Three men arrested for Target break-in
Fenton police say trio broke glass doors at Fenton store, flee from officers in two counties

By Sharon Stone

Three men are in police custody following a break-in at the Target store in Fenton early Monday morning.

Lt. Jeff Cross said Fenton police received a call from corporate security for Target on Owen Road at 2:10 a.m., Monday, Jan. 13. Police were told that the security alarm had sounded and three individuals were inside the store. A description of the individuals and vehicle were provided to police.

Fenton police arrived at the store within two minutes of the call and spotted a black

See TARGET BREAK-IN on 2

Holly police trying to ID fake money suspects

Three individuals pass counterfeit $100 bills at Holly area businesses

By Sharon Stone

Three persons of interest are being sought by the Holly Police Department for passing counterfeit $100 bills in the village of Holly.

On Jan. 12, the individual pictured on page 6 is suspected of passing bills to at least three area businesses in the N. Holly Road area. All of the bills have the same serial

See FAKE MONEY on 6

Reality TV star requests rezoning of school building in Holly

Village Planning Commission will hold public hearing Jan. 22, followed by possible decision

By Vera Hogan

It is taking longer than originally anticipated but what has been dubbed the “Schoolhouse Project” in the village of Holly is moving forward.

The Holly Village Planning Commission will meet Wednesday, Jan. 22

See SCHOOL BUILDING on 6

2019 crime report

A few municipalities see drop in larceny rates

By Hannah Ball

In 2019, the most common crimes in the tri-county area were assaults, larcenies, and OWIs (operating a vehicle while intoxicated.)

Here are the local crime numbers

See CRIME REPORT on 8

“Excuse me, but do you happen to realize how expensive it is to ‘get a divorce’ and the mental anguish that goes along with it? Well, I don’t think so. Complaining is so much cheaper on the wallet and the mind.”

“Everyone raise your hand if you think we should start a gofundme page to help the fire hall restaurant get the town clock back working. Maybe they need help with repairs. We the people of Fenton really want this fixed. Is it too much to ask?”

“Moved to Linden last July. Attended December City Council meeting. As for the city moving forward, it’s in the hands of a very competent group of professionals. Go Linden.”
TARGET BREAK-IN
Continued from Front Page
Chevrolet Malibu driving out of the parking lot toward Owen Road. Police learned later that the car was reported stolen from Grand Rapids. Fenton police followed as the car entered northbound U.S. 23 at Owen Road. Police activated lights and sirens to initiate a traffic stop.

Genesee County Dispatch was alerted to the break-in and fleeing vehicle and multiple police agencies in Genesee County responded in an attempt to stop the vehicle. The car eventually exited the highway at Vienna Road and reentered the highway traveling southbound back through the Fenton area.

Livingston County police agencies were alerted to the situation and on-duty officers attempted to stop the vehicle. Stop sticks were deployed on U.S. 23 near Faussett Road. The car ran over the stop sticks, causing it to veer from the road and crash.

When the car crashed, all three occupants fled on foot. One of the suspects, a 17-year-old Grand Rapids male, was caught quickly by a Livingston County officer after a short foot pursuit. Cross was unsure which police agency apprehended the first suspect.

Several police agencies searched for the other two male suspects, however they were unable to locate them. Police used K-9 units and drone technology.

Several hours later, a tip came in to police indicating the location of the two other suspects. A motorist called police after being approached by the two suspects asking for help on Hyne Road, near U.S. 23. Officers in Livingston County located the two suspects and took them into custody for questioning.

The first male suspect caught was transported to the Genesee County Jail for questioning and pending charges.

Cross said Target reported that nothing was stolen from the Fenton store. The suspects gained entry by breaking two glass doors, which have since been replaced.

The lieutenant could not provide more details or identities about the suspects other than these three men were from the Grand Rapids area. One suspect is a juvenile.

Multiple Target stores across Michigan have been broken into in recent days. Cross said it is too early to determine if the suspects arrested Monday are responsible for the other Target break-ins.

Fenton police were assisted by officers from Linden, Grand Blanc Township, Metro Authority, Flint City, Flint Township, Argentine Township, Mt. Morris Township, Brighton, Green Oak Township, Michigan State Police, and deputies from Genesee, Livingston and Oakland County sheriff’s offices. Genesee and Livingston County Central Dispatch Centers also assisted.

Pending charges include possession of a stolen vehicle (five-year felony), breaking and entering (10-year felony) and fleeing and eluding police (five-year felony).

The case remains under investigation.

JANUARY IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH – KNOW WHAT TO LOOK FOR
According to the U.S. Department of Defense, one in six endangered runaways reported in the U.S. are likely to become victims of sex trafficking. January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month and the Michigan State Police (MSP) encourages you to learn the signs of human trafficking. Put your eyes to the test — watch the MSP “Look Again” video on YouTube to identify potential indicators of human trafficking. When you know what to look for, you can help bring an end to human trafficking. To report any suspicious, possible human trafficking activity, call (888) 373-7888.
Graduate gets ‘Hometown Support’ send-off

By Hannah Ball

Holly — A 19-year-old Holly schools graduate received a lot of “Hometown Support” on Monday, Jan. 13 before she left for the U.S. Air Force Basic Training the following morning.

Cecelia Velazquez and her family were escorted by the Holly police and fire departments and EMS to Holly High School where the marching band and choir played tribute songs in honor of her joining the military. The event turned emotional while the choir sang the national anthem and when the band played the U.S. Air Force song.

It was organized by the Holly Area Veterans Resource Center as part of its “Hometown Support for All on Active Duty” program.

“We want to help young people like her,” said James Golden, a Vietnam veteran and volunteer for the Holly Area Resource Center who started “Hometown Support.” “She’s just dear to my heart because she’s like the poster child for this. We wanted to make a big send-off for her to go to Air Force Boot Camp.”

Velazquez will spend eight-and-a-half weeks in San Antonio, Texas for training.

“I might want to make it (the Air Force) worth it,” she said. “I have an idea that money going to college just didn’t seem right to me for the future. I thought about doing something different. I like that style for her.”

She’s the first in her family to join any branch of the military.

“It’s very structured. You’re also very independent at the same time. I like that there are education benefits. If I want to study something else on the side, I could,” she said.

Planning a wedding?

Don’t miss our informative featured section

#Bridal 2020

Coming Sunday • January 19, 2020

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Flying into 2020 with new resolutions

If you’ve flown with checked baggage you’re aware of the weight limits, which are typically 40 pounds for domestic and 50 pounds for international. Because of those limits, waiting to check baggage can be a high-anxiety event, especially for my better half, Matt. As we approached the check-in counter for our first flight of 2020, Matt told the airline employee he was sure we were over. The bag was 35.6 pounds. It was very exciting, until the airline employee scolded Matt for thinking so negatively at the start of a new year. “She is right! New year, new positive attitude,” I said to Matt.

I’ve gone back and forth on New Year’s resolutions throughout my life, but ultimately I like them. I’m always curious what others are resolving to do, especially when it comes to business. I find the responses inspirational. With that in mind, here is what a few area business professionals and leaders are aiming for in 2020:

Christine Welsh, principal Kerning Advertising
My resolution for the New Year is to grow a small part of my business that can help other business owners succeed at social media. In 2019 I launched SocialSuccess-Toolbox.com, a social media content tool that provides businesses and organizations with a monthly calendar complete with media. In 2019 I launched SocialSuccess-Toolbox.com, a social media content tool that provides businesses and organizations with a monthly calendar complete with daily posts, along with graphics, videos and GIFs… With this simple tool, we find that businesses save time, worry and money, while growing their social media engagement. In 2020, my goal is to get this tool in the hands of as many business owners as we can, so that they may be more confident with social media.

Sue Osborn, Fenton mayor
My resolution for 2020 is to begin looking for a solution for funding for road improvement projects.

Wes Smith, group publisher, View Newspaper Group
“Reader engagement” is one of those newspaper industry terms that didn’t exist 10 years ago and is now pursued at some level by nearly every newspaper in the county. It encompasses everything from the tasks of a traditional circulation department to branding, events, community outreach, social media and more. In 2020, I will work to better understand and coordinate all of those activities and foster more.

Emily Caswell is the Brand Manager for View Group, the branding division of View Newspaper Group.

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What’s something you want that you can’t afford or that money can’t buy?

“A vacation home in hot weather, like Florida or the Carolinas.”
— Peg Wilson
Fenton Township

“Family being closer. Everyone getting along. Money can’t buy that. It can’t buy love and respect for other people.”
— Julia Bastedo
Gaines Township

“Continued good health for myself and family. Travel isn’t a part of it. I’m happy living in Fenton for the past 25 years. I was wish I had been able to grow up here.”
— Linda Blanco
Tyrone Township

“It wouldn’t be material things. Health and happiness.”
— Isabella Luck
Linden

“For people not to judge others on their beliefs and appearance. And of course a beach house would be nice.”
— Teresa Clark
Holly

KENNEDY APPROVED THE assassination of our ally, the president of South Vietnam. Although he denied it, Obama approved the assassination of Gaddafi in Libya. This action led to the death of the American ambassador to Libya. Where were the Democrats regarding presidential war powers?

ELISSA SLOTKIN’S LATEST TV ad is false. The ad states that Slotkin is new to Washington. Wrong. Slotkin was an Obama insider in the State Department and former CIA employee. Slotkin was sent back to Michigan to impeach Trump. Slotkin is a puppet of Nancy Pelosi.

NO WAY SHOULD we be asked to pay for road repairs through a special assessment on Margaret Drive with the amount of taxes we currently pay. However, if we have no choice then it should be repaired where needed and not totally torn up. Wish our representatives managed our tax dollars better.

WHILE SHOPPING FRIDAY evening my husband and I witnessed a woman belittle and berate her mother so horribly it brought tears to my eyes. So many of us would give anything to hug our moms just one more time. I hope this woman realizes this before it’s too late.
SEND-OFF  Continued from Page 3

Her parents were “mostly” okay with it, but it was a shock when she told them.

“One teacher of mine that I’m pretty close with was in the Army,” Velazquez said. “She was kind of surprised, but they’re all very excited. Even my friends are excited that I get to do this. They’re a little sad that I’m leaving but they’re excited for me that I get to go off and do what I want.”

After training, she’ll go to tech school in Mississippi, which is a month long. Velazquez will study how to do her job and then she’ll report to her first station, where she’ll get more hands-on education.

Velazquez’s mother, Shannon Hernandez-Cruz, said, “I just feel blessed and humbled. It’s just incredible. It’s more than I expected.”

The idea for “Hometown Support” started when Golden met Velazquez and asked what she was doing after high school. She said she planned to join the Air Force.

“I said, ‘I’m so proud of you,’” Golden said. “Whenever you go into a business or a factory, wherever you’re going to be employed at, they will teach you what they want you to do for them. But what they cannot teach you, Cecelia, is discipline and respect. I said, ‘the military will teach you that.’”

The Holly Area Veterans Resource Center maintains the ribbon tree at Holly Elementary School, which showcases yellow ribbons for each local person serving in the military. The ribbon stays on the tree the entire time the person is in the service. When they leave, the ribbon is cut off and given to the military member or their family.

Velazquez’s yellow ribbon will go on the tree soon. She’s the first woman and the 36th ribbon. She’s also the first person to be receive a “Hometown Support” send-off.

Golden plans to do this for everyone local leaving to serve, and he hopes these kinds of events become more popular nationwide.
SCHOOL BUILDING
Continued from Front Page
at 7 p.m. A public hearing will be held before planners consider the request to rezone from single family residential to commercial.

The old Holly Area Schools administration building at 111 College St. was purchased by Cari Cucksey, her husband, Vince Iafano, and a partner in 2016 from The River Church. The River Church

Cari Cucksey, her husband and another business partner are moving forward with the rehabilitation of the school building at 111 College St., which they

bought it from the school district in 2007.

Cucksey, a 1993 graduate of Fenton High School, is best known for hosting “Cash & Cari” on HGTV. She moved to Holly with Iafano, in 2015, after purchasing the historic downtown building that once housed the Holly Village offices.

She now runs her businesses, the RePurpose Shop, and an event venue called The Vault, and resides in the building.

Originally, Cucksey, her husband and partner planned to rehabilitate the building into a mixed-use boutique hotel, banquet center and speakeasy pub. They hoped to be completed and open by the end of 2018.

This week, Cucksey said they are definitely moving forward with the project, with one change.

“We plan to do it in phases. It is a big project,” she said. “Our plan is to build an event venue and boutique hotel. But probably not a speakeasy pub.”

Katy Golden, director of Holly’s Downtown Development Authority (DDA) and assistant village manager, said, “They are actively working on rehabilitating the building. As a village, we are excited to see development in that building. It has been vacant and deteriorating for many years. Vince and Cari are making significant investments in the building and property.”

When the plans for this project were first revealed in December 2017, Village Manager Jerry Walker said, “We are in desperate need of hotel rooms in the village with all the events occurring in and around us. This could really become a destination location. There are some challenges for sure being in a residential area but nothing that cannot be accommodated with a true team effort from all involved in the process, including the neighbors who are critical to the project’s success.”

There was one other purchase agreement for the property. The first developer’s intentions were to demolish two-thirds of the building, leaving only the two-story portion standing and they proposed to construct condominiums around the perimeter of the property,” Walker said. “This would have been tragic as all the history to the building would have been lost.”

The proposed demo portion was the single-story sections that were the oldest and designed by world-renowned architects of school buildings during that time period.

Walker said, “The current developers are anxious to work with the Holly Area Schools in preserving not only the properties history but also the school’s history and the students who previously attended there.”

Building information

- Built in 1913 (original stucco), 1927 and 1954
- Former college, school house, administration building and church
- Total 44,000 square feet
- Building to be 100-percent restored, preserving all original architecture
- The project will create multiple construction and full-time jobs when completed.

FAKE MONEY
Continued from Front Page
number and have a white strip on the backside of the bill.

According to Holly Police Chief Jerry Narsh, those who pass fake bills will usually try to make a purchase for a small amount in order to get a large amount of change to “laundry” the bill and get clean currency. They will often attempt to pass them at a busy time or when there are several customers waiting to rush a cashier.

Video surveillance indicates the pictured suspect was assisted by two black females, a younger woman with long braids and a second female in her 40s, heavy set and wearing a wig. All three suspects entered a white possible Ford Explorer and drove away from the area.

If you believe you have been victimized and have a bill in your possession, call the police department that services your area and file a report. If you have information about the crime or the identity of the suspects, please call the dispatch center to speak with an officer at (248) 858-4911 or the Holly Police Department at (248) 634-8221.
The Genesee County Bar Association Lawyer Referral Service

One of the proudest days of my life was Nov. 9, 1976, when I was sworn in as a new lawyer and officially became a member of the State Bar of Michigan.

It was an exciting time and within a very few days I decided to also join the local Genesee County Bar Association (GCBA).

Why did I join? The simple answer is that I wanted to be a part of an organization that could help me get started as a new attorney and have the opportunity to meet attorneys who certainly knew much more about how the practice of law worked in real life terms.

I have been a member ever since and have benefited greatly in a number of ways.

The GCBA has grown immensely since 1976 in both numbers and services and has a website gcbalaw.org, which contains information for not only the membership but also the public.

I won’t detail it all here, but today I want to talk about one of the services that the GCBA offers to the public called the Lawyer Referral Service.

It started in 1977 and is for those who don’t have an attorney, need legal advice and/or representation, and is comprised of a panel of lawyers who have various legal specialties. When you call the service, you’re asked questions about your legal matter and then referred to a lawyer who has expertise in that area of the law.

There is a $30 charge payable to the GCBA Lawyer Referral Service for a one half hour consultation. This fee helps defray the costs of running the program.

At the end of the appointment, you decide if your legal questions have been sufficiently answered or if you want to retain the lawyer.

All of the panel attorneys have a deep commitment to the law. I could go on about Lawyer Referral but I won’t. Suffice it to say that the website has much more information. The phone number is (810) 232-6012.

I could not be prouder to be a member of the GCBA.

POLICE & FIRE REPORT

Compiled by Sharon Stone

ELEVEN ANIMALS DIE IN GAINES TOWNSHIP BARN FIRE

Ten cows and one horse died in a barn fire early Monday morning in Gaines Township. Fenton Township Fire Chief Ryan Volz said his department responded to the 911 call at 12:43 a.m., Monday, Jan. 13. A barn in the 11100 block of Hogan Road, just south of W. Ray Road, caught fire. Volz said the fire spread quickly and was brought under control at 1:35 a.m. The cause of the fire is unknown at this time, however, it remains under investigation. Aside from Gaines Township and Fenton Township fire departments, Fenton and Linden cities as well as Mundy Township assisted through mutual aid.

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A BRIEF SITE HISTORY

2002 — Plans for development are approved.

Attorney Dale Smith was the Holly Township supervisor at the time. “The economic climate was very strong in the early 2000s,” Smith said. “Real property values were very high and there was a true need for additional housing in light of the multiple job opportunities in northern Oakland County in particular.”

2004 — The project led in part to a $13 million expansion to the existing wastewater treatment plant on Airport Drive. According to a 2004 Times article, the expanded facility would service the new “Pulte subdivision” along Grange Hall Road.

Trouble started in late 2004, when the development of the north side of the project was halted. According to a 2004 Times article, the property owned by The Silverman Group (Company) was to be developed by Pulte Homes. There were 800 new homes, condominiums and even shopping centers planned for construction.

The “current market” was one reason cited by the owner of Silverman at the time.

Smith said he can blame the failure of the project on the banking industry and “glut” of sub-prime loans. The problem ended up falling on village residents. The $13 million expansion was funded by bonds, which eventually had to be paid back.

Municipal water systems are purely user supported and without fees and even talks of annexation by the village to extend police and snow removal services to the township property.

“The economy’s turned around,” said Holly Township Supervisor George Kullis. “Home values have caught up with the market … a lot of things are turning around and people are feeling confident, and people are building and selling homes.”

The development was generally known as the “Silverman-Pulte” project. Pulte Homes is no longer handling construction. Horizon Homes is building on Riverside North and Clearview Homes is handling Riverside South, according to Kullis.

Riverside North had seven homes before this resurgence, Kullis said. Today there are 30 homes and six under construction. Riverside Gardens on the south side of Grange Hall Road has six new homes and seven under construction, said Kullis.

The subdivisions are in Holly Township, with Holly Village water and sewer service. Every new user on the village
CRIME REPORT
Continued from Front Page
from 2019.

City of Fenton, provided by Lt. Jeff Cross
Police report 106 incidents of OWIs and OUIDs (operating while under the influence of drugs) in 2019, compared with 71 incidents in 2018.

Retail fraud continues to be one of Fenton’s most common crimes, with 96 incidents in 2019, compared to 100 in 2018. There were 61 other fraud reports last year and 71 in 2018.

Larceny from auto cases increased from 28 to 31, and car thefts dropped from 11 in 2018 to five in 2019.

There were 63 incidents of assault in 2019, a small increase from the 61 the year prior.

Police responded to 24 drug-related offenses in 2019. Criminal sexual conduct cases saw a slight increase of 13 in 2018 to 16 in 2019, and breaking and entering incidents decreased from 23 to 18.

Police report three cases of stalking, one arson case and zero cases of homicide for 2019.

Fenton Township, provided by Genesse County Interim Sheriff Chris Swanson
Retail fraud was the most common crime in the township in 2019 with 109 incidents, followed by assaults at 94. Police report 62 cases of larceny and larceny from auto, 32 OWIs, 11 breaking and entering cases, and eight criminal sexual conduct cases. There were four drug-related offenses, one arson case, one stalking case and zero homicides.

Linden, provided by Police Chief Scott Sutter
In 2019, Linden’s most common crime was assault at 11, an increase from nine in 2018. The number of larcenies stayed the same at nine. Officers responded to four incidents of OWIs in 2019.

The city had three cases of larceny from auto (nine in 2018), three cases of retail fraud (zero in 2018) and one report of breaking and entering in 2019 (four in 2018). Sutter reported no cases of homicide, criminal sexual conduct or car theft.

Argentine Township, provided by

Police Chief Daniel Allen
Police report 38 cases of OWIs, 17 fraud cases, 14 assaults, and 11 drug offenses. There were 11 reports of damage to property, nine reports of larceny, eight reports of breaking and entering and five cases of larceny from auto. The township had five cases of criminal sexual conduct, three stolen vehicles, one retail fraud, one arson and zero homicides.

Holly Township, provided by F/Lt. Michael Shaw of the Michigan State Police
In 2019, the MSP reported 25 cases of assault (aggravated and non-aggravated), 21 cases of OWIs, 11 cases of breaking and entering, and 10 cases of larceny and larceny from auto.

There were eight cases of retail fraud, four cases of stalking, four cases of drug-related offenses and three cases of criminal sexual conduct. MSP reports zero cases of car theft, arson or homicide.

Holly Village, provided by Police Chief Jerry Narsh
The village experienced 25 incidents of larceny and larceny from auto in 2019 compared to 39 in 2018, the most significant drop in a crime category. Assaults decreased from 33 in 2018 to 22 in 2019 and drug-related offenses increased from seven to 20. Retail fraud numbers almost remained the same at 14 in 2018 and 15 in 2019.

There were 13 cases of breaking and entering in 2019, compared to 10 in 2018. Police reported eight cases of criminal sexual conduct in 2019 and five in 2018. OWIs decreased from nine to four in that time period. Vehicle theft decreased from two to one.

Arson cases decreased from two to zero, and police report zero cases of homicides or stalking in either year.

State’s lowest paid workers see pay increase

Recent 20-cent per hour bump in pay impacts approximately 3 percent of workers

By Tim Jagielo
On Jan. 1, Michigan’s minimum wage increased from $9.45 per hour to $9.65 per hour. Tipped workers’ minimum wage increased from $3.59 to $3.67. This is part of the gradual increase set in Public Act 337 of 2018, also known as the Improved Workforce Opportunity Wage Act. The next increase is in January 2021 to $9.87 and $3.75 (tipped workers), according to the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA).

The federal minimum wage is $7.25 an hour. About half of U.S. states have higher than federal minimum wage, and Michigan sits near the middle in regards to hourly pay. Some states have lower minimum wage than the federal amount. Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina and Tennessee have no minimum wage laws. Wyoming’s minimum wage is $5.15. According to the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), workers receive the higher of the two. According to the DOL, tipped workers report making less than non-tipped workers.

While this increase is good news for minimum wage workers, just 2.7 percent of hourly workers made the federal minimum wage or less, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics in 2016.

Chris Douglas, University of Michigan-Flint associate professor of economics, said this increase will only impact a small amount of the working population, if the goal in fact, is to help those on the poverty line.

Some businesses pay higher than state wage due to the market. According to salary.com, the median fast food worker in Michigan makes $11.47 an hour or $22,020 annually in late 2019.

Whenever there is an increase, there are concerns about minimum wage depressing hiring or leading to the automation of jobs, Douglas said. In short, it could have a negative unintended consequence of lowering employment for people in this job market. While a controversial viewpoint, he said some economists don’t agree with this. Douglas said that because the economy is strong, and that the increase is gradual at about $2.25 per hour, it’s unlikely to have such a negative impact.

If the increase was more dramatic in a weak economy, such as quickly increasing to $12 or $15 an hour, it could hurt the profit margins enough for a business to increase prices or automate jobs.

Douglas said the goal for a wage increase is to increase the pay for those closest to the poverty line. Asingle, childless adult making $12,490 annually is making poverty wages according to the 2019 U.S. Federal Poverty Guidelines. This translates to about $6.50 per hour for a 40-hour week. Douglas believes that minimum wage increases are a “blunt instrument” for helping those close to poverty.
Cure for ‘Cabin Fever’ 2020

Winter concert series features acoustic duo, blues band and Irish quartet

Compiled by Sharon Stone

After a successful first year, the city of Fenton Arts & Culture Commission (FACC) is bringing back the Cabin Fever Concert Series for winter 2020. Cabin Fever will be held at the Fenton Community & Cultural Center (FCCC) on Thursday, Jan. 30, Feb. 27 and March 12, from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

“I’m very excited for this year’s concert line-up,” said Eric Szczepanski, Cabin Fever concert chair and FACC board member. “Joining us this year is Kristen & Andrew Music, Mike Espy and the Vehicle City All-Stars, and Finvarra’s Wren.”

Kristen & Andrew Music are a musical duo from Livingston County. They cover a variety of musical styles from country, rock and oldies. They will kick off Cabin Fever on Jan. 30 in the FCCC VanGilder Room. Tickets are $10 each.

Michael Espy & The Vehicle City All-Stars are a rhythm and blues band comprised of artists from around the Flint and Genesee County area. The group will perform Feb. 27 in the FCCC Recreation Room. Tickets are $10 each.

Finvarra’s Wren, an Irish quartet from Detroit, are known for their intense dedication to their instruments and west coast Ireland sound. They’ll close out Cabin Fever with a free — family and kid-friendly concert March 12 in the FCCC’s main hall.

Tickets are on sale at Fenton’s Open Book, FCCC Office (cash only) and online through Eventbrite at FentonArts.eventbrite.com. Tickets include a special coupon offer for Free Focaccia Cheese Bread with purchase of large pizza at the Fenton Winery & Brewery (dine-in only and must present ticket).

“The proceeds will be used to offset concert costs and help us leverage matching grants for programs like Cabin Fever, Meet the Author, and summer arts camps for children,” said Pat Lockwood, mayor pro-tem and FACC chairwoman.

Cabin Fever is sponsored by the city of Fenton Downtown Development Authority, Fenton Community and Cultural Center, Fenton Winery & Brewery, The State Bank, and The ACE of Fenton. The FACC is also supported in part by a matching grant from Share Art Genesee, which is funded by the Genesee County Arts Education and Cultural Millage.
Fenton’s Lainesse leads our area football squad

By David Troppens

Jaden Lainesse entered the Fenton varsity football season with one primary individual goal.

“I wanted to get as many tackles as possible,” Lainesse said. “I wanted to help out however I could. When I missed the first week (a loss against Davison) due to mono, it was hard watching them play and not being on the field. Once I got back, I was eager to do the best I possibly could because I knew it was my last year playing high school football.”

Lainesse, a linebacker, did plenty to help the Tigers. With him in the lineup, the ‘Tigers never lost a regular season contest, and helped the Tigers’ defense allow just 83 points over the next eight regular season contests. But as the year continued he started making more of an impact with the Tigers’ running game.

Continued at TCTimes.com

2019 Football Player of the Year
Jaden Lainesse

Rest of 2019 football team is on Page 12.

Lund heats up, leads Eagles by Dragons

By David Troppens

Linden — Blake Lund is different than many other star players on their prep basketball teams.

There are times while watching a Linden varsity boys basketball game it’s easy to forget he’s on the court. Sometimes other teammates are hot or maybe a foe is playing strong defense against Linden’s junior perimeter shooting wizard so his point production doesn’t grow considerably high.

But just because he’s quiet for five minutes, 10 minutes or even for a full half, that doesn’t mean Lund will remain quiet. In fact, in most cases that’s the best indication the eventual hot streak is about to surface.

That was the scenario during Linden’s 61-47 victory at home against the visiting Swartz Creek Dragons. Lund had just one bucket in the first half. He had just five first-half points as Linden held on to a 24-21 halftime lead against the visiting Swartz Creek Dragons.

However, the third quarter was a different story. Lund hit on 5-of-9 field goals, including four three-pointers, scoring 18 of his game-high 29 points during the eight-minute session. During the run, he put Swartz Creek’s top offensive player, Terrian Armstrong, in foul trouble and put the Eagles ahead 46-33 entering the final period. Swartz Creek would cut into the lead during the fourth quarter, but would never lead again as the Eagles (5-1) remain the only undefeated in Metro League Stripes Division (3-0) play.

The biggest Lund buckets came right after Swartz Creek’s Christopher Gill tied the game up at 24-24 with a three-pointer just 36 seconds into the third quarter.

Continued at TCTimes.com

By David Troppens

The Lake Fenton varsity boys basketball team has worked hard.

The Blue Devils have had plenty of games where they had a great chance to earn a victory.

However, five games into the season the squad still was looking for its first victory.

That string ended on Friday. The Blue Devils dominated the final three quarters of their road contest, earning a 66-47 victory against Owosso.

“Obviously getting a win means a lot,” Lake Fenton varsity boys basketball coach Josh Fox said. “They have put so much hard work into it and they finally were able to see the reward and get the win. The adversity they have felt with the losses, no one has ever come into practices defeated. They saw what we were trying to do, worked hard and I give them full credit.”

The Blue Devils trailed 14-9 after one quarter, but steadily took control of the contest. Francis Senter and Matt Turgeon led the charge from off the bench, combining for 31 team points.

Continued at TCTimes.com
Spencer opens 2020 with first bout of year on FOX Saturday

By David Troppens

Joey Spencer has made a name for himself in the boxing world.

In two years, he’s posted a 9-0 professional record, knocking out seven of his foes. Of course, eight of the Linden teenager’s fights have been on national television as well.

Recently, for the second straight year, Spencer was voted by boxing fans as the Premier Boxing Champions Prospect of the Year.

And now, Spencer is getting another chance to climb the professional ladder again when he faces Erik Spring on Fox Network on Saturday at 8 p.m. The bout at Philadelphia’s Liacouras Centers is scheduled for six rounds.

Saturday’s bout will represent Spencer’s most experienced and seasoned professional foe of his career. Spencer’s first nine opponents have combined to win 29 bouts (an average of less than three victories each).

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM

Tigers win thriller vs. Kearsley

By David Troppens

Early on, it didn’t look like the Fenton Tigers were in any position to earn their third varsity boys basketball victory of the season at Kearsley.

The Tigers trailed 15-0 early on and still trailed 18-3 after one quarter.

However, the Tigers rebounded, took the lead and held on down the stretch, earning a 48-47 Metro League victory.

“We didn’t make any shots early on,” Fenton varsity boys basketball coach Chad Logan said. “We didn’t take bad shots, but we didn’t make them.”

After the slow start, the shots started going in. Fenton trailed just 22-18 by halftime and led 36-32 by the end of the third quarter. Down the stretch, the Tigers had a nice lead but were unable to make free throws when they needed to in order to ice the game.

The Tigers missed three front ends of one-and-ones, allowing Kearsley to cut the gap to 48-47. Kearsley had a shot at earning the win, but the initial shot was missed. However, Kearsley got the offensive rebound and a putback attempt was missed as well.

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM

Online Stories

Fenton girls stung by Kearsley Hornets

The Fenton varsity girls basketball team is looking for some more offense.

The Tigers played a strong Flint Kearsley opponent on the road Friday night, and played well. However, Kearsley remained undefeated in Metro League Stripes Division play by beating the Tigers 46-37.

Holly girls basketball loses to Flushing, 53-29

A slow start cost the Holly varsity girls basketball team Friday night.

Flushing jumped to a 16-3 lead after one quarter, eventually resulting in a 53-29 victory against the Bronchos.

Holly scored 12 points in the second quarter, but Flushing scored another 21 points.

Linden girls struggle vs. Swartz Creek Dragons

Linden — The Linden varsity girls basketball team has struggled to score points in recent weeks.

That trend continued on Friday.

Linden scored only 14 points over the first 24 minutes of the Eagles’ contest against Swartz Creek, resulting in a 67-25 loss.

The Eagles (1-6) scored at least 32 points in each of their first four games, but have been held to 26 or less in each of their most recent three contests.

Meanwhile, the Dragons (4-3) have only scored less than 40 points once this season and that trend continued Friday night.

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Times
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LFLF gymnastics team competes in recent meets

By David Troppens

The Linden/Fenton/Lake Fenton gymnastics team competed against Fowlerville/Byron recently and posted a solid team score of 135.9.

They also competed against Holt in a recent dual meet and had a team score of 132.05.

Against Fowlerville/Byron, Apryl Smith led the LFLF squad by posting two of the team’s top scores. She led the team on the beam with a score of 9.475. She also had the team’s best score on the vault as well. She also had counting scorers in the bars and the floor.

Lauren Hayden also had two of the team’s top scores. She led the squad on the floor with a score of 9.025. She also had the team’s top score on the bars while posting a team-qualifying score on the beam and the vault (9.175).

The LFLF team had a strong showing on the beam. Maty Temrowski had a score of 9.275 on the beam while Avery Miller also had a counting score on the beam.

Temrowski had a team-qualifying score in all four events as did Miller.

Against Holt, Smith had a 9.2 on the beam, leading the squad in the event. She also had the team’s top score on the floor.

LFLF gymnast Avery Miller competes during a recent competition. Times photo: Christopher Summers

LF girls earn another blowout win

By David Troppens

It would be an understatement to say the first two games of Lake Fenton’s varsity girls basketball team’s 2020 portion of the schedule has gone well. For the second time during the week, the Blue Devils earned mercy-victory, defeating Owosso 73-22 Friday night. The Blue Devils also earned the 40-point continuous clock mercy win against Linden (69-26) Tuesday.

“It was a solid trip and a solid night for playing time,” Lake Fenton varsity girls basketball coach Brian VanBuren said.

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM

2019 TRI-COUNTY FOOTBALL TEAM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Player of the Year</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>School</th>
<th>All-State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jaden Lainesse</td>
<td>Linebacker/Running back</td>
<td>Fenton</td>
<td>HMent - AP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Comment:</strong> Lainesse was one of the Tigers’ strong two-way players who spent most of his playing time at linebacker. He had 75 tackles, including 29 of the solo variety. As the year went on he had a stronger role on offense, rushing for 367 yards and eight TDs.</td>
<td></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rest of first team</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Josh Thompson</td>
<td>O-line</td>
<td>Fenton</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mike Miller</td>
<td>O-line</td>
<td>Fenton</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jensen Walker</td>
<td>O-line</td>
<td>Lynn</td>
<td>HMent - AP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ben Muenzer</td>
<td>O-line</td>
<td>Lake Fenton</td>
<td>HM - FC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael O’Brien</td>
<td>Quarterback</td>
<td>Lake Fenton</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dylan Davidson</td>
<td>Quarterback</td>
<td>Linden</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colby Kohimescher</td>
<td>Running back</td>
<td>Fenton</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brandon Miller</td>
<td>R Back/D End</td>
<td>Lake Fenton</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Hamilton</td>
<td>End/Linebacker</td>
<td>Fenton</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Seeger DeGayner</td>
<td>End</td>
<td>Lynn</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Brenden Miller</td>
<td>End</td>
<td>Fenton</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lucas Claborn</td>
<td>Kicker</td>
<td>Fenton</td>
<td>First-AP, HM - FC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ryan Miller</td>
<td>D-line</td>
<td>Fenton</td>
<td>HMent - FC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Braden Moore</td>
<td>D-line</td>
<td>Fenton</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austin Henard</td>
<td>Defensive end</td>
<td>Fenton</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Will Smith</td>
<td>Linebacker</td>
<td>Fenton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cole Patterson</td>
<td>Linebacker</td>
<td>Fenton</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Kolten Steele</td>
<td>Linebacker</td>
<td>Lynn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kaleb Anderson</td>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td>Fenton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Steven Bloss</td>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td>Fenton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brady Triola</td>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td>Fenton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ryan Miller</td>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td>Fenton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brenden Miller</td>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td>Lynn</td>
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**Note:** The players on the team and the Player of the Year were selected by the sports staff, with the aid of the all-league teams. Two All-State teams are recognized here — The Associated Press (AP) and the Michigan High School Coaches Association (FC). Players are listed based on position and not in any other particular order.
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**Midweek Jumble**

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

- CRATT
- ROSYR
- CIXEET
- LANSOM

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

**Midweek Sudoku**

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

**Midweek Crossword**

**ACROSS**
1. Grill fill  
6. Easily split rock  
12. Give in  
13. Beer gut  
14. Fitting  
15. "Camelot" role  
16. First victim  
17. Bullets and such  
19. Big bother  
20. Director Kazan  
22. Unruly group  
24. Trouble  
27. Taj Mahal city  
28. "— Misbehavin'"  
32. New Orleans neighborhood  
35. Criterion  
36. Yanks  
37. Sauce source  
38. That girl  
40. Send forth  
42. Raw rock  
44. Sheltered  
46. Capri, e.g.  
50. Swiss city  
52. Country  
54. TV's Superman  
55. Nasal qualities  
56. First-born  
57. Have a hunch

**DOWN**
1. "— Your Enthusiasm*  
2. Reed instrument  
3. More than enough  
4. Whopper  
5. Unwavering  
6. Unwanted email  
7. Ricochet, in billiards  
8. Shack  
9. Occupies  
10. Gulf War missile  
11. "Comin' — the Rye"  
12. Masseur's workplace  
13. Theater canopy  
14. Fond du —, Wis.  
15. Scull need  
16. Sternward Anger  
17. Diminished  
18. Increases  
19. Ultramodernist  
20. Have a go at  
21. Ultimate  
22. Icicles' homes  
23. Saturn's largest moon  
24. Storybook baddie  
25. Stagger  
26. Playgoers' box  
27. Deadly septet  
28. Type measures  
29. Previous night  
30. Shock and —

**Horoscopes**

**ARIES**
Mar 21/Apr 20  
The stars pull you deeper into the cocoon of your mind, Aries. This may help you as you work on a project or work through thoughts and emotions.

**TAURUS**
Apr 21/May 21  
This is a week to take inventory of any goals that you may have put on a shelf, Taurus. Dust them off and create a plan of action because the time to pursue them is now.

**CANCER**
Jun 21/Jul 22  
This week will get off to a social start, Cancer. Expect friends to bring other friends along if you are hosting a party. This is an exciting opportunity to expand your network.

**LEO**
Jul 23/Aug 21  
Leo, put all of your cards on the table and begin discussions with others who are influencers in your life. Only then can you come up with a strategy to get things done.

**VIRGO**
Aug 22/Sept 22  
Make a point of being direct if you are upset, Virgo. Others need to know if they have stepped on your toes, even if it was accidental so they can make things right.

**LIBRA**
Sept 23/Oct 21  
Now is a key time to boost your bottom line, Libra. If you don’t already have a job, it’s time to get one. If you’re employed, you may need to seek out new revenue streams.

**SCORPIO**
Oct 22/Nov 21  
Various ideas are swirling around in your head, Scorpio. You’re not sure which ones you want to see the light of day just yet. Partner up on a trial project first.

**SAGITTARIUS**
Nov 22/Dec 21  
Sagittarius, if stress has been ruling your universe, it might be time to step back and reevaluate your priorities. Find out which tasks you can shed from your daily list.

**CAPRICORN**
Dec 22/Jan 19  
Deep soul-searching and a sharing of hidden emotions might be on the docket this week, Capricorn. It is brave to own up to your feelings. You’ll find support in friends.

**AQUARIUS**
Jan 20/Feb 18  
A deep cleaning or decluttering is in order, Aquarius. Start with one room in the house and then work your way onward as time permits. Decluttering can be liberating.

**PISCES**
Feb 19/Mar 20  
You may soon encounter some awkward moments with some people you interact with regularly, Pisces. This will blow over quite quickly.
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