautiful and useful knife. The leg bone of your deer will make another beautiful weapon once cleaned and boiled.

Bouncy eyeball

Perhaps the most fun part of the deer head is the eyeballs. Cut off any and all meat connections to your deer's eyeball thoroughly. Once the eyeball is completely cleaned, you have the best bouncy ball of all time. This one is for the kids.



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CHICAGO Continued from Page 25

Chicago boasts numerous museums and cultural opportunities including the Museum of Science and Industry, the Natural History Museum, Adler Planetarium and Shedd Aquarium to name a few.

But the Christmas season is very special in Chicago. The following are some of the must-do things in downtown Chicago during the holidays, especially if you're a first-timer.

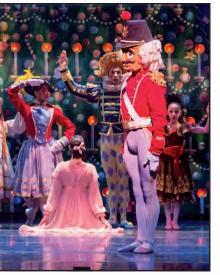
Get a view from the top at the Willis Tower Skydeck

One of your first stops when visiting downtown Chicago should be the Willis Building (formerly Sears Tower for 36 years). Ride up to the Skydeck on the 103rd floor. From there, you can enjoy a view from the top of the city from four directions.

The Willis Tower is a 110-story, 1,450-foot skyscraper. When completed in 1973, it surpassed the World Trade Center in New York to become the tallest building in the world, a title it held for nearly 25 years. It is currently the third-tallest building in the United States and

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A 2014 performance of The Nutcracker in Chicago Photo: chicagoreader.com

the Western hemisphere. It is one of Chicago's most popular tourist destinations. There is a fee to enter the Skydeck; visit willistower.com for more information.

Visit the Museum of Science and Industry

"Christmas Around the World and Holidays of Light" opened Nov. 14 and



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will run through Sunday, Jan. 5, 2020.

WEEKEND TIMES

It began in 1942 with a single tree. Today, the museum's beloved annual celebration features a four-story, floor-todome Grand Tree, surrounded by a forest of more than 50 trees and spectacular displays decorated by volunteers to represent the holiday traditions from cultures around the globe. On the weekends, you also can enjoy live holiday performances. The one-of-a-kind experience brings a whole world of holiday joy under one roof.

Start your Christmas shopping on The Magnificent Mile

The Magnificent Mile offers more than 460 retailers, major department stores; international luxury labels and designers; and three vertical shopping centers — 900 North Michigan Shops, The Shops at North Bridge and Water Tower Place. The 900 North Michigan Shops also celebrate the opening of its new gourmet food hall, Aster Hall. The mile-long shopping strip along Michigan Avenue lies between the Chicago River and Oak Street and boasts award-winning dining at more than 275 restaurants.

The Magnificent Mile is recommended for Christmas shopping because it's Chicago's most popular shopping area, with more than 400 stores, holiday lights, street performers and decorated window displays.

Dine at one or more of the top downtown Chicago restaurants

If you leave Chicago hungry, it's your own fault. There are countless restaurants throughout the city, but if you're visiting during the holidays, many of the downtown's finest serve everything from fabulous steaks to seafood to vegan, and Italian, Japanese and French cuisine.

Chicago-style hot dogs and Chicago deep-dish pizza

It's often said that the hot dog is a major food group in Chicago, right next to Chicago deep-dish pizza. The best Chicago hot dog restaurants crank out red hots topped with mustard, onions, relish, pickle spears, tomato, sport peppers and celery salt. (If you didn't already know, those are the key ingredients in a true Chicago-style dog.).

Hot dog joints and pizza parlors offer the best cheap eats in Chicago — even more reason to scarf down a red hot while checking out classic Chicago attractions.



Chicago-style pizza is very thick, baked in a pan and layered with cheese, meat, vegetables and sauce — in that order. Photo: tripadvisor.com



A traditional

Chicago-style hot dog is topped with yellow mustard, chopped white onions, bright green sweet pickle relish, a dill pickle spear, tomato slices or wedges, pickled sport peppers and a dash of celery salt served on a poppy-seed bun.

Chicago's signature approach to pizza is unapologetically excessive — crust buttery, sauce chunky and thick pies oozing with ribbons of fresh mozzarella. Throw some sausage in there while you're at it. There's no denying that the best deepdish pizza in Chicago is a truly unique dining experience. It's one of those local staples you just have to experience for yourself.

Check out the holiday and Christmas shows

This year, the classic "A Christmas Carol" will be performed at the Metropolis Performing Arts Center. The show runs from Nov. 29 through Dec. 25.

The Joffrey Ballet's "The Nutcracker" will be performed at the Auditorium Theater of Roosevelt University. It runs from Nov. 30 through Dec. 29.

Irving Berlin's "White Christmas" will be performed at the Theatre at the Center. It began on Nov. 14 and runs through Dec. 23.

Visit your local travel agency for information on hotel accommodations, car rentals and more things to see and do.

Sources: Timeout.com; Msichicago.org; Chicagotheater.com; 10best.com; choosechicago.com

WHAT YOU MISSED IN THE **MIDWEEK** TIMES

COMPILED BY VERA HOGAN

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

SLPR names new interim executive director

Former executive director, Vince Paris, had been with organization for nearly 19 years.

Early winter weather roars in Fenton police respond to 21 crashes in about 30 hours.

The hunt is about to begin Friday, Nov. 15 marks the beginning of regular firearm season for deer hunters.

Be safe when shoveling snow this season

American Heart Association says "Don't make shoveling a marathon event."

Holly's Ladies Night Out wonderfully successful More than 1,500 guests attend

Holly's signature shopping event.

Mixed reactions to selfcheckout lanes Walmart now has 26 selfcheckout kiosks.

Sharin' the spotlight Editor Sharon Stone writes about The Fenton Shriners - brotherhood, family and of course — fun.

Our Future

Meet Cameron Carlson, 15, a sophomore at Fenton High School.

ROADS

Continued from Page 13

Their activities also are funded by gasoline tax and vehicle registration fees. County commissions will often partner with a city or village to repair roads, but it requires a matching general fund contribution from the city or village.

Finally, there are cities and villages, which are solely responsible for funding the maintenance and replacement of neighborhood streets.

Local governments are not funded by property taxes to repair roads, nor does the DDA fund road improvements outside the DDA district.

The Fenton DDA help did fund the \$4.7-million Streetscape project.

The city of Fenton cannot take advantage of gasoline taxes or registration fees to fix neighborhood roads. Instead, special assessment districts funded by the affected homeowners repair neighborhood streets.

This could cost thousands of dollars per parcel.

The state and cities also can ask voters to pass millages, which voters have been known to reject.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

C'MON PEOPLE. YOU'RE driving a 3,000 pound vehicle on a road with other cars and pedestrians and you're too lazy to go to the dollar store and buy a snow brush? You can't see thru the tiny little hole your defrosters cleared. Clean off your windows before you kill someone.

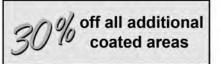
I AM ECSTATIC that the holidays are coming. It's my favorite time of the year with the family.





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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2019

Page <u>30</u>

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NOVEMBER 23RD 9-4PM

1148 N. LeRoy St. Indoor Garage Sale at the Fenton Veterans of Foreign Wars #3243. Public Welcome. Sign up for rental tables at the post after 2PM.



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It is the responsibility of the advertiser to check the correctness of each insertion of an advertisement. The Tri-County Times will not be responsible for more than one incorrect insertion and for only that portion that may have been rendered valueless by an error.

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Times



LIFESTYLES / CLASSIFIEDS

Obituaries

Alan Hitzelberger

Alan Hitzelberger - age 88, died November 9, 2019. Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes. www.sharpfuneralhomes.com.



Alberta Grabowski

Alberta Grabowski - age 94, died November 2, 2019. Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes. www.sharpfuneralhomes.com.



Sharon Roudebush

Sharon Roudebush - age 75, died November 8, 2019. Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes. www.sharpfuneralhomes.com.



Robert Santimo

Robert Santimo - age 67, died November 7, 2019. Services entrusted to Sharp Funeral Homes. www.sharpfuneralhomes.com.



Stanley Robbins

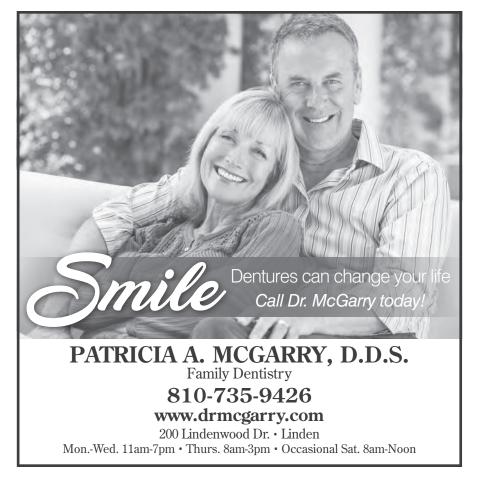
Stanley Robbins - age 77, died November 13, 2019. Services entrusted to Sharp Funeral Homes. www.sharpfuneralhomes.com.



Valorie Richardson

Valorie Richardson - age 71, died November 12, 2019. Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes. www.sharpfuneralhomes.com.





Ronald Harry Bush

1939-2019 Ronald Harry Bush – age 80, passed away on Monday, October 28, 2019 from battling Loukomia far

Leukemia for over a decade. He was born in Flint on February 10, 1939 and lived in Fenton. He graduated from Fenton High School in 1957 and served in the United States Army. He worked at Grand Trunk Railroad in Flint and was a medical transport for residents in Young Town and Sun City, AZ. He resided in Young Town for over 35 years. Ron was a very talented and gifted man who enjoyed gardening, singing, playing piano, composing songs, poetry and stories. He was a giver at heart and always brought a smile to everyone he met. Ron was preceded in death by his parents, Harry and Doris Bush; two sisters, Sharon Dawson and Marilyn Virgin. He is survived by his brother, Fred Bush and sister, Alice Chrenko; two daughters. Tammy and Stacy: and six grandchildren. He will be greatly missed by all who knew and LOVED HIM.

Judith Hatch

Judith Hatch - age 78, died November 2, 2019. Services entrusted to Sharp Funeral Homes. www.sharpfuneralhomes.com.



Martin Bazzani

Martin Bazzani - age 83, died November 9, 2019. Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes. www.sharpfuneralhomes.com.



Mary Taylor

Mary Taylor - age 95, died November 7, 2019. Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes. www.sharpfuneralhomes.com.



Obituaries updated daily online visit myfenton.com

Times

Delma Quincy Butterfield 1943-2019

Delma Quincy Butterfield - age 76, of Fenton passed away Saturday, November 9, 2019. A



memorial service will be held at a later date. Arrangements are by Sharp Funeral Homes, Fenton Chapel, 1000 Silver Lake Rd., Fenton. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions would be appreciated to the family to assist with medical expenses. Delma was born October 15, 1943 in Jacksonville, NC the daughter of Marvin and Christine (Hobbs) Brown. She married Barry B. Butterfield in Fenton on December 30, 1983. Delma was an excellent homemaker. She is survived by her husband, Barry Butterfield; children, Stephen R. (Melissa) Polkinghorne, Michelle D. (Lee) Crouch, Robin R. (Mark) Shutes, and Sonya J. (Jay) Bietila; grandchildren, Stephen Robert Polkinghorne, Mahlon Polkinghorne, Kevin Polkinghorne, Tyler Polkinghorne, Megan Crouch, Austin Crouch, Triston Wright, Christopher Wright, and Brendan Bietila; great-grandchildren, Stephen R. Polkinghorne, Conner Polkinghorne, Wahlon Polkinghorne, and Wyatt Polkinghorne. Delma was preceded in death by her son, Scott W. Polkinghorne. Online tributes may be shared at www. sharpfuneralhomes.com.



Mavis Whithey

Mavis Whithey - age 95, died November 7, 2019. Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes. www.sharpfuneralhomes.com.



Gerald Dezenski

Gerald Dezenski - age 83, died November 13, 2019. Services entrusted to Sharp Funeral Homes. www.sharpfuneralhomes.com.



Times

Obituaries

Mrs. llene **M. Shook**

1930-2019 Mrs. llene M. Shook - age 89, of Fenton and Holiday, FL. passed away Sunday, November 10,



2019 at Vicinia Gardens Memory Care in Fenton. Ilene was born August 3, 1930 in Redford the daughter of Leo Rodgers and Agnes Lucas. She married William Shook on August 14, 1948 and they shared 69 years together. Ilene worked as an orthodontic assistant for many vears and enjoyed guilting, her family and friends. Above all, llene cherished her family the most. She is survived by her daughter, Cheryl Collard of Fenton; grandchildren, Dione Diener (Tim) of Fenton and Jim (Rachele) Collins of Sterling Heights; great-grandchildren, Brooke Demeter, Abby Diener, Liam, Peyton, and Paige Collins; two greatgreat-grandchildren; brothers, Eugene of Fenton, Raymond of Holly, and Steve (Edith) of Davisburg; and many nieces, nephews, and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband Bill; and brothers, Alvin, Richard, and Donald. A private family service will be held in the near future. Special thanks to Vicinia Gardens Staff and The Medical Team Hospice. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital... or simply do a good deed. Share memories at www.temrowskifamilyfuneralhome.com.



Barbara C. Campbell

Barbara C. Campbell - age 85, died November 12, 2019. www.temrowskifamilyfuneralhome.com.



Kevin W. LaLonde

Kevin W. LaLonde - age 39, died November 9, 2019. www.temrowskifamilyfuneralhome.com.



David (Josh) Klumpp 1982-2019





2019. Josh was an outstanding athlete, a gifted artist, actor, competitive dancer and writer. He was kind, had an infectious smile, and a wonderful sense of humor. He will be greatly missed by his father, David Klumpp; his mother, Jill (Jerry) Flewelling; sister, Elizabeth (James) Crandall; and his much loved nieces and nephews; his grandmother, Kay Anderson; Uncle Joe (Elaine) Asselin; Aunt Sue Hahn; Uncle Wayne Klumpp; and Uncle Jim Klumpp; many cousins and friends. He was preceded in death by his grandmother, Ruth (Nanny) Asselin; and grandfather, Bob Anderson, A memorial service was held for Josh at The Rock Church, Fenton, on November 2, 2019.

Rodney A. Bonk

Rodney A. Bonk - age 64, died November 11, 2019. www.temrowskifamilyfuneralhome.com.



FUNERAL ETIOUETTE

When you arrive at the funeral home, go to the family, and express your sympathy with an embrace or by offering your hands. Don't feel as though you must avoid talking about the person who has died. Talking can help the grieving process begin. If you were an acquaintance of the deceased but not well-known to the family, immediately introduce yourself. Do not feel uncomfortable if you or the family member becomes emotional or begins to cry. Allowing the family to grieve is a natural healing process. However, if you find yourself becoming extremely upset, it would be kinder to excuse yourself so as not to increase the strain on the family. Source: thefuneralsource.org

Easiest **Creamiest** Mashed Potatoes

Master this side dish staple

SERVES 6

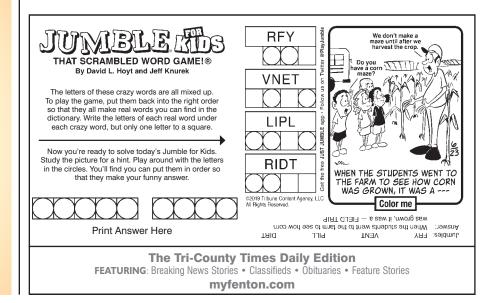
Mashed potatoes are the perfect side dish, capable of being paired with meats, poultry and fish. Few meals wouldn't benefit from the addition of creamy mashed potatoes. Some food historians say that the original recipe for mashed potatoes originated in 1771, when a Frenchman named Antoine Parmentier hosted a competition on ways to prepare potatoes. Others say that mashed potatoes surely were born in Great Britain in the 1600s, as potatoes were a staple of the English diet at that time. Regardless of the origin of mashed potatoes, a solid understanding of how to perfect this beloved side dish is a great way to impress family members and guests. This recipe for "Easiest, Creamiest Mashed Potatoes" from "Simple Soirées: Seasonal Menus for Sensational Dinner Parties" (Stewart, Tabori & Chang) by Peggy Knickerbocker is one every mashed potato lover will fall in love with.

INGREDIENTS:

- 6 medium-sized russet potatoes, peeled and guartered
- 3 to 4 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 1 cup whole milk or cream (or half-and-half)
- · Salt and freshly ground white pepper

DIRECTIONS:

- 1. Place the potatoes in a large pot and cover with salted cold water. Bring to a boil. Reduce the heat to medium-high, and cook for 15 to 20 minutes, until the potatoes are tender when pierced with a fork. Drain.
- 2. Meanwhile in a small pot, warm the butter and milk over medium-low heat.
- 3. Place the potatoes in a large bowl and mash them with a potato masher, adding a little of the warm milk-and-butter mixture as you go. Continue to mash until the lumps are gone. Add just enough of the milk mixture to get a creamy consistency. Then whip the potatoes with a fork and season with salt and pepper to taste.
- 4. You can make the potatoes a little ahead of time and keep them warm in a low oven, well covered, until ready to serve.



D N O

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ITINGOCEVPS

J B A Y

What to expect when adopting a shelter dog

Millions of dogs reside in shelters or in foster homes just waiting for someone to make them permanent members of their family. The ASPCA says there are nearly four million dogs in shelters across America. Bringing home a puppy or an older dog can be an exciting, selfless endeavor.

Shelter dogs have the capacity to be loving, devoted pets. Unfortunately, many such dogs have been dealt difficult hands, ending up in shelters through no fault of their own.

Prospective pup parents should be aware that there can be a transitional period as dogs acclimate to their new homes. Understanding what to expect the first few weeks and months can be helpful.

• Creatures of habit: Dogs are creatures of habit and feel most comfortable when they know what to expect. Moving from a shelter into a home can be a big change. Shelter dogs will need time to understand the workings of a household. By remaining consistent and patient, dog owners can help their pooches acclimate to their new surroundings. Feed the dog at the same time and place each day. Take the dog for a walk the same time each day with the same route. Knowing what to expect can be calming for the dog.

• Housetraining regression: New puppies likely do not fully know the rules of housetraining, but even older dogs who may have been housetrained can regress in a new environment. Pet parents may have to go back to basics and reinforce housetraining lessons.

• Shyness and anxiety: It's impossible to know what dogs went through before landing in a shelter. Shelter workers may have conducted certain tests, such as food



aggression or resource guarding, but that only paints part of the picture. It will take time for the dog to trust and understand, and dogs may be timid and experience anxiety for a brief period. Some may even act out by exhibiting damaging behavior.

• **Safe space:** The experts at Hill's Pets advise employing a crate that can serve as a den for the dog. It not only is an area that can keep the dog out of trouble as he or she learns the rules of the house, but it also can serve as a safe haven that is familiar and comforting.

• **Training classes:** Enroll in training classes so that the pup begins to learn commands. Obedience training also helps keep the animal safe.

• Vet care: Make an appointment to have the shelter dog checked over by a vet as soon as possible. This helps everyone get on a vaccination schedule and can pinpoint illnesses or behavior problems. Many shelter dogs have common communicable illnesses like kennel cough or worms that require prompt treatment.

Shelter dogs can become warm and loving pets with the right care and a little patience.

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AMBULATORY, ANOMALY, AROUSAL, AUDITORY, BEHAVIOR, CHILD, COGNITION, CONGENITAL, DEVELOPMENT, EXPRESSION, FAMILY, FEEDING, FLUENCY, GAIT, GRASP, INFANT, JAUNDICE, LEARNING, MILESTONE, MOVEMENT, REFLEX, SAFETY, SCREENING, TEETHING

Answers in this edition of the Tri-County Times

Guess Who?

I am a singer born on November 9, 1973 in Kentucky. I wanted to be a sports therapist while studying in college, but I ended up in a popular, independently formed boy band with a name that calls to mind body temperature.

Answer: Nick Lachey

Puzzle Answers

Midweek Sudoku, Crossword Puzzle and Jumbles are located in the last Midweek's issue. All other puzzles are located throughout this edition of the Tri-County Times.

WEEKEND SCRAMBLE ANSWERS	MIDWEEK JUMBLE ANSWERS	MIDWEEK CROSSWORD ANSWERS	WEEKEND WORD SEARCH ANSWERS				
Scrambles: RABBLE, INSIGHT, MODEST, MEDIAN Answer: ADMITTED MIDWEEK SUDOKU ANSWERS WEEKEND SUDOKU ANSWERS 7 8 5 2 3 1 9 6 4 3 9 1 5 4 6 8 2 7 2 6 4 9 8 7 1 5 3 9 4 3 7 5 2 6 1 8 1 2 8 4 6 9 3 7 5 1 4 3 6 2 8 7 5 9 9 2 8 7 5 4 3 1 6 5 6 7 1 3 9 8 2 4 9 2 3 5 8 4 1 6 9 7 7 1 9 2 6 3 5 4 8	Jumbles: KNACK, GUARD, CACTUS, MINGLE Answer: The tennis player couldn't find his equipment in the closet and was — MAKING A RACKET	Solution Time: 25 min. H 0 M T A P S P E W A S E A W O H O M M K E W O H O M A K E W O H O M A K E N A L I T T T O N C I I T T T O N G A L I T T T O N A K E R S I T O N T F N M	$ \begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	S R O S C A B S Y L L A H I A L B A L			
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David's **Dabblings**

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

DETROIT SPORTS SCENE IS DOWNRIGHT DEPRESSING

People think when someone is a sports reporter, that means that person watches a bunch of sports during the course of the week.

The truth of the matter is I'm willing to bet most sports fans watch more athletic events on television during the course of a week than I will within a month.

Why? It's because most major sporting events during the weekdays take place at night. And guess what I do during most nights during the school year — yup, I watch a bunch of prep sports.

But there are times during the school year I get to be a 'normal' Detroit sports fan. I am enjoying one of those periods right now — in between the fall and winter sports seasons. So during the next couple of weeks - and again around the winter break weeks - I will be able to eniov our Detroit sports teams a bit more than usual.

Unfortunately though, I'm learning that maybe there's See DABBLING on 39

Krusniak returns to helm of Fenton/Linden hockey squad

By David Troppens

The new Fenton-Linden co-op hockey coach won't need too much of an introduction to area prep hockey fans.

Matt Krusniak, who coached the Fenton Tigers about seven seasons ago, returns at the helm of Fenton-Linden program.

"It feels good to be back in the saddle," Krusniak said. "A combination of things my family and my son wanted to play hockey, so I gave it up to coach him. The timing was right to come back. The opportunity presented itself so I decided to

put my name in the hat again."

The team will experience a pretty nice way to open the season as well. The team's first game will be at the University of Michigan's Yost Arena Tuesday against Davison at 6:30 See KRUSNIAK on 39

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Sports

Tigers bringing 12 athletes to state swim meet

Fenton looking for high placing at event being hosted at Oakland University

By David Troppens

The Fenton varsity girls swim team is going to be mighty busy on Nov. 22 at Oakland University.

That's the day and the venue of the opening session of the Division 2 State Swimming and Diving Championships, and the Tigers will have a large group of competitors competing in many events at the pool.

The Tigers will be bringing 12 athletes to compete in at least 11 of the events at the state meet being held at Oakland University's pool.

"It's super-exciting," Fenton sophomore and one-time individual Division 2 state 200 individual medlev champion Gracie Olsen said. "I think

The Fenton varsity girls swimming and diving team is bringing 12 athletes to the Division 2 State Swimming and Diving Championships. Photo: David Troppens

we are all super-excited, especially after Metros. There were a few girls and another relay so close to getting the cut

and it was so exciting when they made it. We knew they would, but it was just See STATE on 38



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Candy I'm a playful and sweet girl looking for

a home with no other felines.







I would love an experienced dog person who loves quirky personalities.





WEEKEND TIMES / SPORTS

Varner begins his tenure with Holly girls basketball squad

New Bronchos' mentor has a deep history with Fenton, Linden girls programs

By David Troppens

Ben Varner has coaching in his blood.

"I just love coaching basketball," Varner said. "I just love it. I love the competition of it and the strategy of it. I love coaching the kids. It seems to keep me younger. I love practicing with them and doing shooting drills. It's just awesome."

So when the Holly varsity girls basketball coaching position came up, Varner jumped at the chance to become a varsity mentor again. When practices officially started on Monday, Varner officially began his first practices as Holly's new girls mentor.

Varner has a long resume

of experience within the area. Last season he was the varsity girls assistant coach at Corunna. Prior to that he was Linden's varsity girls basketball coach for eight seasons, and prior to that coached at Bendle as the girls head coach for two seasons. He was in the trio-county area before Bendle when he was the JV coach for the Fenton varsity girls program for six seasons.

Varner is replacing David Hall who retired from the position after last season.

"(Corunna varsity girls basketball coach) Ron Birchmeier gave me a great opportunity to help him out and it was a great time. I loved every minute of it," Varner said. "But when I found out about the Holly job, I thought that would be another great opportunity, so when (Holly athletic director) Casey (Lombard) offered me the job,



Ben Varner talks to his Linden varsity girls basketball bench during game in 2016. Varner is Holly's new varsity girls basketball coach this season. He is replacing David Hall who resigned the position after the 2018-19 season. File photo: Mark Bolen

I couldn't be any happier." Official practices started

basketball teams last Mon- other periods he's had with day. Varner has been learning for all girls Michigan prep about his team through some

the squad. Varner likes See VARNER on 39A

STATE

Continued from Page 37

the process. Now, we have our adrenaline up and we think all of the relays will do well."

"I feel really good," junior Abigail Dolliver said. "This year, we qualified more than we have the previous year and I'm excited that we have more girls going this year than we have before."

"It's exciting. We are seeded higher than we have ever been seeded before and I'm lucky to be part of the relays that are seeded so high," senior Lillie Kromer said. "We have Gracie and we have such a big team. It's the biggest group we've had in my high school career, and really almost ever with the amount of qualifying times."

The Tigers have nine swimmers going - Olsen, Dolliver (200 individual medley), Kromer (50 freestyle and 100 freestyle), Sophie Stefanac (200 freestyle and 500 freestyle), Halee Alexander (100 butterfly), and Madeline Kazmierski (500 freestyle). Three drivers - Chloe Mallard, Emma Jump and

Morgan Smith — are also competing.

Holly's Rebecca Costigan will be at the meet as well, competing in the 100 breaststroke.

As of press time, Olsen's two individual events haven't been determined. She is qualified and rated highly in many of the individual events. She is the defending state champion in the 200 individual medley and was the runner up in the 100 butterfly last season during her freshman year. Olsen said the decision of which events will be determined by her and Fenton varsity girls swim coach Brad Jones.

"We will look at the way the meet is set up and decide what would be best while we get ready," Olsen said.

The team is still working hard in preparation of the meet.

"I'm seeing a lot of girls and we've all been training really hard," Kromer said. "It's nice to see the times drop in practice and seeing the last little bit of effort everyone is putting in right now. It's amazing to see how far each girl has come."



DABBLING

Continued from Page 37 not too much to 'enjoy.' For example, I didn't have great expectations for the Pistons this winter but watching this squad is mighty challenging.

The team is based on two aging superstars who are frequently injured — Blake Griffin and Derrick Rose. And their past tendencies have come to fruitition. Twelve games into the season, Griffin has played just 24 minutes in one contest while Rose has played in seven games. Compounding matters, this team can't play a lick of defense. Seemingly every time I sit down to watch a game, the Pistons trail by double-digits before I realize the contest has started. And seeminaly teams threaten scoring 120 points each contest. Predictably, the Pistons are 4-8 and will probably finish woefully out of the playoff hunt. They've been a tough watch.

Of course, Sundays aren't any easier. Remember when Lions' fans were complaining about the officiating when Detroit lost to Green Bay? Supposedly the only thing keeping Detroit out of first were the refs. Instead they were now in last place. Since then, the Lions have fallen flat on their faces and remain in last on their own merit. Chances are the Lions will remain in last and continue their streak of no playoff victories since 1991.

The Red Wings are on a nice roll and I was able to watch an overtime victory. However, how the mighty has fallen. It's been seven seasons since the Wings have won a playoff series, and they are more likely going to finish in dead last than make the playoffs this season.

Wow, Detroit sports fans truly have nothing to hang their hat on, and it doesn't look like that's going to change any time soon either. I really don't know how long I can handle this depression.

So exactly when does the winter prep sports season begin again? I need a break from this. • Dec. 3 at Lakeland High School.

KRUSNIAK

Continued from Page 37

p.m. What was a scheduling mishap actually worked out to the team's benefit when the game had to be resched-

uled to a different venue. "We didn't have our ice rink for that

date, so we thought let's see if we can get ice at Yost," Krusniak said.

It ended up being a successful altenative.

Krusniak has had a handful of practices with his squad of 21 players.

"We've got a great group of kids," Krusniak said. "We have a lot of team speed. They are all hockey players. They have all played competitive hockey and most have played some travel hockey, so they are experienced players."

Among the seniors are Brendan Miles, Trevor Isaacson, Lincoln Wright, Heyden Justus and goalie Loren Jones.

"We have a good mix of senior leadership and freshmen youth," Krusniaksaid. "We have a good mix of size and speed so we have a lot of options of how we want to put together our team and the lines."

VARNER

Continued from Page 38

the players' work ethic.

"I like how hard these kids play," Varner said.

"I haven't had a whole lot of time with them. I've done some threeplayer work outs with the kids and those who are able to come and they've been hard-working kids. They really seem to want to get after it this year. I'm very excited about that.

"Right now we are doing some conditioning so I'm learning about the kids. ... The first couple of days are going to be crazy, learning everyone's names and figuring out who is going to fit where, maybe see if any underclassmen are coming up. I'm excited to figure it out. I want to have a couple of practices and see if we are going to be a defensive team, be able to run or how good of shooters we have. I can't wait until ... we get all the pieces together."

The Bronchos begin their season



Goalie Loren Jones makes a save during one of last year's games. Jones is one of the Fenton/Linden Griffins' returning players. File photo: Mark Bolen

The schedule will be a challenging one. Among the early games are the Davison contest, a game against Powers on Nov. 27 and a contest against Romeo on Nov. 30.

"We have a tough schedule," Krusniak said. "We are looking forward to a good season. It feels great to be back on the ice. I have a great assistant coaching staff and we're ready to rock."



