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**PROTECTING  
OUR MENTAL  
HEALTH**

# Midweek★Times

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2020

## Linden school bond proposal moved to August

■ Linden Community Schools takes action to prevent gatherings, moves vote

By Hannah Ball

At its March 18 meeting, the Linden Board of Education decided to move the vote on the \$55-million bond proposal from the May 5 election to the Aug. 4 election due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Superintendent Russ Ciesielski sent out a press release stating, "The coronavirus pandemic is impacting everyone and forcing all residents, families, businesses, and our school district to make some tough decisions."

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer ordered schools to close through April 6. They were asked by the Michigan Secretary of State to move the May 5 bond proposal to August or November to help slow the spread of the virus by avoiding public gatherings.

"The Secretary of State's request was not a mandate. However, if we opted to keep the bond proposal on

**See BOND PROPOSAL on 5**



Staff and residents of Vicinia Gardens Assisted Living in Fenton Township gather around a window for a photo on Tuesday, March 31. On March 24, the healthy staff quarantined on-site 24/7 when the stay-at-home order was given. As of today they plan to stay with their residents until April 13. Staff members visible here include Brianna Svoboda, Devin Ellison, Heather Sessink, Penny Herrick and Catrina Kraus. **Photo: Tim Jagielo**

## Locked in until April 13

■ Trained staff at Vicinia Gardens moves in to care for residents during pandemic

By Sharon Stone

Several employees at Vicinia Gardens in Fenton Township have decided to hunker down with the residents they care for until April 13.

They packed their bags and moved into the three separate buildings at the facility, which includes Vicinia Gardens' assisted living, intermediate and the memory care buildings.

Catrina Kraus, resident director, said she and the other trained staff decided last week to quarantine with

**See LOCKED IN on 6**

## Avoid coronavirus scams

■ There are no approved vaccines, drugs, test kits or products available online to treat or prevent the virus

Compiled By Vera Hogan

We've seen a lot of things go away for awhile during this coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. But one thing that remains in full force is the scammers, the people who would try to profit from our fears by offering non-existent goods and promises.

Before going any further, read this:

DO NOT GIVE OUT PERSONAL OR FINANCIAL INFORMATION OVER THE PHONE OR EMAIL (INTERNET).

**Here are some tips to help you keep the scammers away:**

Hang up on robocalls. Don't press any numbers. Scammers are using

**See SCAMS on 7**

## Fenton City playground equipment off limits

■ Part of municipalities' continued response to COVID-19

By Sharon Stone

As part of the city of Fenton's continued response to the COVID-19 coronavirus, the city has decided to close access to all of the city parks' playground equipment. The health and safety of all the residents is of primary concern, said City Manager Lynn Markland.

**See PLAYGROUND on 5**



"I love this country. It was so emotional watching the U.S. Navy ship, *Comfort*, pulling in to port in New York City. What a show of support. We've got this. Go USA."



"Thank you to the state police for delivering Meals on Wheels, Friday, March 27 to Millpond Manor in Fenton."



"I see you Fenton, out there walking, skating, biking and keeping your social distance. Good job."





# More than 1,000 meals provided daily

■ Free meals program part of Holly Area Schools' dedication to serving community

Compiled by Sharon Stone

Holly Area Schools is providing an average 1,200 free meals daily to families in need across the Broncho community during the continuing coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

The district's dedication to providing free breakfast and lunch to local families in trying times is what Broncho Pride is all about.

"It's critical that no Broncho goes hungry during this challenging time, and Holly Area Schools is dedicated to ensuring every member of our community has access to healthy, nutritious meals," said Scott Roper, superintendent. "Our food distribution program is what Broncho Pride is all about, and is part of our commitment to a culture of kindness, compassion and respect before, during and after school — especially in times of crisis."

Meals are available for all students age 18 and under and those with special needs age 26 and under, regardless if they attend Holly Area Schools.

Times and locations for meal pick-up have been adjusted to comply with Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's "Stay Home, Stay Safe" executive order.

Free meals are available for pick-up Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, with two days of meals on Mondays and Wednesdays and three days of meals on Fridays. The adjusted program will run at least through April 3 at these locations:

- **Groveland Manor** (driveway by pool), 13318 Dixie Hwy, Holly, 11-11:40 a.m.
- **Holly Elementary**, 801 E. Maple St., Holly, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

- **Holly Hills Manufactured Home Community** (parking lot by clubhouse), 16181 Lancaster Way, Holly, 12:20-1 p.m.

- **Meadow Lake Mobile Home Park** (parking lot by clubhouse), 3951 Bentwood Circle, White Lake Charter Township, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

- **Oakhill Estate** (parking lot by clubhouse), 16971 Sleepy Hollow Blvd., Holly, 11:40 a.m. to 12:20 p.m.

- **Springgrove** (front entrance), 10771 Dixie Hwy, Springfield Township, 12:20-1 p.m.

- **Village of Holly** (bus stop behind Holly Foods), 15191 N. Holly Road, Holly, 11-11:40 a.m.

- **Hawaiian Gardens**, 4261 Grange Hall Road, Holly, 11:40 a.m. to 12:20 p.m.

Meals include healthy, nutritious food options for breakfast and lunch, including fruit, vegetables and milk. Families are provided bags containing breakfast and lunch, and Friday's bag also includes breakfast and lunch for the weekend.

Children do not need to be present for a parent to pick up meals. For more information, call Joanne Schebil, director of dining, at (248) 328-3033 or

Steve Lenar, assistant superintendent of administrative services, at (248) 328-3151.

"I want to personally thank our dedicated food service staff for feeding families in need across our Broncho community while caring for their own families at home during this continuing crisis," Roper said. "They truly embody the Broncho difference and demonstrate to our students the importance of giving back to their community, regardless of the circumstances."







Barry Willoughby of Fenton Township walks Wrigley through downtown Fenton Friday, March 27.  
Photo: Tim Jagielo

# Protecting our mental health

■ New York psychologist shares helpful tips to get through isolation, fear of pandemic

Compiled by Sharon Stone

An extensive list of tips to help all of us to cope with the fear and isolation of the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic is circulating social media. The article, “Mental Health Wellness

Tips for Quarantine” was written by Eileen Feliciano, a New York State psychologist.

Feliciano admits she cannot control a lot of what is going on right now, but she can contribute this. Below is an excerpt of the psychologist’s article.

- 1. Stick to a routine.
- 2. Dress for the social life you want, not the social life you have.

- 3. Get out at least once a day, for at least 30 minutes.
- 4. Find some time to move each day, again daily for at least 30 minutes.
- 5. Reach out to others, you guessed it, at least once daily for 30 minutes.
- 6. Stay hydrated and eat well.
- 7. Develop a self-care toolkit.
- 8. Spend extra time playing with children.
- 9. Give everyone the benefit of the doubt, and a wide berth.
- 10. Everyone find their own retreat space.
- 11. Expect behavioral issues in children, and respond gently.
- 12. Focus on safety and attachment.
- 13. Lower expectations and practice radical self-acceptance.
- 14. Limit social media and COVID conversation, especially around children.
- 15. Notice the good in the world, the helpers.
- 16. Help others.
- 17. Find something you can control, and control the heck out of it.
- 18. Find a long-term project to dive into.
- 19. Engage in repetitive movements and left-right movements.
- 20. Find an expressive art and go for it.

See MENTAL HEALTH on 7

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Featured Section

# ing

## HOME & GARDEN

SPRING 2020

**hello SPRING!**

TRI-COUNTY TIMES

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Fax .....810-629-9227  
Email .....news@tctimes.com

**EDITORIAL STAFF**  
Editor Sharon Stone .....810-433-6786..... sstone@tctimes.com  
Associate Editor Vera Hogan .....810-433-6823..... vhogan@tctimes.com  
Media Editor Tim Jagielo .....810-433-6795..... tjagiolo@tctimes.com  
Staff Reporter Hannah Ball .....810-433-6792..... hball@tctimes.com  
Features Writer Sally Rummel .....news@tctimes.com  
Sports Editor David Troppens .....810-433-6789..... dtroppens@tctimes.com

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## Sharin' the spotlight Gratitude for those deemed essential

By Editor Sharon Stone

**T**hey're likely to be scared, tired, weary, stressed and sad. Who am I referring to? Workers deemed essential during this COVID-19 pandemic.

At the top of this list are health care and public health workers. Running a close second are men and woman in law enforcement, public safety and first responders.

These men and woman are my heroes. I know many in law enforcement and the fire departments since I've been covering police and fire stories for 16 years for the Times. They are at a high risk of exposure to the highly contagious virus. I also know many nurses and doctors in the area. I am keeping all of them in my thoughts and prayers.

The level of anxiety they must feel as they drive in to work each day could paralyze the faint at heart. They've always taken precautions to stay healthy in a germ-filled environment but now, those precautions are at an extreme right now. We need to keep these health care workers healthy. There is no other option.

I spoke with a resident director

at a local assisted living facility in Fenton Township. My hat goes off to her and her co-workers. She explained that as a group, seven employees decided to put their own lives on hold and move into the facility to stay around-the-clock with the patients they are caring for until April 13. That, to me, is an incredible commitment, not to just their employer, but to their patients who are temporarily prohibited from having visits from loved ones.

Our first responders are also in the forefront of caring for residents who could be exposed to the coronavi-

rus, every time they respond to a 911 medical call.

My family has followed all of the new rules regarding the virus and my husband and I are both part of "essential" businesses. While working from home, I miss seeing my co-workers. I also miss my grown kids, grandson and all of my friends who are also abiding by the new rules.

There are so many other men and woman who to be thankful for, as well.

One thing I am learning through all of this is how important my family and friends are.

*Sharon Stone is the editor of the Tri-County Times. To contact her email her at sstone@tctimes.com or call her at (810) 433-6786.*



Sharon Stone

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Submit Hot lines online at [myfenton.com](http://myfenton.com)  
or text to 810-771-8398

All submissions, if approved for publication, must be 50 words or less and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Tri-County Times. We reserve the right to edit for clarity, length and liability.

**SHELTER IN PLACE** does not mean take your entire family to the store with you. Keep your kids at home.

■■■■ **THANK YOU TO** Drs. Mesh office for caring for my husband's dental emergency. During this crisis, they were all wonderful.

■■■■ **TO THE PERSON** who threw their blue rubber gloves in the Holly Foods parking lot Thursday. I wish I could have caught you.

■■■■ **WENT TO A** fast food drive thru. The employee was wearing gloves. She handled my money, drink and bag, and the same for the person ahead of me and behind me without changing them. Staying home from now on.

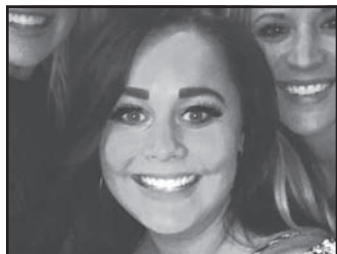
■■■■ **WE LIVE ON** McCaslin Lake Road, which is not a dumping ground. Please keep all your trash in your cars until you get to a garbage can. Please and thank you.

■■■■ **WHAT PART OF** the 'don't gather' don't you people understand? I've seen comments on the Next Door app about parties, hot tub gatherings, and poker parties in Fenton. Stop. If you're bored, too bad. This virus isn't to be taken lightly.

Compiled Tim Jagielo, media editor | Question asked to Tri-County Times Facebook followers

When restrictions are lifted, what's the first thing you want to do or who do you want to see?

## street talk



"I'm going to see all of my friends! I promise to never turn down an invite ever again!"

**Anna LeBlanc**  
Linden



"I want to take my children and grandson to the Detroit Zoo!"

**Elizabeth Bale**  
Gaines



"We're going to visit my family in Frederic, Michigan. My fiancé is a family practice doctor so we haven't been in contact with them since he is still working."

**Dawn Sulkowski**  
Fenton



"I cannot wait to see my parents! They traveled to Florida and are home safe with zero symptoms ... missing my dad's 62nd birthday!"

**Kelly Jobe**  
Fenton



"Would love to see and hold our great nephew, who was just born about three weeks ago. Also, just getting together with other family members and friends. For now we just patiently wait."

**Kelly Miller**, Argentine Twp.



## BOND PROPOSAL

Continued from Front Page

the May 5th ballot, Linden Community Schools residents would be restricted to voting by Absentee Ballot only," according to the statement. "Postponing the May election was a decision that was difficult as we feel the bond projects identified will have an immediate positive impact on our students, staff, and community."

Ciesielski said this will be beneficial by slowing the spread of the coronavirus and having more time and opportunities to spread information about the bond.

"Linden Community Schools has always been committed to the students, staff, and community of the Linden Community Schools district. Our commitment will continue! Working together has always made us stronger, and I believe this situation is no different," according to the statement.

### The bond

The \$55-million bond proposal is a 1-mill increase on the approximate 3.9 existing mills already paid by those in the school district, totaling 4.8 mills. The money would go toward upgrades in every school building for security, technology, STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) classrooms, and instructional development.

It would also go toward a new multipurpose building that would be constructed between Linden High School and Linden Middle School. It would serve as a hub for gymnastics, team rooms for games, a wrestling room, an area for robotics programs, court space, a walking track and more.

For more information, go to [linden-schools.org](http://linden-schools.org).



Linden Community Schools Superintendent Russ Ciesielski announced that the district's bond proposal would be on the Aug. 4 election ballot, rather than the May 5 ballot due to the coronavirus pandemic. *Times file photo*

## April 1 is 'Take a Break and Be Counted' day

Michigan governor encourages residents to take 10 minutes to complete 2020 Census

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer is declaring today, Wednesday, April 1, "Take a Break and Be Counted" Day in Michigan to help promote awareness of the critical importance of completing the 2020 Census and support the state's, "Be Counted" campaign's goal of 82 percent participation statewide.

Whitmer's call for Michiganders to complete their census form on April 1 coincides with National Census Day. The appeal also comes as millions of Michiganders are staying home to comply with her "Stay Home, Stay Safe" executive order to help mitigate the spread of the continuing novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

## PLAYGROUND

Continued from Front Page

"It has been reported that the COVID-19 coronavirus can stay on surfaces for several hours and possibly even up to 72 hours depending on the material of the surface," Markland said. "This has been a factor in making this decision."

The Department of Public Works has blocked the parks' playground equipment for public use. During this time, the parks will still be open for residents use and enjoyment for walking, running, biking, etc.

### Linden City

All city facilities and parks are closed to the public until further notice, including Eagle's Wooden Park and the Mill building, which includes the library and museum.

### Holly Village

Parks and playgrounds within the village are closed until further notice.

## Governor orders temporary protocols at jails

Includes rules for entry into all correctional facilities and inmate transfers during COVID-19 pandemic

By Sharon Stone

Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer signed an executive order March 29 outlining new protocols for all correctional facilities across the state through April 26 in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

New protocols will mitigate the spread of COVID-19, protect the public health, and provide essential protections to vulnerable Michiganders who work at or are incarcerated in prisons, county jails, local lockups, and juvenile detention centers across the state.

The governor's office announced it is reasonable and necessary to implement limited and temporary COVID-19-related protocols and procedures regarding entry into facilities operated by the Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) and transfers to and from the Department's custody.

Some of the new protocols include:

- Screening all persons arriving at or departing from a facility, including staff, incarcerated persons, vendors, and any

other person entering the facility.

- Restricting all visits, except for attorney-related visits, and conducting those visits without physical contact to the extent feasible.

- Limiting off-site appointments for incarcerated persons to only appointments for urgent or emergency medical treatment.

- Developing and implementing protocols for incarcerated persons who display symptoms of COVID-19.

For a complete list of temporary protocols, [michigna.gov/whitmer](http://michigna.gov/whitmer) and search executive orders.

## HOT LINE CONTINUED

**WE ALSO HAD** a pandemic in April 2009 that lasted until April 2010. CDC website has a timeline. Do you remember this? I sure don't.

■■■■  
**IN MEMORY OF** lives lost to this horrible virus. Stay home and stay healthy.

# Accidents Happen

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## NEWS BRIEFS

COMPILED BY SHARON STONE

### Delivering support for small businesses

Consumers Energy is available to help companies during the coronavirus pandemic. They are committed to helping Michigan's small business community prosper, now more than ever. Small businesses throughout the state are suddenly struggling to survive after closing to help everyone stay safe during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. Consumers Energy can provide meaningful and immediate help by:

- Working with you on your utility bill
- Connecting you to potential sources of state and federal relief
- Providing new business opportunities through the Pure Michigan Business Connect Program

Call them at 800-805-0490 to get assistance with your energy bill and to learn how to find short-term help.

### Recreational fires in Holly Village allowed with permit

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) recently announced that all burn permits are suspended until further notice. These burn permits are for regions that utilize the Michigan DNR burn permit system and are prone to brush/wildfires. The village of Holly is not one of these areas and as such, burn permits are still valid and will continue to be issued. According to village officials, they understand that many residents want to have recreational fires during this time of quarantine, and they encourage those residents to do so, if it's within regulation. The Rules for burning are at [hollyvillage.org.burn-permits](http://hollyvillage.org.burn-permits). The village of Holly requires village residents who wish to burn to secure a permit. There is no cost for a burn permit. Only one burn permit is required per calendar year. You do not need to submit a burn permit each time you wish to burn. The permit is for village of Holly residents only. If you do not live within the village limits, you must contact your local government for burning regulations.

## LOCKED IN

### Continued from Front Page

the residents inside the buildings as a way to prevent bringing in the highly contagious COVID-19 virus. Elderly individuals with underlying health concerns are at highest risk of this virus.

"It makes more sense for us to shelter in place," Kraus said.

Kraus said the three building directors and employees, a total of six women and one man, are using unused rooms to sleep in. They are using the washers and dryers to keep their uniforms clean and they are ordering delivered meals as an alternative option to food prepared at the facility.

Kraus said for weeks they discussed creative ways to keep residents in contact with their families after visits were stopped to prevent the spread of the virus. Vicinia Gardens posts photos and videos on its Facebook page for families, and the use of facetime on phones is popular.

Staff members are taking turns caring for residents, organizing activities, meals and for sleeping. "We're working together as a team," Kraus said. "The staff really cares. They've put their life on hold until April 13."

On Monday, March 30, Kraus said,

**“Dad told me this this morning, you girls are amazing! I’m in awe of the way this virus/quarantine is being handled. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.”**

**Susan Calandri**

*Daughter of Donald Feldhahn, resident*

"We are holding it together using team work. It's been an experience. Actually going from working a day job to living your day job has been a different experience."

Kraus added that she and the other employees believe it's exhausting to the residents having them there 24/7. "We

bring a lot of energy and I think it tires them out faster," she said. "The residents are enjoying the extra attention in the evening after dinner. We've been adding interactive activities such as exercise and crafts."

"Vicinia families have been very giving with gifts, calls, letters and prayers

for all of us along with verbal appreciation of what we're willing to give up for our residents."

Vicinia Gardens has bumped up their communication with families via text, calls and pictures throughout the day. They also post daily on their Facebook page for family members and FaceTime when requested so families can see how their loved ones are getting along.

Kraus said it was difficult begging families not to visit because they didn't understand how it might affect their loved ones. "Thanks to social media, we went from being misunderstood to caring ones," she said.

### HOW OTHER SENIOR COMMUNITIES ARE COPING

**Argentine Care Center** — Kerri Messer, administrator at Argentine Care Center said, "We're doing well."

Visitors are temporarily prohibited because of the coronavirus outbreak. Messer said they've gotten creative with keeping their residents in regular communication with their loved ones. They utilize Skype, FaceTime, Facebook and any other technology they can.

Messer said she has one couple who has been married for 70 years, one of whom lives at Argentine Care Center. "They're doing okay," she said. Before the restrictions were tightened, visitors were able to stand on

a back deck under a tent and see their loved ones through the window while talking on the phone. Now that everyone is to stay home, they no longer allow this.

Every individual who enters the center is screened by asking them questions and their temperature is taken. "It's scary right now," Messer said.

**Lockwood of Fenton** — Debby Runnels, life enrichment director at Lockwood of Fenton said they have experienced a morale booster in recent weeks. They too temporarily restrict visitors. She said volunteers have been playing music for them while they watch from their balconies.

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Mark McCabe

67th District Court

Ask the

## judge

### Executive orders

On March 10, by Executive Order 2020-04, Governor Gretchen Whitmer declared that Michigan was in a state of emergency.

As we all know, a lot has happened since then in our state and nation, which I need not detail here.

Suffice it to say the governor has issued a number of additional orders (with more possibly on the way) to address a wide variety of health, safety and other issues.

The legal questions in situations such as this are what is the authority for the governor to issue such orders and what can the orders require us to do? For today's column, I will try to answer both.

To begin with, our system of government has three branches — legislative, executive and judicial.

The governor is the head of the executive branch and under Michigan's Constitution Article V, Section 1, is vested with all executive power.

This means that as the leader of the state she has the right to order the implementation of existing laws.

There are two laws, which specifically apply when a state of emergency is declared.

The first is the Emergency Powers of the Governor Act of 1945 and the second is the Emergency Management Act.

These statutes, when read together, provide that when there is a great public crisis, disaster or similar public emergency, the governor can declare a state of emergency or disaster and is given the power to take a number of actions to address the particular situation including issuing orders, rules and regulations.

The orders that are made are subject to judicial review, have the force of law and must be obeyed. A violation is a misdemeanor, which carries up to 90 days in jail and/or up to a \$500 fine.

Even the courts have been affected as evidenced by the March 20 order prohibiting residential evictions until after April 17 and the stay at home order effective March 24 allowing people to go to court only for legal proceedings or hearings for essential or emergency purposes.

There is a list and the complete texts of all of the executive orders and directives that have been issued on the governor's website michigan.gov.

Please stay safe and healthy and I know we all hope that this ends soon.

## SCAMS

### Continued from Front Page

illegal robocalls to pitch everything from scam coronavirus treatments to work-at-home schemes. According to the FTC (Federal Trade Commission), the recording might say that pressing a number will let you speak to a live operator or remove you from their call list, but it could lead to more robocalls.

Ignore online offers for vaccinations and home test kits. Scammers are trying to get you to buy products that aren't proven to treat or prevent the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) — online or in stores. At this time, there also are no FDA-authorized home test kits for the coronavirus. Visit the FDA to learn more.

Fact-check information. Scammers, and sometimes well-meaning people, share information that hasn't been verified. Before you pass on any messages, contact trusted sources. Visit "What the U.S. Government is Doing" for links to federal, state and local government agencies.

Know who you're buying from. Online sellers may claim to have in-demand products, like cleaning, household, and health and medical supplies when, in fact, they don't.

Don't respond to texts and emails about checks from the government. The details are still being worked out. Anyone who tells you they can get you the money now is a scammer. And don't forget, the IRS will never call you.

Don't click on links from sources you don't know. They could download viruses onto your computer or device.

Watch for emails claiming to be from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) or experts saying they have information about the virus. For the most up-to-date information about the coronavirus, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

Do your homework when it comes to donations, whether through charities or crowd-funding sites. Don't let anyone rush you into making a donation. If someone wants donations in cash, by gift card, or by wiring money, don't do it.

### What the FTC is doing

The FTC and FDA (Food and Drug Administration) have jointly issued warning letters to seven sellers of unapproved and misbranded products, claiming they can treat or prevent the coronavirus. The companies' products include teas, essen-

tial oils, and colloidal silver.

The FTC says the companies have no evidence to back up their claims, as required by law. The FDA says there are no approved vaccines, drugs or investigational products currently available to treat or prevent the virus.

The agencies sent the letters to the following companies: Vital Silver, Quinesence Aromatherapy Ltd., N-ergetics, GuruNanda, LLC, Vivify Holistic Clinic, Herbal Amy LLC, and The Jim Bakker Show.

The FDA considers the sale and promotion of fraudulent COVID-19 products to be a threat to the public health. It has an aggressive surveillance program that routinely monitors online sources for health fraud products, especially during a significant public health issue such as this one.

The letters note that if the false claims do not cease, the Commission may seek a federal court injunction and an order requiring money to be refunded to consumers. Finally, they instruct the recipients to notify the FTC within 48 hours of the specific actions they have taken to address the agency's concerns.

Source: [consumer.ftc.com](https://consumer.ftc.com)

## MENTAL HEALTH

### Continued from Page 3

**21. Find lightness and humor** in each day.

**22. Reach out for help.** Your team is there for you.

**23. "Chunk" your quarantine,** take it moment by moment.

**24. Remind yourself daily** that this is temporary.

**25. Find the lesson.**

"This whole crisis can seem sad, senseless, and at times, avoidable," Feliciano said. "When psychologists work with trauma, a key feature to helping someone work through said trauma is to help them find their agency, the potential positive outcomes they can effect, the meaning and construction that can come out of destruction.

"What can each of us learn here, in big and small ways, from this crisis? What needs to change in ourselves, our homes, our communities, our nation, and our world?"

## NEWS

# BRIEFS

COMPILED BY SHARON STONE

### Lake Fenton's prom, commencement suspended

Lake Fenton High School Principal Christopher Belcher announced Monday, March 23 that this year's prom and graduation ceremony, along with any other school activities, have been suspended due to the COVID-19 virus. He learned over the weekend that The Whiting, the location of Lake Fenton's graduation commencement, has suspended all events through May 31, the date of Lake Fenton's graduation ceremony. With so many uncertainties, the district also was forced to postpone this year's prom. Belcher said they will continue to explore all available opportunities for both commencement and prom once this crisis is over.

## BUSINESS

# BRIEFS

COMPILED BY SHARON STONE

### Fenton Area Public Schools teachers start #WeAreFenton Campaign to support local restaurants during the COVID-19 shutdown

A list of participating Fenton restaurants will be sent out to the FAPS staff and families, Fenton/Linden Chamber members and the community through Facebook. The teachers are encouraging all to purchase meals for takeout from the restaurants on designated days to be a part of this campaign and to support all of the participating restaurants any day of the week that they are able. See complete story and more details in the April 5 Weekend Times.



# Linden's Spencer's next fight canceled, taking much needed rest



Linden resident and professional boxer Joey Spencer (left) competes against Erik Spring during his January 18 match. **Photo Daniel Cork**

**By David Troppens**

Joey Spencer thought it was probably going to happen.

On March 23, it did.

Ironically, the tri-county area's professional boxer was on his way to training when he found out his April 11 televised fight was canceled due to

the COVID-19 crisis.

"I found out on my way to the gym and my Dad said the fight was called off," Spencer said. "It was heartbreaking at the time. I was so close to the fight and I was in really good shape from the camp. I had just come off a very good sparring session."

The world of boxing is just like pretty much every professional sport worldwide — its activities are on hold due to the coronavirus crisis. Other boxing dates had already been canceled in recent weeks and other ones around Spencer's date had been canceled as

**See SPENCER'S on 9**

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2020 | **PAGE 8** | MYFENTON.COM/SPORTS

## Sports Times

### Fenton's Thompson ends college search, headed to Northwestern

#### ■ Offensive lineman makes decision among many choices

**By David Troppens**

When Josh Thompson was 7, he quickly began to realize he had some football talent.

"I was too young to participate in tackle but they allowed me to play a year up because I was bigger than the other players," Thompson said.

Things haven't changed much since Thompson was seven. Currently a junior at Fenton High School, the 6-foot-5, 305-pound offensive lineman still remains bigger than most of his current classmates.

However, he also has some tremendous talent to go with that frame, and colleges have been taking notice for years.

And now he's made his decision on where to continue his football career at the collegiate level — Northwestern University.

"It feels amazing," Thompson said. "It feels like I have a clear focus on my future now. Instead of worrying about making my decision, I can pour my energy into what I want to do, and how I want my (senior football season) to go with my teammates and may team."

Thompson is currently ranked the No. 2 offensive guard in the state and 13th overall by the DZone. He's the third-ranked guard by Rising Stars in the state. Thompson

has already received six Division 1 offers to play college football. Those other schools included Western Michigan, Northern Illinois, Buffalo, Central Michigan, Eastern Michigan, Akron, and DII Wayne State. In the last three months he's had visits to Appalachian State, Air Force, San Jose State, Indiana and Northwestern. He also had planned on visiting Wisconsin, Minnesota, Purdue and Iowa before making

**See THOMPSON on 9**

Fenton offensive lineman Josh Thompson (right) verbally committed to continuing his football career at Northwestern University after his senior season. **Photo: Mark Bolen**



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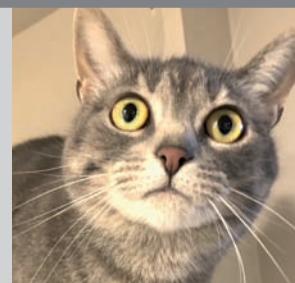


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# Ally Challenge remains scheduled to start week of July 27

By David Troppens

The PGA Tour has been forced to call the cancellation of many PGA and PGA Tour Champions events in recent weeks due to the spread of COVID-19.

However, as of now, the Ally Challenge presented by McLaren has not been canceled.

The third-annual PGA Champions Tour event hosted at Grand Blanc's Warwick Hills from July 27 to Aug. 2 remains on schedule.

"This is obviously a very fluid situation that requires constant review, communication and transparency, and we — working closely with the PGA Tour, Ally and McLaren — are dedicated to all three aspects," Director of Communications for The Ally Challenge presented by McLaren Thomas P. Sprouse said in a March 24 press release.

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM

## THOMPSON

Continued from Page 8

ing his decision.

Thompson went to Northwestern in early March and attended a spring football practice.

"When I went there it was amazing how they ran their whole program," Thompson said. "I went to a spring practice. It was just a regular Tuesday practice but everyone was super fired up and were working hard to get better. The coaches did a fantastic job. You can tell it was a family atmosphere and that's something I wanted to be a part of."

Fenton varsity football coach Jeff Setzke believes Thompson made the right decision.

"I think it's a good fit," Setzke said. "It is his first Big Ten opportunity, but everything we know about Northwestern — they have some new facilities, the stadium is very iconic and it's very close to Chicago — is extremely positive. It's still within driving distance of home. ... If Michigan or Michigan State had made an offer at this point it may have been a little different, but I'm not entirely sure. Northwestern was the



Fenton offensive lineman Josh Thompson (far left) verbally committed to continuing his football career at Northwestern University after his senior season. Thompson had Division I schools interested in his services. Photo: Mark Bolen

first Big Ten school to show any interest and he enjoyed his visit. I think it's a great choice and an excellent school."

It's not shocking that there would be a family feel to the Wildcats' program. Head coach Pat Fitzgerald is only 44 but has a deep history within the program. He was a linebacker for Northwestern's strong teams in the mid-1990s and he's

been the head coach since 2006. The squad has been invited to nine bowl games during those 14 seasons and have earned winning records eight of those 14 years, including four of the last five seasons. The Wildcats have a 27-16 Big Ten record in the last five seasons, including an 8-1 record in 2018.

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM

## SPENCER'S

Continued from Page 8

well, so Spencer, 20, knew the cancellation was probably inevitable.

"I had the feeling it would be," Spencer said. "I was six weeks into training for the fight so that really stunk. For some reason it was the last one to be canceled. I finished the week of training to make it feel like we accomplished something. This week was my first in quarantine. I'm getting a chance to rest my body."

Spencer was preparing for a bout with Alejandro Ibarra, a 26-year-old who had posted a 6-1 record with two of the six wins coming by knockout. Ibarra had won his last three fights, including defeating Steve Marquez (17-20-2) on Jan. 24.

Spencer's last fight was on Jan. 18 against Erik Spring (13-3-2). Spencer won a unanimous decision, improving his record to 10-0 at the time. Spencer is used to heavy activity since he fought in his first professional fight at the age of 18 on Feb. 17, 2018. He's been competing about once every two to three months since that time. Now, he's getting a good chance to relax.

"It's frustrating but at the same time fighting that many times a year is very strenuous on the body and mind," Spencer said. "Even though I want to keep fighting this is forcing me to take some time and relax. The last three were back-to-back-to-back with my training. Every time you prepare for a fight it's mentally exhausting. I didn't realize how exhausted I was until I was forced to stay indoors and rest. It's a rest very well needed."

One of the toughest parts of fighting so frequently involves the preparation week.

"The week of the fight is challenging, it's mentally exhausting," Spencer said. "You work hard to make weight by putting yourself through a lot of physical pain, and then your body is supposed to be at the top of its game and you are supposed to be 100 percent mentally and physically ready not even 48 hours after being completely dehydrated. It's a very weird feeling. You forget how it feels all the time and then wonder how you can bounce back from it, but I always do. It's a non-stop roller coaster, going up and down. It feels good to get a mental reset."

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM

KING FEATURES

Midweek Crossword

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

ACROSS

1 TGIF part

4 Bing's buddy

7 Block the flow

12 Just out

13 "Hail!"

14 Become one

15 Meadow

16 High-flying tourist

18 \$ dispenser

19 Soviet cooperative

20 Genius

22 Decorate

23 Boast

27 Discoverer's cry

29 Weaken, in a way

31 Nary a soul

34 Star in Orion's left foot

35 "Now" or "never"

37 Drench

38 TV dinner veggies

39 "Go, team!"

41 Wild and crazy

45 Rescues

47 "The Raven" writer

48 TV show for entrepreneurial hopefuls

52 Transgression

53 Asian nation

12

15

18

20

31

35

38

48

53

56

54 Hockey surface

55 Superlative ending

56 That is (Lat.)

57 "Ben-Hur" author Wallace

58 Vast expanse

DOWN

1 Extended family member

2 "Choppers"

3 Hindu ascetic

4 Mexican peninsula

5 Exaggerate

6 White or

7 One-on-one fight

8 Pismire

9 Bay State sch.

10 Multipurpose truck

11 Apiece

17 Start a garden

21 Regions

23 All-out attack

24 Carpet

25 Consumed

26 Solidify

28 That woman

30 Anger

31 Siesta

32 Praise in verse

33 Eggs

36 Unruly kid?

37 From what place

40 Use

42 Church recesses

43 Din

44 Busybody

45 Old card game

46 Distort

48 Tackle moguls

49 Scuttle

50 Exist

51 Scale notes



# Times Classifieds

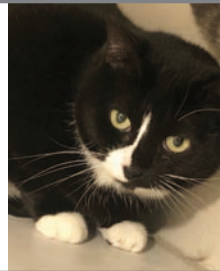
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Times

Real Estate

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## JUMBLE

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

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

Print your answer here: —————→

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

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

WTYIT

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Horoscopes  
For the week of  
March 30-Apr 1, 2020

**ARIES Mar 21/Apr 20**  
Things are not always what they seem, Aries. Keep this in mind when dealing or working with people you have never met. It may take some time to figure things out.

**TAURUS Apr 21/May 21**  
Taurus, asking a bunch of questions may not unveil the answers you were hoping for. You may not be asking the right questions. Keep forging ahead.

**GEMINI May 22/Jun 21**  
The ability to listen is an important skill, Gemini. This ability is especially valuable when others come to you for advice. Listen intently and do your best to help.

**CANCER Jun 22/Jul 22**  
Cancer, even if things do not entirely make sense this week, you can glean certain bits of information here and there that can help you to paint the bigger picture.

**LEO Jul 23/Aug 23**  
Leo, imitation is the highest form of flattery. Keep a keen eye on someone you admire at work, and then try to mirror this person in your actions.

**VIRGO Aug 24/Sept 22**  
Virgo, certain responsibilities may seem like a drain on your time. But right now you are not seeing how even small tasks can add up to big results in the end. Remain patient.

**LIBRA Sept 23/Oct 23**  
Libra, certain battles cannot be won no matter how hard you try. Do not focus unnecessary energy on things that cannot be scaled. Direct your focus to more important projects.

**SCORPIO Oct 24/Nov 22**  
A project you started may come to a screeching halt, Scorpio. This does not mean you should abandon it entirely. It just means you will have to take a brief hiatus and restart.

**SAGITTARIUS Nov 23/Dec 21**  
Sagittarius, people naturally want to be around you, but sometimes you need to take a step back and focus on yourself. Clear your schedule for some personal time this week.

**CAPRICORN Dec 22/Jan 20**  
Spring is a time of new beginnings, Capricorn. You may be presented with several new opportunities. Travel, a new job or even expanding your family may be in the cards.

**AQUARIUS Jan 21/Feb 18**  
Aquarius, even if you do not have all the answers, you can take steps that address many of the changes that have occurred in your life lately.

**PISCES Feb 19/Mar 20**  
Channel your creativity into projects that let you express yourself, Pisces. Artwork, writing and crafting are a few examples.

Obituaries Times

**Reda Mae (Moreland) Pence**  
1936-2020  
Reda Mae (Moreland) Pence - age 83, of Linden, died Saturday, March 28, 2020. Private graveside service will take place in Fairview Cemetery. A memorial service will be announced at a later date by Sharp Funeral Homes, 209 E. Broad St., Linden. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Heritage Baptist Church of Fenton. Reda was born on November 8, 1936 in Heber Springs, AR the daughter of Arvil and Laura (Garrison) Moreland. She married James "Jim" Pence on April 10, 1977 in Linden. Reda retired from K-Mart after 20 years of service. She was a longtime member of the Heritage Baptist Church of Fenton. Surviving are children, Thomas (Lora) Pence, Diane Pence and Jane Nelson; four grandchildren; one great-grandson; and sister, Fay Spencer. Reda was preceded in death by her husband, Jim Pence; and parents, Arvil and Laura Moreland. Tributes may be shared at [www.sharpfuneralhomes.com](http://www.sharpfuneralhomes.com).



**Emma M. Tester**  
1925-2020  
Emma M. Tester - age 95, of Fenton, passed away peacefully, Saturday, March 28, 2020. Funeral services were held 1 PM Monday, March 30, 2020 at Sharp Funeral Homes, Linden Chapel, 209 E. Broad St, Linden. Burial in Sharp Cemetery, Deerfield Township. Visitation was held at the funeral home Monday from 11 AM until the time of the service. Emma was born on January 30, 1925 in Fenton, where she had resided all her life on Bennett Lake. Her parents were Samuel and Rose (Chambers) Rathbun. She married Merle Tester on January 4, 1952 and they had two daughters, Joyce (Patrick) Bard and Nancy Tester; two grandchildren, Patrick and Carrie Bard; and six great-grandchildren, Stevie, Seth, Carsen, Cayd, Dagger, and Kraton; and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Merle; and sister, Anna Tester. Emma was a devoted mother, grandmother, aunt, and an outstanding bus driver for 25 years at Linden Community Schools, retiring in 1991. She loved driving bus and thought of every student as her own. She loved farming with her draft horses, gardening, flowers, sewing, canning, and her dogs, and of course always being right. Tributes may be shared at [www.sharpfuneralhomes.com](http://www.sharpfuneralhomes.com).



**Louis John Scieszka**  
1926-2020  
Louis John Scieszka - father of six boys, husband for over sixty years, educator, golfer (namesake of the Coupe de Lou Classic golf tournament), and friend to pretty much everyone he ever met, passed away Thursday, March 26, 2020 after 93 years of life. The son of Polish immigrants Michael and Anna Scieszka, Lou was born in Lansing. He earned college and graduate degrees from both MSU and the U of M, met and married Shirley Marie Marchand, then served as principal of Freeman Elementary School in Flint for 30 years while raising that pack of boys. Lou's two finest talents were to see the best in everyone, and to "not sweat the small stuff." His generous heart, unshakable optimism, good cheer, and crowd control skills also came in handy in both his job as principal and family dinners. Lou is survived by his sons Jim, Jon, Tom, Gregg, Brian, Jeff; 14 grandchildren; and at last count, 10 great-grandchildren. Special thanks to Gregg (brother #4) and caretaker Charlotte Murphy for all their loving work making the end of Lou's life as peaceful as possible. Because of the current pandemic, there will be no funeral service. But as a WWII Vet, Lou will be buried in Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly. And as a lifelong Catholic, Lou would probably be happy if you took a moment to say a prayer for him . . . and took a moment to see the best in the next person you meet. Your condolences may be shared with the family at [swartzfuneralhomeinc.com](http://swartzfuneralhomeinc.com).



Obituaries updated daily online

Midweek Sudoku

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

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