

# ICE FISHING TIPS

### FROM A 13-YEAR VETERAN

### 'Stay safe and have a good time'

#### By Hannah Ball

The local lakes are frozen, and ice fishers can be found on most bodies of water.

Derek Wylie, a Swartz Creek resident and Linden High School graduate, frequently ice fishes in tri-county lakes. He's been learning fishing since he was 3, and he's been ice fishing for 13 years.

"I always had a passion for fishing. I grew up with a grandpa who loved to fish," he said. "I love the outdoors. Outside is where I'm mostly comfort-





Derek Wylie ice fishes about two times a week. During the winter months, he catches bluegill, crappie, perch and walleye. **Submitted photo** 

able and at peace, and I'm fortunate enough to have people around me who love the sport of fishing and hunting."

He goes ice fishing every chance he can. If the weather conditions are favorable, he'll go once or twice a week. Wylie normally fishes on the weekend, but weekdays are less busy.

People are ice fishing now more than ever because of COVID-19.

One of Wylie's favorite spots is the Lake Fenton Department of Natural Resources boat launch, because it's easy to access.

See ICE FISHING on 32





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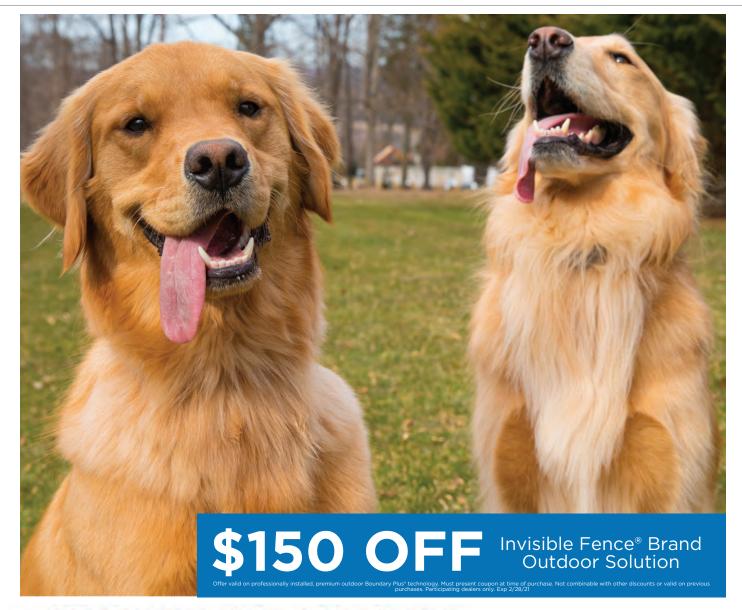




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**44** The danger

is not in the

mall parking

lot, it's in their

bedroom. 77

Tori Dallas

Genesee County

Sheriff's deputy

#### **TOWN HALL**

Continued from Page 3

Swanson said human trafficking is the fastest growing criminal enterprise in the world, and he called this information and these techniques "the predators' playbook."

Common apps include Snapchat, Instagram, Facebook Messenger, TikTok, Kik and more.

"What I see is frightening," Dallas said. "As a 13-year-old or as a 9-year-old, I can't imagine how they process this."

Snapchat is popular because the app says the media will disappear within 24 hours. However, anyone can download a screen recording app, so anything they view on Snapchat, or on their phone, can be saved.

Holloman, who does forensics and works with victims in Voices for Children, said people will record seemingly private photos and videos and use those for "sextortion," which is when a predator will blackmail someone into sending them more sexually explicit content. Often, they threaten to send this media to the victim's parents.

Sharing locations online can be dangerous, too, because it tells predators where someone is.

Dallas said many parents don't know that their children might also have a "finstagram," which means a fake Instagram. On their private account, they may post photos of their friends and family pets, but some teenagers have other Instagram accounts set to private.

"They talk to so many other people in their fake Instagrams," Dallas said.

On Facebook Messenger, there's a setting to have secret conversations. Go on Messenger, click on the profile

photo and look for the setting that says secret conversation. Swanson said check your child's phone and if you don't find any secret conversations, tell them that you're proud of them.

TikTok is one of the most popular apps right now. Dallas said one thing to be mindful of is how users and teen-

agers ask for followers. She encourages parents to read the comments on their child's TikTok videos.

"You'd probably be frightened if you saw those," she said.

Holloman said a lot of kids think they'll be discovered by famous people, and they want to be popular.

The online attention they get is often filling a need they have in real life. If they get too popular online, that runs the risk of cyberbullying.

Kids often record these videos late at night when parents are asleep. They can be encouraged by older people on these apps to do certain things in videos that could be explicit.

"The danger is not in the mall parking lot, it's in their bedroom," Dallas said.

Another app to watch for LMK, which creates auditory chatrooms. The likes and follows act as digital currency.

Predators often take advantage of being to monetize this content. They may "sextort" someone into posting explicit photos and videos, and they keep the money. Holloman said this is sometimes how predators get young kids to stick objects in orifices and do sexual things at night while their parents sleep.

More apps to watch for are Live Me, Ok Live, Twitch and Discord. On Live Me, Dallas said they had a case of a young boy under 10 years old who was begging for followers, and watchers were encouraging him to reveal himself. They found out he had a younger brother, and they

wanted to see him, too.

Holloman said by the time a teenager is 16, there's a "100 percent" chance they've been sent an explicit photo of a body part, they've sent a photo like that, or they've been requested to.

More apps to look for are Whisper, Monkey, House Party and Meet Me.

There's been a huge spike of human trafficking cases that start online because kids are spending more time at home and online due to COVID. Swanson encouraged parents to have an open discussion with their kids, but don't scare them so much they won't come to you if they make a mistake, such as sending an explicit photo.

Dallas said parents should "get in their business" to make sure these kids know who they're talking to.

## Signs to look for that could mean your child is in trouble online:

Dallas said if your child spends more time in their room and is more quiet and secretive, then they could have an issue they're embarrassed to reveal to their parents.

Don't let phones go into the bedrooms at night. Have parental control on devices. Go through each app on a kid's phone with your child.

Swanson said a lot of this information is harsh, but parents have to be realistic and honest with their kids.

"This is what's going to harm your kids and your family more than anything else," he said.



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#### **ICE FISHING**

#### Continued from Page 29

"It holds a good amount of bluegill and crappie, and you can normally flow a flag," Wylie said. "Lake Fenton is normally the first lake that freezes around here."

He also likes to fish at the boat launch on Lobdell Lake. But use caution, he said, because early in the season, there's sketchy ice in this area because of the current.

"Also Lake Ponemah. They have bluegill, crappie and decent sized pike. I've also caught walleye but they're hard to get," he said.

This year, the cold weather is "late normal," Wylie said, but there is good ice around. Most lakes have an average of 4 inches of ice, which is safe to walk on, and some lakes have 6 inches of ice. If you're not experienced, Wylie recommends waiting until there's at least 4 inches and to use caution.

Wylie has fallen in a frozen lake three times. Two of those times were on Lobdell.

"It sucked. All three times equally sucked but I was younger and inexperienced. I learned my lesson," he said.



Make sure you have an ice pick, which can be used to pull yourself back on the ice, and don't fish alone.

Ice fishing can be an expensive hobby. They need fishing rods, tip ups, bait and warm gear. If it's too cold outside, a shanty is needed.

"It makes the time more enjoyable, or you can sit on a bucket and have a great time fishing. Fish finders also help," Wylie said. "You can go ice fishing with a pole and a dozen worms and have a good time. On the other hand, if you plan on being out all season long, you'll need certain materials to say warm and mobile."

Many ice fishers also use fishing shanties, a sled, a snowmobile or an ATV to move the equipment, and a heater.

"The most important thing to have is a spud bar. It's a bar that you can hit on the ice and you can chip away at it to see how thick the ice is. The old saying in ice fishing is — when in doubt, spud your way out," Wylie said.

Wylie catches about 500 panfish a year. Some are keepers, some aren't. In the winter, he normally catches bluegill, crappie, perch and walleye.

"Fishing is fishing no matter what time of the year. Sometimes you get lucky, sometimes you don't," he said.

What helps Wylie is studying fish patterns and where fish prefer to swim in different seasons. In the summer, they like to hide under rocks or by weeds to stay in the shade. In the winter, they stay by weed beds and shallow areas. Midway through the season, they stay around basing lines and drop offs.

"Local bait shops are awesome. They know which lakes are doing well," he said. "It's really just moving around and finding fish. It's taking chances and moving way out. Sometimes it works out for you, sometimes, it doesn't. Also, fish finders are a huge plus, especially with the technology we have nowadays."

His biggest piece of advice is "stay safe and have a good time."



Derek Wylie took a photo of his ice shanty while fishing on a local lake.



Swartz Creek resident Derek Wylie said he can catch approximately 500 fish a year.



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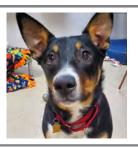
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By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

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Answers in this edition of the Tri-County Times

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# Obituaries

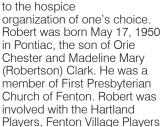
## Times

37

### **Robert Charles "Bobby" Clark**

1950 - 2021

Robert Charles "Bobby" Clark - age 70, of Fenton, died Friday, January 22, 2021. A memorial service will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, those desiring may make contributions to the hospice





and Flint Community Players. He is survived by his sisters, Judy (Ken) Chadwell, Christine Enszer and Mary Ann (David) Jackson; brother, Dan (Marilee) Clark; many

nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his sister, Sue; brother, Joe and brother-in-law, Tom. Tributes may be shared at www. sharpfuneralhomes.com.



#### **Blake Grove**

Blake Grove - age 68, died January 25, 2021. Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes. www. sharpfuneralhomes.com.



#### Clifford Totzke, Jr.

Clifford Totzke, Jr. - age 69, died January 23, 2021. Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes. www. sharpfuneralhomes.com.



#### **Coleman Williams**

Coleman Williams - age 81, died January 25, 2021. Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes. www. sharpfuneralhomes.com.



#### **Connie Aubin**

Connie Aubin - age 60, died January 25, 2021. Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes. www. sharpfuneralhomes.com.



#### **Curtis "Pete" Thomas**

Curtis "Pete" Thomas - age 96, died January 24, 2021. Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes. www. sharpfuneralhomes.com.



#### **David Hooker**

David Hooker - age 73, died January 23, 2021. Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes. www. sharpfuneralhomes.com.



### **Gerald T. "Jerry" Long Sr.**

1934 - 2021

Gerald T. "Jerry" Long Sr. - age 86, Bradenton, FL formerly of Flint died Thursday, January 21, 2021. Funeral services will be held 11 AM Friday, January 29, 2021 at Sharp Funeral Homes, Linden Chapel, 209

East Broad Street, Linden. Burial in Toledo Memorial Park. Visitation will be held 4 - 8 PM Thursday, January 28 and 10 - 11 AM Friday at the funeral home. Those desiring may make contributions, may do so to Braden River United Methodist Church, Bradenton, FL. Gerald was born March 12, 1934 in Flint, the son of Charles and Jessie (Wrav) Long. Sr. Gerald was a veteran of the U.S. Navy having served in the Korean Conflict. He retired from Chevrolet Delphi West following 30 years of service. He was a member of Braden River United Methodist Church. He was also a member of the Moose



Lodge #1072 of Bradenton, FL and the Fraternal Order of Eagles. He is survived by children, Gerald T. Long, Jr. (Veronica) of Fenton, Kathy (Vern) Uricek of Bradenton, FI, Carol (Neal)

Bath, Gregory (Brenda) Long of Linden; step-children, Loyd (Janet) Bartholomew, Valerie Miller, Mike (Heather) McGuire, Janice (Mark) Jones, Carolyn Morelli, Jennifer (Scott) Clark, Thomas Jones, Elizabeth Jones. David Leichtv: many grandchildren: greatgrandchildren, nephews, and nieces. He was preceded in death by his parents: wife. Lillian M. Long; and brothers, James and Charles, and Raymond Long. Tributes may be shared at www. sharpfuneralhomes.com.



#### **Donald Vernier**

Donald Vernier - age 68, died January 24, 2021. Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes. www. sharpfuneralhomes.com.



#### Flora Evans

Flora Evans - age 92, died January 23, 2021. Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes. www. sharpfuneralhomes.com.



#### **Gregory Fauth**

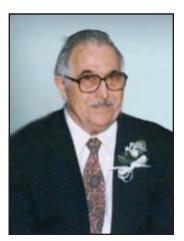
Gregory Fauth - age 65, died January 23, 2021. Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes. www. sharpfuneralhomes.com.



#### **Heather Yeats-Sink**

Heather Yeats-Sink - age 36, died January 22, 2021. Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes. www. sharpfuneralhomes.com.





#### **Dale Avery**

Dale Avery - age 89, died January 25, 2021. Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes. www. sharpfuneralhomes.com.



## **Gerald "Jerry" Barkman, Sr.**

Gerald "Jerry" Barkman, Sr. - age 83, died January 26, 2021. Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes. www. sharpfuneralhomes.com.



#### **Anita Schuessler**

Anita Schuessler - age 78, died January 26, 2021. Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes. www. sharpfuneralhomes.com.



#### **Anthony McKeehan**

Anthony McKeehan - age 64, died January 23, 2021. Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes. www. sharpfuneralhomes.com.



## Obituaries

## Times

#### **Marilyn (Sweet) Pratt Redmond**

1932 - 2021

Marilyn (Sweet) Pratt Redmond - age 88, of Fenton, died Thursday, January 21, 2021. Marilyn was born November 6, 1932 in Perrysburg, OH, the daughter of Howard Nathaniel





was preceded in death by her first husband of 20 years, J. Fred Pratt; her second husband of 42 years, Robert E. Redmond; her elder son, John F. Pratt; and her sister, Joanne Jaynes. A memorial service will

be held at a later date and announced. Those desiring may make contributions to the Fenton United Methodist Church Food Pantry, 119 S. Leroy St., Fenton. Arrangements are being handled by Sharp Funeral Homes, Fenton Chapel, 1000 Silver Lake Road, Fenton. Tributes may be shared at www.sharpfuneralhomes. com.



### **Norman Earl Spear**

1929 - 2021

Norman Earl Spear - age 91, died Friday, January 15, 2021, in Fort Myers FL. Norman is survived by his wife, Linda of Fort Myers, FL; three sons, Norman Dennis (Vicki) of Pentwater, Douglas (Marsha) of Cla

Douglas (Marsha) of Clarkston, and David (Michele) of Fenton; two grandsons, Michael (Ann), and Steven Spear; one great-granddaughter, Sadie Spear. Linda's stepdaughters, Debbie Stewart, and Donna Mishler. Numerous nieces and nephews. Norman was born June 26, 1929 in Saginaw, the youngest of seven children. He grew up in Fenton, and graduated from Fenton High School in 1948. He worked



for General Motors at three locations; Fisher Body Plant One, Flint; Oldsmobile, Lansing; and retired from the Cadillac Plant, Flint in 1988. After retiring,

Norman moved from Fenton to Traverse City, then to Sebring, FL and finally to Fort Myers, FL. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you make contributions to The Alvin A. Dubin Alzheimer's Resource Center; 12648 Brantley Commons Court; Fort Myers, FL 33907. There will be a celebration of Norman's life later this summer. Online obituary and guest book at www.FortMyersMemorial.com.

### Joanne Wright - age

Joanne Wright - age 68, died January 26, 2021. Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes. www. sharpfuneralhomes.com.



#### **Lloyd Metiva**

Lloyd Metiva - age 90, died January 26, 2021. Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes. www. sharpfuneralhomes.com.



#### **Martin Stefani**

Martin Stefani - age 89, died January 23, 2021. Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes. www. sharpfuneralhomes.com.



#### **Randall Oyler**

Randall Oyler - age 63, died January 24, 2021. Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes. www. sharpfuneralhomes.com.



#### **Robert Smith**

Robert Smith - age 89, died January 22, 2021. Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes. www. sharpfuneralhomes.com.



#### **Robert Spears**

Robert Spears - age 89, died January 24, 2021. Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes. www. sharpfuneralhomes.com.



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#### **Steven Beren**

Steven Beren - age 79, died January 25, 2021. Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes. www. sharpfuneralhomes.com.



#### **Theresa Dzugan**

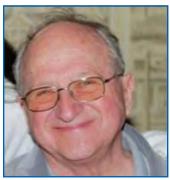
Theresa Dzugan - age 71, died January 23, 2021.
Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes. www. sharpfuneralhomes.com.



## Obituaries

## Times

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## Felton David

**DeGavner** 1936 - 2021 Felton David DeGayner - age 84, of Swartz Creek, died Tuesday, January 26, 2021. In accordance with Felton's wishes cremation will take place. Private interment will take place at a later date in Great Lakes National Cemetery, Holly. Arrangements provided by Sharp Funeral Homes, Fenton Chapel, 1000 Silver Lake Rd, Fenton. Felton was born on December 16, 1936 in Iron Mountain, the son of Ralph and Marie (Seeger) DeGayner. He proudly served in the United States Army from 1957 until his honorable discharge in 1959. Felton and Lonette Dunlap were united in marriage on July 7, 1963. He was the owner and operator of the Flint Pool and Patio for many years. Felton was a loving husband, father and grandfather. He was very crafty and enjoyed woodworking. He is survived by his loving wife, Lonette DeGayner; children, Steven DeGayner, Dwayne (Julie) DeGayner and Dawn DeGayner (Mike Cochran); eight grandchildren, Amber, Kory, Cody, DJ, Casey and Trevor DeGayner and Spencer and Karah Bucknam; and siblings, Eugene (Mary) DeGayner, Ralph (Jackie) DeGayner, Hazel Dault, Clayton (Barb) DeGayner and Alden (Sue) DeGayner. Felton was preceded in death by his parents, Ralph and Marie DeGayner; and brotherin-law, Jim Dault. Tributes may be shared at www.

sharpfuneralhomes.com.

#### **Paul Stickler**

Paul Stickler - age 63, died January 27, 2021. Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes. www. sharpfuneralhomes.com.



#### **Gordon Fray**

Gordon Fray - age 80, died January 28, 2021. Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes. www. sharpfuneralhomes.com.



#### **Jacob Brisendine**

Jacob Brisendine - age 89, died January 28, 2021. Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes. www. sharpfuneralhomes.com.



#### **Harry Cooper**

Harry Cooper – age 87, died January 28, 2021. Services provided by Sharp Funeral Homes. www. sharpfuneralhomes.com.







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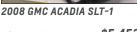


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