

# Lake Fenton community heartbroken

■ Family and friends mourn death of teen killed in Waverunner collision on Lake Fenton

By Sharon Stone

News spread quickly of the Sunday, May 24 death of Lexi Simon, 17, of Fenton. She was killed in a personal watercraft (PWC) collision on Lake Fenton.

Simon was transported to Ascension Genesys in Grand Blanc Township with life-threatening

injuries on May 24 at approximately 3 p.m. At 6:52 p.m., she was pronounced dead.

Genesee County Sheriff Chris Swanson said, "Pray for her family. It was a pure accident."

Simon, who lives on Lake Fenton with her parents and three sisters,

was driving a Yamaha VX Deluxe Waverunner at 2:45 p.m. on Lake Fenton, near the north end, just southwest of the Moose Lodge. Her 17-year-old boyfriend was driving a matching Waverunner.

According to witnesses, Simon

See **TEEN** on 9



Lexi Simon



PAGE 3  
DOZENS OF  
FAMILIES  
PARTICIPATE IN  
CARETEL INNS  
CAR PARADE

# Midweek Times

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2020

\$1.00

## Genesee County Jail free of COVID-19

■ Sheriff says combination of protocols, open communication has kept virus away from inmates

By Sharon Stone

Despite how contagious and potentially deadly the COVID-19 virus is, Genesee County Sheriff Chris Swanson said he is proud to say that the Genesee County Jail has had zero cases of the coronavirus with inmates.

As of Friday, May 22, there were 411 inmates.

When asked how there were no COVID-19 cases, Swanson said it was not one protocol or one person

See **JAIL** on 10



Genesee County Sheriff Chris Swanson (front) announced that there have been zero cases of COVID-19 with inmates at the Genesee County Jail. He attributes this to multiple protocols and everyone's cooperation. Photo: Submitted photo

## State of emergency vs. stay home

■ Both orders explained; local municipalities enact state of emergencies

By Hannah Ball

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer declared a state of emergency for Michigan due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It was first declared March 10.

See **STAY HOME** on 7

## Hartland Township relaxes rules

■ Puts its 'Business Friendly' slogan into action

As restrictions on businesses are lifted in the coming months, Hartland Township seeks to boost the safe reopening of local businesses. The Hartland Board

See **RULES** on 8



“It’s 2020 folks. How is it still acceptable for neighbors to walk their dog for the sole purpose

of defecating and urinating on neighboring properties? Here’s a thought, allow your dog to defecate and urinate on your property and then take your walk. How uncouth.”



“Every person I know was willing to stay home to ‘flatten the curve,’ which

we did. Most hospitals are nearly empty. Good job everybody. Now, let’s get back to our lives and not bankrupt our great country.”

“If we want the pandemic to go away, I suggest the following. Cut the salary of all government leaders to \$700 a week and they will find all the answers real quick. And the arguing will stop.”



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# Dozens of families participate in Caretel Inns car parade

■ Facility has temporary no visitor policy due to COVID-19

By Hannah Ball

**Linden** — Dozens of vehicles decorated with signs and balloons were driven through the Caretel Inns of Linden complex Thursday, May 21.

Caretel guests relaxed on the lawn outside in the warm, overcast weather and waved at their family and friends who came to see them.

The vehicle parade was organized by Caretel, which remains COVID-19 free. They have a no visitors policy to keep it that way. The parade was a way for Caretel guests to see their loved ones.

Rodney Roberson, general manager, said the parade was originally scheduled for Tuesday but they rescheduled it due to rain. He said the pandemic has been difficult.

"It's been hard on everyone. They've had window visits. They've had phone calls. I'm a little luckier than your typical facility because everybody has their own phone. They have internet access.



Caretel guests D'Anne Williams (right) and Marie Rice (left) watch the vehicle parade as it passes by the facility. Both waved to their families who came to see them. "I was amazed at how many cars there were. That was really something," Rice said. **Photo: Hannah Ball**

So they have a lot of things at their hands that maybe a typical nursing home or an assisted living facility may not have," he said.

He said the parade almost made him cry.

The guests who chose to watch the parade were excited to see their loved ones.

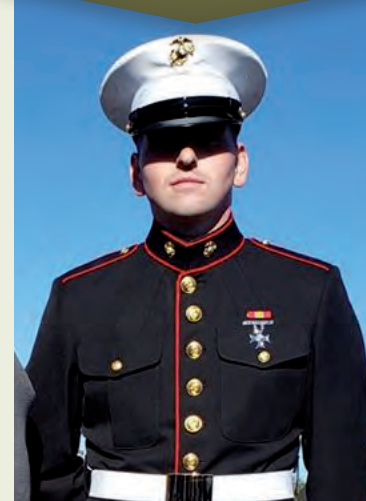
**See CAR PARADE on 12**

**“It's been hard on everyone. They've had window visits.”**

**Rodney Roberson**

*Caretel Inns of Linden general manager*

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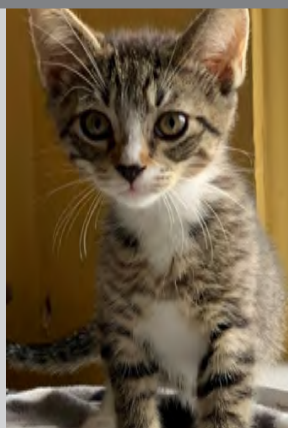
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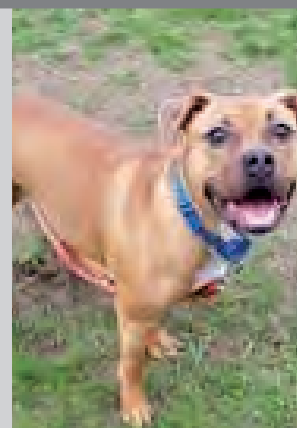


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## Sharin' the spotlight Shopping locally was a success

By Editor Sharon Stone

I've got to really hand it to our local entrepreneurs/small business owners who have come up with creative ways to keep their shops somewhat open during the COVID-19 pandemic. Their determination to stay safe and provide products and services to our community led to a successful birthday celebration for my husband over the weekend.

I shopped local and it felt so good.

With so many small shops being forced to close their doors, many people turned to Amazon and other online retailers. I'm not a big fan of that and only shop that way when products aren't available locally.

I did shop online, but at websites of our local stores. It was great and it was personal. Needing gifts appropriate for a man, I turned to

Nick & Crew by Elections. I found exactly what I wanted, paid online and heard directly from the owner, Nicole Medich, thanking me for my purchase. Her shop's doors were closed, but when I was ready to pick up my purchase, I sent her a text and she hung my gift-wrapped birthday present on a board outside her front door. I drove up, grabbed my bag and I was on my way. Wanting to spread my dollars around, I also ordered a gift from Bridge Street Exchange. Kevin Begola devised a safe system similar to Medich. After I paid online, my purchase was packaged

and ready for pickup. I drove over, walked in the back door where a table was set up to hold online purchases. Begola found my gift bag and sent me on my way. It was great and fast.

I can't forget to give a shout out to my husband, Jeff, who owns the Sears Hometown Store here

in Fenton. Because hardware and appliances were deemed essential, our store has been open during this entire stay-at-home order. Most of the time he would work alone with the doors locked. Some days he would have one other employee with him to help serve our valued customers. He has worked so hard to stay safe, keep his employees safe and keep his customers safe. His system has worked and people have been driving across the state just to shop or to pick up merchandise they bought online at the locally owned store. Business for him has stayed close to steady and he has sold more freezers, ping pong tables and pool tables online than he ever imagined.

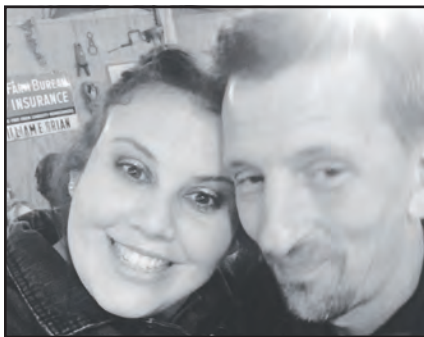
Turning to a sad subject, I'd like to offer my deepest condolences to the family of 17-year-old Lexi Simon who was killed in a tragic Waverunner accident on Lake Fenton on Sunday. My heart goes out to them as well as the family of Lexi's boyfriend. May they cherish all of their memories.



Sharon Stone

Compiled by Hannah Ball, staff reporter — Question asked to Tri-County Times' Facebook followers

## Do you prefer to vote in person or absentee ballot?



"Absentee. I used to work out of town. I'm a caretaker, plus six kids and one special needs. I'm not taking him out."

Carrie Lyn Bard  
Fenton



"No lines, no waiting. I've used absentee before it was widely available when we had to be out of town on Election Day and just dropped the ballots off at City Hall. When I was in the military 30 years ago (and current military) use absentee ballots to vote in their state of record while serving elsewhere around the U.S. and world."

Judy Lynn  
Linden



"Absentee or early voting. While living in Tennessee years ago the early voting polls were open for like two weeks leading up to the election. Never a line and I was able to go at my convenience. Voting should be made that accessible here too as well as absentee voting like I did while in the Army overseas."

Adam Kirk  
Fenton



"Person. You can't believe the COVID numbers. I am (not) trusting them with my mail-in ballot that they can just 'lose' until after the election."

Michael Couch  
Linden

## Hotlines

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.

### TO WHITMER ADMIRING

hysteria, 'decisions based on data and science' is a mere talking point. She has no science backing up her decisions. Claims that executive orders saved lives are unfounded. A reduction in infection rate was going to happen regardless. Your 'disdain for dollars' puts families into poverty.

■■■

**AT LEAST FIVE** states already mail absentee ballots to every registered voter, and there is no data to suggest that practice has made their elections less secure.

■■■

**IF ANYTHING IS** taken from the quarantine and at-home orders, it's that we do not need to be traveling as much for work.

■■■

**A COUPLE OF** years ago, the Tri-County Times had a recommended list of books to read. I finally got to one on my long list, 'Tangerine' by Christine Mangan. Four/5 stars. Thank you. It was a great read.



# MICHIGAN VOTES

## LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

— Compiled by Sharon Stone —

*MichiganVotes.org is a free, non-partisan website created by the Mackinac Center for Public Policy to provide concise, non-partisan, plain-English descriptions of every bill and vote in the Michigan House and Senate. This report was released Friday, May 8.*

### Senate Bill 899: Extend coronavirus epidemic liability waivers for medical care providers

To extend through the end of the coronavirus state of emergency a medical malpractice liability exemption granted to health care professionals and facilities by the 1976 state "Emergency Management Act." The law the bill would amend now limits the governor's exercise of extraordinary emergency powers — and the liability exemptions the bill would extend — to 28 days unless the legislature approves an extension, which it has declined to do. This means that Gov. Whitmer's epidemic related executive orders now rest their authority primarily on a 1945 "Emergency Powers of Governor Act," which does not place limits on how long a governor may retain such powers, and also does not grant liability protections to doctors and hospitals during an epidemic.

#### Passed 25 to 13 in the Senate

Sen. Ruth Johnson (R-Dist. 14) ☒ YES  
Sen. Jim Runestad (R-Dist. 15) ☒ YES  
Sen. Lana Theis (R-Dist. 22) ☒ YES  
Sen. Jim Ananich (D-Dist. 27) ☒ NO  
Sen. Ken Horn (R-Dist. 32) ☒ YES

### Senate Bill 899: First Democratic amendment on extending medical care liability waiver

To limit the proposed medical care provider liability waiver extensions in Senate Bill 899 to "the assessment or care of an individual with a confirmed case or a suspected case of COVID-19."

#### Failed 16 to 22 in the Senate

Sen. Ruth Johnson (R-Dist. 14) ☒ NO  
Sen. Jim Runestad (R-Dist. 15) ☒ NO  
Sen. Lana Theis (R-Dist. 22) ☒ NO  
Sen. Jim Ananich (D-Dist. 27) ☒ YES  
Sen. Ken Horn (R-Dist. 32) ☒ NO

## Glass barriers to be installed at township office

■ Projected cost is \$3,585; barrier to help keep employees healthy

By Hannah Ball

The Fenton Township Civic Community Center will soon have a glass barrier installed at the front offices.

This is an added safety measure part of a plan to help the office reopen during the COVID-19 pandemic.

On Monday, May 18, the Fenton Township Board of Trustees approved a motion to install the glass barrier made by Kosin's Glass in Howell. The projected cost is \$3,585.

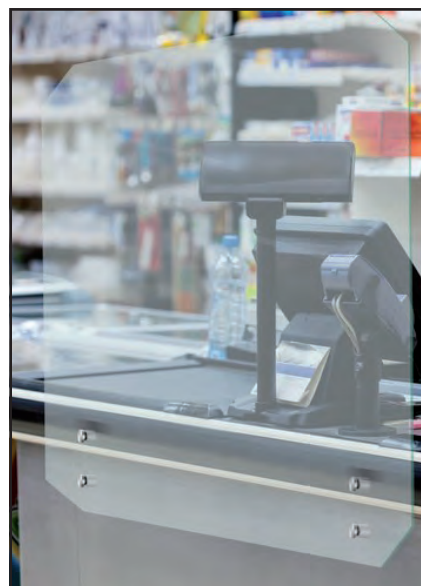
"We have to protect our employees, and this would help us do that," Supervisor Bonnie Mathis said. "All employees are going to be extremely happy about this."

Clerk Robert Krug said they should do it as fast as they can because news about the pandemic is changing so quickly.

"We need to get this done for the protection of our employees," Trustee Vince Lorraine said.

The agreement is for two glass panels totaling \$3,585. Labor costs are included.

The board considered two options, with the more expensive company proposing a bid that was \$795 more than Kosin's Glass.



Glass is a better surface for barriers because it stays clear and resists scratches while Plexiglass will get cloudy and scratches easier, according to Kosin's Glass. Shown above is a glass barrier, similar to what will be installed at the Fenton Township office.

Photo: kosinsglass.com

## HOT LINE CONTINUED

■■■  
**HOW CAN YOU** be so sure that our governor has saved lives when you don't know what would have happened if she didn't pull her stunts?

■■■  
**SOMEONE MAILED IN** a joke about Pelosi working to prevent voter fraud. Just the same as her trying to keep out illegal aliens.

■■■  
**TWO MONTHS AGO**, we willingly gave up our freedom to fight COVID-19. Now, we are fighting our politicians to regain our freedom. Whitmer has become drunk with power and has disregarded our first amendment rights. It's time to take our rights back and recall the power hungry Democrats.

■■■  
**WONDER HOW GOD** feels about elected bureaucrats taking over His role. Seems to me that many people have slowed down and started to think about the important things in life. Like God, family and country. Maybe a spiritual awakening is happening across our nation. We'll see.

### Senate Bill 899: Second Democratic amendment on extending medical care liability waiver

To not extend the proposed liability waivers to a hospital or medical care provider that acted "with an intent to harm or discriminate based on race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity."

#### Failed 16 to 22 in the Senate

Sen. Ruth Johnson (R-Dist. 14) ☒ NO  
Sen. Jim Runestad (R-Dist. 15) ☒ NO  
Sen. Lana Theis (R-Dist. 22) ☒ NO  
Sen. Jim Ananich (D-Dist. 27) ☒ YES  
Sen. Ken Horn (R-Dist. 32) ☒ NO

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## Fenton VFW, Boy Scouts place USA flags



The Fenton VFW and local Boy Scouts gather at Oakwood Cemetery in Fenton on Saturday, May 23 to place USA flags on veterans' graves. The volunteers worked together while maintaining social distance guidelines. *Submitted photo*

## HOT LINE CONTINUED

■■■■  
**TRUMP IS A** nationalist who wants to make America great again. Democrats are globalists who want lots of people exactly the same, except themselves.

■■■■  
**IS IT A** surprise to anyone to see that it is mainly blue states that suffer the most during this crisis?

■■■■  
**WHITMER IS A** run of the mill standard centrist Democrat. She is not a socialist.

You have no idea what socialism is.

■■■■  
**NON-CITIZENS CANNOT** vote. They are not allowed to. Verifying the fact that you are a citizen is part of registering to vote. No one is trying to allow them to. You are parroting lies you hear.

■■■■  
**OREGON HAS BEEN** voting by mail for a long time and it works perfectly fine. Conservatives are opposed to it because it means actual hard working Americans would be able to easily vote.

■■■■



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### Absentee ballots and voting

Last week Michigan's Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson announced that her office was mailing absentee ballot applications to all registered Michigan voters for this year's primary and general elections so that Michiganders wouldn't have to choose between their health and their right to vote.

The announcement was criticized by President Donald Trump who called the decision unwarranted, an opportunity for fraud, and threatened to withhold funding for Michigan.

Certainly there are two sides to this, but since the topic has been raised, this is an ideal time to talk about absentee ballots. So here goes.

Absentee ballots trace their roots back to the Civil War when they were used by approximately 150,000 union soldiers to vote in the 1864 presidential election and has continued for the military since then by federal law.

In the late 1800s, absentee ballot voting was expanded to include civilians when individual states began enacting new voting laws.

Today all states provide for some form of absentee voting for

everybody.

Originally, state laws required a valid excuse to vote absentee.

Now 29 states (including Michigan) and the District of Columbia do not require an excuse. Sixteen states require one and five states (Colorado, Hawaii, Oregon, Utah, and Washington) have an "all mail" voting system.

This entails all voters receiving their ballots automatically by mail and either returning them by mail or personally delivering them by the date of the election.

In person voting remains an option.

Because of the pandemic, a number of states have decided to mail absentee ballot applications to all voters for their primary and/or general elections without a request.

On a related note, last week a lawsuit was filed in the Michigan Court of Claims seeking to expand our no excuse absentee voting law to require all these ballots to be counted as long as they are mailed on or before election day and received within six days thereafter.

I'll stop here and simply say absentee ballots are certainly in the news and it is possible that there will be more absentee voting this year than ever before.

The importance of voting can't be forgotten.

Indeed Thomas Jefferson once said "We do not have government by the majority. We have government by the majority who participate."

I couldn't agree more.

## The buck stays here!

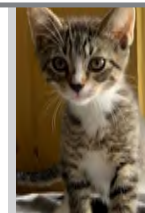
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## STAY HOME

### Continued from Front Page

She also signed an executive order, called "Stay Home, Stay Safe," in an effort to slow the spread of the coronavirus. This was first signed March 23.

Here are the differences between the two orders.

### State of emergency

Under the Michigan Emergency Management Act, the governor can declare a state of emergency or state of disaster, which allows the governor to activate relief forces. The state can help local governments "save lives, protect property and the public health and safety, or to lessen or avert the threat of a catastrophe in any part of the state," according to Public Act 390 of 1976, which is the Emergency Management Act.

Whitmer announced the state will use FEMA approved money for temporary shelter to house homeless Michiganders impacted by COVID-19.

Without approval from lawmakers, the governor extended Michigan's state of emergency through June 19.

Local municipalities have enacted their own declarations for a state of emergency. In mid-March, Fenton Mayor Sue Osborn declared a state of emergency within the city of Fenton due to COVID-19 concerns. It makes the city eligible for state, federal and county resources to help local officials respond to the pandemic.

Linden also declared a state of emergency.

### Stay-at-home order

This order, when first enacted, forced non-essential businesses to close. Whitmer extended the stay-at-home order until June 12, and she has relaxed restrictions for certain parts of the state. Restaurants and bars in northern Michigan can reopen at 50-percent capacity. Last week, she signed a new order to allow certain retail businesses to open this week. Businesses must follow social distancing guidelines and customers must wear a mask when they cannot social distance.

Gatherings of up to 10 people are now allowed. Residents can go to the grocery store or get take-out food, go to the pharmacy, engage in outdoor activities and more. Going to the hospital for necessary care is permitted.

Michiganders can put gas in their cars, visit other properties in other states, walk their pets and take them to the veterinarian for needed medical care.

### What's not allowed:

Leaving the home to work unless your employer designates you as a critical infrastructure worker. Participate in any public gatherings. Visit someone in the hospital, nursing home, or other residential care facilities. Limited exceptions are allowed. Go to the mall or to restaurants.

## HOT LINE CONTINUED

### BOOMERS INVENTED

PARTICIPATION trophies, handed them out to their kids and now blame their kids for getting them.

VOTING BY MAIL leaves a paper trail. This is America. Everyone who's eligible to vote should be allowed and encouraged to do it.

I'D LOVE TO see Anthony Fauci voted as Time magazine's Person of the Year.

HERE WE GO again. Argentine Township said McCaslin Lake Road would be chlorided by Memorial Day weekend. Nothing. Should have been done a month ago with the incredible amount of dust. What a shame. We can't even sit in our own yard without needing a N95 mask.

I DON'T KNOW about the rest of the women out there, but I'm starting to look like a werewolf. Spas are essential.

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## Honoring our veterans



Members of the Price Crane Robinsons VFW Post 4642 in Linden take part in the Memorial Day observation on Monday, May 25 at Fairview Cemetery in Linden. They were joined by the American Legion Family 119 of Linden.

Photo: Submitted photo

## RULES

Continued from Front Page

of Trustees is currently drafting a resolution to temporarily relax ordinances pertaining to outdoor dining and sales to help keep safe social distancing practices.

"We want to give businesses all the tools they need to succeed," said Township Supervisor Bill Fountain. "Because of social distancing, we know that businesses won't be allowed to open at full capacity when phased reopenings begin. If working to relax restrictions when it comes to outdoor seating will allow restaurants to serve a larger number of patrons in an open, safe atmosphere, we will make this a reality in our community."

The Township ensures that the process for businesses to make these changes will be streamlined. The plan will involve a simple permit with no fees and an easy submission process. The goal is to help businesses with limited indoor seating and retail capacity to expand to outdoor space to help establish a successful launch.

Hartland Township has stepped up to assist these businesses and has reached out to other governmental agencies to confirm that they are also willing to streamline their processes in these challenging times.

"This temporary modification of ordinances is a shining example of positive change government entities can enact when they come together,"

Fountain said. "As I have reached out to the Michigan Liquor Control Commission (MLCC), the local fire authority, and the local health department, they have been quick to respond and more than willing to advocate for this cause."

The MLCC is making it easier for liquor licensees to move business outdoors by simplifying their licensing process for outdoor services. As a "Reopening Workgroup" was formed to share ideas and consider suggestions from restaurants and bar owners on what they needed to help them prepare for reopening, they were able to streamline application processes pertaining to these outdoor services.

Links to applications can be found on the new Reopening Resources webpage at [michigan.gov/lcc](http://michigan.gov/lcc).

With these changes, Fountain said Hartland is sending a clear message to its community: we support you and your business and officials will do whatever is in their power to help you succeed as you find new ways to serve your patrons in the coming months.

"We have never been more thankful for the long-standing partnership we have with the Township," said Hartland Area Chamber of Commerce Director Katie Chuba. "As our local businesses face difficult times, they have proven to be on our side as a strong ally. The creative leadership in finding solutions to the new challenges that arise in this crisis have demonstrated their support to the business community."

## HOT LINE CONTINUED

**I SHALL CONTINUE** to exercise all of my constitutional rights, including the Second Amendment, and will decide for myself where, when and if I mask up. You wear yours and you'll be fine. Those women from Michigan only have the power I surrender, which will be none.

### 'DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.'

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. Unlike you, I try to know what I am talking about.

**WE THE PEOPLE** of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, ensure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, 'promote the general welfare,' and secure the blessings of liberty to

ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States.

**THE HOT-LINER** who claimed the governor is in violation of state law needs to read the emergency Powers of the Governor Act of 1945 PA 302, as amended, MCL 10.31. The Governors Emergency Powers were upheld by the court recently, as any sane person knew it would have been.

**WHITE HOUSE JUST** approved giving AstraZeneca (a British company) \$1.2 billion of our taxpayer money to develop a vaccine. What happened to Trump's 'Buy American' rhetoric? He must have some millionaire buddies over there.

**THERE ARE TWO** types of people in this world: 1) Those who can extrapolate from incomplete data.

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## Shea team assists with grocery giveaway

### ■ Effort provided food for more than 400 families

The team at Shea Automotive Group, in partnership with Lang Constructors Inc., Black Tie Productions and the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan, helped to distribute food to more than 400 families Tuesday, May 19.

Shea Automotive Group owner Stacy Shea Fields said that when Lang Constructors contacted her team about using their lot across the street from the Shea Chevrolet dealership, she was happy to help beyond just the use of the property. "We said 'yes' and we want to be in on this," Shea Fields said.

Set up began at 8:30 a.m. and the grocery giveaway started at 11 a.m., running until about 2:30 p.m. when food ran out. The giveaway offered no-contact delivery of baked goods, whole chickens and meat, bags of fruits and vegetables, gallons of milk and more to area families in need. The food giveaway was set up in stations allowing for plenty of room to keep the entire process safe for everyone involved. All volunteers wore masks and loaded the food directly into cars.

The rainy day was made better thanks to the Black Tie Productions team that kept fun music playing all day.



McKenzie Miller, Shea Automotive Group director of corporate partnerships, was one of the Shea volunteers at the recent grocery giveaway. Submitted photo

"It was just a really feel good day," Fields said. She added that her team is always looking for ways to support the community. "We love it."

With a continued need for food donations in the area because of the COVID-19 pandemic, Fields said her team will continue to look for future opportunities to help out.

## HOT LINE CONTINUED

**UNLESS YOU BREW** your own beer (alcoholism), refine your own sugar (diabetes), mine your own salt (hypertension), grow your own tobacco (lung disease), and impregnate yourself (teen pregnancy), then yes, every public health issue is spread person to person, just like your dumb virus. Who's ignorant now?

**WANT PROOF WHITMER** is ruining lives: 1) Father of nine, Calvin Munerlyn, murdered while enforcing mask order, 2) 25 percent of Michigan's workforce out of work, 3) 1.8 million Michigan students out of school, and 4) 1.3 million Michigan unemployment claims in the last six weeks. Believe it now?

**WHITMER ONLY HAS** power if we all listen to her bogus orders. Stop obeying unconstitutional orders. The sheriffs in Livingston and Genesee counties say they won't enforce her orders (not laws). The state police can't arrest us all. Let's open up, Michigan. This evil 'woman' can't stop us.

**LOVE THIS QUOTE** from Ohio's governor. We in Ohio can do two things at once, wear a mask and re-open a business. Clearly, Whitmer doesn't believe that of Michiganians.

**DO YOU THINK** Whitmer is that stupid to think it's a good idea to put COVID-19 positive patients in nursing homes? Or do you think she's trying to increase the numbers so she can keep us locked down? Either way she doesn't deserve to lead this state.

**IS THERE ANYTHING** worse than weed whipping your side of a chain link fence when your neighbor doesn't do their side? Just asking.

**WHITMER HAS NO** understanding of or empathy for how the shutdown is impacting the Michigan citizens.

**SO, WHITMER'S HUSBAND** makes special request to have their boat put in the water in Elk Rapids area (Traverse City) ahead of everyone else. Coincidence that Traverse City area is re-opened for holiday, I think not.

## TEEN

### Continued from Front Page

was traveling in front of the other Waverunner and stopped or slowed down. The sheriff said the male continued forward, striking the rear of her PWC and hit her from behind.

Swanson said one witness reported that someone had fallen off a tube in the area and believed Simon may have been slowing down for that.

Witnesses also said that the male on the second Waverunner immediately jumped into the water and swam over to help Simon.

Dan Ferguson, the Lake Fenton Middle School principal, knows the family of Dianne and Mike Simon well through their daughters, including Lexi.

Ferguson said in middle school, students are often learning about themselves. He said he will always remember how he could count on Simon to temporarily step in to welcome a new student so that they never felt alone. He added, "After a few times, I didn't even give details, I just said, 'Lexi, new student (fill in the blank)



A student-led memorial service brought the Lake Fenton community together at Lake Fenton High School on May 25 to celebrate and remember Lexi Simon who died May 24. Submitted photo

tomorrow, you know what to do.

"Ironically, over the past several months when so many have felt lonely it was again Lexi and the entire Simon/Diem family bringing a community together," Ferguson said.

Jessika Anthony, a close friend of the Simons, said it was too soon for them to comment.

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## JAIL

Continued from Front Page

responsible. It was a combination of all the moves they took early on. He said the jail used aggressive quarantine control, aggressive sanitation control, and they worked with all the courts to reduce the jail population. The appropriate use of tethers on some individuals helped to eliminate a large part of the jail population at risk.

In early March, Swanson said they saw the trend and enacted the jail's overcrowding protocol, meaning the jail

would only accept violent, new cases of assaults, domestics, and driving under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol. Jails across the state did the same.

"We started eliminating those in jail, in custody, by the strict means," he said.

The jail used a single point of entry for everyone, including employees and inmates. Everyone had their temperature checked twice daily as well as being checked for symptoms.

Swanson said inmates have been cooperative through his pandemic. He attributes this to a cultural change over

the past decade at the jail. He said as an example, in 2010 there were 576 assaults of inmate vs. inmate or inmate vs. deputy, combined. In contrast, in 2019, Swanson said there were 14 assaults.

The sheriff said he believes in open communication and they asked for total cooperation. He said they have kept the jail population informed on the coronavirus and have communicated with inmates on the floor and have kept lines of communication between inmate and family open via video visits.

"We asked for and received full

compliance," Swanson said. "And we were sensitive to family of COVID-19 deaths."

New inmates are quarantined for 14 days. Facemasks are required on everyone.

Swanson said six employees were symptomatic, however, they required no hospitalization and they were able to come back to work.

As a snapshot of who is housed at the jail, the sheriff broke down the stats of those incarcerated at the Genesee County Jail. He said the population is made up of 60 percent city of Flint residents and 40 percent out county residents. The average education level of an inmate at the jail is sixth to ninth-grade.

Swanson said the jail houses a high population of inmates dealing with mental illness and 58 percent are prescribed some form of medicine to treat mental health, such as bipolar, depression and more.

Nine out of 10 inmates are addicted or co-addicted to alcohol and or drugs.

The ratio of African American to white inmates is about half-and-half. Swanson they have a small percentage of Latinos.

Of the 411 inmates currently housed there, Swanson said 90 percent of them are felons.

Swanson said he and his staff are responsible for the physical, mental, social, spiritual and medical health of all inmates and he does not take this responsibility lightly.

# HONORING OUR VETERANS

Sunday, March 29, 2020 3

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## HOT LINE CONTINUED

■■■  
**IF YOU BELIEVE** that Whitmer is not a tyrant please read the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. If you still think she's doing a good job you're in the wrong country.

■■■  
**FIRST OF ALL**, it was 418,000 deaths over six years. Second, no one goes into war saying casualties are worth it. You go into battle hoping for very little casualties.

■■■  
**GOVERNOR WHITMER**, I don't like some decisions you have made but still admire you for your leadership — tough job.

■■■  
**THERE IS NOTHING** to fear but Whitmer.



# Fenton girls XC team captures No. 10 spot in our 2019-20 Tri-County Top 16 Poll

By David Troppens

The Top 10 — now we are getting to the big guns in our 2019-20 Tri-County Top 16 Poll.

With our limited space, the sports staff will examine only the No. 10 squad this week, instead of revealing two more teams as has been the normal practice.

**No. 10 - Fenton girls cross country:** Believe it or not, this is only the team's third time in our end-of-the-year poll. Two years ago, the squad placed 10th in its first appearance ever, and a year ago the Tigers were third, after capping its season by placing

ninth at the D1 state meet.

This school year the squad had another strong showing. The Tigers dominated the Metro League by winning all three league jamborees, scoring as few as 26 points in the nine-team competition (three squads didn't have enough runners to qualify as a team). Linden threatened the Tigers in the second jamboree, coming as close as four points to the Tigers, but Fenton still prevailed. At the third meet, Fenton beat Flushing by six points. All five Fenton scorers finished within the top 12.

The Tigers competed at its regional

meet and qualified for the state meet by taking a comfortable third-place finish. Their 76 points qualified them for the state meet by 27 points. At the meet, senior Alexa Keiser beat the field by about 30 seconds with a time of 18:13.81. At the state meet, Keiser capped her incredible Fenton cross country career by earning All-State honors with an eighth-place finish with a time of 18:13.1. Keiser also capped her career by becoming the only Metro League runner to win all 12 Metro jamborees/meets during her four-year career.

CONTINUED AT MYFENTON.COM



During her four years at Fenton, Alexa Keiser was the Metro League's most dominant runner, capping her career with 12 straight Metro jamboree victories.

Field photo

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2020 | PAGE 11 | MYFENTON.COM/SPORTS

## Sports Times

### Looking back: Eagles, Tigers capture a share of Metro title

■ Linden defeats Lake Fenton 7-0 to earn first league title since 2017

By David Troppens

**Editor's note:** With the loss of the spring prep sports season, we'll remember the 2019-20 athletic year with occasional stories from the fall and winter. We are in early October.

It was a slow start for the Linden varsity boys soccer team in its potential Metro League championship clinching game against the Lake Fenton Blue Devils.

The Eagles were the overwhelming favorites against Lake Fenton's inexperienced and young squad, but at half-time Lake Fenton trailed just 1-0.

However, the Eagles scored six second-half goals and cruised to a 7-0 victory, earning the Eagles their first Metro League championship since 2015. The Eagles are co-champions with Fenton and Goodrich. All three teams finished the league season with 10-1-0 Metro League records.

"It was only 1-0 at halftime but it was a rainy night," Linden varsity boys soccer coach Kevin Fiebernitz said. "They played way better in the second half



Linden and Fenton captured a share of the Flint Metro League boys soccer title with victories on Oct. 2, 2019. (Left photo) Linden's Tyler Light (18) battles for a ball in a recent contest. (Right photo) Fenton's Andrew Hutchins (front) tries to outrun a Brandon player for the ball. **File photos**

than they did in the first, obviously."

The Eagles won outright league crowns in 2014 and 2015. The season started with a tough and controversial 2-1 loss to the Goodrich Martians on Aug. 26. Since then, the Eagles rattled off 10 straight league wins, with eight being shutouts. Linden outscored its foes 55-2 during the 10-game run. Lin-



den's defense has been impressive, posting eight straight shutouts. The last time Linden allowed a goal was in an 8-1 victory against Swartz Creek on Sept. 9.

"That's a good question. I wish I knew the answer because I would've done it the last 30 years," Fiebernitz said when asked about the strong team defense.

CONTINUED AT MYFENTON.COM

■ Curtis scores two goals to lead Fenton to win vs. Blackhawks

By David Troppens

**Ortonville** — It didn't come easy.

The Fenton Tigers' quest to a second straight Flint Metro League title almost ended before it began in late August.

"We started pretty bad, I'm not going to lie," Fenton senior Alex Flannery said. "We almost lost to Swartz Creek in our first game (a 2-1 victory on Aug. 26). It was so close."

Entering the final week of the Metro League season needing victories against Flushing and then Brandon, the Tigers were able to accomplish their task, becoming co-Metro League champions along with area rivals Linden and Goodrich. Fenton (10-1-0 in the Metro) opened the week with a 5-0 thrashing of Flushing and concluded their title run with a 3-1 victory in the steady drizzle at Brandon's home field Wednesday night.

"I'm just excited about it," Flannery said. "We finished it off. ... We came together as a team, worked our butts off for the last six games and won it."

"It feels great," Fenton junior Cal Curtis said.

CONTINUED AT MYFENTON.COM



## HOT LINE CONTINUED

**IF WE HAD** disregarded science, we'd still be gathering vegetables and shooting animals to survive. It's true that each new discovery often raises more questions. The quest for answers is what has driven our technological advances. How do you think computers came about? Through magic?

■■■

**SO DRIVING IS** a privilege? Who tells us that, oh yeah the government. Try pursuing life liberty and happiness without an auto and license. You accept driving as a privilege but you claim others as rights. Who decides?

■■■

**GREAT MEMORIAL DAY.** Too bad it had to be in Ohio. I got a nice haircut had a nice sit-down meal at a restaurant. I got a great deal on some beer and pop without any deposit.

■■■



(Above) Participants of the Caretel Inns of Linden car parade decorated their vehicles with homemade signs and balloons. Guests sat on the lawn and waved as people drove by. (Right) A Caretel guest holds up a sign that reads, "Don't give up."

Photo: Hannah Ball

## CAR PARADE

Continued from Page 3

"We've been taking people outside anyway for fresh air, but this is the first time we've allowed the drive-through, the non-contact parade. The Governor just reissued some extensions for nursing homes to June 17. It looks like it's probably going to encompass visitations still. So we're looking at another 30 days of this," Roberson said.

Their families have been "so good and so trusting," he said. "We are still COVID-free and want to stay that way. For the most part, our families have been really understanding, too, and supportive."

"We've got healthcare heroes here. This is just our chance to let our guests see their families and their loved ones and show their support for Caretel and the staff," Roberson said.



The parade was led by Fenton resident Barbara Rodemsky driving a car with a giant face mask on the front.

"I have a friend in here who's recently been put in assisted living. Like all people in assisted living, they're kind of lonely. So I told him I'd represent him and be here," she said.



Visitors have not been allowed at Caretel Inns of Linden, and the parade was the first time families could see those who live in Caretel in person. Photo: Hannah Ball

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## Obituaries

Times

### Evelyn B. Dodge

1930 — 2020

Evelyn B. Dodge – age 89 of Holly, went to be with the Lord Monday, May 25, 2020. Dear wife of the late Roy; cherished mother of Linda (Charles) Morris, Lee (Betty) Dodge, and Ray (Kathy) Dodge; grandmother of Jason (Sarah) and Brian (Courtney); great-grandmother of Tyler, Luke, Grant, Emma, Wyatt, Molly, and Wade. Preceded in death by brothers, Duane and Nathan Justin. Evelyn was a loving wife and mother who took pride in her home and family. She was an active member of First Baptist Church of Holly. In her spare time, Evelyn enjoyed traveling, shopping, and never said “no” to a night out to dinner. She will be dearly missed by all who loved her. Family will receive friends Thursday, May 28, 2020 from 11 AM – 1 PM at Coats Funeral Home, Waterford. Due to COVID-19 regulations, only ten people are permitted in the visitation room at one time and masks must be worn. Please be aware that you may have to wait before being admitted to the building. Funeral service will be 1 PM (family Only). Private burial Great Lakes National Cemetery, Holly. Memorials may be made to First Baptist Church of Holly. To post a condolence visit [www.CoatsFuneralHome.com](http://www.CoatsFuneralHome.com).



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29 Not "fer"

30 Nincompoop

31 Wrigley

35 Reddish-  
brown horse

38 Perched

40 — Angeles

42 They're calling  
Danny Boy

45 Prolonged  
sleep

47 Fawns'  
mothers

48 Hexagonal  
state

49 Induce ennui

50 Gratuity

51 Web address

52 Excessively

54 Monkey suit

1 zither

56 Press

57 Flightless bird

58 Calendar

59 Trudge

60 Kenny G's  
instrument

61 That girl

DOWN

1 Ids' counter-  
parts

2 Get bigger

3 Middle East  
strip

4 Go up and  
down

5 Listeners


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Midweek Sudoku

FUN BY THE NUMBERS

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

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4		1		2		9		
			6					5
9		6	4				1	
8		7	5		2	1	9	
			9	3			2	
						8	6	
2		3						
1		5		7		3	4	
7	9	8	3	4		2	5	

Level: Beginner

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

Midweek Jumble

JUMBLE

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

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

LOCRO

VEELL

NASADL

PIBSOY

Ans. here:

LOCRO

VEELL

NASADL

PIBSOY

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Check out the new, free JUST JUMBLE app

Thank you, here's your money.

This sure beats a cookie!

Who had red and who had white?

How much?

DRACULA STARTED PAYING FOR PLASMA BECAUSE HE KNEW THAT ---

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

"

LOCRO

"

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

Horoscopes

For the week of  
May 25, 2020

ARIES Mar 21/Apr 20

Something is stirring in your life, but you can't zero in on what needs to get done at this point in time, Aries. But you will get your focus and be able to zero in on the tasks at hand.

TAURUS Apr 21/May 21

A conflict between your personal values and those of a larger group may not make you popular with everyone, Taurus. That is alright, as you need to stick to your beliefs and feelings.

GEMINI May 22/Jun 21

Hold your tongue when others ask for your opinion this week, Gemini. You may not be able to take things back once the words are said. Bow out graciously instead.

CANCER Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, do not feel bad about caring for yourself this week, even if you must put your needs above the needs of others. How can you help others without first helping yourself?

LEO Jul 23/Aug 23

It is okay to be skeptical from time to time, Leo. Just do not let negative perceptions bog you down. Realize there are moments when things are right and you can forge ahead.

VIRGO Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, you may have an idea of what your relationship should look like, but it may be built on unreasonable perceptions. Get to the heart of your partner this week.

LIBRA Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, it may take a leap of faith to get to the next level in your career. Instead of taking the safe path, you might need to change things up a bit to ensure action.

SCORPIO Oct 24/Nov 22

A project that once inspired you, Scorpio, may no longer seem worthy of your time. You're not fickle; you just want to maximize productivity. Something new will turn up.

SAGITTARIUS Nov 23/Dec 21

Love isn't always easy, Sagittarius. Oftentimes you have to work at it to make it stronger. If you're willing to put in the effort, you will reap the rewards.

CAPRICORN Dec 22/Jan 20

Clear and concise conversations will compel others to see your side of the story, Capricorn. You will probably gain a few extra supporters in the process.

AQUARIUS Jan 21/Feb 18

This week you will get a chance to express your values in a new way, Aquarius. Convey your feelings with gusto so that you can get the message out to as many people as possible.

PISCES Feb 19/Mar 20

How you are feeling inside may be at odds with the way you are portraying yourself on the outside. You don't always have to hide feelings, Pisces.





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