

Commission tables Red Fox building item

■ Applicants seeking lease agreements to secure enough parking

By Hannah Ball

Fenton — The applicants seeking to turn the Red Fox Outfitters building into

an events and banquet facility venue have a few weeks to obtain signed lease agreements for parking lots if they want their permit approved.

At the Thursday, Jan. 27 Fenton Planning Commission meeting, a few commissioners indicated that they want to see something done with the building. How-

ever, they weren't willing to approve the special land use request unless Cruwood Granary had signed lease agreements with the businesses that would allow them to use their parking lots.

The property is 0.542 acres located at 234 N. LeRoy St.

Applicants Chelsie Welch and Corey

Cunningham, owners of Cruwood Granary, wish to obtain a special land use permit to turn the building into a special event banquet facility that will host events for 200 people or fewer for weddings, showers, retirement parties, office parties and more. The property is zoned Central Business. See **RED FOX** on 7



Midweek Times

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\$1.00

Linden residents to vote on 5-mill millage

■ Linden City Council approves putting public safety millage question on May 3, ballot

By Hannah Ball

Linden — On May 3, Linden residents will vote on an indefinite 5-mill millage to pay for police and for protection services. The vote also will include amending the city's charter.

At a special meeting Monday, Jan. 31, Linden City Council approved the resolution to put the topic on the May ballot. If passed, the permanent levy would take effect in July 2022. Five mills is approximately \$1 per \$1,000 of taxable value of a property. If levied, it would raise an estimated \$621,085 in the first year.

If passed, this money could solely be used for providing police and fire
See **MILLAGE** on 9

'Holly is the most magical place'



A worker with SLK Media Group prepares to begin a scene in downtown Holly on Friday, Jan. 28. The production company is working closely with the Holly community on this movie, which is about saving the Holly Union Depot. Photo: Hannah Ball

■ Filming continues on movie about saving the Holly Union Depot

By Hannah Ball

Holly — The cold weather did not dampen spirits this past weekend when SLK Media Group shot multiple scenes for the Holly Union Depot movie in downtown Holly.

With the help of the Holly community, they recreated aspects of the Holly Dickens Festival parade to shoot for the movie called "Cupid's Christmas." The plot is about the village's efforts to save the historic train station.

Scenes on Friday, Jan. 28 included a dance and carol by local children playing chimney sweep-

See **FILMING** on 17

“From Better Made potato chips to a Buick Enclave, please buy Michigan made products. Lansing's Buick plant and Flint's Chevy truck plant are about all that is left of the auto capitol of the world.”

“You can tell it's election season. The politicians are promising things they will never do and taking credit for things they didn't do.”

“We don't need more stores. I suggest a bowling centre. We need something to do.”





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Sweet smell of retirement

■After 40 years as Fenton’s chocolatier, Schuler closes Sweet Variations

By Sharon Stone

In early November 2021, Carol Schuler, the owner of Sweet Variations, Fenton’s chocolate and candy shop, announced that she was going to be hanging up her apron and retiring after 40 years.

In January, Schuler, 69, was finalizing her retirement sale of everything in her shop and refocusing on what retirement would bring.

Schuler got her start in Fenton when she purchased a gift, candy and ice cream shop on S. LeRoy Street in 1980. She then moved to the historic space at the corner of W. Shiawassee Avenue and S. LeRoy Street one year later, setting up a long and sweet relationship with area residents and visitors to the Dibbleville area of downtown.

Shopping at Sweet Variations created so many memories for generations of families. Many older folks can remember stopping by the candy store on their way home from school.

After 34 years in the downtown location, in 2016, Schuler moved her



The “Apron Ladies” at Sweet Variations wished everyone a Merry Christmas in this 2017 photo. Owner Carol Schuler is at far right. Submitted photo

business to 14280 N. Fenton Rd., near Sagebrush Cantina.

Chocolates and candy have always been known as welcome and delicious gifts for couples celebrating love, or for children with a sweet tooth. Sweet Variations even made it on to a 2006 episode of “Made,” which was aired on MTV.

When asked what prompted retirement, Schuler said after 40 years and being nearly 70 years old, she is worn out from running a business for so many years.

“You know when it’s time. It wasn’t just one thing. I tried (to retire) a couple of years ago, but they wouldn’t let me,” she said.

While everything in her shop has been sold, Schuler said her old recipe book is not for sale. She compared it to her grandmother’s recipe book. Her grandmother was a pastry chef at Flint Golf Club many years ago. She said recipes usually just contain the ingredients because she knows what to do from there.

See **SWEET** on 12

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Sharin' the spotlight

Polar Plunge, chili cook-off and more

By Editor Sharon Stone

Despite it being the heart of winter in Michigan, there is much to do.

Coming up this weekend is the Polar Plunge for Special Olympics Michigan. Locally, the Fenton Moose on Lake Fenton will be hosting the event again. There are more than 30 Polar Plunge locations across the state this year. The organization, plungemi.org, even has a Virtual Plunge.

According to plungemi.org, \$499,164 has been pledged so far for the 2022 Polar Plunges across Michigan. Some of the teams raising funds include individuals, law enforcement, delegations, college groups, small corporate groups, restaurants, K-12 school groups, large corporate groups and community groups.

Teams from all over the state need to raise a minimum of \$100 to take part in their local Polar Plunge. Based on years past, nearly every one taking the plunge into Lake Fenton will be decked out in elaborate costumes. Typically, a crowd converges in front of the Moose lodge to watch those brave enough to jump into the freezing cold water. The Fenton Township Fire Department will be on standby to ensure that everyone makes it out

safely.

My group of friends usually walk to the Moose to watch and cheer on the brave souls who overcome their apprehension to jump into the lake. I applaud them all knowing there is no way I'd do that. I'd rather donate money and then go donate more to take part in the chili cook-off contest. It's great seeing so many people come together to help our athletes of all ages. I'm not sure if I'll be able to see all of this year's Polar Plunge since I'm attending a much anticipated baby shower for the daughter of a dear friend. It's in town, so we might be



Sharon Stone

able to make it.

Times reporter Hannah Ball went to downtown Holly last weekend to see all the excitement with the filming of the movie to help save the Holly train depot. Last Friday and Saturday were especially cold but when events with important missions take place, the residents in the tri-county area never disappoint. Hopefully, the village of Holly and the committee to help save and relocate the historic Holly train station generate enough revenue to save a part of Holly's history.

See **SHARIN'** on 8

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TO 11 P.M. SNOW-blowing. I work late and want to have it cleared for the morning. Have another one and go to sleep.

■■■

TO THE MIDNIGHT snowblower. I've got my 29 cent earplugs. Do you have your \$500 township ordinance fine?

■■■

I SUPPORT JOE Rogan 100%.

The platform of uncensored free speech he provides to leading COVID-19 physicians is much more preferable than the compliant, government propaganda coming from mainstream media. Those complaining about his podcast should actually listen to an episode first.

■■■

FORD, GM WENT to D.C. with their hands out wanting money for EVs nobody wants putting the cost on U.S. taxpayers. Grow up, pull your pants up, act like adults, fund your EVs yourselves. You're a couple of the largest corporations in the world, your greed is disgusting.

■■■

CAN'T WAIT TO play in the snow!

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

How much snow do you think we're going to get this week? | streettalk



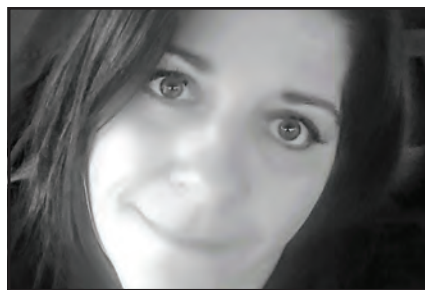
"6 inches is probably the most I'm expecting. I hope we get a ton though. I love love love being snowed in! I got my books, wine and wood ready for a week by the fireplace."

Autumn Anderson, Fenton



"It's Michigan, 1-35 inches. I'm sure the media will pump the numbers up and it will fall short of their predictions."

Chris Hogan
Holly



"I'm going with 14.3 inches. Bring it on!"

Tracey Oger
Hartland



"I'm hoping for no more than 8 inches. The Plow Jockey's can only push so much at a time."

Kathie Little
Fenton

Former fire chief mourned

■ Remembered for sense of humor, respected by all

By Sharon Stone

Gerald "Jerry" Palmer who was chief of the Fenton Fire Department from 1990-1997 died Jan. 20 at the age of 89. He served with the fire department from 1961 to 1997.

Palmer was a lifelong resident of Fenton and graduated from Fenton High School, where he lettered in four sports. He was inducted into the Fenton Sports Hall of Fame for Football.

Palmer was a veteran of the U.S. Army, serving in the Korean War and was Past Commander of American Legion Post 38.

Fenton Fire Chief Bob Cairnduff said, "Chief Palmer was the one that hired me when I joined in 1996. Jerry was a great guy and respected by everyone."

Cairnduff said Palmer was known for being a hard worker and always having a

sense of humor. "He always had something funny to say for just about any situation," Cairnduff said.

Charles Koan, assistant fire chief, said if you ever met Palmer, you'd never forget him. Koan and Palmer served together for 25 years. At that time, the fire department mostly responded to structure and grass fires.

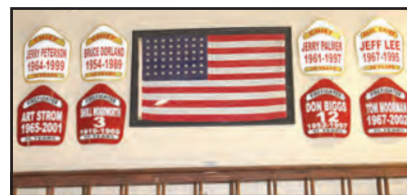
Koan said when he hired on, Palmer had already been there 10 years and was a lieutenant. "He was a good mentor," Koan said. "I was the youngest and he took me in under his wing."

Through the years, Koan got to know the entire Palmer family. They were with the American Legion and spent time at Higgins Lake and the American Legion post up there fixing it up. He said they had a lot of fun up there and did some ice fishing. "He had a good life, a full life," Koan said.

Palmer is survived by his wife of nearly 64 years, Annalee, along with their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.



Gerald (Jerry) Palmer



The Fenton Fire Department has an honor wall for those who have served at least 35 years. Palmer's retirement shield is displayed on the honor wall.

Submitted photo



Sgt. Gerald (Jerry) Palmer served with the 194th Engineer Battalion of the U.S. Army from 1952-1954. He was featured in the Times' Honoring our Veterans column Wednesday, Dec. 16, 2020.

Submitted photo

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

COMPILED BY SHARON STONE

Blood drive

Holly Calvary Church, at 15010 N. Holly Rd., in Holly hosts one blood drive a month in its fellowship hall. The next Versiti Blood Center of Michigan blood drive is

Tuesday, Feb. 15, from 1 to 7 p.m. Following an article Jan.

19 in the Times, Ellen Pease, Holly volunteer for Versiti Blood Center of Michigan and Holly Calvary Church, said they had 48 good donations Saturday, Jan. 29, which was a record for a Saturday blood drive at the church. Pease said some donors mentioned seeing the article in the Times. The donor link is https://donate.michigan.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/138204.

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Ask the

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THE NOMINATION AND CONFIRMATION OF A UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT JUSTICE

Last week, United States Supreme Court Justice Stephen G. Breyer announced his retirement from the court.

When there is a vacancy such as this, the United States Constitution provides in Article II, Section 2, Clause 2 that the president is to “nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, shall appoint... Judges (Justices) of the supreme court.”

In replacing Justice Breyer President Biden’s nomination will be historically significant for two reasons: (1) it will be the first time that a candidate’s approval will be decided when the Senate is evenly divided by political parties — 50 Republicans and 50 Democrats; (2) a Black woman will be the nominee.

The nominating process starts with the president consulting his advisors to develop a shortlist of candidates to interview.

After the candidate has finally been selected, they are referred to the 22 member Senate Judiciary Committee, which reviews the candidate’s qualifications.

Thereafter a hearing is held with the candidate and other witnesses being questioned.

There is then a vote as to how to send the nomination to the full Senate, with there being three options: confirmation, rejection, or no recommendation. Traditionally the committee refers their decision to the full Senate.

The full Senate then debates the nomination following the Rules of the Senate.

Due to a rules change, since April, 2017 “filibustering” to delay a vote can be cut off by a simple majority vote.

When the debate ends, a vote is taken and the nominee will be confirmed if a simple majority of the senators present vote yes. In the event of a tie, the vice president casts the deciding vote under Article I, Section 3 of the Constitution.

Some other facts of interest include that since the Supreme Court was first

NEWS

BRIEFS

COMPILED BY SHARON STONE

GENESEE COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION IS PREPARED FOR SNOW

The Genesee County Road Commission expects heavy snowfall Wednesday and Thursday as the National Weather Service has issued a Winter Storm Warning from 4 a.m. Wednesday to 7 a.m. Thursday. On Monday, Equipment Operators and Garage Supervisors began preparing trucks by changing the blades, topping off fluids, and pre-staging salt in equipment. The Genesee County Road Commission has 60 trucks that will be out at different times. As a result, Equipment Operators expect to come in early and work overtime. As written in the Genesee County Road Commission’s winter maintenance policy, expressways and primary roads will be cleared first. So please have patience as our crews have over 1,200 miles to plow. Those who need to go out are advised to be patient while driving near plow trucks. Give them plenty of room and never pass on the right. Also, please remind children to play safely away from the road and not go near plow trucks as they work to clear the roads. The Genesee County Road Commission will provide updates on Facebook and Twitter periodically.

established in 1789, presidents have submitted 164 nominations for the court with 127 nominations having been approved.

Additionally, the Constitution doesn’t specify the qualifications to be a justice such as age, education, profession, or native-born citizenship.

This means that a justice doesn’t necessarily have to be a lawyer or law school graduate. However, all justices have at least been trained in the law.

Reportedly, the nominating process will start very soon.

It will indeed be interesting to see legal history being made.

RED FOX

Continued from Front Page

ness District/Planned Unit Development. Its current use is listed as retail, although Red Fox Outfitters closed March 2020. Skypoint Ventures, the real estate/capital development arm of Phil Hagerman and Jocelyn Hagerman, owns the property.

Carmine Avantini, president of CIB planning, and Justin Sprague, vice president of CIB Planning, who are Fenton's planning consultants, found that the plans were in compliance for the proposed land use and it's adequately served by existing facilities and roads.

It is potentially in compliance in maintaining the existing and intended character of the area.

"It is also important to note that food will not be prepared on-site but instead will be delivered by catering services. The applicant should be prepared to explain to the Planning Commission what catering/restaurant services will be utilized and how many vehicles are needed for the deliveries," according to their report.

Cunningham said they plan to approach local businesses for catering services.

Parking remains the biggest concern. The applicants said they plan to give their customers maps of the city and signify other parking lots. They also plan to utilize shuttles and valet parking. Welch said a majority of wedding guests use shuttles or Ubers.

"One other possible concern, which needs to be addressed through the parking study provided, is the potential impact that event parking would have on area businesses and the abutting residential neighborhood to the northeast," according to Sprague's report.

The applicants can count public parking spaces within 500 feet, but they must demonstrate locational availability. The ordinance requires one parking space per every two persons of capacity, and applications said the maximum capacity of the facility is 240. This means 120 parking spaces are required.

Welch and Cunningham have identified eight separate parking lots their customers could use. In total, the plan shows 301 parking spaces. ROWE Professional Services Company conducted a study between 4 and 6 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 5 and Saturday, Nov. 6 to study the number of spaces available in these lots. There were 140 spaces available on Friday and

166 available on Saturday.

Along with public parking, agreements with private businesses make up a portion of these spaces. The clients have an agreement to use the parking lots of Fenton Glass (60 parking spaces) and the Skin and Vein Institute (29 spaces). A third parking lot, with 11 spaces, is owned by the client.

However, planning commissioners voiced concerns because these agreements could end at any time. CIB Planning recommended denial for the special land use request.

"...we are of the opinion that a perma-

nent solution to the parking supply has not been provided. The potential exists for this use to negatively impact existing businesses in the area as well as the residential neighborhood to the northeast. These associated parking problems will then fall on the City administration to solve and remedies may not be readily available," according to the letter.

Commissioner Tyler Rossmassler said he doesn't understand why an event space would have more problems with parking compared to a restaurant. "I understand that it's cycling through, but if the parking

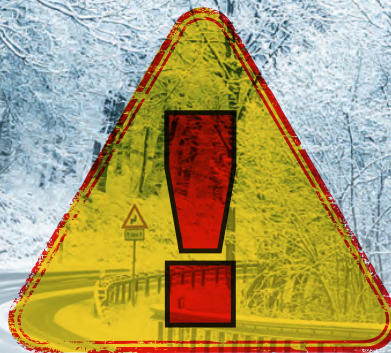
lot is full, the parking lot is full," he said. "We've got to get to a 'yes' on something."

In October 2020, a different applicant applied for a special events permit but was denied due to parking issues.

Rossmassler said this building is too important for the downtown to not be used.

The commission ultimately voted to table the topic until the next meeting to give Welch and Cunningham time to obtain lease agreements with these businesses to use their parking lots. The next planning commission meeting is Thursday, Feb. 24 at Fenton City Hall.

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CLARIFICATION

In the Sunday, Jan. 23 edition of the Tri-County Times, a story stated that parts of Whitaker Road in Fenton Township are likely to be redone this year. To clarify, Fenton Township has not yet received cost estimates for this project, and the Genesee County Road Commission has not officially approved it.

SHARIN'

Continued from Page 4

While Hannah was in Holly, my husband and I just couldn't pass up the opportunity to go to Frankenmuth for the annual Snow Fest. I believe it was even more crowded Saturday than when we went up in December to check out all of the Christmas activities. A surprising tidbit about Saturday was when we were trying to get a table at the Bavarian Inn, a couple was about

to leave. The kind woman smiled and said she would only give up her table to people from Fenton. I must have had an odd look on my face so she explained she recognized me from my photo that runs in the Times. It was nice to meet a person in Frankenmuth who is from Fenton and reads the Times.

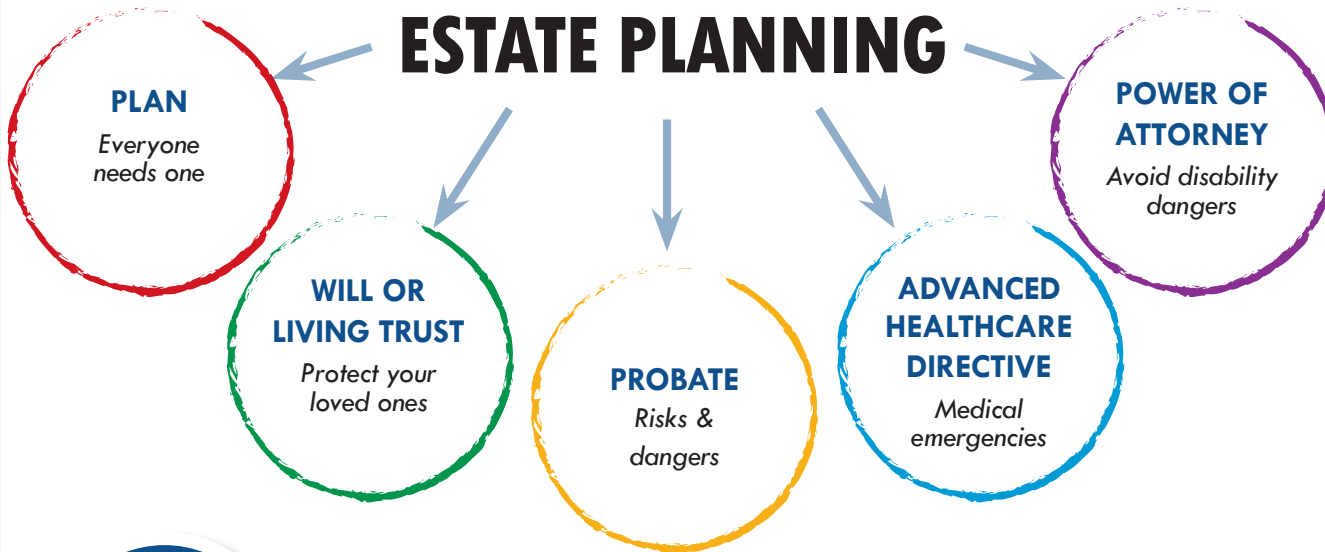
If you in the Linden/Argentine area, check out the Lobdell Lake Chili Cook Off. This popular event on Lobdell Lake takes place the first

Saturday in February. Cooking starts at noon and judging of the best chili begins at 4 p.m. Live entertainment will be on hand for the event for the entire family.

As we anticipate several inches of snow this week, remember there are always activities to bring us all together. Be sure to dress warm and stay safe.

Have fun and let us at the Times know about any future events so that we can get them on our schedule.

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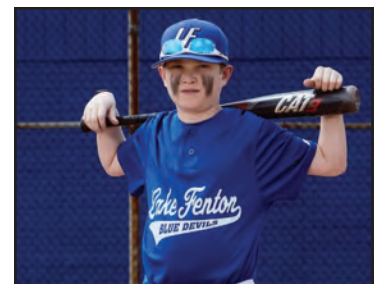
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TRI-COUNTY FUNDRAISERS

COMPILED BY SHARON STONE

Gofundme set up for Lake Fenton Community Schools family

Friends and family of Brad and Annette Reichert have created a gofundme page "Andrew – Bahamas," to help send their son, Andrew, and the family to the Bahamas, Andrew's dream vacation destination. Andrew, 13, was born with hypoplastic left heart syndrome. He has had five open heart surgeries. Last August, when Andrew underwent a 13-hour open heart surgery, it was discovered he was in heart block. He also has undergone several other procedures. Friends and family would like to send the family on vacation so that they can focus on happiness, making memories, and enjoying each other's company. If you'd like to read more about this fundraiser, follow along on the gofundme page "Andrew – Bahamas,"



MILLAGE

Continued from Front Page

protection services, equipment and services. This is the second millage Linden City Council has approved to be placed on a ballot in years. The most recent one was the road millage that failed in 2018.

City Manager Ellen Glass spoke about the difficulties in finding funds to work on capital improvement projects, such as the water project, roads, and the city facilities that are getting older and require maintenance. Linden City Hall recently had to be repaired, and the city has discussed for years relocating the department of public works building. The DPW also is facing equipment and staffing shortages.

"We're reaching a point now where everything is just coming to a head. Trying to only champion one project in one different area, we're only going to continue to be that much further back," she said. "We can only do so much with what we have. We've got to figure out a way to come up with more money and generate enough money to take care of all of our long-standing needs."

Mayor Danielle Cusson said police and fire are constant expenses, and they wouldn't consider any higher than 5 mills. "We're coming up with plans, long-term plans," said

Linden spends approximately \$782,150 for police and fire out of the general fund every year. Having a dedicated police and fire millage would free up that general fund money to be used for other capital improvement projects.

Multiple councilors spoke adamantly about communicating to residents that they would spend general fund money on roads and facilities. They discussed having public forums.

The council considered executing a special assessment district to raise these funds. This would require public hearings and a vote from council. Most council members fa-

vored a millage instead because it requires a vote of the public.

"The residents understand the need, and I just want to make sure that they get a chance for their say. That's why I like the millage approach," said Councilor Ray Culbert. "I just want to make sure that people understand that it will free up money for roads and facilities."

He also spoke in favor of putting it on the May ballot and the importance of communicating the millage to residents in a transparent way. The council agreed putting it on the May ballot was the best idea. If they wait until November, they wouldn't be able to start the levy until

later.

"If it does go, then we will be able to see that on this year's taxes and be able to already start budgeting and utilizing those funds to put into those areas in those projects. If we do not do anything in May, then it would be August or November," Glass said.

A large portion of the population is 55 and older, and many of them travel south for the winter. However, many of these people vote absentee.

"We do have a great turnout for absentee voters for that age group. Those ones are the ones that are engaged with us," Glass said.

They plan to engage the community by posting about the millage online.

Councilor Heather MacDermaid said one positive aspect is that there would always be a dedicated public safety millage in the city. She worries about a different council years from now potentially using the extra money in the general fund to pay themselves. She also worries it could be viewed as deceptive.

"We're gonna have a police department whether this passes or not," she said. "Some people are going to say 'we already have police and fire, we don't need a millage.' It needs to be very clear."

Another concern is amending the city charter, which MacDermaid

described as a "big deal."

What does amending Section 8.2 of Chapter Viii mean?

This section of the charter states that "...an ad valorem tax levy for general municipal purposes shall not exceed 13.5 mills on all real and personal assessed property values in the city."

If amended, the charter would give an exception for certain levies including: "any levy for paying principal and interest on outstanding general obligation bonds; (b) any other levies authorized by law to be made beyond charter tax rate limitations; or (c) an additional levy of 5 mills upon the taxable value of all real and personal property in the city to be used solely for the purpose of providing police and fire protection operations, equipment and services."

POLICE & FIRE REPORT

COMPILED BY SHARON STONE

WOMAN INJURED IN ARGENTINE TOWNSHIP CRASH

At 2:40 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 28, Argentine Township police and fire responded to a serious personal injury crash in on Seymour Road, just south of Lahring Road. Sgt. Paul Honkanen said a 57-year-old Rose City woman was traveling northbound on Seymour Road. When she attempted to turn left and pull into a driveway, her vehicle was struck by a southbound vehicle, driven by a 52-year-old local resident. She was transported by ambulance to a local hospital for treatment of her injuries. The driver of the other vehicle complained of pain, but nothing was visible.

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President's Circle
From left to right: Barb Briggs, Drew Rupert,
Mark Tyler & Sylvester Tyler



Judy Cox
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SWEET

Continued from Page 3

Her favorite dessert to make are Lorenzos, named after one of her workers who helped create the recipe. It included a butternut nougat with raspberry topping.

One of Schuler's funniest memories at the shop is about a customer who came in and wanted her to make chocolate poop. She said he just cracked up when he saw how lifelike it was when he picked it up. He served it for dessert at a party as a joke and it was such a big hit that he came back and ordered it again.

Schuler is thankful to all of her customers for humoring her over all the years. "They've been very loyal," she said. "Some would wait in line, they were very patient."

"One thing about being in a candy store — everyone's happy."

As for her future, Schuler said she has plans of traveling more and working on her garden. She's determined to find a Beauty Bush for her garden. She has many destinations on her list including checking out lighthouses she hasn't yet seen and a trip to Iceland.



Joe Stuve of Holly Township checks out the display at Sweet Variations in Fenton in February 2016, as his Valentine's Day gift box for his wife was assembled. *Times file photo*



While owner Carol Schuler (in back) makes chocolate suckers in this 2016 Times file photo, Lisa Lucido and Kate Lafever (right) assemble Valentine's Day gift boxes at Sweet Variations in Fenton. *Times file photo*



The Sweet Variations sign was put in place when Schuler moved her candy shop to N. Fenton Road in 2016. *Submitted photo*



For 34 years, visitors to the Dibbleville area of downtown Fenton could detect the sweet smell of chocolates and other candies handmade at Sweet Variations. *Times file photo*

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HOT LINE CONTINUED

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Lake Fenton Theatre presents ...

■ Thoroughly Modern Millie, six-time Tony Award winning musical

Lake Fenton Theatre returns to the stage with "a zany six-time Tony Award winning musical" filled with tap dancing, flappers, a soaring score, and unforgettable hilarious characters. Thoroughly Modern Millie has everything audiences love about musical theatre.

Set in New York City in 1922, the plot revolves around small-town girl Millie Dillmount who moves to New York City as a modern woman to marry for money rather than for love. Audience members will be transported back to the height of the Jazz Age when "moderns" were bobbing their hair, raising their hemlines, and rewriting the rules of love. This high-spirited romp is a delightful spectacular musical masterpiece that is a perfectly constructed evening of madcap merriment.

The talented cast and crew of 50-plus members, including many newcomers ready to leave their mark on the Lake



Fenton stage, is led by a memorable group of returning Lake Fenton Theatre veterans who are excited to be back presenting live theatre again.

Thoroughly Modern Millie runs for two weekends, Jan. 27 – Feb. 6.

Thursday, Feb. 3, Friday, Feb. 4 and Saturday, Feb. 5 performances begin at 7 p.m. The Sunday Matinee on Feb. 6 begins at 3 p.m.

Regular tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for students and seniors. Tickets can be purchased at the door beginning one hour before the performance. All performances are held at Lake Fenton High School Auditorium, 4070 Lahring Rd., Linden (Fenton Township).

Eagles remain in Metro League hunt, defeat Bronchos

By David Troppens

Holly — The Linden varsity girls basketball team is doing just what it needs to in order to remain in the Flint Metro League Stripes Division race.

The Eagles (5-1 in the Stripes Division) remained within a game of first-place Flushing (6-0) by earning a 66-19 road victory against the Holly Bronchos Friday night.

Linden played a complete game with many different players playing roles with

the offense in each quarter. Meanwhile, the Bronchos had one player have a big game (Alana Simmons) but it wasn't enough to keep Holly close.

In the opening quarter, freshman Shaye Barkholz continued her maturation on the varsity squad, netting nine of the Eagles' points. Five other players scored with Madison Meunier and Paige Leedle hitting treys, earning the squad an 18-4 first quarter lead. All four of Holly's points were

netted by Simmons.

In the second quarter, six Eagles scored while the Bronchos (0-10) netted just one three-pointer by Makena McGee. Olivia Mahwinney led Linden with four points in the second quarter. Linden led 33-7 at half-time. In the fourth quarter, the same pattern continued. Six players scored with Leedle, Allison Maienbrook and Emma Watson netting four points each.

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM



Holly's Alana Simmons battles through the Linden defense.

Photo: Christopher Summers

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Sports Times

Bronchos post shocker vs. first-place Linden

■ Young Holly squad wins fourth straight

By Dale Smith

Holly — On a bitter cold Friday night at the Horseshoe, one Holly varsity boys basketball player decided he would warm the place up a bit.

Holly senior Michael Stevens II, dropped in 11 points early in the fourth quarter to turn a Holly deficit into a big win for the Bronchos. Holly defeated first-place Linden 47-30.

Both teams struggled early. Two quick Eagles' turnovers helped Holly to open up an early 8-0 lead in the first eight minutes. Linden finally broke the ice at the 4:35 mark of the quarter when junior Colin Weiss came off the bench to hit a three-pointer. A mini-run closed the Holly lead to 12-7. Both teams had difficulty from the field and from the free-throw line. Linden was 0-for-3 from the charity stripe and Holly no better at 4-for-13.

The Eagles came out strong to start the second half. A steal and easy basket from senior Reichen Lund tied the game at 20. In short order, the

Eagles then led 27-20 before a hard foul, followed by a technical foul by the Eagles led to Holly's Bryce Goings hitting 3-of-4 free throws. Linden led by two, 27-25 to start the final stanza.

A quick three from Holly freshman Bowen Moore gave Holly its first lead since early in the half. Then, enter Mr. Stevens. An adept ball handler not known for taking a lot of shots, simply took over the game. First, he made a three-pointer to make it 31-27. He followed it with a standard two-point basket and Holly was up by nine 36-27. He then added another three points with a bucket and a free throw to put the game out of reach. The Bronchos outscored the Eagles 22-3 in that decisive fourth quarter. Stevens led Holly with 13 points while adding four rebounds.

"At the start of the game, I wasn't really confident in my shot," said Stevens. "But after I took my first shot and made it, I kept shooting it and it kept falling. We knew in the locker room (at halftime) that if we



Holly's Antonio Simmons (falling) and Linden's Monte Keener fight for a ball in the Bronchos' 47-30 victory against Linden.

Photo: Christopher Summers

could just cut down on the turnovers we could just take over this game."

Holly sophomore Antonio Simmons had a big game as well. He had 12 points while playing sold defense and hauling in a game-high 11 re-

bound along with two steals.

"I was happy for our coach (Steve DeHart) beating Linden," Simmons said. "That meant a lot. (In that fourth quarter), we just came out with a lot of energy."

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM



Connor Luck had seven assists in the Tigers' victory against Detroit Country Day.

Photo: Christopher Summers

Tigers win thriller vs. Country Day

By David Troppens

Fenton varsity boys basketball coach Chad Logan was concerned about playing two prep basketball games within a span of less than 24 hours — actually more like in the span of 18 hours.

But it worked out pretty well.

The Tigers traveled to Detroit Country Day and captured a thrilling 63-62 non-league victory.

"I was a little apprehensive playing this game at 2 p.m. after playing Friday night," Lo-

See **TIGERS** on 16

Fenton cheer takes first in second Metro jamboree

By David Troppens

Two of the three Flint Metro League varsity competitive cheer meets are done.

Half of the final standings has been established, and guess what?

The tri-county teams are right there near the top. The Fenton Tigers, who placed third in the first jamboree, won the second jamboree held at Kearsley High School. Lake Fenton, who won the first jamboree, placed third while Linden took fourth.

And now, the final meet of the season, an event being held at Fenton High School on Feb. 11, will determine the season champion with all three squads having some chance of earning at least a co-league title. Fenton and Lake Fenton are in first place with 22 points while Linden is in third (20 points) followed by Swartz Creek (18) in fourth. Holly placed 11th in the sec-

See **CHEER** on 16

Fenton boys swimmers dominate Corunna

By David Troppens

The Fenton varsity boys swimming and diving team just keeps plugging along.

The team's numbers aren't as great as they have been in the past, but the quality is there and that's showing in Flint Metro League action.

The Tigers remained undefeated in dual play, crushing Corunna 118-57.

Max Haney had an outstanding meet. Despite the fact the team started some of its heaviest training of the season this week, he still found time to break the school's 100 breaststroke record with a state-cut time of 1:00.55 at the event. He also posted a state cut in the 200 freestyle (1:44.27).

Haney wasn't the only Fenton swimmer to win two individual events. Jack Fries did the same in the 200 individual medley and the 100 butterfly. Fries had a state-cut time of 2:07.47 in the 200 individual medley, and posted a time of 57.81 seconds in the 100 butterfly.

Four other Fenton individuals earned firsts. Diver Owen Cox won his event with a score of 201.15, while Kaz



Fenton's Kaz Sieja (right) dives in the pool during a recent meet. Photo: David Troppens

Sieja had a first in the 100 backstroke (1:03.18). Evan Koch took the top spot in the 100 freestyle (53.38) and Zach Michelson won the 500 freestyle (5:27.46).

The Tigers also won all three relays. Fries, Sieja, Braden Falvo and Jacob Shanahan won the 200 medley relay (1:48.90) while Haney, Koch, Jacob Grifka and Isaac Gurnsey won the 200 freestyle relay (1:40.35). Finally, Fries, Shanahan, Luke DeFina and Falvo won the 400 freestyle relay (3:36.35).

The Tigers also had six individual-event second-place finishes. Falvo had two of them — the 100 butterfly (1:01.29) and the 100 backstroke (1:10.75). The rest were earned by Michelson in the 200 freestyle (2:02.38), Grifka in the 200 individual medley (2:28.97), Sieja in the 50 freestyle (23.14), and Tristan Bakker in the 500 freestyle (5:39.48).

The Tigers had two individual events in which they took the top three positions.

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM

Blue Devils break losing skid, earn road victory at Corunna, 71-41

By David Troppens

After coming back from a COVID break, the Lake Fenton varsity boys basketball team had lost three straight games.

Prior to the break, the Blue Devils were playing outstanding basketball, winning five straight.

The Blue Devils got back its winning feeling Friday night, earning a 71-41 road victory at Corunna.

"I'm just happy for the boys," Lake Fenton varsity boys basketball coach Tyler Szczepanski said. "They've kept their heads up and haven't gotten discouraged. The last couple of weeks have been tough. We've had some guys back from injury and have had guys go out and then get back to full strength. Everyone's roles are changing and it's hard to figure out where everyone fits in."

"It's been a long time coming, performing like that for a full 32 minutes."

The Blue Devils (6-4) won every

quarter against Corunna. In the opening quarter, five players scored, with Max Muenzer leading the way. He netted five of Lake Fenton's 15 points and the Blue Devils led 15-8 after one quarter. Francis Senter also chipped in four first-quarter points.

That trend pretty much continued for every quarter. In the second stanza, six players scored with Jake Helms netting five points. Brandon Bossert and Dylan Hammis had four point each as well as the Blue Devils scored 19 points. Lake Fenton led 34-19 at the half.

The Blue Devils had six players score in the third quarter as well, and just like the other two sessions, no one hit more than two field goals. Muenzer and Helms led the squad with five points each as the Blue Devils scored 20 points. And while doing that, Corunna struggled with just six points. Lake Fenton led 54-25 entering the final quarter.

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Lake Fenton's Drew Corcoran (top) pins a recent opponent. He went 5-0 at the Saline Super Duals. Photo: David Troppens

Lake Fenton wrestlers break post 4-1 mark at Saline Super Duals

By David Troppens

The Lake Fenton varsity wrestling team has had an outstanding season, and it continued at the Saline Super Duals.

The Blue Devils went 4-1 against their weekend competition, only losing to eventual champions Oxford.

Lake Fenton defeated Fraser 48-34, Saline 38-32, South Lyon East 76-6, and Woodhaven 40-35. They lost to Oxford by a 41-18 verdict, only their third dual loss of the season. The squad is 31-3.

"We competed with all Division 1 teams," Lake Fenton varsity wrestling coach Vance Corcoran said. "We were down a couple of key weight classes, but the boys still ended the day with a 4-1 record."

"These guys have been battling all

season and getting better day-by-day. We had a couple of kids get down to their postseason weights and they wrestled really well. Drew Corcoran is now down to 140 where he went 5-0, defeating three ranked Division 1 wrestlers. Ty Johnson is now at 130 and is going to be very tough there."

Lake Fenton had four wrestlers finish undefeated at the meet. Corcoran not only went 5-0, but earned three pinfall wins. Noah Hall (152) did the same while Jorge Marvin (103) and Jack Conley had 5-0 marks with two pinfall wins.

Johnson (130/135) earned a 4-1 mark with four pinfall wins while Clay Cook (112) also went 4-1. He had one pin win.

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM

Linden, Fenton wrestlers post strong results at Hartland Tournament

By David Troppens

The Linden and Fenton varsity wrestling programs competed at the Hartland Tournament on Saturday, and both had solid efforts.

Linden had eight placers and took fourth overall with 125 points. Fenton had a champion and also had eight placers, finishing sixth with 110.5 points.

The area's only champion was Fenton's Philip Lamka (152). He recorded two first-round pins and a technical fall to earn his title. The first-place match was against Marysville's Kyle Ferrier. Lamka won by pinfall in 1:04.

One other area wrestler competed for a championship in the finals. That was Linden's Bryce Shingleton (125) who finished in second. He earned pinfall wins in his first two matches, but lost by an 8-2 decision against Purdue Polytech's Silas Foster in the title match.

Both tri-county schools had three third-place finishers. For Linden, Luke Haney (140), Aiden Haney (145) and Jase Grundy (189) earned that status. Linden's third-place finishers were Kyle Dunfield (160), Evan Firby (215) and

See **WRESTLERS** on 16

Logan's free throws sparks Tigers' 43-42 victory vs. Swartz Creek

By David Troppens

The Fenton girls basketball team is making a habit out of playing in some pretty tight and entertaining contests.

It happened again on Friday night.

Abby Logan hit some key free throws down the stretch to lead the Tigers to a 42-41 road victory against the Swartz Creek Dragons.

The Tigers have had back-to-back contests resolved by a point, both won by Fenton. On Tuesday, the Tigers won a 43-42 victory at home against the Clio Mustangs. Fenton (4-2 in the Flint Metro League Stripes Division and 6-6 overall) also had a tight 41-36 victory at Ortonville-Brandon on Jan. 11.

Adrie Staib and Maddie Slezinski each netted 14 points. Slezinski scored the game-winning points in the victory against Clio. Kaleigh Shaker also had eight points.



Fenton's Abby Logan dribbles the ball up the court in a recent game. She hit two free throws late to earn the Tigers a win against Swartz Creek. Photo: Christopher Summers

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Holly wrestlers go 1-3 at Richmond : Tigers' offense remains consistent in win vs. Creek

By David Troppens

The Holly varsity wrestling team competed at the Richmond Duals and finished with a 1-3 record.

The squad defeated L'Anse Creuse 42-34, but lost to Grosse Isle 42-36, Richmond 72-12 and Utica 52-30.

Some individuals had outstanding days, including Jacob Gonzales (160).

The two-time defending state champion cruised through his four matches, earning three pinfall wins among his four victories.

Three other Holly wrestlers finished 3-1. Hunter Hummel (152) earned that mark with three pinfall wins, while Sean Murray (125) earned a 3-1 mark with two pinfall victories. Gabe Soja (112) also went 3-1 and had a pin win.

By David Troppens

The Fenton varsity boys basketball team keeps on scoring points.

For the fourth straight contest, the Tigers scored at least 62 points. This time it happened on a road game at Swartz Creek High School. The Tigers (9-4 overall and 3-3 in the Flint Metro League Stripes Division) won each quarter and won a 63-40 verdict.

"We got everybody in," Fenton varsity boys basketball coach Chad Logan said. "We got some good effort from everyone in the ball game. It was nice to get some guys out of the game tonight because we have Detroit Country Day tomorrow."

Seth Logan started the contest on fire, netting 16 points in the first half. That enabled the Tigers to take a 17-9 lead after one quarter and a 29-18 halftime lead.

Any chance the Dragons had of making a comeback were erased by Lance Barkholz who hit four three-point shots in the third quarter, helping the Tigers to a 21-point stanza. The Tigers led 50-29 after three quarters and cruised from there.

"Seth got us going in the first half," Chad Logan said. "In the third quarter Lance hit four threes. The best thing about them was three of them were on consecutive possessions to start the half."

Seth Logan finished with 18 points while Barkholz finished with 15 points.

Seth Logan drives to the hoop in a recent Fenton game. He scored 18 points in a victory against Swartz Creek. Photo: Christopher Summers



TIGERS

Continued from Page 13

gan said. "We've struggled in these games before, and maybe we were a little fatigued at the beginning. We trailed 14-7 at the end of one quarter. We got to the basket and didn't finish."

The Tigers finished the game off in grand fashion. Seth Logan hit a three-pointer with four seconds left, giving the Tigers the lead. Country Day had a chance to take the lead in the final seconds, but failed to do so.

"The second half was as good a competitive game that you could find,"

Chad Logan said. "The lead changed hands seven times in the last two minutes."

Country Day had a chance to take a three-point lead in the final moments. Kareem Aburashed went to the line with two free throws.

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CHEER

Continued from Page 14

ond jamboree and is in 12th place in the overall standings.

The defending league champion Tigers saw their three-round total score skyrocket to 721.8 at Friday night's event, an improvement of about 31 points from the first jamboree. Lake Fenton also saw about a two-point improvement to 700.70 for its third-place finish. Swartz Creek took second with 705.74. Linden's score fell about five points to 692.46, earning them fourth. Holly was unable to compete in the first event and took 11th in this one with a team score of 584.50.

Fenton established themselves as

the teams to beat with the top score in round one with a 226.10. The Tigers remained in first place after a 200.90 score in round 2. Their round 3 score of 300.80 was the only one to cross the 300-point barrier earning Fenton the first-place finish.

Lake Fenton opened with a 217.80 in round one, placing them sixth. However, they started to move up from there. A 211.80 (but with a 10-point penalty) gave the Blue Devils a score of 419.60, good enough for third place entering round three. In the final round, Lake Fenton scored a 281.10. Without the 10-point penalty, the Blue Devils would've finished in second.

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WRESTLERS

Continued from Page 15

Carson Krzeszak (285).

Linden's Luke Haney had a tough route to earning third. He won his first two matches by technical fall and decision, respectively. He lost to Hartland's Justin VanVarenbergh by pinfall in the semifinal. He rebounded by beating Clio's Lukas Hulliberger by pinfall in 2:40 in the third-place match.

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FILMING

Continued from Front Page

ers, horses walking down the street, the police chief talking with one of the main characters before the parade and more.

Sam Khaleghi, director and producer, said the parade was a success. He thanked Zott Automotive, which was the sponsor of the parade in the movie.

Cinematographer Nolan Rhys Elias said they got many shots that seem like little moments but mean a lot in the movie. They filmed Santa Claus dancing, scenes of people walking and talking and more scene-setting shots. Using two different cameras helps shooting go fluidly even in the cold. Temperatures reached the negatives as they shot into the night.

"It was well worth it because the lighting was beautiful at that time" in Battle Alley with the lights, Rhys Elias said.

Lead actress Marla Moore plays Katie Valentine, the director of the Holly Historical Society whose goal is to save the Holly Union Depot. She said they shot the perfect scene that night when she and Joe Kurak, who plays her love interest Luke Murphy, get into the carriage together in Battle Alley. Murphy is a former Army sergeant and now a Holly firefighter.

"Seeing that footage, that moment, that was the real deal," she said. "I was so excited to do this film. I'm loving it. When we saw how great everything was turning out, how Sam's vision is turning out, how brilliant it's going to be, we want to put in more time to make this really beautiful and great. It needs time and care, and I'm so happy with how it's going so far."

Her character has a love for history and Holly, and she does all she can to keep the community stay strong. Moore and her duet partner first experienced Holly when they sang at the Holly Hotel.

"Holly is the most magical place. I fell in love with the town and the hotel.

When I was asked to be in this movie, it was a compelling yes. I'd already seen the magic, but while working on it and meeting people, I realized it was the people that make this town amazing. Everyone has been so welcoming," she said. Moore especially likes working with the horses and thanked Loretta Bradfield for bringing them.

On Saturday, Jan. 29, they shot a few scenes at the Holly Area Chamber Annual Dinner.

"I am elated that every member of the Chamber of Commerce leadership, the DDA, village council, township supervisor, and all these individuals are coming together," Khaleghi said. "I'm just so elated at how excited everyone is."

Many Holly residents are extras in the movie, and prominent community leaders, such as Richard Kinnamon, Jerry Walker, Nick Klemp, Police Chief Jerry Narsh and more are featured.

"Our film is ambitious to say the least," Khaleghi said, adding that they're using many hyper specific locations in the village and township. They close down Main Street to shoot and have to coordinate with police and the fire department.

"In the grand scheme, it actually does take a lot. Our film crew is like a little army. Hopefully it's something that will capture the beauty of the geography," he said.

The Holly community has stepped up to help and show support. Many businesses, such as Battle Alley Coffee and Cupcake and Kisses, have offered amenities. A local resident is letting them use their bed and breakfast.

Nolan said it's impossible to say thank you to each person considering how many people from Holly have helped.

"We keep coming across these amazing families and individuals that really want to partake in the film," Khaleghi said. "You don't see that generosity on the coast, but you do in the heart of the Midwest."

“We keep coming across these amazing families and individuals that really want to partake in the film.”

Sam Khaleghi
SLK Media Group owner



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KING
FEATURES

Midweek Crossword

ACROSS

1 Kitten's cry

4 Opera set in Egypt

8 Garden intruder

12 Eggs

13 Some deer

14 — -bitty

15 Containers for laundering

17 Appease

18 "So there!"

19 Pittsburgh pro

21 Emphasize

24 Droop

25 Chop

26 Pirate's pota-tion

28 Yokels

32 "I've Got — in Kalamazoo"

34 Pinnacle

36 "— come back now, hear?"

37 Trifled (with)

39 PC alternative

41 Roman 151

42 "— the sea-son ..."

44 NASA vehicle

46 Critic's essays

50 Part of DJIA

51 Send forth

52 Give a faded look to, as

56 Lettuce vari-

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Think (over)

HBO rival

Sheltered

Between jobs

Layer

Trim the grass

Actress

Longoria

Remove by

cleaning

Tennis legend

Ashe

Debtor's note

Society new-bies

Admin. aides

Know-it-all

And others (Lat.)

Diminutive suffix

Color worker

Dinner for

Dobbin

Corn spike

Excellent, in slang

Toy block

Place

May honoree

Aftermath

Vogue rival

Thin cut

Beatles classic

Standard

Conk out

Pamper

Sage

Farm female

Country's

McEntire

Actor

Jannings

Unspoken feeling

Gulf War mis-sile

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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.

SUDOKU PUZZLE

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DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Midweek Jumble

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

JUMBLE PUZZLE

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THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

UNDOH

DALGE

KTREMA

PNNIKA

Answer here:

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Who was your contractor?

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AFTER PAYING TO HAVE AN AMAZING DECK CONSTRUCTED, THE FAMILY —

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

For the week of
January 31, 2022

ARIES

Mar 21/Apr 20

It is time to slow down a little, Aries. Even you cannot keep up a hectic pace for very long. Invest time in relaxing pursuits like yoga or reading to unwind your brain.

TAURUS

Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, you may feel it necessary to prove your point at all costs. Stubbornness will get you nowhere right now. Listen to what others have to say.

GEMINI

May 22/Jun 21

There are two sides to every story, Gemini. It is best not to attach yourself to one version of the tale just yet. Hear everyone out and then come to an informed conclusion.

CANCER

Jun 22/Jul 22

There is no time like the present to turn over a new leaf, Cancer. Think about the areas of your life that can use some improvement and focus on the steps to get there this week.

LEO

Jul 23/Aug 23

Someone from the past comes back into your life and you will not know how to react, Leo. First assess what this person wants and how you left off years ago.

VIRGO

Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, it might be time to accept the help or advice that someone is offering to you. You don't always have to forge new paths to prove your worth.

LIBRA

Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, if you are thinking about making a major lifestyle change in the near future, start fleshing out the plans this week. Gather feedback from the ones you love.

SCORPIO

Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, past mistakes provide opportunities to learn. Continue to forge a new path. Recognize that others have made mistakes and can provide support.

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23/Dec 21

A big idea is blooming, but you need to get a handle on how you can finance this endeavor, Sagittarius. It may be worth seeking investors.

CAPRICORN

Dec 22/Jan 20

It is time to mend fences that were broken a few years ago, Capricorn. Holding on to past issues will not prove fruitful. Sit down and work through your issues.

AQUARIUS

Jan 21/Feb 18

You certainly catch more flies with honey than vinegar, Aquarius. Focus on being warm and welcoming in conversation and your points will be well-received.

PISCES

Feb 19/Mar 20

Something regarding your health may be on your mind, Pisces. Schedule an annual physical and discuss your concerns.



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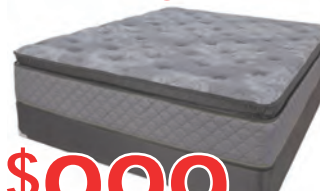
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