

# Memorial tomorrow for drowning victim

■Family and friends mourn the death of 72-year-old Fenton Township man

By Hannah Ball

Max G. Lutz, 72, of Fenton Township, drowned in Lake Fenton on Friday, June 26, according to Genesee County Sheriff Chris Swanson.

According to Fenton Township Fire Chief Ryan Volz, who was one of the first responders on scene, the man jumped into the lake, where the water is approximately 50-foot deep, with a noodle.



Max Lutz

He lost the noodle and his wife and a few passersby jumped into the water to help him. They got him onto a boat. After getting him to shore, Genesee County Sheriff's deputies tried lifesaving measures for 40 minutes.

He was taken to a dock at a home on Woodhull Landing.

According to his obituary, Lutz retired from General Motors in 2008 after 31 years of service. He was a devoted family man and loved spending time with his grandchildren. He enjoyed being outdoors and fishing, boating and golfing.

See **DROWNING** on 7



**PAGE 3**  
**LOCAL GRADUATES INVITED TO 'PANDEMIC PROM'**

# MidweekTimes

VOL. 27 NO. XXVI

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, 2020

\$1.00

## Police search for assault suspect

■Store surveillance video shows alleged attack at Genesee Valley Mall in Flint Township



By Sharon Stone  
Genesee County Prosecutor David Leyton charged an 18-year-old Mount Morris Township man in the assault of a manager at the Macy's

department store in the Genesee Valley Center in Flint Township. See **SUSPECT** on 10

## Summer fun in the sun



Dianne Sinclair of Fenton enjoys a book while Mandi Fischer and Evelyn Fischer, 4, both of Flint, enjoy the water at Clover Beach on Tuesday, June 30. People are flocking to local beaches due to the warm weather. Photo: Hannah Ball

## Republican vs. Democrat

■Which philosophy do you align with in the political spectrum?

By Sharon Stone

Democrat. Republican. Left-wing. Right-wing. Liberal. Conservative.

Especially during election season, these words are oftentimes thrown around to show support of like-minded individuals or to insult those who disagree with your ideals. Some people lean far right, while others will lean far left on the political spectrum. Others, however, are a blend of somewhere in between.

See **POLITICAL** on 11



“Please spread the word that there will be a moment of silence beginning at 10 p.m. for Lexi Simon prior to the fireworks display on Lake Fenton this 4th of July followed by the release of 17 lanterns. We ask that everyone present on the lake respect this. Thank you.”



“I wanted to thank the very kind man who paid my bill and gave me \$100 at the counter at Walmart. I want him to know that I am paying it forward and how sweet the gesture was. Thank you. I believe his name was Mark.”

“‘A wave is a hug from a far,’ shouted out by our daily ‘waver’ who sits along N. LeRoy Street at Dauner waving to people in vehicles. He makes our day!”



# Township approves industrial park zoning

■ One step closer to development for Thompson Road industrial park

By Hannah Ball

On Monday, June 29, the Fenton Township Board of Trustees unanimously approved a zoning amendment for a potential industrial park at 3145 Thompson Road.

Avalanche Holdings, LLC requested to amend the existing PUD (planned unit development), which allowed for 256 residential condominiums, to M-2 zoning, which allows for up to 11 lots for an industrial park.

The park would be consistent with M-2 uses and the master plan, said Treasurer John Tucker, who's also on the Planning Commission. The land is 49.8 acres and borders industrial zoned

properties on each side except for the south, which is wetlands/agriculture.

Bob Lagan, owner of Avalanche Holdings, told the township there will be an association to maintain landscaping and maintenance of the road. The company also applied for a site plan approval for a private road.

"The exact layout of the industrial park will be determined by the market. The site plan was developed for a maximum of 11

lots. The number of lots may be reduced if a user requires more land for their development," according to the application.

From the Fenton Township Planning Commission on May 14, meeting minutes show that the Planning Commission unanimously recommended approval for the amendment with the following uses:

1. The private road is to be paved with curb and gutter, and
2. The landscape plan is to be approved by the Planning Commission.

The Planning Commission will review the individual site plans as the industrial park is developed.

On Monday, June 15, Mike Deem, zoning administrator, said a development like this would be a benefit in the long run. Supervisor Bonnie Mathis agreed. Lagan said the long term of an industrial subdivision is a "much superior use" than the residential use planned previously.

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

COMPILED BY SHARON STONE

### McLaren Flint welcomes surgeon to medical staff

Suzanne Law, DO, a board-certified general and breast surgeon, has joined the medical staff at McLaren Flint. Law is seeing patients at G-1075 N. Ballenger Hwy., Flint. Law completed her residency at Ingham Regional Medical Center



(now called McLaren Greater Lansing). She earned her medical degree from Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine in East Lansing. Law is accepting new patients and can be reached by calling (810) 238-1118.

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# Local seniors invited to ‘Pandemic Prom’

■ Tickets are \$40; event will feature DJ, music, dancing and more

By Hannah Ball

In lieu of spring and summer school events being canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, one local graduate wants to help local seniors experience one normal high school event — prom.

Gracie Warda, Fenton High School graduate, is planning The

Senior Pandemic Prom 2020: ‘20s Gatsby Gala for Thursday, July 23 at the Ponemah Lakeside Lodge. The event is sponsored by The Warda Foundation.

“My dad (Jason Warda) and I started talking about this event toward the beginning of quarantine, when we realized that I probably wouldn’t have a senior prom. At first, it was just going to be for my close friends, but the idea grew to include all local seniors. We have a committee that’s been working on planning the event for about a month or two now,” she said.

See **PROM** on 9



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The Tri-County Times (USPS 018-092) is published weekly (with exceptions) by JAMS Media, LLC, 256 N. Fenway Drive, Fenton, Michigan 48430. Periodical postage paid at Fenton, Michigan 48430-2699 and other post offices. Subscription Rate: 48.00 per year. No non-member subscribers. Postmaster: Send address changes to Tri-County Times, 256 N. Fenway Drive, Fenton, Michigan 48430-2699. We reserve the right to accept or refuse any content and/or advertising submissions.



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## Building Brands

I prefer life to be cleaned and organized, so I often donate things or if broken dispose of them. When our trash company lifted their COVID-19 restrictions and started to pick up larger items, I was eager to haul things to the curb. It was 8:30 a.m. when I realized one item I wanted to toss didn't get taken out. No problem, I leaned down to get it and ... OH MY GOD, SNAKES! IN MY GARAGE.

I jumped. I screamed. I started to sweat. I made a few panicked phone calls, but no one was willing to help. Then I realized I have neighbors who are home and may not be terrified of snakes. One text later and my neighbor sent over her 9-year-old son to relocate the snakes.

If unwelcomed snakes in your garage isn't the perfect metaphor for 2020 I don't know what is. I think why some have declared 2020 the worst is because of the lack of control we've all felt.

## Regain a sense of control with a simple act

From the pandemic to the protests, it's been hit after hit of feeling helpless.

The snakes could come back at any time as could a second wave of COVID-19, and while I'm no mental health professional I realize we can't all walk around afraid and feeling helpless. While searching for some advice, a friend's social media post caught my eye. During the pandemic, she and her family have been on a health journey. Their results are really inspiring.

The other day she shared that her journey actually started in mid-February with a simple mental health exercise. She began to make her bed each day. Even through the Stay Home order, even when they traveled Up North for some R & R. She hasn't missed one day.

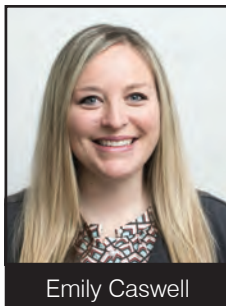
I'm a bed maker. But if you are not, I suggest that you start. If you don't trust me, trust Admiral William H. McRaven, author of "Make

Your Bed: Little Things That Can Change Your Life ... And Maybe the World."

A cnbc.com article recounts a commencement speech McRaven gave to the University of Texas when he said "If you make your bed every morning, you will have accomplished the first task of the day ... It will give you a small sense of pride, and it will encourage you to do another task, and another, and another. And by the end of the day that one task completed will have turned into many tasks completed ... If you can't do the little things right, you'll never be able to do the big things right. And if by chance you have a miserable day, you will come home to a bed that is made — that you made."

As many of us head back to work with lots of unknowns still ahead, this simple act could help you feel more in control. What's one thing you do to keep a sense of control these days? Email me at [ecaswell@mihomepaper.com](mailto:ecaswell@mihomepaper.com).

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



Emily Caswell

## 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.

■■■■  
**NICE ARTICLE ON** ways to keep your immune system strong, except you forgot one critical way to boost your immune system, which is to be vaccinated. Vaccines are the ultimate way to boost your immune system against a particular disease.

■■■■  
**SEEING ALL THE** people still wearing masks, I never realized germaphobia was such a pervasive mental disorder.

■■■■  
**DID SOME FACT-checking** and discovered there were 19 riots or civil disorders during Obama's presidency. Those were during the years of 2009 to 2016. Writers and contributors need to check their facts before having them published. Otherwise, it is just fake news. Too much of that nowadays.

■■■■  
**RESPONSIBILITY IS LACKING** in our society. Everyone is ultimately responsible for their own successes, actions and failures.

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

## What book or TV show are you enjoying right now? | streettalk



"I am binge watching the entire series of the TV show 'The Incredible Hulk' with Bill Bixby. One of my childhood favorites."

Amber Naganashe  
Fenton



"'Upload,' Prime Video. It's a hilarious show with some morbid undertones. The show deals with a person, who is financially well off and have the opportunity to upload their conscience into a computer program."

Matthew Cyrulewski  
Flint



"'The Last Kingdom' (TV series) and 'Saxon Chronicles' (book)."

Christine Heron  
Fenton



"'Sole Survivor' by Dean Koontz."

Judith Montgomery Brooks  
Fenton



# Area residents involved in fatal crash

■ Express Van collides with pickup truck hauling trailer filled with dirt Sunday morning

By Sharon Stone

At 10:03 a.m. on Sunday, June 27, Oakland County Sheriff's deputies and the Brandon Fire Department responded to the area of S. Ortonville Road and Wiedemann for a personal injury crash. Dispatch had advised responders that one of the occupants had been ejected and was possibly deceased.

According to the Oakland County Sheriff's Office, deputies and fire fighters arrived on scene.

A Chevrolet Express van was traveling southbound on Ortonville Road when it crossed the centerline and collided with a

Chevrolet Silverado pickup truck towing a trailer filled with dirt.

The driver, Felicia Rowland, 30, of Ortonville and her passenger, Michael Boose, 36, of Groveland Township, were pronounced deceased at the scene.

An Oakland County Crash Investigator responded and the road was closed to traffic. The investigation revealed that the van crossed the centerlane, side swiped the Silverado and then collided with the trailer.

The driver was ejected from the van and the passenger was partially ejected.

Drug use is believed to be a factor in the accident, according to the sheriff's office.

The occupants of the Silverado, a 32-year-old Davisburg man and 19-year-old Clarkston man, were not injured and declined medical treatment on scene.

The crash remains under investigation.

## POLICE & FIRE REPORT

COMPILED BY SHARON STONE

### WOMAN'S CHANGE PURSE TAKEN FROM VEHICLE IN DRIVEWAY

On Wednesday, June 24 at 4:48 p.m., Holly police were dispatched to a home on Grange Hall Road on a report that a resident inadvertently left her change purse in her vehicle containing cash and credit cards. Within a few hours of parking her car in the driveway, she realized she left the purse in the vehicle and returned to retrieve it and found it missing. A report was filed and the officer advised her to notify her bank and credit card companies of the stolen cards. Police have no suspects at this time.

### EMPLOYEE FINDS PURSE, HOLLY POLICE FIND, RETURN IT TO OWNER

On Thursday, June 25, at 3:04 p.m., an employee of a local Holly business brought a customer's purse into the Holly Police Department that was left at the store. The purse contained cash and personal identification. The officer was able to make notification to the Roseville resident to recover her intact property.

## HOT LINE CONTINUED

■■■  
TRUMP HAS ORDERED the government to use skill over degree in hiring. What a great idea. Hiring people to do a job instead of thinking about it. Sounds like something a businessman would do.

■■■  
YOU THINK IT'S funny how so many people attack and berate Democrats then excuse Republicans doing the same things? How about naming one?

■■■  
FORGET YOU GOVERNOR, 30 states barely closed, most reopened recently and currently the U.S. is losing 2,000 people a day, mostly from opened areas of the country, who are achieving the same results as Michigan and New York without destroying their economy.

■■■  
WE NOW WILL be wearing masks for a very long time because of Trump's inability to take responsibility for pressuring the country to open. And if you think the government can't force you to wear one, try running around naked.

■■■

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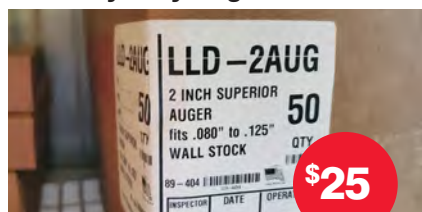
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## Now accepting new patients

■ Measures taken to provide safe environment for patients and employees

By Sharon Stone

There's no need to fear the dentist when you come to Dr. Patricia McGarry's office in Linden. Her office is the small town dentist office that produces big smiles. Her staff prides itself on providing the finest in dental care while keeping patients relaxed, comfortable, and smiling bigger and better than before you walk in our doors.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, McGarry's office has made some changes for patients and employees as it reopens. They have a new check-in

process, social distancing of patients, and increased personal protection equipment (PPE) usage. Patients are required to wear a mask and employees sanitize after every patient.

The office also has added Plexiglass around the front desk area and increased its screening process.

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Shown here (from left) are Prabhat Pokhrel, MS, MD, PhD, FAAP, program director Family Medicine Residency; Julie Thai, MD, Family Medicine resident and award recipient and Erin Reis, EdD, MBA, FACHE, C-TAGME, director of medical education. Submitted photo

## McLaren Flint Family Medicine resident receives awards

Compiled by Sharon Stone

The Michigan Academy of Family Physicians (MAFP) has named McLaren Flint Family Medicine resident Julie Thai, MD, MPH "Resident of the Year."

Each year, the MAFP selects one Family Medicine resident in Michigan, "who exhibits qualities of exemplary patient care, demonstrates leadership, displays a commitment to the community, contributes to scholarly activity and is dedicated to the specialty of family medicine," to receive this prestigious award.

When asked about being selected, Thai credited others for helping her succeed.

"The award is reflective of the people I am serving and those who are training me, like Drs. Prabhat Pokhrel, the program director for our Family Medicine

Residency and Paul Lazar, one of our Family Medicine Residency faculty physicians. It is a true team effort," Thai said.

She also recently received the Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors (AFMRD) Family Medicine Resident Award for Advocacy, which is a national distinction that highlights her ongoing advocacy efforts in Michigan.

"This is a huge honor and I am glad it helps to put the spotlight on McLaren Flint's Family Medicine Residency Program and the Flint community," Thai said. "For me, it solidifies the advocacy work I have been doing on behalf of my profession, and for patients' rights and access to healthcare."

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### THE FOURTH OF JULY — INDEPENDENCE DAY

The Fourth of July is again upon us and because of what has happened this year, the Fenton area won't be celebrating the way we have in the past as all in person public activities have been canceled.

I understand the reasons but it is disappointing nonetheless.

This doesn't mean that we shouldn't still celebrate the day, because if it weren't for the actions of our founding fathers on July 4, 1776, we wouldn't be able to now say that we live in the United States of America.

Another name for the Fourth of July is "Independence Day." It's our nation's birthday when the Continental Congress adopted a legal document called the Declaration of Independence. This document gave notice to Great Britain and the world that a new country was being created and why.

At the time, our Revolutionary War for independence was being waged with the original 13 colonies united to defeat the British Empire and win their freedom.

The reason for the war has often been said to be contained in the preamble to the Declaration which includes the words, "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."

England had refused to recognize these truths and rights.

To borrow a line from the 1956 song by Steve Allen, the Declaration turned out to be "the start of something big," which reached its conclusion in 1783 when the Revolutionary War ended in victory for the United States with the signing of the treaty of Paris.

The rest as they say is history.

We live in a great country. History has taught us that when there are things that need to be improved the people and our system of government provide a solution.

I join the Fenton Freedom Festival

## Holly Village to hold Fourth of July parade

■ Holly American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars host parade beginning at 10 a.m.

By Sharon Stone

The community is invited to participate in the Fourth of July parade sponsored by the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars in Holly Village beginning at 10 a.m., Saturday, July 4.

Because of COVID-19, Holly Village was unable to have a parade and ceremony on Memorial Day. They have since been given permission to hold the Fourth of July parade.

The parade will commence at 10 a.m. At the ceremony following the parade, Holly will pay tribute to those who gave their lives for our freedom and award the seniors who have excelled.

The parade route will begin at the corner of Maple and Saginaw streets, traveling down Maple, turning north onto Park and ending at the Veterans Memorial at Lakeside Cemetery. The parade route is approximately one mile long.

Committee, the city of Fenton, and the Fenton and Linden Regional Chamber of Commerce, and encourage everyone to watch or participate in the Fourth of July virtual and other events listed on the Chamber's website and the Tri-County Times' Facebook page. There is a virtual parade, virtual fireworks, contests, and much more.

You'll be glad you did.

**TEXT YOUR  
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**Times**

## 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, June 26.

### Senate Bill 977: Make "vote harvesting" fraud a felony

To make it felony to turn in an absent voter ballot application using another person's name and personal information, and also create a new felony crime for submitting an absent voter ballot application with the intent to obtain multiple absent voter ballots.

#### Passed 32 to 5 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)	☑ YES
Sen. Ken Horn (R-Dist. 32)	☑ YES

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## DROWNING

Continued from Front Page

A memorial gathering will be held 4-8 p.m., Thursday, July 2, at Sharp Funeral Homes, Fenton Chapel, 1000 Silver Lake Rd., Fenton. Private interment at Great Lakes National Cemetery.

Editor Sharon Stone contributed to this story.

## HOT LINE CONTINUED

**SO MASKS ARE** required at the outdoor Fenton farmers market and dogs are banned. No thanks.

■■■

**IS THERE A** charity/organization I can donate my pop cans to? No contact? Thank you.

■■■

**IT SADDENS ME** to hear Painting with a Twist has closed. This business will be missed. You helped me decorate my daughter's nursery.

■■■



## Two local grads win scholarships

■ Selected for their academic success, community involvement

By Sharon Stone

Community Choice Credit Union announced the recipients of its 2020 scholarships, who are graduating seniors Erica Behnfeldt of Fenton High School, and Sheridan Goss of Linden High School. They were among the 15 winners of \$5,000 academic scholarships.

Winners were chosen after evaluation of their academic success, community/volunteer involvement and a personal interview.

"We're happy that we can help get

their college careers started and that we can alleviate some of the financial stress of higher education," said Jeremy Cybulski, community engagement manager at Community Choice.

According to their applications, Behnfeldt and Goss will both attend Saginaw Valley State University.



Erica Behnfeldt  
of Fenton High  
School



Sheridan Goss  
of Linden High  
School

This is the 12th year the Foundation has awarded scholarships for high school seniors and the first year for skilled trade and continuing education. Scholarship winners were surprised with signs on their front

lawns offering congratulations.

Additionally, a video of the winners was posted on the Credit Union's social media pages and is available at MichiganScholarship.com.



Residents wanting to rent out the banquet hall in the Fenton Township Civic Community Center may be allowed to host events in July if the state allows for it. **Times file photo**

## July events might happen at township hall

■ Uncertainty with rise in COVID-19 cases could push back state reopening plan

By Hannah Ball

July rental events at the Fenton Township Civic Community Center might be able to take place.

The Fenton Board of Trustees canceled all of the rentals for the Fenton Township Civic Community Center for June at the May 18 meeting due to the COVID-19 pandemic. On Monday, June 29, the Board discussed potential July events and decided that they could take place if state guidelines allow gatherings of 50 people or fewer at the time.

"There were indications that more areas of the state, including Fenton Township may progress to Phase 5 of the MI SAFE START plan to reopen Michigan's economy within the next two weeks," said Thomas Broecker, operations manager/deputy clerk, in a letter to the Board. "Under Phase 5, indoor gatherings of up to 50 people are allowed, which may be sufficient for some rental events to take place. With the recent rise in new COVID-19 cases, however,

the transition to Phase 5 now seems less likely."

Not canceling events could result in people becoming infected with the coronavirus at the township banquet hall, which raises liability issues. Broecker presented the Board with two options:

1. Approve the currently scheduled rental events to take place only if indoor gatherings of 50 or fewer people are allowed in the region of the State of Michigan that includes Fenton Township on or before the rental date. An additional measure could be the signing of a document by the renters that:

a. Commits to keeping the size of the gathering at or below the state requirement and adhering to all safety and social distancing guidelines.  
b. Releases the Township from any and all liability arising from the event.

2. Cancel all July rental events and refund all fees.

Treasurer John Tucker said he supports the first option. If restrictions don't allow events, they can return the money to the renters. Supervisor Bonnie Mathis mentioned there's an event planned at the township hall for July 11.

# LOCAL NEWS AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

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## Owen Road speed limit to be reduced

### ■ Letter from resident prompts road commission inquiry

By Hannah Ball

The 55 mph speed limit on a section of Owen Road will be reduced to 45 mph.

On Monday, June 29, the Fenton Township Board of Trustees unanimously voted to reduce the speed.

On Thursday, June 25, Bonnie Wood, traffic engineering manager at the Genesee County Road Commission, sent a letter to Thomas Broecker, operations manager/deputy clerk of Fenton Township, about a resident who contacted them about the speed limit on Owen Road, from the section of Linden Road to Lake

Forest Drive.

This section of the road is in Fenton Township.

"This is the 55 mph section," Wood said in the letter. "We investigated the number of access points in this mile and it meets the requirements for a 45 mph speed limit. Is that a posting Fenton [Township] would be supportive of?"

Supervisor Bonnie Mathis said that if the board supported this, then the GCRC would be prepared to make the change. She said it's a bad area, and that they frequently get calls that people drive too fast on Owen Road.

Trustee Christine Reid said she lived in a nearby area for 11 years, and that there are many intersections that can be dangerous, such as the Whitaker Road hill.



Motorists are advised that a section of Owen Road, between Linden Road and Lake Forest Drive in Fenton Township, will have its speed limit reduced from 55 mph to 45 mph.

## PROM

Continued from Page 3

The website, [graciewarda.wixsite.com](http://graciewarda.wixsite.com), states, "Join us for this formal event to celebrate the class of 2020! We'll have dinner, lakeside cruises, music, dancing, and fireworks! (THIS EVENT WILL NOT BE CANCELED!)"

Thursday, July 23 is the planned date, with rain dates on the 22 and 24. Tickets are \$40 per person. They will follow safety guidelines put out at the state during that time.

Seniors from Fenton, Lake Fenton, and Linden are welcome, along with a guest.

"So far we have about 50 tickets sold, but we just opened up the event to all local

seniors (each of which can bring a guest, who doesn't have to be a senior), and we only have 200 seats, so they're going to sell out quick now," she said.

Organizers created a gofundme for the event. Search The Senior Pandemic Prom to donate.

"So far people seem really excited for it," Warda said. "We're getting a ton of donations and community support. It'll definitely help us have a 'normal' event, but honestly nothing about this year is normal. We're trying to throw the best prom we possibly can, almost to try and make up

for everything we've missed. We're going to make this as over-the-top as we can."

“We’re going to make this as over-the-top as we can.”

**Gracie Warda**  
The Senior Pandemic  
Prom 2020 organizer



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## SUSPECT

Continued from Front Page

Damire Canell Palmer is charged with assault with intent to do great bodily harm, a 10-year felony, in the attack on the 50-year-old manager who was working in the men's clothing section around 5:30 p.m. on Monday, June 15.

In surveillance video obtained from Macy's by Flint Township police, Palmer is seen walking around the

store; he then approaches and allegedly punches the manager in the head from behind, knocking him to the floor.

The video shows Palmer allegedly continuing to strike the manager while he is on the floor. Palmer then exits the store with another man. A second video, taken by the suspect's brother, was shared on social media.

Leyton indicated that despite public comments on social media, the police in-

vestigation did not uncover any evidence of provocation by the store manager.

"This was an unprovoked attack on a Macy's employee," Leyton said. "This behavior as seen on the video is unacceptable, it is criminal, and it cannot be allowed.

"We don't believe any racial slur was made by the store manager and even if there had been, it does not condone nor justify the assault by Mr. Palmer," Leyton said.

Leyton noted that certain social media accounts and other reports online stating that the phone conversation between the store manager and another Macy's employee prior to the incident was recorded is a false narrative; the call was on private cell phones and not recorded. He also said there is no audio on the Macy's store surveillance video contrary to what some had indicated.

Leyton also said he and his senior staff reviewed the case for possibly charging Palmer with a hate crime, called ethnic intimidation by statute, but he said there is insufficient probable cause evidence that would support it.

"I know a lot of people are calling this a hate crime but, under the laws of Michigan, the evidence simply does not support that charge," he said.

As of press time, police are still searching for Palmer. Once arrested, he will be arraigned on the felony charge in 67th District Court.

A second person, Palmer's brother, videotaped the alleged incident and posted on social media. He is not being charged.

John Potbury, deputy chief assistant

prosecutor in the Genesee County Prosecutor's Office, said, "The connection between the brother videotaping the assault and the actual assault was too disconnected to support the charge of aiding and abetting.

"Sure, it was wrong and repulsive that he would videotape his brother doing that but, videotaping did not aid his brother in the assault or help him carry it out.

"There just wasn't enough probable cause evidence to show how the videotaping could be considered part of the assault itself."

To explain further, Potbury offered the following legal analysis as to why the prosecutor's office did not charge him: "[m]ere presence, even with knowledge that an offense is about to be committed or is being committed, is not enough to make a person an aider or abettor... nor is mere mental approval, sufficient, nor passive acquiescence or consent." *People v Burrell*, 253 Mich 321, 323; 235 NW 170 (1931).

Secondly, even if the accused knew that the alleged crime was planned or was being committed, the mere fact that he or she was present when it was committed is not enough to prove that he or she assisted in committing it. This is from the case, *People v Killingsworth*, 80 Mich App 45, 263 NW2d 278 (1977).

"The judge or jury must be able to identify an affirmative act that the accused actually helped, advised or encouraged the criminal offense or participated in some way. It is not enough to merely stand by in silence," Potbury said.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING PAVING PROJECT FOR PONEMAH DRIVE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF FENTON, GENESEE COUNTY, MICHIGAN

To the residents and property owners of the Charter Township of Fenton, Genesee County, Michigan, and any other interested persons:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that as a result of petitions of property owners within the township signed by the record owners of land whose frontage constitutes more than 50% of the total frontage of the proposed district, and to create a special assessment district for the recovery of the cost thereof by special assessment against the properties benefited therein.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the District within which the foregoing improvements are proposed to be constructed and within which the cost thereof is proposed to be assessed is more particularly described as follows:

**All parcels of land with frontage on, or whose legal access for ingress and egress is on, the following streets: Ponemah Drive, Cottage Cove Court, Lake Drive / Lakeview Drive, Roberts Drive**

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Township Board has received preliminary plans showing the improvements and an estimate of the costs of such construction in the approximate amount of \$1,045,000, has placed the same on file with the Township Clerk, and has passed a Resolution tentatively declaring its intention to make such improvement and to create the special assessment district. The Township Board has also tentatively found the petitions for the improvement to be in compliance with statutory requirements.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that said plans, estimates of cost, proposed special assessment district and petitions may be examined at the office of the Township Clerk during regular business hours from the date of this Notice through the date of the public hearing and may also be examined online at [www.fentontownship.org](http://www.fentontownship.org).

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that a public hearing upon such petitions, plans, district and estimate of costs will be held by telephone conference call (Phone Number: (844) 855-4444, Access code: 323110#), commencing at 7:30 p.m. on Monday July 13, 2020.

At the hearing, the board will also consider any written objections to any of the foregoing matters filed with the board at or before the hearing as well as any revisions, corrections, amendments or changes to said plans, estimates, costs or special assessment district.

All interested persons are invited to attend the hearing by telephone and to submit any comments they may have. Comments may also be submitted by mail or by email at [info@fentontownship.org](mailto:info@fentontownship.org).

**ROBERT E. KRUG**  
FENTON TOWNSHIP CLERK  
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## HOT LINE CONTINUED

**I WANT TO** believe that true patriotic Republicans, Democrats and Independents, all vote for whom they believe will be part of solutions. Those who call the other party supporters' names prefer to contribute to social problems, which is dividing us.

**PEACEFUL PROTESTS ARE** fine. If there is destruction or violence, let the responsible parties serve their time or pay their fines by cleaning up and repairing the results of their actions, not dismiss accountability.

**MY EX-FATHER-in-law** passed away on the day before Father's Day. He was buried on the day after Father's Day. It was his 80th birthday. He's a statistic

now. Cause of death? COVID-19. Please wear a mask, social distance and keep everyone safe.

**'DEMOCRATS ARE SOCIALISTS.** They want to destroy this country.' Wrong. They are citizens who vote. The previous quotes are from extremists who are destroying this country.

**TO THE HOT-LINER** complaining about traffic on Owen Road, I think more roundabouts are needed. That may also be the solution for traffic coming off U.S. 23.

**'THE U.S. HAS** become a place where athletes and entertainers are mistaken for people of importance.' — Robert Heinlein



## POLITICAL

### Continued from Front Page

There are several political parties, such as Republican, Democrat, there's also the Libertarian, Green, and Constitution parties, as well as Independents.

History.com breaks down the basic information regarding the founding of the Republican and Democratic parties, which are the two main parties today.

The **Republican Party**, often called the GOP (short for "Grand Old Party") is one of two major political parties in the United States. Founded in 1854 as a coalition opposing the extension of slavery into Western territories, the Republican Party fought to protect the rights of African Americans after the Civil War.

Today's GOP is generally socially conservative, and favors smaller government, less regulation, lower taxes and less federal intervention in the economy.

The **Democratic Party** is one of the two major political parties in the United States, and the nation's oldest existing political party. After the Civil War, the party dominated in the South due to its opposition to civil and political rights for African Americans.

After a major shift in the 20th century, today's Democrats are known for their association with a strong federal government and support for minority and women's rights, environmental protection and progressive reforms.

Looking into the ideals of Democrat vs. Republican, diffen.com, breaks things down even more.

### DEMOCRAT

**Philosophy** – liberal, left-leaning

**Economic ideas** – minimum wages and progressive taxation, for example, higher tax rates for higher income brackets. Born out of anti-federalist ideals but evolved over time to favor more government regulation.

**Social and human ideas** – based on community and social responsibility  
**Stance on military issue** – decreased spending

**Stance on gay marriage** – support (some Democrats disagree)

**Stance on abortion** – should remain legal; support Roe v. Wade

**Stance on death penalty** – while support for the death penalty is strong among Democrats, opponents of the death penalty are a substantial fraction of the Democratic base.

**Stance on taxes** – progressive (high income earners should be taxed at a higher rate). Generally not opposed to raising taxes to fund government.

**Stance on government regulation** – government regulations are needed to protect consumers

**Healthcare policy** – support universal healthcare; strong support of government involvement in healthcare, including Medicare and Medicaid. Generally support Obamacare.

**Stance on immigration** – There is greater overall support in the Democratic party for a moratorium on deporting – or offering a pathway to citizenship to – certain undocumented immigrants, such as those with no criminal record, who have lived in the U.S. for more than five years.

### REPUBLICAN

**Philosophy** – conservative, right-leaning

**Economic ideas** – believes taxes shouldn't be increased for anyone (including the wealthy) and that wages should be set by the free market.

**Social and human ideas** – Based on individual rights and justice

**Stance on military issues** – increased spending

**Stance on gay marriage** – oppose (some Republicans disagree)

**Stance on abortion** – should not be legal (with some exceptions), oppose Roe vs. Wade

**Stance on death penalty** – a large majority of Republicans support the death penalty

**Stance on taxes** – tend to favor a "flat tax" (same tax rate regardless of income). Generally opposed to raising taxes

**Stance on government regulation** – government regulations hinder free market capitalism and job growth.

**Healthcare policy** – Private companies can provide healthcare services more efficiently than government-run programs. Oppose Obamacare provisions like (1)

requirement for individuals to buy health insurance or pay a fine, (2) required coverage of contraceptives.

**Stance on immigration** –

Republicans are generally against amnesty for any undocumented

immigrants. They also oppose President Obama's executive order that put a moratorium on deporting certain workers. Republicans also fund stronger enforcement actions at the border.



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# Sports Times

Looking back:

## Tigers win district title in rivalry thriller

**Clio** — Gannon Welch had to make the save.

If he didn't, the Fenton varsity boys soccer team's season would've come to an end with a third straight loss to area rival Linden at Clio High School's soccer field Thursday, Oct. 17, 2019.

The two teams were in the fifth round of a shoot-out tiebreaker in a district championship game that ended tied 1-1 after 100 minutes of play. And now, with the Eagles leading 4-3 entering the fifth round, anything less than a save and Fenton's district title hopes would've ended.

Welch made the save. And after teammate RJ Stack made his PK to tie the shoot out at 4-4, Welch made another save in the sixth round. That set up teammate Jimmy Myers's game-winning PK goal, giving the Tigers a 1-1 (5-4 on shoot-outs) district championship victory.

"It was really stressful," Welch said about the first save. "I had the whole team hoping I'd make that save. It was really stressful, but I am glad it came out good."

"The second save, I was just trying to choose my side. I chose it and it worked out good for me."

Of course the save wasn't enough. Myers had to make his shot and did.

"Honestly, I was just trying to get it on target and make (Linden keeper Ian Downarowicz) make that save. It was

really stressful, but I'm glad it came out good."

The district championship sets the Tigers up for a regional semifinal game at Fenton High School Tuesday against Madison Heights Lamphere at Ivan Williams Field at 5 p.m. The winner of that game will play the Detroit Country Day-Goodrich semifinal winner in the Fenton regional title contest Thursday at 6 p.m.

Linden (18-3-1) beat Fenton (14-5-1) twice during the regular season, making this the Tigers' chance at redemption, and the game was a classic battle between the two foes. It was such a great contest, the two teams came together and took a combined photo after the game.

"It's stressful, but it's really fun. I love playing against Linden," Welch said. "They've always been great competition."

"We knew it was going to be a typical Fenton-Linden battle," Linden varsity soccer coach Kevin Fiebertz said. "It didn't matter what happened the first two games. It was a great game."

"It's intense," Fenton varsity soccer coach Matt Sullivan said. "As players go out there and with the coaches going through it, it takes everything in your power just to not lose it. You need players to have poise, to stay calm. It's hard. I've screamed hard so many times."

Both goals came in the first period just a few minutes apart. Both were set up on set plays. Fenton scored first when Andrew Hutchins took a free kick. It was deflected by Ben Chapple for a Fenton 1-0 lead with 19:26 left in the opening half.

Linden responded and tied it with 16:44 left. Off a corner kick cross, Ryan Gillespie scored off a header. The game remained tied at halftime, after the end of regulation and after two 10-minute overtime periods, forcing the shoot-out.

To start both teams selected five shooters to compete for five rounds, and that wasn't even enough to decide the game's victor. Linden's Gillespie, Hunter Hall, Tyler Light and Colin Love each made Linden's first four shots. Fenton's Alex Flannery, Cal Curtis and Hutchins scored their PK attempts, but the Tigers' third attempt went wide resulting in the



File photo

4-3 Linden edge entering the final round. However, that's when Welch made his first save, diving to his left on a low shot. Stack tied it up with his goal, forcing a sixth round. Welch made another save while Myers made his shot, resulting in a Fenton celebration.

"We practiced PKs the last couple of weeks," Sullivan said. "(Gannon) just tried to save the ones you can. He stayed poised the whole time."




Fenton won the district title against Linden in a shootout. The celebration following the second game (left) and at the end of the tournament (below).

File photos







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## FUNERAL ETIQUETTE

When you arrive at the funeral home, go to the family, and express your sympathy with an embrace or by offering your hands. Don't feel as though you must avoid talking about the person who has died. Talking can help the grieving process begin. If you were an acquaintance of the deceased but not well-known to the family, immediately introduce yourself. Do not feel uncomfortable if you or the family member becomes emotional or begins to cry. Allowing the family to grieve is a natural healing process. However, if you find yourself becoming extremely upset, it would be kinder to excuse yourself so as not to increase the strain on the family.

Source: thefuneralsource.org

# Obituaries

Times

## Max Gregory Lutz

1947 – 2020

Max Gregory Lutz - age 72, of Fenton, died Friday, June 26, 2020. A memorial gathering will be held 4 - 8 PM Thursday, July 2, 2020 at Sharp Funeral Homes, Fenton Chapel, 1000 Silver Lake Rd., Fenton. Private interment at Great Lakes National Cemetery. Max was born June 29, 1947 in Flint, the son of Max E. and Anna Marie (Baryo) Lutz and was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force. He retired from General Motors in 2008 after 31 years of service. Max was a devoted family man and loved spending time with his grandchildren. He enjoyed being outdoors;



fishing, boating and golfing. Max is survived by his wife, Theresa; son, Gregory Paul (Christine) Lutz; daughter, Nicole Marie (Tim) Van-nordstrand; step-children, David (Sirena) Collins, Brandon (Jen) Dumouchelle and Nicholas Collins; grandchildren, Max, Aiden, Wyatt, Jacob, Corbin, Wyatt and Eleanor; brothers, Dennis, William (Lisa) and Douglas. He was preceded in death by his parents and his wife, Mary Sue. Tributes may be shared at [www.sharpfuneralhomes.com](http://www.sharpfuneralhomes.com).



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Times

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KING  
FEATURES

Midweek Crossword

ACROSS

1 Impale

5 Father

8 Waller or Domino

12 Operatic solo

13 Playwright Levin

14 "Step —!" ("Hurry!")

15 Kindly bloke

16 Make a mock-up of

18 I before E except —

20 Draw forth

21 Doesn't feel good

23 Overly

24 Kiss

28 Winter fore-cast

31 Debt notice

32 Detroit team

34 Payable

35 Calm before the storm

37 Vary a tone

39 Winning hand's win-nings

41 Cupola

42 Notlikethis

45 Random drawing?

49 Count

51 Require

52 Right angles

53 Knight's title

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16			17				
18				19			20					
			21			22		23				
24	25	26					27		28		29	30
31				32				33		34		
35			36		37				38			
		39		40		41						
42	43				44		45			46	47	48
49						50			51			
52					53				54			
55					56				57			

54 On the rocks

55 Encounter

56 Skirt terminus

57 "Finding Nemo" char-acter

DOWN

1 Long story

2 Not kosher

3 "It — Neces-sarily So"

4 Flat-bottomed boat

5 Deny

6 "Exodus" hero

7 Knighted woman

8 Page num-bers

9 Big snake

10 South Ameri-can monkey

11 Undo a dele

17 Last (Abbr.)

19 Small stream

22 Remained upright

24 Lubricant

25 Old French coin

26 Guilty

27 Germ layer

29 Result of three strikes

30 Tiny

33 Wrestling style

36 Noisy swarm-er

38 Nikita's suc-cessor

40 — Aviv

42 Branch

43 Wan

44 Morse morsel

46 Retro art style

47 Lecherous look

48 Vortex

50 Dead heat


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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.

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

Level: Intermediate

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.

WTISF

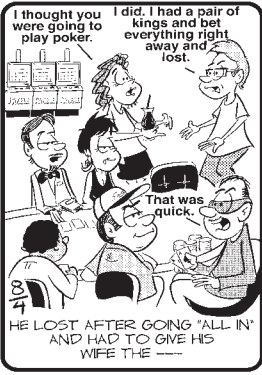
STFIH

VATDEN

ZARNBE

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Check out the new, free JUST JUMBLE app




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

84

HE LOST AFTER GOING "ALL IN" AND HAD TO GIVE HIS WIFE THE

JUMBLE PUZZLE  
SPONSORED BY



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

Horoscopes

For the week of  
July 1, 2020

ARIES  
Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, your finances will be hard to corral until you get a firm grasp of your spending and saving patterns. It is easy to find yourself into financial quicksand, so act soon.

GEMINI  
May 22/June 21

The desire to make big changes in your life may not be possible right now, Gemini. Rather, focus on small things you can change immediately and easily.

TAURUS  
Apr 21/May 21

Career concerns have been on your mind lately, Taurus. It may seem like the opportunities you thought were out there have vanished. Opportunity is there if you look.

CANCER  
June 22/July 22

Insecurity about the future could put a bit of a damper on daily life, Cancer. No one really knows what is around the corner, so try to take things one day at a time.

LEO  
July 23/Aug 23

It may be time to have a heart-to-heart conversation with someone you deeply care about, Leo. You may need to surround this person with positivity right now.

VIRGO  
Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, a shock will hit you midweek. An event unfolds in a way you did not anticipate, and you must go with the flow. Things will settle down soon enough.

LIBRA  
Sept 23/Oct 23

Hitting a creative wall can certainly derail your plans, Libra. But only if you let it. Instead, enlist the help of others for some creative inspiration that can put you back on track.

SCORPIO  
Oct 24/Nov 22

You may find it very challenging to see eye-to-eye with someone close to you. It's easy to let things escalate. Agree to disagree and recognize you each have a point.

SAGITTARIUS  
Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, professional matters may require further investigation this week. If you desire stability, it may be time to find a different career path.

CAPRICORN  
Dec 22/Jan 20

Finding time to do something for yourself can be tough when everyone seems to be relying on you. But you have to set aside moments for personal pampering, Capricorn.

AQUARIUS  
Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, count your blessings in the days ahead. Doing so will help you look at things through a new perspective that will help you in the short- and long-term.

PISCES  
Feb 19/Mar 20

You may reevaluate your plans when a bit of shocking news comes your way, Pisces. The nature of this news is positive, so look forward to it.



# Fenton Freedom Festival *Virtual* PARADE

**VIEW LIVE** ON PUBLIC TV CHANNEL 191

**10:00AM | 4TH OF JULY**

Also available to watch after 10:00am on July 4th at:

**FentonLindenChamber.com**

or **CityofFenton.org**

The Virtual Parade will honor:

**First Responders • 2020 Graduating Seniors • Civic Organizations • 2020 Grand Marshal  
Fenton & Linden Regional Chamber of Commerce**

**MEET THE 2020 FENTON FREEDOM FESTIVAL KING & QUEEN! BRODY STACK & CHELSEA BUJAK**

PLEASE NOTE:  
2020 FENTON FREEDOM FESTIVAL  
**FIREWORKS  
ARE  
CANCELLED**

## *Virtual* FIRECRACKER ROAD RACE

The 5k and 2.5k road race will be virtual this year.

**Register online at: [www.FentonLindenChamber.com](http://www.FentonLindenChamber.com)**

Choose your own starting line, run the race distance, upload your finishing time and receive a medal & t-shirt. *Sponsored by: Fenton Freedom Center.*

## PATRIOTIC DECORATING CONTEST

In honor of the 4th of July, businesses, residents and children bicycle enthusiasts are invited to decorate their

*Decorate* **STORE FRONTS • RESIDENCES • BIKES  
in traditional red, white and blue**

A contest is being held for the best decoration in all three categories. A prize will be awarded in all three categories. Please email a picture of your decorated store front, residence, or bike to [info@fentonchamber.com](mailto:info@fentonchamber.com) by July 3rd.

**- 1ST PRIZE IN EACH CATEGORY RECEIVES -**

**BEST DECORATED BUSINESS**

**\$100 GIFT CARD**

to business of your choice located in Fenton

**BEST DECORATED RESIDENCE**

**\$100 GIFT CARD**

to business of your choice located in Fenton

**BEST DECORATED BIKE**

**\$250 GIFT CARD**

to Cycle-Fit in Fenton



DDA

*Thank you* to the Committee, City of Fenton Police, Fire & DPW departments, along with our service & non-profit organizations and numerous volunteers for their time and efforts in working to create a celebration for this Independence Day during this global pandemic.

Fenton Freedom Festival Chair: **Pat Lockwood**

Fenton & Linden Regional Chamber of Commerce Executive Director: **Shelly Day**

