City supports liquor license transfer request
■ Two-floor restaurant/bar with acoustic music to open in historic downtown Fenton building

By Sharon Stone
In a March 5 memo to Fenton City Manager Lynn Markland, Fenton Police Chief Jason Slater said he recommends that Fenton City Council support the transfer of a liquor license at the request of State Road Holdings, LLC.
See LIQUOR LICENSE on 6

DEA issues warning
■ Scammers impersonating DEA agents are stealing identities and money across the U.S.

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) is warning the public of a widespread fraud scheme in which telephone scammers impersonate DEA agents in an attempt to extort money or steal personal identifiable information.
There are variations in the false narrative. In one version, a
See WARNING on 5

Case bound over for trial
■ Bond denied for Springfield Township man charged with first-degree homicide

By Sharon Stone
Vincent Merrill, 51, of Springfield Township, has been bound over for trial in Oakland County Circuit Court. Bond was denied and he has remained in the Oakland County Jail since his arrest Sept. 3, 2020.
Merrill was arraigned Sept. 6, 2020 on one count of first-degree homicide and one count of felony firearm.
Merrill’s case goes back to Thursday, Sept. 3, 2020 at 5:52 p.m., when the Oakland County Operations Center received a 911 call from someone, later identified as Merrill, who stated, “I just killed my girlfriend” and then hung up the phone.
The victim was identified as Vicki Diane Fortin, 60, of Springfield Township.
See SHOOTING on 2

Danielle Lederer, epidemiologist at the Genesee County Health Department, talks to Doug McTaggart before he gets a COVID-19 vaccine at Bishop International Airport on Saturday, March 6. The location will be used as a vaccination clinic more in the future. Photo: Hannah Ball

Bishop Airport becomes vaccination site
■ County officials expect more doses a week with third vaccine approved

By Hannah Ball
Flint Twp. — The Genesee County Health Department administered hundreds of COVID-19 vaccines from Moderna on Saturday, March 6 at Bishop International Airport.
Drivers remained in their cars for the entire process. They checked in, answered medical questions, received the shot and waited 15 or 30 minutes under supervision, depending on if they have allergies and past reactions to vaccinations. The airport will be used for more vaccine clinics in the future.
The county vaccination dashboard was updated March 9 with data from March 8, showing that 124,934 doses have been administered in Genesee County. This includes 83,799 first doses and 41,168 second doses.
With the arrival of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, which was approved by the
See VACCINE on 7

“Today, attempting to watch a YouTube video, I was informed that since YouTube was owned by Google, I could not watch the political site anonymously and that Google would track my viewing. Does anyone else see a problem with this?”

“Regarding the Pay it Forward family from Linden. My heart goes out to them. It is sad middle class families in the U.S. need help with medical bills. The state of our medical care costs and insurance is outrageous. How are low income families supposed to pay for medical care?”

“Hey mainstream media, no one gives a rat’s butt about Meghan and the royals.”
TC Elite Basketball

It all started here in Fenton for former Fenton High School boys’ varsity basketball coach Tim Olszewski and his wife Lori, who founded a structured, competitive basketball program, the Tri-County Tigers, about 15 years ago.

Now that program, known today as TC Elite Basketball, has grown into a regional program based out of Howell/Milford. Olszewski now coaches girls’ varsity basketball at Howell.

TC Elite, serving boys and girls in 3rd through 11th grades, has become one of the largest and most respected programs, living up to its “elite” name. Many of their players in this program have gone on to play college sports.

“What separates us from other basketball programs is the coaching staff; they’re mostly educators with vast successful coaching and playing experience,” Olszewski said. TC Elite is an extension of the same philosophies I carry in my high school coaching — structure, hard work and championship effort.

“Our program is open to all kids - we have players from around the entire state that come and play with us,” Olszewski said. When you play for us, we offer free training opportunities for all our players.

“We preach playing the game the right way. We stress defense and teamwork, and the importance of giving back to your community,” he added.

Tryouts for TC Elite will be on Saturday, March 20th at Huron Valley Athletic Complex. “We’ll select teams from there and start practicing in April. Competitive tournaments will be in April, May and July,” Olszewski said.

Recent TC Elite Alumni Success Stories

Northern Michigan University
Wayne State University
Kalamazoo College

TC Elite celebrates another championship. Submitted photo

Local state rep stands up for high school athletes, families

Resolution urges flexibility for schools to allow family members at athletic events

State Rep. Mike Mueller (R-Fenton Township) recently helped the House pass a resolution calling on the state health department to give local school districts more flexibility, so all student-athletes can have their immediate family members attend their sporting events.

Mueller, chair of the House Government Operations Committee, led a hearing on the measure Thursday morning, March 4, listening to testimony from a mother whose son was asked to choose just one parent to attend his state finals event for powerlifting.

“It’s heartbreaking what these overly strict capacity limits are doing to student-athletes across our state,” Mueller said. “I truly believe schools could safely accommodate kids from blended families and others who really don’t deserve the stress and anxiety that results from picking and choosing which of their loved ones gets to attend an event.”

House Resolution 40 calls on the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to allow school districts the flexibility to exclude the immediate family members of participants in school athletic events from venue capacity limits, as long as they adhere to safe social distancing practices.

The resolution was adopted by the House later Thursday. Copies of the resolution will now be sent to Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and DHHS Director Elizabeth Hertel.

SHOOTING

Continued from Front Page

Oakland County Undersheriff Mike McCabe previously said deputies responded to the scene in Springfield Township and found a 50-year-old man, Merrill, standing in the driveway outside the residence. Merrill told the responding deputy, “I shot her. I killed her.”

Deputies entered the residence and found Fortin lying on the floor with no sign of life. She was believed to be the suspect’s live-in girlfriend. Fortin had sustained multiple gunshot wounds. An ER doctor at McLaren Oakland Hospital in Pontiac pronounced her deceased.

A .380 semi-automatic handgun, which is believed to be the weapon used in the homicide, was found on a table in the basement.

Merrill will be arraigned in circuit court March 18 at 1 p.m.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

TRUMP GAS $1.35, Biden gas $2.75. How high will it go? 

PARTY LOYALTY BLINDS you to the reality that Operation Warp Speed produced ventilators, tests, masks, PPE, therapeutics and vaccines, all in record time. Oh, did you forget about all of those other problems? That’s because the great Donald Trump fixed them.

I WONDER HOW long it will take the city of Linden to do something about the house on Oak Street. I think it has been years so far. Maybe the city workers and council members don’t know about it?
Parent group pushes for full face-to-face learning

Held rally at state capitol in Lansing on Saturday — Fenton teacher spoke

By Sharon Stone

As school closures in Michigan continue to affect the mental health of children, a growing number of parents are consolidating their voices in calling for change.

Two student suicides in a southeast Michigan school district a couple weeks ago served as the impetus for Huron Valley Schools Parent Advocates (HVSPA), a recently formed nonprofit corporation advocating locally for their children’s and parent’s educational rights, and legions of concerned parents to form a group.

In a Feb. 26 press release, this group says they want to assure that change is made, demanding that legislation be passed to address the damages being caused by failed school board policies and come to the aid of the thousands of struggling K-12, as well as post-secondary students in the State of Michigan.

The group is demanding quick and decisive action from government leaders and departments, according to the press release.

HVSPA, teachers, parents and health professionals recently testified at a Michigan Senate hearing chaired by Sen. Lana Theis about the damage being done to students across the state and nation in a virtual learning setting.

Health care professionals from Michigan Medicine opened testimony with a statement signed by more than 400 health care professionals from their organization, according to the press release.

HVSPA launched “MICHIGAN Save Our Kids Open Our Schools,” a Facebook group that has grown to approximately 5,000 members. The group held a demonstration at the State Capitol on Saturday, March 6.

Jennifer Horton, a teacher at Fenton Area Public Schools (FAPS), was asked to speak at the rally Saturday. She joined the Facebook group rallying in Lansing to learn more and said she did not realize just how many classrooms at the elementary level were still virtual.

“Fenton has done an amazing job,” she said. “They gave options to parents with virtual and face-to-face. In class is the most effective way to teach.”

Another concern of Horton’s is the virtual classes at the university level. Her son is a sophomore at Michigan State University, her alma mater, and his classes have been virtual the entire year.

Jennifer Horton, a Fenton Area Public Schools teacher and mother of two teenagers, was one of 24 speakers at the “MICHIGAN Save Our Kids Open Our Schools” rally in Lansing on March 6. Submitted photo

Jennifer Horton
Fenton Area Public Schools teacher

Fenton has done an amazing job. They gave options to parents with virtual and face-to-face. In class is the most effective way to teach.”

Jennifer Horton
Fenton Area Public Schools teacher

HOURS:
Monday-Thursday: 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday Closed

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Advertising ………… 810-433-6778
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Tell me something good — the power of testimonials

feedback to help secure sponsors, I would bet she does, especially because she thanked me for sharing.

The experience got me thinking about the power of testimonials and how every business should be using them.

When we talk to new customers about using their local newspaper for marketing, sometimes we hear that they don’t need the newspaper because their business comes by word of mouth. There is no doubt that word of mouth advertising works. A forbes.com article on the subject said that “According to Nielsen, 92 percent of consumers believe recommendations from friends and family over all forms of advertising.”

The key to great branding and marketing is to deliver a frequent and consistent message. Word of mouth is super valuable but a company has no control over how often customers tell people about them or what they’re saying. Bottom line, the challenge when it comes to word of mouth advertising is harnessing it. That’s where testimonials come in.

Testimonials allow a company to take their word of mouth advertising and capitalize on it by using it in proposals and marketing efforts. So, how do you do that? A huffpost.com article on the subject has some great tips. Here are a few with my own thoughts added in:

- Make a list of clients who could provide a testimonial.

See TESTIMONIALS on 7

It’s THAT season again...

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Compiled by Hannah Ball, staff reporter Question asked to Tri-County Times’ Facebook followers

What do you think of the vaccine rollout in Michigan and in the county?
WARNING
Continued from Front Page

The reported scam tactics continue to change but often share many of the same characteristics. Callers use fake names and badge numbers as well as names of well-known DEA officials or police officers in local departments. Additionally, they may:

- use an urgent and aggressive tone, refusing to speak to or leave a message with anyone other than their targeted victim;
- threaten arrest, prosecution, imprisonment, and, in the case of medical practitioners and pharmacists, revocation of their DEA registration;
- demand thousands of dollars via wire transfer or in the form of untraceable gift card numbers the victim is told to provide over the phone;
- ask for personal information, such as Social Security number or date of birth;
- reference National Provider Identifier numbers and/or state license numbers when calling a medical practitioner. They also may claim that patients are making accusations against that practitioner.

The best deterrence against these bad actors is awareness and caution. Anyone receiving a call from a person claiming to be with DEA should report the incident to the FBI at www.ic3.gov. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) provides recovery steps, shares information with more than 3,000 law enforcement agencies and takes reports at reportfraud.ftc.gov. For any victims who have given personally identifiable information like a Social Security number to the caller, they can learn how to protect against identity theft at identitytheft.gov.

Reporting these scam calls will help federal authorities find, arrest, and stop the criminals engaged in this fraud. Impersonating a federal agent is a violation of federal law, punishable by up to three years in prison; aggravated identity theft carries a mandatory minimum sentence of two years in prison plus fines and restitution.

**DEA will never request personal or sensitive information over the phone...**

Keith Martin
Detroit Field Division special agent in charge

PARENT GROUP
Continued from Page 3

“He’s basically teaching himself and paying for an education,” she said.

Like what Fenton is doing, she said universities have options for in-person education. She knows universities outside of Michigan offer in-person classes.

Horton started a Facebook group for parents and university students. She said so many parents are upset with how their college age children are depressed and isolated in their dorm rooms. College freshmen lost much of their high school senior year and are now alone and isolated. She said college students are sometimes threatened with expulsion if they have a friend over to visit. “People are unhappy,” she said and those people started reaching out to Horton. “What they are doing at the university level is so sad.”

Horton was one of 24 speakers at the rally on Saturday. “There’s much more at stake than just the virus,” she said. “Suicides are up, self-harm, mental health.”

When asked how Saturday went, Horton said it went “very well.”

In addition to her speaking, she said four senators, mental health professionals, several parents and some “amazing” kids spoke. She said Garrett Soldano, who leads Unlock Michigan, also spoke. Horton estimates that several hundred people attended the rally.

She said she was touched by the stories one 14-year-old girl told and a 17-year-old boy who talked about real anxiety the kids are feeling. “It was very brave of him to do that,” she said.

A major focus of the rally was to bring awareness to mental health and how it’s affecting the kids more than the virus. From a study by the New England Journal of Medicine, Horton said they learned that the suicide rate for 15-24-year-olds was 10 times that of COVID deaths and accidental drug overdose deaths was six times that of COVID deaths.

“It’s everything we are talking about. The data is there, Horton said. “The kids need school and to socialize and get back to living.”

Horton said she spoke as a teacher, and as a mother of a high school senior and a university student. “The governor needs to mandate the kids back into the classroom. It’s basically out of the schools’ hands. It needs to happen by our government leaders,” she said.
LIQUOR LICENSE
Continued from Front Page
State Road Holdings, LLC is owned by Jason Hester of Davison and Kosta Popoff of Fenton Township. They intend to conduct business as The Vault at 100 S. LeRoy St. in downtown Fenton. This is currently the home of Billmeier Camera, which will be relocating to 121 First St. in downtown Fenton.

The Vault will be a two-floor restaurant and bar. It will offer items ranging from casual to fine dining. The transfer of a Class C liquor license will allow for the service and consumption of beer, wine and spirits on the licensed premises.

Slater wrote that Popoff and Hester have more than 50 years of combined experience in the restaurant industry. Their family owned businesses include Starlite Diner and Starlite Burger and Coney in Burton.

The Vault has been described as a “fancy casual” restaurant and bar that will serve prime cuts of beef and seafood. They intend to offer acoustic live entertainment a couple of days per week.

Hester and Popoff will be renovating the property and plan to open this fall.

Slater investigated Hester and Popoff and found no criminal convictions or driving related infractions that would impede a successful liquor license transfer. He said the Michigan Liquor Control Commission will conduct an independent investigation into the transfer request.

Notice was made to the Fenton United Methodist Church by email on Feb. 23. Slater said he did not receive any objections.

At the Zoom meeting Monday, March 8, Slater said that Mike Reilly, the city’s building and zoning administrator, saw no building issues and Bob Cairnduff, the fire chief, said there were no fire code issues with the building.

Hester took part in the Zoom meeting and told council members that the capacity for The Vault would be between 100 and 120 people. He said they plan to complete a nice remodeling project inside and outside. They do plan to keep the historic appearance and add windows. “It will make a presence in the downtown area,” Hester said.

City Council gave unanimous approval to support the liquor license transfer.
VACCINE
Continued from Front Page
Federal Drug Administration (FDA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) nearly two weeks ago, county officials expect the number of doses to increase.

The county is running vaccination clinics six days a week. Currently, those in Phase 1 and 2, which are first responders, healthcare workers, teachers and those over 65 years old can get vaccinated.

Beginning March 8, those aged 50 and older with an underlying medical condition or disability, caretakers/ guardians of children with special health care needs were eligible to get vaccinated. Beginning March 22, anyone age 50 and over is eligible.

Go to gchd.com to make an appointment. Health officials urge residents to sign up for appointments through multiple sources, including participating pharmacies and Meijer. Take the first available appointment.

In Genesee County, pharmacies have currently administered the most COVID-19 vaccine doses at 36 percent of total administered doses in the county. The GCHD has administered 31 percent of the doses, and local hospitals have administered 27 percent.

HOT LINE CONTINUED
FOR 2020, CANADA passed the U.S. for best place to move to. If you have ever visited there you already know why. If you don’t like all the BS going on here, think about it. If I was young again I’d be on my way.

ROSE TOWNSHIP SHOULD recall their board for what they’re doing to Devoted Friends Animal Society and the Devoted Barn. They’re a disgrace.

ARE YOU KIDDING? Any president facing a major disaster or pandemic would expedite the process? Obama took over six months to cap one leaking oil well in the Gulf of Mexico. Trump had the complex task of vaccines done in less than 10 months.

STOP THE STIMULUS checks. They are catering to those who don’t want to work. Do you realize it will be our kids and grandchildren who will be responsible to pay this money back, let alone fighting to keep a job that hasn’t been taken from them from the crazy socialist.

THE HOT PURSUIT DOCTRINE AND MISDEMEANORS
Under the Fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution, a police officer who is conducting a search and seizure cannot enter a home without a search warrant.

However, there are exceptions and a very important one is the “hot pursuit doctrine.”

Put in its simplest terms, hot pursuit is when there are emergency or “exigent” circumstances and allows the police to enter a dwelling without a warrant to arrest a suspect who has fled there from a public place to avoid arrest.

It must be shown that the chase was contemporaneous with or near in time to the suspect being in the public place, there was an emergency requiring immediate police action, and that the suspect committed a felony.

A very famous example of hot pursuit is the 1994 televised police chase of O.J. Simpson.

This doctrine was first announced by the United States Supreme Court in 1967. Since then the question has been raised as to whether the doctrine applies to suspects who have committed misdemeanors?

In Michigan the answer is no, but five states, Massachusetts, Ohio, Illinois, North Dakota and New Hampshire, do recognize it.

On Feb. 24, the Supreme Court heard oral arguments in Lange v. California.

In Lange, the defendant was driving his vehicle and was followed to his house by a police officer because he believed the defendant was violating a misdemeanor noise statute.

When Lange opened his garage door and drove his car inside the officer followed him in, smelled alcohol on his breath, and arrested him for drunk driving and violating the statute. He subsequently pleaded no contest to drunk driving and appealed claiming the officer’s entry into the garage violated the Fourth Amendment.

Lange presents the question of whether the hot pursuit doctrine should now be a general rule for all misdemeanors.

There isn’t an easy answer and the justices were concerned about issues such as how to differentiate between felonies and misdemeanors; determining whether a misdemeanor is violent or nonviolent; and individual states having different definitions for misdemeanors. Because of its significance, this case will be closely watched by the legal and law enforcement communities.

A decision is expected this summer and when it is announced, I will make a full report.

TESTIMONIALS
Continued from Page 4
• Contact each person and request a testimonial, letting them know why you chose them. (Example: We are looking to attain more millennial clients and you fall into that age category.)
• Feel free to give hints as to what you’d like the testimonial to address.

Armed with a few great testimonials, what do you do next? That’s easy. Contact me at ecaswell@mhomepaper.com.

There are a number of ways to use testimonials in a marketing message and I’m happy to help make that happen.

Emily Caswell is the brand manager for VIEW Group, the branding division of View Newspaper Group.

Midweek Crossword

| Across

| Down

©2021 King Features Synd., Inc. • Answers in this Sunday’s edition of the Tri-County Times
By David Troppens

Holly — The memory burned deep in senior Korryn Smith’s mind and the rest of her Fenton varsity girls basketball teammates’ minds as well.

Earlier this season, the Tigers led for the majority of a contest with the Holly Bronchos and led by 12 points with just five minutes left in the fourth quarter. Holly rebounded and ended up scoring a 51-50 victory at Fenton High School. The Tigers weren’t going to let that happen again, and it didn’t.

The Tigers never trailed against the Bronchos at Holly High School Friday night, and they usually led by double-digits. Holly did make one charge to cut the gap to seven points, but Fenton made sure there were no repeat great comebacks by the Bronchos, earning a 53-39 victory.

Fenton also defeated Lappeer 58-29 on Saturday while the Bronchos lost to Corunna 48-35.

Smith said the Tigers were motivated against Holly.

“Young, we all wanted it,” said Smith, Shaker help Tigers get their revenge vs. Holly, 53-39

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Holly — It’s been a tough season for the Holly varsity boys basketball team.

But in one night, a lot of the Bronchos’ frustrations were lifted with one result.

Facing their biggest rivals, the Bronchos posted a convincing 62-41 victory at home against the Fenton Tigers on Friday.

Holly entered the game 0-8 with one of those losses being a 51-45 verdict against the Tigers on Feb. 17. But now, the Bronchos can add a victory to that list.

“The win means a lot. It took a lot to come out here and get our first win,” Holly senior Alec Lewis said. “Once we got the lead we stepped on the gas. We never let off the gas and just had a great game all around.

“It’s always been a rivalry and it’s always been a tough time against them. They come out and play hard against us. They never stop. They put up a good competition against us and we gutted out the win tonight.”

Holly’s taking advantage in the contest was a gradual process. Fenton jumped to a quick 6-2 lead with a Noah Sage putback hoop making it that score with 3:30 left in the opening quarter. However, a conventional three-point play by Lewis and a three-pointer by Samuel Fleischer gave the Bronchos an 8-7 lead. Fenton’s Seth Logan gave the Tigers a 9-8 lead with a hoop right before the end of the first quarter.

The Bronchos took the lead for good during the second quarter, starting the session with a six-point run. It started with a Jacob Welch trey and continued with a converted free throw by Logan Dzendzel and a breaking layup by Andrew Simmons. Holly led 14-9 with 4:58 left until halftime. Fenton cut the gap to 17-16 on a driving layup by Brendan Alvord, but Lewis capped the half with a layup and a three-pointer, earning the Bronchos a 22-16 halftime lead.

Holly dominated the third quarter by nailing 8-of-15 shots while Fenton hit on just 3-of-16 during the stanza. Simmons was the star during the quarter. He hit a trey to start the third quarter and followed with three more buckets, netting nine third-quarter points. Lewis added two more buckets himself and four other Holly players scored during the 21-point quarter.

The last time Fenton was within single-digits in the third quarter came 31-23 after a Logan trey, but Holly responded with six straight points — two on a jump shot by Jacob Welch, two on a Lewis layup and two more on converted free throws by Dean Brown — pushing the lead back to 37-23. Holly

Fenton’s Korryn Smith attempts a shot against Holly. Photo: Mark Bolen

Holly’s Alec Lewis attempts a shot during the Bronchos’ 62-41 victory against Fenton. Photo: Mark Bolen

Bronchos get first win of season, beat Fenton

By David Troppens

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LF girls take another step closer to a Stars title

Blue Devils defeat Owosso, 59-41

By David Troppens

The Lake Fenton varsity girls basketball team moved one step closer to making history Monday.

The Blue Devils are one win away from earning at least a share of the Flint Metro League Stars Division after earning a 59-41 road victory against Owosso on Monday.

Despite the 18-point victory, Lake Fenton varsity girls basketball coach Brian VanBuren said it wasn’t the team’s strongest performance of the season.

“We got the win and we are still in first place, and all the things we want to happen can still happen,” VanBuren said. “The first time we beat them by 35-plus points and today it didn’t feel like such an easy win. It felt good to not play so well and still win by 18 points.

“We jumped to an early eight-point lead and I don’t know if we let up, but it was nip-and-tuck situation from there. We weren’t down, but we weren’t getting out and doing what we want to do. We had foul troubles and we were forced to play differently. We had a good third quarter and that was key.”

The Blue Devils scored double-digits in every quarter and kept Owosso to single-digit scoring in the first three quarters. Lake Fenton led 16-8 after one quarter and led 28-17 at halftime. A 17-8 run in the third quarter blew the game open. The Blue Devils led 45-25 entering the fourth quarter.

“Our freshmen guards (Emerson Baker and Amya Smith) played particularly well,” VanBuren said. “Emerson scored eight points in the third quarter when we pulled away. They were our two top leading scorers.”

Smith led the Blue Devils with 13 points while Baker had 12 points. Cola Sisk came off the bench to provide 10 points.

The Blue Devils (7-1 in the Flint Metro League Stars Division and 9-1 overall) travel to Goodrich on Friday.

Blue Devils collect second victory of season, defeat Owosso, 65-45

By David Troppens

After an 0-3 start which included a 12-day gap between games and a 10-day period where the team couldn’t practice due to COVID-19 protocols, the Lake Fenton varsity boys basketball team is starting to play some games.

In seven days, the Blue Devils played four contests, and within those games something else happened. Lake Fenton has overcome the adversity to win a couple of games.

Lake Fenton (2-4) won its second game in three tries, earning a road victory against Owosso. This one was a pretty impressive 65-45 verdict. The team’s other victory was a 62-48 home win on March 5.

“It’s a huge confidence booster for us,” Lake Fenton varsity boys basketball coach Tyler Szczepanski said. “Going in and winning, but we are going in and playing more of a complete game. ... We played valiantly in our losses, but we can’t take any time out. We have to be mentally and physically engaged for 32 minutes and we are getting closer to a complete game.

“Two things we wanted to focus on was at the beginning of the game having a strong start and having a strong finish — play a complete game. Owosso did a very nice job moving the ball and hitting some shots. I give them credit for that. But at the end of the day we had a strong first quarter, controlled the pace through the fourth quarter and finished strong in the fourth quarter.”

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM
Griffins’ strong offense sparks weekend sweep

**By David Troppens**

The Fenton/Linden varsity hockey team had a pretty successful weekend, scoring 16 goals in two games.

The Griffins defeated the Swartz Creek/Clio/Flushing co-op 12-0 on Saturday, and then beat the Bay Area Thunder 4-1 on Sunday.

In the 12-goal game the Griffins were remarkably balanced on offense, recording 11 different goal scorers. Only Keegan McNamara acing 11 different goal scorers.

In net, Brady Faille earned the victory, saving all five shots he faced.

The contest against the Bay Area Thunder was a much more competitive battle, but the Griffins had control of the game, earning a 3-1 lead by the end of the second period. The only goal in the first period was provided by Moffatt.

Gardner scored the team’s first goal in the second period on assists by Wright and Holloway and then Crandall scored on assists by Bittner and Cox. The team’s final goal was scored by Temple on an assist by Luck.

Fenton wrestlers earn weekend sweep

**By David Troppens**

For the second Metro League session in a row, the Fenton varsity wrestling team was perfect.

This time, the Tigers were perfect against a group of squads that included two area teams. Fenton defeated Holly 58-24, Lake Fenton 60-21 and Corunna 54-24 in a four-team meet the Tigers hosted Saturday. Lake Fenton went 2-1, beating Holly 49-30 and Corunna 36-33. The Bronchos lost to Corunna 33-30.

The only goal in the first period was scored by Temple and Cox. The team’s final score was earned on an assist by McNamara.

Fenton had four wrestlers record 3-0 records. Among them, three of them had two pinfall wins. They were Isaac Croney (130), Ben Triola (160) and Login Fuller (189). Dylan Bervely (145/152) was the team’s other 3-0 finisher. He had one pinfall win.

Two other Fenton wrestlers finished with two pinfall wins. They were Kendra Ryan (112) and Phillip Lumka (145/152) who each won 2-1. Other 2-1 wrestlers for Fenton were Ethan Radloff (125), Adam Barcome (135), Kyle Dunfield (140), Mason Church (171) and Jack Cairnduff (285). Garrett Clark (103), Ella Tumblov (119), and Carson Krszeszak (215) had one win each.

Lake Fenton had three 3-0 wrestlers with one pinfall win. They were Ty Johnson (125), Zack Hall (135) and Noah Hall (140). Four Blue Devils were 2-1. They were Jorge Marvin (103), Shawn Skinner (130), Jack Conley (145) and Gavin Lawrence (171). Both of Skinner’s wins were pinfall wins.

Clay Cook (112), Hunter Devasher (189) and John Grigg (215/285) had a win each.

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM

Fenton loses fourth straight Saturday game

Saturday games haven’t been very kind to the Fenton varsity boys basketball team this season.

The Tigers fell to 0-4 in Saturday contests, losing a 61-49 verdict against Lapeer at Fenton High School.

Each time it seemed as though Blue Devils fall to Clio Mustangs, 62-48

It was a night of catch-up for the Lake Fenton varsity boys basketball team Friday.

Blue Devils got themselves out of a hole against the Clio Mustangs, they ended up deep in it again. The result was a 62-48 loss to the Mustangs.

Linden boys basketball splits weekend action with the Linden varsity boys basketball team for a Flint Metro League Stripes Division title.

Lake Fenton girls post strong 56-22 win vs. Clio

The Lake Fenton varsity girls basketball team used its familiar formula to post an early lead and eventually earn a 56-22 victory against the Clio Mustangs on Friday night.

The win did something else. It placed the Blue Devils (6-1 in the Metro League Stars Division and 8-1 overall) in sole possession of first place after Corunna lost to Goodrich on Friday night.

Online Stories

Fenton’s Ben Triola earned three victories in the Tigers’ weekend Metro competition. Photo: David Troppens

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Fenton’s Gavin Shepherd attempts a shot against Holly’s Logan Dzendzel in the Bronchos’ victory against the Tigers Friday night.

Photo: Mark Bolen

**BRONCHOS**

**Continued from Page 8**

Tied 2-2 at the end of the first quarter, the Bronchos eventually held a 41-27 lead entering the fourth quarter.

Fenton’s offense remained hot in the fourth, netting 19 points. Holly’s lead reached 20 points for the first time at 54-33 on a Lewis trey with 3:57 remaining.

Holly varsity boys basketball coach Steve Dehart said he could see the team was getting closer to victory in recent days. “I told them the last week or weekend that we’ve gotten more aggressive in our practices and that’s brought a little more competition to the practices,” Dehart said. “It’s gotten the kids to play tougher. They’ve been trending up. I said that before the game started. We played well in our last game, we just weren’t consistently well. Tonight, we put together a more consistent game and it’s funny how that works.”

“I liked how we got back on defense,” Lewis said. “They had no transition points on us the whole game and we just stepped it up and stepped up the rebounding. We just got back on defense.

“(Winning) means a lot. It gets us up. It gets our morale up. It gets our spirit up. We just have to keep playing like this the rest of the season, and get some more wins.”

Lewis led the Bronchos with 19 points while Simmons had a strong game as well, netting 14 points. Logan Dzendzel had 10 points while Jacob Welch netted nine points. Holly hit on 21-of-50 shots with six of them being treys. Holly also hit a strong 14-of-17 free throws.

Fenton only had one player with double-digits with that player being Logan with 11 points. Justin Banura and Kash Russell had seven points each. Fenton hit on just 14-of-61 shots while hitting on just 9-of-17 free throws.

“Congrats to Holly,” Fenton varsity boys basketball coach Chad Logan said. “They played as good as I’ve seen them play and we didn’t shoot it in the ocean very well. They took away Seth and the other guys couldn’t make shots. That is probably the blue print we are going to see against teams the rest of the year.”

**TIGERS**

**Continued from Page 8**

Smith, who tied fellow teammate Kaleigh Shaker with a game-high 17 points. “We knew we should’ve won that game. We worked really hard for it and it was a devastating loss. Every single person wanted it tonight whether they were on the bench or in the game tonight.”

“It felt really good because we’ve been working so hard in practice,” Shaker said. “After we lost to them the first time, we really wanted to get back at them, so our hard work paid off tonight.”

Shaker helped the Tigers take the lead in the opening quarter while Smith helped spearhead the large lead the Tigers earned in the second quarter. The Tigers were tied 2-2 early but a three-pointer by Shaker gave Fenton a 5-2 lead and they’d lead the rest of the contest after that bucket. Shaker hit another three-pointer to end the quarter, giving the Tigers a 12-5 lead after the opening quarter.

**METRO**

**Continued from Page 9**

Holly competed at the Goodrich quad and took eighth among the 12 teams with a season-best score of 637.6. Kearsley with the group at Goodrich and scored a 726.36, the best score of any team in Metro League competition. In fact, the Hornets became just the second team in the Metro to score a 700 or better. The Fenton Tigers have done that in each of the three Metro competitions.

Fenton leads everyone with 35 points while Kearsley is second with 32 points.

**BOYS BASKETBALL**

► Milford 61, Holly 47: Trailing just 22-20 at halftime, Milford outscored the Bronchos 26-11 in the third quarter, resulting in the Mavericks’ eventual victory.

Andrew Simmons led the Bronchos with 13 points while Jacob Welch netted 12 points.

**Linden wrestlers remain on top of Metro’s Stripe Division**

By David Troppens

The Linden varsity wrestling team remains one of the elite teams in the Metro League and currently is the elite team in the Stripes Division of the league.

The Eagles picked up another two Metro victories Saturday, defeating Brandon 56-24 and Flushing 65-18.

The Eagles improved to 13-1 in Flint Metro League action and 4-0 in division action.

Seven Eagles had perfect 2-0 days.

Jase Grundy (189) and Cam Galley (285) had two pinfall wins while Wyatt Gocha (215), Ben Wingblad (112), Bryce Shingleton (125) and Jimmy Roti (160) each went 2-0 with one pinfall victory. Michael Bush (171) also went 2-0. Brenden Shingleton (125) and Tyler McCabe (119) went 1-0 with one pinfall victory. Aiden Haney (130), Luke Haney (135), Logan Swartz (140) and Jaylon Berry (152) each had a victory.

**PREP REPORT**

**CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM**
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Lawn, Landscape & Beach Maintenance Services

The Charter Township of Fenton is requesting proposals from qualified contractors for lawn, landscape and beach maintenance services at the various Fenton Township facilities. Proposal forms and facility locations are available at the Fenton Township Office, 12060 Mantawauka Drive, Fenton, Michigan 48430. Proposal forms may also be downloaded from Fenton Township’s website at www.fentontownship.org.

Sealed proposals must be submitted to Fenton Township no later than 3:00 p.m. Wednesday March 31, 2021. Any questions should be directed to the Fenton Township Operations Manager at (810) 629-1537.

Midweek Sudoku

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

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Midweek Jumble

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

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DOPAT
GNERED
LUYELP

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★★☆☆
★ Easy   ★★ Moderate   ★★★ Challenging   ★★★★ HOG BOY!

©2021 King Features Synd., Inc. by Linda Thistle • Answers in this Sunday’s edition of the Tri-County Times
Louise A. (Vicky) Bryan Dumler Connell
1927 – 2021

Louise A. (Vicky) Bryan Dumler Connell. “I am on a journey to a new challenge to be in the arms of my constant companion, my armchair, with my family close by. Leaving my memories to my beloved daughter and best friend, Helyn (Lyn) Stoner along with memories of my deceased son, Larry Bryan.” Vicky’s family was always her number one priority. Born and raised in Flint, residing mostly in Linden. Her home on Lobdell Lake was the center for family gatherings. She was a lover of Lake; so here’s my toast to you now: May we live 100 years and I one less a day. Lou (Vicky) requested donations be made to Loose Senior Center or Humane Society. Thank you to all of the Volunteer work at Loose, the pain and emotion of the loss, they are well aware of that. By remembering such occasions as wedding anniversaries and birthdays, you are not remembering the death, but reaffirming that a life was lived.

Source: Thefuneralsource.org

FUNERAL ETIQUETTE
WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP LATER?

In the days and months to come, the family will continue to need your support. Try to write or call on a regular basis. Continue to include them in your social plans, they will let you know when they are ready to participate. It is also nice to remember the family on special occasions during the first year following the death. Don’t worry about bringing up the pain and emotion of the loss, they are well aware of that. By remembering such occasions as wedding anniversaries and birthdays, you are not remembering the death, but reaffirming that a life was lived.

Source: Thefuneralsource.org

Roger Alan O’Berry
1932 – 2021

Roger Alan O’Berry - age 88, of Fenton, passed away Thursday, March 4, 2021. Memorial service will take place 1 PM, Thursday, March 11, 2021 at Sharp Funeral Homes, Fenton Chapel, 1000 Silver Lake Rd., Fenton. Memorial service will be live-streamed on our website at www.sharpfuneralhomes.com.

Roger was born on March 14, 1932 in Flint the son of Russell and Emily (Edinger) O’Berry. He proudly served in the United States Navy during the Korean War until his honorable discharge. Roger graduated with his Bachelor and Master Degrees from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. He was a teacher for the Fenton Public Schools for 37 years before his retirement. Roger and Shirley Carrigan were united in marriage on September 3, 1976 in Mt. Morris. He was an avid U of M Alumni and was always supporting the university by attending events, attending football games and watching basketball games. In his free time, he enjoyed spending time with his family, gardening and golfing. He is survived by his wife, Shirley O’Berry; children, Kevin (Salome) O’Berry, Karen Braunscheidel, Sarah (Darren) Martin, Elizabeth O’Berry and her significant other, Dale Duncan, John (Daisy) Matlewski, Edward (Angie) Matlewski, Cynthia (Chris) Kievit and Timothy (Tracy) Matlewski; 14 grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and brother, Bruce (Carolyn) O’Berry. Roger was preceded in death by his grandson, Christopher Braunscheidel; parents, Russell and Emily O’Berry; and siblings, Mary O’Berry, Russell O’Berry Jr. and Bonnie Bjorling. The family would like to extend a special thank you to the doctors and staff at Compassus Ascension Genesys Hospice. Tributes may be shared at www.sharpfuneralhomes.com.
Virginia Mae Fuller - age 88, of Reed City, formerly of Linden, died Monday, March 8, 2021. Visitation will be held 10 – 12 PM and 3 – 8 PM Wednesday, March 10 at Sharp Funeral Home, Fenton Chapel 1000 Silver Lake Road, Fenton. Private funeral services will be held. Live streaming of the private funeral will be available at 11 AM Thursday, March 11 on Virginia’s website page at www.sharpfuneralhomes.com.

Virginia was born January 19, 1933 in Flint, the daughter of Virgil and Sophie (Kottkamp) Stephens. She was a graduate of Grand Blanc High School.

Virginia married Donald E. Fuller of Reed City, Jamie (Frank) and Josephine (Hincka) Witkowski, the youngest of 12 children. He was a softball and basketball coach at St. John Elementary in Fenton, enjoyed riding his motorcycle, playing cards, played softball in a UAW softball league, and donated to Locks of Love. Louis loved dogs and duck hunting. He liked to watch Western movies, and the Detroit Tigers. Louis was also a woodworker and would show and sell his artwork at craft fairs. He graduated from Ferris State University with an accounting degree. Louis retired from GM and volunteered for Easter Seals.

Virginia was a founding Nursing Assistant for eight years. She was a founding member along with her husband Donald, at Faith Baptist Church in Linden and also Faith Baptist Church in Hartland. Virginia volunteered for Easter Seals. She was also a tutor for adult literacy and a foster parent. Virginia was always in leadership and teaching roles at church. She enjoyed sewing, gardening, floral culture, craft classes and learning new skills throughout her life. Virginia is survived by her children, Diana (David) Fabry of Fenton, Dawn (Terry) Timmins of Tusin, Dana Fuller of Reed City, Jamie Fuller of Lebanon, MO.; eight grandchildren; foster children; great-grandchild, Liliana Borsodi who visited her often at the nursing home; siblings, Gladys Freund, Martha Waters; and many church friends. She was preceded in death by her parents; siblings, Mildred Murphy, Merle Stephens, Donald Stephens, Orland Stephens, Mary Stack and Christine Meyers. A special thank you to all of her caregivers at Spectrum. Tributes may be shared on the obituaries page of www.sharpfuneralhomes.com.

Louis M. Witkowski - age 72, passed away Friday, March 5, 2021. His Legacy… Louis was born on August 25, 1948 in Rogers City, to Francis (Frank) and Josephine (Hincka) Witkowski, the youngest of 12 children. He was a softball and basketball coach at St. John Elementary in Fenton, enjoyed riding his motorcycle, playing cards, played softball in a UAW softball league, and donated to Locks of Love. Louis loved dogs and duck hunting. He liked to watch Western movies, and the Detroit Tigers. Louis was also a woodworker and would show and sell his artwork at craft fairs. He graduated from Ferris State University with an accounting degree. Louis retired from GM and volunteered for Easter Seals.

Louis was preceded in death by his parents, Frank and Josephine; and siblings, Dorothea, Genevieve, Agnes, Edward, Eleanor, Frank Jr., Estelle, Walter (Pete), and Martha. His Farewell… A private farewell has taken place. Memorial contributions are suggested to the charity of one’s choice. Please leave a message of comfort for Louis’s family at 1-877-231-7900, or sign his guestbook at www.borekJennings.com.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES
Mar 21/Apr 20
This week some of the puzzle pieces in your life may not fit correctly. That’s okay, Aries. You will find a way to make things work even if they don’t exactly line up.

TAURUS
Apr 21/May 21
Your thoughts may be focused on the spiritual for much of the week, Taurus. This is an opportunity to get in touch with meaningful things in your life.

GEMINI
May 22/June 21
Gemini, if things haven’t been going as planned, perhaps it’s time to reevaluate some of your choices. Have confidence that you will find a solution that works.

CANCER
Jun 22/Jul 22
Cancer, your sensitivity is heightened this week, so you may need to think twice or even three times before you share your opinions. Cool down before becoming chatty.

LEO
Jul 23/Aug 23
Figure out how you can organize your day to get things done with more efficiency, Leo. This is a better option than getting frustrated by a lack of time in your schedule.

VIRGO
Aug 24/Sept 22
You may realize that the conventional ways of doing things simply are not working anymore, Virgo. Start thinking creatively rather than analytically.

LIBRA
Sept 23/Oct 23
Dreams and fantasies are more than wishful thinking, Libra. They can be the catalysts to actual goals and plans if you let them. Start making your lists.

SCORPIO
Oct 24/Nov 22
Scorpio, you may be more attuned to your dreams this week. While they are not true predictions of what will happen, pay attention to any recurring themes.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov 23/Dec 21
A drastic change may be coming but you don’t know what that change will be just yet, Sagittarius. Keep your eyes peeled for opportunities that may be on the horizon.

CAPRICORN
Dec 22/Jan 20
Playful emotions and daydreams are filling your days and nights, Capricorn. Why not let them come out in very real ways? Find ways to incorporate more fun into your life.

AQUARIUS
Jan 21/Feb 18
If you have been taking someone for granted lately you can rectify this week, Aquarius. Put this person first for a change and he or she may reciprocate in the future.

PISCES
Feb 19/Mar 20
Always be truthful, Pisces. Just remember you cannot control how others may react to whatever it is you have to say.
HERE’S HOW:
1. Order on LittleCaesars.com or our app
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