Three men arrested for Target break-in

Fenton police say trio broke glass doors at Fenton store, flee from officers in two counties

By Sharon Stone

Three men are in police custody following a break-in at the Target store in Fenton early Monday morning.

Lt. Jeff Cross said Fenton police

received a call from corporate security for Target on Owen Road at 2:10 a.m., Monday, Jan. 13. Police were told that the security alarm had sounded and three individuals were inside the store. A description of the individuals and vehicle were provided to police. Fenton police arrived at the store within two minutes of the call and spotted a black See TARGET BREAK-IN on 2



PAGE 3 GRADUATE GETS HOMETOWN SUPPORT' SEND-OFF VOL 27 NO. 11 MEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2020 MEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2020



Reality TV star requests rezoning of school building in Holly

Village Planning Commission will hold public hearing Jan. 22, followed by possible decision

By Vera Hogan

It is taking longer than originally anticipated but what has been dubbed the "Schoolhouse Project" in the vil-

lage of Holly is moving forward.

The Holly Village Planning Commission will meet Wednesday, Jan. 22





GEXCUSE me, but do you happen to realize how expensive it is to 'get a

divorce' and the mental anguish that goes along with it? Well, I don't think so. Complaining is so much cheaper on the wallet and the mind."



should start a gofundme page to help the fire hall restaurant get the town clock back working. Maybe they need help with repairs

Everyone

if you think we

raise your hand

clock back working. Maybe they need help with repairs. We the people of Fenton really want this fixed. Is it too much to ask?"

Holly police trying to ID fake money suspects

Three individuals pass counterfeit \$100 bills at Holly area businesses By Sharon Stone

Three persons of interest are being sought by the Holly Police Department for passing counterfeit \$100 bills in the village of Holly.

On Jan. 12, the individual pictured on page 6 is suspected of passing bills to at least three area businesses in the N. Holly Road area. All of the bills have the same serial See FAKE MONEY on 6

2019 crime report ■A few municipalities see drop in larceny rates

By Hannah Ball

In 2019, the most common crimes in the tri-county area were assaults, larcenies, and OWIs (operating a vehicle while intoxicated.)

Here are the local crime numbers See CRIME REPORT on 8



Linden last July. Attended December City Council meeting. As for

the city moving forward, it's in the hands of a very competent group of professionals. Go Linden."



TARGET BREAK-IN Continued from Front Page

Chevrolet Malibu driving out of the parking lot toward Owen Road. Police learned later that the car was reported stolen from Grand Rapids. Fenton police followed as the car entered northbound U.S. 23 at Owen Road. Police activated lights and sirens to initiate a traffic stop.

Genesee County Dispatch was alerted to the break-in and fleeing vehicle and multiple police agencies in Genesee County responded in an attempt to stop the vehicle. The car eventually exited the highway at Vienna Road and reentered the highway traveling southbound back through the Fenton area.

Livingston County police agencies were alerted to the situation and on-duty officers attempted to stop the vehicle. Stop sticks were deployed on U.S. 23 near Faussett Road. The car ran over the stop sticks, causing it to veer from the road and crash.

When the car crashed, all three occupants fled on foot. One of the suspects, a 17-year-old Grand Rapids male, was caught quickly by a Livingston County officer after a short foot pursuit. Cross was unsure which police agency apprehended the first suspect.

Several police agencies searched for the other two male suspects, however they were unable to locate them. Police used K-9 units and drone technology.

Several hours later, a tip came in to police indicating the location of the two other suspects. A motorist called police after being approached by the two suspects asking for help on Hyne Road, near U.S. 23. Officers in Livingston County located the two suspects and took them

<section-header><section-header><section-header><text><text><text>

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into custody for questioning.

The first male suspect caught was transported to the Genesee County Jail for questioning and pending charges.

Cross said Target reported that nothing was stolen from the Fenton store. The suspects gained entry by breaking two glass doors, which have since been replaced.

The lieutenant could not provide more details or identities about the suspects other than these three men were from the Grand Rapids area. One suspect is a juvenile.

Multiple Target stores across Michigan have been broken into in recent days. Cross said it is too early to determine if the suspects arrested Monday are responsible for the other Target break-ins.

Fenton police were assisted by officers from Linden, Grand Blanc Township, Metro Authority, Flint City, Flint Township, Argentine Township, Mt. Morris Township, Brighton, Green Oak Township, Michigan State Police, and deputies from Genesee, Livingston and Oakland County sheriff's offices. Genesee and Livingston County Central Dispatch Centers also assisted.

Pending charges include possession of a stolen vehicle (five-year felony), breaking and entering (10-year felony) and fleeing and eluding police (five-year felony).

The case remains under investigation.



COMPILED BY SHARON STONE

JANUARY IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH – KNOW WHAT TO LOOK FOR

According to the U.S. Department of Defense, one in six endangered runaways reported in the U.S. are likely to become victims of sex trafficking. January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month and the Michigan State Police (MSP) encourages you to learn the signs of human trafficking. Put your eyes to the test — watch the MSP "Look Again" video on YouTube to identify potential indicators of human trafficking. When you know what to look for, you can help bring an end to human trafficking. To report any suspicious, possible human trafficking activity, call (888) 373-7888.

Graduate gets 'Hometown Support' send-off

■ 19-year-old Holly resident receives police and fire escort before heading to Air Force training

By Hannah Ball

Holly — A 19-year-old Holly schools graduate received a lot of "Hometown Support" on Monday, Jan. 13 before she left for the U.S. Air Force Basic Training the following morning.

Cecelia Velazquez and her family were escorted by the Holly police and fire departments and EMS to Holly High School where the marching band and choir played tribute songs in honor of her joining the military. The event turned emotional while the choir sang the national anthem and when the band played the U.S. Air Force song.

It was organized by the Holly Area Veterans Resource Center as part of its "Hometown Support for All on Active Duty" program.

"We want to help young people like her," said James Golden, a Vietnam veteran and volunteer for the Holly Area Resource Center who started "Hometown Support." "She's just dear to my heart because she's like the poster child for this. We wanted to make a big send-off for her to go to Air Force Boot Camp."

Velazquez will spend eight-and-a-half weeks in San Antonio, Texas for training.



Cecelia Velazquez stands with her family and members from the Holly Police Department, minutes before they gave her a police escort to Holly High School in honor of her joining the U.S. Air Force. **Photo: Hannah Ball**

She's the first in her family to join any branch of the military.

"I never had a dream job that I wanted, and to be spending a whole bunch of money going to college just didn't seem worth it," she said. "I have an idea that I might want to make it (the Air Force) a career." She said it seems like the perfect lifestyle for her.

"It's very structured. You're also very independent at the same time. I like that there are education benefits. If I want to study something else on the side, I could," she said.

See SEND-OFF on 5

HONORING OUR VETERANS



MICHAEL J. LEAVER LINDEN, MICHIGAN VIETNAM 1969 – 1971 E-5 ARMY Service dates: August 1969 - August 1971

National Defense Service Medal Vietnam Campaign Medal Device 60 Vietnam Service Medal Combat Medical Badge Bronze Star Silver Star

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Planning a wedding?

Don't miss our informative featured section

Coming Sunday • January 19, 2020



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Building Brands

f you've flown with checked baggage you're aware of the weight limits, which are typically 40 pounds for domestic and 50 pounds for international. Because of those limits, waiting to check baggage can be a high-anxiety event, especially for my better half, Matt. As we ap-

proached the check-in counter for our first flight of 2020, Matt told the airline employee he was sure we were over. The bag was 35.6 pounds. It was very exciting, until the airline employee scolded Matt for thinking so negatively at the start of a new year. "She is right! New year, new positive attitude," I said to Matt.

I've gone back and forth on New Year's resolutions

throughout my life, but ultimately I like them. I'm always curious what others are resolving to do, especially when it comes to business. I find the responses inspirational. With that in mind, here is what a few area business professionals and leaders are aiming for in 2020:

Christine Welsh, principal Kerning Advertising

My resolution for the New Year is to grow a small part of my business that can help other business owners succeed at social media. In 2019 I launched SocialSuccess-Toolbox.com, a social media content tool that provides businesses and organizations with a monthly calendar complete with daily posts, along with graphics, videos and GIFs ... With this simple tool, we find that businesses save time, worry and money, while growing their social media engage-

My resolution for 2020 is to begin looking for a solution for funding for road improvement projects.

Sue Osborn, Fenton mayor

with social media.

Emily Caswell

ment. In 2020, my goal is to get this tool in

we can, so that they may be more confident

the hands of as many business owners as

Wes Smith, group publisher, View Newspaper Group

"Reader engagement" is one of those newspaper industry terms that didn't exist 10 years ago and is now pursued at some level by nearly every newspaper in the county. It encompasses everything from the tasks of a traditional circulation department to branding, events, community outreach,

social media and more. In 2020, I will work to better understand and coordinate all of those activities and foster more. I will look

for more meaningful ways to connect with our readers - and non-readers - to learn what they want from their community newspaper.

My resolution is taken from the Queen herself - Oprah. She recommends practicing these three activities daily.

• Stillness, • Vision, • Gratitude

I love this. It's a reminder to take life one day at a time. And while it might not seem like it, my resolution is business-related. I've found that if I take care of myself personally, I'm much better professionally. Best of all (for Matt) is that those steps will, without a doubt, lead to luggage under 40 pounds.

I'd love to hear your New Year's Resolution — business related or not — send them to ecaswell@mihomepaper.com. Happy New Year!

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

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What's something you want that you can't afford or that money can't buy?

Compiled by Hannah Ball, staff reporter

"A vacation home in hot weather, like Florida or the Carolinas."



for other people."

- Julia Bastedo Gaines Township



"Continued good health for myself and family. Travel isn't a part of it. I'm happy living in Fenton for the past 25 years. I was wish I had been able to arow up here."

- Linda Blanco Tyrone Township



Where were the Democrats

Submit Hot lines 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.

regarding presidential war powers? ELISSA SLOTKIN'S LATEST TV

ad is false. The ad states that Slotkin is new to Washington, Wrong, Slotkin was an Obama insider in the State Department and former CIA employee. Slotkin was sent back to Michigan to impeach Trump. Slotkin is a puppet of Nancy Pelosi.

NO WAY SHOULD we be asked to pay for road repairs through a special assessment on Margaret Drive with the amount of taxes we currently pay. However, if we have no choice then it should be repaired where needed and not totally torn up. Wish our representatives managed our tax dollars better.

WHILE SHOPPING FRIDAY evening my husband and I witnessed a woman belittle and berate her mother so horribly it brought tears to my eyes. So many of us would give anything to hug our moms just one more time. I hope this woman realizes this before it's too late.



"It wouldn't be material things. Health and happiness."

street talk



"For people not to judge others on their beliefs and appearance. And of course a beach house would be nice."

- Teresa Clark

Holly

- Isabella Luck Linden

Flying into 2020 with new resolutions

myfenton.com

SEND-OFF Continued from Page 3

Her parents were "mostly" okay with it, but it was a shock when she told them.

"One teacher of mine that I'm pretty close with was in the Army," Velazquez said. "She was kind of surprised, but they're all very excited. Even my friends are excited that I get to do this. They're a little sad that I'm leaving but they're excited for me that I get to go off and do what I want."

After training, she'll go to tech school in Mississippi, which is a month long. Velazquez will study how to do her job and then she'll report to her first station, where she'll get more hands-on education.

Velazquez's mother, Shannon Hernandez-Cruz, said, "I just feel blessed and humbled. It's just incredible. It's overwhelming. We're so thankful for everything they've done. It was a lot more than I expected."

The idea for "Hometown Support"

started when Golden met Velazquez and asked what she was doing after high school. She said she planned to join the Air Force.

"I said, 'I'm so proud of you,'" Golden said. "Whenever you go into a business or a factory, wherever you're going to be employed at, they will teach you what they want you to do for them. But what they cannot teach you, Cecelia, is discipline and respect. I said, 'the military will teach you that.'"

The Holly Area Veterans Resource Center maintains the ribbon tree at Holly Elementary School, which showcases yellow ribbons for each local person serving in the military. The ribbon stays on the tree the entire time the person is in the service. When they leave, the ribbon is cut off and given to the military member or their family.

Velazquez's yellow ribbon will go on the tree soon. She's the first woman and the 36th ribbon. She's

Fenton officials hoping second time's a charm

■ Failed to get grant applied for in 2018 but will try again with application assistance from engineers

By Vera Hogan

Fenton — Although they didn't make the grade the first time around, city of Fenton administrators are preparing to apply a second time for a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) grant.

The city applied for the grant previously in 2018. If awarded, the fund would have paid for Mill Pond Park and Fenton Trailway improvements that included a kayak/canoe launch, new playground equipment, exercise equipment along the river walk trail and a river walk connection along the river between W. Caroline and Silver Lake Road.

"Unfortunately, the application did not earn enough points to be awarded grant funding assistance," said Dan Brisson, director of the Department of Public Works.

Brisson told Fenton City Council members Monday night that he and

OHM, the city's engineers, attended DNR workshops in Lansing to learn more about the 2020 funding programs and application process.

"The scoring has changed somewhat," Brisson said. He said OHM and city staff are confident that a second application, due April 1, will yield favorable results for approval.

The MNRF grant, if awarded, will allow up to \$300,000 in grant assistance with a 25-percent match from the city.

"OHM has prepared a Scope of Engineering Services proposal outlining the work scope necessary to assist the city with a new grant application," Brisson said.

OHM's fee for providing this assistance is charged on an hourly basis for a not-to-exceed amount of \$3,500. The Fenton City Council approved the expenditure at its Monday, Jan. 13 meeting.



Cecelia Velazquez shakes hands with Benjamin Baldwin, band director for the Holly High School marching band, after they finished playing the official song of the U.S. Air Force. **Photo:** Hannah Ball

also the first person to be receive a "Hometown Support" send-off.

Golden plans to do this for everyone local leaving to serve, and he hopes these kinds of events become more popular nationwide.

Fenton hires new police officer

By Vera Hogan

Fenton—After being introduced to the Fenton City Council on Monday, Jan. 13, by Police Chief Jason Slater, the department's newest officer, Cole Hopkins, 30, was sworn into office by Mayor Sue Osborn.

Hopkins' first day on the job was Monday, Jan. 6.

According to Slater, Hopkins, who is an Ohio native, worked as an officer for the Livonia Police Department for two-and-a-half years. He also served in the U.S. Army Reserves for six years.

Following the oath, Hopkins said, "Thank you for having me here. I look forward to working in the city of Fenton. From the first day, everyone has welcomed me and treated me like family."

Fenton City Council chambers were filled for the event with fellow Fenton officers and Hopkins' family.



SCHOOL BUILDING Continued from Front Page

at 7 p.m. A public hearing will be held before planners consider the request to rezone from single family residential to commercial.

The old Holly Area Schools administration building at 111 College St. was purchased by Cari Cucksey, her husband, Vince Iafano, and a partner in 2016 from The River Church. The River Church



Cari Cucksey, her husband and another business partner are moving forward with the rehabilitation of the school building at 111 College St., which they purchased in 2016. **Submitted photo** bought it from the school district in 2007. Cucksey, a 1993 graduate of Fenton High School, is best known for hosting "Cash & Cari" on HGTV. She moved to Holly with Iafano, in 2015, after purchasing the historic downtown building that once housed the Holly Village offices. She now runs her businesses, the RePurpose Shop, and an event venue called The Vault, and resides in the building.

Originally, Cucksey, her husband and partner planned to rehabilitate the building into a mixed-use boutique hotel, banquet center and speakeasy pub. They hoped to be completed and open by the end of 2018.

This week, Cucksey said they are definitely moving forward with the project, with one change.

"We plan to do it in phases. It is a big project," she said. "Our plan is to build an event venue and boutique hotel. But probably not a speakeasy pub."

Katy Golden, director of Holly's Downtown Development Authority (DDA) and assistant village manager, said, "They are actively working on rehabilitating the building. As a village, we are excited to see development in that building. It has been vacant and deteriorating for many years. Vince and Cari are making significant investments in the building and property."

When the plans for this project were first revealed in December 2017, Village Manager Jerry Walker said, "We are in desperate need of hotel rooms in the village with all the events occurring in and around us. This could really become a destination location. There are some challenges for sure being in a residential area

Building information

- Built in 1913 (original stucco), 1927 and 1954
- Former college, school house, administration building and church
- Total 44,000 square feet
- Building to be 100-percent restored, preserving all original architecture
- The project will create multiple construction and fulltime jobs when completed.

but nothing that cannot be accommodated with a true team effort from all involved in the process, including the neighbors who are critical to the project's success."

There was one other purchase agreement for the property. The first developer's intentions were to demolish two-thirds of the building, leaving only the two-story portion standing and they proposed to construct condominiums around the perimeter of the property," Walker said. "This would have been tragic as all the history to the building would have been lost."

The proposed demo portion was the single-story sections that were the oldest and designed by world-renowned architects of school buildings during that time period.

Walker said, "The current developers are anxious to work with the Holly Area Schools in preserving not only the properties history but also the school's history and the students who previously attended there."



Times file photo

FAKE MONEY Continued from Front Page

number and have a white strip on the backside of the bill.

According to Holly Police Chief Jerry Narsh, those who pass fake bills will usually try to make a purchase for a small amount in order to get a large amount of change to "launder" the bill and get clean currency. They will often attempt to pass them at a busy time or when there are several customers waiting to rush a cashier.

Video surveillance indicates the pictured suspect was assisted by two black females,

a younger woman with long braids and a second female in her 40s, heavy set and wearing a wig. All three suspects entered a white possible Ford Explorer and drove away from the area.

If you believe you have been victimized and have a bill in your possession, call the police department that services your area and file a report. If you have information about the crime or the identity of the suspects, please call the dispatch center to speak with an officer at (248) 858-4911 or the Holly Police Department at (248) 634-8221.





The Genesee County Bar Association Lawyer Referral Service

One of the proudest days of my life was Nov. 9, 1976, when I was sworn in as a new lawyer and officially became a member of the State Bar of Michigan.

It was an exciting time and within a very few days I decided to also join the local Genesee County Bar Association (GCBA).

For those who don't know, membershipintheStateBarismandatory for all lawyers while membership in the GCBA is voluntary.

Why did I join? The simple answer is that I wanted to be a part of an organization that could help me get started as a new attorney and have the opportunity to meet attorneys who certainly knew much more about how the practice of law worked in real life terms.

I have been a member ever since and have benefited greatly in a number of ways.

The GCBA has grown immensely since 1976 in both numbers and services and has a website gcbalaw. org, which contains information for not only the membership but also the public.

I won't detail it all here, but today I want to talk about one of the services that the GCBA offers to the public called the Lawyer Referral Service.

It started in 1977 and is for those who don't have an attorney, need legal advice and/or representation, and is comprised of a panel of lawyers who have various legal specialties. When you call the service, you're asked questions about your legal matter and then referred to a lawyer who has expertise in that area of the law.

There is a \$30 charge payable to the GCBA Lawyer Referral Service for a one half hour consultation. This fee helps defray the costs of running the program.

At the end of the appointment, you decide if your legal questions have been sufficiently answered or if you want to retain the lawyer.

All of the panel attorneys have a deep commitment to the law.

I could go on about Lawyer Referral but I won't. Suffice it to say that the website has much more information. The phone number is (810) 232-6012.

I could not be prouder to be a member of the GCBA.



Riverside's revival

Holly's stalled development coming back to life after 16 years

By Tim Jagielo

Holly Twp.—On any given day, both Riverside North and Riverside South subdivisions will be abuzz with construction work, even with the winter cold.

Little by little, these once stagnant neighborhoods are coming to life after a long lull precipitated by the past recession.

These properties off Grange Hall Road were among several unfinished subdivisions kicked off in the early 2000s that sat as reminders of the recession and a slowed economy.

The Holly subdivision issue spawned public discord, petitions, bonds, water use

POLICE & FIRE

COMPILED BY SHARON STONE

ELEVEN ANIMALS DIE IN GAINES TOWNSHIP BARN FIRE

Ten cows and one horse died in a barn fire early Monday morning in Gaines Township. Fenton Township Fire Chief Ryan Volz said his department responded to the 911 call at 12:43 a.m., Monday, Jan. 13. A barn in the 11100 block of Hogan Road, just south of W. Ray Road, caught fire. Volz said the fire spread quickly and was brought under control at 1:35 a.m. The cause of the fire is unknown at this time, however, it remains under investigation. Aside from Gaines Township and Fenton Township fire departments, Fenton and Linden cities as well as Mundy Township assisted through mutual aid. fees and even talks of annexation by the village to extend police and snow removal services to the township property.

"The economy's turned around," said Holly Township Supervisor George Kullis. "Home values have caught up with the market ... a lot of things are turning around and people are feeling confident, and people are building and selling homes."

The development was generally known as the "Silverman-Pulte" project. Pulte Homes is no longer handling construction. Horizon Homes is building on Riverside North and Clearview Homes is handling Riverside South, according to Kullis.

Riverside North had seven homes before this resurgence, Kullis said. Today there are 30 homes and six under construction. Riverside Gardens on the south side of Grange Hall Road has six new homes and seven under construction, said Kullis.

The subdivisions are in Holly Township, with Holly Village water and sewer service. Every new user on the village water and sewer systems eventually helps lessen user fees for all village residents.

A BRIEF SITE HISTORY

2002 — Plans for development are approved.

Attorney Dale Smith was the Holly Township supervisor at the time. "The economic climate was very strong in the early 2000s," Smith said. "Real property values were very high and there was a true need for additional housing in light of the multiple job opportunities in northern Oakland County in particular."

2004 — The project led in part to a \$13 million expansion to the existing wastewater treatment plant on Airport Drive. According to a 2004 Times article, the expanded facility would service the new "Pulte subdivision" along Grange Hall Road.

Trouble started in late 2004, when the development of the north side of the project was halted. According to a 2004 Times article, the property owned by The Silverman Group (Company) was to be developed by Pulte Homes. There were 800 new homes, condominiums and even shopping centers planned for construction.

The "current market" was one reason cited by the owner of Silverman at the time.

Smith said he can blame the failure of the project on the banking industry and "glut" of sub-prime loans. The problem ended up falling on village residents. The \$13 million expansion was funded by bonds, which eventually had to be paid back.

Municipal water systems are purely user supported and without See **RIVERSIDE** on 9



CRIME REPORT Continued from Front Page

from 2019.

City of Fenton, provided by Lt. Jeff Cross

Police report 106 incidents of OWIs and OUIDs (operating while under the influence of drugs) in 2019, compared with 71 incidents in 2018.

Retail fraud continues to be one of Fenton's most common crimes, with 96 incidents in 2019, compared to 100 in 2018. There were 61 other fraud reports last year and 71 in 2018.

Larceny from auto cases increased from 28 to 31, and car thefts dropped from 11 in 2018 to five in 2019.

There were 63 incidents of assault in 2019, a small increase from the 61 the year prior.

Police responded to 24 drug-related offenses in 2019. Criminal sexual conduct cases saw a slight increase of 13 in 2018 to 16 in 2019, and breaking and entering incidents decreased from 23 to 18.

Police report three cases of stalking, one arson case and zero cases of homicide for 2019.

MIDWEEK TIMES

Police Chief Daniel Allen

Police report 38 cases of OWIs, 17 fraud cases, 14 assaults, and 11 drug offenses. There were 11 reports of damage to property, nine reports of larceny, eight reports of breaking and entering and five cases of larceny from autos. The township had five cases of criminal sexual conduct, three stolen vehicles, one retail fraud, one arson and zero homicides.

Holly Township, provided by F/Lt. Michael Shaw of the Michigan State Police

In 2019, the MSP reported 25 cases of assault (aggravated and non-aggravated), 21 cases of OWIs, 11 cases of breaking and entering, and 10 cases of larceny and larceny from auto.

There were eight cases of retail fraud, four cases of stalking, four cases of drug-related offenses and three cases of criminal sexual conduct. MSP reports zero cases of car theft, arson or homicide.

Holly Village, provided by Police Chief Jerry Narsh

The village experienced 25 incidents of larceny and larceny from autos in

2019 compared to 39 in 2018, the most significant drop in a crime category. Assaults decreased from 33 in 2018 to 22 in 2019 and drug-related offenses increased from seven to 20. Retail fraud numbers almost remained the same at 14 in 2018 and 15 in 2019.

There were 13 cases of breaking and entering in 2019, compared to 10 in 2018. Police reported eight cases of criminal sexual conduct in 2019 and five in 2018. OWIs decreased from nine to four in that time period. Vehicle theft decreased from two to one.

Arson cases decreased from two to zero, and police report zero cases of homicides or stalking in either year.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

TO ADD TO the Boy Scout's suggestion for the LaJoice property, we could really use a place for teens and young adults to hang out. Healthy food, coffees, a small theater, open mic nights, trivia nights, etc. There's nothing like that to do in this town for the younger crowd.

Argentine Township, provided by

Fenton Township, provided by Gen-

esee County Interim Sheriff Chris

crime in the township in 2019 with 109

incidents, followed by assaults at 94.

Police report 62 cases of larceny and lar-

ceny from auto, 32 OWIs, 11 breaking

and entering cases, and eight criminal

sexual conduct cases. There were four

drug related offenses, one arson case,

one stalking case and zero homicides.

Linden, provided by Police Chief

In 2019, Linden's most common

crime was assault at 11, an increase

from nine in 2018. The number of lar-

cenies stayed the same at nine. Officers

responded to four incidents of OWIs

The city had three cases of larceny

from autos (nine in 2018), three cases

of retail fraud (zero in 2018) and one

report of breaking and entering in 2019

(four in 2018). Sutter reported no cases

of homicide, criminal sexual conduct

Retail fraud was the most common

Swanson

Scott Sutter

in 2019.

or car theft.

State's lowest paid workers see pay increase

Recent 20-cent per hour bump in pay impacts approximately 3 percent of workers

By Tim Jagielo

On Jan. 1, Michigan's minimum wage increased from \$9.45 per hour to \$9.65 per hour. Tipped workers' minimum wage increased from \$3.59 to \$3.67. This is part of the gradual increase set in Public Act 337 of 2018, also known as the Improved Workforce Opportunity Wage Act. The next increase is in January 2021 to \$9.87 and \$3.75 (tipped workers), according to the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA).

The federal minimum wage is \$7.25 an hour. About half of U.S. states have higher than federal minimum wage, and Michigan sits near the middle in regards to hourly pay. Some states have lower minimum wage than the federal amount. Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina and Tennessee have no minimum wage laws. Wyoming's minimum wage is \$5.15. According to the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), workers receive the higher of the two. According to the DOL, tipped workers report making less than non-tipped workers.

While this increase is good news for minimum wage workers, just 2.7 percent of hourly workers made the federal minimum wage or less, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics in 2016.

Chris Douglas, University of Michigan-Flint associate professor of economics, said this increase will only impact a small amount of the working population, if the goal in fact, is to help those on the poverty line.

Some businesses pay higher than state wage due to the market. According to salary.com, the median fast food worker in Michigan makes \$11.47 an hour or \$22,020 annually in late 2019.

Whenever there is an increase, there are concerns about minimum wage depress-

Olivia Beadner, 17, of Grand Blanc Township, sweeps the floors at Uncle Ray's Dairyland in July 2019. This is Beadner's first job. The average fast food workers make more than the Michigan minimum wage. **Times file photo**



ing hiring or leading to the automation of jobs, Douglas said. In short, it could have a negative unintended consequence of lowering employment for people in this job market. While a controversial viewpoint, he said some economists don't agree with this. Douglas said that because the economy is strong, and that the increase is gradual at about \$.22 per year, it's unlikely to have such a negative impact.

If the increase was more dramatic in a weak economy, such as quickly increasing to \$12 or \$15 an hour, it could hurt the

profit margins enough for a business to increase prices or automate jobs.

Douglas said the goal for a wage increase is to increase the pay for those closest to the poverty line. A single, childless adult making \$12,490 annually is making poverty wages according to the 2019 U.S. Federal Poverty Guidelines. This translates to about \$6.50 per hour for a 40-hour week. Douglas believes that minimum wage increases are a "blunt instrument" for helping those close to poverty.

Cure for 'Cabin Fever' 2020 Winter concert series features acoustic duo, blues band and Irish quartet

Compiled by Sharon Stone

After a successful first year, the city of Fenton Arts & Culture Commission (FACC) is bringing back the Cabin Fever Concert Series for winter 2020. Cabin Fever will be held at the Fenton Community & Cultural Center (FCCC) on Thursday, Jan. 30, Feb. 27 and March 12, from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

"I'm very excited for this year's concert line-up," said Eric Szczepanski, Cabin Fever concert chair and FACC board member. "Joining us this year is Kristen & Andrew Music, Mike Espy and the Vehicle City All-Stars, and Finvarra's Wren."

Kristen & Andrew Music are a musical duo from Livingston County. They cover a variety of musical styles from country, rock and oldies. They will kick off Cabin Fever on Jan. 30 in the FCCC VanGilder Room. Tickets are \$10 each.

Michael Espy & The Vehicle City All-Stars are a rhythm and blues band comprised of artists from around the Flint and Genesee County area. The group will perform Feb. 27 in the FCCC Recreation Room. Tickets are \$10 each.

Finvarra's Wren, an Irish quartet from

Detroit, are known for their intense dedication to their instruments and west coast Ireland sound. They'll close out Cabin Fever with a free — family and kid-friendly concert March 12 in the FCCC's main hall.

Tickets are on sale at Fenton's Open Book, FCCC Office (cash only) and online through Eventbrite at FentonArts. eventbrite.com. Tickets include a special coupon offer for Free Focaccia Cheese Bread with purchase of large pizza at the Fenton Winery & Brewery (dine-in only and must present ticket).

"The proceeds will be used to offset concert costs and help us leverage matching grants for programs like Cabin Fever, Meet the Author, and summer arts camps for children," said Pat Lockwood, mayor pro-tem and FACC chairwoman.

Cabin Fever is sponsored by the city of Fenton Downtown Development Authority, Fenton Community and Cultural Center, Fenton Winery & Brewery, The State Bank, and The ACE of Fenton. The FACC is also supported in part by a matching grant from Share Art Genesee, which is funded by the Genesee County Arts Education and Cultural Millage.

RIVERSIDE Continued from Page 7

the 900 additional users paying for the system, that share fell back on remaining users in the village and the new neighborhoods.

Before the new development, there were more than 2,400 village water users.

2007 — The development was "sagging," according to Times records, and existing residents were already feeling the sting of higher water bills. While some parts of the development were successful, others were slowing down. **2009** — Joint meetings are held to discuss extending police and other municipal services to the subdivision through annexing it from the township. It didn't happen.

2011 — The village instituted flat water system user fees for all users, whether residents, schools or

businesses. Residents saw their bill increase by \$48.

2012 — Holly Village sues Silverman Properties over the unused water taps.
2013 — Holly Village claims a legal victory over Silverman with a summary judgment and a \$100,000 payment.
2014 — By this time, just 271 of the 900 proposed homes were built.

2017 — Holly Village resident Heidi Gumbleton brings a class action lawsuit against Holly Village for water fees. The case was argued by Smith as her attorney. It was ultimately dismissed "to a lack of merit," but cost the village more than \$200,000 to defend. **2019** — Holly Village and Riverside residents pay an extra \$37.05 for the bond debt service, which is less than previous years. Village Manager Jerry Walker said the fees will be recalculated in March.

2020 — More than 10 homes are under construction in the subdivisions.



COMPILED BY SHARON STONE

UNLAWFUL POSTING OF EXPLICIT MATERIAL IN HOLLY

At 3:44 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 9, a Holly woman reported to Holly police that she ended a relationship with a male friend in 2019. She received information that her former boyfriend's new girlfriend had posted explicit photos of her on the internet that were in the possession of the former boyfriend. Holly police are investigating. Michigan law 750.145e protects persons from this activity and makes it criminal behavior.

LARCENY FROM VEHICLES IN HOLLY

Two separate victims reported their vehicles were entered sometime after midnight on Saturday, Jan. 11 and items of value removed. Both homes are in the 4000 block of Grange Hall Road. There was an attempt made by the suspect to use one of the stolen bank cards at a device that has video. Holly police are following up to obtain the video and identify the thief. Police advise everyone to lock all vehicle doors, even on private property and make sure valuables are either removed from the vehicles or not in plain view to help reduce the opportunity to be a larceny victim.

MISDEMEANOR WARRANT ARREST IN HOLLY

Holly police came in contact with a person in a vehicle parked in a business lot on N. Holly Road at 4:38 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 11. The 37-year-old Holly woman had multiple warrants for her arrest from a neighboring community. Holly officers took her into custody on the warrants and turned her over to the warrant holding agency.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

IT'S 8 AM. Sunday morning. Oakland County roads are fine. Genesee County roads are terrible. New leader needed.

CITY HALL EMPLOYEE told me the bathrooms at Bush Park are going to be removed because of vandalism and 'mess.' Portables will be placed.

THANK YOU ALEXANDRA and Kristopher for blessing me with a beautiful and perfect grandson last week. I love you all.

I CAN'T BELIEVE Meghan Markle is moving to Canada and not Fenton. Shame.

COMING SOON! Source book **2020**

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Fenton's Lainesse leads our area football squad Blue Devils collect

Lund heats up, leads Eagles by Dragons

den held on to a 24-21 halftime lead

against the visiting Swartz Creek

a different story. Lund hit on 5-of-

9 field goals, including four three-

pointers, scoring 18 of his game-high

29 points during the eight-minute

session. During the run, he put

Swartz Creek's top offensive player,

Terrian Armstrong, in foul trouble

and put the Eagles ahead 46-33 en-

tering the final period. Swartz Creek

would cut into the lead during the

fourth quarter, but would never lead

again as the Eagles (5-1) remain the

However, the third quarter was

Dragons.

By David Troppens

Jaden Lainesse entered the Fenton varsity football season with one primary individual goal.

"I wanted to get as many tackles as possible," Lainesse said. "I wanted to help out however I could. When I missed the first week (a loss against

WEDNES

2019 Football Player of the Year Jaden Lainesse

Linden — Blake Lund is different

There are times while watching

than many other star players on their

a Linden varsity boys basketball

game it's easy to forget he's on the

court. Sometimes other teammates

are hot or maybe a foe is playing

strong defense against Linden's ju-

nior perimeter shooting wizard so

his point production doesn't grow

But just because he's quiet for five

minutes, 10 minutes or even for a

full half, that doesn't mean Lund will

hot streak is about to surface.

Rest of 2019 football team is on Page 12.

By David Troppens

prep basketball teams.

considerably high.

Davison) due to mono, it was hard watching them play and not being on the field. Once I got back, I was eager to do the best I possibly could because I knew it was my last year playing high school football." Lainesse, a linebacker,

5, 2020 | PAGE 10 | MYFENTON.COM/SPORTS

rts Times

in the lineup, the Tigers never lost a regular season contest, and helped the Tigers' • defense allow just 83 points over the next • eight regular season contests. But as the year continued he started making more of an impact with the Tigers' running game.

.

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM

did plenty to help the Tigers. With him : first win of year

By David Troppens

The Lake Fenton varsity boys basketball team has worked hard.

The Blue Devils have had plenty of games where they had a great chance to earn a victory.

However, five games into the season

the squad still was looking for its first victory.

That string ended on Friday. The Blue Devils dominated the final three quarters of their road contest, earning a 66-47 victory against Owosso. "Obviously getting a win means a lot," Lake Fenton varsity boys basketball coach



Lake Fenton's Landon Verhelle scored nine points in a win against

Josh Fox said. "They have put so much hard work into it and they finally were able to see the

OWOSSO. Times photo: Mark Bolen reward and get the win. The adversity

they have felt with the losses, no one has ever come into practices defeated. They saw what we were trying to do, worked hard and I give them full credit." The Blue Devils trailed 14-9 after one

quarter, but steadily took control of the contest. Francis Senter and Matt Turgeon led the charge from off the bench, combining for 31 team points.

Scooby

I'm a sweet and playful

young man! I'm good

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM

Linden's Blake Lund (center) scored 29 points in the Eagles' victory against the Swartz Creek Dragons. Times photo: Mark Bolen

Dutchess

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remain quiet. In fact, in most cases only undefeated in Metro League that's the best indication the eventual Stripes Division (3-0) play. The biggest Lund buckets came That was the scenario during Linright after Swartz Creek's Christoden's 61-47 victory at home against pher Gill tied the game up at 24-24 the Swartz Creek Dragons. Lund had with a three-pointer just 36 seconds hit just one bucket in the first half. He into the third quarter. CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM had just five first-half points as Lin-

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Spencer opens 2020 with first bout of year on FOX Saturday

By David Troppens

Joey Spencer has made a name for himself in the boxing world.

In two years, he's posted a 9-0 professional record, knocking out seven of his foes. Of course, eight of the Linden teenager's fights have been on national television as well.

Recently, for the second straight year, Spencer was voted by boxing fans as the Premier Boxing Champions Prospect of the Year.

And now, Spencer is getting another chance to climb the professional ladder again when he faces Erik Spring on Fox Network on Saturday at 8 p.m. The bout at Philadelphia's Liacouras Centers is scheduled for six rounds.

Saturday's bout will represent Spencer's most experienced and seasoned professional foe of his career. Spencer's first nine opponents have combined to win 29 bouts (an average of less than three victories each).

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM



Linden resident Joey Spencer (right) will be facing his highest rated professional opponent on Saturday when he faces Erik Spring. The bout will be on FOX with bouts starting at 8 p.m. File photo

Tigers win thriller vs. Kearsley

By David Troppens

Early on, it didn't look like the Fenton Tigers were in any position to earn their third varsity boys basketball victory of the season at Kearsley.

The Tigers trailed 15-0 early on and still trailed 18-3 after one quarter.

However, the Tigers rebounded, took the lead and held on down the stretch, earning a 48-47 Metro League victory.

"We didn't make any shots early on," Fenton varsity boys basketball coach Chad Logan said. "We didn't take bad shots, but we didn't make them."

After the slow start, the shots started going in. Fenton trailed just 22-18 by halftime and led 36-32 by the end of the third quarter. Down the stretch, the Tigers had a nice lead but were unable to make free throws when they needed to in order to ice the game. The Tigers missed three front ends of one-and-ones, allowing Kearsley to cut the gap to 48-47. Kearsley had a shot at earning the win, but the initial



Fenton's Addison McIntosh led the Tigers with 13 points in a 48-47 victory against Kearsley. Times photo: Mark Bolen

shot was missed. However, Kearsley got the offensive rebound and a putback attempt was missed as well.

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM

Online Stories Stories ONLINE AT TCTIMES.COM

Fenton girls stung by Kearsley Hornets

The Fenton varsity girls basketball team is looking for some more offense. The Tigers played a strong Flint Kearsley opponent on the road Friday

night, and played well. However, Kearsley remained undefeated in Metro League Stripes Division play by beating the Tigers 46-37.

Holly girls basketball loses to Flushing, 53-29

A slow start cost the Holly varsity girls basketball team Friday night.

Flushing jumped to a 16-3 lead after one quarter, eventually resulting in a

A slow start cost the Holly varsity 53-29 victory against the Bronchos.

loss.

Holly scored 12 points in the second quarter, but Flushing scored another 21 points.

Linden girls struggle vs. Swartz Creek Dragons



Linden — The Linden varsity girls basketball team has struggled to score points in recent weeks.

That trend continued on Friday.

Linden scored only 14 points over the first 24 minutes of the Eagles' contest against Swartz Creek, resulting in a 67-25 The Eagles (1-6) scored at least 32 points in each of their first four games, but have been held to 26 or less in each of their most recent three contests.

Meanwhile, the Dragons (4-3) have only scored less than 40 points once this season and that trend continued Friday night.



myfenton.com

LFLF gymnastics team competes in recent meets

By David Troppens

The Linden/Fenton/Lake Fenton gymnastics team competed against Fowlerville/Byron recently and posted a solid team score of 135.9.

They also competed against Holt in a recent dual meet and had a team score of 132.05.

Against Fowlerville/Byron, Apryl Smith led the LFLF squad by posting two of the team's top scores. She led the team on the beam with a score of 9.475.

She also had the team's best score on the vault as well. She also had counting scorers in the bars and the floor.

Lauren Hayden also had two of the team's top scores. She led the squad on the floor with a score of 9.025. She also had the team's top score on the bars while posting a team-qualifying score on the beam and the vault (9.175).

The LFLF team had a strong showing on the beam. Maty Temrowski had a score of 9.275 on the beam while Av-

Holly boys heat up in fourth, earn victory

By David Troppens

Holly's varsity boys basketball team looked ready to suffer a defeat Friday night.

The Bronchos trailed 51-38 with 4:40 to go. That's about the time opposing fans start cheering "warm up the bus" to the visiting team facing that deficit.

However, the Bronchos made an improbable comeback. Holly outscored Flushing 19-4 the rest of the way and earned a thrilling 57-55 come-from-behind-victory.

"It was a great game," Holly varsity boys basketball coach Steve Dehart said. "It was really exciting. It was a very good win for the team. Going in there, they were 3-2 and we were 2-3, so both of us are 3-3 this season. Obviously, I like to be 4-2 or 5-1 even, but I think we're playing better."

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM

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ery Miller also had a counting score on the beam.

Temrowski had a team-qualifying score in all four events as did Miller.

Against Holt, Smith had a 9.2 on the beam, leading the squad in the event. She also had the team's top score on the floor.

LFLF gymnast Avery Miller competes during a recent competition. Times photo: Christopher Summers



LF girls earn another blowout win

By David Troppens

It would be an understatement to say the first two games of Lake Fenton's varsity girls basketball team's 2020 portion of the schedule has gone well. They went much better than that.

For the second time during the week, the Blue Devils earned mercyvictory, defeating Owosso 73-22 Friday night. The Blue Devils also earned the 40-point continuous clock mercy win against Linden (69-26) Tuesday.

"It was a solid trip and a solid night for playing time," Lake Fenton varsity girls basketball coach Brian VanBuren said.

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM

2019 TRI-COUNTY FOOTBALL TEAM

Position

Player of the Year Jaden Lainesse School All-State

Jaden Lainesse Linebacker/Running back Fenton Comment: Lainesse was one of the Tigers' strong two-way players who spent most of his playing time at linebacker. He had 75 tackles, including 29 of the solo variety. As the year went on he had a stronger role on offense, rushing for 367 yards and eight TDs.

Rest of first team	Position	School	All-State
Josh Thompson	O-line	Fenton	HMent - AP
Mike Miller	O-line	Fenton	
Jensen Walker	O-line	Holly	HMent - AP
Ben Muenzer	O-line	Lake Fenton	
Michael O'Brien	O-line	Lake Fenton	HM - FC
Dylan Davidson	Quarterback	Fenton	
Colby Kohmescher	Quarterback	Linden	
Brandon Miller	Running back	Fenton	
James Hamilton	R Back/D End	Lake Fenton	
Seeger DeGayner	End/Linebacker	Linden	
Brenden Miller	End	Linden	
Lucas Claborn	End	Fenton	
Ryan Miller	End	Fenton	
Braden Moore	Kicker	Fenton	First-AP, HM - FC
Austin Henard	Defensive end	Fenton	HMent - FC
Will Smith	D-line	Fenton	
Cole Patterson	D-line	Fenton	
Kolten Steele	Linebacker	Holly	
Kaleb Anderson	Linebacker	Fenton	
Steven Bloss	Secondary	Fenton	
Brady Triola	Secondary	Fenton	
Ryan Miiler	Secondary	Fenton	
Brenden Miller	Secondary	Linden	

Note: The players on the team and the Player of the Year were selected by the sports staff, with the aid of the all-league teams. Two All-State teams are recognized here — The Associated Press (AP) and the Michigan High School Coaches Association (FC). Players are listed based on position and not in any other particular order.

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2020

Page 13

I'm about 2 years old

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Obituaries

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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

view **OBITUARIES** *online* Obituaries updated daily online

Jack Herbert Perry 1931-2020

1931-2020 Jack Herbert Perry - age 88, of Fenton, died Sunday, January 12, 2020. Funeral services will be held 11 AM

Wednesday,



January 15, 2020 at Sharp Funeral Homes, Fenton Chapel, 1000 Silver Lake Road, Fenton. Fr. Robert Copeland officiating. Burial in St. John Catholic Cemetery. Visitation was held at the funeral home Tuesday, January 14, 2020 from 4 - 8 PM. Those desiring may make contributions to Adopt-A-Pet, 13575 Fenton Road, Fenton, MI 48430. Jack was born February 26, 1931 in Flint, the son of Herbert and Helen (Johnson) Perry. He was a 1949 graduate of Flint Central High School and received a Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering from Michigan State University. He married Lois Naomi Waldron August 30, 1951 in Flint and she preceded him in death January 14, 2014. He retired from AC Spark Plug as chief staff project engineer. After retirement he represented AC Spark Plug on the NASCAR circuit for 14 years. Jack was a member of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church. He enjoyed car and boat racing and watching MSU sports, he also enjoyed walking his dog in the woods every day. Surviving are his children, Kim (Michael) English of Fenton, Denise Perry of Fenton, and Yvonne Perry of Byron; grandchildren, David Perry, Nick English (Amber Beasley) of Flint, Mandi (Michael) English-Greshock of Fenton, Genny (Rob) Perry of Fenton, and Becky (Jamie) Sawyer of Fenton: greatgrandchildren, Nicole, Morgan (Ben), Miranda, and Trinity; and great-greatgrandchild, Taylor; sister, Lois Craig of Flint; and nieces and nephews. He was also preceded in death by his parents; son, William Herbert Perry; and greatgrandson, Tyler Jenkins. Tributes may be shared at www.sharpfuneralhomes.com.



myfenton.com

Times

MIDWEEK TIMES



ARIES Mar 21/Apr 20

The stars pull you deeper into the cocoon of your mind, Aries. This may help you as you work on a project or work through thoughts and emotions.

TAURUS Apr 21/May 21

This is a week to take inventory of any goals that you may have put on a shelf, Taurus. Dust them off and create a plan of action because the time to pursue them is now.

GEMINI May 22/Jun 21

Gemini, an ambitious week is on the horizon. Your professional house is booming, and you are ready to perhaps move your career to the next level.

CANCER Jun 22/Jul 22

This week will get off to a social start, Cancer. Expect friends to bring other friends along if you are hosting a party. This is an exciting opportunity to expand your network.

Horoscopes

LEO Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, put all of your cards on the table and begin discussions with others who are influencers in your life. Only then can you come up

life. Only then can you come up with a strategy to get things done.

VIRGO Aug 24/Sept 22

Make a point of being direct if you are upset, Virgo. Others need to know if they have stepped on your toes, even if it was accidental so they can make things right.

LIBRA Sept 23/Oct 23

Now is a key time to boost your bottom line, Libra. If you don't already have a job, it's time to get one. If you're employed, you may need to seek out new revenue

streams. SCORPIO Oct 24/Nov 22

Various ideas are swirling around in your head, Scorpio. You're not sure which ones you want to see the light of day just yet. Partner up on a trial project first.

SAGITTARIUS Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, if stress has been ruling your universe, it might be time to step back and reevaluate your priorities. Find out which tasks you can shed from your daily list.

CAPRICORN Dec 22/Jan 20

Deep soul-searching and a sharing of hidden emotions might be on the docket this week, Capricorn. It is brave to own up to your feelings. You'll find support in friends.

For the week of January 13, 2020

AQUARIUS Jan 21/Feb 18

A deep cleaning or decluttering is in order, Aquarius. Start with one room in the house and then work your way onward as time permits. Decluttering can be liberating.

PISCES Feb 19/Mar 20

You may soon encounter some awkward moments with some people you interact with regularly, Pisces. This will blow over quite quickly.



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