# \$2 trillion relief package expected to be approved

■ Citizens with direct deposit should see money within about three weeks; mailed checks likely to be several weeks

**Editor's note:** As of press time, the House had not voted on the proposed coronavirus relief package, although members were expected to vote and pass it Friday.

### By Vera Hogan

A deal aimed at easing the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic was approved by the White House and Senate on Wednesday and was expected to be approved by the House on Friday, March 27.

The \$2 trillion stimulus package will deliver much-needed aid

to workers, small businesses and health care providers who have been battling a disease that has infected just over 69,000 people nationwide as of Thursday, March 26, and killed more than 1,000.

The new stimulus measure includes several priorities Democrats pushed for, including more money for hospitals, increased worker protections, strict oversight of how the money is being spent, more state funding, and expanded unemployment insurance.

In the final bill, which may be subject to some text changes, includes:

The distribution of up to \$1,200 to Americans in the form of a one-

See PACKAGE on 15

# NEW Cutting Edge NEUROPATHY TREATMENT





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# WeekendTimes

VOL. 27 NO. XIII

102.27 11017....

# **Genesee County reports** two local deaths

■Both victims, elderly men, were hospitalized for COVID-19; had underlying health issues

The Genesee County Health Department is reporting two local deaths attributed to COVID-19 that occurred Thursday, March 26. Both individuals were elderly

See **DEATHS** on 20

# Holly Hills expansion with 191 homes may proceed

■Developers appear to have gained needed state approvals to move forward with Phase II

### By Vera Hogan

To say Stacy Taylor and her husband, Mark of Holly Township, are frustrated is an understatement. The couple, along with many of their Falk Road area neighbors have been fighting the Holly Hills expansion for more than two and a half years.

See HOLLY HILLS on 14



**The Behmlander family adopts two puppies** Friday, March 20 from Fenton Adopt-A-Pet, assisted by kennel staff member Justin Christian. This is one of 22 adoptions held the week prior to closing because of the COVID-19 pandemic. See story on page 11. Photo by Tim Jagielo





**LESo proud of** my Fenton school family. As always, you stepped up to the plate and did whatever you could to help our kids. From

our lunch aides, cooks, teachers, custodians, para pros and of course Charlie and Mr. Salter, I'm so proud to be a part of this family."



**LE** Prayers and special thoughts are sent to all of the amazing nurses and medical personnel in Michigan. You are all awesome

and special. I know how wonderful and stressful your jobs are; I worked in assisted living for a time. Thank you for being there."



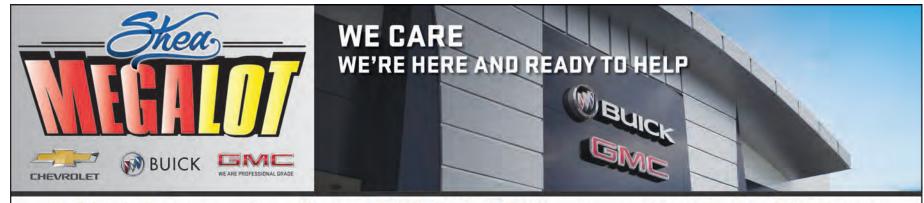
LE Dear small/ local business. I promise as soon

as you reopen, I will be shopping local."

# COMMENT OF THE WEEK

**Lank you to** the beautiful lady who helped pay for our groceries at VG's yesterday. I paid it forward already. You are special."

2 Sunday, March 29, 2020 **WEEKEND TIMES** myfenton.com



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It's often said that a picture speaks a thousand words. This photo of the 1918 flu epidemic is eerily representative of what is happening in this country today. Photo: Seattle Museum of History and Industry

# **Global pandemics**

# ■Coronavirus is not the first, and it won't be the last

## **Compiled by Vera Hogan**

There have been countless plagues and pandemics throughout world history dating back to the beginning of time. One of the worst, in fact, was known as "The Black Death" or "Bubonic Plague," causing the deaths of an estimated 75 to 200 million people from 1346 to 1353.

The Plague ravaged Europe, Africa, and Asia. Thought to have originated in Asia, the Plague most likely jumped continents via the fleas living on the rats that so frequently lived aboard merchant ships. Ports being major urban centers at the time were the perfect breeding ground for the rats and fleas, and thus the insidious bacterium flourished, devastating three continents in its wake, according to mphonline.org.

Although the final tally of worldwide deaths from the current COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic remains to be seen, this is not the first time humans have faced and overcome the tragedy caused by a deadly virus — and it won't be the last.

The following, according to mphonline.org, are some of the more recent, worst pandemics in history:

See GLOBAL PANDEMICS on 10



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HOURS: Monday-Thursday: 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. Saturday & Sunday Closed CONTACT INFORMATION

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# Just sayin'...

# Trust me, it's coming

ot to be a "Debbie Downer," but we are probably going to remember these past few weeks as some of the best times of our lives.

Families have been forced to slow down and spend quality time together, whether it be cooking and eating meals, reading, playing games, singing, dancing and playing musical instruments, playing outdoors, doing crafts and watching TV and movies together.

Countless generous people and volunteers are

doing what they can to help those less fortunate. Celebrities are helping by donating millions of dollars to the cause and holding free concerts and performances live on social media. This, not to mention health care personnel and other essential workers, who are risking their lives to save ours.

This pandemic is not going to last forever. We are going to beat this thing and I know we all will breathe a collective sigh of relief when that happens. What I'm dreading is what's coming

We will start seeing the backslide and what I call "the blame game." This is a presidential election year so, of course, the President is going to be (already is actually) the first target. "He

should not have done this, he should have done that." Then, like is already happening, they'll go after the Democrats and Republicans. It will be merci-

> less and the tsunami of TV commercials and social media rants will be relentless.

The personal injury attorneys will be gangbusters busy with new lawsuits because "my loved one didn't have to die because ..." Divorce rates will likely spike when many couples look at each other during this stay-at-home period and say to themselves, "I really

hate you!" On the opposite side of that, pregnancies will probably spike. Trust me, a baby boom is coming.

Insurance companies are probably already crafting ways to offer pandemic or catastrophic plague insurance for a minimal monthly cost, a lot like flood insurance. Maybe you can bundle it with your auto and homeowner policy. Can you see our favorite TV ads now? The spokesperson dressed in hazmat gear saying, "We know a thing or two because we've seen a thing or two." Or, "Jake, what are you wearing?" "Uh, khakis, a facemask and plastic gloves."

Then the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday season will come around and we'll all be happy again and grateful for our many blessings. Why can't we do that now?

Just sayin'!

Opinions offered in Just Sayin' are the author's alone and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Tri-County Times or its staff. Email



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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.

TO THE PERSON who thinks teachers should forego their pay. Teachers have stepped up with online learning to keep kids engaged and learning during this pandemic. They deserve every penny they make. Ask the parents who are helping their kids now. It's not easy.

LOOKS LIKE EVERYONE should become a 'prepper' and be able to support themselves for a month or more with food and supplies.

I, ALONG WITH many people I am sure, wonder why the nurses and medical personnel cannot receive the necessary supplies to work on patients. Would it not be smart to use the money spent on political campaigns of people who suspended them for this purpose?

SPENDING HUNDREDS OF

thousands of dollars putting up traffic signs does not improve roads. I have not seen any kind of road improvement along I-475 since the new signs. What a waste of money.

WHILE WE ARE out of school, please remember to order your yearbook. This will certainly be a vear to remember.

Compiled by Sharon Stone, editor and Tim Jagielo, media editor

Question asked to Tri-County Times Facebook followers

# Who are you missing the most during the 'stay home' order? | street talk



"My 'pool buddies' at Fenton High School Senior Splash class."



"Kids are missing their classmates at school. This is a challenge for single child homes."



"I miss my nieces and nephews. I haven't seen them in three weeks. We had to do a Facebook live for my niece's 4th birthday."

**Holli Rivera-Tangney** 

Town



"I'm missing my Thursday evenings with the Fenton Community Orchestra. A couple hours a week doesn't seem like much for something to have such a huge impact on one's life but it does."

**Lori Ross.** Tyrone Township



"I miss my co-workers and my customers. Restaurant workers become like family, we work so closely as a team every day. And regular customers become friends, making it exciting to go to work."

Caitlin Smith, Holly

**Judith Montgomery Brooks** 

Fenton

Fenton

Matt D. Vultaggio

# **How enforceable is 'Stay Home' order?**

# ■Order in place for three weeks; police departments adjust

### **By Hannah Ball**

More businesses are temporarily shut down and fewer cars are on the road due to Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's executive order.

The "Stay Home, Stay Safe" Executive Order (EO 2020-21) directs 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 workforce, engaged in an outdoor activity, or performing tasks necessary to the health and safety of themselves or their family, like going to the hospital or grocery store.

For the full list of critical infrastructure workforce, go to michigan.gov/whitmer.

It's currently in place for three weeks. The order is meant to slow the spread of COVID-19 in Michigan.

### How are police enforcing this order?

Argentine Township Police Chief Daniel Allen said people who work for essential businesses are still allowed to drive to work, and driving to grocery stores and for medical appointments is okay. Work on homes, such as electrical or plumbing work, is still allowed.

"People are encouraged to stay home," he said, adding that going out-



Argentine Township Police Department

side for exercise is also allowed. "Just make sure you're not congregating with a bunch of people."

However, for businesses that were ordered to temporarily close, it's a misdemeanor if they remain open. Bars and restaurants can still do takeout services, but not any dine-in services.

The Argentine Township Police Department has not issued any tickets to businesses.

Lt. Jeff Cross of the Fenton Police Department said they have not issued any tickets for this as well.

Allen has altered how the department operates to prevent his employees from contracting the virus and spreading it. The lobby is closed. He's ordered his officers to only enact traffic stops when necessary, and they wear latex gloves.

"They're taking all precautionary measures when making contact with others," he said.

They've also received a supply of N95 masks, and a resident donated homemade masks to the department.

"The way we look at it, it's better than nothing," Allen said.

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# Ally Challenge postponed

# ■Organizers to announce new dates when possible

The PGA TOUR made the announcement on March 17 that due to the ongoing health crisis related to COVID-19, all PGA TOUR Champions events through the week of May 10 have been postponed or canceled.

Furthermore, the PGA of America has postponed the PGA Championship (May 14-17) for a date later this year, to be announced.

As a result of this news, organizers have announced updates for The Ally

Challenge presented by McLaren's 2020 playing, scheduled for July 27 – Aug. 2.

As of March 24, they are proceeding with the planning and execution tied to hosting the third annual Ally Challenge. They will monitor information provided by the World Health Organization and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention along with local and state government health agencies.

They encourage fans to stay informed on the developments of the COVID-19 through official sources such as the cdc. gov and michigan.gov/Coronavirus.





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# Secretary of State offices closed

# ■ l ate fees to be waived for expired licenses

### **By Sharon Stone**

Starting Tuesday, March 24, all 131 Michigan Secretary of State branch offices closed as part of Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's stay-at-home order.

"I fully support Gov. Whitmer and the leadership she is demonstrating by issuing a stay-at-home order," said Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson. "I have been communicating with her for some time on this issue, and know this is necessary to protect the health of our employees and the public."

The order states that all non-criticalinfrastructure workers stay home. Therefore, the Department of State is

temporarily unable to provide in-person transactions and renewals by mail. Many services will remain available online at Michigan.gov/SOS, although there may be some delays in processing.

The department will continue to provide election-related services not offered in branch offices at Michigan. gov/Vote.

Late fees will be waived for expirations that have occurred since the department first shifted branch operations on March 16. Michigan State Police and local law enforcement agencies have been notified.

Information on the coronavirus outbreak is changing rapidly. The latest information is available at Michigan.gov/ Coronavirus and CDC.gov/Coronavirus.

# **HOT LINE** CONTINUED

I WANTED TO say how impressed I am with Fenton school teachers. They are working so hard to provide learning materials and experiences for their students. It is obvious how much they care about their students and our community. This is not a vacation for them. Thank you, teachers.

THE CORONAVIRUS — VOTE 2020 -Vote as if your life depends on it.

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.

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.

WE ARE TALKING more to our neighbors, checking on them and making sure they have what they need.

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 conceivably 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.

# **GUEST** VIEWPOINT

By Linda Mora. director/principal



Fenton Area Public Schools WoW~World of Wonder Early Learning Programs

As a proud Michigander, I have been deeply concerned about the COVID-19 pandemic sweeping the world, our country and my community. The coronavirus has affected every aspect of our daily lives, and has consumed most of our attention and energy. Here in Fenton, Michigan, our schools are closed and many of our hourly childcare and preschool staff face the uncertainty of whether they will continue to be paid.

As a public school early childhood director and principal, and as a Save the Children Action Network (SCAN) advocate, I have been specifically troubled by the virus' impact on childcare providers, whose services are so vital not only to our children, but also to our community and workforce. Here in Michigan, emergency service providers are on the front lines, fighting for our community. Unlike many others, unlike myself, these workers cannot work from home, making child care a necessity.

Unfortunately, childcare providers already operate on very tight budgets. If the federal and state government do not step in to ensure that childcare centers can still afford to pay their staff and, in some cases, remain fully operational, only 11 percent of recently surveyed childcare programs said they were confident they could re-open whenever the COVID-19 crisis

This is unacceptable. We must take care of our emergency responders and their families, just as they care for us. We must also make sure that when this crisis subsides, parents are able to re-enter the workforce with the childcare supports that they relied on before the

I urge members of congress to support robust childcare assistance







# TV networks to broadcast **The Rock Church Easter sermon**

**By Hannah Ball** 

Easter is one of the most important events for churches and congregations. With the COVID-19 pandemic, most in-person services have been canceled, but many organizations are using technology to reach their congregations.

The Rock Church Easter sermon will be broadcast Easter Sunday, April 12 on Fox66 at 11 a.m. and on ABC12 at 11:30 a.m. It will also be livestreamed on The Rock Church Facebook page and YouTube at 11 a.m.

Additionally, Fox66 will also air a gospel preaching program done by The Rock Church every Sunday for nine weeks, beginning April 5.

Pastor Wes Morris said in order to make this happen, they reached out to local TV networks and asked if it would be a possibility.

"We could foresee that it would probably be necessary to cancel in-person services," he said. "They were very willing to work with us. It's really cool."

Bible studies in their usual audito-

rium, and they set up a specific set for the Easter sermon.

Morris has had to prepare his Easter sermon early because the TV networks need the prerecorded video about a week in advance.

"The sole motivation behind any broadcast is to get the Gospel to people that need to hear it," he said.

It's been more than a week now since local churches, and churches across the country, have canceled in-person events and moved to a more digital presence.

"I can't imagine what people are going through, and what they'll face in the near future. I really feel a burden for them," he said, adding that he also sees this as an opportunity for gospel because hardship often opens the door to Christ.

"It's challenging. We're trying to keep in touch with people. We're continuing to call the membership, be an encouragement," he said. "But people miss in-person fellowship. They miss that a lot. There's really no substitute for in-person fellowship."

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in any further stimulus packages that Congress considers. This funding would provide Michigan with robust and flexible funding to serve our community and keep our workforce functioning.

Our community must work together in this time of crisis. Childcare programs are a critical part of our community, both now and when the COVID-19 crisis ends.

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# Six suggestions for hobbies during a pandemic

■Writing a book, exercising, photography and more

### By Hannah Ball

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's "stay at home" executive order is in effect for three weeks. Here are six suggestions, some indoors and outdoors, for readers who want a new hobby.

### Make a goal to read five books.

Bookstores have been ordered to close, but you can still purchase ebooks and order physical books online. Karen Piacentini posted on the Fenton's Open Book Facebook page that she'll be at the store in the mornings for deliveries and special orders. You can support Fenton's Open Book at fentonsopenbook at fentonsopenbook.wixsite.com/main.

The Genesee District Library offers ebooks and audiobooks at thegdl.org.

### Try photography.

Taking good photos doesn't require an expensive camera. The cameras in smartphones improve every year. While going for walks to get out of the house, make a point to take photos of trees, the lakes, nature and anything that catches your eye. While keeping your distance, bring someone along and have them pose.

# Start writing that book you've been thinking about.

Local author Brenda Hasse, who's written numerous books, has a few tips.

When it comes to fiction writing, Hasse said, "The selection of a genre is always fun. It can range from science fiction, fantasy, romance, historical, paranormal, or anywhere a person's imagination wants to let them wander."

She first decides how her story will end — happily ever after or a tragedy. Then she chooses names for her characters.

"I develop problems and set goals for each character to achieve and let my imagination do the rest," she said.

Once she starts writing, she doesn't stop to edit it until the first draft is done.

"I make many editing passes before



formatting the book, having it professionally edited, and then published," she said.

Hasse said this is also an "excellent time" for parents and children to write a daily journal about what they did to get through the pandemic. Journaling also can include scrapbooking with illustrations or photos.

### Cook more.

Grocery stores are considered essential businesses and will remain open. Look up a recipe for a dish you've been wanting to try and make it at home with the family.

# **Try Geocaching.**

On the Times Facebook page, we asked readers for some hobby suggestions. A few commenters posted about geocaching, which is an outdoor activity, often called a "treasure-hunting game," that uses a global positioning system that leads participants to containers called "geocaches" or "caches." These are hidden by other participants who then set the GPS coordinates. For more information, go to geocaching.

### Exercise outside.

It's possible to get exercise outside while still practicing proper social distancing. With the weather warming, it's a good time to train for a 5K. Using apps can help motivation.

The Couch to 5k app is a nine-week training program that eases participants into running more and more every day. The Zombies, Run 5k training program is eight weeks long. It includes an audio adventure about zombies meant to motivate runners.



Despite the current Health and Safety concerns surrounding the COVID-19 virus, we are all trying to do what we can to help our community. We all have been impacted financially, whether you are an employee at a restaurant, bar, gym, or any other public place that has been mandated to close, we understand the compromising position that we are all in.

Although luxury goods are probably one of the last concerns during these times, as a local business, we would like to help in any we can. If you recently had plans to purchase an engagement ring, purchase jewelry for a special occasion, design a custom piece of Jewelry, give your old jewelry a make over, etc...we are giving our customers 50% off storewide and online until May 31, 2020.

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# GLOBAL PANDEMICS

**Continued from Page 3** 

# HIV/AIDS Pandemic (at its peak, 2005-2012)

# Death Toll: 36 million Cause: HIV/AIDS

First identified in Democratic Republic of the Congo in 1976, HIV/ AIDS is a global pandemic, killing more than 36 million people since 1981. Currently there are between 31 and 35 million people living with HIV, the vast majority of those are in Sub-Saharan Africa, where 5 percent of the population is infected, roughly 21 million people. As awareness has grown, new treatments have been developed that make HIV far more manageable, and many of those infected go on to lead productive lives. Between 2005 and 2012, the annual global deaths from HIV/ AIDS dropped from 2.2 million to 1.6 million.

# Flu Pandemic (1968) (a.k.a. The Hong Kong Flu)

# Death Toll: 1 million Cause: Influenza A category 2

Sometimes referred to as "the Hong Kong Flu," this 1968 flu pandemic was caused by the H3N2 strain of the Influenza A virus, a genetic offshoot of the H2N2 subtype. From the first reported case on July 13, 1968 in Hong Kong, it took only 17 days before outbreaks of the virus were reported in Singapore and Vietnam, and within three months had spread to the Philippines, India, Australia, Europe, and the United States. While the 1968 pandemic had a comparatively low mortality rate (.5 percent) it still



Red Cross volunteers sew gauze masks to help deter the spread of the deadly Spanish influenza. Although masks are not encouraged by the public during the current COVID-19 pandemic, in 1918, masks were made mandatory in San Francisco under penalty of a \$100 fine and 10 days in jail. Photo: Oakland Public Library 1918

resulted in the deaths of more than a million people, including 500,000 residents of Hong Kong, approximately 15 percent of its population at the time.

# Asian Flu (1956-1958)

# Death Toll: 2 million Cause: Influenza

Asian Flu was a pandemic outbreak of Influenza A of the H2N2 subtype, that originated in China in 1956 and lasted until 1958. In its two-year spree, Asian Flu traveled from the Chinese province of Guizhou to Singapore, Hong Kong, and the United States. Estimates for the death toll of the Asian Flu vary depending on the source, but the World Health Organization (WHO) places the final tally at approximately 2 million deaths, 69,800 of those in the U.S. alone.

# Flu Pandemic (1918)

# Death Toll: 20 to 50 million Cause: Influenza

Between 1918 and 1920, an extremely deadly outbreak of influenza tore across the globe, infecting over a third of the world's population and ending the lives of 20 to 50 million people. Of the 500 million people infected in the 1918 pandemic, the mortality rate was estimated at 10 to 20 percent, with up to 25 million deaths in the first 25 weeks alone. What separated the 1918 flu pandemic from other influenza outbreaks was the victims; where influenza had always previously only killed juveniles and the elderly or already weakened patients, it had begun striking down hardy and completely healthy young adults, while leaving children and those with weaker immune systems still alive.

# Sixth Cholera Pandemic (1910 to 1911)

# Death Toll: 800,000-plus Cause: Cholera

Like its five previous incarnations, the Sixth Cholera Pandemic originated in India where it killed over 800,000, before spreading to the Middle East, North Africa, Eastern Europe and Russia. The Sixth Cholera Pandemic was also the source of the last American outbreak of Cholera (1910–1911). American health authorities, having learned from the past, quickly sought to isolate the infected, and in the end, only 11 deaths occurred in the U.S. By 1923, Cholera cases had been cut down dramatically, although it was still a constant in India.

# Flu Pandemic (1889-1890)

# Death Toll: 1 million Cause: Influenza

Originally the "Asiatic Flu" or "Russian Flu" as it was called, this strain was thought to be an outbreak of the Influenza A virus subtype H2N2, though recent discoveries have instead found the cause to be the Influenza A virus subtype H3N8. The first cases were observed in May 1889 in three separate and distant locations. Bukhara in Central Asia (Turkestan), Athabasca in northwestern Canada, and Greenland. Rapid population growth of the 19th century, specifically in urban areas, only helped the flu spread, and before long the outbreak had spread across the globe. Though it was the first true epidemic in the era of bacteriology, much was learned from it. In the end, the 1889 to 1890 Flu Pandemic claimed the lives of over a million individuals. Source: mphonline.com

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# Families adopt 'lockdown' puppies

■Local non-profit experiences double adoptions as families prepped for isolation

### By Tim Jagielo

**Fenton Twp.** — Before the executive mandate ordering most Michigan residents to stay home, Adopt-A-Pet of Fenton experienced a flurry of adoptions and fosters attributable to schools shutting down and many families staying home.

One such family is that of Tadd and Lauren Behmlander of Saginaw Township who brought along their children Jase, 11, and Journey, 6, on Friday, March 20.

They adopted a pair of beagle puppies because they had previously been talking about getting dogs and this seemed like a good time.

Jody Maddock, Adopt-A-Pet program director, said during the first full week of school closures they adopted out 22 pets, compared to the usual 10 or 12. She attributes 60 percent of these to the COVID-19 pandemic closing schools and parents working from home, based on conversations she had with families.

Maddock said families saw this as a good opportunity to teach children responsibility.



J.T. Rouvelin of Goodrich adopted Anna Banana at Adopt-A-Pet on Friday, March 20. This cat had been at the facility for one year. Photo by Tim Jagielo

They even have more foster families available than they have pets to foster. "Our community has been amazing at offering to temporarily foster animals," Maddock said.

On Monday, March 23, Adopt-A-Pet closed for adoptions, reducing staff only to one or two people providing daily care for the animals in response to the statewide "Stay Home, Stay Safe" initiative.

The volunteer program is temporarilv suspended, so these are the only human interactions the animals are

myfenton.com

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Journey Behmlander, 6, holds one of the puppies her family adopted. While staying at home, the children will help train the puppies. Photo by Tim Jagielo

getting. Maddock said they even set up a TV so workers can sit and watch a movie with the "residents" during their shift. "We're trying to spoil them rotten right now," Maddock said.

Because of this, Maddock said they could use more squeaky toys to occupy the dogs. She said they also could use more puppy food.

After the pandemic, they'll need paper towels and disinfectants.

# **HOT LINE** CONTINUED

**HYSTERIA! FAR MORE** contagious and destructive than any virus.

I AM SO frustrated with hoarders and panic buyers. Come on people, quit overbuying everything in the grocery store and give store clerks time to restock things. I still have not been able to buy just one can of Lysol at our local grocery store and it's not the store's fault.

IT'S GREAT THAT Tim Cook of Apple said Tuesday that Apple would donate 9 million N95 facemasks. Couple of questions come to mind. Why does Apple have that many facemasks and why did Mr. Cook wait until Tuesday to donate them?

I HOPE MANY of the new disinfecting and cleaning guidelines stay with us after this pandemic is over. I don't ever want to go through this again.

WASH YOUR HANDS often and take your temperature three times a day.

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# Toastmasters host virtual meetings Friday mornings during coronavirus crisis

Fenton Area Toastmasters is adapting to the new reality. Everyone has been called on to alter the way they conduct their lives in order to blunt the effects of the coronavirus pandemic.

The new reality is that people have been forced to stop meeting in person.

Toastmasters District 62 in Michigan has canceled all of its contests and conferences. Most local clubs have temporarily lost their local meeting place, including the club in Fenton.

Last Friday, Fenton Area Toastmasters turned to technology to continue meeting. They are now holding their weekly meetings on the Zoom video conferencing platform. With more people working from home, the online meeting format provides the perfect opportunity to hone your communication and presentation skills.

The consensus was that the new meeting format is a success. Nine club members and one guest took part in a Table Topics session followed by an abbreviated evaluation session.

If you have ever wanted to check out Toastmasters for yourself, check out the new virtual meeting at Fenton Area Toastmasters. Send your request to the VP-Education at vpe-699671@toastmastersclubs.org and an invitation to the next meeting will be sent to you.

Once you get the invitation, click

on the "Join Meeting" link to enter the meeting. There is no cost to attend.

Fenton Area Toastmasters meets every Friday morning — except holidays — on the Zoom platform until after the current crisis ends. Meetings start promptly at 7:45 a.m. and run for about an hour. Visitors are always welcome. Visit the Fenton Area Toastmasters website at https://699671.toastmastersclubs.org/ or call (810) 620-7590.



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# **HOT LINE** CONTINUED

IF ANYONE WANTS to report a business that they believe is nonessential during this COVID-19 pandemic, they should go to the Michigan attorney general's website at michigan.gov/ag and file a complaint.

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.

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

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.

HARTLAND SCHOOL TAXPAYERS. Please 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 approve. The LESA alone was a \$640 increase for our home. We pay enough. Please request an absentee ballot from your township to say 'no.'

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

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.

13

A STOCKPILER 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 stockpiler, not a hoarder.

THANK YOU TO The Barn for delivering Thanksgiving dinner to Millpond Manor. It was wonderful. It made my day.

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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!

# **HOLLY HILLS**

**Continued from Front Page** 

"I've been at this for 928 days," said Stacy during public comment at the March 10 Holly Village Council meeting. She outlined the many issues they have with the expansion plan, most of which involve the safety of the groundwater, possible contaminated runoff onto their properties and the Shiawassee, and existence of a nearby village landfill.

Mark, who acknowledged the landfill is on Holly Township land, said the village of Holly owns the 40-acre dumpsite that was in operation from 1922-1975. He said he and his wife learned about it three years ago.

"The site to this day has barrels exposed," he said. "It's not just a little area where compost was burned. It was not closed properly."

According to Holly Village Manager Jerry Walker, "The village owns a 40acre parcel of property off Falk Road in Holly Township in which nine of the 40 acres was used as a municipal landfill.

"The landfill was closed in 1970, 50 years ago, and has not been used since except for a short time period in which it was used to burn brush from tree trimming in the village," Walker



Holly Township resident Stacy Taylor holds up her research on the original development of the Holly Hills site, at the Wednesday, Aug. 15, 2018 Holly Township Board of Trustees meeting. Times file photo

said. "In 1994, the village studied the former landfill site at which time Geo Environmental, who were consultants, conducted testing and submitted a report to the village which was sent to the State of Michigan DEQ (now referred to as EGLE, Environment, Great Lakes & Energy). At the time of the testing, there were not significant findings and the dump remained closed and was not used.

"The village is in the final review stages of proposals from two different environmental companies to assess the current test wells, since they have not been used in 25 years, for subsequent water testing."

Holly Township Supervisor George Kullis said the township no longer has a say in the matter. "We are left out of the loop because Michigan has a mobile home commission," he said.

The matter did come before the Holly Township Planning Commission in 2018, but according to then-Planning Commission Chairman Tony Engelberg, "We did not approve it. They came before us with an unacceptable

plan. They were supposed to come back with a plan that was to the same standards as any other applicant who would have come before us. Anyone else who would have brought us what they did would have been required to return before us with adjustments. We let them off the hook rather than take a stand."

Meritus Communities, Inc. of Farmington Hills, which owns Holly Hills, did not respond to requests for information on when Phase II construction will begin.

# **Mark Taylor** Holly Township

**44** The site to this day has barrels exposed. 77

resident

Final site plan approval is under the authority of the State of Michigan Mobile Home Commission.

Holly Township did, however, request a state investigation. See the results with this story at myfenton.com.

### **EGLE** investigation

Holly Township did, however, request a state investigation. According to a Dec. 19, 2019 letter sent from Dennis Ryan, P.E., senior environmental engineer, EGLE Water Resources Division, to Brent LanVanway of Boss Engineering, "The Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE), Water Resource Division (WRD), has completed a review of

> the sanitary sewer collection system plans for the Holly Hills MHC (Manufactured Home Community).

> "The review included an evaluation for the Phase 2 sanitary sewer extension and related construction details, and an assessment of the capability of the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP)

to accept the additional flows, in accordance the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Act 451 of 1994, and NPDES Permit No. MI0050181.

"Although the submission included Application for a Part 41 Construction Permit (Permit), a permit will not be issued for a Mobile Home Community as the sewers are privately owned and Part 41 Permits are only granted for pubic sewers. Therefore, this submission has been withdrawn in MiWaters.

"EGLE has the following comment: Regarding the Sanitary Sewer Details, current best practice for testing of infiltration and exfiltration into a new sewer dictates that infiltration limits do not exceed 100 gallons/inch diameter/ mile in a 24-hour period.

This correspondence confirms that EGLE has: 1. Reviewed the engineering plans for Holly Hills Phase 2 sanitary sewer extension and that these plans meet currently recognized best practices and engineering design criteria and the Administrative Code for Mobile Home Parks; 2. And that sanitary flow generated from the addition of 192 units to the WWTP is within the treatment capacity of the WWTP as originally designed.

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### **Background**

In 1990, a consent judgment prohibited Holly Township from preventing the use of 164 acres north of East Holly Road and east of Falk Road.

As a result, the first phase of the Holly Hills Manufactured Home Community was built with 276 homes. By the time Phase III comes around, there could be more than 700 homes on the site.

Today, the Holly Hills owner, Meritus Communities, Inc., plans to exercise its rights, according to the consent judgment, and begin Phase II of the project, which will bring 191 more homes and 618 more paved parking spaces into the park. Phase II will cover 36 acres of the park.

The Taylors and several other neighboring property owners are concerned about the safety of the wells and drinking water in the township, the increase in traffic on Falk Road, the additional burden on Holly Area Schools and taxes.

# **PACKAGE**

### **Continued from Front Page**

time direct deposit includes, \$2,400 for couples, and \$3,000 for family of four. The payments will be phased out based on income levels. According to ABC News, people with direct deposit banking could see their money in as soon as three weeks. Those will be receiving paper checks could wait several more weeks.

**Small businesses** will get \$367 billion to keep making payroll while workers have to stay home. Companies with 500 or fewer employees could tap up to \$10 million each in forgivable small business loans to keep paychecks flowing.

**Federally guaranteed loans** will provide eight weeks of assistance for qualifying employers who maintain payroll. Those who meet requirements would have costs such as utilities, mortgage interest and rent forgiven.

Unemployment benefits of \$600 per week would be added to normal state benefits for up to four months with an extra 13 weeks of benefits — adding up to 39 weeks of regular unemployment insurance through the end of 2020. The coverage would be effective Jan. 27, 2021.

Health care and social services — \$242 billion would be set aside in additional emergency appropriations to fight the virus and shore up for safety net programs. It will fund public health providers including hospitals, the CDC, child nutrition programs, food stamps and transportation agencies.

The deal provides \$30 billion in emergency education funding, \$25 billion in emergency transit funding and creates an employee retention tax credit to give businesses incentives to keep

# **LOCAL REACTIONS:**

"The payroll tax deferral will help maintain operating capital during the down time," said **Patrik Welty**, owner/broker for



Patrik Welty

Legacy Realty Professionals, Inc. in Fenton. "However, since the majority of my employees are independent contractors, it will not have as substantial an

impact on my company as others which employ more hourly wage earners. Our agents will be helped through the shut down by the individual stimulus checks.

"The Federal Reserve's efforts to enhance liquidity are more important for commercial businesses in general to avoid a credit crisis," he said. "When this passes — and it will pass — we will need access to funds to invest in growing our businesses."

**Candice E. Montie**, LUTCF of Candice Montie Insurance & Investments of Fenton, said, "I believe the stimulus package is

necessary to help with consumer confidence and to encourage economic spending during the COVID-19 pandemic situation. "The economic

impact of having limited access to goods and services could be catastrophic if not remedied in a prompt and efficient manner," financi Montie said. "The stimulus' "I ho main objective is to assist those who have suffered the most economically by this unprecedented event.

Candice Montie Candice Montie of the financi stabilization of the realize month

"While the stimulus may look good on paper and its intentions in the right place, there is no such thing as a free lunch. The funds associated with the stimulus will mean that the government will be

borrowing more money and with government spending at an alltime high, it will just increase the United States debt (a future

burden) that has been kicked down the road for decades.

15

Montie said people should not panic and to stay the course.

"Sit with your advisor or trusted person and ask questions and talk through your current financial situation and how it will affect your

financial future," she said.

"I hope that through the stabilization and the rebound of the economy, we all begin to realize how important having six months reserves and low debt are to financial security."

There are local companies, including Montie's that offer budgeting help, and investing guidance, at no cost.

"We are all in this together," she said.

workers on the payroll during the crisis.

It will also provide \$25 billion in direct financial aid to struggling airlines and \$4 billion for air cargo carriers, two industries that have taken a big hit in the economic downturn.

The final number for big businesses like airlines is yet to be determined, but Republicans are seeking \$500 billion in loans. Provisions against potential employer abuses are also still subject to negotiations.

The bill bans stock buybacks for any corporation that accepts government loans during the term of their assistance plus one year.

Regarding payroll taxes, the measure enables individuals to defer payment of their 2020 payroll taxes until 2021 and 2022.

**States and local governments** will get \$150 billion, with \$8 billion set aside for tribal governments.

Sources: the hill.com; axios.com









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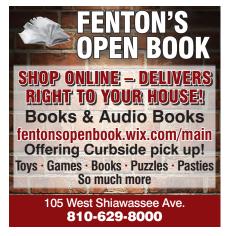
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# LOOKING BACK

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# **HISTORY**

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### MARCH 29

**1974**: The unmanned U.S. space probe Mariner 10, launched by NASA in November 1973, becomes the first spacecraft to visit the planet Mercury, sending back close-up images of a celestial body usually obscured because of its proximity to the sun.

### MARCH 30

**1867**: U.S. Secretary of State William H. Seward signs a treaty with Russia for the purchase of Alaska for \$7 million. Despite the bargain price of roughly 2 cents an acre, the Alaskan purchase was ridiculed in Congress and in the press as "Seward's Folly," "Seward's icebox," and President Andrew Johnson's "polar bear garden."

### MARCH 31

**1959**: The Dalai Lama, fleeing the Chinese suppression of a national uprising in Tibet, crosses the border into India, where he is granted political asylum. He was designated the 14th Dalai Lama in 1940, a position that eventually made him the religious and political leader of Tibet.

# **APRIL 1**

**1700**: English pranksters begin popularizing the annual tradition of April Fools' Day by playing practical jokes on each other. Although the day, also called All Fools' Day, has been celebrated for several centuries by different cultures, its exact origins remain a mystery.

# APRIL 2

**1805**: Hans Christian Andersen, one of the world's greatest storytellers, is born in Odense, near Copenhagen. During Andersen's boyhood, his father died, and the child went to work in a



factory briefly. However, he showed great talent for languages and entered the University of Copenhagen in 1828. The following year, he published his literary spoof "A Journey on Foot from Holmen's Canal to the East Point of Amager," which became his first important work.

### **APRIL 3**

**1860**: The first Pony Express mail, traveling by horse and rider relay teams, simultaneously leaves St. Joseph, Missouri, and Sacramento, California. Ten days later, on April 13, the westbound rider and mail packet completed the approximately 1,800-mile journey and arrived in Sacramento, beating the eastbound packet's arrival in St. Joseph by two days and setting a new standard for speedy mail delivery.

### APRIL 4:

1968: Just after 6 p.m., Martin Luther King Jr. is fatally shot while standing on the balcony outside his secondstory room at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee. The civil rights leader was in Memphis to support a sanitation workers' strike and was on his way to dinner when a bullet struck him in the jaw and severed his spinal cord. King was pronounced dead after his arrival at a Memphis hospital. He was 39 years old.

Source: history.com

# **Goodrich woman makes Top 40**

■Advances through Hollywood Week, next performance to air Sunday on American Idol

### **By Sharon Stone**

How far will one Goodrich woman make it in the American Idol competition?

Genavieve Linkowski, 21, of Goodrich, made it through Hollywood Week for American Idol. Her performance aired Sunday, March 22 on ABC TV.

Linkowski sang "In my blood" by Shawn Mendes.

American Idol judge Katy Perry gave Linkowski a standing ovation and said it was like seeing Linkowski grow in real time. Judges Lionel Richie and Luke Bryan were also complimentary of her talent.

Linkowski told the judges, "This is what I've been called to do. Giving up is not in my blood."

Since she advanced past Holly-wood Week into the Top 40, her next performance in the competition will air this Sunday, March 29. The next American Idol episodes air at 8 p.m. Sunday and Monday. This part of the show was filmed in Oahu, Hawaii at the Aulani Disney Resort.

Linkowski tried out for the popular TV competition in 2018 and was cut during Hollywood Week.

# **HOT LINE** CONTINUED

IF YOU KNOW someone making masks for hospitals, etc., go through your 'stash' and take them cotton fabric, I/4-inch elastic, and thread. Any color. If you are thinking of making masks, just remember, they do not have to be perfect. Thanks to all.

I READ THAT there are 21 million fewer

cellphones in use in China compared to before the COVID-19 virus pandemic. This is scary. Does this mean that 21 million people died? I sure hope not.

### 

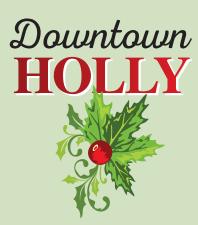
**ONE OF THE** easiest and cheapest things you should be doing multiple times a day right now is to take your temperature. A fever could likely be a hidden sign of the coronavirus.

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Mail entry page to: 256 N. Fenway Dr., Fenton, MI 48430

**COLORING CONTEST RULES:** Children must be 3–11 years old to enter. Winners will be contacted via telephone and prize pickup will be arranged at that time. Winners names and photos will be published in a future edition of the Tri–County Times.

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