



Miller is our  
Male Track Athlete  
of the Year  
SEE PAGE 9

# Midweek **Times**

VOL. 28 NO. XXX

WEDNESDAY, JULY 28, 2021

\$1.00

## Fenton City residents to vote on road millage

■ Ten-year, \$24-million millage to improve local streets and roads on November ballot

By Sharon Stone

Fenton City Council adopted a resolution to place a bond

proposal on the ballot for the election to be held Tuesday, Nov. 2. The bond proposal would raise funds for road and street improvements in the city.

This vote came after Fenton City Council held a special meeting last Monday, July 19

to discuss this topic with the city's financial consultant Paul Stauder, who was asked to attend the Monday, July 26 meeting to answer any questions.

The bonds are scheduled to be sold in three series for a total of \$24 million. The first series

will have a bond term of 10 years and three months. The next two series will each have a bond term of 10 years.

The resolution states that the city has determined that it is necessary for the health, safety and welfare of the city

and its residents that the city pay the cost of acquiring and constructing street improvements throughout the city, consisting of paving, repaving, reconstructing and improving streets, including all necessary

See **MILLAGE** on 7

### Fenton City selects new garbage/recycle provider

■ Contracts with GFL Environmental USA, Inc. — customers to see annual cost savings of nearly \$75

By Sharon Stone

Fenton City Council unanimously approved a service agreement with GFL Environmental USA, Inc. for solid waste, recycle and yard waste service. They also authorized City Manager Lynn Markland or his designee to sign the agreement.

GFL Environmental is a Canadian company with a regional base in Sterling Heights. Residents will receive new recycling and refuse carts in advance of Wednesday, Oct. 6,

See **GARBAGE** on 8

### LeRoy Street bridge under construction



Construction workers with CA Hull manage traffic on S. LeRoy Street on Tuesday, July 27. Only one lane is open at a time while workers repair the bridge. The Caroline Street bridge was repaired last week, and the Torrey Road bridge is next. See story on Page 5. Photo: Hannah Ball

### Former corrections officer's case bound over for trial

■ Faces up to 20 years for communicating with 'underage' GHOST decoy

By Sharon Stone

Benjamin Joseph Reinhart, 24, of Gaines, was charged with four counts related to communicating with who he thought was a 15-year-old girl. He was a corrections officer for the Genesee County Sheriff's Office.

See **TRIAL** on 6



Benjamin Joseph Reinhart



“The traffic can be annoying, but I'm just happy

they're doing road work. This is what we all wanted. The delays will be worth it.”



“Congratulations to Caitlynn

Kruyer on her bull sMcK Jameson winning the title of Grand Champion

ShorthornPlus Bull.”



“Absolutely love seeing all the old classic cars driving around in Fenton, Linden and Holly. It's clear that the owners take great pride in their cars.”



# Tall grass, junk vehicles common ordinance violations

■ Code enforcement officer says summer is busiest time

By Hannah Ball

Summer is the busiest time for code

enforcement officers responding to ordinance violations.

Patrick Shaw, ordinance enforcement officer for Fenton Township, said the summer months are busier because,

“People are out more. They’re just enjoying the outdoors more. There’s more building going on, there’s more building ordinances and zoning ordinances to look at during the summer months.”

In April, he reported 16 violations. In May, there were 29, in June, there were 34 and as of July 26, there were 22 for this month.

The three most common general ordinance violations in the township are tall grass, blight and junk vehicles.

Shaw reported nine violations of the grass ordinance in May, eight in June and six in July, totaling 23. The township ordinance states that grass cannot be taller than 12 inches, which he said was “generous.”

“If I’m sending a letter out, that tells you how tall the grass is,” he said, adding that this area has received a lot of rain this summer.

Shaw reported four blight violations in April, one in May, three in June and zero for July, for a total of eight.

Multiple materials and situations can be considered blight, including the following: building materials not being used and not being held in an enclosed structure; the storage or accumulation of junk, trash rubbish or refuse with a landfill permit, except for refuse that isn’t a nuisance for more than 15 days; a structure that’s uninhabitable due to a natural disaster; vacant dwellings left unlocked; and partially completed structures unless the owner has a building permit and construction is completed within a reasonable time.

Junk vehicles also are an issue. Shaw reported three in April, one in May, three in June and two in July, for a total of nine. A “junk vehicle” is defined as a vehicle in disrepair, that it’s not legally operable on public roads or is unlicensed. This also applies to watercraft.

However, the COVID-19 pandemic caused an increase in this violation. Shaw said residents must get titles for junk vehicles to avoid violating the ordinance, and the Secretary of State’s Office was closed for months due to the pandemic, creating delays.

“Compliance is taking longer, but it’s not totally the person’s fault,” he said.

The township website, fentontownship.org, has quick links further explaining these rules and violations under “ordinances.”

Another ordinance that comes into play during the summer is the non-riparian ordinance, which states that people cannot keep their boats at a dock they do not own for more than a day. Shaw said this is called “key holing” when lakefront property owners allow their non-riparian friends to leave their boat at their dock.

Shaw said leaving the boat there for a day on the lake is fine, but it’s not allowed for an entire weekend or longer. He reported five violations for this ordinance in June and zero in July.

Shaw reported five violations (three in May, one in June, one in July) under “dog control.” The three main aspects of this ordinance are loose dogs, excessive barking and vicious animals.

See **VIOLATIONS** on 7

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING PAVING PROJECT FOR ENID BOULEVARD CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF FENTON, GENESEE COUNTY, MICHIGAN

To the residents and property owners of the Charter Township of Fenton, Genesee County, Michigan, and any other interested persons:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that as a result of petitions of property owners within the township signed by the record owners of land whose frontage constitutes more than 50% of the total frontage of the proposed district, the Township Board of the Charter Township of Fenton proposes to repave Enid Boulevard, and to create a special assessment district for the recovery of the cost thereof by special assessment against the properties benefited therein.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the District within which the foregoing improvements are proposed to be constructed and within which the cost thereof is proposed to be assessed is more particularly described as follows:

#### All parcels of land with frontage on Enid Boulevard

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Township Board has received preliminary plans showing the improvements and an estimate of the costs of such construction in the approximate amount of \$280,000, has placed the same on file with the Township Clerk, and has passed a Resolution tentatively declaring its intention to make such improvement and to create the special assessment district. The Township Board has also tentatively found the petitions for the improvement to be in compliance with statutory requirements.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that said plans, estimates of cost, proposed special assessment district and petitions may be examined at the office of the Township Clerk from the date of this Notice through the date of the public hearing and may be examined at such public hearing.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that a public hearing upon such petitions, plans, district and estimate of costs will be held at the Fenton Township Civic Community Center at 12060 Mantawauka Drive, Fenton, Michigan, commencing at 7:30 p.m. on Monday August 2, 2021.

At the hearing, the board will also consider any written objections to any of the foregoing matters filed with the board at or before the hearing as well as any revisions, corrections, amendments or changes to said plans, estimates, costs or special assessment district.

All interested persons are invited to be present at the hearing and to submit any comments they may have.

ROBERT E. KRUG  
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“Compliance is taking longer, but it’s not totally the person’s fault.”

Patrick Shaw  
Fenton Township ordinance  
enforcement officer

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# Wild weekend storm passes over area

■ Downpour dumps several inches of rain — flooding roads, yards and parking lots

By Sharon Stone

Chances are you were startled when your phone blared the tornado warning during the evening of Saturday, July 24. It was in effect from approximately 6 to 7 p.m.

According to the National Weather Service, a severe thunderstorm passing over mid-Michigan capable of producing a tornado was located over Swartz Creek, northwest of the tri-county area, moving southeast at 3 miles per hour.

For many boaters out on area lakes, they were seen scrambling and trying to make it back to their homes while high winds and heavy rains impacted the area. Consumers Energy and DTE reported numerous power outages, downed trees and wires.

One local farmer was watching the weather very closely. Dwight Eichelberg, owner of Eichelberg Farm in Fenton Township, reported that his farm received 4.5 inches of rain in about 45 minutes Saturday evening. He said they've recorded 12 inches of rain in the last three weeks.



Teresa Amiot took this photo of her daughter Emily Amiot having some unexpected fun while showing how much rain they got at their E. Rolston Road home in Linden on Saturday, July 24. Submitted photos



Radar shows a strong line of storms as it passed over the tri-county area Saturday, July 24 evening.



Sandy Schlitters of Fenton Township took this photo of the flooded parking lot on N. LeRoy Street in Fenton, just north of S. Long Lake Road.

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## Building Brands

### Turn that frown upside down — your brand depends on it

Here is a small sliver of what one morning last week looked like:

- All three toilets in our house stopped flushing properly.
- The older dog got sick on the carpet (a true talent since most of our flooring is hardwood).
- The newspaper I'm in charge of was more than an hour late to press (not because of the above items).

We've all been there. The terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day. (And we've all likely read the children's book with a similar title).

Bad days aren't only bad for you mentally, they can curb productivity and spread if you spew your negative vibes onto your spouse or team members. (Sorry to anyone who received a phone call, text or email from me last Wednesday. I likely owe you a drink!)

It's not my nature to dwell on bad days, but that's easier said than done. Positivity is an important part of my personal brand (at least I want it to be), so when I was stuck in bumme mode last week I needed to fix it.

Looking for tips on how to turn the day around, I turned to research. I found a great article in the Harvard Business Review (HBR) with help. Here are

some of my favorite tips and my thoughts on them.

**Think positive:** "Studies show that when you're positive, you're 31% more productive, you're 40% more likely to receive a promotion, you have 23% fewer health-related effects from stress, and your creativity rates triple."



Emily Caswell

according to Shawn Achor, author of The Happiness Advantage who is quoted in the HBR piece.

When you're having a bad day, this can be hard but keep reading to the last tip for ways to make positive thoughts happen.

**Change your routine:** The article explains that if you're in a funk, it's time for a change of scenery.

Fortunately for me, my job provides lots of reasons for me to move about, which ultimately snapped me out of my bad day. The second half of my

See **BRAND** on 8



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STATE MUTUAL

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

## What's your favorite part of your job?



"I get to work in a nursing home. Interacting with the seniors is amazing! I've learned so much about them, and myself!"

**Tammy Mackenzie**  
Flint



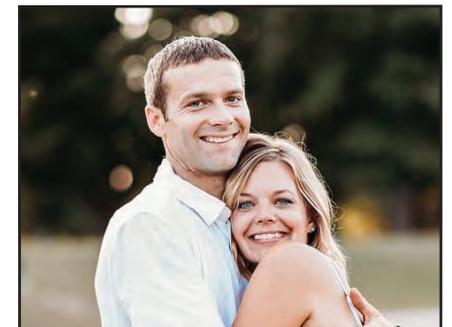
"I serve food to elderly people in a senior living community. I've gotten to know so many amazing people. I love talking to them, not only because I get to hear bits and pieces of their lives but they also ask me about mine and it's clear they genuinely care about me. Talking to them is a real bright spot in my day."

**Gina Hayden**, Mt. Morris



"I don't want to talk about my full time job. That's a paycheck to get the bills paid. I do Papa Pals. Helping others has always been something I loved and now I get paid for it."

**Duwayne Jensen**  
Chesterfield



"Watching and helping micro-preemies begin their lives at weighing less than a pound to graduating the NICU and going home."

**Kaylee Michelle**  
Fenton

## Hotlines

Submit Hot lines online at [myfenton.com](http://myfenton.com) 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.

**IN 2021, WE** saw fireworks in Michigan lead to a local house fire, a professional fire techno employee lose a leg, and an NHL goalie lose his life. Before 2022, Michigan needs to rethink the fireworks law.

**MRS. HORTON REPRESENTS** 50 percent of Fenton, at best. The rest of us think DT and Mrs. Horton in no way represent us.

**TO THE PERSON** questioning why Herman Ferguson is on the Board in Tyrone Township. It's because he was elected and serves as a role model working for the people. His question about paving roads was about which part of Runyan Lake Road to pave first. Get your facts straight.

**ALL WINDOW'S UP** on Bolt with instant air conditioning on high while driving max allowable speed for 100 miles, total energy cost \$3.50.

**THE HOT-LINER THAT** thinks capital gains tax at 8% is hefty hasn't got clue what real taxes are.



An employee with CA Hull prepares equipment on the LeRoy St. bridge in anticipation of repair work on Tuesday, July 27. Photo: Hannah Ball

## LeRoy Street bridge under construction

■ State, city continue local bridge repairs with LeRoy, Caroline and Torrey bridges

By Hannah Ball

**Fenton** — Construction workers began maintenance work on the S. LeRoy Street bridge, which goes over the Shiawassee River, on Tuesday, July 27.

Dan Brisson, department of public works director, said work entails surface repairs, new asphalt approaches and sidewalk repairs at the bridge and bridge approaches. Motorists can expect intermittent lane closures.

This is the second downtown Fenton bridge to undergo these repairs. Work-

ers did repairs on the Caroline Street bridge the week before. The Torrey Road bridge will be repaired next.

Money for these projects was earmarked in the Michigan Department of Transportation Local Agency Bridge Fund.

### Local agency estimates:

- LeRoy Street bridge repairs: \$87,000
- Caroline Street bridge repairs: \$66,000
- Torrey Road bridge repairs: \$58,000

Brisson said the city pays a portion of the project cost and the MDOT local bridge agency also pays a portion.

The Hogan Road bridge was approved for replacement for a cost of \$1,256,000 for 2023.

## HOT LINE CONTINUED

■■■  
**THE GROUP SPREADING** lies over the old Tyrone Township hall are misleading you. There is nothing to 'save.' It's not going to be demolished, it's going to be just fine right where it is. These people have nothing else to do so they start these little groups to keep themselves busy.

■■■  
**THE HOT-LINER THAT** wants the school board to reject 'Critical Race Theory' wants to have their children grow up in and perpetuate the fantasy they grew up in. The operational word here is theory.

■■■  
**IS THERE A** country where there isn't one group of people that doesn't think it is better than another group of people?

■■■  
**I THINK IT'S** pretty bad when I can't get to the post office or city hall because people are eating in the middle of LeRoy Street. Guess I don't have to pay city taxes anymore?

■■■  
**IF YOU ARE** sitting at home collecting unemployment of any kind when you are perfectly capable of working, karma will come back to haunt you. Even though the system is broken and okay for you to do this, you are showing your true character and it's not a very attractive sight.



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## Ribbon cutting for CJW Chimney Sweep



Surrounded by staff and community members, Chuck Weber, owner of CJW Chimney Sweep cuts the ribbon to celebrate his business. Holding the ribbon at left is George Kullis, Holly Township supervisor and at right is Richard Kinnamon, Holly Chamber of Commerce director. CJW Chimney Sweep is at 15213 N. Holly Rd., Holly. Business phone is (810) 681-9532.

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67th District Court

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### When statutes and court rules conflict — is it substantive or procedural?

Under the Michigan Constitution, the state legislature is vested with the authority to enact substantive law or statutes.

The Michigan Supreme Court is vested with the authority by general rules to establish, modify, amend and simplify, the practice and procedure of state courts.

To put it another way, the legislature cannot make procedural rules for the courts and the Supreme Court cannot enact substantive laws for the legislature. This is called the separation of powers of our branches of government.

This seems pretty straightforward, however when it's not, the Michigan Supreme Court has established a two-part test that addresses what happens when there is an apparent conflict between a court rule and a statute.

The first part examines if there is an "irreconcilable" conflict between the two. If there is, then the second part of the test is used to determine if the legislature addressed a "substantive" or a "procedural" matter with the particular statute.

## TRIAL

Continued from Front Page

Genesee County Sheriff Chris Swanson announced the charges during a press conference Wednesday, April 28. "We arrested one of our own," he said.

Swanson said Reinhart had worked for the sheriff's office since 2019.

Reinhart waived his July 6 preliminary exam and his case was bound over to Genesee County Circuit Court for jury trial.

The organization GHOST (Genesee Human Oppression Strike Team) of the Genesee County Sheriff's Office tracked approximately 450 messages between Reinhart and a GHOST decoy acting as a 15-year-old girl. Swanson said 118 of those messages and six pictures were sent while Reinhart was

An example of this test being used is found in a 2017 Michigan Court of Appeals decision, *People v Parker*.

In *Parker*, the defendant was charged with the felony of operating while intoxicated third offense. At his preliminary examination, the court admitted, over his objection, a laboratory report, which showed his blood alcohol content was over the legal limit.

This was in lieu of testimony from the report's author pursuant to a statute, which was intended to reduce the number of times an expert had to testify in criminal proceedings. Ordinarily, testimony would be required but the statute created a special hearsay exception to the Rules of Evidence.

The *Parker* court found that there was an irreconcilable conflict with the court rules as no such exception existed under the Rules of Evidence and went beyond what normally would be allowed.

The court then found that because the legislature had a specific policy reason for the statute beyond court administration or the judicial dispatch of litigation, the statute was a substantive and not a procedural rule of evidence and therefore the report was properly admitted.

In the Federalist Papers, James Madison wrote extensively about how he believed that keeping our branches of government separate was essential to the preservation of liberty.

The *Parker* case is but one example of how this is accomplished.

on duty.

The decoy and Reinhart allegedly agreed to meet, however, Swanson said Reinhart did not show up for the meeting.

Reinhart was arrested Sunday, April 25. His home was raided and he was arraigned April 26. He was fired, Swanson said.

If he is found guilty as charged, Reinhart faces two 20-year felonies, a 5-year felony and a misdemeanor.

Charges include one count of child sexually abusive activity, one count of using a computer/internet to commit a crime, one count of accosting children for immoral purposes and one count of common law offense.

Reinhart was released on \$200,000 personal bond.

## NEWS BRIEFS

COMPILED BY SHARON STONE

### TYRONE TOWNSHIP CLERK'S OFFICE OPEN SATURDAY, JULY 31

The Tyrone Township Clerk's Office will be open Saturday, July 31, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. for residents wishing to obtain an absentee ballot for the Aug. 3, 2021 Special Election. Precinct 1: Linden Community Schools. Precinct 2-3: Fenton Area Public Schools. Both school districts have non-homestead millage renewals. Photo identification or signed affidavit is required. Please note, other departments will not be open.

## MILLAGE

Continued from Front Page  
appurtenances and attachments.

The city will borrow money in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$24 million and issue general obligation unlimited tax bonds to pay for the costs of the project.

If approved, the estimated millage to be levied in 2022 is 3.5 mills (\$3.50 per \$1,000 of taxable value) and the estimated simple average annual millage rate required to retire the bonds is 3.03 mills (\$3.03 per \$1,000 of taxable value).

A home with a taxable value of \$100,000 would pay an average of \$303 per year over the life of the bond.

To determine what your cost would be per year, go to [cityoffenton.org](http://cityoffenton.org) and click on DEPARTMENTS tab at top, Department of Assessor and then Tax Information. There, you will see a link "Click here to look up info about your property." Click on that link and then enter your address or last name to pull up your property. You will see your "taxable value" to the right. To determine your yearly cost, multiply 3.03 (average millage rate) with \$100,000 (a taxable value example) and then divide the amount by 1000. In this example, the cost would be \$303 annually.

"Road funding is a challenge for every municipality in Michigan," said City Manager Lynn Markland. "Fenton has made good use of federal and state infrastructure money, but it comes with limitations, such as not allowing use for residential streets (streets that are not eligible for federal funds), and leaves a

## NEWS BRIEFS

COMPILED BY SHARON STONE

### Rattalee Lake Road closure from Eagle Road to Terrace Road in Rose Township for railroad crossing repairs has been delayed

Canadian National (CN) Railroad has delayed plans to close Rattalee Lake Road between Eagle Road and Terrace Road in Rose Township for railroad crossing repairs. The closure had been scheduled for Wednesday, July 28. A new date will be announced soon. This section of Rattalee Lake Road carries approximately 300 vehicles per day.

big gap between street repair need and funding available.

"If this proposal passes, we can get to work on many of the streets that are in the most need of repair," Markland said.

Fenton Mayor Sue Osborn emphasized the improvement over the 2018 measure. "This is a good resolution for collecting funds to do our roads. With \$8 million in the first year, we'll be able to do more roads in less time at less cost to the taxpayer," she said.

City officials said the DDA would not receive any proceeds from the bond sale. Council Member David McDermott said the proposal would have benefits beyond improved roads. "This is a good investment in our roads and in the value of our own property," he said.

## BALLOT LANGUAGE

### Street improvements bond proposal

Shall the city of Fenton borrow the principal sum of not to exceed \$24 million and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds, in one or more series, payable in not to exceed 11 years from the date of issuance of each series, for the purpose of paying the cost of acquiring and constructing street improvements throughout the city, consisting of paving, repaving, reconstructing and improving streets, including all necessary appurtenances and attachments?

If approved, the estimated millage to be levied in 2022 is 3.5 mills (\$3.50 per \$1,000 of taxable value) and the estimated simple average annual millage rate required to retire the bonds is 3.03 mills (\$3.03 per \$1,000 of taxable value).

## HOT LINE CONTINUED

■ ■ ■  
**TWO THINGS: ONE,** I have definitely seen USPS trucks delivering packages on Sunday. Two, maybe Governor Whitmer is vetoing bad ideas.

■ ■ ■  
**TO THE PERSON** who said the unvaccinated are supposed to be wearing masks in public: Wrong. As of 12:01 a.m. Tuesday, June 22, Michigan has lifted indoor capacity restrictions at restaurants and bars and gotten rid of all mask requirements. If you're vaccinated, you're safe, right?

■ ■ ■  
**DON'T LIKE WHAT** you're getting from the MEA in terms of CRT or in-person instruction? The upcoming millage election in August provides an opportunity to send a message in a language that they will understand.

■ ■ ■  
**IF YOU'RE PAYING** more for health insurance than auto workers, well, that's a personal problem. Even non-union car companies pay for health care. You know why? They are scared to death of the UAW.

## VIOLATIONS

Continued from Page 2

"We understand dogs bark, but it's the constant, never-ending barking" they respond to, Shaw said.

Zoning ordinance violations also are common. Shaw reported four in April, four in May and five in June, for 13 total. This is a broad ordinance, covering different topics, including people illegally living in RVs longer than permitted. Shaw said staying in an RV is permitted as long as it's temporary.

They frequently get questions about owning chickens, which is only allowed if the person's property is zoned agricultural. There was one zoning ordinance violation for chickens in July. Other topics covered under zoning are requiring home occupancy permits if people run a business from their home, along with calls about homemade ponds.

Ordinance enforcement is complaint driven, meaning Shaw must receive a call or a letter about a violation for him to investigate.

"It's been busy, but it's always busy. Pretty much from May 1 to October 1 is the real busy busy part of the season. You just get a little bit of everything," he said. "Our main objective is compliance."

## NOTICE OF PROPOSED BANK MERGER

Notice is hereby given that Farmers State Bank of Munith, 201 North Main Street, Munith, Michigan has made application to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, Washington, D.C. 20429, for its written consent to merge with Interim Bank, 175 North Leroy Street, Fenton, Michigan. It is contemplated that all offices of the above-named institutions will continue to be operated.

This notice is published pursuant to Section 18(c) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act.

Any person wishing to comment on this application may file his or her comments in writing with the Regional Director of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation at its Regional Office, 300 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 1700, Chicago, Illinois 60606, not later than August 27, 2021. The nonconfidential portions of the application are on file at the appropriate FDIC office and are available for public inspection during regular business hours. Photocopies of the nonconfidential portion of the application file will be made available upon request.

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## GARBAGE

Continued from Front Page which will be the company's first collection day.

In a July 26 memo from Michael Hart, assistant city manager and Downtown Development Authority (DDA) executive director to City Manager Lynn Markland, Hart wrote that the city had undertaken a thorough and comprehensive bid process initiated in 2020 with the culmination of bid submission Dec. 21, 2020. Five qualified bidders provided multiple options for the city to consider.

When the process began, the city approved an interim agreement for nine months with its current provider, Republic Services, to allow time to analyze and compare the bids.

After careful vetting and consideration of bids through the Solid Waste Committee, including representation by the city's administration, GFL and Priority Waste stood out as being the most competitive (customer cost), including service capabilities. Each had the most competitive cost and pricing, would utilize best practices including state of art technology in their trucks

for tracking job completion. Each company also would deploy a personnel team to service the city including onsite supervision that would interact and communicate with city officials directly and in real time.

Due to the depth of GFL's proposal and the strength of their company both financially and including presence in southeast Michigan, including in-depth reference checks, Hart said the committee recommended moving forward with them to draft a comprehensive service agreement to provide solid waste, recycle and yard waste services for the city of Fenton.

In summary, the city of Fenton's residents will have their refuse picked up on a weekly basis including recycle on Wednesdays. City residential customers will receive either a combination of 65-gallon refuse and 65-gallon recycle or 35-gallon refuse and 35-gallon recycle containers depending upon the type of residential housing. Single-family homes including site condominiums will receive the 65-gallon combination. Attached condominiums or similar housing units will receive the 35-gallon container combination. All residential customers will have several weeks after the contract approval to reach out to the city to make a modification to their specific container sizes.

Additionally, there will be a 45-day

period from the time of service commencement in October, for customers to make a follow-up modification to container sizes at no cost.

"We have received excellent references for this waste hauler," Fenton Mayor Sue Osborn said. "I expect GFL will do an outstanding job for the citizens."

One of the new items that has been added to this service agreement is incorporation of a performance bond. The bond will encompass six months of service cost to the city and offer another level of fiscal protection due to potential service disruptions.

Quarterly charges will be \$35.67 for GFL compared to the current price of \$54.38 with Republic Services, for a quarterly reduction of \$18.71. This equates to an annual cost savings of \$74.84. Per the base bid amount, monthly service cost for each customer will start out at \$11.39 and this will be a reduction of \$5.07 from the city monthly pricing of \$16.46 from Republic Services. The city will charge an administrative fee of \$1.50 per quarter to cover administrative costs.

Residents will have until Friday, August 20 at noon to contact the city at (810) 629-2261 or [refusecart@cityoffenton.org](mailto:refusecart@cityoffenton.org) to request the alternate container size at no additional cost.

## BRAND

Continued from Page 4

"bad day" took me to a ribbon-cutting where I got to enjoy sunshine and fresh air, mingle with community members and check out a new boutique. Bonus: There was an ice cream shop next door, and nothing solves a bad day like mint chip.

**Remind yourself it's just one day:**

As my grandma always said, "This too shall pass." Everyone has bad days once and a while. In fact, a therapist once told me that the average person has four bad days a month. Hearing that totally changed my perspective on feeling sorry for myself and dwelling on the bad day.

**Be grateful:** This is likely the hardest piece of advice, but the most valuable. Gratitude is the cure for so many unwanted emotions, including anger, brought on by a bad day. From the article, "There are neuroimaging studies

that show it's almost impossible to be in a depressed state and grateful at the same time," explains Achor.

I have so much to be thankful for. Three toilets — for one thing. That's a luxury if you ask my husband. The love of two furbabies. They may ruin carpet but they bring a lot of joy into our lives. I have the means to hire professionals to investigate plumbing issues. A boss who has my back when things go off the rails and deadlines are missed. And this job! It allows me flexibility when needed, like the days plumbers need access to my basement for hours. And it allows me to write this column where I can work out problems like bad days.

What do you do to turn your bad days around? Email me at [ecaswell@mihomepaper.com](mailto:ecaswell@mihomepaper.com).

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



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# Spencer's 13th pro fight is Saturday on FOX

By David Troppens

Six months after his most recent bout, Linden's Joey Spencer will finally be headlined into the squared ring Saturday night.

Spencer, who has won all 12 of his professional bouts with nine coming by knockout, will compete against Dan Karpency in his 13th professional match

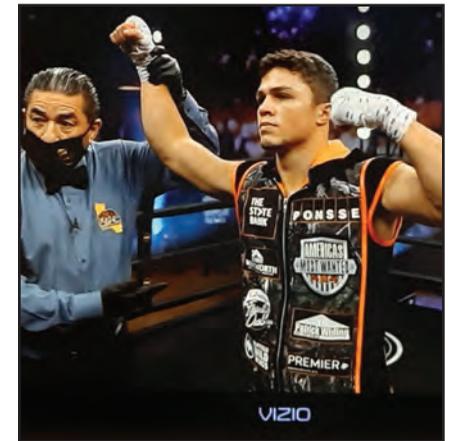
Saturday at Newark, New Jersey's Prudential Center. The eight-round bout, as have all but one of his professional fights, will be on television, with this one being on the FOX Network starting at 8 p.m.

Spencer enters this bout after what was one of his most impressive competitions in his professional career. He earned a

first-round knock out of Isiah Seldon. Still only 20, Spencer displayed his impressive power in that fight. It took Spencer only 135 seconds to knock down Seldon (14-3-1) twice and earn the knock out.

Spencer made some comments about his newfound strength.

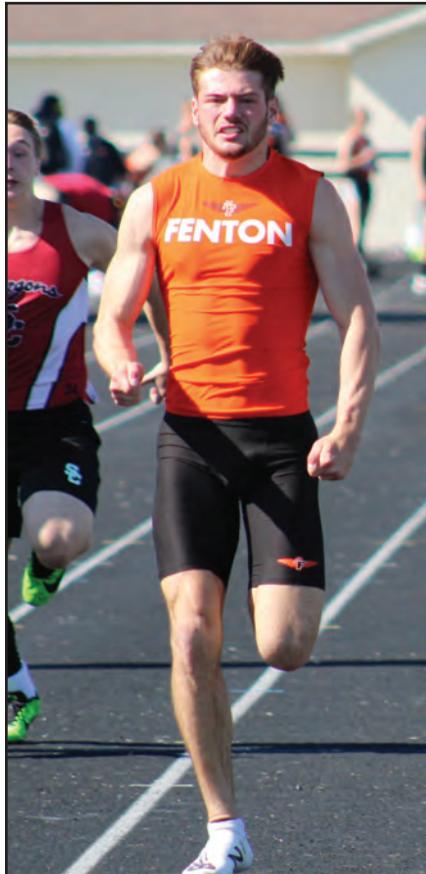
See **FIGHT** on 10



Linden's Joey Spencer will compete in his 13th professional bout Saturday on FOX against Dan Karpency. Photo: David Troppens

WEDNESDAY, JULY 28, 2021 | PAGE 9 | MYFENTON.COM/SPORTS

## Sports Times



National 200-meter dash champion and 2021 Fenton graduate Brandon Miller is our 2021 Tri-County Male Track Athlete of the Year. Photo: David Troppens

## Miller is our Male Track Athlete of the Year

### ■ Fenton graduate overcomes adversity to earn national title

By David Troppens

Brandon Miller had quite the senior track season, especially when one considers it almost didn't happen.

Struck with COVID-19 during the early spring, it looked like even if Miller was able to come back to compete, he may never return at full strength.

Sometimes such adversity helps make a season. Miller, who will continue his running career at Grand Valley State University, did bounce back and had a track season most only dream of. He helped lead the Fenton varsity boys track and

field squad to a Division 1 state team championship and he capped his senior season with a national championship in the 200 meter dash.

When it came to looking for our 2021 Tri-County Male Track Athlete of the Year, there were plenty of qualified candidates, but Miller led the pack and grabbed the honor.

First, he helped the Tigers capture the Flint Metro League Stripes Division 1 team title by winning the league title in the 100 (11.01) and the 200 (21.88). He also helped the two sprint relays to firsts. Still, he wasn't at 100 percent at that time.

"I just got over COVID two weeks ago so it's been a little tough," Miller said at the league meet. "I'm still trying to get my endurance under me but I'm getting a little better ev-

ery week."

Miller kept getting better. He helped lead the Tigers to a Division 1 regional title by earning regional event championships in the 100 (10.60), the 200 (21.70) and in the 400 relay (42.54) and the 800 relay (1:28.80).

Then came the Division 1 state meet. Miller earned runner-up finishes in his sprint events, taking second in the 100 (10.84) and second in the 200 (21.36 in the final and 21.27 in the prelims). He also was a member of the 800 relay (1:28.23) that took a second.

"It's like indescribable. It's amazing," Miller said about the team state championship.

"I knew the team we had this year was really special and I'm so

See **MILLER** on 11

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# Women's teams dominate this installment of Top 16 poll

By David Troppens

So does gender matter when it comes to the Tri-County Top 16?

Not really. If a squad is good and earns the credentials, that team will earn its spot in our Tri-County Top 16.

Two years ago, the 16 squads to make our list were split evenly at eight predominantly boys teams and eight girls teams. We say predominantly because in some sports (like wrestling) girls compete in what is looked upon as a boys sport.

Last year, the boys dominated the top 16 with 11 of the squads being men. This season the tide has changed slightly with nine girls teams on our list. How about at the No. 1 spot? The males lead, earning the top spot in our poll eight times compared to the females collecting it five times.

**No. 8 - Holly girls tennis:** Our 2017-18 school year champions and our runner-up for the 2018-19 school year was supposed to be in a rebuilding mode this season, and in some ways were. However, that didn't keep the Bronchos from earning a spot in our top 10 once again at No. 8. Prior to the 2017-18 school year, the girls tennis team was third in

2016-17, fourth in 2015-16 and third in 2014-15. The reason they weren't in last year's poll? Well, there wasn't a girls season due to COVID.

It was the most competitive season in Metro League history in girls tennis, and a lot of the reason that was true was due to COVID issues and injuries to the Bronchos. However, even after losing to Fenton and tying Clio, the Bronchos ended up league champions posting a 7-1-1 dual record and winning the league tournament with 18 points.

Nothing came easy for the Bronchos, and qualifying for the state meet wasn't easy by any stretch. The Bronchos finished in a tie for second place, just earning a spot in the D2 state meet. While there, the Bronchos finished 15th.

**No. 7 - Linden girls cross country:** Cross country teams always are well represented in our top 16, and this season is no exception, as the sports depth in the tri-county area is reflected in the postseason year in and year out.

The Linden girls were pretty quiet for most of the fall season, placing only third in the first Metro Stripes Division jamboree but finished second in the next two,

See **TOP 16** on 11



Two teams on our 2020-21 Tri-County Top 16 list are the Linden girls cross country team (above) at No. 7 and the Holly girls tennis team (left) at No. 8.

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THE STATE BANK  
Fenton, Michigan

FARMERS STATE BANK OF MUNITH  
Munith, Michigan

## FIGHT

Continued from Page 9

"It's interesting. I'd hear people say when you get older things just change and you become more powerful," Spencer said hours after the fight. "I feel more powerful now. They can't take my punches any more. I feel this different type of energy. My whole body is behind it and it gives me a lot of confidence. Give me one more year, and I'll be ready for anybody."

However, one negative happened since Spencer's most recent bout against Seldon on Jan. 30. A hand injury postponed this bout longer than hoped. Spencer hasn't been able to compete as much as initially hoped due to injury and the pandemic. This will be his fourth bout since the start of 2020.

Karpency's first professional career fight came in May 2013, and he fought



Joey Spencer works on earning his 12th victory of his young professional boxing career against Isiah Seldon in January. Photo: David Troppens

four bouts within 18 months, winning all four fights. He started his career 5-0 but since then has gone 4-3-1 in his last eight bouts from 2015 to 2020. His last fight was a loss to Cody Wilson on Feb. 22, 2020.

Spencer should enjoy a large reach advantage in the bout, enjoying a 9 1/2 inch reach edge.

## MILLER

Continued from Page 9

thankful we could pull it off. Early this year I knew we had a few kids that wanted to do it, wanted to be better and with the proper drive in practice knew we could have a good season.”

But Miller’s prep season wasn’t over yet. During the summer he’s competed in the 200 at The Outdoor Nationals and captured the national title in the event, posting a time of 20.49 seconds. The time was the second-fastest in Michigan prep history.

“I was absolutely elated,” Miller said. “It meant the world to me to win that because I sacrifice almost every day for practice.”

Most recently, he finished second in the 200 at the AAU National Club Championship (20.89) and third in the 100 (10.76).

Miller earned another national championship during the indoor season. He captured the Adidas Indoor Nationals championship while running the 200, earning a time of 21.183 seconds in February.

And now, Miller prepares to compete at the collegiate level at Grand Valley State University.

### Male Track Athlete of the Year

## BRANDON MILLER (Fenton)

Miller helped lead the Fenton Tigers to a D1 team state championship by taking second in the 100 (10.84) and the 200 (21.36) at the D1 state meet. He also helped the Tigers’ 800 relay earn a second (1:28.23). He capped his prep career with a national championship at the Nike Outdoors meet in the 200 (20.49).

### All Tri-County Boys Track and Field Team

Event	Name	School	Time
100	Brandon Miller	Fenton	10.60 sec
200	Brandon Miller	Fenton	21.24 sec
400	Noah Sage	Fenton	47.41 sec
800	Kyle Eberhard	Linden	2:01.73
1,600	River Meckstroth	Linden	4:25.10
3,200	Samuel Cox	Fenton	10:02.12
110 hurdles	Marcus Mitchell	Holly	17.67 sec
300 hurdles	Marcus Mitchell	Holly	43.95 sec
400 relay	Donovan Miller	Fenton	42.54
	Noah Sage		
	Christopher Piwowarczyk		
	Brandon Miller		
800 relay	Donovan Miller	Fenton	1:28.23
	Noah Sage		
	Evan Koch		
	Brandon Miller		
1,600 relay	Patrick Hamilton	Fenton	3:34.04
	Landon Sahouri		
	Brandon Miller		
	Noah Sage		
3,200 relay	Samuel Cox	Fenton	8:25.23
	Chase Coleman		
	Mike Crane		
	Patrick Hamilton		
Shot put	Josh Thompson	Fenton	43-feet-9
Discus	Josh Hart	Holly	122-feet-5
High jump	Justin Miller	Fenton	6-feet-8
Pole vault	Orion Schwiderson	Fenton	12-feet-9
Long jump	Justin Miller	Fenton	21-feet-1 1/2

**Note:** Positions on the team are based on the best times/distances posted by an individual or relay team during any meet of this season. Meet included were any events linked to the athletic.net website.

## TOP 16

Continued from Page 10

earning a second-place finish behind the Fenton Tigers. It’s during the state tourney series that the Eagles always show their talent. The Eagles placed second at a D2 pre-regional, earning a spot at the regional meet. While there, the Eagles placed third and earned another state trip. At the state meet, the Eagles placed a strong 13th. One would think finishing 13th at the state meet would mean a higher ranking than this, right? Well, this is where the lack of really challenging for a league crown hurts the Eagles. But, hey, No. 7 is pretty darn good. The Eagles are one of the teams that have led our poll before, taking the top spot during the 2013-14 school year. Who did they beat for the top spot — why the No. 2 Linden boys cross country team.

**No. 6 - Fenton girls cross country:** The Tigers dominated the Flint Metro League Stripes season once again, by winning all three Metro jamborees/meets. A few were close, but the Tigers won the final meet by 13 points, it’s largest gap of the three.



The Fenton girls cross country team is No. 6 on our Tri-County Top 16 list.

Photo: David Troppens

In the postseason, the Tigers placed second in a tight pre-regional battle with Grand Blanc. The Bobcats won the title by six points. The Tigers also qualified for the state meet by taking second at the actual regional. Once at the state meet, the Tigers placed 19th, a decent outing but nothing earth-shattering. However, it was good enough to get our No. 6 spot, which is pretty good. They finished No. 10 a year ago and No. 3 in the two seasons prior to finishing 10th.

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Times



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## Midweek Crossword

**KING FEATURES**

**ACROSS**

1 Mattress option

5 NASCAR advertiser

8 Wild guess

12 Supervisor

14 "Yes —?"

15 Accidentally

16 Late July babies

17 Since Jan. 1

18 12-year-olds, e.g.

20 Bjorn Borg, for one

23 Salon request

24 Actress Elisabeth

25 Act of contrition

28 Knight's address

29 Persnickety

30 Fez, e.g.

32 Woo

34 City district

35 BMW rival

36 Follows

37 Mississippi city

40 Venus, to Serena

41 Mine, in Montreal

42 Astaire specialty

47 Scepters

48 Valuable volume

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
15								16		
			17			18	19			
20	21	22			23					
24				25				26	27	
28				29				30		31
	32		33					34		
			35				36			
37	38	39				40				
41				42	43			44	45	46
47				48						
49				50			51			

49 Make a sweater

50 "Rah!"

51 Not busy

**DOWN**

1 Watch chain

2 Wall climber

3 Fun and games

4 Dr. Jekyll's alter ego

5 Fax

6 Sleuth

7 Sham

8 Grave

9 Genealogy chart

10 Soon, poetically

11 Employer

13 Fill fully

19 Fay of "King Kong"

20 Snake's warning

21 Spinning sound

22 Modern money

23 Joe of "GoodFellas"

25 Talking heads' opinions

26 Spiced tea

27 British noble

29 Ersatz

31 Pro Bowl stats

33 Zedong follower

34 Sushi condiment

36 Ocean motion

37 Fir coat

38 " — a roll!"

39 California city

40 Agile

43 Motorist's org.

44 Silent assent

45 Army rank (Abbr.)

46 Scrape (out)

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## 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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		9		1				4
6					8	1		
	8		7		5		6	
	3		2					9
1					4			7
		4		3		8	5	
	6	3	5			2		
		7		2			9	
5					1			8

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦♦**

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

## Midweek Jumble

**JUMBLE**

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

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**THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME**  
by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

I'm heading over to the Red Lion pub at 5 p.m.

I'll join you for sure. Looking forward to it.

Hello! May I speak with Jeff?

You've been preapproved.

THE TELEMARKETERS WOULD WORK UNTIL THEY ---

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

## Horoscopes

**ARIES**  
Mar 21/Apr 20  
Aries, you may have to tend to family matters this week. Seek input from trusted family members and work together to come to a solution that everyone can embrace.

**TAURUS**  
Apr 21/May 21  
Taurus, it can be difficult to know when to stop talking and start listening. It is a fine line to walk, but be patient and feel out the room before offering your input.

**GEMINI**  
May 22/June 21  
Things that appear to be confusing or intimidating may not be as complicated as they seem, Gemini. Keep doing your research and don't be scared away.

**CANCER**  
June 22/July 22  
Cancer, remember to treat others how you want them to treat you. This simple approach is a great way to build lasting friendships and strong relationships.

**LEO**  
July 23/Aug 23  
Get as much work done around the house as possible this week, Leo. You may soon be pressed for time, so now is the time to tackle projects.

**VIRGO**  
Aug 24/Sept 22  
Have fun with family and friends in the days to come, Virgo. Make the most of this precious time to relax with those you love. It will provide the kickstart you've been seeking.

**LIBRA**  
Sept 23/Oct 23  
Devote some time to figuring out the details of your spending habits. A little financial discipline now may pay big dividends down the road.

**SCORPIO**  
Oct 24/Nov 22  
Scorpio, seek others' input when faced with a tricky situation. Sometimes a fresh perspective is all that's needed to make sense of a perplexing problem.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Nov 23/Dec 21  
Sagittarius, expect to make some progress on financial situations that may have seemed daunting in the past. A financial professional can help you navigate some confusing waters.

**CAPRICORN**  
Dec 22/Jan 20  
Connecting with friends has been a priority for you lately, Capricorn. In the days ahead, spend as much time as possible with those you hold near and dear.

**AQUARIUS**  
Jan 21/Feb 18  
Hidden strengths come to the surface when you are thrust into an unfamiliar situation, Aquarius. When forced to think on your feet, you realize you can adapt on the fly.

**PISCES**  
Feb 19/Mar 20  
Connect with your community in any way you can this week, Pisces. Give back by volunteering or by offering financial support.

For the week of  
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