



Fenton's Cox caps diving career a three-time All-Stater
SEE SPORTS PAGE 11

Midweek **Times**

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24-year-old Fenton man sentenced to jail

■ Fenton man was previously arrested in shooting death of 18-year-old in 2017

By Hannah Ball

A 24-year-old Fenton man was sentenced to 72 days in jail on Thursday, Feb. 20 on charges of disturbing the peace.

Abdurahman “Abdu” Ahmed Akl, 24, was arraigned on Jan. 8. The offense date was Jan. 4.



Abdurahman Ahmed Akl

See **JAIL** on 19

21-year-old, 16-year-old arrested after alleged violent crime, car theft

■ Suspect's mother transported to hospital in serious condition

By Hannah Young

A 21-year-old Macomb County man and 16-year-old Holly female resident were arrested after allegedly committing multiple crimes in Holly and other municipalities.

Joseph Matthew McDonough, 21, and an un-

See **ARRESTED** on 8



Joseph McDonough



ChoiceOne Bank celebrates merger

ChoiceOne Bank CEO Kelly Potes, center with the scissors, celebrates after cutting the ceremonial ribbon to mark the consolidation of The State Bank with and into ChoiceOne Bank in Fenton on Monday, March 17. To the left of Potes is Ronald Justice, Fentura CEO and president, and behind Justice is ChoiceOne President Michael Burke, Jr. See story on page 11. Photo: Hannah Ball

Open burn causes 25-acre fire in Tyrone Township

■ Fire occurred near Denton Hill and Rohn Roads

By Hannah Young

Tyrone Twp. —The City of Fenton Fire Department is advising Tyrone Township residents to be cautious when burning. This

come after embers from an open burn on Friday, March 14 caused a fire to spread on 25 acres near Denton Hill and Rohn Roads in

See **FIRE** on 9



Photo: Hannah Young



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Fenton officials plan to upgrade millpond, gazebo area

■ Project includes expanding sidewalks, making area more accessible

By Hannah Ball

Fenton — Fenton City officials are hoping to be approved for a \$1 million grant in order to upgrade the downtown millpond and gazebo area.

The Millpond Park Gazebo Plaza Project includes improving access to the gazebo area, redoing the deck outside of Fenton City Hall that faces the gazebo, expanding the sidewalks on the street, redoing the sidewalks around city hall and more.

On Monday, Jan. 27, the Fenton City Council approved a resolution to apply for the \$1 million Revitalization and Placemaking Program through the Michigan Economic Development Corporation for this project.

The estimated cost of the project is \$2.2 million. The Fenton Downtown Development Authority will contribute approximately \$1.2 million.

Mike Hart, assistant city manager and executive director of the Fenton Down-

town Development Authority, said the city's goal is to better accommodate people and accessibility needs in this area while doing maintenance work and upgrading the facilities. He estimated they've had approximately 3,000 people in the park area, on the street and across the street for a concert at one time in the summer.

Hart said one goal is to make the area more accessible. One part of the project is building a ramp with transitional grade from the sidewalk down to the gazebo.

The city will also expand the sidewalks along the streets, which will create an improved seating area for during concerts and other events. This project would allow the city to enhance the space around the Butterfly Garden by building more sidewalks.

The plaza area around the gazebo will be improved. "There's a lot of costs involved in just the surface area



This render shows what the pedestrian bridge in downtown Fenton will look like after construction.

around the gazebo," said Fenton City Manager Lynn Markland.

The project includes building a deck over the exposed tree roots at the river where people often fish and installing a sculpture and lighting. Markland said they've consulted with an arborist and came to the conclusion that some trees need to be removed. "It's an area that needs to be redone," Markland said.

The part of the river where stagnant

water sits, also called the raceway, will be enclosed in culverts underground. The gazebo space will be built out to extend over the raceway.

The project encompasses redoing all the sidewalks that surround Fenton City Hall.

Hart said to the best of their knowledge, the current building was built in the 60s or 70s and the wrap-around concrete sidewalks were also constructed at this time. Hart said this concrete

has been repaired over the years but he's not sure if it's ever been fully replaced.

"All of the wrap-around is going to be upgraded," Hart said.

City staff began working on this project in 2020. Markland said earlier this year, they began working with OHM to apply for a RAP grant. It requires a 50% match from the municipality.

However, Hart said grants are cur-

See **UPGRADE** on 7

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Linden Varsity Quiz Bowl team advances to state tournament

■ Tournament will take place on Saturday, April 12
By Hannah Young

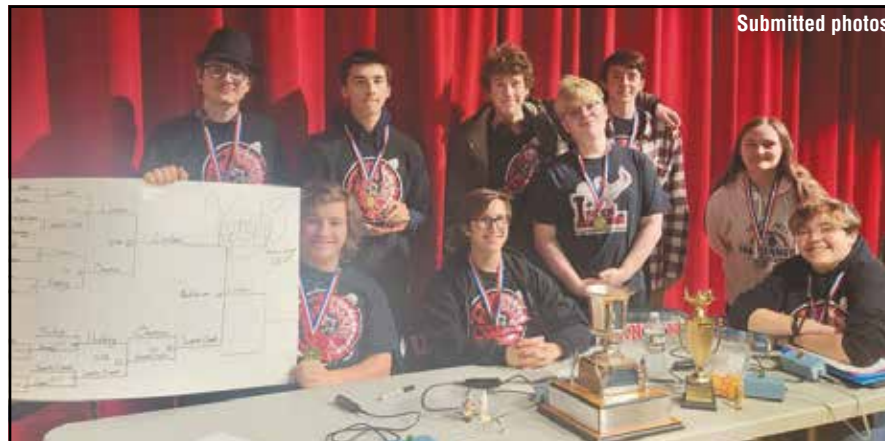
Linden High School's Varsity Quiz Bowl finished as Flint Metro League champions and are now advancing to the next level.

The team finished the year 38-0 in league play and is headed to the state tournament Saturday, April 12 at University of Michigan Ann Arbor.

"It's a very stressful game but it's still a lot of fun," said Alex Harvey, co-captain of the Varsity Quiz Bowl team. "I think I speak for all of us when we say we felt pretty accomplished especially with our win streak."

This year is the Varsity Quiz Bowl team's fourth year advancing to the state tournament, which is held annually at University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. The last time the team qualified for nationals was in 2006 when the team finished third as a Class B school, according to Dan Schneider, coach of the Quiz Bowl team and an English teacher at Linden High School.

"We usually practice after school on Tuesdays," Harvey said. "We usually start with our coach reading off toss ups and then we usually do a scrimmage which is just a practice match. We split



Quiz Bowl Varsity Team Members

- Stephen Dion
- Zosha LaCelle
- Addison Melvin
- Alex Eaton
- Luke Love
- Caleb Petty
- Alex Harvey
- Olin Mann
- Harrison Thoma



our team into two and we have one of the captains on each team."

The team is questioned on a wide variety of topics from history, science, pop

culture, sports to even mythology. Most of the questions include vocabulary.

"You want to have a good balance,"

See **QUIZ BOWL** on 10

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Young Wisdom

March is the month of leprechauns, four leaf clovers and just being lucky. Luck is also the new optimism. The secret? Look at everything like it was meant to happen and take one gloomy day and put it into a new sunny one. Everything is about mentality, and that is the prime focus of this column.

In a Forbes article, *Six Things Lucky People Do That Others Don't*, the article notes that Martin Seligman, the founder of positive psychology once wrote, "Optimists endure the same storms in life as pessimists. But they weather them better and emerge from them better off."

What does that mean? Well if you look at stuff with a "glass half-empty" view compared to a "half-full" view you may have a more negative outlook in life, which can turn your once positive mood into a more negative one.

Being "lucky" all the time is just a mindset. The more you try to find the good out of life, the more you may feel more lucky. My dad always tells me "that's life" whenever something bad happens. It doesn't really feel great at the moment but once out of

Luck is the new optimism

the bad situation, it strikes that life does just happen. Lucky people are seen to weather the storm and still continue to smile even when everything seems like it is falling apart.

The same Forbes article lists six things that seemingly lucky people do; trust their intuition, take risks, embrace failure, hang out with other "lucky" people, and see the glass half full. One of these six things really strikes me and that is embracing failure and hanging out with other lucky people. So what the heck does that even mean?

Embracing failure is a strong suit. It's not everyday when somebody can own up to a failure. But failure happens and setbacks are a part of life, whether somebody misses a deadline, says the wrong thing to their boss or isn't accepted to the job they wanted. Instead of looking at it like failure is inevitable and always comes back, take a deep breath and think "when one door closes another opens." Failure comes and goes but having high expectations can motivate you to

keep on persisting.

The people we hangout with can have an impact on how we view our lives. If a friend isn't in our corner, does that mean you are in your own corner? According to the Forbes.com article, emotions are contagious. Be intentional about spending more time with people who have a positive outlook on life and less time with people who don't. This may help the lucky feeling resurface after quite some time in the dark.

Another way to inspire optimism and luck is to download an app that sends you daily messages or affirmations. I have one on my phone and it sends me a message that is positive. It helps spin my mindset to ensure I still have more positivity to continue throughout the day. Try Fabulous, Motivation - Daily Quotes, and Headspace or downloading CoStar which is a zodiac based app that sends you daily messages.

Happy March and good luck! Hope this column strikes you with gold at the end of the rainbow.



Hannah Young

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.

WITH ALL THE recent Hotline comments calling out the dysfunctional councils in Tyrone Township, Fenton Township and Linden, it's Fenton's turn. Hey Fenton City Council, good job. Keep up the cooperative, rational work.

TYPE B BLOOD is needed- 9% of the population have B+ blood, a rare type, so your donations are always needed. 20% of the population have B-blood, a rare type that is needed too. Find out your type at a Versiti blood drive near you. Do a Versiti Zip Code Search.

FOR THE WOMEN on Silvershore Drive who thinks it's okay to let your golden retriever use everyone's yard but your own while walking your pet. It's very rude. You are always on your phone not paying attention.

THE LINDEN MILL restoration grant that Mike Mueller secured is for a physical building. The grant does not cover what goes inside after the mill is fixed. It's not for funding museums nor library.

Compiled by Hannah Ball, editor

Question asked to Tri-County Times' Facebook followers

What's the first concert you went to?



"Bryan Adams at Pine Knob in 1985, age 13."

Tracey Wagner
Fenton



"Bob Seger. IMA Flint. 14 years old."

Dina Hetchel
Linden



"Chicago at Pine Knob."

Coreena Storms
Fenton



"Oh my gosh, it was Bob Segar. So long ago at Mt Holly, I think. I know we went with my friend's uncle because we weren't old enough to drive yet. Maybe in the late 60s."

Pamela M Peabody, Fenton

streettalk

Everyday educators

Meet SHARON SPENCLEY



Sharon Spencley has worked in education for more than 37 years, all at Fenton Area Public Schools. She is currently serving as a special education paraprofessional at Tomek-Eastern Elementary School. She's also worked as a substitute and in Title I.



Why did you want to become a teacher?

I wanted to make a difference and let everyone know that they are amazing in their own way.

Tell us about a rewarding moment you've had with your students.

A rewarding moment is when a student trusts you enough to come to you for guidance. Another rewarding time was when a student asked if I would go with them to middle school.

How do you connect with students?

Each morning, I greet the children at the door with a "Good Morning" whether I know them or not. I feel it is important that students at Tomek know we care about them!



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View Newspaper Group sales professionals honored

■ Professionals achieved more than 100% of individual sales goals

Leadership at View Newspaper Group is proud to announce the company's 100+ Club Class of 2024.

Each sales professional honored achieved more than 100% of their individual sales goals for the entire year of 2024. A dinner and celebration attended by View Newspaper Group leadership, the honorees and their guests was held at Frankenmuth Brewery to honor the group on Wednesday, March 12.

View Newspaper Group Publisher Wes Smith said, "We take great pride in honoring the 100+ Club Class of 2024 to acknowledge and show our appreciation for their dedication, hard work and outstanding sales achievement."

The 100+ Club Class of 2024 includes Michele Guerra, Nikki Howard, Murray Callahan, Jim Misener and Lorraine DeHues.

View Newspaper Group is Michigan's largest independently owned



The View Newspaper Group 100+ Club celebration held March 12 honored sales team members who achieved more than 100% of their annual sales goal in 2024. Pictured here are View Newspaper Group Controller Jill Nichols, honorees Lorraine DeHues and Michele Guerra, North Oakland Advertising Manager Eric Lewis, honoree Jim Misener, View Newspaper Group President Rick Burrough, honoree Nikki Howard, Brand Manager Emily Caswell, Advertising Director Pete Clinton, Graphics Manager Jen Ward, Greenville Daily News General Manager Amber Rood, View Newspaper Group Thumb Area Consultant Jody Woltman and View Newspaper Group Publisher Wes Smith.

newspaper group covering 13 Michigan counties. The company publishes 21 newspapers with print editions reach-

ing more than 335,000 households each week plus an additional 500,000 monthly online readers.

Robotics 'March Madness' is on

■ Team Hollywood squad makes it to finals; Titanium Tigers, Hazmats advance to semifinal round

By David Troppens

As March hits there's more sun and March Madness takes over the United States as seemingly everyone fills out a college basketball bracket.

For robotics teams, March has some serious madness meaning as well.

It's competition time.

After preparing their robots since January, high school robotics teams are competing in area competitions. All four area high school teams have competed once.

Three area teams — the 7211 Team Hollywood program from Holly High School, the 5114 Titanium Tigers out of Fenton High School, and the 3568 Linden RoboEagles out of Linden High School — competed in the same FIRST



Holly High School's Team Hollywood 7211 advanced to the finals at its first competition of the 2025 robotics season.

in Michigan district event, the March 6 to 8 event hosted at the Kettering University competition.

In it, Team Hollywood ended up advancing to the finals before losing in See **ROBOTICS** on 13



St. Paddy's Day at Symphony

Symphony Linden continued their community outreach with a free St. Patrick's Day lunch on Monday, March 17 for local area residents. The luncheon included homemade corned beef, cabbage, potatoes and carrots. It was topped off with green juice and an occasional green beer. The staff adorned themselves in festive green attire and welcomed people with a traditional Irish greeting "Top o' the morning."

Photos: Bridget Koledo



Mark McCabe

67th District Court

Ask the
judge

When a law is challenged as being unconstitutional

It is not uncommon for people to say a law is unconstitutional when they don't like it.

However, saying it and proving it are two entirely different things.

Accordingly, the following is a brief explanation of how a law can be deemed unconstitutional.

Statutes are presumed to be constitutional, with the burden on the party challenging the statute (with some exceptions) to prove otherwise.

A constitutional challenge to the validity of a statute can be brought in one of two ways: either a "facial challenge" or an "as-applied challenge".

A facial challenge attacks the statute itself and requires the challenger to establish that no set of circumstances exist under which it would be valid.

An as-applied challenge alleges a present infringement or denial of a specific right or of a particular injury by governmental action.

Facial challenges include due process claims when it is alleged that a law improperly took away rights, and equal protection claims when it is alleged a law is discriminatory.

As applied, challenges normally involve the First Amendment and

claims related to specific expressive activities.

There are three levels of constitutional review depending on the type of challenge—rational basis, intermediate scrutiny and strict scrutiny.

Rational basis requires the litigant to show a statute doesn't bear a rational relationship to any conceivably legitimate governmental purpose.

Intermediate scrutiny shifts the burden to the government to justify the statute.

Strict scrutiny requires the government to show the challenged law is both narrowly tailored and uses the least restrictive means to further a compelling government interest.

A notable Michigan constitutional challenge case from 2002 is *People v Boomer*. Mr. Boomer was dubbed the "cussin canoeist" because when he fell out of his canoe on the Rifle River, he cursed in violation of a Michigan statute prohibiting "indecent, immoral, obscene, vulgar, or insulting language, in the presence or hearing of any woman or child".

The Michigan Court of Appeals reversed the resulting conviction on constitutional "void for vagueness" grounds finding the statute's language was unclear.

The statute was repealed in 2015.

Constitutional challenges can be difficult to decide.

A famous example is the 1964 United States Supreme Court case of *Jacobellis v Ohio* when Justice Potter Stewart declined to define "obscenity" and simply said "I know it when I see it."

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NEWS

BRIEFS

COMPILED BY EDITORIAL STAFF

Blood drive on Saturday, March 22 in Holly

Versiti Blood Center of Michigan will hold a blood drive on Saturday, March 22 at Holly Calvary Church, 15010 N. Holly Rd. from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Contact Ellen Pease at 810-265-4224 with any questions or visit

drives.org and versiti.org. Scan the QR code to make an appointment. "The impact is immense—from aiding cancer, anemia, surgery, and trauma patients to supporting organ transplant recipients and burn victims in Michigan. Each donation is crucial for recovery and survival. Did you know that every two seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood? Your contribution can make a significant difference. Let's continue to support those in need and make a difference together," according to Versiti.

ARRESTED

Continued from Page 1

named 16-year-old female from Holly are charged with assault with intent to commit great bodily harm less than murder, unlawfully driving away a motor vehicle and other charges.

The Holly Police Department announced on Facebook that on Sunday, March 2 at approximately 1:02 p.m., Holly police officers were called to a residence off Grange Hall Road for an assault and robbery. Officers found a 58-year-old woman, who was a victim of a severe assault.

The victim reported to the officers that after her 16-year-old daughter accompanied by her 21-year-old boyfriend, McDonough, came home, McDonough violently beat the victim while demanding her car keys. McDonough and the victim's daughter took the victim's credit cards, personal property and her vehicle. The victim was transported to the hospital in serious condition.

Holly officers, according to the post, were aware of McDonough's previous police contact and his connections to the Macomb County area. The victim's car was entered as stolen and the information was broadcasted to Oakland and Macomb County law enforcement agencies.

On Tuesday, March 4, Holly officers were informed by the Clinton Township Police Department that the victim's car was located abandoned in a parking lot after fleeing from an attempted stop. The suspects at the time were not located.

According to the Facebook post, from Saturday, March 8 until Monday, March 10, two vehicles were stolen from a gas station and party stores in Holly. Holly officers received store video and found the same suspects, McDonough and the 16-year-old girl, connected to the thefts.

On Monday, March 10, Holly officers were contacted by the Warren

Police Department and learned that both suspects had been arrested after fleeing and assaulting an officer. Holly officers took custody of the 16-year-old female. She was placed at the Oakland County Children's Village juvenile detention facility. McDonough was lodged on charges at the Macomb County Jail.

On Tuesday, March 11, the 16-year-old Holly female was charged with assault with intent to commit great bodily harm less than murder, unlawfully driving away a motor vehicle, larceny and interfering with 911 call. She will remain in the Children's Village pending a hearing on Tuesday, March 25.

On Friday, March 14, McDonough was arraigned by the 52/2 District Court Magistrate Daniel Schouman and charged with assault with intent to commit great bodily harm less than murder (10-year felony), unlawfully driving away a motor vehicle (four-year felony), and larceny in a building (four-year felony).

According to the Facebook post, bond was set at \$10,000 cash. Both subjects remain in custody. All three stolen vehicles were recovered and Holly investigators anticipate new charges against both subjects and possible accomplices on the other stolen vehicles and related crimes.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ROLL FOR THE HADDON 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 HADDON 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 Haddon 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 Haddon Street and approximately 200 feet of Grove Park Road, 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 \$579,280.68.

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 April 1, 2025 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.)

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ROSE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING SYNOPSIS

March 12, 2025

Supervisor Stilwell called the Regular Meeting of the Rose Township Board of Trustees to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Board Members Present: Brad Stilwell, Debbie Miller, William Jobs, Debra Bourdeau, Mike Maher

Absent: None

Approved: The Agenda and the Consent Agenda were approved as presented.

Approved: Hiring an individual for the new position of Director of Zoning and Building Compliance, Maintenance, and Code Enforcement.

Approved: New copier contract with Toshiba Business Systems.

Approved: Amending the Old Township Hall rental agreement to update the building capacity

Adjourned: 7:47 p.m.

Debbie Miller, MMC, MiPMC III
Rose Township Clerk

FIRE

Continued from Page 1

Tyrone Township. Multiple nearby fire units responded to the call.

“Residents of Tyrone Township need to read and understand the burning rules,” said Robert Cairnduff, chief of the Fenton Fire Department. “The fire was caused by someone having an open burn and the embers from that fire caused the field to catch fire. The winds were too strong for anyone to be burning (15-16 mph at time of the fire).”

According to Carinduff, one neighboring home sustained damage. The heat from the fire started to melt the siding of the home. A passerby stopped when they saw the fire and used a garden hose to cool the siding down to keep the fire from burning the home further.

The Fenton Fire Department received the call at 4:53 p.m. on Friday afternoon. The fire was brought under control at 5:55 p.m. Carinduff notes that the fire department was assisted by Linden, Fenton Township, North Oakland County Fire Authority (NOCFA), and Hartland fire on scene and Mundy Township covered the Fenton fire



Photo: Hannah Young



Photo: Fenton Fire Department



Photo: Hannah Young

“Residents need to be very cautious when burning.”
Robert Carinduff
Fenton Fire Department chief

station while firefighters worked to stop the fire. There were no injuries.

“The vegetation is still in its dormant stage from the winter and can easily burn this time of year. Even though the ground is wet, the vegetation is not,” Carinduff said. “Residents need to be very cautious when burning.”

Residents for Tyrone Township can read the burning rules on the Tyrone Township website. City of Fenton resi-

The Fenton Fire Department took a drone photo of the damage from the March 14 fire. The fire came close to the neighboring homes, one of which is under construction, according to Fenton Fire Department Chief Robert Cairnduff. As of Friday, March 14, a burn ban has been in place in the Tyrone Township area. Residents can check with local officials for more information.

dents are not allowed to burn yard waste, grass, or leaves at any time. The City of Fenton Fire Department services parts of Tyrone Township, which includes Denton Hill Road.

According to the Tyrone Township website page on burning, not adhering to township regulations may result in fire run service charge of \$1,549.00 and/or a fine. Burning is not permitted if wind speeds exceed 9 mph or dry conditions exist. Tyrone Township

residents can learn more at <https://www.tyronetownship.us/burning/>.

As of Friday, March 14, there has been a burn ban in effect until further notice. Residents can check back with Tyrone Township for any updates regarding burning. For any emergency with burning, please call 911. Other inquiries can be directed to the City of Fenton Fire Department at 810-629-8595 or Tyrone Township office at 810-629-8631.

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QUIZ BOWL

Continued from Page 3

Schneider said. “Even if you can have one person who kind of specializes in geography and another who really specializes in math. You get your subjects covered that way and you can have a much stronger team because it is not an individual game.”

According to the students on the team, the top four from the state tournament advance to the national tournament. The first round at states is a “round robin,” which is where the judges place teams in brackets in a set of five. The top four and the highest bracket go to the national tournament.

“We have had a good team for a few years now,” Schneider said. “This same kind of core group right here has been working its way up and a few of them now are seniors with a couple of juniors. This is kind of the year where everyone really came together and I think they’re going to do really well at states.”

Linden High School is classified as a class A school within the National Academic Quiz Tournament standings.

The Linden team will compete against schools such as Detroit Catholic Central, Troy, Sault Ste. Marie to Novi. Twenty-one teams have registered for the state tournament. Twenty-four can qualify to participate in the tournament.

Schneider said that the team has fun “win or lose” but the students are great players. Other teams have labeled the Linden team as “robotic,” but they see that as a compliment.

“It is a compliment because they are great players,” Schneider said. “If you watch them in a match they are just firing away on all cylinders and they’re a unique team. It’s not just one player answering all of the questions, but you’ve got four or five players who are ringing it all over the place.”

Captain of the varsity team, Luke Love, has been on the team since his freshman year.

“I joined my freshmen year because I was interested in it,” Love said. “I liked it in my first years so I just have been doing it ever since.”

The state tournament at University of Michigan in Ann Arbor is an all day competition. Schneider said the tournament will start at 9 a.m. and continue



Quiz Bowl Junior Varsity Team Members

- Cayd Bard-DeNike
- Elaina Eaton
- Emma Manis
- Ellison Burhans
- Robert Gilmore
- Michael Noelle
- Gracee Carney
- Thomas Love
- Eleanor Sokoloski
- Parker Luzius
- Evelyn Thoma

throughout the day. The tournament is also a good experience for the students to compete and see a college setting as well. The team members say they continue to have fun and then get to have a fun dinner afterwards.

“I am very proud of this team,” Schneider said. “It is one of the and if not the best team I’ve ever coached in my 21 years of doing this. I’m really

excited to see what they do at states. They are just a fun group.”

The state tournament is through the National Academic Quiz Tournament. Linden High School will participate in the 2025 NAQT Michigan Class A State Championship. The team recently won their Flint Metro League Championship and can now advance to the April tournament.

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From left, Fenton Mayor Sue Osborn, ChoiceOne Bank CEO Kelly Potes and Fentura CEO and President Ronald Justice spoke at the ceremony on Monday, March 17 to commemorate the consolidation of The State Bank with and into ChoiceOne Bank. **Photos: Hannah Ball**

ChoiceOne Bank celebrates merger with State Bank

■ ChoiceOne operates 56 offices in west and southeastern Michigan

By Hannah Ball

Fenton — Fenton’s historic bank is now officially ChoiceOne Bank.

On Monday, March 17, ChoiceOne Financial Services, Inc., the parent company of ChoiceOne Bank, held a ribbon cutting ceremony at the former State Bank location in downtown Fenton to celebrate the merger and rebranding of the bank.

ChoiceOne CEO Kelly Potes thanked everyone for attending the rededication ceremony. He spoke about the history of ChoiceOne and how it started as Sparta State Bank in Sparta, Mich., which is his hometown. Potes began as a teller in 1984.

“Something right is happening. The bank is continuing to grow. We’re up to over 50 branches now and on both sides of the state. We want to do community banking right, and it’s just working with the community and providing all the services, advice and just treating everybody with respect,” Potes said.

On Feb. 12, ChoiceOne Financial Services, Inc announced the receipt of regulatory approval from the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System to complete the merger of Fentura Financial, Inc., the parent company of The State Bank, with and into ChoiceOne. ChoiceOne is the surviving corporation. ChoiceOne is headquartered in Sparta, Mich. and its branches operate under the ChoiceOne

name and brand.

Following completion of the transaction, ChoiceOne Financial Services, Inc. is an approximately \$4.3 billion-asset bank holding company with 56 offices in west and southeastern Michigan.

Potes recognized the work of bank employees. He also thanked Fentura CEO and President Ronald Justice for everything he has done at the bank and in Fenton.

Justice said, “While today marked the end of the name ‘The State Bank’ in Fenton, it is by no means the end to community banking in Fenton, Michigan, and in all of our markets. ChoiceOne will celebrate, as already noted, their 127th year of community banking in Michigan this year. A long history of serving communities just like ours. And now our combined commitment to our customers and community is only strengthened by the joining of our two organizations. The resulting company has greater resources, strengthens talent to support commerce, businesses, families, and to make our communities vibrant places to live, to relax and to enjoy.”

“On a personal note, I want to say what an honor and pleasure it has been to serve the area for the last 40 years working with local officials and business leaders to strengthen and improve Fenton in all of our markets, making them better places to live and to work,” Justice said. “Specifically here in Fenton, I so admire the spirit and strong sense of unity that

exists with the city and with the chamber, civic and service organizations and the businesses all working together to make the city and the entire area flourish for years to come.”

Justice said their collective effort to bring residential living spaces to the downtown area has attracted new businesses and restaurants to Fenton and make the downtown a destination.

“Thank you for letting the bank be part of Fenton’s Renaissance thus far, and please know that all at ChoiceOne are looking forward to continuing to support Fenton in the future,” Justice said.

Fenton Mayor Sue Osborn said, “I want to welcome ChoiceOne as well. It’s a big day for the city of Fenton... The State Bank has deep roots in this community and has done so very much whether it’s through mortgages, business loans, car loans, donations, everything you can think of to make this community prosper.”

Osborn said she’s grateful for Justice. “We’re very grateful for everything you’ve done for the city,” Osborn said. “We look forward to all of the future endeavors here in the city of Fenton.”

Joy Scott, membership and events director at the Fenton & Linden Regional Chamber of Commerce, said, “We are excited to gather and celebrate the ribbon cutting and Commitment to Community Celebration of ChoiceOne Bank. The State Bank first opened its doors in Fenton in September of 1898

and in 2023, celebrated 125 years of service to Fenton and the surrounding communities.”

“They were recipients of the chamber’s Legacy Award and honored for not only the support they provided to businesses and families, but also the donations they have made to numerous civic and nonprofit charities,” Scott said. “To list all of their contributions would take way too long, and it’s much more time than I have been allotted to speak. But it is well known by all to be extensive.”

Scott said ChoiceOne Bank also first opened its doors in September of 1898 in Sparta, Mich.

“Which, ironically, is where our friend and past councilman Scott Grossmeyer recently relocated to, and if that’s not a positive omen for this union, I don’t know what is. It has been noted that ChoiceOne Bank’s commitment to community is one that is parallel to what we are accustomed to with The State Bank. Together, we commemorate the merger of two trusted banks with one shared future. We are honored to welcome ChoiceOne Bank to our chamber family and the communities that we serve. We look forward to fostering a relationship with them that incorporates the community focus we have grown accustomed to and known to appreciate from the State Bank who have set the standards for quality and care.”

After the ceremony, the bank presented a \$5,000 check to the Fenton Education Foundation, a \$3,000 check to the Genesee County Habitat for Humanity and a \$1,500 check to the Underground Railroad.

“Something right is happening. The bank is continuing to grow.”

Kelly Potes
ChoiceOne Bank CEO

HOT LINE CONTINUED

I HOPE THE Trump/Musk supporters have 500 recipes for eating crow. Job losses, 401K/IRA losses, tariffs and chaos. Targeting the poor/middle class, so Trump/Musk get another tax cut.

FOR MANY YEARS I remember people from a certain political party and a certain news program enthusiastically proclaiming over and over, "The Constitution, The Constitution." So now when the U.S. Constitution is being violated everyday by the Executive Branch, where are all those patriotic citizens now?

HERE'S AN IDEA. Tax the billionaires like they should be and we wouldn't have a deficit. Shocking.

WOULD YOU BE interested to know that Abdu Akl, who shot and killed 18-year-old Brady Morris, has recently been released from prison? He has also been arrested and released since out on parole. The parole violation was Level 3. This happened in Fenton 2017.

TRUMP ONCE SAID bitcoin was a scam. I guess it's okay if he's the one doing the scamming.

A LIST OF things that should not be run like a business: Health care, prisons, USPS, the government. They are not for-profit industries, they are services to the people.

YOU'RE KIDDING RIGHT? Trump is the least Christ-like person in the entirety of the U.S.

I WAS DISHEARTENED to see that the woman from Linden, who was sent to prison by Biden for protesting at an abortion clinic, and recently pardoned by Trump, is now criticizing President Trump on her public Facebook page. So much for being grateful.

TO THE HOTLINE from Sunday that said "So nice to have good Christian morals and values being returned to our country." Please enlighten us all how openly flaunting wealth/materialism, self praise/arrogance, lack of forgiveness/compassion, lack of faithfulness and self control, shows any Christian values.

GOLD IS AT its all time high. It measures world fear, American's blind side.

HOW CAN VANDALISM at a Tesla dealership be domestic terrorism but the same at a regular car dealership be simple vandalism?

THE WORD "SHOULD'VE" is a contraction of the words "should have." There is no such thing as "should of." Thank you.

REPUBLICAN VOTERS, HOW has your retirement funds been doing this last month?

THE WORM IS turning at GOP townhalls. Too many constituents are voicing their disapproval. Now the overwhelmed legislators are conducting townhalls by phone.

PRESIDENTS AND THEIR appointments have not had access to the payment system since 1946. A handful have had that position with no oversight, and few outside audits. I'm willing for DOGE to see my personal information if it means cleaning up the corruption and waste that is in our federal government.

I FIND IT funny that when people see a picture of people smiling, they say, "You look so happy in this picture." Well, yeah; they're smiling for the picture.

DID THE TRUMP supporters vote to end Social Security? I don't think so.

WHY DOES TRUMP care about selling cars on the White House lawn but doesn't care about veterans being fired?

IN REGARDS TO the hot liner complaining about President Trump costing taxpayers \$18 million to golf. I didn't hear you complain about President Biden costing the taxpayers millions of dollars for his Beach outings. Trump likes the golf course and Biden likes the beach.

SO DOGE IS hunting government waste and fraud, good. The U.S. is \$36 trillion dollars in debt. That is a number that will never be repaid, after all, 1 trillion seconds is equal to almost 32,000 years!

TRUMP PROMISED LAST fall to reduce the price of eggs starting Day 1. Day 1 was a long time ago, guess it's another promise made and promise broken.

FUN FACT.THERE have been approximately 3 million federal employees since 1970. In that time, the U.S. population went from 203 million to 340 million. On a per person basis, the US government has shrunk by 40%.

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ROBOTICS

Continued from Page 5

the championship round.

FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) is a global nonprofit robotics community that promotes STEM education for the youth.

During the qualification matches, Hollywood had a strong start, taking fourth out of the 39 teams with a 9-3 mark. That enabled the quad to be a captain for the elimination rounds, selecting Team 1684 The Chimeras and Team 3098 Waterford Robotics. The squad won its first double-elimination match 172-100, but then lost the second by a 121-103 margin.

Hollywood and its alliance bounced back, winning its next three elimination battles 140-106, 147-94 and 124-107. That placed them in the finals where they lost both matches 139-95 and 150-117.

"It was a really good battle," Team

Hollywood coach Jack Hawley said. "We were really amazed we did so well. Planning ahead and making sure the programming was done correctly was an advantage."

The team also won the Innovation in Control Award. The squad left the event with 58 team points.

The Titanium Tigers went 8-4 and were ranked sixth during qualification. They earned the right to be a team captain in the double-elimination semifinal rounds and went 2-2 in those matches. The squad formed an alliance with Team 5907 CC Sham-bots and Team 5612 Robo-Raptors.

The first semifinal was an 84-66 victory but then came a 136-106 loss. The third elimination bout found the squad on the winning side again at 103-89, but then they lost their second match to the Hollywood-captained squad in the next match 147-94.

The Titanium Tigers earned 43

points and won the Excellence in Engineering Award.

The Linden Robo Eagles went 6-6 in qualification and finished 17th overall. They did not advance to the elimination rounds. The squad's most dominating victory was a 147-77 victory. The team earned 19 total points and earned the Gracious Professionalism Award.

The only area team to compete in the Feb. 28 to March 1 event at Kettering University was Lake Fenton High School's 2145 Hazmats squad.

While there, the team recorded a 6-6 record in qualifying matches and finished 12th. They were selected to join an alliance in the semifinals, going 2-2 in those matches. They won their first match 129-87 and the third match 87-71, but lost their second match 161-77 and their fourth match 108-94 in those four double-elimination battles.

The Hazmats finished the event with 41 points and won the Innovation in Control Award.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

RETURN TO OFFICE is a great idea. However no planning in place and federal workers returned to no desks and cockroaches. What's up with that?

■■■

TO OUR LOCAL history professor: one simple fact exposed your comparison argument as pure democrat propaganda nonsense. Even a fifth grader knows that comparisons need to be based on fact, not lies. Fact: Putin invaded under Biden administration.

■■■

LET'S COUNT THE wars that started under Trump and Biden to really understand who is the greatest risk for WWII. For Biden, wars in Ukraine, Isreal/Gaza, Yamen and Syria. For Trump: none. Try again.

■■■

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT FOR CHATEAUX DU LAC 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 land area of the proposed district, the township board proposes to construct water system improvements for the Chateaux du Lac condominium subdivision, including construction of water mains, physical connection to the municipal water system and fees & costs related thereto, and to create a special assessment district for the recovery of the costs thereof by special assessment against the properties benefited, as authorized by MCL 41.721, (PA 188 of 1954), as amended.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the special assessment district within which the foregoing improvements are proposed to be made and within which the costs thereof are proposed to be specially assessed are more particularly described as follows:

All Units in the Chateaux du Lac Condominium Subdivision

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the township board has received plans showing the improvements, together with an estimate of the costs in the approximate amount of \$2,070,350, 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 aforementioned 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 costs, proposed special assessment district and petitions may be examined at the office of the Township Clerk during regular business hours on regular business days 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 on such plans, costs estimates, proposed district and petitions will be held at the Fenton Township Civic Community Center at 12060 Mantawauka Drive, Fenton, Michigan, commencing at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday April 1, 2025.

At the hearing, the board will consider any written objections and comments to any of the foregoing matters which are filed with the Township Clerk at or before the time of the hearing, and any objections or comments raised at the hearing; and at the hearing (or any adjournment of the hearing which may be made without further notice), the township board may revise, correct, amend or change the plans, estimates of costs or special assessment district.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that if the township board determines to proceed with the special assessments, it will cause a special assessment roll to be prepared and another hearing will be held, after notice to record owners of property proposed to be specially assessed, to hear public comments concerning the proposed special assessments.

All interested persons are invited to be present at the aforesaid time and place in person or by representative and to submit comments concerning the foregoing.

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KING FEATURES

ACROSS

1 Doubtfire or Dalloway

4 Pesky insect

8 Blaze

12 "Alley —"

13 Verdi heroine

14 Booty

15 Sugar suffix

16 Some online essays

18 Doppler device

20 "Diamonds" singer

21 Brzezinski of MSNBC

24 Group character

28 Coin that keeps turning up

32 Stitched

33 Artist Yoko

34 "— luck!"

36 Actor Stephen

37 Euro fraction

39 Pub game

41 Cognizant

43 "No seats" signs

44 Olympics chant

46 Loan shark's crime

50 Ginsberg and Kerouac, for two

55 — Maria

Wednesday Crossword

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15				16				17				
18			19				20					
			21		22	23		24		25	26	27
28	29	30					31		32			
33				34				35		36		
37			38		39				40			
41				42		43						
			44		45			46		47	48	49
50	51	52					53	54			55	
56					57						58	
59					60						61	

DOWN

1 Heath

2 Activist Parks

3 Raced

4 Angel with a trumpet

5 Zero

6 Commotion

7 Labels

8 Parade attractions

9 Cyclades island

10 Decay

11 UFO engineers

17 Diner dessert

19 Sound booster

22 Handle

23 Poker payments

25 Medal earner

26 Actor Clive

27 Hitch

28 — Raton, Fla.

29 From the start

30 Lady of Spain

31 Belgian river

35 Stirs up

38 "We hold these — to be ..."

40 Letter addenda, for short

42 Sixth sense

45 Top-notch

47 Beehive State

48 Get up

49 Tibetan herd

50 "Kapow!"

51 Before

52 Play segment

53 Where Lux. is

54 Ring decision

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

Wednesday Sudoku

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.

©2025 King Features Synd., Inc. by Linda Thistle. Answers in this Sunday's edition of the Tri-County Times.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging ◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

Wednesday Jumble

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

JUMBLE

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

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

NGROP

YMMMO

EDXECE

MYLHNA

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @Play

We have a commemorative coin that needs to be put out next week. Time and a half? I'm in!

I can use the extra cash!

WHEN THE U.S. MINT ASKED ITS EMPLOYEES TO WORK OVERTIME, THEY ---

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

Horoscopes

ARIES
Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, forcing an agenda right now might backfire. It is best to be patient and let things unfold organically. A few new people may come to your aid this week and support you.

TAURUS
Apr 21/May 21

You might need to reconsider what you have been fighting for, Taurus. A current battle could be particularly hard to win, so you will have to rethink your strategy.

GEMINI
May 22/June 21

Someone in a position of power might try to convince you that their way is the best approach this week, Gemini. You are determined to stick with what you think is right, but keep an open mind as well.

CANCER
June 22/July 22

Cancer, avoid impulsive decisions right now, particularly those that are financial gambles. Poor or selfish actions can deliver consequences that are hard to reverse.

LEO
July 23/Aug 23

Leo, what you desire could be in direct conflict with what a loved one in your home wants. Instead of trying to force your ideas on them, figure out a way to compromise.

VIRGO
Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, the universe is calling the shots right now and time is moving at whatever speed is right. It might seem like very slow progress, so you'll need to remain patient.

LIBRA
Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, this week you might be tempted to put wants before needs. Self-control is needed or you could start spending more than is financially wise right now.

SCORPIO
Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, frustrating exchanges between you and loved ones might leave you retreating to quieter spaces. Any communication is better than no communication, so keep that in mind.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, you can resist a certain situation, but you might need to remain flexible as you do so. Don't fight battles unnecessarily right now. Look for the silver lining if need be.

CAPRICORN
Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, shortcuts can compromise your personal growth. The pathway to greater success is to work hard and put in the hours necessary to reap the most lasting rewards.

AQUARIUS
Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, you have more power than ever before, but remember it comes with extra responsibility. Always use your authority wisely and think through decisions thoroughly.

PISCES
Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, if you hope to make progress, you may have to change tactics. What you have been doing simply isn't working. Start looking at other strategies.

For the week of

March 17, 2025



Weather allowing, the Fenton varsity girls soccer team will travel to Hartland for a contest against the Eagles today. Photo: David Troppens

By David Troppens

Spring varsity sports contests begin today

By David Troppens

If it feels like it's too early for spring sports to begin, your feeling may be right, but the calendar says it's time.

While the prep girls basketball state tournament continues this

week (the last major events of the winter prep sports season), spring prep teams can begin playing actual events this week, and some teams are taking advantage of that, as long as the weather cooperates.

It seems Fenton is making the most

out of the week. Most sports can start playing games today and there are 11 events scheduled through Saturday. Seven of them involve Fenton teams.

There are three varsity events today. The Fenton varsity girls soc-

See **SPRING** on 16

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2025 | PAGE 11 | MYFENTON.COM/SPORTS

Sports Times

Fenton's Cox caps diving career a three-time All-Stater

■ Tigers' senior places sixth at Division 2 state meet for third straight season; Three other area athletes compete at meet

By David Troppens

For those who think history always has a great shot at repeating itself, enter Fenton diver Owen Cox as a perfect example of this.

For the fourth straight year, he qualified for the finals at the Division 2 state meet in diving. He also earned All-State honors in each of his last three seasons. If that isn't consistent enough, how about Cox placing third each of those three seasons?

There is one more thing he consistently did with each state meet and repeated Friday and Saturday at the state event held at Oakland University — he improved upon his state score.

Cox recorded his best state diving score of his career (431.35) at this season's state meet. His sophomore season two years ago, he placed sixth with a 399.8. Last season that score grew to a 402.15, still taking sixth.

Fellow Fenton diver Keagan Myers and swimmer Finley Hughes also competed at the state meet, as did Holly's Josh

What a diver

Fenton senior diver Owen Cox completed his prep career with an All-state performance in the one-meter diving event at the Division 2 state meet on Saturday. Here's a quick look at his career.

Freshman season

- Qualified for the state meet in diving, placing 21st

Sophomore season

- Earned All-State honors by placing sixth at the state meet with a score of 399.85

Junior season

- Earned All-State honors by placing sixth at the state meet with a score of 402.15

Senior season

- Earned All-State honors by placing sixth at the state meet with a score of 431.35

Metro League career

- Won the Metro's one-meter diving championship all four years of his career

Dahlin. But the top area performer was Cox.

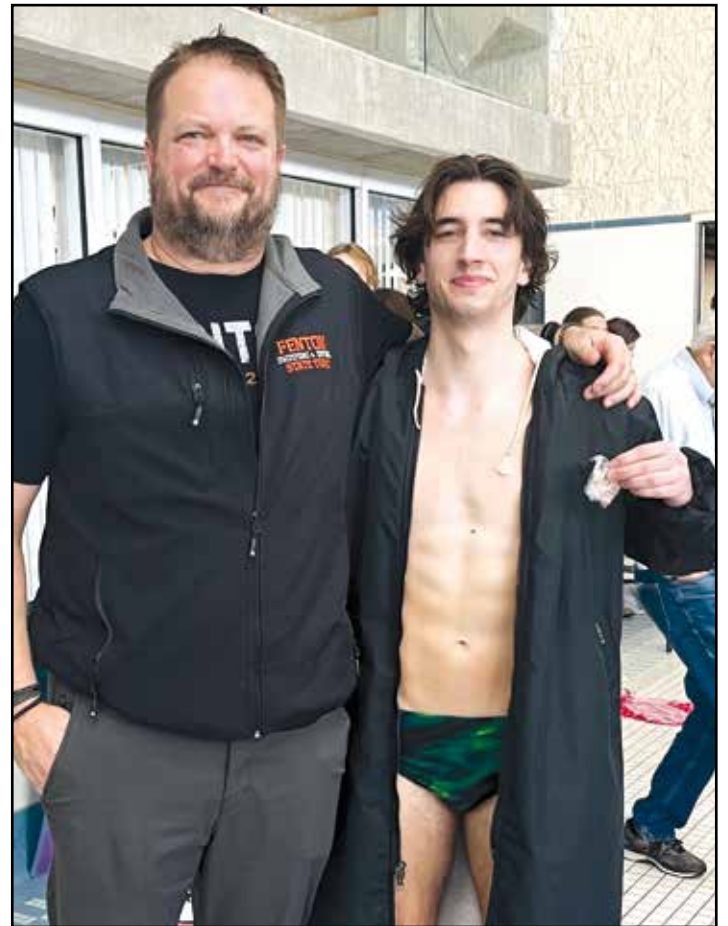
"My goal was top eight and I got sixth," Cox said. "I thought it was pretty funny that I got sixth again. It might just be my new favorite number."

"I was extremely pleased with Owen's dive performance at the Division 2 state meet," Fenton diving coach Daren Burkett said. "The top 10 div-

ers this year were some of the best quality divers I have seen in the last 25 years. Together, we wanted him to podium and just follow two rules — have fun and good board work. He took sixth place, had perfect board work and he had fun."

Cox was in fourth after the preliminary round, recording a 214.40 score. He was in sixth

See **COX** on 16



Fenton senior diver Owen Cox (right) is pictured here with Fenton diving coach Daren Burkett after Cox earned Division 2 All-State honors by placing sixth at the state meet held at Oakland University on Friday and Saturday. It was the third straight season Cox took sixth and earned All-State honors at the state meet.

Holly AD Lombard earns national certification

Holly High School Athletic Director Casey Lombard has been earning the awards lately.

He recently was named the Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association Region 9 Athletic Director of the Year.



Holly athletic director Casey Lombard

He now has earned another honor. The National Interscholastic Athletic Administration (NIAAA) recently announced that Lombard has been recognized by the NIAAA as a Certified Master Athletic Administrator.

According to an NIAAA press release to earn this honor, Lombard "has demonstrated exemplary knowledge, contributions and on-going professional development in the field of interscholastic athletic administration."

The certification process included a thorough evaluation of Lombard's educational background, experience, NIAAA Leadership courses and professional contributions. The process is concluded with a practical written or oral presentation project.

Lombard has been Holly Area Schools' athletic director since July 2019, taking over the duties once previous AD Deb VanKuiken retired. Lombard was a teacher in the school district for 14 years prior to becoming the AD.

SPRING

Continued from Page 15

cer team travels to Division 1 state runner-up Hartland for a 7 p.m. road contest, while the Fenton/Linden varsity girls lacrosse co-op squad will travel to DeWitt for their first game on that same date, also at 7 p.m. The only area event that will be home on Wednesday will be the Linden boys lacrosse team who will host Midland at 7 p.m.

Lake Fenton gets in the spring varsity sports mix on Thursday. The Lake Fenton varsity girls soccer team is at Walled Lake Northern while the Lake Fenton/Goodrich varsity boys lacrosse team hosts Waterford United. Both of those events start at 6 p.m.

On Friday, Linden gets into the mix with the varsity track program going to the Eastern Michigan Indoor track meet. The tri-county area will have its first area battle as well when the Fenton/Linden girls lacrosse team

travels to Lake Fenton to compete against the Lake Fenton/Goodrich. That game is scheduled for 5 p.m. Fenton's varsity girls soccer team will play its first home game of the season against Lapeer at 6 p.m.

On Saturday, the Fenton boys baseball team will be at the Midland Dow Tournament playing two games. The first will be at noon. Also playing will be the Fenton boys lacrosse team at home against Lapeer at 1 p.m.

Holly is the only area school without a varsity event this week but its girls tennis team will host a meet Monday at 4 p.m. The Holly varsity girls soccer team hosts Almont Tuesday at 6 p.m.

The early burst of games will come to a temporary end mid-week next week, due to the start of all four area school districts having the week of March 30 off for spring break. Activities will begin full throttle the week of April 6.



Weather allowing, the first tri-county varsity baseball team scheduled to play contests this season is Fenton's baseball team. The Tigers are scheduled to play in the Midland Dow Tournament. Here are some of the players doing some running exercises before a recent practice. Photo: David Troppens



Fenton's Owen Cox took sixth at the state meet in one-meter diving on Saturday.

COX

Continued from Page 15

after the semifinal round with a 317.65.

Cox picked the right place to have his best state performance. He will dive for Oakland University in the fall.

"I owe all of my success to my parents and coaches because they have stuck with me throughout these four years," Cox said. "It was really cool having my last states at Oakland University because that's where I will be diving in college."

"Owen is the type of student-athlete that all coaches want to coach," Burkett said. "I can not say enough about the foundation from the parents, Fenton High School, the community and his other coaches. His integrity drives him to excel in the sport of diving, but it also shows with everything he does and his character."

"It has been my pleasure to have the opportunity to coach him this season."

The next-best placing performance at the state meet from area athletes was recorded by Myers who placed 23rd overall in diving. He missed making the semifinal round of diving by 3.7 points, scoring 159.8 points in the preliminary round.

Holly's Dahlin completed his junior season with his best time in the 50 freestyle. He earned 27th place in the event with a time of 22.41, .23 seconds better than his seeded time.

The only area athlete to compete in two events was Hughes. Hughes placed 28th in the 100 freestyle (49.84), posting a time that was just .01 second slower than his seeded time. He competed in the 100 breaststroke as well, taking 31st place (1:02.86).



Linden's Mara McLennan (front) was recently misidentified in this specific photo in a story about the Eagles' recent district contest against Powers. The sports staff regrets the error.

Photo: Mark Bolen

Classifieds

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to come to my Fenton home to help cook dinners Monday-Friday 4:30pm-6:30pm. Call Mrs. Persia at 248-866-5440.

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part-time in the Fenton area. Hours are Wednesday's 9am-2pm. Pay is \$20 per hour. Call Mrs. Persia at 248-866-5440.

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HOT LINE

CONTINUED

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“IF YOU DON'T like America then leave.” I agree and respect Rosie O'Donnell for her decision. The American dream is alive and well everywhere except in America. I wonder how many more have already left? This has happened before.

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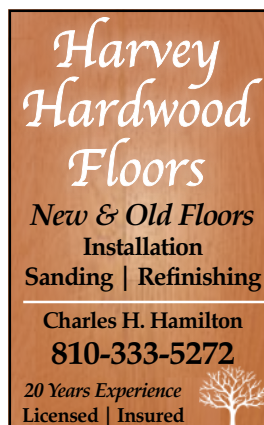


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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ROLL FOR THE LANDINGS AT CRANE'S COVE WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS 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 LANDINGS AT CRANE'S COVE WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS 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 Landings at Crane's Cove Water System Improvements Special Assessment District benefited by the proposed water systems improvement project. Said assessment roll has been prepared for the purpose of assessing the costs of connecting all units in the Landings at Crane's Cove condominium subdivision to the municipal water system, including construction, connection fee, administrative and financing costs, 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 \$510,924.12.

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 April 1, 2025 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.)

ROBERT E. KRUG
FENTON TOWNSHIP CLERK
12060 MANTAWAUKA DRIVE

Obituaries

Times

Donald Robert Walsh

1936 – 2025

Donald Robert Walsh - age 88, of Fenton, passed away March 10, 2025. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated 11 AM Friday, March 21, 2025 at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church 600 N. Adelaide St., Fenton. Fr. Robert Copeland, celebrant. Visitation 10 AM Friday until the time of Mass.



and hunter including deer and bird hunting. Donald also enjoyed gardening and building bird houses. He was an excellent handyman who was known as "Mr. Fix It." Donald was also known as "The Energizer Bunny" and "Pops" to his grandchildren. Donald is survived

Interment at Great Lakes National Cemetery, Holly. In lieu of flowers, Memorial Contributions in Donald's memory would be appreciated to The American Cancer Society or The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, or The American Diabetes Association. Donald was born July 14, 1936 in Petoskey, the son of Fred B. and Marie (Smith) Walsh. He married Armene L. Tousignant in Marquette on August 27, 1959. Donald graduated from Pellston High School in 1954. He proudly served in the U.S. Army and later in the Army Reserves. He was employed as a Construction Manager for many years, most recently with Christman Construction Company of Lansing before his retirement. Donald was a member of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in Fenton along with The Knights of Columbus. He also was a member of The Keepers of The Shiawasee River and the Michigan United Conservation Club. He was an avid fisherman

by his wife, Armene; children, Marie (Mark) Wise, Teri (Peter) Bradley, Kelly (Ted) Rickabus, Lori (David) McCloud, Donald (Sheri) Walsh, and Karen (John) Morrison; grandchildren, Adam (Beth) Rickabus, Daniel Rickabus, Mackenzie Bradley, Anika Bradley, Megan (Don) Warren, Taylor McCloud, Lindsay (Joe) Carlson, Alex Walsh, Kyle Payne, Sable Walsh, Christian Walsh, Isaac Morrison, Andrew Morrison, and Aaron (Erin) Brackett; great grandchildren, Joslyn Brackett, Blake Brackett, Miya Rickabus, Charlotte Carlson, Lydia Carlson, Blaire Carlson, and Noah Carlson; sisters, Eileen LaHood, and Patricia (Alan) Miller. Donald was preceded in death by his parents, Fred and Marie Walsh; and his step mother Faye Walsh. Online tributes may be shared at www.sharpfuneralhomes.com.



VIEW OBITUARIES ONLINE. TCTIMES.COM

JAIL

Continued from Page 1

John Potbury, Genesee County deputy chief assistant prosecuting attorney, said on Jan. 4, the Genesee County Sheriff's Office responded to a 911 call for a violent physical altercation at the Akl home on Moffett Drive in Fenton Township. Potbury said Akl allegedly assaulted his sister by strangling her. Akl was arrested and lodged at the Genesee County Jail.

Akl was originally charged with assault with intent to do great bodily harm

less than murder by strangulation and aggravated domestic violence.

The victim wanted to dismiss the charges and refused to testify, Potbury said. On Feb. 20 the assault charge was dismissed and the aggravated domestic violence charge was amended to disturbing the peace, which is a 90-day misdemeanor.

Akl was sentenced to 72 days in jail on Feb. 20 with credit for 46 days.

This arrest comes about one year after he was released on parole Dec. 5, 2023 by the Michigan Department of Correc-

tions. He spent six years in prison for the shooting death of Brady Alan Morris.

On March 4, 2017, Akl, then 16 years old, shot and killed Morris, who was 18, at a residence on Moffett Drive in Fenton Township. Akl was arrested that night and was denied bail. After multiple examinations, he was found competent to stand trial.

Through a plea agreement between prosecution and defense, Akl pleaded guilty Aug. 13, 2020 to an amended charge of manslaughter rather than open murder. Akl also pleaded guilty to felony

firearm, which carries a mandatory two years imprisonment.

On Friday, Sept. 4, 2020, Akl was sentenced by Genesee County Circuit Court Judge David Newblatt to a minimum of 57 months up to 180 months, which is the statutory maximum sentence. Akl also was sentenced to a mandatory two years for felony firearm.

Potbury said Akl's latest arrest could be a violation of his parole and that decision will be made by the Michigan Department of Corrections.

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ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS FOR TOWNSHIP OF ROSE

Grass Mowing Rose Township Offices, Hall and Parks.

Sealed proposals will be received by the Township of Rose, 9080 Mason St. Holly, Michigan 48442 until **3:00 p.m. Wednesday, April 2, 2025** at which time, the bids from holders of Record for Site Grass Mowing will be publicly opened and read aloud and the different items noted, for the site grass mowing for Rose Township properties.

The project/work includes Rose Township properties as listed.

Rose Township Offices, 9080 Mason Street
Rose Township Hall, 204 Franklin Street
Civic Park, Corner Milford and Rose Center Road
Dearborn Park, Corner Milford and Davisburg Road

Seasonal mowing and spring and fall clean-up of leaves, debris of Rose Township Offices, hall, and parks.

The plans and specifications are on file and may be examined and picked-up on or after **9:00 a.m. on Monday, March 24, 2025** at the Township Office 9080 Mason Street, Holly, MI 48442.

Bidders must supply the telephone and fax number, street address, and the name of the individual or firm whom Addenda, if any, can be directed.

Oral statements may not be relied upon and will not be binding or legally effective

The right to accept any proposal, to reject any or all proposals, and to waive defects in the proposals is reserved by the Owner.

Debbie Miller, MMC, MiPMC III
Rose Township Clerk
9080 Mason Street
Holly, M 48442

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS FOR TOWNSHIP OF ROSE

Site Grass Mowing and Clean-Up Rose Township

Beebe Cemetery
Brookins Cemetery
Rose Center Cemetery

Sealed proposals will be received by the Township of Rose, 9080 Mason Street, Holly, Michigan 48442 **until 3:00 p.m. Wednesday, April 2, 2025** at which time, the bids from holders of Record for Cemetery Site Grass Mowing and Clean-Up will be publicly opened and read aloud and the different items noted, for the site grass mowing and clean-up for Rose Township properties.

Beebe Cemetery S.W. corner of Fish Lake Road and West Rose Center Rd.
Brookins Cemetery S. Fenton Road ¼ mile West of Fish Lake Road
Rose Center Cemetery Milford Road ½ mile South of Rose Center

Site Grass Mowing, Spring Clean Up, Fall Clean Up, removal of leaves, debris, grave blankets and wreaths, sticks, and branches of Rose Township cemeteries.

The removal of fallen leaves in fall of 2025: The leaves shall be removed from Brookins, Beebe and Rose Center Cemeteries the week prior to Veterans Day, Tuesday, November 11, 2025.

The plans and specifications are on file and may be examined and picked-up **on or after 9:00 a.m. on Monday March 24, 2025** at the Township Offices, 9080 Mason Street, Holly, MI 48442.

Bidders must supply the telephone and fax number, street address, and the name of the individual or firm whom Addenda, if any, can be directed. Oral statements may not be relied upon and will not be binding or legally effective.

The right to accept any proposal, to reject any or all proposals, and to waive defects in the proposals is reserved by the Owner.

Debbie Miller, MMC, MiPMC III
Rose Township Clerk
9080 Mason Street
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