

Groundbreaking ceremony held for water project

■ Municipal water coming to sections of Fenton and Mundy townships, Linden

By Hannah Ball

Fenton Twp. — “It’s an exciting time for Genesee County,” said Jeff

Wright, Genesee County drain commissioner.

The Genesee County Drain Commission held a groundbreaking ceremony Monday, Jan. 30 at the Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 370 hall on Thompson Road,

not far from Fenton Road, where construction is underway on phase one of the Genesee County Water Project, also called the Southern Lakes Water Initiative.

When complete, the approximate **WATER PROJECT** on 7



Photo: Hannah Ball



Terri Hartwick



Hartland

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Midweek Times

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Consumers works with counties, municipalities to add EV chargers

■ Energy company has supported nearly 250 public chargers, plans to add more

By Hannah Ball

A local Tesla owner is hoping that more electric vehicle charging stations will be installed in the Fenton/Linden area.

“I’d love to see chargers in our charming Linden and Fenton downtowns. I think it would be a

See **EV CHARGERS** on 18



Murder mystery event enthralls crowd

Actors with Wishing Well Theatre perform The Murder of Rocky Del Rio, a 1980s-themed rock opera murder mystery in a packed room at the Fenton Moose Lodge on Saturday, Jan. 28. A portion of the proceeds benefited the Fenton & Linden Regional Chamber of Commerce and Fenton Area Resources and Referral Network, Inc. See story on page 15. Photo: Hannah Ball

Watch WFVP Radio Show live this Sunday

■ Actors to perform spooky double feature as ‘thank you’ to community

By Sharon Stone

The community is invited to attend the Fenton Village Players’ annual live on-stage WFVP Radio Show,

See **RADIO SHOW** on 16



“I enjoy the articles about the teachers — Hannah Arnold this

week — these wonderful people get all the praise we can raise.” See page 5 in this edition for this week’s *Everyday Educators*.

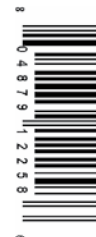


“Congrats to the two new officers that Fenton City hired. This is why

we love this area.”



“It was nice to see the new firefighters being sworn in at NOCFA.”





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THAT SEEMED
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‘Joe Unplugged’

Local Vietnam veteran to present stories of military life and raise funds for the Fisher House

Joe Mishler has been interviewing and collecting stories of military life and veterans. He’s also taught a Vietnam Class at Holly High School. Now he is presenting his work, “Joe Unplugged,” which will take place Saturday, Feb. 18, at the Fenton Village Playhouse in Fenton starting at 7 p.m.

Mishler is a combat wounded Vietnam veteran, a retired high school teacher and one of the directors at the Holly Area Veterans Resource Center (HAVRC) at the Karl Richter Campus in Holly.

Mishler has been involved in theatre since 1983 and this performance will show a different side. Stories will span a variety of different time periods. Stories reflect different aspects of military and veteran life of both men and women.

Mishler is president of Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 175. He is also active with the American Legion Holly Post 149. Last summer he was the co-chair to bring the Vietnam Veterans



Joe Mishler of the Holly Area Veterans Resource Center (HAVRC) and co-chair of bringing The Moving Wall to Holly stands in front of the HAVRC field where The Moving Wall was displayed in August 2022. He will be presenting “Joe Unplugged,” which will contain stories of military life, at the Fenton Village Playhouse on Feb. 18. *Times file photo*

Memorial Traveling Wall to Holly for the first time.

He chose to raise money for the Fisher House because of the American Legion and past state Commander Steve Striggow. Joe Unplugged is sponsored by American Legion Holly Post 149 and the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 175 Genesee County.

The Fisher House is in Ann Arbor

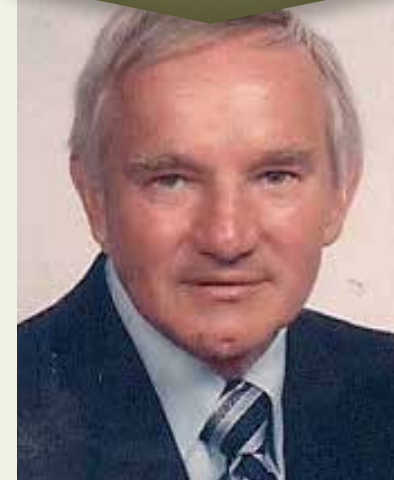


behind the Veterans Administration Hospital and the University of Michigan Hospital. Veterans and their loved ones can stay there while someone is in the hospital. They provide housing, food and other amenities while a loved one is hospitalized. All of this is free.

Mishler asks for the community’s support for this worthy cause.

See **UNPLUGGED** on 18

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Building Brands

For the first time ever in my life, this week I found myself ready a few minutes before I needed to leave to get to a networking event we were hosting. Since I planned to arrive at 7:15 a.m. I was really impressed with myself. I could have had a cup of coffee and taken a moment to relax, but instead I grabbed my credit card, my phone and ordered a bag of plastic lizards.

Yes, this is weird. As I wrote in an earlier column, one of my younger sisters is getting married this spring. The bachelorette bash is in a couple weeks, and I'm working to put together goodie bags for the 12 ladies attending. The lizards (an inside joke among the group) will go into those bags. Planning for this trip and the wedding are a small part of why it feels like I'm juggling a lot right now.

Like everyone else, I have responsibilities at home and with my family, I have volunteer commitments, I have friends I like to keep in touch with, and, of course, I have my career. The team at View Newspaper Group has started 2023 off with a bang and as a result, it's been a busy month with the

next two months set to be even busier.

Here's the thing, we're all busy. And even though I just wrote "busy" like 100 times, no one wants to hear about how busy you are. We're all juggling a lot. The key to being busy and building a strong brand at the same time is to make it look easy. Here's a few ways to make that happen:



Emily Caswell

Get organized: I pride myself on being an

organized person. My paper planner is my lifeline. I never leave home without it. If you're faced with a full schedule or a big task, find a method that works for you (digital or paper) and plot out your time and/or tasks. I also work much better in an organized setting and am most at ease when my house is in order, so while that may mean taking a few extra minutes to organize my desk, my computer bag or my closet, that investment in time is always worth it.

Set a daily priority at home and at work: This is cheating a bit for me because I work in a deadline-driven industry. It's easy for me to set a daily priority or two because there are things that simply have to get done at a certain time on a certain day. I sometimes

struggle to prioritize things at home. There is laundry to be done, but I also want to repaint the family room, for example. So, I've started to treat home tasks like work tasks. What has to be done today? We have to eat dinner, for example, so I start with that and see what else time allows for. The family room will be painted eventually.

Stay positive: I bet most people reading this column like to be busy. I know I do. So, while it can feel stressful to have a lot on your plate, it's also a reason to feel fortunate. Being bored is my biggest fear. I remind myself of that on those days when it seems like I'll never get to the end of my to-do list. I also remind myself that everything will get done. Even looking back a few weeks, I was stressed about the networking event I referenced at the start of this column. Not only did everything come together for a great event, but I had time to spare the morning of to cross a personal task off my list.

Take care of yourself: While a positive mindset is a great tool in tackling a busy schedule, I know it's not always easy to achieve. I'm not a mental health professional, but I find working out, sleeping at least

See **BRANDS** on 7

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

What's a skill you wish you learned when you were younger? | streettalk



"I wished I knew about setting boundaries with family and friends."

Theresa Durham
Gaines Township



"Filling out tax forms and official documents."

Abbey Ravert Floria
Fenton



"I am a plumber/pipefitters. I wish I would have learned the trade younger. I also wish I would've known that union contractors pay better earlier in my career."

Jeffrey Peake, Linden



"Sewing."

Susan Wetzel Korman
Hartland

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.

'PRICES AT THE Pump' shows that gas prices rise from \$3 to \$3.50 every single week. I'm confused.

EVER WONDER WHY when you have lost something it's always in the last place you look?

I'M SHOCKED AT how many people drive over 100 mph everyday on U.S. 23. I guess why not, it's not like there's any police patrolling for speeders.

TO WALMART WOLVERINE. Yes, you should have gone on. It wouldn't have taken long. Michigan has 17 Bowl wins (congrats) since Bo took over and 29 losses. In case you missed it, that's 29 losses. That's 17-29. Around a 370 winning percentage. Elite? Facts don't lie.

I LOOK FORWARD to the counterargument. Now that TCTimes has dedicated nearly a full page to an article promoting 'The case for electric vehicles,' I'm excited to see an equal effort for 'The case against electric vehicles.'

EVS ARE PAYING no road tax.

Everyday educators

Meet KATHY HAYCOCK



LINDEN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
www.lindenschools.org

- Preschool teacher at Linden Community Schools

Kathy Haycock has 30 years of experience in Early Childhood Education, 21 years with Linden Community Schools. She teaches 3-year-old preschool at Argentine Early Childhood Center where she facilitates



parent/child explorations for their Play TOGETHER learn TOGETHER program and works with their Eagle Club program, a before and after school program for school age students.

What inspires you?

The people who work at Argentine inspire me; each person brings their own talents and experiences that help us all grow as a community. Their dedication to families and children makes Argentine a very special place.

How do you incorporate parents/guardians into students' education?

Parents play such an important role; they are a child's first and most influential teacher. In the early years, the brain forms connections faster than at any other time, making those early experiences a foundation for future learning and development. Relationships with families and teachers are the basis for everything that happens in the classroom.

What else can you share about yourself?

Growing up, I had a beautiful childhood. Memories of my family include camping, mixing potions, riding bikes, catching frogs, building snow forts and exploring the world. Influence what happens in the classroom, a sense of wonder and excitement for learning.



BUSINESS BRIEFS

COMPILED BY SHARON STONE

HOLLY FIRST FRIDAY: GALENTINE'S

Grab your favorite person and head to Holly. Downtown shops will be open until 8 p.m. and the kickoff of the #loveholly loyalty punch cards. Enter their drawing for your chance to win gift cards to your favorite Holly Downtown Development Authority (DDA) shop. Come and be a part of the fun and atmosphere of Holly. The event is this Friday, Feb. 3 from 5 to 8 p.m.



Ribbon cutting for Junior David's

The village of Holly welcomes another new proprietor to its already bustling downtown area. Junior David's — Unique Mercantile and Wellness Bar is located in the heart of downtown at 102 Battle Alley. Owner Andrew Hamby is surrounded by family and friends, along with Holly Area Chamber members who came out to support a store with so many offerings. Visitors will be greeted with a vast assortment of merchandise, specialty and gourmet food items, along with a Wellness Bar located inside the store. **Photo: Bridget Koledo**

HOT LINE CONTINUED

THANK YOU PASTOR Wes for your sermon on Sunday. It was so good to hear you speak the truth about confusion taking over some of our youth.

■■■■
HISTORY PAGE STATED. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s house was bombed Jan 30, 1956 by a suspected white supremacist. An angry crowd gathered, yet he preached love, not violence. We have a day to honor him, however he is dishonored every time violence is the first reaction to social injustice.

■■■■
OUR POLITICIANS IN Lansing are suggesting that Michigan use toll roads to raise a billion plus dollars to repair our roads. Why? Michigan already has a \$9-billion surplus. We don't need new taxes, we need new politicians.

■■■■
WRONG AGAIN! EXECUTIVE Order 13526, Section 1.3 does not authorize the president or vice president to declassify anything. How about you follow your own advice to educate yourself before posting media 'facts.'



A caring way to say Happy Valentine's!

Symphony Linden is pleased to deliver a complimentary box of Valentine's Day cookies to that sweetheart senior citizen* in your life.

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Photo: Bridget Koledo

Brown & Brown Insurance celebrates move with ribbon cutting

Members of the Fenton & Linden Regional Chamber of Commerce, Fenton area officials, along with Brown & Brown of Michigan, Inc., employees and clients were present to help celebrate the ribbon-cutting ceremony in Brown & Brown's new downtown Fenton office at 111 S. LeRoy St., across the street from the Fenton Community & Cultural Center. Community members were encouraged to view the new office space and tour the second floor accommodations. Students at the Culinary Institute of the Genesee Intermediate School District (GISD) prepared appetizers and presented them in a display within the new office setting. The new location of Brown & Brown allows them to continue to offer their clients the best comprehensive insurance solutions that lead the way in the industry. For more information, call the office at (810) 629-1566.



Mark McCabe

67th District Court

Ask the

judge

THE RIGHT TO THE EFFECTIVE ASSISTANCE OF COUNSEL

Under both the United States and Michigan constitutions, a defendant charged with a crime is guaranteed the right to counsel. This right includes the right to the effective assistance of counsel.

The constitutional definition of "effective" was announced by the United States Supreme Court in 1984 in *Strickland v Washington*. The *Strickland* court held that to be effective, defense counsel must perform at least as well as a lawyer with ordinary training and skill in the criminal law and must conscientiously protect his or her client's interests, undeflected by conflicting considerations.

When there is a claim of ineffective assistance of counsel, it is a mixed question of fact and constitutional law wherein the defendant

must show that: (1) the attorney's performance was deficient; and (2) the deficient performance prejudiced the defendant. The performance is deficient if it falls below an objective standard of professional reasonableness.

Case law tells us this is a heavy burden and the defendant must overcome a strong presumption that counsel's performance constituted sound trial strategy.

The performance will be deemed to have prejudiced the defendant if it is reasonably probable that, but for counsel's error, the results of the proceeding would have been different.

This standard applies to trials, guilty pleas and appeals.

Examples of ineffective assistance of counsel include failure to call a key witness, failure to contest an obvious violation of the Fourth Amendment as to an illegal search and seizure, failure to properly inform a defendant about the consequences of a guilty plea or the existence of a plea offer.

There are other examples.

See **JUDGE** on 8

FRIDAY | 7:00 PM
WOMEN IN SPORTS NIGHT



vs



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SPORTS NIGHT
PANEL @ 5:30PM**

SATURDAY | 7:00 PM
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vs



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WATER PROJECT

Continued from Page 1

mate \$23.5-million project will bring municipal water to areas in Mundy Township, Fenton Township and Linden City.

“This is the largest water line extension since the inception of the system in the 1970s. It’s a great example of communities working together,” he said.

He thanked the elected officials of the involved municipalities. Representatives from Fenton Township, Linden and Mundy Township spoke at the ceremony.

Fenton Township Supervisor Vince Lorraine said bringing water to the township has been one of his main goals since he began campaigning for the supervisor’s position in 2020.

“This is a multi-jurisdictional endeavor,” he said. The significant amount of arsenic found in township wells was one driving factor in pushing for municipal water.

“The township has high levels of arsenic and because of this project, Jeff’s help, everyone’s help at the county, Linden jumping on board, Mundy Township — we are able to offer municipal water,” he said. Lorraine also thanked the township board for its support.

Linden Mayor Pro-Tem Brenda Simons said they’ve grown increasingly concerned over the water situation in Linden over the last few years, citing pressure issues and staffing issues. Simons said fixing the water problem has been a long time coming, and that they’re grateful to partner with the involved municipalities and organizations.

“It’s been amazing,” she said.

Mundy Township Supervisor Tonya Ketzler said, “What’s good for someone else is eventually good for you. If the communities around us are successful, then we are successful.”

She also quoted an old Greek proverb that reads, “A society grows great when old men plant trees in whose shade they shall never sit.”

Wright also thanked all of the Genesee County commissioners for their support in approving \$6.5 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds on expanding the Genesee County water system.

“These are projects that will have a tangible effect on everybody’s future for years to come,” Wright said, adding

that the approximate 170 employees of the drain commissioner are the ones who are making this project happen.

Ellen Ellenburg, chairperson of the Genesee County Board of Commissioners, said, “We are fortunate in Genesee County to have tremendous leadership in Drain Commissioner Jeff Wright. Jeff’s contribution to our county is remarkable... This groundbreaking is a prime example of Genesee County working in partnership with local municipalities on important public projects.”

Genesee County Commissioner Shaun Shumaker, who is a former Fenton Township trustee, said the county is facing \$650 million in legacy debt in the next 20 years. Shumaker said the commissioners agree they need to grow their way out of the situation.

Beverly Brown, the newest commissioner on the board who was appointed Jan. 27, emphasized the skilled trade jobs that this project will create in the county.

“What I love about the commissioners and the work that I am seeing going on is that problems can be solved. In this case, this problem — a big problem — is being solved thanks to the partnership and the collaboration that’s been going on between all the folks in this room and beyond,” she said.

Phase One

The total estimated cost of the project is \$11,273,224. With \$6.5 million of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds from Genesee County, the projected cost of phase 1 is \$4,773,224.

Fenton Township: \$2,746,739

Mundy Township: \$880,910

Linden: \$1,145,573

Phase Two

The projected cost of phase 2 before Linden joined was \$4,744,425. With Linden joining, the cost is estimated to be \$5,036,736. This section of the project involves installing a water main extension from Torrey Road to Lahring Road to Jennings Road and back to Thompson Road to create a loop.

Fenton Township: \$3,547,803

Linden: \$1,488,932

Phase Three

The proposed cost of phase 3 is \$2,277,022. Fenton Township and Linden will each pay \$1,138,511. For this section of the project, they will install a water main along Lahring Road, south along Ripley Road and then west along Rolston Road.

BRANDS

Continued from Page 4

six hours a night and drinking lots of water are good ways to care for yourself. Whatever you need to do to take care of yourself, do it. It could be seeing a professional to talk health and/or mental health, it could be

having a spa day. Find what helps you feel better and do it.

How do you juggle your busy schedule. Email me at ecaswell@mihomepaper.com.

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ROLL FOR THE ENID BOULEVARD IMPROVEMENT SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF FENTON, GENESEE COUNTY, MICHIGAN TO THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF FENTON TOWNSHIP, GENESEE COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THE OWNERS OF LAND WITHIN THE ENID BOULEVARD IMPROVEMENT SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT, AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that that Supervisor and assessing officer of the township has reported to the township board and filed in the office of the Township Clerk for public examination a special assessment roll prepared by him covering all properties within the Enid Boulevard Improvement Special Assessment District benefited by the proposed street improvement project. Said assessment roll has been prepared for the purpose of assessing the costs of repaving Enid Boulevard, and work incidental thereto within the aforesaid special assessment district as more particularly shown on the plans on file with the Township Clerk at 12060 Mantawauka Drive, Fenton, Michigan within the township, which assessment is in the total amount of \$290,142.71.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the assessing officer has further reported that the assessment against each parcel of land within said district is such relative portion of the whole sum levied against all parcels of land in said district as the benefit to such parcels bears to the total benefit to all parcels of land in said district.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the township board will meet at the Fenton Township Civic Community Center, 12060 Mantawauka Drive, Fenton, Michigan on Tuesday February 7, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. for the purpose of reviewing said special assessment roll and hearing any objections thereto. Said roll may be examined at the office of the Township Clerk during regular working hours of regular working days until the time of said hearing and may further be examined at said hearing. Appearance and protest at the hearing held to confirm the special assessment roll is required in order to appeal the amount of the special assessment to the Michigan Tax Tribunal.

An owner, or party in interest, or his or her agent may appear in person at the hearing to protest the special assessment, or shall be permitted to file his or her appearance or protest by letter and his or her personal appearance shall not be required. (The owner or any person having an interest in the real property who protests in person or in writing at the hearing may file a written appeal of the special assessment with the Michigan Tax Tribunal within 35 days after the confirmation of the special assessment roll.)

ROBERT E. KRUG
FENTON TOWNSHIP CLERK
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FENTON, MI 48430-8817

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Times

JUDGE

Continued from Page 6

In actual practice, these claims are usually not successful. To illustrate this, in Michigan there have been 27 Court of Appeals opinions released since Dec. 1, 2022 claiming inef-

fective assistance of counsel. All of these claims were rejected for various reasons.

That being said, when attorney errors do occur they must always be reviewed to protect the constitutional rights of the defendant and to ensure that the errors weren't consequential.

It has been my experience that lawyers take the "Lawyers Oath" administered to them when they become members of the Bar very seriously, and vigorously represent their clients.

The oath can be found on the State Bar of Michigan website. It makes interesting reading.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ROLL FOR THE FAIRWAYS OF SPRING MEADOWS STREET LIGHTING SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF FENTON, GENESEE COUNTY, MICHIGAN TO THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF FENTON TOWNSHIP, GENESEE COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THE OWNERS OF LAND WITHIN THE FAIRWAYS OF SPRING MEADOWS STREET LIGHTING SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT, AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that that Supervisor and assessing officer of the township has reported to the township board and filed in the office of the Township Clerk for public examination a special assessment roll prepared by him covering all properties within the Fairways of Spring Meadows Street Lighting Special Assessment District benefited by the proposed street lighting project. Said assessment roll has been prepared for the purpose of assessing the costs of the installation, operation and maintenance of street lights in the Fairways of Spring Meadows condominium subdivision and work incidental thereto within the aforesaid special assessment district as more particularly shown on the plans on file with the Township Clerk at 12060 Mantawauka Drive, Fenton, Michigan within the township, which assessment is in the total amount of \$4,016.25 in the first year and \$2,016.00 per year for each year thereafter.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the assessing officer has further reported that the assessment against each parcel of land within said district is such relative portion of the whole sum levied against all parcels of land in said district as the benefit to such parcels bears to the total benefit to all parcels of land in said district.

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ROBERT E. KRUG
FENTON TOWNSHIP CLERK
12060 MANTAWAUKA DRIVE
FENTON, MI 48430-8817

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ROLL FOR THE GOLDEN SHORES STREET IMPROVEMENT SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF FENTON, GENESEE COUNTY, MICHIGAN TO THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF FENTON TOWNSHIP, GENESEE COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THE OWNERS OF LAND WITHIN THE GOLDEN SHORES STREET IMPROVEMENT SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT, AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that that Supervisor and assessing officer of the township has reported to the township board and filed in the office of the Township Clerk for public examination a special assessment roll prepared by him covering all properties within the Golden Shores Street Improvement Special Assessment District benefited by the proposed street improvement project. Said assessment roll has been prepared for the purpose of assessing the costs of repaving Golden Shores Drive, Golden Court and Golden Circle, and work incidental thereto within the aforesaid special assessment district as more particularly shown on the plans on file with the Township Clerk at 12060 Mantawauka Drive, Fenton, Michigan within the township, which assessment is in the total amount of \$530,965.64.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the assessing officer has further reported that the assessment against each parcel of land within said district is such relative portion of the whole sum levied against all parcels of land in said district as the benefit to such parcels bears to the total benefit to all parcels of land in said district.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the township board will meet at the Fenton Township Civic Community Center, 12060 Mantawauka Drive, Fenton, Michigan on Tuesday February 7, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. for the purpose of reviewing said special assessment roll and hearing any objections thereto. Said roll may be examined at the office of the Township Clerk during regular working hours of regular working days until the time of said hearing and may further be examined at said hearing. Appearance and protest at the hearing held to confirm the special assessment roll is required in order to appeal the amount of the special assessment to the Michigan Tax Tribunal.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT, because the revised costs exceed the previous estimated costs by 10% or more, the public hearing shall also be an opportunity for property owners in the special assessment district to provide comment regarding the continuation of the project in light of the increase in costs. An owner, or party in interest, or his or her agent may appear in person at the hearing to protest the special assessment, or shall be permitted to file his or her appearance or protest by letter and his or her personal appearance shall not be required. (The owner or any person having an interest in the real property who protests in person or in writing at the hearing may file a written appeal of the special assessment with the Michigan Tax Tribunal within 35 days after the confirmation of the special assessment roll.)

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Local psychologist pens fourth book

■ Book launch event scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 11 at Fenton's Open Book

By Hannah Ball

A local psychologist will launch her latest book, "Bad*ss Stories: Grit, Growth, Hope and Healing in the Sh*tshow," into the world on Saturday, Feb. 11 at Fenton's Open Book.

From 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., interested readers can meet Jodie Eckleberry-Hunt, Ph.D., A.B.P.P., a Fenton psychologist and executive coach, at the store, check out her books and potentially win giveaways.

"Swear Your Way to Sanity" was her first book. "Move on Motherf*cker: Live, Laugh & Let Sh*t Go" was her second and "Getting to Good Riddance — A No-Bullsh*t Breakup Survival Guide" was her third. "Badass Stories" is her fourth. It focuses on the themes of grit, growth, hope and healing during difficult times.

"What I want to emphasize is that we look for these larger than life sto-

ries to show grit or growth or hope or healing, when most of us have our own examples. We just don't see it because we have distorted lenses. Yet, we could hear our stories being told by someone else and be wowed by them. I want people to read the stories in my book and see themselves and feel like a badass," she said.

Eckleberry-Hunt, who has more than 20 years of counseling experience, wrote her latest book during the COVID-19 pandemic, when she continued to see patients in person with masks and social distancing practices because of how vital human connection is to mental health.

"Too much isolation causes anxiety and depression to worsen. I saw a lot of teens who were struggling, and my intervention was often just to recommend face-to-face time with peers. None of that is to say that I didn't believe the pandemic was dangerous or that I took it lightly. It is more that there is a balance to all in life, and each individual has considerations based on risks and

benefits," she said.

She also saw a spike in anxiety in people who had been doing well before the pandemic, including health fears, financial concerns and worries over unpredictability.

"I am so glad we are returning to a bit of normalcy. What I think has been more problematic is a tendency to judge when none of us have any idea of what others are facing personally. There is a middle lane, and I try to stay in it," she said.

The book was "incredibly emotional" to write, Eckleberry-Hunt said.

"The stories poured out, and I cried a lot. I feel incredibly privileged to do the work that I do because it is so meaningful. At the same time, it is hard, and writing the book was therapeutic in hopes I might possibly provide a healing story for someone else," she said. "It was also therapeutic to share my own stories because people think that just because I am a psychologist that I don't have issues. I am right there with everyone else, which is probably the most important message. You are

“The stories poured out, and I cried a lot. I feel incredibly privileged to do the work that I do because it is so meaningful.”

Jodie Eckleberry-Hunt

Local psychologist and executive coach

not alone. Stop telling yourself that you are.”

Eckleberry-Hunt hopes her books can help people decide to seek professional mental health help if needed.

"I am a believer in the benefits of having someone to walk with throughout life. Therapy is a way to connect and feel less alone, but it is also a great way to reflect and see things that perhaps one is missing. It is hard to do when we are drowning in anxiety, social comparison, stress and judgment," she said.

Each of her books includes thought-provoking prompts that encourage readers to journal because it increases self-understanding and helps people grow.

See **BOOK** on 16



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Fenton's Owen Cox took first in diving against Dexter and Royal Oak on Saturday. Photo: Christopher Summers

Tigers compete vs. Dexter, Royal Oak for strong times

By David Troppens

The Fenton varsity boys swim team is a small squad, but have the talent that can compete with larger schools.

And, if nothing else, facing strong programs helps push the competitive level for the Tigers in another couple of meets during the season.

The Tigers faced off against Dexter

and Royal Oak on Saturday and lost both meets in a dual setting. Fenton lost to Dexter 121-58 and also lost to Royal Oak 93-83, but gave a decent accounting of themselves.

Max Haney continues to have impressive showings. Haney, who was the D2 state runner up in the 100 butterfly a

year ago, helped lead the Tigers to three first-place finishes. He won the 100 freestyle and the 200 individual medley in individual action, and also helped the 400 freestyle relay team earn a first.

Haney earned a D2 state-qualifying time while winning the 100 freestyle

See **TIGERS** on 13

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Sports Times

Haddad's buzzer beater edges LF past Brandon

By David Troppens

Lake Fenton — With .4 seconds left in a tie game, Carson Haddad wasn't planning on taking the potential game-winning shot against the Brandon Blackhawks.

And when the initial shot was taken, it wasn't even Haddad that took it. But somehow in that very limited amount of time, he ended up with the game-winning shot anyway.

The inbound pass came to Jett Husted about 10 feet away from the hoop. He tried to tip it in, but it was blocked. However, the ball came to Haddad about four feet in front of Husted. Husted took what was basically a lob pass to him, tipped it and the ball went into the hoop before the final regulation buzzer sounded, giving the Blue Devils a 41-39 Flint Metro League Stars Division victory.

The win keeps Lake Fenton in a three-way tie for first place in the Stars Division with Goodrich and Corunna. All three are 5-1 in Stripes Division action.

"I had to screen those two guys in front of me to get that shot (to Husted) open," Haddad said. "He got smacked in the arm so I just went up with

it and tipped it in. It was crazy. There's nothing else you can say."

It capped what was a close contest between a division contender and an upset-minded Brandon squad, who lost to Lake Fenton 72-48 at Brandon earlier this season.

"Any time you are on top of the standings, you have a target on your back," Lake Fenton varsity boys basketball coach Tyler Szczepanski said. "As a program, that's a different spot for us. These guys have to realize what it is like to play

against every other team's best game. Every other team from here on out are bringing their 'A' game against us. Those teams that are scrunched on the top, everyone wants to beat those teams.

"I don't know how many teams in the collegiate or professional level go through a stretch where they have a bad game, but find a way to win against a team they feel they're better than. I feel like that happened tonight. We did not bring



The Lake Fenton varsity boys basketball team celebrates its buzzer-beating shot by Carson Haddad to earn the Blue Devils a home victory against Brandon on Friday. Photo: Mark Bolen

our 'A' game. The guys know that. We weren't as sharp as we could've been in the first half."

The game was always close. The first half experienced nine lead changes and two ties. The biggest lead in the first half came at 19-15 after a putback hoop by Lake Fenton's Brandon Bossert with 4:50 left in the first half. The last lead change also was accomplished by Lake Fenton when Ashton Hunter hit a driving layup, giving the Blue Devils a 22-21 halftime lead.

The second half saw a little larger lead swings. Brandon enjoyed its biggest lead at 31-26 after a putback hoop, a foul and converted free throw by Brody Berchiolly with 2:56 left in the third quarter. However, Lake Fenton answered back and went on an 11-1 run that extended into the fourth quarter. It started with a breaking layup by Bossert and concluded with a defensive rebound and a breaking layup by Hunter.

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM



Lake Fenton's Emerson Baker drives to the bucket in Lake Fenton's 80-24 win against Brandon. Photo: Mark Bolen

LF girls cruise past Brandon

By David Troppens

Lake Fenton — The pressure was on Lake Fenton's varsity girls basketball coach Karlie Dieck.

Her fifth-ranked in Division 2 Blue Devils were the heavy favorites against the Brandon Blackhawks, but there was still plenty of pressure on her. That's because many of her ex-Lawrence Tech girls basketball teammates attended the contest to see her current prep team in action.

It ended up going just fine, as the Blue Devils dominated the Blackhawks from start to finish, earning an 80-24 Flint Metro League Stars Division victory.

"We are celebrating our 10-year anniversary as the inaugural (women's basketball) team

See **LF** on 13

Bronchos stick close to Fenton in Stripes standings, defeat Swartz Creek, 54-40

By Dale Smith

Holly — The Holly varsity boys basketball team opened the Flint Metro League season in December at Swartz Creek.

They started a little slow in that game and Friday night's game was much the same. The Dragons pulled out to an early 6-0 lead in the first quarter before Holly's Mason Clark finally put the Bronchos on the board at the 3:58 mark. But, the Bronchos let loose the defense holding Creek scoreless for seven minutes and went on to dominate the rest of game, winning 54-40.

Holly (6-2 in the Metro League Stripes Division and 10-4 overall) won that first game by 15 points. In this one, before a large crowd on Holly Hall of Fame Inductee Night, the Bronchos led 10-6 after the first eight minutes and then took control in the second quarter, outscoring Creek 19-11 for a 29-17 lead at the half.

That second quarter was highlighted by a rebound and long pass from junior Dylan Cherson to fellow junior Ka'Vion Smith for an easy two

on the other end. And with 38.9 seconds left an "and one" by Mason Clark helped extend the lead after two quarters.

The Bronchos came out real strong in the second half and led by 20 points at 41-21 with 1:30 left courtesy of another 'and one,' this one by Tony Simmons.

Both teams substituted freely in the fourth quarter, giving a lot of players more time than they normally would see on the floor.

"(Swartz Creek) had a fast start to the game," Simmons said. "We had to gather ourselves and come back strong in that second quarter to finish the game off."

Simmons had 13 points to go with six rebounds, three steals and a block. Holly will be glad to have this talented junior back in the fold next year.



Mason Clark scored a team-high 14 points in the Bronchos' win against Swartz Creek. Photo: Christopher Summers

Holly's Deshawn Willis had a real nice game coming off the bench. Built like the football player he is, Willis has always been a plus on the defensive side for the Bronchos. This night, he added five points to go along with six rebounds and a steal. Willis will play football at Concordia this fall.

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM

Holly bowlers lose battle for first versus Kearsley, place in top eight at tourney

The Holly varsity boys bowling team competed in its battle for first place in the Flint Metro League with Kearsley and lost a 20-10 battle.

The Holly squad also competed in the Flushing Jerry Doyle Doubles Tournament on Sunday

During Saturday's dual against Kearsley, the match started out well as Holly won the first Baker game 186-157, however, lost the second game 220-202. The Bronchos still led 6-4 entering the singles games.

Kearsley was able to win six of the 10 games to earn the victory.

Ryan Sparklin was Holly's top performer, earning a 225-223-448 two-game series. Sparklin won both of his matches. Andrew Moscorro had a 201-212-413 series, winning both games. Ryan Dalton had a 190 score while Sean Dankert carded a 183 game.

At the Jerry Doyle Doubles Tournament, Dalton and Sparklin combined to advance to the quarterfinals of the event.

In two single-game matches, Sparklin bowled a 197-234-430 series, earning him fifth overall out of 120 bowlers. Dalton bowled a 226-151-377 two-game series.

The tournament continued with four Baker games. Sparklin and Dalton bowled games of 161, 226, 205 and 194 for a 786 series, earning the Bronchos a spot in the top 16 of match play.

In it, the Bronchos defeated Flushing 381-332, but then lost to Davison in the quarterfinals 377-354.



Ja'Hion Bond looks to make a move in a recent game. Bond scored 21 points in a 76-56 victory against Flushing.

Photo: Mark Bolen

Tigers stay atop Stripes, defeat Flushing Raiders

By David Troppens

The Fenton varsity boys basketball team was locked in a tight battle with the Flushing Raiders on Friday.

It was still early in the contest, but Fenton only led 10-8 when a time out was called, to talk about correcting some defensive issues.

It seemed to work.

In about of 15 actual minutes, the Tigers (7-0 in the Stripes Division and 8-5 overall) raised their lead from two points to about 20, eventually resulting in a 76-56 home victory against the Raiders.

"Within a few minutes we had some good defensive stops and then we went on a pretty fun stretch where we made four three-pointers in six offensive possessions. We had three from Ja'Hion Bond, two from Colin TerBurgh and one from Spencer Luck. Next thing we knew we led by 20 points."

Fenton made just two turnovers in the first half and led 42-18 at halftime. The lead was 62-41 after three quarters. The largest Fenton lead came in the third quarter at 52-27.

Many Tigers had big games. Bond had one of his best contests of his career, netting a team-high 21 points. He hit 8-of-10 three-pointers. Sam Dillard II hit 7-of-15 shots and netted 14 points. Meanwhile, TerBurgh hit three treys, and finished with 10 points. He was fouled during the final trey, and was able to complete a four-point play.

Others had solid games. Justin Banura had 12 points while Gage Graham chipped in 10 points. Chris Piwowarczyk had six points while Luck chipped in three points.

Fenton is knocking on the door of locking up a Stripes Division spot in the championship series.



Kendyl Smith tries to drive to the bucket in the Blue Devils' victory against Brandon. Photo: Mark Bolen

LF

Continued from Page 11

at Lawrence Tech. My old college teammates came to surprise me," Dieck said. "It's pretty cool.

Her ex-teammates got to watch a pretty good show. Lake Fenton jumped to a modest 12-6 lead after one quarter, but after that Lake Fenton's constant defensive pressure started getting to the Blackhawks.

Two quick three-point buckets by Savannah Fellenbaum stretched the lead quickly in the second quarter. Then came constant steals by the Blue Devils' defense resulted in fast breaking layups on the offensive end. And pretty much every player was the beneficiary. Six players scored with Fellenbaum netting eight second-quarter points and Kendyl Smith, Cola Sisk and Parker Beardsley netting four each. By the time the quarter was over, the Blue Devils led 36-8.

Lake Fenton continued its dominance in the third quarter. The Blue Devils hit 9-of-13 shots with eight of those buckets being scored off of assists. The run started with a Gabby Gerald assist on a Smith three-pointer, and on the next bucket Gerald scored a layup on an Anna Prevost assist. The next was an Amaya Smith assist on a three-pointer by Kendyl Smith.

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TIGERS

Continued from Page 11

(47.05). He also earned a first in the 200 individual medley (1:53.90). Meanwhile, he joined Zach Michelson, Finley Hughes and Isaac Gurnsey to earn a first in the 400 freestyle relay (3:36.97).

One other Fenton athlete earned an outright first among the three squads. Diver Owen Cox recorded

a score of 225.40, more than 53 points ahead of the rest of the competition.

The Tigers had one overall second. The 200 medley relay team of Haney, Jacob Grifka, Gurnsey and Gabe Lampe earned it with a time of 1:51.18.

In individual events, the Tigers also had five more outright thirds. Michelson had two of them.

He had one in the 200 freestyle (1:58.93) and another in the 500 freestyle (5:19.11). The others were earned by Gurnsey in the 100 butterfly (1:02.43), Michael Ferris in the 100 backstroke (1:15.12) and Grifka in the 100 breaststroke (1:13.40).

Zach Michelson swims during one of his freestyle events. Photo: Christopher Summers



Linden's defense stings Hornets, 58-10

By David Troppens

Maybe Friday night wasn't the Linden varsity girls basketball team's best offensive game of the season.

That said, the squad scored 58 points, so it ranks pretty high up there.

However, it was clearly the team's best defensive performance. Well maybe tied for the season best. The Eagles held Kearsley to its season-low offensive production, in Linden's 58-10 victory at Kearsley

High School Friday night.

It's also tied for the least amount of points the Eagles (5-1 in the Stripes Division and 9-4 overall) have allowed this season. Linden also defeated Holly 54-10 during a Dec. 16 victory.

Kearsley mustered just two field goals. The first was in the second quarter and the other in the third. The rest of the Hornets' points came on free throws.

"They responded well tonight," Linden varsity girls basketball

coach Brian Klein said.

The response was pretty overwhelming in the first quarter. Kearsley didn't score a point while Linden netted 19 points. Olivia Mawhinney scored eight of those points while four other Eagles also scored at least one field goal.

In the second quarter, the Eagles scored 17 more points. Kelsey McLennan and Mawhinney had five points each while Allison Mabenbrook netted four.

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM

Fenton cheer places third at second league meet

By David Troppens

History repeated itself at the second Flint Metro League competitive cheer jamboree Friday at Corunna.

The top three teams at the first meet, finished in the top three spots in the second one. Swartz Creek won, while Flushing and Fenton (703.00) placed second and third, respectively.

Lake Fenton (678.46) improved from fifth to fourth while Linden (649.54) jumped from 10th to sixth. Holly (632.04) remained in ninth.

The Fenton Tigers remained a solid third all night. The Tigers had a 215.5 score during the first round and a 208.9 in round two. They concluded action with a

278.6 during the third round. Fenton was one of three teams to break the 700 barrier.

Lake Fenton jumped a spot and started with a 204.6 round one score. The Blue Devils followed with a 193.86 round two, placing them fifth at the time. The Blue Devils jumped Kearsley for fourth place with its 280.00 round three score. After two meets, the two squads are tied in fourth in the standings.

Linden had a strong jump, improving its overall team score by about 24 points in the second event. Linden opened with a 201.7 round one and had a 187.64 (but 14 points deducted) in round two.

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM

Eagles can't dig out of second hole vs. Kearsley

By David Troppens

The Linden varsity boys basketball team began its contest with Kearsley in a 10-0 hole.

The Eagles were able to dig out of that hole and had a lead in the second quarter.

However, tied at 17-all, Kearsley finished the second quarter on a 14-1 run, giving the Hornets a 31-18 lead. The Eagles never led again,

eventually losing a 62-57 Metro League Stripes Division verdict.

After trailing 10-0, the Eagles went on an 11-2 scoring run to end the first quarter. A Monte Keener hoop finished a string of nine unanswered points, cutting the gap at 10-9, and a hoop by Jase Becher enabled the Eagles to trail just 12-11 entering the second quarter.

Linden took its only lead at 15-14

on hoop by Konner Hulett early in the second quarter, and the Eagles were still tied at 17-all after two converted free throws by Becher. However, the Hornets' 14-1 run started immediately after those free throws. Linden trailed 31-18 entering halftime.

The Eagles couldn't muster a second comeback.

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM

Fenton competes with Flushing, falls short in fourth

By David Troppens

The Fenton varsity girls basketball team was playing outstanding defense and getting just enough offense during the first 24 minutes of its contest with Stripes Division leaders Flushing Friday night.

The mixture of the two enabled the Tigers stick within a one-point deficit against the unbeaten division leaders entering the fourth quarter.

However, Flushing found a way to get its offense going in the final quarter, resulting in a 37-28 loss.

Fenton trailed just 27-26 after two converted free throws by Adrie Staib with 6:44 left in the contest. However, Flushing was able to break Fenton's defense for three layups during the first five minutes of the fourth quarter, raising the Raiders' edge to 32-26 late in the contest. A steal by Staib resulted in a fastbreak layup for Fenton's Madison Slezinski, cutting the gap to 32-28, but that's as close as the Tigers would get.

For the majority of the contest, the two squads battled in a tight defensive battle. Fenton scored the first two points on two converted free throws by Slezinski and led 8-7 after one quarter after Staib assisted a short Slezinski jumper.

Flushing jumped to an 11-8 lead early in the second quarter, but the Tigers went on a 6-0 run, getting a bucket by Staib and two by Grace MacCaughan. Fenton enjoyed a 14-11 lead with 2:10 left in the half. The Tigers ended up going into the half leading 16-15.

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM

Linden wrestling places fourth at Shepherd Invitational

By David Troppens

Linden competed in the Shepherd Invitational and had a pretty solid showing at the individual wrestler event.

The Eagles had four wrestlers qualify for the finals, helping Linden to a tie for fourth in the final standings.

Bryce Shingleton (126), Adoniah Delgado (138), and Jase Grundy (190) earned championships while



Bryce Shingleton

Luke Haney (144) earned a runner-up finish.

Delgado competed in five matches and won all of them by pinfall. His championship match was a pinfall win in 3:46 against Swartz Creek's Hayden Pletscher. Grundy went 4-0 with three pinfall wins. He defeated Portland's Branson Goodman in the finals by pinfall in 1:26. Finally, Shingleton earned his title with three

victories, including two by fall. He won the title by defeating Fowlerville's Dalton Daniel by pinfall in 3:10. Shingleton holds a 30-2 record this season.

Haney won his first three matches by pinfall, earning a spot in the finals. However, he lost to Montrose's Hunter Coxon in the final by pinfall in 1:21.

Two other Linden wrestlers earned placings. Michael Bush (175) placed fourth while Lucas Carr (150) took fifth.

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM

LF wrestlers go 3-2 vs. tough teams at Saline tournament

By David Troppens

The Lake Fenton varsity wrestling team continues to compete against strong competition, and did so at the Saline Team Tournament.

The Blue Devils went 3-2 at the meet, defeating Brighton, Saline and Woodhaven, while losing to Jackson Northwest and Romeo.

Three Blue Devils finished with 5-0 records. Jack Conley (150) did so with three pinfall wins while Ty Johnson (144) had two pinfall wins and Clay Cook (120) had one pinfall win.

Drew Corcoran (138) was a perfect 3-0 with three pin victories while Jorge Marvin (106/113) recorded a 4-1 record with three wins.

Kaleb Digacomo (132), Karson Crist (175/190) and Wyatt DeVasher (113) each went 3-2 with two pinfall wins while Robbie Moore (126) and Luke Wright (165) had two wins with a pinfall victory. Josh Ezell (285) also had two wins while Noah Hall (157) won his only match by pin. Caden Tortorice (175/190) also won a match.

Bronchos post 2-2 mark at Richmond Team Tournament

By David Troppens

The Holly varsity wrestling team competed at the Richmond Team Tournament, finishing the event with a 2-2 record.

The Bronchos defeated St. Clair 48-30 and Lamphere 59-18, but lost to Chipewa Valley 40-34 and Richmond 69-5.

The Bronchos' Kendall Drake

(165/175) led Holly, recording a 4-0 record with three pinfalls. He earned Holly's only victory against Richmond, earning a 16-1 technical fall victory.

The Bronchos had four wrestlers finish with 3-1 records. Chase Couchman (120) earned that record with three pinfall wins while Jayden Higgins (190) and Christian Preston (144) went 3-1 with two pinfall

wins. Jacob Devary (138) was 3-1 with one pinfall victory.

Sean Murray (126) went 2-2 with a pinfall win while Konner Welch (150), Hunter Bishop (165/175) Jason VanSickle (215) and Jackson Luder (113) had a win each.

Holly travels to Swartz Creek for

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM

Holly girls basketball falls to Swartz Creek Dragons, 40-25

That start was fine. The Holly varsity girls basketball team jumped to an early lead against the Swartz Creek Dragons, Friday night at Holly High School.

However, the Dragons heated up after the first quarter, earning a 40-25 victory.

Holly was off to a strong start. Alana

Simmons had six first-quarter points and Makena McGee hit a three-pointer, helping the Bronchos jump to an 11-6 lead.

The offense slowed down in the second quarter. Simmons hit the only Holly bucket in the second quarter, while Jaelyn Ayala was just starting to get hot, netting

all of Swartz Creek's 12 second-quarter points. Holly trailed 18-13 at halftime.

Holly's offensive troubles continued in the second half. Adell Hogle hit a bucket and McGee hit a trey for Holly's only points in the third quarter.

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM

PREP REPORT

HOCKEY

► **Fenton-Linden Area 9, Bloomfield Hills 5:** Caden Crandall scored four goals as the Griffins cruised to the easy victory. The Griffins scored five first-period goals.

Jace Dumeah scored two goals while Carson Gardner, Dylan Holloy and Mitchell Luck had a goal each.

The Griffins also lost a recent 8-0 verdict against Forest Hills Central.

WRESTLING

► **Fenton JV Tournament:** The Lake Fenton wrestling program had two champions and three wrestlers in the finals while Fenton had a champion as well.

Cohen Dancil (108) and Michael Schultz (158) earned first-place finishes for Lake Fenton Chris Dobek (202) earned a title for Fenton. Fenton's Keagan Crandall (131) earned a third-place finish.

BOYS BOWLING

► **Flushing 27, Fenton 3:** Mark Behnfeldt led the Tigers with a 186-249-435 two-game series, while Brady Mitchell bowled a 204.

► **Clio 25, Linden 5:** The Eagles were led by Luke LaDrew's 171-141-312 two-game series. Zachary Kohler also bowled a 176 game. Linden won the first Baker game 172-124.

GIRLS BOWLING

► **Flushing 29, Fenton 1:** The Tigers were led by Caitlyn Wentz's 151-145-296 two-game series. Jena Fijolek bowled a 156 game.

► **Kearsley 30, Holly 0:** The Bronchos were led by Evelyn Wollesen's 133-109-242 two-game series.

► **Clio 29, Linden 1:** Emma Veach was Linden's only competitor but was able to win a point in one of her two games. She recorded a 124-114-238 two-game series.

Murder mystery event enthralls crowd

■ Proceeds benefit Fenton & Linden Regional Chamber, FARR

By Hannah Ball

Fenton Twp. — Who killed Rocky Del Rio?

The Fenton area's first ever rock opera murder mystery was performed by Wishing Well Theatre Inc. on Saturday, Jan. 28 at the Fenton Moose Lodge. This 1980s-themed event, called The Murder of Rocky Del Rio, featured live music, acting, dancing and monologues from potential suspects.

The captive audience guessed who killed Rocky before the answer was revealed at the end.

"It was wonderful. It was extremely successful. We had nothing but positive reviews afterwards. The people who had been to the chamber's previous murder mystery said it was like those but on steroids," said Ricky Philippi, artistic director/founder of Wishing Well Theatre, who played Rocky Del Rio.

The production was presented by Fenton Area Resources and Referral Network, Inc. (FARR) and the Fenton & Linden Regional Chamber of Commerce, which both received a portion of the proceeds. They sold more than 115 tickets and filled the Fenton Moose Lodge. Tickets were \$89.

Philippi said at last year's Expo, Shelly Day, executive director of the chamber, and Dawn Placek, executive director for FARR, approached him about the opportunity and he thought it was a good idea.

"It was our first time ever dealing with a murder mystery so we wrote it all from scratch," he said. "We're excited because it has opened this new door of murder mystery work that we can shop around to businesses and organizations around Michigan who want to throw a fun event. It's a really fun way to make some money."

They were approached on Saturday night by people who showed interest in having a murder mystery fundraiser for their own businesses.

"I think it went wonderful. It was exceptionally great working with our hometown theatre company Wishing Well. It was very successful and we were able to raise funds to help FARR," Placek said.

Wishing Well employed 10 young artists, three of which are college students, for the event. Part of their mission is to give young artists opportunities, Philippi said,

because show business is very unforgiving and tough.

"We're very proud to be a part of the Fenton & Linden Chamber. It's just a bunch of wonderful people who care about growing positive businesses and that's what we're trying to do," he said. "We paid everybody involved. It's the first professional theatre in Fenton so we try to make our product professional and of a higher quality that people can't generally find outside of larger cities like Flint or Ann Arbor."

The show was choreographed by Madeline NAME. The Fenton Village Players donated lighting for the event. Philippi said they are intimately connected with the Fenton Arts Council. He is a trustee on the Fenton Arts Council Board.

Their long term goal is to bring a dedicated performance space for the arts to Fenton. Philippi said a space like the Red Fox building could house multiple Fenton arts organizations and have performance space that could be utilized by Wishing Well Theatre and organizations like local dance companies. They could also host touring musicians and performers.

"Then people wouldn't have to drive to Detroit or the capital to see world class entertainment. There's no reason that can't happen here in Fenton," he said, adding that it would "explode" the downtown economy, which would be good for everybody.

"Parking will be an issue we would have to get creative with. We are at the point where our restaurants are of big city quality and we need big city things to do," he said.

Wishing Well Theatre's motto is "Big city theatre, small town charm."

"That's how Fenton feels. The people have almost a Canadian respect for each other," he said. "I don't know cities this size that are so supportive of artists and consume art the way Fenton does. I think we've picked the right place to make it happen."

Wishing Well Theatre is planning an event for a celebration of the arts for April 14 to be held at Fenton Winery & Brewery in conjunction with the Fenton Arts Council. The theme is garden party for spring renewal. They will honor a few Genesee County residents who support the arts.

The company is also planning a large-scale cabaret fundraiser at the end of August to take the place of the Shakespeare Festival. Philippi said this will be an ode to Broadway.

Cast/crew

Bart Berger - *Jibb Devlin*
Emily Rescleke - *Candi*
Andy Philippi - *Chet Steele*
Kate Lengyel - *Cha Cha*
Julie Ross - *Diablo*
Destiny Dunn - *Susan Del Rio*
Ricky Philippi - *Rocky Del Rio/Director*
Madelyn Bettendorf - *Choreographer*
Crystal Dillard - *Stage Manager/Technical Director*



Photos: Hannah Ball

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Flannel and Furs raised nearly \$11,000 on Friday, Jan. 27 at Holly Lanes. The event was put on by LAFF Pathway to help support the development of non-motorized pathways in the area. "LAFF Pathway's Flannel and Furs last Friday night at Holly Lanes was another success, raising just under \$11,000 to help with the coming construction of The State Bank Trail. Thank you Holly Lanes, Mason Jar BBQ, and of course our sponsors and bowlers," said Ed Koledo, executive director of Southern Lakes Parks & Recreation. "We are looking forward to an even larger event in 2024." Photos: Bridget Koledo

BOOK

Continued from Page 9

"There is a lot of science behind journaling, especially regarding trauma and difficult experiences, but also cancer, depression, chronic pain, diabetes, immune function and on and on. There is something about taking the chaos and multi-sensory experiences in our brains and forcing them into language that helps us digest and put the experiences away. Growth

takes work. Work is painful," she said.

On Feb. 11, Eckleberry-Hunt will have copies of "Bad*ss Stories" for purchase and her previous books will be on sale. She will also have decals, glasses, and totes to give away in drawings as well as "Smells Like a Bad*ss" candles to give away to the first 20 customers who buy a book. The candles are made by Swearly Candle.

"I am so very grateful to Fenton's Open Book for hosting me. I cannot emphasize that enough," she said.



Actors with Fenton Village Players rehearse for their upcoming WFVP Radio Show, which they will perform live this Sunday at the Fenton Village Playhouse in Fenton. Admission is free.

RADIO SHOW

Continued from Page 1

a recreation of old time radio shows, this Sunday, Feb. 5 at 2 p.m. This is a free show that FVP puts on as a way to say thank you to the community. Fenton Village Players are celebrating their 50th anniversary.

For those who cannot attend in person, the WFVP Radio Show can be watched live on YouTube.

They will be performing two different productions, The Canterville Ghost and The Phantom of the Opera. They have a cast of about 15 actors and it will be just like the old radio shows where there's commercials from sponsors and script pages falling to the floor. Kevin Emmons is directing the show this year.

Actors will be reading from scripts while the "foley artist" makes the sound effects.

The Phantom of the Opera

From his hideout beneath a 19th century Paris opera house, the brooding Phantom schemes to get closer to vocalist Christine Daae. The Phantom, wearing a mask to hide a congenital disfigurement, strong-arms management into giving the budding starlet key roles, but Christine instead falls for arts benefactor Raoul. Terrified at the notion of her absence, the Phantom enacts a plan to keep Christine by his side, while Raoul tries to foil the scheme.



Reserve seats online

<https://fvp.ludus.com/>

Watch Online Live

<https://youtube.com/live/-J5WCpw3IE8?feature=share>

The Canterville Ghost

When Sir Simon de Canterville flees a joust in fear and retreats to the family castle, his father traps Simon and curses him to haunt the estate until a descendent restores the family honor with an act of bravery. Hundreds of years later, Cuffy Williams, an American soldier stationed at the castle, discovers from young Lady Jessica that he is a relative. Cuffy hopes to free Simon from his curse by displaying courage when under duress.

Prior to these two performances, from 12 to 2 p.m., the FVP will be holding an extra day for their costume and vintage clothing sale, which was held last weekend. They have all sorts of clothes, some vintage with tags still on them, shoes, jewelry and other prop items.

The Fenton Village Playhouse is at 14197 Torrey Road, Fenton, just north of Fratz Consignment.

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Obituaries

Lillian Mae Hodges

1935 – 2023



Lillian Mae Hodges - age 87, passed away at MyMichigan Medical Center in West Branch, on Saturday, January 28, 2023. She was born on October 22, 1935, in Fenton, to Andrew and Edna (Moore) Bly. Lillian married Ben Hodges on May 28, 1964, they were married for 58 wonderful years.

Lillian is survived by

her husband, Ben Hodges of West Branch; son, Dan (Ruth) Buckingham of West Branch; grandson, Andrew (Keirsa) Buckingham of Hurlock, MD and great-granddaughter, Ryker Buckingham of Hurlock, MD. She is also survived by Terry Hodges of West Branch, Ron (Ann) Hodges of West Branch, and Sue (Steve) Amari of North Carolina. There are several other beloved grandchildren, Terry Hodges Jr., Jared Hodges, Stacy Hodges, Jeff Hodges, Shannon Jackson, Mary Williams, and Ian Ness, and many great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, friends, and especially her special niece, Laura McCormick of Roscommon. Per her request there will be no public services. She will be buried next to her family at the Oakwood Cemetery in Fenton. Arrangements were handled by Steuernol & McLaren Funeral Home in West Branch.

www.steuernolmclaren.com.

UNPLUGGED

Continued from Page 3

Tickets for Joe Unplugged are \$10 for one and \$15 for two. Before the program, there will be a 50-50 raffle and other items to bid on. Donations

can be made during the evening. There also will be informational booths.

Tickets can be purchased at the door or Mishler at (810) 348-9960.

The Fenton Village Playhouse is at 14197 Torrey Rd., Fenton.

EV CHARGERS

Continued from Page 1

draw to get patrons into cute shops and restaurants. Many people who shop on Silver Parkway or get gas and Starbucks on Owen Road have never been into downtown Fenton and Linden,” said Taylor Patterson, who bought a Tesla Model 3 last year and loves it. “Hopefully local officials can navigate how to get them installed downtown for free with all the grants out there and consider offering complementary or low-cost charging.”

Currently, Vic Canever Chevrolet has the only EV charging stations in the Fenton area. They have one DC fast charger and two Level 2 chargers. Local municipalities, including Linden and Fenton, have been in contact with Consumers Energy about installing EV charging stations in their areas.

Consumers Energy’s PowerMIDrive program provides rebates up to \$500 for residents who have EV chargers at homes, for businesses and for EVs in public locations across the Lower Peninsula.

“Consumers Energy is committed to powering 1 million electric vehicles in Michigan by 2030,” said Tracy Wimmer, media relations specialist at Consumers Energy.

The company has provided rebates for more than 2,500 electric vehicle chargers. Most are installed at homes. Of that total, Consumers has supported nearly 250 public chargers. In Genesee County, they’ve provided rebates for seven public charging locations. At least three more sites are coming this year.

“Consumers Energy is committed to making EV driving affordable and convenient in Michigan. We partnered with Michigan State University to identify locations for public EV chargers to serve drivers across the Lower Peninsula,” Wimmer said. “We’re working to strengthen the public network for EV drivers to charge their vehicles. We work with community leaders to identify convenient locations, and we prioritize charging that’s fast for drivers on longer trips or in places where drivers are likely to charge overnight.”

Wimmer said the cost for EV charging stations varies from \$20,000 for a standard public charger, which adds 20-30 miles, up to \$200,000 for a fast charger that can mostly charge a ve-

hicle battery in 30 minutes or less.

“Typically, a Consumers Energy rebate covers about one third of a fast charger, plus we perform any electrical work to prepare a charging site,” she said.

Patterson lives in Ann Arbor and has a cottage on Lake Fenton. She charges it at home, at work for free with a Level 2 charger or at the cottage with a Level 1 charger. Their utility bill is approximately \$30 more per month since the purchase. She estimates it costs about \$10 or so in energy costs to fill up.

Patterson gets notifications for public chargers while driving. Since it takes time for an EV to charge, she said users are more likely to stop, eat at a restaurant and support local businesses. Patterson said the closest Level 3 superchargers are at Bishop’s Airport and Meijer in Swartz Creek.

More charging stations would attract drivers on U.S. 23 to stop in the area.

“It seems the Target off Owen Road or one of the shopping plazas on Silver Parkway would be ideal for some Tesla Superchargers and other non-Tesla level 3 chargers,” Patterson said.

She suggests that adding charging stations at parks and public trail systems, such as Clover Beach, Linden County Park, Seven Lakes State park and more, would encourage people to charge their EVs while jogging, walking their dog or enjoying the beach with their family.

“Anything that makes Linden and Fenton more attractive to families is a good thing. Personally, we like to eat outside when the weather is nice and EVs are quiet and don’t smell, while many of the cars and trucks downtown can be super loud and have terrible exhaust fumes,” Patterson said.

Installing more EV chargers would also help modest income renters and apartment dwellers who rely on public chargers, and they would attract more young professionals who want an EV and would not live in an area without public chargers. Patterson said it’s public infrastructure.

“There are many new apartments and condos in downtown Fenton, I don’t think there are any nearby chargers for those residents to use? The lack of public chargers in the area prohibits modest income renters from even considering buying an electric car,” Patterson said.

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Midweek Crossword

KING FEATURES

ACROSS

1 Discoverer's call

4 Island near Java

8 "Cheers" order

12 Brooch

13 Oodles

14 Plotting

15 Swelled head

16 Reed and Rawls

17 "Hud" actress Patricia

18 Star of "NCIS: Los Angeles"

21 Klutz

22 Singer Starr

23 Photo book

26 Witty one

27 Crater part

30 Corp. kingpins

31 24 hours

32 Cab cost

33 Sauce source

34 Novelist Rand

35 Avid

36 Anderson Cooper's channel

37 Calendar abbr.

38 Official flower of Chicago

45 Cash advance

46 Manhattan area

47 Lennon's love

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11	
12				13					14				
15				16					17				
18			19						20				
			21						22				
23	24	25					26				27	28	29
30							31				32		
33													
				34							35		
			36										
38	39	40					41				42	43	44
45							46				47		
48							49				50		
51							52				53		

48 During

49 Nest setting

50 Pep

51 Sandwich shop

52 Play area

53 Greek vowel

DOWN

1 Oil cartel

2 Lofty

3 — about (roughly)

4 Fragrant wood

5 Unfriendly

6 Noisy

7 "Not a problem!"

8 Energizer mascot

9 Fencing sword

10 List-ending abbr.

11 Bakery buy

19 Debtors' notes

20 Pester

23 Rm. coolers

24 Sign before Virgo

25 Lad

26 Pallid

27 Joplin tune

28 Anger

29 Debussy's "La —"

31 Ming, for one

32 Kismet

34 Reply (Abbr.)

35 Seconded

36 "True Colors" singer Lauper

37 Different

38 Not naked

39 Abode

40 Banister

41 Asta's feeder

42 Relocate

43 Squad

44 NYC gallery

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Midweek Sudoku

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

WEEKLY SUDOKU
BY LINDA THISTLE

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.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦
♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Midweek Jumble

JUMBLE

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

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

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

SAYET

○ ○ ○ ○ ○

RPWEI

○ ○ ○ ○ ○

NDYEOK

○ ○ ○ ○ ○

MRISEM

○ ○ ○ ○ ○

○ ○ ○ ○ ○

○ ○ ○ ○ ○

○ ○ ○ ○ ○

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Horoscopes

ARIES
Mar 21/Apr 20
Aries, it's important to focus on progress and not necessarily on money that can be made. See what you can learn along the path you choose.

TAURUS
Apr 21/May 21
You have high hopes that your efforts will be well received this week, Taurus. Before you move full speed ahead, run your ideas by a trusted group of confidantes.

GEMINI
May 22/June 21
You don't learn by getting things right all of the time, Gemini. A few mistakes along the way provide an opportunity to grow and figure out new ways to do the job.

CANCER
June 22/July 22
Cancer, distractions seemingly abound this week and your head isn't in the game. While you can get away with a few oversights here and there, too many can be problematic.

LEO
July 23/Aug 23
Leo, someone in your life is looking for a pep talk and you are just the person to provide one. Listen to the problem at hand and offer this person some solid solutions.

VIRGO
Aug 24/Sept 22
Virgo, you could be at a crossroads in your life. You are pondering many different scenarios, and now is the time to solidify plans for the next few weeks.

LIBRA
Sept 23/Oct 23
If you made a career change recently, you may be discovering that the payoff isn't quite what you expected. Fulfillment is essential, so give some thought to new pursuits.

SCORPIO
Oct 24/Nov 22
Scorpio, it is not like you to feel adrift, but that could be the situation right now. Latch on to one activity or person that brings you joy. Focus on the positives in life.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov 23/Dec 21
Sagittarius, family members want to spend more time with you, so plan for the extra company. Have a few extra snacks on hand and make sure the house is orderly.

CAPRICORN
Dec 22/Jan 20
Your tendency to want to tackle things all on your own could have you pushing others away, Capricorn. Accept others' willingness to pitch in.

AQUARIUS
Jan 21/Feb 18
Aquarius, there has been a lot on your plate and many thoughts swimming through your mind. A quick getaway could be what is needed this month.

PISCES
Feb 19/Mar 20
Pisces, you have a few offers on the table, but could be having trouble narrowing down your preference. Bring in a third party to help.

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