Linden graduate/pilot killed in crash

Family creates scholarship fund to help others with dream of becoming a pilot

By Sharon Stone

Funeral arrangements are pending for Emanuel (Manny) Vomvolakis, a 23-year-old Linden man, who was killed in a plane crash in New Hampshire. He was the pilot and lone occupant of the plane.

Federal authorities are investigating the crash that happened at approximately 11:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 10. The plane crashed on the shore of the Merrimack River near Manchester-Boston Regional Airport, as reported by the bostonherald.com.

Bedford Police Chief John Bryfonski said an autopsy was scheduled.

According to the article, on Friday at 11:36 p.m., Bedford police received the first of several 911 calls reporting a plane
See PILOT on 10

Clarifiers at water plant to be resurfaced this winter

Fenton City Council approves lowest bid of $495,000

By Sharon Stone

At its meeting Monday, Dec. 13, Fenton City Council approved the hiring of MW Cole
See WATER PLANT on 8

FHS principal steps down

Will return in January as assistant principal — AD named interim principal

By Sharon Stone

Fenton Area Public Schools Superintendent
See PRINCIPAL on 9

Linden approves road maintenance agreement

Genesee County Road Commission will be called for maintenance; Curbco will do snow, ice removal

By Hannah Ball

The Genesee County Road Commission (GCRC) will perform road maintenance services in Linden due to staffing shortages in the city’s department of public works (DPW).

See ROADS on 9

“I’d like to see our MCC campus in downtown Fenton because it would add daytime vibrancy and more foot and bicycle traffic.”

“Fenton’s library is small compared to the libraries in Clarkston, Oxford and Ortonville. If Mott College moves downtown, maybe one floor could be a large new public library.”

“A hypothetical consolidated Fenton and Lake Fenton would be one of the most premier school districts in Michigan.”
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**THE BEAST! A 28” Pizza**

**FREE TOPPINGS**

20 ICE CREAM FLAVORS!

**SPECIALTY PIZZA**

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Organization gifts veterans with handmade quilts

Local veteran and community leader receives gift from Quilts of Valor

By Hannah Ball

Fenton — A local veteran was presented with a gift from Quilts of Valor (QOV) on Friday, Dec. 10.

Ed Koledo, director of Southern Lakes Parks and Recreation and the Fenton Community and Cultural Center, now has a handmade quilt to commemorate his service to the United States in the armed forces.

Koledo said he researched the organization and was impressed they were handmade quilts.

“In my family, everyone had a quilt when we were young made by our grandmothers. As you got older, they got tattered and got lost somehow or thrown out or whatever. So to get a homemade quilt is amazing. It’s just part of me growing up. Just being recognized by your friends is always special,” Koledo said.

QOV volunteer Linda Bula, who made the quilt for Koledo, has personally made 32 quilts, her regional group has made 250 and nationally, the organization has gifted 241,000 quilts to veterans. Bula, who’s been a member of QOV for five years, recently became the area group leader of the Old Jail Quilters of Big Rapids Michigan.

Catherine Roberts started QOV when her son went to Iraq. Bula said she made that commemorates his service in the armed forces. Bula calls them “quilts of comfort.”

Other locations in the United States in the armed forces. She did two quilt presentations Dec. 10. They had to hold off on presentations during COVID in 2020, and now they’re trying to catch up.

There’s a nomination process. See QUILTS on 6
What is the first movie you saw in theaters?

“Star Wars - Return of the Jedi’ in 1983. I was 10 years old and my ‘free range’ Parents dropped my brother and I off together with money for tickets, popcorn and pop. Best Day Ever!”

Adrienne Conner, Hartland

“Mr. Holland’s Opus.’ My Granny took me and my cousins. I was 7 years old and I was so touched at the storyline, I cried even then.”

Tiffany Cavazos, Fenton

“Beauty and the Beast, I remember my mom picking me up early from kindergarten and surprising me.”

Dayna Wrisley, Fenton

“‘Ice Station Zebra’ during a grade school field trip.”

Jim Lyles, Holly

At the end of summer, I visited a new dermatologist for my annual checkup. He was funny and kind and just as I was really starting to like him, he said, “You are developing some age spots on your face, but we don’t have to talk about that if you don’t want to.” Since I was still a few months away from my 40th birthday, I did not want to talk about that.

I got in my car and looked in the mirror. Thanks to my summer tan, I really couldn’t see any age spots. I thought to myself, “What is he talking about?” But as the months ticked on and my tan faded, I saw the age spots. So, this week I returned to the dermatologist to start the treatment process.

The doctor mentioned that fall and winter are a great time to treat these spots and the fine lines he noticed around my eyes (thanks, doc) because by summer I’ll start with a clean slate, having repaired the damage from the summer before. It was an interesting choice of words, because “clean slate” is exactly the mantra I’ve had in my head since December arrived. While in years past I have pushed a few projects “into the new year,” I told myself this year would be different. I’ve been working hard to wrap up loose ends and truly prepare for the year ahead so that when 2022 arrives, I arrive with a clean slate ready to tackle what is sure to be a busy year. Thinking that others may benefit from this “clean slate” idea, I’ve put together a list of things I’m doing.

Clean: You can’t say “clean slate” without “clean” and I’ve been doing a lot of that. A few weeks ago, my husband and our publisher joined me for an afternoon of cleaning at one of our offices. While professionals clean the bathrooms and kitchen, the main office had been neglected a bit. It felt good to vacuum and dust and recycle stray papers — some of which had been sitting around since the pandemic started. At home, my husband and I opened all our Black Friday purchases, donated any old items the new items were replacing, recycled the boxes and tossed the packaging. We usually put this off until the new year and I’m so glad it’s done.

See BRANDS on 7

Hotlines
Submit Hotlines online at myfenton.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.

TO PREVENT POWER losses and improve community aesthetics, Fenton should bury power lines while streets are being resurfaced.

LESS HAPPY THAN previously: Do you happen to be using a communication device that has turned billions of people into full-time critics, made us all feel inadequate and constantly exposes us to all the world’s worst news? The less the device is used, the happier and joyful you will be.

MY SISTER TOLD me she was at a big-box store on Owen Road the other day and as she walked by, an employee she said they absolutely reeked of marijuana. It’s one thing when the customers reek, but an employee? She said it’s not the first time. What in the world?

WITH ALL THE new retail, there is now much more litter in Fenton, especially on the U.S. 23 ramps and thoroughfares.

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Holly man serves with helicopter squadron

Stationed with U.S. Navy in San Diego, California

Submitted by Jennifer Gold

Petty Officer 3rd Class Aaron d’Argy of Holly serves in the U.S. Navy in San Diego, California. His parents are Charles and Debra d’Argy.

“My dad was in the Navy during Vietnam and my brother joined 12 years ago; I was inspired by them,” d’Argy said. “I joined the Navy later in life. It was great not having to balance school and a job. I hope to use my naval service as a pathway to becoming a nurse.”

D’Argy, 32, joined the Navy four years ago. Today, d’Argy serves with Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron EIGHT (HSC 8) in San Diego, working with one of the Navy’s most advanced helicopters, the MH-60S Seahawk.

Growing up, in Holly, d’Argy attended Holly High School and graduated in 2007. Today, d’Argy uses the same skills and values learned in Holly to succeed in the military.

“Growing up I was taught to be the best version of myself possible,” d’Argy said. That lesson has helped him while serving in the Navy.

Navy pilots and aircrew at HSC 8 constantly train to ensure they are prepared for peacetime and warfighting missions. The mission set of the MH-60S includes anti-surface warfare, search and rescue, vertical replenishment, logistics support, personnel transport, humanitarian disaster relief, medical evacuation, support to Naval Special Warfare and organic airborne mine countermeasures. MH-60S helicopters also are equipped with the ability to conduct replenishments at sea, search and rescue missions and enable other operations for the carrier strike group.

Serving in the Navy means d’Argy is part of a team that is taking on new importance in America’s focus, rebuilding military readiness, strengthening alliances and reforming business practices in support of the National Defense Strategy.

“The world is 70 percent water,” d’Argy said. “This allows the Navy to move around and protect our assets and keep the shipping lanes open.”

With more than 90 percent of all trade traveling by sea, and 95 percent of the world’s international phone and internet traffic carried through fiber optic cables lying on the ocean floor, Navy officials continue to emphasize that the prosperity and security of the United States is directly linked to a strong and ready Navy.

D’Argy and the sailors they serve have many opportunities to achieve accomplishments during their military service.

“The most rewarding experience I’ve had in the Navy was assisting with the USS John McCain collision while I was an undesignated sailor aboard USS America,” d’Argy said. “I was part of a team to help the sailors through the traumatic event that they experienced.”

As D’Argy and other sailors continue to train and perform the missions they are tasked with, they take pride in serving their country in the United States Navy.

“Serving in the Navy reminds me that America is the land of opportunities,” d’Argy said. “It’s given me a path to succeed in life and job security. I don’t have to worry about a paycheck, which I know is not a common luxury.”

Jennifer Gold is the chief mass communication specialist for Navy Community Outreach Command
Lessons learned from the pandemic of 2020-2021

On March 10, 2020, Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer declared a state of emergency because of the COVID-19 pandemic. On March 15, 2020, the Michigan Supreme Court also took action and authorized all trial courts to implement emergency measures to reduce the risk of transmission of the virus and provide the greatest protection possible to those who worked and had business in our courts.

This was done and some 21 months later and counting, we are still in the midst of the pandemic. During this period, the Supreme Court has also issued numerous Administrative Orders and amended court rules to continue court operations and protect everyone who uses or is a part of the court system.

When this is all over, with restrictions removed and things back to normal, the question “What have we learned from all of this?” must be answered.

Believe it or not, that process has already been started by the Supreme Court when it formed a “Lessons Learned Committee” in May 2020 to monitor and assess the entirety of the situation from beginning to end and provide those answers.

On June 29, 2021, the Committee made its preliminary findings in a report titled “Michigan Trial Courts: Lessons Learned from the Pandemic of 2020-2021.”

It included a complete history of the court system’s pandemic responses, findings, best practices, and some 23 recommendations. Numerous procedural and substantive changes were proposed, including conducting court proceedings using Zoom (instead of in person) for specified non-evidentiary civil and criminal hearings. Other hearings and trials would continue to be in person as required by law.

On Nov. 11, 2021, our Supreme Court and the Michigan court system were recognized for their “incredible innovation and adaptability during a crisis” by the Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System at the University of Denver when it commented on the report.

The report is available online at the Michigan Supreme Court website. It is very possible that it represents a blueprint of what a post-COVID-19 court world will look like.

I am very proud and honored to be a part of a court system, which is meeting the pandemic’s challenges through the efforts of dedicated and hardworking judges and court personnel.

Hopefully, “back to normal” is just around the corner.
Township to have aerial imaging done in 2022

GIS data used for parcels, zoning matters and more

By Hannah Ball

On Monday, Dec. 6, the Fenton Township Board of Trustees approved spending approximately $15,000 to have aerial imagery done twice in the next six years.

The municipality received communication from the GIS Department (geographic information systems) of Genesee County this past summer that they would be doing aerial imaging, and they asked if the township wanted to be included.

Thomas Broecker, operations manager/deputy clerk, said they responded quickly and said yes. GIS is a system that stores and maintains geographically referenced information.

“The imagery has become an important tool in the daily operations of many entities and a resource to the public as well. There are over 480 users and over one quarter million image views yearly,” according to GIS.

Their most recent flight was 2018. These next two flights will provide these municipalities with new orthogonal and oblique aerial imagery, GIS data such as parcels, plats, zoning, periodic training sessions for Connect Explorer applications and it will include mobile applications for iOS and Android.

The township also approved a GIS agreement with North Arrow Technologies for the company to provide services in 2022. The agreement maintains the hourly rate at $80 per hour. The total projected budget is $43,120, approximately $4,500 less than the 2021 agreement.

Broecker said North Arrow Technologies built the township’s current GIS from the ground up and has been their GIS consultant since 2001.

“They have been, and continue to be, a valuable partner and integral part of the Fenton Township team,” he said.

One difference from last year’s contract is the absence of the website update budget. Broecker said they believe the township will have a new website this year. He said the $80 an hour rate is below any other companies in the state that provide this service.
VG’s/SpartanNash and Miller Poultry make sizeable donation


Submitted photo

Give 8,000 pounds of chicken, 1,200 pounds of sausage for Food Bank of Eastern Michigan

Miller Poultry and VGs/SpartanNash are once again embracing the giving spirit in the communities they serve, teaming up to make donations of chicken products to local and regional food banks.

On Monday, Dec. 13, Miller Poultry and VGs/SpartanNash donated 8,000 pounds of chicken and 1,200 pounds of sausage to the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan and its network of more than 700 hunger relief partners. This donation was made at the VG’s grocery store on Silver Parkway in Fenton.

This has been an annual holiday tradition since 2008. Since then, more than 150,000 pounds of chicken has been donated to help families in need.

Many people are struggling to recover from the effects of the pandemic and there is still a significant need for hunger relief programs. Thousands of households are facing tough choices every day, often going without food in order to pay for housing, utilities, or medical needs.

Consistent, quality nutrition is essential to a healthy life and a healthy society.

Donations, like this one from Miller Poultry, allow the Food Bank to maintain current distribution levels and provide more fresh foods to our neighbors in need. Nearly half of all the food distributed by the Food Bank is fresh produce, proteins and dairy products.

The Food Bank is in the midst of a $1 million Holiday Campaign, raising funds to continue food distributions and feeding programs throughout 2022.

WATER PLANT
Continued from Front Page

Construction, based at The Villages, Florida, to refinish/recoat both clarifiers at the water treatment plant for $495,000. The two clarifiers, also known as claricones, are a critical component in the water treatment process.

In a Dec. 9 memo, Dan Brisson, public works director and Stephen Guy, water plant superintendent, updated city council on the project.

Budgeted from the 2021/2022 Water Operating Budget is $395,000 to refinish the clarifiers.

Raw water wears the interior surface of the clarifiers exposing the metal substructure. Recoating the surfaces of the clarifiers extends service life and is part of the water quality assurance process. Other water treatment plant items, such as two recarbonation tanks, a header tank and lime silo are included for recoating services as part of this project.

This project is planned for the winter months when water demand is lower and when taking one clarifier out of service at a time is not detrimental to daily water demand.

This is the first time the clarifiers and other listed items are being refinished since the plant was constructed in 2003.

In April, city council approved $6,900 for Dixon Engineering to inspect the clarifiers and prepare project specifications. Dixon prepared bid documents and assisted the city with the bid process. Eleven companies expressed interest in the project, four attended a mandatory pre-bid walk-through and four companies submitted bids to the city clerk’s office by the Nov. 11 deadline.

Bids:
• MW Cole Construction, The Villages, Florida — $495,000
• Fedewa, Hastings — $498,900
• Murray Painting, Freeland — $758,233
• Dave Cole Decorators, Sparta — $1,235,000

Dixon Engineering reviewed all bid proposals and determined that the low bidder, MW Cole Construction, meets all qualifications for the project.

Brisson and Guy wrote in the memo that MW Cole has a proven track record for this type of specialty refinishing work at other water treatment facilities.

Dixon Engineering will provide inspection services at a cost of $62,950.

Cost breakdown:
• Pre-inspection, specifications, bid documents and bid process – Dixon Engineering - $6,900
• Refinishing Services, MW Cole Construction - $495,000
• Temporary electrical power supply, Murphy Electric - $5,000
• Project oversight and inspection services, Dixon Engineering - $62,950

Total cost - $569,850

Because the project cost exceeds the budgeted amount, discussion at city council’s Dec. 6 workshop meeting weighed options such as postponing the project for another year with speculation that prices may drop, or increase, in the future. Since postponing this project could postpone other water treatment plant capital projects, the staff recommended proceeding with this year’s project.

Brisson and Guy said there is adequate funds in the water fund to move forward with this project.
ROADS
Continued from Front Page
On Monday, Dec. 13, Linden City Council approved an intergovernmental agreement for winter road maintenance with the GCRC, which states that the GCRC will provide routine road maintenance on major and secondary roads in Linden for one year.

The DPW has experienced high turnover in the last few years and most significantly in the last few months, according to a letter to council from City Manager Ellen Glass and DPW Director Don Grice. Grice said “desperate times deserve desperate measures.”

“When this level of turnover occurs, a department loses a vast amount of experience, and more importantly, institutional knowledge. We are currently working on rebuilding the DPW team, but it will take many months to achieve this goal,” the letter states. “In addition to our challenges with the lack of experience, the equipment currently being used by DPW staff is in questionable condition, and I’m not sure that it can be reliably depended upon for emergency responses to our community.”

The agreement is for a one-year period from December 2021 to December 2022. The city will reimburse the GCRC for equipment and the GCRC’s standard rate for labor costs.

“Our intention is to closely monitor the service level provided and the expenses associated with those services to determine if this is a long-term solution, or simply a short term answer to our current challenges,” according to the letter.

The agreement states that the GCRC will provide routine road maintenance such as pothole patching, grading, ditching, mowing, salting, and snow plowing on the following major public roads:

- N. Bridge – north city limit to Broad Street
- S. Bridge – Broad Street to south city limit
- E. Broad Street (Silver Lake) east city limit to Bridge Street
- W. Broad Street – Bridge Street to west city limit
- Hickory Street – Broad Street to Bridge Street
- E. Rolston – Bridge to Ripley
- W. Rolston – Bridge to Shiawassee Shores
- Main Street – Tickner to Maple
- Ripley - Rolston to Silver Lake
- Stan Eaton – Hyatt to Broad (school route, weekdays during school)
- Hyatt Lane – Broad to Stan Eaton (school route, weekdays during school)

The Linden City Council also approved a contract to hire Curbco Inc. of Swartz Creek for snow removal and ice control services for one year for a cost of $47,175. They would be required to respond within an hour of receiving a request.

Grice said the police will talk to city staff about road conditions. Grice will keep records of response time and performance by Curbco.

PRINCIPAL
Continued from Front Page
Adam Hartley sent out a letter dated Dec. 12 to parents informing them of some administrative moves taking place.

Laura Lemke, the high school principal, had been out on personal leave for the last two weeks and will return Jan. 3, 2022. She has decided to resign her position as principal and serve as assistant principal moving forward.

Lemke was appointed to principal during the Fenton Board of Education meeting held remotely Monday, May 11, 2020. She began her new role July 1, 2020. She had served as assistant principal for 16 years. The appointment came after Mark Suchowski, who has been principal of the high school since 2004, announced he would be retiring.

Hartley said that Lemke is committed to Fenton High School and especially committed to helping the students succeed. He said he’s eager to have her back with the team and he’s confident the high school will continue to grow with her serving as the assistant principal.

Moving forward, Mike Bakker, the FHS assistant principal and athletic director for the district, will serve as interim principal for the remainder of the school year. Hartley said he has confidence in Bakker as a leader and believes keeping him in the role he has served the last two weeks while Lemke has been away is what is best for everyone.

When students return from break Jan. 3, 2022, the administrative team will be:

- Mike Bakker, FHS interim principal
- Laura Lemke, FHS assistant principal
- Zach Bradley, FHS assistant principal
- TPD, interim athletic director

Laura Lemke (right) was named principal of Fenton High School in May 2020. She had served as assistant principal 16 prior to that. She is stepping down from the principal position and will be assistant principal when students return in January. Assistant Principal Zachary Bradley (left) will continue in his current role. Times file photo
PILOT
Continued from Front Page

crash on the river’s shore, Bryfonski reported. Officers found the wreckage of a twin-engine plane fully engulfed in flames.

The aircraft, flown by Vomvolakis for Castle Air, based in Canton, Ohio, was transporting medical supplies.

The flight originated from the Essex County Airport in Fairfield, N.J., and was en route to the Manchester-Boston Regional Airport when Vomvolakis reported engine trouble just prior to the crash, the chief said.

The plane was a Swearingen SA-226AT, a twin turboprop aircraft, which experienced engine failure when it approached the airport, said Steve Kulman, a spokesperson for the Federal Aviation Administration. One person was aboard, he said.

The FAA and the National Transportation Safety Board are investigating, headed by the NTSB, which was sending a team of three people to the scene, said Eric Weiss, an NTSB spokesman to the bostonherald.com.

A preliminary report is expected to be ready in two weeks. The full report, with the probable cause of the crash, will be ready in one to two years, he said.

Linden Pay It Forward shared the news about Vomvolakis and the crash on its Facebook page.

Denise Marks, president of Linden Pay It Forward, said, “On Friday night, Manny was in a plane crash in Bedford, New Hampshire.

“He died on impact. He also died a hero, managing to avoid hitting a large residential neighborhood and crashed just past it.”

Marks said a GoFundMe account is being established by the family to create a scholarship fund in Vomvolakis’ memory.

Sharp Funeral Homes in Fenton is handling funeral arrangements.

Linden Pay It Forward will be placing an angel on the P.J. Dobos Memorial Tree on Broad Street. It will read, “Fly High, Manny.” The group will place the angel on the tree Friday, Dec. 17, the day of Emanuel (Manny) Vomvolakis’ funeral.

Submitted photo

Linden Pay It Forward will be placing an angel on the P.J. Dobos Memorial Tree on Broad Street. It will read, “Fly High, Manny.” The group will place the angel on the tree Friday, Dec. 17, the day of his funeral.

The family of Emanuel (Manny) Vomvolakis has created a gofundme account “Fly High Manny Memorial Fund” to create a scholarship fund in his name. This fund will be a way for Manny’s name to live on in the hopes and dreams of those who wish to become a pilot.

Submitted photo

PILOT Continued from Front Page

Hundreds visit Santa and animals at Devoted Barn

By Hannah Ball
Rose Twp. — It was a festive day at The Devoted Barn in Rose Township when Santa Claus came to meet children and take photos Sunday, Dec. 12.

Hundreds of people came to the animal rescue and rehab barn so their children could meet Santa and the hundreds of animals. The event was a fundraiser for the nonprofit.

The barn takes in and takes care of animals that would otherwise be killed. Horses with expensive medical conditions, dogs rescued from hoarding situations and other animals live on the property and receive daily care and rehabilitation.

People donated blankets, sheets and towels for the dogs, bread for the pigs, and an assortment of other items that will benefit the animals.

Macomb resident Allie Nottingham brought her two daughters, Hannah, 5, and Gabriella, 3, to the Devoted Barn to meet Santa. She said her kids were “really excited.” They hadn’t been to the barn before.

“They’re loving it, seeing the animals and everything,” she said.
Blue Devils continue strong start, defeat Corunna 62-26

By David Troppens

Linden — It was a first half of struggling offenses or maybe strong defenses.

People can choose which they thought it was if they’d like.

When the intermission began in the Holly at Linden varsity boys basketball game Friday, the teams combined for just 23 points, with Holly leading 14-9.

Things changed in the second half. The Eagles started the third quarter with a steal and a fastbreak layup by Reichen Lund. That was followed by a breaking layup by Brandon Green off a pass from River Meckstroth. Soon, the Eagles followed by a breaking layup by Reichen Lund. That was the first half with a steal and a fastbreak layup by Reichen Lund. That was followed by a breaking layup by Brandon Green off a pass from River Meckstroth. Soon, the Eagles dominated Holly.

Then came maybe the three biggest plays of the contest. Green converted two consecutive traditional three-point plays with layups, fouls and converted free throws. Suddenley, Linden led 33-24 with 7:19 left in regulation.

Linden’s Katie Roti attempts a shot against Holly’s Autumn Lewis (left) and Mollina Adams (right). Photo: Christopher Summers

The Eagles dominated Holly from the opening minute of the game, cruising to a 60-8 victory against the Bronchos.

By David Troppens

Linden — Paige Leedle would love to end her Linden varsity girls basketball career with a Flint Metro League Stripes Division title.

If what Leedle and her teammates did Friday against Holly is any indication of their talent, the Eagles have just a chance to make that goal come true.

The Eagles dominated Holly from the opening minute of the game, cruising to a 60-8 victory against the Holly Bronchos at Linden High School.

Holly never had a chance against the Eagles and their defense. Linden held the Bronchos to just three field goals in the contest and forced Holly to 36 turnovers to earn the easy win.

Tigers open season with strong win vs. Dragons

By David Troppens

The Fenton varsity boys basketball team does have a few experienced players.

However, they are mixed in with plenty of players that are learning the ropes of varsity hoops as well.

So that’s what made Friday night’s performance all the more important. The Tigers got some of those experienced players to learn how to win a varsity contest at home against the Swartz Creek Dragons.

Fenton (1-0) jumped out to a 20-5 first-quarter lead, led most of the game only to see the Dragons cut the margin to two in the third quarter and to four points late in the fourth. However, that’s where the Tigers shut down the game. They nailed some baskets to and we came together to win the game.”

The Blue Devils jumped to a quick lead, scoring eight of the first nine points. The lead was 17-5 by the end of the first quarter with Amaya Smith netting eight points during the first eight minutes.

The Blue Devils pretty much put the game away in the second quarter, taking a 33-15 lead into halftime.

“Our second quarter wasn’t as good as the first, but we still put up 16 points,” Lake Fenton varsity girls basketball coach Brian VanBuren said. “We might have fell in love with the three-ball a bit, but still had some great looks and we raced the ball fairly well.”
LF wrestlers crush field at Don Johnson Wrestling Invitational

By David Troppens

It was a great start for the Lake Fenton varsity wrestling team.

After a couple of weeks of hard practices, the Blue Devils competed at the 2021 Don Johnson Wrestling Invitational and came home with an overwhelming first-place finish. The Blue Devils scored 226 points, or more than 50 points better than second-place Forest Hills Northern. The event had 17 teams.

“The boys wrestled great for the first tournament of the year,” Lake Fenton varsity wrestling coach Vance Corcoran said. “The boys wrestled well from the top of our lineup to the bottom. It was the tournament I was hoping for.

“Our practices have been amazing so far this year. The work ethic, the focus and the drive have been on pace since day one. It was gratifying to see the boys respond well to the challenge of a tough Lansing Eastern tournament.”

The Blue Devils had Jorge Marvin (103), Ty Johnson (135), Zack Hall (140) and Jack Conley earn first-place finishes. Marvin won his matches by technical fall in the semifinal round and by pinfall against Springport’s Erik Dykstra in the final.

Johnson won his first match by pin and then won the last two by decision, including a 10-6 verdict against Laingsburg’s Aden Baynes. Hall went 3-0 and earned pinfall wins in each of his matches, including a 1:52 pinfall victory against Forest Hills Northern’s Noah Garces in the final. Conley won a match by pinfall, by major decision and by decision. He defeated Springport’s Matt Riehle 7-3 in the final. Clay Cook (112), Drew Corcoran (145) and Noah Hall (152) each advanced to the finals but had to settle for second-place finishes. Meanwhile, Robbie Moore (119) and Drake Deem (130) each earned fourth-place efforts. Karson Crist (171) placed fifth while Julian Carter and Jacob Haugh each recorded sixth-place finishes. Owen Zettel (160) earned a 3-1 record at the event.

Linden’s Lucas Carr (top) works on defeating a recent opponent. He placed third at last weekend’s George Hamblin Invitational. Photo: David Troppens

Linden wrestlers place third at George Hamblin invite

By David Troppens

The Linden varsity wrestling team found itself in a tournament that included Hartland and Freeland when it went to the George Hamblin Invitational.

The Eagles came out of the event pretty well, taking third with 153.5 points and one individual weight champion.

Bryce Shingleton remained undefeated during the early portion of the season, earning two wins in the 125-pound class. He won his first match by technical fall, and then won the championship match against Hartland’s Patrick Wlodyga by a 9-2 decision.

Six other wrestlers placed third and two others left with fourth-place efforts. Those finishing in third were Adelia Carr (112), Brenden Shingleton (130), Luke Haney (140), Lucas Carr (152), Michael Bush (171) and Jase Gundry (189). Ben Wingblad (119) and Bryce Eriuk (285) each placed fourth at the meet.

Jackson Reid (135), Brady Makala (160) and Itiel Delgado (215) each earned a victory.

TIGERS

Continued from Page 11

important shots down the stretch and made some key free throws, earning a 62-42 Flint Metro League Stripes Division home victory against the Dragons.

“We have some new kids and we have some veterans, but we have a couple of other guys that have never played varsity basketball, and they learned some valuable lessons tonight,” Fenton varsity boys basketball coach Chad Logan said. “It was great to be in front of the students for the first time in more than a year and that kick-started us. Ja’Hion made a shot and we got off to a 20-5 lead. We came out with energy and that had everything to do with the crowd and their energy. ... Thank you to the student section.”

Bond was the big reason for the rally on the court.

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM
Blue Devils learn, defeat Corunna

By David Troppens

After seeing a talented Genesee Christian varsity boys basketball team score 31 points in the first quarter against the Blue Devils on Tuesday, the squad knew that it had to figure a way to play better defense.

The Lake Fenton Blue Devils did just that Friday night, while avenging three losses to Corunna a year ago. Lake Fenton held Corunna to just 18 first-half points, helping spark a 56-47 victory at Lake Fenton High School.

“I felt like from the start to finish we were able to control the tempo,” Lake Fenton varsity boys basketball coach Tyler Szczepanski said. “We harped on our defensive effort over the last couple of days in practice, and that is what won us the ball game — our defense.

“We set a big focus on that the last couple of days and we had a couple of big stops down the stretch. They made it close late in the game, and then Max Muenzer drew a charge call that gave me the confidence we would win the game.”

Offensively, the Blue Devils (1-1) had a balanced scoring effort in the opening half. Ashton Hunter had seven points with Gavin Teffner and Francis Senter collecting six and five points, respectively. Seven players scored in the opening half for Lake Fenton. The Blue Devils led 26-18 at intermission.

In the third quarter, Senter scored eight of the Blue Devils’ 16 points, helping Lake Fenton maintain a 52-42 lead entering the fourth quarter. In the final eight minutes, the Blue Devils iced the game on the free-throw line, netting nine free throws in 18 attempts. When it mattered most, Dylan Hammis nailed them, making 6-of-8 at the charity stripe in the final eight minutes.

Senter finished the contest with 15 points while Hunter netted 10 points. Teffner and Hammis had eight points while Muenzer finished with six points.

“These guys beat us three times last year and they beat them twice the year before that,” Szczepanski said. “We did the things we had to do to win a game like icing it down the stretch. The guys did what they needed to do.”

Strong final three quarters sparks Fenton to victory

By David Troppens

The Fenton varsity girls basketball team had a slow start against the Swartz Creek Dragons on Friday night.

But when it came to the final three quarters, the Tigers dominated. Trailing 19-11 after one quarter, the Tigers outscored the Dragons 51-24 in the final 24 minutes to cruise to a 62-43 home victory.

The game began with the teams honoring Oxford High School and the students who lost their lives. Both teams held hands as the squads listened to the Oxford fight song. Fans wore Oxford blue and gold.

The Tigers trailed 19-11 after one quarter, but pretty much dominated from the opening seconds of the second quarter. The Tigers opened the second period with a 9-0 run. Allie Browne netted a putback, followed by a driving layup by Grace MacCaughan. The Dragons’ lead was now just 19-15. Kayleigh Shaker continued the run with a driving five foot hoop, closing the gap to 19-17. Then, with 4:37 left in the quarter, Abby Logan dished off an assist to Shaker for a three-pointer, giving Fenton the 20-19 lead. The Dragons retook the lead with a bucket, but Shaker hit another trey with 2:38 left, giving the Tigers the lead for good. Fenton went into halftime with a 27-21 lead after another trey by MacCaughan and a converted free throw by Shaker.

Fenton (1-1) opened the third quarter with a driving layup by Logan, but the Dragons did cut the gap to just two points twice in the fourth quarter. The second time came at 40-38 with 6:47 left. However, a converted free throw by MacCaughan, a Logan assist on a Shaker three-pointer and a driving layup by Logan gave the Tigers a 46-38 lead with 4:00 remaining in regulation.

Griffins split weekend games

The Fenton/Linden varsity Hockey teams finished the weekend with a 50-50 result.

The Griffins lost to the Portage Muskies 3-0 but then defeated the Kalamazoo Eagles 4-2.

Against Kalamazoo, the Griffins fell behind early, but had the lead before the end of the first period. Jace Dumeah’s goal tied the contest with Mitchel Luck assisting. The Griffins took the lead for good with a power-play goal by Keegan McNamara on assists by Maximus Wright and Luck.

The Griffins jumped to a 3-1 lead in the second period on a goal by Temple off of assists by Carson Gardner and Wright. The Eagles cut the gap to 3-2, but another Griffins’ power-play goal raised the lead to 4-2. It was scored by Gardner on an assist by Wright. Fenton/Linden kept that lead into the second intermission and held on to it the rest of the contest.

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM
Holly wrestlers compete at Birch Run

The Holly varsity wrestling team opened its season at the Birch Run Tournament and finished the event with an 0-3 record. The Bronchos lost to Clio 39-36, to Troy 63-18 and to Yale 57-24.

The contest with Clio went down to the final match. Holly led 36-24 after Jacob Gonzales (171) earned a pinfall victory in 58 seconds. However, Clio ended the event with a decision win and two pinfall victories in the final three matches to earn the team victory.

The Bronchos had two wrestlers finish with 3-0 records with three pinfall victories. Gonzales earned first-round pinfalls in each match, collecting the victories in a combined 2:56. The longest match was one that took 1:04. The other was Hunter Hummel (160), He earned two pinfall victories in the final three matches while, Andrew Cross (130), Kendall Drake (189) and Jayden Higgins (215) each won one match by pinfall. Jacob DeVray (152) earned one victory as well.

Fenton wrestling off to busy start

By David Troppens

The Fenton varsity wrestling team has been busy since the start of their dual meets.

The Tigers have faced seven teams already, but limited numbers have kept the squad from having a lot of team success in the win-loss column, as they’ve lost each of these duals.

In Wednesday’s first matches, the Tigers lost a tight match with Adrian and also lost to Saline 56-26. On Saturday, they lost five matches with two being mighty close. The Tigers lost to Farmington 42-41 and to Crestwood 41-36. They also lost to Lake Orion and to Montrose by similar 34-25 scores and to Romeo 46-25.

“Early on, we are still working to get our lineup in the right position,” Fenton varsity wrestling coach Brad Beverly said. “We do not have the numbers we had in the past, but we have a number of experienced wrestlers.

“Our first event we had a number of kids that had solid outings. However, we had too many forfeits we could not overcome. ... Regardless of how the season goes, I fully expect our kids to show up, compete and do their part for the team. I know they will and all of the kids we have are doing their part to help the team succeed.”

In Wednesday’s activities, Owen Freeman (119), Kyle Dunfield (160/171) and Philip Lamka (160/171) went 2-0, while Carson Krzeszak (285) won his only match. Garrett Clark (125), Dylan Beverly (152), and John Sage (189) went 1-1 each.

At Saturday’s Romeo duals Lamka went 5-0, earning three pinfall wins. Krzeszak went 4-1 with three pinfall wins while Evan Firby (215), Beverly and Freeman each went 4-1 with two pinfall wins. Clark went 3-2 with two pinfall wins.

Holly swimmers compete well despite small roster vs. Ovid-Elsie

By David Troppens

The Holly varsity boys swim team is struggling in numbers and this season has been consistent in how they have been swimming. Their numbers are small, but what numbers they do have, are performing rather well.

The Bronchos recently recorded six firsts in 12 events in a 91-51 loss to Ovid-Elsie. They have been doing so well. We have been working as a team on and off the court. "We really wanted to work on our offensive and get better as a team, no matter who we were playing," Leedle said. “I feel we have so much potential. We have been doing so well. We have been working as a team on and off the court and I love it.”

Linden had five players score points in the second stanza and forced Holly to 11 turnovers, resulting in a 43-2 halftime lead.

EAGLES

Continued from Page 11

Holly’s Alana Simmons drives to the bucket against Linden's Madison Meunier. Photo: Christopher Summers

VanBuren said. “We hiked that lead and had six girls score.”

The Blue Devils used a balanced scoring attack to earn the victory. Fellenbaum had 11 points while Cola Sisk, Smith and Kerrigan Howdeshell netted 10 points each. Ella Prevost scored eight points.
Celebrate the coming of the Christ Child!

The Nativity of the Lord

**Christmas Eve Mass**
FRIDAY, DEC 24TH  |  4PM, 6PM & 11PM

**Christmas Day Mass**
SATURDAY, DEC 25TH  |  9AM & 11AM

**Feast of the Holy Family**
SUNDAY, DEC 26TH  |  9AM & 11AM

**Solemnity of Mary Vigil**
FRIDAY, DEC 31ST | 5PM

**Epiphany of the Lord Vigil**
SATURDAY, JAN 1ST | 4PM

**Epiphany of the Lord**
SUNDAY, JAN 2ND | 9AM, 11AM & 6PM

309 E. Maple St. • Holly • StRitaHolly.org • 248.634.4841

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**Fenton wrestling off to busy start**

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**Christmas Eve Gatherings**

5:00pm Casual-style service in the Family Life Center
7:00pm Traditional-style service in the Sanctuary
11:00pm Traditional-style service in the Sanctuary

Childcare available at the 5:00 & 7:00 Services

**Outside Drive-in Service • 7:00 pm**
In parking lot

**Indoor Service • 11:30 pm**
In sanctuary (fully masked)

Linden Presbyterian Church | 119 West Broad Street • Linden
HOLIDAY WORSHIP

Holly Presbyterian Church
Reverend Brooke Pickrell

Christmas Eve Service
Friday, December 24 • 6:30pm
207 E. Maple St. Holly • 248-634-9494
www.hollypc.org

Join Us as We Celebrate the Coming of the Christ Child
TYRONE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service
4:00 pm
10235 White Lake Rd. Fenton, MI 48430 • 810-629-1261
www.tyronepca.org

St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church
600 N. Adelaide St. • Fenton • 810-629-2251

Christmas Mass Schedule
CHRISTMAS VIGIL
Friday, December 24
4 pm and 6 pm

CHRISTMAS DAY
Saturday, December 25
12 midnight
9 am and 11 am

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
Friday, December 31 (No morning Mass)
5 pm
Wednesday, January 1
9 am and 11 am

Join us as We Celebrate the Coming of the Christ Child

Tyrone Community Presbyterian Church
Pastor Linda Living - Hawley

Join us for our
Christmas Eve Service
Friday, December 24th
Candlelight Service
at 3:30pm & 6:00pm
810-750-0350 • 9141 Hartland Rd. • Fenton
DEADLINES: SUNDAY PAPER: Display Ads: Wednesday 3 p.m. • Line Ads: Noon Thursday • WEDNESDAY PAPER: Display Ads: Monday 3 p.m. • Line Ads: Noon Tuesday

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**Employment**

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full and part time available.
Apply within
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Lounge 1509 N. Leroy St. Fenton
or Call Trisha
810-640-6575.

**HIRING PRODUCTION OPERATORS**
$18-$25 per hour, with
excellent benefits package.
Hours are Monday-Friday
6:30am to 3:30pm.
Job includes: Following
detailed production batch sheets, Fork Truck
Operations, preventative maintenance,
some heavy lifting up to 60lbs, multi tasking
various projects with high level of detail and
ensuring safety guidelines are being met to
assure a safe work environment. Keeping
tools organized and work area clean and
the ability to follow instructions, for product
conformity is essential. Apply via indeed.com
or email HR@zandercolloids.com.

**MECHANIC WANTED**
MUST HAVE:
Tools & Transportation, Chauffer’s license (CDL preferred), Good character,
Responsible, Take orders, Give directions & work well with others.

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**FULL TIME EMPLOYEE NEEDED**
at a metal shop in Fenton. General Labor.
Full medical after 60 days and 401k with
matching after one year. Starting pay is
$16 per hour. Must be able to lift 50 lbs.
Knowledge of hand tools and measuring
instruments a plus. Must speak fluent
English. High School diploma preferred.
New applicants will be working presses and
sandblasting parts but may be required
to hold torch or run CNC spinning lathe.
Job requires 8 hours a day on your feet.
Accepting applications at Precision Metal
Spinning 1120 Fenway Circle, Fenton,
MI 48430. Or email resume to brian@
precisionmetalspinning.com.

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to assist you with aging in
place. Caregivers provide personal
and dementia
care, respite and companionship.
Please call
810-224-5800.

**2008 CHEVROLET HHR**
power steering, power brakes, 85K,
runs good, some rust, $3,000 or
best offer. Call 248-563-6804.

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FULL TIME | $18-24/HR | EXCELLENT BENEFITS
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of engines, transmissions, hydraulics & electrical of both gas & diesel
equipment • Must be able to keep track of time accurately
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Midweek Crossword

ACROSS
1 PC port
4 Roast VIPs
7 — cheese
dressing
8 Some tides
10 Coffee-break
hr.
11 Mistakes in
print
13 Mitch
Hedberg and
Margaret Cho,
for two
16 Standard
17 Cyber-
commerce
18 To and —
19 Greet
20 "Roots"
author Haley
21 Racing shell
23 Red-tag
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25 Poker variety
26 $ dispensers
27 1040 org.
28 Mideast pen-
insula
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slouch!"
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38 Brick worker
39 Used car sites
40 Med. plan
option
41 Away from
WSW

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treatment
4 "Thank you,
Henri"
5 Yule tune
6 Pesky email
7 Alpha follower
8 Himalayan
9 Repress
10 Recipe abbr.
12 Farm units
14 Gas co., for
one
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for short
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Henri"
18 Recipe abbr.
19 "Life — short
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21 Vegas area
22 Convention
23 Luminary
24 Good-natured
25 Venus, to
26 Playwright
28 Tic
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30 Marble type
31 Profs' degrees
32 UFO crew
33 "Life — short
...",
34 Hexagonal
state
35 Press agent?
36 Spud
37 Thin nails
38 Brick worker
39 Used car sites
40 Med. plan
option
41 Away from
WSW

©2021 King Features Synd., Inc. • Answers in this Sunday’s edition of the Tri-County Times
Curtis G. Gavette
1940 – 2021

Curtis G. Gavette - age 81, of Linden, died
Sunday, December 12, 2021. Funeral
services will be held
11 AM Saturday, December
18, 2021 at Sharp Funeral
Homes, Linden Chapel,
209 E. Broad St. Linden (A live stream of the service
will be available on Curtis obituary page at www.
sharpfuneralhomes.com). Fr. David Harvey officiating.
Burial in Fairview Cemetery, Linden. Visitation will be
held at the funeral home Friday, December 17 from
4 - 8 PM. Those desiring
may make contributions to
the Loose Senior Center, 707 N. Bridge St, Linden,
MI 48451. Curtis was born
April 4, 1940 in Auburn
Heights, the son of Gerdon
and Martha Gavette. He
was a 1958 graduate
of Pontiac Northern
High School. He married
Barbara Ann Roughton
December 21, 1990 and she
preceded him in death
March 6, 2015. Curtis has lived in
Linden since 2002 coming
from Waterford. He was a
member of the Loose Senior
Center. He enjoyed playing
Euchre and spending time
with his grandchildren.
Surviving are six children;
and several grandchildren;
great-grandchildren;
other relatives; and
several friends. He was
also preceded in death
by his parents. www.
sharpfuneralhomes.com.

Howard J. Mitchell
1945 – 2021

Howard J. Mitchell - age 76, of Holly, died
Friday, November 26, 2021. He was
born in Flint on January
10, 1945 to Albert
and Evelyn (Bradley)
Mitchell. He was a
lifelong resident of Holly
from a pioneering family
that settled in Holly in
1837. He was a Vietnam
Veteran, serving in the
US Army. He worked at
General Motors Metal
Fab (now called GM
Flint Assembly) plant
on VanSlyke. He was a
former member of Farm
Bureau, Holly American
Legion, Holly Kiwanis,
and Holly JC’s. Surviving
are four siblings, Marilyn
(Ralph) Meredith of Port
Huron, David Mitchell of
Byron, Arlene Mitchell
of Seattle, WA, and
Glen (Candace)
Mitchell of Holly;
nieces and
nephews, Brian
Meredith,
Devin
(Tammy)
Meredith,
Erinda
Meredith,
Renée
H INSTALL ETIQUETTE
WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP LATER?
In the days and months
to come, the family will
continue to need your
support. Try to write or call
on a regular basis. Continue
to include them in your
social plans, they will let
you know when they are
ready to participate. It is
also nice to remember the
family on special occasions
during the first year
following the death. Don’t
worry about bringing up
the pain and emotion of the
loss, they are well aware
of that. By remembering
such occasions as wedding
anniversaries and birthdays,
you are not remembering
the death, but reaffirming
that a life was lived.

Source: Thefuneralsource.org

ARIES
Mar 21/Apr 20
Relationships will be easy for
you this week. Aries. You will
be in tune with the vibe of the
people with whom you inter-
act on a daily basis and can
push interactions further.

TAURUS
Apr 21/May 21
Remember to take lessons
from those who have blamed
trails before you. Taurus. You
don’t have to reinvent the
wheel. Explore some tried and
true strategies.

GEMINI
May 22/Jun 21
Gemini, your desire to remodel
or redecorate your home
could come to the forefront
this week. Be careful to set
a budget; otherwise, you run
the risk of overspending.

CANCER
Jun 21/Jul 22
You may be lacking some
self-confidence in the romance
department right now, Cancer. Phone
a friend and get the pep
talk you need to realize you’ve
got what it takes.

LEO
Jul 23/Aug 22
Leo, you may tempted to turn
off your phone this week, as
the idea of a device-free day
is enticing. Take a brief time
out from technology each
day.

VIRGO
Aug 23/Sept 22
Virgo, if you feel backed
into a corner, try not to lash
out but understand others’
opinions and why they may be
questioning you. Listen and
you’ll find a solution.

LIBRA
Sept 23/Oct 22
Libra, it’s unlikely you can
check everything off of your
list this week. Don’t let that get
you down, however. You will
accomplish a lot. Measured
progress is still progress.

LIBRARY
Oct 23/Nov 21
Scorpio, you may be known
for being serious much of
the time, but it’s alright to
be goofy and playful once
in a while. Engage in some
entertaining antics.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov 22/Dec 21
Stand up for what you believe
in this week, Sagittarius.
Others will be inspired by
your actions and may join in
support of the cause you’ve
championed.

CAPRICORN
Dec 22/Jan 20
The pressure on you has been
tremendous lately, Capri-
corn. You may want to treat
yourself to a well-deserved
rest. The break will quickly
rejuvenate you.

AQUARIUS
Jan 21/Feb 19
This is a good time to pursue
your dreams, Aquarius. Make
a list of smaller steps that will
help you achieve your goals
and then put the plan into
action.

PISCES
Feb 19/Mar 20
You can’t avoid every poor
situation that comes your
way, Pisces. Don’t run and
hide, but step up and face the
music.
Keep More Money in Your Pocket for the Holidays!

Take advantage of our great rates when you refinance your auto or RV loan from another financial institution and make no payment for the first 60 days! Keep more money in your pocket during the holidays with this great offer! Qualified borrowers apply before December 31, 2021.

*Annual Percentage Rate (APR) and terms may vary depending upon credit qualifications, value, and age of collateral. Approximate monthly payment would be $21.59 per $1000 borrowed at 1.74% APR for 48 months. Loans currently financed by Dort Financial Credit Union or Business accounts do not qualify. Rates, terms, and conditions can be changed without notice.

** If the 60-day payment deferral option is chosen, interest will continue to accrue during the deferral period and will be collected from your first loan payment.