Holly will have vaccine distribution center
First responders will receive vaccine first

By Hannah Ball
As COVID-19 cases rise nationally and locally, the Oakland County response team has discussed having enough body bags, where to store bodies if the morgues are full, and developing vaccine distribution centers, which includes Holly.

See VACCINE on 31

Local lawmakers support apprenticeship bill
Will help expand access to grants, ensure programs meet workforce needs

Compiled by Hannah Ball
Local lawmakers are applauding the passage of legislation that would support and expand access to apprenticeships.

See APPRENTICESHIP on 25

Center of Hope delivers Thanksgiving baskets

Multiple organizations help assemble, deliver Thanksgiving food

By Hannah Ball
On Saturday, Nov. 21, Center of Hope volunteers, along with people from other organizations, put together and delivered 320 baskets of Thanksgiving food for families in the community who have been financially hurt by COVID-19.

Director of Center of Hope Jennifer Strygulec said they had a few teams to help with the operation. One family helped package things inside the building, and another

See BASKETS on 29

“Please teach your sons that it is incredibly stupid to ride their skateboards down the middle of the road in the dark.”

“To the Hot-liner that claims COVID-19 is a hoax and then cites some idiot from Canada as a reference, maybe you could explain how a hoax has killed over 250,000 people? We’re waiting.”

“Restaurants and bars, keep your back door open. If you are open, people will come. Time to sneak patrons in. Just like prohibition days.”

“Oakwood Cemetery has its ‘Memory Tree’ up and ready for ornaments to be hung. This year might be the time to honor your loved ones by hanging one to remember them through the holidays. Merry Christmas and God Bless from the Oakwood Cemetery Board.”

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Should you give someone a pet for Christmas?

By Hannah Ball

Approximately eight months into the COVID-19 pandemic, Adopt-A-Pet in Fenton Township is still having issues with fundraising because they can’t hold events, but adoptions are going strong.

Jody Maddock, director of the shelter, said, “Adoptions are still going so strong. The amount of people that are wanting to adopt is phenomenal. In that respect, it’s good.”

This was a trend seen around the U.S. when lockdowns began. Families decided that because they were home so often, it was a good time to bring a new furry addition into the house.

With colder temperatures approaching, Maddock said they expect to see more cats dropped off at the shelter because people don’t want them to freeze outside.

See PET on 24
Help Rescue Christmas

By Editor Sharon Stone

They’re out there every day ringing a bell hoping to attract the attention of shoppers. Of course, I’m talking about the Salvation Army Bell Ringers. These angels among us stand at store entrances in chilly and even freezing cold weather to collect the loose change or dollar bills that will help individuals and families who might need assistance any time during the year.

This year, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, The Salvation Army started its annual holiday fundraising campaign early to rescue Christmas. The funds raised through the organization’s iconic red kettles are at risk this year while requests for services are at an all-time high.

According to The Salvation Army, based on the increase in services already provided in response to the pandemic, the organization could serve up to 155 percent more people in 2020 with Christmas assistance, including putting food on the table, paying bills, providing shelter and helping place gifts under the tree — assuming the resources are available.

At the same time, due to the closing of retail stores, consumers carrying less cash and coins, and the decline in foot traffic, The Salvation Army could see up to a 50 percent decrease in funds raised through the red kettles, which would limit their capability to provide services for the most vulnerable. To put this in perspective, last year $126 million was raised through about 30,000 red kettles.

I stopped by the VG’s grocery store on N. LeRoy Street in Fenton on Monday where bell ringers are spreading cheer every day.

On Nov. 28, Alpine Marketplace in Linden is hosting a special event with The Salvation Army of Genesee County. From noon to 2 p.m., Clydesdale Horses from Camelot Clydesdale Carriages will be there for this year’s Help Rescue Christmas initiative. The Salvation Army volunteers will be accepting donations of cash, toys and other special gifts for those in our community who are struggling this year.

The Salvation Army annually helps more than 23 million Americans overcome poverty, addiction and economic hardships through a range of social services.

Even though I usually pay for groceries by credit card, I’m going to make sure I have a stash of cold cash to put in the red kettle.

For those who order their groceries online and have delivery, you could do your part to help The Salvation Army by going to salvationarmyusa.org.

To all our dedicated bell ringers, thank you on behalf of our tri-county community.

compiled by Hannah Ball, staff reporter

When is the right time to put up Christmas decorations? When are you putting up your lights?

“Already did! Christmas decorations bring cheer throughout the end of the year!”

Lisa Grix
Hartland

“Outside Christmas lights went out early this year when we had the warm spell. Inside I decorate starting the day after Thanksgiving. Right now, I have fall decor inside.”

Vanessa Griggs
Fenton

“It used to be you could not have your outside lights on until Thanksgiving night but 2020 has been so isolating. I love seeing all the lights on.”

Janice Carol
Fenton

“Whenever it works best for you personally and your circumstances. We chose to decorate outside last Friday when it was 60 degrees but will not light them up until after Thanksgiving. Inside anytime after Thanksgiving. Blessed holidays to all!”

Lillian Taylor
Fenton
Consumers Energy completes 90-mile pipeline

Saginaw Trail Pipeline modernizes infrastructure, improves safety, reliability

Consumers Energy recently completed construction of the Saginaw Trail Pipeline, a four-year, $610 million construction project to upgrade natural gas pipelines and infrastructure in Saginaw, Genesee and Oakland counties.

“We are pleased to share that the Saginaw Trail Pipeline has been successfully completed,” said Dennis Dobbs, vice president of enterprise project management for Consumers Energy. “The project was a huge undertaking and we are grateful for the cooperation and patience shown by affected landowners, community leaders, residents and other entities throughout construction. We also recognize the outstanding efforts of the hundreds of company and contractor skilled trades employees who worked through the challenge of COVID-19 to bring this project to successful fruition.”

The construction project modernizes Consumers Energy’s natural gas infrastructure while providing environmental enhancements along the route. The work is part of the company’s Natural Gas Delivery Plan, a 10-year road map to a system that is even more safe, reliable, affordable and clean.

See PIPELINE on 30

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Michigan Laser Engraving - Holly
The corpus delicti rule

It is a basic tenet of our criminal justice system that in order to obtain a conviction, a prosecutor must prove a defendant’s guilt beyond a reasonable doubt by showing that a crime was committed and the defendant committed it. As to the commission of the crime, there is a Latin phrase “corpus delicti,” which means “body of the crime.” Body doesn’t refer to a human body but instead to the body of essential facts that must be shown to prove that a crime has been committed.

The requirement for a conviction therefore is proof of the corpus delicti and that the defendant was responsible. This can be accomplished in a number of ways usually by witness testimony and exhibits.

But what if there are no witnesses to a defendant having committed a crime and the only evidence that they did is their confession?

This is when what the law calls the “corpus delicti rule” will apply.

The rule dates back to common law England and provides that there must be proof of the corpus delicti before a defendant’s confession can be admitted into evidence. If there isn’t such a showing then the confession will not be allowed to be considered.

Although this may seem counterintuitive, historically the rule was used to prevent a confession from being used when no crime had occurred.

An example of the corpus delicti rule’s application is in a murder case when a person has disappeared and there is a confession.

In Michigan, to admit the confession the prosecutor must meet the proof requirements by showing that a death has occurred and that some person’s criminality was the reason.

This can be accomplished by direct or circumstantial evidence including proving that just before disappearing a victim was seen arguing with a defendant or the defendant having a violent history with the victim.

Some states and the federal courts no longer recognize the rule and a different standard is used which allows a confession to be admitted when the government introduces substantial corroboration of the “trustworthiness” of the statement.

There have been calls for the rule to be abandoned in Michigan and elsewhere because it can allow a defendant who is actually guilty of a crime to not be held accountable. For now the rule stands.

Times Christmas coloring contest

HEY KIDS! Enter our Christmas Coloring Contest on Page 22 of this edition and email it to the Tri-County Times office at comp@tctimes.com for a chance to win! Nine winners will be selected from kids ages 3-11. One winner per age group. Winners will receive a Christmas bag filled with treats and age appropriate surprises. Email your entry to the Tri-County Times by Friday, Dec. 4 at 4 p.m. COLORING CONTEST RULES: Children must be 3-11 years old to enter. Winners will be contacted Monday, Dec. 7, prize pickup no later than Thursday, Dec. 17. Winners names and photos will be published in the Sunday, Dec. 20 edition.
Numerous areas across the state offer festive light displays and decorations to enjoy this Christmas.

By Sharon Stone

So many families enjoy driving around their subdivisions at Christmas time to check out all of the holiday lights.

Pure Michigan has compiled a list of several areas across Michigan where you can see even more Christmas lights and decorations. Many offer drive-thru attractions so families can stay safe and warm.

Check out some of these Christmas events this year.

**Christmas at Crossroads Holiday Magic 2020**
5 to 9 p.m. — Nov. 27-29; Dec. 4-7, 11-14, 17-24, 26-30

Admission is $10 per carload. Pay at the gate when you arrive. Cash or credit accepted. No buses please.

Make memories that last all year from the comfort of your own vehicle. Join family and friends for an evening drive through historic Crossroads Village – magically lit by over one million twinkling lights. See displays of your favorite holiday scenes as Christmas music fills the air.

**Holiday Nights in Greenfield Village**
Dec. 4-6, 11-13, 15-23, 26-28, 2020
6:30 - 10 p.m.

Enjoy the smells of roasting chestnuts and warming bonfires and the sounds of carolers, fiddlers and bustling yuletide activity at Holiday Nights in Greenfield Village. Due to the pandemic, they’ve made some program modifications, including the elimination of ice-skating, indoor caroling, the outdoor caroling finale with Santa, horse-drawn carriage rides and Model T rides. In addition, while they will continue to host their Supper with Santa dining package in A Taste of History, Holiday Nights Dinner Package at Eagle Tavern and Holiday Nights Happy Hour have been canceled.

Tickets range from free for children to $30 for adults. Purchase tickets at thehenryford.org.
HERE'S HOW:
1. Order on LittleCaesars.com or our app
2. Select a store with the delivery feature
3. Choose delivery at check out
4. Relax and prepare your taste buds!

*Fenton & Linden locations only. $2.99 delivery fee. Other fees may apply.
Small Business Saturday is this Saturday

You’ll likely be surprised on the deals, service, convenience when shopping at ‘mom and pop’ shops

By Sharon Stone

Small Business Saturday (SBS) falls on the Saturday after Thanksgiving — Nov. 28. In the age of Black Friday and Cyber Monday, it’s easy to skip over the mom-and-pop shop for the big box store or online retailer.

But SBS sponsors hope you don’t forget about smaller neighborhood shops.

History of Small Business Saturday

Oddly enough, American Express, a U.S. corporation with $37 billion in revenue in 2018, started Small Business Saturday in 2010. The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) joined as a cosponsor five years later.

SBS has become an important part of how many small businesses launch their busiest shopping season.

According to the 2018 SBS Consumer Insights Survey, total reported spending among U.S. consumers who said they shopped at independent retailers and restaurants on the day reached a record high of approximately $17.8 billion. The same survey reported that more than 70 percent of consumers are now aware of the Small Business Saturday initiative. Based on this annual survey over the years, SBS spending has now reached a reported estimate of $103 billion since the day began.

SBA, Women Impacting Public Policy (WIPP), and American Express hope to drive traffic and revenue to America’s 30 million independent businesses through Small Business Saturday events.

99.7 percent of all U.S. businesses are small businesses

The land of opportunity and entrepreneurs, 99.7 percent of all businesses in the U.S. are small businesses. A large amount of small businesses within the United States are startups and tech-based, popping up in California, New York, and everywhere in between.

Go on a local shopping spree

Many shoppers opt for big box stores for Black Friday deals. Small businesses, however, sometimes offer many similar discounts — but without the marketing dollars to display the price cuts. If you were planning to purchase a big ticket item this holiday season, try calling your locally owned store to see if they’re offering any discounts first.

Why we love small business Saturday

Convenience — Unless you live in a major metropolitan area, chances are that the closest stores to your home are small businesses. Nearly wherever you are, they’re close enough that you can just run up the block to reach them.

They try harder — Local stores are more likely to make sure you leave happy, and might even make an effort to keep your favorite items in stock.

Get to know the neighborhood — Unlike their big box brethren, each small business will be different from the next. Getting to know your local small businesses can be a great way to get to know your neighborhood and community.

Most popular things to buy local

Food/groceries – 66 percent
Clothing – 46.3 percent
Shoes – 32.8 percent
Electronics – 25.4 percent
Books – 24 percent

Source: nationaltoday.com
A holiday budget is a must to avoid overspending and finding yourself in debt early next year.

Six ways to stick to a holiday budget

Check deals at local shops, pay with cash, track and record everything you spend money on

Compiled by Sharon Stone

The holidays are an exciting, fun and joyful time of year. And for many people, the holidays also are expensive. According to the Motley Fool Company, a financial wellness resource, the average American spent $882.45 on Christmas gifts, food, decorations, travel, and other holiday-related expenses in 2019. Around 56 percent of gift shoppers set a budget for holiday spending, but only 64 percent stuck to it. In addition, 21.5 percent of respondents went into debt due to holiday shopping.

Who doesn’t want to have a super holiday with delicious foods on the table and lots of presents to share with family and friends? While that’s tempting, such a bounty should never result in financial peril.

These six strategies can make it easy to establish and stick to a budget this holiday season.

• Budget for everything. When working out holiday spending plans, factor in all of the expenses associated with the holidays — not just the most obvious, like gifts. Costs for gas, parking lot fees, greeting cards, postage, travel expenses, and much more should be included in your final number.

• Determine how much you can spend. Money for gifts and other holiday expenses should ideally come from your disposable income. Look at your finances in advance of the holiday season and figure out how much extra cash you have for the holidays, and use that figure to determine how much you should spend.

Find ways to make up any deficit by curtailing expenses like dining out or entertainment extras. Many people plan to use credit cards to pay now and worry about the aftermath later. Only use credit cards if you have the money in the bank and can pay off the entire bill when the balance due is in January.

• Set a spending limit for individuals. Based on your numbers and how much you plan to spend overall, start allocating money to categories, including gift recipients. Come up with a spending range for each person and stick to it.

• Pay in cash as much as possible. It’s easy to know what you’re spending when using cash as opposed to credit. There is some risk with carrying around cash, but that risk may be offset by the benefit of spending only what you can afford to spend.

• Track all purchases. Save the receipts and keep a running total of expenditures so you can see how your spending is measuring up to your budget. If necessary, scale back on one category if you’ve tipped the scales in spending on another.

• Shop sales and deals. High-end stores may have the impressive tag, but their prices can set you back. Instead, look for comparable gifts at discount stores and other retailers.

A holiday budget is a must to avoid overspending and finding yourself in debt early next year.
Simple ways to prolong life of poinsettias

With proper care, the beautiful holiday flower can thrive long after Christmas decorations are put away.

Compiled by Sharon Stone

Poinsettias and their rich red, white or variegated color schemes are the ideal backdrop for Christmas celebrations. In fact, poinsettias are among the most popular decorative flowers during the holiday season.

According to the 2013 USDA Floriculture Statistics report, poinsettias accounted for about one-quarter (23 percent) of all flowering potted plant sales that year. Roughly 34 million poinsettia plants are sold in a given season. Indigenous to Central America, the plant was introduced to North America in the 1820s when Joel Roberts Poinsett, the first United States Minister to Mexico, brought the red-and-green plant back with him from a trip abroad.

While millions of poinsettias will be purchased for the holiday season, many mistakenly think their utility ends once New Year’s Day has come and gone. But with proper care, poinsettia plants can continue to thrive and bring warmth and beauty to a home long after the holiday decorations have been tucked away.

• **Choose a hearty plant.** Experts with the University of Vermont Extension Department of Plant and Soil Science say that many people mistake the plant’s leaves for its flowers. The red, white or pink bracts are actually modified leaves. The flowers of the plant are the yellow clustered buds in the center called “cyathia.” Choose poinsettia plants that have buds, which are, ideally, not yet open.

• **Avoid drafts.** The plants are sensitive to drafts and changes in temperature. So it’s best to keep poinsettias away from drafty doors, windows, radiators, or fireplaces.

• **Don’t drown the roots.** Wait until the surface of the compost dries out before watering the plant anew. Also, the decorative foil wrapper that covers pots can trap water and lead to root rot. Remove it or poke holes in the bottom to allow for drainage.

• **Cut back plants.** Come mid-March, cut back the plant by half to encourage new shoots. The plants also can be placed outside in the spring after the risk of frost has passed. Bring poinsettias back in around mid-September to early October to force them to bloom again.

The red foliage on poinsettias are actually modified leaves called bracts. The flowers are the small, yellow buds in the center of the plant.

• **Keep the temperature consistent.** Poinsettias prefer a room temperature between 60 and 68 degrees F during the day and 10 degrees cooler at night. Humidity levels between 20 and 50 percent are ideal. Group plants on water-filled trays full of pebbles to help increase humidity levels.

• **Place near sunlight.** Floral experts advise placing poinsettia plants near a bright windowsill but not in direct sunlight. Do not let a poinsettia touch cold window panes.

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Happy Holidays

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Happy Holidays

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myfenton.com
**TWINKLING LIGHTS**
Continued from Page 9

**Wayne County Lightfest**
The Wayne County Lightfest is magical four-mile stretch of Hines Park, displaying nearly 50 animated themed displays and more than 100,000 lights from Thanksgiving until the end of the year (closed December 25). The entrance is at 7651 N. Merriman Rd. Stay warm in your car and take 20-30 minutes to drive through the beautiful lighted displays. Make it an annual family tradition to come every year and see the new displays that have been added. The fee for the Lightfest is $5 cash per vehicle. Masks will be required at the Toll Booth.

**Nite Lites – Jackson**
is a drive-thru Christmas light show
Nov. 26 thru Dec. 31
Michigan International Speedway
12626 US-12, Brooklyn, Michigan
5:30 to 9 p.m. Sunday thru Thursday
5:30 to 10:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday
$25 per car/vehicle (Sunday thru Thursday)
$30 per car/vehicle (Friday & Saturday)
$45 per limo/motorhome/mini bus
$100 per tour bus
Most credit cards accepted

**Wild Lights at the Detroit Zoo**
Nov. 20 - Jan. 3, 2021
The Detroit Zoo will be aglow for 32 magical nights with more than five million LED lights illuminating trees, buildings and over 280 sculptures throughout the front half of the Zoo. Experience the magic of the Detroit Zoo in winter as you take in the lights, sights and sounds of the season for guests of all ages. Children younger than 2 are admitted free. Buy tickets at Store. detroitzoo.org.

Source: Michigan.org

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**Magic of Lights**
DTE Energy Music Theatre
Clarkston - Nov. 13 to Jan. 2, 2021
Sunday – Thursday, 5 to 10 p.m.
Friday and Saturday, 5 to 11 p.m.
Purchase tickets at magicoflights.com, prices range from $25-$45 per vehicle

**Bicentennial Park Drive Thru Lights Display**
Bicentennial Park, Grand Blanc
This December Bicentennial Park will be filled with thousands of lights, sweeping lighted arches and animated displays. Jump in your car with friends or family and drive through their community winter wonderland. Stay warm and cozy in your car and they’ll supply the hot cocoa and cookies for your trip through their enchanting lights display. Traffic will enter through Reid Road and follow the lighted path to Grand Blanc Road. Instead of a fee, they are asking you bring an unwrapped new toy or five non perishable food items to be donated.

**The Big Bright Light Show, Downtown Rochester**
You are invited to brighten your holidays in downtown Rochester with The Big, Bright Light Show. The buildings in downtown Rochester will be covered with more than 1 million points of glimmering holiday light. The display will be lit every evening (5 p.m. - Midnight) through Jan. 3, 2021. Most stores are open Monday - Saturday, until 9 p.m. The Big, Bright Light Show will be aglow every Friday, Saturday and Sunday in January through Jan. 17, 2021.
This Holiday Season come shop local. From Coffee Sips to Christmas Gifts, Historic Downtown Holly is a must-stop Holiday Spot that offers one-of-a-kind finds in a quaint hometown atmosphere.

For a full Calendar of Holiday Happenings, Follow Us!

@hollyareachamber  @villageofholly  visitholly.com
This holiday season, make safety a priority

Smaller gatherings, outdoor activities, video chats can keep you connected with loved ones

Compiled by Sharon Stone

With COVID-19 infections at an all-time high, medical experts urge the public to make safety their number one priority throughout the holiday season.

“Nearly a year into this pandemic, people are yearning for a return to normalcy. However, COVID-19 cases are surging and with flu season already upon us, bringing together people from different households during the holidays is far too great a safety risk,” said Susan R. Bailey, M.D., president of the American Medical Association (AMA).

During this unusual year, the AMA is sharing top tips for a safe and healthy holiday season:

• It may not be the way you’re used to celebrating, but consider limiting this year’s gatherings to just the people who live in your household.

• If you live somewhere warm, you may be able to add a few people to your plans, but only if your get together is outdoors and safely physically distant.

• Take advantage of the video conferencing technologies available at your fingertips to bridge the distance between you and family or friends. Whether it’s watching holiday movies, unwrapping gifts or sharing recipes together, many of these traditions can still happen virtually.

• Interested in holiday deals and discounts? Shop for bargains from home. And if you must go to the store in person and you’re at-risk, check ahead of time to see if there are special hours for you.

• Consider additional outdoor activities that can bring together other people in your circle without the dangers of dining inside. Think beyond the traditional holiday activities and start new traditions.

• Disappointed that your usual large dinner is for a smaller group? You can still cook a large meal and share a portion with neighbors or friends. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends “delivering them in a way that doesn’t involve contact with others.”

• Continue to follow everyday safety guidelines to prevent the spread of COVID-19: wash your hands, maintain physical distancing and wear a face covering when appropriate.

More health resources, along with tips to prevent the spread of COVID-19, are available at ama-assn.org.

“Missing holiday traditions is difficult, but with top scientists and researchers working round the clock to combat this virus, I’m hopeful that by this time next year, friends and family will be together again, one way or another,” Bailey said.

Source: StatePoint.net

DRIP. CLOG. LEAK. !$%^#.
(Funny how most plumbing problems can be expressed by a four letter word…)

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Times
‘On the first day of Christmas my true love sent to me a partridge in a pear tree’

Compiled by Sharon Stone

One of the most instantly recognizable holiday songs also boasts one of the most unique histories of any Christmas carol.

The exact origins and author of “The 12 Days of Christmas” are unknown, but according to the Catholic News Agency, the song was written for Catholic children in England sometime after 1558. Between 1558 and 1829, Catholics in England were forbidden to practice their faith openly. The song “The 12 Days of Christmas” was used to teach Catholic children living under such restrictions about their faith.

As a result, the song is filled with hidden meaning, even if modern celebrants largely sing it to express their festive moods and not necessarily their respective faiths.

The 12 Days of Christmas, also known as Twelvetide, is a festive Christian season celebrating the Nativity of Jesus. In most Western ecclesiastical traditions, “Christmas Day” is considered the “First Day of Christmas” and the 12 days are Dec. 25 through Jan. 5, inclusive.

See 12 DAYS on 21
Help isolated loved ones this holiday season

A phone call, a personal care package, asking for advice, sharing stories can go a long way

Compiled by Sharon Stone

A phenomenon called “cabin fever” tends to set in around late autumn or in midwinter. Long hours of darkness coupled with cold, inclement weather often is a recipe for increased time spent indoors. For people who live alone, the effects of cabin fever might be more pronounced.

In addition to seasonal cabin fever, this year another factor comes into play: social distancing and voluntary quarantine as a result of the novel coronavirus COVID-19.

Even those who may venture outside to socialize, particularly around the holiday season, may be hesitant or unable to do so to help prevent the spread of the virus. In these instances, friends and loved ones can mitigate feelings of isolation in various ways.

• Schedule video chats. Video conferencing apps have become the communication vehicles of choice during the era of social distancing. Different applications and services continue to evolve and help people stay in touch.

• Send uplifting messages. Children or even adults can make personalized cards and mail them to loved ones at home or those who may be in long-term care facilities. Send new mailings every week or two so that residents always have something to look forward to in the mail.

• Start a virtual club. A book club or another shared interest can be the catalyst for more frequent communication. A club puts everyone on the same page and enables them to come together, via phone or video chat, for a discussion.

• Ask for help learning a new skill. Along the same vein as a virtual club, lessons on everything from woodworking to crochet to making favorite holiday recipes can be conducted online. Give an isolated individual daily purpose and distraction by engaging him or her with online lessons.

Isolation and feelings of loneliness can affect anyone who normally suffers from cabin fever. However, this year it may be more pronounced, as it could be coupled with social distancing precautions that have already been in effect for some time.

Source: MetroMedia

Video chats with the kids and grandkids can lift the spirits of loved ones who find themselves isolating due to the pandemic. Photo: independencevillages.com

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Even those who may venture outside to socialize, particularly around the holiday season, may be hesitant or unable to do so to help prevent the spread of the virus. In these instances, friends and loved ones can mitigate feelings of isolation in various ways.

• Schedule video chats. Video conferencing apps have become the communication vehicles of choice during the era of social distancing. Different applications and services continue to evolve and help people stay in touch.

• Send uplifting messages. Children or even adults can make personalized cards and mail them to loved ones at home or those who may be in long-term care facilities. Send new mailings every week or two so that residents always have something to look forward to in the mail.

• Start a virtual club. A book club or another shared interest can be the catalyst for more frequent communication. A club puts everyone on the same page and enables them to come together, via phone or video chat, for a discussion.

• Ask for help learning a new skill. Along the same vein as a virtual club, lessons on everything from woodworking to crochet to making favorite holiday recipes can be conducted online. Give an isolated individual daily purpose and distraction by engaging him or her with online lessons.

Isolation and feelings of loneliness can affect anyone who normally suffers from cabin fever. However, this year it may be more pronounced, as it could be coupled with social distancing precautions that have already been in effect for some time.

Source: MetroMedia
GIVE BACK this Christmas

By supporting these local organizations this holiday season

**Linden Christmas Express Baskets**
Contact Linda's Community Kitchen, 610.591.0418
Food distribution on Tuesday, 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Linden Presbyterian Church
19 W. Broad St., Linden

**Adopt-a-Pet**
Donate with PayPal • Give to a local shelter • Adopt a pet • Support on animal • Visit a local PetSmart or Petsmart.全球, Broad, Box 26, Linden

**Food Bank of Eastern Michigan**
The State Bank Virtual Food Drive
The State Bank has partnered with the Foodbank of Eastern Michigan to fight hunger. Every $1 donated equals six meals. A $50 gift will feed a family four for a month. Please join us in the spirit of the season!
https://give.fbem.org/ge/thestatebank

**Project Hope**
Large donations can be made at Angel Tree Program
Project Hope will also be providing for children during the holiday season. A few ideas to help the family come together is by making a special trip to serve together or by setting up a place in your home for your child to decorate and give as a gift. For more information, please call 810.513.8479.

**FISH Community Food Pantry**
Cash donations for Christmas Baskets
Donations can be made at the FISH Community Food Pantry located at 191 W. Broad St., Linden.

**Sunshine Kids**
13575 N. Fenton Rd.
The Salvation Army in December at Fenton. This program allows for donations to be made online at the website: https://give.fenton.org

**Adoptapetfenton.com**
248.328.3181
205 E. Caroline St. in Fenton

**Linden Christmas Express Baskets**
1800-799-SAFE (7233) or 1-800-787-3224 (TTY)

**Christmas in Action**
The Fenton Police Officers Association
Fenton, MI 48430

**Good Search**
Donate through Good Search, Bark Box, Amazon Smiles and Goodfellow paper sales will take place on Dec. 5th to help local families. Monetary donations can be dropped off or mailed to 101 First St., Holly, 48442.

**Linden Police Department**
Buy a discount ticket for First Pitchers Game Night Foundation on Dec. 3rd. This event is open to support various community programs.

**Christmas in Action**
The Warda Foundation is a local charitable foundation based out of Fenton area, dedicated to helping under-privileged children and fighting against child hunger. To donate, visit: thewardafoundation.com/wanta

**The State Bank**
175 North Leroy St. • Fenton
810.629.2263

**Adopt-a-Pet**
Donate with PayPal • Give to a local shelter • Adopt a pet • Support on animal • Local organizations this holiday season

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## 5 ways to show your pet you care

### Playtime, toys, ugly Christmas sweaters top the pampering list

Compiled by Sharon Stone

During the holidays, there are endless ways to show the humans around you how much you love them. Finding ways to extend the joy of the season to pets who are a part of the family takes a bit more creativity.

Here are five ideas for celebrating with furry friends this holiday season:

1. **Spend quality time together.** Between shopping, cooking and decorating, the hustle and bustle of the season can be distracting. However, no matter what’s going on, it’s important to spend quality time with your pet each day. So, go on some extra long walks with your dog, extend your cat’s playtime sessions and brush your pet’s coat. Take them to the Thompson Road Regional Dog Park for some special playtime. These activities may help alleviate situational anxiety brought on by shifting holiday routines.

2. **Pamper your pet:** The holiday season can be tiring and stressful on every member of the family, including your dog. Gift your dog relaxation and better health with CBD-infused Edibites. They have calming and soothing properties, which may help ease your pet’s situational anxiety should travel or houseguests be part of your plans this season.

3. **Stuff your pet’s stocking:** A whopping 72 percent of pet parents plan to give their pets a gift or stocking stuffer this holiday season, according to a recent Pet Releaf survey conducted by The Harris Poll. Not only is hanging a stocking for pets a fun way to include them in a family tradition, it’s also a great opportunity to give products a test run. Look for pet products offered in trial or small sizes, chew toys, tennis balls for playing fetch and more.

4. **Decorate safely:** When selecting holiday décor, prioritize your pet’s safety above all. Steer clear of plants toxic to pets, like holly, poinsettias and mistletoe; and avoid stringy items such as tinsel, curling ribbons or other tree and gift trimmings that when ingested, can cause intestinal blockage.

5. **Outfit your pet:** Taking a festive family portrait for this year’s greeting card? Just want your pet to be comfortable and stylish on all those winter walks in the months ahead? With several major retailers offering ugly holiday sweaters for pets in a variety of sizes and designs, it’s easy to get your pet in on the fun.

The holiday season is all about showing loved ones you care. This year, make sure that also includes furry friends. **Photo: statepoint.net**

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### Getting a new pet?

Remember to research and get the right pet for your family

If you do decide to get a pet this Christmas we would love to meet them and help get you started off on the right foot

**FREE EXAM FOR NEW CLIENTS**

*does not include vaccinations, medications, x-rays, blood work & other diagnostics*

CALL US NOW TO SCHEDULE YOUR APPOINTMENT

**POINTE ANIMAL HOSPITAL**

Hours: Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri: 9am-5pm • Wed: 10am-7pm • Sat: 9am-12pm

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**Independent Senior Living**

**Vicky Coppler - Community Manager**

201 E. Elizabeth • Downtown Fenton

(810) 629-1179

millpond@kmgprestige.com

Fenton’s Best Kept Secret for Seniors 55+

Please call to qualify or for an appointment

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‘Tis the season for giving

But know how to give safely during the pandemic of 2020

Donations are the lifeblood of many charitable organizations.

Unfortunately, donations also can be the lifeblood of criminal operations designed to scam would-be donors.

The potential for charity scams could be even greater in 2020. Charities accept donations year-round, but the spirit of giving that prevails during the holiday season makes the weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas especially popular times to donate to charity. In addition to being on the lookout for the usual scams, the Office of the Attorney General (AG) for the District of Columbia warns prospective donors to beware of potential scams involving the COVID-19 virus.

Recognizing the challenges people in their communities have faced as a result of the economic fallout of the pandemic, donors may be more inclined to donate to charities purporting to help laid off workers, small businesses or others adversely affected by the outbreak. That’s admirable, but prospective donors must recognize that their eagerness to support COVID-related charities may make them vulnerable to criminals looking to exploit their charitable nature. In recognition of that, the attorney general’s office offers these tips when considering donating to charity in 2020.

• Be vigilant before donating via peer-to-peer social networking websites. It’s especially difficult to verify how donations made via texts or websites are ultimately used. While these can be convenient ways to donate, donors should be especially vigilant about vetting before donating to charities through these channels.
• Never donate using cash, gift cards or wire transfers. Reputable charities do not ask for donations to be made in this way. Use credit cards whenever possible.
• The terms “COVID-19” or “coronavirus” do not authenticate a charity. A reputable name or logo does not mean the charity is actually reputable. Prior to donating, donors can confirm a charity is legitimate by contacting organizations such as Charity Navigator, the BBB Wise Giving Alliance or the National Center for Charitable Statistics.

Scammers will no doubt try to exploit the pandemic to take advantage of donors during the upcoming giving season. Savvy donors can employ various strategies to ensure their charitable donations end up in the right hands.

The Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia offers several tips for those who are considering donating to charity in 2020.

A reputable name or logo does not mean the charity is actually reputable. Prior to donating, donors should be especially wary of recently launched operations. Operations that were formed in response to the pandemic may be viable, but many have been formed by scammers looking to exploit the outbreak for their own gain. Be especially wary of crowdfunding campaigns.

• Ask questions. Any charity, even those formed in response to the COVID-19 outbreak, should be able to provide you with the same information as charities that have been around for years. Prior to donating, ask for the charity’s name, address, telephone number, and mission. In addition, don’t feel skittish about asking how your donation will be used and the percentage of each donation that goes to programs that directly help the people you’re trying to assist.

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Scammers will no doubt try to exploit the pandemic to take advantage of donors during the upcoming giving season. Savvy donors can employ various strategies to ensure their charitable donations end up in the right hands.
EMAIL ENTRY TO COMP@TCTIMES.COM

Nine winners will be selected from kids ages 3-11. One winner per age group. Winners will receive a Christmas bag filled with treats and age appropriate surprises.

Entries can also be mailed to:

Tri-County Times Christmas Coloring Contest,
comp@tctimes.com

By Friday, December 4th at 4p.m.

Child’s Name: ___________________________________________

_______________________________________________________

Parents: Please handwrite your child’s name above (for legibility) as it will appear in the newspaper.

City:   __________________________________________________

Phone: ___________________________________ Age: _________

COLORING CONTEST RULES: Children must be 3-11 years old to enter. Winners will be contacted on Monday, December 7th, prize pickup no later than Thursday, December 17th at 4pm. Photos will be taken at this time. Winners names and photos will be published in the Sunday, December 19th edition.

Don’t get left IN THE DARK on Christmas!

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Professional & affordable service
By Sharon Stone

Anyone could use a helping hand sometime in his or her life. This year has been especially challenging for many people due to the pandemic. Aside from reaching out to family and friends, your local church or non-profit organization specializing in helping those temporarily in need are here to help.

Here’s just a few of the places residents in the tri-county can reach out to if they need assistance — or if they’d like to help.

Fenton Center of Hope
2525 W. Shiawassee Ave., Fenton
(810) 620-8167
Email: info@fentoncenterofhope.org

The Fenton Center of Hope is a charitable organization that strives to meet the needs of the people in crisis situations in our community.

Fenton Center of Hope is spending nearly 10 times more than their normal budget to keep up with the tremendous increase in need for the resources and services they provide. More than ever, they need the financial support of those who can help.

Fenton Center of Hope has a Food Pantry, Baby Closet, Pregnancy Resource Center, as well as classes. Call the Food Pantry’s office at (810) 620-8300 to schedule an appointment and fill out an application. Once your application has been approved you will be placed on their food pantry schedule.

The Baby Closet is set up for guests to come in and select clothing and items for their babies and young children once a month by appointment. Call (810) 620-8300 to schedule an appointment.

Fenton Center of Hope is currently recruiting groups and individuals who want to bless a local child with Christmas gifts. If you business, family, or other group would like to participate, call (810) 620-8167.
PET
Continued from Page 3

They also expect more people to surrender their animals because of the newest three-week order that shut down in-person dining.

“As of right now, there’s no help for them other than unemployment,” she said. “We’ll see an uptick in people who want to surrender their animal.”

They’ve also seen more cases in which people are struggling financially to take care of an animal who needs extra medical attention. These are people who have lost their jobs due to the pandemic and are now trying to take care of a family, along with a pet that has extra medical needs.

Maddock said they try to help these people by giving them food when they can.

Adopt-A-Pet was hit financially this summer because of the shutdowns that didn’t allow them to hold their usual fundraisers. They’ve also changed their operations in regards to who can enter the building to prevent a COVID-19 outbreak.

Adopt-A-Pet interviews the person who wants to adopt, and only that person is allowed into the shelter.

“The one thing we’ve found is because we haven’t been open to the public, our donations of stuff has really been hurt by that. A lot of times when people come to see the animals, they’ll bring by bleach or cat food or toys, just something because they are coming by anyways. I’m having to buy a lot of bleach, more this year than I’ve ever had to buy. I’m having to buy a lot of cat litter,” Maddock said.

The shelter is still accepting donations.

Bottle returns have been open for a few months now, and the shelter received bags and bags of cans, more than previous years.

Maddock said the number of bottles being dropped is a “true life saver. We’re getting overloaded again. We’ve doubled already in mid-November what we had last year in donations,” she said.

This year so far, they’ve raised $37,600 from taking back cans and bottles.

Christmas season is approaching, and this means some well-meaning family members and friends will consider buying a furry friend for one of their loved ones as a surprise. Adopt-A-Pet does not encourage this.

“We do not recommend giving animals as a gift if the person doesn’t know about it,” Maddock said. “Gift giving right now, especially with animals at our facility, at least would be quite difficult.”

The shelter only allows the person who will be taking care of the animal into the facility, so the logistics of a surprise wouldn’t work out. She also cited financial concerns.

“We have no idea what’s going on with them, so many people have brave faces and they’re not going to tell people when they’re struggling,” she said. “On the flip side, if someone’s going to help them out, that could be just what that person needs.”

If someone wants to give a pet as a gift, they could consider paying the adoption fee or buying all the toys and food instead. It’s better to let the person taking care of the animal decide what animal is right for them. “So it’s not a surprise and not a burden for them,” she said.

Coby, a 2-year and 11-month-old hound, chases after a stick thrown by kennel attendant Leslie Nicholas at Adopt-A-Pet. Photo: Hannah Ball
Continued from Front Page

On Nov. 20, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a five-year reauthorization of the National Apprenticeship Act, which will invest more than $3.5 billion over the next five years in expanding opportunities and access to Registered Apprenticeships.

U.S. Congressman Dan Kildee (MI-05), the chief deputy whip of the House Democratic Caucus, released a statement about the National Apprenticeship Act of 2020.

“Apprenticeships open the door to good-paying jobs by providing people hands-on experience that leads to gainful employment. Through these programs, students can not only avoid costly student loan debt, but actually earn a wage while they work,” he said.

“I am proud to support legislation that will grow Michigan’s economy by creating a highly-skilled workforce.”

The National Apprenticeship Act of 2020 would create over one million apprenticeship opportunities over five years by:
• Starting a grant program to support the expansion of registered pre-apprenticeships, youth apprenticeships and apprenticeship programs;
• Establishing the Office of Apprenticeship within the Department of Labor, to ensure participation and diversity in apprenticeship programs and review quality standards;
• Requiring State Apprenticeship Agencies to submit plans on how they will promote equal opportunity and meet local workforce needs through apprenticeships; and
• Requiring the Departments of Labor and Education to align youth apprenticeships to high school graduation requirements and simplify the transfer process between apprenticeship programs and institutions of higher education.

This bill authorizes $400 million for the fiscal year 2021, and it will increase by $100 million annually to $800 million for the fiscal year 2025 to support the creation or expansion of registered apprenticeships, youth apprenticeships, and pre-apprenticeship programs, including in non-traditional apprenticeship occupations.

During these registered apprenticeships, individuals receive on-the-job training, instruction and mentorship while being paid and working toward a nationally recognized credential.

According to the Department of Labor, 94 percent of apprentices remain employed when they complete their apprenticeship, with an average starting salary of $70,000. The U.S. has added over 640,000 new registered apprentices since Jan. 1, 2017. There are now more than 1,200 apprenticeable occupations from the traditional construction and military occupations to newer sectors such as information technology, finance, and health care.
NOTICE OF ADOPTION AND SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS TO ROSE TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE 171

NOTICE is hereby given that at its regular meeting held on the Rose Township Board of Trustees adopted amendments to Rose Township Zoning Ordinance, Number 171, to be effective 30 days after publication of this notice and summary. A true and complete copy of Ordinance 171, the Rose Township Zoning Ordinance Amendments is available for inspection and copies may be obtained at the office of the Rose Township Clerk, 9080 Mason Street, Holly, Michigan 48442, during regular business hours from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday, except holidays.

SECTION NUMBER  CATCH LINES AND SUMMARIES

38.179  EE. Solar Energy Systems – Article 18
(1.) Intent
(2.) General Requirements
(3.) Ground Mounted Private Solar Energy Systems
(4.) Commercial Solar Energy Systems

38.179  EE. Solar Energy Systems – Article 23
(a.) Solar Energy System
(b.) Private Solar Energy System
(c.) Commercial Solar Energy System
(d.) Roof or Building Mounted Solar Energy System.
(e.) Ground Mounted Solar Energy System.
(f.) Building Integrated Photovoltaics (BIPVs)

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a summary of Ordinance Number 171, the Rose Township Zoning Ordinance Amendments, adopted at the regular meeting of the Rose Township Board held on the 8th of May 2019 and published on November 25, 2020.

Debbie Miller, MMC, Mi PMC
Rose Township Clerk

HELP

Continued from Page 23
Linden Presbyterian Church is hosting Christmas Express this year as well. Distribution day is Dec. 15 from noon to 6 p.m. It will be done in their parking lot.

St. John the Evangelical Catholic Church of Fenton
600 N. Adelaide St., Fenton

Outreach services are available only via phone or email on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Outreach is currently accepting clothing and household goods donations. Call (810) 629-1817 or outreach@stjohnfenton.org for details.

St. John’s Outreach serves clients in the Fenton/Linden zip codes or if the client is a member of St. John’s Church. Outreach serves the low-income, disabled, children and seniors. It’s operated by an all-volunteer staff and 100 percent of our donations are used for the clients. Outreach provides assistance with rent/evictions, utilities (water and Consumers Energy), prescriptions, gas vouchers, information and referral for further assistance. Also, other agencies fall under the umbrella of Outreach at St. Johns, including St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry; Gabriel Project, which provides help for pregnant women and baby needs up to the age of 5; Knights of Columbus, which provides funding for numerous charities in the community; and Christmas Giving Tree, which provides gifts at Christmas for children & seniors. Outreach works in partnership with other local agencies to meet client needs.

Fenton Area Resources and Referral Network, Inc. (FARR) — Serving those in the Fenton, Lake Fenton and Linden school districts

The FARR process begins when you or someone you know contacts FARR or FARR partner for assistance. Complete FARR form online or print it out. Once the assistance form is completed, contact FARR for an appointment to review confirmation and assess level of need. At this point, the FARR representative prepares a Service Plan, and contacts FARR partners for possible assistance. Local community resources (if any) are provided to the community member in need.

Contact FARR if you need assistance, and are in the Fenton, Lake Fenton or Linden school districts. FARR can help with emergency assistance and resources for getting connected. Call or email them at (810) 750-6244 or email FARRNetworkHelp@gmail.com.

The Salvation Army
Salvationarmyusa.org

The Salvation Army says this year, the need is greater than ever. With fewer Red Kettles to aid those in need, they are asking people to donate by going to their website. Donations will go toward homeless shelters, grocery assistance, food pantries and meal programs and bill paying assistance. Their Angel Tree program enables anonymous donors to adopt “angels.”

The Salvation Army’s emotional and spiritual care hotline: (616) 742-9199

St. Rita Catholic Church
309 E. Maple Street, Holly
(248) 634-4841
Stritaholly.org

St. Rita’s has a Food Pantry and Clothes Closet. It’s by appointment only. Please contact the Rectory if you are in need of food or clothing.

They are accepting donations of canned fruit, boxed mashed potatoes, bagged/boxed white rice, bottled apple or grape juice, cold cereal, jelly and jams, Hamburger Helper, canned stew, spaghetti sauce. No frozen foods. Donations can be dropped off at the Rectory or set inside the doors of the church. If you’d like to donate, make checks payable to St. Rita Food Pantry.
PHONES STOLEN FROM UNLOCKED VEHICLE
On Nov. 11, Fenton police took a larceny from auto complaint. A resident in the 100 block of Chinkapin Rill said that sometime between midnight and 11 a.m. on Nov. 11, someone entered his unlocked vehicle and stole three iPhones and two phone chargers. The phones were not functioning and being used for parts. Value of stolen items is $600. Police have no suspects and they remind residents always to lock the doors on their vehicles.

SWARTZ CREEK WOMAN ARRESTED FOR RETAIL FRAUD
At 4:40 p.m. on Nov. 16, Fenton police responded to Walmart on Owen Road on a report of a shopper “under ringing” merchandise in the self-checkout lane. Lt. Jeff Cross said a loss prevention employee observed the shopper, later identified as a 27-year-old Swartz Creek resident, not scanning two HP ink cartridges and a container of dog treats. The employee stopped the woman as she exited and called police. The woman was arrested for retail fraud.

EXPIRED PLATES LEAD TO OWI ARREST
At 11:30 p.m. on Nov. 16, a Fenton police officer on patrol observed a vehicle with expired plates. A traffic stop was initiated and the officer made contact with the driver, a 23-year-old Fenton woman, who appeared intoxicated. She was unable to provide information requested by police. She admitted to consuming alcohol. She was arrested for operating a vehicle while intoxicated and transported to the Genesee County Jail where she was lodged until sober.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

Dr. Roger Hodkinson, in my opinion, is an idiot. Look at excess deaths in 2020: Through October, 300,000 more people died than usually do over that time period. Only one thing has happened this year to cause such countrywide carnage: COVID-19, and he says just let it spread.

Over the course of my life, I have often wondered how people like Hitler and Mussolini were able to attain their power. We are now seeing firsthand how it is done.

Never seen a politician keep so many of his promises that he made on the campaign trail. Maybe that’s why they didn’t call him a politician. I can only hope Fat Joe coming from the swamp, like the rest of his swamp colleagues, will renege on his promises. One can only hope.

So, come January the tax cuts President Trump put into effect that increased my take home pay will no longer be in effect. My paycheck will be cut again. So glad to be back in good old 2008. ‘Come on Man.’ Really, we won’t be paying more taxes.

Considering this was the first election in Michigan history where same day registration/voting was legal, and mail-in applications for mail-in ballots was allowed, it is incumbent on each of us to demand a complete accounting of all ballots. A valid Michigan ID must be matched to every ballot that was counted.

To the claim that Trump’s 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act will raise the taxes of everyone making less than $75,000 next year. Just read the entire bill. It claims no such thing. Kindly don’t post gossip as fact. We get enough of that from the media.

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810-733-1841
3198 S. Dye Road
(1 blk. west of Genesee Valley)
The Ally Challenge raises $800,000 for charities

Compiled by Sharon Stone

Tournament officials recently announced that the third playing of The Ally Challenge presented by McLaren, concluded Aug. 2, at Warwick Hills Golf & Country Club. The event raised $801,563 for charitable organizations in southeastern Michigan and beyond. The 2020 amount continues the impressive giving legacy in the event’s short history.

“Since its inception in 2018, The Ally Challenge presented by McLaren has donated a total of nearly $3.2 million in support of local charities in the greater Flint area and beyond. The total includes $363,690 for the tournament’s primary beneficiary, United Way of Genesee County (UWGC),” said Phil Incarnati, president and CEO, McLaren Health Care. “The substantial charitable dollars raised from the 2020 event will make a significant impact on providing needed resources and services for people in the communities we serve. We are proud to continue to partner with Ally Financial, the PGA TOUR, HNS Sports Group and Warwick Hills in building on this momentum in 2021 and continuing to impact positive change and community stewardship.”

The tournament’s investment will help support over 18 programs in Genesee County, impacting more than 5,000 individuals through the three priority areas: financial literacy, housing and employment.

“We are incredibly thankful that The Ally Challenge presented by McLaren was so successful this year, despite the many challenges and changes the pandemic created,” said UWGC CEO James Gaskin. “For us, the tournament’s success translates into our ability to maintain service levels for more than a dozen local projects during a challenging time when resources are scarce. This gift is critical to our collective ability to provide more than 100,000 helping moments that lift families across Flint & Genesee County.”

BIRDIES FOR CHARITY

Birdies for Charity presented by Ally accounted for $388,673 of the total donation thanks to 866 birdies recorded by PGA TOUR Champions players during competitive rounds at The Ally Challenge presented by McLaren and a total of 13 qualified Michigan 501(c)(3) charities that participated in the program in 2020. This unique program is a grassroots charity platform, now in its third year, which serves as an extension of The Ally Challenge presented by McLaren’s mission to positively impact non-profit organizations in the greater Flint area.

A number of additional, predominantly local, charities will share the remaining $49,200 in varying amounts. Overall, more than 20 charities were impacted by The Ally Challenge presented by McLaren in 2020.
BASKETS
Continued from Front Page
family put the baskets in vehicles when the drivers pulled up outside.

The baskets had turkeys, potatoes, stuffing, ingredients for green bean casserole, yams, marshmallows, cranberry sauce, rolls, dessert, pumpkin pie, eggs, butter and oil.

“It’s everything you would need to make a Thanksgiving dinner,” she said. The baskets also contained a devotional of hope and Advent calendars. Drivers were scheduled to come pick up baskets every 10 minutes, and they had a team that prayed over the cars.

The assembly took place at Center of Hope in Fenton, but other organizations helped. Volunteers from The Freedom Center, The Rock Church, the Fenton First Presbyterian Church and Trinity United Presbyterian Church in Flint all helped. Genesee County Sheriff Chris Swanson also stopped by to pick up baskets to deliver.

“Since COVID, the one amazing thing that’s happened is all these awesome organizations coming together. It’s increased our resources so much and it’s fun to work with other people,” she said.

Bob Strygulec, the other director of Center of Hope, said, “We’re helping people who have never gone to a food bank and thought they never would. The dynamics have changed quite a bit.”

Brigid Maher, volunteer at Center of Hope, said they have more and more families in need right now.

She said, “Restaurants just shut down so waitresses and people are wondering, ‘how are we going to have Christmas? How are we going to have food?’”

The food bank is open Wednesday and Thursday. People must call to make an appointment. Right now, they’re helping about 60 families a week.

They do more than food. The Center of Hope has a baby closet, an adoption ministry, and they help those in need find employment.

“People come in hurting and they say what they need, and (Center of Hope) helps with whatever they can,” Maher said. “There are a lot more people needing help. The numbers are increasing. People have lost their jobs or they’re not getting enough hours. Just a lot more people in need.”

I’ve noticed an increase in customers and also an increase of people in the community being interested in making donations … the need is increasing but because God is so faithful, the provisions are increasing, too.”

They’re anticipating “even greater need” heading toward Christmas.

There are a lot more people needing help.
The numbers are increasing.

Brigid Maher
Center of Hope volunteer

Fenton Area Public Schools student Evelyn Hall collects more bags of food to put in vehicles. In all, volunteers put together and delivered 320 baskets of Thanksgiving food for families in need. Photo: Hannah Ball

HOT LINE CONTINUED

GOV. NEWSOM AND Gov. Whitmer seem to have been brought up by the same hypocritical teachers. The California governor was caught in photos dining with a dozen people at a fancy restaurant. The Michigan governor’s husband thought he could name drop to get his boat in the water this summer.

AT THE MOMENT of greatest need, teachers and school administrators failed to answer a call to arms. No longer respect the teaching profession. Retail workers on the other hand were courageous and rock solid: much respect.

THE GEORGIA AUDIT has been completed and confirms Joe Biden won the state. Can we now all agree that President Elect Biden won the 2020 election?

A SURGICAL MASK is intended to be worn by professionals during healthcare procedures. They are intended to prevent infections in patients and personnel by catching bacteria shed in liquid droplets from the wearer’s mouth and nose. No mention of political affiliation is in the definition.

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Each phase of construction was completed without service interruptions for customers. While the pipeline is now operational, some additional final restoration work will occur in 2021.

Consumers Energy worked closely with officials from the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge in Saginaw County and Kensington Metropark in Oakland County to ensure the project was constructed in an environmentally sensitive manner.

Noteworthy environmental achievements included:
- Relocating more than 100,000 turtles, frogs and snakes from the project area during construction.
- A herpetologist on the project rescued two adult Blanding’s turtles and a nest of eggs from the pipeline route in 2018. The juvenile turtles were incubated over the winter released back into the wild as juveniles in the spring of 2019.
- Planting a special pollinator mix of seeds to restore more than 550 acres of wild and wetlands areas where pipeline was buried to create new habitat for butterflies, bees and other pollinators.
- Using a vehicle wash procedure in the Shiawassee Refuge to help prevent invasive species from being brought into the area on construction equipment.
- Placing non-plastic, wildlife-friendly erosion control blankets when needed throughout the project.
- Partnering with local landscape companies to recycle wood waste as mulch for lawns and gardens.

“The Saginaw Trail Pipeline helped model the way for environmental sustainability efforts for these types of large pipeline projects,” Dobbs said. “I am so proud of the care and concern shown by our employees and contractors who worked to ensure that we protected the landscape of our great state as this project was constructed.”

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VACCINE
Continued from Front Page

Steve McGee, the fire chief of the village of Holly, manages the fire EMS desk of the Emergency Operations Center for Oakland County and has been working on the county’s COVID response since it began in March. Holly has been averaging about two new cases of COVID-19 a day. As of Monday, Nov. 23, the Oakland County Health Division website shows the zipcode of 48442 to have 463 cases of COVID-19.

He said the county response has been “amazing.” They divided the county into five divisions and they have meetings every two weeks with other fire chiefs and EMS personnel to coordinate their response, which includes staffing, making sure everyone has PPE, and more.

“I think the county has been a leader in this, it’s been running very well,” he said.

One topic of discussion is what to do if the morgue gets full. McGee said they’ve considered using cooled trailers or ice rinks. “You shouldn’t have to think about that,” he said. “We have to discuss body bags.”

He anticipates they’ll meet once a week due to the rise in cases.

Many fire department personnel have been trained by the Oakland County Health Division to assist in conducting COVID-19 testing in nursing homes.

“It’s too big of a project just for the health departments,” he said.

In developing a response plan to COVID-19, McGee said they looked at data from the influenza pandemic of 1918 and how other states and countries are handling it. He mentioned how Sweden adopted a herd immunity policy that “didn’t work at all.”

McGee said while he’s a Republican, he thinks Gov. Gretchen Whitmer has done a “phenomenal job.” There were a few things he would have changed in her plans, he said, but overall, after looking at the data and forming a response plan, McGee said they were reaching the same conclusions as Whitmer.

“Oakland County has been a model for this whole event. We really have an excellent county executive. (Dave Coulter) has been doing a great job,” he said.

One of the worst issues is people not believing the virus is a serious threat.

“The hard part with this whole thing is nothing is on fire and there’s no storm, so you can’t see this. Some people just don’t believe it’s as bad as it is,” he said. “People are surprised when they get it and they’re surprised how quickly they deteriorate.”

A few people in his family are nurses, and McGee said that while the fire department takes people to the emergency care centers, it’s the nurses and doctors who are with them for days.

“We have an hour, half-hour exposure, but they have days. It’s a lot tougher,” he said. “It’s tough for them to watch people die and they’re not able to be with family.”

They anticipate the spread of COVID-19 will get worse due to people traveling and having get-togethers for Thanksgiving. McGee said the U.S. is in the third peak of the virus.

“This will be the big one. We were expecting this since March,” he said.

McGee and his wife will not be seeing their kids, grandkids or parents this year for the holiday in order to stay safe.

“While it’s difficult, a two-hour dinner just isn’t worth potentially giving someone a deadly virus,” he said.

Oakland County is developing a plan to store vaccines and distribute them. Holly will be the location of a vaccine distribution center when the vaccines are ready. McGee said Oakland County will soon use an old fire hall as a testing site, and it will be used to give the vaccines. McGee said he’ll be one of the first in line to get the inoculations once they’re available for first responders.

“This whole region of first responders will have the ability to get vaccinated quick,” he said. This will help a lot because one of their biggest issues is keeping fire departments and ambulances staffed. If someone tests positive, they have to stay at home.

McGee anticipates that first responders and those most vulnerable to the virus will be able to be vaccinated in December and January. The vaccines won’t become widely available to the public until spring 2021.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

I HAVE A bridge that I’m willing to sell to the individual that thinks that those making less than $400,000 will not pay more taxes with poor Joe’s plans for all those giveaways. Forgiving student loans will simply take away personal responsibility, which is a great way to weaken a country.

IF YOU CALL the police on someone for not having a mask on, do you get a red star for your forehead?

THERE WAS NO reason to close restaurants. I have felt safe going in to eat. If you don’t, don’t go. Governor ruined the holidays. People looked forward to eating out. We are in our late 60s and have never felt unsafe eating indoors. Hope our governor gets recalled.
Area ADs busy, expecting winter sports season to continue

Practices could start as early as Dec. 9

By David Troppens

The Representative Council of the Michigan High School Athletic Association recently approved an adjusted schedule to restart fall sports and a plan to resume winter sports after the current three-week “pause” in activity ordered by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is scheduled to end Dec. 9.

Winter sports would resume practices on Dec. 9 if allowed by the MDHHS with competition beginning Jan. 4. Many winter sports had begun practices already when the current lockdown began Nov. 15, and several were just about to start practices on Nov. 16. Of course, the 2019-20 winter sports season was the first to be impacted by COVID-19 when many winter sports tournaments were at first suspended but eventually canceled due to the outbreak last March. Area athletic directors are dealing with the pause, but remain cautiously optimistic there will be a start to a winter sports season during the 2020-21 school year.

“I’m not frustrated this time because we all saw it coming,” Lake Fenton athletic director Brad LaRowe said. “I think that we were able to do fall sports as best as we could and I find it a little frustrating fall athletes weren’t able to keep going. I wish they let us continue with fall and pause winter for now. It would be nice to see fall championships for sure.

“I’m hopeful (there will be a winter sports season). That’s my gut instinct, I’m hopeful. I don’t have any word. It really depends on the numbers. If numbers don’t go down it probably won’t.”

“Not only am I hopeful, I am expecting there to be a winter season, and sooner rather than later,” Fenton High School athletic director Mike Bakker said. “We have shown we can make this work and hopefully the State of Michigan can come together and all of us can do our part to mitigate the spread of COVID during the upcoming holiday season and beyond. If we can do that, then I think we can get back to sports, get back to school and get back to being together again. Certainly, there will be discussions in the coming days and weeks about how to adjust the winter season and potentially the spring too, so that we can see this through. Remember, 10 weeks ago, we didn’t have a football season at all, volleyball was practicing on tennis courts, soccer was in a state of limbo, and many swim teams in the state had yet to dip their toes in the water for the first time. Yet with all of that, we still accomplished more than anyone at that time was giving any hope for. So yes, I think there will be a winter season.”

The Flint Metro League athletic directors are using alternative methods to meet frequently, and there are MHSAA discussions as well. For example, LaRowe said there was a discussion about the wrestling season on Tuesday.

“We are doing a lot of rescheduling,” LaRowe said. “We’re bumping back competitions in December to January. Obviously, we are communicating to our non-league opponents and trying to figure out what we are going to do with those games. Obviously, we are communicating non-league opponents. CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM
Detroit Lions greatest/worst Thanksgiving games

Three greatest

1962
Detroit 26, Green Bay 14

The Lions denied the Green Bay Packers a perfect season by sacking Packers’ Hall of Fame QB Bart Starr 11 times as Detroit’s “Fearsome Foursome” of Darris McCord, Sam Williams, Alex Karras and Roger Brown dominated the action. Detroit led 26-0 entering the fourth quarter.

1998
Detroit 19, Pittsburgh 16

This was the famous coin-toss game. Pittsburgh’s Jerome Bettis apparently called tails with a TV camera catching it, but the official said he called heads. The flip came up tails and the Lions won the toss based on the ref’s decision. II. The Lions won on Jason Hanson’s 42-yard field goal.

1997
Detroit 55, Chicago 20

The Lions trailed 20-17 at the half but scored 38 second-half points to cruise to the win. Barry Sanders moved to second place on the NFL’s all-time rushing list with 167 rushing yards. He also scored three touchdowns in the blowout victory.

Three worst

1968
Philadelphia 12, Detroit 0

The Eagles entered the game with an 0-11 record, but collected their first victory of the season mainly due to the fact the Lions couldn’t do anything on offense in muddy conditions. Detroit had 168 yards total offense and turned the ball over four times. The game was named “The Mud Bowl.”

2008
Tennessee 47, Detroit 10

This was one of the Lions’ losses during their 0-16 season. The Lions were outgained 456-154 and Tennessee had two running backs collect more than 100 rushing yards. The 37-point loss was the largest point spread loss for Detroit during a Thanksgiving game.

1980
Chicago 23, Detroit 17

Bears’ quarterback Vince Evans tied the game on the final play of regulation with a TD run. Then, on the first play of overtime Chicago’s David Williams ran the kickoff back 95 yards for the touchdown. It is the shortest overtime in NFL history (22 seconds).

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XC
Continued from Page 32

dorfer also competed in the race, placing 38th (16:53.20). Two girls competed in the female race. Holly’s Ashley Sobzynski took 12th (19:20.58) while Linden’s Melanea Strauss placed 33rd (19:46.69).

There was a men’s Tier II Elite race as well with four Lake Fenton runners competing. They were Colton Dietrich in fourth (16:55.14), Nolan Pinion in 33rd (17:28.20), Matt Fletcher in 35th (18:32.28) and Nathan Niestroy in 42nd (18:44.06).

There were two boys open section races. Linden’s Casey Cohen took 31st (18:25.83) in one of them while Linden’s Caleb Monaghan placed 32nd in the other (21:21.02).

Two Lake Fenton girls competed in the women’s open race. They were Kaitlyn Hatfield who took 11th (21:47.8) and Marcella Jenio who placed 16th (22:10.8).
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Obituaries

Terrance Michael O’Malley
1956 – 2020

Terrance Michael O’Malley - age 64, of Linden, passed away on Friday, November 20, 2020. He was the beloved husband of Gwen (Bigelow) O’Malley. Terry was born in Flint, on July 5, 1956 to the late Ralph J. and Ethel Maxine (Murphy) O’Malley. He worked for General Motors for many years. Terry enjoyed cars, woodworking, making crafts, painting and lawn mowing. He enjoyed being outdoors, especially on the lake, and loved spending time with his family and friends. He will be missed by all! Along with his wife, he is survived by his two children, Jamie Genevie (Thomas), Jason O’Malley (Megan Schwalenberg); three grandchildren, Virginia, Cecilia, Amelia; a brother, Timothy O’Malley; a sister, Daneen O’Malley; as well as many siblings-in-law; nieces; and nephews. He was predeceased by siblings, Bonnie O’Malley, Charlene Jacobi and Patrick O’Malley. There will be no services at his request. A donation in Terry’s memory can be made to the American Diabetes Association. Please share your memories of Terry at www.ciavarellifuneralhomes.com.

Terrance Michael O’Malley - age 64, of Linden, passed away on Friday, November 20, 2020. He was the beloved husband of Gwen (Bigelow) O’Malley. Terry was born in Flint, on July 5, 1956 to the late Ralph J. and Ethel Maxine (Murphy) O’Malley. He worked for General Motors for many years. Terry enjoyed cars, woodworking, making crafts, painting and lawn mowing. He enjoyed being outdoors, especially on the lake, and loved spending time with his family and friends. He will be missed by all! Along with his wife, he is survived by his two children, Jamie Genevie (Thomas), Jason O’Malley (Megan Schwalenberg); three grandchildren, Virginia, Cecilia, Amelia; a brother, Timothy O’Malley; a sister, Daneen O’Malley; as well as many siblings-in-law; nieces; and nephews. He was predeceased by siblings, Bonnie O’Malley, Charlene Jacobi and Patrick O’Malley. There will be no services at his request. A donation in Terry’s memory can be made to the American Diabetes Association. Please share your memories of Terry at www.ciavarellifuneralhomes.com.

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**Midweek Crossword**

**ACROSS**
1. Secondhand
5. Sphere
8. Halt
12. DVR alternative
13. Greek X
14. Authentic
15. Sheltered, at sea
16. Hare’s defeater
18. Japan’s main island
20. Comic Phyllis
21. California wine valley
23. Zero
24. Enchilada holder
28. Plate
31. — jiffy
32. Fix a stubby-shoelace
34. Rowing need
35. Sulik
37. Harasses
39. Male cat
41. Tater
42. Wall plaster
45. Warren
49. Bullying VIP
51. Lotion additive
52. Yemeni city
53. Scrap
54. Anger
55. Got up
56. They’re between dos and mis
57. Let fall
62. Hexagonal state
63. Missile house
64. Divisible by two
65. Fails to
66. One of eight
67. Pi neighbor
68. Avian creature
69. Unemotional
70. 10 to the 12th

**DOWN**
1. English river
2. Equal
3. Can metal
4. Locks
5. Chorus members
6. Quarterback Tebow
7. Yoko of music
8. States of ecstacy
9. LaGuardia and Logan, e.g.
10. Perched
11. Power
12. Dawn-of-mammals
13. Epoch
14. Name of many English kings
15. Longtime record label
16. Celebrity
17. Big fuss
18. Smell
19. Symbol
20. Sword
21. Euphoria
22. Sleep
23. Do good
24. Work
25. Be kind
26. Be brave
27. Be compassionate
28. Be kind
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30. Be compassionate
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57. Be compassionate

**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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**Midweek Jumble**

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

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**Horoscopes**

**ARIES**
Mar 21/Apr 20
This week you will display the utmost competence and mastery at work. This could provide an opportunity for supervisors to see what you are made of, Aries.

**TAURUS**
Apr 21/May 21
The hard work you put into your education will pay dividends shortly, Taurus. You may find it will give you a leg up over others seeking to advance their careers.

**GEMINI**
May 22/Jul 22
Gemini, if you are in a relationship, it is possible that this week you will reach a particular level of intimacy that many couples aspire to. You are definitely in an intuitive space.

**CANCER**
Jun 21/Jul 22
Cancer, it may be time to have a conversation with your family about resources or finances. The conversation may be tedious, but it is absolutely necessary.

**LEO**
Jul 23/Aug 22
Leo, if you are in a relationship, it is possible that this week you will reach a particular level of intimacy that many couples aspire to. You are definitely in an intuitive space.

**VIRGO**
Aug 23/Sept 22
This week you will display the utmost competence and mastery at work. This could provide an opportunity for supervisors to see what you are made of, Aries.

**LIBRA**
Sept 23/Oct 22
Let your imagination run a little wild and enjoy being spontaneous, Libra. You can use some time to fantasize about what the future holds.

**SCORPIO**
Oct 23/Nov 21
Scorpio, you may seek out the advice of a role model who embodies a lifestyle that you admire. Don’t hesitate to put your own spin on things if you want to do so.

**SAGITTARIUS**
Nov 22/Dec 21
Your gift of gab could help you secure a raise or even a better job, Sagittarius. Demonstrate that you can fill the role well and not just talk your way through.

**CAPRICORN**
Dec 22/Jan 20
Capricorn, you may find yourself opening up to new ideas or beliefs. Remember to take everything at face value until you have had ample time to do your research.

**AQUARIUS**
Jan 21/Feb 18
Aquarius, like so many people you have been spending more time at home lately. You may get back into the groove of socializing and interacting with others soon enough.

**PISCES**
Feb 19/Mar 20
Pisces, carve out some time to have an important conversation with a loved one about future plans. It is time to take a few serious steps.
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