

## 'Tis the season for shopping local

■ Black Friday's shopping frenzy is all about tradition and fun

By Sally Rummel

Tricia Overfield is a woman on a mission.

After enjoying a traditional Thanksgiving Day with her family, she and her two sisters will catch a short night's sleep and be out the door by 5 a.m. on Black Friday.

For Overfield, it's more about the fun and 15-year tradition of the day than the shopping itself. "I really enjoy it," she said. "We all have an idea of who we have to buy for; we're not really out there just looking for the advertised deal."

One thing's for sure: you'll be **See SHOPPING LOCAL on 22**



Jessica Henke and Diana Roberts (left), personal travel planners for Superior Travel Service, Inc. of Fenton, do more than help plan a trip. They also help during delays or unfortunate changes to your itinerary, like cancelled flights. They can help to get you back on track. Lately, trips to South America are gaining in popularity and Alaska and Hawaii are always popular.

Photo: Tim Jagielo

## End-of-the-year incentives at area auto dealerships begin with Black Friday

By Sally Rummel

Who doesn't want a shiny new car wrapped in a big, red bow under their Christmas tree this year?

This may be more of a possibility for Santa Claus than you might think, thanks to end-of-the-year manufacturing incentives, dealership

volume goals and your own "wish list" for a new car (assuming, of course, you're on Santa's good list).

**See AUTO on 17**

## Don't cause a fire this winter

■ Candles left by curtains, space heaters plugged into power strips often to blame

By Hannah Ball

Most accidental fires happen

during wintertime, according to the National Fire Protection Association. Most involve homeowners heating their houses in the cold weather. Others involve

**See FIRE on 21**

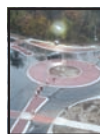
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“A big thank you to all the mail and delivery truck drivers who work around the clock this holiday season to make sure stores are stocked

with food and we get our deliveries in time. The world could not work without you.”



“I watched a short video on Facebook showing a car driving

around on the center brick part of the new roundabout. Priceless.”



“I hope homes still get decorated this year for Christmas. I hope the early snow doesn't keep people from

decorating. My family and I really love seeing all the Christmas lights.”



COMMENT  
OF THE WEEK

“Happy Thanksgiving to everyone. Here's hoping you can spend the day with your loved ones.”





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# Thanksgiving memories

■ Local friends share their fondest memories of childhood Thanksgivings

By Vera Hogan

“Over the river and through the woods to grandmother’s house we go ...” Doesn’t that song just conjure warm and fuzzy thoughts of childhood Thanksgivings with family, surrounded by a big roasted turkey with all the trimmings and amazing desserts? We asked a few business, municipal and media friends to share their favorite childhood Thanksgiving memories. Here is what they said:

**Tom Broecker** is the operations manager and deputy clerk for the Charter Township of Fenton.

“My fondest childhood Thanksgiving memories are the big family dinners we would have each year,” Broecker said. “Grandparents, aunts,

uncles and cousins would gather every Thanksgiving for a traditional feast of turkey, stuffing, potatoes and fabulous homemade desserts. The families would take turns hosting the dinner each year and, although none of our homes were really large enough to handle so many people, we always made it work by squeezing one more chair at the dining table or setting up another card table in the living room for the kids.

“Highlights of those Thanksgiving gatherings included my grandmother’s homemade pies, watching football games (on color TV, no less), making bets with my cousins on which one of our dads would fall asleep in their chair first and the look of relief in the eyes of the host family at the end of the day, knowing that Christmas was only a month away — and that holiday gathering would be at someone else’s house.”

**See MEMORIES on 8**



Tom Broecker



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# 'Songs of good cheer'

■ How steeple church bells and pipe organs create the sounds of the Christmas season

By Tim Jagielo

**Fenton** — Church bells ring out several times a day from churches like St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church and Fenton United Methodist Church (FUMC).

For these churches, "Christmas" music starts Sunday, Dec. 1, the start of the Advent season. For churchgoers, Advent marks the beginning of the season waiting for the birth of Jesus. The Christmas music season runs until Dec. 24.

While the songs such as "O come, all ye faithful" and "Silent Night" sound like real



steeple bells, they're actually electronic "carillon" systems played digitally through speakers high up in their steeples.

Shauna Meyers, operations manager for St. John's Church, said since the 1980s, many of these bell systems have been automated, doing away with physical bells for the steeple sounds. This allows churches to play full songs that would otherwise require dozens of physical bells and expensive linkage equipment.

An actual bell system would cost approximately \$500,000 or more, while an electronic one costs less than \$10,000.

The FUMC system is run by a computer cabinet system purchased in the mid 1990s that plays out of four speakers in their steeple.

See **CHURCH BELLS** on 13

**"I just like music. It uplifts peoples' spirits and that makes me want to perform better."**

**Gary Horton**  
Fenton United Methodist Church organist

Gary Horton, 80, plays the pipe organ for Fenton United Methodist Church. He's also in charge of the electronic steeple bell system that sounds several times a day. Churches will switch to Christmas music on Dec. 1. **Photo: Tim Jagielo**

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## Sharin' the spotlight Giving thanks to our team

By Editor Sharon Stone

There's a well known phrase, "Take care of your employees and the rest will take care of itself." There are other phrases like, "There's no I in team," and "There's no ME in team."

I'd like to tell you about our team at the Times. I've always worked at small family owned businesses since graduating from MSU and it's true that everyone here works as a team. When one person is on vacation or sick, others just naturally do whatever is needed so that deadlines are never missed.

I can say without a doubt that we have the best team of employees here at the Times and I am so thankful and grateful for every one of them.

From the front office staff of Holli Poyner, who has been here forever, to Katie Smith, who is in charge of circulation and all of our delivery people, they are the first to greet any of our valued readers when they walk through our front door.

Next is our sales team, led by Terese Allen. Her marketing team consists of Tiffany Marchand, Kathleen Smith, Annette Rutkowski, Coreena Storms and Val Marshall. This creative and hardworking department helps all of our advertisers come up with their best strategies for advancing their businesses.

The look and style of the Times wouldn't be what it is without our composition department, led by our General Manager Jennifer Ward. Jennifer, too, has been here forever, it seems, well at

least longer than I have. Her talented staff of graphic designers includes Lorie Gavulic, Rebecca Andreski, and Mary Powell, who has also been here for decades. These designers are like miracle workers to me since they can turn just a few words into an award-winning design.

Next up is our editorial staff, which I have the pleasure of working with every single day, all day long. My staff consists of our Sports Editor Dave Troppens and his small freelance staff; our Photographer/Media Editor Tim Jagielo, who also photographed my daughter's wedding; Associate Editor Vera Hogan who basically taught me how to be a police reporter when she hired me in 2004; our staff reporter Hannah Ball, who has the energy and smarts that will take



Sharon Stone

her a long way in her career; and our features writer Sally Rummel, who can put her "Sally Spin" on any feature story we assign her. I cannot forget about our columnists Mark Rummel and the View Brand Manager Emily Caswell, who provide great insight into many topics.

Many kudos go out to the entire team of View Newspaper Group employees who work hard week after week.

I am so thankful to each and every one of these co-workers and I know that at any given moment, I can ask anyone in our Times office for anything and without hesitation, they'll say "sure" and "when do you need it by?"

*Sharon Stone is the editor of the Tri-County Times. To contact her, email her at [ssone@tctimes.com](mailto:ssone@tctimes.com) or call her at (810) 433-6786.*

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

SO ARE YOU saying it's a choice to pay into Social Security and Medicare (which are just taxes disguised with a different name)? How about property taxes? If you don't pay them, the government takes your house. That, my friend, is socialism.

REGARDING FOOTBALL COACHES, what if I told you that the coaches and the athletic director were both contacted about the situation and the complaints fell on deaf ears. It's just like every other sport, coaches have their favorites. It's called pay-to-participate not pay to stand the sidelines.

CAN YOU IMAGINE if Twitter and Facebook had been around when former President Clinton was impeached?

LOOKING FOR A great example of articles of impeachment? Look at the 'Declaration of Independence.'

ELISSA SLOTKIN SHOULD be impeached for her support of the kangaroo court conducted by the Democrats attempting to overthrow our government.

## When do you start Christmas shopping?

Compiled by Tim Jagielo, media editor

## street talk



"I haven't started yet. Normally I start after Thanksgiving, before Halloween."

— Kelly Machniak  
Howell



"I haven't started Christmas shopping — probably in the next few weeks. Shopping is easier without kids."

— Amber Tobolski  
Fenton Township



"I haven't started yet; I'm a 'last-minuter.' I shop after Thanksgiving, the weeks after Black Friday."

— Michelle Walker  
Grand Blanc Township



"I usually start at the end of the month. I cram it all into December."

— Lori Dillon  
Fenton



"Usually at the last minute, like most men."

— Blain Baumbach  
Fenton



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## Popular Thanksgiving dishes by state

■ Chili is reportedly Michigan's favorite Thanksgiving dish

By Hannah Ball

Tomorrow, Thursday, Nov. 28, many Americans will sit down and fill their bellies with as much food as they can. Then they'll go back for seconds.

While turkey and stuffing are staples of Thanksgiving dishes, popular dishes vary by state.

Here's the most popular Thanksgiving dishes by state, according to delish.com:

### Midwest

In Michigan, the most popular side dish is chili. In Ohio, it's corn dip. Biscuit dishes are the most searched in Idaho, mashed potatoes are the favorite in Illinois, pumpkin bars are the favorite in Iowa, and corn pudding is top in Indiana.

In Minnesota, green bean casserole is the favorite, while breakfast casserole is number one in Missouri. According to delish.com, shrimp is the most searched dish in Wisconsin.

In Kansas, it's ham and cheese pinwheels. In Nebraska, it's monkey bread. Apple crisp takes the cake in North Dakota, and pumpkin pie is the favorite in South Dakota.

### Other states

**Alabama:** bread rolls  
**Alaska:** cinnamon rolls  
**Arizona:** Turkey  
**Arkansas:** turkey spaghetti  
**California:** Brussels sprouts  
**Colorado:** glazed ham  
**Connecticut:** cranberry sauce  
**Delaware:** sweet potato casserole  
**Florida:** key lime pie  
**Georgia:** peach dump cake



Chili is reportedly Michigan's favorite Thanksgiving dish, according to delish.com, which determines the results by which recipes are most searched for in each state.

**Hawaii:** sausage stuffing  
**Kentucky:** chicken and dumplings  
**Louisiana:** cornbread stuffing  
**Maine:** chicken pot pie  
**Maryland:** crab cake bites  
**Massachusetts:** chowder  
**Mississippi:** toasted pecans  
**Montana:** roasted vegetables  
**Nevada:** peanut butter cookies  
**New Hampshire:** blueberry pie  
**New Jersey:** crab cake burgers  
**New Mexico:** apple pie empanadas  
**New York:** cheesecake  
**North Carolina:** cornbread  
**Oklahoma:** pecan pie  
**Oregon:** bread stuffing  
**Pennsylvania:** potatoes  
**Rhode Island:** pull-apart bread  
**South Carolina:** sweet potato pie  
**Tennessee:** sausage balls  
**Texas:** chicken spaghetti  
**Utah:** leftovers in crescent rolls  
**Vermont:** butternut squash soup  
**Virginia:** mac and cheese  
**Washington:** sugar cookies  
**West Virginia:** buffalo chicken dip  
**Wyoming:** pork chops

Source: delish.com

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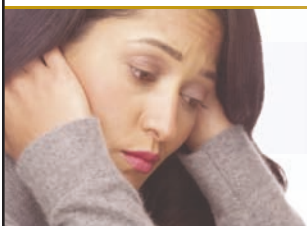
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## MEMORIES

Continued from Page 2

**Emily Caswell** is the brand manager for The View Newspaper Group, which includes the Tri-County Times.

"My grandparents lived in downtown Detroit most of my childhood. By far my favorite Thanksgiving memory is waking up early to get to the Thanksgiving Day Parade with family," Caswell said. "Thanks to my grandpa's newspaper connections we were usually allowed to see the floats early during a special press preview, but that didn't take away any of the fun of seeing them that day in the cold on the street."

"One or two years my uncle was also one of the 'characters' in the parade. I thought it was so cool when he would take off his giant paper mache head and come see us," she said.

"After the parade my grandparents hosted Thanksgiving dinner in a special rented room in their high rise building."



Emily Caswell

I remember it being so cozy and feeling so special taking dishes to and from their apartment to the rented room," Caswell said.

"Now, a less favorite memory is the Thanksgiving my cousins tricked me into chasing a ball into the elevator where I was trapped because I couldn't reach the buttons yet ... no one noticed I was gone because all of the adults were busy going from apartment to the mezzanine."

"I've returned to the parade many times throughout the years, but the magic of walking there as a little kid was the best!"

**Shelly Day** is the executive director for the Fenton & Linden Regional Chamber of Commerce.

"My Thanksgiving memories like many others is about spending time with family," Day said. "We always got together with my aunt and cousins."

Our group grew quite a bit when my siblings, cousins and I all had children, which made it even more fun and memorable."

"We have a tradition that at the end of the night the last thing we do is play a card game called 'trick your neighbor,' she said. "When our kids were little it was so competitive because, like most kids, they loved to win and my husband and my cousin loved to beat them. One year, every single one of the kids left the table in tears. We still play the game and talk about the year of the tears and the threats to call the 'Wambulance!'"

**Katy Golden** is the director of Holly's Downtown Development Authority (DDA) and the assistant manager for the village of Holly.

"My mom always put on a big spread for our extended family — turkey and all the traditional sides," Golden said. "My aunt and uncle are vegetarians and one year they brought a huge salmon filet to eat. My dad turned up his nose as it set next to the turkey on the dining



Shelly Day



Katy Golden

room table. 'Stinky fish doesn't belong next to the turkey!'

"My uncle was a sports nut and had to have the Lions game on the television during dinner, but he often fell asleep in the chair while watching," she said. "My mom made the best pumpkin pie ever which we covered in spray whipped cream. It was tradition for all of the kids to get a turn having a shot of whipped cream sprayed straight into their mouth."

**Mark Hamel** is the co-owner of The Laundry, CRUST, El Topo and the Relief & Resource Co., all in downtown Fenton.

"There are two memories that come to my mind. First, my grandmother's home in Allen Park, Michigan," Hamel said. "She had an impossibly small three-bedroom, corner lot ranch with a big breeze-way connecting it to the garage. Somehow she managed to raise nine children in that house. Everyone would help set up banquet tables in her basement and bring every chair in the house downstairs. It was the place to be on Thanksgiving day. There were dozens of cousins my age. No matter what we had to do that day, or who else we had to visit, we always could not wait to get to grandma Hamel's house."

"Second was when I was in college. Thanksgiving was the first time I would return home after leaving for MSU at the end of the summer. I was always frustrated, and maybe even a little bothered, that Fenton had remained the same when I, obviously, had evolved so much. And yet, I was always calmed by that same fact. I could just exhale a bit."

**Debbie Miller** is the Rose Township clerk.

"A few of my Thanksgiving memories are centered around being very thankful for my family, best friends, and my animals," Miller said. "I would make pumpkin and apple pies on Wednesday night; Mom would get the turkey started in the morning and I would help cut up vegetables and dad would stuff the turkey."

"Mom would make the Waldorf salad for my brother and family; it

**Continued on next page**



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**Continued from previous page**

became a joke because he hated it and mom made it every year for him," she said. "Since it was a joke, eventually my niece ate it and liked it and told grandma it was okay to continue to make it, she would eat it.



Debbie Miller

"As the house filled with wonderful smells of the turkey cooking, we watched the parade on TV, cooked and shared a delicious meal and watched the Lion's football game. We would wait and eat pie at half time and watched my dad and uncle fall asleep," Miller said. "One Thanksgiving we laughed so hard when my aunt was helping my mom get the raspberry relish jello mold on the special fancy crystal plate and it almost slipped off the plate, but mom and aunt Jeanne caught it before it landed on the floor.

"Another Thanksgiving, we were shocked when my dog Rocky walked right up to the table and helped himself to a piece of turkey off my niece's plate while we had just sat down and started eating. We all laughed because we were in shock that he was so bold to do this. I have warm loving memories of past Thanksgivings when my family were fortunate enough to still be alive and share the holiday together," Miller said.

**Scott Sutter** is the chief of police for the city of Linden.



Scott Sutter

"Every Thanksgiving I woke up to the smell off food. My mom would get up before all of us kids to cook and we'd help/sample/steal her delicious dishes throughout the day," Sutter said. "We always

watched the Lions (and suffered), but the best part was when we sat at the table and shared something we were

thankful for. Looking back, I see how God blessed me and my family then and now. The traditions stayed with me and my family does the same things, including the Lions and my kids who 'sample' my wife's dishes.

"The best part is still sharing what we're thankful for. I am so thankful for my wife and children, mom and dad, brothers/sister, my friends and my church, but what I'm most thankful for is what Jesus Christ has done for me, saving me and my family. He's the one we give thanks to for all of it," Sutter said.

**HOT LINE CONTINUED****HERE ARE TRUMP'S**

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Democrats will go down in history as a 'do nothing' assembly. Instead of focusing on the illegitimate, unconstitutional, unfair, embarrassing witchhunt of impeachment, you would think the Dems would address budgets, trade deals like USMCA, taxes/jobs, drug prices, infrastructure and healthcare. Support Trump.

■■■

**IMPEACHMENT HEARINGS TAKE-AWAYS:** 'Everyone was in the loop.'

■■■

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**By Sally Rummel**

The news itself speaks louder than words when there are accidents, fires and police news to report to our local communities.

But we're also here to tell you the good news about what's going on in the tri-county area — from features about people you know, to stories about our growing communities and what's going on in our local municipalities, businesses and schools.

"Our job is always to inform, educate and entertain you with news, headlines, photos, videos and advertising," said Editor Sharon Stone. "Behind the scenes is a group of talented individuals who work together to bring you the news, not only on our traditional printed pages, but also on our website — [tctimes.com](http://tctimes.com) which is updated regularly."

While the wide-ranging variety of news that occurs in a community doesn't change much from year to year, the way we deliver it to you has changed dramatically over the past decade.

Our Editorial Department includes a team of reporters and photographers who are literally on-call, 24/7, in order to report all the area news to you in a timely and thorough manner. We also have expert videographers and social media 'whiz kids' who keep our online readers in-the-know through [tctimes.com](http://tctimes.com). That means you'll get coverage of local news 24/7 on our website, as well as Wednesday and Sunday when the print editions of the Times are published and delivered to your home.

"The Tri-County Times is not just a newspaper — we are literally your connection to your community. We keep the public informed and educated on municipal and school news, as well as all manner of events that occur in our area on a daily basis. Our research helps to keep our neighborhoods safe, our schools thriving and our communities strong," said General Manager Jennifer Ward.

Our ever-growing Marketing Department provides professional products and services such as digital, social media and video to enhance any print advertisement. Our marketing team works closely with area businesses to develop personalized marketing campaigns to fit every budget. Our Classified Department offers an array of products for in-home businesses,

as well as solutions for residents with an item for sale.

"The communities within our circulation area are unique and the best way for businesses to target their prospective customers directly is through the community newspaper," said Marketing Director Terese Allen. "An advertisement in the Times is equivalent to going house to house, knocking on over 19,000 front doors, to announce your business is having a mattress sale."

Members of our talented Composition Department bring their top-notch designs to life in print, helping advertisers get their messages to the public. They also put all these words and photos together in a creative way that has helped earn the Tri-County Times "Newspaper of the Year" several times.

The staff at the Times thanks you for being a part of preserving and protecting the future of our homes, our families and our way of life.



Times file photo

Tri-County Times Marketing  
Director Terese Allen,  
General Manager Jennifer Ward  
and Editor Sharon Stone

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## CHURCH BELLS

Continued from Page 3

FUMC organist Gary Horton said that more than 1,000 hymns can be played, which change depending on the calendar and church seasons. Their bell systems are automated, but programmable. “We even have the Michigan fight song on it here,” Horton said.

St. John’s system is a little more updated. Instead of a programmable computer cabinet system, they have a touch screen tablet that is connected to their sound rack behind the altar. Both systems can play hundreds of songs depending on the event and the season.

Myers said they used bells to mark the election of Pope Francis. She said some find the bells nostalgic. They sound off at St. John’s 34 times per week.

### The church organ

Music at Mass also changes with the Advent season. Horton, 80, has been playing the pipe organ for FUMC since 1986. He is a retired Army officer of 36 years.

Their system is mechanical, with original FUMC pipes, as well as pipes purchased from another church. The pipes are “voiced” for their building. “Voicing” is manipulating each individual pipe to get the best sound for the space. This is usually done by trained contractors. The only digital component is the bank of personal settings stored for different organists.

There are four separate pipe systems, which make different sounds, controlled by three separate hand keyboards and one-foot pedal “keyboard” played by Horton. There are dozens of “stops” for the combinations of sounds.

He said he’ll never in his career be able to find and use all the possible sound combinations available. The sounds he plays range from soft and soothing to roof-shaking power. He also can play bell sounds with the organ console.

Horton learned to play the organ via his four-year degree from the University of Michigan, and he has continuing education. “I just like music. It uplifts people’s spirits and that makes me want to perform better,” Horton said. “The choir loves singing with the organ.”



There are dozens of organ “stops” that vary the overall sound by utilizing different combinations of pipes. Photo:

Tim Jagielo

## HOT LINE CONTINUED

■■■  
IF IT SEEMS to you like liberals only have one thing on their mind than you have been paying attention. Democrats are going to learn that the people are sick and tired of the same old broken record playing over and over. They are just so stupid.

■■■  
I WAS ALMOST hit crossing W. Shiawassee Avenue at S. LeRoy. I waited on the sidewalk, waved

to acknowledge my intention and walked on the pedestrian crossing. Yet three different times, the vehicle going north on LeRoy turned left and almost hit me. A signal similar to the one by the Post Office would be helpful.

■■■  
BEWARE OF THE current iPhone sale ‘scam’ when you switch phone providers. Read the fine print so that you won’t be billed extra on each phone.

■■■

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### Thanksgiving Day

Tomorrow we celebrate Thanksgiving.

It's a day of football games, parades, family reunions, turkey and stuffing, and much, much more.

Seemingly everyone has their own way of celebrating the holiday, but one thing is the same for all of us — Thanksgiving is always on the fourth Thursday of November.

This wasn't always the case and in actuality Thanksgiving used to be celebrated on other November days and even other months.

This fact might not be well known and therefore I submit the following brief history of our Thanksgiving calendar.

In the fall of 1621, a Thanksgiving celebration was held in the Plymouth Pilgrim Community when they joined with local Native Americans to celebrate the first harvest.

Traditionally this is recognized as the first Thanksgiving, but even before this and during our Colonial Era, Thanksgivings were held on various dates as declared by colonial and local governments.

Fast forward to Sept. 28, 1789, when Congress passed a Resolution requesting that President George Washington recommend a national day of Thanksgiving. He fulfilled this request by declaring Thursday, Nov. 26, 1789 as a "Day of Public Thanksgiving."

Succeeding presidents and some states issued their own Thanksgiving Day proclamations with Thanksgiving being celebrated on various days of the year.

In 1863, President Lincoln issued a proclamation that Thanksgiving was always to be celebrated on the last Thursday of November.

This continued until 1939 when during the Great Depression, President Franklin D. Roosevelt changed the day to the second to the last Thursday of November to

See **JUDGE** on 25

## Community orchestra to perform winter concerts

■ Community invited to attend two nights of 'heartwarming and affirming music'

Compiled by Sharon Stone

The Fenton Community Orchestra (FCO) invites the community to its 10th season winter concert. The FCO will perform two nights in the Ruby Zima Auditorium at the Fenton High School. The concert will begin at 7:30 p.m. on

Thursday, Dec. 5, and Friday, Dec. 6.

"I'm very much looking forward to our winter concert program," said Andrew Perkins, FCO music director and conductor of the FCO symphony ensemble. "We're going to be performing a variety of exciting and fantastic literature including the Haydn Cello Concerto in C, Mvt 1.

The evening will feature guest artist, Dr. Carrie Pierce from the University of Texas AM Corpus Christi on Cello.

The orchestra will also perform Tschai-kovsky's Marche Slav, Rossini's Barber of Seville, and Morten Lauridsen's O Magnum Mysterium.

"We invite everyone in the community to join us for an evening of heartwarming and affirming music," Perkins said.

Admission is free but donations are welcomed. "Donations from individuals and local businesses directly impact

See **ORCHESTRA** on 23

You are invited to the 28<sup>th</sup> annual

## COMMUNITY MEMORIAL SERVICE

REMEMBERING THOSE NOT WITH US DURING THE HOLIDAYS

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*Facing the holidays with the absence of a loved one challenges our ability to cope and to share in the joy of the season. We hope that decorating an ornament in their memory can be a statement of love and by attending the Memorial Service, may provide hope and encouragement.*

***Our Best Wishes for the Holiday Season***

— Gordon Dryer

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## Our Future

Meet

# Andrew Teel

- Lake Fenton High School senior
- Accordion player/scholarship winner
- Future music teacher

By Sally Rummel

Andrew Teel, 18, lives with his dad, David. He plays the clarinet in the Lake Fenton High School Marching Band and practices and performs on the accordion. After graduation, he will attend the University of Michigan-Flint, then continue on for a master's degree in music education. He plans to be a high school music teacher and hopes to continue playing the accordion in concerts or performances.

### What do you like best about playing in the Lake Fenton High School Marching Band?

I like getting people hyped with music during football games. My favorite genre of music is a split between polkas and classic rock hits. I also like jazz.

### How did you get started playing the accordion?

Every year, my family would travel to Frankenmuth for Thanksgiving dinner and they would always have an accordion player there. After several years of having the pleasure to listen to it, I asked for an accordion for my birthday. After that, I made sure to practice every day and I quickly fell in love with the squeezebox. I recently got a \$300 scholarship for playing the accordion from the Flint Institute of Music.

### What do you like best about the accordion?

It's the physical movement of pushing the bellows; you can really exaggerate tone and power in your music by how hard you squeeze the instrument. I also love the unique "musette" sound of an accordion, which reminds me of a violin or bassoon. I actually own seven accordions and pick them



up at pawn shops. I collect them and can use them for spare parts.

### Where do you perform?

I get to perform at the Flint Farmers Market and in a performance group for the St. Cecilia Society at the Flint Institute of Performing Arts.

### What do you think is the biggest issue/problem facing high school students today?

I feel the biggest problem is bullying, which makes people feel like they are shunned or being treated like an outcast. I try to get to know people who don't have a lot of friends because I struggled with being in a friend

group in the past.

### What is your favorite subject in school?

I really love band but I also really enjoy my AP English class. I never realized how deep of meanings you can pull up from a 300-year-old letter. The class helps you infer and pull harder to find meaning in literature. You also get the chance to read classics like "Lord of the Flies."

### How will you spend this Thanksgiving holiday?

We'll be going to Zehnder's in Frankenmuth. A tradition that my cousins, Julia, William and I would always do is combine a bunch of gross condiments, seasonings and drinks and chicken bones into one cup and dare each other to take a sip. It's really gross but one of the funniest traditions we have at Thanksgiving.

### What is one more thing you'd like to accomplish in high school?

I want to be involved in a sport, so I signed up for bowling because it interests me and is the least physically demanding. Before high school, I was involved in wrestling and the swim team, but later quit for my passion for music.

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## AUTO

### Continued from Front Page

Black Friday will be here in two days and that not only starts the big Christmas shopping rush, it's also the beginning of the big push for end-of-the-year new vehicle sales — for purchase or for lease.

It's an important time of year for dealerships trying to meet their sales goals, while providing customers with all the advantages of extra holiday spirit and plenty of "wheeling and dealing" before the New Year.

"The end of the year sales are really important for Vic Canever Chevrolet and GM (General Motors)," said Chris Bonner, sales manager at Vic Canever Chevrolet in Fenton. "Our busiest two months of the year occur sometime during the summer and during the end of the year. The Black Friday Sale starts this end-of-year push and continues until the end of December."

On the practical side, automakers and dealers want to move unsold inventory before the end of the calendar year and make room for as many 2020 models as possible.

"It's a great time to get in on a clearance 2019 model, and we have a nice selection of 2020 models on the lot and coming in every day, now that the (GM) strike has ended," Bonner said.

Customers interested in the popular Equinox, a compact SUV crossover, will find plenty to like during this sale because of low lease payments, its sporty style and fuel economy. Other popular crossovers include the Trax, Blazer and the three-row seating of the Traverse, all available in front- or all-wheel drive.

GM is also having a Truck Month Sale on the all-new Silverado, with savings up to 20 percent off the manufacturer suggested retail price (MSRP). "There's still ample 2019 clearance inventory available," Bonner said.

The holiday sales enthusiasm runs deep at Lasco Ford in Fenton, too. "We're obviously motivated to make the most of trade-ins for our customers and buying customers out of their leases," said Jay Lasco, vice president. "Everything has

ramped up since mid-November with a big push for Black Friday and deals will run through Jan. 2, 2020."

Customers looking for a new ride might like to save more than \$10,000 on a brand new F-150, "our best-selling vehicle," Lasco said. "There are also a lot of great lease deals."

Maybe Santa himself might consider buying a new "sleigh" this year, before making his big ride across the world on Christmas Eve. He could get excited about more interior room for toys and better fuel efficiency than he's ever had before.



At Vic Canever Chevrolet, popular end-of-year sale vehicles include the Chevy Equinox (left) and Blazer. Photo: Tim Jagielo

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# Even Santa has Back Pain & Sciatica

■ 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 & Neuropathy Treatment Center 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. Ida. "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](http://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. In severe cases, this condition can 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 had horrible pain in my back and butt that would be like an electric shock down the cord in my leg. I had gotten to the point that I was thinking about surgery. When my neighbor told me about Dr. Ides' office and how much they had helped him, I figured it was a worth a shot. I made an appointment and was impressed but still, was skeptical. It was honestly the best decision I ever made. My pain is gone, I have better balance and my golf swing is back! I only wish I would have found the office sooner. I feel better than I have in 20 years!"*

- Daren H., Grand Blanc

**“ 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. ”**

Dr. Ide

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 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



**Sciatica Relief Expert James Ide, says:** In 8 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.

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 & Neuropathy Treatment Center 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 \$37!

**The normal cost of such an exam is \$195 so you will save \$158! 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 810-207-1132. Mention the code SANTA2019 to claim your special offer.**



# After the Thanksgiving feast...

## ■What do we do now?

### Compiled By Vera Hogan

After the turkey, stuffing, and pumpkin pie have all been gobbled up, what's a family to do? According to [makeitgrateful.com](http://makeitgrateful.com), instead of piling onto the couch for an after-dinner nap, gather the whole gang for some fun after-dinner activities that will keep all ages entertained. It's a great way to bond as a family and make the most out of your time together.

The following are some fun family activities for after Thanksgiving dinner:

### Play a family football game

Start a friendly football game outdoors and work up a sweat together. You can even make a pre-game activity out of making the Family Football Thanksgiving Championship trophy, which can become the coveted prize during this tradition for years to come.



Working up a sweat through an after-Thanksgiving dinner family football game will help keep those extra calories in check.

### Have an outdoor scavenger hunt

Assemble family members into pairs or teams and organize an exciting scavenger hunt either in the backyard or throughout the neighborhood. Offer prizes like small gift cards or special treats to inspire some friendly competition.

### Set up the Christmas tree

Some may argue that Thanksgiving is too early to start your holiday decorat-

ing, but you might as well take the help while you can get it. Plus, who doesn't enjoy decorating the family tree? Turn on some festive music, delegate the tree-decorating tasks, and watch your holiday come alive with the help of the whole family. Serve some hot cocoa to really help get everyone in the spirit.

### Enjoy a family game night

From traditional board games like Pictionary and Scattergories, to the hot new games like Apples to Apples and the just-for-adults Cards Against Humanity, gather the crew for some good old-fashioned family fun.

### Browse through photo albums

Take out the old family photo albums and gather grandparents and the kids for some storytelling as you look through old photos together. Your family members will love going back in time, swapping favorite memories, and laughing together at some of the cringe-worthy fashions and hairstyles.



While the whole family is there to help, why not decorate the Christmas tree after Thanksgiving dinner?

### Deliver a meal

If you have an elderly neighbor or know a family in your own neighborhood who could use some extra cheer,

**See AFTER THE FEAST on 23**

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# Keeping our wildlife friends fed

■ Enjoy birds and other wildlife even during a Michigan winter

Compiled by Sharon Stone

The arrival of a Michigan winter forces everyone to confront the changes synonymous with the season, and local wildlife is no exception. Low temperatures, harsh winter storms and a

scarcity of food can make it challenging for wildlife, including birds, to thrive throughout the winter.

Even though several species of birds are migratory and travel to warmer climates to wait out winter, many others stay put. The Audubon Society says that keeping close to home helps some species of birds maintain their territories.

Some birds will puff up to retain heat; others will seek shelter in dense foliage

or cavities to avoid the elements. Many birds will huddle together to share warmth.

Another way of keeping warm is building up fat as an insulator and energy source. The Audubon Society says more than 10 percent of some birds' winter body weight may be fat. That can be challenging to maintain when common sources of food, such as insects and berries, disappear as winter wears on. This is when some human intervention can prove handy, according to ornithologists. A few simple efforts may benefit birds and other wildlife that may not hibernate winter away or escape to the tropics.

## SUMMARY

■ A few simple efforts may benefit birds and other wildlife that may not hibernate winter away or escape to the tropics.

- **Have a supply of food**, bird feeders, houses, and any other bird-related gear at the ready before the storms really rev up.

- **Invest in nutritious food**, such as black oil sunflower seeds or blends that are high in black oil sunflower seeds. You

also can make available more foods that are high in fat, such as suet, peanut butter or even whole peanuts. Mother Nature Network also suggests adding meal worms if they can be found.

- **Choose feeders that will keep seed dry**; otherwise, it will be prone to bacterial and fungal growth.

- **Don't discard fallen leaves** or any downed twigs or pruned boughs from trees. This will give birds material for creating shelter or hiding away when the weather gets especially brutal. When the Christmas tree is finished for the season, place it in the yard as a windbreak for birds.

- **Put shallow water sources** around so birds can drink. Replace them frequently if water freezes.

- **Wild birds can benefit** from some help when the temperatures start to drop in winter.

Source: Metro Creative Connection

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## FIRE

**Continued from Front Page**

dead batteries in smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors.

Fenton Fire Chief Bob Cairnduff said one of the main issues they see is people not cleaning out their chimneys. Homeowners should have their wood stove or fireplace inspected and cleaned before using it.

“The buildup can happen fast and that heat will transfer through the chimney if it’s getting too hot and can catch the interior walls on fire,” he said.

Cairnduff also said to never put ashes into a combustible container or store them in a garage or garbage can.

“Place them into a metal bucket and take them outside,” he said. “These ashes can have hot embers for days in them. We have responded to many fires when someone cleans out the fireplace and puts the ashes and debris into a bag and then into the garbage can in the garage. Then that night or the next

day there is a fire.”

He also urges people to keep their real Christmas trees watered because a dried out tree can catch fire easily.

“The amount of heat generated from a burning pine tree is incredible and very scary,” Cairnduff said.

### Space heaters

Heating fires are the second leading cause of fires in the U.S. and most occur during December, January and February. Space heaters

are found in 40 percent of heating fires, meaning they are the most common type of equipment involved.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission recommends keeping the space heater 3 feet away from anything flammable, never plugging it into a power strip, and turning it off before you go to bed.

### Carbon monoxide

Carbon monoxide incidents are most common during the winter months be-

**“The amount of heat generated from a burning pine tree is incredible and very scary.”**

**Bob Cairnduff**  
Fenton fire chief



Keep your real Christmas trees watered because a dried out tree can catch fire easily. **Source: YouTube.com**

cause more people will use a generator when the power goes out. It’s an odorless, colorless gas that is hard to detect if the home doesn’t have a working carbon monoxide detector.

“According to a 2013 Consumer Product Safety Commission report, half

of the generator-related deaths happened in the four coldest months of the year, November through February, and portable generators were involved in the majority of carbon monoxide deaths involving engine-driven tools,” said the NFPA.

### Candles

Candles are lit most commonly on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Not keeping an eye on the candle can be dangerous. If they aren’t placed in a safe location, they could accidentally catch fire to curtains and other household objects.

The NFPA found that each year between 2013-2017 an average of 7,900 home candle fires were reported.

### Electrical

Roughly half of all home electrical fires involve electrical distribution or lighting equipment, such as outlets. The other half involve equipment such as washers or dryers.

About 40 percent of fires involving electrical failure or malfunction occurred in the cold weather months from November through February.

*Source: National Fire Protection Association*

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## SHOPPING LOCAL

Continued from Front Page

standing in line wherever you go on Black Friday. “One time there were six of us shopping at Target and it was a crazy zoo,” Overfield said. “It took us two hours to check-out and all I bought was a video for \$4.99.”

Black Friday sales are expected to be down slightly this year, due to early shopping hours on Thanksgiving Day, online shopping and early pre-Black Friday promotions. But it is still one of the biggest holiday shopping days, if not the biggest day, of the year.

Meanwhile Small Business Saturday on Nov. 30 continues to gain momentum at independent “mom and pop” stores, working to garner their share of shopping revenue during Thanksgiving weekend.

“People will shop the big box stores early on Black Friday, then we’ll get them here in the afternoon,” said Chip Beltinck, owner of Sawyer Jewelers in downtown Fenton. “We’ll also be busy on Small Business Saturday.”

In local stores, the last Saturday before Christmas actually trumps Black Friday as the biggest holiday shopping date of the season.

Beltinck predicts that the weekend before Christmas will be a busy shopping weekend, with Saturday, Dec. 21 and Monday, Dec. 23, the busiest of the pre-Christmas shopping days.

The holiday shopping frenzy of Black Friday isn’t for everyone.

Debbie Schlenke of Tyrone Township, who has gained a reputation over the years for her shopping prowess, avoids the madhouse of shopping on that day. “I kind of avoid it because of the crowds,” she said.

She and her husband, Bob, “conquer and divide,” when it comes to Christmas shopping.

“I like to see everything in person, so I don’t like to shop online,” she said. “He likes to research every item, especially things like computers and tools, and then find the best deal online.”

Schlenke enjoys shopping in local boutiques and small businesses, where

she can touch and feel what she’s looking to buy. “It has to be something I love,” she said. “It’s not necessarily the best deal when I’m buying for my family.”

She does admit that when she’s driving home from Thanksgiving festivities and sees long lines outside stores in the metro-Detroit area, she does have to talk herself down sometimes from making a stop. “Do we really need any-

thing?” she asks herself, and then keeps driving back home to Fenton.

**“People will shop the big box stores early on Black Friday, then we’ll get them here in the afternoon.”**

**Chip Beltinck**

*Sawyer Jewelers owner*

## WHICH STORES WILL BE OPEN THANKSGIVING DAY AND WHICH ONES WILL NOT?

This is a general list of retailers open for certain hours on Thanksgiving Day. For specific hours, call the location where you plan to shop, or visit its website.

### Open

- Alpine Marketplace
- Bed, Bath & Beyond
- Best Buy
- CVS
- Dollar General
- Game Stop
- Holly Foods
- JCPenney
- Kohl’s
- Macy’s
- Meijer
- Michaels
- Old Navy
- Rite Aid
- Target
- Ulta Beauty
- VG’s Grocery
- Walgreens
- Walmart

### Closed

- Barnes & Noble
- Costco
- Glik’s
- IKEA
- Pier 1 Imports
- Sam’s Club
- Sears Hometown Store of Fenton
- The Home Depot
- TJMaxx/HomeGoods/Marshalls

## SUMMARY

Black Friday became “a thing” back in the 1980s and ’90s, and still is regarded as the official start of the shopping season, although many pre-Black Friday promotions and Thanksgiving Day deals bring shoppers out early.



## BUSINESS BRIEFS

COMPILED BY SHARON STONE

### Annual four-day Save & Share event at Skaff Furniture-Carpet One begins the Friday after Thanksgiving

The eighth annual Skaff Save & Share event will take place Friday, Nov. 29 through Monday, Dec. 2. "Thanks to our customers, Save & Share has helped raise more than \$115,000 for our participating charities," said Dick Skaff, president. Skaff will partner with Carriage Town Ministries, Communities First, the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan, and Whaley Children's Center. Over the four-day period, 5 percent of each furniture and carpet purchase will go to assist these organizations. Customers can choose the charity they would like to support, or, if they prefer, they can share their

donation among all of them. "As an added incentive for people to stop by during the four-day celebration, we're aggressively reducing prices in every department. We want this event to not only benefit our charities, but our customers as well," Skaff said. "We're doing everything possible to make this a win-win for everyone." To help generate extra excitement, customers will also have the opportunity to win a Serta I-Comfort queen-size mattress set, a Best recliner, room-size carpet remnants and more.

### ORCHESTRA Continued from Page 15

our ability to leverage and secure matching grants," said Eric Szczepanski, FCO chairman of the board. "It allows us to give back to the community through public performances like our annual winter and spring concerts."

### Fenton Community Orchestra

The FCO's 10th season is sponsored by Flint Marathon Oil, The Laundry, The State Bank, Commercial Graphics of Michigan and Peabody Insurance Inc. The

FCO is also supported in part by a matching grant from the Michigan Council of Arts and Cultural Affairs and the National Endowment for the Arts, a matching grant from Share Art Genesee, distributed by Greater Flint Arts Council, and a grant from the Fenton Community Fund, distributed by the Community Foundation of Greater Flint and funded by Florence Michelson Fund, South Lakes Youth Initiative Program Fund, William and Alberta Close Memorial Fund, and the Richard A. Beardsley Memorial Fund.

### AFTER THE FEAST Continued from Page 19

pack up a meal especially for them and deliver it as a family. It's a great way to teach little ones to share, get to know your neighbors, and help eliminate leftovers.

### Run a turkey trot

With turkey trot events taking place nationwide, your active family will love trying something new this year like working up a sweat during the fun run/walk or the 5K run. Most runs are scheduled early morning to kick off Thanksgiving Day, but some areas offer afternoon runs, weather permitting, as well.

### Take a family photo

It may be a while before the whole family can get together again, so take advantage of having everyone there by arranging a family photo shoot. Don't be afraid to get wild with your outfits ... invite everyone to wear their ugliest holiday sweaters, coordinate colors, or create a theme just right for your wacky family. Make sure your photographer knows your plans ahead of time so he or she can reserve time for an outfit change or two.

Source: [makeitgrateful.com](http://makeitgrateful.com)

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# Best documentaries on Netflix and Amazon

■ Kidnappings, sexual assault, comedy and more

By Hannah Ball

With the coldest season nearly upon us, it's time to settle on the couch with a drink and find a good television show.

Here are some of the best documentaries on Netflix and Amazon Prime:

## NETFLIX

**"Abducted in Plain Sight"** is the real story of how the Broberg family was torn apart in the '70s by a sociopathic neighbor, Bob Berchtold, who was obsessed with their 12-year-old daughter Jan. Thrillist.com calls it "...one of the most mind-boggling cases perpetrated by an insanely conniving man who managed to kidnap

Jan not once... but twice."

If you're into the factory life, **"American Family"** should be on your list. It's about when Chinese company Fuyao Glass opened a new factory in Dayton, Ohio, and how billionaire Chairman Cao Dewang wanted to help a struggling area and get rich in the process. The hope dwindles as Chinese management conflicts with American values.

For all the music lovers, **"Amy"** is

about the life of famous musician Amy Winehouse. It explores her personal life, career and the hardships that she went through before she died young.

**"Audrie & Daisy"** is about two teenage girls who are sexually assaulted and then are ostracized by their peers. It shows how victims of sexual violence, who often have nowhere to turn, are cyberbullied and made to be the villains.

Sports lovers will enjoy **"The Battered Bastards of Baseball,"** which features Kurt Russell, who quit acting to play baseball in his father's minor league team in the '80s. Viewers will learn about the Portland Mavericks and the pieces that come together to form an independent baseball club.

Are you scheduled to have surgery anytime soon? **"The Bleeding Edge"** is about the medical device industry. This features people whose lives have been forever altered by "the larger horrors wrecked by less-than-substantially tested — and in some cases, failed and put to market anyway — devices used for surgeries, for keeping our limbs together, and every literal crevice of our bodies in between," according to thrillist.com.

## amazon Prime

**"Missing Mom"** is for those who love thrills and missing persons cases. With eight awards from film festivals and organizations, this documentary follows the story of two brothers who set out to find their mother who's been missing for 25 years.

Written by James Baldwin, **"I Am Not Your Negro"** is the Oscar-nominated film that covers the civil rights movement in the '60s up to the modern-day Black Lives Matter movement.

**"Whitney"** delivers an intimate look into the life of Whitney Houston, showing her family and behind-the-scenes struggles she experienced even at the height of her career.

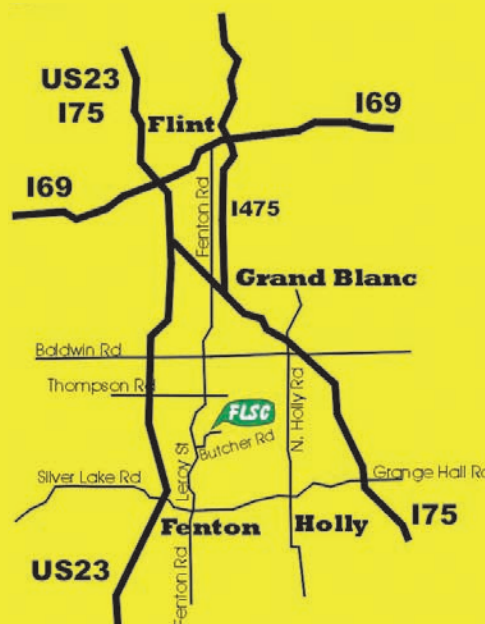
If you're a fan of Stanley Kubrick's **"The Shining,"** you'll love **"Room 237."** It explores the theories about the classic horror film, and it shows how fans are still passionate about the story decades after its release in 1980.

**"Misery Loves Comedy"** interviews more than fifty modern-day comedy legends about their body of work and asks — does someone have to be miserable to be funny? Source: thrillist.com, bustle.com

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## Our Town

Meet a

# Pilgrim from the New World

- Passenger who survived the Mayflower voyage
- Guest at the first Thanksgiving feast
- Helped build the Plymouth settlement

Compiled By Vera Hogan

*With this special Thanksgiving edition, the Times, with the help of history.com, put together what it might be like to interview one of the Pilgrims who came over on the Mayflower to settle in the New World.*

### What is a Pilgrim?

A Pilgrim is a person who journeys to a sacred place for religious reasons. We left England for religious freedom. I think we managed to achieve that goal, but today it seems there is too much bloodshed in the name of religion. I wish it weren't so.

### Why aren't people called Pilgrims anymore?

I honestly don't know the answer to that question, but I will tell you it was highly and inappropriately used by your actor John Wayne in many of his cowboy movies.

### Tell us about your arrival in the New World.

A group of about 100 of us set sail aboard the Mayflower in September of 1620. In late December, the



Photo: wikipedia.com

Mayflower anchored at Plymouth Rock, where we formed the first permanent settlement of Europeans in New England.

### Was Massachusetts your first destination choice?

No, we had originally signed a contract with the Virginia Company to settle near the Hudson River, but rough seas and storms prevented the Mayflower from reaching its initial destination. After 66 days, it reached the shores of Cape Cod, anchoring at the site of Provincetown on Nov. 21. We sent an exploratory party ashore, and on Dec. 18 docked at Plymouth Rock, on the western side of Cape Cod Bay.

### What was your first year like?

For the next few months, many of us stayed on the Mayflower while ferrying back and forth to shore to build our new settlement. In March, we began moving ashore permanently. More than half the Pilgrims fell ill and died that first winter, victims of an epidemic of disease that swept the new colony. Soon after moving ashore, we were introduced to a Native American man named Tisquantum,

or Squanto, who would become a member of the colony. Squanto acted as an interpreter and mediator between Plymouth's leaders and local Native Americans.

### Tell us about the first Thanksgiving.

In the Fall of 1621, we shared a harvest feast with the Native American Pokanokets. It is today considered the basis for your Thanksgiving holiday.

### Who attended the first feast?

Most of the attendees at the first Thanksgiving were men as 78 percent of the women who traveled on the Mayflower died over the preceding winter. Of the 50 colonists who celebrated the harvest — and our survival — 22 were men, four were married women, and 25 were children and teenagers. Think about that for a minute and conjure a visual. The children and teenagers outnumbered the men and women.

### What did you eat that first Thanksgiving?

We ate venison from the deer killed by the Native Americans along with chestnuts, cranberries, garlic, and artichokes — all native wild plants

we were learning to use. We also ate waterfowl, ham, lobster, clams, berries, fruit, pumpkin and squash. Turkey was eaten as well. One thing we brought to the meal that our new Native American friends did not have is beer that we brought along on our Mayflower journey.

### It is said the Pilgrims started the first formal government. Tell us about that.

All the adult males aboard the Mayflower had signed the Mayflower Compact, a document that would become the foundation of Plymouth's government. The Mayflower Compact set down laws for all Mayflower passengers to follow. It included a provision that colonists would create and enact "laws, ordinances, acts, constitutions and offices..." for the good of the colony.

### What is your message for families celebrating Thanksgiving?

As you prepare to feast and visit with friends and family, give thanks for your health and happiness, remember those who could not be with you on this day, and be grateful for all of your countless blessings.

## JUDGE

Continued from Page 15

lengthen the Christmas shopping season and help businesses.

However only 32 states acknowledged this change, which resulted in two days being celebrated as Thanksgiving depending on the state one lived in.

In 1941 seeing a need for uniformity, Congress passed a joint resolution, which declared that the fourth Thurs-

day of November was Thanksgiving Day and making it a federal holiday. This remains the law today.

Tomorrow is a time not only for enjoyment but also an opportunity to recognize what we've been given.

I urge everyone to do just that and at the very least to spend a moment of reflection and, depending on your beliefs, saying a prayer of gratitude or at least acknowledging that we are all very fortunate.



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## The holidays can be hazardous to your health

■ Fires, falls and kitchen disasters are just a few of the 'hidden hazards' of Christmas

By Sally Rummel

Yes, the holidays are the most wonderful time of the year, but they can also be hectic and hazardous.

Here are a few of the most common home disasters that can befall you at the most inopportune times, especially when you have holiday house guests.

### Fireplace fiascos

Don't forget to open the flue before using your fireplace, and if you do forget and have to get rid of the smoke in the house, don't turn on the attic fan. The fan will pull in all the smoke from the chimney and you'll "smell like a fireplace" for days.

**TIP:** Have your home's chimney swept out and inspected once a year, especially before they are used during the holidays.

See **HAZARDS** on 30

■ Unexpected travel delays, mishaps with kids and pets — and more — all make for lasting memories

By Sally Rummel

The holidays are usually a time of joy and excitement, but many memories are made from Christmas happenings that didn't go exactly "as planned" — that's why you remember them.

What about the boxer that ate the turkey just before the family Christmas Eve party, or a well-intentioned cook who put mashed potatoes in

See **DELAYS** on 33



Laura Legant and daughter Rose took a selfie at the Denver, Colorado airport, where they were stranded for two days over Christmas on their way to visit family in Rapid City, South Dakota. Submitted photo

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# Holidays can be 'RUFF' ON PETS

■ Avoid potential harm to your pets this Christmas by watching out for toxic plants and foods

By Sally Rummel

'Tis the season of over-indulgence and holiday mishaps, not only for us as humans, but also for our pets.

"There are definitely more cases of pets getting into dangerous things from Halloween to New Year's," said Carrie Brown, licensed veterinary technician at Pointe Animal Hospital in Fenton. "Every year, it seems like we see a few

cases of pet injuries or illnesses due to the holidays."

The most common holiday mishap for dogs?

"Digging into the trash where there's scraps and bones," Brown said. "Bones can get lodged and stuck and can splinter. They can really do a number on a dog's GI (gastro-intestinal) tract."

If you have a cat, watch out for your ribbons and tinsel. "It's a linear foreign object that 'accordions' the GI tract," Brown said. "Everything gets tied up and nothing will pass through."

“There are definitely more cases of pets getting into dangerous things from Halloween to New Year's.”

Carrie Brown

Licensed veterinary technician

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According to the Animal Poison Control Center (APCC), calls increase about 20 percent during the holiday season.

Here are some of the major holiday pet hazards:

### Holiday ornaments

Holiday décor such as snow globes or bubble lights may contain poisonous chemicals inside. Methylene chloride, the chemical in bubble lights, can result in depression, aspiration pneumonia and irritation to the eyes, skin and gastrointestinal tract. Imported snow globes may contain antifreeze, which can be fatal to your cat or dog. Remove scented oils in a simmer pot if you're a cat owner; even a few licks can result in severe chemical burns in the mouth, fever, difficulty breathing and tremors. Dogs aren't as sensitive, but it's better to be safe than sorry

### Tinsel

What looks like a shiny toy to your cat can be deadly if ingested. Tinsel doesn't pose a poisoning risk but can cause severe damage to a cat's intestinal tract if swallowed and may result in the rupture of their intestines, requiring expensive abdominal surgery.

### Plants

Poinsettias are only mildly toxic to pets, but lilies, holly or mistletoe are the most dangerous plants for cats, according to the Pet Poison Helpline. Ingesting just one to two leaves or flower petals may cause sudden kidney failure in cats.

See **PETS** on 32

## PET INSURANCE *pros and cons*

### Pros

Pet insurance can protect you against a large unexpected expense or an expensive on-going expense, i.e. diabetes. Certain plans will provide routine wellness or general care, ensuring your pet gets all the recommended precautions for good health. Routine care includes annual examinations.

### Cons

Pet insurance policies can be confusing. When choosing a policy, make sure the features that are most important to you are part of the plan. For example, some policies exclude coverage for hereditary conditions such as hip dysplasia, which can affect several breeds but may not show up until later in life.

Your policy may never pay for itself; it's a safety net, not an investment. Certain pet insurance plans also can help you provide routine care for your pet. But if you don't utilize these benefits while paying for them, it's easy for pet owners to overpay for this benefit.

Source: [Petcarerx.com](http://Petcarerx.com)








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## HAZARDS

Continued from Page 27

### Going cold turkey

The last thing you need for a holiday meal is an oven that you find out is DOA (Dead On Arrival) when the turkey you put in an hour ago hasn't even begun to roast.

**TIP:** Check your oven for reliability before your big holiday baking begins. Avoid using the self-clean cycle up to two weeks before your holiday event; that's when many ovens experience problems requiring pricey repairs.

### Out of the frying pan into the fire

Don't ever leave your stove unattended, not even for a moment to answer a doorbell. It's too easy to forget about what you left on the stove and cooking oils especially can kick up a fire.

**TIP:** Make sure to keep a fire extinguisher in your kitchen, and know how to use it. Check your home's smoke detectors, too.

### O, Christmas tree, O Christmas tree...

Your Christmas tree is a focal point of your holiday celebration. Make sure to keep a real tree well-hydrated, away from heat and decorated with safe lights with a UL (Underwriters Laboratories) designation. If your tree is artificial, make sure the label says it is "fire-resistant."

**TIP:** Keep pets and small children from playing near the tree to prevent a "tree topple."

### Real snow, not fake

Did you know that fake snow in aerosol cans often used for decorating can irritate lungs and are especially dangerous for family members with asthma?

### And the stockings were hung with care

You might want to choose another place to hang stockings besides a fireplace mantel, especially if you're going to light a fire.

**TIP:** Make sure stockings are flame-retardant or move them to another location.

### Help with heights

Ladders often work overtime during the holidays when it comes to decorating inside and out.

**TIP:** Always grip the ladder with one hand and work within arm's reach of the ladder. If you can't safely reach what you need, climb down and safely re-position the ladder.

### Power overload

Overloaded extension cords can be a fire hazard this time of year when the use of extra lights, hair dryers and more can put a strain on your home's electricity and create a fire hazard.

**TIP:** Plug in only one high-voltage appliance into each outlet.

### Flush drain issues down the toilet

The time to prepare for the inevitable clogged toilet or sink drain is before guests arrive. Make sure you have a plunger with a flange for better suction in every bathroom in the house. Your guests will thank you.

**TIP:** Cover shower drains with a shower cover to eliminate hair and other debris from washing into the drain. Visit Familyhandyman.com or Youtube.com to learn how to fix clogs or stubborn drains.

### Don't set anything on stairs. Ever.

Nearly half of all falls take place on steps and stairways, so make sure there's nothing on your stairs that someone could trip on.

**TIP:** Take a look especially at your basement stairs where there are often items waiting to be taken down "on the next trip."

### Don't take Christmas lights lightly

This magical décor can turn dangerous if you don't use the lights where they were designed for — inside or out.

**TIP:** Turn off your outdoor holiday lights when you leave the house and before you go to bed.

SOURCES: Family Handyman, This Old House



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■ Take your best Christmas pictures this year with a few simple 'do's and don'ts'

By Sally Rummel

Now through New Year's Day, you will likely have many opportunities to take portrait-style photos and group shots of your family, including children, grandchildren, parents, grandparents and cousins.

You also are most likely a casual photographer, as opposed to a professional, but you can still take great holiday photos this year.

Whether you're shooting with a phone or an actual camera, there are three main things to worry about, said Times Media Editor Tim Jagielo:

- Lighting
- Composition
- Timing

## DO THIS...

### Lighting

• Make sure the lighting is right. Every photo needs light. Window or outdoor light is the best, Jagielo said. If you shoot with your back to a window, that will put sunlight on your subject. If there is no sunlight, turn all the lights on and use the flash on your camera or phone.

• If you set up a portrait or posed photo, have them face a window, so the sunlight is mostly hitting at least one side of their face.

• If it's after 5 p.m., which is likely, use the flash. If it looks dark at all, use the flash.

• If you have a digital camera, try the nighttime portrait setting, if so equipped.

### Composition

Once you know how the lighting is working, you'll have to compose the image.

• Most photos in these situations should be shot horizontally.

• Also, keep the subject close. They should take up about one-quarter of the image, or more. Try placing them a little off center, too.

See **PHOTO** on 32

# Avoid a holiday PHOTO FAIL

“Don't be afraid  
to experiment.”

Tim Jagielo  
Times media editor



## at TMP Holiday Happy Hour

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## PETS

Continued from Page 28

Other yuletide plants such as holly berries can also be toxic to pets and can cause gastrointestinal upset and even heart arrhythmias if ingested.

### Alcohol

Alcohol is no laughing matter when it comes to your pets. Because alcohol is rapidly absorbed into the bloodstream, it affects pets quickly, causing

dangerous drops in blood sugar, blood pressure and body temperature. Intoxicated animals can experience seizures and respiratory failure. Also, desserts containing alcohol and unbaked dough with yeast are also toxic.

### Holiday foods

Foods containing grapes, raisins and currants (such as fruitcakes) can result in kidney failure in dogs.

Chocolate and cocoa contain theo-

bromine, a chemical highly toxic to dogs and cats. Ingestion in small amounts can cause vomiting and diarrhea but large amounts can cause seizures and heart arrhythmias.

Many sugarless gums and candies contain xylitol, a sweetener, which is toxic to dogs. It causes a life-threatening drop in blood sugar and liver failure.

Leftover fatty meat scraps can produce severe inflammation of the

pancreas (pancreatitis) leading to abdominal pain, vomiting and bloody diarrhea.

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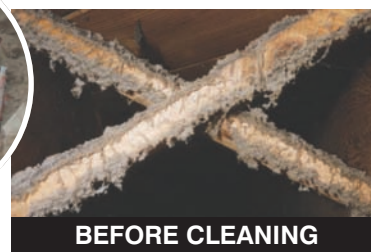
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## PHOTO

Continued from Page 31

- When photographing children or animals try crouching or getting lower for a different perspective.
- Keep in mind the background. Whatever you put in the background becomes part of the photo, so use it to show what was going on at that moment.

### Timing

- Take the photo at the right moment, while it's also composed and lit well with either natural light or a flash.
- This part takes a little bit of family observation. You want to take the photo at a 'peak moment.' For example, someone is laughing (take a photo); a wine cork is being popped (take a photo); someone's toddler throws a tantrum (also take a photo.)
- Some cameras, whether phone or actual, are slower than others, so keep this in mind when timing your photo.

## DON'T DO THAT ...

- Don't take photos with objects behind the subject's head. It will be distracting or funny later on.
- Don't take a photo without a subject. Many casual photos tend to be from too far away. Unless you have a zoom lens, get closer.
- Don't hold it vertically. Some photos are best composed this way. But usually, photos that show more background than the subject's legs will tell more of a story. Shoot horizontally first.
- Don't be afraid to experiment. Your camera can always be returned to its default factory settings, so feel free to turn dials and try different settings. Also, smartphone cameras are improving with every generation — play with all the new features and see what works.



## DELAYS

Continued from Page 27

the blender instead of using a hand mixer, “exploding” mashed potatoes as high as the ceiling?

Have you ever put a holiday dinner in the oven and forgotten to turn it on or underestimate just how long it would take to cook a frozen lasagna?

Here are a few “holiday mishaps” that will either make you smile at the memory or cringe at the catastrophe:

### A tale (or tail) of chocolate

During the holidays quite a few years ago, a local couple from Fenton Township, who asked to remain anonymous, accepted a gift of a 3-pound box of chocolates from dear friends.

They put the box up on a table to keep it out of the way, and left their two young children and dog in the care of their grandparents while they went out for the evening.

The grandparents then took the young kids out for a quick dinner.

Well, it appears that kids aren't the only ones who love chocolate. The dog sniffed the candies, pulled the box down off the table and ate nearly every piece of wrapped chocolate candy.

It didn't take long for the grandparents to find out what had happened in their absence, because the poor pup left “puke mounds” all over the house.

“It totally ruined our carpet, and that's when we got all new wood floors for our house,” said the woman. “No amount of carpet cleaning could fix this mess. The discoloring in the carpet kept reappearing.”

The moral of this Christmas story is to make sure that chocolate is always out of reach from pets — not because of the mess, but because chocolate can be toxic to dogs. It can even kill a dog, but it's more likely that the dog will get very sick.

Don't take any chances if your dog gets into your holiday chocolates, or your poinsettia plant, holly or mistletoe. Call the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals' 24-hour poison hotline (888-426-4435) or call your veterinarian right away.

### Christmas pageant puking

Linda Foreman of Tyrone Township

recalls a time when she had to care for a sick child, a family friend, at a church Christmas program rehearsal, but this incident wasn't from too much chocolate, it was a traveling flu bug.

“I had to clean this kid's puke off the church carpet,” said Foreman, chuckling at the memory. “I got the flu, but was over it by Christmas Day, unlike the rest of the family and my in-laws.”

### Travel terrors

On Christmas Eve 2016, the Steve and Laura Legant family of Holly were flying from Bishop International Airport in Flint to Rapid City, South Dakota, to spend Christmas with their son and his family.

The traveling trio, which included their daughter, Rose, who was 11 at the time, was prepared for a short layover in Chicago. What they hadn't expected was a huge delay when they got word that the

Rapid City airport was shut down due to a huge winter blizzard.

“There were no flights from Chicago to Rapid City for two days, so we flew to Denver,” said Legant, who was undergoing chemotherapy for breast cancer at the time. “We slept at a quiet gate, waiting through multiple flight delays.”

Legant recalls making a “fort” with a blanket draped across their carry-on luggage, to pass the time and entertain Rose. “My daughter remembers that as one of her favorite Christmases.”

The sort-of-happy ending? The Legants arrived in Rapid City on Dec. 26, just two days after Santa Claus.

### A true happy ending

Chuck and Sandy Berra of Fenton got married on Christmas Eve, 1971, and instead of being a holiday “mishap,” Chuck admits that marrying Sandy was “the best thing I've ever done.”

The couple have been married 48 years this coming Christmas Eve and were married at an Assembly of God church in Mt. Clemens. “The uncle of my best friend, who was killed in Vietnam, married us,” Chuck said.

Christmas Eve and their anniversary become a very special celebration every year.

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8		2					6	9
1		3	5		6			
			1		9			
			2			1		6
4	1					5		3
				1				
	6	9			4		8	


*Answers in this Sunday's edition of the Tri-County Times*

# Midweek Jumble

**JUMBLE**

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.


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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

*Answers in this Sunday's edition of the Tri-County Times*

# Midweek Crossword

**KING FEATURES**

**ACROSS**

1 Birth-related  
6 Sphere  
9 "Great!"  
12 React to rev-eille  
13 Spelling contest  
14 "— not choose to run"  
15 Bottled spirit?  
16 Madison Avenue music  
18 Eden, for one  
20 Agts.  
21 Crony  
23 Moment  
24 Nuts  
25 The same, in bibliographies  
27 Primly self-restrained  
29 Hide and —  
31 Fails to  
35 Buckwheat porridge  
37 Catastrophic  
38 Wit  
41 Lubricant  
43 Tandoor-baked bread  
44 Hibernia  
45 In the course of  
47 Rubs elbows  
49 Lightweight wood  
52 Light touch  
53 Lemieux milieu  
54 Tools for duels  
55 Bashful  
56 Forerunner of Windows  
57 Endures

**DOWN**

1 Rundown horse  
2 Exist  
3 Prickly sensations  
4 One side of the Urals  
5 Villainous looks  
6 Thing  
7 Check  
8 Stein or Stiller  
9 — mignon  
10 Skilled  
11 Domineering  
17 Marked a report card  
19 Classroom array  
21 Glutton  
22 Big bother  
24 Life story, for short  
26 Vietnam river  
28 Legendary firefighter Red  
30 Listener  
32 \$1 bills  
33 2nd Amdt. proponents  
34 X rating? buys  
36 "Monopoly" Jute fibers  
38 Dickens' Mr. Heep  
40 Like some mouthwashes and tooth-pastes  
42 Written slander  
45 Art — California wine valley  
48 Cover  
50 Prepared  
51 Balaam's carrier

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# Horoscopes

For the week of  
**November 24, 2019**

## ARIES

**Mar 21/Apr 20**

Aries, even though you're not typically wild and crazy by nature, a more risk-taking, playful side comes out this week. Your significant other or friends may be caught off guard.

## TAURUS

**Apr 21/May 21**

Taurus, even if you are confronted by bad news this week, do not let it sideline you for too long. You are resilient and can bounce back quickly.

## GEMINI

**May 22/June 21**

You may decide to reveal a secret side of yourself, Gemini. There is a part of you that is looking for a deeper level of intimacy, and you are ready to take the next step.

## CANCER

**June 22/July 22**

Cancer, this is a good time to rest and relax. Although you might have many chores to tackle and bills to pay, do what you can to disconnect from work and worries.

## LEO

**July 23/Aug 23**

Home and technology figure largely this week. You may spend time rewiring a home or changing internet providers, Leo. Get the job finished promptly so you can relax.

## VIRGO

**Aug 24/Sept 22**

Virgo, you may have heard about being in the right place at the right time. This is especially true when trying to make a romantic match, which could be a possibility soon.

## LIBRA

**Sept 23/Oct 23**

A jolt of physical energy this week could be the push you need to get some hard work done, Libra. Home improvements or a project at work can be the focus.

## SCORPIO

**Oct 24/Nov 22**

You may have too much to do around the house and no idea where to start, Scorpio. Do not throw up your hands in frustration. Work on one thing at a time.

## SAGITTARIUS

**Nov 23/Dec 21**

Be a cheerleader this week for others who may need a boost of positivity, Sagittarius. You are generally great at encouraging others to put their best selves forward.

## CAPRICORN

**Dec 22/Jan 20**

Capricorn, your discipline in how you approach your goals impresses others. As a result, you may soon be called on to help others with their own work.

## AQUARIUS

**Jan 21/Feb 18**

Aquarius, if you have been running yourself ragged, you need to pull back and look at the bigger picture. Being down for the count for pushing yourself too much can be detrimental.

## PISCES

**Feb 19/Mar 20**

Pisces, all it takes is a few tweaks and you will have the answer that you have been seeking. Be patient and stay the course.

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Fenton graduate Jacob Lee (center) continues to perform well for the University of Michigan men's cross country team. Photo: Michigan athletics

# Area cross country runners thriving at the collegiate level

**By David Troppens**

Since the turn of the century, cross country has been the tri-county area's top sport.

Area teams win league titles, qualify for the state meet, place well at the state and even once (Linden) won a state championship.

So it shouldn't be a shock to recognize that the area has plenty of collegiate

athletes competing on high-level college cross country programs. The sports staff thought we'd update some of those athletes.

**Jacob Lee**

The Fenton graduate and University of Michigan redshirt junior on the cross country team is capping the season with the Wolverines by preparing for this weekend's NCAA Championship meet

after the squad earned an at-large bid to the event. The Wolverines, which finished third at the Big Ten Championships, also placed third at the Great Lakes Regional on Nov. 15 at the University of Wisconsin. Purdue won the regional with 79 points while Notre Dame (85), Michigan (86) and Indiana (87) wrapped up a competitive top four.

**See RUNNERS on 39**

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2019 | PAGE 37 | MYFENTON.COM/SPORTS

## Sports Times

### Fenton's Shegos making her mark with Illini diving team

**By David Troppens**

Taylor Shegos had an outstanding high school career while competing on Fenton's varsity swimming and diving team as a diver.

The 2018 graduate competed at the Division 2 state meet each of her four seasons, earning All-State honors each of her final three seasons.

After placing 17th her freshman season, she placed fifth her sophomore year and placed second in each of her final two years.

Now, Shegos is displaying her diving talents at the University of Illinois.

In the middle of her sophomore season, Shegos recently was named the Big Ten Diver of the Week.

**See SHEGOS on 38**

### : Decker being inducted into Greater Flint HOF

**By David Troppens**

Sports have always played a large role in Julie (Roberts) Decker's life.

A 1977 Fenton High School graduate, she was one of the Tigers' greatest three-sports athletes of all time, competing in basketball, volleyball and track. She eventually became a member of the Fenton High School Athletic Hall of Fame (HOF).

She continued her athletic career in college, competing in basketball and volleyball at Central Michigan University. Again, her performances were so outstanding, Decker eventually was inducted in the Central Michigan University Athletic Hall of Fame in 1991.

Decker still remains very active in the athletics, playing a lot of volleyball around the world. But it looks like she may have to take at least one night away from playing athletics so

she can be inducted into her third Hall of Fame. Decker is being inducted into the Greater Flint Athletic Hall of Fame on Dec. 7 at the Genesys Banquet and Conference Center.

"I was quite honored and surprised," Decker said. "My Father-in-law LeRoy Decker was inducted in 2001 ... and I found out my mom nominated me. It's an honor because she always felt bad that I should've been in there already. We knew others in the Genesee County area already in and she felt I was right there with them. But when you look at the book and see



Fenton 1977 graduate Julie (Roberts) Decker (left) will be inducted into the Greater Flint Athletic Hall of Fame Dec. 7. She is pictured here with Linda Chesebro on the date of her induction into the Fenton High School Athletic Hall of Fame. File photo

some of the elite athletes in the hall — some played in the NFL, in MLB

**See DECKER on 38**

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Julie (Roberts) Decker attempts a shot during her Fenton varsity girls basketball career. Decker is being inducted into the Greater Flint Athletic Hall of Fame on Dec. 7. Photo: Detroittitans.com

## DECKER

Continued from Page 37

and some were Olympic athletes and world champions — I thought it was quite an honor.”

Decker was a three-time all-league basketball player and track performer while at Fenton High School, and also was an all-league volleyball player for two years. She earned All-State Honorable Mention status in basketball her final season. Decker was unable to finish her prep athletic career her senior season due to an appendix rupture during March 1977. She was unable to play in the volleyball team's state quarterfinal contest and also missed her entire track season. She held Fenton's women's two-mile record (11:44) and one-mile record (5:18) at the time she graduated.

“It was frustrating,” Decker said.

However, her medical condition didn't keep her from continuing an outstanding athletic career at Central Michigan University. She competed on the volleyball, basketball and track teams earning CMU HOF honors with her performances in basketball and volleyball.

In basketball she tied the school record for most rebounds in a game, grabbing 24 in two different games, only 21 days apart. She is still one of the school's all-time greatest rebounders, grabbing a school-best for a season with 449 during the 1979-80 season. She's third in all-time career rebounds with 1,089 grabs and is the all-time career leader in CMU history averaging 12.0 rebounds a game.

She's also stolen more balls than any other Chippewa in school history, collecting career 296 steals. Her 120 steals during the 1979-80 hoops season is the single-season individual record in CMU history.

In volleyball she was a first-team All-Mid-American Conference selection and the league's player of the year in 1980. She's ninth in school history with 1,005 kills during the pre-rally scoring era (until 2000) as well as the all-time career leader with 986 blocks.

Women's athletics were just starting to be given more legitimacy during the time Decker grew up. Title IX legislation was passed in 1972, five years before she graduated from high school.

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## SHEGOS

Continued from Page 37

Shegos helped lead the Fighting Illini to victories against Illinois State (210-90), Southern Illinois (176-123) and to a draw against Michigan State (150-150).

Shegos recorded three NCAA Zone qualifying scores, by beating all three foes in both diving competitions. In the tie against Michigan State, Shegos had a career-best score of 311.70 in the 3-meter diving competition. She also earned a 287.92 in the 1-meter event, earning firsts in both.

In the victories against Southern Illinois and Illinois State, Shegos won the 3-meter competition with a score of 284.30. She took fifth on the 1-meter board with a score of 225.25.

Since the tie with Michigan State, the Illini have had one more double-dual meet, losing to Florida International and



Fenton graduate and the University of Illinois diver Taylor Shegos was the Big Ten Diver of the Week recently. Photo: Fightingillini.com

Miami (Florida). At the meet, Shegos posted the Illni's top score in the platform diving competition (157.05) and the 3-meter diving event (230.05). She posted a score of 259.45 in the 1-meter diving competition.

During her freshman season, Shegos was an NCAA Zone C Diving Championship qualifier on the 1-meter and 3-meter boards. She had best scores of 281.55 on the 1-meter board and 285.52 on the 3-meter board during the season.

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## RUNNERS

Continued from Page 37

Lee was Michigan's sixth runner at the event, finishing the 10K race in 31:15.3. Lee finished the 8K race at the Big Ten Championships with a 26th-place time of 24:43.1. He also placed fourth at the Nuttycombe Wisconsin Invitational (24:43.1) and was Michigan's No. 2 runner at the Big Ten Preview, finishing with a time of 24:47.37.

### Thomas Mueller

University of Detroit-Mercy junior and Lake Fenton graduate Thomas Mueller competed at the NCAA Great Lakes Regional, placing 155th with a career-best time of 33:54 during the 10K race. Mueller placed 39th in the 8K race at the Horizon League Championships with a time of 25:44. His best 8K time of the year came at the Greater Louisville Classic when he finished with a time of 25:38.

### Samuel Deardorff, Thomas Hufton and Eric Niestroy

Fenton graduate and Saginaw Valley State University freshman Samuel Deardorff was one of the Cardinals' starting seven at the Division II Midwest Region Cross Country Championships on Nov. 9.

Deardorff finished 99th in the event with a 10K time of 34:21. The Cardinals finished fifth overall.

At the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference meet, Saginaw Val-

ley placed third with Deardorff placing 26th in 25:23.4.

Thomas Hufton and Eric Niestroy also spent the fall on the squad for their first year after graduating from Lake Fenton last spring. Both redshirt their first year but each competed in the program's first meet of the season at the Northwood Invitational. Hufton placed 23rd in the 5K race (19:58.1) and Niestroy placed 33rd (21:06.6).

### Jenna Keiser

Fenton graduate and Saginaw Valley State University's (SVSU) Keiser was the Cardinals' top finisher at the Division II Midwest Region Cross Country Championships on Nov. 9, placing 29th in the 6K event in a time of 21:50.0. Her time helped the Cardinals qualify for the DII National Championships being held in Sacramento, California on Saturday.

The SVSU women took second at the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Championship meet with Keiser placing 13th with a time of 22:10.6. Her best placing of the season is a third-place effort at the Northwood Invitational. She finished the 5K event in 18:35.5.

### Tanner Blaney and Mitchell Chabot

Tanner Blaney (Linden) and Mitchell Chabot (Fenton) are sophomores at Wayne State and are making their mark already.

Blaney finished 13th at the Detroit Titans Invitational, finishing the four-mile race in 21:38.2.

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Area graduates and Wayne State University men's cross country runners Mitchell Chabot (left) and Tanner Blaney (right) are making a big impact on the Warriors' squad. Photos: [wsuathletics.com](http://wsuathletics.com)



Lake Fenton graduate and University of Detroit Mercy cross country runner Thomas Mueller competed in the Division I NCAA Great Lakes Regional, posting a time of 33:54 in the 10K race. Photo: [Detroittitans.com](http://Detroittitans.com)

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