

# Superintendent pens letter to parents

■ Expresses concern over students' potentially dangerous social media connections

In light of an ever-ending headlines of adults with not-so-pure intentions communicating through social media with unsuspecting children and teens, and tragic stories of children missing

after secret meetings with unscrupulous strangers, Julie Williams, superintendent of Lake Fenton Community Schools, drafted a letter last week to parents outlining her concerns.

“Lake Fenton Families:

This comes to you today not only as the superintendent, but also as the mother of four daughters.

See **LETTER** on 6



PAGE 3  
**ICE FISHING  
TOURNEY —  
MORE SUN  
THAN FISH**



## Midweek★Times

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\$1.00

### Teen seriously injured after SUV hits train

■ Impact sends vehicle into ice-covered pond in Rose Township

By Sharon Stone

A 19-year-old Grosse Ile Township woman was seriously injured when the SUV in which she was a passenger crashed into the side of

See **TEEN INJURED** on 2



Members of North Oakland County Fire Authority had to remove an injured female passenger from this vehicle, which struck the side of a passing train at Rattalee Lake Road and then broke through ice of a nearby pond in Rose Township on Friday, Feb. 14. See story on page 2 Photo: Courtesy of NOCFA

### Genesee County Animal Control closed

■ Shut down until further notice due to canine parvovirus

By Sharon Stone

Genesee County Animal Control is closed due to canine parvovirus. All animal adoptions and owner

See **ANIMAL CONTROL** on 5

### Byron seeks to be chosen for new HGTV series

■ Ben and Erin Napier take ‘Home Town’ on the road to make over a small town

By Sharon Stone

HGTV launched a nationwide call to find towns that could use some of the “Home Town” touch. It’s all part of an ambitious new TV series — “Home Town Takeover,” a six-episode special event to air on HGTV in 2021.

In this exciting new project, Erin and Ben Napier lead a team of renovation pros as they take over and make over an entire small town.

**Could your town be the next ‘Home Town’?**

Residents in the historic village of Byron, founded in 1824 and just .76 square miles in size, believe so.

The video, narrated by a fourth-

See **BYRON HGTV** on 5



“Just read the incredible obituary for Pat Findlater. Wow! I’ve lived in Fenton my entire life (1954). How

did I miss meeting this amazing woman? Her family was truly blessed as I am sure is true of all the other obituaries in the paper.”



“Get real.

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you just don’t want to read the one you don’t agree with.”



“I would

love to see a Chick-fil-A, Chipotle or a Qdoba restaurant

come to Fenton.”







Photo: Courtesy of NOCFA

## TEEN INJURED

Continued from Front Page

a passing train in Rose Township last Friday evening and then broke through an ice-covered pond, submerging the vehicle. The driver, a 20-year-old woman from Grosse Ile Township, sustained minor injuries.

On Friday, Feb. 14 at approximately 5:30 p.m., the North Oakland County Fire Authority (NOCFA) responded to a report of a train versus vehicle collision on Rattalee Lake Road east of Stallion Lane in Rose Township.

While en route to the call, NOCFA was notified that the vehicle had been thrown into a small pond

where it had broken through the ice and was submerged in water with one occupant out of the vehicle and one occupant who was trapped in the vehicle.

The first NOCFA unit arrived on scene at 5:33 p.m., and reported one vehicle through the ice partially submerged in the water with one female driver that was out of the vehicle and a second female passenger still in the vehicle unable to get out.

Additional fire units arrived on scene and began rescue efforts to free the trapped occupant. The vehicle was halfway submerged in the water and the trapped passenger was submerged up to her chest with her legs trapped in the wreckage under the water.

NOCFA firefighters immediately began extrication efforts entering the water to get to the vehicle. Two firefighters were able to climb on to the partially submerged hood of the vehicle where they removed the windshield to gain access to the female and held her upper body out of the water while several other firefighters began working blindly to try to free her legs.

Using recently learned training techniques, fire crews worked for 20 minutes and were finally able to free the passenger. The trapped woman was awake and talking to fire personnel the entire time. Both occupants were treated for hypothermia and transported to Ascension Genesys Hospital in Grand Blanc Township.

The 20-year-old driver sustained minor injuries. The 19-year-old trapped passenger sustained serious lower extremity injuries. Both occupants are from Grosse Ile Township. No firefighters were injured.

Jeremy Lin tz, NOCFA fire chief said, "I would like to comment that this incident was extremely challenging and dangerous, however, the men and woman first responders under immense pressure and limited time, executed a flawless rescue and saved the life of this young lady.

"I am very proud to work with such an amazing group of highly trained and dedicated individuals."

F/Lt. Mike Shaw of the MSP Metro North Post reported that the preliminary investigation revealed that a female driver was traveling too fast for the road conditions. She lost control of the vehicle and it struck the train.

The driver was found to be at-fault in the crash, according to the MSP.

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# Ice fishing tourney — more sun than fish

■ Tournament make-up day draws 130; was fun for anglers despite lack of bites for some

By Tim Jagielo

**Fenton Twp.** — Anglers Justin Ringler of Goodrich, Roger Fitch of Argentine Township and Scott Jacques of Fenton Twp. pull their sleds from the slush-covered Byram Lake and up the hill of Clover Beach. They were defeated, at least from the perspective of ice fishing.

On Sunday, Feb. 16, 130 registrants went ice fishing for the fourth annual Linden Community Ice Fishing Tournament. Fishing was from about 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., with weigh-in at the Loose Center banquet hall afterward. While weighing in, visitors could sample from 12 chili recipes in the annual chili cook off.

While these three came up empty, Ryan Thompson of Fenton Twp. gathered a small pile of crappie, bluegill and sunfish beside him. His son Landen Thompson, 13, may have had the best catch of all — saving his \$200 auger bit, which fell into the water.

The father-son duo ended up winning



Justin Pfeiffer of Durand fishes with his children, including Acein, 11, on Sunday, Feb. 16 during the Linden Community Ice Fishing Tournament. Photo: Tim Jagielo

prizes in their respective divisions (see sidebar).

It was a beautiful day for February. While sunny and 37 degrees out, it fell on a bad day for fishing according to the lunar calendar, Ringler said. Bassmaster.com reported that Feb. 16

was “fair” fishing at best, while the original tournament date of Feb. 9 was “excellent.”

The tournament was pushed back due to thin ice from warm temperatures. The tournament was saved by several colder  
**See FISHING on 9**

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Email.....news@tctimes.com

### EDITORIAL STAFF

Editor Sharon Stone .....810-433-6786..... sstone@tctimes.com  
Associate Editor Vera Hogan .....810-433-6823..... vhogan@tctimes.com  
Media Editor Tim Jagielo.....810-433-6795..... tjagiello@tctimes.com  
Staff Reporter Hannah Ball .....810-433-6792..... hball@tctimes.com  
Features Writer Sally Rummel ..... news@tctimes.com  
Sports Editor David Troppens .....810-433-6789..... dtroppens@tctimes.com

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## Sharin' the spotlight

By Editor Sharon Stone

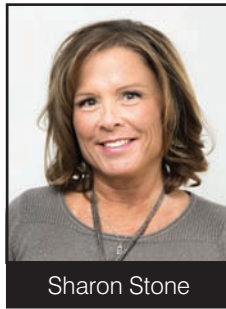
Just finished watching a newly released four-part docuseries on Netflix called "The Pharmacist," featuring Dan Schneider, a retired pharmacist from St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana. Schneider's son, Danny, was shot to death in 1999 when he attempted to buy crack cocaine in St. Bernard Parish. Believing that the police weren't working hard enough to find his son's killer, Schneider was compelled to do his own investigation. Between his findings and the police, the 16-year-old shooter was charged and imprisoned.

As a parent who lost a child nearly 20 years ago due to an illness, I understood Schneider's determination to make sense of his son's death and to make something positive out of the unfortunate. He couldn't rest until the killer was found.

Schneider eventually resumed working at the local pharmacy in St. Bernard Parish. The compassionate man worried about the crime- and drug-plagued area in which he was living. In addition to crack cocaine, he was seeing an increase in prescriptions for OxyContin, a highly addictive opioid to treat pain. More and more teens were bringing

in prescriptions for the drug and fatal overdoses were spiking.

As a grieving dad, he knew what these families were going through as they buried their children, brothers and sisters. Once again, he was compelled to make a difference and stop the madness.



Sharon Stone

Schneider kept detailed records and worked non-stop to put the puzzle pieces together to track how so much OxyContin was coming into his neighborhood. Everything pointed to one doctor who had recently opened a medical facility, which was mainly open overnight.

He painstakingly provided audio recordings and notes to any

local police agency that would listen as well as any federal agency that would take the time to listen to his findings. Eventually, enough evidence was found to charge a local doctor, Jacqueline Cleggett, who wrote prescriptions to anyone who asked. It was all about making money.

The Fenton area is not immune to overdoses, either from illegal drugs or from legally prescribed medications. I have written too many stories on these horrible and preventable deaths and would like to thank our local grieving parents, police, fire and first responders who are trying to make a difference — and save a life. Keep up the fight.

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

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or text to 810-771-8398

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

**COULDN'T HELP BUT** notice that it has been just over 3,000 days since U of M has beaten Ohio State in football. Moreover, in what once was a great rivalry, OSU has prevailed in 17 of the last 18 games they have played. What rivalry? It truly is the U of Mediocrity.

**IT'S TIME FOR** this Republican state legislature to realize that cutting education dollars to provide tax cuts that skew toward the wealthy ends up costing us far more in the long run.

**NO ONE OVER 65** should pay taxes? Seriously? You truly belong to the 'me generation.'

**A WHITE CROSSOVER** (possibly a BMW) and a red pick-up truck with a yellow snowplow were observed racing north on LeRoy Street near S. Long Lake Road at speeds of more than 70 mph. This occurred at 1:26 p.m. on Feb. 15. How does everyone feel about speed enforcement cameras?

**IF YOU ARE 65** and older and on a fixed income and don't think you should pay for a school millage, please consider that when a young person is taking care of you in the hospital, buying your house or paying your Social Security.

Compiled by Tim Jagielo, media editor

## Are you good at fixing things?



"I'm pretty good at things around the house — appliances, furniture. I also like fixing our car."

— **Walt Campbell**  
Fenton



"I'm pretty good with tools — fixing the house and car. I retired from General Motors; I was a millwright."

— **Larry Schuh**  
Holly



"I'm pretty good; depends what it is. I'm good at fixing things at work; issues with patients at dialysis."

— **Sara Gerard**  
Fenton



"I'm not. I rely on my husband for that."

— **Cassie Sprague**  
Tyrone Township



"I can fix most things. I just replaced a floor drain at work. Replaced PVC with cast iron. Never done plumbing in my life."

— **Josh Schaefer**  
Fenton

## street talk



## BYRON HGTV

### Continued from Front Page

generation resident of Byron, starts by her showing where Byron is located by using her hand, like many Michiganders do. She said it's the place "Where traffic stops for tractors and turtles and the only thing brighter than the night-time country sky is the Friday night lights of a hometown football game."

The video is packed with Byron history, including information about the fire Oct. 1, 2012 that gutted most of the historic shopping block of downtown Byron. Janelle's Family Restaurant, and Tower Hardware



Erin and Ben Napier star in HGTV's "Home Town." They are searching for a hometown to make over for their new series "Home Town Takeover." The village of Byron seeks to be chosen for the makeover. Photo: HGTV.com



Watch Byron's video application by searching Byron, Michigan HGTV Hometown Makeover Entry on YouTube.

were destroyed. New Image Tanning and Hair Salon was severely damaged. The fire was believed to be arson.

Organizers of Byron's submission said the response to Byron's #HGT-VHomeTownTakeover submission video exceeded their wildest expectations. By Friday afternoon, the original Facebook post was shared over 1,500 times, and the YouTube video had nearly 26,000 views.

According to hgtv.com, applicants should strive to highlight aspects of their town that make it special, fascinating, historic or unique — including distinctive features like vintage period architecture, special destinations or a classic main street.

Citizens of the selected town can expect to witness the rehab of multiple individual family homes as well as the revitalization of public spaces — parks, local diners or restaurants and outdoor recreation areas.

"This is a big one," Erin said for hgtv.com. "HGTV has never, ever taken on a whole-town renovation and restoration project, and we're so proud and excited to be leading the team that will get it done. Show us those photos and videos. Tell us what makes your town special and how you'd like us to help make it better. You may see us in your town soon."

## ANIMAL CONTROL

### Continued from Front Page

surrenders will be suspended until further notice for the protection of the animals currently residing inside the shelter, as well as animals in the community said Marie Clifford, communications and brand coordinator for the Genesee County Board of Commissioners.

Clifford said all animals currently held at the shelter will be monitored by shelter and veterinary staff for signs of the virus, and will continue to clean and sanitize the building.

"We are diligently monitoring and taking proper precautions to avoid further spreading of this disease inside the shelter," Clifford said. "We apologize for any inconvenience, but this is an animal health issue."

Genesee County Animal Control will still be open to the public during business hours for purchasing dog license as

well as identifying a lost pet.

If you have an Animal Control emergency, you are asked to call (810) 732-1660 and follow the prompts or call 911 **Canine Parvovirus Infection**

The canine parvovirus (CPV) infection is a highly contagious viral illness that affects dogs. The virus manifests itself in two different forms, according to petmd.com.

The more common form is the intestinal form, which is characterized by vomiting, diarrhea, weight loss and lack of appetite (anorexia). The less common form is the cardiac form, which attacks the heart muscles of fetuses and very young puppies, often leading to death.

Parvovirus is a disease with serious consequences. Fast action by you and your veterinarian gives your dog the best prognosis for a full recovery.

Source: petmd.com

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# Experience Community Threads opens in Flint area

■ Owner of Fenton business opens second location at Genesee Valley Center mall

By Paula K. Schmidt

**Flint Twp.** — When you think “thrift store” you might think dirty and grungy and poor quality or old merchandise, but Allen Ryckman, owner of Community Threads of Fenton, wants to change your mind.

Ryckman has opened his second location, Experience Community Threads, in the former Forever 21 space in the Macy’s wing in the Genesee Valley Center mall. The new thrift store sells new and gently used merchandise, from clothing to furniture and household goods to toys and back-to-school items.

Ryckman says he is only about 85 percent stocked. The clean, brightly lit store looks like any fashionable outfit in the mall, with a good selection of items to prepare you for summer with lots of swimwear, beach toys and other goodies.

More of the merchandise is not used, consisting of manufacturer close-outs with deeply discounted prices to fit any shopper’s

budget. Katherine Stump of Fenton is a fan of the first store and stopped by one of the VIP events held earlier this month. Stump said she likes how roomy the store is and that the merchandise is not crunched together on the racks.

Ryckman employs a business model which includes hiring students to give them real world job experience in a retail setting. He said with the holiday season ending he was able to get some good, quality applicants and is thrilled to be opening the new space.

His plan is to have 33 percent of the staff to be students by the end of the first year, 66 percent at the end of the second year and 100 percent student run by the end of the third year. He said he is a little ahead on the number of students, currently having six of 16.

Ryckman says by the end of the third year his intention is to have student employees actively engaged in the core business functions and decision making. For now, he is helping them find their specialties and leveraging those skills to aid in their development.

“I am looking forward to helping them grow as part of a long-term plan,” Ryckman said.



Katherine Stump of Fenton was getting the deals at an early shopping VIP event earlier this month just before the new Experience Community Threads store opened in the mall. Behind the counter are store employees (from left) Chloe Vaughn, Lexi Ward and Brenda Stam along with store owner, Allen Ryckman. **Photo: Paula K. Schmidt**

## LETTER

Continued from Front Page

Over the last two weeks, we have been working in cooperation with the Genesee County Sheriff’s Office and did not want to jeopardize their investigation by sending this letter to our families any sooner than today.

During this time, we have dealt with a number of social media concerns which did not necessarily involve the school, but were brought to our attention due to the nature of the interactions taking place. We are finding an alarming number of our students are connected to individuals, via social media, who are significantly older and have absolutely no ties to our schools or community. In each instance, we have worked with the Genesee County Sheriff’s Office and cooperated with any investigation needed. In addition, we have had conversations with multiple students and their families to alert them to the concerns.

Unfortunately, we live in an age where predators can easily connect with our children through a variety of social media outlets. I cannot stress to you enough the importance of knowing who your children are connected with on social media. Having raised four daughters, I know kids need some level of privacy but when it comes to their safety, some things are just not negotiable.

I know we would like to think our children would never be compromised on social media, but those plat-

forms have no boundaries. Please talk with your children about chat rooms, gaming and all the other social media applications out there. We teach our students not to give out personal information on these platforms, but we have seen evidence they still continue to do so.

When I look around our district, I can see we have spent tens of thousands of dollars to improve the safety and security of our schools, but this is one of those areas we cannot protect with a locking device or access control system. Together, we must continue to express to our children how important it is to exercise caution when using social media.

On Thursday, March 5, Lake Fenton Community Schools will host a community event on Human Trafficking and grooming behaviors. We will be showing the film “Ring of Silence,” which shows how children can easily be pulled into a human trafficking ring. The film contains mature content.

In addition, we are working to have a representative here from the Michigan Human Trafficking Task Force to provide additional information and answer questions. All parents are encouraged to attend. If you have a high school student, we strongly recommend they attend with you.

The event will begin promptly at 6:30 p.m. in the high school auditorium.”

Sincerely,  
Julie Williams



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### Lady Justice

First, as a lawyer and now as a judge, it has been my privilege to be a part of our legal system and everything that it stands for.

There are a number of reasons why I feel this way not the least of which is that when all is said and done, our system is meant to ensure that all parties concerned have received justice, no matter who they are or the type of case that brought them before the court.

I am reminded of this principle every day as in my chambers there is a statue, which was given to me by now retired Genesee County Circuit Court Judge Thomas C. Yeotis when I became a judge in 1993. Judge Yeotis epitomized what justice stands for and made sure that anyone who came before him was treated with dignity and respect.

The statue is called "Lady Justice." She is wearing a toga and holding the scales of justice in one hand and an unsheathed double-edged sword in the other.

She is also wearing a blindfold.

Every feature of the statue symbolizes a part of our justice system. Although some readers may already be familiar with it, today I will explain the significance of the statue.

My statue depicts the Greek goddess Themis, the lady of good counsel. Some versions depict the Roman goddess of justice Justitia. Both stand for the personification of the law, fairness, and all that goes with it.

The scales are called the Scales of Justice because she is weighing the strengths and weaknesses of the cases that come before the court.

The sword represents authority and that justice stands by its decisions and can enforce them. Being double-edged shows that justice can rule for or against either party after the evidence is reviewed. The fact that it is unsheathed means that justice is transparent and not to be feared.

The blindfold signifies impartiality and the ideal that justice should be applied without regard to wealth, power or other status. Her toga symbolizes the philosophical nature of justice.

An accepted definition for "Justice" is protecting rights and punishing wrongs using fairness.

Our Lady Justice confirms this without saying a word and I will always be grateful for her reminder.

## Can you hunt coyotes?



Times file photo

### ■ Increased sightings in Michigan due to mating season

By Hannah Ball

With increased activity from coyotes in the tri-county area, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is reminding people of the law in regards to hunting.

Hunting season for coyotes is year-round statewide. There is no kill tag, mandatory registry or bag limit. However, hunting coyotes may be limited in certain areas that have firearm, shooting or trapping restrictions.

Holly Vaughn, public outreach and engagement unit manager in the Wildlife Division of Michigan DNR, said, "If you are in an area where hunting or discharging a firearm is legal, coyote may be taken on private property by a property owner or designee all year if they are doing or about to do damage on private property."

A license or written permit is not needed.

"If you are in an area where hunting or discharging a firearm is not allowed and a coyote is acting aggressive and is not easily scared away you can contact a nuisance wildlife control company to come remove and euthanize the problem animal(s)," she said.

In Fenton, under Ordinance 20-91(c) a landowner may use a pellet gun on coyotes for pest control, but trapping is not allowed, said Lt. Jeffrey Cross. Fenton Township does not have specific ordinances regulating the hunting of coyotes.

In Linden, Police Chief Scott Sutter said their ordinance that "Hunting wild game animals and birds is unlawful in the city, except that a landowner may use a pellet gun on his or her own property for pest control with respect to rats, coyote, opossum, porcupine,

weasel, red squirrel and skunk."

DNR Conservation Officer Justin Muehlhauser said Argentine Township and Gaines Township do not have further ordinances prohibiting hunting or trapping coyotes.

"They can be taken without a license if they're about to do damage, and that includes protecting livestock and poultry," he said. "Trapping season is from October through March 1, but if they are about to do damage, you can trap

them legally on your own property."

Check with your local municipality before hunting or trapping coyotes.

- **Genesee County:** Region Seven, Bay City Customer Service Center (989) 684-9141
- **Oakland County:** Region 10, Detroit Customer Service Center (313) 396-6890
- **Livingston County:** Region Nine, Detroit Customer Service Center (313) 396-6890
- **The DNR** Customer Service Center afterhours number is 1 (800) 292-7800.

See the *Times* story in the Sunday Feb 9 edition for coyote habits, facts and how to scare them away from your yard.

### HOT LINE CONTINUED

**CIESIELSKI GETS TO** Linden and already has his hands out asking for taxpayer money. Not shocked.

■■■

**TRUMP - THE COMMANDER-in-Tweet.**

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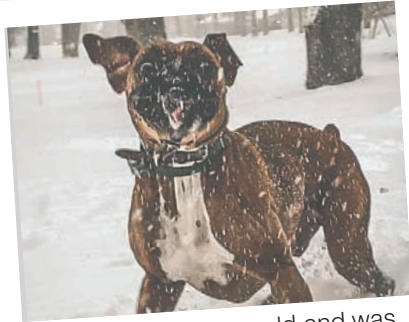
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**Mini Dog** is 1 year old and was very excited to experience snow for the first time. *Sent in by Mica Vasquez.*

# National LOVE your Pet Day! PHOTOS

By Hannah Ball

Thank you to everyone who sent in a photo of your pet to help us celebrate Love Your Pet Day. We are honored to live in a community that values its furry companions. We loved every animal submitted, but we could only choose a handful.



**Cheeto**, 5, loves tuna fish. *Sent in by Nancy Jensen.*



**Izzy Bear** is 4 years old and rescued her caregiver three years ago by helping her through a hard time. *Sent in by Debbie Ream.*



**Sunny**, 1, loves to swing in the yard. *Sent in by Sharon Spangler.*

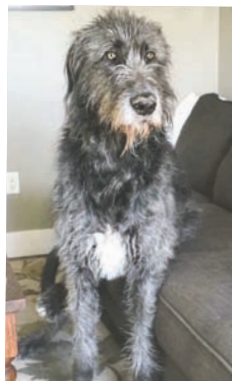


**Piper**, 6, greets you every morning in the bathroom when you get ready. *Sent in by Kaitlyn Canning.*



**Diesel**, 6, licks everything and doesn't know how to bark, but he has a very loud scream when hyper. *Sent in by Heather Fulghum.*

**Ollie**, 6, is a gentle giant who sits like a human. *Sent in by Mishelle Dutiaume-Albers.*



**Digit and Bigfoot**, both 1 year old, are polydactyl. Bigfoot has six toes on each front paw. *Sent in by Melanie Tyrrell.*



**Jovie**, 5, and **Mr Pickles**, 2, love to snuggle. *Sent in by Lisa Eckman.*

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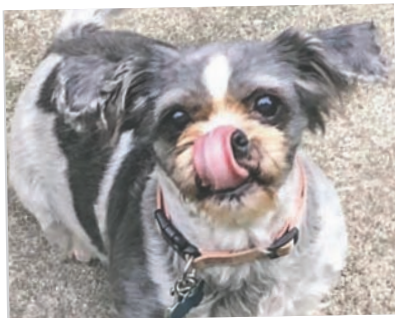




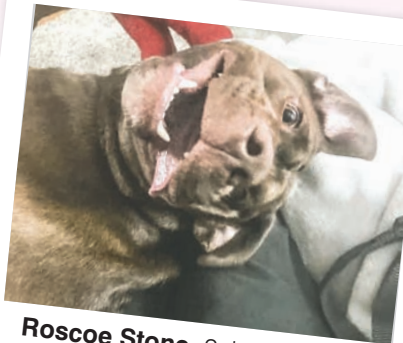
**Cheerio**, 1, loves Honey Nut Cheerios and **Kai**, 8, closes drawers and cabinets with her nose. *Sent in by Angi Spees.*



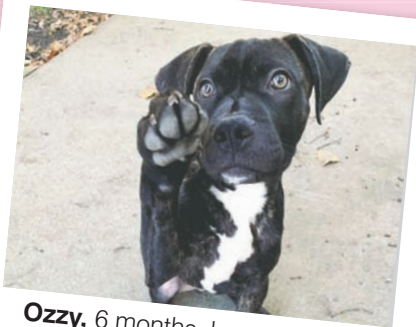
**Misha**, 4, loves having her morning coffee with crackers. *Sent in by Amanda Ly.*



**Coco**, 11 years old, is a constant companion. *Sent in by Brook Wilson.*

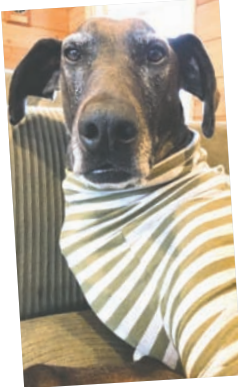


**Roscoe Stone**, 2, is a silly boy obsessed with playing fetch. *Sent in by Nicole Akridge.*

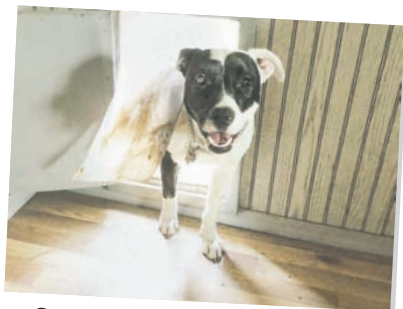


**Ozzy**, 6 months, loves to shake for treats, and his favorite food is clementines. *Sent in by Jami Richards.*

**Levi**, 8, spent his first six months living on the streets in Ohio. Now he's spoiled rotten. *Sent in by Rosemarie Sullenger.*



**Clover** enjoys biting fingers when being fed. *Sent in by Lisa Smith.*



**Queenbee**, 1, is a rescue pup. She's always smiling. *Sent in by Rachel Roberts.*

FISHING

**Continued from 3** days last week. Still, Lobdell Lake in Argentine Township was deemed unsafe for walking, so Byram Lake was the only place to fish. “Overall I would rate this as our best event in the four years, based upon feedback and how much people enjoyed just being out and about in our community,” organizer Steve James said.

James said there were 130 fishing registrants and 12 chili cook-off participants. There were more than 200 people at the Loose Center banquet hall.

The Linden Hotel took home the \$100 prize for best chili.

There were raffles, chili and cookies available at the hall. James said he appreciates the donation of raffle items from Gander Outdoors and other local businesses.



Photo: Tim Jagielo

2020 TOURNAMENT WINNERS

Prizes were \$125 for first place, \$75 for second and \$50 for third.

ADULTS  
Bluegill winners

Troy Moiles.....9.25 inches  
Nick Anderson..... 9.25 inches  
Matt Springer..... 9.125 inches

Crappie winners

Travis Reed.....11.875 inches  
John Zeeman..... 11.75 inches  
Ronald French.....11.125 inches

Pike winners

Clint Chambers.....34 inches  
Ryan Thompson.....32.75 inches  
AJ Stadler..... 30.5 inches

UNDER 15

Landen Thompson: 9-inch bluegill,  
9.75-inch crappie and 30.25-inch pike  
Logan Johnson: 9-inch bluegill  
Riley VanNorman: 7.75-inch bluegill

HOT LINE CONTINUED

**THE REPUBLICAN PARTY** is for the wealthy. If the lower income continue to vote Republican, all you are doing is widening the gap between the rich and the poor.

■■■■  
**WHEN FENTON FINALLY** fixes our roads, please leave N. Oak Street between Fifth and Sixth streets alone. We love the potholes; prevents our children from getting hit by speeders. Our stop signs don't work here.

■■■■  
**BLOOMBERG KNOWS HE** is smarter than you. So just keep quiet and do what you're told.

■■■■  
**IN 2018 AND 2019** my husband and I paid \$1,100 a month for healthcare. With Medicare and supplemental insurance, we will pay \$442. We got hundreds of calls that wanted to sell us the supplemental insurance. Tell me again why we can't all have health insurance and affordable health care?

■■■■  
**WHY DIDN'T THE** Fenton City Council apply for a grant aimed at contributing to the cost of the proposed trail system first before asking voters to pay for it? What a waste of time and money to get that failed proposal on the ballot. Nothing like doing things half backwards. Am I surprised? Not at all.

BUSINESS  
BRIEFS

COMPILED BY SHARON STONE

Comedian performs this weekend at the Holly Hotel

John Poveromo, a Brooklyn-born, Jersey-raised stand-up comedian with a blend of self-deprecation and optimism makes him a dynamic and unpredictable performer that's both engaging and fun to watch as he struggles to make sense of himself and the world around him. Poveromo has been featured in the New York Times and the Asbury Park Press and can be heard on Sirius XM Radio, and more. Poveromo will be performing live Friday and Saturday, Feb. 21 and 22 at 8:30 and 10:30 p.m. at the Holly Hotel, 110 Battle Alley, Holly. Check out [hollyhotel.com/comedy-club](http://hollyhotel.com/comedy-club) for details.



# Muenzer's shot leads Blue Devils past Trojans, 57-55

By David Troppens

Ben Muenzer celebrated his birth - day Feb. 12.

On Friday, the Lake Fenton senior had another reason to celebrate.

With Lake Fenton trailing 55-54, Muenzer hit the game-winning three-pointer, giving the Blue Devils a 57-55 home victory against the Owosso

Trojans.

"It felt good to get a win under our belts," Muenzer said. "It's been an up and down season, but I love this team and my coaches."

"The last shot wasn't off a set play or anything. We were down by one, my teammate drove and kicked it to me in my spot in the corner and

I let it fly. It felt like a good shot as soon as I shot it."

The game marked the seventh time out of 16 games the Blue Devils have played in a contest decided by four or less points. The Blue Devils improved to 3-4 in those contests with the win.

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2020 | PAGE 11 | TCTIMES.COM/SPORTS

## Sports

Lake Fenton's  
Ben Muenzer



Lake Fenton's Katelyn Siebert drives to the bucket in Friday's win against Owosso. Photo: Christopher Summers

# Eagles capture Metro Stripes championship

By David Troppens

Swartz Creek — The year was 1995.

Detroit Tigers' manager Sparky Anderson took an unpaid leave due to the Major League Baseball strike.

People were just learning about the World Wide Web, but that was just fine considering only one-fourth to one-third of households even had personal computers.

February 1995 also marked Linden's second straight Metro League title, earning back-to-back Metro crowns for the first time in school history.

On Friday night, it finally happened again.

The Eagles were crisp on offense all night long, earning an

80-65 road victory against the Swartz Creek Dragons, clinching Linden the outright Metro League Stripes Division championship. Linden also won the Metro League title a year ago outright.

"We have a great group of guys," Linden junior Blake Lund said. "It's fun to play with them. We have a great coach who is fun to play for. To be with this group of guys and experience (a championship) is great."

"It's something we've been dreaming about since we were all playing together when we were 5-years old," senior Brenden Miller said.

CONTINUED AT  
TCTIMES.COM



Linden's Eli Beil (right) drives to the bucket in the Eagles' victory against Swartz Creek. Photo: Mark Bolen

# Blue Devils crush Owosso Trojans

By David Troppens

The Lake Fenton varsity girls basketball team is on a roll.

The Blue Devils earned impressive wins against Clio 62-26 and Fenton 63-30 in its two contests before Friday night's battle with Owosso. So what did the girls do for an encore Friday? The Blue Devils won even more convincingly against the Lady Trojans earning an 80-40 victory at home.

The Blue Devils (12-5 overall and 6-2 in the Flint Metro League Stars Division) opened the game with a 12-2 run, eventually scoring 25 first-quarter points. Morgan Furey led the way with eight points during the period, as six players scored during the opening eight minutes.

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM



Linden's Uzziah Delgado (top) and Fenton's Lukas Zywicki battled for the 160-pound district title match at the individual district meet Saturday. Photo: David Troppens

# Seventeen wrestlers qualify for regional round

By David Troppens

Seventeen tri-county wrestlers still have a shot at earning a state championship at the state meet at Detroit's Ford Field in early March.

That's because 17 wrestlers qualified out of the Fenton individual wrestling district tournament Saturday. Holly led area teams with six regional qualifiers while Linden and Lake Fenton had four each. Fenton finished

with three. Four Holly wrestlers earned district titles while two Eagles did and one Blue Devil did.

The event had four all-area district championship bouts. One of the best had to be Holly's Jacob Gonzales' (152) 6-5 decision win against Linden's Jimmy Roti at 160 pounds. Gonzales earned three pinfall wins prior to the final, improving his record to 42-0. Roti, who earned two pinfall

wins and a decision win in his first three matches is now 22-3.

Linden's Uzziah Delgado (160) also won a tight 3-2 decision against fellow tri-county and Fenton foe Brady Triola. Delgado won his first match by pinfall and second one by decision while Triola earned a tech fall and a decision win during his run to the title match.

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM





Fenton's Gavin Crews dives in the pool during a recent meet. Photo: Christopher Summers

## Tigers collect state times at MISCA meet

By David Troppens

The Fenton varsity boys swim team continues to post impressive performances this season.

The most recent strong efforts were recorded at the MISCA meet on Saturday.

The Tigers had seven state-qualifying times at the event.

Fenton freshman Max Haney continued his outstanding rookie season with the Tigers with two individual state-qualifying times. Haney finished sixth in the 500 freestyle (4:47.53), about 12 seconds less than the state-qualifying standard in the event. He also made the 200 free-

style state time by 1.2 seconds by taking 16th (1:48.59) in the event.

He also helped two relays post state-qualifying times. The 400 freestyle relay team placed seventh with a time of 3:21.55, 3.45 seconds faster than the state-qualifying standards. He teamed with Gavin Crews, Anthony Barnett and Alec Maddock in the event. He also teamed with Joel Diccion, Kaz Sieja and Crews to place 11th with a state-qualifying time of 1:41.77.

Three other individual state-qualifying times were recorded. Diccion earned one in the 100 backstroke (56.96). He placed 29th in the event.

Crews also placed 29th in the 100 freestyle (49.81), earning a state cut in that event. He also qualified for the state meet with a 16th-place finish in the 50 freestyle (22.35).

Plenty of other swimmers competed at the MISCA meet. They were Barnett, 47th in the 100 freestyle (50.46) and 56th in the 200 freestyle (1:54.59); Jack Fries, 32nd in the 100 backstroke (57.54) and 59th in the 200 freestyle (1:55.14); Sieja, 55th in the 200 individual medley (2:10.05); Diccion, 45th in the 100 butterfly (56.61); and Alec Maddock, 65th in the 100 backstroke (1:00.60).

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM

## Lady Tigers post impressive upset victory vs. Kearsley

By David Troppens

The Fenton varsity girls basketball team appears to be steadily improving from its early season fortunes.

After starting 2-4 in Flint Metro League Stripes Division

play, the Tigers have won each of their last two divisional contests, including an impressive 53-48 overtime victory against Stripes contender Kearsley on Friday night.

Sophomore Kaleigh Shaker

made a free throw with four seconds left in regulation to force overtime. Korryn Smith went a perfect 4-for-4 at the free throw line in overtime, leading the squad to the victory

Smith finished with 14

points, eight rebounds, five steals and three assists.

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM

Fenton's Maggie Lutz looks to pass the ball in a recent contest.

Photo: Mark Bolen



## Cheer teams compete at Brandon

By David Troppens

As the area tri-county competitive cheer teams prepare for district action, all four squads competed at the Brandon Cheer Invitational on Saturday.

The Blue Devils had the strongest showing among their division, taking second in Division 3. Fenton placed

third in Division 2 while Linden was sixth and Holly was seventh.

The Blue Devils earned its second-place finish by posting a round one score of 207.20, a round two score of 188.26 and a round three score of 262.00 for a total score of 647.46.

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM

### PREP REPORT

#### BOYS BOWLING

► **Holly 23, Corunna 7:** The Broncos were led by Justin Mallory's 200-226-426 two-game series while Matthew Creasey had a 146-184-330 series. Holly also won both baker games.

► **Kearsley 30, Linden 0:** The Eagles were led by Brendyn Sinn who had a 109-163-272 series.

► **Flushing 24, Fenton 6:** Tate Temrowski led the Tigers with a 215-152-368 two-game series while Andrew Hutchings bowled a 207 game.

► **Owosso 28, Fenton 2:** The Tigers were led by Brandon Davis who bowled a 207-189-396 series. Tate Temrowski bowled a 177-205-382 series.

#### GIRLS BOWLING

► **Corunna 23, Holly 7:** The Broncos were led by Kaitlyn Allison's 116-146-262 series.

► **Kearsley 30, Linden 0:** The Eagles were led by Kaitlyn Rice's 174-191-365 series. Paige Sundrla bowled a 149 game.

► **Flushing 24, Fenton 6:** The Tigers were paced by Abbey Lamb's 153-128-281 series. Avery Logan bowled a 145 game.

► **Owosso 29, Fenton 1:** Julian Roberts led the Tigers with a 136-123-259 series.

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## Tigers stung by Kearsley Hornets

By David Troppens

All teams have their "off nights."

Fenton varsity boys basketball coach Chad Logan thinks the Fenton Tigers had one on Friday night.

The Tigers lost to Kearsley 67-62.

"We felt out of synch the whole night," Logan said. "Maybe it was Kearsley. Maybe it was us. But we weren't quite ourselves.

"Our kids are disappointed. And I feel for them because losing games in front of your friends is really hard to do. We were uncharacteristically off tonight. We played pretty solid for 13 games now but this will be a hard one to swallow."

But even on an "off night" the Tigers had a great chance at victory until a fluke call happened. As Addison McIntosh drove to the bucket for a go-ahead layup, the Tigers were called for a technical foul eliminating the layup and giving Kearsley two free throws. Kearsley made those free throws and were able to hold on for the final 1:45 to earn the win.

CONTINUED AT [TCTIMES.COM](http://TCTIMES.COM)

## Eagles showing improvement, lose to Creek

By David Troppens

**Swartz Creek** — The first time the Linden varsity girls basketball team played the Swartz Creek Dragons, the Eagles lost a 67-25 verdict at home.

Since that Jan. 10 game, the Eagles have improved, and Friday night's rematch at Swartz Creek High School was a perfect example of the progress.

The Eagles (4-12) were within single-digits right until the final five minutes of the game before the Eagles ended up losing a 47-36 verdict.

Linden, whose four wins this season are one more than the Eagles had the previous three seasons combined, pushed the Dragons through out the night. The Eagles cut the gap to 37-32 on a jump shot by Kelsey McLennan during the fourth quarter. However, that was as close as the Eagles

would get down the stretch.

The Dragons scored the next six points, raising their edge to 43-32 after a driving layup by Makenna Gardiner with 4:26 left. Delanie Prince cut the gap back to 43-34 with a layup, but from there the Eagles never got any closer. Still, the competitive contest represented a nice change from the 42-point loss about five weeks earlier.

"I was so proud of the girls," Linden varsity girls basketball coach Zack Darling said. "It was a totally different game than the first time we played them. The first time we lost by 40-something and it was a running clock. To see them out there battle the whole game — it was a fight, an absolute battle, physical both ways, all good play. I'm super proud of them."

CONTINUED AT  
[TCTIMES.COM](http://TCTIMES.COM)



Linden's Alexcis Parker (right) tries to keep possession of the ball in the Eagles' loss to Swartz Creek. Photo: Mark Bolen

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## FLLF's Hiscock headed to state ski meet

Fenton/Linden/Lake Fenton skier Emma Hiscock will be heading to the Division 1 state ski meet.

Hiscock placed seventh individually in the giant slalom at the Pine

Knob regional, earning a spot into the state meet. The top four individuals not on a state-qualifying team in each event qualifies for the D1 state meet.

## Holly girls fall to Flushing Raiders, 47-23

The Holly varsity girls basketball team suffered its most difficult offensive performance of 2020 against the wrong opponent Friday night.

Facing Metro League leaders Flushing, the Bronchos were able to score just 23 points in a 47-23 loss to the Raiders.

## Holly boys play strong defense, but lose

The Holly varsity boys basketball team found itself in a tough defensive battle with the Flushing Raiders.

The Bronchos played well enough

on defense but were held to their second-lowest point total of the season, resulting in a tough 48-44 overtime loss.

## Fenton/Linden Griffins split weekend games

Friday-Saturday hockey double headers have been a 50-50 proposition for the Fenton/Linden varsity hockey team this season.

The Griffins have experienced three scenarios of games on Friday and Saturday during a weekend, and each time has won a contest and lost a game.



# Times Classifieds

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SERVICE DIRECTORY | PUZZLES | OBITUARIES

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## Job Openings

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fentontradingpost.com.

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Help Wanted

## Horoscopes

For the week of  
**February 17, 2020**

**ARIES**  
**Mar 21/Apr 20**  
Aries, you may want to pick up a relationship right where you left off, but the other person may not be as amenable. Bide your time and give this person some space.

**TAURUS**  
**Apr 21/May 21**  
A few extra goals never hurt anyone, Taurus. Sit down and see how your new resolutions can be turned into ways to achieve all of those tasks you hope to get done.

**GEMINI**  
**May 22/Jun 21**  
Gemini, while you may want to expand your social circle right now, you're just not sure how to get started. Networking opportunities may be the way to go.

**CANCER**  
**Jun 22/Jul 22**  
There is no point getting into a disagreement over a situation you have no control over right now, Cancer. Instead, wait for the right opportunity to express your position.

**LEO**  
**Jul 23/Aug 23**  
Leo, take a step back from responsibilities at work to devote more energy to your relationships at home. Embrace activities that your family can enjoy together.

**VIRGO**  
**Aug 24/Sept 22**  
Some melancholy may have you seeking out quiet corners, Virgo. Distancing yourself from the crowds is only a temporary fix. Instead, look for activities you find soothing.

**LIBRA**  
**Sept 23/Oct 23**  
Someone close to you may be feeling under the weather and could use some extra support, Libra. Take a few days off to be the rock that this person can use right now.

**SCORPIO**  
**Oct 24/Nov 22**  
Friends may make excessive demands on your time this week, Scorpio. As a generous person, you want to go along with it all, but be careful not to overextend.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
**Nov 23/Dec 21**  
Sagittarius, you are usually outgoing, but this week you may be feeling more shy and reserved. It could be because you are missing someone.

**CAPRICORN**  
**Dec 22/Jan 20**  
Don't take what you hear this week at face value, Capricorn. The information that has been coming your way may not be entirely accurate. Make up your own mind.

**AQUARIUS**  
**Jan 21/Feb 18**  
Group activities or time spent with a spouse may not go as well as usual this week, Aquarius. Your mind is elsewhere. Until you are focused, things may seem stressed.

**PISCES**  
**Feb 19/Mar 20**  
A minor disagreement could have you questioning a relationship, Pisces. Don't fret, as you'll soon find that the turmoil is short-lived.

## Midweek Sudoku

**FUN BY THE NUMBERS**  
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.

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

Level: Intermediate



# Obituaries

Times

## Donald Leland Shaffer

1945-2020

Donald Leland Shaffer - age 74, of Linden, died Friday, February 14, 2020. Visitation will be held 3-9 PM Saturday, February 22, 2020 with a service at 6 PM at Sharp Funeral Homes, Linden Chapel, 209 E. Broad St., Linden. Those desiring may make contributions to the Lung Cancer Research Foundation. Donald was born July 17, 1945 in Detroit, the son of Armour and Violet Shaffer. He is survived by his wife, Denise; daughters, Dawn (Tim) Leonard and Danielle (John) Curtis; grandchildren, Maycee, Gabriella, Boston, Angela, Anthony and Colton; mother, Violet; sister, Nancy Jones; nephew, Donnie. He was preceded in death by his father. Tributes may be shared at [www.sharpfuneralhomes.com](http://www.sharpfuneralhomes.com).



view  
OBITUARIES  
online

## Mary Josephine "Mary Jo" or "Josie" DiTeodoro

1931-2020

Mary Josephine "Mary Jo" or "Josie" DiTeodoro - age 89, of Fenton (formerly Warren) passed away Monday, February 10, 2020. She was born in Detroit, February 2, 1931. She was preceded in death by her loving parents, George and Marie Gonzalez; father, James Perry and treasured brother, Frank Perry. Cherished mother of Lisa "Lee" Martorana (Philip) and adored grandmother of John Michael. Dear sister of Diane Jurco (Andrew) and Diana Perry (Frank); caring aunt of Christina and Marlaina. A strong, smart and precious soul whose first concern was for those around her and how she could make their lives better. A perpetual student and teacher, Mary retired from the Burroughs Corp. (Unisys) after 32 years of service in payroll operations and finally as a Senior Accounting Clerk/Instructor. Following retirement Mary volunteered as an adult literacy tutor. Her passions were her faith, family and friends. Family vacations, traveling, dancing, gardening and bowling with friends brought true joy to her and those around her. A jewel has been sent to heaven. Services have been held. A.J. Desmond & Sons, 248-362-2500. View obituary and share memories at [AJDesmond.com](http://AJDesmond.com).



## Janet S. Church

1952-2020

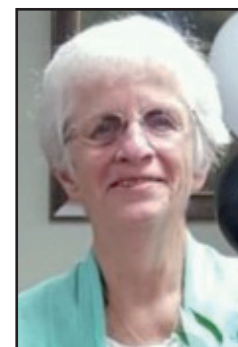
Janet S. Church - age 67, of Holly died Saturday, February 15, 2020. Funeral services will be held at 2 PM Thursday, February 20, 2020 at the Dryer Funeral Home, Holly with Rev. James Garfield officiating. Burial will be in Oakhill Cemetery, Holly. Visitation will be from 2-8 PM Wednesday, February 19, 2020 and from 11 AM until the time of the service Thursday. Mrs. Church was born in Petoskey on August 29, 1952 to John and Ruby (Bonnott) Byczynski. She was a former employee of Holly Schools and a member of MIRG (Michigan Independent Riders Group). She was a beloved wife, mom, and nana. Janet was a great cook and she loved birds, especially hummingbirds, and hated squirrels. She loved gardening and flowers, fishing, hunting, being up north in Harrison, and Christmas. She was a strong fighter and fiercely battled cancer over the past 12 years. Surviving are her husband, Ken Church; two children, Cheri (Rick) Roberts and Ken (Melissa Adams) Church, Jr.; four grandchildren, Jace Church, Dalton Roberts, Nolen Church, and Gage Roberts; step-grandchildren, Erika Roberts-Pate, Savanna Adams, and Donnie Adams; brothers, John, Tom, and Roger Byczynski and sister, Karen Alvarado, and numerous nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents and her brother, Ken Byczynski. Flowers are welcome. Memorial donations may be given to the family. [www.dryerfuneralhomeholly.com](http://www.dryerfuneralhomeholly.com).



## Barbara E. Grunewald

1938-2020

Barbara E. Grunewald - age 81, of Fenton, died Saturday, February 15, 2020. Funeral Mass will be celebrated at 11 AM Saturday, February 22, 2020 at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, 600 N. Adelaide St, Fenton. Fr. Robert Copeland celebrant. Burial in St. John Catholic Cemetery. Visitation will be held at Sharp Funeral Homes, Fenton Chapel, 1000 Silver Lake Rd., Fenton from 4-8 PM Friday, February 21, 2020 where a rosary will be prayed at 7 PM and at the church Saturday from 10 AM until the time of the service. Those desiring may make contributions to St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church. Barb was born November 1, 1938 in Detroit, the daughter of Edward and Helen (Standish) Oestman. She was a 1956 graduate of St. Michael Catholic High School, Flint, and attended Michigan State University and the University of Michigan. She married Ralph L. Grunewald May 7, 1960 and he preceded her in death August 20, 2012. She retired as the Administration Assistant and Bookkeeper for Dr. Scarchilli. She had resided in the Fenton area for many years. Barb was a member of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church where she was a Eucharistic Minister, the Sacristan, she trained the Altar Servers, and was the head of the Worship Commission. She also was a member of Great Lakes Association of Medicine and served on four different boards at different colleges. She enjoyed golfing, playing cards, gardening, traveling, and her animals. Surviving are several cousins. She was also preceded in death by her parents. Tributes may be shared at [www.sharpfuneralhomes.com](http://www.sharpfuneralhomes.com).



Obituaries updated daily online

**myfenton.com**

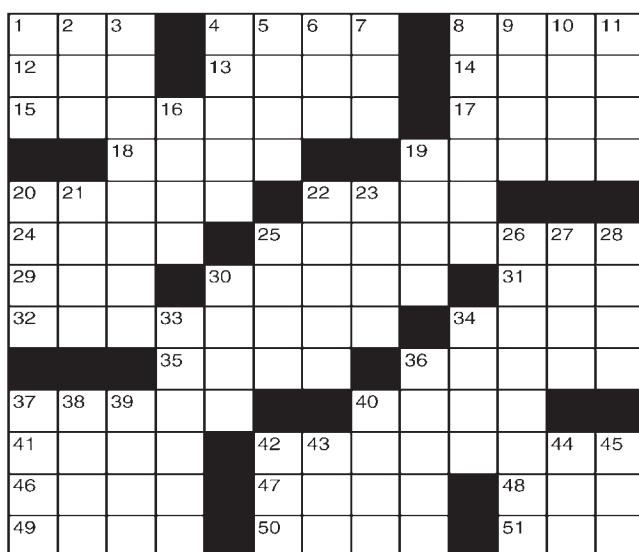


KING  
FEATURES

## Midweek Crossword

## ACROSS

- 1 Venomous viper  
4 Incense  
8 Pop  
12 Ball-bearing item  
13 Beelzebub's doings  
14 From square one  
15 Supreme Court Justice Thurgood —  
17 Calm before the storm  
18 Comedian Rivers  
19 Refuge  
20 Downright  
22 Road's shoulder  
24 Hard to find  
25 Almond confection  
29 "— Got a Secret"  
30 Left-hand page  
31 Ostrich's cousin  
32 Union  
34 Valhalla VIP  
35 Loathe  
36 Loses traction  
37 Drive away  
40 "Wozzeck" composer  
41 Summertime treats  
42 — Thatcher  
46 Command-



- ment starter  
47 Birthright barterer  
48 Historic period  
49 Huge amount of 50-Across  
50 See 49-Across  
51 Tarzan's creator's monogram  
DOWN  
1 \$ dispenser  
2 Vast expense  
3 Storyteller in court  
4 Detox center  
5 Terrible guy?  
6 "— Abner"  
7 Right angle  
8 Sandwich sausage  
9 Burden  
10 Place to buy 8-Down  
11 Piercing tools  
16 Slightly  
19 Ricelike pasta  
20 — and proper  
21 Volcanic spillage  
22 Cleopatra's boat  
23 Gaelic  
25 Vegan's no-no  
26 Distinguished ancestry  
27 In the thick of  
28 Sisters  
30 Test tube  
33 Variety of macaque  
34 Gumbo base  
36 Music transition  
37 Ceremony  
38 Canyon phenomenon  
39 Lowly worker  
40 Author Stoker  
42 Encountered  
43 "— was saying ..."  
44 Mess up  
45 Bill

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Times

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## Midweek Jumble

## JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME  
by David L. Hoyt and Jeff KnurekUnscramble these four  
Jumbles, one letter to  
each square, to form  
four ordinary words.JUMBLE PUZZLE  
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DPAAT

PITYS

SOYMLT

CIRNUH

CIRNUH

CIRNUH

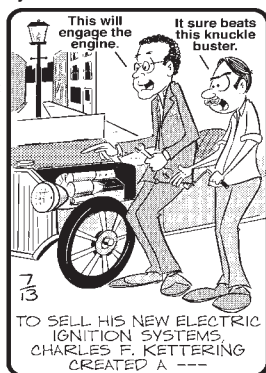
CIRNUH

CIRNUH

CIRNUH

CIRNUH

CIRNUH

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



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