

Oakland County warns of COVID-19 related phone scam

■ Caller asks for personal and financial information
Compiled by Sharon Stone

Oakland County is warning residents of a potential scam related to COVID-19 vaccine appointments.

According to reports, the caller is asking questions in order to schedule a vaccine

appointment, and then is asking for personal and financial information.

“Oakland County will never ask for any financial information including credit card or Social Security numbers,” said Leigh-Anne

“Oakland County will never ask for any financial information including credit card or Social Security numbers.”

Leigh-Anne Stafford
Oakland County health officer

Stafford, health officer for Oakland County. “If you are unsure if it is a scam, avoid sharing any personal information over the phone, and report it to the authorities.”

Concerned residents can report scam calls by calling the non-emergency phone

number at the local police department or Oakland County Sheriff’s Office.

Avoid becoming a victim of phone scams or identify theft by:

- Making a list of contact information for family

See **PHONE SCAM** on 8



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Midweek Times

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\$1.00

How the pandemic will affect your taxes

■ People age 24 and under could be disappointed by refund

By Hannah Ball

With millions of people on unemployment last year and continuing into this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, filing taxes will be more complicated.

See **TAXES** on 9

“COVID has really impacted almost everybody’s tax returns.”

Norma Pray

H&R Block tax professional and enrolled agent



Image: provisionliving.com

This is an artist rendition of the new Provision Living on Fenway Drive in Fenton.



Provision Living is under construction in Fenton. The 56-unit facility will be 42,688 square feet on a 7.9-acre parcel (highlighted in red) on Fenway Drive.

Construction begins

■ Provision Living breaks ground on 42,688-square-foot facility

By Sharon Stone

Groundwork has begun on the new Provision Living assisted living and memory care facility on Fenway Drive in Fenton City. The facility ex-

pects to be done and open by the end of the year.

The 42,688-square-foot facility will have 40 assisted living units and 16 memory care units on the 7.9-acre parcel. The property is just north of McDunnough, Inc.

See **PROVISION** on 8

Linden’s Beacon & Bridge continues redevelopment plans

■ Building to be placed on north side of the property facing E. Broad Street

By Hannah Ball

Beacon & Bridge will move forward with its originally approved plans for redevelopment.

During the Monday, Feb. 22 Linden City Council meeting, See **PLANS** on 6

“Beacon & Bridge would like to begin the raze and rebuild this spring.”

Scott Nelson

Quick-Sav Food Stores/Beacon & Bridge Markets vice president



“Thank you for the article on gas prices. People blame politicians for the rise in price

when most of it is due to the pandemic. They sure went down at the start and now as things are opening, they go back up. Supply and demand.”



“Much appreciation to the staff at the Linden Rite Aid pharmacy. A computer issue caused Thursday’s COVID

vaccine appointments to be double booked. Pharmacy staff members were working hard to accommodate everyone in a less than ideal situation. Thank you to them.”

“Thank you Times editor and publisher for printing a great many Hot lines that would never see the light of day in a major daily paper, radio, or TV newscast.”



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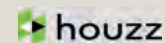
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■ Nearly 800,000 registered watercrafts on file with Michigan Secretary of State

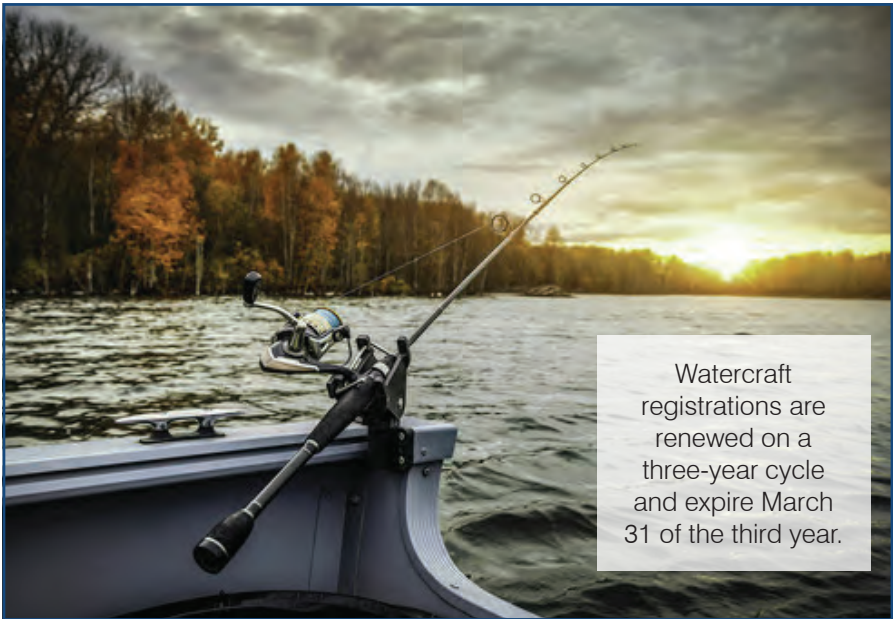
Ahead of this year’s boating season, Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson reminds watercraft users to renew their registrations online or at a self-service station.

“Customers can renew their watercraft registration from the safety and comfort of their home on our website or at one of the many self-service stations located across our state,” Benson said. “As we roll out upgrades to our online services this spring, customers will find it even more convenient to do business with the Secretary of State.”

Customers can visit Michigan.gov/SOS, click the link for online services, and chose from two options for renewing watercraft:

- An online express option for quick renewals.
- An online authenticated renewal process, which allows customers to access their customer record and conduct other transactions along with their watercraft renewal. They also may print a copy of their renewed registration.

Michigan residents can also locate a self-service station at Michigan.gov/



Watercraft registrations are renewed on a three-year cycle and expire March 31 of the third year.

SOS by clicking the link for self-service stations.

Watercraft registrations are renewed on a three-year cycle and expire March 31 of the third year. The Department of State will send out approximately 248,523 renewal notices to boat owners this spring. There are 797,706 registered watercrafts on file with the Secretary of State.

All watercraft, including those on pri-

vately owned lakes and waterways, must be registered except for the following:

- Watercraft 16 feet or less, propelled by oars or paddles that aren’t used for rental or commercial purposes
- Nonmotorized canoes and kayaks not used for rental or commercial purposes
- Rafts, surfboards, sailboards and swim floats, regardless of length
- Watercraft registered in another state and used only temporarily in Michigan

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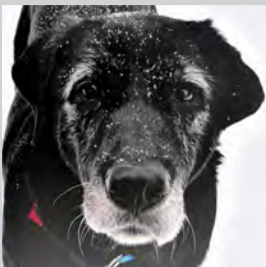
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Building Brands

The other day I came upon a scene no pet parent wants — a wet couch cushion. Apparently, one of our dogs was a little too sound asleep and had an accident.

I didn't even know where to begin and eventually determined I needed an upholstery cleaner.

While I figured out how and where to get one, I moved the cushion to the bathroom and shut the door. I wandered into the guest room where the dogs often nap in the sunshine and laid down too. I was defeated. The cushion was a stressor I did not need in the middle of a busy week. I let the sun hit my face, rested my eyes and took a moment to collect myself.

We've been in the pandemic for nearly a year and while there's been a lot of talk about protecting one's mental health, I'm not sure how many of us are doing it. Family, work, pets — they tend to get in the way of taking care of yourself. Taking that midday break in the sun was exactly what I needed.

The New York Times (NYT) recently reported that the French Labor Ministry will allow employees to eat lunch at their desks to contain the spread of the coronavirus. This story caught my eye because 1. Who knew it was previously forbidden to eat lunch at your desk in France and 2. I hope the French Labor Ministry reinstates this act as forbidden as soon as possible. Eating lunch at your desk should be a crime globally.

Of course I know tons of people who eat lunch at their desk, myself included. But if we could all be a little more French and think of this as a forbidden act, I

Treat yourself to a break

think we'd be better off.

Besides a chance to nourish our bodies, a nice break also allows time to think.

A recent NYT newsletter featured an article on George Shultz, the secretary of state under Ronald Reagan. Shultz died this winter at 100 years old. In the 1980s, he developed a weekly ritual in which he closed the door to his office and sat down with a pen and paper for an hour. He could only be interrupted if his wife or the President called. According to the story, this hour allowed him "to clear his mind and think about big ideas, rather than the minutiae of government work."

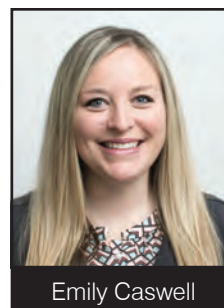
As the reporter points out, this advice is even more useful today since we are constantly interrupted by emails, texts and more. From the story "Letting your mind wander, Sandi Mann, a British psychologist, has said, 'makes us more creative, better at problem-solving, better at

coming up with creative ideas.'"

Most of my big ideas (story ideas, design concepts, column topics and event plans) happen while I'm on vacation, taking a shower or laying in a silent room with two dogs who make me both love and question pet ownership.

Those of us who truly love what we do need breaks to get even better at what we do. Shultz was certainly successful in his career and if his life span of 100 years is any indication, he was successful at taking care of himself too. I wonder how clean his couches were.

What do you do to take care of yourself? Email me at ecaswell@mihomepa-per.com.



Emily Caswell

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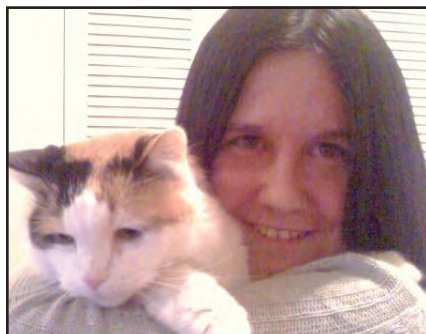
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Compiled by Hannah Ball, staff reporter — Question asked to Tri-County Times' Facebook followers

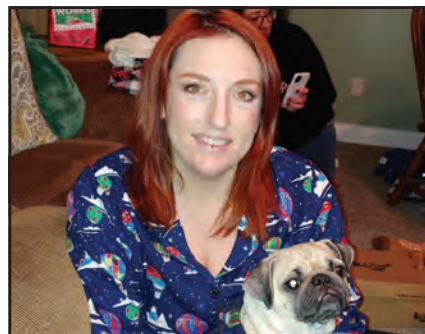
Do you prefer to binge watch shows or watch one episode per week?

streettalk



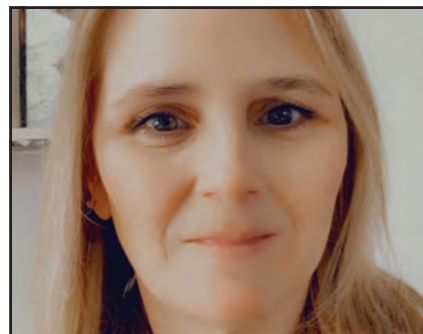
"Mandelorian and Cobra Kai we binged watched!"

Ann Rogulsky
Fenton



"Binge watch! I'm more likely to lose interest if I have to wait every week."

Courtney Smith
Holly



"I do both depending on how much free time I have. Usually like to stretch it out so I can enjoy it longer."

Vanessa Griggs
Fenton



"I love to binge watch!"

Patricia Cram Hughes
Fenton

Hotlines

*Submit Hot lines online at myfenton.com
or text to 510-771-5295*

All submissions, if approved for publication, must be 50 words or less and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Tri-County Times. We reserve the right to edit for clarity, length and liability.

JUST LIKE CUOMO in New York, Whitmer is fudging COVID-19 death counts to hide the impact of her nursing home policy. Look at Jan. 23: State reported 221 daily deaths with an asterisk noting only 16 people actually died. The extra 205 occurred earlier in the year.

■■■
DON'T YOU HATE how every election our capitol gets a standing army, and how the military is told to stand down to see who's loyal to the new president. Oh that's not every election just this one. Wonder what's different this time. I bet you know.

■■■
SLEDDING PERSON MUST not be from here. I lived here for 65 years and don't remember any sledding hill with a warming hut and hot chocolate. Now, you couldn't get kids to put their phone down long enough to take a ride.

■■■
I'M STUNNED! AS a rational conservative, I never thought I'd agree with Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. So here it goes. I fully support AOC's call for investigations into the State's nursing home policies during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please add Michigan to the list of states requiring investigation.

**Mark McCabe**

67th District Court

Ask the
judge**Change and the law**

The Ancient Greek Philosopher Heraclitus once said, "Change is the only constant thing in life."

Unquestionably, he was right and all of us periodically experience changes in our lives in a variety of ways.

The law is no exception and changes occur when our legislators enact new laws in response to the ever evolving views and values of society.

A recent and very important example of this occurred Jan. 4, 2021 when Governor Whitmer signed 20 bipartisan criminal justice reform bills, which provide for significant changes in a number of ways.

These new laws were the result of recommendations by the Michigan Joint Task Force on Jail and Pretrial Incarceration, which was created in 2019 to study Michigan's criminal justice and jail systems and to address jail overcrowding.

When the bills were signed, the Michigan Supreme Court's press release provided this summary: "Together the bills seek to expand the use of jail alternatives and reserve jail for public safety risks. The bills eliminate driver's license suspensions and criminal penalties for some traffic offenses; expand officer discretion to use appearance tickets instead of custodial arrests; use probation, fines, and community service as sentences for low-level crimes; and limit jail time for those who violate the rules of supervision."

Against that backdrop, the following are some of the many ways that this is all to be achieved: (1) the repeal of the statute mandating a suspension of a defendant's driver's license for failure to pay traffic fines and costs; (2) eliminating mandatory driver's license suspensions for drug offenses; (3) allowing officers to issue appearance tickets for misdemeanors which carry up to one year in jail instead of the

**POLICE & FIRE
REPORT**

COMPILED BY SHARON STONE

BEWARE RASH OF UNEMPLOYMENT FRAUD COMPLAINTS

On Monday, Feb. 1, deputies from the Genesee County Sheriff's Office responded to the 11000 block of Fenton Road in Fenton Township for an identity theft report. Upon arrival, deputies made contact with the female victim, a 51-year-old Fenton Township resident. She said she received a letter from the State of Ohio that she needed to claim \$16,000 on her taxes because she filed for unemployment. The victim said she never filed for unemployment and has never worked in Ohio. This incident was reported to the State of Ohio for further investigation. Sgt. Andrew Snyder said it is always a good idea to monitor your credit report to determine if you are a victim of identity theft. The sheriff's office has received several complaints of unemployment fraud over the past two months.

U-TURN IN FENTON TOWNSHIP LEADS TO CITATIONS

On Wednesday, Feb. 3, a deputy from the Genesee County Sheriff's Office observed a Chevrolet S-10 make a U-turn in the middle of Thompson Road and Torrey Road in Fenton Township. A traffic stop was initiated and contact was made with the male driver, a 47-year-old

former 93 day limit; (4) for certain nonviolent or nonassaultive crimes a summons will be issued instead of a warrant; (5) establishing a rebuttable presumption that for many nonviolent, nonassaultive misdemeanors, there will be a no probation and no jail sentence; (6) jail time for minor probation violations being reduced.

There are many more.

Last week the Supreme Court published a very detailed legislative analysis of the new laws, which is available on its website.

Shakespeare wrote about "sea change" in "The Tempest."

The phrase means a "substantial" change and that's exactly what's happened here and for the good.

Burton resident. The driver was unable to produce a valid driver's license. An inventory search of the vehicle was performed prior to the vehicle being impounded. During the search, a syringe was found. The driver admitted to using the syringe to inject heroin. There was no indication that the driver was under the influence at the time of the traffic stop. The vehicle was impounded and the driver was cited for driving while his license was suspended and possession of drug paraphernalia.

75-YEAR-OLD FENTON TOWNSHIP WOMAN HANGS UP ON SCAMMER

On Saturday, Feb. 6, a deputy from the Genesee County Sheriff's Office responded to the 16000 block of Whitaker Road in Fenton Township for a fraud complaint. Upon arrival, the deputy made contact with the female victim, a 75-year-old Fenton Township resident. She said she was contacted by an individual, who claimed to be an Amazon employee. The individual told the victim he wanted to discuss her account with her and began to ask her questions. The victim hung up the phone and ended the conversation. At this time there is

no money missing from the victim's account. Sgt. Andrew Snyder said to use caution when giving any account information over the telephone or internet and only use secure reputable websites.

FOUR VICTIMS REPORT UNLOCKED VEHICLES ENTERED, ITEMS STOLEN

On Wednesday, Feb. 10, deputies from the Genesee County Sheriff's Office responded to the 2000 block of Thompson Road in Fenton Township for multiple larceny from automobile (LFA) complaints. Upon arrival, deputies met with four separate victims that stated items had been stolen from their vehicle. The victims all work the night shift. A total of more than \$600 was stolen from the vehicles. A slender male, approximately 6 feet tall, was seen in the area walking around the parking lot prior to the incident. All of the victims had left their vehicle doors unlocked. Sgt. Andrew Snyder said the best way to prevent a larceny from your automobile is to make sure you keep the doors locked. It also is a good idea not to leave anything of value inside your vehicle. If you must leave anything of value in your vehicle, conceal it in the trunk.

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PLANS

Continued from Front Page

City Manager Ellen Glass said the owners and those involved with Beacon & Bridge indicated to city officials that they will not move forward with new plans they submitted in December 2020.

Instead, they're sticking with a site plan approved in May 2020 that involves moving the convenience store to the north portion of the property and placing the gas pumps on the southern portion.

Glass said she's in talks with City Planner Adam Young about the next steps for city employees.

"We're going to hopefully get an update on a regular basis and know that their plan is moving forward," she said.

Scott Nelson, vice president of Quick-Sav Food Stores/Beacon & Bridge Markets, said they decided to go with the May 2020 plan after the planning commission made the suggestion to the city council to deny the new proposed site plan.

"Beacon and Bridge has recently reached out to several contractors to begin the bidding process," he said.

"Beacon and Bridge would like to begin the raze and rebuild this spring."

In regards to remediation to clean up the underground gasoline leak that originated from one of the gas station's tanks, Nelson said the north remediation system has been installed and will be put in at 109 N. Bridge St.

"Beacon and Bridge is currently working with the new owners of 106 to install the vapor barrier yet this week. The south system will be installed along with the redevelopment," Nelson said.

During its meeting Thursday, Feb. 11, the Linden Planning Commission voted not to recommend approval for a conditional rezoning request for Beacon & Bridge. The owners requested to rezone the property from

CBD (central business district) zoning to GC (general commercial). CBD zoning does not allow gas stations, and GC does as a special land use. The gas station has been allowed to operate as a nonconforming structure under certain conditions.

The majority of the speakers at the planning commission meeting, including members from the Planning Commission, Linden City Council and residents, had issues with preliminary site plans submitted Dec. 31, 2020. In these plans, the small building south of Beacon & Bridge would be demolished and the gas

station, which is currently 2,240 square feet, would be 2,880 square feet and would be placed farther south on the property. They would have eight pump stations instead of four.

“Beacon & Bridge is currently working with the new owners of 106 to install the vapor barrier yet this week. The south system will be installed along with the redevelopment.”

Scott Nelson
Quick-Sav Food Stores/Beacon & Bridge Markets vice president

Beacon & Bridge previously submitted plans that were approved that would place the store in the northern part of the lot, and the gas pumps would be on the south portion.

Robert Eastman, owner of the Beacon & Bridge who resides in Grand Blanc, said the main reason for keeping the building on the south portion was input from truck drivers about safety. They said if the building was on the north portion and the driveway was south, it wouldn't be safe to pull out onto the street with their sight blocked from the buildings.

Young also said he recommended against approving the rezoning, and he talked about items relating to Section 154.030 of the City Zoning ordinance that he referenced for his decision. The December 2020 site plans did not fit as many city ordinance criteria relating to the rezoning being consistent with the master plan and the use being compatible with the surrounding land uses.

Young said the previous plan approved in May 2020 was a "compromising approach," but the December plans didn't make an attempt to conform to Linden's downtown character.

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MICHIGAN VOTES

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

— Compiled by Sharon Stone —

MichiganVotes.org is a free, non-partisan website created by the Mackinac Center for Public Policy to provide concise, non-partisan, plain-English descriptions of every bill and vote in the Michigan House and Senate. This report was released Friday, Feb. 12.

The legislature met this week but held no votes on bills of general interest. Rather than votes, this Roll Call Report describes some newly introduced bills of interest.

Senate Bill 13: Give tax break to certain business owners and developers

Introduced by Sen. Dale W. Zorn (R), to give tax breaks equal to 50 percent of their state business tax liability by certain developers and business owners selected by political appointees on the board of a state Strategic Fund agency. If the tax break exceeded the firm's tax liability, the difference could be applied to future tax bills for up to 10 years. Referred to committee, no further action at this time.

Senate Bill 22: Require property tax votes be in November

Introduced by Sen. Jim Runestad (R), to require all property tax millage elections to be held on the state's November election date. Senate Bill 23 applies the same rule to school property tax votes. Referred to committee, no further action at this time.

Senate Bill 32: Reallocate gas tax money to counties

Introduced by Sen. Michael MacDonald (R), to allocate revenue from the state motor fuel tax (gas and diesel tax) to counties on the basis of the amount of fuel sold in each. Referred to committee, no further action at this time.

Senate Bill 42: Give tax breaks for agri-tourism

Introduced by Sen. Roger Victory (R) to establish that a building on a farm used for agricultural tourism activities during part of the year is exempt from certain building code provisions if the tourism revenue is less than half the total farming revenue. Referred to committee, no further action at this time.

2021 House Bill 4006: Exempt office holders from concealed pistol permit 'gun free zone' restrictions

Introduced by Rep. Gary Eisen (R), to exempt elected officials from the "gun free zone" restrictions in the state concealed pistol license law. The exemption would remain in effect for two years after they leave office. These zones include schools, day care facilities, sports stadiums or arenas, bars, restaurants, places of worship, colleges, hospitals, casinos, entertainment facilities and courts. Referred to committee, no further action at this time.

House Bill 4008: Revise vaccine conscientious objector law

Introduced by Rep. Gary Eisen (R), to revise the law authorizing exceptions to government vaccine mandates so as to establish that they also may be claimed by an individual who objects that coronavirus immunization violates

their personal religious beliefs, or for minors, those of their parent, guardian, or person in loco parentis. Referred to committee, no further action at this time.

2021 House Bill 4015: Authorize sanctions for offering faux-government services

Introduced by Rep. Sarah Lightner (R), to add a new provision to the state consumer protection act, which would ban a person from offering what appears to be "online services that are performed by a state agency, department, or division" without "conspicuously" indicating that the operation is not a government entity, and without disclosing the prices and terms. Referred to committee, no further action at this time.

House Bill 4032: Reduce student test score measures in teacher ratings

Introduced by Rep. Bronna Kahle (R), to reduce from 40 percent to 25 percent the amount that student growth and assessment data (meaning test results) contributes to annual year-end evaluation ratings of classroom teachers, with the rest of the measure based on more subjective factors determined by local school administrators. Referred to committee, no further action at this time.

House Bill 4008: Give residents first crack at state campground, cabin, yurt and lodge reservations

Introduced by Sen. Dale W. Zorn (R), to revise the fee and reservation system for state campgrounds, cabins, yurts, or lodges so that openings must be held open for state residents only before opening them up for everyone. Referred to committee, no further action at this time.

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WHATEVER IT TAKES:



FHS senior a National Merit finalist

■ Will begin at Princeton University on full-ride scholarship in the fall

Caroline Weaver, a Fenton High School senior, has recently been named a National Merit finalist out of 16,000 semifinalists named in September 2020. She advances on to the National Merit Scholarship awards contest in March.

Weaver also is the recipient of the Match Scholarship, which pays for a four-year, full ride at Princeton University beginning this coming fall.

Weaver is the second of two children. Her older brother, Kyle Molitor, who also attended Fenton High School, passed away in 2017 near the beginning of her freshman year at FHS.

Although Weaver credits her parents, Michael and Denne, for their support of her academic endeavors, she holds a special place in her heart for her brother, Kyle, who was an important influence on her having recognized her talent and encouraging her to pursue her interests.

Those interests connect back to her elementary days, where in the fourth

grade, she remembers doing an “innovation project” where she made a stuffed animal that would spray her cat trying to get on the counter. She used a circuit board to sense the motion of cat so “counter measures” could be employed.

Weaver wants to not only understand the human brain but also to apply research knowledge to help individuals recover from debilitating neurological disorders.

Weaver is a member of National Honor Society and loves the community service component to it. Prior to NHS, she participated in Pancreatic Cancer Walk called Wage for Hope and

has helped an amputee with house chores, cleaning and cooking.

Because of an interest in learning more about other cultures, Weaver participates in Taekwondo and is studying Mandarin for fun. She is part of the FHS Economics Club, and is a member of Advanced Placement Art and loves to draw.

Weaver plans to leave Fenton to become a Princeton Tiger where she can further her research career in the pursuit of a degree in Neuroscience, with a focus on debilitating illnesses.



Caroline Weaver



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PHONE SCAM

Continued from Front Page

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PROVISION

Continued from Front Page

Provision Living was established in 2005 and by 2015, it operated close to 40 locations, serving thousands of older adults and their families, throughout 11 states in the Midwest and Southeast. By 2017, Provision Living was operating 15 senior

living communities in four states, and it had launched a new roadmap for its 700 team members serving more than 1,000 older adults and their families.

View all stories online at
myfenton.com



TAXES

Continued from Front Page

“COVID has really impacted almost everybody’s tax returns,” said Norma Pray, tax professional and enrolled agent with H&R Block who has nearly 40 years of experience.

Stimulus money

The two rounds of payments sent to qualifying residents were meant to help in harder economic times during the COVID-19 pandemic. Those who did not get their payments, or received less than what they were supposed to, can request the proper amount by claiming the Recovery Rebate Credit on their 2020 taxes.

The first round was up to \$1,200 per eligible adult and \$500 per dependent. The second was up to \$600 for each eligible household member. There are no penalties for those who received more than what they were eligible for.

“The good news is none of it is taxable,” Pray said. “Not to the IRS and not to Michigan. There’s only good impact on tax returns from the stimulus checks.”

Unemployment

“A lot of people don’t realize it is taxable. It is 100 percent taxable,” she said.

There were misconceptions over whether the extra \$600 for unemployment a week was taxable, but it is. This will be on the 1040 forms.

An individual’s refund depends on if they chose to have more taxes withheld. If they don’t have taxes withheld on their paychecks, it’s going to reduce their refunds or result in them owing money.

Kiddie Tax and unemployment

One of the biggest surprises she’s seeing is people aged 24 and younger filing taxes and being disappointed by how much their unemployment is taxed. If they received unemployment money and are full-time students, they’re most likely going to receive less money than they expect due to the “Kiddie Tax.”

The “Kiddie Tax” was enacted years ago to prevent parents from lowering their tax liability by shifting their investments to their child who had a lower tax rate, Pray said. It’s a tax on

the net “unearned” income of children, which is to be taxed at the parent’s rate, and their “earned income” taxed at the child’s rate.

“The problem in 2020,” Pray said, is that many of these kids drew unemployment which is considered unearned money. If parents are entitled to claim the child, they can’t waive claiming them to escape the “Kiddie Tax”.

The law applies to children under 18 and those under 24 who are full-time students and at least one parent is still alive.

With the standard deduction, if the child only received “unearned” income, then only the first \$1,100 will not be taxed. If a child also has only “earned” income, then the first \$12,400 is not taxed. If the child has both earned and unearned income, then the first \$1,100 of unearned income is not taxed, and their earned income up to a maximum of \$12,400 is not taxed.

“It’s unearned money and has to be taxed at whatever the parents’ tax rate is,” she said, adding that she’s seen very disappointed teenagers and startled parents. “It gets so much more involved. I’ve seen so many people just very startled by this.”

Side jobs

If people found side jobs, such as driving for Uber or becoming a delivery driver for food companies, Pray said the IRS considers this self employment and they need to file a Schedule C form.

“There’s a new form out there. If they made over \$600. It’s a 1099-NEC form that they will receive. The IRS gets a copy. They’re looking for that income to be reported on the Schedule C form,” she said.

People will owe federal taxes, and they could be subject to income tax and self-employed tax.

The self-employment tax rate for 2020 is 15.3 percent on the first \$137,700 of net income to cover Social Security and Medicare tax, and it’s not the same as income tax.

“Lookback” provision

The temporary “lookback” provision means people can use their 2019 or 2020 income when claiming the Earned Income Tax Credit or Child Tax Credit. This will help lower income earners receive more money back.

“The IRS realized that a lot of people

are going to have lower incomes because many people didn’t work after March,” she said. She’s had multiple clients use this provision to receive more money back.

Charity

Normally in the past, taxpayers would have to itemize their donations to charity in order to receive money back. This year, taxpayers can deduct up to \$300 for cash donations given to charity even if they don’t itemize their deduction.

“It’s a good thing,” she said. “People are not itemizing like they used to.”

Paycheck Protection Program

Many small businesses applied for and received money from PPP to stay afloat during the pandemic. Pray said in most cases, this money does not have to be repaid if they meet the requirements. The businesses can still deduct expenses, and Pray said they still have until March 31 to apply for the first loan.

“They go right to the IRS website. It has a list of participating lenders in the area,” she said.

HOT LINE CONTINUED

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■■■
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■■■
WAS FISHING AT Lake Fenton boat access Saturday at Skipper Bud’s fishing contest. Cars were stuck everywhere because so much snow that hasn’t been plowed and they drove by twice with the plow and wouldn’t even make a pass through the parking lot. Shameful.

■■■
IT’S REALLY A shame that the city of Fenton does not shovel the walks surrounding the library.

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Lady Tigers post impressive performance vs. Hornets

By David Troppens

Fenton — On Wednesday, the Fenton varsity girls basketball team had a big lead in the fourth quarter and eventually lost a tough contest against area rivals Holly.

Fenton varsity girls basketball coach Don Kutchev called it a learning moment.

Apparently, the Tigers took the lesson to heart. Leading by 16 entering the final quarter, the Tigers never allowed Kearsley to get back into the contest during the final eight minutes and cruised to a 63-48 home victory Friday.

The Tigers converted 7-of-13 shots during

the fourth quarter, and 15-of-27 in the second half to spark the victory. Adrie Staib had a nice fourth quarter scoring seven points during it. Four others also scored points during the final eight minutes. A lot of times those points were scored by unselfish passes near

See TIGERS on 11

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2021 | **PAGE 10** | MYFENTON.COM/SPORTS

Sports Times

Eagles return to action, capture two Metro victories

Linden returns from layoff, earns 'gutty' victory vs. Dragons

By David Troppens

It has been a tough start to the season for the Linden varsity boys basketball team.

Like every other team in the state of Michigan, the season was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Finally, the team was able to play its first game Feb. 9 at Carman-Ainsworth. The team was days away from its second game — and first Flint Metro League contest of the season — when the Eagles found out one of the referees in their first game was struck with COVID, forcing the team on the sidelines for 10 days.

That meant no practices for 10 days and that meant that when the Eagles returned to action Friday, they had yet to even practice before that morning. Yet, the Eagles found a way to fight through those struggles and earn a hard-fought 62-53 at home against the Swartz Creek Dragons.

"I never felt so unprepared for a game in my life," Linden varsity boys basketball coach Lance Belill said. "Today

was our first day out of quarantine. ... I haven't seen them in 10 days. We definitely gutted this one out. It was not easy and not pretty but we got the win."

Due to rust, the Eagles fell behind early on.

"They jumped on us in the first quarter," Belill said. "They got up eight points in the middle of the first quarter, but we battled back. In the fourth quarter we'd get up by six or eight points and keep it there. It was a close game. I never felt comfortable."

"They had it at four and we made a couple of key stops on defense."

The Eagles (1-1) were paced by Eli



Linden's Eli Beil (right) dribbles with the ball in the Eagles' victory against the Swartz Creek Dragons. Photo: Christopher Summers

Beil who had 15 points. Meanwhile, Blake Lund and Matt Wisnieski netted 14 points each.

Belill was impressed by his squad ability to deal with the early season adversity.

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM

Eagles win second straight in 24 hours with victory vs. Raiders

By Dale Smith

Linden — The Linden varsity boys basketball team is known for putting up the points with the likes of Blake and Reichen Lund and Eli Beil. But, let us not forget what a really good team they are on the defensive end. The Eagles stymied the visiting Raiders from start to finish rolling to an easy win, 50-31.

Both teams struggled to put up points early. The Eagles led only 11-8 at the end of the first quarter with Blake Lund picking up five of those points.

Keyed by a Beil steal that led to a 3-pointer from Lund, Linden was all over the Raiders in the second quarter. The home team held Flushing scoreless for seven minutes and led 25-8 late in the

quarter. Finally, the Raiders' Reed Schilling broke the drought with only 2:19 left in half by hitting two free throws. The Eagles outscored the Raiders 17-4 in the quarter to take a 28-12 halftime lead.

The Eagles pushed the lead to 35-16 just past midway in the third quarter and led 41-23 heading into the fourth period.

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM



Fenton's Seth Logan hit what was the game-winning three-pointer, earning the Tigers a 3-0 Metro League Stripes Division record. Photo: Christopher Summers

Logan hoop keeps Tigers perfect in Metro, defeats Creek

By David Troppens

Fenton — During the first quarter of Fenton's varsity boys basketball game against Kearsley, no one was hotter on the court than Fenton's Seth Logan.

Logan made 5-of-8 shots with four of them being three-pointers. Logan finished the first quarter with 15 points.

But after that, the Hornets' defense remained a pest in his side as he was only able to score on four free throws in the middle two quarters. As the game hit the waning moments, the last time Logan made a three-point attempt was with 52 seconds left in the opening quarter.

It didn't matter.

When the Tigers needed a key bucket, **See LOGAN on 12**



Kenneth Sorum picks up the puck during a recent Griffins' contest. The Griffins defeated West Ottawa on Friday but lost to Dexter on Sunday. Photo: David Troppens

Fenton/Linden hockey goes 1-1 over weekend

By David Troppens

The Fenton/Linden hockey team has been busy since the winter sports season returned to action. In 12 days, the Griffins (3-3) have played six games, and during a five-day span, they played three games. The second and third games of that recent run happened last weekend when the Griffins beat West Ottawa 4-1 on Friday but lost to Dexter at home on Sunday 6-5. In the victory against West Ottawa at the Griff's IceHouse West in Holland, the Griffins took the lead for good with a goal in the second period. They added two more in the third to earn the reasonably routine victory. Four different Griffins scored

goals. Rykerson Wright, Dominic Loria, Mitchell Luck and Nick Temple had a goal each. Meanwhile, Parker Harrison, Jace Dumeah, Keegan McNamara, Caden Crandall and Barron Smiecinski had an assist each. Nick Wilson played in net and made 21 saves on the 22 shots he faced. In the loss to Dexter, the Griffins at one time trailed 5-1 before making a comeback that fell one goal short. Penalties hurt the Griffins. While Dexter never scored a power-play goal, and the Griffins actually scored a short-handed goal, Fenton/Linden spent a good chunk of the game killing off pen-

alties, with the Griffins spending 20 minutes in the penalty box. Despite all the goals, the first period ended scoreless. The second period had eight goals, but six of them were by Dexter. At one time, Dexter led 5-0, but Nick Temple scored a goal, breaking Dexter's potential shutout. The Griffins trailed 6-2 entering the final period. During the third period, the Griffins cut the gap to 6-5 with the fifth goal coming while short-handed. Ethan Hutchings scored that goal. The Griffins actually had a penalty shot chance in the third as well, but the shot was missed.

CONTINUED AT [TCTIMES.COM](#)

Fenton competitive cheer takes first place among its first Metro League meeting

By David Troppens

It was a good start to the season for the Fenton varsity girls competitive cheer at the first Metro Jamboree on Friday. The Tigers took first place in the South Quad of the Metro League, with a team

score of 708.48. Lake Fenton was second with a 684.8 while Linden was fourth in the four-team competition with a 638.4. Holly competed in the Midwest quad, taking second with a score of 596.56. In the South group, the Tigers jumped

out to a lead in the opening round with a 217.80 round one score. The Tigers were the only team to post a score in the 200s in round two, carding a 206.48, putting them in first by a comfortable margin. Fenton capped the meet with a 284.20 in round three. That also was

the best score among the four competitors. Lake Fenton was in a battle for second place with Swartz Creek. Lake Fenton led the Dragons by just .8 points after scoring a 214.30 in round one.

CONTINUED AT [TCTIMES.COM](#)

Linden wrestlers go 5-1 in recent Flint Metro League quads

By David Troppens

The Linden varsity wrestling team is off to a pretty hot start. The Eagles are 6-1. After winning an opening meet against Traverse City Central, Linden faced some Metro foes in recent times, sweeping Swartz Creek (64-8), Lake Fenton (52-30) and Owosso (37-20) on Thursday. On Saturday, the Eagles defeated Flushing 52-19 and Corunna 72-6 but lost to Goodrich 44-36. In Thursday's sweep, Ben Wingblad, Tyler McCabe, Bryce Shingleton, Luke Haney, Jaylon Berry, Jimmy Roti, Jas Gundry and Wyatt Gocha had 3-0 days. "The team looked tough (Thursday

night) and we are proud of the way the team battled tonight," Linden varsity wrestling coach Kyle Summerfield said. "We took a step toward reaching one of our goals. Good wins, but we have a long way to go to achieve our goals. Back to work tomorrow." In Saturday's event, Wyatt Gocha (215) had Linden's top victory when he beat Flushing's state-ranked Cabhan Suttles by pinfall in just 1:05. Others earning pinfall wins against Flushing included Michael Bush (160), Roti (171), Jase Grundy (189), Cam Galle (285) and McCabe (119).

CONTINUED AT [TCTIMES.COM](#)

TIGERS

Continued from Page 10

the bucket to someone else in the post with an even better shot, resulting in the high second-half field goal percentage. Kearsley tried to press Fenton into mistakes during the

second half, but the pressure only had minimal success. "That's one thing we've worked on is interior passing — make sure you square up and keep your head up to see who is open," Kutchev said.

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Fenton boys basketball falls to Davison

Saturdays will be non-league days for the Fenton varsity boys basketball team.

The Tigers faced their second straight

non-league competitor on a Saturday, losing a tight 46-43 verdict at Fenton High School.

LF girls basketball earns another easy win

Fast starts have been the norm for the Lake Fenton girls basketball team.

For the third straight game, the Blue

Devils absolutely dominated the first quarter and cruised to an easy victory, defeating Owosso by a 72-22 score.

Bronchos fall to Flushing in Metro League action

The Holly varsity boys basketball team may have played its best game of the season, but it came against a tough foe — Flushing.

The Bronchos (0-3) trailed just 23-20

at halftime, but Flushing took over in the fourth quarter.

“They are so big and athletic. They are solid,” Holly varsity boys basketball coach Steve Dehart said.

LFLF gymnastics team collects another win

The LFLF gymnastics team continues to improve.

The squad earned another first-place finish with a team score of

135.075 against Waterford.

Apryl Smith had a strong day, leading the LFLF squad in every event.

Fenton wrestlers off to solid start in recent quads

The Fenton varsity wrestling team is off to a pretty solid start.

The Tigers are off to a 4-2 start. In the

team's first quad, the Tigers defeated Ortonville-Brandon 58-29 and Kearsley 66-18 and lost to Goodrich 40-25.

Lake Fenton wrestlers off to 5-1 start with young roster

By David Troppens

The Lake Fenton varsity wrestling team is a young squad.

Yet, the team apparently has some talented wrestlers.

The Blue Devils are off to a 5-1 start. Lake Fenton opened the season by beating Owosso 56-6 and Swartz Creek 36-24 but then losing to Linden 51-30 in Thursday's season-opening matches. The Blue Devils followed those results by sweeping three Metro foes on Saturday, beating Clio, Swartz Creek and Kearsley.

“We have 15 freshmen this season,”

Lake Fenton varsity wrestling coach Vance Corcoran said. “We are young but they are tough.”

The Blue Devils have five wrestlers who have posted 6-0 starts. They included Jack Conley, Zack Hall, Noah Hall, Ty Johnson and Clay Cook. Drew Corcoran, Hunter DeVasher and Jorge Marvin are each 5-1.

“We are a young team with an incredible work ethic,” Vance Corcoran said. “We are getting better day by day. I'm very excited to see how far these guys can go in this shortened season.”

LOGAN

Continued from Page 10

they went back to their hot hand from the first quarter and Logan nailed that three-pointer. The hoop made what was a 50-48 Kearsley lead into a 51-50 Fenton lead with 1:22 remaining. Fenton's Connor Luck hit a free throw down the stretch earning the Tigers a 52-50 home victory.

“It feels good to hit a couple early in the game and see a couple go down free-throw-wise,” Logan said. “The net felt a little big there and it just felt good out of my hand and it went in,”

“Every game since I've been here has been just like that one against Kearsley,” Logan's father and Fenton varsity boys basketball coach Chad Logan said.

CONTINUED AT TCTIMES.COM

PREP REPORT

GIRLS BASKETBALL

► **Davison 55, Fenton 40:** The Tigers were led by Kaliegh Shaker and Kyla Lunch who scored 11 points each. Koryn Smith chipped in 10. Ellary Darling led a balanced Davison attack with 15 points.

► **Flushing 52, Linden 32:** Playing their third game in four days, the Eagles lost against one of the Metro League Stripes Division's expected contenders.

Paige Leedle led the Eagles with eight points, two rebounds and two steals. Kelsey McLennan chipped in six points.

BOYS BOWLING

► **Clio 21, Holly 9:** Kustin Mallory led the Bronchos with a 245-165-410 series.

► **Corunna 16, Fenton 14:** The Tigers were led by Tate Temrowski's 216-158-374 series.

► **Swartz Creek 23, Fenton 7:** The Tigers were led by Tate Temrowski's 212-186-398 series. Nate Dymond posted a 244 game.

► **Holly 28, Linden 2:** Ryan Sparklin led the Bronchos with a 209-181-390 series. Sean Dankert had the team's best game, a 210. Linden was led by Ian Patterson's 173-212-385.

► **Swartz Creek 25, Holly 5:** Justin Mallory led the Bronchos with a 228-192-

419 series while Sean Dankert had a 219 game.

► **Brandon 27, Linden 3:** The Eagles were led by Austin Huyck's 243-205-448 series, while Tyler Smith bowled a 223 game.

► **Flushing 25, Fenton 5:** The Tiers were led by Tate Temrowski's 237-159-396 series.

GIRLS BOWLING

► **Clio 18, Holly 12:** Emily Sorter led the Bronchos with a 199-159-358 series.

► **Goodrich 23, Linden 7:** Cassie Most led the Eagles with a 182-137-319 two-game series. Desiree Lane bowled a 169 game.

► **Corunna 22, Fenton 8:** Jena Fijolek led the Tigers with a 131-174-305 series.

► **Holly 27, Linden 3:** Holly's Emily Sorter bowled a 162-167-329 series while Linden's Lilly Herbst had a 141-112-253 series.

► **Swartz Creek 29, Holly 1:** Kaitlyn Allison led the Bronchos with a 155-177-332 series.

► **Brandon 26, Linden 4:** Cassie Most led the Eagles with a 169-139-308 series.

► **Flushing 29, Fenton 1:** The Tigers were led by Bree Soule's 145-143-288 series.

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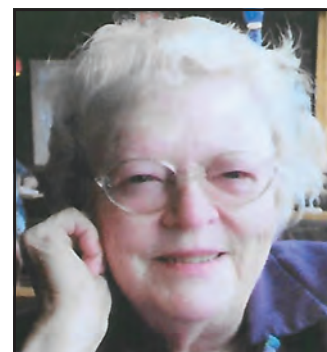
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Obituaries

Nancy Lee Matson

1934 - 2021

Nancy Lee Matson of Clarkston, formerly of Fenton and Holly, went to be with her Lord on Saturday, February 20, 2021. A private graveside service will be held at White Chapel Memorial, Troy at a later date. Arrangements provided by Sharp Funeral Homes, Fenton Chapel, 1000 Silver Lake Road, Fenton. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association. Nancy was preceded in death by her parents, Milton A. Matson and Helen J. Matson. She will be remembered by her surviving family and friends. Siblings, Milton Donald Matson (Nancy), Dale E. Matson (Sharon), and Verna Sue Leoni (Tony). Loving Aunt to Jane Walbridge, Donald Matson, Sarah Gray, Benjamin and Zachary Matson, Michael, Matthew and Mark Leoni. She also enjoyed many grand nephews and grand nieces and friends. Nancy was born in her parents' home in Royal Oak in 1934 and graduated from Royal Oak High School in 1952. She graduated



with her Master's Degree from Wayne State University in Hospital Administration. Nancy retired in 2003 from Providence Hospital following 34 years of dedicated service. Nancy served as president, officer, and board member of the American Association of

Bio Analysts since 1967. Nancy was a life-long church member and pianist. She spent most of her adult life enjoying her home on Buckhorn Lake, Holly. Even with the accomplishments mentioned above, Nancy will be remembered for her skillful craftsmanship including teaching macramé, knitting, sewing, crocheting and especially her master talent at basketry. One of Nancy's baskets and designs is in the Historical Art Museum at MSU. Tributes may be shared at www.sharpfuneralhomes.com.



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2021 MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW MEETING SCHEDULE

Fenton Township, Genesee County

The Fenton Township Board of Review for March 2021 will be held by **electronic remote access**, unless by the dates of the March Board of Review meetings it becomes lawful under state agency rules and statute for an in-person meeting to be held. Electronic remote access, in accordance with Michigan law, will be implemented in response to COVID-19 social distancing requirements and limitations on the number of individuals in a meeting hall.

If in-person meetings become a lawful option, then the meetings will be held **both in person at the Fenton Township Civic Community Center**, 12060 Mantawauka Drive, Fenton, MI 48430 **and via Zoom**, (electronic remote access). Petitions and support information must be received prior to appointments. We encourage protests to be submitted by letter by attaching support and detailed protest explanation.

The public may participate in the meeting through **electronic remote access via Zoom** by computer, smart phone/device using the following link:

www.zoom.us/join
Meeting ID: 927 6256 2841
Password: 428255

The public may also participate by landline phone or cell phone by calling into this number:

(312) 626-6799

The township will post the information confirming whether the March BOR will meet in person on the property valuation notices, at the Fenton Township Office front entrance, and on the Township's website (www.fentontownship.org).

The Fenton Township March Board of Review will meet on the following dates:

- Tuesday March 2, 2021, 3:00pm - **Organizational Meeting (No appeals)**
- Monday March 8, 2021, 9:00am to 6:00pm - **Appeal Hearing (lunch break 12:00pm - 1:00pm)**
- Tuesday March 9, 2021, 1:00pm to 9:00pm - **Appeal Hearing (dinner break 5:00pm to 6:00pm)**

- Wednesday March 10, 2021, 1:00pm to 9:00pm - **Appeal Hearing (dinner break 5:00pm to 6:00pm)**
- Thursday March 11, 2021, 12:00pm to 6:00pm - **Appeal Hearing**
- Friday March 12, 2021, 10:00am to 2:00pm - **Work session only (No appeals)**

Taxpayers are able to submit protests in writing, provided that protests are received no later than March 10, 2021. Scheduled appointments and written protests are recommended this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. To schedule an appointment please contact the Fenton Township Assessing office at 810-629-3445. Appeal letters and supporting documentation may be submitted as follows:

US Mail: **Fenton Township Board of Review, 12060 Mantawauka Drive, Fenton, MI 48430** (please mail early enough so it is received by March 10th)

Email: **BOR@fentontownship.org**

Drop Box: **Located at the front entrance of the Fenton Township Office**

Fax: **810-629-9736**

All written protests must be received no later than March 10, 2021.

The tentative ratios and the estimated multipliers for each class of real property and personal property for 2021 are as follows:

Commercial.....	48.37%.	1.0336
Residential.....	47.10%.	1.0615
Industrial.....	48.94%.	1.0216
Personal Property...	50.00%.	1.0000

Americans With Disabilities (ADA) Notice

The Township will provide necessary reasonable services to individuals with disabilities at the Board of Review meetings upon three (3) days notice.

Contact: Assessor Julia Wilson, 12060 Mantawauka Drive, Fenton, MI 48430; 810-629-3445

Board of Review Members:

Beverly McKenna, Chair
John Brancheau, Member
Scott "Randy" Laue, Member
Vince Lorraine, Secretary of Board of Review

KING
FEATURES

Midweek Crossword

ACROSS

1 June honoree

4 Say it's so

8 Pretzel topper

12 Past

13 Travel permit

14 Done with

15 Brock of baseball

16 Alaskan city

18 Heron's kin

20 Army address

21 Dalai —

24 Slow, in music

28 Right to vote

32 Cash advance

33 201, in old Rome

34 Heat to near boiling

36 GOP org.

37 Priestly vestments

39 Cheap ride section

41 "Yum!"

43 Novelist Hunter

44 Steal from

46 Cowboy's workplace

50 Spur on

55 Tic-tac-toe win

56 Nerd's kin

57 Hostels

58 Hooting bird

59 Big wind

12

15

18

28

33

37

41

50

56

59

60 Track tipster

61 Carrier to Amsterdam

10 Table support

11 Three, in Rome

17 Texas tea

19 Sprite

22 PC alternatives

23 Marble type

25 Asta's feeder

26 Tart flavor

27 As soon as

28 "Shoo!"

29 Bruins' sch.

30 Little lies

31 Mountain ht.

35 Most loved

38 Painter's motion

40 Genetic letters

42 Thee

45 Telly watcher

47 Cranny

48 Batman's hood

49 Actress Celeste

50 Early bird?

51 PBS funder

52 Cartoon frame

53 Yucatan year

54 Wildebeest

DOWN

1 Valley

2 Awestruck

3 Gloomy

4 Online images

5 Sportscaster Scully

6 Computer key

7 Stadium cheers

8 Reddish-brown horse

9 "Selma"

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Midweek Sudoku

FUN BY THE NUMBERS

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging

♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

Midweek Jumble

JUMBLE

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

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LFENAL

DURISA

Print your answer here:

Check out the new, free JUST JUMBLE app

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

How did we forget a seventh puzzle?

Quick! Help me! I dropped my stylus in the trash, and I can't find it!

WHEN THE JUMBLE CREATORS REALIZED THEY'D FORGOTTEN TO MAKE A PUZZLE, THEY ---

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

Horoscopes

For the week of
February 22, 2021

ARIES

Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, you may be falling behind on keeping resolutions, but that is alright. It's easy to get back on track once you set your mind to it. Ask a friend to keep you accountable.

TAURUS

Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, right now your mind is focused on "the more the merrier" but you have to find ways to safely connect with others. Keep everyone's health in mind.

GEMINI

May 22/Jun 21

It may have seemed like the last few months of 2020 flew by, Gemini. A new year provides a chance to restart, slow down and smell the proverbial roses.

CANCER

Jun 22/Jul 22

This week can prove to be epic if you just go with the flow a little bit, Cancer. Let others take the lead and simply follow along. You never know where things will lead.

LEO

Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, figure out how to align your priorities with what you do for a living. It could mean changing careers. Even though it may seem risky right now, start exploring the waters.

VIRGO

Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, some down time and R&R can do a body good. Ask your partner to cover for you and then reciprocate so you can both unplug and refresh.

LIBRA

Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, a midweek business proposition or a real estate endeavor may present itself. This could lead to some exciting changes for your family.

SCORPIO

Oct 24/Nov 22

You don't mind defending your opinions or your ideals, Scorpio. In fact, you are highly skilled at constructive conversation. Your negotiation tactics may be put to the test.

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23/Dec 21

The early part of the week may be pretty uneventful, but things heat up as the week progresses, Sagittarius. You may not have time to do everything you desire.

CAPRICORN

Dec 22/Jan 20

Boredom isn't a bad thing when you desire a respite, Capricorn. While others may be looking for ways to chase away cabin fever, you may be perfectly content snuggling in.

AQUARIUS

Jan 21/Feb 18

Unexpected partnerships can yield some amazing results, Aquarius. This may be the opportunity you are looking for at this juncture in your life. Push ahead for the time being.

PISCES

Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, momentum swings in your favor and you can sail through all of your tasks and goals in record time. Enjoy the ride.

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