

'Stay Home, Stay Safe'

■ Gov. Gretchen Whitmer signs executive order for entire state of Michigan

Monday, March 23, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer signed the "Stay Home, Stay Safe" Executive Order (EO 2020-21),

directing all Michigan businesses and operations to temporarily suspend in-person operations that are not necessary to sustain or protect life.

The order also directs Michiganders to stay in their homes unless they're a part of that critical infrastructure work-



safety of themselves or their family, like going to the hospital or grocery store.

Effective at 12:01 a.m. Tuesday,

force, engaged in an outdoor activity, or performing tasks necessary to the health and

March 24, for at least the next three weeks, individuals may only leave their home or place of residence under very limited circumstances, and they must adhere to social distancing measures recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) when they do so, including remaining at least 6 feet from people from outside the individual's household to the extent

See STAY HOME on 2



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**SPRING TRAVEL
— SHOULD
YOU GO?**

Midweek Times

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Masks for medical staff — Michael Lay of Fenton Township strips the metal framework from a furnace filter on Saturday, March 21. He cuts the filter material into rectangles, which are inserted into the hand-sewn masks his volunteer group is making. These will be delivered to medical workers at local hospitals as part of a hundreds-strong grassroots movement addressing the diminishing supply of facemasks. **See story on page 6.** Photo: Tim Jagielo

Police take precautions to slow the spread of COVID-19

■ Police department lobbies closed, some reports taken over the phone

By Hannah Ball

The efforts to slow down the spread of COVID-19 are signifi-

cantly altering American's lives. This includes police departments.

Local police chiefs have implemented measures to limit the public's contact with officers to slow the spread.

See POLICE on 9

Area hospitals seek supplies amid COVID-19 crisis

■ Call ahead to ensure donations will be accepted

By Tim Jagielo

Local hospitals are seeking items for their staff in light of equipment shortages during the COVID-19 epidemic.

See SUPPLIES on 5

Gas prices plunge

■ Gasbuddy reports effects of pandemic

By Hannah Ball

Gas prices have dropped significantly in the past few weeks.

Locally, on Tuesday, March 24, Fenton gas stations all sold gas for less than \$2 a gallon. Gasbuddy.com

See GAS PRICES on 8



“Thank you Times for all of the important services available to our elderly and homebound.

I bought an extra copy to give to my mom who lives in Fenton. She appreciated having phone numbers to call instead of a website.”



“A stock-piler buys supplies during the good times for when the bad times

occur. A hoarder runs out and buys up all the supplies just as the bad times hit, creating shortages and panic. Be a stock-piler, not a hoarder.”



“We are talking more to our neighbors, checking on them and making

sure they have what they need.”



STAY HOME

Continued from Front Page

feasible under the circumstances.

"In just 13 days, we've gone from 0 to over 1,000 COVID-19 cases," Whitmer said. "This is an unprecedented crisis that requires all of us working together to protect our families and our communities. The most effective way we can slow down the virus is to stay home. I know this will be hard, but it will be temporary. If we all come together, get serious, and do our part by staying home, we can stay safe and save lives."

"Taking aggressive action to protect our communities is the most important thing we can do to mitigate further spread of COVID-19," said Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services chief deputy for health and chief medical executive. "If we do this now, we can make sure our hospitals and healthcare workers are prepared to take care of the sickest people. It is crucial that people do the right thing by staying home and staying safe."

Executive Order 2020-21 prohibits all businesses and operations from requiring workers to leave their homes, unless

those workers are necessary to sustain or protect life or to conduct minimum basic operations. Businesses and operations are to designate the workers that meet those criteria, and must adopt social distancing practices and other mitigation measures to protect workers and patrons in the performance of that necessary in-person work.

Workers who are necessary to sustain or protect life include those in health care and public health, law enforcement and public safety, grocery store workers, and more. For a full list of these critical infrastructure workers, click the link to Executive Order 2020-21 at www.michigan.gov/whitmer.

Additionally, under Executive Order 2020-21, all public and private gatherings of any number of people occurring among persons outside a single household are temporarily prohibited. People may leave the house to perform for limited, necessary purposes, and may engage in outdoor activities like walking, hiking, running, cycling, or any other recreational activity, consistent with remaining at least 6 feet from people outside a person's household and with other restrictions imposed by prior

executive orders.

Michigan is currently in the top five states in the nation in number of confirmed COVID-19 cases. Several governors across the country have taken similar steps to protect their communities from the spread of COVID-19, including governors Mike DeWine (R-OH), Andrew Cuomo (D-NY), J.B. Pritzker (D-IL), Tom Wolf (D-PA), Gavin Newsom (D-CA), John Bel Edwards (D-LA), Phil Murphy (D-NJ), and Ned Lamont (D-CT).

Patients with confirmed infection have reportedly had mild to severe respiratory illness with symptoms of:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

The best prevention for viruses, such as influenza, the common cold or COVID-19 is:

- If you think you have symptoms of COVID-19, call your health care provider. If you do not have a health care provider, call the nearest hospital.
- Wash your hands often with soap and warm water for 20 seconds. If not available, use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or upper sleeve when coughing or sneezing.
- Avoid contact with people who are sick.
- If you are sick, stay home, and avoid contact with others.
- Stay at least 6 feet away from others when in a public setting.
- Information around this outbreak is changing rapidly. The latest information is available at Michigan.gov/Coronavirus and CDC.gov/Coronavirus.

For those who have questions about

the state's actions to mitigate the spread of coronavirus, call the COVID-19 Hotline at 1-888-535-6136 between 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

Michiganders can apply for unemployment benefits if they have left work or taken a leave of absence because of self-isolation or self-quarantine in response to elevated risk from COVID-19 due to being immunocompromised, displaying the symptoms of COVID-19, having contact in the last 14 days with someone with a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19, the need to care for someone with a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19, or a family care responsibility as a result of a government directive.

Those temporarily laid off from work should apply for unemployment benefits online at michigan.gov/UIA or 1-866-500-0017.

FOOD FOR OUR CHILDREN

Whitmer is working to ensure that children who rely on the food provided by schools will have the resources they need. The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) has developed an online map for families to find meals. Families can access the map at: www.mcgi.state.mi.us/schoolnutrition/.

On March 19, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) approved the governor's request for a statewide Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) declaration, opening the opportunity to small businesses to access low-interest loans from the SBA. The application for disaster loan assistance is available at disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/.

For businesses looking for more information on how to apply for an SBA EIDL loan or whether it is something they should consider, visit michigan-business.org/covid19.

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Spring travel 2020

■ Travel restrictions change plans by the minute, but you can re-book for future dates

By Sally Rummel

Planning to travel somewhere this spring?

The coronavirus global pandemic has shut down most travel, with ongoing travel restrictions from the U.S. State Department and recommendations from the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) changing plans daily.

Many of the most popular vacation destinations are closed, including Europe, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica and Mexico—even Las Vegas and the entire state of California in the U.S., plus beaches in most of Florida.

Disney has closed all of its parks worldwide and Universal theme parks are shut down in Florida and California. On March 18, the border between the U.S. and Canada also was closed.

“Policies are changing by the minute,” said Ingrid Ream of Superior Travel, with an office in Fenton. “Almost everything is shut down.”

Cruise lines are all cancelled through April 11, said Ream, and Princess cruises have cancelled until May 10.

There are still options for domestic trips by air or by car, but travel restrictions continue to tighten daily. Most airlines have announced major reductions in flights.

“Most people are getting vouchers for future trips,” Ream said. “The important thing now is to re-book your trip soon. If you wait, you’ll find lots of dates unavailable, plus higher prices.

There are so many sales

on right now, you can take advantage of great deals.”

“We were supposed to leave on March 28 for a seven-day cruise,” said Mary Ann Brostek, 66, of Fenton, who cruises every year with her daughter, son-in-law and 6-year-old grandson.

See **SPRING TRAVEL** on 7

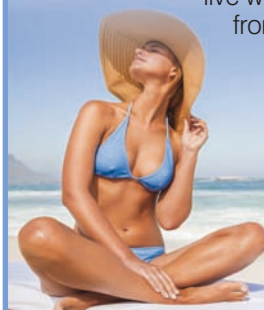
“The important thing now is to re-book your trip soon.”

Ingrid Ream
Superior Travel owner

SHOULD I STAY OR SHOULD I GO?

Ask yourself these questions:

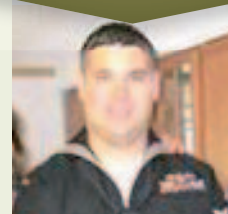
- Is COVID-19 spreading in the area where you’re going?
- Will you or your travel companion(s) be in close contact with others during your trip?
- Are you or your travel companion(s) at higher risk for a more severe illness if you get COVID-19?
- Do you have a plan for taking time off from work or school, in case you are told to stay home for 14 days for self-monitoring or if you get sick with COVID-19?
- Do you live with someone who is older or has a serious, chronic medical condition?
- Is COVID-19 spreading where I live when I return from travel?



Source:
CDC.gov

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Building Brands

There's an anecdote in the newspaper business that goes something like "If a business doesn't advertise with you, just wait a while. Soon enough they'll be calling to advertising their going-out-of-business sale." It's a bit cruel, maybe, but it has been proven to be true.

I won't name names, but a very large Michigan business got a lot of ink recently for their going-out-of-business sale. Reporting on the closure has made it clear that the business suffered for a few reasons: market disruption, new out-of-state employees with no passion for the business and massive cuts to their marketing budget.

The sad part is, the company had control over some of these issues, especially their marketing spend.

A much smaller business in one of our markets also announced its closure recently. While it's disappointing, I wasn't shocked. I personally had three meetings with the owners and I could not get them to see the value in our product. While I applauded their investment in other forms of marketing, I stressed to them that in the communities they served in order to reach the clientele they desired, print media had to be a part of their marketing mix.

Not advertising in print was not the only reason this business didn't make it, but it didn't help.

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If you're a business that wants to succeed in the markets we serve, View Newspaper Group should be a part of your marketing budget, which is something every business should have.



Emily Caswell

What percentage of your overall budget that should be depends on who you ask. For example, the U.S. Small Business Administration recommends spending 7 to 8 percent of your gross revenue for marketing and advertising if you're doing less than \$5 million a year in sales and your net profit margin — after all expenses — is in the 10 percent to 12 percent range.

It's no secret that the most successful organizations — whether local or global — invest in marketing. A consistent and frequent mix is best. Our team at View has more than 100 years of combined marketing experience, so if you'd like to sit down and discuss how to make the most of your marketing budget please contact me at ecaswell@mihomepaper.com or at 810-452-2608.

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

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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.

REDUCE YOUR VIRAL anxiety. Watch less news; watch more comedy.

HEY VERA, WE were told no restrooms or showers will be open for camping for this entire season.

LET'S HAVE A national hour of prayer. Our religious leaders could lead a televised hour praying for an end to this virus. We have nothing to lose and, maybe, somebody up there will be listening.

WASH YOUR DOOR KNOBS, switches and phones to poison the germs and then you can wash with soap and water or just water to get the cleaner off.

TO ALL YOU greedy grocery hoarders, please stop. I'm 75 with a bad heart running from Walmart to both VG's just looking for hamburger and yes, toilet paper. Shop like you do any other time. Stores are staying open. Give them time to replenish their meat and shelves.

TO THE HOT-LINER who thinks the country would be better if schools weren't feeding the kids. I feel sad for you that you think we should punish children in food-insecure households. More can be spent on schools without cutting food for those who need it most.

Compiled by Tim Jagielo, media editor

How are you staying positive?

Question asked to Times Facebook followers



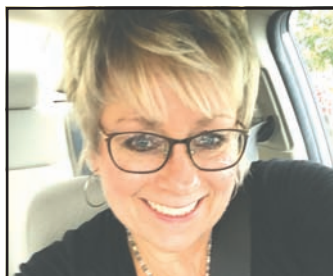
"Keeping my routine in place. Working, exercising, eating well, short trips to the super-market for a few items at a time and staying touch with family and friends."

Dave Lossing, Linden



"Daily prayer and we're making masks for Fenton Medical Center."

Lisa Ziraldo
Fenton Township



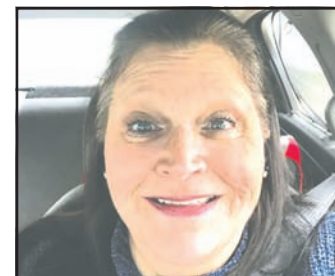
"With morning exercise, reaching out to friends with phone calls and funny jokes, leaning on my faith and doing what I can to help with sewing medical masks"

Coreena Storms, Fenton



"Started a public conversation on Nextdoor website and Facebook to alert individuals with sewing talent to consider making masks for our health care workers."

Mark Shantz, Fenton Township



"When I wake up, I praise God for another Day. Put everything in God's hands and carry on."

Laura Hecox
Fenton

street talk

VG's Grocery clarifies delivery service

In a Times story that ran Sunday, March 22, "Resources for seniors and families," it incorrectly stated that VG's Grocery at 1390 N. LeRoy St. in Fenton offers delivery services.

The VG's North LeRoy store does not have delivery, but does offer Fast Lane (curbside pickup) and other services, including reserved shopping hours on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 7 to 9 a.m. for seniors and other vulnerable shoppers, plus Senior Discount Wednesday.

Customers requesting delivery must do so through the VG's Grocery Silver Parkway store. To

signup for Fast Lane pickup or delivery, visit Shopthefastlane.com.

Fast Lane customers also need to be aware that these services will take more time than usual, because of the huge demand with the coronavirus pandemic.

"This week, with the Michigan shutdown (Executive Order issued Monday by Gov. Whitmer), you can expect delays of several days," said Whitney Stipes, Fast Lane manager at VG's Grocery, North LeRoy Street. "The earliest pickup date as of Monday morning was going to be on Thursday, for example."

SUPPLIES

Continued from Front Page

Hurley is accepting:

N95 masks
Disposable face masks
Eye protection (face shields and safety goggles)
Disposable gowns
Disposable gloves (non-latex)
Bleach or anti-microbial wipes

Hurley is NOT currently accepting these items:

Home sewn masks
3-D-printed ventilator parts
Medications
Other medical equipment

The drop off location and times may change per day. On Tuesday, March 24, it was 1 to 3 p.m. at Hurley West Flint Campus Parking Lot, 1085 Linden Road, Flint.

Contact Hurley Director of Volunteer Services and Programming, Jordan Brown at JBrown6@hurleymc.com for other drop off arrangements.

Check the Facebook page for more up-to-date information.

McLaren Flint

The Local 875 registered nurses union are seeking N95 or N99 masks, isolation gowns, gloves, nursing boot covers, head covers and hand sanitizer, said Union President Kelly Indish. She said they also accept cloth masks to use in conjunction with N95 masks.

Items can be donated at the union



N95 masks (above) are desperately needed the COVID-19 crisis. Photo: tesmanian.com

office next to McLaren Flint at 3738 Beecher Rd., Flint from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., or call Indish at (810) 423-2131.

She thinks the shortage has sprung from local facilities not being prepared for such an emergency. Regarding the nurses, "They're okay. It is overwhelming," she said, adding that they're having a hard time getting tests back in a timely manner. She credits nurses with being prepared and handling the crisis professionally.

Ascension Genesys in Grand Blanc Township

As of Tuesday, March 24, there is no drop-off event or easily available donation list for Ascension Genesys, though some individuals have through personal contacts, taken donations to the hospital.

Don't flush wipes

Residents can help avoid sewage backup during pandemic

By Hannah Ball

Municipalities are reminding residents which items can be flushed down a toilet and which cannot.

Thomas Broecker, operations manager and deputy clerk of Fenton Township, released a statement about the potential for sewer overflows and backups due to people staying home because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The COVID-19 virus has created a greater focus on cleaning and sanitizing in the home. It is vitally important that residents avoid flushing products other than toilet paper down a toilet during COVID-19 cleaning, or any other

cleaning activity," according to the press release.

Products such as sanitizing wipes, baby wipes, diapers, feminine hygiene products, tissues or paper towels should never be flushed. They do not break down, which can clog toilets and damage infrastructure. This leads to costly plumbing repairs.

These products can cause larger problems for the entire sanitary sewer systems, with blockages, sewer main breaks, overflows and backup of sewage into homes.

"Even wipes marketed as 'flushable' are not toilet-friendly, and should never be flushed. Dispose of all non-toilet paper products properly by throwing them in the garbage," according to the press release.

See **WIPES** on 9

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Harriet Lay of Fenton Township sews a facemask in her home on Saturday, March 21. These masks are washable and include a pocket for a section of disposable furnace filter fabric. As of Tuesday, March 24, 550 have been made. Photo: Tim Jagielo

Michael Lay cuts filter material into 5-by 6-inch sections to create inserts for handmade masks.



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Locals make 'medical' facemasks with furnace filters

■ COVID-19 creates deficit in N95 facemasks for medical staff

By Tim Jagielo

Fenton Twp. — This past weekend, medical staff at hospitals across Michigan turned to an unlikely source for their dwindling supply of facemasks — the crafting community.

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to a run on the N95 facemasks worn by medical professionals to help protect them from illnesses while treating sick patients. Hospitals are possibly facing a shortage in the near future, and sewists (term they use) and crafters across the state took to social media to share designs and updates on their progress.

Keri Lay started the local Facebook group "Masks for Medical Staff" after hearing that a physician friend of hers considered sewing masks himself. The result has been more than 500 masks made over the weekend, to be donated to medical professionals on the front lines of this pandemic, and staff at doctors' offices and nursing homes.

This group is making washable masks with a removable pad made from disassembled furnace filters.

They started Thursday March 19, and have grown to more than 300 members who've created a vibrant, active community of volunteers from the Fenton area and beyond.

Through this group, a virtual factory complete with supply chain and distribution sprang up in a few days. Members donate funds for supplies like fabric and furnace filters, or drop off materials on Keri's porch.

Some run materials back and forth.

Others, like Keri's mother Harriet Lay, sew the masks. Keri's husband Michael is one who disassembles the furnace filters and cuts them into mask inserts. "I think everyone's kind of just looking for someone or someday they can help," Keri said.

Harriet, also of Fenton Township, had sewn five masks on Saturday, March 21, just hours after the preferred design was decided.

"I just happen to love sewing so it's right up my alley," she said, adding that it's a simple, enjoyable way to help. "We're hoping they're effective."

The jury might still be out on what these masks block. There are no available studies on their effectiveness.

However, the best furnace filters can remove "virus carriers," according to the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE).

The Facebook group is seeking and using furnace filters with a minimum of 1900 MPR (microparticle performance rating), and no fiberglass, based on input from medical professionals.

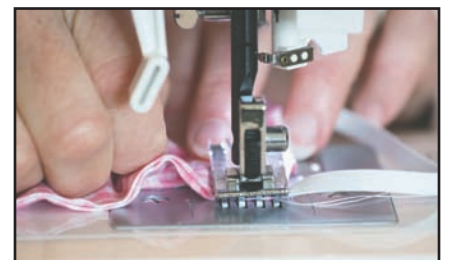
Local hospitals are seeking supplies for donation, like gloves and N95

masks. Officially, they're not accepting handmade masks, though Keri reported that staff using them have been allowed to wear them.

A 2013 study shared by the National Institutes of Health reports that N95 masks are more effective than homemade, but it's better to use homemade than no mask at all during an influenza pandemic.

During this pandemic, Keri said the group will make as many masks as possible — until the material runs out, or if it's decided they shouldn't be used.

Join the "Masks for Medical Staff" on Facebook if you'd like to get involved. See the video at myfenton.com.



Harriet Lay sews a mask on Saturday, March 21. Photo: Tim Jagielo



Mark McCabe
67th District Court
Ask the
judge

DRUG RECOGNITION EXPERTS

In the 1980s, the Los Angeles Police Department began developing a program to train police officers on how to determine if drivers suspected of being under the influence and having tested well below the legal limit for alcohol, had instead used a controlled substance and the drug category most likely causing the impairment.

In 1986, the Department conducted a special school for 18 officers to instruct them on how to make both determinations. As a result, the concept of a "Drug Recognition Expert" (DRE) became a reality.

Since then the DRE program has dramatically expanded and there are DREs in all 50 states.

Becoming one is not easy and before a police officer can even apply to the DRE school they must have completed an approved course in Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST).

If accepted, the officer will learn about the seven drug categories, human physiology, the signs and symptoms of a drug-impaired driver, and how to conduct a 12-step field evaluation of a suspect. There are both classroom lectures and field training.

The evaluation combines what was learned in the classroom with

actual field observations and techniques to be used at a scene and consists of the following:

- Initial breath test review
- Interview of the arresting officer
- Preliminary exam to determine if the suspect is injured including taking a pulse
- Examination of eyes for jerking, difficulty following an object, lack of convergence
- Psychophysical tests including SFST and others
- Vital signs examination and taking a second pulse
- Examination of pupil size
- Muscle tone examination
- Checking for injection sites and taking a third pulse
- Reviewing the subject's statements
- Forming an opinion on impairment and the drug category
- Chemical or blood testing

National Highway Traffic Safety Association statistics show that DREs have a high success rate in identifying drugged drivers.

Nationally there are more than 9,400 DREs. Michigan has 137 who are used statewide and are currently an integral part of the Michigan State Police Pilot Program allowing roadside saliva testing of suspected drugged drivers.

Michigan's courts have yet to rule on whether DREs can be expert witnesses and other state courts are split.

For those interested more DRE information is available at laponline.org.

Republic Services makes changes

■ Only trash inside cans; no bulk pickup during COVID-19 situation

During this unprecedented situation with the COVID-19 (coronavirus), Republic Services will need to make the following changes:

- Republic will collect cart contents only. Any items outside of the trash cart will not be collected.
- Bulk collection (i.e. couch, chair, television, carpet) will be temporarily suspended. Please do not place these items out to the curb at this time.
- Cardboard intended for recycling will have to be cut down and placed inside of the recycle cart.

Republic Services' number one priority is the safety of its employees, residents, and the communities it serves and apologizes for the inconvenience.

Republic will keep the communities up to date on any changes to service.

SPRING TRAVEL

Continued from Page 3

We'll re-schedule our trip with the cruise credit from Royal Caribbean. It's good through Dec. 31, 2021."

A lot of the work being done by local travel agents is in the urgency of re-scheduling clients who had trips planned in March and April.

Lisa Essett of Travel Brokers in Fenton was working Wednesday to take care of travelers who arrived at Punta Cana in the Dominican Republic, on the same day the country was closed to travel. "Now we have to assist in getting them home," she said. "It's a great case for using a travel agent, so we can get you 'unstuck' when you are stuck somewhere and need to get home."

Whatever your own travel situation this spring, one thing is clear: it will likely change tomorrow. "Contact your travel agent even if you're traveling domestically," Essett said. "What's going on today doesn't mean it will be happening tomorrow."

HOT LINE CONTINUED

LOOK AT YOUR neighbor's unkempt yards this way; some of them are either lazy, too busy or just don't consider it a priority. But, if you have free time, go help some senior citizens or others in need get their yards ready for summer. That would help them and you.

NICE ARTICLE ON spring cleaning. I learned a few tips.

SINCE MANY KIDS seem to be less educated on civics. It might be a good time to include the topic in your home school plan while the kids are home.

WHEN YOU SEE the virus death totals, it is very important to ask the 'rate' of

deaths, which is based on the population for that county, state or country.

BULLETIN: THE GOVERNMENT does not have a stockpile of the millions of items every citizen could conceivable need in every emergency scenario.

WHILE MANY WILL suffer, I'm thinking that most of us who are 'untested' will benefit from our first hard time and focus on the things that really matter.

TIMELY ARTICLE VERA. It was the best of times; it was the worst of times. Thanks.

FINISHED MY INCOME taxes for 2019. I printed five pages for filing lowest by lowest, by far, that I could ever remember. I have to thank the Trump Administration and their 2017 tax reform for their efforts.

BEALE ST. SMOKEHOUSE BBQ CUSTOMERS...



Beale St. Smokehouse BBQ will continue to be open for To-Go orders and will be doing Deliveries during the temporary government shutdown of restaurants and pubs because of coronavirus concerns.

For To-Go or Delivery call us at **810-750-0507**. To see our menu, go to **www.BealeStSmokehouse.com**. There is a nominal fee of \$5 for orders delivered within 10 miles of Beale St. Deliveries beyond 10 miles may be higher. Customers can also order deliveries online from **Fenton Food Express at fenton.express** (check their website for applicable fees). Our hope is that everyone stays healthy during this difficult time. Thanks for being a loyal Beale St. Smokehouse BBQ customer!

Fenton officials take safety of citizens seriously

■ Meetings canceled; digital participation from remote locations possible in the future

By Vera Hogan

Before Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer issued the three-week, stay-at-home order that became effective at 12:01 a.m. Tuesday, March 24, the Fenton mayor and City Council, and city administration worked to cancel the scheduled Monday, March 23 City Council meeting.

According to Mayor Sue Osborn and City Manager Lynn Markland, the safety of Fenton citizens is a responsibility they take very seriously. Osborn issued a state of emergency resolution last week, and city hall has been closed to walk-in traffic.

Although the March 23 meeting included a public hearing, city administration was able to postpone a council vote on agenda items that were necessary to comply with state statute.

"After receiving emails from the state of Michigan and discussions with the city attorney and other consultants, it was determined the items on the agenda could be delayed without compromising the grant applications and funding for several infrastructure projects," Markland said. "The grants have been submitted and the resolutions will be added later as supplemental information. Also, the bridge projects will be able to be approved at a later date."

Had the meeting been necessary, the council and administration were prepared to completely sanitize city hall and council chambers before and after the meeting and provide masks to anyone who did wish to personally contribute comments during the public hearing.

That did not become necessary, however, and the council meeting, as well as upcoming board and commission meetings have been cancelled, complying with CDC guidelines and the governor's order.

In the meantime, city of Fenton administration will be working toward the goal of making digital participation in meetings possible so that citizens can participate in future meetings from remote locations.

"All citizens need to follow the State of Michigan guidelines," Osborn said.

"Please stay inside as much as you can. This is going to get worse before it gets better. I appreciate everyone's cooperation during this very difficult time. Things will get better we just have to ride out the storm. Be healthy and be safe. We will get through this together and we will be stronger for it."



Matt Freyburgher, cashier at Smitty's Exit 80 on North Road, cleans the gasoline pump handles after customers use them. Photo: Tim Jagielo

GAS PRICES

Continued from Front Page

reports that Marathon on Silver Lake Road was at \$1.48 and the Owen Road gas stations had prices approximately \$1.80.

The pandemic is causing a decrease in demand for oil and gas.

"Gas prices have sent virtually all of March marching lower, with the drop continuing as the coronavirus destroys oil demand globally, leading to the lowest oil prices we've seen in 18 years, paving the way for still an additional 35- to 75-cent-per-gallon drop at most stations in the weeks ahead," said Patrick DeHaan, head of petroleum analysis for GasBuddy.

"I don't think I've ever seen such a collapse in prices, even including the Great Recession. What we're witnessing is easily going to go down as the great collapse in oil demand, and for motorists hurrying to fill up today, they're wasting their money as prices will continue to drop in the days ahead."

He said there's "plenty more room" for prices to drop, estimating that some gas stations could have prices under \$1 per gallon.

"This is truly an unprecedented turn of events," DeHaan said.

The selling pressure is heavy for crude oil due to COVID-19's effects on global demand for products such as gasoline, diesel and jet fuel. A feud between Russia and Saudi Arabia, when both have said they're going to raise oil production, also caused oil prices to fall to \$20 last week. That's the lowest price since 2002.

At Smitty's Exit 80 on North Road in Fenton, owner Doug Smith said gas prices are low, and there's few people buying gas right now.

"Sales have gone down dramatically because no one's going to work at this point. You've still got doctors and nurses and grocery store workers going to work," he said.

Smitty's also is offering to pump gas for customers.

"Anyone who wants to stay in their car and honk their horn, we'll pump their gas. They know when they come here, they're not getting any germs," he said.

Smith said people are buying more cigarettes at one time, and people also are buying bait.

"Some people are putting their boats in and going fishing," he said.



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THE COUNTY Times

HOT LINE CONTINUED

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH was able to broadcast Sunday service on YouTube this morning. The message was great. Thank you so much.

■■■

HARTLAND SCHOOL TAXPAYERS.

Be aware of the millage increase request on May 5. It is a tax increase. We have had the sinking fund approved along with the LESA millage approved. The LESA alone was a \$640 increase for our home. Please request an absentee ballot to say 'no.'

I RECOMMEND THE book 'Miracle at Philadelphia' by Catherine Drinker Bowen if you want to learn what the founding fathers intended regarding the roles of the federal and state governments. Written from the notes of James Madison, it provides insight on how the Legislative, Executive and Judicial branches were to perform.

■■■

COLE STREET, ON the east side of Tipsico Lake has such bad pot holes that the road grader won't even go down it.

■■■

POLICE

Continued from Front Page

Fenton Police Department

Lt. Jeff Cross said they posted signs on the entrance to the police station asking those who exhibit any flu-like symptoms to remain outside and call 911 or (810) 629-5311 to have an officer come to them.

"We have temporarily suspended fingerprints and PBTs until further notice. Any Freedom of Information (FOIA) requests can be filed online at cityoffenton.org. We will respond to those requests via email and or telephone," he said.

Fenton police officers are still responding to calls as they usually would. Cross said they have been asked to take precautions suggested by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

"We have always strived to be community-oriented and will continue to serve the community in any way possible. Things are changing quickly every day, and we may need to change as time moves on. One thing is for sure; we will always be here for our community," he said.

Holly Police Department

Jerry Narsh, Holly police chief, said they've implemented new universal precautions to slow the spread of the coronavirus.

"The whole world has changed. That includes public safety," he said. "It can shut down your public safety response. We have to redesign how we deliver our services in order to protect first responders so they're able to continue delivering services. It's critical for us to keep our

first responders healthy."

New precautions include locking the front lobby, not doing preliminary breath tests or fingerprinting, and allowing gun permits to be mailed. The public is asked to wait to drop off drugs at the prescriptions drug drop box. Police are allowing more reports to be filed over the phone. Before booking someone in jail, they ask if they have symptoms.

Officers also are not going on calls that involve a sick person unless a crime might have taken place.

"These are also designed to protect the public. Anything

we can do to mitigate person-to-person contact. Hopefully we'll help stop the spread of this disease," Narsh said.

Holly police officers have been assisting Holly schools in handing out food to families. The fire department has been delivering food to shelters.

"Ninety percent of our mission is to protect life and property. We're going to do everything we can to help

our community get through this. We're here for the long haul. We're to get through it. We're going to help everyone who needs our help," Narsh said.

"There is no need to panic. It's not martial law. Its shelter in place to help limit person to person contact. That's how we defeat our common enemy — the virus."



Jerry Narsh

WIPES

Continued from Page 5

Staying at home also means more home-cooked meals.

"Excess grease and oil should never be dumped down the drain or into a toilet. Dump it in a cup, wait for it to cool, and throw it in the trash. Wipe any residual grease from pots and pans with a paper towel and throw that in the trash too. Even a small amount of grease dumped down the drain can build up over time and wreak

havoc on not only an individual home's drainage system, but also the community's whole sewer system," according to the release.

When grease is dumped down the drain, it joins the wastewater, which contains an assortment of chemicals

as well as grease dumped by other people. When fatty acids mix with calcium, they bond in a soapy, waxy compound that stick to each other as well as the walls and ceiling of the sewer lines. This creates something officials call a "fatberg."

"These fatbergs continue to grow over time, eventually causing blockages in the sewer lines, which could cause water from the sewer to flow back up through your drains and into homes,"

“It is vitally important that residents avoid flushing products other than toilet paper down a toilet during COVID-19 cleaning, or any other cleaning activity.”

Thomas Broecker

Fenton Township operations manager and deputy clerk

according to the release. "Always dispose of excess grease and oil in the trash and never dump it down the drain or into a toilet."

Direct any questions regarding these issues to the Fenton Township office at (810) 629-1537.

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Pandemic doesn't stop this soon-to-be college grad

■ She creates her own video of her 'staged' graduation from the University of Michigan

By Sally Rummel

Alexandria Pompei, 21, was looking forward to her May 2 commencement from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, at Michigan Stadium, also known as the "Big House."

Like so many other people experiencing canceled events due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Pompei was disappointed that her college career had to end so abruptly, with the uncertainty that goes along with such a decision.

"I was sad how things have changed in the last week,"

Pompei said. "I worked on a senior project for two semesters and it all goes out the window in one day."

Pompei is a student at the Stamps School of Art and Design, earning her

Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree. She also has a minor in Global Media Studies from the Department of Film, Television and Media in the College of Literature, Science and the Arts.

Always an optimist who "rolls with the punches," Pompei still ordered her cap and gown and decided to lighten the mood of the situation by staging her own graduation with a video in her apartment.

"I went to Google Translate and typed in 'University of Michigan Class

of 2020,'" Pompei said. "Pomp & Circumstance was playing in the background and I walked in front of the camera to receive my diploma — a rolled up napkin, as my name was announced. Then I

“I was sad how things have changed in the last week.”

Alexandria Pompei
*Class of 2020 graduate of
University of Michigan*



Alexandria Pompei, 21, of Ann Arbor, works at The Michigan Daily, student newspaper of the University of Michigan.

Submitted photo

WATCH THE VIDEO



AT TCTIMES.COM
WITH THIS STORY

turned the tassel to the other side."

Pompei sent the video to some friends and her parents, Michael and Karen Pompei of Grand Blanc. Karen is the branch service manager at Huntington Bank in Fenton.

Pompei, a 2016 graduate of Grand Blanc High School, has also been active in the arts community through Fenton Arts Council, including the 2016 Artzy Mask

Competition in which she won first place and the People's Choice award.

Pompei's graduation ceremony isn't the only uncertainty she's facing. She is supposed to be moving May 18 to Orlando, Florida, where she has a job as a cast member at Walt Disney World through The Disney College Program. "With the (Disney) parks all closed, I'm not sure exactly what the plan will be," she said.

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Holly's Young continuing wrestling career at NIU

By David Troppens

Nathan Young has been an outstanding wrestler for the Holly wrestling team his entire career.

He is a four-time state meet participant and he capped his career with a D2 140-pound individual

state championship at Detroit's Ford Field on March 7.

While his prep career may be over, Young's wrestling career isn't. He'll be wrestling for Northern University Il-

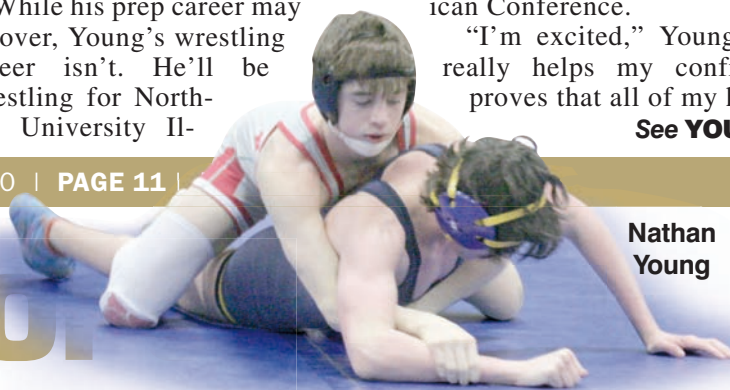
linois (NIU), a Division I program that is a member of the Mid-American Conference.

"I'm excited," Young said. "It really helps my confidence. It proves that all of my hard work

See **YOUNG** on 12

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2020 | PAGE 11 |

Spor



Nathan Young

Spring coaches patiently waiting for season's verdict

By David Troppens

For the most part, the weather has been pretty nice in March.

Certainly, at this time during most springs, Amos Rinks would have his Lake Fenton varsity softball team on the softball diamond preparing for the upcoming season. Even if the weather wasn't terribly great, the squad would be in the Lake Fenton gym doing what they can in preparation for the spring sports season.

At the same time, Fenton varsity boys golf coach Kurt Herbstreit would be outdoors with his squad, probably on a local golf course. But that's not happening either.

Of course, the reason is the MH-SAA's decision, based on Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's recent executive orders, to suspend all spring sporting activities at least until April 5.

MHSAA practices for spring sports started March 9 before all spring sports prep activities were suspended start-

ing March 16. Obviously, Rinks had his team practicing prior to the suspension, but the squad was just getting to the point of making varsity cuts to establish JV and varsity squads.

"The only thing I can say to them is I'm unsure of the future and unsure when we will reconvene and practice again," Rinks said. "We didn't even get into (separating JV and varsity teams) yet. I created a mass group contact for the team and told them to stay in shape on their own and do their best to keep from being infected by this virus."

Area golf courses were in as good as



The Lake Fenton softball team huddles after a game last season. The Blue Devils are one of many state-wide spring sports teams hoping their suspended season begins on April 5. **File photo**

shape as they've been during this time of the year according to the courses.

"It shocked me. This is unprecedented and I really feel bad for the seniors," Herbstreit said.

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM

David's Dabblings



Some thoughts about sports and others not dealing with sports at all

WRITING ABOUT SPORTS WHEN THERE ARE NO SPORTS

For years when each school year finished I'd get the same questions from people.

It would go something like this, "Now that school is over, what is there to cover?" My first few years in the profession I used to freak out about this exact question. Being a rookie reporter, it always sounded like a fair question. In fact, my first job out of college I was hired in May, meaning I had about a month's worth of spring sports before I had to figure out how I was going to create content for our daily publication by myself. After a couple of years, it became obvious there's never a shortage of sports stories.

The last week we've heard the same questions at the sports office. Of course, those questions popped up because of the MH-SAA's suspension of the end of the winter sports season and the continuation of the spring sports season until at least April 5. It's likely the date will be extended beyond April 5 when we get there, to possibly maybe the entire spring sports season. So, in an era where there is no sports, what will there be to do?

See **DABBLINGS** on 12

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Holly's Anderson makes PBA TV appearance

By David Troppens

For those who did a little sports TV channel surfing about a week ago, area bowling fans may have seen someone competing in a TV match that was from the tri-county area.

Holly's Andrew Anderson teamed up with Kris Prather to make it to the TV show in the Mark-Roth Marshall Holman PBA Doubles Championship.

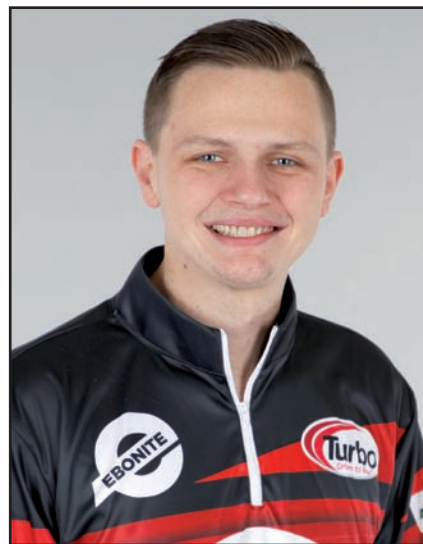
Anderson, 24, competed with Prather in the team event, and in the step-ladder series the pair lost a 226-190 match against Anthony Simonsen and Dom Barrett. During the event, Anderson bowled the even frames. The pair took an early lead when Barrett bowled an open frame, but Anderson had an open frame in the fourth, closing the gap. Meanwhile, Simonsen and Barrett bowled five straight strikes and eventually took a strong lead late into the match. Prather and Anderson had three strikes in the 10th to make the score a bit closer than it was.

Anderson averaged a 224.28 during the week, while Prather averaged a 239.28. Anderson pocketed \$6,000.

"I hope everyone enjoyed the doubles show," Anderson said on his Facebook page. "Kris Prather and I didn't win, but we gave it a good run and I'm looking forward to running it back next year."

Anderson's cash prize was the most he's made at an event this season and was also his only top-10 finish of the season.

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM



Andrew Anderson

YOUNG

Continued from Page 11

I have put in the sport is paying off."

Northern Illinois University has a little bit of a pipeline going between Holly High School's wrestling program and the Huskies'

program. Shawn Scott was the first Holly wrestler to join NIU's team, and he finished his career during the 2016-17 school year by advancing to the Round of 12 at Nationals. He was a three-time NCAA qualifier, recording a career record of

81-41. Younger brother Andrew Scott followed, completing his career during the 2018-19 school year with a 20-38 career record. That means Young will be the third Holly wrestler to join the program.

Young posted a 186-28 record overall during his Holly career and placed three times at the state meet. He placed sixth (103) his freshman year, second (130) his junior year and a state champion (140) this season.

The Huskies had three redshirt freshmen battle for starting spots in the 141-pound class. The typical starter at 149 graduates after this season. Northern Illinois is coached by Ryan Ludwig. He's led the program since the 2011-12 school year. The squad had an 8-10 record in 2018-19. The Huskies were 13-4 overall this fall and finished third at the MAC Championships.

"I know I wanted to go Division I and the coach is one of the main reasons why I went there," Young said.

Young gives some of the credit for his success to the Holly wrestling program.

"We've had a lot of great coaches and great wrestling partners. They helped me grow into the wrestler I am today," Young said.

CONTINUED AT
TCTIMES.COM

DABBLINGS

Continued from Page 11

In a word, there will be plenty. There are plenty of features that have never gotten done in the past due to the heavily intense prep-event coverage. Some of them are features we've thought about addressing for years and for some reason never got to doing them.

But then, there are so many other weekly features we can present that we think our readers will enjoy. The first of one of those features we'll start with the Week-end publication. We are going to look back at some of the best seasons from the last 17 years since I joined the sports staff. And let me say there are plenty of really cool stories to retell. It's already been a lot of fun talking to some of the people that made the first couple of our stories possible.

We'll start with some of the top winter sports teams, and if we find out on April 5 the spring sports season is suspended we'll gradually shift toward the great spring sports teams.

There are some other features we'll probably address as well. Some will be just fun ones while others may be more in depth.

This brings me back to that summer question — how can we fill the paper during the summer? The answer is, sports staffs have always done it, and always will. Quickly, I realized I'm sure that will be the case while the nation and world deals with the coronavirus.

And while many of our news items probably will deal with the virus itself, maybe the sports section will present a more positive approach towards life. Unfortunately, I forget the exact quote and who said it but decades ago I saw someone who said he reads the sports section first because the sports section always features human success. That will certainly continue as we all have our minds on the coronavirus. So hopefully the readers will find the stories enjoyable and give themselves a little break from today's challenges.

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By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

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HOLLY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES MARCH 18, 2020 REGULAR MEETING SYNOPSIS

Roll Call: Supervisor Kullis, Clerk Winchester, Trustee Feeney and Trustee Ruth. Excused: Mark Freeman.
Approved: Consent Agenda.
Approved: 2020 Dust Control.
Approved: 2020 Gravel Program.
Approved: Holly Academy 5 K Run – Proposed Resolution 2020-06.
Approved: Emergency Resolution for Coronavirus COVID-19 Pandemic - Proposed Resolution 2020-07.

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Holly Township Clerk

George A. Kullis
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Streaming MOVIES



BIG TIME ADOLESCENCE
A seemingly bright and mostly innocent 16-year-old named Mo (Griffin Gluck) attempts to navigate high school under the guidance of his best friend Zeke (Pete Davidson), an unmotivated-yet-charismatic college dropout. Although Zeke genuinely cares about Mo, things start to go awry as he teaches nontraditional life lessons in drug dealing, partying, and dating, while Mo's well-meaning dad (Jon Cryer) tries to step in and take back the reins of his son's upbringing.
R, 1 hr. 30 min. Comedy, Drama

Audience score
rottentomatoes.com **88%**



DOLITTLE
After losing his wife seven years earlier, the eccentric Dr. John Dolittle (Robert Downey Jr.), famed doctor and veterinarian of Queen Victoria's England, hermits himself away behind the high walls of Dolittle Manor with only his menagerie of exotic animals for company. But when the young queen (Jessie Buckley, Wild Rose) falls gravely ill, a reluctant Dolittle is forced to set sail on an epic adventure to a mythical island in search of a cure, regaining his wit and courage as he crosses old adversaries and discovers wondrous creatures. The doctor is joined on his quest by a young, self-appointed apprentice (Dunkirk's Harry Collett) and a raucous coterie of animal friends, including an anxious gorilla (Oscar (R) winner Rami Malek), an enthusiastic but bird-brained duck (Oscar (R) winner Octavia Spencer), a bickering duo of a cynical ostrich (The Big Sick's Kumail Nanjiani) and an upbeat polar bear (John Cena, Bumblebee) and a headstrong parrot (Oscar (R) winner Emma Thompson), who serves as Dolittle's most trusted advisor and confidante.
PG, 1 hr. 46 min. Action & Adventure, Comedy, Science Fiction & Fantasy

Audience score
rottentomatoes.com **76%**



JUMANJI: THE NEXT LEVEL
In Jumanji: The Next Level, the gang is back but the game has changed. As they return to Jumanji to rescue one of their own, they discover that nothing is as they expect. The players will have to brave parts unknown and unexplored, from the arid deserts to the snowy mountains, in order to escape the world's most dangerous game.
PG-13, 1 hr. 40 min. Action & Adventure, Comedy

Audience score
rottentomatoes.com **87%**



STAR WARS: THE RISE OF SKYWALKER
The battle between the Jedi and the Sith comes to a thrilling conclusion in this final chapter of the Skywalker Saga. A year following the events of The Last Jedi, the remaining members of the Resistance are forced to confront their past while taking on the First Order one more time.
PG-13, 2 hr. 35 min. Action & Adventure, Science Fiction & Fantasy

Audience score
rottentomatoes.com **86%**

Guess Who?

I am an actor born in Germany on April 2, 1977. My parents relocated to the Republic of Ireland when I was two to open a restaurant. I eventually found my way into acting, and audiences were first introduced to me in "Band of Brothers." I've made many other popular movies since then.

Answer: Michael Fassbender

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