

PAGE 3 \$12,000 RAISED FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Midweek*Imps

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2021

\$1.00

Welcome back

Restaurants and bars reopen doors to indoor dining — with restrictions mandated by state

By Sharon Stone

On Jan. 22, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer announced that the state of Michigan would gradually reopen restaurants across Michigan beginning Monday, Feb.1.

Depending on their particular schedules, area restaurants are announcing their own reopening dates.

According to the National Restaurant Association, Michigan lost a net 46,600 eating and drinking place jobs in December See **RESTAURANTS** on 12

BBQ

Beale St. BBQ & Smokehouse in Fenton reopened its indoor dining room Monday, Feb. 1 at 25-percent capacity. Submitted photo



Employees and volunteers with the Genesee County Health Department sign people in for their vaccine appointments on Saturday, Jan. 30 at Lake Fenton High School. The parking lot was used as a vaccine distribution site. **Photo: Hannah Ball**

Local high school used as vaccination site

Residents stay in their vehicles while getting inoculations

By Hannah Ball

More than 800 people were vaccinated at Lake Fenton High School on Saturday, Jan. 30.

The Genesee County Health Department set up tents outside in the parking lot, and those with appointments didn't have to leave their vehicles to receive their vaccinations.

People checked in, gave the necessary paperwork, and drove to one of three tents to receive their shot. Health department personnel and volunteers, including members from the Michigan National Guard, worked the vaccination event.

Approximately 7,000 people have been vaccinated in Genesee County so far. Lake Fenton High School was used as a vaccine distribution center because See **INOCULATIONS** on 6

Fenton sells Fire Hall restaurant

Stipulations include fixing the broken clock

By Hannah Ball

The Fenton Downtown Development Authority approved the sale of the Fenton Fire Hall restaurant to CHAR-BAR Fenton LLC, an entity of Union Joints, for \$1 on Jan. 19.

This comes nearly nine years after the Fenton DDA entered into an agreement in which the city would lease the land to See **FIRE HALL** on 7



CHAR-BAR Fenton LLC purchased the Fenton Fire Hall restaurant building from the Fenton Downtown Development Authority for \$1.



the long line of parents picking their kids up at Tomek on Fifth Street would stop

throwing their trash and cigarette butts out of the window as they wait in line to pick up their kids."



GAVE were very impressed with the county's organization giving group 1B their COVID-19

shot at the Lake Fenton High School. It was cold out, the volunteers were efficient, friendly, helpful, and we were very impressed."

Chanks to the Consumers Powers' workers who worked late into the night yesterday Jan. 28 to restore our power on S. Lake Valley Drive in Fenton. It was a very cold night."





COMPILED BY SHARON STONE

NEW DEBIT CARD LEADS TO INVESTIGATION

On Tuesday, Jan. 13, deputies from the Genesee County Sheriff's Office responded to the 1600 block of Silver Landings in Fenton Township for an identity theft complaint. The victim told deputies that she recently received a new debit card through Chase Bank without requesting it. The victim later found out that someone obtained her Social Security number and requested a new debit card. After review of the account it was determined there was no fraudulent activity committed. This incident remains under investigation.

FENTON TOWNSHIP MAN A VICTIM OF COMPUTER VIRUS SCAM

On Wednesday, Jan. 14, deputies from the Genesee County Sheriff's Office responded to the 4000 block of Pavilion Drive in Fenton Township for a fraud report. The victim said he was on his personal computer surfing the internet and received a warning that his computer had a virus. The victim said he made contact with the company and they agreed to provide lifetime protection against viruses for \$2,500. The victim said he provided the company with a check and later felt it might not have been a good idea to do so. The victim canceled the check, however, the suspects were able to manipulate the check number and cash it. The



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company was listed out of California and later found to be fake. This incident remains under investigation.

FENTON TEEN CITED FOR DRIVING WITH NO LICENSE

On Thursday, Jan. 15, Genesee County Sheriff's deputies observed a silver Volkswagen Jetta with no registration plate on Owen Road, east of Whitaker Road. A traffic stop was initiated and contact was made with the driver who was unable to show a valid driver's license. The male driver was a 19-year-old Fenton resident. He was cited for driving while license suspended. The vehicle was impounded and the driver was released with a future court date.

Grand Blanc man charged

■ Faces up to five years in prison for being a felon in possession of ammunition after altercation in Fenton Township

By Sharon Stone

Lesley Aikins, 53, of Grand Blanc, was arraigned Jan. 28 in Genesee County 67th District Court on one count of felon in possession of ammunition. This crime carries a penalty of five years in prison and or a \$5,000 fine.

Sgt. Andrew Snyder of the Genesee County Sheriff's Office said deputies responded to a construction site in the 16000 block of Jennings Road in Fenton Township on Monday, Jan. 25 for a reported felonious assault.

Witnesses told deputies that two of the male workers began arguing and a physical altercation occurred. The victim told deputies that the suspect, Aikins, threatened him with a handgun. Aikins left the scene and later returned when deputies arrived.

The deputies were given permission by Aikins to search his vehicle. The deputies were unable to locate a handgun, however they did find several rounds of ammunition inside the vehicle. Through a records check, deputies discovered Aikins was a convicted felon, which prohibits him to possess ammunition.

The weapon that was said to be used was never found.

Approximately \$12,000 raised for Special Olympics

■Kurt Chapelle of Fenton Township organizes event after polar plunge is canceled

By Hannah Ball

A local auto group raised approximately \$12,000 for the Special Olympics with a modified Polar Plunge on Saturday, Jan. 30 with a dunk tank.

Kurt Chapelle, salesman with La-Fontaine auto group, organized the event. The annual Polar Plunge is usually held at the Moose Lodge in Fenton Township, but it was canceled this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On Saturday, more than a dozen groups or people sat on the ledge of the dunk tank and watched as people threw balls at the button that causes the seat to drop and dunk them in ice cold water. Organizers also placed tarps in the back of large pickup trucks and filled them with water. When groups participated, one person would be in the dunk tank and the others would sit on the trucks and fall into the water.

"I put on this event to help out Alikhan," Chapelle said. "He's family and he and his peers deserve this."

AliKhan Amlani is a Lake Fenton High School graduate and friend of Chapelle. He participates in the Area 13 Special Olympics group in Michigan.



Ryan LaFontaine, CEO of LaFontaine Automotive Group, was the first to go in the dunk tank. Photo: Hannah Ball

In a Facebook video the day after, Chapelle and Amlani thanked the LaFontaine family for helping putting together the event. They thanked the school districts of Lake Fenton,

Fenton and Linden. All three superintendents attended and tried to dunk each other.

"The support



State Rep. Mike Mueller watches as his wife, Angela, throws the ball to dunk him in the tank. Photo: Hannah Ball

from our local business owners was amazing," Chapelle said in the Facebook video. "The Wentworth group, Dr. Wax Orthodontics. We had Mike

> Mueller, state representative. How amazing is that? Just reminds me of what a wonderful community we live in."

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Vietnam War Fenton VFW member



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44 Just reminds me

of what a wonderful

community we live in. 77

Kurt Chapelle

Fenton Township resident

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BLESS FENTON ADOPT-A-Pet

the way to West Virginia to save

those poor puppies and dogs. This

community is so fortunate to have

such a loving organization in our

I CRIED WHEN I watched that

father in Virginia show so much

love and compassion for his family

when he screamed at the school

board of his kids' district. So glad our local districts are back to the

IF YOU VOTED for Biden and lose

voted for him because of Trump's

your job, it's your own fault. You

were warned. Admit it, you only

for making the effort to go all

backyard.

classroom.

personality.

Sharin' the spotlight

By Editor Sharon Stone

I am excited for the restaurants across the state of Michigan, especially the ones in the tri-county area, since they were allowed to reopen their dining rooms Monday, Feb. 1.

I'm also excited for people, especially our older residents who might live alone and who look forward to having breakfast and a cup of coffee at their local diner. For obvious reasons, that scenario was unlikely in an outdoor igloo.

After talking to a restaurant owner who owns a family style place that has a large breakfast and lunch

following, it really dawned on me how a casual conversation, someone else making the coffee, and the clatter of dishes being washed and meals being prepared could mean so much to so many people. For some individuals who live alone, this might be their main way to socialize.

Some restaurants couldn't offer outdoor dining. They might not have had the space to spread outdoors or they just couldn't afford the upgrades and extra headaches.

Scanning restaurant websites and their Facebook pages reveals the excitement, as well as the anxiety of reopening their dining rooms during a pandemic.

Indoor dining reopens

The last thing they want to happen is to learn of a COVID-19 exposure with an employee or diner, only to have to close their doors again.

Owners and their staff are undoubtedly prepared to showcase their clean space and possibly new menu items. Just as the case with only outdoor

dining, space will be limited



and everyone needs to be patient with service. I'm guessing that restaurants that have been offering outdoor dining will keep that option available since their indoor dining will be limited to 25-percent capacity with a maximum number of people capped at 100.

Our restaurants and everyone involved, from the

dishwashers, vendors, delivery drivers, servers, hosts, owners and more, have been hit harder from this pandemic and closures than most other professions.

My husband I ventured out to Beale St. BBQ Monday evening to see what it was like to eat indoors again at a restaurant. The seating was well spaced out and the food and service were perfect. We were not disappointed.

Be kind, be patient, continue to dress warm in case you end up outdoors again, pay attention to the instruction signs on the restaurant door, show your appreciation for your server's hard work and tip as you would like to be tipped. Remember, servers are only waiting on one quarter of guests, which means they are likely only making one quarter of what they were making pre-pandemic

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



beautiful walkway down Silver Lake Road all snow covered. The city must have something to keep it clear of snow. Just saying.

Do you think space exploration or ocean exploration is more important? | Street talk



"I think both are equally important. Space is amazing in a sense of all the technology that we have and what we are able to discover. Ocean exploration has always been fascinating to me. I've always been interested in what lies under the ocean that we haven't yet discovered.

Deborah Leigh, Fenton



"Space. If we sit by while Russia and China make all of the advances in space exploration and discovery, they will lay claim to what they find. They will also be ahead in space technology. If you don't think those countries will militarize the moon, Mars, or even just space, I have a some manmade islands with military facilities on them in the South China Sea to sell you."

Chad Green, Nashville, Tennessee



"Ocean exploration. I feel God has given us everything we need upon this planet. There is much to be discovered here!



"Space exploration is my day job, so I have to go with that!"

Jason Pellett Fenton









HOT LINE CONTINUED

JOE BIDEN'S DOG is not the first rescue dog in the White House. LBJ's was.

OKAY, I UNDERSTAND. Two vice presidents took office after two presidents were assassinated, which made Joe 47th vice president.

TO THE RUDE Walmart selfcheckout employee who would not help me key in 20 storage bins and told me 'you can do it, it's not that hard.' You gave me your name and I did not complain to a manager, just help people next time when they ask nicely.

IF WHITMER IS doing such a good job, why the blanket rejection of all Freedom of Information Act (FIOA) requests for data and documents? The intentional hiding of facts just screams guilt.

REALLY? CHILDREN IN chronic poverty and suffering just to our north, yet we travel to West Virginia to 'save' dogs? What does that say about the state of our morals?

I AM IN agreement with many of the

executive orders President Biden is signing. For those of you that disagree I hope you immediately return the \$1,400 stimulus check if passed.

MY SINCEREST THANKS to all the people and agencies connected to the COVID shots passed out at LFHS Saturday, Jan. 30. They were prompt, courteous and knew exactly what to do and how to do it. Well done.

IF STIMULIS MONEY can be printed up by hundreds of billions to help hurting Americans, could not the same be done if Social Security payments are in jeopardy?

TO THE YUPPIES that have an attitude about snowmobiles at the Linden park. We are taxpayers also and very cautious of the people walking. So stop yelling and throwing the finger at us, we also enjoy our winters. If you don't like it, walk somewhere else.

ONCE I'VE BEEN vaccinated, I won't be wearing a mask anywhere ever again. If you want to wear one to protect yourself I won't yell at you, so please don't yell at me.



Robert Soderstrom, M.D., a volunteer with the Genesee County Health Department, administers a vaccine to a woman in the Lake Fenton High School parking lot on Saturday, Jan. 30. Photo: Hannah Ball

INOCULATIONS Continued from Front Page

years ago, an agreement was made with the county emergency operations team to use the site in case of emergencies such as a pandemic. Five other school districts in the county are part of this team.

COVID-19 case numbers and hospitalizations have been trending down in the past week nationwide and in Michigan. More than 33 million people have received vaccinations in America. In Michigan, more than one million people have been vaccinated as of Monday, Feb. 1.

More than 30,000 people have preregistered online at gchd.us and are waiting for the call to make an appointment. County employees will call these people as more doses become available. They're working on a database that will sort people into the different phases.

After everyone in phase 1B is vaccinated, which is those over 65 and first responders, approximately 45 percent of the population in Genesee County will be vaccinated.



Kaye Ringler, a retired registered nurse and volunteer with the Genesee County Health Department, looks at a few doses of the Moderna vaccine in one of the vaccination tents set up in the Lake Fenton High School parking lot on Saturday, Jan. 30. Photo: Hannah Ball



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POLICE & FIRE

COMPILED BY SHARON STONE

ROLLOVER CRASH CLAIMS LIFE OF 29-YEAR-OLD BURTON MAN

On Sunday, Jan. 11, Genesee County Sheriff's deputies responded to the 2000 block of W. Thompson Road in Fenton Township for a single vehicle personal injury accident. Upon arrival, deputies observed a 2001 Chevrolet Malibu in the ditch with an unconscious male driver entrapped. The passenger, a 27-year-old New Lothrop resident, was outside of the vehicle with no injuries. The passenger said he was wearing his safety belt. The driver, a 29-year-old Burton resident, was removed by Fenton Township Fire Department using the Jaws of Life. Genesee County Sheriff Paramedics assisted. The driver was transported to Ascension Genesys in Grand Blanc Township and was initially listed in critical condition. The preliminary investigation revealed

that the vehicle was traveling westbound on Thompson Road at speeds up to 80 mph. The driver lost control of the vehicle and it rolled several times. Several days later, the driver died from his injuries. It was determined that speed and alcohol were contributing factors in the crash. The driver was not wearing his safety belt. The sheriff's office did not release the driver's name.

DEFECTIVE TAIL LIGHT LEADS TO CITATION

On Friday, Jan. 22, a Genesee County Sheriff's deputy Initiated a traffic stop on a Chevrolet Avalanche on Linden Road near Owen Road in Fenton Township due to the vehicle having a defective tail light. Contact was made with the driver, a 49-year-old Linden man. A records check on the driver showed his driver's license was suspended. The driver was cited for driving while license suspended. Deputies allowed the vehicle be turned over to the driver's wife who possessed a valid driver's license.

FIRE HALL

Continued from Front Page Union Joints and they would run the restaurant and Pumphouse custard stand.

Michael Hart, Fenton assistant city manager and DDA director, said in 2012, the city received multiple bids from private companies to take over the property and run the restaurant. CHAR-BAR, the holding company for Union Joints, was awarded the bid. This type of agreement

LThey've

been a great

partner and a

great asset to

the city and to

downtown. 77

Michael Hart

Fenton assistant citv

manager and Downtown

Development Authority

director

is called a public private partnership, or P3.

Hart said that if CHAR-BAR performed, put money into the property and made it successful, then they would have the option to own the restaurant and the pumphouse. They invested an excess of \$3 million and created more than 100 jobs.

"They had to meet certain standards, which they

did," Hart said, calling the restaurant "very successful" and that they "definitely" fulfilled their obligations.

The process for CHAR-BAR to

purchase the property began approximately a year and a half ago. As part of the sale agreement, the city still owns the parking lot and it will remain a public parking lot.

Another stipulation is that the owners have to repair the broken clock on the tower of the restaurant.

"Repairing the clock is going to be challenging because the guts of it, not the face but the internals of the clock, will have to be modernized," Hart said.

> "It's going to be an extensive and costly process."

> Hart isn't sure if a certain company that could repair the clock is still operational because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The owners are required to address the clock issue within six months.

tant city Downtown Authority or Authority the city and to downtown. We hope for them the best of success moving forward with the restaurant," Hart said.

The owners have been paying the full amount of taxes required as if it was privately held, Hart said.

MCC Board elects officers

New members sworn in by Judge Duncan Beagle

By Sharon Stone

The Mott Community College (MCC) Board of Trustees elected new officers at its Jan. 25 organizational meeting, in addition to swearing in two new board members. The organizational meeting is held every two years to swear in new trustees, elect officers and assign committee membership.

Newly elected board members Janet Couch of Mt. Morris and John H. Daly III of Flint were sworn in by the Honorable Duncan Beagle of the Genesee County Circuit Court. Both were elected to serve six-year terms that will end in 2026.

The board elected Anne Figueroa of Mt. Morris as chairperson, Art Reyes of Grand Blanc Township as vice chair, Matthew Norwood of Linden as secretary and Michael Freeman of Flint as treasurer.

"Mott Community College is

fortunate to have such capable and hardworking individuals that care about the institution on our board," said MCC President Beverly Walker-Griffea. "With this biennial cycle of board elections we had an opportunity to thank outgoing Board Chairperson Michael Freeman for his four years of service leading the trustees through some of the college's most challenging and yet successful years, and welcome incoming Chairperson Anne Figueroa."

During Freeman's tenure as board chairperson, MCC was twice named one of America's top community colleges by the Aspen Institute, the Culinary Arts Institute was opened in downtown Flint, Woodside Church was re-purposed into the Lenore Croudy Family Life Center, and renovation of the Ballenger Field House was completed.

"Mr. Freeman is truly an asset to the college, and we look forward to his continued service as our new treasurer," Walker-Griffea said.

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HOT LINE CONTINUED

IS THERE NO one in Fenton upset about the roads early morning after a snowstorm? Not a plow truck in site until after 9 a.m. or so.

INSTEAD OF RAISING the hourly wage to \$15, why not just add a zero to all the paper money. That way, instead of making \$12 an hour you will make \$120 an hour. Of course, \$5 gas will be \$50 but think of all the paper you will have.

CORRECTION, THE

REPUBLICANS in our state decided to tax our pensions. Republican governor, Republican house, and Republican senate taxed our pensions to give businesses a tax cut. Facts matter.

BIDEN IS REALLY good at

down now.

signing executive orders and doing as he's told.

C'MON DEBBIE STABENOW and Gary Peters. You know darn well that making D.C. a state would be unconstitutional, yet you go along with it. Why? You need to step

nes

VIEWarspape



The right to a speedy trial and the pandemic

One of the most basic and fundamental rights that a criminal defendant has is the right to a speedy trial as guaranteed by both the United States and Michigan constitutions.

The present pandemic has made all of us subject to a number of restrictions. I won't detail them here except for one - because of necessary public health and safety measures ordered by the Michigan Supreme Court limiting live court proceedings, there has been a very significant reduction in the number of criminal jury trials held since March, 2020.

As a result, the question now being asked is what effect this has on defendants' speedy trial rights? Someday this question will be answered. In the meantime, the



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on the proposition that an accused's guilt or innocence must be decided promptly.

MIDWEEK TIMES

There is no fixed number of days of delay after which the right can be said to be violated.

> Instead, whether an accused's right has been violated depends on a consideration of four factors:

following is a brief summary of

Michigan law as to determining

The right to a speedy trial is based

speedy trial right violations.

• The length of delay,

• The reason for the delay,

• The defendant's assertion of the right, and

• The prejudice to the defendant.

When there is a delay of 18 months or more, prejudice is presumed, and the burden shifts to the prosecution to show that there was no injury. A presumptively prejudicial delay triggers an inquiry into other factors to determine if there's been a violation.

Delays that are due to docket congestion are given only minimal weight in deciding if a violation occurred.

Prosecutorial negligence is not weighed heavily in favor of finding a violation.

Delays attributable to the defendant are not held against the prosecutor.

There are two types of prejudice. The first is prejudice to the defendant's person, which means being incarcerated during the delay. The second is prejudice to the defense when the delay results in the defendant not being able to prepare an adequate defense.

A finding of a speedy trial right violation requires the case to be dismissed.

This is a true "pandemic question" and the answer will ultimately come from Michigan's Appellate Courts. We'll see what happens.

TEXT YOUR HOT LINE 810-771-TEXT (8398) Times



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Compiled by Sharon Stone —

MichiganVotes.org is a free, non-partisan website created by the Mackinac Center for Public Policy to provide concise, nonpartisan, plain-English descriptions of every bill and vote in the Michigan House and Senate. This report was released Friday, Jan. 29.

The new 101st Michigan Legislature resumed sessions this week after a weeklong suspension. It will likely be several more weeks before new bills advance through committees and are taken up by the full House or Senate for a vote. There was one politically meaningful action this week when the Senate Republican majority brought forward a vote to disapprove 13 administrative board and commission appointments made by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer. This was said to be a protest against Gov. Whitmer for not engaging the legislature in the state's coronavirus epidemic response decisions, and passed on a 19-14 party line vote with three members absent. Five proposals to amend the state constitution have been introduced in the legislature's opening days, and are described below. To become law, constitutional amendments must be placed on the ballot and approved by a majority of voters. To be placed on the ballot, a constitutional amendment proposed by legislators must receive a two-thirds majority vote in the House and Senate.

Senate Joint Resolution A: Remove university spending from allowable School Aid Fund uses

Introduced by Sen. Tom Barrett (R), to place before voters in the next general election a constitutional amendment to strip-out language currently in the Constitution of 1963 allowing tax revenue earmarked to the state "School Aid Fund" to be used for state universities. Tax dollars earmarked to this fund could only be spend on K-12 public schools and community colleges.

Senate Joint Resolution B: Equalize school district funding

Introduced by Sen. Tom Barrett (R), to place before voters in the next general election a constitutional amendment to require that by Oct. 1, 2024, all school districts receive the same amount of total state and local per pupil revenue for school operating purposes.



Fenton had representation at Let Us Play rally

By David Troppens

Korryn Smith should be taking jump shots this time of year.

The Fenton senior girls basketball player should be grabbing rebounds, playing defense and occasionally cheering her fellow teammates from the bench during what should be the final weeks of the varsity girls basketball season prior

to the start of district play.

But instead of playing a game on Friday night, her practices involved noncontact sessions, and that's not supposed to change until at least Feb. 21 according to Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's most recent extension to winter sports that involve physical contact. Those sports include basketball, wrestling and hockey.

"Practices are very different than usual." Smith said. "There's not much more to do because after one day of non-contact practice, every day is pretty much the same. We are doing a lot of conditioning. We need contact sooner than later. I'm hoping that happens."

Smith was one of around 1,000 Mich-See PLAY on 11

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Fenton's Korryn Smith went to Saturday's Let Us Play Rally at the Capitol House in Lansing. Photo provided

Sports Times

Spencer makes easy work of Seldon, improves to 12-0 : Fenton

By David Troppens

Joey Spencer's 12th professional boxing match of his career was delayed about two or three minutes Saturday night, because the paramedic on ringside couldn't be found.

The delay was longer than the actual bout. Spencer had one of his most impressive professional showings, knocking out Isiah Seldon twice in a span of 135 seconds, improving his record to 12-0 with nine knockouts.

"It felt good," Spencer said. "This fight was at middleweight. Usually I'm at 154 (pounds) and the fact he was bigger than me could've made things uncomfortable for me. But I knew if I hit him on his chin, it was going to be over."

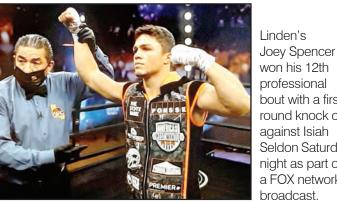
Seldon, who entered the bout with a 14-3-1 record, never had a chance as Spencer had to land about 10 punches to finish his night on a FOX Network broadcast of Premier Boxing Champions at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles.

Spencer and Seldon were the first bout of the primetime event (there was an undercard program prior to the start of the prime time show) and Spencer dominated from the start. He landed a nice left-right combination about a minute into the first round. The straight right recorded his first knock out of the son of former heavyweight champion Bruce Seldon.

When action began again, Seldon tangled up Spencer and delivered three illegal overhand right chops to the back of Spencer's head. The illegal tactic cost Seldon two points on the scorecard. But it didn't really matter much because a left shot to Seldon's head dropped him for the second time and the fight was called by knockout.

"Normally I would've retaliated if someone hit me in the back of the head like that. I would've hit him in the back of the head," Spencer said. "I still have a headache (this phone interview was done about five hours after the fight) because I took those shots. I didn't because I knew he was done and hurt. He was trying to buy time and I didn't want him to get DQ'd. I was able to get the knockout win and not get the DQ."

Spencer has fought on television in 11 of his 12 bouts. Still only 20, Spencer's strength commanded Seldon's respect from the opening second. Spencer's physical maturation and strength maturation were evi-





(more)

dent from the start.

"I just know I am getting bigger, stronger and I'm getting older," Spencer said. "Things are changing in the gym. (During) COVID I ended up not wasting any time. I've been

won his 12th professional bout with a firstround knock out against Isiah Seldon Saturday • night as part of a FOX network broadcast.

strength training with Josh

Kosier, my strength and con-

ditioning coach. ... I've gotten

•

swimmers win first meet of season

By David Troppens

The Fenton varsity boys swimming and diving team are nine-time defending Flint Metro League champions.

It looks like the squad wants to extend its league championship run to a decade if the Tigers' first league meet is any indication. The Tigers defeated the Swartz Creek/Flushing coop team by a 113-63 score.

Fenton took first place in 11 events. Three swimmers finished with firsts in four events - Jack Fries, Max Haney and Gavin Crews. All three swimmers took part in the 200 freestyle relay, teaming with Kaz Sieja to win with a time of 1:34.70. Crews and Haney combined with Evan Koch and Braden Falvo to win the 400 freestyle relay (93:41.20). Finally, Fries teamed with Sieja, Falvo and Koch to win the 200 medley relay (1:50.87).

Individually, Fries took the top spot in the 200 freestyle more natural strength and also (1:57.94) and in the 100 backstrength I've devel- • stroke (1:00.11).

See SPENCER on 10 CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM

Despite low numbers, Bronchos give Oxford a battle in first meet of season

By David Troppens

The Holly varsity boys swim team has low numbers.

The squad currently has just 10 athletes on the team.

Yet, the Bronchos gave a pretty good showing in their first meet of the season.

The Bronchos won eight of the 12 events but the team's numbers hurt the squad when it came to earning depth points, resulting in a 100-81 loss to Oxford High School.

"I was encouraged by how well we managed to do with the very small amount of practice time we have managed to get in so far," Holly varsity boys swimming coach Kurtis Knight said. "To be honest I wasn't expecting any crazy times from my guys since many of them have not built up enough endurance yet with only about a week of practice time so far, but there were a couple of swims the other night that surprised me and have given me an inclination to believe that there will be some really nice levels of improvements made as the season goes forward." The COVID pandemic and the recent pause meant that swim teams haven't been able to train as early this winter as they usually can.

"Its main impact has been on the delayed start to our season," Knight said. "Usually we would already have been in the pool for about two months at this point. When it comes to the actual competitions we have limited spectators due to social distancing concerns."

Drew Hignite and Zachary Rockafellow had outstanding first meets, both winning all four events they competed in. Hignite and Rockafellow teamed with Collin Wilczak and Brandon Strickert to win the 200 medley relay (2:02.17). They also ended the event by teaming with Nathan Costigan and Shane Valerio to win the 400 freestyle relay (4:24.02). Meanwhile, individually, Hignite won the 200 individual medley (2:28.89) and the 100 breaststroke (1:08.82) while Rockafellow won the 100 backstroke (1:11.86) and the 100 butterfly (1:10.68).

Three Holly athletes captured individual firsts. Wilczak took the top





Holly's Nathan Costigan and Collin Wilczak dive in the pool during the 200 freestyle in a meet against Oxford. The Holly Bronchos earned first-place finishes in eight of the 12 events. **Photo: Christopher Summers**

spot in the 200 freestyle (2:24.92) while Strickert won the 500 freestyle (6:37.90).

The Bronchos had two individual

SPENCER Continued from Page 9

oped in the gym. And then my boxing, I'm boxing like crazy. People aren't taking my punches the same way they used to and it's bringing me a lot of confidence, so yeah I did expect (the knock out) to happen."

Hours later, Spencer reflected on more on his added strength created through hard work at the gym and just because he's naturally maturing.

"It's interesting. I'd hear people say when you get older things just change and you become so much more powerful," Spencer said. "I feel more powerful now. They can't take my punches any more. I feel this different type of energy. My whole body is behind it and it gives me a lot of confidence. Give me one more year and I'll be ready for anybody."

Prior to the start of the fight, referee Jerry Cantu warned both fighters that it wouldn't be a street brawl. Apparently, he was well warranted about his warnings as Seldon, nicknamed "Zoo" tried to rough it up the one chance he got with the illegal blows.

"I'm an intense fighter," Spencer said.

second-place finishes. Wilczak earned runner-up honors in the 100 butterfly (1:21.31) while Costigan took second in the 100 backstroke (1:20.64).

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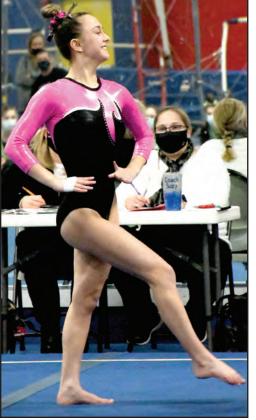
"I was coming in here and I knew that he was planning on being bigger than me and was planning on roughing me up. That's what he said during some interviews this week, so I was coming into town and not having it. ... Now after the fight there's no hard feelings but that's what I was bringing to the table coming into the fight. And it's the intensity I brought from my training camp.

"(Cantu) was trying to head off what happened with the behind the head shots, that wasn't going to happen so it wasn't on my side."

It was just Spencer's second fight in the last year, but as Spencer mentioned there hasn't been a break in the gym, and it showed. It was his first knock out in the first round since beating Cory Macon by knockout in 2:36 on Sept. 30, 2018. It was his second-fastest pro bout of his career. The fastest was his second fight, a 55-second knockout victory against Ousmane Sylla on April 13, 2018. Saturday night's fight was Spencer's first scheduled eight-round bout of his pro career.

He expects his next fight will be in the spring.

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM



Apryl Smith competes on the floor exercise during the LFLF gymnastics team's first meet of the season on Saturday. Photo: Christopher Summers

PLAY **Continued from Page 9**

igan student-athletes, coaches and parents that attended Saturday's Let Them Play rally at the Capitol House in Lansing. She attended the event with two of her teammates - Kyla Lynch and Lauren Gangwer.

.

"There was a Facebook group that started out small and as soon as I saw the movement was happening I wanted to be a part of it," Smith said. "I just want basketball back. Everyone is going through mental things and it was very heartbreaking to hear the stories from people going through things that I go through as well. I was glad to see all of the athletes."

This was the third Let Them Play rally that has been held at the Capitol House since the pandemic began. The goal is to get kids back to the sports they love by trying to pressure Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) to lift the COVID restrictions by the end of the weekend. Since that didn't happen, the Let Them Play Michigan advocacy group has filed a complaint against the

LFLF gymnastics team excited about 2021 season while overcoming COVID

By David Troppens

Nancy Holden has been coaching the Linden/Fenton/Lake Fenton co-op girls gymnastics team for six years.

Her seventh season is going to be a bit different than anyother she's experienced with the squad. Of course that has a lot to do with the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It has been a struggle," Holden said. "We started practice for two weeks, and then we got shut down for eight weeks. We have been back at it for only two weeks and we then we had our first meet."

That first meet was Saturday. In it, the LFLF team posted a team score of 135.175 against the Milford co-op squad at the

new director of the MDHHS Elizabeth Hertel. The letter urges Hertel to issue a new emergency health order allowing for the immediate return of winter contact sports, practices and games. The Michigan senate also took action on Thursday, pressuring the MDHHS to allow all winter sports to be played. Previous rallies took place in late August and during December.

There were many speakers including ex-Red Wing Darren McCarty. Many students spoke, including one of Smith's travel basketball teammates. Brenna Bartlett.

"We should be able to play," Smith said. "I'm at home and I turn on the TV and see college athletes playing. It's crazy because they are only three to five years older than us and we can't even have contact in practice.

"I'm willing to get tested weekly and wear masks. I just want to play, especially for the seniors."

The Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) also is pushing for an earlier start than the current Feb. 21 date.

Hartland Sports Center's Bounce House.

We started our first meet with a 135.175 and I thought that was a great start for us," Holden said. "We are only going to grow from that. They are motivated, getting in condition and I think they are going to do well. I'm very happy with their performance."

The squad has nine athletes with two seniors on the squad — returning state qualifiers Lauren Hayden and Apryl Smith.

"Our two seniors are our captains and they are doing a fantastic job," Holden said. "They've been two wonderful leaders for the team and they are showing everybody the ropes and motivating the girls. The

dynamics of this team are awsesome. I couldn't ask for a better group of girls to get together. Sometimes when you are mixing these schools together they get in their little groups of their school, but that is not the case this year. They are all mingling and becoming great buddies."

The LFLF team's leaders had strong first meets with Maty Temrowski, Hayden and Smith scoring one of the squad's scoring performances in each event. All three were All-State performers a year ago despite the fact the state meet was canceled due to COVID-19. The state gave All-State honors to girls who qualified highly at regional meets.

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM

: Fenton boys bowlers post strong start

By David Troppens

The Fenton varsity boys • bowling team almost had a prefect start to the Flint Metro League season at Grand Blanc • Lanes on Saturday.

The Tigers dominated Owosso 28-2. The girls weren't as for-• tunate, losing to Owosso 28-2.

The Fenton boys won both Baker games, 193-161 and 197-182, which gave the Tigers a • large 10-0 lead.

In match play, the Tigers posted team scores of 824 and 863. Jake Durant and Tate Temrows- ki each recorded 399 two-game series scores, while Peyton Jackson bowled a 362. Jimmy Myers • rolled a high game of 167.

The Fenton girls had Baker games of 99 and 118. In match play, the Tigers had team series scores of 615 and 691. .

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM



44We want

everyone to

know that we are

following all of the

CDC guidelines

because the

health and safety

of our customers

and staff are our

top priority. 77

Mark Ruhlig

Villagers Restaurant owner



Servers Lori St. Claire (left) and Ashley Runyon were ready to welcome back their regulars and new guests Monday, Feb. 1, at Villagers Restaurant in Holly. **Submitted photo**

RESTAURANTS

Continued from Front Page 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic and mandated closures and restrictions.

The National Restaurant Association released key findings regarding the impact of coronavirus on the overall restaurant industry, which include:

• Restaurant and foodservice industry sales fell by \$240 billion in 2020 from an expected level of \$899 billion.

• As of Dec. 1, 2020, more than 110,000 eating and drinking places were closed for business temporarily, or for good.

• The eating and drinking place sector finished 2020 nearly 2.5 million jobs below its pre-coronavirus level.

The Times reached out to a few local restaurants to see what reopening the dining rooms means to them.

Villagers Restaurant in Holly re-

opened its dining room Monday, Feb. 1. Owners/ brothers Mark and Mike Ruhlig were looking forward to seeing guests. The restaurant's hours are 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. "We are so happy to welcome customers back into our dining room and thankful for our employees who have been patiently waiting to get back to work," Mark said.

"It's been sonice to see regulars that we haven't seen in a very long time. Our first customer of the day said, 'I can't tell you how nice it is

to come in and eat my favorite Villagers' breakfast. I've missed this so much!"

Mark said they are so thankful for the support they've received from the Holly



community to help them get through a very difficult year.

"We want everyone to know that we are following all of the CDC guidelines because the health and safety of our customers and staff are our top priority," Mark Ruhlig said. "We look forward

to having a full dining room when the rules permit, but until then, we will serve up to 25 percent capacity as set by the MDHHS (Michigan Department of Health and Human Services) mandate.

"I don't think a lot of people realize the widespread effect the restaurant shutdowns have had. It's not just the owners and employees; it's also the customers and the vendors."

Ruhlig said their vendors will still be affected since the food orders will still not be close to normal. "They have mouths to feed too. Hopefully we will be at full capacity soon, and people won't be so afraid to dine out."

Here's a sampling of a few other restaurants in area and when they are reopening their dining rooms.

The **Fenton Hotel Tavern & Grill** reopened Tuesday, Feb. 2. They are taking reservations for Valentine's Day specials for Feb. 13 and 14. To reserve a table, call (810) 750-9463.

Shirley's Café and Grille in downtown Linden is a breakfast and brunch restaurant. They opened for indoor dining Tuesday, Feb. 2. Their hours are Tuesday - Saturday 7a.m.-2 p.m. and Sunday 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

The Meeting Place (TMP) on Owen Road in Fenton reopened Feb. 2. Adhering to the 25-percent capacity and 10 p.m. curfew, they close no later than 9 p.m.

The **Corner Bar & Grill** on Owen Road in Fenton reopened its indoor dining room Feb. 1. Outdoor seating remains available. They suggest reservations.

The **Blackthorn Pub** in Holly reopened its dining room Feb. 1 at 4 p.m. As with all restaurants Blackthorn Pub will be limited to 25-percent capacity and must close at 10 p.m. Seating is first come, first served.

Ciao Italian Bistro in downtown Fenton reopened its dining room at 11 a.m., Monday, Feb. 1.

The Laundry in Fenton reopens today, Feb. 3.



Rosie the Riveter welcomes travelers

Statue unveiled at Flint's Bishop International Airport

Compiled by Sharon Stone

Back to the Bricks and the Flint Women's Forum unveiled the 10th statue in the Automobile Heritage Collection, "Rosie the Riveter" at Flint Bishop International Airport.

Rosie is the first female to join the Automobile Pioneers collection.

On hand to assist with the presentation and unveiling was Executive Director of Back to the Bricks and President of the Flint Women's Forum Amber Taylor, and sculptor Joe Rundell, a Flint native who made the Rosie Statue out of clay, and many others.

Airport Director Nino Sapone said, "Hundreds of thousands of passengers use this airport to access our region every year. It is an honor to have been chosen to showcase this wonderful statue. Since the original Rosie the Riveter worked on the line at an aircraft factory in Michigan, and other Flint-area factories during WWII, where better to display this statue than at our area's aviation and industrial hub gateway?"

Here's what is required at restaurants:

• No more than six people to a table, with tables set at least 6 feet apart

• No more than 100 people or 25

Percent capacity, whichever is smallerNo mingling with other patrons

outside your dinner group or in common areas or other places, such as dance floors

• All restaurants must obtain contact information for every person who eats indoors.

• If an employee contracts

COVID-19 or shows symptoms at work, the venue must shut down until a deep cleaning is conducted.

Times



DEADLINES: SUNDAY PAPER: Display Ads: Wednesday 3 p.m. • Line Ads: Noon Thursday • WEDNESDAY PAPER: Display Ads: Monday 3 p.m. • Line Ads: Noon Tuesday

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Service Directory



Times

Obituaries

January 30,

2021. Per the

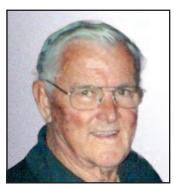
family's request

cremation has

taken place

and a private

service will be



Harold "Harry" Ermal Collard

1931 - 2021

Harold "Harry" Ermal Collard - age 89, passed away at Bayview in Bradenton, Florida on Wednesday, January 27, 2021. Harry was born on March 21, 1931 in Owosso the son of Ermal and Mildred (Rathburn) Collard. He graduated from Owosso High School and served in the Korean War. In 1964, he married Joan Hill. They owned Lil' House of Carpet in Fenton until retiring in Palmetto, Florida. He spent his days fishing while he was able. He will be greatly missed by wife, Joan; four children. Rick (Piri) Collard, Tracy (George) Pellett, Michael (Helena) Collard, Michael (Candi) Jordan.; 15 grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Donald; daughter, Cheryl Trewhella; sons, Tom and Mark Jordan. Private family funeral services will be held.

Public visitation with social distancing restrictions will be held 5 - 7 PM Friday, February 5, 2021 at Sharp Funeral Homes, Fenton Chapel, 1000 Silver Lake Road, Fenton. Tributes may be shared at www. sharpfuneralhomes.com.





Warren R. "Jack" Furry - age 77, of Linden, died Saturday,

held at a later date. Those desiring may make contributions to St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church. Jack was born April 29, 1943 in Johnstown, PA, the son of Cletus and Irene (Carbaugh) Furry. He was a 1963 graduate of Johnstown High School in Johnstown, PA He married Rosann V. Ciaravella August 31, 1963 in Johnstown, PA. He had resided in Linden since 1994 coming from Milford. Jack retired in 1999 from Ford Motor Company in Wixom as an Engineer. He also owned and operated J and R Antiques, Hair Establishment, J & R Video, and



Warren R. "Jack" Furry

Summit Cafe all in Milford and The Linden Hotel in Linden. He was a member of the Milford Police Auxiliary from 1971-1977 and had also drove ambulances. Surviving are his wife of 57 years, Rosann; daughters, roud of Ecoton

Karen (David) Stroud of Fenton, and Sharon Flowers of Linden; granddaughters, Courtney, Taylor, and Skylar Stroud of Fenton, and Hailey and Hannah Flowers of Linden; brother, Robert Furry of FL; and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; son, Michael Furry; and sisters, Shirley Furry and Doris Richie. Tributes may be shared at www.sharpfuneralhomes. com.



FUNERAL ETIQUETTE WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP LATER?

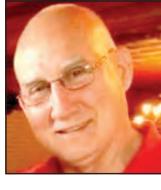
In the days and months to come, the family will continue to need your support. Try to write or call on a regular basis. Continue to include them in your social plans, they will let you know when they are ready to participate. It is also nice to remember the

family on special occasions during the first year following the death. Don't worry about bringing up the pain and emotion of the loss, they are well aware of that. By remembering such occasions as wedding anniversaries and birthdays, you are not remembering the death, but reaffirming that a life was lived.

Source: Thefuneralsource.org

Lanny T. Lloyd

1951 - 2021



years. He attended the Cornerstone Church, was an avid chess player, and loved to watch Jeopardy. Surviving are his wife ,Paula; five children, David Lloyd, Danielle Shorrock, Kelly Benson,

Heather Israel, and Aubree Lloyd; 12 grandchildren, Mitchell, Zachary, Wesley, Sawyer, Ayla, Emmett, Luke, Isabel, Arthur, Desmond, Hendrick, and Hazel; seven siblings, Will Lloyd, Nina Lloyd, Ina Veenhuis, Terry Lloyd, Rita Lloyd, Zach Lloyd, and Rochelle Hanner. He was preceded in death by his parents; and brother, Eric Llovd. Memorial donation may be made to the Cornerstone Church or the American Heart Association. **www.** dryerfuneralhomeholly.com.

VOTES

Continued from Page 8

Lanny T. Lloyd

died Saturday,

2021. Funeral

- age 69, of

January 30,

services will

be held at 11

AM Friday,

February 5,

2021 at the

Church of

Highland.

Burial will

Cornerstone

be in Lakeside Cemetery,

Holly. Visitation with social

distancing restrictions will

be from 2 - 5 and 7 - 9 PM

Thursday, February 4 at the

Dryer Funeral Home, Holly.

July 14, 1951 to Henry and

and supporting husband,

from General Motors and

was a Fenton High School

Varsity Baseball coach for 18

father and grandfather, and

he loved spending time with

his grandkids. He was retired

Mr. Lloyd was born in Flint on

Minnie Lou (Lancaster) Lloyd.

Lanny was a loving, dedicated

Highland,

Senate Joint Resolution C: Repeal constitutional prohibition on graduated state income tax

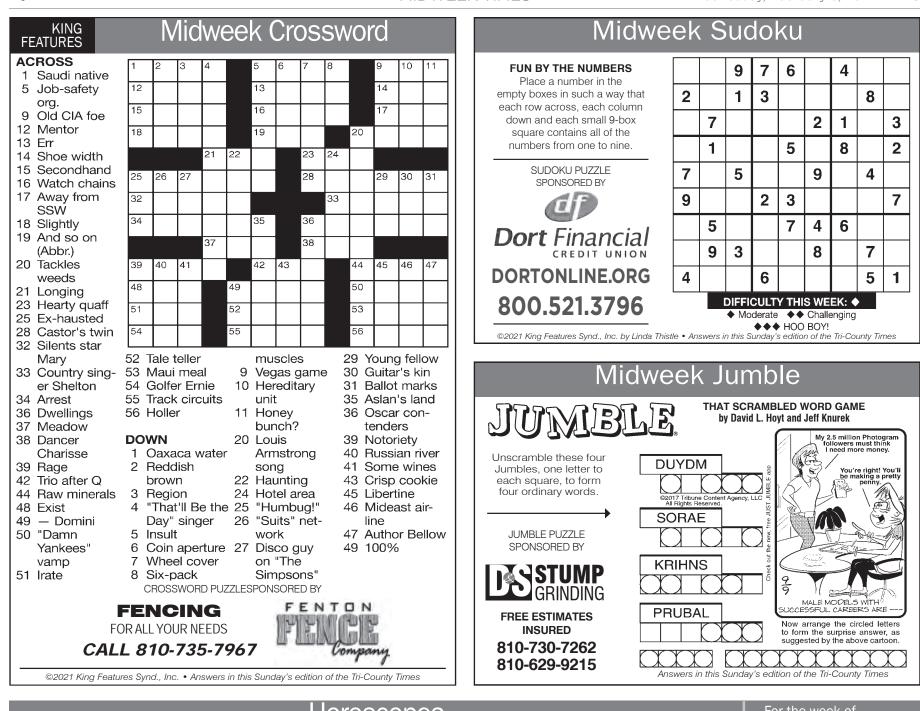
Introduced by Sen. Jeff Irwin (D), to place before voters in the next general election a constitutional amendment to repeal the current prohibition on imposing a graduated state income tax (as opposed to Michigan's current flat tax). This would not apply to the income taxes imposed by some Michigan cities.

House Joint Resolution A: Require two-thirds vote on "lame duck" session bills

Introduced by Rep. Jason Wentworth (R), to place before voters in the next general election a Constitutional amendment to require that bills passed in a "lame duck" legislative session held after the election in an even year must get a two-thirds House and Senate majority vote to become law.

House Joint Resolution B: Ban lame duck legislative session after election

Introduced by Rep. Gary Howell (R), to place before voters in the next general election a Constitutional amendment to prohibit lame duck" legislative sessions in even years (meaning election years). The proposal would make the Friday before the November general election the last day legislative sessions may be held in even years.



ARIES

Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, your ideas may seem a bit fantastical to the people who are closest to you. It could be time to expand your reach a little bit and pitch your thoughts to others.

TAURUS Apr 21/May 21

A financial surprise may require extra attention early in the week, Taurus. Take a step back and look at things from a new perspective as you try to adjust.

GEMINI

May 22/Jun 21 Gemini, expressing how you feel to someone special is key to your personal growth this week. Don't hesitate to share your thoughts and open yourself up.

CANCER Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, sometimes routines can be a good thing even if you feel as though change is needed. Knowing what to expect when other things are off-kilter can be comforting.

Horoscopes

LEO

Jul 23/Aug 23 A supervisor may ask you to take the lead on a project that is right in your wheelhouse, Leo. Put in the extra effort to help ensure the results will be top notch.

VIRGO

Aug 24/Sept 22 Your perception may be altered through a sudden modification in the way you think, Virgo. This can be a refreshing change for you and open up new possibilities.

LIBRA

Sept 23/Oct 23 Libra, facilitate conversations with new people to broaden your opportunities for social interaction. This may lead to friendships or even promising business

opportunities. SCORPIO Oct 24/Nov 22

Thoughts may pop in and out of your mind, Scorpio. The trick is to figure out how to weed out the pertinent ideas from the fluff. Ask others to weigh in if need be.

SAGITTARIUS Nov 23/Dec 21

Emotions run high between you and your partner this week, Sagittarius. Enjoy the ride as this outpouring of emotions will strengthen your bond.

CAPRICORN Dec 22/Jan 20

Sometimes others do not even need to speak for you to infer what they are feeling, Capricorn. This is a good gift to have and can bring you closer to those around you.

For the week of **February 1, 2021**

AQUARIUS

Jan 21/Feb 18 Aquarius, a recognition of your specific talents and skills is conveyed to you by others. It may inspire you to work on a new

project or change departments. PISCES

Feb 19/Mar 20

Knowing and expressing just how you feel can help you to troubleshoot areas that need a bit of modification, Pisces. Be honest with yourself.

SCHEDULE YOUR MAMMOGRAM AND OB/GYN APPOINTMENTS ONLINE

McLaren Fenton now offers expanded and personalized care for women including online appointment scheduling.

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