

LaJoice paroled from state prison

■ Will now finish remainder of 11-year federal sentence

By Sharon Stone

For anyone that followed the 2016 embezzlement case involving local businessman

Michael LaJoice, they would notice that the Michigan Department of Corrections paroled him Thursday, Jan. 5. He had pleaded no contest to the charges and was sentenced May 1, 2017.

LaJoice's attorney, Mike Manley, said even though LaJoice, 43, could be placed on parole

as early as Jan. 5, he will remain in custody. His 11-year federal sentence will take over with credit for time served in state prison.

Typically, state prison inmates are sent to a federal facility in Oklahoma City for

See **LAJOICE** on 9



Michael LaJoice

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Midweek Times

VOL. 30 NO. II WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2023 \$1.00

Officer hired at two elementary schools

■ His goal is to help promote safe, secure environment for students, staff

By Hannah Ball

Every school in the Linden Community Schools district now has police

See **OFFICER** on 7

Man who sexually assaulted girl at Clover Beach sentenced

■ Ordered to 85 months to 15 years

By Sharon Stone

Bobby Lee McMillan, 28, of Big Rapids, was sentenced Friday, Jan. 6 in Genesee

See **SENTENCED** on 6

Second sexual assault victim comes forward

■ Twenty more charges filed against Barajas

By Sharon Stone

Michael Anthony Barajas, nicknamed "a serial monster" by the Genesee County Sheriff's Office

See **BARAJAS** on 14



West Shore Elementary kindergarten teacher Carlee Ramirez hugs Charlie Rohen, 6, during the Monday, Jan. 9 Lake Fenton Board of Education meeting. Photo: Hannah Ball

Teacher receives Red Cross Lifesaving Award

■ Teacher honored for saving student's life

By Hannah Ball

Lake Fenton — A "hero" is defined as a person who is admired for achievements and noble qualities, as someone who shows great courage or is idealized for outstanding achievements.

On Monday, Jan. 9, at the Lake Fenton Board of Education meeting, a West Shore Elementary kindergarten teacher was honored as a hero for saving a student's life. Carlee Ramirez's colleagues, friends and family surprised her by attending the meeting where she received a Red Cross Lifesaving Award.

On June 14, 2022, Charlie Rohen, 6, choked on a Dum Dum sucker. Ramirez performed life-saving actions to dislodge the sucker from her throat. She has been a teacher at Lake Fenton Community Schools for 16 years.

See **AWARD** on 8

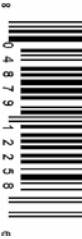


“Congrats to Carlee Ramirez for winning the award from the American Red Cross. You did an awesome job of acting so quick to save that young student who was choking on a dum dum sucker. Lake Fenton schools is lucky to have you.”



“I haven't been this proud of the Lions since 1991. They didn't make the playoffs, but something special is happening within the halls of Ford Field. For the first time in my lifetime they have management that has an eye for talent. Next step, the playoffs and a playoff win in 2024.”

“When will the city of Linden build new condos downtown by Hyatt or across from Alpine?”





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### Cause & Affect Gallery

Annie Anglim, owner  
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Annie Anglim, owner of Cause & Affect Gallery, says the goal of her gallery is to affect the greater community. It began as a need to find space to accommodate a friend who is differently

abled. There are more than 70 Michigan artists whose work is represented at the gallery. They offer various workshops and the instructors are artists themselves. She donates a portion of all sales to non-profits, works with local schools, provides internships and welcomes other organizations. There is a retail area in the gallery. "We are proud to work with organizations that help women artisans in third world countries through purchasing their goods fair trade," she said. "Our hope is that Cause & Affect Gallery inspires you and that you enjoy being immersed in our art." Anglim has a degree in art. Her work has been represented at galleries, juried fine art shows and currently is at Inspire Marketplace. She participates in Zonta Flint, the Fenton Arts Council board, the Arts & Culture Commission for Fenton, the Fenton Pride Collective board, the business development committee for the chamber, and the endowment committee for UU Congregation of Flint. She's married to Sara Griffin, and they have two children, Maxamilio and Maddie, who are completing their degrees. She enjoys reading and gardening in her spare time.

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# Meetings to begin in March on renaming of Squaw Lake

■ Residents' voices to be heard to find name other than Aanikegamaa

By Sharon Stone

The number of residents wanting to participate in the renaming of Aanikegamaa Lake (formerly Squaw Lake) is turning out to be more than expected.

Fenton Township Supervisor Vince Lorraine said he's advised nearly 30 residents who want to be part of the process of renaming the lake to contact resident Mark Shantz. Discussions at the local, state and federal level need to happen and Lorraine was told that residents directly impacted by the name change are encouraged to lead the efforts rather than township officials.

On Sept. 8, 2022, the Department of the Interior (DOI) announced the Board on Geographic Names (BGN) had voted on the replacement names for nearly 650 geographic features with the word "squaw."

The decision reflected a months-long effort by the Derogatory Geographic Names Task Force established by Secretary's Order 3404, which included representatives from the Department's

Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, National Park Service, Office of Diversity, Inclusion and Civil Rights, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, and the U.S. Geological Survey and the Department of Agriculture's U.S. Forest Service.

Secretary's Order 3404 and the Task Force considered only the "squaw" derogatory term in its scope.

Locally, this affected the renaming of Squaw Lake in Fenton Township to Aanikegamaa Lake. The lake has two parts commonly referred to as big squaw and little squaw, based on the size of the water area. The lake is connected to Lake Ponemah and Tupper Lake via channels.

According to the Ojibwe People's Dictionary, Aanikegamaa means "chain of lakes."

Since hearing the news of the name change last fall, Lorraine has been in communication with his legal counsel, as well as U.S. Senator Gary Peters and U.S. Congressman Dan Kildee.

There is a procedural process to enable residents of the lake to have a voice

and some input on the name change.

Lorraine said because of the Times' coverage on this local topic, as well as social media, there has been much attention brought to the name change. He said in person meetings are expected to begin in March with the local residents who want to take part in conversations and the process. He said the township office would open its lower level for these discussions. Dates and times will be finalized and announced.

He said to his understanding none of the other municipalities dealing with a name change like this have filed any applications with the federal government for a new name. Every municipality is unique and each will have to form its own criteria to follow the process.

Lorraine said he's confident in person discussions with the residents starting in March will work out nicely.

Contact Lorraine at the office at (810) 629-1537 or Shantz at (248) 396-1093 to get involved.

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## Sharin' the Spotlight

By Editor Sharon Stone

There are two groups of people being recognized in the month of January. Not to say that other groups aren't being recognized for their work, but these two involve many local residents. January is National School Board Appreciation Month and Monday was National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day.

School boards across the nation set the policies to best educate our youngest people. They also have to approve budgets and hire the best candidates applying for positions with the school district. These people were elected by their neighbors who live in the same school district for a voluntary job that comes with little hype or recognition. Most have full-time jobs doing something else to pay the bills.

The Fenton Board of Education includes Dana Jones, Pamela Dickie, Emily Rossmassler, Matthew Welch, Michael Pearce, Ashley Prew and Renee Juhl. The Holly Board of Education includes Teri Weisdorfer, Robin Carne, Jennifer Young, Peter Deahl, Linda Blair, Deborah Virant-Young and Leigh Jackson. The Lake Fenton Board of Education includes Michael Peraino, Christopher Fletcher, Heidi Howieson,

## Recognizing our local school board and law enforcement members

Robert Hutchins, Shannon Elenbaas, Robert Kamischke and Justin Schweigert. The Linden Board of Education includes David Haney, Shari Luck, Scott Maker Jarrod Montague, Steve Murphy, Michelle Shayna and Brook Hansen. Newly elected board members are being sworn into office this month.

Next time you see one of the school board members, take a moment to thank them for their time and service for our kids.

On Monday, the nation recognized our law enforcement members. Going into my 19<sup>th</sup> year as the police reporter for the Times, I've met and communicated with many law enforcement members. Over the years, I've seen members work their way up to police chief and I've seen members working more than one part-time position because police budgets couldn't afford to hire and pay full-time officers.

I'm sure none of our local law enforcement members would say they took the job for the pay. I looked up on indeed.com to see what the average starting salary of a police officer is in the U.S. Starting salaries range from \$38,500 to \$88,846 with an average of \$58,500.



Sharon Stone

With tight budgets and fewer men and women entering this profession, law enforcement departments across the country have fewer police responding to emergency calls and monitoring the community. One study revealed that when you combine concerns over COVID, officers resigning and attitude toward officers

in recent years, police departments find it challenging to hire recruits.

From my experience and from getting to know many sheriffs, chiefs, lieutenants, sergeants, officers and troopers, I know they all work tirelessly to keep the rest of us safe. It scares me to think that a simple traffic stop could be deadly for the officer. Many work extra shifts because there isn't anyone to relieve them. Many departments work around the clock and every day of the year. While we get holidays off, they work to protect us and our property. I've only had to call 911 a couple of times in my life but I was and still am confident in who will be responding to my emergency. So next time you see an officer, take a moment to thank them for their service. It will likely mean a lot to them, as well as their family.

## Hotlines

Submit Hot lines online at tctimes.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.

**SO, ANN ARBOR** schools are back to making students and teachers wear a COVID mask for two weeks. That's such a joke. So glad my kids in the Fenton area aren't forced to deal with that craziness.

ONE OF THE doggie poop bags left by the beautiful dog owners of Fenton. Disgusting. *Editor's note: The Hot-liner also sent in a photo of the green plastic bag filled with dog poop.*

**REMEMBER WHEN YOUR** attorney sent a love letter to prevent boat storage across the street from your property? Now that you are moving, you don't mind? Pig farm, eh?

**WITCH-HUNT HITS** Linden. Only a politically motivated attack would elevate a Washington, D.C. simple trespass violation into a federal grand jury indictment. The prosecution of Ms. Idoni wrong.

**ARE ANY OF** you starting to get nervous about having heart issues?

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

## What shows are you binge watching lately?



"For All Mankind'on Apple+ TV. It's a great 'what if' show about NASA, set in the '60s. If you liked 'Mad Men,' you'll love this show!"

**Sally Shotwell Rummel**  
Fenton



"'Virgin River' on Netflix. I am not a binge watcher of anything, but I did binge watch this for a day and a half."

**Dawn Hoffmeyer**  
Linden



"If you haven't started 'Wednesday' on Netflix you need to!!! I'm a 40-year-old man and I loved this show!! It's right up there with 'Umbrella Academy' and 'The Walking Dead.' A must binge."

**Matthew Morgan**, Swartz Creek



"'Yellowstone,' '1883,' '1923,' 'Ginny & Georgia,' 'Outlander,' 'Vikings Vahallah,' 'The Last Kingdom,' 'Virgin River,' 'Outer Banks,' 'Firefly Lane,' to name a few."

**Sarah Koza**  
Holly

## | streettalk

## Randy Wise Automotive Team maintains title

■ Michigan's number one donating dealer to United Way

The Randy Wise Automotive Team announced it has surpassed its 2021 United Way contribution by 14% achieving a contribution amount of \$147,982 in the 2022 calendar year.

"Randy and I are so proud of this team," said Chris Wise, vice president. "It warms our hearts to see this kind of collective generosity. For years, the company has stepped up to assist those that need it most in our community and this year was no different. We set a personal team record for company giving and eclipsed \$1,000,000 in lifetime donations. Our community has more than its share of challenges, and this team is committed to helping out as much as possible."

In total, they have given over \$1 million in contributions to the United Way organization. This also includes a 100% donation participation rate during the COVID-19 pandemic, meaning every employee of their team gave.

The United Way of Genesee County

is not the only organization that Randy Wise Automotive is a proud partner of. The automotive team places a heavy focus on community involvement in other ways, including their volunteerism at the local food bank and humane society, sponsoring the local school systems and being a part of major community events in the Flint and surrounding areas where their eight dealerships reside.

"This is the kind of connection, dedication and support that only comes from a strong, genuine committed leader, and that's who Randy is," said Jamie Gaskin, CEO of the United Way of Genesee County. "As a partner with UWGC, Randy inspires others to get involved, give what they can and support our organization. His commitment to Genesee County and the Flint community is unmatched. Thank you, Randy, for the passion you show to helping UWGC serve the local community."

Randy Wise Automotive recently purchased a new BMW, Mercedes-Benz, Toyota dealership in 2021, adding eight locations and 13 brands to the growing Automotive Team founded in 1989.

## HOT LINE CONTINUED

**ARE YOU KIDDING** me? The American Academy of Pediatrics is now urging drugs and even surgery for treatment of obese kids. Why not start by cutting out all sugar and processed foods from their daily diets. This is absurd. Follow the money.

■■■■ **WE NEED TO** keep asking why young athletes are collapsing and having heart issues. It's like the white elephant in the room that some don't want to talk about, but this needs to be talked about. I foresee so many lawsuits in the future from those coerced into taking the mRNA vaccine.

■■■■ **AS A MOM** who is finally realizing we were all duped into getting the worthless mRNA vaccine, I am scared to death that my healthy and athletic son will drop dead from heart issues. Heads need to roll at the highest level.

View all stories online at  
[tctimes.com](http://tctimes.com)



## NEWS

## BRIEFS

COMPILED BY SHARON STONE

### Holly VFW Brunch

The Holly VFW invites community members to join them for Brunch at the Holly VFW Hall, 201 Airport Dr., Holly, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The public is welcome. Brunch is \$10/person, \$5/ages 10 years and under and children under 5 are free. Brunches will be held Jan. 14, March 18, May 13, July 22, Sept. 9 and Nov. 18.

### Steak Bingo at Holly VFW

Win a steak at the VFW Hall, 201 Airport Dr., Holly, by playing Steak Bingo. The event is scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 14, starting at 4 p.m.

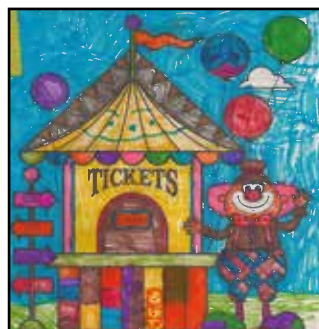
### Holly Daytime Pickleball

Holly daytime pickleball is scheduled for Mondays from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., at the Karl Richter Center Gym, 300 East St., Holly. Daily Drop in for \$5 or purchase a 10-punch card for \$30 (\$3 per visit).

# CONGRATS to our contest winners!

Thanks to their great artistic talent the following artists have won 4 Shrine Circus Tickets!

Thanks to all of the talent artists who entered!



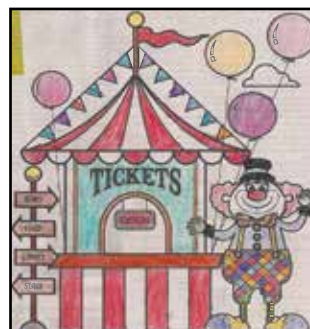
**Scarlett Myers**  
Linden | Age 6



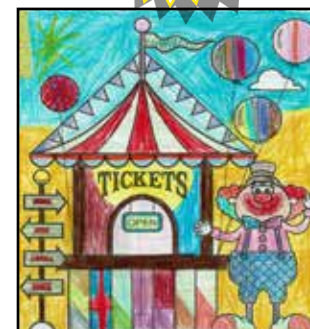
**Isabella Benke**  
Linden | Age 11



**Lochlan Rupp**  
Fenton | Age 7



**Lily Pedrotti**  
Linden | Age 9



**Michael White**  
Holly | Age 8

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## SENTENCED

Continued from Page 1

County Circuit Court to 85 months to 15 years in state prison. He was credited for 78 days served in the Genesee County Jail.

McMillan was initially charged with four counts of first-degree criminal sexual conduct (CSC) during a felony and four counts of accosting children for immoral purposes. He was arraigned Oct. 22, 2022.

His case was bound over to circuit court and a felony plea was accepted Nov. 22, 2022 for a reduced charge of third-degree CSC and accosting children for immoral purposes.

Genesee County Sheriff Chris Swanson and Linden Police Chief Scott Sutter announced the charges during the sheriff's weekly press briefing on Nov. 16, 2022. Swanson said McMillan is considered a habitual offender.

Sutter said in early October 2022, a brave mom and dad and their very brave daughter came to Linden police to report that the girl had been sexually assaulted by a man she had met through

the social media app Snapchat. The girl told her parents and police that she and McMillan met several times at Clover Beach in Fenton Township at the Linden County Park.

Sutter said the girl told police that there were other girls in his car with her. This information prompted him to contact and get the Genesee Human Oppression Strike Team (GHOST) involved.

Through their investigation, they learned that McMillan is from the Big Rapids area in Mecosta County. He also is on the Michigan Sex Offender Registry for a conviction of accosting children for immoral purposes and fourth-degree criminal sexual conduct with a victim between 13 and 15 years of age. The investigation also revealed other offenses in Bay and Livingston counties, which are now being investigated in those counties.

Swanson said McMillan came to Linden to develop a relationship, to groom a young girl at Clover Beach and commit criminal sexual conduct several times.



Bobby McMillan



Mark McCabe

67th District Court

Ask the

judge

### Long arm statutes and choice of forum clauses

Fortunately, we normally go about conducting our daily activities and business and all goes well. However when things don't go well and we are harmed by another, a civil lawsuit can be filed in Michigan against the entity or individual that harmed us.

That's the way it normally works, but there are two perhaps not well-known situations when the defendant isn't a Michigan resident or there is a special clause in a sales or other contract, with the result for both being the complaint must be filed in another state.

Since each state has its own unique laws in such cases, I will only talk about Michigan law.

As to the first situation, Michigan law provides that a non-resident defendant can be sued in Michigan if they have a "physical presence" because the court has what's called "personal jurisdiction." General Motors is an example of this, being a Delaware Corporation, but having its world headquarters in Detroit.

However for other non-residents, a Michigan court can still have "limited personal jurisdiction" and

a Michigan filing is proper. For this to happen it must be shown that the defendant had "minimum contacts" with Michigan and purposely availed themselves of conducting activities or business here, thus making it reasonable to be sued here.

This analysis is done on a case-by-case basis with Michigan having three separate "long-arm" statutes for individuals, corporations and other entities detailing what minimum contacts entail.

Examples include a defendant conducting "any business" in Michigan, owning property in Michigan, or causing injury or harm.

Long-arm refers to the jurisdictional reach of the Michigan court into another state. If one of the statutes doesn't apply, the lawsuit must be filed in the defendant's state.

In the second situation, (when there is actual jurisdiction), a resident or non-resident defendant can still avoid a lawsuit filed in Michigan when there is a contract signed by all parties which has a special clause providing that it is mandatory that any action or controversy (lawsuit) be exclusively filed in a specific state other than Michigan.

These are commonly called "Choice of Forum" (place/venue) clauses. These situations don't come up often, but when they do it's good to know we have laws which apply. In this age of internet sales, things could change quickly.

## INVITATION TO BID CITY OF LINDEN MOSQUITO CONTROL SERVICES

The City of Linden will receive sealed bids at the City Clerk's office, 132 East Board Street, P.O. Box 507, Linden, Michigan 48451, for mosquito control services until Thursday, February 2, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at that time in the main office of the Linden City Hall, 132 East Board Street, Linden, Michigan. Bids shall be submitted in sealed envelopes and plainly marked "MOSQUITO CONTROL SERVICES BID – CITY OF LINDEN."

Bids are being solicited only from responsible and established bidders known to be experienced and regularly engaged in the work of mosquito control services. Satisfactory evidence that the bidder has the necessary capital, equipment, and personnel to do the work may be required. A Pre-Bid Conference can be scheduled by appointment with the City Manager.

Proposal forms and specifications are on file for the inspection of bidders at the Linden City Offices, 132 East Broad Street, Linden, Michigan and copies may be obtained by qualified bidders. Sealed proposals must be submitted on the bid forms furnished by the City.

The City Council reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to accept any bid which in their opinion, is the most advantageous to the City.

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## PUBLIC NOTICE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF FENTON

### PUBLIC HEARING 2023 LOCAL ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

The Fenton Township Board has scheduled a public hearing to discuss local road improvement projects for 2023. Citizens are invited to provide input regarding potential projects, which may include improvements to paved or unpaved local roads. The hearing will be held during the board's regular meeting on Tuesday January 17, 2023, beginning at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will be held in the lower level meeting room of the Fenton Township Civic Community Center at 12060 Mantawauka Drive, Fenton, MI 48430. The public may also participate in the public hearing via Zoom. Instructions for participating via Zoom will be posted on Fenton Township's website at [www.fentontownship.org](https://www.fentontownship.org).

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### • Middle School ELA teacher

#### Are you involved with any clubs/ organizations?

I am proud to say that I am the Student Council Advisor for 8th grade. I get to work with a handful of motivated students to make our middle school a great place to be. This year I am also the Drama Director for 6th-8th grade. We are planning a play for March.

#### What's your favorite way to relax?

My favorite way to relax is to read a book! My love for books was the reason why I pursued ELA in middle school. I wanted to show students my passion for reading in hopes that they developed some passion themselves. Reading was my main escape as a middle schooler; I love how reading can take you anywhere.

#### What's your favorite thing about working in this area?

My favorite thing about working in the area is that our community is small and I can get to know all my students and their families. I have been working for Lake Fenton since 2001! The kids and my amazing colleagues in our community are the reason I have been here for a large portion of my life. I am blessed to have made lifelong friends in the Lake Fenton community because of this.



## OFFICER

Continued from Page 1

coverage with the hiring of a school resource officer to provide a police presence at Hyatt Elementary and Linden Elementary schools.

Officer Jeremy Williams' first day was Tuesday, Jan. 3.

"The thing that I want to do here is just build relationships and rapport with students and staff to create trust so they know they can trust the police...to know they can go to police if they have a problem and to know that we're the good guys," he said. "It's about being visible and being a deterrent. If people see police in the schools, they're less apt to do something or have an issue there."

One of the main reasons he wanted the position was the Linden Police Department personnel.

"I heard great things about the staff. We've got a really good department where everybody gets along really well. There's a lot of experience in our department and everybody just meshes well. It's a good fit," he said.

Previously, Williams, a Goodrich resident, worked in the Capital Region Airport Authority Public Safety Department in Lansing. He has 19 years of experience in law enforcement, corporate security and safety.

"I'm looking forward to working with the students and staff. The kids are a lot of fun. They're funny," he said. "It's enjoyable to come to work. They make you smile and laugh. It's going to be a fun position and place to be at."

Williams was drawn to the Linden community itself.

"It's a small community and at this point in my career, I was looking to go to a smaller agency, and I've heard a lot of good things about the community itself," he said, adding that he's heard from friends that Linden is very welcoming toward police officers.

His goal is to help promote a safe and secure environment for the students and staff.

LCS, the Linden Police Department and Linden City Council have been in

talks to hire an SRO for a few months. Williams will split time between both elementary schools and will collaborate with administrators, faculty, staff, students and parents to ensure schools are a safe place to learn, according to a statement from Linden Police Chief Scott Sutter.

"The SRO will be a part of the school community in which they serve. It is our goal that the SRO becomes a dependable, appreciated member of the staff where students, parents and school staff can come to for advice, support and safety. The Linden Police Department and Linden Community Schools want the SRO to be seen by our students as a positive role model who is there to help with day-to-day support and education during regular school hours, after school and at off-campus school activities.

"The SRO will also act as a deterrent against crime and acts of violence. The SRO's main responsibility is educating and protecting our students and staff from threats of violence.

"With help from the Linden Community Schools, the Linden Police Department conducted backgrounds



Officer Jeremy Williams

and interviews for the position of School Resource Officer. It was determined based on the background and interviews that the Linden Police Department would hire Officer Jeremy Williams for the School Resource Officers position."

"Officer Williams believes it is a true honor to be chosen to be the School Resource Officer at Hyatt Elementary and Linden Elementary and he looks forward to building relationships!"

The schools in Argentine Township have SROs from the Argentine Township Police Department.

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## AWARD

Continued from Page 1

“We’re here to honor every day heroes,” said Besky Gaskin, executive director of the American Red Cross East Central Bay Chapter, who presented Ramirez with the award. “We know emergencies arise

every day. Last week, we saw on national television during an NFL game someone collapsed and someone performed CPR and first aid. It happens at family picnics, it happens in the office, it happens in the grocery store parking lot and sometimes on hot summer days at summer school.”

“When an emergency arises, what we

always see is a crowd of people. Some of them get on their knees and they start praying immediately for a victim until a hero arises and knows what to do and takes immediate action to sustain or save a life,” Gaskin said.

Gaskin, who has four children who all graduated from Lake Fenton, said Ramirez is very special to her. They’ve known each other for years. Gaskin’s great nephew came home from summer school that day and told her how Ramirez saved someone’s life.

“The Red Cross doesn’t take these lifesaving awards lightly,” she said. The “Certificate of Extraordinary Personal Action” was presented to Ramirez for “selfless and humane action using lifesaving skills” and exemplifying the mission of the Red Cross.

The Red Cross has presented Lifesaving Awards since 1911. These awards are meant

to celebrate and recognize people who step up in the face of emergencies to sustain life. Since 2018, they’ve presented more than 2,000 of these awards.

Teacher Patti Sabourin, Carlee’s best friend, convinced her to attend the Monday meeting but wasn’t honest about the purpose so the award was a surprise to Ramirez. Sabourin knew after hearing what happened on June 14 that Ramirez deserved the recognition.

“You’ve always put kids first. You love kids, you’ve devoted your life to kids and you need to be celebrated for this,” she said. Sabourin and Ramirez usually handle pick up time in the parking lot, and on June 14, she noticed that her friend was missing. Ramirez ran out of the building in tears and frantically explained to her what happened.

“So I’m thankful for you, the people in this community are thankful for you, Becky’s thankful and most importantly, one family is very thankful for you,” she said. Ramirez was surprised to see the Rohen family in attendance on Monday.

Charlie’s mom, Morgan Rohen, said on the day Charlie choked, she was in the car headed to Mexico when Ramirez called her and told her what happened.

“We both cried on the phone after. She kept telling me to go on my vacation, so I went. She was alive so I was good,”



**“To stand here and be honored like this makes me feel tremendously proud of myself and the kids in the room were amazing.”**

**Carlee Ramirez**  
*West Shore Elementary teacher*

she said. “We’re super grateful for her and her quick thinking and actions to help save Charlie that day. While she is a great colleague, friend and abuela by choice, because she has been in our lives forever and would hold Charlie as a newborn at basketball games, she is also forever in our hearts going

to be a hero.”

Ramirez said the situation was very scary and traumatic.

“It’s like you know what to do, but then you don’t think you know what to do and then you just do it,” she said. “To stand here and be honored like this makes me feel tremendously proud of myself and the kids in the room were amazing. Dum Dum suckers are now forbidden... it lodged just in the right way and the thing went shooting out just like you think it happens. Thank you all very very much.”

Gaskin also stressed the importance of being trained in CPR and first aid.

West Shore Principal Laura Yeaster said Ramirez has been one of the directors for their summer school program for years and she’s viewed as an expert in education.

“If you know Carlee, you know that she is a protector of her students.... They are her babies she sees as her responsibility to take the very best care of them when they’re with her. Just as she would if they were her own children,” she said. “On this particular day, Carlee did just that... she did whatever was necessary to help out Charlie. Because of her quick thinking and actions, Carlee kept a scary situation from becoming life-threatening. So thank you Carlee for always helping your students. Your students are so lucky to have you.”

### ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS HOLLY AREA SCHOOLS Tennis Court Improvements (Rebid)

Holly Area School District will receive firm prime contractor bids for the Tennis Court Improvements project located in Holly, Michigan.

The bidding documents consist of plans and specifications as prepared by GMB Architecture + Engineering, 85 East Eighth Street, Suite 200, Holland, MI 49423. Documents may be downloaded from Pipeline Suite. Contact Steffan Demetropoulos or Shawn Debo at AUCH Construction, 248-334-2000, if you need assistance viewing or obtaining documents from Pipeline Suite. A copy of the documents will also be available for review at the offices of AUCH Construction., 65 University Drive, Pontiac, MI, 48342, 248-334-2000, on or after January 10, 2023.

A Pre-Bid meeting will be held at the Karl Richter Campus, located at 920 E Baird St, Holly, MI 48442 on **Thursday, January 19 2023 at 1:30 PM**. The meeting will be held on-site in the board room.

An opaque envelope bearing your proposal must identify your company, the project being bid “Holly Area Schools Tennis Court Improvements” and “Sealed Bid, Do Not Open.” The proposal shall be addressed to the attention of Mr. Scott Roper, Superintendent, Holly Area Schools, 920 Baird Street, Holly, MI 48442.

Bids must be delivered no later than 12:00 noon, Thursday February 02, 2023 to Holly Area School District at the address noted above or AUCH Construction. Each proposal must be submitted on the forms furnished by the Construction Manager and must be completed in full. Familial Disclosure Statement and the Affidavit of Compliance to the Iran Economic Sanctions Act must both be completed and notarized. A bid bond executed by a U.S. Treasury Listed Surety Company acceptable to AUCH Construction or a cashier’s check in the amount of at least 5% of the sum of the proposal payable to Holly Area Schools shall be submitted with each proposal in excess of \$28,048.00. All proposals shall be firm for a period of sixty (60) days.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at a meeting convened at the Holly Area Schools Administration Building located at 920 Baird Street, Holly, MI 48442 starting at 1:30 PM on February 02, 2023.

Successful bidders whose proposals are \$50,000 or more will be required to furnish a Satisfactory Performance and Payment Bond in the amount of 100% of their bid. The cost of the Bond shall be included in each proposal.

The Board of Education reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids in whole or in part and to waive any informalities therein. The Board of Education reserves the right to accept that bid which in its opinion, is in the best interest of the Owner.

Jennifer Young  
Secretary Board of Education  
Holly Area Schools

## LAJOICE

Continued from Page 1

processing and then transferred to a federal prison somewhere in the U.S. LaJoice could be sent to a minimum security federal prison for non-violent offenders. According to the MDOC, LaJoice's current assigned location is the Ingham/Lansing/Central Office.

On May 1, 2017, LaJoice, then 38 and living in Tyrone Township, was sentenced to seven to 20 years in state prison on multiple embezzlement charges. This was in addition to an 11-year federal sentence to be served concurrently. When he was sentenced to state prison, he was given credit for 481 days already served in the county jail, according to court records.

The court ruled at the time that LaJoice could be paroled after seven years in state prison. These decisions are left to the parole board.

As previously reported, in federal court, sentences are determinate, which means that there's no chance of parole. Because LaJoice was sentenced to 11 years, he will serve 11 years with credit for time served in state prison. However, prisoners could receive "good time" in federal court, so they could serve about 85% of their sentence and then they're on supervised release for the rest.

### Background on case

Over the course of 12 years, LaJoice embezzled \$18.6 million. The total amount embezzled involved in Oakland County Circuit Court charges was approximately \$1.6 million. LaJoice had paid back \$3.5 million in restitution in total as of November 2016.

In federal court, he was ordered to pay back restitution of \$17,748,380.

LaJoice committed bank fraud from October 2007 to December 2015. In federal court, LaJoice said he commit-



Michael LaJoice, then 37, of Tyrone Township is shown here with his attorney Michael Manley at an April 2016 court hearing on his \$20 million embezzlement case in Oakland County.

ted check fraud by addressing cashier checks out to himself, along with a few other methods. As chief financial officer (CFO), he was able to write large deposits, and then approve them with no oversight.

According to then U.S. Attorney Barbara McQuade, to conceal the fraud, LaJoice created fictitious investments in certificates of deposit and bonds, and represented to auditors and bank examiners that the money he stole had in fact been invested in these vehicles.

According to the U.S. Attorney's Office recommendation statement, on Jan. 5, 2016, LaJoice was confronted by regulators at the Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Services about discrepancies in the credit union's books. This prompted him to turn himself in the following day.

The Clarkston Brandon Community Credit Union became insolvent from the embezzlement and joined with the Michigan State University Federal Credit Union.

LaJoice's properties, including his multi-million dollar home in Tyrone Township, were sold to help pay restitution.

## HOT LINE CONTINUED

**DURING THE GUBERNATORIAL** campaign, I kept hearing the Democrats wanted to eliminate the pension tax. I checked through all the documents I could find about the Michigan income tax and could not find anything about a pension tax. If you have income, pay the tax just like everyone else.

■■■

**BUFFALO BILLS' DAMAR** Hamlin, a multi-millionaire, professional athlete, fully informed about the risks of his profession, suffers serious injury. Given all the other important issues and tragedies in America, why is this even news. Sorry.

■■■

**AS LONG AS** the problem was going north to the United States, Mexico didn't care. But now the cartels are bringing the problems home to Mexico.

■■■

## PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

### STREET LIGHTING PROJECT - FAIRWAYS OF SPRING MEADOWS 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 land area constitutes more than 50% of the total land area of the units in the Fairways of Spring Meadows condominium subdivision, the Township Board of the Charter Township of Fenton proposes to install, operate and maintain street lights in the Fairways of Spring Meadows condominium subdivision, 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 units in the Fairways of Spring Meadows Condominium Subdivision

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Township Board has received preliminary plans showing the improvements and an estimate of the costs of such improvements in the approximate amount of \$8,190 for street lights and installation and \$2,016 per year for operation and maintenance, 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 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday January 17, 2023. At the hearing, the board will 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.

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ACROSS

1 Justice Dept. agency

4 Physician's nickname

7 Grating

12 Vintage

13 Away from WSW

14 Mountain crest

15 Set afire

16 Yosemite peak featured in "Free Solo"

18 "CSI" evidence

19 Dewy

20 Billboard

22 Swiss peak

23 Bloke

27 Author Fleming

29 Abrasion

31 Planet circlers

34 Heart line

35 Coffeehouse bill collector

37 L-P link

38 Utah ski resort

39 "Yoo- —!"

41 Pottery oven

45 Quotable Yogi

47 Eastern path

48 Bygone Cadillacs

52 Copper head?

53 Tierney of "The Affair"

54 Superlative

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1 Creates origami

2 Russian pancakes

3 Luggage attachment

4 Consider

5 Borrowed

6 Director DeMille

7 Engrossed

8 "Exodus" hero

9 Fixed

10 Sch. org

11 Hankering

17 Nile vipers

21 Martial arts warrior

23 Swindler

24 Guffaw syllable

25 Suitable

26 Green shade

28 Simile part

30 Paint container

31 1959 Kings-ton Trio hit

32 Texas tea

33 Choose

36 Mother of Zeus

37 Gloomy

40 Sequence

42 Tuscany setting

43 Hard work

44 Seasonal songs

45 Thin nail

46 Nick and Nora's dog

48 Ambulance initials

49 Napkin's place

50 Payable

51 Mine material

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Midweek Jumble

JUMBLE

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

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Is this a joke? Am I on a hidden-camera show?

No. I just asked if you had any salad for dinner.

HE COULDN'T BELIEVE THE YOUNG GOAT COULD TALK. THEN THE YOUNG GOAT SAID ---

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

Horoscopes

For the week of January 9, 2023

ARIES

Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, you are willing to take risks and never afraid to try new things. This benefits you as you seek new solutions regarding how to get things done.

TAURUS

Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, figure out a new goal to pursue and start to make a list of how to get to the finish line. You may need to recruit a few volunteers to help along the way.

GEMINI

May 22/Jun 21

Gemini, when a project at work lands on your desk, you may be ambivalent about it. You appreciate the challenge, but already have a long list of things to do.

CANCER

Jun 22/Jul 22

Could this be the right time to think about making a career move, Cancer? The new year marks a fresh start, and perhaps you have had your eyes on a new work opportunity.

LEO

Jul 23/Aug 23

There's more than meets the eye this week when someone from your past suddenly pops up on your radar again, Leo. Learn all of the facts before you make assumptions.

VIRGO

Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, try to stay in the loop around the office. Doing so might pay professional dividends that could open the door to new possibilities.

LIBRA

Sept 23/Oct 23

You've been keeping quite busy, Libra, but don't forget to make time to touch base with friends and loved ones from time to time. Keep those lines of communication open.

SCORPIO

Oct 24/Nov 22

Patience is a virtue of which you are in short supply recently, Scorpio. You have no control over the timeline on certain things and that can be frustrating. Wait it out.

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23/Dec 21

It's time to tackle all of those tasks you have been putting since the end of last year, Sagittarius. If you need help getting organized, reach out to someone you trust.

CAPRICORN

Dec 22/Jan 20

Think about all the possibilities you have before you, Capricorn. When you consider all of the positives in your life, the negatives just may fade away.

AQUARIUS

Jan 21/Feb 18

Your name is on the lips of so many people. That is likely because you are affecting change wherever you go. Keep forging ahead because you are helping others.

PISCES

Feb 19/Mar 20

Now that spending has ceased, take a closer look at how you can budget for the new year. Make your money work for you, Pisces.

# Becher's 31 not enough to edge Oxford, 61-54

By David Troppens

It wasn't like the Linden varsity boys basketball team didn't score points.

The Eagles scored at least 11 in every quarter in its contest against Oxford. However, one quarter of not slowing

down Oxford cost the Eagles.

Oxford's Jake Champagne and Dom Cassise scored eight first-quarter points each en route to a 24-point period for Oxford. That resulted in a 24-11 deficit after one quarter. The Eagles worked on cutting

into the deficit the rest of the game, but were unable to get out of that first-quarter hole, losing a 61-54 verdict.

"We were down 24-11 in the first quarter and we won the other three quarters," Linden varsity boys basketball

coach Matt Christensen said.

A huge positive was the play of Linden's Jase Becher. Becher scored a game-high 31 points, netting at least six points in every quarter. He helped the Eagles cut into the lead, netting

See **BECHER'S** on 12



Linden's Jase Becher scored 31 points against Oxford.

Photo: David Troppens

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2023 | PAGE 11 | MYFENTON.COM/SPORTS

## Sports Times

# Blue Devils earn clean sweep versus Tigers

■ LF girls dominate from perimeter, collect 78-43 win in front of large crowd

By David Troppens

**Lake Fenton** — When one prepares to play the Lake Fenton varsity girls basketball team the first thing that will be read on the scout sheet is "can shoot threes."

That was made abundantly clear Friday night.

In a game that the Lake Fenton's girls basketball program dedicated to Lake Fenton assistant coach and youth developer of many of Lake Fenton's girls athletes Jason Zelek, the Blue Devils seemingly were nailing three-pointers from the heavens, netting 16 of them in a 78-43 victory at home against area rival Fenton.

Lake Fenton hit four threes in the opening quarter and never cooled off, nailing 10 in the first half alone. Five players hit treys but none more than junior Amaya Smith who scored all of her team-high 21 points on three-pointers. However, her younger sister Kendyl Smith also hit five, scoring 19 points in the contest. Ella Prevost hit two

while Anna Prevost and Emerson Baker had one each.

"Once one person hits one we get more and more energy," Amaya Smith said. "We really rely on the three ball and we did well with it tonight, because most of the team was hitting it well."

Initially, it was Fenton — and Adrie Staib — who started hot. She nailed a three-pointer of her own and then converted a free throw, putting the Tigers up 4-0. However, before the quarter was over three Blue Devils would have three-pointers. Tied at 6-all, Lake Fenton's Kendyl Smith hit the first LF trey, giving the Blue Devils the 9-6 lead. They'd never trail again. The next one was Amaya Smith's first trey. Kendyl Smith hit another and Anna Prevost scored the final one of the first quarter as Lake Fenton led 23-10 after one quarter.

The Blue Devils made 8-of-16 shots in the second quarter with six being treys. Both Smith sisters hit two



(Top) Lake Fenton's defense hounds Fenton's Allie Michewicz. The Blue Devils defeated Fenton 78-43. (Left) Lake Fenton's Coleson Lessner drives the lane in Lake Fenton's boys' win against Fenton.

Photos: Christopher Summers

while Baker and Prevost hit one each. The lead was 45-21 at the half.

"At halftime we just said, 'Every-

one is hitting and everyone is hot,'" Lake Fenton varsity girls basketball

See **LF GIRLS** on 13

■ LF boys edge out thriller vs. Fenton

By David Troppens

**Lake Fenton** — It hardly was a game of beauty.

But frequently, games pitting rivals against each other aren't.

What Friday's varsity boys basketball game at Lake Fenton against the Fenton Tigers had was plenty of aggression, physicality and just sheer effort.

So, maybe it was fitting that a steal decided the game. Fenton trailed 49-48 and had possession of the ball when Lake Fenton's Coleson Lessner stole a pass, drove the court and hit a breaking layup. That gave the Blue Devils a 51-48 lead with 36 seconds left. The Tigers were able to hit a driving layup by Sam Dillard during Fenton's final possession, but it was too little, too late and the Blue Devils defeated the Tigers, 51-50, for the second straight season in a classic contest.

"They'd been doing it all game — passing it back and forth," Lessner said. "So I just went up, contested it and ended up getting the layup."

"I came to Lake Fenton in the See **LF BOYS** on 13

## Fenton boys swimmers defeat Kearsley, 103-43

By David Troppens

The Fenton varsity boys swimming and diving team had no troubles pushing aside the Kearsley/Lake Fenton squad on Thursday.

The Tigers won 11 of the events and earned a 103-43 victory. The squad also competed at the Spartan Invitational with Haney having a tremendous showing on Saturday.

At the weekend event, Haney won the 200 individual medley (1:52.00) and the 100 butterfly (50.24) with state-qualifying times. He also helped the 200 freestyle team a sixth (1:36.13). The other members were Luke DeFina, Zach Michelson and Jacob Grifka. Owen Cox also earned a fifth in diving (351.95).

Against Kearsley, Michelson had a big night, earning firsts in four events. Individually, he won the 200 individual medley (2:22.10) and the 100 breaststroke (1:15.70). He also teamed with Grifka, Isaac Gurnsey and Finley Hughes to win the 200 medley relay (2:06.20) and with Haney, Michelson, Grifka and Gurnsey in the 200 freestyle relay (1:46.21).

DeFina and Max Haney also earned two individual firsts. DeFina won the 200 freestyle (2:06.65) and the 500 freestyle (5:41.98). Haney earned his first in the 100 freestyle (48.81) and the 100 backstroke (56.17). Three others earned individual firsts. Hughes won the 50 freestyle (27.44) while Owen Cox took the top spot in diving (247.55). Gurnsey won the 100 butterfly (1:04.63).

# Tigers place third at Wyandotte Invitational

By David Troppens

The Fenton varsity wrestling team made a strong impression at the Wyandotte Invitational on Saturday, taking third out of 19 teams.

The Tigers had four wrestlers compete in championship matches, with three earning titles.

The champions were Owen Freeman (120), Philip Lamka (157) and Carson Krzeszak (285).

Lamka earned two pinfall victories in his first two matches, and then defeated Gabriel Richard's Sebastian Martinez by 17-12 decision. Lamka is 16-0 this season.

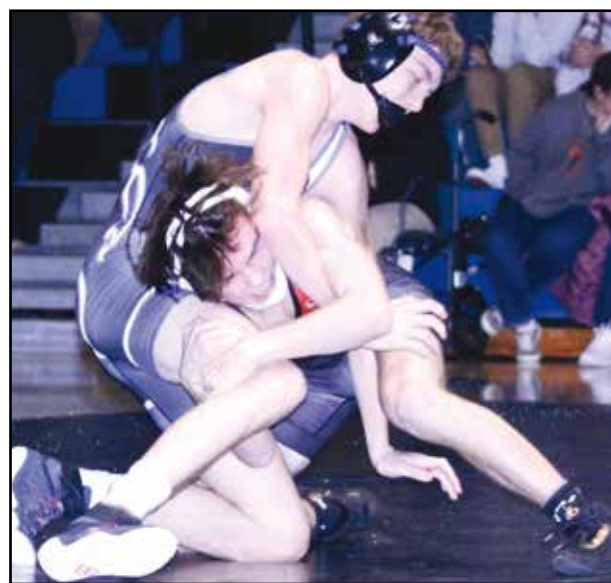
Krzeszak earned a pinfall victory in his opening game while following with two decision wins in his final two matches. He de-

feated Fordson's Ammar Alorabie by a 7-1 decision in the title match.

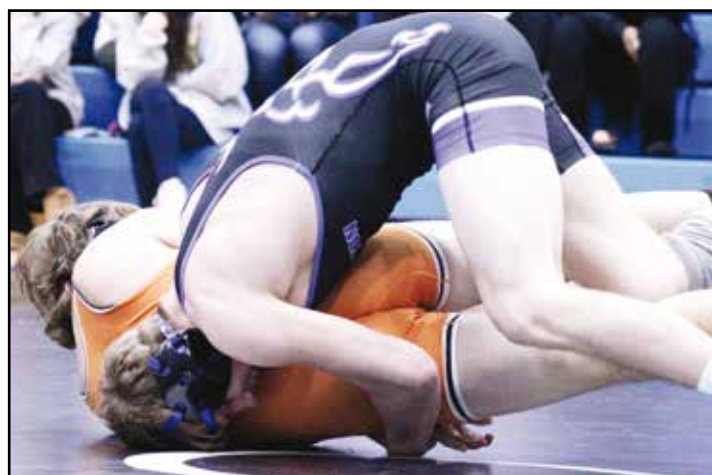
Freeman earned four wins with one being a pinfall in the semifinals. He won the title by beating Skyline's Josef Oginsky by a 3-1 decision in the finals match.

Ben Triola (190) also earned a spot in the championship match after earning a pinfall win and a 7-5 decision win in his first two matches. He lost to Belleville's Demond Harrison by a 7-1 decision in the title match.

Others that placed were Aiden Velzey (106), Dylan Beverly (150) and Kyle Dunfield (165) in third; Jamal Horne (113) in fourth; Keaton Sigmund (106) in sixth; and Chris Dobek (215) in eighth.



Owen Freeman (bottom) was one of three Fenton wrestlers to earn an individual championship at the Wyandotte Invitational. Photo: David Troppens



Noah Hall (top) competes in a recent match. Hall was a champion at the New Lothrop Hall of Fame Tournament.

Photo: David Troppens

## Blue Devils post five placers at New Lothrop Hall of Fame tourney

By David Troppens

The Lake Fenton varsity wrestling team competed in the New Lothrop Hall of Fame Tournament and came home with five placers, including one champion.

Noah Hall (150) remained undefeated by taking first. He defeated Imlay City's Anthony D'Ambrosio with a 7-0 decision win. He also won two other matches with first-round pinfalls and a major decision result.

Clay Cook (113) advanced to the championship round, but lost to Clarkston's Preston Lefevre by technical fall in the championship round. Cook earned a technical fall win and a decision victory in his other two matches. He's 20-1 this season.

Other placers were Jorge Marvin (106), who placed fourth, and Ty Johnson (144) and Robby Moore (126) who each placed sixth.

## Lady Eagles can't dig out of early game hole vs. Midland, 44-37

By David Troppens

The Linden varsity girls basketball team was able to play a solid game against Midland.

However, the squad struggled on offense, losing a 44-37 verdict.

"It was a hard-fought game.

Both teams played extremely hard," Linden varsity girls basketball coach Brian Klein said. "We had a lid on the rim for most of the night. We didn't shoot well from the field. I see it going in at practice and we're trying to translate that into a game. I

was extremely proud of the girls. They are a team that won't quit."

The Eagles were competitive throughout the contest. Linden netted only two field goals in the first eight minutes, but did hit on 5-of-8 free throws, resulting in a nine-point quarter. Midland led

12-9 after one quarter.

The Eagles' shooting problems continued in the second half, netting no field goals. But, they were able to score seven points, due to 7-of-11 free-throw shooting.

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## BECHER'S

Continued from Page 11

eight points during the squad's 15-point second stanza. Linden

trailed 35-26 at halftime.

Becher had 10 points in the third while the Eagles cut the gap to 47-41.

Monte Keener had eight points while Colin Weiss had six points, all on two three-pointers.

Oxford's big producer was Champagne who netted a team-high 23 points. Cassise had 11

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PREP REPORT

BOYS BOWLING

► **Holly at Lila Jean Furnish Classic:** The Bronchos made it out of match play, finishing in a tie for sixth of the 20 teams, but then lost in the quarterfinal round. Holly bowled an 896 series and eight Baker games totalling 1,352 before match play. During match play, Holly split two Baker games, but lost on total pinfall 402-364 against Swartz Creek.

WRESTLING

► **Linden at Detroit Catholic Central Tournament:** Linden's Bryce Shingleton (126) faced off against Detroit Catholic Central's and tri-county resident Drew Heethuis in the semifinals and Heethuis earned a tight 1-0 decision victory. Heethuis advanced to win the title by earning a forfeit victory against Dundee's Braeden Davis in the finals. Shingleton faced off against Dakota's Drew Astorga with a 3-0 decision win in the third-place match.

COMPETITIVE CHEER

► **Linden, Lake Fenton at Black Out Childhood Cancer Invitational:** The Blue Devils finished fifth overall with a team score of 662.5 while Linden took sixth with a 624.8.

Lake Fenton recorded a 208.9 in round one and a 190.1 in round two. The Blue Devils had a 389.0 in round three.

The Eagles posted a 188.7 score in round one, a 174.4 in round two and a 271.7 in round three.

BOYS SWIMMING

► **Corunna 84, Holly 80:** Joshua Dahlin won two individual events for Holly, winning the 50 freestyle (25.46) and the 100 breaststroke (1:15.49). Other individual winners for Holly were Brandon Strickert in the 100 butterfly (1:01.41) and Zac Brown in the 100 backstroke (1:18.17).

GIRLS BASKETBALL

► **Lake Orion 65, Holly 10:** Holly scored seven points in the first quarter, but were shut down to just three points the rest of the way in the loss to Lake Orion. Audrey Combs scored six points for Holly while Alana Simmons had two.

HOCKEY

► **Fenton-Linden Area Griffins:** The Griffins played two weekend contests in Sault Ste. Marie, losing to Sault Ste. Marie 7-1 on Friday and to Alpena 9-0 on Saturday.

The Griffins' only goal in the Friday contest was provided by Jace Du-meah. Carson Garner assisted it. Henry Wojtaszek played in goal and made 35 saves.

Fenton-Linden Area Griffins had 12 penalty minutes in the loss to Alpena. Wojtaszek made 26 saves while Vincent Majeske made one.

Holly wrestlers record 4-1 record at Melvindale tourney

By David Troppens

The Holly varsity wrestling team had a strong showing at the Melvindale Invitational, going 4-1 at the event.

The Bronchos defeated Melvindale, Trenton, Seaholm and Eisenhower, but lost to Anchor Bay.

The Bronchos had three wrestlers finish with perfect 5-0 marks. Sean Murray (126) recorded four pinfall wins among his five matches. His other win was by decision. Hunter Hummel (190) also earned four pinfall wins among his five wins. Finally, Gary Wall (285) also went 5-0 with two pinfall wins.

Four others had 4-1 marks

— Jayden Higgins (215), Chase Couchman (120), Jacob Devary (138) and Kendall Drake (175). Couchman and Devary had three pins among their four wins, while Drake had two pinfall wins.

Wrestlers that finished with three wins were Andrew Cross (132) and Christian Preston (144) while Hunter Bishop (165) won two games. Kevin Dalton (106), Logan Carroll (150), Konner Welch (157) and Mautaz Saab (157) had a win each.

The Bronchos return to Flint Metro League action when the Bronchos host Flushing and Clio today at 6 p.m.



Holly's Sean Murray (126) went 5-0 with four pinfall wins at the Melvindale Invitational. He's pictured here during a previous meet. Photo: David Troppens

LFLF gymnastics team places second at Fraser invite

By David Troppens

The LFLF gymnastics team competed at the Fraser Invitational and recorded a strong second-place team finish.

The squad had a team score of 129.85.

Keira Sadler had an outstanding per-

formance, taking first in the all-around with a 34.55. She took first on the floor (8.825), on the beam (8.95) and on the vault (8.70). Sadler also earned a second-place finish in the bars (8.075).

Dayne Stucky placed ninth in the all-

round (30.675). Stucky placed fourth on the bars (7.675) while earning sixth on the floor (8.575). Natasha Dudin finished sixth on the beam (8.25) and eighth on the vault (8.60). Sophia Markley placed fifth on the floor (8.50).

LF GIRLS

Continued from Page 11

coach Karlie Dieck said. "I think that's what makes us special. We can have nights like that when everyone is hitting and it really becomes dangerous for other teams. I mean, what do you do? Who do you shut down?"

The Tigers proved they still had plenty of fight in the third quarter. Fenton be-

gan the quarter on a 9-0 run nailing three treys of their own. Staib hit her second and third threes of the game and Gracie MacCaughan hit one, cutting the Lake Fenton lead to just 45-33 with 3:37 left in the third quarter. However, nothing was going to stop the Blue Devils' hot shooting on this night. Amaya Smith hit three treys during the final 3:37 of the quarter, helping the Blue Devils take a

56-33 lead entering the fourth quarter.

In the fourth, the Blue Devils hit three more — one each by Anna Prevost, and each Smith sister — helping ice the win.

"This game means a lot being a rivalry game, but we also used it to prepare for a really big game against Arbor Prep on Monday," Amaya Smith said.

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LF BOYS

Continued from Page 11

seventh grade and once they told me they were our rivals, I ended up hating them. I love basketball. It's a privilege to play basketball, so I just play as hard as I can."

The Blue Devils were coming off a four-game losing streak. Lessner said recent practices prepared Lake Fenton (4-4) to earn their fourth win of the season.

"We've been having a great couple of practices lately and it really turned it around for us," Lessner said. "We are going to be a really tough team soon. Our

intensity, mentality and our heart to want to play this game won it. ... I think we just wanted it more than Fenton."

"The result on the scoreboard today was the result our last two days of practice preparation," Lake Fenton varsity boys basketball coach Tyler Szczepanski said. "We had two great days of practice. We've amped up the competitiveness, the guys rose up to the challenge and it showed."

It was a tight game all night long with the contest featuring eight ties and 10 lead changes. The biggest lead actually didn't

come until the fourth quarter. The teams were tied 39-all entering the fourth, but the Tigers saw Ja'Hion Bond dish a ball to Justin Banura for a three-pointer, giving Fenton a 42-39 lead. It would be the Tigers' final lead. Lake Fenton's Brady Belcher responded with a three-pointer, tying the game, and Lessner had a steal and layup seconds later, giving the Blue Devils a 44-42 lead. That lead eventually grew to 49-43 after a driving layup by Jett Husted with 2:22 left. The Blue Devils seemingly had control of the contest.

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM



Michael Barajas



Michael Barajas' filed down teeth



Jojuan Najee Howze



Alex Schmidt

## BARAJAS

Continued from Page 1

iff's Office is facing 20 more charges in Genesee County 67<sup>th</sup> District Court. He was arraigned Jan. 5 on five counts of first-degree criminal sexual conduct, five counts of bribing/intimidating a witness and five counts of felony firearms.

A probable cause conference has been scheduled for Jan. 19 at 8:30 a.m. Bond was denied.

These latest charges come after he was arraigned Dec. 11, 2022 on charges of human trafficking-forced labor involving kidnapping, criminal sexual conduct; kidnapping; criminal sexual conduct- 1st degree; controlled substance possession; assault with dangerous weapon; felony firearm and assault with intent to do great bodily harm, less than murder. All counts have a \$35,000 cash bond. A preliminary exam is scheduled for Jan. 18 at 9:30 a.m.

As previously reported in the Times, during the week of Thanksgiving, Barajas allegedly took a 20-year-old woman to his house in Flint, tied her to a bed with rope, locked the doors and threatened to rip her neck out with his filed-down teeth if she tried to escape. He's behind bars and facing multiple felonies relating to kidnapping, sexual assault and more.

The 20-year-old victim said she had been kicked out of her house. She hadn't showered for days when Barajas saw her walking outside and offered her a place to stay.

This was the beginning of grooming, Genesee County Sheriff Chris Swanson said. He identified someone vulnerable, he knew what she needed, and then he trapped her. Barajas barricaded her inside the house and allegedly had other people over to assault her. She was sexually assaulted multiple times over the course of these weeks.

The door had multiple locks and the windows were screwed shut. The victim attempted to escape three times. The first

and second time, she ran outside and they chased her down. The third time, there was a medical emergency and the victim told the nurses at Hurley that she needed help. Swanson said the nurses were able to recognize that something was wrong. They contacted the Genesee Human Oppression Strike Team (G.H.O.S.T.) on Dec. 8 and Barajas was arrested the same day.

The second victim heard about the charges against Barajas in December 2022 and found the courage to report her own story on Jan. 3 to the sheriff's office and G.H.O.S.T., said Swanson. The sheriff said the second victim reported that she became a victim of Barajas when she was 4 years old and the sexual assaults ended when she was 8 or 9 years old when the adult relationship of Barajas and another person ended. These assaults took place in the Center/Davison Road area in Flint.

This victim said four to five times a week, Barajas allegedly would hold her down, intimidate her and sexually assault her. She said it happened more than 100 times.

The sheriff said two more male suspects have been arrested in connection to this sex trafficking ring. Alex Schmidt, 23, was charged with kidnapping and first-degree CSC. Jojuan Najee Howze, 33, was charged with four counts of first-degree CSC and kidnapping.

Two more male suspects are sought in this group involving Barajas.

"This is the sex slavery industry," Swanson said. "He (Barajas) filed his teeth down to be more intimidating."

With the second victim's alleged assaults taking place from 2007 to 2012, and the first known victim reporting the assaults from 2022, Swanson believes there are more victims. "He doesn't stop. Find the courage. We'll protect you," he said. The sheriff urges any victims, male or female, to call 911 and ask to speak with an investigator with G.H.O.S.T.

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# Obituaries

Times

## Brunhilde (Hilde) Maria Atkinson 1925 – 2023

Brunhilde (Hilde) Maria Atkinson of Fenton, once won a twist contest at 91, but she had her last twist on this earth on Saturday, January 7, 2023, at 97 years old, but that wasn't even the half of it. Hilde passed away peacefully at her home surrounded by family. Memorial Services will be held 12 PM Saturday, January 14, 2023, at Dryer Funeral Home, 101 First St., Holly, Father David Harvey officiating. The family will receive visitors 10 AM – 12 PM Saturday, January 14, 2023, at Dryer Funeral Home. Picture a 97- year-old, now scratch that and picture an energetic 30-year-old. That's more like it. She's been called an energizer bunny, an icon, a role model and who every single person who met her aspired to be. She befriended every single person she encountered. Doctors loved her, mailmen adored her, and neighbors wanted to be around her. She was nothing short of a charmer and someone you wanted to be around. Her energy, love for life and others was contagious. She was born on April 25, 1925, in Munich, Germany and lived there into her twenties when she migrated to the United States through Ellis Island. She was very proud of her German/Bavarian heritage and passed along many of her customs to her family. Through the likes of baking German goodies, stubbornness, cleanliness, amazing work ethic and strength. If you have had the pleasure of shaking her hand you would walk away saying ouch and dang how old was that woman? She scared, amazed, and



astonished her family by many of things she did. Some of them included moving a TV up two flights of stairs at 94, because she didn't want to bother anyone, taking apart and putting back together her air conditioner because it needed a good cleaning and then bragging that she had the cleanest AC unit around town and cooking her family Christmas dinner just two weeks before she passed. She never ever

stopped until the very end. The list goes on, but most importantly she loved her people fiercely and could run circles around every single one of them. If you asked her how she did it, she'd tell you it was due to the shot of rum she put in her tea every day at lunch, but really it was due to her loving spirit that will live on in all of us forever. She is survived by her daughters, Hilda Crawford and Barb Atkinson; grandchildren, Marty Alvarado, Allyssa (Tom) Holloway, Heather (Philip) Darby, Matt (Michelle) Wareham, Karen Cannoy, Jason Wareham, Brandon Wareham, Debbie Littleton and Krista (Johnny) Szafranski; great-grandchildren, Amanda (Andy) Lytle, Kayla Cannoy, Tyler Cannoy, Hailee Cannoy, Nova Cannoy, Calvin Szafranski, Grayson Szafranski, Megan Littleton, Josh (Kayla) Badgerow, Justin and Alex Wareham and several great-great-grandchildren. Hilde was preceded in death by her parents, Leopold, and Maria; sisters, Frieda, and Annelies; brother, Siegfried; husband, Martin and daughter Brigitte Rapson.  
[www.dryerfuneralhomeholly.com](http://www.dryerfuneralhomeholly.com).

## POLICE & FIRE REPORT

COMPILED BY SHARON STONE

### FENTON POLICE ARREST FLINT MAN FOR OWI, THIRD OFFENSE

On Friday, Jan. 6 at 11 p.m., a Fenton police officer on patrol initiated a traffic stop on a blue Chevrolet Express van on a civil infraction. Contact was made with the driver, a 48-year-old Flint man, who the officer suspected had been drinking and intoxicated. The driver admitted he had made a mistake of driving. He also did not have a driver's license. A computer check revealed the driver had three prior alcohol convictions, which made this arrest a felony if convicted. He was arrested for OWI. A consent search of his van revealed an open bottle of Jagermeister.

### FENTON POLICE ARREST FLINT MAN WHO THREW LOADED HANDGUN FROM VAN

On Dec. 30, 2022 at midnight, a Fenton police officer initiated a traffic stop on a silver Chevrolet Express van for a civil infraction. Prior to the stop, the officer observed an object being thrown from the van as it traveled on the road. The officer also observed the van weaving in its lane. Contact was made with the driver, a 41-year-old Flint man, who said he had just left a friend's house in Fenton. He did not have a driver's license. A Law Enforcement Information Network (LEIN) inquiry showed he had two active arrest warrants. He was arrested for driving with no license and the warrants. A consent search of the vehicle produced a large amount of cash and two digital scales containing suspected drug residue. Fenton Express towed the van. Police found the object that was thrown from the van, a fully loaded 9mm handgun. The magazine contained 19 rounds and there was one round in the chamber. Charges for the unregistered gun also are pending a review from the Genesee County Prosecutor's Office. Sgt. Dan Forbush said while at the Genesee County Jail, the suspect claimed the gun belonged to his brother.

### AIR PISTOL HANDGUNS, SUSPECTED STOLEN CLOTHING FOUND AT TRAFFIC STOP

At 1 a.m. on Monday, Jan. 2, a Fenton police officer on patrol ran the plates of a vehicle and discovered the plates were expired and there was no insurance on the vehicle. A traffic stop was initiated on the northbound entrance ramp to U.S. 23 in Fenton. There were four occupants in the vehicle. The front seat passenger was a 26-year-old Flint woman. The driver was a 34-year-old Flint man. The officer learned that the driver was driving on a revoked license and had an active arrest warrant. The woman had two active arrest warrants. The two were arrested. A consent search of the car revealed packages of Suboxone strips, which are used to treat people in early recovery from opiate addiction. The officer found three Glock 19 air pistol handguns easily accessible to the car occupants, which use compressed air to shoot pellets. These guns had pellets larger than allowed and were illegal. The officer also found a mace pepper gun and a large number of suspected stolen women's clothing. The man and woman were taken to the Genesee County Jail. During a strip search, deputies recovered a bag of meth and Suboxone strips on the woman. Their cases have been sent to the prosecutor's office for review. The other two occupants in the vehicle were cleared and released.

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