

Rebuilding continues on Holly Hotel

■ Hotel owners aim to open June 21, Andy's Place setting up temporary food truck

By Hannah Ball

Holly — New wood trusses support a new section of roof at the Holly Hotel. While construction isn't yet done, every

day workers are closer to finishing the iconic restaurant in Battle Alley.

Chrissy and George Kutlenios, owners of the Holly Hotel, are planning to reopen this summer. They're shooting for a June 21 opening — the one-year anniversary of the fire that destroyed one business and severely damaged others.

"We intend to make it very similar," she said, adding that they will bring back the Victorian aesthetic to the restaurant. They have a barn full of items they were able to save the day of the fire. Damaged pieces were resorted if possible.

The owners are selling commemora-

See **REBUILDING** on 18



HEALTH & WELLNESS

Your local guide to healthy living
Special section included inside this edition

Special Section

Midweek Times

\$1.00

VOL. 30 NO. VIII
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2023

It's pączki time

■ Jelly-filled doughnuts a favorite on Fat Tuesday

By Hannah Ball

Fenton — Happy Mardi Gras. Yesterday, Tuesday, Feb. 21, was the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, which means it was also Pączki Day.

It's the best day of the year to eat these puffy, jelly-filled Polish pastries. Local bakeries were hard at work earlier Tuesday morning to make enough pączki to meet demand.

CRUST— a baking company began baking pączki Monday night in preparation for Tuesday morning. Workers made a variety of flavors including cream, lemon,

See **PACZKI** on 7



Lake Fenton varsity girls basketball player Kendyl Smith prepares to take a free throw during the first half of the Blue Devils eventual 59-33 victory against the Goodrich Martians. The Lady Blue Devils are 20-0 and just finished a perfect 10-0 Stars Division championship. A game later, the Lake Fenton boys also finished its season sweep of Goodrich, earning them a share of the boys Stars Division title. See story in Sports on page 19. Photo: Mark Bolen

Oakland County Transit is underway

■ Beyond service area, Rose and Holly townships could request reimbursement for own contracts

Oakland County residents will see transit services expand later this year now that the Board of Commissioners has approved contracts with four public transportation providers — SMART, North Oakland Transportation Authority (NOTA), Western Oakland Transportation Authority (WOTA), and the Older Persons' Commission (OPC) — under the countywide transportation millage approved by voters in November 2022.

See **TRANSIT** on 8



“We need more people at our history writing group at the Loose Center in

Linden on each second and forth Friday at 2 p.m. It's free and brings back memories.”



“A word has no way of hurting you unless you want it to. Words

have the power you give them.”



“Winter is not over yet. Be safe during the next winter storm coming up this week.”



Community Soup for the Soul

■ Free meal and fellowship is tomorrow Thursday, Feb. 23 in Linden

The Community Soup for the Soul event will happen tomorrow Thursday, Feb. 23. Last month's event was well received by the community and the feedback was positive.

Linden Pay It Forward invites the Linden/Fenton communities to join them for a time of fellowship and friendship as they break bread together over warm soups. Everyone is welcome.

This free event runs from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. (or until the soup is gone), at the Masonic Lodge #132 in downtown Linden at 119 N. Bridge St.

The soup menu includes taco soup, tomato bisque, bean and ham, vegetable, cheeseburger soup, gluten-free soup, breads, dessert, coffee, water, ice tea and lemonade.

Bring friends and family for a time of community fellowship over a warm bowl of soup.

Six non-profit organizations in the Linden/Fenton area have partnered to



COMMUNITY Soup for the Soul

FREE

Thursday, February 23
3:30 - 6:30 pm (or until gone)

FREE

MASONIC LODGE #132 LINDEN
119 N. Bridge St., Linden, MI

SOUP MENU

Taco Soup • Tomato Bisque • Bean & Ham • Vegetable
Cheeseburger Soup • Gluten-Free Soups • Breads • Dessert
Coffee, Water, Iced Tea, Lemonade

Bring friends & family for a time of
community fellowship over a warm bowl of soup.
EVERYONE WELCOME.

Partners: Linden Pay It Forward Community, GOD'S LOVE Foundation, Hope Lutheran of Linden, CENTER OF HOPE, MASONIC LODGE #132 LINDEN, Eastern Star Masons #422

bring the community a monthly soup night. All are welcome. Bring the kids, grandpa, grandma, aunts, uncles and yourself.

Denise Marks, president of Linden Pay It Forward, invites you to attend this soup night. The next soup day is planned for Thursday, March 23.

Marks said they also can deliver soup to the shut-ins in the Linden community.

BIRTHDAY ANNOUNCEMENT

COMPILED BY SHARON STONE

100TH BIRTHDAY

Born in 1923, Forest Melzer came into the world in Effingham, Illinois. As his dad was a farm manager, they moved a lot and settled in Walled Lake. Forest graduated from Walled Lake High School in 1942. He went to work at Willow Run Bomber Plant and was instrumental in the assembly of the first 50 B24 Bomber planes. In 1943, he enlisted in the U.S. Army in the 297th Ordinance Division of 150 men. He was shipped to Scotland and then Germany and stayed after the war ended to demilitarize the area. His highest rank was Master Sergeant. He took on the task to write newsletters, twice a year, to everyone in the company. He planned five reunions with these men over the years but they ended when COVID hit. Forest married the love of his life, Greta Johnson, on June 30, 1949. They had two children, Alan and Teresa.



Now Forest has six grandchildren and three great grandchildren. In 1950, he went to work as general supervisor for General Motors in the Buick division. He retired in 1983. Forest and Greta bought a home in Fenton and traveled in the summer to all points out west. Forest continues to enjoy life at Provision Living in Fenton and will celebrate his 100th birthday with family (from all over the country) and friends Saturday, Feb 25.



SATURDAY 7:00

80'S NIGHT!

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75th Anniversary logo and other event details.

'The Haunting of Hill House'

■ Fenton Village Players begin live performances of suspenseful thriller Friday

Are you prepared to be spooked? Do you like horror books, plays and movies? If you're interested in suspenseful thrillers, you will not want to miss the Fenton Village Players' performance of *The Haunting of Hill House*, which starts this Friday, Feb. 25 and runs through March 5 at the Fenton Playhouse, 14197 Torrey Rd., Fenton.

This play was adapted for the stage by F. Andrew Leslie and was based on the 1959 novel by Shirley Jackson.

Cut off from the outside world by its remote location and shunned by all who know its forbidding and sinister reputation, Hill House has remained empty and silent except for the daily visits of its grumbling caretaker, Mrs. Dudley.

Its isolation is broken by the arrival of Dr. Montague, an investigator of supernatural phenomena who has been granted a short lease by the present owner. His mission is to delve into the morbid history of the house and to come to grips with the occult forces that have made it uninhabitable for many years.

Montague is joined by three others, all unacquainted, but all having their

particular reasons for accepting his invitation to share his Hill House sojourn. Their visit begins with jovial informality, but their sensibilities are soon jolted by strange and eerie occurrences. As they struggle to disguise their mounting fears they are joined by Montague's wife and a friend, who have come to Hill House for purposes of their own.

They too are absorbed by the supernatural, but their approach is via direct communication with the departed spirits — a type of psychic research, which is regarded fearfully by Montague and which, as subsequent events bear out, brings on a crisis in which the evil forces of Hill House are goaded to a new and, for one of those present, fatal fury.

Daniel Ragan, director of *The Haunting of Hill House*, said this novel is the gold standard for the horror genre. He said there was a 1963 film made and then a remake in the '90s. He added that Netflix has a series based on an adaptation of the novel. He highly recommends the series.

Ragan said the Fenton Village Players' performance will be more spooky than scary and there will be some moments when you'll jump. There's no age restriction with this play.

See **HILL HOUSE** on 23



THE HAUNTING OF HILL HOUSE CAST

Elenore Vance: **Ashley Putnam**
 Theodora: **Erica Suszek**
 Dr. Montague: **Kevin Emmons**
 Luke Sanderson: **Nolan Splavec**
 Mrs. Montague: **Krystal McCoy**
 Arthur Parker: **Larry LeFerriere**
 Mrs. Dudley: **Katherine Carswell**
 Ghost: **Zackery Chapman**
 Voice of Ghost: **Sam Di Vita**
 Director: **Daniel Ragan**
 Assistant Director: **Shannon Emmons**
 Producer: **Allison Pethick**

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Sharin' the Spotlight

By Editor Sharon Stone

This is my first column since the mass shooting on Monday, Feb. 13, at Michigan State University that claimed the lives of three MSU students, Brian Fraser, a sophomore, Alexandria Verner, a junior, and Arielle Anderson, a sophomore. Brian and Arielle were from the Grosse Pointe area and Alexandria was from Clawson. Five other students remain hospitalized for treatment of gunshot wounds. They all were initially listed in critical condition, however, two of those five have improved.

The man who shot them turned the gun on himself later that night when he was confronted by police at his Lansing home.

The news of the 8:30 p.m. shooting at Berkey Hall and the MSU Union building spread quickly. Just as I was getting an alert on my phone, my son, a former MSU student now living in Miami, texted me wanting to know what was going on. I sent him the link to the police scanner on my phone and we listened. I also sent the link to my daughter, an MSU grad. As the situation over at MSU unfolded, my husband and I listened to my scanner and our kids also listened.

My husband and I are both MSU grads

Spartan Strong — but grieving loss of three students and critical injuries of five others

and anyone who knows our family knows we live and breathe green. What we were hearing on the scanner was making us sick. For the next few hours, there was one voice on the scanner we kept hearing. It was the 911 dispatcher named Aimee Barajas. I don't know how she stayed so calm, but her demeanor and professionalism was so impressive. You could tell her training had taken over and she knew exactly what to do and say. Just about every minute following the initial shootings, more 911 reports kept coming in with people saying they heard the sound of gunshots. I'm sure this wasn't helpful to all of the police agencies responding, but the entire E. Lansing community was frightened beyond comprehension and every noise or movement was cause for concern. Apparently, we were not the only ones impressed with this 911 dispatcher's composure that night. A go-fundme has raised more than \$15,000 for her and her three children.

Being one of the largest public universities in the state, it's more than likely you know someone who attended or attends MSU. It's such a small world and although this shooting happened here, it could have happened anywhere.



Sharon Stone

Schools, businesses and organizations across the country showed support for these young victims by shining green lights into the nighttime skies.

Even our biggest rival, the University of Michigan, showed its support with a very emotional pre-game tribute before Friday night's basketball game at Crisler

Arena in Ann Arbor. I missed the beginning of the pre-game dedication since I was in our car, but we could feel the support even through the radio. When we got home and turned on the TV, we saw the entire venue lit up in green and many wearing small green ribbons. I can tell you that this Spartan family appreciated that moment of solidarity.

To top things off, thousands of people went over to E. Lansing on Sunday for Spartan Sunday. Volunteers cleaned the campus, gave hugs to sad and frightened kids and just showed how much everyone cares.

Please keep all of those Spartans who went back to class Monday in your thoughts and prayers. Let's hope that the memories of their friends who lost their lives last a lifetime while the trauma they experienced that night eventually fades.

Spartan Strong.

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

What's your favorite song?



"'23' - Jimmy Eat World. I used to listen to that song when I was 14 and wonder what my life would be like at the age of 23. Now at 28, I can look back and reflect what my life was like as a 23 year old..."

Kaytie Kelly, Grand Blanc



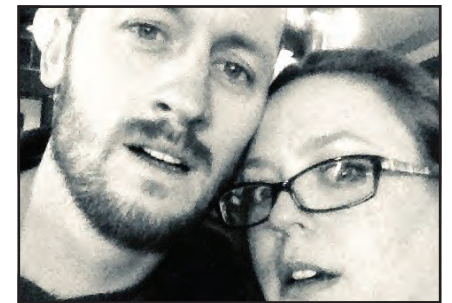
"'Who You'd Be Today' by Kenny Chesney. Reminds me of my brother, forever 31."

Andrea Hitz, Pinconning



"Sabaton, 'Soldier of Heaven.' ...their amazing lyrical genius, accompanied by powerful riffs shows the true story behind the soldiers who fought bravely for their country during WWI, regardless of what side they were on."

Nick Pretz, Fenton



"'Jigsaw Falling Into Place' by Radiohead."

Andrew Durand, Fenton

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.

HAS ANYBODY HEARD from or know how Judy the barber is doing?

■■■

I'VE BEEN SAYING for years the socialists are trying to turn our country into the third world. Look around this country and tell me I'm crazy now.

■■■

STILL WRONG. GO read for yourself. Executive Order 13526, Section 1.3 does not authorize the president or vice president to declassify anything as you claim. Section 1.3 is purely limited to 'Classification Authority.' After you actually read the order, stop deliberately spreading false information.

■■■

MY CHALLENGE STANDS:

Name one oil subsidy to a domestic oil producer that supports the development, production, and sale of automotive gasoline. All the fossil fuel 'subsidies' you and the Environmental and Energy Study Institute claim are just internal funding for Department of Energy research projects. Zero subsidies to industry.

■■■

streettalk

HOT LINE CONTINUED

WHAT I WOULD like to know is when is the news media going to interview Ingham County Prosecuting Attorney Carol Siemon, the one who let the convicted felon out free and ask her how happy she is after he shot up them poor students at MSU?

IN RESPONSE TO the Hot line suggesting the speed limit in Linden should be raised to 35 mph. Linden is still mostly residential. If you need to go that fast just so you won't be late try this — leave earlier.

DO YOU REALLY believe that we can't stop illegals from coming into this country? We certainly could if our government wanted to. First step is complete the wall Trump started, second step is stop giving illegals free healthcare, housing and schooling. This administration obviously wants them here.

MORE WELFARE FOR electric vehicle owners. Whitmer proposed \$65 million to subsidize EV chargers and \$48 million in sales and tax exemptions to EV owners. Yup, EV owners are the new welfare queens.

IT WOULD BE nice if a local senior manufactured home park would allow residents to attend board meetings to voice their opinions and concerns before rent increases and other park expenditures. Our Social Security increases didn't last very long.

WHO PICKS WHAT restaurants and stores come to Fenton? How many banks, dentists and eyeglass places do we need?

I WOULDN'T MIND getting rid of plans like Medicare and Social Security. It would be nice to have that money back in my pocket so I can invest it in the market.

TO WHITE DODGE leaving Tomek. You need to slow down. You almost hit a group of three kids and ignored two stop signs before speeding north on LeRoy Street.

SOME MEDIA PEOPLE feel Biden going to Kiev, Ukraine on Presidents Day is somehow brave, potential threat to Biden, U.S. security? U.S. enemies Russia, China, Iran, North Korea, other bad actors wouldn't consider taking Biden out. Biden in office is the best thing our enemies have going for them.

**NOTICE
CITY OF FENTON
2023 MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW**

The City of Fenton 2023 March Board of Review will meet at Fenton City Hall, 301 S Leroy St. Fenton, Michigan 48430, at the following times for the purposes of hearing protests to Assessed values and the review pf Hardship exemption applications and Disabled Veteran Exemptions.

- Monday, March 6th, 2023, 9am-3pm (Appeals)**
- Tuesday, March 7th, 2023, 2pm-6pm (Appeals)**
- Wednesday, March 8th, 2023, 2pm-4pm & 6pm-9pm (Appeals)**
- Monday, March 20th, 2023, 3pm-5pm (Appeals)**

Meetings with the Board of Review are held by appointment only. Appointments can be scheduled by contacting the Assessor's Office at (810) 629-2261, or by visiting Fenton City Offices.

Property Owners may appeal in writing to the Board of Review. Written Appeals must be received no later than 3pm Monday, March 20th, 2023.

TENTATIVE EQUALIZATION RATIO'S

CLASSIFICATION	RATIO	MULTIPLIER
COMMERCIAL	48.53	1.03029
INDUSTRIAL	43.98	1.13688
RESIDENTIAL	44.58	1.12158

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING - PAVING PROJECT FOR LAKE FOREST DRIVE, OAK TREE TRAIL, SPRINGWOOD COURT, OAK TREE COURT, REDWOOD COURT, SLEEPY HOLLOW DRIVE, FOUNTAIN VIEW COURT & STEPPING STONE LANE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF FENTON, GENESEE COUNTY, MICHIGAN

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

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that as a result of petitions of property owners within the township signed by the record owners of land whose frontage constitutes more than 50% of the total frontage of the proposed district, the Township Board of the Charter Township of Fenton proposes to repave Lake Forest Drive, Oak Tree Trail, Springwood Court, Oak Tree Court, Redwood Court, Sleepy Hollow Drive, Fountain View Court and Stepping Stone Lane, 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 properties (Lots 1-112) in the Pinnacle Shores No. 1, Pinnacle Shores No. 2 and Pinnacle Shores No. 3 platted subdivisions

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Township Board has received preliminary plans showing the improvements and an estimate of the costs of such construction in the approximate amount of \$800,000, including financing costs 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 March 7, 2023.

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

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

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Mark McCabe

67th District Court

Ask the

judge

**The Chinese spy balloon,
the law of sovereign
airspace, and more**

The Chinese spy balloon and three other balloons, which were recently seen in United States and Canadian skies and subsequently shot down (including one over Lake Huron),

**OMG!
DID YOU
HEAR?**

WELL, NEITHER DID WE!

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news@tctimes.com

continue to be in the news.

Indeed, United States Secretary of State Anthony Blinken met with a Chinese representative this past weekend in Munich, Germany to discuss the situation. What will ultimately happen is unknown, but what is known is that all four balloons were in what both international and United States law considers "sovereign airspace."

There are two basic definitions of this term.

The first is found in the 1944 Chicago Convention on International Civil Aviation and provides that every country has complete and exclusive sovereignty over the airspace above their territory or land.

The second is found in the United Nations Convention on The Law of The Sea, which states that the sovereignty of a coastal country extends beyond its land territory up to a limit of 12 nautical miles of the adjacent waters or sea and extends to the airspace over the waters.

Under federal law, the United States government has exclusive sovereignty over our airspace. Military aircraft of another country may only enter it by the authorization of the Secretary of State.

Balloons are considered aircraft.

This isn't the first time there have been airspace violations by another country or the United States.

Here are two notable examples.

In 1957, during the height of the Cold War, we constructed the Distant Early Warning (DEW) line stretching from Alaska, across northern Canada, and into Greenland. It was a connected series of radar stations to detect Russian bombers flying into United States or Canadian airspace. The system worked, as American fighters were routinely scrambled to engage and escort these aircraft out of both countries airspace.

On May 1, 1960 a U-2 spy plane, piloted by American Francis Gary Powers, was shot down by Soviet air defense forces deep inside Soviet territory. Powers was able to bail out but was captured, tried, and convicted of espionage, and sentenced to 10 years in prison. In 1962, he gained his freedom in a prisoner exchange for Russia spy Rudolf Abel.

Hopefully this will all be resolved.

Whatever happens, we showed the world that we will defend our nation at a moment's notice.



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Everyday educators

Meet KARA FRY

- Fourth and fifth grade teacher at Davisburg Elementary School



Kara Fry has taught fourth and fifth grade reading for 14 years at Davisburg Elementary School.

What's your favorite part of the day?

One of my favorite parts of the day is read aloud. Whether it's a picture book or novel, students are always engaged in the story and find ways to connect to it. They can't wait to find out what will happen next and often try to check out the book in the library so they can read ahead. This past summer, a former student's parent reached out to me and asked if I could send her the titles that I had read to her daughter's class a few years ago. Her daughter had struggled with reading, but felt that she would be able to read the books I had read on her own now. She loved the books so much that those were the ones she wanted to tackle. It was so rewarding to know that years later, students still remembered those books.

Why did you become a teacher?

I decided to become a teacher because of the millions of moments during a day that I can help kids learn and grow. I think that all children deserve a magical, happy, positive experience with school and hope that I can help create that for them. It's amazing to be there for the moments when the learning clicks, the friendships grow and students feel successful.

What's your favorite part of working in Holly?

My favorite part of working in Holly is the supportive families and staff. Teaching is hard, but when you can depend on your teaching partners, staff, and parents, it feels like teamwork.



HOLLY AREA SCHOOLS
www.hask12.org



Photos: Hannah Ball

PACZKI

Continued from Page 1

American berry, raspberry, strawberry and chocolate cayenne.

They opened at 7 a.m.

Lauren Gruber, marketing manager, said they made more than 13,000 paczki for retail, the Flint Farmers Market and for wholesalers. Their top selling flavor is cream. They sold out before they closed at 6 p.m.

Ash Wednesday is the beginning of the Lent, a Christian observance, which lasts about six weeks and ends before Easter. The holiday, and subsequent celebrations, can take place in February or March.

The term "Mardi Gras" is French. "Mardi" means Tuesday and "gras" is the word for fat.

"This name comes from the tradition of using up the eggs, milk, and fat in one's pantry because they were forbidden during the 40-day Lenten fast, which begins the next day (Ash Wednesday) and ends on Holy Thursday (three days before Easter Sunday)," according to the Almanac.

This date is also called Shrove Tuesday. "... a name that comes

from the practice of 'shriving'—purifying oneself through confession—prior to Lent. For many Christians,

Shrove Tuesday is a time to receive penance and absolution," according to the Almanac.

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M-F 9-5:30 · Sat 8-3

Waterford
7766 Highland Rd
248.642.2000
M-F 9-5:30 · Sat 8-3

Fenton
19005 Silver Pkwy
810.279.2000
COMING SOON!

TRANSIT

Continued from Page 1

OTA, WOTA, and OPC will increase their hours of operation, add more destinations, and standardize fares at \$2 per ride in their service areas.

SMART will explore service expansions in Auburn Hills, Bloomfield Hills, Farmington Hills, Keego Harbor, Novi, Orchard Lake, Pontiac, Rochester, Rochester Hills, Sylvan Lake, Troy, Waterford, West Bloomfield, White Lake, and Wixom.

“It’s fantastic to see the beginning of the expansion of public transportation across Oakland County moving forward,” said Oakland County Executive Dave Coulter. “Accessible and reliable public transportation is a critical necessity for our residents, our businesses and communities and our economy.”

County commissioners also voted Thursday, Feb. 16, to create a \$500,000 local transit reimbursement program. Communities that have a current contract or have already budgeted for public transportation services provided between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31 of this year may submit semi-annual reimburse-

ment requests with performance reports detailing ridership, services provided, and expenditures.

This could affect Holly and Rose township residents since the county-wide transit program does not reach these two townships, although the residents are paying on the countywide millage.

Holly Township Supervisor George Kullis said this reimbursement program appears to include Rose and Holly townships, however, he said they have had no communication from the county on this latest development.

As previously reported in the Times after the November 2022 election, Rose Township Supervisor Dianne Scheib-Snyder said, “The majority of Rose Township voted to oppose the transportation millage 2,557 to 807 votes. Currently, Rose Township receives \$3,078 in smart credits that are transferred to the village of Holly where we share busing services for seniors, and disabled residents, with Groveland and Holly townships. An average of 10 people from Rose Township use this busing service monthly to address their medical and shopping needs.

“This new county wide transportation tax will appear on the winter tax bill, Dec. 1, 2022 at a rate of .95 mills and will collect \$310,569 from the Rose Township property owners for a bus service that has no plan for Rose.”

Also, as previously reported in the Times following the November 2022 election, Kullis said, “It’s a fleecing of the northwestern portion of the county as the map clearly shows. All of the green area voted ‘no’ but we don’t have enough votes to out vote the southeastern urbanized portion of the county.

“This was a calculated move by the Democrats who got control of the Oakland County Board of Commissioners in 2018. So, you just forced the rural areas, which includes 30,000 acres of farmland, to support mass transit. This will double the previous budget and collect \$66,000,000 a year for 10 years, all while providing no new services to our communities.

“These initial transit contracts are a big deal,” said David T. Woodward, (D-Royal Oak), chairman of the Oakland County Board of Commissioners. “This is Oakland County’s greatest investment in public transportation ever. It’s a bold first step, which keeps our promises, expands service, and creates new routes. We’re on roll, and we won’t stop until we have better transit that’s accessible to all.”

Pending the SMART Board of Director’s approval of the Oakland County Transit Contract and the required public hearing processes necessary for route changes and expansions, SMART proposed service expansions include:

- Novi, Farmington Hills, and Wixom by extending route 305 along Grand River, route 740 on 12 Mile Road, and route 805 west from Farmington Hills to Novi
- Auburn Hills, Pontiac, Waterford, and White Lake by creating new fixed route 759 along M-59

- Troy, Rochester Hills, Rochester, and Auburn Hills by creating new fixed route 492 on Rochester Road and Walton Boulevard

- Bloomfield Hills by providing fixed route service along Woodward and adding stops in northbound and southbound lanes

- West Bloomfield, Orchard Lake, Keego Harbor, and Sylvan Lake by extending route 851 to the north on Orchard Lake Road

- Auburn Hills and Pontiac by modifying route 790 to better serve both communities

All fixed route expansion routes will provide Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) paratransit service.

“SMART is looking forward to working with Oakland County and all stakeholders on developing a long-term plan to expand and improve access to transit services in the county and the region,” said Dwight Ferrell, general manager of SMART. “Our main job is to ensure people can get to the places they need and want to go. The next critical step is to conduct an extensive public engagement effort to understand the needs in the community that will help drive us toward transit solutions that work for everyone to ride.”

The planning process to determine future public transportation needs in Oakland County will include public engagement with residents, businesses, and local officials; survey infrastructure needs and state and federal grant opportunities, and analyze market trends, transportation patterns, and costs and efficiencies.

To learn more, go to oakgov.com/OaklandTransit.

Of the \$68.2 million Oakland County Transit Millage, SMART will receive \$41.7 million, WOTA more than \$3.4 million, NOTA more than \$2.8 million, and OPC more than \$1.9 million.

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Pain or Numbness in Your Hands or Feet?

By Erica Rainer

Pain and Numbness in your hands or feet, a feeling of burning, extreme cold, tingling, electrical shock like pain, even the feeling of walking on bubble wrap or like there is a sock balled up under your foot... these are all symptoms experienced by those suffering with **Peripheral Neuropathy**. Unfortunately drugs and injections only mask the pain and there is no surgery, other than amputation, that will heal/stop neuropathy from progressing.

Neuropathy is a term used to describe damaged nerves, primarily in the hands and/or feet, that are progressively breaking down due to a lack of blood supply, nutrients and oxygen reaching the nerves along with a lack of communication from the brain. Since the nerves are what the brain uses to communicate with the area and they are breaking down, the brain's ability to communicate with the area lessens over time, allowing for the progression of more breakdown and worse symptoms. It can be caused by Diabetes, Poor Circulation, Poor Nutrition, Chemotherapy, Agent Orange, Misaligned Spinal Bones Placing Pressure on the Nerves, along with over 100 other causes. "Patients experience extreme sensations, loss of feeling, even No Feelings in their Hands and/or Feet along with muscles spasms, pain, weakness, numbness, tingling and burning and may have a very hard time with balance" says Dr. James Ide, clinic director at Painless Chiropractic & Neuropathy Treatment Center.

This condition can eventually lead to further nerve damage, causing complete loss of legs or arms leading to amputation, death or brain injury due to falls, burns or other injuries that will not heal, along with organ failure in some cases.

Are you or someone you love suffering with loss of balance, numbness or pain in your hands and/or feet that just won't heal?

You are not alone.

More than 20 Million people in the U.S. are dealing with some form of Neuropathy. Most commonly noticed first in the hands or feet, causing weakness, numbness, tingling pain and debilitating balance problems, often frustrated with no place to turn and no hope of recovery. "By the time they come to see us, they feel like they have tried everything. Their MD put them on Anti-Seizure or Epilepsy meds like Gabapentin, Neurontin, Cymbalta or Lyrica and told them they will just have to live with the pain." said Dr. Ide.

That is until now...

With recent advancements in nerve regeneration technology and treatment options, clinics all over are seeing larger success rates and faster results with their neuropathy patients.

New Medical Breakthrough for Neuropathy

The development and success of the new Neuropathy Protocols by Dr. Ide and his team at Painless Chiropractic & Neuropathy Treatment Center have been the talk of the town in recent months. "This new technology paired with our multifaceted approach, has been life altering for our patients and our clinic. There has been an increase in Neuropathy patients and the results that they are getting is truly amazing, we have 95% or higher Success Rate" said, the Patient Coordinator at the clinic. There are some things people can do at home to aide in the healing process of their neuropathy however, **healing neuropathy is an all-encompassing process that will require lifestyle changes, home care and -may or may not - include chiropractic, (varying from patient to patient) along with guidance from a medical professional that is experienced, skilled and board certified in neuropathy.**

Dr. James Ide and his skilled care team, board certified in the treatment of Neuropathy, have been treating patients for almost a decade now and judging by their reviews, they have been doing a very good job providing excellent patient care.

Your Invitation for a comprehensive Neuropathy Consultation & Examination to

determine if you are a candidate for treatment...

Our paper has teamed up with Dr. James Ide and his team once again to help our readers learn about new options for finding pain relief!

All you have to do to receive a comprehensive **Neuropathy Consultation & Examination** with the most advanced Pain Free Testing and a full, easy to understand report of findings with Dr. Ide is **Call 810-214-2532 Mention (Code: NEURO0223)** they have agreed to reduce the usual consultation & exam fee of \$210 to just \$69.



or feet to stop the pain and start living life again! "Our Neuropathy Protocol is a multifaceted approach to heal neuropathy by nurturing the nervous system, increasing circulation, blood & oxygen, working to rebuild, strengthen & balance the body, all while stimulating the damaged nerves. Revitalizing and healing the damaged areas

"I started noticing improvements very quickly! Now the pain in my feet is gone and my balance is much better already!" ~Jon P. Linden MI

But hurry, due to the number of patients the office can see, this is a limited time offer, with only 25 Appointments available at this exclusively discounted rate. These will be on a first come, first serve basis, messages left will count.

My advice, don't suffer any longer, waiting around for it to get worse... If you or your loved one is experiencing pain, numbness, tingling, pins and needle sensations, cramps and burning in your feet, or hands, along with the many other bodily symptoms this horrible condition plagues people with, take action because it will progress. Find out if their Painless Neuropathy Protocols can help you regain the feeling in your hands and

enabling them to reactivate and function at an increasingly higher rate over time, all while increasing the patients quality of life dramatically". said Dr. Ide

The clinic has a large care team of 3 doctors and a large supportive staff. Over the years they have treated thousands of patients with chronic conditions of Neuropathy, Sciatic Nerve Pain, Back & Neck problems, Whiplash along with Migraines and much more. The office is well known and has a good reputation. The vast majority of their patients enjoy superior, lasting relief. In fact, many who have suffered and tried other treatment options with no luck, only to have been told that they are just stuck with their pain and discomfort, have credited the care team at Dr. Ides office for giving them their lives back!

Call their **Fenton location 810-214-2532** for a full, thorough Consultation and extensive Neuropathy Examination at \$69 **Code:NEURO0223** (saving you \$141) to determine the severity of your neuropathy and learn if you are a candidate for care & how the team can help you recover, just as they have helped so many others.

Allergies and remedies

Spring is coming, and so is the allergy itch

What is happening when your allergies are acting up? You are suffering from an over-reaction by your immune system, which is caused by outside substances that your body mistakes for foreign intruders. Your immune system response includes the release of histamines, which cause many allergy symptoms. Seasonal allergies are caused by different pollens and spores in the air, and can cause symptoms such as runny noses, watery eyes, sneezing, congestion, and headaches.

Allergies can be more than just a small hindrance; if not managed they can lead to bigger problems such as sinus infections. With some patience and by taking certain precautions, it is possible to manage your allergies and stay comfortable.

Use these tips to help stay in good health:

- **Wearing sunglasses** will protect your eyes, which are very sensitive to air-borne pollen and dust on a windy spring day. Avoid touching your eyes, which may be covered in spores and pollen
- **Wash up!** Keep your hands clean, especially after spending time outside. After staying outside for extended periods, take a shower to remove allergens from you and relieve your symptoms.
- **Change into**

clean clothes after spending long periods of time outside. Your clothes can carry allergy agents such as pollen inside from outdoors.

- **Stay inside when you can**, and take as few trips outdoors as you need to. By limiting yourself to outside exposure, you are also limiting your exposure to potential allergens. Keep your windows and doors closed to prevent allergens from entering your home.
- **An air purifier** can be a wise purchase for those who have strong allergic responses even when indoors. The purifiers can remove spores and pollen from the air, keeping them away from you. Putting a purifier where you spend large amounts of time, such as your bedroom, is your best bet.
- **Several different types** of over the counter medicines exist to treat allergy symptoms. Antihistamines can help to reduce sneezing and itching. Decongestants help by clearing out the nasal passageways and as the name implies, relieve congestion. Eye drops can treat itchy and watery eyes.
- **Allergy shots can** offer a method to deal with allergies before they start to be a problem. The shots introduce a very small amount of an allergen to a person's body. Shots are given over time, increasing the amount of the allergen to build up the body's resistance, and helps reduce allergy symptoms.

NATURAL ALLERGY REMEDIES

• **While its effectiveness** is debated, many people believe that local honey can be a useful remedy for dealing with allergies. The honey is thought to act like an allergy shot made by nature. The honey is made up of the same nearby pollens that stimulate a person's allergies, through in a very small dose that has an immunizing effect.

• **Quercetin has anti-inflammatory** properties can is known to help block histamines. You can find doses of quercetin in onions, apples, tomatoes, lettuce and it can be purchased in supplements.

• **Stinging Nettle** is a common plant in many areas of the United States, and can have the same effect as an antihistamine, reducing sneezing and runny



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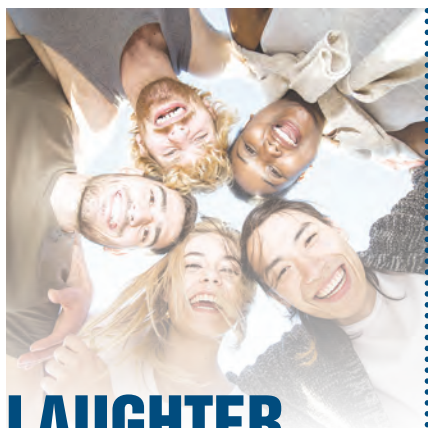
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LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDICINE

Go ahead and give it a try. Turn the corners of your mouth up into a smile and then give a laugh, even if it feels a little forced. Once you've had your chuckle, take stock of how you're feeling. Are your muscles a little less tense? Do you feel more relaxed or buoyant? That's the natural wonder of laughing at work.

— Metro Creative

Reading

to improve health

Books transport people to different times, provide a sense of escapism and introduce readers to different schools of thought. Individuals may read for pleasure and/or to expand their intellectual horizons.

It's important to note that reading also may help improve mental and physical health. With so much to gain from reading, now is a great time to embrace those book clubs, resolve to read more and explore how picking up a good book may be just what the doctor ordered.

REDUCES STRESS

Immersing yourself in a story requires focus and concentration. According to researchers at the University of

Sussex, it took just six minutes of reading for study participants to experience slower heart rates and reduced muscle tension.

Stress is one of the biggest threats to overall health, as the stress hormone cortisol can lead to inflammation in the body that may impede the immune system, according to Piedmont Health. Finding ways to reduce stress, including through activities like reading, is a win for anyone who wants to improve his or her health.

IMPACTS LONGEVITY

According to the 2016 study, "A chapter a day: Association of book reading with longevity," by Bavishi A, Slade M.D., reading exerts its influence on longevity by strengthening the mind. Reading positively impacts the way the brain creates synapses, optimizing neurological function. It also expands vocabulary, and helps with memory.

CHANGES THE BRAIN

A 2014 study published in Neuroreport determined reading involves a complex system of signaling and networking in the brain. As one's ability to read matures, these networks become stronger and more sophisticated. MRI scans found that brain connectivity increased throughout studied reading periods and for days afterward.



INCREASES EMPATHY

Through literary fiction, readers are exposed to the situations, feelings and beliefs of others. This can help a person develop a greater ability to empathize with others, according to Healthline.

HELPS IMPROVE SLEEP

Reading is an effective way to wind down and relax before going to bed. It can be a positive nighttime ritual, provided one reads a paper book or utilizes an e-reader that is not backlit, as bright lights from digital devices may hinder sleep quality. In fact, doctors at the Mayo Clinic often suggest reading as part of a regular sleep routine.

REDUCES DEPRESSIVE FEELINGS

Individuals diagnosed with depression may feel isolated and estranged from other people. Books may reduce those feelings by helping a person temporarily escape his or her world into another. Also, books can serve as a common ground through which conversations over shared interests can begin with others.

Reading has many positive health benefits, which is why resolving to read more can be beneficial.



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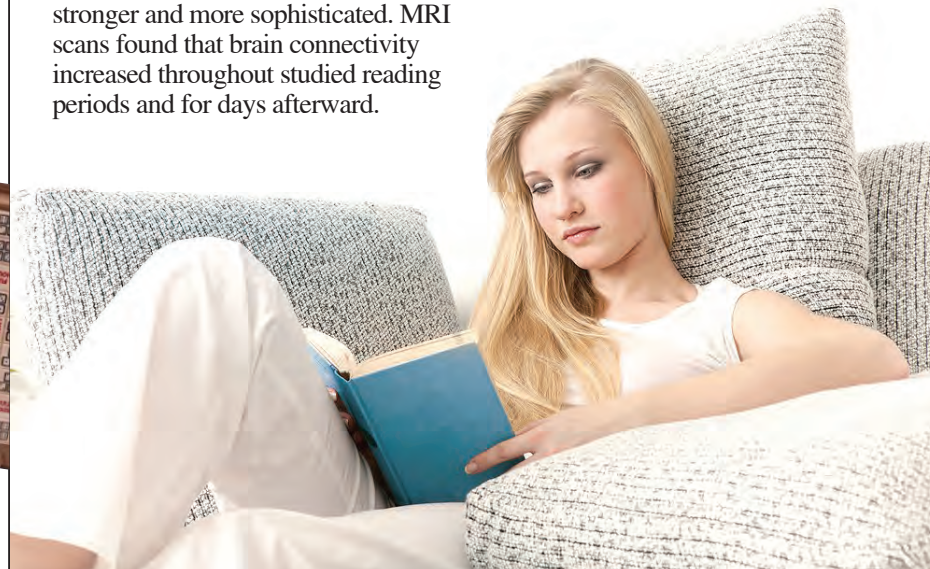
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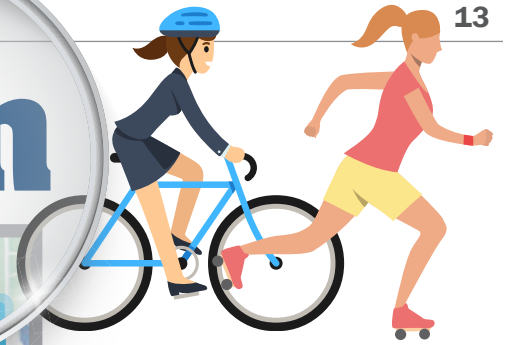
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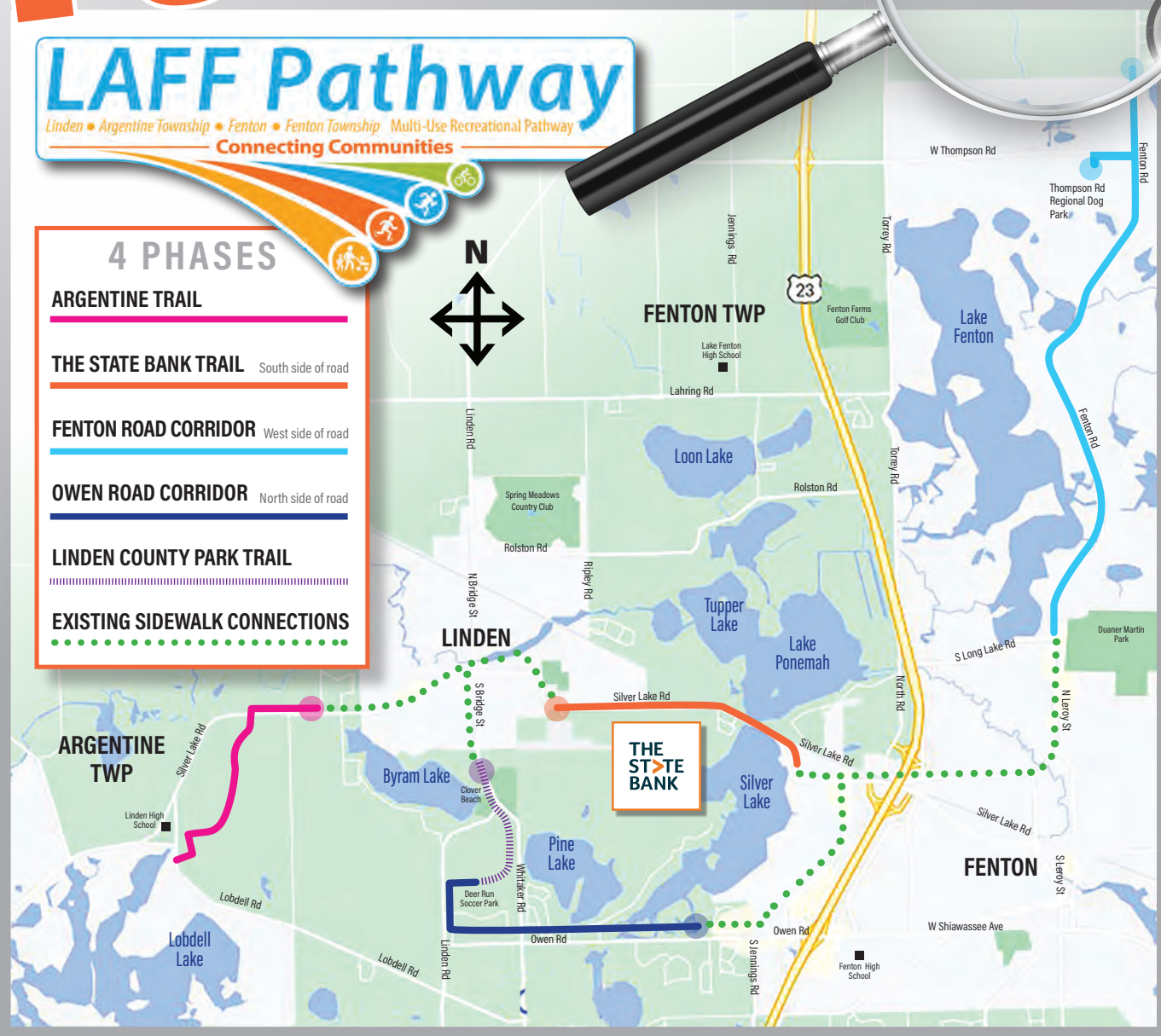
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EXISTING SIDEWALK CONNECTIONS



About the Laff Pathway

The State Bank Trail, between Fenton and Linden, is set for construction this summer. We are in the last stages of approval and fundraising. This connection will really open up safe, non-motorized travel in our community!

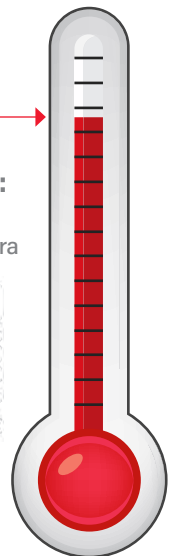
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FUNDRAISING EVENTS

■ Paddle & Pedal

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■ Flannel & Furs

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Holly Lanes

Flannel and Furs is our annual fundraiser in the dead of winter. Please join us in 2024 for another great event!

Bending over backward

Strategies to prevent back pain

Men and women are well aware that minor aches and pains are part of aging. A balky knee that acts up on rainy days or an old sports injury that still triggers periodic discomfort may not be much to worry about, but a more serious condition such as chronic back pain can be so debilitating that it's wise for individuals to do whatever they can to avoid it or delay its arrival.

Millions of cases of chronic back pain undoubtedly go unreported. That's because many individuals accept back pain as a side effect of aging, while others lack access to health care, making it difficult to pinpoint just how prevalent chronic back pain is. However, the Global Burden of Disease Study 2017 estimated that around 577 million people across the globe experience lower back pain, or LBP.

That prevalence should not give the impression that chronic back pain is unavoidable. In fact, various strategies can be employed to prevent back pain and all the negative consequences that come with it.

• **Be active.** The Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion notes that physical activity strengthens the back and lowers the risk for

developing back pain. The ODPHP recommends individuals engage in back-strengthening and stretching exercises at least two days per week. Chiropractors or personal trainers can recommend safe back-strengthening exercises, which the Mayo Clinic notes include the bridge exercise and shoulder blade squeeze. Stretches individuals can try include the knee-to-chest stretch, the lower back rotational stretch and the cat stretch.

• **Embrace new exercise routines.** Individuals accustomed to strength training that involves dumbbells and circuit training machines should know that there are other ways to build strength and benefit the back at the same time. For example, studies have shown the value of Pilates in increasing the strength of core muscles, including those in the lower back. In addition, the ODPHP recommends yoga to individuals who want to make their backs stronger and lower their risk for back pain. Many fitness facilities have long since recognized the value of yoga and pilates and now include each approach in their class schedules.

• **Perfect your posture.** Another way to prevent back pain is to make a concerted effort to maintain good posture.

The ODPHP urges individuals to avoid slouching when standing and sitting and to stand tall with head up and shoulders back. When sitting, sit with back straight against the back of the chair and feet flat on the floor. If possible, keep knees slightly higher than hips when sitting. Alternate between sitting and standing to avoid being in the same position for too long.

• **Lift correctly.** Poor technique when lifting things, even items that are not excessively heavy, can contribute to back pain. When lifting items, do so with the legs and not the back. The ODPHP urges individuals to keep their backs straight and bend at the knees or hips when lifting items. Avoid lifting especially heavy items without assistance.

Despite its prevalence, back pain is not a given. Individuals can keep various strategies in mind to avoid joining the hundreds of millions of people across the globe who suffer from back pain every day.



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Do you see what I see?

Protect your vision

The prospect of vision loss is not typically a concern for most people until a decline in visual acuity becomes noticeable. Vision changes as a person ages, and it also may be affected by injury. But there are entirely preventable factors that contribute to poor vision or diminished eye health as well.

Taking inventory of behaviors that put eyes at risk, and making important changes, can safeguard the eyes for as long as possible.

Get routine comprehensive wellness exams

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says about 93 million adults in the United States are at risk for vision loss. Factors that contribute to vision loss can include being overweight or obese, diabetes, high cholesterol, and high blood pressure. A wellness exam also may uncover family history issues that increase risk for hereditary eye conditions.

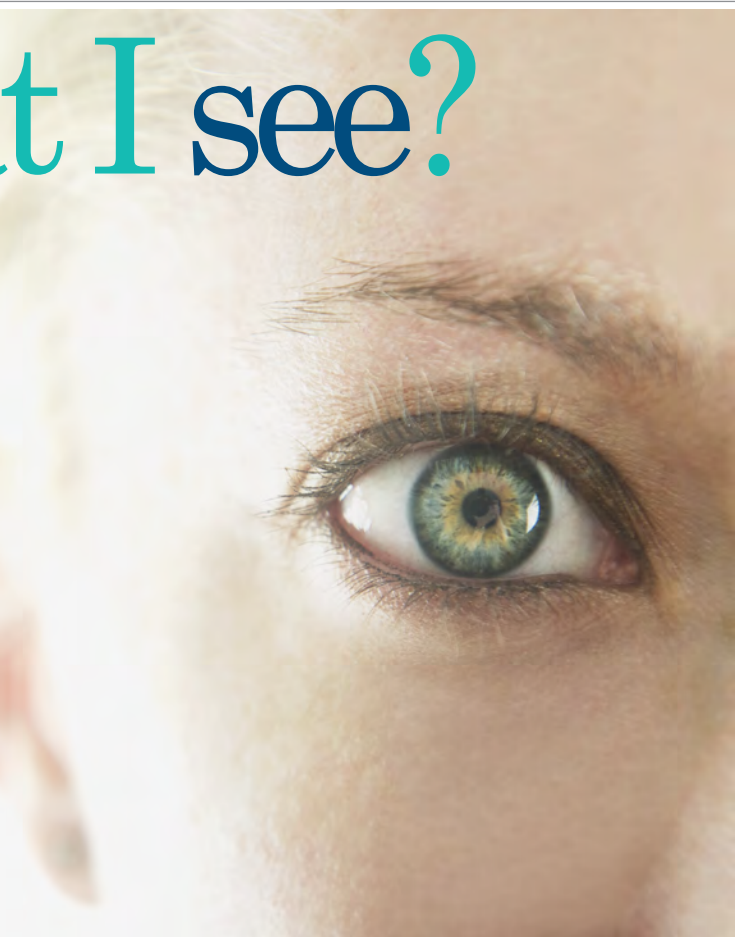
Receive a dilated vision exam

Many eye diseases, like glaucoma or age-related macular degeneration, have no warning signs, states the CDC's Vision Health Initiative. The only way to determine if there is an eye health issue or compromised vision is to get a complete vision exam, which includes dilating the pupil to see the retina, blood vessels and other components of the inner eye. This is the only way to detect diseases in their earliest stages.

Step up healthy eating

Many eye-healthy foods are rich in vitamins and minerals. Dark, leafy greens like spinach, kale and collards are good for the eyes, according to the National Eye Institute. In addition, foods rich in omega-3 fatty acids, like salmon, halibut and tuna, also are good choices for maintaining eye health, as they lower the risk for dry eyes and eye diseases such as macular degeneration and cataracts.

See **VISION** on 16



Delaying dementia

The Alzheimer's Association reports that remaining socially active throughout adulthood can possibly delay the onset of dementia. And that's not the only benefit to remaining socially engaged as an adult, which researchers have linked to reduced rates of disability and mortality. The Alzheimer's Association also indicates that social engagement may reduce the risk for depression in older adults. That's a significant benefit, as the National Council on Aging notes that the risk for

depression is elevated among older adults compared to young adults. Retirees can consider a host of ways to remain socially engaged, whether it's volunteering, participating in clubs or moving to communities tailored to individuals 55 and older. Such communities may facilitate social engagement among residents by establishing or promoting clubs, organizing group sightseeing trips and arranging for other opportunities for inhabitants to get to know their neighbors.

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Oh sugar!

High amounts of added sugars pose a significant threat to overall health

Thanks to the internet, the average consumer now has access to more information than ever before. In the days before the internet, trust factored heavily into the consumer-business relationship. Though trust still has a place in that relationship, consumers can now access product reviews on seemingly anything, removing much of the risk associated with buying a product or service. However, many consumers are not making the most of that access, particularly when it comes to buying food.

When buying food, individuals can rely on product labels to determine nutritional value. A quick glance at food labels reveals the amounts of various ingredients, including sodium and fiber, that are present in a given product. Customers may know to check for sodium content, but added sugars have long slipped under the radar. That's unfortunate, as high amounts of added sugars pose a significant threat to consumers' overall health.

WHAT ARE ADDED SUGARS?

The Mayo Clinic notes that added sugars are the syrups and sugars that are added to foods during processing.

WHAT DISTINGUISHES SUGAR FROM ADDED SUGARS?

Many foods, including fruits and vegetables, naturally contain sugar, but there's a difference between natural sugars and added sugars. Natural sugars, like those found in fruits and vegetables, contain calories and nutrients, while added sugars contain all the calories without the nutritional value.

SO WHY IS SUGAR ADDED TO FOODS AND BEVERAGES?

Manufacturers add sugars for many reasons. According to the Mayo Clinic, added sugars can provide additional flavor, serve as a preservative or a bulking agent, and balance the acidity of certain foods, such as those that contain vinegar and tomatoes.

IF ADDED SUGARS ARE SO COMMONPLACE, HOW HARMFUL CAN THEY BE?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention notes that overconsumption of added sugars can contribute to an assortment of health problems, includ-

ing obesity, type 2 diabetes and heart disease. That's especially troubling when considering just how much added sugars the average person consumes. The U.S. Departments of Agriculture and Health and Human Services update their Dietary Guidelines for Americans at least once every five years. In 2020, those guidelines recommended that individuals over the age of 2 limit their added sugar consumption to less than 10 percent of their calories per day, and that children 2 and under consume no added sugars. For individuals two and older, that translates to no more than 12 teaspoons of added sugars each day. The American Heart Association is even more cautious, urging women to consume no more than six teaspoons of added sugars per day while recommending that men limit their intake to nine or fewer teaspoons per day. Unfortunately, data from the USDA released in 2020 indicates that the average male between the ages of 2 and 19 consumed 18 teaspoons per day, while the average female in that age group consumed 15 teaspoons per day (adults age 20 and over consumed roughly the same amount of added sugars each day as young people).

SPILL THE TEA

Hot tea is widely consumed across the globe, and that could be paying healthy dividends for the billions of people who look forward to their daily cup each day. A small study published in the Journal of Hypertension found that drinking black tea could improve cardiovascular function. A separate study also found



that drinking black tea and green tea could decrease risk of stroke and coronary heart disease. Black tea drinkers should

keep in mind that, unlike most teas, black tea is caffeinated, so moderation is best to ensure the benefits of black tea are not offset by the overconsumption of caffeine.

— Metro Creative

WHAT CAN CONSUMERS DO TO AVOID OVERCONSUMPTION OF ADDED SUGARS?

The easiest thing to do to limit added sugar intake is to read product labels and avoid products with especially high amounts of added sugars. Such products may include beverages like fruit juice, soda or sports drinks; certain breakfast cereals; and baked goods and desserts like cookies, pie and ice cream.

Added sugars pose a significant threat to public health. But informed consumers can do much to eliminate this threat entirely.

VISION

Continued from Page 15

Sip on green tea

True Eye Experts says green tea is a great source of antioxidants that can keep eyes healthy and defend them from cataracts and AMD.

Wear protective eyewear

Always don sunglasses with UVA

and UVB protection when outdoors. Protective eyewear is a must for those who work in an industry that requires eye protection or athletes who play sports in which eye injuries are a consistent threat.

Discard old cosmetics

Exercise caution with outdated eye makeup. Experts suggest discarding mascara that is more than four months

old. Avoid applying eyeliner to the inside of the eyelid, as that can lead to irritation or infection.

Practice smart contact hygiene

Always wash hands before inserting or removing contact lenses. Lenses should be stored properly in cleansing solution and discarded after the recommended amount of time for the particular type of lens (daily, bi-weekly,

monthly). Unless they are approved for overnight use, remove contacts before going to bed.

Quit smoking (or don't start)

Smoking increases a person's risk of developing various eye diseases and can make diabetic eye disease more severe, says the CDC.

It's never too late to make changes that can preserve vision.

KING FEATURES Midweek Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
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ACROSS

1 Appear

5 Commotion

8 Online auction site

12 Actress Fisher

13 Part of DJIA

14 Dell

15 Youthful countenance

17 Laundry appliance

18 Soft leather

19 Columns of light

21 Pro votes

24 Numerical prefix

25 July's stone

28 It ain't worth a nickel

30 Prattle

33 "Life — cabaret ..."

34 Stuns, as a perp

35 "Bali —"

36 Chum

37 Sharif of "Funny Girl"

38 Wild guess

39 Run after K

41 For fear that

43 "No cheating!"

46 Eucalyptus eater

50 Thames town

51 Temporary mental fatigue

54 Dazzle

55 Here, in Dijon

56 Slangy suffix

57 Skater Lipinski

58 Muppet eagle

59 Dance partner?

DOWN

1 Bloodline sharers

2 Jacob's twin

3 North Sea feeder

4 "Help!"

5 Oklahoma city

6 Elmer, to Bugs

7 Has bills

8 Perrier rival

9 Brawl that's broken up by a bouncer

10 Oodles

11 Desires

16 Tina of "30 Rock"

20 Colorations

22 Wax-coated cheese

23 Twine fiber

25 Wardrobe malfunction

26 "Suits" network

27 Jim Bouton book

29 Simple

31 Small battery

32 Clothing protector

34 Writer Morrison

38 Gems

40 Food from heaven

42 Enjoy Aspen

43 Optimum

44 Jazzy James

45 Baseball stats

47 Roundish 'do

48 Lake bird

49 Awestruck

52 Nipper's co.

53 Goal

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Midweek Sudoku

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

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

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

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

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

Judging by the files, we're going to be here for a while. I'm going to let my wife know I'll be late tonight. My fingers are numb. 12/9

WITH SO MANY CASES ON THE DOCKET, THE COURT SYSTEM WAS EXPERIENCING ---

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

Horoscopes

For the week of February 20, 2023

ARIES
Mar 21/Apr 20
Opportunity awaits you, Aries. You just need to know where to look to get the best deal. Start chasing after your heart's desire because you could just get it this week.

TAURUS
Apr 21/May 21
A financial windfall could be just over the horizon, Taurus. Stay the course over the next several days and wait and see what falls into your lap. You may be very surprised.

GEMINI
May 22/June 21
People in your life want the best for you, Gemini. Accept their support and good wishes and use each as a guiding light when challenges arise.

CANCER
June 22/July 22
The stars are all but shouting that you need some self-care right now, Cancer. Put aside all of the tasks you think you need to do and turn attention to tending to your own needs.

LEO
July 23/Aug 23
Leo, your love interest seems like he or she is keeping something from you, but avoid drawing any conclusions. A surprise may be in store for you.

VIRGO
Aug 24/Sept 22
Virgo, take it slow may be the advice that is coming your way, but that might be hard right now. Your time is in demand and many people are seeking your expertise. Take a breath.

LIBRA
Sept 23/Oct 23
You don't have to travel too far to find happiness this week, Libra. It's in all the small things around you. No extraordinary gestures are needed to make you smile.

SCORPIO
Oct 24/Nov 22
Scorpio, a potential love match could be on the horizon. Approach this with caution, but don't be afraid to share your thoughts and dreams with someone special.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov 23/Dec 21
Be careful when sharing your deepest desires and secrets, Sagittarius. There are many people you can trust, so make an effort to identify them before opening up.

CAPRICORN
Dec 22/Jan 20
Capricorn, your dreams can take you far, but smarts and action need to factor into the equation as well. Start fleshing out your plan and get moving.

AQUARIUS
Jan 21/Feb 18
Your friends can be a great help when you need some relationship advice this week, Aquarius. Seek their input and factor it into any decision you make.

PISCES
Feb 19/Mar 20
Pisces, if a friend or family member causes drama for you, don't let it get in your way. Offer to help but be ready for this person to seek their own path.



Photo taken February 15



Submitted photos

REBUILDING

Continued from Page 1

tive bricks to allow people to own a piece of the Holly Hotel. The West Wall Salvage Bricks, which are 130 years old, are available for purchase. They

come with a certificate of authenticity signed by George and Chrissy Kutlenios, who have been the proprietors since 1978.

The west well was completely taken down and portions of the roof had to be redone. Once structure work is

complete, contractors will begin work on the electric system, plumbing and interior decorating and designing.

Chrissy said it's hard to say how much longer construction will take. She said once the major construction to the roof is done, the rest should go quickly. The timeline depends on the supply chain. She said it's hard to say how much insurance will cover.

The Kutlenios' receive questions about the building and reopening "all the time," Chrissy said.

They maintain an active Facebook page for the Holly Hotel that is liked by more than 15,000 people, which allows them to update their customer base on the building's progress.

"We have a big customer base and it extends far beyond Holly," she said. "There's an online presence that we have maintained throughout the

shutdown. You can see all the nice comments."

Customers frequently share their memories of the Holly Hotel with the owners. Someone who was married at the Holly Hotel sent Chrissy the photos with a supportive message.

Andrea Chapin, owner of **Andy's Place**, said they're meeting with Belfor Restoration this week. If weather doesn't pose a challenge, they're expecting to receive their new food truck this week. Chapin's goal is to get it up and running for spring so Andy's Place can once again serve food. They plan to be out at local happenings and surrounding community events

"We're hoping to keep that path to Andy's Place warm," she said. "Stay tuned for further developments. We're still alive. We've just got to keep our names out there."



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Fenton finishes perfect Stripes season, defeats Linden

By David Troppens

The honors are starting to pile up for the Fenton varsity boys basketball team.

The squad is more than the Flint Metro League Stripes Division champions. The Tigers

are now the undefeated division champions after beating the Linden Eagles for the third time this season. They won an 89-55 contest at home in a game that included a few records.

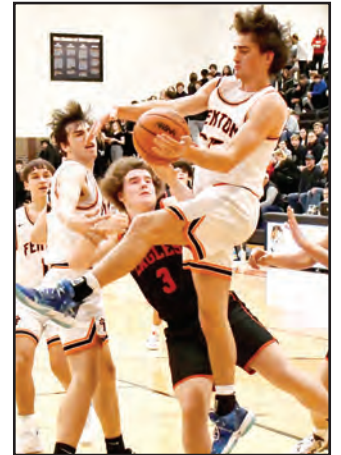
First off, Sam Dillard II hit

seven three-pointers, tying the individual school record with three other players. Second, the team nailed 15 treys, which broke a school record.

“It was an amazing night for us,” Fenton varsity boys bas-

ketball coach Chad Logan said. “We had a chance to be undefeated in our division earning it against our rivals, and they were able to accomplish it. I always

have something for each game See **FENTON** on 21



Fenton's Gage Graham fights to keep possession of the ball.

Photo: Christopher Summers

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2023 | PAGE 19 | MYFENTON.COM/SPORTS

Sports Times

LF hoops teams finish fantastic sweep of Martians

■ Lake Fenton boys earn sweep vs. Goodrich, earn share of Stars crown

By David Troppens

Lake Fenton — In front of a full house, the Lake Fenton varsity boys basketball team made a little history Friday night on its own home court.

Needing a victory to earn a spot in the Flint Metro League's first-ever crossover championship tournament, the Blue Devils completed its first two-game season sweep of the Martians since the 2015-16 season by defeating Goodrich 60-51.

The win means the Blue Devils finished in a three-way tie for first place in the Stars Division with Corunna and Goodrich (all were 8-2), but earned the second seed in the championship tournament due to tiebreakers. Corunna earned the top spot while Lake Fenton earned the second position due to its season sweep of Goodrich.

“It feels great,” Lake Fenton senior Gavin Tefner said. “Being able to beat Goodrich twice my senior year, it was some-

thing we were unable to do last year. And it feels great to secure a share of this division title.”

“This means a lot for us,” said Coleson Lessner who hit six straight free throws late in the contest to ice the victory. “We’ve been waiting for this game

See **STARS** on 20



Both Lake Fenton varsity basketball teams walked off the court at Lake Fenton High School with Stars Division championships after finishing season sweeps of Goodrich on Friday. The Lake Fenton girls are 20-0 overall while the boys finished the Stars Division season at 8-2. Both are competing in the Metro League championship tournament which started on Tuesday. Photos: Mark Bolen

■ Lady Devils dominate Goodrich, complete perfect league regular season

By David Troppens

Lake Fenton — It's still the regular season and the Lake Fenton varsity girls basketball team continues to add to its already impressive resume.

On Friday, they added a few more credentials to it against Goodrich.

The Blue Devils became the first-ever 20-0 varsity basketball team in school history regardless of gender, became an undefeated outright Flint Metro League Stars Division champion and jammed the stands again in what was a pretty overwhelming 59-33 victory against the Martians.

Could one ask for a better way to celebrate Senior Night? Let's ask the Blue Devils' two seniors — four year varsity player Cola Sisk and first-year player Makenna Clement — what they think.

“Senior year has been great,” Sisk said. “Being 20-0 my senior year is great. It can't get much better than that. It means a

lot. Every single year has been so good for this team since I've been on it, but every season has gotten better and better. We have a better record, a better team and better chemistry. Everything has gotten better every year with his so good and amazing.”

“It was definitely worth the wait,” Clement said about having to sit out last season due to transferring from Byron. “This is such a fun season. (Twenty wins) is amazing. It's a different environment here. It's better and healthier, and we mesh so good. We get along. Honestly, it's awesome to be part of something like that because we are making history. Not a lot of teams can do that, but we've made history the last couple of games with a couple of different records.”

“(The 20-0 start) leaves me almost at a loss of words,” Lake Fenton varsity girls basketball coach

See **DEVILS** on 22

Nine area Metro grapplers headed to Ford Field

By David Troppens

The tri-county area's Flint Metro League schools will be sending nine wrestlers to the D2 individual state wrestling finals.

Three will leave to the meet at Detroit's Ford Field as regional champions.

Fenton's Philip Lamka (165), Lake Fenton's Clay Cook (113) and Linden's Bryce Shingleton (126) earned regional titles at the D2 Cadillac regional.

All had tight championship matches, earning decision wins. Cook (47-3)

defeated John Glenn's Ruben Rivera by a 4-3 decision in his championship match. He won his first match by technical fall and the second by major decision. Shingleton (42-2) won his finals match against DeWitt's Trenden Bashore by a 5-2 decision. He won his first two matches by pinfalls. Lamka (40-2) won his first match by pinfall and his second by technical fall before beating Goodrich's Max Macklem by a 7-4 decision in the title match.

One other area wrestler competed in the finals, but settled for a runner-up

spot. Lake Fenton's Noah Hall (150) won his first match by pinfall and his second by decision. However, Hall (49-2) lost to Petoskey's undefeated grappler Trevor Swiss by a 10-4 decision.

Five others will advance to the state tourney with third- or fourth-place finishes. Linden has three of them. Jase Grundy (190), Adonia Delgado (138) and Michael Bush (175) each finished in fourth place. Lake Fenton has the other two. Ty Johnson (144) and Jack Conley (150) each placed third at the meet.

Heethuis, Owens looking for one more state title each

By David Troppens

Two past tri-county area wrestlers will be competing for another state championship at Ford Field when the individual state wrestling meet begins on March 3.

Detroit Catholic Central wrestler and Linden resident Drew Heethuis (132) will be competing to earn his third D1 individual state champion-

ship while Powers wrestler and Fenton resident Connor Owens (165) will be competing for his second in the D3 tourney.

Heethuis (46-1) dominated his regional meet, earning first-round pinfall wins in each of his three matches. The first two game in less than a minute, with the faster one being a 38-second pin of Salem's Ayush

Kunjadia in the semifinal. Once in the championship match, Heethuis defeated Northville's Zephan Catalina by pinfall in 1:45.

Owens (23-1) also won his first two matches by pinfall. He defeated Ida's Kenneth King in the quarterfinal by in just 45 seconds. He won his finals match against Dundee's Jacob Fenbert by a 7-3 decision.



Joey Spencer will return to the boxing ring for his biggest professional fight of his career when he fights in the co-main event bout during Showtime's pay per view event against Jesus Ramos on March 25. **By: Trappfotos**

Spencer fighting in co-main event on Showtime PPV

By David Troppens

Linden's "Small Town Soldier" has hit the big time.

Joey Spencer will be the co-main event for the Showtime pay per view event on March 25 when he faces Jesus Ramos in what is certainly Spencer's strongest competition to date.

"Let's go," Spencer wrote on his Twitter account about the fight. "Time to see who's ready to move up to the next level."

Both are undefeated. Spencer's (16-0) last fight was Sept. 4 against Kevin Salgado Zambrano, a unanimous decision victory. Spencer has recorded 10 knockouts among his 16 pro fights. Still only 22, Spencer's climb has been reasonably quick. His first fight was Feb. 17, 2018.

Ramos' first professional bout was a TKO victory on May 26, 2018, and his most recent victory was a unanimous decision against Luke Santamaria on March 28, 2022. Ramos is 19-0 with 15 knockouts. He's a southpaw who stands 5-foot-10 with a 72-inch reach. He's even younger, 21, than Spencer. This will be the first time Spencer has fought at the professional level against a younger opponent. Spencer is listed at 5-10 with a 70-inch reach.

STARS

Continued from Page 19

the whole season. We just came into it knowing we were going to win. I think it was our energy. Our energy really helped us and it was our want to win."

"This is the first time since we came into the Metro League we've won a division championship," Lake Fenton varsity boys basketball coach Tyler Szczepanski said. "We are a young team in the Metro League but to win your division in the league speaks to how these guys have played the whole season in our conference, all 10 games. We had some ups and downs and some challenges, and these guys got in the right frame of mind and played well when we needed it the most. And through it, we won a championship game tonight."

The Blue Devils (13-6) got off to a flying start, jumping to a 12-2 lead after a fastbreak layup, foul and converted free throw by Lessner, but the Martians fought back into the contest. Lake Fenton hit on just 2-of-10 shots in the second quarter and the Martians eventually took the lead. A

three-pointer by Zack Lagant gave the Martians their first lead at 19-18, and a layup by Jack Locey near the end of the half put the Martians up 23-20 at the half.

"It was a simple message (at halftime) — just keep playing the game," Szczepanski said. "We didn't get down on ourselves. ... Sure we wanted to be up at halftime, but we wanted to make sure the message was to keep doing what we wanted to do, and the guys came out, played hard and stuck with it. I give them all the credit for the way they played."

The Blue Devils hit on 8-of-13 shots in the third quarter, and tied the game at 30-all on a hoop by Lessner with 3:28 left in the third. The Blue Devils kept the heat on. With Lake Fenton leading by just a 34-33 score after a three-pointer by Goodrich's Gavin Hart, the Blue Devils finished the quarter with the final four points. The first two came on a Ashton Hunter layup, and the final two came on a jumper by Lessner. Lake Fenton led 38-33 entering the fourth.

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM



Lake Fenton's Ashton Hunter drives to the lane in the Blue Devils' victory against the Goodrich Martians. **Photo: Mark Bolen**



The Lake Fenton (top photo) and the Fenton varsity competitive cheer teams (below photo) earned a spot in regional action at their district meets. The Tigers took third at its home D2 district, while the Blue Devils placed fourth in its home D3 district. **Photos: Mark Bolen**

Fenton, LF cheer teams headed to regional meets

By David Troppens

There's no better way to get a team focused for big tournaments than by hosting the event.

Familiar surroundings seemed to create positive vibes for two area competitive cheer teams, as district hosts Fenton and Lake Fenton advanced to the regional round at their own district meets.

The top four squads in each district advanced to the regional round and Fenton placed third in its D2 district at home. Meanwhile, Lake Fenton placed fourth in its D3 home district.

At Fenton, the Tigers posted a three-round total score of 726.82, a score about 26 points ahead of fifth-place Kearsley. The Tigers got some nice revenge against the Swartz Creek Dragons, finishing a place higher than this season's Metro League champion (714.72). Marysville (749.08) won the meet while Walled Lake Western was second (734.70).

Linden and Holly also competed, with the Eagles placing eighth (662.68) and Holly placing ninth (584.92).

At Lake Fenton, the Blue Devils placed fourth, qualifying ahead of fifth-place Freeland by about 15 points. Lake Fenton scored a 609.72, while district champions Charlotte recorded a 760.62. Powers (720.32), and Birch



Run (694.40) were the other two qualifying teams into regionals.

The Tigers were consistently in third place during the meet, posting the third-best score in round one (218.50). They had the best score in round two (208.62) but remained in third place entering the final round. In it, the Tigers had the third-best round three score (299.70), solidifying their spot into the regional round.

Lake Fenton was just .2 points out of fourth after round one in its D3 district (210.60), but then recorded a 199.72 round two score, which put them in fourth, about 12 points ahead of fifth-place Freeland. The Blue Devils locked up their spot with a 280.40 final round score.

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM



The Linden/Fenton/Lake Fenton co-op gymnastics team placed second at the Lakes Valley Conference on Saturday.

LFLF gymnastics squad places second at Lakes Valley Conference meet

By David Troppens

The Linden/Fenton/Lake Fenton (LFLF) gymnastics team finished its Lakes Valley Conference season in second place.

Meanwhile, Keira Sadler earned first place in the Division 1 category in conference action with an all-around score of 35.625, earning the top score in each event in D1 action. She won the beam with her highest score of the season (9.20), and also won vault (8.70). She also placed first on the beam (8.85) and first on the floor (8.875).

Others had strong showings. Molly Dixon was fourth in the all-around in D2 action (32.675) while Dayne Stucky was sixth (32.175). Mia

Brown also finished in the top 10 in the all-around (31.475).

Dixon finished third on the floor (8.925) and fourth on the vault (8.65). She also placed seventh on the beam (8.00).

Stucky's best placing was a fifth on the vault (8.60). She also had a counting team score on the beam (7.575). Brown took sixth on the bar (8.075) and 10th on the floor with her highest score of the season (8.30). She also recorded her best vault score of the season (8.30).

Other LFLF performers saw Alida Smith place third on the bar (8.125) and a 7.6 score on the beam; Neveah Hatfield took eighth on the bar (7.875); and Sophia Markley an 8.90 score on the floor.

FENTON

Continued from Page 19

and the thing tonight was 'undefeated doesn't happen very often,' and tonight the stars were aligned, we made some shots and finished undefeated."

The game remained close for a good chunk of the first half. The Eagles tied the game at 12-all after a three-pointer by Tyler Willard, but the Tigers finished the first quarter on a 13-4 run. The run was started by a three-pointer by Dillard, and continued with a putback hoop by Ja'Hion Bond. Fenton (15-5 overall and

10-0 in the Stripes Division) led 17-12 with 2:56 left in the first quarter. Linden (4-15, 2-8) cut the gap to 17-14 with another Willard hoop, but Dillard followed with another trey, raising the gap back to 20-14. The Tigers went on to take a 25-16 lead after one quarter.

Bond and Dillard had huge first halves. Bond scored 20 and Dillard netted 15, enabling the Tigers to take a 52-30 lead into halftime. Dillard tied a career-high with 29 points while Bond also tied a career-high with 23 points.

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM

Holly boys roll past Kearsley

By David Troppens

The Holly varsity boys basketball team had itself a pretty impressive regular season.

A year ago, the squad finished 3-7 in the Flint Metro League Stripes Division and 9-11 overall. This season the Bronchos are currently 15-4, posted an 8-2 Stripes Division record and are still in the hunt for the Flint Metro League championship.

The Bronchos ended its Metro regular season with a 74-56 crushing of Kearsley.

Kearsley started a little bit on fire, scoring the game's first six points, but then the Bronchos responded with Ka'Vion Smith, who continues to get stronger later in the season. He hit a three-pointer and scored eight first-quarter points, leading the Bronchos to a 17-11 lead after one quarter.

Kearsley stayed in the contest during the second quarter, being outscored just 13-12 by Holly. However, the Bronchos led 20-23 entering the half.

Holly blew the game open in the third quarter. Andrew Lewis scored 10 of his 21 points during it. Kearsley couldn't keep up, and trailed 54-34 entering the final quarter.

Bowen Moore locked up the victory in the fourth quarter for Holly, netting 14 points in the final eight minutes. Moore led all scorers with 25 points, while Lewis finished with 21 points. Smith chipped in 17 points while Tony Simmons had eight points.

Lady Bronchos lose heartbreaker vs. Hornets

By David Troppens

The Holly varsity girls basketball team trailed at one time by 17 in the third quarter against the Kearsley Hornets.

The Bronchos fought all the way back and took a 37-35 lead with just 15.5 seconds left after Annabelle Basham hit two free throws breaking a 35-all tie.

But, then came heartbreak.

Kearsley's Jasmine Wiesell

hit a three-ponter with 3.9 seconds left, giving the Hornets a 38-37 victory.

Holly had a chance at an inbound, but were unable to get a shot off.

Holly still trailed 33-24 entering the fourth and trailed by as many as 10, 35-25, during the fourth quarter. However, the Bronchos heated up and went on a 12-2 run. It started with a

inside hoop by Alana Simmons and she continued it with two more made field goals. It ended with Basham's free throws with 15.5 seconds left. Of course, Wiesell's winning trey came about 12 seconds later.

Simmons led the Bronchos with 16 points while Ella Azbell and Makena McGee had five points each. Wiesell led the Hornets with 14 points.



Lake Fenton's Kendyl Smith attempts a shot in the Blue Devils' victory against Goodrich. Photo: Mark Bolen

DEVILS

Continued from Page 19

Karlie Dieck said. "I'm so proud to be the coach of this group of girls. I know they were able to do it, and that's something we talked about at the beginning of the season. We have the potential to go undefeated this season. We have the potential. We just have to rise to our potential."

That potential was displayed Friday night. A lot like the first meeting, the game was close at halftime, with Lake Fenton enjoying just a 26-21 lead. However, unlike the first game, the Blue Devils pretty much made it a blowout with its impressive defensive effort. Lake Fenton held the Martians to just 12 second-

half points, which may have actually upset the squad a tiny bit. After all, the goal at halftime was to hold Goodrich to just 10 second-half points.

"We really knew we had to keep them under 10 points this half, and we knew we had to push and we had to force them to take rushed shots, make them not take the shots they are used to," Sisk said. "I think we did that really well. We kept the pressure up and we played well in the second half together."

Goodrich was only able to make 3-of-20 shots in the second half. The Blue Devils nailed 12-of-22 shots in the final 16 minutes, with four of those field goals being three-pointers.

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM



Linden's Olivia Mawhinney tries to dribble by Fenton's Isabella MacCaughan during Linden's 50-27 victory on Friday. Photo: Christopher Summers

Lady Eagles in Metro title tourney, defeat Fenton Tigers

By David Troppens

The Fenton varsity girls basketball team made it close battle with neighborhood rivals Linden for more than a half on Friday at Fenton High School.

However, the Tigers were unable to keep a consistent offense going while Linden scored 32 second-half points, earning a 50-27 Flint Metro League Stripes Division victory against the Tigers.

The win earned the Eagles second outright in the Stripes Division and the right to play Lake Fenton at Lake Fenton Tuesday in the opening round of the Metro League's cross-over championship tournament. Results of that game weren't known at press time. The winner of that game will play in the title game Friday at 5:30 p.m. against either Goodrich or Flushing at Fenton High School.

The two rivals battled to a pretty strong defensive first half. Fenton tied the contest up at 6-all on a fast break layup

hoop by Naomi Durant with 1:45 left in the opening quarter, but Linden ended the quarter on a 9-1 run, capping the run with back-to-back three-pointers by Kelsey McLennan and Shaye Barkholz. The Eagles led 15-7 after one quarter.

The Tigers fought back, starting the quarter on an 8-2 run. The run was capped by a putback hoop by Madison Slezinski, cutting the Linden lead to just 17-15. Linden led just 20-17 at halftime.

Fenton cut the gap to 20-18 after a converted free throw by Keegan Weddle just 30 seconds into the third quarter, but the Eagles went on a 13-2 run to blow the game open. The run started with two converted free throws by Meg Widner and concluded with a driving hoop by Barkholz. Linden led 33-20 and the lead was never threatened again. Linden's defense held Fenton to just two second-half field goals and just 10 points.

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HILL HOUSE

Continued from Page 3

Being a trained magician, he'll even perform some magic tricks, which will make the performance feel more real.

The various versions of The Haunting of Hill House have a very

diverse base and Ragan said he tried to sprinkle in little things for that wide fan base.

Purchase tickets online at <https://fvp.ludus.com/index.php>, at Fenton's Open Book, 105 S. Shiawassee Ave., Fenton or at the door starting one hour before showtime.



The Fenton Village Players' cast for The Haunting of Hill House goes over the script in preparation for the play, which begins this Friday, Feb. 24.



The FVP cast holds dress rehearsals this week in anticipation of opening night, this Friday, Feb. 24.

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